



Issue 50

Aug 2015

MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers



**WORCESTER  
MUSIC  
FESTIVAL**

**THE  
MARR'S  
BAR**

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

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**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**

# SLAP

Aug 2015 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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Fifty Issues of SLAP

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**You are holding in your greasy, grasping mitts a slice of history, a momentous, monumental manifestation - yes Slap Magazine has reached 50!**

No we can't quite believe it either. This quinquagenarian has defied all known medical science and sense and reached its Half Century (no don't mention the cricket!).

I could and perhaps should name all the contributors, sub-editors, distributors etc past and present, not to mention all the lovely artists throughout the region with out whom Slap would look very silly.

Then of course there would be no artists without venues, publicans, club owners, gallery directors and so it goes on. And of course you the readers, dear readers.

I sincerely Thank You ALL from the bottom of my steely heart and look forward to many more mags in the future (did i really just say that?!)

Reaching this milestone is in some ways bittersweet as inevitably people who we cherished in all artistic spheres have departed this world. Bands and acts of all kinds have come and gone, some missed and perhaps some not so much.

However our dictum at Slap Mag was always to be positive and though at times we've been accused of being bland because of this, our stance regarding this remains firm.

We believe that it is easy be negative and find it much more rewarding when we use constructive criticism to make a point. We want to continue in our mission to assist the already vibrant scene throughout the Three Counties in its development and will leave the naysaying to others. In the words of dear old sometimes silly Morrissey "It's so easy to laugh it's so easy to hate. It takes guts to be gentle and kind."

See you for the century...

*alleviate-ed*



**BBC**  
introducing...





## Secret Pro-Ject

Worcester house music promoters **Pro-ject Warehouse** are holding their last event at a secret location in Worcester on August 15th - after featuring on Worcester's nightlife scene for the last 15 months at their Sherriff Street venue with guests like **DJ Kissy Sell Out**. Director **James Newman** says Pro-ject are focussing this summer on events in Ibiza and at the **Ministry Of Sound** in London - but hope to return in the near future at a new venue...

## Grade 8 at 8!

A Malvern eight-year-old has become the youngest ever person in Britain to achieve the top level in a music examination. **Roseanna Gray** passed the Grade 8 Trinity College (Rock & Pop Syllabus) exam which tests not only technical standards but also performance, improvisation and composition skills with a distinction. The result is more even more noteworthy as the previous youngest person to achieve this pass was 14-years-old - incidentally Roseanna's favourite bands are Queen and Guns n Roses!

## Feather in their Cap



Malvern surf-sound outfit **White Feather Collective** said they had a 'celebratory gulp of beer' before playing a pre-booked gig in Soho - after hearing that their track *Come On and Get Down* was receiving national TV play in a mobile phone company's adverts. The track had been uploaded to Bandcamp when the French mobile company came across it and decided to use it. They've just finished their first EP and have already had offers of management but are still weighing them up' - best of luck lads!

## Woo-Fest Hospice Haul

Another bumper boost to a local charity's funds as **Woo-Fest** at the **Drum & Monkey** near Upton raised £6000 in aid of **St Richard's Hospice** - with nearly 400 people enjoying live music from **Woo Town Hillbillies**, **Killerstream**, **Skewwhiff**, **Ben Stancombe**, **Cougar Attack** and many others...

## Bonker Blues Blow-Out!

Chairman of **Upton Blues Festival** **Oliver Carpenter** said that this year's 14th event had been 'bonkers' with an increase of 30% camping attendance, 120 bands over the three days and an estimated 15,000 visitors over the weekend. He said the '*sun was shining which always helps - but it was just mad...*'



## Frank Tuner sell out!

Alternative folk muso **Frank Turner** pays another visit to these parts when he plays an already sold-out set in-store at **Rise Records** on August 11th - Frank's been supportive of local venues since he first played the **Jailhouse** in Hereford in 2007, returning for a gig there before it closed at the end of last year...





## Heavy Metal Happiness

A new study in the scholarly **Self And Identity Journal** has found evidence that fans of heavy metal are happier than those with other music tastes. It claims to have found that metalheads *"were significantly happier in their youth"* and *"better adjusted currently"* than peers who followed other genres - but admits that *"metal enthusiasts did often experience traumatic and risky 'sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll' lives"*. However generally it was found that *"the metalhead identity also served as a protective factor against negative outcomes"* - we're guessing they mean TV talent shows here...

## Last minute change at Noz

The cancellation of Nozstock's Saturday evening headliner **Wu-Tang Clan** remains a mystery, as does the cancellation of their whole European tour. For many it would have been the highlight of the **Nozstock** weekend. A massive thank you goes out to **De La Soul** for agreeing to headline the **Orchard Stage** in their place.



The programme was crammed full with hundreds of the most astounding, incredible and inspiring artists on this planet. The site looked mind-blowingly intergalactic and downright super-spacey. Despite the long periods of rain the **Nozstock** crowd were not too disappointed and enjoyed the theme to this years festival. See our review on page 41.

## Making an Impact

**Real Impact Music** are a non-profit making Community Interest Company set up this year. All profits go back into the community to help sustain the projects and the work they do. They originally started as a collective of artists and musicians over 10 years ago, with the aim of bringing people of different backgrounds, communities and cultures together through music.

### Real Impact

**MUSIC** sessions are delivered all year round and are tailor-made to suit individual and group needs, working with all ages, abilities,



learning difficulties and disabilities. Time and location that the sessions take place are also tailored to suit the group. Like them on social media. For more info go to:

web: [realimpactmusic.co.uk](http://realimpactmusic.co.uk) Twitter: @realimpactmusic

Facebook: [facebook.com/realimpactmusic.uk](https://facebook.com/realimpactmusic.uk)

# TALK TO US

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way, and off the record – about whatever's getting to you.



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[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)



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**We're a charity.** It's the public's kind donations that keep our helpline open. To donate go to: [mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworchesterbranch](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworchesterbranch)

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\*See our website for latest call charges.

**Click Click** is recovering from an amazing time at my fave festival **Nozstock**, bringing **The Cabinet of Lost Secrets** to life! It took a long time to facilitate and loads of hard work behind the scenes to make this happen, planning, designing, organizing, programming not to mention the incredible build which truly set the scene. So I'm going to take this opportunity to thank those amazing people who contributed to getting this project up and running. Without you, it wouldn't have happened.



Thanks to **Jo Bedford, Dom Satchell, Daren Wood, Dan Wall, Mark Ellis, Graham Colledge, Kath & Rich Fox, Jane Harrison, Tim Ahrensbach, Jim Dale** and lastly, big thanks to **Phil Wilkins** who spent weeks on site making it real, creating a truly awesome space for it all to happen in!



And let's not forget the performers and pop ups for their fabulous additions including **Stiff Joints** for their secret surprise gig Sunday night!

Now I'm back in the office briefly before a full month of outdoor events. You can find **Click Click** at the fabulous **Kidderminster Arts Festival** on 8th, **Lakefest** in Tewksbury on 9th then nationwide, **Boomtown Fair** 13th-16th and **Green Man Festival** 21st-23rd. Just time to settle before our very own **Worcester Music Festival** and some street shenanigans and mischief. [www.clickclickcollective.com](http://www.clickclickcollective.com)

## Story Jams

An evening that lifts the lid on people's stories and preserves them through sharing.

This intimate storytelling event is about real people, places and journeys. With the fast, ever-evolving world of technology and social media have we lost the art of telling a story to a group of people? Ordinary people have extraordinary stories and they should be heard.



If you have a story to tell or would like to know more contact Charlotte at [charlotte@sparkarts.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@sparkarts.co.uk) or Sarah at [storyjams@outlook.com](mailto:storyjams@outlook.com)

8th Aug 8pm at **Cosy Coffee** Kidderminster

## Narrative - Collective

Grab an opportunity to see their exhibition before the official opening day and witness one off live art events on this opening night at Crowngate shopping centre. 14th Aug 6.30pm

## Above Boards

Artists from far and wide are invited to paint the walls of Kidderminster for **Above Boards** 2015 on 22nd Aug, now into it's 4th year, as part of **The Boars Head Fringe Festival** 22nd & 23rd Aug. With live music from **Skanking Dub Beats Sound System**, street food, arts market and street performers this is a great atmosphere for all!



Artists can still apply to paint but it's first come first serve!

To apply to paint or get involved please send a brief bio and some examples of your work to [aboveboards2015@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aboveboards2015@yahoo.co.uk)

## Sound System Culture

Throughout August, **The Drum Arts Centre** is proud to present **Sound System Culture: Birmingham**, an exhibition documenting Birmingham's rich history of reggae sound systems, through photographs, audio recordings, archive film footage and other memorabilia. As part of the display, visitors

will have an opportunity to interact with **Heritage HiFi**, a vintage-style sound system custom-built for the project, consisting of a record deck, amps and speaker boxes. The exhibition forms part of the **Sound System Culture** national tour developed by **Let's Go Yorkshire**, celebrating reggae sound systems in key cities throughout the UK.



Begins 6th Aug. The Drum, Aston, Birmingham  
[www.the-drum.org.uk](http://www.the-drum.org.uk)



# Acting Up in Pershore

Always fancied a go at acting but never got round to it? Enjoyed drama at school but real life took over? Come along to our friendly, fun taster session. Through games and tasks we will develop a range of techniques including body language, script work, vocal skills, and stagecraft. Boost your confidence and have fun.

Drama Workshop Taster for adults 18+

Saturday 15 August, 10.00am - 1.00pm. £18

[www.number8.org](http://www.number8.org)



# And don't forget the wonderful KAF!

**Kidderminster Arts Festival** is happening from 8th til 22nd Aug all over Kidderminster so get over and explore all the creative goodies available.



[www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk)

## Spotlight on local artist Mike Bagshaw

Despite spending a year and half at Ravensbourne art college in Kent and being mentored by **Harold Riley**, famous for both painting Nelson Mandela upon his release and being the official Manchester United portraitist and who was himself mentored by none other than **L S Lowry**, Mike gave it all up and became a prison and business psychologist.



Five years ago however he joined a local life drawing group held at the Quaker Friends Meeting House in Evesham and rediscovered his passion for painting and drawing. Mike likes to paint what he sees and enjoys portraiture as he can develop an empathy with the sitter; this he tries to convey in his work. He says painting is a form of meditation for him and he finds it a healthy state of mind to be absorbed in.

For Mike drawing is an important skill and feels it's one that isn't taught enough in art college these days. Mike likes to concentrate on colour and define his subject with it and finds it a bigger challenge to make something colourful but at the same time let the colour define the subject. Among his influences are Tai-Shan Shierenberg, Lucian Freud and Paul



Wright and Mike has recently sold a portrait to Al Pacino who was shown it by an actress friend and bought it immediately! He has recently had a successful exhibition at **Number 8** in Pershore and will be exhibiting at Imagine in Evesham soon.



His work is also on display at **The Pisse of Piddle** in Wyre Piddle.

As a footnote when Mike was at college in Kent he was a regular at the now famous **Arts Lab** in the Three Tuns in Beckenham set up by one David Bowie around 1968/69. Mike meet Bowie there and watched him perform an early acoustic version of *Space Oddity* and likes to think it was his enthusiasm for the Velvet Underground that sparked The Thin White Duke's interest in them..but he did say Mr B's manager had mentioned them as well.



Words by Dave Batley-Out-Of-Hell

## Arts Feature

# Delightfully Diverse Crafts at Number 8

The creative talent of local school children is on display at **Number 8** in Pershore until Wednesday 12 August. As part of the centre's **Summer Craft Showcase Number 8** have invited three local schools; Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary School, Abbey Park Middle School and Vale of Evesham School to exhibit their hand-made crafts.



The children worked hard to create craft items in and out of school which each working on different themes to tie in with projects across a number of subjects. The exhibition includes rabbits made from chicken wire and mod-roc, African masks, clay gargoyles inspired by the book *Flanimals* by Ricky Gervais, and items inspired by the *Cirque du Soleil*. The showcase celebrates the talents of the younger generation and gives the public the opportunity to see just how creative our youngsters are.



The schools involved welcomed the opportunity for their pupils work to be displayed in a gallery space. **Phil Cotton** at Abbey Park Middle School said, "The children are very excited!"



The **Craft Showcase** is open to the public during Number 8's usual opening times Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm until Wednesday 12 August. Admission is free. Following the exhibition at Number 8 the craft items will be returned to the schools and the children will be able to take them home.

The contact for this press release is Hannah Russell, Programme & Marketing Assistant: 01386 561906 or [marketingassistant@number8.org](mailto:marketingassistant@number8.org)

## August Film Season The Courtyard, Hereford

With the Music Festival season very much in swing, we at Slap turn our attention to some of the other (sometimes overlooked?) arts and so here we focus on The Courtyard's August Film Season.

Not only is it fest season but it's also the school summer hols so sensibly The (ever caring) Courtyard have rustled up some family friendly film fare, beginning with **Two By Two** (11-13 Aug) where it's the end of the world (nice cheery story! Ed) but not everyone is allowed on the ark! Watch as this gripping story unfolds.

**The Salt Of The Earth** (11-13 Aug) is a stunning inter-continental travelogue made by renowned photographer **Sebastião Selgado**, wherein he follows in the footsteps of ever changing humanity.

Children will love the beautiful, animated Irish fable **Song Of The Sea** (14-20 Aug) as **Saoirse**, a little girl who can turn into a seal, goes on an adventure with her brother to save other magical beings like her in the spirit world.

Fantastic spoof comedy **Spy** (Fri 14 – Thu 20 Aug) also hits the screens, starring **Jason Statham** and **Jude Law**, in a hilarious romp that follows a desk-bound CIA analyst who volunteers to go undercover to infiltrate the world of a deadly arms dealer and thus prevent diabolical global disaster.



**Ryan Reynolds** stars in The Courtyard's next celluloid offering, namely science fiction thriller **Self/Less** (21-27 Aug) which concerns a wealthy aristocrat who undergoes a radical medical procedure in order to achieve immortality. Unsurprisingly there's a catch!

Fittingly the final film in the August Courtyard calendar is the latest **Marvel** offering **Ant-Man** (21-27 Aug), which is already garnering great reviews and reactions. So head to downtown Hereford and immerse yourself in the Marvel Universe in which an ordinary lad is transformed into a famous crimefighter and must pull off a heist which of course saves the world. Stirring stuff indeed!



# Art For Amnesty

Quaker Meeting House, Malvern | Sat 22 - Mon 31 Aug

A charity close to our Slap hearts, the Malvern branch of **Amnesty International** ([amnesty.org.uk/malvern](http://amnesty.org.uk/malvern)) host their annual exhibition at the Quaker Meeting House.



