

# The List

What's on locally in April and May

COMPILED BY  
CLEMMIE MILLBANK



## DO NOT ADJUST YOUR SET

Before their Bristol live show, the co-host of Found Footage Festival, Nick Prueher, explains the joy of sifting through VHS tapes for our amusement

Joe and I met when we were 10 years old and quickly bonded over the TV show, *Small Wonder*, about a little robot who lived with an American family. Everybody in our school loved it and we just couldn't believe how wonderfully terrible it was. Joe and I didn't



excel in academics but we were prodigies when it came to ironic enjoyment of things.

In high school, I was working at McDonald's and had to watch a bunch of training videos – including one for janitors called *Inside and Outside Custodial Duties*. It attempted to have a plot, in which a dopey trainee was told if he cleaned extra well, he could see a mythical entity called 'McC'. I knew Joe had to see it, so I smuggled the tape home in my backpack. We developed a whole running commentary for it, and it became this cult activity in our small hometown. This made us think: if there are videos this ridiculous

right under our noses, imagine what else is out there.

Part of the thrill of making a living digging up old VHS tapes is discovering footage you weren't supposed to see. You never know what will turn up when you pop in a tape found at an estate sale at a deceased person's shag-carpeted home.



For loads more events, visit [thenearfield.com](http://thenearfield.com)

Joe and I were at an estate sale and there was a VHS camcorder still in its original case. When we plugged it in, a tape popped out. It was a guy's home movie that starts with him behind the camera, taping the demolition of a neighbour's house. It then cuts inside the man's home, where the *Phantom of the Opera* soundtrack is blaring out and the camera is trained on a little white poodle. Out of nowhere, the man pops into frame, wearing a dress and dancing to the song while staring into the lens. It was like a scene from *The Silence of the Lambs*. Then, just as abruptly, the tape cuts back outside as a crane topples the neighbour's house.

Another gem is a commercially released video for kids, starring a clown named Blueberry who's attempting to warn kids about stranger danger. Various scenes play out in which a stranger approaches a kid, then the action freezes and Blueberry literally materialises out of thin air to give advice. I'm sure he meant well, but if any children are reading this and happen to see a clown appear in the woods – run.

In 2004, we took our hobby out of our living room and put it into a theatre in Manhattan as the Found Footage Festival. April will be our 20th anniversary, but it still feels like we're watching training videos in my parents' basement. There's just an audience now.

Found Footage Festival comes to the Former IMAX Theatre, Bristol Aquarium, on April 18. [nfd.io/footage](http://nfd.io/footage)

[thenearfield.com](http://thenearfield.com)



A Real Fiction  
by aKa Dance  
Theatre  
Front Room  
Theatre,  
Weston-super-  
Mare  
April 27

The performing arts equivalent of six espressos and a bag of Tangfastics, A Real Fiction is a frisky pick 'n' mix of dance, theatre, lip-syncing, memes and pop culture all rolled into one. Get your breath back at the post-show social. [nfd.io/realfic](http://nfd.io/realfic)



PROMOTED

Craig Charles' Funk & Soul House  
Party & The Beatles Dub Club  
Komedia, Bath  
May 10

Get ready for the ultimate Funk & Soul House Party. Enter Craig's living room as he delves into his extensive record collection to bring you straight-up groove bangers, exclusive funk and soul cuts, and much more. [nfd.io/ccharles](http://nfd.io/ccharles)

Adrienne Lenker  
Bristol Beacon  
April 29

As if the beloved indie-folk band she fronts, Big Thief, weren't prolific enough, Adrienne Lenker is touring her fourth solo album in six years. A generational talent whose tender, fingerpicked songs tug at the heartstrings while at the same time affirming the utter joy of love and living. [nfd.io/lenker](http://nfd.io/lenker)

The Glass  
Menagerie  
Bristol Old Vic  
May 7-11

Atri Banerjee's acclaimed production of Tennessee Williams' semi-autobiographical masterpiece – first seen at the Royal Exchange Theatre – returns to the stage. This slick and stylish production explores and refreshes themes of familial love and relationships. [nfd.io/glassm](http://nfd.io/glassm)

Barry Adamson  
Strange Brew,  
Bristol  
May 22

The David Lynch collaborator, Manchester Metropolitan University visiting professor and former Magazine and Bad Seeds man plays his cinematic bass guitar soundscapes, weaving jazz, rock, soul, gospel and post-punk into a brooding and noirish mix. [nfd.io/barrya](http://nfd.io/barrya)

3 May to 8 September

# HENRY MOORE IN MINIATURE

THE  
HOLBURNE  
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[WWW.HOLBURNE.ORG](http://WWW.HOLBURNE.ORG)



Exhibition Sponsor

**DREWEATTS**  
EST. 1759



Henry Moore, Recumbent Figure, 1938. Reproduced by permission of The Henry Moore Foundation



**20/20: Chris Killip/Graham Smith**  
Martin Parr Foundation, Bristol  
April 11 to June 30

Few photographers have captured the UK's post-industrial malaise as vividly or as beautifully as lifelong friends Chris Killip and Graham Smith. This exhibition brings together images taken by the pair between 1975-87 and documents the rapid deindustrialisation of their native north east.

