

WHAT'S ON  
February – July 2026

# CLIFTON LIBRARY



Bristol Libraries  
[www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries)



Supported by Friends of Clifton Centre and Library • [www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com)



# Support and enjoy your library

Clifton Library, in the heart of Clifton Village, is a warm welcoming space free for everyone to use. It is the only council owned public building in Clifton and a vital community resource. The Friends of the Library group (FoCCaL) works hard to support the library and welcomes help with events and activities, new members and new ideas. We'd love to hear from you! Contact [hello@foccal.com](mailto:hello@foccal.com) or leave a note in the library.

## Address

Clifton Library, Princess Victoria Street,  
Clifton, Bristol BS8 4BX

Phone: **0117 9038572**

Email: [clifton.library@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:clifton.library@bristol.gov.uk)

[www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries)

## Opening times

MONDAY	10-2pm
TUESDAY	1-5pm
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	1-5pm
FRIDAY	10-2pm
SATURDAY	1-5pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED

## Getting here

**Bus** No 8, 505, 5 & 77

**Bike** There are bike racks in the courtyard and nearby.

## Library facilities

- Books** - you can borrow books for free, order any book, e-book, audiobook, dvd, cd and music from 150 libraries in the South West and pick-up in Clifton with email notification when the item arrives. You can return books from other libraries at Clifton.
- Magazines** are available to read in the library.
- Free wifi** and **computer** use.
- Photocopier** and **scanner** (charges apply).
- Garden refuse sacks** (£2.50 each).
- Accessible toilet** on the ground floor.

## Join the library

Become a library member and you can use any library in Bristol. Join at Clifton library or any other library or online.



## Library online resources

The library has a fantastic range of online resources, which you can use free of charge.

- Search your family history with **Ancestry**, stream classical music with **Naxos**, practise your **Driving Theory Test**, access to business resources and much more. If you're a library member, you can use most of these resources from home.
- There is also a range of online newspapers and magazines. Visit bristol libraries website or ask in the library.



# REGULAR ACTIVITIES and GROUPS

## Library and independent activities

### Rhyme & Storytime **FREE**

**Mondays & Fridays** 10.30 - 11am

Suitable for 0-3 years.

No need to book just turn up.

### Storytime Sessions **FREE**

**Tuesdays** 2.30 - 3pm

Suitable for 1-4 years.

No need to book just turn up.

### Councillors' Surgery **FREE**

**1st Wednesday every month** 5 - 6pm

No need to book - just turn up.

Jerome Thomas & Paula O'Rourke are your councillors for Clifton ward. 'Come and see us if you have an issue you'd like to discuss in person or if you just want to meet us for a chat.'

### Singing led by Kate McNab **£5**

**Saturdays** 11 - 12 noon

Just turn up, no experience necessary.

All ages and abilities welcome. Good for

breathing, good for mental health.

Friendly and fun.

### Yoga Class

**Thursdays** 10am - 11.30pm

A gentle, mindful class. It's about tuning into yourself rather than knotting your knees behind your head. Contact Em Sawday on 07833 751235 if you feel interested and would like to know more.

## FoCCal regular events details page 14

### Tai Chi with Don **FREE** (donations welcomed)

**Tuesdays** 10 - 10.45am

The first block of Tai Chi will finish on

10th February - please

check on noticeboard

and website ([www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com)) for

next sessions.



Tai Chi Qigong  
Shibashi

### Play Bridge **FREE** (donations welcomed)

**Wednesdays**

10.30am - 12.30pm

Drop-in.



### Table Tennis **FREE** (donations welcomed)

**Mondays**

1.30 - 2.30pm

**Wednesdays**

10.30am - 1.30pm

Drop-in.



**NEW SESSION for Improvers** - check website for details [www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com)

### Book Group

**FREE** (donations welcomed)

**Last Tuesday of the month**

10.30 - 12 noon Drop-in.



### Clifton Crafters

**FREE** (donations welcomed)

**Wednesdays**

10.30 - 12.30pm

Drop-in session.



