

Friday 25 September to Thursday 8 October 2026

Your Pull-Out Guide
to What's Happening
in Hastings

The HIP List

sponsored by



Bottle Alley Art Market
on 20 September

Hastings
Independent

The HIP List

sponsored by

KILEY'S KARPETS

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FESTIVALS

Hastings Jazz Festival 2026
Saturday 3 October - Henry Ward Hall, 45 Robertson St, Barnaby Lounge, 46 Robertson St, Nur Restaurant, 13 Robertson St, The Printworks, 14 Claremont, One day, 4 venues, over 100 musicians. For full details of what's happening and where, see page 9, for interviews with the promoters, read *Behind the scenes at the jazz festival* on page 12 or visit [hastingsjazzfestival.com](#)

MUSIC

Friday 25 September Kid Kapichi (Semi Acoustic) + Max Williams
3.00pm - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
All ages matinee show
Pam Pam Latino Presents: Latin Music Night
7.00pm - Oscar's on the Square, Lower Promenade Opp. Warrior Square, Grand Parade
Fundraising event for Healing Venezuela and its Earthquake Appeal, featuring Salsa Brava, Electro Latin, Afro Latin, Reggaeton, Cumbia, Latin Pop and more, with DJ sets from Chabala, Easy Green, Nenuko and Ama.
Millie's Nightclub
7.00pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock £4. A nightclub for adults (18+) with disabilities.
Think Floyd
7.30pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Kid Kapichi (Semi Acoustic) + Max Williams
8.00pm - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd

Saturday 26 September Afrit Nebula - Album Launch
5.00pm - Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St
Hypnotic grooves, cinematic soundscapes and explosive moments of spontaneous creativity.
Stormbringer, Planet Fatale & Silence Mutant
8.30pm - The Carlisle, 24 Pelham St

Sunday 27 September Coffee Concert: Riyad Nicolas (piano)

11.00am - Kino-Teatr
43-49 Norman Rd
Riyad is an international pianist and multiple prize-winner.
Death Cab for Cutie + Pool Kids
7.00pm - De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill

Thursday 1 October Miki Berenyi Trio + Ollo
7.30pm - De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill
Seven Red Lions + De Crane
7.30pm - The Jenny Lind Inn, 69 High St

Friday 2 October In the Air Tonight: A Tribute to Phil Collins and Genesis
7.30pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Horse Meat Disco
9.00pm - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
Queer club collective

Saturday 3 October Liane Carroll's Jazz Brunch @ HJF '26
10.00am - Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St
P-Funk all-dayer
2.00pm - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
P-Funk DJs playing finest Soul, Rare Groove, Funk, and more
Soweto Kinch Trio @ HJF '26
7.30pm - Henry Ward Hall, 45 Robertson St
Hip-hop, jazz, grime alongside razor-sharp social commentary.
[£28 mikeslist.uk](#)
Starsailor with Strings
7.30pm - De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill

Wednesday 7 October Leo Sayer
7.30pm - De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill

Thursday 8 October Love Hurts – Rock Anthems and Power Ballads
7.30pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock
John Hackett Band
8.00pm - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
Progressive band led by sibling of the Genesis guitarist

WEEKLY MUSIC

Sundays Circuit Sundays
6.30pm - The Seadog, 32 Station Rd
Sunday evening sessions featuring rotating local musicians and bands
BYO Vinyl Night
7.00pm - The Jenny Lind Inn, 69 High St

Tuesdays Sounds at the Hound Open Mic
7.00pm - Cactus Hound Bar, 33-35 Western Rd
Weekly Open Mic Night, hosted by Steve Didge
Open Mic at Barnaby's Lounge
7.00pm - Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St
Any skill level is welcome, you don't need to bring anything (but can if you want to), we will supply a PA, guitar and piano.
Open Mic
7.00pm - Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St
Every second Tuesday, hosted by NZ songwriter Konnaruchi
Iron Men of The Sea - Last Tuesday Sessions
7.30pm - The Jenny Lind Inn, 69 High St
Hypnotic folk psychedelia
Folk Night
8.00pm - Stag Inn, 14 All Saints' St
Singing and music

Wednesdays Open Mic
7.00pm - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
Weekly. Hosted by Steve Didge
Apples and Oranges In The Round
7.00pm - Mike's 74 Norman Road
The only open mic session in town to offer use of a baby grand piano, Apples and Oranges In The Round provides a uniquely intimate and professional setting for performers.
The Circuit x The Stag
7.30pm - Stag Inn, 14 All Saints' St
Weekly live acoustic music curated by The Circuit, featuring local acoustic artists. Free entry.

Thursdays Berth of the Cool
7.00pm - The White Rock Hotel, 1-10 White Rock
Jazz music and eclectic DJs, downstairs at the White Rock Hotel. Second Thursday of the month
Open Mic
7.45pm - The Nag's Head, 8-9 Gensing Rd
First Thursday of the month
The Jazz Organisation
8.00pm - NUR Restaurant & Lounge, 13 Robertson St
Open Mic Night @ The Pig
8.30pm - The Pig, 37 White Rock
Hosted by Justin & Dan
Shanty Night
8.30pm - The Jenny Lind Inn, 69 High St
Weekly sea Shanty Night,

Fridays Custard Caravan

4.00pm - Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St
An afternoon of music and mirth, last Friday of the month
McNiff's Folk Sundowner
5.00pm - The Jenny Lind Inn, 69 High St
Weekly acoustic strand with a different guest featured every Friday
The Get Down
7.00pm - The White Rock Hotel, 1-10 White Rock
Funk music every first Friday of the month

Saturdays The Coffee House Sessions
5.30pm - Hanushka Coffee, Robertson St
Free entry. Jason McNiff and friends present

PERFORMANCE

Friday 25 September Screams from the Attic
7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
The Forbidden Fruit Cabaret: Shar Cooterie
9.30pm - The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade

Saturday 26 September Screams from the Attic
2.30pm and 7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
Comedy: Jen Brister
7.30pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Hastings Comedy Festival Comedy Night
8.00pm - Stade Hall, The Stade
With Joe da Costa, President Obonjo and hosted by Katie Pritchard. £12.50 online, £15 OTD. [hastingscomedyfestival.com](#)

Sunday 27 September Coffee Concert: Riyad Nicolas (piano)
11.00am - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
Screams from the Attic
7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne

Wednesday 30 September Cafe Franglais
7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
Café-chantant celebration of French and English popular songs.

