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First Word

Midlands music industry on the up...

A new report has revealed that the total spend generated by music tourism in the West Midlands last year was £271million - a £7million increase on 2014. The 2016 edition of the Wish You Were Here report, created on behalf of UK Music and its members, also revealed that there was significant growth in the amount spent directly by music tourists in the region, with an 82% increase year on year - the equivalent of £50million. The spend can be attributed to a range of purchases, including tickets, merchandise, accommodation, food and drink. Commenting on the report, Emma Gray, Director of Marketing and Communications at Visit Birmingham, said: "The city's diverse array of festivals combined with world-class venues have created the perfect breeding ground to nurture and promote musical ingenuity. This report confirms just how much music tourism can boost local employment and stimulate the wider economy."



Travelling Natural History Museum makes its way to Shropshire

A 'roarsome' one-day event is set to leave a monster-sized footprint on Telford Town Park's QEII Arena this month. Taking place on Saturday 16 July, the free-to-attend Carnival Of Giants sees the Travelling Natural History Museum bringing a huge selection of prehistoric creatures to Shropshire.

Attractions on the day include a sand dig that contains a T-Rex skeleton, providing children with the chance to uncover fossilised dinosaur bones.

The event also features a 500-person parade, numerous sports activities, a dressing-up box, a craft marquee, a climbing wall, a market and a mini fair.

Commenting on the event, Councillor Liz Clare, cabinet member for Culture, Sport, Parks & Green Spaces, said:

"Children and adults alike are going to be blown away by the sheer size and scale of the prehistoric creatures on display - and while the emphasis will be on having fun, I have no doubt that everyone who attends will leave the event knowing a little bit more about dinosaurs than they did before."



Civic Hall appeal

A one-time resident of Wolverhampton is appealing to music lovers for help in solving a 46-year-old mystery connected to Fleetwood Mac. Dave Finely, who now lives in Australia, has a memory of seeing the band perform at either the Wolverhampton Civic or Wulfrun in or around 1970. Unfortunately, the venues' records don't go back that far, so Dave's hoping that a member of the general public might be able to confirm his recollection for him. Anyone able to help can either email Wolverhampton Civic Hall or go to wolvscivic.co.uk and click on the 'contact us' form to get in touch.

Showing an Appetite for the arts in Stoke

A programme of events designed to give people the chance to experience and be inspired by the arts is this summer taking place in Stoke-on-Trent for a fourth successive year. The Appetite 2016 programme includes The Enchanted Chandelier, an epic outdoor show which sees a vast chandelier lifted skywards to fly trapeze artists, bell ringers, singers, percussionists and acrobats through the night sky. There's also The Big Feast festival, presenting a weekend of street shows for all the family to enjoy, from quirky bee installations to 'hilarious' dry-land synchronised swimmers and flamboyant marching bands. To check out the full line-up of events, visit appetitestoke.co.uk



Costumes from Downton on show in the Potteries

Downton Abbey may have closed its doors for the last time following six hugely successful television series, but fans of the show can this summer check out some of its characters' costumes at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent.

A special exhibition running from Saturday 2 July to Sunday 2 October features a selection of outfits from series one and two of the critically acclaimed ITV drama. Costumes on display include an evening dress worn by Lady Mary and a gown worn by Cora, the Countess of Grantham. The exhibition is complemented by items from the museum's collection and there will be a whirlwind trip through the history of the hat on 3 July.



Locals join National Youth Theatre

The UK's leading youth arts organisation has marked its 60th year by accepting six talented new members from Birmingham.

The National Youth Theatre (NYT) selected the six from a staggering 4,750 applicants.

Commenting on NYT, former member and Doctor Who star Matt Smith said: "The National Youth Theatre is the reason I'm an actor. It's given me great confidence, opportunity and life-long friends. I got an agent through performing with NYT, and now I'm a professional actor who's working. It completely transformed my life. No understatement."

The Grand announces new season line-up

Former James Bond star Sir Roger Moore will have a licence to chat when he spends an afternoon at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as part of the venue's autumn/winter season of shows.

The 88-year-old actor will be reminiscing about a showbusiness career that not only included seven Bond movies but also hit television series *The Saint* and *The Persuaders!*.

An Afternoon With Sir Roger Moore takes place on Thursday 17 November.

Other autumn/winter highlights at the Grand include the return of *The Fizzogs*, Meera Syal's production of *Anita & Me*, the acclaimed stage version of David Walliams' *Gangsta Granny*, *Thriller Live - A West End celebration of Michael Jackson* and an audience with Lesley Garrett (pictured), hosted by Nick Owen.

For more information, visit grandtheatre.co.uk



Celebrating the sea in song...

Wombourne & District Choral Society is inviting Midlandsers to join them for 'a night on the ocean waves'.

The well-established ensemble, a mixed choir of 80 singers, is this month presenting *The Sea! The Sea!*, an evening of nautical songs and readings.

The concert takes place at the Beckminster Methodist Church in Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, on Saturday 16 July. Tickets are £10 each, with children under 16 going free, and can be purchased by phoning 01902 744447 or at the door on the night.

The Wedding Singer ready to party at the New Alexandra Theatre

The stage version of hit Adam Sandler/Drew Barrymore movie *The Wedding Singer* is visiting Birmingham next year. A high-energy homage to the 1980s, the critically acclaimed musical stars Jon Robyns, Ray Quinn, Cassie Compton, Roxanne Pallett and Ruth Madoc. It runs at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 May 2017. To book tickets, call 0844 871 3011 or visit www.atgtickets.com/birmingham

Making a Commitment after Corrie

Coronation Street's one-time resident Curly Watts is set to star in critically acclaimed musical *The Commitments* when it visits the Midlands early next year.

Actor Kevin Kennedy, who played Curly in the ITV1 soap for 20 years, will take the role of Jimmy's Da in the stage version of Roddy Doyle's bestselling novel.

Commenting on the news, Kevin said: "After working abroad, I'm delighted to be returning to such an iconic musical as *The Commitments*. It will be a pleasure to travel around the country playing to enthusiastic audiences who love this show."

The Commitments shows at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from 13 to 18 March. To book tickets, visit atgtickets.com/birmingham



First Word

Two Midlands dates for award-winning artist

An award-winning disabled artist will this month paint a portrait of pioneering filmmaker John Akomfrah at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (Saturday 16 July), as part of a project celebrating the diversity of common humanity.

Tanya Raabe-Webber's live sitting, fusing digital and traditional drawing and painting techniques, will see the artist in conversation with Akomfrah, exploring his life and work and contemplating the relevance of the artistic process to cultural diversity and contemporary society.

Commenting on the live portrait sitting, Tanya said: "As a disabled artist, the notion of my own diversity drives my interest in people, the exploration of the human condition and the belief that everyone has the potential to be creative if given the opportunity. I am well known as a painter of people; however, I've wanted to develop a way to engage audiences more fully in the subject matter of my work and also within its physicality. I've developed this project to enable creativity to be as accessible as possible." The project, titled Portraits Untold, continues at Stoke City Football Club later in the year where Tanya will paint the club's 'biggest fan', Neil Baldwin (pictured) on 19 September.



A monster of an event at Donnington Park



Monster trucks are set to go wheel to wheel at speeds of 100mph this month when the British Truck Racing Championship takes place at Midlands venue Donnington Park on 23 & 24 July.

Widely considered to be one of the most exciting forms of motorsport in the world, monster truck racing sees daredevil drivers at the wheels of highly modified vehicles, pulling out all the stops to reach the finish line before their competitors.

As well as the heavyweight racing, the event also features plenty of off-track family-friendly entertainment to enjoy, with activities for kids including racing simulators, trampolines, bouncy castles and climbing walls.

Tickets to the show are available in advance from donnington-park.co.uk, with free entry for children aged 13 and younger...

Lederhosen at the ready...



A version of legendary Munich beer festival Oktoberfest is being held in Birmingham this autumn.

The popular event, returning to the city for a third year, takes place in Cannon Hill Park from 12 to 16 October.

"The mood at our event is as good as the one in Munich," says Carsten Raun, the festival's director.

"One thing the British and the Germans have in common is the joy of life with a nice beer, so Oktoberfest is a perfect place to meet." Lederhosen at the ready, folks...

Lichfield Festival on track

One of train operator London Midland's newest Class 350 trains has been named after the Lichfield Festival.

The selected train was named at a special event at Euston Station last month.

"This is the third year we've sponsored the festival and we wanted to do something special to mark our support of this exciting event," explained London Midland commercial director Richard Brooks.

"It's very rare that London Midland names a train, and we're delighted to have named a Class 350 train 'Lichfield Festival' in recognition of us being the principal partner for the event."

This year's festival runs at venues across Lichfield from 1 to 10 July. This year's festival welcomes performances from folkster Kate Rusby (pictured), comedian Rob Beckett, and the National Orchestra of Wales. See our Festivals section for more information.



John Barrowman heads panto cast at the Hippodrome

One of the Midlands' favourite panto stars is making a welcome return to the region this Christmas. Former Dr Who actor John Barrowman will take the title role in Birmingham Hippodrome's lavish production of Dick Whittington. John will be joined in the show by comedy duo The Krankies, popular funnyman Matt Slack and EastEnders bad-boy Steve McFadden, who plays Phil Mitchell in the long-running BBC One soap. Commenting on this year's panto, the Hippodrome's artistic director and chief executive, Fiona Allen, said: "It's never too early to be planning Christmas fun. Sales are already set to break

records, and this year's pantomime promises plenty of laughs, outrageous costumes and special effects to amaze all the family."

Dick Whittington runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 19 December until Sunday 29 January. Tickets can be booked on 0844 338 5000 or from birminghamhippodrome.com



Sutton Park to become no-man's land



A specially commissioned Birmingham Hippodrome production commemorating the centenary of the Great War is being mounted in Sutton Park this month.

Furious Folly, taking place as night falls 'in a no-man's land on the battle front between the two lines', is an open-air collage of sound, light, pyrotechnics and performance. The production is being presented on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 July.

Young theatre tackling big issues



Forty young people are set to perform a challenging and uplifting play about a girl with autism who is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Local theatre ensemble Stage2 present Lee Hall's award-winning Spoonface Steinberg at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre from Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 July. The company previously performed the play to great critical acclaim in 2009. Tickets for the show cost £10.

On yer bike! for Bloodwise

A team of University of Birmingham blood cancer researchers will this month join 1,000 cyclists for a charity ride around the city. The Birmingham Bikeathon takes place on 10 July and raises funds for blood cancer charity Bloodwise. With the full support of Birmingham City Council, riders can choose to cycle one of three routes on offer - 26 miles, 52 miles or 100 miles - starting and finishing at the city's Cannon Hill Park. Commenting on the event, Matt Lawley, Head of Sport at Bloodwise, said: "We're delighted that the Birmingham Bikeathon is returning for a third year. A lot of research takes place in the city - from understanding basic principles around how blood cancer works and affects patients, to our groundbreaking clinical trials programme - so much of the money raised from this ride will be invested in projects within the city."

To sign up to the event, visit bloodwise.org.uk/birminghambikeathon

Plenty of Shock And Gore at the Electric

If you like your cinematic treats to be dark, twisted and spattered in blood, be sure to get along to this month's Shock & Gore festival at Birmingham's Electric Cinema.

Creepy happenings include the event's annual party night, this year offering audiences the chance to choose between two cult 1990s horror films - *Scream* and *The Crow*. There's also a Birmingham ghost tour to enjoy - followed by a series of short films based on the stories of legendary horror writer MR James - and a taste-along-screening of the morbidly romantic *Harold & Maude*.

Although running from Friday 15 to Thursday 21 July, the festival is actually launched on the 9th, with a special interactive screening of Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* at Birmingham's Highbury Hall.

For more information, visit shockandgore.co.uk

South Asian film festival movies to be screened at Birmingham cinemas

Two Birmingham cinemas are this month screening movies from Europe's largest South Asian film festival.

Cineworld Broad Street and mac Birmingham will present a carefully curated selection of new Indian and South Asian independent cinema, including feature films and documentaries by both established and new filmmakers.

A programme of English and European premieres will show at the two venues, including *Parched* - a joyous and inspiring tale of camaraderie - at Cineworld on 15 July, and *Kannada* - an empowering story based on real-life events - at mac on the same day. The festival runs from 14 to 24 July.

Celebrating the country's most inspiring musicians

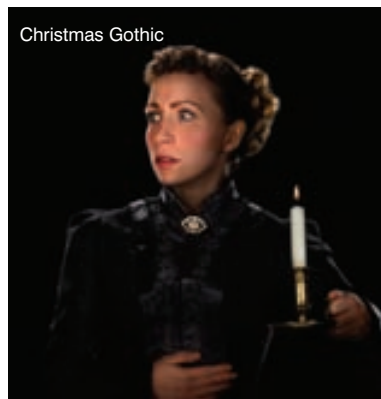
The UK's largest youth music festival is being held in Birmingham this month.

A five-day celebration of the country's most inspiring young musicians, Music For Youth takes place in three city-centre venues - Symphony Hall, Town Hall and the CBSO Centre - and features more than 400 live performances. The event also includes free pop-up performances across the city, a festival tent in Centenary Square and a number of interactive music workshops.

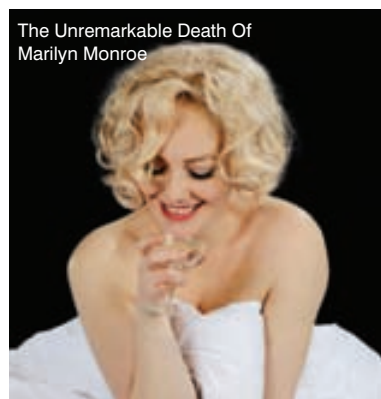
For more information, visit mfy.org.uk

THE MANY FACES OF *Rebecca Vaughan*

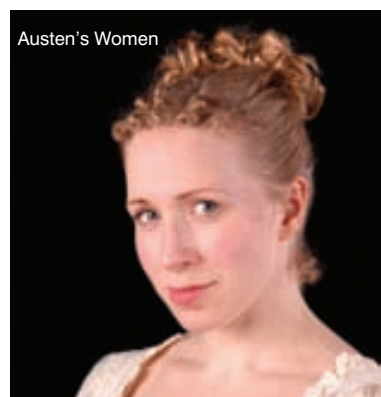
Dyad Theatre brings three solo shows to Stafford Gatehouse



Christmas Gothic



The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe



Austen's Women

From Tudor queen to shell-shocked soldier, Regency heroine to Hollywood icon, Dyad Theatre's Rebecca Vaughan portrays a dazzlingly diverse array of characters in her touring solo shows.

A small team comprising just six people and usually only one performer, Dyad focuses on 'radical' approaches to familiar stories - radical, according to Vaughan, in its original sense of returning to roots. By using only words directly lifted from either fictional texts or the writings of real, historical figures, the company aims to paint honest, intimate pictures of the real and invented characters it takes as its subjects.

"We try not to invent or deny anything, but within that you've got worlds that you can play with," Vaughan explains. "With iconic figures like Elizabeth I or Marilyn Monroe, everyone has ideas about who they were, but we often gloss over the more interesting, troubled, vulnerable parts of their characters. Going back to those and trying to show an honest whole is really interesting - as audiences, we get so used to clichés that it's quite refreshing to challenge them."

This year, Dyad tours three shows to Stafford Gatehouse, two drawn from the same well of inspiration, the other a reimagining of a more familiar novel.

Weaving together several different stories, Female Gothic is the product of Vaughan's raiding of the treasure trove of underrated, under-read and often forgotten gothic tales penned by Victorian women writers.

"I'd been reading an MR James collection and in the introduction to this edition, it said that 85 to 90% of all Victorian and Edwardian ghost stories and tales of the macabre were written by women, so I decided to do some research. It's fascinating: loads of the writers we now know for other things, like Gaskell and Edith Wharton, were all part of this. Even E Nesbit, who we think of as a children's writer, was far better known for these kinds of tales in her own time. Then there are others like ME Braddon, who was almost as famous as Dickens at one point



Dalloway



Female Gothic



I, Elizabeth

but has been mostly forgotten since. She wrote about 50 novels and absolutely hundreds of short stories, almost all of which are out of print now."

Marking something of a departure from Dyad's usual style of theatre, the production uses the device of a central narrator figure with her own dark story as a framework around which various tales can coalesce. Through this character, Vaughan is also able to interpret and comment on the stories.

"I wanted to somehow join them all together in a bigger world rather than just having separate tales. Of those I found, some are written in first person and some in third person, and lots of them have a kind of narrator figure, so to create this character, I've compiled material from some of the stories that I haven't included in the show in full."

In turn, Female Gothic led to the development of a second show, Christmas Gothic, in which the same central character returns with a whole new set of spooky stories.

"One of the things I discovered was that, whereas we tend to see these tales as being a very autumnal, Halloweeny thing, the Victorians viewed them as something very festive. If you think of A Christmas Carol, for instance, it's one of our most famous Christmas stories, but it's also a ghost story. Christmas shows are so popular - people love going to the panto - that I decided there must be a market for this, and that was backed up by the fact that in the original tour, nearly all the shows sold out!"

Meanwhile, the third show heading for Stafford this year is one that places even greater demands on Vaughan as a solo performer. A unique adaptation of Virginia Woolf's classic 1925 novel, Dalloway, sees Vaughan play multiple characters in the same story, all without the help of costume changes or any supporting cast members.

"Dalloway is one of my favourite things I've been in," she gushes. "I love the novel - it's so beautiful, and deals with a lot of issues

that are really relevant to us now, like mental health and the ways in which we hide our real selves from the world. The story takes place on one day and centres on this middle-aged socialite, Clarissa Dalloway, and Septimus Smith, a soldier returning from the First World War. The two never meet, but through various events, we see how they each affect each other. We were really interested in this idea that we're all connected on some level, and we thought that having one person play all of the characters would be an interesting way of representing that."

If you're thinking that this all sounds insanely ambitious, you're not alone. Even Vaughan herself was far from free of reservations about performing alone when the idea was first suggested to her.

"I actually started doing this quite recently within the scheme of my career. I'd been doing fairly well as a 'normal' actor, but the larger the theatres and the egos of some of the performers I was working with became, the more I felt that I was losing sight of why I became an actor in the first place. I'd always loved the tradition of people coming into a dark room and just listening to a story, and I remember standing in a 1,500-seat theatre with an audience who were miles away and realising that I was looking for something else.

"The following year, I met a producer called Guy Masterton who offered to teach me how to produce. He suggested that I do a solo show, and at the time it just sounded like the most terrifying thing I could imagine. But the more we talked about it, the more I got used to the idea, and I started putting together a piece called Austen's Women. When I eventually came to perform it, once I'd got over that initial rabbit-in-the-headlights feeling, I immediately fell in love with it. It just felt like the most intimate, honest theatrical experience I'd been part of for years."

For Vaughan, the most exciting thing about performing alone in smaller venues is the di-

rect connection she can foster with an audience - sometimes to a greater extent than viewers are aware!

"I love the fact that the audience are completely on the journey with you, and I think they enjoy it too, being able to see the whites of an actor's eyes. I remember once after a show I was standing next to someone in the loos, and she couldn't believe that I recognised her from the audience."

Of course, it's not just important for viewers to connect with a performer. For a piece of theatre to really be effective, an actor must transcend this, persuading the audience of the realness of the characters and allowing them to temporarily suspend their disbelief. Naturally, this presents a major challenge for a solo performer, but it's one that Vaughan seems to relish.

"There are times when it feels like it's going to be really hard, particularly when I'm playing male characters, but you just have to breathe and let them come through like oil on top of water. One of the things I've learned from Dalloway is the importance not just of what a character says but of how they say it. The words someone uses and even the cadence of their sentences informs exactly who they are, and the physicality kind of follows on from that. During rehearsals, each one becomes very distinct, taking on their own vocal palette and physical expression. Of course, I never see them, but I've been told by other people that they forget they're watching me - that they don't even see me or what I'm wearing after a while. So I think if you ignite an audience's imagination in the right way, they will do a lot of the work for you."

Dyad Theatre perform Dalloway at Stafford Gatehouse on 27 September; Female Gothic on 31 October, and Christmas Gothic on 20 December.

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New owner for The New Inn...

Sam and Clare Jenkins, the couple behind Henry Tudor House, one of Shrewsbury's most popular restaurants and live entertainment venues, have bought well-known Shropshire pub The New Inn at Baschurch. The venue is listed in the Good Pub Guide and recommended by a range of other organisations, including the AA and the Campaign For Real Ale.

Commenting on their purchase, Clare said: "The

New Inn has a great team and we look forward to working with them as we build on the pub's good name, carrying out some refurbishment work and enhancing the offer even further. Our executive chef, Chris Conde, is also looking forward to working with head chef Andrea Birch, combining the skills of her team with those from Henry Tudor House."



REVIEW: Avatar, Shrewsbury Indian cuisine, a cut above the rest...



Mardol Head, one of Shrewsbury's most historic areas, was once the place to visit for a rowdy night out. Nowadays it's home to an abundance of popular Indian, Thai and Italian eateries. It's also the place where Indian & Nepalese fine dining restaurant Avatar opened its doors to the 'town of flowers' back in 2014.

Owner Sustant Khatri has worked across both India and Nepal with the luxury hotel groups Taj and Oberoi, as well as in some of London's most prestigious Indian restaurants (including Cinnamon Club in Westminster). He chose to expand his Avatar brand to

Shrewsbury following the success of his Leicestershire-based restaurant.

Avatar boasts refined yet creative Nepalese and Indian cuisine, with the menu incorporating both traditional classic favourites and original new dishes that apply eastern flavours with a western twist.

On arrival, we were met by broad, welcoming smiles from all the staff. The friendly greeting, allied to the crisp, fresh décor, helped create a perfect atmosphere.

We perused the extensive menu over a cold Cobra and some poppadoms - a necessity when visit-

ing an Indian restaurant. The menu is split up into sections - traditional starters and house special starters, fresh seafood dishes, traditional dishes, innovative dishes and a vegetarian section. There's also a list of homemade breads and sides. The menu even states, 'If you like any dish which is not on the menu, our chef is very happy to make it for you'.

Straight away the professionalism and knowledge of the staff, both inside and outside the kitchen, shone through.

Every starter from the traditional and house special list sounded delicious. Amongst the options featured were: momo (£3.95) - chicken, onion, coriander and garam masala steamed dumplings served with a house special tomato and sesame seed chutney; guinea fowl tikka (£5.95); monk fish tikka (£6.95); piro king prawns (£5.95). Being huge seafood lovers, my partner and I opted for the seafood platter (£12.95). It consisted of black tiger prawns, chilli-fried squid, crab cakes and salmon tikka. All elements were seasoned carefully, presented beautifully and cooked to perfection - a very enjoyable start to the evening.