# TALKS AND EVENTS FoCCal Spring programme 2026

Book on [www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com) or on the door if tickets are still available on the night

## FEBRUARY



### Rob Pritchard - Bristol's Slave Trade

**Tuesday 3rd February** Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm £5

Events in Bristol on 7th June 2020 were flashed around the world. For many Bristolians this was not a surprise.

Rob Pritchard (Bristol born and bred) will take us on a journey that began in the seventeenth century and has yet to finish. He will talk about Edward Colston and many Clifton connections not to mention the Merchant Venturers.



### PM Legrand

**Friday 6th February**

Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm £5

PM Legrand takes the sound of vintage blues and country classics and stretches it into a modern, soulful Americana. His relatable originals are made up of simple lyrics that linger, and guitar melodies that could have been plucked from the archives of Kaleo, Creedence, or Shakey Graves. Vintage guitars and harmonicas work together to create covers in his own unique style at an impressive pace.

### My Garden of a 1000 Bees - Martin Dohrn Film with Q&A



**Thursday 12th February**

Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm £5

My Garden of a Thousand Bees follows acclaimed wildlife filmmaker Martin Dohrn, who, locked down by coronavirus, turned his lenses on the surprising and spectacular bees living in his own urban garden in Bristol. Filming with one-of-a-kind lenses he forged at his kitchen table,

he filmed more than 60 different species, from Britain's largest bumblebees to scissor bees the size of a mosquito. Over long months, he observed how differences in behaviour set different species apart. After the film Martin will take questions.

## MARCH



### Jonathan Camp

**Thursday 19th March**

Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

For this event Jonathan will be discussing a local painter Doris Hatt - who trained in Bristol and lived in Clevedon for most of her life. Her 'Bristol from the Docks' is a splendid example of British post-war modernism. It will be good to look at a painting in which Clifton Library is almost in view!



### Helen Taylor - Childless by Choice

**Thursday 26th March** Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

If you missed Helen Taylor at LitFest 2025, you have a second chance to catch this sell out LitFest event. In her new book, Helen Taylor investigates what it means to be childless by choice. Part memoir, part cultural history, it interweaves personal experience with rigorous analysis to challenge our assumptions about family, fulfilment and female identity.

Drawing on a lifetime of experience as a feminist academic who chose not to have children, Taylor examines the joys and complexities of her path less travelled. She traces how attitudes toward childlessness have evolved – and sometimes haven't. With unflinching honesty, she confronts the challenges of aging without children while celebrating the freedom and opportunities her choice has provided.

### David Parker - Encounters with Remarkable Women

**Tuesday 31st March**

Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

Film maker David Parker shares encounters with some astonishing women including: novelist, Elizabeth Jane Howard, artist and food writer, Dorothy Hartley, Exmoor caravan dweller and writer, Hope Bourne, Kindertransport evacuee Lore Prankett, Auschwitz survivor, Esther Bejerano and the incredible pioneer of women on the land, Beatrix Havergal. David has featured all of them in films he has made over the last 30 years and he will share some thoughts about why these women were such remarkable trail blazers in their time.



## APRIL



### The Shrinks - Back by popular demand

**Tuesday 14th April**

Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£10**

We are thrilled to be able to offer an evening with The Shrinks this year. As England's premiere exponents of 'Avonicana' – that unique music that only occurs where the mighty Mississippi meets the muddy Avon. Come along and enjoy the music: *'One of Bristol's best kept musical secrets - as long as there are bands like The Shrinks, the world is a better place.'*



### Tracy Maton - The Artful Anna Harris

**Thursday 16th April**

Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

In her 22 novels, Patricia Highsmith created a whole cast of anti-heroes, the most famous being Tom Ripley. 70 years on, Tracy Maton offers a modern twist on Highsmith's most enduring character. Tracy will discuss her love of the morally ambiguous character and why she decided to write her own. An award-winning children's writer, The Artful Anna Harris is her first thriller for adults.



### Rob Whitfield - The 1926 General Strike in Bristol

**Tuesday 21st April** Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

On 4th May 1926 much of Britain's transport system and industry was brought to a standstill by the General Strike, an attempt by the TUC to support the coal miners in their resistance to wage cuts and an increase in their working hours. The government of the day, which supported the mine owners, was determined to defeat what they labelled 'an organised conspiracy against the state'.

