

# ROD STEWART HITS 2017



**MEDIA COVERAGE 2017**



## PR CAMPAIGN FACTS

ARTICLES PUBLISHED 275

AUDIENCE REACH 14.9Million

MEDIA VALUE £724,706

**RM** RHODES  
MEDIA  
INNOVATIVE MEDIA & PR

# Redditch & Alcester Advertiser

## Wearing it well - Rod Stewart to play one of two 2017 gigs in Shrewsbury

Rod Stewart is heading to Shrewsbury Town FC for one of two exclusive UK mainland concerts this year.

It has been announced that Rod is heading to the Greenhous Meadow stadium, the home of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, on Wednesday, June 7.

He will be performing a set of both classics and new hits in his dazzling signature style. As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide, his performance will include show-stopping classics spanning five decades including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it.



Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album 'Another Country', which debuted at Number Two.

*This story also appeared in the: Dudley News (2,907); Ludlow Advertiser News (6,383); Halesowen News (2,040); Cotswold Journal (783); Bromsgrove Advertiser (3,900); Ledbury Reporter (880); Kidderminster Shuttle (6,800); Hereford Times (4,607); Droitwich Spa Advertiser (4,410); Stourbridge News (5,400); Worcester News (524);*

# *The* **Chronicle**

## Tickets go on sale 10am Friday for music icons Rod Stewart and Tom Jones

Tickets go on sale for Rod Stewart's Durham gig at 9am on Friday and at the same time music lovers can make sure they don't miss out on seeing another music legend this summer.

Geordie fans of tousled-haired rocker Rod, 72, could hardly contain their excitement at this week's news that he will be playing Durham County Cricket Club on June 9.

Proving he Wears It Well, the ageless star of such hits as Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy and Baby Jane will be strutting his

stuff at Emirates Riverside, which is one of just two UK mainland concerts he's signed up to this year.

And those fans will be no doubt quick off the market when tickets for that gig go on general sale from 9am on Ticketmaster.

Another date to mark in the diaries is a chance to see fellow icon Tom Jones whose chart-topping career also spans five decades.

While the 76-year-old Sex Bomb-singing Welshman won't be making a date with the North East this time around, his Geordie fans won't have too far to travel to catch him as he'll be playing Scarborough Open Air Theatre on July 2.

Tickets for Tom, whose past local dates also include Durham County Cricket Club where he played a cracking gig in 2013, will go on sale at the same time: 9am on Friday.

And those quick off the mark that morning can also book to see a comedy favourite. Ricky Gervais will be stopping off at Newcastle City Hall on June 5 on his first stand-up tour in seven years.

The creator of *The Office* and *Extras* is bringing us his new show, *Humanity*, which he describes as his angriest, most honest, most personal and best yet.

Tickets for this will go on sale at 10am and they are also expected to sell out fast.



# the advertiser Durham

## Rocker Rod to play Riverside

ONE of the best-selling artists of all time has announced a date in County Durham – one of just two UK mainland concerts this year.

Tickets will go on sale later this week for Rod Stewart's concert at Durham County Cricket Club, in Chester-le-Street on Friday, June 9.

Aside from headlining at the Isle of Wight festival on June 11, the rock star will only be playing one other gig in the UK in 2017, in Shrewsbury on February 7.

The new dates follow his sell-out UK Hits stadium tour and From Gasoline Alley to Another Country tour in 2016.

The concert at the Riverside ground will feature classic hits and new music from his latest album.

The two concerts are presented by Cuffe and Taylor, who promoted Stewart's eight-date UK

### Hits Tour.

Director Peter Taylor said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be working with Rod again this year. These are two very special concerts ahead of the Isle of Wight Festival and we expect them to be hugely popular."

"We have now worked with Rod on numerous occasions and the reception he receives is always absolutely fantastic."

"Rod continues to entertain both his loyal followers and a new generation of fans at every concert and we expect Durham and Shrewsbury to be no exception."

The live show in Chester-le-Street will feature songs from his five decades of producing music, including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't

### Want to Talk About it.

He will also perform music from his latest platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

Rod Stewart is one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide.

He has had six number one albums in the UK and 31 top ten singles, of which six have been number one.

Tickets to both concerts go on sale at 9am on Friday, February 24 and are available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

The Rod Stewart Fan Club pre-sale begins at 9am on Tuesday, February 21.

More information can be found at: [www.fanclub.rodstewart.com/signup](http://www.fanclub.rodstewart.com/signup).

## the advertiser Durham

# Rocker Rod's Riverside date

**By Rachel Conner**

Staff Reporter

ONE of the best-selling artists of all time has announced a date in County Durham – one of just two UK mainland concerts by him this year.

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The concert at the Riverside ground will feature classic hits and music from his latest album. The two concerts are presented by Cuffe and Taylor, who promoted Stewart's eight-date UK Hits Tour.

Director Peter Taylor said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be working with Rod again this year. These are two very special concerts ahead of the Isle of Wight Festival and we expect them to be hugely popular.

"We have worked with Rod on numerous occasions and the reception he receives is always fantastic. Rod continues to entertain both his loyal followers and a new generation of fans at every concert and we expect Durham and Shrewsbury to be no exception."

The live show in Chester-le-Street will feature songs from his five decades of producing music, including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it. He will also perform music from his latest platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

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SHREWSBURY  
**CHRONICLE** 

# Legend Rod to play summer gig at Meadow stadium

Report by Sam Morris

**MUSIC legend Rod Stewart will perform in Shrewsbury later this year. The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhouse Meadow stadium on June 7.**

Around 20,000 fans are expected to pack into the stadium for what will be one of only two mainland Britain concerts for the veteran performer this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11.

Tickets for the gig will go on sale at 9am tomorrow (Friday) – priced from £55.

It is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John won a selection of his hits in 2011. More than 17,000 fans crammed in to the stadium to see the Candle In The Wind performer.

Having sold more than 200 million records worldwide, Sir Rod will perform a combined set of his classics spanning five decades including I Don't Want To Talk About It and The First Cut Is The Deepest, as well as new hits in his signature style.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, said the gig had been a long time in the planning.

He said: "We are delighted to get another concert at the stadium.

"Since I came here 12 months ago, many people have said they were craving another event after the Elton John concert.

"Having seen pictures of that night, it looked great. It is brilliant for the club, town and county.

"We have always had the feelers out for another concert.

"The club secretary Jayne Bebb pushed this one over the line.

"The promoters have looked at the set-up and seen what we did with Elton John and they were keen to bring it here. I spoke to football clubs who had Rod Stewart last year and they said it was great and very successful.

"Financially, the whole deal is structured around the use of the facility. It is also good in the long-term for the football club.

"Hopefully people will come to the stadium who may not have been before and we are hoping they will enjoy themselves and come back for a football match. There is a financial benefit but it is win-win for us."

Mr Caldwell said he hoped the appearance of Sir Rod would not be the last big name act to grace the stage at the Oteley Road venue.

"We are really keen to do more if the right act is able to come to Shrewsbury."  
Tickets will be available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)



Rocker Rod will play at the town's Greenhouse Meadow stadium on June 7



Sir Rod's concert follows Elton John's appearance at the stadium back in 2011

# LUDLOW & TENBURY WELLS Advertiser

## Superstar announced for local stadium date

**ROD Stewart** is heading to Shrewsbury Town FC for one of two exclusive UK mainland concerts this year.

It has been announced that Rod is heading to the Greenhouse Meadow stadium, the home of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, on Wednesday, June 7.

One of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200

million records sold worldwide, his performance will include show-stopping classics spanning five decades including *Maggie May*, *Da Ya Think I'm Sexy*, *The First Cut is the Deepest* and *I Don't Want to Talk About It*, plus tracks from his most recently released platinum album *Another Country*.

For tickets, go to [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk).



He wears it well - Rod Stewart plays in Shrewsbury in June

# The Gazette

## Stars head North for summer

TOM Jones is the latest big name to confirm an outdoor concert at a North-east venue this summer.

Here are six more stars to see and where they'll be playing once the warmer weather reaches our corner of the world.

### 1. JESS GLYNNE

There's surely no place she would 'Rather Be' than in the North-east this summer. Fans can see the pop singer at Alnwick Castle on Saturday, August 12, tickets are £33/£17.50.

First coming into the public consciousness as the vocalist on Clean Bandit's Grammy Award winning and number one hit 'Rather Be', Jess has since become one of the biggest UK breakthrough acts in recent years, her number-one charting debut album went double platinum.



Rod Stewart

### 2. ROD STEWART

Teeside fans of the veteran rocker will be among those flocking to the Emirates Riverside Stadium in Chester-le-Street - home of Durham County Cricket Club - on Friday, June 9 - one of only two mainland UK appearances he'll make in 2017. The show will see Rod perform a set of classic and new hits.

Tickets go on sale at 9am Friday 24 February from ticketmaster.

### 3. LITTLE MIX

The girl group has announced a run of outdoor summer shows, including a date in the North-east. The Summer Shout Out tour plays at Durham County Cricket Club on Saturday, July 15, as part of a tour that will see the chart-toppers perform at 13 outdoor venues from May, including Newmarket Racecourse, Donington Park Race track and the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh.

### 4. CRAIG DAVID, RICK ASTLEY AND ELBOW

Dalby Forest near Pickering, around an hour's drive from Teesside, is the venue for three summer nights of music from June 23 to 25. Eighties chart topper Rick is first up on June 23, followed by Elbow and then multi million seller Craig David on June 25.

Income generated from ticket sales is spent on protecting, improving and expanding England's forests and woodlands.

■ Tom Jones joins Kaiser Chiefs, Little Mix, Jess Glynne, Olly Murs, Madness, Cliff Richard, The Beach Boys, UB40 featuring Ali, Astro and Mickey Virtue, George Benson, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, 80s v 90s night and indie stars The Charlatans who will play gigs at Scarborough Open Air Theatre this summer. Tickets for Tom Jones go on sale on Friday, February 24, [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

# DAILY POST

## Here's how to get Rod Stewart tickets on sale from today

The veteran rocker is heading to Shrewsbury and Durham in June for two exclusive UK mainland concerts this year.

He will kick off the first of the two gigs at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on Wednesday, June 7 before heading to the Emirates Riverside Stadium in Chester-le-Street - home of Durham County Cricket Club - on Friday, June 9.

Ticket prices begin at £53.75 and will be available to buy here from [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk) from 9am.

As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music with more than 200m records sold worldwide, the Maggie May singer will include show-stopping classics spanning five decades.

The show will also include hits from his most recent critically acclaimed platinum album - Another Country - which debuted at number two in the album charts.



Some of his most well known classic hits include Do Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, I Don't Want to Talk About It, Hot Legs and Forever Young.

Stewart will also headline the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11.

The two concerts are presented by Cuffe and Taylor, who promoted Rod's eight-date sell-out UK Hits Tour in 2016.

Director Peter Taylor said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be working with Rod again this year. These are two very special concerts ahead of the Isle of Wight Festival and we expect them to be hugely popular.

We have now worked with Rod on numerous occasions and the reception he receives is always absolutely fantastic.

"Rod continues to entertain both his loyal followers and a new generation of fans at every concert and we expect Durham and Shrewsbury to be no exception."

# *The* **Chronicle**

## **Rod Stewart tickets on sale today for County Durham Cricket Club concert**

**Tickets go on sale today for Rod Stewart's only North gig this year.**

He will be at Emirates Riverside, the home of Durham County Cricket Club, on Friday, June 9 and will also play at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on Wednesday, June 7 – his only two UK mainland shows for 2017.

Tickets for both concerts go on sale at 9am today and will be available from ticketmaster .

The announcement Rod is to play the two gigs comes after it was announced he will be headlining at the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11.

Rod delighted fans across the UK in 2016 with two sold-out tours – The UK Hits Stadium Tour and the arena tour From Gasoline Alley to Another Country Hits.

He will be bringing two spectacular live shows to Durham and Shrewsbury performing a set of both classics and new hits in his dazzling signature style. As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide, his performance will include show stopping classics spanning five decades including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at Number Two.



# Durham Times

## Rocker Rod to play show at cricket club

ONE of the best-selling artists of all time has announced a date in County Durham – one of just two UK mainland concerts this year. Tickets will go on sale later this week for Rod Stewart's concert at Durham County Cricket Club, in Chester-le-Street, on Friday, June 9.

Aside from headlining at the Isle of Wight festival on June 11, the rock star will only be playing one other gig in the UK in 2017, in Shrewsbury on February 7.

The new dates follow his sell-out UK Hits stadium tour and From Gasoline Alley to Another Country tour in 2016.

The concert at the Riverside ground will feature classic hits and new music from his latest album.

The two concerts are presented by Cuffe and Taylor, who promoted Stewart's eight-date UK Hits Tour.

Director Peter Taylor said: "We are absolutely thrilled

to be working with Rod again this year. These are two very special concerts ahead of the Isle of Wight Festival and we expect them to be hugely popular. We have now worked with Rod on numerous occasions and the reception he receives is always absolutely fantastic."

The live show in Chester-le-Street will feature songs from his five decades of producing music, including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it.

He will also perform music from his latest platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

Rod Stewart is one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide.

Tickets to both concerts go on sale at 9am today at [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)



Rod Stewart will perform at Durham County Cricket Ground in Chester-le-Street



## Legend Rod to play at the Meadow



**Rod Stewart** will perform in front of 20,000 fans in Shropshire this summer

MUSIC legend Rod Stewart will perform in Shropshire later this year.

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhouse Meadow stadium on June 7.

About 20,000 fans are expected to pack into the stadium for what will be one of only two mainland Britain concerts for the veteran performer this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11. Tickets for the gig will go on sale at 9am today (Friday) – priced from £55.

It is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds with a selection of his hits in 2011. More than 17,000 fans crammed in to the stadium to see the Candle In The Wind performer.

Having sold more than 200 million records worldwide, Sir Rod will perform a combined set of his classics spanning five decades including I Don't Want To Talk About It and The First Cut Is The Deepest, as well as new hits in his signature style.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, said the gig had been a long time in the planning.

He said: "We are delighted to get another concert at the stadium."

MID WALES

# JOURNAL



## Legend Rod to play at the Meadow

**MUSIC legend Rod Stewart will perform in Shrewsbury later this year.**

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhous Meadow stadium on June 7.

About 20,000 fans are expected to pack into the stadium for what will be one of only two mainland Britain concerts for the veteran performer this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11.



**Rod Stewart**

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Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, said the gig had been a long time in the planning.

He said: "We are delighted to get another concert at the stadium.

"Since I came here 12 months ago, many people have said they were craving another event after the Elton John concert.

"Having seen pictures of that night, it looked great. It is brilliant for the club, town and county.

"We have always had the feelers out for another concert. The club secretary Jayne Bebb pushed this one over the line."

# Shropshire Star



## Rod Stewart in Shrewsbury: Tickets on sale

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's stadium on June 7. Around 20,000 fans are expected to pack in to the stadium for what will be one of only two mainland Britain concerts the veteran performer will do this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11.

Tickets for the gig went on sale at 9am – priced from £55.

It is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds with a selection of his hits in 2011. More than 17,000 fans crammed in to the stadium to see the Candle in the Wind performer. Having sold more than 200 million records worldwide, Sir Rod will perform a combined set of his classics spanning five decades including I Don't Want to Talk About It and The First Cut is the Deepest as well as new hits in his signature style.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

# Shropshire Star

## **Rod Stewart in Shrewsbury: Tickets selling quickly**

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow stadium on June 7 as one of only two mainland Britain concerts this year before headlining the Isle of Wight Festival.

Tickets went on general sale on Friday, having been available on pre-sale earlier in the week.

A spokesman for Cuffe and Taylor, the promoters presenting the concert, said: "The reaction to the Rod Stewart concert at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow this June is fantastic.

"We have experienced a very high demand for tickets from the pre-sale on Wednesday to tickets going on general sale on Friday.

"We've worked with Rod on numerous occasions including presenting eight sell-out dates with him last summer for the Hits 2016 outdoor stadium tour. He is an incredible performer who continues to attract both loyal fans and a new army of supporters at each gig he does.

"The Shrewsbury show will be a great night and the initial reaction tells us this is going to be a very popular night on June 7 so we would urge people to get their tickets as soon as possible to avoid being disappointed."

Around 20,000 fans are expected to pack in to the stadium for the gig, which is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds with a selection of his hits in 2011. Tickets are available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)



# Shropshire Star

## STAR BRIEFING

# Rod's Meadow gig is hot ticket

He may not want to talk about it, but many do and now tickets have gone on sale for Rod Stewart's gig in Shrewsbury.

The Scottish crooner will be performing to an anticipated 20,000-strong crowd when he appears on stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhous Meadow stadium on June 7.



**Rod Stewart**

Tickets went on general release this morning and fans were quick to snap them up. They ranged from £55 to more than £200.

Helen Jones, a 47-year-old mum of one from Nesscliffe, said: "It is not every day that you get the chance to see Rod Stewart in your home town.

"He has sung some great songs in his time.

"I was lucky enough to get good seats and I am really looking forward to it."

It is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds with a selection of his hits in 2011.

More than 17,000 fans crammed in to the stadium to see the Candle In The Wind performer.

Having sold more than 200 million records worldwide, Sir Rod will perform a combined set of his classics spanning five decades, including I Don't Want To Talk About It and The First Cut Is The Deepest, as well as new hits in his signature style.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically-acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted in the charts at number two.

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# Shropshire Star

## NEWS BRIEFING

### 'High demand' for Rod Stewart tickets

Demand for tickets for Rod Stewart's performance in Shrewsbury has been "very high", according to promoters.

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow stadium on June 7 as one of only two mainland Britain concerts this year before headlining the Isle of Wight Festival.

Tickets went on general sale on Friday, having been available on pre-sale earlier in the week.

A spokesman for Cuffe and Taylor, the promoters, said: "The reaction to the Rod Stewart concert is fantastic. We have experienced a very high demand for tickets from the pre-sale on Wednesday to tickets going on general sale on Friday."

About 20,000 fans are expected to pack the stadium for the gig, which is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds in 2011. Tickets are at [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)



**Rod Stewart**

# Express & Star

## We DO think you're sexy! Rod tickets snapped up

Demand for tickets for Rod Stewart's big Midlands show this summer has been 'very high', according to promoters.

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhous Meadow stadium on June 7 as one of only two mainland Britain concerts this year before headlining the Isle of Wight Festival.

Tickets went on general sale on Friday, having been available on pre-sale earlier in the week.

A spokesman for Cuffe and Taylor, the promoters presenting the concert, said: "The reaction to the Rod Stewart concert at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow this June is fantastic.

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mand for tickets from the pre-sale on Wednesday to tickets going on general sale on Friday.

"He is an incredible performer who continues to attract both loyal fans and a new army of supporters at each gig he does.

"The Shrewsbury show will be a great night and the initial reaction tells us this is going to be a very popular so we would urge people to get their tickets as soon as possible to avoid being disappointed."

Around 20,000 fans are expected to pack in to the stadium for the gig, which is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds with a selection of his hits in 2011.

Tickets are available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

# Shropshire Star

## STAR BRIEFING

# Extra tickets to see Rod's show

More tickets have been released for Rod Stewart's gig in Shrewsbury.

Due to high demand promoters have released a further 1,000 tickets in the £55 price bracket, for the concert, which will be staged at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhous Meadow on June 7.



**Rod Stewart to sing**

Tickets range in price from £53 to £105. Additional tickets, which carry a premium, are also available.

It was announced last week that the Do You Think I'm Sexy singer would be heading to Shrewsbury before headlining the Isle of Wight Festival in the summer.

Promoter Cuffe and Taylor said that reaction to the concert had been 'fantastic' and there had been a very high demand for tickets from the pre-sale on Wednesday and tickets going on general release on Friday.

About 20,000 fans are expected to pack in to the stadium to see the Maggie May singer perform.

Six years ago Elton John wowed the crowds when he appeared at the Meadow.

Tickets are available from [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)



## Sir Rod at the Greenhous Meadow

Rod Stewart is set to combine his love of music and football this summer when he performs his latest tour show at Shrewsbury Town FC's Greenhous Meadow stadium.

