



May 2024

Our monthly highlights



Bank Holiday at the Boat Show

The 2024 Crick Boat Show, set to grace the picturesque Crick Marina near Daventry, across the late May Bank Holiday Weekend from the 25 to 27 May, promises to be an unforgettable experience for families and waterway enthusiasts alike. Organized by Waterways World in collaboration with the Canal & River Trust and Crick Waterside & Marina, this annual extravaganza anticipates welcoming over 26,000 visitors. Kicking off with an exclusive Trade & Preview Day on Friday 24 May, sponsored by Haven Knox-Johnston and

exclusively for advance ticket holders, the event sets the stage for a weekend of exploration and enjoyment.

From indulging in the vibrant marketplace featuring over 200 exhibitors to reveling in the myriad activities on offer, including free boat trips, live music, children's entertainment, and a tantalizing array of food and drink stalls, the Crick Boat Show promises an unparalleled day out. Families can relish in the free entry for children aged 16 and under on Saturday 25, Sunday 26, and Monday 27 May, ensuring an accessible and inclusive experience for all attendees. With something for everyone, this year's show guarantees to be an immersive celebration of the UK's inland waterways.

The event offers a plethora of experiences to engage visitors. From taking leisurely boat trips along the Grand Union Canal to immersing oneself in live music performances sponsored by Aquavista, the show's lineup is brimming with excitement. Young Elton will headline on the Saturday evening (25 May), and Fleetwood Mac will headline on the Sunday night (26 May). Evening entertainment, which is included in the price of the same day ticket to the show, runs from 7.30pm to 11.30pm.

Attendees can also savor the delights of the Real Ale & Cider Festival, explore luxury boats featuring the latest innovations, and delve into the rich history of canal life with historic boat displays. With opportunities for retail therapy, educational talks by the Canal & River Trust, boat handling lessons, expert advice sessions, and even a chance to vote for favorite boats, the Crick Boat Show promises an unforgettable weekend of discovery and enjoyment.

For more information and to book tickets, camping pitches and moorings, visit www.crickboatshow.com or call 01283 742970, Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm.

[Find out more](#)



Foden's Band in Concert @ Stowe School

A wonderful evening is sure to be had within the beautiful surroundings of Stowe School on 18 May @ 7pm. In 2016 Towcester Studio Band (TSB) and Brackley & District Band joined forces in a charity concert at Stowe to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund. TSB were scheduled to return in 2020 but sadly Covid had other ideas. The guest soloist that year was due to be Jonny Bates, Solo Horn with Foden's Band, so it is fitting that the final concert in the 'HaBiT' project will be in the wonderful Roxburgh Theatre, Stowe School.

During the afternoon tutors from Foden's Band will conduct workshops for youngsters from Stowe, Sponne and other local schools. The evening concert will feature TSB prior to Foden's Band demonstrating why they are the world's number 1 Brass Band. Part of TSB's set will feature Gary Curtin (Principal Euphonium) as a guest soloist. Gary needs no introductions and all at TSB are very excited about the opportunity to accompany one of the world's finest Euphonium players.

The all-important site to secure your concert tickets - [Buy tickets for the Concert at Stowe School here](#)

TSB2 (The Monday Club) meets every week and is an informal group who get together for a relaxed couple of hours playing. TSB's music library is vast and consequently 'band bingo' can unearth some very interesting music choices! The Monday Club starts at 7.45pm in TSB's Bransons Lane Bandroom and a very warm welcome is assured. For any players considering a return to 'Banding' the Monday Club is perfect environment to 'blow away' the cobwebs! For further details please contact them via towcesterstudioband@gmail.com

Venue: Roxburgh Hall, Stowe School, MK18 5EH @7pm May 18.

[Find out more](#)

May's event listings

Running now until 2 June

Art In The Park - Abington Park

The 62nd Art in Park exhibition will be taking place at Abington Park Museum from 27 April 2024 to 2 June 2024. The annual open art exhibition is open to all artists, both amateur and professional, in the county of Northamptonshire. To take part you will need to upload a photograph of your artwork, agree with the terms and conditions, and complete this form.

[Before completing this application](#) you will need to have the following ready:

A digital photograph of your entry to upload
Dimensions of the artwork to be submitted

[Find out more](#)

Saturday 25 & 26 May

Rural Life at Lamport Hall

Lampport Hall are thrilled to announce the return of their much-loved event, now re-branded as Rural Life at Lampport Hall for the second year running! Get ready to embark on a journey through the ages of rural life, from traditional practices to the modern farming world we live in today.

This will be an action-packed 2 days, filled with live demonstrations in the main arena. Witness the spectacle of Dancing Sheep, marvel at the artistry of Falconry, admire the power of Vintage Steam Engines and Tractors, and cheer on the participants in the Dog Scurry. And that's just the beginning!

