

SLAP

Issue 15

MAY 2012

MAGAZINE

FREE



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Arts Workshop

Wychwood Festival

Malvern May Day

Hopfest

Mostly Jazz Festival

Hoot Fest

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[spunge]

The Hedgerow Crawlers

Stiff Joints

Skambomambo

Record Store Day

Circuit Sweet

Stan Greer

Stephen Wilson

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Boars Head Gallery



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May 2012 **MAGAZINE**

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

It's another wet Wednesday in Worcester as we put this months issue to bed. It was a crazy April to say the least, with so much going on around the County these days its no wonder the time runs away with us. We hardly had time to get over another fabulous sell out Slap Night before we go headlong into our May deadline.

With so much to look forward to its hard to know where to start. Lets hope May brings the sunshine back for the many local festivals on the horizon. May Day in Malvern, Hopfest in Bewdley, The Diamond Jubilee street Party in Kidderminster... the list goes on. We take a look forward to The Wychwood Festival at Cheltenham which is certainly one for the diary. For Jazz lovers there's plenty going on just up the road in and around Birmingham with the 'Mostly Jazz' festivals to look forward to. Then of course there's the Upton Folk Festival, just about something for everyone!

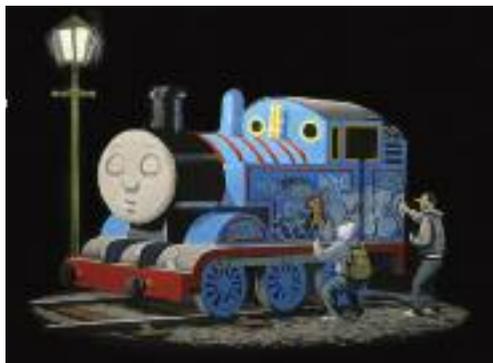
Stephen Wilson keeps us informed about whats going on in the Arts with Dancefest and the incredible 12 Moves and the 'After Dark' event. The Arts Workshop has many exciting events and exhibitions coming up. Who said there's nothing to do round here?

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed a day of music and performance at the Hive, host to the official Worcester Music Festival launch party. This years fourth day event in August has attracted well over 800 applications from performers all willing to give up their free time to help raise money for the chosen charity 'New Hope'.

Thanks as always to our many contributors, apologies to those submissions that didn't make it into this issue. We had so many it just isn't possible to cram everything in. Thanks also to our distributors for giving up their time to get Slap out far and wide.

And thank you for reading...

- Eds



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ON FACEBOOK**



**LISTINGS IN
CONJUNCTION WITH:**



Well after being named as one NME's top 100 acts to look out for this year, **Peace** (ex-November And The Criminal) scooped the main support slot to the **Manic Street Preachers** on their first European tour for 10 years - taking in venues such as Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Zurich and Barcelona. Congratulations to **Harry, Sam, Dom and Doug** for their sheer hard work and non-stop gigging round the country over the last couple of years to get this far!

Ex-frontgirl of Bewdley's **Shaking Trees** - **Becky Hill** wowed the two remaining judges **will.i.am** and **Jessie J** on BBC's **The Voice** - who hit their buzzers within seconds of hearing her powerful rendition of John Legend's *Ordinary People*. The 17-year old from Kidderminster decided to join 'Team Jessie' despite winning through courtesy of a song written by the former frontman of Black Eyed Peas. Let's hope that Becky can overcome her personal demons and make real progress in this event...



Worcester's **Robinson** is hotly tipped to scoop the Independent Music Awards prize for best Love Song with **Wherever You Are** - and as Andy is currently working at a nursery (baby plants not baby people) the press agencies have been screaming the headlines 'Tractor Driver Writes Best New Love Song of 2012'. Of course here at SLAP we'd rather point out that Andy has also been featured by BBC Radio 2's **Jo Whiley** and **Janice Long** over the last year and new single *You'll*

Never Be Her and album *Beneath The Ballroom* will be released on May 21...

Upton-on-Severn's **Luke Leighfield** is donating £1 from every copy sold of his album *New Season* (available from Got Got Need Records) to Christian Aid in the battle against global poverty. The 24-year old singer songwriter has appeared on Radio 1 and Xfm in recent years and shared stages with **Scouting For Girls** and **Kate Nash** as well as appearing at festivals like Latitude and Greenbelt.



This **Wicked Tongue** will be filming their next video at the **Marrs Bar** on 7th May. The video will be a "performance video", with crowd scenes, and anybody who would be interested in taking part is invited to join the band from a r o u n d

lunchtime to early evening. Sandwiches and non-alcoholic refreshments will be provided. Full details will be available from 1st May on the band's facebook page and website:

www.facebook.com/thiswickedtongue
www.thiswickedtongue.com

Local musician **Ben Bushel** started working at **Linton Blues Festival** last year as his school work experience placement and now is a member of the committee involved in booking bands. Whilst there, Ben met **Walter Trout** along with a whole host of musicians. **Bernie Marsden** was great fun and will be playing again this year. Ben's band **Stratus** will be opening this year's festival on the Sunday.



Stratus are through to the third round of "Live and Unsigned" at Reading.

Evesham based I Am Ryan have announced a new Video and single are to be released as a taster for the second album already underway.



Having bedded in a new drummer, the band are also through to the area finals of 'Live and Unsigned'.

An intimate camping weekend of acoustic music set in the spiritual home of Nick Drake.

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Worcester Music Festival

APPLICATIONS NOW CLOSED. TIME TO PICK A FINAL LINE-UP!

Okay. That's it folks! Applications to perform at Worcester Music Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend are now closed – a big thank you to the 800 bands and artists who put their names forward and best of luck. From initial whisperings, selecting the final line-up is going to be a task and a half for WMF promoters, with a super high calibre of original talent to choose from.

With just under four months before the explosion of live music hits, it's full steam ahead in terms of building momentum for the four-day event, kicking off last weekend with Worcester Music Festival's mini fest to launch The Hive, the city's new golden clad library and history centre.



