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Issue 32

Nov 2013

MAGAZINE

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Here we go again, it's Monday morning and we wake up to the storm that never was as we hurtle through the equinox into winter time.

Our front cover features two bands for the price of one! We have [Spunge] and HEY YOU GUYS! Who are touring the UK together this November (If only I could be a fly on the wall hint hint), including the Marris Bar which I highly recommend unless you have something better to do on a Tuesday.

In this issue we highlight just some of the 'names' appearing locally such as our interview with political activist and comedian Mark Thomas who is appearing at Artrix, Huntingdon Hall and the Town Hall in Cheltenham all this month! We also have Hugh Cornwell appearing at Artrix as well as Lisbee Stainton who is gaining quite a fan base around these parts following her recent appearances at the Marris Bar and at Malvern Rocks. So plenty to look forward to as the winter nights draw in and don't forget to check out SLAP TV at slapmagtv.wordpress.com if you haven't already done so.

Finally some bad news, Lou Reed died on Sunday from liver failure at the age of 71. A true legend if ever there was one and a hugely influential figure in both music and the arts.

- Ed band



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Notes for Charities

A great weekend of local music - and two local charities will share £5462 from the fundraising efforts of this year's Worcester Music Festival. Worcester Deaf Children's Society and Sight Concern Worcestershire expressed their thanks to the festival and all the musicians who took part this year. WMF Vice-chair Nikki Boraston said 'the festival is all about the music, the community and having a blast over the weekend, but the charities are a huge part of it for us' - great fun and great work guys!

World Peace

It's not been a bad year for Peace - who've featured on the front cover of NME, played all across Europe, America and Australia as well as appearing at festivals such as Glastonbury, Reading/Leeds, T In The Park and Bestival. The four-piece of Harry, Doug, Sam and Dom kick off their biggest UK tour to date on November 29 at Rock City in Nottingham - followed by dates in Glasgow, Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Oxford, Norwich, Manchester and Bristol - with two nights at London's Shepherd Bush Empire due to high demand - before closing off in Birmingham on December 13 at the Academy - support on the tour comes from highly-rated Sheffield duo Drengé.

Jazz 'Con'-fusion

The founder of Upton Jazz Festival 'Sir' Alan Buckley felt that the festival's council of management had 'given him the sack' after being told that his services would no longer be required as the event enters its 29th year. Apparently the committee had been discussing with Mr Buckley about the possibility of a successor - and he had 'declined to apply for the role in the tendering process' last month. A spokesman for the festival thanked Mr Buckley's past contributions to the event but said that 'we must plan for the next five to 10 years and the festival must evolve in order to survive'...

Blunted Out

Norton's Giles Potter just failed to make it to this year's X Factor live shows stage after mentor Louis Walsh decided that his rendition of James Blunt's 'You're Beautiful' wasn't as good as it should have been' (well *you can't polish a t**d - Ed*). Giles had been a bit concerned about his prospects, telling presenter Dermot O'Leary that some of his notes had been 'a bit iffy'. The show has been a roller-coaster for Giles who's gained a huge following on Twitter and Facebook and he now says he plans to tour the world...



Music Retail Back on Track in Redditch

Months after the closure of HMV left Redditch without a record shop, a new independent outlet is set to open in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. Vintage Trax will stock mainly vinyl albums, 45s and cassettes from late 1950s to early 90s, along with music-related books, DVDs and merchandise, and some pre-loved audio equipment.

Owner Ros Sidaway says "It's not just back catalogue - we'd love to hear from local artists interested in us stocking their music" BBC HW Radio Presenter, Toni McDonald, will officially open the pop-up outlet at 11.30am on Thursday 14th November. For more info contact Ros Sidaway on 07887 525107 email: ros@vintage-trax.co.uk. Web: VintageTrax.co.uk



Cullum Crows Support

After being put forward by BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester's Introducing show - Ledbury-based Roving Crows were chosen by jazz-popster Jamie Cullum to be his main support act at Bristol's Colston Hall on October 26 - good times for the award-winning Celtic folk-rockers who release their third 10-track album *Deliberate Distractions* on 4 November!

Hit for Barnett

The success continues for Leominster's George Barnett - his version of Daft Punk's *Get Lucky* is now up to eight million hits on YouTube and *Animal Keeper* has been playlisted on BBC Radio 1 - in other airwave news Bewdley's Becky Hill 'smashed' Fearné Cotton's *Live Lounge* on Radio 1 when she featured as vocalist on Wilkinson's highly-tipped new number *Afterglow*...



Kennedy Bach Again

Malvern's Nigel Kennedy added a third and then a fourth extra date to his appearances at the end of the month at Evesham's Regal Cinema due to overwhelming demand from fans of the world-famous virtuoso violinist - the musical maverick will perform a 'celebration' and his own arrangements of the music of Bach and Fats Waller - in his words 'two amazing keyboard players - both masters of harmony and melody!'

Worcester Music Festival

SLAP readers will be pleased to know that plans for Worcester Music Festival 2014 are now officially underway, the first task being to find a charity of the year that will strike a chord at next year's event – set to take place from 29th – 31st August.

City and county-based good causes are being invited to put themselves forward to benefit from fundraising at the festival, which has raised more than £30,000 for invaluable organisations since the celebration of original talent was launched in 2008.

Festival charity co-ordinator Lisa-Marie Everall said the committee, which will make its decision in January, was hoping for an eclectic mix of charities to submit an application.

"They might have just started up or have been established for a long time, they might help children or work to get vulnerable people back on their feet," she said. "While there are no hard and fast rules as to what we are looking for, it will help if music plays or could play a role in what they do, but ultimately, the main thing is they strike a chord with festival-goers."



This year's Worcester Music Festival raised £5,462 for Worcester Deaf Children's Society and Sight Concern Worcestershire through collections, a raffle and wristband sales at the event.

Alison Hunt, chair of Worcester Deaf Children's Society, which provides social and emotional support to families, said being one of the chosen charities went beyond the money raised.

"It had a profound effect, not only due to the amount raised, which was staggering, but also in terms of raised awareness of who we are and what we do," she said.

"The children really enjoyed the song sign workshop we ran during the festival and we have already had three new families join us as a result. The passion and sheer hard work demonstrated by everyone connected to the festival to make it a success really humbled us."

Keith Hoare, fundraising officer for Sight Concern Worcestershire, which helps blind and partially sighted people lead independent lives, said: *"The long term benefits of being one of the charities are that it has raised awareness of our work and given us renewed impetus to do more to enable the people we work with to get involved in making or enjoying music. It was also great to be actively involved in the weekend and I would like to thank everyone involved with the festival for their support and encouragement."*



Thousands of festival goers flocked to see more than 240 acts from across the county and the UK perform at 36 city centre venues at this year's music festival.

To nominate a city or county-based charity for Worcester Music Festival 2014, visit www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/info/charities/ or for more information, email:

lisa-marie@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk.
The closing date is Monday, January 20th*

Pictured: The Charity Cats by Dave Grubb and Jenny Ludlow by Andy Burton

ARTS NEWS



worcester arts workshop

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

As we stroll on into winter times and dark nights, what better time to come watch some independent and local film making at its best. Get inspired with the Splendid Cinema season and Worcester Film Festival where we will be showing local film makers and exciting new imagery.

Also this month we have the unusual exhibition from Klik Klik Collective, Soundabout, featuring Klik Klik artists and special guests in a sound based installation. Plus opportunities to learn and be creative....

FILM - Worcester Film Festival

A free festival of short films and workshops at The Hive, University and here at the Arts Workshop. Simon Munn and his team of avid film makers bring us the second year of this upcoming festival. Featuring local film makers, this three day festival will house feature length and short film at the three venues across town from as well as two nights of the After Dark sessions, showing terrifying film genre at its finest (Strictly for over 18's!). Films showing from 11am Sat and Sun with After Dark starting at 7pm Fri and Sat nights.

15th until 17th November. FREE.



Splendid Cinema

No (15) /Pablo Larrin /2012 /Chile

Chilean satire which tells the true story of the advertising campaign from 1988 which successfully ousted the bloody dictator Augusto Pinochet. Gael Garcia Bernal stars in this Oscar nominated film.

Sunday 10th Nov



The Hunt(15) Thomas Vinterberg/2012/Denmark

Thomas Vinterberg returns with this devastating morality tale about a much loved kindergarten teacher in a small town who is accused of molesting one of the children. An amazing performance from Mads Mikkelsen. Not to be missed!

Sunday 24th Nov

All films £5 starting at 6.30pm.



Courses and Getting Creative

Most of our classes are half way through now but you can still sign up for a couple of new learning opportunities for this month. Booking essential so get in touch to reserve a place.

General intro to painting for artists wishing to develop their skills and beginners too.

£50. Tuesday 7pm til 9pm. 5th Nov until 3rd Dec

Creative textiles for fun with textures, pattern and colour.

£70. Thursday 7pm til 9pm. 7th Nov until 5th Dec

Watercolour for beginners exploring your own techniques and having fun with watercolours.

£50. Friday 10am til 12pm. 8th Nov until 6th Dec

Plus the children's clubs are still running Saturday's from 10am with pottery and art and craft and only £5 per child.

Art Social

There is a new drop in arty crafty social starting on Mondays 6 til 8pm. This is an opportunity to come and explore your own creative styles and make friends at the same time. Get in touch for more info.

For enquiries and information on the Worcester Arts Workshop please contact us on:

www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk or call 01905 25053

Exhibitions

Soundabout project Klik Klik Collective

This project from Klik Klik Collective is a sound and performance based installation which will be in the Cellar space at the Worcester Arts Workshop this month.

Type, projections, interactive performance, and music.... Absorb the sound, grasp the experience, express your voice. Tapping, slapping, popping, typing, splashing, dripping, clinking, knocking, Klik Klik Klik Klik....



Soundabout is a concept curated by Kate Cox and Amy Birch. A mobile space using sound, voice, aesthetics and performance in one.

You can experience it in the cellar gallery at the Worcester Arts Workshop on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 29th and 30th November featuring performances from a diversity of artists, presenting their own sounds and styles.



Featuring work from Clik Clik Collective including Richard Clarke, Phil Wilkins, Ed Steelefox, Amy Birch, Kate Cox, Sian Hughes and Sarah Edwards and with collaborations with Collective Unconscious, Collective 43 and Derbyshire based artists Nick and Kelly Hersey.

You are invited to visit on Thursday 21st November for the opening night between 7pm and 9pm with five nights of sound, visuals and performance.

Thurs 21st Nov: Clik Clik public opening 7pm til 9pm

Fri 22nd Nov: 5AM by Collective Unconscious 7pm til 9pm

Sat 23rd Nov: Through Looking. A modern reflection on the themes; innocence and adolescence, as found in Alice and Through the looking glass. A 4 part video installation by Nick & Kelly Hersey. 7pm til 9pm.

Fri 29th Nov: Clik Clik Artists 7pm til 9pm

Sat 30th Nov: Finale Clik Clik artists v Collective 43 musicians 6pm til 8pm

Alongside the Soundabout project, Clik Clik Collective are busy this month with a musical and visual procession for the Worcester Victorian Fair on the 30th Nov. Look out for them at 5pm on the streets of Worcester!

Clik Clik are also looking for artists to exhibit in several spaces next year so if you are an established or emerging artist and want to be part of an exciting collective, or just find outlets and support for your individual projects then get in touch.

And finally... Calling all moustache lovers/wearers... we need you for a pop up Clik Clik experience!

Kate Cox

Get in touch at:
clikclikcollective@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/clikclikcollective
http://www.clik-clik.blogspot.co.uk/



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REVIEW - Ronin EP launch - Marris Bar - 4th October

The birthday celebrations of a close friend dictated a late show to the Marris for the opening night of Ronin's tour to promote their new EP, Limerence. Arriving as Time of the Mouth are readying means we've missed Ass Pasty for the third time (rectified the very following night at an Embrace the Chaos do - and very good they were too!).

Gareth - Ass Pasty



Chris - TOTM



TOTM have become a well oiled music machine with their very own 'mouth mobile' to boot, to transport them to increasing numbers of gigs. Chris, James and Carl have a work ethic and professional attitude way beyond their years and are getting more dynamic

with every outing. Tonight they are on blistering form, no doubt assisted by the Marris Bar's sound system and wanting to throw down the gauntlet to Ronin.

Sometimes an over performing support act can backfire but not tonight as Ronin accept the challenge and run with it. Drawing the addicts out from the newly opened (and much needed) smoking area, they are everything a rock band 'should' be - wielding axes, loud drums / riffs with a shining white knight out front shaking his mane in tight armour. (That's enough heraldry gags - Ed).

Kit - Ronin



There's more than a little Bob Plant about lead singer Kit but that's not surprising given M.A.S. Records' involvement and the genre. Aply supported by the heart of the band, Loz, who shreds his guitar with a drumstick as well as a plectrum and the backbone of Jake and Dave. This is foot

on the monitor rawk and roll with the obligatory power ballad thrown in for good measure.

Ronin



The aforementioned EP's lead track, *Trespasser*, goes down a storm and with tunes like *The Bearer*, Ronin have more than an element of crossover appeal. At the time of going to press, they will have completed a twelve date tour taking in London, Birmingham and Manchester, amongst others, testing the set on the road. We trust it went well!

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REVIEW - Half Man Half Biscuit - 02 Academy 2 Birmingham - 16th Oct

Certain landlords sit down or stop reading this review now, proceed at your own peril.

I have never seen more puzzled and perplexed door staff than I did on the 17th as several hundred people chanted out the timeless lines of Halfman Half Biscuit songs. Odes to Mr Titmus and Wilson left a puzzled look on their faces and a Vatican broad side didn't help. If you don't know what I'm on about don't worry. HMHB are a bit of a well kept secret in some respects. You either in the know or not. If you are in the know then you know what a treat a HMHB gig is.

I've seen them a few times now and must admit I'm a fanatic for the Wirrals finest band. With a back catalogue that goes back in to mists of the early 80s and John Peel sessions you are never spoilt for choice of material to sing along to and wave your oven gloves to. HMHB seem to of also crossed the age group barriers (just like they do in music mags) as it was good to see a healthy selection of the younger generation there, and not the exclusive territory of us old gits. Lots of old favourites were trotted out *National Shite Day*, *Totnes Bickering Fair*, *Deep House Mini Bus Appeal*, *Footprints*, *An Outbreak of Vitus Geralitus*, *Asparagus Next Left* to name but a few. Nothing of 'Some Call it Godcore', but *Sponsoring the Mosh Pits* did get a

mention. Usual football banter and Nigel's views on recent international matches. The sound was a bit ropey at times and the Guinness (hope you're sitting down Garry) was in plastic glasses.



Always good to see HMHB and I always come away feeling I got my money's worth. For the encore it was for *What is Chatterist*, *Left Lyrics in the Practice Room*, and *Joy Division Oven Gloves*. I will mention support band Roja who I enjoyed as well. A quirky mix of tijuana meets rockabilly that rocks. Till the next time that HMHB grace us with their presence I will just have to be depressed beyond tablets.

Mad Dave



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REVIEW - Chantel McGregor - Gloucester Guild Hall - 6th October

Multiple award winning guitarist and vocalist Chantel walks on stage, and establishes her Northern credentials and humour, with the room full of rock and blues fans alike. The rapport with the audience stayed throughout the evening. She is very fond of chicken based curries and the like, probably having a chicken chart rating running on through her travels.