The exhibition will run from 22nd - 31st August with the first weekend coinciding with **West Malvern Arts Festival** ([westmalvernarts.org](http://westmalvernarts.org)).



There will be a range of works on display by local artists encompassing most disciplines including painting, printmaking, ceramics, woodcarving and textiles. Artists cards together with children's books and art works from **Books For Amnesty** in Malvern will also be for sale.



70% of sales will go to the artists with a generous 30% going to Amnesty International and payment will be by cash or cheque as credit/debit cards cannot be accepted.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Saturday 22nd August at 11am by **Julian Roskams**, Malvern Town & District Councillor, former Mayor of Malvern and Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for The Green Party.

This promise to be an exciting and worthwhile event for you to shoehorn into your already doubtless bulging summer social calendars.

*Leigh Marchant*



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**ART  
FOR  
AMN  
ESTY  
2015**

22-31 August

Quaker Meeting  
House MALVERN

WR14 3DA Admission Free

[amnesty.org.uk/malvern](http://amnesty.org.uk/malvern) 01684 573722





# worcester arts workshop



Schools out for the summer and we've got plenty of exciting activities for children at the Workshop throughout the holidays.

Our Summer **Art Activities Week** is from 11-14th August and is jam-packed with fun arts and crafts workshops! The week begins on Tuesday 11th August where children can make their own **Shadow Puppets** and create their own shadow performances based on mythical creatures. This workshop is from 10:30am – 12:00pm, for ages 5-12yrs and costs £5. On Wednesday 12th August 10:00am – 12:00pm we have **Pottery Wall Hangings**, where participants use wire and beads to create beautiful wall decorations. This workshop costs £7.50 and is for children aged 5-12yrs. Our **Dragon Pottery Workshop** is on Thursday 13th August from 10:30am – 12:00pm for ages 5-12yrs and costs £5. Children will create their very own magical dragon pot to store all their treasures (and pocket money!). We have two fantastic workshops to finish off the week on Friday 14th August. From 10:00 – 12:00pm we have a **Craft Collaging** workshop for ages 5-12yrs, costing £7.50 and also a **T-Shirt Printing** workshop from 10:00am – 4:00pm for ages 9-12yrs. In this session you can learn to print your own designs onto a T-shirt you can take home with you at the end of the day! This all-day workshop costs £25 and also includes a tasty lunch from **Café Bliss**. You can book places for any (or all!) of the workshops by calling 01905 25053 or email: [info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](mailto:info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)



We are pleased to present our new website with the brand new **Autumn Arts Programme**, featuring exciting classes for children and young people starting in September. The courses are designed to be fun as well as encourage creative development at all stages. See: [worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)

As part of the **Worcester Music Festival**, Worcester Arts Workshop is hosting a day for budding music photographers hosted by **Mark Hoy**. This will be on Sunday 23rd August from 12pm-5pm. Get in touch with our good friends at the music festival for more details!

**10 SLAP AUGUST**

## Claire Tindall

SOME CHEERY PAINTINGS



**1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August**

July's **Lazy Sunday** was one of the best yet! With musicians travelling from Brighton and Bristol we had a fantastic afternoon of music accompanied with amazing food and drink from the Café Bliss crew AND the sun was shining! We are already looking forward to the next Lazy Sunday which will be on 9th August and will feature at 1pm, **Jack of All**. ([www.jackofallmusic.co.uk](http://www.jackofallmusic.co.uk)) Alternative folk/rock duo. At 2pm **Daisy Chain Quartet**. ([www.daisychainquartet.com](http://www.daisychainquartet.com)) This band tingles your taste buds with salubrious tones from acoustic guitars/voice, cello and quirky beats. At 3pm, **Elea Clavet**. ([soundcloud.com/el-a-mariah-calvet](http://soundcloud.com/el-a-mariah-calvet)) - a Bristol based Singer songwriter. And at 4pm, **Jabba Cartel** - The members of Jabba Cartel mix an uncanny blend of acoustic drum and bass trip-hop latin folk Cuban raga techno rhythms then leave you to get devoured by the Moog. ([jabbacartel.bandcamp.com](http://jabbacartel.bandcamp.com))



So come on down to the workshop where the summer is happening in full swing!

*Sorcha Cummings*



**CAFÉ BLISS**

**Lazy Sunday**  
**9th Aug 15**

**Jabba Cartel**  
**Elea Calvet**  
**Daisy Chain**  
**Quartet**  
**Jack Of All**

**£3 Entry** **worcester arts workshop** **12-6pm**

**21 Sansome St.** **07821733246**

**SPOKEN WORD & ACOUSTIC MUSIC OPEN MIC**

**Sunday 23rd August - 2.30-5.00pm**

**MOUTH MUSIC**

**KAF SPECIAL SLIGHTLY CIRCUS!**

**KGLF Marquee**  
 Open air courtyard (behind Boars Head)  
 Covered performance area

**MC Sarah (PoemWhipper) Tamar**  
 Open mic slots bookable in advance or sign up from 2.00pm  
 \*\*Circus dress optional\*\*  
 Admission FREE  
 NB NO Mouth and Music on Tuesday 11th August

**Tim Scarborough is Rhythmicity**

**Amy Rainbow with poetic cautionary tales**

**Dave Reeves (who bellows)**

**Heather (Note-Wordy) Wastie**

[www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk)  
 The Boars Head, 39 Worcester St., Kidderminster, DY10 1EW  
 Tel: 01562 861870

**Kidderminster Arts Festival**  
**Kaf**

**Kidderminster Arts Festival**  
**Supporting Local Arts & Music**  
**The Boars Head**

# MOUTH & MUSIC

Dave Reeves



MC is **Sarah (Poem Whipper) Tamar** and the event features **Tim Scarborough (Rhythmicity)**, **Amy Rainbow** with poetic cautionary tales, **Dave Reeves (who bellows)** & **Heather (Note-Wordy) Wastie**.

This special event is part of **Kidderminster Arts Festival** and short open mic slots are available for anyone to sign up in advance or from 2.00 on the day. Circus dress optional! The event also marks the launch of the brand new **Kidderminster Gallery Legacy Fund (KGLF) Marquee** which will be set up in an open air courtyard behind the **Boars Head** in Worcester Street, Kidderminster for this unique occasion. Admission is free. See [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk) for more.



Amy Rainbow



Heather Wastie



Tim Scarborough

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# Kidderminster Arts Festival

# kaf

8TH – 23RD AUGUST 2015

BRINGING KIDDERMINSTER TOWN CENTRE TO LIFE WITH MUSIC,  
DANCE, WORKSHOPS, SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS AND MORE

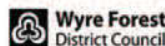


[www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk)

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
OUR SPONSORS AND ALL  
THOSE WHO DONATE TIME  
AND ENERGY TO KAF



KAF IS BROUGHT  
TO YOU BY





# Kidderminster Arts Fest

Not a lot springs to mind.... Kevin Turvey and Victoria Wood both mentioned the town on various occasions. Carpets.... we used to be the Capital of Carpets until they all moved or closed. We have the Severn Valley Railway and West Midlands Safari Park (even though it's closer to Bewdley).

It is definitely not well known for it's music and arts community, Well it's about time that it was ....

**Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF)** is now in its 12th Year, running from the 8th - 23rd August. This two week celebration is organised by **Loz Samuels** and **WFDC** bringing together a wide selection of arts, performances, music and other events all over the town. For the 4th year running **The Boars Head**, Worcester Street joins in with a two week diary of workshops and events, such as SFX gore latex or stencil workshops to name a few, film night, quiz night and the finale to the whole fortnight; **The Boars Head Fringe Festival**, in conjunction with **Skanking Dub Beats** and the help of lots of other individuals,

There are over 20 live music acts all who are known to the regulars at the Boars, covering nearly every taste in music, plus a selection of poets and performers showing off their talents outside the **Boars** and in **Coronation Gardens**. With an outside stage, bar, food stalls and other stalls, there will also be the opportunity to learn some circus skills with **Silly Con Carny**.

Saturday sees the music kicking off at 1pm, with **Underground Ocean**, followed by (in no particular order) **Teddy Matthews, Electric Soup, Alex Round, Angry Itch, Obnoxious UK, Flat Stanley, Dantannabeatz, Alcohol Licks, Johnny Kowalski And The Sexy Weirdo's**. Closing the Saturday night is their very own **Stiff Joints**, and we feel sure they will be performing the *Kidderminster Song*...

The outside entertainment will be finished by about 11.00pm so if you need to get home there is plenty of time to



catch the last trains home (last train to Brum 23.05, Last Train to Worcester 23.41).

Sunday sees a more local day, with **Ben, The Lown Lizards, Tristy and Her Tribe, Drax, Some Other Beings, Bleeding Hearts, KarpetsKickers, Time of the Mouth, White Noise, The Humdrum Express, Erection Police** and closing the weekend in a bread related way is **Sister Sandwich**. Sunday also sees the introduction of our second staged area. In the **Courtyard** next door, where August's **Mouth and Music** will be held, a circus themed afternoon starring, **Amy Rainbow, Dave Reeves, Tim Scarborough and Heather Wastie**, the circus ringleader for the afternoon is **Sarah Tamar**.

Throughout the weekend the **Above Boards 2015** will be taking place with over 40 artists from all over the county coming to help make Kidderminster a brighter place, there are sites all over the town that will have the benefit of being worked on.

The outside festival is free to all along with Mouth and Music. The workshops and week events do have a charge. Please visit our facebook page for all the information: [www.facebook.com/BoarsHeadKidderminster](http://www.facebook.com/BoarsHeadKidderminster) for all info.

Each year this event grows because you lot keep coming back, so lets make 2015 the best one yet..

*Sand Baker*

## Full Beam Film Festival Kidderminster | Fri 21st & Sat 22nd August

An exciting event in prospect as the Drive-In Movie brings a flavour of Americana to Kidderminster as part of their Arts Festival.

**Full Beam** land at Aldi car park in Green Street with a quartet of classic films to suit all tastes; so on the Friday we get Woody Allen's **Annie Hall** followed by The Coen Bros' **The Big Lebowski**, then on Saturday audiences will doubtlessly be delighted by the odd pairing of **Dirty Dancing** and **Night of The Living Dead!**

To spice up this peculiar pairing further audience members are encouraged to dress up on the Saturday and partay, either in their DD 60's finery, zombie wear or a mash-up of both!



Visitors stay in their cars for the films and by tuning into a special festival frequency, can listen to the films on their in car systems as they watch on the huge screens.

Places are limited so early booking is advised directly through their website at [www.fullbeamfilmfestival.co.uk](http://www.fullbeamfilmfestival.co.uk).

As aforementioned **Full Beam** is part of **Kidderminster Arts Festival** ([www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk)) which runs from 8th - 23rd August bringing the town alive with music, dance, workshops, shows, exhibitions and more.

**Advertise in this space for  
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## Artrix August Highlights

We highlight two major events in the Artrix August calendar for your delectation.

Our first pick for August is evergreen musical outfit **Quill** who have been gracing stages for more than 30 years, with their inimitable blend of superlative and harmonic rock music.

As ever with Quill, guitar and violin battle it out in a most friendly way as their ever strong vocal stylings lead the way, ensuring timeless classics ensue from every decade from the 70's onwards.

Now not only are they treading the boards with new guitarist, bassist and vocalist **Tony Kelsey** in tow, but amongst their permanent members Quill are proud to include none other than bona fide Midlands' Rock Legend **Bev Bevan**. Wow indeed! **Quill** take to the **Artrix** stage on Saturday 15th August and it promises to be a very special night.



Kathleen Watson - Blue Forest

Secondly we would like to bring to your attention or remind you of this year's **Summer Exhibition** in the new top floor **Vestibule Gallery**. This space was open with the express intention of showing and highlighting young, emerging and developing talent throughout the West Midlands.

This year's exhibition has attracted a record number of submissions and it was the unenviable task of 15 young curators from **Heart of Worcestershire College**, **Bromsgrove School** plus **South & North Bromsgrove High Schools** of selecting and planning this excellent exhibition.

The breadth and quality of work on display celebrates the diversity of art being produced in the area and is well worth your attendance. The Summer Exhibition runs until 16th August and a catalogue detailing the works on show can be purchased from the **Artrix Box Office**.

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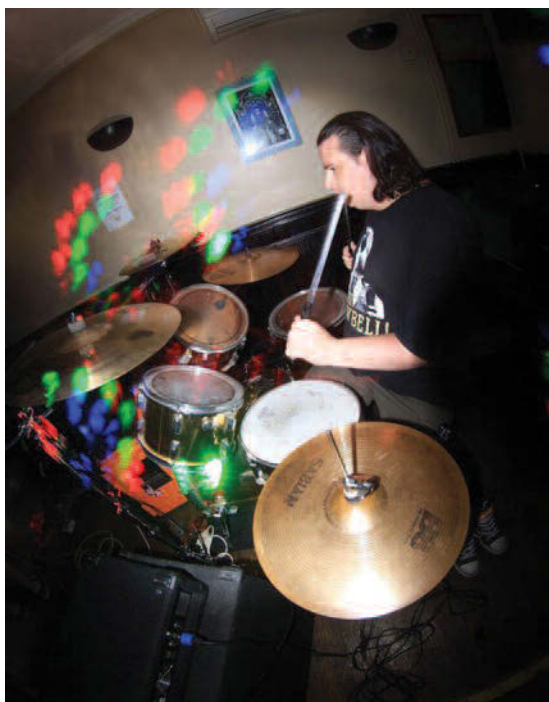
**aspre**  
LIFE CHANGING



# Electric Soup, Acid Goat Hammerborn

Pig & Drum, Worcester | Sat 18th July

A cracking night of heavy tunes for riff-worshippers and casual punters alike as three local acts pack out the **Pig & Drum**. First up, Malvern's **Hammerborn** bring their hook-laden stoner rock grooves with great aplomb. With this – only their second show – being well received by the audience, expect much more from this promising new band in the months to come.



**Acid Goat** treat the audience to a 45 minute set of tripped-out doom. Hailing from Birmingham, and with songs ranging in pace from 'pretty damn slow' to 'ridiculously slow' (and a Pink Floyd cover to boot!), this is definitely one to check out if you're a fan of Sabbath's early work. Look out for the debut full-length coming soon.



A slightly more subtle approach is adopted by headliners **Electric Soup**. Aided by retro synths, the lads from Kiddy churn out some infectiously funky tracks, with set highlight "Internet Explorer" (a song about certain online activities which should probably not be discussed here) striking a particular chord with the audience. A triumphant night for promoter **Embrace the Chaos** and we look forward to many more in the future!