The Maggie May star brings From Gasoline Alley To Another Country to the venue on Wednesday 7 June. The show is one of only two UK mainland concerts Rod is performing in 2017. Tickets for the show have gone on sale at [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)





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SHREWSBURY  
**CHRONICLE** 

# 'High demand' for Rod tickets

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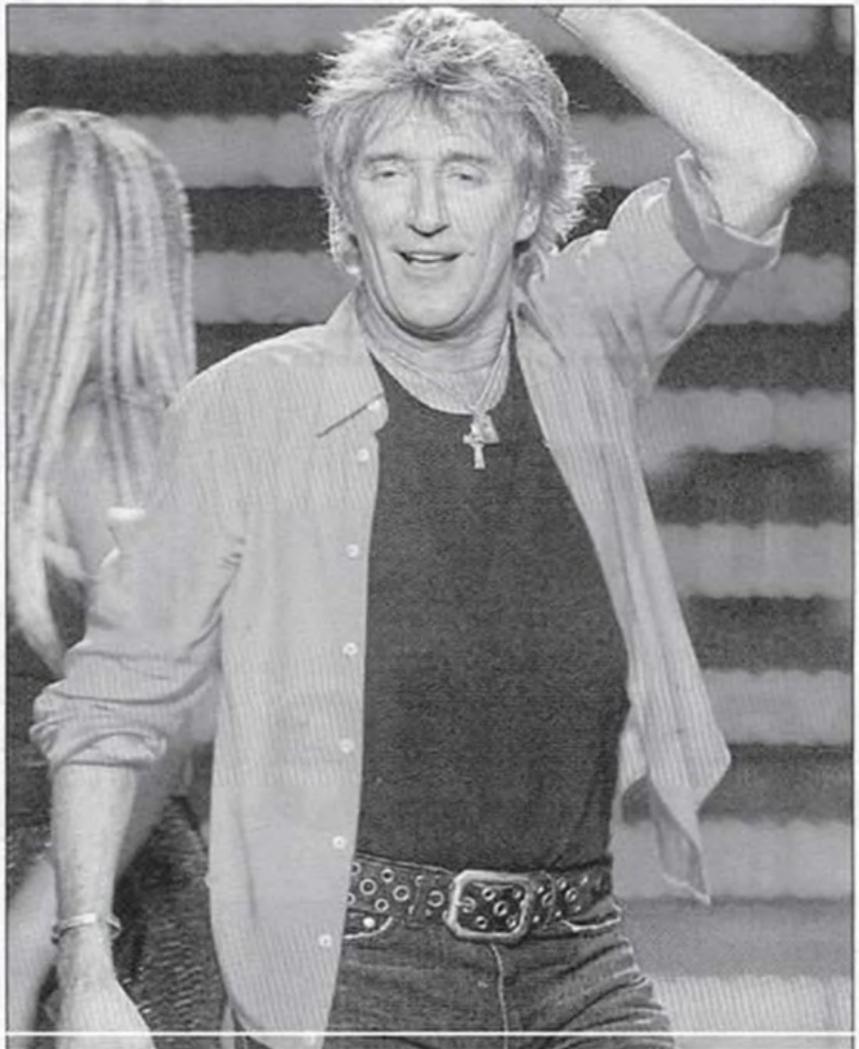
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A spokesman for Cuffe and Taylor, the promoters, said: "The reaction to the Rod Stewart concert at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhouse Meadow this June is fantastic. We have experienced a very high demand for tickets from the pre-sale on Wednesday to tickets going on general sale on Friday."

"We've worked with Rod on numerous occasions including presenting eight sell-out dates with him last summer for the Hits 2016 outdoor stadium tour. He is an incredible performer who continues to attract both loyal fans and a new army of supporters at each gig he does.

"The Shrewsbury show will be a great night and the initial reaction tells us this is going to be a very popular night on June 7 so we would urge people to get their tickets as soon as possible to avoid being disappointed."

About 20,000 fans are expected to pack the stadium for the gig, which is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds in 2011. Tickets are at [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk)



Rod Stewart will play his Shrewsbury gig on June 7

# Express & Star



## Extra tickets go on sale for Rod

More tickets have been released for Rod Stewart's gig in Shrewsbury.

Due to demand, promoters have released 1,000 £55 tickets for the concert at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on June 7.

# Shropshire Star

## Rod Stewart in Shrewsbury: Demand for tickets has been 'phenomenal'

Tickets have been on general sale for just over a week and on Wednesday another 1,000 were released.

The Maggie May singer is due to perform at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow stadium on June 7 in one of only two mainland Britain gigs in 2017 before he headlines the Isle of Wight Festival.

Today, promoters said they were "delighted" with how quickly tickets had been snapped up by fans of the veteran performer. A spokesman for promoters Cuffe & Taylor said: "The reaction to Rod Stewart performing at Shrewsbury Town this June has been phenomenal from the people of Shropshire and beyond.

"Extra tickets were released earlier in the week due to the high demand and we are delighted with sales so far.

"Rod Stewart is a fantastic performer who we have worked with on numerous occasions and the people attending this concert are in for a real treat.

"Rod is only playing two UK mainland gigs in 2017 so we would urge those who haven't yet done so to get their tickets as soon as possible to avoid being disappointed."

Brian Caldwell, chief executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, said the coverage the concert has been getting on national television will be a boost to both the club and the town. He said: "We are all working our socks off.

"To be fair the council have been very good. We are going through the planning stages to sort parking and travel arrangements and the promoters are delighted with the cooperation of everyone. I think it is all positive. "Everybody seems to be talking about it. "Everyone I have spoken to in and out of football is mentioning Rod Stewart so from the club's point of view it is great. It is great for the club as it puts us on the map.

"When getting national television coverage it is great for us but also for the town. People will come and spend a couple of days in Shrewsbury and spend their money.

"The fan base Rod Stewart has and with him only doing two concerts there will be people travelling from all over." Mr Caldwell also said he hoped more concerts could be staged at the stadium in the future but wanted to make sure this event was a success first.

He said: "We want to make sure we get this one right.

"There is lots of working going into it and lots of staff here at the club are involved. Lots of work goes into getting the logistics sorted. "The more concerts we can do and the more regular they are then the easier it will become."



# Express & Star

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## Demand for Rod show is 'delight'

Demand for tickets for music legend Rod Stewart's performance in Shrewsbury has been 'phenomenal' according to promoters.

Tickets have been on general sale for just over a week and on Wednesday another 1,000 were released.

The Maggie May singer is due to perform at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhouse Meadow stadium on June 7 in one of only two mainland Britain gigs in 2017 before he headlines the Isle of Wight Festival.

Today, promoters said they were 'delighted' with how quickly tickets had been snapped up by fans of the veteran performer.

A spokesman for promoters Cuffe & Taylor said: "The reaction to Rod Stewart performing at Shrewsbury Town this June has been phenomenal from the people of Shropshire and beyond.

"Rod Stewart is a fantastic performer who we have worked with on numerous occasions and the people attending this concert are in for a real treat."

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OSWESTRY & BORDER  
**CHRONICLE**



Powered by  
**Shropshire Star**



Rod Stewart will play in Shropshire later this year when he appears in Shrewsbury

## Famous names set to entertain music fans

**POP stars from the 1980s, including Billy Ocean, ABC, Tony Hadley and Shrewsbury's very own T'Pau, will headline a huge gig at the town's Quarry Park in May.**

Let's Rock Shrewsbury, on May 27, will also feature Heaven 17, Nik Kershaw, The Real Thing, Altered Images, Brother Beyond and Wolverhampton songstress Jaki Graham.

The show marks a return to The Quarry of live music following the demise of Shrewsbury Fields Forever.

Tickets look set to prove popular because previous 1980s festivals - which also featured T'Pau - in Shrewsbury have been best-sellers with the fans.

Let's Rock is a retro festival which features at venues around the UK, including Leeds, Bristol, Norwich and London.

An event was held in the Black Country last year at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

It brings together a package of 1980s acts and presents them on one hit-filled day.

The line-up features a number of bands who have pulled in sell-out crowds during previous visits to Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn and The Buttermarket.

Billy Ocean has dazzled fans with gigs in the town, while Nik Kershaw is a popular draw and has featured at Theatre Severn.

Tony Hadley will be one of the biggest acts on the bill.

He will be bringing some of Spandau Ballet's hits to the stage.

As the band's lead singer, Tony has Hadley has, over the years, earned the accolade of being one of pop music's great vocalists.

In addition to all the band's songs, many remember his prominent vocal contribution to the Band Aid UK charity single Do They Know It's Christmas and subsequent 1985 London appearance at Live Aid.

He also performed solo at the Nelson Mandela Concert at Wembley in June 1988.

### SPECIAL REPORT

By Andy Richardson

Nik Kershaw signed with MCA Records in 1983 and released his debut album Human Racing in 1984.

It achieved multi-platinum sales and launched Nik's career worldwide.

The equally successful The Riddle followed and, in July 1985, he also took to the Wembley stage to perform at Live Aid.

Carol Decker's T'Pau will be popular with locals.

She lived in The Quarry, in a rowing house, and wrote her most famous hit China In Your Hand while in Shrewsbury.

She enjoyed hits with China In Your Hand, Valentine, Sex Talk and more.

Meanwhile, music legend **Rod Stewart** will also perform in Shropshire later this year.

The Maggie May singer will take to the stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Greenhouse Meadow stadium on June 7.

About 20,000 fans are expected to pack into the stadium for what will be one of only two mainland Britain concerts for the veteran performer this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11. It is the second big outdoor concert at the stadium after Elton John wowed crowds with a selection of his hits in 2011.

More than 17,000 fans crammed in to the stadium to see the Candle In The Wind performer.

Having sold more than 200 million records worldwide, Sir Rod will perform a combined set of his classics spanning five decades including I Don't Want To Talk About It and The First Cut Is The Deepest, as well as new hits in his signature style.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive of Shrewsbury Town Football Club, said the gig had been a long time in the planning.

He said: "We are delighted to get another concert at the stadium. Since I came here 12 months ago, many people have said they were craving another event after the Elton John concert."

# The Northern Echo

## More tickets for Rod gig

EXTRA tickets for Rod Stewart's summer concert in County Durham are on sale.

The rock star is heading to the Emirates Riverside stadium, home of Durham County Cricket Club, in Chester-le-Street on Friday, June 9.

An extra 1,000 tickets, priced at £55 each, have gone on sale from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk).

The gig is one of just two UK mainland concerts in 2017.

# The Northern Echo



## Extra 1,000 tickets for Rod Stewart concert in Chester-le-Street go on sale

The rock star is heading to the Emirates Riverside stadium, home of Durham County Cricket Club, in Chester-le-Street on Friday, June 9.

An extra 1,000 tickets, priced at £55 each, have gone on sale from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk). The gig is one of just two UK mainland concerts in 2017.

Promoter Peter Taylor, from Cuffe and Taylor, said: "The £55 tickets for Rod Stewart's Durham gig have been extremely popular and due to the demand, we have decided to add a further 1,000 tickets at this price which are on sale now.

"Our aim always is that everyone who attends our concerts has a fantastic and memorable experience and we want our shows to be affordable to as many people as possible.

"There are a variety of tickets still on sale for Rod's concert and we would advise people to snap these up as soon as they can as it will be a great night

# GazetteLive

## Rod Stewart's message to North-east fans ahead of Durham gig

**Rock legend Rod Stewart has issued a special message to the North-east.**

As part of his world tour, starting this summer, the star will play at Durham County Cricket Club's Riverside Ground on June 9.

The tour, dubbed Hits 2017, will visit just a handful of venues across the UK, Las Vegas and then Europe.

The gig at Durham is the second of two dates before he heads to headline the Isle of Wight festival on Sunday, June 11.

The 72-year-old musician appeared on stage, surrounded by his band, to tell the nation he "can't wait" to play the Durham gig.

He will appear at the Emirates International Riverside Cricket Ground to thousands of fans. You can buy tickets here.

Rod's appearances at Shrewsbury and Durham will be his only mainland UK appearances in 2017.

In 2016 he held two sold-out UK tours - The UK Hits Stadium Tour followed by the arena tour, 'From Gasoline Alley to Another Country Hits'.



# Express & Star

## **E&S BRIEFING**

### **Extra 1,000 tickets for Rod stadium gig**

Promoters have said 1,000 extra tickets will be released for a Rod Stewart gig in Shrewsbury.

Tickets will be priced in the lowest category of £55 and are being released after a previous batch of the cheaper tickets sold out quickly.

The Maggie May singer will perform at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow on June 7.

It will be one of only two mainland Britain gigs ahead of his headline slot at the Isle of Wight Festival.

Promoters have previously said tickets are selling well ahead of the show, which could attract up to 20,000 people to the town.

The tickets are available now by visiting [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk).



**Rob Stewart**

# Shropshire Star

## STAR BRIEFING

# Extra £55 tickets released for Rod

Promoters have said 1,000 extra tickets will be released for an upcoming Rod Stewart gig in Shrewsbury.

The extra tickets will be priced in the lowest category of £55 and are being released after a previous batch of the cheaper tickets sold out “very quickly”.



**Rod Stewart**

The Maggie May singer will perform at Shrewsbury Town’s Greenhous Meadow on June 7.

It will be one of only two mainland Britain gigs ahead of his headline slot at the Isle of Wight Festival.

A spokesman for Cuffe & Taylor, the promoters behind the gig, said: “The £55 tickets for Rod Stewart’s Shrewsbury gig sold out very quickly as is always the case, however due to the demand we have decided to add a further 1,000 tickets at this price. Our aim always is that everyone who attends our concerts has a fantastic and memorable experience and we want our shows to be affordable to as many people as possible.

“There are a variety of tickets still on sale for Rod’s concert and we would advise people to snap these up as soon as they can as it will be a great night.”

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# Shropshire Star

## Video: Rod Stewart 'excited to be playing concert at Shrewsbury Town Football Club'

Surrounded by his band in a studio, Rod says: "Hello, this is Rod and I'm very excited to be performing some of my fantastic songs with the band here at the Shrewsbury Town Football Club, no less.

"It's going to be an energetic and colourful show and we will be there!"

It comes after promoters released 1,000 extra tickets for the show at Greenhous Meadow on June 7. The tickets will be priced in the lowest

category of £55 and are being released after a previous batch of cheaper tickets sold out "very quickly".



It will be one of only two mainland British gigs ahead of his headline slot at the Isle of Wight Festival. Promoters have previously said tickets are selling well ahead of the show, which could attract up to 20,000 people to the town.

# Shropshire Star

## Rocker Rod's message to town



**Rod Stewart has taken time out of his busy schedule of performances to say that he can't wait to come to Shrewsbury**

He might be living the high life in Las Vegas – but Rod Stewart insists that he can't wait to come to Shrewsbury.

The singer has taken time out of his busy schedule to say how 'excited' he is to be playing in the Shropshire market town this summer.

The crooner, known for his hits including Maggie May, Do Ya Think I'm Sexy, We are Sailing and Have I Told You Lately, will be on stage at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on June 7.

He is expected to draw a crowd of about 20,000 fans.

Surrounded by members of his band, Rod said he was looking forward to play-

### Report by Lucy Todman

[lucy.todman@shropshirestar.co.uk](mailto:lucy.todman@shropshirestar.co.uk)

ing the open air venue. He said: "I am very excited to be performing some of my fantastic songs with the band at Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

"It's going to be an energetic and colourful show and we will be there."

The singer's video was made following a performance at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

It was released by his promoters as part of a drive to sell tickets for the show at Shrewsbury's Greenhouse Meadow.

Earlier this week, it was announced

that a new tranche of tickets is going to be released.

Tickets will be priced in the lowest category of £55 and are being released after a previous batch of cheaper tickets sold out quickly.

The 72-year-old's performance at the football stadium will be one of two mainland Britain gigs ahead of his headline slot at the Isle of Wight Festival.

A spokesman for Cuffe & Taylor, the promoter behind the concert, insisted tickets were selling well.

He said: "There are a variety of tickets still on sale for the event."

● Watch Rod – [shropshirestar.com](http://shropshirestar.com)

# GazetteLive

## Rod Stewart tour: How to get up to 40% off the price of a ticket

**Although tickets for the highly-anticipated shows have already gone on general sale, there is a way to get discounted tickets**

If want to see Rod Stewart live but are yet to get tickets, listen up. The singer is heading to the Emirates Riverside Stadium in Chester-le-Street - home of Durham County Cricket Club - on Friday, June 9.

And although tickets for the highly-anticipated shows have already gone on general sale, there is a way to get some tickets - and at a discounted price.

Groupon is currently offering tickets for two of his gigs - including the one in Chester-le-Street - at a cut price.

The site is selling the tickets for £57 for a level two single ticket (up to 40% off) and £77 for a level 1 single ticket (up to 38% off). Level one tickets are normally priced at £125 and level two are £95. Rod Stewart is heading to the North-east for one of only two exclusive UK mainland concerts in 2017. He will also play at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on Wednesday, June 7.

The shows will see Stewart perform a set of classic and new hits. As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200m records sold worldwide, his performance will include show-stopping classics spanning five decades. Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released, critically acclaimed platinum album *Another Country*, which debuted at number two in the album charts.

The two concerts are presented by Cuffe and Taylor, who promoted Rod's eight-date sell-out UK Hits Tour in 2016.

Director Peter Taylor said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be working with Rod again this year. These are two very special concerts ahead of the Isle of Wight Festival and we expect them to be hugely popular.

"We have now worked with Rod on numerous occasions and the reception he receives is always absolutely fantastic.

"Rod continues to entertain both his loyal followers and a new generation of fans at every concert and we expect Durham and Shrewsbury to be no exception."



# *The* **Chronicle**

Ticket deal will get you **rocking**  
at the Riverside with Rod



**ROD Stewart's** outdoor gig in Chester-le-Street is set to be one of the big summer concerts in the North East, and the good news for any fans who have yet to get their tickets is that they are being sold for a discounted price.

Music legend Rod will be at Durham CCC's Emirates Riverside ground on Friday, June 9 - and Groupon are now selling tickets for the show for up to 40% less than the original price. The discount site has level-two single tickets for £57 (up to 40% off) and level-one single tickets for £77 (up to 38% off).

Level-one tickets are normally priced at £125 and level-two are £95.

The deal is only available for a limited period.

As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide, Rod's County Durham performance will include show-stopping classics spanning five decades including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two in the UK album charts.

# Express & Star

I'm the guy who got all the luck

He needs no introduction but we'll give him one anyway. Rod Stewart's wearing it well at 72. He tells Weekend about his rock'n'roll life

**D**rinking, sha\*\*ing and singing. They're his words, not ours. Rod – that's 'Sir' Rod – Stewart is reflecting on the areas in which he's excelled during 56 technicolour years in rock'n'roll. He laughs a raucous laugh. It's the sound of whisky on gravel, of a uniquely soulful voice that made Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy? and You Wear It Well international hits.

We're waiting for him to say something like: 'especially singing ...' But he doesn't. He just leaves the laugh hanging. It's the sound of a thousand stories, of a life well-lived.

That hat-trick doesn't reflect the full picture, of course. The man who had five consecutive number one albums in the UK, has enjoyed 62 hit singles, four American number ones, one knighthood and eight kids by five women has sold more than 100 million records, is worth £160 million and bedded more than 1,000 women: "The most memorable is always the current one. The rest just merge into a sea of blondes."

He's a bona fide A-lister; a singer who ranks alongside other British greats such as Macca, Elton and his old mates Mick and Keef.

And yet away from the caricature, away from the larger-than-life entertainer who epitomised the sex, drugs and rock'n'roll myth is a quieter, more reflective soul.

And among his many lifetime achievement awards, his double induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and his receipt of a CBE from Queen Elizabeth II is another unexpected honour.

In 2013, one of the world's greatest rock'n'roll stars was named Dull Man Of The Year.

The person whose unique approach to taking cocaine was so out-of-kilter with family newspapers that we won't relay it here received the honour because of his commitment to, um, model railways. Though Rolling Stone, NME and Mojo are all proud to have featured him on their covers, Rod has also graced a far more niche publication: Model Railroader.

His impressive layout made it on to the cover 10 years ago. And his addiction to railways was once so bad that he'd book a spare hotel room next to his so that he could play trains after thrilling 70,000 fans at a gig.

So while drinking, sha\*\*ing and singing may all be true – so is 'playing trains'. His 1,500-square foot model train layout out takes up the entire third floor of his Beverley Hills home.

He laughs again: "Trains are when I get time for myself. That was something that I was very much into when I was a young kid. My dad bought me a guitar instead of a railway station that he promised he'd buy me."

"But, yes, it's a wonderful form of escapism. I've finished the lay-out after 23 years. It's kept me out of most trouble." Most rock'n'rollers demand bottles of Champagne, blue M&Ms, lobster thermidor and the like on their list of demands. But not Rod. He'd always ask for a spare room so that he could set up his trains.

"The one thing about touring is that there's a lot of

downtime and you feel like you're wasting your life. I'd have a spare room in the hotel and I'd pass away five or six hours. I was wonderfully content. It wasn't always that way. Before the trains it was always sha\*\*ing and drinking."

