

2017



# Stevenage Festival of the Arts



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**Stevenage  
Arts Guild**

## Stevenage at its best!

# Stevenage Festival 2017

WELCOME



The Stevenage Festival is, you guessed it.... a festival.... in Stevenage. It's actually rather more than a one day festival... it's a series of events throughout the month of June, involving hundreds of local people, all with the aim of promoting awareness and appreciation of the work of local amateur arts societies in the Stevenage area.

If your taste is for fine art, photography, poetry, theatre, music... it's all here. Just have a look through this programme - there's enough variety that we're sure you'll find something you like.

So get involved. You can just come along to the events, or join in with some of the societies, or if no one else is organising what you want to do .... organise your own, under the Festival umbrella.

## Thank you...

Stevenage Festival is organised by a small team of volunteers and is supported by Stevenage Arts Guild, the Gordon Craig Theatre, Hertfordshire County Council Music Service and, of course, the people of Stevenage.

## Where to get tickets...

For events taking place at the Gordon Craig Theatre contact the box office on 01438 363200 or via [www.gordon-craig.co.uk](http://www.gordon-craig.co.uk).

For fringe events please see the details in each listing, e-mail [info@stevenage-festival.co.uk](mailto:info@stevenage-festival.co.uk) or call Hilary Spiers on 01438 350217.

## The Festival is grateful to the following patrons for their support:

The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire  
The Lord Cobbold  
Professor Howard Burrell  
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Marie Joy Taylor  
Ellen Terry May Craig  
Richard Henry

Stevenage Festival has gathered the information in this brochure in good faith. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy at the time of publishing but there may be amendments, changes or rescheduling for reasons beyond our control.

For further details visit: [www.stevenage-festival.co.uk](http://www.stevenage-festival.co.uk)



Welcome to Stevenage Festival 2017!

The purpose of the Festival, which started in 1994, is to provide a showcase for all the exciting talent that we have right here on our doorsteps in Stevenage. It takes place every two years and involves something like 2000 local performers and artists of all descriptions.

We have a series of performances in our very own Gordon Craig Theatre and we also have a vibrant fringe of smaller events taking place around the town. Whether you are into photography or theatre, dance, books or classical music, there's something on for you.

Lots of our performances feature young people taking their first steps in an activity that they love - please come along and support them. Who knows, some of them may go on to great things - and you saw them here first.

I would like to thank all the people who make this Festival possible - all the local groups and individuals who work so hard to put on performances and events; our patrons for their support; Stevenage Arts Guild, which keeps the arts on the agenda all year round; Hertfordshire Music Service; local councillors who have squeezed funds for us out of their locality budgets; the staff at the Gordon Craig Theatre and my committee of volunteers who work tirelessly to make the whole thing happen.

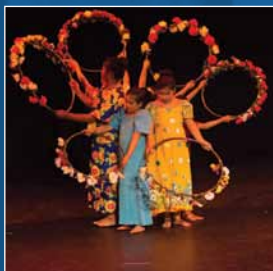
So stop moaning that nothing interesting ever happens around here and get out and support a sizzling summer of art and music in Stevenage.

Ron Walker

Chairman, Stevenage Festival

# Stevenage Festival

## MAIN EVENTS



Stevenage Festival provides a showcase for the wealth of local artistic and performing talent to be found within the Stevenage area.

The heart of the Festival is a series of performances in June at the Gordon Craig Theatre, enabling local people, particularly our talented youngsters, to realise a dream by performing on stage in their community's own theatre.

The Gordon Craig programme of events is listed here in the **MAIN EVENTS** section, but there is also a vibrant Festival fringe of community arts events around Stevenage (see pages 8-12).

## Stevenage Primary Schools In Concert

Wed 14 June  
7:00pm  
Concert Hall

Our youngest participants from primary schools across the Stevenage area take to the stage to share their musical talent.