Words: Jon Weatherill

Photos: The Wizard at Astroglant Designs

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## Artists open their doors

Creative spaces across Worcestershire will open their doors to visitors this August bank holiday weekend as part of the inaugural Worcestershire Open Studios.



Over three days, from **29 - 31 August**, the public are invited into the studios, homes and shared spaces of 70 local artists at 28 different venues.

A wide range of styles will be on show, including painters, print makers, photographers, glass makers, crafters and sculptors. Access to all venues is free.

Worcester-based painter and print maker, **Sally Morgan**, who is one of the event organisers, said, "Worcestershire Open

*Studios is a great way to meet local artists and view their work in an informal setting. Whether you're an art lover or someone who wouldn't normally set foot in a gallery, we encourage you to visit some of the venues near you."*



Amongst the art on view in Worcester will be bold abstract paintings by **Cherrie Mansfield**, the quirky, mixed media figure sculptures of **Heather Sweet-Moon** and the mixed media contemporary works of ensemble Narrative.

Over in Offenham, visitors to **The Art Pad**, can see contemporary glasswork featuring different colours and textures that are brought to life as the sun bounces off the designs.



And in Malvern, participating artists include **Dora Williams** whose fine art searches for human forms within the abstract and the prints of **Andrew Judd** and the collective of **St. Peter's Printmakers**.



Established art spaces like the **Kestrel Gallery** in Worcester, **The Jinney Ring Craft Centre** in Hanbury and **Bridge House Art** in Upton-upon-Severn will also be participating.



For a full list of artists go to: [worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk](http://worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk)

**Worcestershire Open Studios** is a new venture, organised by a group of local artists who would like to see an annual open studios event established in Worcester and the surrounding areas.

It is part of the **Worcester Festival** and has received funding from **Worcester City Council**, **Worcestershire County Council** and **The Elmley Foundation**.



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**Martin The Hatter and Friends** - Wed 5th

Singer Song-Writer

**Subduction** - Fri 7th

Hybrid Reggae Fusion

**The Strays** - Wed 12th

Acoustic Duo

**The Tuesday Syndicate** - Fri 14th

Indie Folk

**Jessica Rhodes** - Wed 19th

Soul

**Gloucester Rock Show** - Fri 21st

Damon T + Luke P + Muchos Tequilas Later +  
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**Nick Parker** - Wed 26th

Acoustic Singer Song-Writer

**TBC** - Fri 28th

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## Slap Mag Special 'Droitwich Divas' Night Gardeners Arms | Thur 9th July

**Slap Mag Featured Artists** on Thurs 9th at The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich Spa was a very unique evening featuring "The Droitwich Divas" comprising the young local, vocal talents of singer/songwriters **Aymee Weir, Abby Inez & Lauren Nicole**.

What a line up of confident female performers with excellent original songs and lyrics with a few covers thrown in to entertain the appreciative audience.

This talented trio wowed the crowd with their distinctive musical stylings and we got a range from proper Diva tune to quality country pop.

**Aymee Weir** draws you in with her honeyed, soft and unique vocals then suddenly powerful and effortlessly out of nowhere she stuns the audience with drama and volume, just right for her brilliant lyrics. This 22 year old Droitwich singer writes her own material and is currently working on an EP. She started singing and playing piano from a young age and picked up a guitar in her teens. The ambitious Aymee will soon be moving to that London to pursue her musical career.

Next to delight the Droitwich faithful was **Lauren Nicole**, the youngest performer of the evening and winner of W-Factor (you can guess) earlier this year, is another seemingly effortless singer with a wonderful range and surely an excellent future.

Still only 17 Lauren recently released a video to support her first mini-album 'Prada Shoes' which reached number 15 in the iTunes Singer/Songwriter Album Chart. This has gained her not only a huge local following but also in India of all places! Lauren will be working very hard in the near future to consolidate and further enhance her fervent fanbase!



Abby, Lauren, Aymee

Our third Diva of the night was the most established performer and known to many namely **Abby Inez**. Again a amazingly youthful 20 years young Abby has packed loads into her nascent career and is often to be found at local open mic nights and regional gigs.

Her style is most definitely country but with amodern and fresh twist and her honed, natural vocals not only led her to follow her dream and travel to Nashville last year to play local venues, but culminated in her being picked from 20,000 folk to meet her idol Taylor Swift. For this Abby tells us, she feels truly blessed.

All of these young artists performed brilliantly on the night in their own very unique ways and fittingly finished with a collaboration as an encore, thus showing their fantastic versatility.

I believe these young local talented artists have the ability to perform to larger audiences and all could go far: like many before them it may just be the 'luck' of playing in the right place at the right time to the right people that sparks their careers. Good luck to 'em I say!

## PTR Williams - Let It All Out

The best artists wear their influences lightly and with subtlety, absorbing via osmosis and so it is with **PTR Williams** who with this four track EP has taken it all in and *Let It All Out*.

This quartet of tunes are informed by the likes of Eels and Gomez but these tender tales of love, life and failure reflecting in PTR's own words "my unassuming upbringing in an equally unassuming northern town" are most definitely his own.

Opening song 'Text Me A Smile' is a bittersweet, breezy number with pithy lyrics, which brings to mind the innocent, naive sounding 60's/70's pop of Clifford T Ward, Peter Skellern,

Donovan and even whispers of Nick Drake: this is all good.

There is a definite summer psych-pop feel to the whole affair but maybe that's just cuz it's July and the way I'm feeling. When I say summer of course in this green land



that often means days of constant drizzle but this also somehow fits in with the melancholic mood of *Let It All Out*.

PTR Williams has been quietly gathering momentum and garnering plaudits since his 'conversion' to songwriting from the visual arts in 2011 and the songs herein show a masterful maturity which belies PTR's few years of making music.

He also has a quality retinue in tow as this EP was produced by renowned knob twiddler **Gavin Monaghan** who has worked with the esteemed likes of Editors, Robert Plant, Ocean Colour Scene and Ryan Adams.

There is a launch night for *Let It All Out* at the ever wonderful **ScaryCanary**, Stourbridge High Street on Friday 4th Sept and to find out more about this plus buy this worthwhile EP visit [www.ptrwilliams.com/music](http://www.ptrwilliams.com/music) and [www.scarycanary.com](http://www.scarycanary.com)

Maurice Dancer

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## Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### What's on Entertainment August

- Every Weds Quiz Night 8.30pm plus Curry Night £5.00 meal
- Tues 4th - 27th **Jamaican Dishes Day** Village Dishes Served 7.30pm £16.00 BOOKING ONLY
- Fri 31st Jul **Vines Park Rattlesnake Jake Band** 8.00pm
- Sat 1st **Vines Park Tony O'Sullivan** 7.15pm **Black Voices** 8.00pm
- Sun 2nd **Vines Park Jazz Alchemy Band** 1.30pm **URBAN ROOTS** Reggae Band 2.30pm
- Thurs 6th **Live Local Musicians Jammin** Night Hosted by Ben Vickers 8.00pm
- Sat 8th **Chicago Bytes** Rhythm and Blues Band Live Music 7.30pm
- Sun 9th **Devon Harrison Jazz Trio** Strawberries Champagne Garden Party Festival 12.30pm
- Tues 11th Tribute to the great **Fats Domino** 2 courses £11.95pp 12.30pm
- Thurs 13th **SLAP MAGAZINE** Performer of The Month Will Killeen 8.30pm
- Fri 14th 16th Sun **CAMRA** Members Ringwood Showmans Tripple £2.75 pint
- Sat 15th **Arkvard Stew** Band Live Music 7.30pm
- Thurs 20th **Local Up** Coming Musicians Night 8.00pm
- Fri 21st **Warren James Skiffle** Music Live Music 7.30pm
- Sat 22nd **Tom Forbes** Live Music Summer Bank Holiday Entertainment 7.30pm
- Thurs 27th **Sally Hosts** Droitwich Divas Ladies Night Sing Dance Drink Live Music 8.00p
- Fri 28th **Mel and Him** 80's 90's Night Live Entertainment 8.00pm
- Fri 28th - Mon 31st **Beer Festival** 18 Cask Ales to try over the weekend



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**18th - 20th September**

## Cameras at the ready for Photo Workshop

There's no shortage of eye-popping subject matter on offer for those entering this year's festival photography competition, with the likes of acclaimed punk poet **Attila the Stockbroker** (who has appeared at every Glasto since 1983) to delicious, psychedelic outfit **Vienna Ditto** (as featured on **BBC 6 Music**) on the bill.

However, if you'd like to have a go, but don't know your aperture from your aspect, don't fear.

We are, once again, holding our popular, free music photography workshop in the run-up to the festival, the chance for beginner and intermediate photographers to learn a few tricks of the trade before the fest.

Taking place from 1-4pm on Sunday, August 23rd at **Worcester Arts Workshop**, you will not only receive invaluable expert advice, there will be living, breathing (well, some of them) local bands to practice on.

Co-ordinator **Mark Hoy** said: "*Gig photography is one of the most challenging fields in photography as you have almost no*

*control of your subject matter, the lighting or angles. There will be some technical stuff, however, the emphasis will be on taking photos in different conditions, when to use and not use the flash, tips on where to stand and what to look for, etiquette, and the chance to get feedback."*

To register your free place, visit:

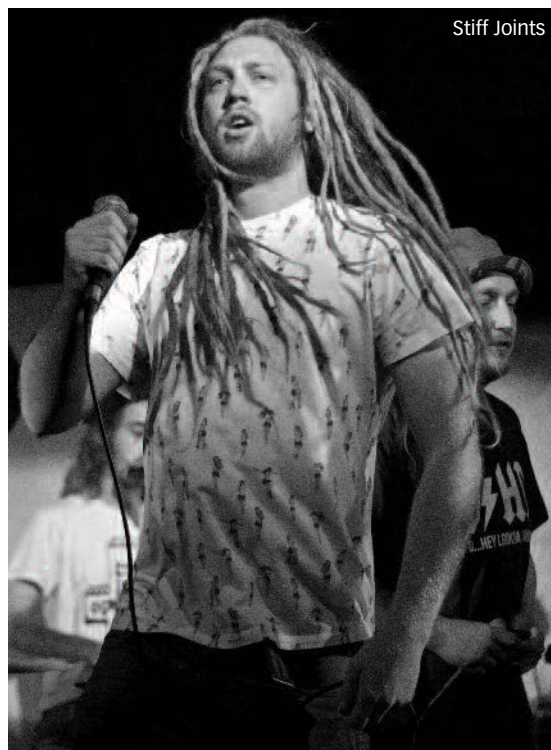
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...with your name, email address and camera make / model, specifying if it's a compact or a DSLR. There are only 30 places available, so book early to avoid disappointment.

## Hop over to our 'Festival Beer' Brewery Gig

While it's not unusual to have an official festival beer, we like to drink to this momentous fact. On 4th September, you are cordially invited to hop on over to **Pope's Brewery** at Blackpole Trading Estate and take in some fab, local music while trying out this year's **Worcester Music Festival Ale**. We haven't finalised the exact recipe yet, but, as should be the way with any good festival beer, it will hit the top notes.

## SLAP Night! Get warmed up for WMF 2015



Photography: B@Gippa

As one of our staunchest media supporters, we'd like to congratulate SLAP on its 50th issue and look forward to SLAP's festival warm up fundraiser at **Marr's Bar** on Saturday, September 5th. See the **Stiff Joints**, **Skewwhiff** and the **Humdrum Express** for just £3 in advance, £5 on the door, proceeds going to our festival charity of the year, **Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC)**.

For more information, visit [Worcestermusicfestival](http://Worcestermusicfestival) on Facebook and [@worcsmusicfest](https://twitter.com/worcsmusicfest) on Twitter.



Vienna Ditto



## Festival Highlights at Huntingdon Hall

For our August Slap **Huntingdon Hall Worcester Festival** highlights we've picked out two fiddle-tastic events for you.

On Friday 21st a gloriously rag-taggle bunch of Balkan gypsy-beat specialists namely **Budapest Café Orchestra**, hot foot it from Haringey(!) to Huntingdon.

Renowned for their hugely entertaining stage show weaving immense skill and profound musicianship, together with their highly infectious energy and antics have won over fans, fellow musicians and critics the world over. Expect to hear mournful Klezmer melodies, raucous Romanian Doinas and Hungarian Czadas, alongside beautiful ballads such as the theme from Schindler's List and the haunting Flatbush Waltz.



I shall refer to the Orchestra members by their stage names but please feel free to seek their true identities elsewhere: and so we have **Balkan Bob** on violin and dombek, **The Dragon** on button accordion, **The Sultan** on guitars and **Kelvin the Klaw** on double bass or **Big Daddy Violin** as the band refer to it! How can you not be enticed by such a line-up?? I know we are and will be there in force: we strongly suggest you join us.



**Ten Strings And A Goat Skin** is definitely a name that grabs your attention and the tag-line "young trad-folk fusion trio" tantalises the musical tastebuds further.

Hailing from far flung Prince Edward's Island, Canada this tuneful trio wend their way to Worcester on Saturday 22nd Aug to ply the Faithful City faithful with their distinctive mix of Irish, Arcadian, French and original pieces, featuring modern world rhythms and their own unique textures.

As their name suggests **TSAAGS** comprise guitar, violin and bodhran played by 19-21 year olds **Jesse Périard** plus brothers **Rowen** and **Caleb Gallant** respectively. Their youthful countenance belies a mature talent that produces a tight, polished and powerful performance. This is a group that has immense respect for the traditions in which their music is rooted, but they are not afraid to experiment in order to create new and intricate styles and textures.

This is set to be a concert full of thrilling and intoxicating music that is bound to entrance and entertain.



# What's On?

at The Swan Theatre  
and Huntingdon Hall

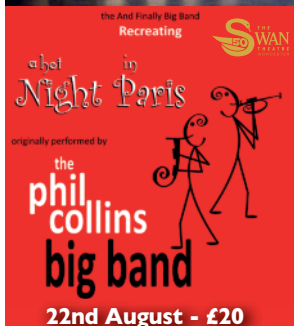


**The Nick Ross Orchestra**  
15th August - £19



**Budapest Café Orchestra**  
21st August - £14.50

**Ten Strings And A Goat Skin**  
22nd August - £13.50



22nd August - £20



**As You Like It**  
25th August - £16



**Jay Rayner - My Dining Hell**  
27th August - £15

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## Adam Sweet The Chestnut | Friday 26th June

Back in the autumn of 2014, I had the privilege of hearing **Adam Sweet** play a support slot with the indefinable **Willie And The Bandits**. For me it was immediately obvious that here was a talented solo acoustic artist, with presence, excellent guitar skills and a voice to match; a complete Blues package. He had performed on the acoustic stage at Upton Blues, but I had been reviewing and picturing the 'bigger' names and missed his session; a mistake which I have managed to rectify over the following period. He has performed in Gloucester's Cafe René together with many slots around his own area of Dorset, Devon and The West Country, both in solo and a more rock orientated, band form.

