

Chiddingly Festival



A HARVEST OF THE ARTS

17th - 26th September 2026

Chiddingly Festival



"Welcome to the 2026 Chiddingly Festival. What an honour to be asked to write this foreword, especially as this village is such a special place and means so much to me.

For more than 40 years the festival has been bringing the arts to Chiddingly. We've been lucky enough to see so many fascinating, interesting and entertaining events, and meet so many inspiring people — from classical concerts in our beautiful church, to craft fairs in the village hall, and comedy and poetry nights in The Six Bells pub. Our village community spirit is amazing, and it's down to the hard

work of those who work behind the scenes to make things like the festival happen. My family and I are so lucky to live and work here. So please, come and enjoy this year's festival — and enjoy Chiddingly." **Richard Newman - Six Bells landlord**

SPONSORS

We are indebted to and gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our private, business and anonymous sponsors without whom the Festival would not be possible:

Lord Fellows, Complete Financial Planning, Mayo Wynne Baxter, Six Bells, The Picture House - Uckfield, Active Education Sussex, Gun Brewery, Chiddingly Ladies Stool Ball Team, NFTS, Improve on You, Mrs S. O'Hare



Mayo Wynne Baxter
Solicitors



COMPLETE FINANCIAL PLANNING



THE
PICTURE HOUSE
1916
CINEMA & RESTAURANT

NFTS

NATIONAL
FILM AND
TELEVISION
SCHOOL

**Improve
on you.**

Perfect your Performance, Command
your Career with Paul Ryan one of the
country's leading speaker trainers

Chiddingly Festival

Events Diary 2026

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 17th

Bell Ringing

Thursday 17th

Talk - 'The Making of LEE'

Friday 18th

Comedy - Jake Lambert

Saturday 19th

Burlesque

Sunday 20th

Workshop - Animaniacs!
Stop-Motion Animation Workshop

Wednesday 23rd

Poetry - Cecilia Knapp

Thursday 24th

World Music - Tango Nuevo

Friday 25th

Children's Event - Lantern Trail

Friday 25th

Jazz - Poppy Daniels

Saturday 26th

The Cine-Supper -
The Shawshank Redemption

Bell Ringing

As we edge towards the end of September with its hint of Autumn, work is quietly being carried out in preparation for this year's Festival, our 46th. As happens every year, the Festival starts with the welcome sound of the Church Bells ringing out across the fields and over the village rooftops. Thank you Chiddingly Bell Ringers for carrying on this ancient and valued tradition in the era of digital communication.

DATE:

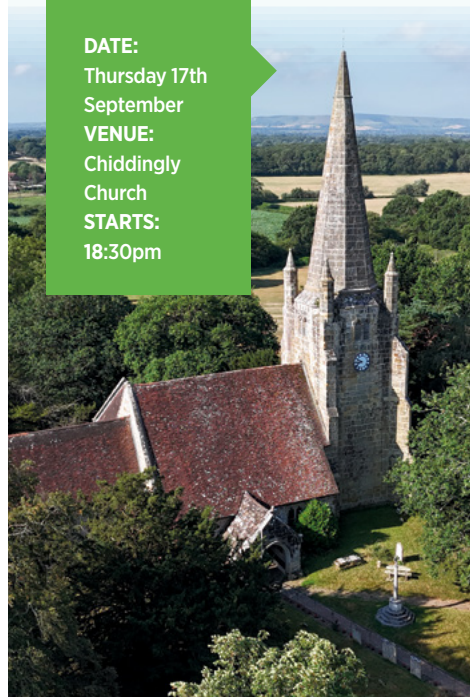
Thursday 17th
September

VENUE:

Chiddingly
Church

STARTS:

18:30pm





Antony Penrose presents 'The Making of LEE'

The behind-the-scenes story of the decade-long journey to the release of the major feature film *LEE*, starring Kate Winslet.

The movie is based on Antony's biography of his mother, *The Lives of Lee Miller*, published in 1985. *LEE* is the fifth attempt at bringing her story to screen, begun by Troy Lum of the Australian company Hopscotch. Kate Winslet became producer, shaping the film after weeks immersed in the Lee Miller Archives. She appointed director Ellen Kuras, screenwriters Marion Hume and Liz Hannah, and producer Kate Solomon — all women. *LEE* owes its integrity and authenticity to being a film about a woman, made by women. Antony was closely involved throughout production as Factual Consultant,

working with the team for ten years to verify historical moments for the screenplay. This presentation includes production stills by Kimberly French, alongside before-and-after images showing the remarkable special effects created by JFX.