Apart from being an outstanding rock blues guitarist in the mould of a female Bonamassa, she has a fine voice, which shines through in her solo acoustic session as drummer Keith and bassist Richie take their break.

Outstanding was Ian Anderson's *'New Day Yesterday'*, also reprieved by the said Joe as title to his first album. *'Slow Gin'* followed with Chantel's vocals coming through strongly before breaking into a bit of guitar hedonism.

Keith's phenomenal drum bashing and Richie's big bass are certainly fine foils for Chantel's lead along with her humour, but I find her solo's really showcase her ability as an artist. Stevie Nicks *Rhianon*, and a reset Bruno Mars *'Grenade'* are superb. After a short debate with the audience, she launched into her recent *'Find'*, Tory Amos's *'Cornflake Girl'*. An odd, quirky, mad little song, excellent!

Self penned *'Fabulous'*, *'Freefalling'*, and the lovely *'Screams Everlasting'*, with vocal intro breaking into fabulous guitar riffs, give testament to Chantel's artistry as a songwriter. She is a growing talent, not to be missed, and thankfully is a fairly regular visitor to the Midlands, maybe it's the chicken biryani. She has played Robin 2, Gloucester and Bromsgrove Artrix, which is due for a return early next year, I look forward to it. If you like your guitar rock, try Chantel's album *'Like No Other'*, its a mix of covers and self written songs, well worth reviewing.

- Graham Munn



CD REVIEW - Mudball EP

If you've not yet had the privilege Mudball are an energetic, spiky & fun Worcester trio who have been wowing the crowds at the likes of Worc Music Fest, Fairfield Fest and many venues, both local and nationwide since 2007.

They have gathered many plaudits including an EMA Best Music Video Award and have had mucho airplay from our very own BBC H&W to American iChannel.

Now Mudball hit us SPLAT! with an incendiary 3 tracker which positively bounced off the walls here at Slap HQ, their infectious enthusiasm cheering us all up on a wet 'n' windy Worcester Wednesday.

Opener "The Gamer" sets out their stall in fine pop-punk style: punchy, immediate and tight as. They name Blink 182 and da Foss amongst their influences and this certainly comes across but not in a heavy-handed way.



Next up is the Joe Gibb (3 Colours Red, Funeral For A Friend) produced "Dayglows" which showcases Mudball's winning way with a catchy melody. There's a certain Muse-yness to the vocals and this is no bad thing, but Mudball have originality a-plenty to make these tunes their own.

Finally my own personal fave "57 Reasons" blasts out with more hooks than a butcher's shop! This standout and surely set closer brims with enough invention and melodies (57?) for a whole album, somehow cleverly hanging all the components together with perfect powerpoppiness!

I haven't yet caught Mudball live but have it on good authority from fellow Slappers that they are unsurprisingly one class act onstage...and so...

There is a Singles Release Party at Marris Bar on Friday 22nd November at 8pm, costing only 3 of your English pounds. We will certainly be in attendance but don't let that put you off - Come Along and have a Mudball!

Words by Andy Monium

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ANDY O'HARE - Festivals Roundup 2013!!



I think that a good indicator of how vibrant the current live music scene is at the moment is the number of festivals that take place virtually every weekend over the summer – and I'm amazed also how few of them clash with each other. So well done to the organisers for giving gig-goers like myself the chance to see as many different & diverse acts at a variety of wonderful locations across our fair region!

For me it all kicked off back in May with a brief visit to **Upton Folk Festival** – where I learned that the manager of folk dance groups is referred to as *'The Bag'* – useful snippet of info!! Mixed emotions a couple of weeks later for the last ever **Music/Booze Fest at Worcester City FC, St George's Lane** before the bulldozers moved in: for the record the last band ever to play there were those **Dogs Of Santorini**...

The end of May means **Wychwood Festival** on Cheltenham Racecourse – we had an extended recording session on the Friday with **Johnny Kowalski, Delray Rockets** and the **Dogs Of Santorini** – and were able to offer 'bonus' slots to **This Wicked Tongue, Becky Rose** and **George Barnett** – storming stuff!

The blues-rocking **Linton Festival** near Newent is now in its 13th year: was a treat to catch the talent of **Larry Miller** whilst relaxing on the hay bales that are this venue's seating arrangements! A busy end of June weekend to follow with **MIni-Fest** on Cripplegate Park (**Lauren Wright/Time Of The Mouth/Ronin**) before an evening trip to the **28th Upton Jazz Festival** and the jaw-dropping talents of the **Remi Harris Quartet** – quality!!

The weather was wonderful as we entered July – and shade was at a premium at the third **Colwall Family Music Festival** – so I stationed myself under the trees on the adjoining cricket pitch – listening to the music of **Babble, The May Dolls** and **Two Man Ting** while Colwall CC just fell short of making the last 8 of the National Village Cricket KO!! The next week I called in to **Wizzafest, Stoke Prior** which featured **The Misers & Dan of Ocean Colour Scene** among the acts – definitely worth a full visit to this breezy event next year!!

The end of July brings **Nozstock** – if you were there the whole weekend a couple of heavenly soakings were guaranteed! Highlights for me were **The Misers** and **Johnny Kowalski** – the **Weirdos** have to be the complete go-to festival band of the moment!!

I had a wonderful 3 days tramping up and down Church Street for **2nd Malvern Rocks** – many great acts but mentions must go to **Lisbee Stainton** and **Loyd Grossman & The New Forbidden** on the Friday (yes I know!) – **Massive Head Trauma & Omnia Opera** on the Saturday – while we recorded **Mike Knowles, Kiki O'Connell** and **Fury** at the Cube on Sunday – a great weekend but good to give the feet a rest afterwards!!

Onto Worcester Beer etc festival on Pitchcroft the weekend after but have to say part from **Jasper's** solo set

there again wasn't much local, original music – much more to my liking was **Lakefest** in Bredon's Hardwick featuring **Indigo Kings, Juey** and **Skewwhiff** – headline acts over the weekend included **The Beat** and **Ocean Colour Scene**: I was very impressed with the way **Paul & Caitlin (Roving Crows)** had helped organise this sparkly event & I loved the 'travellers' theme!

Two weekends of **B-Fests** were the order for mid-August: the first at the **Bridge Inn, Tenbury Wells** featured **Sugar Mama** and **Nigel Clark** – while the following week it was the turn of the **Black Lion, Hereford** to host & I have to say that it was a good turnout that caught sets from **Reap, Dogs Of Santorini, Blobbie Williams** and **The Misers** – credit to **Mike McBride** and his team for putting these together!!

I decided to give my festival-sore feet a rest the weekend before 'The Big One', checking out **Peace at Reading/Leeds** from the comfort of my living-room: impressed with their set by the way. In previous years I'd seen up to 80(!) separate acts at **Worcester Music Festival** but decided this year to spend a bit more time with fewer acts – it was a good move! Friday I saw **Psyflyer** at the **Pheasant** before hosting my own promotion at the **Blower** with **Marina Del Ray, Mike Knowles, Smokefarm, Humdrum Express** – with a kicking finale from **BSN[4:20]** – what a fine selection!

Tricky to pick out standout acts from the amazing choice on **WMF Wonderful Saturday**, but great to see **Rachel By The Stream** at **Cafe Bliss**, the first set from the reformed **Das Sexy Clap** and manic performances from **Hey You Guys!** and **Johnny Kowalski**. On Sunday we hosted another recording session at **Arts Workshop** featuring **Massive Head Trauma** and **Broken Oak Duet**, before joining **Jasper** and all the **WMF** crowd at the **Marrs Bar** for the closing act of an incredible weekend!!

Still time for a couple more festivals in early September – the re-arranged **Mappfest at Re-Con** with sets from a reformed **Oohz** – plus **Slack Granny** and **Black Russian** among many others (thanks Andy) before I closed off this year's Fest-fest with **Bromyard Folk Festival**: notable sets from **Key Green** and the legendary **John Kirkpatrick**. Now while many of the festivals I went to were free to enter/donations welcome – there were obviously a few that were commercial events – but if money's tight for next year why not consider applying to work as a steward – most of them were advertising for helpers even up to the last minute! Or even better – if you're a performer – why not apply to play yourself next summer – it's the right time of year now to get yourself considered for a festival spot in 2014 – and as you can see there sure are plenty to choose from!!

AOH (comment/message me at so-sue-me@live.co.uk)

FEATURE – Worcester Snoezelen

For over three years a small Worcester charity has been making a special kind of noise in the city with its unique access-to music opportunity, Rock School. Worcester Snoezelen (pronounced Snoo-zelen) provides all sorts of activities to people of any age with learning disabilities at its special sensory centre in St. Johns. The centre is visited by over 400 people every week and is filled with magical and interactive spaces that promote feelings of trust, safety, and self exploration. Everything inside the centre appeals to the senses; to the way we experience the world around us through taste, touch, sight, smell and hearing.

Supported by a full band of community musicians; Steve Wattison, Glenn Louis Pettit, Gary Morris and Dan Slade, Rock School is a unique access-to-music opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to get together and make great music and to perform their favourite songs. The workshop provides various performance opportunities for its members. The group has performed at the opening of The Hive and has accepted invitations to perform at other countywide events.

It's a special user-led workshop in the sense that people choose how they want to participate. Some like to be centre stage, entertaining everybody. Others feel more comfortable to sit outside of the band, providing an audience and enjoying the music they're hearing.

Earlier this year the charity received substantial funding from Children In Need which has given rise to a new three-



year project. Worcester Youth Rocks has been launched to offer similar creative opportunities to young people aged 15-19 yrs with learning disabilities who are in education.

You can contact Worcester Snoezelen for more info about either Rock School or Worcester Youth Rocks or to find out more about the charity's forthcoming events.

enquiries@worcestersnoezelen.org.uk
www.worcestersnoezelen.org.uk

It was an honour and a very humbling experience to be invited along to meet the group and talk to some of the young people who get so much out of the workshop. Pictured is Jamie who told Slap he loves attending every Monday and playing the guitar and Sarah who is also regular at the workshop who loves to sing.

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PREVIEW - Mark Thomas - 100 Acts of Minor Dissent!

SLAP catches up with comedian and political activist Mark Thomas ahead of his UK tour.

Interview by Adam Montgomery

Your latest show is called 100 Acts of Minor Dissent. How many have you done so far and what's been your favourite?

34. Organising a gay rights stand up gig in front of the Russian Consulate in Edinburgh with over 100 people.

Do you ever want to stage acts of major dissent?

Small acts become major acts.

Where do you get your drive from to constantly fight against the system?

One word: Ego. Sheer bloody mindedness. It's great to think that the rest of the world is wrong and I'm right.

What do you think of the current state of comedy?

There are loads of great stand ups who political, exciting and inventive. Bridget Christie, who just won the Edinburgh award, has an amazing provocative show all about feminism. The circuit is full of inventive and creative people.

Would you ever play a stadium?

No. No-one would come. And secondly why would I? I'd rather go to the Albert Hall and shout at an empty room

Will you be doing any more Extreme Rambling?

I might do. I have a fascination with walls and barriers, probably because I have a deep-rooted need to be transgressive. Walls are an admission of failure in politics. But I love them because barriers become inhabited by people who are adept at crossing them. At the Berlin wall some students spent months digging a tunnel. 60 people escaped through it and overnight 60 people's lives changed

So do you have any plans for where you might "ramble" next?

Not that I can speak of.

Do you ever get depressed rallying against a corrupt world?

I prefer to get angry or cross or inventive or creative. I get tired though. Tired, not depressed. I was once told by a lovely, respected figure in the Civil Rights movement that there are two words a young activist needs to pay heed to. Constant vigilance.

So bearing in mind your activism do you suspect that you are on any secret service surveillance lists?

I know I am. I am on the Construction Blacklist. I don't know why. I assume it's because of my campaigning against various building companies. I'm on the National Extremism Tactical and Co-ordination Unit's Domestic Extremists list. I know that because I've just had the results back from a Data Protection request.

Are you doing anything about that?

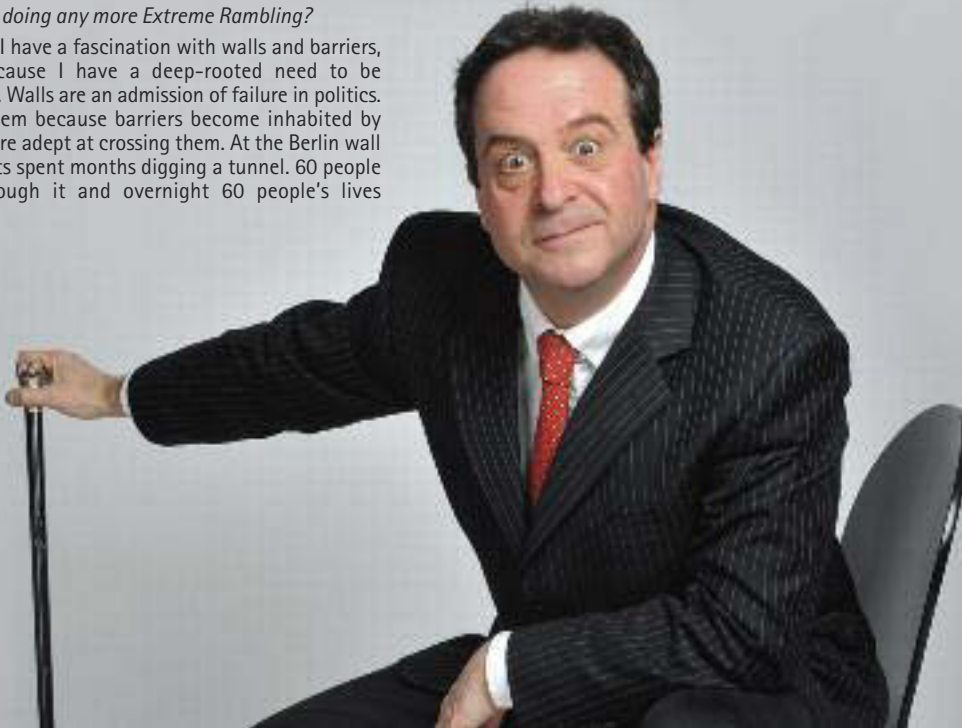
Yes, but if you want to know what you'll have to come and see the show.

As part of his UK tour Mark is appearing locally at:

Wed, 06 Nov - Worcester, Huntingdon Hall

Tue, 12 Nov - Bromsgrove, Artrix

Wed, 13 Nov - Cheltenham, Town Hall



THE B H G

Before we head into our what's on in November I'd just like to say what an absolute pleasure it has been working with Dick Lucas on his amazing exhibition and thank his band Culture Shock for blowing the lid off this place..and on a Tuesday night as well..superb stuff!



Perhaps unsurprisingly November kicks off creepy style as we open our latest Group Show on All Hallows Eve itself. (cue ghostly type noises). The show features Worcester's very own Master of Horror, John Harding, whose collection of 3D Sci-Fi & horror sculpture appear alongside other artists including Chilly, Sam Manley and Dom Dunlea.



This show is not to be missed and opens on Halloween 31st October at 7pm with frightening festivities continuing downstairs at the "Boars Headless Ball"..and for those who know us.. macabre dress is essential!

