

SLAP

Issue 21

Nov 2012

MAGAZINE

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Hi and welcome to issue 21 of Slap Magazine. In this edition we take a look at some of the amazing events taking place around these parts as we go headlong into the Winter months with Christmas just around the corner.

We catch up with some of the best bands around here before they become far too cool to talk to the likes of us, such as Jasper in the Company of Others as well as The Misers. We also preview some interesting happenings such as the collaboration between artist John Taylor and local band Babble at the Worcester Arts Workshop.

Also looking forward as Slap Night returns with the incredible Cantaloop who blew the roof off the Workshop with our very first promotion last year. This time supported by our featured band, the aforementioned Jasper... this should prove to be another night to remember Slappers!

We once again look at the many comedy nights which regularly crop up and this month we have an exclusive interview with the amazing Rob Rouse who plays two shows within Slap-shire.

You may even have been lucky enough to find an early Christmas treat on the front cover featuring some local talent for your enjoyment in the form of a CD from 'Worcester Rocks'.

Thanks once again to our lovely contributors who volunteer their time to the Slap cause. After our next issue they get some well earned time off as we produce a double Christmas and New Year edition with a break in January.

In the meantime we may see you at one of the many gigs listed in this months Slap, let's start November with a bang!

- Slap Eds



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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



Return ticket for Long Grass

Long Grass, an 8 piece Birmingham based Reggae/Ska Band, return by popular demand to the Railway Hotel, Evesham on the 10th November. They play a mix of original material and covers such as Bob Marley, Maxi Priest and Jesse J. Slap says... Not to be missed!



Gathan to Keep Calm and Carry On

Gathan Cheema was inundated with hate messages on Twitter after just failing to progress from the 'boot camp' stage of this year's X Factor competition on ITV. The 22 year old regular at Worcester open mic nights was unhappy at the editing on the show but was shocked to receive more than 4500 hurtful messages - many using abusive and racist language. However Gathan has responded that he intends to stand up to the comments and is determined to pursue a successful pop career - we wish him all the best...

The Crows land Best Folk Act

After scooping the Celtic Rock Act and Fiddle Player top prizes at the Irish Music Association awards earlier this year - Ledbury's Roving Crows won the Best Folk Act at the Exposure Music Awards final - also finishing in third place overall - crow and roll!!



New Night gets the all Clear...

Clearwater Productions, is a newly established company by two members of the local band 'East of the Sun', Alec Bond and Russell Underwood. The company is multifaceted and has many ridiculously big ideas, some of which may just be achievable. One of the initial projects Clearwater Productions is running, is a brand new night of original music in Worcester called 'The Big O'. The night will run monthly and will be a showcase of the fantastic local talent we have in the Worcestershire area. First and foremost they are musicians and so are running the night in the way they think it should be done. It is Saturday night, city centre, original music where the audience watches for free and the band gets paid for entertaining. *'We are very fortunate to be working with O'Neill's in Worcester on this project, they are wonderful hosts, with a fantastic venue who not only share our vision but are extremely committed to supporting the local arts.'*



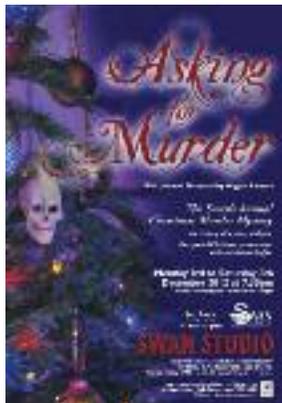
Mae Next Year hold success?

Young singer-songwriter Mae Bradbury from Eckington near Pershore is one of the final 10 nominees for the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award - with the final being hosted in February next year. Mae took part in the Young Folk Awards Weekend in Kendal, Cumbria and is hoping to be among the final four.



Murder and Mince pies

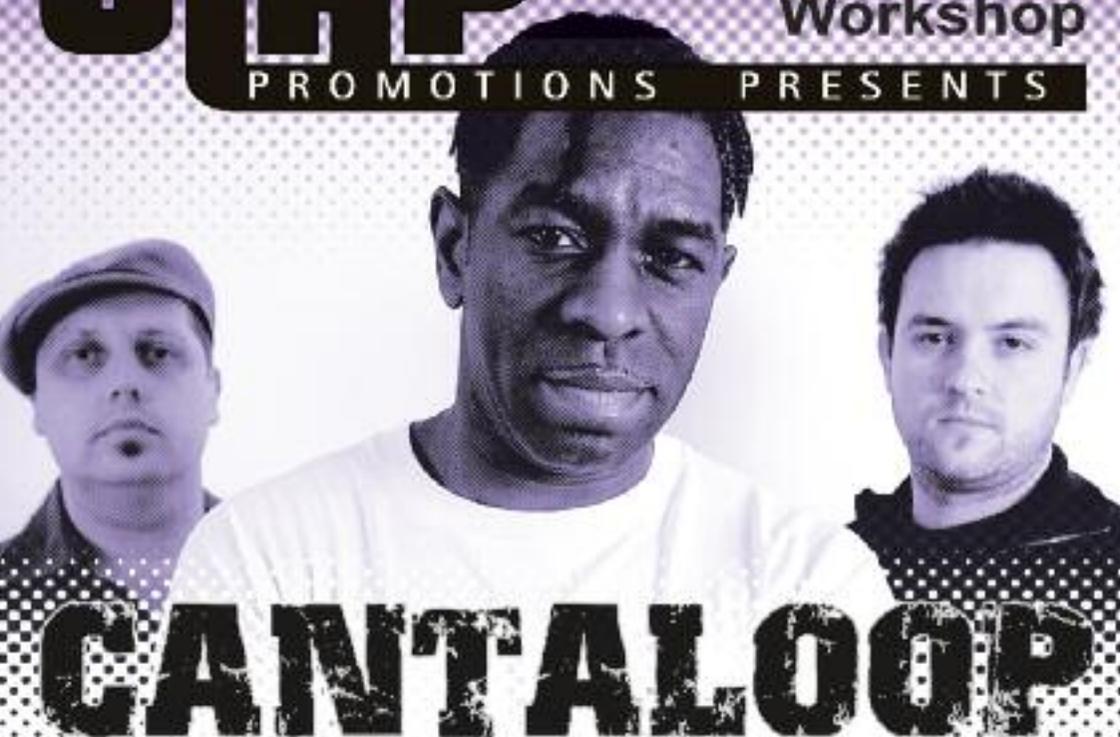
Christmas is a time for togetherness but not in the Winter household. Attempted murder or a practical joke? Come at find out and enjoy a buffet supper. Monday 3rd December to Saturday 8th. 7.30 in The Swan Studio. Sat Mat. 2.30 Tea/ coffee mince pies.



SLAP

PROMOTIONS PRESENTS

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Workshop



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SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER

DOOR £5 7.30PM - LATE



Loads of exciting things are happening this month with the run up to that festive time. I know you all want to curl up and hibernate (me too) though a good dose of music and arts is just what the doctor ordered! On **Sunday 4th November** it's your last chance to join a creative writing workshop with 'Start Writing your Novel' £45 from 10am til 4pm.

Then come and make your own special presents in a 'Xmas gifts with Clay' workshop for adults and children on **Sat 17th Nov 1 til 4pm**.

In the galleries we have a huge community exhibition, **Postcard Patchwork 7th til 30th Nov**. See opposite.

Premiered at the Midlands Art Centre as part of the Birmingham Arts Festival, **Bread and Circuses** comes to the Worcester Arts Workshop on **Saturday the 10th**.

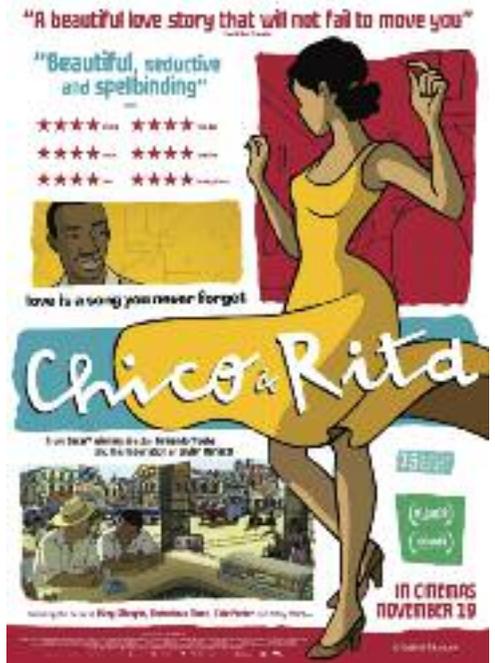
Uk art band **Babble** and artist **John Taylor** have collaborated on the **Bread and Circuses** project as their response to the challenges unfolding as sleepers begin to awaken and see the world through new eyes... art, music, words and beauty are shining through the cracks of reality, giving power back to those willing to reject manufactured culture and apathy. The event will launch the cd, complete with 16 page booklet featuring lyrics (**Karen Langley**) and artwork (**John Taylor**) with special guests **Retinal Circus** and a dj set by **Ed Steelefox**. 7pm. £3 (proceeds go to Water Aid).

The last **Lazy Sunday** of the year falls on the 11th with more fine acoustic treats to whet your whistle. **Tammy Marie Down, Kevin Jenkins, Angiebones** and **Jerry Chester**. Returning next spring, it will be a last chance for a **Lazy Sunday** in 2012. Keep an eye on the website for line up. 1pm til 6pm.

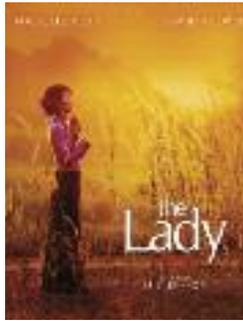


Slap magazine night returns this month with the first of two winter blinders to get your cockles moving and shaking. **Saturday 17th** sees a much awaited return from The Worcestershire/West Midlands very own funk outfit '**Cantaloop**'. After last year's high energy dance off, we are very excited to have them back. Support lies in the form of **Jasper and the Company of Others** so all in all it will be an evening of hip, pop, hop and disco! £5 on the door. 8pm. The Xmas show on **Dec 22nd** will be a spectacular festive party for all you lovely faces who have supported Slap nights over the last year. We give you **Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos, Captain Hotknives** and **Ed Steelefox** all for £6 (£8 door).

Splendid Cinema has some cool movies coming up beginning with '**Chico & Rita**'. This 2010 animated movie from Cuba is possibly the most romantic film made in the last decade telling of the love and career of two 1950s jazz musicians in Havana, and how success destroys their relationship. 11th November. 15 cert. 7.30pm £5.



Then on the 25th Nov we have Luc Besson's 'The Lady' 2011. French blockbuster director Luc Besson directed the amazing Michelle Yeoh as Burmese human rights activist Aung San Suu Kyi in this remarkably inspiring and moving biopic. 12A cert. 7.30pm £5



On 2nd Dec the Workshop is showing a performance of Pinocchio. Based on the story by Carlo Collodi, award winning Strangeface bring an extraordinary mix of masks, puppets live music and song to this tale of wild mischief and temptation. Heart-warming, moving and comical, a masterpiece of surreal fantasy. £8/adult £6child. 3pm

And finally, come along to our Xmas Bazaar on the 8th Dec where we will have craft, vintage, junk and treats for sale plus mulled cider, alternative xmas songs and other live music throughout the day.

"We wanted to put on a postcard art exhibition which would engage the whole community, which would be organic, fluid; developing and ever changing throughout the duration of the show."

Postcard Patchwork was put out to stacks of community groups, schools, individual artists, volunteers and musicians earlier this year asking for their own contributions to what would be a huge patchwork of unique pieces of art, spilling out onto the gallery walls and beyond. Lauren Greenwood gallery coordinator at the Workshop said "We have been amazed by the postcards we have been receiving, from all over the world and we hope these will continue to come in so that it can continue to create throughout the show". Come in and make one while you have a coffee or get yours in soon! The result will be up on our walls in the Worcester Arts Workshop from the 7th of this month, with submissions from Australia, USA, Europe not to mention all of the fabulous entries we have received from the young people and rest of the community of Worcester.