Although tempted by the fresh seafood section's lobster balchao (£24.95) - lobster spiced with garlic sweet chilli butter and matured with dill and grand marnier liquor - for my main I opted for the venison coconut chilli fry (£12.95) from the innovative dishes list. This consisted of strips of venison fillet tossed with onion, tomato, ginger and spices with coconut. Just like the

starter, it was a perfectly produced plate of food. The venison was tender and melted in the mouth, with the other elements creating a perfect all-round flavour.

My partner chose the Nepalese-style duck (£11.95), again from the innovative dishes section - glazed Gressingham duck breast cooked with cinnamon, bay leaf, ginger, cardamom and orange juice. That, too, was stunning. The chefs here really know how to cook! We shared a garlic fried rice, a cheese-and-onion naan and a side of tarka dal, all of which were of a high standard. The tarka dal was one of the nicest I've ever tasted.

Avatar is a cut above the rest when it comes to Indian cuisine - from the vast variety of dishes on offer to the chef's execution of them, and from the fantastic value for money to the exceptional service. Khatri's previous cooking experience really shows in his dishes, and there wasn't a single thing on the menu that I wouldn't have been happy to order. Not surprisingly I can't wait to return, to sample more of the exquisite cuisine on offer...

Lauren Foster

Food:
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 Overall value:
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Shrewsbury Food Festival, Shrewsbury Kids Festival and Shrewsbury Christmas

Cooking for victory at Cosford

Organisers of this month's RAF Cosford Food Festival are confident the two-day event will leave its visitors 'flying high'.

The popular festival features cookery demonstrations, tasty giveaways and a host of independent food and drink suppliers from across Shropshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands. The event also includes the family-friendly KidzKitchen, encouraging youngsters to roll up their sleeves and join in the Cooking For Victory sessions. The food festival takes place at Cosford on 25 & 26 July.



A new venture for local chef

Shropshire-based restaurant The Yockleton Arms, formerly The Pink Elephant, has recently been taken over by chef Liam Hall. The eatery has undergone a complete refurbishment, with changes being made to the menu, decor and staff.

Having not long moved from Shrewsbury venue The Loopy Shrew, Liam's purchase of The Yockleton Arms sees him fulfilling his lifelong ambition to own his own restaurant.

The venue boasts a classic British menu with chef-inspired twists. Liam, who prides himself on using local produce, with all lamb and beef being sourced within a half-mile radius, is aiming 'to bring high-quality, local British food back to the local community'.

To book your table, call 01743 821491.



Food festival makes its Southwater debut

Telford is hosting a brand new food event at the end of the month.

The memorably named Telford Feastival hosts over 120 food and craft exhibitors, live music, talks, demonstrations and a host of activities for children to enjoy, including go-karting, crossbar coaching, pottery painting and circus-related fun. With such a varied and imaginative

line-up in place, the festival looks set to achieve its organisers' primary objective - 'to bring the whole community together to celebrate local producers and craftspeople in a family-friendly environment'.

The Telford Feastival takes place in the QEII Arena, Telford Town Park, on 30 & 31 July.

British gastro event is truly Great...

Midlands-based foodies should put a date in their diary to attend this year's Great British Food Festival.

The popular event features over 80 top local and artisan producers, cookery lessons, children's activities, live music and top chef demos from Great British Bake Off finalists Luis Troyano and Miranda Gore-Browne.

For those wishing to show off their baking skills, the festival hosts a Cake Off competition, while anybody feeling brave enough can take part in various Men vs Food Challenges, available both to men and women throughout the weekend. The Great British Food Festival takes place at the Shugborough Estate in Staffordshire on 9/10 July.

For further information visit greatbritishfood-festival.com



Lionel Richie

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 7 July

Boasting in excess of 100 million album sales, a Golden Globe, numerous Grammy Awards and the Crystal Award for Humanitarianism, Lionel Richie is a 24-carat superstar. This latest concert - All The Hits - blends new material with old. Undoubtedly on the playlist will be classics from his extensive and much-loved repertoire, such as Hello, Dancing On The Ceiling and Endless Love, as well as mega-hits from his Commodore days, like Easy, Brickhouse and Three Times A Lady.

Last year saw Richie sell out his All The Hits All Night Long tour, as well as playing Glastonbury's 'legends' slot, previously filled by the likes of Dolly Parton and James Brown.

Special guest singer-songwriter Corinne Bailey Rae provides support for the evening.



Ash

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 29 July



Northern Irish alternative rock band Ash formed in 1992 and comprises vocalist and guitarist Tim Wheeler, bassist Mark Hamilton and drummer Rick McMurray. The talented three-piece have had one silver, two gold and two platinum-selling - and chart-topping - studio albums in the UK, as well as 18 songs in the UK chart's top 40, including Girl From Mars and Shining Light. Their most recent offering, 2015's Kablammo!, was their first release in eight years and made the top 50 in both the Irish and UK album charts.

Quantic

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Fri 15 July

Quantic is just one name used by talented musician and producer Will Holland. Recording under monikers including The Quantic Soul Orchestra and The Limp Twins, he creates beat-heavy sounds in the 'soul, Latin and funk' category. Now onto his 16th studio album - having also released several compilations - this globally renowned musician and vinyl collector uses hand-sourced samples to add an international flavour to his music.

Holland stops off in Birmingham as part of a tour to support new album 1000 Watts, recorded with his Flowering Inferno band.



Rufus Wainwright

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 15 July

Blending the deeply personal with sharp social commentary, Rufus Wainwright has established himself as one of modern music's shining talents. The American-Canadian singer-songwriter has recorded numerous albums, including the Juno Award-winning Rufus Wainwright (1998) and Poses (2001). He's also collaborated with a host of A-list artists, including Elton John, Boy George and Joni Mitchell, to name but three.

The Dead Daisies

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Tues 26 July



The Dead Daisies are an Australian-American rock band and musical collective formed in 2012 in Sydney and Los Angeles. Influenced by 1970s and early '80s hard rock, their sound recalls The Faces, Bad Company and Foreigner, comprising bluesy riffs, muscular vocals and powerful melodies.

Hayseed Dixie

The Robin, Bilston, Thurs 21 July



Although they've produced some pretty unforgettable and comically crude songs, including I'm Keeping Your Poop In A Jar and She Was Skinny When I Met Her, Hayseed Dixie are probably best known for their rollicking rockgrass covers. Co-founder, guitarist and frontman John Wheeler names Motorhead's Ace Of Spades as his favourite, but it's the music of AC/DC with which they're most closely associated. Kiss, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles and Queen are others to have received the Hayseed Dixie treatment. Having played over 1,000 gigs in 30-plus countries, it's fair to say they're a much-loved act, so bag yourself a ticket asap.



Tinariwen

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 19 July

Playing 'Assouf', or guitar poetry, Tinariwen is a group of Tuareg-Berber musicians from the Sahara Desert. Formed in Libyan refugee camps in the late 1970s, the band gained an

international profile with the 2001 release of The Radio Tisdas Sessions.

One of the most exciting and successful bands to come out of West Africa, they set their message of freedom over struggle, exile and rebellion to the sound of rolling, yearning grooves.

The Overtones

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Sat 16 July



The five fellas who make up highly regarded vocal harmony group The Overtones were working together as painters and decorators when they were discovered by a Warner Brothers scout, who heard them singing during their tea break. A multi-album deal was subsequently secured with the record label. Blending '50s harmonies with modern pop, their debut offering featured a number of original tracks which the boys themselves had written (including first single Gambling Man and title track Good Ol' Fashioned Love). Numerous TV appearances have followed in the ensuing years, with slots on shows such as Dancing On Ice and Britain's Got More Talent ensuring they've remained very much in the public eye.

Sun Kil Moon

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 19 July

Named after a Korean lightweight boxer, Sun Kil Moon is the primary recording moniker of vocalist and guitarist Mark Kozelek. Previously the founder of Red House Painters, Kozelek started writing Sun Kil Moon material back in 2002, following the delayed release of the Painters' last album, Old Ramon. The American folk rock act have since released eight studio albums.



Arijit Singh

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Sat 9 July

Following a sell-out concert at the SSE Arena, Wembley, last year, Rock On Music brings award-winning playback singer and music programmer Arijit Singh to Birmingham. Across his career, Singh has received in excess of 20 awards for his output, the majority for the song Tum Hi Ho, which featured in the Indian movie Aashiqui 2.



Blake

Theatre Severn Shrewsbury, Sun 10 July

Comprising Ollie Baines, Humphrey Berney and Stephen Bowman, Blake are credited for bringing classical music to the masses - an achievement cemented when their debut offering won Album of the Year at the Classical Brit Awards in 2008.

The crossover trio stop off in the Midlands to showcase their harmonic virtuosity in a repertoire comprising songs from stage and screen.

The show includes renditions of, among other well-known numbers, You'll Never Walk Alone, Memory, Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Music Of The Night and Maria.

Summer Classics

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 22 July

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra here present what's been described as 'the musical equivalent of a warm summer's eve' (an experience that's sure to be particularly welcome if the British weather isn't playing ball come the 22nd of the month).

Robert Ziegler is the man with the baton for a concert that's bathed in the sunshine music of Gershwin (Summertime), Debussy (Clair de Lune), Vivaldi (The Four Seasons - Summer), Mendelssohn (A Midsummer Night's Dream - Overture), Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker - Waltz Of The Flowers) and Elgar (Salut d'amour).



Robert Ziegler

CBSO: Falstaff

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 13 July

People are decidedly split on Verdi's Falstaff. For some, it's a warm and wise comedy; for others, a work that struggles to make the grade, due mainly to the relative weakness of its source material - Shakespeare's not altogether universally acclaimed Merry Wives Of Windsor.

Verdi's final opera, it was composed as a response to the oft-voiced accusation that he was no good at writing comedy - hence his decision to place Shakespeare's funniest character at the very heartland of the work. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra are joined for this new production by the CBSO Chorus and a cast headed by baritone Ambrogio Maestri, who plays Falstaff. Edward Gardner conducts. The opera is sung in Italian with English surtitles.

BBC National Orchestra Of Wales

Lichfield Cathedral, Sat 9 July

Lichfield Festival's closing cathedral concert is a reflective contemplation on the First World War. Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending and Symphony No 5 both feature, framing a concert that also includes Colin Matthews' No Man's Land. Premiered to great critical acclaim in 2011, the piece evokes many facets of war, from grim black humour to patriotic songs on a honky-tonk piano...

The concert will be recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio Three. Martyn Brabbins (pictured) conducts.



Piano Week

Moreton Hall, Weston Rhyn, Sun 17 - Sun 31 July

This international festival and summer school is now in its fourth year - and although it's called Piano Week, the event actually takes place over a period of two weeks and one day.

For the second year running, its line-up features world-renowned concert pianist Stephen Kovacevich. Stephen will be closing the festival with a programme comprising Berg's piano sonata, Schubert's penultimate sonata in A major D959 and Debussy's 'En blanc et noir' and 'Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune' for two pianos (the second of which is played by Samantha Ward).



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Festivals

Godiva Festival

War Memorial Park, Coventry, Fri 1 - Sat 3 July

Claiming the title of the UK's biggest free music festival, the Coventry Godiva has come a long way from its 17th century origins as a procession in honour of the medieval Countess of Mercia. Though the procession still continues today, the event has snowballed since the early noughties, attracting ever-growing audiences and a diverse array of both veteran performers and emerging acts to play across its three stages. Over the years, festival line-ups have covered Britpop bands, up-and-coming indie talents, '80s electro pop, familiar ska and two-tone favourites, reggae, hip-hop and even international stars.

Line-up Includes: The Charlatans, Mystery Jets, Space, The Boomtown Rats, Scouting for Girls, The Subways, The Pigeon Detectives, Luna Kiss, Milburn, D Double E and Yungen



Scouting For Girls



The Subways



The Boomtown Rats

Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham, Fri 8 - Sun 10 July

Brought to you by the masterminds behind Moseley Folk and the Lunar Festival, Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul does exactly what it says on the tin. World-class artists come together with the leading lights of the local jazz scene in a laid-back, family-friendly event that celebrates Birmingham's musical heritage. Like its sister folk festival, it's also located in the gorgeous Moseley Park, a stunning woodland glade tucked away from busy city streets - a perfect escape from the city centre bustle.

Line-up Includes: De La Soul, George Clinton Parliament Funkadelic, Average White Band, Booker T. Jones, Grandmaster Flash, Blackalicious, Eska, Craig Charles' Funk & Soul Show



Grandmaster Flash

Splendour

Wollaton Park, Nottingham, Sat 23 July



Jess Glynne

Since its inception in 2008, Splendour in Nottingham has assembled an impressive range of musical talent, unrestricted by genre or audience. Centrally located in the heart of the beautiful Wollaton Park, the festival is easy to access for locals and visitors alike, and is well-situated for combined visits with other local attractions - the Nottingham Natural History Museum, Nottingham Industrial Museum and nearby herds of red and fallow deer.

Line-up Includes: Jess Glynne, The Human League, UB40, The Darkness, Turin Brakes, Jamie Lawson, The Fratellis, The Rifles, Stiff Little Fingers, Jeremy Loops, Ady Suleiman

The Birmingham And Solihull Jazz & Blues Festival

Various locations throughout Birmingham & Solihull, Fri 15 - Sun 24 July

Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival has this year teamed up with Solihull Jazz Festival for the very first time.

Like Mostly Jazz and the International Jazz Festival, the Birmingham Jazz & Blues celebrates the city's long-running history with the genre, which has maintained a strong local following since the 1920s. The success in previous years of the Solihull event, meanwhile, has offered plenty of evidence that the town has a huge appetite for jazz music.

This coming together of the festivals sees around 200 performances taking place in more than 40 venues, with both home-grown and international artists taking part.

Line-up Includes: Pepper And The Jellies, Digby Fairweather And The Chasemen, The Catfish Kings, The Humors, The Whiskey Brothers, The Busquitos, Walter Trout Band, Remi Harris Trio and the Roy Forbes Trio.

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Festivals

Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain



Lichfield Festival

Various locations in and around Lichfield,
Fri 1 - Sun 10 July

Bringing together a diverse array of music with theatre, film, comedy, dance, visual art

and more, Lichfield Festival this year celebrates an impressive 35 years. Spanning 10 days and multiple venues, the 2016 event begins on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and takes the First World War as a major theme. Compositions by Vaughan

Williams, Colin Matthews and Deborah Pritchard, as well as a stunning light show from Luxamuralis, prompt reflections on the war, while exhibitions, talks and cabaret sessions take a closer look at life and culture at the time.

Film critic Mark Kermode introduces screenings of Charlie Chaplin's *The Rink* (1916) and *The Immigrant* (1917), while The Foundry Group perform *Those Magnificent Men* - a play about aviation pioneers Alcock and Brown - and Ballet Cymru present dance adaptations of two Roald Dahl stories, the author having been born in 1916.

Elsewhere, expect readings from well-known authors, kathak dance, classic movies, Shakespeare, Mozart, folk music and hands-on, family-friendly fun.

Line-up includes: Susan Calman, Rob Beckett, Kate Rusby, Claire Martin, Mark Kermode, Sebastian Faulks, Mona Siddiqui, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.

MADE Birmingham

The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham
Sat 30 July



Rudimental

From cutting-edge live music and dance to vibrant street art and design, the Metropolitan Arts & Dance Event (MADE Birmingham) compiles the best in contemporary urban and underground culture in the bustling, creative heart of Britain's second city. Expect dynamic, award-winning performers, drum and bass, hip-hop, grime, techno and all-night DJ sets at the biggest MADE... My Night after-party to date, spread across two separate rooms. Easy to access thanks to its inner-city location, this adults-only festival takes place across various venues in Birmingham's Digbeth Triangle.

Line-up Includes: Rudimental DJ, Stormzy, Andy C, Kano, Dusky, Shy FX, Boddika, Logan Sama, Toddla T, Noisia, Chris Lorenzo, Low Steppa and Mike Skinner & Murkage present Tonga

MADE... My Night Line-up Includes: Knee Deep in Sound, Speedy Sonics, Hot Since 82, Davide Squillace, Sidney Charles, Cause & Effect, Preditah, Friction and Slimzee

Wolvestock 22

Wolverhampton Racecourse,
Friday 1 - Sun 3 July

Offering (for over 20 years now) a rare chance to enjoy country music in the heart of the West Midlands, the unique Wolvestock festival has previously won recognition as the best UK event at the British Country Music Awards, making it an essential date on the calendar for any fan of the genre. Conveniently located at Wolverhampton Racecourse, the festival features free parking and very affordable tickets, available from the Wolves Civic box office.

Line-up includes:

Donna Wylde (pictured), Lisa Wright, Katy Jane, Dee D & The James Gang Band, Emma Swindells Band, Shotgun Annies, The Ash Cooper Band, Narn, Henry Smith Band, The Diabolos Band



Warwick Folk Festival

Warwick School, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 July



The Unthanks

Attracting some of the folk scene's most seasoned performers as well as scouting out the hottest new talent, Warwick Folk Festival is among the best when it comes to traditional music offerings. Conveniently located in the grounds of Warwick School, with indoor and outdoor performance space and plenty of indoor facilities, it also boasts one of the best festival sites around. Folk dance, kids' activities, a friendly atmosphere and lots of fringe acts around the town all contribute to making Warwick Folk one of the Midlands' most all-round enjoyable festival experiences.

Line-up Includes: The Unthanks, Show of Hands, Korrontzi, Le Vent du Nord, Michael McGoldrick & Friends, Jamie Smith's MABON, Fay Hield & The Hurricane Party, Barluath, Will Pound Ceilidh Band and Jigdoll (Hannah James)

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL

1 - 10 July 2016

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The Heath Quartet
Mark Kernode
The Orchestra of the Swan
HITCH!
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Cosi fan tutte
Susan Calman
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www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

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Festivals



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Art & Comics line-up includes: Howard Chaykin, Roland Boschi, Goran Parlov, Jason Starr, John Wagner, David Baillie, Dan Berry, Doug Brathwaite, Brox, Andy Diggle and Barry Kitson.



Shrewsbury Fields Forever

The Quarry Park, Shrewsbury,
Fri 15 - Sun 17 July

Shropshire's largest festival of contemporary music, electronica, arts and comedy moves

from its previous home - Greenhouse West Mid Showground - to the picturesque Quarry Park, with another excitingly diverse line-up. Readily accessible and centrally located, the event brings together brilliant breakthrough acts with established music and comedy performers as well as visual artists and writers,

Bromsgrove Folk

Various venues across Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire, Thurs 7 - Sun 10 July



Rory McLeod

A small-scale, friendly music festival, Bromsgrove Folk offers a chance to enjoy up-close-and-personal, intimate concerts from UK-based folk, roots and acoustic performers, and this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. Taking place in the town's Bowling Green Inn on Shaw Lane, the festival spreads across two marquees (one 350-seater and one 120-seater), with sessions and sing-arounds inside the pub.

Line-up includes: Rory McLeod & The Familiar Strangers, Steve Tilson & Jez Lowe, Anthony John Clarke, Steamchicken, Mad Jocks & Englishmen, Kristina Olsen, Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer, Steve Turner and Union Jill.

Fuse Festival

Beacon Park, Lichfield, Fri 8 - Sun 10 July

Back for 2016, Lichfield's free, family-friendly community music and arts festival promises to be bigger, brighter and better than ever. Expect music, circus and entertainment from across the UK and Europe, as well as delicious food and the chance to get hands-on with various creative workshops and community projects, all in the gorgeous surroundings of Beacon Park.

Line-up includes: The Indecision, Funke & the Two Tone Baby, The Roz Bruce Infusion, Sonic Boom Six, K.O.G. and the Zongo Brigade, Kissin' Kippers Fishin' Club, Sugarthief, Deny All Robots, The Jar Family, Pearl Handled Revolver and Misty's Big Adventure.



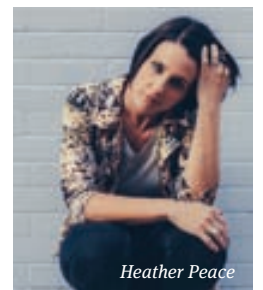
Sonic Boom Six

L Fest

Uttoxeter
Racecourse,
Staffordshire,
Fri 15 - Mon 18 July

Billed as the UK's only lesbian music, arts and comedy festival, the multi-award-winning L Fest is a relatively recent venture. It started out just a few years ago when its Director, Cindy Edwards, decided to utilise her experience of running a women's football tournament to develop what's now turned into three major international events. Thanks to its open and inclusive atmosphere, its friendliness and originality, the not-for-profit festival has already met with huge success, drawing in audiences of all ages. Men, straight folks and the whole LGBTQI community are welcome, kids go free, babysitting services are offered and the event has even been recognised for its commitment to improving access for deaf and disabled visitors.

Line-up includes: Heather Peace, Saffron (from Republica), Eva Iglesias and Pink and Amy Winehouse tribute acts.



Heather Peace

LEVELLING THE LAND

The Levellers' Mark Chadwick talks festivals, folk music, and filming a documentary



“*We're living in a very scary world with a lot of injustices right now, and I don't really understand why people aren't singing about it.*”

In the late 1980s, a bunch of young radicals on the fringes of the so-called ‘crusty’ traveller movement emerged onto the booming indie music scene with a band that took its name from a 17th century progressive political faction. Inspired both by popular punk bands like The Clash and by the folk acts they'd been hearing on the live circuit, The Levellers developed a fresh, dynamic sound, combining traditional acoustic instruments with electric base, thumping rhythms and a furious rock energy, as well as unapologetically politicised lyrics.

In some ways, it's hard to imagine less likely candidates for mainstream musical success, but something about the frustrated, rebellious spirit of the time combined with their exhilarating live performances enabled them to build a massive audience. Their first album, *A Weapon Called The Word* (1990), went gold and their second, *Levelling The Land* (1991), entered the charts at number 14 and eventually went platinum. Twenty-seven years, multiple albums and a documentary film later, The Levellers are still going strong. Though it's been a few years since their last studio album, the band have been continually out on tour, releasing several live records as well as their Greatest Hits.

What's On caught up with Levellers frontman Mark Chadwick.

“We've been writing and working on new songs since November, and we've been trying some of them out live, but we're not in a hurry to get a new album out,” explains Mark. “We just want to make sure it's something special - there's no point in putting out an average record.”

This summer, the band will be touring several UK festivals, including the Shrewsbury and Moseley Folk Festivals in the Midlands. Earlier in the year, they also performed at Derbyshire's Bearded Theory. Having begun their career with a big following amongst travellers on the free festival scene, and twice gone on to smash records for drawing the biggest ever crowds at Glastonbury's Pyramid and Avalon stages, music festivals have always seemed a natural home for The Levellers.

