

BIRMINGHAM

FESTIVAL

GUIDE

2020

# CONTENTS

4 - 63 EVERY BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL IN 2020\*

## 6 OF THE BEST

PLACES YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT IN BIRMINGHAM

6 PARKS & WALKS

14 BARS

24 PLACES TO EAT PART ONE

36 MUSIC VENUES

46 MUSEUMS

50 PLACES TO EAT PART TWO

64 INDEX BY CATEGORY

68 CREDITS

\* IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT WE'VE MISSED ONE OR TWO.  
SEE [BIRMINGHAMFESTIVALS.COM](http://BIRMINGHAMFESTIVALS.COM) FOR UPDATES.



**MADE**  
FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 2020  
SANDWELL VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

**THE STREETS**

HEADLINERS A-Z

**ARTWORK**

**FLAVA D**

**GORGON CITY**

**HOLY GOOF**

**HORSE MEAT DISCO**

**HYBRID MINDS** TEMPZA

**JAY1**

**SASASAS**

**SHY FX**

**SONNY FODERA**

**STEFFLON DON**

**WILKINSON** DJ SET

PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE

[MADE-FESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://MADE-FESTIVAL.CO.UK)

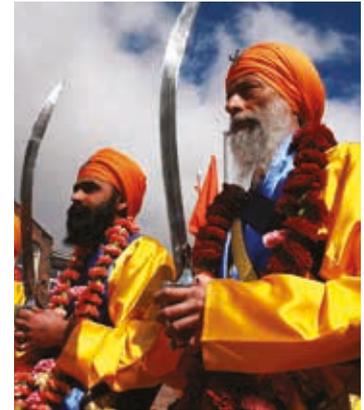


# WELCOME



**“Life is a festival  
only to the wise”**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson





# JANUARY

## First Bite & Bite Size

**JANUARY 18**

[bit.ly/1stBite2020](http://bit.ly/1stBite2020)

MAC Birmingham & Warwick Arts Centre

Bite Size and its sister festival First Bite exist to develop and showcase new work from the Midlands. The activity runs across four public events and includes a fully supported commissioning process for three regional theatre makers.

## Ideas of Noise

**JANUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 9**

[bit.ly/IDNoise2020](http://bit.ly/IDNoise2020)

Birmingham, Stourbridge and Coventry

Contemporary classical performance rubs shoulders with electronica, visual art and film. This edition of Ideas of Noise spreads its programme of cutting edge music, art and interactive events across Birmingham, Stourbridge and Coventry.

## Chinese New Year

**JANUARY 24-26**

[bit.ly/YearoftheRat2020](http://bit.ly/YearoftheRat2020)

Southside, Birmingham

Welcome in the Year of the Rat at Birmingham's annual Chinatown gathering, the UK's largest celebration of the lunar new year outside London.



Arts and Science Festival

## University of Birmingham Arts & Science Festival

**JAN 2020 – MAY 2020**

[bit.ly/ArtsnScience2020](http://bit.ly/ArtsnScience2020)

Various venues across Birmingham

Birmingham University's annual celebration of research, culture and collaboration - on and beyond its Edgbaston campus - is currently showcasing the launch of the University's new Green Heart parkland. Its spring programme sees thinkers, makers and doers engage with the theme 'Hope'.

## 6 OF THE BEST...

# PARKS AND WALKS

Two regularly recycled semi-facts about Birmingham: more canals than Venice, and more trees than Paris. Although the city may lack for waterfronts or dramatic views, it has no shortage of lovely options if you're looking to work off a hangover or a big meal.

### Sutton Park

One of Europe's largest urban parks, this place stretches for miles and includes several ponds, cycle trails, footpaths and a donkey sanctuary. In the outer reaches there's also a good chance you'll bump into a wild pony.



### Clent Hills

Like the Lickeys, an established destination for Brummies seeking a brief taste of oxygen. Unlike the Lickeys, 400 acres of land offers you plenty of different walking routes and some great views. The cafe in the car park does a decent bacon sandwich, and there's a nice 'natural play' area in the woods nearby,

### Edgbaston Reservoir

A two-mile circuit of the reservoir runs the gamut from picturesque to sketchy. If you're on the Tolkien trail, beyond the eastern shore you can find Perrott's Folly and the Waterworks Tower - supposedly inspiration for the 'Two Towers'.

### The Canals

From Edgbaston reservoir you can sally forth into the Black Country or take the towpath back into town and explore the Jewellery Quarter, Digbeth or the leafier stretches out towards the University. For cyclists or walkers these hidden arteries are a brilliant way to sample the city.

### Sandwell Valley Country Park

A half-hour bike ride along the Birmingham Canal is another major urban park, its charms only slightly mitigated by the M5 running right through it. Thanks to the acres of green, large play park and restored working farm, this is a hugely popular spot for Black Country families on a sunny day.

### Earlswood Lakes



One of the best spots for a Sunday stroll and a bit of bird-watching is at Earlswood, a few minutes south of the city centre on the train and also connected to the canal network. Music pilgrims might want to continue across the M42 to Tanworth-in-Arden, childhood home and last resting place of Nick Drake.

FREE\*

GET READY!

# "B'SIDE" HIP-HOP FESTIVAL

2020

**FRI 29 MAY - SUN 7 JUN**  
BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

DANCE BATTLES // LIVE MUSIC // DJS  
GRAFFITI // SPOKEN WORD // HIP-HOP THEATRE  
WORKSHOPS // FILMS // TALKS // STREET SPORTS

[birminghamhippodrome.com/bside](http://birminghamhippodrome.com/bside) #BSIDE

 [facebook.com/bside20](https://facebook.com/bside20)  [instagram.com/bsidehiphopfest](https://instagram.com/bsidehiphopfest)

**H** BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME  
PROJECTS

\*Some events and workshops may be chargeable



# FEBRUARY

Winter beer, ethical porn,  
podcasts and spoken word

# FEBRUARY

## PodUK 2020

FEBRUARY 1

[bit.ly/PODUK2020](https://bit.ly/PODUK2020)

Millenium Point

Calling itself the 'Comic Con' of the Podcasting world, PodUK is a one-day celebration of UK podcasting with panels, Q&As and workshops covering everything from podcast creation to fandom culture.



## Great British Beer Festival Winter

FEBRUARY 4-8

[bit.ly/GBBFW2020](https://bit.ly/GBBFW2020)

The New Bingley Hall

For the first time ever, beer lovers' organisation CAMRA Birmingham are hosting the Great British Beer Festival Winter. Beers of every style and shade will be imbibable, served from cask, keg and bottle. Ciders and spirits also available.



## Birmingham Swing Festival

FEBRUARY 7-9

[bit.ly/BSwing2020](https://bit.ly/BSwing2020)

Aston Students' Union, Sports Aston, Moseley School Sports Centre

Centered upon the Aston Triangle, Birmingham Swing Festival invite you to join them as they continue their mission to bring the best of swing dance and swing music to Birmingham.

## Bean Flicks: Ethical, Feminist Porn Festival

FEBRUARY 14-15

[bit.ly/BeanFlicks2020](https://bit.ly/BeanFlicks2020)

Centrala, Digbeth

Perfectly timed for Valentine's Day, Birmingham's first ethical, feminist, queer and kink-positive porn festival. A packed line up of sex and porn researchers, performers, artists, activists and creators will lead a programme of discussions and screenings.



## Verve Poetry and Spoken Word Festival

## LGBTQ History Festival

FEBRUARY 20-23

[bit.ly/LGBTQHis2020](https://bit.ly/LGBTQHis2020)

The Gas Hall, BM&AG, Nightingale Club

A long weekend of queer cinema, talks and workshops under the theme 'Looking Back, Moving Forward', exploring how previous generations' LGBTQ+ activism and empowerment can help to shape the way we approach the future.

## Birmingham International Recorder and Early Music Festival

FEBRUARY 20-22

[bit.ly/IntlRecorder2020](https://bit.ly/IntlRecorder2020)

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Now on its third outing, this annual 'recorderfest' combines professional concerts with demonstrations and participatory events, alongside an early music market.

## Verve Poetry & Spoken Word Festival

FEBRUARY 20-23

[bit.ly/VervePoetry2020](https://bit.ly/VervePoetry2020)

Patrick Studio

Winner of a Saboteur Award in 2019, Verve is this year moving to a new home at the Hippodrome's Patrick Studio. The programme embraces award-winning poets and local legends, spoken word artists, open mic nights and workshops pitched at all levels.



