

ARTS BY THE SEA FESTIVAL



FRIDAY 25TH to SATURDAY 26TH
SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME TO ARTS BY THE SEA 2026!



WE'RE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO ARTS BY THE SEA 2026, THE SOUTH WEST'S LARGEST FREE CELEBRATION OF ARTS, CULTURE, PEOPLE AND PLACE.

Our 2026 theme, **ELEMENTAL**, explores the powerful energies that shape how we live, move and create. Inspired by the elements, the Festival invites you to experience striking moments of creativity that transform Bournemouth's public spaces.

Alongside our Festival weekend, Arts by the Sea continues to reach further into local neighbourhoods through our Bite-Sized Festivals, creating more opportunities for people to connect with artists, ideas and each other.

Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning as part of our Festival family, we hope you'll discover something new.

Enjoy Arts by the Sea 2026!

Andrea Francis

Arts by the Sea Festival Director



IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO ARTS BY THE SEA 2026 AND ANOTHER YEAR OF FREE, ACCESSIBLE ARTS AND CULTURE FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY.

Arts by the Sea continues to play an important role in bringing communities together, supporting artists and transforming public spaces through creativity.

A huge thank you to the Arts by the Sea team, Arts Council England and all our partners, artists, volunteers and supporters who help make the Festival possible. Their dedication ensures that everyone can experience world-class arts and cultural activity right here in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

Councillor Andy Martin

Portfolio Holder for Culture, Customer and Communications
at BCP Council

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

TICKETS

All Arts by the Sea events, performances and installations are free to attend and unticketed. Tickets may be required for some of our Fringe events, please enquire with venues directly.

ACCESSIBILITY

We welcome visitors with disabilities and accessibility needs to all of our events. If you require assistance or information while you are at the Festival, speak to one of our friendly volunteers in pink t-shirts.

A Changing Places toilet has been provided by the festival. This can be found in the Lower Gardens near to the Bandstand Area. This facility has an attendant. Seating is available for some of our performances and sound-cancelling ear defenders are available at the Information Point in the Lower Gardens or speak to a volunteer.

For our Accessibility Guide and Easy-Read Festival Guide please see our website.

ZONES

- 1 THE SQUARE
- 2 LOWER GARDENS (PERFORMANCES)
- 3 LOWER GARDENS (GREEN HUB / COMMUNITY ZONE)
- 4 BANDSTAND AREA
- 5 PICNIC PARK DELI
- 6 STREET FOOD CORNER

BUS INFORMATION

Bus stops have temporarily moved from Gervis Place, check Morebus for information: morebus.co.uk/bus-stop-changes-central-bournemouth

WEATHER & SCHEDULING

Our shows are designed to take place outside and will still go ahead in bad weather if safe to do so. If we need to make any changes, we'll update our website and social media, so please check those for schedule updates.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Our photographers and videographers will be capturing footage during the Festival for Arts by the Sea promotional material. If you do not want your image to be used, please visit our Information Point in the Lower Gardens or speak to a volunteer.

FEEDBACK

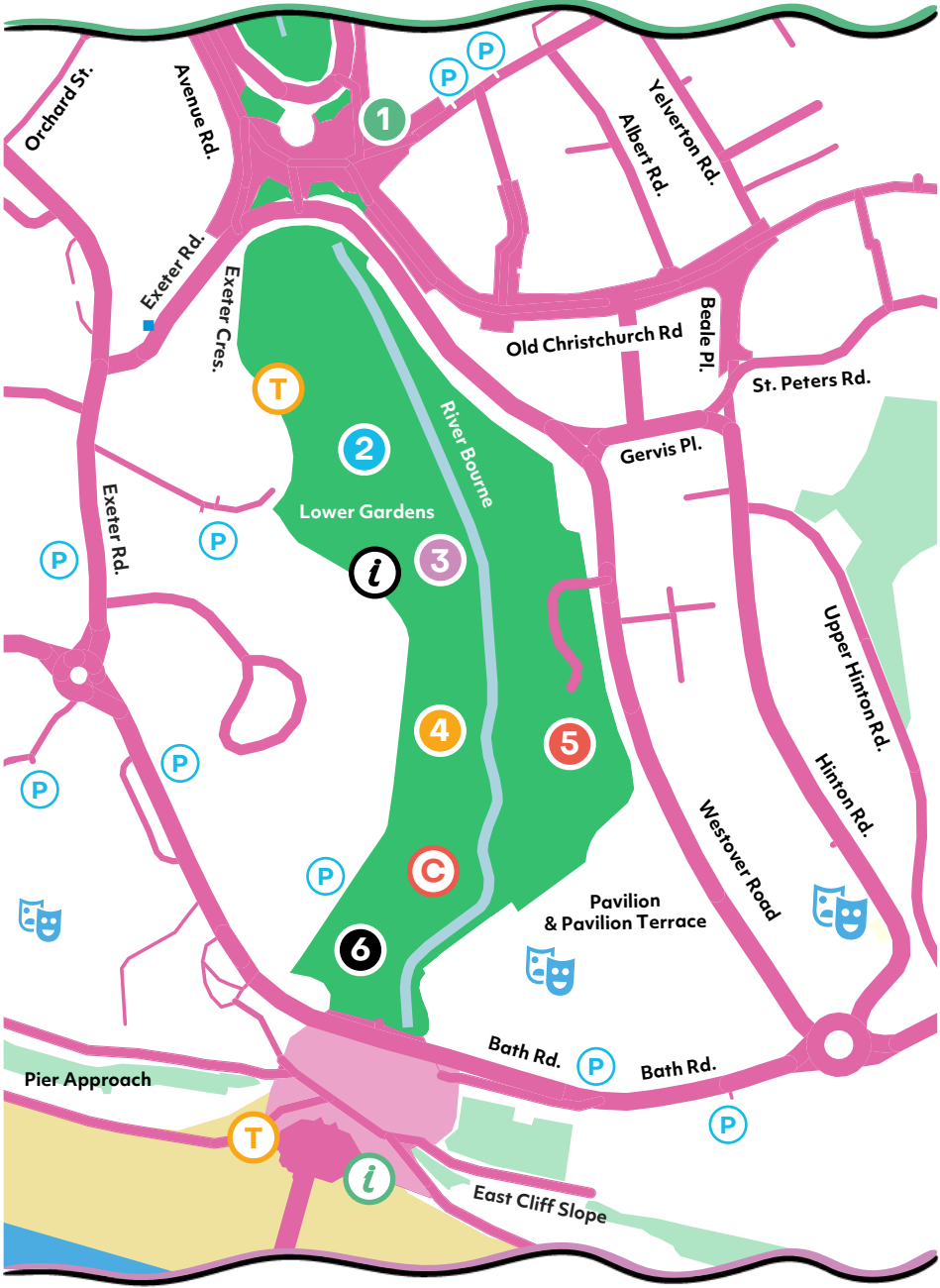
Scan the QR code or visit our website to take our survey to tell us what you think.



