

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025!

# WHAT'S ON

A MONTHLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT THE BARREL HOUSE BALLROOM & THE TOTNES BREWING COMPANY



MARCH 2025

MAR 21<sup>ST</sup>

## JAMES MORTON

WELCOMES YOU TO GROOVE DEN...

INTERVIEW PAGE 3

MAR 8<sup>TH</sup>

## EMILY BREEZE

THE SULTRY QUEEN OF POP-NOIR RETURNS!

PLUS

PAPRIKA PRESENTS... • CECIL HUMPHREYS • THE BAREFOOT BANDIT  
STEVE KNIGHTLEY • HEARTWOOD TRIO • JAMMING STATION • OISÍN LEECH



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FEAT. SUPPORT FROM

LEONARD  
AND THE  
ZOMBIES



"The love child of PJ Harvey  
and Johnny Cash"  
The Sunday Times

EMILY  
BREEZE  
THE QUEEN OF POP-NOIR FANTASY

8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

DOORS 8PM | £12 ADV £14 OTD

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the black bird  
COLLECTIVE

ticketweb

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JESSE WILD

SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH  
SIN SERITY PRESENTS...  
QUILT BAG SUNDAY SOCIAL

Queer social/grassroots/scratch space. Use this space to network, relax, create and think outside the box, BYO food & crafts welcome. Featuring Folk duo Suthering (Julu Irvine & Heg Brignall) More info available on instagram: @sinserityproductions  
DOORS 4PM-7PM | FREE ENTRY

MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH  
TOTNES UKULELE COLLECTIVE  
Lessons (Library Bar)



£2 per person, per lesson and the price of a drink from the bar. All you need is a Uke, a clip-on tuner and the motivation to practice between lessons, which run until mid-May. Only 20 spaces available, which can be booked by contacting via their website, Facebook group, or drop into one of their 1930hrs Monday evening Uke Jams.

Jam (Ballroom)

A Ukulele Group (bass players & drummers welcome) playing for fun. A mix of modern and the best of the rest. Open to all, just download the songbooks at [www.totnesug.rocks](http://www.totnesug.rocks) and come along to a practice session.

DOORS 6:30PM-7:15PM (LESSONS)  
7:30PM-9:30PM (JAM)

TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
BE WATER OPEN JAM

Join the Be Water House Band either on stage or off, for a night of spontaneous musical creation. All skill levels, styles embraced, and dancing heartily encouraged.

DOORS 8PM | FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
PAPRIKA PRESENTS... PAST MEETS PRESENT  
A TRIBUTE TO OLDCHOOL RAVE

A night focused on classic rave music, old school genres pushed by new school artists. 100% vinyl 100% euphoria. Featuring young DJs that are doing incredibly within their scene and we just needed to bring down to the shire. Your acts for the evening are Obedeya / Eil / Skywalka / Time2Rush / Serotonin – bringing you a mixture of breaks, jungle, hardcore and techstep.

DOORS 8PM - 1AM | TICKETS £7 ADV £10 OTD

SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
EMILY BREEZE  
+ SUPPORT LEONARD & THE ZOMBIES



For international Women's Day 2025 we are delighted to welcome back the one and only EMILY BREEZE. - dripping with spoken word sarcasm and rousing torch song choruses. She's the sultry queen of pop-noir in our world. Essential FFO: Pulp, Patti Smith, PJ Harvey, Rita Lynch, Baxter Dury.

"The love child of PJ Harvey and Johnny Cash" (The Sunday Times)

"The Poet laureate of glamorous wastrels" (Clash).  
DOORS 8PM | TICKETS £12 ADV £14 OTD

SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
CECIL HUMPHREYS IN...  
THE YEAR OF THE GLADIATOR

Cecil Humphreys battles wild dogs, Roman legions and imposter syndrome while starring as Jewish Gladiator Caleb in the BBC's 80's Biblical-Roman epic mini-series, 'AD - Anno Domini'. This one man show takes us on a journey that begins in Exeter and ends on the red carpet in Los Angeles via ten months gruelling, thrilling filming in Tunisia. Join him for the glitz and the glamour, the hardships and the heights, the love affairs and the heartbreaks.