This gig though was in my home town, how could I not be there at The Chestnut in Worcester. A warm and balmy evening saw Adam take to the newly structured stage for a Friday night special, special because this lively pub does not 'do' music on a Friday, but host 'Mad Pierre' had found space for Adam and the customers were soon won over.

Did I mention that Adam also pens some fine music to pepper his set? No? Well he does and his album '*Small Town Thinking*' is a very worthy first album, filled with excellent music and featuring some lovely lyrics. '*Doin' Alright*' seemed a fitting start to the evening and is taken straight from that album. There was a mix of Adam's take on many classics from Robert Johnson's '*Crossroads*', to a superb rendition of Pink Floyd's '*Money*', but Adam's own country blues rightly provide a large proportion of what turned out to be an exceptional evening, with many new fans firmly established.



As you would expect Adam scribes his lyrics from his life experiences, whether the appropriate '*I Work Alone*' as he works his fingers to the bone, or the dubious experience of being alone in a suspect bar in some foreign place down namely '*Santa Rosa Street*'. The acoustic strings are worked hard as a beat is added from the stomp box underfoot - we are now listening to a homage to early influence Peter Green in his 'Mac' years. We listen spellbound to a near full '*Oh Well*', yes both parts, with part 2 morphing into a '*Green Manalishi*' infill adding to a very tasty meal. '*The Best Thing She Ever Had*' ups the tempo with Adam's rock alter-ego slipping in and '*When The Time Is Right*' acknowledges Adam's close working relationship with Steve Black. For me though there is one outstandingly beautiful song, which has a special meaning to me, making this simply a lovely '*Evening*'.

I have been down to The Chestnut on a few occasions, particularly if I have recommended a band to Pierre the gafferbooker, but rarely does this very lively local listen so intently. **Adam Sweet** had made a memorable impression and I'm pretty sure if opportunity arises, he will be persuaded to return when travelling our way.

Graham Munn

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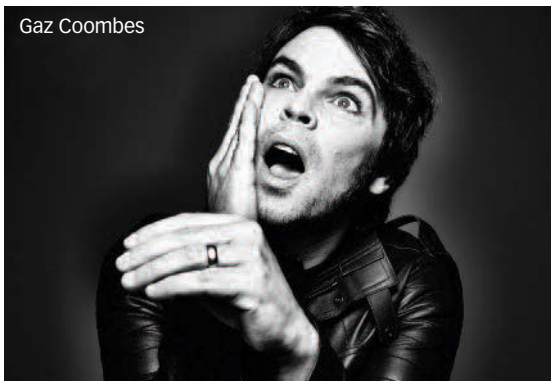




# Moseley Folk Festival Moseley Park

Birmingham Friday 4th - Sunday 6th Sept

Gaz Coombes

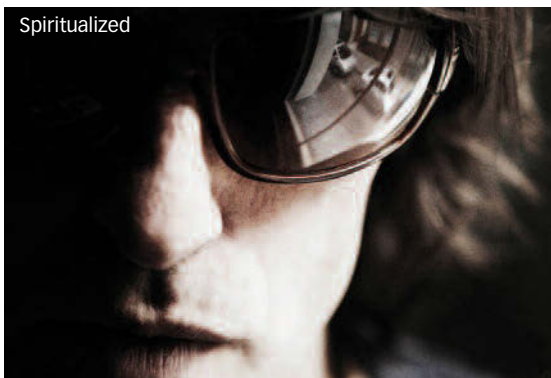


It really must be said and especially after a superb Lunar Festival that these boys and girls at **Moseley Folk Festival** know how to throw a bash!

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the consistently excellent Moseley Folk Festival and this year's line-up proves to make it as important and eclectic event as ever.

We could say that this year Moseley Folk starts with **The Unthanks** and ends with **The Monkees**, but that would be doing a disservice to the 30+ other marvellous musical treats they have in store for us over the weekend of 4-6 September.

Spiritualized



Of the other perhaps better known names Moseley will be hosting are **Gaz Coombes**, **Spiritualized**, **Idlewild**, **Martin Carthy & Dave Swarbrick** and **Polyphonic Spree**. This



Polyphonic Spree

however is just the tip of a tantalising iceberg which further includes **Anna Calvi**, **The Cadbury Sisters**, **Goodnight Lenin**, **Du Blonde**, **John Smith** plus many other quality acts.

As ever the Moseley Folk keeps the whole family busy and buzzing with a multitude of kid friendly events, workshops and art happenings, not to mention the best in fest food and drink around whatever your palate pleases.

Idlewild



One of this festival's selling points is its intimate size of 2,500 happy folk(!) but this means that you have to hot foot it to bag your tickets cuz it always sells out.

For all your **Moseley Folk Festival** needs head on over to [moseleyfolk.co.uk](http://moseleyfolk.co.uk)



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BLOSSOMS • THE CADBURY SISTERS • HOUNDSTOOTH • SIVU  
ELIZA SHADDAD • ANDY SHAUF • DAVID CAMPBELL  
CHARLIE CUNNINGHAM • PEACOCK ANGELL • AARON FYFE  
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## PREVIEW

# Population7

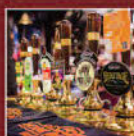
## The Marrs Bar | 29th August

What started off as a collaboration of Worcester musicians has slowly evolved into eight piece hip-hop\soul band **Population7**. Over the past few years they've been quietly releasing material online and have played a few local shows.

Taking influence from classic 90s hip hop and neo-soul artists like D'angelo, J Dilla, The Roots and Erykah Badu and stretching back to the origins of jazz, soul, funk and blues their wide scope of influences and members with various musical backgrounds, they come together to create a truly original sound and live performance not to be missed.

Their first album as a live outfit is now finished and consists of eight original tracks. Population7 will be hitting the Marrs Bar on the 29th August. They will be performing the album along with a few new heavier tracks. Whatever your into you can't deny their groove and infectious tunes without the cheese.

Tickets are £4 in advance £5 on the door



## Coming soon to The Fleece Inn, Bretforton:

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**Battle of Evesham Medieval Festival: 8 & 9 August, Crown Meadow, Evesham, 10-5pm**

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**Marilla Homes, Sun 23 August, 8pm, £5**

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**HOGAN'S**



# Jinney Ring Folk Festival

## Saturday 27th June

It was touch and go as to whether I'd make this one due to deadlining the July issue of SLAP, but make it I did, albeit a little late to catch two local acts both so suited to this stage. So apologies to **Claire Boswell** and **Tyler Massey**.

So **Foreign Affairs** were first up for this reviewer, a mighty fine act they are too. Plenty of country and soul influences here amongst their upbeat set. No surprise either that a certain **Michael Eavis** had spotted them and booked them for **Glastonbury**, not once but twice! Having just been aired on **Radio 2** you may be hearing a lot more from this band.



Stand out songs for me were the soulful *'I'm on your Side'* and *'Night Like This'* which was written on an alcohol absent night whilst on tour in Switzerland.

Alcohol was not an issue today though with dozens of Ciders and Perrys available, any thoughts of going back to SLAP HQ quickly dispersed.

Next up was the wonderful **Gaz Brookfield**. I never tire of listening to his self penned songs about travel, drinking cider and growing up. The sun was shining and the new stage was offering plenty of shade for the enthusiastic audience who sang along to *'When the East Winds Blow'*.

Gaz finished his set with the appropriate *'It's Not Over'* before shooting off for a set at Glastonbury having done something like seventeen dates in as many days.



Although just one stage here, credit to **Paul**, **Caitlin** and sound man **Greg**, the change overs seemed minimal as next to take to the stage were **The Leylines**. They soon get the crowd to their feet who appreciated the bands' infectious sense of fun. They have great songs such as *'You're Just Like the One for Me'* which reminded me of Hothouse Flowers. Another stand out song for me was *'Runaway'* - about an alcoholic friend, we can all identify with that eh?

They go upbeat with *'You've Changed'* followed by *'For Queen and Country'* a song based on experience in the armed forces which holds a poignant message to our government as well as the queen. They played the crowd pleaser *'15 Years'*



which they were asked to record for a compilation album of Levellers' covers. I particularly enjoyed the Waterboys-ish *'Sat in a Field'* before ending with the rousing *'Run For Cover'*.

There was no running for cover for me though as the sun kept shining, maybe just a little jog to the bar for more cider. The food on offer here at the **Jinney Ring** was first class too and all made on the premises.

A few hold ups for **Babajack** with last minute repairs to **Julia's** cello courtesy of a splinter of drum stick I believe. This made for an intimate soundcheck and took nothing away from the performance that followed.

Playing songs from their outstanding *'Rooster'* album Becky and Trevor really owned the stage. No bass player tonight but **Tosh Murase** kept the whole show as tight as his drum skins. Their new live album *'Running Man'* got an airing this evening



too. A brilliant performance as aforementioned soundman **Greg** joined them on trumpet for the last couple of songs.

**The Roving Crows** need no introduction, which is just as well because by now the cider had kicked in and my notes became indecipherable and the memory started to fade.



Perhaps I should have noticed that the weekest on offer was over 6% ABV! There was, as I remember however, a real party feeling and I do remember ex Crow and soundman **Greg** returning to the stage for a Johnny Cash medley which had everyone on their feet.

Congratulations are in order to The **Jinney Ring** and **Roving Crows** for assembling a superb line up for a superb festival. This one is already in next years' diary...

## Interview with Roland Link Author of *Kicking up a Racket & Love in Vain*

**Before we talk about your book can you describe your love for punk and the shows you attended? Was there a feeling of being part of something?**

Some of the very earliest 'punk' gigs that I attended were in Worcester at the **Green Room** and **The Barn**. I remember local legends **The Iranian Teaspoons** blowing me away the first time I saw them and it's still a vivid and cherished memory. I was also a huge fan of **The Samples**; again fantastic songs and great sweaty, packed shows. They were from Worcester, signed to Malvern's **No Future** records and were great guys - so we had our own local bona fide rock stars, which brings me to Cheltenham's **Screaming Dead**; another band with great songs and also signed to No Future, so we could go out and buy their records.

As for feeling a part of something the fact that **The Samples** and **The Spoons** were always approachable, friendly guys - The Samples even let the first band I was in support them a couple of times - had made you feel included.

Later on I played bass in Worcester band **Another Fine Mess** and there seemed to be lots of great bands about then - take a bow **The Berts** and **Blobnut** - decent venues to play and a few touring bands passing through that we could pick up support slots with. It was a vibrant, grass roots, do-it-yourself scene that thrived for a while.

**I wondered what your thoughts of the state of punk today are? Do you still listen to the music? Are there any bands today that you feel live up to that spirit?**

To me punk's an attitude. It was the Clash's Joe Strummer who said it's not about a worldwide revolution it's about personal change. Bands like the **Clash**, the **Specials**, the **Ruts**, **The Jam**, **SLF** etc conducted themselves in certain ways and at times lyrically focused on important issues. They delivered ideas, statements and inspiration in great pop songs, whilst teaching me to question things and be yourself.

I still listen to punk every day, as well as lots of other music so nothing's really changed for me. I hear the Clash's '*White Man In Hammersmith Palais*' and am still blown away by how brilliant it is. I still can't believe what a fantastic writer Paul Weller was at such a young age and I still think the guitar intro to **Stiff Little Fingers**' '*Alternative Ulster*' is the greatest opening to a song ever. I still can't sit down when I play the **Specials**' first album and I listen to the **Ruts** in awe and mourn the loss of such an inspirational band at such an early stage.

The last 'big' band that I was truly excited about was the **Gaslight Anthem**. I think their first three albums and the '*Senor And The Queen*' EP are magnificent. In concert they were great as well. A couple of my favourite shows from the last few years were seeing them support **Social Distortion** in Germany. For me, they've lost it now, but that still doesn't diminish the greatness of their early work.

**When did you first start writing and how did it come about?**

The first book I wrote was '*Kicking Up A Racket*', which focused on **Stiff Little Fingers**' original career. That was published in 2009 and I think, on and off, it took me about 6 years to research and write.

28 SLAP AUGUST

I did always want to read a book about SLF and one hadn't been written. I approached the project/subject to give a balanced account, which included contacting every band member and manager from the time being involved. Luckily I got to speak to everybody, plus many more people who were close to the group during the period.

From that project emerged '*What You See Is What You Get*' which is a memorabilia book also from the time of SLF's original career. That was published in 2014 and came about because through the process of researching '*Kicking....*' I'd made a lot of contacts and amassed - or knew where I could get hold of - lots of posters, unpublished photos, badges, tickets etc. It seemed only fair to share them with other SLF fans!

**How did you begin researching for the books and were people happy to come forward with their own accounts of the SLF and Ruts story?**

For both '*Kicking Up A Racket*' and '*Love In Vain*' I began by hitting the libraries and scouring all the contemporary music press - **Sounds**, **NME**, **Melody Maker**, **Record Mirror**, **Smash Hits** etc - and also any fanzines from the time period I could lay my hands on. All the information I garnered - individual shows played, tours, single/LP record release dates, interviews, record and live reviews, dates of **John Peel Session** recordings and transmissions and everything else - went onto my 'timelines'.

With SLF I did a lot of work before contacting the band members, my first port of call being **Good Vibrations**' **Terri Hooley**. Although SLF were never on his record label I figured that he'd be musically very well connected in Belfast. Luckily Terri agreed to help and he introduced me to loads of people connected to the SLF story. From there it just escalated.

As for the band members, certain people were very happy to help out from my initial contact, others were much more wary. I later found out that there'd been a few people previously who were meant to be writing a book about the group and nothing had ever materialised, so some contacts had that 'here's another one' attitude. I managed to convince the most sceptical once I'd secured a publishing deal!

For '*Love In Vain*', I firstly contacted drummer **Dave Ruffy** and told him what I wanted to do. He ran it past Segs (bass player and only other surviving member) and from there I was on. I went down to London to meet them and discuss the project.

Unbeknownst to me at the time, they'd invested a lot of time and energy in working with someone who was going to write a book about and again nothing had come of it. So it certainly helped that I was a published author by then and they were able to point me towards a lot of people. There was however still a lot of research involved in finding many other key players.

