Continuing

Magna Carta exhibition, Temple Church, London
From 17 November 2014
An outstanding exhibition to celebrate the Charter, past and present will open at the Temple Church this November. The V&A is lending four casts of medieval effigies: William Marshal I and II (taken before the Blitz), John and Henry III, whilst further loans from Lincoln Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral and the National Archives will transform the Temple’s Round Church into a shrine to the Great Charter of Liberties. The exhibition will be in place throughout 2015 and for the foreseeable future.
www.templechurch.com

Elvis Presley exhibition, The O2, London
Until 31 August
Get an insight into the life of the King of rock ‘n’ roll in the largest Elvis Presley retrospective ever mounted in Europe. Showcasing over 300 different artefacts direct from the Presley family’s Graceland Archives, the exhibition features many cars, tour costumes and personal artefacts which have never been exhibited outside of Graceland before. It chronicles the rise of the rock ‘n’ roll icon and demonstrates how Elvis impacted popular culture around the world through his music, movies and personal style.
http://www.elvisattheo2.com/

Small Stories: At Home in a Dolls’ House, V&A Museum of Childhood
Until 6 September
Discover the fascinating stories behind some of the UK's best-loved dolls' houses, by going on a journey through the history of the home, everyday lives and changing family relationships. Visitors are encouraged to come and meet the residents, and discover tales of marriages and parties, politics and crime. The exhibition encompasses country mansions, the Georgian town house, suburban villas, newly-built council estates and high-rise apartments.
http://www.museumofchildhood.org.uk/

January

Banners exhibition, Parliament, London
20 January – November
Launching on 20 January, a large-scale banners exhibition will hang in the medieval Westminster Hall until late November 2015. Commemorating an 800 year history, this will cover 18 themes related to the movements and moments which ‘made a difference’ in the journey to the rights and representation that we enjoy today. Themes include the emergence of Parliament, the Civil War, Suffrage Acts, groups such as the Chartists and Levellers, as well as the development of civil and human rights.
http://www.parliament.uk/

Churchill: Science in War and Peace, Science Museum
23 January
50 years after his death, the Science Museum will be hosting a brand new exhibition dedicated to Sir Winston Churchill this January. Churchill: Science in War and Peace will adopt an intimate tone by spotlighting individual scientists and their achievements under the direction of Churchill. The exhibition will be divided into two sections: one addressing the uniqueness of scientific innovations to the British war effort, the second tracing how the huge infusion of war research and development defined fundamental science of the 1950s – and has resonated to the current day.
http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/

Churchill’s Final Journey exhibition, National Railway Museum, York
30 January – 3 May
The National Railway Museum will be commemorating 50 years since Winston Churchill’s state funeral at St Paul’s Cathedral in 1965 with a recreation of the funeral train which carried the illustrious former Prime Minister from Waterloo, London, to his final resting place in Oxfordshire. The ‘Churchill’s Final Journey’ display will showcase the new cosmetically restored locomotive Winston Churchill, part of the York museum’s collection. The Battle of Britain Class engine was chosen to haul the former
Prime Minister’s funeral train from Waterloo to Long Hanborough on 30 January 1965 and was seen on TV by millions worldwide.
www.nrm.org.uk

Homage to Manet, Norwich Castle
31 January—19 April
This new exhibition will see works by famous artists, including Monet, Sargent, Sickert and Steer, brought together to explore the important legacy of French artist, Edouard Manet. The centrepiece of the exhibition is Manet’s gorgeous painting Portrait of Mademoiselle Claus, on loan from the Ashmolean Museum. The exhibition will focus on Manet’s portrayal of women, and his influence on both male and female artists that followed and is unique to Norwich Castle.
http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Visit_Us/Norwich_Castle/index.htm

February

Magna Carta and Parliament, London
5 February
Following the unification of the four surviving copies of Magna Carta at the British Library, the manuscripts will then be loaned to Parliament for a one-off display at the House of Lords on 5 February. This event will then be followed by a month-long exhibition organised by the Parliamentary Archives, which will include iconic documents such as The Bill of Rights and the 1832 Great Reform Act.
http://www.parliament.uk/

History Is Now: Seven Artists Take On Britain, Hayward Gallery, London
10 February – 26 April
Encounter some great works of art and learn more about their influence on British society with History is Now: Seven Artists Take on Britain. A number of notable artists (including Roger Hiorns, John Akomfrah and Richard Wentworth) have curated the exhibition, which is part of the Changing Britain Festival, with each one allocated one of the seven decades.
http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/hayward-gallery

New Churchill exhibition, Blenheim Palace
14 February
Blenheim Palace will re-open after the winter break on 14 February with a completely re-vamped Churchill exhibition: the story of Sir Winston Churchill’s life will be told with new artefacts and interpretation.

White water rafting, Lee Valley White Water Centre, Hertfordshire
From 28 February
The 2015 white water rafting season launches at Lee Valley White Water Centre on 28 February, giving adventure-loving visitors the chance to confront the raging rapids of the London 2012 venue. No experience is necessary and all equipment is provided, including wetsuits, boots, helmets and buoyancy aids.
www.gowhitewater.co.uk

March

Magna Carta exhibition, Salisbury Cathedral
7 March
This exhibition, entitled ‘Magna Carta: Spirit of Justice, Power of Words’, will present Salisbury Cathedral’s original 1215 Magna Carta manuscript in its historic context. It will move from the story of the struggle between King John and his barons to the legacy of Magna Carta across the ages, and why it is still relevant today.
http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/magna-carta/visiting-magna-carta

Henry Moore exhibition, Yorkshire Sculpture Park
7 March – 6 September
Hailing from Castleford in West Yorkshire, Henry Moore is one of the most important artists of the 20th century. This new major exhibition takes a fresh approach to Moore's work by considering his profound relationship with the land, which was fundamental to his practice and fuelled his visual vocabulary. The exhibition also presents an opportunity to explore the man behind the practice with a carefully-selected display of personal artefacts, notes, sketches and photographs, curated in collaboration with the artist's daughter, Mary Moore.

http://www.ysp.co.uk/exhibitions/henry-moore-back-to-a-land

**Canaletto exhibition, Compton Verney, Warwickshire**

14 March – 7 June

‘Canaletto: Celebrating Britain’ is a brand new exhibition at Compton Verney this year, and will spotlight the paintings and drawings which Canaletto created between 1746 and 1755, when he chose to celebrate the latest achievements of British architecture and engineering. This is the first time that these paintings have been gathered together and will collectively illustrate Canaletto's nine-year stay in Britain which saw him document a series of new building works and projects.