Also on Thursdays in November we hit back with our "Pencil and Pints" nights and they are as follows:-

7th Nov – Life Drawing Class with a new male model. All abilities welcome to attend and materials available at this friendly, informal session. £4 pp 7pm



14th Nov – 3D Model Making Workshop. Learn loads of techniques & experiment with new materials with guidance from an experienced model maker. You will make a 3D badge to take home with you too! £4 pp 7pm

21st Nov – Knit & Natter. Come along to this friendly session with 'Waste2Want' on hand to demonstrate some great ideas & help us pick up these dropped stitches! The session is free but donations are always welcome.

28th Nov – 'Great Art Debate' plus BHG 2nd Birthday Celebrations! Bring along your most contentious & controversial opinions regarding "Who is the Greatest Artist ever to have Lived". This is YOUR chance to present a 5 minute case for your favourite to be crowned Greatest Artist Ever. Rounds & debates will continue with knockouts until a winner is reached. Audience members can also vote and question the candidates.



Seats are £2 pp 7pm start and there will be a prize for the winning debater. All funds go to Arts in Kidderminster. All over 18s welcome

To participate in this exciting event please email gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

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MUSEUMS 
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Arts Feature - Joseph Beuys

Worcester City Art Gallery is hosting an exhibition of artworks by Joseph Beuys from 26th October and running until 1st February next year and next month's Slap Magazine will feature art from this exhibition.



Joseph Beuys is described by many as one of the most influential artists of the late twentieth century, who created works including drawing, watercolours sculpture and performance, influenced by every-day themes and personal experience. The exhibition is touring with the Arts

Council England as part of ARTIST ROOMS and arrives in Worcester having already been shown in the Tate Modern in London, the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill and the National Museum, Cardiff, so we are very lucky to be featured in this national tour.

The exhibition at Worcester will include events to encourage everyone to be an artist in line with the artist's own beliefs so look out for a chance to join in and have a go. The exhibition is on now. The Art Gallery can be found on Foregate Street, and is open 10.30-4.30 Monday to Saturday and free to enter.

Sarah Ganderton

Event Preview



Amnesty International Violations – Women's Human Rights

In an event organised by Malvern Hills Amnesty Int Group, 4 speakers take to the stage of The Cube, Albert Pk Rd, Gt Malvern WR14 2YF on Tuesday November 12th (doors open 7.00 for 7.30 start), to discuss various aspects of the violation of women's human rights.

The speakers appearing are:- Kate Allen, Amnesty Director; Radha Bedi, maker of the film "A Dangerous Place To Be A Woman"; Prof Lalage Bown on "Womankind Worldwide" and Trefor Trueman of Oramia Support Group with a talk on "The Experience Of Women Refugees".

All speakers have generously given their services free in support of Amnesty International.

There will be the opportunity for written questions from members of the audience.

Tickets are available from Books For Amnesty 3 Edith Walk, Gt Malvern WR14 2YF. 01684 563507 and cost £5 - free for students.

Refreshments will be available and for further information please contact Sue Wolfendale on 01684 562804.

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PREVIEW - Hugh Cornwell - Artrix, Bromsgrove 22 November

In the wake of his latest & superb Steve Albini produced album, *Totem and Taboo*, punk legend Hugh Cornwell brings his acoustic tour to Artrix on 22nd November.

With **The Stranglers** Hugh scored some 23 UK Top 40 singles and 17 Top 40 albums, in a career now spanning four decades(!). Though **The Stranglers** were certainly punk in attitude & timing of arrival on the scene, their musical horizons far-outstretched most of their contemporaries and this together with their undoubted idiosyncratic approach, are the main reasons for their longevity.

And so it is no surprise that on this tour fans will be treated to airings of such Stranglers classics as *Peaches*, *No More Heroes*, *Golden Brown*, *Nice'n'Sleazy* & *Skin Deep*.

Hugh continued to play with **The Stranglers** until the 1990's but from the end of the 70's had already spread his wings into exciting solo activity: indeed his

first album sans-**Stranglers** *Nosferatu* was a striking landmark effort, on which he collaborated with Captain Beefheart's Magic Band drummer **Robert Williams**.

This breadth of invention continues to the present with the afore-mentioned latest opus *Totem and Taboo* which has rightly received rave reviews on release and is guaranteed to wow fans and newcomers alike. Also this performance will see Hugh play at least one song from his entire **Stranglers** & solo catalogue spanning 35 years!

Special guest on this tour, **David Ford** is an exceptionally gifted and highly acclaimed songwriter who is well-known for the layered/looping effect that he brings to many of his songs. As a solo artist, he has released four albums to date, two of which were named "Album of The Year" in both *The Sunday Times* and *Word Magazine*.

This much vaunted and anticipated gig is on Friday 22nd November at 8pm.

Tickets are £20 available from the Box Office 01527 577330 or online at www.artrix.co.uk



PREVIEW - Lisbee Stainton - Artrix, Bromsgrove 7th November

Critically acclaimed and long time Slap fave Lisbee Stainton has honoured Artrix by kicking off her "*Word Games*" tour here on 7th November

We have spent many column inches here at Slap Towers espousing the musical marvellousness of Lisbee's distinctive 8 string guitar magic & thus **The Slapmobile** will land mob-handed at this Gig of Gigs!

Airply on Radios 2 & 6 of her excellent single *Red* got the music biz ball rolling and now Ms Stainton names the likes of Paul Carrack, Seth Lakeman and Ben Montague amongst her musical cohorts and fans. Indeed this high profile company culminated in her supporting **Joan Armatrading** on her 73 date tour, including a sell-out Albert Hall triumph.

And so with 2 fine albums under her belt namely *Firefly* and *Girl On An Unmade Bed*, Lisbee arrives at Artrix to promote her new November arriving disc *Word Games*.



Supporting her is special guest **Eleanor McEvoy**, one of Ireland's most accomplished contemporary singer/songwriters, whose album *A Woman's Heart* is the best-selling in Irish history.

Lisbee Stainton and Eleanor McEvoy will be performing at 8pm Artrix Arts Centre, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove on Thursday 7th November 2013. Tickets are £15, available from the Box Office on 01527 577330 or online at www.artrix.co.uk

SLAP EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

For your chance to win a pair of tickets to see Lisbee Stainton at Artrix on 7th Nov please answer the following question:-

Q: Lisbee has just finished touring the UK as part of which folk star's band?

Email your answers please to editorial@slapmag.co.uk asap as the gig is on 7th Nov!

The winners will be notified via email by 6th Nov - tickets will be at the Artrix Box Office on gig night - so please ensure you will be available

Thanks and Good Luck!

PREVIEWS - Versatile Arts

Versatile Arts are promoting a series of gigs at the tranquil location of **Hellens Manor** in Much Marcle, just over the Herefordshire border,...

The Great Barn at Hellens is more noted as a venue for an impressive programme of classical music, but the time has come to spread the net wider. By the time this issue comes to press **Peatbog Faeries** will have come and gone, forthcoming events include a rare solo performance by **Juan Martin** on Thursday 14th November.

Juan has been described by The Times as *'a giant of the flamenco guitar tradition.'*

A native of Andalucia, Juan Martin has recorded 20 albums mostly as a composer and has played with the Royal Philharmonic and greats like Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock. Juan presently has 4 videos distributed by Warner Brothers which are amongst their best sellers.

He is truly a spectacular flamenco guitarist, twice voted one of the world's top three exponents by 'Guitar Player' magazine.

Saturday 7th December sees Blues legends **Connie Lush** and her band appear at the Great Barn with their particular brand of 'big, belting, dirty and soulful blues'

Connie performed at Glastonbury Festival 2011 and has woned audiences across the world; she has also recorded in "The Cotton Row Studios" in Memphis and sung at BB Kings, Beale St.

Connie is a respected songwriter, writing for TV and featuring as a DJ at Jazz FM amongst other stations, she continues her love affair with audiences everywhere, bringing her enormous "gusto" for life and music wherever she goes.

Twice voted "European Blues Vocalist of the Year" by the French Blues Trophies Awards" and nominated again "Best UK Blues Vocalist" 2012-2013.

Connie Lush has been recognised as one of the finest blues singers in the UK - winning five times, "Best Female Vocalist UK" earning this raunchy soul diva a deserved place in the gallery of greats.



Connie has toured with BB King throughout the UK, finishing at The Royal Albert Hall, BB said of Connie *'that woman makes my heart sing!'*

Tickets are priced at £12.50 and are available from Ice Bytes (Ledbury), The Music Box (Ross on Wye), Carnival Records (Malvern), Premier Shop (Much Marcle) and on line from orpheus-events.com. Further info from Versatile Arts 07854 798913. Bar from 7.30pm Performance from 8.00pm



At the Great Barn, Hellens Manor



Juan Martin
'A giant of the flamenco guitar tradition...'
 The Times
Thurs 14th Nov
£12.50
Bar from 7.30pm




Connie Lush
 Support - Jack Rabbit Parole
'Big, belting, dirty and soulful blues...' Time Out
Sat 7th Dec
£12.50 Bar from 7.30pm



The Great Barn, Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, HR8 2LY

Tickets available online from
<http://www.orphesus-events.com/versatile-arts/>
 Also Ice Bytes Ledbury, The Music Box Ross on Wye,
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More info. info@versatilearts.co.uk 07854 798913



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REVIEW - Laura Mvula & Beth Rowley - Birmingham Institute - 8th Oct

Beth Rowley released *'Little Dreamer'* back in 2007, an album that was very well received and had considerable play time on the major radio channels, being on BBC 2 play-list for an extensive time. I was lucky to see her several times in her inaugural performances, a slightly nervous but bubbly young artist with a shock of blonde, tightly curled hair, and a beautiful voice. She sang a fusion of blues, soul and jazz songs some self-penned, some influenced by the likes of Nina Simone and Billy Holiday.



She toyed with a harmonica, but it was mostly about a superlative vocal quality she possessed. Then nothing; Beth all but disappeared, I found it hard to believe there was not more to come. Occasional web searches showed odd appearances around London, last year Bristol at Colston Hall, and Bristol, her home town, again earlier this summer. Out of the blue a mailshot with the pre-release of an EP, and dates for shows.

So here I was, to hear from Beth again, it just happened to be Mvula's home coming to Birmingham as well. She opened with one of my all time favourites, and fortunately hers, Blind Willy Nelson's *'Nobody's Fault But Mine'*, superb soulful blues. Beth followed with her own material. *'Wretched Body'*, opens with a staggering heavy reverb on guitar overlaid with self-deprecating, deep lyrics. Undeniably, Beth still sings as beautifully as ever. Deliciously dark, moody lyrics come with *'Princess'*.

These are taken from an EP, *'Wretched Body'* which is a part of a possible forthcoming album. All the tracks seem to point to inner battles, it's not uplifting in style, BUT for all its deep and soul-searching style, I like its spartan presentation, allowing Beth's vocals to come through strongly; I await the next offering with anticipation. I briefly spoke to Beth off stage, she had taken time out, not enjoying the conveyor ride she had stepped on to, and perhaps the expectations of a demanding media. She has always sung and has continued to do so in a much smaller way, and seemed

comfortable with her support roll this evening. I think Beth is wonderfully suited to small venues and clubs, she has a fabulous voice, well worth listening out for.

Mvula, I confess to knowing nothing of this daughter of Birmingham, but had heard some of her music on the airwaves, without realising it. She has been Mercury and Mobo nominated, and certainly, given the crowd here at the Institute, seems to have a big following. On stage are harp, violin, cello and double bass, along with drums and her keyboards. She is certainly a striking woman, with a voice that sits between Amy Winehouse and Adele, with dress perhaps influenced by Erykah Badu. The songs are soul with electro and string vibes, the stage production and sound are excellent. Also, what I tend to measure an artist by, is an appreciation of the audience, an obvious and comfortable rapport was established by Laura, back from her US tour. She can easily relate to the differences either side of the Atlantic, in lifestyle and our common language, English, but not the same. *'Green Garden'*, opens with the tinkling sound of rain on the Xylophone? Its vocal harmonies flick over Laura's vocals as the beat



picks up, very enjoyable. *'She'* is more stripped back soul, still with strong waves of backing harmonies, strings picking up as the song warms up. *'That's Alright'* a drum-driven infectious rhythm, contrasts with the simple soulful *'Diamonds'*. *'Is There Anybody Out There'* (not Pink Floyd) that breaks out in to Marley's *'One Love'*, started out distinctly soulful, and kicked into the familiar reggae favourite. Altogether an interesting, enjoyable set, performed in style, a bonus for my visit.

A last note, the whole evening was set in motion by Peter and Kerry, a young pair of musicians from the South East, combine to produce songs that appear to sit between Pet Shop Boys lite, Portishead at rest, with perhaps elements of Lily Allen in the lyrics. An interesting sound, maybe one to watch out for.

Words & Pics by Graham Munn



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Sat 30th Nov 2013

The Marris Bar

Doors: 7.30pm

First band: 8.00pm £3 adv. £5 on the door



If you somewhat enjoy to witness the relinquishing of self-control in the name of all that is noisy, then Mansize could be the band for you. Grunge rooted with infinite influences, this distortion drenched three-piece offer something you're never quite sure what to expect from.

Having laid low since the ecstatic endeavours of this year's Worcester Music Festival, Blue Radio Records are busy behind the scenes preparing for their next display of some of the finest musical mastery in town! Saturday 30th November will bring to The Marris Bar an eclectic goody bag of bands both from Worcester and further afield.



The Broken Oak Duet

Taking the headlining slot will be The Broken Oak Duet; an act disproving everything you thought was vital to the make-up of a band! The instrumental math rock two-piece persist in delivering riff after cleverly catchy riff with seamless precision and have proved themselves a real asset to the Worcester music scene since their first appearance at the beginning of 2012.



This next band needs no introduction; Das Sexy Clap surely being up there with the greatest. Following the release of the incredible album *Eat Fuck Die*, the vigorous gigging ground to a halt, making their return with a refreshed line-up (now also comprising former This Wicked Tongue drummer Ben Pemberton and bassist James Willis - The Cape of Good Hope) even more of a treat to those experiencing riff withdrawal, when they tore up The Marris Bar for the Task in Hand's Worcester Music Festival event. Guaranteed to make you screw your face up, I would advise strongly against absence from this fuzz-fuelled set.



Mansize

Making their way up from Bournemouth, Worcester welcomes a band that screams sleazy grungy rock - Deltorers.

Renowned for their high energy, high output performance, prepare your ears for an onslaught of dirty riffs being thrashed out by this thrilling three-piece.



The final piece to this prize-winning puzzle and opening the event, we present to you Cathodes; an eclectic, experimental instrumental band whose chief concerns are shredding eardrums and melting faces. The guys having honed a set of tunes that fuse post-rock, mathcore, alternative and grunge into a dark, heady brew led one seasoned observer to note, "You're like the evil version of The Shadows, you are."



Cathodes

Consider this a calling to those of you as enthralled by underground music as we are. Fuck the corporate conglomerates shovelling shit into our ears, it's time to give back to the real lovers of music!

For advance tickets (only £3.00) head to: www.blueradiorecords.bigcartel.com now!

Stella (pint) £1.70 Vodka NRG £2.50 Jagerbomb £2.50

REVIEW - Eric Bibb - Jericho Road Album & Tour Robin2 - Oct 24th

Eric Bibb is a world class blues roots musician and writer that is currently releasing his new album *Jericho Road*. The album is drawn from his years of travelling, and experiencing different countries and cultures, reflected on man's inhumanity to man.

