



WALSALL MAKER FEST

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

**Across Walsall Town Centre
11am - 5pm | Free Event**

INTRODUCTION

MakerFest is back!

This year we're once again transforming Walsall town centre into a celebration of making, movement and imagination. From live music and dance to storytelling, pop-up performances and hands-on workshops - expect a packed programme that brings people together and showcases the talent rooted in our borough and beyond. At the heart of it all is the Makers' Market - a gathering of artists, crafters, designers and food makers, complete with a dedicated street food court serving up flavours from around the world.

Supported by Arts Council England through Cultural Development Fund 3 funding, MakerFest is about spotlighting local talent and celebrating Walsall's creative energy.

Join us for a festival that's bold, welcoming and proudly made in Walsall.



FOREWORD

"I'm delighted to welcome you to the second Walsall MakerFest, presented on behalf of Walsall Council and our fantastic network of partners and associates.



"Following the huge success of last year's inaugural event, this festival once again celebrates Walsall's proud heritage as the 'Town of 100 Trades', and shines a light on the talent, creativity, and innovation that continues to thrive across our borough and beyond.

"Walsall MakerFest is about bringing people together in the heart of our town centre, a celebration of everything that makes Walsall vibrant, diverse, and forward-looking. From makers and artists to engineers and designers, this event reflects the brilliant spirit of our communities.

"As part of our We Are Walsall 2040 vision, we are committed to making Walsall a place where everyone is proud to live, and where all neighbourhoods share in opportunity and aspiration. MakerFest is just one of many exciting steps towards that future. Thank you to everyone who helped bring this event to life, and to all of you for being here to enjoy it."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Andrew'.

Councillor Adrian Andrew

Deputy Leader, Walsall Council

"MakerFest is all about possibility, and it's grown into something that really matters. "It's about giving space for ideas to take shape, for skills to be shared, and for people to connect through creativity in all its forms.



"As Festival Lead, it's been a privilege to curate and produce this event for the second year, working with a small but brilliant team, and with generous support from makers and collaborators across Walsall and beyond.

"Whether you come to exhibit, perform, explore or be entertained I hope you find something that sparks your imagination and leaves you energised by what's possible when people come together to imagine, make and share."

With a growing Fringe Festival and more to come across Walsall, MakerFest is just the beginning. Follow @makerfestwalsall on Instagram for updates on future events, dates and locations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shine Duggal'.

Shine Duggal

Festival Lead

MAKERS' MARKET

Made up of over 50 stalls, the Makers' Market will feature makers, artists, crafters, designers and food artisans from Walsall and the surrounding area.

11.30am - 5.00pm Park Street



THE MAKERS' WORKSHOP



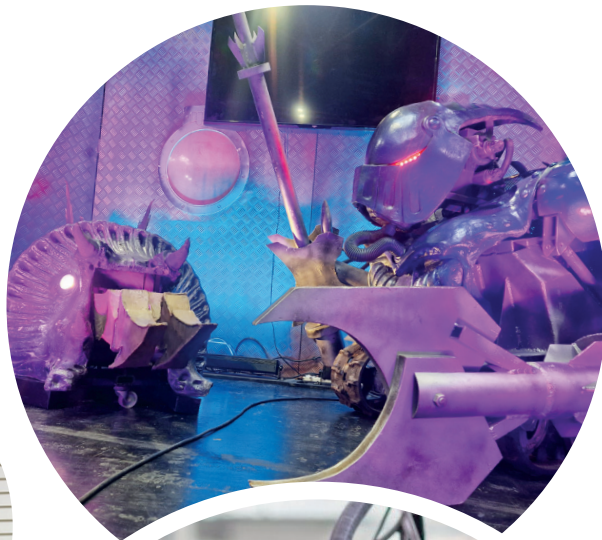
Hosted by Urban Hax CIC

Step into The Makers' Workshop at Walsall Town Hall and unleash your creativity with a full day of free, hands-on experiences. Whether you're a curious beginner or a seasoned maker, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

- Meet some of the robots from Robot Wars and build your own!
- Create wearable art through screen printing
- Design and make your own jewellery
- Special effects and makeup workshops

All activities are completely free and suitable for all ages. Come explore, make, and take home your creations - while learning from skilled local makers and artists.

11.00am - 5.00pm



Creative writing and making activities. Hear stories written by local people and groups, join a poetry writing workshop, add your own tales to our story wall and enjoy storytelling sessions with the whole family.

Peter Chand: Storyteller

Take a trip around the world with one of Europe's finest and fun storytellers as we explore lively and interactive stories to amuse, amaze and delight. Encounter amazing talking animals, foolish folk, magical incidents, and a wise word or two.