## Dressed to the Nines

7 Dec 2019 - 4 Sep 2020

Discover exquisite garments and accessories, alongside stunning works of art, as we explore dressing up and going out from 1850 to the present day.

[birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)

#DressedToTheNines

Funded by:



Supported through public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



### Birmingham Running Festival

**FEBRUARY 22**

[bit.ly/RunBham2020](http://bit.ly/RunBham2020)

Sutton Park

Returning to Sutton Park for a second year, Birmingham Running Festival provides attendees with options to suit both keen joggers and aspiring endurance runners with 5k, 10k and Half Marathon courses on offer.

### BEASTdome Mini Festival

**FEBRUARY 27**

[bit.ly/BEASTDome2020](http://bit.ly/BEASTDome2020)

Birmingham University & BOM

A taster for the BEAST FEaST (p25), highlights of this mini-festival include bass singer Nicholas Isherwood (known for his performance as Lucifer in Stockhausen's Licht series), and the composer and instrument builder Dirk Johan Stromberg.

### Sutton Coldfield Book Fest

**FEBRUARY 29**

[bit.ly/SCBFest2020](http://bit.ly/SCBFest2020)

Sutton Coldfield venues

Join beloved children's authors Jacqueline Wilson and Nick Sharratt amongst others, to discover books and enjoy interactive storytelling fun at this popular event for under-12s.

### Kebabingham Festival

**FEBRUARY 29**

[bit.ly/Doner2020](http://bit.ly/Doner2020)

Mutt Motorcycle Company, Digbeth

Generally encountered wandering the city streets in the hours between clubbing and bedtime, Taste & Liquor assemble the best in the business to drag doner and falafel into the daylight. T&L run various street food pop-ups in Digbeth throughout the year - see their website for details.



## 6 OF THE BEST...

# PUBS AND BARS

After a period in the doldrums, Birmingham's 'beernaissance' (sorry) shows no sign of abating. Supported by plentiful small brewers capitalising on the excellent water (hijacked from Wales in the 1890s by Joseph Chamberlain), the city offers a good mix of cosy, traditional pubs and craft-beer hang-outs.

### Bartons Arms

144 High St, Aston B6 4UP

A grande dame of the city's pub scene, back in the day this place provided lodgings for the likes of Charlie Chaplin, Marie Lloyd and Laurel and Hardy. Its arts-and-crafts tiling and stained glass are beautifully preserved, and the Thai food is excellent.



Bartons Arms



Tilt

### Tilt

City Arcade, Birmingham B2 4TX

Activity bars sprang up everywhere in 2019, with drinking now possible in tandem with mini-golf, darts, baseball, shuffleboard, pingpong and probably base-jumping before too long. This city-centre pinball haunt predates all of them, and distinguishes itself with a superior range of beers and a handy location.

### 1000 Trades

16 Frederick St, Jewellery Quarter B1 3HE

Winner of an Observer award in 2019, 1000 Trades has built a reputation with regular kitchen residencies and a busy calendar of music and events. The Red Lion round the corner merits an honourable mention for Bathams on draft and excellent Sunday roasts.

### Dig Brew

43 River St, Digbeth B5 6SA - open Thurs-Sat

Like many other tap-room bars (see also Rock & Roll, Glasshouse, Burning Soul, Attic), Dig Brew has limited opening hours but is well worth a walk into Digbeth - especially now that they've upgraded their food offer with weirdly medieval-themed pizzeria Dough.



Dig Brew

### Cork & Cage

1373 Pershore Rd, Stirchley B30 2JR

Dotted along this unpromising stretch of the Pershore Road you can now find a bounty of independent eating and drinking options. Offering a good range of beers alongside middle Eastern nibbles, this place hits the spot for us.

### The Old Moseley Arms

53 Tindal Street, Balsall Heath B12 9QU

One of the city's finest back-street boozers got even better a few years ago when they started serving tasty, reasonably-priced curries. In general there is just something womb-like and wonderful about the Old Mo.

BEER, PIZZA & BREWERY TOURS  
EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
THURS: 17:00 - 23:00 / FRI: 16:00 - 00:00 / SAT: 12:00 - 23:00  
43 RIVER ST. DIGBETH, BIRMINGHAM, B5 5SA

BEER, PIZZA & BREWERY TOURS  
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# MARCH

Podcasts, queer film,  
Irish culture and vegan food



# MARCH

## Whisky Birmingham

**MARCH 7**

[bit.ly/BhamWhisky2020](http://bit.ly/BhamWhisky2020)

The Bond, Digbeth

Featuring major whisky brands, independent bottlers, local experts, creative masterclasses, music and street food. The city's largest whisky festival returns for its eighth year.

## St Patrick's Day Festival

**MARCH 15**

[bit.ly/StPats2020](http://bit.ly/StPats2020)

Digbeth

Drawing up to 100,000 people from across the globe for its live stages and parade - one of the largest in Europe - Birmingham's St Patrick's Festival celebrates the cream of Irish music, dance and heritage.



St Patrick's Day Festival

## Punkt Birmingham

**MARCH 18-20**

[bit.ly/Punkt2020](http://bit.ly/Punkt2020)

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Since 2005 an annual pilgrimage to Kristiansand in Norway has become a fixture for adventurous music lovers. This collaboration between Punkt, UK based artists and BCU presents a rare opportunity to enjoy Punkt outside Adger County, Norway.



CineQ Queer Film Festival

## CineQ Queer Film Festival

**MARCH 26-29**

[bit.ly/CineQ2020](http://bit.ly/CineQ2020)

MAG, BOM, Mockingbird

After a successful first edition in 2019 CineQ returns with an expanded programme, with a focus on films by and for queer, intersex and trans people of colour. Events lined up include a screening of Marlon T. Riggs' *Tongues Untied* with a curated dining experience.



Birmingham Vegan Festival

## Birmingham Vegan Festival

**MARCH 28**

[bit.ly/VeganFest2020](http://bit.ly/VeganFest2020)

Edgbaston Stadium

Peruse over ninety all-vegan stalls selling food and drink, clothes, accessories and cosmetics. Also includes guest talks and documentary screenings about how food choices affect the environment, health and animal welfare.

## Podfest Birmingham

**MARCH 28-29**

[bit.ly/Podfest2020](http://bit.ly/Podfest2020)

Town Hall

Look on as podcast hosts bring their expertise to the stage in a series of live shows. Performers include Drunk Women Solving Crime, Films to be Buried With and Table Manners with Jessie Ware.

Discover & Explore  
**Birmingham  
Museums**

Birmingham has one of the best civic museum collections of any city in England, all housed in nine wonderful locations.



BEAST FEAST



MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY  
BIRMINGHAM



**thinktank**  
Birmingham science museum



MUSEUM OF THE  
JEWELLERY QTR



WEOLEY CASTLE



MUSEUM  
COLLECTION  
CENTRE



SAREHOLE  
MILL



ASTON HALL



SOHO HOUSE

# APRIL

Black literature,  
experimental sound,  
gin and gaming

Funded by:



Ten Acres of Sound

## Ten Acres of Sound

APRIL 10 - MAY 3

[bit.ly/10Acres2020](http://bit.ly/10Acres2020)

Venues across Stirchley

Located in the people's republic of Stirchley, this new three week showcase of experimental sound production falls somewhere in the venn diagram between avant-garde concert series, site-specific exhibition and village fete. The focus is on sustainability and the co-existence of humanity, nature and technology.

## Insomnia Gaming Festival

APRIL 10-13

[bit.ly/IGFest2020](http://bit.ly/IGFest2020)

NEC

Featuring a LAN party for over 2800 gamers, massive stages showcasing gaming and esports content, community-led games tournaments, tech experiences, and meet & greets from the biggest Youtubers, Insomnia is back for its sixty sixth festival.

## Birmingham Wine Weekend

APRIL 24-26

[bit.ly/BWine2020](http://bit.ly/BWine2020)

Venues across central Birmingham

Birmingham's annual long weekend offering an infinite variety of wines in bars across the city centre returns. Purchasing a wristband gains access to a taster glass of premium wine, wine cocktail, or wine and canapé pairing at each participating venue.