Rod will leave his beloved trains in their shed for a week in June when he flies back to the UK. He's got a series of stadium shows, including one at Shrewsbury Town FC on June 7.

"It'll be every song that you want to hear plus a few more," he says. "I don't tend to do too many songs that people don't know. I look at it like this: If Otis Redding or Sam Cooke were alive I'd want to see them do what I loved. So people can expect a very energetic and very sexy show. I've got six girls in the band – they look amazing and they are amazing musically. I'll also be kicking 40 signed soccer balls into the audience, which I seem to have been doing for a million years."

## Glorious

It's 9am in LA and the sun is already high in the sky. "It's another glorious day," says Sir Rod. "What's it like back in England?"

His career continues to move forward as he builds on the remarkable success that he's enjoyed since the Millennium. Rod's Great American Songbook series allowed him to reinterpret some of the greatest songs of all time, from Cole Porter's Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye and Isham Jones's It Had To Be You to Sammy Cahn's Time After Time and the Rodgers & Hart classic Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered.

The records went platinum around the world and Rod loved making them. "I'm very proud of my American songbook series. I'd have done volumes 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. They stretch you as a vocalist. They bring out a side of you and exercise your vocal chords in a different way to the rock numbers."

Not that he'll be playing Frank Sinatra songs at Shrewsbury. "That's a different show and I don't mix the two. I did once, about 10 years ago. There was this couple in the front row, they must have been in their 80s. They were expecting the American Songbook and the



Rod the Mod – with the rest of The Faces

"Rock'n'roll, American Songbook, soul ... I can do the whole lot mate."

If he had to pick one album from his 48-year solo career, it would be Every Picture Tells A Story. A number one on both sides of the Atlantic, it featured Mandolin Wind, Maggie May, Reason to Believe, a cover of Dylan's Tomorrow Is A Long Time and the Stewart-Ronnie Wood classic, Every Picture Tells A Story.

"I always thought the breakthrough was special."

It was, but perhaps it wasn't entirely unexpected. He'd already come to prominence with The Jeff Beck Group, in which he'd lined up with guitarist Jeff Beck and his mate Ronnie Wood. "It was just me and Jeff out front. We exchanged riffs with each other."

Then came one of the great Mod groups, The Faces. Formed from the ashes of the Small Faces, after Steve Marriott had left that group to form Humble Pie, the classic line-up featured Rod on vocals, Ronnie Wood on guitar, Ronnie Lane on bass, Kenney



Rod promises to play all the classics – and more – at his Shrewsbury gig

first number I did was Hot Legs. I think they had blood coming out of their ears. After that, I thought 'never again!'"

He turned his hand to soul covers soon after, with Soulbook, his 25th studio album, which was a hit around the world. And since then there's been a successful return to original material. His 2013 Time album, written after a 20-year writers' block – was a number one hit and earned him a platinum disc. Another Country, released in 2015, earned another platinum disc and went to number two.

"If it hadn't have been for Elvis Presley, I'd have had two number ones," he says. Then he laughs again.

Continued on next page

# Express & Star



**\* NAME:** Sir Roderick 'Rod' David Stewart  
**AGE:** 72  
**FROM:** London  
**FAMOUS FOR:** Rod's the hard-living, raspy voice rocker behind hits such as Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?, You Wear It Well and Sailing. Also loves

leggy blondes.  
**RANDOM FACT:** The urban myth that Rod was once a gravedigger at Highgate Cemetery in London is not true. But he did help mark out the plots



Rod the Mod – with the rest of The Faces

## Continued from previous page

Jones on drums and Ian McLagan on keyboards. They are still remembered fondly.

"The Faces weren't the greatest of musicians, but boy could they drink. People loved us. We were extremely basic and we were mostly p\*\*\*ed all the time. They loved the vulnerability. I wouldn't never have left The Faces. But we lost Ronnie Lane to ill health. Then Woody had the opportunity to join The Stones and he couldn't say no to that. I don't want people to think I broke the Faces up. Woody found another band and we lost Ronnie. That's what happened."

It was time for Rod to go it alone. He'd already cultivated his Rod the Mod image and his heartfelt mix of folk, rock and country blues soon made him successful. Though his debut album stalled and 1970s Gasoline Alley only brushed the UK charts, he subsequently hit his stride and from 1971 to 1976 took up residency at number one on the chart. Every Picture Tells A Story, Never A Dull Moment, Smiler, Atlantic Crossing and A Night On The Town were all huge hits and while the follow-ups – Foot Loose & Fancy Free and 1978's Blondes Have More Fun – stalled at number three, both went platinum and were huge in the States.

Remarkably, Rod sustained his success. While other rock'n'roll figures burned out, he stayed on the road and remained in the charts. "Every career has its high moments and low moments. No one can sustain that level of success forever. There was a period when I wasn't selling too many albums. But the American Songbook was great and things have gone well ever since."

And yet for all of his success, Rod was reticent to start writing his own material once more. Time was released in 2013 and went to number one. "Things had been great and then the songwriting started again. I wasn't sure. I thought 'who wants to listen to me?' At the time, I was 69.

But people did and that gave me such a hit." It's fuelled the fire for more and Rod has been busy writing new songs. "I can't say too much. I'm sworn to secrecy about one of the projects I'm working on."

He's been working with the elusive Paddy McAloon, the Prefab Sprout singer, and fans can expect to hear the fruits of their labours in the not too distant future. "I'm a big old Prefab Sprout fan. Paddy's just written a song for me. Who Invented The Snowflake?"

## Marriage

At 72-years-young, Rod remains busy. His contribution to music was recognised last year when he was knighted. Rod arrived at Buckingham Palace with his wife, Penny Lancaster, and youngest children, Alastair and Aiden. "That was quite a day. I was over the moon. I was happy with the CBE but Penny kept saying 'wouldn't a knighthood be nice'."

"The good thing about it is that it's voted for by the common public. They send in their votes, they write and say who should get one. So it's an honour from the British people, rather than just the Queen. That's the way I look at it. But it hasn't changed me at all. People still just call me Rod. It's lovely."

Thoughts of the 1,000 blondes have long since disappeared following his marriage to his third wife, Penny, who he describes as 'the love of my life'. These days, he's happy being a family man.

"Well, having had three wives and eight kids, it goes without saying, I enjoy being a dad. And I'm thoroughly enjoying this period of my life with my boys. With Alana (his first wife) we parted company, so I didn't see as much of Kimberly and Sean (his second and third children). Then Rachel (his second wife) left me, so I didn't see the kids (Renee and Liam, his fifth and sixth children) as they were

growing up. I missed out on some of those wonderful times from five to 14 because they weren't living with me. The exes don't often bump into each other. But they all get on fairly well."

He dotes on Alastair and Aiden, his seventh and eighth children, who are 11 and six. He wants to build a swimming pool for Alastair so that he can train to be an Olympic swimmer. He and Penny have asked for planning permission for a 20-metre long pool at their £5 million Epping Forest mansion so that Aiden can train at home.

"My wife and I are torn down the middle. I'm a great football fan and only recently gave it up. The boys are Celtic supporters, of course. Aiden adores football but he's gifted as a swimmer. So we'll see."

"But the kids are doing well. Ruby (his fourth child, by model Kelly Emberg) is 22 and she's just been signed by Sony. I listen to what she and the rest of them listen to. I'm fairly clued up, even though I am 72."

He marvels at the careers of modern superstars such as Sam Smith and Adele. But the people he still loves most are the great soul men, like David Ruffin, who was lead singer with The Temptations. "David was such a wonderful singer. I knew him so well. He would sing with me in Detroit."

And though drinking and sha\*\*ing have been high on his list of priorities, singing remains the number one. "I've sung all of the songs I've wanted to sing. If I could've written any of my favourite songs, they'd have been Van Morrison's Have I Told You Lately, Cars and Girls by Paddy McAloon and In The Midnight Hour by Wilson Pickett."

And if we're lucky, we'll hear those – and a bunch of others – when he headlines Shrewsbury Town on June 7.

Andy Richardson

● For tickets visit [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

# Shropshire Star

## Rod looking forward to kick off



Rod Stewart will come armed with footballs when he appears at Shrewsbury's Greenhous Meadow

He's 72 years young.

And though he's been football crazy throughout his life, Sir Rod Stewart has finally given up the beautiful game.

The keen Celtic fan, who hoped

### ● Wears it well – Page 21

to become a professional footballer and had trials for Brentford, will be playing Shrewsbury Town FC on June 7.

And he'll be bringing a bag of 40 footballs to his show so that he can boot them into the crowd to give fans a souvenir.

He today speaks to the Star about his life, loves and music.

# Shropshire Star

## I'm the guy who got all the luck

He needs no introduction but we'll give him one anyway. Rod Stewart's wearing it well at 72. He tells Weekend about his rock'n'roll life

**D**rinking, sha\*\*ing and singing. They're his words, not ours. Rod – that's 'Sir' Rod – Stewart is reflecting on the areas in which he's excelled during 56 technicolour years in rock'n'roll. He laughs a raucous laugh. It's the sound of whisky on gravel, of a uniquely soulful voice that made Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy? and You Wear It Well international hits.

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That hat-trick doesn't reflect the full picture, of course. The man who had five consecutive number one albums in the UK, has enjoyed 62 hit singles, four American number ones, one knighthood and eight kids by five women has sold more than 100 million records, is worth £160 million and bedded more than 1,000 women: "The most memorable is always the current one. The rest just merge into a sea of blondes."

He's a bona fide A-lister: a singer who ranks alongside other British greats such as Macca, Elton and his old mates Mick and Keef.

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"But, yes, it's a wonderful form of escapism. I've finished the lay-out after 23 years. It's kept me out of most trouble."

Most rock'n'rollers demand bottles of Champagne, blue M&Ms, lobster thermidor and the like on their list of demands. But not Rod. He'd always ask for a spare room so that he could set up his trains.

downtime and you feel like you're wasting your life. I'd have a spare room in the hotel and I'd pass away five or six hours. I was wonderfully content. It wasn't always that way. Before the trains it was always sha\*\*ing and drinking."

Rod will leave his beloved trains in their shed for a week in June when he flies back to the UK. He's got a series of stadium shows, including one at Shrewsbury Town FC on June 7.

"It'll be every song that you want to hear plus a few more," he says. "I don't tend to do too many songs that people don't know. I look at it like this: If Otis Redding or Sam Cooke were alive I'd want to see them do what I loved. So people can expect a very energetic and very sexy show. I've got six girls in the band – they look amazing and they are amazing musically. I'll also be kicking 40 signed soccer balls into the audience, which I seem to have been doing for a million years."

### Glorious

It's 9am in LA and the sun is already high in the sky. "It's another glorious day," says Sir Rod. "What's it like back in England?"

His career continues to move forward as he builds on the remarkable success that he's enjoyed since the Millennium. Rod's Great American Songbook series allowed him to reinterpret some of the greatest songs of all time, from Cole Porter's Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye and Isham Jones's It Had To Be You to Sammy Cahn's Time After Time and the Rodgers & Hart classic Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered.

The records went platinum around the world and Rod loved making them. "I'm very proud of my American songbook series. I'd have done volumes 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. They stretch you as a vocalist. They bring out a side of you and exercise your vocal chords in a different way to the rock numbers."

Not that he'll be playing Frank Sinatra songs at Shrewsbury. "That's a different show and I don't mix the two. I did once, about 10 years ago. There was this couple in the front row, they must have been in their 80s. They were expecting the American Songbook and the



Rod the Mod – with the rest of The Faces

"Rock'n'roll, American Songbook, soul... I can do the whole lot mate."

If he had to pick one album from his 48-year solo career, it would be Every Picture Tells A Story. A number one on both sides of the Atlantic, it featured Mandolin Wind, Maggie May, Reason to Believe, a cover of Dylan's Tomorrow Is A Long Time and the Stewart-Ronnie Wood classic, Every Picture Tells A Story.

"I always thought the breakthrough was special."

It was, but perhaps it wasn't entirely unexpected. He'd already come to prominence with The Jeff Beck Group, in which he'd lined up with guitarist Jeff Beck and his mate Ronnie Wood. "It was just me and Jeff out front. We exchanged riffs with each other."

Then came one of the great Mod groups, The Faces. Formed from the ashes of the Small Faces, after Steve Marriott had left that group to form Humble Pie, the classic line-up featured Rod on vocals, Ronnie Wood on guitar, Ronnie Lane on bass, Kenney

and I. "I was just me and Jeff out front. We exchanged riffs with each other."



Rod promises to play all the classics – and more – at his Shrewsbury gig

first number I did was Hot Legs. I think they had blood coming out of their ears. After that, I thought 'never again'."

He turned his hand to soul covers soon after, with Soulbook, his 25th studio album, which was a hit around the world. And since then there's been a successful return to original material. His 2013 Time album, written after a 20-year writers' block – was a number one hit and earned him a platinum disc. Another Country, released in 2015, earned another platinum disc and went to number two.

"If it hadn't have been for Elvis Presley, I'd have had two number

# Shropshire Star



**\* NAME:** Sir Roderick 'Rod' David Stewart  
**AGE:** 72  
**FROM:** London  
**FAMOUS FOR:** Rod's the hard-living, raspy voice rocker behind hits such as Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?, You Wear It Well and Sailing. Also loves

leggy blondes.  
**RANDOM FACT:** The urban myth that Rod was once a gravedigger at Highgate Cemetery in London is not true. But he did help mark out the plots



Rod the Mod – with the rest of The Faces

## Continued from previous page

Jones on drums and Ian McLagan on keyboards. They are still remembered fondly.

"The Faces weren't the greatest of musicians, but boy could they drink. People loved us. We were extremely basic and we were mostly p\*\*\*ed all the time. They loved the vulnerability. I wouldn't never have left The Faces. But we lost Ronnie Lane to ill health. Then Woody had the opportunity to join The Stones and he couldn't say no to that. I don't want people to think I broke the Faces up. Woody found another band and we lost Ronnie. That's what happened."

It was time for Rod to go it alone. He'd already cultivated his Rod the Mod image and his heartfelt mix of folk, rock and country blues soon made him successful. Though his debut album stalled and 1970s Gasoline Alley only brushed the UK charts, he subsequently hit his stride and from 1971 to 1976 took up residency at number one on the chart. Every Picture Tells A Story, Never A Dull Moment, Smiler, Atlantic Crossing and A Night On The Town were all huge hits and while the follow-ups – Foot Loose & Fancy Free and 1978's Blondes Have More Fun – stalled at number three, both went platinum and were huge in the States.

Remarkably, Rod sustained his success. While other rock'n'roll figures burned out, he stayed on the road and remained in the charts. "Every career has its high moments and low moments. No one can sustain that level of success forever. There was a period when I wasn't selling too many albums. But the American Songbook was great and things have gone well ever since."

And yet for all of his success, Rod was reticent to start writing his own material once more. Time was released in 2013 and went to number one. "Things had been great and then the songwriting started again. I wasn't sure. I thought 'who wants to listen to me?' At the time, I was 69.

But people did and that gave me such a hit." It's fuelled the fire for more and Rod has been busy writing new songs. "I can't say too much. I'm sworn to secrecy about one of the projects I'm working on."

He's been working with the elusive Paddy McAloon, the Prefab Sprout singer, and fans can expect to hear the fruits of their labours in the not too distant future. "I'm a big old Prefab Sprout fan. Paddy's just written a song for me, Who Invented The Snowflake?"

## Marriage

At 72-years-young, Rod remains busy. His contribution to music was recognised last year when he was knighted. Rod arrived at Buckingham Palace with his wife, Penny Lancaster, and youngest children, Alastair and Aiden. "That was quite a day. I was over the moon. I was happy with the CBE but Penny kept saying 'wouldn't a knighthood be nice'."

"The good thing about it is that it's voted for by the common public. They send in their votes, they write and say who should get one. So it's an honour from the British people, rather than just the Queen. That's the way I look at it. But it hasn't changed me at all. People still just call me Rod. It's lovely."

Thoughts of the 1,000 blondes have long since disappeared following his marriage to his third wife, Penny, who he describes as 'the love of my life'. These days, he's happy being a family man.

"Well, having had three wives and eight kids, it goes without saying, I enjoy being a dad. And I'm thoroughly enjoying this period of my life with my boys. With Alana (his first wife) we parted company, so I didn't see as much of Kimberly and Sean (his second and third children). Then Rachel (his second wife) left me, so I didn't see the kids (Renee and Liam, his fifth and sixth children) as they were

growing up. I missed out on some of those wonderful times from five to 14 because they weren't living with me. The exes don't often bump into each other. But they all get on fairly well."

He dotes on Alastair and Aiden, his seventh and eighth children, who are 11 and six. He wants to build a swimming pool for Alastair so that he can train to be an Olympic swimmer. He and Penny have asked for planning permission for a 20-metre long pool at their £5 million Epping Forest mansion so that Aiden can train at home.

"My wife and I are torn down the middle. I'm a great football fan and only recently gave it up. The boys are Celtic supporters, of course. Aiden adores football but he's gifted as a swimmer. So we'll see."

"But the kids are doing well. Ruby (his fourth child, by model Kelly Emberg) is 22 and she's just been signed by Sony. I listen to what she and the rest of them listen to. I'm fairly clued up, even though I am 72."

He marvels at the careers of modern superstars such as Sam Smith and Adele. But the people he still loves most are the great soul men, like David Ruffin, who was lead singer with The Temptations. "David was such a wonderful singer. I knew him so well. He would sing with me in Detroit."

And though drinking and sha\*\*ing have been high on his list of priorities, singing remains the number one. "I've sung all of the songs I've wanted to sing. If I could've written any of my favourite songs, they'd have been Van Morrison's Have I Told You Lately, Cars and Girls by Paddy McAloon and In The Midnight Hour by Wilson Pickett."

And if we're lucky, we'll hear those – and a bunch of others – when he headlines Shrewsbury Town on June 7.

Andy Richardson

● For tickets visit [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

# The Northern Echo

## Rocker Rod goes in to bat

Cricket may not be his game, but one of the planet's most successful singers is heading to the home of the sport in the region for what he promises will be a spectacular summer concert. **Andrew White speaks to Sir Rod Stewart**

**A**SK Rod Stewart what he knows about cricket and he's on a sticky wicket. You see Rod doesn't do cricket. "I'm a one-sport man," he tells me. "There's football and that's it."

One of the best-selling artists in music history, Rod – more correctly Sir Rod following his knighthood last year for services to music and charity – is speaking to me from his home in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles.

The subject of "the gentleman's game" arises because the raspy-voiced rocker is heading to the Emirates Riverside, home of Durham County Cricket Club, next month to perform his arena show, From Gasoline Alley to Another Country.

Given his self-confessed obsession with football, you may be forgiven for thinking he would be more at home in the venue for the only other UK mainland concert he will be performing this year – Greenhous Meadow, the home of Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

But not a bit of it. "I'm very much looking forward to it," he says. "Durham is a place I've never played before as far as I know, so it'll be entirely new for me."

Rod says the Durham show will be a mixture of old and new songs and uses words like "exciting", "wonderful", and – of

course – "sexy" to describe what people can expect. He will be drawing on five decades of experience in the music business, which has seen

“Mostly people want to hear the songs that have made me famous over the last 35 to 40 years. It's a very happy show

**Rod Stewart**

him sell more than 200 million records worldwide and spawned massive hits like Maggie May, Do Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Janes and The First Cut is the Deepest – as well as more recent success with his acclaimed series of

American standards. And he is keen not to disappoint his adoring fans. "I'm sure there'll be people there who have seen the show before," he says. "Mostly people want to hear the songs that have made me famous over the last 35 to 40 years. It's a very very happy show."

He may never played in Durham before, but Rod is a veteran of concerts in the region, going back to his association with legendary Blues singer Long John Baldry in the 1960s.

And he is proud of himself when he remembers one date from his early years.

"Is Redcar in your patch?" he asks. "I played in the late 1960s at the Redcar jazz festival, it was with Long John.

"I do recall it was a baking hot day – and I hope it'll be the same at Durham.

"But you can't compare the business that I'm in today to what it was," he says. "Every part of the business – the recording, the travelling – it's

all different. In those days you would play for maybe 25 minutes, now you've got to play for two hours, people demand it."

After so long at the top, Rod shows no signs of slowing down. Now 72, he still travels all over the world and has a summer residence at Caesars Palace, in Las Vegas, to look forward to for the second successive year.

"Hopefully, I'm doing

something right," he says. "I really do enjoy it and I'm hoping to keep on doing it and doing it for as long as I can. Some guys really don't like touring, but I love it. The only downside is being away from one's family.