12.00pm

1.00pm

2.00pm

3.00pm

4.00pm

Quick Poetry Writing Workshop

Unleash your inner poet in just 20 minutes! This relaxed and inspiring session invites you to pause, look around, and turn your surroundings into verse. Whether you're a seasoned writer or trying poetry for the first time, come enjoy the magic of words in a fun and friendly setting.

Open to all ages. No experience necessary.

12.30pm

1.30pm

2.30pm

3.30pm



Drop-In Craft & Story Activity: Miniature Worlds in a Matchbox

Step into a tiny world of creativity! Drop by and create your own miniature scene inside a matchbox, then bring it to life with a short story or character idea. This hands-on activity is perfect for all ages. Stay as long as you like - no booking or experience needed.

11.00am - 5.00pm

ST MATTHEW'S ON THE HILL



People Sing

Join choirs from in and around Walsall celebrating the art of song. Beyond the artistic aspect, singing in community also has health and wellbeing benefits, and people who sing regularly report improved mental health. Join us as each choir takes to the stage to show off their repertoire and then join in with a sing-along!

4.00pm - 6.00pm



WALSALL MEMORIAL GARDEN

Mad Hatter's Make-a-Hat & Tea Party

Meet the Mad Hatter in the wonderful secret walled garden in St Matthew's Close, adjacent to St Matthew's Church. Artists from Walsall will host a hat-making workshop alongside a tea party - perfect for children and fans of Alice in Wonderland alike! All materials provided.

12.00pm - 2.00pm

MUSIC

AT GALLERY SQUARE

The 2Ds return to MakerFest for a second year! Expect enthusiastic reimaginings of old-time Northern Soul favourites from sisters Donna and Debbie.

12.00pm



Dayton Grey has performed both nationally and internationally, best known for his shows paying homage to Luther Vandross, as well as appearing as a judge on BBC's *All Together Now* and ITV's *Starstruck*.

1.00pm



Bhangra Smash Up is a unique and dynamic band bringing a fusion of traditional Indian dhol drumming and Western sounds that has resonated with audiences in the UK and abroad.

2.00pm



Sass Brown is a vocal powerhouse who brings to life the energy that is the legendary Tina Turner. Having performed across the nation and internationally, reviews have been unanimous in confirming she is the closest tribute to the legend herself. Audience participation is a must during her shows, leaving you spellbound and wanting more.

3.00pm

MAGICAL MYTHICAL GARDEN

An immersive installation made by **Walsall Creative Factory** artists working with the local community, featuring giant flowers, fairies, birds as well as lanterns representing local history stories.

Get involved in our activities and children's workshops throughout the day

- Make exotic paper birds
- Mehndi henna art
- Interactive giant drawing workshops