SERVICES

- P PARKING
- T PUBLIC TOILETS
- C CHANGING PLACES TOILETS
- i FESTIVAL INFORMATION
- i TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

2026 FESTIVAL MAP



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

1 THE SQUARE PAGE

20:00 – 20:30	Gugge 2000	17
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2 LOWER GARDENS

17:00 – 17:20	Rusty the Horse 🦄	14
18:00 – 18:20	Rusty the Horse 🦄	14
19:00 – 19:30	Elsie the Dragon	13
19:30 – 19:45	Fireshow	13
20:00 – 20:05	Frequency Rider	12
20:15 – 20:45	Elsie the dragon	13
20:45 – 21:00	Fireshow	13
21:00 – 21:05	Frequency Rider	12
21:15 – 21:45	Elsie the Dragon	13
21:45 – 22:00	Fireshow	13
22:00 – 22:05	Frequency Rider	12

4 BANDSTAND AREA

11:00 – 22:00	Lost Lines Sculpture	10
17:45 – 18:00	Festival Welcome	8
18:00 – 19:00	Freefall Collective	21
19:45 – 20:45	CJP BAND	19
21:15 – 21:45	Gugge 2000	17

5 PICNIC PARK DELI

17:00 – 22:00	Read by the Sea	14
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6 STREET FOOD CORNER

17:00 – 22:00	The Centaur Stage – Open Mic	21
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PERFORMANCE KEY

	Installation
	Sensory Spectacle
	Join in
	Walkabout
	Speech Free
	Open Mic



Check out the schedule on our website.



Listings correct at time of going to press – keep an eye on our social media for the most up to date information..

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

1 THE SQUARE PAGE

12:00 – 17:00	Hydropunk	15
13:00 – 13:40	FLOOD	15
15:30 – 16:10	FLOOD	15
18:00 – 18:30	Earth, Wind and Choir and the High Priestess of Pop	19

2 LOWER GARDENS

10:30 – 17:00	The Story Works	26
11:00 – 11:40	Roots to Rise	22
11:30 – 12:15	Walk of the Dandelion 🦄	23
12:00 – 12:30	Bombay Dance Club	11
13:00 – 13:15	Breakin' Free	17
13:15 – 13:45	Lords of Veg Funk 🦄	22
14:00 – 14:20	Rusty the Horse 🦄	14
14:00 – 14:40	Pirate Taxi	16
14:45 – 15:30	Walk of the Dandelion 🦄	23
14:45 – 15:15	Bombay Dance Club	11
15:15 – 15:45	Lords of Veg Funk 🦄	22
15:45 – 16:05	Rusty the Horse 🦄	14
15:45 – 16:25	Roots to Rise	22
16:30 – 17:10	Pirate Taxi	16
16:30 – 17:15	Walk of the Dandelion 🦄	23
17:15 – 17:45	Bombay Dance Club	11
17:30 – 17:50	Rusty the Horse 🦄	14
19:00 – 19:30	Elsie the Dragon	13
19:30 – 19:45	Fireshow	13
20:00 – 20:05	Frequency Rider	12

2 LOWER GARDENS PAGE

20:15 – 20:45	Elsie the Dragon	13
20:45 – 21:00	Fireshow	13
21:00 – 21:05	Frequency Rider	12
21:15 – 21:45	Elsie the Dragon	13
21:45 – 22:00	Fireshow	13
22:00 – 22:05	Frequency Rider	12