The feature film *LEE* will be shown at Farleys on Thursday 27th August
www.farleyshouseandgallery.co.uk/events

DATE: Thursday 17th September
VENUE: Chiddingly Village Hall
TICKETS: £15
BAR: 19:00pm **STARTS:** 20:00pm
EVENT DIRECTOR: Jeni Longley

Jake Lambert

Described as 'a joke machine' by The Telegraph, Jake Lambert is a rapidly rising stand-up known for his non-stop gag-filled storytelling. His online videos have racked up over 500 million views, building Jake a devoted fanbase.

Following three sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe, Jake embarked on his very first international tour with his show The Sunshine Kid, playing to sold-out

audiences across the UK and globally.

In 2025, Jake signed a first-look deal with Sony Pictures in the US. This involves him working closely with renowned writers, producers and directors, focusing on scripted comedy projects.

He has appeared on BBC's Live at The Apollo, Channel 4's David Baddiel: Cat Man, Comedy Central's Live From The Comedy Store and Comedy Central Live, UKTV's Rosie Jones's Disability Comedy Extravaganza, and was a recurring guest on BBC's The Apprentice: You're Fired. New episodes of Jake's podcast Had Worse Mondays are released every Monday, and his chat show Sip Happens with Jake Lambert is available to watch on YouTube.

Jake's writing credits span a range of top UK shows, including The Ranganation, The Royal Variety Performance, The Apprentice: You're Fired, Bake Off: An Extra Slice, Mock the Week, 8 Out of 10 Cats, Netflix's Flinch, and more.

He has supported comedy heavyweights like Michael McIntyre, Jack Dee, Romesh Ranganathan, and Kerry Godliman on arena and theatre tours worldwide.

DATE: Friday 18th September

VENUE: Chiddingly Village Hall

TICKETS: £20.00 (AGE 16+)

BAR: 19:00pm

STARTS: 20:00pm

EVENT DIRECTOR: Jeni Longley

Feathers, Fishnets and Fireworks

Grab your rhinestones and buckle in! This year at Chiddingly Festival we welcome some of the UK's incredible cabaret talent for a raucous evening. Expect breathtaking burlesque, outrageous comedy and spectacular circus that's not to be missed. Throw on your shiniest shoes and most fun outfits, because the action won't stop on stage, and you'll all be in with a chance to win exciting prizes in our best-dressed competition!

But first, let's meet some of the cast...

Demi Noire, the Soul Sista of Burlesque, is a fierce, fearless and unapologetic powerhouse. She has wowed audiences across the globe and gained so much recognition that she was featured in The Burlesque Top 50.

Didi Derriere, personally selected by Dita Von Teese as her alternate in Diamonds and Dust, has firmly established herself among burlesque's elite.

Fou Fou Kaboom, with her signature brand of flirty tomfoolery, has amassed prizes and awards,



including the title of 'Burlesque Idol 2022'. La Reina Grande is a fresh face on the East Sussex drag scene, with big energy, sharp wit and absolutely no filter.

Lolo Brow, our international superstar and parental disappointment, will be hosting you through the night's depravities. This is an evening like no other, and will be sure to leave audiences picking their jaws up off the floor."

DATE: Saturday 19th September
VENUE: Chiddingly Village Hall
TICKETS: £25 (AGE: 18+)
BAR: 19:00 **STARTS:** 20.00pm
ENDS: 22:00pm
EVENT DIRECTORS: Tim Couzens,
Mark Robinson Sivyver





ANIMANIACS!

Stop-Motion-Animation Day with Award Winning Local Film-Maker Corin Hardy.

Corin started out making plasticine animations in his bedroom when he was 12 and puppet stop-motion shorts in his garage before going on to make music videos for The Prodigy and Keane as well as a career in film and television including *The Nun* and *Gangs of London*.

Corin and his Animaniacs! team will be hosting an illuminative and fun day for budding animators (aged 10* – 100) to create an animated music video**

together, bringing models, mechanisms, characters and sets to life using different animation techniques and materials, plasticine, cardboard and found objects.

Animaniacs! will be an intensive, full day starting at 10.00am until 6.00pm with short tea and lunch breaks (please bring your own packed lunch and snacks!). Whilst no experience is necessary, passion, patience and curiosity to create is a necessity! Places are extremely limited so do book early!



