

Drag Kings in Warwickshire Newspapers

- **Emma Startin**, 'in the habit of singing in male attire' , performed at the Granby's Head, Nuneaton (5 July 1879, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Ada Ward**, 'a male impersonator', performed at the Victoria Pavilion, [Leamington] (6 August 1892, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Fanny James**, 'a clever male impersonator', performed at the Royal Assembly Rooms, Leamington (29 January 1909, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Little Vesta Cripps**, 'juvenile male impersonator, the little comedy star', performed at Warwick Picturedrome (13 December 1913, *Warwickshire Advertiser*).
- **Freda Danillo**, 'male impersonator', performed at the Theatre Royal, Leamington (28 February 1914, *Warwickshire Advertiser*; 6 March 1914, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Gwen Lally**, 'the famous London male impersonator' performed in "'Hims", Ancient and Modern' at the Shakespeare Galleries, Stratford on Avon (6 October 1916, *Leamington Courier*; 7 October 1916, *Warwickshire Advertiser*).
- **Maude Laurette**, 'chic comedienne and male impersonator', performed at the Colonnade Theatre, Leamington (8 February 1918, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Norah Butler**, 'appears as a male impersonator with great success' at Salisbury Hall [Leamington] (24 March 1922, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Midge Wood**, 'quite a clever male impersonator', performed at the Theatre Royal, Leamington (21 October 1922, *Warwickshire Advertiser*).
- **Alice Maude**, 'the famous Male Impersonator', 'who has excellent control in the leading part', performed at the Theatre Royal, Leamington (14 and 21 November 1924, *Leamington Spa Courier*; 15 November 1924 and 7 August 1926, *Warwickshire Advertiser*).
- **Badge Dean** performed an 'impression of Ella Shields' at the Blue Café, Bath Street, Leamington (28 January 1927, *Leamington Spa Courier*).

- **Nora Delany** was ‘acknowledged to be the most thorough and charming Male Impersonator of the moment’, ‘well known both in London and the provinces... full of vigour and liveliness...’; they performed at the Theatre Royal, Leamington (8 March 1929 and 3 April 1931, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Little Ivy Dean** - ‘the male impersonator from the Grosvenor House Hotel Cabaret’ performed at the Blue Café, Bath Street, Leamington. ‘Ivy Dean’s singing and dancing – always in male attire – suggested a sophistication and confidence which made her performance very amusing’ (21 April 1933, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Hetty King**, ‘the world’s greatest Male Impersonator’, performed at Coventry Hippodrome on a number of occasions (31 July 1936, 15 October 1937 and 16 February 1904, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Biddy Brewin**, ‘comedienne and male impersonator’, ‘equal to famous performers of past days’, performed at Jephson Gardens Pavilion, Leamington (2 July 1937 and 17 September 1937, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Miss D. Tipler**, as a male impersonator ‘was well received’, in their performance at Snitterfield Village Hall (13 February 1937, *Warwickshire Advertiser*).
- **Rita Grant**, a five year old ‘surprised the company by her male interpretations... which were rendered in a very clever and pleasing manner’, performing for a wedding at Chadwick End Institute (29 May 1937, *Warwickshire Advertiser*).
- **Bee Thorburn**, ‘a capable dancer, male interpreter and comedienne’, performed at Jephson Garden Pavilion, Leamington (30 June 1939, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Renée Sylver**, ‘a cultured male impersonator’, performed at Jephson Gardens Pavilion, Leamington (14 July 1939, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Della Nell**, ‘a smart comedienne and male impersonator... particularly good in her impersonation of the famous Ella Shields’, performed at Jephson Gardens Pavilion, Leamington (21 June 1940, *Leamington Spa Courier*).
- **Pat and Wendy Rogers**, ‘male impersonator and soubrette’ performed at the Grand Carnival Dance, [Leamington] Town Hall, Sunday next (26 July 1940, *Warwickshire Advertiser*).

- **Ella Shields** performed for over 7,000 people at the Lights of Leamington ‘Over Sixty’s Show’ in Jephson Gardens Pavilion, three days before their death. Shields gave ‘an immaculate performance... even at the end of her long career as a male impersonator, she would put an enormous amount of nervous energy into her act, and she could still capture audiences with her song’. (25 July 1952 and 1 August 1952, *Warwickshire Advertiser*; 8 August 1952, *Leamington Spa Courier*).