3 LOWER GARDENS

10:30 – 17:00	Community Zone	31
10:30 – 17:00	Green Hub	29

4 BANDSTAND AREA

11:00 – 22:00	Lost Lines Sculpture	10
12:45 – 13:45	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra	20
14:30 – 15:30	Evison	18
16:00 – 17:00	Pachango	20
17:45 – 18:45	Zenel	18
19:30 – 20:30	Lords of Veg Funk	22
21:00 – 22:00	Earth, Wind and Choir and the High Priestess of Pop	19

5 PICNIC PARK DELI

11:00 – 17:00	Bournemouth & Poole College Takeover	24
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6 STREET FOOD CORNER

12:30 – 13:00	The Hide	16
15:00 – 15:30	The Hide	16
17:00 – 17:30	The Hide	16
18:00 – 22:00	The Centaur Stage – Open Mic	21



**Six galleries.
Five floors.
Zero boredom.**

Discover a day out packed with shipwrecks, family trails, unexpected art, tasty treats, gorgeous gifts, and even a secret walled garden.

Free to visit,
donations
always
welcome

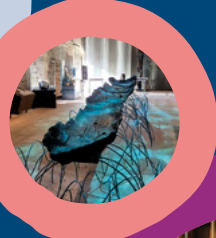
**Book
online
now!**

Open daily 10am-5pm
poolemuseum.org.uk

what3words:
sings.vibes.clubs



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operated by



FESTIVAL WELCOME

FRIDAY

BANDSTAND AREA: 17:45 - 18:00

4

Join us as we open this year's festival, before Freefall Collective take to the stage and our fire spectaculars begin!

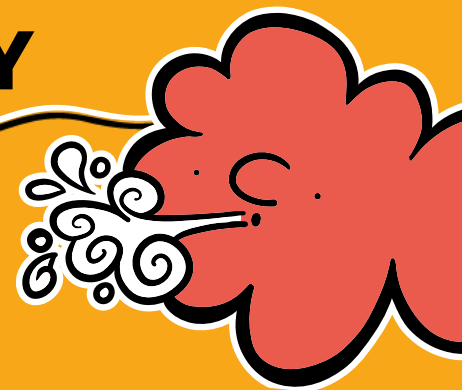


ARTS BY THE SEA

PLAN YOUR DAY

FAMILY PICKS

If you're coming with little ones, use our handy guide to experience all the best bits for families.



SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

10:30 - 11:30	The Story Works & Arts Award Pick up your booklet and keep them busy all day with Arts Award (Open 10:30 - 17:00)	2
11:30 - 12:15	Walk of the Dandelion	2
12:15 - 13:00	Hydropunk (Open 12:00 - 17:00)	1
13:00 - 13:15	Breakin' Free	2
13:15 - 13:45	Lords of Veg Funk	2
14:00 - 14:20	Rusty The Horse	2
15:30 - 16:10	FLOOD	1
16:30 - 17:10	Pirate Taxi	2
17:15 - 17:45	Bombay Dance Club	2
Don't forget to drop by the Green Hub, Community Zone and Bournemouth & Poole College Takeover for interactive free drop in workshops and creative activities all day until 17:00.		
Out after dark? Catch the first showing of our fire-themed trio.		
19:00 - 19:30	Elsie the Dragon	2
19:30 - 19:45	Fireshow	2
20:00 - 20:05	Frequency Rider	2

ARTS BY THE SEA

9

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



LOCAL

LOST LINES

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

BANDSTAND AREA: 11:00 - 22:00



4



We're thrilled to welcome Irish illustrator and street artist Lost Lines (Rhea Hanlon) as our 2026 Artist in Residence and the cover designer of this brochure.

Known for her colourful characters, playful illustrations and public art, Rhea creates joyful work that encourages us to reconnect with nature, our communities and ourselves.

For Arts by the Sea 2026, she has created a large-scale sculptural installation inspired by this year's theme, **ELEMENTAL**, inviting visitors of all ages to celebrate the natural forces that shape our world.

Having first fallen in love with Bournemouth's Lower Gardens as a university student, Rhea now returns with a spectacular new creation.

ASSOCIATE ARTIST



LOCAL

BOMBAY DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY

LOWER GARDENS: 12:00 - 12:30, 14:45 - 15:15, 17:15 - 17:45



2

Introducing our 2026 Associate Artist, Bombay Dance Club. Our Associate Artist scheme invests in local artists and under-represented art forms, providing a platform for work rarely showcased in the region.

Founded by Sona and Shweta, Bombay Dance Club brings the joy, energy and inclusivity of Bollywood dance to communities across Bournemouth and beyond. Combining teaching, performance, Indian classical dance and choreography, the duo create performances that celebrate culture, creativity and connection.

For Arts by the Sea 2026, they will present a spectacular new performance inspired by **ELEMENTAL**, featuring a large ensemble of dancers and inviting audiences to join the celebration.



