

# SLAP

Issue 58

May 2016

FREE

A person wearing a black mask and clothing is performing on a stage. They are holding a microphone in their right hand and a black cord in their left hand. The background is a blue wall with a window. The person is wearing a black shirt with a logo on the left chest and black pants. They are also wearing several black bracelets on their right wrist.

**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**



# SLAP

MAY 2016 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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Last month ended on yet another sad musical note as Prince left this plane, if indeed he ever inhabited the same one as us mere mortals.

Certainly not everyone's cup of Darjeeling but few could deny his supernatural talents whether in writing, playing, performing or inspiring; he was often cited as one of the most underrated guitarists, probably only though because he was so good at almost everything else.

Tis a cliché but his like will certainly not be seen again: *Sometimes It Snows In April* indeed.

On a brighter note April also saw a record-breaking (not literally hopefully) Record Store Day as local shops outdid themselves, despite some unfortunates queueing outside Rise in Worcester having to contend with snow flurries. The tills were red hot though so we are told and business was more than brisk with no sign of the record (not 'vinyl' please) boom slowing down any time soon. You can read and see much more about what was an absolutely storming day, in Duncan Graves' review and photo spread on page 23.

And so we march into May (or it may still be March for all I know) somewhat trepidatiously: "Ne'er cast a clout til May is out" goes the old farmers' saying; clout being yer coat not a wallop! But the grass is ever growing as the festival season begins in earnest with **The Beltane Bash, Cheltenham Jazz, Beat it!, Mello, Out To Grass, Wychwood, Breaking Bands, Winchcombe, Lechade, Tenbury** and **Lunar** all imminent. There's no lookin' back now til after **Worcester Music Festival** in mid September when we will doubtlessly collapse in a haze of hopefully happy remembrance with somewhat battle-battered bodies from a summer of over-indulgence and too much camping!

So get yer diaries sorted with all your dates - you're going to need it with the masses of happenings all over our 3 Counties and beyond. We at Slap will do our damndest as always to keep you informed on the latest fest news. In the meantime have fun - we certainly will.

Love and Peace to all X

*Exalt-ed*



Front cover image - Rosebud  
by Duncan Graves  
on Record Store Day at Rise Records

## Artrix wins Worcestershire arts award

**Artrix** in Bromsgrove came out on top in the **Worcestershire What's On Reader's Award** for **Best Small Theatre/Arts Venue** in Worcestershire. Over 25,000 public votes were cast in the magazine's inaugural awards.

Artrix was voted the winner in this category with other nominees including **The Swan Theatre, Worcester**, **The Palace Theatre, Redditch** and **Number 8 Community Arts**, Pershore, with the runner-up prize being awarded to **Evesham Arts Centre**.

**Hannah Phillips**, Artrix's Director said *'We're absolutely thrilled to have won this award. Thank you so much to everyone who voted for us. We're celebrating our 11th birthday this month, what a wonderful present'*

## Birmingham Autumn Electronic Fest Announced

In November of 2016 the inaugural **'The Seventh Wave Festival of Electronic Music'** takes place across four days and across three venues in Birmingham. **Seventh Wave** are promoters who consistently bring first class, exciting music to The 2nd City and this is another superb event in prospect.

The stellar 'live' line-up includes highly influential ambient industrialists **:zoviet\*france:**, revered Krautrock electronica collective **Gnod**, Ex-Kraftwerk member **Wolfgang Flur**, **DJ Rusty Egan** of **Visage** fame and current **Porcupine Tree** member **Richard Barbieri**.

One of the fest highlights will be an all-day conference with key note speeches from **Wolfgang Flur**, **OMD's Andy McCluskey** and **Rusty Egan**.

To say we at Slap HQ are excited about this happening is an understatement and with tickets selling fast we urge you in the direction of <https://theseventhwaveblog.wordpress.com> for details on all the events and either [www.thetickettellers.co.uk](http://www.thetickettellers.co.uk) or [www.skiddle.com/](http://www.skiddle.com/) for all your ticketing needs.

## Lakefest Unsigned Opportunity

An exciting opportunity has opened at this year's **Lakefest** where the organisers are inviting unsigned music acts to enter their **'Open Lakefest Livewire'** competition. A live video of your act must be submitted to [play@thefloatingglobe.co.uk](http://thefloatingglobe.co.uk) by Monday 16th May so get yer skates on kids. The finalists will be chosen by the organisers but the eventual winners will be chosen by the public and have the honour of opening this year's festival in August.

Lakefest director **Lee Martin** has announced that the opening performance on the main stage at this year's event running from **11-14 August** will be an unsigned act chosen by a free-to-enter competition - **'Open Lakefest Livewire'**. With the finalists picked by the organisers and the winner decided by the most Youtube likes on a dedicated channel. This year's fifth festival is being held for the first time at the old **Big Chill** site of **Eastnor Castle Deer Park** and features headliners **Primal Scream**, **We Are Scientists**, **StarSailor** and latest announcement **Cast**.

For full details on the Livewire competition please visit <http://lakefest.co.uk/the-latest/open-lakefest-livewire>

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## Kinver Fest Act Request

The organisers of **Kinver Music Festival** are looking for acts for the three-day event taking place from 15-17 July - this will be the third festival held in a variety of locations in the village with the aim of raising money for local charities - more details on their website or contact organiser Tim at [t.charnock@btinternet.com](mailto:t.charnock@btinternet.com)

## 10cc's of Wychwood

**Wychwood Festival** has announced that this year's Saturday headliners for the Cheltenham Racecourse family-friendly bash (3-5 June) will be iconic British rock act **10cc** - featuring original members **Graham Gouldman** and **Paul Burgess** - full lineup and details at [wychwoodfestival.com](http://wychwoodfestival.com)

## Fratellis For Livestock

**Livestock Festival** has announced that **The Fratellis** will be the Saturday night headliners at the **Manor Farm, Longdon** event from 29-31 July - joining previously announced acts such as **Reef**, **Jason Donovan** and **Reverend & The Makers** - more info at [livestocklongdon.co.uk](http://livestocklongdon.co.uk)

## Olivers' Demise

Punters have been paying tribute to **Olivers Bar** in Malvern after it suddenly closed after 20 years - with plans to transform it into a restaurant by the summer. Besides being one of most popular social centres for Malvern youngsters it's also been an occasional social venue for events like **Malvern Rocks** and local musician Ruben Seabright proposed to his fiancée (now wife) Becky after a New Year's Eve gig with his band!

## Nozstock Chocka!

**Nozstock** has added more acts to a packed billing ahead of this year's event at **The Hidden Valley** near Bromyard from 22-24 July including **Imelda May**, **The Skints** and **Goldie** joining previously announced headliners **Jurassic 5** and **Gentleman's Dub Club** - there'll also be comedy provided by performers such as **Phil Kay** and **Richard Herring** - details at [nozstock.com](http://nozstock.com)

## Worcester Carnival Returns

Plans are well afoot for the long-overdue return of **Worcester Carnival** with a longer route - starting and finishing at the Pitchcroft Grandstand - and the return of floats to accompany walking groups and marching bands. The aim is to raise money for charities **Headway** and the **Help Georgie** campaign and will have the theme **Musicals, Theatres and Worcester** - there'll also be a Carnival King and Queen and while there's been a good response from women to wear the tiara - there's a slight shortage of male applicants. If you're interested in being feted royally for a day or willing to lend an organising hand then visit [facebook.com/worcscarnival](http://facebook.com/worcscarnival) for more details!!

## Breaking Bands Sell Out!

The second **Breaking Bands Festival** at **Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club** on 27-29 May has again sold out well in advance - with organisers announcing a couple of last-minute changes to the bill with Nottingham goth rockers **Cadence Noir** replacing **Mad Hatter** - and **Parkin Lot** closing the event with songs chosen by the audience (!) - there'll also be a full line-up on the **Get Your Rock Out** acoustic stage - [breakingbandfestival.com](http://breakingbandfestival.com)

## Osmonds for Malvern

Advance warning of a frightening display of all-American dentistry - as the gleaming choppers of **Osmond brothers Jimmy, Jay and Merrill** join the cast of the **Andy Williams** Christmas Extravaganza at **Malvern Theatres** on Thursday 22 December as part of an UK and international touring event that was started in the 60s - guaranteed by 'Little Jimmy' to get you into a 'warm and fuzzy Christmas mood...'

## Motor Fest returns

Worcester will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the **Motor Festival** with a great mix of exciting new and well-loved established feature displays and motoring themed activities throughout the city centre on **Saturday 14th May 2016** from 9am to 5pm. Free admission. For further information explore [www.worcestermotorfestival.com](http://www.worcestermotorfestival.com), or follow the event on Facebook and Twitter @WorcMotorFest

## Mello Friday Headliners Announced

As the name suggests **Mello Festival** (Friday 27th May - Sunday 29th May) prides itself on being the biggest chilled event around. Taking place at **Throckmorton Airfield** near Evesham over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, Mello are pleased to announce their Friday night headliners in the shape of ex-**Simple Minds** legends **XSM**.

Adding their names to first class bill which includes **The Levellers, The Blockheads, Pentangle, Lemar** and many others, XSM normally features original Simps members **Derek Forbes** and **Brian McGee** who were responsible for composing early

classics such as '*Chelsea Girl*', '*Great Cities*' and '*I Travel*', in addition to Golden Era faves such as '*Promised You A Miracle*', '*Glittering Prize*' and of course '*Don't You Forget About Me*'. Lead singer of XSM comes in the shape of **Owen Paul**, the Scottish singer, producer and co-writer of the 1986 UK and European smash summer hit '*My Favourite Waste Of Time*'. Owen happens to be Brian's brother also so XSM is something of a classy family affair. Unfortunately for this and next year Derek is unavailable for XSM engagements but he is more than ably filled by **Gary Irvine**.

## Success for Macmillan

**Bourbon Alley** and the **Ray Mytton Band** raised £650 to support **Macmillan Nurses**. **The Marrs Bar** saw over 100 turn up show their support on 1st April and a great evening was had by all. Organiser **Charlie Lyons** said '*I'm hoping to make this an annual event and raise even more next year*'.

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The outdoor event season is here which means **Clik Clik** is flat busy with festival mischief and street fun. Look out for the **Youth Centre** float at **Pershore Carnival** on 30th, a pop up DIY gallery at **Out To Grass** on the 28th come and take part in Clik Clik's **Asparalympics** at **Evesham Asparafest** on June 4th & 5th for some crazy madcap capers and shenanigans!

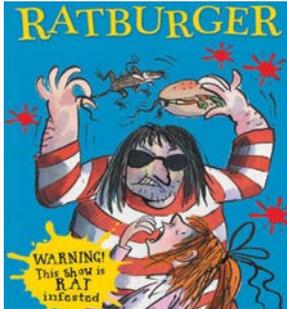
[www.clikklikcollective.com](http://www.clikklikcollective.com)



## Ratburger comes to Bewdley!

After the phenomenal success of their adaptation of **Mr Stink**, **Heartbreak Productions** are back with the theatrical premiere of *Ratburger* by **David Walliams**, adapted for the outdoor stage.

Voted the top children's book of the year in 2012, we follow Zoe as she battles through a life littered with pitfalls and grizzly individuals. Never giving up on her dream of travelling the world, and inspired by her love of animals, Zoe is determined to save her pet rat and escape her home in a leaning tower block.



Join **Heartbreak Productions** as they perform a modern thriller that promises to deliver a blend of dark reality and empowering comedy for the modern child.

Recommended for 7+ (parents/guardians may bring younger children at their own discretion)

Bewdley Museum. Sun 5th June 4pm. £8 or £30 a family ticket

Bookings: [wyreforestdc.gov.uk/bookings](http://wyreforestdc.gov.uk/bookings) or call 08456077819

## Confab returns!

**Ash Dickinson**, a multiple poetry slam champion (including Edinburgh, Cheltenham and BBC Radio) has just released a new book 'Strange Keys' and will be performing some poems from this brand new collection at this month's fab **Confab Cabaret**, this time up at **The West Malvern Social Club**.

Ash is being supported by the Fab Malvern Performer **Elliot Seabright** + we'll have all the usual ConFab loveliness including **The Silliest Raffle**, **Fox Pops** and her wonderful **Audience Poem** and of course our hostess **Amy Rainbow!** There's the Open Mic too, sign up on the door for a slot.

Entry is by Donation. Tuesday 24th May at 8pm.



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## Visual Audio



Music and visuals came together on 8th April for **Surprise Attacks** no#42, (see review page 33) with homegrown musical genius **Ben Powers'** project **Blanck Mass** along with the super creative stimulations of both **Ferric Lux** and **Rosebud**. We were submerged into dark soundscapes to revive our aural and visual senses, with music and imagery tumbling together as one, giving us a rare (but hopefully not singular) night of cutting edge arts in Worcester.

## Take Three at Eastside

*Take Three* by **Performance as Publishing** features newly commissioned performances by **Ruth Beale**, **Marie Toseland & Sophie Mallet** and **Nicole Bachmann** alongside screenings of artists' films from the **LUX Archive** and is broadcast by **This is Tomorrow**. Hosted



by **Eastside Projects** in Digbeth, it is a continuation of Performance as Publishing's ongoing investigation into text, writing and language in contemporary art, specifically in performance.

Doors open at 6.30 and will close at 7pm.

Supported by the **Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia** and **Arts Council England**.

[www.eastsideprojects.org](http://www.eastsideprojects.org) [www.thisistomorrow.info](http://www.thisistomorrow.info)

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

## Body Double?

A one off discounted body-casting session is being held at the **Boars Head**, Kidderminster, giving a fantastic opportunity for budding and established actors to get their faces cast in preparation for future SFX work, couples to get their hands cast and for parents to get their children's hands and/ or feet cast as a cherished memento. We will also be offering to take casts of your pet's paws too!!!

Places are allocated at 45-minute intervals and a deposit of £10 is required to secure your booking as we expect this to be a very popular event.

To book a place please call 07515 442434, if we cannot answer please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. Deposits can be taken at the Boars Head.

# Never Judge a Book

Launching at the 2016 Hay Festival, Meadow Arts present an exhibition investigating the book as an object by a diverse range of renowned artists, who enquire into its function, its form and its symbolic value.



Never Judge a Book features work from artists including **Anselm Kiefer, Fiona Banner, Harland Miller, Michael Craig-Martin** and **Jonathan Callan**, in the iconic **Richard Booth's Bookshop**, the secondhand bookshop that launched the now world-famous Hay Festival.

Many influential artists have used books as objects in their work, in a spirit of inquiry or critique. They appropriate, reinvent and test the graphic capacities of the object, to encourage the viewer to reassess notions of general knowledge, prevailing truth or even individual escape.

Richard Booth's Bookshop, Hay-on-Wye. 27 May – 17 July 2016  
[www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org)

To submit your arts news & events email Kate at  
[arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)



## NEVER JUDGE A BOOK...

Artists explore the book as object in an exciting exhibition in the heart of Hay

**27 May to 17 July 2016 Free entry**

**Richard Booth's Bookshop**, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5AA

For special live events visit [www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org)



ARTS COUNCIL  
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meadow arts

Michael Craig-Martin *Untitled (book)*, 2014  
Courtesy the artist and Gagosian Gallery. Photo: Mike Bruce

## Dancefest workshops this month

### Guest workshop with Csaba Molnár

A workshop for experienced dancers with **Csaba Molnár**, whose company is in Britain to perform as part of **IDFB (International Dance Festival Birmingham)**. Csaba is currently working for the Hungarian dance company, **Hodworks**, and teaches at the Budapest Contemporary Dance Academy.

**Sunday 8 May Dancefest, The Angel Centre**, Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN. 11am-1pm £15 (concessions £10)



# BIG DANCE

## Big Dance Pledge Friday 20 May

**Big Dance** is a national biennial festival devoted to people dancing. **Dancefest** is the West Midlands Hub organisation for Big Dance, working with colleagues from across the region and nationally. Renowned choreographer **Akram Khan** has created the choreography for 2016. Sign up and find free dance resources at [bigdance.org.uk](http://bigdance.org.uk)

## Dance film project (16+)

**Dancefest** is working in partnership with the **National Trust** at **Croome** to produce **Vista**, a community dance performance on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July that brings to life the landscape created by '**Capability**' **Brown**. This intensive three-day project for creative, experienced dancers to choreograph material around the follies and eye catching buildings in the parkland, will be filmed and shown as part of Vista. It's free to take part but booking is essential.

**Monday 30 May - Wednesday 1 June**, 10am-4pm, Croome, Worcestershire, WR8 9DW

To book on to any of Dancefest's projects or classes visit [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk), or ring 01905 611199



## Ashmolean Museum Broadway

British Born **Edward Lear** (1812–1888) was "probably the best ornithological illustrator that ever was," according to David Attenborough and until 8th May you can catch his popular **"Travels and Nonsense"** exhibition the **Ashmolean Museum**. This exhibition displays many watercolours and sketches from his travels around Europe as well as scribbles for his illustrated books as featured in the March edition of SLAP.

Visitors from far-flung corners of the world have converged on the museum so what is all the fuss about?



The landscape paintings are beautifully detailed, tiny portraits of animals and people going about their everyday business. The sketches look like a snapshot of real life from various European countries. Goat herders watch as their goats take a rest or a well-earned munch on the grass, children playing by a well, hunters gather on a hilltop, guns by their sides, to admire the view.

Perhaps my favourite of all the sketches is one from India, and it is full of life. Men bathe in the foreground, while behind them you see buffalo pulling wagons and people riding elephants. In many of the sketches Lear has left himself notes, to remind himself of the colours he sees, or what he will add to the painting back in his studio.

The exhibition includes a few finished paintings, almost postcard sized, and looking resplendent, but somehow the sketches feel more alive, more genuine, and more what the artist really saw than what he wanted to represent to a paying customer.

The exhibition is on until 8th May, with a talk by the curator **Colin Harrison**, Senior Curator of European Art, on **Friday 6th May** at 5pm. Tickets are £10. For details telephone 01386 859047 or email [housemanager@ashmoleanbroadway.org](mailto:housemanager@ashmoleanbroadway.org).

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Also this month you can see an exhibition of etchings by **F.L. Griggs** (1876–1938)

**Visions of England** celebrate the work of this Royal Academy artist who lived and worked locally in Chipping Campden.

It is as a draughtsman and printmaker that Griggs is best known, his work demonstrating an equal mastery of meticulous architectural detail and poetic effects of light and atmosphere, creating images of compelling visionary intensity.



In early twentieth century he completed twelve volumes of the Macmillan illustrated guidebook series **Highways and Byways** including one devoted to Oxford and the Cotswolds (1905). Places that he originally encountered as an illustrator often subsequently provided him with inspiration for his own topographical and imaginative work.

