



STEVENAGE

Festival of the Arts

2025

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Welcome to the 2025 Stevenage Festival!

Welcome to this year's Stevenage Festival – a celebration of creativity in all its forms.

Over the coming weeks, we're thrilled to present a rich and varied programme spanning music, dance, drama, visual arts and more. From dazzling stage productions to hands-on workshops, there's something here to surprise, move and inspire everyone.

Many of our events showcase the emerging talent of young performers taking their first steps under the spotlight – right here in their hometown, in front of a live audience of family, friends and neighbours. Come and cheer them on – you might just be witnessing the stars of tomorrow.

A festival like this doesn't happen without an extraordinary team behind the scenes. Huge thanks to everyone involved – performers, show runners, organisers, audiences and supporters alike. Your energy, creativity and commitment make this celebration possible. Special recognition goes to Stevenage Arts Guild, our dedicated volunteer Festival Committee, Hertfordshire Music Service, the staff at the Gordon Craig, the Junction 7 crew, and the leisure and culture team at Stevenage Borough Council.



So let's come together this month to celebrate the arts, share in the joy of live performance, and connect through creativity. We can't wait to welcome you!

Ron Walker
Chairman, Stevenage Festival

Where to get tickets...

For performances at the Gordon Craig Theatre book online at www.gordon-craig.co.uk or call 01438 363200.

For fringe performances see details in each listing or our website www.stevenage-festival.co.uk

Stevenage Festival

We are a registered charity (No 1084482). We are grateful to the following patrons for their support:

The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Martha Lytton-Cobbold, Rebecca Kelly, Richard Henry, Simon Speller and Vicki Michelle.

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 changes or cancellations for reasons beyond our control. Please check our website or Facebook page for up to date news.

For further details visit: www.stevenage-festival.co.uk

Stevenage Festival

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 10-15).

Hertfordshire Music Service In Concert

Thur 19 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Since 1929 Hertfordshire Music service has been enabling children in the county to find their musical voice. Opening this year's Festival, this spectacular showcase features the County Youth Choir and many other ensembles from around the area.



Tickets: £15, No Concessions

Various local performers presents: Yes We Can!

Fri 20 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

A special event with joy and creativity at its heart, breaking barriers and celebrating the talent of performers of all abilities and those with special needs. This will be a relaxed, supportive performance for both those on stage and the audience.



Tickets: £13.50, No concessions

To book tickets for events at the Gordon Craig Theatre

Première School of Dance presents: Creations

Sat 21 June
8:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Première School of Dance is a leading Stevenage school that has trained generations of dancers from pre-school through to vocational level and teacher training. Today's performance brings us something a little different, giving the students the opportunity to present their own choreography in a range of styles, alongside some classwork showcase pieces from their Musical Theatre and Associate programme students.



Tickets: £15

MAIN EVENTS

Stagecoach Early Stages presents: Pirates and Mermaids

Sun 22 June
11:00am
Gordon Craig Theatre

Come on a thrilling adventure where seven seas simply aren't big enough for both pirates and mermaids. Which side will you be on?

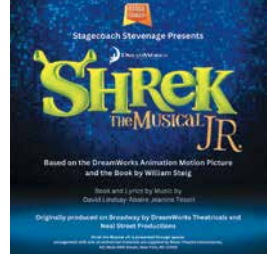


Tickets: £11, Concessions £9.00

Stagecoach Main Stages presents: Shrek the Musical JR

Sun 22 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Join Stagecoach Main Stages as they perform the part romance and part twisted fairy tale, Shrek JR. A fun show with a powerful message for the whole family.



Tickets: £17.50, Concessions £15.50

Visit www.gordon-craig.co.uk or call 01438 363200

Stevenage Secondary Schools In Concert

Mon 23 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Experience the magic of our talented young people in a vibrant and varied show featuring students from Stevenage secondary schools.



£15, No Concessions

Stevenage Dance Schools Dance Extravaganza

Tue 24 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Our Dance Extravaganza performance is an enduring Festival favourite. It brings together pupils of all ages from Stevenage dance schools for an exciting and colourful evening displaying all styles of dance.



Tickets: £15, No Concessions

Stevenage Primary Schools In Concert

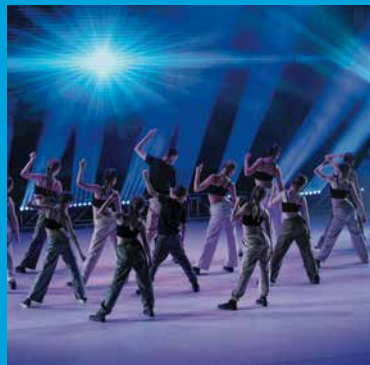
Wed 25 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Join us on a whirlwind voyage through space and time... Featuring To the Stars by Nigel Hess, a massed choir of primary school children from Stevenage will be accompanied by Hertfordshire County Wind Orchestra in a programme of music to get your hearts racing and your feet tapping!