Thursday 1 October Tom Read Wilson - The A to Z of Me
7.30pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock
An irreverent, whistle-stop tour of the alphabet through songs and sonnets, stories and smut, this A to Z of Tom is the perfect prism

through which to learn about this logophile, and a delicious slice of theatre.
Cafe Franglais
7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
Café-chantant celebration of French and English popular songs.

Friday 2 October 100 Years of the Hastleons
7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
Celebrate 100 years of The Hastleons with a spectacular showcase of musical theatre favourites!

Saturday 3 October Wot Italian? Boothby Graffoe & Antonio Forcione
7.30pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock
A hilarious and heartfelt collision of Graffoe's sharp wit and whimsical storytelling with Forcione's virtuosic guitar mastery.
100 Years of the Hastleons
7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
Celebrate 100 years of The Hastleons with a spectacular showcase of musical theatre favourites!
Poetry Brothel: Siren
7.30pm - The White Rock Hotel, 1-10 White Rock
Literary cabaret exploring the call of the Siren in all their forms: Seductive, Frightening, Compelling.
The Forbidden Fruit Cabaret: Vicki Vivacious
9.30pm - The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade

Sunday 4 October Coffee Concert: Lewis Kingsley Peart (piano)
11.00am - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
Here, There be Monsters
7.30pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
An innovative, multi-media musical experience, bringing together animation, painting, ancient poetry and transcendent jazz improvisation, to immerse audiences in the world of ancient mythology, folklore and story telling.

Monday 5 October Comedy Sketch Show
7.45pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
An evening of fun and laughter with comedy sketches and songs in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Tuesday 6 October Comedy Sketch Show
7.45pm - The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
An evening of fun and laughter with comedy sketches and songs in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

WEEKLY PERFORMANCE

Tuesdays Open Mic Night
7.00pm - HOT TAP Theatre, St Andrews Mews

Wednesdays A&O In the Round
7.30pm - 74 Norman Rd
Poetry, Music and Comedy Night
8.00pm - The Dolphin Inn, 11-12 Rock-A-Nore Rd
Sensational acts lined up and hosted by the wonderful Tara Valentine, prepare to be entertained.

Fridays Palmerama's Comedyrama Stand Up Comedy Night
8.00pm - The Pig, 37 White Rock
Late Night Karaoke
11.00pm - Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St

CINEMA

Friday 25 September Time and Water (Knitflix Screening)
3.00pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St
De Gaulle: Resistance
3.00pm and 7.30pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
Andrew Kotting: Short Films, Intro + Q&A
7.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St

Saturday 26 September De Gaulle: Resistance
3.00pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
The Memory Blocks (Relaxed Screening)
3.00pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St
Lady
7.30pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
The Memory Blocks + Director's Q&A
7.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St

Sunday 27 September True World of Mantra
11.00am - Electric Palace, 39A High St
Lady
2.00pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
Gallivant 30th Anniversary Screening + Intro + Q&A
3.00pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St
B Movie Fan Club: The Cyclops
7.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St
Wednesday 30 September Lady
7.30pm - Kino-Teatr,

Crossword Solution No 311:
Across: 1. Virgin (anagram) 3. Listed (anagram) 4. (wi)Th ink s(pillage)
Down: 1. Violet (anagram) 2. N a n d o s