11 May–11 September 2016 with a talk on June 17th by the exhibition curator, tickets £10 [ashmoleanbroadway.org](http://ashmoleanbroadway.org)

*Sarah Ganderton*

# 6

artists  
are  
at



## Ledbury

Weaver's Gallery  
Church Lane  
HR8 1DW

Monday 30th May  
Sunday 12th June 2016  
10am - 5pm Daily

Megan Arnold Fleen Doran Ben Homer  
Elaine Mason Kathleen Murphy Fiona Pringle

# Rembrandt and Modern Masters



Over 50 of Rembrandt's etchings are being exhibited in **Rembrandt and Modern Masters** at the **John Davies Gallery** in Gloucestershire. It is the first time the etchings have been shared with the public in over a decade.

The exhibition in support of award - winning charity **Create**, which enables disadvantaged or vulnerable people to participate in the creative arts.

The collection of etchings focuses on 'Rembrandt's people', portraits, self-portraits and figure studies that explore the human condition. The collection has been selected to support Create's programmes due to the charity's approach of using the creative arts to promote acceptance, inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged people. Many of its programmes use portraiture in its different forms as a way of enabling participants to explore their identities and express themselves.



Rembrandt's etchings are being displayed alongside a selection of original prints by modern artists including **Auerbach, Bacon, Freud, Hockney, Moore, Picasso** and **Pissarro**. These are currently on sale, with a percentage of the proceeds supporting Create's creative arts programmes.



Create enables disadvantaged and vulnerable people across the UK to access inspiring creative arts workshops led by professional artists that enable them to develop confidence, self-esteem, social skills and new friendships. Since the charity was founded in 2003, Create's programmes have benefited over 30,000 people.

Co-Founder and Chief Executive of Create, **Nicky Goulder**, commented, "Rembrandt is arguably one of the greatest painters and printmakers in European art history despite experiencing hardships including the ill-health and premature deaths of his children, before himself dying in poverty. It feels very fitting that these etchings are being exhibited to raise support for Create's programmes. We understand how beneficial taking part in the arts can be to disadvantaged people and how much they have to contribute. Cuts to arts funding are making it increasingly difficult for them to access the arts, and we are deeply committed to ensuring that they can benefit from the health and social benefits that taking part provide."

Curator of the exhibition **Hans-Juergen Moesch** commented, "The emphasis on the figurative side of Rembrandt's art enables us to be touched by the artist's brilliant ability to penetrate to the soul of an individual human being."

John Davies Gallery, Morton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.  
Until 7th May, Monday-Saturday 10.00-17.00.  
[createarts.co.uk](http://createarts.co.uk) [johndaviesgallery.com](http://johndaviesgallery.com)

## Worcester Canal Group

Since its formation two years ago the Worcester Canal group has been active. You may remember the three day music festival held in **Lansdowne Park** in June of last year.



Anyone walking the canal between the Commandery and the old St. Georges Lane football ground will have noticed the appearance of several large murals along the way. Usually they are to be found under the bridges. These too are the work of the **Canal Group**. With a general theme of celebrating the role of the canal in Worcester's heritage the group began by decorating the plywood hoardings surrounding the building site next to the Cavalier pub. This was followed up with a **Worcester City Football Club** mural showing the team defeating Liverpool in the FA cup, (which really happened!). So far this mural is the only reminder that the team ever played here. Closer to the city centre where the canal was vital to Worcester's industries is a large work showing landmark factories like Lee and Perrins and Berrows Worcester Journal.

The latest creation of the group is **Myrtle**, fashioned by group member **Peter Moorhouse** Myrtle began life as a recycled wire frame. Now, like her better known sister **Sabrina** the spirit of the Severn, she is a mystical water goddess standing on the far bank of the canal opposite Lansdowne Park, saluting passers by. Go and see for yourself.



These art works are a real product of the community that uses the canal; junior school pupils from **St Barnabus** worked on them, so did the members of the **St Pauls Hostel Creative Group**, **Sian Davis** a young local artist as well as two geriatric graffiti artists!

More works are in the pipeline. You are welcome to join in. In the meantime you can find out more, see photographs and read an accompanying poem or two by looking out for the **Worcester Canal Group Art Project** brochure soon to be available at various locations in the city. Or you can visit the website [www.worcestercanalgroup.org.uk](http://www.worcestercanalgroup.org.uk)





# worcester arts workshop

May 2016 equals music month at **Worcester Arts Workshop!** After the success of *Granny's Attic* and *Lazy Sunday* in April, WAW is continuing to welcome musicians from far and wide.

We kick off the month on **8th May** with the second **Lazy Sunday** of 2016. Join us for a session of live music in the yard at **Café Bliss**. Not one to disappoint we're pleased to announce another fantastic line-up including: **12 - 1.30pm Open Mic Sessions** (Contact Café Bliss to book your slot). **2pm Sophronie**, **3pm Katey Brooks**, **4pm Boys In The Wood**. Along with the entertainment we'll be showing our gratitude to the backers from our 1st phase of **Crowd Funding** and launching into our 2nd phase to enable **Café Bliss** to continue their charitable work within the community.

On the **13 May** we have got a real treat in store as **The Night Watch** are bringing us **From Bard to Verse**. This early music duo present a very special celebration of the music in William Shakespeare's plays, to mark 400 years since his death. Shakespeare's plays were full of musical references, and actual songs, where the script plainly says the actor should sing. The original music is rarely heard, so **Ian Pittaway** and **Andy Casserley** have researched and recovered this music to bring these unheard pieces to life through song and classic Tudor instruments.



As soon as the crumhorn and tabors are packed and on the road we are teaming up with **Shindig** to welcome the nationally renowned **Opera Dudes with Licenced to Trill** on the **14 May**. **Il Divo** meets **Morecambe and Wise!** A little bit classical, a little bit rock n' roll, this unique double act's 'operatic cabaret' blends opera, swing, show songs and good clean 'Carry On' fun: outrageously brilliant, a little bit silly and a whole lot entertaining.



No ordinary operatic duo, the powerful tenors **Tim Lole** and **Neil Allen** rip up the rule book with a bravura act encompassing classical Verdi, Elvis Presley, Lloyd Webber, Chopin... and Frank Spencer. Described as nothing but 'Perfect' in *The Times*, book fast because we have a sneaky feeling this will definitely sell out.



There is always a chance to get involved at **WAW**, and this month as well as regular courses in fused glass, portrait drawing, watercolour, life drawing, salsa and pilates, to name just a few, we are offering the chance to come and take part in one off workshops. On **21 May** there is a full mask workshop for all the family, led by **Vamos Theatre**, the UK's leading full mask theatre company. It promises to be a fun, immersive and practical day where you will laugh A LOT. On the **22 May** join **Ziba Bayley** and **Raw Happy** for an inspirational yoga workshop followed by a heart opening gourmet three course plant based lunch.

It won't be long until May half term is upon us and we have partnered with **Caged Arts** to bring a week of activities for 13-21 year olds. Workshops include: smart phone photography, beat boxing, clowning and spoken word. They sound so good, we wish we were young again!

**Splendid Cinema** is launching their summer season this month with two cracking films. On the **8 May** we will be screening Justin Kurzel's 2015 **Macbeth** (cert. 15). Michael Fassbender & Marion Cotillard star in this version of the Shakespearean classic which *The Guardian* called 'stylish and inspired'. **Phoenix** (Cert.12), in which disfigured concentration-camp survivor (Nina Hoss), unrecognizable after facial reconstruction surgery, searches ravaged postwar Berlin for the husband (Ronald Zehrfeld) who might have betrayed her to the Nazis. This will be screened On the **22 May**.



If all of that makes you feel slightly exhausted and like you want to put your feet up, then why not pop in to **Café Bliss** for a coffee and soak up this month's exhibition from **ASPIE**, a social self-help and motivation group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome.

Aspies are wired differently, think differently and see the world differently and whilst they live with the challenges of Asperger's it also means their amazing minds are open to unique forms of creativity and often their keen senses allow them to see, hear and feel subtle changes which non aspies do not, resulting in phenomenal powers of observation.

This exhibition demonstrates their creativity and communicates to the audience the importance of celebrating and embracing difference. None of the members have exhibited their art before so don't miss this opportunity to visit Café Bliss at Worcester Arts Workshop and view the gallery space.

For more information or booking all events and workshops please visit [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk) or call the WAW team between 11am -2pm Tuesday - Friday on 01905 25053.

**LAZY SUNDAY**  
**8TH MAY 16**  
**12-6PM**

**BOYS IN THE WOOD** **KATEY BROOKS**

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## Lazy Sunday - Arcadia Roots Mahalia, Ian Luther + others Café Bliss, Worcester | Sunday 10th April

A persistent cool wind blew across the courtyard of **Café Bliss**, chilling the air, but not enough to deter the numbers filling the tables. The growing crowd were firstly entertained by an Open Mic session, which included notable turns by local singer/songwriter **Eva** from the band **Blue Dive**, followed by a couple of local legends names of **Paul Jeffery** and **Craigus Barry**. If you are lucky enough to know these two rapsclallions then you'll understand that the assembled throng were duly amazed, astounded and entertained as this formidable duo amply displayed their distinctive vocal and guitar talents.

First on the bill proper came wandering minstrel **Ian Luther** who seduced the gathered with his soulful blues'n'country stylings, as he utilised kick drum, percussion and guitar looping to be a true one-man-band. More classy singer-songwriting up next in the form of Leicester based **Mahalia**, who bewitched the Bliss bunch with her haunting and heartfelt material.

A short break then came the headliners - **Arcadia Roots** had landed in Woo-Town after drifting downstream from Bewdley, to warm us up even further. 'Where You Gonna Run To' streams out with its blend of bluesy reggae funk as **Dave Small** fronts up with his cajone and djembe, leading the vocal with **Maddi Abbotts** echoing the call, plus the guitar trio of **Danny Gauden**, **Tom Callinswood** and **Josh Terry**. The rhythms soon have people moving with feet a-tapping-and-bodies-a-swaying as **The Roots** leaning a little more into the blues with the superb 'Talking About



*No Preacher*' and then fracking hell, they've 'Got To Dig A Little Deeper' - just one more time!

Few would understand the African call 'Ye'le' with the djembe pulling its inspiration from Ghanaian roots, Dave's hands rapidly driving the pace, then time for Maddi's warming voice to lead the way as she goes 'Searching'. After more superior originals plus a classy cover or two, not to mention feasting on some wonderful home-cooked soul food from the Café Bliss crew, we head to the inevitable and unfortunate close with an excellent amalgam of two songs, rolled into a sensational sandwich of sound: 'Soul Of A Man' sliced through and filled by 'The Devil In Me'. It is a superlative closure to this hazy, **Lazy Sunday** in the **Arts Workshop** courtyard and the latest in a long line of what are always much and rightly anticipated Café Bliss events.

Graham Munn



**WEEKEND  
CUBE**

May brings music, food, film and comedy to **Malvern Cube** so we hope you're ready!

Kicking off the month on **Friday 6th May** at 7.30pm we have the award winning **MUD** at **White Wall Film Club**, starring **Matthew McConaughey, Tye**

**Sheridan, Sam Shepard, and Reese Witherspoon**. Two young boys encounter a fugitive and form a pact to help him evade the vigilantes that are on his trail and to reunite him with his true love. IMDB 7.4/10, Rotten Tomatoes 98%.



**Sally-Anne**, 'Exceptionally funny' *The Independent*, is charming and popular, with a winning brand of autobiographical humour. She'll take you on a journey through her slightly eccentric world, including insights into the female psyche and her compulsion to send off spoof job applications.

**Bob Wildlife** is a failed and slightly tragic wildlife park owner who'll bring along some of his furry friends for you to meet. Be aware...



**White Wall Film Club** is an open entry club, all you need to do is turn up on the night. Tickets are £5 in advance or £7 on the door. The bar will be open from 7pm for refreshments, so there's even more excuse for a pre/post film discussion!

For those of you who prefer something a little more traditional musically we have **Lady Maisery** on **Friday 27th May** at 7.30pm. Forged from the voices of **Hannah James, Hazel Askew** and **Rowan Rheingans**, **Lady Maisery** are a harmony trio causing a stir on the English folk scene with their innovative approach to



**George Rigden** is a Bristol-based musical comic who, despite having only been gigging since 2013, has already racked up in excess of 200 gigs, enjoyed success in a clutch of competitions and is now booked regularly for paid opening/middle sets and MC work for a wide range of respected promoters and independent nights. In the last year alone, he's gigged with the likes of Russell Howard, Stephen Merchant, Jason Manford, Nick Helm & Joe Wilkinson, and is the resident M.C. for legendary Bristol night, **OPPO**.

*'Slightly menacing but also funny...Rigden probably has a future writing topical songs for Radio 4'* - Bruce Dessau

**Patrick Monahan**, winner of ITV's Show Me The Funny, this half-



Irishman, half-Middlesbrough comic is a rising star on the comedy circuit. Full of an insatiable lust for life, his **e x u b e r a n t** comedy greets the audience.

To round off our Spring season of the **Cube Comedy Club** on **Friday 13th May** at 8pm we bring you a bumper evening of outstanding comedy fun! Featuring **Sally-Anne Hayward, George Rigden, Bob Wildlife, Tim Goodings** and one of our all-time favourite comperes **Patrick Monahan!** Phew!



For more information visit: [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com)

Albert Road North, Malvern, Wr14 2yf

# May Music Highlights

## The Room Upstairs @ Palace Theatre, Redditch

Folk-pop maestro Gerry Colvin must be one of the most endearing and energetic musicians on the planet, just as much at home playing small clubs as he is supporting Status Quo on their Aquostic Live Tour. This multi-talented singer-songwriter performs all his own material, combining catchy melodies with thoughtful lyrics on love, society, angst and Johnny Cash! His be-suited on stage performance combines Frank Sinatra, Lee Evans, and the afore mentioned Man in Black. Genius? Madcap? Maverick? Yes, all of these things...and a lot, lot more.



A stellar musical CV includes co-writing with Alison Moyet, being a John Peel favourite with his 80's band Terry and Gerry (recently reformed), winning best band (with his band Colvinquarmby) at Fairport's Cropredy Festival as well as the Hancock Award for best live folk act. A Glastonbury stalwart, he has played several times and also acted as compere on more than one occasion. As locals may know, he is also the brainchild behind the Knitted Character Folk Festival, held at The Blue Boar Inn in Temple Grafton in June.

Gerry will be previewing songs from his soon to be released eighth album 'Six of One, Half a Dozen of the Other' in addition to old favourites, so come and enjoy a great night's entertainment from this extraordinary performer. Once seen, never forgotten. Fun guaranteed so make sure you catch the legend that is **Gerry Colvin** at *The Room Upstairs* on **Saturday May 7th**.

Arriving at Redditch on **Saturday 28th May** is renowned jazz vocalist **Annette Gregory** jazz who together with her band will celebrate the music of Ella Fitzgerald. Annette begins her performance by reflecting on Ell's earlier career in 1930s, then moving on through the decades of 1950s-1960s and the various song book albums that brought Ella Fitzgerald the right to be called the 'The First Lady Of Song'.



Ella's was a classic rag-to-riches story and her journey to becoming one of the most important and influential jazz vocalists of all time is a fascinating one, which is told in magical musical terms by **Annette Gregory**: a very special show in prospect. As one of the greatest icons of jazz, vocalist Ella Fitzgerald had a unique sound that embodies the sound of Jazz music.

All tickets for these events and many more are available either in person at the Palace Theatre box office, by phone on 01527 65203 or online at [www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk)

# Hoopy Frood

## The Cube, Malvern | Saturday 7th May

**Hoopy Frood** are a Psychedelic groove rock band hailing from deepest 'down south', who have honed their eclectic and sound by playing together for over ten years with the same core members. They have released two albums to date, "Psychonaut" in 2004 plus "Indigo" in 2009 and are currently working on new material for a third album.



The band have drawn influences from Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin to Shpongle and Ott (the latter produced the Indigo album), along with a wide range of other styles and genres. Hoopy Frood have supported Ozric Tentacles in addition to playing sets at many festivals including Boomtown & Chilled in A Field. This original 5 piece outfit have sold albums in 14 countries and to much acclaim. They describe their sound as "a stir-fry of musical styles that is tricky to nail down to a specific genre"; perhaps they have even created their own?! Why not head down to **The Cube** on **7th May** and find out for yourself.

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 £10 cash on the door

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Info 07803-000988

A bright, energetic yet chilled and happy experience is guaranteed when Hoopy Frood take to the stage.

## Severn Sounds Festival Pavilion In The Park, Worcester | 3rd - 5th June

Back for 2016, bigger and better than ever, that's what the organisers say about this year's **Severn Sounds festival**. The 3 day event, based at **Pavilion in the Park**, Worcester, are dedicated to bringing you a vast variety of local acts and beyond, showcasing the talent in our region and all for a good cause.

SSF are proud to announce headliners such as premier tribute act **The Bohemains** (Queen) plus local legends **Jasper In The Company Of Others**, **Of Kings and Captains** and **The Magoos** amongst many others.

This year the festival is supporting **New Hope**, a Worcester charity offering specialist provision working with families who have children with disabilities and complex health care needs.

This is most certainly a family weekend so expect everything from face painting, bouncy castles, henna tattoos and the like, plus

a second 'Busk Stop Stage' for anyone who fancies playing a couple of numbers.

The Severn Sounds Festival team will also be working closely with **Christopher Whitehead Language College** to stage a Battle of the Bands competition, with the winning acts performing at the festival, so once again be sure to head to the website if you want to take part or know anyone who should!

See also social media for updates on this exciting event:  
[www.facebook.com/severnsoundsfestival](http://www.facebook.com/severnsoundsfestival)  
[www.twitter.com/severnsoundsfestival](http://www.twitter.com/severnsoundsfestival)



Photography  
Simon Sinclair

## Fred Fest

### River Rooms, Stourbridge Monday 30th May

Worcestershire promoter **Fred Mallinson** is dedicated and passionate about helping local musicians/acts further their careers by forging links with more established and signed bands. He has put on some first class major gigs int the area such as **The Hoosiers**, **Eliza Doolittle**, **The Struts** and **God Damn** and thus given the opportunity of exciting support slots to young, up-and-coming acts at all of these events.



Fred is also very keen to include all ages both as performers and audience members and to this end all of Fred's promotions finish at 10pm with all welcome whether young or old

To further his noble aims Mr M has now organised the inaugural **Fred Fest** at Stourbridge's River Rooms on the last Bank Hol Monday in May with special guests and headliners being Dutch symphonic rockers **Lesoir**.

After 6 UK Tours and many overseas headlining dates **Lesoir** come to Fred Fest with a big reputation to match their sound. With 3 albums under their belt, the last being 2014's '*Luctor et Emergo*' which re-untitled them with producer John Cornfield (Muse, Oasis, Supergrass, Stone Roses, Katatonia and New Model Army), **lesoir** can draw from a wealth of material to doubtless wow the Stourbridge faithful.

