

THE HOME OF ARTS & CULTURE IN WIGAN

Live Music, Film & Theatre, Comedy, Improv & Poetry, Dance, Art, Workshops, Meetings & Conferences, Community Spaces, Weddings, Parties & Private Hire, Eat & Drink

WELCOME

Here at **The Old Courts**, we understand the incredible importance of the Arts, not simply for entertainment, but as a fundamental thread that enriches the fabric of our everyday lives. As a Not-for-Profit Company, it's our mission to create, engage and inspire by providing cultural opportunities, investing in Wigan, its brilliant people and heritage.

This is your What's On guide listing all the sensational shows we've got programmed in from mid-September right through to December 2022.

We're bringing you an amazing selection of live music and artists; you can catch emerging local talent at Friday Night Live in the Grand Vault! Local Musician, Rik Jones joins us for a night of stories and song in a stripped back theatre performance, where all proceeds will be donated to Dementia UK. We're also super excited to welcome Fairground Attraction's, Eddi Reader to The Old Courts for the first time for a solo gig and there's plenty more where that came from! We're not short of Theatre either, from cabaret to interactive family adventures, untold true stories, comedy, and poetry. Not to mention the pantomime will be returning in time for Christmas... 'Oh yes it is!' There really is something for everyone to get their teeth into.

You can discover more about The Old Courts and the people involved right here! In this issue, we chat to Community Arts organisation and our Creative Tenants, Wigan STEAM.

We're committed to provoking a positive difference to Wigan and its local Arts scene. Do you have an idea that would complement our facilities, perhaps thoughts on our activities? We encourage you to get in touch with us.

To view our full listings, browse upcoming events and purchase tickets, please visit www.theoldcourts.com

+ Make sure to look out for our next guide featuring our full December programme!



16th September

Poetry

JB Barrington: Showing Poetential

7:30pm | Theatre

Cult performer JB Barrington is an award-winning poet renowned for his searing, satirical words and snarling delivery of sharp rhymes. His funny, endearing and nostalgic poetry has made him one of the most powerful performers on the UK scene.

Showing Poetential delivers a rollercoaster of emotions with a brilliant and imaginative display of poetic writing covering social issues, economics, class and loss.



18th September

Family

Groove into the Woods

12:30pm | Theatre

Groove Into the Woods is an animated and live-action magical, musical adventure which follows three friends into a fairy-tale forest where they learn some important lessons about who you can trust, who your friends are, and which troll might eat you!

Specially designed to be a midpoint between kid shows and 'regular' adult concerts, this show has something for everyone. High energy interactive theatre meets top quality gig.



17th September

Music

Voodoo Room: A Night of Hendrix, Clapton & Cream

7:30pm | Grand Vault

A very welcome return to this stunning power trio featuring some of the UK's finest musicians, who perform an incredible live show in the true spirit of these legendary superstars. No wigs, no gimmicks – simply great music played by great musicians! See and hear classics such as... Red House, White Room, Hey Joe, Sunshine Of Your Love, Purple Haze, Layla etc.

Members of Voodoo Room have recorded and toured with Stevie Winwood, Massive Attack, Arthur Brown, Fish, Thunder and many other high profile artists.



21st September

Theatre

A Room of One's Own

7:00pm | Theatre

The award-winning creators of Female Gothic, I, Elizabeth, Christmas Gothic, and Austen's Women return with a twenty-first century take on Virginia Woolf's celebrated pre-TED talk.

Take a wry, amusing, and incisive trip through the history of literature, feminism, and gender. Meet Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, Aphra Behn, and Shakespeare's sister – Judith!

Travel to the far-flung future of... 2028. But whatever you do, Keep Off the Grass. Rebecca Vaughan performs Woolf's 1928 exploration of the impact of poverty and sexual inequality on intellectual freedom and creativity.



22nd September
Little Boxes
 7:00pm | Theatre

Theatre

Little Boxes is a one-woman show, taking the audience on a journey through Joann's life and the 'boxes' that have made her who she is today. The hopes and dreams of a child, the frustrations of an acting career, the tensions of being a parent, the grief in losing loved ones, the fear of being... herself.



28th September
The Formidable Lizzie Boone
 7:00pm | Theatre

Theatre

Centred around a therapist's office, the show explores the intricacies of humanity through a woman who loves vodka with lemonade and a cat called Lionel.

With lively voice-overs bringing to life an array of characters from soothing therapist Marie to wild child Debz, amongst others, this play is bursting with soul and humanity.



23rd September
Now That's What I Call Glam Pop!
 7:30pm | Grand Vault

Music

From the moment they hit the stage **KOO KA CHOO** barely stop to catch breath.

The seemingly endless barrage of Glam Rock hits will have you singing and dancing all night long. A fully live show with a tongue in cheek approach to give you that feel good factor. So dust off your flares, get your stacks on and break open that make up bag for a nostalgic trip into the outrageous world of GLAM!



29th September
John Peel's Shed
 7:00pm | Theatre

Theatre

In 2002, John Osborne won a competition on John Peel's Radio 1 show. His prize was a box of records that took eight years to listen to. This is an ode to radio, those records and anyone who's ever sought solace in wireless. This show features a selection of records previously owned by the late John Peel. Many are very rare recordings by obscure and now defunct bands, and this is a unique opportunity for any Peel fans.



