



Cheshire Rural  
Touring Arts

Spring 2024



Live theatre, literature, music & dance  
in Cheshire's rural venues & libraries

[www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk](http://www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk)




# Cheshire Rural Touring Arts

Welcome to Cheshire Rural Touring Arts'  
Spring 2024 Brochure!

**The highest quality professional theatre, music, literature and dance; live performances brought to rural venues in Cheshire for you to enjoy.**

**How to buy tickets:** Tickets for shows are available direct from the venue via phone or email. Please note these venues are run by volunteer promoters and are not box offices open at all times.

Most venues also offer online ticket booking.

 Shows which have the online booking facility have this symbol in the brochure listing.

Online tickets can be booked via our website:

[www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk](http://www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk)

or via Ticketsource:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheshireruraltouringarts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheshireruraltouringarts)

Ticket booking contact numbers are listed next to each show.

Promoter emails and disabled access information for all

venues can be found at the back of the brochure.

**Ticket prices:** Ticket prices vary for each venue and show, but all range within **£8 - £13** (however, tickets for children's shows may be cheaper).

**Please check with the venue directly for the ticket prices.**

To contact CRTA for any queries about the work we do or request the brochure in a different format please email:

[cрта@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:cрта@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Please don't forget to comment on what you see or what you would like to see more of via our website or social media.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CheshireRuralTouringArts](http://www.facebook.com/CheshireRuralTouringArts)

Twitter: [@cheshiretouring](https://twitter.com/cheshiretouring)

CRTA is one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations. It is a 'Shared Service' between Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East Councils.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Front Cover:  
Rum Ragged  
by Jeff Fasano

## Seamas Carey

*Help! I think I'm a Nationalist*



**The controversial, sell out comedy show on identity, second homes, xenophobia, and bagpipes.**

Cornwall is at tipping point. House prices soar, the population shifts, tensions rise. Some people see it as a separate nation, whilst others see it as a prime holiday destination and playground for the rich. Seamas Carey is confused and is desperately trying to understand.

He's watched a wave of gentrification sweep through his rural hometown. There's nowhere to live, yet second homes stand empty. He wishes Cornwall was more welcoming and inclusive but watches 'up-country' money sew division and suspicion.

Could closing borders and nationalism be the answer? Where's the line between pride and power? What happens when it all goes too far? Seamas needs help, he needs your help!

"Entertaining and layered examination of nationalism" *The Stage*

"A deceptively clever, well-crafted and intriguing piece of comic theatre" *All Edinburgh Theatre*

**Friday 15th March - 8.00pm**

Hoole Community Centre, CH2 3AP

07985 982 786



**Saturday 16th March - 7.30pm**

TAVA Audlem Scout and Guide Hall, CW3 OAL

07985 982 786



[seamascareymusic.com](http://seamascareymusic.com) | suitable for adults 16+

## Seven Circles Club Origami

**Rip, fold and scrumple! What can we make with a single square of paper?**

Dive into the magical world of Club Origami, an immersive and interactive dance show inviting family audiences to create, imagine and explore whole new ways of thinking, playing, and moving.

Dance, fashion, and live music meet the magic of origami to sweep us up on a spirited and inspiring adventure in a land made purely of paper and play. After the show, audience members are invited to stay and play in the pool of ripped paper. Origami and movement workshops for under 5s (45min), primary school children (75min) and adults (90min), can also be provided.

Club Origami is presented by the Rural Touring Dance Initiative and Little Big Dance – a pioneering national initiative creating new dance work for under-fives and their families.

*“Full of imagination, creativity springing from an empty page.”* The Guardian, October 2021

This performance has been made possible thanks to the Rural Touring Dance Initiative.



**Friday 12th April - 3.00pm** - Tarvin Community Centre, CH3 8LY 01829 741 468  
**Saturday 13th April - 11.00am & 2.00pm** - Theatre Porto, CH65 6QY 0151 357 2120  
**Sunday 14th April - 3.30pm** - Vicars Cross Community Centre, CH3 5LP 07593 425 399

[sevencircles.co.uk/cluborigami](http://sevencircles.co.uk/cluborigami) | suitable for children aged 6 and under, and their families

## Heather Alexander HAVISHAM

**If you knew my story, your heart would break too...**

1825. A young woman, arrives in London. She is full of hope and ready to embrace a fresh start. However, she soon finds herself as 'the leading lady in drama she can't comprehend.' The gaslighting is subtle, the manipulation slick. Can Miss Havisham discern her fate? Or is she destined to relive the devastation of her trauma?

Havisham offers a fresh perspective of Charles Dickens' greatest work of Gothic characterisation - Miss Havisham from Great Expectations. Miss Havisham is the embodiment of stuck trauma and malignant rage. But how did she arrive at this place and what are the tragic secrets of her calamitous past...?