In Bristol the dockers stopped working, very few trains ran in or out of Temple Meads and the electrical power station struggled to keep going. The trams continued to run and the two main local newspapers managed to put out skeleton editions. This talk will focus on the events of 4th to 12th May 1926 in Bristol and attempt to put this story into a wider, national context.

## MAY



### Martin Wells - Sitting in the Stillness

**Tuesday 26th May** Talk 7pm Bar from 6.30pm £5

It is easy to feel powerless when we look at a world that seems full of conflict. How can each of us contribute to a more peaceful planet? Gandhi suggested we be the change we'd like to see in the world. In this talk and discussion we will explore what he meant and how this translates into everyday life.

Martin Wells is a retired NHS consultant psychotherapist who has been teaching mindfulness for over 30 years. He is the author of 3 books including 'Sitting in the Stillness'. There will be a Q&A opportunity after the 50 min talk.



### Laurie Lee and the Slad Valley - A walk with David Parker

**Sunday 31st May** Walk 10am £10

A half day walk ending with an optional pub lunch at the Woolpack in the village.

A three hour and a half hour walk through the landscapes that shaped his writing. Through the magic of modern digital technology, we will be accompanied by the voice of the writer himself and led by David Parker, the film maker who recorded the words of Laurie in the locations we shall pass through. The walk starts and ends in

Slad, the village in which Laurie spent his childhood, and will take in the village pond, Swifts Hill and the magnificent countryside that informed some of the most memorable moments in Cider with Rosie. We finish the walk outside the Woolpack (with an optional lunch).

The walk is relatively challenging with four stiles and a couple of hills to negotiate. It should be no problem for someone used to countryside walking. **Please note:** Walkers should be aware that you undertake the walk at your own risk. Numbers are limited to 25.

**Meet at The Woolpack Inn, Slad Road, Slad, GL6 7QA at 10am** (About one hour from Bristol by car).

## JUNE



### Sue Stops and Kate McNab - Waffling On

**Tuesday 9th June** Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm £5

Join us for a joyous evening of stories (mostly true) about life in Hotwells and Clifton. Sue and Kate are well known locally for their inimitable contributions in so many ways. They have brought fun and laughter to our communities for over 40 years with the Hotwells Panto, Theatre, Singing and the latest Library Variety Shows. **Not to be missed!**

**JULY: Summer Variety Show - dates to be confirmed please check on website!**

**FILM FRIDAYS** - Last Friday of every month

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

All screenings start at 7pm Bar opens at 6.30pm

**I Swear** Rated 15  
Friday 27th February

A funny, eye-opening insight of the life of a legend. It can't be understated what John Davidson has done for the lives of the people with Tourette's syndrome. The film contains very strong language throughout, which is central to John's story.



**Souleymane's Story** Rated 12A  
Friday 27th March

A Paris food delivery cyclist and asylum seeker named Souleymane has two days to prepare his story for a make-or-break interview to secure his legal residency.

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

**£5.00**

# The Seed of the Sacred Fig

Rated 15  
Friday 24th April

An investigating judge struggles with paranoia amid political unrest in Tehran caused by the death of a young woman. When his gun goes missing, he suspects his wife and daughters, imposing harsh measures that fray family ties.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF **MEET THE PARENTS** AND THE WRITER OF **POOR THINGS**  
**OLIVIA COLMAN** **ANDY SAMBERG** **ALLISON JANNEY** **SUNITA MANI** **NOVOTNY GATWA** **JANIE DEMETRIOU** **ZOE CHAO** **KATE AND MCKINNON**

SEARCHLIGHT

# THE ROSES

## ALL'S FAIR WHEN LOVE IS WAR



## The Roses

A tinderbox of competition and resentments underneath the façade of a picture-perfect couple is ignited when the husband's professional dreams come crashing down. Extremely strong language throughout.