Stevenage Festival is always pleased to give this opportunity to young people to enjoy the experience of performing on a big stage, supporting their first steps in musical performance.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

To book tickets for events at the Gordon Craig Theatre

## Rock Choir presents: The Choir That Rocks

Fri 16 June  
7:45pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

Enjoy an uplifting and exhilarating performance by the UK's favourite contemporary choir. Over 100 local members led by Choir Leader Pippa Gearing will be performing a selection of fun, upbeat, feel-good songs from the Rock Choir repertoire. The evening will be hosted by actor Chris Clarkson and will feature a guest performance from sensational vocalist Lizzie Deane. The entire show will be accompanied by a live on-stage band.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

## Stevenage Choral Society and Stevenage Symphony Orchestra present: Mozart Requiem

Sat 17 June  
7:45pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

Stevenage Choral Society and Stevenage Symphony Orchestra are excited to be performing Süssmayr's adaptation of the Mozart Requiem for the 2017 Festival. Intriguing and mysterious, this famous piece provides a fascinating and emotionally stirring auditory experience. We hope you'll come and enjoy this truly moving performance.

Stevenage Symphony Orchestra will also be performing orchestral melodies from the world of opera and ballet including the Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana, music from Puccini and the Scene and Waltz from Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

## Stevenage Dance Schools present: Let's Dance

Sun 18 June  
7:00pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

'Let's Dance' presents another spectacular evening of dance and performing arts from the amazing talent of Stevenage and the surrounding area.

Performers of all ages come together to bring you a wonderful night of variety, ranging from classical ballet and feel-good jazz, to daring gymnastics and breathtaking aerial and circus skills! This promises to be a night not to be missed.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

Visit [www.gordon-craig.co.uk](http://www.gordon-craig.co.uk) or call 01438 363200



## Stevenage Secondary Schools present: Look Who's Got Talent!

Mon 19 June  
7:00pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

Stevenage Secondary Schools come together to present an evening of music, dance and theatre.

You'll be amazed and inspired by the talent shown by these young people.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

## Stevenage Dance Schools Dance Extravaganza

Tues 20 June  
7:00pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

Our Dance Extravaganza performance brings together pupils of all ages from Stevenage dance schools for an exciting and colourful evening featuring all styles and forms of dance.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

## Stevenage Music Centre and Herts Music Service presents: The Big, Big, Big Band Sound

Wed 21 June  
7:00pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

### HMS Jamboree!

Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) Wind Bands from Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage join forces for an unforgettable evening of film music and other popular tunes.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

To book tickets for events at the Gordon Craig Theatre

## Knebworth Players present: Are You being Served? By Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft

Thurs 22 & Fri 23 June  
7:45pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

To the delight of double entendre fans everywhere, Knebworth Players are delighted to be performing the stage version of this popular British seventies television comedy.



Directed by Wayne Jarvis

By special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd



Tickets: £9, No concessions

## Parnassus Poetry presents: Shh! Not a word

Fri 23 June  
8:00pm  
Ellen Terry Suite

Parnassus Poetry presents: Not a word – Not a word about politics, not a word about love, nothing controversial in fact none of the above!

Having participated in every single Stevenage Arts Festival since its inception Parnassus Performance will once again present an evening of poetry and music featuring Wordsworth's out-takes and other tales. Bar available.



Tickets: £5, No Concessions

## Stevenage Festival presents: A Variety Finale Night

Sat 24 June  
7:45pm  
Gordon Craig Theatre

To conclude the 2017 Stevenage Festival we present a variety concert showcasing a range of local talent. Choirs, dancers and musicians come together, with a few surprises, to celebrate the artistic and cultural life of our town.



Tickets: £9, No Concessions

Visit [www.gordon-craig.co.uk](http://www.gordon-craig.co.uk) or call 01438 363200

# The Stevenage Fringe



As well as our performances at the Gordon Craig Theatre, we are including within the Festival many other arts and culture events being held around Stevenage this Summer. Stevenage has a vibrant arts community which creates and organises interesting and entertaining events all year round.

Many of our local arts groups are supported by Stevenage Arts Guild which also manages our Community Arts Centre at Roaring Meg - a purpose-built facility to provide rehearsal, performance and event space for local amateur groups (see [www.stevenageartsguild.org.uk](http://www.stevenageartsguild.org.uk)).



## Art with a Heart: Stevenage Community Art Exhibition

Thurs 1 June -  
Sat 22 July  
Gordon Craig Pi Gallery

Stevenage is home to a wealth of artistic talent. This exhibition brings together stunning photography from the Stevenage Photographic Society and Underwater Photographic Society, art from the Stevenage Arts Society and other local artists, including young artist James Starkey, plus beautiful arrangements from the Stevenage Floral Art Society. All in all a visual treat well worth a visit when you are in the Town Centre.