Lampport Hall are particularly excited to present our headlining act: Atkinson Action Horses. Led by the talented Ben Atkinson and his team of stunt/trickriders, actors, writers, and combat performers, they promise to dazzle audiences with their high-energy, breath-taking stunt shows. Catch two performances each day in the main arena – you won't want to miss it!

Ticket Information:

Adult (16+): £18

Child (5-16 years): £6.50

Infant (Under 5's): FREE

Family Ticket (2 Adults & up to 3 Children): £50.00

Remember, tickets can be pre-booked or purchased on the day of the event.

Please note that Lampport Hall house and gardens will be closed during this weekend. [Buy tickets here](#).

Mark your calendars and join in with an unforgettable day celebrating Rural Life at Lampport Hall!

Venue - Lampport Hall, Lampport, Northampton, NN6 9HD

[Find out more](#)

Wednesday 1 - 31 May

Yardley Arts has a busy month ahead with lots of courses and workshops at the Old School Hall run by local artists and tutors. They include Watercolours, Silk Painting, Leaded Stained Glass, Drawing and Ceramics.

At the end of the month they will be holding their "Capturing Nature" exhibition. On the Sunday you will be able to combine this with the popular Yardley Hastings Open Gardens event.

More information at YardleyArts.org.

Find out more

May @ Forge Coffee

In addition to the Forge Coffee commitment to offer exceptional coffee and delectable treats, they go beyond the traditional cafe experience to offer a vibrant cultural hub in the heart of two Northamptonshire villages. With two welcoming locations in Culworth and Evenley, you are invited to immerse yourself in a world where coffee meets art, music, and community.

Forge Coffee proudly host a variety of art and cultural events on a monthly basis, curated to inspire, engage, and connect. From art exhibitions, comedy club to pizza nights, there's always something new and exciting happening at Forge. Visit their [Culworth](#) & [Evenley](#) location websites for more information on what's going on and where.

[Forge Coffee @ Culworth](#)

Artist- Barry Turland

Pop Up- Just Luv It (Gifts that are handmade and earth friendly)

Santina's Pizza Nights 3rd & 31st

Comedy Club 30th

Keep checking the website for the monthly quiz

[Forge Coffe @ Evenley](#)

Artist- Kim McMahon

Pop Up- Green Weaver Bird (gifts that are handmade with macrame)

Quiz Night 18th

Art Exhibition open evening 2nd (for Kim)

Find out more

Northampton Film Festival

Are you a Northants artist or creative? Northampton Film Festival needs you – they are running a consultation with those working, or aspiring to work, in the Creative Industries in Northants. NFF says “We believe our creative sector is really strong in Northants but not reaching its full potential, and we’d like to see if there is synergy about what could be done – and if there is, we’d love to start doing something about it!”

[Please take a few moments to complete this very short consultation](#) and share with your networks

If you need the survey in another format, or would like to discuss in more detail, please contact info@northamptonfilmfestival.co.uk

[Find the information on how to attend free creative networking events where consultation work will be taking place](#)

Find out more

Looking ahead - June

Saturday 8 & 9 June

Delapre Abbey - Food Festival

Get ready for a culinary extravaganza at Delapré Abbey on June 8th and 9th! The inaugural Delapré Food Festival, brought to you by the organizers of Towcester Food Festival and Bite Street NN, promises a feast for the senses amidst the historic backdrop of the abbey's grounds. With bustling food stalls, chef demos, and tasting sessions, this event will showcase the best of artisan food and drink.

Local culinary stars like Bart Polinski of Hibiscus and Tom Warner of Warner's Gin will take the stage, offering free tastings and masterclasses. Cheese aficionados and cocktail lovers won't be disappointed either, with expert-led sessions and mixology magic on offer. The festival is a testament to its commitment to supporting local businesses, echoing exhibitor Gary Bradshaw's praise for its impact on the community.

[Please visit their webpages for more information.](#) The organisers are also asking for volunteers to help with the festival. In return, they get free tickets and a food voucher. Contact details are on the website.

Designed as a fun day out for all, the festival will also feature children's activities and guided tours of the abbey house. Tickets are available now, with options for Early Bird discounts and family packages. For a touch of elegance, book an afternoon tea in The Orangery. Whether you're a foodie, a family, or a history enthusiast, don't miss out on this unforgettable event – secure your [tickets here](#) today!

Venue: London Rd, Northampton NN4 8AW

[Find out more](#)

Saturday 8 June

Northampton Carnival 2024 - Racecourse Park

Plans are underway for Northampton Carnival 2024. The theme this year “A Festival for All Cultures” has been chosen to give hope and the opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate!

[If you would like to get involved in this free multicultural community event then visit the website](#) or email northamptoncarnival@yahoo.co.uk

Venue - Racecourse Park, Northampton, NN1 4LG

Start Time: 12pm until 7.30pm

[Find out more](#)

Sunday 16 June

A Perfect Day Festival announces further act

[A Perfect Day Festival](#) has revealed further acts that will be appearing in support of headliner James Arthur at Delapré Park, Northampton this June. The festival is an opportunity to showcase the wealth of musical talent in the region. This is reflected in the announcement of performances by a number of Northampton-based acts including singer/songwriters: Billy Lockett, Andy Crofts, Charlotte Carpenter and indie-rock band Balter. Further special guests to be announced.