Birmingham Wine Weekend

## Noise Not Music Festival

APRIL 24-25

[bit.ly/NotMusic2020](http://bit.ly/NotMusic2020)

Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

This year's seriously heavy line-up includes: Discharge, Varukers, Extreme Noise Terror, Icons of Filth, Billyclub, Cress, DSA, Warwound, Abominate and Social Insecurity.

## The Gin To My Tonic Festival

APRIL 24

[bit.ly/G2T2020](http://bit.ly/G2T2020)

Custard Factory, Digbeth

Bringing together over 100 different gins from across the UK and beyond, this Gin to my Tonic focuses upon craftsmanship, flavour and enjoyable drinking experiences. 35ml serves come as standard.

## Black British Book Festival

APRIL 25

[bit.ly/BBBF2020](http://bit.ly/BBBF2020)

Legacy Centre of Excellence, Newtown

The Black British Book Festival is Europe's biggest black literature festival. It delights in foregrounding and celebrating black authors working across all genres.

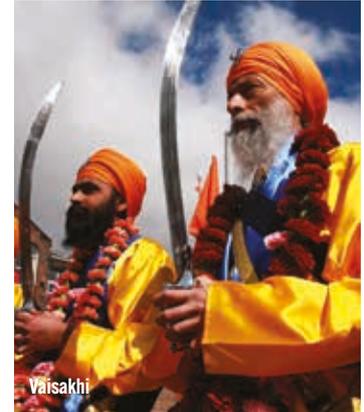
## Vaisakhi

APRIL 26

[bit.ly/Vaisakhi2020](http://bit.ly/Vaisakhi2020)

Handsworth Park

Each year thousands gather in Handsworth Park for this landmark event in the Sikh calendar, preceded by two processions from Hockley and Smethwick.



Vaisakhi

## BEAST FEaST

APRIL 30 - MAY 2

[bit.ly/BEASTFeast2020](http://bit.ly/BEASTFeast2020)

University of Birmingham

Exploring ideas about optimism, reconciliation and restoration, in 2020 this electronic and electroacoustic festival celebrates music's ability to bring people together. Featured artists include: Beatriz Ferreyra, Hans Tutschku, Heather Roche, Eva Zöllner, Simon Emmerson and Christopher Fox.

## 6 OF THE BEST...

# PLACES TO EAT

## PART ONE

The distinction between 'fast food' and 'fine dining' may be too crude, but these places are all worth considering if you're in search of instant gratification and/or eating on a budget.

### Otto

14 Caroline St, Jewellery Quarter B3 1TR

The local pizza wars have been hotting up of late with the arrival of Baked in Brick, Poli, Alicia's, Rudy's and no doubt another five before we go to print. However, we are happy to concur with the prevailing wisdom - the wood-fired pizzas served up by relative pensioner Otto (est. 2016) are sublime.



### Original Patty Men

9 Shaw's Passage, Digbeth B5 5JG

When it comes to burger wars it's more of a two-horse race. While you'll find plenty declaring their love for Meatshack, our grubby Digbeth hearts cannot look beyond their fellow street-food stalwarts on the other side of the tracks. OPM offers occasionally wacky specials alongside reliable staples, with sister bar Kilder just next door.



### Peach Garden

34 Ladywell Walk, Birmingham B5 4RX

Down a Chinatown alleyway near the markets, a steamed-up window hung with meat leads you to formica nirvana. The service manages to be both abrupt and warm, the food arrives before you've even ordered it, and the triple roast is the stuff of legend. Cash only.

### The Merry Maid

263 Moseley Rd, Highgate B12 0EA

'Desi pubs' are an Anglo-Asian hybrid where old-school alehouse meets Punjabi cuisine. Although more of a thing in the Black Country, Birmingham does boast a few including this agreeably no-nonsense example on the 50 route.

### Milan Sweet Centre

191 Stoney Lane, Balsall Heath B12 8HB

Set up in the 1970s and now run by the founder's son Jay Patel, Milan is a popular pit-stop offering simple, tasty Indian food - all of it vegetarian. If you want to try something similar but eat in, check out Jyotis in Hall Green or Zindiya in Moseley.

### The Blue Nile

28 Great Hampton St, Jewellery Quarter B18 6AA

The speciality at this Ethiopian eatery is the Injera, a spongy, table-sized bread which you use to mop up a dazzling range of curries and stews (many of them meat-free). Finish off with a coffee ceremony, with freshly roasted beans presented at the table.





MUSEUM &  
ART GALLERY  
BIRMINGHAM

**FREE  
ENTRY**  
Donations welcome

# BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS

POWER TO THE PEOPLE



**7 DEC 2019 -  
4 SEP 2020**

Uncover the history  
of activism, protest  
and social change in  
our city.

#BirminghamRevolutions [birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)

Image: *Protesting against racism and police brutality* (1972) © Vanley Burke. From the Birmingham Museums Trust collection.

Funded by:



Birmingham  
City Council



HERITAGE  
FUND



Supporting public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



William A Cadbury  
Charitable Trust

Birmingham Pride

# MAY

Swing dancing,  
stronger together,  
graffiti art and guitars





## Birmingham Anime and Gaming Con

**MAY 2-3**

[bit.ly/AGCon2020](http://bit.ly/AGCon2020)

Aston University

Nearly triple the size of previous years, this all-age event has a brand new venue at Conference Aston, ready to welcome, gamers, comic fans, anime fanatics and cosplayers.

## Flatpack Festival

**MAY 5-10**

[bit.ly/Flatpack2020](http://bit.ly/Flatpack2020)

Across Birmingham

Every May Day bank holiday Flatpack takes over venues across Birmingham with a colourful celebration of film in all its forms, from family screenings and live soundtracks to cutting-edge shorts and audio-visual performance. This year's '2020 Vision' programme will explore the eye and how technology changes the way we look at the world.

## Swingamajig

**MAY 8**

[bit.ly/Majig2020](http://bit.ly/Majig2020)

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

One-day jamboree celebrating the sights and sounds of the 1920s with a modern twist. This year Swingamajig are swapping the industrial backdrop of Digbeth for the sprawling lawns and tropical greenhouses of the Botanical Gardens.



## A Matter of Life and Death Festival

**MAY 6-17**

[bit.ly/YOD02020](http://bit.ly/YOD02020)

Across Birmingham

Offering up a lively, city-wide programme comprising film screenings, art competitions, workshops, open days and more, this annual festival aims to promote healthy and productive conversation about death and dying.



## Independent Birmingham Festival

**MAY 9-10**

[bit.ly/BhamInd2020](http://bit.ly/BhamInd2020)

The Bond, Digbeth

A jam-packed line-up of Brum's very best pop-up restaurants, cocktail bars, street food, craft beer, artists, designers and makers, along with a full programme of live music and entertainment.

## Get Creative Festival

**MAY 9-17**

[bit.ly/GetCreative2020](http://bit.ly/GetCreative2020)

Across Birmingham

A UK-wide initiative celebrating the everyday creativity happening in homes and public spaces. Whether it be outdoor photography, music, pottery or yarn bombing, Get Creative aims to inspire people to try something new and share their creativity.

## Viewscreen Festival

**MAY 15-25**

[bit.ly/Viewscreen2020](http://bit.ly/Viewscreen2020)

MAC

Viewscreen is a celebration of the glorious world of television - archive, cult, streaming, the whole works. This is a look into TV's past as well as its fascinating future at a time when huge technological changes, binge watching and fevered online debate have made small screen consumption bigger than ever.

## Thinking/Not Thinking Festival

**MAY 22-24**

[bit.ly/NotThinking2020](http://bit.ly/NotThinking2020)

Centrala, Digbeth

Birmingham's celebration of musical contrast and juxtaposition turns four. Presenting ambassadors of jazz, improv, metal, electronic, contemporary classical and indie rock, it places them on bills where they wouldn't usually feature, meaning everyone goes home with a new favourite act.



# MAY

## Birmingham Pride

**MAY 23-24**

[bit.ly/BhamPride2020](http://bit.ly/BhamPride2020)

Central Birmingham & Southside

Focusing on the recent Stonewall 50 anniversary and the ongoing struggle for trans rights, the theme of the 2020 Pride Parade is 'Stronger Together'. Kelly Rowland and the Vengaboys are already confirmed as headliners, and the festival will take place on a new site at the old wholesale markets.

