

take  
art *HA*

# Event Programme

January - May



**Music | Theatre | Dance | Circus | Family**

[www.takeart.org](http://www.takeart.org)

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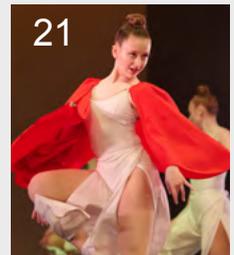
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# A Message From Ralph Lister

Executive Director, Take Art

Welcome to a new season with Take Art. As we move through the year, we remain committed to connecting communities through creativity, supporting artists, and delivering a vibrant programme of arts experiences across Somerset. Whether it's performance, participation, or partnership, our work continues to reflect the diversity and resilience of the arts sector in rural settings.

As the seasons change so do the range of projects that Take Art undertakes. We're delighted to be founder members of Great Mead, an exciting new project in Chard that brings together creativity, nature, food, and well-being. This kind of cross-sector partnership—where the arts sit alongside environmental and community-focused aims—is central to our approach.

Making projects happen requires vision and commitment, but also funding. We're thrilled to have secured support from a European sustainable community initiative, as well as from both local sources and the National Lottery, enabling us to grow our impact.

Our rural touring programme preparations for the autumn season are well underway and its annual refresh means that we have a new crop of artists and shows to delight audiences. Our heartfelt thanks go to the incredible network of volunteer promoters—without them, the rural touring model simply wouldn't exist.

The Rural Touring Dance Initiative, which develops a rural touring network for contemporary dance across the country, including Somerset and the south-west, continues to thrill audiences as it enters its final year of activity. Take Art is proud to be a national partner in this project, and we're actively in discussion with funders about how to sustain its legacy into the future.

Our new early years project, 'Little People: Big ideas' is coming to the end of its successful first year in September. The early years team is now developing new music-based work supported through the recently formed joint Music Education Hub for Somerset and Dorset. The early years are a formative time and while the sector is under immense pressure, Take Art maintains its commitment to bringing creative and joyful activities to our youngest participants.

We're proud to continue supporting creativity at every stage of life and in every corner of our county. From the youngest children exploring sound and movement, to rural audiences discovering new performances in familiar village halls, Take Art is here to ensure the arts remain accessible, meaningful, and celebrated. Thank you for being part of our journey—we hope you enjoy what this season has to offer.



Ralph

# Experiences of a South London Artist in Somerset - ADANNAY

In October, soul artist ADANNAY toured three rural venues in Somerset with a show that used music, film and poetry to unpack the Afro-Caribbean lived experience in the UK from the Windrush generation to the modern day.

Take Art were proud to offer this show to its network of communities that showcased genres of music uncommon in Rural Touring, and explored a cultural conversation of extreme importance.

## Have you performed in village halls before? What did you expect and how was it different?

The closest I had come to performing in a village hall was singing in my church hall while growing up, so the spaces felt surprisingly familiar. What was different to my expectations were the people and the communities that gathered to make each show happen.

There is something very special about arriving in a space and transforming it together. Each venue had its own energy and its own character and you could feel it shaping the show.

I have always believed that performances are created as much by the audience as by the artist and being in these village halls made that clearer than ever.

We really felt who was in the room and the community that held the space with us and that was so beautiful.



## What were the audiences like during your tour?

I loved how welcoming the audiences were throughout this tour. They felt incredibly present in a way that is very different to London or any major city I've played.

Being in these smaller venues adds to that sense of connection but even more than that these audiences came because they genuinely wanted to engage with the music and the message behind the work.

It was a gift to perform for audiences who were attentive and respectful and who made an active effort to take in the art. It felt rare and very special and it is a big part of why I can't wait to do it again.

## Do you think there is a disconnect between urban and rural communities and how do you think there can be greater cross-cultural connection between city and village?

I do think there is a disconnect. Politically and socially and artistically. We all carry expectations and assumptions that come from stereotypes.

But at the end of the day, we are all people trying to make sense of a very complicated world. Rural tours and organisations like Take Art are essential in bridging that gap.

When we have the chance to speak honestly with each other about real things we realise how much more we have in common than what divides us, whether that is political or cultural or geographical or even emotional.

## What do you hope audiences take away from your shows?

Empathy. My music often takes scenarios and perspectives that are not always seen or easily understood. I want that to open doors for people to empathise with each other no matter who we are or what we look like.

At each show I could feel that happening in the room. Seeing people recognise parts of themselves in my writing was incredibly moving.

## What did you enjoy most about performing in Somerset?

I have to first shout out the promoters at Churchinford, Holford and Axbridge who

clearly worked very hard to pretty much sell out the whole run!

But the most memorable part for me were the conversations after each show. So many people stayed behind to talk about how the songs around belonging and identity and the political reality of this country had landed with them on a personal level.

It felt like people needed permission to speak openly and to reflect on things we should all be talking about. It was an honour to hold those spaces and to experience that sense of connection through music and storytelling.

Since the shows I have heard from promoters that the conversations have continued in each village. That means everything to me. That is the point of music and the heart of why I write the way I do.



# Nurturing Young Children's Creativity

## Little People Big Ideas 2024-2027 - Exploring creativity with 2-4 year old children (LPBI)

We are now in year two of this national Youth Music Energiser Fund project. In Somerset and Dorset Take Art is working closely with a small number of nurseries, their 2-4 year old children, their staff and families. Skilled and experienced cross-artform creative practitioners are joined by two trainees as they visit weekly to share sessions designed to stimulate creative imagination and interactions.

As we enter into a nursery to spend the morning with the children we do so with open minds and a respectful view that all are competent individuals, who are able to express preferences and make active choices. Children are skilful communicators – the challenge for us as adults is to tune in.

