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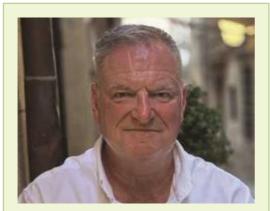
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Wolverhampton City Life

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Aug/Sept issue of Wolverhampton City Life.

I've just completed a challenge for Pancreatic Cancer UK, which was to walk 60 miles in June – or to do two miles a day.

Two miles doesn't sound a lot, but when you sit down most of the day (yes, I know, it's alright for some!) it's not as easy as it sounds.

I didn't want to just accumulate a number of steps, so I actually did a two mile walk every day – even while on holiday in Croatia. How's that for commitment?

It's amazing how good you feel afterwards, even on the odd day when it rained, there was a feeling of achievement. Not just the walking and getting fit, but knowing you've raised a few guid for a good cause.

Pancreatic Cancer is one of the worst types you can get as there are virtually no symptoms until it's too late.

I know a couple of people who have fallen victim to it, so the thought of them got me off my backside every day and I'll do it again next year. Maybe some of you could join me.

There are a few events coming up in the next few weeks and as someone who helps to organise one of them, I know how much hard work goes on in the background, so please, if you are able, please support them and help to keep them going.

Like most people, I was shocked and saddened by the tragic death of the ex-Wolves player Diogo (not Diego!) Jota.

I never met the guy, but his age, the fact that he had only got married to his childhood sweetheart two weeks before the accident and to leave three young children without a father is just heartbreaking.

My father lost his dad in a farming accident when he was just 8 years old. He also had four younger siblings. There was no Universal Credit, oh and there was a war on. I can't imagine how they managed, but they did and Diogo's family will get through this as they have to, as we all have to in tough times.

Due to the increasing cost of print, more than ever, our advertisers are vitally important to the to the continuation of this magazine. Please have a look at their adverts and if you do purchase anything from them, PLEASE TELL THEM YOU SAW THE ADVERT IN WOLVERHAMPTON CITY LIFE!

The next issue will cover October and November and will be out on 23rd September so if you want to be in it, please contact me by 1st September.

Enjoy your read!











Feel the Beat of the City: Live Grassroots Music

Friday 15th August 2025 | 11:00 – 16:00 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton

This summer, Wolverhampton is turning up the volume on local talent! As part of **Together for Music 2025**, join us at the heart of the city for an exciting **Musical Showcase** in Bell Street Square (Pedestrian Zone) on **Friday 15th August 2025**, from **11:00 to 16:00** — and discover the sound of grassroots music like you've never heard it before.

Hosted by **Kupid the King** – one of Wolverhampton's most influential RNB and Hip Hop artists – the show promises an unforgettable afternoon of music, rhythm and raw talent. With his trademark charisma and deep connection to the local music scene, Kupid will guide audiences through a packed programme of performances that celebrate the city's creative spirit.

Expect an electrifying line-up of **local performers**, featuring the vibrant rhythms of **live dhol drumming**, hard-hitting **rap**, soulful **singing**, and powerful **spoken word**. All the talent on display is homegrown, representing the very best of Wolverhampton's thriving grassroots scene.

Together for Music 2025 shines a spotlight on emerging voices, bringing people together through shared rhythms and real stories. Whether you're taking a break from shopping or planning your afternoon around it, this is the perfect way to experience Wolverhampton's rich cultural heartbeat, right in the city centre.

The event is **free to attend** and open to all. Come along, bring your friends, and support the voices shaping the future of local music. You don't want to miss it!







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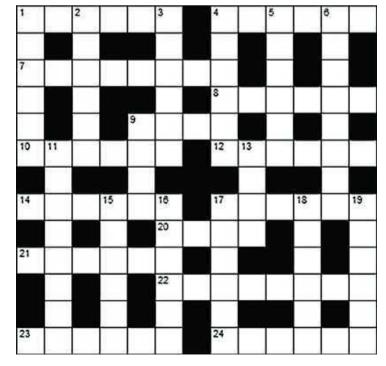


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Please see answers on page 31

Across

- 1 Prejudiced (6)
- 4 Whiten, decolour (6)
- 7 Maritime, used on the ocean (8)
- 8 Rhododendron-like shrub (6)
- 9 Particle (4)
- 10 Shortcrust, flaky or puff
- 12 Every twelve months (6)
- 14 Socially awkward (6)
- 17 Daredevil (6)
- 20 Ruffian, thug (4)
- 21 Ceramic artist (6)
- 22 Items of jewellery (8)
- 23 People who look after others (6)
- 24 Abrupt (6)