**Have the bands' members read the books and if so how's their feedback been?**

All the members of both bands have received copies of the relevant books and feedback has been excellent, although I'm convinced SLF's **Jim Reilly** only read the parts that featured him!

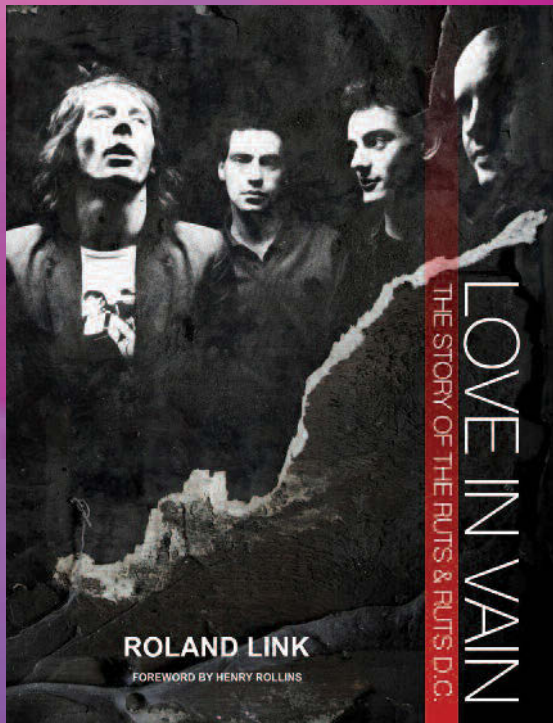
**Tell us why you decided to follow up with a book on The Ruts? And what are your hopes for the book?**

For me it starts with the music. I've had a couple of offers over the last few years to write books about very famous people/bands that musically I don't like. The way I do my research takes a long time and also dashing off to meet



people when they can make time for me can be expensive and time consuming. I just couldn't do it for some person or band whose music I wasn't passionate about.

My hopes for the book are that it sells out its initial first print, gets re-printed that sells out etc etc. A film based on the book would be nice as well, but I'd have to have one of those chairs with my name on the back on the set!



Seriously, I hope the fact that it's been published becomes common knowledge to lots of **Ruts/Ruts DC** fans. If they know it's out there they can then make the decision whether their debut single that things really started to happen for them.

**Personally, I always felt until recently The Ruts were under appreciated and only now are people waking up to their inventive sound and beginning to talk about them in a similar manner to The Clash. Why do you think it's taken a while for the band to receive the recognition they deserve?**

I think the fact that they were around for a relatively short time is one of the reasons they haven't, until recently, started to receive the credit they deserve. Although the band formed in late 1977 it wasn't until early 1979 when Garry Bushell started to write about them and John Peel began playing their debut single that things really started to happen for them.

1979 was **The Ruts'** year. They signed to Virgin Records, the 'Babylon's Burning' single went Top 10, their debut album *The Crack* went Top 20 and they played a very successful support slot with the **Damned**, which they followed with their own first national headline tour.

By early next year though, **Malcolm Owen's** problem with heroin derailed **The Ruts** just as they were really beginning to move to the next level - tours of Europe and America were being put together and writing for the second album had begun - and ultimately this led to the band splitting. His death from an overdose in July 1980 effectively ended any hopes of a reformation. **Ruts DC** followed, but commercially never reached the same heights.

Maybe it's taken the reformation of **Ruts DC** - who are now much happier to play **Ruts'** songs and celebrate that part of their legacy - to focus people back on the band. I also think the benefit show **The Ruts** played in 2007 (with **Henry Rollins** on vocals) for guitarist **Paul Fox**, who had terminal cancer (he died the following October), re-focused people onto the group.

**Obviously the timing of the book is somewhat poignant with the thirty fifth anniversary of frontman Malcolm Owen's passing, what do you think the band would have achieved if Malcolm was still here with us?**

Personally I think they'd have continued to incorporate any musical elements which took their fancy into their musical cannon. They were very much like **The Clash** in so much as they refused to be constrained by any musical limitations, be it punk or any other. They certainly had the chops to play whatever they wished; in **Paul Fox** they had one of Britain's greatest guitarists bar none, **Malcolm** was a hugely charismatic frontman and accomplished lyricist and **Ruffy** and **Segs** were, and continue to be, a devastatingly exciting and inventive rhythm section.

Listening to later tracks like 'Demolition Dancing', 'Secret Soldiers' and 'West One (Shine On Me)' allows us a glimpse of what the second studio album would have included. I think it would have been a brilliant record and would have helped propel them to huge commercial success.

**The book seems a worthy tribute to Malcolm and The Ruts legacy, how has the book been received to date? and how did the Rough Trade launch go?**

Thank you. *Love In Vain*, like all my books, was a labour of love and I hope that comes across. It was more difficult to write than 'Kicking Up A Racket', due to the fact that singer **Malcolm Owen**, guitarist **Paul Fox** and manager **Andy Dayman** are no longer with us. Hence I could only use direct quotes from contemporary sources. **Segs** and **Ruffy** were very helpful and hugely accommodating, but I was very conscious that **Malcolm's** and **Paul's** characters needed to be captured and present throughout. The way I set about it was to speak with a number of their close friends and family members. I think/hope I've done them justice.

The fact that **Malcolm** died at the age of 26 from a heroin overdose, after a valiant battle to beat his addiction, leaving friends and family devastated was also something that I was very aware needed to be dealt with carefully. Again I hope that I've done that.

As for how the book's been received, so far feedback has been very positive. It's picked up 9/10 in this month's **Vive Le Rock** magazine (with the review's final sentence being 'There won't be a better music book published this year.') and the **Louderthanwar** website love's it. I know it's also going to be reviewed in **Mojo**, **Record Collector**, **The Guardian** plus several other hard copy publications and several websites.

I think the Rough Trade launch - which was a **Ruts DC** set and a Q&A with **Ruffy** and **Segs** - went well. I didn't go to that event and haven't spoken to any of the band members about it, but the feedback I've seen is positive.

**Have you got any plans yet for your next book?**

I'm not sure that I'm going to getting back on the rollercoaster that is researching/writing and ensuring a book gets published. If I do, I do have a band in mind!

*Thanks for taking the time to put these question together and your interest in 'Love In Vain - The Story of The Ruts & Ruts DC'. Anybody wishing to buy any of my books or get in contact can do so at [www.kickinguparacket.com](http://www.kickinguparacket.com)*



## Blues At The Fold Bransford | 4th July

**Blues At The Fold** has become firmly established over past years, conveniently located between Malvern and Worcester and with the weather set to hold fair, this created a promising setting for this year's event.

**Jack Blackman** had the task of settling the steady flow of revellers who spread out in the sun, as more ardent fans aligned themselves up across the stage area. Jack's country blues and reworked folk songs were delivered with style and looking not unlike a young Dylan, he demonstrated his skill and dexterity by finger picking his way across his acoustic guitar, with a bit of slide thrown in. Jack has just graduated



Jack Blackman

from Leeds School Of Music and now seems to wear a more mature image on stage, whilst his music and writing has always shown that maturity: perhaps a little more than just a 'Nearly Man' assuring us that he was 'Taking It Alright'. A regular at Upton Blues, I shall no doubt be hearing him again very soon hopefully.

A swift changeover brought the **King Biscuit Boys** to the stage, an odd pairing of the worldly looking 'Lonesome Jon' on guitar and young **Rasta Craig** on a pretty mean harp plus washboard and melodica. They gave us some delightful country and delta blues, with tongue in cheek humour



King Biscuit Boys

blending nicely into a very entertaining set. Jon could not help telling us that 'I'm Tired Of Working' and we listened to songs as diverse as 'Mary Had A Little Lamb' to an old blues style 'Cocaine'. Craig took up the washboard and possibly half his kitchen to deliver a lovely washboard rag and he certainly knows how to use the harp. All in all together with Jon's easy, gruff vocals they lifted the tempo from Jack's opening set. I



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particularly liked 'What Tastes Like Gravy'; those old blues men certainly knew how to write lyrics! We were now all nicely primed for an injection of high energy and so time for some **Swampcandy**.

Raw, hard hitting Delta blues on speed, **Ruben** and **Joey** took us straight to 'Aberdeen' - not the oil platform of Scotland, but much nearer home for the boys from Maryland; a story of other men's women and thus a natural ingredient for any blues. Fred McDowell's, 'You've Gotta Move' was growled out by Ruben with Joey thumping out that beat as he pulled those bass strings. Time for some 'Positive Drinking' and a little surprise as Gina stepped up to join Ruben in a 'duet' of 'Drink Whiskey With Me'. A bit early but I certainly did later! She stayed on to show off some 'Red Shoes' and by now there was dancing on the floor plus a fair bit of foot tapping 'n' downright stomping - nothing less than expected. Bit more from Fred, to be found on the new **Swampcandyland** album, 'Heard Somebody', given an almost tribal feel. With hair flying and almost manic lyrics we were brought to a close with 'Baseball Bats' - a man's right to defend his home in the most basic manner. Not all guns blazing perhaps but an explosive performance from **Swampcandy** nevertheless. The crowd wanted more, but the clock had already run over as the bear-traps were sprung.



Slack Alice

*Rockin'*, that's house rules as the 'Preacher' extols all to 'Keep Your Shoes On'. A 'Freight Train' took us on to the final stop with the evening light drawing in rapidly and under the canopy the stage was bathed in the red, yellow and purple lights, ready for the festival closing performance.



Chris Hall

**Chris Hall** and his **Louisiana Swamp Band** come with quite a reputation and a guarantee to get all up on their feet and dancing. What slightly dulled the effect was a long delay in overcoming sound check problems - time was running out and nobody had expected a 45 minute lag - as the band struggled with some technical difficulties. No matter it was worth the wait, as the band burst into life and as expected the thinning crowd were up and moving. Chris leads on his accordions, **Hazel** on additional vocals and guitar, **Mitch** on fiddle and guitar, with **Murray** on bass and **Rick** taking care of percussion. Hazel tells us to 'Raise Your Window High', her high voice finding its way from behind the big acoustic she cradles. A couple of classics follow Cajun style of course, with 'Please Don't Go' and 'Route 66' keeping the floor filled; it was time to party the night away.

Another great little festival at **The Fold** yet again, where good music mixes with some fine ales, even finer wines and tasty food. There had been visible changes compared to previous years, but that reflects the organisational change, with **Oliver Carpenter** handing over the reins to **The Fold** itself. Judging by the numbers present and the consistency of the entertainment, we can be assured of many more festivals over the coming years.

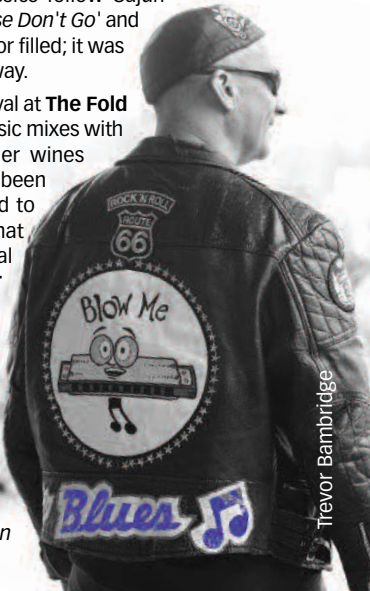
Graham Munn



Will Wilde

A breeze drifted across from the nearby Malverns as **Will Wilde** and his band sound checked and Will set about demonstrating why he was last year's top harmonica player at the Blues Awards. An outstanding 'Mean Mistreating Mama' blasted out with **Danny Giles** wringing the neck of his guitar and Will showed the audience that he was no mean singer either, once the harp was held to one side. Good solid rhythm support also came from **Connor** on drums and **Victoria Smith** wielding her bass guitar. 'What Makes People' say the things they say? An unanswerable question perhaps but a great piece of Chicago blues, with stunning harp opening and closure. **Elmore James** provided 'Can't Hold Out' as the clock once again closed in on the performance. Just time then to squeeze in a little 'Suzi Q', the crowd dancing their way into the evening, including compère **Trevor Bambridge** lost and abandoned to the blues.

**Slack Alice**, resurrected from the 70's and at **The Fold** for the first time, **Chris Stocker** and his band brought some rhythm & blues with a distinct rock tinge. Chris has that unforgettable voice, forged from gargling broken glass and a smoke thickened atmosphere. Gathered around him are an excellent band of road weary musicians, **Liam** on drums, Chris on guitar, Colin on guitar and banjo and a true rock star performance from **Alan Sagar** on bass, who gave us a fabulous solo blast. 'Don't Come Knockin' When The Band Are



Trevor Bambridge

## You Know The Drill, Chase The Deer Elements, Time Of The Mouth, Eleassar The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 16th July

A few weeks back I was asked to curate a night at this year's forthcoming **Worcester Music Festival** and after much deliberation I set about putting together an evening of fun, upbeat pop punk. After spinning a couple of tracks one of the first bands I approached to play was Stourport's finest **You Know The Drill**; an energetic, bouncy and infectious outfit with a fine line of sing-a-long hooks. The band recently headlined The Marrs Bar as part of a Bedlam Bookings tour and more than proved their worth with a fun'n'frantic set full of thrills and spills that included new single and soon to be pop punk anthem '*No Ambition*' plus the short, sharp '*Head For Higher Ground*', melodic masterpiece '*The Next Chapter*' and a frantic romp through '*Fat Lip*'.

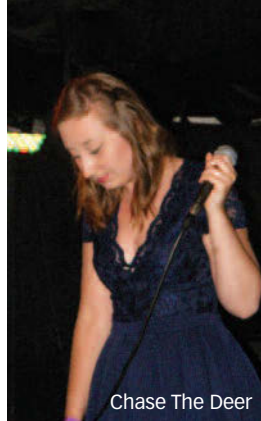
The supporting cast included Gloucester's **Eleassar** who I unfortunately managed to miss completely and a rejuvenated **Time Of The Mouth**, who on the evidence of the two tracks I managed to catch, sound almost like a new band. Led by **Chris Jones**, the new line-up (completed by **Ash Greenway**-bass and **Jake Fox**-Drums) have now settled on a tight sound that incorporates the best of indie, punk and alternative rock; this was a tight, hook-laden and infectious sound that never fails to grab the attention.

**Elements** maybe have come the furthest, hailing from Southampton,



Elements

but the five-piece quickly won over the assembled masses with a stunning sound that added subtle electronics and synths to an infectious blend of alternative rock and indie. They created a unique and impressive sound full of clever twists and instant hooks, with the likes of '*Perspectives*' and the brilliant '*Plotting Treason Or Saving The World*' particularly standing out during an instantly memorable set.