The track *'Follow the Drinkin' Gourd'* opens the album, a gentle acoustic opening followed by *'Freedom Train'*, with its South African undercurrent and the rhythm of the railtrack carrying it forward. *'Let The Mothers Step Up'*, ups the pace with a funky style of modern blues, that reflects on the conflicts and the men and money behind them.

The album preaches of rights and wrongs and for us all to have a little more mercy and compassion in our soul. There are inspiration taken from gospel, jazz, soul, blues



and folk roots, we are talking world music in every sense. Eric implores us to do *'The Right Thing'*, but for the grace of it could be any of us on the wrong side of the track, born perhaps into poverty or repression.

This is a finely crafted album, Eric has some excellent collaborators in Glen Scott, who appears on many tracks and producer Phillippe Langlois. I confess to having to played this a second time before starting to lose myself in the intricacies of the sounds. I particularly like the horns coming through on *'The Lords Work'* and a good solid blues found in *'With My Maker I Am One'*. I suppose it mirrors my love of good blues that I am definitely at one with this fine song. The album as a whole may not jump straight into your play list, but it will grow, its gentle, varied rhythms easing into your subconscious, along with the feeling and messages carried in the meaningful lyrics. The world could be a better place if we all paid heed. My only personal reservation, is that tucked on the end of this CD are 2 'bonus' tracks, which I do not feel add to the album as a whole.

Jericho Road is a journey, one which Eric is going to travel down again at The Robin, I will join him for that evenings trip...

First I will pay tribute to a short but very nice opening support from Michael Jerome Browne, a Canadian, award winning, folk and roots singer, who happens to be playing in Eric's band on this tour. Some very good acoustic guitar and slide in the blues song *'At It Again'*, followed by a bit more blues and a dash of mountain folk, a very good start to the evening at Robin 2.

Having just reviewed Eric's new album *Jericho Road*, I was keen to see him live for the first time. Also the first time I have seen The Robin seated!

Eric is a major artist in roots blues and world music, he has an arabica voice, just like the coffee, warm and rich yet still mellow. I had expected this tour to highlight the new album, but that only gets dipped into occasionally. Soft easy listening opening songs, fed into some excellent blues in *'Turner Station'*, followed shortly after by one from *Jericho Road*, *'Drinking Gourd'*, which is the beautifully crafted opening track from the CD. There were songs with African roots, such as *'Bamako'* and plenty of old gospels and hymns, with strong links to South American slavery. *'Connected'* was for me another that stood out, an old Scottish Hymn, taken to the deep American South and reworked into gospel blues. Opening with some superb 'soft' but lingering percussion from Paul Robinson on drums, it was very atmospheric.

Eric became our preacher again for *'Needed Time'*, the whole room joining in for a second run of the chorus lines. That really sums up the evening well, Eric and his band, had that connection with the 250+ (guess) who were gathered there as his disciples, close and intimate; as if, sat, chatting and singing in his own living room. He finished his set rising to his feet, and losing himself in *'Angels'*, memorable.

No one was going to let him slip away that easily, he returned for a nice bit of solo blues with *'Going Down Slow'*, the band joining in with a few more songs from Eric's book. The band were, Michael Jerome Browne, acoustic guitar and slide, Neville Malcolm, bass various, the lovely soft drums of Paul Robinson, and keyboard, and multiple instruments, Glen Scot.

I left with no ringing ears, no shell shock, not even an air of excitement, just a nice warm glow, an absolute pleasure to have been there. The Tour continues.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn

REVIEW - HDQ, Jaded Eyes, Thirty Six Strategies - Firefly, Worcester - Oct 4th

Punk. It comes in many varieties. Sometimes it's all shouty and 'orrible. Up for a ruck with the world and that. Sometimes though, it's melodic and infectiously catchy. The menu for this sitting of punk fare - curated by Worcester's own **Surprise Attacks** - featured three choice cuts of the melodic and catchy variety.

To labour that random food conceit further, this triple bill of bands was a gourmet melodic punk club sandwich. With something a little grubbier in the middle.

Preamble over though: the bands.

Thirty Six Strategies - representing for Worcester and Ledbury - have apparently been doing this sort of thing for a good few years, in various guises and incarnations. And it basically showed. Female-fronted (unusual enough in this scene) and overlaid with some pretty damn special vocals, you got a tight half hour of hooky, layered tracks delivered with intent. Harking back in sound to the likes of Dag Nasty and wee bit of Bad Religion (but with more edge), they also didn't overstay their welcome. Because, in their words, they simply wanted to give the next two great bands time to play.



And to be fair, those bands had come a long way to play above a pub in the provincial Midlands...

Hailing from Leeds and other self-identified "northern crevices", **Jaded Eyes** are a motley looking bunch. Featuring a bronzed Brian Ferry lookie-likey on rhythm guitar; that bloke out of the Kaiser Chiefs on bass; and an angry, cross-eyed hobgoblin in a Hüsker Dü T-shirt up front, this oddball crew cranked out a remorselessly fierce yet tuneful racket. The hobgoblin's crisp growl



reared out proudly from amongst a mass of cascading guitars and clever little time changes, which both sneakily hid some serious musicianship, and worked a few devilishly infectious tunes that burrowed right into your ear and head. Kind of like those space woodlice in *Star Trek 2: the Wrath of Khan*.

And finally, all the way from sunny Sunderland, the recently reformed **HDQ**: a band that probably deserves the epithet "seminal". Favourites of the late and great **John Peel** over a quarter of a century ago, these chaps were an



influence on a whole lot of bands in the late eighties and early nineties - Snuff, Mega City Four and many more. All that remains of the original line up now is **Golly**, their pocket rocket of a front man, and the giant Mackem god of shimmering guitar (his bad self) **Dickie Hammond**. More widely known perhaps for his later work with the indestructible **Leatherface**. The big man Hammond was pretty much the star of the show, with his antics and winning banter. The set mainly comprised their new stuff - always a brave move - but there was no lack of poke, vigour and spunk on display. And there was a basic riot of tightly-worked good tunes. That too.

The fact that these gents haven't been playing as a unit long only became apparent when the calls came for an encore. And they had to admit "we can't... we divwent have any more songs, we haven't rehearsed..."

In the semi-chaos that followed, they almost did one anyway - albeit with random members of other bands or the public filling in, one of the new recruits having inexplicably vanished. But it wasn't to be.

Nonetheless. It appeared that all three acts thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, every bit as much as the punters. Which was great.

Because that was exactly the point.

[facebook.com/SurpriseAttacks](https://www.facebook.com/SurpriseAttacks) (they organized the gig).

Words: Edward Ling Photography by Mark Hoy

ARTS FEATURE - AIMS Exhibition on Tour: Art in Minds

Further to the feature in last month's SLAP magazine, the Aims exhibition created at the Worcester Arts Workshop, opened in October at the University of Worcester's St John's campus, as well as a small display at The Hive to advertise the exhibition to a wider audience.



The exhibition is to raise awareness of the World Mental Health Day which was on 10th October, as well as giving artists the opportunity to exhibit their work, involving 140 artists through the Shrub Hill Workshop. These artists learn different methods and techniques through workshops and tutorials and are encouraged to exhibit to help aid recovery from mental ill health as well as to develop improved mental health and well being. This project is celebrating its 10th year with this year's exhibition, led by Jayne Gaze who ten years ago was very proud to be the first single honours art student at the University of Worcester and graduated with a First Class Degree before becoming one of the founders of Art In Minds.

The exhibition was displayed in the university's Cotswold Suite where students and staff as well as visitors to the university could enjoy the art. The art was thought provoking as well as beautifully awe inspiring, and included local scenes, imagined landscapes and abstract visions some themed around mental illness as well as many highlighting the beauty of life.

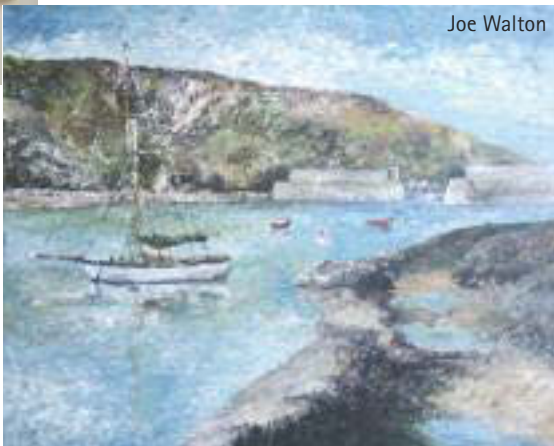
The primal images of Gary Page in mixed media and abstracts by Ursula Nash suggest mental anguish and the attempt to find order from disorder, while Aimee Cockle tackles mental illness head on with her *Manic Sunflower* that appears to be exploding from a head.



Sylvia Scarrbrook

Yet the sunnier side of mental health is also here, in the inviting *Open Hand* by Sylvia Scarrbrook, photography of Emma Fay, and the acrylic painting of flowers by Sylvia Coulthard. Lucy Jones' picture of sheep on hand made felt, makes the viewer want to reach out and absorb its warmth

while Mary E Barker's gardens through the year and Joe Walton's *Port Isaac* make the viewer wish you were there.



Joe Walton

While the exhibition at the University was the main event, work by different artists within this project were also exhibited at Worcester Arts Workshop, and Worcester Museum and Art Gallery, and some previously-seen artwork was shown at Barbourne Health Centre. Many of the exhibited pictures are available to purchase, and can still be seen on the arts in minds

www.artinminds.org.uk.

The AIMS community art group can be contacted for more information about volunteering or joining in by email:

contact@artinminds.org.uk
or tel: 01905 619633

Sarah Ganderton

Left: Gary Page

Right: Aimee Cockle



REVIEW - Polly Paulusma & Robert Lane - Ort Café, Birmingham - Fri 15 Nov

Acclaimed singer/songwriter Polly Paulusma returns to the stage at following almost a year's break from gigging. Polly is set to take to the stage at the cosy, intimate venue with support from Birmingham's own Robert Lane.



In a varied career, Polly has toured the UK, the US and Europe and has supported such illustrious artists as Bob Dylan, Coldplay, Jamie Cullum, Marianne Faithfull, The Divine Comedy and Joseph Arthur, playing Glastonbury, Glasgow's T in the Park and the Cambridge Folk Festival, amongst many others.

From humble musical beginnings in a garden shed, Polly Paulusma was signed to Bjork's label One Little Indian in 2003 and the following year released her self-produced, home-shed-recorded debut album *Scissors in My Pocket* to international critical acclaim.

Uncut Magazine gave *Scissors in My Pocket* **** calling her "the finest young female British singer-songwriter to emerge over the last 12 months" (in a year that saw Amy Winehouse and Joss Stone step into the limelight). The Independent heralded her "the most literate songwriter of her generation". The album was playlisted on BBC Radio 2 and championed by Michael Parkinson and Terry Wogan, to name but a few. www.pollypaulusma.com

Robert Lane was chosen by the LG Arena to perform before concerts by Dire Straits front man Mark Knopfler, BBC Sound of 2010 winner Ellie Goulding and international superstar singer/songwriter John Mayer. In May 2013 he returned to the Forum Live to play before Eric Clapton's main stage appearance. In August 2013 Robert was one of 15 songwriters selected to attend a song writing retreat/course with Kinks legendary front man Ray Davies.

www.robertlanemusic.co.uk

Tickets £10, Concessions £8 and are available from wegottickets.com. For more information call Ort Café on 07845 083 322 or visit www.ortcafe.co.uk.

REVIEW - Army of Skanks - 28th Sep

Punks not dead, it's just having a weekend in Redditch. The Railway Inn Redditch became The Army of Skanks headquarters for a night of kick arse antics and good old body slamming, roll round the floor mayhem.

After a few technical issues things got off to a party animal night of original material and some old favourites chucked in for good measure. It was good to see and hear a good mix of the two and the Skanks pulled out a top show for all. Just when you thought they'd run out of juice they bounce back and kick you in the knackers and take off again. Jess their singer is like a punk zebedee jumping around and getting the audience on board with the mayhem.

This didn't just stop at a bit of pogoing but turned into full on audience participation with singing and tambourines and some guest spots from Chris Lane (Mr birthday boy) from Devoid doing a couple of Devoid numbers.

The Army of Skanks have been around about two years and hail mainly from the Coventry area with the exception of the lead guitarist Captain Chaos, who's from Alcester near Redditch. Talking to Jess they've been busy getting out and playing this year and played at the Rebellion in August to a packed house and will be up in Birmingham at the The Army of skanks Adam and Eve on the 1st Nov and the Unicorn in Camden later in the month with a support with the Smears in Nottingham on the 19th.

The band consists of 4 no tails and 1 tail. On vocal is Jess one woman poggio champ. On bass Wendy the medic, rhythm guitar Spacy Tracy, lead guitar Captain Chaos Carol and drums the Whippet. They have a ten track CD out called 'Army of Skanks Punk Rock Warriors', which consists of eight original tracks and two covers. So look out for the Army of Skanks and get yer self a butchers at em.

Mad Dave



ARTS FEATURE - Memories Project - The Infirmary Museum

A project at The Infirmary Museum culminated this month with a special event at The Hive. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by Age UK to encourage older people to have a go at different arts. The participants produced "memory books" remembering things they have enjoyed about their lives at the same time as enjoying the new experience of meeting other new people and having a go at learning new art techniques. The books and participants were then photographed to be displayed on banners that will tour around the county so many people will be able to enjoy the exhibition.



The event at The Hive allowed the participants to see the finished banners on which photographs of their art work will be displayed. It was also an opportunity to meet each other again and chat about their experience. This was an opportunity for funders and organisers to meet them and to see how the project has encouraged them to have a go at different art techniques and look at the finished memory books.

All those participants who were able to attend the function enjoyed the event and talked about their experience on the project. They had not expected it to include art but they enjoyed it when they found out. Some of the participants enjoyed the art so much they have booked themselves onto further art courses to learn more techniques.

The exhibition about the memory books was displayed on the second floor of the Hive throughout October and this month is then being moved to The Infirmary where visitors can pop in and see it. From here it will tour to other locations so keep an eye out for it as it travels around the county.

The Infirmary is the museum based at Worcester's Old Infirmary Building, now the university of Worcester's City Campus on Castle Street and is open to the public 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday except bank holidays.

Sarah Ganderton



REVIEW - The Executives - Droitwich Legion - Friday 27th Sep

On a chilly Friday night we popped up the road to the Legion in Droitwich for a few good real ales and to see a band formed from the embers of two of Worcester's foremost guitar fronted bands (Silver Angel and The Gary Harper Band). The Executives, a three piece playing a fusion of rock /blues and funk with their own style. Fronted by the awesome guitar and vocals of Gary Harper who rocked Upton a few years ago at the Blues Festival, he delivered furious guitar riffs and leads with effortless aplomb. The band also benefited from a great powerhouse rhythm section of Steve "Fingers" White on bass, and Steve "Stickman" Strain on drums. Both have been regulars on the scene for years and were really tight with a set list that was full of dynamics and sheer musical power. They were extremely loud and the locals enjoyed the show. Make an executive decision and go check them out if they are playing soon near you. They don't disappoint.

