

Friday 23 October to Thursday 5 November 2026

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

The HIP List

sponsored by



A pumpkin patch
at Bateman's

Hastings
Independent

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The HIP List

sponsored by

KILEY'S KARPETS

CARPETS • RUGS • VINYL • WOOD LAMINATES



MUSIC

Friday 23 October
Country Superstars
7.30pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock
The Hanging Stars + special guests
7.30pm – The Piper, Norman Road
O’Connell & Co
8.00pm – The Jenny Lind, High Street

Saturday 24 October
Homeground – Seaview Project Fundraiser
3.00pm – French’s, Robertson St
Live music from 3pm til 10pm, with sets from Snake Eyes, Bones Ate Arfa, Woodpig, Max Williams, halfneck, Erin Colley, Luavera + more acts to be announced
Live @ Mike’s Weekender
6.00pm – St Leonards Church, Pevensey Rd
African Head Charge, Mike Willis + The Get ‘Em On Up Boys, The Jumpsters.
Zachary Dogwood
7.00pm – The Jenny Lind, High St
Post-punk songwriter
Romeo Stodart + Trevor Moss & Hannah Lou
7.30pm – The Piper, Norman Road
Magic Numbers singer
Will Wilde
8.00pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Phenomenal harmonica player, singer/songwriter.

Sunday 25 October
Live @ Mike’s Weekender
4.00pm – St Leonards Church, Pevensey Rd
Ben Maier, Southern & Friends. Tickets: [mikeslist.uk/product/celebration-of-live-day-two/](#)
Jo Carley + The Old Dry Skulls
4.00pm – The Jenny Lind, High Street
Haunted skiffle and blues
Swervedriver
6.45pm – The Piper, Norman Road
90’s shoegazers celebrate their record Raise’s 35th anniversary

Wednesday 28 October
Girl Pop Live
6.00pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Concert celebrating the world’s biggest female pop stars of the moment.

Thursday 29 October
Peatbog Faeries
8.00pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock

Friday 30 October
The Coven Club
7.30pm – The Carlisle, 24 Pelham St
Halloween Spooktacular:
Not Now Norman + Dead Blood Cells + Ditch the Demon. £5
Wave Machine, Tellums + Vampyra
7.00pm – Brewing Brothers Courtyard
Halloween show – prize for best costume! £10
advance tickets online
Hello Queen DJ Night
8.00pm – Crown House, Marina
Dark disco, filthy house, twisted classics. Tkts:[sailer-club.eventcube.io](#)

Saturday 31 October
Werewolves of Hastings: Fear of Last Orders + Vince Ray
6.00pm – Jenny Lind, High Street
Skiffle + surf rock
The Execu-Shuns, The X-Men, The Dead Noughts
6.00pm – Old Town Studios, High Street
Halloween battle of the bands, Tickets £10 – dress to depress!
Monster Ball Mash Up
7.00pm – St Leonards Church, Pevensey Rd
£15 entry. [deathpromotions.sumupstore.com/product/the-monster-ball-mash-up](#)
Flow State: Make a Dance
8.00pm – The Printworks Ltd, 14 Claremont
Dr Savage + Hot Sauce + DJs Hot Train, Easy Green & Bob Johnstone
8.00pm – French’s, Robertson St
Fiery blues singer + DJ’s til late. Tickets £5
Vexed
9.00pm – The Carlisle
Halloween covers. Free

Sunday 1 November
The South
8.00pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock

Tuesday 3 November
Hothouse Flowers
7.30pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill

Wednesday 4 November
The ELO Show
7.30pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock

Thursday 5 November
Ben Portsmouth: This is Elvis
7.30pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock

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
Open Mic at Barnaby’s Lounge
7.00pm – Barnaby’s Lounge, 46 Robertson Street
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.
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
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
Singing and music, all welcome
Albion Skiffle Sessions
8.30pm – Albion Hastings, 33 George St
Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month

Wednesdays
Apples and Oranges In The Round
7.00pm – Mikes
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.
Open Mic
7.00pm – The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
Weekly. Hosted by Steve Didge
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.
The Other Band
8.00pm – The Dolphin Inn, 11-12 Rock-a-Nore Rd
4th Wednesday a month. Classic Blues, R&B and Americana

Thursdays
Open Mic
7.45pm – The Nags 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
8.00pm – The Pig, 37 White Rock
Guitars, digital piano, drum pads, Full P.A.
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

Saturdays
The Coffee House Sessions
5.30pm – Hanushka Coffee, Robertson St
Free entry, Jason McNiff and friends present
Punk Night
8.30pm – The Carlisle, 24 Pelham St
Monthly on last Saturday, check Punk Rock at the Carlisle for updates on bands



PERFORMANCE

Friday 23 October
Hastings Chamber Music Festival: Elmore String Quartet
7.00pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
Tickets and details: [hemf.co.uk/festival-2026/](#)
Things I Know and Things I Don’t
7.30pm – The Stables Theatre, The Bourne Music and storytelling by Bev Lee Harling
The Fannytasticals
7.30pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Award-winning, female musical comedy troupe.
Palmerama’s Comedyrاما
8.00pm – The Pig, 37 White Rock