Chase The Deer

**Chase The Deer** are maybe relative newcomers on the local scene, but have already gained quite the following and on this outing, justifiably so. The band led by **Briony Watkins**, delivered a fun and likable set combining catchy originals such as '*Bad Date*' and new single '*Better Days*' with the odd sing-a-long covers ('*Kiss With A Fist*' - Florence & The Machine & '*Sugar We're Going Down*' - Fall Out Boy) to dazzling effect.

The trio of **You Know The Drill**, **Time Of The Mouth** and **Chase The Deer** signalled a change of the guard with youth, energy and big hitting songs on their side; you'll be hearing a great deal more from each of them in the very near future. **You Know The Drill** play Live @ The Marrs Bar September 18th as part of **Worcester Music Festival**.



You Know The Drill

Will Munn



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# Andy O'Hare

Wow - fifty great issues and still going strong!! Great big thanks to everyone who's helped out over the last few years - but of course especially to Mark - whose sheer bloody-mindedness and dedication to the local music and arts scene has been a massive boost (no don't you edit this out mate) and he's helped enormously to keep the local scene on a steady upward curve!

Yes there's been some changes over the past years since issue 1 in Feb 2011 - the most earth-shattering probably being the loss of the wonderful **Big Chill** festival after some nefarious financial wheeler-dealings with absolutely no regard to the gig-going public who'd loyally supported it - shame! But since then **Nozstock** has happily taking over the premier spot - and there's been an absolute explosion of smaller music festivals virtually every weekend over the summer in our region - each and every one of real quality - and when it also shines there's no better way to bring the giggers and gig-goers together for a mutually satisfying experience...

Since sorting out its flooding problems (well mostly!) a few years ago the wonderfully scenic Upton-on-Severn seems to have developed into a bit of a festival beast - its Blues, Jazz, Folk and August Bank Holiday bashes attracting increasing numbers each year - strangely the usual 'noise complainers' seem to be totally absent in this lovely corner of our region - because the massive influx of regular music-lovers provide a massive boost to the local economy - this is how to get it right folks!!

Also shining particularly bright on the local music scene has been Malvern - which seems to be the creative capital of our

fair region with so much music happening on a nightly basis across the Hills - **Malvern Rocks** and **Mappfest** are growing year on year - but wouldn't it be great to once again have a venue like the Winter Gardens to host national touring acts?

There's been a few other anniversaries this year already - the **Marr's Bar** celebrated 15 years of Wednesday jam/open mic nights, bands like the **Barflys** and **The Irony** had their 20th and 10th birthdays - **BBC H&W Introducing** also had a mini-reunion for our own ten years bashing out only local, live and original music - and we're still totally convinced that there's no finer place in the entire country for kicking original tunes!

What I'm not so sad to see fade and die over the last couple of years has been the totally pointless 'band-battles' or talent contests with promises of jam tomorrow - yes there's still one or two of them kicking about - but I think acts have now gotten a little bit more savvy to these rip-off events - you'll do much better with a more professional attitude and self-promotion - as acts like **Babajack** and those **Roving Crows** have easily proved - rather than directing your fans hard-earned pennies into a pay-per-vote marketing scam...

Since SLAP started there's been some quite fine acts who've made the jump from H&W to national stardom like **Ellie Goulding**, **Becky Hill** and **Peace** - and yes even **Cher Lloyd**! But each of these have had a bit of a 'leg-up' just by being in the right place at the right time...

So what I'd love to see happen sooner rather than later is just one (preferably more of course) of the great original music talents in our amazing region 'make it' purely on the basis of their kicking and original music rather than an A&R man's eye for a quick buck - it's a tough call but I'm the eternal optimist!!

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



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# The Humdrum Express

## Double Edged Swords

Having recently been championed by **Steve Lamacq** on **BBC 6Music**, as well as performing with the likes of **John Cooper Clarke**, **TV Smith**, **Miles Hunt** and more, **Ian Passey** returns under the **Humdrum Express** monicker with another slice of biting, observational acoustic wit, poetically lamenting everyday life in a somewhat unique and infectious manner.

*Double Edged Swords* sees Ian return to what he does best, choppy (almost acoustic ska), upbeat acoustic guitar, contagious melodic punk crooning and a collection of one liners such as the instantly infectious hook of "just when you think things maybe going your way, you realise you can't win, its like being offered a slot on later with Jools, as along as you let him join in".

The short spritely ode will have you nodding in agreement, smiling knowingly and singing a-long, as Ian laments former Arsenal striker, Alan Smith, Roy Chubby Brown fans and the humble supermarket bag packer as Ian once again soundtracks life's ups and downs with an addictive, knowing nod and a wink.

**Ian Passey** is one of life's great musical commentators, a singer-songwriter that never fails to deliver, whether you're a long standing fan or a **Humdrum Express** newbie, I urge you to seek out his rather essential new single *Double Edged Swords*.

[www.thehumdrumexpress.com](http://www.thehumdrumexpress.com)

Will Munn



# Underground Ocean

## Get me Out

**Underground Ocean** are a Worcester based raucous alternative indie rock four-piece, that formed only back last year, but having honed their sound, are set to make a massive splash with their debut, Gavin Monaghan (The Twang, Enemy, etc) produced single, *Get Me Out*.

The track is the first to be lifted from a number of sessions recorded at Magic Garden studios (with another single and five track EP to be released later in the year) and serves as an incredible statement of intent, like all good debuts should, *Get Me Out* instantly grabs at the attention with a howl of feedback, before an infectious riff and a driving bass take over to create a powerful and contagious slice of alternative rock. Lead vocalist **Scott McDonnell** possesses an impressive set of pipes that are both melodic and powerful, whilst the middle break down allows drummer, **Lee Evans** to explore his kit as the band suggest a more aggressive undercurrent waiting to be tapped, suggesting further fireworks in the future.



If *Get Me Out* is anything to judge by, **Underground Ocean** already have it all in place, an addictive stadium ready sound, killer hooks and attitude, if the band manage to continue in this vein they might have to think of a name, because there's no way they'll be staying underground for long.

Will Munn

[www.undergroundocean.com](http://www.undergroundocean.com)

[www.facebook.com/undergroundocean](http://www.facebook.com/undergroundocean)

# Fare Thee Well

## Worcester Vue Cinema | 6th July

When is a gig not a gig? When this is being shown in over one hundred cinemas across the country the day after the gig actually took place

The gig in question was the farewell performance of the remaining members of the **Grateful Dead**. They were huge in the USA, a popularity that was reflected in the rush for tickets to their farewell shows. Over here it was a small but devoted few, so quite why they thought they could fill this many cinema seats in the UK is open to question. They picked Chicago as the location for the final show as it was the place they last played as the Grateful Dead in 1995. So it was twentieth anniversary of that gig and approximately fifty years since their first gig, and four of the original members were back together to say goodbye. The original members were **Phil Lesh** (75 years old) on bass; **Bob Weir** on guitar and a sprightly 68; and **Mickey Hart** (71) and **Bill Kreutzmann** (69) on drums – yes that's two drummers, hope you're keeping up. They were ably assisted by pianist **Bruce Hornsby** (61) who had played with the band in the early 1990s, and **Trey Anastasio** (51) on guitar who had no real connection at all to the others.

So did they play a greatest hits set each and every night? No. Five shows of about three and a half hours each night and only a handful of songs repeated. They were not note perfect - they never were - but the twenty to thirty people at the Vue

enjoyed it. This wasn't the **Grateful Dead** in their prime, but they were damn good, hitting emotional and musical highs with several songs "Mountains of the Moon", "Throwing Stones", and they left the audience singing out the "Not Fade Away" refrain before returning to play the closest thing they had to a "Touch of Grey".

So is a gig a gig when it's a film, probably not. But how many films do people clap at various times during a movie? OK nobody danced, so I guess it was a movie after all – sort of.

John Reeves





## Upton Blues Festival | 17th - 18th July

This year was going to be a bit different for me, I have been an ardent fan of this great and notably free festival for many years, with only the floods of 2007 preventing the annual pilgrimage. But circumstances are taking their toll this summer and I could only manage an all too brief visit on the Friday evening and late Saturday afternoon. As I drove across the bridge and looked across the flood fields, there was an endless sea of caravans, tents and mobile homes - woe betide anyone who gets stuck behind that convoy when the revellers de-camp.

Friday sees the main **Riverside Stage** being used to kick-start the festival and in the surrounding pubs, bands were already filling the air with their music as the crowds gathered around. This is a time for the beer to flow freely, the food stalls ready themselves for brisk business and everyone wishes they had shares in Upton Chippy. Upton welcomes its visitors well with the bars, cafés and shops opening their doors and rarely having a chance to close their tills.

On the stage, **Steve Steinhouse**, the well established compère, part time bouncer and one time front man for **The Dr Teeth Band**, introduced **The Mustangs**. Fronted by **Adam Norsworthy**, The Mustangs have earned a considerable reputation around the UK blues scene, with their R&B with a

The Mustangs



distinct tilt toward rock blues. The band certainly opened the Riverside with a bang, some of it coming from the sound system, but it was a glorious, warm evening and the crowd was as deep as I can remember seeing on the opening night. As Adam played on, with the harp of **Derek Kingaby** taking its lead, I slipped away to catch **Maz Mitrenko** and his band play the courtyard at The Star. It rapidly filled out, Maz certainly



has a great following and luckily only has to travel down from Brum to bring us some great Chicago blues. Now what I had chiefly come to see was the band's drummer, **Pete Brittle**; he is the most mesmerising timpanist I can recall seeing. This



gypsy like wizard waits like a preying, praying mantis, dancing across the high cymbals and crunching down on the skins as he cranks those pedals. I have seen many expressive and frankly fabulous drummers, but Pete is a real joy to watch. Meanwhile Maz played on and in fact they played 3 sets to a very appreciative audience.

The Upton Blues ball was rolling and **Steve Nimmo** was taking over the Riverside to close out the opening evening of this great annual event. I would like to say I was able to see the band, but my agenda did not allow for such hedonism, so I left the queues at the bars and the chippy behind, hoping for a full afternoon and evening on Saturday...

OK so I didn't manage to roll in until late next afternoon and hence missed an awful lot of bands, both onstage and in the numerous Upton taverns, but I did manage to catch **Trevor Burton** on the River Stage, complete with Maz in his line up together with the familiar face of **Abby Brant**, who spent many years in **Mumbo Jumbo**, **The Blues Tribe** and **Stomp & Holler**, before defecting to Trevor. Back at The Star there was again breathing room only as **The Luke Doherty Band** entertained the masses with their original 'style of Chicago blues. Luke hiding under his Stetson as the irascible **Paul Morgan** fronted with some soulful vocals. All were having a great time until the power popped - time for a break - but they are worth the wait and the beer continued to flow.

**Innis Siburn** had all but finished his acoustic set and Becky and Trevor, the core of **Babajack**, were taking over as well as tending Julia's priceless cello. Then off they rush to a full **Field Stage**, in fact I cannot recall seeing a larger crowd on the field; a host of multiple thousands enjoying the glorious weather. The Field stage though was suffering sound problems and Becky hesitated, shrugged and waited until the rogue electricians were tracked and the show happily continued. Knowing I would be seeing the band again soon and having not long seen them at **The Cube**, I slipped back to the acoustic stage to see a delightful old style blues set from **Thomas Ford**. Thomas writes some excellent material and performs it in true Delta fashion; an acoustic resonator, slide, harp and stomp box, this was definitely worth the effort to squeeze through the doors.

The numbers this year had increased noticeably, with over 2,500 units on the camping fields plus possibly 17,000 on the streets, certainly more than an estimated 15,000 last year. Upton goes from strength to strength, incredible when you consider all the music is free, with the exception of the riverboat cruise gigs. The organisers, helpers and ancillaries have again presented an outstanding festival. I still cannot fathom why it does not receive greater recognition, both in the Blues world as well as in the whole basket of UK festivals; there is certainly little that could match the quality of this annual event and organisation. Long may it continue.

Graham Munn



# Swampcandy

## The Chestnut | Sun 19th July

This story really starts at about midnight after returning from **Blues At The Fold**. I decided it was time to break the seal on a big bottle of scotch which had until then sat firmly closed. I knew in that fine tempting, tanned liquid lay a step into the dark, but with a bit of help from my friends it was worth the temptation. Not that I'm a serious drinker - I'm not by a long way - but circumstances sometime demand a reaction. **Gina** the chanteuse and **Joey** the bassman soon stepped down and retired about 2am, leaving Ruben to 'Drink Whiskey With Me' and there was little left but the smell by the time we finished: amazingly the best sleep I had for a week. That was pretty well the foundation of Sunday and the last local gig with **Swampcandy** this season.

The one thing you are guaranteed with these Swampcandy boys, is that it will not be a slow or easy start and thus 'Aberdeen' (USA) starts the ball rolling; a gritty tale of chasing other peoples' women. There are the more manic songs that demand serious foot stomping, whether it's a 'Devil In A Suitcase' or 'JC's Revenge'. The pub is packed full of nodding heads, moving feet and a fair bit of beer. 'Bastard That I Am' was professed by **Ruben** as Joey worked that double bass and the drum kicked out the beat. Gina was invited up, a vision of loveliness stood between the boys from Maryland, but she was there to invite all to 'Drink Whisky With Me'.. again?! I'd already done that and maybe a little too much, so I thought I would stay low. She told us she was a 'Cynical Girl' but I don't believe it; Gina has us all spellbound, a welcome step-up from her stage crew roll and changing strings, as Ruben thrashed his way through almost a full set! A bit of **Fred McDowell** with 'Heard Somebody' had taken the tally to



5. And then..lurking in the shadows, 'Mad Pierre' awaits, poised with trombone.. it's all gone a bit crazy at The Chestnut.

Ruben gave us the choice as the evening moved toward its close with Swampcandy having to head off Shrewsburywards: a high speed tale of the right to bear arms back home in America, or a gentle lullaby?? The unanimous call was for both,! Ruben muttered something indistinguishable and we moved on.

Time for some psychotic mania, US style self defence and no guns allowed; a frenetic song that tells of 'Baseball Bats and Bear Traps', trespass and dark unmarked graves - a wonderful rant and time for another beer. Now this lullaby is an observation on the modern malady as Joey starts to decommission his bass leaving Ruben on his own to tell of a 'Whole Lotta People', they just don't give a f\*\*\* and naturally this tale was embellished by trademark trombone toots from our host!

A brilliant evening then and if you were not there mark it up to misfortune, but don't miss their certain return next year.