30th September

An evening with Rik Jones

7:30pm | Theatre

Playing from the heart, Rik Jones is back, but this time to host a special evening in the Theatre! This local musician who not only covers artists from the 60's to the present day, Rik also writes and produces his own music, one of which was used in the short film '7 Days'

All proceeds from tickets will be donated to Dementia UK.



1st October

BuzzKocks

7:30pm | Grand Vault

BuzzKocks recreate all the classics from 'The Golden Period' of Buzzcocks 1977-1979. All done with the same sound, energy and passion of the original band. Songs like 'Boredom' 'What do I get?' 'Autonomy' 'Fast Cars' and many more, making for a 'rip-roaring' set of fast melodic Punk Rock.

With support from Fast Cars.

Music



2nd October

The Bluebird

2:00pm | Theatre

Family

Inspired by Maeterlinck's Bluebird, this show raises important philosophical questions for children & adults within a compelling, interactive quest adventure. What is the bluebird and where could it be hiding? In the Land of Memory, the Future, the Land of Luxury or has it flown to the Land of Night? Or have we simply lost the ability to see or hear it? The audience need to discover their own answers helped by plenty of theatrical magic. Suitable for families & children aged 6 years + and perfect to support children's wellbeing.



6th October

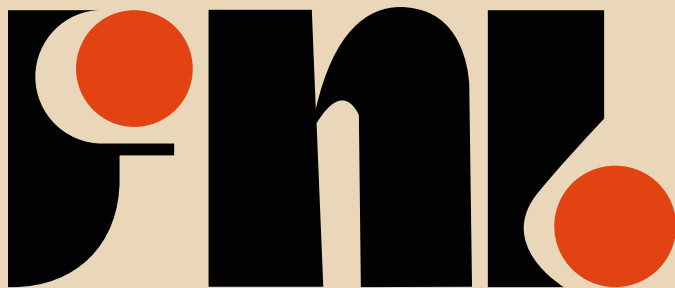
Mitch Benn: It's About Time

7:30pm | Theatre

Comedy

If it feels like the past is catching up with us and the future isn't what it used to be, then fear not!

Mitch Benn, comedian, songwriter and thinker of deep thought and satirist is back, clock in one hand and guitar in the other, to help you look at time in a whole new way.



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Friday Night Live is back! With a fresh new look too. FNL is an exciting platform for emerging and local musicians to showcase their talents. A great opportunity for you to enjoy new music and support your local grassroots artists.

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7th October

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: SLO CHEETAH, MANGO & INDOOR SHOES

7:30pm | Grand Vault

Alt-rock three-piece Slo Cheetah are headlining October's Friday Night Live at The Old Courts. Joined by all-girl indie/rock band Mango and the upcoming Indoor Shoes.

Slo Cheetah return to the gigging circuit with their first headline event post-lockdown in their hometown, Wigan. The straight-talking northern lads take a wide range of musical influences from bands such as Muse, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Foo Fighters just to name a few.

The drastically differing tastes in music that the three lads have results in them having a knack for creating head-bopping grooves, soaring singalong choruses and thought-provoking lyrics, often blurring the lines between multiple genres of music. With a calm confidence, the three-piece brings a tongue in cheek, high energy and humorous nature that permeates into their performances, breaking down barriers between class and culture.





8th October

Eddi Reader

7:00pm | Theatre

Music

We're delighted to welcome Eddi Reader to The Old Courts Theatre, with support from Jill Jackson. Eddi Reader is perhaps Scotland's greatest living female voice.

Her band Fairground Attraction had huge international success and number one hits with 'Perfect' and debut album 'First of a Million Kisses' which stormed the charts in the late 1980's. Throughout her successful solo career, Eddi has released consistently great works, including highly acclaimed albums such as 'The Songs of Robert Burns' and last years 'Cavalier'. She has won Brit Awards, been awarded four honorary degrees, an MBE, sung to millions on some of the world's greatest concert and festival stages and collaborated with a host of stars across a myriad of genres including Folk, Jazz, Pop, World, Punk and even Classical work with various orchestras.



13th October

Where is Mrs Christie?

2:00pm | Theatre

Theatre

Agatha Christie was one of the greatest and most prolific thriller writers of all time. In 1926, she was at the centre of a mystery as perplexing as any of her fiction; a series of events that sparked one of the biggest and most extensive police hunts in history. Her crashed car was discovered in Surrey with the famous author missing. She was presumed dead by many but eleven days later, was found staying at a luxury hotel in Harrogate. The author claimed that she was suffering from amnesia and remembered nothing. Neither the press nor the police believed her.... Did she lie, or was it really amnesia? Was it a publicity stunt? Or was there a darker secret behind the disappearance that would affect her for the rest of her life? As in every good thriller, all will be revealed!



14th October

Jesus Jones

7:30pm | Grand Vault

Music

90s indie-electronica band Jesus Jones are coming to the Grand Vault! The band produced a string of UK hits – Real Real Real, International Bright Young Thing’ – and a US number 1 with Right Here, Right Now.