A visit could look loud, messy and maybe even a little chaotic, but it will also contain moments of quiet, thoughtful interactions. Mostly, it will be full of creative happenings where the children take us on imaginative journeys of exploration and possibilities, sometimes on a large, and sometimes a tiny, scale. All moments provide opportunities to learn; how can we place the child at the centre; how do

we listen to their unique voice; how can we foster their creativity; and how do we co-create with them?

In addition to our own LPBI project we regularly come together with the other 10 organisations who are leading their own individual projects across England to share learning about co-creation with children. In recent discussions organisations expressed that co-creation is not a simple procedure or list of rules to be followed. It is a process, a live question, something that must be practised, tested and reflected upon in real time. It is not always easy, but it is often joyful.

*"It is an honour and a privilege to be invited into early years settings to work with both the incredible staff and children. I love learning and the idea on this project is that everyone is a researcher and part of a collaborative community. This project is encouraging us to be curious, to reflect and ultimately question our role working creatively with very young children."* - Jane Parker, Lead Creative Practitioner

*"It has been such a joy to be a part of these creative interventions. Although the resources have been consistent each session is so different because the children's imagination and ingenuity is so expansive. I am learning from the children as much*



*as the adults on the potential of creativity and play and noticing the possibilities in otherwise unassuming objects.” - Jasmine Smail, Trainee Creative Practitioner*

*“Working on the LPBI project has now become the highlight of my week: putting very young children’s creativity at the forefront of our minds has not only been extremely nourishing for the soul, it has also shown just how creative young children are.” - Victoria Deelchand-Bee, Trainee Creative Practitioner*

More information about LPBI can be found on the project page of our website.

## **SoundWaves Network Southwest - An early childhood music education programme 2021 - 2025 (SWNSW)**

The end of 2025 brings the completion of our latest four-year, Youth Music funded early years music programme. We partnered with eight Music Education Hub learning communities, located in Somerset, Dorset, Devon & Torbay, Plymouth, Cornwall, Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch, Southampton and Bristol whilst working with early childhood settings, universities, advisory teams and Music Education Hubs.

SWNSW included a strong element of training for the early childhood workforce. Early years practitioners, music practitioners, education leads and students engaged in our extensive programme of early years music.

The focus of the approach was training ‘on the job’ - the specialist music practitioners worked as mentors to the early years education staff in each setting.



Their role was not to ‘lead’ music sessions but to share and hand on a model of high-quality generalist music education practice which could be continued on a day-to-day basis by staff.

*“It’s re-excited us. We were both a bit like, music – it’s a specialist thing – but now rather than having a slot of music we’re now weaving it in all the time.” - Lead teacher, early years unit, Somerset*

An online six-week early childhood music training programme ran alongside the project placements and consolidated learning for the early years setting practitioners, while also reaching a greater number of early years practitioners across the region.

*“Thank you so SO much. It has really inspired me to connect with children musically. I have learnt so much over the 6 sessions and have loved the practical songs, opportunities to practise together and understanding the purpose/why along with information, videos/real life examples. I feel I have left with a wealth of resources to use and share with staff in my setting. Thank you again, you are amazing!” - EYFS Lead and Teacher, Building Confidence using Music in Early Years course attendee*

**Find out more about our Early Years work and training on our website.**

# A Year with Cultivate

Every year, we're proud to run Cultivate – a creative partnership that brings together local food, the arts, and the brilliant people who make South Somerset such a lively, inspiring place to call home. It's all about gathering our communities, celebrating our rural landscape, and finding fresh, creative ways to connect with the world around us.

This year, we've focused on two standout projects: Chill on the Hill, our relaxed outdoor community celebration, and the Great Mead Pilot Project, an exciting new green space taking shape right in the heart of Chard. Together, they showcase our passion for creativity, sustainability, and helping our community thrive.

## Chill on the Hill Welcomed More Visitors Than Ever

This year's Chill on the Hill was our most popular yet, with more than 1,000 people joining us, despite a bit of wind to keep us on our toes!

Produced in partnership with Ham Hill Country Park, this family-friendly event celebrates the rich diversity of nature, food, creativity and community. It has now become a favourite annual fixture.



The day featured terrific performances from Somerset's own Farm Yard Circus, Tor Theatre and The Sounds of the Streets as well as hands-on workshops such as circus skills, crafts and leaf-printing.



A big part of the festival is about championing local food producers, and we were thrilled to welcome Bagnell Farm, Laura's Kitchen, Utazo Spirits and The Firehouse Pizza Rocket. Visitors also enjoyed stands from Imagine, Learn, Create; ARK at Egwood; and the Sewing Seeds of Gladness stitching project.



This year's event was supported by Somerset Council; the National Lottery Heritage Fund; Battens Charitable Trust; The Fine Family Foundation; Towers Wills; and the Stoke sub Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust.

**Save the Date for Chill on the Hill 2026:  
Sunday 23rd August.**

## Cultivating Common Ground in the Heart of Chard

Great Mead is an exciting pilot project transforming 6.4 acres of central land in the heart of Chard into a welcoming space for nature, creativity and community activity.

Throughout the summer and autumn, the project hosted a lively programme of workshops and events. Produced in collaboration with Holyrood Academy and Chard Town Council, the activity has helped us test ideas and imagine what Great Mead could become.



Activities have included Act to Adapt climate workshops with Somerset Wildlife Trust; a Family Feast picnic as part of the Sustainable Food Somerset Food Trail; visual arts sessions; willow weaving; botanical sun printing; and outdoor early

years fun led by Chard Community Hub.

We were especially pleased to work with talented local artists such as Philippa Glastonvill, Sophie Willoughby, Warren Bennett and Vera Courinha Marques who are all based in Chard.