43-49 Norman Rd Thursday 1 October Shoot the People (Subtitled) 11.00am - Electric Palace, 39A High St Bitter Christmas 3.00pm and 7.30pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd The Christophers 7.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St Friday 2 October Bitter Christmas 3.00pm and 7.30pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd The Nightmare Before Christmas + Halloween Craft Workshop 4.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St All tkts £6. Workshop starts at 4pm, film at 4.30pm. It's Nice Up North + Director's Q&A + Short Film 7.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St Saturday 3 October The Incomer 3.00pm and 7.30pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd It's Nice Up North + Director's Q&A + Short Film 5.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St Sunday 4 October Shoot the People 11.00am - Electric Palace, 39A High St The Incomer 2.00pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd The Hunt for the Wilderpeople 3.00pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St Viy + Intro + Surprise Short Film 7.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St Tuesday 6 October Butthole Surfers: The Hole Truth and Nothing Butt + Intro 7.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St Wednesday 7 October In Conversation with Akinola Davies 6.00pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St BAFTA-winning director, Akinola Davies Jr. in an on-stage conversation around Black and African film, diaspora voices and visioning soft Black male fatherhood in this one-off event before our screening of his award-winning feature debut. £5 My Father's Shadow + Director's Q&A 7.30pm - Electric	Palace, 39A High St Thursday 8 October My Father's Shadow (Subtitled) 11.00am - Electric Palace, 39A High St I ♥ Ads 6.30pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St Favourite TV Themes & Jingles (+ Theme Tune Quiz) 9.00pm - Electric Palace, 39A High St WEEKLY CINEMA Mondays The Forbidden Fruit Movie Night: Scary Movie 6 7.30pm - The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade Free movie screening. Wednesdays Battle Community Cinema: Glenrothan 7.30pm - Battle Memorial Hall, 81 High, St Battle ART Coastal Currents Arts Festival runs until 30 September in multiple venues throughout Hastings and surrounding areas. See <i>coastalcurrents.org.uk</i> for all events and exhibition information. Rye Arts Festival runs until 27 September at multiple venues in Rye surrounding areas. See <i>ryeartsfestival.org.uk</i> for all events information. Bayeux Around Britain: casting a masterpiece Until 8 November, Bohemia Rd Hastings Museum and Art Gallery Hannah Birkett Until 30 September The Crown, All Saints' St Edge - Where the Land Meets the Sea 26 September until 3 January 2027 Hastings Contemporary, The Stade Laura Fyfe and Using Glue Until 31 October Dayglo Studios, Silchester Rd Gathered Earth - Ceramics Exhibition Until 27 September Hastings Arts Forum, Marine Court David Gilbert 3 October until 16 January 2027 Flatland Projects, Beeching Rd, Bexhill Hastings Open 3 October until 31 January	Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Bohemia Rd Nick Hill - The Last Picture Show Until 30 September Oscar's on the Square, Warrior Sq Indigo Reverie - Group Exhibition, Cyanotype Prints by Local Artists Until 30 September Collected Fictions, London Rd Oli Kellet: Sussex Spotlight Free Entry 26 September until 8 November Hastings Contemporary, The Stade Grace Lau - Fetish Stories Until 31 October Solaris Gallery, Norman Rd James Mortimer Until 30 September The Crown, All Saints St Outside the Lines Group Show (Home Educated Artists) Until 4 October Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Bohemia Rd Elina Rudzite, Louise Whitham, and Justina Kochansky Until 30 September Thonett Gallery, St. Andrews Mews Jim Roseveare - To Beep or Not to Beep Until 3 October Project 78 Gallery, Norman Rd Summer Exhibition - Group Show Until 26 September Stables Theatre Gallery, The Bourne Unseen - The Nimble School of Art 30 September until 11 October Hastings Arts Forum, Marine Court Miroslava Večeřová - Before it Was Water Until 17 October Amici Studio, Claremont Nico Vromans: Colours of Hastings 1 until 29 October The Crown, All Saints St Paul Watson - Flesh and Bone Until 26 September 1200 Postcards, Queens Rd Keith Waller Until 30 September St Leonards Pub, London Rd Val Wilmer - Blue Moments, Black Sounds Until 4 October Lucy Bell Gallery, Norman Rd SPORT Saturday 26 September Hockey: South Saxons Men v East Grinstead 3 -	South East Open League 12.00pm - Bexhill Academy, Bexhill Football: Hastings Utd v Dulwich Hamlet - FA Trophy 3.00pm - The Pilot Field, Elphinstone Rd Rugby: Hastings & Bexhill v Old Gravesendians - Kent County League 3.00pm - Ark Alexandra Academy, Park Ave Saturday 3 October Hockey: South Saxons Women v Brighton & Hove 3 12.00pm - Horntye Park ACTIVE SPORT Sundays Free Tennis session in the park 10.00am - Alexandra Park Tennis Courts To book: <i>clubspark.lta.org.uk/breakpointtennis</i> AlexandraPark/FreeParks Mondays Hastings Blister Sisters Slow Jogging Group 7.00am - Alexandra Park, St Helen's Rd Details: <i>blistersisters.co.uk</i> Badminton 9.30am - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd Adult class £5.60, hosted by Cathy Bargh Booking <i>freedom-leisure.co.uk</i> Walking Football 1.30pm - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd Voluntary donation £3 To book: <i>eequ.org/experience/9252</i> Disability Cricket with Sussex Cricket 5.00pm - Horntye Park Sports Complex, Bohemia Rd <i>sussexcricket.co.uk/super-1s-hub</i> Active Hastings Walking Football 6.00pm - TN34 2LD, Lower Park Rd Alexandra Park Multi-Use Games Area £2 Adults 50+ Booking <i>eequ.org/experience/6144</i> Eclipse Netball Club 7.00pm - The Hastings Academy, Rye Rd First session free then £5. To book: <i>07754 105836 eclipsenetballhastings@gmail.com</i>. Age 14+. Badminton 8.00pm - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd £5.60 Adults Booking <i>freedom-leisure.co.uk</i> Hastings YMCA	Badminton Club 8.15pm - The Y Centre, 26 St Paul's Rd Adult club, limited spaces for juniors. Booking essential £5.50 <i>hastingsymcabadmintonclub.co.uk</i> Tuesdays Hastings Active Fit 11.00am - West St Leonards Community Centre and Social Club, 130 Bexhill Rd Contact <i>weststleonardsca@gmail.com</i> for details Table Tennis 1.45pm - Isabel Blackman Centre, Winding St Register at : <i>isabelblackmancentre.co.uk</i> Badminton 6.00pm - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd £5.60 or £4.70 with a Leisure Pass. Booking: <i>01424 457691</i> Judo with Hollington Judo Club 6.15pm - Hollington Community Centre, 1 Wishing Tree Rd N £3.50 from reception to year 6. Contact Neil Chalcraft <i>07858 412184</i> PB Runner 6.15pm - Various locations. Group effort running sessions £2. For info: <i>slinklater65@gmail.com</i> Judo with Hollington Judo Club 7.00pm - Hollington Community Centre, 1 Wishing Tree Rd N For children in years 7-11 contact Neil Chalcraft <i>07858 412184</i> Hastings Women's Indoor Rounders 7.30pm - St Leonards Academy, Edinburgh Rd info: <i>hastingsrounders@gmail.com</i>. In the Sports Hall. Booking: <i>eequ.org/experience/4956</i> Judo with Hollington Judo Club 8.00pm - Hollington Community Centre, 1 Wishing Tree Rd N £5 Adults. Contact Neil Chalcraft Wednesdays Hastings Blister Sisters Slow Jogging Group 7.00am - Alexandra Park, St Helen's Rd Details: <i>blistersisters.co.uk</i> Badminton 9.30am - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd £5.60. Adults. 18 places available for 3 courts usage. Booking: <i>freedom-leisure.co.uk</i> LTA Walking Tennis 11.00am - Alexandra Park Tennis Courts £3 per session. Older people	with long term health conditions. Tennis at your pace! Book: <i>clubspark.lta.org.uk</i> Pickleball 3.00pm - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd £3 for all ages and abilities. Booking <i>freedom-leisure.co.uk</i> Badminton 7.00pm - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd Adults £5.60 Booking <i>freedom-leisure.co.uk</i> Hastings Pirates Baseball Club 7.00pm - Claremont Preparatory School, Ebden's Hill, Westfield Free for your first session (£6 per session after that) <i>hastingsbaseball.co.uk</i> Hastings YMCA Badminton Club 7.30pm - The Y Centre, 26 St Paul's Rd Adult club, limited spaces for juniors. Booking essential £5.50 <i>hastingsymcabadmintonclub.co.uk</i> Thursdays Hastings Active Fit 10.30am - West St Leonards Community Centre and Social Club, 130 Bexhill Rd Contact <i>weststleonardsca@gmail.com</i> for details. Short Mat Bowling 2.00pm - West Hill Community Centre, Croft Rd £3 per session including refreshments, all equipment and instruction provided, all welcome including complete beginners. Heart and Sole Runners 7.00pm - Grosvenor Gardens Hastings Mixed Indoor Rounders 7.00pm - Horntye Park Sports Complex, Bohemia Rd info: <i>hastingsrounders@gmail.com</i>. In the Sports Hall downstairs. Booking: <i>eequ.org/experience/6227</i> Mixed Darts League 7.00pm - West St Leonards Community Centre and Social Club, 130 Bexhill Rd Bar open for the duration. Contact <i>weststleonardsca@gmail.com</i> for details Badminton 8.00pm - Hastings & Rother YMCA, St Paul's Rd Badminton 8.00pm - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd £5.60. Adults. 18 places available for 3 courts usage. Booking: <i>freedom-leisure.co.uk</i> Fridays Hastings Blister Sisters
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Slow Jogging Group
7.00am - Alexandra Park, St Helen's Rd
Details: blistersisters.co.uk
Adults Badminton
9.30am - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd
£5.60 Details and booking: freedom-leisure.co.uk
Table Tennis
1.45pm - Isabel Blackman Centre, Winding St
Register at: isabelblackmancentre.co.uk
Barbarian Swimmers
6.00pm - Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd

Saturdays
Hastings Mixed Outdoor Rounders
9.30am - Sea Rd
Free. Book a place at eequ.org/book/st-leonards-old-bathing-pool-rounders-with-hastings-rounders-10730



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Saturday 26 September
Take Flight: Bird Watching + Field Recording
7.00am - Hastings Castle, Castle Hill Rd
Bird watching and sound recording event in collaboration with XMTR FESTIVAL. hastingscastle.org.uk/event/take-flight
Powdermills Makers Market
10.00am - Crafted at Powdermills, Powdermill Ln, East Sussex
Free entry. Makers, craft demos, workshops, live music, seasonal food & drink + panel discussion on Craft & Sustainability 11 am Sat.
Unity Parade
12.00pm - Warrior Square
Hastings celebrates multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion with speakers, music and entertainment. A colourful and positive celebration of the many different communities that make up Hastings and St Leonards. Parade assembles in Warrior Square then proceeds to a rally in the town centre.
Nikki Bockerglory's Batty Bingo: Musicals
1.00pm - The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade
£20 Bingo, silly games, ridiculous prizes, dance-offs & more!
She Wants to be Flowers by The Sound Apothecary
7.00pm - Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, John's Place, Bohemia Rd
A ritual of storytelling &

mythic folklore with dynamic and soothing meditative sound as a catalyst for both restoration, stimulation, insight and exploration of mythology as muse.

Sunday 27 September
Powdermills Makers Market
10.00am - Crafted at Powdermills, Powdermill Ln, East Sussex
Free entry. Makers, craft demos, workshops, live music, seasonal food & drink.

Tuesday 29 September
Cocktails and Connect
4.00pm - White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Cocktails & Connect, with its informal feel, is ideal for people looking to take their first step into networking, and experienced networkers looking to grow their contacts while enjoying cocktails, pizza and (optional) games! £5 per person ticket proceeds will go towards The BASE, White Rock's digital learning facility.
The Hastings Project Chess Club
6.00pm - Prince of Wales, 15 Western Rd
Whether you're brand new to the game, a seasoned player, or fancy meeting new people, come to The Hastings Project Chess Club! All equipment provided, all abilities and family friendly.
Booking essential: pub@thehastingsproject.com

Wednesday 30 September
Free Will writing Information Session (IHT)
10.00am - Arthur Easton Centre, Upper Maze Hill
Free will writing information session, focusing on Inheritance Tax and how to plan confidently for the future. Booking required: stmichaelshospice.com/giftsinwills to book your place or call 01424 456396.
Live Well, Age Well
11.00am - De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill
A fantastic opportunity for all ages, particularly those over 55, to discover new activities, connect with local groups, access expert advice and find out more about services available in the area.

Thursday 1 October
The Yarn - Live Storytelling Event
7.30pm - French's, 24 Robertson St
£13 + booking fee. hastingswritersworkshop.com

shop.com/theyarn

Friday 2 October
Gwendoline Riley in Conversation
7.30pm - Makers' House
Hastings, 15 Tower Rd W
Celebrated author Gwendoline Riley discusses her career and the publication of her new novel The Palm House. Free tickets but booking advised: makershousehastings.co.uk

Saturday 3 October
Gastronomic Promenade (GastroProm)
10.00am - Hub on Rye Hill, Kiln Dr
One-day, self-guided food and drink trail. wineandfoodfair.events/rye-gastroprom

Sunday 4 October
Sussex Makers' Markets in Alexandra Park
11.00am - Art in the Park, Arts on Prescription, Alexandra Park, Lower Park Rd, St Helen's Park Rd
'Netherwood' Book Launch
1.00pm - Tadhg Mae Projects, 51a George St
Author Antony Clayton will be in store to sign a new, revised edition of his book about the remarkable Hastings guesthouse that was home to visiting politicians, scientists, intellectuals, radicals and Aleister Crowley.
Global Activism Talk
6.00pm - Observer Building, 53 Cambridge Rd
Talks & discussion on whether there is still scope for peaceful protest in Hong Kong, Sudan and the UK. beforeandaftervaults.org

Tuesday 6 October
Knitathon in the Snug
10.00am - The Crown, 64-66 All Saints' St
Join The Crown Snug Knitters for a marathon knit!