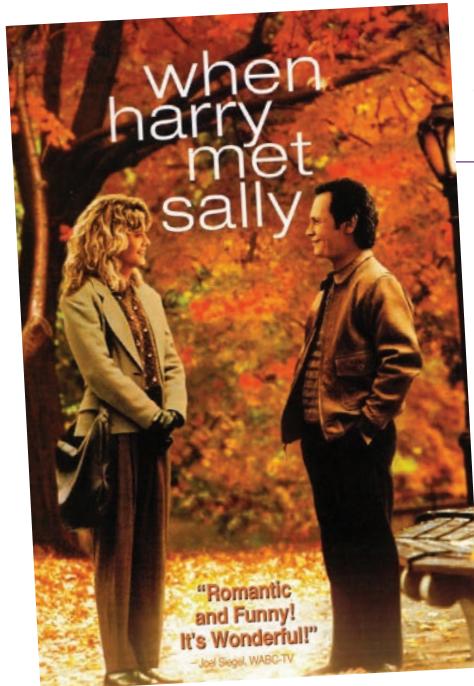
If you have suggestions for films you would like included in our next programme starting in June 2026 please contact us on: [hello@foccal.com](mailto:hello@foccal.com)

Also please check website [www.focal.com](http://www.focal.com) for updates and any last minute changes.

## WEDNESDAY FILM MATINEES Alternate Wednesdays at 2pm

FREE

Thanks to a generous donation we are able to continue showing our fortnightly matinees. There is no charge for these events and there will be free tea and coffee available but you are welcome to contribute.



### When Harry Met Sally

**Wednesday 4th February** Rated 15

Harry and Sally have known each other for years, and are very good friends, but they fear sex would ruin the friendship.

### The Angels' Share

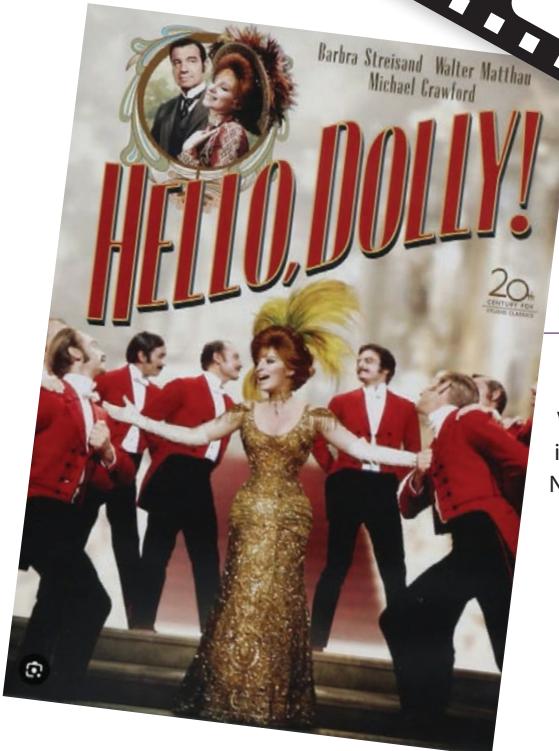
**Wednesday 18th February** Rated 18

The Angels' Share is a 2012 comedy-drama film which tells the story of a young father who narrowly avoids a prison sentence. He is determined to turn over a new leaf and when he and his friends visit a whisky distillery, a route to a new life becomes apparent. The title is from "the angels' share", a term for the portion (share) of a whisky's volume that is lost to evaporation during aging in oak barrels.



FREE FREE

FREE FREE



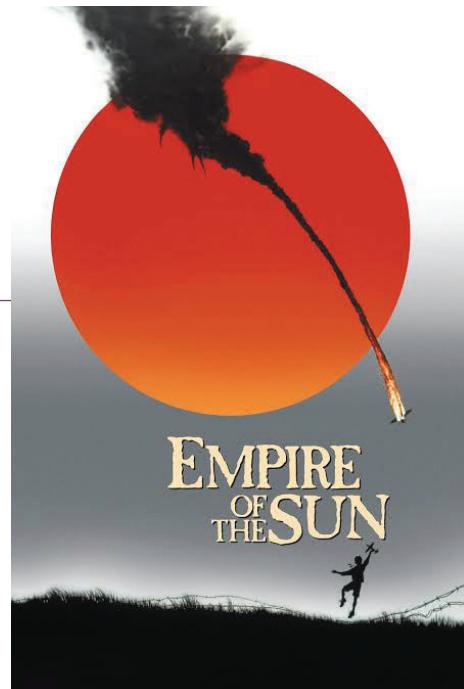
**Empire of the Sun** Rated PG  
Wednesday 16th March

A teenage English boy struggles to survive with his fellow captives under Japanese occupation of China during World War II.