*“Powerful, tense, heart-breaking.”*  
Broadway Baby





## Storm in the North *Idlib*



**We make bread - the Syrian way. We mix the ingredients, add water, wait for it to rise.**

**We hear the story of a displaced Syrian woman.**

When the dough is ready, the room fills with the smell of freshly baked bread. We share it with our friends and neighbours – and enjoy it with Syrian Meze.

When he was in Turkey, writer Kevin Dyer (Theatre Porto) was told by a Syrian refugee, 'Do not forget Syria'. This is our attempt, with baking, and a thrilling piece of drama, to keep the proud people of that country in our minds – with food and a story of hope.


This 'show' is a mix of conversation, a very moving storytelling monologue, making bread on stage, drawing, and sharing personal memories of food and family, eating meze together and socialising.

**Friday 3rd May - 7.30pm**

Tarvin Community Centre, CH3 8LY 01829 741 468 

**Saturday 4th May - 7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)**

Kelsall Community Centre, CW6 0SB

07951 794 442 

**suitable for adults and 11+**

**Saturday 11th May - 7.30pm**

The Electric Picture House, CW12 1QN 01260 270 908 

**Sunday 12th May - 7.00pm**

Vicars Cross Community Centre, CH3 5LP 07593 425 399 

**[storminthenorth.com/idlib](http://storminthenorth.com/idlib) | suitable for adults and 14+**

# THEATRE

## Nicholas Collett

### *Your Bard*

**An audience with Will Shakespeare in the pub.**

Professor Nother is giving a talk about Shakespeare authorship in the function room at the Shakespeare pub – but he doesn't believe the man from Stratford wrote those plays. That's Will's cue to kick the door off the hinges and defend his reputation.

Come and meet the man himself and take the lid off a legend in your local. He'll tell you all about his family, what it's like on tour and the glory days at the Globe. Queen Elizabeth I, Christopher Marlowe, and Ned Alleyn – you'll meet them too. Intermingling with a few of his greatest hits – and maybe a sonnet or a song.

There's no fourth wall here – we're all in this together!! Ladies and gentlemen raise your glasses – Your Bard!

*"A piece of pure theatre magic"*

Bay Life Magazine

**Saturday 18th May - 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)**

1st Weaverham Sea Scout Hall CW8 3NJ 07941 166 632

**Sunday 19th May - 7.30pm**

The Five Villages Hall, CHI GNT 07743 490 726



[nicholascollett.com/your-bard](http://nicholascollett.com/your-bard) | suitable for adults and 11+



## Touki

### *Right of Passage*

Touki (“journey” in the Wolof language) is a tour de force in multi-instrumental musical exultation, during which the musicians joyously switch between kora (West African harp), banjos, guitars, percussion, and other instruments, deploying powerful beats, driving grooves, and silky voices that leap from East to West Africa and across to America.

The influences are many, and rather than remaining in any one tradition, the Touki – the musical voyage itself – is the destination.

Amadou Diagne has centuries of West African music at his fingertips. Cory Sez nec is a musical wanderer and uncertified ethnomusicologist. Their latest release draws together West African fables, personal stories and the social, economic, and political challenges facing both developing countries and western ones.



**Saturday 4th May - 7.30pm** - Plumley Village Hall, WA16 0TR 01565 722 259

**Sunday 5th May - 3pm** - Neston Town Hall, CH64 9TR 07740 463 203 / 0151 336 7729

**Friday 14th June - 7.30pm** - Little Sutton Library, CH66 1QQ 0151 337 6800

**Saturday 15th June - 7.30pm** - Goostrey Village Hall, CW4 8EP 01477 544 467 / 07940 579 723

Celebrating 25 years as a CRTA venue

[thenestcollective.co.uk/artists/touki](http://thenestcollective.co.uk/artists/touki) | **suitable for all**



# MUSIC

## Rum Ragged

### *Night of Folk & Traditional Music from Newfoundland & Labrador.*

2021 JUNO Award Nominees, Rum Ragged, take a bold approach to the distinct folk music of their home, the Eastern Canadian Island of Newfoundland. With a reverence for their roots and a creative, contemporary edge, this young band has quickly become known as the finest performers of their great, living, musical tradition.

Boasting bouzouki, fiddle, bodhran, banjo, guitar, and button accordion, these new champions of East Coast music enliven and enlighten audiences with their signature brand of Newfoundland folk. Always honest, thought-provoking, and often humorous, it's Rum Ragged's live show that makes them a fast favourite with any audience. Their combination of striking vocal harmonies, staggering musicianship, and captivating storytelling gives concert-goers an experience they won't soon forget.