The individual pieces will be auctioned at a charity fundraiser at the Arts Workshop on the 8th December.

Kate Cox



www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk
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Exhibition takes place November 7th - 30th
 Please send your postcard by October 26th

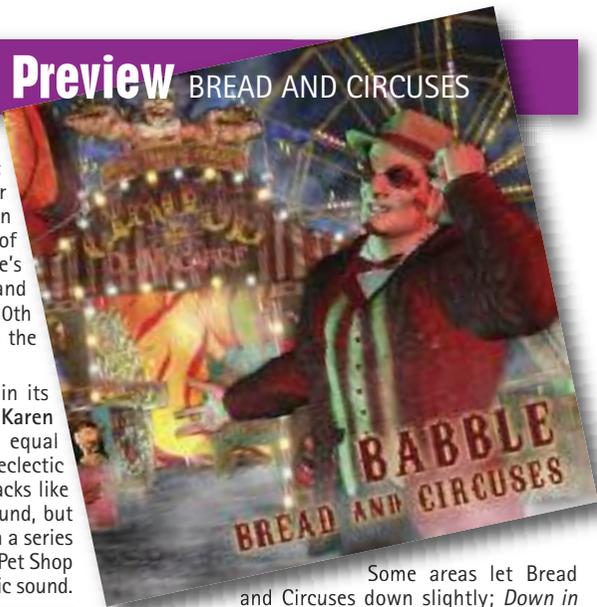
For more details email clickclickcollective@gmail.com or phone Kate or Lauren on 01905 25053.

CD REVIEW & Launch Preview

BREAD AND CIRCUSES

Babble and John Taylor have joined together for this art rock project, **Bread and Circuses**; creating an audio-visual reaction to our increasingly dire socio-political situation. John Taylor's art offers an interesting interpretation of the music; seemingly more dark than Babble's effort, full of fantastical, dystopian imagery and their album release show in Worcester on the 10th of November will be interesting as we see how the two parts come together.

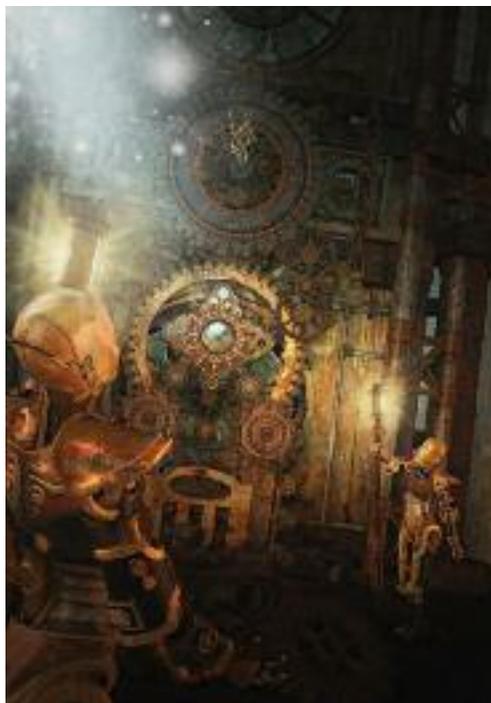
Musically though, this project is successful in its lyrically surreal representation of the themes. Karen Langley is a revelation on vocals; applying equal measures of authority and seduction while an eclectic mix of rock, indie and pop plays behind her. Tracks like *Psychiatry* show a debt to The Velvet Underground, but this is never exclusive; instead this is mixed with a series of eighties influences like the Talking Heads and Pet Shop Boys, modified into Babble's increasingly eccentric sound.



Some areas let Bread and Circuses down slightly; *Down in the Dark Wood* and *The Last Tree Spirit* both overstay their welcome, both are around the eight minute mark and by the end Babble sound like they're clutching at straws as to where to take the song. The good does always outweigh the bad though, presenting one of the most interesting releases in recent memory.



A large part of the original sound comes from Ed Steelefox; their second drummer who plays on a kit made entirely out of rubbish and recycled materials. It adds contrast to the percussion, stepping above the novelty to really add something here. Rob Williams's guitar work really impresses; providing gentle melodies one second and then cutting through with a fuzzed out riff; when combined with Karen's spoken word parts the album peaks, becoming everything it wants to be.



Artwork: John Taylor Words by Matthew Tilt

FILM PREVIEWS by Matthew Tilt

Despite having a story that even the most unenthusiastic film fan could recite to you, there was plenty to be confused about in Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*; why the bear costume? What happens to Jack at the end? Well it turns out there was plenty of other questions people wanted answered and Rodney Ascher's *Room 237* is his attempt to address some of the theories surrounding the film, from Kubrick's hidden message about him helping to fake the moon landing, to it's supposed links to everything from the Holocaust to the White House.

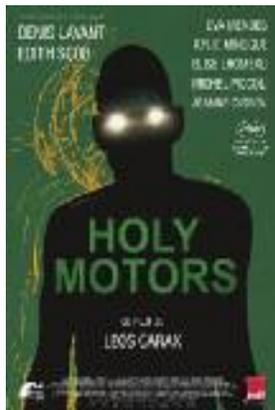


The Electric Cinema in Birmingham is showing *Room 237* from the 4th to the 8th November and each showing is followed by the US print of *The Shining*. This print has rarely been seen in the U.K. and features nearly 25 minutes of extra footage which expands on the themes present in Kubrick's masterpiece.

Order tickets here: <http://www.theelectric.co.uk>

Holy Motors, Monday 19th November to Wednesday 21st. The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Widely praised at the Cannes Film Festival, Leos Carax's first film in thirteen years is a surreal trip through one night in the life of Mr. Oscar (Carax regular Denis Lavant). *Holy Motors* is a rich tapestry of film references and genre pastiches as Mr. Oscar takes the form of various characters, coming into contact with a variety of people, played by an eclectic cast including Edith Scob (Eyes Without a Face, one of the many films referenced), Eva Mendes (The Bad



Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans) and Kylie Minogue.

Few films have sparked this much critical excitement, discussion and bemusement; this, like so many recent cinematic successes, is a film about cinema itself, about living life through a character. Carax coaxes career best performances from his actors, creating a sense of reality within his surrealism, and making this a must see for discerning cinephiles.

Order tickets here: <http://www.artrix.co.uk>

Orphée, Saturday 17th Nov. The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Taking centre stage in Jean Cocteau's Orphic Trilogy, *Orphée* is a modern twist on the Greek myth of Orpheus, moving the poet to 1950's Paris, deep within the Bohemian community of the time.



Orpheus' story remains faithful to the original, but it is Cocteau's use of post-war Paris that gives his film added emotional impact. The underworld was created by filming within blitzed ruins and the garbled messages heard in the Princess' (Death) car closely resemble messages the BBC sent to the French Resistance during the occupation of France.

This French classic is receiving a very limited showing at The Artrix, continuing their dedication to independent and classic cinema. A brief chance for you to see this highly lauded film which continues to be referenced, by an artist who remains a cornerstone of essential European cinema.

Order tickets here: <http://www.artrix.co.uk>

Matthew Tilt

REVIEW Bitterroots

4th October The Retreat, Ledbury

As a group Bitterroots really do possess an embarrassment of musical riches: there is across-the-board, superlative playing of guitars, Dobro, bouzouki, fiddle, double bass, button accordion and harmonica.

And this is all before you get to the voices. Oh those voices. It is gift enough if your group is lucky to have one talented singer on board but Bitterroots are in possession of three! And so despite all the delightfully dexterous instrumentation it is the interplay of these voices that both form the foundation on which this band exist whilst simultaneously being the proverbial cherry on top.



Solo the singing is uniformly superb; whether tis Beth Holland the double bass player in all her bluegrass tinged beauteousness, Helen Davis the fantastic fiddler with her honeyed tones or Rupert's lead, lariat-laced larynx these darlings really do deliver. And if that were not enough, together the singing supremos' harmonising leaves one speechless with admiration and more than a tad warm'n'fuzzy on the inside.

The knowledgeable and appreciative Retreat audience quickly realise that they're witnessing something special and react accordingly, a-whooping' and a-hollerin' a-plenty. The material ranges across Albion to the Appalachians via Eire and beyond, encompassing jigs, reels, airs, polka, waltzes, shanties and more but this is no mere folk group happy to wallow in trad trenches.

The Bitterroots' set includes more than a smattering of excellent originals penned by the charismatic & nominal bandleader Rupert Brakspear. It is their intention to increase the number of own-penned opuses in the repertoire and given the quality of the songs on offer tonight this is a wise move and appetite-whetting prospect.

I've seen Bitterroots three times now and they're really gelling into a potent live outfit. Their set takes in tunes by Gillian Welch, Hackensaw Boys, The Pogues, Low Anthem and Old Crow Medicine Show, in addition to the widest array of traditional ditties. The assembled crowd lap em all up with relish and are suitably rowdy in their appreciation. Plus we even get to join in, call-&-response stylee, on 1st set closer Billy O'Shea.

Further testament to their talent if needed is when we're informed that Ally Gittens has only been playing the Dobro for 6 months or so but oh man Blind Lemon would already be proud of this boy.

For one so loquacious offstage Mark Westcott, Bitterroots' peerless accordionist, is perhaps the most understated of this merry crew onstage. But given the opportunity on the likes of Oookpik Waltz (the Inuktitut word for Snowy Owl since you ask) and the brilliant St Anne's/St Jean Reels his musical pedigree shines through as brightly as his box buttons.

Bitterroots truly are a top class outfit who could, should and will undoubtedly grace any stage on God's good planet.

Seek them out where'er they roam.

Words by Tim Ribs

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The Almonry, 01386-446944 10am-4.30pm

PREVIEW

DAVE SHARP Keystones 2nd Nov '12

"Ladies & Gentlemen, live via satellite, from the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville Tennessee, home of the Grand Old Opry, would you please welcome, from Manchester England: Mr. DAVE SHARP"

With these words echoing from every television set in the heartland of blue collar America, the solo career of Dave Sharp, co-founder and lead guitarist of British rock band, THE ALARM, was launched in the United States in 1991.

Fifteen minutes later, centre stage at the Ryman Auditorium, a shadowy, lone figure, Dave Sharp - Brit rock guitarist turned troubadour had found his way into the hearts

and minds of an American core country audience with the song *Hard Travellin'*, no mean feat for a boy from Salford.

It had all begun in 1989, a year, which had seen the US release of the Alarms 5th coast-to-coast hit album- *Change* and Number 1 AOR single *Sold Me Down The River*. The Alarm toured with **Bob Dylan**, sold out arenas and theatres indoors and out. Played the talk shows, rose through the ranks with MTV. They in fact achieved what most British bands only ever dream of the much sought-after status of a British Rock Band that entered the stream of American popular conscience.

Later that year lead singer **Mike Peters** made the surprise announcement that he would take a two-year sabbatical from The Alarm, a decision which would lead to his eventual departure from the band in 1991.

Sharp had cut his musical teeth in Manchester, England at the tail end of the Woodstock era on a diet of Guthrie, Dylan & Neil Young, spiced with Zeppelin, Free, and The Who.

The prospect of an enforced sabbatical from his band mates of 10 years proved to be the ideal opportunity for Dave to step into the spotlight.

In December 1990, having enlisted the help of legendary maverick record producer **Bob Johnston** (Dylan, Willie Nelson, Leonard Cohen), Dave walked through the doors of the Hit Factory NYC and in under a week his first solo album *Hard Travellin'* had been recorded and delivered for release.

