

● What's On

AHA Festival is GO!

STONY STRATFORD

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Appreciation for arts and heritage in Stony Stratford continues this week as the third Stony AHA! rumbles on.

Tonight The Living Archive Band will hold a concert at The Cock Hotel – tickets are £5, the gig starts at 7.30pm.

Tomorrow, the beauty of stained glass will be made more transparent as some of the techniques are demonstrated by Mike Caddy and Jenny Timms of Vitreus Art, Adstock.

The pair – who have been running Vitreus Art for six years – will be passing on their pearls of wisdom at St Mary and St Giles Parish Hall on Church Street from 7pm until 8.30pm. The Eisenach Ensemble will perform in the same venue on Saturday from 7.30pm, offering audiences a glimpse into the musical life of London and Paris at the end of the 17th century.

Alternatively, catch '10 comedians for charity' (Ted's Gang) over at The Crown at the same time.

Earlier on Saturday, budding comedians might be interested in the afternoon joke



PICTURE PERFECT. Stony Stratford is a real jewel in our crown – and a town with lots of get-go!

competition (12.30pm – 3pm, opposite the Stani Gallery), while Odell's Yard will play host to an arts and crafts market (9am – 4pm).

Start the week in a more serious mood and get to grips with copyright law for art and photography at The Cock Hotel (6pm – 8.30pm).

Finally, Thursday gets Whamtastic at the Kardamom Lounge, with a George Michael Tribute, including meal and disco.

Visit <http://stonyaha2013.eventbrite.com/> to book or contact the venues.

> The music legend that is 'The Voice' and a 'Sex Bomb' (erm, that's Tom Jones) will be burning down the house (not literally, you understand) on Wednesday at Calcutta Brasserie, in the town.

The Indian restaurant will welcome tribute artist Billy Lee who prides himself on his uncanny ability to sound just

like the Welsh singer. Highly respected, Billy Lee has even been asked to demo record songs for Tom Jones himself.

Diners can expect classics including 'What's New Pussycat', 'Delilah', 'She's a Lady', and 'Kiss' as they tuck into a tantalisingly tasty specially-created three-course set menu.

To book call MK 566577 or visit www.calcuttabrasserie.co.uk for details. Enjoy your fill.

Help to support the feline factor

SPRING FAIR

The Milton Keynes & District branch of Cats Protection is hosting its annual Spring Fayre this Saturday.

The charity – which recently celebrated 25 years working in MK – will be holding the event at the United Reformed Church in Newport Pagnell, between 1 and 3pm. Stalls will be selling jewellery, bric-a-brac, books, Cats Protection merchandise and home-made produce and crafts, between 11am and 1pm.

Pop some pennies in the pot and help more moggies to get the care and attention they deserve.

Get more information on the group by hitting the web: www.mkcats.org.uk

> Being in a museum at night – it could be the makings of a horror film but Cowper and Newton Museum will be creating nothing but romance when it opens its doors to visitors on Saturday evening. The museum and gardens will be open to the public for a guided behind-the-scenes tour from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 and refreshments will also be available. On Sunday, a fund-raising walk to Weston Underwood (and back!) will get rid of the cobwebs.

Walkers will gather at the museum from 1.30pm and set off at 2pm.

Refreshments and readings will be provided at the Alcove.

Pre-booking is essential, visit www.cowperandnewton-museum.org.uk.



Song Loft hosts Swan song

MUSIC

A breath of fresh air will breeze through The Song Loft tomorrow as Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer showcase their effortless blend of traditional material and contemporary interpretations, pictured.

Impressive song arrangers and writers (with finely-tuned instrumental skills incorporating Scottish smallpipes, the accordion and Swedish Nyckelharpa) Vicki and Jonny have developed a sound that is both familiar and fresh.

Playing from 8.15pm at The Cock Hotel in Stony Stratford, the duo provide free smiles with every performance as they sensitively interpret the music and introduce audiences to their feel-good approach to instruments.