Down

- 1 Church official (6)
- 2 Warning devices (6)
- 3 Delicate, fragile (6)
- 4 Married to two people at the same time (6)
- 5 Mistake in print (6)
- 6 Shrub with waxy scented flowers (8)
- 9 Bowed structure (4)
- 11 Large South American snake (8)
- 13 Welsh name (4) 15 Oxen and cows (6)
- 16 The act of leaving a place (6)
- _ dancing, type of folk dancing. (6)
- 18 Stretched out the body or neck to see better (6)
- 19 Toxic substance (6)



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Wolverhampton Veterans in the Community: Friendship, Support and Belonging

For many veterans and their families, life after service can sometimes feel isolating. But thanks to the dedicated work of *Wolverhampton Veterans in the Community*, that needn't be the case. Under the leadership of Chair *Roy Hollingsworth*, this remarkable organisation provides a warm and welcoming space for exservice personnel and their loved ones to meet, chat and support one another.

The group operates across three locations in the city, each offering a weekly drop-in session where camaraderie is at the heart of everything they do. In *Wednesfield*, meetings take place



at the Conservative Club on Neachells Lane every Monday from 11am to 1pm, run by Patricia Radford. The Bilston group is led by Sue Cummons and meets Wednesdays from 2pm to 3pm at the Lunt Community Centre. The Wolverhampton group meets at the RAFA Club on Goldthorn Road every Tuesday from 2pm to 3pm, and is led by Kim Goss.

These gatherings are more than just social events. For members like *Val and Conrad Astbury*, the sessions provide a valuable reason to get out of the



house and connect with others. "It gives us a big boost once a week. It's like an extended family," they said. Mary Edwards, whose late husband Joe served in the forces, says the group brings her comfort and keeps her connected to old friends.

The organisation has been fortunate to receive backing from the local community. The Vine pub in Wednesfield raised an impressive £1,000 through a raffle, and Bilston Councillor Rashpal Kaur generously donated £400 from her ward budget. Sam Axtell of Wolverhampton City Council, who oversees the Armed Forces Covenant, also secured an additional £250 in support. These funds help to cover room hire costs, group trips—including a recent visit to Windsor Castle—and even mobility scooters for members who need assistance.

Now, the groups are reaching out to welcome new faces. Whether you're a veteran yourself or have a family member who served, you'll be warmly received. There's no need to book—just turn up, grab a cuppa, and say hello.

For many, Wolverhampton Veterans in the Community is more than a club. It's a lifeline, a friendship circle, and a place to belong.



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News In Brief



Wednesfield Junior Parkrun celebrates 10 years of running, walking, smiles and community fun

On 02 August 2015, 33 youngsters and 13 volunteers took part in Wolverhampton's inaugural junior Parkrun. On Sunday 10 August 2025, we welcome youngsters (accompanied by an adult) to come along to join in the fun and celebrate our 10th birthday.

Since that sunny day a decade ago 1,109 youngsters (aged 4 - 14yrs old) have crossed

our finish line 8,465 times, supported by 468 volunteers cheering them along.

Martha Cummings cofounder of the parkrun and founder of Eastpark parkrun in 2019 said "Parkrun is an amazing community initiative that encourages everyone to get involved as a participant and/or volunteer."

The event is solely run by volunteers and takes place every Sunday morning (rain or shine) at 9am at King George V Playing Fields on Amos I ane Wednesfield.

If you have youngsters aged 4 - 14 years who would like to come along, or you have some free time and would like to volunteer, please do contact Martha and Rob at:

wednesfield-juniors@parkrun.com

Recognize anyone in the Manders photo

A reader has sent in a photo of staff at Manders Brothers and is wondering if anyone can fill in the blanks from the names mentioned.

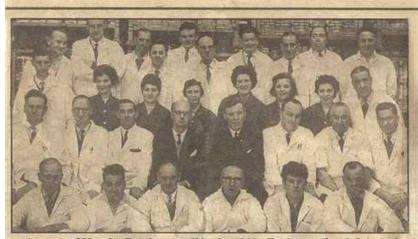
Sean Cullen from Wednesfield came across the photo which he found in an old newspaper and thought it might bring back some memories for those in the picture or their friends and relatives.