Saturday 24 October
FOREshORE
4.15pm – Hastings Contemporary, Rock-a-Nore Rd
Dancer Daniel Squire performs on Stade beach in a site-specific performance inspired by the exhibition EDGE. Free event
Hastings Chamber Music Festival: Ensemble Molière
7.00pm – Christ Church St

Leonards, Silchester Rd
Tickets and details: [hemf.co.uk/festival-2026/](#)
Things I Know and Things I Don’t
7.30pm – The Stables Theatre, The Bourne Music and storytelling by Bev Lee Harling
Jonathan Parkin (guitar) – Alba Nova
7.30pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
Matthew McKew: Man V Shelf
7.30pm – The Pig, 37 White Rock
Comedyrama veteran Matthew McKew is performing his solo show. Tickets:[ticketsource.com/concussed-comedy/man-vs-shelf-hastings](#)
An Evening with Ramona
8.15pm – The Printworks Ltd, 14 Claremont
A glamorous evening of showstopping drag, cabaret and live music hosted by Ramona Weapon.
The Forbidden Fruit Cabaret: Marsha Mallow
9.30pm – The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade

Sunday 25 October
Hastings Chamber Music Festival: Rautio Piano Trio
3.00pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
The Volya Voices Choir
3.00pm – The Stables Theatre, The Bourne
Ukrainian folk songs and dancing. A wonderful evening of dancing and singing to raise funds to send urgent medical aid to Ukraine.
Magic Men World Tour
7.30pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock
The world’s biggest Ladies Night is coming to Hastings.

Monday 26 October
Hastings Chamber Music Festival: Rautio Piano Trio & Special Guests
3.00pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd
Tickets and details: [hemf.co.uk/festival-2026/](#)

Tuesday 27 October
The Ultimate Bubble Show
12.00pm and 2.00pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Ray Bubbles: The UK’s leading bubble performer
The Royal Ballet: Manon
7.15pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd

Friday 30 October
Pizza and Plays 2: Anna Atkinson
6.00pm – Stade Hall, The Stade
3 incredible writers focusing on something historical within the town and dramatising at the Stade.

Followed by Pizza and Remi Vibesman of Hidden Beach will play the night out.

Saturday 31 October
The Dinosaur that Pooped: A Rock Show
12.30pm and 3.30pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill
The Lair with Son of a Tutu
9.30pm – The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade

Sunday 1 November
Mrs Mantell’s Tooth
2.00pm – Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, John’s Place, Bohemia Rd
A performance redolent of the Victorian stage, kicks off the MANTELL-LYELL LEGACY series with a mixed cast of people, puppets (great and small) and toy theatre. The stunning unravelling of the Mantells’ first dinosaur discoveries takes audiences on a journey into the past. [hmag.org.uk/event](#)

Thursday 5 November
National Theatre Live: Golden Boy
7.00pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd

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 Comedyrاما Stand Up Comedy Night
8.00pm – Tin Tins, 21 Robertson St
Late Night Karaoke
11.00pm – Barnaby’s Lounge, 46 Robertson St



CINEMA

Friday 23 October
Revolution Anyone? + Director’s Q&A
7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St

Saturday 24 October
13 Going on 30 +

Crossword Solution No 313:
Across: 1. The-or-y 3. (ex)Tent ed(itors) 4. Renter (anagram)
Down: 1. Tester (anagram) 2. Yonder (anagram)