Johnny Kowalski
& the Sexy Weirdos

Over seven hours, audiences heard live music from Worcester Area Youth Choir, Snoezelen Rock School, Marie-Claire Berreen, Theo, Das Sexy Clap, Kings & Folk, Johnny Kowalski & the Sexy Weirdos, Richard Clarke & The Rafterers and the Blue Monday Jazz Quartet, while a series of workshops gave audiences of all ages the chance to make some music of their own.

Instrumental to pulling in passers-by, a selection of outdoor performers also gave their all, adding a bohemian flavour to proceedings, while showcasing the breadth of talent in the city.

Coming up, organisers of the monthly Acoustic Lunch at the Old Rectifying House have, kindly, agreed to let Worcester Music Festival use their event on Sunday, June 24th to help raise funds to make the festival in August as brilliant as possible. Hope to see you there!

Festival charity for 2012 announced

Last, but, certainly, not least, after careful deliberation, Worcester Music Festival has decided on its charity of the year for 2012. Money raised in the run-up to and during the festival will go to New Hope, a Blackpole-based

organisation which works to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities across the county, as well as providing crucial support for parents and carers.

Some of the WMF team are visiting New Hope this week to find out more about the organisation, why it was set up and its staunch belief in music as a way of building self esteem and confidence. See the next issue of SLAP to read about it.



In the meantime, anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the festival in any way or would like to support the festival by contributing a private donation / becoming an official sponsor, please contact committee co-chairpersons Helen King or Ant Robbins at:

helen@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk
ant@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

For more on the festival itself, visit:

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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REVIEW BOARS HEAD GALLERY: DOODLE BOMBERS!

On April 14th at The BHG (Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster) we were literally taken over by Doodle Bombers!

Alongside our regular Art Market, upstairs in the gallery a large white board was put aside for artists to make their mark. One by one, the doodlers filled the space. At first, skeletons and monkeys cautiously appear round the edge, but as doodlers get braver, the entire board fills up. The lower end of the board is the area the kids can reach so you can spot lego, trains and some cheeky pictures of 'dads



pants on fire'. At the top where the mini doodler's can't reach (haha, tough luck kids!) you can spot the distinctive style of our favourite landlord Sid who added one of his classic Orcs; Sarah Tamar added some beautiful yet slightly sinister trees; Plymouth artist Hal literally bombed the board with his cheeky creatures; Cozza added some one eyed walking

characters and even the resident dogs got their paws on the boards!

The event organised by Street Artist 'Melo' was a great success and everyone was impressed with how the board turned out. It was great for everyone to have a go and funny to hear the overwhelming silence take over as the concentration kicked it!



Downstairs, in the pub (whose cobbles have seen many dancing feet!) the stalls filled the area for shoppers delight. Lisa Life was there with her fantastic emporium of vintage clothes, Paragon Jewellery brought her beautiful selection of unique jewellery. Landlady Sandra brought out some very interesting antiques and bric-a-brac, everyone's favourite clown Lee as on hand to paint faces and burst balloons as well as resident artist's Cozza and Melo with their selection of artwork and custom clothing. Our ears were delighted by the sounds of Roundhouse and his accoustic set and a little bit of Elvis and his didjeridoo beat boxing!



A fantastic day and we are now looking forward to the next open studio day and Art Market on May 19th.

To book a stall please email gALLERY@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk or call the Boars Head on 01562 861870.

However, one question remains, what do we do with an 8ft board covered in Doodles!? Do you have the answer? All suggestions welcome to the gallery!

Thank you

Words by Corina Harper

Photography by Katie Doolan

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Hello you lovelies.....

What a fabulous return for Lazy Sunday with sunshine galore and a very busy yard full of our community of all ages. As Cafe Bliss served loads of delicious food and drinks and the music flowed, faces were full of very satisfied smiles.

Last year saw a steady rise in supporters for everyone's fave daytime do, Lazy Sunday! With the first of the year in April proving that the reputation is worth it, we had a yard full of punters by the time the doors opened, all eagerly awaiting their first dose of acoustic tounge and fine food.



The sun shone all day long, as it always seems to for these events and the fabulous food filled bellies along with Rich's cider from Somerset! Jayne Gaze opened the day, followed by The May Dolls, Claire Boswell/Jez King, vibrant energy from Paul Jeffery and Ed Steelefox with The Players and Dryftwood to finish; this was a day not to be missed!

These are such popular events, all credit to Amanda and Eloina for making them special! It's a shame that the day was dampened by a complaint from a nearby resident, casting a shadow on its future. We hope that you will all support us more than ever, stand by and bear with us while we deal with these issues. Sad that one miserable face can change a day full of happy people!

This month's Lazy Sunday on May 13th, is a very exciting one (hopefully we will be outside as usual) with Anja McCloskey, all the way from Southampton, (See preview).

Also joining Anja will be Lewis Mason from London, a singer song writer in country/blues, as well as our very own Richard Clarke and the Rafterts promoting their new album 'Hidden in Between the Trees'.

Smiles were also seen in abundance at SLAP mag's first gig of the year on the 21st April, with the fab Polish Ska band, 'Skambomambo', high energy Kidderminster band 'Stiff Joints' and Ital Sounds DJs. The theatre was full to capacity, bouncing with joy to the sounds of Ska. Thanks to all who made this night wonderful and please do keep your eyes out for our next instalment, when we hope to have gypsy punk dance frenzy courtesy of 7 piece troupe 'Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdo's'. Date to be announced in June edition.

Looking towards the future (how exciting that we now have one!), we hope to provide the city with an exciting programme of courses, workshops and education for the summer and into the autumn term, so any tutors out there with innovative ideas, do contact us.

Don't forget to check out our current courses for both kids and adults, there are still places available so get in touch..... and for those little ones, as well as Saturday morning Ceramics and Art classes, we have 'Kids club' sponsored by The Play Council, on all term time Saturdays 12.30 til 2.30pm, £5 per child with a mix of playful activities including art and craft, theatre, ceramics and, of course, fun.



New exhibitions this month include Nick Hersey coming from Derbyshire (see facing page) and Worcester Headway Trust showing work from their clients to highlight 'Brain Injury Week 14th to 20th May'. Both exhibitions run from 1st until 20th May.