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## The Old Bush Blues Festival Callow End | 21st, 22nd & 23rd August

Following on from our first preview in our July issue we at Slap would like to concentrate on some of the local talent on show at what is shaping up to be a must-see event.

For starters the two MC's for the weekend are our very own local legends **Perry Foster** and **Jules Benjamin**. Not only will they be in constant attendance to keep us informed of the onstage comings and goings, but they are bound to whoop it up with their own singular blends of our beloved blues.



Perry Foster

Certainly Perry needs no introduction but he definitely deserves one: once associated with the original **Yardbirds** they parted company when they took off in a more pop direction whilst Perry wanted to remain faithful to his first love the blues.

Once he's traded in his banjo for a trusty twelve string geetar there was and still is no stopping the man, as he took every opportunity to meet and play alongside many of the greats who inspired him such as Howling Wolf, Rev. Gar Davis, Sleepy John Estes and Sonny Boy Williamson whom he even 'minded' for a while. See Perry play today and he'll sure to be blowing the same harp that Sonny Boy gave to him back in the day. The man has has many stories as tunes and they're all fascinating.

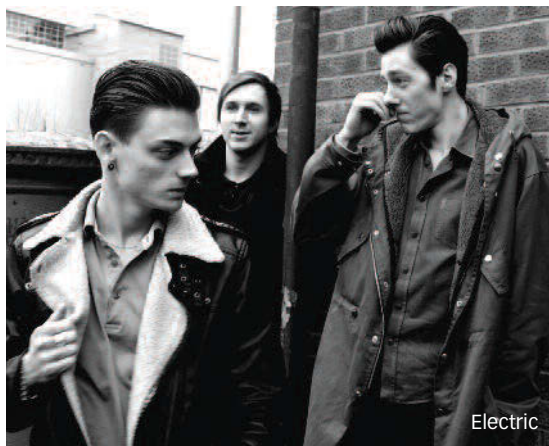
**Jules Benjamin** is somewhat of a polymath not only being able to turn his hand to most musical instruments known to man but also known as an author, comedian, raconteur and wit. He tends to major on keys these days and will be doubtless tinkling and honky-tonking to delight the Old Bush Blues crowd. In fact the only two things Jules will admit to not being able to do are dance and paint - but don't be surprised if you turn up at Callow End and see a man with an easel wearing ballet shoes!

Redditch band **Electric** may still be better known to you as **Sugar Mama** but they have now re-energised themselves since their inception in 2009. Their top quality brand of blues-rock'n'roll is still as potent and immediate as ever and they are bound to be on top form at The Old Bush.

**Neil Ivison** is another localish lad who has been wowing the crowds with his band **The Misers** for a good while and will prove to be yet another musical treat at



Neil Ivison



Electric

this tip-top fest. Other names to look out for are **Tommy Allen's Trafficker** - surely one of our best blues guitarists, all the way from Northern Ontario, Canada Andre Bisson bringing his soulful rhythm'n'blues blend to Callow End and two raw and rocking acts in **Will "Harmonica" Wilde** and **BluesBeaten Redshaw** who in his own words is "A raw amalgamation of blues, country and sounds from closer to home too such as punk, folk and the engine noises from the tractors of the Yorkshire heart of arable farmland that I live in."

Hopefully we have stated well enough here that **Old Bush Blues Fest** is definitely not one to be missed and with their usual warm welcome and top notch nosh and booze you can't help be seduced by this delicious devil's music deep in the Worcestershire countryside.

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# Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Happy 50th issue dearest Slap and thanks for having us fill the pages; we really appreciate the support we receive from all at Slap and all the lovely readers. We also want to warn you all in advance that our 10,000th article is in sight so please check our social media for a special giveaway/competition when we reach this milestone!

Circuit Sweet have had a very busy month as always and we've been inundated with local events to attend and cover. First up **Hereford Live**, the local group of dedicated and determined people joining forces to put Hereford firmly on the live music map, went above and beyond to plan and host the first ever **Sounds of The Shire Festival**. SOTSF kicked off on 25th July at The Venue who held a live show every day until 2nd August. The other events took place across various establishments throughout the City Centre, including The Courtyard, Left Bank, Hereford Skatepark, Shackrevolution and more. The local line up reflected the talent that our county has to offer and we spoke to **Hereford Live chair, Rich Lovell**, prior to the festival kicking off and you can find this interview on our website. We will also be updating the site shortly with live reviews of the SOTS shows!

On press day, we were of course back again covering the goings on at this year's **Nozstock** with its insane line up; again live pictures and a review will be hitting the site and our Slap article next month.

To prep us for this year's Noz, we had the pleasure of attending this year's **2000 Trees**. Set within an idyllic farm with its own valley deep in Gloucestershire it's a renowned festival now celebrating its 9th successful year. 2000 trees is a world away from your everyday humdrum life.



Photography: Oli Montez

The festival started on a Thursday with a handful of talent getting the weekend kicking into the swing of things; a stand out performance we caught had to be the delectable trio **The Cadbury Sisters**. Last year the act came equipped with a full band, but this year the ladies returned for a stripped back more wholesome performance with all members taking on the instrumentation themselves. The serene backdrop beautifully complimented the melancholic, harmonious efforts the threesome project.

**&U&I, Turbowolf and The Subways** all won over the first night with their sets at **The Cave** stage, whilst on Saturday the highlights included a very sincere and intricate set from **The Lion and The Wolf** on the **The Croft** stage mid-afternoon. London indie rock outfit **Tellison** made the main stage their own with a very energetic performance pleasing The Trees crowd with a range of tracks old and new. Leeds based quartet **Pulled Apart By Horses** are always a firm favourite at a festival and their boisterous, energetic set engrossed the crowd that headed to The Cave to watch why this act is always a must see live.

Later on we were fortunate to walk in on **Benjamin Booker's** set; fortunate may be a slight understatement, as we can only imagine but would safely say, that catching



Photography: Oli Montez

Benjamin live could be comparable to discovering soul icons such as Otis Redding or Marvin Gaye back in the day. Benjamin Booker is truly a talent out of this world! On Saturday we caught an act we were desperate to see as we knew they'd be at **Nozstock** a few days after, namely **Skinny Lister**. Darting about the Main Stage and using their music to make the whole crowd move, Skinny Lister revelled in their Trees experience. Bringing together elements of folk with the attitude of punk and rock'n'roll plus bursting with sing-a-long choruses and infectious raucous energy, it was difficult to look away. To find the full review along with pictures head to [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk)



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# Nozstock Festival

## The Hidden Valley | 23rd-26th July

The run up to Noz was a weird one this year, the weather forecasts held a black cloud over the weekend (excuse the pun) and coupled with **Wu-Tan Clan's** sudden cancellation of their UK tour meant Nozzers weren't sure what to expect. Yet again, Noz didn't let us down with a last minute booking with **De La Soul** and was, in my opinion, a great replacement and then some. Someone who dealt with the Wu Tan Clan earlier in the year said there were arguments in the dressing room if that is anything to go by, but we are still waiting for the official statement from the band for further information.

After pitching the tent in the rain on Friday it was straight down to the main arena to scope out this years Noz. I knew my night was set in stone at Hospitality takes over the Cubicles stage and I was treated to three of my favourite DJs in a row, **Etherwood**, **London Elektricity** and **Danny Byrd**.



London Elektricity's set started with one of my favourite songs *Just One Second*, and immediately got the vibe of the crowd in a place only **Tony Colman** can take them. Anyone who knows me will know this line up was dream come true.

I woke up a bit groggy on Saturday to wonderful sunshine and a lot of smiling, happy Nozzers. My day started off beautifully with Worcester based **Last Tree Squad** on the **Garden stage** at midday. Reggae heaven! Later on the **Orchard Stage**, **Skinny Lister** impressed the Nozstock crowd with an energetic performance in the sunshine.



Later I stumbled upon **The Computers** on the **Band Stand**, suited and booted Devon based boys. The lead singer had an air of arrogance about him that you couldn't stop watching, it is a talent that you just don't get anymore. They played most of their set with him in the crowd or stood on some table or



amplifier while demanding your full attention. They're Hives-like, but slightly more bluesy style riffs were just what were needed early evening to get myself dancing. Check out their cool video on YouTube - *'Music is dead'*.



Beatboxing legend **Beardyman** graced the Garden stage on Saturday night. As someone who wasn't that drunk at this point, I found how he mocked the mullered people in the audience without them noticing hilarious. He did a few songs in the format of the *Beatboxing Kitchen* video he did on YouTube quite a few years ago now, it reminded me just how talented he really is.



My highlight for Sunday was **The Gentleman Rhymer** who despite the return of the rain kept everyone smiling. The only thing left to do was a fun ride off site via a strong rope and a friendly tractor driver!

This was my fourth year in a row at **Nozstock** and I am already gagging for Noz 2016. See you next year!

*Little Charley*

## Saturday 1 August 2015

### Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Berkeley Arms, Church Street, Tewkesbury

### Fred Zeppelin

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Coco and the Butterfields

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Livestock Music Festival** see ([www.livestocklongdon.co.uk](http://www.livestocklongdon.co.uk))  
Manor Farm, Longdon

### Stiff Joints

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Malvern Rocks Festival

([www.malvernrocks.com](http://www.malvernrocks.com))

### Chris Capaldi

Callow End Club, Worcester

### The Other Ferretts

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### Rattlesnake Jake

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### Freewater

Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

### Guiting Music Festival, Temple Guiting

see website - [www.guitingfestival.org](http://www.guitingfestival.org)

### DJ Night

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### The Greasy Slicks + Motherlode

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### The Zoe Green Band

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

### Tony O'Sullivan, Black Voices

Vines Park, Droitwich

**Appfest** - see [www.farmersarms-lowerapperley.co.uk](http://www.farmersarms-lowerapperley.co.uk)  
Farmers Arms, Lower Apperley, Glos

### Al Cox

Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, Stourbridge

### Hannah Robinson

The Convent, 5th Woodchester, Glos

### Heymoonshaker

The Courtyard, Hereford 7pm

**Cheltenham Real Ale Festival** - see website -  
[www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk)  
Cheltenham Town Hall

### The Facestealers

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

### Paul Snook

The Swan Inn, Barbourne

**Treefest** see website: [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-treefest](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-treefest)  
Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos

### Flat Stanley

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

### The Ginger Strummer

Stroud Brewery

**Summerfest 2015:** 2 stages see website for details  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Voodoo Blue

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### The Executives

Cross Keys, Malvern

## Sunday 2 August 2015

**Livestock Music Festival** see ([www.livestocklongdon.co.uk](http://www.livestocklongdon.co.uk))  
Manor Farm, Longdon

### Malvern Rocks Festival

([www.malvernrocks.com](http://www.malvernrocks.com))

### The Big Band: Five Star Swing

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Treefest** see website: [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-treefest](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-treefest)  
Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos

**Cheltenham Real Ale Festival** - see website -  
[www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamcamra.org.uk)  
Cheltenham Town Hall

### Guiting Music Festival, Temple Guiting

see website - [www.guitingfestival.org](http://www.guitingfestival.org)

### Unplugged - The Greasy Slicks

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

**Appfest** - see [www.farmersarms-lowerapperley.co.uk](http://www.farmersarms-lowerapperley.co.uk)  
Farmers Arms, Lower Apperley, Glos

### Cryin' Out Loud

The Old Bush, Callow End

### Jazz Alchemy Band & Urban Roots Reggae Band

Vines Park, Droitwich

### Vo Fletcher

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### Panic Station

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### The Mayors Outside Party

Priory Park, Great Malvern

### Blues Night - Alvin Youngblood Hart + Gwyn Ashton

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### Stuart Bishop

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Tasha

The White Bear Tewkesbury

### Betsy Harmony 1-3pm

The Fleece, Bretforton

### Abbie Farley

The Pheasant, Worcester

## Wednesday 5 August 2015

### The Murmur

Hop Pole, Bewdley

### Faithful City Morris Men

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### Martin The Hatter & Friends

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### Pretty Things Peepshow

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

## Thursday 6 August 2015

### Fox & The Law (Seattle)

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### Pheasant Presents

The Pheasant, Worcester

### Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

### Jammin Night Hosted by Ben Vickers

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Charity Biker Night - The Good, the Bad and the Elderly

The Fleece, Bretforton

### Matt Woosey

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### The Rainbreakers

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## Friday 7 August 2015

### Come Together

Event House, Worcester

### Lakefest

[www.lakefest.co.uk](http://www.lakefest.co.uk)



### The Ron Jeremy Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Ital Sounds DJs

Pig and Drum, Worcester

### Sarah Martyn

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

### Down on The Farm music festival

[www.downonthefarmfestival.gwatkinscider.co.uk](http://www.downonthefarmfestival.gwatkinscider.co.uk)  
Moorhampton Park Farm, Abbeydore, Hereford

### Time Of The Mouth, Secrets Of Mariana, King Corpse

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Floyd Earl Band

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### The Disciples

Drummonds, Worcester



### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Subduction**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **No Strings Attached**

Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, Stourbridge

### **Tom Forbes**

The Dog & Partridge, Alcester

### **Steve Lindforth**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **The Underdogs**

The Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Daddy's Girl**

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

### **The Undercovers**

Olivers Malvern, Malvern

### **Protocol**

Ye Old Black Cross, Worcester road, Bromsgrove

### **The Lazy Sunday**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Zadie Smith**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Definitely Mightbe + Adored**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Zombie Apocalypse**

Out To Grass, Woodend Farm, Bromyard Rd, Malvern

### **Skabucks**

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### **Tom Davies**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Saturday 8 August 2015**

### **Lakefest**

www.lakefest.co.uk

### **Slam Cartel + Silent Divide**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### **Citizen -X**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **The Underclass**

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

### **Smells Like Peas**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **The Fireballs**

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### **Stuart Woolfenden**

Centenary Square, Birmingham, Birmingham

### **Down on The Farm music festival**

www.downonthefarmfestival.gwatkinscider.co.uk  
Moorhampton Park Farm, Abbeydore, Hereford

### **The Futures**

Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Ash Mandrake, Wolfren Riverstick**

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

### **Killerstream**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Jess Silk**

Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, Stourbridge

### **Bad Manners**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Mistrusted + Special Guests**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### **Festival Experience**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **Shanty Town Pirate Night with The Defektors, Solid**

**Gone, The Hat Club, Two Anchors**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Prism**

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

### **Wet Desert**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **The Wildwest**

Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Madcap Theatre: Midsummer Night's Dream**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

## **Sunday 9 August 2015**

### **Lakefest**

www.lakefest.co.uk

### **Gwyn Ashton**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Unplugged & Acoustic - Slam Cartel & Silent Divide**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### **Mark Leedham**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Andre Bisson**

