

DorchesterArts

AUTUMN 2026



Involve
Inspire
Entertain

DorchesterArts Autumn 2026

Supported by  Dorchester Town Council  Dorset Council

With thanks to Dorchester Arts Dress Circle for its support this season

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Welcome to Autumn 2026

Theatre and writing for performance have always been at the heart of Dorchester Arts, and this autumn's season is no exception, with the programme bringing together an exciting mix of new writing, compelling storytelling and unforgettable performances.

Highlights include visits from London and Berlin-based collective fish in a dress; the new folk music comedy *Barleycorn*; the moving exploration of death and dying in *Another Goodbye*; David Hare's powerful and thought-provoking monologue *Via Dolorosa* performed by Gary Hay; another riotous farce from Living Spit with *Omlet*; and an inspiring true story of political activism in *Chopped Liver and Unions*.

The third *The Script's The Thing Festival* is bigger than ever, expanding to two days and showcasing more than 100 fifteen-minute scripts, alongside a packed programme of talks, workshops and discussions. Add to that Dorchester Drama's annual production in November and a spine-tingling *A Christmas Carol* in December, and you'll find that drama - in all its variety, imagination and power - remains firmly embedded in our programmes for both performance and participation.



Mark Tattersall Artistic Director, Dorchester Arts

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LET US HELP YOU WITH YOUR EVENT!

From meetings and workshops to large-scale performances and celebrations, the many rooms of the historic Dorchester Corn Exchange can be hired for one-off events or regular bookings. With a fully licensed bar, in-house catering tailored to your needs, and approval to host civil wedding ceremonies, we can help you create an event that's both seamless and memorable, from the first welcome to the final toast.



We are here to help whether you're organising a meeting, conference, exhibition, performance, private party or your entire wedding day!

To find out more see dorchesterarts.org.uk/venue-and-room-hire or call Sam Wood, Venue Manager, on 01305 266926 - we'd be delighted to help you bring your event to life.



HAVE YOU VISITED THE NEW DORCHESTER CORN EXCHANGE CAFÉ AND ART GALLERY YET?

Now there's even more to experience at Dorchester Arts

Step into the heart of Dorchester's new café, bar and art gallery inside the historic Corn Exchange. Come in for something to eat, enjoy a drink before a show, and view our latest exhibition of art or photography.

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am - 4pm, we offer delicious coffee and other hot drinks, indulgent cakes and tasty treats, as well as a fully licensed bar. All served in a stylish, welcoming space that's part of our exciting new art gallery. Come and experience Dorchester's newest Arts destination!



DRESS CIRCLE

Could you be part of our Dress Circle?

Dorchester Arts' Dress Circle donors have helped us bring new and exciting performances to Dorset – from high-profile artists such as The Tallis Scholars and the Kanneh-Mason family, to family shows and art exhibitions. Without them several wonderful events would not have happened!

Dress Circlers help us bring the best to Dorchester by giving support when we need it - could you do the same? In return we can thank you in several ways, from priority booking for your supported event; acknowledgement (unless you prefer to be anonymous); and an invitation to join us for drinks before the performance. And of course, our grateful thanks!

If you would like to know more about this initiative, please contact Jacky Thorne

development@dorchesterarts.org.uk



GEORGE HALL

Friday 4 September

Music – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

George Hall brings his full band to Dorchester Corn Exchange for a special evening celebrating the release of his debut album, *More Than Scars*.

Drawing on blues, soul and roots influences, George's expressive guitar playing and original songwriting are brought to life by the band, alongside a handpicked selection of songs by the artists who have shaped his musical journey.

Whether you've been following George's music or are discovering it for the first time, expect an evening of heartfelt songs, powerful musicianship and timeless influences.



ALIVE AND DRAWING

**Sundays 6 September, 4 October,
8 November, 6 December***

Town Hall/Corn Exchange

2pm – 4.30pm

£15/£10 members and concessions

*** With mulled wine and spiced apple juice!**

Alive and Drawing is a unique take on the traditional life drawing class, featuring varied and sometimes surprising set-ups, using props, music, lights, costumes, movement, narrative, masks and more to awaken the artist's sense of adventure.

Suitable for all abilities and any age over 12yrs (under 16s should be accompanied by an adult). Beginners very welcome! Alive and Drawing provides the materials - charcoal, pencils, rubbers, fixative, ink, pastels, easels and drawing boards. Paper is available at cost price, sold in A1 sheets. You are also welcome to bring in a sketchbook or any other materials you wish to use.



JAMES MCNEILL WHISTLER

**Exhibition on Screen
Tuesday 15 September**

Film - Corn Exchange

7pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

£14/£12 members and concessions

James McNeill Whistler was one of the great innovators of 19th-century art, celebrated for his bold experimentation and pursuit of "art for art's sake." A contemporary of the Impressionists and admired by artists including Van Gogh and Manet, he drew parallels between painting and music, naming works "arrangements," "harmonies," and "nocturnes," while his iconic *Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1* (Whistler's Mother) remains one of history's most recognizable paintings.

Filmed alongside Tate Britain's first major Whistler retrospective in 30 years, this Exhibition on Screen documentary explores his life, art, and enduring influence. Directed by David Bickerstaff.



THE CITY FOR INCURABLE WOMEN

fish in a dress

Thursday 17 September

Theatre – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

Ladies and Gentlemen – feeling a little upset? Have you tried hypnosis, psychoanalysis, smelling salts and it just doesn't work? Try The City for Incurable Women!

Paris, 1880s. In a psychiatric hospital, female patients performed 'hysteria' for the public. The doctors went to extraordinary lengths to prove their theories about the four stages of madness. Today, in the 21st century, the storyteller Kae begins to explore this history. They trace the echoes to the present, feeling them linger in their own body, and perhaps get a little too caught in the story.

International theatre-collective *fish in a dress* follows the thread of the history of hysteria in their critically-acclaimed show as the audience becomes complicit in an outrageous tale of medical misogyny. (Warning: hysteria cure not included).



THOUGHT CONTROL: A TRIBUTE TO PINK FLOYD

Friday 18 September

Music – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£22/£20 members and concessions

Thought Control are pleased to bring their Tribute to Pink Floyd to Dorchester Arts - two hours of classic songs with an unforgettable spectacle of sound and light.

On stage, we will carefully recreate all-time classics such as *Another Brick In The Wall*, *Money*, *Comfortably Numb* and *Wish You Were Here*, along with epics such as *Echoes* and *Shine On You Crazy Diamond*. The lighting, projection and laser effects create the perfect backdrop, and have been further enhanced for 2026.