**Alexander McQueen exhibition, The V&A**

14 March – 19 July

Five years after his tragic death, the first and largest retrospective of the late designer’s work to be presented in Europe will go on show at the Victoria and Albert Museum. *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty* will span from his 1992 MA graduate collection to his unfinished A/W 2010 collection. The designs will be presented with the dramatic staging and sense of spectacle synonymous with his runway shows and the exhibition will run from 14 March – 19 July 2015.

http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/exhibition-alexander-mcqueen-savage-beauty/

**Summerdown Camp, Eastbourne Museum, Eastbourne**

16 March – 15 November

This new exhibition uncovers the pioneering medical treatments and occupational therapies used during the First World War to treat injured soldiers, as well as displaying star finds such as an extraordinary ring made by a Summerdown Camp soldier. Bringing a wealth of history to the town, Summerdown Camp opened in April 1915, designed to rehabilitate wounded and distressed soldiers from the front line. Over 150,000 soldiers were treated at the camp which closed in 1920.

http://www.eastbournemuseums.co.uk/summerdown-camp.aspx

**Magna Carta exhibition, Bodleian Library, Oxford**

March - September

The Bodleian Library houses four of the seventeen surviving pre-1300 ‘engrossments’ of Magna Carta. To mark its 800th anniversary, the new Weston Library at the Bodleian will host an exhibition entitled ‘Marks of Genius’, which will display the Gloucester Charter. There will also be a special celebration event planned for the Magna Carta sealing anniversary day on 15 June.

http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley

**Shaun in the City trail, London**

28 March – 25 May

Following the popular ‘Gromit Unleashed’ trail, Aardman’s internationally-acclaimed character, Shaun the Sheep, will be taking over London this spring. Over 100 giant sculptures created by artists, celebrities and designers will be placed in iconic locations across the capital before moving to Bristol from 6 July – 31 August.

http://www.shauninthecity.org.uk/

**April**

**‘Withdrawn’ Flotilla Display, Bristol**

April

In April, Bristol artist Luke Jerram will install a flotilla of abandoned fishing vessels in Leigh Woods. The display, part of the European Green Capital calendar, will be available for the public to view for six months during which time this thought-
provoking and engaging installation will raise discussion about climate change, extreme weather, falling fish stocks and our impact on the marine environment.
http://www.lukejerram.com/projects/withdrawn

**Magna Carta exhibition, Lincoln Cathedral**

1 April
Lincoln Cathedral's Magna Carta will take pride of place in a new state-of-the-art visitor attraction part of a £22m restoration programme. Working in partnership with Lincoln Castle, its Magna Carta, Charter of the Forest and a related loan document will be on display in the Magna Carta vault with a double-height ‘wall of word’. The exhibition will be entitled ‘Magna Carta: Power, Justice and Accountability’.
http://lincolncathedral.com/

**A Gift from the Whole Nation, Harewood House, Leeds**

3 April – 1 November
At the start of the First World War there was a mass outpouring of sympathy and charity to the men fighting for England. In October 1914 the young Princess Mary took it upon herself to provide a small thank you present for the troops serving the country on Christmas Day 1914. Over the next four years, more than two million boxes would be delivered to people involved in Britain’s war effort. ‘A Gift from the Whole Nation’ will showcase over 70 examples of these very special gift boxes and will be on display on the State Floor in the main house.
http://harewood.org/whats-on/event/ww1-at-harewood/

**‘The Twits’ on stage, London**

7 April – 31 May
After the successful adaptations of Roald Dahl’s works *Matilda* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* on to the West End stage, *The Twits* is due to open on 7 April 2015. Adapted by Enda Walsh, the director of hit musical *Once*, the play will follow the story of the horrible Mr and Mrs Twit. It will run at the Royal Court theatre until 31 May.
http://www.royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/the-twits

**Francis Bacon and The Masters, The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norfolk**

18 April – 26 July
Francis Bacon and The Masters will bring together over 25 major works, many of which have never been shown in the UK before. Alongside work from Francis Bacon the exhibition will feature Velázquez, Rembrandt, Titian, Michelangelo, Rodin, Van Gogh, Picasso and Matisse.
www.scva.ac.uk/

**Indigenous Australia exhibition, British Museum**

23 April – 2 August
‘Indigenous Australia: enduring civilisation’ will be the first major exhibition in England to present a history of Indigenous Australia, both Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, through objects. It will include major works of contemporary art and a wide range of artefacts, from a shield believed to have been collected at Botany Bay in 1770 by Captain Cook or one of his men to a protest placard from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy established in 1972.
http://www.britishmuseum.org/

**Eat Drink Bristol Fashion, Bristol**

30 April – 9 May
Local celebrity chef Josh Eggleton’s ‘Eat Drink Bristol Fashion’ returns to Queen Square once again this spring, featuring the cream of West Country food and drink within a tepee village. The event puts high quality, sustainably sourced food in interesting spaces across Bristol and the South West.
https://eatdrinkbristolfashion.co.uk/
May

Brighton Fringe
1 - 31 May
Now the world’s third largest fringe festival, Brighton Fringe runs alongside the Brighton Festival, with cabaret, comedy, classical concerts, club nights, theatre and exhibitions, as well as street performances throughout the city.
www.brightonfringe.org.uk

Borde Hill sculpture exhibition, West Sussex
1 May – 1 September
Now in its 16th year, the Sculpture Exhibition at Borde Hill is a notable celebration of art and sculpture by both established and up-and-coming artists. During the exhibition, the garden is transformed into an outdoor gallery, enabling visitors to enjoy unique works of art set in its beautiful gardens. The bronze, resin, stone, metalwork, ceramics, steel, clay and glass sculptures will be set within the gardens, and for the first time ever the exhibition this year extends out into the woodland.
http://www.bordehill.co.uk/

Brighton Festival
2 - 23 May
The largest multi-arts festival in England, the Brighton Festival hosts a sensational programme of art, theatre, dance, music, literature and family-friendly shows. In previous years the Guest Artistic Directors have been Hofesh Shechter, Michael Rosen, Vanessa Redgrave and Anish Kapoor. This year, the festival’s director will be Ali Smith.
www.brightonfestival.org

Oxfordshire Artweeks
2 – 25 May
Around 1,000 artists and designers, 150 of whom are taking part for the first time, are preparing for more than 400 exhibitions and events across the county for Oxfordshire Artweeks - the longest running and biggest open studios event in the UK. Painters and designers, potters and sculptors, wood-turners, photographers, jewellers and textile artists will be opening their homes and studios to the public for free and showcasing their talent through exhibitions and demonstrations.
http://www.artweeks.org/

