


Shindig Spring 2009 Tour

As always, Shindig has a great range of tours in Wychavon for you to choose from in the spring season, lots of amazing drama, a range of music - home-grown and international, comedy, storytelling, children's and family theatre and much more.

 [Shindig](#)'s Spring and Summer programme offers a range of wonderful shows! We hope these exciting events will entice you out to your local venue from early spring through to the end of May. As always you'll find a variety of high quality tours appealing across age ranges; you can trust the Shindig brand to bring you very special and memorable evenings. Be sure to book your tickets early: usually between £6 - £8 and family tickets

Below is a description of each show that has passed or is coming up in the next few days in Wychavon. Alongside this you will find the date, time, location and box office phone number. For shows that have passed comments about the show will be displayed.

Mervyn Stutter Presents - *'An Evening with Mervyn Stutter'*

Mervyn Stutter is a very popular fellow, a national treasure, even! He's much in demand this spring and we know audiences are going to have a great evening with him.

Mervyn Stutter is an actor, comedian, scriptwriter, satirical songwriter, founder member of *The Flying Pickets* and has worked widely in theatre, comedy, cabaret, Radio and TV.

The Sixties Generation is a huge social group that refuses to grow old gracefully and so, in 2004, Mervyn wrote and starred in a comedy series, for Radio 4, called *Getting Nowhere Fast* the story of Merv, a menopausal flower child in the 21st Century. Mervyn is an unashamed Baby Boomer and his sometimes wicked but always affectionate sense of humour brings warmth and joy to an audience that is happy to laugh both at his life and their own.

"This show should come with a Health Warning - excessive laughter can damage your health!"
Little Witley Village Hall, Worcestershire

Recommended for adults and children 12+

Friday 29th May - 8.00pm
Drakes Broughton Village Hall, WR10 2AJ
01905 840415/840576

Siyaya Arts - OnkeOse

History meets today, social meets spiritual and political meets the 'not so political' to tell the story of Zimbabwe through song and dance. Stunning traditional and Township song and dance from the heart of the Townships in Bulawayo, celebrating the greatest African instrument – the human voice. Live on stage the male and female singers, dancers, musicians and actors are exciting and uplifting. *As temperature-raisers they are nothing short of spectacular*".

Siyaya are one of Zimbabwe's great music and dance treasures and have gained international recognition by their live performances and recordings. People have asked if Siyaya are musicians, a dance group or a theatre company. Siyaya encompasses all of these celebrations and is ***simply not to be missed!***

Friday 19th June
Inkberrow Village Hall, WR7 4HA
01386 793885

May

Ashton Under Hill Village Hall

Comments - "*Fantastic show full of colour & energy. Appealed to young and old*"

London Mozart Players Wind Ensemble - In concert

The London Mozart Players is the UK's longest established chamber orchestra and one of the finest in Europe. Bringing together outstanding musicians from the UK and abroad to perform music of the highest quality, the LMP is internationally renowned for its live performances and CD recordings, and is particularly known for its definitive performances of the core Classical repertoire.

The Wind Ensemble not only performs a delightful programme of music but the musicians will chat to the audience during the concert, introducing themselves and the music, making for a friendly, informal yet stunningly memorable evening.

Works will include: Beethoven's Variations on Mozart's La ci darem di mano; Britten's Six Metamorphoses after Ovid; Poulenc's Romance for clarinet and bassoon; Mozart's Divertimento in No. 1.

Sunday 8th March

Eckington Trinity Church, WR10 3AN

Comments - "*Superb in every respect*"

NTC Touring Theatre Company - 'Get up and Tie your Fingers'

Set against the background of the loss of the Eyemouth fishing fleet in the great storm of 1881, this is the funny, deeply moving and ultimately uplifting story of three women - mothers and daughters - fighting the demons we can all relate to and often have to face.

Like most mothers and daughters, Jean and Molly are the best of enemies. Molly yearns to get away from the village but Jean can never let her go until she faces up to her own demons. Friend and neighbour Janet has enough humour, warmth, wisdom and determination to take on the worst of demons, but even she is unprepared for one terrible day that changes everything.

On 14th October 1881 forty five six-man fishing boats left Eyemouth harbour for the fishing grounds. The freak storm that followed took the lives of one hundred and twenty nine men and boys all from one small community.

This is their story.

Wednesday 11th March

Offenham Village Hall, WR11 8QD

Baghdaddies - 'In Concert'

Inspired by the Roma wedding and brass band music of the Balkans, the Baghdaddies play Balkan gypsy with Middle Eastern flavours, shades of Klezmer and tango, jazz and reggae, some calypso plus a touch of ska - all laced with funky dance grooves and blistering eastern brass harmonies.

Village hall favourites, the Baghdaddies perform extensively both on a national and international level. They are equally at home playing on stage or street, village venue or festival and always receive a warm if not frenzied reaction from their audience. They have released four acclaimed albums of mainly original material in their own unique style. A lively, humorous and animated performance guaranteed for all the family!