The Old Bush, Callow End

### **Down on The Farm music festival**

www.downonthefarmfestival.gwatkinscider.co.uk  
Moorhampton Park Farm, Abbeydore, Hereford

### **Lazy Sunday with Jabba Cartel, Elea Clavet, Daisy Chain**

**Quartet, Jack of All**

Cafe Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester

### **Story Jams**

Cosy Coffee Cafe, Coventry Street, Kidderminster

### **Devon Harrison Jazz Trio Strawberries Champagne**

**Garden Party Festival 12.30pm**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Bands in the park**

Brinton Park, Kidderminster

### **Hunter and The Bear**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **The Underclass**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Dave C**

The White Bear Tewkesbury

### **Sunday Sessions**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Wednesday 12 August 2015**

### **Drifter**

Hop Pole, Bewdley

### **The Strays**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **28 Boulevard**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

## **Thursday 13 August 2015**

### **Blair Dunlop**

St Georges Church, Radford Avenue, Kidderminster

### **Pheasant Presents**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **Lounge Toad**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Who's Next - The Ultimate Who Tribute Show**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### **Blair Dunlop**

St George's Church, Kidderminster

### **Slap Mag presents Will Killeen**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Troublesome Trio**

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

### **Ian Luther**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## **Friday 14 August 2015**

### **Chevy Chase Stole My Wife**

The Barge & Barrel, Tipton, Dudley

### **Matt Bowen**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

### **Protocol**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Guns N' Roses Experience**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **The Commandments**

Drummonds, Worcester

### **Local Talent Night**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Matt Woosey**

Coachhouse Theatre, Grange Road, Malvern

### **Dan Hartland**

Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, Stourbridge

### **The Tuesday Syndicate**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Uke Man League**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **The Bright Eyes**

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### **DJ Night**

Pig and Drum, Worcester

### **All Stars Dub Band, Gruig, Alula Down, Phattimango, Secret Stash, Miss Pearl and the Rough Diamonds**

The Marlbank Inn, Marlbank Road, Welland

### **Tom Forbes**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **Tom Callinswood**

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

### **Reggae Night**

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

### **Dodgy**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Woo Town Hillbillies**

Red Lion, 6, Market Place, Evesham

### **Time Of The Mouth, Ocean Bread, Liberty Artillery**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Nice and Sleazy**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Repo-Man + Special Guests**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### **Protocol**

Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Vehicle**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Andy Margrett**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **2 Faced Dance: Kapow - 11.15 am and 1.00 pm**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Delray Rockets**

The Camp, Grimley

## **Saturday 15 August 2015**

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Woodman, Lower Gornal, Dudley

### **Tom Davies**

The Swan Inn, Barbourne

### **Allstars Dub Band**

The Marlbank Inn, Welland, Malvern

### **Amanda Stone**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **The Delray Rockets**

Callow End Club, Worcester

### **Arkvard Stew Band**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Tom Forbes**

The Seven Stars, Redditch, Worcestershire

### **Northern Soul with DJ Benny**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **Drumlove**

Out To Grass, Woodend Farm, Bromyard Rd, Malvern

### **Sam Kelly Trio**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Megan Reece**

Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, Stourbridge

### **Welland Music Festival**

The Marlbank, Welland

### **Rain or Shine Theatre Co**

Witley Court, Worcester Road, Great Witley

### **Stuart Woolfenden**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Stoner Night - Desert Storm + Grifter + Mother Corona**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### **Sam Draisey, The Puxtons, Ridge Top Mountain Boys**

Habberley Valley Nature Reserve, Habberley Road, Bewdley

### **Black Cat Bone**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **The Dilemma Council**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Still Crazy**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **Keith and the Alchemists, Smokefarm + 1TBC**

The Marris bar, Worcester

## **44 SLAP AUGUST**

### **Gary Hall**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Gunn Runner**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Kev 'n' Dave**

Cross Keys, Malvern

### **White Noise Sound**

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Quill**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

## **Sunday 16 August 2015**

### **Bric-A-Brac, Bellysimmo Belly Dance, Worcester Ukelele Club,**

### **Granny's Attic**

Gheluvelt Park, Barbourne Road, Worcester

### **Jackie Baker**

The White Bear Tewkesbury

### **Sa\$S Plus DJ Laura Walford & Danny Clives**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Matt Bowen**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Will Killeen**

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### **Live Music Sunday**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Monday 17 August 2015**

### **Nervosa (Brazil)**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

## **Wednesday 19 August 2015**

### **The Exiles**

Hop Pole, Bewdley

### **Jessica Rhodes**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Red Tongue Dogs**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### **Charity Biker Night - The Good, the Bad and the Elderly**

The Fleece, Bretforton

### **James**

Worcester Racecourse

### **Hereford Live - Quarter Stone - plus support**

The Barrels, Hereford

## **Thursday 20 August 2015**

### **Pheasant Presents**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **Debbie Bond and The Trudats**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Troublesome Trio**

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

### **Sarabeth & Glen Mitchell**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Local Up Coming Musicians Night**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## **Friday 21 August 2015**

### **Mr Ben**

Drummonds, Worcester

### **Random Hand, Fights And Fires, Brassick**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Dublin Jacks**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Bridget & the Big Girls Blues Band**

Red Lion, 6, Market Place, Evesham

### **Final Warning**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

### **Weekend of music and art of every kind**

Worcester Street, -, Kidderminster

### **David Young**

Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, Stourbridge

### **Machine Gun Etiquette (The Damned Experience)**

The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

### **Budapest Cafe Orchestra**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **DJ Night**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Tom Walker Trio**

Queens Haed, Wolverley

### **Drifter**

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley





**Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Gunrunner**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Future Set - resident band**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Where's Martin**  
Pickled Plum, Pershore

**Protocol**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

**Black Feathers**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Executives**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Trio Rosbifs**  
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**Tone Tanner**  
Red Lion, 6, Market Place, Evesham

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**  
Lounge Bar, Great Malvern

**Matt Bowen (solo)**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Roger Roberts**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

## Saturday 29 August 2015

**The John Steeds**  
The Trumpet Inn, 13 Merstow Green, Evesham

**The Mob**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Starmaker International**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne

**Stone Broken**  
The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

**Delray Rockets**  
Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Rattlesnake Jake**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Cheesy Dick**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Joseph and Maia**  
Stroud Brewery

**Mel and Him**  
Great Malvern Hotel

**Emi McDade**  
Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar, Stourbridge

**Jay & Eli**  
The Maple Leaf, Worcester

**Welcome To The 1960's - Retro Fest**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Sunshine Festival** [www.uptonfestival.co.uk](http://www.uptonfestival.co.uk)  
Fish Meadow, Upton Upon Severn

**Stuart Woolfenden**  
Stourport Civic Centre, Martins Way, Stourport-on-Severn,

**Gandhi's Walrus**  
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

**Chuck Harriet**  
Pickled Plum, Pershore

**Pete Hyde & Friends**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**The Ben Stancombe Band**  
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

**Sax Appeal**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Some Other Beings**  
Ye Olde Seven Stars, oventry Street, Kidderminster,

**Prism**  
BeeFest, Hellens Manor, Much Marcle

**Nite Train**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**DNA**  
Cross Keys, Malvern

**The Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Swan, Staunton, Gloucestershire

## Sunday 30 August 2015

**CoverJunkies**  
The Bell, Lower Broadheath

**Sunshine Festival** [www.uptonfestival.co.uk](http://www.uptonfestival.co.uk)  
Fish Meadow, Upton Upon Severn

**Five**  
Gloucester Leisure Centre

**The Commandments**  
River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Will Killeen**  
The Majors Arms, Halmonds Frome

## Premier Listing

Your event in this space just £10  
[adverts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:adverts@slapmag.co.uk)

**Herefordshire Sausage & Cider Music Festival**  
King George V Playing Fields, Hereford

**Guns Or Roses**  
The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

**Population7**  
The Marrs bar, Worcester

**TaylorMade**  
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Revolution - DJ All-Dayer**  
Firefly, Worcester

**Ian Parker Band**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Maddie Stimpson**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**Hugh Cornwell**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**The Dirty Strangers**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Tom Walker Trio**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**James Hickman**  
The White Bear Tewkesbury

**Live Music Sunday**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

## Monday 31 August 2015

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
The Hollybush, Mitton Street, Stourport on Severn, DY13 0AA

**Prism** (See more info at [www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk](http://www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk))  
Pershore Plum Festival, Abbey Park, Pershore

**Mike Skilbeck**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne

**Donnie Vie & Baz Francis, (Enuff Z'nuff & Magic Eight Ball) + Guns Or Roses Acoustic**  
The Iron Road, Evesham in Evesham

Can't see your gig or event?  
Next time get listed!  
Upload your event to:  
[www.notjustsauce.com](http://www.notjustsauce.com)  
or [www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed](http://www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed)

Listings in conjunction  
with NotJustSauce.com





# Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

## **Every Monday - Open Mic**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Every Monday - Folk Session**

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

## **1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session**

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **4th Mon - Singaround**

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

## **Fortnightly Mon Open Mic**

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

## **Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights**

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **First Tues - Open Mic**

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

## **First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **Last Tues - Folk Night**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band**

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

## **Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly**

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

## **Every other Tues - Acoustic Session**

Cap n Gown, Worcester

## **Every Tue - Open Mic**

The Firefly, Worcester

## **Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic**

Great Malvern Hotel

## **Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country)**

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

## **2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session**

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

## **3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris**

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

## **1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy**

The Cardinal's Hat, Knightwick

## **1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround**

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

## **Every other Wednesday - Acoustic Sessions**

The Cap n Gown, Worcester

## **Every Wednesday - Irish Session**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Fortnightly Wed Open Mic**

The Queens Head, Redditch

## **Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session**

The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

## **Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session**

The Plough & Harrow, Guarlford

## **First Wed - Open Mic**

The Jailhouse, Hereford

## **Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session**

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

## **Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming**

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

## **Every Wed - Folk Jam Session**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

## **Every Wed - Music at The Red Lion**

The Red Lion, Malvern

## **Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

## **3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session**

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

## **Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James**

The Chestnut, Worcester

## **Every Thurs - Open Mic with Dave Onions**

Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

## **Thursday - Monthly Open Mic Night**

The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

## **Every other Thursday, Paul And Rays Sessions**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club**

Catskill Club, Bromsgrove

## **Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session**

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## **Every 1st & 3rd Thursday Ben Vickers Open Mic Night**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## **Every Thur - Acoustic Session**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

## **3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session**

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

## **3rd Thur - Comedy Night**

The Bridge, Worcester

## **Every 4th Thurs - Open mic night with Blue Street**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session**

The Morgan, Malvern

## **Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton**

The Unicorn, Malvern

## **1st Fri - Acoustic Session**

The Camp, Grimley

## **3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop**

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

## **Last Fri - Acoustic Session**

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

## **Every Fri - Irish Session**

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

## **Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson**

Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

## **Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **1st Sat - Acoustic session**

The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

## **Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm**

The Morgan, Malvern

## **Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session**

Social Club, West Malvern

## **Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm**

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

## **Every Sunday - Open Mic 7.30**

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

## **2nd Sun - Acoustic Session**

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

## **Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00**

Lichfield Vaults

## **Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions**

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

## **3rd Sun - Singaround format Session**

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

## **Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish**

Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club**

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

**Listings in conjunction with NotJustSauce.com**

# Arts & Exhibitions

**Until 12th Childrens Craft Showcase**, Pershore No 8

**From 6th Sound System Culture exhibition**

The Drum, Birmingham

**6-8th Lakefest, Tewksbury**

**7-9th Zombie Apocalypse** Out to grass

**8th Story Jams**, Cosy Coffee, Kidderminster

**8th - 22nd Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF)**

**8th - Luminous Birds event** Kidderminster Town Hall

**10th - Creative Writers Group**, The Hive, Worcester 7pm

**From 13th Cut, Fold, Bind, Adventures in book creation**  
Pershe No 8.

**14th - Narrative - Collective**,

Crowngate Shopping Centre, Worcester 6.30pm

**15th Acting up drama workshop**, Pershore No8

**22rd Boars Head Fringe Festival**, Kidderminster

**22nd-23rd Above Boards paint jam**, Kidderminster

**23rd Mouth & Music KAF special 2.30-5pm**

Boars Head Kidderminster

**23rd 'Whiplash'** The Hive Film Club 6pm

**from 27th Sculpture Trail**, Jinney Ring craft centre

**28th Young peoples open mic**, The Hive Worcester 6pm

# THE MARR'S BAR

**AUG  
SEPT** 2015



The Stiff Joints  
Saturday 5th September

**Saturday 1st August**

**Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 14th**

**3 bands £3 - Time Of The Mouth,  
Ocean Bread + Liberty Artillery**

**Saturday 15th August**

**3 bands £3 - Keith and the Alchemists,  
Smokefarm + 1TBC**

**Friday 21st August**

**Faithful City Shows Present:**

**Random Hand, Fights & Fires, Brassick**

£7.50 in advance

**Saturday 29th August**

**Population7**

£4 in advance £5 on the door

**Friday 4th September**

**Monster Riff's - Merciless Terror,  
Soden, Bleak Zero, Skinhorse**

£3 in advance

**Saturday 5th September**

**Worcester Music Festival & Slap Mag  
presents WMF 2015 warm up The Stiff  
Joints, Skewwhiff & Humdrum Express**

£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Saturday 12th September**

**Stu Ev's 50th Birthday celebration  
Riff/Raff & Stone Cold Killers**

Free entry

## Worcester Music Festival

**Friday 18th September 7-12pm**

**Rhythm & Booze presents:**

**You Know The Drill, HEY YOU GUYS!,  
The Bophins, Lying for Friends plus**

**Special Guest**

**Saturday 19th September WMF**

**11:00: Worcester school of Rock and  
Performance Workshop**

**13:00: Worcester school of Rock and  
Performance Workshop - Showcase**

**16:00: Jason Bowld Drum Masterclass**

**6 - 12pm SLAP Presents WMF**

**Cantaloop, White Feather Collective,  
Flat Stanley, Attila the Stockbroker,**

**Vault of Eagles, Silverlake**

**Sunday 20th September WMF**

**Task in Hand Presents: Das Sexy Clap,  
Theo, The Broken Oak Duet, Esteban,**

**Howard James Kenny, plus a very  
special guest**

**Friday 25th September**

**Oye Santana (Tribute)**

£11 in advance £13 on the door

**Saturday 26th September**

**Guns Or Roses**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Wednesdays - Jamming night**

**Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5**

[www.marrsbar.co.uk](http://www.marrsbar.co.uk)

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