As you can see, some of the names are listed in the caption, but others are missing.

Do you know who they are?

Let's see if we can get a full set before the next magazine comes out. Please email me: simon@westmidlandsmagazines.com or text/whatsapp to: 07534 603662 if you know anyone.

Challenge made!



A group of Mander Brothers staff in the 1960s. Back row, first left is Arthur Breakwell, fifth left is Ken Hall and sixth left is Jack Whitehouse. Second row from the front, left, is Arthur Eagle, second left is Charles Roberts, fourth right is George Cox and third right is Bob Knight.

Front row, third left is Dennis Corfield

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OBITUARY

Diogo José Teixeira da Silva

4 December 1996 to 3 July 2025

It is with profound sorrow that we mourn the tragic loss of Diogo Jota - the cherished Wolves legend - and his brother, André Silva, following a fatal car accident on 3 July 2025 in Zamora, Spain. The football world has lost two exceptional talents; Portuguese football has lost two sons; and Wolverhampton Wanderers has lost a hero.

Diogo's love affair with Wolves began in 2017, when he arrived on loan from Atlético Madrid. He immediately ignited hope at Molineux with his electric pace, relentless work ethic, and clinical finishing. Over three seasons in gold and black, he made 131 appearances, netting 44 goals, and was instrumental in Wolves' return to the Premier League and the long awaited European nights, moments that still glow in the hearts of every Wolves fan .

Big-hearted on and off the field, Diogo was adored by teammates and supporters alike. At Molineux, scarves, shirts, and flowers now surround the Billy Wright statue - a testament to how deeply he touched this club and its people. He remained humble, always remembering his roots in Gondomar and the friends who cheered him on from the terraces. The memory of his sharp runs and mazy dribbles at Wolves will forever be etched in Molineux folklore.

After a £41 million move to Liverpool in 2020, Jota's star kept rising. He scored 65 goals in 182 games, won the 2024–25 Premier League, FA





Cup, and two League Cups, and delivered key performances for Portugal - including helping them retain the UEFA Nations League in 2025.

Tragically, Diogo and André - also a promising pro at Penafiel - were killed when their Lamborghini veered off the A52 motorway following a suspected tyre blowout.

Diogo was just 28, having married long-term love Rute Cardoso on 22 June and was father to their three young children The brothers were laid to rest in Gondomar on 5 July, surrounded by family, friends and a nation in mourning.

The outpouring of grief has been immense: from ordinary fans, to Cristiano Ronaldo, Jürgen Klopp and many more, all suffering the loss of two "champions".

For Wolves supporters, Jota represented the epitome of our club's spirit - fearless, industrious, and electrifying. He embodied the "Wolves way" and gave us nights of joy and hope during our revival. Molineux will forever echo with his name and his talent. Diogo's memory lives on in every cheer, every chant, and every future gold-and-black hero inspired by his journey.

Rest in peace, Diogo. Rest in peace, André. You'll never walk alone.



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Councillor
Obaida Ahmed,
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for Health,
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Community,
said: "Stopping
smoking is the
best thing you
can do for your
health and the
health of those
around you.

A new programme which has already helped well over 100 smokers in Wolverhampton to quit has been extended for another 12 months.

Launched by the City of Wolverhampton Council last year, Swap to Swap provides free vaping kits and behavioural support to help people stop smoking.

The service is delivered over a period of 12 weeks by trained members of staff who offer free vape starter kits alongside support and weekly 'check-in' sessions at community venues to help people on their quitting journey.

Scores of people have already come forward to get help – with over 135 quitting as a result. Others are invited to sign up for free at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/swap-to-stop.

The Government is offering a million free 'Swap to Stop' vaping kits as part of its aims for the country to become 'smokefree' by 2030. The council has made these available at a range of community

"It is still the single largest preventable cause of death in England, accounting for around for 64,000 deaths annually. Almost every minute of every day someone is admitted to hospital with a smoking-related disease – but, when you stop smoking, there are almost immediate improvements to your health.

"And it's not just your body which will benefit, your purse or wallet will too. On average smokers spend around £40 per week on tobacco – and that means you could have around £2,000 extra to spend a year by quitting, or even more if you are a really heavy smoker.

"Nicotine vaping is substantially less harmful than smoking and is also one of the most effective tools for quitting, and it's fantastic that over 135 residents have already been able to quit using the support available through Swap to Stop.