Since their inception in 2016, Rum Ragged has maintained a rigorous tour schedule, performing at some of the world's premier folk, Celtic and roots venues all while managing to record four acclaimed, award-winning studio albums. Rum Ragged is not your run-of-the-mill folk band, they are the genuine article.



**Saturday 1st June - 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)**

Little Budworth Jubilee Hall, CW6 9BU 01829 760 422 / 07963 073 998

**Sunday 2nd June - 7.30pm - Upton Village Hall, CH2 1HX 07712 611 616**

[rumragged.com](http://rumragged.com) | **suitable for all**

# THEATRE

## Forget About the Dog

### *Happy Place*



**Sunday 9th June - 7.30pm**

Gawsworth Village Hall, SK11 9QY 07870 822 837

[forgetaboutthedog.co.uk](http://forgetaboutthedog.co.uk) |

**suitable for adults and children 12+**





**Weight of the world getting you down? Get down to your nearest Happy Place and leave your worries at the door.**

With over seven thousand locations nationwide, we create personalised realities at affordable prices. In a near dystopian future, corporations have commodified happiness into virtual reality booths called Happy Places, costing just the price of a coffee for limitless experiences. Full of bombastic comedy, puppetry, physical theatre, and live music, follow four strangers on an extraordinary journey as they find themselves locked inside their own Happy Place.

As reality and fantasy start to merge, this unlikely quartet will have to traverse mountains, fight their demons, and navigate customer services if they are to stop their happiness turning into a nightmare. Join critically acclaimed Forget About The Dog in what has been described as a Black Mirror meets Monty Python meets Jumanji adventure, exploring happiness, friendship and the role technology plays in our world.

*“Both profound and laugh-out-loud funny”*  
Broadway Baby Edinburgh Fringe Review

## Mind The Gap *Birdie*



**A fun and poignant adventure that blends choreography and original music to tell a powerful and accessible story about climate change for families..**

Homie travels in a mesmerising upcycled mobile home. They meet Birdie, a new friend struggling to navigate a world filled with plastics and pollution. With Homie’s help, the pair embark on a journey towards freedom and hope, inspiring positive action and encouraging people to stand up for what’s right.

Post-show, the audience is invited to draw/write their own action towards helping the planet. They then choose a doll to hold their sign and place it onto the set to make a mini demonstration.

*“Amazing messaging, so inclusive for all to understand. Everyone should watch this, the call to action is such a good ending! I loved this and cried.”* – Teacher

*“A very beautiful and visual demonstration of what we can do to help the planet.”*  
– Teacher

**Tuesday 18th June - 1.30pm** - Neston Library, CH64 6QE 0151 3374670

**Wednesday 19th June - 1.30pm**

St Mary’s Creative Space, CH1 2DW 07736 839 320

[mind-the-gap.org.uk](http://mind-the-gap.org.uk) | suitable for ages 5 – 11 and their families



# ACCESS INFORMATION

AUDLEM SCOUT AND GUIDE HALL



PLUMLEY VILLAGE HALL



GAWSWORTH VILLAGE HALL



ST MARY'S CREATIVE SPACE



GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL



TARVIN COMMUNITY CENTRE



HOOLE COMMUNITY CENTRE



THEATRE PORTO



KELSALL COMMUNITY CENTRE



THE ELECTRIC PICTURE HOUSE

Venue on first floor with no lift access. Please contact the venue for further access information.

LITTLE BUDWORTH JUBILEE HALL



THE FIVE VILLAGES HALL, BACKFORD



LITTLE SUTTON LIBRARY



UPTON BY CHESTER VILLAGE HALL



NESTON LIBRARY



VICARS CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE



NESTON TOWN HALL



1ST WEAVERHAM SEA SCOUT HALL



## Key

- Main car park / reservable parking upon request
- Designated parking within car park and / or close to entrance
- Inclined / ramp approach down to entrance
- Inclined / ramp approach up to entrance
- Inclined / ramp approach down from entrance
- Level entrance
- Total number of steps to entrance
- Access for wheelchair users at side / rear
- Lift / Platform Lift
- Standard WC facility only
- Accessible toilet
- Induction loop
- Infra red system
- On street parking
- Transfer space restricted

For all other venues not listed here, please contact the venues directly for access information.