**CINEMA FOR ALL**

**Hello Dolly** Rated U  
Wednesday 4th March

Matchmaker Dolly Levi travels to Yonkers to find a partner for 'half-a-millionaire' Horace Vandergelder, convincing his niece, his niece's intended, and his two clerks to travel to New York City along the way.



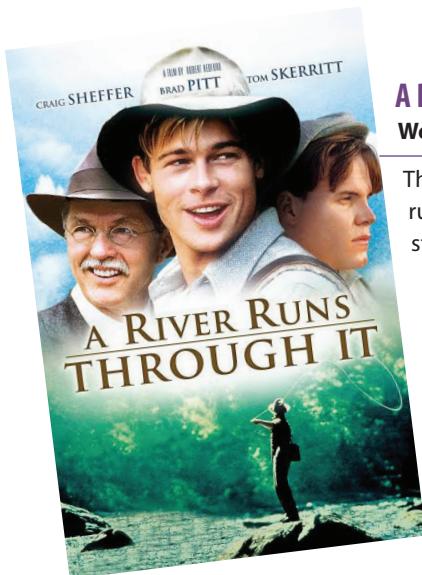


## Man on Wire Rated PG Wednesday 15th April

Man on Wire is an exciting documentary about Philippe Petit who overcame seemingly insurmountable challenges to achieve the artistic crime of the century; a walk on a wire illegally rigged between the twin towers of the World Trade Centre.



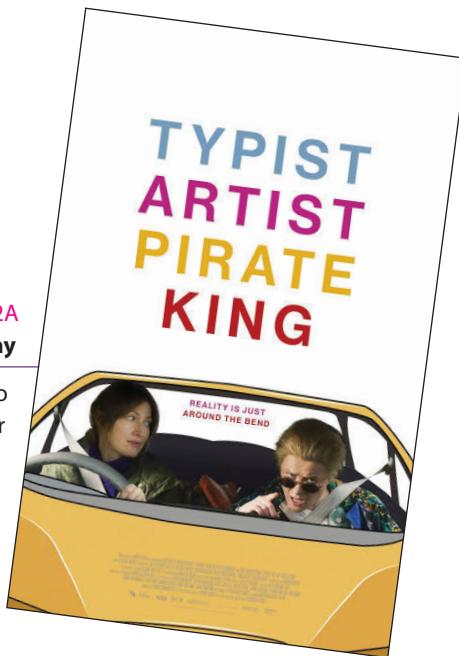
FREE    FREE    FREE    FREE    FREE    FREE    FREE    FREE



## A River Runs Through It Rated PG

**Wednesday 29th April**

The true story about two boys growing up in rural Montana while rebelling against their stern minister father.



## Typist, Artist, Pirate, King Rated 12A

**Wednesday 13th May**

The growing friendship between two women as they hit the road in an electric car looking for endings and reconciliation.



## Mr Burton Rated 12A

**Wednesday 27th May**

Wild schoolboy and son of an alcoholic miner Rich Jenkins is mentored by teacher Philip Burton to transform into Richard Burton – Wales's greatest star.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

### Book Club **Last Tuesday of each month** 10.30 - 12.00pm

**FREE (donations welcomed)**

The Book Club is very popular and currently does not have any spaces available. Please check on the website and noticeboard for updates as this may change.



### Clifton Crafters **Wednesdays** 10.30 - 12.30pm

**FREE (donations welcomed)**

Bring along that 'UFO' (Un-finished Object). We all have craft ideas we have started and now they are lurking in a drawer unloved – dig them out and come and share a morning of Knitting, Crochet, Tapestry, Cross Stitch, Rag Rugs or whatever you would love to resurrect or mend!