Free Mocktail 3.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St Carrie – 50th Anniversary Screening 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St	featured as part of the PhotoHastings Autumn photography season. Charlie Shaw’s Revenge + Director’s Q&A 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St	casting a masterpiece Until 8 November Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Bohemia Rd Mike Bowler 2 until 26 November The Crown, All Saints’ St Discrete Violations – Gordon Matta-Clark Until 31 January 2027 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill Edge – Where the Land Meets the Sea Until 3 January 2027 Hastings Contemporary, The Stade Laura Fyfe and Using Glue Until 31 October Dayglo Studios, Silchester Rd David Gilbert Until 16 January 2027 Flatland Projects, Beeching Rd, Bexhill Hastings Open Until 31 January Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Bohemia Rd HAF Volunteers and Trustees Exhibition 28 October until 28 November Hastings Arts Forum, Marine Court Oli Kellet: Sussex Spotlight Free Entry Until 8 November Hastings Contemporary, The Stade Grace Lau – Fetish Stories Until 31 October Solaris Gallery, Norman Rd Lived it, Learned it, Leading it – Group Show by Care Experienced Young People 30 October 10am-3pm Amici Gallery, Claremont Geoff MacCormack – David Bowie: Music Lover Until 21 November Lucy Bell Gallery, Norman Rd The Open Exhibition Until 1 December Baker Mamanova Gallery (@Kino Teatr), Norman Rd Parallel Lives (Group Exhibition) Until 14 November Project Artworks Gallery, 12 Claremont Passing Through Nature to Eternity – Martin Brockman and Mark Daniels 24 October until 8 November The Mint House, Pevensey PhotoHastings – As Above, So Below Until 25 October Hastings Arts Forum, Marine Court PhotoHastings Group Exhibition: Flux Until 17 November Barnaby’s Lounge, Robertson St Photohastings Photography Festival: Ida Baker and Elkie Riley 23 until 25 October Electro Studios Project	Space, Seaside Rd Rightfully Mine – Dawn Borthwick Until 31 October Stables Theatre Gallery, The Bourne Prem Sahib – Chamber Until 3 January 2027 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill The Family Show Not for The Family – Sexton Ming, Ella Guru, and Twingo Until 25 October 1200 Postcards, Queens Rd Nico Vromans: Colours of Hastings Until 29 October The Crown, All Saints St	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>	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> 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> Badminton 7.00pm – Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd Adults £5.60 Booking <i>freedom-leisure.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>
Sunday 25 October Boarding on Insanity + Director’s Q&A 11.00am – Electric Palace, 39A High St The Virgin Suicides 3.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St B Movie Fan Club: How to Make a Monster 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St	Friday 30 October Coco: Halloween Film Fest 1.00pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock Disney Pixar’s Coco! With crafts, activities, movie, and snacks. Sheep, Actually 3.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St Backrooms 4.00pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill Obsession 7.00pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill FRIGHT NIGHT HALLOWEEN SPECIAL: The Evil Dead + Intro 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St				
Monday 26 October Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St			SPORT		
Tuesday 27 October Casper 11.00am – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill The Addams Family 2.00pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill Pride 3.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St Human Traffic 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St	Saturday 31 October Get Out 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St	Sunday 1 November Straight Talk: A Tribute to Dolly Parton 3.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St Where is Heaven? 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St		Saturday 24 October Football: Hastings Utd v Waltham Abbey – FA Trophy 3.00pm – The Pilot Field, Elphinstone Rd	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 Badminton 6.00pm – Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd £5.60 or £4.70 with a Leisure Pass. Booking: <i>01424 457691</i> PB Runner 6.15pm - Various locations. Group effort running sessions £2. For info: <i>slinklater65@gmail.com</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> 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 – The St. Leonard’s Academy, Edinburgh Rd info: <i>hastingsrounders@gmail.com</i>. In the Sports Hall downstairs. 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
Wednesday 28 October Hocus Pocus 11.00am – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill Ghostbusters 2.00pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill Rocks 3.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St Toy Story 5 3.00pm and 7.30pm – Battle Memorial Hall, 81 High St Battle Community Cinema: £5 Adult, £4 child. Licensed bar, soft drinks, snacks. Buy on the door or reserve: <i>battlememorialhall@outlook.com</i> Music Video Night 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St	Thursday 5 November Super Nature 11.00am – Electric Palace, 39A High St Micro Budget Film Workshop 6.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St Blockhead + Danny Horn and Director’s Q&A 7.30pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St		Saturday 31 October Hockey: South Saxons Men v Horsham – South East Open League 12.00pm – Bexhill Academy, Bexhill Football: Hastings Utd v Faversham Town – Isthmian League 3.00pm – The Pilot Field, Elphinstone Rd	Tuesdays 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. 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 Heart and Sole Runners 7.00pm – Grosvenor Gardens Badminton 8.00pm – Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Rd £5.60. Adults. 18 places available for 3 courts usage. Booking: <i>free-</i>	
Thursday 29 October Bitter Christmas 11.00am – Electric Palace, 39A High St Ish 3.00pm – Electric Palace, 39A High St The Shining 3.00pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill The Exorcist 7.00pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill Custard Caravan presents Artists’ Short Film Festival 7.00pm – Barnaby’s Lounge, 46 Robertson St A special short video and film screening event	WEEKLY CINEMA	Mondays The Forbidden Fruit Movie Night 7.30pm – The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade Free movie screening.	ACTIVE SPORT		
	Wednesdays Battle Community Cinema Movie Screening 7.30pm – Battle Memorial Hall, 81 High St		Sundays Free Tennis session in the park 10.00am – Alexandra Park Tennis Courts To book: <i>clubspark.lta.org.uk/breakpointtennis</i> AlexandraPark/FreeParks		
	Thursdays 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	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			
	ART Accidental Landscapes – Jem Sharman Until 30 November Bus Stop Studios, London Rd Bayeux Around Britain:				

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dom-leisure.co.uk
Badminton
8.00pm – Hastings & Rother YMCA, St Paul's Rd

Fridays
Hastings Blister Sisters 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



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Saturday 17 October
Hastings Storytelling Festival
Famously diverse, progressive, immersive and inclusive storytelling for all ages. Children's Day returns on 25 October to The Stade with stories, puppets, music and a Gruffalo themed parade. hastingsstoryfest.org.uk