Whether a die-hard fan or new to Pink Floyd, let Thought Control immerse you in the magic of one of the greatest bands of all time.



BARLEYCORN

Riddlestick Theatre
Saturday 19 September

Theatre – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

It's been raining all summer. But that's not going to stop the residents of Hopley Drew gathering in The Barleycorn Inn for their annual village show and one final knees up before the pub closes its doors for good. As the villagers show off their soggy crops, share songs of local lore, and wait with bated breath for the results of the raffle, a wild storm rages. Some say it's just British weather, but others say it's something much more sinister... Can this drenched and disenchanted community band together to overcome whatever lurks outside?

A new musical comedy inspired by English lore, folk horror, and 'wyrd' 1970s telly featuring traditional and original music and dance.



PAM AYRES: DOGGEDLY ONWARD – A LIFE IN POEMS

Sunday 20 September

Entertainment - Hardye Theatre

5pm, doors and refreshments 4pm

£35/£33 members and concessions

everyday life. She comes to Dorchester Arts to talk about her latest book, *Doggedly Onward – A Life In Poems, 1970 to 2020s*.

Pam has gathered her career's work of poetry into this book, which traces the course of her life, and illustrates how her work has provoked laughter, and some tears, in people around the world.

"Who doesn't feel warm, sentimental, and downright good when they think of Pam Ayres? She's a timeless talent and a glorious people's poet." **Glastonbury Festival 2022**

Pam Ayres has spent a lifetime providing hilarious and profound insights into the delights and tribulations of



FINN CAMPBELL-NOTMAN

The Tainted Sublime

Tuesday 22 September – Saturday 31 October

Exhibition – Corn Exchange Gallery

Tuesday – Saturday 10am to 4pm

FREE

Over the last decade Finn has been collecting charcoal from wildfires from Amazonia to the UK. Using this most archaic of materials Finn has been making artworks that address climate change directly by depicting the very fires from which the charcoal came.

The Tainted Sublime is an ongoing project in which environmental destruction, aesthetic creation and the restoration of those habitats effected takes place through the transformation of charcoal into artwork and by the funding of habitat restoration. By doing this he hopes to demonstrate that art can be an agent of direction, that its value can derive from its values.



THE THREE GRACES

Tamara Konstantin, Jiaxin Lloyd Webber, Barbara Gasior

Thursday 24 September

Music (classical) – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£20/£18 members and concessions

An evening of beautiful classical music in the company of piano trio *The Three Graces* – pianist Tamara Konstantin, cellist Jiaxin Lloyd Webber and violinist Barbara Gasior. The trio are renowned for both their originality and artistry, and the concert will feature a fascinating mix of repertoire, including Beethoven, Bach, Donizetti, Vivaldi, Enio Morricone, John Williams and others, alongside original compositions and arrangements by Konstantin.

All three musicians have achieved significant personal success as recording artists and live performers, and a 2022 tour with Aled Jones on his hugely successful tour of British cathedrals and abbeys brought the name of *The Three Graces* to the wider audience they richly deserve.



24K MAGIC

Danny Lee Grew

Friday 25 September

Magic – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£18/£16 members and concessions

Join multi award-winning magician Danny Lee Grew in his brand new mind boggling one man show *24K Magic!* Expect a spellbinding evening of jaw dropping magic, illusion, laughs, gasps, and stunning sleight of hand sorcery – all performed live, in the flesh and under the most impossible conditions. You may have seen him on Susan Calman's *Summer by the Sea* (Channel 5), or *The Real Stories of The Social Network* (ITV/CBS America). Famous faces such as David Beckham, James Corden, Pink, Stormzy and Chris Hemsworth have already experienced Danny's magic, so book your tickets today before they disappear.



MI FLAMENCO: UMBRA

Saturday 26 September

Dance/music – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£22/£20 members and concessions

Umbra is the innermost part of a shadow, but the deepest, darkest shadows are borne from the brightest light. Mi Flamenco's brand-new production - *Umbra* - is flamenco from its most melancholic, poignant depths to its most joyful splendour.

Breathtaking flamenco dance, soul-stirring guitar and cello combine with the primal sounds of flamenco gypsy voice in this stunning new show, combining darkness and radiance, serenity and passion.

Experience the rich tapestry of flamenco artistry in this thrilling production of light and shade.



IMAGINARY LANDSCAPES

Chris Tutton and Tara Minton

Sunday 27 September

Poetry and music – Corn Exchange

2.30pm, doors 2pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

Imaginary Landscapes brings together the spellbinding poetry of Chris Tutton, acclaimed author, performer and raconteur, described by Ned Sherrin as "the master of the short poem", with the semi improvised harp brilliance of the highly acclaimed international harpist, Tara Minton in a performance of words by Chris and music by Tara. Together they have graced stages from the Hay Festival to the Royal Albert Hall, delighting audiences at sold-out shows across the UK.

"An absolute gem" **Martin Denny, Windsor Arts Festival**



ANOTHER GOODBYE

Carbon Theatre

Thursday 1 October

Theatre – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

"We don't know whether this will be the last time we'll see each other..."

When Adie's mum decided it was time to stop her medical treatment, Adie promised herself that she would travel to Germany and visit her regularly. Then the pandemic happened... This is a story of a letting go, a passing on, another goodbye. *Another Goodbye* is a gentle exploration of the questions we face when confronted with the death of someone we cannot imagine living without.

The performance is followed by a conversation with staff from Weldmar Hospicecare.



THE SOULFUL JAZZ OF CANNONBALL ADDERLEY

Friday 2 October

Music (Jazz) – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£18/£16 members and concessions

Experience the joyful, soulful sound of jazz legend Cannonball Adderley in this exciting live tribute led by acclaimed saxophonist Will Paley. Renowned for his gospel-infused style and timeless classics such as *Mercy, Mercy, Mercy, Jive Samba* and *Work Song*, Adderley inspired generations of musicians. Joined by pianist Philip Clouts, bassist John Donnelly and drummer Coach York, Paley brings this iconic music to life with passion and authenticity. A sought-after performer who has appeared at Ronnie Scott's, the Barbican and 10 Downing Street, Will Paley promises an unforgettable evening celebrating one of jazz's most influential saxophonists.