All of this energy came together at the Great Mead Mini Fest in September. Despite the challenging weather, families and community members enjoyed creative workshops, delicious food prepared by local groups, and a performance of The Time Machine by Tor Theatre.

In October, a special Sharing Event at Holyrood Academy brought more than 40 people together to celebrate progress and discuss next steps for the project. Keep an eye on our website to see what emerges next!

Great Mead is one of ten European projects supported by the EU's Connect New European Bauhaus programme, with additional funding from Somerset Community Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund.



# Shepton Mallet Finds Its Rhythm

If you're reading this brochure, you probably love going to the theatre, enjoy live music, or even indulge in the occasional poetry or storytelling event. It's also highly likely you do this in your local village hall, or another rural venue near you. Maybe you are the local Take Art promoter, or you know who is.

You might be less familiar with contemporary dance. It doesn't always have a beginning, a middle and an end, it might not tell a story you recognise or tell a story at all. Dance can be conceptual and abstract. This is a challenge if we're worried that we won't understand. It might feel like watching something in a foreign, physical, language we just don't speak.

It can be hard to programme contemporary dance because our promoters might fear that they won't get an audience for something so different from many of the events we're all used to. And that's where Dance Ambassadors come in...

Enter Louise Lappin-Cook and Richard Cronin, Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI) Volunteer Dance Ambassadors for Somerset. This feature is all about saying a great big, huge THANK YOU to these two wonderful volunteers who have used their skills and expertise, their contacts and their community presence to share their passion for dance through an amazing programme of events and activities in and around Shepton Mallet since March 2024.

## What is a Dance Ambassador?

Launched in 2015, RTDI has been developing new ways of bringing dance to rural

areas ever since. Over forty dance companies have performed more than 140 shows to audiences in excess of 13,000 people across the UK in that time. And it's still a bit scary to take the risk of putting on a dance show in an area that hasn't had one before.

What if no one comes? How can we let people know what the show is all about? And that they can enjoy it whether they know anything about dance, or nothing at all? We get people talking to those who've made it work before, that's how. In 2023, we introduced the voluntary Dance Ambassador role and recruited volunteers in six areas across the UK, including Devon and Somerset in the South-West, who would willingly give their time to shout about dance in their area. The role came with a total budget of £3000 to be spent locally between 2023-2026 on projects and performances that would engage local audiences and communities in watching and taking part in dance.

The added bonus of an RTDI 'Go and See' fund meant that anyone who really enjoyed a local opportunity, could also access support to see more dance further afield. In each of the six areas, Ambassadors have worked with their local Rural Touring Scheme and regional RTDI Co-ordinator to decide where and how best to use their budget.

In the case of Louise and Richard, this means working closely with Take Art's Rural Touring Scheme Director, Danny, and me, Beccy, RTDI Co-ordinator for the South-West. Although honestly, we've done very little more than say yes,

yes, yes to all the ideas Louise and Richard have presented and delivered.

Louise is Director of Shepton Mallet-based community interest company Make the Sunshine (MTS), who are on a mission to connect local communities through creativity. Their core values are based around four key words: Connect, Create, Inspire, Together.

Between 2022-23, MTS reached 4475 live audience members and 1258 workshop participants. And... Louise loves dance! With those stats in her back pocket, Louise was more than qualified for the role.

You may also remember Richard from his interview with Danny in our last brochure. Volunteer promoter in Croscombe since 2021 who developed a love for dance through his experiences in the role, and key member of the team behind the Let's Buy the Amulet initiative campaigning to rescue the disused theatre and community space in the centre of Shepton Mallet, Richard is an equally excellent ambassador candidate.

## What a team!

By joining forces and combining resources, Louise and Richard have made £3000 go a very long way. Louise and MTS had already been working on ways to get young people involved in organising arts events in their communities by helping to decide what MTS should have on their programme.

Louise was able to form a group of twelve Youth Dance Ambassadors aged 9-19 who wanted to see and do more dance. Straight away, two of the group successfully applied for Go and See support to cover their travel and tickets to see their Strictly Come Dancing favourites perform live.

Using the first £900 of the Dance Ambassador budget, MTS recruited professional contemporary dancers to run a series of workshops for the Youth Ambassador group, and for 230 children in three primary schools and one secondary school, and 28 adults aged 60-90 who tried both flamenco and hip-hop.



That's an incredible 14 workshops with a total of 270 participants aged 9-90!

Next up, Louise reached out to The Mendip School and nearby Fosse Way School to stage a performance of RTDI touring show Jack and Friends to an audience of 100 children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. You may remember reading about this in our July 2025 Dance News. This used a further £750 of the Ambassador budget. Meanwhile, in Croscombe, Richard was also busy staging performances of Knot by Nikki and JD, touring with Take Art project Circus Around and About, and After All by Solène Weinachter, touring with RTDI.

All this adds up to a fantastic season for dance in Spring 2025 and the two Ambassadors planned to build on this and previous successes using the Ambassador funds to boost their ability to programme more dance than they would usually be able to in the remaining months of RTDI.

Over the summer, £600 contributed to live dance performances as part of Make the Sunshine's All the World's Our Play-

ground festival. Louise and Richard agreed this was the perfect way to bring more dance to even bigger Shepton Mallet audiences.

By the same principle, they also decided to make a contribution of £300 to a December performance by Springs Dance Company at a Shepton Primary School, for a public audience.

### All that, and more...

Last but by no means least, Louise and Richard joined forces again this October to welcome RTDI company Ekleido to Shepton Mallet community high street venue Create@#8 for a week-long dance residency and a sharing of their double bill Splice/Rorschach at Croscombe Village Hall.

Ekleido used the week to adapt their lighting for rural touring where each venue will be different from the next, and all of them very different to the 'black-box' theatre and studio spaces where they are used to performing. In between rehearsals, they offered workshops and a chance to see a sharing of the work to local people.