There will be 2 stages at Fred Fest and true to his word local act **The Sum Of** will be appearing amongst many more, so keep your beady eye on social media for much more info.

Fred is also very keen to include all ages both as performers and audience members and to this end all of Fred's promotions finish at 10pm with all welcome whether young or old.



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**LESOIR** + **THE SUM OF**

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<http://www.theriverrooms.com>  
£4.00 on the door, £3.00 when booked in advance  
Bands start at 3pm / Curfew 10.00 pm  
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## The Zen Hussies/C@intheH@ Collective 43/The Discount Orchestra The Boars Head, Kidderminster | Friday 13th May

A slick night is in order this month, with 1930's style swing, blues and beats for your pleasure, courtesy of the fabulous Bristolian 6 piece **The Zen Hussies**, whose energetic and ultra-stylish sounds have been mining the old-time swing scene since 2001. Their new album *'The Charm Account'* is a gorgeous slip into a brassed-up, bluesy swing concoction to more than whet your whistle!



Supporting them will be Birmingham's **C@intheH@** on the decks bringing a fusion of early twentieth century swing, jazz, and chunky beats; Worcester's own **Collective 43**, a multi-instrumental congregation steeped heavy with New Orleans street style and twists of blues and jazz; and from London, **The Discount Orchestra** providing a high-octane, seven-piece blend of eclectic dance-floor stomp, guaranteed to get you bouncing.

The night is in aid of the charity **F.W.R.D** [www.fwrdtogether.com](http://www.fwrdtogether.com) (**Festival Waste Reclamation and Distribution**), with all funds raised helping them continue their work reducing waste at U.K festivals, sending much needed aid to refugees and helping the homeless. Tickets are £7, £8 on door (if still available)

[zenhussies.com](http://zenhussies.com)    [soundcloud.com/c-in-the-h](https://soundcloud.com/c-in-the-h)  
[collective43.co.uk](http://collective43.co.uk)    [thediscountorchestra.com](http://thediscountorchestra.com)

## The Courtyard Hereford May Highlights

We have plucked three shows to highlight from an ever-packed and panoramic events calendar from Hereford's premier arts venue, starting with an evergreen play which still packs a punch some 60 years after its writing, namely **Look Back In Anger**.

It's fair to say that back in '56 when first performed *Anger* turned the theatre on its head with its explosive *Angry Young Man*, no holds barred perspective. A ground-breaking work then and one that deserves re-visiting in this excellent venue on Saturday 7th May.



Turning to local talent on Friday 20th May **The Courtyard** plays host to Herefordshire singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist **David Ian Roberts**. Influenced by the esteemed likes of Nick Drake and John Martyn, David's live performance is chance to witness his mesmerising guitar technique and unique singing voice. A singular talent well worthy of your attention and for tickets plus further information to this and all other Courtyard events please visit [www.courtyard.org.uk](http://www.courtyard.org.uk).



You may as well stay over in Hereford that night unless you live there of course, as on Sunday 9th the marvellous musical dynasty that is **The Fureys**. An overused word but certainly not in this case, The Fureys are true legends of Irish music and rightly famous for their hit songs such as *'I Will Love You'*, *'The Green Fields Of France'*, *'From Clare To Here'* and many more of course.

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## Institutes | Golden Egg/Not Alone

Institutes are a local four-piece alternative rock band who have been busy around the county and beyond in support of their debut single, *Golden Egg/Not Alone*. The dual track affair has already seen the likes of Ryan's Gig Guide and BBC Hereford & Worcester's Introducing get behind the band and a recent trio of **Record Store Day** gigs will have no doubt converted more to their cause.

'*Golden Egg*' opens proceedings with a wave of guitars before frontman **Gareth Griffiths** unleashes his towering lead vocal which ranges from near falsetto one minute to a Cornell/Plant like holler the next. The band meanwhile, move effortlessly through the gears, beginning with a tight infectious indie melody before a wall of muscular guitar and drums make their presence felt twisting the track into a slab of molten alternative rock whilst managing to retain said melody.



Whilst '*Golden Egg*' is hard hitting, '*Not Alone*' in contrast sees Institutes on a more reflective trip as shimmering guitars and swirling keyboards back Griffiths' emotive lead vocal. The middle section then adds a near psychedelic flavour to the proceedings as the band stretch out proving there's a great deal more to come from Institutes in the future.

The production (by **Institutes** and **Chris Porter**) is fantastic; the drums snap, the guitars sting and those vocals soar in all the right places on *Golden Egg*, whilst the glistening *Not Alone* shimmies beautifully.

Just on the evidence of the two tracks here plus the momentum the band are beginning to create, I'd say that Institutes are an outfit to

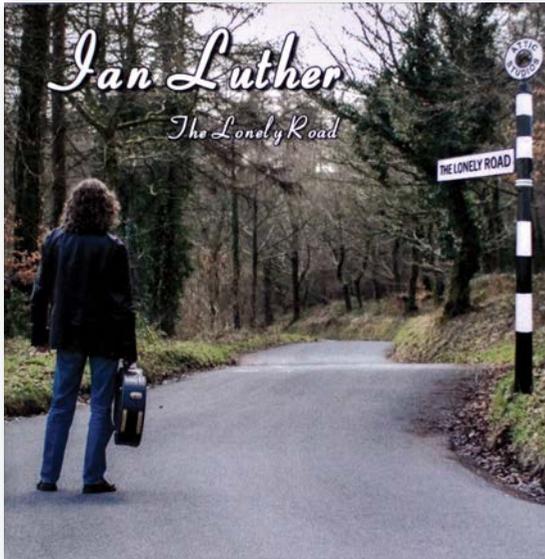
seriously keep an eye on and certainly one the most interesting bands to have trod the local boards in recent times.

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

Will Munn

## Ian Luther | The Lonely Road

Ian seems to have become a regular visitor in these parts, the very stuff of a wandering minstrel, so his album '*The Lonely Road*' probably says much about his lifestyle.



The opening title track is a beautifully produced, melodramatic song that opens like a flower into a fully orchestrated piece of soft rock, which could easily be lifted from a stage show. The pace picks up with '*Gypsy*', which is a galloping acoustic song with touches of Gallic charm and guitar playing reminiscent of Django and this is followed by the inward-looking, soulful confessional of '*I am The Lonesome Busker*'. I can picture Ian, kick drum underfoot, guitar in hand and harp slung ready around his neck: the archetypal one man band. This is arguably the album's stand out song which epitomises his solo performances and is an excellent signature on his CV.

A fine fiddle introduces '*Love Is Blind*', another satisfying song which is Celtic influenced folk rock that swings along nicely. There is a distinct theme to the whole album - that of a solitary figure - and it doesn't get more solitary than '*Keeper Of The Lighthouse*'; well crafted indeed, but perhaps skip this one if your feeling low?!

Back then to rock opera mode for '*Wild Swan*', a far more complex structure of rhythms, including Hispanic guitar with the images of a flamenco dancer being conjured up. A clearly prophetic, pop-rock of '*Too Many People*' is next and the message is a pertinent one; an overcrowded world with ever increasing demands and resources squandered on self aggrandisement.

The closing track brings electric opening chords, tuned to a more exotic rhythm as it leads you into the bazaar with a dance of the seven veils, which is torn away to find the wily '*Snake Charmer*'. It brings to mind the wonderful eclectic music of **Three Daft Monkeys**, praise indeed from this quarter! It is a cracking, hypnotic track and stands alongside '*...Lonesome Busker*' and '*Love Is Blind*' as my album faves. Overall the variety of sound and rhythms are linked by that solitary path that wanders through the album which accurately reflects Ian's live performances. To date I've only seen his 'one man band' show but that may be rectified in the near future as he will be going electric for a visit to Ledbury's **Prince Of Wales** in May - I will be there and heartily suggest that you join me.

Graham Munn

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# Mods v Rockers

## The Quik Beats & The Delray Rockets

### Artrix, Bromsgrove | Friday 8th April

The zoots may be a bit tight in places these days, but tucked inside your parka, with the not so voluminous hair and hidden under the pork pie hat, you're safe to check yourself over in the 50 mirrors that sprout from the Vespa like a porcupine. On the other side of the promenade the aged leather creaks, feet are forced into steel soled boots and chains checked as the third arthritic swinging kick is rewarded with the rumble of low thunder, a triumph of engineering as oil slowly pools on the paving.



Time to do battle then and in the left corner, the swaggering two stroking **Quick Beats** - to the right, the quiff haired **Delray Rockets**; a 4 stroke triple, moody and threatening. They've tossed up and it's the double timing Quick Beats away first, as an unmistakable sound of the Hammond underpins everything from Manfred Mann's 'Sha-La-La' to oddly, the 'Boom Boom Boom' of John Lee Hooker; wrong camp surely but I 'Can't Explain', Who or why. The Delrays push back the Quick Beats and it's rockabilly time; raw, edgy and loud as any Rocket 3 that manages to fire up. 'Too Tired To Rock' - not these boys - it's early yet and they're 'Ready Willing And Able' as they strut menacingly around the stage. The tide turns and The Quick Beats are back in: 'What You Gonna Do About It'? Bring out your 'Tin Soldier'? The tide ebbs again and it's a second coming for 'Rockabilly Man' and they roared through, taking the fight to the streets to 'Rock This Town'. Phew time out then to all get a beer, there's plenty of time for more battle later.



The QB's come back out rewing, leaving a blue haze of pop rock with the Hammond in full flow for a stand out 'Green Onions'. It was now 'All Or Nothing' as the 'Train Arrive'd' carrying the Delrays. Johnny Cash is in *Folsom Prison*, but the Who lend a hand, stepping over the line to play 'Pinball', before that big train pulls in. This is a one rail rattling high speed shuffle of a ride; we've all gotten a bit older, hopefully wiser and there's great music everywhere for all tastes. Time to bring the camps together as both bands 'Wipe Out' the score board and 'Johnny B Goode' rides pillion on the Lambretta, escorted alongside by the low rumble of the ever-present Ace clubmen.

An absolutely non-stop, brilliant evening of fun then, played to a sell out and rabidly appreciative audience. This may have been a Brighton Bash, but there's plenty of scope for a few repeats; maybe a Clacton Crunch, Bournemouth Bustle, or a Margate Mayhem. Which side are you on??

Graham Munn

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# May Musicality at Artrix

The Fair Rain (formerly the Old Dance School) have come a long way since their early beginnings playing traditional music at ceilidhs. Throughout seven years of touring and three studio albums, the band has absorbed a rich palette of influences and evolved far beyond their roots. 'Behind The Glass', the first since their name change weaves together shimmering strings, floating fiddle melodies and soaring brass crescendos. You can see them live at Artrix on **Friday 13th May**.

Close-harmony, eclectic, semi-acoustic piano-led wonder **Mumbo-Jumbo** brings together three top Midlands singer songwriters who have played in acoustic clubs and venues across the country. The trio, who will be performing in the **Artrix Studio on Saturday 14th May**, share lead vocal duties and play nine instruments between them. Expect brilliant musicianship and an incredible mix of sounds.



Orbison, Jeff Lynne, Bob Dylan, Tom Petty and George Harrison created an album that sold five million copies worldwide. **The Big O and the The Wilburys Tribute Show** is widely regarded as one of the best tribute acts around, re-creating an incredible and unique sound that rocked the music industry. There are only a handful of tickets left to see them on **Saturday 14th May**.

Some of us who are old enough to remember **Tom Robinson** in his prime used to shock old ladies by singing 'Glad to be Gay' on the bus on the way to school. The anti-racist and LGBT campaigner was a hugely influential figure in the 70s and he has released no less than 19 albums with various bands. Through his **BBC Radio 6**



The late 1980s saw the birth of one of the most famous and memorable supergroups of all time, The Travelling Wilburys. Featuring five individual icons in their own right, this formidable team, which consisted of Roy

show, he has championed new music with a passion and has just relaunched his own career by releasing his first album in 20 years. His songs remain as vibrant and edgy as ever and you can see Tom performing them at Artrix on **Sunday 15th May**.



## MUSIC AT ARTRIX



 <b>BILLY JOEL SONGBOOK</b> 7 MAY <b>THE FAIR RAIN</b> 13 MAY <b>MUMBO-JUMBO</b> 14 MAY <b>TOM ROBINSON</b> 15 MAY <b>BLAKE</b> 27 MAY	 <b>DREAMING OF KATE</b> 28 MAY <b>WESTROCK</b> 2 JUNE <b>MEGSON</b> 4 JUNE <b>ROXY MAGIC</b> 24 JUNE <b>CAST OFF KINKS</b> 8 JULY	 <b>WINGS OVER</b> <b>ABBEY ROAD</b> 15 JULY <b>DESPERADO</b> 22 JULY <b>PURPLE ZEPPELIN</b> 30 JULY <b>QUILL</b> 13 AUGUST
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# Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Another very busy month for us here at **Circuit Sweet** as per! When we picked up the last batch of Slap Mags we were delighted to be at the incredible **Surprise Attacks** show at **The Marrs Bar** in Worcester for **Blanck Mass**, **Rosebud & Ferric Lux**. The room was filled with many supportive and familiar faces plus our own writer **Gavin Brown**. Visit [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk) where you can find the full in-depth feature on the site now. See also **Siobhan Joan's** review on page 33 in this issue. The evening was better than we could have ever imagined and we've got our eyes on **Rosebud** as the next act to watch out for!



April of course is known for **Record Store Day** but our usual routine of attending **Carnival Records** in Malvern, then onto **Rise** in Worcester followed by heading to **Rise** in Bristol didn't go as we planned. We still wanted to support the special event in some way surrounded by good music, so we spent the morning at **Hi Fi Gear** in Hereford flipping through their available and well stocked records - we urge you to go and check out this hidden little spot, you are guaranteed to find a gem!

This month has been a little different for us as alongside our regularly updated music news, features, the odd interview we've conducted and our features, we've been busy focussing on our management side of the site. We are thrilled to announce that we've taken on another local artist to our management roster. Although at the moment we can't unveil too much, we can say that this local multi-instrumentalist is well known to **Circuit Sweet**.

An intricate nordic soul dripping in sincere creativity. More will be revealed shortly with a interview special on the site but we are so excited to have another act under our wings. If you enjoy organic, visceral simplistic, minimal electronic creations, ones that can easily be found on a dramatic score then you'll enjoy the talent we are working with.

As for next month- get ready to see many festival features soon, we will be getting in touch with local artists performing at various local festivals including **Nozstock**, to find out more about what we can expect from these booming line ups currently being announced. We are also covering the final **CLEFT** show in Birmingham thanks to **Little Cavalier Promotions** alongside support from **&U&I**, **Doppelganger**, **Bearfoot Beware**, **Classically Handsome Brutes** and **Arbor Lights**. We've got a few single streams penciled in too so make sure you come check the site out!



# The Lamb & Flag

## The Tything, Worcester

*Saturday May 28th*

*Paul Rose & Friends*

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# Surprise Attacks #43

## Ash Is A Robot / Merrick's Tusk

### Gooche / Navajo Ace

#### Firefly, Worcester | Thursday 5th May

Saturday night is alright for fighting. Some allege. Weekends are for partying. Most agree. However. Thursdays are for curated bills of eclectic, quality underground music. Featuring some of the country's - and the continent's - very best bands that you don't know about. Yet.

And so. Thursday 5th May sees Portugal's very finest post-hardcore exponents **Ash Is A Robot** bring their truly explosive and intense live show back to the Firefly, Worcester - with support from more high-end guitar music than you can shake a melodic stick at.

Reminiscent of a more tuneful At The Drive In and combining chaos, melody and power, Ash is a Robot are one of the best live bands you will see this year. This is their 4th time in Worcester and they've epically hoofed everyone's ass every time they've played. So wear padded pants. They kick it. Hard.

Support includes Nottingham's **Merrick's Tusk** - a melodic rock band with swirling guitars, soaring vocals and crashing percussion, for fans of early Jimmy Eat World and The Appleseed Cast - and all things melodic and emotionally soaring. Worcester's very own **Gooche** will bring an infectious and heady mix of psychedelic dream-pop come surf rock, with influences including - we are told - love, sex, Taylor Swift... and magic. Kicking things off though will



be **Navajo Ace**, an emerging four piece from Worcester with a long and impressive history in the UK musical underground. Navajo Ace create a potent blend of soul, melody and serious percussive power, with roots deep in the glory days of alt / college rock. In summary: Essential.

Doors 8pm \* £4 Entry \* First Band On At 8:30pm

Words: Veronica Bloodsausage Photography: Mark Hoy

Floating Lotus Present

# 3 DAFT MONKEYS

**Sat 4th June 8pm**  
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## Floating Lotus presents

# 3 Daft Monkeys + FolkLaw

### The Cube, Malvern | Saturday 4th June

If you love your music marvellously mixed-up and magical with an effortlessly genre-crossing range combined with spell-binding musicianship, then look no further as **3 Daft Monkeys** come to Malvern!

Long established with a loyal and large cult following, 3DM bring their patented eccentric blend of quirky folk tales to The Vern, told with whimsical observation within the swirling layers of music.

These days a new-look four piece outfit, they play virtuoso fiddle, guitar, bass, bespoke hand percussion whilst incorporating 3-part harmony vocals into their enchanting melodies and catch choruses.

3 Daft Monkey's wholly original sound takes in many musical genres from (takes breath) Celtic, Klezmer, Gypsy, Balkan, Latin, Ska, Dub Reggae, Indie, Rock and even a hint of Shostakovich. phew-ee!

None other than Mark Radcliffe declared 3DM as one of the Glastonbury highlights and subsequently invited them to do a Radio 2 session and the band have had another R2 appointment with dear Whisperin' Bob. Add to this appearances at Cropredy, Beautiful Days, Trowbridge, Cambridge Folk and many others, you get a good idea of what kinda calibre outfit we're talking about here.

This promises to be a right rollicking and riotous night out and you'd be crazee (Slade spelling) to miss out so head to [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com) for full info and tickets.

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# Record Store Day

## Rise Records Worcester | 16th April

It's been a busy month for the folk down at the Rise record store. It all kicked off when **Faithful City Shows** brought along hardcore rockers **Polar** for an intimate charity show. As soon as normal Saturday shopping had ended, Isles were rearranged and space was cleared for a 7.30 start. Backed by local wreckers **Rail Means Rail**, **Polar** gave a complete rum through of their new album



Polar

'*No Cure No saviour*' as well as some of their old favourites. Hearing their latest offerings ahead of its Radio 1 rock shows premier felt like a privilege, and with all the entrance fees going to their nominated charity **Crisis**. Everyone felt that it was an evening and money well spent.