## Sonic Wave

**MAY 24**

[bit.ly/SonicWave2020](http://bit.ly/SonicWave2020)

Venues across Digbeth

Rocking an impressive hometown line-up including Swim Deep, this new festival takes in some of Digbeth's most stalwart venues. Other confirmed acts include The Blinders, Lady Bird and Talk Show.

## B-SIDE Hip Hop Festival

**MAY 29 - JUNE 7**

[bit.ly/BSide2020](http://bit.ly/BSide2020)

Birmingham Hippodrome & Southside

Expect explosive dance battles and live graffiti art, street sports, music and DJ performances on outdoor stages, as well as talks and workshops with high-profile guests from the international hip hop scene. Celebrating its fifth birthday.



Birmingham International Dance Festival



## Birmingham International Dance Festival

**JUNE 5-21**

[bit.ly/BIDF2020](http://bit.ly/BIDF2020)

Central Birmingham

Taking over Birmingham's theatres, streets and squares with show-stopping performances, and great choreography from both UK and international dancers. Accompanied by events for all ages and abilities including social dance, mass participation and family friendly activities.

## Birmingham Design Festival

**JUNE 5-6**

[bit.ly/BhamDesign2020](http://bit.ly/BhamDesign2020)

BCU, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

The focus for the third BDF is on colour, within a new two-day 'conference' format. Workshop leaders include Anthony Burrill and Jim Sutherland, whilst Saturday's line-up features talks by Brian Collins, Morag Myerscough and Liz West. All alongside exhibitions, immersive installations and stalls.

## Birmingham Coffee Festival

**JUNE 5-7**

<http://bit.ly/BhamCoffee2020>

Custard Factory

Bringing together forty independent coffee shops and coffee culture experiences from Birmingham and beyond, a chance to sample specialty coffee and food from all around the world.



## Legends in the City

**JUNE 6**

[bit.ly/LegendsCity2020](http://bit.ly/LegendsCity2020)

Digbeth Arena

Legends in the City celebrates the iconic Birmingham 90's and 00's electronic music scene revered by aficionados the world over, and is curated by the likes of Lisa Lashes and Fergie. All day event reverberating across postindustrial Digbeth's disused warehouses and outdoor spaces.

## Solihull Book Fest

**JUNE 6**

[bit.ly/SBoF2020](http://bit.ly/SBoF2020)

The Core, Solihull

An opportunity for children aged 0-12 to enjoy storytelling, discover astonishing books, and meet favourite authors. Star turns include Horrible Histories illustrator Martin Brown and an Aardman model making workshop.

## Birmingham Fake Festival

**JUNE 6**

[bit.ly/FakeFest2020](http://bit.ly/FakeFest2020)

Kings Heath Park

Returning to Kings Heath Park, Birmingham's largest celebration of the tribute act presents a world-beating line-up of fake bands.

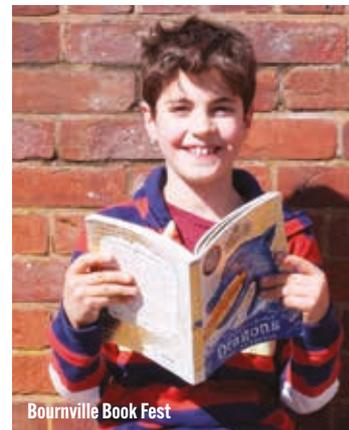
## Valefest

**JUNE 6**

[bit.ly/Vale-2020](http://bit.ly/Vale-2020)

University of Birmingham Vale Site

Annual one-day festival of music and performance organised by and for University of Birmingham students.



## Bournville Book Fest

**JUNE 11-20**

[bit.ly/BBof2020](http://bit.ly/BBof2020)

Venues across Birmingham

A book festival especially for children. Offers youngsters the chance to meet favourite authors, discover new books and express themselves by taking part in creative workshops.

## Birmingham Hippodrome Presents...

**JUNE 12 - AUGUST 1**

<http://bit.ly/Southside2020>

Southside, Bullring Grand Central & city centre

Birmingham Hippodrome presents a summer-long festival programme of cabaret, circus and free outdoor performances in outdoor spaces and pop-up venues across the city centre.

## Birmingham Fashion Festival

**JUNE 12-13**

[bit.ly/BhamFashion2020](http://bit.ly/BhamFashion2020)

Central Birmingham

Offering attendees the opportunity to see runway shows from local, national and internationally recognised design talent, alongside store and boutique displays.

## Celebrating Sanctuary

**JUNE 13-21**

[bit.ly/CelSan2020](http://bit.ly/CelSan2020)

Venues across Birmingham

Arts festival showcasing, celebrating and championing, art created by refugees and others living in exile in Birmingham. The launch event at MAC marks the start of Refugee Week and features live music, workshops, face-painting, stalls and activities.

## Migrant Festival

**JUNE 18-21**

[bit.ly/IKONM2020](http://bit.ly/IKONM2020)

Ikon Gallery

The third annual Migrant Festival presents four days of visual art, music, film and performance. It celebrates the contribution made by refugees and migrants to the UK in Birmingham and beyond, whilst bearing witness to the hardships and sacrifices endured.

## Jewellery Quarter Festival

**JUNE 20**

[bit.ly/JQF2020](http://bit.ly/JQF2020)

Jewellery Quarter

Celebrating the atmosphere, heritage and people of this historic Birmingham neighbourhood. Come along for a full day of live music, family entertainment and a range of tours, trails and workshops enabling you to discover the Jewellery Quarter.

## Prosecco Festival

**JUNE 20**

[bit.ly/Prosc2020](http://bit.ly/Prosc2020)

Town Hall

The UK's Biggest Prosecco Festival - now also featuring gin - returns to Birmingham Town Hall.



Migrant Festival



BE Festival

## BE Festival

**JUNE 23-27**

[bit.ly/BE-F2020](http://bit.ly/BE-F2020)

Birmingham REP

Annual event welcoming exceptional theatre, dance, circus and visual arts practitioners from the four corners of Europe. This year will feature - amongst others - spectacular interventions from visual artist Francesc Serra in the festival hub, and live music and DJs till late.

## Foodies Festival

**JUNE 26-28**

[bit.ly/Foodies2020](http://bit.ly/Foodies2020)

Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston

Featuring Masterchef and British Bake Off winners, the UK's biggest food festival heads to Birmingham. Live music, workshops and masterclasses are on offer alongside renowned chefs sharing their favourite recipes and top cooking tips.

## Birmingham Rum Festival

**JUNE 27**

[bit.ly/BRum2020](http://bit.ly/BRum2020)

The Cuban Embassy, Moseley

Since it began in 2015, this festival has invited guests to explore and discover the richness of rum. It highlights the flavours and stories behind each brand and bottle, focusing on premium quality rums.

## Birmingham Indian Film Festival

**JUNE 26 - JULY 6**

[bit.ly/BhamIndianFilm2020](http://bit.ly/BhamIndianFilm2020)

Venues across the city

Venturing far beyond Bollywood, BIFF presents the best new South Asian cinema including feature films, documentaries, shorts and Q&As.

## 6 OF THE BEST...

# MUSIC VENUES

For a city with such a strong musical heritage a frustrating number of UK tours bypass Birmingham altogether, in part due to the lack of good mid-scale venues. There seems to be a big gap in the market between back-room intimacy and arena bombast, and this list reflects that.

### The InSTITUTE

78 Digbeth High Street, Digbeth B5 6DY

Being an O2 venue, this has all the familiar trappings of the corporate gig experience. The 1908 building itself is a bit of a marvel though, and a packed show in the main room can still take your breath away.



### The Spotted Dog

104 Warwick St, Digbeth B12 0NH

Although the narrow L-shaped bar doesn't obviously lend itself to gigs, stop in on a Tuesday evening and you may well find it packed with a young crowd listening to great jazz for a fiver. Plus traditional Irish sessions, wonky clubnights, open mic evenings and excellent scotch eggs.

### Symphony Hall

Broad St, Birmingham B1 2EA

A key part of the city's cultural renaissance in the early 90s, and now in the process of building a new foyer distinct from the convention centre next door. Home of the CBSO, currently led by impressive young Lithuanian conductor Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla.



### Centrala

Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley St, Digbeth B5 5RT

Part of a cluster of art spaces, this cafe-gallery-gig-venue inspires fierce loyalty for taking a punt on performers that wouldn't make it to the city otherwise. Recent highlights have included Canadian drone-rock, Geordie punk and Arabic jazz.