“They can be really special events,” says Chadwick. “You never know what you're going to get, and quite a lot of the time, you'll find there are people there who've never seen you before, which is great. There's always a buzz from that - when you just play your own gigs, you're always preaching to the converted, to an extent.”

As well as appearing at events across the country, since 2003, the band have also run their own non-commercial Beautiful Days Festival in Devon. The proliferation of music festivals during the last decade or so might have resulted in a rather crowded market place, but enthusiasm for them doesn't appear to have waned.

“People don't seem to mind - they're still going and it's a big business. We sell our festival out without even advertising it, but we're in quite a fortunate position there because it can be risky. Often people think it's a quick way of making money, but to be honest, it's not really a way of making any money at all. Not if you do it properly, anyway - if you don't want to treat people horribly and have terrible infrastructure and bad food and



rubbish toilets and herd them around. It's just ripping people off, and long-term that's not a great idea - those kinds of events tend to disappear quite quickly."

That being said, while the ranks of independent festivals have been growing, it's still the larger, better advertised events that tend to dominate, something also true in other aspects of the music industry. It's hard to get away from the fact that popular music is more managed and manufactured than ever, which poses the question of whether a boundary-pushing, genre-defying, outspoken band like The Levellers would be able to reach as many people if they were starting out today.

"It is difficult now. I mean, it takes money. I appreciate you can just about do all right on your own with the internet and gigging, but to actually reach a wide audience and get really well known does require investment from a record company, and they just don't seem to do that much now. They'll do it for pop music, but they won't really do it for anything else."

It's perhaps partly down to this shift that there's been a noticeable decline in the number of overtly political and countercultural acts emerging in recent years, at least amongst those achieving widespread recognition. This is despite the fact that our current political landscape is characterised by a similar polarisation to that which prompted a creative backlash in the '80s and early '90s.

"There's good music, but the lyrical content I do find generally lacking across the board. You can find it in some British rap music, but

not that much. I just find it disappointing. And surprising, actually, because there's plenty of scope. There's a lot to write about. We're living in a very scary world with a lot of injustices right now, and I don't really understand why people aren't singing about it."

The Levellers' belief in the importance of speaking up for ordinary people ties them in with a long folk tradition that has historically served to give voice to those who might otherwise have been silenced. At the 2011 BBC Radio Two Folk Awards, they received the Roots Award for outstanding contribution to folk music from a grassroots level upwards. Though folk is only one aspect of their distinctive style, which has always resisted easy categorisation, the band have lately been strengthening their connection to the genre, working with Sean Lakeman to produce their albums and collaborating with the likes of Bellowhead and Billy Bragg on new versions of their earlier hits.

"We love folk music - we always have. Back in the day it was a dirty word but it's not any more. But again, folk music is traditionally the music of protest, a kind of descriptive narrative of the times, and I do think that's missing in folk at the moment. It's all very nicey-nicey."

In 2010, Chadwick also made his solo debut with *All The Pieces*, following this up with a second album, *Moment*, in 2014.

"I still feel more at home with the band, to be honest, but I like doing solo stuff. It's just different. It's great getting to work with different musicians after 27 years. And it's freeing - it frees me up to write in a different way. I can

be more expressive and personal, I suppose."

Since recording their last studio album, *Static On The Airwaves*, in 2012, The Levellers have been the subject of a documentary film directed by Chumbawamba's Dunstan Bruce. Primarily told from the perspective of the charismatic bassist and album artist Jeremy Cunningham, it tells the story of the band's rise to success from 1988 to '98.

"We thought it was about time, actually! It doesn't cover everything of course - it's not like a typical 'rock-u-mentary'. It's got more of a narrative to it, which makes it a better film. Making it was quite easy really. We gave him complete carte blanche to do whatever he wanted. We didn't want to influence it in any way - so if he saw us as a horrible bunch, that's how we would've come across. Fortunately, I think we come across pretty well!"

Today, after more than 25 years in the business, The Levellers continue to inspire new listeners with songs that seem just as important and relevant as ever. During their time together, they've seen a whole generation grow up with their music, and even begin to introduce a new one to the fold.

"It's a very broad church, our audience. As a band I think we're quite unique in that respect. We get everyone from eight-year-olds to 80-year-olds coming along to our gigs. It's really great!"

The Levellers play Shrewsbury Folk Festival on Monday 29 August and Moseley Folk Festival on Friday 2 September.

EastEnd Cabaret: Yeti's Demon Dive Bar

mac, Birmingham, Tues 19 - Wed 20 July

'A high-powered Flight Of The Conchords dipped in acid and drenched in smut' is how Australian website Crikey summed up EastEnd Cabaret. New Zealand's Theatrereview, meanwhile, said the pair were 'like the mutant child of a Victorian circus, locked away in the Pet Shop Boys' basement and forced to watch nothing but Eurovision'...

You no doubt get the picture. Well, some sort of picture, anyway. EastEnd Cabaret's description of themselves may further enlighten: 'a globe-trotting, manbeast-riding, accordion-wielding, filth-mongering musical comedy duo'.

Featuring Jennifer Byrne as European chanteuse Bernie and Victoria Falconer-Pritchard as the freakish hermaphrodite Victor Victoria, the award-winning act brings together a winning combination of risqué songs and character comedy.

This latest show, debuted last year, features all manner of bizarre new characters, including an overly amorous yeti, a sleazy severed head and the intriguingly named Psychedelic Nuns.



Six of the best...

Mark Watson

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 9 July

Well established on the UK comedy circuit, Mark Watson was born in Bristol to

Welsh parents and initially delivered his act with a Welsh accent, claiming he was "more comfortable to be talking in a voice that I didn't quite recognise as my own".

A regular contributor to the Edinburgh Fringe, Watson has the curious distinction of having performed stand-up shows which have lasted for a period in excess of 24 hours. "Comedy is certainly a time-consuming element of my life," admits Watson, "but then while I'm out touring and on stage, there are people at home doing far less glamorous things. There have certainly been times when I've been very happy to say, 'Of course I'd like to stay and help out with that plumbing crisis, but Bromsgrove awaits!'"



Just The Tonic

The Comedy Loft, Birmingham, Fri 29 - Sat 30 July

Just The Tonic began in Nottingham over 20 years ago and has now taken over the Jongleurs site in Birmingham.

The popular event this month features the highly rated Markus Birdman, a comedian who firmly believes that comedy should always be presented live, in a dingy club, and to no more than 200 people.

With that kind of attitude, he may find it tricky to forge ahead with a television career - but then that's absolutely fine by Markus. Markus is joined on the bill by 'a very special guest' the organisers 'cannot announce'. And by Ray Peacock...

Although best known as one half of the highly rated Peacock & Gamble double-act, Ray's no stranger to flying solo as a comedian. He also writes, acts and presents, and lists his passions as The Muppets, Lemony Snicket, Star Wars and Les Dawson.

Completing the line-up is well-established funnyman Luke Toulson, a regular Edinburgh Festival contributor with a refreshingly down-to-earth style of delivery.

Danny Bhoj

Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sat 2 July; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 3 July; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 4 July

There can surely be no greater pressure for a Scottish comedian than to be considered one of the country's brightest hopes since Billy Connolly. Such is the cross which Danny Bhoj is currently having to bear. That said, Danny is without question an incredibly talented guy, blending ironic wit, observational humour and an appealingly laid-back style to excellent effect. Whether he's got what it takes to enjoy a career as long as the legendary Mr Connolly's, only time will tell, but there's little doubt that he's become one of the most sought-after young comedians on the circuit.

He appears in the Midlands prior to touring Canada, New Zealand and Australia.





Patrick Monahan

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, Fri 1 July; Stratford Artshouse, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tues 19 July; David Lloyd, Dudley, Fri 22 July; Brook Street Community Centre, Tipton, Fri 22 July; mac, Birmingham, Thurs 28 July

Half-Iranian, half-Irish stand-up comic Patrick Monahan is no slouch when it comes to bringing up the subject of his own ethnicity on stage - after all, he's got a quality gag about spending all of his holidays in customs and he's not afraid to use it!

"I guess I like to think that maybe I'm breaking down stereotypes," explains Patrick, who's eager to make it clear that his comedy isn't just political. "The comedians I most admire are the ones who can play to everybody. I think it's important to look for positive stuff in life. Focusing on the bad stuff all the time would mean that the only people who'd come to my shows would be the ones who thought the end of the world was nigh!"

Live At The Civic

Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Sat 16 July

The Civic is this month offering a real 'Brierley belter' for lovers of stand-up comedy to enjoy. The venue's

latest laughter-laden live event brings together Paul Tonkinson, Doc Brown and The Fizzogs.

Regularly booked by the UK Armed Forces, Tonkinson was the first comic to perform in Iraq after the war officially ended.

Doc Brown (pictured) is an actor and rapper as well as a comedian who starred in police and legal drama *Law & Order: UK* under his real name of Ben Bailey Smith.

Black Country favourites The Fizzogs are suitably proud of their Midlands roots and urge anybody who enjoys a good laugh to get along to the Civic.



Edinburgh Comedy Previews

Evesham Arts Centre, Fri 15 & Fri 22 July

Enjoy a taste of the Edinburgh Festival without leaving the Midlands.

Across two shows, Evesham Arts Centre presents four well-regarded comedians busily honing their sets en route to the Scottish capital.

Former Detective Sergeant Alfie Moore explains how to get away with murder, Chris Stokes (pictured) presents '8½ stone of vegan fury' as he rails against rudeness (Fri 15), Tom Binns offers an evening of character-driven comedy and Will Mars sets out to show why his material often features in lists of 'the funniest jokes ever told' (Fri 22).



Dane Baptiste

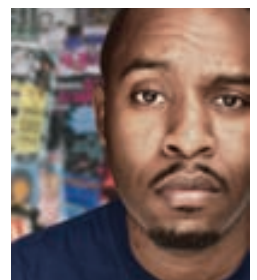
Lichfield Garrick, Fri 15 July

With a new sitcom hitting TV screens last month and this touring show enjoying a positive response from critics

and audiences alike, it's fair to say 2016 is working out well for Dane Baptiste.

It's certainly been a whirlwind couple of years for the London-born funnyman. In 2014, he became the first ever black comedian to be nominated for the Foster's Best Newcomer Award at the Edinburgh Fringe, a success achieved with his debut solo show, *Citizen Dane*.

"This is my second show," says Baptiste of the currently touring *Reasonable Doubt*, "so essentially it's like my second album. And the pressure's cranked up because the first show did so well. I've pretty much always wanted to be a comic, so there's no Plan B for me - I've got to make sure this goes well..."



Mamma Mia!

Birmingham Hippodrome,
until Sat 3 September

This legendary show is of course a nicely contrived vehicle for the chart-topping music of 1970s Super Troupers Abba. The Swedish Fab Four scored mega-hit after mega-hit with catchy numbers like Waterloo, Dancing Queen, The Name Of The Game, The Winner Takes It All and Take A Chance On Me - all of which are present and correct in this blockbuster offering.

Abba boys Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus were both involved in the development of the show, while Anni-Frid Lyngstad - she's the dark one - contributed in a financial capacity. A 2008 movie version received a thumbs up from many if not most of Mamma Mia!'s adoring fans - despite former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan having been given, rather unwisely, a Licence to Sing...



Much Ado About Nothing

Avoncroft, Bromsgrove, Sun 10 July;
mac, Birmingham, Sat 16 July



Much Ado About Nothing revolves around the stumbling romance between Benedick and Beatrice. Their liaison is strewn with difficulties, not least among which is an unwillingness on the part of either to admit a liking for the other...

Not that the plot of Much Ado is likely to be overly important in this particular production, given the fact that it's zany funsters Oddsocks who're at the helm! Expect plenty of madcap mayhem and laughter from this always-value-for-money ensemble.

The Tempest

Brueton Park, Solihull, Tues 19 July

Shakespeare's last and most complete play, The Tempest also represents the culmination of his art, bringing together many of the themes that informed his greatest dramas. A wild storm forces a royal ship onto the rocks of an enchanted isle. The castaways,

separated from one another, find themselves slipping under the control of the mysterious Prospero. Matters are confused further by the presence of supernatural spirit Ariel and the grotesque man-beast, Caliban... Presented beneath the stars by Heartbreak Productions.



Mrs Shakespeare

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
15 - 16 July; The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
18 - 23 July



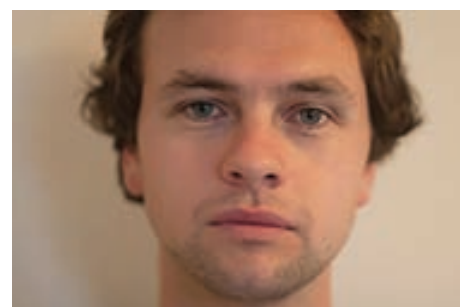
Irene Kelleher is the one and only cast member in this critically acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe tragicomedy. The ludicrous-but-fun premise of the show is that William

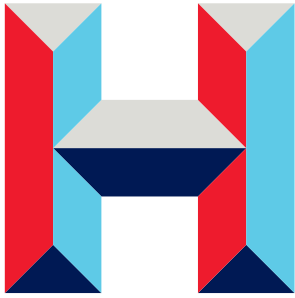
Shakespeare has been reincarnated as a present-day woman. In conversation with therapist Henry, the now-renamed Mrs Shakespeare comes to the conclusion that she's made a total hash of her most famous play, Hamlet. An entire reworking of the 400-year-old masterpiece is undertaken by the gender-switching playwright - but not before the play's less-than-supportive dramatis personae have made their feelings known...

RENT: The Musical

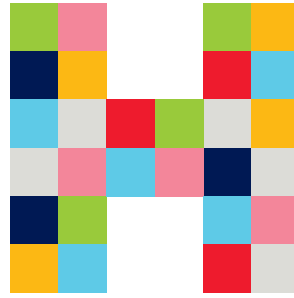
Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 26 - Sat 30 July

Written by Jonathan Larson and the recipient of both a Tony Award for best musical and a Pulitzer Prize for drama, Rent takes its audience on an intimate journey through a year in the lives of a small circle of friends and artists. Busily living out their dreams and battling their demons, the group boldly celebrate life on the streets of New York's East Village... Local lad Timothy Gough (pictured) takes the lead as Roger.





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Guys And Dolls

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Tues 19 - Sat 23 July

Opening on a Broadway that's bustling with tourists and chorus girls, this legendary musical finds Nathan Detroit in dire need of some gambling money. Luckily for Nathan, he counts among his acquaintances Sky Masterson, one of the greatest gamblers in the country and a man who'll bet on pretty much anything. "For a close relationship that can last us through all the years of our life," says Sky, "no doll can take the place of aces back to back."

When Nathan bets Sky he can persuade Sarah Brown of the Save A Soul mission to go to Cuba with him, the stage is set for a warmhearted tale of love and laughter.

Expect nifty dancing, high-stakes gambling and some truly fabulous Broadway numbers, including Luck Be A Lady and Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat.



Those Magnificent Men

Lichfield Garrick, Tues 5 July



Cardboard, chairs and some left-over props are the somewhat modest storytelling tools in this clever and well-reviewed play about the first ever non-stop transatlantic flight. The show presents the thrilling story of British aviation pioneers Alcock and Brown, and their daredevil dash across the Atlantic in the tiny, open cockpit of a converted Vickers biplane. Radio Four regular David Mounfield stars.

Dogfight

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
Tues 12 - Sat 16 July

This amateur show, a musical adaptation of the 1991 film of the same name, finds six young Marines determined to enjoy themselves before heading off to the Vietnam War. The Marines engage in a 'dogfight', a tradition which sees each of them trying to outmanoeuvre the others by taking along the ugliest girl they can find to a party. But the rules of the game are changed dramatically when Private Eddie Birdlace meets Rose...

Singin' In The Rain

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
until Sat 16 July

The behind-the-scenes story of two singers in the era when the talkies hit Tinseltown, the film of Singin' In The Rain is one of the jewels in the Hollywood crown. Made in 1952 and starring the irrepressible Gene Kelly, it boasted a raft of unforgettable numbers - most memorably, of course, the title track itself, a brilliantly choreographed piece which has indelibly imprinted itself on the collective memory of modern-day movie-goers.

This latest stage version is a collaboration between the New Vic, Bolton's Octagon Theatre and Salisbury Playhouse.

Getting wet may never have been more fun.



Photo credit: Richard Davenport

The Hired Man

Lichfield Garrick, Fri 29 July - Sat 6 August

Based on a Melvyn Bragg novel and featuring music by award-winning composer Howard Goodall, this stage version of The Hired Man sees a cast of local performers collaborating with the Garrick's professional production team. The theatre's artistic director, Tim Ford, is the man at the helm, presenting the timeless tale of a young married couple struggling to eke out a living from the land as the storm clouds of war gather across Europe.

HMS Pinafore

Malvern Theatre, Tues 5 - Sat 9 July;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Mon 18 - Wed 20 July

Gilbert and Sullivan's fourth operatic collaboration and their first international sensation, HMS Pinafore's opening run at London's Opera Comique began in 1878 and lasted for an impressive 571 performances. A nautical tale of romance and mistaken identities, the two-act comic opera features some of Gilbert's wittiest characters and showcases such songs as I Am The Captain Of The Pinafore, When I Was A Lad, A British Tar and I'm Called Little Buttercup.





JOE McELDERRY as Aladdin
LISA RILEY as Slave Of The Ring

IAN ADAMS as Widow Twankey
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Flames

Arena Theatre,
Wolverhampton,
Fri 29 - Sat 30 July

'Alfred Hitchcock meets Edgar Allan Poe' is how this much-praised Stephen Dolginoff offering has been described. When Meredith visits the grave of her fiancée Edmund, who died in a fire a year before, she's accompanied by his best friend and work colleague, Eric.

As Eric returns to their car, another man appears; a man who claims to be Edmund, returned from a grave he never in fact inhabited...

Expect twists, turns and surprises in what's been described by one hugely admiring critic as 'a must-see piece of musical theatre'.

Rehearsal pic



Daisy Pulls It Off

The Bear Pit Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Wed 13 - Sat 16 July

This Second Thoughts Drama Group amateur production of Denise Deegan's play reflects the uncomplicated innocence of 'modern schoolgirl stories', made popular by such authors as Angela Brazil and Enid Blyton. It tells the tale of super-achiever Daisy Meredith, a girl from a poor, elementary-school background who's desperate to find acceptance in the snobby confines of Grangewood School for Young Ladies.

Footloose

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Mon 4 - Sat 9 July

Featuring classic numbers such as Holding Out For A Hero, Almost Paradise, Let's Hear It For The Boy, and of course the title track itself, this remastered show stars Gareth Gates and Maureen Nolan. A hit both on Broadway and in the West End, it tells the story of city boy Ren's arrival in Bomont, and the impact which his dancing has on a town held back by the memory of a tragedy...



The Country Doctor

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Wed 20 - Fri 22 July

In the freezing depths of the vast Russian tundra, a disgraced medical student fleeing prosecution for his crimes happens upon an isolated surgery whose small staff are awaiting the arrival of a new head doctor...

This brutal, blackly comic farce is inspired by the stories of Russian author Mikhail Bulgakov and presented by local theatre company Noctium.



Fall Of The Kingdom, Rise Of The Foot Soldier

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon,
until Wed 27 July - Sat 27 August

"Subject matters that make us uncomfortable inspire my writing," reveals Nigerian and Jamaican Londoner Somalia Seaton, "the kind of conversations you're led to believe it's best not to have at a party. Those things that need to be talked about so that change can be evoked." Somalia's latest work certainly falls into that category. With protectionism masquerading as

patriotism in a modern England where a new national identity is being forged, Seaton focuses on an attack against a student that belies the notion of community cohesion...

Fall Of The Kingdom, Rise Of The Foot Soldier is being performed in Stratford-upon-Avon as part of Making Mischief, the RSC's festival of bold and thought-provoking new plays.

Chaplin

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 13 July; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 14 July

Silent-era movie star Charlie Chaplin died almost 40 years ago at the age of 88. Since that time and not surprisingly, his star has faded considerably. His most famous films, meanwhile - made in Hollywood during his halcyon days of the 1920s and '30s - have all but disappeared from television screens. So this new musical play offers a useful reminder of just how talented, feted and remarkable Chaplin actually was. The show follows the London-born actor from the dark streets of Victorian England to the glitz and glamour of Tinseltown in the Roaring '20s. Steven Arnold, who played Ashley Peacock in Coronation Street, dons the bowler hat and toothbrush moustache to play the first true British icon of cinema.



theatre for younger audiences...



Brush

Brush

mac, Birmingham, Sun 3 - Tues 5 July

This home-made, eco-friendly production has been widely praised on its travels and looks set to win a whole new army of devotees when it stops off in Birmingham. Presented by Korea's Brush Theatre, the show brings together a collection of 'weird and wonderful characters, live music, dance and fanciful puppets'. Paintings are created live on stage, as an oft-told Korean fantasy story about a child's quest for a baby brother magically unfolds.

With numerous coveted awards evidencing their success, Brush Theatre are a company operating at the cutting edge of children's entertainment and are well worth a look.

Losha

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 5 - Fri 8 July

Monkeyshine Theatre's well-reviewed 'feast for the senses' blends poetry, dance, shadow play, puppetry and projection to tell the story of a magical creature who likes to collect things.

"A candle holds the magic of a birthday party," explains the company, "a teddy bear holds a child's fear of the dark, a grain of sand carries the freedom of a midnight swim. Losha is a rich and thoughtful play that captures the heart and stirs the memory."

The production is presented as part of On The Edge - a world festival of theatre for young audiences.

A Feast Of Bones

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July

Theatre Lovett's contribution to the On The Edge festival of theatre for young people is a revenge fantasy set in a Dublin restaurant in 1918. Although the production is ostensibly about a pompous man named Monsieur Renard and a 'waitress' who's far from happy with him, its underlying theme is the acts of desperation which are committed by people



A Feast Of Bones

in times of war, and the psychological responses which those actions induce. "In this play," explains its writer, Frances Kay, "we try to show how war might be built into our very genes, making it almost impossible to give up our notions of 'enemies' and 'battles'. We don't talk about the Great War, but you can find it there in the underlying mood of the play."

Peter Pan In Scarlet

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sat 23 July - Sat 6 August

Second star to the right and straight on till morning, that's the way to Neverland. But Wendy and the Lost Boys could certainly be forgiven if they'd forgotten how to reach the magical island, given that it's been 20 long years since their adventures with the boy who wouldn't grow up. When they suddenly find their dreams being infiltrated by visions of pirates, mermaids, fairies and crocodiles, they realise that something is terribly wrong and that Peter Pan is in urgent need of their help...