Throughout the week, over 50 people took part in a craft or dance activity or watched the sharing. An additional 40 people saw the show at Croscombe at the end of the week and the Company benefitted from hours of rehearsal time, and the input and feedback from a real rural touring community.

The remaining £600 of the Dance Ambassador fund helped to support the residency and will also contribute to bringing Ekleido back to Shepton for a full performance of Splice/Rorschach complete with after-show party to celebrate the end of their tour with RTDI in May 2026! Central Shepton Mallet venue to be confirmed. Keep an eye on the Take Art website for more details nearer the time.

Company Directors and Choreographers Hannah Ekholm and Faye Stoesser said they were made to feel incredibly welcome by Louise and Richard who gave up lots of their time during the week to support workshops and performances, show the visitors around the venue and the town, recommend places to eat and things to do and just generally make them feel at home. Literally, in Richard's

case, as he provided meals and a home-stay after the show at Croscombe!

I visited them all on their first day and took part in a Rorschach blot-test painting workshop with six young people who then used their paintings to inspire their own choreography. When Hannah and Faye showed us a few minutes of their dance style at the end of the workshop, we all heard one eight-year-old whisper "we're so lucky to be here".

And that, I think, sums up what this incredible pair of volunteers have been working so successfully to achieve. THANK YOU, Louise and Richard, for giving your time to create so many 'lucky to be here' moments for so many local people.

As RTDI Dance Ambassadors, you've definitely shared your love for dance with communities in Shepton Mallet and Croscombe, and I know you'll continue to do so through your ongoing work in your other roles.

Find out more: [makethesunshine.co.uk](http://makethesunshine.co.uk)  
[@create\\_no8](http://buytheamulet.org.uk)



# Emerge: Where Art Meets the Somerset Landscape

If you spend enough time outdoors in Somerset—walking the dog along muddy footpaths, chatting to neighbours by the gate, watching the seasons shift across the fields—you start to notice things. The small, quiet changes at first: fewer butterflies drifting above the verges, hotter summers that leave the grass scorched and brittle, heavier downpours that turn familiar lanes into rivers. And then the bigger changes: the flooding that lingers for weeks, the farms struggling with unpredictable weather, the sense that life in our rural towns is becoming... different.

For Take Art's Artistic Director, Alison, those moments of noticing were where Emerge began. Having moved to Somerset as a nature-lover, dog walker and lifelong environmental enthusiast, Alison found herself struck by the increasingly severe weather she was seeing on her daily walks. "You start by thinking it's just a strange year," she says, "but then it happens again. And again. You talk to other walkers on the footpath and realise they're concerned too."



Conversations with the Somerset Wildlife Trust opened her eyes further to the challenges ahead: hotter summers, wetter winters, declining insect populations, and

the pressure this puts not only on the countryside, but on the people who live and work here.

It sparked one central question: Could the people who care deeply about Somerset—its landscapes, its communities, its wildlife—work together to make a meaningful difference?

The result is Emerge: a new long-term creative programme exploring how climate change is affecting Yeovil, Chard and Crewkerne, and how local voices, arts and stories can help us imagine a better future.

## Listening First: Six Months of Honest Conversations

Over the past half year, the Emerge team has been out in cafés, village halls, community centres and even local parks, meeting residents where they are and listening to how climate change is impacting daily life.

These weren't large meetings or formal consultations—just real conversations, cup of tea in hand, between neighbours who share hedgerows, footpaths and concerns.

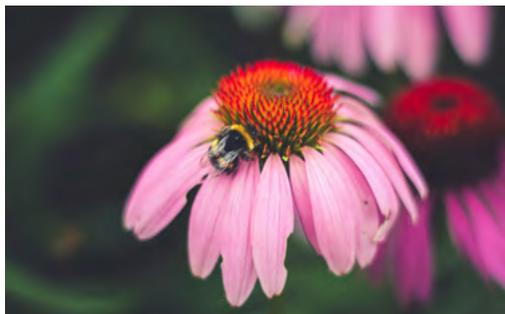
Residents were invited to fill out "capture-all postcards" and write their own experiences: the flooding that cut off the road last winter; the fruit trees that didn't blossom this year; the worry about ticks on family dogs after warmer-than-usual spring days; or simply the feeling that the weather isn't behaving the way it used to.

A dedicated community Facebook page has slowly but steadily growing, becoming a place to share updates, local issues and hopeful thoughts. For a rural project, that early energy matters. Community change often starts with a handful of people deciding to speak up.

## What Somerset Is Already Seeing

Many of the postcards and conversations echoed what climate research is already showing. We're experiencing:

Heavier, more unpredictable rainfall leading to increased flooding—something residents of South Somerset know all too well. Hotter, drier summers, which affect crops, wildlife, soil health and even household bills.



A drop in insect numbers, including bees and butterflies, which support the pollination of local fruit and wildflowers. More intense heatwaves, which pose risks to vulnerable people, livestock and pets. Greater pressure on health and emergency services as weather becomes more extreme.

Farmers, dog walkers, families, carers—everyone is feeling some version of these changes. One story that struck the team came from Rachel, a farmer in South Somerset:

*“Last winter was really wet. Our fields were under water for several weeks. Difficult to*

*graze any animals and they had to be kept indoors... Then we've had an exceptionally dry spring and summer. Crops haven't grown... fields of grass haven't grown... And with hot weather, even the chickens were stressed—losing feathers and laying smaller eggs.”*

Her story reflects a wider pattern across the region: unpredictable seasons, higher costs, and animals struggling to adapt to rapidly shifting conditions.

Others raised concerns about how climate change will affect our health. The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board warns that the biggest threats may come from heatwaves, rising flood risk and an increase in ticks and other disease-carrying insects. For rural communities—many with older populations—these risks are real.