Wednesday 7 October
Sound Bath Session with Julia Scott-Russell
4.30pm - Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
£15

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays
Hastings Beach Meditation
9.00am - Hastings Motor Boat & Yacht Club, Rock-A-Nore Parade
40mins quiet meditation on beach opposite. Check Hastings Beach

Meditation on Facebook
Culture Club
10.45am - The Crown, 64-66 All Saints' St
a group for grown ups who love books, podcasts, films, art & all things cultural! DM on Instagram @cultureclub
Pokemon League
1.00pm - Table Flip, 201 Queens Rd
Play packs for entry and prizes to be given.
Social Sundays at The Nest
2.00pm - The Nest, The Old Town Hall
A relaxed weekly social space for neurodivergent adults (16+) Come along for chats, games, optional creative activities or just a quiet cuppa in a calm, friendly space.

Mondays
Writing Hour
7.30am - 7 Trinity St
Writers can come together to write at the workshops hastings-writersworkshop.com
Monday Coffee Club + Free Play Session (Toddlers/Young Children)
9.30am - play., St Andrews Mews
Free play session for toddlers and young children with any food or drink purchased.
Volunteering: Hidden Eden Wellbeing Garden
10.15am - 27 Parsons Cl
Craig's Cabin asks for volunteers to turn this green community space into a sensory garden craigs-cabin.org

cabin87@hotmail.com
Health Walk Old Town
2.00pm - The Stade, Rock-A-Nore Rd
Free one hour walk, just pop along tcv.org.uk/southeast/sussex
Backgammon Club
6.30pm - The Horse & Groom, 4 Mercatoria
All abilities welcome
Overeaters Anonymous
7.30pm - Clifton Centre, 1 and 2 Stainsby St
Pop Quiz
7.30pm - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
Dave Valentine your Host
The Hastings and St Leonards Model Railway Club
8.00pm - Baldslow Memorial Hall, 216 Harrow Ln
New members welcome hastingsmrc.org.uk
Monday Night Quiz
8.00pm - Noah's Goat Hastings, 68 George St
Teams of up to 6, £2 p/p entry fee and prizes for winning and losing teams. Message/call if you'd like a table 01424 438791.

Tuesdays
Health Walk St Leonards Seafront
11.00am - Meet at the clock on prom - free one hour walk, just pop along tcv.org.uk/southeast/sussex
Original OHPS Old Town Walks
2.30pm - The West Hill Cafe, Castle Hill Rd
Walking tour of the Old Town £6 ohps.org.uk/walks

Sustainability Social
6.00pm - Prince of Wales, 15 Western Rd
Mingle and discuss local sustainability projects. Share your ideas and find out how to get involved.
Sew It's Tuesday
7.00pm - 161 Bexhill Rd
Share your crafting sewing, crochet, knitting or anything in-between sewitstuesday@outlook.com
Bingo Night
7.30pm - The Dolphin Inn, 11-12 Rock-A-Nore Rd
Booking advised: 01424 434326
Sound Waves Community Choir
7.30pm - Salvation Army, 26 St Andrew's Square
Free taster session. No auditions. admin@soundwaveschoir.org.uk
Ruxley's Crew Morris
8.15pm - West Hill Community Centre, Croft Rd
Morris dancing - with a Hastings pirate twist! Contact: crewruyleys@gmail.com

Wednesdays
Writing Hour
7.30am - 7 Trinity St
Writers can come together to write at the workshops hastings-writersworkshop.com
Green Gym at Hastings Centre
10.00am - The Hastings Centre, The Ridge
Horticultural volunteering for health, carrie.edmonds@tcv.org.uk / 07764 655609