The following year saw Dave return to New York City. He performed for an audience of 25,000 in Central Park at **Woody Guthrie's** 80th Anniversary where he shared the spotlight with the **Right Reverend Jessie Jackson**, **Arlo Guthrie** and **Pete Seeger** under the watchful and approving eyes of Guthrie's sister **Nora** and long time Guthrie manager & friend, **Harold Leventhal**.

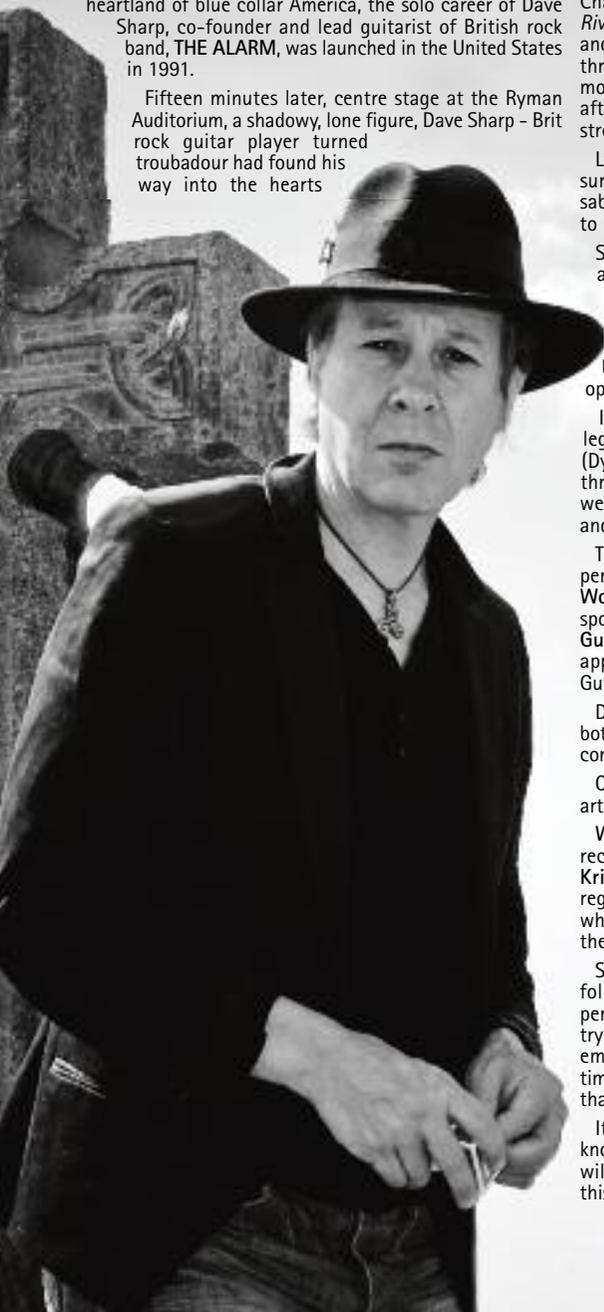
Dave Sharp's solo albums have received critical acclaim both in the United States and here in the UK. He performs continuously on both sides of the Atlantic.

Over the years Sharp has worked alongside most of the artists he has long respected and admired.

Willie Nelson and **Johnny Cash** have appeared on his recordings. He has performed alongside **Kris Kristofferson**, **Bill Munroe** and **Porter Wagoner**. A regular performer on **Decatur Street**, New Orleans, whether solo or with a band, guitar in hand Sharp delivers the Spirit of Rock & Roll.

Sharp's music has been described as everything from folk and blues to rock, country and punk. His performances, legendary. One word cannot be used when trying to describe Dave Sharp, "Predictable". He has embraced mainstream pop culture whilst at the same time remaining one step away from its grasp. He likes it that way!

It's a **Mighty Hard Road** to be **Travellin' Down**. Sharp knows it, writes it and sings it. Now back in the UK, Dave will return to Keystones just before Christmas if you miss this one...



To Be Offensive or Not To Be Offensive. That is the Question...

As I write:

Frankie Boyle has just been awarded £50,000 in his libel case against The Mirror for calling him a racist. His lawyer said "*Calling him vile and offensive is one thing. It goes with the territory. But accusing him of being a racist is an entirely different matter.*"



Rape Is No Joke, an organisation dedicated to stamping out rape and helping its victims, are asking comedians and comedy clubs not to tell rape jokes.

And celebrated comedian Rowan Atkinson is campaigning to have Section 5 of the Public Order Act reformed. At the moment you can be arrested if something you say is considered to be insulting. Recent arrests under this section include that of a man telling a policeman that his horse was gay and a student with a banner calling Scientology a dangerous cult.

So many big questions. And all the bigger if you are a comedian.

For what it's worth here's my two pennys worth...

As a promoter of live stand up I have never asked and will never ask a comedian not to tell jokes about a specific subject (and that includes ginger jokes). If I do not like a comedian's material or don't think he/she is funny I will simply not book them in the first place or invite them back.

As a comedian I will talk about anything I find funny. I will cut jokes out because people don't laugh, not because someone may feel offended (I'd have nothing left in my set).

It reminds me a little of the big furore a couple of years ago with Jonathan Ross and Russell Brand and the Sachs Gate incident. Here's the thing. You cannot ask / tell comedians what they can and cannot say. If you do you get watered down anodyne and desperately unfunny comedy along the lines of an Adam Sandler movie. If you are a radio / TV producer or live venue owner, then it's your choice whether to book someone or edit or cut someone (harder in a live venue admittedly).

It comes down to this. Do we have a right not to be insulted? And the answer is "no". I am insulted every day when I hear Cameron or Osborne speak or when I hear

the latest Take That or Justin Bieber song on the radio, but do I believe that they should be imprisoned for their words? No of course not. (Well alright maybe. Just them though and possibly Boris) What do I do? I turn off the radio or don't vote for them. We are all insulted by different things. Stand up comedy clubs are about the last places you can go where you will hear people talking about taboo subjects. But if you don't want to, then don't go. When the state steps in to regulate our tastes and what words we can and can't listen to or say, we should automatically reject this as an assault on Freedom of Speech. Eleanor Roosevelt spoke wisely when she said: "*No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.*"

You can find out more about the campaign to reform the Public Order Act at www.reformsection5.org.uk

Clever Peter



Meanwhile a bunch of comedians will be saying exactly what they like on 1st November at the next Comedy Zone show at The Marris Bar, featuring sketch group Clever Peter and Edinburgh Award nominee Joe Lycett.

The Comedy Zone returns on 5th December with Robin Ince's Happiness Through Science tour.



Joe Lycett

Robin Ince



SLAP Interview with Rob Rouse

What's your new show about?

It's basically about Life. A journey into the human animal, based on my 38 years of spurious fact-finding and the half baked theories on existence I've developed so far.

What advice would you give to an aspiring comedian?

Just make sure you talk about what you think is funny in as funny way as possible and be totally fearless about it. Take risks and make mistakes that's often where the best stuff comes from.

What's the best thing about being a comedian?

Firstly I'm 38, its 11am on a Wednesday and I'm in my pyjamas. Secondly it's the freedom to spout off, act the goat and generally behave and speak in such an uninhibited way that would get you fired from the average workplace. it is a genuine privilege to be able to be that much of a silly arse all the time and ostensibly 'still have a job'.

What's the worst thing about being a comedian?

Ultimately as it's a life where you make your own rules, so if you've got a problem or gripe with it, then you can change that, or stop. I think comedians moaning about their job is fairly inexcusable. You don't have a boss as a comic so you can't blame anyone else. In fact my only gripe about being a comic would be grown adult comedians moaning about their 'careers'. Some people pluck chickens 9 hours a day.

Should live comedy be performed in arenas?

For me, if you're in the audience and you're having to watch the gig on a screen, on some level it must be slightly unsatisfying. Comedy isn't rock and roll, it's comedy and frankly rock and roll is better in a small room than an arena as well, isn't it.

You had your big moment of fame on the Friday Night Project, which then was re-commissioned with Alan & Justin. How do you feel about this now?

I'd be a liar if I said I wasn't disappointed at the time, it went on for another 7 or 8 series I think, but i just had to deal with it. You have to get

over yourself in order to have a life. Obviously if things had panned out differently my life would probably be very different, but it wouldn't necessarily have made it any better, maybe it would have made it worse. Perhaps I wouldn't have a family, perhaps I could have ended up with 12 kids, or an alcoholic or a millionaire, who knows.

Who are your favourite comedians?

Richard Pryor, Vic and Bob, Billy Connolly, Louis Ck, Dylan Moran...It's very hard to come up with a short list though.

Has comedy become too safe? With an endless stream of young attractive male comics, getting TV appearances within months of starting on the circuit. Is there enough different and exciting about the circuit now? (you know what I'm getting at)

I think things come and go in phases, there's a lot of stand up on tv at the moment and constant repeats from an era of Apollo and Comedy Roadshows which all went out on BBC1 so inevitably they aren't going to be particularly hard hitting or subversive, but that's British mainstream TV, not the comics. However, I think there is quite a lot of "and I was on the bus and I swear this bloke stood up and said..."comedy out there at the moment, because there seems to be more young comics maybe than when I started out and perhaps because they're young they haven't been broken and disappointed by life at any point, but don't worry, that'll happen to them!

If you had to get a proper job, what would it be?

Spaceman.

What inspired you to be a comedian?

Growing up in a little village watching Month Python repeats, then Black Adder, Vic Reeves Big Night Out, Fry and Laurie, Viz Comic, Bill Hicks on VHS, being a late bloomer and showing off in public to hide my insecurity to name but a few.

What were your best / worst gigs and why?

I have absolutely no idea! I think it pays not to get too hung up on one or the other really. You have to concentrate on the present.

by Adam Montgomery

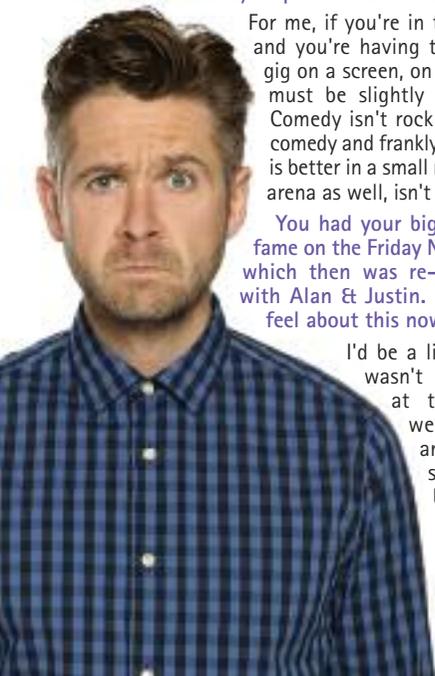
Star of Mad Mad Mad World (ITV1), 8 out of 10 Cats (C4), Dave's One Night Stand (Dave), The Comedy Store (Comedy Central) & Spoons (C4).

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WARNING: Not suitable for children or your prissy Aunty. If you don't fall into either of these categories, you should love it.

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or at Huntington Hall 30th November £15



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MARTYN JOSEPH—AUTUMN TOUR 2012

Huntingdon Hall Thursday 29th November at 8pm
Tickets £16.50

Described as “One of the most charismatic and electrifying performers in Britain today...tough and passionate” by BBC 6 Music’s Tom Robinson, Martyn Joseph is bringing his Autumn Tour to Huntingdon Hall this November in support of his new studio album ‘Songs for the Coming Home’.

ROB ROUSE – Life Sentences

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PREVIEW Keystones 30th Nov

The Miffs, Cyberstan & The Silver Kitsune

The Miffs – I have heard the name mentioned by a lot of people throughout Worcester this year but never got the pleasure of catching them until the Worcester Music Festival just gone.

They are a 3 piece band from Worcester presenting Pete Rochford who is on guitar and vocals – a little birdy told me he's just had a baby boy (not sure how this is scientifically possible but many congratulations all the same!!). We also have Degr (Derek) Ridge on bass and Steve Makepeace on Drums and backing Vox.