But the Board also highlights something hopeful: taking action together can reduce inequalities and improve wellbeing. This idea sits at the heart of Emerge.

## Why an Arts Project? Because Stories Change People

Some might ask: why turn to the arts when the challenges are so scientific, so structural?

Because facts alone don't shift hearts. Stories do. Local voices do. Creativity does.

Rural Somerset has always been rich in creativity—craftspeople, community choirs, young performers, makers, artists working out of garden sheds and spare rooms. Bringing people together through art creates connection, and connection fuels the courage communities need to adapt and act.

To kickstart Emerge, Take Art is inviting over 30 youth dance groups from the annual Spring Forward platform to create performances themed around environment, nature and climate change for 2026. Young people, already passionate and outspoken about climate issues, will be given space to express their hopes and fears through movement on main theatre stages. Their voices—often the most forward-looking voices we have—will help anchor the project.

## What Comes Next: A Summer of Green-Space Creativity

Take Art is now applying for major funding to grow Emerge into a full programme running across summer 2026. If successful, the project will host events, workshops, performances and community-led activities in some of the most cherished green spaces in Yeovil, Chard and Crewkerne.

It's not just about highlighting the problems—it's about coming together in beautiful places to imagine solutions, celebrate resilience, and strengthen the bonds that make rural Somerset special.

## Your Story Matters

The Emerge team believes that everyone in Somerset has a climate story—small or large, joyful or worrying. Perhaps it was a walk where you noticed fewer insects, a flood that cut off your usual route, or a conversation with another dog walker about the changing seasons.

If you'd like to share your own experience, we'd love for you to join the Emerge Facebook community. Your stories will help shape the next steps of the project and ensure it reflects the real concerns and hopes of local people.



## A Chance to Emerge, Together

Climate change can feel overwhelming, especially when you're watching the countryside you love shift in ways that are hard to ignore. But the Emerge project is a reminder of something powerful: rural communities thrive when they come together. Somerset has always been resilient—resourceful farmers, creative young people, dedicated dog walkers, nature lovers, families who look out for one another.

Emerge isn't about fear.  
It's about noticing.  
It's about listening.

And most of all, it's about acting together—with creativity, compassion and community spirit.

We can't stop the weather from changing overnight. But we can shape how we respond, and we can make sure our voices—Somerset voices—are heard.

If you care about this place, its landscapes, its wildlife, and its future, we'd love you to be part of the journey.



## Custard Pies & Curtain Calls: An Evening With James Purefoy

Join us for a gentle meander through the life of Somerset actor James Purefoy. James was born in Taunton and brought up largely in Yeovil and Martock, Somerset. After working as a porter at Yeovil District Hospital he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company and has featured in many Hollywood films.

The evening consists of a talk from James about his life and times, followed by a Q&A session. We're grateful for James's generosity, supporting Somerset charities and community initiatives. All funds raised goes to support the host village and Take Art.

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### **Dates & Times:**

16 Jan | 7:30pm North Cadbury Village Hall | £12 07504 827062

17 Jan | 7.30pm Pen Selwood Village Hall | £12/£8 child/low income | 01747 840680

# Building Confidence Using Music in Early Years Provision

A practical and interactive six-session online course for early years practitioners who want to connect to the joy of early years music whilst improving their skills, knowledge and confidence. Led by Rosie Walton, Kate Comberti and Jane Parker, these sessions are available to those living/working in Somerset and Dorset.

You do not need to have any previous musical training; those who do not consider themselves to be 'musical' are very welcome. The course fee is considerably reduced due to funding by Octagon Music Hub (Somerset and Dorset).

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## Dates & Times:

Six sessions weekly from Monday 26 January, 7:30pm - 9:00pm via Zoom.

Fee: £18 for the full course (just £3 per 90-minute session). For more information please visit the Take Art website What's On page.



# Scarlett Smith: Any Objections?

Armed with her harp and an insatiable curiosity, join Scarlett as she shares the ups and downs of being a harpist in the wedding industry and her consequential desire to rebrand. 'Any Objections?' is a playful celebration of defying stereotypes, embracing self-expression, and making space for joy and silliness in a messy world.

Scarlett Smith is an up-and-coming comedian, producing an cheeky debut show that Take Art is excited to support. Blending live looping harp covers of popular songs, self-produced indie-pop jingles, and fast paced punch lines, she will take you into her whimsical world where chaos meets creativity.



## Dates & Times:

31 Jan | 7pm Mingle Café Bridgwater  
| £10 | 07762 989509

12 March | 8pm Eli's Rose & Crown,  
Huish Episcopi | £10 | 01458 250494

13 March | 7.30m Curry Mallet and  
Beercoombe Village Hall | £14  
(including a Ploughman's Supper)  
07788 817619

14 March | 7.30pm Pen Selwood  
Village Hall | £10/£8 low income/child  
01747 840680 | Pen Pub in attend-  
ance

Trigger warning:  
sexual content 17+





## Moscow Drug Club: LIVE

Transcendent Troubadours of World Jazz and Folk MOSCOW DRUG CLUB are a heady and waggish mix of Jazz French musette, Latin Grooves and New Orleans Swing.

Combining their original material with songs by the likes of Jaques Brel, Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen & Eartha Kitt, Moscow Drug Club deliver an intoxicating and intimate musical experience you won't soon forget!

