

## WrexFest 2025

We first bumped into Brendan Griffiths, the lead festival organiser of WrexFest, some years ago when we previously attended a FOCUS Wales event. When we first talked of launching Visit Wrexham earlier this summer, Brendan was one of the very first people we were recommended to speak to about how we could help each other. We wanted to explore how we could help the WrexFest team extend the reach of the already successful festival through the growing platform of Visit Wrexham.

WrexFest shares a similar structure of other musical Festivals like FOCUS Wales but is unique as it combines the arts, theatre, spoken word, the Welsh Language and the people of Wrexham and it retains a grass roots ethos and wants to be both distinct and original. In their words WrexFest is the ‘social glue that bonds these elements together’ and works hard to bring selected famous artists to perform here in our amazing town.

Brendan and the team have hosted ten WrexFest Festivals, and countless smaller events but this was our first event where we attended with a view of capturing our experience and sharing it for others.



The first thing you see is the outstanding value for money this weekend-long ticket affords. For just £35 you get front row access to former famous artists, exciting up and coming bands, a packed long weekend and a free family day all included – meaning it is nothing short of exceptional and hats off to Brendan and the team for getting the blend just right of quality memorable acts balanced with bangs for your bucks.

With dedicated spaces and venues hosting back-to-back gigs throughout the weekend, all within easy walking distance of each other, you're spoilt for choice with your traditional 4-piece guitar led bands, solo performances and some exciting electronic genres – meaning a wide variety of musical tastes are all catered for.

Whilst we caught some of the gigs at the secondary sites around town which included The Magic Dragon and Y/The Lab, we spent most of our weekend over at The Rocking Chair, a dedicated two stage live music venue, housed in a former railway station.



The Scene stole the scene to begin for us on an opening Friday evening, with phenomenal stage presence and powerful songs, and managed to deliver such a compelling performance that you could easily have imagined they would also bring the house down on a much bigger stage. One to watch out for, for sure.



Wrexham faithful Baby Brave always deliver on their home turf for their firm followers, and their set was of a very high standard as always. With some new material they showed off their maturing and developing sound and are always a lot of fun. We look forward to seeing them in town again in the near future.



Stealing Sheep had come down from Liverpool and headlined the Friday night.



Whilst we had followed them before the event online, the actual in person, on stage energy and sheer buzz was highly infectious, with a great level of audience engagement and energy. Difficult to categorise, we felt their sound could best be described as acid girl group. Original loud heavy bass synth sounds combined with highly theatrical on-stage performances made them a natural peak for Friday.





Saturday's acts had a tough bar to beat. We started off with Pys Melyn from North Wales who delivered a cracking act, and we were excited to learn that there is more to come from them at next year's FOCUS Wales.

Then the psychedelic theme really kicked into gear with Don Tageeva Monquiase.



The Don had kindly beamed themselves down to planet earth all the way from Stockport for the evening. With dazzling effects and moments to really lose yourself into, they created a lasting buzz and they set us up nicely for the highlight of the evening which was the Ozric Tentacles Electronic Set.

We were blown away by a true festival veteran in the form of Ed Wynne from Ozric Tentacles, who was ably supported by a now second generation of Ozrics in the side stage at The Rocking Chair. We first saw the Ozrics as far back as '94 when a young student in Manchester in the old MegaDog days, and around the time when they were forming their breakaway successful trance group, Eat Static.



Saturday's gig was a purely esoteric affair and a great trip down memory lane for this old raver with great psychedelic guitars and synth performances overlaid with flute – capturing the very magic of the true meaning of the Ozrics that has persisted and lasted now for decades. With new music and evidence of continuing creativity being passed successfully from father to son, their future immortality and legendary status is now complete and assured.



Whilst only performing for the hour, there was a buzz left lingering in the air that seemed to make it feel like they had stayed here for so much longer. A true class act to play in and visit Wrexham.



Thanks to WrexFest for organising and delivering such a great weekend.  
WREXFEST 2025 - Culture | Community | Arts | Performance