

audlem

music & arts

FESTIVAL

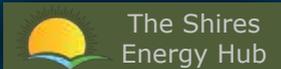
23RD-26TH MAY 2025

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Hello and welcome to the 2025 Audlem Music & Arts Festival

This year, we are proudly celebrating the **25th anniversary** of our little festival, and with that in mind we have put together what we think is the best lineup yet!

We have over 55 fantastic bands, artists and performers for you all to enjoy, featuring a feast of music from all genres to suit all tastes, spread over six venues. Additionally **The Public Hall** will be hosting some brilliant theatre performances from our friends at the **Audlem Theatre Company**, as well as accommodating our art exhibition featuring many talented local artists.

To mark the opening of the festival, **Audlem Bell Ringers** will be ringing in the start of the big weekend on Friday at 6pm.

The festival could not happen without the generous financial support from Audlem's three wonderful pubs, **The Shroppie Fly**, **The Bridge Inn**, and **The Lord Combermere**, and also our good friends from **The Shires Energy Hub**, who are back again this year to provide us with the three amazing stages they so kindly build for free. **We want to thank them all sincerely.**

Thanks also to The Co-op, who have made us one of the beneficiaries of their Local Community Fund.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to all of the local businesses who have paid to advertise in this programme, with all advertising revenue helping to fund the festival. Thanks also to our lovely friends at **Overwater Marina** (celebrating their 15th anniversary this year) who kindly allow us to host some of our vital fundraising events at their beautiful venue.

Over the course of the festival, we will be asking you to help us raise money for Nantwich & District Riding for the Disabled Association, whose team of volunteers, ponies and horses provide therapy, achievement and enjoyment to people with disabilities, and who rely on donations to deliver their invaluable services. Their team will be collecting donations throughout the weekend for this very worthy cause, and we will also be running a special one off lottery to help with their fundraising, more details of which can be found in this programme, so please support them in any way you can.

Thank you.

Lastly, we would like to thank every single person from the last 25 years who has helped to keep this festival thriving. The effort required in putting together this free event is quite substantial, and celebrating the festival's 25th year is a testimony to all those wonderful people who have given their time, knowledge and expertise for free over the last quarter of a century to sustain what must surely be the biggest and best free event in Cheshire.

We hope you all have a fabulous festival!

The Audlem Music & Arts Festival Team

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Music and Planning- David Scott, Jody Jennings, Tim Dudley, Simon Schouten, Mark Buttle

Theatre/Arts Curation- David Davenport, Kathy & Mike Dunham

Fundraising Team- Steve Walker, Jarad Southall-Martin, Joe Welch, Elliot Wollaston, Linda Barnes, Cecelia Bebbington, Claire Scott, Ben Dudley, Lucy Barnes, Mary Buttle, Bea Schouten

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Thanks also to- Ralph Warburton, Derek Winskill, Maureen Morgan, Phil Gadd, Anna Murray, Audlem Theatre Company, Audlem Parish Council, ASET, ADAS, East Midlands Solutions, Audlem Methodist Church, St James' Church & Audlem Public Hall



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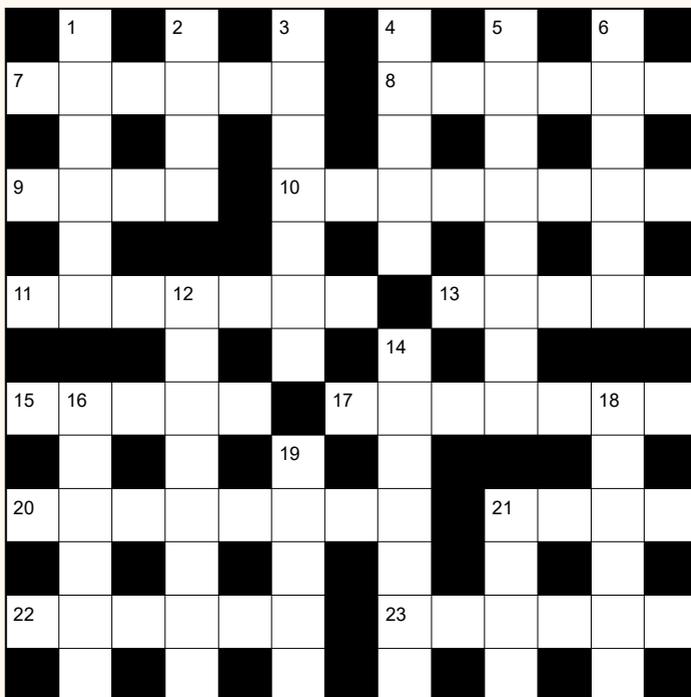