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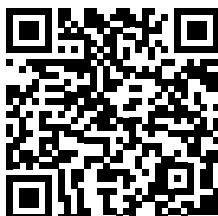
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Health Walk Alexandra Park 10.30am - Alexandra Park, St Helen's Rd From Ranger's Office - free one hour walk, just pop along tcv.org.uk/southeast/sussex Community Open House 11.00am - Afri-Co-Lab, 3, Marine Court Make Afri-Co-Lab your home, work space, chill-out lounge and studio for the day! afri-co-lab.org BASH Networking Event 6.00pm - Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St For local businesses. £7.50 ticket pp All Sorts Auction 6.30pm - West St Leonards Community Centre and Social Club, 130 Bexhill Rd Auction items accepted from 9am-1pm. Contact weststleonardsca@gmail.com to confirm. Bar open until late Men's Walk and Talk 7.00pm - Azur, Marina Pavillion, 44-37 Marina Meet at Azur for a leisurely walk along the seafront with time to chat. For info or to book: hannahrichards@mindcharity.co.uk or 07510927978. The Class Choir 7.00pm - The Unitarian Church Friendly, fun, uplifting Women's choir. Free taster sessions, no music reading or auditions. theclasschoir@gmail.com Hastings & St Leonards Women's Circle	7.00pm - The Compound, 161 Bexhill Rd Donation only. For self-identifying women facebook.com/groups/1578385062838116 Forbidden Fruit Quiz Night 8.00pm - The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade Thursdays Cozy Crypt 10.00am - London Rd Share Conversation, Access Support, In Partnership with Citizens Advice 1066 Open Tech Thursdays 10.00am - Observer Building, 53 Cambridge Rd Free community led technology meetup Free energy advice community drop-in 10.00am - Hastings Community Info Hub, Queens Rd Green Gym at Church Wood 10.00am - Church Wood Conservation volunteering for health, contact carrie.edmonds@tcv.org.uk / 07764 655609 Bingo 2.00pm - West St Leonards Community Centre and Social Club, 130 Bexhill Rd Contact weststleonardsca@gmail.com for details The Barbarian Wolf Chess Club 5.15pm - The Horse & Groom, 4 Mercatoria Weekly chess Pumphouse Late Plates 6.30pm - Pumphouse Cafe and Deli, Pumphouse, Alexandra	Park, St Helen's Rd Every alternate Thursday War Games 7.00pm - West St Leonards Community Centre and Social Club, 130 Bexhill Rd Bar open for the duration. Contact weststleonardsca@gmail.com for details Hastings Town Singers 7.00pm - Ark Castledown Primary Academy, Priory Rd A friendly non-auditioning community choir. Free taster sessions. hastingtonsingers.co.uk A Load of Poets 7.30pm - Twelve Hundred Postcards, 80 Queens Rd Poetry open mic night every 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact @loadofpoets on Instagram. Pub Quiz 7.30pm - The Dolphin Inn, 11-12 Rock-A-Nore Rd Free entry plus prize money to be won!! Booking recommended 01424 434326 Fridays Writing Hour 7.30am - 7 Trinity St Writers can come together to write at the workshops hastingswritersworkshop.com Health Walk Church Wood St Leonards 10.30am - Church Wood Meet at Nature reserve car park, free one hour walk, just pop along tcv.org.uk/southeast/sussex	St Augustine's Close, Cooden Dr, Bexhill Free singing group for people with Dementia and their carers in Bexhill. Every 1st and 3rd Friday. discdementiasupport.org Hastings Library of Things + Make and Mend Fixing Fridays 11.00am - Maslow Studio, 5 Harold Place Borrow tools and useful items, from bolt cutters to sewing machines, from tents to trombones. Find out more: umbrellasussex.org.uk. The Damascus Runners 11.00am - Bonjour Café, 13 Grand Parade Social walking group, meet on the seafront opposite Broomgrove Youth Club Sessions 4.30pm - Broomgrove Community Centre, 85 Chiltern Dr sarah.adams@freshvisions.org.uk Bev 07732 823800 Saturdays Saturday Table Sales 9.30am - Christ Church St Leonards, Silchester Rd First Saturday of the month Weekly Indoor Market 10.00am - Saint Leonards Church Market, London Rd Weekly market: clothes, bits, food, tarot. Stalls still available loveamarket.co.uk Heritage Explorers 10.00am - Christ Church St Leonards, Silchester Rd Free drop-in family art	& heritage activities. Monthly Vinyl Market 11.00am - The Piper, 1 Norman Rd Family Day @PLAY 11.00am - play., St Andrews Mews Good food, good company, good play and a lovely way to spend your Saturday. Thai Food at the Albert 2.00pm - The Royal Albert, 293 Battle Rd Gravity & Grace 2.30pm - Clifton Centre, 1 and 2 Stainsby St Taking care of mind, body & soul with the Alexander Technique. Introductory talks/workshops. Booking not required, Suggested donation £5. For further details contact Chris livingtenderly@yahoo.co.uk	negotiation and conflict resolution skills to help us all navigate dialogue in complex, polarised times. FREE to attend bit.ly/4d9e-war. From the Institute for Global Negotiation. WEEKLY CLASSES & WORKSHOPS For regular classes and workshops visit: hastingsindependentpress.co.uk/classes-and-workshops 
			 CLASSES & WORKSHOPS Saturday 3 October Life's Little Narratives - A Day for Your Writing 10.00am - Royal Victoria Hotel, Marina Writing, craft tips, share and get feedback. £55 includes tea/coffee/pastries. Book: nicky@diamond-minds.co.uk Sunday 4 October BEYOND DIVISION: Constructive Engagement in a Fractured World 11.30am - Stade Hall, The Stade Workshop combining	 HEALTH & WELLBEING For regular health and wellbeing listings visit: hastingsindependentpress.co.uk/health-and-wellbeing 	

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!

Hastings Independent

WRITTEN BY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY
OUR PAPER REPORTS NEWS STORIES FROM
HASTINGS AND AROUND. FROM IMMEDIATE
ISSUES TO THE LOCAL CONSEQUENCES
OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.

Our newsdesk is staffed by volunteers, some of whom have current or former media experience, some not. We are currently looking for additional volunteers to join the team, as reporters and/or editors.

You don't need any journalistic background, but do need to be literate, work reliably to deadlines, and conform to our standards of truth-telling, fact-checking and objectivity.

Please email us at newsdesk@hastingsindependentpress.co.uk with a brief CV and your likely availability in future weeks and months to contribute to our output.



Edith's Daughters Gunnhild and Gytha



Edith Festival: A Tale of Two Daughters

Edith the Fair – or Edith Swanneck as she is also known – was Harold Godwinson's consort for twenty years and bore him seven children. She was also one of the wealthiest nobles in England.

With the approach of Hastings Week and the current celebrations of the Bayeux tapestry sweeping Hastings, it's worth remembering that she is thought to be one of only three women who appears on the epic treasure. One famous scene shows a woman and a child escaping a burning building. Some historians have suggested this anonymous figure could represent Edith

Swanneck fleeing with her youngest child, Ulf, in the chaos following the Norman Conquest. Not only that, but she is thought to have recovered Harold's body from the battlefield and enabled a Christian burial for him in Waltham Abbey in Essex.

Friends of Edith, set up in 2019, restored her statue and created an appropriate setting for this historic monument in West Marina Gardens.

On Wednesday 14 October, at 12 noon, there will be a free talk and celebration of the 960th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings at the statue in West Marina Gardens. The talk will include a brief description

of some of the salient moments of 960 years ago and a number of short readings of extracts from historical records and literature regarding this momentous event.

As part of the Hastings Week programme, and in parallel with the anniversary celebrations, this year's Edith Festival focuses on the impact of the Norman Invasion on two of Edith's children: her daughters, Gytha and Gunnhild. Their lives were radically changed in the aftermath of the Conquest.

An evening event, *Edith's Daughters*, will be held at the Marina Fountain pub from 7pm on Saturday 17 October. This will consist of an examination and dramatic illustration of how the lives of Gytha and Gunnhild played out differently and how their legacies – and that of their mother, Edith Swanneck – inform our lives today.

Two members of the Crowhurst Drama Group will be returning to play Gunnhild and the Mother Abess at Wilton Abbey in the first part, then deftly changing roles to play Young Gytha (Edith's daughter) and Older Gytha (Harold's mother) on Flat Holm Island in the Bristol Channel as they plan their escape and exile from Norman England.

Similar to last year's performance of *Beowulf*, there will be 'themed' food and drinks on the menu, to include 'Kiev burgers' to mark the Ukrainian connections of Edith's family and the expected presence of a group from Ukraine.



Tickets for *Edith's Daughters* £10 from Eventbrite (*Edith Festival 2026*), 7.00pm 17 October, Marina Fountain.