VIA DOLOROSA by DAVID HARE

Gary Hay

Sunday 4 October

Theatre – Corn Exchange

7pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

Gary Hay brings to the stage playwright David Hare's dramatic account of his travels through Israel and Palestine in 1997. Hare was given unique access to public and private figures with different perspectives on the region and its troubles, and this compelling play exposes the deep-rooted political and religious passions that cause some people to behave in a certain way. Can art capture those complexities in a meaningful way? Here is your answer.

The performance will be followed by a Q&A session with Gary. *This riveting and thoughtful monologue delivered with fluent ease by Gary Hay... Everyone should see it."* **British Theatre Guide**



WORLD'S TOUGHEST DRIVE: MY AFRICAN ADVENTURE / KINETICS

Tuesday 6 October

Parkinsons Dance fundraiser – Corn Exchange

6pm, doors and bar 5.30pm

£14

This special double bill brings together two inspiring films exploring resilience, friendship and life with Parkinson's. *The World's Toughest Drive* follows former Army colonel Guy Deacon CBE on an extraordinary solo journey across 25 countries from the UK to South Africa. Armed with determination, 3,650 pills and a VW van, his remarkable adventure is a powerful testament to courage and refusing to let Parkinson's define him. *Kinetics*, adapted from Sue Wylie's acclaimed stage play and inspired by her own experience of early-onset Parkinson's, tells the moving story of Rose and Lukas, whose unlikely friendship transforms both their lives. Honest, funny and deeply affecting, it celebrates the strength found in human connection.

All proceeds from this evening will support Dorchester Arts' Parkinson's Dance classes in Dorchester and Sherborne.



BLACK WATER COUNTY with support THE LONELY SURF

Thursday 8 October

Music – Corn Exchange

8pm, doors and bar 7.30pm

£18/£16 members and concessions

Please note this is a standing gig

Mashing their own distinctive brew of pop-punk and folk since 2013, Black Water County continue on their mission to bring merriment and moshing to the masses by relentlessly touring across the UK and Europe, building a loyal and ever-growing following along the way. Drawing inspiration from the punk bands they grew up with, combined with their lasting love of folk legends and traditional sounds, their unique fusion was born. Driven by pounding drums, bass, and high-energy guitar riffs, they are matched by unwavering banjo, mandolin, and tin whistle melodies, each instrument standing equally strong on the battlefield to create an electrifying, unforgettable live sound.



40 IN STAND-UP YEARS Mark Thomas

Friday 9 October

Comedy – Hardye Theatre

7.30pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

£22/£16 members and concessions

Mark Thomas has been standing up for 40 years - yes, really. In that time he's won eight performance awards - four for human

rights work (plus one he invented); written six books and five plays, made hit TV and radio series, and successfully sued the police three times.

He's walked 724km along the Israel Wall in the West Bank, helped change laws on tax avoidance, launched a comedy club in Palestine, and campaigned for workers' rights. Expect sharp takes, chaos, jokes, rants, and Mark trying to make sense of what the f*ck is going on.

THE SCRIPT'S THE THING!



THE SCRIPT'S THE THING 3 Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October

Festival – Corn Exchange, Tom Brown's, The King's Arms, Dorset Museum and Art Gallery, The Sleeping Bear Hotel
All day, FREE

The Script's The Thing is back! Now for its third Festival, we have two days and over 100 writers involved for a feast of fantastic performance. Like a "mini-Edinburgh Festival" happening right here in Dorset, you get to choose what you want to see! The Festival also has Q+As and talks from directors, producers,



actors, and all those involved with making new work. You don't have to be a writer to attend and it's all FREE! So whether you're an experienced professional, first-time writer, or simply have a curiosity about scripts for stage, TV, film, podcasting and all writing for performance, the Festival is the place to be inspired and celebrate new writing. Bring the whole family and find the scripts that you want to see by downloading the programme on the Dorchester Arts website - dorchesterarts.org.uk

Supported by **BackstageTrust** MARIA BJÖRNSON
MEMORIAL FUND



KATHAKALI The Kala Chethena Company Thursday 15 October

Dance – Corn Exchange
7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm
£16/£14 members and concessions

Kathakali, the classical dance drama of Kerala in South India, returns to Dorchester Arts with a performance celebrating the rich art and culture, and the people of Kerala. Through powerful storytelling, Kathakali explores the highs and lows of human relationships — dignity, love, strength, compassion, arrogance, rejection, cruelty, and war. The Kala Chethena Company brings together outstanding international artists from Kerala, creating a spectacular performance filled with emotion, colour, and unforgettable characters. Their work invites audiences of all backgrounds to connect with this unique art form on a deep and personal level. Step into the magical world of Kathakali, where stories come alive and imagination takes flight.



IAGO BANET Friday 16 October

Music – Corn Exchange
7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm
£18/£16 members and concessions

We are delighted to welcome Iago Banet back to the Corn Exchange following his amazing performance last year. Originally from Galicia and now based in the UK, Banet captivates audiences with spellbinding performances that tell stories without words. Blending fingerstyle, gypsy jazz, blues, folk, country and more, his virtuosic playing has earned sell-out tours, BBC Radio appearances, and widespread acclaim. A true one-man band on acoustic guitar, he delivers a breathtaking live experience showcasing exceptional skill, passion and musical imagination.



ANYONE FOR TENNIS

Saturday 17 October

Comedy – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£18/£16 members and concessions

A Wimbledon line judge for 20 years, comedian Pauline Eyre is ready to spill the Pimms on tennis gossip from the fragrant royal box to the musty locker room, and why line judges are OUT! Expect smashing stories, ace anecdotes and a 40-love letter to the game. And there's nobody to say, 'quiet please'. She cannot be serious... can she?

"Laughs aplenty... juicy locker room secrets... naughty line judge-y anarchy...motivational joy... Nice." **5*******

Northwestend

"She's warm, wonderfully funny and you'll want to be her pal"

Angela Barnes.

"10 out of 10" **Giles Brandreth (THE Giles Brandreth!!)**



AN EVENING ROUND THE PIANO WITH SIMEON WALKER

Thursday 22 October

Music – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

Pianist and composer Simeon Walker has become a leading voice in contemporary music, with regular broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and over 50 million streams worldwide. Based in Leeds, he has toured extensively across the UK and Europe, supporting artists including Neil Cowley, Erland Cooper, LYR and Submotion Orchestra, and performing at festivals such as Latitude, Edinburgh Fringe and Manchester Jazz Festival. Blending classical, jazz, ambient and experimental influences, Simeon creates intimate, emotionally rich performances that move effortlessly from quiet reflection to expansive soundscapes, drawing audiences into a shared musical experience of warmth, connection and beauty.



