

SLAP

Issue 20

OCT 2012

MAGAZINE

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Hello and welcome to this which is amazingly our 20th
edition of Slap Magazine!

Oh what fun and frolics we've had over the last 21
months and this issue is no exception; mountains of
mayhem, madness and malarkey.

Inside we take a fond look back at two very different
festivals namely Snodfest and Moseley Folk and finally
we catch up with Worcester Music Festival through the
eyes of Poor Bob, Andy O' Hare whilst also reminding
ourselves of 'Super Slap Sunday' at the Arts Workshop.

We also celebrate with Sarah Colquitt who won Top
Prize in the WMF Photography Competition with her
moody shot of our very own Craig Barry performing
with Shambollix.

As the temperature drops outside we turn our attention
to more indoor entertainment with a look at the many
Comedy Nights taking place around the counties this
month - Is comedy the new rock 'n' roll??

We also let you know about a growing community of
DJs, producers, clubbers and promoters on our doorstep
with DNG Radio which is much more than merely an
internet radio station.

As we go to press this month we see work starting on
DNA, a new club in Lowesmoor and it's refreshing to see
new venues opening up when all we hear about these
days is pubs closing down and "For Sale" and "To Let"
signs everywhere.

If you know of any other new venues, ventures, events
etc please let us know so that we can spread the word
and keep Slap Mag vibrant and vital.

- Slap Eds



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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



Dudley Rocks for Sophie

August bank holiday saw 25 bands descend upon Dudley's Lamp Tavern to raise funds & awareness for the Sophie Lancaster Foundation.

Sophie was attacked & murdered in Bacup, Lancashire, purely for being dressed as a goth.

This event set up by KCS Promotions last year in Stourbridge was such a success that bands wanted to do it much bigger. This was big!

Bands from all corners of the UK turned up, Bournemouth, Wrexham & Aylesbury just a few. Acts from the pure punk of **Overdrive** to the death metal of

Leeds all girl group **Severed Heaven**. Showmanship of **Anger Rising** and **Whiskey & Lace**, backed up by the psychodaelic sound of **Tantrics**. The finale of Saturday ended with an amazing show from **Valous**, accompanied on stage by **Left for Red**, left unscarred, under blackened skies.

A great event raising almost £700 for the charity.



Alec King (LoveRock pictures)

DNA to open this month

Worcesters newest entertainment venue DNA is to open its doors on Friday 26th for the launch party. The club will be hosting dance events, Passion & Pain, live bands, Comedy & Students nights also, available for hire.

Ill Skills - The After Burner

13th Oct at Pig & Drum from 12-30pm until late...Free

Due to the response from this years 'Ill Skills', all the people who had other commitments and missed out this year and the call from heads for another event we have decided to host a after burner event. Once again rocking all elements & free of charge for all ages.

Daytime - expect more graffiti action, B-Boy and microphone ciphers, Poppin & Lockin, beatbox (Reggae style), more free workshops & a BBQ...

Evening - Major scratch battle between "DeeJay Random (The Steel Devils)" V's Johnny Scratch... 100 pounds entry fee, winner takes all styleee

Open Mic session hosted by Sub Kon Allstars and various performances including HLI from Birmingham + Local Legends Sub Kon & Dirty Dockerz.

Close call for X Factor hopeful

Gathan Cheema just failed to win a place at the 'judge's house' stage of this year's X Factor competition on ITV. The 22 year old singer - who's a regular at Worcester open mic nights won four yesses at the audition stage to make it through to the gruelling boot camp phase with a performance of *Respect* by Aretha Franklin. Gathan was winner of Sin Bar's Text Factor contest in 2009 and also was a mentor to Cher Lloyd before she found fame on the X Factor.

Good luck to Jasper

As we go to press 'funky folk' outfit **Jasper In The Company Of Others** are playing the final of the *Surface Unsigned* event at London's O2 Arena - we'll bring you full news of how they got on next month...

Babajack Triumphs

Babajack are celebrating after success at the British Blues Awards at Newark Blues Festival - playing a live set at the prestigious event with singer **Becky Tate** scooping best instrumentalist of the year and the band finishing runners-up in the best acoustic act category. The trio of **Becky, Trevor Steger** and **Marc Miletich** released their third album *Rooster* earlier this year.



Malvern roots blues/jazz/folk outfit **Babajack** are celebrating after success at the British Blues Awards at Newark Blues Festival - playing a live set at the prestigious event with singer **Becky Tate** scooping best instrumentalist of the year

Coveted support slot for Virgil

Last month's front cover featured Bromsgrove's **Virgil & The Accelerators** - who are going from strength to strength and have just been announced as the support act to the legendary **Wilko Johnson** on his nationwide autumn tour.

Lamacq/NME Double for Peace

No signs of any let-up as the **Peace** bandwagon gathers pace - the outfit (who started gigging locally as **November And The Criminal**) have had a rave review for their new EP 'Delicious' from NME with track *California Daze* being named as their track of the week as well as topping **Steve Lamacq's Rebel Playlist** on BBC 6Music. Another nationwide tour ends with a gig at the **Rainbow** in their home-town of Birmingham on 31st October.

WMF 'Best Ever!'

Worcester Music Festival spokesman **Mel Hall** said that this year's event looked to be the best-ever - exceeding the 11,000 audience of 2011. She said that there were 'so many amazing performances and workshops and the feedback we've had has been overwhelming. Thanks to everyone who gave up their time to make this the best WMF yet.'

The Lamb & Flag

The Tything,
Worcester

Oct 17th
Inn Verse
with **Angela France**
and open mic.

Oct 6th - **Trio Rosbifs**
Oct 8th - **Folk Session**
Oct 22nd - **Folk Session**

*With an eclectic mix of
Musicians, Poets, Artists
and Drinkers...*

...you either get it, or you don't!





Learning, learning, learning! Our autumn season of courses is still on the go and good news, it may not be too late to join in! With Oil painting, painting and drawing, creative writing, yoga and more..... Digital photography is starting on the 2nd Oct 7pm til 9pm. Its £85 and for beginners so get snapping! Contact the office for more details on all of the courses and workshops.

We also have a range of workshops to whet your appetite including a 'Tile Making Workshop' to design and make your own wall tiles with our ceramics tutor Tamara. She will assist you with practical help as you create. Adults and young people (12+) £35.

Get your writing skills ship shape with our 'Short Story Workshop' on Sunday 7th. Starting the day with a blank sheet of paper, every student will have the chance to write a story of their own and gain vital feedback, plus 'Poetry in a day', giving students the chance to write their own poems and receive guidance while we look at the different types of poem, from free verse to performance poetry and traditional sonnets. Sunday 21st. Both workshops run from 10am til 4pm. £45.

Saturday Kids Club is back so bring your happy little monsters to have some arty & crafty fun. Paint, make, perform and play. A range of fun activities for kids. Saturday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Ages 5 to 12. £5.

With the return of the eagerly awaited Splendid cinema last month, the second helping comes in the form of Hara-Kiri. The never predictable Takeshi Miike returns to the samurai genre after last year's '13 Assassins' with a very different movie. Sunday 7th. 7pm. £5.

As we windle our way towards winter, Lazy Sunday on the 14th keeps us in the sunshine a little longer this month with Mike Knowles, Colin Baggs, Paul Jefferies, Mellow Peaches and Detached Collective. Last month's outside event was smashing, in the sunshine with a show stopping blues finale from Bob Jones and a great crowd of regulars and new faces!

To coincide with World Mental Health Week on Wed 10th Oct, Rethink Mental Illness present their free Food and Mood Event! With a variety of stalls and stands from local organisations; promoting what's on in Worcestershire as well as local groups selling handmade foods and other products. There will also be talks and presentations at 12pm and 1.30pm from local nutritionists about the impact of food on mental health. You can also pop into the Cafe for some cookery demos from Eloina the chef where you can learn to make basic healthy recipes! Plus you are offered the chance to have one-to-one sessions with nutritionists about your diet or make appointments to see the Health Trainers for a free health 'MOT' including checking blood pressure, Body

Mass Index, blood sugar levels and carbon monoxide levels for smokers too. 10am til 3pm. Free.

This event will also highlight the work from Worcestershire Mental Health group 'Art In Minds' (see article opposite) where we are showcasing a multimedia range of their works in both galleries from 5th Oct – 3rd Nov.



The work of award-winning photographer Ben Osborne will be familiar if you enjoyed the David Attenborough BBC series, The Blue Planet. On 21st of this month Shindig presents 'Jurassic Journey', a show celebrating the people and wildlife of Dorset and East Devon seen through the eyes of four artists - Ben and his dramatic photography, a musician, a Sculptor and poet Matt Harvey. 21st October. 6pm. £10/£8 concs.

www.jurassicjourney.co.uk

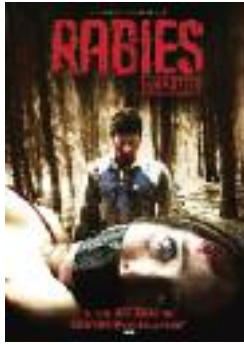


www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk
WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP
21 Sansome Street, Worcester
WR1 1UH Tel: 01905 25053

If you are a Halloween fan, come and visit 'The Haunted House' at The Workshop on the 28th Oct.

Join in for a family friendly day with scary faces, zombie make up and performances for a day of interactive spookiness, food and drinks and maybe even a horror movie. 2pm til 6pm.

Then from 7pm, 'The Splendid Cinema' will be showing Rabies (Aharon Keshales Et Navot Papushado, 2010, Israel): In a deserted nature a reserve person are being hunted down one by one, but is it a psycho-killer on



the loose or is there just something wrong with the land? £5.

For half term, come along to our Halloween family activity day on Wed 31st October from 12pm til 2pm in the 'Spooky Dungeon' with crafts, snacks, tricks and treats! Fancy dress welcome. Ages 5+. £6 per child.

Come see us and get involved...we really need volunteers and can offer work experience, drop by or call us! Your help is what keeps us open folks! Support your community arts centre and help us to grow!

Kate Cox

AIMS
Art in Minds

Art In Minds Exhibition to celebrate World Mental Health Day Wednesday 10th October.

Art in Minds (AIMs) was formed with the primary objective being to platform the work of AIMs Artists, showcasing the wealth of untapped and largely unrecognised talent that exists in the mental health arena. Beginning as a project at The Shrub Hill Workshop in 2004, Jayne Gaze (Visual Artist), Velma Johnson (Senior Occupational Therapist) and Rob Evans (founder member of AIMs) had the vision of a community of artists in Worcestershire for current and past mental health service users.

Eight years on, AIMs has evolved into a not-for-profit organisation supported by Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust, Arts Council England, Worcestershire County Council and many local business and individuals.

AIMs intention is to put mental health art in the public eye. It provides a safe, supportive and professional way for those with experience of mental distress to show and possibly sell their work with pride. The therapeutic value of art in all its forms is now fairly well documented but is only recently being brought into the mainstream of mental health.

"Being able to express deep emotions and fears through art, or just to be able to put aside for a while the illness while we immerse ourselves in painting, drawing, or any other art form, can be a milestone in recovery."

There are over 100 registered members, including both amateur and professional artists, who either exhibit artwork, run, support or attend art groups and meetings across Worcestershire.

"Sadly, most people's art remains hidden away from public sight as lack of confidence prevents most people from exhibiting. If the confidence hurdle is overcome there is often a lack of opportunity to display those works and together with the financial considerations of exhibiting means that this art stays hidden. This is where initiatives like AIMs come into its own."



AIMs will be exhibiting a collection of their work at the Worcester Arts Workshop from 5th October until 3rd Nov.

