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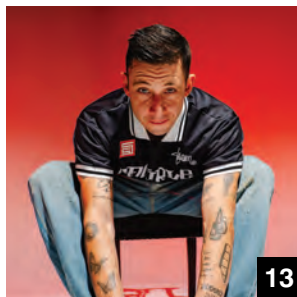
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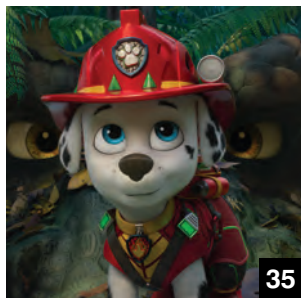
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What's On

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Live Aid musical coming to two Midlands venues

Just For One Day - The Live Aid Musical will visit two West Midlands venues next year. Telling the behind-the-scenes story of 'the greatest concert in music history', the show will stop off at The Alexandra in Birmingham from Tuesday 22 June to Saturday 3 July 2027. The production then returns to the region in the autumn, running at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 October 2027. For further information and to purchase tickets, visit the show's official website at theliveaidmusical.com

Brand-new home for two iconic summer shows

BBC Gardeners' World Live - along with the Good Food Show Summer, which is being renamed the Good Food Festival - will move from Birmingham's NEC to the 4,500-acre Packington Estate in Meriden, Warwickshire, next year.

Commenting on the news, Rachel Poletti-Gadd, portfolio director at Immediate Live, organisers of the BBC Gardeners' World show, said: "Our move to the Packington Estate coincides with celebrations marking 60 remarkable years of BBC Gardeners' World..."

"Our mission is to continue to develop the shows for gardening and food enthusiasts." Tickets for next year are now on sale at bbcgardenersworldlive.com and include entry to both events, which run at the new venue from Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 June.

Alice in Wonderland at Sudeley this Christmas

Visitors to Cotswold venue Sudeley Castle's Spectacle Of Light event will get the chance to head down the rabbit hole with Alice this Christmas... Taking the theme of Alice's



Amazing Adventures In Wonderland, the illuminated trail around the castle grounds will feature some of author Lewis Carroll's most famous characters, including the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat and the Queen of Hearts. The Spectacle Of Light will be available to experience from Friday 20 November to Wednesday 30 December. For further information and to book tickets, visit the venue's website: sudeleycastle.co.uk

Dinnerladies set to serve up on-stage comedy

A brand-new stage adaptation of the late Victoria Wood's much-loved 1990s TV sitcom Dinnerladies will pay a visit to Birmingham Hippodrome next spring.

Running at the venue from Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 March 2027, the show will star Les Dennis as maintenance man Stan.

For further information and to book tickets, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Indoor waterpark offers the chance to cool off...

One of the UK's largest indoor waterparks is inviting families to cool off during the long, hot summer holiday.

Coventry City Centre venue The Wave combines adrenaline-fuelled attractions with opportunities for children to build essential swimming- and water-confidence skills within a safe environment.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at thewavecoventry.com

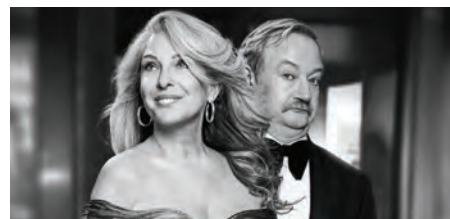


Popular film festival returns to the Midlands

The Banff Mountain Film Festival - an event dedicated to 'bringing to life the spirit of extreme adventure and the world's last great wild places' - is visiting two Warwickshire venues this year: Leamington's Royal Spa Centre (Friday 18 September) and Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre (Saturday 21 November). To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the official website at banff-uk.com

Coward classic to stop off at Malvern Theatres

Familiar television faces Tracy-Ann Oberman and James Dreyfus will star in a brand-new production of Noël Coward's Present Laughter when it stops off at Malvern Theatres next month (Tuesday 15 - Saturday 19 September). To find out more and book your tickets, visit malvern-theatres.co.uk



Peaky Blinders tours at Dudley visitor attraction

Black Country Living Museum is hosting special tours for fans of iconic and Birmingham-set television series Peaky Blinders.

With several scenes in the much-loved show having been filmed at the popular Dudley visitor attraction, the new tours provide enthusiasts with the chance to check out screen-used locations and enjoy never-before-heard anecdotes about filming at the museum. The tours, which are taking place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, can be booked via the venue's website at bclm.com



Kasabian to stop off in the region

Kasabian have announced a UK arena tour for the end of the year - including a stop-off in Birmingham. The band will play the city's Utilita Arena on Friday 11 December. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit utilitaarenabham.co.uk

Scouting For Girls at the cathedral

Pop rock favourites Scouting For Girls will perform their greatest hits at Worcester Cathedral on Friday 9 October. To check ticket availability for the gig, visit the website at worcestercathedral.org.uk



Ricky heading to Birmingham

Ricky Gervais is bringing his new Legend tour to Birmingham this autumn, playing the city's Utilita Arena on Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 November. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit utilitaarenabham.co.uk



Award-winning Sharon to star as Othello for the RSC

Three-time Olivier Award-winning actor Sharon D Clarke will star as Othello for the Royal Shakespeare Company early next year. According to the RSC, the brand-new show - running at the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon from Saturday 13 February to Saturday 3 April - is set 'in a climate-threatened future in which a black lesbian holds a seat of power'.

The production 're-imagines Shakespeare's 400-year-old story through the lens of misogynoir, as an unsanctioned marriage perilously crosses boundaries of race, sex and status, allowing jealousy, suspicion and malign intent to close in'... For more information about the show, the rest of the 2026/27 season at the RSC, and to purchase tickets, visit the website at rsc.org.uk



A Spring '27 return for legendary '70s rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar

A new touring version of Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit rock-opera Jesus Christ Superstar - featuring one-time Eurovision Song Contest entrant Sam Ryder in the title role - will stop off at Birmingham Hippodrome next spring (Tuesday 18 May - Saturday 5 June 2027). For more information and to book tickets, visit the website at birminghamhippodrome.com

Top Gun, but not as we know it...

A 'very unauthorised parody' of the hit Tom Cruise movie Top Gun is coming to Warwick Arts Centre next spring (Tuesday 25 May 2027). To find out more about the 75-minute-long 'feelgood comedy', titled Top Gunchained, head to the Coventry venue's website at warwickartscentre.co.uk



Late applications open for BOA September intake

Young people with a passion for film, TV, theatre and live events still have the chance to secure a place at BOA Stage & Screen Production Academy next month. The Birmingham college is continuing to accept late applications for the 2026/27 academic year, starting in September, and is offering specialist education for 16- to 19-year-olds who want to develop the skill-set needed for careers 'behind the scenes' in the creative industries. To support prospective students, the academy is hosting two walk-in application sessions this month, on Thursday the 13th and Thursday the 20th. Those unable to attend a walk-in session can still apply online. For more information and to submit an application, visit trainbackstage.co.uk



Johannes to bring Finally Home tour to the region

Strictly Come Dancing favourite Johannes Radebe is returning to the West Midlands next year with his latest show, Finally Home. Johannes will



perform at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday 18 April and at Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre on Saturday 15 May. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website of the relevant theatre.

A September return for A Place In The Sun Live

A Place In The Sun Live, the UK's biggest overseas-property exhibition, is returning to Birmingham's NEC next month. Offering a packed weekend of live seminars, expert Q&As and panel discussions, the long-running show visits the second city across the weekend of Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit thenec.co.uk/events/a-place-in-the-sun

06 whatsonlive.co.uk



Music charity launches its early-autumn programme

B:Music, the Birmingham-based charity responsible for the city's Symphony Hall and Town Hall venues, has unveiled its programme of entertainment for the next three months. Among upcoming highlights is a late-August appearance by musical theatre star Michael Ball. Other stand-out performers visiting the venues include Altered Images' Clare Grogan

(pictured) - who will perform iconic album Happy Birthday in full - comedian Simon Brodtkin - touring to the city with latest show Unleashed - and comedy legend John Cleese - celebrating the ongoing popularity of 1975 film Monty Python And The Holy Grail. To check out the full line-up of shows and purchase tickets, visit the charity's official website at bmusic.co.uk

Fundraising success for Worcester arts charity

Worcester Theatres has announced that its year-long Swan Theatre 60th Anniversary Fundraiser has raised £26,150. The initiative has enabled the not-for-profit arts charity to provide fully funded places in Swan Youth Theatre for children from families receiving benefits. The money will also fund drama-based workshops in schools across Worcester, and support important venue improvements at the Swan, including the installation of an accessible platform lift.

Spanish horse whisperer coming to HOYS 2026

This year's Horse Of The Year Show will feature a performance by internationally acclaimed horse whisperer Santi Serracamps. The Spanish trainer will be making his first-ever appearance at the event, which runs at Birmingham's NEC from Wednesday 7 to Sunday 11 October. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the official website at hoys.co.uk

Rare appearance by guest locomotive at gala

Severn Valley Railway's Autumn Steam Gala (Thursday 17 - Sunday 20 September) will include an appearance by BR(W) Pannier Tank 9681, a guest locomotive which last operated away from its Dean Forest Railway home almost 30 years ago. For further information and to book tickets, visit the railway's website at svr.co.uk

Midlands Air Ambulance to host airbase open day

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity is inviting the public to enjoy a free-to-attend family day out at its Strensham-located airbase on Sunday 16 August. The special 'open day' will provide visitors with the opportunity to meet the crew behind the organisation's lifesaving service, explore the charity's operations and check out its helicopters and critical-care cars. Emergency response demonstrations and artisan stalls feature among the event's various attractions. For more information, visit midlandsairambulance.com/events

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B:Music
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Delight in dahlias galore!

Popular garden centre Webbs in Wychbold is once again offering visitors the chance to pick their own dahlias this late summer and early autumn.

Showcasing a collection of more than 5,000 dahlias in full bloom - and featuring over 60 varieties - Webbs' Flora Fields are available to visit from Saturday 15 August until early October... To find out more, visit the venue's website at webbsdirect.co.uk

Community open day at Mary Arden's Farm

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is celebrating summer at Mary Arden's Farm with a Community Open Day on Saturday 15 August. The event provides families with the



chance not only to explore the Stratford-upon-Avon venue but also to enjoy hands-on craft activities, participate in Tudor games, have a go at archery, learn to write with a quill and ink, and meet the Trust's rare-breed farm animals. For more information and to secure your place, visit tickets.shakespeare.org.uk

Stranger Things actor heading to the Midlands

Stranger Things star Linnea Berthelsen will appear in a brand-new play when it visits Birmingham Repertory Theatre in the autumn.

Linnea, who played the part of Kali Prasad (oo8) in Netflix's long-running sci-fi series, will head the cast of Darkling - 'an epic story of a life ravaged by ecological disaster'. The show stops off at the Rep - as part of a national tour - on Friday 30 & Saturday 31 October. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk



Well-known faces at this year's Malvern Autumn Show

Monty Don, Emma Jo Real-Davies and Gavin & Stacey favourite Joanna Page are among the well-known names contributing to this year's Malvern Autumn Show. The annual event makes a welcome return across the final weekend in September (Friday the 25th to Sunday the 27th). Coming complete with 'vibrant' celebrations of

gardening, food and countryside life, the show will feature the CANNA UK Giant Vegetables Championship, Great Malvern Cake Off competitions, a chance to sample a selection of locally produced food, and 'shopping opportunities galore'. For more information and to book tickets, visit the website at malvernautumn.co.uk

Take a summertime dive beneath the waves...

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum's much-loved Early Years Exhibition is making a return at the popular Coventry venue this summer - complete with an under-the-sea theme (until Sunday 30 August).

Inspired by 'the mysteries and wonders of ocean life', the immersive exhibition invites very young visitors - up to the age of four - into a specially designed sensory world beneath the waves. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit theherbert.org

The Last Battle at The Commandery next month

The final battle of the English Civil War - the Battle of Worcester - is being commemorated next month (Saturday 5 September) with a day of talks, displays and crafts at city-centre visitor destination The Commandery. To find out more about the event - titled The Last Battle: 375th Anniversary - and to book tickets, visit museumsworcestershire.org.uk

National Trust's Summer Of Play makes a return

The National Trust is once again running its Summer Of Play initiative this month, inviting families to enjoy outdoor adventures and connect with nature through shared experiences at properties across the West

Midlands. A number of sites will host Pokémon-related activities.

To find out more, visit the official website at nationaltrust.org.uk/summer-of-play

Meet Rembrandt at Upton House this summer

A self-portrait by Rembrandt van Rijn is now available to view at Warwickshire venue Upton House & Gardens.

The painting, one of around 80 self-portraits produced by the artist, will remain on display until Sunday 8 November, after which it will return to its permanent home at Buckland Abbey in Devon.

Local men urged to step into Strictly Christmas!

Applications are now open for this year's Strictly Christmas dance challenge, a fundraising event which is held each year in aid of Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in Coventry.

Organisers are particularly keen for local men to get involved and step onto the dancefloor. To find out more and access an application form, search 'Strictly Christmas 2026' on social media.



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PERFECT GETAWAY

Find your happy place at Compton Verney



Pay a visit to Warwickshire's Compton Verney - a day-out destination boasting 120 acres of well-maintained parkland, a reimagined mansion, a host of permanent galleries, changing temporary exhibitions, and a programme of events and activities scheduled throughout the year to suit all ages and tastes. Whether you pop in for an afternoon, stay the whole day or become a regular visitor, Compton Verney promises to be an outing with a difference. And there's always something new to discover...

In the heart of the Warwickshire countryside, visual arts destination Compton Verney is the perfect place to visit for anybody who wants to absorb fantastic artwork, find their creative spark, get close to nature, or simply picnic and play.

Compton Verney designs and curates a programme of changing temporary exhibitions alongside the excellent permanent collections - and this summer, a full schedule of workshops, projects and events fills the grounds. There's also a well-equipped cafe, which serves food & drink in the house and on its terrace.

The estate offers 120 acres of expansive and immaculately maintained parkland to explore, while the central mansion, long ago a residential house, has been fully converted into modern galleries and rooms, where imaginations can run wild. Whether you're passing through the county, making a day trip or live nearby, a visit to Compton Verney is sure to provide a unique experience and plenty of lasting memories, with the venue's friendly staff ready and able to help visitors find their most memorable day out.

On arrival, visitors enter through the venue's Welcome Centre and then proceed on a five- to 10-minute walk through the grounds. Alternatively, you can take a free shuttle bus ride, which is available to everyone. By the time the house comes into view, you will be fully immersed in the venue's peaceful and picturesque landscape. With the Old Town Meadow on the right - at this time of year, alive with crickets and butterflies - and at first sight of the lake and sweeping lawns, it feels as though 'real life' is miles away.

Simply taking in the Capability Brown-designed grounds is a treat for the senses, but the lawns, fields and meadows of Compton Verney are also peppered with outdoor artworks. These can either be admired from afar or taken in on the sculpture trail, which provides visitors with the opportunity to explore the whole site.

The mansion itself is a stately home with a difference. The house hasn't been residential for years, and there are no preserved bedrooms or living spaces. That said, hints of history *can* be discovered around the estate - hidden in the landscape, the thatched ice house or renovated chapel. Previously derelict, the house has been purpose-rebuilt

to offer an intuitive and accessible journey around the galleries, with child-friendly discovery rooms along the way.

Access to all galleries is included in the cost of admission, as are many of the school holiday activities scheduled throughout August and presented under the umbrella title of Summer Of Print, Pattern And Play.

The summer holiday is definitely a great time to get creative at Compton Verney. In the Meadow Zone, near the Welcome Centre and woodland adventure playground, an interactive and collaborative artwork will be coming to life; an outdoor installation guided by artist Matt Shaw, The Weave will develop and grow across the summer, as visitors add new natural materials to the artwork.

Nearby - on Wednesdays - Big Blue Blocks will put visitors' building skills to the test, and local RAF members will be on hand to teach STEM skills, leading sessions to fire rocket cars into the sky.

And there's lots more on the docket this summer - from giant bubble sessions to the forest school's Get Mucky, Get Making.

A sensory, colour-changing inflatable maze called Luminarium will pop up on the lawn from Wednesday 26 until Monday 31 August, introducing a new world of light and colour.

Young people aged 18 and under can visit Compton Verney for free, and people in receipt of Universal or Pension Credit can buy tickets discounted to £2.

Some events do require visitors to purchase a ticket in addition to the admission fee.

Notably, on the days when Luminarium is open, all visitors who wish to enter the maze - including children and members - must purchase a Luminarium ticket, which also includes admission to the house and grounds.

The house shares its name with the neighbouring village, and the estate belonged to the Verney family for almost 500 years, becoming the visitor destination it is today after it was purchased by the Peter Moores Foundation in 1998. After years of redevelopment - the mansion was derelict at the time it was bought - Compton Verney was transformed with the intention of connecting visitors with inspiring works of art.

Sir Peter Moores himself was a businessman and art collector, and his personal, eclectic collection is on display in the permanent

galleries. The vast majority of art at Compton Verney is there to be seen, not hidden in storage - unless it happens to be on loan to other art galleries, or in the process of being restored. The collection features a wide variety of subject matter, including Baroque Neapolitan art in Sensing Naples, ancient Chinese bronzes and folk art.

As previously mentioned, alongside the exceptional permanent collections, the mansion's galleries also feature changing temporary exhibitions.

This summer, two British women artists are celebrated in temporary exhibitions. The first is Elizabeth Allen, known as 'Queen', who created textile artworks from her home in a woodland cabin. Her creations are displayed, alongside those of other visionary artists, in Troublemakers And Prophets, which runs until Monday 31 August... Meanwhile, open until early January, The Pattern Of Life showcases the abstract designs of Enid Marx. Designer of the London Underground seat fabric, Enid - alongside Margaret Lambert - donated works to Compton Verney's permanent collection. These can be found in the Marx-Lambert gallery.

The spacious galleries also provide inventive ways that visitors can approach and interact with the works on display. These include scents and sounds being paired with specific paintings in Sensing Naples, and patchwork samples - handmade by volunteers - which accompany artworks in Troublemakers And Prophets, offering a hint of their tactile nature.

All in all, a visit to Compton Verney provides an opportunity to travel at your own pace - to spend an afternoon connecting with a favourite artwork, to soak up the atmosphere on a walk around the grounds, or rediscover a sense of imaginative play, whatever your age.

With so much room to explore, there's always space to find your own space - and there will always be a warm welcome.

.....

Compton Verney is open from Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays. To find out more, visit comptonverney.org.uk

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Festivals taking place in the region this month and next

Moseley Folk & Arts

Moseley Park, Birmingham,
Fri 4 - Sun 6 September

Tucked away behind Birmingham's busy streets, the beautiful Moseley Park is one of the city's hidden gems, transformed each year into an enchanting escape by one of the Midlands' best-loved music festivals. Traditional folk & low-fi acoustic sets blend seamlessly with dreamy electropop, psychedelia and indie favourites against a magical backdrop of bright hippie colours, lush foliage and a beautiful lake. Alongside the music, the festival - which is now in its 18th year - also features a mixture of activities for all ages to enjoy.

2026 line-up includes: Kingfishr, The Dead South, Super Furry Animals (pictured), Frank Turner, Johnny & Lillie Flynn



Shrewsbury Folk Festival

DMOS People West Mid Showground,
Fri 28 - Mon 31 August

A highlight of any folk fan's calendar, this four-day fest brings together centuries of musical tradition in one picturesque setting. Steeped in history, the border town of Shrewsbury provides an ideal backdrop for

the festival's mash-up of modern, medieval, and everything in between, where grassroots cultures collide in dynamic fusion styles.

2026 line-up includes: Fantastic Negrito (pictured), Talisk x Gardiner Brothers: Unleashed, Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders, Cable Street Collective, Ferocious Dog ft The Celtic Folk Orchestra, Katherine Priddy

Bromyard Folk Festival

Broadbridge, Bromyard,
Thurs 10 - Sun 13 September

Established in 1968 and situated in the beautiful rolling green fields of Herefordshire, Bromyard has become a much-loved celebration of folk music. The event sees some of the finest national and international folk musicians headlining a programme that also includes workshops, ceilidhs, dance displays, kids' entertainment and a traditional craft market.

2026 line-up includes: Richard Thompson with Zara Phillips, Sharon Shannon Trio, Fara (pictured), Kris Drever & Cahalen Morrison



Off Grid

Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield, Sun 30 August

Created by the teams behind renowned brands LAB11, DNB Collective, and Rock n Rolla, Off Grid arrives at a time when festivals across the UK are competing for attention in an increasingly hyperconnected and digital-first world. Instead, Off Grid has built its identity around a simple message: No Signal Required.

Set amongst 10km2 of enchanting forest and green fields just outside the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield, the electronic-music festival offers an alternative to endless notifications, social-media fatigue, and relentless pressure to experience events through a screen.

2026 line-up includes: Example (pictured), Hannah Wants, Todd Edwards, Sam Divine

Penkridge Open Air

Penkridge Sports & Recreation Centre, Pinfold Lane, Fri 28 - Sun 30 August

Back for a fifth year, this time running over the August bank holiday, Penkridge Open Air festival presents live performances by a host of artists, bands and local talent across multiple stages.

Other festival attractions include a BMX stunt show, circus acts, craft stalls, a funfair, food vendors and a bar.

2026 line-up includes: ABC (pictured), The Drifters, 2 Unlimited, Basshunter, Heaven 17, The Trammys, DJ Sammy, The Fizz, Bay City Rollers, Let Loose, Ultrabeat PA



A CELTIC CONNECTION



One of the highlights of this month's Shrewsbury Folk Festival is the UK premiere of a new show that sees Scottish folk trio Talisk team up with Irish dancers the Gardiner Brothers. An energetic dance and music mashup, *Unleashed* is a collaboration which has been more than 10 years in the making - as Talisk leader Mohsen Amini and Michael and Matthew Gardiner explained to What's On...

At first glance, Irish dancing phenomenon the Gardiner Brothers (one billion social-media views and counting) and Scottish folk band Talisk seem unlikely bedfellows...

The former are international sensations, having won more than 40 Irish dancing titles - including five world titles - and performed as principal dancers with Riverdance; the latter are a relatively modest instrumental folk trio, albeit with a growing following (15 million streams and counting) and reputation that means they regularly sell out shows across the globe.

The acts have now joined forces for Unleashed, a unique standalone extravaganza that showcases the best of both their worlds. The collaboration, according to Michael Gardiner, came about in the wake of a mutual admiration and then a friendship that has developed over the past 12 years.

"We were definitely fans of Talisk long before we ever worked together," he explains. "We first came across them on Spotify. We're huge fans of traditional Irish and Celtic music, and what immediately stood out to us was how they were pushing the boundaries of what that could be. Very quickly they became our favourite 'trad' band, to listen to and dance to.

"Initially we connected through social media and then through various events and performances - over time that turned into a friendship."

Mohsen ('Mos') Amini, Talisk's co-founder and concertina player, who was named Musician of the Year at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards in 2018, says the idea of a joint project was "in the works for a long time" but the stars refused to align, not least as their friends' career skyrocketed.

"The Gardiner Brothers would ask to use our music for their videos, and then, as they got bigger, we started asking *them* to use our music," he laughs.

Michael agrees that the burgeoning careers of both acts delayed the inevitable collaboration, but thinks it's ultimately been for the better.

"Looking back, it almost feels like we were on a path towards creating something together, but both groups needed time to build what we were doing individually first. Once we had established our own identities, it felt like the right moment to bring everything together."

Initial seeds were sown in 2024, when Talisk invited the brothers and other dancers to join them on stage at Glasgow's legendary Barrowlands Ballroom as part of Celtic Connections, the city's annual folk, roots and world music festival.

"It was the biggest gig we've ever put on," says Mos, "so we thought we'd just go all out, throw the kitchen sink at it and get dancers involved. We asked if they fancied putting together a couple of dances and coming on stage for it, and it went unbelievably well.

"We were sitting down in the festival club having a couple of drinks afterwards and just looked at each other and were like 'This is going to be something, isn't it?'"

That something is Unleashed, a full-length, high-octane show that fuses the music of Talisk with the Gardiner Brothers' bold take on traditional Irish dance. Completely bespoke, the production "draws on everything we've all been developing individually over the last 10 to 15 years", according to Michael Gardiner.

"One of the biggest creative challenges was staying true to what people love about both acts," he suggests. "Talisk have always written and performed their own original music, and maintaining that authenticity was incredibly important to them. On the other hand, a huge part of what the Gardiner Brothers have become known for is dancing to modern pop music and finding creative ways to bring that music to life through dance.