DATE: Sunday 20th September
VENUE: Chiddingly Village Hall
TIME: 10am – 6pm (including tea breaks, lunch breaks and end of day screening!)
TICKETS: Aged 10 – 17 years £20
 Aged 18 – 100 years £30
DON'T FORGET TO BRING:
 Packed lunch! Drink. Snacks!
EVENT DIRECTORS:
 Corin Hardy + Tim Couzens
SPONSORED BY: The NFTS



****If young children require you, please book yourself a place to accompany them.***

*****You will receive a link to the finished animation to watch and screen at home!***

Cecilia Knapp

Cecilia Knapp is a rising star of the poetry and literary scene, having attracted national and international acclaim over the past decade. Definitely not to be missed.

A poet, playwright and novelist, her work combines incisive wit with a unique lyricism: modern yet with a classic heart, funny and deeply affecting.

Cecilia has shared her writing extensively

at literature events across the UK and internationally, with residencies and readings in New York, Paris, Croatia, Switzerland, Scotland and Johannesburg, and performances at Reading Festival, Wilderness, Edinburgh International Book Festival and Cheltenham Literature Festival, where she was guest curator. She was Young People's Laureate for London.

Commissions include Vogue, Mont Blanc, The Tate, The Guardian, The Royal Society of Literature and the BBC, for whom she made a poetry film. She is a former resident artist at The Roundhouse and a TEDx speaker, and has written for The Huffington Post, The Independent and Vogue, who featured her as one of the UK's young writers to watch.

"Cecilia Knapp writes with a light touch even when her heart is heaviest . . . a dry sense of humour and wit. A confluence of emotions, anxiety and insecurity is anchored in dreams, hope and persistence." The Guardian

"Cecilia's works are shot through with a refreshing sincerity and sharp bite of realism." Phoenix Magazine

DATE: Wednesday 23rd September

VENUE: The Six Bells

TICKETS: £8

BAR: It's a pub!

STARTS: 20:00pm

EVENT DIRECTOR: Richard Williams

Tango Nuevo

Adriano Adewale & Joanna MacGregor

A regular hit at each year's Chiddingly Festival, pianist Joanna MacGregor returns with the sensational Brazilian multi-percussionist, Adriano Adewale, whose music has been touring the world.

Their virtuosic programme includes tangos by Piazzolla, pieces by the Brazilian genius Egberto Gismonti, Vila-Lobos, Kurt Weill, soulful Tom Jobim and more, alongside Adriano's own wonderfully jazzy Afro Brazilian music. An evening of artistry, fire and surprise.

DATE: Thursday 24th September

VENUE: Chiddingly Church

BAR: 18:30pm + interval
and after performance

STARTS: 19:30pm

ENDS: 22:00pm

TICKETS: £20.00 (AGE: 12+)

EVENT DIRECTOR: Richard Williams

SPONSORED BY: Improve on You



Lantern Making & Trail

The Children's Lantern Trail begins at the Village Hall. This family event welcomes children to come and handcraft their very own lanterns, along with glow-in-the-dark masks. Everyone then joins together for the lantern procession in the early evening twilight, with Chiddingly Bonfire Society leading the way with their fiery torches. Get ready for a short walk around Chiddingly Cricket Field, watching all the lanterns twinkle.

DATE: Friday 25th September
VENUE: Chiddingly Village Hall
TICKETS: £1 per child on the door
STARTS: Lantern & Mask Making from 5:00pm, Procession 6:30pm
REFRESHMENTS: Festival Bar
EVENT DIRECTORS: Louise Champion & Julia Eldridge
SPONSORED BY:
activeeducationsussex.co.uk
Chiddingly Ladies Stool Ball Team



POPPY DANIELS

London born and raised, Poppy Daniels has become an integral part of the UK jazz scene and a go-to trumpet player for the stars, performing with the likes of Blue Lab Beats, Daniel Casimir, Celeste, Jordan Rakei, Arlo Parks and Hak Baker, at world-renowned venues at home and abroad.

Daniels is a graduate of Leeds College of Music and also studied in New York. Her jazz influences include fellow trumpeters Miles Davis, Clifford Brown, Chet Baker and

Blue Mitchell, plus pianist Barry Harris and drummer/composer/arranger Bobby Sanabria.

After an extensive career to date, Poppy is now focusing on her own music, and 2025 saw her launch a brand new project under her own name. Her debut EP on the Jazz Refreshed label, 'Keep On Going', is out now. Poppy's music blends her London roots with jazz, latin and hip-hop influences, creating a rich and colourful sound. She will be entertaining us with her band for an evening of spectacular jazz.