For more information visit www.artinminds.org.uk





DAVE SIMPSON EXHIBITION

On a warm summer Sunday, myself and Melo from The BHG had taken ourselves out on a little Sunday stroll along the the riverside in Worcester City Centre. How lovely we thought it was that there was a little riverside market. It was all very nice, hand knitted bits and bobs, glass beads and the odd watercolour landscape; all very lovely but both of us could spy something a lot more exciting in the far corner of the square that we were both eager to check out. What we could see was the glorious psychedelic artwork of Dave Simpson. Two months on and we have the artist's artwork all over the our walls and we are celebrating the event with a bangin' launch party. In Dave's own words here is a brief description of his art, "About five years ago I decided to become a professional artist, I've always enjoyed drawing but have never had any formal training so I took a 6inch square sketchbook on my daily commute to work and started developing a style and motifs of my own creation. This soon advanced to an A3 sketchbook and I began producing the detailed drawings which are part of my current portfolio of work.

In 2009, I decided to start painting due to the beautiful colour effects which can be achieved so I bought a canvas, some acrylic paint and created an abstract work. Since then my style has grown into my current detailed psychedelic style. My work tends to grow organically as the canvas fills up, as the paint fills the canvas, it influences where the work is going.

I have a website (www.davesimpsonart.co.uk) to display all of my work which I have found is too

contemporary and modern for the art galleries based in Worcester. I have attended a few of the Riverside Artists Markets held in Worcester over the summer months and during a show in July, my work was spotted by the owners of the Boars Head Gallery in Kidderminster who offered me a month long gallery exhibiton. The opening night was full of incredibly positive feedback which has been incredibly motivating to continue in the direction I am going. The main themes of my work are organic floral designs mixed with cosmological psychedelia with a mixture of microscopic and macroscopic scales built up over many layers to give a real feeling of depth. I appreciate the natural beauty which exists in the universe and if I can capture a fraction of what I have seen then I do feel that I have been successful"



The show will be running until Mid October at The BHG, Worcester Street, Kidderminster. At present gallery times vary, although we can usually accommodate you, feel free to call ahead to confirm your visit.

Add The BHG, Boars Head Gallery on facebook to see examples of my artwork, artwork of the others involved & upcoming events: facebook.com/pages/The-BHG-Boars-Head-Gallery-Kidderminster/236156199742477

For information about The BHG and The Boars Head please visit our website: www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk/

For Gallery information please email Coz at galler@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

FILM REVIEW - The Watch

Watch This Space(man)

When Ben Stiller comes on our screens, we know he will not come alone. For we know that where there is Ben Stiller, there will be Vince Vaughn (or Owen Wilson, take your pick). It is written.

The story is pretty run of the mill. Uptight store manager forms neighbourhood watch to avenge suspicious death, and finds...creatures from outer space (as you do). The bad ass urban soundtrack is juxtaposed, in true The Hangover style, with our suburban pretenders, who never can seem to get it right, as they bumble through failed stakeouts, aliens in the garden, and tearaway kids with some nasty ammunition.



The line up is hilarious, if a bit predictable. Stiller as the control freak idealist; Vaughn as the loud mouthed, immature, (if overprotective) father; and 21 Jump Street's Jonah Hill just right as the wannabe cop.

The only weak link is Will Forte whose Sergeant Bressman sure is an ***hole, but is just too wet for us to laugh at. At least Richard Ayoade gets a hand in the action, ensuring some great deadpan one liners (one confrontation with an alien being "stressful" to say the least).

But hey its mostly good entertainment and makes for an amusing hour or two.

Will Earth be saved? You can count on the Watch. We hope...

by James Megarry

MOUTH MUSIC
acoustic spoken word & music night
Galloway special
Suz Winspear
Something new from Worcester's renowned guide to spoken word shows
Kim Lowings & The Greenwood
Contemporary & traditional folk songs - tales of a socialist & rebel
MC Heather Watts
Tuesday October 9th 8:00pm
Open mic sign-up from 7:30pm
(though there will be no actual mic in 11 in the evening)
admission is free to performers
A wonderful mix of music, prose and more. Fully recommended!
Don't miss it. Book it. Or come. It's a party!

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01454 620110
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Presented by **kaf Creatives**

Tone Tanner Sept 18th Blues Night at the Cellar Bar, Worcester

Tone comes from here originally, now living in Evesham. He's been big in the West Mids for some time. His debut at blues Night showed he knows his stuff, from Mississippi to Hendricks, he has an assured, stomping finger-picking style on his steel guitar, and a fine singing voice.



Also featured were the excellent Chuck Harriett trio, who do it up jazzy with great style and musicianship. We got a lovely extended set from them that also delighted some students from the local university, and other newcomers to Blues Nights.

Worcester Music Festival

SARAH SNAPS UP FESTIVAL PHOTO COMPETITION CROWN



A BROODING image of one of the city's most prolific songwriters and multi-instrumentalists has won this year's hotly-contested Worcester Music Festival photography competition.

The dark and moody shot of **Craigus Barry**, performing as part of **Shambollix**, was taken by **Sarah Colquitt** at **Monroes Cellar Bar** during the four-day, original music event in August.

Aspiring to be a professional live music photographer, Sarah, who was a runner up in last year's competition, said she could not believe she had won first place.



"I'm absolutely blown away," said Sarah, who runs **Puss 'N' Pooch** in **Pheasant Street, Lowesmoor**. "It was totally unexpected and I feel honoured and humbled to have mine chosen from such a fine selection of photographs. If ever I was looking for a sign to have faith and belief in myself and my dreams for the future, this is certainly it."

Judge and semi-professional rock photographer **Steve Johnston**, who regularly shoots for London-based music photo agency **Music Pics**, was joined on the panel by fellow experts in the field and former competition winners **Mark Hoy** and **Joe Singh**. He said Sarah's image 'Lost in the Music' captured the atmosphere of the performance perfectly.

"This was the only photograph all three judges chose in their final six, and the title of the image sums up exactly how the subject is caught, along with its dark, moody atmosphere."

Sarah's photograph was chosen from more than 300 entries, whittled down to a top 25, all of which were taken during the celebration of live, original music. Nearly 400 performances took place at a mix of venues, from pubs to historic buildings, across the city at this year's event.

This year's second place runner up prize went to **Roy Jenks** for his image of a young boy dashing to take shelter from the rain outside the city's **Huntingdon Hall** in **Crowngate**, with **Two Steps Back**, the accompanying band of dance troupe **One Step Beyond**, persevering with their outdoor performance in the background.

"This is just a lovely photograph, of rain descending upon one of the festival's outdoor performances," said Steve. "In all situations, a photographer is looking to capture the perfect moment in time, and this is exactly what Roy achieved to be awarded second place."

Third place runner up prize went to **Mike Davis** for his photograph of **Sugar Mama** at **Keystones Café Bar**. "Mike submitted what we believe to be the two best black and white photographs of the competition," said Steve. "Both made it into our final 25, with the gritty and raw honesty of the stage at **Keystones** captured in this image to win Mike third spot."

All top 25 photographs in this year's Worcester Music Festival photography competition can be seen at an exhibition at **Worcester Arts Workshop** until **Saturday, September 29**. To view on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/groups/108496918701/

For more information on the Worcester Music Festival photography competition, visit: www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/photocomp/. For more on the festival itself, visit www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk. You can also follow the festival on Facebook and Twitter.

2nd place runner up Roy Jenks



3rd place runner up Mike Davis



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REVIEW

Nasdaq/Constant Waves/ Dead at the Sea of Palms

The Mitre, Stourbridge 31st August '12.

The Mitre is filling out nicely for tonight's gig; drinks are flowing and everyone seems happy when Nasdaq's album, the one we're here to celebrate the launch of, is handed out. Unfortunately no one seems happy enough to just chill out and listen to the stunning collaboration that opens the show. Dead at the Sea of Palms is what happens when Sea of Palms and Dead at Sea get together and do the things your biology teacher told you were better when you waited.

Starting with a sombre and gentle wave of guitar picking and faint drumming,

that is all but drowned out by the crowd, before breaking away into something monolithic. Members swapping places, taking over different instruments and staying in sync despite this improvised group still been in its infancy; the set might not be perfect but it's certainly impressive.

Nothing was ever going to come close to Constant Waves. Bringing together members of several local bands their set is an absolute joy to watch. Combining a level of prog technicality that belies their age with some serious groove and melody; there was no chance anyone was going to talk over these guys. In fact anyone who hasn't seen these guys leaves whispering enthusiastically about what they just saw, as if saying it out loud would ruin it.

When Nasdaq take the stage there's a sense of disappointment. The crowd has thinned significantly after Constant Waves and while they try their best to walk that fine line between doom and prog, they never blow us away with either. That said it's not a complete failure; the band are tight, circumnavigating the complex nature of their tracks and when they finish the crowd scream out for more, but they never come close to matching what came before them.

by Matthew Tilt



Pete and the team would like to invite you to

The Hop Pole Inn

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Friday, Saturday and Sunday
with open mic night every Tuesday**

All music events are free entry, unless stated otherwise

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all to be enjoyed in our beautiful beer garden**

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COMEDY AT HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER

BEATING BERLUSCONI!

Thursday 18th October at 8pm | Tickets £12.50

(Concessions £11)

For the football fan in your life – Beating Berlusconi is based on the famous true story of a real Liverpool fan who ended up sitting next to Silvio Berlusconi at the Attaturk Stadium.



ANDREW LAWRENCE IS COMING TO GET YOU

Friday 19th October at 8pm | Tickets £15

As seen on BBC 1's Live at the Apollo, now a regular on Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week, Andrew Lawrence is back on the road following a sell-out fifty date tour of the UK.

JENNY ÉCLAIR – Eclairious

Thursday 25th October at 8pm | Tickets £17.50

Professional Grumpy Old Woman, writer and panto star Jenny Éclair is back with her new stand up show.



DANNY BHOY – Wonderlurst

Wednesday 31st October at 8pm | Tickets £15

After a campaign which successfully saw the return of Roast Beef Monster Munch, Danny's hilarious new stand up show is loosely-based around a handful of letters that have been penned out of frustration, with mixed results.

ROB ROUSE – Life Sentences

Friday 30th November at 8pm | Tickets £15

(Concessions £13)

Star of ITV's Mad Mad Mad World and Channel 4's 8 out of 10 Cats, come and see what Rob does best – honest, frank, seriously funny stand up.



Box Office: 01905 611427 www.huntingdonhall.co.uk
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COMEDY

Seeing as our summer was a bit of a joke, at least we have plenty to laugh about with loads of quality acts rolling into our County starting off at the **Marrs Bar** with three of the fastest-rising names in comedy playing the **Comedy Zone** on Thursday 4th October.

Carl Donnelly started comedy in 2005 and quickly rose to the top of the pile, winning best newcomer in 2007 at the Chortle awards and then being nominated for the Edinburgh award for his debut Festival show in 2009. With appearances on *Mock the Week* and *Dave's One Night Stand* and Russell Howard's *Good News*, Carl is no stranger to our TV screens either. He has also frequently been a guest on Radio 4's *Loose Ends* and is a regular broadcaster on Radio Five Live. If his career keeps accelerating at this pace he will be selling out the O2 next year! **Bobby Mair** is another young comedian on the rise. In 2011, he won Canada's premier comedy award - *Stand Up and Bite Me*, and filmed his first half hour special on Canada's largest television network. Since then Bobby has opened for legendary comedians Doug Stanhope and Jerry Sadowitz to sold out crowds at the Leicester Square Theatre in London where Bobby now resides.



Dave Longley has been described as original and uniquely fascinating by the comedy press with his rare combination of intelligence and his ability to tackle the most taboo subject matter. Dave, an Edinburgh festival veteran, ably supports Carl and Bobby.

Adam Montgomery, resident compere hosts the evening's entertainment which promises laughter all the way. Tickets £10 or £12 on the door.



Next up in the area is **Raw Comedy** at **Evesham Arts Centre** on Thursday 11th October, go and see some fresh comedy talent in the foyer bar.

This month's line up is **Ben Harrington**, **Jon Wagstaff**, **Nigel Lovell**, **Dan Nicholas**, **Aaron Twitchen** and **Simon Salmon** plus MC **Harriet Dyer**. Get a drink, take a seat in the foyer and see if you can spot next year's stars. A good laugh,

good atmosphere and good value! Tickets £5 door (£4 adv, £3 students)

Slap Magazine will be at the **Artrix in Bromsgrove** on Sunday 14th October when sharp witted award-winning comedian **Jo Caulfield** hits town with her brand new show '*Better the Devil You Know*', inspired by a shocking conversation with an audience member.