2021 marked 20 years since Jesus Jones released their number 1 album “Doubt” and to celebrate it they are touring and playing the album in it’s entirety.



15th October

Don Letts: There And Black Again Book Tour & DJ Set

7:00pm | Theatre / Grand Vault

Music

Talk

Don Letts’ reputation has been firmly established in both the film and music world by a substantial body of work from the late 70’s through the 80’s, 90’s and well into the millennium.

He came to notoriety in the late 70’s as the DJ that single handedly turned a whole generation of punks onto reggae. It was whilst as a DJ at the first punk club ‘The Roxy’ in 1977, that made his first film ‘The Punk Rock Movie’ w/ Sex Pistols-The Clash and many others. This led to a period directing over 300 music videos for an diverse mix of artists ranging from Public Image to Bob Marley.



19th October
Harry Baker:
Unashamed
7:30pm | Theatre

Poetry

World Poetry Slam Champion Harry Baker's heart and humour has been watched by millions online and allowed him to perform all over the world, until suddenly he couldn't. From reviewing toilet seats online to writing falafel-based diss tracks for Chris Evans, he's back on stage where he belongs with his most heartfelt, playful, unashamedly Harry Baker-y show yet.

"The Spell Over The Audience Is Tangible"
 ★★★★★ Broadway Baby

**"Simply put...
 The greatest performer on Earth"**
 ★★★★★ BBC Radio 1



22nd October
An Evening With
Tom Robinson
7:30pm | Theatre

Talk

Tom's musical journey began in 1974 when his first band was discovered by Ray Davies, and included a BBC ban for being Glad To be Gay, rocking against racism alongside The Clash, headlining Glastonbury with Peter Gabriel, writing lyrics for Elton John, drug smuggling in East Germany, two nervous breakdowns and a period in tabloid hell after falling in love with a woman.

Having made his peace with the BBC, he's presented programmes on all the corporation's national radio networks, and his broadcasting work has won two Sony Radio Academy awards. Expect intimate versions of classics such as War Baby, Glad To Be Gay and 2-4-6-8 Motorway alongside stories from behind the scenes and a sprinkling of fan favourites from his extensive back catalogue.



21st October
Mark Frith
7:30pm | Grand Vault

Music

A Wigan favourite, Mark Frith, brings his full band for their debut show at The Old Courts. Frith burst onto the national UK music scene as the driving force and singer/songwriter of Wigan/Liverpool band 'The Troubadours'. Mark has picked up great plaudits for his Songwriting. Paul Weller called him a 'Classic British Songwriter' and famous record Producer John Leckie (Stone Roses, Radiohead) declared him 'the best Songwriter I've worked with in 10 years'.



23rd October

Family

Christopher Nibble

1:00pm & 3:30pm | Theatre

The guinea pigs of Dandeville love munching dandelion leaves so much that slowly but surely dandelions are disappearing from all over town. Christopher Nibble knows that crunch time has come when there is just one dandelion left – but will this plucky little guinea pig have the flower power to save the day?

26th October

Theatre

Confetti

7:00pm | Theatre

A Queer Rom-Com written & performed by Will Jackson. Felix is uptight and unlucky in love. He's the mate of honour at his best friend's wedding – one they've been planning since childhood – and he's going to make sure it's absolutely perfect. That is, as long as there are no distractions along the way...It's Helen's surprise Hen Night, and you're all invited!

Join Felix for the week leading up to the wedding as he's swept up in a tumultuous, secret romance, and facing weather, workouts and the worries of a bride-to-be.

"A Rising Comic Star"- Attitude Magazine.



27th October

Music

Bollywood Brass Band

7:30pm | Grand Vault

Twice nominated for Songlines World Music Awards, the band has performed all over the world. Bollywood Brass Band is the UK's pioneering Indian – style brass band, playing the great tunes and compulsively danceable rhythms of Bollywood. With brass, saxophone, dhol drums and a colossal sousaphone, the Bollywood Brass Band is one of the most colourful, joyful and exhilarating acts around.



28th October

Talk

Sixth Sense Ghost Hunters

8:00pm | Court Room

Join Sixth Sense team of mediums, psychics and paranormal investigators on a ghost hunting experience. Sixth Sense Ghost Hunting Team has provided ghost hunts for over 30 years so you are in safe hands.



28th October

Music

Electromantics

7:30pm | Grand Vault

The Eighties were a time of radical changes in music and fashion. In the aftermath of the Punk revolution, daring New Romantics embraced new sounds and technologies to change the face of music forever. Electromantics pay tribute to these pioneers with a live show that is as visually stunning as it is sonically accurate. Known for their incredible live performances. Electromantics are the only band to feature the incredible robotic dancing of Manochrome.



29th October

Music

Flash: Tribute to Queen

7:30pm | Grand Vault

Back by popular demand Flash, A Tribute To Queen return to The Old Courts for another fantastic show! Since the band catapulted to mega-stardom, Queen have been one of the biggest, most successful, widest-known most loved and critically acclaimed bands on the planet over the last 4 decades. Flash – A Tribute To Queen bring you the sound, energy and aesthetic of the original band. You will enjoy OUTSTANDING renditions of 'Under Pressure' 'We Will Rock You' 'Somebody To Love' 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and many many many more. The band are a spectacular homage and you will not be disappointed.