"I hate to ever call it a job, but I suppose it is a job and it's a very privileged job."

As the interview winds down, the subject – almost inevitably – returns to Rod's other great love. "There's not a day in my life when I haven't talked or watched or read about football," he says. "It's a huge thing in my life."

Rod keeps a keen eye on his beloved Celtic – still regularly

attending matches – he knows that County Durham is

traditional Sunderland supporting territory, admires star striker Jermain Defoe and has heard of his and the club's efforts to support cancer sufferer Bradley Lowery. He is well aware of club's present plight, relegation to the Championship and the struggles facing manager David Moyes.

"I feel sorry for Moyes," he says. "I've met him a couple of times, he's a hell of a guy.

"But the North-East has great football supporters – like Glasgow. They understand the nuances of the game and I have a lot of respect for them.

"And as I say in my book [his autobiography, titled Rod], there's two things you can't change – your mother and the football team you support. For Sunderland, there'll be better days."

It's a typically optimistic outlook for a man whose enthusiasm is undimmed and he signs off our conversation with a cheery goodbye and a word of advice for a hardworking journalist: "You go down the pub – and I'll jump in the pool."

■ **Tickets to see Rod Stewart at Durham County Cricket Club on Friday, June 9 are on sale now from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk).**



The Emirates Riverside, where Rod Stewart will play on June 9

Picture: OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA



## Rod Stewart

Rod Stewart : Rod Stewart head to Shrewsbury Town FC for one of only tow exclusive UK mainland concerts in 2017.

He will be bringing his spectacular live show to Shrewsbury performing a set of both classics and new hits in his dazzling signature style.

As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide, his performance will include show stopping classics spanning five decades including 'Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it'.



# Shropshire Star

## Rod Stewart's daughter Ruby to support him at Shrewsbury Town concert



Rod Stewart's daughter, Ruby, will join the rocker on stage when he headlines Shrewsbury Town FC next month.

Ruby Stewart and bandmate Alyssa Bonagura, collectively known as The Sisterhood, are looking forward to the show on June 7.

They will join the rocker at Shrewsbury Town FC and Durham County Cricket Club in June, after supporting Rod throughout his UK Hits stadium tour last year.

Sir Rod said: "There are not many fathers who can say they go to work with their daughter so it will be an absolute pleasure to welcome Ruby back out on the road again with me this summer.

"We had a great time last year and I am sure the crowds in Shrewsbury and Durham will be delighted when they see the Sisterhood."

# Durham Times

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## Daughter to join dad Rod at Riverside

ROCK star Rod Stewart will share the stage with his daughter when he performs his North-East gig next month.

The Sisterhood, featuring the star's daughter, Ruby Stewart, alongside bandmate Alyssa Bonagura, will be the support act for the show at Durham County Cricket Club's Riverside ground in Chester-le-Street on June 9.

Last year, the band were also the support act for the singer's UK tour.

He said: "There are not many fathers who can say they go to work with their daughter so it will be an absolute pleasure to welcome Ruby back out on the road again with me this summer.

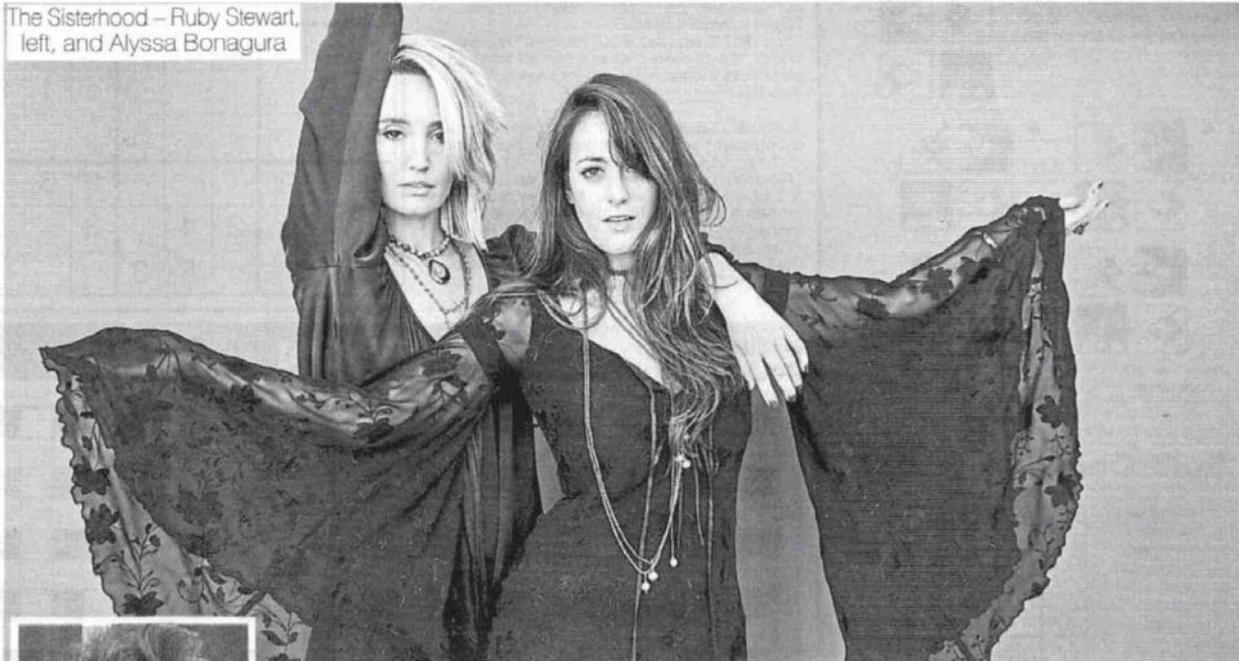
"We had a great time last year and I am sure the crowds in Durham will be delighted when they see The Sisterhood."

Tickets are available from [ticketmaster.co.uk](http://ticketmaster.co.uk).

# NEWPORT ADVERTISER

## Rod Stewart's daughter Ruby to join him for Shrewsbury Town FC show

The Sisterhood – Ruby Stewart, left, and Alyssa Bonagura



**R**od Stewart's daughter Ruby will join the rocker on stage when he headlines at Shrewsbury Town FC in the coming weeks.

Ruby Stewart and bandmate Alyssa Bonagura, collectively known as The Sisterhood, are looking forward to the show on June 7.

They will join the rocker at Shrewsbury Town FC and Durham County Cricket Club in June, after supporting Rod throughout

his UK Hits stadium tour last year.

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### TOUR

Rod Stewart's fully seated concerts at Shrewsbury and Durham are being presented by Cuffe and Taylor who promoted Rod's eight-date sell-out UK Hits Tour in 2016. Director Peter Taylor said:

"We're delighted to have The Sisterhood joining us again this year. They went down a storm with the audiences last summer and I am sure they will do so again. Having Rod's own daughter on the bill only adds to the experience for fans and makes the shows that little bit more special."

The Durham and Shrewsbury concerts are his only outdoor mainland UK appearances in 2017.

Rod delighted fans across the UK in 2016 with two sold-out tours – The UK Hits Stadium Tour and the arena tour "From Gasoline Alley to Another Country Hits." His performance will include classics spanning five decades including 'Maggie May' and 'Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?'.

**SHREWSBURY**  
**CHRONICLE** 

# Rod's daughter to join him at Shrewsbury concert

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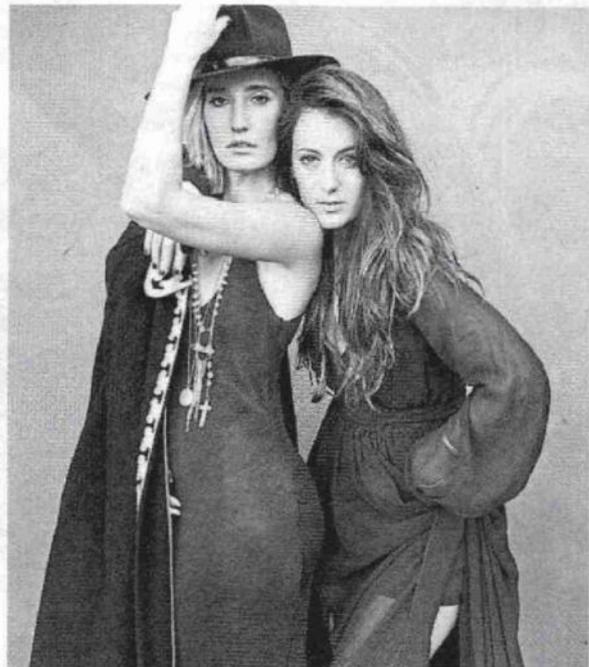
## PLEASURE

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sold worldwide, His performance will include show stopping classics spanning five decades including 'Maggie May' and 'Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?', Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it'.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at Number Two.

# Shropshire Star

## NEWS IN BRIEF 1

### Parking plans unveiled for Rod Stewart gig

PARKING plans for Shrewsbury Town Football Club's Rod Stewart concert have been revealed.

The football club has arranged a number of different ways for people to get to the Greenhous Meadow for the concert, which will take place on Wednesday (June 7). Fans can use a park and ride from Halls Auction Market in Battlefield, or from Oxon Park & Ride at Bicton Heath, to get to the gig.

In total there will also be seven "park and stride" options within walking distance of the football ground, including Percy Thrower's Wyvale Garden Centre, Meole Brace Park & Ride, Toys R Us at Meole Brace, Pritchards, The Brooklands Hotel, Louise House in Roman Road, or Springfield Recreation Ground/Mereside Recreation Centre.

Both options cost £10 and all car parks will open from 4pm, except Louise House, which opens at 5pm. Fans can get a bus from Shrewsbury bus station at Raven Meadows for £5 return or £3 single.

Shrewsbury Town's Chief Executive Brian Caldwell said he was delighted to have arrangements in place. He said: "It has been quite difficult because the concert is on a Wednesday night but we have managed to secure seven park and rides."

# The Northern Echo

## **Bishop Auckland wife made secret last wish to get husband tickets for Rod Stewart gig**

A MAN is set to fulfil his wife's last wish for him to see his favourite rock star when he visits the region - despite only discovering her dream after she had died.

Karen King contacted The Northern Echo earlier this year to see if there was any way of getting tickets for her husband Ronnie to see Rod Stewart at Durham County Cricket Ground next month.

Despite being very ill and almost completely bed-bound she was determined to do something nice for Mr King. Her family were oblivious to her plans and only found out when they were checking her email account after she died in March.

However, The Northern Echo contacted music promoters Cuffe and Taylor, who agreed to four tickets for the King family to go to the gig in Chester-le-Street on Friday, June 9.

"I don't know what to say," said Mr King. "She use to spend quite a lot of time on her laptop but I didn't know this was what she was doing. "She always wanted to do something for others and even when she wasn't herself she was doing this. "I am so shocked. I am really looking forward to it but it is going to be a very emotional time. It is still very difficult for us all and knowing this is what she wanted will make it harder because she is not here. "She was a fantastic person, always thinking about other people and putting them first." Mrs King's daughter Kelly Hymas said: "It is not the first time she has done something like this. When she first got Dementia she emailed Rod Stewart's management company and got some signed photographs for him. "She wanted to go with him to see Rod Stewart but that was probably not going to happen. She kept all this to herself. We only found the emails afterwards. "It is going to be a tough day but we know this is what she wanted." Mr King added: "She was always looking for things about Rod Stewart for me. She found the best tribute acts. She was incredible."

Cuffe and Taylor director Peter Taylor said: "We were very touched when the Northern Echo contacted us and told us about Mrs King. This is such a sad story and we are only too happy to offer Mr King and his family tickets to see Rod.



# The Northern Echo

## Dying woman's wish is granted

By Dani Walker  
Staff Reporter

dani.walker@nne.co.uk

A MAN is set to fulfil his wife's last wish for him to see his favourite rock star when he visits the region - despite only discovering her dream after she had died.

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"I am sure they will all have a fantastic night and I hope they make many special memories."

To book tickets, visit [ticketmaster.co.uk/rod-stewart-durham-09-06-2017/event/35005251D3EFBC56](http://ticketmaster.co.uk/rod-stewart-durham-09-06-2017/event/35005251D3EFBC56)



**GIG: Rod Stewart, who will perform at at Durham Cricket Ground**



TICKETS: Kelly Hymas and Ronnie King will watch Rod Stewart next week. Picture: SARAH CALDECOTT

# Express & Star

## What it's like to be Rod Stewart's daughter - Ruby Stewart talks ahead of Shrewsbury show

The 30-year-old Los Angeles-born artist first began working for herself at the age of 18, despite having been offered a record development deal at the age of just 13.

Though her parents Rod Stewart and ex-model Kelly Emberg were no strangers to the limelight, they still insisted it was first most important to complete her education.

Ruby is Rod's fourth child - and is known for both modelling and music. Since graduating, the star has followed in both of her parents' footsteps.

She modelled for the likes of Laura Ashley and Vanity Fair since the age of 18 and has been touring with dad Rod since she was just 15.

To this day, Ruby remains her parents' biggest fan - stating she owes both of them for her successes. She gives her father and grandmother credit for her voice too, as they inspired her to cultivate her ear at a young age. "It's been really so much fun to see my parents in their careers.

My dad taught me everything I know about music," said Ruby. "I love my parents and they're so very supportive. I believe it's true that you get to choose your parents. I've heard people say that before you come to Earth, you choose which parents you have.

"I certainly think I chose mine." Like many children of stars, Ruby was often left without her father's company while he toured - but rather than resenting Rod for his dedication to his craft, she says she too could spend her life doing the same. Instead of feeling like she left out, Ruby instead says her parents have inspired her - and spurred her on to follow her dreams and travel the world.

Her experience as a 'tour baby' is in fact one of the many reasons Ruby gets on so well with Sisterhood bandmate Alyssa Bonagura - as she too was raised by musical parents, with her mum and dad forming part of US country music group Baillie and The Boys.

"When I was a kid, my dad would have to go away for months at a time. I don't think I ever really understood when I was little," added Ruby.

"But now I definitely empathise with him - and just how much he loves his job. "When I was 13, I thought to myself 'I could do this for the rest of my life'. I certainly don't think I missed out at all. It wasn't like that. "I do have to say, whenever dad comes into town to see any of us, he gives us 100 per cent. He makes up for lost time when he's with us.

"Dad inspired me to want to travel the world. "Alyssa and I both grew up as tour babies, so we're actually most happy when we're touring." And though Ruby insists music will always come first, she also considers modelling a 'hobby' which can fund her singing career.

"Music can often be a little inconsistent when it comes to money, so modelling helps," explained Ruby.

"Music always comes first. I can't actually remember the day I started singing, but my mum says I was around three years old. I'd just walk around humming music. I liked a lot of the Broadway shows too when I was younger, such as West Side Story.

"I loved the concept of combining music, theatre and dance all together.

"I never actually wanted to be a model. I wanted to just stick to the music, but my mum said I should just go for it, even if just for some money. "I ended up doing modelling for a bit from then on, but music has always been at the forefront. Modelling is more of a hobby." In pursuit of her music career desires, Ruby formed rock band Revoltaire.

They completed an album's worth of material titled 'Painted Hour Glass', with Ruby as singer and lyricist.

They split up in 2013. In 2012, she sang a voice-over of Whatever Lola Wants for a Diet Pepsi commercial, furthering her reputation as a professional vocalist. Ruby founded The Sisterhood with Nashville singer-songwriter Alyssa Bonagura in 2015. After writing a handful of songs on Alyssa's bathroom floor during a Nashville snowstorm, the two realized their chemistry and eventually began to record their music. Within a year the Sisterhood has recorded and produced their first album in Nashville, performed at Milan's Fashion Week, Miami art Basel and joined Rod Stewart to perform at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. On March 13, 2016, The Sisterhood played their first festival at CMC Rocks in Queensland, Australia. Ruby currently lives in Nashville, where she is writing, recording, and performing with The Sisterhood.

The duo will support Rod Stewart when he plays Shrewsbury Town FC's Greenhouse Meadow on June 6. Rod's gig at Shrewsbury and Durham will be his only mainland UK appearances in 2017.



# LIVING NORTH

## The Working Man

This month, we chat to Vic Demain about his role as Head Groundsman at Durham County Cricket Club



### What does your job involve?

We'll invariably have covers over the field because we can't afford for water to get onto the square too close to matches. We'll strip off all of the covering, then there'll be work like cutting and rolling pitches - pitches are in preparation roughly for about 21 days, so we'll have pitches in various stages of preparation. Each pitch is 10 feet wide and we'll have 24 pitches and we'll play on one for one or two games then we'll move onto another one, so it's a continual process of preparation, playing, repairing and moving onto the next one.

### Is that all it takes to get the pitch ready for a game?

No: we'll be cutting the outfield and the rest of the playing surface, and getting the periphery ready for games so that the players can see the balls. We've got practice facilities that we have to look after as well.

### When does your working day start?

We'll tend to work from 7am until 5pm when there's not a match,

but if we've got a match, like a Twenty20 which involves playing in the evenings, it can be 7am until 10pm. It's a pretty full-on experience throughout the summer, then we tend to get a little bit of downtime in the winter.

### How did you get the job?

This is my third season at Durham, having previously done two years as Deputy Head Groundsman at Trent Bridge, Nottingham and before that I was working at recreational sports grounds for 20 years or so.

### What did you do before this?

I was originally a painter and decorator - I ran my own business for about 20 years - and then changed career completely, having always been a lover of cricket and involved in cricket at all levels. I've no formal training whatsoever in groundsmanhood, it's just been a question of learning on the job, picking things up, talking to other people and gaining experience from actually doing it.



### You're not a local boy then?

No, I'm not. I was born a few miles away from Oxford, lived there for 20 years. Then, after that with various jobs, I've gone from Aylesbury to Uxbridge and Nottingham, then up here. I'm gradually moving North - it could be Edinburgh next.

### Any cricketing heroes?

Funnily enough, my major cricket hero was Sir Ian Botham and he's just been made Chairman of Durham County Cricket Club. To actually be working with my hero is very interesting.

### Any predictions for this season?

We've got a lot of challenges because we were relegated into Division Two last year - not because of playing ability, but because of financial difficulties - and we're starting this year on minus points which is going to make it really difficult to catch up. We've also lost quite a few senior players so I see this season as very much a season of transition, but it opens up a number of opportunities for younger people to come into the side and to stake a claim for the future and to get a lot of experience.

### Any young players we should keep an eye out for?

Keaton Jennings has just got into the England side and is doing really well, but we'll probably only see him for about half of the season, then he'll go and play for England. It'll be the same with Mark Wood. But that's what any cricket club is about: producing players for the national side and any time they go off, there's an opportunity for someone with less experience to come into the side and perform. I would hope that, if Paul Coughlin can have

a season free from injury, he'll play a starring role at some point. Brydon Carse is doing well too. Jack Burnham has just broken a thumb in training unfortunately, but he's showing good signs of coming through and scoring well for us.

### How are you preparing to have thousands of music fans trampling all over your grass when Rod Stewart and Little Mix play at the ground this summer?

It's not an ideal situation to have that amount of people trampling all over an international sporting facility. The fact is though that cricket is not raising enough money at the moment to sustain these facilities on its own so we have to diversify. Concerts are a pretty easy way for us to do so but obviously there are dangers there. There's absolutely no point in getting irate about it because it's going to happen and it's a question of making sure we put everything in place to cope with the event. We had a concert late on in the season last year and a week after, you wouldn't have known anything had been on here.

### You've mentioned the difficulties Durham is going to face this season. Is there any message you'd like to send out to the people of the North East?

We're actually holding events for all the groundsman from local clubs to try and support them - we're here for the local people. Anything that we can do to reach out to people is great from our point of view.

For more information, fixtures and match tickets visit [www.durhamccc.co.uk](http://www.durhamccc.co.uk)

# Sunderland Echo



10

**ROD STEWART. JUNE 9**

Legendary singer Rod Stewart will take to the stage at Durham County Cricket Club next week.

One of only two headline dates in the UK this year, he'll be performing a mix of new tracks and classic hits.  
Tickets from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

enjoy Staffordshire



## Rod Stewart

Greenhous Meadow, Shrewsbury,  
Wed 7 June

Rod Stewart is one of the most successful artists in the history of recorded music. As well as selling more than 200 million records worldwide, he was also one of only two solo artists - the other being Robbie

Williams - to achieve five platinum albums in the UK during the first 10 years of the 21st century. Visiting Shrewsbury for one of two exclusive UK mainland concerts, Sir Rod's show will include show-stopping classics from across the decades, including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut Is The Deepest and I Don't Want To Talk About it.