"The challenge was finding a way to honour both of those things without compromising either, and I think we've found the perfect recipe."

Thinking of the dancers when writing music has been a new challenge for Mos and fellow Talisk members Benedict Morris (violin) and Charlie Galloway (guitar) - but a discipline he says they've embraced.

"It's not like you have to think completely differently," he says. "Just like music, dancing has ebbs and flows as well - it's not full pelt all the time, so you can have fast [numbers] as well as slow ones."

The Gardiner Brothers wax lyrical about the "incredible music" the band have created for the show, which takes the dancers' favoured pop styling and gives it a Talisk makeover.

"There are moments where audiences will definitely recognise influences from modern pop songs and familiar melodies, but everything has been completely reimaged through Talisk's lens. It still sounds unmistakably like Talisk."

The collaborative nature of putting the show together is something Mos says has expanded his own ideas about the creative process: "When you do this, you think, 'Okay, now there's five points of view as opposed to three.' Everybody is very much respected and at the top of their art form, so it's not like you're catering to someone who just wants to have their voice heard. You're catering to minds that know something that you might not."

And if everyone carries equal weight, then the same goes for the performance. The lively movements of the Gardiner Brothers might inescapably be the focal point, but rather than hiding behind the dancers, the musicians are on raised platforms to accentuate their roles in the action - after all, Talisk fans attending the shows want to see Talisk.

"From the very beginning, this wasn't a case of Talisk creating the music and us simply adding dance afterwards," agree the Gardiners, quick to acknowledge the natural on-stage chemistry between the five performers.

"Every aspect of the production has been developed together. The music, the choreography, the lighting, the staging, the pacing of the show, even the way we interact with one another on stage has all been part of a collaborative creative process.

"We're constantly looking for ways to make those interactions stronger. Every rehearsal seems to bring a new idea, a better transition, or a more interesting way for the music and movement to connect. The show is still evolving, which is one of the things that makes it so exciting for us."

One evolution unlikely to take place is the dancers and musicians swapping roles - Mos won't be handing over his concertina to throw some shapes any time soon.

"They leave the music to us and we leave the dancing to them," he smiles, before acknowledging an unlikely coincidence that has led to the protagonists all playing the same instrument on stage: "During rehearsals we found out that we all play the whistle but no one ever talks about it - everyone played it in their closet! So there's one number where four of us will play the whistle, but that's as near to a crossover as we get."

It's just the sort of thing that goes down well at a folk festival, and while Unleashed clearly has professional production values - the show is set to tour US arenas again next year - the headline set should also go down well with a Shrewsbury audience primed for a knees-up.

"As performers, there are certain events that become bucket-list moments," says Michael, "and this definitely feels like one of them. We know the adrenaline is going to be through the roof when we walk and dance out on that stage.

"What excites us most is the audience. Folk festival audiences are incredibly passionate about live music and performance, and that's exactly the kind of environment where a show like Unleashed thrives. The energy between the performers and the crowd becomes part of the experience."

.....

Shrewsbury Folk Festival takes place at the DMOS West Midland Showground from Friday 28 to Monday 31 August, with the UK premiere of Talisk x Gardiner Brothers: Unleashed taking place on the Severn Stage on Friday the 28th. For further information and to purchase tickets, visit shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

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Presteigne Festival

Various locations, Presteigne, Powys,
Thurs 27 - Mon 31 August

Now in its 44th year, the internationally acclaimed Presteigne Festival brings world-class musicians, composers, artists and writers to the Welsh Marches for five inspiring days of music, ideas and imagination over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The festival sees contemporary music sit alongside timeless masterpieces, whilst away from the concert hall, visitors can enjoy a three-film retrospective from director Jane Campion. Thought-provoking talks and Presteigne Open Studios - celebrating the town's thriving community of artists and makers - also feature.

Talented creatives contributing to this year's festival include violinist Fenella Humphreys (pictured), Clare Hammond, James Gilchrist, Rowan Pierce, Ben Goldscheider and the much-lauded Presteigne Festival Orchestra & Ensemble, conducted by Artistic Director George Vass.



National Youth Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 5 August

The National Youth Orchestra (NYO) visits Birmingham 78 years after being founded as a post-war symbol of hope and confidence.

"We open doors for young people," explains the organisation, "equipping them with new ideas, new experiences, new friends and new music to master. By developing their potential as role models, we employ music to create a movement of changemakers making a positive impact for their generation."

Comprising 160 teenage musicians, the highly acclaimed NYO will perform three compositions when they visit the city early this month...

The evening's programme features Franz Liszt's Mephisto Waltz No1, Symphonie Fantastique by Hector Berlioz, and Dante Part 2: Purgatorio, a work by Thomas Adès, who will also be conducting the concert.

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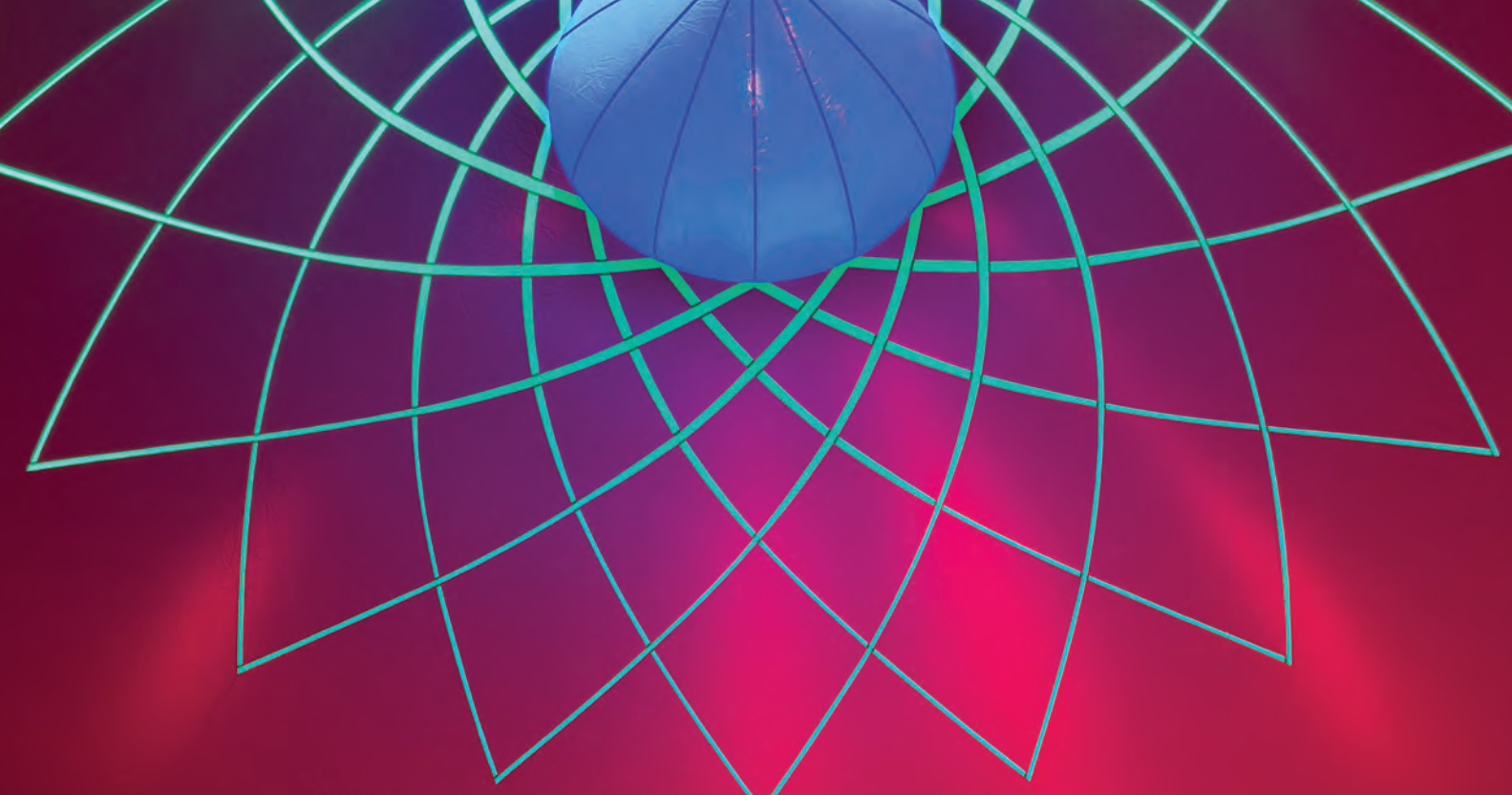
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Comedy previews from across the region this month and next...

Milton Jones

Walsall Arena, Sun 2 August

With a style of humour that's mainly based around puns and one-liners, Milton Jones has established himself as one of Britain's most in-demand funny-men.

"If my comedy is working well, I put a cartoon in people's heads that surprises them," explains Milton. "So you start off and they're thinking one thing, then you surprise them by changing the ending as you go along. It's not political or particularly edgy, it's just daft."

Milton's gags include: "Militant feminists - I take my hat off to them. They don't like that," and, "Recently on a flight to America, all the way across, my wife was going, 'Why don't you get an upgrade, why don't you get an upgrade?' It took a bit of time, but in the end I got a better wife."

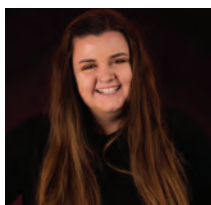
Milton is joined in Walsall by fellow comedians Tom Wrigglesworth and Ian Crawford. Wayne Beese MCs.



Stand Up Comedy at The Amphitheatre

The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Fri 14 August

A newly redeveloped amphitheatre, a hopefully fine summer's evening, and the opportunity to enjoy three talented comedians as they grapple with the challenge of tickling the ribs of the assembled throng. What's not to like?... David Eagle comperes the event, with further chuckle-worthy contributions coming from Jay Neale and Tal Davies (pictured).



Phil Wang

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 20 September; Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 15 October; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Saturday 24 October

Phil Wang's first-ever five minutes behind the mic as a stand-up comedian were spent telling other people's gags.

"I thought stand-up was like karaoke with jokes," he recalls. "Most of the material I used was stolen, but I learned fast and

immediately started writing my own material."

Inspired to become a comedian by his desire to avoid having to get up in the mornings, Phil visits Birmingham next month with latest show UH OH.

Pakistanis In The House

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Fri 7 August

Brummie funnywoman Shazia Mirza (pictured) headlines a show that also includes sets from rising star Matt Rouse, show host Naph Esa and the Kenyan-born Imran Yusuf, who describes his style of comedy as being for people who like to 'think and laugh'.

"Making people laugh is a great way to earn respect," says Imran, "but only if it's done as a natural consequence of who you are. You can't just run around telling people jokes like some kind of weirdo!"



brand-new offering described by his publicity as 'a fast, forensic show of big ideas and gag-dense overthinking from one of the nation's sharpest stand-ups.'

"It's been three years since I last did a tour, and frankly, I didn't know if I ever would again," says the 35-year-old comic, in talking about the new show. "But then I accidentally left a stool sample on a train and came up with a way to fix the whole country, and those aren't the sorts of things you can just keep to yourself."

Kanan Gill

Symphony Hall, Thurs 10 September

Everyday insight delivered with a global sensibility is how Kanan Gill's official publicity describes his comedy - and it's a style which has seen him score a significant hit with audiences across the world.

One of India's most prominent stand-up comedians, the 36-year-old funnyman is visiting the West Midlands this month as part of his most ambitious international tour to date.



Rhys James

Lichfield Garrick, Sat 12 September; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sat 10 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sun 4 April; Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 23 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 1 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 7 May

The gags come thick and fast when Rhys James is in town...

The Mock The Week comedian is visiting the Midlands next month with Chop Logic, a



CANNY NANNY

Hit West End musical Mrs Doubtfire is heading out on a national tour - starting this month in Birmingham

Having already taken the West End and Broadway by storm, the stage musical version of Robin Williams' 1993 movie Mrs Doubtfire now begins a UK tour, with Gabriel Vick in the title role. Gabriel has played the character of Daniel Hillard - and his Scottish nanny alter-ego, Mrs Doubtfire - since the show's UK premiere in 2021. The part involves costume changes, celebrity impressions and more than a few slapstick moments... as the actor explained to What's On...

Family favourite Mrs Doubtfire has taken to the stage. Previously seen on Broadway, in Manchester and the West End, the fun-filled musical now heads out on a national tour, which kicks off at Birmingham Hippodrome this month.

Based on the same-named 1993 movie, in which Robin Williams took the title role, Mrs Doubtfire tells the tale of a family navigating divorce, with dad Daniel Hillard facing the grim reality that he will no longer be able to see his three children every day. So he decides to take drastic action to maintain his relationship with them - disguising himself as Scottish supernanny Mrs Doubtfire...

The show's Broadway run was limited due to Covid restrictions, so it was hard to predict how the production would be received at its UK premiere. When it opened in 2022 in Manchester, Gabriel Vick starred as Daniel and his nanny alter-ego. He also took the lead when the show moved to the West End. "It's been a lovely ride," Gabriel told What's On. "We were very lucky, because we didn't know how well it would go down here. I didn't move my things into my dressing room until after the reviews came out, because you never know..."

"I'm really excited about the tour! It's so much easier. If [audiences are] going to London, you've got to get a hotel, you've got to book your travel, and that makes it three times more expensive. So when we come to your local theatre, it's that bit easier. I think people will be really excited and really up for it. She's such a beloved character, and I think they're gonna go wild."

While Gabriel has been inspired by Robin Williams' iconic on-screen performance from more than 30 years ago, he has also relished the chance to find his own style in the role.

"[Williams] was born the same year as my dad, and he's got such a great screen presence, he almost feels like a parent - there's such a lovely energy from that man. I always say I'm standing on his shoulders, rather than 'in his shoes'. I feel free with it. I don't feel shackled by it. And it's not really him; it's this character that he created. She's more like Dame Edna Everage - she has her own energy. She's naughty and can say things that people wouldn't be able to say.

"The Daniel that I do is probably not very like Robin - he's got this round moon face, and I don't. That's what makes the transformation

even more fun, because I think the mask really changes the way I look, and that makes the change even more interesting. I've got that same zany energy that he has, and I do love playing. You watch Robin Williams and it's just playfulness all the time."

Already established in the world of musical theatre and, like Williams, having honed a skill for impressions, Gabriel was well equipped to take on the role - and didn't hesitate when given the chance to revisit it.

"This is a sort of breakthrough role for me, and with my skill set, it feels right to keep the show going. I derive so much joy from it - and from the audience's reaction - it seemed a bit of a no-brainer to play the role again."

The show's tour also increases the chance for Gabriel to have some fun by reaching out directly to local audiences.

"There are moments where I can improvise - I'll put new voices in. Maybe we'll think of some famous Brummies to put in when we come to Birmingham! The Peaky Blinders is an obvious one... I have to run things by my director before I try different voices or jokes, but generally there are moments in the show where I can play."

After deciding to transform himself into Mrs Doubtfire, Daniel Hillard must become unrecognisable, with the help of his makeup-artist brother, Frank. This means the show has dozens of quick changes for Gabriel, some of which happen live on stage.

"There's at least three people for those quick changes. It's like being in a car crash! It's part of the fun... It's got more relaxed than at the beginning - zippers were breaking, and the more you panic, the slower you go. Now, I'm quite calm."

"The audience gets to see half these changes. That's the fun - they're 'in on' the mechanics; they're in on the joke."

On top of the mask and padding which manifest the character, Mrs Doubtfire also wears snazzy outfits of her own...

"She's well dressed, isn't she, for a jobbing nanny? Some of the outfits look like they come from Ascot or the golf course - they're wonderful! I've got to wear body padding, to change the shape of my body, and that is hot! We got air conditioning in the building about a year into the [London] run - that was very welcome - but I'm sweating bucketloads in there."

Gabriel maintains that the story endures thanks to its emotional heart.

"You can have a very funny story, but if there's no meaning to it, it doesn't resonate so much. It's a very, very silly film, with a really important message. How far would you go to be with your family? What is family? And what does it mean when it's not conventional... when your parents split up, how does that feel?"

"It's done in such a loving and funny way that it's palatable. I've had so many messages and letters about people who are single parents, or kids who have grown up like this. Everybody has a story."

Mrs Doubtfire might have a familiar name, face and mischievous personality, but in the musical she also tries a few new exploits...

"You'll see her modelling sportswear. That's not in the film! It's not just a carbon copy of the film. You get to see those favourite moments, but you also get some surprises - and, of course, a completely new, original score, which is great."

Fans of the film will be pleased to know that many iconic scenes remain intact, even though the musical has been updated for audiences 30 years down the line.

"Boobs on fire - how could we not? Smoking boobs - that's a must-see. People love that. There are classic moments, so it feels comforting, but it also feels new. It's been updated, it's got the internet - she's the Wi-Fi Queen! It's got to be relevant to kids now. It's lovely that she's got some understanding of the technological world and cultural references. She is a pretty streetwise granny - which is part of the fun of that character! I mean, the pie in the face - why else do you go to the theatre? I sometimes stand there with a pie on my face and go, 'It's not Shakespeare, is it?' Last night it was a perfect pie - it went on and had a little drippy bit, and it went straight in the cup! I took a bit of licence there and said 'Ooh, one lump or two?' That isn't in the script, but if it happens, the audience loves it!"

.....

Mrs Doubtfire shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Thursday 13 August to Saturday 19 September



Burlesque The Musical

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 25 - Sat 29 August; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 6 - Sat 17 October; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 6 - Sat 10 April 2027

Christina Aguilera not only provides powerhouse songs for this acclaimed and relatively new musical but also executive-produces it. The story focuses on the character of small-town dreamer Ali Rose, whose New York-located search for her biological mother sees her

stumbling into the cut-throat world of burlesque. Based on the hit 2010 movie of the same name, which co-starred Aguilera and Cher, the show has made a significant splash in the West End and stops off in the Midlands as part of its first UK tour.

High Society

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 18 - Sat 22 August

Cole Porter's magnificent musical tells the story of Tracy Lord, a beautiful society hostess whose pending second marriage is put in jeopardy by the arrival of her first husband and a sleazy journalist on the lookout for juicy gossip.

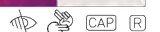
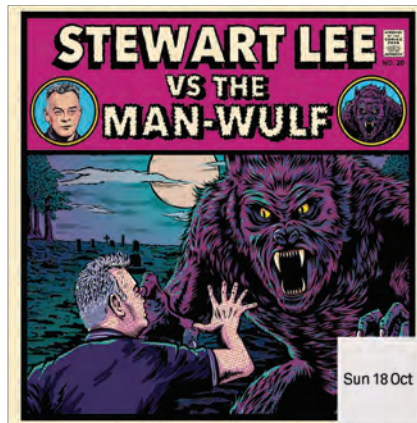
Based on the play *The Philadelphia Story* and including such classic songs as *True Love*, *Well Did You Ever* and *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, this brand-new stage version of the hit 1956 film stars Call The Midwife's Helen George and *Slow Horses*' Freddie Fox. The show is helmed by former Birmingham Rep artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh.



Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street

The Rep. Birmingham, until Sat 15 August

Described as a musical thriller, this hugely enjoyable Stephen Sondheim show was a big hit on Broadway. It follows the diabolical endeavours of demon barber Sweeney Todd and his pie-making accomplice Mrs Lovett, as they slice and bake their way through Victorian London... Musical theatre favourite Ramin Karimloo takes the title role.





Matilda The Musical

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sun 2 August

Matilda is an extraordinary child, but her parents think she's a nuisance. When they're not glued to the television set, her mum practises ballroom dancing and her dad gloats about his latest dodgy business deal. Life at school isn't much better for Matilda either. Then, one day, she discovers that she's got very special powers and decides it's high time the grown-ups were taught a much-needed lesson...

Adapted from one of Roald Dahl's best-loved books, the Royal Shakespeare Company's stage-musical version of Matilda - complete with music & lyrics by comedian Tim Minchin - has been delighting West End audiences for 15 years, during which time it's bagged in excess of 100 international awards.

Dog Man: The Musical

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
Fri 28 & Sat 29 August

The author & illustrator behind Dog Man - a crime-biting hero with the head of a dog and the body of a policeman - is none other than Captain Underpants creator Dav Pilkey. However, in this new stage show's storyline, it's not Dav who's come up with the character of Dog Man but best friends George Beard and Harold Hutchins. After years of producing comics - and now that they're 10 years old - the pals decide it's high time they wrote a musical. And who better to star in their foot-tapping extravaganza than their very favourite furniture-chewing upholder of law & order?

Eric In Downtown Abbey

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Sat 22 August - Sat 5 September

Eric Smith - actor David Graham's delightfully dysfunctional character - has certainly earned his place in the hearts of New Vic audiences since first appearing at the venue way back in 1999. The Staffordshire favourite here makes a welcome return with his comic take on much-loved television series Downton Abbey. As usual with an 'Eric' production, the action is accompanied by a nostalgic 1960s soundtrack.

Our Man In Havana

Malvern Theatres, Tues 25 - Sat 29 August

Hapless vacuum-cleaner salesman James Wormold is living in 1950s pre-revolutionary Cuba and leading a less than ideal life. His

wife has left him, and his manipulative and materialistic daughter is expensive to keep. So when MI6 offer him the chance to increase his meagre income by indulging in a little espionage on the side, James takes their bait. But, with no actual information to send to London, he decides to fake his reports and invent a fictitious network of secret agents. Not surprisingly, it's a decision that sees his life become ever more complicated... Clive Francis' lively stage adaptation of Graham Greene's hilarious, subversive and ever-popular 1958 novel is here brought to life by four actors who between them play more than 30 characters.



Sea Change

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Fri 28 - Sun 30 August

British Youth Music Theatre partners with Birmingham Hippodrome to present this thought-provoking exploration of belonging, community, and the risks and rewards of stepping into the unknown. Advertised as 'bursting with folk melodies, nautical ballads and rip-roaring shanties', the show has been written by New Music Theatre Award winners Will Jackson and Elinor Peregrin.

Game Of Thrones: The Mad King

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 5 September

Premiered by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) this summer, Game Of Thrones: The Mad King is a prequel to the original books and HBO's long-running television series.

Described as 'a sweeping new stage epic', the production spans the final years before the events of the original novels, which were written by George RR Martin, who is serving as executive producer on the show.

"When I first wrote Game Of Thrones, I never imagined that it would be anything other than a book," says George. "For me, the RSC was the obvious choice when thinking about putting a Game Of Thrones story on the stage. Shakespeare is the greatest name in English literature, and his plays have been a constant source of inspiration to me and my writing."

Mrs Doubtfire

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Thurs 13 August - Sun 20 September

When a messy divorce leaves devoted dad Daniel Hillard faced with the prospect of no longer being able to see his children on a daily basis, he decides to take drastic action. An out-of-work thespian, Daniel makes use of his acting skills to create an alter-ego - the splendidly named Euphemia Doubtfire, a Scottish 'supernanny' - to look after his beloved kids...

That's the basic premise of both this hit stage musical and, of course, the original much-loved 1993 film starring Robin Williams.

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Theatre previews from around the region



The Cherry Orchard

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 29 August

Sir Kenneth Branagh is here joined by two Hollywood movie stars making their Royal Shakespeare Company debuts: Helen Hunt and Bill Pullman.

Anton Chekhov's last and possibly greatest play, *The Cherry Orchard* is set against the backdrop of a Russia tilting towards irrevocable change.

With people starving and the aristocracy in decline, Madame Ranyevskaya returns home from five years in Paris to find that her once-grand estate, including her beloved cherry orchard, must be auctioned to meet the mortgage payments. There is, however, one path forward which could save the property - but will Ranyevskaya be willing to take it? The RSC's co-artistic director, Tamara Harvey, takes the reins for Laura Wade's brand-new version of Chekhov's 1903 masterpiece.

The Complete History Of Britain

Shrewsbury Castle, Sun 2 August

The Pantaloons make a welcome return to the region early this month, taking a humorous race through the centuries to recount the entire story of Britain.

And what's more, they'll be doing it all in under two hours.

The team are advising attendees to brace themselves for an afternoon of 'live music, audience interaction and wild historical inaccuracy'.

The Pirates Of Penzance

Weston Park, Shropshire, Fri 7 August; Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Sat 22 August

Illyria theatre company present their version of Gilbert & Sullivan's swashbuckling comic opera, featuring songs such as *I Am The Very Model Of A Modern Major-General*, *A Policeman's Lot Is Not A Happy One*, and *I Am A Pirate King*.