"Five years ago I got married in New York. At a recent gig I was talking to a woman who'd done the same thing. She said 'Wasn't it easy? Pay \$50, get your license, 3 minutes later you're done. The hardest part is when you get back to Britain and you have to fill in all the paperwork and register it here'.

"I felt my blood go cold - I didn't know we had to do that! Then it hit me like a punch in the stomach - I'm not actually married to my husband!"



The realisation that she is, in fact, a single woman, got Jo thinking, "If you could make all your big life choices again, would you do the same things?"

Although Jo is a regular on many TV and radio panel shows, including *Mock the Week* and *Have I Got News for You*, it's on the live stage where she really shines. With her razor-sharp observations and her scandalous one-liners it's no surprise she was recently nominated as the Best Female Comic in the UK.

And for all the romantics out there, there is a happy ending: "We're going to renew our wedding vows... but this time I'm determined to take some of them seriously." Tickets are £14.

There are 4 huge nights on at **Huntington Hall** in Worcester and another we will be trying to see called **Beating Berlusconi** on Thursday 18th October, fresh from ecstatic reviews and a huge word-of-mouth following in 2011, **Paul Duckworth** and his forty characters take to the road again in this hilarious, lump in your throat comedy. Despite threats from his



wife and bank manager, **Kenny Noonan** travels to Istanbul in May 2005 to watch Liverpool play AC Milan in the Champions' League Final. He carries the scars of thirty years as a Red - Heysel, Hillsborough - and of living in a city which has been demonised.

Beating Berlusconi is based on the famous true story of a real Liverpool fan who ended up sitting next to Silvio Berlusconi at the Attaturk Stadium. What happened to Liverpool FC in the second half is legend. What happened to Kenny in the AC Milan directors' box is stranger than fiction. The other 3 events at Huntington Hall include Andrew Lawrence, Jenny Éclair and Danny Bhoj. Further details are overleaf. Tickets £12.50 (Concessions £11)

Another one to check out is the popular Comedy night in the Graeme Hick Pavillion at Worcestershire Cricket Club on Friday 26th October. With candlelit tables and good food available, this cracking venue is always a top night. Tim Clark, Chris Stokes, Noel James and the MC for the evening is the very funny Tony Vino. Tickets £12 (Members £10) Hot buffet available.

Although this one is in the beginning of November it's also



worth putting in this month's issue so make a note in your diary. Ava Vidal Goes Dutch at Evesham Arts Centre on Saturday 3rd November

Following a sell out west end run earlier in the year, the star of BBC2's Mock The Week and Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow returns with a brand new show that questions the ideas of community and responsibility. How much should we share? And would the world be a better place if we all were self-sufficient and just took care of ourselves? As well as numerous TV credits for the BBC, FIVE and Comedy Central, Ava can be regularly heard on BBC Radio 4's The News Quiz, Richard Herring's Objective and Stephen K Amos's Idiots Guide To Life. Tickets £10



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MC – Andy Kind

Friday 26th Oct

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Hello Worcester! This is Stu from TNG Radio and the guys at SLAP Mag have kindly let us write a short article to tell you all about our new local radio service for Worcester and the Midlands. If you like EDM, Electronica, Chill-out, clubbing and all things funky the TNG Radio is the place for you.

TNG Radio is an internet radio station set up 2010 by The Nice Guys DJ collective. TNG Radio streams simply the best Electronica and Dance music 24 hours a day and is available on your laptop and mobile (using the Tune-In app available on iPhone, Blackberry and Android).

But we're more than just a radio station, we're a growing community of DJs and Producers, clubbers and promoters. Already we get listeners and DJs from all over the world on our station, with a lot of visitors to the website, but we want to increase our local standing and let everyone in Worcester, Malvern, Evesham, Droitwich, Kiddy and Pershore know: We're here!

That's where you come in, we need more local DJs on the station and we'd like to get more people from around the Worcester area broadcasting. Whether you play DNB, Electro, Dubstep, Chill out, House, Trance, TNG wants to hear from you. If you're into live broadcasting this can be set up very easily from your home, all you need is a Laptop and a Broadband connection and some good mixing skills. If that's not your bag and you just want to get your mixes on air or even produce a pre-recorded show we can do that too. If you have a live event going on we could even broadcast it like we did with Bling's Tidy Friday and Not For Squares over the summer. Both great live events that made great radio shows.

We also want to hear from producers. Every Friday from 8pm the "Trev and Stu Show" plays the hottest new unsigned EDM talent out there. We have submissions of tracks from all over the world each week and have a lot of listeners tuning in. Using features like our TNG Chat Room on the website many of the producers featured chat and exchange ideas, production tips and most importantly support each other's work. We want producers in Worcester to know that this platform is there for them as well. Many of the tracks featured in the show end up being released through our sister website TNG Records, where producers are able to sell their tracks and earn a little money for their hard work and wicked tunes!

TNG Radio also provides a Forum where Clubs and Promoters can post events so clubbers can have a place to find out what's going on locally at the weekends. The forum is also used by producers and DJs to share their mixes and tracks, talk about equipment, exchange remix stems and enter competitions, like our current "8 Bit Production contest" where the challenge is to make a Dance track, of any genre, using only 8 Bit computers and old software! The winner to be released on TNG Records.

But most of all TNG Radio is a place where you can listen to the best electronic music and hang out with the cool kids! Check us out at www.tngradio.co.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

Stu Mcgoo & Rob Pagett

Best ever WMF - an incredible weekend!!! - Andy O'Hare



Well what an amazing 5th Worcester Music Festival - I'm sure there'll be plenty of others singing the praises in this 20th Anniversary SLAP (woohoo!) - but I managed to get to see 60 different acts over the four days - would've really liked to have seen a whole lot more but didn't pace myself properly over Sunday and Monday - very sloppy!! Due to 'contractual obligations' I was at Upton early Friday evening - I excused myself as soon as was decently possible and drove back in the downpour (cackling to myself all the while!) for a decent 'Friday Session' round town taking in acts like **StuntDog**, **Omnia Opera**, **Fustercluk(!)** and **The Misers** - and despite the gloomy forecast - like most other weekend festivals this summer, while it wasn't exactly tropical at least the rains held off for the rest of this super weekend!!



Omnia Opera

Saturday kicked off with **Tallulah Fix** at the **Blower** and **Becky Rose** at the **Five Divas** event and have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the busking slots outside the Guildhall and the mostly acoustic afternoon laid-back sets at the **Art House Cafe**, **Old Rec** and the **Arts Workshop** - before the evening blasted off with the mighty **Massive Head Trauma** - one of the great acts to have emerged this year! Possibly my personal little highlight of WMF2012 was the drum and bass/hip-hop/beatboxing/rapping night at the **Pig** - I feel we really need to have more of this sort of workshop-cum-open-



Stan

mic event for DJ's and producers to get an opportunity to perform in public - anyone want to start a 'no guitars' open mic night? Other tasteful selections from Saturday were **Nick Townsend's Weak 13** at the **Arts Workshop** and **Black Russian** at **Keystones** but the night really belonged to the incredible **V2A** back at WMF's **Sansome Street** headquarters as they unleashed the snow cannon - brrrr!!!

Among so many other great local acts playing round town on Sunday afternoon - there were unplugged sets from **Skewwhiff**, **Naked Remedy**, **Crooked Empire** and **Vault Of Eagles** - I also managed to catch some more of the top-quality folk at the Guildhall - and some real legends of the UK music scene dropped into the **Julian Crook** (**Northern Skies**) promotion at the **Arts House Cafe**. The evening highlights were pretty much score-draws between **Vault Of Eagles**, **Johnny Kowalski** And **The Sexy Weirdos** and **Das Sexy Clap** - you choose and let me know at so-sue-me@live.co.uk because sure as hell I can't!!



Vault Of Eagles

At the last count getting on for 300 acts played over the four days - and despite the pain I still managed to checkout acts like **Columbus Giant**, **SJS**, **Khaos**, **Time Of The Mouth**, the **Tap Jam House Band** and the first-and-last-ever appearance of **One Trick Pony** at the **Swan With Two Nicks** (or was it?) over Monday afternoon and early evening - but really over the whole weekend it was a total privilege and treat to keep bumping into all the WMF team, volunteers, promoters, soundspeople and fundraisers who made this amazing weekend possible.

There were so many other great acts over the weekend that I saw (and also wished I seen) but think yet another big SLAP on the back is once again due to **Chris Bennion** of **NotJustSauce** and **Rhythm'n'Booze** infamy who dreamt up the idea of WMF in the first place - and worked his socks off once again to make this amazing showcase of the local talent that we have in bucketloads a reality!!

AOH

Photography by Toni Charles

CD REVIEW

Alison Simons - The Other Side Of Me

The title of this excellent ep refers to, I believe, Ms Simons moonlighting as a solo artiste as opposed to her 'day job' fronting Reinforced (see review elsewhere this issue).

I purposely haven't listened to her other outfit so that I can approach and consider this work as it's own entity and without comparison.

The cover has an autumnal feel and so it goes musically as Alison's voice is as crisp as a chill October morn, the songs crackling along like dry leaves and twigs beneath.

My nose almost felt cold and dewy listening to these bell-like tunes; sparse and echoing but also welcoming and somewhat familiar.

Alison's voice is quite lovely and has the same qualities of the whole slew of wonderful female folk singers throughout the land and ages: that haunting clarity and tone which is forever Albion (no footy jokes please, I'm pontificating!).

There are competent enough cover versions of Dave Grohl (My Hero) and Kasey Chambers (The Captain) songs here, but I enjoyed her own songs best and wished for more.

Lost For Words with great self-accompanying guitar especially stood out for me with it's beguiling melody and delivery.

I could find little information about Ms Simons to enlighten you but know that she is a Malvern gal: there is therefore a strong and fundamentally bucolic feel to the material here.

In this media sodden age it is all too easy to discover details so let us leave Alison with a flicker of mystery, a whisper of enigma.

Lost in the woods with her thoughts we happily follow and listen, occasionally skipping.

Words by Wayne Manor



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REVIEW by Craigus Barry

The May Dolls, The Off Beat & Tim Holehouse. Sunday Oct 16th Island Bar Birmingham

Tim Holehouse (hails from portsmouth), deals chiefly with down n' dirty autobiographical, crowd-engaging-foot-stomping travelling blues! It's not often I'll relate this so candidly, but he was just starting off down this root when I first played with Et befriended him in late 2009. Before that, he was in various heavy metal outfits and gigged in equal measures with his drone avant garde projects. He also put out custom limited edition tape sets wrapped in everything from foil, to maps of the world, tissue paper, all the way up to train tickets! I was at this time plugging my own custom CDs with rodonculous artwork ditties and psychedelia experiments. So of course, we got on very well indeed from day one! Fast forward to 2012 and the guy has multiple releases, both on vinyl & CD through various labels in addition to sporadic tours all over the country and further afield.



photography: Joseph French

He began his set with an accapella number "Fields Of Barley" delivered in a rousing chain gang manner. The second song in however, Tim stepped it up a notch with slide, so ferocious it seems intent on making some form of ingrained impact on the guitar and audience, which it did as he broke a string, but this didn't phase him in the slightest. Quickly tucking the end into the headstock, he addresssed the audience thusly "You wanna song bout a woman, a dog or the devil?.." pause for response.. "Ah you all wanna know bout the devil?!" A tongue in cheek retort followed that lured in the lingering punters. He bolted headfirst into a Waits squawk barking like a snarling canine troubador bitten by some feral rabid howling wolf.

Afterwards he rants through a song with the audience participating providing the beat, which sounded a bit like "We will rock you" and he actually throws in this musical quotation, perfectly.

Tenuous coincidence continues to take a hand, as the next track starts with the line "man walks into a bar". And whatdoyaknow one did! Spooky!