WOLVERHAMPTON  
**What's On**



## Rod Stewart

Greenhous Meadow, Shrewsbury,  
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# Shropshire Star

## POP CONCERT WILL RETURN TO QUARRY

Report by Dominic Robertson  
[dominic.robertson@shropshirestar.co.uk](mailto:dominic.robertson@shropshirestar.co.uk)

### SHREWSBURY will to host another huge music concert after nearly 10,000 people packed out the Quarry for Let's Rock.

The success of last weekend's 80s concert has seen Shrewsbury Town Council confirm that it has pencilled in a date for a repeat concert with the same promoter next year.

The council has also confirmed that the provisional plan to hold the concert in July would avoid a clash with the Shropshire County Show.

Helen Ball, Shrewsbury Town Council clerk, said organisers were thrilled with the response to the concert and the promoter's desire to stage a repeat event next year.

The same promotion team also put on Jesse J and Status Quo concerts in the town.

Mrs Ball said: "We were glad to welcome Let's Rock to Shrewsbury. The event attracted almost 10,000 people and working with the promoter and other agencies including the police and Shropshire Council made sure the event was well organised and no issues arose as a result.

"Given the heightened level of national security, there was a quiet understanding and appreciation by concert goers of the increased security measures and the overall ambience of the concert was happy and fun.

"This event puts Shrewsbury in the map as a visitor attraction and many who attended the concert, who had never been to Shrewsbury before, expressed a wish to return.

"We are delighted that Let's Rock want to return to Shrewsbury in 2018 and a date has been pencilled in for July next year."

Let's Rock featured performances from Tony Hadley, ABC, Billy Ocean, and T'Pau.

Shrewsbury Town Council leader Alan Mosley said the events would help put Shrewsbury on the map.

He said: "Congratulations to the organiser who provided so much entertainment and fun for such large numbers of people.

It is great news for Shrewsbury, which puts us even further on the map and congratulations to all the council staff for making it all possible and providing such high quality support. It is just great news for Shrewsbury and shows a vibrant town at its best.

"I am really pleased for this to come back and actually become a major date in the Shrewsbury event calendar."

Armed police were at the event last week as West Mercia Police stepped up security in the wake of the Manchester terror attack.

The town will host another huge concert next week when Rod Stewart performs at Shrewsbury Town Football Club's stadium, the Greenhouse Meadow.



Star billing – Tony Hadley

# Express & Star

## We're tour babies – and happiest on the road

Having been born into musical families, neither Ruby or Alyssa are strangers to the limelight – and the pair say they cannot wait to play before thousands of fans in the Midlands.

Ruby – daughter of pop icon Rod Stewart – will support him in his Shrewsbury Town concert on June 6, as part of her musical duo The Sisterhood.

The Los Angeles-born songstress and model forms one half of the act, alongside Alyssa Bonagura, whose parents made up two thirds of US country act Bailie and The Boys.

The Sisterhood describe their music as 'an organic blend of the open melodies of classic West Coast folk and the magnetic swagger of timeless rock'n'roll'.

"We love the Midlands," says 29-year-old singer-songwriter Alyssa.

"We've been there on tour before with Rod, who has been so very supportive of us. And we're so grateful to him for giving us the stage.

"We love going on tour with him. Rod is the reason we first started getting jobs."

Ruby and Alyssa formed the band back in 2015

after meeting through mutual friends. Once the pair had written a handful of songs on Alyssa's bathroom floor during a Nashville snowstorm, they realised their chemistry and eventually began to record their music.

Within the first 12 months, the girls recorded their first album, played Milan's Fashion Week and joined Rod Stewart to perform at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

They even played a festival slot in Australia.

So the prospect of performing before thousands is hardly a daunting prospect for this duo – especially given that Ruby has been touring with her dad since the age of 15.

"Alyssa and I both grew up as tour babies, so we're actually most happy when we're touring," says Ruby.

"Music always comes first. I can't actually remember the day I started singing, but my mum says I was around three years old. I'd just walk around humming music.

"My dad taught me everything I know about music. And he inspired me to want to travel the world.

"When I was a kid, my dad would have to go away for months at a time. I don't think I ever really understood when I was little.

"But now I definitely empathise with him – and just

how much he loves his job. When I was 13, I thought to myself 'I could do this for the rest of my life!'"

"It's the same for me. I love touring and living out of a suitcase," adds Alyssa.

"I really think being on the road is one of the best forms of education, as you are thrown into so many different situations.

"It's really wonderful that I'm able to travel and make music. It's all we could have ever hoped for."

The pair will play prior to Rod's slot at Greenhouse Meadow in Shrewsbury on June 6 – and have invited fans to meet them after their gig.

"We're excited to be coming back to the Midlands – and we're very excited to see everyone at the show," says Alyssa.

"We usually go out to the merchandise stall after our performance, so we look forward to meeting everyone."

Rod's gig at Shrewsbury and Durham will be his only mainland UK appearances in 2017. At the show, fans are set to be treated to an array of hits.

An extra batch of £55 tickets are now available from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) For further information, visit [www.shrewsburytown.com](http://www.shrewsburytown.com)

**Kirsten Rawlins**



Sister act – Ruby Stewart and Alyssa Bonagura

# Shropshire Star

## Rod Stewart releases promo video ahead of Shrewsbury show



Rod Stewart has released a promovideo ahead of his show at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on Wednesday.

Around 20,000 fans are expected to pack in to the stadium for what will be one of only two mainland Britain concerts the veteran performer will do this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11.

Having sold more than 200 million records worldwide, Sir Rod will perform a combined set of his classics spanning five decades including I Don't Want to Talk About It and The First Cut is the Deepest as well as new hits in his signature style.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at number two.

Rod will be supported by his daughter Ruby Stewart and Alyssa Bonagura, collectively known as The Sisterhood.

# *The* **Chronicle**

## **Rod Stewart set to attract record crowd to Durham Cricket Ground for Chester-le-Street concert**

**Music legend Rod Stewart's outdoor concert in Chester-le-Street is set to attract a record crowd to the home of Durham County Cricket Club.**

World famous performer Rod, famous for decade spanning hits like Maggie May, Sailing and Every Beat of My Heart, will play Emirates Riverside on Friday, for what is expected to be the biggest gig yet for the stadium.

A post on the Durham County Cricket Club website suggests that a record crowd will come through the gates to see the showman take the stage for the latest show on his Hits 2017 tour.



Rod will join a growing number of top acts who have stepped out onto the Riverside stage, including Elton John, Madness, Simply Red, Bryan Adams and Jessie J and preparations continue to set up the stage, seating, bar areas and everything else required for the big day.

[Read More](#)

Rod's performance at Emirates Riverside is the second of two dates before he headlines the Isle of Wight festival on Sunday, June 11. He will be followed at the ground by

Brit Award winners Little Mix, who will be in Chester-le-Street on July 15, hot on the heels of their star turn at the One Love Manchester concert.

Rod Stewart, The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, March 31 2017 (Photo: Denise Truscello) Rod's performance will include show stopping classics like Do Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut Is The Deepest and I Don't Want To Talk About It and many more.

There are still some tickets available to buy for the concert online from Ticketmaster.

All attendees are urged to arrive early and if you're bringing a car to purchase parking passes in advance of the day from [www.durhamccc.co.uk](http://www.durhamccc.co.uk) or by calling 08444994466.

# Shropshire Star

Football stadium transformed into rock venue in 47 days

## Huge effort to get ground ready for Rod

Report by Dominic Robertson  
dominic.robertson@shropshirestar.co.uk

**IT'S taken an army of workers, several miles of electric cable and lorry-loads of scaffolding.**

By tomorrow evening, Greenhouse Meadow will become a concert venue worthy of one of the world's biggest musicians.

It is a mammoth effort. On April 22 the final whistle went for the last match of the season at Shrewsbury Football Club and now 47 days later the stadium has been transformed, ready to host a performance from **Rod Stewart**.

The question is how on Earth do you get a football stadium ready to host a concert with nearly 20,000 fans?

There's no better man to come up with those answers than Shrewsbury Town Football Club's chief executive Brian Caldwell.

To judge the scale of the task at hand it is important to note that Mr Caldwell and the club's safety officer Alan Roberts have had three months to oversee the planning of the concert, compared to the eight months the club had to prepare for the appearance of Elton John in 2011.

The preparations for the concert have involved putting in a gigantic stage stretching across the pitch in front of the North Stand, covering the turf and installing an extra 10,000 seats, and even removing the dug outs, advertising hoardings, and press seats.

The stage, which stretches the width of the pitch and reaches out to the edge of the 18-yard-box, usually patrolled by Shrewsbury Town goalkeeper Jayson Leutwiler, arrived in eight lorries and is made up of thousands of pieces.

It takes the production company responsible for the gig, Cuffe & Taylor, around 72 hours to put it up, with a team of 50 required to get the stage ready.

Along with basic seating and stage arrangements the promoters have also shipped in catering, toilets, fences, power, water, plumbing, video and audio, lighting, and will provide enhanced security on the day.

### Pitch

The whole process of setting up the stadium started on Thursday and it will be Sunday before the ground is back to normal again - only around four weeks ahead of the club's first pre-season fixture.

One of the biggest worries for the club's staff is the pitch, which will be under cover for around seven days having only been re-seeded at the end of the season.

Mr Caldwell said he had already been warned by colleagues at other clubs to be prepared for the sight when the covers come off.

He said: "Our ground staff have been in regular contact with the production company throughout the process. They set everything up to make sure the covering for the pitch is one that suits our ground staff because at the end of the season they have taken the top off and re-seeded it for next season. To ensure that grass continues to germinate it is important we get the right covering."

"I have spoken to people at other clubs and they have told me it'll be a shock the way it looks when it comes off but it does come back!"

Mr Caldwell explained that the time constraints had meant round-the-clock work to ensure the gig is a success.

He said: "When we had Elton John we had eight months to plan it. I think we announced this in February so we have had less than three months to organise an event like this, transforming a football stadium and making sure it is a safe and enjoyable environment for people."

Mr Roberts said: "Once it is announced, that is when the hard work starts. You have got almost two separate operations. A



Shrewsbury Football Club's Greenhouse Meadow has been transformed into a rock stadium for the Rod Stewart concert



Shrewsbury Town's chief executive Brian Caldwell



Singer Rod Stewart will be performing tomorrow

travel management plan to try and get people here and then you have a separate plan for when people get to the main gates and how you get them in and around the site."

One of the biggest changes for the concert is the creation of 19 entry lanes in the car park, where ticket holders will make their way into the venue.

The change means that once through the lanes they are effectively into the venue, as opposed to the normal Saturday afternoon match routine of heading through the many turn-styles for access.

Another huge logistics issue has been how to get 19,500 people to the venue on a Wednesday night.

The date means the football club could not rely on the use of the nearby Meole Brace Retail Park for parking.

That has meant weeks of organisation from Mr Caldwell who has been busy working with nearby businesses and organisations to arrange a whole host of different ways for people to get to the venue.

He said: "Elton John was a Sunday so the retail park was shut. With Rod Stewart on a Wednesday night it has been a whole different ball game."

"It was about trying to find park and stride locations, park and ride lo-

cations, as well as the shuttle bus for the town centre to make sure everyone has links to get here."

"I got an e-mail when I was on holiday saying that unless you have this transport plan with us within three days then you are getting back from holiday and there is no concert! I sat up on the sun lounger and thought I'd better get to work. But we have had a lot of help from the businesses and from the town council."

The club will be providing around 250 stewards to guide people around the venue and at the parking options, all to make sure the event goes off smoothly.

Mr Roberts said that a number of events have impacted on the organisation and none more so than the appalling terror attack in Manchester, which targeted people attending an Ariana Grande concert.

He said: "Since that happened we've had to review our existing safety and security plans and increase them where required."

Mr Caldwell added: "We are always geared up to be a safe environment for the people visiting the stadium so what it does is just heighten that."

Mr Roberts said there is no doubt in his mind over what is a bigger task, arranging a football match or a concert.

He said: "I would have to say a concert. Purely because I deal with 26 to 27 home football matches during the season, I have got a routine, I deal with that even when

we had the likes of Chelsea and Manchester United here. There will be additional things to do because of the size of the club and it is sold out but with this it is putting it on a different scale because you are having to deal with so many different outside bodies, the promoters and the production team, it is a much bigger enterprise."

Mr Caldwell said that the concert would hopefully provide a boost for the local economy, and if successful the club will look at trying to hold repeat events in the future.

He said: "It is about us wanting the promoters and the production company to think "this is a great venue". The hope is that the people here this week will have seen that and be enthused about how great the venue is."

"Hopefully it could be a regular thing if it goes well for them and for us."

"There is a certain period of time, obviously during May or the beginning of June where we could host a concert at the stadium which provides revenue during the close season and funds we can add to the budget for the following season to invest in the club and primarily the football team."

"It is also really positive for the town and the local area."

One final thing. Spare a thought for Mr Roberts because after three months of planning his role as safety officer means he won't even get to see the concert. He said: "I will be in the control room so all I will see is the back of the stage!"



Elton John

# Shropshire Star

## Rod Stewart in Shrewsbury: What's the weather forecast for tomorrow night's concert?

Rod Stewart will be performing to thousands of fans in Shrewsbury tomorrow, but what does the weather have in store?

It's been a pretty unsettled week weather-wise with wind and heavy rainfall battering Shropshire - not ideal for an outdoor concert at Shrewsbury Town's football ground.

So what will the weather be like on Wednesday for Sir Rod's visit where he will be singing hits such as Maggie May, Do Ya Think I'm Sexy and Sailing?

Well, as yet it looks likely to be a dry day according to the Met Office, until the evening that is... From 6pm the Met office is predicting rain.

Throughout the evening the forecast is a mixture of heavy and light rain - but who knows that could all change, right?



# Shropshire Star

## Rod Stewart in Shrewsbury: Everything you need to know ahead of tonight's gig

Ahead of his eagerly-awaited show at the Greenhouse Meadow, organisers of the show have provided security information and general details regarding the evening (see below). Rod Stewart also released the following video ahead of tonight's.

Here's what you need to know:

The show

- Doors open at 4pm, subject to sounds checks being complete
- The first act - The Sisterhood - will appear at around 6.30pm\* (See what Rod's daughter Ruby, of The Sisterhood, had to say ahead of the show here)
- Rod Stewart is set to perform at 8.30pm\* (See what Rod Stewart had to say in an interview ahead of the gig here)
- The evening's entertainment will end at around 11pm\*
- There will be several catering units both in the stadium and immediately outside, offering a range of food and drink
- A limited number of tickets - priced between £55 and £95 - will be available to purchase at the stadium ticket office.

They will be on sale from 2pm today.

- Tickets ordered for collection will also be available to collect from 2pm from the stadium ticket office

Parking/ shuttle service

'Park and stride' and 'park and ride' tickets are available from the Shrewsbury Town ticket office

- Car parks will be open from 4pm There will be a number of park and stride and park and ride sites available to concert goers all priced at £10 (for more on this, click here)
- The park and ride price includes the cost of taking the shuttle bus
- The car parks at Oxon and Halls will open at 4pm and four buses will run back and forth from each site throughout the evening. The final bus to the stadium will be 7.15pm.
- The park and ride buses will pick up and drop off outside the stadium on Oteley Road. Post concert all buses will be clearly marked and positioned to the left of stadium on Oteley Road.
- There is provision for Blue Badge parking at the stadium. Contact the stadium for more information.
- Oteley Road will be closed between Meole Brace roundabout and Weeping Cross Roundabout between 4pm and midnight. There will be access to householders and businesses along Oteley Road only.
- For disabled visitors, there is a drop off point within the slip road down to Bannatines and Meole Brace golf course
- Licensed taxis can drop off and pickup within the slip road down to Bannatines and Meole Brace golf course for pre booked taxis

Requirements and security measures:

- No food, drink or alcohol may be brought into the grounds. If guests are found to have them when searched, they will be confiscated.



# Shropshire Star

## Rod Stewart in Shropshire: 20,000 fans head to Shrewsbury for huge gig - LIVE updates

Thousands of excited Rod Stewart fans were tonight heading to Shrewsbury Town's football ground to see rock legend strut his stuff live on stage.





## Rod Stewart set to entertain fans in Shrewsbury this evening

Fans of Rod Stewart are looking forward to his concert at Shrewsbury Town Football Club this evening.

He will be performing a set of both classics and new hits in his signature style.

As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide, his performance will include show stopping classics spanning five decades including 'Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it'.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album 'Another Country', which debuted at Number Two.

Rod Stewart will be supported by The

Sisterhood, comprised of Rod's daughter Ruby Stewart and bandmate Alyssa Bonagura, The Sisterhood produce a soulful and poetic sound blending haunting melodies and signature voices, truly setting themselves apart from the mainstream.

Speaking about The Sisterhood, Rod said: "There are not many fathers who can say they go to work with their daughter so it will be an absolute pleasure to welcome Ruby back out on the road again with me this summer. "We had a great time last year and I am sure the crowds in Shrewsbury will be delighted when they see The Sisterhood."

Rod Stewart's fully seated concert is being presented by Cuffe and Taylor who promoted Rod's eight-date sell-out UK Hits Tour in 2016.

The doors open for people to arrive at 4pm, with the first act on stage at 6.30pm.

Tonight's Shrewsbury concert is one of only two of Rod's outdoor mainland UK appearances in 2017.



# Shropshire Star

## Rod Stewart in Shrewsbury: 20,000 pack ground to see music legend

It was one legendary rocker that brought thousands of fans through the doors of Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

Around 20,000 fans packed in to the stadium last night to see Sir Rod Stewart perform his classics spanning five decades.

It took an army of workers, several miles of electric cable and lorry-loads of scaffolding to get Greenhous Meadow ready for the concert.

The 72-year-old music legend has sold more than 200 million records worldwide and fans were in high spirits when they filed into the venue to see the Maggie May singer. Large queues formed for those turning up an hour before the concert and all bags were searched as people made their way in.

Construction manager Adam Ellis-Morgan was at the concert with his partner Jackie Marvell. Mr Ellis-Morgan, aged 48, of Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, said: "This is the third time I've seen him. I saw him at the NEC 15 odd years ago. He's one of those superstars who are few and far between, a bit like Elton John. I've been very excited to see him again. I'm surprised he's come to Shrewsbury."

Ms Marvell, 48, of Monkmoor, said it was her first time seeing Sir Rod in concert but she once sat on a plane next to a man who claimed to have tiled his bathroom. She said: "He's got great charisma. It's absolutely brilliant he's come to Shrewsbury and given everyone an opportunity in this county to see such a superstar."



Wendy Barnes, 61, and her 64-year-old husband Mike Barnes were also in high spirits at the concert. Mrs Barnes, of Oxon, Shrewsbury, said: "He's amazing. My husband and I met in 1972 and we've been super fans ever since. I like everything about him – his voice, his personality. I got the tickets as soon as they went on sale."

Linda Morgan was joined by her friends at the concert. The 60-year-old, of Wellington, Telford, said: "I try to go and see him when I can. I've been going to see him since 1977. I've been to see him all over the place."

The superstar's hit songs include Maggie May, Do Ya Think

I'm Sexy and Sailing. It was one of only two mainland Britain concerts the veteran performer will do this year in preparation for headlining the Isle of Wight Festival on June 11.

The preparations for the concert involved putting in a gigantic stage stretching across the pitch in front of the North Stand, covering the turf and installing an extra 10,000 seats. Even the dug outs, advertising hoardings, and press seats were removed. The stage stretched the width of the pitch and reached out to the edge of the 18-yard-box, usually patrolled by Shrewsbury Town goalkeeper Jayson Leutwiler.

It took the production company responsible for the gig, Cuffe & Taylor, around 72 hours to put it up, with a team of 50.



# THE SHIELDS Gazette

## Everything you need to know about Rod Stewart's Durham gig

Everything you need to know about Rod Stewart's Durham gig : Durham County Cricket Club will welcome a record crowd through the gates of Emirates Riverside tomorrow, June 9, as Sir Rod Stewart takes to the stage to perform the Hits 2017 concert.

Heading to the gig in Chester-le-Street? Here's some handy details. Security - Durham CCC advise concert attendees to arrive early to Emirates Riverside as there will be increased security measures taking place at each entrance point in light of the recent terror attacks. Timings - Gates will open from 4pm with the entertainment beginning at 6.30pm. Rod Stewart's daughter's band, Sisterhood will take the stage at 7.55pm before Sir Rod's set begins at 8.35pm. Food & Drink - There will be food and drink available inside the stadium and three park and ride sites.