### Scruffy Murphys

Dale End, Birmingham B4 7LN

A no-frills rock pub at the less beautiful end of town, Scruffy's has been keeping the flame burning for heavy music since 2001. Pool, darts, food, sticky floors and regular gigs in the basement.

### The Hare and Hounds

106 High St, Kings Heath B14 7JZ

Well established as the city's best alternative venue thanks to an eclectic lineup, decent sound and a relaxed feel. Among the bookings confirmed for the first half of 2020 are Wire, Rozi Plain, Dreadzone and the Nightingales.



# PROJEKT EUROPA

A SEASON CELEBRATING THE BEST  
OF EUROPEAN THEATRE MAKING



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The Druce and H.J. Heinz II Charitable Trust

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



# JULY

Lindyhoppers,  
activist artists,  
carnivals and cocktails

## Moseley Festival

**JULY 2-5**

[bit.ly/MoseleyFest2020](http://bit.ly/MoseleyFest2020)

Moseley Park

Centered upon Moseley Park but with activity across the village, this is one of Birmingham's oldest and best established community festivals with something to entertain all ages.



## Colmore Food Festival

**JULY 3-4**

[bit.ly/ColFood2020](http://bit.ly/ColFood2020)

Victoria Square

Annual event showcasing the food and drink on offer in Birmingham's prestigious Colmore Business District. Entry is free, with food prices capped at £4 and drinks at £5.

## Brum Zine Fest

**JULY 4**

[bit.ly/BZine2020](http://bit.ly/BZine2020)

Birmingham

Birmingham's celebration of independent publishing and DIY making. Expect to find some of the UK's best zine makers and their work, alongside workshops enabling you to get cutting, sticking and copying to your heart's content.

## CoCoMad

**JULY 4**

[bit.ly/CoCoMad2020](http://bit.ly/CoCoMad2020)

Cotteridge Park

Not so small anymore, this edition of Cotteridge Park's free annual family festival promises attendees: a secret forest, Hawaiian lounge, Lindyhoppers, dancing, music, and lots of science for children (or your inner child) to have a go at.

## Nostalgie Ya Mboka Festival

**JULY 4**

[bit.ly/NgomaYK2020](http://bit.ly/NgomaYK2020)

Indoor arena, Newtown

A full on celebration of Africa's music, dance, comedy, fashion and food, this year featuring artists from Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria.

## BCU Inspired Festival

**JULY 6-13**

[bit.ly/BCUins2020](http://bit.ly/BCUins2020)

BCU buildings across the city

Birmingham City University opens its doors to the people of the city and the world, for a week of graduate shows and performances. Kicks off with a Family Day on 6 June.

## Music for Youth National Festival

**JULY 7-11**

[bit.ly/MusicForYouth2020](http://bit.ly/MusicForYouth2020)

Symphony Hall, Town Hall, CBSO Centre

Open to the public, every July around 10,000 of the UK's brightest young musicians perform at world class venues and city-centre locations across Birmingham.

## Festival of Audacity

**JULY 9-11**

[bit.ly/FAudacity2020](http://bit.ly/FAudacity2020)

Central Birmingham and Digbeth

Produced by Beatfreaks and making Birmingham its stage, the Festival of Audacity is a youth-led, multidisciplinary festival of activist art.



## Birmingham Cocktail Weekend

**JULY 10-12**

[bit.ly/BhamCocktail2020](http://bit.ly/BhamCocktail2020)

Venues across central Birmingham

A long weekend of sampling Birmingham's cocktail scene. Getting a wristband allows access to each venue's signature cocktail, created exclusively for the event.

## Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival

**JULY 10-12**

[bit.ly/MJazz2020](http://bit.ly/MJazz2020)

Moseley Park

Following its 10th anniversary in 2019, Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul returns for another shindig in Moseley Park. Acts in previous years have included: Chic with Nile Rogers, The Jacksons, Chaka Khan, The Pharcyde, Khuangbin and Soul II Soul.



Yarningham

## Yarningham

**JULY 11-12**

[bit.ly/Yarningham2020](http://bit.ly/Yarningham2020)

Uffculme Centre, Moseley

Back for a fifth year, Yarningham celebrates all things yarn. Featuring leading dyers and independent producers, alongside workshops, demonstrations and most importantly cake.

## Barrio Fiesta

**JULY 11-12**

[bit.ly/BarrioFiesta2020](http://bit.ly/BarrioFiesta2020)

Woodgate Valley Park, Quinton

The 13th edition of an annual gathering for Birmingham's Filipino community, featuring music, comedy, dance and a range of food stalls.

## Brindleyplace Film Festival

**JULY 13-16**

[bit.ly/BPFilm2020](http://bit.ly/BPFilm2020)

Brindleyplace

This outdoor film festival in Brindleyplace Central Square is totally free to attend. Turn up, pick up a deck chair, and enjoy. In May look out for a chance to vote for the films which you'd like to see on the big screen.

## TILT Festival

**JULY 13-19**

[bit.ly/TILT2020](http://bit.ly/TILT2020)

Minerva Works, Digbeth

Seven days of aerial training and performance from world class artists. Situated in the heart of Digbeth, TILT Festival is Birmingham's only dedicated aerial and physical theatre festival.



TILT Festival



## Supersonic Festival

**JULY 17-19**

[bit.ly/SuperSonic2020](http://bit.ly/SuperSonic2020)

Digbeth

Last year described by the Guardian as the UK's best small festival: "By embracing the heaviness in Birmingham's heritage, and adding a strong dose of eccentricity, Supersonic is world-class"

## Birmingham, Sandwell & Westside Jazz Festival

**JULY 17-26**

[bit.ly/BSWJazz2020](http://bit.ly/BSWJazz2020)

Across Birmingham and the West Midlands

Founded in 1985, the festival offers over 200 jazz and blues performances, talks, workshops and films - nearly all of them free admission. Taking place at over 100 venues across the West Midlands, including bars, shopping centres, parks and libraries.

## Birmingham Fest

**JULY 17 - AUGUST 2**

[bit.ly/BhamFest2020](http://bit.ly/BhamFest2020)

Venues Across Birmingham

Since 2012 Birmingham Fest has offered an eclectic two-week programme of performing arts events with artists hailing from all over the UK.



## Sandwell & Birmingham Mela

**JULY 18-19**

[bit.ly/SBMela2020](http://bit.ly/SBMela2020)

Victoria Park, Smethwick

The UK's biggest Mela is celebrating its tenth birthday this year, with a weekend full of south Asian music mixing local with international talent alongside dance, art and traditional food.



Don't miss the  
JQ Festival 2020  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June

# Welcome to Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter

DISCOVER A DIFFERENT CORNER OF THE CITY



Learn &  
Explore



Eat, Drink  
& Relax



Browse  
& Buy

Visit this urban village anytime of the year.  
The JQ is bursting with energy and steeped in history!  
Explore our website: [jewelleryquarter.net](http://jewelleryquarter.net)



/JewelleryQtr @JQBID @JQ\_BID

## JULY

### Simmer Down

JULY 19

[bit.ly/Simmer2020](http://bit.ly/Simmer2020)  
Handsworth Park

2020 also sees north Birmingham's homegrown celebration of reggae and other African-Caribbean musical styles turning ten. Head up to Handsworth Park to join the celebrations and take part in Birmingham's answer to the Notting Hill Carnival.

### Birchfield Jazz Festival

JULY 24-25

[bit.ly/BirchfieldJazz2020](http://bit.ly/BirchfieldJazz2020)  
St Mary's Church, Handsworth

Free weekend-long event showcasing Birmingham musicians who reflect the far reaching roots, diversity and influence of jazz. In 2020 it celebrates Ambrose Campbell, the Nigerian musician credited with forming Britain's first black band, the West African Rhythm Brothers.



Solihull Summer Festival

### Solihull Summer Festival

JULY 25-28

[bit.ly/SolFes2020](http://bit.ly/SolFes2020)  
Tudor Grange Park, Solihull

This two day festival in central Solihull presents a diverse mix of genres across the weekend. Headliners in previous years have included The Human League, Level 42, The Vamps, UB40, Busted, The Proclaimers and Sister Sledge.