The Alice Look, V&A Museum of Childhood, London
2 May - 1 November
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll’s much loved tale, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, this enchanting exhibition brings together a range of photographs, rare editions, garments and illustrations that show how the character of Alice became a major cultural icon. The exhibition is divided into four main areas, with examples of the period dress that Alice was best known for, along with displays in which the character adopts a contemporary look.
http://www.vam.ac.uk/moc/exhibitions-and-displays/the-alice-look/

New exhibition at York’s Chocolate Story, York
4 May
A new exhibition ‘Brilliant Brands: York Chocolate through the Ages’ will allow visitors to delve deep into the history of York’s most famous brands. Visitors will be able to take a journey through York’s much-loved confectionery – from the 1800s to the modern day. Discoveries will include which world-famous chocolate bar was once called Chocolate Crisp, and which multi-coloured treats were formerly known as Chocolate Beans. The exhibition will showcase a varied collection of packaging and artefacts, never before seen together.
www.yorkschocolatестory.com

‘Lest We Forget – Rugby and the First World War’, World Rugby Museum, Twickenham
5 May – 1 September
Timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the death of Ronald Poulton Palmer, England’s Grand-Slam winning captain from the 1914 season, this exhibition is dedicated to the memory of all rugby players who fought and died in the First World
War. Featuring stories of rugby players from many different countries, and all levels of the game, the exhibition is an opportunity to view many unique objects and images brought together for the first time. The exhibition can be viewed as part of a World Rugby Museum visit or a combined stadium tour and museum ticket.
http://www.englandrugby.com/twickenham/world-rugby-museum

Paper Bridge, Cumbria
8 – 18 May
This unique and striking installation, featuring a bright red, arched bridge and made entirely of paper, is part of the ‘Lakes Ignite’ programme for Lakes Culture. Designed by environmental artist Steve Messam, the project continues his series of ambitious temporary installations in rural landscapes. Situated between two parallel paths in the Grisedale Valley, near Patterdale, the installation will act as a temporary bridge for pedestrians during its ten day installation.
http://lakesculture.co.uk/paper-bridge/

Norfolk and Norwich Festival
8 – 24 May
One of the four biggest arts festivals in the UK, each May the Norfolk and Norwich Festival draws audiences of over 70,000 to a world class programme of theatre, music, circus, dance, literature and free outdoor spectacles. Venues include the 1,308-seat Norwich Theatre Royal, hosting big name music stars, contemporary dance and performance and the iconic Spiegeltent with circus, music and cabaret.
www.nnfestival.org.uk

Nottinghamshire County Show
9 – 10 May
50,000 people attend this traditional, annual show which celebrates the best of farming, food, rural life, heritage and so much more in Nottinghamshire and beyond. Set across a whopping 126 acres of indoor and outdoor exhibition space at Newark Showground, the County Show has something for everyone, including spectacular displays on the ground and in the air, falconry, and a vintage car display.
http://www.nottinghamshirecountyshow.com/

York International Shakespeare Festival
9 – 16 May
The International Shakespeare Festival, brand new for 2015, will see York taken over by Shakespearean productions, screenings, exhibitions, events, workshops, and talks, with a programme ranging from local amateur dramatics groups to international professional theatre. There will be family-friendly events, outreach activities with local state schools and an international conference for academics.
www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

Artists Rooms: Jeff Koons, Norwich Castle
9 May–6 September
This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to see a display devoted to one of the most famous (and most expensive) living artists in the world, Jeff Koons. Celebrated for pieces like the giant flower Puppy outside the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Koons has been stoking controversy ever since the early seventies, provoking debate around issues of taste, class, and value. With an emphasis on engaging young audiences, this will be a vibrant and thought-provoking exhibition featuring some of Koons’ most iconic works including Winter Bears from ‘Banality’ in 1988.
http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Visit_Us/Norwich_Castle/index.htm

VE Day 70th anniversary celebrations, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire
10 May
Remember those who served the war effort, both at home and away, during World War II at the National Memorial Arboretum’s vintage-street-party-style event. Reminiscent of those held in May 1945, the event will include a vintage and handmade market, 1940s style music and entertainment, children’s crafts and games, and costumed interpreters.
One Magnificent City Festival, Liverpool
15 May – 5 July
One Magnificent City (OMC) is a seven-week programme of events including an Atlantic Food Festival, a vintage festival at the historic Albert Dock, and an International Mersey River Festival. The programme launches on Friday 15 May with the hugely popular LightNight and runs right through for seven weeks ending with Transatlantic 175. Many of the events will focus on the 175th anniversary of the first Cunard transatlantic sailing, and will bring to life the stories of those who travelled on the ship in 1840, with the festival promising to take visitors on ‘a transatlantic journey’.
https://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk/one-magnificent-city/

The Kids’ Sleepover, Kensington Palace
16 May
Kensington Palace is set to throw open its doors this May for a very special kids’ slumber party. Princes and princesses are welcome for an evening of mask making and dancing before bedding down in one of the spectacular palace rooms. Guests will then rise and shine the next morning for a breakfast fit for royalty.
http://www.hrp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace/

Great British Tennis Weekend, Countrywide
16 – 17 May / 13 – 14 June / 1 – 2 August
Great British Tennis Weekend is a national campaign from the Lawn Tennis Association that aims to increase participation in the sport by working in partnership with clubs, community venues, schools and universities. Venues across the country will open their doors to the public and provide free tennis and coaching for people of all ages and abilities.
https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/opendays

Hogarth Exhibition, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
16 May – 31 August
This summer, Tate Britain is set to lend its collection of oil paintings of one of the most important figures of English art, William Hogarth, to Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. From portraiture to satire to history painting; this exhibition will introduce the diverse range of subjects that were tackled by this iconic painter and printmaker.
http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery

Chelsea Flower Show, London
19 - 23 May
The greatest flower show in the world returns to London's Chelsea this May. Every year the grounds of the Royal Hospital are transformed into show gardens, inspirational small gardens and vibrant horticultural displays for the world’s most famous flower show. The Chelsea Flower Show is attended by over 150,000 visitors each year.
https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show

Beverley & East Riding Early Music Festival
20 - 24 May
The Early Music Festival in Beverley will celebrate the best of early music within some of Yorkshire's finest ecclesiastical venues, including Beverley Minster. For 2015 – the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta – the Festival will be celebrating justice, liberty and the lives of some remarkable musicians. Magna Carta will be commemorated by Belinda Sykes’ ensemble Joglaresa, while The Tallis Scholars will mark the 500th anniversary of English composer John Sheppard.
http://www.ncem.co.uk/bemf

Norwich City of Ale Festival
21 – 31 May
The annual City of Ale festival returns for a fifth year, when hundreds of real ale drinker will return to the fine city of Norwich. The ten-day celebration will involve a number of pubs and breweries, offering a selection of real ales and a party atmosphere.
Visitors can expect to take part in ale trails, pub quizzes, live music and events, whilst tasting a variety of speciality beers along the way.
www.cityofale.org.uk