DATE: Friday 25th
September
VENUE: Chiddingly
Village Hall
TICKETS: £15
BAR: 19:00pm
STARTS: 20:00pm
REFRESHMENTS:
Festival Bar
EVENT DIRECTOR:
Richard Merritt
SPONSORED BY:
Sue O'Hare

**This event is sponsored by Sue O'Hare, in memory of Patrick O'Hare, who contributed so much as a performer, organiser and committee member of Chiddingly Festival over the years.*

THE
PICTURE HOUSE
— 1916 —
CINEMA & RESTAURANT

PRESENTS

THE CINE SUPPER



Dining & Dress Up With This Years Immersive, Three Course Cinematic Event!

With sold out shows for the past 3 years, the delicious ingredients that make up our CINE-SUPPER are simple: an immersive, lively and appetizing evening, mixing cinema, music, themed trailers, costume and food!

This year might just be the best yet, with our prison-themed evening of dining, dress-up and a cinematic presentation of

Frank Darabont's life-affirming, mystery-thriller *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Introduced by local film director Corin Hardy, the last event of this year's Festival will feature live music from composer Simon Woodgate, prison decor, penitentiary cocktails, movie trailers and of course the inimitable Jody's Kitchen serving up a unique 3-Course Gourmet Prison Menu straight to your tin-trays, all included in the ticket price...

Please come dressed in 1930's Hollywood glamour or period Prison themed attire; convicts, inmates, guards, cooks and wardens all welcome... (Rock hammers at your discretion) With cinematic prizes kindly donated by our sponsors The Picture House Uckfield, going to the best costumes. (The more inventive the better!)

**"Fear can hold you prisoner.
Hope can set you free."**

DATE: Saturday 26th September

VENUE: Chiddingly Village Hall

TICKETS: £22.50 (AGE: 15+)

BAR: 17:30pm

CINE-SUPPER: 18:30pm - 23:00pm

EVENT DIRECTORS:

Corin Hardy, Simon Woodgate,
Mark Robinson-Sivyer, Jo Robinson-Sivyer

SPONSORED BY:

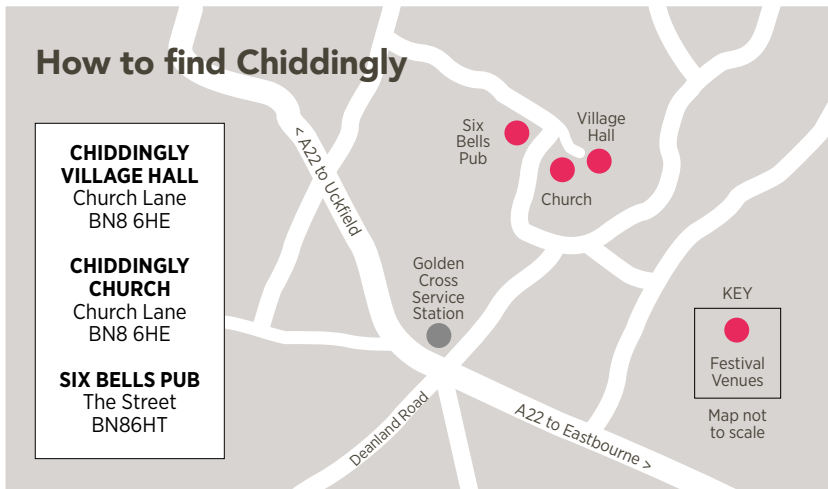
The Picture House - Uckfield

*Ticket includes full 3-course dinner and entrance to costume competition! screening of *The Shawshank Redemption* is free.

Chiddingly Festival

2025 IN PICTURES





The people behind Chiddingingly Festival

Patron: Gavin Henderson **President:** Noel Hardy **Chair:** Jeni Longley **Treasurer:** Simon Grigg

Secretary: Steve Tolhurst **Website, Brochure and Photography:** Jez Harris

Social Media: Jules McHale, Elize Roberts **Bar:** Jonathan Hancox **Technical:** Richard Todman, Nick Howard

Committee: Julia Eldridge, Tim Couzens, Louise Champion, Richard Merritt, Simon Woodgate, Corin Hardy, Gilly Dyke, Richard Williams, Jo Robinson Sivyer, Mark Robinson Sivyer, Tasha Woodgate, Hayley Lloyd House

Would you like to join us?

Do you have PR skills, enjoy promotion or working with sponsors? Would you like to direct an event? Chiddingingly Festival is a registered charity run by a merry band of local volunteers, and we're looking for people to join the committee. If you'd like to get involved in this great community event, please email boxoffice@chiddinginglyfestival.co.uk or speak to a member of our team at an event.