Swimming pool



MUSIC CROSSWORD

Some straight clues, some cryptic



Across

7. Sister has fun on this in the snow (7)
8. and sisters in the mood for dancing (6)
9. He's only a day away from Tulsa! (4)
10. Light orchestra beginning (8)
11. Top bloke from the Ziggy album (8)
13. Peggy Lee's gone down with something (5)
15. 5 lines for music (5)
17. Where Cream were born under (3,4)
20. Could be a bed, could be a stone (4,4)
21. Dave Clark or Jackson? (4)
22. Where the songs from 12 down probably weren't played! (6)
23. Little Jimmy who sang about someone from the city 22 is in (6)

Down

1. Herb, he's in love with you (6)
2. Guitarist, you too by the sound of it! (4)
3. Youssou N'Dour's birth country (7)
4. Men at work down here (5)
5. The Great Pretenders (8)
6. Black box ride (2,4)
12. The fab four's firearm album (8)
14. Ricky Nelson said hello to her (4,3)
16. The raindrops are falling on BJ (6)
18. it all away, Roger Daltrey debut solo song (6)
19. Doctor! Doctor! Thompson, there's two of them! (5)
21. Irene Cara sang about Georgie? (4)

MUSICAL ANAGRAMS

Work out the artist or band

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Stoned viewer | 6. I call mate |
| 2. Gee, tiny pen! | 7. Sticky cream on |
| 3. Mars banned | 8. Plans to row |
| 4. Alights naked | 9. If man stood |
| 5. Is cure myth? | 10. Oi nob, sorry! |

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From nantwichrda.org

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FRIDAY 23RD MAY



Audlem Bell Ringers - St James' Church 6PM

The six bells of St James' Church were originally hung in 1736, and restored after some major work in July '24. It's fitting therefore that the festival will be 'rung in' beautifully by Audlem bell ringers.



Bowdon RUFC Choir - St James' Church 7PM

Formed in 2017, this is, we think, the only English rugby club male voice choir. Performing a wide range of numbers, from sea shanties to lively pop covers, and the odd more serious offering, the focus is on fun with this 40+ member choir.



Heidi Browne - The Lord Combermere 8PM

It's always great to see Heidi come and play for us at the festival. Her songs are the perfect mix of dreamy melodies and hooks, matched with poetic and engaging lyrics. Heidi will be drawing from her very impressive 6 album back catalogue for the evening.



Skinny Knees - The Shroppie Fly 8.30PM

After their fantastic set at our one day pop-up fund raiser a few years ago at Overwater Marina, it's lovely to welcome this eclectic duo to the festival proper. Based in the North West, they will be playing well known covers with a unique twist.



Dave Nettleton - The Bridge Inn 9PM

Audlem's own solo folk-blues, dark Americana singer-songwriter always captivates audiences with his hauntingly beautiful music. Drawing inspiration from The Lumineers, Colter Wall, Johnny Cash, The Civil Wars and Billy Bragg, Nettleton's original music is a perfect blend of modern & classic folk elements, evoking a sound that is both nostalgic and fresh.

SATURDAY 24TH MAY



Darren Poyzer & Jamie Parkes - The Shroppie Fly 12.40PM

It's great to see this legendary singer songwriter making a return to this year's line up, and he certainly has lots of fans in the village! Accompanied by violin virtuoso fiddle wizard Jamie Parkes, Darren's songs are honest and life affirming, his wit sharp and charming.



Baxter - The Bridge Inn 1.10PM

The fabled duo of Hayley and Paul make a welcome return to Audlem, bringing humorous banter, bags of sass and fantastically quirky music. 'Like half of Abba only not like Abba' apparently, but always very entertaining and supremely likeable.



Gracie Beverley - The Lord Combermere 1.30PM

Making her festival debut, Gracie's music is reflective and beautiful, her voice lilting and honeyed, with a tone that envelopes the listener and takes them to a tranquil place. We're so pleased that she has agreed to join us to open the stage at The Lord C, and we think that you're going to love her.