Friday 27th March

Harvington Village Hall, WR11 8NQ

Comments - *"Once again an excellent show"*

Saturday 28th March

Littleton Village Hall, WR11 8LI

Comments - *"The event was extremely enjoyable"*

Friday 17th April

Drakes Broughton Village Hall, WR10 2AJ

Comments - *"Show was fantastic"*

Saturday 18th April

Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall, WR11 8LE

Friday 24th April

Offenham Viillage Hall, WR11 8QD

Forest Forge Theatre Company - 'A Clearing' by Dan Allum

Highly popular Hampshire based Forest Forge Theatre Company presents a new piece of theatre this spring.

A moving story and powerful romantic drama in the tradition of Thomas Hardy set in the 1960s against the backdrop of the last Romany encampment in the New Forest, known as Shave Green. The play focuses on the beautiful Theodosia and her father Moses and how they struggled against a severe winter and the local council who wanted them off the land.

A Clearing is a must-see this spring!

Friday 3rd April

Bishampton Villages Hall, WR10 2LY

Comments - *"Excellent, powerful drama", comments from the audience "one of the best I've seen"*

Chris Wood and Karine Polwart - 'From the Floor'

There's a genuine authenticity in both these songwriters; their songs are both enchanting and provocative. Both musicians write and produce music which has a sincerity seldom encountered these days. Their songs make connections and engage.

Chris and Karine first met and performed together at the Barbican in 2007 as part of the Folk Britannia series for BBC TV. Chris played Glastonbury this year while Karine has recently played London's Round House and both appeared at the Cambridge Folk Festival in August 2008.

Saturday 4th April

Rous Lench Village Hall, WR11 4UN

Comments - "*The performers were excellent*"

Sunday 5th April

Bretforton Fleece Inn Barn, WR11 7JE

Comments - "*Excellent show - very well received*"

Ratatat Theatre Company- '*April in Paris*'

Bet (played by Stephanie Preacher) and Al (played by Dominic Goodwin) lead a quiet life in their small Yorkshire home until Bet wins a "Romantic Breaks" competition in a magazine. The prize, a holiday for two in Paris, represents their first experience abroad and has profound effects on the way they look at the world around them once they return home.

They sort out French cuisine, wrestle with their phrase book and fend off would-be muggers on the Metro in this hilarious depiction of the English abroad. You'll love it!

April 23rd

Harvington Village Hall, WR11 8NQ

Saturday 25th April

Crothorne & Charlton Village Hall, WR10 3NH

Friday 1st May

Abbotds Morton Village Hall

Helen Barrett - '*The Lady Loves Jazz*'

The Lady Loves Jazz, a one-woman jazz music show, is a wonderful celebration of traditional and contemporary jazz songs that will ignite the spirit and warm the soul. Brought together by the stunning and charismatic vocals of Helen Barrett, this musical performance will leave you humming happily all the way home.

Helen has been singing for as long as she can remember and it still brings her complete and utter joy. Professionally, Helen has been entertaining audiences for ten years and was one of the first graduates of Paul McCartney's Performing Arts School, LIPA, in Liverpool.

Saturday 16th May

Birlingham Village Hall, WR10 3AB

Mervyn Stutter Presents - '*An Evening with Mervyn Stutter*'

Mervyn Stutter is a very popular fellow, a national treasure, even! He's much in demand this spring and we know audiences are going to have a great evening with him.

Mervyn Stutter is an actor, comedian, scriptwriter, satirical songwriter, founder member of *The Flying Pickets* and has worked widely in theatre, comedy, cabaret, Radio and TV.

The Sixties Generation is a huge social group that refuses to grow old gracefully and so, in 2004, Mervyn wrote and starred in a comedy series, for Radio 4, called *Getting Nowhere Fast* the story of Merv, a menopausal flower child in the 21st Century. Mervyn is an unashamed Baby Boomer and his sometimes wicked but always affectionate sense of humour brings warmth and joy to an audience that is happy to laugh both at his life and their own.

"This show should come with a Health Warning - excessive laughter can damage your health!"
Little Witley Village Hall, Worcestershire

Recommended for adults and children 12+

Sunday 3rd May

Elmbridge Village Hall, WR9 ODA

Comments - *"There was much laughter and the audience particularly liked the musical content"*

Saturday 16th May

Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall, WR11 8LE

Sunday 17th May

Harvington Village Hall, WR11 8NQ

Friday 29th May - 8.00pm

Drakes Broughton Village Hall, WR10 2AJ

01905 840415/840576

Reg Meuross and Jackie Oates - 'Songroads'

Reg and Jackie will be playing songs from Reg's brand new album *Dragonfly* currently receiving rave reviews; primarily a collection of story songs written by Reg from tales, both traditional and contemporary, collected on his last three years of rural touring, as well as more traditional story songs rendered in Jackie's exceptionally clear and beautiful voice. They will also be playing songs featured on Jackie's latest release *The Violet Hour*, the Phil Beer produced collection of traditional and original folk songs.