30th October

Family

The Bubble Show

1:00pm & 3:30pm | Theatre

The Bubble Show is a unique blend of magic, storytelling, and bubble art! Enjoy bouncy bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles, smoke bubbles, square bubbles, giant bubbles, and even fire bubbles! Actor, storyteller, and Guinness World Record holder, The Highland Joker, is one of the top bubble artists in the world, bringing you an interactive, fun, international award-winning bubble extravaganza!

2nd November

Theatre

Julie Madly Deeply

7:00pm | Theatre

The hills are alive with the return of this critically acclaimed Off Broadway and West End hit.

Adored by millions, Dame Julie Andrews is a genuine showbiz icon. This charming yet cheeky cabaret takes an engaging look at fame and fandom, through the eyes and voice of award-winning performer Sarah-Louise Young (Fascinating Aida, An Evening Without Kate Bush, La Soirée, Showstopper! The Improvised Musical). Julie's songs from musicals including Mary Poppins, The Sound of Music and My Fair Lady are intertwined with stories and anecdotes about Andrews' own life, from her beginnings as a child star to the more recent challenges of losing her famous singing voice. What emerges is a delightfully funny and candid love letter to a true show business survivor.



3rd November

Theatre

Watson: The Final Problem

7:00pm | Theatre

1894. Watson is alone. A broken man. His beloved wife Mary and the great Sherlock Holmes are gone. But London seethes with false reports and rumour. It is time to set the record straight. Time for Watson to tell his story...

★★★★★ **'A damn fine play!'** Weekend Notes

★★★★★ **'Utterly Brilliant!'** Edinburgh Fringe Review



4th November

Music

Whitesnake UK

8:00pm | Grand Vault

With a line up comprising professional recording artists, members from some of the world's most respected tribute bands, extensive worldwide touring, syndicated tv appearances and a combined musical experience of over 120 years, Whitesnake UK can proudly boast to having some of the most accomplished personnel in any tribute band. Formed by Carl Wooton in 2005, Whitesnake UK have performed extensively throughout the UK gaining a reputation as 'THE' Whitesnake tribute. Whitesnake UK concentrate purely on reproducing the classic sound of Whitesnake without the need for artificial backing tracks, gimmicks or wigs.



10th November

Theatre

Going Deutsch

7:00pm | Theatre

Should you ever go back to someone, or something, that almost destroyed you? What if they're sorry? What if they say they've changed? What if they're offering an EU passport? When Anna suggested calling up her ex, her friends were appalled, and to her surprise, her family felt very much the same way when she jumped into bed with Germany.



6th November

**Music
Film**

Nosferatu with live accompaniment from Chris Green (PG)

7:30pm | Theatre

Nosferatu (1922) is arguably the film that gave birth to the horror genre. Its combination of expressionistic acting and unforgettable images render it just as powerful and unsettling 100 years after it first released. Chris Green's new score was commissioned by English Heritage. The music is a haunting blend of electronic and acoustic instruments performed live by the composer and combined with FW Murnau's iconic images makes for a genuinely remarkable and unique cinematic experience.



11th November

Comedy

Jack Carroll: Walking Funny

7:00pm | Theatre

Jack Carroll, Britain's Got Talent Runner-Up, Star of BBC's Live at the Apollo and QI and Sky sitcom Trolled, as well as award winning movie Eaten by Lions returns to the stage with his new stand up comedy show, Walking Funny to The Old Courts. Enjoy a hilarious, and hysterical evening of entertainment, experiencing the lighter side of Jack Carroll's observations on life coping with Cerebral Palsy in the modern world.



12th November

The Stumble

7:30pm | Grand Vault

THE ORIGINAL BLUES SOUL SURVIVORS...

The Stumble, with support from McHale's Permanent Brew. A blistering mix of blues, soul and old school R&B, The Stumble have been wowing audiences with the energy and virtuosity of their live performances for the past 20 years. Festival favourites in every corner of the UK and Europe, The Stumble are taking their creative talents to a new level with their stupendous 4th album, The Other Side.

Music



18th November

BURN: Deep Purple Tribute

7:30pm | Grand Vault

BURN make their debut at The Old Courts playing a full range of classic Purple, with music from In Rock, Machine Head, Fireball, Who Do We Think We Are, Burn, Stormbringer and more. Keen eyed members of the audience will recognise the players, who also make up MOTHERSHIP, the Led Zeppelin Tribute who have played at the Old Courts many times.

Music



17th November

Learning to Fly

7:30pm | Theatre

Learning to Fly is the story of a remarkable friendship James made when he was a lonely, unhappy teenager –with the scary old lady who lived in the spooky house on his street. It's about connection, no matter the obstacles; about love's eternal struggle with time; about music and its ability to heal. It's also about her last wish: to get high once before she dies. Uplifting, big hearted and hilarious, this new one man show promises a glorious and irreverent evening with one of the UK's most acclaimed storytellers.

Theatre



19th November

Stanleys

7:30pm | Grand Vault

Admittedly one of our absolute favourite bands, we are delighted to welcome back the rising indie rock 4 piece; Stanleys.