This official sequel to JM Barrie's classic story was written by three-time Whitbread Children's Book Award winner Geraldine McCaughrean. It's been adapted for the stage by the New Vic's Theresa Heskins, who also directs.

Ratburger

Brueton Park, Solihull, Tues 26 - Wed 27 July

Although Heartbreak Productions are perhaps best known for their outdoor presentations of Shakespeare plays, the company also tours a selection of other stage works, one of which is this brand new adaptation of David Walliams' 2012 bestseller. Heartbreak have impressive form when it comes to Walliams' work, having last year presented a critically acclaimed, under-the-stars version of his massively popular Mr Stink - so it's fair to assume this latest offering will also be of the



Losha

very highest quality. For those unfamiliar with the story, it follows the adventures of a 12-year-old girl named Zoe as she attempts to keep both herself and her pet rat safe from the ever-menacing Burt of Burt's Burgers. Suitable for children aged seven and older.

The Giant's Loo Roll

The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Tues 26 July

Children's writer and illustrator Nicholas Allan certainly shows no reticence when it comes to publishing kids' stories inspired by gentle toilet humour, bathroom habits and bottoms, bottoms, bottoms. His books include *The Prince And The Potty*, *Father Christmas Comes Up Trumps*, *The Queen's Knickers and Cinderella's Bum*. He also wrote *Father Christmas Needs A Wee!*, a musical version of which, performed by TaleGate Theatre Productions, has done great business both at the Edinburgh Fringe and out on tour. This new adaptation of another Allan children's book is presented by the selfsame company. It finds the villagers who live beneath a giant's house suddenly compromised by the arrival in their midst of an enormous runaway toilet roll...

Danny The Champion Of The World

Dosthill Park, Tamworth, Staffs, Sat 2 July

To Danny, life is perfect. He's the youngest car mechanic around and his dad is 'the most marvellous and exciting father a boy ever had'. The pair enjoy a happy existence, but have one dark cloud looming over their lives: Brewery owner Mr Hazell is keen to move Danny and his father off their land. But Danny's dad has a secret - the kind of secret that can lead to a daring adventure... This is an outdoor production.

Doreen Tipton

In early 2012, a five-minute mockumentary written by playwright David Tristram went viral on the internet. The video satirised benefit scroungers and starred actress Gill Jordan as Doreen Tipton, a Black Country-born woman suffering from Lazy Cow Syndrome. Now established as one of the most remarkable comic creations of modern times, Doreen took time off from avoiding work to speak to What's On...



Have your doctors and consultants given you any hope for the future in terms of your Lazy Cow Syndrome?

There's apparently no cure, but I've become an ambassador for a local charity called the LCA - the Lazy Cows Association - and I sometimes get involved in fundraising events. I'm currently in training to watch a half marathon.

Are you benefit free now?

All my benefits are free - that's the whole point of them. Besides, it's in my blood.

What are the best and worst bits of being a celebrity?

The worst bits are probably being asked to answer stupid questions for magazines. There aren't any best bits.

Tell us about your relationship with Robert Plant?

He told me not to tell anybody that I had a relationship with him. He's got a girlfriend.

If you could choose anyone in the Black Country to have a selfie with - dead or alive - who would it be?

Probably not the dead one. Although even then they'd probably still smile more than me. I normally get my next-door neighbour Doris to do my selfies for me, because I'm not very good with technology.

You're invited to appear on a reality TV programme of your choice, what would be your first option?

I quite like the Jeremy Vile show. Good fam-

“ I wouldn't like to see Brummies and Yam-Yams inter-breeding. It's not right, even though the Government tend to encourage multifunctionalism these days. ”



ily entertainment. And it would be good to finally get those DNA results. There was a rumour I was the love-child of a royal scandal.

What's your biggest inspiration?

Sleep.

Where's your favourite holiday destination?

Nowhere foreign. Especially Wales.

We live in interesting political times, Doreen. The EU referendum will have happened by the time this issue of What's On hits the streets, but our readers would no doubt like to know your views on the EU...

I don't normally tend to get involved in politics, but the EU thing did get me fired up. I don't like the idea of being ruled by unerected Bureauprats, all being paid loads on some big gravy boat. If we can save £350 million a week, I want some of it.

In your eyes, who's the sexiest Nigel Farage or Jeremy Corbin?

Are they members of boy bands? I tend not to watch X-Factor.

If you were an American, would you vote for Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump?

I like Donald Trump. I especially liked his idea of building a big wall to keep the foreigners out. If I was Prime Minister the first thing I'd do is build a wall around the Black Country to keep out the Brummies. And if any Brummies reading this are offended, think of it this way. The same wall would

keep the Yam-Yams out of Brum, so it's a win-win.

Who's your favourite member of the royal family and why?

I quite like the corgis. Although I am a great admirer of HMV The Queen, or to use her formal title, Elizabeth Vagina. She is a perfect example of how a woman in modern Britain can bring up a family successfully on benefits. She's become a sort of rogue model for me. I think she'll do well.

What would be the worst things about moving to Birmingham?

I think I'd find it tough learning a new language at my age. And it's probably changed a bit since I last went there, in 1963. And that was a mistake - I got on the wrong bus. I'm not sure if they still have segregation there - like they did in South America when Nelson Mandelson was President - but I wouldn't like to see Brummies and Yam-Yams inter-breeding. It's not right, even though the Government tend to encourage multifunctionalism these days. You'd end up with loads of Yum-Yums, or Brammies.

Looking back on your life to date, what would you say is your biggest regret?

All of it, really. Although as I get older I see there are compensations, such as winter fuel allowance.

How will being in panto at The Grand enhance your Christmas?

Well, for the first time in years I'll be able to see my own kids this Christmas. They're due to be released soon and they've promised to

come to the show, if they can get a free ticket. I don't like the idea of the matinees though - that's my afternoon nap ruined. Anyway, I'm looking forward to it. I've just got to concentrate now on trying to learn my line.

Beyond Panto, what does the future hold for Doreen Tipton?

I've just launched an exciting new venture called Doreen TV - my own online comedy channel for the Black Country. If I had a pound for every time somebody said I should be on the telly, I'd probably have about three quid by now, but I got bored waiting for some London bloke in a suit to make his mind up, so I started my own. It's loads of bite-sized loffs on video, taken from the shows over the years. And new stuff is being added all the time, including spoofs of just about everything from Time Team to Top Gear, and footage from the live stage shows - stuff you'll never see on YouTube. I want it to grow and develop into a unique comedy channel for the Black Country (including Brummies), so I need folk to rally round and support it. A Doreen VIP pass costs just £12 for a whole year - less than the price of one live ticket - I bet most Black Country folk spend more than that in snuff. You can check it out and subscribe on doreen.tv

Doreen' brings her Grand Night Out to St George's Hall, Bewdley on Sat 9 July; Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, on Wed 13 and Thurs 14 July; Lichfield Garrick on Fri 15 July and Highbury Theatre, Sutton Coldfield on Sat 16 July. Doreen will also star in the Grand Theatre's pantomime, Aladdin, from Sat 10 Dec 2016 to Sun 22 Jan 2017.

Win!

Tickets to The Chris and Pui Show



Closes Friday 8 July

Tickets to the 1940s Weekend at Black Country Living Museum



Closes Monday 11 July

Tickets to The Pet Show + Midlands Food & Drink Festival



Closes Friday 15 July

Tickets to Guys and Dolls



Closes Wednesday 13 July

Tickets to That's Entertainment



Closes Wednesday 13 July

Tickets to Forever In Blue Jeans



Closes Fri 7th July

A Weekend Family Ticket to Dubtoberfest



Closes Monday 18 July

A meal for two at FIVE restaurants



Closes Monday 11 July

Tickets to the Shrewsbury Flower Show + Meet the Artists



Closes Friday 29 July

VIP Weekend Tickets to MADE Birmingham



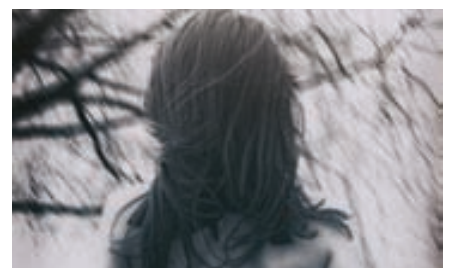
Closes Thursday 21 July

Tickets to Quill and Raymond Froggatt



Closes Friday 8 July

Tickets to The Two Noble Kinsmen



Closes Wed 10th Aug

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also follow us on [Twitter](#) for more great competitions

Film

Finding Dory CERT U (103 mins)

With the voices of **Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Hayden Rolence, Ed O'Neill, Kaitlin Olson, Ty Burrell, Diane Keaton, Idris Elba, Willem Dafoe**

Directed by **Andrew Stanton (USA)**

It's amazing it hasn't happened sooner. Since it opened in 2003, *Finding Nemo* has become the sixth highest-grossing cartoon of all time, with a tidy \$937 million in the bank. With the additional money from DVD and Blu-Ray sales, broadcasting rights and merchandising, that figure will be humongous. So, here is the sequel. Dory is the forgetful Pacific regal blue tang from the first film which, in case you've been away, is a fish. She (voiced by Ellen DeGeneres) suddenly remembers the events of her childhood and so sets off to find her family – along with the clownfish Nemo (Brooks) and Marlin (Rolence). There will be adventure along the way... The original director, Andrew Stanton, returns. In 3D.

Released Fri 29 July



CRITIC'S CHOICE

Film highlights released in July...

Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie CERT tbc

Starring **Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley, Julia Sawalha, June Whitfield, Jane Horrocks, Kathy Burke** Directed by **Mandie Fletcher (UK/USA)**

Darling, you know everything's going to be fabulous, if not outrageous. The eternally youthful Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley reprise their small-screen roles as Edina and Patsy and get into awful trouble, forcing them to flee to the French Riviera. At least the champagne will be good there. And let's just say that Kate Moss is a trouper.

Released Fri 1 July



Central Intelligence

CERT 12a (108 mins)

Starring **Kevin Hart, Dwayne Johnson, Amy Ryan, Aaron Paul** Directed by **Rawson Marshall Thurber (USA)**

It was probably bound to happen: the unification of Hollywood's biggest short star with all six-foot four inches of *The Rock*. The Big Johnson (aka *The Rock*) plays Bob Stone, a CIA agent who attends his high school reunion and is reunited with Calvin (the five-foot-four inch Kevin Hart), the former 'big' man on campus. Calvin is now a mild-mannered accountant and is reluctantly drawn into Bob's world of espionage and fire fights. Anyway, that's the size of it.

Released Fri 1 July

The Colony CERT 15 (106 mins)

Starring **Emma Watson, Daniel Brühl, Michael Nyqvist, Richenda Carey** Directed by **Florian Gallenberger (Germany/Luxembourg/France)**

Set against a backdrop of the Chilean military coup, this historical drama explores the personal repercussions for a young woman, Lena (Emma Watson), when her husband is abducted by Augusto Pinochet's secret police. The Colony – or Colonia Dignidad – of the title was a secret cult from which nobody ever escaped. We look forward to Emma Watson's Chilean accent.

Released Fri 1 July



Now You See Me 2

CERT 12a (129 mins)

Starring **Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco, Daniel Radcliffe, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman**

Directed by **Jon M. Chu (USA)**

The magic troupe calling themselves The Four Horsemen are back and, against their will, are enlisted by a high-tech wizard (Daniel Radcliffe) to pull off their most daring heist yet. Filmed in Macau and Middlesex.

Released Mon 4 July



CRITIC'S CHOICE



The BFG

CERT PG (117 mins)

Starring **Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Dame Penelope Wilton, Jemaine Clement, Rebecca Hall, Rafe Spall, Bill Hader**

Directed by **Steven Spielberg (USA)**

The last time Steven Spielberg and the screenwriter Melissa Mathison collaborated on a film was on ET The Extra-Terrestrial, 34 years ago. This one is a live-action adaptation of Roald Dahl's story of the lonely giant (played here by

Mark Rylance) who kidnaps a little girl (Ruby Barnhill) to help him outwit the man-eating giants that have been plaguing the human world. Rylance previously played the Russian spy Rudolf Abel for Spielberg in Bridge Of Spies and walked off with both a Bafta and an Oscar for his pains (deservedly). Ms Mathison died in November of last year. In 3D.

Released Fri 29 July

The Legend Of Tarzan

CERT 12a (110 mins)

Starring **Alexander Skarsgård, Samuel L. Jackson, Margot Robbie, Djimon Hounsou, Christoph Waltz, Jim Broadbent, John Hurt**
Directed by **David Yates (USA)**

The director David Yates segues from one iconic figure (Harry Potter) to another (Tarzan) in this reboot of the story created by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Here, John Clayton, 3rd Viscount Greystoke (Skarsgård), has been absorbed into the aristocracy of London when he is called back to the jungle as a trade emissary for the British government. However, there are Machiavellian forces behind the mission, forcing the Apeman to bare his impressive physique one more time.

Released Wed 6 July



Maggie's Plan

CERT 15 (99 mins)

Starring **Greta Gerwig, Ethan Hawke, Bill Hader, Maya Rudolph, Travis Fimmel, Julianne Moore** Directed by **Rebecca Miller (USA)**

Maggie's plan is to have a baby on her own, courtesy of the seed of a former college colleague (Fimmel). Then she falls in love with a married man (Hawke)... Rebecca Miller, daughter of the playwright Arthur Miller and wife of Daniel Day-Lewis, previously brought us The Ballad Of Jack And Rose and The Private Lives Of Pippa Lee, so we expect good things.

Released Fri 8 July

The Neon Demon

CERT 18 (117 mins)

Starring **Elle Fanning, Karl Glusman, Jena Malone, Bella Heathcote, Christina Hendricks, Keanu Reeves** Directed by **Nicolas Winding Refn (France/Denmark/USA)**

The talk of this year's Cannes film festival, The Neon Demon divided critics mightily. Some called it a masterpiece, others an abomination. Set in the world of high fashion, the film features extreme gore, graphic nudity and one scene of 'aberrant sexuality.' You have been warned.

Released Fri 8 July



The Wait CERT tbc

Starring **Juliette Binoche, Lou de Laâge, Giorgio Colangeli, Domenico Diele Reynolds** Directed by **Piero Messina (Italy/France)**

Anna (Binoche) accidentally bumps into her son's fiancée at a villa in Sicily and together they wait for his return, although Anna knows better... Inspired by two works by Luigi Pirandello, *The Wait* marks the directorial debut of Piero Messina, a protégé of the Italian filmmaker Paolo Sorrentino (on whose *The Great Beauty* he served as assistant director).

Released Fri 8 July

Ghostbusters CERT tbc

Starring **Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones, Charles Dance, Chris Hemsworth, Andy Garcia**

Directed by **Paul Feig (USA)**

Who you gonna call? Paul Feig, apparently, he who guided Melissa McCarthy to stardom in *Bridesmaids*, *The Heat* and *Spy*. Now McCarthy and the girls are replacing the boys in this distaff remake of the 1984 hit about a motley crew of spectral experts who join forces to save the world. The special effects should be considerably more special this time round. In 3D.

Released Fri 15 July



Ice Age: Collision Course

CERT U (94 mins)

With the voices of **Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Simon Pegg, Jennifer Lopez, Queen Latifah** Directed by **Mike Thurmeier and Galen T. Chu (USA)**

It's all getting a bit serious. When Scrat, the single-minded sabre-tooth squirrel, leaves Earth in pursuit of his elusive acorn, he triggers a series of cosmic events that threaten the future of the planet. So Manny, Sid and co. have to move home (again) in order to preserve their respective species. In case you were wondering, this is the fifth in the *Ice Age* animated franchise. In 3D.

Released Fri 15 July

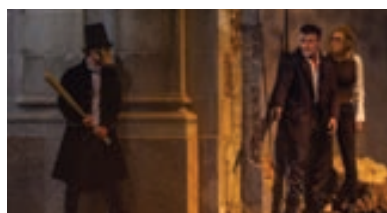
The Purge: Election Year CERT tbc

Starring **Frank Grillo, Elizabeth Mitchell, Mykelti Williamson**

Directed by **James DeMonaco (USA)**

When did *The Purge* become a trilogy? When the first film grossed almost \$90million (on a budget of \$3m). The original was certainly one of the most disturbing and frightening films of 2013 and now comes the supposed conclusion to the franchise (but we'll see how much money it makes, first). There is a presidential election afoot and the front-runner (Mitchell) is seeking to abolish the Purge, the one night of the year when killing is endorsed by the government.

Released Fri 15 July



Summertime

CERT 15 (105 mins)

Starring **Cécile de France, Izïa Higelin, Noémie Lvovsky** Directed by **Catherine Corsini (France/Belgium)**

Two women from entirely different worlds – Carole is a militant feminist teaching Spanish in Paris and Delphine is a farmer's daughter committed to her parents in rural southwest France – fall passionately in love. The drama, directed by the veteran French filmmaker Catherine Corsini, is set in 1971.

Released Fri 15 July

Keanu CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Jordan Peele, Keegan-Michael Key, Method Man, Nia Long, Will Forte, Luis Guzmán** Directed by **Peter Atencio (USA)**

Jordan Peele is the name to conjure with here, an American comedian who wrote, produced and stars in this original action comedy. He plays a guy called Rell, who adopts a cat after his girlfriend has dumped him, unaware that it belongs to a Mexican drug cartel. He calls the moggie Keanu, although in the drugs' world it's known as Iglesias.

Released Fri 15 July

Star Trek Beyond CERT tbc

Starring **John Cho, Simon Pegg, Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Anton Yelchin, Idris Elba** Directed by **Justin Lin (USA)**



How many *Star Trek* films have there been? Whoops, this is the 13th and the third in the rebooted series. Simon Pegg penned the screenplay (in collaboration with Doug Jung) and takes the *USS Enterprise* into the furthest reaches of uncharted space where the crew encounters a really nasty piece of work (Idris Elba). In 3D.

Released Fri 22 July

The Commune CERT 15 (112 mins)

Starring **Ulrich Thomsen, Fares Fares, Trine Dyrholm** Directed by **Thomas Vinterberg (Denmark/Sweden/The Netherlands)**

Thomas Vinterberg (*Festen*, *The Hunt*, *Far From The Madding Crowd*) sets his latest film in a commune in the '70s where not everybody sees eye to eye. Trine Dyrholm won the best actress award at Berlin for her performance. And if Ms Dyrholm looks familiar to you, she starred opposite Pierce Brosnan in the delightful *Love Is All You Need* (2012).

Released Fri 29 July

Jason Bourne CERT tbc

Starring **Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, Alicia Vikander, Vincent Cassel, Tommy Lee Jones, Riz Ahmed** Directed by **Paul Greengrass (USA)**

Jason Bourne, like *Dory* (see *Finding Dory*), is beginning to remember stuff. And so he sets about trying to uncover the truth about who he really is. The good news is that Paul Greengrass returns as the director of this hopelessly addictive franchise (he directed the best in the series, *The Bourne Supremacy* and *The Bourne Ultimatum*). Filmed in Las Vegas, Berlin, Tenerife, London, Iceland and Rome.

Released Fri 29 July



Visual Arts

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Sat 23 July - Sun 18 September

As part of an international tour spanning six continents, this globally renowned exhibition arrives in Wolverhampton on loan from the National History Museum.

Launched in 1965, Wildlife Photographer Of The Year is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, with this year's competition attracting over 42,000 entries from 96 different countries.

The 100 award-winning photographs will take visitors on a journey across seas, skies and sand dunes, with shots of breathtaking landscapes, fascinating animal behaviour and other awe-inspiring scenes from nature that celebrate the huge diversity of life on planet earth.



Pirates, Pants & Wellyphants

Worcester City Art Gallery,
Sat 9 July - Sat 3 September

Best-loved children's illustrator Nick Sharratt brings his quirky, colourful characters to Worcester in this interactive, kid-friendly exhibition, part of a Showstoppers national tour. Anyone who's ever read Tracy Beaker, Eat Your Peas or Shark In The Park will love this chance to take a peek at Nick's old school work, step into a recreation of his studio, and find out how it all started. Catch a sneaky glimpse of his original sketchbooks, design your own 'Sharracter', dress up as your favourites, add your pants to the display, or write a postcard to send to Nick himself. Perfect for a family outing!



Kan Xuan

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham,
Wed 6 July - Sun 11 September



Presenting her first ever UK exhibition, renowned Chinese artist Kan Xuan brings her refreshingly unpretentious and economical video art to Ikon, following a screening of her seminal film *A Happy Girl* at the gallery back in 2006.

Comprising a wide selection of work ranging from the single-screen pieces of the late 1990s through to her very latest installation, the exhibition exemplifies the artist's profoundly philosophical approach to human experience in her attempts to "represent the state of our daily life, set against this crowded and noisy modern world".

BBC Faces Of Comedy

Compton Verney, Warwickshire,
Sat 9 July - Sun 2 October

Celebrating 60 side-splitting years of the TV sitcom, BBC Faces Of Comedy offers an exclusive glimpse of some of Britain's greatest comedians at work - on set, behind the scenes, deep in script discussions or simply enjoying a well-earned cuppa. Ninety never-before publicly displayed photographs from the BBC's Photo Library have been specially selected by some of the nation's best-loved contemporary sitcom stars, curating the exhibition in homage to the comedy greats who inspired them.

From Hancock's Half Hour to *Only Fools And Horses* and from *Steptoe And Son* to *Miranda*, this unique photo exhibition provides an insight into the lives of our comedy legends and the evolution of the sitcom over the years.



Bert Hackett: The Gemini Years

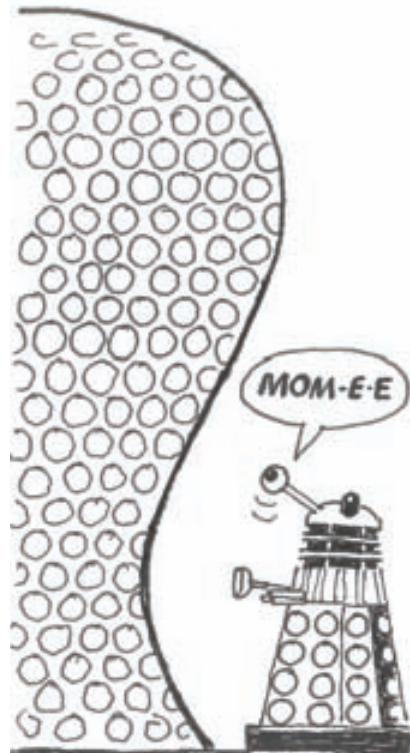
mac, Birmingham, until Sun 4 September

Following the recent passing of Bert Hackett, mac Birmingham presents a timely tribute to the former Birmingham Post cartoonist, whose professional pseudonym was Gemini. The exhibition of his best-loved drawings follows a major retrospective held at mac in 2013, which celebrated his 80th birthday.