Robbo



5 Minutes with [SPUNGE]

Next year sees local ska punk legends [sponge] rack up their twentieth year as a band. That's twenty years touring, writing and recording; no splits, no dramas just twenty years of skanking up dance floors, inciting mass sing-a-longs and tearing up and down the country. To celebrate, the band have decided to release a best-of with a difference - a collection of songs hand picked by the fans and then re-tweaked and re-recorded.

That's not all - as well as re-recording those classic moments they are also working on writing a brand new album, as well as taking to the road throughout November with Worcester's high octane Hey You Guys! in tow. With all this going on it all only seemed right to grab five minutes with [sponge] for a quick chinwag.

So next year is a massive milestone - did you ever expect to be together that long? Can you remember the early day ambitions?

Jem - Sweets and ice cream!

Des - I didn't expect to live for 20 years plus I can't remember what I did last night!

Alex - In the early days it was all about just enjoying ourselves and having a laugh but of course as time goes on... it's EXACTLY the same reason we are still doing it.

Can you tell us about a few of the highs and lows of the lifetime of [sponge]?

Highs - Playing with Foo Fighters, kicking backstage with Green Day and the Reading and Leeds festivals.

Lows - having to go back to a normal shitty job as all those good times don't necessarily pay the bills.

I can remember you playing places like a frenzied Horn And Trumpet back in the day - do you look back at those days and wonder how you ever went from there to the likes of the Birmingham Academy?

Yeah, I guess it was being young, fresh-faced and new that made us flavour of the month, as opposed to the old beer soaked darts players we are now. It's like a hobby that has got out of control.

So tell us about your forthcoming greatest hits album, why now? Did you always want to go back and revisit and record some of those old classics?

It just felt right. 20 years is a big achievement with no splits, 'last ever' tours or crap like that. And yeah, it's nice to make the songs sound how we thought they were in our heads the whole time.

Tell us about the pledge campaign that you've launched for the album. I believe the fans are getting to pick the tracks, etc. Do you see this as a way of giving back to all the loyal fans over the years?

Yep, saves on us getting the blame for missing tracks off! We like the idea of it coming back to the control of bands and fans. We've been around long enough to



remember running tapes off and putting them on the shelf at the local HMV to try and sell one or two... and this is like a big version of that with bells and whistles lol! It's been fun having them involved along the way in stuff like gang vocals and picking the tracks...

I also hear you're busy writing new material, how's that going? Can we expect any surprises?

We have a few tracks written, it all went on hold for this best of release but we'll be back on it after the tour. Surprises...? Not really if I'm honest... It's definitely still us on there, but I think we're writing some of my favourite tunes right now, which is a pleasant surprise for me.

You're performing throughout the UK during November, can we expect any of the new material to be showcased or is this going to be a greatest hits tour?

It's primarily a greatest hits tour - we are playing every song we have recorded on the album, but there are a couple of new ones in there too to boo and hiss at.

You're taking out relative young guns Hey You Guys! out with you on tour, what do you expect them to bring to the party?

The beer and women, oh and humping all our gear in and out of venues!

What else do [sponge] have planned in the near future? Anything else you want to tell your fans?

We are just keeping on doing what we love to do. Greatest Hits is out in November, along with the tour, then writing more new tunes and recording them for a possible album release late next year... our albums are like buses, you wait 6 years for one and then two come along at once. We're hoping to make the 20th year a good one with shows all throughout - so go pester those festivals to have us on the bill people...

www.pledgemusic.com/projects/sponge if you want to get the best of as soon as it's done!



You recently made your first trek out into Europe how did that go and do you plan to venture out more in the future?

If they ask us. In which case we'll be back in a heartbeat! After all, they've got all the best beer and I get to crowd surf over there.

So you're about to embark on a tour with [spunge] - how did this come about and what are your expectations for the tour?

It should be said that HYG realise how lucky we are to be asked along by [spunge], I've heard a lot about what they get up to on tour so my main expectation is that I will be barricading myself in my hotel room each night and doing a lot of crying.

I can remember seeing [spunge] years ago in places like the Blower and Gonzo's, as well as the likes of The Birmingham Academy etc. What does it mean to you touring with a band that have seen and done it all?

It shouldn't be taken lightly, these guys are veterans and heroes. But I don't think they've seen or done it all yet - after all they haven't tried following HYG nine nights on the trot! Both bands have a lot to give so I can't wait to get out there.

You finished the album launch gig with a brand new track (alluded to be on the second album), can we expect to hear more on the tour and what else can we expect from the Hey You Guys! live experience?

We're playing the first album in its entirety every night. Unless we can't be bothered, in which case we'll play a load of new stuff. Or a mixture of these two options. As for the live experience, I'm not giving anything away until the first night!

What's next for the band after the [spunge] tour? I hear there's a date with Kerbdog coming up.

You're actually completely right. We're supporting the 'Dog in Kilkenny on New Year's Eve. That's going to be painful!! Before that we've got the Robocop Hallowe'en single, a handful of Xmas dates and we'll start working on our second album. Meanwhile I will fuck a bunch of suits to try and secure us a record deal.

Questions: Will Munn Photography: Joe Singh

TOUR DATES

08th Nov	O2 Academy	Newcastle
09th Nov	The Roadhouse	Manchester
10th Nov	The Victoria Inn	Derby
11th Nov	Ivory Blacks	Glasgow
12th Nov	Marrs Bar	Worcester
13th Nov	The Anvil	Bournemouth
14th Nov	Waterfront	Norwich
15th Nov	O2 Academy	London
16th Nov	O2 Academy	Birmingham

5 Minutes more... with HYG

Worcester's latest indie/pop/punk heroes Hey You Guys! have had quite a year, they've released a brilliant debut album, performed a number of high profile gigs across the UK and are now set to tour with local ska punk legends [spunge], so I thought it was about time I caught up with the guys for a chat.

You've all trod the boards previously with numerous local bands, but how did Hey You Guys! come together?

There was simply a point where Dave (guitar) unilaterally thought: "Let's throw our shit together and see what comes out." Personally I was getting ready to retire from this hedonistic lifestyle. Too much free sex and drugs was beginning to bore me.

The debut album Gasp! Shock! Horror! is a blast from start to finish, was the recording of the album as much fun as I imagine?

It was better fun than that. It was a really freewheeling experience as we all just did our best while Dave (again!) steered the ship behind the mixing desk and kept us kids in check.

Bar a handful of gigs you seem to really come out the blocks with the release of the album, did you always plan to hold back on live performance until the recording was nailed?

We've been playing pretty regularly since October last year. We just balance our time well. Writing, recording, playing - you can't do them all at the same time and we've managed to fit a lot into the last twelve months! We've been genuinely thrilled by the reaction we've got. People seem to like what we have to deliver and the same goes for the album. The feedback we've had from that has been great.

ARTS FEATURE - The 2nd Ned James Festival of Women's WerkWork

There is a terrific show of work at Worcester Museum and Art Gallery on Foregate Street. It 's called The 2nd Ned James Festival of Women's-WerkWork (not sure about the relevance of the German spelling since there are no obvious German themes connecting the work, sorry werk) and has been facilitated by two men, James and Nathaniel Pitt.

The show, featuring eight international artists came about after James and Pitt were discussing the effect that global austerity is having on women. The artists were chosen for work that references gender, class consciousness, economics, work and leisure.



I've taken the liberty of using comments from the visitor's book (last time I saw one of these was at a student show – bit like getting 'likes' on facebook) since these days we are all critics.

Anyway, someone has written '*Fantastic!*' – perhaps they are referring to Carey Young's work £45,552.03 (black type on the gallery wall). Young was weighed prior to this show and that is the value of the various chemical elements that make up her body weight, self portrait as a price. One person was certainly convinced describing



it as 'a triumph to commission work by artists like Carey Young'.

Elsewhere someone has written '*utter waste of money!*' – but the show was free!

Or try this?

'People were paid to make this stuff?!' Do you see what they did there, they put both a question mark AND an exclamation mark. Nice. Perhaps they're an artist?!

How about;

'Is a joke, is a joke, is a joke....' Now this has to be a reference to Celine Berger's film entitled Poem where Roland Kupers, Director of the THNK: Amsterdam School of Creative Leadership repeatedly intones '*An artist is an artist!*' for near on 11 minutes. Hmmm.

Ok, you're still not convinced?

Someone else has commented '*Came round when you were shut but had a look anyways!*' If they did I hope they got to see *Players*, a film by Pilvi Takala which looks at the lives of poker players living in Bangkok and how they have adapted the rules of poker into their everyday lives. I hope they also had a chance to watch Sally O'Reilly's *Fantastic Engine*, another film, apparently 'a critique of mysogony'.



Elsewhere there is either '*rubbish!*' or else some '*really moving work!*' on show courtesy of Celine Condorelli and Monoker Stricker – also Sophie Hope & Jenny Richards robust '*Manual Labour Manual!*' – 'an analysis of work, seeking to uncover truths about passive work time and labour as a system of control' .

'Amazing cultural oasis – some really moving work – thank you'

The Barbed Wyre

CD REVIEW - Jack Blackman

Jack Blackman is a young singer-songwriter highly influenced by blues, roots and folk, he began to make a name for himself when he reached the semi-finals of Radio 2's young folk award two years on the trot (2010 & 2011). He released his debut album, *River Town* in 2011, featuring nine originals and a couple of covers including a stunning take on Blind Blake's finger stretching *Police Dog Blues*. From there Jack began to receive support from the likes of Radio 2's Paul Jones and national music magazines *fRoots* and *Acoustic Magazine*.

This summer has seen Jack take a trip out to Mississippi, performing at Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Blues Club as well being interviewed by legendary radio host Sunshine Sonny Payne. Whilst Radio 4 have already featured *Charles Walton Blues* (from his new self titled album) on a documentary on Charles Walton witchcraft murder.

Jack's second album opens with *Moving Train* and from the opening few bars it's obvious to hear why Blackman is courting so much attention, his intricate guitar picking is simply mesmeric from the off, whilst his vocals belie his tender years as he ably mirrors the



vocals of a seasoned Delta blues pro. *Moving Train* is a stunning statement of intent, showcasing stripped down acoustic blues at its best with a masterclass of innovative guitar and compelling, weathered vocals that urge the listener on.

From there on Jack continues to deliver a glorious album of rootsy folk and intriguing heartfelt blues, from the fragile folksy lament and lyrical tour de force of *Ashes On My Guitar* to the blustery *Whiskey Grave* with its foot tapping rhythm and infectious combination of slide and plucked guitar, via the moody, dark blues folk of the aforementioned Charles Walton Blues, Jack always compels both musically and lyrically.

There's not a wasted note among the nine original songs on offer here, in fact the likes of *Patch Up That Hole* could easily become a future blues standard, whilst album closer, Buddy Holly's *Ghost* could grace any major forthcoming folk release you care to mention, with its delicate melody and heartfelt lyrics. The album is a passionate and stirring affair throughout as Jack proves he's equally adept at both the nimble fingered blues and soul searching fractured folk.

Jack Blackman's second, self-titled album consolidates his position as one of the hottest prospects in blues and folk, if you like your music stripped of gloss you won't find fault with this full length masterpiece.

Will Munn

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REVIEW - Minifest at Café Mambo - Redditch - 19th October



Maggie Strong

Saturday saw the start of some proper winter weather, but in down town Redditch at Café Mambo it wasn't putting a dampener on things. How hackneyed and clichéd was that as a piece of observational comment? The day started off with a sets by Alan Mason, Buzz and Conor Dallaway in the tent outside till rain stopped play and things moved in doors. It was a good

turnout by the musos of Redditch and surround and there was some great talent stepping up to do slots. There was some great vocal talent on show from Dave and Deb, Sarah Mann, Black Tie Event, Tracy Hunt, and Jessie and Liz. There was a good mix of styles and was good smattering of original material from all the players. When

things moved up stairs and inside we had solo slots from Alan Sherwood, Stew Tyler, and a young lad called Stuart Woolfenden who done a couple of originals worthy of mention. Duo sets by Death Night and Ad and Garth and accoustc duo and event organisers Sam and Clem in the forum of Totem. Were Redditch ready, ready, ready for Maggie Strong? We are still waiting to hear.



Stuart Woolfenden

Was good to see a good turnout and people enjoying the sets being played and the players enjoying the experience.

Mad Dave

REVIEW - Emily Barker and The Red Clay Halo - Artrix - 21st October

it's rare that you come across a singer who literally takes your breath away because of the purity of their voice but Emily Barker comes into that category. An accomplished singer, songwriter and instrumentalist, Emily hails from Western Australia and has already established a reputation for her ability to evoke a strong sense of place, hence the reason why *Nostalgia* was chosen for the *Wallander* theme. In September she was interviewed by Bob Harris on Radio 2 having been one of only three artists to be selected by BBC *Introducing* to play in Nashville. So I was keen to see her in action at Artrix on the biggest that tour that she and The Red Clay Halo have ever done in the UK.

Kicking off her set with the title track from her new studio album *Dear River*, Emily swiftly followed this with the poignant *Ropes* from her previous album *Almanac*. Every track seems to have a story behind it, whether it be *Letters* which tells the story of her grandfather's World War 2 experiences in the Netherlands or the colonisation of Australia in *A Spadeful of Ground*. Emily's harmonious blend of folk, blues and country had the audience captivated as she ably transported them back to places in Australia that have meaning to her such as the evocative *Blackwood* which Emily described as 'a love letter to a river'.

The Red Clay Halo provided excellent backing vocals alongside a variety of percussion and string instruments, while Emily herself seemed to use a newly tuned guitar for every track which kept her back stage support busy.

The tempo was raised with folky upbeat renditions of the new track *Ghost Narrative* and *Blackbird* from her previous album. A homesick night spent camping under the stars in Canada was the inspiration behind the hauntingly beautiful *Home*.



The set finished with some fun encores including a cover version of Aretha Franklin's *Do Right Woman, Do Right Man* and some fast-moving instrumentals from the Red Clay Halo. While she's still on tour I highly recommend you try and see Emily if you can because it won't be long before her prodigious musical talent opens a lot more doors for her.

Words: Rosie Hamilton

CD REVIEW - Ass Pasty

'What A Bizarre Chutney'

Over the past decade or so Pershore has had a reputation for oddball groups that are seemingly undeterred from experimenting. Such off the wall wotsits as Peng (prog splendour), Spoonfedz (ska to post punk in a few short years) and a fond favourite of mine from the TJ's days, the funky mick taking Knapkin. Some of this later day mentioned group have formed new Pershore based rap/funk/groove meister trio Ass Pasty, a band with a wry sense of humour and sardonic scatological wit in the lyrics. *'What A Bizzare Chutney'* starts off strongly reminiscent of Primus with wailing guitar feedback before settling into a funky twanging bass lead groove that sounds like a happier Chilli Peppers, sans the drug addictions and egos. The falsetto vocals ooze satire and are but a pre amble for what will follow in the TV dinner tidbit titterer *'Peter Schmicrowave's Thousand Watt Save'*.