Audlem Theatre Company - Audlem Public Hall 2PM

Audlem Theatre Company brings drama and music to the Audlem Music Festival! Enjoy snippets from their recent comedy "Cash on Delivery", alongside musical theatre numbers from their youth theatre section. A lively showcase of local talent, offering multiple theatre disciplines from their entire age group.

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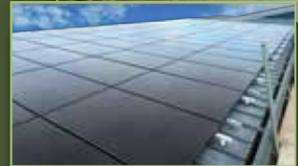


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- A.I Stallion (March '25)



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SATURDAY 24TH MAY



Moonlight Serenade - Audlem Methodist Church 2PM

This six-piece band will be playing music from the '40s era including many Glenn Miller numbers. They have played at numerous festivals and will be featuring 'Sarah' on vocal duties for their show.



Camens - The Shroppie Fly 2.10 PM

Hailing from Stoke-on-Trent, this hard working quartet have been making waves all over the UK, touring relentlessly with their catalogue of anthemic indie bangers. Their latest album WORK/LIFE/BALANCE made the UK Album Chart top ten, so they're certainly worth checking out, and we reckon they could very well be your next favourite band.



Pan Diva - The Bridge Inn 2.50 PM

Debra is a classically trained singer, musical director of Cambridge University Steel Orchestra and All Female Ladies Of Steel. She brings a wealth of musical prowess in a captivating solo fusion of steel pan and voice to the festival for her debut, and it's fantastic to welcome her.



The Northern La's - The Lord Combermere 3PM

There will no doubt be more than one or two familiar Audlem faces on stage for this one, and we are so glad to be able to welcome them back for the afternoon, and considering their history with the festival, it's absolutely brilliant that they are here to share our 25th anniversary with us!



Meg Lee - Audlem Methodist Church 4PM

Jazz and blues have always been close to Meg's heart since first hearing Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee as a teenager. Meg Lee is now one of the North West's most popular and in demand contemporary jazz singers, and has played on Clare Teals BBC Radio 2 Jazz Show, shared stages with acts including Rumer, Kat Eaton and appeared at Ronnie Scott's.



The Heidi Browne Band - The Shroppie Fly 4PM

After a truly wonderful performance at last year's festival, Heidi returns for her second appearance of the weekend, this time ably accompanied by her band. Expect a captivating set of brilliantly written songs, delivered with poise and ebullience, and perhaps a little crowd participation thrown in for good measure.



Grace - The Bridge Inn 4.30PM

Grace, the 'local heroes' of Staffordshire, have had a loyal following for many years. Their original brand of melodic rock has captivated listeners, and they have extensively toured the UK supporting bands like Pentangle, Wishbone Ash and The Strawbs, as well as headlining at significant local venues.



The Nick Milner Band - The Lord Combermere 4.40PM

If you like your rock and blues done well, these guys will deliver a storming set of guitar driven classics. Having played in the village a few times, they have certainly made something of a reputation for themselves as a tight outfit with a set list that appeals to the more discerning listener.



Audlem Voices - St James' Church 5PM

From classical to pop, they sing it all, and are always looking for new and exciting pieces to add to their repertoire. The choir is led by a talented and experienced musical director, who works tirelessly to ensure that their performances are always of the highest quality.



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SATURDAY 24TH MAY *continued*



Good Mixer - The Shroppie Fly 6PM

Coming from Liverpool, this accomplished three-piece play indie, Britpop and alternative classics and perform regularly throughout the North West. Featuring members who have toured with the likes of Shed 7, The Bluetones, The Wonderstuff and Dodgy, they really know their stuff!



Indie Anna Tones - The Bridge Inn 6.20PM

Four-piece cover band with great energy, fronted by the irrepressible Anna, putting their own stamp on well known songs from Foo Fighters, Queen, The Stereophonics and The White Stripes, among many others. This band will leave you feeling upbeat, fired up and ready to party!



Gambler - The Lord Combermere 6.30PM

Always a festival favourite, rocking familiar songs that other bands rarely cover, including Toto, The Who, ZZ Top and U2. A genuine power trio, their consummate musicianship and wonderful three part harmonies create a sound so much bigger than the sum of its parts.