The show is performed by a six-strong cast of actors and singers with a fully orchestrated accompaniment.

Twelfth Night

Priory Park, Malvern, Sun 30 August

As with many Shakespearean comedies, *Twelfth Night* is based on a case of mistaken identity, with Viola disguising herself as a boy and causing all manner of awkward romantic shenanigans. However, the play's

continuing popularity can mainly be attributed to its hilarious (well, by Shakespeare's standards anyway) comic subplot, in which the merciless Sir Toby Belch and his foolish companion, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, seek to humiliate the pompous Malvolio - an ambition they achieve with more than a little style...

Presented by Here To There Productions, with performances at 2pm and 7pm.

Othello

Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire, Tues 11 August; Bantock House & Gardens, Wolverhampton, Sat 15 August

Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives has always been one of theatre's most powerful stories.

When Iago is overlooked for promotion by Othello, his Machiavellian mind turns to thoughts of vengeance. Othello's willingness to be led by the nose is all grist to Iago's mill, and fatal consequences ensue...

The production is presented by all-male theatre company Lord Chamberlain's Men.

Jeeves And Wooster In Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves

Shrewsbury Castle, Sun 9 August

The wonderful world of PG Wodehouse lands in Shrewsbury as the ever-affable Bertie Wooster yet again gets himself into the type of terrible tangle from which only his razor-sharp valet Jeeves can extricate him.

Comical escapades abound in an outdoor show featuring live jazz music performed by an ensemble of actor-musicians.

Prospero's Dream

The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Sat 8 August

Prospero's Dream is an abridged version of Shakespeare's final play, *The Tempest*, which sees a wild storm force a royal ship onto the rocks of an enchanted isle. The castaways, separated from one another, soon find themselves slipping under the control of a mysterious and mystical being...

Prospero's Dream is being presented as part of the Telford Theatre On Tour programme.

As You Like It

Dudmaston Hall, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire, Thurs 6 August; Winterbourne Gardens, Birmingham, Sat 8 August; Brueton Park, Solihull, Wed 12 August; Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 15 August

Shakespeare's highly likable comedy revolves around the character of Rosalind, banished by her usurping uncle to the Forest of Arden,

where her exiled father is already living. Revelling in the naturalness of the surroundings, Rosalind and her companions - cousin Celia and Touchstone the fool - find a happiness they hadn't known existed... Presented by Illyria theatre company.





WOOF JUSTICE

Crime-fighting Dog Man promises laughs aplenty at
Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre...

Dog Man: The Musical, a family show based on the popular children's book series by Captain Underpants author Dav Pilkey, visits the Midlands this month. Writer Kevin Del Aguila tells What's On about the challenge of making a show for all the family to enjoy...

Readers with kids of a certain age will almost certainly be familiar with the work of Dav Pilkey. The Ohio native has written and illustrated a number of award-winning children's books, most notably the Captain Underpants series, which has sold 90 million copies worldwide. The books have also spawned a number of spinoffs, including Dog Man, a series of graphic novels written under the pen names George Beard and Harold Hutchins, fictional characters from the original franchise. As the title suggests, Dog Man is a somewhat unique creature: a combination of police officer and his canine companion, fused together in life-saving surgery after they were both injured in the line of duty. Use your imagination - or ask a youngster.

The character and his friends (and enemies) came to life on the big screen in an animated movie last year, and a live musical version - geared towards ages five and up - visits Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this month, having premiered in the US in 2019.

The book and lyrics for Dog Man: The Musical have been written by Kevin Del Aguila, an actor, director and writer who has carved out a profitable career creating theatrical adaptations of children's books (including the likes of The Velveteen Rabbit and Diary Of A Wimpy Kid) as well as writing for television.

The friendly Californian admits he partly stumbled into the role through his work as an actor with Cedar Works USA, which creates shows for young and family audiences.

"They've been kind of my playground for learning how to learn different disciplines on the job," he says. "They hired me to write lyrics for an adaptation of Click, Clack, Moo [a children's book by Doreen Cronin], and they were the ones who came to me and said 'What do you know about Dog Man?' I said 'I know nothing,' and then looked over and saw my son, who was in fourth grade, giggling in the corner reading a bunch of Dog Man books! I grabbed him and said 'Tell me everything!'"

So the books were in your house all along?

"Yep, right under my nose! I was aware of Captain Underpants, but I didn't know the Dog Man books. Very quickly I became aware that they were very popular with the elementary school set. The libraries couldn't keep them in stock because kids kept taking them out."

Immersing himself in the worlds of Dav Pilkey proved rewarding in more ways than one, Kevin reveals.

"It was kind of delightful because I got to read them with my son at bedtime and really use him as kind of a focus group to try out all my jokes and ideas."

He might have had help, but Kevin was also aware of the pressure of adapting such treasured source material - a fact he claims was brought home to him on opening night.

"When we first premiered the show, all these kids showed up with Dog Man books clutched in their arms. You start to think 'Oh boy, if I mess this up, it's going to ruin my life!'"

Fortunately, he didn't - the show proved an instant hit, getting the thumbs-up not only from his son and other youngsters, but Pilkey himself.

"He was the one me and Brad Alexander [who wrote the music] were really nervous about. He was laughing and crying and clapping and became a fan of the show, which was really wonderful to see.

"When I first got the commission, I called him up and had a whole pitch ready - here's my idea, here's how we're going to approach it, here's how we're going to take care of your baby and so on. He stopped me seconds in and said, 'Just do what you want to do. I'm sure it's going to be great - just have fun.' I couldn't believe it. You're giving me the keys to your car here!"

The musical is largely based on A Tale Of Two Kitties, the third book in the Dog Man series ("It's the one that a lot of the characters were first introduced in and has a lot of heart, so we thought it was begging to be musicalised!"). Given the title, it's perhaps no surprise to find that A Tale Of Two Kitties contains more than a few nods to a certain legendary British writer.

"There's a whole lot of Charles Dickens references throughout the Dog Man books - the kids might not get them, but the adults will. The great thing is that the books don't exclude anyone from anything - it's all part of the referential, wacky world they inhabit."

That diversity - and being able to entertain the whole family at once - is part of the challenge and reward of the work, says Kevin.

"One of the things that brings me great joy is looking into the audience and seeing parents

sitting next to their kid and they're laughing at the exact same joke. I really love that, because a lot of times, grown-ups will come and bring their kid to a 'kids' show' and settle in for a nap. It's great to see when the first couple of jokes start landing, and they just start grinning and laughing. By the end, it truly is a family experience - everyone enjoying it together."

There's also the added challenge - and incentive - to create a positive experience for youngsters who are almost certainly attending live theatre for the first time.

"That's right. The amazing thing is that the Dog Man books have been a gateway for kids to love reading. That's why they're so popular - they're funny, they're engaging, and they get kids starting reading books. So teachers, even though they may not always like the content [the books have been criticised on the basis of language, violence and basic naughtiness], can't say no because they're instilling a love of reading in these kids.

"We really wanted the musical to be that for live performance - the gateway for kids to become lifelong theatre-goers."

Better yet, the show even teaches audiences about theatre, as the plot sees youngsters George and Harold, who created the dog and the comics, making a musical version of their comedy. They put together a stage show using found objects as props and by simply being creative - one of the key themes of Pilkey's work.

"The emphasis is on unbridled creativity, and kids really take that to heart. I've heard reports of them going home and making their own costumes and shows.

"That's Dav's real thing too - the power of creativity is his main goal with all the books. We've really tried to celebrate that in our adaptation, and I hope we've been successful. It also kind of demystifies theatre for the kids and makes them think, yeah, it's all just playing - I can do that!"

Dog Man: The Musical shows at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Friday 28 & Saturday 29 August.

The show returns to the region in 2027 to play Malvern Theatres from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 February and Lichfield Garrick from Tuesday 10 to Sunday 13 June



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Outdoor theatre previews from around the region



The Railway Children

Church Stretton Festival, Tues 4 August; Cotteridge Park, Birmingham, Sun 16 August; The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Sun 23 August

Edith Nesbitt's famous tale - best known from the 1971 film version - tells the gentle story of an Edwardian family whose life is unexpectedly turned upside-down. Days stretch endlessly for Bobbie, Peter and Phyllis in their new home of Three Chimneys, a house near a railway in a Yorkshire village. Mysteriously separated from their father, the children set about the business of carving out a new way of living for themselves, passing their time watching trains on the nearby

railway line, waving to the passengers and enjoying the company of Albert Perks, the station porter. They also get to know an old gentleman who is a regular traveller on one of the morning trains, unaware of the remarkable effect that their new acquaintance is set to have on their future happiness...

Presented by acclaimed West Midlands ensemble Paperback Theatre, who are this year celebrating their 10th anniversary.

Treasure Island

The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Sat 8 August

Robert Louis Stevenson's high-seas caper finds young Jim Hawkins heading off on the adventure of a lifetime - one which will see him not only setting sail in search of buried treasure, but also spending time in the company of a one-legged pirate with murder in mind... This 'fun-filled' adaptation is being presented as part of the Telford Theatre On Tour programme.

The Three Musketeers

Weston Park, Shropshire, Fri 14 August; Hanbury Hall, Droitwich, Sat 15 August

There's plenty of swashbuckling fun to be had in Illyria's lighthearted stage version of Alexandre Dumas' classic adventure novel. Set against a sweeping backdrop of 17th-century France, the play is being described by Illyria as 'a whirlwind of excitement' that brings together 'broad comedy and ingenious storytelling'.



Theatre for younger audiences

The Tale Of Peter Rabbit And Benjamin Bunny

Shrewsbury Castle, Wed 5 August; Bructon Park, Solihull, Sat 22 August

The highly regarded Quantum Theatre make a welcome return with an outdoor production celebrating the magic of Beatrix Potter.

This popular touring show finds Peter Rabbit and his naughty cousin Benjamin Bunny throwing caution to the wind by sneaking into Mr McGregor's garden. But it isn't long before the adventurous pair find themselves in some seriously hot water...



Toto The Ninja Cat And The Great Snake Escape

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 15 & Sun 16 August

Little Angel Theatre return to Birmingham with a stage show based on Dermot O'Leary's bestselling children's book about an almost completely blind cat who has incredible ninja skills. Accompanied by her cheeky brother, Silver, Toto needs to use every ounce of her courage and cunning to save the day when a deadly King Cobra escapes onto the streets of London...

Suitable for children aged five and older.

The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Swan Theatre, Worcester, Fri 28 - Sun 30 August

Everybody's favourite tea-guzzling tiger is back in town, dropping in on Sophie and her mum just as they're settling down for an afternoon cuppa...

Adapted by David Wood from the late Judith Kerr's 1968 book of the same name, this 55-minute show features singalong songs and plenty of magic - not to mention a big, stripy tiger, of course!



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Theatre for younger audiences



Peppa Pig's Big Family Show

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 7 & Sat 8 August

Peppa Pig, Mummy Pig, Daddy Pig and George all need the audience's help to make sure everything's ready for the arrival of baby Evie...

If you've taken your little ones to any of the

previous Peppa Pig stage shows - and enjoyed the experience of watching them having a fantastic time - you'll already know that this currently touring production is well worth catching.



In The Night Garden Live

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 31 July & Sat 1 August

If your little ones are big fans of CBeebies' still-popular noughties television series In The Night Garden, they're certain to love this live version as well.

And it's not only kids who adore the hour-long stage presentation. Audience surveys

and parents' reviews reveal that, for nine out of 10 adults, the production is a five-star experience...

The currently touring show, Igglepiggle's Busy Day, features 'a very special visit from the amazing flying Pinky Ponk'.

Science Museum: The Space Explorers Academy

Malvern Theatres, Mon 31 August

With the hard grind of the autumn term imminent, what better time to treat your kids to a cosmic surprise or several?... And this new theatrical adventure is full of them!

The Science Museum, in association with the UK Space Agency, has teamed up with Mark Thompson Productions (the creators of Ministry Of Science Live!) to present a show which is promising to take six- to 12-year-olds on an epic journey around the planets. So if you think your youngsters would enjoy an August bank holiday spent uncovering 'brilliant planet facts', making 'jaw-dropping discoveries', and learning 'the secrets of what it takes to explore space for real', then this is most definitely the show for you.

Jack And The Beanstalk (Sort of)

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 8 August

As the title suggests, this is a far-from-traditional version of much-loved fairytale Jack And The Beanstalk. Indeed, it's so quirky and unique, we think it's best described by the creatives behind it: "Part air-guitar workshop, part magical mess, this lo-fi, hi-tech, big-beat bonkers show is stuffed with songs, silliness and surprise grannies. Bring your kids. Bring your nan. Bring snacks. It's theatre, but it's loud, proud, and completely off its bean(stalk)."

Cape Custard

Brasshouse Community Centre, Smethwick, Sat 1 August; Wolverhampton Arts Centre, Sun 16 August; The Local Hub, Walsall, Mon 17 August; Dorothy Parkes Centre, Smethwick, Tues 18 August; Glasshouse Arts Centre, Stourbridge, Thurs 20 August

Black Country Touring hit the road again this month with a production that sees them inviting families into an inflatable theatre for 30 minutes of 'mystical mayhem and madcap adventure'. Their show is set on 'the faraway shores of Cape Custard', where a lighthouse needs one of its lights fixing. Enter, a lens fitter sent all the way from Smethwick's famous Chance Glassworks...

After the performance, audience members can stay on to participate in a selection of crafting activities inspired by the lighthouses built in the Chance Brothers Glassworks.



HIGH HOPES

A lavish new version of Cole Porter's famous musical High Society - complete with a 28-strong cast and a full-size orchestra - visits the region this month. Its stars, Helen George and Freddie Fox, tell What's On what attracted them to the show, and why it remains such a classic...

First performed 40 years ago, based on a movie three decades older and a stage play (The Philadelphia Story) dating back to 1939, High Society is very much a musical for the ages.

The comedy revolves around the wedding of a pretentious Long Island socialite to an equally pretentious businessman. Proceedings descend into chaos (as well as borderline farce) when old and new flames turn up - all watched over by a journalist desperately hoping for tabloid-worthy scandal.

Written by Arthur Kopit, with music & lyrics by Cole Porter, High Society features a slew of jazz standards by the latter - True Love, Let's Misbehave, I Love Paris, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? to name but a few.

And, according to Helen George, who plays lead character Tracy Lord, while the show remains resolutely of its era, the tunes are timeless - as is the winning blend of Golden Age escapism and screwball comedy.

"It's a bit like [TV series] The White Lotus because everybody's in this world of wealth and fabulousness, and how can we relate to that?" she says. "But actually, we can't take our eyes off them, and there are really relatable themes about love and pain amidst all the fun and fantastic songs."

Although the Birmingham-born actress and Aston Villa fan (as a youngster she harboured dreams of becoming the team's first female manager) is best known for playing Nurse Trixie Franklin in BBC TV's Call The Midwife, Helen has also built up quite a stage career, including key parts in musicals such as The King And I and Cinderella.

She loves the challenge of playing iconic characters but admits it can be daunting to follow in the footsteps of superstars who have already appeared in those roles; the legendary Grace Kelly took the part of Tracy in the 1956 film version of High Society.

"I'm not thinking about it, because it's just too intimidating," Helen admits. "It was the same with The King And I, which had this legacy of incredible actresses before me playing the part of Anna. My concern is

finding my own take on the character, and I love that I get to play these very rounded and fulfilling roles - especially in a show that's as gorgeous and joyous as this one."

Her High Society co-star, Freddie Fox, who makes his professional musical theatre debut in the show, is quick to agree, and admits the role of journalist Mike Connor (played by Frank Sinatra in the film) is something of a dream come true.

"I've been building up to this since the age of four, when I saw my first musical at the National Theatre," he says cheerfully.

The show in question was Guys And Dolls, and the young Freddie was instantly smitten.

"I learned all the words to all the songs and sang them to anyone who would listen for a good few years afterwards. It's what started my obsession with musicals. I later became besotted with Cabaret and The Producers, so finally getting to star in a stage musical is the realisation of a boyhood fantasy."

Freddie accepts that being the son of acting royalty - his parents are Edward Fox and Joanna David - probably helped open a few doors for him early in his career, but he's more than proved his worth since then. As well as winning an Ian Charleson Award, he's also earned plaudits for an array of stage and TV appearances, including in House Of The Dragon and cult detective drama Slow Horses.

Those shows featured big-name stars, and he rates High Society just the same, explaining that the quality of the cast and creative team - which includes former Birmingham Repertory Theatre artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh and choreographer Anthony Van Laast - drew him to the production just as much as the chance to finally appear in a musical.

"When I heard who was involved, I was like 'This is the A-team; it's like playing in the Premier League!' It's a night of sheer joy, lots of fun, with the best songs and fabulous dancing and singing. It's entertainment with a capital E."

Helen is similarly enthusiastic about the production: "It's a wonderful, fabulous,

sophisticated escape of an evening, with a huge orchestra and a big brass section.

There's just so much joy in this show. The costumes are incredible, the songs are amazing, and I'm over the moon with the cast and crew that I get to work with."

Both actors are also excited to be taking the show (which opened at the Barbican in London in May) on tour around the UK, including a stop-off at Birmingham venue The Alexandra this very month.

"Taking a show out of London is what it's all about for me," says Freddie. "Theatre should be for absolutely everybody. As we face a kind of technological revolution, the effects of which we can't quite predict, what with AI and the like, theatre is more important to us than perhaps it's ever been in our history. Taking a show on tour and giving people a great night out is just one brick in that enormous wall."

Helen, who trained at Birmingham School of Acting and Royal Academy of Music, is on exactly the same page: "Without getting on my soapbox, I think touring productions are so important. I grew up in Birmingham and saw so many wonderful touring shows, and that's what made me want to do what I do now."

That, and the chance to put smiles on people's faces at a time when so much of what's going on around the world is rather less cheery, she adds.

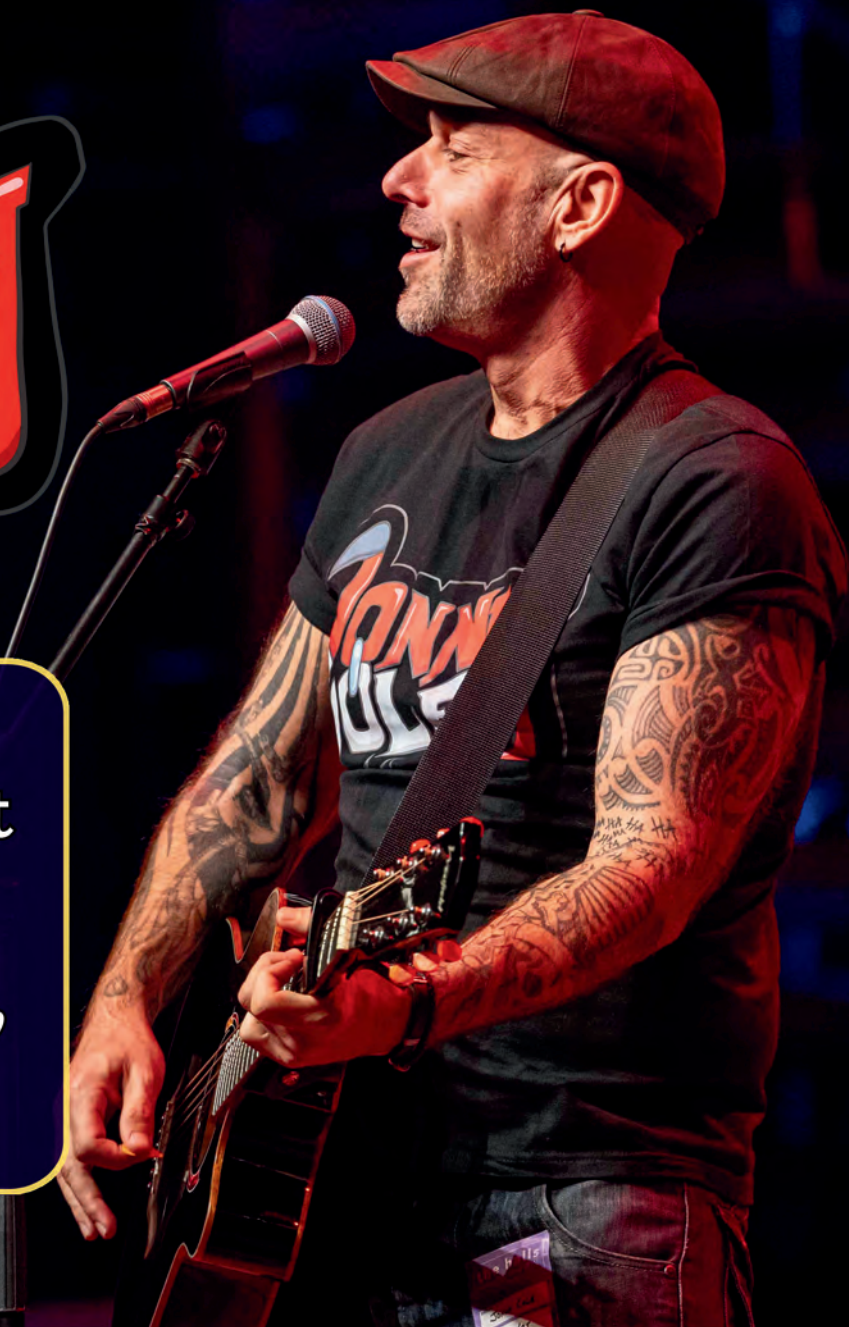
"I come out of the theatre, then I listen to the news and think 'Oh God, I'm so glad that I'm doing High Society, not something that's sad or political in any way.' This is exactly the sort of show that we need right now, and I think theatre really comes into its prime when the world feels uncertain - especially with a musical that's as much fun and as lively and joyful as this one."

.....

High Society shows at The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 August



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Film highlights in August...



PAW Patrol: The Dino Movie CERT U (88 mins)

With the voices of **Mckenna Grace, Terry Crews, Fortune Feimster, Jameela Jamil, Paris Hilton, Snoop Dogg** Directed by **Cal Brunker**

PAW Patrol is a franchise that just keeps on giving, generating billions of dollars in revenue from the original and long-running television series, spin-off toy sales, and two - this month becoming three - cinematic outings.

Featuring a young boy named Ryder, who leads a crew of search & rescue dogs called, yep, you guessed it, the PAW Patrol, the television show is now in its 13th season and shows no signs of losing its charm - as the arrival of another big-screen adventure, *The Dino Movie*, ably illustrates.

Anyway, here's the official synopsis for this latest offering: "After their ship gets caught in a mysterious storm, the PAW Patrol pups crash-land on an uncharted tropical island filled with dinosaurs. They meet Rex, a pup who has been stranded on the island for years and has become an expert in all things dino-related. When the PAW Patrol's arch rival, Mayor Humdinger, begins recklessly mining in hopes of exploiting the island for its natural resources, he inadvertently causes a huge, dormant volcano to erupt. The PAW Patrol pups are thrown into a series of high-stakes, dino-sized rescues, bigger than anything they've done before, as they must stop Humdinger before everything on the island goes extinct." **Released Fri 7 August**

Sunny Dancer CERT 15 (106 mins)

Starring **James Norton, Bella Ramsey, Neil Patrick Harris, Jessica Gunning, Shalom Brune-Franklin, Ruby Stokes**
Directed by **George Jaques**

As if facing and beating cancer hadn't proved a sufficiently challenging experience for 17-year-old Ivy, she then finds herself faced with the prospect - courtesy of her loving but somewhat overbearing parents - of spending her summer at a camp for young people who've been affected by the Big C...

That's the lift-off scenario of *Sunny Dancer*, a coming-of-age comedy-romance described by its publicity as a celebration of love and friendship in the face of adversity.

Thankfully for Ivy, 'Chemo camp' turns out to be far more inspiring than she'd expected, populated, as it is, by like-minded misfits who just want to 'f*ck shit up' and live life to the max - snorting prescription drugs, skinny dipping, downing vodka... and maybe even falling in love.

Released Fri 14 August



The End Of Oak Street

CERT tbc (100 mins)

Starring **Anne Hathaway, Ewan McGregor, PJ Byrne, Christian Convery, Maisy Stella, Chris Coy** Directed by **David Robert Mitchell**

After a mysterious cosmic event rips Oak Street from 1980s suburbia and transports it to an unknown destination, the Platt family find themselves faced with a very real and completely unexpected threat: prehistoric dinosaurs...

Anne Hathaway and Ewan McGregor take top billing in this Twilight Zone-style science fiction survival movie produced by Star Trek,

Mission: Impossible and Star Wars director JJ Abrams.