We are incredibly proud to be the hub for the Worcestershire Arts Trail 2012, hosting an opening exhibition showcasing twenty of the artists/designer makers from the seventy galleries taking part. We will be supplying Arts Trail information to the public, supported by a handmade map illustrating all the venues dotted around the county. The exhibition will be open to the public from Sat 26th May with a day of eight workshops on Sunday 27th between 10am and 12pm and 1pm til 3pm. Come and support the arts in our county!

Staying with exhibitions, there will be a range of mixed media work on display in the Klik Klik Collective show in the Cellar gallery from 26th May-15th June.

Splendid Cinema on 20th May presents 'Snabba Cash' (Daniel Espinosa, 2010, Sweden) 18 cert. No dragon tattoos in this little gem of "Nordic Noir" which shows an alternative dimension to the Swedish crime film. A complex and complicated narrative that intertwines three separate but related stories focusing around cocaine distribution. £5. 7.30pm.



We would like to give a huge 'thank you' for all of your support over the last year or so....but we need you more than ever to help keep us alive and vibrant, so whether it's as a volunteer or visitor, with feedback or taking part in activities, please keep on coming to your local arts hub!

Please, spread the word..... X

FEATURED ARTIST NICK HERSEY

'TRUTH, CREDIT AND OTHER OPIATES'

A British born artist and printmaker, Nick Hersey explores the modern condition in our contemporary societies; "inherent contradictions that the free world of mass communication throws up".

Living and working in Derbyshire, Nick studied Illustration at Kingston University before working with various advertising agencies and design companies in the UK. He has resided and exhibited in England, Brazil, Thailand and China. Currently he is represented by 'Island6 Gallery', a working studio and artistic collective in Shanghai.

Nick's work delves into social relationships and modern culture and how this can change the way communities express themselves. Exploiting a combination of his graphic and traditional painting skills and working in close co-operation with his subjects, he explores the innate contradictions between the human condition and the brand identities which are beginning to dominate modern cultures. His recent projects have utilised collaborations with refugees, professional skateboarders and independent punk bands, among other things. Generally his projects feature figurative painting, often portraits, but are fairly non traditional in execution. As well as oil and watercolour painting, Nick uses stickers, graphics, stencils, collage, photography and printmaking to execute his artworks and installations.

Currently working on a series of portraits, Nick explores the bonds of local community in and around his hometown of Matlock, as well as a project entitled "The fact is..." in which he assembles a pop-up studio in a variety of locations and encourages the public to put down on paper their thoughts, feelings and opinions. These thoughts are translated into artworks in real time, while the bemused public look on. Already visited are the Wirksworth Festival and Crystal Peaks shopping centre in Rotherham.

His work is showcased this month at the Worcester Arts Workshop from the 1st until 20th May.

www.nickhersey.com



PREVIEW ANJA McCLOSKEY

With influences including Rufus Wainwright and Sharon Van Etten, Anja McCloskey is already a relative veteran of the music scene. Having gained a raft of experience playing with avant-garde performance orchestra 'The Irrepressibles' backing the likes of 'The Guillemots' and 'Paloma Faith'; performing with folk-rock trailblazers 'Haunted Stereo' supporting 'Badly Drawn Boy', 'Field Music' and 'The Shapes' and as a solo artist, working alongside the likes of US singer 'Allie Moss', 'Thomas Truax', and 'The Phantom Band'.

Anja released her first solo EP 'Turn, Turn, Turn' in late 2010, followed by the singles 'And Her Head' and 'A Kiss' last year. Her debut album, 'An Estimation' will be out September 3rd. On May 17 she returns with her brand new single, 'Italian Song'.

Led by Anja's rousing accordion, buoyed by Joseph Kelly on double bass, Ben Jennings on violin, Andy Harris on electric guitar and Brad Walters on acoustic guitar, 'Italian Song' is her most playful release to date, with its up-tempo arrangements, and what Anja calls a "bonkers instrumental outro."

"The song is about going slightly mad in the summer heat and losing rationality along the way," says Anja. "I wanted the music to reflect that. So it's unusually upbeat for me with a touch of adrenalin in the choruses. It's a great song to play live."



With an extensive tour covering London, Germany, Southampton and Brighton, you can see Anja at the Worcester Arts Workshop for Lazy Sunday on 13th May at 2pm. Coming all the way from Southampton to perform an acoustic set for Cafe Bliss, make sure you get there early to see them play before they head back again!

"Sultry folk, like a Romany gypsy cabaret show" Q



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



REVIEW Blues Night at The Cellar Bar

The Chuck Harriett Trio & Blueswamp Southern Tuesday 17th April

Chuck Harriett leads her remarkable trio on sax and flute. Together with pianist Tom O'Hawke and guitarist Dick Dibbler they played us some superbly authentic jazz from Brubeck, Basie, Ellington, and others.

I've rarely seen such virtuosity. They each learned music long before their teens, with enthusiasm and skill



maintained in various projects.

They have spent some six months practicing together, and are now starting to gig. We are lucky that

they chose to live and play here in Worcester. See them soon - you'll be glad you did or extremely sorry you didn't when all your mates who did line you up and snigger at you.

Leicester's Blueswamp Southern paid us their second visit since November. They feature 2 guitars and mandolin (Bob & Nick), drums (Slim Williams), and vocals/harmonica (Alan.)

They are the most authentic traditional blues band I've seen in years, with perfect picking and sliding and fine singing throughout their long session here. From Robert Johnson to Duster Bennett, even High Heel Sneakers, they can take in all shades of the blues with style and grace.



Other newcomers included Giuseppe (Beppe) Tirelli, and Selwyn Read, on accordion and violin respectively who, along with Garrington T Jones on bouzouki helped give Stripped down blues an earthy, almost Cajun quality.

Perry Foster was also on fine form, moving between Leadbelly, Blind Willie McTell and Pink Anderson. As was Juke Joint John, with his own take on traditional sliding and picking, including some originals.