FIRE 



FREQUENCY RIDER - LORDS OF LIGHTNING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

LOWER GARDENS: 20:00 - 20:05, 21:00 - 21:05, 22:00 - 22:05



Prepare to witness the impossible with Frequency Rider. Created by Lords of Lightning, sister company of world-renowned performance collective Arcadia Spectacular, this electrifying show transforms millions of volts of electricity into a breathtaking display of light, sound and engineering. Part of the globally acclaimed Arcadia family, the performers fire multi-million-volt lightning bolts from their bodies while creating music through electrical energy, bringing the raw power of nature to life.

BEHOLD OUR FIRE-THEMED TRIO OF ACTS BRINGING THE TOWN CENTRE TO LIFE ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT!

If you miss the first shows between 19:00-20:05 you can catch all three again 20:00-21:05 or 21:00-22:05!

FIRESHOW - STEAMSHIP CIRCUS



FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 19:30-19:45, 20:45-21:00, 21:45-22:00

Steamship Circus light up the night with a dazzling display of fire, movement and circus skill. Combining choreographed flames, high-energy performance and breathtaking visual effects, this Bournemouth-based collective will transform the Lower Gardens into a glowing celebration of the **ELEMENTAL** theme. Prepare to be captivated.



FIRE 

ELSIE THE DRAGON - PAKA THE UNCREDIBLE



FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 19:00-19:30, 20:15-20:45, 21:15-21:45

Meet Elsie the Dragon, an extraordinary large-scale animatronic creation from internationally acclaimed artist Paka the Uncredible. Crafted from formed steel, found objects and reclaimed technology, Elsie combines engineering, theatre and imagination to create a character full of life. With 36 body movements, smoke effects and spectacular bursts of fire, this mechanical marvel embodies the spirit of **ELEMENTAL**. Don't miss the chance to encounter this fire-breathing dragon as she transforms the Lower Gardens after dark.



FIRE 

**RUSTY THE HORSE -
PAKA THE UNCREDIBLE** **2**

FRIDAY
Lower Gardens: 17:00–17:20, 18:00–18:20

SATURDAY
Lower Gardens: 14:00–14:20,
15:45–16:05, 17:30–17:50

Meet Rusty the Horse, a larger-than-life mechanical character with plenty of personality. Created by artist Paka the Incredible, this extraordinary animatronic horse roams the Festival interacting with audiences through humour, theatre and a little bit of mayhem. Part machine, part performer and entirely unforgettable, Rusty is guaranteed to stop you in your tracks.



HYDROPUNK - ARTIZANI **1**

SATURDAY
The Square: 12:00–17:00

Dive into Hydropunk, a playful world of pipes, pumps, valves and water-powered puzzles. Created by Artizani, this interactive installation invites visitors to work together to keep water flowing through a giant gravity-fed machine. With a limited supply to share, every drop counts in this fun, hands-on environmental adventure for all ages.

 **WITHOUT
WALLS**

Hydropunk has been supported by Without Walls, who champion innovation and diversity in outdoor arts across the UK.

WATER 



READ BY THE SEA **5**

FRIDAY
Picnic Park Deli: 17:00–22:00

Curated and hosted by Mayu Rousant (Getting Poetical, Bournemouth's local poetry night), Read by the Sea is a welcoming celebration of words, creativity and community. Supported by the National Literacy Trust as part of the National Year of Reading, it brings together local poets alongside an open mic, inviting everyone to share their own work, read a favourite poem or simply listen. Read by the Sea celebrates the power of words to connect people.

LOCAL

ARTS BY THE SEA

**FLOOD -
THEATRE TÉMOIN** **1**

SATURDAY
The Square: 13:00–13:40, 15:30–16:10

FLOOD is a watery, acrobatic adventure set in a future where rising seas have transformed life on the coast. Equipped with your own sound umbrella, you'll journey through a powerful story about climate, community and our changing relationship with the ocean.

 **WITHOUT
WALLS**

FLOOD has been supported by Without Walls, who champion innovation and diversity in outdoor arts across the UK. This show is fully BSL integrated.

ARTS BY THE SEA



Come and find out about swimming lessons from our friends at BCP Leisure in the Square!

WATER 



PIRATE TAXI - PIRATES OF THE CARABINA 2

SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 14:00-14:40,
16:30-17:10

Hop aboard an unforgettable adventure with Pirate Taxi, a joyful outdoor circus spectacular performed in, on and around a classic London black cab. From award-winning Pirates of the Carabina, the show combines aerial circus, live music, acrobatics and juggling with the directors' own story of finding their way to Somerset via the circus. Inspired by the annual migration of birds, Pirate Taxi is a charming celebration of friendship, adventure and finding your way.

AIR

BREAKIN' FREE - PAVILION DANCE SOUTH WEST 2

SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 13:00-13:15

Pavilion Dance's Breakin' Free participants will be joined by other local community members in a performance inspired by the elements, led by choreographer Hannah Malone. Bringing together people from Bourne, Townsend and West Howe, the piece celebrates community, creativity and the joy of moving together. The choreography was learned during Arts By The Sea's Bite-Sized Festivals, where participants came together to prepare for this special performance.



LOCAL

SEE THE
CHOREOGRAPHY
HERE!