Between 1966 and 2008, Hackett's daily cartoons were well known and respected by readers of the paper. During his 42 years at the Post, the artist worked with over a dozen editors and produced more than 10,000 cartoons, finally departing from the paper shortly before its relocation to Fort Dunlop.

Born in Balsall Heath and subsequently a long-term resident in Moseley, Hackett was initially reluctant to take up the daily cartoonist role at the Post, but was eventually persuaded by his business partner and fellow cartoonist Graham Gavin, with whom he coined the Gemini name. The two began by sharing the role, taking it in turns and each producing a cartoon every other day. When Gavin dropped out eight years later, Hackett took on the demanding job full-time.

After a four-year battle with prostate cancer, the popular cartoonist died on Friday 8 April this year. Said Birmingham Post Features Editor Sarah Probert: "Bert's enormous contribution to the Birmingham Post will never be forgotten."



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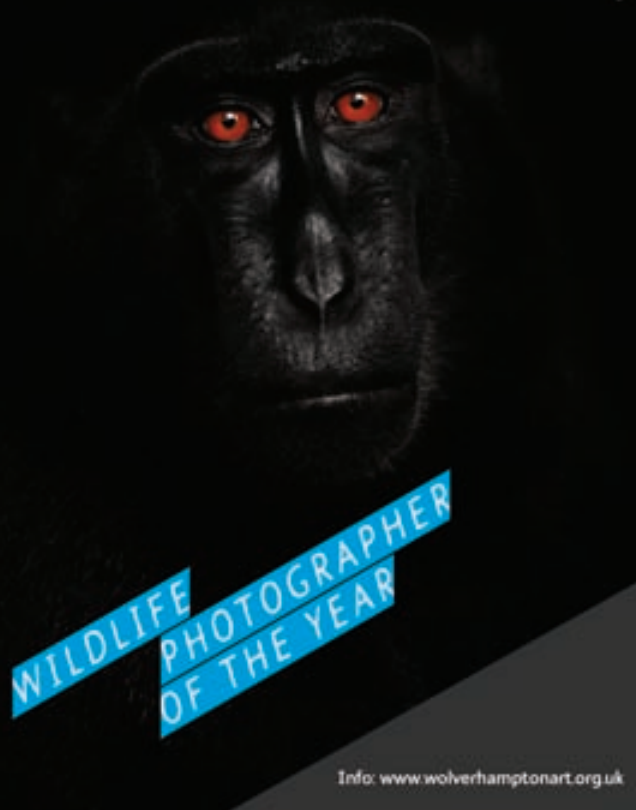
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After Gerard Johnson
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Shrewsbury Flower Show

Friday 12th & Saturday 13th August 2016

FLOWERS, FIREWORKS & FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

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Friday Evening
The Red Hot Chilli Pipers

Saturday Evening
The Christians

Floral Displays
Premier Show Jumping
Stunning Show Gardens
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment Musical Ride

ENTERTAINMENT TO SUIT EVERY TASTE

The Chef Gizzi Erskine and the Gardener Sarah Raven, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, The Christians, Of One Accord and Biddulph Male Voice Choirs, Massed Bands, Traditional Carousel, Food and Drink, Spectacular Fireworks Finale, Working Steam Engine and Schools Floral Train.

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Available until midnight on 11th August
Adults £24, Over 60's £22
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Celebrity Gardener
Sarah Raven

Why not join as a member and enjoy admission to the show on both days and an invitation to our exclusive preview evening?

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Life Member £550

*Membership upgrades will not be available during the show

Call us on: 01743 234050 or visit www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk

Events



Antiques For Everyone

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 21 - Sun 24 July

With more than 200 dealers showcasing their wares, Antiques For Everyone is one of the largest events of its kind in the UK. This latest show, one of three taking place this year, features an exhibition exploring the history of Birmingham's highly successful 19th and early 20th century pen trade. At the height of the trade, the city was producing around 1.5 billion pen nibs in 100,000 different

varieties from more than 100 factories.

Curated by Birmingham's Pen Museum, the exhibition celebrates the lives of the manufacturers and workers who helped place the city at the centre of a worldwide trade. The display is presented at Antiques For Everyone ahead of next month's Heritage Lottery-funded relaunch of the pen museum.

As well as the exhibition, other connected highlights include a specialist talk focusing on the important place of the pen in the city's commercial heritage, and a review of the pens featured in Birmingham-based BBC drama series *Peaky Blinders* (pictured).

Silverstone Classic

Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire, Fri 29 - Sun 31 July



Billed as 'the world's biggest classic motor-racing festival', the Silverstone Classic is a real mecca for car enthusiasts, at the same time offering top-notch entertainment for families to enjoy.

Highlights at this year's event include track parades, infield displays from over 100 car clubs featuring more than 10,000 classic cars, interactive driving activities, 'dynamic' demonstrations, aerial displays, a vintage funfair and a shopping village.

Live music comes from, among others, The Boomtown Rats and The Stranglers.

Latin American Festival

The Arcadian, Birmingham, Sun 3 July

Birmingham's Arcadian Centre is promising visitors a sizzling hot welcome early this month when the Latin American Festival makes a welcome return.

The free one-day event promises a real feast for the senses, courtesy of an imaginative programme of music and dance. Cuisine, crafts and culture from numerous Latin American nations also features.

Commenting on the festival, founder Annie Bazan-De-Fisher said: "Our event embraces all cultures of the world and is a unique opportunity not only to learn about the Latin American culture but also to share a great day in a friendly and happy atmosphere. Everyone is most welcome to join in the festival, which promises to be an unforgettable event, with lovely music for the public to dance to. It's a wonderful event for all the family."

The Big Arts Show

West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury, Fri 1 - Sun 3 July



Shrewsbury's Big Arts Show returns for a third summer (with a second 2016 event scheduled to take place in the autumn). Providing a showcase for a wide variety of artwork, the family-friendly event features over 150 exhibitors, numerous talks by the artists, an area dedicated to the work of new graduates, a real ale bar, eateries and live music.

Other attractions and activities for visitors to enjoy include art and craft demonstrations, film, photography, animation, puppetry and performing artists.



Something Outside

Showstopper! The Improvised Musical
Fri 15 Jul | 7.30pm | Age 14+

Oddsocks: Much Ado About Nothing
Sat 16 Jul | 7.30pm | Age 5+

Oddsocks: Macbeth
Sun 17 Jul | 7.30pm | Age 5+

Chapterhouse Theatre: Wuthering Heights
Sun 19 Jun | 7.30pm | Age 5+

Barbara Nice's Summer Special
Sat 23 Jul | 7.30pm | Age 14+

Chapterhouse Theatre: Sherlock Holmes & The Hound Of The Baskervilles
Sun 24 Jul | 7.30pm | Age 5+

Electric Swing Circus (pictured)
Thu 28 Jul | 7pm | All ages

Upfront Comedy's Summer Jam
Sat 20 Aug | 7.30pm | Age 16+

Plus **SUNDOWN CINEMA** season starts Fri 8 Aug



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Events



1940s Weekend

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley,
Sat 16 - Sun 17 July

The Black Country Living Museum is hosting its largest ever 1940s Weekend this month. The event offers visitors the chance to stroll through vintage memorabilia markets, meet 1940s characters and prepare for an evacuee

lesson in St James' school. Other attractions include wartime variety shows, austerity-busting 'make do and mend' workshops, fashion shows and street performers. There's also the chance to experience air-raid scenarios and listen to some of Churchill's most stirring speeches, performed live by a re-enactor.

Jewellery Quarter Festival

Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham,
Fri 22 - Sun 24 July

With nearly 100,000 people having attended last year's inaugural event, the decision to host a 2016 edition of the Jewellery Quarter Festival was a real no-brainer. The three-day presentation is a celebration of community and craftsmanship, providing visitors with the chance to learn more about some of the Quarter's most creative trades. Other attractions include a free helter skelter, performances by CircusMASH and a number of family trails across the Quarter and its historic cemeteries.



The Pet Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire,
Sat 23 - Sun 24 July



Pet Show organisers are promising 'a fantastic day out' for animal-loving visitors to this fourth festival of fun, fur and feathers. Attractions include animal habitat features, educational workshops, have-a-go activities, a wide selection of the latest products, supplies and equipment, numerous special guests and meet-and-greet areas. And for those who work up a healthy appetite while enjoying the event, a visit to the Midlands Food & Drink Festival (also taking place at Stoneleigh across the same weekend) should ensure the noise of rumbling stomachs isn't added to the Pet Show's cacophony of animal sounds.

Our pick of top places to visit this Summer

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

In the year marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, a visit to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's Stratford-upon-Avon heritage sites would certainly be well timed. The SBT is an independent charity which looks after five unique properties: Shakespeare's birthplace itself; Hall's Croft, the home of the bard's daughter, Susanna; Anne Hathaway's Cottage; Mary Arden's Farm - the childhood home of Shakespeare's mother; and, from the 1st of this month, Shakespeare's New Place, providing visitors with the chance 'to walk in Shakespeare's footsteps and meet the man behind the works'.



Dudley Canal Trust

Created to protect and preserve the famous network of tunnels, the Trust runs regular guided boat trips. The excursions are accompanied by videos, lifelike reconstructions and impressive light and music shows. The Trust re-invests any trading surplus into the maintenance of the tunnels and their environment, to ensure that visitors can continue to enjoy and appreciate 420 million years of living history.





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Events



International Craft And Hobby Fair

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 1 - Sun 3 July

An absolute dream for craft enthusiasts, this hugely popular event features talks and demonstrations, new product launches and plenty of inspiration for the thousands of visitors who pass through its doors. Attractions at the 2016 edition of the show include jew-

ellery-making and beading workshops, papercrafts and cardmaking, and the chance to learn how to sew.

There's also the opportunity to gaze in wonder at a life-sized knitted garden, created through a nationwide collaboration between hundreds of knitters and crocheters.

Camper Jam

Weston Park, Shropshire, Fri 1 - Sun 3 July

The beautiful grounds of Weston Park provide the perfect setting for this popular annual event, which is aimed at owners and lovers of the VW Bus in all its models and types. One of the most anticipated and highly regarded Volkswagen shows on the calendar, the weekend-long Camper Jam includes live bands, hundreds of traders, a 'tastebud-tantalising' food village, numerous children's activities, a funfair and the ever-popular Cooking In A Camper competition.



Family Festival

British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Sun 31 July



The chance to enjoy 'a fun-filled day of art and science activities based around the great British car' should ensure an impressive turnout for this brand new event. The festival features a wide range of hands-on workshops, all of which are suitable for children aged three and older. Activities include the chance to create a unique fantasy car using paper cups and the opportunity to find out what it was like to drive a bus through the streets of London almost 100 years ago. There's also a clay-modelling workshop with expert model makers from Aardman - the creators of Shaun The Sheep and Wallace & Gromit - and live entertainment from local percussionist Richard Grundon, who'll be creating music by drumming with car parts.

Our pick of top places to visit this Summer

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

Highlights of a visit to this well-regarded museum, widely considered to be one of Britain's best, include the chance to view the world's greatest collection of Staffordshire ceramics, a World War Two Spitfire and numerous items from the Staffordshire Hoard. There's also a secret garden - 'a sensory oasis with plants and fungi to smell and touch' - a unique collection of artwork by painters including Picasso, Durer and Degas, and the opportunity to explore the wildlife, landscape and geology of The Potteries region.



Croome Park

The legendary Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was the man responsible for designing Croome Court and park, a task he undertook at the behest of the sixth Earl of Coventry in the mid-18th century. It was Brown's first landscape design and first major architectural project.

A popular National Trust destination, the park features a man-made lake and river, gatehouses, a church, a grotto, follies and numerous statues and temples. There are also four eye-catching buildings - Pirton Castle, Panorama Tower, Dunstall Castle and Park Seat. These were strategically built in particular areas of the park to draw visitors' eyes towards the wider landscape.

Newport Show

Chetwynd Deer Park, Newport, Sat 9 July

Shropshire's Newport Show this year includes a new Festival of Food.

The popular event is introducing a pop-up street food area and a dedicated Little Foodies marquee for children wishing to try their hand at cooking.

The show's existing food theatre has been increased in size and will feature demonstrations from local chefs and Great British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain.

Commenting on the new addition to the annual event, the show's Festival of Food Chairman, Tony Asson, said: "With Newport Show's agricultural roots, food production and local produce has always played an important part in our event, to encourage greater understanding of the journey from farm to fork.

"With the growing popularity in home cooking and healthy eating and the brilliant response to our previous food activities, creating the Festival of Food was a natural progression." The Newport Show's 2016 programme also includes a host of family entertainment, a focus on horticulture, a craft fair, a dog show, and strongly contested livestock and equine competitions.



Our pick of top places to visit this Summer

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Opened in 1832, the 15-acre Birmingham Botanical Gardens has changed very little in its near-200-year history. The gardens feature four glasshouses - tropical, subtropical, Mediterranean and arid - a wetlands enclosure and a seasonal butterfly house. The venue also boasts in excess of 7,000 different types of plant, and is home to the British National Bonsai Collection and a small number of exotic birds from around the world.



The Shugborough Country Show

Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July

This firm family favourite returns to Shugborough for a sixth year and, as usual, offers a weekend's-worth of lively and imaginative entertainment.

Highlights of the 2016 bash include a sheep show, a sure-to-be-impressive contribution from the Suffolk Punch Heavy Horse Display Team, birds of prey taking to the skies, a dog and duck show, a medieval village, children's entertainment with Devilstick Peat, and arts, crafts, gifts and food marquees.

Sunday visitors to the event can bring along a canine friend and have a go at the Companion Dog Show, all proceeds from which will be donated to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Weekend visitors to Bordesley Abbey can check out a medieval knight's encampment, settle down to enjoy a spot of medieval storytelling and find out all about the abbey's masonry. They can also drop into the visitor centre, an original reconstructed 16th century barn housing many of the finds that have been excavated over the years.

Game Fair

Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, Fri 29 - Sat 30 July

Recent times have proved somewhat challenging for this well-established show, with the Country Land & Business Association last year announcing that it would no longer be able to run the event. Luckily, new investors came forward towards the end of 2015, ensuring the 58th edition of the game fair could go ahead.

The popular show is visiting Ragley for the third time and is expected to attract more than 100,000 visitors. It features clay shooting, archery, gundog scurries, international championships, fishing, falconry, ferreting and equestrian sports.

Artisan food and drink, shopping opportunities and hands-on outdoor activities are among the event's other attractions. Ragley will also host the 60th anniversary show in 2018.

National Archaeology Weekend

Bordesley Abbey / Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July

The 2009 discovery of the Staffordshire Hoard certainly caught the imagination of the nation and stirred a real interest in the subject of archaeology. Little wonder, then, that there are an increasing number of events such as this one, specifically designed to be educational, entertaining and, above all, family friendly.

BANGED UP! IN SHREWSBURY



For the last year, a well-known Shrewsbury landmark, former HM Prison Shrewsbury - or the Dana, as it's affectionately known - has been home to more than a few hair-raising events.

With over 200 years of service, The Dana closed its doors in February 2013.

After much speculation about the building's future, the cobwebs were dusted off, the hinges oiled, and history & heritage tour company Jailhouse Tours took active possession of the decommissioned gaol.

The opportunity to visit a building usually out of bounds has proved a great attraction, with tens of thousands of people crossing the threshold since the first tour took place last July - including former prisoners and their families!

Educational and informative, the tours are led by ex-prison officers, many of whom spent their working life inside those very walls - so expect authentic tales both dark and humorous that offer a fascinating insight into prison life. The tours take approximately two hours and cover most of the prison site. For those curious to see more, 'top-up' tours are also available and allow access to rarely seen prison secrets.

Jailhouse Tours has teamed up with Immersive Events to provide a realistic presentation of life behind bars. Experience, for example, A Day In The Life Of A Prisoner, and leave the world and all your personal belongings behind. You and your fellow felons will be required

to work or educate yourselves; no time for slackers here - and remember that rehabilitation is not sweet, and neither is the prison food.

For those of a more daring disposition, A Night In The Dana - an overnight custodial under the watchful eye of the prison guards - may be the experience for you. You and your friends also get the Night Walk, a haunting tour of the prison...

Adventure and thrills await those with the cunning and nerve to breach prison security. Join the Prison Escape and try your luck hiding, bribing and sneaking your way to freedom.

Promising the ultimate in immersive fun is the return of the popular Zombie Lockdown. Carnage and mayhem will ensue as Jailhouse Tours and Immersive Events promise an adrenaline-fuelled experience featuring more than 80 actors, most of whom want to eat you!

With tour dates yet to be confirmed, check the Facebook page for regular updates - facebook.com/jailhousetours

Prison Tours and Top Up Tours throughout July - £15

A Day in the Life Of A Prisoner, Sat 30 to Sun 31 July - £45

A Night In The Dana: Prison Sleepover - Fri 22 to Sat 23 July - £45

Prison Escape, Sat 16 to Sun 17 July & Sat 27 & Sun 28 Aug - £45

For more information, and to book tickets, visit jailhousetours.com



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the list

Your week to week
listings guide
July 2016



James Bay at Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire - Friday 8 July

Music | Comedy | Theatre | Dance | Film | Events | Visual Arts | and more!

What's On

Fri 1 to Sun 10 July



Rhythm of the Dance at
The Place, Oakengates Theatre
Thurs 7 July

Mon 11 to Sun 17 July



Dinosaurs Awaken at National
Forest Adventure Farm
Sat 16 July - Sun 4 September

Mon 18 to Sun 24 July



Festival of Black Country Vechiles
at Black Country Living Museum
Sun 24 July

Mon 25 to Sun 31 July



Telford Festival at Southwater,
QEII Arena, Telford
Sat 30 - Sun 31 July

Classical Music

MANCHESTER CAMERATA Featuring soloists Ailish Tynan (soprano), Stephen Gadd (baritone) & Tine Thing Helseth (trumpet), Fri 1 July, Lichfield Garrick

2016 INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION: THE FINAL Sat 2 July, Town Hall, Birmingham

JOO YEON SIR Programme includes works by J.S Bach, Eugene Ysaye, Deborah Pritchard, Niccolo Paganini & Fritz Kreisler, Sat 2 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

STAR WARS & BEYOND: A SPACE SPECTACULAR Music, lights, lasers, fireworks... Programme includes works by John Williams, Holst & Strauss, Sat 2 July, Symphony Hall, B'ham

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR: FOLK SONGS & FINZI Featuring Adrian Lucas (conductor), Hannah Grove (soprano) & William Clements (bass), Sun 3 July, Bramall Hall, Birmingham University

GALA CONCERT SERIES Sun 3 - Wed 6 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MUSIC FOR LUNCH: SUMMER ORGAN FESTIVAL Featuring John Hosking, Mon 4 July, Birmingham Cathedral

I FAGIOLINI Featuring Anna Markland (piano), Mon 4 July, Lichfield Cathedral

CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC Featuring Harriet Butterworth (cello), Lia Tang (violin) & Brenda Blewett (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Schumann, Mozart & Tchaikovsky, Mon 4 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

ORGAN RECITAL WITH CHRISTOPHER BRAGG Programme includes works by Faure, J.S Bach, Jean Langlais & Henri Nibelle, Tues 5 July, St Mary's Church, Lichfield

HEATH QUARTET Programme includes works by Mozart, Bartok & Beethoven, Tues 5 July, Swinfen Hall Hotel, Lichfield

YENTING WANG Programme includes works by Haydn, Deborah Pritchard & Chopin, Wed 6 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES With bass baritone Tom Considine, Wed 6 July, St George's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham

JOHN ROBERTS OBOE RECITAL Programme includes works by Ravel, Thurs 7 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

BARBICAN STRING QUARTET Programme includes works by Dutilleaux, Deborah Pritchard & Ravel, Fri 8 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES Sat 9 July, Lichfield Cathedral

FLUTE, VIOLA, HARP Chamber music to mark the Easter Rising, Sat 9 July, St Michael's Church, Lichfield

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY: A TASTE OF VIENNA Sat 9 July, St George's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham

SHROPSHIRE LIGHT ORCHESTRA: MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES Concert to celebrate 800 years of Cound Church, Sat 9 July, The Church of St Peter, Cound, Shropshire

BLAKE Sun 10 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Comedy Gigs

ADAM BLOOM, MIKE NEWALL, LIZ MIELE & PETE OTWAY Fri 1 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

HARDEEP SINGH KOHLI Fri 1 July, mac, Birmingham

PATRICK MONAHAN, BARRY DODDS & ANDREW MCBURNEY Fri 1 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

STAND UP COMEDY SHOWCASE Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, mac, Birmingham

ADAM BLOOM, MIKE NEWALL, LIZ MIELE & PETE OTWAY Sat 2 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

DANNY BHOY Sat 2 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

DANNY BHOY Sun 3 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, JARRED CHRISTMAS, JONNY COLE & FREDDY QUINNE Sun 3 July, The Station, Cannock

ROB BECKETT Mon 4 July, Lichfield Garrick

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 5 - Fri 8 July, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

LUCY PORTER, CAREY MARX Wed 6 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RETURN OF THE GRUMPY OLD WOMEN Wed 6 July, Lichfield Garrick

MATT REED, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 7 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

EDDY BRIMSON, WANYE BEESE PLUS COMIC TBC Thurs 7 July, The Stile Inn, Wolverhampton

PETE OTWAY, SEAN PERCIVAL, JO DARCY & EDDIE BRIMSON Thurs 7 July, The Red Lion, Wolverhampton

PAUL SINHA, JEFF INNOCENT, ANDY STEADMAN & DANNY WARD Thurs 7 July, The George Hotel, Lichfield

SUSAN CALMAN - WORK IN PROGRESS Thurs 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

MANILLA ROAD COMEDY Thurs 7 July, The Victoria, Birmingham

ANDY WHITE, SIMON MOORE & OKSE Thurs 7 July, Stourbridge Town Hall

LLOYD GRIFFITH, ADDY BORGH, TOM LUCY & VERY SPECIAL GUEST THAT CANNOT BE ANNOUNCED! Fri 8 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, MATT REED, STUART MITCHELL & MARTIN MOR Fri 8 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

BEN HANLIN Fri 8 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

ANDREW LAWRENCE Fri 8 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LLOYD GRIFFITH, ADDY BORGH, STEPHEN BAILEY & SPECIAL GUEST THAT CANNOT BE ANNOUNCED! Sat 9 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