Saturday 24 October
Bexhill Beach Garden Event
10.00am – Bexhill Beach Garden, W Parade, Bexhill
Fundraiser for World Polio Day. Live music, lights, all day events. Details: (facebook.com/bexhillbeachgarden/)
Autumn Fair
10.30am – Stade Hall, The Stade
Local crafters, home-wares, pumpkin trail, palm readings & more!
'Bayeux Tapestry – The Epic Poem' Workshop
11.00am – Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, John's Place, Bohemia Rd
The Space Explorer's Academy
12.30pm and 3.30pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill
Fun-filled theatrical adventure that blasts you on an epic journey around the planets.
Axel Scheffler: Gruffalo Stories with Gruffalo Granny
2.00pm – White Rock Theatre, White Rock
Hastings Storytelling Festival event.
Oktoberfest
3.00pm – Phoenix Arts Centre Ark Alexandra

Academy, Parkstone Rd
Munich style beer hall, live oompah band and games, live music, authentic German beer and food. Tickets: gooseevents.co.uk
Tibetan Singing Bowls & Gong Concert
4.00pm – Christ Church St Leonards, Silchester Rd
With Andrew Lyddon. Bring yoga mat and layers if required. Tkts: ticketsource/sonic-sanctuary.
Pan Asian Supper Club @ The Beacon
6.00pm – The Beacon, 67-68 St Mary's Terrace
£40 pp inc cocktails by the brazier, weather permitting. Email to book: suppagarden@gmail.com
Leela: Music, Meditation and Poetry
7.00pm – The Humble Heart Wellness Centre, 18 Silchester Rd
Meditative and transcendent music, poetry and led meditation.

Sunday 25 October
Witchery: A Celebration of Samhain
10.00am – The Mullet, 196 Queens Rd
A day and evening of activities, supper and ceremony. Info: themullethastings

Monday 26 October
Room on the Broom and Potion Making
10.15am – Christ Church Blacklands, Laton Rd
To book: bookwhen.com/nightingalemusic

Tuesday 27 October
Afri-Co-Lab Mini Makes: Weave-A-Card
2.00pm – Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, John's Place, Bohemia Rd
FREE: Drop in, get creative, and weave something truly one-of-a-kind — because your voice deserves to be seen as well as heard.

Wednesday 28 October
Archive Stories: BFI Replay and Screen Archive South East
2.00pm – Hastings Library, Brassey Institute, 13 Claremont
Unique, free event presenting digital archives and collaborative work of the British Film Institute (BFI) and Screen Archive South East (SASE), inc short film Hastings: Holiday Town of Contrasts. Book: buytickets.at/bfheritage-programmes/2404242

Thursday 29 October
Half Term Lego Lab
10.30am – Hastings Museum & Art Gallery,

John's Place, Bohemia Rd
Morning and afternoon sessions. hmag.org.uk/event/half-term-lego-lab/
Cheese on Ghost
– **Open Mic Ghost Storytelling Night**
6.30pm – Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, John's Place, Bohemia Rd
FREE
Ghosts of Hastings
7.00pm – 1200 Postcards Independent Beer Bar
£5, £2 Conc. Molly Morrison of the Untruth Seekers travels through the town's past one strange story at a time. Inc Q&A. Tkts: wegottickets.com/f/29728

Friday 30 October
Hastings Rocks International Film Festival
Friday 30 October – The Printworks Ltd, 14 Claremont
Festival honouring the legacy of classic horror while championing films that push the genre into new territory, creating a space where filmmakers and audiences alike feel empowered to challenge the status quo and imagine a better future together. Tickets: rocksfestivals.com/hriff
The Creepy Cafe on the Edge of the Hill
2.00pm – Hastings Castle, Castle Hill Rd
Storytelling, games, free hot choc for every child. Tkts: hastingscastle.org.uk/event/the-creepy-cafe
Night Crawlers: Bats & More
4.30pm – Hastings Castle, Castle Hill Rd
Uncover and identify our resident bats, and other night creatures with an expert guide.

Saturday 31 October
Icklesham Village Halloween
10.00am – Icklesham Memorial Hall & Pavilion, Workhouse Ln, Icklesham
Room on the Broom and Potion Making. 0-7 yrs. Book: bookwhen.com/nightingalemusic
Sidley Sale & Coffee Morning
10.00am – All Saints Church, Bexhill, All Saints Ln, Sidley, Bexhill
Books, raffle, homemade cakes. Free parking.
The Others Market
12.00pm – The Beacon, 67-68 St Mary's Terrace
Witchy to punk to goth! Alternative market.
Halloween Makers & Bakers Trick or Treat Market
12.00pm – St. Andrews Mews, 1 St Andrew's