Free 960th anniversary event at statue in West Marina Gardens, 12.00pm on 14 October.



West Hill Visitor Centre - artist's impression

Hastings Castle on YouTube

A New Chapter for Hastings Castle and the West Hill Visitor Centre is the title of a newly created YouTube channel, dedicated to documenting the transformation of the West Hill Café site and Hastings Castle.

A five-minute promotional film introduces the vision for the project, showcasing plans which will see the existing West Hill Café building replaced with a modern visitor centre, café and restaurant, forming a key part of the Town Deal-funded project. The new facilities are designed to improve the visitor experience, supporting the long-term conservation and future of one of Hastings' most important historic landmarks.

Troika Projects, the new operators of Hastings Castle and the delivery partner for the West Hill Project, are launching the channel, which

will provide regular behind-the-scenes updates, milestone videos and interviews with the project team and partners as the project develops. It will give the community the opportunity to follow the transformation of Hastings Castle and the West Hill centre as it unfolds.

Graham Peters, Chair of the Hastings Town Deal Board, says: "A New Chapter for Hastings Castle and the West Hill captures the vision and ambition behind one of the Town Deal's flagship regeneration projects. This is an inspiring opportunity to reimagine one of Hastings' most iconic landmarks, creating a destination that honours its remarkable heritage while looking confidently to the future. I hope the film will spark curiosity, stimulate conversation and give people a real sense of the exciting transformation ahead."

Residents and visitors are encouraged to subscribe to the channel and follow the project's progress as Hastings Castle enters an exciting new chapter.

For more information go to HastingsTownDeal.co.uk; Westhill-project.com

Bayeux Around Britain

Bayeux Around Britain is a nationwide programme supported by WorldQuant and designed by the British Museum, bringing the story and significance of the Bayeux Tapestry to audiences across the UK. The project *Castling a masterpiece* comes to Hastings Museum & Art Gallery from Thursday 10 September to Sunday 8 November.

The display features hand-painted plaster casts depicting King Harold II and William of Normandy, on a special loan from the British Museum. The casts were created from wax impressions taken directly from the Bayeux Tapestry in 1816 by artist Charles Alfred Stothard.

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery is the first of six venues around the UK to host the historic loan of these

casts. The tour will include venues such as Rievaulx Abbey in North Yorkshire and Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery.

The Stothard Cast will be accompanied by a number of replicas, giving Hastings Museum an opportunity to engage local schools, community groups and visitors with the story of the Bayeux Tapestry and the events of 1066.

The programme takes place to complement The Bayeux Tapestry, presented by Igor Tulchinsky, at the British Museum, open to the public until July 2027.

On 17 October, a trail of short films about the Bayeux Tapestry will be launched throughout the museum's galleries. The films, commissioned by the British Museum, will be accompanied by objects from the Museum collection and high-resolution images of the Tapestry. Visitors will also be able to view a longer film in the Durbar Hall, providing an in-depth interpretation of the Bayeux Tapestry, its creation, and its historical context.

For information: visithastings.co.uk

Spotlight

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Big Sing Returns

St Michael's Hospice will shortly bring a weekend of big voices and brilliant live music to St Leonards on Sea. Music lovers and fans of live entertainment are invited to St John's Church this October for a weekend packed with brilliant performances, community spirit and plenty of atmosphere.

The Hospice's much-loved annual Big Sing returns on Saturday 10 October, bringing together fantastic local choirs, each with their own unique style, personality and choice of songs.

From familiar favourites to unexpected choices, there will be live singing throughout the day. You can pop in to enjoy a particular choir, stay for a song or two, or settle in for the whole day. The event is free, relaxed and open to everyone, with refreshments available throughout the day and a bar in the evening. No booking is required.

New for 2026 is 'Raise Your Voice', taking place on Friday 9 October. This brand-new event promises an



The Acapella Bellas at the Big Sing

energetic evening of music, friends, drinks and singalong favourites.

Performers will include Hastings Punk Choir, Cocktail Choir, KIN, White Rock Community Choir and more, with a playlist designed to get you out of your seat. Whether you're a seasoned singer or a self-confessed singalong superstar, everyone is invited to enjoy the evening.

Both events are free to attend, with your donations helping to raise

vital funds for St Michael's Hospice and its work supporting local people and families.

Both events: St John's Church, Brittany Road, Hastings, TN38 0LF. Further details: stmichaelsospice.com/event-diary or call 01424 456396 for more information. Raise your voice: 5.30pm to 9pm, Friday 9 October, Big Sing: 9am to 9pm Saturday 10 October

An Evening of Fun and Laughter

If you're up for an evening of fun and laughter while raising money for a good cause, how about some classic comedy, daft songs and theatrical nonsense? This is what is promised by the Comedy Sketch Show at the Stables Theatre.

Well-known actor Adrian Bowd, who more recently has been directing plays for local venues, came up with the idea of organising a fundraiser in memory of his daughter, Christine, who he sadly lost to breast cancer this year.

"Cancer isn't funny, I know," he says. "I've got it, and my daughter has just passed away because of it." He suspects that most people have a friend or relation who has had a brush with the illness so: "In an effort to lift the gloom, we've put together an evening of sketches and music."

To make this happen, Adrian has gathered together a company of performers "to do what theatre does best in difficult times, make people laugh." The entertainment continues



after the show with music in the bar.

In the process he not only intends to give you a good night out but also raise a significant amount of money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Comedy Sketch Show is at the Stables Theatre on 5 and 6 October starting 7.45. Tickets, £10, from the Box office 01424 423221

Comedy Festival New Season

BH AGENCY

Hastings Comedy Festival nights return this month for their autumn/winter season. Their first show of the season is Saturday 26 September, at Stade Hall in Hastings OldTown. It's a mixed bill of some of the Festival fans' favourites, including this year's Newcomer winner, Joe De Costa, and the popular President Obonjo, who has performed to sold-out rooms at the Festival since 2016. The night is hosted by Katie Pritchard.