MATT REED, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR & MARTIN MOR & STUART MITCHELL Sat 9 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ZOE LYONS Sat 9 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

MARK WATSON Sat 9 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

ANDREW BIRD, ROB MULHOLLAND, HOWARD READ & DAN NIGHTINGALE Sun 10 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



JOE LYCETT Sun 10 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Theatre

REHEARSAL FOR MURDER Bill Kenwright presents a new production of a classic thriller, until Sat 2 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SWAP! New comedy directed by Return Of The Saint star Ian Ogilvy, until Sat 2 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

GANGSTA GRANNY Birmingham Stage Company bring a production of David Walliams' best-selling book to the stage, until Sat 2 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

CAPTURED The story of Isaac and Sophie, of photographer and subject, of perception and reality, until Sat 2 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

OTHELLO Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives, until Sat 9 July, Stafford Castle

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN New production based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, until Sat 16 July, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

DOCTOR FAUSTUS Maria Aberg returns to the RSC to direct Marlowe's notorious tale of vanity, greed & damnation, until Thurs 4 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE ALCHEMIST Polly Findlay directs Ben Jonson's comedy about human folly, until Sat 6 Aug, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

HAMLET Simon Godwin directs Paapa Essiedu as Hamlet in Shakespeare's searing tragedy, until Sat 13 Aug, Royal Shakespeare

Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MAMMA MIA! The smash-hit musical arrives in Brum as part of its first ever UK tour, until Sat 3 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

CYMBELINE Melly Still directs Shakespeare's rarely performed play, until Sat 15 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

WEST END STORY Celebrity Big Brother winner Alex Reid comperes an evening which promises to take audiences on a 'magical journey' through the world of musical theatre, Fri 1 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SALAAM Sonia Sabri Company presents a double bill of works which cleverly weave a dialogue between live music and Kathak dance to celebrate harmony, inner stillness and the simple bliss of being alive, Fri 1 July, Lichfield Garrick

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor production of Shakespeare's battle-of-the-sexes comedy, Fri 1 July, Ludlow Millennium Green, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE BEST THING Vamos Theatre present a fully masked performance of a Swinging '60s story of unconditional love, Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, Lichfield Garrick



JUST LIKE THAT! Critically acclaimed tribute show - a must-see for fans of the late, great Tommy Cooper, Fri 1 - Sat 2 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

STAR WARS & BEYOND - A SPACE SPECTACULAR For lovers of all things space, Sat 2 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MARIAN CONSORT Exploration of Carlo Gesualdo's strange world and his extraordinary music, the latter brought to life by the singers of The Marian Consort and lutenist Jamie Akers, Sat 2 July, St Chad's Church, Lichfield

DANNY CHAMPION OF THE WORLD Ilyria present an outdoor production of Roald Dahl's funny and heart-warming tale, Sat 2 July, Dotshill Park, Tamworth

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING Madcap Theatre Productions present an outdoor production of Shakespeare's battle-of-the-sexes comedy, Sat 2 July, The Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge

AUSTERITY GAMES Tell Tale Theatre use improvisation, physical storytelling and a healthy dose of audience participation to tell the story of Martha Gritt and her Dickensian-inspired journey through time to



Madcap Theatre's *Much Ado About Nothing* - The Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge

discover the true meaning of the Olympic Spirit, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, The Sitting Room, Ludlow, South Shropshire

HAMLET The Malachites present their international touring production of Shakespeare's most famous play, Sun 3 July, Lichfield Guildhall

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD & THREE

LITTLE PIGS The award-winning Ballet Wales present a double bill of Roald Dahl classics, Sun 3 July, Lichfield Garrick

MIMIKA THEATRE: SMALL WORLDS

Described as one of the most original theatre companies in Europe, Mimika Theatre here presents its special dome tent show, featuring music, lights, puppetry and no words at all, performed as part of Lichfield Festival 2016, Sun 3 - Mon 4 July, Lichfield Garrick

PIM & THEO Immersive theatre show about culture, identity, life, rules and tolerance, Sun 3 - Tues 5 July, The REP, Birmingham

OUT OF THE BLUE Perfect introduction to live theatre, full of captivating images and intriguing sounds. Part of On The Edge - The World Festival Of Theatre For Young Audiences, Sun 3 - Tues 5 July, Birmingham City University

THE CURIOUS SCRAPBOOK OF

JOSEPHINE BEAN Award-winning children's show where a scrapbook becomes a window into a secret world where a curious life unfolds. Part of On The Edge - The World Festival Of Theatre For Young Audiences, Sun 3 - Tues 5 July, The REP, Birmingham

BRUSH Inventive family show, direct from Korea, telling a bewitching tale and featuring weird and wonderful characters, live music, dance, fanciful puppets and a company of engaging performers. Suitable for ages four-plus. Sun 3 - Tues 5 July, mac, Birmingham

BOING! Join brothers Wilkie & Joel

as they wait for Santa to arrive on the most magical night of the year in this enchanting tale from Travelling Light Theatre. Sun 3 - Tues 5 July, mac, Birmingham

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE Celebrating the rich history of Ireland and the art of Irish dance, Mon 4 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

OUR KYLIE'S HAVIN' A BAB Stripped Down Theatre are good to their name with this latest presentation, which 'lays bare' the altogether challenging business of having a family, Mon 4 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

NOSFERATU Presented by unconventional French creatives Bob Theatre, Mon 4 - Tues 5 July, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

BROKE 'N' BEAT COLLECTIVE Mash-up of hip-hop, beatboxing, spoken word and puppetry, Mon 4 - Wed 6 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

FOOTLOOSE Brand new tour of the explosive Rock 'n' Roll musical based on the 1980s screen sensation of the same name, Mon 4 - Sat 9 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HITCH Mary Bijou Cabaret & Social Club present a cabaret which, based on the work of Alfred Hitchcock, treads a thin line between hilarity and horror, Tues 5 July, Lichfield Garrick

THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN The Foundry Group present a brand new staging of the hit play about British aviation pioneers Alcock and Brown, Tues 5 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE HAMILTON COMPLEX Lies Pauwef's physical, visual and philosophical view on those moments in life when things begin to change. Performed by 13 teenage girls and a bodybuilder, Tues 5 - Wed 6 July, The REP, Birmingham

THE LAST TANGO New choreographed show from Strictly stars

Vincent Simone & Flavia Cacase, Tues 5 - Wed 6 July, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

HEAL THE WORLD Great Barr School present a brand new musical inspired by the music of Michael Jackson, Tues 5 - Wed 6 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

LOSHA Monkeyshine Theatre's well-reviewed 'feast for the senses, Tues 5 - Fri 8 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

HEARTBEAT ITV's popular Sunday night, '60s-set police drama comes to the stage, starring members of the TV cast, Tues 5 - Sat 9 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BUGSY MALONE Musical Youth Theatre Stafford present an amateur staging of the gangster musical, Wed 6 - Sat 9 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

FLIRT OFF A brand new open mic story featuring true tales about dating and holiday relationships, Wed 6 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

NELSON: THE SAILOR'S STORY One-man touring production exploring the life of 'inspirational hero - flawed maverick, tactical genius and rebel', Horatio Nelson, Wed 6 July, Lichfield Garrick

GRUMPY OLD WOMEN - FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE Three rather furious females take to the stage for an orgy of middle-aged mayhem, Wed 6 July, Lichfield Garrick

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE Celebrating the rich history of Ireland and the art of Irish dance, Thurs 7 July, The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

DAHL IN A DAY Join the students from Christchurch Primary School, Chadsmead Primary Academy, Lichfield Cathedral School and St Joseph's RC Primary School for an evening of classic stories and frogscootling theatre. Part of Lichfield Festival 2016, Thurs 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

MURDER ON THE TERRACE Heartbreak Productions present David Kerby-Kendall's part farce, part romp, murder-mystery, Thurs 7 July, Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire

WOT? NO FISH!! The true story of a Jewish family living in 20th century London, Thurs 7 - Fri 8 July, The REP, Birmingham

A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT A musical pastiche which celebrates the Swinging '60s, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July, The Belfry, Wellington, Shropshire

REINRAUMRAUS Puppeteer & actress Myriam Rossbach breathes new life into the kitchen by using utensils in unconventional ways, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July, mac, Birmingham

A FEAST OF BONES A dark musical fable from Theatre Lovett, set in the shadows of World War One, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July, The REP, Birmingham

CRAZY JANE Birds Of Paradise Theatre Company present the story of Jane Avril, star of the Moulin Rouge and immortalised in

Toulouse Lautrec's iconic posters, Thurs 7 - Sat 9 July, The REP, Birmingham

WHY DO HYENAS HAVE SHORTER BACK LEGS THAN FRONT LEGS AND WHY DO MONKEYS HAVE BARE BOTTOMS? A popular tale from Burkina Faso about authority, cunning, concealment and consequences. Set against a fantastical and comic backdrop, the story denounces greed and lying in relationships between people. Suitable for ages four-plus. Fri 8 - Sat 9 July, mac, Birmingham

THE RATTLER Mahogany Opera Group present a new interactive retelling of Rumpelstiltskin as part of Lichfield Festival, Sat 9 July, Lichfield Garrick

PEACE CABARET WITH JESSICA WALKER Sat 9 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE SITCOM TRIALS Situation comedy showcase suitable for ages 12-plus, Sat 9 July, mac, Birmingham

SECOND SOPRANO A poignant tale presented by a virtuosic comedy duo and a piano, Sat 9 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

DINOSAUR PARK An award-winning, laugh-out-loud spin on Spielberg's classic Jurassic Park, Sat 9 July, Lichfield Garrick

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS Mark Brown's adaptation of one of the greatest adventure stories of all time, Sat 9 - Sun 19 July, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, B'ham

Talks

TRACY BORMAN Author of the best-selling biography of Thomas Cromwell, Tracy Borman returns to Lichfield Festival to take audiences behind the scenes to reveal the intimate secrets of the Tudor court, Sat 2 July, Lichfield Garrick

THE HISTORY WARDROBE: GREAT WAR FASHION Join author and costume historian Lucy Adlington for this inspiring insight into the lives and aspirations of women in the First World War, as revealed through their clothes, Sun 3 July, Lichfield Garrick

MONA SIDDIQUI OBE: CONFLICTS, BORDERS & RETHINKING HOSPITALITY In the third of Lichfield Festival's Peace Lecture series, academic, writer and BBC Radio 4 Thought For the Day contributor Mona Siddiqui talks about the role that religion has to play in the pulling apart of civilisations, Mon 4 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

STORYTELLING WALK: SEEING THINGS DIFFERENTLY Join storyteller Fiona Eadie as she guides her audience on a gentle walk around the city of Lichfield, interspersed with a story, or two, Wed 6 July, Lichfield

SEBASTIAN FAULKS: WHERE MY HEART USED TO BEAT The bestselling author of *Birdsong* and *Engleby* makes his

first visit to Lichfield Festival to discuss his award-winning career and newest novel, Thurs 7 July, Lichfield Garrick

Film

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Released from Fri 1 July, showing at selected cinemas

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS: THE MOVIE (15)
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE (12a)
FROM AFAR (15)
THE COLONY (12a)
NOTES ON BLINDNESS
QUEEN OF EARTH (15)
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 (12a)
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN (12a)
BAYOU MAHARAJAH
MAGGIE'S PLAN (15)
THE NEON DEMON (18)
THE WAIT (TBC)
WEINER (15)
GHOSTBUSTERS (TBC)

Events

HIS MASTERS PLAN A serial killer is on the loose, and it's up to you to survive his games, Thurs 30 June - Sat 2 July, The Dana Prison, Shrewsbury

WOLVESTOCK 22 Fri 1 - Sun 3 July, Wolverhampton Racecourse

STAFFORDSHIRE CYCLING FESTIVAL A three-day event incorporating RideStaffs GP on Friday evening, RideStaffs Kermesse on the Saturday evening, a mass-participation cycle ride on the Sunday, plus cycling activities for all the family throughout the weekend, Fri 1 - Sun 3 July, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

CAMPER JAM Fri 1 - Sun 3 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

THE STITCHING, SEWING & HOBBYCRAFT SHOW Fri 1 - Sun 3 July, NEC, Birmingham

THE BIG ARTS SHOW Fri 1 - Sun 3 July, West Midland Showground, Shropshire

GARDEN TRAIL Can you find the flower pots hiding around the site?, Fri 1 July - Wed 31 Aug, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

GARDEN TOURS Fri 1 July - Fri 30 Sep, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

DINOSAUR COVE Step into the late Cretaceous period - when dinosaurs roamed the earth - with intrepid dinosaur expert Chris Jarvis, an education officer at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Sat 2 July, Wade Street Church, Lichfield

BIRMINGHAM RUM FESTIVAL Sat 2

July, The Cuban Embassy, Moseley, Birmingham

SHREWSBURY MORRIS 40 YEARS YOUNG Celebrating 40 years of dancing and merrymaking, Sat 2 July, The Square, Shrewsbury

HANDSWORTH HERITAGE WALK Admire fine Georgian and Victorian architecture, a convent designed by Augustus Pugin, a church that was built nearly 1,000 years ago, Sat 2 July, Soho House, Birmingham

FORDHALL - BEHIND THE SCENES Sat 2 July, Fordhall Organic Farm, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

NIMROD TOURS Climb on board the Nimrod and learn about its intelligence-gathering role in the Royal Air Force, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, RAF Cosford, Shropshire

CHASE QUILT AND EMBROIDERY FESTIVAL View beautiful quilts and purchase quilting fabrics and haberdashery, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Museum of Cannock Chase

THE SOOTY SHOW: SOOTY IN SPACE Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

TEENAGE MARKET Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

COAL MINING HERITAGE WEEKEND Illustrated talks, a guided walk and a self-led trail, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

STEP BACK TO THE 1940S A selection of daytime attractions up and down the line, with costumed re-enactors at the stations and on the trains helping to tell the wartime story, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Birmingham City Centre

CHETWYND MEDIEVAL FAIR Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Shropshire Lavender Wellbank Farm, Newport

MISS ELIZABETH BOAT TRIPS Take a gentle cruise along the Capability Brown-designed lake. Enjoy breathtaking views of the woodlands and gardens on the ecologically friendly, electrically powered, 42-seat catamaran, Sat 2 July - Tues 6 Sept, Trentham Estate, Staffordshire

CLASSIC CARS AT DUDMASTON West Midlands Classic Car Club make an appearance, Sun 3 July, Dudmaston Estate, Shropshire

DELICIOUSLY DOWNTON: THE IMPORTANCE OF HATS IN THE EDWARDIAN ERA A whirlwind trip through the enchanting history of the hat, Sun 3 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

BUBBLE SHOW WITH MILKSHAKE Performed by Bubble Laboratory, an international touring company who've performed to over a million people worldwide since 2011, Sat 2 - Sun 3 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

TREE TRAIL Walk around the grounds, Sun 3 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

PARROT SHOW Sun 3 July, Staffordshire County Showground

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS: BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR A glimpse into the workings of a 21st century stately home, Sun 3 July, Weston Park, Staffordshire

BATTLE OF THE SOMME GUIDED WALK Taking place every Sunday, Sun 3 July - Sun 20 Nov, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

GUIDED BAT WALKS The perfect opportunity to come and meet Chirk Castle's bat population, Tues 5 July, Chirk Castle, Wrexham

TUESDAY TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Get creative by using the tube lining technique to produce your very own tile to take home. Activities vary from day to day, Tues 5 July, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge

PADDLES INTO THE PAST Unique guided historical river tours of the Severn loop around Shrewsbury, Wed 6 July, Shrewsbury Town Centre

EID - DANCE, MUSIC AND FOOD CELEBRATION Thurs 7 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

LONGTON BEER FESTIVAL With live music and a huge range of beers and ciders, Thurs 7 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

FRIDAY TWILIGHT - MURDER AT THE HALL Join Mow Cop Players for this murder-mystery evening, Fri 8 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL Fri 8 - Sat 9 July, Victoria Square, Birmingham

RAIL ALE TRAIL Fri 8 - Sun 10 July, Churnet Valley Railway, Staffordshire

BLACK COUNTRY DAY AY IT! Live music, comedians, magic shows, competitions, dog shows and much more, Sat 9 July, Manor House Museum, West Bromwich

CYCLO-CROSS The UK's top cyclo-cross riders ride modern bikes through Blists Hill Victorian Town as part of a challenging cycling event. Sat 9 July, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

ARTS AND CRAFT MARKET Made In Shropshire is a collaboration of artists, designer makers and food producers who live or work in the county, Sat 9 July, The Square, Shrewsbury

NEWPORT SHOW Featuring Great British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain, Sat 9 July, Chetwynd Park, Newport

BEGINNERS' BOBBIN LACE MAKING DAY COURSE Sat 9 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

ROUNDHOUSE UN-TOUR A chance to experience a tour of the Roundhouse Birmingham with a difference. The 'Un-Tour' is history but not as you know it, with a twist where you get to teach the tour guide, Sat 9 July, Birmingham Back to Backs

THE TALE OF THE RABBITS' PICNIC

(MEMBERS ONLY) Sat 9 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK Sat 9 July, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

WILLOW BASKET WEAVING Learn about the techniques and traditions of willow weaving, Sat 9 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

THE GREAT BRITISH FOOD FESTIVAL Showcasing a range of delicious local and regional products, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

WIMBLEDON FINALS ON THE BIG SCREEN Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Birmingham City Centre

CADBURY CHARACTER WEEKEND Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

NEWCOMEN ENGINE IN STEAM Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

BUGS & MINIBEASTS WEEKEND Activities include bug hunts, the chance to help build a bug hotel, and insect-themed crafts, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Lower Drayton Farm, Stafford

BEGINNERS BLACKWORK WORKSHOP Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

NIMROD TOURS Climb on board the Nimrod and learn about its intelligence-gathering role in the Royal Air Force, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, RAF Cosford, Shropshire

MULTI-PERIOD WEEKEND See soldiers and civilians from Roman times through to WWII, demonstrating life in authentic camps and on campaign. Romans, Vikings, Roundheads, Redcoats, Tommies and WWII Staffords, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, The Staffordshire Regiment Museum, Lichfield

EXOTIC ANIMALS WEEKEND Natural History Presentations make an appearance with an array of exotic animals, including owls, lizards and a meerkat, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Trentham Monkey Forest, Staffordshire

SENTINEL - MULTI-PERIOD EVENT Tutbury Castle brings to life history from the past 1000 years, Sat 9 - Sun 10 July, Tutbury Castle, Staffordshire

MX5 MEETING at Dudmaston, Sun 10 July, Dudmaston Estate, Shropshire

CHIRK CASTLE MEDIEVAL HALF MARATHON Sun 10 July, Chirk Castle, Wrexham

MUSEUM ANNUAL OPEN AND RUNNING DAY Sun 10 July, Aston Manor Road Transport Museum, Walsall

WALLED GARDEN WALK Sun 10 July, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

BIRMINGHAM BIKEATHON Sun 10 July, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC Including a prize for the best dressed teddy bear, Sun 10 July, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford

Gigs

MIKE HERON & TREMBLING BELLS Mon 11 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

WALSALL JAZZ ORCHESTRA Mon 11 July, Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

MATT CARDLE Mon 11 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

REEDBASS Tues 12 July, The Jam House, B'ham

SCOTT MATTHEWS Tues 12 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AS SIRENS FALL Wed 13 July, The Flapper, Birmingham

FEDERAL CHARM Thurs 14 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolves

BACK TO BACHARACH Thurs 14 July, Lichfield Garrick

STEVE CLAYTON Thurs 14 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

TRACEY K. HOUSTON Thurs 14 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

HILLFOLK NOIR Thurs 14 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

KRS-ONE Thurs 14 July O2 Institute, B'ham

THE DRIFTERS Thurs 14 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FRISCO Thurs 14 July The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

UK FEDS Thurs 14 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

1-EYE REGGAE REVIEW Thurs 14 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

EVE SELIS Thurs 14 July, The Robin, Bilston

LIMEHOUSE LIZZY Thurs 14 July, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

BASEMENT Fri 15 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

OCCOEUR + THIS ELEGANT CHAOS + ICEFIRE Fri 15 July, Route 44, Birmingham

THE PIRAGONS Fri 15 July, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

AFLA SACKY & AFRIK BAWANTU Fri 15 July, mac, Birmingham

DRAG & BETHAN AND THE MORGANS Fri 15 July, Katie Fitzgerald's,



Kaiser Chiefs - Cannock Chase Forest

Stourbridge

ROCKABILLY BIG BASH WEEKEND Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, Irish Centre, Birmingham

QUANTIC LIVE Fri 15 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

CATAPULT CLUB FEAT. XILLA Fri 15 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

ROCK 'N' ROLL BACK THE YEARS Fri 15 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

HANNAH & BRIAN Fri 15 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

WHO'S WHO Fri 15 July, The Robin, Bilston

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE Fri 15 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Fri 15 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

CHOIR WITH NO NAME Fri 15 July, mac, B'ham

MOTOWN AND SOUL NIGHT WITH DJ PAUL KELLY Fri 15 July, Irish Centre, Birmingham

QUANTIC Fri 15 July Hare & Hounds, B'ham

SOLID SOUL Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT Fri 15 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

QUILL Fri 15 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BRINDLEY-HUNT Sat 16 July, Tamworth Castle

FRONT ROW Sat 16 July

Irish Centre, B'ham

STARVIN' RASCALS Sat 16 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

SALLY BARKER Sat 16 July, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

GEOFF RODGERS Sat 16 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

RAHMA ROSE AND ILKACASE Sat 16 July, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE OVERTONES Sat 16 July, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS Sat 16 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

IVOR & LYNN'S CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT Sat 16 July, Route 44, Birmingham

THE COMMANDMENTS Sat 16 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BLACK PEAKS Sat 16 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE Sat 16 July, Moseley Park, Birmingham

WILD WILLY BARRETT'S FRENCH CONNECTION Sat 16 July, Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley, Shropshire

THE STONES Sat 16 July, The Roadhouse, B'ham

JEAN GENIE - TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE Sat 16 July, The Robin, Bilston

Classical Music

MUSIC FOR LUNCH: SUMMER ORGAN FESTIVAL Featuring organist Nicholas Morris, Mon 11 July, Birmingham Cathedral

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: FALSTAFF Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor), the CBSO Chorus & Ambrogio Maestri as Falstaff, Wed 13 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: NEW JERUSALEM Featuring works by Parry, Judith Weir, Howells & James MacMillan, Wed 13 July, Tewkesbury Abbey