[nfd.io/killpsm](http://nfd.io/killpsm)

**Toulouse-Lautrec and the Masters of Montmartre**  
Victoria Art Gallery, Bath  
April 26 to September 29

Can-can all the way back to bohemian Paris and explore Toulouse-Lautrec's bold style with more than 30 pieces from his thrilling career. Pieces include his first iconic poster of the dancers of the Moulin Rouge, alongside other works from Belle Époque Paris.

[nfd.io/lautrec](http://nfd.io/lautrec)

**Bath Textile Artists: Textures of Time**  
The Pound Arts Centre, Corsham  
Until April 27

Experience the diversity of processes available through the use of textiles in art. Bath Textile Artists – a group of 13 professionals stitching together years of embroidery, felting, quilting, silk painting, weaving and dyeing – have crafted a show layered with technique and skill.

[nfd.io/textures](http://nfd.io/textures)

**National Treasures: Constable in Bristol**

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery  
May 10 to September 1

The National Gallery is celebrating 200 years by loaning out 12 of its paintings, with Constable's *The Hay Wain* coming to Bristol. The show features art from the museum's own collection and oil sketches by Constable on loan from the V&A.

[nfd.io/conbris](http://nfd.io/conbris)

**International Photography Exhibition 165**

The Royal Photographic Society, Bristol  
Until June 2

The world's longest-running contemporary photography exhibition returns for edition 165. Following an open call, the exhibition features 111 works by 50 emerging and established photographers, exploring themes such as environmental issues, community, dementia and grief.

[nfd.io/ipe165](http://nfd.io/ipe165)



PROMOTED

**Creating Spaces 2024: Cotswold Sculptors Association**  
The Garden at Miserden, Gloucestershire  
May 18 to August 18

The Cotswold Sculptors Association return for their major summer exhibition. Explore a carefully curated trail of sculptures and wonderful planting, all in perfect synergy. There is also an exhibition in the Clubroom.

[nfd.io/cotssculp](http://nfd.io/cotssculp)

Photo: Chris Killip; Kay Singla, "Dreams"

[thenearfield.com](http://thenearfield.com)

NF03



# TIME TO HEAL

Co-founder and chair of trustees at Heal Somerset, Jan Stannard, reveals why it's time to let nature take the lead

Heal Somerset is the 460-acre foundation rewilding site of Heal Rewilding, the national charity launched in 2020 to create new spaces for nature, fight climate change and support wellbeing through free access to nature. Heal Somerset is the blueprint for the 47 further sites we aim to establish in every county in England.

For decades, our approach to supporting nature has been to protect and preserve what's left, but wildlife declines have continued unabated despite the wonderful work done by conservationists. Rewilding is a new and complementary



approach, which is about creating new spaces where wildlife can thrive – and in those places, letting nature take the lead.

**Huge variety is what makes the Somerset landscape so special.** From rolling hills and valleys, like at Heal, to the marshes and wetlands of the Levels, the rugged limestone outcrops, caves and gorges of the Mendips, and the cliffs, beaches and tidal mudflats of the coast.

**We have spotted hundreds of species, but mostly in very small numbers.** Now they have sanctuary, these 'starter' populations should increase. We are excited to have hares, lizards, glowworms, skylarks, lesser horseshoe bats, lesser tortoiseshell butterflies, snipe, grass snakes, hazel dormice, linnets and barn owls.

**We want visitors to feel optimistic and excited** as they realise that declines in once common species can be reversed if places become wilder. We want them to feel hope having spent time in a place where positive change is happening every day.