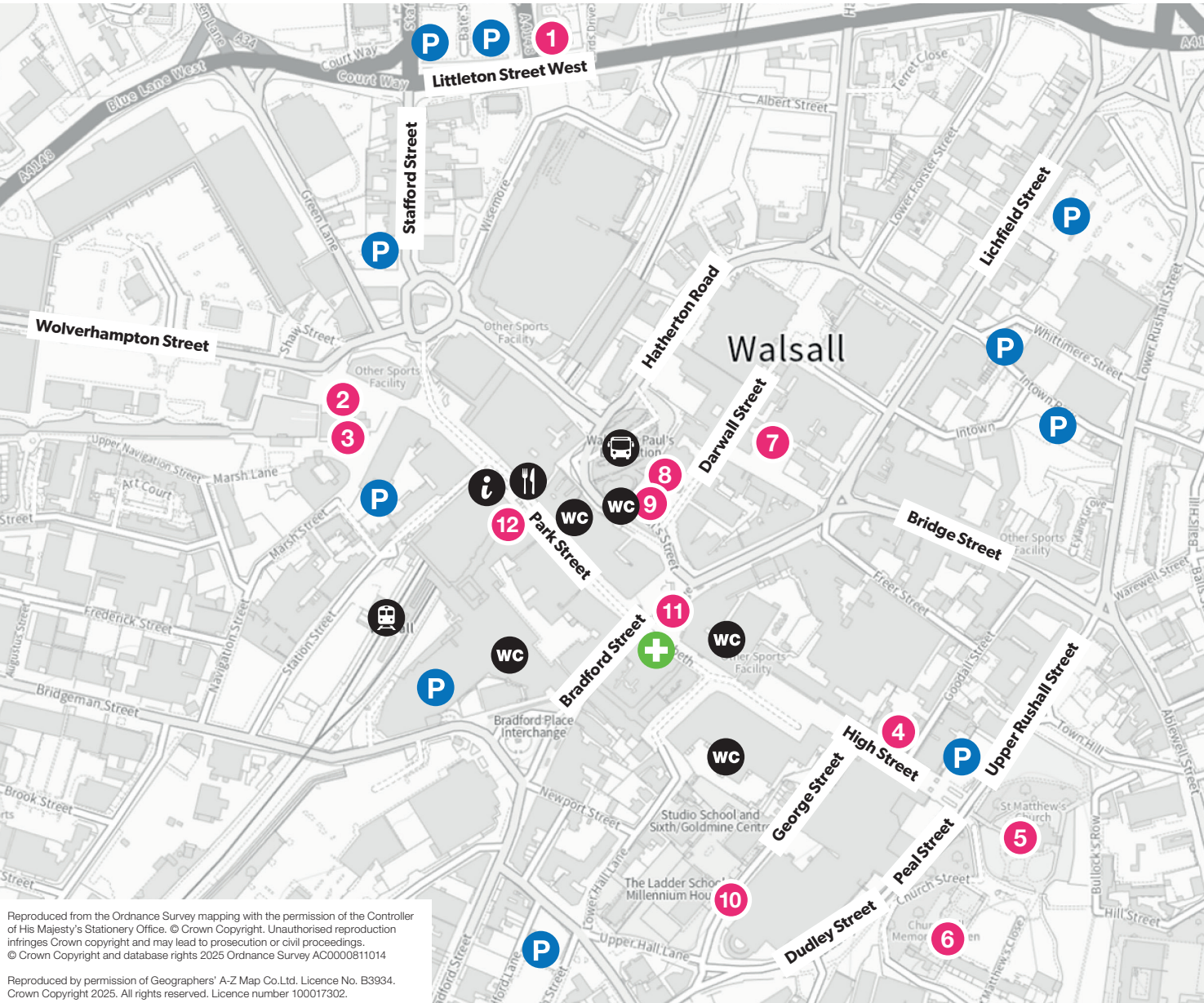
Discover handmade local history Chap Book story booklets written by **Butts Writing Group**, led by **David Calcutt**. Based on real bizarre events, each story is illustrated by local artists.

Children can take on the challenge of finding stories hidden in the garden installation, and adults will be able to buy the chap books hosted by Butts local history group.

11.00am - 5.00pm At The Bridge



EVENT MAP



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KEY

P Parking

🍴 Food Quarter

🚂 Train Station

🚌 Bus Station

+ First Aid

wc Toilets

i Information

1 **Walsall Leather Museum**
Littleton Street West, WS2 8EW

2 **Gallery Square**
WS2 8LG

3 **The New Art Gallery Walsall**
Gallery Square, WS2 8LG

4 **The Guildhall**
8 High Street, WS1 1QW

5 **St Matthew's Church**
St Matthew's Close, WS1 3DG

6 **Walsall Memorial Garden**
St Matthew's Close, WS1 3DG

7 **Walsall Town Hall**
Leicester Street, WS1 1TP

8 **The Crossing at St Paul's**
Darwall Street, WS1 1DA

9 **Let's Dance Stage**
Outside the Crossing at St Paul's,
Darwall Street, WS1 1DA

10 **Digital Skills Hub**
8 George Street, WS1 1RV

11 **The Bridge**
WS1 1SR

12 **Makers' Market**
Park Street, WS1 1NW

LET'S DANCE

AT THE CROSSING AT ST PAUL'S

The Let's Dance stage will feature a programme of exciting, engaging, vibrant dance styles, performed by professionals, community groups, private dance schools, colleges and local schools demonstrating the culturally rich local dance scene.

Hosted by local talent - actress, script writer and MC Margaret Snape.



11.00am - 5.00pm

ME Youth Company will perform two pieces entitled *Breakout* and *Left on Red*.

Bethel Lighthouse MakerFest HAF Dance Masterclasses.

Workshop with Autin Dance Theatre. Learn the *Mawimbi* (Mass dance). An inclusive and fun workshop for all ages and abilities.

Gems Dance Academy

Sonia Sabri Company, a leading contemporary South Asian dance and music company in the UK.



Stowlawn Primary dance group is made up of children from across KS2 in school, some of who do not access dance outside of school.

Smestow Academy will perform a Bhangra Mashup and a piece entitled *When You're Good to Mama*.



Heritage is a dance collective, established in 2017 by group leader Aleks, sharing the richness of traditional Bulgarian cultural dance. The group will perform two pieces: *Gagauzko Horo* and *Boaliisko Horo*.