"I think people are hungry for new stories, original stories," Abrams told *Empire*, "and to me, the undeniable appeal of this [film] is the fact that it takes place in suburbia. [The] whole approach here was the juxtaposition of the absolute mundane suburban family life - swing sets and ice-cream trucks, and above-ground pools and school buses - and dinosaurs. If there's any part of you that is excited by what you saw in the trailers, I can promise that the movie will deliver on everything."

Released Fri 14 August

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Film highlights in August...

The Dog Stars CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Margaret Qualley, Jacob Elordi, Josh Brolin, Allison Janney, Guy Pearce, Benedict Wong** Directed by **Ridley Scott**

Still making films at 88 years of age, Sir Ridley Scott's latest is an apocalyptic drama which plays out in the aftermath of a devastating flu pandemic, one which has laid waste to great swathes of the Earth's population... Fresh from starring as Heathcliff alongside Margot Robbie's Cathy in the recent remake of *Wuthering Heights*, Jacob Elordi plays Hig, a young and widowed pilot who, together with a military survivalist named Bangle, has carved out an efficient but isolated homestead in which to stay safe from roaming scavengers. But when he intercepts a faint and fragmented radio transmission, Hig decides to venture into the unknown in search of the hope and humanity he still believes exists... The film is based on Peter Heller's critically acclaimed novel of the same name, published in 2012.

Released Fri 28 August



Spa Weekend CERT 15 (97 mins)

Starring **Anna Faris, Michelle Buteau, Isla Fisher, Leslie Mann, Adam Demos, Quinn Aune** Directed by **Jon Lucas and Scott Moore**

Life is busy for childhood pals Jane, Coco and Sophie. So much so, in fact, that somewhere between careers, relationships, families and everyday responsibilities, the three friends have forgotten how to take care of themselves and each other. Burned out and long overdue a break, they decide to treat themselves to a break at a luxury spa in Palm Springs. But when their unpredictable trainwreck of a friend - Mel - turns up, the planned weekend of peace, relaxation and pampering quickly descends into a chaotic experience full of fun, laughter, and some very bad decisions... This ensemble comedy has been written by *Bad Moms'* Jon Lucas and Scott Moore, with the acclaimed duo also helming the movie.

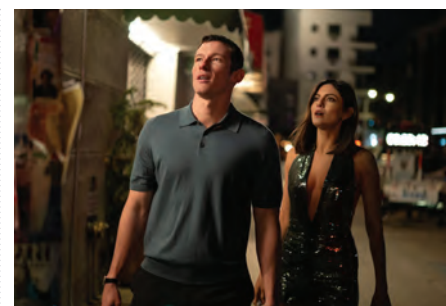
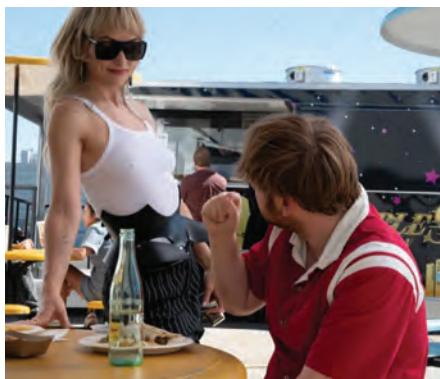
Released Fri 21 August

I Want Your Sex CERT 15 (90 mins)

Starring **Olivia Wilde, Daveed Diggs, Cooper Hoffman, Johnny Knoxville, Mason Gooding, Chase Sui Wonders, Charli xcx** Directed by **Gregg Araki**

Wide-eyed newcomer Elliot thinks he's hit the jackpot job-wise when renowned artist, icon and kink-positive provocateur Erika Tracy taps him to become her sexual muse. But it isn't long before the fresh-faced fella finds himself woefully out of his depth, as his employer takes him on a journey into a world of sex, obsession, power, betrayal and murder... Blending the genres of rom-com and erotic thriller - and throwing in a cameo from Charli xcx just for good measure - *I Want Your Sex* played well with the critics when it showed at the Sundance Festival earlier this year.

Released Fri 28 August



One Night Only CERT 15

Starring **Callum Turner, Monica Barbaro, Michelle Hurd, Maya Hawke, Molly Ringwald, Julia Fox, LeVar Burton** Directed by **Will Gluck**

If you enjoy alternate-reality movies with a satirical twist, *One Night Only* is definitely a film to catch. The story is set in a New York City in which pre-marital sex is only legal for one night of the year, leaving singletons everywhere desperate to find somebody with whom to sleep. Among them are Allie and Owen, two love-starved strangers who share a messy night that turns out to be the best thing that's ever happened to either of them. The film's supporting cast features two well-known names from the 1980s: Hollywood Brat Pack member Molly Ringwald (*The Breakfast Club*, *Pretty In Pink*) and LeVar Burton, who played the character of Geordi La Forge in television series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Released Fri 28 August

WHAT'S NEW?

**Coventry to showcase exceptional art
from the last five years in British Art Show 10...**



Julianknxx, Still from Shifting _ Spirit _ Time, BURO Stedelijk, 2025, © Studioknxx

The 10th iteration of the British Art Show opens in Coventry this October, with partnering venues including Warwick Arts Centre, the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum and the city's universities. Featuring work made within the last five years by renowned British artists, the exhibition is taking the title A Chorus Of Strangers. What's On spoke to Brian Cass, head of Hayward Gallery Touring - the organisation behind the show - to find out more...

The British Art Show heads out on tour once again this autumn, in its 10th iteration. Taking place every five years and touring to select cities around the UK, the show collects together significant works by acclaimed contemporary artists. All of the included art has been made within the last five years - and in some cases, created specifically for the British Art Show itself.

The tour launches across Coventry venues on Friday 2 October and will remain in the city until Sunday 10 January. Brian Cass is Head of Hayward Gallery Touring, the organisation behind British Art Show 10.

"It's almost 50 years since the very first British Art Show, which was in the late 70s,"

Brian told What's On. "It is this significant, leviathan-like project with many different parts... British Art Show 10 will feature 34 artists. It is a curated overview of the last five years of creativity by artists based here in the UK or based outside. Of those 34 artists, about a third of them are making new work, and that's always really exciting."

The 10th iteration of the show is named A Chorus Of Strangers, inspired by a play from the late 1500s titled Sir Thomas Moore.

"Different writers contributed to the play," Brian explains, "and sections of the play have been attributed to Shakespeare. He wrote a scene called The Stranger's Case - it's a time of rioting in the city of London, and Sir

Thomas Moore makes the case for compassion and empathy.

"This word 'stranger' is a word that is bandied about quite a lot. In times of discord and division, the work that artists do is really quite important and incredibly profound, because in the most basic way, it forces us to see from more than one position at once."

British Art Show 10 is divided into three sections, the titles of which - Moments Of Being, Ways Of Living and States Of Nature - also take inspiration from the written words of British authors and thinkers.

"[The first section] was inspired by Virginia Woolf," explains Brian. "She wrote a famous text called Moments Of Being. She talks

about these moments where the ‘cotton wool’ of everyday life falls away, and the ordinary world is revealed to be something beautiful. “The second section is moving from ‘the interior’ into the ‘social’, so it’s art that’s really thinking about community, gathering, collective memory... The final section is again moving broader, and is thinking about the environment - the relationship between the human and the ‘more than human’; our connections with the wider physical and natural world.”



Matthew Krishanu, Two Boys on a Horse, 2024, oil and acrylic on canvas, 240 x 180cm (photo Peter Mallet).

The curator for British Art Show 10 is the writer, curator & broadcaster Ekow Eshun. “Ekow is a remarkable creator, but also a very generous collaborator,” says Brian. “He’s looking at work that allows us - through its use of material, through its use of colour, through its mood, through its beauty - to dwell in a place of uncertainty and indeterminacy. That plurality is a key part of the human experience. That is the core of a lot of the works that are presented in the show. It’s something he finds very exciting. “When you bring artists together in a space, you’re trying to create narratives, and you’re trying to create an experience where people will feel very welcome and invited into something. Ekow’s curation, I would say, as well as all the artists in the show, is very keen to invite people in.”

In his role at Hayward Gallery Touring, Brian also oversaw the creation of the previous British Art Show, which was devised in 2020. In the intervening years, he says, both artists and gallery visitors have come to appreciate the physicality of getting close to works of art, and the materials which have been used. “British Art Show 9 was thinking about how we illuminate a very complex time. Then Covid happened, and the murder of George Floyd happened, and questions of social

justice were all really heightened. All that complexity and all that discord is still part of our world at the moment. What this show is trying to do - but in no way polemically - is invite people in, to encounter something remarkable but also see the world in different ways.”

The tour travels to five locations around Britain, beginning with that three-month stint in Coventry. Once the tour has concluded - in June 2028 - one of the artworks by 2024 Turner Prize winner Jasleen Kaur will be returned to Coventry.

“One important part of the British Art Show is that we support artists to make new work and to make ambitious work. Through the support of other funders, some of those works are going to be acquired by museums across the British Art Show tour.

“Jasleen Kaur is working in Coventry. [She’s] thinking about the history of the Delia Derbyshire building, the role of music in Coventry, that history - about justice, campaigning for equality, about peace and reconciliation - and how you can create sculptural environments which have ideas of support and sound within them.”

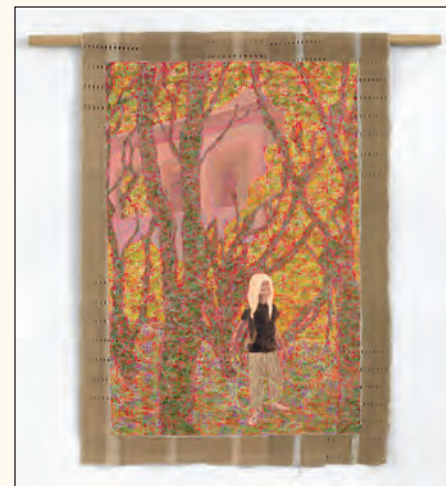
With dozens of artworks in the show, it’s hard to narrow down individual pieces which stand out from the crowd - a testament to the quality of the work on display.



Hannah Quinlan & Rosie Hastings, We Used to Live Here , 2025. Courtesy the Artist and Arcadia Missa, London. Photography: Tom Carter.

“I’m so excited about all of them. Every artist that’s in British Art Show 10 is making really remarkable work. And it’s work that really feels alive and ‘of this moment’, while also illuminating history.

“There’s another piece by Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings. What they’re producing is an enormous four-screen fresco painting that’s exploring the history of public housing, in Newcastle in particular... Their work is looking at official histories of housing, of family and community, as well as what they would call a ‘queering of history’. What are these enclosures or structures or barriers? How do we move beyond them? I think what’s key to both Jasleen and Hannah & Rosie’s work is thinking beyond narrow, exclusionary structures.”



Nengi Omuku, A Quiet Nation, 2026. All works courtesy of the artist and Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London.

For the British Art Show 10 - with its core theme of connecting strangers - the curated relationships made by Hayward Gallery Touring result in a show which is greater than the sum of its parts.

“We’ve worked with the partners in Coventry in the past. We had a show last year in the Mead Gallery called Material Worlds, which was looking at textiles artists. And we did an exhibition with the Herbert - After The End Of History. It was a photography show looking at working-class photography.

“What’s unique about the British Art Show is we work with multiple partners in each city. That’s always an amazing thing - to see how these collaborative networks, which are the result of generosity and a lot of effort and trust, can make something that would not be possible in any other way... [These venues] do remarkable things on their own, but collectively, we can all do something really amazing.”

British Art Show 10 shows in venues across Coventry - including Warwick Arts Centre, the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, the University of Warwick and Coventry University - from Friday 2 October to Sunday 10 January



Photograph by Yury Ivanov

Ocean Photographer Of The Year

Lichfield Cathedral, until Mon 31 August

Over 100 award-winning photographs from the Ocean Photographer Of The Year 2025 collection are featured in this Lichfield Cathedral display, including the grand title winner, created by Yury Ivanov from Indonesia...

Featured alongside the exhibition is Tessa

Campbell Fraser's Whales.

The striking installation comprises three sperm-whale sculptures, offering a dramatic reflection on the fragility of marine life and the choices that are made in protecting it.



Clare Hewitt: Everything In The Forest Is The Forest

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, until Mon 31 August

Acclaimed photographer Clare Hewitt's latest exhibition - a celebration of trees and their remarkable ability to nurture and communicate - is a direct response to a government report suggesting that loneliness and isolation are on the rise in

rural areas of the country. Setting up a studio within a circle of 12 oak trees, Clare documented the forest and its seasonal changes, exploring nature through a range of sustainable photographic techniques.

Modern Masterpieces: Paintings From The Barber Institute Of Fine Arts

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, until Sun 6 September

As its subtitle makes clear, the artworks on display in Modern Masterpieces are loaned from the Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

Presented while the venue undergoes major redevelopment, the exhibition is a rare opportunity for Warwickshire's art-loving community to check out and enjoy six treasures usually seen in Birmingham.

The intimate display of exceptional paintings by major modern artists - including van Gogh and Renoir - provide timeless reflections on human experience, domestic intimacy and artistic mastery at the turn of the 20th century.



Mauro De Seta, Portrait of Arthur Haas, 1914. Oil on Millboard. © The Henry Barber Trust, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham

Andy Warhol: Art Star

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, until Sun 4 October

Wolverhampton Art Gallery's tribute to Andy Warhol is an Artist Rooms exhibition created in partnership with Tate and National Galleries of Scotland.

The display includes both iconic and lesser-known drawings, screenprints, paintings and photographs from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Warhol's famous Campbell's soup tin features in the show, taking its place alongside images of The Beatles, Marilyn Monroe (pictured) and Elizabeth Taylor.



Andy Warhol (on silk) 1967. The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by DACS, London. Photo: Tate

54321 FAB!

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum,
until Sun 6 September

For readers of a certain vintage, 54321 FAB! offers a not-to-be-missed opportunity to take a nostalgic stroll down memory lane.

The subject of the exhibition is the much-loved 1960s television series of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson, numbered among which were Stingray, Captain Scarlet And The Mysterons, Joe 90, Fireball XL5 and - arguably most famously - Thunderbirds. Original puppets - including Lady Penelope and Joe 90 - and a number of models (Fireball XL5, Stingray and the Thunderbirds crafts) are all included in the display, as is original comic and production design art and a huge collection of 1960s memorabilia.

Commenting on the exhibition, Museums Worcestershire Senior Curator Deborah Fox said: "We pride ourselves on providing top family fun for the summer holidays, and this year is a true classic. We might even inspire some new fans!"



Shrewsbury Arts Trail

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery,
until Mon 31 August

Shrewsbury Arts Trail is back for a sixth year, with works on show including An Ancient Stronghold In France, a famous 1910 Impressionist oil painting by 'Manchester's Monet', Wynford Dewhurst (1864-1941).

The work has been loaned from the Cartwright Hall Gallery in Bradford.

Also included is a painting by Shropshire-born artist Ian Rayer-Smith, commissioned as a response to Dewhurst's artwork and inspired by the same colour palette.

This year's Arts Trail also features an open exhibition, demonstrations, workshops, arts café talks and a children's treasure trail.



Tutankhamun: The Immersive Exhibition

NEC, Birmingham, until Sun 13 September

In November 1922, in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, British archaeologist and Egyptologist Howard Carter unearthed the tomb of Tutankhamun, a little-known Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty.

Now, more than a century later, Carter's incredible find is being celebrated with this award-winning touring show.

Offering Midlandsers the chance to take a 'breathtaking journey' into ancient Egypt, its highlights include a Howard Carter-

narrated movie featuring 360-degree projections, a seated virtual-reality journey through the mystical Egyptian afterlife, and an interactive digital Metaverse walk-through of the Valley of the Kings. Two 'exceptionally curated' treasure rooms also feature...

Organisers are advising that visitors should set aside 90 minutes to properly experience the exhibition.



Curious Creatures, Stones And Bones

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until July 2028

Available to enjoy for another two years, Curious Creatures, Stones And Bones comprises specimens from the Herbert's natural sciences collection and features everything 'from tiny insects to mighty

mammals, and sea creatures to rocks from outer space'.

Visitors are also invited to make use of the separate meeting and wellbeing spaces 'to relax and connect'.



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Events previews from around the region



Discover Dinosaurs at Thinktank

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, throughout August

Thinktank is hosting a packed programme of dinosaur-themed family activities throughout the school summer holiday. Young explorers can enjoy DinoSTORY Time on Thursday 6, 13, 20 & 27 August, featuring interactive storytelling and prehistoric adventures...

The creatively inclined can take part in Dinosaur Junk Modelling with local artist & comedian Tat Vision on Wednesday the 19th, using recycled materials to build their very own dinosaur-inspired creations... Visitors can meet fascinating creatures and

learn about life in the prehistoric world with Jurassic Encounters With ZooLab on Thursday the 27th, whilst families can enjoy Professor Egg N Egg on Wednesday the 12th. Dino Lab sessions - featuring dinosaur discovery experiences and hands-on science activities - take place throughout the month. The museum will also host Cinema Under The Stars screenings in the planetarium, with The Land Before Time and Godzilla showing on Saturday the 15th, and The Good Dinosaur and The Land That Time Forgot on Saturday the 29th.



Luminarium Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Wed 26 - Mon 31 August

Visitors to Compton Verney can step inside a spectacular world of light and colour this month, thanks to the return of the acclaimed Luminarium.

Created by Architects of Air, the immersive installation, known as Terceradix, is a winding maze of interconnected domes and pathways illuminated entirely by natural light. Designed to celebrate the company's 30th anniversary, the attraction promises 'an unforgettable sensory experience' for visitors

of all ages.

Guests can explore the labyrinth at their own pace, whether following every twist and turn or simply relaxing within the colourful spaces. The installation is fully accessible, with a dedicated quieter session available for visitors who would benefit from a more relaxed environment. Luminarium tickets also include admission to Compton Verney's galleries, grounds and exhibitions.

Tally Ho! Thursdays: Police Training Academy

West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham, Thurs 30 July, Thurs 6, Thurs 13, Thurs 20 & Thurs 27 August

Young recruits can step into the highly polished shoes of a police officer this month, as the West Midlands Police Museum hosts a number of special interactive sessions. Inspired by the famous Tally Ho! police training centre, the family-friendly experience gives children the chance to tackle a series of fun challenges designed to test the skills needed for a career in policing.



Wild Bricks

Dudley Zoo and Castle, until Mon 31 August

Dudley Zoo & Castle is providing a home for some extra animals - of the *brick* variety - throughout this month, courtesy of a special interactive trail.

The Wild Bricks trail features life-sized models of endangered animals - including an orangutan, giant panda and African elephant - which have been made from thousands of colourful toy bricks... The trail is included in the price of admission to the zoo.



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West Midlands Police
MUSEUM

Events previews from around the region



Telford Balloon Fiesta

Telford Town Park, Shropshire, Fri 28 - Sun 30 August

One of Shropshire's most popular family events, the Telford Balloon Fiesta returns late this month, taking over Telford Town Park across the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The three-day celebration will feature spectacular hot-air balloons, live entertainment and activities for all ages. Festivities begin with the popular Night Glow on the Friday evening, when illuminated balloons light up the sky in time to music during a special ticketed event.

The free-to-attend weekend programme includes parachute displays by the Wings Parachute Team, stunt performances, balloon-tethering demonstrations, live music, food & drink stalls, and a dedicated Kids' Zone.

A Community Carnival Day on the Sunday will showcase local talent via parades, dance performances and workshops. Weather permitting, the hot-air balloon launches will take place at 6am and 6pm.



Majestic Monarchs Of The Guildhall

St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry, until Sun 30 August

Families can enjoy an experience packed with royal history and hands-on activities at St Mary's Guildhall this month. Running until the August Bank Holiday weekend, Majestic Monarchs Of The Guildhall invites visitors to discover the stories of kings and queens connected to the historic property. Admission includes guided tours, family trails and gaming kiosks.

Younger visitors can take part in the Royal Progress family trail or tackle the Crown Jewels Quest, while royal-themed crafts and historical costumes offer plenty of opportunity to enjoy some creative fun. Visitors will also encounter Tudor characters preparing a feast in the Medieval Kitchen, bringing centuries of history vividly to life.

Medieval Mayhem

The Commandery, Worcester, Mon 31 August

Step back into the Middle Ages this Bank Holiday Monday as The Commandery hosts a day of medieval fun.

Families can explore the historic site while taking part in hands-on activities designed to inspire budding knights and fascinate knowledge-hungry history enthusiasts. Young visitors can test their skills in Knight School, decorate their own shield, and follow the Knight's Quest trail through one of Worcester's most atmospheric buildings.



Elmer Hide & Seek Adventure Trail

Weston Park, Shropshire, until Sun 6 September

Based on the much-loved patchwork elephant created by author & illustrator David McKee, the Elmer Hide & Seek Adventure Trail invites children to explore Weston's beautiful parkland while searching for hidden Elmer characters and solving clues along the way. Designed for younger visitors and families, the interactive experience encourages outdoor exploration, imagination and teamwork, as children follow the trail through the estate's gardens and grounds. Alongside the trail, families can make the most of Weston's 1,000 acres of parkland and woodland. There's an adventure playground to enjoy too, ideal for youngsters with plenty of summer-holiday energy to burn.





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Events previews from around the region



Lunt Roman Festival

Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton, Warwickshire, Sat 8 & Sun 9 August

Thousands of years of history will be brought to life when the Lunt Roman Festival returns this month.

The 2026 theme is Year Of The Dragon, with visitors to the event coming face-to-face with the legendary Bagradas Dragon.

Roman battle reenactments, gladiator displays and living-history demonstrations

also feature.

Families can explore a bustling Roman marketplace, test their skills at archery, and take part in the popular Family Battle experience.

The festival also features interactive play spaces for younger visitors, sensory-friendly activities and a range of food vendors.



A Whale of a Summer

Lichfield Cathedral, until Mon 31 August

Art, photography, family activities, and thought-provoking discussions inspired by the natural world all feature in Lichfield Cathedral's programme of school summer holiday entertainment.

Attractions include Scottish sculptor Tessa Campbell Fraser's Whales, a striking installation - suspended within the cathedral nave - comprising three life-sized models of sperm whales. Made using recycled ghost netting and other materials, the artwork highlights the impact of human activity on marine environments, at the same time celebrating the power of creativity to inspire

change.

Cathedral visitors can also explore the Ocean Photographer Of The Year 2025 exhibition, showcasing more than 100 award-winning images of marine life and underwater ecosystems.

Families can enjoy sea-themed crafts, activity trails and special-event days, while a series of talks and wellbeing sessions will encourage reflection on conservation and community.

The cathedral's popular attraction The Beach is also open throughout the month, so bucket & spade at the ready...

Civil War Weekend

Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Sat 15 & Sun 16 August

History enthusiasts can step back in time to the turbulent days of the English Civil War when this popular Sudeley Castle event returns mid-month.

Set against the backdrop of the historic Gloucestershire castle, the event will bring the 17th century to life through immersive re-enactments, military drills and living-history displays. Members of Lord Hopton's Regiment of Foote, part of the English Civil War Society, will recreate the story of Prince Rupert, nephew of King Charles I, who used Sudeley Castle as a Royalist headquarters during the conflict.

Visitors can watch dramatic skirmishes, witness pike drills accompanied by drummers, and explore a living-history camp, where reenactors provide fascinating insights into everyday life during the Civil War.



© Samuel Phelps

Vintage Transport Extravaganza

Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster, Sat 8 & Sun 9 August

Bringing together an impressive celebration of transport history across six stations, Severn Valley Railway's popular Vintage Transport Extravaganza returns this month. Visitors can travel behind heritage steam and diesel trains while exploring displays of classic cars, motorcycles, buses, tractors, traction engines and other vintage vehicles from across the decades.

A highlight of the weekend takes place at Kidderminster, where enthusiasts can enjoy seeing a gathering of steam-powered traction engines in action.

Meanwhile, along the route, stations will be hosting their own unique displays, while the Engine House at Highley offers the chance to get closer to historic locomotives and railway heritage.

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Events previews from around the region

**Farmarama** National Forest Adventure Farm, Burton-upon-Trent, until Tues 1 Sept

Bringing the beach to Burton-upon-Trent, Farmarama transforms the National Forest Adventure Farm into a family-friendly coastal escape, complete with five giant paddling pools, more than 250 tonnes of golden sand and plenty of opportunities for splashing, digging and sandcastle building. Visitors can enjoy daily seaside-themed entertainment, including live shows, sand art activities, and the ever-popular foam

party. Families can also tackle the huge maize maze before exploring everything else the farm has to offer, from animal encounters and tractor rides to indoor soft-play areas and outdoor adventure zones. With 'acres of activities' included in admission, Farmarama offers a full day of summer holiday fun for people of all ages. Guests visiting before the 23rd of the month can take advantage of a free return visit offer.