# VENUES

VENUE	POSTCODE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	EMAIL	
Audlem Scout and Guide Hall	CW3 0AL	Catherine Gresty	07985 982 786	cathgresty@gmail.com	
Gawsworth Village Hall	SK11 9QY	Emma Birch	07870 822 837	emmabirch@icloud.com	
Goostrey Village Hall	CW4 8EP	Janet Ollier	01477 544 467 / 07940 579 723	janet.ollier@gmail.com	
Hoole Community Centre	CH2 3AP	Sophie Abbott	01244 342 741	volunteer@hoolecommunitycentre.org.uk	
Kelsall Community Centre	CW6 0SB	Jim Struthers	07951 794 442	jim.struthers2@gmail.com	
Little Budworth Jubilee Hall	CW6 9BU	Joan Johnson	01829 760 422 / 07963 073 998	joan@johnsonlb.plus.com	
Little Sutton Library	CH66 1QQ	Ian Anstice	0151 337 6800	ian.anstice@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk	
Neston Library	CH64 6QE	Helen Neal	0151 337 4670	helen.neal@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk	
Neston Town Hall	CH64 9TR	Pat Kynaston	07740 463 203 / 0151 336 7729	pat.kynaston@btinternet.com	
Plumley Village Hall	WA16 0TR	Penny Allen	01565 722 259	tickets@plumleyvillagehall.co.uk	
St Mary's Creative Space	CH1 2DW	Sara Frith	07736 839 320	stmaryscreativespace@gmail.com	
Tarvin Community Centre	CH3 8LY	Ted & Jane	01829 741 468	bookings@tarvincommunitycentre.org	
Theatre Porto	CH65 6QY	Jess Egan-Simon	0151 357 2120	info@TheatrePorto.org	
The Electric Picture House, Spindle Mill, Congleton	CW12 1QN	Petra Lea	01260 270 908	electricpicturehouse@gmail.com	
The Five Villages Hall, Backford	CH1 6NT	Rosie Sedgwick	07743 490 726	rgsedgwick59@aol.com	
Upton Village Hall by Chester Village Hall	CH2 1HX	Jill Smith	07712 611 616	jillsmith837@gmail.com	
Vicars Cross Community Centre	CH3 5LP	Claire Smith	07593 425 399	vxcc@greatboughtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
1st Weaverham Sea Scout Hall	CW8 3NJ	Brian Williams	07941 166 632	brian.williams@midcheshirescouts.org.uk	

# SPRING DIARY

DATE	TIME	SHOW	VENUE
Friday 15th March	8.00pm	Seamas Carey - Help! I think I'm a Nationalist	Hoole Community Centre, CH2 3AP
Saturday 16th March	7.30pm	Seamas Carey - Help! I think I'm a Nationalist	TAVA Audlem Scout and Guide Hall, CW3 0AL
Friday 12th April	3.00pm	Seven Circles - Club Origami	Tarvin Community Centre, CH3 8LY
Saturday 13th April	11.00am & 2.00pm	Seven Circles - Club Origami	Theatre Porto, CH65 6QY
Sunday 14th April	3.30pm	Seven Circles - Club Origami	Vicars Cross Community Centre, CH3 5LP
Friday 3rd May	7.30pm	Heather Alexander - HAVISHAM	Tarvin Community Centre, CH3 8LY
Saturday 4th May	7.30pm	Heather Alexander - HAVISHAM	Kelsall Community Centre, CW6 0SB
Saturday 4th May	7.30pm	Touki - Right of Passage	Plumley Village Hall, WA16 0TR
Sunday 5th May	3.00pm	Touki - Right of Passage	Neston Town Hall, CH64 9TR
Saturday 11th May	7.30pm	Storm in the North - Idlib	The Electric Picture House, CW12 1QN
Sunday 12th May	7.00pm	Storm in the North - Idlib	Vicars Cross Community Centre, CH3 5LP
Saturday 18th May	7.00pm	Nicholas Collett - Your Bard	1st Weaverham Sea Scout Hall, CW8 3NJ
Sunday 19th May	7.30pm	Nicholas Collett - Your Bard	The Five Villages Hall, CH1 6NT
Saturday 1st June	7.30pm	Rum Ragged	Little Budworth Jubilee Hall, CW6 9BU
Sunday 2nd June	7.30pm	Rum Ragged	Upton Village Hall, CH2 1HX
Sunday 9th June	7.30pm	Forget About The Dog - Happy Place	Gawsworth Village Hall, SK11 9QY
Friday 14th June	7.30pm	Touki - Right of Passage	Little Sutton Library, CH66 1QQ
Saturday 15th June	7.30pm	Touki - Right of Passage	Goostrey Village Hall, CW4 8EP
Tuesday 18th June	1.30pm	Mind The Gap - Birdie	Neston Library, CH64 6QE
Wednesday 19th June	1.30pm	Mind The Gap - Birdie	St Mary's Creative Space, CH1 2DW

To book for any of these events please call or email the venue direct at the number listed in the brochure. Please note these telephone numbers are answered by volunteer promoters and are not box offices open at all times. Online tickets are available 24/7. If you experience any problems with ordering tickets, please email [crrta@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:crrta@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Book online: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheshireruraltouringarts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheshireruraltouringarts)

Ticket prices range from £8 – £13 (lower prices for Children's shows)

[www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk](http://www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk)

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