Prior to The Miffs forming, Steve was in Another Fine Mess until 95. Degr and Steve found each other in 1997, they formed Escha (for more info check the Worcester News Archive back in 2001!!) until 2005 when they disbanded. Luckily the punk love story doesn't end there, Degr and Steve found each other again and in 2010 they formed the Miffs with Pete.

Looking back at their history – if you liked punk back in the day around Another Fine Mess' time then you will love this. They play original material which is new but you can hear the twangs of their past wrapped into their unique style. There are a couple of old covers such as *Blister in the Sun* by Violent Femmes, which is a bit before my time but enjoyed watching my Dad nearly slipping a disc and imagining he was 18 again when this song was played.



I'm going to start nagging them for their debut CD now... Come on!!

If this catches your fancy please come along to watch The Miffs at Keystones on 30th November 2012 with Cyberstan and The Silver Kitsune. If not just come along to have a look at my Dad go!!!!!!

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Open Mic Nights - Blessing Or Curse? - Andy O'Hare



There was an interesting column in a local paper last month complaining about the apparent explosion in the numbers of open mic nights now doing the rounds - the writer was complaining that it was hard to find a quiet pub just to have a drink in... Well I'm pretty sure that there was a fair bit of tongue-in-cheek in his comments - but it does appear that 'traditional' mid-week gigs are slowly giving way to this format of musical nights out.

Now I can see why some musos might have misgiving - it's fair to say that they're an inexpensive way for pubs and clubs to provide entertainment. I'm a big supporter of musicians being properly paid to perform - and don't like to see them getting snared by the 'pay to play' type of events that are all too common - so how does the open mic format square up with that?



Well first of all - you know straight away what you're getting - as a performer it's probably the best no-fear opportunity for a newbie to take the first steps to possible stardom - or for a more experienced muso to try out some new ideas and songs on a generally receptive audience. As a spectator you'll get to see and hear a variety of acts - usually no more than 3 or 4 songs in a 10-15 minute set - if you don't much care for what you're hearing from one artist then unlike a 'proper' gig you don't have to wait 45 minutes or more until the next one!!

But more importantly I reckon is that there's little or no financial risk for the promoters - there's little chance of losing hundreds of pounds in a night or even worse - having to go to the bands at the end of an evening with barely enough cash to cover their travel costs.



Yes of course if the event is well promoted, advertised and run this shouldn't happen but it's never an exact science. Open mics give budding promoters a chance to organise and run a genuine evening of music with most of the hassle required to put on a full-on gig such as sorting out PA/sound, stage management, MC-ing etc and do a great job in providing this hands-on experience - as I've mentioned before I reckon the main problem that it's so musically quiet 'across the border' at the moment isn't the lack of acts - it's a shortage of promoters willing to take the plunge!!

It's fair as well to say that the usually informal nature of open mic nights does mean that often they're just an excuse for musos to get together, socialise, exchange tips and ideas - and quite often strike up new partnerships - I reckon this probably happens more often nowadays after a meet at an open mic 'talking shop' than at regular gigs - what do you think - let me know on so-sue-me@live.co.uk!!

While I'm talking open mic nights - think it's impossible not to mention fast-rising trio Done By Sunrise - who set out from the start of the year to play as many of these events as possible to gain stage experience - and it certainly doesn't seem to have done them any harm at all!! Great to see how DBS have progressed so far this year - increasing their confidence and getting the feel of crowd reaction - guess that's how they thought writing a song about TOWIE would go down pretty well with the average punter!!



In the original article the emphasis was mainly on open mics in the Malvern area but I reckon there's probably about the same frequency in Worcester if not more - so is it just coincidence that these are also two of the most happening musical locations in the country? It's impossible to walk down the high streets in either town without bumping into a musician of some sort - and every single one had to make that first great step onto the ladder at some time...

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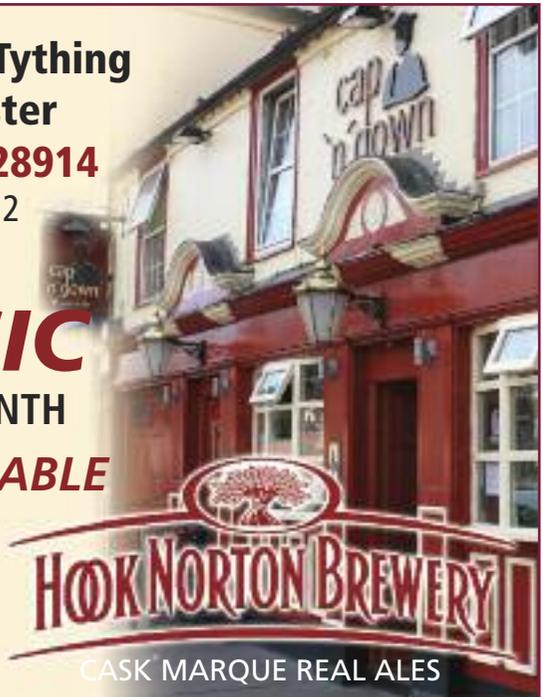
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REVIEW *The Misers - A Weight Off The Mind*



To say Bromyard's The Misers are back would be disingenuous. Since releasing debut album "Amplified Life Stories" in 2009, the band have been playing live, gaining plaudits with extensive radio play and even appearing on the goggle-box. They have, however, been through some changes so it is with renewed vigour that the band find themselves on the cusp of releasing the long awaited follow up, "A Weight Off The Mind (Is Still A Load On The Shoulders)".

"...a return to the golden age of song writing..." - Janice Long

In the intervening three years, The Misers have not only been supported by the indomitable BBC Hereford and Worcester but also Radio 2 and 6 Music - veteran DJ Janice

Long praising their music as "a return to the golden age of song writing"; Tom Robinson said "Great Band!". Add to this extensive touring and festival dates (with the likes of the Proclaimers) enabling the band to hone the new material in the live arena which, let's face it, is a bloody good idea if you're going out to tour the record!

The fact that founder member and Hammond player Adam Barry departed (now playing with Simon Fowler of Ocean Colour Scene fame) and bass player Karl Dixon emigrated meant that it was crunch decision time for main man Neil Ivson (vocals / guitar) and drummer Shane Dixon (yes, brother of the aforementioned). It's a no-brainer really when you've got an album ready to record so Neil and Shane made the short journey to Monmouthshire to hook up with veteran producer Paul Cobbold (Echo & The Bunnymen, The Waterboys, The lightning Seeds) at Rockfield Studio (thereby following in the footsteps of fellow Herefordians and inspiration, Mott the Hoople). Paul was able to change Neil's slightly purist mentality of recording through valve and tape to incorporate computers and modernise the sound. A self imposed deadline to get the album 'in the can' before the birth of Neil's child meant that mixing was done 'remotely' while Neil was on paternity leave - inevitably, baby was early.

Another piece of serendipity completes the picture for The Misers 'return'. There was an old internet add kicking about looking for a guitarist and bass player, which was answered by Paul Connop and Sid Griffin respectively with both adding vocals. "The moment we stepped into the studio with these guys, something just clicked" was the drummer's take on their new recruits but the last word must go to Neil, "We kept people waiting but we had to take it to the next level".

Words: Glazz Photography: Tony Woolliscroft



"A Weight Off The Mind" is released on the 5th November The Misers play instore at Rise Records 4 November 2pm and Keystones 15 November at 9pm. www.themisers.co.uk

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Cyberstan...

See him live at Keystones with The Miiffs 30 November and The Marrs Bar with Massive Head Trauma 13 December.

Cyberstan made his live debut supporting V2A at Worcester Music Festival 2012 but was one of the many acts that I wanted to see yet did not manage to. This omission was rectified at Keystones in the middle of October and it was worth the wait.

Stan has been a stalwart of the scene for more years than either of us would care to remember (and even been involved in teaching a new generation of musicians) but the solo cyber version 9:0 is the first time he's gone out on his own.

A consummate showman, he doesn't need anyone else on stage - just machines (sic) and props including wig, goggles and apron! The music, as the name suggests, is a mixture of electro, industrial and techno with echoes of Rammstein, Nine Inch Nails and the aforementioned V2A.

When the album "Made By Maschines" is completed it will be released on itunes. "There are no plans for release on CD for ethical reasons; there is just no need, when we have the Internet at our fingertips and ipods in our ears, it also keeps Cyberstan a completely computer based entity".



Glazz

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REVIEW

Omnia Opera & Socio Suki at The Boars Head Kidderminster



The Boars Head in Kidderminster is a venue that has established a firm reputation for hosting some high end touring acts such as The Beat, but is also renowned for its intimate, esoteric gallery. The gallery was showing an exhibition by Dave Simpson. I stood there mesmerized for some half an hour, trying to fathom how one single mind could conjure such eclectic, dreamy pieces that surely only belonged behind your eyelids whilst in the depths of inebriation or deep meditation. Yet here they were & so brilliantly realized & seemingly snared from beyond distant minded thoughts! All in all, a perfect visual appetizer for returning downstairs to a sea of reverse guitars and a pint of Hobgoblin.

Socio Suki are a fairly new band that have earned their stripes on this past summer's festival circuit. They are an amalgamation of many things, snippets of No Doubt in the vocal, with a grunge of L7. The guitar work was reminiscent of skuzzy post punk catchy punch, the bass, meanwhile would shift from rifforama and veer off into dub terrain. The

drums were pretty solid throughout with a mixture of new and vintage. This was a fun set from start to finish, they seem to cover a lot of ground, perhaps over ambitiously at times, yet these fields are there to be walked upon. I shall have to see this band again to fully digest the diversity.

Omnia Opera are a proggy spatial bugging behemoth. On this occasion Omnia smacked you in the face with a dose of frenetic punk rock in "Second Skin" to open the set, reminiscent of Gong's 'Dynamite'. The monumental cinematic tinged 'Destroyer Of Worlds' is a towering accomplishment of progressive proportions! One which does exactly what it says on the tin! Stepping it up a notch we have the epic 'Nothing Is Ordinary' It's a state of mind.

At times the intensity of this band could prove a little jarring causing sensory overload and the flow of the set can be lost briefly in what seems like endless exploration: a song within-a song-within a song. But this is part of the charm of space rock - pace & atmosphere is everything. Where it succeeds over a lot of other genres is ultimately where you, the individual decide to take it - distant voyages into the ventricles of cosmos. Or just blissed out head banging? Why not a bit of both? Omnia happily have songs to go with the explorations and forays into the psychedelic landscape. As mentioned before there are moments of riffery that slap you round the face rather than massage your nodes. This is welcome in my eyes. A combination of punk, prog and spacerock can do no wrong! Fun experimentation mixed with the maturity of a two decade outfit! All in a night soaked in beer and atmosphere alike. Free entry too!

Words: Craigus Barry
Photos: Toni Charles



REVIEW Gypsy Pistolero's

The Swan Inn, Port Street, Evesham - September 22nd.

"Go and see the Gypsy Pistolero's, you'll love 'em" they said, "go and see the Gypsy Pistolero's, they're brilliant" they said.....so, I did & they were.

This was my first experience of the Pistolero's and I didn't really know what to expect; what I got was good old fashioned rock infused with edgy guitar, deep bass, rhythmic drums and highly enthusiastic vocals from the bands recently introduced young vocalist, Dani Pistolero. This was a gig to promote the bands' latest CD, '*Forever Wild, Beautiful and Damned*'.

The evening opened (and finished) with '*Close as You'll Ever be*' with Iggie's distorted guitar riffs and Kenny's



punk bass line which I was certain had been nicked from Bruce Foxton (The Jam), just right to set the scene and wake up the audience. The mood changes to one with a distinctly Mexican flavour with '*Shotgun Kiss*' (Ay Que Dolor). The Latino feel continued with '*Hotel de la Muerta*' followed by a cover of '*Livin' la Vida Loca*', which had many in the audience singing along!