Old Money - The Lord Combermere 8PM (inside)

Featuring Lee on guitar and local musician Simon on keyboards, this duo bring a fantastic selection of (mostly '60s and '70s, with a nod to the '80s and more recent) covers. The set contains very familiar but seldom covered songs along with lively crowd pleasers, we know you'll have a great evening (because everyone did last year)!



James McGrath - The Shroppie Fly 8.30PM (inside)

All the way from Nenagh in County Tipperary, James is no stranger to Audlem, a place he affectionately calls his second home. Having conquered the Irish Charts on more than one occasion with his captivating songs about life in an Irish town, he knows his stuff. His performances are always passionate and engaging, his wit effortlessly charming.



Acoustic Anarchy - The Bridge Inn 9PM (inside)

This barnstorming four-piece from the Staffordshire Moorlands make a welcome return, taking well known songs and making them their own. With strong female vocals, edgy guitar, punchy bass and solid drums, they have bags of energy and play something for everyone to enjoy.

SUNDAY 25TH MAY



Contraband - Appearing around the village from 3PM

Making their festival debut, this fantastic a cappella barbershop quartet from North Wales will be popping up around the village during the afternoon. Jason, Rob, Rob and David have performed all across the North West and Wales, and we are delighted to welcome them!



Vanilla Haze- The Shroppie Fly 1.10PM

Blending the groove of funk with the raw attitude of Madchester, this blistering three-piece from Manchester come with gritty melodies, snappy hooks and infectious rhythms, creating a sound that is danceable and electric, with an unmistakable Northern edge.



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SUNDAY 25TH MAY *continued*



The Dodgents - The Lord Combermere 1.40PM

A band made up of three teenagers (and the drummer's dad), this vibrant young bunch play an array of rock and indie covers with the exuberance and eagerness you'd expect from such a young band. Expect an hour of spirited merrymaking!



Sandbach Ukulele Band - Methodist Church 2PM

Formed in 2016, this 20+ strong ukulele band were brilliant last year, and they're back with another lively hour of music and fun from their 1000+ songbook with not a hint of George Formby! The Mavericks, The Dave Clark Five and Dire Straits might be on the menu, though!



Audlem Theatre Company - Audlem Public Hall 2PM

Audlem Theatre Company brings drama and music to the Audlem Music Festival! Enjoy snippets from their recent comedy "Cash on Delivery", alongside musical theatre numbers from their youth theatre section. A lively showcase of local talent, offering multiple theatre disciplines from their entire age group.



Jake Morin - The Bridge Inn 2.10PM

Formed over a love of songwriting, this new Salford based five-piece fuses folk, rock and pop to create a distinctive set of moments and songs. They are about to release their Debut EP, so there is a lot of excitement surrounding this fresh and original band.



Paul Larcombe & Friends - The Shroppie Fly 3PM

The infinitely likeable Paul has played all over the globe as a world renowned Elvis impersonator, but spends a lot of time in Audlem. He will be playing a set of American country and blues, and will no doubt add some of his charisma and wonderful repartee to his performance, so we are thrilled to have Paul and his friends play for us again.



Greg Murray & The 7 Wonders - The Lord Combermere 3.40PM

James Gregory Murray & The Seven Wonders fuse the twang of Americana, with Latino, and 'death country', with brash and anthemic choruses, and have uplifted many a festival-goer in their time. They've been described as 'Earnest and emotional, heartfelt and awe-inspiring', and their influences include Springsteen, Arcade Fire, The Waterboys and Van Morrison.



The Hank Bros- Audlem Methodist Church 3.40PM

With the huge rise in popularity of country music over the last few years, how could we not welcome back this charming multi-instrument quartet? Playing classic American country, covering artists such as Hank Williams, George Strait and Willie Nelson, its time for a hoedown!



Katie & The Bad Sign - The Bridge Inn 4PM

Inspired by bands such as KALEO, Larkin Poe and Nikki Lane, Katie and the Bad Sign have played up and down the UK at festivals including Whychwood, Buckle & Boots, and Upton Blues. They have received radio play from BBC Introducing and Planet Rock Radio, and have recently shared a stage with Jools Holland & Ocean Colour Scene.



