

Our 2026 Festival Programme

Friday 1st May

Scarecrow Trail – Historical figures (to 10th May)
Drawn to Imperfection – Festival Art Exhibition by Dave Nevard (to 10th May)
Hallidays Community Art Installation with Emma Coleman-Jones and David Harber (to 10th May)
6.30pm – The Festival Bash

Saturday 2nd May

9.30am – Family Dog Show
11am to 5pm – Local Artists exhibition (weekends & BH Mon)
11am – Community Art Exhibition Opening
12noon – Grand Opening and Tower Abseil
1pm – Cygnets Art School (age 5-13) – Spring
2pm – Amici della Voce
3pm – Cygnets Art School (age 5-13) – Anime
4pm – Dr Xa Sturgis CBE – Magic, Art and Illusion
7.30pm – Brian Bilston – How to lay an egg with a horse inside
8pm – Open Mic
9pm – Full Moon watching & ancient tree walk

Sunday 3rd May

4.30am – Dawn Chorus Walk (followed by breakfast)
10.30am – Sunday All Age Praise Party
12.30 to 4.30pm – Tentertainment!
1pm – Silver Clay Jewellery Workshop
2.30pm – Violin & Piano Recital Jeremy Boughton & Sharon Warnes
5pm – Duck Race
6pm – Crime Writer Simon Mason in conversation with Robin Jones
7.30pm – The Kings Singers

Bank Holiday Monday 4th May

10am – Willow Weaving Workshop
11am – Festival Charity Fun Run
12noon to 4pm – Science mad!
1pm – Science show – Amazing Air!
2pm – Vicar Custard Walk
2.30pm – Science Show – Space and Time
3.30pm – La Boheme in the Manor House Garden
7.30pm – Folk Night – Steve Knightley & Rusty Shackle

Tuesday 5th May

7.30pm – Jazz Supper with Cate Cody

Wednesday 6th May

7.30pm – Jazz up the 80s with the Jay Rayner Sextet

Thursday 7th May

9am to 12noon – Reflections on *Drawn to Imperfection*
6pm – Rokas Valuntonis – Pianist
7.30pm – Comedy Night

Friday 8th May

12noon – Music for Autistim
7.30pm – Liza Pulman Sings Streisand
7.30pm – Pour my Bluff

Saturday 9th May

10am to 5pm – Food & Gift Fair
10am-2.30pm – Latte Art Masterclasses & Professional Throwdown
10am – Quintessential
10am – Pet Portraits with Personality art workshop
10.30am – Imma Bakery Sourdough Demo
2pm – Dorchester Houses and History Walk
2pm – Curry Masterclass – Secrets of the Best Dorchester Curry
2pm, 3.15pm, 4.30pm – Mad Hatters Tea Party
7.30pm Symphonic Abba – The Thames Valley Festival Orchestra
8pm Birdsong Walk – Evensong

Sunday 10th May

10am – Scandi Baking Workshop
10am – Gardener's Corner for Families
10.30am – Festival Service with Revd Dr Malcolm Guite
10.30am – Basque cookery demo with Nick Galer
11.30 – Head Gardener's Planting Masterclass
12noon to 5pm – Food & Gift Fair
2pm – Lego Masterbuilders Club
2pm- Revd Dr Malcolm Guite – Poet
7.30pm – Illuminated Big Band Night – BBC Elstree Concert Band & Oxford Collutorium Singers – Shall We Dance?

Sunday 31st May

10am – John Rutter Come & Sing