This was one of the best Blues Nights we've had in months. Next is May 15th featuring boogie-meister Wayne Conn and the Big Beats.

by Bob Jones

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PREVIEW

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FRIDAY 25TH MAY @ THE FIREFLY,
WORCESTER, FREE ENTRY | DOORS 7:30PM



YPT is run by Michael D. Wynn. Since the age of 16, he has promoted many live events across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Yorkshire & North London, but will bore you about this another time.

YPT's favourite band EVER are The Yummy Fur, which is where the clubnight name has been ripped off from. "Sexy World" is their best album & "The Career Saver" is their best song.

YPT welcomes ALL genres/forms of music & art; from Japanese surf-rock (... coming to YPT very soon...); live 8-bit & chiptune; goosebump-inducing tropical-folk; Scandinavian battle-metal; to aspiring Egon Schiele's & anyone who sounds vaguely like Francoise Hardy.

YPT presents you with at least 3 live music acts per Event; with at least 2 acts from Worcestershire, and 1 act from outside of Worcestershire.

YPT presents you with at least 2 art/photography exhibitors per Event. YPT will stay FREE ENTRY for as long as oxygen fills its lungs (... or at least until his landlord increases Michael D. Wynn's rent).

YPT is always looking for new live acts and artists/photographers who would like to perform/exhibit. Find "Young Pop Things" on Facebook to suggest someone for a future Event.

YPT's favourite drink is a Neon Divorcee, consisting of 3 parts gin, 1 part lime, 2 parts lemonade & plenty of ice. Please remember to bring your ID if you wish to get served at the bar.

by Mike Wynn

REVIEW

HOWARD JAMES KENNY

Howard's new release is a 12" single featuring My Wrongs (original), My Wrongs (Luke Elliott remix), This Old Ship (CutWires remix) and Insects (Celluloid remix). The 12" comes with a voucher which allows an exclusive download of remixes for every track from Shelter Songs. James Willis, Rich Clarke, Terry Walls & FrenchFires have all contributed towards these.

Howard has just toured Europe with the splendid 'maybeshewill', where they performed in Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic & Italy.

Performing alongside a harder rocking instrumental band must have been weird with your acoustic material? what kind of reception did you receive? It's always daunting playing with bands, but the European crowds are so openly passionate about music, especially towards musicians that have travelled to their country and city. It was very touching. The response was incredible. I didn't really know what to expect, having never been to Europe, but it blew my mind.

Howard James Kenny: My Wrongs / Shelter Songs Remixes



Howard has a date in London and he's playing Dumbfest, which is near Portsmouth, but won't be gigging much until he's finished his next release. The record is available from

www.howardjameskenny.com

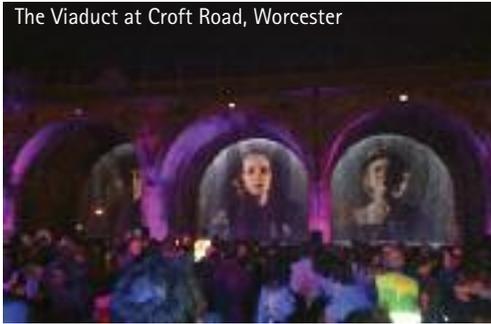
Stephen Wilson WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY ARTS OFFICER

'This feels the beginning of something very important.' This was one of the many remarks uttered to me as 1200 people rocked on the Croft Road Car Park watching the film and dancing to the *12 Moves* at the *12 Moves After Dark* event on a beautiful spring evening on Saturday 24th March.

12 Moves in case you did not know was the Counties Cultural Olympiad dance programme run by Dancefest which has been taking place in Worcestershire over the last two years and the 'After Dark' event was the full accumulation of this work.

I stood there watching the astonishing film created by the film makers SDNA and felt a mixture of pride, wonderment and having that feeling that this was different and that 'this was important'.

The Viaduct at Croft Road, Worcester



Those who know me know my passion for the arts but it is not just that. I believe that the arts changes lives, (it changed mine) but that also we should all be able to access them. This could be at a venue but that the arts should be taken out to people, to be enjoyed where maybe you do not expect to see them but also for people to then begin to think about the space where you saw them in a new way. Here Dancefest used a car park and a railway arch. I heard other people say 'this makes a fantastic space'. And it did because the audience were being (gently) challenged to reconsider their way in which they think about the arts.



In the afternoon we presented *12 Moves at The Hive*. Thanks to many partners from our schools and museums and Dancefest, we put on a day of promenade theatre which included music, dance, visual arts and theatre. I think it was a special day (ok I wrote the play so am biased) but again we wanted to put on something which would challenge people – to think about this amazing building as something where you can do special things in (and have a nice Mocha at the same time). We had 2500 people turn up and feedback was fantastic. Thanks also to **Stephan Bessant** who was a fantastic lead performer and made everything make sense.

The 24th of March was a special day but there will be more. I get the impression that there is a feeling of positivity out there –

that festivals such as the Music, Literature and Film (which incidentally are all going to feature at The Hive) have also shown that we can work together to achieve great things. It is not all about money either (though it helps), it is about having a can do culture, about having a strong vision, about wanting to work in partnership and about having an understanding partner who you can talk to when the panic attacks begin (thanks Mrs Wilson). Thanks also to **Helen Stallard**, Dancefest spokesperson said, "the 24th of March was an amazing day for Worcestershire. It was a privilege to be the first organisation to be asked into The Hive and of course the night-time spectacular was great fun. Many hundreds of people were involved in the day, with many thousands watching some of the performances, and we could not have asked for more. We must extend our thanks to The Hive, run by Worcestershire County Council and the University of Worcester, and also to Worcester City Council for making the event possible."



Stephan Bessant as the Collector Robert Fletcher

I also want to thank everyone who worked on *12 Moves* but especially to **Rose Beeston** from Dancefest, **Charlotte Brennan** who was the overall project manager, **SDNA**, and the fabulous **Marie Oldaker** and **Chrissie Amphlett**.

by Stephen Wilson

Just A Cultural Backwater? WITH ANDY O'HARE



The acts from our region such as Peace (see this month's news!), The Roving Crows, Babajack, Robinson etc - who are on the verge of breaking into the big-time have one thing in common - mileage and lots of it!! These are the guys who've spent the bulk of the last couple of years on the road playing gigs up and down the country - and of course by this I mean 'proper' gigs at 'proper' festivals and venues - not the sham-fests and pay-to-plays that seem to make up half of the events doing the rounds nowadays. Of course I'll allow a little bit of latitude in that I count St Pancras station platform in London as a 'proper' gig here!!