Square, Waldegrave St
Halloween Batty Bingo
1.00pm – The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade
£20 pp. Bingo, rave, silly games, music and prizes galore!
The Pumpkin Pixie and Magic Halloween Stories with Ed Boxall
2.00pm – Alexandra Park Greenhouse, St Helen's Rd
£5/child, to book: our-greenhouse.org/events
Samhain Death Meditation
3.00pm – Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, John's Place, Bohemia Rd
Join Death Doula Katie Rose in the extraordinary Durbar Hall at Hastings Museum & Art Gallery for a gentle guided Death Meditation.
Ofrenda @ Oscar's
3.30pm – Oscar's on the Square, Lower Promenade Opp. Warrior Square, Grand Parade
Day of the Dead & Halloween warm-up! Shrine, mole, music.
Rock Band Karaoke
4.00pm – St. Andrews Mews, 1 St Andrew's Square, Waldegrave St
Pick a song, grab the mic and become lead singer of an actual live band.
Inkchantations: Immersive Samhain Gathering
5.00pm – The Beacon, 67-68 St Mary's Terrace
Celebrate with us at our Samhain edition, with Inkchantations, taking us from day into night with rites, rituals, music, magikal interventions, live tattooing and workshops.
Samhain Night: Crystals, Tarot & Ritual
7.00pm – Rock Body Soul, 70 Norman Rd
Tickets £20, rockbodysoul.co.uk.
Halloween – Samhain @ Hastings Project
7.00pm – The Prince of Wales by The Hastings Project, 15 Western Rd
Ghost stories, cocktails, quiz. A spooky Samhain weekend supporting stmhospice
Silent Cinema Sing-Along
7.30pm – The Humble Hub studio, 4-5 Shepherd St
Film screening, wireless headphones, singing, dancing, audience participation, a themed bar, fancy dress and a Halloween party. Tkts: buytickets.at/the-humblewarrior/2450163

Sunday 1 November
Tides of Trade Market
11.00am – Stade Hall, The Stade
Jewellery, macrame, candles, skin creams, teas and wellness products, 3d designs, Home

and Garden decor, food and drinks and more.
Halloween – Samhain @ Hastings Project
5.00pm – The Prince of Wales by The Hastings Project, 15 Western Rd
Music, folk tales, rituals. A spooky Samhain weekend supporting stmhospice

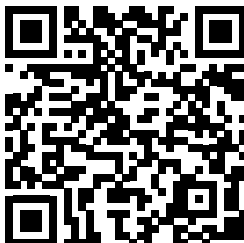
Wednesday 4 November
Maths Up The Mountain with Brook Tate
7.30pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd

WEEKLY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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
Brunch at the Beacon
10.30am – The Beacon, 67-68 St Mary's Terrace
Homergound Kitchen's cosy, hearty food and delicious cocktails. The first 3 Sundays of the month. Book at hgkhastings@gmail.com
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](https://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 hastingswritersworkshop.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 [\[cabin87@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:cabin87@hotmail.com\)
Health Walk Old Town
2.00pm – The Stade, Rock-a-Nore Rd
Free one hour walk, just pop along \[tcv.org.uk/southeast/sussex\]\(http://tcv.org.uk/southeast/sussex\)
The Social Sketchery
5.30pm – Heist Market, 22-26 Norman Rd
Free meet-up for creatives to art together. Info \[instagram.com/thesocialsketchery/\]\(https://instagram.com/thesocialsketchery/\)
Backgammon Club
6.30pm – The Horse & Groom, 4 Mercatoria
All abilities welcome
Pop Quiz
7.30pm – The Piper, 1 Norman Rd
Dave Valentine your Host
Overeaters Anonymous
7.30pm – Clifton Centre, 1 and 2 Stainsby St
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.
The Hastings and St Leonards Model Railway Club
8.00pm – Baldslow Memorial Hall, 216 Harrow Ln
New members welcome \[hastingsmrc.org.uk\]\(http://hastingsmrc.org.uk\)](mailto:craigs-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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
Sound Waves Community Choir
7.30pm – Salvation Army, 26 St Andrew's Square
Free taster session. No auditions. admin@sound-waveschoir.org.uk
Bingo Night
7.30pm – The Dolphin Inn, 11-12 Rock-a-Nore Rd
Booking advised: 01424 434326
Ruxley's Crew Morris
8.15pm – West Hill