Friday 8th May

Bredons Norton Severn Sailing Club, GL20 7HD

Sunday 10th May

Bishampton Villages Hall, WR10 2LY

Robin and Bina Williamson - 'Songs, Stories and Music for the Spring'

Touring and recording since the 1990s, their songs and music delight with a changing collage of traditional and original pieces with harp, fiddle, flute, percussion and other instruments and featuring the evocative East-West harmonies of their voices in a style described recently as *Indo-Celtic-Delta!*

Their concerts are seasonal celebrations of the turning year embracing legend, original material and folk music from many roots (including English, Celtic, Indian and Old Timey American) to create a wonderful blend, powerfully conveying a sense of the enchantment and wonder of life.

This is real music, magical, simple, funky and true. It makes people feel good - people of all cultures and all ages. It's full of soul and highly entertaining.

For all the family!

Saturday 9th May

Littleton Village Hall, WR11 8LJ

Third Party Productions - '*The Tragical History of Dr Faustus*'

The Tragical History of Dr Faustus is a play by Christopher Marlowe based on the Faust story, in which a man sells his soul to the devil for power and knowledge. Dr Faustus was first published in 1604, eleven years after Marlowe's death. This highly entertaining version of the play is fast moving, full of surprises, shot through with effective plot-moving popular forms: dance and song, live music (the dulcet tones of the ukulele), even a touch of ventriloquism as Faustus is mocked by his own image parodying his speech to Helen of Troy while blues-singing Lucifer riffs on the soul of a man!

Saturday 9th May

Eckington Village Hall, WR10 3AU

The Legendary Robin Williamson - '*An Evening of Songs and Stories*'

As early as the winter of 1960, Robin was invited to play London's legendary Troubadour - two years before Bob Dylan's famous appearance in 1962! Founder in the 1960s of the influential Incredible String Band and the Merry Band of the 1970s, Robin has been a key figure at the forefront of the storytelling revival in Europe and America since the 80s.

One of the tracks from Robin's new CD 'The Iron Stone' is to be used as the title music for a forthcoming major French film, L'Heure d'?'te starring Juliette Binoche plus his song at Woodstock is about to be included in a box set by Warner Bros films.

Sunday 17th May

Bretforton, The Fleece Inn Barn, WR11 7JE

Umdumo Wesizwe - 'QO'

Umdumo Wesizwe are 10 young men singing songs of love, hope, worship, courtship, hardship and African social commentary who will mesmerise you with their harmonies and beautifully choreographed dance routines.

Umdumo Wesizwe (meaning Sound of the Nation) hails from Zimbabwe's townships and was established in 1994. The traditional music sung by Umdumo Wesizwe is called '*isichathamiya*' (iscot- a-me-ya), also known as '*imbube*'.

The music was born in the mines of Southern Africa. Black workers were taken by rail to work far away from their homes and their families. Poorly housed and paid worse, they would entertain themselves after a six-day week by singing songs into the small hours every Sunday morning; this began a fierce but social competition held regularly and was the highlight of everyone's social calendar. The winners were awarded a goat for their efforts and, of course, the adoration of their fans. *Imbube* has been made popular in the west by Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Zimbabwe's Black Umfolosi and the Austrian based trio Insingizi.

Over the years they have created their own style of singing, called 'igusheshe'. This is *imbube* music laced with other music styles such as RnB, jazz, Kwaito, Afro Pop and Reggae. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see and hear them in your village hall or community venue!

Recommended for all ages

Saturday 30th May - 7.30pm
Beckford Village Hall - GL20 7AA
01386 881248

New Perspectives Theatre Company – *Wasteland*

Jamie's dad's just been sent down. Megan's planning to run away to find her real dad. Clayton's back in town and keen to play the father figure.


When three lost souls find themselves washed-up on the banks of a disused canal, it quickly becomes clear that there are some big choices to be made this summer – life and death choices.

Inspired by the real-life events leading up to the killing of Fred Barras by farmer Tony Martin, rising star Laura Lomas has written an unsettling portrait of teenage life on the edge of a midlands market town – a gripping drama of revenge and redemption.

More 'new perspectives' on life in the rural East Midlands from the region's favourite touring theatre company, this time in a bold new production that will be of particular interest to teenage and young adult audiences.

Recommended for adults and children 16+ (contains strong language)

Saturday 30th May - 7.30pm
The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich WR9 8ED
01905 770154 / 08700 600 100

For more information on  [Shindig](#) or if you fancy promoting / hosting a Shindig show in your village / town please contact

Sue Roberts, Shindig Co-ordinator on 01544 327877 or email  sue@artservice.org.uk