



Press Release
3 May 2013

Solihull – the small town with big festival ideas

What do people know when asked about the town of Solihull?

Some might realise that Solihull is the home to Jaguar Land Rover, others know that both Birmingham International Airport and the NEC are within it's boundaries and a few will have noticed the Sunday Times sneaking the town onto it's top twenty list of best places to send your children to school. Many may not have a clue. However, Solihull has something very special on offer that proves this gem of a town really is worth a visit.

In terms of it's entertainment offering, this small West Midlands town could be overshadowed by it's bigger and bolshier neighbour, Birmingham, which lies just 9 miles to it's north. However, Solihull, with it's vibrant high street (which boasts a noticeable lack of pound shops) is in fact the base for four arts festivals throughout the year.

Fairly new to the festival scene, Solihull presented it's first festival in 2011. In 2013, the team have expanded their offering to four key events across the calendar:

Lolihull – this April comedy festival featured a fantastic line-up of comedians including Edinburgh Festival Best Newcomer nominee **Joe Lycett**, **The Boy with Tape on His Face**, **Gary Delaney** and local comedy veteran and festival patron, **Jasper Carrott**. In addition, the festival featured free workshops and family entertainment.

Jazz & Blues – four days of festival fever over the late May Bank holiday (24-27 May) mark the start of the summer season in the town. Headliners include **King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys**, **Val Wiseman**, **Tipitina** and the **Roy Forbes Quartet** as well as undisputed Jazz 'Maestro' **Alan Barnes** with his very special **Liquorice Allsorts Jazz Band**. The whole town will be jumping, jiving and dancing to the mixed sounds of the many free al fresco performances. A highlight of the free elements of the festival is a Mardi Gras style parade through the town.

Dance Live – a 2 day, mid-summer (13-14 July), dance spectacular will feature a full programme of free dance performances and workshops featuring professional dancers who will demonstrate the passion, rage and ecstasy of dances from across the globe. Solihull will become the backdrop for contemporary dancing at its very best.

The Big Taste – no festival programme these days is complete without an event to satisfy the new generation of foodies. Solihull's Autumn festival (4 – 6 October) presents the very best of what the town's many eateries and pubs have to offer, pitching chefs against each other to present an event bursting with special menus, live demonstrations, master classes and exclusive offers.

About Solihull Festivals

Solihull Festivals are all staged by Solihull BID (Business Improvement District). Solihull BID was formed in March 2010 after a successful 'yes' vote, resulting in a £2.5 million investment to fund a series of projects to make Solihull a better place to work and visit.

Solihull Festivals 2013 are proudly sponsored by:



For more information:

Solihull Festivals
Solihull BID

www.solihullfestivals.co.uk
www.solihullbid.co.uk



For press information and images, please contact:

Mary Gleeson, Nemo Communications, mary@nemocommunications.co.uk / 07712 251273