CBSO COMMUNITY CHOIR SHOWCASE Sat 16 July, Birmingham Town Hall

WOMBOURNE & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY: THE SEA! THE SEA! Evening of nautical songs & readings, Sat 16 July, Beckminster Methodist Church, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton

SOL BERNSTIEN, IAN COPPINGER, BRYAN LACEY & JIM CAMPBELL Sat 16 Jul, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DOC BROWN, PAUL TONKINSON, THE FIZZOGS & WAYNE BEESE Sat 16 Jul, Brierley Hill Civic Hall

ED GAMBLE Sat 16 Jul, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

KEN DODD Sat 16 - Sun 17 Jul, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

LOL COMEDY CLUB Sat 16 Jul, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Theatre

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS Mark Brown's adaptation of one of the greatest adventure stories of all time, Tues 12 - Wed 13 July, Selly Manor, Birmingham

DOGFIGHT Theatre1 Productions present Pasek and Paul's musical adaptation of the 1991 film of the same name, which follows six young Marines on one final wild night of debauchery before their deployment to Vietnam, Tues 12 - Sat 16 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

SENSE & SENSIBILITY Chapterhouse Theatre present an outdoor production of Jane Austen's Regency classic, Wed 13 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BOA YEAR 10 MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE Year 10 pupils studying on the acclaimed Musical Theatre Pathway at Birmingham Ormiston Academy (the sister institution to the BRIT School in London) make their debut at The Old Rep in a showcase which highlights their achievements during their first year of study at the academy, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

DOREEN'S GRAND NIGHT OUT Doreen returns with a brand new live, Wed 13 - Thurs 14 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

SPOONFACE STEINBERG Stage2 presents Lee Hall's story of a young autistic Jewish girl who, learning she is terminally ill, contemplates the meaning of life, Wed 13 - Sat 16 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

MEET TOMMY ATKINS A new one-man play which takes a look at the reality of war through the eyes of Tommy Atkins, a young soldier who fought in Ypres, Passendale, Loos and on the Somme, Thurs 14 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham

CHAPLIN: THE CHARLIE CHAPLIN STORY Steven Arnold (Coronation Street) stars as Charlie Chaplin in a heartwarming and powerful musical tale of the first true British icon of cinema, Thurs 14 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE MUSICALS Thurs 14 - Sat 16 July, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

LES MISERABLES: SCHOOLS EDITION Get Your Wigle On Teen Musical

Comedy Gigs

LOUDEEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT Mon 11 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 12 July, The Dark Horse, Moseley, B'ham

ZOE LYONS Wed 13 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

TOM BINNS Thurs 14 July, Station



Pub, Sutton Coldfield

LLOYD LANGFORD, PETER BRUSH Thurs 14 July, mac, Birmingham

STEVE ROYLE, JAMES SHERWOOD, JONNY PELHAM & BARRY BODDS Thurs 14 July, Sadler's Brewhouse, Stourbridge

SOL BERNSTEIN, IAN COPPINGER & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 14 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAUL MCCAFFREY, ROB ROUSE, PIERRE HOLLINS & SCOTT BENNETT Fri 15 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

SOL BERNSTEIN, IAN COPPINGER, BRIAN LACEY & JIM CAMPBELL Fri 15 Jul, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL Fri 15 Jul, mac, Birmingham

DANE BAPTISTE, JOHNNY PELHAM & GEORGE RIGDEN Fri 15 Jul, Lichfield Garrick

SEAN PERCIVAL, CRAIG MURRAY, PIERRE HOLLINS & SCOTT BENNETT Sat 16 Jul, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

Monday 11 - Sunday 17 July

Theatre Group return with a fresh new cast to perform this musical masterpiece, Thurs 14 - Sun 17 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DEREK ACORAH: THE SOUL REUNION TOUR Evening of psychic entertainment, Fri 15 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

ROCK 'N' ROLL BACK THE YEARS Legendary DJ and broadcaster David Hamilton invites audiences to join him on a journey back in time to the era of bee hives, miniskirts and hot pants, Fri 15 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

DOREEN'S GRAND NIGHT OUT Doreen returns with a brand new live show, Fri 15 July, Lichfield Garrick

MRS SHAKESPEARE An entertaining one-woman comedy where William Shakespeare finds himself reincarnated in the present day as a woman, Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE CHRIS AND PUI SHOW New stage show with the toys and characters from the hit TV programme, Sat 16 July, Lichfield Garrick

FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS Celebrating 21 years on the road, Sat 16 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre



RECKLESS ABANDON 4Front Theatre present a feature-length stage adaptation of an incredible true story, Sat 16 July, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS Non-sexual show that features full-frontal male nudity. Suitable for adults only! Sat 16 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

HMS PINAFORE Ludlow Choral Society present Gilbert & Sullivan's 1878 comic opera, Sat 16 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS Mark Brown's adaptation of one of the greatest adventure stories of all time, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

MACBETH Oddssocks present a musical version of Shakespeare's famous tragedy, Sun 17 July, mac, Birmingham



WHAT THE DICKENS? Fast-moving, audience-led, made-up comedy romp which explores the sumptuous drawing rooms, murky streets and smoky taverns of Victorian Britain, Sun 17 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WINNERS Fred Theatre present Abigail Rahman's exploration of the precarious relationship between love, money and happiness, Sun 17 - Wed 19 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Talks

Q&A WITH HIP HOPS KRS1 Join Lawrence Krishna Parker aka KRS1 for an intimate Q&A where KRS1 navigates his pioneering life which included the legendary Boogie Down Productions and his personal involvement in the Stop The Violence Campaign, Thurs 14 July, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

Film

INDEPENDENT LISTINGS:

PILLOW TALK (PG) Doris Day and Rock Hudson play Jan and Brad, two single New Yorkers who have nothing in common - except a shared phone line! Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 12 July

ROOM (15) Held captive for years in an enclosed space, a woman (Brie Larson) and her young son (Jacob Tremblay) finally gain their freedom, allowing the boy to experience the outside world for the first time. Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffordshire, Tues 12 July

DEEP RED (18) One night, musician Marcus Daly, looking up from the street below, witnesses the brutal axe murder of a woman in her apartment. Racing to the scene, Marcus just manages to miss the perpetrator... or does he? Stars David Hemmings. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 15 July

I SAW THE LIGHT (15) Tom Hiddleston takes on the mantle of legendary country & blues singer Hank Williams, from whose famous gospel song the film takes its title. Williams' life was tragically short-lived, but his influence was considerable, as is his musical legacy. Also stars Elizabeth Olsen. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 15 - Mon 19 July

ELVIS AND NIXON (18) The most requested photo from the US National Archives is of Richard M Nixon shaking the hand of Elvis A Presley. The occasion was on 21 December 1970, in the Oval Office, and the official notes of the meeting reveal the King's interest in Communist brainwashing and a dis-


SHREWSBURY

theatresevern

MON 27 JUNE - SAT 02 JULY



REHEARSAL FOR MURDER

On the anniversary of his fiancée's death, a playwright assembles a cast for a reading of his new play. As they begin it becomes clear that this is no ordinary play and the star of the show might just be the murderer themselves.

THU 07 JULY



AND FINALLY.. PHIL COLLINS

Recognised throughout the industry as the definitive Phil Collins & Genesis tribute show. This truly amazing eleven piece band faithfully recreate all the classic hits from the timeless back catalogue of Phil Collins and Genesis

SAT 09 JULY



MARK WATSON

A seemingly minor problem at an airport is the starting point for a spiralling examination of identity in the digital age and search for meaning in our life. But luckily with an enormous number of fun, flailings, interactions and jokes.

THU 14 JULY



THE DRIFTERS

Following previous sell-out dates at Theatre Severn, THE DRIFTERS return with a high energy show defining the evolution of the phenomenal story of the band through its music from the past to the present.

MON 18 - WED 20 JULY



HMS PINAFORE

Go below deck where the sailors set out to find a distraction from their lives by performing a production of their favourite show. Sasha Regan's all male performance brings new life to this Gilbert & Sullivan favourite.

TUE 19 JULY



TINARIWEN

TINARIWEN are poet-guitarists and soul rebels from the Southern Sahara desert. Their music expresses the aspirations of their people, the Kel Tamashek or 'Touareg' of the southern Sahara desert. The guitar is their weapon.

BOX OFFICE 01743 281281

www.theatresevern.co.uk

Monday 11 - Sunday 17 July



Heritage Weekend - Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

taste for The Beatles. Michael Shannon plays Elvis and Kevin Spacey is Nixon. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 15 - Thurs 21 July

GOLDEN YEARS (12a) Fate, the pensions crisis and a steadfast refusal to accept the injustice of old age contrive to force law-abiding retired couple Arthur and Martha into a life of crime. Refusing to take the loss of their pensions lying down, they decide to take back what was theirs in the first place. They decide to start robbing banks. Stars Bernard Hill & Simon Callow. Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 15 - Thurs 21 July

THE WIND RISES (PG) Jiro dreams of flying and designing beautiful airplanes, inspired by the famous Italian aeronautical designer Caproni. Nearsighted and unable to be a pilot, he becomes one of the world's most accomplished airplane designers instead, experiencing key historical events in an epic tale of love, perseverance and the challenges of living and making choices in a turbulent world. mac, Birmingham, Sat 16 July; The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 17 July

THE PASSENGER (12) Jack Nicholson stars as David Locke, a world-weary reporter who takes on a dead man's identity to discover what's on 'the other side of the window.' The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 17 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

Released Fri 15 July, showing at selected cinemas

THE HARD STOP (tbc)

ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE (tbc)

MEN AND CHICKEN (15)

PRECIOUS CARGO (15)

THE PURGE: ELECTION YEAR (tbc)

SUMMERTIME (15)

Events

GUIDED BAT WALKS Tues 12 July, Chirk Castle, Wrexham

TUESDAY TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Tues 12 July, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

BRINDLEYPLACE FILM FESTIVAL Tues 12 - Thurs 21 July, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

BLACK COUNTRY DAY Thurs 14 July, Red House Glass Cone, Dudley

SIDBURY MEDIEVAL VILLAGE WALK Thurs 14 July, Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

JAGUAR DRIVERS' CLUB at Dudmaston, Sun 14 July, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

VII PRO WRESTLING: SUMMER BLOWOUT Fri 15 July, Dawley Town Hall, Telford

BRUM VEGAN BEER & FOOD FESTIVAL Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, Gunmakers Arms, Birmingham

REAL ALE AND JAZZ FESTIVAL 2016 Fri 15 - Sat 16 July, National Brewery Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

POEMS AND PAINTS FOR CHILDREN Maureen Taylor reads poems and tells stories to children, after which they can draw the characters in the stories and take their drawings home, Sat 16 July, Chedhams Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

HOO FARM BIRTHDAY PARTY Sat 16 July, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford, Shropshire

FORGE EXPERIENCE DAY Hands-on experience of blacksmithing, Sat 16 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SHROPSHIRE BEDLAMS AND MARTHA RHODEN'S TUPPENNY DISH! See the traditional Border Morris dancing as they make their way down from the

top car park to the tea room, Sat 16 July, Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills, Church Stretton

COILED POT MAKING Sat 16 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

1940S EVENING Featuring popular wartime trio The D-Day Darlings and other live bands, Sat 16 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

WILDLIFE WATCH GROUP: INSECTS Look for dragonflies, damselflies, bees and butterflies in a beautiful wild flower meadow, Sat 16 July, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

SHROPSHIRE PRODUCE SUMMER FAIR MARKET Sat 16 July, The Square, Shrewsbury

PEEP BEHIND THE SCENES A unique insight into what goes on throughout the year to keep the railway running - volunteer and paid staff working together, Sat 16 July, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY CAKES AND PARTY TREATS WITH MILLY REES Have fun learning how to bake and decorate simple but delicious birthday party cakes and fun treats for family celebrations, Sat 16 July, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

VINTAGE TRANSPORT RALLY Sat 16 July, The British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry, North Shropshire

ROUNDHOUSE UN-TOUR A chance to experience a tour of the Roundhouse Birmingham, but with a difference. The 'Un-Tour' is history but not as you know it, with a twist where you get to teach the tour guide, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Birmingham Back to Backs

SVARTLAND VIKING WEEKEND Experience the life of a Viking Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster

DRAGON QUEST - PUPPET SHOW IN THE GARDENS Meet the dragons of Wye Ten, and hear tales of their adventures, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Chirk Castle, Wrexham

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY... Join in with fairy and elf-themed activities, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

TAE KWON DO INTERNATIONAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Birmingham City Centre

1940S WEEKEND Vintage entertainment, food and fashion, Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

SUMMER STEAM GALA Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Foxfield Railway, Stoke-on-Trent

HERITAGE WEEKEND AT CADBURY WORLD Sat 16 - Sun 17 July, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham

BEATRIX POTTER TRAIL Follow the

family trail to see which characters can be found at Croft and collect a prize at the end, Sat 16 July - Thurs 4 Sept, Croft Castle, Leominster

GENIUS LOCI - TELLING THE WATERS Environmental artists Red Earth bring to life Capability Brown's final landscape with a series of outdoor installations in the park, Sat 16 July - Sun 7 Aug, Berrington Hall, Leominster

DINOSAURS AWAKEN MAIZE MAZE Navigate the 10-acre maize maze in the shape of a huge T-Rex skeleton. Collect T-Rex bones as you go, Sat 16 July - Sun 4 Sep, National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton-upon-Trent

DESIGN YOUR OWN LANDSCAPE TRAIL Follow the family trail to discover some of Capability Brown's top tips and collect a prize at the end, Sat 16 July - Mon 5 Sep, Berrington Hall, Leominster

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC Bring your teddies and a picnic. Stories and music with Shake, Rattle & Groove, Sun 17 July, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

BIKE WITH MIKE Join Ranger Mike on a bike ride through Comer Wood, Sun 17 July, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME FILM SCREENING Imperial War Museums UNESCO-listed film screening, Sun 17 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES WALK A chance to see these beautiful creatures up close, plus a dip in the pond to see what else dwells there, Sun 17 July, Attingham Park, Shropshire

CLASSIC MOTOR DAY This year also including classic motorbikes, Sun 17 July, Apley Farm Shop, Shifnal, Shropshire

BONSAI DEMO Demonstrations of best care and practice for Bonsai Trees, Sun 17 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CLIMB LORD HILL'S COLUMN Sun 17 July, Shrewsbury Town Centre

BREADMAKING WORKSHOP Sun 17 July, Fordhall Organic Farm, Market Drayton, North Shropshire

GREENWOOD WORKING COURSE Explore basic tools used in greenwood working, Sun 17 July, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

CAPABILITY BROWN TOUR Sun 17 July, Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS: BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR Glimpse into the workings of a 21st century stately home, Sun 17 July, Weston Park, Shropshire



Weston Park

What's on...



Tuesday 26th July
THE GIANT'S LOO ROLL
Time: 2.00pm



Friday 9th September
PURPLE ZEPPELIN
Time: 7.30pm



Friday 16th September
ALEXANDER O'NEAL
Time: 7.30pm



Thurs 22nd & Fri 23rd September
ROSS NOBLE - BRAIN DUMP WARM UP
Time: 8.00pm



Saturday 24th September
ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN
Time: 7.30pm



Monday 26th September
PSYCHIC SALLY
Time: 7.30pm



Thursday 29th September
BRINGING ON BACK THE 60S
Time: 7.30pm



Friday 30th September
THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE
Time: 7.30pm



Wednesday 5th October
THE UNIQUE KOMEDY UKULELE ORCHESTRA
Time: 7.30pm

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TWC GP 01047

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Family Night

Sat 13 Aug
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Celebrate Roald Dahl's 100th Birthday

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CRAFT GOES POP!

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Craft Goes Pop is a touring exhibition by Bluecoat Display Centre, curated by Frances Gift.



Joe Seager - Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

Gigs

THE URBAN PIONEERS Mon 18 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

SUN KIL MOON Tues 19 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TINARIWEN Tues 19 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE GINGER WILDHEART BAND Tues 19 July, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

JESSARAE Tues 19 July, O2 Academy, B'ham

SETH FAERGOLZIA Tues 19 July, Kitchen Garden Cafe, B'ham

PETE KENT Tues 19 July, The Robin, Bilston

JOYCE MOHOLOAGAE Wed 20 July, mac, Birmingham

FEWS (TRICKY DISCO) Wed 20 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GOSPEL CENTRAL Wed 20 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

WALTER TROUT Wed 20 July, The Robin, Bilston

RAGING SPEEDHORN Wed 20 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

JOHN POWER Thurs 21 July, The Night Owl, Birmingham

KID CREOLE & THE COCONUTS Thurs 21 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

SCOTTY T'S WORLD TOUR Thurs 21 July, O2 Academy, B'ham

ANNETTE GREGORY SINGS & CELEBRATES ELLA FITZGERALD SONGBOOK Thurs 21 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

RUSSELL WATSON Thurs 21 - Fri 22 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

HAYSEED DIXIE + THE

JOKERS Thurs 21 July, The Robin, Bilston

ORANMORE Fri 22 July, Irish Centre, B'ham

BUCK AND EVANS Fri 22 July, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE WHITE BUFFALO Fri 22 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

DEFINITELY MIGHT BE + ADORED Fri 22 July, The Robin, Bilston

LIVE AND PICKING Fri 22 July, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

JOE SEAGAR Fri 22 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

RATTLESNAKE JAKE Fri 22 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

MOON DUO Fri 22 July, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

BACK:N:BLACK Fri 22 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

INTO THE SHADOWS Fri 22 July, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock

THE SUBTERRANEANS Fri 22 - Sat 23 July, The Jam House, Birmingham

A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY Fri 22 July, The Roadhouse, B'ham

SSEX PISTOLSS Sat 23 July, Route 44, B'ham

ANDREW BROWNING AS

GEORGE MICHAEL Sat 23 July, The Robin, Bilston

THE FATHER TEDS Sat 23 July, Irish Centre, Birmingham

SASS AND FRIENDS Sat 23 July, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ADAM PHILLIPS Sat 23 July, Havana Republic Bar and Restaurant, Shrewsbury

EXPOSURE OF THE 6 Sat 23 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE SEARCHERS IN CONCERT Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire

THE WEST COAST EAGLES Sat 23 July, The Roadhouse, Birmingham

THE STARVING RASCALS Sat 23 July, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

THE BEE GEES STORY - NIGHTS ON BROADWAY Sat 23 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MAZ MITRENKO BAND Sat 23 July, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

MULTI STORY Sun 24 July, The Robin, Bilston

LITTLE JIMMY Sun 24 July, Irish Centre, Birmingham

MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS: HOW SWEET IT IS Sun 24 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham



The Starving Rascals - The River Rooms

Classical Music

MUSIC FOR LUNCH: SUMMER ORGAN FESTIVAL Featuring Marcus Huxley, Mon 18 July, Birmingham Cathedral

RUSSELL WATSON Thurs 21 - Fri 22 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CBSO SUMMER CLASSICS Featuring Robert Ziegler (conductor). Programme includes works by Berlioz, Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Vivaldi, Bizet, Rimsky-Korsakov & Mendelssohn, Fri 22 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA ACADEMY Programme includes works by Britten, Bridge, Maxwell Davies & Beethoven, Sun 24 July, Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, Birmingham

Comedy Gigs

TOADALLY FREE COMEDY! Mon 18 July, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

YETI'S DEMON DIVE BAR Tues 19 - Wed 20 July, mac, Birmingham

CHEEKY MONKEY COMEDY Tues 19 July, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

GAVIN WEBSTER, JOLLYBOAT Thurs 21 July, mac, Birmingham



JIMMY MCGHIE, JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD & COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON Thurs 21 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LEE NELSON Thurs 21 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, KEVIN GILDEA, ELEANOR TIERNAN & SAM AVERY Fri 22 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JIMMY MCGHIE, JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD, JIM SMALLMAN & DALISO CHAPONDA Fri 22 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRISTIAN REILLY, PATRICK MONAHAN, ROGER SWIFT, STEPHEN DODD & FREDDY QUINNE Fri 22 July, Brook Street Community Centre, Dudley

BARBARA NICE'S SUMMER SPECIAL Sat 23 July, mac, Birmingham

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR, KEVIN GILDEA, ELEANOR TIERNAN & SAM AVERY Sat 23 July, The Comedy Loft, Birmingham

JIMMY MCGHIE, JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD, JIM SMALLMAN & DALISO CHAPONDA Sat 23 July, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY IN THE MET Sat 23 July, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Theatre

HMS PINAFORE Sasha Regan's all-male version of one of Gilbert & Sullivan's most popular operas, Mon 18 - Wed 20 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

FANNY: A NEW MUSIC HALL New play by Carolyn Scott Jeffs, set against the backdrop of the infamous Contagious Diseases Acts of the 1860s, Tues 19 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

CHESHIRE CATS Comedy by Gail Young, presented by the Lichfield Players. The Cheshire Cats team speed-walk their way to fundraising success in the London moonwalk, Tues 19 - Sat 23 July, Lichfield Garrick

GUYS AND DOLLS Sizzling New York tale of gamblers, gangsters and nightclub singers, direct from the West End, Tues 19 - Sat 23 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT Musical theatre favourite Ruthie Henshall stars in this brand new song & dance production, Tues 19 - Sat 23 July, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Chapterhouse Theatre Company present an outdoor production of this heartwarming story, Wed 20 July, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

LEARNED FRIENDS Prosecution and defence employ all the tricks of the trade in the trial of a high-profile football manager - but who will win?, Thurs 21 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES Chapterhouse Theatre attempt to solve the greatest mystery of all time in a new staging of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective story, Fri 22 July, Powis Castle and Garden, Powys, Mid Wales

WHACK IT SMACK IT A thought-provoking performance including musicianship, recycling, creativity, multiculturalism and 'buckets of fun'. Think Stomp with melodies and audience participation, Fri 22 July, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE VOICES IN MY HEAD MADE ME DO IT Gemma Layton introduces her second dark and quirky character comedy show with video and songs, Fri 22 July, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

VENTOUX 2Magpies chart the parallel lives of Lance Armstrong and Marco Pantani as they embark on the greatest cycle race ever witnessed - a drug-fuelled ascent of the most fearsome mountain encountered on the Tour de France, Fri 22 July, mac, Birmingham

DICK BARTON: THE TANGO OF TERROR A 'hilarious adventure' with everyone's favourite special agent and his faithful sidekicks, Snowy and Jock, Fri

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23-24 JULY 2016

10am
5pm



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What's On

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22 - Sat 30 July, Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham

OUR KYLIE'S GETTIN' WED Stripped Down Theatre perform Paul Fellows' comedy about the trials and tribulations of family weddings, Sat 23 July, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