Music

Stanleys are the next in a long line of illustrious musicians to emerge from Wigan. Performing at The Lathums' sold-out show at O2 Victoria Warehouse, as well as sold out shows at O2 Ritz with Jamie Webster and The Lottery Winners; all on top of selling out their own Manchester headline show in a matter of minutes, Stanleys have a strong-hold on the North West scene. It's now only a matter of time before the rest of the country are hanging onto every word.

This is certainly a gig not to be missed!



23rd November

Theatre

Mrs Churchill

7:00pm | Theatre

They say that behind every great man, there is a great woman. Was this true in Churchill's case? What of Clementine, his wife for 56 years? Did he bully her like he did so many other people? Was he as grumpy and irascible at home as he often was in the House of Commons? Given his strength and conviction, did Clem have any influence on him at all? Or was she 'the little lady at home'? All these questions will be answered, and many more, in Liz Grand's superb, moving, sensitive and informative portrayal of Clementine Churchill.



25th November

Music

True Order

7:30pm | Grand Vault

True Order are Europe's only tribute to the iconic Manchester band New Order and are considered by many to be the next best thing to watching the real thing. Playing the songs from the early years after the demise of Joy Division, including the haunting 'Ceremony', along with the anthemic 'Temptation', right through to tracks from 2015's Music Complete, such as 'Restless' and 'Singularity', they emulate the rich tapestry of synthesizers, sequencers, drum machines and guitars with the same uncompromising attitude that made New Order pioneers of modern music.



24th November

Theatre

Fashion Spies

7:00pm | Theatre

A queer, choose-your-own adventure made for families, Fashion Spies puts audiences right into the heart of the show. At fashion weeks across the globe, expensive must-have items have been stolen, and every top-secret agent sent to investigate has been kidnapped! With the infamous annual Burnwell-upon-Twynne Fashion Week around the corner, the Secret Agency Service has no other option but to send in the spy academy's entire undergraduate class to solve the case – that's you! Find yourself on an undercover mission as you travel around the world with Quick Duck Theatre - your choices will help to thwart the biggest threat that fashion has ever seen.



26th November

Music

Genesis Visible Touch

7:30pm | Grand Vault

In 1981, Genesis released their iconic and ground-breaking album "Abacab". To celebrate the 40th (+1 metre!) anniversary, GVT are touring in 2022 performing material from the album alongside hits like "Mama" and "Land Of Confusion", as well as some favourites and old classics for good measure!

"The best exponents of Collins-fronted Genesis I've seen"

- Nick Davis, Genesis' producer



27th November

Dommy B's Dragon's Tale

7:30pm | Grand Vault

Family

Rick loves poetry. He thinks it's exciting, funny and imaginative. But all across the land poets are being silenced – by a dragon! How can Rick avoid being eaten and help save the village from this fiery fiend?

Dommy B's charming shows have toured around theatres, festivals and schools nationally and world-wide for the last 10 years, delighting children and presenting them with lovable, accessible poetry.

Dommy B says, "I love performing kid's shows because children make the best audiences! As well as loads of fun, I'm hoping to offer my audiences a really good experience of poetry, so that they'll see that it's not boring, or something that you've got to be a grown up to understand and enjoy. It's something everyone can join in with, and most importantly have a great time listening to!"



27th November

Simon Yates

7:00pm | Theatre

Talk

Come along and witness Simon's tireless journey from that mountain in Peru to some of the remotest on the planet and share with him the drama, excitement and beauty of modern, lightweight alpinism. Told with wit, dryhumour and lavishly illustrated with images and film collected on his great climbs. "Simon is a totally engaging speaker, who both entertains and inspires."



2nd December

Mothership

7:30pm | Grand Vault

Music

MOTHERSHIP – Led Zeppelin Tribute present our brand new set – two hours plus of Zeppelin classics, with a handful of surprises too. When the Levee Breaks, Going to California, Kashmir, Misty Mountain Hop and lots more. It might get loud and expect the unexpected!

"The most authentic sounding Zep tribute in the UK" - *Classic Rock magazine*

Pendle Productions
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Aladdin

It's going to be the ride of a lifetime!

Written & directed by
T.J. Lince



Pendle Productions are delighted to be returning to The Old Courts this year once again with their spectacular family Pantomime Aladdin.

Working in partnership for the 4th year running, they are promising an awfully big adventure for children of all ages – right in the heart of Wigan town centre. With spectacular special effects, popular songs, dance routines and comedy you will suspend disbelief for a magical two hours and come with us on the ride of a lifetime.

There is a Good Fairy and Genie to cheer, evil Abanazar to boo, Aladdin, the Princess, Emperor and Wishee Washee with our story starting in Widow Twanky's laundry where the comedy really begins.

Take a flight into the stars with Aladdin and his friends this Christmas at The Old Courts in Wigan.

Wish you were here? Get your tickets now at
www.theoldcourts.com/panto

Family/Group booking discounts available.