Please note that you should be able to visit the exhibition during the opening hours of Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre. However for operational reasons access may sometimes be restricted and we recommend calling the centre on 01438 363200 to check if making a special journey.



Entry: Free

For further fringe details visit: [www.stevenage-festival.co.uk](http://www.stevenage-festival.co.uk)



## Hertfordshire Music Service presents: Family Music Workshops

Sun 28 May & Sun 4 Jun  
10:30am - 12:30pm  
Community Arts Centre  
Roaring Meg

Come and have fun with ukuleles! Led by Bill Lennon, these workshops let the whole family make music together - instruments provided!

Two chances to take part - 28 May or 4 June - both workshops cover the same material.

**Pre-booking is essential as places are limited.**

**Available from: 01438 844518 or email**

**stevenagemusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk**

(Please note: No unaccompanied children under 11 years old)



**Tickets: Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) £ 10 , (Individual) £ 5**

## Stevenage Ladies Choir and Stevenage Male Voice Choir present: In Concert

Sat 3 June  
7:30pm  
St. Nicholas Church,  
Rectory Lane

These two popular Stevenage choirs have sung together many times since the Ladies Choir was formed by some of the wives of the Male Voice Choir members 57 years ago.

Please come along and enjoy the wide styles of choral music performed and support the choirs' chosen charity - Antenatal Results and Choice - helping parents and healthcare professionals through antenatal screening and its consequences.

**Tickets available from Mary Sabine on 07967402138 or at the door on the evening.**



**Tickets: £8 (£6 for concessions)**

## Stevenage Floral Art Society present: Flowers through the Ages

Thurs 8 June  
7:45pm  
High Street Methodist  
Church, Sish Lane

Lorraine Saunders will be demonstrating "Flowers through the Ages".

Visitors Welcome.

**For further details  
contact Margaret on  
01438 880086**



**Tickets: £6.50 including refreshments and a free flower draw ticket.**

## Stevenage Central Library presents: Angelina Ballerina Workshop

Sat 10 June  
2:00pm  
Stevenage Central Library

Suitable for ages 6 - 8

Come along and meet Helen Craig who is best known for illustrating the Angelina Ballerina series of children's books. Helen's grandfather was Gordon Craig who was born in Stevenage and our Theatre is named in his honour.

**Places are limited and must be pre-booked**

Tickets available online

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraryeventtickets](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraryeventtickets) -

Click on "All Library events".



Tickets: £ 2 per child

## Stevenage and Knebworth Arts Group presents: Great Railway Adventures

Sat 10 June  
10:00am - 4:00pm  
Community Arts Centre,  
Roaring Meg

Join intrepid rail traveller and military historian, Major Paul Whittle on his exciting journeys in Eritrea (The Land of the Gods), Syria/Jordan (Slow Train to Damascus) and Myanmar/Burma (Steam to Mandalay). Three very different destinations combining history, culture, tourism and, of course, steam trains.

For details contact Hilary Spiers by email -

[johnhilary1@virginmedia.com](mailto:johnhilary1@virginmedia.com)

Tickets (must be pre-booked)



Tickets: £20 (including lunch)

## Lytton Youth Thursday Group present: Apocalypse Cow

Fri 16 - Sat 17 June  
7:45pm  
Lytton Theatre,  
Vardon Rd.

A dark comedy about the end of the world written by the cast and Dave Slade.

Tickets available through the  
Lytton Players box office -

phone 01438 357407

or visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/lyttonplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lyttonplayers)



Tickets: £8

## Stevenage Central Library presents: Meet the Author - Sara Barnard

Sat 17 June  
2:00pm  
Stevenage Central Library

Suitable for 13 plus.

Come along and meet Sara, the author of Young Adult titles "A quiet kind of thunder" and "Beautiful broken things"

Sara, who has been shortlisted for the Young Adult Book Prize, will be talking about how she has become a successful author and will be reading extracts from her books.

**Tickets available online**

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraryeventtickets](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraryeventtickets) -

Click on "All Library events".



**Tickets: £ 2 per child**

## Churches Together in Stevenage: Songs of Praise

Sun 18th June  
6:30 pm  
Church of St. Andrew &  
St. George, Cuttys Lane

A Festival favourite for many years, Churches Together in Stevenage are organising this popular evening of well-known, hymns, worship songs and inspiring stories.