WIND IN THE WILLOWS Munchkins & Monsters use puppets, interactive sets, songs and dance in their adaptation of the Kenneth Grahame classic, Sat 23 July, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

PETER PAN IN SCARLET New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins has stamped her trademark all-action style on this brand new staging of the official sequel to JM Barrie's Peter Pan, Sat 23 July - Sat 6 Aug, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

IN-NOCENTES National Youth Dance Theatre Company (NYDC) perform a new work by critically acclaimed Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Michael Keegan-Dolan. Set to Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, Dolan's show utilises the clarity, integrity and power of 42 young dancers moving through space with a shared intention, Sat 23 July, mac, Birmingham

PETER PAN Chapterhouse Theatre present an outdoor staging of JM Barrie's story of the boy who wouldn't grow up, Sat 23 July, National Trust Erdigg, Wrexham

BOLLYWOOD DANCE SHOWCASE Aaja Nachle Let's Dance present their fourth annual Bollywood Dance Showcase, Sun 24 July, mac, Birmingham

SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES Chapterhouse Theatre attempt to solve the greatest mystery of all time in a new staging of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective story, Sun 24 July, mac, Birmingham

Talks

MODIFYING HUMANS: WHERE DOES GENETICS STOP? Professor Robert Winston explores and details the advances in gene technology, Tues 19 July, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

Film

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE:

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER! Short sequences of archival footage exploring the different activities and hobbies we used to pursue in the summer holidays - trips to the seaside, playing in the park and summer fairs! Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 18 July

KES (PG) Based on the late Barry

Hines' novel, A Kestrel For A Knave, this classic British coming-of-age tale focuses on a troubled teenager from a northern mining town who finds a new purpose in life when he adopts a baby kestrel. Stars David Bradley & Lynne Perrie. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Wed 20 July

CAESAR MUST DIE (12) Inside Rome's maximum security prison, the inmates perform their version of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. An intriguing drama - part fiction, part documentary, and part a unique mix of the two. The Hive, Shrewsbury, Fri 22 July

THE BFG (PG) Stephen Spielberg directs the captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's classic. Starring Mark Rylance as the Big Friendly Giant and introducing Ruby Barnhill as Sophie, the film follows the adventures of a young girl and the kindhearted BFG, who is considered an outcast by the other giants because, unlike them, he refuses to eat children. Warwick Arts Centre, from Fri 22 July; Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 22 - Thurs 28 Jul; Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, from Fri 22 July

LEARNING TO DRIVE (15) When her husband leaves her, Manhattan writer Wendy Shields (Clarkson) decides to capitalise on her independence by learning to drive. Her instructor, an Indian Sikh (Kingsley), is facing a very different nuptial prospect: an arranged marriage. They're as different as chalk and paneer, but they form a very special bond over the wheel. Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 22 - Thurs 28 Jul

THE TALE OF THE PRINCESS KAGUYA (U) Found inside a shining stalk of bamboo by an old bamboo cutter and his wife, a tiny girl grows rapidly into an exquisite young lady. The mysterious young princess enthralls all who encounter her - but ultimately she must confront her fate, the punishment for her crime. mac, Birmingham, Sat 23 July; The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 24 July

ENTER THE DRAGON (18) Recruited by an intelligence agency, outstanding martial arts student Bruce Lee participates in a brutal karate tournament hosted by the evil Han (Kien Shih). Along with champions Roper (John Saxon) and Williams (Jim Kelly), Lee uncovers Han's white slavery and drug trafficking ring, located on a secret island fortress. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 24 July

JAWS (12a) Based on a pulpy best-seller by Peter Benchley, Jaws is a masterfully constructed thriller about three disparate men - a cop (Roy Scheider), a scientist (Richard Dreyfuss) and a sea dog (Robert Shaw) - setting out in a boat to capture a shark that's terrorising swimmers off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 24 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Released from Fri 22 July, showing at selected cinemas

THE BFG (PG)

MING OF HARLEM (tbc)

STAR TREK BEYOND (tbc)

Events

SIDBURY MEDIEVAL VILLAGE WALK Mon 18 July, Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth

SUMMER HOLIDAY CANDLE-DIPPING WORKSHOPS Mon 18 July - Tues 6 Sep, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

GUIDED BAT WALKS Tues 19 July, Chirk Castle, Wrexham

TUESDAY TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS Tues 19 July, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

LAVENDER WEEK A week of Lavender-themed activities, Tues 19 - Sun 24 July, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SCOTTY T'S WORLD TOUR Thurs 21 July, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM BEER BASH Thurs 21 - Sat 23 July, The Bond Complex, Birmingham

ANTIQUES FOR EVERYONE SUMMER FAIR Thurs 21 - Sun 24 July, NEC, Birmingham

CRONKHILL OPEN DAY See a major restoration project in action, Fri 22 July, Attingham Park, Shropshire

A NIGHT IN THE DANA Insight into the nightlife of a 200-year-old prison, Fri 22 - Sat 23 July, The Dana Prison, Shrewsbury

SEASIDE WEEKEND Bring a deckchair and relax while the kids build a sandcastle. Ice creams and fish & chips are also available and, to top it all, a Middle Of Nowhere Music Festival takes place across the weekend, Fri 22 - Sun 24 July, Lower Drayton Farm, Stafford

THE OPEN ROAD: STORY OF BLACK COUNTRY VEHICLES Sat 23 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

ROUNDHOUSE UN-TOUR A chance to experience a tour of the Roundhouse Birmingham, but with a difference. The 'Un-Tour' is history but not as you know it, with a twist where you get to teach the tour guide, Sat 23 July, Birmingham Back to Backs

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! VICTORIAN DAY AT ASTON HALL Sat 23 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

ARCHERY WORKSHOPS Join Bowbrook Archers and try your hand on the archery range. Find them in the paddock, just off the Mile Walk, Sat 23 July, Attingham Park, Shropshire

ARCHAEOLOGY FOR ALL Sat 23 July,

Museum of Cannock Chase

CULTURAL DIVERSITY MUSIC DAY IN THE SQUARE Sat 23 July, The Square, Shrewsbury

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Birmingham City Centre

CRITTERISH ALLSORTS Hands-on animal sessions, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire

'50 THINGS' WOODLAND CAMP Join bushcraft expert Mick Cowles and the Rangers for some wild camping in Dudmaston's woodland, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

CIVIL WAR FIREARMS WEEKEND Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Chirk Castle, Nr Oswestry

SEALED KNOT - CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Hampton Court Castle, Leominster

SHUGBOROUGH COUNTRY SHOW All-day entertainment, including the Sheep Show, the Suffolk Punch Heavy Horse Display Team, birds of prey and much more, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

STOKESAY STORIES: THE TUDORS Be transported back to the golden age of Elizabeth I as the castle comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of Tudor England, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, Stokesay Castle, Ludlow, South Shropshire

COSFORD FOOD FESTIVAL A tasty lineup of over 80 local producers, Sat 23 - Sun 24 July, RAF Cosford, Shropshire

SELF-LED DINOSAUR TRAIL Follow the clues around the park and solve the puzzle for a small prize, Sat 23 July - Sun 4 Sept, Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth

SEVEN SECRET DOORS Each of the seven doors, leading to a magical place in the gardens, has something different and spellbinding behind it, Sat 23 July - Sun 4 Sept, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

MAISY'S MAIZE MAZE Explore the labyrinth of pathways, Sat 23 July - Fri 30 Sept, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry

CRONKHILL OPEN DAY See a major restoration project in action, Sun 24 July, Attingham Park, Shropshire

WORLD WAR ONE HISTORY BUS Discover Birmingham's contribution to the Great War, Sun 24 July, Birmingham City Centre

FESTIVAL OF BLACK COUNTRY VEHICLES Sun 24 July, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

CLASSIC VEHICLE DAY Different vehicles will be on display at each station, Sun 24 July, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster

FINDING DUDMASTON WITH FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2016 Discover more about the history and archaeology of the Shropshire estate, Sun 24 - Sun 31 July, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

ENTERTAINMENT

CANNOCK CHASE

at the PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE

SEPTEMBER

KEN DODD'S HAPPINESS SHOW

Thursday 1st September
7.30pm • £21



MOTHERSHIP LED ZEPPLIN TRIBUTE

Saturday 3rd September
7.30pm • £16.50



THE MOVE

Sunday 18th September
7.30pm • £20



NOAH STEWART

Wednesday 28th September
7.30pm • £28



OCTOBER

ROSE MARIE

Thursday 6th October
7.30pm • £20 • Conc. £18.50



E.L.O. EXPERIENCE

Friday 7th October
7.30pm • £22



STARMAN - THE DAVID BOWIE STORY

Thursday 20th October
7.30pm • £20



VIVA NEIL DIAMOND

Friday 21st October
7.30pm • £16



ROMEO AND JULIET

Thursday 27th October
7.30pm • £18 • Conc. £16
Dance Schools £10



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FLAMES



FLAMES

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BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS
STEPHEN DOLGINOFF

One year ago, Edmond died in a fire. He took with him the dreams of his fiancée, Meredith, the trust of his best friend, Eric, and the answers to the burning questions that still linger about his death and the terrible crime he committed.

But on a stormy night at the cemetery where he rests, the secrets from his past will finally refuse to stay buried; and those he left behind will refuse to stay

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FRI 1 JUL BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTES
THE SPRINGSTEEN SESSIONS

SAT 2 JUL ROCK DOUBLE
PURE PURPLE DEEP PURPLE
+ LOVEHUNTER WHITE HOLE

SUN 3 JUL APT DOONES 12 NOON
JUST FLOYD PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE

SUN 3 JUL LIVE ON STAGE 8.30pm
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PERFORMING THE YES 'TESSONING' SET FROM 1972-3 IN ITS ENTIRETY

WED 8 JUL
ELECTUS
SPECIAL GUESTS THE HOUSE OF SHAKESPEARE - CROWNS & CROWNS (JUL) - THE LOVED & LOFT

THU 7 JUL PRINCESS OF THE SYNTHESIZER
TRIBUTES TO **PET SHOP BOYS + KRAFTWERK + GARY NUMAN**

FRI 8 JUL REAF 'SEAS IN THEIR EYES'
TRIBUTE TO **TINA TURNER**
TOTALLY TINA

SAT 9 JUL
SOLD OUT

SUN 10 JUL CHARITY EVENT IN THE MEMORY OF THE LATE CHELSEA JACKSON

WED 13 JUL
SOLD OUT

THU 14 JUL
EVE SELIS
"SEE ME WITH YOUR HEART"
ED. KRILLIAN CONCERT TROUPE

FRI 15 JUL
WHO'S WHO

SAT 16 JUL TRIBUTE TO
DAVID BOWIE
JEAN GENIE

SUN 17 JUL
DAVID CROSS BAND
DAVID CROSS (NINE TRIBUNES) AND DAVID JACKSON (VAN DER GRAAF GENERATIONS)

TUE 19 JUL ALL SEATED SHOW
ACOUSTIC FINGERSTYLE GUITARIST
PETE KENT

WED 20 JUL
WALTER TROUT
NEW ALBUM 'BATTLE SCARS'

THU 21 JUL DIRECT FROM DEER LICK HOLLER, USA
HAYSEED DIXIE

FRI 22 JUL MANCHESTER DOUBLES TRIP
HEAVENLY NIGHTS BY
OASIS + STONE ROSES ADORNS

SAT 23 JUL
ANDREW BROWNING AS
GEORGE MICHAEL

SUN 24 JUL
MULTI STORY PLUS THE FAR MEADOW PLUS HOWARD SINCLAIR

MON 25 JUL US SOUTHERN ROCK
THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS

THE 26 JUL + TWO FACED TOM & THE PRINCE THE HILLS OF BARMON COUNTY, IOWA USA
REVEREND PEYTONS
BIG DAMN BAND

WED 27 JUL GUITAR HEROES WITH
PHIL WALKER & HIS BAND

THU 28 JUL + SUPPORT METEOR
GUNS 2 ROSES

FRI 29 JUL + SUPPORT THE TRAMWAYS
TRIBUTE TO
U2 U2-2

SAT 30 JUL TRIPLE TRIBUTES HEADLINE
THE SMITHS "THE SMITHS STOP TRANSMISSION"
JOY DIVISION "TRUE CRISIS"
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JULY HIGHLIGHTS



£16, £13 Students

FRI 1 & SAT 2 JULY
7.30PM

THE BEST THING

Vamos Theatre in a co-commission with London International Mime Festival
A swinging sixties story of unconditional love from the UK's leading full mask theatre company.

12+



£15

WED 6 JULY, 7.45PM

NELSON

Inspirational hero - flawed maverick. Tactical genius. Rebel.
A surgeon, a midshipman, a gunner and a powder monkey aboard HMS Victory strive to destroy the Combined Fleet of France and Spain.



£22.50, £21 Students

THU 14 JULY, 7.30PM

BACK TO BACHARACH

10 Musicians, 3 West End Vocalists, 1 Great Performance.
Celebrating the magical music of Burt Bacharach, one of the most accomplished popular composers of the 20th Century.



£14, £11.50 Students

FRI 15 JULY, 7.30PM

DOREEN'S GRAND NIGHT OUT

Doreen returns in the Summer with a brand new live show at the poshest venue she's ever seen in her life.

16+



£12, £10 Child, £40 Family

SAT 16 JULY

11AM & 2PM

THE CHRIS AND PUI SHOW

New stage show with the toys & characters from their hit TV programme.
With songs, comedy sketches, a dash of magic and heaps of joining in, a family show for children aged 2 to 102.

2+



£12, £10 Students

TUES 19 - SAT 23 JULY, 7.45PM

LICHFIELD PLAYERS PRESENTS

CHESHIRE CATS

Follow the Cheshire Cats team as they power walk their way on an emotional journey to fundraising success in the London Moonwalk!



£15, £12 Students

FRI 29 JULY - SAT 6 AUG, 7.30PM, SAT MATS 2.30PM

LICHFIELD GARRICK COMMUNITY MUSICAL 2016

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The Country Fair - Blists Hill, Ironbridge

Feig brings his fresh take to the supernatural comedy which features the familiar faces of Bill Murray and Sigourney Weaver. Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, Thurs 28 July

WHEN MARNIE WAS THERE (U) When shy, artistic Anna moves to the seaside to live with her aunt and uncle, she stumbles upon an old mansion surrounded by marshes, and the mysterious young girl, Marnie, who lives there... mac, Birmingham, Fri 29 - Sun 31 July

JAWS (12a) Based on a pulpy best-seller by Peter Benchley, Jaws is a masterfully constructed thriller about three disparate men - a cop (Roy Scheider), a scientist (Richard Dreyfuss) and a sea dog (Robert Shaw) - setting out in a boat to capture a shark that's terrorising swimmers off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 31 July

NEW FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Released from Fri 29 July, showing at selected cinemas

AUTHOR: THE JT LEROY STORY (tbc)

BARRY LYNDON (PG)

FINDING DORY (tbc)

JASON BOURNE (tbc)

Events

SUMMER FAMILY FUN From croquet to washtub activities, Mon 25 July, Sunnycroft, Wellington

DISCOVERY DAY Guided tour of the extraordinary World War One trench system, Mon 25 July, The Staffordshire Regiment Museum, Lichfield

FAMILY WORKSHOP - NATIVE INDIANS Make a dreamcatcher to hang above your bed and learn how to

send smoke signals, Mon 25 - Fri 29 July, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

ENCHANTED CASTLE Aimed at anyone who likes knights, dragons and fairies... follow a magical trail through the castle, Mon 25 - Fri 29 July, Tamworth Castle

HANDS-ON HISTORY: MEDIEVAL Mon 25 - Sun 31 July, Stokesay Castle, Ludlow, South Shropshire

CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOLIDAY

ACTIVITY DAYS Challenging trails and craft activities with a different theme every week, every Monday and Wednesday throughout the school holidays, Mon 25 July - Wed 31 Aug, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

TUESDAY TILE DECORATING

WORKSHOPS Tues 26 July, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

FABRIC FLOWER POWER Try rag rug-ging techniques in a drop-in workshop and make a shabby chic organza flower brooch or hair slide to take home with you, Tues 26 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

BEEP BEEP! Make a hat inspired by your favourite vehicle from the exhibition, Tues 26 - Thurs 28 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

BOOKBENCH SUMMER CRAFT

ACTIVITIES Join in a family craft activity inspired by a different children's story each week of the summer holidays, Tues 26 July - Tues 23 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES - DISCOVERING DUDMASTON Join the archaeology trail to see if you can locate and identify all of the hidden objects. Make and take away your very own ancient fossil in the activities tent, Wed 27 July, Dudmaston Estate, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY: ROYAL CARRIAGE PHOTO FRAMES Travel in

the style of a king or queen as you make a fairytale carriage photo frame, Wed 27 July, Aston Hall, Birmingham

THE GAME OF GNOMES A group of gnomes on an epic adventure through Himley Park have become lost. Follow the clues to find them, Wed 27 July, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

POND DIPPING Come and see what's hiding in the ponds, Wed 27 July, Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

PLAY DAY WEDNESDAYS Enjoy traditional garden games, including quoits, giant jenga and croquet, Wed 27 July - Wed 31 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

WILDLIFE DAY Presented by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust team, Thurs 28 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

BIG BIRTHDAY PICNIC Celebration of the 150th anniversary of Beatrix Potter, with readings from local authors, Thurs 28 July, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford

CAPABILITY BROWN SUMMER WALK To celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Capability Brown, Head Gardener Martin Gee leads four seasonal guided walks across the estate to reveal Brown's legacy in all its glory, Thurs 28 July, Weston Park, Shropshire

HISTORY DETECTIVE THURSDAYS

Become a History Detective for the day and complete a history-mystery trail, Thurs 28 July - Thurs 25 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

BUTTERFLY BONANZA Learn all about these lovely insects. Track their life cycle, use butterfly nets to see if you can catch one, and make your own feeder, Fri 29 July, Severn Valley Country Park, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

ARNOLD'S BIG ADVENTURE Arnold the Acorn is about to drop from his tree and begin an amazing adventure, as he searches for somewhere to put down his roots, Sat 30 July, Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills, Church Stretton

4X4 IN THE FOREST Join the rangers in your 4x4 to explore Cannock Chase. Meet at Birches Valley Forest Centre, Sat 30 July, Cannock Chase Forest, Staffordshire

BECKETT'S FARM SUMMER CRAFT FAIR Stalls, entertainment and plenty to see for the whole family, Sat 30 July, Beckett's Farm, Birmingham

INSANE CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING Sat 30 July, O2 Institute, Birmingham

FARMHOUSE BLUES FESTIVAL Sat 30 July, Wheat Hill Court Farm, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

BARNEY BUFFERS SUMMER FAMILY FUN Take a ride behind Churnet Valley's friendly engine, Barney Buffers, on the Toyland Express, with balloonists on board to create your favourite shapes and animals, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, Churnet Valley

Railway, Staffordshire

KAPOW! Meet Batman and other characters from your favourite comic books and TV shows, Sat 30 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

BONE CHINA FLOWER MAKING WORKSHOP Sat 30 July, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

AN INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

Join Colin and Ian from the Bournville Beekeepers for an afternoon learning about urban beekeeping, Sat 30 July, Selly Manor, Birmingham

THE BIG READ: BB TAYLOR Author BB Taylor presents an interactive workshop about how to write stories, Sat 30 July, Soho House, Birmingham

TELFORD FEASTIVAL Featuring more than 100 local, homegrown exhibitors, displaying the best of what the area has to offer, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

THE COUNTRY FAIR Join Blists Hill's residents on the Green at this new event, based on a Victorian country fair. See country craft demonstrations, working horses and have a go at horse driving, Sat 30 - Sun 31 July, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

BIRMINGHAM BUS TOURS 2016 Sat 30 July - Mon 1 Aug, Birmingham City Centre

TIME WALK - THE STORY OF THE EARTH IN A THOUSAND PACES Sun 31 July, Carding Mill Valley & The Shropshire Hills, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE

EDWARDIAN BUTLER Enjoy a homemade afternoon tea with 'Meakin', the Edwardian Butler, Sun 31 July, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

MODEL TRAIN TOY AND COLLECTORS FAIR A great range of stalls featuring die cast and collectable toys, model railways and more, Sun 31 July, National Brewery Centre, Burton-upon-Trent

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS: BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR A glimpse into the workings of a 21st century stately home, Sun 31 July, Weston Park, Shropshire



Telford Feastival - Southwater, Telford

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Every Friday 6-9pm

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1940s WEEKEND
16 & 17 July 2016

INCLUDES A 1940S EVENING

BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM
Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ
Book online now bclm.com/40s

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SHUGBOROUGH COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 July

Set in the beautiful parkland of Shugborough Hall, this family Country Show has all day entertainment that will include The Suffolk Punch Heavy Horse Display ★ The Dog & Duck Show ★ The 'edu-tainingly wonderful' Sheep Show ★ Birds of Prey Totally Terriers have a go racing ★ Grant Bazin's Practical Horse Demo ★ Historical Re-enactment ★ plus Pads Dog Training Have-a-Go Dog Scurry ★ children's entertainment with Devilstick Peat plus Circus Workshops ★ Bouncy Castles and Children's Fairground (charges apply). As well as Steam Engines and other vintage vehicles ★ chainsaw-carving besom broom making, spinning and weaving and pole lathe-ing and if that's not all there's also other demonstration skills to enjoy and you can sample and buy in our Arts, Crafts and Gifts marquees as well as Lifestyle and Food Stalls. It's fully catered and has a licensed bar featuring real ales and cider and all accompanied by the wonderfully infectious Plonkers Agricultural Band. On Sunday we're proud to host the Companion Dog Show - Sponsored by Skinner's - proceeds from entries all go to Marie Curie - so bring along a canine friend and have a go!

so much to see and do between 10am-5pm each day
at
Shugborough Estate
Milford, Nr Stafford ST17 0XB

admission: £7.50 concessions: £6 child age 5-16: £3 Family: £19 (2 adults + 2 children)
discounted pre-booked admission tickets at: www.oakleighfairs.co.uk/shuggame







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Platinum Celeb

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SHREWSBURY



- PRESENTS -

THE OVERTONES

SATURDAY 16TH JULY, 2016

DOORS OPEN 7:30PM - STANDING EVENT EXCEPT GOLD CIRCLE

TICKETS: £25 (standard) / £39 VIP Balcony (meet & greet photo)
£45.00 VIP Gold Circle (meet & greet photo - unallocated seating)

BOX OFFICE: 01743 281 750

OR BOOK ONLINE AT: WWW.THEBUTTERMARKET.CO.UK

THE BUTTERMARKET, BOWARD STREET, SHREWSBURY SY1 2LE

SPECIAL GUEST: JAY JAMES