His set ended with a storming tune "leaving on a bus or leaving on a train" aptly hastily bashed out due to needing to get the last train to London. I wish him luck with his week long tour of Portugal. He'll no doubt have some tales to tell when he returns! Also in the pipeline is an independent film soundtrack.

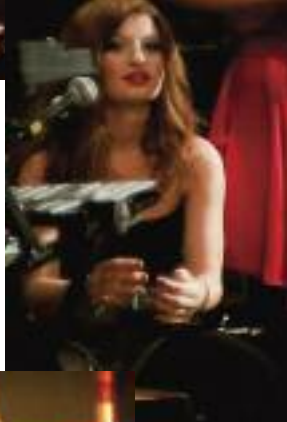
His latest release, a split 7" with Gipsy Rufina, is available from www.risonanzarec.ch

With next act **The Off Beat** (based in Birmingham), I have seldom encountered such a talented set of young, accomplished multi instrumentalists, but in Rosie Tunley (alone) this band already have a member as versatile Et



capable as anyone Zappa hired! Modest too! This girl sits upon a cajón, plays korg synth lines, melodica, precise chiming glockenspiel and sings all in the same set! Utilising all the above when and wherever needed in a given composition. That's

without mentioning the rest of the band, who are so tight I almost bruised my jaw on the floor! Just a four piece, but that doesn't stop them, Dan Clark deploying everything from jaunty Ukelele (stand out on "Mon Amour"),



Rich Spencer Photography



percussive guitar & various shakers. Lead jointly by Bryony Simcox on fiddle & Hannah Boyd on viola, the quirky quartet often

deploys close vocal harmonies to stunning dynamic affect. These girls and a guy, really up the game for what small units can achieve. Which makes me wonder is it because of the need to profficiently reinvent how music is made/received or is it purely for the joy of making such inventive music?

Playing tracks from their debut "*We Are The Off Beat*", some of these pocket symphonies such as '*Levi's Dance*' were akin to folk standards in their power and breadth. Particularly when the cajon takes the fore. Others were crowd engaging and euphoric as was the case with, '*The Maze*' which had a rustic feel to it. Other genre shifting ditties such as "*Our Eyes*" bought to mind the infectuous, rootsy nature of Gomez or on "V- IV", the intimate chamber music in a jack in the box of Penguin Cafe.

Get the debut from www.theoffbeatmusic.co.uk as with a little persistence these guys are destined to go far!

Last (but by no means least) were The May Dolls, comprising of Malvernites Tyler Massey & Becca Roberts, both on acoustic guitar and vocals, playing selected cuts from their new album. I was immediately intrigued by the simple, restrained, yet effective counterpoints throughout first (and title track to new LP) '*Colours*'. It's worth mentioning this bought to mind the more low-fi moments of American Beauty/Working Man's Dead era Grateful Dead, in terms of harmonic scope, melody and pace. Where the song is at the forefront and by no means compromised by ego or ID. Massey's lead playing descent on "*Don't Push Your Love*" had the gilded, chiming quality I am familiar with from Tyler. Whereby the note choice is considerate and dynamic enough to lift the song to lofty heights whilst effectively conjuring polychords almost effortlessly. Whilst Becca's capo placement would seem to ground the song firmly in place. These guys were certainly in the zone on "*Alone Again*" where upon I fell



under the spell of the egoless invocation of melodies which flowed and ebbed drifting them far away from the typical fare of tried and tested two guitar approach. If anything these two musicians from the Worcester county showed that utmost modesty and sincerity can carry a performance far beyond that of the norm. Making for memorable moments. A pair who are as contently at home playing an intimate end of night slot as they are to a packed festival crowd. Serve the music, the music does not serve you.

There's a moral in this somewhere.

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REVIEW

Marillion September 13th Wolverhampton Civic Hall

Having taught myself band/music photography at the start of this year I figured it was time to move forward from photographing local bands in local venues and try my luck by asking for a photo pass for one of my favourite bands – Marillion. To say I was pleased with myself when I received the acceptance is an understatement!



It was nice to be able to walk straight to the front and into the photo pit in front of the crowd and I arrived there just after the support band, DeeExpus, had kicked off their set. DeeExpus are a rock band from the North-East fronted by Andy Ditchfield and they provided a more than adequate start to the night and are well worth a listen to if you get the chance.

Most people associate Marillion with front man Fish (Derek Dick) even though he was vocalist for only seven years. Since his departure Steve Hogarth has been front and centre and over the past 23 years has helped the band release 13 studio albums. Hogarth is a splendid front man, as well as being a talented musician & vocalist he is as theatrical as they come and provides a highly entertaining visual performance.



This tour is all about promoting the release of their latest album, Sounds that Can't be Made, due for release this month. While many of the packed audience were undoubtedly wanting the better known tracks the band pumped out 4 of the songs from the new album interspersed with songs from more than half a dozen of the earlier albums.



Steve Rothery provided some superb guitar licks supported by the faultless bass of Pete Trewavas, the keyboards of Mark Kelly and drums of Ian Mosley - not forgetting Steve Hogarth's contributions including keyboards, guitars, vocals and theatrics as well as a short appearance by a machine gun!

For my part I walked away with around 800 photo's, one of Steve Hogarth's guitar picks, a bit of string that fell off his tambourine and 11p in change, top that if you can!

My thanks to Lucy Jordache at Marillion.com for issuing the photo pass & ticket and Marillion as a whole for a fantastic evening's entertainment. I'll be back next time if they'll have me.

Words & Pics by Reg Richardson

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REVIEW

Sunday afternoon: Chris Bennion's and Garrington T Jones's blues opened at the Boston Tea party. Pianist Matt Killoch opened with a lovely selection of oldies

Worcester Music Festival with Bob Jones

The weather made it the best since the first in 2007.

Wandering around aimlessly began with The Art House Café, Sunday, the best gig we saw. Vo & Tyler played an early afternoon set of originals and covers. Their version of the only hit the band Love ever had here was fabulous, with both guitars thrashing away. When they cover a song it stays covered.

The same venue welcomed the Five Divas on the previous afternoon. We saw Sue Bell, a virtuoso songwriter equally



at home on keys and every conceivable string instrument, even a tiny ukelele. Which she told us was difficult to play with boobs. "Try a plectrum", advised Worcester's leading wit, which earned me a glare from my wife.

We stayed for Becky Rose, who enthralled everyone with her playing and singing, her spot including a withering punt down of a boy foolish enough to dump her, sung with all the ferocity of the teenage Alanis Morissette.

We strolled around Worcester on the Saturday listening to snatches of music, seemingly from every pub and cafe in town, amused at the delight of many visitors who seemingly had no idea that there was a festival ("There's bands everywhere, let's move here").



Picnic lunch; quick dash home to pick up my guitar, then off to the Swan With 2 Nicks. Lovely crowd, all ages, everyone loving what they saw, with Martin Thorne bewitching many who'd never heard of him.



from the boogie days. Juke Joint John followed, with a stunning collection of standards and originals, embracing ragtime, country, and Mississippi blues. Stripped Down blues finished the day with our usual rocking blues schtick.



Given the pre-pub tsunami it astonished me that so many people didn't know about the festival. Young wanderers were encountered slipping in and out of pubs and cafes, delightedly discussing what they'd seen. - Superb stuff.

PREVIEW Rockit Fuel - Keystones



Worcester is in for a night of blistering blues rock when Rockit Fuel blasts off to Keystones on Friday 26th October with support from special guests Southern Welsh rockers Hangfire, who

serve up massive slabs of blues groove with monstrous power and melody.

Rockit Fuel were fused together from a melting pot of early blues influence with 60s and 70s rock and high energy blues. Vocalist and lead guitarist Lance Perkins bangs out some high energy vocals with his self penned explosive songs. Along with Chris Danby on Bass and Dean Phillips on drums igniting some high voltage electricity into your ears this will be a banging night.

The current tour has taken in Leicester, Stratford and Sheffield and they are at the Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham 13th October then at The Robin 2, Bilston in November. So fill up your fuel tanks and get Rockin!

REVIEW by Bob Jones

BIRMINGHAM ARTSFEST, 7-9 SEPT 12.

Abominable bus-ride, Worcester-Birmingham 2 hours 25 minutes. So we missed our targeted gigs. Instead, just aimless wandering.

An amble past the Waterside caught unbilled jazzers Clive's Band, featuring vocalist Juliet who did a lovely version of Billy Holliday's 'God bless The Child'.

Nicolette Street and the Revs. were the next happy accident, lovely playing and singing at the Festival Stage.

Not to be outdone, the Acoustic Stage presented the beautiful singer and pianist Emily Ewing, whose self-penned songs garnered great applause.

The Midlands Music stage used to be a charming fake-beach, with sand and deckchairs overlooked by a huge, gloweringly sinister plasma screen. But, possibly over-sensitive to 'diversity', they've callously removed the sand, no doubt to avoid any possible offence to Brummie Bedouins. But Motown influenced Michelle Lawrence Et and the Equations delighted everyone with an excellent horns-enriched, pounding selection. As did, a little later, same venue, the popular This Wicked Tongue, confirming our impression that the best performers today were female.

Then the sweetly beguiling Birmingham Town Hall Community Gospel Choir, a lineup of toddlers to teenagers all lustily and harmoniously exploring modern pop with a devotional backbeat. Their version of Carole King's 'You've Got A Friend' was super. En route back to the bus we stopped to watch Giocoso, a fine 5-piece female sax-troupe; then a couple of identified street-bands.



A pleasant end to a day wherein we threw away the timetable and jammed it. Much the nicest way to do it.

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Rubicava

Super SLAP Sunday

26th August 2012



Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos



Flat Stanley

Kicking off 'Super SLAP Sunday' at the Worcester Arts Workshop was our very own Mark Hogan and his guitar, accompanying Beanie on vocals (AKA the Skew of Skewwhiff) blending original material with a few choice covers. Editorial modesty dictates that that is all I can say! Next!!

Sean Sheldon is the driving force behind The Crooked Empire but has only recently ventured into the solo acoustic sphere and what a blummin good idea it is. The strength of the songwriting and Sean's powerful vocal delivery really shine in this stripped down format. Sean told me he finds it much more of a challenge to go out without the 'cover' of the 'gang' but, without disparaging the band, he should definitely do more outings in this style.

Due to the vagaries of British licencing laws, Skew and Sean played inside Cafe Bliss (the best Mexican breakfast in town - as endorsed by cyber-goth doyens, V2A) so the atmosphere certainly changed as we moved outside into the sunshine for our next act. SLAP was extremely fortunate to persuade Gary Rolfe to come all the way from 'trendy' North London and join the party. Gary plays the blues in a contemporary way and he certainly looks the part, donned in jaunty fedora and mirrored aviators. The set starts in Dylanesque style but (for me) took off when he produced his bottleneck to play guitar that Ry Cooder himself would have been proud of. Gary says that he has to be careful to ration the slide as he loves it so much - I certainly wanted to hear more.



Cracked Actors

What can one say about Jak Raven when, in the abbreviated blurb to Worcester Music Festival, it said about himself "No description provided... just go and watch!?" Well, it was a difficult task. Jak is no doubt a mercurial talent who has tentatively moved on to a 'bigger' sound from his singer / songwriter roots by surrounding himself with a band. He is charming and entertaining in equal measure and, with this expanding experience, could go beyond a sure fire winner on the local scene. Watch this space.



Sick Boys Club

Worcester Music Festival

I hope they don't mind me saying that on the other end of the spectrum, experience wise, is Flat Stanley. Now regular visitors to Worcester from the North West side of the Shire, lead singer / guitarist / songwriter, Shaggy Hyde, has the demeanor of a festival veteran. With what must be the most, how can I put it, chilled bass player in living history, the celtic / folk vibe suits many a gathering and I love the strapline "Like Neil Diamond on crack". I hope Jak stayed around to catch the last set in the courtyard on 'Super SLAP Sunday'.