Getting There - There will be three park & rides: Belmont, Drum Industrial Estate and Lambton. If you're heading to the concert early, it's recommended that you use the latter. Go North East are running extra buses to and from the event.

Parking - All advanced parking is sold out but there will be some on the day parking on a first served basis.

Ticket Collection - Tickets booked for collection at Emirates Riverside through Ticketmaster are only available to pick up on the day of the event.



# The Northern Echo

## Rod Stewart performing live in the region tonight

**SECURITY** measures have been ramped up ahead of a Rod Stewart concert set to draw thousands of fans from across the country.

Those attending the gig tomorrow by the 72-year-old singer at Durham County Cricket Club, in Chester-le-Street, have been advised to arrive at the venue to allow for increased security at each entrance point following atrocities in Manchester and London.

A spokeswoman for Durham Police said: "The safety of everyone in County Durham and Darlington is paramount and in light of the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, we are continuing to review our response to public events due to take place in our area over the coming days.

"While there is nothing to suggest a specific threat to our communities, extra patrols will be on duty at the concert to protect and reassure the public."

Richard Dowson, chief operating officer, of Durham County Cricket Club, said preparations for the show - the biggest concert the venue has hosted - had gone smoothly.

Gates will open from 4pm with the entertainment beginning at 6.30pm.

Rod Stewart's daughter's band, Sisterhood, will take the stage at 7.55pm, before Sir Rod's set begins at 8.35pm. The former Faces frontman is being supported at the gig by his daughter, Ruby, and her own band The Sisterhood, which includes multi-instrumentalist Alyssa Bonagura.



The 29-year-old, who was born in Los Angeles to model Kelly Emberg, is Sir Rod's fourth child. The former lingerie model told The Northern Echo: "He has given me great advice. He first brought me up on stage and I sang when I was seven, so I have been doing this since I was a kid, but I have been doing my own stuff in between.

"This is our own music and we write it ourselves. It is country rock with a soulful touch.

"Opening for my dad is such a crazy concept, but he wouldn't have us up there if we sucked."

Councillor Simon Henig, leader of Durham County Council, said events such as the

Rod Stewart concert were an ideal way to showcase the region to visitors.

He said: "These occasions are tremendous. The more events like this we can attract the better for bring people into County Durham and selling County Durham as a venue. We would hope they boost the local economy as it is not just locals who attend.

"They bring people in and they spend money and stay so event like this are very positive."

There will be park and ride services from Belmont, Drum Industrial Estate and Lambton. Go North East is running extra buses to and from the event. All advanced parking is sold out but there will be some on the day parking on a first served basis. Get involved with the news in your community

***This interview also appeared in the: Chester-Le-Street Advertiser (3,425); Durham Times (5,469);***



# *The* **Chronicle**

## **Rod Stewart in Chester-le-Street: Stage times, travel information and weather for outdoor concert**

World famous performer Rod Stewart, famous for decade spanning hits like Maggie May, Sailing and Every Beat of My Heart, will play Chester-le-Street's Emirates Riverside on Friday, for what is expected to be the biggest gig yet for the stadium. A post on the Durham County Cricket Club website suggests that a record crowd will come through the gates to see the showman take the stage for the latest show on his Hits 2017 tour.

His fans have been counting down the days to the huge outdoor concert and if you're one of those going along to be part of the record crowd, here's some important details you need to know... What time do the gates open? Gates will open from 4pm with the entertainment beginning at 6.30pm

### **What time is Rod Stewart on stage?**

Rod's daughter's band, Sisterhood will take the stage at 7.55pm before Sir Rod's set begins at 8.35pm.

### **What time is the last train back from Chester-le-Street to Newcastle on Friday night?**

If you are getting to the concert by train and not staying over you'll need to be at Chester-le-Street train for 11.40pm. There is an earlier train at 10.08pm but you don't want to miss any of the concert! For getting there trains leave Central Station at 4.06pm, 5.03pm, 5.32pm and 6.04pm. The journey should take just over 10 minutes. Book tickets in advance from the Trainline website.

### **What about buses?**

Go North East are running extra buses to and from the event. The Angel 21 bus will run at 5.03pm, 5.34pm, 6.05pm, 6.19pm and 6.47pm from Newcastle, dropping you a short walk away from Emirates Riverside. The service runs through Gateshead, Low Fell and Birtley and buses will be on hand to take you back afterwards. Buses are only £4.80 for a return ticket.

### **And if I'm driving?**

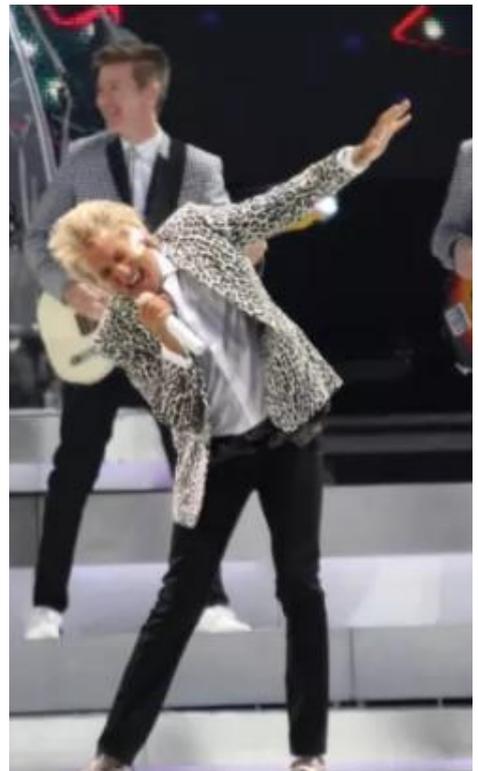
The only way to secure a car parking space at the ground is to purchase a parking permit in advance. Pre-paid permits are limited and are sold on a first-come, first served basis. They are available for £5 from the Box Office on 0844 499 4466 or online at [www.durhamccc.co.uk](http://www.durhamccc.co.uk). There are a number of car parks in Chester-le-Street town centre and three park and ride services from: Lambton Estates (DH3 4PQ), Belmont Park & Ride (DH1 1SR) Drum Industrial Estate (DH2 1UR). These are free of charge but bus tickets are £2 return. I need to collect tickets... Tickets booked for collection at Emirates Riverside through Ticketmaster are only available to pick up on the day of the event. Rod Stewart performs in concert at the Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 21 May 2005 For Groupon tickets, if you haven't already received them, ring 020 3510 0444. Will security be heightened? Durham CCC are advising concert goers to arrive early to Emirates Riverside as there will be increased security measures taking place at each entrance point.

They are also strongly advising people to limit both the size of handbag and the items you are planning on bringing along to the concert with them.

**Is food and drink available inside?** Yes, all other food & drink is not permitted, even if the bottle is sealed.

### **And finally do I need to take a brolly?**

You might not end up having doing a Rihanna and standing under your umbr-ella-ella-ella as, unlike most of this week, according to the Met Office, there won't be any rain for Rod. There is set to be a few showers earlier on in the day, but as things stand there should be sunny spells from 5 - 9pm before the sun goes down. Expect temperatures of between 14 and 17 degrees. Not quite tropical but sounds alright doesn't it?



# *The* **Chronicle**

## Rod Stewart Hits 2017 setlist: What will music legend sing in Chester-le-Street?



So the legend that is Rod Stewart gave music to the ears of his North East followers earlier this year with the news that he was to perform an outdoor gig in Chester-le-Street.

The world famous singer, whose career has now spanned five decades, will perform at Emirates Riverside, the home of Durham County Cricket Club on Friday, June 9, for what is sure to be a memorable evening for his fans.

As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide, his concert will of course include show

stopping classics spanning five decades including *Da Ya Think I'm Sexy*, *The First Cut is the Deepest*, *Sailing* and *I Don't Want to Talk About It*.

### But what else will he sing?

Well judging by his Shrewsbury show on Wednesday, June 7 you can expect:

*Having a Party*

*It's a Heartache* *Love Is*

*Some Guys Have All the Luck* *Tonight's the Night (Gonna Be Alright)* *Rhythm of My Heart*

*Forever Young* *Can't Stop Me Now* *Downtown Train*

*The First Cut Is the Deepest* *Ooh La La*

*I Don't Want to Talk About It* *Have I Told You Lately* *Baby Jane*

*Maggie May*

*Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?* *Sailing*

*Stay With Me*

# Hartlepool Mail

## What's On

### TODAY

#### HARTLEPOOL IBD COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

One77, York Road, Hartlepool, 7-8.30pm. First Thursday of each month.

#### HARTLEPOOL HEARTS CORONARY SUPPORT GROUP

Community Room, Central Library, York Road, 8.30-8.30pm. First Thursday in the month. Tel. 01429 232316.

#### FITNESS TRAINING

The Sports Domes, Tees Road, Body Tone 6.45-7.30pm. Every Thursday. Tel. 07500 999524.

#### HINDPOOL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Childminder Group, 9.30-11am, term time only. Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 292555.

#### MIERS AVENUE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

All About Baby And You (Well Baby Clinic; Feeding Support; Ante-natal by appt.), 1.30-3pm. Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 292555.

#### RIFTHOUSE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

All About Baby And You (Baby Time, Well Baby Clinic; Feeding Support; Ante-natal by appt.), 1-2.30pm. Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 284610.

#### ROSSMERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Once Upon A Time, 9.30-10.30am;

Let's Get Cooking, 9.30-11am term time only; Nursery Here I Come!, 1-2.30pm. Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 292444.

#### ST HELEN'S CHILDREN'S CENTRE

St Helen's Little Ones, 9-11am, term time only. Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 421525.

#### STRANTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Active Dads, 9.30-11am; #Under25s, 1-2.30pm. Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 231329.

#### SING ALONG

Laurel Gardens, Marlowe Road, Every Thursday 2pm, open to all.

#### CRAFT 'N' CHAT

Jen Craft, 168 Raby Road, 6-8pm, every Thursday. £3.50 including refreshments. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Tel. 07494 950881.

#### ST OSWALD'S CHURCH LADS' AND CHURCH GIRLS' BRIGADE

In the Church Hall, Milbank Road, 6-7.30pm. Every Thursday for ages 7-10 years. Tel. 07843 947602.

#### UNITED SERVICES CLUB

Miers Avenue, Deal or Not Deal, Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 424070.

#### HARTLEPOOL WIDOWS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Meet in the Olde Durhams, St Aidan's Street, Every Thursday 1-3pm.

#### JUNIOR CARDIO TENNIS

With Leslie at Hartlepool Lawn

Tennis Club, Granville Avenue. Every Thursday, 4-5pm.

#### ZUMBA FITNESS

Dyke House Sports and Technology College, (Avondale entrance), 4-5pm and at Seaton Carew Social Club, 6-7pm. Thursdays. Tel. Christine 07764 995311.

#### STORY AND SNACK LUNCH CLUB

Creative Cafe at the Gemini Centre, Villiers Street, Hartlepool, Every Thursday, 10.30am-noon. For pre-school children. Cost £2.50. Tel. 01429 262918.

#### VAL ARMSTRONG SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Vocal Classes: Thursdays. Tel. 01429 284706.

#### ACTIVITIES AT WEST VIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Yoga 11am-noon; West View Ladies Craft Group, 10am-noon. Every Thursday. For info on groups and session fees, Tel. 01429 271275.

#### JUTLAND ROAD COMMUNITY HUB

Youth Club, 4-6pm, for ages 6-12 years, computers, games, food available. £1. Every Thursday. Tel. 01429 283187.

#### EDITH HARRISON PERFORMING ARTS

Blind Welfare Hall, 5.30-7pm, age 5+ juniors, tuition in modern and tap dance; 7-8.30pm, modern and tap, seniors. Thursdays. Tel. 01429 860326.

#### HARTLEPOOL VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Train at St Hil's Sports Hall, Email hartlepoolvolleyball@gmail.com for details. Every Thursday, 5.20-7pm. No experience necessary, the first two weeks are free.

#### K R DANCE STUDIO

Dalton Street Hartlepool, Flex class for all, 4.30-5.30pm; Commercial dance for ages 13+, 5.30-7.30pm; Cardio blast toning, 7.30-8.30pm. Every Thursday. Tel. Kim to book on 07590 322792 or visit www.krdance.350.com

#### ACTIVITIES AT BRIERTON COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

Catcote Road, Hartlepool. Pilates, 1-2pm; Supervised Gym, 2-3pm; Beginners Spinning, 5.30-8.30pm; Circuit Training, 6-7pm; Fitness Induction, 7.15-8.15pm. Tel. 01429 294864.

#### DYKE HOUSE SPORTS AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE/AVONDALE

Raby Road, Zumba, 4-4.55pm, Main Hall 1 or Dance Studio; Fabulous Fitness, 6-6.55pm, Main Hall 1 or Dance Studio; Water Aerobics, 4.45-5.30 and 7-7.45pm, advance booking/payment required. Thursdays. For info and prices, Tel. 01429 266377.

#### CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES

Throston Community Centre, Thursdays and Fridays, 4.15-7pm. Tel. 07807 081564.

#### PILATES

K2 Physiocare, Park Road, 6.30pm. Every Thursday. Tel. 07760 254096.

#### ACTIVITIES AT HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE'S CENTRE

Raby Road, Thursdays: Sewing, Embroidery, Dressmaking, 10am-3pm; Line Dancing, 9.45-11.45am; Alcoholics Anon 6.30-9pm; Boxercise 6-7pm. Tel. 01429 861144.

#### THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS & ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

Meet twice monthly at Stranton Social Club, Waldon Street, 7.30pm. All ex-service personnel welcome. Tel. 01429 263796.

#### LAST ONE STANDING

Sports Domes, Tees Road, Seaton Carew, Every Thursday, 6.15-7pm.

#### HORDEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE

7th Street, Horden, Thursdays. CISWO, over 50s group, 1-3pm; Guides, 6-8pm; Zumba 7-8pm; Patchwork, 7-9pm. Tel. 0191 5180823.

#### EASINGTON COLLIERY METHODIST CHURCH

Tai Chi, 2-3pm. Every Thursday.



Brian Poole and the Tremeloes play the Customs House, South Shields tomorrow.



Rod Stewart plays Emirates Durham cricket ground at Chester Le Street tomorrow.

# Sunderland Echo

## Everything you need to know for Rod gig

Durham County Cricket Club will welcome a record crowd at Emirates Riverside tonight as Sir Rod Stewart takes to the stage to perform the Hits 2017 concert.

● Security – Emirates Riverside is advising people arrive early as there will be increased security measures.

● Timings – Gates will open from 4pm with the entertainment beginning at 6.30pm. Rod's daugh-

ter's band Sisterhood will take the stage at 7.55pm before Sir Rod's set begins at 8.35pm.

● Getting There – There will be three park & rides: Belmont, Drum Industrial Estate and Lambton. If you're heading to the concert early, it's recommended that you use the latter. Go North East are also running extra buses to and from the event.

● Parking – All advanced parking is sold out but there will be some on the day parking on a first-come, first-served basis.

# The Northern Echo

## Music listings

### Rock & Pop

#### Friday, Jun 09

**Chester-le-Street:** Rod Stewart, Durham County Cricket Club.

**Darlington:** Tim Aves and Wolfpack, The Forum Music Centre. 8:00pm.

**Durham:** 1977, Big Jug.

**Lanchester:** Fight night 50/50 dancing, Social Club..

**Newcastle:** Pretty Weeds, Three Mile Inn.

**Newcastle:** Takahaad, Poachers Cottage.

**Newcastle:** Melt-Banana, Cluny. 8:00pm.

**Newcastle:** Weirds, Cluny 2. 8:00pm.

**South Shields:** Jenn Chere band, the White Horse.

**Sunderland:** Whole Hog, Greens.

#### Saturday, Jun 10

**Bishop Auckland:** Ken Mercer, Leeholme WMC. 7:30pm.

**Darlington:** Elite, Hopetown and Whessoe Workmens club. 8:00pm.

**Darlington:** Keep It Cash, The Forum Music Centre. 8:00pm.

**Easington:** Platinum, Colliery Club. 8:30pm.

**Lanchester:** Antonio, Social Club. 8:00pm.

**Newcastle:** McDade (Reschedules), Cluny 2. 8:00pm.

**Newcastle:** Richard Dawson - 'Peasant' Album Launch, Cluny. 8:00pm.

**South Shields:** Steve Ballantyne band, The White Horse.

**South Shields:** Panic Report, The Westoe.

**Spennymoor:** Share the Darkness, Frog and Ferret.

**Stockton:** The Who Vs The Jam (Live Tributes), Ku Bar. 9:00pm.

**West Auckland:** FAB, Club, 8pm.

**Washington:** Sponge

Divers, The Blue Bell.  
**Whitley Bay:** Vertigo U2, Fat Ox.

#### Sunday, Jun 11

**Darlington:** Sue Cassidy, Hopetown and Whessoe Workmens club. 8:00pm.

**Easington:** Foxx, Colliery Club. 8:30pm.

**Newcastle:** Roadrunners, Poachers Cottage.

**South Shields:** The Lone Sharks, Vigilant Inn.

#### Tuesday, Jun 13

**Washington:** Buskers night with Alan Knights, The Blue Bell.

#### Wednesday, Jun 14

**Newcastle:** Six Organs Of Admittance, Cluny. 8:00pm.

#### Thursday, Jun 15

**Thirsk:** Lewis Hamilton band, Little 3. 8:00pm.

### Classical

#### Friday, Jun 9

**Thornton Watlass:** Choral group annual concert, St Mary's Church, 7.30pm.

#### Saturday, Jun 10

**Gateshead:** A Beethoven Feast, Sage. 6:00pm.

**Thirsk:** Harrogate Male Voice Choir concert, St Mary's Church. 7:30pm.

#### Sunday, Jun 11

**York:** Leeds Baroque Orchestra, The National Centre fro Early Music. 3:00pm.

#### Thursday, Jun 15

**York:** John Williams, John Etheridge & Gary Ryan, The National Centre for Early Music. 7:30pm.

### Country

#### Friday, Jun 09

**Bishop Auckland:** Jim McCabe, RAFA Club. 8:00pm.

#### Tuesday, Jun 13

**Sherburn:** Robert E Lee, Country and Line Dancing Club.

#### Thursday, Jun 15

**Newton Aycliffe:** Amy Morgan, The Phoenix Club. 8:00pm.

### Jazz/Blues

#### Friday, Jun 09

**Eaglescliffe:** Andy Gunn band, Cleveland Bay.

#### Thursday, Jun 15

**Middlesbrough:** Tees

Hot Club, Dormans Club. 9:00pm.

**Middlesbrough:** Tees Hot Club + Guests, Dormans Club. 9:00pm.

### Folk

#### Saturday, Jun 10

**Barnard Castle:** The Big Play (part of the Teesdale Community Music Festival), The Witham. 9:45am-11:45am.

**Bishop Auckland:** The Happy Cats, Bishop Auckland Town Hall. 7:30pm.

#### Monday, Jun 12

**Stockton:** Anne Lamb, The Sun Inn. 7:45pm-11:00pm.

#### Thursday, Jun 15

**Darlington:** Singaround, Copper Beech. 8:00pm.

**Stockton:** Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys, ARC. 8:00pm.

### Other

#### Saturday, Jun 10

**Guisborough:** Concert of Light Music, St. Nicholas Church Hall. 7:30pm-9:15pm.

**Spennymoor:** Karaoke, Indoor Bowls Club (above

Ken Warnes). 8:00pm.

**Stockton:** Emma Stevens, ARC. 8:00pm.

**Thirsk:** Apollo 5, St Oswalds church. 7:30pm.

#### Monday, Jun 12

**Gateshead:** Gateshead College BTEC Student Showcase, Sage. 7:00pm.

#### Tuesday, Jun 13

**Gateshead:** Gateshead College BTEC Student Showcase, Sage. 7:00pm.

#### Wednesday, Jun 14

**Gateshead:** K R A F T W E R K 3-D, Sage. 7:00pm.

#### Thursday, Jun 15

**Barnard Castle:** Open mic night, Old Well Inn. 8:00pm.

**Darlington:** 50/50 dancing with Mike on the organ plus bingo, Albert Hill Club. 7:45pm.

If you would like to include your gig in this guide email [claire.hunter@nne.co.uk](mailto:claire.hunter@nne.co.uk)



Sir Rod Stewart: Durham County Cricket Club, Chester-le-Street on Friday

# Shropshire Star



Rock legend Sir Rod Stewart delighted thousands of his fans last night with a concert of his greatest hits at Shrewsbury Football Stadium. ● See our picture special – Pages 6&7

## Sir Rod here? It's amazing!

Report by Lisa O'Brien  
[lisa.obrien@shropshirestar.co.uk](mailto:lisa.obrien@shropshirestar.co.uk)

**IT was one legendary rocker that brought thousands of fans through the doors of Shrewsbury Town Football Club.**

Around 20,000 fans packed in to the stadium last night to see Sir Rod Stewart perform his classics spanning five decades.