Community Centre, Croft Rd Morris dancing – with a Hastings pirate twist! Contact: <a href="mailto:crewrux-
leys@gmail.com">crewrux- leys@gmail.com Wednesdays Writing Hour 7.30am – 7 Trinity St Writers can come to- gether to write at the workshops <a href="http://hastings-
writersworkshop.com">hastings- writersworkshop.com Green Gym at Hastings Centre 10.00am – The Hastings Centre, The Ridge Horticultural volunteering for health, <a href="mailto:carrie.edmonds@
tcv.org.uk">carrie.edmonds@ tcv.org.uk/07764 655609 Health Walk Alexandra Park 10.30am – Alexandra Park, St Helen's Rd From Ranger's Office – free one hour walk, just pop along <a href="http://tcv.org.
uk/southeast/sussex">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 European Film Club 3.00pm – Kino-Teatr, 43-49 Norman Rd Tickets £10/ £7 Members BASH Networking Event 6.00pm – Barnaby's Lounge, 46 Robertson St For local business- es. £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 <a href="mailto:west-
stleonardsca@gmail.com">west- stleonardsca@gmail.com to confirm. Bar open until late Men's Walk and Talk 7.00pm – Azur, Marina Pavilion, 44-37 Marina Meet at Azur for a lei-	surely walk along the seafront with time to chat. For info or to book: Hannah Richards <a href="mailto:hannah.
richards@mindcharity.
co.uk">hannah. richards@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. thechoir@gmail.com Hastings & St Leonards Women's Circle 7.00pm – The Compound, 161 Bexhill Rd Donation only. For self-identifying wom- en <a href="https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1578385062838116">facebook.com/ groups/1578385062838116 Forbidden Fruit Quiz Night 8.00pm – The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade Thursdays Hastings Tech Forum 9.00am – Observer Building, 53 Cambridge Rd Monthly meetup for local tech professionals Cozy Crypt 10.00am – London Road 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 volunte- ering for health, contact <a href="mailto:carrie.edmonds@tcv.
org.uk">carrie.edmonds@tcv. org.uk/07764 655609 Just Friends Hastings	11.00am – His Place, Robertson St Free membership. £1.50 per meeting including raffle entry, refreshments. Info: Dawn <a href="mailto:hastings@just-
friends.uk">hastings@just- friends.uk, 07786 237215 Bingo 2.00pm – West St Leonards Community Centre and Social Club, 130 Bexhill Rd Contact <a href="mailto:weststleonardsca@
gmail.com">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 <a href="mailto:weststleonardsca@
gmail.com">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. <a href="http://hast-
ingtonsingers.co.uk">hast- ingtonsingers.co.uk 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 to- gether to write at the workshops <a href="http://hastings-
writersworkshop.com">hastings- writersworkshop.com Health Walk Church Wood St Leonards 10.30am – Church Wood	Meet at Nature reserve car park, free one hour walk, just pop along <a href="http://tcv.
org.uk/southeast/sussex">tcv. org.uk/southeast/sussex The Damascus Runners 11.00am – Bonjour Café, 13 Grand Parade Social walking group, meet on the seafront opposite Chess at The Nest 4.30pm – The Nest, The Old Town Hall Broomgrove Youth Club Sessions 4.30pm – Broomgrove Community Centre, 85 Chiltern Dr <a href="mailto:sarah.adams@freshvisions.
org.uk">sarah.adams@freshvisions. org.uk Bev 07732 823800 Saturdays Weekly Indoor Market 10.00am – Saint Leonards Church Market, London Rd Weekly market: clothes, bits, food, tarot. Stalls still available loveamarket.co.uk 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 <a href="mailto:liv-
ingtenderly@yahoo.co.uk">liv- ingtenderly@yahoo.co.uk  CLASSES & WORKSHOPS Wednesday 28 October Cool Kids Creative Club 10.00am – The Crown, 64-66 All Saints' St Crafting, making & getting creative! Age 3+. £5 per child for all activities. FREE Half Term	Creative Workshop: Make Your Own Beast 2.00pm – De La Warr Pavilion, Marina, Bexhill Thursday 29 October Hastings Contemporary Family day 11.30am – Hastings Contemporary, Rock-a-Nore Rd Activities for children inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry. Free for under 18s, details at <a href="http://hastingscontempo-
rary.org/events/family-day/">hastingscontempo- rary.org/events/family-day/ Friday 30 October Half Term Creative Workshop: Imagine Sidley Hub Community Garden 12.30pm – Sidley Hub, Canada Way, Bexhill FREE drop in for fami- lies and children 5+ Saturday 31 October Bead Stringing Day with Julie Tucker-Williams 10.00am – Makers' House Hastings, 15 Tower Rd W Spend a day exploring the art of bead stringing with master jeweller Julie- Tucker Williams. £100 Sunday 1 November Intro to Modern Clowning with Luka Wellman 10.00am – Makers' House Hastings, 15 Tower Rd W From £20 <a href="http://makers-
househastings.co.uk">makers- househastings.co.uk Modern Clowning Taster with Luka Wellman 7.00pm – Makers' House Hastings, 15 Tower Rd W £10 Thursday 5 November Herring: microscop- ic adventure 4.00pm – Hastings Contemporary, Rock-a-Nore Rd Art club for kids 8-12,	runs for 5 weeks from 5th Nov. £65 for 5 weeks Art and Play 6.00pm – Hastings Contemporary, Rock-a-Nore Rd Explore the hidden world of soil microorganisms and make your own clay sculp- ture. Tickets at <a href="http://hastings-
contemporary.org/events">hastings- contemporary.org/events WEEKLY CLASSES & WORKSHOPS For regular classes and workshops visit: <a href="http://hastings-
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				HEALTH & WELLBEING For regular health and wellbeing listings visit: <a href="http://hastingsindependentpress.
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BEN COLES

Boarding on Insanity

Boarding On Insanity is an independent documentary exploring the consequences of young children, aged six to 11, being subjected to boarding school education. The film explores the negative influences of separation from family, which can lead to traumatic bullying and the addiction to power in order to feel safe.

Many pupils experience an institution that discourages feelings in favour of academic achievement. Many grow up unable to relate to their own subsequent families, hav-

ing had no model of healthy parenting. Some become leaders in politics and industry, conditioned by the command and control system they grew up in, one which encourages their belief that academic achievement will give them the love they have lost from their families.