The Broken Oak Duet

Two weeks later it was time for the biggest event on the shops calendar. **'Record Store Day'**. Promptly at ten am, Crowngate Shopping Centre was brought to life by the pulsating heartbeat that is **The Broken Oak Duet**. Crowds gathered, feet were tapped and the whole area was alive with excitement. With nine live acts

and a host of DJ's including Slaps own **Stef Work**. It did not take long for Rise to become the centre of the city's attention. By the time that the **Institutes** started, the specially opened live stage unit was filled to the rafters and the



Institutes



Boat To Row



Rosebud

crowd gathered outside made it almost impossible to pass. Sunshine flooded in through the windows. The 'fish tank' stage gave many a rare glimpse off those elusive artist that normally only venture out on the darkest of nights. **Nth Cave**, **Nerina Pallet**, **Boat To Row**, **Slow Falling Sun**, **Jim Lockey** and **Andy Oliveri** and **The Mountaineers** all gave great performances to new audiences. Tills rang and the city gained a surreal feel as every shopper in some 'time shift' appeared to be carrying a new treasured vinyl. With daylight fading there was only one band that could bring the show to a close. The dark electronic three- headed beast **Rosebud**. With a show that raised more than one eyebrow from the passers by. The brave ventured in and became entangled in the sound, whilst the wary became entranced at a safer distance. What a perfect end to the day.

Duncan Graves

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## Kelly Oliver

Prince Albert, Stroud | 13 April 2016

However good **Kelly Oliver's** two albums are, and they are very good, for my money there's no better way to see her than live and playing solo. It's only when this fast rising star of British Folk music is standing alone on stage that you really begin to appreciate exactly how good she is.

She's working very hard at the moment, playing up and down the country in support of her new album as well as working on a very interesting musical collaboration with several other artists - **The Company of Players** - to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

The set tonight is drawn extensively from both albums, kicking off with the title track from the new album '*Bedlam*' but her much-feted debut album '*In This Land*' is also well represented, particularly by the poignant '*Far From Home*'. There's a big nod to her Irish heritage with '*Miles To Tralee*', a song about her grandmother and things are brought right up to date with the breathtakingly lovely '*The Other Woman*', the two contrasting songs perfectly illustrating her knack of mixing traditional and contemporary themes and styles that makes her body of work so interesting.

She's also a great Steve Earle fan and we're treated to a couple of excellent covers, of which a respectful and stripped back version of '*Copperhead Road*' is absolutely outstanding.

Her fine guitar technique is very much in evidence - the lady has a very quick left hand and coupled with a mix of finger-styles, strum patterns and tunings, together with her skilful use of passing chords and grace notes, she keeps the accompaniment



lively and varied. She's also got an extensive set of harps, courtesy of Hohner, which she puts to very good use.

Her voice is a really lovely instrument, whether it's being used in a traditional gentle folkie style, or when she really begins to forcefully cut loose at the very end of the set with '*The Witch of Walkern*' (presented with greater pace and power than on the album) and the abrasive '*Mr. Officer*'.

She's played about an hour and a quarter, but the fully appreciative crowd brings her back for an encore, and it's a beauty, a glorious version of Bob Dylan's '*Boots of Spanish Leather*'.

The label 'rising star' might burden some artists, but **Kelly Oliver** seems to be wearing it lightly and with confidence - a very accomplished artist indeed.

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

Geoffrey Head

## Granny's Attic

Worcester Arts Workshop | Sat 23rd April

**Granny's Attic** comprises **Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne** on melodeon and concertina with some lead and group vocal, **George Sansome** on guitar with some lead and group vocal and **Lewis Wood** on fiddle and mandolin with some groups vocal. The trio are mixing live performance with university study (at different ends of the country!) so it was a joy to see them come together to play at the **Worcester Arts Workshop**.

I first caught the 'home-grown' act during last summer's **Worcester Music Festival** and on both occasions they played a variety of eclectic folk songs and tunes with tight but fluid ease.



The evening was well attended, engaging and humorous. George announced, via his father and grandfather, both in attendance, that the last three generations of his family has now sung at the WAW venue.

The set varied from the traditional (sombre but beautifully realised) song '*The Two brothers*' sung by Cohen, to George's self-penned '*Shepherd's Brook*' and some dance tunes including '*Lazy House*' and '*Right Across The Bridge*' composed by Lewis.

The enjoyment and energy is infectious and there was much foot-stomping and clapping (and a little dancing)!

Check out their album, '*Better Weather*' and look out for a new release in the next couple of months.

Please expand your live music guys when studies are completed!

Justin Hughes (not an agent of the band!)

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# The Sentence

## The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

"The Sentence" is a new play by Cheltonian author **Martin Lytton** telling the story of John Scrivener who, in the 16th century was sentenced to death for heresy by being burned at the stake.

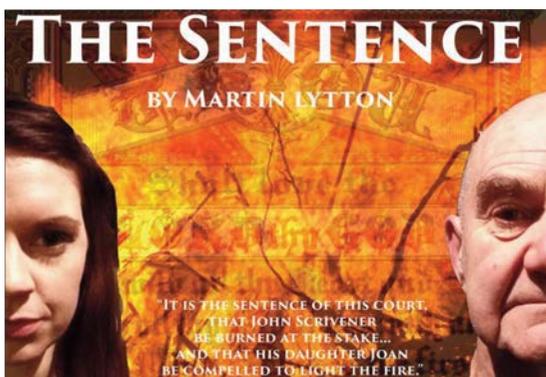
His 'crime' was to translate the Bible from Latin into English to make it more accessible to the common people.

His daughter was sentenced to light the fire.

This two-hander features **Paul Southcott** as Scrivener and **Katie McLeod** as his daughter, Joan and makes for an intense evening at a packed George Room at The Sub Rooms in Stroud.

The play is about words, their power to enlighten, motivate, educate, empower, but also to shock, endanger and destroy. To Scrivener, the goal was relatively straightforward - great swathes of people worshipping a common God, had absolutely no idea of what was happening during church services and were unable to gain any personal insight into The Bible because they were unable to read Latin. Simple, you'd think to produce a version that more could participate in. However, the rigidly controlled class structure of the time relied on a degree of ignorance on the part of common people to maintain its power, and so Scrivener was charged with Heresy and condemned to die.

As a two-hander, the success of the play depends entirely on the extent of the dynamic between the two players and they not only have this, but maintain it throughout the performance. The scenes switch time frames marked by variations in lighting and an insistently ticking clock - particularly effective are two sunlit scenes from many years in the past, where Scrivener, as well as educating his daughter is beginning to formulate his plans for the translation. McLeod's reversion to childlike expressions and actions during these scenes is delightful, and a necessary distraction from the overall seriousness of the play. But we soon revert to the central struggle of Joan's determination not to see her father die, and his determination to see through his mission, even though it will cost him his life.



The most riveting scene though is Joan's interrogation - Southcott dons a cardinal's beretta and scarlet sash to play her interrogator, bent on prising out the extent of her involvement in her father's 'crimes'. It is exceptionally powerfully played as Joan, who had previously been warned by her father of the tricks the interrogator might play, walks a tightrope where one false step could cost her life. McLeod's facial expressions, of terror and intense concentration and her startled movements in this scene perfectly convey the mental struggle that Joan is going through, while Southcott's delivery of the interrogator's mix of intellectual superiority and outright menace is genuinely chilling. These are both fine actors.

It's during this scene that resonances with modern life begin to surface - religious intolerance and the suppression of women through deprivation of education in particular.

The only quibble I have with the play is its brevity, at bang on an hour, this and the abrupt and theatrically low-key denouement left me with the uncomfortable feeling driving home that I'd left at the interval. Stupid boy...

See this play when it arrives near you - the strength of the two central performances and the power of the subject matter makes it a deeply satisfying experience.

*The Sentence* will be performed at **The Everyman Theatre** in Cheltenham on 8th and 9th October.

*Geoffrey Head*

## Frank Griffith

### with the Stuart Barker Trio

#### Silvershine Jazz Club, Smethwick | 14th April

We rarely get the chance to see tenor saxophonist **Frank Griffith** in Birmingham. In fact, Frank tells me that his last appearance was with the late, great **Andy Hamilton** at The Bear Tavern, just a short walk along the Bearwood Road from the **Silvershine Jazz Club**, which itself has strong links with Andy Hamilton.

Frank hails from Eugene, Oregon, but has been resident in the UK for some years now, building a strong reputation as an instrumentalist, composer, arranger and educator. He is currently Director of Performance at Brunel University.

For this gig, Frank was accompanied by a trio of graduates from **Birmingham Conservatoire**, all of whom are established musicians on the Birmingham jazz scene and further afield. **Stuart Barker** propelled the group from the bass and proved to be both a proficient accompanist and a melodic soloist. **Andrew Woodhead** on keyboard is a musician equally at home in wholly improved music and modern mainstream jazz. He was able to bring great originality to his soloing. **James Bashford** was supportive of his colleagues throughout the evening and made the most of his opportunities to solo.



**Frank Griffith** is a wonderfully melodic saxophonist with a great command of his instrument. He possesses a big, fully rounded and melodic tone. His playing brings to mind several past giants of the saxophone including Stan Getz, John Coltrane and Dexter Gordon.

The repertoire included jazz standards together with Frank's own compositions, including a wonderful interpretation of 'Holland Park'.

In conclusion, a thoroughly enjoyable evening of music-making. Let's hope that Frank returns to Birmingham without delay.

*Words and Photograph: Alan Musson*

## The Roving Crows + Granny's Attic Artrix, Bromsgrove | Saturday 26th March

A while since I've seen The Crows; the original 5 piece line up, including drums and trumpet having changed and they are now a 4 piece, with **Paul**, **Caitlin** and **Loz** with **Tim** on an impressive display of percussion implements.

Supporting the **Roving Crows** was Worcester's own **Granny's Attic**, weaving their magical music between a forest of microphone stands and monitors. The Attic comprise the combined multi-talents of Lewis, Cohen and George, who despite their youthful countenance, have been wowing the crowds with their patented top class folk for a good few years now. Between them they play guitar, mandolin, squeeze box and fiddle whilst singing mainly shanties of an extremely entertaining nature and in the most marvellous fashion. Some of the songs are built around their own simple experiences, others such as *'Piman's Wife'* perhaps not!? Despite my lack of folk credentials, such is the quality of their set that I may just turn up at Worcester's Arts Workshop in April, to see them again. Watch this space indeed.

Now a 4 piece, the Roving Crows I think its fair to say, as with any band that has transformed, have taken a while to settle and explore the new areas that have opened up. Tim certainly brings a different style to the band as the music has been remodelled to accommodate his percussion talents. Paul has taken to electric



guitar and Loz has added elements of electronica to build on the sound. Warming up with instrumental intro, the glorious *'Nancy Valentine'* then takes an early bow. *'The One'*, is thusly aired with us, followed appropriately enough by *'Time'* which has proven one of their most durable songs. Paul recounts his early days in taking music to the streets of cities across the world as *'Journeyman's Blue'* finds passage toward more recent recordings such as the fine, fiddle-fest that is *'Upheaval'*. Caitlin then takes a rare lead in the vocals for a lovely, haunting *'Ride On'*, accompanied by subtle guitar and bass. Early career selections bring reminders of *'Dirty Habits'* followed by the *'Guns'* rumbling in the distance. Another new song *'Bury Me Naked'* comes next before a hush descends for a reverential *'Brother'*. Fittingly then it is time for a softly sung *'Goodbye'* with Loz prowling, Fender in hand as Caitlin finger plucks her fiddle and the burning fuse fizzles out and darkness falls as the band leave the stage...

Of course not though - this is one ghost never to be laid to rest - it's time for the

fiddle fencing finale of *'Devil Went Down To Georgia'* naturally. Thanks Charlie Daniels, this is one 'millstone' that the band need never shake off and few could better it.

It is good to see the band resettled and I've no doubt they will go forward strongly, with new music yet to be relished. Certainly a different style has emerged and tonight's crowd appreciate their efforts as one. The Crows will have another opportunity to find new followers at an upcoming Bellowhead at Bristol's Colston Hall. A big stage then with a sell out auditorium and a great, deserved showcase for Roving Crows. Good luck to them I say.

Graham Munn

## The Hills Angels

The Mount Pleasant Hotel, Malvern | Friday 15th April

Having managed to miss every single gig **The Hills Angels** have ever done, I was determined to catch this one, a double set bonanza at one of the coolest and under used venues in Malvern - **The Mount Pleasant Hotel**.

The Angels are **Sharon Hogan** on Vocals, **Sarah Humphries** on Percussion and **Laura Todd** on Guitar. I should add that Sarah and Laura sing too, in fact the backing vocals are a big part of this band's charm, plus smiles all round.

They start the first set with one or two of their own songs. *'Titanium'* has a lovely melody and a wonderful hook - *'Shoot me down but I won't fall'*. The girls mix in a few choice covers as the set progresses. Stand out adaptations for me were the Eurythmics - *'Here Comes the Rain'*, a very brave *'Time is Now'* by Moloko and Adele's *'Whenever I'm Alone With You'*.

There was an attentive crowd assembled in the grand upstairs room and a very relaxed atmosphere with the girls dressed for the occasion looking quite at home. The first set ended with *'I've Not Met You Yet'* - a new self penned melancholy affair which shows the versatility of styles this band have in their locker.

In fact I have to say their own songs are played with much more confidence and therefore sound more dynamic. The harmonies really shine too on their own numbers compositions which on the



whole are tight and fun and the second set lifts a notch as the audience warms to the band, even clapping along to one or two numbers.

Another new one written by Sharon along with Kev Tudge, a *'Kiss Is a Kiss'* or *'Love Me Slowly'...*?, my memory fades as the beers kick in. They are then joined by **Chewie** on guitar for one of Laura's early songs *'Stay'*, a folk melody with some excellent Spanish style guitar. Then another upbeat one of their own - *'Questions'* rounded off a great evening, good music with some good company. I urge you not to leave it over a year before seeking out the Hills Angels, they won't disappoint.

# Gary O'Dea

## The Ginger Pig, Worcester | Friday 15th April

Over the years **Gary O'Dea** has played in full on electric bands, acoustic bands and solo acoustic, at venues and festivals that vary from Wolves Civic to Glastonbury and the US circuits. Now in the intimate surroundings of **The Ginger Pig** with acoustic guitar in hand and bottle of the 'Pig's' finest ale by his side, Gary is poised to entertain with a set heavy on selections from his latest album 'Fly' (see review in April Slap), a collection which takes us back to his Black Country Tipton roots.

A 'Welcome To The Show' opens the evening and straight off you can appreciate the lyrical and acoustic quality that Gary brings, enhanced by the addition of his harp, as he settles in with an 'Angel'. Enter **Rick Lambe** (pre-gig at The Marris Bar with **Official Receivers**); Rick has history with Gary and a band called **The Fortune Cookies**. This triggered a few 'road' tales from Gary and a song from those times, 'My Sweet Rita', inspired by the cleaner at the factory where he toiled. There's a song scribbled in the back of a road weary Datsun, but it's too early for 'Time Out' as it powers through: much of Gary's material is grounded in 'life on the road' experiences and everyday but trenchant observations. Mr O'Dea may not be thrilled about my considering it as 'Dylanesque', but these songs are seeded from a soulful blues-Americana mix and seasoned from a Jamaican spice rack. 'Take The Money And Run' seems a comment on our times, which together with the easy country style of 'In A Zone', with its easy country style are more titles from his consistently excellent *Fly* album. Indeed yet another track from *Fly*, 'Build It Like A Rock' follows his rejoining the Labour Party as its politics set to reclaim democracy under Mr Corbyn's leadership. The lyrics are forged in



the deserted foundries and barren brown-field sites of his/our industrial heritage: Billy Bragg would be more confrontational perhaps, but the message is the same.

The distinctive rhythms of 'In The Ghetto' follows as Elvis sits at the park bench with Dylan and chat about Joy Division's Ian Curtis. 'Be Careful What You Wish For' is the next message and the the harp then lends a Gallic feel to the superb 'All Down The Days' which somewhat wearily and depressingly states that it doesn't matter what your era - for the man in the street nothing really changes. On that uplifting note the evening is drawing to its close which has been a seamless session of anecdotes and songs from a true wordsmith that is **Gary O'Dea**. *Fly* is an excellent album wherein Gary is joined by many Midlands musicians and perhaps most noticeably, **The Birmingham Clarion Choir**. Unfortunately they could not be here tonight, so it was very much a stripped back session at the delightful **Ginger Pig**.

Graham Munn



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### Upcoming Events

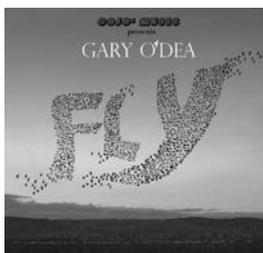
- 6th May **Fallen Branches**
- 13th May **Chuck Harriet Band**
- 28th May **Andrew Riverstone**
- 10th June **Open Secrets**
- 10th June **Dan Williams**
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# Joanna Wallfisch

## Elmslie House, Malvern | Friday 6th May

A new voice, plays a new venue.

Formerly known as 'The Grove', **Elmslie House** in Malvern is no stranger to hosting music gigs. Now under new ownership, re-named and completely restored, Elmslie House, a family home and part-time venue, is now poised to re-claim its place in the Malvern music scene and bring to its intimate and elegant setting some great local, national and international artists. On Friday May 6th we bring you:

*"The youngest child of a renowned classical music dynasty... crossing borders and flouting rules seem to come naturally to Joanna Wallfisch. With her clear-eyed poetry [she] combines the purview of a singer-songwriter with the technical liberties of a jazz improviser"* (The Boston Globe).

Hailed by the great pianist **Fred Hersch** as *"a real discovery - a first-rate musician in every way"* Wallfisch has built an impressive profile since her move to New York from London in 2012, fashioning a musical identity of her own.

En route to perform in Madrid, and fresh from recording her new album *Gardens in My Mind* with Malvern based **Mu-Mu Audio**,

**Elmslie House** is delighted to announce that for one night only, Joanna, a multi-instrumentalist, will be performing solo. Playing to a maximum capacity of 80 she is set to bewitch her audience with her striking live vocal-looping, quirky ukulele and sombre piano playing, to create majestic soundscapes to accompany her intimate songs.

*"The subtle chiaroscuro effects of dynamics, dissonance or vibrato, and her focused, crystalline delivery will melt any purist's heart"*



Tickets £12/£10 concs available from [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk) or please call Anna on 07789 470780. Doors open 7.30pm.

Elmslie House is based at 8 Avenue Road, Malvern, WR14 3AG.

Why not follow them on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates or subscribe to our quarterly newsletter?



Elmslie Hall is a part-time venue in the heart of Great Malvern, within a restored Grade II listed family home. We hold classes, markets and music. Why not subscribe to receive our regular newsletter and find out what else is going on?