"We are delighted to be extending the programme for another 12 months so, if you want to quit smoking, please sign up today."

For more help and support to stop smoking, please visit www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/quit-smoking.









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Wolverhampton City Life

All Change at The Prestige Arena

Thursday 8th May was a significant date for **AFCWulfrunians** as in their last game as a club they won the Midland League Cup at Rushall Olympic beating Stapenhill 3-1.

The directors, management and players were delighted to finish on a high. League form was up and down during the season but to end the season with a trophy is a great achievement.

Immediately after the game the directors started to make the transition throughout the club to becoming **AFC Wolverhampton City FC.**

The change of name sees a change of club colours for both home and away shirts and a new Main Sponsor of ABACUS Wealth Services of Pattingham. Abacus will see their logo on all shirts and throughout the stadium and will work with the club on the community initiatives for the 2025-2026 season. Those initiatives include

- Women's "taster" football sessions in conjunction with Wolverhampton Foundation.
- Prostate cancer testing events on a regular basis following the success of the event in June where four people were advised to arrange appointments with their doctor following the test results.
- A community litter pick in the streets around the ground.
- The installation of a public access defibrillator machine at the stadium.
- Reduced price admission to certain fixtures for holders of Wolves season tickets, armed forces personnel, emergency services personnel, and a dedicated "free entry for women" game.



- The return of the highly successful Car & Bike Show for 2026.
- Community fun days on Sunday 31
 August 2025 and again at Easter 2026.
- The installation of a "smart water" dispenser on the car park for window cleaners and the general public to access clean ionised water.
- Charity fundraising events throughout the year for our chosen charities Acorns Children's Hospice, Facial Palsy and Home Run Hounds.
- AFC Wolverhampton City and @Springhill_CC

are proud to announce our partnership, to offer football and cricket to children in the local community, helping with health and wellbeing.

For more information, email: afcwolverhamptoncity@gmail.com or: springhillcc@hotmail.co.uk

A new season, a new name but still the same community values.

AFC Wolverhampton City FC







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Schools Recognised

for Championing Emotional Wellbeing

Seven Wolverhampton schools have been recognised for their commitment to promoting emotional health and wellbeing, receiving a prestigious ATTUNE award at a special event last week.

The event, held at Fordhouses Cricket Club, marked a significant milestone in Wolverhampton's journey to embed emotional wellbeing and trauma-

informed practice at the heart of education through the Wolverhampton ATTUNE Project — a two-year City of Wolverhampton Council-led programme that supports schools in embedding sustainable, trauma-informed practices.

Schools progress through Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, each recognising deeper integration of the ATTUNE principles – to be attachmentaware and trauma-informed, to build trust and

understanding individual needs, to use nurturing and consistent approaches, and to ensure emotional wellbeing is a whole-school priority.

The seven schools – Loxdale Primary, Broadmeadow Special School, Khalsa Academy, St Peter's Collegiate Academy, St Michael's C of E Primary, Christ Church Infant and Junior School, and Low Hill Nursery – were part of the original trauma-informed pilot and have now successfully achieved an ATTUNE award.

Their efforts have led to meaningful changes in school culture, teaching practices, and

student support systems, and each school was invited to receive their award and share stories of transformation, from improved student engagement to stronger staff-pupil relationships.

Councillor Obaida Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Community, said: "We came together to recognise and celebrate the incredible efforts of several local schools



in achieving the ATTUNE Charter. These schools have shown what it truly means to be attachment-aware, trauma-informed, and nurturing in their approach to education."