THE HIDE - TILLY INGRAM 6

SATURDAY

Street Food Corner: 12:30-13:00,
15:00-15:30, 17:00-17:30

Welcome to The Hide, an intimate live performance inspired by the return of nesting Ospreys to Poole Harbour. Blending birdwatching, storytelling and sound, the experience explores hidden disability and the assumptions we make about one another. Equipped with headphones and binoculars, audiences are invited to slow down and discover connections between nature and people.

WITHOUT
WALLS

The Hide has been supported by Without Walls, who champion innovation and diversity in outdoor arts across the UK.

AIR

LOCAL

GUGGE 2000 1 4

FRIDAY

The Square: 20:00-20:30
Bandstand area: 21:15-21:45

Putting their own spin on Switzerland's 'Guggen' style of carnival music, Gugge 2000 are a street entertainment band based right here in Bournemouth, but performing all over the UK and Europe since 1998. Get ready for an upbeat performance from Arts by the Sea Festival royalty, with a mixture of brass and percussion that will have you dancing away!



AIR

LOCAL

ZEÑEL

4

SATURDAY

Bandstand area: 17:45–18:45

Zeñel pushes jazz into thrilling new territory, blending virtuosic improvisation with electronic soundscapes, synths and dancefloor-inspired beats. Drawing on influences from grime, afrobeats and future bass, the London band creates an electrifying live show that's bold, unpredictable and packed with infectious energy.



LOCAL

EARTH WIND AND CHOIR! - FUNKY LITTLE CHOIR AND THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF POP

1 4

SATURDAY

The Square: 18:00–18:30

Bandstand area: 21:00–22:00

Expect the unexpected as Funky Little Choir and The High Priestess of Pop come together for Earth, Wind and Choir. Blending live vocals, playful performance and plenty of audience participation, this joyful new collaboration promises laughter, music and a healthy dose of festival magic.



EMG AFROSOUNDS SYSTEM - EVISION

4

SATURDAY

Bandstand area: 14:30–15:30

Evision Music Group (EMG) showcases the energy and creativity of Bournemouth's Afro and Caribbean music scene. Championing emerging artists and performers, EMG brings an uplifting celebration of live music, culture and community, with vibrant performances guaranteed to get audiences dancing.



LOCAL

CJP BAND

4

FRIDAY

Bandstand area: 19:45–20:45

The CJP Band blends disco, soul, funk and jazz into an uplifting live show packed with soaring horns, rich strings and a powerhouse rhythm section. Expect infectious grooves, feel-good melodies and outstanding musicianship as the band delivers an energetic set guaranteed to get you moving.

LOCAL





LOCAL

PACHANGO

4

SATURDAY

Bandstand area: 16:00–17:00

Get ready to dance with Pachango, a nine-piece Bournemouth band serving up an irresistible fusion of latin, reggae, funk and cumbia. Packed with infectious rhythms, sizzling brass, powerful percussion and bilingual vocals, their high-energy performance is guaranteed to bring festival vibes and keep you moving from start to finish.



SIGN UP!



THE CENTAUR STAGE

6

FRIDAY

Street Food Corner: 17:00–22:00

SATURDAY

Street Food Corner: 18:00–22:00

Think you've got what it takes? The Centaur Stage, a one-of-a-kind performance space housed inside a beautifully restored vintage horsebox. Created to champion grassroots musicians, this welcoming open mic celebrates emerging talent and offers the perfect chance to find new artists and become one yourself! For the chance to play, scan the QR code to find out more details and sign up.

LOCAL

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

4

SATURDAY

Bandstand area: 12:45–13:45

Join musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra on a family-friendly **ELEMENTAL** journey across our planet. Together, you will travel through vast oceans with music from Malcolm Arnold to Disney's Frozen, encounter majestic sound worlds from Vaughan Williams and Messian amongst others and end your journey with the wonder of all that surrounds us with Björk's awe-filled Crystalline and Jessie Montgomery's energetic Starburst.



LOCAL

FREEFALL COLLECTIVE

4

FRIDAY

Bandstand area: 18:00–19:00

Experience the unmistakable sound of Freefall Collective as they blend dub, reggae, drum & bass and hip hop into an electrifying live performance. Known for their infectious rhythms, powerful basslines and freestyle energy, the band create an uplifting festival atmosphere where live musicianship and dancefloor beats come together to keep audiences moving from start to finish.



LOCAL

LORDS OF VEG FUNK - CHURCH OF VEG

2 4

SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 13:15–13:45, 15:15–15:45
Bandstand area: 19:30–20:30

Prepare to worship at the altar of funk as The Lords of Veg Funk arrive to spread the holy word of the veg! This gloriously bonkers eight-piece band blends funk, disco, hip-hop and theatrical comedy into an energetic walkabout and live performance. Follow the cabbage congregation as they parade through the Festival, delivering kale healings and holy vegetable scriptures, before catching their full live set packed with irresistible basslines, outrageous characters and audience participation.



EARTH

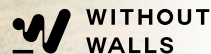
ROOTS TO RISE - NANDITA SHANKARDASS

2

SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 11:00–11:40, 15:45–16:25

Blending contemporary movement with Indian classical and folk dance, Roots to Rise is a powerful new performance exploring our connection to the earth, each other and the stories that shape us. Through striking choreography and evocative music, three women embark on a moving journey of resilience, community and hope.