### The Festival of Quilts

JULY 30 - AUGUST 2

[bit.ly/Quilts2020](http://bit.ly/Quilts2020)  
NEC

Established in 2003, Europe's biggest quilting show now attracts over 26,000 quilting fanatics each year. Distinguished past exhibitors have included Dorothy Caldwell, Elizabeth Brimelow, Nancy Crow, Jane Dunnewold and Diana Harrison, with over 800 quilts entered into the international competition.

## 6 OF THE BEST...

# MUSEUMS

Despite the city's 'Forward' motto and continual mania for redevelopment, Birmingham does also boast an array of quirky, perfectly-formed heritage attractions.

### Coffin Works

13-15 Fleet St,  
Birmingham B3 1JP

Entry: £4.50-£7.50

When Newman Brothers closed down in the 1990s after a century producing 'coffin furniture', the last owner Joyce Green left everything exactly as it was and resisted big-money offers from property developers. The result is this wonderful timewarp, with knowledgeable volunteers giving tours on the hour.



### The Pen Museum

60 Frederick St, Jewellery Quarter B1 3HS  
Entry: £2.50-£6

Forming an ideal double-bill with the Coffin Works - or even a triple-bill if you make it to the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter too - this is a properly nerdy shrine to the humble pen in the neighbourhood where mass production of steel-nib pens first took off.

### Sarehole Mill

Cole Bank Rd, Hall Green B13 0BD  
Entry: £3-£6

Now part of the Hall Green suburbs, this was once open countryside where the young JRR Tolkien played. If you squint you might think you've stumbled right into Middle Earth - particularly if you cross the road and venture into Moseley Bog. As of 2020 the Mill itself includes a restored 1850s bakehouse, with fresh bread baked daily on site.

### Lapworth Museum of Geology

Aston Webb Building, UoB, Selly Oak B15 2TT  
Entry: Free

Tucked away on the university campus and recently given an imaginative makeover which saw it go up against Tate Modern for a 'museum of the year' award in 2017. Paradise for lovers of fossils and rocks, with plenty of glistening specimens in the shop that you can take home with you.

### Aston Hall

Trinity Road, Aston B6 6JD  
Entry: £3-£8

A stone's throw from the Aston Expressway and pockmarked with Civil War cannonball damage, this magnificent Jacobean mansion is the jewel in Birmingham Museums Trust's portfolio. Worth a visit for the Long Gallery alone.



### The Back-to-Backs

55-63 Inge St, Birmingham B5 4TE  
Prebooked tours only  
Hugely popular National Trust property, preserving the last remaining set of back-to-back houses in a city where they were once to be found everywhere. Summer 2020 will also see the Trust open the doors at the Roundhouse, which started life as corporation stables in the 1870s.

# AUGUST

**Brummie legends  
(past and future),  
restaurants and waterfronts**

## MADE Festival



## MADE Festival

**AUGUST 1**

[bit.ly/BMADE2020](https://bit.ly/BMADE2020)

Sandwell Valley Country Park

2020 sees the West Midlands' biggest music festival get even bigger, with a move to new home Sandwell Valley Country Park. This year's headliner is Brummie legend The Streets, backed up by many more acts across the electronic music spectrum.

## Sonic Gun Weekender

**AUGUST 21-22**

[bit.ly/SonicGun2020](https://bit.ly/SonicGun2020)

The Castle and Falcon, Balsall Heath

This two day event looks to celebrate the West Midland's best music. Acts in previous years have included Sugarthief, Violet, The Cosmics, Harry Jordan, Violet, Wolfgang Harte plus surprise DJ sets from Peace and Swim Deep.

## Birmingham Restaurant Festival

**AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 6**

[bit.ly/BhamRestaurant2020](https://bit.ly/BhamRestaurant2020)

Venues across Birmingham

A fortnight of great value menus and exciting dining experiences at restaurants right across Birmingham.

## Waterfront Festival

**AUGUST 31**

[bit.ly/Waterfront2020](https://bit.ly/Waterfront2020)

Canalhouse Pub, city centre

There will be music on the canalside stage throughout the day at this family-oriented waterfront bank holiday celebration in Gas Street Basin.

## 6 OF THE BEST...

# PLACES TO EAT

## PART TWO

After the cheap thrills of part one (p.24), a few choice restaurants where you can linger. Birmingham is understandably proud of its Michelin stars, but beyond Messrs Purnell, Simpson, Carter and co are a host of upstarts worthy of your time and cash.

### Gaijin Sushi

78 Bristol St, Birmingham  
B5 7AH

Many of Birmingham's finest sushi establishments seem to be run by taciturn Poles (see also Sushi Passion, and the wonderful Otoro Sushi in the indoor market). Chef Michal Kubiak has riffed on this outsider status by adopting the name Gaijin - a derogatory Japanese term for foreigner - but there's nothing inauthentic about his food, deftly prepared at close quarters.



Gaijin Sushi

### The Wilderness

27 Warstone Lane, Jewellery Quarter B18 6JQ

Alex Claridge's black-clad bistro was shaped by a love of "junk food and international food", along with a good dose of heavy rock. Chef Stu Deeley departed just before his Masterchef victory was announced, and in spring 2020 will open his own place down the road.



The Wilderness

### Formosa Izakaya

115-117 Hurst Street, Birmingham B5 6SE

One of the more imaginative offerings in Chinatown, this Taiwanese establishment ticks all the boxes with friendly service, reasonable prices and fantastic flavours. If you struggle to navigate the slightly eccentric menu, we suggest the octopus balls, oyster mushrooms and garlic aubergine.



Harborne Kitchen

### Harborne Kitchen

175-179 High St, Harborne B17 9QE

Identifies as an "informal neighbourhood restaurant", while quietly harbouring loftier ambitions. The midweek four-course menu - including the fabled 'Roscoff Onion' - is well worth a try.

### Folium

8 Caroline St, Jewellery Quarter B3 1TW

Intimate, Scandi-influenced eatery housed in a former JO printworks. Sunday Times food critic Marina O'Loughlin has described it as a "sparkling diamond".

### Chakana

140 Alcester Rd, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8HT

Yet another recent arrival from that London, chef Robert Ortiz has turned Moseley's old Lloyds bank into a blue and white haven complete with a private dining room in the old vault. Drawing on the cuisine of his native Peru, Ortiz specialises in super-sharp ceviche.

ROUNDHOUSE  
BIRMINGHAM

# See the City Differently!



In summer 2020,  
Roundhouse Birmingham  
invites you to  
**#SeetheCityDifferently!**

Events and activities by foot,  
by bike, and on water.

- Roundhouse Guided Tours
- City & Canal Walks
- Kayak & Cycle Tours
- Street Gym

Pre-booking for tours essential.  
Check listings at  
**[roundhousebirmingham.org.uk](http://roundhousebirmingham.org.uk)**  
to see what's on!



National  
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Canal &  
River Trust



HERITAGE  
FUND

High-Vis Festival

# SEPTEMBER

Guided tours,  
BMX, open doors  
and cabaret



## High Vis Festival

SEPTEMBER 5

[bit.ly/HiVis2020](https://bit.ly/HiVis2020)

Digbeth

Free all-day event in and around The Custard Factory, celebrating street art, graffiti and street culture. Take in a pop-up comic-con, skaters, BMXers, an arts and crafts bazaar and plenty more besides.

## Collectormania 27

SEPTEMBER 5-6

[bit.ly/Collectormania2020](https://bit.ly/Collectormania2020)

NEC

Cosplay, autograph sessions, photo shoots and collectables galore can be found at this established fandom jamboree. Special guests include Colin Baker and Sylvester McCoy.

## Birmingham Heritage Week

SEPTEMBER 10-20

[bit.ly/BhamHeritage2020](https://bit.ly/BhamHeritage2020)

Locations across Birmingham

Birmingham's annual celebration of its heritage. Over two hundred events, from exhibitions and walks to open days and workshops. A chance to visit and discover new parts of the city, or rediscover popular places and see them from new perspectives.



## Moseley Folk & Arts Festival

SEPTEMBER 4-6

[bit.ly/MoseleyFolk2020](https://bit.ly/MoseleyFolk2020)

Moseley Park

Running the gamut from traditional to downright experimental folk and indie, this year's lineup includes Saturday headliner Passenger. Celebrating fifteen years by the pool in Moseley Park, the festival also features a packed programme of comedy, crafts and cabaret.