I've mentioned a few times now that realistically acts and bands simply aren't going to find success only playing gigs in the two counties. You've got to tour further abroad (yes - on the continent if necessary) and make a real effort to network with as many other musos, promoters and venue owners as possible - always making sure that you keep a stash of CDs and cards/flyers ready to hand out at a minute's notice!! Because unless your dad's the boss of EMI or you're dating a Radio 1 DJ - you're in the same field as a thousand other acts who are waiting for that A&R person to roll along and prick up their ears at your wonderfully unique sound...

But are we such a cultural backwater that this is such a necessity for bands and acts to get noticed? The Three Choirs Festival is one of the major events on the classical music calendar - some years ago I was given (I certainly couldn't have afforded it at the time!) a ticket to one of the premier events at Worcester Cathedral (an Elgar symphony of course) and I was gobsmacked at the prices people are willing to pay for 'gigs' like this - you could have gotten Prince and Madonna on the same billing! The Big Chill is one of the major events on the summer festival circuit - but has been notably lacking in 'local' content until recently - credit to Andrew Marston for doing his best to improve things in this respect. Nozstock regularly wins awards for being among the best small/rural festivals and Worcester Music Festival has been nominated amongst the Top Ten 'metropolitan' and free festivals for the last couple of years - so there seems to be enough activities doing the rounds - roughly on a par I guess with most other fairly rural regions round the country.

I wonder though whether it's a lack of a really major venue that might be contributing to the problem - in Worcester there's the Huntingdon Hall and The Swan Theatre (which only ever host gigs by tribute acts or past-their-bests), Hereford has the Courtyard Theatre and there's also the Artrix in Bromsgrove - but you wouldn't really put any of these on an A-list of must-play locations for successful charting acts. Just about the only venues that currently host events on a comparison to the major nationals are Sixways Stadium and New Road - and I wouldn't really call these 'proper' venues myself -

essentially they're just large controlled spaces who occasionally put on an act (Elton John/Status Quo etc) that bring absolutely no long-term benefit to the region - and could probably have been conveniently held anywhere else in the country.

But as you've probably gathered from my accent - I'm not originally from these parts!! I moved to Worcester in 1976 - and apart from a few years in the Smoke - I've been here ever since. And the main thing I appreciated about Worcester was that it had a brilliant central location for me to visit my scattered family (absence makes the heart etc...) in Wales, Hereford, the South & South West, Birmingham and London - which implies also that it's also a pretty good location as a focus point for a goodly swathe of the country to come and visit...

So as I see it - the way to escape our 'second-division' status on the musical map is either to have a venue comparable to the big-city major arenas which is a must-stop for bands on a national tour (and let's be honest - I can't see THAT happening in the near future!) or to hold a new summer festival at a site conveniently close to one of the M5 junctions (or maybe at a push off the M50 or M42) - which like most of the other major summer events would feature national crowd-pleasers but would show a marked bias on the 'lesser' stages towards local acts...

I think Worcester Music Festival has probably come closest to partly achieving this in the last few years - it's certainly put Worcester on a couple of national festival maps - but it would require a major mindshift to achieve an event say on the scale of Reading, Leeds, Isle Of Wight etc - really difficult yes, but not impossible I reckon...

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PREVIEW THIS WICKED TONGUE | OCTOBER SKY THE MARRS BAR, WORCESTER THE MANIC SHINE | TWINKLE AND THE SLUTS FRIDAY 18TH MAY 2012

One of the great things about being in a band is that, among other things, you get to see and play with loads of other bands. The last six months alone have seen local band **This Wicked Tongue** performing far and wide. March saw a seven date tour covering hundreds of miles in the 'wickedbus' with Redditch favourites **A Poetic Yesterday**.

With the miles they've travelled and the venues they've played, it's little wonder that **This Wicked Tongue** are able to bring bands to Worcester of real talent, originality and invention to make for a lineup of genuine quality.

On 18th May, the band will welcome three outstanding out-of-town bands to Worcester's MARRS BAR for what promises to be a night of sheer quality on the cutting edge of modern music.

Hailing all the way from Montreal, **October Sky** are familiar with the British music scene, having toured in both 2010 and 2011. Strong, alternative riffs punctuated by soft, captivating interludes characterise their output, with live performances featuring a mesmerizing, harmonic fusion of music, voices, lights, and video effects. Championed by NME Music, and recently signed by British label Rocksector, **October Sky** are already building on a strong midlands fan base.

Recently signed to Animal Farm, London based **The Manic Shine** are in the business of breaking moulds. With the most diverse origins and musical influences imaginable, they do away with over-used chord structures and conventional genres with their aptly named 'metamorphic rock', which blends heavy guitar blues with futuristic electronics. A raucous blend of progressive rock but not prog, indie stylings but no skinny jeans, and all the irreverent synth chaos of 21st century electronica.

Dudley based, **Twinkle and the Slutts** are a female fronted band fusing elements of bands such as Siouxsie and The Banshees and Blondie. Throw in the harder edges of Dillinger Escape Plan and Distillers; and influences such as Queens of The Stoneage, and you get all-conquering hooks and guitar riffs with the passion, pace and attitude of the very best.

Which nicely brings us full circle to **This Wicked Tongue** - "pure genius" as one reviewer phrased it; "epic gargantuan rock" as **Amazing Radio** described their music. **This Wicked Tongue's** output is a dynamic combination of riffs and vocals that characterises - a "fist of steel in melodic velvet glove" as **Mudkiss** put it. This is certainly a bill not to be missed.



Photography: Ben Pemberton

REVIEW BLING PRESENTS

There was an easter weekend mash up covering two towns and two evenings to warm you up for the rest of Easter in bed! Many new promoters in Worcestershire come and go just as quickly, but not these two girls from Malvern who have established 'Bling Promotions'. These girls had one show under their belt but managed to pull off a double whammy in one weekend!