\*\*{Warning: Adult content. There's sex, drugs and rock 'n roll. It's Hollywood, people!}\*\*

DOORS 7PM | TICKETS £10, £12, £15

MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
POETS & PINTS OPEN MIC



Sign up to read your poem or just relax with a drink from the bar for a fun evening of poetry. Book your place at the mic by emailing Host/MC Julie Mullen [poetsandpints@yahoo.com](mailto:poetsandpints@yahoo.com) or turn up and take potluck. This month's feature poet is Rosie Jackson an award-winning poet from Teignmouth and excitingly, she will be leading a poetry workshop before the event.

DOORS 7:30PM | FREE ENTRY

MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
TOTNES UKULELE COLLECTIVE



DOORS 6:30PM - 9:30PM

TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
THE BLACK BIRD COLLECTIVE OPEN MIC #112

A friendly, intimate, and much-loved event that brings people together for good times. Original material is positively encouraged! If you are travelling from outside Totnes and want to make sure you can get a slot, please email [theblackbirdcollectivetotnes@gmail.com](mailto:theblackbirdcollectivetotnes@gmail.com) as far in advance as possible.

DOORS 7:00PM/START 7:30PM | FREE ENTRY



# JAMES MORTON

## BRISTOL HEAVYWEIGHT

**J**ames Morton is one of the most exciting saxophonists of his generation, and has performed and recorded with some of the music industry's most prolific artists, including Pee Wee Ellis, Fred Wesley and The New JB's, George Clinton, The Herbaliser, Kasabian, Pendulum, and the NPG Horns (Prince), among others. He has also released two critically acclaimed albums: "The Kid" and "Don't You Worry 'Bout That." We sit down with James and discuss his journey.

### Take us back to the start, how did your musical journey begin?

With my Mum and Dad. They both have great taste in music and we always had music playing at home and in the car. My dad was into blues and jazz and my Mum was always playing Motown, soul and reggae. Coming from an Eastern European background we had violin lessons pretty much as soon as we could walk. When saxophone lessons became available at school I was attracted to the big gold shiny thing and fell in love with it immediately and haven't put it down since. I basically have been playing sax since it was bigger than I was.

**"I feel very blessed as I have already worked with some of my favourite musicians ever!"**

### Who or what would you say are your biggest musical/creative influences?

I have always been a James Brown / JB's super fan. When I met Pee Wee Ellis (James Brown's musical director tenor saxophone player and song writer) aged 17, shortly after he asked me to go on tour with him. That particular tour didn't work out, however I started to play locally in Bristol / Bath with Pee Wee over the next few years. By the time, I was in my early/mid 20's I was playing in the band regularly and when James Brown passed away in 2006 Pee Wee asked me to tour with the official tribute band 'Still Black Still Proud' with original members of the James Brown Band and JB's including Fred Wesley and Martha High. It was a super group and we toured extensively all over Europe for a number of years. Being

around and playing with Pee Wee for 20 years was a dream come true. Pee Wee passed away in September 2021. The last tour I did with him was in China in 2019 before the pandemic. I miss him greatly.

### If you could conjure up a dream collaboration on stage or in the studio, whom would it be with?

I feel very blessed as I have already worked with some of my favourite musicians ever! I would love to do a collab with Stevie Wonder, Lalah Hathaway, Quest Love, Q-tip, Pino Palladino, Robert Glasper, Dennis Rollins in a mash up of funk, soul and hiphop. I also would have loved to have worked with Roy Hargrove who is sadly no longer with us. The list is endless really.