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### Dates & Times:

19 Feb | 7.30pm North Curry Church | £15 accompanied under 12's free | from North Curry Post Office

20 Feb | 7.30pm Norton sub Hamdon Village Hall | £15 | from Norton Shop

21 Feb | 8pm East Quantoxhead Village Hall | £15/£10 low income/child/student | 07876 747578

22 Feb | 4pm Caryford Community Hall | £15 advance; £16.50 on the door, children 16 and under: £5 advance; £6 on the door | 01963 350980

# Spring Forward

Every spring, Somerset's dancers take to the stage to share their passion, creativity, and hard work with audiences across the county. Our Spring Forward platforms in February, March and April will once again bring together schools, youth dance groups, colleges, and community dancers for three exciting performance events. Each platform offers dancers the chance to perform on a professional stage, build confidence, and celebrate their achievements in front of family, friends, and supporters.

We'd love you to join us for these uplifting showcases and be part of something truly special. Come and experience the inspiring talent, energy and diversity of our local dance community—and show your support for the next generation of Somerset dancers as they shine brightly on stage. Let's Spring Forward together!.

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## Dates & Times:

27 Feb | 7pm McMillan Theatre, Bridgwater | £10/£8 concessions | 01278 556677

6 March | 7pm Tacchi Morris Arts Centre, Taunton | £10/£8 concessions 01823 414141

20 March | 7pm Tacchi Morris Arts Centre, Taunton | £10/£8 concessions 01823 414141

2 April | 7pm McMillan Theatre, Bridgwater | £10/£8 concessions 01278 556677



# Just Some Theatre: Eyes Down

It's Bingo Night at The Stairway To Heaven Social Club and that can only mean one thing: 'Mr Razzle Dazzle' himself, Bertie Bingo is ready to host an evening of dabbers, Droopy Drawers... and death!

As games are played, houses are called, tension mounts, and before long a body is discovered... but whose number is up? How culpable are the audience? What really happened to the previous caller? And more importantly... who will win the novelty Toblerone?

Eyes Down is a truly interactive comedy thriller where the audience play actual games of bingo, with real prizes. Who will emerge as Top Of The Shop and who will end up the victim of The Unlucky For Some Killer?

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## Dates & Times:

27 Feb | 7.30pm Axbridge Town Hall | £12 / £8 low income | 07933 879 552



# Good Habits: Live

Back by popular demand!! One of the most exciting new folk duos to come out of the UK, Good Habits' award-winning, genre-fusing sound has received international critical acclaim in the short 4 years they have been performing.

Composed of Bonnie Schwarz (cello + vocals) and Pete Shaw (accordion), the pair mix virtuosic musicianship and vocal harmony with vivid storytelling, drawing on their diverse musical tastes and weaving them into an action-packed narrative of folky goodness.

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## Dates & Times:

6 March | 7.30pm Lamyatt Village Hall | £15/£8 under 18's/students includes bar snacks  
| 07938174468

7 March | 7.30pm Baltonsborough Village Hall | £12/£10 low income/child/student tickets  
baltonsboroughhall@gmail.com

8 March | 7.30pm Litton Village Hall | £13 | 07734 056988



# Raphael Weinroth-Browne: Lifeblood

Internationally renowned Canadian cellist and composer Raphael Weinroth-Browne is redefining the cello with his signature blend of metal, Western classical and Middle Eastern music influences.

Raphael augments his cello through amplification, effects, and live looping to build immersive sound worlds in real time. His epic compositions combine cinematic scope and unbridled virtuosity and his live shows are a spellbinding and emotionally resonant experience.

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## Dates & Times:

14 March | 7.30pm All Saints Hall, Langport | £12/£9 low income/child/student | 01458 250679

15 March | 7.15pm The Art Bank, Shepton Mallet | £12/£9 low income & 18-25 year olds – Please note that this venue is over 18's only due to licencing restrictions.

21 March | 7.30pm Kilve Village Hall | £12/£10 low income, child/student £40 family (2+2 or 1+3) | 07814 613908

22 March | 3pm Roadwater Village Hall | £10/£6 under 15's | from Roadwater Shop or 07745 318486





## Pea Bien theatre: Last Wednesday's Work Shirt

David Staples is stuck in a pointless, dead-end job. No matter what he does - pints every lunchtime, all-expenses paid 'business' holidays, dangerous driving in the company car – his bosses pay him less attention, and more money. As his life spirals deeper down the pan, goldfish start talking, paintings come to life, and CEOs begin performing incredible dance routines. David's starting to lose the plot. (And his hairline).

An original comedy from Pea Bien Theatre (Painting By Numbers), this is the show that swings a wrecking ball into the CROTCH of CAPITALISM and asks... 'How d'ya like them apples?'

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### Dates & Times:

24 April | 7.30pm The Old Methodist Chapel, Axbridge £12/£8 low income/students |  
Axe Vale Arts Box Office 07933 879 552

26 April | 7:30pm Caryford Community Hall, £12/£6 child | online at [takeart.org](http://takeart.org)

16 May | 7.30pm Wootton Courtenay Village Hall £12 | 01643 841067

# Vanhulle Dance Theatre: Olive Branch

Olive Branch is a family-friendly acrobatic extravaganza! Join us for a funny and feel-good tale of friendship and the wonder of the natural world, told through a captivating mixture of physical theatre and martial arts.

Two strangers meet in a forest and must learn to overcome their differences to help protect mother nature. How will they learn to work together? Will they make it in time to save mother nature?

Immerse yourselves in Vanhulle's forest of wonders, featuring spellbinding acrobatics, a spectacular battle-scene, and a world brimming with imagination.



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## Dates & Times:

Wednesday 27 May - East Quay,  
Watchet 6pm free tickets

# Ekleido: Splice/Rorschach

Join creative duo Ekleido for a mesmerising dance experience with original music by world-renowned electronic musician Floating Points. Expect a spellbinding display of impressive acrobatics, bodily contortions, dazzling costumes and spectacular lights.

The movement language blends vocabularies combining contemporary dance and street dance including New Way Voguing, Threading and Bonebreaking. This show follows up from their residency in Shepton Mallet in October. For more information see pages 10-13.