Kick off (part 2) downstairs at the Worcester Arts Workshop and The Miffs bring their power pop from literally just up the road! The band started doing covers but, as is their want, have progressed to writing their own indie garage style songs to mix up the hits with the originals.

Last to be confirmed on the bill, Stunddog, were able to provide their full live experience to SLAP, having played 'acoustic-ish' two nights prior. For this is a band in transition - quintessential Cardiacs tubthumper, Dominic Luckman, is off to pastures new with guitarist Adam Daffurn (again, watch this space). Luckily, new drummer, Dan Slade, was on hand to constantly rebuild the drum kit, which was unable to stay on the riser due to the pressure of Dominic's pounding. Dominic broke his snare skin too but the audience wouldn't have noticed if he hadn't brandished the offending article. All the best to Dom and Adam and a big thanks to Dan. Stunddog's new long player will be with us very soon and I'm sure will be receiving laudation in this very organ.

Rubicava hailing from Kidderminster are an inventive and melodic four piece who ensured that the positive vibe of the festival seamlessly continued, with a quality, well executed set

Just when you thought it couldn't get anymore enigmatic, Sick Boys Club arrive at the stage with their eclectic take on ska/swing/dub, or "music for the apocalypse" as they call it. I don't mind admitting that, at times, the musicality was over my head but each time I returned from a ciggy/cider break, I was back to dancing full tilt to a new groove. Coincidentally Sick Boys Club had been playing at the Horsedrawn Festival the previous night with...

...Cracked Actors, SLAP favourites. We've covered them before extensively but suffice to say that line up changes have not dented their infectious dance laden ska and reggae.

... and Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos. It's certainly been quite a year for them on the local music scene and, although it was certainly not the same running order at Horsedrawn, we wanted them to step up to the headlining slot. They didn't disappoint and we have great pleasure in announcing that they will be back in the same place for SLAP's Christmas Shindig.

Glazz



Gary Rolfe

Jak Raven



Sean Sheldon



The Miffs



Beanie & Mark

OLD LIBRARY HOUSES EXPERIMENTAL ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Art Exhibition and residency in the Old library space at Worcester City and Gallery 1st-30th October 2012 Monday- Saturday 10am-4pm. The opening reception is during the day on Thursday 4th October in the left wing of the old library, Worcester Foregate Street – Worcester Museum Gallery.

Local curator and artist Nathaniel Pitt (age 37) is using the old library to show off a years worth of artists residencies which took place at the PITT project space during 2012. The works on show are a culmination of working with several artists from the region and beyond. Artists and art works from Stoke on Trent, Northumbria, India, Lithuania and the Baltics are all showing work from three projects.



As you know the old library space has been vacant since the move to the Hive and the Museum and Gallery staff have been working hard to use the space to engage new audiences in Worcester and breath new life into the empty building. This exhibition is an experimental show which will combine work on loan from internationally renowned artists, new work from this year created at the PITT and a tailored artist residency from 15th – 22nd October; Alan Smith an artist and director of Allenheads Arts Centre in Northumberland will be working in the library space.

"It is important to the lifeblood of a city to embrace the new, critical and contemporary art which raises consciousness and inspires ideas. This exhibition will be offering a range of different art practices and the space will be less a gallery and more an active project space where the public can participate, listen to talks, workshop and meet the artists."

Nathaniel Pitt

IKEA COMES TO MALVERN

Inaugural group exhibition at new contemporary art gallery in Malvern 6th October – 22nd December

Division of Labour (gallery) – Unit 1 rear Cowleigh Road, Malvern WR14 1QD

Mega! Artists from New York, Stockholm, Amsterdam, London, Hereford and Worcester are showcasing their work in this inaugural group show at the new Malvern based contemporary art Gallery; Division of Labour. All the artists have used IKEA as their muse and inspiration. One of the showpieces for the show is by NY based artist Guy Ben-Ner. Guy used IKEA as a stage to make a secret film whereby him his wife and daughter made a home in the Swedish department store, the film captures the family going about their daily routine as shoppers move in and out of shot, Guy's wife cooks a meal on and sets the table, Guy's daughter plays on the fake computer and Guy takes a shower all in the showroom setup of the department store. We have a architectural sculpture made from over 300 clothes hanger and even an IKEA bike on display!



Artists include: Sam Curtis (Hereford) Guy Ben-Ner (NY) Helmit Smits (Amsterdam) Jacob Dahlgren (Stockholm) Craig Barnes (Hereford) Ned James (Worcester) Andrew Sunderland (London) Miles Thurlow (Gateshead).

Division of Labour is a new non-profit commercial gallery selling critically engaged contemporary artwork. Works are for sale from the gallery in Malvern and at international art fairs.

"IKEA is in our DNA, so pervasive is the brand that every household will possess a floating 'Lack' shelf a fold away sofa or at very least a stack of tea-lights. Marketplace examines this phenomena and explores different artists perceptions in using Ikea as inspiration for their work" *Nathaniel Pitt*

Nathaniel Pitt is the curator and director of Division of Labour, he has recently been accepted onto an international programme for curators and gallerists and will be taking part in Art Basal LISTE in June 2013 Switzerland.

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REVIEW

by Bob Jones

The Droitwich Spa Salt Festival Sept 15-16, Vines Park, Droitwich.

John Dudley's jazz & blues afternoon on the 16th. featured the Arrow Valley Brass Band ; Stomping On Spiders ; Medi Stimpson Trio; the Blue Monday Quartet; Poor Bob ; and Sarah Warren.

Noor Ali and Garrington T Jones stormed into a selection of their own songs, with a blues & country feel.

Medi Stimpson's trio featured a fascinating selection of blues, jazz, folk, from Django to Womak.



The Blue Mondays rocked up their jazz and rhythm & blues worksheet, with super piano and sax-workout son

'Take 5' and 'Catch 22'. The crowd rose to these local teenagers, whose prowess and self-confidence are growing rapidly.

GT Jones and I did our Mississippi thing; then Sarah Warren, with Tim on bass and guitars, swept away all that had preceded her with her fierce and soulful vocals, with Nick's pitch-perfect harmonies, their hold on the audience was hypnotic and commanding.

The whole weekend was well-organized and varied, with Roman soldiers chanting their battle-cries in Latin,



led by a cheerful centurion who showed me how little I knew about Seutonius's 12 caesars. Then a leather-clad bunch of civil war yeomen led by a 7ft tall pikeman named Brian.

This has become one of the county's most eagerly awaited festivals ; make a note for 2013.

CD REVIEW

Hinterland Compilation inc Our Mutual Friend

This is a worthy 6 track compilation on the Canadian Self-Released label, but for our purposes we will zoom in on the two excellent tracks from Bromsgrove outfit Our Mutual Friend.

There's a welcome distinctiveness to OMF's material and their whole demeanour is one of pleasing originality. The song structures take you to little unknown corners, the lyrics hint at uneasiness and longing, whilst the array of instrumentation cements their individual approach.



On both "Middlesex" and "Saskatoon", their two enigmatic offerings here, you get great touches of intentionally discordant piano, tasteful echoes of backwards guitar amongst other aural treats, all appearing when not quite expected which makes for a satisfying whole.

The singer must be a Scritti Polliti fan cuz on occasions he sounds uncannily like Green Gartside, but I also hear touches of Bolan and even Prince in the mix. Such is the breadth of their sound.

Our Mutual Friend come heartily recommended and this reviewer will certainly be watching for future activity.

Hinterland is available from all the usual outlets.

Words by Terry Dactyl



ARTRIX PREVIEW-OCTOBER

KARINE POLWART WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER



We start with the visit of the award winning Scottish singer-songwriter Karine Polwart and her band on Wednesday 10th October. Karine Polwart won the Best Original Song & the Horizon Award for Best Emerging Artist at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2005 as well as being twice winner of Best Original Song at the BBC Folk Awards, she's collaborated with King

Creosote, Chris Wood, Roddy Woomble, Tim O'Brien and even the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. The award-winning Scottish singer-songwriter Karine Polwart releases *Traces* - her first new album in four years - in August and will then be playing a series of UK dates in the autumn with her two regular touring collaborators, brother Steven Polwart (guitars & vocals) and Fair Islander Inge Thomson (accordion, percussion & vocals).

Karine draws from folk music's long tradition while keeping pace with the ceaselessly changing times. Her talent for crafting unique, enduring melodies, her gift for saying just enough without overstating her case, the range and dynamism of her arrangements, all come together in songs of powerful contemporary relevance. She also has the purest and most approachable of singing voices, drawing the listener towards her in the same way one might lean towards a late night tale by the fireside.

Her songs deal with humanity in all its many guises: there is tenderness, triumph and sorrow, raised flags of rebellion and independence, flashes of anger at power abused and misused. Perhaps most frequently she deals in spare, unsentimental empathy, often with those who have been dealt the least playable hands in the game of life. "For me" says Polwart, "music is one of the most powerful ways of making sense of the world. It's for celebrating, grieving, sharing, wondering. Nothing inspires me more than the realisation that any one of my songs means something to someone else".



Tickets are available from the Bromsgrove - Artrix Box Office No: 01527 577330

IAN PARKER - THE BARE BONES TOUR SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER @ THE ARTIX

TICKETS £10 available from Box Office: 01527577330

Stourbridge's Ian Parker makes a welcome return to The Studio at Artrix, following his successful show last autumn. In addition, Ian will be running a Guitar and Songwriting Workshop before the show. A songwriter genuinely literate, sometimes almost literary, Ian is an original craftsman. Expressed through a distinctive bitter-sweet vocal delivery, Ian's songs hold nothing back. His ability and willingness to share with his audience, naked honesty and genuine emotion, is what sets him apart. The performance will be in the Artrix Studio at 7.30pm. There is also a workshop with Ian at 4.30pm.

After numerous requests from fans for a recording of his acoustic work, Ian decided to document his show at The Globe in Cardiff back in February of last year. The resulting album *The Bare Bones* features 11 songs, including four previously unrecorded tracks. The album has been warmly received by critics and fans alike. There is no doubt that playing solo offers Ian's characteristic guitar playing and soulful voice a very unique platform. Raw and free, this varied show has been surprising and impressing audiences in clubs, at festivals, and indeed at the Royal Albert Hall where he opened for Italian star Zucchero in May 2011. Photos courtesy of Jesse Davey



the under 16 category, a very close viewpoint of one of the decorative items on furniture around the building, and *Life Goes On* by Jeffrey Lucas. Chosen by Susan

Aspects of Worcester Cathedral

by Sarah Ganderton

The latest exhibition in the Dean's Chapter at Worcester Cathedral this month were the submissions to the cathedral's first photographic competition. The 275 photographs entered by 98 people of all ages were inspired by different aspects of the building that visitors may not have noticed before and the photographs displayed really did look at the building from all sorts of different angles. The competition was judged by Kate Platt and enthusiast with an Associateship from the Royal Photographic Society for her illustrative slide work, Scott Harrison, a commercial photographic artist based at Top Barn and a tutor at Worcester Technology College, and Susan Macleod the Operational Manager at Worcester Cathedral. In addition, the general public were invited to pick their favourites from those displayed, as an additional prize to be awarded to the artists on Saturday 8th September when the cathedral was

full of visitors thanks to the Heritage Open Day opening the building to visitors for free for the day.

What Light Through Yonder Window won the first prize for the over 16 age group for **Bev Williams**, showing the light as it shines beautifully through one of the cathedral's colourful stained glass windows, which must have involved a lot of research to pick just the right time for the photograph. First prize



in the under 16 category was *Spiritual Reflection* by **Samuel Hornabrook** which is a black and white study of a visitor looking up admiringly at one of the largest of the cathedral's stained glass windows. Other personal favourites of mine were *Iron Rose* by **Hannah Livesey** which took second prize in



MacLeod as her Judge's Choice in the over 16 category, this shows a view of the cathedral garden through a commemorative window of a party with ecclesiastical guests and ordinary visitors. It is a poignant reminder that the cathedral is used for many events, from worship and reverent prayer to fund raising and entertaining. I also particularly liked *Next to Godliness* which made me chuckle because it shows real life in the cathedral, which one of the friars cleaning up with a Henry Hoover.