New Yorker  
Joanna Wallfisch  
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Doors open 7.30pm  
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The Boehm Clarinet & Piano Duo  
**Saturday May 21st**  
Doors open 7.00pm  
Tickets £10/£8 concs

Canadian  
Ian Sherwood  
**Sunday 12th June**  
Doors open 7.30pm  
Tickets £12/£10 concs

Local folk sensation  
Sunjay  
**Saturday 9th July**  
Doors open 7.30pm  
Tickets £12/£10 concs

All tickets available from the website - [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk) or call 07789 470780  
E-mail [info@elmsliehouse.co.uk](mailto:info@elmsliehouse.co.uk) Elmslie House, 8 Avenue Road, Malvern WR14 3AG

# Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants

## Prince of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 3rd April

Steve Ajao and The Blues Giants awaited once again on my itinerary at my spiritual home of fine ale and great blues, that is the **Prince Of Wales** in Ledbury. They obviously had an itch to return so **Steve and Mike Hatton** could scratch their heads on the blackened beams and here they were once again delving into their back catalogue of Chicago classics. Tucked behind this duo was a necessarily compact drum kit with **Pete 'Washboard' Hammond** sat behind and ready to bounce to the rhythm on his 'sprung tractor' seat.



The bar is a bit slow in filling with people out walking the hills, but soon to be in need of a beer on landing! Meanwhile **The Giants** bring us some *'Bright Lights'* to illuminate the aged walls, with Mike working over the big 6 string bass as Steve pours out

*'Bad Bad Whiskey'*: it may be bad but it's vintage stuff, worthy of a double measure. A chrome tubular slide sits on Steve's finger and he's saying *'It Hurts Me Too'*, then barefootin' across the quarry tiles Steve's ready to be your *'Backdoor Man'*, delivered with all the spirit and grit you could want. Time for a beer.

The bar has filled but there's space to muscle through with the Strat; a garage find and nicely restored to become Steve's "pride and joy". Hendrix has arrived as *'Hey Joe'* fills the air with electricity and we all feel the energy, with *'Groundhog'* day is around the corner. Steve shows off some fabulous riffs, as Mike follows through with some finger flicking, string bending, bass. Pete's turn for the limelight now as he plugs his fingers into thimbles picking up the washboard and the rattling, rasping rumble strips are soon machine-gunning the warm, thick atmosphere and *'Number 9'* hurtles down the line. He's off up leading the way into the tight bar with Steve and Mike following; this is truly 'in yer face' music! There are smiles on the sea of surrounding faces as Pete dances around the room, the two guitars pointing accusingly at him. A spent force, Pete is then escorted back to his stool to recover, as the applause and encores reverberate around and out into the cobbled street. *'Monies Gettin' Cheaper'* so Mike and Pete down tools for a break as Steve takes us down to the infamous *'Crossroads'*, then the door cools the air as he welcomes in a *'Boogie Chill'*. Mike and Pete then amble back but no hurry as Steve has it covered on slide and The Boogie continues, until the end is nigh which a damn shame for sure. The Chill has become a raging storm as Steve tweaks his settings and pushes overdrive as his amp contorts and protests: the feedback ebbs away and the band are finished, spent out.

One of the most popular bands at the POW, The Blues Giants have blown away the cobwebs for the week, leaving the music lovers satisfied for now, but having to await their return.

Graham Munn

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# Nycosia | Pariah

When you watch independent music, there can be very few better feelings than watching the progress of a young band until they reach the point at which they're ready to release their first EP.

The first word that comes to mind when I think of the launch package for **Nycosia's "Pariah"** EP is 'classy'. Because, make no mistake, the EP is just one element of a fine package, put together with infinite care in support of the end product. It started a couple of weeks before launch with the excellent lyric video by master of the genre, **Andy Pilkington** of **Very Metal Art**,

together with previews of the astounding artwork of "*The Hermit*", by **Tom Roberts**. There's a new band logo, again designed by Pilkington which adorns the front of the very high quality tee, with Roberts' artwork sitting on the back.

Aspiring bands – this is how you do a launch for maximum effect...

But, of course however good the support package is, it all falls flat if the focus of the launch isn't up to scratch. No problems on this count, though.

So many times in the past year I've heard an EP or album from a band who are in-your-face live, that barely crawls out of the speakers – not so this beauty – it explodes out.



There are four tracks on this album, plus an ambient intro and they are all of the highest possible quality, and vitally, they give a pretty accurate picture of what it's like to experience this band in a live setting. Precise, brutal and highly professional, it's not 'easy' music, it grabs your attention and demands you listen.

The consistent quality is absolutely outstanding – the brief "*Desert Winds*" slowly and menacingly builds up to "*Blind:Sight*" and the band sets its stall out early. Heavy riffing over a tighter than tight rhythm, **Billy Kibble's** guitar chattering and fizzing in the background and **Adam Barkley's** extraordinary range of growls, bellows and wails creating a significant fourth instrument.

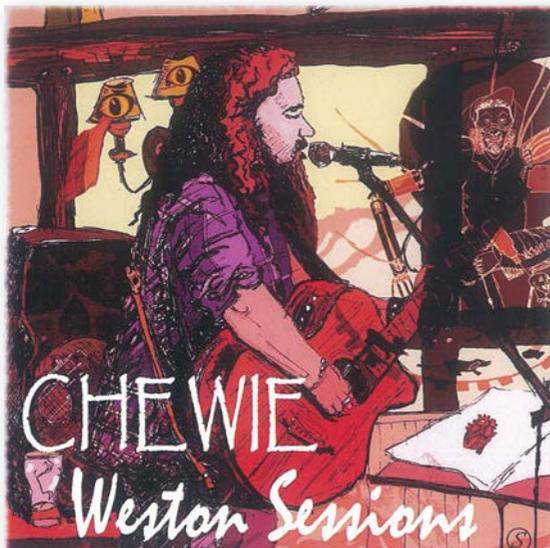
The two tracks released in advance of the official launch, "*Mind of a Hermit*" and the single, "*Miscommunication*" keep up the murderous pace. But it's the final track "*Asylum Song*" that fully showcases what the band is capable of, as time and intensity changes allow the full extent of **Theo Beech's** fine and complex bass patterns to be appreciated, while Noah Plant's drums crack and rumble like a minor war going on in the background.

For a band at any stage of its career this EP would represent an outstanding highlight, but for a first effort, "*Pariah*" is little short of amazing and hopefully, a mouthwatering appetiser of what's to come from this talented young outfit.

Geoffrey Head

# Chewie | Weston Sessions

**Chewie** (or **Randolph Beard**) if you prefer, is another one of those Worcestershire based artists who's name I've seen advertised but as yet haven't had the fortune to see live, so in truth I'm going into this one a little blind. That said, with a song entitled *I Like Jesus (He Smells Of Crisps)* and the EP's cover art of Chewie (by **Sue Thompson**), my interest had been aroused long before the first spin.



The eight track affair opens with a delicately plucked guitar as *My Head* drifts from the speakers as Chewie reveals himself to be an acoustic based singer-songwriter who not only knows his way around a fretboard but also possesses a decent set of pipes, delivering a two and half minute soulful lament that serves as a nice introduction to the musical adventures of Chewie.

Follow up *Icarus* is better yet. Deep strumming and a weathered lead vocal suggest a definite rock edge whilst retaining Chewie's keen sense of melody complimenting the grit with an inspired instrumental middle section. *After The Whiskey & Wine* offers an aching, bruised lead vocal that as the song progresses (or the bottle flows) becomes more ragged and desperate as Chewie wrenches at the heartstrings.

*Twisted Virtues* is a brilliant Americana tinged number with clever lyrical couplets. An infectious melody, a memorable choral hook and that aforementioned weathered croon drawing you in and enticing further listening. *I Like Jesus* is more of the same, those burnt but welcoming vocals and that ever expressive guitarwork sucking you in and demanding your attention.

Chewie completes the EP with a cover, taking The Beastie Boys *Fight For Your Right* and deconstructing it to create a stunning original take, that turns the once party anthem into a brooding beauty and very much his own.

*Weston Sessions* is a fantastic showcase of Chewie's talent, both as a singer-songwriter and guitarist, a troubadour baring his soul with his faithful acoustic by his side, that should appeal to anyone with an affinity for well-crafted, acoustic roots.

[www.facebook.com/chewies-musical-adventures](http://www.facebook.com/chewies-musical-adventures)  
[www.reverbnation.com/chewie](http://www.reverbnation.com/chewie)

Will Munn

# PREVIEW

## Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie Malvern Theatre | Thursday 5th May

Renowned director and performer **Dean Elliot** brings this tumultuous, tragic, touching and joyful tale of "America's greatest folk poet" to Malvern after sellout and successful shows all around the globe from Northern Ireland to New Zealand.

The show is a celebration of **Woody Guthrie**, a giant of American music, and an uplifting narrative about a difficult man who had a difficult life in difficult times. It is a tale of struggle, activism, patriotism and commitment which includes indelible protest songs such as 'This Land Is Your Land', 'Bound For Glory' and 'The Ballad of Tom Joad' to name but a few.

With plaudits from such publications as The Guardian, New York Times and The Washington Post, this is a worthy show of much merit which in the tradition of folk music, will be unamplified, authentic and include over twenty acoustic instruments.



Please visit [www.malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk) for further information and tickets

## How To Reappear

### Evesham Arts Centre | Saturday 14th May

From the ever inventive and indeed re-invented Foulisfair Theatre comes this emotional and thought-provoking one woman show, which deals with the disappearance of one's "self" following the all-encompassing experience of becoming a mother.

How To Reappear is a challenging and weighty piece, but delivered by Gemma Bolwell in a fast-paced, humorous style including some playful interaction with the audience. Be prepared for laughter and tears in this ultimately uplifting theatrical experience.



## Music In The Hall

### Malcolm Holcombe

#### St George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 13th May

If ever there was a reason to venture out on this most inauspicious of dates then this is it!



It is becoming a not so under the radar date on the calendar now as these St George's Americana gigs really do just keep on getting better and better (see **Amy LaVere** review this issue). And so it's the turn of long established Nth Carolina singer-songwriter **Malcolm Holcombe** to tread the Bewdley boards and wow the doubtless sell-out crowd, with his heartfelt and haunted acoustic country-folk-blues, delivered in his distinctive baritone.

'Another Black Hole' is his latest album and features Holcombe's

trademark rasping vocals and bright, percussive guitar, enveloping his always insightful lyrics. The words from his Grammy winning producer Ray Kennedy probably sum the man's songs up best: "His songs hit you like a gunpowder blast. His gruff and tough delivery is a primordial power full of grit, spit and anthropomorphic expression". A strong brew indeed then and Malcolm will be ably assisted at St George's by long-time sidekick Jared Tyler so this promises to be a knock-out night.

The main support on the evening comes from Bewdley's own 'One Tree Canyon' who will bring their own solid Americana stylings to the stage. As always though, the evening will be opened by a local youth act, this month featuring **Two Doors Down**.

Advance booking is always advisable for these events and tickets can be bought from the Hall Café or online at: [www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk](http://www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk)

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## HOGAN'S

# Surprise Attacks presents Blanc Mass / Rosebud / Ferric Lux The Marr's Bar, Worcester | Friday 8th April

**Benjamin John Power**, also of **Fuck Buttons**, has been making music as **Blanc Mass** since 2010 but it was only when his *'Dumb Flesh'* album was released last year that I caught up with listening to his solo work, and I utterly loved it. I'm not afraid of noise music, but for me the combination of noise with the exhilarating melody and energy of *'Dumb Flesh'* makes it totally stand out from other music in this genre.

This was amazingly the 42nd **Surprise Attacks** promoted event and promised to be one of their very best. Tonight's show began with **Ferric Lux** who is local film maker, musician and lecturer **John Bradburn**, who set the scene and mood perfectly with his mesmerising mix of *AV*: in his own words, *"ritualistic blackened techno investigating the dark sacrificial and hallucinogenic history of dance music through hazy analogue tape blur and primitive orchestrations."* Couldn't put it better myself and I certainly look forward to another FL manifestation sometime soon.



Small chance to take a breath when local three-piece **Rosebud** began their audience assault. Their electronic noisy beats immediately attracted a fascinated crowd of devoted fans including myself and I have to say I loved their music, which draws inspiration from industrial to punk to dub. **Rosebud** are a menacing sight dressed entirely in black, including odd masks and bowler hats. The detail is admirable including briefcases which conceal their equipment and a pair of white gloves which look eerie, being the only non-black items in evidence. Whilst two of the trio remain onstage controlling the noise, the vocalist roams menacingly around the audience, a loose cannon released, escaped from conformity. Indeed, through his muffled and distorted vocals, the only words I can make out are 'I'm free...' repeated over and over again. The backdrop of hypnotic visuals bring to my mind thoughts of control and freedom, both personal and political, further induced by the name and imagery of a young rosebud. I'm reminded of the moment in *Citizen Kane* when he whispers "Rosebud..." on his deathbed. Innocence vs. Power?

The vast weird sounds of *'Loam'* began the **Blanc Mass'** show. It was the loudest noise I've ever heard in **The Marr's Bar**. Cut up, deformed and degrading vocals and projected visuals of internal bodies immediately took me to visceral inner thoughts. Power has managed to transfer those ideas of fragility and harshness of the body that appear on the album to his live performance. It came as no surprise when I learnt that when he was recording he was recovering from an incident that prevented him from walking for



weeks. Recognisable songs such as *'Dead Format'* and *'Cruel Sport'*, whilst very different from *'Loam'*, are equally visceral. I am really aware of my body, both from the visuals but the fact that my body can literally feel the music. When I stop moving my legs tremble. I can feel the beats in my chest. My closest ear to the PA is having a hard time. Despite this, or maybe because of this, the music is profoundly hard hitting in both a physical and cognitive way. It's chilly and balmy at the same time. It hits the bottom of my stomach. By the end I can't stop dancing and I can't tell what is warped vocals or digital beats anymore, they seem to collide to become sums of their part; an obliterating yet beautiful noise that manages to be utterly controlled and liberating at the same time. No wonder I missed my last train home.

*Words by Siobhan Joan Photography by Duncan Graves*

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## Folk In The Foyer: Steve Ashley & Mike Weaver Evesham Arts Centre | Thursday 26th May

From strength to strength goes the **Evesham Arts Centre's Folk In The Foyer** season, as it comes up trumps again when **Steve Ashely** graces the venue with his presence together with formidable support from **Mike Weaver** on **Thursday 26th May**.



Steve Ashely

In the words of none other than Mike Harding himself, **Steve Ashely** is "...one of the British folk scene's finest singer-songwriters" and comes with a top class pedigree having recorded with the likes of Anne Briggs, Shirley Collins, Robin Williamson and the various Thompsons (you know their names!).

Previously a member of **The Albion Country Band** and his own **Ragged Robin Steve** has had his own penned singular material covered by a whole host of luminaries such as **Fairport, Wizz Jones, Martin Simpson, Phil Beer** and legions of others. If this is not enough to get you hot-footing it to **Evesham Arts Centre** then the cherry on the cake is the support by none other than **Folk In The Foyer** fundraising and founder stalwart **Mike Weaver**, who will doubtless warm up the crowd wonderfully for what is bound to prove another cracking night of Folk In The Foyer.

As always, visit the **Evesham Arts Centre** website for more details and tickets: [www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk](http://www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk)

## Raw Comedy! Evesham Arts Centre | Friday 6th May

A fresh bunch of comedy faces will fill the arts centre foyer on Friday 6th March for another great-value **Raw Comedy** night - bringing a huge variety of comedy styles.

May's headline act is Birmingham's boss of deadpan one-liners & short stories **Lovdev Barpaga**, delivering proper jokes with proper punchlines. MC for the night will be unashamedly middle-class **Matthew Baylis** who has gigged with the likes of Harry Hill, Milton Jones, Reginald D Hunter etc..

There will be another 6, yes 6, terrific turns on the night, all new but rising talent who here at **Evesham Arts** are given a 10-15 minute slot to try out material and hone their act. This is what makes it raw, exciting - expect the unexpected.

Look up the following names, go and support them and you can be smug when they hit the Big Time and say "Of course I saw them at my local Arts Centre-before they were famous".

Here goes: **Sally Firth, Billy McGuire, Thomas Rackham, Ben Glover, Josh Pugh** and **Lucas Johnson**: hailing from Canada to Birmingham and most points inbetween, this line-up is bound to impress. Tickets for Raw Comedy are limited and popular, so advancing booking is recommended (and cheaper!) so - the acts are good, the atmosphere is great and the price is right..what are you waiting for?!



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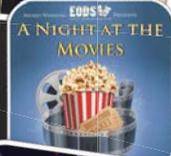
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Tickets: £10 / £9

28 May **D-Day Darlings:** The Songs that Won the War  
Tickets: £14 / £12



Tickets and further information from:  
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Produced by Evesham Arts Association - Registered Charity: 505575

# John Otway

The Marris Bar, Worcester | Friday 13th May

Hopefully amongst the knowledgable and music loving Slap readership, the name **John Otway** needs not much introduction, but that would make a crappy preview so here goes!

From the age of 9, John Otway knew he wanted to be a pop star. But even at that young age, having listened to his sister's Beatles and Stones records, he knew he would never be able to do what they do. However, when his sister got the latest Bob Dylan album, he knew there was a place for him and he set about learning how to play guitar.

A visit to a fortune teller would have a profound effect on the young Otway. After gazing into her crystal ball, she confirmed that Otway would indeed be a star and would have success with a blonde-haired musician. Otway took this prediction very seriously and teamed up with **Wild Willy Barrett** (the only musician he knew who fitted the fortune teller's description). In 1972, the pair released their first single, 'Gypsy/Misty Mountain'; a dedication to the fortune teller who had assured Otway that fame and stardom was just around the corner. The single would be the first of a string of flops, but it did capture the attention of The Who's Pete Townshend who offered to produce a number of tracks for the duo.

This titanic twosome of course broke-through and eventually had a hit, the brilliant '(Cor Baby That's) Really Free', due to their ahem singular performance on **The Old Grey Whistle Test**. Since then singer-songwriter has built a sizeable cult audience through extensive touring, either with or without his redoubtable Willy(!),



and armed forever with a surreal sense of humour and a self-deprecating underdog persona. Indeed his well-worth-a-read 1990 autobiography is entitled "Cor Baby That's Really Me (Rock and Roll's Greatest Failure!)".

Yet another fine reason then to head Marris-wards once again. See ya there baby!

[www.wegotickets.com/event/339691](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/339691)

# Tia McGraff

The Marris Bar, Worcester | Thursday 26th May

**Tia McGraff** is an internationally renowned and award winning Americana/country songstress from Port Dover, ON, Canada. With Scottish/Transylvanian roots running through her songwriting and voice, Tia's talent has been described as "haunting and soul-grIPPING."