Pre-recorded Audio Description is available for this performance. Please bring your headphones and a personal device that is able to connect to the internet (and to your headphones) and arrive 15 minutes before the show start time. If you don't have your own device or headphones, please contact us in advance of the show so we can make sure we have some for you to borrow.

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## Dates & Times:

29 May | Shepton Mallet, venue to be confirmed, please check our website for details

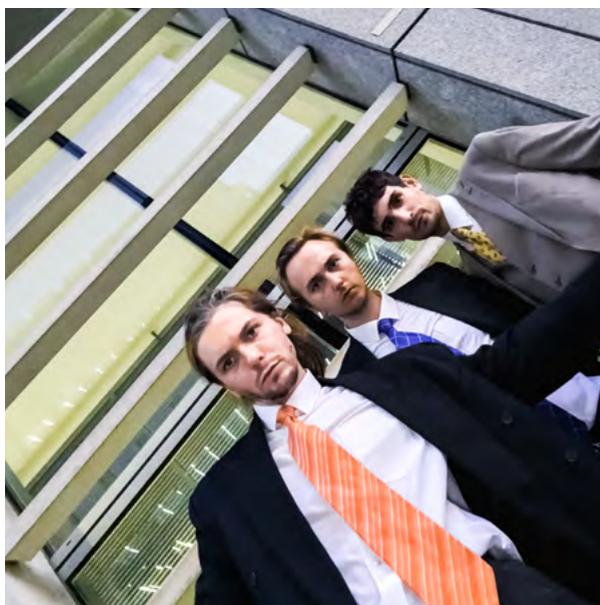


# Event Calendar

Date	Time	Company	Event	Venue, Sat Nav, Postcode & Tel	Page
16 Jan	7:30pm	James Purefoy	Custard Pies & Curtain Calls	North Cadbury Village Hall   BA22 7DP   from North Cadbury   07504 827062	17
17 Jan	7:30	James Purefoy	Custard Pies & Curtain Calls	Pen Selwood Village Hall   01747 840680   BA9 8LS	17
26 Jan		Take Art	Early Years Music Training	Online weekly via Zoom   sign up via Take Art website	18
31 Jan	7pm	Scarlett Smith	Any Objections?	Mingle Café, Bridgwater   TA6 5HY   07762 989509	19
19 Feb	7:30pm	Moscow Drug Club	Live	North Curry Church   TA3 6LJ   tickets from North Curry Post Office	20
20 Feb	7:30pm	Moscow Drug Club	Live	Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall   TA14 6SF   tickets from village shop	20
21 Feb	8pm	Moscow Drug Club	Live	East Quantoxhead Village Hall   TA5 1EJ   0787 6747578	20
22 Feb	4pm	Moscow Drug Club	Live	Caryford Community Hall   BA7 7JJ   01963 350980	20
27 Feb	7pm	Take Art	Spring Forward	McMillan Theatre, Bridgwater   TA6 4PZ   tickets via takeart.org	21
27 Feb	7:30pm	Just Some Theatre	Eyes Down	Axbridge Town Hall   BS26 2AY   01934 732376	22
6 March	7pm	Take Art	Spring Forward	Tacchi Morris Arts Centre, Taunton   TA2 8PD   tickets via takeart.org	21
6 March	7:30pm	Good Habits	Live	Lamyatt Village Hall   BA4 6NJ   07938 174468	23
7 March	7:30pm	Good Habits	Live	Baltonsborough Village Hall   BA6 8PX   ticketsbaltonsboroughhall@gmail.com	23
8 March	7:30pm	Good Habits	Live	Litton Village Hall   BA3 4PW   07734 056988	23



Date	Time	Company	Event	Venue, Sat Nav, Postcode & Tel	Page
12 March	8pm	Scarlett Smith	Any Objections?	Eli's Rose & Crown, Langport   TA10 9QT   01458 250494	19
13 March	7:30pm	Scarlett Smith	Any Objections?	Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall   TA3 6SY   0778 8817619	19
14 March	7:30pm	Scarlett Smith	Any Objections?	Pen Selwood Village Hall   01747 840680   BA9 8LS	19
14 March	7:30pm	Raphael Weinroth-Browne	Lifeblood	All Saints Hall, Langport   TA10 9RQ   01458 250679	24
15 March	7:15pm	Raphael Weinroth-Browne	Lifeblood	The Art Bank, Shepton Mallet   BA4 5AA   tickets from Art Bank directly	24
20 March	7pm	Take Art	Spring Forward	Tacchi Morris Arts Centre, Taunton   TA2 8PD   tickets via takeart.org	21
21 March	7:30pm	Raphael Weinroth-Browne	Lifeblood	Kilve Village Hall   TA5 1EA   07814 613908	24
22 March	3pm	Raphael Weinroth-Browne	Lifeblood	Roadwater Village Hall   TA23 0RE   tickets: Roadwater Shop or 07745 318486	24
2 April	7pm	Take Art	Spring Forward	McMillan Theatre, Bridgwater   TA6 4PZ   tickets via takeart.org	21
24 April	7:30pm	Pea Bien Theatre	Last Wednesday's Work Shirt	The Old Methodist Chapel, Axbridge   BS26 2AA   01934 732376	25
26 April	7:30pm	Pea Bien Theatre	Last Wednesday's Work Shirt	Caryford Community Hall   BA7 7JJ   tickets from Take Art website	25
16 May	7:30pm	Pea Bien Theatre	Last Wednesday's Work Shirt	Wootton Courtenay Village Hall   TA24 8RH   01643 841067	25
27 May	6pm	Vanhulle Dance Theatre	Olive Branch	East Quay, Watchet   TA23 0AQ	26
29 May	7:30pm	Ekleido	Splice/Rorschach	Shepton Mallet, venue TBC, please check the Take Art website	27

