

National Trust Great Barn Festival 2018 – A family friendly celebration when the Great Barn becomes a most unusual little theatre. Proceeds will support the National Trust locally but especially at The Great Barn.

Saturday 26th May

Mad Hatter's Tea Party 11am – 12.45pm £15 (repeat performance Sunday 27th 11am – 12.45pm)

Join Alice and the Mad Hatter for a spot of interactive theatre from Little Chico Productions, games, quizzes and a hunt for the White Rabbit where everything stops for tea. Suitable for children age 5+. Children can be left for the duration of the performance supported by fully trained child care staff. This event must be booked in advance and is fully catered with a sumptuous party brunch. Special diets can be catered to upon request. Tea Party guests will receive a small gift to take home.

Circus Skills Workshops 11-11.50am and 12noon – 12.50pm £6 per session

A fun, family friendly activity aimed at age 4 to 100. Learn to traditional circus tricks under the guidance of skilled performers from Splats Productions. Juggling, Diablo, Poi, plate spinning, flower sticks, feather balance and stilt walking.

Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare in a Suitcase 1.30pm – 2.30pm £6

A band of travelling actors bring one of Shakespeare's best loved comedies to life in an innovative modern English production aimed at introducing a younger audience to the inventiveness of the Bard. This accessible adaptation is full of physical comedy and opportunities for audience interaction. A great show for all the family. (Don't delay – tickets selling fast!)

African Drumming Workshop 2.30 – 3.30pm £6

Of universal appeal to all from drumming novices to accomplished musicians, African drumming is a great introduction to playing foot stomping rhythms and infectious grooves. Family friendly although best suited to children aged 4 and above. Your traditional drum will be provided.

MacBeth, Shakespeare in a Suitcase 3.30 – 4.30pm £6

Suitable for age 8 and upwards this abridged version of MacBeth features witches, warriors and ghosts, broadsword battles and just a little bit of gore. Guaranteed to thrill a younger audience in an exciting exploration of one of Shakespeare's darkest works. Expect MacDuff's narration to allow the poetry to fly and just a little bit of audience participation – Hubble Bubble!

6PLUS1 – Jazz Comedy 8pm – 10.30pm £10

By happy coincidence we were looking for a great musical act to round off our Saturday bill and Stonevale were looking for a larger venue to host the 7 man band that are 6PLUS1. Expect the virtuosity you have come to expect of the Stonevale Concerts but with a little more volume, a lot more laughs and a great big beat. After a sell out season at the Edinburgh Festival and Pershore Jazz Festival 6PLUS1 received fabulous reviews from Radio 2s Paul Young and are building quite the following. There are not many jazz names these talented musicians have not worked alongside and their performance history is diverse, appearing with Liza Minelli, Jerry Lewis, Rizzle Kicks and Mumford and Sons to name a few. Band leader Simon Currie currently tours with The Manfreds.

Throughout Saturday we will also have a number of free events to enjoy, Rob and Joe will be demonstrating their woodworking skills in the Hay Loft as part of Art Weeks and we will have rock painting and mask making for the children. Wantage silver band will also be making an appearance and some very high energy Morris Men. There will be live music for all to enjoy if you pop along after 5pm for some lovely freshly made food from the Wandering Feast or perhaps a cocktail before our ticketed concert starts at 8pm.

Sunday 27th May

We open again at 11am with Alice and the Mad Hatter and another fabulous tea party brunch for the kids. Remember you can leave then safely with our trained staff and wander through the village galleries or enjoy a coffee and cake in the Reading Rooms.

Michael Loader – Spontaneous Storytelling 1pm – 1.50pm £4

Michael is Storyteller in residence at Bristol St Georges Concert Hall in Bristol and has performed with the BBC, Natural England and The Old Vic. Inspired by our beautiful landscape and historic surroundings or just the things you find in your pocket he will tell you a tale never before told – perhaps even using your own words.

Paul Duncan McGarrity – Candy Floss Comedy Club – 2pm – 2.50pm £4

Paul is a regular on the Comedy Scene and features on the Comedy4Kids Circuit. He is also a professional archaeologist and while entertaining the kids with not always entirely wholesome tales of the way we were he might get a little education in there too. Great for little kids from 6 years plus and big kids alike. Free Candyfloss for ticket holders.

Rattlebox Theatre Present Sword Age, Axe Age Viking Tales 3pm – 3.50pm £4

A one man storytelling performance, tales of blood curdling battles, Norse gods and giants. Sagas older than the barn itself brought to life by Dave Oliver. (In line with the local schools KS2 curriculum this term).

Ask An Archaeologist – Paul Duncan McGarrity 5pm – 6pm £5

Back for his more grown up (age 14+) performance Paul invites the audience to Ask and Archaeologist. Challenge him on history, life on a dig or anything else you care to enquire upon. Less stand up and more sit down comedy, Pauls relaxed and conversational show was a triumph at last years Edinburgh Festival and as the audience gently become part of the entertainment it remains fresh every time.

Twelfth Night – Sun and Moon Theatre – 7pm – 9pm £14

Enriched with passion, wit and live music, this is a vibrant and intimate production of *Twelfth Night (or What You Will)*. Enjoy this festive take on Shakespeare's most delightful and thought-provoking comedy. If the weather and the grass are dry we will enjoy an alfresco performance as the sun sets or seated in the Great Barn if the weather is less fine.

This production has garnered fabulous reviews from all quarters with Shakespeare Magazine calling it "a life affirming performance" so good they saw it twice. The quality and compassion of the cast have been held as RSC standard.

We expect tickets to sell very quickly for this production so please do not delay. Once again we will have a lovely vintage bar, wonderful fresh street food to picnic on and perhaps even an ice cream along the way. All open from 5pm.

Additional to these ticketed performances there will be a number of free craft activities for children and music, dancing and theatrics for all throughout both days. We will also be running a photography course and a number of art workshops focussing on working in coloured pencils, classes are divided into youth and adult categories. Tickets for these workshops will be released shortly.

As part of the village community we would like to offer tickets to you directly without the booking fees incurred on the online booking facility. If you would like to take advantage of this offer please call Ainslie on 01367 241370 or drop a note with your details and the performances you would like tickets for through the door at Danes Cottage and we will get back to you. There may be a couple of times in the festival where we can offer you performance space if you would like to be part of this event we know there is a great deal of talent out there. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.