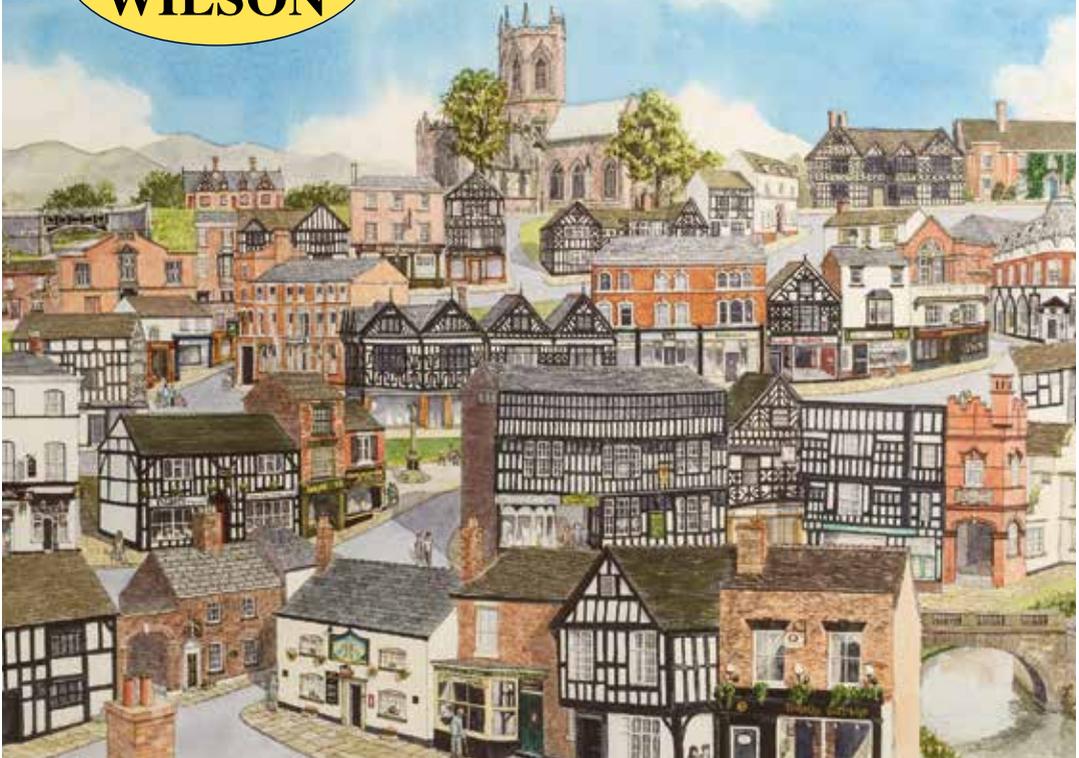
The Kings Pistol - The Lord Combermere 4.40PM

This brilliant Crewe quartet take on '60s and '70s influences to create a unique brand of rock and roll that is powerful and immediately engaging. Expect a high energy performance from a band that describe themselves as 'one of the last true rock'n'roll bands left on Earth'.

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SUNDAY 25TH MAY *continued*



Ska Burst - The Lord Combermere 5.50PM

There is something about ska music that makes you dance with a huge grin on your face, and this 6 piece band from Shropshire will definitely have you skankin'! Their effortlessly delivered set includes all the Trojan and 2Tone ska classics, and some ska'd up classics to boot. They were a highlight at last year's festival, so expect a great show.

The Mad Dog Davies Band - The Bridge Inn 6.10PM

Fronted by enigmatic local legend Bryn Davies, and playing a unique blend of rock'n'roll, R&B, blues, country, rockabilly and everything else in between, their high energy show is both entertaining and formidable, and designed to make you dance. See you down the front!



The Lydia O'Dowd Band - The Shroppie Fly 6.30PM

This wonderful band lead by the super talented Lydia gave us an outstanding set at last year's festival. Backed by the three brothers Warrillow and their effortlessly cool dad, their sound is soothing and harmonious, and always an absolute joy to behold.



Rockacella - The Lord Combermere (inside) 7.30PM

Making their first appearance at the festival, Rich and Emelye mix guitar, cello and vocals to stunning effect as part of this exciting and highly original duo. Playing their own distinctive arrangements of familiar songs, we are certain that you will have never heard a duo quite like this before.