Tickets are £7 on the door. > Support York House Centre and enjoy the talents of a pack of troubadours who will



gather at the venue on Friday to offer a folkish evening of entertainment.

From 8pm, there will be a selection of traditional and modern British and American songs, some African drum-

ming, and even the drones of a didgeridoo.

A real ale and cider bar will complement the bash.

Tickets are £5 from Well Past It in Timor Court, and York House

We had Godzilla, but kids these days want ZinZillas...

EVENTS ROUND-UP

Zak, Tang, Panzee and Drum – collectively known as the ZingZillas – will be turning up the tunes and getting ready for the party at Gulliver's Milton Keynes this week. From tomorrow until Sunday the colourful characters will be meeting fans for a fun-filled music experience.

> Create your own keepsake at a special day of journal preparation with artist Annabelle Shelton through Artworks MK in Great Linford on Saturday.

Between 10am and 4pm she will guide participants through how to make an object, journal or album from found materials. Call MK 608 108 to book.

> Popular light music from stage and screen will brighten up your Sunday evening as the Wolverton Light Orchestra invites families to join them at Stantonbury Campus Theatre. Their spring concert draws on the talent of musicians from the local community who – under the direction of Mike Crofts – will dazzle and delight with an uplifting variety of musical treats. Tickets are £10. Book on 01296 715557.

> For something different this weekend, check out what's on at Inter-Action. Sculptor Pam Foley has organised a pit-firing (also known as primitive firing) for Saturday – discover how these simple 'kilns' use combustible materials (such as

dung and sawdust) as fuel. The workshop continues on May 25 (10am – 1pm both days), course price is £35.

> 'Inclusive' is the buzz word for artists at the Buckingham Art for All spring exhibition this weekend.

Original mini paintings will be given away in exchange for a £10 donation to Macmillan Cancer Support at 'The Cote', Woolpack, Well Street, Buckingham (11am-8pm Saturday, 11am-6pm Sunday).

> A Service of Thanksgiving for Animals is being held at the Tree Cathedral on Sunday, at 3pm.

Of course you are welcome to bring your pets along. Park in the car park off Livingstone Drive. Entrance is free.

From slum to Sainthood...

THEATRE

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Some of the most iconic songs in musical theatre will be rousing audiences at Milton Keynes Theatre from Monday when *Evita* opens.

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterpiece brings to life the dynamic persona of Eva Peron, the wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Peron, chronicling her meteoric rise from the slums to sainthood.

The journey from humble beginnings to extraordinary wealth, power and status is told through some of the most famous and inspiring stage music ever written, including the classics *Don't Cry For Me Argentina*, *On This Night of a Thousand Stars* and *You Must Love Me*. As one of the most charismatic figures of the 20th century, the story of the legendary First Lady sees her seducing a nation – heralded as a 'spiritual leader' by the Argentine people.

The character is a champion for the poor whose ambition means she gains great power, but ultimately her greed and fragile health makes this a tragic tale. The dramatic musical has

One of the most charismatic characters of the 20th century

received more than 20 major awards and inspired the Oscar-winning film version starring Madonna and Antonio Banderas. West End star and multi-platinum selling artist Marti Pellow will take on the role of Che – the narrator – who reflects the voice of the Argentine people.

Introducing the audience to a 15-year-old Eva, Che analyses her decisions and behaviour, bringing conflict to the story of her rise to fame.

Che is one of musical theatre's most coveted roles and Marti's previous West End experience (*The Witches of Eastwick*, *'Chess*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *'Chicago*, *'Blood Brothers*) will stand him in good stead for the monumental show.

The smash-hit production runs until Saturday, June 1 – call the Box Office on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes.

> The brilliant Curtis Stigers brings his distinctive sound to *The Stables* tonight – but due to that brilliance, tickets have

flown (call for ticket returns). Paying tribute to a different kind of cool, G2 Definitive Genesis remember the vintage period in Genesis' long and colourful rock history.