Heritage Open Days

## Heritage Open Days

SEPTEMBER 11-20

[bit.ly/HeritageOpen2020](https://bit.ly/HeritageOpen2020)

Locations across Birmingham

Every year in September, historic sites across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history, creating England's largest celebration of the past. Historic spaces and places across Birmingham will participate.

## Still Walking Festival

SEPTEMBER 11-20

[bit.ly/StillWalking2020](https://bit.ly/StillWalking2020)

Locations across Birmingham

The usual eclectic mix of exploratory guided tours and walking events crafted to challenge your understanding of Birmingham.

## In:Site Festival

SEPTEMBER 11-20

[bit.ly/InSite2020](https://bit.ly/InSite2020)

Birmingham Cathedral

Site-specific art, craft and design exhibition and events programme responding to the Cathedral, its history and Birmingham's making heritage.



Still Walking Festival

# SEPTEMBER

## Kings Heath Street Festival

**SEPTEMBER 13**

[bit.ly/KHFest2020](http://bit.ly/KHFest2020)

York Road, King's Heath

Once again York Road closes down for Kings Heathens' annual knees-up, featuring an array of music, dance street food and drink.

## Brindleyplace Food Festival

**SEPTEMBER 18&C**

[bit.ly/BPFood2020](http://bit.ly/BPFood2020)

Brindleyplace

After a successful launch in 2019 Brindleyplace Food Festival is back. Featuring a food market in Central Square, chef demonstrations, live music and entertainment throughout the day.



## Birmingham Improv Festival

**SEPTEMBER 17-27**

[bit.ly/BhamImprov2020](http://bit.ly/BhamImprov2020)

MAC Birmingham

Comedy, horror, musical, science fiction, fantasy and much more, all spontaneously created before your eyes. Bringing the best of improvisation from the UK and beyond, to Birmingham.

## International Comic Expo

**SEPTEMBER 19**

[bit.ly/ComExpo2020](http://bit.ly/ComExpo2020)

Edgbaston Stadium

Day-long family and fan comic convention at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium. 2020's guestlist features some of the biggest names in UK comics including John McCrea, Ian Edginton and Phil Winslade.

## Birmingham Open Studios

**SEPTEMBER 26-27 & OCTOBER 3-4**

[bit.ly/BhamOpen2020](http://bit.ly/BhamOpen2020)

Locations across Birmingham

Birmingham Open Studios returns for its fourth year with more participating artists than ever before. A chance to drop in on artists exhibiting from their own homes and studios across south Birmingham.

## Birmingham Literature Festival



# OCTOBER

Running, punning,  
literary greats  
and lederhosen

# OCTOBER

## Gin & Rum Festival

**OCTOBER 2**

<http://bit.ly/GinRum2020>

Edgbaston Stadium

The UK's largest gin and rum festival tour offers a chance to sample over 60 different gins and 60 different rums. If you're still standing after that, there will also be live entertainment and DJs into the night.

## Birmingham Comedy Festival

**OCTOBER 2-11**

[bit.ly/BhamComedy2020](http://bit.ly/BhamComedy2020)

Venues across Birmingham

City-wide event featuring big name acts and rising stars of stand-up, theatre, improv and more. Includes the Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award - the West Midlands' biggest comedy prize.



## Birmingham Literature Festival

**OCTOBER 8-17**

[bit.ly/BLit2020](http://bit.ly/BLit2020)

Venues across central Birmingham

The very best writers, speakers, thinkers, activists and artists from the UK and across the world gather each October for a celebration of books and ideas.

## Birmingham Music Festival

**OCTOBER 10-11**

[bit.ly/BhamMusic2020](http://bit.ly/BhamMusic2020)

King Edwards School, Edgbaston

One of Britain's biggest amateur piano festivals. A vast range of abilities and ages (from under 8 to over 60) will be on show, with a similarly wide roster of music from Praetorius (born 1571) to David Bowie.

## Great Birmingham Run

**OCTOBER 11**

[bit.ly/BRun2020](http://bit.ly/BRun2020)

Starts at Millenium Point

Large running event starting in central Birmingham and encompassing the south of the city. A rare opportunity to enjoy our roads and public spaces traffic-free.

## Future Days

**OCTOBER 17-18**

[bit.ly/tmrw2020](http://bit.ly/tmrw2020)

The Crossing, Digbeth

Two day musical event curated by local promoters This is Tmrw, venturing across psych, electronica, art pop, post punk and everything in between. Hosted at The Crossing, a custom-built venue within South Birmingham College.

# OCTOBER

## BASS Festival



## BASS Festival

**OCTOBER 20-22**

[bit.ly/BASS\\_2020](http://bit.ly/BASS_2020)

Venues across Birmingham

Since it was set up in the mid-2000s, BASS Festival - produced by Punch Records - has been at the forefront of celebrating the city's contemporary black music scene. This year promises to be no different.

## Screening Rights Film Festival

**OCTOBER 22-25**

[bit.ly/SRFF2020](http://bit.ly/SRFF2020)

Venues in Birmingham and Coventry

An international screening programme aiming to provoke thought and conversation about human rights and the relationship between film, adversity and social action.

## Digbeth Oktoberfest

**OCTOBER TBC**

[bit.ly/Dtober2020](http://bit.ly/Dtober2020)

The Old Crown, Digbeth

Lederhosen at the ready... For a brief period each autumn Birmingham's oldest drinking establishment is transformed into a tiny slice of southern Germany.

## Birmingham International Piano Festival

**OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 18**

[bit.ly/BPiano2020](http://bit.ly/BPiano2020)

Barber Concert Hall

Once again some of the world's finest pianists and keyboard players converge in the city, including John Lill, Clipper Erickson, accordionist Samuele Telari and Macedonian folk musician Simon Trpceski amongst others.

## Mind Body Spirit Festival

**OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1**

[bit.ly/MindBodySpirit2020](http://bit.ly/MindBodySpirit2020)

NEC

Featuring motivational speakers, musicians, artists and performers from across the globe, along with a host of health & wellbeing exhibitors and organic food stalls.

## Diwali Mela



# NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Cult film, queer arts,  
Jewish learning  
and jewellers



SHOUT Festival

## Cine Excess

**NOVEMBER 2-8**

[bit.ly/CineExcess2020](http://bit.ly/CineExcess2020)

Electric Cinema, Mockingbird

Attracting a range of international filmmakers, academics and UK theatrical premieres, this hybrid film festival and conference is devoted to global cult film. Now in its 13th year, Cine Excess also provides a forum for established industry figures to act as mentors to emerging filmmakers.

## SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture

**NOVEMBER 5-15**

[bit.ly/SHOUT2020](http://bit.ly/SHOUT2020)

Venues across Birmingham

Now well established, Birmingham's annual celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) performance, film, and visual arts returns to MAC and other venues.

## Diwali Mela

**NOVEMBER 8**

[bit.ly/DiwaliMela2020](http://bit.ly/DiwaliMela2020)

Soho Road, Handsworth

Offering food from around the world, free fairground rides and gift shopping, Soho Road in Handsworth welcomes you to one of the UK's largest Diwali celebrations. Highlights include live music throughout the day and two miles of spectacular lighting.

## Birmingham Film Festival

**NOVEMBER 13-22**

[bit.ly/BFilm2020](http://bit.ly/BFilm2020)

Millenium Point

Annual international festival of screenings, events and awards for film makers from around the world, held in central Birmingham.

## TradFest

**NOVEMBER 26-29**

[bit.ly/TrdFest2020](http://bit.ly/TrdFest2020)

Digbeth

The UK's newest traditional Irish music festival. A weekend full of top class concerts, instrument workshops, album launches, multiple Irish trad sessions and a youth band competition.

## ESRC Social Science Festival

**NOVEMBER TBC**

[bit.ly/SocSciFest2020](http://bit.ly/SocSciFest2020)

Venues across Birmingham

The Birmingham incarnation of this UK-wide event invites attendees to take a deep dive into society, and shows how pioneering social, economic and political research impacts on everyday life.

## Jewellery Quarter Open Studios

**DECEMBER 5-8**

[bit.ly/JQOpen2020](http://bit.ly/JQOpen2020)

Jewellery Quarter

Over 20 Jewellery Quarter workspaces are opening their doors, enabling visitors to explore and shop for locally made gifts. Commissions and conversations from jewellers, fabricators, textile artists, printers and more will show this community of makers at work.