Ashburton Blues Festival, Devon
22 – 24 May
Following a two-year break, the famous Ashburton Blues Festival is set to return to Devon in May. It promises three stages of top-class performers, all set in the farmland at Seale-Hayne. Offering great food, drink and fabulous music in the rolling countryside of South Devon, the three-day festival will see even more bands, workshops and stages bringing blues music to life.
http://www.ashburtonbluesfestival.co.uk/

Beer and Cider by the Sea, Eastbourne
22 – 24 May
Now in its third year, 2015’s Beer and Cider by the Sea Festival on Eastbourne’s Western Lawns is set to be the biggest yet. Festival-goers have a tantalising taste bud experience in store, with a large choice of ciders and real ales, including many which have been brewed locally at Sussex based Long Man and Beachy Head Breweries. With entertainment across the weekend to accompany the real ale tasting, the festival offers an elective mix of quality music and has already confirmed two live bands, Wakin’ Snakes and Dirty Martini Swing Band.
http://www.visiteastbourne.com/events/beerandciderbythesea.aspx

Elderflower Fields Family Festival, Sussex
22 – 25 May
Born in 2012, Elderflower Fields is a festival with a difference, placing the sole focus on families and children. This small, independent festival includes performances by musicians, sports such as raft building, orienteering and mountain biking, arts camps, cinemas and a variety of great food outlets. Based in a stunning location in Ashdown Forest, many of the outdoor activities take place in the woods, such as nightjar walks and mud hut building.
http://www.elderflowerfields.co.uk/

Leeds Food and Drink Festival
22 May – 7 June
The annual Leeds Food and Drink Festival embodies the spirit of Leeds, bringing together local businesses, residents and visitors in a two-week celebration of the city and the region’s finest food and drink. The event will feature the Yorkshire Food and Drink Show at Millennium Square, held on the final weekend, including live cookery demonstrations, pop-ups and food stands to delight culinary minds.
http://www.visitleeds.co.uk/

The Story of Children’s Television From 1946 to Today, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry
22 May - 13 September
This exhibition traces the fascinating history of children’s television, bringing together seven decades of iconic objects, memorabilia, merchandise, clips and images. From puppetry to CGI and live shows, to dramas and fantasy, the exhibition looks at how the magical programmes of our childhood have created memories and nostalgia in today’s adults.

Turner’s Wessex: Architecture and Ambition, Salisbury Museum
22 May – 27 September
After launching the new Wessex Gallery last year, Salisbury Museum will open a new art exhibition, Turner's Wessex: Architecture and Ambition, which will run from May-September. Situated in the Cathedral Close, directly opposite its West Front, the museum is ideally placed to explore Turner’s relationship with Salisbury and the cathedral.
http://www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/turners-wessex-architecture-and-ambition
The Big Outdoor Show, Milton Keynes
23 – 25 May
Featuring a huge array of outdoor adventure activities, the Big Outdoor Show will be taking place at Willen Lake over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Attractions include a mountain biking course, climbing walls, watersports displays including wakeboarding, sailing, kayaking, and canoeing, as well as a host of aerial displays. Inspirational and motivational seminars will also be held, featuring keynote speakers such as Sir Ran Fiennes and Felicity Aston, plus many more outdoor industry experts.
www.thebigoutdoorshow.co.uk

Blenheim Palace Food Festival, Oxfordshire
23 – 25 May
For the first time ever, Blenheim Palace will hold its very own food fair in May when it hosts the Fantastic British Food Festivals. Aiming to entertain, educate and fill up the whole family, the three-day feast of food and drink will showcase the best in local and regional produce, through cookery demos, children’s workshops, talks and scores of stalls.

‘Sculpture in the Vineyard’ exhibition, Oxfordshire
23 May – 7 June
Sculpture in the Vineyard will be Oxfordshire’s largest exhibition of its kind this year, with 200 outdoor sculptures produced by 35 local and UK-wide artists. The exhibition, held in the seven-acre grounds of Bothy Vineyard, the county’s oldest vineyard, will draw visitors through the vines, orchard and wildlife areas.
http://www.botheywineyard.co.uk/

Cotswold Crank Up, Oxfordshire
24 May
Iconic Cycling Events has organised its fourth ride, the Cotswold Crank Up. The event will start from the Henry Box School in Witney with a choice of 25-, 50- and 80-mile marked routes, heading out into some of the Cotswolds most breath-taking beauty spots. There will be a number of food and drink stations with produce sourced from local and national companies, and riders can expect a warm welcome home at the end of their journey where they will collect their medal and enjoy plenty more refreshments.
http://www.cotswoldcrankup.co.uk/

Bournemouth Wheels Festival
29 - 31 May
The Bournemouth Wheels Festival is the country’s biggest, free, wheel-themed event. Held over three action-packed days, the festival will feature breath-taking stunts and daredevil displays from motocross, BMX and skateboard teams, as well as Formula 1 and precision drivers. There will also be a huge selection of historic and classic motors, military vehicles and high-end supercars from the past and present on display. This is the festival’s second year; its highly successful 2014 debut attracted half a million visitors.
bournemouthwheels.co.uk

Magic Weekend, St James’ Park, Newcastle upon Tyne
30-31 May
The 2015 season marks the start of a new era for Rugby League and a new venue for Magic Weekend when the 12 First Utility Super League teams play an extraordinary round of fixtures at St James’ Park, Newcastle, on Saturday May 30 and Sunday May 31. The weekend will feature three games on each day as well as a fantastic package of fun and activities to keep the family entertained over the two days.
www.rugbyleaguetickets.co.uk/magic_weekend

Bend It Like Beckham – the musical, London
May
12 years after its box office success, Bend It Like Beckham will take to the stage in May at the Phoenix Theatre in London. The musical will be directed by award-winning Gurinder Chadha, who also directed the original film. The story centres on two 18-year-old girls who set out to make careers as professional footballers despite their families’ best efforts to stop them, and tickets are on sale now.
http://www.phoenixtheatrelondon.co.uk/bend-it-like-beckham/

June

**King John, Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, London**
Opens 1 June
Filled with cynical allegiances and ruthless politicking, King John is considered one of Shakespeare’s most abrasively modern English history plays. is a first for the Globe and a rare opportunity to see some vividly memorable characters brought to life on the stage – especially the wildly outspoken Faulconbridge, one of Shakespeare’s most thrillingly caustic and sardonic political commentators.
http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/