WHILE AND MATTHEWS

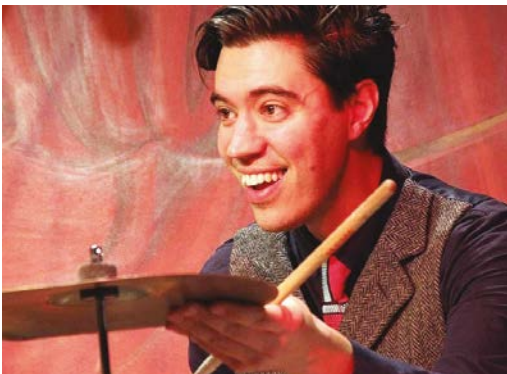
Friday 23 October

Music (folk) – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£20/£18 members and concessions

They have played more than 3,000 gigs, appeared on over 100 albums, written hundreds of original songs and reached millions of people around the world. Now, 30 years after their debut, Chris While and Julie Matthews sound as fresh and vital as ever. They are two of the best and most hard-working musicians on the world folk roots scene, both are highly regarded producers, and they record everything that they participate in at their own studio in a small Pennine town far from the Londoncentric music industry. These are inspirational women.



MIKE DENHAM SPEAKEASY with John Maddocks and Nicholas D Ball

Sunday 25 October

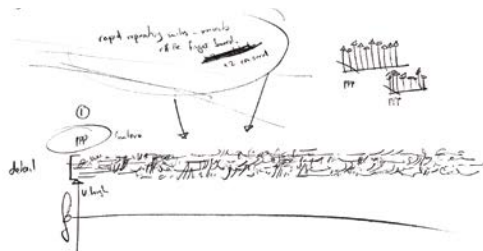
Music – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£17/£15 members and concessions

Two new guests join Mike at Dorchester Arts for this evening's concert. John Maddocks is a superb clarinettist, with his own acclaimed, dynamic approach to New Orleans jazz. He's one of the most widely known and respected players on the UK scene. Nicholas D Ball is one of a new generation of drummers with a love for the hot jazz of the 1920s. Based in London, he plays with that city's top performers and with many international visitors.

Completing the trio on piano, Mike plays the role of Jelly Roll Morton, who modestly billed himself "The Creator of Jazz". No pressure there then! It will certainly be exciting.



POETRY TO SONG

Tuesday 27 October

Music and poetry – Corn Exchange

7pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

FREE

Celebrate the alchemy of words becoming music at this inspiring public concert. Dorset poets create short poetry that, in collaborative workshops, has been shaped into expressive solo vocal lines with support from composers Sadie Harrison and Marc Yeats and singers Jessica Summers and Ed Bersey. These original works shine alongside two new piano song cycles by the composers – powerful, evocative pieces drawing on Marc Yeats' Collected Poems Volume 1, offering varied and innovative musical interpretations. Acclaimed pianist Tomas Klement and sound artist David Rogers (Electricbackroom Studio) enrich the performances with dynamic accompaniment and atmospheric South West-inspired soundscapes. A beautiful fusion of poetry, voice, and piano — an unforgettable evening of fresh Dorset creativity!

Supported by Arts Council England, Dorset Council, Hinrichsen Foundation, and Vaughan Williams Foundation.



CHOPPED LIVER AND UNIONS

Blue Fire Theatre

Thursday 29 October

Theatre – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

History, we are told, is written by the victors. And rewritten by the forgetful. Sara Wesker led the singing strikers of 1928, stood against fascists at Cable Street, and devoted herself to the Trade Union cause. Yet remains excluded from the history books. In 2026 – the year that commemorates the centenary of the General Strike and the 90th anniversary of The Battle of Cable Street, this gripping, 5-star play reminds us that the world is often changed by the women pushed too far. Women such as Sara. A sell-out success from New York to Edinburgh, don't miss it here in Dorset where the trade union movement was born.



LIZA PULMAN SINGS STREISAND

Friday 30 October

Music – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£32/£30 members and concessions

Celebrate the extraordinary music and legacy of Barbra Streisand with acclaimed singer and comedienne Liza Pulman, star of *Fascinating Aida*. Backed by her outstanding band and musical director Joseph Atkins, Liza brings her acclaimed *Streisand* show to the stage in a heartfelt tribute to one of the world's greatest entertainers. Praised as "one of the very few artists who can truly emulate the vocal skills of the iconic Barbra Streisand," Liza has wowed packed West End audiences and earned glowing five-star reviews. Blending stunning vocals with warmth, wit and captivating storytelling, she offers a fresh and deeply personal celebration of Streisand's remarkable life and career. Featuring beautifully reimagined arrangements of timeless classics including *The Way We Were*, *People, You Don't Bring Me Flowers*, *Second Hand Rose*, and many more, this world-class concert is a must-see for Streisand fans and lovers of great live music alike.



FIDDLING WITH HISTORY Emma-Marie Kabanova

Sunday 1 November

Music – Corn Exchange

2pm, doors 1.30pm

£14/£12 members and concessions

Fiddling with History is a journey from palaces to taverns, celebrating the music that brought people together three hundred years ago. Long before folk and classical music were seen as separate worlds, composers borrowed tunes, rhythms and dance styles from the music they heard around them. This programme brings together traditional melodies by Neil Gow, John Moorland and Turlough O'Carolan with works by Bach, Tartini and J.F. Rebel, revealing the shared roots of these musical traditions. Alongside them are compositions, inspired by the same timeless spirit of storytelling, dance and melody that continues to connect us today.



WOMEN ON THE EDGE Charlie Bicknell and Louise Innes Thursday 5 November

Cabaret – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£20/£18 members and concessions

Poised precisely on the brink, Women On The Edge lies well short of good behaviour.

Charlie Bicknell and Louise Innes take on life, maturity and modern madness in a show which doesn't just sail close to the wind, but blasts right through it.

A kaleidoscope of songs peppered with irreverent radio broadcast detours and inevitable surprises, accompanied by pianist David Harrod and featuring Solomon Bain. It's a sharp-witted, funny and deliciously unpredictable evening you'll struggle to forget.

"Lean way back in your seat and enjoy the ride"

Godfrey Smith, *The Times*



OMLET – PRINCE OF HEN-MARK Living Spit

Thursday 12 November

Theatre – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

"O, that this too too solid shell would melt, Thaw and resolve itself into a dew..."