Joe da Costa is a London-based musical comedian who has won the Best New Comedian award at the Edinburgh, Brighton and Hastings Comedy Festivals. A talented guitarist and singer, he combines sharp comedy with original music. He has also featured on the BBC New Comedy Awards, and in addition has writing credits for shows such as *8 Out of 10 Cats* and Richard Ayoade's *Question Team*.

Benjamin Bello is the acclaimed character comedian behind President Obonjo of the fictional Lafta Republic, delivering sharp political satire and high-energy stand-up



Joe da Costa

and hosting. A regular MC and headliner, he has performed acclaimed shows at Edinburgh, Brighton and Bath Festivals and had a NextUp Comedy special released on ITVX.

Katie Pritchard will host the evening. An award-winning performer, musician, actor and writer, Katie's latest show, *Katie Pritchard is Sir Elton Scone*, combines daft comedy, music, costumes and props. She has appeared on *Harry Hill's Clubnite* and *Stand Up 2 Cancer*, and her comedy special *Disco Ball* is available on

ITVX and NextUp. Katie is winner of both the Musical Comedy Awards and the Pegasus Comedy Musical Comedian of the Year 2026, and has been featured in *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*.

Tickets: £12.50 plus small booking fee: available from Hastingscomedyfestival.com. Stade Hall is a wheelchair accessible venue.16+ (Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult). Doors open: 7pm, show starts: 8pm

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Gruffalo Granny comes to Hastings Storytelling Festival 2026

Hastings Storytelling Festival returns this October in celebration of the National Year of Reading with a vibrant programme of storytelling, music, literature and performance for all ages. Produced by 18 Hours in partnership with the Hastings Storytelling Festival charity, this year's theme *Connections*, celebrates imagination and the power of shared stories across our community.

Gruffalo Granny, the brand-new story from Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, has just launched and is

already making headlines; Hastings is one of the first places where families can experience the story live. Festival Patron Axel Scheffler appears at the White Rock Theatre on Saturday 24 October for *Gruffalo Stories with Gruffalo Granny*, reading all three Gruffalo tales, drawing live on stage and meeting families at a book signing.

On Sunday 25 October, the town comes alive for Children's Day, a much-loved annual celebration that's free for all. The Stade hosts a full day of puppetry, music, walkabout acts and creative workshops – everyone is welcome to dress up and join this year's Gruffalo-themed parade. Line up from 2.45pm to parade with local drumming groups and alongside vibrant hand painted costumes created by carnival artist Donna Fox.

Pirate Gem from CBeebies brings her *Swashbuckling Adventure* show, alongside Long Nose Puppets, Circo Rum Baba's Pesky Pirates, Nightingale Music and Mermaid Tales on giant seahorses. Axel Scheffler has also invited guest author and illustrator Tor Freeman to join the celebrations.



SARA LOUISE BOWREY

The 2026 programme also offers a diverse line up for adults. At the Stables Theatre, Bev Lee Harling presents *Things I Know and Things I Don't*, blending story and song in an intimate and heartfelt performance. Bestselling author Dorothy Koomson appears in conversation discussing her gripping new thriller *The Quiet Girls*. At the White Rock Theatre, an evening with Sarah Jane Morris and Deaf Rave invites audiences to try haptic vests as they listen and dance to an uplifting session from Sarah Jane Morris and Trio, before Deaf Rave take over with a high-energy drum and bass set. The festival also welcomes poet and performer Zena Edwards, whose powerful spoken word work explores identity, resilience and connection.

ience and connection.

Families can enjoy events throughout the week. On Saturday 17 October, award winning children's author Piers Torday shares his latest story *Books According to Dog and Owl* at Hastings Library. On Sunday 18 October, children and families can take part in The Norman Quest, a digital treasure hunt created by artist Kester Sheridan. Inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry, this outdoor adventure invites players to explore the Robsack or Downs Farm neighbourhoods using an app on a smartphone to discover virtual Norman themed items and unlock questions and facts that bring Norman history to life. Nadine Kaadan and Festival Patron Thomas Taylor

also offer readings and creative sessions for young audiences.

As part of the National Year of Reading, 18 Hours is working with the National Literacy Trust to offer author visits and creative storytelling sessions to local schools, including West African drumming with Emmanuel Okine and storytelling with author Sam Copeland.

The Hastings Storytelling Festival runs from 17 to 25 October 2026 at venues across Hastings and St Leonards. Events are a mix of free and ticketed, with all children under 10 attending for free. The full programme, booking details and updates are at hastingsstoryfest.org.uk.



HONA MCGARRY

Come together for Unity Parade

A broad coalition of Hastings community organisations, faith groups, trade unions, equality campaigns and political groups is calling on people across the town to join a Uni-

ty Parade on Saturday 26 September.

The parade will assemble at 12 noon in Warrior Square Gardens, before travelling along the seafront to a rally in Hastings town

centre with speakers, music and entertainment.

Under the banner 'Hastings Celebrates Multiculturalism, Diversity & Inclusion', the event is intended to be a colourful and positive celebration of the many different communities that make up Hastings and St Leonards.

Organisers say that recent events have made the parade particularly timely. Over the weekend, hundreds

of masked and black-clad anti-migrant protesters blocked roads around the Port of Dover. The following day hundreds gathered in Portsmouth after asylum seekers were brought ashore, with protesters attempting to obstruct their transportation.

A spokesperson for the Hastings Unity Parade said: "We want this to be a joyful and visible expression of the Hastings we know – a town that is stronger because of its diversity and where everyone should be able to feel that they belong."

"This parade has brought together trade unionists, faith communities, equality campaigns, political groups and local residents because there are values that we share even where we may disagree about other things."

"The scenes we have seen in Dover and Portsmouth make that especially important. When groups of masked people take to the streets in an atmosphere of hostility towards migrants and refugees, it inevitably creates fear far beyond the people immediately involved. The answer is for the much greater number of people who believe in tolerance, equality and solidarity to make

themselves visible too – peacefully, positively and confidently."

"Above all, this is a parade for Hastings: for the kind of town we want our children and grandchildren to grow up in."

Organisers are encouraging community groups, trade unions, voluntary organisations, faith groups, musicians and local residents to come along with banners, flags and drums for a parade along the seafront and rally in Hastings town centre with speakers, music and entertainment