It took an army of workers, several miles of electric cable and lorry-loads of scaffolding to get Greenhous Meadow ready for the concert.

The 72-year-old music legend has sold more than 200 million records worldwide and fans were in high spirits when they filed into the venue to see the Maggie May

singer. Large queues formed for those turning up an hour before the concert and all bags were searched as people made their way in.

Construction manager Adam Ellis-Morgan was at the concert with his partner Jackie Marvell. Mr Ellis-Morgan, aged 48, of Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, said: "This is the third time I've seen him. I saw him at the NEC 15 odd years ago.

"He's one of those classic artists.

"He's one of those superstars who are few

and far between, a bit like Elton John. I like his old stuff like Maggie May and Forever Young is a classic.

"The best album has to be Atlantic Crossing. I've been very excited to see him again. I'm surprised he's come to Shrewsbury."

Ms Marvell, 48, of Monkmoor, said it was her first time seeing Sir Rod in concert but she once sat on a plane next to a man who claimed to have tiled his bathroom.

### Charisma

She said: "He's got great charisma. I like his old songs like Sailing and Maggie May. I've been really excited and have just hoped that the rain holds off.

"It's absolutely brilliant he's come to Shrewsbury and given everyone an opportunity in this county to see such a superstar."



# Durham Times

## Rod and Ruby ready to rock the Riverside



**By Gavin Havery**

Staff Reporter

THOUSANDS of Rod Stewart fans from across the country are expected in the North-East tonight to watch the legendary musician perform live.

The gig, at Durham County Cricket Club, in Chester-le-Street, County Durham, comes two days before the 72-year-old superstar headlines the Isle of Wight festival on Sunday.

The concert is expected to feature classic hits from the singer's back catalogue, including Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About It, along with songs from his latest platinum album, From Gasoline Alley To Another Country.

Richard Dowson, chief operating officer of Durham County Cricket Club, said: "Everything is running smoothly. Much of the staging and seating is now in place and we are looking forward to welcoming a bumper crowd to what is set to be the biggest concert we have hosted to date."

Rod Stewart is one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide.

He has had six number one albums in the UK and 31 top ten sin-



The stage being built for the Rod Stewart concert at the Emirates Riverside, Chester-le-Street

Picture: SARAH CALDECOTT

gles, of which six have been number one.

The former Faces frontman is being supported at the gig by his daughter, Ruby, and her own band The Sisterhood, which includes multi-instrumentalist Alyssa Bonagura.

The 29-year-old, who was born in Los Angeles to model Kelly Emborg, is Rod's fourth child.

She said: "He has given me great advice. He first brought me up on stage and I sang was when I was seven, so I have been doing this since I was a kid, but I have been

doing my own stuff in between. This is our own music and we write it ourselves. It is country rock with a soulful touch.

"Opening for my dad is such a crazy concept but he wouldn't have us up there if we sucked."

Alyssa Bonagura, 29, who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, is the daughter of singers Michael Bonagura and Kathie Baillie, of Baillie and the Boys.

She said: "This is our third tour with Rod and it has been so amazing for him to support us in that way."



Rod Stewart, top, and The Sisterhood, featuring his daughter Ruby, left

# *The* **Chronicle**

## Watch Rod Stewart perform at tonight's concert at Durham County Cricket Club

**Rod Stewart was Having A Party with thousands of his fans at Riverside in Chester-le-Street tonight.**

Belying his 72 years of age, the legendary performer entertained the crowds with a selection of his biggest hits. Rod Stewart live on stage at the Emirates Riverside in Chester-le-street

The Durham County Cricket Club concert was one of only two mainland shows in the UK this year – and on Sunday he is headlining the Isle of Wight Festival. Some Guys Have All The Luck indeed, but it was both lads and lasses who enjoyed the British singers The Hits show, fresh from his sold-out residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Rod Stewart Fans at the Emirates Riverside in Chester Le Street

Fans were treated to decades worth of top tunes, including Tonight's The Night, Downtown Train, Rhythm of My Heart, The First Cut Is The Deepest, Baby Janes, Maggie May and Da Ya Think I'm Sexy.

No stranger to performing in the North East over the years, it was obvious Rod was enjoying playing here again as his thousands of fans lapped up the atmosphere.

Rod Stewart entertains the crowd at the Emirates Riverside in Chester Le Street They may have been gannin' along the Scotswood Road a few miles away ( for the Blaydon Race ) earlier in the evening, but there was every bit as much energy on show in Chester-le-Street too.

Fans couldn't help but have left with the sounds of some classic pop 'Sailing' around their heads.



# The **Chronicle**

## It was plain sailing in the rain for Rod Stewart at St James' Park 10 years ago

MUSIC legend Rod Stewart steps out tonight at Emirates Riverside, the Chester-le-Street home of Durham County Cricket Club.

Owner of one of rock's greatest voices, the charismatic superstar has been a regular visitor to the region's music venues since the mid-1960s.

It was back then that he first appeared at Newcastle's Club a'Gogo as an unknown singer alongside Long John Baldry.

His last Newcastle Arena show came in 2013, and in the five decades leading up to then he'd appeared at the City Hall, Mayfair, Odeon, Gateshead Stadium and St James' Park, among other North venues.

Rod's outdoor appearance in Durham is one of only two UK mainland concerts this year.

And let's hope the weather is better than it was ten years ago this month when the then 62-year-old graced St James' Park, the home of Newcastle United.

Back then, it hammered down in watery scenes reminiscent of what we've had this week.

On June 27, 2007, the Chronicle published a review of the previous night's show under the headline: 'Rocker Rod defies a downpour to deliver a set of old-time classics'.

Our reviewer declared: "With half

the audience of around 20,000 in waterproofs, the night kicked off with You Wear It Well.

"If the sound was a little iffy at first, by the time Rod - looking fit and lean - got to Have I Told you Lately and This Old Heart Of Mine, it was clear as a bell.

"Hot Legs saw the singer kicking balls into the crowd with a power and flair that eluded most of Newcastle United's so-called stars last season.

"I Don't Want To Talk About It and the poignant old folk classic Dirty

Old Town, devoted to the late, great Celtic winger Jimmy Johnstone closed the first half.

"It was in the second half that the singer cut loose, rolling back the years with great singalong renditions of The First Cut Is The Deepest,

You're In My Heart and Tonight's The Night.

"And perhaps Mick Jagger is the only other rock star, well into his seventh decade, who would have the bravado to sing something like Do Ya Think I'm Sexy - and mean it.

"Then it was Sailing, with thousands of pairs of arms aloft and lots of out-of-tune singing - especially by me.

"Inevitably it was that other great Rod Stewart anthem, Maggie May, that really brought the house down, accompanied by great vintage video footage of Rod with The Faces on Top Of The Pops from way back in 1971.

"The old Sam Cooke favourite Twisting The Night Away closed the show, complete with a spectacular firework show high above the East Stand.

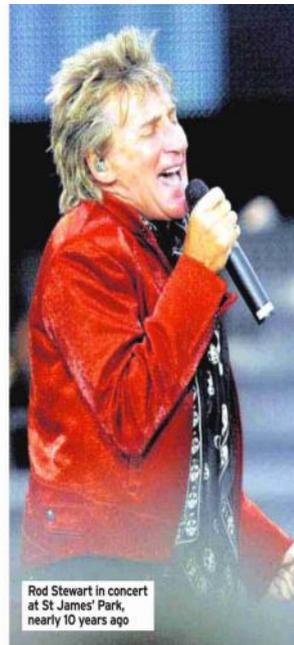
"Wor Jackie and Hughie Gallacher wouldn't have believed their eyes.

"The crowd loved it, but sadly there was no encore."

That was then - and so tonight, a different venue that hosts a different sport.

As for the weather, the BBC is forecasting sunshine and temperatures of 18 degrees over Durham.

Sounds like it will be plain sailing for Rod Stewart.



Rod Stewart in concert at St James' Park, nearly 10 years ago



Singing in the rain at the Rod Stewart concert



Fans in waterproofs watch Rod Stewart



Rod Stewart in concert at St James' Park, Newcastle, June 26, 2007

# The Northern Echo

## Security stepped up for Rod Stewart concert

By Gavin Havery  
Staff Reporter

[gavin.havery@nne.co.uk](mailto:gavin.havery@nne.co.uk)

SECURITY measures have been ramped up ahead of a Rod Stewart concert set to draw thousands of fans from across the country.

Those attending the gig today by the 72-year-old singer at Durham County Cricket Club, in Chester-le-Street, have been advised to arrive at the venue to allow for increased security at each entrance point following atrocities in Manchester and London.

A spokeswoman for Durham Police said: "The safety of everyone in County Durham and Darlington is paramount and in light of the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, we are continuing to review our response to public events due to take place in our area over the coming days.

"While there is nothing to suggest a specific threat to our communities, extra patrols will be on duty at the concert to protect and reassure the public."

Richard Dowson, chief operating officer, of Durham County Cricket Club, said preparations for the show – the biggest concert the venue has hosted – had gone smoothly.

Gates will open from 4pm with the entertainment beginning at 6.30pm. Rod Stewart's daughter's band, Sisterhood, will take the stage at 7.55pm, before Sir Rod's set begins at 8.35pm.

The former Faces frontman is being supported at the gig by his daughter, Ruby, and her own band The Sisterhood, which includes multi-instrumentalist Alyssa Bonagura.

The 29-year-old, who was born in Los Angeles to model Kelly Emborg, is Sir Rod's fourth child.

The former lingerie model told The Northern Echo: "He has given me great advice. He first brought me up on stage and I sang was when I was seven, so I have been doing this since I was a kid, but I have been doing my own stuff in between.

"This is our own music and we write it ourselves. It is country rock with a soulful touch.

"Opening for my dad is such a crazy concept, but he wouldn't have us up there if we sucked."

Alyssa Bonagura, 29, who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, added: "Rod has either chosen or written great songs and living in Nashville and having grown up in Nashville you know that it all begins with the song. We just want

to lift people up and have a really great show."

Councillor Simon Henig, leader of Durham County Council, said events such as the Rod Stewart concert were

an ideal way to showcase the region to visitors.

He said: "These occasions are tremendous. The more events like this we can attract the better for bring people into County Durham and selling County Durham as a venue. We would hope they boost the local economy as it is not just locals who attend. They bring people in and they spend money and stay so event like this are very positive."

Ronnie King, of Bishop Auckland, is among those who will be watching the veteran singer, after his wife Karen's dying wish was granted for him to be given tickets for the show.

Mrs King, who died in March, contacted The Northern Echo earlier this year with the request despite being gravely ill.

Music promoters Cuffe and Taylor agreed to give four tickets for the King family.

Ahead of the gig Mr King said: "I am really looking forward to it, but it is going to be a very emotional time."



**SPECTACLE:** Seats being installed at the Emirates Riverside stadium, Chester-le-Street, for the Rod Stewart concert  
Picture: SARAH CALDECOTT



**SHOW:** Rod Stewart, who will perform at Durham County Cricket Club



**STAGE:** Stage being built ahead of Rod Stewart's show at the Emirates Riverside stadium, Chester-le-Street  
Picture: SARAH CALDECOTT

# Shropshire Star

Concert at football club hailed a success

## Rod gig could pave way for more big acts

By Dominic Robertson  
newsroom@shropshirestar.co.uk

**THE chief of Shrewsbury Town Football Club has said he will look to build on the success of this week's Rod Stewart concert.**

Speaking the morning after the Greenhous Meadow concert, Brian Caldwell, chief executive, said he had received positive feedback from fans and that staff would now hold a debrief to learn the lessons of how it went.

He also revealed that he had been relieved to see green grass as the production company starting removing the stage from the pitch yesterday morning.



**Brian Caldwell**

He said: "They had lifted some of the stage area and I could see some green grass and it was quite a pleasant view because I was quite worried that the whole pitch would not be green."

Mr Caldwell, who thanked the club's staff and safety officer Alan Robert for the three months of planning that went into the event, which attracted 15,000 people.

He said: "I was pleased and I think obviously when you have got an event of that magnitude, that many people coming there, there will always be lessons to learn going forward and that is for all of us. We will have a debrief with all of the staff involved about how we can do things better but we got everyone in very well and we have had quite a few emails saying what a great venue it was and what a great concert it was."

"We will speak to all the people we need to speak to and look at every aspect of it operationally, what could have worked better and how if we did do it again we can have a template if



**Rod Stewart performs at the Greenhous Meadow concert**

we have the right opportunity. It is about getting the right name to the stadium. There is no point having it half full but it is about us being ready if that opportunity comes along."

Mr Caldwell said he was very pleased with the way they had managed to get the concert-goers into the stadium, but that they would look at the way people left, with many wanting to get buses at the same time – largely due to the weather.

He said: "We did comprehensive searches and ticket checks, and we moved people through the area well. There were queues at times but when

you have got 15,000 people with security checks there will always be some queuing."

"There was a lot of good feedback from people who said it was the first time they have been and that is fantastic."

"Everyone seemed to really enjoy the concert, Rod put on a great show and I am sure everyone who was there had a great time."

Asked if he had enjoyed the evening Mr Caldwell said: "I don't think I relaxed until it was over. It was only when the car park cleared that I could start to relax a bit."



**The superstar struts his stuff on stage**



**The Sisterhood's Ruby Stewart, Rod's daughter**

# GazetteLive

## There's no doubt legendary rocker Rod Stewart is wearing incredibly well

Rod Stewart is certainly wearing well. The 72-year-old legend bowled over 20,000 fans with a Tartan-tastic set at the Riverside cricket ground .

Taking the stage at the early time of 8.20pm - and catching a fair portion of the crown unawares into the bargain - Stewart delivered a magnificent 100 minute set packed with classics.

From the first song, Sam Cooke's Having A Party, to the last, a joyous run through of the evergreen Enjoy Yourself (It's Later Than You Think), the crowd had an absolute blast, dancing on the spot and singing their heads off.

It wasn't a young crowd by any means, but it was certainly enthusiastic. And Stewart was equally upbeat, laughing and joking between songs. The veteran rocker made several costume changes after starting the night in silver lame jacket, black trousers and glittery silver sneakers. Perhaps his snazziest outfit was a gold coloured suit but the clothes didn't detract from his legendary voice. It's still utterly unique and, if Rod's lost a little bit of power over the years, he's still able to hit all the right notes.

He was backed by superb band and there was anything up to 12 musicians and singers on the stage, but all eyes were on the star of the show, whose choice of songs was pretty much perfect.

Tonight's The Night, Rhythm Of My Heart, Maggie May, First Cut Is The Deepest, I Don't Want To Talk About, Downtown Train, to name six classics, went down a storm on a lovely evening by the River Wear. Can't Stop Me Now, a relatively new song which the London-born singer dedicated to his Scottish father, was another highlight, as was Faces favourite Ooh La La.

There were more treats in store as the night drew close with 70s smashes Do Ya Think I'm Sexy and Sailing, plus 80s belter Baby Jane, making for a red hot party atmosphere. Earlier on, Stewart sang Forever Young and, on the evidence of his latest show, he's showing no signs of growing old gracefully and that's just fine as far as his loyal supporters are concerned.



# *The* **Chronicle**

## **Rod Stewart Durham concert review: We catch the legendary performer in Chester-le-Street**

**Isle of Wight Festival fans are in for a treat if Rod Stewart's Durham County Cricket Club concert in Chester-le-Street is anything to go by.**

He was in their hearts, he was in their soul and on Friday night he gave the North East everything.

The rock legend Rod Stewart lifted the 17,000 plus crowd at the Riverside in Chester-le-Street with an amazing selection of his greatest hits.

I first saw Rod as a cub reporter at Gateshead Stadium. Fast forward nearly 20 years and I'm now experiencing countless wrinkles but Rod is still utterly amazing in voice, looks, energy and stage presence.

He is the headline act at the Isle of Wight Festival on Sunday and if this concert in Chester-le-Street is anything to go by the festival-goers are in for a treat.

He is one of the few performers still capable of good old fashioned showmanship and the man with the spiky bleached blond mane strutted through a fantastic set at the Durham County Cricket Club concert.

Rod Stewart entertains the crowd at the Emirates Riverside in Chester-le-Street

Fresh from his sold out residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas he strutted on to the stage with his silver sparkly jacket, black sparkly shirt, black pants and Gucci sparkly shoes. Tartan hats and scarves were thrown into the air.

Fans were treated to decades worth of top tunes, including Tonight's The Night, Downtown Train, Rhythm of My Heart, The First Cut Is The Deepest, Baby Jane, Maggie May and Da Ya Think I'm Sexy.

No stranger to performing in the North East over the years, it was obvious Rod was enjoying playing here again as his thousands of fans lapped up the atmosphere.

Rod Stewart entertained fans at the Emirates Riverside in Chester-le-Street

He told everyone to forget the election and just get down. And at one point he dedicated a song to the Durham coppers who were there in vast numbers looking after us and enjoying many a selfie with enthusiastic Rod fans. He also dedicated a song to his best mate Phil Collins who earlier week cancelled shows after suffering a fall.. As the performance came to an end, the anthem Sailing saw the whole of the stadium lit up by phones. Fans with a cardboard cutout of Rod Stewart Rod disappeared but came back for one last song and everyone was hand waving and screaming. Rod's power, charisma and vocals have not been diminished by time. It was a fabulous night delivered by an utter legend.



# *The* **Chronicle**

## **Legendary star Rod wears it well**

ROD Stewart was Having A Party with thousands of his fans at Riverside in Chester-le-Street last night.

Belying his 72 years of age, the legendary performer entertained the crowds with a selection of his biggest hits.

The Durham County Cricket Club concert was one of only two mainland shows in the UK this year - and on Sunday he is headlining the Isle of Wight Festival.

Some Guys Have All The Luck indeed, but it was both lads and lasses who enjoyed the British singer's The Hits show, fresh from his sold-out residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Fans were treated to decades worth of top tunes, including Tonight's The Night, Downtown Train, Rhythm of My Heart, The First Cut Is The Deepest, Baby Jane, Maggie May and Da Ya Think I'm Sexy.

No stranger to performing in the North East over the years, it was obvious Rod was enjoying playing here again as his thousands of fans lapped up the atmosphere. They may have been gannin' along the Scotswood Road a few miles away (for the Blaydon Race) earlier in the evening, but there was every bit as much energy on show in Chester-le-Street too.

Fans couldn't help but have left with the sounds of some classic pop 'Sailing' around their heads.



Rod Stewart on stage last night

# The Journal

## Rod's fans have all the luck

**Gordon Barr**

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Isle of Wight, you're in for a treat.



Rod Stewart entertains the crowd at the Emirates Riverside in Chester Le Street

# The Northern Echo

## Rod Stewart rocks the Emirates Riverside at Chester-le-Street

**ROCK legend Rod Stewart took to the stage at Chester-Le-Street to play to a crowd of over 17,000 fans as part of his 2017 'Hits' tour.**

With his distinctive raspy voice and bleached blonde hair, Stewart played a variety of hits to the adoring crowd at Emirates Riverside on Friday (June 9) including 'You Wear It Well', 'The First Cut Is The Deepest' and 'Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?'.

Stewart put on a show like no other, playing an almost two-hour set of hits old and new. Supported by a full band of drummers, guitarists, violin players and a saxophonist, he created an atmosphere second to none.

Stewart even took time to speak to the crowd, joking at one point that before the show he had googled the weather, only to mix it up with Durham in the US which showed temperatures a lot higher than the UK! The temperature however didn't faze fans who stood and danced throughout, donned from head to toe in tartan garments, echoing the main man's own unique style.

He also took time to address current issues, thanking and praising the emergency services for their bravery and dedication, especially in light of recent tragic events. He also thanked the police at the event before dedicating 'Rhythm Of My Heart' to their continued hard work and commitment to keeping people safe.

Stewart took fans on a journey through his back catalogue of greatest hits which saw fans of all ages up and dancing to every beat, showing the unity and love for the music.



Alongside his constantly changing wardrobe, Stewart also surprised fans by kicking out footballs during his 1971 hit 'Stay With Me' which saw fans desperately trying to catch one.

The set was orchestrated with passion and love for the music and it was obvious that Rod was loving performing in the North-East and the crowd showed no sign of slowing down throughout the night.