The first evening was a drum and bass night at Priors Croft in Malvern on 5th April '12. This was refreshing for us around here as we don't get many decent nights like this. Unfortunately a few of the DJs cancelled, which they will regret when Bling becomes even bigger in the area! Despite these set backs, the promoters managed to pull off a brilliant night and pulled a few strings to get some other DJs to play. Big up to the door men too!!



The second evening, on 6th April, was just as good with a great mix of hard house at the 360 Degrees bar in Worcester. With a very cheap entrance fee, and a cellar full of sweaty hard housers this evening went brilliantly for the Bling crew, as this further established their promotion team in the City.



The venue is great as it has some passers by as well as the dedicated friends of the group. The DJs pleased the crowd with their classic hard house sound. The gig was well attended despite there being numerous other events on that night. Sara and Suzy at Bling worked hard to clothe attendees with fluorescent raving gear at the door and the girls are genuine in their welcoming of all guests to the night.

I am well excited to attend the next Bling presents... event which is taking place at the same venue of 360 Degrees bar on Friday 4th May '12. This ain't for the faint hearted so bring your raving shoes for some more hard house. Big thanks to Sara and Suzy for getting me involved!

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REVIEW [spunge] + Stiff Breed

@ The Boars Head Kidderminster

A lively rabble were instore for ska/punk band [spunge] at their gig in Kidderminster, as we found out trying to make our way to the bar, at tonights gig. The place was rammed when we arrived. With what seemed to be a



[spunge]

large amount of [spunge] fans excited to see the 4 piece do a live show after a busy year tucked away in a studio working on new material. If the name [spunge] doesn't ring a bell with some of you, then surely songs 'Kicking Pigeons' and 'Centrefold' will bring back happy memories of the 90s, but it looks like the guys need no introduction at

tonights venue. With only a mention of band members Alex, Chris, Damon and Jeremy, and we easily find people are happy to give [spunge] a huge big up.

First up on stage are Stiff Breed. The midlands based two tone, ska army bringing the funky reggae to tonight's proceedings. If I hadn't have know Stiff Breed were the support band tonight, I dont think I'd be wrong in saying the 'breed' stirred up as much energy and mayhem if not more than the main band. Stiff Breed are (for one night only) a musical collaboration of the 'Eccles Breed' and 'Stiff Joints' whom by the time you read this will have played an amazing gig, no doubt, at our very own SLAP night. Treating us to a stiff breed take on a song from the *Jungle Book*, *Monkey Man*, Kidderminster inspired song *K Hole*, and getting a clown to introduce them on stage definatly made their one night only collaboration a hard one to follow.



Stiff Breed



[spunge] were quick to take to the stage, and with a big back catalogue of songs to choose from, tonights gig didn't disappoint. Anyone expecting to hear 'Jump', 'Roots' and 'Backstabber' showed their appreciation by dancing and singing along. Inbetween they easily managed to squeeze in a couple of new numbers like 'Nothing at all' with good response. By the time they played 'Centrefold' it was hard

to move for elbows and armpits in your face. Ending their night in Kidderminster with 'Kicking Pigeons' and a stage crammed with people for an encore of 'Skanking Song'. Probably just the same as any other night for [spunge] but I couldn't think of a better way to finish off a good night. Words & Pics:

Toni Charles



The next local [spunge] gig is on the 25th May at Watson Hall, Barton Street, Tewkesbury.

This is a fundraiser in aid of The Sophie Lancaster Foundation www.sophielancasterfoundation.com Tickets are £9 and are available from Alzone Tattoo Studio-Gloucester, Vinyl Vault - Cheltenham, Crystal Tattoo Studio - Tewkesbury and Full on Ink - Evesham.

This is a charity that aims to stamp out hate crime, intolerance and prejudice everywhere, but is also to stop hate crime against people of an alternative dress. The foundation was set up after a girl (Sophie Lancaster) and her boyfriend were set upon by a group of thugs walking home through a park in 2007. Sophie's boyfriend was set upon first and then Sophie tried to protect him and was beaten up herself - she never recovered from her injuries. Hate crime is unacceptable and must be stopped!

Entertainment includes performances from [SPUNGE], ISOLATION, WRATHCHILD and TAINTED NATION and burlesque performances from Miss Cherry Kitten and Mary Lynch. Sideshow performance from Nick Painless. There will also be some local craft stalls and S.O.P.H.I.E wrist bands will be available to buy. This will be an over 18 event due to there being a bar and ID on the door will be required.



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REVIEW The Hedgerow Crawlers

Friday 13th April @ The Royal Oak, Studley



For the uninitiated, T.H.C. (now there's a happy coincidence) are a trio of horse drawn travelling musicians.

Songwriter, lead singer and guitarist, the infamous Pete Delany has been living in a barrel top wagon for about the last 25 years, man

and boy. Lord David J. Sanger (proprietor of the world's only solar powered horse drawn stage) gives it up on mandolin, harmonica and backing vocals, whilst Drew masterfully underpins the madness on bodhran.

Gloriously shambolic one moment and a tight, elemental musical force of nature the next, The Hedgerow Crawlers are more



are about life on the road, the freedom, the hassles, living at one with nature and themselves.

The Royal Oak is an old biker's haunt and made for a welcoming venue. Support was from the self deprecating **Black Sheep**, a young guitarist with a voice like frayed twine - in a good way. Disjointed and languid, his set was kinda nice.

The Hedgerows came on to great applause, and got down to business with a rake of songs from their brilliant album, *'On The Verge'*. The trio have been playing together so long that they skilfully weave around each other to create that magical thing that sometimes happens on stage, they are tight but loose, joyous, pounding, tender and witty. *'If I Ever Found Love'* is a touching love song rich with imagery of being cosy in your wagon, and *'That Travelling Man'* rolls up and down the hills apace. *'Skewbald is the colour of my true love's fur'* says it all.



As the gig drives on, the crowd get drunker and more riotous, and Sanger sends the dancers reeling wildly with his harmonica played through a loudhailer. They wind it up with their own take on a traditional Irish song, *'The Hippy Rover'* and leave their fans in a happy, sweaty afterglow. It's enough to turn a good woman's head and make her run away with the Horsedrawn!

