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PRESS RELEASE  
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## CULTURE VULTURE

With magical outdoor performances, live music, a vibrant arts festival and an events diary that's packed all year around, it's hard to beat Rutland's enthusiasm for creativity and splendour.

**Arts for Rutland**, an arts organisation who promotes and supports all art forms in the county, alongside helping to fund various projects and events by local individuals and groups. The scheme has enabled many varied and exciting new projects; buying instruments for individual performers, supporting drama projects, workshops, dance performances and equipment for Arts organisations in Rutland. This fund is easy to access and open to everyone for the benefit of the Arts in the county.

Arts for Rutland have a monthly cinema at Rutland County Museum. The films are shown at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month. There is a licenced bar and an informal and friendly atmosphere. The cost is £5.00 and is very popular with newcomers and regulars alike. Films that are being shown over the next few months are Sully, Lion, A United Kingdom and The Golden Years.

**Rutland County Museum** is also host for drama productions. In conjunction with Live and Local Ltd innovative high-quality, entertaining and affordable professional live theatre, music, dance, family shows are performed at intervals throughout the year. The shows are often very funny with lots of audience participation and thoroughly enjoyed by all age groups. [www.a4r.org.uk](http://www.a4r.org.uk) for more information.

**The Oakham Festival** is back for 2017, with a wide ranging programme of events to suit all ages from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July. This year the Festival is geared towards audience participation, and connecting with the community.

The action kicks off on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June with Oakham School's Chamber Choir Lunchtime Concert – always a hit. That evening, join the staff at Oakham Castle for a Crime and Punishment walking tour around Oakham, a perfect outing for all the family. But get your tickets quick, this event is limited to 25 people!

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June is a real community day at the Festival with a lunchtime concert of ensembles from the Rutland Music Hub, followed by the ever popular Comedy Night at The Grainstore. This year we're thrilled to welcome Patrick Monahan and Tom Binns to headline.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June starts with a lunchtime concert by local harpist Harriet Flather and then a real Carry On at The Castle in the evening! Uppingham Theatre Company present a radio play that they would like you to come and see recorded! Sure to be a great night out.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July is a busy day for the Festival with a free showcase from the students of Rutland Young Dance Academy to start the day off, followed by Tallis, Tavener and Tambourines – a talk by renowned music historian Andrew Gant. In the evening, we are pleased to welcome back the Rutland Concert Band for the Proms in the Park! Bring your picnics, flags, biggest singing voices and all the family! Food and drink will be available to purchase from BBQ kindly provided by The Lions and the Pimms will be flowing! If an indoor event is more your thing, The Grainstore have the fantastic Outlaw Eagles playing at 8.30pm.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July you can wind down with the Rutland Sinfonia playing works by Mendelssohn, Mozart, Delius and Schubert at 4pm in Oakham School Chapel. The whole Festival is rounded off in style by a community cast performing Sarah Bell's physical theatre piece, Threads. Tickets for events can be bought at Oakham Castle or Rutland Toys & Dance Boutique.

Rutland is lucky to have numerous organisations that run programmes of events providing culture to the county;

**Rutland Sinfonia** is an amateur orchestra based in Oakham, but there is nothing amateur about the quality of their performances, which usually take place in **Oakham School Chapel**, a venue that also opens its doors to summer concerts from their talented students.

**Music in Lyddington** takes advantage of the ancient acoustic jars set into the wall of the chancel in St Andrew's Church and puts on an array of quality concerts.

**Uppingham Theatre** is one of the largest privately owned theatres in the county and provides Rutland with a variety of comedy, music, theatre and speakers throughout the year.

**Tolethorpe Hall** is the setting for one of Europe's finest open air theatres and is home to the Stamford Shakespeare Company, which delivers three different plays throughout the summer months. 2017 sees Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing and Hobson's Choice. But don't forget your picnic, as part of the magic of Tolethorpe is to enjoy your pre-theatre dinner on the lawn in front of the Hall.

**Uppingham School** music department showcase the brilliant talent of the pupils hosting classical, jazz and orchestral performances for all to enjoy.

Stamford continues the wealth of culture with the events at **Burghley House**, such as music concerts and their outdoor film festival 26-30 June, and the diverse range of events at **Stamford Arts Centre**.

ENDS

Relevant links:

[www.discover-rutland.co.uk](http://www.discover-rutland.co.uk)

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

<http://stamfordshakespeare.co.uk>

<http://www.musicinlyddington.co.uk/>

[www.rutlandsinfonia.org.uk/](http://www.rutlandsinfonia.org.uk/)

<http://www.uppingham.co.uk/Music-Diary>

<https://www.oakham.rutland.sch.uk/Music-in-the-chapel>

<http://www.upthearts.co.uk/>

<https://www.oakhamfestival.co.uk/>

[www.artsforrutland.org.uk](http://www.artsforrutland.org.uk)

<http://www.a4r.org.uk/>