**Spitalfields Music Summer Festival, London**
2 – 16 June
Enjoy great music in the warm summer’s evenings with Spitalfields this year. The programme boasts 15 days of contemporary and classical music in some of East London’s most evocative spaces. Associate Artists baroque ensemble La Nuova Musica, composer Emily Hall, and composer/saxophonist Shabaka Hutchings lead a programme of early music masterpieces, intriguing new music and events for all the family to enjoy.
http://www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk/

**Hadrian’s Wall of Sound, Hadrian’s Wall**
5 June
As part of the BBC Music Day celebrations on 5 June, a musical relay will take place along Hadrian’s Wall, spanning 73 miles from Bowness to Wallsend. Hundreds of musicians from a range of music communities will journey by bicycle, horse, open top vintage bus, motorbike and unicycle, whilst passing a baton from performer to performer. It will be part of the 14-hour musical marathon on BBC Radio 3.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/events/exh2mb

**Aegon Open Nottingham**
8 – 14 June / 22 – 27 June
This year marks the return of world-class tennis to the city of Nottingham for the first time since 2008. The Aegon Open Nottingham features a men’s ATP World Tour 250 event and a brand-new WTA International competition at the biggest public tennis facility in Britain, the Nottingham Tennis Centre. The WTA event takes place 8 - 14 June, with the men returning to the venue from the 22 - 27 June.
http://www.lta.org.uk/major-events/aegon-open-nottingham/

**Aegon Classic Birmingham**
8 – 15 June
2015 will be the 34th year of the Aegon Classic Birmingham, a WTA Premier level tournament held at the Edgbaston Priory Club. Featuring a strong international field, the event, which takes place just before Wimbledon, is an important fixture on the WTA tour and has seen many great champions including Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova.
https://www.lta.org.uk/major-events/aegon-classic-birmingham/

**Isle of Wight Festival**
11 – 14 June
Spanning a heritage of over 45 years, the Isle of Wight Festival returns this June with a weekend of great music to kick start the summer festival season. The headliners for this year’s festival are Blur, Fleetwood Mac, The Black Keys and The Prodigy, with musical offerings to suit every taste.
Unseen Waterloo: The Conflict Revisited, Somerset House
12 June – 31 August
Opening for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, Somerset House will present its brand new Waterloo exhibition, made up of a series of portraits by photographer Sam Faulkner. Since 2009, Faulkner has travelled to the annual Waterloo re-enactment in Belgium to photograph the ‘soldiers’ who take part, dressed in the historically accurate uniforms each participant creates with painstaking attention to detail for the event. Curated by international stage director and designer Patrick Kinmonth, the exhibition presents 80 life-size images hung against a backdrop of Hainsworth fabric, the rich scarlet woollen cloth used to dress the ‘redcoat’ soldiers in 1815.
http://www.somersethouse.org.uk/visual-arts/unseen-waterloo

Shoes: Pleasure and Pain, V&A Museum
This new exhibition examines the many elaborate ways that shoes have been developed around the world over the years, with sometimes extreme results that have provided anything but practicality or comfort. Around 200 incredible pairs of shoes are on display, with examples of everything from sandals decorated in pure gold leaf from ancient Egypt, to high-end fashion creations from contemporary designers. As well as looking at the outlandish design processes, the exhibition also considers the cultural meaning of the footwear along with the transformative effect that they have on the wearer.
http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/shoes-pleasure-and-pain/

Great British Tennis Weekend, Countrywide
16 – 17 May / 13 – 14 June / 1 – 2 August
Great British Tennis Weekend is a national campaign from the Lawn Tennis Association that aims to increase participation in the sport by working in partnership with clubs, community venues, schools and universities. Venues across the country will open their doors to the public and provide free tennis and coaching for people of all ages and abilities.
https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/opendays

Open Garden Squares Weekend, London
13 – 14 June
Around 200 gardens across London take part in Open Garden Squares Weekend each year. The event features a real variety - from the traditional private squares to contemporary roof gardens, as well as skips, prisons, museums, schools and allotments. Set across 27 London boroughs, many of the gardens also provide activities ranging from puppet shows to walks and exhibitions by friends groups.
http://www.opensquares.org/

BIG Green Week, Bristol
13 – 21 June
This year, Bristol, the European Green Capital, is hosting BIG Green Week which promises to be bigger than ever. It is the UK’s annual festival of eco ideas, art and entertainment – 50,000 visitors will enjoy two weekends of free family entertainment and nine days of inspiring talks, workshops, art, music, poetry, comedy and films.
http://biggreenweek.com/

LiberTeas, Country-wide
14 June
To coincide with the anniversary of Magna Carta, on the afternoon of Sunday 14 June 2015, a country-wide event entitled LiberTeas will be held. Communities will be encouraged to host local tea parties, picnics, debates, or any kind of event that enables them to reflect, debate or celebrate the rights that we enjoy today or to commemorate those who worked to gain those rights. The event will be in conjunction with Parliament, Surrey County Council and the National Trust, who are managing Magna Carta commemorations at Runnymede.
http://www.parliament.uk/
Aegon Championships, London
15 – 21 June
The ATP World Tour 500 tournament will once again be held at The Queen's Club this June. The event is one of the oldest and most prestigious tennis competitions in the world, having first been played in 1890. The event, which is played on grass courts, attracts a world-class field and boasts John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Boris Becker, Pete Sampras and Rafael Nadal among its previous winners.
http://www.lta.org.uk/major-events/aegon-championships/

Solitaire du Figaro Yacht Race, English Riviera
17 – 21 June
The Port of Torbay on South Devon’s English Riviera will be the only UK stopover in the 2015 Solitaire du Figaro - a gruelling 2015 mile race known as the unofficial world championships of solo offshore sailing. Set against the backdrop of the English Riviera’s beautiful Global Geopark, stunning horse-shoe shaped Torbay has been used as a venue for prestigious sailing competitions for many years and famously hosted the 1948 Olympic sailing. A warm welcome is planned for both the visiting sailors and the large number of spectators expected to attend, where they can enjoy the delights of the Race Village.
http://www.englishriviera.co.uk/

Blenheim Palace Flower Show, Oxfordshire
19 – 21 June
The much-anticipated three-day event will return in 2015 with a 25,000-square-foot Grand Floral Marquee featuring over 40 stunning floral displays and a huge selection of plants from the UK’s finest nurseries. The show will be opened by the Queen of British Baking, Mary Berry. Visitors to the flower show can also visit the palace itself, which was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, free of charge.
www.blenheimflowershow.co.uk

L’Eroica Britannia, Bakewell
19 – 21 June
Set in Bakewell in the Peak District National Park, L’Eroica Britannia returns in June for its second chapter, following its launch last year. The cycle festival is based on the original L’Eroica cycle ride held in Tuscany every year, and will consist of three days of music, food, drink and shopping. For those not wishing to cycle, a three-day festival will also be held, celebrating the ‘Best of British’. The festival will involve a cracking line up of three days and three nights of live music, entertainment, as well as a multitude of shops at The British Bazaar.
http://eroicabritannia.co.uk/