Tickets: £13.50, No Concessions

To book tickets for events at the Gordon Craig Theatre



Stevenage World Forum and J7C presents: Celebrate!!!

Thur 26 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Organised by Stevenage World Forum, this long standing talent showcase brings together the diversity of international culture in Stevenage to promote unity by sharing experience, knowledge and skills – and entertainment!



Tickets: £15, No Concessions

Singspace Musical Theatre Choir presents: Stage and Song

Fri 27 June
7:30pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

The Singspace Musical Theatre Choir presents an evening of inspiring entertainment. Experience powerful vocals, unforgettable melodies, and timeless classics that will transport you to the West End and Broadway. Don't miss this spectacular musical journey, with some singalong fun as well!



Tickets: £15, No Concessions

Visit www.gordon-craig.co.uk or call 01438 363200

Parnassus Poetry presents: Still Barking up the Poet-tree

Fri 27 June
8:00pm
Ellen Terry Suite

Another informal evening of poetry, music and mayhem from Stevenage's longest standing poetry performance group.

May cause offence, but this cannot be guaranteed. Bar will be available.



Tickets: £11, No Concessions

Stevenage Festival presents: Finale Concert

Sat 28 June
7:00pm
Gordon Craig Theatre

Bringing our Festival to a close, we present a variety show featuring the best of our local talent. From energetic dance routines to soulful melodies to stunning instrumentalists playing some original works, this is an evening full of creativity and entertainment!

We are delighted to confirm that our finale will include both brass and jazz bands, gospel, pop and rock choirs, dancers inspired from home and away and some amazing young soloists, all kept in order by Stevenage's own, our inimitable master of ceremonies, Eamonn Walsh.



Tickets: £15, No Concessions



To book tickets for events at the Gordon Craig Theatre

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



StevenageDAY

supported by



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ENJOY

Sunday 8 June 2025
King George V Playing Fields
12pm until 5.30pm

BE
PART
OF IT

- STEM Village – Discover the wonders of science and technology
- Children's LEGO Beach – Build, create, and explore in our STEM-inspired beach area
- STEM Activities & Experiments – Hands-on challenges and interactive exhibits
- Creative STEM Crafts – A fun mix of science and art
- Family Entertainment & More! – Food stalls, live performances, and community fun

- Live Arena Shows – Exciting performances for the whole family
- Thrilling Rides & Attractions – Enjoy funfair excitement for all ages
- Delicious Food & Drink – A variety of tasty treats, including a licensed bar
- Rock in the Park – Live music and great entertainment!

PARK
FOR
FREE

Free bicycle parking available by Stevenage Cycle Hub stand.
Free car parking will be available on the day at:
The Forum, and St Georges Way multi storey car park.



STEVENAGE
Festival of the Arts



Stevenage
BOROUGH COUNCIL

#StevenageDay

www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day

email: stevenageday@stevenage.gov.uk

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.

Stevenage Photographic Society and Stevenage Arts Society presents: Stevenage Community Art Exhibition

June
Pi Gallery, Gordon Craig Theatre

FREE EVENT

If you're in the Town Centre why not come and experience the beauty of art in all its forms at our community exhibition! Featuring stunning photography and breathtaking visual art this event will inspire and delight all who attend. Join us for a celebration of creativity and community!

Please note that the exhibition is accessible during normal Leisure Centre opening hours, but access may occasionally be restricted for operational reasons. Call first on 01438 363200 to check if making a special journey.



Entry: Free

Stevenage Museum presents: Preacher, Punisher and Dredd

5 Apr - 30 Aug
Stevenage Museum

FREE EVENT

An exhibition on the work of British comic book legend Steve Dillon.

Steve Dillon was a British comic book artist from Luton and is best known for his work on comics such as Preacher, 2000 AD, and The Punisher. This exhibition has over fifty hand drawn panels by Steve, dating from 1978 when he was just 16!

Check www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-museum/exhibitions-and-displays for opening times.



