

ORGANISE YOUR OWN



give it a go

# Music Festival

CARE HOME  
OPEN WEEK

**MUSIC FOR  
DEMENTIA**

MUSICFORDEMENTIA.ORG.UK  
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16-22  
JUNE  
2025



**Organising a mini-Glastonbury festival at your care home can be a delightful and uplifting event for residents, families, and the local community. Music for Dementia has compiled these ideas and suggestions to get you started and help you create a memorable day of fun, music, and community spirit!**

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## Setting the Scene

### Create a Vision:

Imagine a vibrant, mini-festival atmosphere right on your care home grounds. Think colourful banners, fairy lights, and plenty of comfortable seating areas where everyone can relax and enjoy the show. A little creative decoration can transform your space into a festive haven that feels both celebratory and inclusive.

### Theme and Name:

Decide on a catchy festival name and theme that resonates with both the residents and the local community. How about "Glastonbury Down The Road" or "Vintage Vibes Festival" or "Anytown Woodstock". Think of something that evokes fun and a bit of nostalgia.

### Timing

How big do you want your event to be? Do you want a few live acts for a concert one afternoon? An all-day event in the care home grounds? Something happening every day throughout Care Home Open Week? Think what would work best for you and then you can get planning.



## Planning your festival line up

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**You may or may not have some budget for entertainment. Either way we have compiled some ideas to pull your line up together.**

### Invite Local Bands:

Reach out to local bands or musicians who might be excited to play at a community event. This not only supports local talent but also brings a lively musical vibe to your festival. Consider a mix of genres to appeal to different tastes.

### Residents on Stage:

Why not let the stars of your care home shine? Encourage residents who have a passion for singing, dancing, or even storytelling to perform. Organise a small rehearsal space ahead of time to help them feel comfortable and confident on stage. You could keep it as a surprise for guests and families – a great way to celebrate the residents' hidden talents.

## Planning your festival line up - continued

### Lookalikes

You may not be able to entice Shirley Bassey in person, but you might find a lookalike or tribute act to hire. Or you could make a look-alike contest part of your events! Encourage residents, families, and community members to come dressed as their favourite musical icons. Get out the karaoke machine and encourage them to do a turn as well. Offer small prizes or certificates to add a touch of friendly competition.

### Local schools and choirs

Get in touch now with any local schools or community choirs to see if they would like to take part. Lots of choirs are keen to have opportunities to perform. Taking part in your mini-Glastonbury could be the perfect start to their summer.

### Interactive Workshops:

Consider setting up craft or art stations where attendees can make festival-inspired decorations or souvenirs. Activities like face painting or a “build your own bohemian headband” workshop can add to the creative atmosphere.

### DJ set – make a playlist

You don't need to have live performances. If you want to focus more on crafts or other types of activity during your Care Home Open Week festival, a carefully selected playlist can help. Spark discussion and involve your residents in choosing what tracks to play with some simple conversation starters:

- Have you ever been to a music festival?
- What were your favourite bands when you were a teenager?
- What was the first concert you went to?
- Who do you wish you had seen perform live?
- Band rivalries: who did you prefer? The Beatles or The Rolling Stones? Blur or Oasis?



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### Barbecue and Catering:

Nothing brings people together like good food! Arrange a barbecue or hire a catering service to serve up delicious bites. Think along the lines of gourmet burgers or veggie skewers. You might also want to include a selection of refreshing drinks, such as lemonade, iced tea, or even a special “festival punch” (non-alcoholic, of course).

### Local Treats:

Incorporate local flavours by featuring a few specialty dishes or treats from nearby food vendors. Some might be willing to donate some of their goodies in return for publicity.

### Programmes and wrist bands:

Type up your running order and print out programmes for the day. You could also involve residents in making and decorating wristbands for guests to wear, for an authentic touch. Plus creating decorations – see Music for Dementia’s online pack of Decoration Printables for some ideas.



## Logistics and Planning



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### **Venue Layout:**

Plan your venue layout with clear zones for music, dining, activities, and quiet spaces. Make sure there are accessible paths for residents and guests who might need extra support.

### **Volunteer Teams:**

Enlist volunteers from your staff, local community groups, or even enthusiastic residents. Assign roles like welcoming guests, guiding attendees between activities, and ensuring that everyone's needs are met throughout the day.

### **Budgeting and Scheduling:**

Draft a simple schedule for the day, including performance times, activity sessions, and meal breaks. Keep a checklist of essential supplies—from sound systems and seating to first aid kits and hydration stations.

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## Promotion and Community Engagement

### **Spread the Word:**

Promote your mini-festival through local community boards, social media, and flyers at nearby cafes or community centres. Encourage residents and their families to help spread the word—it can be a fun project to involve everyone! Why not let the local newspaper or radio station know as well? They can spread the word in advance and might want to come along on the day as well.

### **Inclusive Invitations:**

Ensure your invitations and promotional materials highlight that the event is for everyone. Emphasize the mix of music, performances, competitions, and delicious food to build excitement across the community.



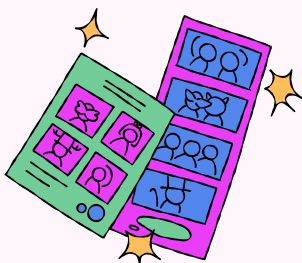
## On the day

### **Warm Welcome:**

Have a dedicated team to greet everyone at the entrance, offer assistance, and provide a festival map or schedule. A warm welcome sets a positive tone for the day.

### **Flexibility is Key:**

Be prepared for minor hiccups—whether it's a slight delay in the band's setup or unexpected weather changes. A flexible schedule and a calm, friendly attitude will help keep the day running smoothly.



### **Capture the Memories:**

Set up a photo booth or ask a local photographer to document the day. These memories will be cherished by residents, families, and community members long after the festival is over.

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## Final Thoughts

Your mini-Glastonbury festival for Care Home Open Week is all about celebrating community, creativity, and the unique spirit of your care home. With a mix of live music, resident talent, fun contests, and great food, you're sure to create an event that brings smiles and strengthens bonds. Enjoy the planning process, and remember that every small detail adds to the magic of the day!

Happy festival planning! Who knows, you might want to do it all again next year!