**Summer Fun at Black Country Living Museum**

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, until Mon 31 August

Step into history this month at the award-winning Black Country Living Museum. Visitors can explore a recreated historic town, stroll along period high streets, follow a family discovery trail and meet characters from different eras.

There's plenty to keep all ages entertained, from traditional games and Edwardian school lessons, to industrial demonstrations and music from the past.

Food lovers can pay a visit to the museum's famous fish & chip shop, and families can round off their day with a ride on the vintage funfair.

The venue will be staying open late every Friday throughout the month (until 8pm). And as an added bonus, one day's admission includes 12 months of free return visits, making it easy to enjoy everything the museum has to offer throughout the year.

Unearth The Palaeoverse

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, until Mon 31 August

Looking for places to take the kids during the school summer holidays?

If so, how about making a beeline for the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, to check out this immersive Jurassic exhibition.

Highlights include the chance to hunt for fossils in virtual reality, board a Jurassic submarine, draw a dinosaur and watch it animate across the wall, and strike the perfect prehistoric pose in the dressing-up zone.

54321FAB!

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, until Sun 6 September

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum is keeping families entertained throughout August with a packed programme of events inspired by its blockbuster 54321FAB!

exhibition, celebrating the iconic worlds of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson.

Alongside the chance to see original puppets, models and memorabilia from hit TV series including Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet And The Mysterons and Stingray, visitors can also enjoy a range of hands-on activities...

Every Thursday, Get Arty: 3...2...1...Make! invites children to create puppet characters and build imaginative secret bases inspired by Thunderbirds' Tracy Island...

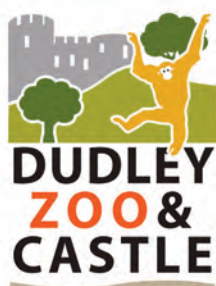
FAB Fridays, meanwhile, provides young filmmakers with the chance to design their own characters and shoot mini adventures using tablets.

Families can also pick up a FAB Creations activity bag or follow the International Rescue trail around the museum.

Voice actor Marc Silk will host special Spotlight Talks on Saturday 1 and Saturday 29 August, while Museum After Hours returns on Friday the 21st with an adults-only evening celebrating all things FAB.



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*Your week-
by-week
listings guide*
August 2026

thelist



Mrs. Doubtfire - Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 13 August - Saturday 19 September

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

What's On

Sat 1 - Sun 9 August



Lunt Roman Festival -
Baginton, Warwickshire

Sat 8 - Sun 9 August

Mon 10 - Sun 16 August



Webber! - Old Joint Stock
Theatre, Birmingham

Sat 15 August

Mon 17 - Sun 23 August



Simon Brodtkin -
Brierley Hill Civic

Thurs 20 August

Mon 24 - Mon 31 August



Zain Zohaib Live: Chapter 4 -
Birmingham Town Hall

Sun 30 August

VISUAL ARTS ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

CHRISTOPHER SAMUEL: WATCH US LEAD Through 9 newly recorded interviews, Watch Us Lead highlights the experiences of disabled people of colour in Birmingham, combining these stories with stained glass and drawings by the artist.

OZZY OSBOURNE: WORKING CLASS HERO A celebration of the solo achievements and global awards of rock icon Ozzy Osbourne, and the album art of the original Black Sabbath line-up to coincide with their historic homecoming concert, until Sun 27 September

EVERY THING MUST GO BY JOE LYCETT First major solo art exhibition by Birmingham comedian Joe Lycett, exploring the theme of 'things that are no longer with us' and inspired by objects from the city of Birmingham's collection, until Sun 21 February

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

TROUBLEMAKERS AND PROPHETS: ELIZABETH ALLEN AND OTHER VISIONARY ARTISTS A bold, immersive exhibition exploring art, isolation and extraordinary vision, through Allen's creations - absurd, darkly funny, and strikingly prophetic, until Mon 31 August

THE PATTERN OF LIFE: ENID MARX AND MODERN BRITISH DESIGN Step into a world of pattern, creativity and modern British design, in the first exhibition to explore the influential patterns of Enid Marx and her community, until Sun 3 January

SCULPTURE IN THE PARK Major new sculpture park, featuring works by eight contemporary artists in response to the grounds and landscape at Compton Verney, until Sun 2 May

Coventry Music Museum

BEING HAZEL Exhibition celebrating Coventry-born legend Hazel O'Connor's life and career through memorabilia, displays and clips, until December

The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham

HELIOS BY LUKE JERRAM A stunning illuminated sculpture by acclaimed British artist Luke Jerram. An immersive and rare opportunity to gaze at our closest star, until Sun 1 November

SEEING THE SUN Inspired by artist Luke Jerram's illuminated sculpture, Helios, The Exchange presents a new exhibition - discover the Sun like never before through the lens of University of Birmingham research, until Sun 1 November

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

UNEARTH THE PALAEOVERSE: DIG INTO THE DAWN OF TIME An immersive Jurassic exhibition - hunt for fossils in virtual reality, board a Jurassic submarine, draw a dinosaur and watch it animate across the wall, and strike the perfect prehistoric pose in the dressing-up zone..., until Mon 31 August

BENEATH THE WAVES Dive into an immersive underwater world where children under five can explore coral reefs, playful sea creatures, swirling currents and sparkling tidal pools, Sat 11 July - Sun 30 August

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

ANGELA DE LA CRUZ: UPRIGHT Major exhibition of rarely seen works by the acclaimed contemporary artist, presented alongside a new commission developed in collaboration with Birmingham Royal Ballet, until Sun 6 September

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, B'ham

MAC CREATIVES Featuring work by 33 staff at MAC, this mixed-media exhibition showcases the huge variety of talent and artistry to be found within the venue, until Sun 13 September

MADE AT MAC: CAPTURING THE HUMAN FORM From life drawing to dance and sculpture to photography, artists across the full breadth of MAC's courses are constantly looking to the

human form for inspiration. This mixed-media exhibition showcases work by tutors and participants inspired by our bodies, Sat 4 July - Sun 24 January

New Art Gallery, Walsall

WHAT GROWS IN BETWEEN Group exhibition of newly commissioned work, made during the third iteration of Assembly, a development programme for local artists Dan Booth, Abraham Babajide Cole and Hannah Rollason, until Sun 11 October

TEREZA BUŠKOVÁ: MOTHERS WITHOUT HANDS International project developed by the Birmingham-based artist, using collaborative making, participatory traditions and folklore as means to protest violence against women and girls, until Sun 15 November

TEN.8 AFTERIMAGE Photography exhibition exploring the legacy and enduring impact of Ten.8, a photography journal that emerged from the Midlands' radical cultural and political landscape, until Sun 13 September

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

ISMATJAHAN'S WORLD Nuneaton-born artist Ismatjahan Ravat is inspired by textiles and garments, and this display features her paintings and delicately decorated boxes and ornaments, until Sat 29 August

INGENIOUS GADGETS: MAURICE COLLINS Exhibition featuring 100 fascinating objects, many over 100 years old. Can you guess what they were used for?, until Sat 19 September

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

RBSA SUMMER SHOW 2026 The Society's biggest open call of the year, attracting submissions from artists based all around the globe, until Sat 1 August

LARGELY UNSEEN: WORKS FROM THE RBSA PERMANENT COLLECTION A rare opportunity to see the largest artworks in the gallery's collection, Tues 4 - Sat 29 August

PATHFINDERS: SUNDAY BEST

An exploration of how Caribbean communities use dress, colour and self presentation to express pride and belonging. Told through portraits, artefacts, personal stories and participatory programming, Tues 4 - Sat 15 August

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

SHREWSBURY ARTS TRAIL: INSPIRATIONAL EXHIBITION Showcasing a host of art and sculpture by internationally recognised creatives, the trail has been curated around the stunning impressionist painting *An Ancient Stronghold In France*, by Wynford Dewhurst, on loan from Bradford Museums & Galleries, until Mon 31 August

LUDLOW: THE PAGEANT Exhibition of costumes, ephemera and footage documenting a historic theatrical event and parade which took place over four days in the summer of 1934, Fri 7 August - Fri 18 December

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

HANDLE WITH CARE Exhibition exploring the city's art collection, from its beginnings in 1887 to the present day, until Sun 16 August

BETSY SMITH: MEMORY IN COLOUR Exhibition of work by the local painter, celebrated for bold, colourful semi-abstract land and seascapes, until Mon 31 August

SHAQUËLLE WHYTE: SHATTERED DREAMS The first institutional solo exhibition by the Wolverhampton-born artist. Bringing together six dynamic largescale paintings, the exhibition showcases Shaquëlle's bold figurative painting style, until Mon 31 August



ANDY WARHOL: ART STAR

Major exhibition of both iconic and lesser-known drawings, screenprints, paintings and photographs. The included works highlight Warhol's fascination with fame, celebrity and commercial culture, until Sun 4 October

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

DAVID COX: THE ART OF WATERCOLOUR Celebrating Worcester's collection of watercolours by one of the West Midlands' greatest painters, until Sun 1 November

Elsewhere:

MOTHERSHIP EXHIBITION 2026 Celebrating the inspiring work created by mother-artists and their children during the Mothership Residency, until Sat 5 September, Stryx, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

NATIONAL PRINT EXHIBITION OF SOCIETY OF WOOD ENGRAVERS Prestigious touring exhibition showcasing contemporary relief prints, which highlight the continuing vitality and versatility of the medium, until Sat 22 August, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

GREEN SPACES, SHARED PLACES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE Curated by young people, this exhibition remembers what has been lost, celebrates the remaining beauty and community spirit, and showcases efforts to regenerate 'what we can', until Sun 27 September, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

2026 BMI SUMMER SHOW Showcase of works by artists based across Birmingham and the West Midlands, Mon 3 August - Sat 19 September, The Birmingham & Midland Institute

THE OTHER GLASS: THE ART OF RECYCLED GLASS Ten artists from seven countries contribute glass art made from recycled, repurposed, second-life and geo-specific glass, Fri 28 August - Sat 27 February, Stourbridge Glass Museum

Gigs

MAZ MITRENKO Sat 1 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

DRONGOS FOR EUROPE + FACE UP + SPUNK + LIARBITLITS + THEE ACID TONGUE Sat 1 Aug, The Night Owl, Birmingham

MIKE SANCHEZ & THE PORTIONS + VEE-JAY KING AND HIS DUKES Sat 1 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

BRIAN LIGHTNING + LOBBY + OCEAN IVY + LAYLA TUTT Sat 1 Aug, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

ROMAN JUGG BAND + THE BOO TIKIS Sat 1 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

THE BIG FOUR TRIBUTE - METALLICA + MEGADETH + SLAYER + ANTHRAX Sat 1 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

AKASHA + MILLIE JAYNE + CHARLIE + MANTIS Sat 1 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

CHAND ALI KHAN QAWWAL & PARTY Sat 1 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

RETRO REWIND THE 80S EDITION Sat 1 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

ALAN FLETCHER TRIO FT. RILEY CATHERALL Sat 1 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE FLANEURS Sat 1 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE MACC LADS + TINSELTOWN REBELLION Sat 1 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DIRTY DC Sat 1 Aug, Marrs Bar, Worcester

DEBORAH BONHAM Sat 1 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

TINA TURNER REVIVAL Sat 1 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

A NIGHT OF JAGGED LITTLE PILL Sat 1 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

BLACK PARADE + MANTRA Sat 1 Aug, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

PET SHOP BOYS TRIBUTE Sat 1 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

HAMMERED Sat 1 Aug,

The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

SONIC BOOM! Sat 1 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

KORNASTONE Sat 1 Aug, The Firefly, Oakengates, Telford

THE NATURE CENTRE + SEAN MURRAY Sun 2 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ABBA EVER AFTER Sun 2 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL Sun 2 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO Sun 2 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

FOO FIGHTERS SW Sun 2 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

THE ROD STEWART SONGBOOK Sun 2 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

THE ALL FAB BEATLE Sun 2 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE STONKIN' JOHNSONS Sun 2 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE SABRINA CARPENTER EXPERIENCE Sun 2 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

KINGS OF THE BLUES Sun 2 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

FRED ZEPPLIN Sun 2 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

WENLOCK JAZZ ENSEMBLE Sun 2 Aug, Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

VO FLETCHER Sun 2 Aug, The White Horse, Clun, Shropshire

BILLY JOEL UK Tues 4 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

KANKAWA NAGARRA Tues 4 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



INKLINE + FERB Tues 4 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LUNA KILLS + INSURGENT + EQUINOX Tues 4 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

XTINE & THE RECKLESS + KASKADE Tues 4 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

JAMES AARON Wed 5 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SOLYA Wed 5 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MAID OF ACE Wed 5 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

SPAT'S LANGHAM'S HOT FINGERS Wed 5 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

JEFFERY ALEXANDER & THE HEAVY LIDDERS + BLOODY BENDER Wed 5 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

THE KATE GEE BAND Thurs 6 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

CHAND ALI KHAN QAWWAL & PARTY Thurs 6 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

CEITIDH MAC TRIO Thurs 6 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

JOHNNY NICE PAINTER + MAGGIE CHALLINOR Thurs 6 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

BOB LOG III Thurs 6 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

WEST COST EAGLES Thurs 6 Aug, Top Of The World, Stafford

THE UNDERTONES Thurs 6 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

HEATHEN APOSTLES + BELTANE MOON Fri 7 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TARA CHINN Fri 7 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THE JAMES OLIVER BAND Fri 7 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

LOU Fri 7 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, B'ham

ANTHONY HARTY Fri 7 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

CHAMELEONS + IAN MCNABB Fri 7 Aug, XOYO, Digbeth, B'ham

THE JERSEY BEATS Fri 7



The Undertones - The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

KIRRISS RIVIERE & THE DELTA DU BRUIT Fri 7 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE BLUE EYED SOULSTERS Fri 7 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

ATTRITION + HANGING FREUD + CYPHON Fri 7 Aug, Arches Venue, Coventry

BIT THE PIP + JO LIDEN Fri 7 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

BLACK ROSE SOCIETY Fri 7 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN Fri 7 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

GRAMPS MORGAN Fri 7 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham



THE SMITHS LTD Fri 7 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

FLINT FIRE Fri 7 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

JASON WATKINS TRIBUTE TO BOY GEORGE Fri 7 Aug, Two Gates Club, Tamworth

TARGET Fri 7 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

FAUX FIGHTERS Fri 7 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

CAPESTHORNE + LONELY LIFE + TWIXT Fri 7 Aug, Percy's Cafe Bar, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

WALTER SMITTY & THE UNVIABLES Sat 8 Aug, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

ARSE Sat 8 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

LUKE BROHAN Sat 8 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THIS JULY + PANDEMONIUM + SOMETHING LIKE SLEEP + THE WASTED YOUTH COLLECTIVE Sat 8 Aug, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

BOB LOG III Sat 8 Aug, The Night Owl, B'ham

SKABUCKS Sat 8 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, B'ham

BACK ON THE ROAD Sat 8 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

THE LOWER ANGEL BAND Sat 8 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

AZAD KASHMIR FOLK GROUP Sat 8 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

COUNTRY MEETS ROCK Sat 8 Aug, The Dovehouse, Solihull

UJU + BIKE + MOONIN DOWN Sat 8 Aug, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

DIRTY DC Sat 8 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE ROOTERS Sat 8 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

OFFTHEGRID Sat 8 Aug, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

SWEDE DREAMZ Sat 8 Aug, The River Rooms,

Stourbridge

THE JAM'D Sat 8 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MC DEVVO Sat 8 Aug, The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent

MOTLEY SCREW + GUNS N' YORKSHIRE ROSES + TURVEY Sat 8 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

PUTAN CLUB + ECCIE THE DOG Sat 8 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

GONG Sat 8 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

TYPE OF NEGATIVE VS PANTERA A.D Sat 8 Aug, The Station, Cannock

SLYDER Sat 8 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

ANDREA VON KAMPEN Sun 9 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MIKE DAVIDS BAND Sun 9 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

MISERY INDEX Sun 9 Aug, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

A-TOTA-SO + SOLARS + GUDEWIFE Sun 9 Aug, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

LARKHAM & HALL Sun 9 Aug, The Red Lion, Evesham

HOMETOWN GLORY - THE ADELE SHOW Sun 9 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SAM MURRAY AS RAG N BONE MAN + TEDDY SLIMS Sun 9 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

TAYLOR SWIFT BY XENNA + THE SABRINA EXPERIENCE Sun 9 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Classical Music

RBC OUT AND ABOUT: LUNA DUO Featuring Emily Hicks (flute) & Oliver Kinsella (guitar), Sat 1 Aug, Shrewsbury Cathedral

WITH LOVE FROM ITALY: CANDLELIT CONCERT Featuring Jennifer Lee (soprano) & Sam Marston (tenor). Programme includes works by Puccini and classic Italian songs, Sat 1 Aug, St Mary's Church, Warwick

TOM COXHEAD ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Parry, Pachelbel, J.S. Bach & Guilman, Sat 1 Aug, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

CELLO AND PIANO RECITAL Featuring Hannah Roberts (cello), Mon 3 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

JONATHAN CLINCH ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Reuchsel and a world premiere performance from Saxton's The Reckoning of Time, Mon 3 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

CHURCH STRETTON ARTS FESTIVAL: ENSEMBLE REYNARD Featuring Ellie Blamires (flute), Francesca Cox (oboe), James Gilbert (clarinet), Patrick Bolton (bassoon) & George Strivens (horn). Programme includes works by V Coleman, Barber, Nielsen & more..., Mon 3 Aug, St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

CHRISTOPHER HERRICK ORGAN RECITAL Tues 4 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA WITH THOMAS ADÈS: TRANSCEND Programme includes works by Liszt, Adès & Berlioz, Wed 5 Aug, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MID WALES OPERA - BALLADES, SONGS & ARIAS Featuring Galina Averina (soprano), Peter van Hulle (tenor), Samuel Pantcheff (baritone), Elenid Owen (violin), Alis Huws (harp) & Jonathan Lyness (piano).

Programme includes works by Mozart, Puccini, Dvořák & more..., Wed 5 Aug, St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton, South Shropshire

MALVERN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL Featuring the Elgar Ensemble. Programme includes works by Debussy, Bridge, Schubert & more..., Wed 5 - Thurs 6 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

LET THE WORLD HEAR THE VOICES OF TOMORROW Featuring Xi'an Tiyi Middle School Symphony Orchestra, Guangzhou Xinghai Youth Choir & Liwan Canton Opera Theatre Group, Thurs 6 Aug, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SERENADE TRIO Fri 7 Aug, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

JILL CROSSLAND PIANO RECITAL Fri 7 Aug, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF

GREAT BRITAIN Featuring Dan Ludford-Thomas (musical director), Sat 8 Aug, Aston Webb Great Hall, University of Birmingham

JESS GILLAM ENSEMBLE Sun 9 Aug, Concord College, Acton Burnell, Shropshire

Comedy

KATE MARTIN, JACK MCLEAN, CARL JONES & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 1 Aug, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

KATE LUCAS, LOUISE YOUNG & COMIC TBC Sat 1 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

STEPHEN K AMOS, PATRICK MONAHAN, JOE FOSTER & ANDY ROBINSON Sat 1 Aug, The Core Theatre, Solihull

TINY TIM'S STAND UP ADVENTURE Sat 1 Aug, Bedworth Civic Hall

JOE LYCETT & FRIENDS Sun 2 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

MILTON JONES, TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, IAN CRAWFORD & WAYNE BEESE Sun 2 Aug, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre

COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS Sun 2 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park

RECKLESS COMEDY Sun 2 Aug, The Royal Pug, Leamington Spa

PROJECT MAYHEM Thurs 6 Aug, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

AURIE STYLA, SEAN PERCIVAL, JOEY PAGE & JOE JACOBS Fri 7 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PAKISTANIS IN THE HOUSE: A NIGHT OF STAND UP COMEDY Fri 7 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

SEAN PERCIVAL, JOEY PAGE, JOE JACOBS & COMIC TBC Sat 8 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RICHARD BLACKWOOD, KYRAH GRAY, CURTIS WALKER & SHABBAZ KARIEM Sun 9 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MATILDA THE MUSICAL The RSC's award-winning production, based on Roald Dahl's much-loved story about an extraordinary little girl with an extraordinary mind, until Sun 2 Aug, Birmingham Hippodrome

SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET Ramin Karimloo takes the lead in a new version of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical, until Sat 15 Aug, The Rep, B'ham

THE CHERRY ORCHARD Sir Kenneth Branagh and Hollywood film stars Helen Hunt and Bill Pullman star in Laura Wade's new version of Anton Chekhov's last play, until Sat 29 Aug, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Retelling of Shakespeare's classic comedy for everyone aged seven and above. A co-production by the RSC and Unicorn Theatre, until Sun 30 Aug, The Other Place, Stratford-

upon-Avon

GAME OF THRONES: THE MAD KING Sweeping new stage epic from the world of George RR Martin, revealing a legendary chapter in Westerosi history, until Sat 5 Sept, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

I'M SORRY PRIME MINISTER Clive Francis stars as Sir Humphrey Appleby alongside Simon Rouse as Jim Hacker in Jonathan Lynn's political satire, Tues 28 July - Sat 1 Aug, Malvern Theatres

THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT FLAT EARTH Brand-new original musical comedy telling the story of a woman who believes that Earth is flat - and is determined to prove it, Wed 29 July - Sat 1 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

AFTER PARTY (PREVIEWS) Morna Young's 'life-affirming story about a life-ending decision', Thurs 30 July - Sat 1 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

BRIGHTON ROCK Malvern Theatres Young Company present an amateur version of Graham Greene's gripping tale, set in a world of violence, betrayal and gang rivalry, Thurs 30 July - Sat 1 Aug, Malvern Theatres

PINOCCHIO Illyria theatre company present an outdoor musical staging of Carlo Collodi's fantastical tale of a wooden puppet yearning for fun and adventure, Sat 1 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

CARRIE THE MUSICAL Curtain Call Studios present a bold retelling of Stephen King's bestselling novel, Sat 1 Aug, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

A SIMPLE TALE OF LOVE Rude Raven Productions present 'a funny, poignant and surreal play about second chances, self-discovery and allowing yourself to dance again', Fri 31 July - Sun 2 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIR The ever-impressive Three Inch Fools return with an epic tale of Arthurian adventure and medieval mayhem, Sat 1 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF BRITAIN Outdoor production in which Pantaloons Theatre Company present a race through the centuries, telling the entire story of Britain in under two hours, Sun 2 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

THE PICKWICK PAPERS Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' first and much-loved novel, Sun 2 Aug, The Mere, Swan Hill, Ellesmere, Shropshire

PYGMALION The Attic Theatre present an amateur version of the George Bernard Shaw classic, Mon 3 - Sat 15 Aug, Rother Street Arts House,

Stratford-upon-Avon

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of E Nesbit's classic tale. Particularly suitable for audiences aged eight-plus, Tues 4 Aug, Church Stretton Festival, South Shropshire

BRIGHTON ROCK Malvern Theatres Young Company present an amateur version of Graham Greene's gripping tale, set in a world of violence, betrayal and gang rivalry, Tues 4 - Wed 5 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE WIZARD OF OZ Amateur version presented by Worcester Operatic & Dramatic Society Youth Section, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of Kenneth Grahame's much-loved riverside tale, Wed 5 Aug, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Birmingham

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Our Star Theatre Company present an amateur version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's iconic musical, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Aug, Malvern Theatres

WHY NOT? Malvern Theatre Players present a new comedy by Steve Burford, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Aug, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

WIND IN THE WILLOWS The Attic Theatre present an amateur version of Kenneth Grahame's riverside adventure, Wed 5 - Sun 23 Aug, Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

AS YOU LIKE IT Illyria theatre company present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Thurs 6 Aug, Dudmaston Hall, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

WEST SIDE STORY National Youth Music Theatre - in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome - present a new version of one of the greatest love stories of all time..., Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Aug, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

UNMASKING BURTON X2 Productions present an immersive one-man play set inside a recreated Welsh pub, where the audience is invited to spend the evening with legendary actor Richard Burton. Note that this production contains strong language and adult themes, Fri 7 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Illyria Theatre Company present an outdoor version of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera, Fri 7 Aug, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