Experience the joy of T.H.C. at their upcoming Spring party over 5th-6th May - The Beltane Bash, it's only £10 a ticket with camping too - find details at

www.horsedrawncamp.co.uk. Or check them out at Lakefest in Tewkesbury 18th-19th May, where Sangers Victorian Horsedrawn Stage will be pitching up, along with EMF, Reef, Dodgy, Toploader, 3 Daft Monkeys and.....CHESNEY HAWKES.

Words & Pics: Helen Bleakman

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Comedy Zone

with Adam Montgomery

How do you write a joke?

Now that's a question I get asked a lot. Along with "Where do you get your ideas from?" And I always give the same answer. You don't find comedy in what you like and what you enjoy. No, you look for what you hate; for what riles you in the news and for what irritates you about life, the people you know, and the people you don't know but dislike anyway despite the lack of any real reason. And for me that's easy because at the moment everything is winding me up. Here's a list of what's been on my mind today in no particular order:

David Cameron for everything he ever does or says.

Britain's Got Talent, more specifically Amanda Holden – even more specifically her hair; and Simon Cowell – more specifically his hair and his personality. (Incidentally I am working on a theory that Simon Cowell is a psychopath at the moment, having just read *The Psychopath Test* by excellent investigative journalist Jon Ronson).

My teeth – dentist appointment this week.

A splinter in my hand that I cannot extract, despite hours of homespun surgery with pins and needles and tweezers.

The fact that my bathroom flooded this afternoon causing the plaster on my newly painted kitchen ceiling to crack beyond repair, along with my temper.

The Big Chill is cancelled – bloody Olympics has a lot to answer for already!

Cameron for cutting my wife's pension.

Cameron for upping tuition fees – sorry kids! BTW It's only £1500 more to go to Cambridge for the year than Worcester – work that one out!

It's Sunday, so work tomorrow.

The man in Pizza Express the other night complaining that his pizza had unadvertised herbs on it (and then justifying his complaint by stating "I should know I have worked for Dominos Pizza for fourteen years. Fourteen years! – if anything qualifies you to know absolutely nothing, it's working for Dominos Pizza for fourteen years).

It's Sunday so making kid's packed lunch first thing tomorrow morning.

Interdental brushes (to be honest I could compose an entire list just about my teeth).

Lack of money for the foreseeable future.

Sunday – bins out.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria.....add your own personal favourite more obscure wars here.....

Simon Cowell's teeth – look at that two of my pet hates in one – I'm feeling better already.

Anyway that took me literally two minutes and I've barely scratched the surface of my anger, despair and frustration. The point is where there's pain there is humour. It's no surprise that many of the greatest comedians suffered from depression and many more rally against the injustice found in the world. What's the alternative? Oh yes Michael McIntyre! Well bang goes my theory then. Now I'm really cross.

Steve Best



Micky Sharma



The next Comedy Zone shows at The Marris Bar are on 3rd May featuring Steve Best, Micky Sharma and Elis James, and on the 7th June featuring Addy Van Der Borgh, spirit medium Ian D Montford and Hospital DJ Ivan Brackenbury.

Elis James



Adam is a stand up comedian and promoter who has been working in the comedy industry since 1996 when he put on his first show featuring (by complete fluke) the then unknown Ross Noble. He is resident compere at The Comedy Zone.

WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP The May Dolls, The Players Claire Boswell & Jez King, Dryftwood

Organiser John Taylor, aided by soundman Chris Bennion, will have to work hard to match the quality of this first Lazy Sunday of the year. Opens *The May Dolls* are Tyler Massey, from USA, and Becca Roberts from Dorset, both now based in Malvern along with Dryftwood.

Their well-crafted set featured perfectly-pitched diamond-bright singing from Becca and Tyler's fine, imaginative harmonies, and guitar-playing.

As a duo they perform beautifully together, introducing songs from their recent debut CD, *Just For One Night*, whose content, composed mainly by Becca, like their live performance, is outstanding.



The Players are one of Worcester's most famous bands. Their session demonstrated their command of the folk and country idiom, long a feature of vocalist and guitarist Paul Jeffery. Their versatility was showcased by their Brubeck-flavoured version of one of Bob Dylan's songs in which drummer Ed Steelfox hurled himself into the challenging 5/4 time-signature, with both guitarists belting along manfully. Great singing and playing, which they contrive to appear effortless – until you try it yourself.

Claire Boswell is a respected and hugely talented singer-songwriter who has been gigging regularly in Worcester for more than a decade, and is currently recording her latest CD. She sings beautifully and is a fine guitar-picker. Jez King accompanied her on bouzouki, mandolin, and fiddle, and proved an accomplished and sympathetic side-man. Her version of the Joan Baez song *Diamonds to Rust* was particularly successful, and her self-penned blues was remarkable.

Last up were Dryftwood who kept the happy vibe going, no one in a rush to leave.