Buy tickets here: [Tickets - A Perfect Day \(aperfectdayfestival.com\)](https://aperfectdayfestival.com)

About a Perfect Day

‘A Perfect Day’ is a new single day outdoor live music event presented by West Northamptonshire Council in partnership with Kilimanjaro & UK Live Ltd. Taking place at one of the most beautiful public gardens in Northampton known as the historic Delapré Park. Bring your picnic blanket and family and get ready to enjoy the ultimate day out with music, great facilities and fine food and drink! Further information about the event and artists can be found on their webpages

[A Perfect Day Festival](#)

[James Arthur](#)

[Mae Stephens](#)

[Billy Lockett](#)

[Andy Crofts](#)

[Charlotte Carpenter](#)

[Balter](#)

[Find out more](#)

Friday 21 to 23 June

Towcester prepares for it's 22nd Annual Midsummer Music Festival
Final preparations are underway for the 22nd annual Towcester Midsummer Music Festival which will take place in the heart of Towcester over the weekend of 21st - 23rd June 2024.

The music festival is a community event, providing a platform for the musical talents of local primary and secondary schools, performing arts school, community choirs and orchestras, music students, brass bands, local artistes and more, including the regular headline act, the very popular Lincoln Noel Jazz Trio.

The main event is organised jointly by the Rotary Club of Towcester, Towcester & District Lions Club and Towcester Town Council and supports the Town Mayor's charities, which this year will be Macmillan Cancer Support, South Northants Youth Engagement and Dogs for Good. Over the years, town centre pubs have joined in the festival atmosphere by putting on their own entertainment.

Regular festival-goers will pay tribute to former Town Mayor, Geoffrey Iley, founder of the music festival, who sadly passed away in March at the age of 95. His daughter, Paula, said "Geoffrey became Mayor of Towcester in 2003 and with his beloved wife Lois, devised many local events for charity. Inspired after visits to Figanières, a village in the south of France that hosts a music festival, Geoffrey started Towcester Midsummer Music Festival. This has continued and is now an important part of the town's cultural life."

The event is funded entirely through local sponsorship. "We believe in the power of community collaboration, and that's why we appreciate the incredible sponsors who make our event a reality. Our sponsors' unwavering support has fuelled our vision and allowed us to showcase the musical talent we have among us." said Rotarian David Reed, Festival Chair, "We are always looking

for sponsors to help us continue to achieve our aims to create an unforgettable experience for everyone. Sponsorship covers the costs of artistes, insurance, licences, venue hire, fireworks, health & safety, first aid, programmes and marketing. Without our generous sponsors, the festival could not go ahead. Additionally, we are grateful to the volunteers who help with organisation and stewarding." he added.

The website will be regularly updated with all the latest information and the full community programme as well as pub acts. Tickets for the community events will go on sale on 1st June, starting from £2 per person, via the website. Tickets may be sold on the door, subject to availability. Pub entertainment is generally free of charge or may charge a small charitable door entry fee. You can also follow the festival's social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and X @towcestermusic

If you would like to sponsor the event or get involved as a volunteer, please contact the organisers via the website.

www.towcestermidsummermusic.co.uk

[Find out more](#)

June @ Forge Coffee

For more details about the monthly events happening at Forge Coffee, visit their website's event pages.

[Forge Coffee @ Culworth](#)

Artist- Ginny Staniford (mixed media art made with recycled materials)

Pop Up- Deer and Bird (handmade dolls and vintage homeware)

Santina's Pizza Nights 4th/14th/25th

[Forge Coffee @ Evenley](#)

Artist- Church Lane Gallery

Pop Up- Church Lane Gallery (A collective of local artists with a range of different art forms)

Quiz night

[Find out more](#)

PLEASE NOTE: the information in these listings is current at the time of issue. Please check with the organisations before attending events

Find out more

Useful websites for events and places to visit:

- [Northamptonshire Britain's Best Surprise](#)
 - [Discover Northampton](#)
 - [Explore West Northamptonshire app](#)
 - [Discover Northamptonshire](#)
 - [Arts and culture links](#)
 - [WNC Libraries & Events](#)
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Funding and advice

Useful links for arts and culture funding bodies

The following websites offer a range of information about the funding support available to local groups and organisations:

- [South Northants Volunteer Bureau](#)
 - [Northamptonshire Community Foundation](#)
 - [Arts Council England](#)
 - [The Performing Rights Society Foundation](#)
 - [Creative Lives](#)
 - [The Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance](#)
 - [Campaign for the Arts](#)
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West Northamptonshire Council

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