The show concluded with one of his most celebrated hits 'Sailing' which saw the sun set over County Durham and the phone lights illuminate the sky as the crowd sang loudly in unison.

For fans attending his headlining performance at the Isle of Wight festival will not be disappointed, his powerful vocals and passion for his performance will have fans begging for more. It's a show not to be missed!



# Rhythm of star's heart got stadium rocking

ROCK legend Rod Stewart thrilled thousands of fans at Emirates Riverside in Chester-le-Street.

Belying his 72 years of age, the global superstar entertained the crowds with a selection of his biggest hits on Friday night.

The Durham County Cricket Club concert was one of only two mainland UK shows for Stewart in the UK this year and proved a big hit with music lovers.

Some Guys Have All The Luck indeed, but it was both lads and lasses who enjoyed the British singer's The Hits show, fresh from his sold-out residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Fans were treated to decades' worth of top tunes, including Tonight's The Night, Downtown Train, Rhythm of My Heart, The First Cut Is The Deepest, Baby Jane, Maggie May and Da Ya Think I'm Sexy.

It was a show that included

pyrotechnics, the use of several giant video screens and a set from Stewart's daughter Ruby

and her band The Sisterhood. No stranger to performing in the North East over the years, it was obvious Rod was enjoying playing here again as excited fans lapped up the atmosphere.

Stewart is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 100 million records worldwide. At one point he achieved six consecutive No 1 albums in the UK and his tally of 62 UK hit singles includes 31 that reached the Top 10, six of which reached the No 1 position.

The charismatic superstar has been a regular visitor to the region's music venues since the mid-1960s.

It was back then that he first appeared at Newcastle's Club a'Gogo as an unknown singer alongside Long John Baldry.

His last Newcastle Arena show came in 2013, and in the five decades leading up to then he'd appeared at the City Hall, Mayfair, Odeon, Gateshead Stadium and St James' Park, among other North venues.



Rod Stewart salutes the crowd during his Chester-le-Street show

# Sunderland Echo

## Rod Stewart fans hit for six by star's gig at Durham County Cricket Club

**A record-crowd attended Emirates Riverside to see Rod Stewart as he worked his way through five decades of hits.** Around 17,000 fans attended Durham County Cricket Club on Friday night to see the legendary rocker who has sold more than 200 million records worldwide.

An army of staff had been preparing Emirates Riverside since the beginning of the week to ensure a safe spectator experience. Preparations for the event involved installing a gigantic stage in front of the North Terrace and 10,000 extra seat seats on the pitch.

A temporary staircase was installed between the South West Terrace and the Media Centre allowing fans to enter the pitch, usually occupied by Durham cricketers Paul Collingwood, Ben Stokes and Mark Wood.

The concert, which was presented by music and event promoters Cuffe and Taylor, was one of only two mainland Britain outdoor concerts that Rod will perform this year after his gig at Shrewsbury Town Football Club earlier last week.

Durham County Cricket Club's chief operations officer, Richard Dowson, said: "It was fantastic to host such an amazing concert and to see a real music legend perform at Emirates Riverside.

"We're delighted that so many people attended and enjoyed themselves. The concert was our largest ever crowd, just topping Elton John's performance in 2006.

"It's important that we continue to grow as a venue and this event has once again demonstrated our capabilities." The next major music event to be staged at the venue is Little Mix on July 15.



# Hartlepool Mail

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# The Journal

## Rocker Rod reveals he's still got the ability to wow us all

**Angela Upex**  
Commercial Editor  
angela.upex@ncjmedia.co.uk

**H**E was in their hearts, he was in their soul and on Friday night he gave the North East everything.

The rock legend Rod Stewart lifted the 17,000-plus crowd at the Riverside in Chester-le-Street with an amazing selection of his greatest hits.

I first saw Rod as a cub reporter at Gateshead Stadium. Fast forward nearly 20 years and I'm now experiencing countless wrinkles but Rod is still utterly amazing in voice, looks, energy and stage presence.

He is one of the few performers still capable of good old-fashioned showmanship and the man with the spiky bleached blond mane strutted through a fantastic set at the Durham County Cricket Club concert.

Fresh from his sold-out residency at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, he strutted on to the stage with his silver sparkly jacket, black sparkly shirt, black pants and Gucci sparkly shoes. Tartan hats and scarves were thrown into the air.

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He told everyone to forget the election and just get down. And at one point he dedicated a song to the Durham coppers who were there in vast numbers looking after us and enjoying

many a selfie with enthusiastic Rod fans.

He also dedicated a song to his best mate Phil Collins who earlier this week cancelled shows after suffering a fall.

As the performance came to an end, the anthem Sailing saw the whole of the stadium lit up by phones.

Rod disappeared but came back for one last song and everyone was hand waving and

screaming.

Rod's power, charisma and vocals have not been diminished by time. It was a fabulous night delivered by an utter legend.



Rod Stewart salutes the crowd during his Chester-le-Street show



## Rod brings record crowds to Chester-le-Street

**A record-crowd were at the Emirates Riverside to witness Rod Stewart's scintillating performance that showcased five decades worth of classic hits.**

Around 17 thousand fans piled into Durham County Cricket Club on Friday night to see the legendary rocker who has sold over 200 million records world-wide.

An army of staff had been preparing Emirates Riverside since the beginning of the week to ensure a seamless, enjoyable and safe spectator experience. Preparations for the jam-packed event involved installing a gigantic stage in front of the North Terrace and 10 thousand extra seat seats on the pitch.

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# The Chronicle

## Rhythm of Rod gets 17,000 tartan-clad fans rocking up at cricket stadium

**ANGELA UPEX REVIEWS ROD STEWART AT EMIRATES RIVERSIDE, THE HOME OF DURHAM COUNTY CRICKET CLUB IN CHESTER-LE-STREET**



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The stage all lit up at Rod Stewart's concert on Friday night



Rod Stewart support act The Mariachis at the Emirates Riverside in Chester-le-Street



Fans enjoy Rod Stewart at the Emirates Riverside in Chester-le-Street

# The Northern Echo

## Echo Critics

**Rod Stewart**, Emirates Riverside, Chester-le-Street

**R**OCK legend Rod Stewart took to the stage at Chester-Le-Street to play to a crowd of over 17,000 as part of his Hits tour.

With his distinctive raspy voice and bleached blonde hair, Stewart played a variety of hits to the adoring crowd at Emirates Riverside on Friday including You Wear It Well, The First Cut Is The Deepest and Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?.

Stewart put on a show like no other, playing an almost two-hour set of hits old and new. Supported by a full band of drummers, guitarists, violin players and a saxophonist, he created an atmosphere second to none.

Stewart even took time to speak to the crowd, joking at one point that before the show he had googled the weather, only to mix it up with Durham in the US which showed temperatures a lot higher than the UK! The temperature however didn't faze fans who stood and danced throughout, many dressed from head to toe in tartan, echoing the main man's own unique style.

He also took time to address current issues, thanking and praising the emergency services for their bravery and dedication, especially in light of recent tragic events. He also thanked the police

at the event before dedicating Rhythm Of My Heart to their continued hard work and commitment to keeping people safe.

Stewart took the crowd on a journey through his back catalogue of hits which saw fans of all ages up and dancing to every beat, showing the unity and love for the music.

Alongside his constantly changing wardrobe, Stewart also surprised fans by kicking out footballs during his 1971 hit Stay With Me which

saw fans desperately trying to catch one.

The set was orchestrated with passion and love for the music and it was obvious that Rod was loving performing in the North-East and the crowd showed no sign of slowing down throughout the night.

The show concluded with one of his most celebrated hits, Sailing, which saw the sun set over County Durham and the phone lights illuminate the sky as the crowd sang loudly in unison.

For fans attending his headlining performance at the Isle of Wight festival will not be disappointed, his powerful vocals and passion for his performance will have fans begging for more. It's a show not to be missed!

**Sarah Smith**



**STAR:** Rod Stewart belts out the hits at the Emirates Riverside

**Picture:** SARAH SMITH

# Sunderland Echo

## **Rod Stewart fans hit for six at stadium gig**

A record-crowd attended Emirates Riverside to witness Rod Stewart's performance in Chester-le-Street at the weekend.

About 17,000 fans attended Durham County Cricket Club on Friday night to see the legendary rocker, who has sold more than 200million records worldwide, perform a mix of classic hits and new tracks.

An army of staff had been preparing Emirates River-

side since the beginning of the week to ensure a seamless, enjoyable and safe spectator experience.

Preparations for the event involved installing a gigantic stage in front of the North Terrace and 10,000 extra seat seats on the pitch. A temporary staircase was installed between the South West Terrace and the Media Centre allowing fans to enter the pitch, usually occupied by Durham cricketers Paul Collingwood, Ben Stokes and Mark Wood.

# the advertiser Durham

## Rod has Riverside rocking

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Rod Stewart belts out the hits at the Riverside

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Sarah Smith

# SHREWSBURY CHRONICLE



## Da ya think I'm soaking? Rod shines in Meadow rain

Report by Lisa O'Brien

**IT was one legendary rocker that brought thousands of fans through the doors of Shrewsbury Town Football Club.**

About 20,000 fans packed in to the stadium to see Sir Rod Stewart perform his classics spanning five decades.

Despite huge downpours which saw members of the stage crew have to sweep water off the stage shortly after the gig started, it was a memorable night. It had taken an army of workers, several miles of electric cable and lorry-loads of scaffolding to get Greenhous Meadow ready for the concert.

The 72-year-old music legend has sold more than 200 million records worldwide and fans were in high spirits when they

filed into the venue to see the Maggie May singer. Large queues formed for those turning up an hour before the concert last Wednesday and all bags were searched as people made their way in.

Construction manager Adam Ellis-Morgan was at the concert with his partner Jackie Marvell. Mr Ellis-Morgan, 48, of Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, said: "This is the third time I've seen him. I saw him at the NEC 15 odd years ago.

"He's one of those classic artists. He's one of those superstars who are few and far between, a bit like Elton John. I like his old stuff like Maggie May and Forever Young is a classic.

"The best album has to be Atlantic Crossing. I've been very excited to see him again."

I'm surprised he's come to Shrewsbury."

Ms Marvell, 48, of Monkmoor, said it was her first time seeing Sir Rod in concert but she once sat on a plane next to a man who claimed to have tiled his bathroom.

She said: "He's got great charisma. I like his old songs like Sailing and Maggie May. I've been really excited and have just hoped that the rain holds off.

### Brilliant

"It's absolutely brilliant he's come to Shrewsbury and given everyone an opportunity in this county to see such a superstar."

Wendy Barnes, 61, and her 64-year-old husband Mike Barnes were also in high spirits at the concert.

Mrs Barnes, of Oxon, Shrewsbury, said: "He's amazing. My husband and I met in

1972 and we've been super fans ever since. I like everything about him - his voice, his personality. This is the first time I've seen him. It was on my bucket list.

"This was a birthday treat for me. It's the highlight of my life. I got the tickets as soon as they went on sale."

Debra Jones, who lives near Church Stretton, also snapped up tickets to his show as soon as they went on sale.

The 52-year-old, who came with friends, said: "We sing his songs when we do karaoke. I like him. He's a family man. It's brilliant that he's come to Shrewsbury to do a concert. It's just down the road so it's handy."

It was one of only two mainland Britain concerts the veteran performer will do this year in preparation for headlining last weekend's Isle of Wight Festival.



The Greenhous Meadow was transformed to welcome 20,000 fans for the gig. Pictures: Jamie Ricketts



Sir Rod welcomes his adoring fans and (right) his daughter Ruby performs as part of support act The Sisterhood



The smile says it all for this fan



People braved the rain to see the star



These two fans are in high spirits at the concert

SHREWSBURY  
**CHRONICLE**



## Concert could pave way for more acts

THE chief of Shrewsbury Town Football Club has said he will look to build on the success of last week's Rod Stewart concert. Brian Caldwell, chief executive, said he had received positive feedback from fans and that staff would now hold a debrief to learn the lessons of how it went.

He also revealed that he had been relieved to see green grass as the production company starting removing the stage from the pitch yesterday morning. He said: "They had lifted some of the stage area and I could see some green grass and it was quite a pleasant view because I was quite worried that the whole pitch would not be green."

Mr Caldwell, who thanked the club's staff and safety officer Alan Robert for the three months of planning that went into the event.

● Rod rocks – See Page 14

# The Gazette

## MUSIC

### At 72, Rod still knows how to rock the stage

**REVIEW: ROD STEWART**

Rod Stewart entertains the crowd at the Emirates Riverside in Chester-le-Street  
IAN BUST



“

There were anything up to 12 musicians and singers on the stage, but all eyes were on the star of the show.

By **PHILIP TALLENTIRE**  
phil.tal@teesidegazette.com  
01753 821200

ROD Stewart is certainly wearing well.

The 72-year-old legend bowled over 20,000 fans with a Tartan-tastic set at the Riverside cricket ground at Chester-le-Street.

Taking the stage at the early time of 8.20pm - and catching a fair portion of the crowd unaware into the bargain - Stewart delivered a magnificent 100 minute set packed with classics.

From the first song, Sam Cooke's Having A Party, to the last, a joyous run through of the evergreen Enjoy Yourself (It's Later Than You Think), the crowd had an absolute blast, dancing on the spot and strapping their heads off.

It wasn't a young crowd by any means, but it was certainly enthusiastic.

And Stewart was equally upbeat, laughing and joking between songs.

The veteran rocker made several costume changes after starting the night in silver lame jacket, black trousers and glittery silver sneakers. Perhaps his snazziest



The crowd had a blast at Rod's energetic show

oufit was a gold coloured suit but the clothes didn't distract from his legendary voice.

It's still utterly unique. He was backed by a superb band and there were anything up to 12 musicians and singers on the stage, but all eyes were on the star of the show, whose choice of songs was pretty much perfect.

Tonight's The Night, Rhythm Of My Heart, Maggie

May, First Cut Is The Deepest, I Don't Want To Talk About, Downtown Train, to name six classics, went down a storm on a lovely evening by the River Wear.

Can't Stop Me Now, a relatively new song which the London-



been singer dedicated to his Scottish father, was another highlight, as

was Faces favourite Ooh La La.

There were more

trials in store as the night drew close with 70s

smashes Do Ya Think I'm Sexy and Sailing, plus 80s belter Baby Jane, making for a red hot party atmosphere.

Earlier on, Stewart sang Forever Young and, on the evidence of his latest North-east show, he's showing no signs of growing old gracefully and that's just fine as far as his loyal supporters are concerned.



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# Express & Star



## **Rod Stewart's daughter Ruby to support him at Shrewsbury Town concert**

Rod Stewart's daughter Ruby to support him at Shrewsbury Town concert : Ruby Stewart and bandmate Alyssa Bonagura, collectively known as The Sisterhood, are looking forward to the show on June 7.

They will join the rocker at Shrewsbury Shrewsbury Town FC and Durham County Cricket Club in June, after supporting Rod throughout his UK Hits stadium tour last year.

Sir Rod said: "There are not many fathers who can say they go to work with their daughter so it will be an absolute pleasure to welcome Ruby back out on the road again with me this summer.

"We had a great time last year and I am sure the crowds in Shrewsbury and Durham will be delighted when they see The Sisterhood."

Rod Stewart's fully seated concerts at Shrewsbury and Durham are being presented by Cuffe and Taylor who promoted Rod's eight-date sell-out UK Hits Tour in 2016.

Director Peter Taylor said: "We're delighted to have The Sisterhood joining us again this year. "They went down a storm with the audiences last summer and I am sure they will do so again.

"Having Rod's own daughter on the bill only adds to the experience for fans and makes the shows that little bit more special." The Durham and Shrewsbury concerts are his only outdoor mainland UK appearances in 2017.

Rod delighted fans across the UK in 2016 with two sold-out tours – The UK Hits Stadium Tour and the arena tour "From Gasoline Alley to Another Country Hits."

As one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with more than 200 million records sold worldwide, his performance will include show stopping classics spanning five decades including 'Maggie May, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Baby Jane, The First Cut is the Deepest and I Don't Want to Talk About it'.

Concert-goers will also be treated to tracks from his most recently released critically acclaimed platinum album Another Country, which debuted at Number Two.

# Express & Star

He's top of the Pops!

**Her dad is one of music's biggest names – yet Ruby Stewart remains humble and hardworking, eager to pave her own way in the industry.**

The 30-year-old Los Angeles-born artist first began working for herself at the age of 18, despite having been offered a record deal at the age of 13.

Her parents, Rod Stewart and ex-model Kelly Emberg, were no strangers to the limelight, but insisted Ruby complete her education first.

Ruby is Rod's fourth child – and is now known for both modelling and music.

As a member of duo The Sisterhood she supported her dad on the stage of his Greenhous Meadow gig at Shrewsbury FC earlier this month.

Her path to fame began when she graduated from school. She's been touring with Rod since she was 15 and modelling for Laura Ashley and Vanity Fair since she was 18.

Ruby remains her parents' biggest fan – stating she owes both of them for her successes. She gives her father and grandmother credit for her voice, as they inspired her to cultivate her ear at a young age.

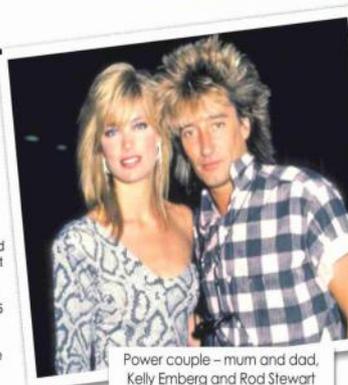
"It's been really so much fun to see my parents in their careers. My dad taught me everything I know about music," says Ruby.

"I love my parents and they're so very supportive. I believe it's true that you get to choose your parents. I've heard people say that, before you come to Earth, you choose which parents you have."

"I certainly think I chose mine." Like many children of stars, Ruby was often left without her dad while he was on the road but rather than resent his absence, respects the dedication to his craft.

"I could spend my life doing the same," she says. Instead of feeling like she missed out, Ruby says her parents inspired her and spurred her on to follow her dreams and travel the world.

Her experience as a 'tour baby' is, in fact, one of the many reasons Ruby gets on so well with The Sisterhood bandmate Alyssa Bonagura – as she too was raised by



Power couple – mum and dad, Kelly Emberg and Rod Stewart

musical parents, with her mum and dad forming part of US country music group Baillie and The Boys.

"When I was a kid, my dad would have to go away for months at a time. I don't think I ever really understood when I was little," adds Ruby.

**Money**

"But now I definitely empathise with him and just how much he loves his job."

"When I was 13, I thought to myself 'I could do this for the rest of my life'."

"I certainly don't think I missed out at all. It wasn't like that."

"I do have to say, whenever dad comes into town to see any of us, he gives us 100 per cent. He makes up for lost time when he's with us."

"Dad inspired me to want to travel the world."

"Alyssa and I both grew up as tour babies, so we're

actually most happy when we're touring."

And though Ruby insists music will always come first, she also considers modelling a 'hobby' which can fund her singing career.

"Music can often be a little inconsistent when it comes to money, so modelling helps," explains Ruby.

"Music always comes first. I can't actually remember the day I started singing, but my mum says I was around three years old. I'd just walk around humming music."

"I liked a lot of the Broadway shows too when I was younger, such as West Side Story. I loved the concept of combining music, theatre and dance all together."

"I never actually wanted to be a model. I wanted to just stick to the music, but my mum said I should just go for it, even if just for some money."

"I ended up doing modelling for a bit from then on, but music has always been at the forefront. Modelling is more of a hobby."

In pursuit of a career in music, Ruby formed rock band Revoltaire. They completed an album's worth of material titled Painted Hour Glass, with Ruby as singer and lyricist. They split up in 2013.

In 2012, she sang a voice-over of Whatever Lola Wants for a Diet Pepsi advert, furthering her reputation as a professional singer.

Ruby founded The Sisterhood with Nashville singer-songwriter Alyssa in 2015. After writing a handful of songs on Alyssa's bathroom floor during a Nashville snowstorm, the two realised their chemistry and eventually began to record their music.

Within a year The Sisterhood has recorded and produced their first album in Nashville, performed at Milan's Fashion Week, Miami art Basel and joined Rod to perform at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

On March 13, 2016, The Sisterhood played their first festival at CMC Rocks in Queensland, Australia.

Ruby currently lives in Nashville, where she is writing, recording, and performing with The Sisterhood.

Some girls have all the luck.

Kirsten Rawlins



Musical heritage – Ruby and Alyssa



Family matters – Sean, Ruby, Rod and Kimberly



Sister act – Alyssa with Ruby



Rod on stage at Shrewsbury FC earlier this month. Picture: Jamie Rickett