Show Dates

Saturday 3rd December	11:00
	14:00

Saturday 10th December	11:00
	14:00

Sunday 11th December	11:00
	14:00

Saturday 17th December	14:00
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Sunday 18th December	11:00
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Wednesday 21st December	14:00
	18:00

Thursday 22nd December	14:00
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Friday 23rd December	11:00
	11:00

*School performances available.
Please contact us for more details.*





BAILIFF BAR

OPENING TIMES

Mon/Tues:	CLOSED
Wed/Thurs:	17:30 - 23:30
Fri:	16:30 - 01:30
Sat:	13:30 - 01:30
Sun:	13:30 - 20:00

Finally reopening our doors in October 2021 after what felt like an eternity following the dreaded big C(19), we've come back with a bang!

Bailiff Bar isn't just brimming with an extensive range of drinks, like craft ales, gins, whiskeys, prosecco, cocktails, bottle beers and draught lagers but, as you dig a little deeper, you soon find it is bursting with a unique cultural offering that truly sets it apart. 'The Holding Cell' is the intimate home to many of our specialised events that take place and has become a much-loved performance space. Think Edinburgh fringe meets The Northern Quarter!

There really is something to tickle everyone's taste here, we bring you poetry, comedy, improv and with a roster of singer/songwriters who bring you free live music on the weekends. You can discover monthly favourites, many of which encourage audience involvement such as 'The Something New Show', 'Vinyl Vibes', 'Folk in the Bailiff' and 'Open Mic Poetry' and our just added 'Pocket Jazz' night, all of which offer something totally different and compliment the vibe of the venue.

**ENJOY FREE LIVE MUSIC
EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY FROM 7:30PM**

**JOE
ASTLEY
SUNDAY
TAKEOVER**

Join local singer-songwriter Joe Astley in his new residency in the Bailiff Bar, every Sunday from October 2022.



FREE EVENTS IN THE BAILIFF



Third Wednesday of the month

Pocket Jazz

7:00pm | Bailiff Bar

Our new monthly Jazz event will feature and showcase local up and coming acts, as well as some more familiar faces on the local, and not so local jazz scene. In our friendly down to earth Bailiff Bar, famous for its real craft ales and friendly vibe, you can relax and chill. A playlist of jazz classics will mix it with our featured live Jazz artist. If you a new comer to jazz or an established fan, we hope the evening will entertain and educate.



First Thursday of the month

The Something New Show

7:30pm | Bailiff Bar

Casino Improv host a cabaret of spoken word, poetry, improv, comedy, music, storytelling and more. Each show features 2 very special guests – a poet and a comic. Every show also has an open mic section. Bring something to share or just enjoy the show.



Second Thursday of the month

Open Mic Poetry

7:00pm | Bailiff Bar

Join us for Wigan's longest running and most successful poetry open mic – in conjunction with Write Out Loud. We welcome established poets and newcomers alike to a friendly and supportive night of words.



Third Thursday of the month

Folk in the Bailiff

7:00pm | Bailiff Bar

Join brilliant local singer-songwriter Lawrence Hoy for a relaxed evening of song and storytelling. Each month, Lawrence will host different singer-songwriters from the local Folk scene. Grab a drink from the bar, take a seat and enjoy an evening of free live music. Tapping and clapping along is encouraged.



Fourth Thursday of the month

Vinyl Vibes

7:00pm | Bailiff Bar

Our regular Bailiff Bar gathering for lovers of classic and diverse vinyl records. Host, Haden Boardman, will spin records across genres of a selected classic album. We encourage you to bring your favourite records, LP or singles to play on the night! Or just head down and come relax with a pint in great company.

AN INTERVIEW WITH

RIK JONES

by Hayley Hoban



Ahead of his intimate performance at the end of September, Rik Jones and his dad, Chris, join me in the café as Rik speaks, candidly about his music, his life growing up and his experiences living with sight loss, more specifically, Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a sight condition prevalent in babies born before 32 weeks. Here is a little taster of what you can expect from his upcoming show, 'An Evening with Rik Jones'.

Tell us about your music?

How I got into music is a very special story, one that involves the special people in my life, it's a story that I don't want to give too much away on as this is what you can expect from my upcoming show. For me, music is something that I just took to, I was never interested in football as I can't see. While other kids were out in the street with their footballs, I was sat out with my acoustic guitar. I've grown up around music, I have great memories of family do's, we would all sit round on chairs, some drinking sherry, and others rum and black, and we'd all just sing together. The thing with music is that it comes from you, you don't need anybody else, just a pair of ears.

When I was younger, I would emulate a lot of what I heard, a lot influenced by my dad, Oasis, Cast, The Jam, U2 and so on. I'm self-taught, I play the guitar, drums, bass, harmonica, and ukulele. I've been lucky enough to support John Power from Cast, The Songbook Collective (Paul Wellers Band) and the Real People. I've played at the Echo Arena, at a celebration of The Jam.

Living with sight loss, how does your music help you?

For me, when you're on that stage those two hours, you're on a level with everybody else, there's nobody excluding you, for those two hours, you're in charge. I get many people after performances asking me

'how do you play if you can't see?' I feel like people have underestimated me because of my sight, but for me, the main thing is that my family, mum, dad, and grandparents, let me try, and they still do. There's nothing off limits. My dad says other musicians are fascinated with the way I play, I don't play the way musicians 'should' or the way teachers have tried to teach me, my style is very different, but it works.

What can we expect from this upcoming performance?