ANNIE JR Amateur version adapted from the Tony Award-winning musical, Sat 8 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK (SORT OF) A show that's described as 'Jack And The Beanstalk thrown in a blender with a drum machine and dodgy

celebrity lookalikes. Perfect for ages three to 10, families, party monsters and fans of noisy nonsense', Sat 8 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

TREASURE ISLAND Outdoor version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure story. Suitable for all ages, Sat 8 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIR The ever-impressive Three Inch Fools return with an epic tale of Arthurian adventure and medieval mayhem, Sat 8 Aug, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire

'PROSPERO'S DREAM' - AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE TEMPEST A tale of magic and mystic curses... Outdoor production suitable for all ages, Sat 8 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Illyria Theatre Company present an outdoor version of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera, Sat 8 Aug, Upton House & Gardens, Nr Banbury

SHEHRBANO KA RANJHA Raqs Arts present a new musical theatre production that weaves together storytelling, live music, poetry and dance to create an immersive journey into the heart of Punjab's cultural traditions, Sun 9 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

PINOCCHIO Illyria theatre company present an outdoor musical version of Carlo Collodi's fantastical tale of a wooden puppet yearning for fun and adventure, Sun 9 Aug, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire



JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN 'STIFF UPPER LIP, JEEVES' Join Bertie Wooster and his razor-sharp valet, Jeeves, in a show packed with misadventures, Sun 9 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

Kids Theatre

IN THE NIGHT GARDEN LIVE Join Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends for a fun-filled family show packed with 'magical puppetry and enchanting music'. There's even a special visit from the flying Pinky Ponk, Fri 31 July - Sat 1 Aug, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

CAPTAIN CRAB'S TREASURE Swan Amateur Theatre Company present a lively tale of pirates, parrots and a treasure chest. Suitable for audiences aged two to nine, Sat 1

Aug, Priory Park, Malvern

THE GINGERBREAD MAN Songs and music abound in a production designed specifically for younger audiences. Particularly suitable for children aged two to seven, Sat 1 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

GOLDBLOCKS, THE THREE BEARS AND THE MAYOR OF PORRIDGETON Family pantomime 'with a brand-new adventure waiting in the woods'..., Sun 2 Aug, The Civic, Stourport

ROBIN HOOD RESCUES THE FOREST Interactive production filled with music and humour that combines myths and legends with a study of ecology and the environment. Outdoor production that's particularly suitable for children aged five to 12, Sat 1 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

THE TALES OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY Quantum Theatre present an outdoor celebration of Beatrix Potter, Wed 5 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle

PEPPA PIG'S BIG FAMILY SHOW Live stage show for younger audiences, packed with music, adventure and surprises, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Aug, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

Light Entertainment

FROM DEEPER IN THE FOREST Featuring darker tales and fairy stories for grown-ups. Suitable for audiences aged 12-plus, Tues 4 Aug, The Old Town Hall Vaults, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

QUEERS & CHEERS: TEENA BIZKIT'S PRIDE MUSIC BINGO BOTTOMLESS BUNCH An evening of 'outrageous' fun featuring Pride Music Bingo, comedy, games, prizes and more..., Sat 8 Aug, The Core, Solihull

A COUNTRY NIGHT IN NASHVILLE Concert-style performance recreating the buzz of the Honky Tonk in downtown Nashville, Sat 8 Aug, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ULTIMATE 70S SHOW Live tribute to the rock and pop idols of the 1970s, featuring the music of Slade, T Rex, The Sweet, David Bowie, Suzi Quatro, Alice Cooper, Mott the Hoople, Queen and more..., Sat 8 Aug, Walsall Arena

STORY BAZAAR: MANGOES ON THE BEACH WITH PETER CHAND Join professional storyteller Peter as he shares his parents' Punjab-to-Wolverhampton migration story, along the way exploring the subjects of empire, caste, resilience and the ever-changing nature of culture..., Sun 9 Aug, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

Events

THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS Featuring a display of 1,200 competition quilts, until Sun 2 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

RAF SUMMER CAMP 2026 Event giving young people aged 11 to 13 the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics in an aviation-inspired setting, until Fri 7 Aug, RAF Museum Midlands, Cosford

GREAT BRITISH SUMMER Enjoy fairground activities, pick up new tricks at the circus-skills station, and dive in to some puppet antics, until Fri 28 Aug, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

BENEATH THE WAVES Dive into an immersive underwater world where children under five can encounter coral reefs, playful sea creatures, swirling currents and sparkling tidal pools, until Sun 30 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

FAMILY FUN: MEDIEVAL SUMMER AT THE COMMANDERY Pick up one of the Medieval Summer activity bags and head up to the craft room to get creative, until Sun 30 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

MAJESTIC MONARCHS A programme of family-friendly trails, activities and crafts, until Sun 30 Aug, St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

FAMILY TRAIL: THE KNIGHT'S QUEST Explore the building to find all of the knight's symbols and complete the mini challenges, until Sun 30 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN Enjoy all the fun of a summer's day by the cut, meet historic characters, enjoy bostin' fiddle and take a ride on new fairground rides, until Mon 31 Aug, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

GLADIATORS EXPERIENCE Put your speed, strength and skills to the ultimate test, until Mon 31 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

SUMMER HOLIDAYS: MEDIEVAL MOMENTS Pick up a trail map and look out for learning and interactive activities, until Mon 31 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

UNEARTH THE PALAEOVERSE: DIG INTO THE DAWN OF TIME Immersive Jurassic exhibition accompanied by a programme of themed activities, until Mon 31 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

WILD BRICKS A trail of life-sized endangered animals, all built from thousands of toy bricks, until Mon 31 Aug, Dudley Zoo & Castle

FARMARAMA Five gigantic paddling pools and over 250 tonnes of golden sand transform the farm into a beach, until Tues 1 Sept, National Forest Adventure Farm, Staffordshire

BAGS OF FUN - FAB CREATIONS

Activities inspired by the summer show 54321FAB!, until Sun 6 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

WHALES BY TESSA CAMPBELL FRASER See three majestic sperm whale sculptures, made from recycled ghost netting, silk chiffon, and latex, glide through the Cathedral's nave, until Sun 6 Sept, Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire

THE BEACH Take along your buckets and spades, build sandcastles, sit back and relax, and enjoy a taste of the seaside, until Sun 6 Sept, Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire

FAMILY TRAIL: INTERNATIONAL RESCUE Enjoy different activities in a countdown from 10 to take off, until Sun 6 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

54321FAB! Exhibition and activities celebrating the much-loved 1960s TV shows of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson, until Sun 6 Sept, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

ELMER HIDE & SEEK ADVENTURE TRAIL Find all seven friends hidden along the augmented reality trail while exploring the park, until Sun 6 Sept, Weston Park, Shropshire

PEPPA PIG SPACE ADVENTURE Blast off with Peppa Pig and her friends on an 'out of this world' adventure for families with young children, until Sun 8 Nov, NEC, Birmingham

BEHIND THE SECRET DOOR, STORIES FROM THE SHELVES Each session will open a door into a different corner of the library collection, Mon 3 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

WILD WEST WEEK Pose for a 'Wanted' poster, shoot with water pistols and have a go at line dancing, Mon 3 - Sun 9 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

FIN-TASTIC FAMILIES Help create a vibrant underwater world, Mon 3 & Thurs 6 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

DINO DIG! Create your very own dinosaur fossil rubbings, Mon 3 - Fri 7 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

MEDIEVAL SHIELD-PAINTING SESSIONS Get creative and design your own heraldry on pre-made shields, Tues 4 Aug, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham

ART EXPLORERS Explore a process-led approach to art, using a range of materials and techniques inspired by the Arts Trail exhibition, Tues 4 Aug, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

KNIGHTS SCHOOL Join Sir Olly of Bromwich and begin your training as a Knight of the Round Table, Tues 4 - Wed 5 Aug, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham

SUMMER FUN: ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS Wise Owl Theatre

production featuring animal puppets, Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire

ORIENTEERING ADVENTURE Practise orienteering in the Onny Meadows Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

BRITISH SHOWJUMPING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Popular event taking place across three showjumping arenas, Tues 4 - Sun 9 Aug, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

WILDLIFE AT BLAKESLEY HALL Enjoy a day of outdoor discovery, Wed 5 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER STORIES FROM THE SHIRE Join artist Sarah Evans and storyteller Jake Evans for free-to-attend family-focused drop-in sessions, Wed 5 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings

CIRCUS IN THE COURTYARD Learn to fly high, spin fast or tumble in the air like an acrobat, Wed 5 Aug, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

VAN BUREN CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS Have a go at a range of skills, including plate spinning, diabolo, hula hoop and more, Wed 5 Aug, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

WILD WEDNESDAYS: ANIMAL HANDLING Come face to face with wildlife, Wed 5 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

BOOK TREASURE HUNTS Explore the historic Flaxmill Maltings building and find a book to read and share, Wed 5 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shropshire

FAMILY ACTIVITIES: GIANT BUBBLES Gather round to see giant bubbles 'float and pop above the lawns', Wed 5 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS Craft activity suitable for all children, Wed 5 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

TINKER MAKE PLAY ENGINEERS - BIG VS SMALL Tinker with tools, make with materials and play for fun, Wed 5 & Sat 8 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

DINOSTORY TIME Featuring dinosaur-themed storytelling, Thurs 6 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

FUTURE ENGINEERS KIDS CLUB An 'engineering playground' for STEM-curious kids aged seven to 11, Thurs 6 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

LET'S PLAY - CELEBRATE YOURSELF! Explore different themes through classic children's books, Thurs 6 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

WILD EARTH MOVEMENT 'Fun and creative' eco-craft activity with a prehistoric twist, Thurs 6 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

ART CAMP Explore the galleries and create your own artwork through drawing, printmaking and mixed media, Thurs 6 Aug, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

MOTH MORNING Join moth expert David Brown for a morning spent exploring 'the incredible biodiversity on our doorstep', Thurs 6 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

GET MUCKY GET MAKING Children can explore nature and enjoy the summer sunshine in the Forest School, Thurs 6 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Have a go at making your own jewellery with the help of the learning team, Thurs 6 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

TALLY HO! THURSDAYS - POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY Learn about different roles in the force and training to join them, Thurs 6 Aug, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

RIVER TOURS: THE AVON Gather round Studio MEAD's extraordinary three metre long textile map for a 55 minute tour of the world famous and much loved River Avon, Thurs 6 Aug, Our Facility, Birmingham

FALCONRY THURSDAYS Arena show featuring free-flying birds of prey, Thurs 6 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

DISCOVERY TOUR OF BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 6 - Fri 7 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

TUDOR FUN AND FEASTING Taste some popular Tudor food & drink, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

SHROPSHIRE PETAL FIELDS Wander through different layers of colour created by delphiniums, cornflowers, sunflowers and wildflowers, Thurs 6 - Sun 16 Aug, Woodcote, Newport, Shropshire

WORKSHOPS AT WAR Themed guided tour of the Smith & Pepper workshop, exploring the role of Birmingham and the Jewellery Quarter in the two world wars, Fri 7 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

GIRLS ONLY STEM CLUB Event designed to give girls aged seven to 11 a welcoming, supportive space in which to explore science, technology, engineering and creativity, Fri 7 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

POP-UP PARKOUR Using a variety of purpose-built equipment and obstacles, young people can explore Parkour movement techniques, Fri 7 Aug, SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, Shropshire

OPEN AIR CINEMA NIGHTS Featuring screenings of The Goonies and A Nightmare On Elm Street, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Aug, Dudley Zoo & Castle

MCM COMIC CON Event packed with all things anime, film, TV and gaming, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

FOREST BATHING IN THE ARBORETUM Escape the noise of daily life with a Forest Bathing experience, Sat 8 Aug, Croome, Worcestershire

COLOURS ON WHEELS: PAKISTANI TRUCK ART WORKSHOP Event providing children with the chance to stamp and decorate their own truck art designs, Sat 8 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

SACRED LINES, CREATIVE MINDS: AN ISLAMIC CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP Family-friendly workshop exploring the beauty of Islamic calligraphy, Sat 8 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

HEART OF WALES LINE SUMMER FAIR Celebrating makers and traders, from Shrewsbury to Swansea, Sat 8 Aug, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

STAFFORD PRIDE Festival celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, Sat 8 Aug, Victoria Park, Stafford

HERITAGE GLASS AND CHURCH WALKING TOUR Journey through the history of glass, exploring the churches, canals, factories and people that made the Stourbridge glass industry what it is today, Sat 8 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

PATTERNED BLOCK PRINTING WITH HASEEBAH ALI Using wooden printing blocks, explore shapes and patterns to design and print your own fabric creations, Sat 8 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

TUDOR SATURDAY - THE LYPETT HOUSEHOLD The Worcester re-enactors group host a day of feasting, fun and games, Sat 8 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

THE 2026 BRITISH HILLCLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP A weekend of non-stop action, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, Worcestershire

HISTORY ADVENTURES WEEKEND Join interactive history buffs History Adventures and medieval musicians Merrie Noyse for a day of hands-on engagement, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham

LUNT ROMAN FESTIVAL Featuring combat displays from 'the mighty warriors of Britannia', Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Lunt Roman Fort, Baginton, Warwickshire



GIANT MARBLE RUN Event in which visitors guide giant wooden marbles through a maze of unexpected obstacles, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

VINTAGE TRANSPORT EXTRAVAGANZA Ride the rails behind heritage steam and diesel locomotives, and get off at stations along the way to check out displays of vintage vehicles, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire

1940'S WEEKEND Featuring entertainers, reenactors and vintage vehicles, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, Telford Steam Railway

ENGLISH CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT WEEKEND Step back in time and experience the drama of the English Civil War, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Aug, St John's House, Warwick

SAREHOLE SUNDAYS GUIDED TOUR Learn about a traditional 18th-century water mill and the life of a miller, and check out scenery that inspired writer JRR Tolkien, Sun 9 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

PROUDLY UNIQUE FESTIVAL Event designed for LGBTQ+, Goth, Alternative and Neurodiverse communities, Sun 9 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

JAPANESE PERFORMANCE SHOW The premier indoor Japanese car show, Sun 9 Aug, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

THE MISS RACHEL EXPERIENCE The ultimate tribute to Miss Rachel, Sun 9 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE SUMMERFEST A day of sun-soaked celebration and seaside-inspired delights, Sun 9 Aug, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa

Festivals

LAKEFEST Line-up includes Madness, Example & Reef, Wed 5 - Sun 9 Aug, Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire

BACK 2 FESTIVAL Line-up includes Vengaboys, Right Said Fred & Cartoons, Wed 5 - Sun 9 Aug, Cattows Farm, Leicester

DEVAFEST Line-up includes Ronan Keating, K Klass & Symphonic Ibiza, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Aug, Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR Line-up includes Lamb of God, Slaughter To Prevail & Judas Priest, Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Aug, Catton Hall, Derbyshire

FARMER PHIL'S FESTIVAL Line-up includes The Blockheads, Mud & The Wurzels, Fri 7 - Sun 9 Aug, Near Gatten Farm, Ratlinghope, South Shropshire

Gigs

HOODS + BRICK BY BRICK Mon 10 Aug, Subside Bar, B'ham

CONNOLLY HAYES Mon 10 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE COURETTES Mon 10 Aug, The Rigger, Newcastle-under-Lyme

CHAMPION TREES + NIKKI ROUS Tues 11 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

MIKI BERENYI TRIO Wed 12 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SWAPS + ABI BUDGEN + WES FINCH Wed 12 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

DAVE BROWNING'S JAZZ CATS Wed 12 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

JAMES JOHNSTON Wed 12 - Thurs 13 Aug, Hare

& Hounds, Birmingham

THE FAZELEYS Thurs 13 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SANAM MARVI + ARIEB AZHAR + USTAAD JAAN ALI KHAN Thurs 13 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

SHERBURN + BARTLEY AND SANDERS Thurs 13 Aug, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

COSEY MUELLER Fri 14 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ANDY BENNETT Fri 14 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

SLOWBURNER Fri 14 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

CRYPTA Fri 14 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

UB40 TRIBUTE Fri 14 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE + ULTIMATE WHITE SNAKES Fri 14 Aug, The Assembly,

Leamington Spa

SCOTT LAVENE Fri 14 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE BROTHERS EMERY Fri 14 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

GUNS 2 ROSES + AC/DC REBORN Fri 14 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

FLASHBACK Fri 14 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

GREEN HAZE Fri 14 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MAX & NIAL Fri 14 Aug, The Red Lion, Evesham

MAET LIVE + THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS Fri 14 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

NICKELBACK UK Fri 14 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SKINT Fri 14 Aug, Dive, Wolverhampton

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Fri 14 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SKADILLACS Fri 14 Aug, The Feathers Inn,

Lichfield

CLOSE TO TEARS + INXS GB LIVE Fri 14 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE HUMDRUM EXPRESS Fri 14 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

THE SANCTUM - MODERN METAL FESTIVAL Fri 14 - Sun 16 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

GREY GOOSE BAND Sat 15 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ABSOLUTELY ANYTIME Sat 15 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE BITTER LEMONS + THE DELTAS Sat 15 Aug, The Night Owl, B'ham

BIG JIM + THE ALABAMA BOOGIE BOYS Sat 15 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

THE ORDER OF THE FLY + MIDNIGHT FEATURE + KEGHAMMER + CIRCUS MICHI Sat 15 Aug, The Rainbow, Birmingham

SHANON + OLIVIA + OCEAN + JANEL ANTONESHIA Sat 15 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

JACK BROADBENT Sat 15 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa



SKA TRAIN BAND Sat 15 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

GHOST UK + VOLBEATEN Sat 15 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

BIG GUNS Sat 15 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ICONIC DECADES Sat 15 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

FLEETWOOD BAC Sat 15 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

JOE BROUGHTON'S CONSERVATOIRE FOLK ENSEMBLE Sat 15 Aug, Wolverhampton Arts

Centre

SANCTUM SANCTORIUM Sat 15 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

OH! GUNQUIT + THE COMPLAINT THAT CREEPS Sat 15 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

SOUNDS OF SEATTLE Sat 15 Aug, Top Of The World, Stafford

THE SOUTH Sat 15 Aug, Tamworth Assembly Rooms

MC DEVVO Sat 15 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

LEGION + FOLLOW THE LEADERS Sun 16 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SURGE ORCHESTRA Sun 16 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

THE FIRM Sun 16 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

JANE AND THE HURRICANES Sun 16 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

1-2 AUGUST **BEATS FESTIVAL** BRIDGNORTH RUGBY CLUB

A SUMMER WEEKEND FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY & REMEMBER THROUGH RUGBY

LIVE MUSIC ALL WEEKEND

ALEXA MARIA • THE LOWDOWN PINES
THE FOLLICLES • BEN WEBB • THE HIGHLY FLY
JOHN TOWNLEY DOWN

COUNTRY • PARTY ANTHEMS • INDIE • ROCK N ROLL
HOUSE • AMERICANA • DANCE

PLAY FOR EVERY BEAT
SATURDAY 1ST - MENS CHARITY RUGBY TOURNAMENT
BATTLING FOR TROPHIES, AWARDS & THAT NO 1 SPOT!

ELEVATE SPORTS VILLAGE
SUNDAY 2ND - SPORTS VILLAGE HOSTED BY ELEVATE PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

STREET FOOD & BARS
LOCAL VENDORS & ARTISAN MARKET
ADULT & CHILD CRAFT SESSIONS
BOUNCY CASTLE, FACEPAINTING, MINI GAMES & COLOURING PAGES

EARLY BIRD SOLD OUT

TICKETS SOLD VIA SKIDDLE

worldchoice SHREWSBURY

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EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS - FANTASTIC PRIZES -
- MEET INDUSTRY EXPERTS - BOOK YOUR DREAM TRIP

ALBRIGHTON HALL HOTEL | 11AM - 3PM

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SCAN TO SIGN UP TO ATTEND

Classical Music

KATHE WRIGHT KAUFMAN ORGAN RECITAL Programme include works by Howells, Carter, French & Widor, Mon 10 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

MARTYN RAWLES ORGAN RECITAL Tues 11 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

PAUL CARR ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Dupré, Latry & Vierne, Thurs 13 Aug, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

ASHLEY WAGNER ORGAN RECITAL Fri 14 Aug, St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

ALEX WYATT PIANO RECITAL Programme includes works by Kazhlayev, Bortkiewicz & Ornstein, Sat 15 Aug, St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

Comedy

DAVID EAGLE, JASON NEALE & TAL DAVIES Fri 14 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park

JUSTIN MOORHOUSE, LOU CONRAN (PICTURED), MATT PRICE & JORDAN DUCHARME Fri 14 - Sat 15 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham



ROHAN JOSHI Sun 16 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES Don't Go Into The Cellar present an original stage play based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic stories. Jonathan Goodwin plays Sherlock Holmes and a host of other characters, Tues 11 Aug, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

TWO CHAIRS Tense psychological thriller that draws its audience into 'a world of unease and ambiguity, where nothing is quite what it seems, and the most devastating truth waits in the silence', Tues 11 Aug, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

OTHELLO The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives, Tues 11 Aug, Alderford Lake, Whitchurch, North Shropshire

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST The Attic Theatre present an amateur version of Oscar Wilde's farcical comedy, Tues 11 - Sun 23 Aug,

Rother Street Arts House, Stratford-upon-Avon

AS YOU LIKE IT Illyria theatre company present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Wed 12 Aug, Brueton Park, Solihull

BURN BABY BURN: LA INFERNO Searing tragicomedy exploring the human cost of climate change, Wed 12 Aug, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD Jonathan Goodwin stars as Charles Dickens, bringing to life his famous unfinished story, Thurs 13 Aug, Script Haven, Worcester

THE PICKWICK PAPERS Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' first and much-loved novel, Thurs 13 Aug, Warley Woods, Smethwick

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN! Join Queen Elizabeth II in a warts-and-all one-woman comedy starring drag performer Lady Red Velvet, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Aug, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

JUST SO National Youth Music Theatre - in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome - weave together five Rudyard Kipling tales, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Aug, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

42ND STREET Amateur version presented by Wing It Theatre, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Aug, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

MRS DOUBTFIRE THE MUSICAL Hit West End comedy musical based on the 1993 Robin Williams film of the same name. Gabriel Vick stars in the title role, Thurs 13 Aug - Sat 19 Sept, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE THREE MUSKETEERS Illyria theatre present an outdoor version of Alexandre Dumas' swashbuckling adventure, Fri 14 Aug, Weston Park, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK Join Jack, Jill and Simple Simon for a sky-scraping panto adventure, Fri 14 - Sun 23 Aug, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

WEBBER Musical comedy about the life of Andrew Lloyd Webber and his quest to become 'filthy rich and f**king useless', Sat 15 Aug, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



THE THREE MUSKETEERS Illyria theatre company present an outdoor version of Alexandre Dumas' swashbuckling adventure, Sat 15 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Droitwich

AS YOU LIKE IT Illyria theatre company present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, Sat 15 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Nr Wolverhampton

OTHELLO The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives, Sat 15 Aug, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of E Nesbit's classic tale. Particularly suitable for audiences aged eight-plus, Sun 16 Aug, Cotteridge Park, Birmingham

Kids Theatre

THE JUNGLE BOOK Immersion Theatre present an outdoor musical version of Rudyard Kipling's much-loved tale, Thurs 13 Aug, Shrewsbury Castle



TOTO THE NINJA CAT AND THE GREAT SNAKE ESCAPE A purr-fectly thrilling family tale, filled with 'original music, laugh-out-loud fun and extraordinary puppetry', Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

THE JUNGLE BOOK Immersion Theatre present an outdoor musical version of Rudyard Kipling's much-loved tale, Sun 16 Aug, Dudmaston Hall, Nr Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

CAPE CUSTARD - A LIGHTHOUSE ADVENTURE Fun-filled adventure for all the family that tells 'a bright, bold and heartwarming story about bridging the gap with those who feel different, and discovering what truly matters'. Suitable for audiences aged three-plus, Sun 16 Aug, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

Dance

ECHOES OF TOMORROW National Youth Ballet present a mixed bill comprising original work and NYB repertoire, Wed 12 - Thurs 13 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

THE ULTIMATE 70S SHOW Live tribute to the rock and pop idols of the 1970s, featuring the music of Slade, T Rex,

The Sweet, David Bowie, Suzi Quatro, Alice Cooper, Mott the Hoople, Queen and more..., Sat 15 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