Tia comes to Worcester's **The Marris Bar** in support of her latest and 6th album release, 'Crazy Beautiful' which was released to much acclaim resulting in significant chart action throughout USA, Canada and Europe. Consequently Tia has gained a global following together with much respect from the music industry.



Her last album was produced by Tommy Parham, himself a songwriter and actor of some repute, who eventually whilst collaborating with Tia, ignored the golden "never date a co-writer" rule and fell in love, the pair subsequently getting hitched in fine style by performing a concert for their fans!

You may have gathered by now that we are talking Americana Royalty here, so take it from us (when ever have we let you down??) that Tia McGraff is well worth taking in so et the date in your diaries now and head on down to:

[www.wegotickets.com/event/343055](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/343055)

# The Leylines

## The Callow End Club | 9th April

What better way to spend a Saturday night than with Weston Super-Mare based five-piece, **The Leylines**, a band that in such a small space of time have not only become firm favourites of mine but have also become firm staples of the UK festival scene, performing across the country and soon to be hitting a field near you. The first time I caught the band was back in Gloucester supporting 3 Daft Monkeys (which was their first live gig) and even then their blend of high octane folk, punk and rock stood out, since those humble beginnings subsequent outings has seen the band grow from a tight cohesive unit into masters of their craft.

This year could be something of a big one for the band, along with the numerous live dates and festivals the band release their debut album (should be available when you come to read this review), a disc chock full of infectious hooks, heartfelt melodies and the odd shout it proud anthem; songs that have been on constant rotation (in my head) for the past year or so and certainly since the band recently took Worcester's own (packed out) Marris Bar by storm a couple of months back.

A return to the local area, the last before the release of the aforementioned album, up the road in Callow End once again saw the band in fine form, opening with 'Let It Go' (no not the one from Frozen) the band took the compact, but enthusiastic audience by the scruff and urged them to clap, sing and eventually dance along. A Spanish styled introduction preceded 'The Reasons', before a rousing 'Runaway', voices raised, the dual acoustic guitars strummed and Hannah's fiddle weaving an intoxicating spell, whilst the rhythm section lay down a tight, solid base as the band continue to up the ante.

People spill onto the dancefloor controlled by the energy of the band as they crank out an infectious, driven rendition of 'My Own Worst Enemy' followed by the instrumental 'Stone Circle' showcases the band's musicianship, before a rowdy 'You've



Changed'. A quick break and time for another cheap cider, before The Leylines crank it up again with another anthem and another personal fave in the shape of 'Sorry My Friend'. By now the floor is awash with dancers as a number of the audience (myself included) holler back the words of the sets only cover, the effervescent Levellers' tune 15 Years.

Frontman **Steve Mitchell** stirs the soul with the politically charged 'For Queen And Country', inspired by his time in the army and unequipped soldiers going off to fight. The band then finish the night off with the one-two knockout punch of 'Run For Cover' and festival party anthem 'Sat In A Field', leaving an elated Callow End Club with a nagging hook and a big broad smile etched on their collective faces.

By the time you read this, I'll hopefully be hollering away to the band's debut and I'm sure by the time the first few festivals of the year come round you'll be singing along too. See the band, buy the album and support one of the best live bands in the UK right now. [www.theleylinesmusic.co.uk](http://www.theleylinesmusic.co.uk)

Words by Will Munn Photography by Graham Munn

# Lechlade Music Festival

## Friday 27th — Sunday 29th May

The beautiful Cotswolds town of Lechlade on Thames plays host to its sixth 3 day family-friendly music festival over the late May bank holiday weekend. From rock to reggae, folk to funk, pop to punk and everything in between, there's something for everyone including free family activities, real ales, fabulous food and a burlesque revue. With over 70 bands on 3 stages, this is a fantastic weekend of live music for all ages.

Scottish rock band The Proclaimers headline on Saturday night, with festival favourites Doctor & The Medics returning on Friday night, followed by the ultimate Pink Floyd Tribute band.

Kids 16 & under go free and can enjoy a free play tent, daily party and fun family activities over the weekend, whilst Real Ales and artisan ciders can be sampled by the older folk in addition to the mouth-watering selection of food on offer.

Stroll along the River Thames and take in the beautiful countryside, visit Lechlade's smart cafes and independent shops or just chill in the campsites, bordering the river and looking out over the fields. The excellent camping facilities are open from 2pm on Friday through to 10am Monday.



Find out more and sign up for the festival newsletter at [www.lechldefestival.co.uk](http://www.lechldefestival.co.uk) and get the latest news via [facebook.com/LechladeFestival](https://www.facebook.com/LechladeFestival) or via Twitter @LechladeFest

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**Alex Rainsford, Fate The Juggler,**

**Elles Bailey, Mark Harrison,**

**Swanvesta SocialClub, Dealer,**

**The Gotswold Voices,**

**Felix & The Funk**

**& many, many more!**

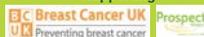


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Supporting



**The Pale Kings, Dr Bullfrog  
Market Tavern Legends  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster | Sat 14th May**



If some horrid and fatal accident doesn't befall you the day before, go see the first of the **Boars Head's 'Market Tavern Legends'** events on Sat 14th May. The Tavern was a legendary Kiddy venue which despite hosting many of the soon-to-be famous such as **Radiohead, Carter USM** and **The Alarm**, was demolished in 2006. The place was also noted for giving a platform to many local acts and **The Pale Kings** and **Dr Bullfrog** are indeed two of those, who have specially re-formed for the event in order to evoke and invoke old memories plus hopefully some new ones.

You may recognise some members of The Kings as they are currently involved with madcap, food-based punk-popsters **Sister Sandwich**, whilst The Bullfrogs were and are a lively covers band formed in the early 1990's by an eclectic bunch of musicians with a mutual interest in staying up all night drinking and making a racket.

**Rich Morley** of **The Pale Kings** says: *"Hats off to Sand and Syd at The Boars Head, I never thought there'd be another place in Kiddy anywhere close to the feel of The Market Tavern but The Boars has a similar vibe...and is a fitting place for The Pale Kings to make their comeback – we can't wait".*

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**John Combe**

**24th December 1944 – 15th March 2016**

Tributes have been pouring in to the family and on social media following the news of the death of John Combe. John passed away on 15th March 2016 following a short illness at the age of 71.

He was known by so many people, particularly within his home town of Kidderminster and the Wyre Forest area for his contribution to the local music scene in the 70's and 80's. John loved life and was extremely passionate about music. He worked as a local promoter bringing the likes of Dexty's, U2, Simple Minds and UB40 to the town.



He was struck down by a virus in 2002 that left him virtually paralysed and confined him to a wheelchair. This hit John and his family very hard but he was determined to continue his passion with music – and he focused on a project that he had talked about for

years and started to write the first of what became two volumes called 'Get your kicks on the A456' a history of the Wyre Forest music scene. He also continued to organise fundraising gigs – most of which were held at the town hall.

John influenced and inspired many people. His funeral was attended by family, friends and an army of local musicians all wanting to pay their respects to this kind and generous gentleman. He is a loss to the local music scene and will be sorely missed.

Some of the tributes...

*"You supported so many of us and we will never forget your enthusiasm and encouragement that made Kidderminster a melting pot of so many people involved with the local music scene. A massive debt owed by so many to you".*

*"Every musician from the Kiddy area owes something to John"*

*"John put Kidder on the music map"*

*"John will forever be part of the Kidderminster music scene – where's the blue plaque going?"*

*"Your encouragement and excitement for the live music scene in Wyre Forest will never be equalled"*

*"John deserves his own statue for his sterling efforts to promote live music"*

# Guitar Tuning Problems

Are you one of those lucky people who can tune up before a gig, use the whammy bar like a maniac and still be in tune at the end of the night — or do you have a guitar that seems impossible to keep in tune? I've repaired and built a lot of electric guitars over the past few years and have learnt a lot along the way about why tuning problems occur and, more importantly, how to fix them. You don't need locking tremos or even locking tuners to keep your guitar happy, just a little careful adjustment starting with using your tuner to confirm that all the octaves (open string to 12th fret) are accurate. If they are not, adjust the bridge saddles — move them towards the neck if the octave is flat or away from the body if the octave is sharp.

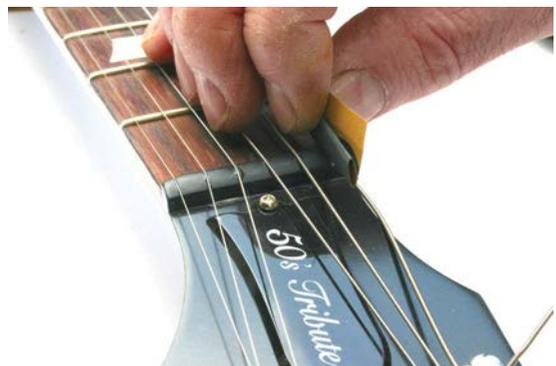
After that, let's look at restringing the guitar. If you use the method where the string wraps over the free end of the string after passing through the hole in the tuner post, slippage is unlikely to occur but also try to have only have a couple of turns of string around the post. If you have a great bundle of wound string it is more likely to shift. Once the strings are on, they need to be stretched and the easy way to do this is to tune the string to pitch, then get hold of it midway, pull it away from the neck (but not hard enough to break it!) and then keep the tension on for around ten seconds before releasing it. Check the tuning again and if it has gone flat, as it most certainly will have first time around, repeat the process until the pitch stays the same, then move onto the next string.



Now look at the nut. The purpose of the nut is to raise the strings off the frets by the required amount and also to maintain the correct string spacing, but passing a string through a narrow slot cut into plastic or bone invites friction. If you hear a string 'ping' as you tune up, you almost certainly have a problem

with it sticking in the nut slot. Gibson style guitars are particularly prone to this issue as the strings go over the nut at an angle, not straight across as they do with a Strat or Tele.

A simple and safe DIY cure is to get hold of some fine emery paper (wet and dry paper from Halfords is fine) that is marked as being between 800 and 1200 grit (a measure of coarseness). Fold a piece in two and then run the folded edge along inside the slot of the top string to polish and smooth the sides and bottom of the slot. Same goes for the second string. When you get to the third



string you may need to add another fold to thicken up your polishing paper but the process is the same. When you get to the wound strings, add folds so that you can feel a little resistance when polishing the slot but not enough to cause the paper to jam. A dozen strokes in each slot should make a big improvement.

Some players use a soft lead pencil to lubricate the slots when changing string and this certainly helps. However, there are commercial nut lubrication products such as Big Bends Nut Sauce, which comes in a plastic syringe, that will last you for years. You can squeeze it directly into the slots but it is easy to put in too much and waste it. Instead, apply a little to a piece of dental floss and then work that back and forth in the nut slots. You can also make your own lubricant by mixing powdered graphite (eBay) with Vaseline.

Next time I'll look at setting up a Strat trem to avoid tuning issues.

Paul White (Editor In Chief, Sound On Sound)  
paulwhite@paulwhite.org.uk

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Contact 07854 498018

# May at Huntingdon Hall & Swan Theatre, Worcester

On **Tuesday 10th May** true Legends of folk **Fairport Convention** return to Worcester for a heavily anticipated show. Fairport has been making great music for nearly fifty years and are the originators of British folk-rock with their seminal album '*Liege & Lief*', which was voted by BBC Radio2 listeners as '*The Most Influential Folk Album Of All Time*'.

The folk faithful will know all this but we write in hope of converting new listeners as Fairport truly are a special treat. It is regarded as the album that launched the folk rock movement. The band has been through many changes over the years with most music lovers being aware of legendary names such as **Richard Thompson, Sandy Denny** and **Dave Swarbrick**. The current members however retain a passion for live performance and now features **Simon Nicol** on guitar and vocals, **Dave Pegg** on bass,



**Chris Leslie** on fiddle, mandolin and vocals, **Ric Sanders** on violin and **Gerry Conway** on drums. They even of course put on their own successful annual folk music festival, 'Cropredy' and this has awakened an even wider interest in quality traditional and folk music from new audiences of all ages. Whether you are a long-time fan or a newcomer to their music, an evening with Fairport Convention is sure to surprise and delight you.

Yet more fabulous folk comes to **Huntingdon Hall** in the fine form of **The Peatbog Faeries** on Thursday 19th May. This year sees The Faeries celebrate 25 years as a band and continuing on their marvellous mission of bringing Celtic dance music into the 21st Century. They successfully, nay triumphantly, accomplish this by incorporating and weaving influences that take them from traditional jigs and reels through jazz, hip hop, reggae and more, for a true flavour of traditional Scottish music whilst offering high octane Celtic dance music. Now on their seventh album, the electrifying '*Blackhouse*', Peatbog Faeries use a veritable arsenal of instrument onstage including bagpipes, fiddle, whistles, guitars, keyboard, drums and a brass section. "*The Peatbog Faeries have the power to enliven a crowd into a joyous Ceilidh style energy*" says The Scotsman, so why not head on down to Huntingdon Hall and find out for yourselves.





# What's On?





**Martin Turner**  
ex **Wishbone Ash**  
14th May - £17.50

**Peatbog Faeries**  
19th May - £17.50



**Gyles Brandreth**  
28th May - £19



**The Best Thing**  
3rd and 4th June  
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**Conservatoire Folk Ensemble**  
4th June - £16



**I, Elizabeth**  
8th June  
- £14





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A change of pace at Swan Theatre as the classic tale *The Railway Children* is brought vividly to life on Saturday 14th May. So vividly in fact that this show gives the whole audience the chance to join in and for up to 10 children the opportunity to perform on stage. This is then family entertainment at its best and if you would like to take part head over to [www.imagemusicaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.imagemusicaltheatre.co.uk) where you can learn the songs and actions before this exciting event.

If you do not already know, 'The Railway Children' is the story of Roberta, Peter and Phyllis whose lives are shattered when their father is taken away. Their mother is forced to take them from a comfortable London life to live in a simple country cottage. Whilst there, they learn about the railway from their new friend Perks and soon fall in love with it. They have many adventures, and when they save a train from disaster, they are helped to solve the mystery of their father's disappearance. This is bound to prove a magical and enchanting family show and is recommended for ages 5 and above.



Please see both venues' websites for full details and tickets: [www.huntingdonhall.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonhall.co.uk) & [www.theswantheatre.co.uk](http://www.theswantheatre.co.uk)

## Daniel Kemish, James Weston The Woo Town Hillbillies The MARRS Bar, Worcester | Sunday 17th April

I'm one of those people (I think they're called music fans) that, if I see a name I don't recognise performing locally, I find myself scouring the internet for clues and so it came to pass that I should stumble upon '*Trouble Girl*' by Southampton born, Portugal based singer-songwriter **Daniel Kemish**; an instantly infectious rootsy lament, featuring a suitably weathered lead vocal and a rousing hook. One play had me scrambling to mark his MARRS Bar date in the diary.

Sundays at the **MARRS Bar** have always been a cozy affair; candlelit with those in the know gathered to witness the best in roots. Everyone who has played from **Christopher Rees, Jackie Leven, Micheal Sheehy, Steve Wynn** and **Amy Wadge** have all left lasting impressions and tonight would be no different, as Worcester paid witness to an incredible night of live music courtesy of **Daniel Kemish** and his touring partner **James Weston**.

Charged with opening the nights proceedings, **The Woo Town Hillbillies** are a somewhat ramshackle collective who weld a combination of bluegrass and country, covers and originals plus a healthy dose of humour. This creates a fun-fuelled spectacle full of whoops and hollers, armed with a collection of acoustics, mandolin, banjolele, double bass and of course a washboard. The band perform a short yet enjoyable set that opened with an instrumental hoedown, setting the mood for a rustic rumpus that included a heartfelt tribute to the late Merle Haggard; a cover of his '*The Bottle Let me Down*', before the band delivered a rousing original in the shape of '*Dartmoor Girl*' and thus helping start the night with a flourish.

Nashville based troubadour **James Weston** followed the Hillbillies swaying on to stage looking like he'd just woken on a park bench. Armed with beaten acoustic and unruly beard James begun by introducing '*Unlucky Blues*', as he started strumming,



unveiling his deep, rasping baritone, well worn and weathered. He weaved a spellbinding opening gambit and you could almost hear the audience collectively gasp as this gravelly voiced maverick, majestically spewed poetry captivating one and all. Another original '*Blinded By Love*' followed, proving that James is the real deal as he delivering a vulnerable and aching vocal, drawing the listener into his folky heartfelt lament. With the audience already in the palm of his hands, hanging on every chord and word, James delivered perhaps the best rendition of '*House Of The Rising Sun*' I've ever heard. That lonesome guitar and deep ursine delivery brought out new depth to this classic, making the song his own and if that wasn't enough, he finished with not only a mesmeric version of Townes' '*Pancho And Lefty*' but also a jaw dropping 'Hallelujah'. How James Weston isn't a household name is beyond me; he has the musicality, the poetic license, the intrigue and that voice.

Most people would struggle to follow such a captivating set, but **Daniel Kemish** and friends are not most groups; they unite the rustic roots of Americana and rock with an instant hook, a keen melody and a swaggering sing-a-long chorus. From the moment Daniel and cohorts took to the stage they grabbed the assembled by the lapels, blending acoustic strums with electric solos, whilst the double bass and drums lock down the bottom end.

Daniel is a natural frontman with a voice that ranges between a husky croon and the emotive balladeer. The likes of 'In The Fast Lane' showcasing the former, whilst the gloriously understated and aching '*1000 Miles Of Rail*' proves the latter, as Daniel delivers this gorgeous soulful solo number.

The band's set was littered with numerous highlights, with Weston returning to add his whiskey soaked vocals on the rootsy '*Midnight Train*', then Kemish taking on Dylan with a glorious take on '*Dark Side Of The Road*'. The rockabilly tinged tale of growing weed in Denver on '*Honest Man*' followed plus the aforementioned hook-laden '*Trouble Girl*' to name but a few. This glorious band led by Kemish delivered from start to finish, with the enthusiastic audience responding in kind.

This one will go down as another memorable **MARRS Bar** gig for those in the know, whilst those of you who missed out, well shame on you and I can only suggest you rectify things next time **Daniel Kemish** and/or **James Weston** roll into town.

[www.danielkemish.com](http://www.danielkemish.com) [www.jameswestonmusic.com](http://www.jameswestonmusic.com)

Will Munn

# UPTON festival Blues 2016



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# Upton Blues Festival

## Friday 15th - Sunday 17th July | Upton-upon-Severn

The ever growing and evolving event that is **Upton Blues Festival** – voted UK Blues Festival of the Year 2015 – is set to change and develop again for 2016 bringing in more bands, more activity and better facilities for its visitors. Its two fundamentals will remain the same however ie 'every performance free to watch/every performer paid' and 'filling the streets of Upton with joy and music'.

The line-up brings performers from throughout Britain and further afield to the lovely riverside town to perform to the many 1000's of visitors with top names over the weekend including **Aynsley Lister, Rev Peyton's Big Damn Band, The Producers, Wille & the Bandits, Alexis Evans, Chris Antonik** and over 130 more!