### What's your creative process when you sit down to write music?

I don't have one formula or specific process. Some times I write about a feeling, an experience or a person. Sometimes I just whack down a phat beat and bass line and see what comes out or I might hear something that I like the vibe of and use it as inspiration and start there. Usually my best songs just flow out without being forced.

### Is there one track out there that you wish had your name on it?

Thriller - Michael Jackson

### What is guaranteed to get you up on the dance floor making shapes?

That's easy. Put "Cross The Track" by Maceo and the Macks on and I'm busting moves in no time!

### Highlight of your career so far?

There have been a few... I guess playing the main stage at Motreux Jazz festival with Liv Warfield and the NPG Horns (Prince's horn section) before Lionel Richie and then meeting Quincy Jones after the show was pretty memorable.

### Any big regrets to date?

Yes many! But mostly things I didn't do. Maybe turning down a potential Guy Ritchie music sync.

### If you could choose a press quote to go on your headstone, what would it be?

Funky.

### What's in store for you over the next year and what are you most looking forward to?

I have a new live album coming out. "Live in London" with James Morton Groove Den. The band is pure fire, the guys are just phenomenal musicians and I'm looking forward to touring that. I'll be making a studio album with the band this year too inbetween touring with The Herbaliser and The Allergies, so lots to look forward to.



## GETTING TO KNOW... JAMES MORTON

**TEA OR COFFEE?**  
COFFEE

**WHISKEY OR WINE?**  
CHAMPAGNE

**FAVOURITE FILM?**  
SNATCH

**FAVOURITE ALBUM OF ALL TIME?**  
LIFE ON PLANET GROOVE BY MACEO PARKER

**GIGS OR STUDIO?**  
GIGGING

**CATS OR DOGS?**  
I HAVE ONE OF EACH AND CAN'T RISK GETTING IN TROUBLE. I'M ALSO GETTING A TORTOISE THIS YEAR.

**VENUES OR FESTIVALS?**  
VENUES

**WHAT SCARES YOU?**  
THE VICTORIAN GHOST CHILD THAT STANDS AT THE FOOT OF MY BED.

TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**THE TOTNES BOARD GAME CLUB**

Join a friendly and welcoming community to play modern board games on a regular basis in central Totnes. 6:30pm onwards every other Tuesday here in The Library Bar at Totnes Brewing Company. Bring a game along if you can, but if not, just bring yourself! Free entry - We just request that you buy a couple of drinks from the bar over the course of the evening. To join WhatsApp Group - Contact: Grace - 07964 062777

DOORS 6:30PM | FREE ENTRY

WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**QUIZTRAVAGANZA - SEASON 4****QUIZ LIKE YOU'VE NEVER QUIZZED BEFORE**

Quiztravaganza presents the 'No Wrong Answers Quiz'. General knowledge is not a requirement. Pursuits may be trivial, but not necessarily factual. Get your creative pants on and prepare for low level shenanigans and chaos. Wow our panel of judges with wit, charm and occasional bribes. Try to figure out what on earth is going on, as the point scores are drowned out by laughter. Maximum team of 6.

DOORS 7:30PM/STARTS 8PM | £2 PER PERSON

FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**RADIOHEAD - THE BENDS - PERFORMED LIVE BY LOCAL SUPERGROUP**

Local musicians Ben Roberts, Rowland O'Connor Andy Hill and Will Tyler are joining forces in honour of their mutual love for Radiohead. This live performance will mark the 30th anniversary of Radiohead's seminal 1995 doom-rock masterpiece album THE BENDS. Highlights will include Fake Plastic Trees, Street Spirit (Fade Out), Just and High & Dry.

DOORS 8PM/START 8:45PM | TICKETS £12 ADV £14 OTD

SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**YOU ARE INVITED TO... BOB'S BIRTHDAY**

'Bobs Birthday' is a series of pop-up parties from the TQ9 crew and guest DJs, aimed at growing their collective and exploring unusual and unique venues. Expect eclectic dance music infused with soul, house, techno, funk and breaks alongside friendly house party vibes.