"His the great Dane/ his got a footballing brain/ he thinks outside the box/ the 18 yard box/ he'll ease from the back/ he'll ease the attack/ from 15 yards off/ he



blocks/ he takes the docks/ he stops the shots" thus within it's many rotations, twists and turns a story of a goal keeping cum home economics class unfolds "a great goal keeper / a good food heater", the sound of a microwave

returns for a bit of a psych rock breakdown, so we begin to unscrew the *Bizarre Chutney*. Other highlights for me were *'Matthew Duncanson'*; a song seemingly about their manager (if he even exists,) which deals with the mountain of managerial duties includes the charming tongue twister *"Now some may feel/ that stacking shelves in Summerfield can be seen to be/ unfulfilling"*. Murray Burrows is full on funk fest that wouldn't be out of place on a Funkadelic collaboration *"Don't mean to make a mountain outta mole hill round these parts"* two minutes in this thunderous ominous toms hail this songs surreal u-turn into an experimental cul-de-sac. I could quote these guys all day as the lyrics, it has to be said are sublimely surreal and the word play is competent and ridiculous. Musically we are talking about a band that pull in punches of post punk, dabs of lazy stoner funk grooves, military precision in the rhythm section, blink and you'll miss it math and excellently executed amorphous axe. Produced with the sheen of Dave Draper it sounds crisp fun and sharp. All in all a very fine set of tappas to salivate over in time for an album proper!

Siegfried Munkelfuzel 3rd

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PREVIEW - Wes Dance - Marris Bar - Sunday 10th November

It's been a little whilst since I caught up with Worcester's finest poetic tunesmith, Wes Dance, so ahead of a forthcoming date at The Marris Bar I thought it was high time we had a little chinwag to find out how his year's going and what he has in store for the future.

Hi Wes, how are things with you today? Can you tell us what how 2013 has been, for you to date?

2013 has been pretty good. After my guitar left me for another, I took some time away from music. Then I found a new one, and the tail end of this year has been great – playing lots of gigs, and getting to meet and see lots of other great acts.

I've always described you as something of a poetic singer/songwriter, I know that your influences span both music and literature, do you consider that to be something of an apt description?

I wouldn't say poetic; in my view my songs are like short stories, snapshots of a moment, when life takes a twist or turn for the good or bad. Like a Raymond Carver story.

It's been a wee while since last time I caught you performing live, have you been writing any new songs in recent times? What can we expect from you at the Marris Bar?

I've been writing quite a bit over the year, but I haven't been playing them live too much. I used to write 8 songs a week, but now it's more like a song in 8 weeks. I take

more time, and try to make the songs more succinct and concise. There will be some new numbers in the set, and hopefully some other surprises too.

I hear you've also been collaborating with various musicians in recent times, is this something you plan to continue in the future?

I played for a year in Robinson, then I performed my songs with a band for half a year or so (with Hywel Payne, William Hughes and Lea Haworth). They were fun times. Now I'm back playing solo and it's been great – and that is what this Marris Bar gig is all about.

I see that you've been performing a little further afield in recently how have you been received?

Lately, I've been playing a lot of gigs in Birmingham. I did a gig at the Yardbird which was great; such an awesome audience always in attendance. Playing acoustic it's bliss when the audience is there to listen, rather than try and talk louder than the PA.

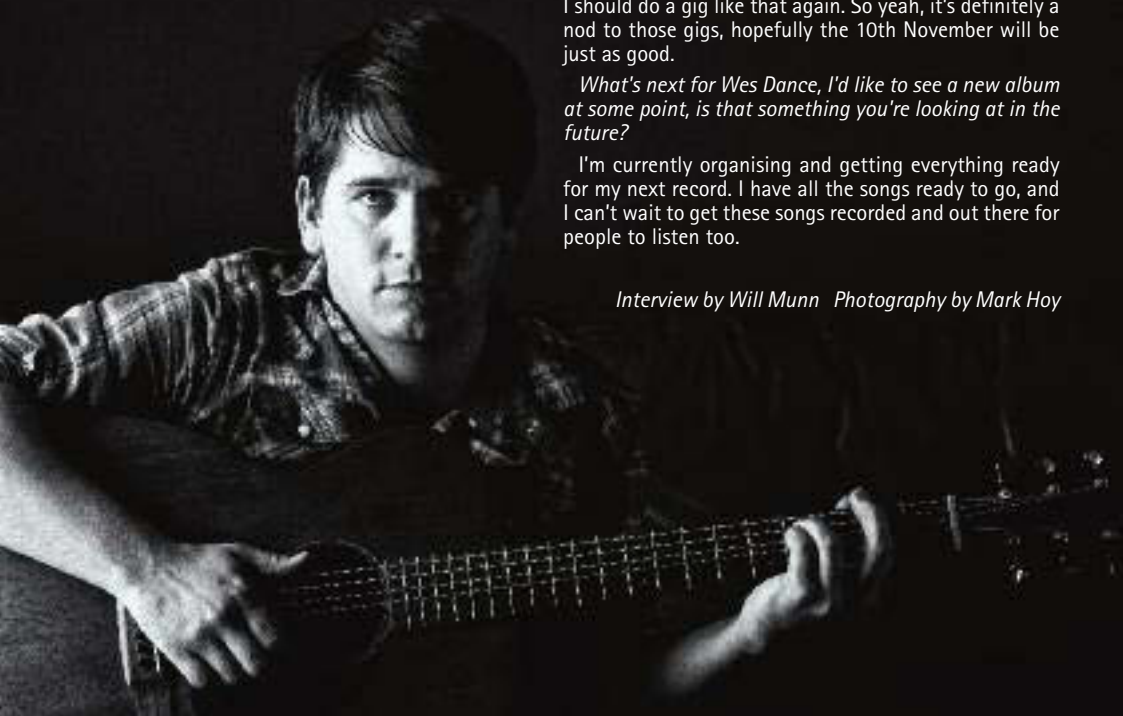
As much as I enjoy seeing you performing in and around Worcester, I always think that you tend to be at your best in a venue like the Marris Bar, do you think that an audience gives a little more respect to a performing artist in an actual venue as opposed to a bar? I was always a fan of Shusshh...Sundays, is your forthcoming date something of a nod back to that?

It was a friend who reminded me of the times I used to play the Shusshh...Sundays at the Marris Bar and suggested I should do a gig like that again. So yeah, it's definitely a nod to those gigs, hopefully the 10th November will be just as good.

What's next for Wes Dance, I'd like to see a new album at some point, is that something you're looking at in the future?

I'm currently organising and getting everything ready for my next record. I have all the songs ready to go, and I can't wait to get these songs recorded and out there for people to listen too.

Interview by Will Munn Photography by Mark Hoy



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REVIEW - Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos - The Boars Head, Kidderminster - Sat 19th

With such praise lauded upon this group in many publications, with the sheer audacity to now describe themselves as; *"Reacting like magnesium to water delivering incendiary performances"*, you would (reasonably!) expect that the final word on The Weirdos had been penned already. So what can be added? Plenty is the short answer! Tonight Johnny Kowalski & co deliver dual sets with as much attention to dynamics, energy & musical detail as there usually is to the punters. If that wasn't enough, this evening showcases new material heightened in both maturity and growth.

Two new members have also joined: Trombonist Ellie Chambers (of Brum folkies The Mistakings - see Slap last October), and Chris Yates on five string bass with a gunning face! Down to business as usual then, with twin clarion calls to arms, *'Something Wonderful'* & *'Night Before'*. These tunes are transformed from the drunken tipsy topsy circus jive to full on synaptic struts, each with formidable fanfares provided by paired brass of Simon Noon's trumpet & Chambers' trombone.

Chambers takes a first solo on the later showing to be a natural addition to the band, fiddler JJ Murray holds back considerably punctuating with complementary chords and in turn the pair form motifs that unfurl into elegant instrumental counterpoint swiftly joined by Noons.

There's a consistent variation in rhythms tonight with the combination of founding tub thumper, Ozzy twined with damn right insistent drive of Yates. The early skank of *'Tequila Song'*, Rhumba is represented in *'Same Mistakes'*, reggae in *'Talking About Me'* plus set one closes with two traditional folk piece, *'Raggle Tangle Gypsy'* and the fiery interpretation of Jig, *'What shall We Do With The Blonde?'* Before they always flirted with genres, tonight there is a respect and integrity to the source material at hand.



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Second set features a few Worrisome Ankle Trout standards (a Murray loop project pseudonym). *'Nail-biter'* induces the sense of foreboding tension found in battle scenes in a Polanski movie. *'Park Lane Strut'* was penned whilst JJ was partaking in light monopoly board squatting back in the day!

Both instrumentals showcase a new restrained dynamic edge to Sexy Weirdos, one where every member has a chance to shine in a brilliance of melody.

More Kowalski librettos in *'Imagine The Impossible'(?)* which has the bite of Joe Jackson who preceded him. Johnny presents a fair argument as to why we should check our sources and think for ourselves: *"If it's good advice / you should read it twice"* & *"What they do/what they say/ it doesn't make sense anyway/ You must question the answers"*

One last mention then to new song *'The Good Shark'* about *'walking home late and night and been fine with it'*, there's not enough space to describe how impeccably constructed this song is.

What this band have created is an inclusive scene unto itself, much in the spirit of Sublime, Cardiacs & The Mothers before them. The number one priority is ensuring everybody involved reaches undiluted, euphoric bliss regardless of class, race, or sexual/musical preference! The unifying force of music if you will.

"We've really worked at pushing it, it's slicker, and you can really see the polish", remarks Simon Noons post gig, well you know what? Perhaps that should be the final word!

Words: Cragus Barry Pics: Man Made Photography

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REVIEW - Diamond Head - Leamington Assembly Rooms - Oct 3rd

One of the founding members of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM) returned to its Midland roots this month as Diamond Head hit the Assembly in Leamington.

The bands origins lay in the Midlands, Stourbridge specifically, where the bands only constant and founder member, guitarist **Brian Tatler**, still resides. There have been a number of changes over the years not to mention 2 periods of hiatus, each lasting around 6 years, when the group disbanded. **Diamond Head** have been cited as a major influence by bands such as Megadeth and, as you might expect, Metallica, the band who took what is arguably one of Diamond Head's best tracks (*Am I Evil?*) and made it one of their own....well, nearly!

Let's start with the hors d'oeuvres. Support for the evening was provided by the very good **Uli Jon Roth** who had surrounded himself with some fine musicians, most notably **Ali Clinton**, a very talented young man who provided rhythm guitar and vocals. The surprise of the night, for me anyway, was the inclusion of **Nathan James** and **Carl Sentance** on vocals. Nathan gave a fine performance displaying an impressive vocal range while Carl, **Persian Risk's** frontman, brought his usual strong rock vocals to the show. Much **Scorpions**-influenced music was on offer, as you might expect, and all together it got the evening going very nicely.

On to the main course. Diamond Head's current line up

has been together for more than 7 years and comprises **Brian Tatler** and **Abbz Abberley** on guitars, **Eddie Moohan** on bass, **Karl Wilcox** on drums and **Nick Tart** supplying vocals. As with a number of bands, they decided to rely on older, more popular material for their set. A large chunk was drawn from the bands' first album, *'Lightning to the Nations'*, released in 1980, with additional



contributions from *'Borrowed Time'* (1982), *'All Will be Revealed'* (2005), *'What's in Your Head'* (2007) and the 1982 EP release entitled *'Four Cuts'*. Nick Tart ran around like a madman at times accompanied by the riffs and rhythms brought by Abbz and Brian while 'fast' Eddie Moohan was intent on photobombing at every opportunity. Sat at the back, Karl Wilcox thumped the skins maintaining a superb beat which meant the time just disappeared and before you knew it the band had got through eleven songs. The twelfth song was the bands anthem and the one everybody knew, *'Am I Evil?'.*



It all went deathly quiet as the opening, and ultra familiar, riff by Abbz Et Brian kicked in. Eight and a half minutes later the stage was empty, the song been and gone, just like the band!



The dessert. Time for the encore. With the encouragement of the enthusiastic crowd, the band returned to the stage to give a 3- song encore. We were treated to two further songs from *'Lightning to the Nations'*, the title track and *'Helpless'*, split by a fine rendition of *'Fever'*.

All in all it was a cracking set from a great bunch of local lads, one that I'll be sure to hear again next time they're around here. As we leave the venue I mutter the lyrics to *'Am I Evil?'*, the wife says 'yes you are', says it all really!
www.diamond-head.net



Words Et Pics by Reg Richardson

REVIEW – Hawklords - Marrs Bar - 21st October

This Is NOT Hawkwind, Do Not Panic...

Formed in the fiery pits of the forge of Vulcan, the Hawklords as we see them today came together as a result of a benefit gig in 2008 to celebrate the life and creativity of Hawkwind's much missed Captain Crazy, the genius that was Robert Calvert.

At their inception the Lords had a fluid line-up which included Nik Turner, Alan Davey and a plethora of Hawk friends and relations. The Hawklords of 2013 are now a tight knit bunch of space nutters formed around the core of original Hawklord Harvey Bainbridge on synths, ex-Wind frontman Ron Tree on vocals, Jerry Richards on guitar and vocals, and an ultra-tight rhythm section of Adrian Shaw on bass and Bevis Frond drummer Dave Pearce.



The Hawklords are on tour to promote the release of their much anticipated second studio album *Dreams* released this month on CD and limited edition 'Silver Machine' vinyl.

The Lords explode onto the stage with a stonking version of the space rock classic *Masters Of The Universe*, and it is clear from the off that we are in for right treat. Adrian and Dave drive the song like a d e m e n t e d juggernaut and Ron Tree is magnificent as the brooding demented post-punk helmsman. From *Masters* we are straight in to *Time Split Vision* from the Lord's first album, *We Are One* and then the first new track of night, the wonderfully spaced out 'Elemental Mind'.



Dreams is clearly a cracking album if tonight's offerings are anything to go by, and my personal favourite of the night is the title track *Dream A Dream*, pure joyous space rock rounded by Harvey's keyboards and gloriously punctuated by Ron's lyrical style.



It is clear that The Hawklords are emphatically NOT Hawkwind, and their new material is a joy to behold, with all members clearly having a lot to offer in the creative collective mind. The Wind tracks complement the new perfectly and these old favourites are by no means 'going through the motions' they are exciting re-interpretations of some of the finest of the Calvert era.

Uncle Sam's On Mars is for me the highlight of these old favourites, at least I thought it was until my brain is pretty much melted by the finale of *Brainstorm and Damnation Alley*.

Awesome is often used inappropriately in reviews but the Hawklords have nailed it... See them at every available opportunity.

Words by Dicky Fisk

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REVIEW - Norman Watt-Roy & Friends - Marrs bar - 21st October

Norman Watt-Roy should need no introduction to you music fans out there, you should know him as the bass player of the Blockheads or the various sessions with the likes of Frankie Goes To Hollywood, The Clash, Nick Lowe, Wilko Johnson and Nick Cave to name but a few, he's one of the funkier bass-players alive and this year has seen the release of his debut solo album, *Faith & Devotion*.

I suppose to put it in the most simplistic terms the man is a living legend of music and so when a live performance was announced here in my home town, you can only begin to imagine my intrigue and excitement.

Having not heard the solo album I wasn't sure what to expect, but I heard whispers of jazz and funk with a bit of that old Blockheads wit. Well sure enough we got all that and much, much more, we were in truth served up a masterclass of musicality, a lesson in elastic bass and a lecture in delicious groove. Norman with the help of saxophonist Gilad Atzmon and band create a stunning, fluid blend of jazz and funk, whether it's on album tracks such as the tender, *My Foolish Heart*, or the inspired life story monologue of *Me, My Bass And I* or Blockhead classics such *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*, the band fizzle with energy and exuberance whilst the audience lapped up every lick.