I'll be playing a mix of my personal favourites along with some originals. Lockdown put a halt on the show, so I'm just really excited to do the performance and tell stories in an environment that they deserve to be told in, let's just say you'll need a tissue.

"When I was a young dad, I remember seeing other dads shouting to their sons 'go on lad!' when their sons would be running to that goal or scoring a try. Well, I get that same feeling when Rik plays the guitar and I see that audience response."

Chris - Rik's Dad

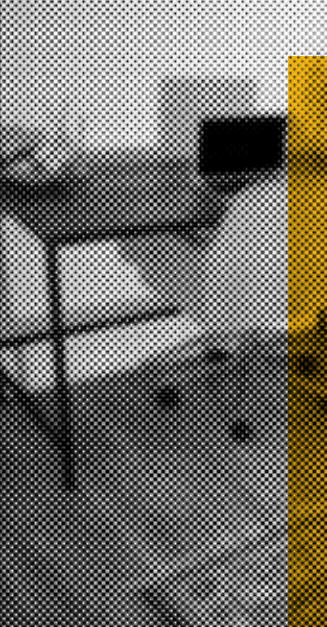
You've decided to donate all ticket proceeds to Dementia UK, can you tell us a bit about that?

Dementia personally affected our family when my grandma, Veronica, was diagnosed just as I turned 21 and sadly passed away in 2016. My grandma loved my music, she'd always turn up to my gigs. There's a piece of my grandma in this upcoming show, you can learn more about her and the impact she had on my life and music in the performance.



30th September

**An evening
with Rik Jones**



NEW

Creative Office Spaces at The Old Courts

The ideal space for creative businesses, start-ups and freelancers.

- Sought After Location
- Onsite Bar & Cafe
- Fully Equipped Spaces
- Excellent Transport Links
- Flexible Lease Agreement

From

£115
per week*

*Billed at £495 pcm



WIGAN STEAM

Nestled within our beautiful Victorian building are a diverse range of businesses who call The Old Courts home. For this month's What's On issue, we spoke to one of our creative tenants, Community Arts Organisation, Wigan STEAM with Creative Director, Louise Robson.

WHAT IS WIGAN STEAM?

We are a creative organisation all about helping people explore their creativity and culture in their local area. We provide opportunities for people to access creativity, such as workshops for adults along with an extensive young people's programme. There are early years events that we do on a weekly basis and holiday camps! We also work with different groups of young people to do Arts Award. We provide one off events with artists, we do a lot of Artist development, putting on residencies too and putting artists into schools. There are lots of different things that we do but they're all centred around creativity and helping people to explore their creativity in different ways.

The team is made up of Louise Robson, Emily Calland, Steph Peet and Emily Robson. Between them, there is a nice mix of artistic backgrounds, from printmaking, illustration, textiles, handmade crafts and even drama.

WHO ARE YOUR WORKSHOPS/CLASSES FOR?

We genuinely believe that there isn't a person out there who can't get creative. To those who say they can't draw, we say, if you can make a mark on a piece of paper, you can draw. Whilst we do have a focus on young people, we do offer a lot for adults. We do find, with lot of parents who bring their children to get involved initially, we'll encourage them to try one of our workshops, at first, they seem hesitant, but then a couple of weeks later you'll see them in a pottery class loving it. We are trying to grow our programme, we're not precious about things, it's all about having a go, trying new things, and seeing what happens.

HOW HAVE YOU SETTLED IN AT THE OLD COURTS?

It was definitely a big change for us, one of our main concerns when finding a new space was accessibility, making sure we could welcome anybody no matter what additional access needs may be. We were so excited when we came and looked around The Old Courts to see there's a ramp, automatic door, and accessible toilet. We knew this would mean that everyone and anyone can come and enjoy our workshops.

We now have an office separate to our workshops. In our previous space our office was the workshop area. Here, we use the Community Room for our workshops. It's also great to mix with other organisations who use the community room.

It's been nice to be part of a wider community. Whilst we have had previous connections with The Old Courts and the people that work here and some tenants, it's nice to go upstairs knowing you might bump into people, and you can have a chat. It's nice to be in a place where there's so much happening, we feel well looked after here, which bleeds down into our participants. It's the little things like having tea and coffee available, being in a warm building with a comfortable atmosphere.

WRITTEN BY HAYLEY HOBAN

YOU CAN READ THE FULL
INTERVIEW WITH LOUISE OVER
ON OUR WEBSITE.



BUNKER OF ZION

Bunker of Zion delights audiences nationwide.

Across 20 performances of Bunker of Zion nationally (including a 3 night run at Wigan Pier), hundreds of audiences experienced this joyful, thought-provoking & thrilling show which is a celebration of Zimbabwean culture; told through music, dance and song.

Developed by artists and communities with the Collaborative Touring Network, a growing national collective of organisations. Created & Directed by John Pfumojena.



"I am so glad I was a part of the experience. I truly believe these shows had a positive impact on the Wiganers that came along, and the feedback we received was outstanding."