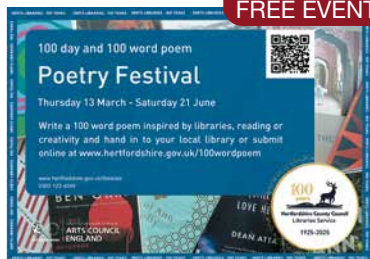
Entry: Free

For further fringe details visit: www.stevenage-festival.co.uk

Hertfordshire Libraries Centenary Poetry Competition

Thur 13 Mar - Sat 21 June
Stevenage Central Library

Send us your 100 word poem for the chance to win fantastic prizes in adult and child categories. Write a 100 word poem inspired by libraries, reading or creativity and hand in to your local library or submit online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/100wordpoem



FREE EVENT

Entry: Free

Hertfordshire Libraries Big Birthday Weekend Baby Rhyme Time

Sat 7 June
11am - 12 noon
Stevenage Central Library

Help us celebrate 100 years of Hertfordshire Libraries. Join for half an hour of songs and rhymes to enjoy with your baby or toddler followed by a craft activity. Collect a special certificate for your child, and help us sing our very own birthday rhyme.

This is a free, drop-in event, no need to book.



FREE EVENT



Entry: Free

Stevenage Day 2025

Sun 8 June
12 noon - evening
King George V Playing Field

At Stevenage Day this year get ready to innovate, explore, and inspire as we celebrate the exciting world of STEM! This popular event will host over 200 stalls with a wide range of entertainment including Rock in the Park, world music performers, childrens' rides and entertainment, games, displays, food stalls and arena events.

For more information go to:
www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day
or email stevenageday@stevenage.gov.uk

Stevenage**DAY**

FREE EVENT

Entry: Free

Stevenage Lytton Players presents: The Importance of Being Earnest

Tue 10 June - Sat 14 June

7.45pm

Stevenage Lytton Theatre,
Vardon Road, SG1 5PZ

Join the Stevenage Lytton Players for a delightful performance of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*! This witty and charming play follows mistaken identities, romantic entanglements, and sharp social satire, all wrapped in Wilde's brilliant humour. Expect laughter, drama, and a touch of the absurd as characters navigate love and deception. Don't miss this timeless masterpiece brought to life by a talented local cast!

Booking via: <https://shorturl.at/lsJcB> or lyttonplayers.co.uk



Tickets: £10 to £14 depending on date and seat

Hertfordshire Libraries presents: Mo O'Hara Graphic Novel Workshop

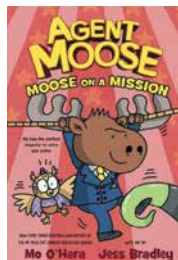
Sat 14 June

2pm – 3pm

Stevenage Central Library

Graphic novels are an exciting and vibrant way to tell a story. In Mo O'Hara's fresh and funny Agent Moose books we meet a secret agent moose, Anonymoose, who is a master of disguise. Mo uses her own graphic novels to demonstrate techniques that you can use to storyboard and create a scene with your own characters. Come ready to write, draw and explore the fantastic and fun world of graphic novels

Suitable for ages 6-12 years.
Scan the QR code to book:



Tickets: £5 per child.

Stevenage Lytton Players and Herts Visual Arts presents: Open Studio and Demonstration Concert

Sun 15 June

12 noon - 6pm Concert at 2pm

Stevenage Lytton Theatre,
Vardon Road, SG1 5PZ

Join us at The Lytton Theatre for an exciting Open Studio in partnership with Herts Visual Arts! Experience a unique concert featuring live art demonstrations alongside theatre performances and musical acts. Browse and purchase stunning artworks created by local talent, enjoy delicious refreshments, and take part in our charity raffle for a chance to win a unique artwork.

Free entry—don't miss this vibrant celebration of creativity and performance!



Entry: Free Donations welcome

For further fringe details visit: www.stevenage-festival.co.uk

Stevenage Flower Club presents: Those Summer Nights

If you've ever thought about flower arranging then why not join us for a meeting of the Stevenage Flower Club on the theme of 'Those Summer Nights'. Watch our demonstrator, David Wright, as he shows us how to construct an inspirational display of seasonal flowers.



Tickets: £7.50 (includes coffee and biscuits)

Stevenage and Knebworth Arts Group presents: Colour in Film

The challenge of capturing colour on celluloid occupied some of the best minds in Hollywood for decades, as each technological leap forward enabled movie makers to show a brighter, richer world. Join writer and teacher Christopher Budd for a talk covering a little bit of movie science and lots of clips of important milestones in the history of colour filming, as well as an exploration of some of its cleverest creative uses.