The photographs are no longer on display at the cathedral but can be viewed on the cathedral's website at worstercathedral.co.uk/Photographic_Competition and as there were so many brilliant entries I look forward to this competition becoming a regular feature at the Cathedral.

REVIEW

Virgil And The Accelerators Supported by Albany Down Artrix, Bromsgrove 8 September 2-012

A very good nights rock at Artrix who are getting better and better at putting this type of show on

Support **Albany Down** were excellent; a 30 minute set promoting their album *South of the City* was crammed



with good songs, a great sound and no mucking about with long intros and play-outs. They reminded me of early Judas Priest (when JP were any good) mixed in with the Black Crowes and a vocalist who sounded very like Ian Gillan. They have a big sound and if they graduate to larger venues they will have no problem making their presence felt. The title track of the album was the best song but others – *Jealousy and Mercy*, rattled along, even if sometimes the lyrics were a bit like they were from a textbook of how to write a heavy rock song. **Albany Down** will have a good future – the album is definitely worth checking out.

Virgil and the Accelerators were kicking off a massive tour which seems to run right through the winter up to a series of shows supporting Michael Schenker in April. A nice touch to kick off in their hometown and there were



clearly lots of friends and family around (I suspect that they may have been a little disappointed with the numbers that weren't F & F but no matter; they are playing in Wolverhampton and at the Robin soon so you have plenty of opportunity). They came with a growing reputation; their album *The Radium* was second only to the **Black Keys** album in the **Classic Rock Top 20 Blues Rock 2011** chart. On the evidence of tonight the accolades are well deserved. Whilst the influence of Joe Bonamassa and Stevie Ray Vaughan are obvious they are much more than a tribute band and had some great songs and a sound that sometimes was hard to imagine came from only 3 of them. The set drew heavily on the album; *88*, *Refuse to Believe* and *Bad Girl* were my favourites. I left with the same feeling as when I saw Def Leppard in front of 50 people at Leicester University about 1000 years ago – that downhill and with the wind behind them these could be really big indeed.



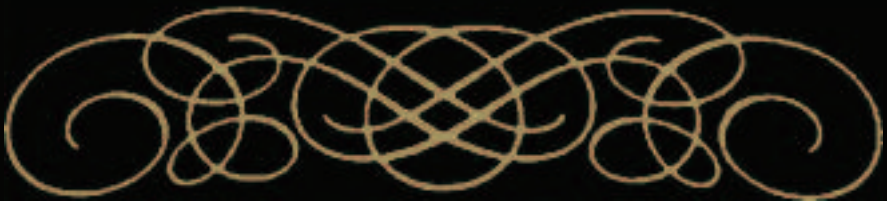
Artrix did this show really well – they did it as a standing show which always creates a better atmosphere. The lights were fantastic and the sound (after the first 10 minutes of VATA) was excellent. Well done to Chris and the technicians at Artrix for this.

by Peter Blandamer



COCKTAILS, FINE WINES, CONTINENTAL BEERS,
AND REAL ALES.

THE HAND IN GLOVE



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MARY COUGHLAN-THE WHOLE AFFAIR TOUR
 @ ARTIX, Bromsgrove | Sunday 28th Oct

Mary Coughlan, supported by Graham Robins, is visiting the UK and playing at thirteen different venues during October. Accompanied by an outstanding classically trained pianist, Parvel. Throughout the 25 years of her quite extraordinary recording career Mary has drawn heavily from her legendary heroes; Billie Holiday's grievous, teary outpourings, the husky flirtations of Peggy Lee, Van Morrison's soulful wails, the defiant chanteuse of Edith Piaf. All are present and correct in her delivery. Even so,

Mary, with her naked honesty makes every song her own; they belong to her and nobody else. Who else could possibly present "Double Cross" or "Magdalen Laundry" or "The Ice Cream Man" with such dedication and effortless zeal. The casual listener may know something of "Ancient Rain", "Invisible to You" or maybe "Man of the World".

These may well be among the greatest of Mary's many great hits, however there is so much more to the story.

It's very difficult to know how to put into words the experience of making music over 25 years. Much has been written about me and my life during that time. I've spoken honestly and candidly about my descent into alcohol and drug abuse, about my failed relationships and about how I hurt those closest to me. It is with me every day, I will spend the days of my life doing my best to heal those wounds, I've written a book about it and as far as I'm concerned that's that! - Mary Coughlan

She has taken the classic standards of jazz balladry and the recent gems of rock and Irish song-writing, shaken them and offered them up anew, like jewels dripping from the deep, strewn on black velvet. She sings in the voice of the wrong and wronged woman and she makes us think what it is men make of women and what women have to do to make do - David Kelly

The stage is where Mary survives. From a small square footage of venue real estate in front of a handful or a thousand or ten thousand people, she emotes, purges, atones, reminisces, eulogises and laments. You can't hear the very best of Mary Coughlan until you've heard her story recited in every note.

The Whole Affair: The Very Best Of Mary Coughlan CD Release on 24th September 2012.

www.marycoughlanmusic.com



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“Tour Building”: To play free or not to play free? That is the question! - Craigus Barry

I start with a heartfelt looming confession:- Throughout my time as a musician/artist or other handle, I really haven't made a whole lotta money to be fair. Probably in a way through choice, but none the less money has rarely driven me & through this odd attitude I have met some trully incredible & sincerely bizzarely brilliant individuals from a multitude of backgrouds/styles/schools of thought. Money is a tricky one when you're a musician because chiefly expenses just can't be avoided!

One particular interesting oddball I'll mention to begin with would be the 13th Bard Of Bath **Ash Mandrake** – an eccentric acid folk artist. Ash uses a custom built double neck guitar sewn together with leather madmax style, a looper, has an absurd multi octave vocal range, charm and various erm.. hats. In-fact he is reviewed in Slap! June 2011, so I'll shut up about the particulars of his act here! As near as I can tell from conversing, Ash gets by via a process he calls “Tour Building”.

Tour Building is basically networking on the road on the fly, obtaining paid gigs or contacts where-ever possible. Ash tries as often as he can to avoid unpaid gigs unless they lead to paid work.



The above resulting in an endless tour whilst putting value on your individual music. Through employing this attitude and selling a selection of CDs at each gig, tours usually pay for themselves, in terms of expenses you break even or profit. There is also no record label needed and he can ply his trade of making tailored leather wear to his advantage. So good for him!

Point is: when you meet pretty 'out there' individuals they certainly make an impression on you. Their approach to life, unique ideology, morals, tales and mind set can rub off on you to such a degree you begin to see a fresh perspective on it all. Such a moto I noted from Ash was “If your not getting paid and you want to, your doing something wrong!”.

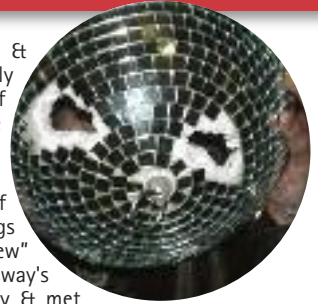
In Bath as it happens, they treat you fairly enough from my experience.

More at home in the Midlands: I've met promoters who do contribute to travel expenses, literally befriend you, invite you to parties and buy you a drink or two in addition to even arranging a lift home. Such as Brummies Rich Chappel, Paul Campell, DJ/drummer/fruit machine composer/festival organizer “Sir Real” Neil Spragg of Omnia Opera, the ever down to earth quite

vocal Timothy Parkes & Stourbridge's lovely couple Sam & Dale of Acoustic Brew, to name but a few.. Not always the case elsewhere tho.

This ramble of relentless verbicide brings me to my latest “review” whereby I played Queensway's Island Bar on a Sunday & met some nice folk as you do. It was a “free” gig.. Free meaning none of the musicians get paid. Which is fine IF you are local to the venues and need exposure. But this trend seems to be perpetuate continuously in recent years due to strict budgets or policies of any given venue. I only mention the unpaid nature of this because more often than not these musicians are so driven, talented, energetic, enthusiastic they both stand out from the crowd & are worthy of careers in their chosen craft! The flipside of free show cases is it highlights the myriad of musical talent in a town week in week out. From the not too experienced to the seasoned player. Not all bad, as it's another outlet for regular live music, one which to meet people like say, Tim Holehouse.

by Craigus Barry



REVIEW

Moseley Folk Festival, Friday 31st August – Sunday 2nd September

Day One of the 7th MoFo saw **Beth Jeans Houghton**

Beth Jeans
Houghton



and **The Hooves of Destiny** showcasing her endearing brand of northern kookiness and poperatic warbling. Best thing to come out of Newcastle since Byker Grove. In other highlights **Ben Calvert** married the laconic wit and wisdom of Morrissey with the gentle charm of Nick Drake whilst **Guillemots** overcame a few niggling sound issues to cement **Fyfe**'s reputation as one of the best British romantic

songwriters around right now. The first day was all about one band though...**Echo and the Bunnymen**. It's no secret that **Ian McCulloch** would love to be **Jim Morrison** (minus

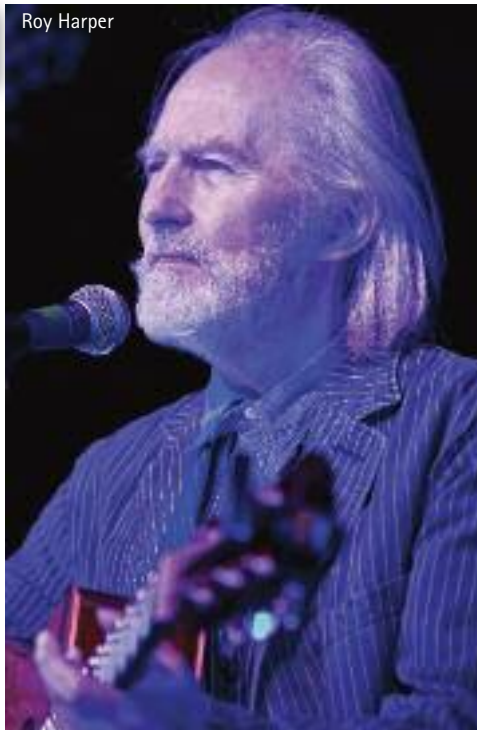


Ian McCulloch

the bloating and drowning in a bathtub) and at times he veers dangerously close to parody. It's a crowd pleasing greatest hits set though and despite McCulloch's trademark moaning about the lights/sound/world in general it's a classy reminder of a still strangely underrated band.

Day two and local hero **Mickey Greaney's** clearly been through the mill but happily he seems to have come through it all with the battle scars needed to produce some stunningly compelling songs. With poignant lyrics, great playing and the feel of a band really on the cusp of that big break **Goodnight Lenin** continued to impress and their debut album produced by John Wood (knob twiddler behind Nick Drake's albums) looks set to seal the deal next year. **Julian Cope**, sadly rarely sighted these days, was on stunning form, plucking gems from his solo albums and peppering the set with his musings on life, the universe

Roy Harper



and everything. Truly a 'floored genius'. Headliner **Roy Harper's** own words "Most of you will be bored out of your brains by the time I'm finished" proved sadly prophetic with a number of the audience sloping off before the end. If you stayed your patience was well rewarded though with the classic *When An Old Cricketer Leaves The Crease* truly tugging at the heart strings.