DOORS 7PM - 1AM | TICKETS £8 EB £10 ADV

SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**THE BAREFOOT BANDIT****+ SUPPORT THE BE WATER HOUSE BAND**

The Barefoot Bandit are a highly energetic 7-piece band from Devon. They are certain to be getting you up on the dancefloor with their unique and explosive fusion of new wave reggae/dub/world music.

If you ain't dancing, best check you still have a pulse!

"The band have built a massive cult audience with their bass-heavy live shows, a supreme fusion of roots reggae, dub, and soulful aspects." -Clash Magazine

DOORS 7:30PM/START 8PM | TICKETS £10, £12, £15 PAY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD

MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**TOTNES UKULELE KOLLECTIVE**

DOORS 6:30PM - 9:30PM

TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**BE WATER OPEN JAM**

Join the Be Water House Band either on stage or off, for a night of spontaneous musical creation. All skill levels, styles embraced, and dancing heartily encouraged.

DOORS 8PM | FREE ENTRY

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**EARSHOT/STORY LAB****"GREEDY STORYTELLER" TOLD BY CLIVE PIG**

Traditional storytelling in the heart of Totnes. Earshot is a place where traditional storytelling feels new. South Devon Storytellers meet monthly in the Totnes Brewing Company Library Bar on the third Wednesday of every month. For more info visit [sdstorytellers.co.uk](http://sdstorytellers.co.uk).

DOORS 7:30PM | FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH**JAMES MORTON GROOVE DEN**

Groove Den is the collaborative meeting of minds and brainchild of saxophonist James Morton. Drawing on a diverse array of musical styles, including jazz, funk, hip hop, soul, and rock, the unifying elements are groove and feel. Joining James on stage are - , Alex Hutchings (Guitar) / Francesco Medolia (Drums)/ Anders Olinder (Hammond Organ). Featuring lyrical, funky, soulful saxophones, blistering guitar solos, and deep heavy grooves, Groove Den takes listeners on a journey from New Orleans to the urban streets of Bristol. Welcome to Groove Den!

DOORS 8PM | TICKETS £10 EB £13.50 ADV £15 OTD

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE...

The past few weeks we have been meeting and Strategising for all our key events this year and working out how we can balance our ambitions with the budget. Like all the independent businesses around us we are dealing with very challenging times and this got me to thinking about the drive and passion business owners must have to keep going these days. Totnes high street has been incredibly resilient over the past few years and the businesses around us continue to maintain their ethics and strive for quality in everything they do. Its incredibly motivating to be surrounded by such talented and varied business owners and we know that the majority are driven by their ambition to do a job well rather than for the pennies in their pockets. Sure, we all need to pay the bills and maybe go out for dinner occasionally but it's the will to want to do a job well that drives so many small business owners - not the dollar. Which is a good job really considering the terrible trading conditions recently! As the daffodils come into flower and the mornings get lighter, we have that annual feeling of hope and excitement about what the year ahead will bring and what can we do to change things up and bit and create a bit of magic at the Barrel House. Not least we celebrate ten years of brewing, and we are very excited about recent discussions of a new theatre performance based Totnes Fringe Festival. We are feeling very lucky to be in such a creative and vibrant town and surrounded by fellow businesses all striving to make the world a better place - or at least our little pocket of it anyway.

*Sarah*SARAH KIDD  
BARREL HOUSE BALLROOM OWNER



SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH**STEVE KNIGHTLEY****THE WINTER YARDS IN SPRING - SOLO TOUR**

Folk legend and former Show of Hands frontman Steve Knightley is back with his eagerly anticipated solo tour, Winter Into Spring. Featuring songs from the critically acclaimed Winter Yards album. Alongside these new favourites, Knightley will revisit and reimagine some of his most iconic songs in a completely fresh performance. Known for his "powerful narratives and captivating stage presence" (Rock and Reel), Steve promises an unforgettable evening of music and stories.