Their signature song, '*Pistolero*' (Un Hombre Sin Rostro), came next, the vocals blasted out by Dani, perhaps a better rendition than under the previous line-up. The Latino feel continued on with '*Una Para Todo es Bandido*', all that was missing here was a Mexican trumpet player, had one been in attendance you could have been transported to a seedy bar in an even seedier Mexican village on the Dia de los Muertos... well, you know what I mean!



Next up was '*Rockstar*' followed by '*Wild, Beautiful and Damned*', which, bizarrely, is on the '*Forever Wild, Beautiful and Damned*' CD with a different title....'1,2,3,4 Kiss me then I'm Damned for Sure!' This was followed by one of the best songs of the night (in my opinion), '*Forever*' (Para Siempre), very musical and well played, a great piece of vintage rock and roll.

We reached the end with '*Livin' Down with the Gypsies*' (Vivo con los

Gitanos) filled with more of Iggie's edgy guitar and Dani's up-front vocals, it was a pity the set had to end.

Well, that was it, ten tunes but the crowd weren't going to let the band go quite so quickly. After not much persuasion the first encore was a combination of '*Livin' La Vida Loca*' and '*Rockstar*' allowing the crowd another opportunity to howl along. Even then the crowd weren't done with the band, so the Pistolero's finished the night off with another rendition of '*Close as You'll Ever be*' leaving the audience as satisfied as I've seen them.



If you like bands such as the Gypsy Kings or Motley Crue catch the Gypsy Pistolero's and give them a listen....you won't be disappointed.

Words & Photography by Reg Richardson

You can catch Gypsy Pistolero's at the Pig & Drum in Worcester on Saturday 8th Dec by the way! - Ed

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REVIEW JASPER RISES TO THE SURFACE



A year ago, Worcester funky folk band Jasper In The Company Of Others threw their 'happy vibe' knapsack over their shoulder and set out on a journey that would push them musically, but also put their self belief through a right, royal sound check.

It's one thing being on stage in your hometown in front of your devoted fans, who, naturally, whoop! whoop! – as is Jasper's calling card – whenever you give the signal.

Getting through to last month's international final of one of



the biggest battle of the bands in Europe – which saw more than 20,000 acts whittled down to just 28 through a series of hotly-contested regional heats – is another.

A panel of top industry judges wielding the power of the infernal Magic Marker and an audience super loyal to their 'own' bands (never mind the nerves of playing your biggest performance to date at London O2's arena), Surface Festival was a tough gig.

Why did they do it? Well, aside from a £100,000 prize of equipment, mentoring, gigs and recording opportunities, the band wanted to put themselves out there, see how their music, with its high altitude melodies and harmonies 'as warm as Caribbean rum', fared outside The Shire. And, while they didn't win, news that they had come 5th in the whole competition – scoring some of the top marks – was a high like no other.

Ahead of their forthcoming SLAP gig, frontman Shane 'Jasper' Husbands talks about the day he, bass player Will Hughes, ukulele supremo Jak Hayward and drummer Jim Arnold rose to the Surface. While waxing his Spitfire pilot's moustache, obviously.

"There was a big part of us that thought we wouldn't even get close to the finals, and yet, there we were," said Jasper. "Though a little money down from the entire competition, we were confident of something positive, whether we won or not. As we arrived at the O2 that day, we knew what we were going to be facing. A lot of shit hot, amazing talent, and we knew we didn't have it in the bag. But it was never about that.

"It was about making our name familiar to people in the industry, about inception, about making any sort of impact to anybody out there, be it someone that runs a venue in Scotland, or a band that's about to go on tour and looking for support. Even just building a bigger fan base. The venues we played at throughout this competition were amazing and some even asked us back. It was only ever about branching out.

"Sure, there was a part of our hearts that wanted that win, and I could have really done with £100,000 pounds worth of equipment etc, but we've been shown how much of a great fan base we have around the UK that got us close to that win.



"Sometimes it's easy to get blinded in a battle of the bands competition, everyone's there for their mate's band. Then, they disappear for every other band. They scream for their home team, but stay silent for every other. I understand why, it's just competition and it's how it works.

"Backstage was a different story. Bands were shaking each other's hands, giving compliments, singing praises and making time to get to know one another. We met so many bands and even jammed with one backstage over a couple glasses of wine. It was wonderful. It's what music is about. Through the thick and thin, still able to come together and put competition and differences aside to just...play music.

"I would like to thank every single, last person that supported us throughout this competition. The constant support and love has made us realise what we have, a bloody amazing fan base that kicks and pushes us to be better every time."

Jasper's new album is due for release next Spring. To listen to their EP, Got Soul, Got Vibe, visit:

www.facebook.com/jasperinthecompanyofothers

Jasper will be performing at the next SLAP night on Saturday, November 17th at Worcester Arts Workshop (supporting Cantalooop)

Words: Mel Hall

Photography: Simon Sinclair

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FEATURE NEW KILLER SHOES



Currently in the midst of recording their debut album, New Killer Shoes from Redditch are already showing promise of becoming the midlands' next big rock band. With key support slots with Kids In Glass Houses, a Birmingham ArtsFest main stage show, and a trail of strong live reviews under their belt, New Killer Shoes are a band on the precipice of great things. This three-track EP showcases a band with many strengths: angular striking guitars, strong biting melodic riffs, tight driving drums, anthemic choruses; New Killer Shoes are tight and well versed in modern rock craft, tumbling from the speakers like a jack-knifed truck carrying the Foo Fighters and Oasis.

This idea is displayed none more so than on *Love Rocket*. The drums by Ricky-Lee Cooper leave no room for the listener to breath, exemplifying why Cooper was drawn 'to the explosive power of the drum.' The guitar playing of 18 year-old Ben Smith is potent and threatening, running mazes of Wah-pedal and soulful riffs around Jon Kings striking lead vocals, as Brother Ryan is in the engine-room holding the monster together.

Smooth, with its delicate melodies could receive a receptive audience on national radio, the bell-ringing picked guitar a welcome relief from the bursting riffs of *Love Rocket*. Nevertheless, the song still pulses along with no respite, with softer verses leading into driven power-pop choruses, with the listener urged forwards into the queues of venues up and down the country.

Let's Go Disco is the less effective track on the EP but maintains the four-on-the-floor mentality of the other tracks -with the standard soaring and meteoritic fluctuations - highlighting the blend of genres the band can wrestle.

New Killer Shoes are a rock band with all the trimmings - they tick all the boxes, and with an already supportive fan base they can only thrive and entertain. New Killer Shoes EP is a zesty and confident introduction to a band with room to grow.

The new album, '*I Ain't Even Lvin*' is due for release in February 2013.

by Wes Dance

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REVIEW

BLUES NIGHT AT THE CELLAR BAR,
8th BIRTHDAY TUES OCT 16th



This was the 8th birthday of The Gig They Couldn't Suppress. Helping Stripped Down Blues celebrate were – inter alia – Tone Tanner, vibrant and skittish on his steel guitar. Tone slipped easily from 1929 Son House to Hendricks, without missing a beat.

Slide guitar– meister Juke Joint John, dramatic and percussive, held up the trad. Blues end, with a couple of originals. He'll be in Australia when you read this, troubadouring on the streets and warming his bones in all that sun.

Dave Bristow gave us almost his entire latest cd, none of whose titles he revealed, so we'll have to wait until he releases it in 2013. It took 2 years+ after first stepping

into the studio, 200 hours of studio time, 23 songs in 70 different versions, and 17 sets of strings.

Finally, a treat for me : my old confrere and original Crawling King Snake from 1964-5 Malcolm Gibbons, with John Hill, showed exactly how easy it is to mesh two perfectly picked jazz guitars allowing each all necessary space to improvise and harmonise – easy, if you've been at it for 50 years.

Manageress Fiona baked us birthday cakes, which, miraculously, seemed to go around the whole audience, one of the largest we've had since the weather got colder.

Words & Photos by Poor Bob

CD REVIEW

Wooden Horse – You're In My Heart

As soon as I held this cd in my greasy grasp I knew by glancing at the excellent cover (see pic), by our very own Richard "T for Theophilus" Clarke, that in my mitts I clutched an artefact of outstanding quality. As so it proved as it hit the deck.

If you don't already know Wooden Horse, and you really should, they comprise of a multi-talented pair of up-and-coming, fresh-faced youths, namely Jamie Knight – main vocalist, guitar & stomping, plus Ben Church on guitars including National & Weissenborn, harp (no not that silly bloody angel/cloud thing!) and backing vox.

I jest of course, though whilst certainly fresh-faced, these boys have been round the musical block in the nicest possible sense.



And this wealth of experience is abundantly evident as they glide effortlessly and classily through the 4 numbers herein.

They give us superlative readings of firstly the title track, then the wonderful standard He Was A Friend Of Mine, sometimes wrongly attributed to Bob Dylan and popularised by Willie Nelson. 3rd up is Arthur Crudup's Mean Old Frisco probably most famously covered (until now) by Slowhand himself and then finally my favourite out of the four, a quite beautiful version of the bluegrass tune Lonesome River, with some sublime picking from Ben, perfectly complimenting Jamie's heartfelt and lovelorn vocals.

Perfectly engineered and mastered by the redoubtable Dave Pickering out at FFG in Bredon, this EP further rubber stamps Wooden Horse's reputation as an act to whole-heartedly follow and support.

So place your bets people yer money's safe with this Horse!

Words by Dicky Tikka

FEATURE SHOTGUN PREACHERS

Sometimes you sense that everyone in Worcester is in a band. Distant sounds of people jamming in garages, people with guitars slung in backpacks, there seems to be a creative current that's flowing as much as Diglis Weir.

Like everywhere with a local scene, people are out there to play – some get a following, others fade away into obscurity, and some (very few) others make it to the mainstream and get to pay the bills!

More and more of our local bands are getting exposure thanks to the efforts of Not Just Sauce, BBC Hereford and Worcester, and the copy of this magazine that you're reading at this very moment. But, sometimes there's little that bands can do but pray.

Well, it seems there's a new preacher in town. One with a shotgun. And they seem to do things a little different.

Their Facebook blurb says that 'Shotgun Preachers are a Worcestershire based 5-piece. Specialising in golf disturbin', face bruising, ear achin', arse groovin' dirt rock.'

Shotgun Preachers hit you with a one-two punch that screams 'Rage Against the Machine' and draws from their

various influences, but all the while keeping their own sound. Great build-ups, great rap verses from The Hunter Gatherer, and great guitar sounds from Sir Pugh and Night Goat give you great fist-pumping sing along tracks. Jose Morales and T.J. provide a sturdy backdrop of bass and drums that can't be ignored. They be slammin' it down like extra lashings of Aunt Jemima syrup at the iHOP. (By the way, those might not be their real names, but we don't know who their mothers are to ask. They might carry shotguns as well, so best to leave it, eh?)

Their track 'ManGator' (on the accompanying CD if you're lucky enough to have one with this fine mag) is a bastard love-child of Green Day and Offspring, with an underlying dark humour throughout. It's bouncy, it's catchy, and you'd be forgiven for thinking that you'd already heard it before and want to hear it again. And again.

They've already caught the eye of 2011 Indie Promoter of the Year, Emma Scott, playing twice for her showcases. Will they be invited back? Hell yeah.

If this is how good they sound when they just start out, imagine what it's going to become! There's so much to look forward to with this band, and none of it is an ecumenical matter.

Lea and Perrin's should worry. Worcester's got a new sauce, and it tastes of cordite. Pray.

Marc Hache



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Worcester Rocks - FREE CD

Found a free CD on the front of this month's SLAP mag? Lucky you!!! If you didn't, fret not and read on... Building upon the great success of last year's eponymous compilation album that featured the music of bands and solo artists from Worcester's vibrant music scene, Worcester Rock City is thrilled to launch a 2nd CD showcasing another 19 original songs from Worcester's crème de la crème of musical talent.