**Join Heal Somerset on April 20 and 27 for Out of the Darkness – a night-time soundscape performance; and on May 10-11 for Into the Light – a two-day rewilding gathering.**  
[nfd.io/heal](https://nfd.io/heal)



Photo: Alex Sams



**Bee Safari with Jean Vernon**  
Yeo Valley Organic Garden, Blagdon  
May 4

Join author, award-winning writer and bee advocate Jean Vernon (AKA Jeanie Bee) for a guided buzz around the Yeo Valley gardens. Discover more about garden bees, learn which flowers they love most and find out how you can help protect these all-important pollinators.  
[nfd.io/buzzy](https://nfd.io/buzzy)

**Arnos Vale Cemetery May Fair**  
Arnos Vale, Bristol  
May 5

Celebrate the first signs of summer in the beautifully atmospheric grounds of Arnos Vale. The garden's annual May Fair is a bustling showcase for artisan business owners and local entertainers and artists. Bring an appetite, too; it's packed with more mouthwatering food traders than you can shake a maypole at.  
[nfd.io/arnomay](https://nfd.io/arnomay)



**Medieval Falconry Day**  
The Bishop's Palace, Wells  
April 13

Held on the South Lawn, against the backdrop of the palace's Great Hall, marvel at two spectacular falcon flying displays (12pm and 3pm), which illustrate how and why these birds would have been used in medieval times. Experts will be on hand for all your hawking queries.  
[nfd.io/falcons](https://nfd.io/falcons)



**Potent Plants and Altered States**  
42 Acres, Frome  
May 16

Join the foraging experts at 42 Acres for a stroll around this rural estate and discover how to safely identify fungi associated with traditional medicine and altered states of consciousness. If it's sunny, pack a picnic and explore the grounds after the class, or even go for a wild swim.  
[nfd.io/altplants](https://nfd.io/altplants)

**Walks with Wardens: International Dawn Chorus Day**  
Ham Wall, Ashcott  
May 5

Set your alarm for this adventure at RSPB Ham Wall. Wardens will help you pick out booming male bitterns, trilling sedge warblers and the songs of woodland birds, including robins, great tits and blackbirds. You'll have access to parts of the reserve usually closed to visitors.  
[nfd.io/dawnham](https://nfd.io/dawnham)

**Pick Your Own Tulips Palette and Pasture, Frome**  
Late April onwards

Stop by the working Pyle Farm in the idyllic village of Trudoxhill and savour some of the best gelato this side of Rome, made with milk from the farm's small onsite dairy herd. Little ones can feed the animals, drive the ride-on tractors and pick their own colourful tulips to take home.  
[nfd.io/palette](https://nfd.io/palette)

# EAST QUAY

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**NOW SHOWING:**  
People Came for Tea and Stayed Forever by Sam Francis  
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Image: Exhibition installation, credit Jesse Wild



**Giffords Circus**  
Fennells Farm, Stroud  
Until April 21  
Thrills, skills, high-wire adventure and tragi-romance all await in the latest show from this travelling troupe of acrobats, clowns, magicians and jugglers. This year's performance is titled Avalon and will immerse audiences in the colourful world of pageantry and Arthurian legend.  
[nfd.io/giffcirc](https://nfd.io/giffcirc)

**Lyra Bristol Poetry Festival**  
Various venues, Bristol  
April 12-21  
Luxuriate in the magic of the spoken word with some of the country's finest poets and verse-peddlers. Highlights include a reading from poet laureate Simon Armitage, an evening of live poetry with Salena Godden, Nikita Gill and Cecilia Knapp, plus the Lyra Poetry Slam Finals.  
[nfd.io/lyra](https://nfd.io/lyra)

**You Are Here with David Nicholls**  
St Swithin's Church, Bath  
April 27  
Mr B's Emporium brings one of the UK's favourite authors to St Swithin's Church – an appropriate setting, *One Day* fans will agree – to discuss his new novel, *You Are Here*. Hear all about the inspiration behind the book, ask questions and get your copy signed.  
[nfd.io/dnicholls](https://nfd.io/dnicholls)

**CrimeFest**  
Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel  
May 9-12  
Calling all world-weary detectives and their plucky young sidekicks – this crime fiction convention is back to celebrate the sleuthing genre with a programme of talks, quizzes and interactive experiences. Speakers include GT Karber, James Lee Burke and Lynda La Plante.  
[nfd.io/crimefes](https://nfd.io/crimefes)

**The Fringe Arts Bath Festival**  
Various venues  
May 24 to June 9  
The Fringe Arts Bath Festival is back with another experimental and improv-flavoured feast of visual arts and experiential happenings. It features both local and international artists in a festival of pop-up exhibitions, art installations and performances across the length and breadth of the city.  
[nfd.io/bfringe](https://nfd.io/bfringe)

**Nikky Smedley: Confessions of a Teletubby**  
Alma Tavern & Theatre, Bristol  
May 4  
Say "eh-oh" to Nikky Smedley, AKA the original Laa-Laa (the yellow one) from the *Teletubbies*. She's spilling the custard on all the goings-on in the Tubbytronic Superdome. How heavy were the suits? Why did it become such a phenomenon? And what on earth was a Noo-Noo?  
[nfd.io/teletub](https://nfd.io/teletub)



Photos: Rachel Louise Brown