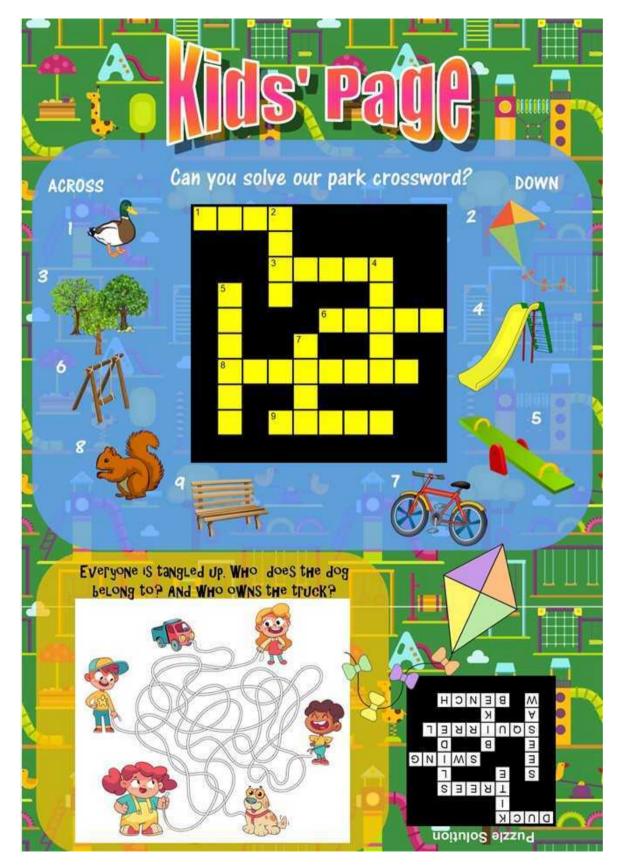
Councillor Jacqui Coogan, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, added: "This has been a wonderful opportunity to hear first-hand about the positive changes these schools have made. I would encourage schools who are not already part of ATTUNE but would like to be, to register their interest for the next programme beginning in spring 2026."

To register an interest, schools should please visit:

http://educationalpsychologywolverhampton.co.uk/schools/attune.html









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Interview With Vicky McClure as Day Fever Announces Biggest Month Yet with Massive Autumn Expansion

24 Towns & Cities Host the UK's #1 Day Club This September

If you ever thought clubbing was just for the under-25s stumbling home at 3am, think again. Day Fever, the unstoppable daytime disco dreamt up by actor Vicky McClure, her husband Jonny Owen, and pals including Jon McClure of Reverend & The Makers, is flipping the nightlife script, one sunlit dancefloor at a time.



Born from a WhatsApp chat and now heading to 24 towns and cities in September, Day Fever brings affordable, joy-filled clubbing into the daylight hours. "The first one sold out in two seconds," Vicky beams. "We did Nottingham, then Sheffield, then Merthyr and Cardiff and it just flew from there."

It all started with a simple idea. "Jonny just said, 'Have you ever seen those bars in town during the day? They're rammed!" laughs Jon. "We were like, come on then, let's do it and it went nuts."

Now, this feel-good phenomenon sees people of all ages, literally from their 20s to their 70s, letting loose on packed dancefloors. "We've had Jonny's mum sneak in a bottle of gin and stash it in a bush outside in Cardiff," Jon jokes. "That's the vibe! Bit of mischief, loads of laughs, and not a bit of trouble."

And it's that warmth, spontaneity, and inclusive-

ness that keeps people coming back.

Vicky's voice lifts when she talks about the kind of people turning up to dance: "It's mothers and daughters, friends reconnecting, people on chemo, people grieving. These are your nurses, your cleaners, your teachers. These are the people keeping the world spinning and now they've got somewhere to let go and feel joy."

One story that's stayed with her is a woman who had barely seen her friends or family unless it was for a wedding or a funeral. "Now she's got a new frock every month, and she's out at Day Fever. She goes shopping Friday night, gets her hair done, and makes a proper event of it. That's magic, isn't it?"



Inclusivity isn't just a buzzword here, it's baked into the experience. "We've had people in wheel-chairs come up on stage, and the crowd goes wild. It's electric. We want it to be accessible to everyone," says Vicky, visibly moved. "It makes your hairs stand on end."

While you might catch a familiar face on the decks, Jonny, Vicky, or even Jon's wife Laura, most Day Fever events are led by local DJs. "We've been really selective," Vicky explains. "They know their crowd; they know what their people want to hear. And they're smashing it." And yes, music is taken very seriously. "There's a loose structure," Jon explains. "Bit of Northern Soul to kick off, disco, 80s bangers, 90s dance,

a singalong, maybe some indie...but we always have Whitney. If Vicky's there, it's the law."

Vicky grins, "Hits across the generations, that's the key. We've done themed nights, even Christmas clubs. And we'll ask, 'Do you want more Christmas songs?' and they're like 'nah, just give us the hits!'" She laughs. "You just get a feel for it."

Regional pride plays a part too. "Manchester goes mad for Oasis, Nottingham's got its favourites, and we make sure to tap into that local energy," says Vicky. "It's about community, about people being together."

With so many entertainment options pricing people out, Day Fever deliberately keeps things cheap. Vicky says. "We've always wanted it to be affordable. A night out can be £100 easy. We didn't want this to be that."