The Amber Lamps - The Shroppie Fly 8.30PM (inside)

Martin, David, Nic and Dave have been playing music together for 10 years now, and make a welcome return to the festival. Four great fellas performing a set of well chosen lively covers, they're perfect for rounding off your Sunday at the festival with a proper knees up. Nice!



Mal Practice - The Bridge Inn 9PM (inside)

Describing themselves as '...a bunch of naughty boys who should know better', their mission is to bring 'feel good R&B on steroids' to every gig they play. Hailing from Stoke-on-Trent and full of attitude, they are an unstoppable force of nature!

MONDAY 26TH MAY



The Boat Band - The Shroppie Fly 1.10PM

In 2025 The Boat Band celebrate 36 years of music making, originally formed in 1989, gigging around Scottish islands in a small boat. Since then they've travelled by land and sea all around Britain and beyond. Expect Creole, Cajun, Caribbean, Zydeco & blues - nothing slips through their net.



Emergency Call - The Lord Combermere 1.40PM

A mighty four-piece band who have been playing together since they were teenagers, Emergency Call are made up of two sets of brothers, Joe and Jim Richards on lead vocals/guitar and bass, and Matt and Billy Bishop on guitar and drums. Super tight and slick, they play songs from Steely Dan, Neil Young, Cream, The Police, Pearl Jam and many more.

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MONDAY 26TH MAY



Gemma Rose & The 13-05s - The Bridge Inn 2.10PM

Made up from members of the festival team, with a repertoire that is heavily influenced by some of the greatest female musicians and songwriters, this quintet will be playing songs from The Pretenders, Kate Bush, Fleetwood Mac, Blondie, Cyndi Lauper, Tori Amos and more.



The Travelling Wrenburys - The Shroppie Fly 2.50PM

An appropriate name for a band of musicians made up from local musical giants! Neil 'Kegs' McCallum on drums, Colin Browne on keys and vocals, Steve Hayes on guitar and vocals and Alisdair Mackenzie on Sax, this is an absolute powerhouse of a line up.



Rode Hall Silver Band - St James' Church 3.30PM

What better way to celebrate the festival's silver anniversary? Rode Hall Silver Band was formed in 1837 as a pipe and drum band, changing to its current brass band format in 1886. The band today plays at many events throughout Cheshire and Staffordshire, making people smile with their fantastically warm sound and varied repertoire.



Sale Gilbert & Sullivan Society - Audlem Methodist Church 3.30PM

Formed in 1972, these festival newcomers have been performing G&S operettas in South Manchester ever since. They will be joined by Alistair Donkin, D'Oyly Carte patter man for many years. Expect an afternoon of G&S favourites, with some of Alistair's amusing anecdotes and insights.



Bau Cat - The Lord Combermere 3.40PM

After their incredible set at last year's festival, how could we not have this North Walian trio come and see us again? Having played Glastonbury last year, and being hailed by BBC Introducing and 6 MUSIC, the future looks bright for them. Their objective? 'Have a belter'. We're sure you will!



Hipster - The Bridge Inn 3.50PM

Jody, Tom, Steve and Nathan make up this professional four-piece band, and they're no strangers to Audlem, having played the festival before. Performing everything from Bowie to Springsteen, Radiohead to Sam Fender, The Eagles to Arctic Monkeys, there is something in their set for everyone to enjoy. Let's dance!



Jim Kirkpatrick - The Shroppie Fly 4.30PM

Well known blues guitarist and songwriter Jim Kirkpatrick returns once more to the festival. With a career that has seen him release many albums, he has played all over the world, and is currently in the hugely successful band FM. A genuine world class bluesman who will no doubt give us another great show with his excellent band.



Uptown Monotones - The Lord Combermere 6PM

It's always a pleasure to have these guys on in Audlem, and their fantastic reputation precedes them. verN the FX wizard on vocals, Heli on guitar, vocals and pretty much anything else he can get his hands on (jew's harp, harmonica...a balloon?) and Ivory, beatbox champion extraordinaire, their shows are always a joyous celebration of music and togetherness.