Enter Omlet, Prince of Hen-mark; Hamlet rehatched; fragile, brooding, on the brink of cracking under the pressure of his own Egg-sistential angst and joined by a full supporting cast of vegetables and assorted foodstuffs – fresh from the fridge and prepared to present Shakespeare's greatest tragedy retold by one man, one egg and a trolley full of comestibles.

With live original music, perishable puppetry, and an overly confident reliance on bad puns, actor Stu McLoughlin juggles an entire allotment of Shakespearean tragedy whilst trying not to turn his leading man into a leading flan.



A HEAD FULL OF COLDPLAY

Friday 13 November

Music (tribute) – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£22/£20 members and concessions

Experience the magic of Coldplay with A Head Full of Coldplay – a spectacular tribute that captures the energy, emotion, and excitement of a live stadium show. Featuring soaring anthems, dazzling lasers, confetti cannons, and the iconic Xylobands, this immersive performance is a celebration of one of the world's biggest bands.

Sing along to timeless favourites including *Yellow*, *The Scientist*, *Paradise*, *Magic*, and *Hymn for the Weekend*, alongside newer hits such as *Feels Like I'm Falling in Love*.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering Coldplay's music for the first time, this unforgettable concert experience brings the atmosphere of a sold-out stadium to the stage. Don't miss it!



NINEBARROW

Saturday 14 November

Music (folk) – Hardye Theatre

7.30pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

£22/£20 members and concessions

Ninebarrow is a multi-award-winning folk duo impressing audiences across the country with their innovative and captivating take on the folk tradition. Described by Mark Radcliffe as sounding like ‘two halves of one voice’; by Seth Lakeman as ‘a fantastic duo’; and by Kate Rusby as ‘absolutely amazing’, Jon Whitley and Jay LaBouchardiere combine breath-taking vocal harmonies and melodies, delivering songs that are inspired and rooted in the landscape and history of the British Isles.

BBC Radio 2 Folk Award nominees, their six studio albums have been released to wide-spread critical acclaim including coverage on BBC1’s Countryfile and BBC Radio 4’s ‘Front Row’.

‘Stunning’ ★★★★★ **Maverick Magazine.**

‘Immaculate’ ★★★★★ **The EFDSS**

‘An absolute joy’ ★★★★★ **The Morning Star**

Another example of how strong British folk music is at the moment.’ ★★★★★ **The Telegraph.**



A DORSET AUTUMN AFTERNOON

Sunday 15 November

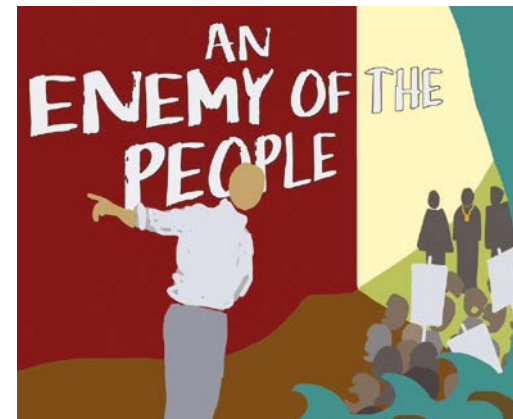
Fundraiser – Corn Exchange

1pm, doors at 12.45

£25 to include lunch and a welcome drink

“Beech leaves, that yellow the noon-time, Float past like specks in the eye; I set every tree in my June time, And now they obscure the sky.”

Celebrate the beauty of the changing seasons with a golden afternoon of delicious food, traditional entertainment, and warm Dorset hospitality. Inspired by the spirit of a rural Dorset harvest home, this special event promises an unforgettable taste of autumn. Your ticket includes a hearty ploughman’s lunch, accompanied by plenty of liquid refreshment, while live traditional entertainment and charming country fair stalls create the perfect festive atmosphere ideal for discovering a few early Christmas gifts. Immerse yourself in two glorious hours of autumnal celebration, surrounded by the colours, flavours, and traditions of the harvest season, before the year gently turns towards a cosy winter.



AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE Dorchester Drama

**Friday 20 and Saturday 21
November**

Theatre (amateur) – Corn Exchange

Friday and Saturday 7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

Saturday 2pm, doors and bar 1.30pm

£14/£12 members and concessions/£8 U18s

Age guidance 12+, some strong language

2009 and a spa-tourism town struggles to keep afloat in the wake of the financial crash. The medical officer at the baths thinks the waters might be toxic - should they go public? How would their family, friends and the town react? Personal relations are tested to breaking point as idealism, pragmatism and ambition clash.

This subtle reworking of Ibsen’s classic play, adapted by Martin Stephen, gives the play a new resonance for our times.



FOCUS

Saturday 21 November

Music – Hardy Theatre

7.30pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

£30/£28 members and concessions

Following their triumphant 2024 visit, legendary Dutch progressive rock band Focus return for another unforgettable live performance. Featuring founding members Thijs van Leer and Pierre van der Linden, alongside Menno Gootjes and Udo Pannekeet, the band continue to captivate audiences with their extraordinary musicianship and timeless music.

Fresh from a successful 2025 tour and the release of their acclaimed album Focus 12, the band embark on another extensive UK and European tour. Every concert is unique, showcasing classics alongside newer material in performances that remain as fresh and exhilarating as ever.

With a career spanning more than 50 years, Focus have enjoyed international chart success, earned a devoted global following, and seen their iconic hit Hocus Pocus featured in films including Baby Driver and Trolls World Tour. Don't miss the chance to experience one of progressive rock's most enduring and celebrated bands live.



DORCHESTER COMEDY CLUB

Sunday 22 November

Comedy – Hardy Theatre

7.30pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

£25/£23 members and concessions

Age guidance 16+

Dorchester Comedy Club returns to The Hardy Theatre this November with another fantastic night of live stand-up comedy, headlined by the brilliant Mark Steel.

A regular on BBC Radio 4 and one of the UK's most respected comedians, Mark is known for his intelligent, passionate, and

hilariously sharp observations on everyday life. Star of the long-running hit series Mark Steel's in Town and a familiar face from Have I Got News For You, QI, and Would I Lie To You?, Mark has built a reputation as one of Britain's finest live performers. Opening the show is the hugely entertaining Matt Richardson. A former host of The Xtra Factor and star of Never Mind the Buzzcocks, Celebrity Juice, and Dancing on Ice, Matt brings infectious energy, quick-fire wit, and brilliantly relatable stories that have made him a favourite with audiences across the country. Holding the evening together is the excellent Luke Honnoraty. A skilled MC with a natural ability to connect with audiences, Luke will keep the laughter flowing and the atmosphere buzzing throughout the night.