From Chicago to Bluegrass to New Orleans, acoustic to gospel, the Upton Blues Festival's eclectic approach to blues ensures there is something for everyone in this broad and inclusive genre; the root of all popular music. A tinge of jazz, a sprinkle of folk, a thump of rebellion, a flash of joy – its all there in the music over the weekend.

For 2016 the **Sports Field Stage** will open at lunchtime on Friday for the first time with a much larger marquee and stage and more stalls to accommodate the growing audience at this chilled 'sit down on the grass' area. We have a FM radio license (the first blues festival in the UK to do this) and will have a full radio station running throughout the weekend. **The Riverside Stage** layout has been re-organised to increase viewing capacity for the audience.

The festival is also putting on a lecture programme and workshops for people who want to learn more – and sing!



Many people travel to the festival from far and wide in addition to the legions of faithful locals who wish to stay over and savour every moment, so with this in mind the camping field will be bigger and better this year with even more toilets and showers!

So come and join in with the best that UK blues and Worcestershire has to offer – great music, great atmosphere in a beautiful riverside setting. Upton Blues Festival 2016 – It's going to be a Blast! For more info visit: [www.uptonbluesfestival.org](http://www.uptonbluesfestival.org)

## Been To The Festival? - Now Go To A Gig!

There is an initiative by **Upton Blues Fest** maestro **Oliver Carpenter** to get festival goers to support their local music scenes more regularly. In conjunction with SLAP, Oliver is planning to have a "You've Enjoyed The Music - Now Go To A Gig" at this year's Upton Fest.

For this to happen Oliver is asking for 20 local volunteer musicians and venue owners to man the stand throughout the weekend, with a view to talking to the many visitors about supporting the wider and regular live music scene.

Each volunteer would be asked to commit to doing a three hour stint at the festival and those interested should contact Oliver at [oliver@ocsingstheblues.co.uk](mailto:oliver@ocsingstheblues.co.uk), with your preferred date and time. Your help is needed and much appreciated.

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# Amy LaVere

## St George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 8th April

Having had the opportunity to experience an outstanding Friday night's musical entertainment last month in the venerable venue of St George's in Bewdley, I'd purchased my ticket for the latest in the 'Music in the Hall' a good while back knowing that they'd be in demand. I was certainly looking forward to see how the team arranging these intimate gigs would match the standard of the last visiting Nashville twosome; Matthew Perryman-Jones and Angel Snow.

A combination of word of mouth, simple but effective local advertising and sympathetic local press (thank you Slap Mag), ensured that a sizeable audience had assembled at St George's and they proved to be a respectful, appreciative and knowledgeable one.

As always with these events the organisers called upon the tremendous talent in the area and included two local acts on the bill, including a youth act in conjunction with **Bewdley Youth Festival**.



Bewdley based band **Swallows** opened the night with a well-received set of electronica based songs featuring beautiful harmonies from the two main singers. They were followed by **Wyldwood** from Stourport, fronted by **Hannah Law** and **Chloe Mogg** who soon proved that they are becoming a force to be reckoned with.



However, the night belonged to the double-bass playing **Amy LaVere** who had the audience spellbound with her songs and her humour in describing life in Memphis, Tennessee. Resplendent in a pastel pink wig Amy, accompanied by her Texan troubadour husband in a white cowboy hat, was welcomed by enthusiastic applause and the expectation level was turned up a few notches.

Amy and hubby Will Sexton opened the gig with two new numbers from their recently released album *'Hallelujah I'm A Dreamer'*. Introducing *'Dreamer'* as a story that developed *'restlessness into recklessness'* and running straight into the lyrical vision of young love from *'Last Rock n Roll Boy to Dance'*, with both receiving an increased volume of applause, indicating that the crowd were indeed warming to the accomplished musicianship of the leading lady, plying her trade on a borrowed double bass with her partner wielding a beaten up six string.



It wasn't long before some personal anecdotes endeared her further to the audience and introduced the best numbers of the night. A family story introduced her saintly *'Big Sister'*, with Amy emphasising that the song referred to the first 17 years of her sister's life when she was something of an 'ass' and then introduced us to her love of Memphis and it's history, by explaining that the difference in the deaf sign language between Memphis and Murder is one finger! *'Killing Him'* was explained as a tale of the ultimate retribution of spousal abuse and the first 'murder ballad' of the night.

The most animated story followed, by introducing us all to her experiences sampling hallucinogenic drugs, playing schoolgirl tricks on her housemate and 16 days without power following *Hurricane 'Elvis'*. It was evidence of how in tune the crowd were that *'Damn Love Song'* and *'Day Like Any'* were followed by a respectful silence and the haunting lyrics of *'Rabbit'* which for me was the best song of the evening. Raucous applause and knowing nods of approval resulted.

By way of introduction to the last song of the set, *'Tennessee Valentine'*, Amy thanked the donor of the borrowed bass and if further emphasis of her reputation as a musician's musician was needed a certain **Robert Plant** stood at the rear of the hall joining in the crowd appreciation.

Encores are part and parcel of an artist's set nowadays, but the reward for this intimate and respectful crowd was an additional four numbers, which included a nod of recognition to the recent passing of **Merle Haggard** and **Will Sexton** grabbing control of the mic for a fun version of *'The Man Who Comes Around'* (track it down, it won't disappoint)

This evening was another undoubted success for the team in Bewdley and increased recognition for musicianship from the American state of Tennessee. Thanks for making the journey **Amy LaVere** and **Will Sexton** respectful silence and the haunting lyrics of *'Rabbit'* which for me was the best song of the evening. Raucous applause and knowing nods of approval resulted.

Images: Colin Hill Words: Camomile to Whiskey via Trevor Price

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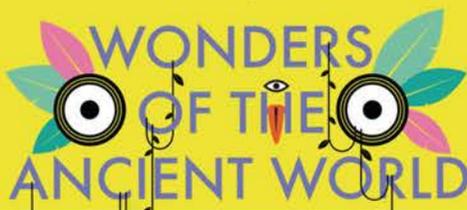


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# PREVIEW

## Jinney Ring Folk Festival Hanbury craft centre | Saturday 11th June

Now in its third year, the **Jinney Ring Folk Festival** takes place in the beautiful setting of the Hanbury craft centre gardens, with a stunning backdrop of the Malvern Hills. This growing festival will showcase its biggest line up to date, with eight acts playing on the marquee stage from 12pm to 11pm.

Opening the day will be **The Honeyfire**, two sisters who play harmony driven folk dream-pop, followed by **Mark Stevenson** aka **The Bard of Ledbury**. Local acts include folk-punk duo **Jack of All** from Malvern, and three from Worcester including young trio **Granny's Attic**, the fun-fuelled **Woo Town Hillbillies**, and closing the night **Jasper in the Company of Others** with their energetic fusion of indie pop.



Two multi-award winning acts are on stage in the evening. Singer, songwriter and guitarist **Sam Carter** has toured the world and just released his third album 'How The City Sings' in April 2016. **Lucy Ward** has recently been awarded the Best Album 2015 title at the Fatea Magazine Awards, and previously Best Newcomer in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, a title also won by Sam Carter.

There will be local ale, cider and perry all weekend, as well as plenty of homemade food. Camping is available, tents and motorhomes welcome. Free parking and entry to the craft centre.

Advance Saturday tickets £20.00 (£25.00 on the gate), £8.00 under 14s, under 5s go free. Tickets inc. camping £27.00 for one night or £35.00 for two, with a £2.00 breakfast voucher. Tickets & Info: [www.jinneyring.co.uk](http://www.jinneyring.co.uk) or 01527 821272.



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**JACK OF ALL**  
**GRANNY'S ATTIC**  
**THE HONEY FIRE**  
**MARK STEVENSON**

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# Jez Lowe

St.Swithuns Hall, Worcester | Sunday 17 April

A good crowd had already assembled by 7.30 when I rolled up for this Shindig organised event; testament to the hard work that **Barry Walmsley** puts into the thrice yearly **Worcester Acoustic Music Sessions (WAMS)** plus a few Shindig events one can enjoy at St.Swithuns Hall in the Trinity, Worcester.

Tonight we are all here to see Jez Lowe, singer-Songwriter from Co.Durham. His remit for this tour is to promote the songs he has written and performed for the BBC Radio Ballads. He's written around 70 songs for the long running award winning BBC series. Once described by Richard Thompson as *'the best Singer-Songwriter to come out of the UK in a longtime'*, our stripy topped troubadour is one of those who connect art and heart in equal measures.

Before the main man we are briefly but beautifully entertained by the mellifluous melodies and harmonies of **Eric and Eilleen**, two stalwarts from the long-running **Somers Folk Club**. Having warmed up the expectant crowd nicely, the pair exit to make way for Jez who after a brief intro opens with *'Tether's End'*, a protest song for modern political cynics everywhere.... *'Flat broken- hearted, bruised and burned. Cash-strapped and dunce-capped from lessons never learned. Up another junction, not knowing where to turn. Come along with me my friend, I'm travelling to Tether's End'*,.... there you go folks, a taste of the great man's lyrics and wouldn't you be at the end of your tether.

More songs from the Radio Ballads follow; *'Taking on Men'* laments the demise of the shipbuilding industry, *'The Pitmen Poets'* salutes the miners who wrote many of North East England's celebrated mining ballads, then it's a couple of songs about the travelling fairs, *'The Waltzer'* and *'Bother at the Hoppings'*, a song which clearly resonates with some of the Geordies in the crowd.

Jez then tells us how he was asked by the Producer of the Radio Ballads to write a funny song about the First World War(!), thus follows *'The Wrong Bus'*, a tale from the perspective of Tommy and Fritz, the protagonists from opposite sides who meet up when they get ferried to the Western Front by double decker

buses. A couple more songs then it's time for the break and a chance to slake yer thirst with a fine pint of the local brew on offer and a chance to purchase your Jez Lowe CDs which many did.

The second half and our genial host Barry and his guitar are joined by Malcolm Myatt on fiddle to serenade us with a gentle waltz followed by 'Bonaparte's Retreat' a cracking fiddle tune delivered with great aplomb by the duo.



Cittern primed and ready to go, left-handed Jez kicks off his second set and soon we're back to the Radio Ballads and a bluesy number called *'Jesse Owens Shoes'*, written for the BBC Ballad of the Olympics. An interesting fact for you quizzers out there, Jez reliably informs us that Jesse Owens was the first athlete to be sponsored by Adidas running shoes. A Charles Darwin inspired song next then another of his many mining songs, this one called *'Bait Up'*, a particular favourite of this reviewer. Bait is the name given by miners and labourers in Co.Durham for their packed lunch traditionally prepared by their wives.

A few more from the Radio Ballads are duly served up with his trademark dry wit and banter with particular mention to *'The Austerity Alphabet'*, a fierce concise summary of hard times....*'A is for Austerity, B for the Bankers..'* etc, you get the gist. Finally it's encore time and a song about the legendary Lord Lambton, another hero from the North East. Tonight's hero though has certainly entertained a healthy crowd and I strongly advise that should you get the chance, and I'm sure you will as he's a busy bloke, go and see **Jeze Lowe** either solo or with his band The Bad Pennies, or indeed with one of the many other collectives he seems to be involved with.

These WAMS events are really worth supporting and next up are the marvellous Welsh acoustic trio ALAW on Thursday 19th May. Be sure to get your tickets in advance for these popular events from Barry Walmsley: [barry@ate.org.uk](mailto:barry@ate.org.uk) or 07881 581193

Words by Tom Trackswet



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# Screaming Miss Jackson and the Slap Ya Mama Big Band Desert Boots, Collective 43 Firefly, Worcester | Saturday 2nd April

Collective 43



Photography: Duncan Clark

With a blare of brass, wind, guitars and a bewildering array of sounds - including the artful click-clack of an old-school typewriter - **Collective 43** opened this evening of swinging, soulful, jazzy, and bluegrass goodness.

Desert Boots



Photography: Duncan Graves



Screaming Miss Jackson and the Slap Ya Mama Big Band

Photography: Duncan Graves

With gusto by the boatload and joyously life-affirming spark throughout, the dizzyingly multi-piece Collective 43 rolled, swung and strutted through New Orleans marching band jazz, ragtime and swing - and other infectious styles that defy categorisation - with the exuberance of a slightly unhinged gospel choir. The arrangement of this many different instruments and vocal parts - eleven members being crammed into this already densely packed little venue - was and is impressive. And make no mistake. This football team's worth of performers delivered a riot of noise and colour, shot through with humour, humanity - and heart.

Next up: Worcester's ascending funk stars **Desert Boots**. Compared to the massed ranks of Collective 43, at a glance this four-piece looked slightly understaffed. However. The blazing soul storm worked up by these fellows, with a crackling energy so tangible it almost sparked off the light fittings - spoke clearly of an outfit that is finding and working its groove with ever increasing precision and assurance. Truly ones to watch.

And finally: **Screaming Miss Jackson and the Slap Ya Mama Big Band**. Well-established on the UK festival circuit, this Bristolian seven-piece directly channeled the spirit of 30s jazz greats and the very swing-iest end of the country and bluegrass spectrum. Mischiefous, passionate and lyrical, this was an uplifting and infectious parade of American folk classics and originals. With boot lace ties, Stetson hats. The works. And all driven along with effortless style and serious washboard action by the eponymous **Screaming Miss Jackson**. This was a great and distinct act on top of its game. And more importantly, the entire room, every single living thing, even the dust mites - had one hell of a good time.

Words: Egon Coalsack

## Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

**2nd Bridgnorth** May Fair

**3-4th The Divide**, The Courtyard Hereford

**3-5th Sunset Song**, The Courtyard Hereford

**5th Life Drawing** Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster 7.30pm

**5th-7th Look Back in Anger** The Courtyard Hereford 7.30pm

**6th Mud - White Wall Film Club** The Cube, Malvern 7.30

**6th Talk about Edward Lear** exhibition at Ashmolean Broadway, 5pm

**6th Performance as publishing:** Take three, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, 7.30pm

**6th-9th Body casting** at the Boars Head, Kidderminster

**6-15th Luminous birds** by Kathy Hinde, Tintern Old Station

**until 8th Edward Lear** Ashmolean museum Broadway

**Tues and Thurs Capoeira group** meet at 7pm Studio B, Worcester

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**8th Dancefest** workshop 11am

**8th Macbeth** Splendid Cinema WAW 6pm

**14th & 15th Worcester Motor Festival** High Street

**19th Hitchcock/Truffaut**, The Courtyard Hereford

**21st Grease** outdoor screening Ombersley Cricket Club, 7.30pm

**22nd Phoenix** Splendid Cinema WAW 6pm

**24th Confab Cabaret** West Malvern Social Club 8pm

**30th Pershore Carnival**

**30th Ludlow Brewery** Family Fun day

**31st Miles Ahead**, The Courtyard Hereford

**27 May until 17 July Never Judge A Book**, Meadow Arts at Richard Booth's Bookshop, Hay-on-Wye

**30th May - 12th June - 6 Artists** - Weaver's Gallery, ledbury

**30th - 1st June Dance Film Project**, Croome Park, Worcestershire

**until 11th Sept F.L. Griggs: Visions of England** Ashmolean Museum

# Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

**Every Monday - Folk Session**  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**Every Monday - Open Mic**  
Royal Oak, Ledbury

**Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night**  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**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

**Last Tues - Folk Night**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles**  
Rose and Crown, Feckenham

**Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band**  
The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

**First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm**  
Pershore Library

**Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly**  
The Queen's Head, Wolverley

**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

**Second Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**3rd Tues - Folk Evening**  
The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

**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, Worcester

**1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround**  
The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

**Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions**  
The Crown, Colwall

**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 - Marzys Jam Night**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

**3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session**  
The Admiral Rodney, Berrrow Gt

**Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**1st Thurs - Folk Session**  
Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

**1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club**  
The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

**Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio**  
Cock & Magpies, 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**  
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

**Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session**  
Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

**Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Every 1st & 3rd Thursday Ben Vickers Open Mic Night**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Every Thursday - Acoustic Session**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

**Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance**  
Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

**3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session**  
The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

**Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Third Thursday - Malvern Storytellers**  
The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See malvernstorytellers.co.uk

**Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session**  
The Morgan, Malvern

**Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton**  
The Unicorn, Malvern

**Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club run by Sam & Eleanor**  
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

**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

**Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session**  
Three Kings, Hanly Castle

**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

**2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club**  
Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

**Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm**  
The Morgan, Malvern

**2nd Sun - Singaround Session**  
The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

**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

**Last Sun - Open Mic with Simon Wallace**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session**  
The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

**1st & 3rd Sun - 'Baa Chords' Open mic Session**  
The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

**Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish**  
Pickled Plum, Pershore

**2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club**  
Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

## Sunday 1 May 2016

**Kris Dollimore**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Revolution - Dj All-Dayer**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**See Website: [www.Cheltenhamfestivals.Com/Jazz](http://www.Cheltenhamfestivals.Com/Jazz)**  
Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Cheltenham

**Wilfs Carnival Band 4.00Pm**  
The New Inn, Claines, Worcester

**Dave Onions**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**The Zz Tops**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Konichi B2b Consist, The Lodgers, Laurie Wright**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Beer & Music Festival, See Website For Details: [www.ThePrincealbertstroud.Co.Uk](http://www.ThePrincealbertstroud.Co.Uk)**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Forty Blue Toes**  
The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Institutions**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Ark Fest, See Facebook For Details: [www.Facebook.Com/Unicorninmalvern](http://www.Facebook.Com/Unicorninmalvern)**  
The Unicorn, Malvern

**The Exiles**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Aquarius**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Melt Yourself Down - Cheltenham Jazz Festival**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Vo Fletcher**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Matt Bedford, Tbc**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**One Tree Canyon**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Tasha 4 Till 7Pm**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Jigdoll**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Collective 43**  
Bewdley Spring Fair - Busk 1-3Pm, Bewdley

## Monday 2 May 2016

**See Website: [www.Cheltenhamfestivals.Com/Jazz](http://www.Cheltenhamfestivals.Com/Jazz)**  
Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Cheltenham

**The Dublin Legends**  
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

**Glos Uni Alternative Music Society Acoustic Night**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Beer & Music Festival, See Website For Details: [www.Theprincealbertstroud.Co.Uk](http://www.Theprincealbertstroud.Co.Uk)**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Bank Holiday Open Mic with Pete Kelly**  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

**Sally Live 3.00Pm**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Paul Rose Dictatorship**  
Number 8, Pershore

## Tuesday 3 May 2016

**The Elvis Years**  
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

**Marco Mendoza, Beth Blade & The Beautiful Disasters**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Creative Writing Open Mic**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Jd And The Straight Shot**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

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## Wednesday 4 May 2016

**Alice Phelps Band, Gentrifuge**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Lewis Creaven**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Abby Scott**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