Henley Women’s Regatta, Oxfordshire
19 – 21 June
The UK’s premier rowing regatta for women sees crews from all around the world race the famous Henley course. More than a thousand competitors take part each year and spectators can watch the race for free.
http://www.hwr.org.uk/

Beverley Folk Festival
19 - 21 June
For over 30 years, the Beverley Folk Festival has been showcasing the best new music performers alongside established acts. Held at Beverley Racecourse, this local festival has wide appeal, attracting national and international interest. Among the 2015 line-up is Mercury prize nominee Seth Lakeman & Band and American group, Hayseed Dixie.
http://www.beverleyfestival.com/

Soldiers and Suffragettes exhibition, Museum of London Docklands
19 June – 1 November
Uncover the remarkable story of one of the UK’s first female press photographers, Christina Broom, in this exhibition at The
Museum of London Docklands. Despite her pioneering work, this is the first major exhibition entirely dedicated to her work. Delve into an extensive cross section of her images, many of which are on show to the public for the first time, having been kept in private collections. Along with rare shots of historic events are a number of original glass plate negatives, letters, passes, notebooks, cuttings and postcards that, combined, give a good sense of Broom as a person and as a photographer. http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands/whats-on/exhibitions-displays/christina-broom/

Aegon International Eastbourne
20 – 27 June
First held back in 1974, The Aegon International Eastbourne is a prominent WTA Premier tournament based in the intimate setting of Devonshire Park on the south coast. Many of the world’s top female players have set foot on the grass courts, with previous winners including Martina Navratilova, Virginia Wade, Justine Henin and Caroline Wozniacki. http://www.lta.org.uk/major-events/Aegon-International-Eastbourne/

Jane Austen Regency Week, Hampshire
20 – 28 June
An eight-day festival in the market town of Alton and nearby village of Chawton in Hampshire will celebrate Jane Austen and the Regency period. Home to the Jane Austen House Museum, where she published some of her most successful novels, Chawton is the ideal location to honour the author. This year’s festival boasts a fantastic line-up of activities and events including a Persuasion read-a-thon, Regency-style dancing and dining, a writing workshop and teas and tours at Chawton House. Talks by experts include ‘Mr Darcy: Still Sexy After 200 Years’, and the week will come to a climax with a Regency Supper at the Alton House Hotel. http://www.janeaustenregencyweek.co.uk/

GoGoDragons!, Norwich
21 June – 5 September
GoGoDragons! 2015 is an interactive arts sculpture trail bringing over 80 large painted sculptures and over 100 baby dragons designed by schools to the streets of Norwich. Dragons have been a heraldic symbol closely associated with the city of Norwich since the Middle Ages and today dragons are still visible across the city's architecture and feature in many city historic buildings. http://gogodragons.co.uk/.

The Festival of the Sea, Isle of Wight
22 June – 5 July
The annual celebration of the island's nautical heritage, now in its third year, will return this year with one of the largest yacht races in the world with over 1,700 boats. It will also involve many “anchor” events, bringing visitors a memorable fourteen filled with shanty bands, arts & crafts exhibitions, lighthouse tours, sea safaris and delicious seafood. New for 2015 will be ‘Shipwreck Isle’ at Appley Beach, with a full programme of planned including stunt action sword-fighting, historical re-enactments, canon and firearm demonstrations on the beach. www.visitisleofwight.co.uk

City of London Festival
22 June – 10 July
This summer, experience world-class events in outstanding venues across the City of London. Events range from jazz at the top of The Shard, to the London Symphony Orchestra inside St Paul’s Cathedral, to the return of the fabulous Bowler Hat venue with the best acts in comedy, cabaret and contemporary circus. There will also be a wealth of choral and classical performances in beautiful livery halls, the popular debate series, as well as walks and art tours - including locations not usually open to the public. http://www.colf.org/

Barbara Hepworth: Sculpture for A Modern World, Tate Britain
24 June – 25 October
This is the first large-scale exhibition devoted to Barbara Hepworth in London for more than 50 years, partially due to her famous association with St Ives, Cornwall, where she spent much of her life. Despite being one of the leading artists of the 1930s, Hepworth’s career and achievements are sometimes overlooked, even though her work in the ’50s and ’60s made her one of the most successful sculptors in the world. This exhibition looks to bring her work to a new and unfamiliar audience, charting her development from creating small carvings as a young woman to the highly impressive bronzes for which she became internationally famous.

British Cycling National Road Championships, Lincolnshire
25-28 June
This year’s British Cycling National Road Championships will be taking place across Lincolnshire, with a four-day festival of cycling planned to celebrate the event. The events include Time Trial Championships and Road Race Championships and crowds of up to 30,000 supporters are set to flock to Cadwell Park, Castle Square, Lincoln Castle and Westgate in Lincoln to watch the event.
http://www.nationalroadchamps.co.uk/

Kipling Festival, Brighton
25 June - 5 July
The theme for this year’s festival in Rottingdean is ‘Kipling in India’, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth there. Events will include plays inspired by the author alongside his own material.
www.kiplingfestivalrottingdean.co.uk

Pride Festival, London
27 June
Join the party as thousands of people take part in the week-long festival of Pride in London, The culmination of the week-long Pride Festival (a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community) is the Pride Parade. The route runs from Baker Street to Whitehall via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Pall Mall and Trafalgar Square. It features more than 180 community groups, dancers and performers, while more than 15,000 spectators are expected to attend.
http://prideinlondon.org/

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, London
29 June – 12 July
Every summer, the world of tennis descends on Wimbledon in South West London for two weeks at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships. Wimbledon is the world’s longest-running and most prestigious tennis tournament, and is one of four annual Grand Slam tournaments held around the world. Games are still played on the original playing surface, grass, and there’s a strict white-only dress code for players.
http://www.wimbledon.com/

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, London
30 June – 5 July
The world’s largest annual flower show gets underway in London this summer, with a host of horticultural displays and activities in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace. Along with stunning floral displays, visitors can learn about growing their own fruit and vegetables, get tips on gardening in a changing climate, and shop for garden products. This Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) spectacle is the largest of its kind in the world.
https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-hampton-court-palace-flower-show

Jackson Pollock exhibition, Tate Liverpool
30 June – 18 October
Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots brings together the most significant showing of this widely debated body of work in a public institution since 1980. This exhibition will take visitors on a journey through the artist’s practice, starting with a room featuring a selection of paintings from 1947–49 as an introduction to the innovative directions represented by the Black Pourings period. Exhibiting works from the peak of the artist’s fame juxtaposed with his lesser known work offers the opportunity to appreciate Pollock’s broader ambitions as an artist and better understand the importance of the ‘blind spots’ in his practice.