THE CAPTAIN'S BEARD

with support **THE ROVING CROWS**
and **THOMAS BENJAMIN WILDE**
ESQUIRE

Friday 27 November

Music (folk rock) – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£20/£18 members and concessions

The Captain's Beard is one of the most seasoned Folk Rock and Sea Shanty groups in the UK, playing over a hundred gigs a year and captivating their audiences with tales of the sea. They see every performance as an honest opportunity to create a unique experience for their audience that they will never forget ... and they'll probably teach you about inappropriate mermaids too! Their last two albums *Same Ship Different Day* and *Completely Tankard* garner tens of thousands of listens every month on streaming platforms and they won the "Best Album of 2024" award at the Celtcast awards in the Netherlands for their third album, *Cannonballs Deep*.



THE TOTAL STONE ROSES

with support **OAYSIS**

Saturday 28 November

Music (tribute) – Corn Exchange

8pm, doors and bar 7.30pm

£25/£23 members and concessions

Please note this is a standing gig

The UK's BEST Stone Roses Tribute return to the stage! If you love *I Am The Resurrection*, *Made Of Stone*, *Fools Gold*, *Waterfall*, *She Bangs The Drums* and many more then do not miss this exclusive opportunity to hear your favourite Stone Roses anthems performed live by the UK's finest tribute band! Support comes from Oaysis, one of the UK's best Oasis tribute bands performing a hit-packed set that's guaranteed to be BIBLICAL!



THE WINTER PRINT SHOW

Tuesday 1 December –
Saturday 23 January

Exhibition – Corn Exchange Gallery

Tuesday – Saturday, 10am to 4pm

FREE

Our second winter print exhibition features South West printmakers including Robin Mackenzie, Liz Somerville, Maddie Rook, Helen Brasher, Gilly McCadden and Paul Cleden. Working in a variety of techniques including woodcut, linocut and monoprint, each artist brings their own unique style to this fascinating and enduring artform.



GUIDED BY THE STARS

Grace Lovelass

Friday 11 December

Comedy – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

Celebrate the magic of Christmas with an enchanting evening of music, stories and sparkling inspiration. Dorset mezzo-soprano Grace Lovelass invites you on a journey through the artists who have shaped her musical life, from legendary opera stars to unforgettable voices from musical theatre and beyond. Expect soaring melodies, heartfelt ballads, festive warmth and Grace's trademark wit, all brought to life beneath a starlight glow. Whether rediscovering cherished favourites or finding something new to love, let yourself be guided by the stars for an uplifting evening that will leave you gleaming long after the final note.



AN EVENING OF ERIC AND ERN Ian Ashpitel and Jonty Stephens Saturday 12 December

Comedy – Hardye Theatre

7.30pm, doors and bar 6.30pm

£28/£26 members and concessions

Age guidance: 8+

A brilliant homage crammed full of renditions of those famous comedy sketches, that hits all the right notes!

Coming to Dorchester Arts to celebrate the Centenary year of the nation's favourite comedy legends Morecambe & Wise! From Greig's Piano concerto to Mr Memory, "Arsenal!" this wonderful show evokes memories of times when whole families would huddle around the telly to watch those fantastic Christmas specials. You'll feel you've experienced the real thing and been taken back to a world of sunshine and laughter.

As seen on *The One show* BBC1 and *The Alan Titchmarsh Show* ITV.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE QUIZMAS!

Living Spit

Tuesday 15 December

Comedy – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

Age guidance 12+

£16/ £14 members and concessions

Please note this will be cabaret seating

Ah, Christmas. A time for good will, peace on earth and absolutely CRUSHING your friends and family in a festive quiz. But this isn't just any Christmas quiz night. It's a comedy show hastily gift-wrapped in unrecyclable quizzical paper! Join Living Spit's Holy host, Stu McLoughlin, as he sings, dances and otherwise vaguely performs his way through ridiculous rounds, questionable facts, surprise challenges and enough festive foolery to make Santa fake an injury. Bring your brains, your buddies and your strongest opinions about which Quality Street selections are the best. Big laughs! Tiny prizes! Family arguments! Come clever. Leave confused.



BOURNEMOUTH SINFONIETTA CHOIR A Dickensian Noël

Wednesday 16 December

Music – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£20 to include a glass of mulled wine

Our regular Noël Noël event gets a Dickensian makeover this year. The first half will celebrate all the delights of a Victorian Christmas, with our usual mix of sacred and secular music for choir and audience.

After a glass of mulled wine, we dive into *A Christmas Carol*, with Jonathan Rathbone's imaginative setting of Mr Fezziwig's Christmas Party.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL AS TOLD BY JACOB MARLEY (DECEASED)

Brother Wolf

Friday 18 December

Theatre – Corn Exchange

7.30pm, doors and bar 7pm

£16/£14 members and concessions

Age guidance 7+

Jacob Marley is dead and condemned to an eternity of carrying a heavy chain, forged in life; a life to which he can no longer return except to recount the tale of his miserly business partner, Ebenezer Scrooge, and the path that lead to his redemption. Through Marley's words, we learn how three magical spirits opened Scrooge's eyes and made him realise the true value of love and forgiveness.

This multi award-winning stage adaptation has been hailed as "the definitive stage version of the story" ([Pink Prince Theatre](#)) and rated as one of "the top Christmas shows in London, Edinburgh and around the UK" ([High 50 Culture](#)).

SPRING 2027 HIGHLIGHTS!



**Sat 9th Jan: The Big Dorset Midwinter Ceilidh
(Corn Exchange)**

The best way to banish those midwinter blues and dance off the pounds gained over the holidays. Grab your tickets early as this one's sure to sell out...



Sat 23rd Jan: Uptown Joel

The iconic songs of Billy Joel, performed by Darren Reeves, star of the West End hit musical 'Movin' Out'.



**Fri 12th Feb: A Star Wars Improv Show -
The One-Man Made-Up Movie Parody (Jon Hipkiss)**

The ultimate celebration of comedy and fandom. Based solely on your suggestions, Jon will improvise an entirely new Star Wars film all by himself. He's all the trailers, all the characters, all the music, the ships, everything. Beautifully funny, improvised chaos!



Fri 5th March: Jon Boden

Bellowhead lead-singer Jon Boden returns to solo touring to launch his new book, 'A Folk Song A Day'

YOUNG PEOPLE



Ignite a Passion for Theatre with Dorchester Youth Theatre!