Julian Cope



Day Three was the folkier of the lot, from **Emily Portman's** nightmarish track about being baked into a pie by your stepmother, through to **Spiro's** soundtrack for rural England day three was the folkier of the lot. For the casual folkie the day provided plenty of variety though with **Kawa Circus** featuring a bloke spinning



Simon Fowler

around on his bollocks on top of a 20ft bamboo pole. Local hero **Simon Fowler** (Ocean Colour Scene) unveiled his new folk tinged Merrymouth project as well as revisiting some old OCS favourites too including a beautifully stripped back *The Circle*. With a look as ethereal as her twisted



Maddy Prior
Steeleye Span



Katherine Priddy

fairytale songs Katherine Priddy put on a bewitching performance before Wooden Horse delivered one of the sets of the weekend with some fine testifyin' rock n'blues leaving the way clear for Village Well's unique mash up of gypsy jazz, folk, tabla...and possibly others genres not yet discovered by scientists. Ask the average person to sing a



Ben Church
Wooden Horse

folk song and they'll probably stick a finger in their ear and come out with "Aalllll around my hat". Given this the song's most famous interpreters, **Steeleye Span**,



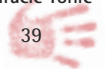
Kawa Circus

were the perfect festival closer. Plucking tracks their classic albums the Span rocked the folk out of the place saving the big guns for the end with a hearty *All Around My Hat* and truly hair raising *Gaudete*. "This is risky" admitted lead vocalist **Maddy Prior** before the band pulled off a note perfect rendition of Alan Partridge's favourite track. A beautiful end to yet another beautiful MoFo.



Words: Daron Billings
Photography: Richard Shakespeare

Above: Abie Budgen from Little Sister & Abie's Miracle Tonic



SNODFEST 2012 9TH-11TH AUGUST.



who remembered all the lyrics (just possibly not all in the right order – thank you Eric Morcombe) whilst getting the audience to sing Silent Night before mowing us down with the “anti-Father-Christmas militia”. Somehow, Intasound managed to stay sane throughout the 10+ hours of continuous music, ensuring the bands sounded excellent throughout – thank you Chris, Christian and Ron!



A one day festival with 20 great bands, where the sun always shines & the rain stays away, where the families picnic and workshop, and the local ale and cider flows, well, that can only be SnodFest, surely?

For the fifth year, the bands were excellent – Gwyn Ashton, Electric Blues Reaction, Maxed Out, Skewwhiff, to name a few – and the crowds listened and danced, both inside and outside the marquee.

Elsewhere the alpacas impassively watched the participants of the free workshops, allowing themselves to be stroked and cooed over, as the bizarre bike tumbled yet another confused would-be cyclist off into the straw.

What's the musical theme of SnodFest? It's an eclectic collection, with rock from Neon Mistress and Americana pop from The superb Cohen Brothers (still maturing nicely, like a bottle of Liebfraumilche, according to the EmCee), jazz from the Blue Monday Jazz Quartet and dub-step / electronic pop from the excellent and supremely talented Becky Rose, and to keep you confused and entertained there were show tunes (beautifully sung by Charlii Harrington, and yes, it did work!), folk from the upbeat Hornswaggle and punk-fun from Pete Adams and Lost Boy Scout,





A young girl asked Andrew Marston, from BBC H&W Introducing, to sign his autograph in a book she had made in a workshop run by the Worcester Arts Workshop – how nice to be famous! – before running his own DJ workshop in the evening.

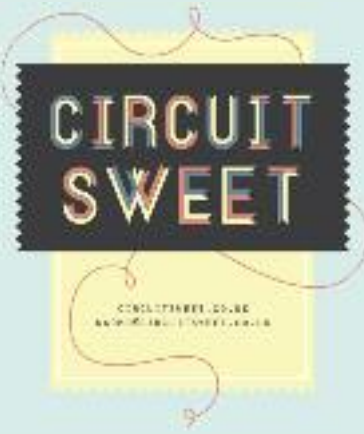
The sun set and the music carried on, with us all dancing to Inca Hoots and the covers bands UncleFundleMuncle and the Macaroni Penguins. The SnodBus (thank you, Dudleys Coaches) took the revelers back to Worcester and Pershore, at the end of another happy and successful SnodFest.

SnodFest raises money for the charity USFRA and would like to thank all the volunteers who make the festival possible, the Arts Council and Worcestershire County Council for their generous grants, Intasound for the excellent sound, Tower Studios for the drum kits, Andrew Marston from BBC H&W, Tarplett Generators and Mad House Design.

by Catherine Milner



THE LATEST NEWS FROM HEREFORD



Where does the time go?

Can you believe its already October. Another fantastic month. We ended August in the best way possible- Worcester Music Festival. We enjoyed the incredible array of live talent in every venue around Worcester and had a great part in promoting the festival and seeing our own act play along the most

watch act We Have Horses. With regards to Worcester Music Festival we have to congratulate the entire team that made the event happen with great success over several days. Being introduced to fresh talent is a blessing and we can only urge you not to miss out on the activities next year.

It's been a busy few weeks with some good news -which you can read below. We've been at several live events across the country and had our first exclusive article and release stream on the website. If you've been following the site and our facebook page at facebook.com/circuitsweet you will be aware of the sheer amount of news items we've been posting. Tour galore, live events in our city and releases coming out of our ears. More reviews in the past month than previous and we've received even more music submissions. We sincerely thank every band and artist who want to share their music with us- we hope we can provide the right promotion for you. If you've left your event details on our facebook- keep it up! We can provide you free gig promotion and its great to hear more live events in HEREFORD! What with a new student appeal and more venues open lets get more going. With all this hype we can only hope for the best.

In last month's SLAP article we reported on our recent live interview with US act Listener. We urged you to check the site within September to see the live film. Unfortunately the interviews been delayed but it should be uploaded in due course. An in depth live interview finding out about Listeners' new drummer, their touring schedule, their poetry, influences and new record. We are excited to finally share this with you.

As mentioned we had an exclusive article that hit our site September 15th. We joined forces with DIY Liverpoolian Record Label EDILS to exclusive preview the world the first 3 tracks from I AM OK. A Swedish based artist formerly in Jeniferever. Swedish artist Johan Zeitier who creates illustrious music under the moniker of I AM OK. Ex member

of established bands Jeniferever/ The Search- I AM OK delivers lush sweeping pop music with delicate vocals, reverb touched hooks and a hint of the early pop romp of The Cure. Johan Zeitier creates beautiful compelling music that is both moving and intelligently crafted under the name I AM OK. Based in Uppsala, Sweden. Johan is ready to unveil his powerful music to the world. The talent that I AM OK holds is unreal. The ability to create an upbeat summery track even with darker content comes natural to the artist. I AM OK is an artist to watch- as the artist grows, the talents captivates. Joined forces with EDILS who are regulars on our site- you can head over to the website to hear his exclusive 3 tracks now.

On the same day we hosted the exclusive article we also traveled to Malvern for our own Aulos who were supporting them mighty Omnia Opera at the Malvern Cube. Two bands, one giant stage and a great night had by all. Omnia Opera only come together to perform on a special occasion and this was one of them. Their fans flooded in the hall to show their support and they left a lasting taste. A prog rock band who can hold their own.

Meanwhile in camp Circuit Sweet we've got our fair share in good news- we've got our first house which we are busy decorating! A new Circuit Sweet office and studio is currently being designed and built and whilst we are both busy doing up the new place it does mean that we are going to be a little quiet on the site until we move in. As much as we are trying to keep everything regular with posting- we are warning all valuable readers there may be some delay at times. Still very excited to share some great photography features in the pipeline. Worried about the online store? - We are keeping the store open 24/7 so you can still order your EPs, CDs and Band Shirts. If you are planning on booking us for event photography please don't hesitate in getting in touch as we will always put our customers first. Covered in paint or not. Any photography bookings or queries get hold of Oli at oli@circuitsweet.co.uk.

Finally we are calling out to you. We want you to be involved with us. If you have a label or a band with multiple flyers/posters/business cards and you would like us to give you free promotion and distribution then please get in touch. We would like to hand out your information within our shop orders and at events. If you would like to know more then email naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk or visit us on face book or twitter @circuitsweet.

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REVIEW

Ben Montague/ Lisbee Stainton and Conner & Jasper Marrs Bar Thur 20th September

Conner Mayer opened up proceedings and was joined on stage tonight by Jasper without the *Company of Others*. Still buzzing from a busy trip to Norway these boys really turned it on with a mixture of well received originals and covers.



It was a 'select' gathering that greeted the talented Ms Stainton onto the Marrs Bar stage and immediately it became obvious that here was someone and something a bit different.

Not only has Lisbee got a strong, gutsy voice with a range from rasping to soaring and all the "ings" between, but her guitar playing is quite original.

This is helped in no small part by her unique guitar: a beautiful, hand-made, English 8 string jobby standard tuned with the extra two acting as sympathetic strings on the D & G (don't ask me?! Ed). This has the effect of making it sound dulcimer-like with a gorgeous ringing quality.

Unsurprisingly the whole attractive Stainton package soon entrances the crowd and we're hanging on her every note. As aforementioned, Lisbee is a very accomplished guitarist with an unusual picking style which certainly helps her stand out in the very crowded arena of solo singer-songwriters.

Having said that she does also play with a band and I for one would love to see her in comparatively more "rock-out" mode so that the growlier end of her vocal range is given full reign.



Not only does she play in her own group but her qualities are sufficient to have attracted the attention of West Country neofolkmeister Seth Lakeman, with whom she will be appearing as "special group guest" on upcoming dates.

Speaking to Lisbee afterwards she not surprisingly tells me that she is in thrall to all the greats inc Joni and

James Taylor; "proper songwriters" as she puts it and also has big love for Fleetwood Mac. From a musical family she started playing guitar at 8, began writing at 9 and took to the stage at 14! This positive precociousness shines through in the maturity and accomplished nature of her writing.

For me Lisbee was a hard act to follow but the 'crowd' are, of course, here mainly to see Ben Montague, a man you may remember for having the hit "Haunted" a couple of years back.

The likeable Ben bounces onto the stage, full band in tow and his affability has the audience onside from the outset.

This boy has the looks and charisma and does he know it. In a nice way that is but I bet there's a whole slew of heart-broken ex's out there still mooning over Ben's 21st Century Nick Kamen countenance. Not that I'm at all jealous tho!

The band are good, especially the classy drummer and Monsieur Montague sings and strums with professional ease.

The songs are shock-horror about lost love and what went wrong which to be honest doesn't help add any individuality.

Ben's music is well crafted, sharply played pop-rock and whilst it is hard to fault any component of the performance, there's a lack of Factor X but unfortunately not X Factor in his performance.



There's a solo acoustic section which makes certain audience members (no not me honest) sigh even more with hormonally charged longings. Included in is an ill-advised cover of Poker Face but nearly everyone else seems to lap it up.

After one too many encores Ben bounces off again to bounce his way around the rest of the kingdom.

Boing! There he goes...sigh...
Words by Laurie Driver



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REVIEW

Dexys - 12th September Symphony Hall Birmingham

Dexys never did mere gigs, Kevin (Rowland) always hated the word - the inherent inaccuracy and whole conceptual sloppiness was anathema to his pure vision.

Consequently this was definitely more of a pilgrimage for this Brummie boy.

Touted as their "homecoming" concert, their first Midland's appearance in almost 10 years, dear old Brum was where the Big Adventure started back in '78, so there was a palpable air of intensity and anticipation as our team landed at posh SympH Hall.

The place was awash with ageing but still stylish mods, soulies, suedeheads and various disenfranchised types for whom Kevin & Co are the last gang in town returning to regain and recharge their lost (or at least MIA) souls.

And so after 10 minutes of ill-advised burlesque as support act, one of the strangest and certainly the shortest I've witnessed, Our Heroes strolled onto the stage instantly captivating the assembled throng. They Were Back and We Were Theirs.

For the next 2 hours plus Dexys treated us to a wonderful set of such class and passion that it brought tears to this feeble old hack's eyes. And believe me I wasn't alone.

For the first section of this flawless performance they played the whole of their brilliant new album "One Day I'm Going To Soar". If you haven't got it yet get it, it's a superb slow burning masterpiece, an unbelievable 27 years(!) in gestation, and the most honest, confessional piece of music I have ever heard. It's also a story, or that much maligned word, concept album if you will. The time-honoured tale of love and obsession but not being able to actualise and commit to the object of your desire.

Kevin's is a 'Marmite' voice I know, but I love it's untrained and untrammelled nature which is even more untamed live. Perhaps it was Brum that brought the best out in him but this was spellbinding stuff indeed.