Jazzy loose beats combine with saxophones flourishes and that deep elastic bass forming an incredible soundtrack to Norman's musings, but if that wasn't already enough to bring down the house, guitarist, pub rock legend and bravest man in rock today, Wilko Johnson joined the band for a handful of songs, adding the trademark machine gun style guitar riff and warm, welcoming vocals to a glorious *Roxette*, performing with a massive grin, despite his well publicized battle with



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CD REVIEW - The Dale Von Minaker Band

Following on from Kidderminster based The Dale Von Minaker Band's (or DVM Band if you prefer) critically acclaimed debut album *You Are Here*, the band return with a brand new single, *Romance* that once again see's the band combine a number of different influences from melodic pop and rock to blues and even a jazz twist to create an infectious hook-laden single that should see the band further their reputation as a must hear local band on the up.



The DVM band combine a contagious bluesy pop/rock riff with a smooth and catchy vocal to create a radio friendly track that's peppered further with a glorious piece of saxophone work by guest musician Alvin Davis, that further enhances the tracks instant repeat play appeal, whilst the questioning lyrical nature of *Romance*, adds a little intrigue and gives the song a nice little twist as opposed to being just another song about love.

The Dale Von Minaker band are a group very much at the top of their game, fluid musicianship, soulful vocal croons and deft lyrical content should see the band make a big splash locally if not further afield.

Will Munn

Will Munn

terminal cancer, enjoying every minute on stage and even managing a typical Wilko strut across the boards to rapturous applause.

I've been lucky to have seen my fair share of memorable performances here in Worcester, from the likes of Peter Green to John Cale via the likes of an acoustic Levellers, but I have a feeling I'll be talking about Norman Watt-Roy & friends for a longtime to come, a simply incredible night and a mesmeric set featuring two genuine larger than life giants of music, if you missed this one shame on you.

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REVIEW - The Roving Crows - Tiite Barn, Bishops Cleeve - 5th October

A MURDER OF CROWS

This night, a large gathering of feathered acolytes hovered and perched around this lovely old converted barn, awaiting their spiritual leaders, **The Roving Crows**.



The Crows band were here to launch the new album *'Deliberate Distractions'*, a follow up to *'Bacchanalia'*, indeed it was from this album that the show burst into life. *'Days In The Sun'*, is an energetic fusion of folk with a bit of Eastern promise thrown in. From start, the whole gathering was moving as one, the contagion was instant and highly infectious. Adding to the party delirium came nights of wine with *'Nancy Valentine'*, from the new DD album. So it went throughout the evening without pausing for breath, hopping from the appropriately named *Bacchanalia*, diverted to a *Deliberate Distraction*.

The hugely popular, Celtic influenced *'White Petticoat'*, brought Irish jigs to the floor, had Michael Flatley arrived? It's impossible to keep still to this instrumental behemoth, Caitlin's fiddle taking the lead, with Greg Wilson's trumpet sneaking in. How to follow that, *'Weather'* rumbled in from 'DD', wonderfully atmospheric drums from Tim Tolhurst,

open this dark haunting song, which I particularly like, perhaps it reflects my soul. As does the Gregorian Chant opening and underpinning of the superb *'Journeyman's Blues'*.

So at some point we (Helen & me) were exposed as *'virgin crows'*, perhaps the only ones owning up to having never being exposed to this 'pecking order' of band and adherents. I was subjected to the awesome power of the sign of the crow, before the evening could proceed any further. No matter, I had already been intoxicated by the fusion of sounds pulled from all styles of music, North African, Asian, New Orleans, Eastern European, and Caribbean all laced together with Irish spirit.



'Guns' lulls our senses, but as the crows rise and circle, Caitlin stirs the air with her fiddle, driving all before.

The Roving Crows excelled this evening, a partisan crowd, yes, but there is no denying the onset of drunken (not necessarily literally) hedonistic pleasure to be experienced at this party. The warm vocals of Paul, fabulous fiddling from Caitlin, Greg's tantalising trumpet trips, Loz Shaw, bass rhythms and the rumblings of Tim's percussion, all combine to produce an unforgettable musical confection that's hard to resist. I am not a fan of folk music in its purest sense, but I do like a good party atmosphere, and the Crow's provide this in spades, I will certainly be back for more.

Word & Pic: Graham Munn



CIRCUIT SWEET – Hereford scene with Naomi Preece

A round of applause to the excellent work of the recently formed community group 'Hereford Live', October has proved to be a bumper month for live music here in Hereford and their continued efforts will I'm sure have a lasting & positive effect on our hometown.

Amongst the many October gigs/events, "Hereford Live" and others have organised to help energise the Hereford scene were:-

The excellent & ever-up-&-coming local prodigy **George Barnett**, who wowed the Jailhouse crowd on 19th Oct as he continues to amaze everyone from his multi-million youtube followers to industry legends such as Nile Rogers and Pharrell!! If you haven't heard his stunning cover of Daft Punk's "Get Lucky" do your ears a favour now! Supporting George that night were other excellent local acts **Cassius Wortmann & Richa**. An all-round quality night indeed.

Also rocking the Jailhouse throughout the month were **Raptor** with their fine blend of rock'n'blues, punk band **Abysmal...** who were anything but, multi-genre rockers **Rubble** plus many others including locals **Aulos**, **Plane Crasher** & **Season's Hollow**.

These mid-week Jailhouse events are proving to be very popular and high profile gigs are promised such as 18th Dec's **Mick Ralph Blues Band: Mick of Mott the Hoople** fame will be more than ably supported by **The Misers**.

Be sure to check out our increasingly busy website www.circuitsweet.co.uk for oodles of articles, videos, downloads etc of lotsa lovely acts from sludge metal legends **The Melvins** to Irish instrumentalists **It Was All A Bit Black And White**. We also big-up worthy retail outlets such as Malvern's **Carnival records** and Ledbury's **Shell House Gallery**. And in addition to all this there is loads of info on the very worthwhile and long-running (20+ yrs) Hereford music charity **The Music Pool**.



Music Pool operates Livewire, under this moniker the team promotes gigs, workshops, training opportunities and music development weeks for young people in and around Herefordshire. The established Community based music charity for Herefordshire (and its borders) passionately dedicates time to providing chances for



people of all ages and abilities to make music together. Through the final weeks of July of this year during the first few weeks of this years summer holidays, half of Circuit Sweet joined the Music Pool team during a Livewire campaign. Our Very own **Oli Montez** spent a week working on band



development for Livewire. He explains his role and the event they worked hard towards - "My job for the week was to work with a band to develop their sound and highlight the core of what they wanted to achieve as a basis for them to expand on and create original material; also to share knowledge on industry, equipment, dynamics & performance.



And so onto November when will have a feature on **The Applesseed Cast UK** tour hitting the website, plus **Enemies** in Cardiff, **Volcano Choir** in Bristol, **Dads** in Newport, Worcester's **A last Salute to Byss** and **We Used To Have Horses...** to name but a few..phew! We will also be announcing an airwaves takeover with Welsh radio legends **The Eclectic Sessions**.

Circuit Sweet will also be going mobile on the road for a few fun pop-up stalls! And keep an eye out for details of our annual December sale at circuitsweet.bigcartel.com

As always a BIG THANKS to all you out there in Slapland & beyond who support our events and be sure to keep in touch & up to date via facebook and twitter.

Images from Livewire by Oli Montez

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FEATURE – Tina is a busy girl!

Tina V is best known on the local music scene as the singer with **This Wicked Tongue**, where she also plays keys and guitar. The band hasn't been as busy gigging recently as in the past, following recruitment of new drummer **Ryan Lerigo-Jones**, leaving Tina plenty of time to indulge more fanciful musical pursuits.

Like recording her second solo album with producer **Dave Draper**, due for release in 2014 and for which she has a Pledge campaign warming up. Like organising and performing at open mics at **The Firefly** in Worcester and the **Re-Con** in Malvern. Like organising live music at Worcester's **Quay Restaurant** and **Bushwackers** every Friday night as well as frequently performing there herself. Like guesting on Dudley band **Soley Mourning's** forthcoming album, due for release next year. Like adding vocals to **Terry Walls** recording of his song *Bye Bye Baby*. Like online collaboration with dub step producer **Numan Paul**. Like a side project with **Mike Mann**, **Alex Allbrow** and **Chris Hewitt** which will see the band supporting **Finlay Quaye** at **The Brixton Jamm** next month. Like finding time to shape a new covers band with **Connor Maher** and fellow **This Wicked Tongue** members **Rob** and **Ryan** with a series of gigs in the pipeline. Like collaboration live and on youtube with **Mansize's Anya Pulver**, along with regular solo gigs of her own. To say nothing of her venture into making tee-shirts for local bands and performers using her own screen printing set-up.

In between all of that, Tina also managed to find time for a photo shoot with **Stoney Darkstone**, which was videoed by **Hey You Guys!** and **Bravo-Oscar's Ben Pemberton** and which will form the basis of a new music video in the new year.



And now it's set to get even busier. **Ryan**, **This Wicked Tongue's** new drummer is well settled, and the band has a string of gigs between now and the end of the year with a big finale planned at **The Marrs Bar** on 13th December. Keep your eyes peeled for **This Wicked Tongue's** Christmas Party featuring some very special guests, and help Tina and the band warm up for a very full and exciting 2014!

PREVIEW - If Wet - 30th Nov

Season One Finale and Fundraiser
Callow End Village Hall 5pm-11pm

If we do say so ourselves, **Callow End Village Hall** has played host to some amazing instruments, technologies, music and insightful discussion over our first season...

Just think for a minute: a rural village hall that normally plays host to WI pudding nights has so far had the following in it as a result of **If Wet** - Tuba and santoor dub, a sub-bass feedback organ, a **Paetzold** contrabass recorder and a recorder made from a carrot, gong resonators, **Juneau Projects'** site-specific sound art pieces, robot heads and live recordings to **Edison** wax cylinders from **Sarah Angliss**, clog dance techno, a clavichord recital, a **Stroh** guitar, mechanical birds from **Laura Kriefman**, heavy tapping objects from **Nikki Pugh**, viola da gamba, optical synthesizers, a bass three-holed pipe, **Kathy Hinde's** Vocal Migrations boxes and much more (this list is too long already!). Not to mention **Graham Dunning**, **Soundhog**, **Helen White** and **Ian Rawes** of **London Sounds**.

In order to keep doing this we need to raise some money. Thus far we have survived on a mixture of goodwill from artists and friends, a loyal and growing audience and our devotion as **Morton Underwood** to the event, in both time and money. For info please head over to www.ifwet.org



Image: **Alex Bertram-Powell** www.alexbp.art.com

REVIEW – Culture Shock & Omni Opera - the Boar's Head, Kidderminster - 8th Oct

Twenty three years ago I missed their last gig. Twice. The first 'last gig' was postponed and there was a riot and I still managed to fluff my attendance at the final show. I read the review in *Sounds* on a ciggy break at work and kicked myself - it wasn't positive because the reviewer didn't like the crusties and he was showered in glass (as the only window in the place had to be punctured to let some steam out) but reading between the lines it was right up my street.



Culture Shock emerged from the post-stonehenge (they're from Wiltshire) free festie scene and perfectly straddled the two strains of the protest - spikies and fluffies. They only produced one full length album, 1988's *Onwards and Upwards* but it is an absolute belter and perhaps the only example of a genre - psychedelic punk.



The main man is extraordinary lyricist *Dick Lucas* who was previously in *Subhumans* and subsequently formed *Citizen Fish* - both these bands continue to tour but have never played any CS songs. Fast forward then to find an incarnation of the band announce they had rehearsed and were to tour. Hold on, THEY'RE PLAYING THE BOAR'S HEAD.

We get there early and peruse Dick's venture into painting at BHG - not what we were expecting but eliciting an amazing quote, "*I'm a punk but I'm not angry all the time!*" He's not really angry at all - his lyrics are critical of a failed system still apposite today but there is hope in the words and the music. It lifts the lid off anywhere that Culture Shock play.



Four special mentions: to the Boar's Head crew (again!), a massive coup (again!); to local support act *Omnia Opera* who were able to return a favour from way back when they got CS to support them in their very early days (allegedly); to local poet *Amy Rainbow* who gets a shout out from Dick himself, a proud moment; and to *Alex* who has enabled this incarnation of Culture Shock and filled the boots of original guitarist, *Nigel*, with respect and aplomb. A truly magnificent event that was so good that I went to the Birmingham show at the Wagon and Horses a week later. I feel I have atoned for my twenty three year old error. Twice.

Words by Glazz Photography: Toni Charles



PREVIEW - Steve Ajao Blues Giants

Steeped in the blues all his life, Birmingham guitarist Steve Ajao and his Blues Giants have been amazing audiences around the country for over 20 years. He is regarded as one of the best blues players in the UK. Close your eyes and you could be sitting in the Mississippi Delta... then Jimi Hendrix comes round for a jam with John Lee Hooker.

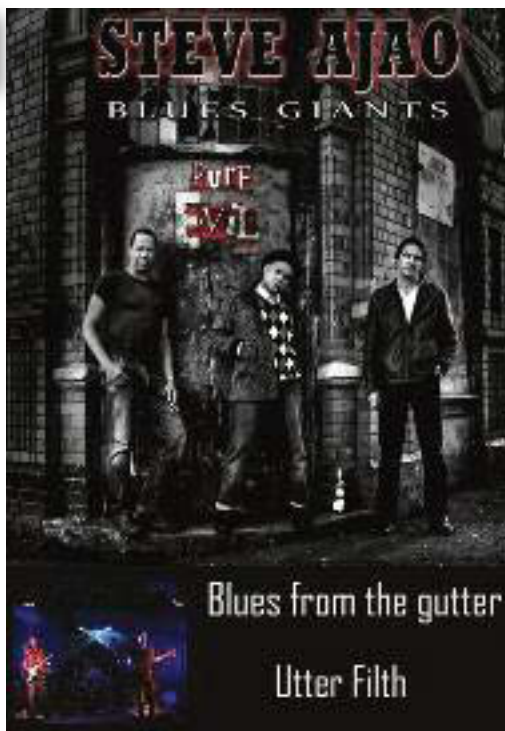
The band features six string bass guitar maestro Mike Hatton and Ex-Au Pairs drummer Pete 'Washboard' Hammond (for reasons most obvious on the night). The band released the LP 'Pure Evil' and have played a lot of this summers blues festivals including Upton, Colne and Litchfield.

A brilliant live experience if you're a blues lover!

Upcoming Gigs...

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| Sat 30th Nov | George IV, Lichfield |
| Fri 6th Dec | The Boathouse,
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PREVIEW – Martin Harley - The Marris Bar, Worcester - 19th Nov

Martin Harley is a phenomenally talented guitarist, singer and songwriter he fronts the highly praised UK-based acoustic trio; **The Martin Harley Band**. Martin's new album **MOJO FIX** was recorded in Texas and is released in the UK in February 2013. *Mojo Fix* comes on the heels of four critically celebrated albums, years of touring and countless festivals that have built Martin a strong and solid fan-base spanning the globe.