Jon adds, "Jonny said from day one it's for ordinary people. Families, people with kids. We're not here to rip people off."

Venues love it too. "We shut up shop at 8pm," Vicky explains, "they do a quick turnaround and run their usual night from 10. They're making great takings and reaching a new crowd. It's been a game changer for loads of clubs."

If Day Fever feels like a family party, that's because... it kind of is. "Jonny and I are married, Jon's wife DJs, his brother Chris and childhood friend Jamie are involved. Even Jonny's daughter Katie's behind the decks," Vicky laughs. "It's one big gang, and when people come through the doors, they're part of it too."



It's not uncommon to see Vicky herself dancing on stage with partygoers, selfies flying and smiles everywhere. "When people realise we're just there to have fun too, that we're not up on a pedestal, they really get into it," she says. "And I mean, come on, when do you get to go clubbing with your mum?!"

With festivals like Splendour and Reverend & The Makers' 20th anniversary show in Sheffield this summer, things are scaling up—but slowly. "We've had offers to take it abroad, but we're being really careful," Vicky says. "It's only 18 months old, it feels like a decade, but we want to make sure we look after what we've built."

They've even announced their own Day Fever festival at Nottingham's Arboretum on the 23rd August. "We've got loads of ideas," she teases. "But for now, we're just enjoying this moment. It's simple, and it works."

Even with their busy schedules, Vicky filming Trigger Point, Jon touring Australia, both say they miss it when they're away. "Sounds a bit daft," Jon chuckles, "but Day Fever cheers me up. You leave feeling lighter."

And that's the magic, really. Day Fever isn't just a disco, it's a dose of pure happiness.

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20-Aug-25 6-Sep-25	Nottingham Rock City Birmingham O2 Institute
13-Sep-25 27-Sep-25 4-Oct-25 18-Oct-25	Leicester Athena Coventry Kasbah Birmingham O2 Institute Nottingham Palais

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Wolverhampton Singer Sam Lambeth Announces New Album

'No Sign of the Summer', Set For Release on Friday 8th August

When Wolverhampton's Sam Lambeth purchased Elvis Costello's *The Best of the First Ten Years* at age 16, it opened the musical floodgates. "It was like I'd been given an instruction manual on musicianship," he explains.

He became enamoured with Costello's ability to retain his Beatles-infused classicism while diversifying into folk, gospel, Americana, jazz and much more. It's a blueprint Lambeth has tried to follow with his first two solo records, the country rock of 2021's Love & Exile, and the motown-tinged Walkin' to Hollywood (2023).

However, there was something Lambeth forgot to take in all those years ago – that Costello also rocked.

"I'd spent a lot of time trying to craft quite ornate, esoteric music, but anyone that's familiar with Costello's back catalogue will know every so often he cranks up the guitars and makes raw, red-blooded rock and roll albums," Lambeth says. "After two albums that were quite precise and calculated in their creations, I thought it'd be really fun and liberating to just head into the studio, turn the amps up loud and make a full-on rock record."

Lambeth had tons of old songs tucked away that just didn't fit his previous records' styles, some dating back to not long after he purchased that Costello record. Growing up, he'd also fallen hard for power pop – the



fuzzy melodies, the nostalgic ethos, the glorious harmonies. Reared on a healthy diet of Teenage Fanclub, The Lemonheads, Big Star and Matthew Sweet, Lambeth set his sights on making a summery grunge record.

Dusting off seven songs was easy, working on the lyrics wasn't. "These seven songs were all finished, but the lyrics were pretty cringey," Lambeth laughs. "It was really difficult modifying them because the structure of the songs was set so I had to think of words that fit."

That's when he chose the theme of summer. "It feels like more than a season to me," he explains. "It's everything – innocence, longing, love, wistfulness, time. I always think back to those six week holidays you have and all those hopes, dreams and emotions you get, as well as the ultimate feelings of boredom, longing and despair."

UPCOMING GIGS:

24th August

Bridgnorth Music and Arts Festival

13th September

Wolverhampton Dive (HEADLINE) Dive Bar, 3rd Floor Exchange Vaults, Wolverhampton, WV1 1TS

The album is available to buy on Bandcamp:

https://samlambethmusic.bandcamp.com/album/no-sign-of-the-summer

It'll also be available to Stream on Spotify:

nttps://samambetimusic.bandeanip.com/aibum/no-sign-or-the-summer



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Crossword Answers

From page 10



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