However this was absolutely no solo act and the rest of Dexys were magnificent: special mentions going to the iconic Big Jimmy Patterson on trombone and Mick Talbot the band's orchestrator, keyboardist and ex-Weller cohort.

Despite being emotionally drained by the end of the first half, Dexys soon returned to treat us further to re-workings of some of their back catalogue classics. Amongst others we get a moving Let's Get This Straight From The Start, an impassioned Tell Me When My Light Turns Green and of course Come On Eileen, which though certainly not being a fave of mine, was wonderfully extended as a tribute to the now up-&-dancin' Brummie faithful.

A minor moan about the venue: SympH Hall has never been a face of mine due to the lack of atmosphere. You never feel fully involved probably because it was built as a classical concert hall. 2 nights at Brum Town Hall would have been the better option methinks.

It's a cliché but I didn't want it to end and all too soon we were out in autumn night air elated and exhausted by one of the best concerts we'd witnessed in years. Yes this was a unanimous group agreement which I'm sure extended to the vast majority of the evening's crowd.

It's been a long, certainly winding and at some times strange search for the soul rebels but tonight we were all gathered under the one roof.

Please don't leave it so long next time Kevin.



Words by: Sally Oak

Monday 1 October 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester
Cuginis (Live 60's Ska, Rock n Roll)
Subtone, Cheltenham
Open Mic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Tuesday 2 October 2012

Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester
Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern
Rhythmic Unity African Drum Workshop
Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster
Open Mic Night with Dodgy's Nigel Clark
Millers Arms, Pershore
Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 3 October 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester
The Coronettes
Cafe Rene, Gloucester
Reggae Wednesday
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove
Spiritual Dev
Boars Head, Kidderminster
Mojo Hooker
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 4 October 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester
Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester
Calm Like A Riot!, Alex Rainsford, Open Mic Night!
The Crown Inn, Worcester,
Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern
Juan Martin Presents - Musica Alhambra
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
Life Drawing
Boars Head, Kidderminster
Bitterroots
The Retreat, Ledbury
Lisbee Stainton
The Courtyard, Hereford
The Laurence Jones Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Friday 5 October 2012

The Reflections
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove
Artstar
Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich
Rich Goble
The Cavalier Tavern, Worcester

Ska'd
Cafe Rene, Gloucester
Aquarius
Glovers Needle, Worcester
Gandhi's Walrus
The Pig & Drum, Worcester
Delray Rockets
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester
Hey You Guys, Inca Hoots, This Wicked Tongue, A
Poetic Yesterday
The Marris Bar, Worcester
The Chuck Harriet Trio
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern
Andy Fairweather Low
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Babajack
Millers Arms, Pershore
The Reflections
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove
Daniel Seth
Boars Head, Kidderminster
Grace The Skies
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge
Les Trio Rosbifs
David Murphys @Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge
Hot Rod Graveyard
The Railway, Evesham
Mojo Hooker
Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 6 October 2012

Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos, Sick Boys Club,
Lobster
The Crown Inn, St Johns, Worcester
Rat Gasket
The Railway, Evesham
The Matchless
Express Inn, Malvern
Aquarius
The Prince, Crowthorne
Ferrets
Anchor Inn, Eckington
Bunter & The Vibes
Boars Head, Kidderminster
Joan Armatrading, Chris Wood & Wooden Horse
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham
Sugar Mama
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester
Paper Street Soup Co
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester
Wes Dance & The Street Of Early Sorrows, Rich Clarke
The Marris Bar, Worcester
None Of These Are You
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern
Delray Rockets
Unicorn, Malvern



GANDHI'S WALRUS (old school rock/psychedelic beat group) are pondering the inclusion of a keyboard player and/or a flautist. We would love to hear from inventive/accomplished musicians who are peace loving, soulful, interesting and if you have a large transit van and amazing home studio facilities then you are in. Please contact Paul by e-mail. paulwilliamjeffery@hotmail.co.uk ps Harmony vocals would be nice too.

Naked Remedy
Scruffy Murphys, Birmingham

Trio Rosbifs
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Exchanged
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Umphff
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Sunday 7 October 2012

Fitzwilliam String Quartet
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jazzenco (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Dave King
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Monday 8 October 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Folk Session
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Nic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dave Onions
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 9 October 2012

Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 10 October 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mrs Peel Band
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Steve's Jukebox
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Lawrence Jones
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 11 October 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Vince Freeman - from "The Voice"
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann Et Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wishbone Ash
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Emma Skip Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 12 October 2012

Aquarius
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Funk Station with Reedbass & Guests
The Art House Cafe, Worcester

Acoustic Who
Queens Head, Wolverley

Skewwhiff
The Railway, Evesham

The Mood Elevators
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mumbo Jumbo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Come Together
Bar 12, Worcester

Vo Et Tyler
Millers Arms, Pershore

The Infinite Collection
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Retro Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Saturday 13 October 2012

Boogie Street
Drakes Broughton Village Hall, Pershore



The Karma Kanics
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The Void All Dayer, Black Shark, God Damn, This
Wicked Tongue, Vault Of Eagles, Slipstream, Poer
Zombie, Mighty Young, CapitalVibe, Vandal Hearts
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Aquarius
The Express Inn, Malvern

Hard Ride
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ill Skills - The Afterburner
Pig n Drum, Worcester

Ian Parker - Bare Bones Tour
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jak Raven
The Crown Inn, St Johns, Worcester

The Maz Mitrenko Band
The Railway, Evesham

Paul Parker & Friends
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Naked Remedy
The Wrekin Inn, Telford

A.K.A.
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Will Killeen
Millers Arms, Pershore

Shellshock
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Quo Motion
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Matt Woosey
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Baron Greenback
Subtone, Cheltenham

Skankin's 50th with The Beat & The Lobster Band
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dave Onions
The George, Bridgnorth

Fleetwood Bac
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Way
Unicorn, Malvern

Outland Slickers
Speed The Plough, Tibberton

Sunday 14 October 2012

SkaBucks
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Strumpit
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 15 October 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Open Mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 16 October 2012

Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester

Worcester Blues Night (Various bands)
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Rhythmic Unity African Drum Workshop
Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

Wednesday 17 October 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Damon T & Jon Dowling & Triinu
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Poems in the Pub with Angela France & Open Mic
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Steve's Jukebox
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
The Masons Arms, Wychenford

Quill
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 18 October 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Artstar
The Slug And Lettuce, Worcester

Jamie Knight
Cafe Rough, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 19 October 2012

Stompin' On Spiders, Black Cat Bone
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Guns Or Roses, Reptile Rodeo
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Honey Boy Hickling
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Reflections
Bar 12, Worcester

Live Music
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Soultown
The Talbot, Bewdley

Tiger Feet
Millers Arms, Pershore

Sam Eden
Anchor Inn, Eckington

Check De Cone
Cafe Rene, Gloucester
The Dilemma Council
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Flat Stanley
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Carnage Club
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Inca Hoots
The Railway, Evesham

Delray Rockets
The Anchor, Tewkesbury

Ronin
The Railway, Evesham

Saturday 20 October 2012

Rich Goble
The Rising Sun, Stourport-Upon-Severn,

Crooked Empire
Subtone, Cheltenham

The John Steeds
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Cunts
The Railway, Evesham

Niiko, Devlish, Orangudan
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Blind River Scare
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tone Monster Promotions presents
Ashes to Fall, Misanthropic Existence & more TBC
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Emma Kotka Band
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Help For Heroes Charity All Day Event
The Crown Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Trio Rosbifs
Unicorn, Malvern

Magoos
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

The John Steeds
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Rawk Music - Epidode 1: Boom Headshot!
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Ron Jeremy Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Omnia Opera & Sucio Suki
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 21 October 2012

This Town Needs Guns, Cape Of Good Hope, Tokamak
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Steve's Jukebox
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Big B Swingtet
Queens Head, Wolverley

Free Spirit
The Reindeer Inn, Ombersley

Monday 22 October 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Folk Session
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Mic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dave Onions & Open Mic
Cock n Maggie, Bewdley

Open Mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 23 October 2012

Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 24 October 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Acoustic Brew
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Blues Hound
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Steve's Jukebox
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Wooden Horse
Masons Arms, Worcester

Thursday 25 October 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Nick Harper
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Blues Boy Dan Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Friday 26 October 2012

Abbey Davies, Jasper, Becky Rose, Nakedy Remedy,
Christina Maynard, Vault of Eagles
The Firefly, Worcester

Rockit Fuel, Hangfire
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The John Steeds
The Royal Oak, Alcester

DNA Opening Night Party
DNA, Lowesmore, Worcester



John Denton's Midnight Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Monthly Ska Night, Live Music
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Snooty Bobs Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dj Night
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Umphff
Millers Arms, Pershore

Cased Closed, Prime Position Et Dirty Lye
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Delray Rockets
Barbourne Ex Service Mens Club

Freewater
Anchor Inn, Eckington

Sweet Fanny Adams
Queens Head, Wolverley

Justines Memorial Night
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Saturday 27 October 2012

Aquarius
The Oak Apple, Worcester

Tales Of Terror with Inner Terrestrials, Stiff Joints
Generic Eric, + Dj's
Wagon Et Horses, Digbeth, Birmingham

Blind Lemon
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Ital Sounds
Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Legendary Wet Dream Halloween Party
Phill Gifford, Tony Work, Shaun Lane, Adam Stringer
DNA, Lowesmore, Worcester

Talullah Fix
Unicorn, Malvern

Done By Sunrise
The Talbot, Barbourne, Worcester

Shifty Chicken Shack
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Notorious Bros
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Who's Next
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Answer Back, Spandex Bellend, Time of the Mouth
Oliver's Bar, Malvern

Ian Luther Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Kevin Underwood
The Maverick, Ambelcote, Stourbridge

Zombie Walk Et Cirque Du Macabre with Captain
Hotknives Et Dr Tim
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Cynotia
Subtone, Cheltenham

Norther Soul Et Motown DJ Night
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
Blue Bell, Ryall, Nr Upton

Al Terry's Halloween Spectacular
The Crown Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Wrathchild
The Railway, Evesham

Adults Halloween Party with Freewater
Childrens Party (4-6pm)
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Sunday 28 October 2012

Rich Goble
The King's Head, Sidbury, Worcester

Alan Crump
The Reindeer Inn, Ombersley

Hawklords
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

5-3
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Halloween Party
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Remy Harris Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Funk Station with Solar Et Guests
The Art House Cafe, Worcester

Monday 29 October 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Heart In Hand, Foxxes, Forever Grace, Olympian
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Open Mic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 30 October 2012

Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Rhythmic Unity African Drum Workshop
Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

Folk Night
Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 31 October 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Acoustic Brew
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Steve's Jukebox
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Halloween Night with Voodoo Blue
Queens Head, Wolverley

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THE MARR'S BAR

OCT 2012

Vince Freeman
Thurs 11th October



Thursday 4th

Comedy Zone Presents
Carl Donnelly, Bobby Mair & Dave Longley

£10 ticket £12 on the door

Friday 5th

This Wicked Tongue,
Inca Hoots, A Poetic Yesterday,
HEY YOU GUYS! and Mansize

£2 ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 6th

Wes Dance & The Street Of Early Sorrows, Richard Clarke & The Rafters

£3 ticket £5 on the door

Thursday 11th

Vince Freeman - from 'The Voice'

£5 ticket £7 on the door

Friday 12th

The Mood Elevators

£4 ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 13th

Quo Motion

£6 ticket £8 on the door

Friday 19th

'Woody's Re-Union'

Guns Or Roses and Reptile Rodeo
£5 ticket

Saturday 20th

RAWK Music - Episode 1:
BOOM Headshot!

£5 ticket £7 on the door

Sunday 21st

This Town Needs Guns

£5 admission

Friday 26th

Justines Memorial Night

Saturday 27th

Who's Next

£8 ticket £10 on the door

Sunday 28th

Hawklords

£12.50 ticket £15 on the door

Monday 29th

Heart In Hand, Forever Grace + more

£8 ticket £10 on the door

Wednesday 31st

Halloween Jam Night

Wednesdays - Jamming night

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