Renowned for his prowess as a slide guitarist, he is almost unique in the UK in his playing lap slide. In other areas and styles, however, he has proved himself a master guitarist and a consistently astounding songwriter. Look for Martin's videos "*Winter Coat*" and "*Love In the Afternoon*", and a live version of the new single "*Mojo Fix*" taken from the new album of the same name.

"Awesome" – Johnnie Walker, BBC Radio 2

"Their latest album is a mature and intelligent masterpiece of Americana roots music" – Maverick Magazine



"Shining talents in the British acoustic scene" – Guitar Magazine

"Quite simply a great live act" – Time Out London

"No doubt that he is a slide guitar master. He is the business" – Roots Magazine

www.martinharley.com

£10 ticket. Available from marrisbar.co.uk

PREVIEW – [SPUNGE] & HYG!

The Marris Bar, Worcester - Tuesday 12th Nov



Spunge are a ska punk band from Tewkesbury. Through many years of touring, Spunge have played alongside a number of successful UK bands; and several more famous American bands such as Green Day and Dropkick Murphys; and been supported on a UK tour by Bowling for Soup; the latter of whom contributed backing vocals to the song "*Centerfold*" on the *That Should Cover It!* album.

Spunge are the only band who has ever officially been given permission by the Marley family to change the lyrics of a Bob Marley song, on their cover of "No Woman, No Cry" (this can be found on their second album, *Room for Abuse*). spunge.co.uk £6.00 a ticket and £8.00 on the door. Tickets available from marrisbar.co.uk

To win 2 free tickets answer this question.

Who is the Victoria sponge cake named after.

A – Queen Victoria B – Victoria Beckham

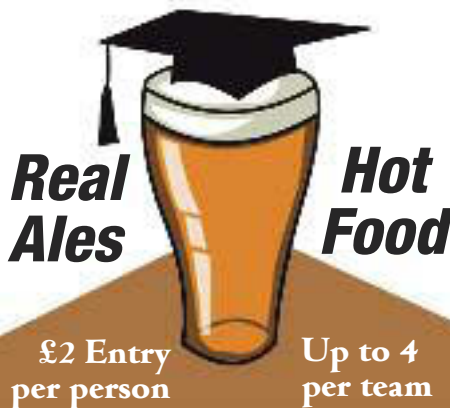
Email your answer to marrisbarcomp@gmail.com

Fruiterer's Arms

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Every Month



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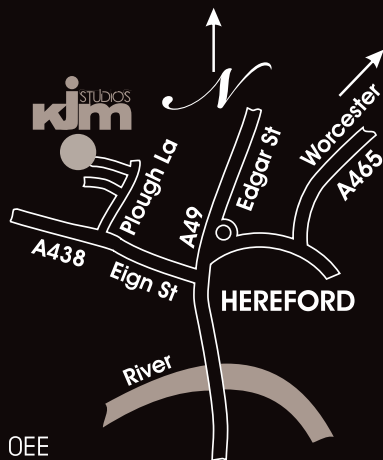
£2 Entry
per person

Up to 4
per team



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Friday 1 November 2013

Snooty Bobs, Sam Redmore
The Bulls Head, Moseley, Birmingham

The Argonauts, Rip Tyde, Mudball, ADHD
Base Studios, Stourbridge

Ivy League & Paper Chase
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Answerback, Smokefarm, Funeral Kids
Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Cider & Sanity Tour
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Soul Slutters
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Bare Bones Boogie Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Gastric Band
Farriers, Worcester

Straight Aces
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Army Of Skanks
Adam n Eve, Birmingham

Pewke Band
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vault Of Eagles
Millers Arms, Pershore

[Boss Hogs] Winston's Big Brother plus support
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Saturday 2 November 2013

Jazz & Cocktail Night
Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

Catrin Finch & Seckou Keita
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Under a Banner & Mario's Nicotine Parlour
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Blind River Scared
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Inches From The Ground
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Nightshift
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

[Sonic Storm] Gabba Gabba Hey! plus Soap
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Riff Raff
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Ray Mitten, Paul White
Star Inn, Pershore

Nostalgia
Moochers, Stourbridge

Allstars Dub Band
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Magoos
The Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Delray Rockets
Tewkesbury RFC, Tewkesbury

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters
Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Cuginis
Subtone, Cheltenham

Mock Rockers
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Clarksville Mountain Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Spandex Bellend
Olivers, Malvern

Dimmocks Leaving Gig – Virtues, Opposition, Akheron
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Ska-lloween – Inner Terrestrials, Stiff Joints, China Shop
Bull, Recollector, Skauza
Wagon & Horses, Birmingham

Sunday 3 November 2013

Weekly Jam Night hosted by Clive
The Oast House, Redditch

Dj Night
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jazz Express
The Chestnut, Worcester

Jazz with Jazzenco (4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Delray Rockets
The Cross Keys, Alcester

Monday 4 November 2013

GreenHead Man
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Les Vepres Siciiliennes (Live from the Royal Opera House)
Number 8, Pershore

Folk Sessions
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Tuesday 5 November 2013

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Dodgy Nige
Millers Arms, Pershore

Wednesday 6 November 2013

Marzys' Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Matt Woosey
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Gwynn Ashton
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Thursday 7 November 2013

Open Mic hosted by Stiff Joints
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Lisbee Stainton, Eleanor McEvoy
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mick Mann
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Rob Coleman, Tom Glover, Chris Turner
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Smells Like Bean Spirit, Arbor Lights, New Alaska, Mansize
Firefly, Worcester

Honeyboy Hickling
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Perry Foster's Open Mic
The Chestnut, Worcester

Drivetime Showcase, Soultown, Russ sargent, Rose Redd
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (cellar bar)

Eddy Morton
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (upstairs bar)

Friday 8 November 2013

Virgil and the Accelerators, The Mentulls
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Da Vinci, Wet Cheese, Broken Jaw, Roads to Nowhere
The Institution, Gloucester

Music Night
Royal British Legion, Cradley

The Mighty Vipers & Esparenza
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Tina V Band
Millers Arms, Pershore

Gwyn Ashton
Village Inn, Beoley

Honey Boy Hickling
Queens Head, Wolverley

Soultown
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Madi Stimpson
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Retro Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Malpractice
The Anchor Inn, Eckington, Pershore

Victoria Klewin & The True Tones
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Woo Town
Antelope, Warwick

Boss Hogs Live Music
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Saturday 9 November 2013

Vue Bar Open Mic, Done By Sunrise
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

This Is Not An Open Mic
The Bridge Inn, Lowesmoor Terrace, Worcester

Vo & Tyler
Overbury Village Hall, Overbury

Gwyn Ashton
Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Hot Foot
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Crisis Blues Band
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Tin Soldiers
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

Notorious Brothers
Star Inn, Pershore

Lewis Bolton
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Higher On Maiden
Marris Bar, Worcester

Delray Rockets
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

The Dale Von Mineker Band, The Project, Husmerae
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Atomck, Skinhorse, Fetus Christ, Vaginapocalypse
Footdragger
The Black Lion, Hereford

Dogs Of Santorini
The Chestnut, Worcester

Mairearad Green, Anna Massey, Gordon Hendrix
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Come Up And See Me
The Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Bonnie Lou
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Steve Ajao Blues Giants
Wheelhouse Marina, Upton-upon-Severn

Sonic Storm Live Music Featuring Demma
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Sunday 10 November 2013

Weekly Jam Night hosted by Clive
The Oast House, Redditch

Dj Night with Stevie B
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Inner Terrestrials, Faintest Idea & Alcohol Licks
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Jazz with Remy Harris Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

Slowburner 4pm
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Wes Dance
Marris Bar, Worcester

Gastric Band
Grape Vaults, Leominster

Tuesday 12 November 2013

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

[Spunge], Hey You Guys!
Marris Bar, Worcester

Mouth & Music
Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

Wednesday 13 November 2013

Acoustic Music Session
The Fariers Arms, Worcester

Marzys' Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Delray Rockets
Masons Arms, Wichenford

Thursday 14 November 2013

ReGenesis
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

GMH Music Sessions with Paul & Ray

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Blues Giants feat Steve Ajao

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Troublesome Trio

Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Bethan & The Morgans

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (cellar bar)

Dave Onions

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (upstairs bar)

We are Strangely Made

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Friday 15 November 2013

RattleSnake Jake

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Vo & Tyler

The Plough and Harrow, Malvern

Shifty Chicken Shed & The Occasional Orchestra

Boars Head, Kidderminster

King Solomon

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Sugar Mama

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Suzi & The Backbeats

Queens Head, Wolverley

Delray Rockets

The Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

The Baggage Handlers

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Magoos

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Fulcrum

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Hitmen

Millers Arms, Pershore

Lisa

Droitwich Legion, Droitwich

Boss Hogs Live Music

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Saturday 16 November 2013

The John Steeds

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Sunny Lister (free gig)

Subtone, Cheltenham

Vince's Weigh In Gig

Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Phase Live in aid of Kids/Great Ormond Street

Sound Music Venue, Cheltenham

Devoted To Rock

Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Bravo Boys

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Will Killeen Band

Star Inn, Pershore

Underdogs

The Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Pure Instinct

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Pewke Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Ron Jeremy Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Claire Martin

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Psyflyer (Rob's Birthday), Paddy Steer, Stig Noise

Soundssystem, Emits A Real Bronx Cheer, Evolution Of Man

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

The May Dolls

The Morgan, Great Malvern

Dizzy Lizzy

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Sonic Storm Live Music

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Sunday 17 November 2013

Weekly Jam Night hosted by Clive

The Oast House, Redditch

Dj Night with Stevie B

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Lounge Toad

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Big B Swingtet Jazz (4pm)

Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 18 November 2013

Paper Aeroplanes

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Folk Sessions

The Lamb & Flag

Tuesday 19 November 2013

Documentary Night

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Martin Harley

Marrs Bar, Worcester

ConFab Cabaret, Dan Duke, Matt Windle, Montserrat

Carbonara, Catherine Crosswell, Maria Chippendale, Fox

Pops and Amy Rainbow

Re-Con, Malvern

Open Mic

Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 20 November 2013

Marzys' Jam Night

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Oblivionized, Horsebastard, Misanthropic Existence

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan

The Morgan, Great Malvern

The Rich O'Brien Project

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Stourbridge Folk Club – Matt Anderson

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (cellar bar)

Thursday 21 November 2013

West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders

Artrix, Bromsgrove



Lucas D And The Groove Ghetto
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Perry Foster's Open Mic
The Chestnut, Worcester

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Victoria Perks
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (upstairs bar)

Wes Dance & Richard Clarke
The Plough, Worcester

Friday 22 November 2013

Hugh Cornwell, David Ford
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mudball, This Wicked Tongue, Vault of Eagles
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mark James
The Anchor Inn, Eckington, Pershore

Bravo Boys
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Junction 7
Millers Arms, Pershore

Aardvark Stew
Droitwich Legion, Droitwich

Howling Lord
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Planet Rock
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Counting Coins, Ubuntu, BSN:420, Rattlin Doors
& DJ Alexa Maria
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dun2def / 36 Strategies And The Youth
The Royal Oak, Ledbury

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Delray Rockets
The Black Lion, Hereford

Hatters Tours
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Boss Hogs Live Music
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Saturday 23 November 2013

Breabach
Number 8, Pershore

Planecrasher, Gag Reflex
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Phatty Mango
The Chestnut, Worcester

Daniel Seth
Star Inn, Pershore

Blue Suede
The Northwick Arms, Worcester

Dissident Prophet
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Steve Ajao Blues Giants
The Hare & Hounds Blues Club, Birmingham

Delray Rockets
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Hot Feet
The Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Phil Jupitus
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

MojoHooker
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Four Flights Up
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Voodoo Sioux, Voodoo Vegas, Piston & Everyday Sidekicks
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Stomp & Holler
Marris Bar, Worcester

Cracker n The Woodpeckers
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

Liquor & Poker
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Sunday 24 November 2013

Weekly Jam Night hosted by Clive
The Oast House, Redditch

Dj Night
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jazz with Lucas D & The Groove (4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Tuesday 26 November 2013

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Folk Night
Millers Arms, Pershore

Wednesday 27 November 2013

Marzys' Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Live @ Glos Local Acoustic Showcase
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Dexters
Moochers, Stourbridge

Thursday 28 November 2013

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Open Mic
Star Inn, Pershore

Trevor Burton Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

GMH Music Sessions with Paul & Ray
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Gilmour Roberts
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (cellar bar)

Jen Robbins
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge (upstairs bar)

Friday 29 November 2013

Junction 7
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Ronin, Go Primitive
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Oxjam Weekender
Cafe Rene, Gloucester
Human Cell, Fetus Christ, One Man Sun
The Victory, Hereford
Sausage and a sing along
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern
Clutching At Straws
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Rebel Rebel
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Hybrid
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Loved and Lost, Her Dark Embrace, Scruffy
Somethings Coconut Backlash, The Totalitarians
O2 Academy 3, Birmingham

Acoustic Who
Queens Head, Wolverley

Blind Lemon
Moochers, Stourbridge

Undercover
Millers Arms, Pershore

Josef & The Fritzlz, Carving A Giant and
Monasteries
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Saturday 30 November 2013

Dj Andrew Marston
The Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Danny Whybrow
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Oxjam Weekender
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Brotherhood Of Blues
Star Inn, Pershore

Soultown
Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley
P.A.I.N. & Support
The Boars Head, Kiddeminster

Sonic Storm Live Music
he Pig & Drum

Aquarius
Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

JT
The Northwick Arms, Worcester

Steve Ajao Blues Giants
George IV, Lichfield

Sugar Mama
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Devoted To Rock
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Undercocks
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Allstars Dub Band
Lamp, Lemington Spa

Bitterroots
The Chestnut, Worcester

Cuginis EP Launch
Subtone, Cheltenham

Broken Oak Duet, Das Sexy Clap, Mansize, Deltoros
Cathodes

Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Mood Elevators
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

Voodoo
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Listings in conjunction with www.notjustsausage.com

Re-con
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info@re-con.org.uk

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OPEN MIC NIGHT

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THE MARR'S BAR

NOV 2013

Paper Aeroplanes
Mon 18th Nov



Friday 1st

Tower Studios Presents:-
Answer Back, Smokefarm, Funeral Kids
£3.00 on the door

Saturday 2nd

Inches From The Ground
£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)
£2 between 11-12 or £3 12-4

Friday 8th

Virgil and the Accelerators
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 9th

Higher On Maiden (Maiden tribute)
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)
£2 between 11-12 or £3 12-4

Sunday 10th

Wes Dance
£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Tuesday 12th

[Sponge], Hey You Guys!
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 15th

The Magoos
£4 a ticket or £5 on the door

• Saturday 16th

• Vince's Weigh in Gig
• Minimum £5.00 donation

• Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)
• £2 between 11-12 or £3 12-4

• Monday 18th

• Paper Aeroplanes
• £8 a ticket £10 on the door

• Tuesday 19th

• Martin Harley
• £8 a ticket £10 on the door

• Friday 22nd

• Mudball Single Launch Party
• £3 a ticket £5 on the door

• Saturday 23rd

• Stomp & Holler
• £7 a ticket £9 on the door

• Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)
• £2 between 11-12 or £3 12-4

• Friday 29th

• Rebel Rebel (Bowie tribute)
• £6 a ticket £8 on the door

• Saturday 30th

• Blue Radio Records Presents:-
• Broken Oak Duet, Das Sexy Clap,
• Mansize, Deltors & Cathodes
• £3 a ticket £5 on the door

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