

Entertainment

A place you may just recognise

RICHARD Harris, Tangerine Dream and Britpop outfit Blur are among those who have waxed lyrical about a trip to the park.

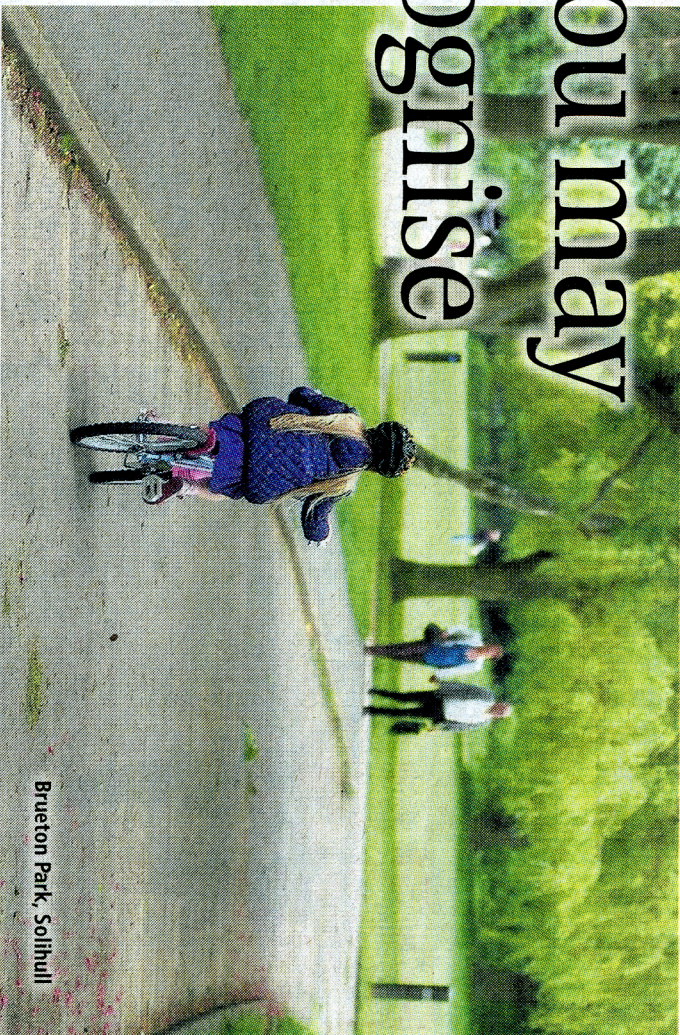
To that list we can now add borough band Nineteentwelve who immortalise one of the borough's own open spaces on their new album.

Bruteton Park is the stand-out song from *Elegy*, the second album by the five-piece prog band, which is due for release on September 1.

Speaking to the *Solihull News* last week, lead singer Gary Sheridan said it was exciting to think that a song paying homage to a borough beauty spot will be heard by listeners on the other side of the world.

"We like to make music that means something to us," explains Gary, from Shirley. "We're all of us from Solihull, so it's nice to sing about a place that we know."

Gary, Gavin Saunders, Alex Theay, Dave Sutherland and John Pierpoint were already a group of friends who had pursued various solo projects before they formed Nineteentwelve in 2011.



Bruteton Park, Solihull

"I wasn't at the meeting when we came up with the name," laughs Gary. "So I can't tell you exactly how that came about."

"But I think it's about looking back to the past and drawing inspiration from what's gone before."

For the band that means a rich vein of influences, from classic acts like Pink Floyd and Frank Zappa to those groups at the vanguard of a progressive revival - such as Muse and Porcupine Tree.

The band's first album was released in 2011

and while a second was due to follow last year, Gary says the slight delay has allowed the group to produce something they're truly proud of.

"We like the first album, there's a lot of songs on there we're pleased with. But I think *Elegy* is definitely closer to the sort of sound we want the band to be associated with."

The CD and digital release will be available from www.montymaggot.com at the beginning of next month.

Comedy festival line-up revealed

GROUND-breaking ventriloquist Nina Conti will be performing in the borough as part of this year's Birmingham Comedy Festival.

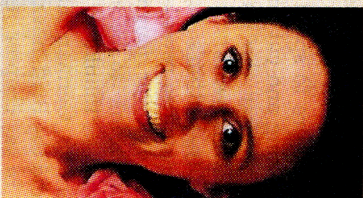
Nina, who has starred on the likes of *Live at the Apollo*, will be playing Solihull Arts Complex on October 5.

It's another comedy coup for the theatre, which has played host to Lenny Henry, Arthur Smith and Jasper Carrott in the last 18 months.

The full line-up for this year's festival, on from October 4-13, was unveiled to the public on Monday.

There will be 60 plus shows at venues around the region, with the likes of Russell Brand and Robin Ince topping the bill.

More information about the 2013 programme of events is available at www.bhamcomfest.co.uk



BOOKED: Nina Conti

He's behind

TOTAL 11 11