Following in similar style to Led Zeppelin and Van Halen, we have imaginatively called this second album WORCESTER ROCK CITY II. For those not familiar with the WRC compilation project, it works by each band involved contributing one song and a small sum of money to have 1000 CDs printed, pressed and distributed FREE to members of the public. The collaborative effort is aimed to promote Worcester music as a whole by giving people a taste of the superb music on offer, in an attempt to encourage support for the local music community and entice people to live gigs.

The CD contains an eclectic mix of genres, styles and age groups, ranging from acoustic family band *Done by Sunrise* to heavy 'Rage-esque' rockers *Shotgun Preachers*; from young bloods *Pbata* to seasoned performers such as *Reinforced* and *Hitchhiker*. This is a diverse collection of music but there is something for everyone. The good folk at MUSIC 47 (brilliant music retailer along Sidbury, Worcester) have done us the courtesy of sponsoring this year's release, and the CD will be available from their shop, among other places, the first week in November. For a full list of outlets distributing the CD or to order a copy online, visit www.worcester-rock-city.co.uk.

Worcester used to be a much-visited stop of the UK's touring circuit, and we have celebrated this on the back of the album by including in the artwork ticket stubs and posters we have been lucky enough to find for rock 'n' roll giants AC/DC, Ozzy Osbourne and Thin Lizzy who all played

at Malvern Winter Gardens, as well as Worcester Gaumont performers Shirley Bassey, Mott The Hoople and on one night, the Big O (Roy Orbison) and the Fab Four (The Beatles) as double headliners. Wow - what a night!!!

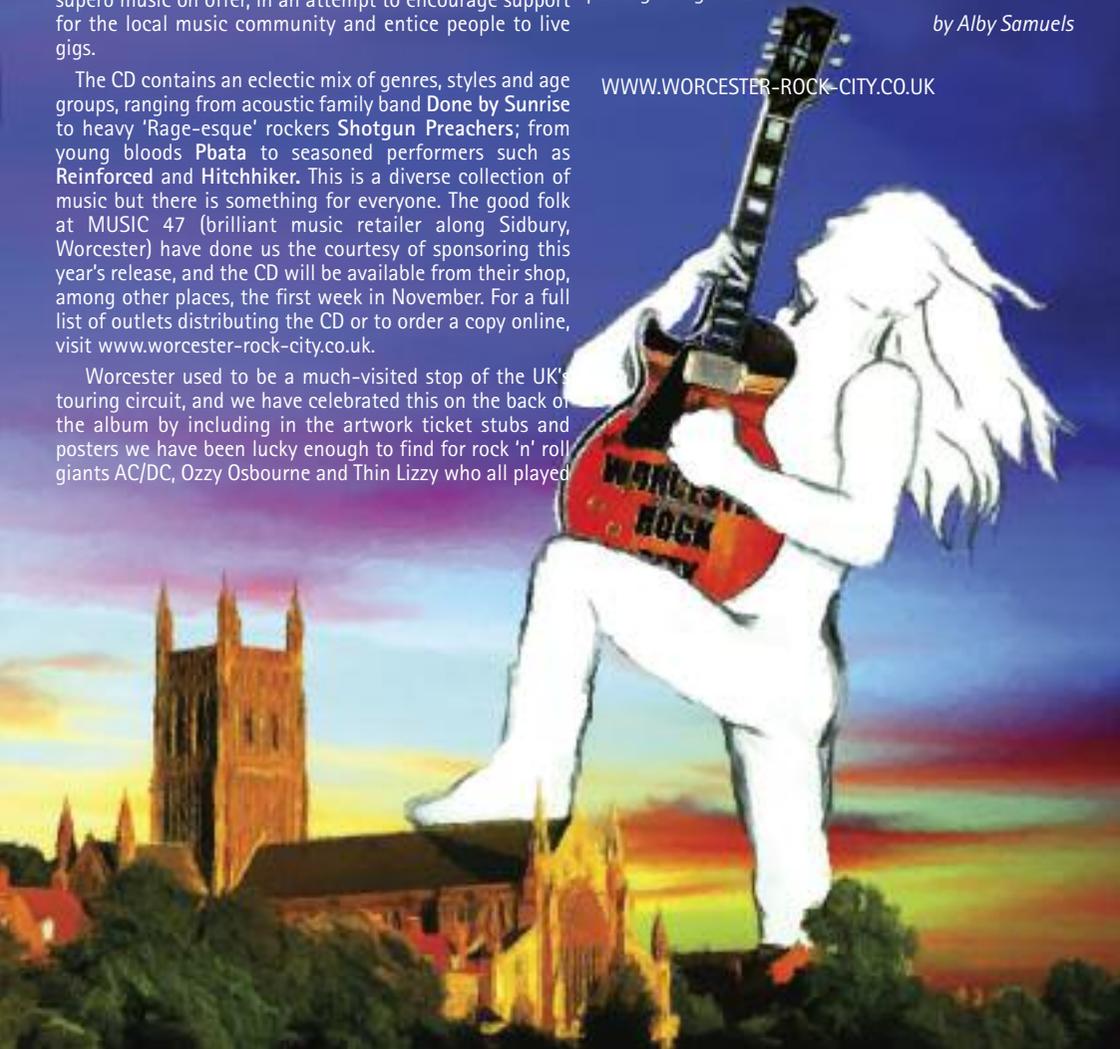
Remember all these megastars weren't always famous. Maybe one of the acts featured on the CD will be the 'next big thing' so I'll reiterate what I said before: Get out to a local gig and experience some blumin' great music! There is a little information about each act on the insert for the album, but there is a great deal more on our website as well as a list of upcoming gig dates for all performers on the record. Also remember to check out SLAP mag's thorough gig-guide each month.

If you're in a band or a solo performer and are interested in being featured on the next compilation CD due out May 2013, please visit our website (below) for details how to get involved.

We hope you enjoy WRC II, we certainly enjoyed putting it together.

by Alby Samuels

WWW.WORCESTER-ROCK-CITY.CO.UK



CD REVIEW

4 Track EP Pablo Alto – Today

Hailing from luvverly Ledbury self confessed/professed Indie rockers Pablo Alto have been together since 2008.

A solid three piece comprising guitar,bass,drums + vocals, they encompass psychedelia, post-punk & 60's garage all filtered thru their natural indieness.

1st track Today also adds ska, dub and fuzz to the mix with an hypnotic bassline which is pure Set The Controls via Kingston JA. There's even a taste of Mary Chain cowboy guitar thrown in for good measure.

It all hangs together well though cuz these chaps have done their time in bands such as Manchester's The Autumn Leaves and Midlands based The High Planets.

2nd track Start All Over Again transports us back to classic 80's indie and sound like a lost (good) Felt track.

And there we stay for standout track Higher and Higher which this time is a missing Stone Roses mini-masterpiece. You really feel that you must have heard this song before a long time ago as the Rickenbacker 6 string rings out in fine style, touching on memories of Postcard releases, Felt again and Murmur REM.

Yet despite me mentioning all these long gone & much missed bands, Pablo Alto manage to retain their own identity whilst proudly & shamelessly wearing their influences on their skinny lapels.

The weakness here is the production which needs more muscle to give the material more dynamics. Because of this the vocals and timing occasionally get lost and a couple of the tracks start to wander aimlessly, which I know can be the point of psychedelia, but Iron Butterfly these boys are not.

With that sorted there are enough good ideas and playing on this EP to predict Pablo Alto's ability to flourish with future releases.

Words by Myfanwy Flapps



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BOARS HEAD GALLERY



In November The BHG (Boars Head Gallery) will be celebrating its first birthday and we want you all to help us celebrate!

It's been a fantastic year and for this month we would like to involve everyone who has been part of this experience thus far. We began our gallery with a grand opening that coincided with the opening of Coronation Gardens opposite the gallery on Worcester Street. Since that opening date we have held a diverse and ever changing range of shows from artists from all over the country. There have been regular poetry events with the 'Mouth&Music' team, workshops, Above Boards Paint Jam, life drawing classes, events from our in-house arts organisation 'KAF Creatives', film nights and regular art markets. The gallery has a great network of creative people that is continuing to grow and we feel is a real benefit to our town. This has also been achieved through the kindness of people and companies that have donated to the gallery, the committed help of all artists, performers and organisers and the support of all our visitors. Over the next month we want to offer our thanks and celebrate.



Over the next month we want to offer our thanks and celebrate.

To commence the celebrations we are holding an open contemporary portrait competition that everyone is welcome to enter. ALL of the entries will be exhibited in the gallery throughout November. On November 22nd, there will be an anniversary celebration where we will be giving prizes for winners of the competition as well as prizes and awards to those who have been involved to this point.

The subject of the portrait can also be any of your choosing. As our visitors and artists come from all backgrounds we want this competition to be a reflection of this. Think as unconventional as you like! A portrait doesn't have to be a painting on the wall. Entries can come in the

form of drawings, photographs, installations, sculptures or anything you like. If you have any specific requests, please do get in touch. If anyone would like to perform a portrait on November 22nd, there will be time for this (although it would be nice to have something to exhibit in the show!)

We must be able to hang your submission safely onto the wall and be able to give it back to you in one piece, so please consider that artwork could be framed.

Submissions can only be handed into the gallery between Sunday 28th October and Wednesday 7th November as space we have is limited.

Many thanks and best of luck! More details can be found on our facebook page or by emailing:

gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk



As well as that, we will be holding a special fundraising 'Life Drawing Class' on Thursday 8th November. Our informal class will run as usual, but the models have kindly offered to donate their fees to a group of women who will be climbing Kilimanjaro in aid of Victim Support. Anyone is welcome to attend and equipment will be available, although please do call ahead to book your place on 01562 861870 or online on our facebook page.

Saturday 24th November will also see the return of our regular Arts Bizarre, with those Christmas goodies creeping their way in! Stalls can also be booked through the website/telephone number.

Many thanks to you all for your support, onwards and upwards!

Yours Coz, The BHG



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Sub Kon back at the Pig with more Ill Skills...

Pig & Drum, Lowesmoor 24th November

The once annual showcase has enjoyed two great events back to back recently so Sub Kon host one more before we all get caught up in the madness that is Christmas.



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Scratch battles & M.C fights on the night. Only £2 entry (to help with payment of soundsystem etc) - Peace



The Malvern autumn show is advertised as "a charming celebration of food, gardening and nostalgia" and it really is a delight to visit, with plenty to see and do. There are competitions for delicious looking fruit, carefully grown flowers and plants, enormous carrots, leeks and onions, and baking such as biscuits, cakes and jams as popularised recently on television by Kirsty Allsop as she attempted to compete. There are displays of vintage tractors and farm machinery, cars and caravans, alongside vintage style tea rooms and vintage clothing stalls. There are competitions for the best of breed for rabbits, guinea pigs, poultry and dogs. There are horses pulling ploughs and others pulling brave competitors around on boards, and for those who like a treat bargain there are a host of stalls to enjoy. The stalls vary from craft exhibits, gift ideas, wellington boots hats and wax jackets, plants and garden furniture including hot tubs, and locally produced food and drink.

And dotted around amongst all this revelry and excitement are the comparatively serene stalls for art. One artist performs his painting for all to see as they view his previous creations exhibited for the hopeful buyer, while others huddle behind a stall or under cover for a little warmth in the chill of an autumn Sunday, smiling to potential customers, art lovers, bargain hunters and local collectors. The art displayed was a delightful mix of media and styles, prices and subjects with something to suit every taste and pocket, and every wall whatever the size.

The Malvern show was a wonderful concoction of delights, and I enjoyed every minute, taking home memories, photographs and ideas for Christmas presents as well as a few carefully purchased nik naks, and I can't wait until next year's opportunity to see all these things and more.