No skill needed we will all be at different levels and will encourage each other to try new skills and help with problems - *if we can!*



### Tai Chi Qigong Shibashi with Don

**Tuesdays** 10 - 10.45am **FREE (donations welcomed)**

A friendly, drop in session. Tai Chi Qigong Shibashi for health and well-being, a gentle flowing exercise routine. Deeply relaxing, improves balance, breathing and flexibility, suitable for all ages, and mobility, it can be performed seated.

### Table Tennis

**Mondays** 1.30 - 2.30pm and **Wednesdays** 10.30 - 1.30pm **FREE (donations welcomed)**

A mixed ability, informal table tennis group. Drop in for a game, or come along to learn how to play, or refresh past skills. Table tennis bats available but bring your own if you have one.

**NEW SESSION for Improvers** - check website for details [www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com)

### Play Bridge

**Wednesdays** 10.30am - 12.30pm **FREE (donations welcomed)**

FoCCaL have successfully run a beginner and an intermediate bridge class for the past two years and those two groups will continue on Wednesday mornings at 10.30. We welcome new members who already have a grounding in 5 card major/high no trump bridge to join in too.

# MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR LIBRARY



## Volunteering

The library offers volunteering opportunities to assist the work of paid library staff.

If you are interested please contact libraries.  
[volunteering@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@bristol.gov.uk).

We have several possible roles, but would particularly be interested in anyone wanting to support people with IT skills, start a chess club or a coding club.

**Help with events !  
Get in touch ! Join us !**

**email: [hello@foccal.com](mailto:hello@foccal.com)**  
**[www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com) or leave a note in the library**

Any updates to the programme including changes and additions to the current programme will go onto the website as well as the two noticeboards (outside the library and inside the library).

It is always worth checking: **[www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com)**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Provisional dates for **LitFest 2026** 13th, 14th, 15th November.

## Hire the library

The ground floor space of the library is available to hire when the library is closed. The bookshelves are on wheels and can be easily moved to create a large space. Large screen and AV equipment available.

Meeting room on the 1st floor - light and airy with lift access.

**Contact:** Library staff.



**Libraries are available as normal this year if you need a warm space**

# DIARY OF EVENTS

## BAR FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR ALL EVENING EVENTS

Visit our website for details and booking: [www.foccal.com](http://www.foccal.com) **Booking not required for free events.**

### FEBRUARY 2026

3rd Feb	7pm	Rob Pritchard - Bristol's Slave Trade	£5
4th Feb	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - When Harry Met Sally	FREE
6th Feb	7pm	LIVE MUSIC - PM Legrand	£5
12th Feb	7pm	Film plus Q&A - My Garden of a 1000 Bees	£5
18th Feb	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - The Angels' Share	FREE
27th Feb	7pm	Friday Film - I Swear	£5

### MARCH 2026

4th Mar	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Hello Dolly	FREE
16th Mar	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Empire of the Sun	FREE
19th Mar	7pm	Jonathan Camp	£5
26th Mar	7pm	Helen Taylor - Childless by Choice	£5
27th Mar	7pm	Friday Film - Souleymane's Story	£5
31st Mar	7pm	David Parker - Encounters with Remarkable Women	£5

### APRIL 2026

1st Apr	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - A Few Good Men	FREE
14th Apr	7pm	LIVE MUSIC - The Shrinks	£10
15th Apr	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Man on Wire	FREE
16th Apr	7pm	Tracy Maton - The Artful Anna Harris	£5
21st Apr	7pm	Rob Whitfield - The 1926 General Strike in Bristol	£5
24th Apr	7pm	Friday Film - The Seed of the Sacred Fig	£5
29th Apr	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - A River Runs Through It	FREE

### MAY 2026

13th May	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Typist, Artist, Pirate, King	FREE
26th May	7pm	Martin Wells - Sitting in the Stillness	£5
27th May	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Mr Burton	FREE
29th May	7pm	Friday Film - The Roses	£5
31st May	10am	Laurie Lee and the Slad Valley - A walk with David Parker	£10

### JUNE 2026

9th Jun	7pm	Sue Stops and Kate McNab - Waffling On	£5
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