Do you know someone aged 6–19+ who loves performing? Dorchester Youth Theatre (DYT) is the perfect place to develop creativity, build confidence, and have fun performing on stage! Led by Youth Theatre Director, Jo Simons, DYT offers a welcoming and inclusive space where young people can explore theatre through improvisation, drama games, and devising techniques—all leading to exciting performances throughout the year.



No auditions are required—just bring enthusiasm! So whether you're looking to sharpen your acting skills, express yourself, or simply make new friends, DYT will help you shine.

Our sessions:

Mondays (Ages 6–16) – Four sessions between 3:30pm – 9pm at Damers First School

Thursdays (Ages 16–19+)
7pm – 9pm at the Town Hall, Dorchester Corn Exchange

Contact dyt@dorchesterarts.org.uk, or find out more at dorchesterarts.org.uk

CREATIVE HEALTH - dorchesterarts.org.uk/join-in

Our Creative Health programme complements our performance programme and is an increasingly important part of our work. Our creative projects are for people living with chronic physical conditions as well as those experiencing low level mental health issues - please enquire about or book onto any of our Creative Health programmes by contacting us on **01305 266926**, or through engage@dorchesterarts.org.uk or take a look at dorchesterarts.org.uk/join-in

Funding for this is always needed and there are several ways you can help from donating to leaving a legacy. Thank you for your support – we could not do it without you!

With grateful thanks to **Wessex Water Foundation Community Fund, The Deacon Foundation, Dorchester Beerex, The Mayor of Dorchester, The Friends of Yeatman Hospital** and other donors who wish to remain anonymous for support of our Creative Health projects this season.

Dorchester Community Orchestra

Dorchester is a welcoming community orchestra for those who are learning an instrument or brushing up on existing skills. Meeting once a fortnight on Sunday afternoons, conductor Jo Wolff guides players through a vast array of notes working towards public concerts each year. Dorchester convenes at the United Church Hall (Charles Street entrance). Rehearsal times are 2.45pm - 5pm with a tea break and the cost is £25 per term. For more information, please contact the Membership Secretary at info.dorchester@gmail.com

Connect

Connect is a weekly drama group accessible to all. This is a fully inclusive session for adults and is aimed at those who want to have fun in a creative and supportive environment using drama games and activities. The sessions are led by experienced drama practitioner Penny Levick. No experience is needed, just an open mind and a willingness to participate in movement-led, improvised and collaboratively devised work. Perfect for those seeking something new which has proved to boost confidence and tap into creative potential.

Classes take place in Dorchester, £5 (carers free)





Parkinson's Dance

Parkinson's Dance is a fun class with therapeutic benefits and movement specifically designed for the symptoms of Parkinson's. Specially developed to be fun, stimulating, motivating, and challenging, these sessions support the improvement of balance, coordination, and suppleness.

Sessions are led by trained specialists and will be taught in a comfortable and safe environment.

Classes take place in both Dorchester and Sherborne, £8 (carers free)

"This class has great benefits physically and mentally"
Parkinsons Dance participant



Art for Memory

Art for Memory is a creative class for adults experiencing the early stages of memory loss. Each week we will explore different themes and materials in a fun and supportive group. Inspired by nature, we will try out a different techniques including printmaking, painting, drawing, collage and mosaics. This is a gentle session with time for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat!

Classes take place in Dorchester, £5 (carers free)



BOOKING INFORMATION

We are based at Dorchester Corn Exchange. Our reception desk in the cafe/bar area is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 3pm. On Mondays you can purchase tickets from our offices at the back of the building.

Tickets to all venues can be purchased online at any time or by telephone (01305 266926) between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. At all other times please leave your name, telephone number and ticket requirements and we will call you back.

Concessionary prices are available for the majority of performances promoted by Dorchester Arts and offered to under 18s, students and those in receipt of benefits/income support regardless of age.

A £1 booking fee and £1 Future Fund levy (to support our work) are included in most published ticket prices.

We operate a ticketless system – on arrival please have your booking reference email to hand, either printed or on your mobile device, we will scan the QR code. For selected events, we provide wrist bands to allow you to move freely.

All our venues have wheelchair access and toilet facilities for wheelchair users. Dorchester Corn Exchange is now equipped with a Sennheiser MobileConnect system that will help those with hearing impairment to enjoy all of the events taking place there. If you would like to take advantage of this, please let us know by emailing enquiries@dorchesterarts.org.uk and we will send you full details. If you have any specific requirements, such as being seated near to the front should you be partially sighted, then please let us know when booking tickets as we are more than happy to help.

Scan the code to see what's on and book online



MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT MAGIC
COMEDY THEATRE COMMUNITY
CLASSICAL MUSIC CHRISTMAS ART

Phone
enquiries
and booking:
01305 266926

Support Dorchester Arts – Become a Member!



Join our Membership Scheme and help local arts thrive while enjoying exclusive benefits. Your support funds vital community projects, especially for children and young people.

Benefits include:

- £2 off most tickets
- 10% off food and drink (excluding alcohol) at the Corn Exchange Café and Bar (Tuesday to Saturday during daytime opening hours of 10am–4pm only).
- Priority booking for major events
- Invitations to private gallery views
- Exclusive events such as Member Elevenses season previews
- Voting rights at our AGM

Membership:

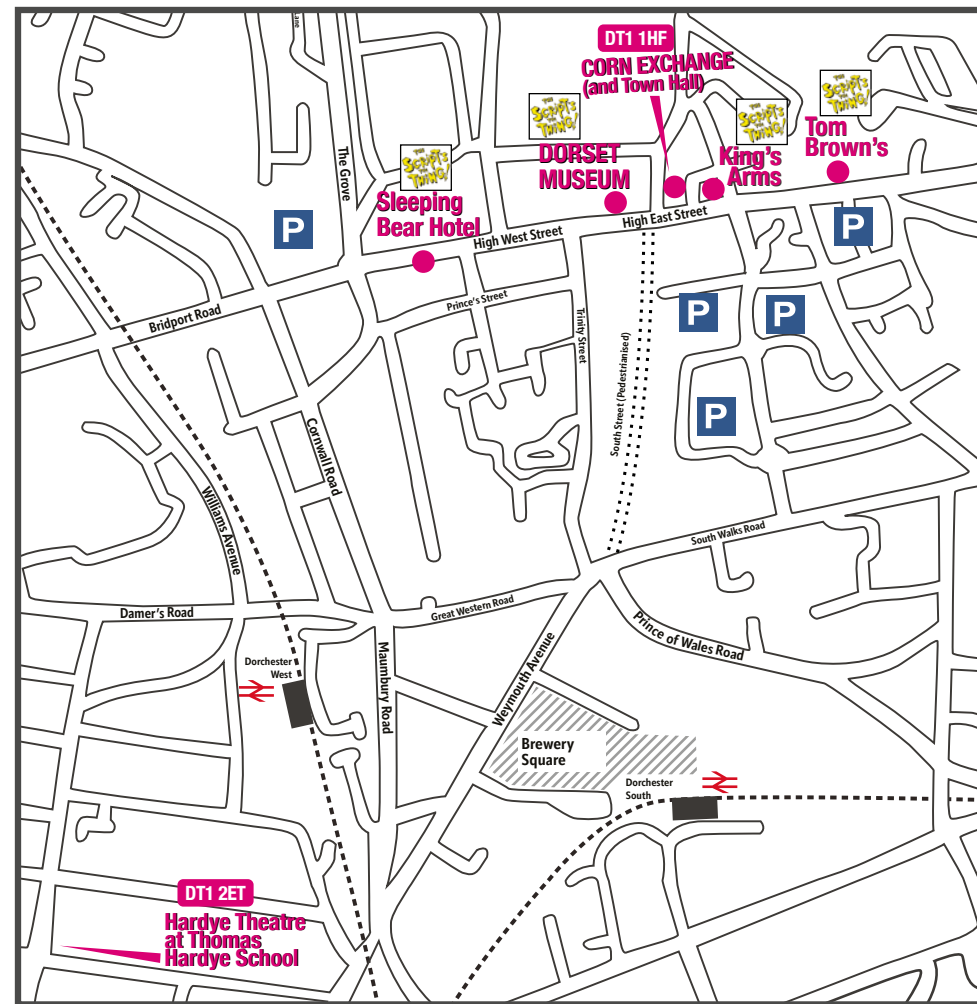
- Individual: £25 annually
(includes a £12.50 donation to Dorchester Arts)
- Joint: £50 annually
(includes a £25 donation to Dorchester Arts)

Join today:

Visit dorchesterarts.org.uk/membership, call 01305 266926,
or email members@dorchesterarts.org.uk.



Scan the code to find out
more about membership



DIARY: AUTUMN 2026

Box Office 01305 266926 www.dorchesterarts.org.uk

September

Friday 4	Music	George Hall	7.30pm	CE
Sunday 6	Life drawing	Alive & Drawing	2pm	TH
Tuesday 15	Film	James McNeill Whistler (EOS)	7pm	CE
Thursday 17	Theatre	The City for Incurable Women (fish in a dress)	7.30pm	CE
Friday 18	Tribute	Thought Control: A Tribute To Pink Floyd	7.30pm	CE
Saturday 19	Theatre	Barleycorn (Riddlestick Theatre)	7.30pm	CE
Sunday 20	Spoken word	Pam Ayres: Doggedly Onward - A Life in Poems	5pm	HT
Thursday 24	Classical music	The Three Graces	7.30pm	CE
Friday 25	Magic	24K Magic (Danny Lee Grew)	7.30pm	CE
Saturday 26	Dance	Umbrá (Mi Flamenco)	7.30pm	CE
Sunday 27	Poetry/music	Imaginary Landscapes	2.30pm	CE

October

Thursday 1	Theatre	Another Goodbye (Carbon Theatre)	7.30pm	CE
Friday 2	Jazz	The Soulful Jazz of Cannonball Adderley	7.30pm	CE
Sunday 4	Spoken word	Via Dolorosa by David Hare (Gary Hay)	7.30pm	CE
Sunday 4	Life drawing	Alive & Drawing	2pm	TH
Tuesday 6	Film (fundraiser)	World's Toughest Drive and Kinetics	6pm	CE
Thursday 8	Music	Black Water County	8pm	CE
Friday 9	Comedy	Mark Thomas: 40 in Stand-Up Years	7.30pm	HT
Saturday 10 and Sunday 11	Festival	The Script's The Thing 3	See website	various
Thursday 15	Dance	Kathakali (The Kala Chethena Company)	7.30pm	CE
Friday 16	Music	Iago Banet	7.30pm	CE
Saturday 17	Comedy	Anyone For Tennis	7.30pm	CE
Thursday 22	Music	An Evening Round The Piano with Simeon Walker	7.30pm	CE
Friday 23	Music	While & Matthews	7.30pm	CE
Sunday 25	Jazz	Mike Denham Speakeasy	7.30pm	CE
Tuesday 27	Poetry/music	Poetry to Song	7pm	CE
Thursday 29	Theatre	Chopped Liver and Unions (Blue Fire Theatre)	7.30pm	CE
Friday 30	Music	Liza Pulman Sings Streisand	7.30pm	CE

November

Sunday 1	Music	Fiddling With History (Emma-Marie Kabanova)	2pm	CE
Thursday 5	Cabaret	Women On The Edge (Charlie Bicknell and Louise Innes)	7.30pm	CE
Sunday 8	Life drawing	Alive & Drawing	2pm	TH
Thursday 12	Theatre	Omlét - Prince of Hen-mark (Living Spit)	7.30pm	CE
Friday 13	Tribute	A Head Full Of Coldplay	7.30pm	CE
Saturday 14	Folk	Ninebarrow	7.30pm	HT
Sunday 15	Fundraiser	A Dorset Autumn Afternoon	1pm	CE
Friday 20 and Saturday 21	Amateur theatre	An Enemy Of The People (Dorchester Drama)	7.30pm	CE
Saturday 21	Music	Focus	7.30pm	HT
Sunday 22	Comedy	Dorchester Comedy Club	7.30pm	HT
Friday 27	Folk	The Captain's Beard plus support	7.30pm	CE
Saturday 28	Tribute	The Total Stone Roses	8pm	CE

December

Sunday 6	Life drawing	Alive & Drawing Christmas Special	2pm	TH
Friday 11	Music	Guided By The Stars (Grace Lovell)	7.30pm	CE
Saturday 12	Comedy	An Evening of Eric and Ern	7.30pm	HT
Tuesday 15	Entertainment	It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Quizmas! (Living Spit)	7.30pm	CE
Wednesday 16	Music	A Dickensian Noel (Bournemouth Sinfonietta Choir)	7.30pm	CE
Friday 18	Theatre	A Christmas Carol According to Jacob Marley (deceased) (Brother Wolf)	7.30pm	CE

CE=Corn Exchange DT1 1HF HT=Hardye Theatre DT1 2ET TH=Town Hall DT1 1HF