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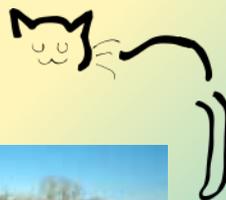
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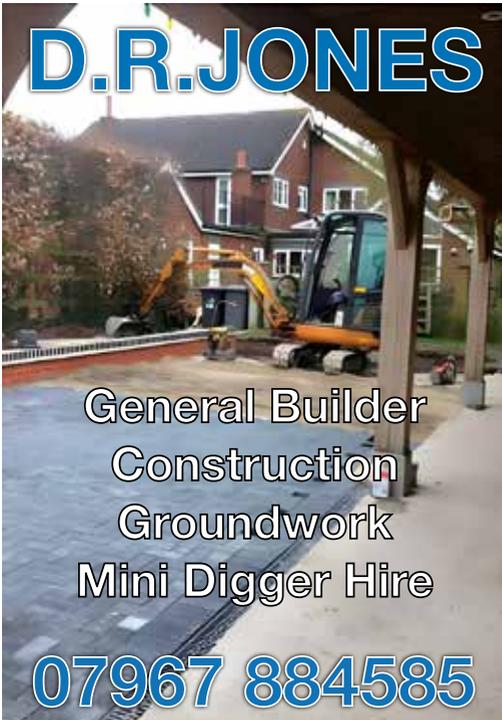


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This year we have more artists than ever before, and a wider range of music and art genres, and we're really pleased about that!

In September 2024, we launched our very own music festival lottery, and the monthly draw is held on the second Friday of every month.

You can help us secure the future of this amazing festival by buying tickets for our lottery (they cost £5). Every single penny raised and not given away in prizes goes directly in to the festival funding pot.

Just scan the QR code below and enter your card details.

You can buy tickets for next month's draw to be held on Friday 13th June (lucky for some!), or why not commit to a monthly ticket or two, really help us to build a sustainable future and give yourself a chance to win a cash prize every month!

We also occasionally run special draws, and we've set up a festival lottery draw to help raise funds for our nominated charity, the Nantwich & District Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA).

Follow the special event link after scanning the QR code, and you can buy tickets for our festival draw, which will be run on Monday evening, the 26th May.



For more information on our lottery, and to view our terms and conditions, please visit audlemfestival.live/lottery

MONDAY 26TH MAY *continued*



Nixon Tate - The Bridge Inn 6PM

'I write songs, I record songs, I sing songs to people...I then repeat the process...' is how the diligent singer-songwriter from Stoke describes himself. Nixon and his five-piece band, have earned a loyal following with their rousing Northern Alt-rock. Definitely a band worth checking out if you like your music full of vigour, poetry and passion.



Vavoom!- The Shroppie Fly 6.30PM

The Crewe based rip-roaring three piece rockabilly/rock'n'roll band make a welcome return to this year's proceedings, featuring Andy Boote on guitar and vocals, Stephen Wallace on drums and Chris Large on double bass.

These guys certainly know how to entertain, are always nothing less than brilliant, and *always* a festival highlight.



The Culprits - The Lord Combermere (inside) 8PM

This talented duo are making the trip from Newcastle Upon Tyne to join us for the evening session. Playing great versions of songs from JJ Cale, Chris Rea, Tom Waits, Bill Withers and many more.



Slide Boy Roy - The Shroppie Fly 9PM (inside)

This electrifying four or five or six-piece band return to the festival after a storming set last year, playing a unique selection of classic and contemporary blues/R&B & rock'n'roll. Expect a lively, authentic and well executed performance, delivered with humour and special guests.



Free Fall - The Bridge Inn 9PM (inside)

Formed in 2013, Lee, Ray and John are well known in their home town of Runcorn, and play all across the North West. Covering many styles and genres from Indie to Country & Western, there's something for everyone.

BUSKERS ALLEY

After a successful launch last year, the buskers alley is back, opposite the public hall and next to the Tearoom at No.11. If you'd like to have the opportunity to play, then please contact us at info@audlemfestival.live or turn up and we'll do our best to fit you in! There will be a gazebo, a PA you can plug into, a mic, a keyboard if you'd like to play the keys, and a constant appreciative audience. The team that run the monthly open mic at the Shroppie Fly will be running the show, so you're in safe hands!



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4. Alights naked
5. Is cure myth?
6. I call mate
7. Sticky cream on
8. Plans to row
9. If man stood
10. Oi nob, sorry!

Stevie Wonder
Gene Pitney
Bad Manners
Talking Heads
Eurythmics
Metallica
Arctic Monkeys
Snow Patrol
Fats Domino
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