Ignite Dance Centre at Kidderminster College offers dynamic, industry-focused training in acting, musical theatre, technical theatre and dance. They will perform *Welcome to Hawkins*.



Jodi Dancers

will bring the vibrant spirit of Punjab to MakerFest, with a lively Bhangra performance. This high-energy, traditional Punjabi folk dance celebrates joy, community and culture through powerful movements, rhythmic beats and colourful attire.



Afro Cave is a community group of young people and adults. The dance brings a fusion of various styles from different parts of Africa.



Break Da Kode (BDK)

is a dance collective, specialising in break dancing, hip hop and lite feet.

JDF Performing Arts

College - performances by young dancers in training, featuring an aerial duet.

ME Graduates perform *When It Clicks*.

Walsall Academy of Dance, established in 1964, is recognised for its commitment to dance excellence.

Next Level Dance Academy

works to offer vibrant and rewarding dance classes in a wider range of dance styles. Their competition team will perform *A Trip to the Circus*.

Sign Spinners will be dancing their way around MakerFest, taking you on a journey of the festival site.



Ben Randall (Randall Productions) will perform a new work in progress, *Enverate* exploring resilience and identity as a deaf artist, supported by Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement.

FLASH MOB by Shaun Cope (Spirit Arts), is a renowned choreographer, performer and teacher dedicated to the development of progressive dance.

Plus many more dance companies and groups in this packed 5-hour programme.

Meet **WLV Sport's** dedicated Wellbeing Champions, student volunteers passionate about promoting health and wellbeing. They'll be conducting wellbeing checks, including blood pressure measuring for the Walsall community. Come along, get moving, and take a step towards better wellbeing.

11.00am - 5.00pm



One Walsall

One Walsall are thrilled to support MakerFest for a second year running with their amazing team of volunteers! Their dedicated volunteers will be on hand to ensure the event runs smoothly, offering event support, signposting, assisting with public enquiries and lost children and supporting event activities.



LET'S GET DIGITAL

Digital Skills Hub

Get involved in a fun, hands-on digital experience blending creativity and technology through eGaming, VR workshops, and Canva digital design sessions.

11.00am - 12.30pm

1.00pm - 2.30pm

3.00pm - 4.30pm

To book on these sessions, call Satty on 0789 7081894

eGaming Zone

Explore Minecraft as a creative platform - solving challenges, building worlds, and learning storytelling, coding, and digital design fundamentals through play.

Virtual Reality Workshops

These immersive sessions will showcase VR creation, guiding participants through design thinking, interaction, and the maker mindset behind virtual environments.



Canva Creative Station

Design posters and graphics using Canva - gaining practical skills in digital making and visual storytelling through guided, hands-on activities.

Inspiring Digital Making

By connecting digital tools with creativity, our activities will empower participants to see technology as a tool for meaningful creation.

WALSALL LEATHER MUSEUM

Drop in to the Museum and take part in a variety of leathercraft activities including hand-stitched coin purses and leather surface decoration. The day will also include demonstrations and special displays from local makers. There will also be a display of leather fashion and accessories from current Birmingham City University students throughout the Museum.

Artist in Residence - Rachael Colley will be displaying and talking about her work during the day. Rachael explores the possibilities of working with food waste and foraged organic materials, using them to create 'bioleathers' and biodegradable jewellery, which pose a challenge to 'throw-away' commercial fashion jewellery.

11.00am - 3.00pm



Images: Samuel Singer

THE NEW ART GALLERY WALSALL

Creative Upstarts

As part of this year's MakerFest Fringe Festival, The New Art Gallery Walsall presents Creative Upstarts – a bold and dynamic showcase of emerging local creatives from the Creative Upstart (CUSP) programme.

The exhibition brings together an eclectic mix of work that reflects the personal journeys, bold thinking and cultural imagination of a new generation of diverse creative makers and thinkers in Walsall. The participants reflect a broad range of disciplines including art, jewellery, floristry, engineering, stage design and special effects make-up and prosthetics.

Until 16 November



WALSALL SOCIETY OF ARTISTS



Takeover at The Crossing

Walsall Society of Artists are celebrating 75 years of inspiring and empowering artists to thrive. During Walsall MakerFest 2025, WSA will take over The Crossing with artists and makers exhibiting, demonstrating, selling their creations. Come in and meet artists in action at The Crossing Gallery.

11.00am - 5.00pm



FESTIVAL FOOD COURT

HOSTED BY LGK

Global food made by local people



Partners



Funders



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



Funded by
UK Government

Delivery Partners



The Crossing At St Paul's



MERCURIAL DANCE



Supporters



Makers' Market • Workshops
Live Music • Dance • Street Food



@makerfestwalsall