July

Bristol Comedy Garden
1 – 5 July
For five days in July, Queen Square in the city centre will be taken over by the Bristol Comedy Garden, a festival that has previously attracted big names such as Josh Widdicombe, Milton Jones and Nina Conti. See up-and-coming comedians at the Smoke & Mirrors on Denmark Street, where local boy Russell Howard cut his teeth, or be lucky enough to get a ticket for a circuit comedian at The Bristol Hippodrome or Colston Hall.
http://bristolcomedygarden.co.uk/

Henley Royal Regatta, Oxfordshire
1 – 5 July
First held in 1839, Henley Royal Regatta is the town’s most famous, and most prestigious, annual event, attracting visitors from all over the world. There are hundreds of international standard races featuring Olympic class crews, famous clubs and renowned schools. Regatta visitors can also enjoy the unique garden party ambience and facilities within the enclosures and along the riverbank.
www.visit-henley.com

Alice in Wonderland Gallery, Bodleian Library, Oxford
1 July – 6 September
To mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of Alice in Wonderland, the Bodleian Library in Oxford will be running an exhibition dedicated to Lewis Carroll’s most famous work. The exhibition will run from 1 July – 6 September.
http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley

Audrey Hepburn exhibition, National Portrait Gallery
2 July – 18 October
A new fascinating photographic exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery entitled ‘Portraits of an Icon’ will illustrate the life of actress and fashion icon Audrey Hepburn. The exhibition will comprise more than 60 images, including classic and rarely seen prints, as well as an array of vintage magazine covers, film stills and extraordinary archival material, completing her captivating story.
http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/hepburn/home.php

Manchester International Festival
2 – 19 July
The Manchester International Festival is the world’s first festival of original, new work and special events and takes place biennially. Launched in 2007 as an artist-led, commissioning Festival, it presents new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. The 2015 programme includes a new contemporary ballet directed and choreographed by Wayne McGregor with music composed by Jamie xx, as well as a show about the history of the universe, ‘The Age of Starlight’, written and presented by Professor Brian Cox.
http://www.mif.co.uk/

Winchester Festival
3rd – 12th July
Winchester Festival will be back for ten days, with a jam-packed line-up of music, literature and art. Full details will be revealed on 20 April.
Island Beats, Thorpe Park
6 July – 30 August
Brand new for 2015, Island Beats will run over eight weeks this summer at Thorpe Park. During the day there will be performances from emerging artists at the Amity Cove Stage, whilst headline artists will perform on Fridays and Saturdays at the main stage in Lost City. Already confirmed to perform are The Vamps, Rizzle Kicks and Professor Green. Visitors will be able to warm-up on over 30 rides and attractions ahead of the artists’ performances, with extended ride times until 10pm every Friday and Saturday as the headline artists perform.
https://www.thorpepark.com/events-experiences/events/island-beats/

Shaun the Sheep trails, Bristol
6 July – 31 August
Following the film release in February, Aardman Animations’ loveable lamb, Shaun the Sheep, and his flock will be brightening up the city streets of Bristol this summer with an arts trail that’s not to be missed. 60 five-foot-high sculptures painted by local artists and celebrities will be placed across the city before they are auctioned off by Wallace & Gromit’s Grand Appeal to raise money for the Bristol Children’s Hospital.
http://shauninthecity.org.uk/

Henley Festival, Oxfordshire
8 – 12 July
Henley Festival is a truly unique and quintessentially English event offering an interesting mix of music, art, culture and food in the beautiful riverside setting. The diverse programme includes fine dining, comedy shows, art exhibitions, street theatre performers, pop-up restaurants from celebrity chefs and nightly fireworks. This year’s highlights are set to include Lionel Richie and a Gershwin Spectacular featuring Laura Mvula and Gregory Porter.
www.henley-festival.co.uk/

Yves Saint Laurent exhibition, Bowes Museum, Durham
11 July – 25 October
An exclusive exhibition will present a stunning display of the work and life of esteemed French designer, Yves Saint Laurent. Yves Saint Laurent: Style is Eternal will be the first of its kind in the UK, highlighting the defining elements of YSL’s vision and his significant influence on fashion and the way we understand womenswear today. The exhibition will showcase the different eras and styles of his creative career and explore a number of themes including art, lace and transparency and women’s emancipation.
http://www.thisisdurham.com/blog/january-2015/Yves-Saint-Laurent

Race to the Stones, Chilterns to North Wessex Downs
11-12 July
Race to the Stones is an exciting challenge, full of endurance and determination during its 100km route. Passing up and along the high ground South West from Lewknor, Oxfordshire, the route rises up onto the North Wessex Downs before the iconic finish at the towering standing stones of Avebury. Participants can choose to do all 100km in one go, running through the night and watching the sunrise, or break the route in two by staying at the official campsite.
http://www.racetothestones.com/

Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, Harrogate
16-19 July
Taking place over four days each July, the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival presents accessible and entertaining literature events, engaging 13,000 people each year. Authors confirmed for this summer’s festival include Arnaldur Indridason, Sara Paretsky and Lee Child.
www.harrogateinternationalfestivals.com/crime/
The Beach, Nottingham
16 July – 1 September
Nottinghamshire may be the most land-locked county in England, but this summer the city centre will once again be transformed, for the seventh consecutive year, and Nottingham’s famous urban beach will draw crowds to Old Market Square. With 250 tonnes of golden sands, a fully-licensed themed beach bar, giant paddling pool, fun family rides and games, there is something for everyone.
http://www.nottinghamriviera.co.uk/

Marlborough International Jazz Festival, Wiltshire
17 – 19 July
Every year, the picturesque market town of Marlborough is transformed into a mini New Orleans at its annual International Jazz Festival. Running since 1986, this year’s three day festival will play host to a range of established blues, jazz, soul and funk acts.
http://www.marlboroughjazz.com/

Somersault Festival, Devon
23 – 27 July
A true summer holiday experience packed full of music and adventures, Somersault is back for 2015, promising five days of stripped-back happiness and blissful outdoor life. As well as the international music programme, the festival offers seaside escapades, mountain biking, horse riding and yoga excursions. This year’s line-up includes well-known names such as Laura Marling and Bombay Bicycle Club.
http://somersaultfestival.com/

Burghley Film Festival, Lincolnshire
29 July – 2 August
Burghley’s picturesque South Gardens in the grounds of the Lincolnshire Elizabethan house will again be transformed into a magical outdoor movie venue for the annual Film Festival. With the spectacular backdrop of Burghley House, the festival will comprise five days and nights of fabulous films including the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy, “Frozen”, and “Back to the Future”. Early bird booking offers prices of £8 for adults (£14 on the door) and £4 for children (£7 on the door).
www.burghley.co.uk