Hazel Hobson
Projects Officer



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



**COLLABORATIVE
TOURING
NETWORK**

Photo courtesy of Jen Fotos



EPIC FAIL

The Old Courts have just rounded up the second year of Moving Roots after the incredible success of Rent Party last year. With the aim of exploring new ways of working with our local community here in Wigan, 2022 acclaimed artist Kid Carpet worked alongside Millbrook Primary School on new collaborative show Epic Fail!

Moving Roots is a collective of arts organisations spanning across the UK. Over three years, our aim is to explore new ways of creating theatre and live performance in local communities. Since 2021, we've been working closely with

our community to create opportunities that celebrate local people, their voices and stories.

This summer, acclaimed performance artist Kid Carpet worked with the children of Millbrook Primary School to present a playful new production Epic Fail. Transforming Millbrook's school hall into a theatre, Kid Carpet and the Year 5 group spent four weeks creating, playing, laughing, and discussing the topic of failure in a new and creative way.

"The children jumped headfirst into everything that was thrown at them with open minds and big imaginations and really pushed themselves to reimagine what failure and success means to them"

Beth Ellis
Projects Officer



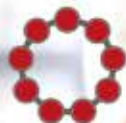
MOVING ROOTS



**Esmée
Fairbairn**
FOUNDATION



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION



Greater Manchester
MUSIC HUB

Wigan[♥]
Council

Wigan

Children's Choir

What is it?

For children aged 7+ that love to sing.
No previous experience required,
just lots of enthusiasm!

Where is it?

The Old Courts,
Crawford Street,
Wigan,
WN1 1NA
(On-street parking is free from 6.30pm)

When is it?

Tuesday's 6.30 - 7.30pm
(term time only)

Who delivers it?

Wigan Music Service

Try us out
for **FREE!**
(4 weeks)

£35 per term
That's £2.95
per week!



Secure your place, or for further information contact **Alison Home**
Tel: 01942 776169 | Email: alison.home@wigan.gov.uk

WORK WITH US

Are you passionate about The Arts, community and heritage? Come work with us!

We are a community-driven non-profit organisation focused on developing the Arts in Wigan, and as such a keen interest in the Arts means a lot to our team. As our team keeps on growing, we will be looking for others with the similar interests and passion as us.

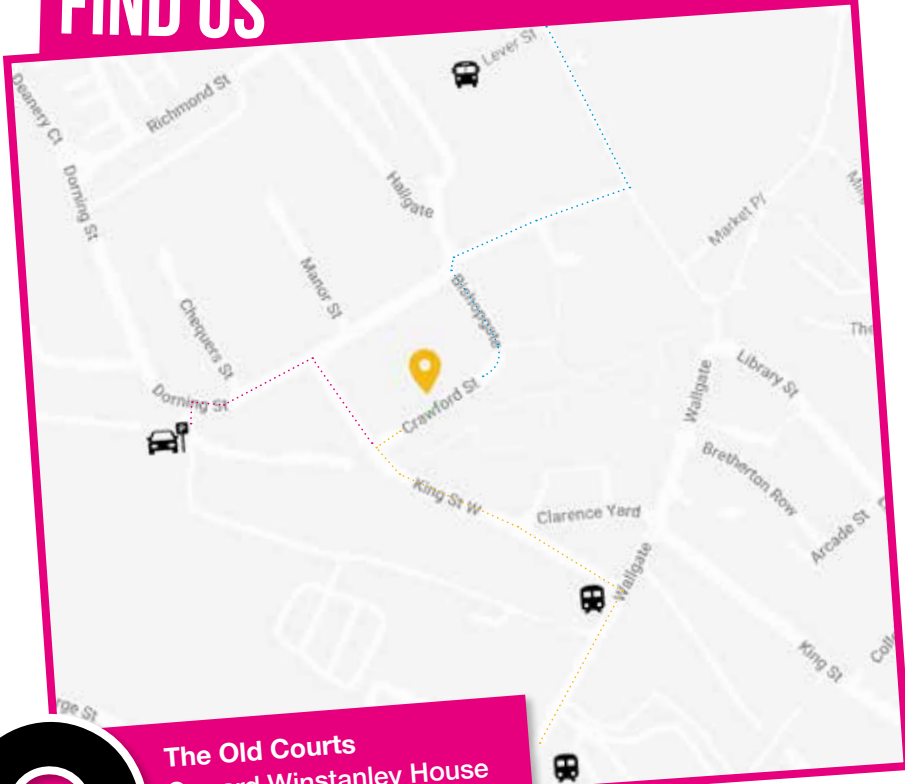


The Fork & Brush café is a friendly Wigan Town Centre café nestled inside The Old Courts, serving tasty options for breakfast, brunch & lunch.

Opening Times:
Mon - Fri: 9:30am - 3:30pm



FIND US



The Old Courts
Gerrard Winstanley House
Crawford Street,
Wigan, WN1 1NA

TICKET LINE

7 days a week via **Quaytickets**
Tel: 0343 208 6015

Monday - Friday: 9:30am - 8pm

Saturday: 10am - 8pm

Sunday: 10am - 6pm

Note: Local rate charge applies & included in all free minute plans.

OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri: 10am - 3pm

General Enquiries:
01942 834747

BOX OFFICE

Mon - Fri: 9:30am - 3:00pm

Onsite box office located in the **Fork & Brush Café**.

FOLLOW US

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