DOORS 7:30PM/STARTS 8:30PM | TICKETS £22

SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH**HEARTWOOD TRIO PRESENTS... THE WELL TREE - A SINGING-STORYTELLING MUSICAL**

Join folk trio Heartwood for an all-ages, immersive, participatory journey through song and story. The Well Tree is a three-person musical, accompanied by a 'crankie' - an illuminated, papercut, hand-cranked scroll. It is an original 'singing story' about wild journeying and remembering kinship. Heartwood Trio - Heidi Wilson, Willy Clemetson, and Sarina Partridge - are the actors, musicians and the crew that runs the crankie (created by papercut artist Jen Jones). The audience will be invited in to help sing pieces of the story.

MATINEE 2PM | TICKETS £12 ADULTS, £8

UNDER 14'S, £35 FAMILY TICKET (2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN) EVENING 7:30PM | TICKETS £10, £12, £15 PAY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD

MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**TOTNES UKULELE COLLECTIVE**

DOORS 6:30PM - 9:30PM

TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**THE BLACK BIRD COLLECTIVE OPEN MIC #113**

A friendly, intimate, and much-loved event that brings people together for good times. Original material is positively encouraged! If you are travelling from outside Totnes and want to make sure you can get a slot, please email theblackbirdcollectivetotnes@gmail.com as far in advance as possible.

DOORS 7:00PM/START 7:30PM | FREE ENTRY

TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**THE TOTNES BOARD GAME CLUB**

Join a friendly and welcoming community to play modern board games on a regular basis in central Totnes. 6:30pm onwards every other Tuesday here in The Library Bar at Totnes Brewing Company. Bring a game along if you can, but if not, just bring yourself! Free entry - We just request that you buy a couple of drinks from the bar over the course of the evening. To join WhatsApp Group - Contact: Grace - 07964 062777

DOORS 6:30PM | FREE ENTRY

THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**JAMMING STATION****UNDER 14'S EMERGING ARTISTS SHOWCASE**

Jamming Station showcases emerging artists at their end of term performance. See 26 young musicians (10-14 yrs) take the stage and rock your socks off! Expect beautifully passionate performances of both original songs and covers. This is a not to be missed gig!

DOORS 7:30PM | TICKETS £10

FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**CABARET VOLTAIRE PRESENTS... OISÍN LEECH****+ SPECIAL GUEST STEVE GUNN**

Oisín Leech - The proud recipient of Cerys Matthews' Album of the Year on BBC 6music is coming to Totnes. The Irish singer-songwriter performs as part of a tour for Cold Sea, his critically acclaimed debut album which was described as a "Stunning debut" by UNCUT Magazine with MOJO saying that Leech is "in lush, filmic mode on his debut with John Martyn-esque mystery".

"Exquisitely delivered." Uncut ★★★★★

DOORS 7:30PM/START 8PM | TICKETS £15 EB £18 ADV - TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK

SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**TUMMYACHE (ALT ROCK)****+ SPECIAL GUESTS EYESORE & CREEPCAVE**

One of the most exciting live Alternative Rock bands around right now, Tummyache is not to be missed! Catch them live in Totnes before they head off on a DIY tour of the USA.

Tummyache is a project that blurs the line between band and personal confession, a raw and enigmatic expression crafted by songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Soren Bryce. Tummyache has carved out a space in the DIY scenes of both the United States and the UK, resonating with listeners who feel the weight of systemic struggles and societal expectations. Bryce's music pulls no punches; her lyrics confront issues of class, privilege, and inner conflict, inviting listeners to face the harsh realities she lays bare.

DOORS 7:30PM | TICKETS £7 ADV £10 OTD

THURSDAY THE 17<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL

DOORS 7.00PM

**baka beyond****African rhythm - Celtic soul**

"IF THERE HAS TO BE A DEFINITION  
OF WORLD MUSIC, THIS IS IT!"