The last few tickets remain for the gigs tomorrow and on Saturday so for a Genesis-soaked weekend, fans had best move quickly.

Sunday sees two of Britain's most critically acclaimed and popular instrumental groups join forces as Oriole and Basquiat Strings play together.

While the bands share the same drummer and an earthy, raw approach, they have their own sounds – Oriole fuses lyrical world music with jazz while Basquiat Strings combines classical and jazz notes. To see the weekend out in a soulful fashion, Stage 2 plays host to Stephen Langstaff on Sunday.

Rapidly becoming one of the UK's most prolific singer-songwriters, Stephen writes powerful, haunting songs which he delivers with complete conviction.

Tickets for the multi-talented, folk-inspired singer-songwriter and virtuoso fiddler Seth Lakeman on Tuesday are already sold out, which is hardly surprising, so this week's round-up is short but sweet.

Call the box office on MK 280800.



ANOTHER WEEK, ANOTHER SUPERB PRODUCTION: The story of legendary First Lady Eva Peron begins a two-week stay at Milton Keynes Theatre on Monday



ORIOLE AND BASQUIAT STRINGS: Sharing an 'earthy, raw approach,' and a Stables stage on Sunday evening

Prisoners' Wives DVD prize

COMPETITION

BBC 1 does drama exceptionally well, and few deliveries in recent times have been quite so engaging and engrossing as the second series of *Prisoners' Wives*.

The compelling stories of four women struggling to cope while the men in their lives are locked up inside, was brimming with emotion, heartache, friendship and betrayal. Press play on the DVD player and get acquainted with Francesca, who is tossed into the heart of a criminal operation orchestrated by her gangster husband Paul.

Meanwhile, long-suffering Harriet's visits to her vulner-

able son Gavin are cheered by a blossoming friendship with his prison chaplain.

You will also be introduced to bride-to-be Aisling, whose jailbird father forces her to reconsider her relationship and her future, and Kim, a respectable woman who finds her life turned upside down as she seeks to prove the innocence of a husband imprisoned for a heinous crime.

We have copies of the DVD to give away in this week's competition. To be in with a chance of winning, simply name the four main characters.

It couldn't be easier! Send your answer, together with name and address, to: *Prisoners' Wives* competition, Citizen Newsdesk, Na-

pier House, Auckland Park, Bond Avenue, Bletchley, MK1 1BU.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 22, 2013.



WALTON HIGH

Walton High Theatre, The Venue, welcomes a former resident of Coronation Street this Friday night.

Bruce Jones, inset – who played lairy Les Battersby in the soap – will be bringing his one man show *Talk!* Tackling *The Taboo* to the venue.

This delivery doesn't shy away from the often difficult subject of depression and mental health, it embraces it in an engaging and entertaining way. Bruce isn't averse to bringing his own problems into the open too, and touches on those experiences within the show.

Talk! stresses the importance of being open and honest about mental health. And really, this isn't a problem that is going to go away –

it affects a surprisingly large number of the population.

All too often sufferers do so in silence, afraid they will be stigmatised, put their job at risk or alienate friends or family.

It's time for those suffering to get support, and to understand that there really is no shame attached to what is an illness.

Show time tomorrow is at 8pm, and you can book tickets through www.thevenuemk.com



Mental health issues? Talk about it, don't bottle it up

> A debut show from a fledgling theatre company comes to Creed Street Theatre tonight. Enigmatic Theatre is the creation of two university students from Milton Keynes.

As part of their final year assessment they have devised a piece of theatre based on the stories in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chambers* book.

Keen to share their work, they have brought it home to the local venue.

The *Winter Forest* is a tale of three magical and witty witches.

It is a story that explores love, revenge and grief, as well as the notion of evil.

Performances are tonight, tomorrow and Saturday at 7.30pm, and the tale is recommended for ages 14 and up. Tickets are £7, £5 for concessions.

Visit www.madcap.org.uk to book.