Roots to Rise has been supported by Without Walls, who champion innovation and diversity in outdoor arts across the UK.

EARTH



WALK OF THE DANDELION - LUKE BROWN COMPANY

2

SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 11:30–12:15, 14:45–15:30, 16:30–17:15

Meet Daniel, an enchanting 8ft puppet who gently roams the Festival, sharing dandelions carrying messages of hope, kindness and resilience. Through quiet moments of interaction and gentle storytelling, this heartwarming walkabout invites audiences of all ages to pause, connect and discover the joy of generosity.

Walk of the Dandelion has an accompanying, day-long, open, community craft workshop, where participants make woollen dandelions and share their own positive messages. The dandelion symbol promotes creativity and discussions about resilience, well-being, nature, ecology, and sustainability. Daniel is a survivor who has found resilience and strength through the symbolism of the dandelion, which will grow despite neglect and harsh treatment. Participants become part of the project by making and sharing their dandelions and positive messages with others, reminding them of their resilience.



BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE COLLEGE



SATURDAY

PICNIC PARK DELI: 11:00 - 17:00



5

FREE WORKSHOPS

- ✦ AR games creation
- ✦ Cyanotype printing
- ✦ Leaf artwork
- ✦ Reclaimed materials sculpture making
- ✦ Lino-printing
- ✦ Living archive film
- ✦ Skin-alchemy make-up

Arts by the Sea is proud to once again welcome the talented students and staff from Bournemouth & Poole College, who return with a day of interactive workshops, installations, live performance and hands-on creativity inspired by this year's **ELEMENTAL** theme.

Throughout the day, visitors of all ages can explore, create and discover alongside the next generation of artists, designers, performers and makers.



EXPLORE, CREATE AND DISCOVER



ART & DESIGN

Get creative with a series of hands-on workshops led by Art & Design students. Design your own augmented reality games experience, create sun-powered cyanotype prints, transform fallen leaves into collaborative artwork, build sculptures from reclaimed materials and try your hand at lino printing.

MEDIA

Step into Voices & Visions, an interactive installation showcasing silent films inspired by Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole. Add your own recorded reflections to help create a living archive celebrating the area's people, places and future.

MEDIA MAKE-UP

Experience Skin Alchemy, where Media Make-up students transform faces and bodies with imaginative designs inspired by Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

MUSIC

Enjoy an afternoon of live music on the Picnic Park Deli Stage, as Music students perform creative interpretations of songs inspired by the natural world.

PERFORMING ARTS

Keep an eye out for surprise pop-up performances appearing across the Festival throughout the day, as Performing Arts students bring the energy, movement and spirit of **ELEMENTAL** to life in unexpected places.



LOCAL

ARTS BY THE SEA



ARTS BY THE SEA



LOCAL

THE STORY WORKS



THE
STORY
WORKS

SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 10:30–17:00

We're giving you the opportunity to show off your creativity thanks to The Story Works, a charity which delivers fun and transformative creative writing and illustration workshops to young people across Dorset. Drop in to visit the Story Works team and let your imagination take over!

ARTS AWARD



arts
award

SATURDAY

Lower Gardens: 10:30–17:00

Younger folk have the exciting opportunity to complete the nationally recognised Arts Award 'Discover' by responding to the performances they visit and recording their thoughts. Once complete, booklets can be returned to make sure they get their Arts Award certificate delivered to their school for awarding!

Collect your Arts Award booklet from The Story Works or our Information Point (both located in Lower Gardens).

Completed booklets can be returned to these locations during the Festival or to your local BCP library up until Friday 16th October.

Visit: artsbythesea.co.uk/arts-award for more information.



BITE-SIZED FESTIVALS



Following the fantastic response to last year's Bite-Sized Festivals, we're bringing the **ELEMENTAL** magic of Arts by the Sea to even more local communities with the addition of a third event! Join us for three free days of creativity, live performances and family fun ahead of the main Festival. Expect arts and crafts, interactive activities, workshops and entertainment for all ages as we bring the magic of Arts by the Sea to neighbourhoods across the area.

BITE SIZED FESTIVAL

HENRY BROWN CENTRE
WEST HOWE

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

— 11:00 - 17:00 —

BITE SIZED FESTIVAL

BOURNE COMMUNITY HUB

BOURNE

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

— 11:00 - 17:00 —

BITE SIZED FESTIVAL

TOWNSEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

TOWNSEND

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

— 11:00 - 17:00 —

SUSTAINABILITY

We strive to minimise our environmental impact at Arts by the Sea, but we need your help!



Make simple sustainable choices:

EAT, DRINK AND BUY LOCAL

Support local businesses and reduce your carbon footprint. Visit South Coast Makers Market in Bobby's and enjoy plant-based, locally sourced food at nearby cafes. You can also visit the food and drink kiosks in the Lower Gardens and on the Seafront like the Pierview Kitchen.

RETHINK YOUR TRANSPORT

Travel by train, bus or bike, like our artists. Check out travel options from South West Rail, Beryl Bikes and More Bus to make this year's journey to Arts by the Sea your greenest yet!