ANDY KERSHAW

"KEEPING STILL IS ONLY AN OPTION FOR THE DEAD,  
OR THOSE TOO MESMERISED BY THE SHEER JOY OF IT ALL"

METRO

the black bird  
COLLECTIVE

£15 advance / £20 door  
bit.ly/bakabeyond  
ticketweb®



59 HIGH STREET • TOTNES • TQ9 5PB



# HOT MAGENTA

**ROSIE JACKSON'S EXCITING NEW POETRY WORKSHOP COMES TO THE TOTNES BREWING COMPANY!**

Poetry evokes a concentrated imaginative response to experience. It invites you away from habit into a world made new, its language chosen for sound and rhythm as well as meaning. Poets and Pints is flourishing with established and budding poets of all ages signing up to read at our open mic, hosted by Julie Mullen, every second Monday of the month in The Library Bar of The Totnes Brewing Co. Doors 7:30pm start 8pm.

On March 10th, Rosie Jackson, an award-winning poet from Teignmouth will be our featured poet and excitingly, she will be leading a poetry workshop before the event. The workshop costs £6 and will begin at 5.45pm and run until 7pm and it is entitled 'Hot Magenta'. Limited to 16 people. Email Julie to reserve a place - [poetsandpints@yahoo.com](mailto:poetsandpints@yahoo.com)

The title draws upon Rosie's passion for both poetry and art, bringing together disparate paintings and images to invite surreal collisions that can open up exciting new forms of thought and metaphor in your writing. Rosie will provide images. It will be inspiring for all levels of experience and none.

Rosie has worked with the creative arts in many community and health settings. She's taught poetry at Skyros, Cortjo Romero, Ammerdown and universities including East Anglia, UWE and Nottingham Trent.



Workshop host and featured poet - Rosie Jackson

TUESDAY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF APRIL

DOORS 7.00PM

# SUNTOU SUSSO & MAMUDOU SUSSO

**FATHER AND SON TOUR**

PREPARE TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE GAMBIA, THE SMILING COAST OF AFRICA, ON A JOURNEY YOU WILL NEVER FORGET!



  
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THE HOUSE** BALLROOM  
59 HIGH STREET • TOTNES • TQ9 5PB

It's that time of year when UK live music tours really start to pick up again and we have lots of fantastic gigs and events for you to choose from throughout March. Looking further ahead, the diary is already filling up nicely right through until December! So, to keep up to date, check in on our website for our full what's on listings – [barrelhousetotnes.co.uk](http://barrelhousetotnes.co.uk)

Apart from booking the gigs here, I really enjoy forging relationships with local people and have made some really amazing friends over the past few years. Many great events have become a regular feature here at The Barrel House & Totnes Brew, just out of having a chat at the bar. To name just a few – The Black Bird Open Mic, Be Water Open Jam, Poets & Pints, A Play, Pint & A Pasty, Quiztravaganza, Totnes Uke Kollektive Jam & Lessons, Word Café, Quiltbag Sunday Social, Annual Queer Ball and South Devon Storytellers. The most recent to add to this list is The Totnes Board Games Club who have started meeting every other Tuesday in The Library Bar. And hopefully, soon to be added to this list we will be the home for a new local Youth Theatre group. The Barrel House Ballroom is a Community Interest Company – so if you have any suggestions for other events we might be able to host, then come have a chat or email me [tracie@barrelhousetotnes.co.uk](mailto:tracie@barrelhousetotnes.co.uk).

*Tracie Gillies*

TRACIE GILLIES - EVENTS & PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

## COMING SOON

4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

OPA ROSA

10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

DANIEL INZANI

27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

HENGE



SCAN FOR FULL LISTINGS AND TICKET LINKS



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COLLECTIVE  
presents



Supported using public funding by  
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