The Grand Tour, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire
Galleries, museums and a stately home across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire – Nottingham Contemporary, Chatsworth, Derby Museums and The Harley Gallery, Welbeck – have joined together to create a contemporary reinterpretation of The Grand Tour. This modern day Grand Tour will reveal hidden treasures from private collections, juxtaposing them with contemporary art exhibitions across the four venues, showcasing them in a new light.
http://www.thegrandtour.uk.com/

August

Brighton Pride
1 August
This year makes the 25th anniversary of Pride Festival. The celebration of LGBT life in the UK’s ‘gay capital’ includes a huge, colourful Pride Parade through the city with floats, music and amazing costumes, and a big party in Preston Park. Pride is open, accessible and suitable for all.
www.brightonpride.org

International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, Harrogate
1 – 23 August
The Gilbert & Sullivan Festival brings together a heady mix of the leading Gilbert & Sullivan societies from around the world, along with special professional performances from the outstanding National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company and Charles Court Opera. There will be over 30 performances in the magnificent Royal Hall as well as seminars and concerts. http://gsfestivals.org/

**Great British Tennis Weekend, Countrywide**
16 – 17 May / 13 – 14 June / 1 – 2 August
Great British Tennis Weekend is a national campaign from the Lawn Tennis Association that aims to increase participation in the sport by working in partnership with clubs, community venues, schools and universities. Venues across the country will open their doors to the public and provide free tennis and coaching for people of all ages and abilities.
https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/opendays

**Bristol International Balloon Fiesta**
6 – 9 August
One of the largest events in Bristol’s calendar, the annual International Balloon Fiesta will tie-in with the city’s year as European Green Capital. The fiesta, which takes place at Ashton Court, will feature the launch of the world’s first modern solar-powered balloon, designed by local hot-air balloon legends Cameron Balloons.
http://www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk/

**Battle of Evesham Festival, Worcestershire**
8 – 9 August
2015 is the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Evesham, fought between Simon de Montfort and Prince Edward II in the Baron War. To mark this locally and nationally significant part of history, The Battle of Evesham 2015 Festival will take place on 8 and 9 August. It will include tours and treasure trails, live battle re-enactments, archery and falconry displays and much more.

**September**

**D.H. Lawrence Festival, Nottingham**
September
This annual festival celebrates the life and works of writer D.H. Lawrence, as well as the mining heritage of his birthplace in Eastwood. A programme of talks, exhibitions, readings, special events and workshops will explore the different facets of D.H. Lawrence’s works and personalities – making it a great event for all the family.
www.dhlawrenceheritage.org

**Blackpool iFest**
4 – 6 September
This weekend-long celebration will mark the start of the annual switch on of the Blackpool Illuminations at the Blackpool Tower Festival Headland. This year’s line-up includes Bananarama, Jason Donovan, and Paul Young. As well as well-known musicians, there will also be performances from famous comedians such as The Pub Landlord, Al Murray, who will headline the show.
http://www.visitblackpool.com/switchon/

**Goodwood Festival, West Sussex**
11 – 13 September
Classic cards and golden-age glamour, the Goodwood Revival is THE festival for spotting talent of classic couture. This annual three day festival recaptures the exceptional wheel-to-wheel racing and the high sartorial fervour, intrinsic to the original Goodwood racecourse. During its glory days, Goodwood, alongside Silverstone, hosted some of the world’s most anticipated automotive competitions such as Formula One and the eponymous, Goodwood Nine Hours race.
Magna Carta celebrations, Cartmel Priory, Cumbria
25 – 29 September
Cartmel Priory was founded in 1189 by William Marshal, England’s premier knight, who played a pivotal role in gaining King John’s assent to Magna Carta. To celebrate Magna Carta’s 800th anniversary, the Priory will host five days of festivities, including a historical flower pageant, a living history medieval encampment, tournée and fayre, with local food and drink. The evening Son et Lumière spectacle on Saturday and Sunday is expected to draw large crowds when the Priory will be illuminated with magical images at dusk.
http://www.cartmelpriory.org.uk/Home

Henley Literary Festival, Oxfordshire
28 September – 4 October
The 2015 Henley Literary Festival will feature Jane Hawking, whose memoir Travelling to Infinity became the Bafta and Oscar-winning The Theory of Everything; broadcaster Gyles Brandreth, columnist Will Hutton, comedian Helen Lederer and internationally bestselling authors SJ Watson, Paula Hawkes and MC Beaton. The week-long festival, which is now in its eight year, covers a wide range of topics including politics, current affairs, fiction, history, food and sport.
http://henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/

October
British Art Show, Leeds
October
The internationally renowned exhibition, British Art Show 8, will open at Leeds Art Gallery in October. Organised every five years by the Hayward Gallery as part of the Hayward Touring programme, the British Art Show showcases the very best work of both emerging and established artists. It is the biggest touring exhibition of contemporary art in the UK calendar, attracting over 420,000 visitors in its tour to four cities in 2010 and 2011.
http://www.visitleeds.co.uk/

Juice Festival 2015. NewcastleGateshead
23 October – 1 November
NewcastleGateshead’s award-winning festival for children, young people and their families returns for its ninth year in October half term. The 10-day festival showcases outstanding work created by children and young people as well as a family friendly programme delivered by regional, national and international artists.
www.juicefestival.co.uk

November
Brick Wonders, Life Science Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne
28 November 2015 - 31 January 2016
Brick Wonders is the new exhibition of the wonders of the ancient, modern and natural worlds built out of Lego. One of the exhibition highlights is a large airport with working lights, and there will also be a chance to get ‘hands-on’ at one of several Lego activity stations.
www.life.org.uk

Julia Margaret Cameron exhibition, The V&A, London
28 November 2015 – 14 February 2016
2015 marks both the bicentenary of pioneering female photographer Julia Margaret Cameron’s birth, as well as 150 years since her first museum exhibition. To mark the occasion, the Victoria and Albert Museum will host an exhibition featuring over 100 of
her photographs from the Museum’s collection. It will also examine her relationship with the V&A’s founding director, Sir Henry Cole, and feature some of their letters to one another.
http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/julia-margaret-cameron/about-the-exhibition/

December

**Burning the Clocks, Brighton**
21 December
The dark grip of long wintry nights is broken by a flicker of light… Started in 1993, Burning the Clocks represents an alternative to the commercial Christmas. Thousands of people gather to make paper and willow lanterns to carry through the city before burning them on the beach as a token for the end of the year and to greet the lengthening days.

www.burningtheclocks.co.uk