All welcome.



**Tickets: Free**

## Stevenage South Flower Club presents: "Come fly with me"

Tues 20 June  
7:00pm  
Community Arts Centre,  
Roaring Meg

Come along and be inspired as to what you can say with flowers. Our expert presenter this evening is Retha Nairobi.

**For more information please call Edna Holt on 01438 227084.**



**Tickets: £ 5 for non-members, Annual membership £15**

## Stevenage Central Library presents: Booster Cushion Theatre performing "Big Goldilocks and the 3 Bears Plus"

Sat 24 June  
2:00pm  
Stevenage Central Library

Everything is in disguise and the story goes into the skies with this comical retelling of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The story is retold through a massive 6ft tall book complete with pop-ups and props coming out of the book!

**Places are limited and must be pre-booked**

Tickets available online

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraryeventtickets](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraryeventtickets) -  
Click on "All Library events".



Entry: £ 5 per Family

## Stevenage Locomotive Society presents: Tallylyn Railway (A railway with a heart of gold)

Thurs 29 June  
7:30pm  
Community Arts Centre  
Roaring Meg

Tallylyn was one of the earliest Railway preservation societies and has links with the Thomas the Tank Engine author. David Mitchell from the preservation society will be talking about the society and, of course, the narrow gauge engines and the railway's history.



**Tickets: Available at the door**

Tickets: £2

## Stevenage and Knebworth Arts Group presents: Hold on tight and pretend it's the plan!

Sat 1 July  
10:00am - 4:00pm  
Community Arts Centre,  
Roaring Meg

The idea was simple: drive south from England until it was impossible to drive any further, then turn around and drive home. Gavin Conybeare will describe some of the many highlights and challenges of his recent solo drive around the African continent, including a look at some of the lesser known wildlife that he encountered there.

40,000 miles, 39 countries and 11 months - best not drink the water.

**For details contact Hilary Spiers by email -**  
[johnhilary1@virginmedia.com](mailto:johnhilary1@virginmedia.com) **Tickets (must be pre-booked)**



Tickets: £20.00 (including lunch)

For further fringe details visit: [www.stevenage-festival.co.uk](http://www.stevenage-festival.co.uk)

Be part of the biggest event in the town's calendar at



LOTTERY FUNDED



# StevenageDAY

supported by

**SPECIALIST CARS**



**ENJOY**

Sunday 11 June 2017  
King George V Playing Fields  
11.30am until 5.30pm

**BE  
PART  
OF IT**

- Speciality stalls with local produce, crafts and games
- Arena displays of live entertainment for the whole family
- Rides and attractions
- A wide variety of food and drink including a licensed bar
- Rock in the Park

## Free on the day

- Hot air balloon rides (subject to weather)
- Junk drumming
- BMX Bike track
- Indoor Laser Quest
- Children's Beach
- Caricatures
- Your personalised photos to take away and upload to social media
- Caged football
- Brazilian drum and dance
- African fire eating drummers

**PARK  
FOR  
FREE**

**Free car parking will be available on the day at:**

The Forum, Southgate, Marshgate and St Georges Way multi storey car park.

#StevenageDay  

[www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day](http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day)

email: [stevenageday@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:stevenageday@stevenage.gov.uk)



**Stevenage**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# ROCK in the PARK

organised by



**ROCK IN THE PARK  
RIDES AGAIN AS PART  
OF STEVENAGE DAY  
2017 WITH BIGGER,  
BETTER STAGES AND  
GREAT LOCAL ACTS.**

Come and spend a lazy June Sunday afternoon sitting on the grass with your friends and family, with a cold drink in your hand, listening to Stevenage bands old and new.

Bring a picnic or buy a burger, enjoy the stalls, kids rides and entertainment that Stevenage Day has to offer and have a great day out.

**SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2017**  
**KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS 11.30AM TO 6PM**



**FREE ADMISSION #StevenageDay #RITP2017**



tel: 01438 242206 [www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day](http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day) Line up correct at time of print



AND MORE

## MAIN STAGE



**THE SKELTON'S • JASMIN DONOVAN  
CLINT HENDERSON & GEORGE POWELL  
AND MORE**

## ACOUSTIC STAGE

Line up correct at time of print