## Limmud Festival

**DECEMBER 27-31**

[bit.ly/Limmud2020](http://bit.ly/Limmud2020)

Hilton Metropole, Birmingham

Volunteer-run festival of Jewish learning, drawing thousands of participants from across the UK and beyond.

# INDEX

## FILM

Bean Flicks: Ethical, Feminist Porn Festival	p. 10
Birmingham Film Festival	p. 63
Birmingham Indian Film Festival	p. 35
Brindleyplace Film Festival	p. 42
Cine Excess	p. 62
CineQ Queer Film Festival	p. 19
Flatpack Festival	p. 28
Screening Rights Film Festival	p. 60
Viewscreen Festival	p. 29

## THEATRE, DANCE & PERFORMANCE

BE Festival	p. 35
Birmingham Comedy Festival	p. 58
Birmingham Fest	p. 43
Birmingham Hippodrome Presents...	p. 33
Birmingham International Dance Festival	p. 32
Festival of Audacity	p. 41
First Bite & Bite Size	p. 5
Sandwell & Birmingham Mela	p. 43
SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture	p. 62
Still Walking Festival	p. 55
TILT Festival	p. 42

## LITERATURE & SPOKEN WORD

Birmingham Literature Festival	p. 59
Black British Book Festival	p. 23
Bournville Book Fest	p. 33
Solihull Book Fest	p. 33
Sutton Coldfield Book Fest	p. 13
Verve Poetry & Spoken Word Festival	p. 11

## FOOD & DRINK

Birmingham Cocktail Weekend	p. 41
Birmingham Coffee Festival	p. 32
Birmingham Restaurant Festival	p. 49
Birmingham Rum Festival	p. 35
Birmingham Wine Weekend	p. 22
Birmingham Vegan Festival	p. 19
Brindleyplace Food Festival	p. 56
Colmore Food Festival	p. 40
Digbeth Oktoberfest	p. 60
Foodies Festival	p. 35
Gin & Rum Festival	p. 58
Gin To My Tonic Festival	p. 23
Great British Beer Festival Winter	p. 10
Independent Birmingham Festival	p. 29
Kebabingham Festival	p. 13
Prosecco Festival	p. 34
Whisky Birmingham	p. 18

## VISUAL ARTS, CRAFTS & DESIGN

Arts & Science Festival	p. 5
Birmingham Design Festival	p. 32
Birmingham Fashion Festival	p. 34
Birmingham Open Studios	p. 56
Brum Zine Fest	p. 40
Festival of Quilts	p. 45
Get Creative Festival	p. 29
High Vis Festival	p. 54
In:Site Festival	p. 55
International Comic Expo	p. 56
Jewellery Quarter Open Studios	p. 63
Migrant Festival	p. 34
Yarningham	p. 42

## OUTDOORS

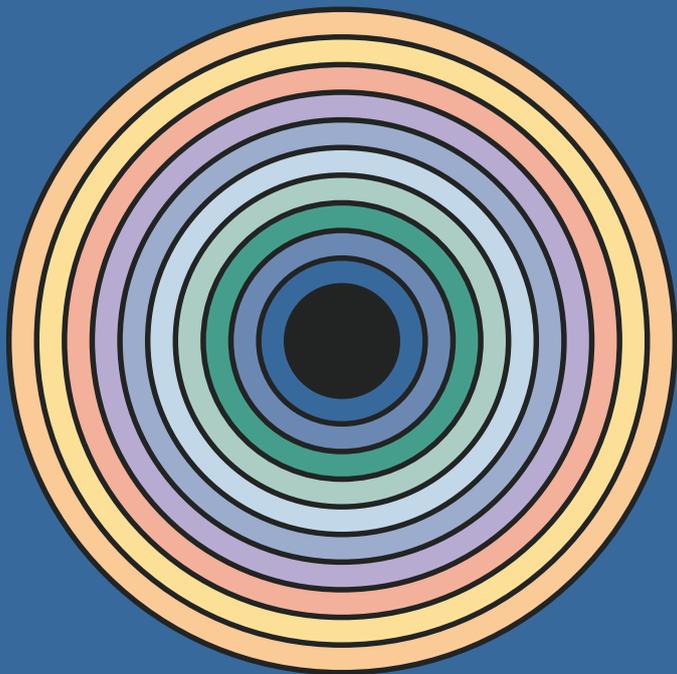
Birmingham Hippodrome Presents...	p. 33
Birmingham Running Festival	p. 13
Brindleyplace Film Festival	p. 42
Great Birmingham Run	p. 59
High Vis Festival	p. 54
Still Walking Festival	p. 55
Waterfront Festival	p. 49

## COMMUNITY

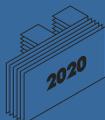
Barrio Fiesta	p. 42
Birmingham Anime and Gaming Con	p. 28
Birmingham Pride	p. 30
Celebrating Sanctuary	p. 34
Chinese New Year	p. 5
CoCoMad	p. 40
Collectormania 27	p. 54
Diwali Mela	p. 63
Get Creative Festival	p. 29
Insomnia Gaming Festival	p. 22
Jewellery Quarter Festival	p. 34
Kings Heath Street Festival	p. 56
Migrant Festival	p. 34
Moseley Festival	p. 40
Sandwell & Birmingham Mela	p. 43
St Patrick's Festival	p. 18
Valefest	p. 33

# FLATPACK FESTIVAL

5-10 MAY | BIRMINGHAM



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FILM FOR ALL THE SENSES

## MUSIC & SOUND

BASS Festival	p. 60
BEASTdome Mini Festival	p. 13
BEAST FEaST	p. 23
Birchfield Jazz Festival	p. 45
Birmingham Fake Festival	p. 33
Birmingham International Piano Festival	p. 60
Birmingham International Recorder and Early Music Festival	p. 11
Birmingham Music Festival	p. 59
Birmingham, Sandwell & Westside Jazz Festival	p. 43
Birmingham Swing Festival	p. 10
B-SIDE Hip Hop Festival	p. 30
Celebrating Sanctuary	p. 34
Future Days	p. 59
Ideas of Noise	p. 5
Legends in the City	p. 32
MADE Festival	p. 49
Moseley Folk & Arts Festival	p. 54
Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival	p. 41
Music For Youth Festival	p. 41
Noise Not Music Festival	p. 23
Nostalgie Ya Mboka Festival	p. 40
Podfest Birmingham	p. 19
PodUK 2020	p. 10
Punkt Birmingham	p. 19
Simmer Down	p. 45
Solihull Summer Festival	p. 45
Sonic Gun Weekender	p. 49
St Patrick's Festival Birmingham	p. 18
Supersonic Festival	p. 43
Swingamajig	p. 28
Ten Acres of Sound	p. 22
Thinking/Not Thinking Festival	p. 29
TradFest	p. 63

## MUSEUMS & HERITAGE

Arts & Science Festival	p. 5
Birmingham Heritage Week	p. 54
ESRC Social Science Festival	p. 63
Heritage Open Days	p. 55
LGBTQ History Festival	p. 11

## LGBTQIA+

Bean Flicks: Ethical, Feminist Porn Festival	p. 10
Birmingham Pride	p. 30
CineQ Queer Film Festival	p. 19
LGBTQ History Festival	p. 11
SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture	p. 62

## SPIRITUAL & RELIGIOUS

A Matter of Life and Death Festival	p. 28
Divali Mela	p. 63
Limmud Festival	p. 63
Mind Body Spirit Festival	p. 60
Vaisakhi	p. 23

# CREDITS

This guide has been lovingly compiled by Flatpack Projects on behalf of Birmingham Festivals Group. Flatpack grew out of a Digbeth filmnight in the early 2000s, and as well as producing our own festival every May we deliver all manner of different projects and events throughout the rest of the year.

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Since 2016 Birmingham Festivals Group have been working collaboratively to raise awareness of our amazing events calendar, lobby as a sector and share good practice. Festivals attract over 2.5 million people to Birmingham every year, putting the city on the map and making it a more exciting place to be. For more info on the group and an online calendar go to:  
[www.birminghamfestivals.com](http://www.birminghamfestivals.com)



Free Entry  
Food capped at £4  
Live Music  
All venues from within the Colmore Business District



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1,000,000

PEOPLE

100 FESTIVALS

1 CITY