## Thursday 5 May 2016

**Surprise Attacks Presents: Ash Is A Robot, Merricks Tusk, Gooche, Navajo Ace**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Snake Oil And Harmony, Dan Reed, Danny Vaughn,**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Ben Vickers**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**The Purple Shades Ep Launch + The Aura**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Boy Jumps Ship, Insomniacs, Light The Skies**  
02 Academy 3, Birmingham

**The Notorious Brothers**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Mexican Music And Food Night**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Two Pianos**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Cale Tyson**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Friday 6 May 2016

**The Cracked Actors, Skewwhiff**  
Eleven, Stourbridge

**Sammy Jo**  
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**The Ferrets**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Delray Rockets**  
Saracens Head, Worcester

**Pure Dc: High Voltage in Full**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Liquor & Poker**  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

**Death Remains, Black Coast, Ascaris, City Under Sky, Reveller**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Garance Louis & The Mitochondries**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Danny Vincent**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**The Magoos**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Lounge Toad**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Cantaloop**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Michael Knowles And The Std's, The Connor Maher Quartet + Toenail And The Bedsores**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Ignition Presents Eradikator, At Dawn We Attack & Konzept!**  
The Boars Head, Kiddleminster

**Fallen Branches**  
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**Wu Tang Promotions - Drum & Bass**  
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

**Nice N Sleazy**  
Bluebell Inn, Upton On Severn

**Joanna Wallfisch**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**The Futures**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**The Core**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Aire Flamenco**  
Clent Parish Hall, Clent, Worcs

**Maverick Sabre**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Now 2**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Bad Names**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Moulettes**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Saturday 7 May 2016

**Big Jim And Black Cat Bone**  
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**Andy Lindsay & Zoe Devenish**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Futures**  
The Woodland Cottage, Redditch

**Ricky Cool And The in Crowd**  
The Fold, Bransford

**The Executives**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Burning Crows, Falling Red, Doomsday Outlaw,**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**The Four Owls, Motion Enterprise, Donnie Yen & Prozac,**  
**Griz-O, Jpdl & Micd**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Thirsty Work**  
The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Sally Haines**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Mark James**  
The Swan, Studley

**Hoopy Frood**  
The Cube, Malvern

**Aquarius**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Medicine Spoon**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Olb: Seventh Circle (Be), Grim Existence + Slow Zone**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Jay And Elizabeth**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Infected Promotions - Drunk in Charge, Swing Rioters, The**  
**Youth Within**  
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

**Nice N Sleazy**  
King's Head, Tenbury Wells

**Busby's Babes**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Clarksville Mountain Band**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Hybrid**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Kickback**  
New Inn, Pershore

**Elio Pace: The Billy Joel Songbook**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Cloudbusting - The Music Of Kate Bush**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Gerry Colvin Band**  
The Room Upstairs, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Whole Lotta Led**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Plucking Different**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Adamantium**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Tom Mcrae**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Sunday 8 May 2016

**Lazy Sunday 12 -6Pm Boys in The Wood, Katey Brooks,**  
**Sophonie, Open Mic**  
Café Bliss, Worcester

**Dave Onions 4Pm**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Small Town Jones**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Fureys**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**Robin Bibi 4Pm**  
The Old Bush, Callow End

**Supalele**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Ray Mytton Band**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Dominic Kirwan**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**The Dreamers**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Marc Drew 4-7Pm**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Bad Manners**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Shook Twins**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Monday 9 May 2016

**Brother Dege, Forefathers, Men Diamler, Solid Gone**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Despite Everything + Support**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Tuesday 10 May 2016

**Indigo Roads, Discount Colombo, Plus Support**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Gill Sandell**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Fairport Convention**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Wednesday 11 May 2016

**Comedy Night**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Ryan Mcgarvey**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Steve Nimmo, Ben Poole**  
Vonnies Blues Club, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

**Luke Doherty Band**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The O'farrell Frolics**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

## Thursday 12 May 2016

**The Dowling Pool, Paul Miro, Blacklist Saints,**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Poetry Festival**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Gerry Across The Mersey: Gerry And The Pacemakers**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**Boys in The Wood**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Lo-Promo Presents... Sativa & Soden, \*Pilla\***  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Buddy Holly & The Cricketers**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**The Players, Stripped Down Blues**  
The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

**The Invisible Orchestra**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Dan Walsh**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Catshill

**Ben Savage And Hannah Sanders**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Friday 13 May 2016

### **Dogs Of Santorini**

The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

### **Mambo Jambo**

Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

### **Free Spirit**

The Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Red Dawe**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Soul Dj Phil Key & The Soul Patrol**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Skrood**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **The Delray Rockets**

Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

### **Sack Sabbath**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **God Damn, Armchair Committee, Buying Lies, Juda**

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **The Ron Jeremy Band**

Drummonds, Worcester

### **A Vision Of Elvis**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Chuck Harriet Band**

The Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

### **Tegu Fly**

The Wharf, Stourport

### **Zen Hussies, C@ in The H@ & Collective 43**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **We Signal Fire + Support**

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

### **John Otway**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Chuck Harriet Band**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **Mister Wolf**

The Plough Inn, Upton Upon Severn

### **The Voice Night**

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### **Magic: A Kind Of Queen**

The Roses, Tewkesbury

### **The Fair Rain**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Malcolm Holcombe With Jared Tyler, One Tree Canyon,**

**Two Doors Down,**  
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

### **The Thankful Village**

Number 8, Pershore

### **Andy Fairweather-Low**

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Kula Shaker**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Little Dave**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **The Undercovers**

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### **Manran**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Saturday 14 May 2016

### **The Worried Men**

Black Lion, Hereford

### **Without Flight, The Rogues, Danger Trains**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Nightshift**

The Express Inn, Malvern

### **Hybrid**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

### **The Membranes, The Nightingales, Ted Chippington, Fallen Leaves**

The Flapper, Birmingham

### **Timeless Jazz**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Phil Bates**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **By The Shore**

The Paul Pry, Worcester

### **The Vim Dicta (La)**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Falls, I Cried Wolf, Landmarks, Young Hearts Sioux Falls**

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Roadhouse, Sweet Talk**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### **Reflections**

The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton-Upon-Severn

### **The Pale Kings, Dr Bullfrog, More Tbc**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **South African Gospel Choir Uk**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Gary Hall**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **Without Flight, The Rogues + Danger Trains**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Star Maker International**

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### **Market Tavern Legends, Featuring The Pale Kings and The Bullfrogs**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Micheal Knowles & The Stds + Support**

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

### **Aquarius**

The Black Star, Stourport

### **Izzy The Push**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **Bourbon Alley Blues Band**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Notorious Brothers**

New Inn, Pershore

### **Mumbo-Jumbo**

Artrix (Studio), Bromsgrove

### **The Big O & The Wilburys Tribute Show**

Artrix (Auditorium), Bromsgrove

### **Martin Turner - Ex Wishbone Ash**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Licensed To Trill - Opera Dudes**

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

### **Alex Vann (Playing Beyond Borders Folk Show)**

Quatt Village Hall, Bridgnorth

### **Bremner Duthrie - Weill At Heart**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **Luke Phillbrick**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

## Sunday 15 May 2016

### **Forty Blue Toes**

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### **Moscow Drug Club**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Danny Driver**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Robin Bibi 5Pm**

The Old Bush, Callow End

### **Carol Lee Sampson**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **Will Killeen**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Tom Robinson**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Licensed To Trill - Opera Dudes**

Feckenham Village Hall, Feckenham, Worcs

### **Two's Company 4-7Pm**

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

### **Blowzabella**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **Don Gallardo**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Tuesday 17 May 2016

### The Fureys

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### Beans On Toast, Sky Smeed, Katie Collins, Jay Mansfield

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Blackline Entertainment Presents, Tbc

The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Wednesday 18 May 2016

### Jessica Rhodes

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Vive La France!

St Andrews Square Shopping Centre, Droitwich Spa

### Daniel Seth

The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

### Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### King King, Dan Patlansky

Guildhall, Gloucester

## Thursday 19 May 2016

### Bella Hardy

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### Remi Harris Duo

Piccolos, Bewdley

### Surprise Attacks & Task in Hand Present: Memory Of

Elephants, The Broken Oak Duet, Lambhorn

The Firefly, Worcester

### Tom Robinson

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### The Cureheads, Ant Flavour

Iron Road, Evesham

### The Big Band

The Courtyard, Hereford

### Limehouse Lizzy

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Alaw

St Swithuns, Worcester

### Bolder Than You

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

### Peatbog Faeries

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Whole Lotta Shakin'

The Swan Theatre, Worcester

## Friday 20 May 2016

### Simon Mcbride

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### Skewwhiff

The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

### Benji Kirkpatrick

Pieffe Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

### Steve Ajao & the Blues Giants

The Queens Head, Wolverley

### Dissident Prophet

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Rob Kingsley: A Vision Of Elvis

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### Dave Onions

The Waggon & Horses, Cradley Heath

### Melanie Macro

Cheltenham Town Hall, Pillar Room, Cheltenham

### Dissident Prophet

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### The Jgc's

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### Ben Vickers

The Paul Pry, Worcester

### Harper's Ferry, Gypsy Fingers, Two Ways Home, Quigley,

Katie Collins

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Mother Popcorn

Drummonds, Worcester

### Aeonian Dog, Clockwork Rifle, Harlequins

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### David Ian Roberts

The Courtyard, Hereford

### Echo Town

Café Rene, Gloucester

### The Fezz

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Dead Frequency

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

### Mister Wolf

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### Bon Giovi

The Roses, Tewkesbury

### You've Got A Friend: The Music Of James Taylor & Carole King

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Talon - The Best Of The Eagles

The Swan Theatre, Worcester

### Dorothy's War - The Harmonettes

Clows Top Victory Hall, Clows Top, Worcs

### Sarah Warren

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

### Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra

Droitwich Legion Inn, Droitwich

### The Strangers

The Red Lion, Evesham

### Miss Penny (Drag Queen)

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

## Saturday 21 May 2016

### Sarah Jane Morris And Antonio Formione

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### Lewis Boulton (John Mayer Tribute)

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Fronrunner

The Cross Keys, Malvern

### Journeyman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### Bombshell Babies, Tempus, Backyard Virgins, The Miiffs, Donato

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

### Andre & Jayne In True Colours

The Queens Head, Wolverley

### The Futures

Barnards Green CC, Malvern

### D-Ran D-Ran

Iron Road, Evesham

### Spring Special Punk All-Dayer, Feat. River Jumpers, Catch Fire And More

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Perhaps Contraction

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### Worcester Record And Cd Fair 10 Am-4Pm

St Andrews Methodist Church, Pump St, Worcester

### Foreign Quarter

The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton-Upon-Severn

### Rock Chic

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Lenny James And Gator Squad

The Swan, Studley

### The Groundhogs, Raptor, As Mamas,

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### The Boehm Piano & Clarinet Duo

Elmslie House, Malvern

### Gravy Train

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### Folkaholics, Paul Jeffrey, Richard Clarke

St Georges Church, Worcester

### Worcester Rejects Reunion Soul & Ska

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Two Tone Review

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### Arcadia Roots

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Luna Rosa, Unpleasant Terrace**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Will Killeen**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Tyler Massey**  
The Stores, Colwall

**Mister Wolf**  
The Bell, Worcester

**Barrel House Band**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Lowsteppa**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Pete Hyde And The Vieillards**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Cracker & The Rockin 88'S**  
Callow End Club, Worcester

**Satellite Down**  
New Inn, Pershore

**The Fortunes**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Talon - The Best Of The Eagles**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Massacre Festival Iv See Website For Details**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Counter Measures**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

## Sunday 22 May 2016

**Rura**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Trevor Burton Band**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Fleecy Folk: Gilmore & Roberts**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Veridian, Young Kings, Delicate Holly, Sahara Breeze**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Remi Harris 1.30Pm**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Tyler & Vo**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Kieran Goss**  
Tith Barn, Bishops Cleeve

**Jackie Baker 4-7Pm**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Woody Mann, + Film - Harlem Street Singer**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

## Monday 23 May 2016

**23 - 30 May Full Details: Winchcombefestival.Co.Uk**  
Winchcombe Festival, Winchcombe, Glos

## Tuesday 24 May 2016

**Courage My Love, All Ears Avow, Floorboards, Masspectrum, Rivers**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Cate Cody Trio**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

## Wednesday 25 May 2016

**Rory Mcleod And The Familiar Strangers**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Big Jim & American Eric**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Sunjay**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Thursday 26 May 2016

**Ian Siegal & Jimbo Mathus**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Mumbo Jumbo**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Greg Russell & Ciaran Algar**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Catshill

**Voodoo Stone**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Rebecca Downes + Support**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**When We Were Wolves, Chuggaboom, We Come From Ashes, The Uncharted**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Sally**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Tia Mcgraff, Demi Marriner**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Tia Mcgraff**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Steve Ashley, Mike Weaver**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Westrock**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

## Friday 27 May 2016

**The Humdrum Express, Jess Silk, Vix And Her Mschiefs, Flying Ant Day,**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Fairport Convention, Jess Morgan**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Chewie**  
Mount Pleasant Hotel (Harcourt Room), Great Malvern

**Arthur Ebeling**  
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Steve Nash**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Remi Harris Project**  
The Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

**See: [www.Mellofestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Mellofestival.Co.Uk)**  
Mello Festival, Throckmorton Aifield, Nr Evesham

**[www.Lechladedefestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Lechladedefestival.Co.Uk)**  
Lechlade Festival, Lechlade, Glos

**Lady Maisery**  
The Cube, Malvern

**Mugenkyo Talko Drummers**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**When It Rains**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Chronicles of Zee**  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

**Aaron Booton**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Too Rex**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Cocos Lovers**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Graveyard Johnnys, Red Light Rebels, Plus Support**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Bright Eyes/Dark Eyes**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**The Future Set**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Will Edmunds Trio**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**The Humdrum Express Album Launch Plus Vix And Her Mschiefs, Flying Ant Day And Jess Silk.**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Andy Bennett**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Showaddywaddy**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Blake**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Voices Unlimited**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**The Wedding Present**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Massive Head Trauma**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

## Saturday 28 May 2016

**Jo Harman**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Aphelion - 'Towards The Within'**  
Persore Abbey, Persore

**50S And 60S Music Marathon**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Hoochmongers**  
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Dave Beale**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**See: [www.Mellofestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Mellofestival.Co.Uk)**  
Mello Festival, Throckmorton Aifield, Nr Evesham

**Ska 455**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**[www.Lechladedefestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Lechladedefestival.Co.Uk)**  
Lechlade Festival, Lechlade, Glos

**Skewwhiff, Jack Of All, Prism, By The Shor**  
Beat It Festival, The Royal Oak, Ledbury

**The Rehydrated Turkeys (Unplucked)!!**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Delray Rockets**  
VE Festival, Crown Meadow, Evesham

**Thunderfuck, The Deadly Romantics**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Skaface**  
The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Terry O'sullivan Rat Pack**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Andrew Riverstone**  
The Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

**Paul Rose - Album Launch**  
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**The Futures**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Annette Gregory - The Ella Fitzgerald Songbook**  
The Room Upstairs, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**The Lighter Thieves**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Jagged Hands**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

**Andrew Riverstone**  
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**Festival Experience**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Dave Beale**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Moretallica**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Back Porch**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Matt Bowen**  
New Inn, Persore

**The Songs That Won The War**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Dreaming Of Kate - Kate Bush Tribute**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Voices Unlimited**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**[Sponge]**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**The Remi Harris Project**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Mr Love And Justice**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

## Sunday 29 May 2016

**Adam Beattie**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Back Porch**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Lazy Sunday Afternoon**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Revolution - Dj All-Dayer**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**See: [www.Mellofestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Mellofestival.Co.Uk)**  
Mello Festival, Throckmorton Aifield, Nr Evesham

**[www.Lechladedefestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Lechladedefestival.Co.Uk)**  
Lechlade Festival, Lechlade, Glos

**The Delray Rockets**  
Shipston On Stour Cider Fest The Black Horse, Shipston-On-Stour

**Skabucks**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Belle D'vain Morris + Asparagus Auction**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Beat It Festival**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Semi-Nice Arts Fair**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Nice & Sleazy**  
The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Sally Live 5.00Pm**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Chicago Bytes**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Colin Rickards**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Disco Mickelson**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Carol And Loll**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Pete Brown's Newgrass Cutters**  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

**Andrew Riverstone 4-7Pm**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Paul Rose Dictatorship**  
Igot Manor (Stratfest), Stratford-Upon-Avon

**Richard Clarke**  
Casablanca's Wine Bar, Worcester

## Monday 30 May 2016

**Live Music - Asparagus Fun Day**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Bank Holiday Open Mic with Pete Kelly**  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

**Laura Stevenson, Personal Best, Austeros, Helen Chambers**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Lesoir, The Sum Of, & Many More 3-10Pm**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Lounge Toad**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Paul Rose Dictatorship**  
The Angel, Persore

## Tuesday 31 May 2016

**Natalia Amy Douglas With The Remi Harris Project**  
Clows Top Victory Hall, Worcestershire

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# THE MARR'S BAR

MAY | JUNE 2016

John Otway  
Friday 13th May



**Thursday 5th May**  
The Purple Shades EP launch+The Aura  
£3 in advance

**Friday 6th May**  
Michael Knowles and the STD's,  
The Connor Maher Quartet  
Toenailand the Bedsores  
£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Saturday 7th May**  
Olb: Seventh Circle (Be)  
Grim Existence + Slow Zone  
£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Monday 9th May**  
FSC - Despite Everything + Support  
£4 in advance £6 on the door

**Thursday 12th May**  
Lo-Promo - Sativa, Soden + \*Pilla\*  
£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Friday, 13th May**  
John Otway  
£10 in advance £12 on the door

**Saturday 14th May**  
Without Flight, The Rogues  
+ Danger Trains  
£4 in advance £6 on the door

**Tuesday 17th May**  
Backdrop entertainment presents...  
Price TBC

**Thursday 19th May**  
Limehouse Lizzy  
£12 in advance

**Friday 20th May**  
The Fezz  
£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Saturday 21st May**  
Worcester Rejects Reunion soul & Ska  
£5 in advance

**Thursday 26th May**  
Tia McGraff, Demi Marriner  
£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 27th May**  
3 bands £3

**Saturday 28th May**  
Moretallica  
£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 4th June**  
Hunter And The Bear  
£10 in advance £12 on the door

**Saturday 11th June**  
Rust For Glory  
£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Sunday 12th June**  
Band Of Rogues  
Price TBC

**Friday 17th June**  
Lizzie And The Banshees  
£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 24th June**  
Panic Room  
£15 in advance £17 on the door

**Saturday 25th June**  
Green Haze  
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night  
Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk  
01905 613336

**Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue**  
Available for private hire