The next Malvern autumn show will be held 28th to 29th September 2013 and more information is available at <http://www.threecounties.co.uk/malvernautumn>



Library Art – During October in what has become known in Worcester as The Old Library, a display entitled 'Eight Residencies from the Pitt' showed the work of local artists in a collaboration with Worcester Museums, Worcestershire County Council, Rednile Projects, the University of Staffordshire and Arts Council England. Within this project was the exhibition entitled FLAGworks featuring work by Mark Edden, Alan Smith, Andre De Jong, Jame Jackson, and Dr Sally Payen.

The exhibition is a year long study of artist-made flags and flag waving, in line with this year's national celebrations of the Queen's jubilee and the Olympic games both affecting people all over the UK and beyond. This year is also an important period for other countries around the world however, as they fight for independence or to retain their individuality, and all these reasons as to why flag waving is important are represented in this exhibition. The pieces included are in various mediums from watercolour to film, and vary in size from photograph to billboard, in the artists' expression of FLAGworks in all its meanings.

Sally Payen's watercolour entitled Start Somewhere – Revolution from Dreams #182 2012 shows a lonely looking figure looking around her while in the background men wave various flags, the characters are beautifully impressionistic, if a little melancholic.

Jamie Murray Jackson's DVD is entitled I Am Flag 2012. He is currently director of the West Midlands visual art agency the Salt Road, and has shown his work across the UK as well as in USA and Germany. This film is just 10 seconds long and looped to replay over and over again, for the viewer to watch the silhouetted character inside the film.

Meanwhile the billboard sized piece is by RedhawkLogistica, a collective of artists who also featured in the Old Library's premiere event featuring one day exhibitions by local artists. This piece is entitled Exploded Bus Station 2012 and is a commentary of the brands and signs we see everyday all around us and the meanings they carry into our subconscious.

This exhibition is on until the end of October but will be replaced with further exhibitions as the Old Library space is utilised to bring art to the people and to provide the artists with an exhibition space.

by Sarah Ganderton



CD REVIEW

Vault of Eagles - Unplugged

Vault of Eagles have been a band on many people's radar for a while now, with their elegantly wasted rock, best described to me by a reviewer at a gig this spring as: 'a culmination of all the best parts of my record collection'. So, now, we have the 'Unplugged EP' recorded live and mixed in a few brief days, the EP strips back the grungy guitars to reveal the bare bones of the band. Part of two EP's to be released this autumn - the second one being a darker electric selection - the Unplugged EP could be viewed as the band's lighter side. Nevertheless, do not worry, this is morning light that snakes through the cigarette smoke on a subterranean morning when the nights adventures have passed and all that remain are reflections.

Fracture starts slowly, brooding forward insistently upon Mari Randle's guitar riff that builds with the rhythm section of Hetty and Scott into a dirge that conjures the image of PJ Harvey fronting the Bad Seeds. The harmonies of the Randle's really come to the fore on this EP - brittle, strong, and effecting. Without having to counter their voices against the cascade of loud guitar and drums, the vocals have room to dream, becoming hypnotic and soulful.



In Sanity is fantastic with changes in tempo, and a harmonious chorus that trembles. 'Feel it feeding through me, let it undo me,' they sing, akin to a mantra, the sisters' melodies washing from the speakers gentle and powerful all at the same time. The song is like a snake ready to uncoil and snap, but Scott's steady drumming controls the flow, finding the emotive source of the track like a dowser.

There is an overall mood to the tracks, a slumberous drifting, yet still awakening, and growing, like aching limbs not willing to give in. "Drink from my soul" Mari sings in glorious voice on Ruin, as sister Hetty echoes the refrain - you are in the bowels of the beast. The nature of the EP is really one of its main strengths; it is as beautiful as it is macabre, the chorus to Chains being a key example.

The Unplugged EP highlights the bands versatility, song-craft, and dynamism as a unit. On this small record, Vault of Eagles have raised the bar a little higher for other local acts, whilst they still grow by the minute. We all wait anxiously for the Plastic Culture Human Vulture EP.

Words by Wes Dance

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CIRCUIT SWEET NEWS FROM THE HERFORD

Hereford is fighting back from the lack of gigs, lack of support to prove otherwise. Individuals within the city are currently hard at work booking venues, bands and promoting hard. The end of October saw another DIY show at The Victory with the likes of The Catharsis and Carving a Giant. Whilst The Jailhouse are supplying more live nights, more open mic nights and opening their doors to welcome many. AJ's in association with Mamma Jammies are also currently promoting their upcoming live shows in the newly established venue. It's great to see and even better to hear! Don't forget we offer free gig promotion- just leave your event details on our facebook page and your event could make a gig of the week special feature.



As we last reported about having difficulties with sharing our latest interview- that has now been resolved. You can finally see our live interview with US act Listener on our site following a night at The Actress and Bishop in Birmingham. The interview which is streaming on the site is an in-depth look into the lives of the musicians, their touring lifestyle, their inspirations, their releases, new records, future plans and lots more. Relaxing during the sound check; Dan Smith, Chris Nelson and their latest addition found in the phenomenal drummer- Chris. Following the interview it was of course time for the live



proceedings of the evening. In the crowd a lot of familiar faces to Circuit Sweet featuring members of Zebedy Rays, Virals and Tallulah Fix. With a vast array of support acts it was Listener which really pulled everyone in ready to play to a sea of adorning fans. From the start Listener managed to captivate their audience with a flawless unmissable performance from the band. Introducing Chris on drums to the UK crowd and with a doubt a highlight for the performance - Chris is a fantastic drummer, simply draws your eyes into everything he does and to see his delivery when connecting with multi instrumentalist Chris Nelson is incredible. These two musicians just bounce from one another and so do their talents. You can find more information over at circuitsweet.co.uk where we have a special photography feature on the nights events.

A main feature on the site was our recent review of local band The Misers November album release. After a long overdue wait, local talent The Misers have returned back to their adoring fans, and back to the live scene, filling the space that they'd left. 'A Weight Off The Mind (Is Still A Load On The Shoulders)' breaks that silence and unveils this new fresh looking act in a true impressive style. The stunning new album is set for release November 5th.



We were honored to receive an Advanced Review Copy of the newest album and we couldn't wait to share it with you. The new 10 track album delivers. From the start and its opening titled track which unfolds the single with straight hard hitting vocals and catchy guitar hooks. Progressing from a soft and inciting melodic composition before their renowned rock fusions take hold of the track, with illustrious riffs beckoning the flow. The band heighten the track up to create a mighty impression, backing the orchestrations with an array of horns. An addictive track and a great start into the rest of the release. 'Fine Line' offers stunning vocals, a mix of sweet tones and contagious beats. All of the tracks flow concurrently which allows the listener to enjoy the rhythmic journey and understand the hard work and progression this album transmits. 'Back In Your Arms' offers real emotion. As this track slows the pace and adds deep affection into the mix. A strong promising and simply stunning track, The Misers

stripped back that raw sensation they so easily provide, to attack your senses in a subtle way. 'Back In Your Arms' consists of palpitating and long lasting beats balanced with a plentiful blend of soothing backing vocals. The album then marches into 'Long Way Down' which lifts the mood but still manages to captivate with its catchy chorus and meaningful lyrics. In-fact meaningful lyrics which connect you with what's being told within each composition is something Neil has got down to a fine art. He has the ability as a singer to connect with each listener through his own words. Something singers can find hard to do, it seems to come to Neil very easily. And this is shown throughout. 'Seven Seas' created by both Neil and Shane is another contender for best track on the album. Another solid offering for the band, holding its own with gritty vocals and grooves, lasting notes and the right amount of fuzz, this is pure rock at its best. This is followed by 'The Shrine', once again another track which offers variation, showing how the band can apply their talents and abilities to different inputs, this time a touching serenade, lulling acoustic notes and those inspiring lyrics culminating a compelling creation. The album then ends on a soulful arrangement. 'A Weight Off The Mind' is stated to deliver on the promise The Misers have shown throughout their career. And that is has. Together the band have grown, creatively and courageously. This is a band that have defeated all odds to come back and make their fans fall in love all over again. They've got the ability to make any emotion within their music, mixing a variety of genres to something of their own. They should be proud of their

efforts and this release will reward them. We too believe this is where the new chapter in The Misers' tale really begins. The new album is set for release at the start of November and will be doing a special acoustic instore gig at Rise records in Worcester November 4th, we will see you there.

Any regulars of Circuit Sweet will be aware with our good relationship with Leeds based trio **Castrovalva**. We met up with the band towards the end of their recent tour with **Nine Black Alps**, supporting their sophomore album release on **Brew Records**. We joined both acts in **Bristol's The Exchange**. You can look forward to a live review and photography feature of the night on our site shortly. Alongside a special planned exclusive- secret!!!

So yes, another fantastic and busy month and we look forward to the next. Keep checking our site regularly as we have some local submissions being featured soon. Alongside some exclusives that are scheduled.

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. Want to know more... naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk or visit us on face book or twitter @circuitsweet.

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REVIEW Ian Hunter and the Rant Band

You wonder why he still does it – the obvious answer is that he clearly enjoys it. The laughs he has with the band which includes the magnificent Steve Holly on drums (Paul McCartney Et Wings), the fantastically swearsy to and fro with the audience and the knowledge that he still looks like the textbook rockstar – blond hair/dark glasses – are all in evidence.

Birmingham Town Hall – 20 Oct 2012

The promoter who introduced Hunter to the stage set the scene for this. He told the story of his first ever concert – in 1973 at the Town Hall – when he saw the best band in the world – Mott The Hoople; absolutely right. Ian Hunter (Mott the Hoople frontman) is now in his 70s (age has never quite been pinned down) but has toured almost every year for 30 years and has just released his 20th Studio Album '*When I'm President*' which has received deserved five star reviews everywhere.

He brought a tremendous band and with the energy of someone a third of his age produced a quality 2 hour set which mixed songs from the new album, favourites from his endless solo back catalogue including a moving tribute to Mick Ronson (Michael Picasso) – his sparring partner for years, and classics from Mott – *All the Way From Memphis*, *The Golden Age of Rock and Roll*, *The Moon Upstairs* etc.



The show inevitably closed with *All The Young Dudes* which he must have played about a million times but still delivered it as if it was the first time including the shout at the end "Hey you, you with the glasses". If he had played this with the Maltese Cross guitar that he had in Mott days (which according to legend never actually worked) life would have been complete but he didn't – well you can't have everything.

Hunter's tour continues into November and then plays a show at the Wulfren Hall in Wolverhampton in mid March 2013. Please take the opportunity to see one of the greatest songwriters and performers that this country has ever produced.