A NIGHT WITH MEOW MEOW & RAMIN KARIMLOO Two powerhouse performers come together in what promises to be 'a spectacular performance' in support of The Rep's Raise The Roof appeal, Sun 16 Aug, The Rep, Birmingham



Events

FIN-TASTIC FAMILIES Visitors of all ages are invited to help create a vibrant underwater world, Mon 10 & Thurs 13 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

DINO DIG! Create your very own dinosaur fossil rubbings, Mon 10 - Fri 14 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

THREE LITTLE PIGS Make your own house of sticks and see if it will stand up to the huff & puff test, Mon 10 - Fri 14 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS BIRMINGHAM 2026 Europe's best athletes go head-to-head in front of a packed crowd, Mon 10 - Sun 16 Aug, Alexander Stadium, Birmingham

SCIENCE WEEK Enjoy Grandolph the Wizard's science show and experiments, Mon 10 - Sun 16 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

YOGA IN THE LONG GALLERY Enjoy a relaxing yoga class in the Long Gallery at Croome, Tues 11 Aug, Croome, Worcestershire

JESTERS TUESDAYS Interactive circus skills experience, Tues 11 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

BAT WALK Join the Worcestershire Bat Group for an evening walk, Tues 11 & Thurs 13 Aug, Croome, Worcestershire

SUMMER FUN: ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS Wise Owl Theatre production featuring animal puppets, Tues 11 - Thurs 13 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire

2026 ENGLISH OPEN PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT Featuring knockout matches, Tues 11 - Sun 16 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

GAMES DESIGN WORKSHOP - LEVEL UP YOUR CREATIVITY Create your very own game in this one-day workshop,

Wed 12 Aug, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

SOLAR ECLIPSE AT ASTON HALL Witness a partial solar eclipse, Wed 12 Aug, Aston Hall, Birmingham

BOOK TREASURE HUNTS Explore the historic Flaxmill Maltings building and find a book to read and share, Wed 12 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shropshire

KINETON RAF STEM: SUMMER ROCKET CARS Design and launch rockets, using K'nex kits, with members of Kineton RAF, Wed 12 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

PROFESSORS EGG 'N' EGG Meet the intrepid explorers as they roam around the different levels at Thinktank, Wed 12 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

WILD WEDNESDAYS: ANIMAL HANDLING Come face to face with wildlife in this new summer holiday activity, Wed 12 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

SUMMER STORIES FROM THE SHIRE Join artist Sarah Evans and storyteller Jake Evans for free-to-attend family-focused drop-in sessions, Wed 12 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shropshire

CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS Fun craft activity suitable for children, Wed 12 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

TINKER MAKE PLAY ENGINEERS - BIG VS SMALL Tinker with tools, make with materials and play for fun, Wed 12 & Sat 15 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

GET MUCKY GET MAKING Children can explore nature and enjoy the summer sunshine at the venue's Forest School, Thurs 13 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

LET'S PLAY - PICNIC! Explore different themes through classic children's books, Thurs 13 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

TALLY HO! THURSDAYS - POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY Learn about different roles in the force and training to join them, Thurs 13 Aug, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

GET ARTY: 3...2...1...MAKE! Family-focused spin-off event from 54321 Fab!, an exhibition celebrating the much-loved 1960s TV shows of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson. Children can design their own puppet characters and secret bases, just like Thunderbirds' Tracy Island, Thurs 13 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

FALCONRY THURSDAYS Arena show featuring free-flying birds of prey, Thurs 13 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

SUMMER ACCESS DAY Event featuring a host of accessible activities, relaxed hours and a quiet room, Thurs 13 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

DINOSTORY TIME Dinosaur-themed storytelling, Thurs 13 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Have a go at making your own jewellery with the help of the learning team, Thurs 13 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

FUTURE ENGINEERS KIDS CLUB An 'engineering playground' for STEM-curious kids aged seven to 11, Thurs 13 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

DISCOVERY TOUR OF BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

SUMMER OF BUNTING Make your own bunting to decorate in the Dye House or take home, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shropshire

COOL VICTORIANS Featuring Victorian activities, including ice cream making and sun portraits, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

GARDEN'S CINEMA Four evenings of outdoor film screenings in the gardens, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

GIRLS ONLY STEM CLUB Event designed to give girls aged seven to 11 a welcoming, supportive space in which to explore science, technology, engineering and creativity, Fri 14 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

QUEEN HEAVEN Event combining classic music videos, immersive solar-system visuals and archive footage, Fri 14 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

DUCK RACE Will your duck be the first to cross the finish line?, Fri 14 Aug, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

GET CREATIVE Relaxed art workshops for children aged five-plus, Fri 14 Aug, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

CIRCUS SPECTACULAR WORKSHOP FROM CIRCUS MASH Try hands-on circus skills, including juggling, plate spinning, diabolo, balance and aerial, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

FABLES IN THE FOLLIES 'A magical outdoor fantasy bookish picnic', Sat 15 Aug, Hawkstone Park & Follies, North Shropshire

TUNNEL TOUR Explore the tunnels that lie beneath the museum and learn about their history, Sat 15 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

BUTTERFLIES FUSED GLASS WORKSHOP Join glass artist Terri Malcolm for a hands-on workshop, Sat 15 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

SINGIN' ON THE TRAIN Jump on the train and travel between stations to hear male choirs in full song, Sat 15 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire



Sarehole Sundays Guided Tour - Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

VJ DAY SERVICE Join the Malaysian Volunteers Group as they hold their annual VJ Day memorial service of remembrance in the venue's Millennium Chapel, Sat 15 Aug, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

PAKISTANI TRUCK ART Create handmade greeting cards inspired by the vibrant visual culture of Pakistani truck art, Sat 15 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS Featuring screenings of The Land Before Time and Godzilla, Sat 15 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

ART OF TAMWORTH Featuring live artistry, 'breathtaking' performers and hands-on activities, Sat 15 Aug, Tamworth Castle Grounds

BONGO'S BINGO The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 15 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

KNIGHTS & CASTLES FAMILY THEMED FUN Featuring interactive dancing, storytelling and hands-on activities, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

THE LABYRINTH CHALLENGE The UK's biggest inflatable obstacle course, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Tamworth Castle Grounds

CIVIL WAR WEEKEND The castle's past is brought to life through a Civil War reenactment, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham

VIKING RE-ENACTMENT Interactive day out suitable for all the family, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Stafford Castle

WOLF AWARENESS WEEKEND Discover more about wolves through a range of engaging activities, Sat 15 - Sun 16 Aug, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

FLORA FIELDS Pick-your-own dahlia field, Sat 15 Aug - early October, Webbs at Wychbold, Worcestershire

SAREHOLE SUNDAYS GUIDED TOUR Learn about a traditional 18th-century water mill and the life of a miller. Also check out scenery that inspired writer JRR Tolkien, Sun 16 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

SURGE FAMILY JAM Surge Orchestra's show featuring a workshop, a family jam and a kids' ceilidh, Sun 16 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTORS FAIR Featuring traders from across the UK selling a wide range of items from yesteryear, Sun 16 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

TRAX 2026 Family-friendly car show celebrating performance and modified automotive culture, Sun 16 Aug, Silverstone, Northamptonshire

MAKE & TAKE - AIR DRIED POTTERY Join Eastnor Pottery to design and model a work of art to take home, Sun 16 - Thurs 20 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire



The Labyrinth Challenge - Tamworth Castle Grounds



Hollywood Vampires - Utilita Arena Birmingham

Gigs

THE TRADINETTES Mon 17 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SIMON BOSWELL Tues 18 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

THE BATS Wed 19 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

MARSKIII + BROOKE ELLEN Wed 19 Aug, The

Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

COUNTRY CALLING TAKEOVER Wed 19 Aug, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HOLLYWOOD VAMPIRES + THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIN Wed 19 Aug, Utilita Arena Birmingham

WILLOW HILL Wed 19

Aug, Bromsgrove Arts @ Fairfield Village Hall

WASHINGTON WHIRLIGIGG JAZZ BAND Wed 19 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

SOLSTICE Wed 19 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

VINNY PECULIAR Thurs 20 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PROSE Thurs 20 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE LIVING TOMBSTONE Thurs 20 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LAURA EVANS Thurs 20 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

JOY DIVERSION Thurs 20 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

ELI Fri 21 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

SEAN REEVES Fri 21 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

MAXWELL AVENUE + HIGH ON NOTHING + MOTHERS + PALE EYES + TERMS OF SERVICE Fri 21 Aug, The Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

THE LIQUOR & POKER BAND Fri 21 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

SOS Fri 21 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

BATTLE OF THE BANDS Fri 21 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

FIRST CRUSADE + LOFT + ROOD END + L'EXTERIEUR + VASTIER Fri 21 Aug, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

ALAN FLETCHER TRIO FT. RILEY CATHERALL Fri 21 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ELIXIR + HEATHEN KINGS + URIDIUM Fri 21 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

RED SKIES Fri 21 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MIKE SANCHEZ Fri 21 Aug, Kidderminster Town Hall

PAT AUSTIN Fri 21 Aug, The Red Lion, Evesham

DEFINITELY MIGHT BE + ADORED Fri 21 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

HEARTBREAK - THE TOM PETTY SHOW Fri 21 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ULTIMATE GREEN DAY Fri 21 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

LAURA EVANS + HELS PATTISON Fri 21 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

BRAD HENSHAW AND BAND Fri 21 Aug, The Station, Cannock

THE MIGHTY BOING Fri 21 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

GUNS 2 ROSES Fri 21 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE RONALDOS Fri 21 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

BEROCK BULLETS Sat 22 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AUTOMATIC Sat 22 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

PARKDRIVE Sat 22 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE STREETS Sat 22 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

DURAN-UK Sat 22 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

GRAIL GUARD + HEALER OF BASTARDS + REASON TO LEAVE Sat 22 Aug, Centrala, Birmingham

ANETTE OLZON Sat 22 Aug, The Asylum, Birmingham

ERADIKATOR Sat 22 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham

KILLERS COLLECTIVE Sat 22 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE CHRIS STAPLETON EXPERIENCE Sat 22 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

EABHAL Sat 22 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KEROZENE Sat 22 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ABADDON + CLOVEN HOOF + SEVENTH SON + MARQUIS DE SADE Sat 22 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

BRING BACK SUMMER Sat 22 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

RATS IN THE KITCHEN Sat 22 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

ULTRA 90S VS 2000S Sat 22 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

MÖTLEY CRÜDE Sat 22 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

SANCTUM SANCTORIUM + GHOST DANCE + ROSE OF AVALANCHE + DAWN AFTER DARK + KORINTHIANS Sat 22 Aug, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

PRIEST WESTON ROCKS FEAT. EDDY GARTRY BAND, JOE LE TAXI, HEATHER BEBB'S DOUBLE TROUBLE AND MORE... Sat 22 Aug, Priest Weston Village Hall, Shropshire

U2UK Sat 22 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

BRITPOP UNITED Sat 22 Aug, The Station, Cannock

DIRTY MONKEYS Sat 22 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

ECCENTRONIC RESEARCH COUNCIL Sat 22 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

THE BELAIR LIP BOMBS Sun 23 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE SHAKE DOWN BROTHERS Sun 23 Aug, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

WOODEN DOG + AIMES_ + CHLOE JESSICA + SYNCOPATE Sun 23 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

BLIND RIVER SCARE Sun 23 Aug, The Red Lion, Evesham

TEKKIN BACK SUNDAY + ADTR UK + ME YOU AT SIX Sun 23 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

THE CARPENTERS GREATEST HITS LIVE WITH TONI LEE Sun 23 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

Plus 14 dance bands and shows

- ★ Workshops ★ Craft fair
- ★ Morris & dance teams
- ★ Singarounds & sessions
- ★ Food village
- ★ Camping & glamping
- ★ Real ale, wine & cocktail bars

★ **Talisk x Gardiner Brothers:**
Unleashed ★ **Fantastic Negrito**
★ **Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders**
★ **Ferocious Dog ft. The Celtic Folk Orchestra**
★ **Cara Dillon** ★ **The Seeger Sessions Revival**
★ **Slambolian Circus of Dreams** ★ **Cut Capers**
★ **Steve Knightley and The Winter Yards Band**
★ **Dustbowl Revival** ★ **Goitse** ★ **Chris Wood**
★ **Steve Knightley with Daniel Salvatore**
★ **Katherine Priddy** ★ **Natu Camara** ★ **The Hunch**
★ **Man The Lifeboats** ★ **Kerr Fagan** ★ **Malin Lewis**
★ **Blowzabella** ★ **Edith WeUtonga** ★ **Sāwol**
★ **Adriano Adewale and Friends: Rooted and Rising**
★ **Thunder and Rain** ★ **Cable Street Collective**
★ **Rum Ragged** ★ **Kellie Loder** ★ **Taff Rapids**
★ **Sam Carter sings Nic Jones**
★ **The Lost Notes** ★ **Daisy Chute**
★ **Holly Clarke** ★ **Jess Silk**
★ **The Zydeco Diamonds**
★ **Pressgang Mutiny**
★ **Greg Russell & more!**

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Day & Weekend Tickets

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The Streets - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

MELODIE MICHEL ORGAN RECITAL
Programme includes works by Bruhns, J.S. Bach & Mendelssohn, Mon 17 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

ALEXANDER FINCH ORGAN RECITAL
Tues 18 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

ETERNAL LIGHT: A CHORAL CELEBRATION OF CONSOLATION AND TRANSCENDENCE
Featuring Jennifer Clark (soprano) & Roderick Williams (baritone). Programme includes works by Fauré, Vaughan-Williams, Parry & more..., Wed 19 Aug, Great Malvern Priory

IMAGINARY LANDSCAPES: POETRY AND HARP Featuring Chris Tutton (spoken word) and Lucy Nolan (harp), Fri 21 Aug, Coach House Theatre, Malvern

RBC OUT AND ABOUT Featuring Emma Brown (flute) & Nastasya Sumantho (piano), Sat 22 Aug, Shrewsbury Cathedral

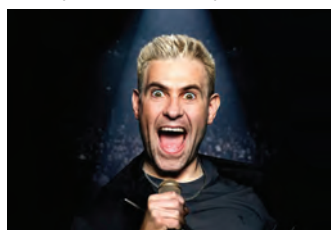
NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR: WORLD O WORLD Programme includes works by J Collier, C Shaw & a world premiere by Esther Bersweden, Sat 22 Aug, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

VICTORIA HALL ORGAN PROM FEAT. MÉLODIE MICHEL Programme includes works by Guilment, Saint-Saëns, Widor & more..., Sat 22 Aug, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

Comedy

PAUL SMITH Wed 19 Aug, Dudley Town Hall

SIMON BRODKIN Thurs 20 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley



ELEANOR TIERNAN, JOE WELLS, DARREN HARRIOTT & LOST VOICE GUY Fri 21 - Sat 22 Aug, The Glee Club, B'ham

PAUL SMITH Fri 21 - Sat 22 Aug, Aston Hall, Wrexham

Theatre

WINGBEAT Emily Henry's story of girlhood, silence and the cost of breaking it..., Mon 17 - Tues 18 Aug, Coach House Theatre, Malvern Theatres

HIGH SOCIETY Helen George, Freddie Fox and Julian Ovenden star in the West End production of Cole Porter's musical masterpiece, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Aug, The Alexandra, Birmingham

WE WILL ROCK YOU Malvern Theatres

Young Company present an amateur version of Ben Elton's smash-hit musical, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Aug, Malvern Theatres

THE TALES OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY Quantum Theatre present an outdoor celebration of Beatrix Potter, Wed 19 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

LOVE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS David Kerby-Kendall's story follows the journey of Elliot & Nora, and their struggles to let go of the past..., Wed 19 - Thurs 20 Aug, The Coach House Theatre, Malvern Theatres

AMERICAN IDIOT Amateur version of the hit rock musical that follows three friends as they navigate war, drugs, love and disillusionment in a post-9/11 world, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Aug, Rugeley Rose Theatre

THE PICKWICK PAPERS Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' first and much-loved novel, Thurs 20 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

EVERY DAY National Youth Music Theatre - in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome - present a new musical with a contemporary pop score, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Aug, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

TWELFTH NIGHT Here To There Productions present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's popular comedy, Fri 21 Aug, Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Cheltenham

AGGIE - THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF DAME AGNES HUNT Alison Utting's 'one-woman tour de force'. Part of Ludlow History Festival, Sat 22 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Illyria Theatre Company present an outdoor version of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera, Sat 22 Aug, Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire

ERIC IN DOWNTOWN ABBEY New Vic favourite Eric returns - and takes a job at a run-down stately home in deepest Staffordshire..., Sat 22 Aug - Sat 5 Sept, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN Paperback Theatre present an outdoor version of E Nesbit's classic tale. Particularly suitable for audiences aged eight-plus, Sun 23 Aug, The Amphitheatre, Telford Town Park

Kids Theatre

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS Wise Owl Theatre production featuring animal puppets, Tues 18 - Thurs 20 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire

CAPE CUSTARD - A LIGHTHOUSE

ADVENTURE Fun-filled adventure for all the family that tells 'a bright, bold and heartwarming story about bridging the gap with those who feel different, and discovering what truly matters'. Suitable for audiences aged three-plus, Mon 17 Aug, The Local Hub, Bloxwich; Tues 18 Aug, Dorothy Parkes Centre, Smethwick; Thurs 20 Aug, Glasshouse Arts Centre, Stourbridge

THE TALES OF PETER RABBIT AND BENJAMIN BUNNY Quantum Theatre present an outdoor celebration of Beatrix Potter, Sat 22 Aug, Brueton Park, Solihull

Light Entertainment

WONDERS OF OUR UNIVERSE: THE NEXT CHAPTER Astrophysicist Ian Hall takes a deep-dive into the mysteries of space and time, using visuals, live music and storytelling, Tues 18 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LEGENDS OF THE 60S SHOW 'The ultimate feelgood show from the golden era of music', Thurs 20 Aug, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

MURDER-STAGED True-crime talk by Cheish Merryweather, taking a deep-dive into the embedded lies at crime scenes, Fri 21 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ORIGINS - NOVA ASTRO & EARTH LIVE SHOW Large-scale visuals, an immersive musical score and 'stunning' holographic elements all feature in this unique show exploring the origins of 'time, life and our place in the universe', Fri 21 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

LEGENDS OF THE 60S SHOW 'The ultimate feelgood show from the golden era of music', Fri 21 Aug, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

IMAGINARY LANDSCAPES: POETRY & HARP WITH CHRIS TUTTON & LUCY NOLAN Fri 21 Aug, The Coach House Theatre, Malvern

REX FACTOR Lighthearted podcast from Graham Duke and Ali Hood that aims to provide a more accessible approach to history, Fri 21 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

A STAR WARS IMPROV SHOW: THE ONE-MAN MADE-UP MOVIE 'The ultimate celebration of comedy and fandom', as Jon Hipkiss improvises an entirely new Star Wars film all by himself, based on audience suggestions, Sat 22 Aug, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

K-POP LIVE THE THEATRE SHOW Full-throttle tribute to the idols, anthems and fandoms that turned a genre into a global movement, Sun 23 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Events

MINI MOTORISTS MONDAYS Create your own hot hatches using different shapes and materials, Mon 17 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

FIN-TASTIC FAMILIES Visitors of all ages are invited to help create a vibrant underwater world, Mon 17 & Thurs 20 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

MARVELLOUS MINIBEAST HUNT Take a magnifying glass and an ID sheet and start your search, Mon 17 - Fri 21 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

DINO DIG! Create your very own dinosaur fossil rubbings, Mon 17 - Fri 21 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

BOP & POP WEEK Get disco fever with party games and music, Mon 17 - Sun 23 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

JESTERS TUESDAYS Interactive circus skills experience, Tues 18 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

YOGA IN THE LONG GALLERY Enjoy a relaxing yoga class in the Long Gallery at Croome, Tues 18 Aug, Croome, Worcestershire

KNIGHTS SCHOOL Join Sir Olly of Bromwich and begin your training as a Knight of the Round Table, Tues 18 & Thurs 20 Aug, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham



ARBORETUM AND FLOWER GARDEN WALK Join Croome's knowledgeable volunteers for a guided walk around the arboretum, Wed 19 Aug, Croome, Worcestershire

DINOSAUR JUNK MODELLING WITH TAT VISION Create your own wearable dinosaur head, Wed 19 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

SUMMER STORIES FROM THE SHIRE Join artist Sarah Evans and storyteller Jake Evans for free-to-attend and family-focused drop-in sessions, Wed 19 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shropshire

ART IN THE PARK Join local volunteer artists for a morning of sketching and/or painting, Wed 19 Aug, Croome, Worcestershire

WILD WEDNESDAYS: ANIMAL HANDLING Come face to face with wildlife, Wed 19 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS Fun craft activity



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12th September, 2026
Weston Park, Telford
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suitable for all children, Wed 19 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

LIVE PRINTING DEMONSTRATIONS WITH STIRCHLEY PRINTWORKS Informal drop-in session to watch Joe Lycett-inspired printmaking in action, Wed 19 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

BOOK TREASURE HUNTS Explore the historic Flaxmill Maltings building and find a book to read and share, Wed 19 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings

CURATOR TOURS OF TUDOR HOUSE Delve into the history of the house and its inhabitants, Wed 19 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

TINKER MAKE PLAY ENGINEERS - BIG VS SMALL Tinker with tools, make with materials and play for fun, Wed 19 & Sat 22 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

GET MUCKY GET MAKING Children can explore nature and enjoy the summer sunshine in the Forest School, Thurs 20 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire



FUTURE ENGINEERS KIDS CLUB An 'engineering playground' for STEM-curious kids aged seven to 11, Thurs 20 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

TALLY HO! THURSDAYS - POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY Learn about different roles in the force, Thurs 20 Aug, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

FALCONRY THURSDAYS Arena show featuring free-flying of birds of prey, Thurs 20 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

GET ARTY: 3...2...1...MAKE! Family-focused spin-off event from 54321 Fab!, an exhibition celebrating the much-loved 1960s TV shows of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson. Children can design their own puppet characters and secret bases, just like Thunderbirds' Tracy Island, Thurs 20 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC Afternoon of bear-themed crafts, activities and stories. Also featuring a 'bear hunt' trail, Thurs 20 Aug, Hill Close Gardens, Warwick

DINOSTORY TIME Dinosaur-themed storytelling, Thurs 20 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

CARS IN THE VALLEY Connect with fellow petrol heads, Thurs 20 Aug, Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, Worcestershire

KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Have a

go at making your own jewellery with the help of the learning team, Thurs 20 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

SUMMER OF BUNTING Make your own bunting to decorate the Dye House or to take home, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Aug, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings

TUDOR FUN AND FEASTING Opportunity to sample popular Tudor food & drink, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

MALVERNS CLASSIC Family-friendly festival celebrating mountain biking, Thurs 20 - Sun 23 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

DISCOVERY TOUR OF BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 20 - Fri 21 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

GET CREATIVE Relaxed art workshops for children aged five-plus, Fri 21 Aug, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

THE LOCATIONIST PRESENTS: BMAG ON FILM A special bespoke tour of the buildings and surrounding areas, film and TV locations, Fri 21 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

GIRLS ONLY STEM CLUB Event designed to give girls aged seven to 11 a welcoming, supportive space in which to explore science, technology, engineering and creativity, Fri 21 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

WILDLIFE AT SAREHOLE MILL Featuring hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and creativity in visitors of all ages, Fri 21 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

SARIS OF STRENGTH SCREENING AND PANEL TALK WITH DESIBLITZ A special film screening and panel conversation marking the 50th anniversary of the start of the Grunwick dispute, Fri 21 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

BEER AND BAT WALK Learn about bats, their habitats and how to find them, Fri 21 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcester

MUSEUM AFTER HOURS: FAB! 'ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE NEXT HALF HOUR' Step into the 60s with DJ DSP, Fri 21 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

THE BIG SHOWDOWN Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, steps into the ring with former councillor Shaz Saleem - all in the name of charity, Fri 21 Aug, Dudley Town Hall

ORCHARDFEST Family-friendly music festival raising money for Primrose Hospice, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Aug, Pools Farm, Bromsgrove

A CELEBRATION OF GLASS Featuring major exhibitions, artist talks, live glassmaking demonstrations and special events, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

THE WESTERN MOTORHOME & CAMPERVAN SHOW The UK's biggest country-themed outdoor leisure event, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Aug, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

LUDLOW HISTORY FESTIVAL Featuring comedy, storytelling, theatre, talks, music and more, Fri 21 - Sun 30 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