The film, made by local filmmaker Ben Cole, follows one boy's story of boarding school, where the only boy who helped his feelings of abandonment, himself committed suicide. The headmaster was

the only staff member prepared to counsel him; the school's priest sexually abused him. The documentary's producer, Piers Cross, has been a podcaster on the subject of 'Boarding School Syndrome' (also the title of a book by Joy Schavieren) for the last 10 years.

Top experts in the field appear in the film: author and therapist Nick Duffell, psychotherapist Joy Schavieren, journalist Alex Renton, psychologist Martin Lloyd-Elliott and child psychologist Suzanne Zeedyk, an adverse childhood experiences campaigner. They offer a professional overview of the syndrome suffered by many ex-boarders.

The film also follows 10 survivors who, in a workshop setting, are able to explore their experiences of boarding school and, for the first time, have their stories heard and believed with compassion. All of the survivors were warned, at school, not to share their traumatic lives.

This is a film for all of us: we all suffer the consequences of leaders who do not understand what most people need in the face of today's social and financial challenges. It was shown at the Houses of Parliament last February and has sold out screenings across the country.

Hastings has a single opportunity to see this film at The Electric Palace cinema on 25 October at 11.00am. Ben Cole, the filmmaker, will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

Celebrating History and Community through Embroidery

FIONA MCGARRY

Hastings has had an association with embroidery for many years. This autumn there are three different embroidered artworks on display at Hastings Town Hall.

First, there's a last chance to see *The Hastings Embroidery* on display upstairs to coincide with the Bayeux Tapestry Exhibition at the British Museum. The massive 243-foot embroidered artwork was crafted in 1966 by the Royal School of Needlework to mark the 900th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, and depicts nine centuries of English history from 1066 onwards.

This impressive tapestry is normally kept in storage as it has proved impossible to house the entire 27 panels safely in a permanent local setting owing to its scale and fragility. The exhibition is open from Thursday to Monday until 1 November.

In the corridor downstairs, the

original 1995 *Hastings in Stitches* quilt can be seen. It was sponsored by the Cooperative Women's Guild and includes 68 individual embroidered squares celebrating local institutions and volunteer community organisations that were active in the town during that decade.

Thirty years later, James Matthew Thomas and Tara Reddy of Arts on Prescription commissioned local artists and textile workers to produce more contemporary embroidered squares to celebrate important groups and organisations active in the town today. This resulted in 12 embroiderers stitching together another 68-square *Hastings in Stitches* quilt.

The 2025 quilt has now been framed and hung in the HEART Community Hub next door to the original 1995 version. It was moved to its final home at the Town Hall shortly before the launch event on 3 October, when the Mayor of Hastings, Paula Warne, cut the ribbon. Many of those who contributed to the project attended the event. There were several short

speeches – often funny, moving or emotional – by representatives from some of the organisations featured in the quilt, including Hastings HEART, DISC Dementia, Afri-Co-Lab, and Ore Community Library.

One fascinating aspect of this display is that it allows us to compare the two quilts now that they are finally hanging in the same building. One or two organisations, notably St Michael's Hospice and Hastings and St Leonards Ladies Miniature Golf, have squares in both the 1995 and the 2025 embroideries. Most squares in the new quilt, however, celebrate quite different organisations, many of them representing institutions which are less symbolic of 'the establishment', including Joyful Roots, Clean Water Action Group, The Refugee Buddy Project and Progress Network – perhaps indicative of how Hastings has become a more diverse and politicised town.

See the embroidery at Hastings Town Hall. Hastings Embroidery Exhibition is open Thursday to Monday 10.00am – 4.00pm until November. Hastings in Stitches community textile project (featuring both the 1995 original and the new 2025 tapestry panels) can be seen during Community Information Hub (HEART) opening hours, Wednesday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm and Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm.

Archie & the Fox Woman

At The Stade on 30th October, Spun Glass Theatre will stage the second of their three newly-written Hastings history plays, this one by Anna Atkinson, followed by pizza and DJ Remi Vibesman (of Hidden Beach) playing the night out.

The play, *Archie and the Fox Woman*, is Atkinson's first. She has lived in Hastings for fifteen years and worked in multiple schools as an award-nominated teacher and arts therapist. She wrote *The Wonky Woman's Guide to Tarot* and trained as a storyteller for social change, working with local arts organiza-

tions such as Hastings Contemporary, the De La Warr Pavilion and Hastings Museum running collaborative, creative arts and wellbeing sessions. She is going to be working alongside Hastings museum to explore local historical folklore and how this echoes our contemporary emotional landscapes in this richly storied coastal town.

The creative team is as follows: Ross Drury, stage manager; Charlotte Tingley, director; Seth Ringrose, Tara Smyth, Deborah Kearne, actors

Tickets have Pay What You Can options. Select a £20 ticket to gain entry into all three plays in the season. Alternatively, select a ticket of either £5, £10, £15 which gets you in to see the play and access to the party afterwards. There's a bar, and fresh pizza is available to purchase on site. Doors and bar: 6.00 pm. Performance: 7.30 pm. Hidden Beach Party & pizza: 8.30 pm

Parkinson's UK at the Royal Victoria

Parkinson's UK will be presenting a free afternoon of taster sessions and talks for people with Parkinson's, their friends and carers at the Royal Victoria Hotel on Saturday 24 October, 2–5pm.