REFILL AND EAT IN

Refill your water bottle at the Festival and choose to eat in rather than take away to reduce packaging waste. Enjoy a 20% discount on hot drinks when you bring your own reusable cup to BCP Seafront Catering Outlets.

To use our handy sustainability map and find out more about what we're doing to help reduce our impact on the climate, scan the QR code or head to: artsbythesea.co.uk/sustainability



ARTS BY THE SEA

GREEN HUB

SATURDAY

LOWER GARDENS: 10:30 - 17:00



3



Join us at this year's Green Hub as we explore ways to help our planet through conscious living. Meet some passionate local organisations and get involved in creative activities for all the family.



LOCAL

This year's partners are:

BROWNSEA ISLAND

Join Brownsea Island to enjoy nature inspired and connected activities to engage the whole family. As Europe's largest conservation charity, they look after nature, beauty and history.

BIRDS OF POOLE HARBOUR

Birds of Poole Harbour aims to raise the profile of bird conservation, preservation and observation in and around the Poole Harbour.

DORSET SCRAP STORE

Dorset Scrap Store is a not-for-profit charity dedicated to turning manufacturing waste into a low-cost community resource for crafting. Join them for some fun and take home your creations!

DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST

Dorset Wildlife Trust is Dorset's largest conservation charity & collaborates with communities to help nature thrive.

VIREO COLLECTIVE

Vireo Collective is a creative environmental practice based in Dorset. Through Weaving a Village, visitors are invited to create a collaborative woven artwork using reclaimed and natural materials.



ACCESSIBILITY

ARTS BY THE SEA FOR EVERYONE

At Arts by the Sea, we aim to create an inclusive and accessible environment where everyone feels safe and where diversity is both embraced and celebrated.

The Festival is delivered by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council and adheres to its Equality and Diversity Policy.

Here's how you can help to make sure everyone feels supported and included at the Festival:

RESPECT QUIETER SPACES

There are quieter spaces around the Festival for those who want to enjoy a more serene moment while absorbing the arts. Please respect these areas and be mindful of people enjoying the Festival peacefully. Ear-defenders are also available from the Information Point.

We understand the Festival can feel overwhelming. If you need a break from the noise and crowds, Central Gardens (by the Cenotaph) or the beach on either side of Bournemouth Pier are usually quieter, and are just a 5-minute walk from the Festival site.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

We welcome all visitors to Arts by the Sea. Hate of any kind will not be tolerated. Be an active bystander and report anything you experience or see to one of our Festival stewards or volunteers.

TOILETS

Please be mindful of others when using accessible facilities and remember many disabilities are not immediately obvious or visible.

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

For more information about access and to view our EDI policy, please head to our website artsbythesea.co.uk/accessibility

COMMUNITY ZONE

SATURDAY

LOWER GARDENS: 10:30 - 17:00



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Our Community Zone is an activity-driven area full of opportunities for visitors to connect with local organisations. Find out what's happening in your local area and get hands-on with creative activities!

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH (AUB)

Discover your creative side with hands-on workshops and chat to the AUB team about degrees, research, short courses and summer school.

BCP FOSTERING

Make your own paper Benji the Bear and chat to the team about fostering and supported lodgings across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE

Create your own stained-glass decoration or bookmark to take home while discovering Highcliffe Castle's fascinating history.

LIVWELL DORSET

Helping local people lead healthier lives; through advice, coaching, and free weight loss and stop smoking packages.

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Join creative zine-making workshops and 'Go All In' on your passions and hobbies while celebrating the joy of reading.

PAVILION DANCE

Create your own jellyfish or sea creature inspired by environmental dance shows Plastic Paradiso and Plastic Drastic Fantastic.

POOLE MUSEUM

Discover fascinating objects, enjoy creative, hands-on activities and learn all about Poole through the ages through local stories.

RUSSELL-COTES ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Get creative with crafts inspired by the historic house's Japanese art collection and discover the upcoming Edo Women exhibition.

ST MUNGO'S

Find out more about the work they do in the community and explore their installation across the Festival to learn more about hidden homelessness.

THE SAMEE CHARITY

Take part in creative activities and discover how they support disabled and neurodivergent people through self-employment, education and careers.

WE ARE WITH YOU

Help build a giant Bournemouth map, spin the Wheel of Affirmations and learn about the support they offer across the community.