Tickets: £5 on the door

Parnassus Poetry and Revolution Records present: The Word is Revolution

Ready to laugh, gasp, and maybe question your life choices? Join us for a night of free poetry with teeth – sharp, satirical, and unapologetically political. Expect punchlines that jab at power, rhymes that roast the rich, and yes... you know who gets torched. It's lyrical anarchy with a mic – funny, fearless, and fiercely current. Bring your mates and your rage and your sense of humour.

Fri 20 June
6pm
Revolution Records, Middle Row,
Stevenage Old Town



Tickets: Free

Stevenage Lytton Players presents: CODA - Music from Stage and Screen

Sat 21 June

7.45pm

Stevenage Lytton Theatre,
Vardon Road, SG1 5PZ

Introducing CODA, an award-winning touring company bringing the magic of West End and Broadway to audiences everywhere. Featuring soprano Gemma Ashley and baritone Mark '#ManInTheHat' James, CODA delivers captivating performances of beloved songs from iconic musicals like *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *My Fair Lady*, *Grease*, and more. With breathtaking vocals and dynamic stage presence, CODA takes audiences on a journey through musical theatre's greatest hits.

Booking via: <https://shorturl.at/YRljR> or lyttonplayers.co.uk



Tickets: £10

Hertfordshire Libraries presents: In conversation with Jasper Fforde

Mon 23 June

7pm

Stevenage Central Library

We are delighted to welcome popular author Jasper Fforde, known for his comic fantasy, satire, literary adventure and absurd humour, to Hertfordshire Libraries as he prepares to publish the much-anticipated *Dark Reading Matter* later in 2025. *Dark Reading Matter* will be book eight in the epic *Thursday Next* series, launched with *The Eyre Affair* in 2001.

Tickets available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4vp3we4e>



Tickets: £5

Stevenage and Knebworth Arts Group presents: Unlocking Victory: Allied Code Breaking Success in WWII

Thur 26 June

10.15am - 12.15pm

Community Arts Centre,
Roaring Meg

Join historian Mike Barbakoff for a compelling talk on Allied code-breaking in WWII. Learn how Bletchley Park's efforts helped shorten the war in Europe, and uncover the lesser-known story of breaking Japanese codes. Explore the vital role of the Government Code and Cypher School and its collaboration with American and Commonwealth cryptanalysts in the Far East—revealing the hidden intelligence war that shaped the outcome of WWII.



Tickets: £5 on the door

For further fringe details visit: www.stevenage-festival.co.uk

Stevenage Locomotive Society presents: Railtours and Specials: the last 40 years

Thur 26 June

7.30pm

Community Arts Centre,

Roaring Meg

Join railway expert John Day for a nostalgic journey through 40 years of Railtours and Specials. From rare locos and steam excursions to quirky one-offs, John's talk is packed with remarkable moments—ranging from the UK across Europe. With photos, stories, and insider insight, this is a must for anyone fascinated by trains, history, and the golden age of rail specials.



Tickets: £3 on the door

Stevenage Lytton Players presents: Keeping Cool with Adam Fundraising Gala

Fri 27 June - Sat 28 June

8pm Fri 27th - 2pm Sat 28th

Stevenage Lytton Theatre,

Vardon Road, SG1 5PZ

Join us for Keeping Cool With Adam, a fund raising gala in support of the Lytton Players' air conditioning fund! Enjoy an exciting mix of comedy, musical numbers, interactive games, and plenty of opportunities for crowd participation. Entry is by donation—every contribution helps keep our theatre cool and comfortable for all. Don't miss this fun-filled event for a fantastic cause!



Tickets: Entry by Donation

Stevenage Churches Together presents: Songs of Praise for Stevenage

Sun 29 June

5pm – 6.15pm

St Nicholas Church

Come along and join musicians and worship groups from across Stevenage to sing some favourite hymns and worship songs, from ancient to modern, in the beautiful surroundings of St Nicholas Church. All welcome - just turn up.



Tickets: Free

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SUNDAY 8 JUNE 2025
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS 12PM TO EVENING



FREE ADMISSION #StevenageDay #RITP2025



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tel: 01438 242206

www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day



BLACK CARROT 12PM

COVERING FIRE 3PM

ESCAPE ROUTE 1PM

BLEAK AFFAIR 4PM

WAYWARD SONS 2PM

EMERGENCY BREAK 5PM



THE BAND STAGE

MARK SHEPHERD 12.40PM

IVANMORE 3.40PM

BIG GUB 1.40PM

MAGENTA SLIPPERZ 4.40PM

AMBER LILLY 2.40PM



ACOUSTIC STAGE

Line up correct at time of print



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as Idle Jack

Mark Siney
as Sarah the Cook



Tickets from
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Dick Whittington and his CAT

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