Special guest speakers will include BBC TV journalist Mark Mardell and CEO of Parkinson's UK Caroline Rassell.

Mark Mardell is a highly respected British journalist and broadcaster known for his more than three decades at BBC News, where he covered British, European, and American politics at senior levels and served as Europe Editor and North America Editor, reporting on major global events. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2022 and talks openly about his experiences, hoping to reduce stigma around the

condition. He is a host of the popular Parkinson's podcast *Movers and Shakers*, along with Jeremy Paxman.

In addition to guest speakers, there will be a talk from Mike Scott, lead nurse specialist at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, as well as demonstrations of a seated exercise class, a short concert given by The ParkinSongsters, and a Q&A.

The event is hosted by Hastings & Bexhill Parkinson's Hub and aims to reach people affected by Parkinson's and to highlight awareness of local group activities. Not to be missed by anybody directly affected by Parkinson's, friends, carers, partners, healthcare workers and anyone who just wants to know more.

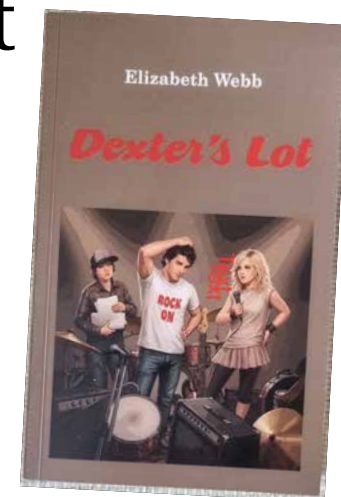
info@parkinsonsongsters.co.uk

Dexter's Lot

Hastings resident Elizabeth Webb has produced a novel called *Dexter's Lot*, available in local bookshops.

The novel itself relates the adventures of a hard-up ex-rock musician who sustained an injury when his platform collapsed during a performance and prohibited further drumming, and he has to take a job as a delivery-driver for an unsavoury friend.

He appears to be an Irish girl-magnet with an unfortunate accident-prone tendency, and is involved in various entanglements between his long-suffering girlfriend and fellow-driver Suzie, and an unhinged singer with delusions of grandeur, who turns up unannounced in various corners of his life.



Dexter's Lot is available from Bookbuster, The Bookkeeper, and Printed Matter, and bibliomuso (bibliomuso@gmail.com) and ebay.

The Real Gareth Jones Separating Fact from Fiction

An Illustrated Talk by his great-nephew, Philip Colley

Who was the real Gareth Jones, and what did he actually do? Until recently few people had heard of this fascinating historical figure who died in mysterious circumstances in Inner Mongolia on the eve of his 30th birthday in 1935.

In his short, remarkable lifetime, Welsh journalist Gareth Jones worked for Lloyd George, flew with Adolf Hitler and caused an international storm in 1933 by revealing the Great Soviet Famine.

After his murder, he was largely forgotten by all but his close family.

Today, however, Jones has achieved worldwide recognition, largely thanks to the film *Mr Jones* starring James Norton. However, films can be driven by narrative demands, and docudramas rarely stick closely to the facts, whether to

increase audience appeal or to deliberately distort historical events. Questions remain about what he really exposed in March 1933. Has his story been co-opted today for political ends? Was he sympathetic to Nazism? Was he a spy? His life has become shrouded in myth and fiction and increasingly marked by controversy.

Currently, controversy focuses on a planned memorial plinth due to be erected in November in Kyiv. The memorial has been funded by the Welsh government using taxpayers' money at the request of the cross-party Senedd 4 Ukraine.

Relatives of Jones have strongly criticised the project, saying the plinth's wording distorts history by identifying him with a modern interpretation of the famine that his written testimony directly contradicts. They have accused the Welsh

parliament of rewriting history to suit a modern agenda.

For the first time, his great-nephew Philip Colley will reveal in detail what happened during Jones's now-fabled walk through the snowy Soviet countryside. Drawing on pre-

viously overlooked archival evidence for this illustrated talk, he will show that his great-uncle's experiences differed sharply from their portrayal in both *Mr Jones* and contemporary parliamentary debates. "I've always been fascinated by

the story of Gareth," says Colley. "I've researched his life and work for 40 years, and the truth is even more amazing than fiction. Now I'll allow my great-uncle to speak for himself, drawing out the real story and challenging the myths that surround his work."

The event will be held at the White Rock Hotel on Saturday 7 November at 2.30pm. Entry is free. For more information visit garethjonesociety.org



Philip Colley at Durban Library, London



Gareth Jones reading The New Yorker

Christmas Market

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November
St Michael's Hospice, TN38 0LB.

- ✱ Local handmade jewellery, gifts, decorations and more.
- ✱ Live music, festive refreshments and games.
- ✱ Santa's Grotto (pre-booking advised).



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