SOUNDBATHS WITH THE MANOJ COLLECTIVE Immersive sound journey guided by local sound practitioner Manoj of Manoj Collective, Sat 22 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

DISCO ORCHESTRATED Featuring a full live orchestra and vocalists, Sat 22 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

THE BIG 80S SUMMER FESTIVAL Five hours of 80s anthems, Sat 22 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

ABBA DAY PARTY Event featuring the biggest 70s & 80s party anthems, Sat 22 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

PAPER WEAVING WORKSHOP WITH NILUPA YASMIN Hands-on weaving workshop, Sat 22 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW Join glass artist Keith Cummings for a special talk exploring over four decades of innovation in kiln-formed glass, Sat 22 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

A PREMIUM RUM TASTING EVENING Guided by an expert host, explore a curated selection of seven rums from across the Caribbean and beyond, Sat 22 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

TIMELESS TOYS: TOY AND MODEL STEAM EXHIBITION The return of the long-running toy and model steam exhibition, Sat 22 Aug, Winterbourne House, Birmingham

WARWICKSHIRE PRIDE A colourful celebration of LGBT+ life and culture, Sat 22 Aug, Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa

TUDOR SATURDAY - THE LYPETT HOUSEHOLD The Worcester re-enactors group present a day of feasting, fun and games, Sat 22 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

THEATRE TOUR Unique insight into life at the Alex over the last 125 years, Sat 22 Aug, The Alexandra, Birmingham

OSWESTRY BALLOON CARNIVAL 2026 Featuring around 20 hot-air balloons, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Cae Glas Park, Oswestry, North Shropshire

TAMWORTH DINE-N'DEVOUR Family-friendly food and artisan festival, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Tamworth Castle Grounds

CONTINUITY ANTIQUE HOME & VINTAGE FAIR Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Stafford Showground, Staffordshire

SUMMER MARKET Featuring up to 20 skilled crafters showcasing their wares, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Apley Farm Shop, Shropshire

ART AND CRAFT FAYRE Sat 22 - Sun 23 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire

SAREHOLE SUNDAYS GUIDED TOUR Learn about a traditional 18th-century water mill and the life of a miller, and check out scenery that inspired writer JRR Tolkien, Sun 23 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

ZEDFEST - 25 YEARS OF THE MG ZED CARS All MG & Rover vehicles welcome, Sun 23 Aug, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

THE LOCATIONIST PRESENTS: BMAG ON FILM A special bespoke tour of the buildings and surrounding areas, film and TV locations, Sun 23 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

THE PEOPLE'S AIR-COOLED SHOW New event dedicated to the Volkswagen and Porsche air-cooled community, Sun 23 Aug, British Motor Museum, Gaydon

TOY FAIR Featuring more than 300 stalls full of items for sale, Sun 23 Aug, Stafford Showground, Staffordshire

GLASS FUSED GARDEN ORNAMENT WORKSHOP Design and create your own unique garden ornament using recycled glass, Sun 23 Aug, Stourbridge Glass Museum

ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR Browse a 'wonderful variety' of stalls, Sun 23 Aug, Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire

CRAFT BEERS & CLASSIC VEHICLES Enjoy handcrafted brews and check out a display of vintage lorries and tractors, Sun 23 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Shropshire

THE CRAFTY COACH Enjoy a day of train rides and crafting, Sun 23 Aug, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

DINO UPROAR Travel back in time with a lifelike walking and roaring T-Rex, Sun 23 - Thurs 27 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

Festivals

GREEN MAN FESTIVAL Line-up includes Four Tet, Wolf Alice & Wilco, Thurs 20 - Sun 23 Aug, Brecon Beacons, Wales

THE MOIRA FURNACE FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Other Roads, Gaelforce & Anthony John Clarke, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Aug, Moira Furnace Museum and Monument Site, Leicestershire

BOOTS AND ROOTS FESTIVAL 2026 Featuring some of the UK's best tribute acts, Sun 23 Aug, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley



OCT - O2 Academy, Birmingham

Gigs

WAY DYNAMIC Mon 24 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

AFI Mon 24 Aug, O2 Institute, Birmingham

HÅNDGEMENG Mon 24 Aug, Subside Bar, Birmingham

THE ROTUNDAS Mon 24 Aug, Bill's Kitchen, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

LYDIA THE BARD Tues 25 Aug, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

CLARION Wed 26 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RICHARD BENNETT'S NEW ORLEANS JAZZ BAND Wed 26 Aug, Boldmere Sports and Social Club, Sutton Coldfield

MIKE SANCHEZ AND HIS BAND Wed 26 Aug, Rother Street Arts, Stratford-upon-Avon

LUCA FOGALE Wed 26 Aug, Morris Hall, Shrewsbury



PART CHIMP Thurs 27 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

LILY SEABIRD Thurs 27 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

TRY2SMILE Thurs 27 Aug, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

THE GREATEST HITS OF MOTOWN Thurs 27 Aug,

The Alexandra, Birmingham

WE MAVERICKS Thurs 27 Aug, Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

RAY BEADLE Thurs 27 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KINGS OF THRASH + XIII DOORS + WICKED Thurs 27 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

BLURRY - A TRIBUTE TO BILLIE EILISH Thurs 27 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

ACCEPT + TAILGUNNER Thurs 27 Aug, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

KICKIN' VALENTINA Thurs 27 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

OCT Fri 28 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MANOLA JAZZ Fri 28 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

THE JUDY BLU BAND Fri 28 Aug, Tower of Song, Birmingham

STIFF BIZKIT Fri 28 Aug, The Asylum, B'ham

BACK TO BLONDIE Fri 28 Aug, The Victoria, Birmingham

YAKSTA + MATTHEW MALCOLM Fri 28 Aug, XOYO, Digbeth, Birmingham

DAN WILLSON Fri 28 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ELO ENCOUNTER Fri 28 Aug, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

CODE 3 Fri 28 Aug, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

SEX PISTOLS EXPOSE + THEE ACID TONGUE Fri 28 Aug, hmv Empire, Coventry

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Fri 28 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

SCENE IT ALL Fri 28 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THIS IS FLOYD Fri 28 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

MOSHTALGIA Fri 28 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

BOOTLEG ABBA Fri 28 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MOTORHEADACHE Fri 28 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

L1NKN P4RK Fri 28 Aug, The Underground, Stoke-on-Trent

THE ANTARCTIC MONKEYS Fri 28 Aug, The Station, Cannock

THE SUPERSKAS Fri 28 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

THE DIRTY ROCKIN SCOUNDRELS Fri 28 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire



TOM MARTIN CELTIC SOUL Sat 29 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

GARETH TAYLOR AND HIS QUEENIES Sat 29 Aug, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KATIE B & THE SNOOKS Sat 29 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

OSIAH + TO OBEY A TYRANT + SUFFER + FRACTURE + RECALL THE REMAINS Sat 29 Aug,

The Flapper, B'ham

UNITY Sat 29 Aug, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

THIS IS FLOYD - A TRIBUTE TO PINK FLOYD Sat 29 Aug, The Assembly, Leamington

CHLOE JOSEPHINE BAND (FT ALEX VOYSEY) Sat 29 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

CHRIS HELME Sat 29 Aug, Temperance, Leamington Spa

DEEPER CUT Sat 29 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

BAD GIRLS OF COUNTRY Sat 29 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

SOUNDS OF SEATTLE + HOLE TRIPPER Sat 29 Aug, Marrs Bar, Worcester

VICKY JACKSON AS PINK Sat 29 Aug, The Station, Cannock



VULCAN REIGN Sat 29 Aug, The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

THE ULTIMATE SOUL AND MOTOWN NIGHT Sat 29 Aug, Brierley Hill Civic, Dudley

SPICE FOREVER Sat 29 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DEFINITELY MIGHTBE + ADORED Sat 29 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

BRIT POP UNITED + ALL4INDIE Sat 29 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

SEAMUS FOGARTY Sat 29 Aug, Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, Staffs

FRONTROW Sat 29 Aug, The Feathers Inn, Lichfield

DIVE FEST '26 Sat 29 - Sun 30 Aug, Dive, Wolverhampton

THE SUBTERRANEANS Sun 30 Aug, Jo Jo Jims, Birmingham

BLANK GENERATION + DEVOID Sun 30 Aug, Tower of Song, B'ham

EDOWAVE UK Sun 30 Aug, The Flapper, Birmingham



Zain Zohaib - Birmingham Town Hall

ZAIN ZOHAIB Sun 30 Aug, Birmingham Town Hall

BRYAN CORBETT TRIO Sun 30 Aug, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

JESSFEST Sun 30 Aug, Arches Venue, Coventry

THE CHEEZE Sun 30 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

JUNCTION 77 Sun 30 Aug, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

SOPHIE & THE STICKS Sun 30 Aug, The Red Lion, Evesham

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Sun 30 Aug, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DEATH OR GLORY - A TRIBUTE TO THE CLASH Sun 30 Aug, The Robin, Bilston

MICHAEL STARRING BEN Sun 30 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand

Theatre

AEROSMITH TRIBUTE DREAM ON Sun 30 Aug, Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent

ZIPSTYLE + ECCIE THE DOG Sun 30 Aug, The Artisan Tap, Stoke-on-Trent

ADEFEST 6 Sun 30 Aug, The Station, Cannock

HARRY MOON & THE CARDBOARD ROCKET Sun 30 Aug, Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury

SYNTHIAN Sun 30 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

THE SPACE LADY Mon 31 Aug, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

JOSHUA AND FRIENDS + RILEY AND FRIENDS + JASMINE MARIE + A KIND OF NEW MON 31 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham



Michael starring Ben - Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

Classical Music

VICTORIA ULRIKSEN ORGAN RECITAL

Programme includes works by Wagner, J.S. Bach, Grieg & Duruflé, Mon 24 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

ROBERT WEBB VIOLIN RECITAL

Featuring Rev. Dr. Helen Jones (piano), Tues 25 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

PRESTEIGNE FESTIVAL A vibrant five-day music-focused programme over the Bank Holiday. Artists include Fenella Humphreys (violin), Presteigne Festival Orchestra, the HearAndNow Collective & more..., Thurs 27 - Mon 31 Aug, various locations around Presteigne, Powys

JOHN REID PIANO CONCERT Performed on Angela de la Cruz's 'extraordinary re-made piano.' Programme includes works by Kurtág, Haydn, C.P.E. Bach & Quinton, Fri 28 Aug, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

LIAM CONDON ORGAN RECITAL

Programme includes Widor's Symphonie VI Op. 42, No. 2, Mon 31 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

Comedy

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY

ROBINSON, JONNY AWSUM & BEN NORRIS Thurs 27 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PROJECT MAYHEM Thurs 27 Aug, The Wellington, Birmingham

PAUL PIRIE, JONNY AWSUM, BEN NORRIS & COMIC TBC Fri 28 - Sat 29 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PREET SINGH, MUHSIN YESILADA & RICHARD BLACKWOOD Sun 30 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RICHARD BLACKWOOD, RYAN S LEWIS, MR CEE, SHARIFA BUTTERFLY, EMMANUEL O & BAMPH Sun 30 Aug, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MATT RICHARDSON, DAWN BAILEY, JACK MCCLEAN & HARRY JENKINS Sun 30 Aug, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

Theatre

BLEAK EXPECTATIONS Amateur version of the dark comedy based on Charles Dickens' novel, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Aug, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

THREE MEN IN A BOAT Giles Shenton stars as Jerome K Jerome, Tues 25 Aug, The Coach House Theatre, Malvern Theatres

OTHELLO The Lord Chamberlain's Men present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's tragic tale of lost handkerchiefs, ruined reputations and mistreated wives, Tues 25 Aug, Erdigg Hall, Wrexham

OUR MAN IN HAVANA New stage production of Graham Greene's famous novel. Jack Ashton (Call The

Midwife) stars, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Aug, Malvern Theatres

BURLESQUE THE MUSICAL Faye Brookes and Ryan Carter star, with songs by Christina Aguilera, Sia and Diane Warren, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Aug, The Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

DEAD ON CUE Spooky thriller set in the same dressing room, during the same play, at the same theatre, but 60 years apart, Wed 26 Aug, The Coach House Theatre, Malvern Theatres

MACBETH Cycling Shakespearean actors The Handlebards present an outdoor version of The Bard's bloodiest tragedy, Wed 26 Aug, Croome Park, Worcestershire

ROMEO & JULIET The Dukes Theatre Company present an outdoor version of 'the world's greatest love story', Wed 26 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

TREASURE ISLAND Quantum Theatre present an outdoor version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure story, Thurs 27 Aug, Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton

KING ARTHUR AND THE HOLY FAIR The ever-impressive Three Inch Fools return with an epic tale of Arthurian adventure and medieval mayhem, Fri 28 Aug, Packwood House, Warwickshire

THE PICKWICK PAPERS Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor version of Charles Dickens' first and much-loved novel, Fri 28 Aug, Witley Court, Worcestershire

DOG MAN: THE MUSICAL New family show based on the worldwide bestselling book series from Dav Pilkey, creator of Captain Underpants and Cat Kid Comic Club, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Aug, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BELLADONNA New murder-mystery play from local playwright Sarah Dutton, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Aug, The Coach House Theatre, Malvern Theatres

SEA CHANGE National Youth Music Theatre - in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome - present a new folk musical exploring belonging, community, and the risks and rewards of stepping into the unknown, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR Amateur version presented by Artrix Youth Theatre, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Artrix, Bromsgrove

FOUR LUDLOW MYSTERY PLAYS A sequence of four Biblical stories, dramatised and updated for a modern audience. Presented as part of Ludlow History Festival, Sat 29 Aug, Methodist Church, Ludlow, South Shropshire

THE PICKWICK PAPERS Rain Or Shine theatre company present an outdoor

version of Charles Dickens' first and much-loved novel, Sat 29 Aug, Wenlock Priory, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

TWELFTH NIGHT Here To There Productions present an outdoor version of Shakespeare's popular comedy, Sun 30 Aug, Priory Park, Malvern

THE LAST FREE RAVE Rachel Tobin play based on the 1992 Castlemorton Rave - the biggest illegal rave in the UK, Sun 30 Aug, Malvern Theatres

MIDSUMMER MASTI: THE STORY CONTINUES Sampad South Asian Arts & Heritage explore love, family, ambition and tradition via an explosion of music, dance and celebration, Sun 30 Aug, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham



Kids Theatre

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA Hit family show based on Judith Kerr's much-loved children's book. Expect oodles of magic, singalong songs and lots of clumsy chaos, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Swan Theatre, Worcester

SCIENCE MUSEUM: THE SPACE EXPLORERS ACADEMY 'Fun-filled theatrical adventure' that promises to take younger audiences (and their adults) on an epic journey around the planets, Mon 31 Aug, Malvern Theatres

Dance

THINGS I'VE NEVER SAID Project Dance present a life-affirming story told through 'breathhtaking dance theatre, with world-class original music', Tues 25 Aug, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING - MUSICAL CROWDPLEASERS Jazz-

handed jamboree and stagey singalong, Wed 26 - Sun 30 Aug, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

THE MUSIC OF ADELE BY CANDLELIGHT Fri 28 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

AN EVENING WITH LORD MICHAEL HESELTINE Join the former politician as he revisits defining moments in his remarkable career. Part of Ludlow

History Festival, Fri 28 Aug, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BOWIE BY CANDLELIGHT Fri 28 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

Events

BEHIND THE SECRET DOOR, STORIES

FROM THE SHELVES Each session opens a door into a different corner of the library collection, Mon 24 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

FIN-TASTIC FAMILIES Visitors of all ages are invited to help create a vibrant underwater world, Mon 24 & Wed 26 Aug, Lichfield Cathedral

DINO DIG! Create your very own dinosaur fossil rubbings, Mon 24 - Fri 28 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

ORIENTEERING ADVENTURE Practise orienteering in the Onny Meadows Mon 24 - Fri 28 Aug, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

FALCONRY WEEK Flying displays from Shropshire Falconry, Mon 24 - Sun 30 Aug, Park Hall Farm, Oswestry, North Shropshire

JESTERS TUESDAYS Interactive circus skills experience, Tues 25 Aug, Ludlow Castle, Shropshire

SHROPSHIRE MAMMOTHS: STORE TOUR

Get 'up close and personal' with the fossilised remains of the five mammoths found at Condover 40 years ago, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Aug, Shropshire Museums' Collections Centre, Ludlow, South Shropshire

PICTURING LUDLOW: STORE TOUR Get exclusive access to the picture store, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Aug, Shropshire Museums' Collections Centre, Ludlow, South Shropshire

KNIGHTS SCHOOL Join Sir Olly of Bromwich and begin your training as a Knight of the Round Table, Tues 25 & Thurs 27 Aug, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham

SUMMER FUN: ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS Wise Owl Theatre production featuring animal puppets, Tues 25 - Thurs 27 Aug, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire

CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS A fun craft activity suitable for all children, Wed 26 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

WILD WEDNESDAYS: ANIMAL HANDLING Come face to face with wildlife, Wed 26 Aug, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CURATOR TOURS OF TUDOR HOUSE Delve into the history of the house and its inhabitants, Wed 26 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

KINETON RAF STEM: SUMMER ROCKET CARS Opportunities to design and launch rockets, using K'nex kits, with members of Kineton RAF, Wed 26 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire



Knight's Tournament - Kenilworth Castle

TINKER MAKE PLAY ENGINEERS - BIG VS SMALL Tinker with tools, make with materials and play for fun, Wed 26 & Sat 29 Aug, Coventry Transport Museum

LUMINARIUM Explore a maze of winding paths and soaring domes, Wed 26 - Mon 31 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

DINOSTORY TIME Dinosaur-themed storytelling, Thurs 27 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

FALCONRY THURSDAYS Arena show featuring free-flying birds of prey, Thurs 27 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

LET'S PLAY - BE BRAVE! Explore different themes through classic children's books, Thurs 27 Aug, Coventry Cathedral

TALLY HO! THURSDAYS - POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY Learn about different roles in the force, Thurs 27 Aug, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham

GET MUCKY GET MAKING Children can explore nature and enjoy the summer sunshine in the Forest School, Thurs 27 Aug, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

JURASSIC ENCOUNTERS: ZOOLAB AT THINKTANK Meet snakes, snails and spiders and explore what they have to do with prehistoric dinosaurs, Thurs 27 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

KIDS JEWELLERY WORKSHOP Have a go at making your own jewellery with the help of the learning team, Thurs 27 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

GET ARTY: 3...2...1...MAKE! Family-focused spin-off event from 54321 Fab!, a currently showing exhibition celebrating the much-loved 1960s TV shows of Gerry & Sylvia Anderson. Children can design their own puppet characters and secret bases, just like Thunderbirds' Tracy Island, Thurs 27 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

DISCOVERY TOUR OF BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the Tudor building,

Thurs 27 - Fri 28 Aug, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

THE HOME FRONT Taste-test cakes made using wartime recipes, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Aug, Tudor House Museum, Worcester

WILDLIFE AT SAREHOLE MILL Featuring hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and creativity in visitors of all ages, Fri 28 Aug, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

MEDIEVAL SHIELD-PAINTING SESSIONS Get creative and design your own heraldry on pre-made shields, Fri 28 Aug, Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens, Birmingham

THE BRUMMIE PRE-RAPHAELITE: A CELEBRATION OF EDWARD BURN-JONES Celebrate the birthday of Birmingham's very own Pre-Raphaelite, Fri 28 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

GUIDED TOUR OF WEOLEY CASTLE Explore Weoley Castle with experienced guides and check out real finds from the site, on display in the visitor centre, Fri 28 Aug, Weoley Castle, Birmingham

GET CREATIVE Relaxed art workshops for children aged five-plus, Fri 28 Aug, Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

FRIDAY LATES Featuring live performances, music, workshops, and curator talks, Fri 28 Aug, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

DUCK RACE Will your duck be the first to cross the finish line?, Fri 28 Aug, Coughton Court, Warwickshire

SEASIDE IN THE CITY Street-beach experience in Victoria Street, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Aug, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton

TELFORD BALLOON FIESTA Featuring balloon displays, entertainment and activities, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Telford Town Park, Shropshire

MEDIEVAL FANTASY BALL Immersive night of noble pageantry and mythical charm, Sat 29 Aug, Wolverhampton Arts Centre

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK

Guided walk looking at the people, places and themes that have helped to shape the district, Sat 29 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS Featuring screenings of *The Good Dinosaur* and *The Land That Time Forgot*, Sat 29 Aug, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

SUNFLOWER, BEE & HONEY JEWELLERY WORKSHOP WITH WORKING CLASP Create a unique piece inspired by the abundance and beauty of the harvest season, Sat 29 Aug, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

STITCHING STORIES: WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT THE MUSEUM Relaxed, creative session inspired by the tapestry work of artist Tina Francis, Sat 29 Aug, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

BONGO'S BINGO The original bingo rave sensation, Sat 29 Aug, The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury

MARC SILK: THE VOICE OF YOUR IMAGINATION A meet & greet and spotlight talk with renowned British voice actor Marc Silk, Sat 29 Aug, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

GRAVITY SHOW 2026 Including supercars, custom builds and classics, as well as drift and race cars, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Aug, NEC, Birmingham

PREHISTORIC PARK WITH NIGEL MARVEN: LIVE Combining live entertainment, education and adventure 'in one truly roarsome experience', Sat 29 - Sun 30 Aug, Hoo Zoo & Dinosaur World, Telford

MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY & CAMP The castle comes alive with 'bustling encampments, skilled craftsmen, authentic armour displays and spectacular battle reenactments', Sat 29 - Mon 31 Aug, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire

KNIGHTS' TOURNAMENT Four armoured knights and their squires clash in a variety of gruelling rounds, Sat 29 - Mon 31 Aug, Kenilworth Castle

THE HUMAN COLLECTIVE WELLNESS FESTIVAL A 'heart-led weekend of connection, joy and soul-nourishing experiences', Sat 29 - Sun 30 Aug, FarGo Village, Coventry

BIRMINGHAM WEEKENDER 2026 Featuring free performances, installations, pop-up experiences and new commissions, Sat 29 - Mon 31 Aug, across Birmingham City Centre

LICHFIELD FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL Featuring local producers, street food and entertainment, Sat 29 - Mon 31 Aug, Lichfield City Centre

ORIGINS OF MIDDLE-EARTH: JRR TOLKIEN AND SAREHOLE GUIDED WALK A guided walk introducing the scenery that inspired JRR Tolkien when he lived near Sarehole Mill as a child, Sun 30 Aug, Sarehole Mill,

Birmingham

TALK: ENGLISH CIVIL WAR FICTION Author Charles Cordell talks about writing historical fiction and *Divided Kingdom* book, *The Keys Of Hell And Death*, Sun 30 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

WOODVILLES MEDIEVAL LIVING HISTORY CAMP Join 'The Woodvilles' for an interactive living-history show including displays of cooking, crafts and combat Sun 30 - Mon 31 Aug, Eastnor Castle, Herefordshire

WESTON AT 40 - A SUMMER CELEBRATION Two days of live music, food, family fun and summer relaxation, Sun 30 - Mon 31 Aug, Weston Park, Shropshire

MEDIEVAL MAYHEM See if you have what it takes in Knight School, decorate your very own shield, and explore The Commandery with the Knight's Quest trail, Mon 31 Aug, The Commandery, Worcester

BRICK BUILDING EXPERIENCE Journey on the historic line while building your unique creations onboard, Mon 31 Aug, Telford Steam Railway

LAND ROVER SERIES 1 DAY Display of vehicles from across the years, Mon 31 Aug, Telford Steam Railway, Shropshire

Festivals

BEERMAGEDDON FESTIVAL Line-up includes Xentrix, Kensei & Higher State, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Aug, Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

SUNSHINE FESTIVAL Line-up includes JLS, 10cc & The Proclaimers, Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Aug, Fish Meadow, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire

CAMPER CALLING Line-up includes Nile Rodgers & Chic, Primal Scream & Five, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

THE BIG STATFOLD WEEKENDER Line-up includes Bon Goivi, The Abba Reunion & Fleetwood Shack, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Statfold Country Park, Tamworth

PENKRIDGE OPEN AIR Line-up includes ABC, The Drifters & 2 Unlimited, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Aug, Penkridge Sports and Recreation Centre

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL Line-up includes Fantastic Negrito, Ferocious Dog featuring The Celtic Folk Orchestra & Andy Fairweather Low and the Low Riders, Fri 28 - Mon 31 Aug, DMOS People West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury

OFF GRID Line-up includes Example, Hannah Wants & Sam Divine, Sun 30 Aug, Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield



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