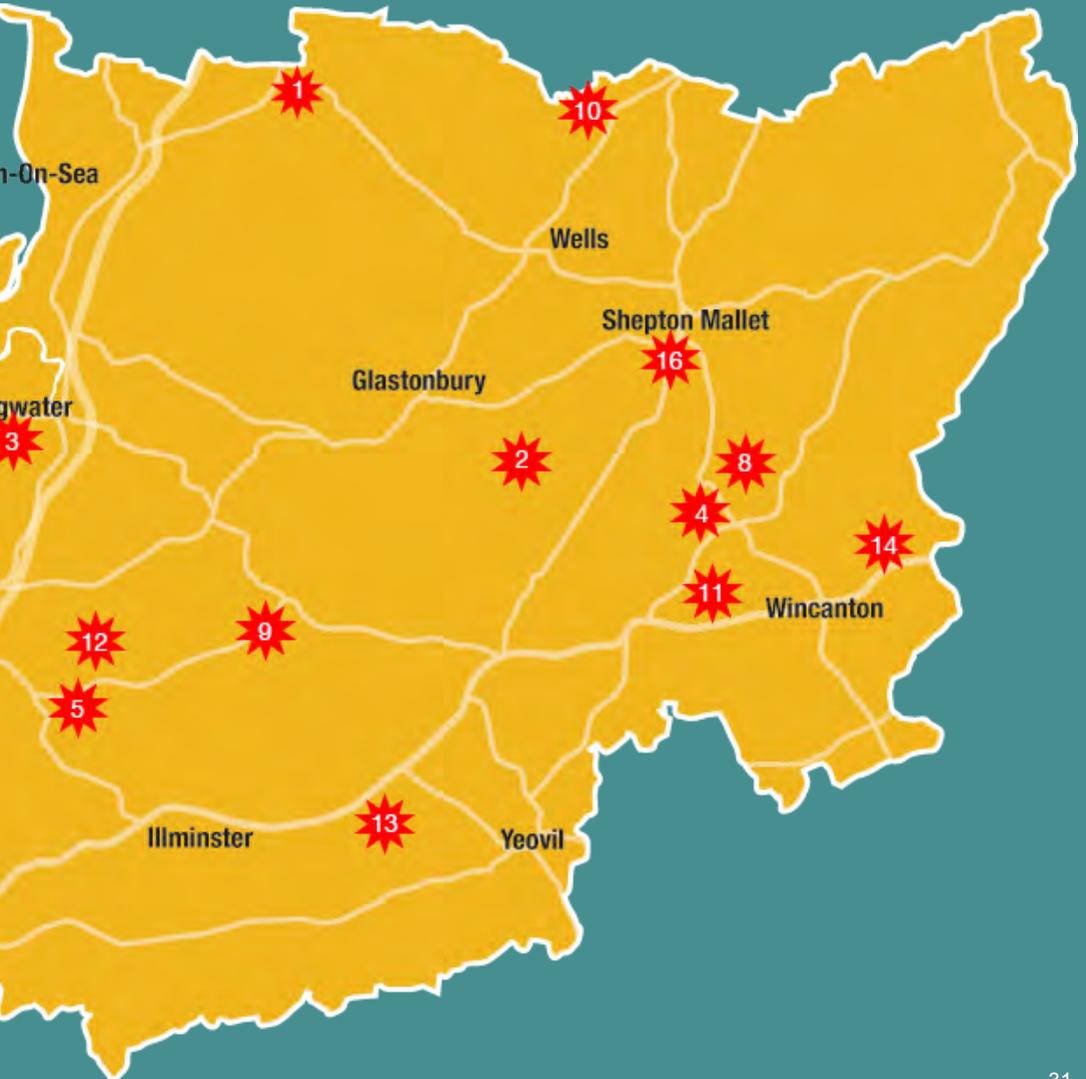


# Events On The Map

- |    |                |     |                  |
|----|----------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. | Axbridge       | 6.  | East Quantoxhead |
| 2. | Baltonsborough | 7.  | Kilve            |
| 3. | Bridgwater     | 8.  | Lamyatt          |
| 4. | Castle Cary    | 9.  | Langport         |
| 5. | Curry Mallet   | 10. | Litton           |



- |     |                   |     |                   |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 11. | North Cadbury     | 16. | Shepton Mallet    |
| 12. | North Curry       | 17. | Taunton           |
| 13. | Norton sub Hamdon | 18. | Watchet           |
| 14. | Pen Selwood       | 19. | Wootton Courtenay |
| 15. | Roadwater         |     |                   |



# Never miss an event again!

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Keep up to date with our latest news and events by joining our mailing list via [www.takeart.org](#)

Alternatively, scan this QR code with your phone's camera to sign up.



If you'd like to receive our brochures through the mail email [info@takeart.org](mailto:info@takeart.org).

## Get in touch

**01460 249450**  
[info@takeart.org](mailto:info@takeart.org)

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Reg. in England: 2203943

## Leave a gift for Take Art in your Will

A legacy gift is a profound way to create lasting change. We're working with The Goodwill Partnership so you can now also leave a gift for Take Art in your Will. It's a home visit, solicitor provided service, where, as a thank you for your support, we'll also cover the cost of creating your Will.

Our events play a vital role in keeping villages alive and vibrant but as a small, underfunded charity, we are facing increasing challenges due to cuts in public funding. Your support will help keep the arts alive in the villages and towns you love, nurturing wellbeing, sparking imagination and bringing people together for generations to come.

For more information or to arrange a home visit call 01492 510 340 or visit [www.thegoodwillpartnership.co.uk/take-art/](#)