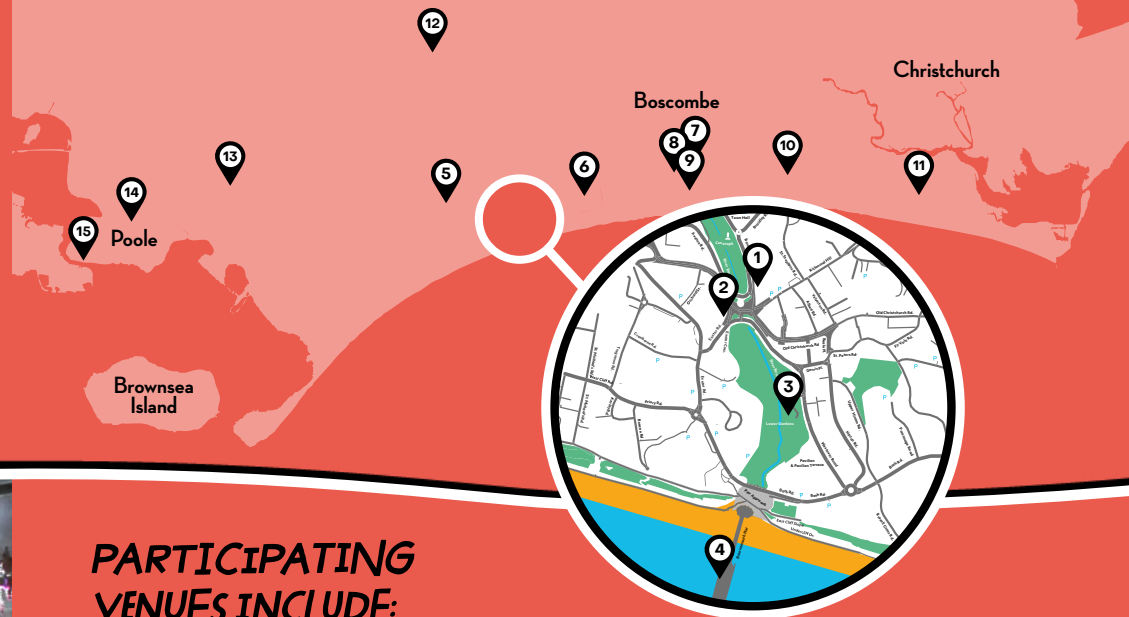


ARTS BY THE SEA FRINGE

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER

The second edition of the Arts by the Sea Fringe returns for 2026, extending the creativity of the main Festival into venues across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

Running for two weeks after the Festival, the Fringe invites audiences to discover an exciting programme of live music, theatre, exhibitions, workshops, comedy, talks and creative experiences, all inspired by this year's **ELEMENTAL** theme. Ticketed and unticketed – see our website for details.



PARTICIPATING VENUES INCLUDE:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 ALL FIRED UP
Bournemouth Town Centre | 9 THE LODGE OF HEAVY LEISURE
Boscombe, Bournemouth |
| 2 PATCH
Bournemouth Town Centre | 10 THE WIGHT BEAR
Southbourne, Bournemouth |
| 3 THE BANDSTAND
Bournemouth Town Centre | 11 ALMO'S COFFEE SHOP
Southbourne, Bournemouth |
| 4 KEY WEST
Bournemouth Pier | 12 ST MARK'S
Talbot Village, Bournemouth |
| 5 THE WESTCLIFF BAPTIST CHURCH
Westbourne, Bournemouth | 13 ST PETER'S
Poole |
| 6 THE OLD FIRESTATION
Lansdowne, Bournemouth | 14 THE LIGHTHOUSE
Poole |
| 7 O2 ACADEMY
Boscombe, Bournemouth | 15 POOLE MUSEUM
Poole Quay |
| 8 CHAPLIN'S & THE CELLAR BAR
Boscombe, Bournemouth | 16 RAW WALL COLLECTIVE
Venue TBC |

The Arts by the Sea Fringe is powered in collaboration with We Broke Free, South Coast independent music curators and specialists.

To explore the full Fringe programme and all participating venues as they sign up, visit artsbythesea.co.uk/fringe-festival



SOUTH COAST MAKERS MARKET

SATURDAY

BOBBY'S TUNNEL: 10:30 - 17:00

Discover an inspiring collection of handmade treasures at South Coast Makers Market, where talented local artists, designers and independent makers come together to showcase their work. Browse everything from jewellery, prints and ceramics to artisan food, clothing, books and homeware, while supporting the creative businesses that make Bournemouth so special.



WITH THANKS TO:



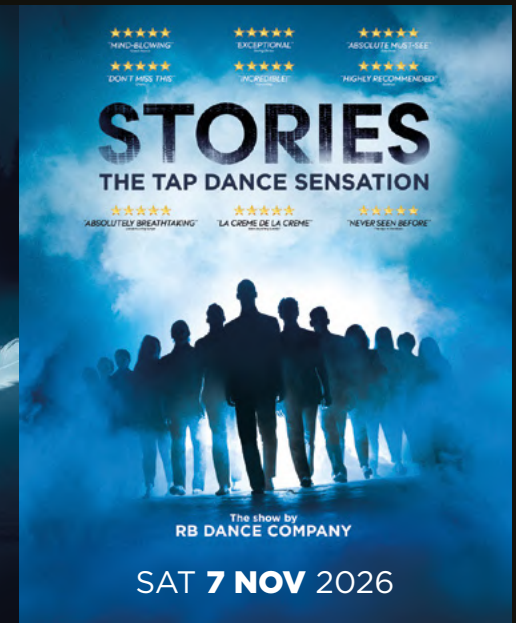
Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



THE CHATTERBOXES
PART OF YMCA BOURNEMOUTH



A special thank you to our Arts by the Sea Festival volunteers!



**Theatre
that thrills...**

**Bournemouth
PAVILION**

bournemouthpavilion.co.uk