Words: Peter Blandamer

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Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Ronin
Vagabonds Bar, Brierly Hill, Dudley

Chris Jones
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Sounds Of Simon, Tribute to Simon and Garfunkel
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Friday 2 November 2012

Rich Goble
The Yew Tree Inn, Conderton, near Tewkesbury

Bare Bones Boggie Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Tsars, Oui Legionaires
Café Rene, Gloucester

Aquarius
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Pillars of The Community (part 8)
Case Closed, Hitchhiker, Pearl Necklace, Erica Halley
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Miss Pearl Of The Rough Diamonds
The Railway, Evesham

Crimson Child
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Pewke Band
The Millers, Pershore

Junction 7
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Army Of Walking Gorpse, Massive Head Trauma
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Jack Savoretti
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Halloween Night with Highway 5 & Reinforced
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Das Sexy Clap, FusterCluk, I Am A Scary Monster, Dan Salt
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

The Dirty Harry Band, & guests
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The May Dolls
The Talbot Hotel, Droitwich

Jasper in the Company of Others, Whitemoor, James Warner, Prophecies
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Official Recievers
Drummonds, Worcester

Dave Sharp (from the Alarm), Time Of The Mouth
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Saturday 3 November 2012

Spoils Of War
The Railway, Evesham

Alex Round
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sister Sandwich
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Festivals Experience
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Truck Stop Trixies, Catherine Howe, Tres Primos
The Malvern Youth Centre, Malvern

Time of the Mouth
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Becky Rose
Chateau Impney, Impney Park, Droitwich

Guy Fawkes Revenge, FolkLaw, Posh Git & A Scouser
Angel Inn, Pershore

Black Cat Bone
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern Link

Hanncoxx
Toby Carvery The Ketch, Worcester

Eureka Machines, Joe Patroni
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Laurence Jones Band
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Inuits
The Anchor Inn, Eckington, Pershore

Cuginis
Subtone, Cheltenham

Soul Trader
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Sunday 4 November 2012

Aquarius
The Plough Inn, Pershore

Vo & Tyler
The Three Kings, Hanley Castle

Little Dave Manning
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Jazzenco (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Monday 5 November 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Folk Unplugged
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Dave Onions
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Folk Sessions
Lamb & Flag, Worcester



Friday 9 November 2012

Hip Route
Café Rene

Come Up And See Me
Cap and Gown, Worcester

Notorious Brothers
Queens Head, Wolverley

Sax Appeal
The Millers, Pershore

The Reflections
The White Hart, Headless Cross, Redditch

The Delray Rockets
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Zibbasish
The Railway, Evesham

Bluestack
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Aquarius
The White Hart, Droitwich Rd, Worcester

Vault of Eagles, Mansize
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

This Wicked Tongue
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Keith Thompson Blues Band, Daddy and the Sweet Peas
The Marris Bar, Worcester

SkaBucks
Drummonds, Worcester

The May Dolls
The Old Nags Head, Monmouth

Northern Soul Night
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Miss Pearl and the Rough Diamonds
Pig Et Drum, Worcester

Saturday 10 November 2012

Wooden Horse
The Horse Et Hounds, Broadway

Sister Sandwich 20th Anniversary Bash with Billy Whizz
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Vault of Eagles, Mansize
Crown Inn

True Colours
Queens Head, Wolverley

Gordon Hendricks is Elvis
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Festivals Experience
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The CoverJunkies
Drakes Broughton Village Hall, Drakes Broughton, Pershore

Bread Et Circuses, Babble, Retinal Circus, DJ Ed Steelfox,
Art: John Taylor
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Tuesday 6 November 2012

Open Mic with Dodgy's Nigel Clark
The Millers, Pershore

Open Mic Night with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Acoustic Session with BRfm's Dan James
The Retreat, Ledbury

Open Mic
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 7 November 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Nick Toone Dub Reggae Dj Night
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Wooden Horse supporting Sandi Thom
The Robin2, Wolverhampton

Folklaw
Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 8 November 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic
Savern View Hotel, Worcester

Spector
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Mike Mann Et Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Trevor Burton Band
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove



The May Dolls (Album Launch)
Carnival Records, Malvern

The May Dolls
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Hanncoxx
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

P. K. Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra
St George's Church, Barbourne, Worcester

The Barrelhouse Blues Band
Toby Carvery, The Ketch, Bath, Worcester

The Skynyrd Experience
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Steve Gibbons Band
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Jeaga
Subtone, Cheltenham

Delray Rockets
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Long Grass
The Railway, Evesham

Take The 5th – A Clash appreciation night
Wolverley Social Club, Wolverley

Sunday 11 November 2012

Richard McMann
Reindeer Inn, Ombersley, Worcester

Tammy Marie Down, Kevin Jenkins, Angiebones and Jerry Chester
Worcester Arts Workshop

Strumpet (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Jamie Croft
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Open Mic Night
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Gordon Hendricks is Elvis
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Monday 12 November 2012

Ethan
Rise, Worcester

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

The Lock In, Demon Barbers
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 13 November 2012

Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Open Mic Night with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Acoustic Session with BRfm's Dan James
The Retreat, Ledbury

Mouth Et Music
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Nothing Ever Happens in Hereford
Red Room Therapy, Fall Back Theory
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Wednesday 14 November 2012

Tom Browning
Café Rene

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Partners In Crime
Queens Head, Wolverley

Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Thursday 15 November 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Spector
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Jennie Harwood
Chi Health and Beauty, High Street, Evesham

The Misers (Album Launch)
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Nzz Blues Band
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Friday 16 November 2012

The Ferrets
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Rouen
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Rich Goble
The Anchor Inn, Eckington, Pershore

Deltarays
Café Rene

Phobics
The Railway, Evesham

Delray Rockets
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Random Band
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Mad Dog Mcrea
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Children In Need with Megan Bradley, Sam Eden
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Children In Need
krescendo, Inches from the Ground
Olivers, Malvern

Umphff
Antelope, Warwick

Stomp & Holler
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Hancoxx
Drummonds, Worcester

Naked Remedy
Moseley Arms, Digbeth, Birmingham

Midnight City
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Barrel House Blues Band
The Millers, Pershore

Saturday 17 November 2012

Slap Night – Cantaloop, Jasper In The Company Of Others
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The Reflections
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

RattleSnake Jake
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Classic Clapton
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The John Steeds
The Royal Oak, Kinnersley, Severn Stoke

Nearly Dan
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Quo Motion
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Official Receivers
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Soultown
Blakedown Parish Hall, Blakedown

Aquarius
The Castle, Droitwich

Deborah Rose
Speed The Plough, Tibberton

Inside Job
The Railway, Evesham

Into The Fire
Subtone, Cheltenham

Delray Rockets
The Beachamp, Malvern

5:15
Toby Carvery The Ketch, Worcester

Mike Peters (from the Alarm)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Stone Farm
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Cam Fest Dj Night
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 18 November 2012

Answer Back, The Sexy Wings, Kowalski
University of Worcester, St. Johns, Worcester

Remi Harris Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

Rob Blunt
The Reindeer Inn, Ombersley, Worcester

Gastric Band
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Harry J Hudson
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Monday 19 November 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Dave Onions Open Mic
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Folk Sessions
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Tuesday 20 November 2012

Musiclab: The Guildhall Open Stage
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Thea Gilmore
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Open Mic Night with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Acoustic Session with BRfm's Dan James
The Retreat, Ledbury

Open Mic
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 21 November 2012

Lost Soul Wayne
Café Rene

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Innverse Poetry
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Thursday 22 November 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Bluestack
The Bell, Etnam Street, Leominster



Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Steve's Jukebox
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Bonnie Lou
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Sharon Shannon
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Gallery Awards
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Andy Fairweather Low
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Demoraliser, Malevolence
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Saints & Singers (part 3) – Case Closed,
I Am Ryan, Done By Sunrise, AKA Wyoming**
The Slug & Lettuce, Worcester

Friday 23 November 2012

Rich Noble
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Martin Barre
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

The Scopyons
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Collective Soul Band
Drummonds, Worcester

Skewwhiff
The Millers, Pershore

Gotcha
Café Rene

East of the Sun
Cap n Gown, Worcester

Tres Primos
St Peters Church, Malvern

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Blackbeards Saviour
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Umphff
Charlestons, Worcester

Case Closed + support
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Izzy The Push
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Flatline Steve
The Railway, Evesham

Wooden Horse
The Blue Bell Inn, Upton

Saturday 24 November 2012

Barflys
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Bluestack
The Treacle Mine, Main road, Hereford

Ronin, Khaos Theory, My Herione, Abberline, Tom Walker
02 Academy 3 Birmingham

Aquarius
Star & Garter, Droitwich

Delray Rockets
Blackpole Inn, Worcester

MojoHooker
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Rich Goble
The New Inn, Malvern

Midnight Movers
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Vault Of Eagles
Olivers, Malvern

Amanda Stone
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

John J Presley, Vault Of Eagles
Moocher's Jailhouse, Stourbridge

Shellshock
Toby Carvery The Ketch, Worcester

Soley Mourning
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Hump De Bump
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

China Shop Bull
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Yours
Subtone, Cheltenham

Sub Kon feat Dj's, Graffiti, Break Dance & Workshops
12.30 – Late Pig n Drum, Worcester

Age
The Railway, Evesham

Sunday 25 November 2012

The Fabulous Boogie Boys
The Reideer Inn, Worcester

Broom Bezzums, Horizon Lights
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Peter Hook & The Light Present Unknown Pleasures:
A Joy Division Celebration**
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Mark Bettis Trio (1–4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Dave Onions (4pm Start)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Delray Rockets
The Dog & Partridge Inn, Alcester

Monday 26 November 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Lets Talk Daggers, Black Shapes
The Victory, Hereford

Tuesday 27 November 2012

Open Mic Night with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Acoustic Session with BRfm's Dan James
The Retreat, Ledbury

Folk Night
The Millers, Pershore

Wednesday 28 November 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Alabama 3
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Peter Round Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Live at Gloucester Studio Presents
Café Rene

Thursday 29 November 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Terry Clarke Band
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Friday 30 November 2012

The Reflections
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Panic Room
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Sarah Warren Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Sax n Axe
The Millers, Pershore

The Retro Band
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Highya Ground - Case Closed, Prose, Prime Position
& Dirty Lyle plus more TBA inc DJs**
Cross Keys, Malvern

Aquarius
The Royal Oak, Kinnersley, Severn Stoke

Funk and the Two Tone Baby
Café Rene, Gloucester

Misanthropic Existence, Freebase, Grizzle Root, Adamantium
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Freewater
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Umphff
Eagle Vaults, Worcester

Baron Greenback
The Railway, Evesham

Music @ The Legion
The British Legion, Cradley, Malvern

Sugar Mama
Drummonds, Worcester

The Miffs, Cyberstan, The Silver Kitsune
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Crisis Blues Band
The Anchor Inn, Eckington, Pershore

Journeyman
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 1 December 2012

Marabooboo Allstars
Keystones Bar, Worcester

The Hot Red Chili Peppers
The Railway, Evesham

The Matchless
Callow End Social Club, Callow End, Worcester

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Rich Globe
Blackpole Inn, Worcester

**Eclectro Dj Night with Chris Summers, Sly-Si,
Kenny Kat, Digits McPhee, Daniel JP & Host Leroy B**
Arthouse Cafe, Worcester

Junction 7
Express Inn, Malvern

The Buble Tribute Show
Evesham Arts Centre, Worcester

Ronin
Oliver's Wine Bar, Malvern

Faintest Idea
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Emma Skipp band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Guginis
Subtone, Cheltenham



Listings in conjunction with www.notjustsauce.com

THE MARR'S BAR

NOV 2012



Mike Peters
Saturday 17th November

Thursday 1st

**Comedy Zone presents
Clever Peter, Lorette Maine &
Steve Shanyaski**

£10 ticket £12 on the door

Friday 2nd

**Jasper in the Company of Others,
James Warner Prophecies and
Whitemoor**

£3 ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 3rd

**Eureka Machines, Joepatroni &
Rebel City Radio**

£5 admission

Friday 9th

**Keith Thompson Blues Band
with support from Daddy and the
Sweet Peas**

£8 ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 10th

**The Skynard Experience (Lynard
Skynard Tribute)**

£5 ticket £7 on the door

Friday 16th

Stomp & Holler

£8 Admission

Saturday 17th

Mike Peters from The Alarm

£12.50 ticket £15 on the door

Thursday 22nd

**Demoraliser, Malevolence,
The Departed, Forever Grace
& Memories**

£6.50 ticket £8 on the door

Friday 23rd

The Scopyons (Scorpions Tribute)

£5 ticket £7 on the door

Saturday 24th

Solely Mourning

£4 ticket £5 on the door

Sunday 25th

Broom Bezzums

£8 ticket £10 on the door

Friday 30th

Tower Studios Presents:-

A Hard Rockin' Night

Freebase, Grizzleroot,

Adamantium, Misanthropic

Existence

£3 ticket £5 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

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