Word: Bob Jones Pics: Amanda Hickling



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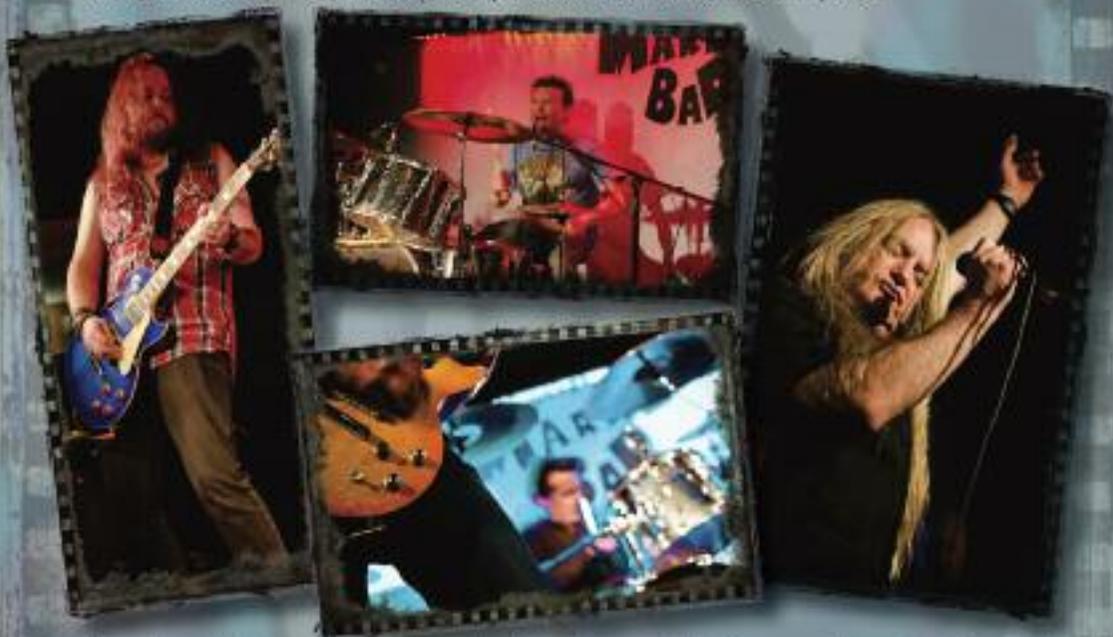
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KAF Creatives are taking over the Boars Head Gallery as part of the Worcestershire Arts Trail. 1st–4th June 10am-5pm

SLACKERS

Dogs of Santorini and Slack Granny at the Marris Bar 13th April 2012

With a blinding flash and a deafening report the Dogs of Santorini take to the stage! It is Friday night at the Marris Bar and the sound of loud rock music can be heard filtering through the city streets. The Dogs of Santorini are an oddity thrown up by art and poverty. A three-piece punk-metal outfit that produce more noise than would seem plausible. Their rock solid rhythm section is so tight you couldn't get a cigarette paper between the bass and drums while the single guitar fills the spaces and creates a force of sound. A paradox of simplicity and complexity, DoS play songs that alternate between Ramones-like rock 'n' roll with throwaway lyrics ('Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah') and emotionally complex, psyche-exploring self-examinations ('Jesus doesn't want you at all'). From the blazon 'Suzy' to the creepy 'Stalker' the songs have a knack of grabbing you by the lapels and demanding your attention. The band will soon complete their first EP; a five track offering that provides a cross section of their musical produce from the optimism of 'We Got Something Now' to the despair of 'Stab in the Back' and, of course, the catchy theme tune 'Doggy Style'. With just three gigs under their belts with the current line-up, DoS are fast becoming a great live act that you'll want to see more of. So try 'Favoc' and let slip the dogs of war and catch those canines while you can.



The mash-up of burlesque irony and theatrical exuberance known as Slack Granny was the main act of the night. Equipped with the loudest snare drum in Christendom, Mark the drummer hammered his way through a set of exemplary rock tunes with the authority of a Yorkshire miner on a productivity bonus. Low frequency support was provided by Gary with his grunting Musicman interlocking perfectly with the drum kit, presenting a solid foundation of chuck-mix rhythmic concrete. Then, with warm Gibson tones from his Mesa Boogie amp cutting through the darkness, Shaun 'Rock Adonis' Grant delivered everything we have come to expect from this group of ageing, yet ever youthful, rock grandees. With effortless zeal, fingers zipped up and down the fret board with the speed and skill of a Formula one pit crew. But, as ever, it was Toad who stole the show. A larger than life rock superstar, who takes every stance in the Book of Rock Poses and makes them his own. His long hair swirling magnificently, generating more power than a wind turbine as he thrashes around like some demented Nordic Dervish. His powerful, gravelly voice taking full command of the situation, issuing instructions to the audience: dance, clap, wave your arms. Toad is an amazing amalgam, he is Bowie, Jagged, Daltry, Tyer and, of course, Araya all rolled into one and sent express delivery direct to your ears. Slack Granny have to be seen. If you haven't, why the hell not? BT.

REVIEW SLAP NIGHT 21st April

Skambomambo, The Stiff Joints, Ital Sounds

After a well deserved winter sabbatical, SLAP night at the Worcester Arts Workshop returned with a bang and a wallop on Saturday 21 April. After a few months off it was difficult to know what to expect, especially with so many quality live music events on in the city that night - including (new venture) WuStock, (the return of) Sketchley's Live with Ronda, Matchless at Keystones and Hades the Cat at the Marrs Bar. (It is surely a great sign that the scene is thriving to this extent and bodes well for the Worcester Music Festival on the August bank holiday weekend.)



The blueprint of mixing local talent with something unusual and brilliant from out of the Shire was tried and tested to international standards, with SLAP night taking on a decidedly Caribbean feel.



First up to welcome the early adopters were Ital Sounds - a Worcester collective of musicians and DJs spinning classic reggae/ska tunes. As the odd person floated downstairs for a skank, the expectations were that it might be a quiet night. When the support band, The Stiff Joints, shuffled to the stage at a shade after 9 they doubled the amount of people in the room!



The Stiff Joints are a ten piece ska army from North Worcestershire (and the wild West Midlands) who play a fair few covers but are adding more and more original material to their set. As they tentatively struck up (probably thinking "where's the audience?"), the floodgates opened as those hanging around with the smokers heard there was a band on.

The room soon filled and warmed up and there was even a sighting of the lesser spotted nutty boy (a pint for anyone who can guess who!).

"Rowdy and stoned fools" is how The Joints describe themselves and the sound can suffer if the PA is not managed correctly. Phil and Rachel (All Stars Dub Band) handled the job with aplomb to make their debut Worcester gig a rip roaring success.

The main act provided a truly international (or 'outernational' in patois) dimension to proceedings. Skambomambo are an enigma who combine original Jamaican ska, the phenomenon that was 2-Tone and throwing the concoction straight back at the Midlands



from Poland via Maltese frontman, Mario. As a hybrid, Skambomambo are able to bend the genre this way and that without having to stray too far from the ska template. Mario is an excellent (flag-waving!) singer/performer, Pawel is a top guitar player, the brass is just as cheeky as it needs to be and the rhythm section nails it all down.

Highlight of the set was *Accident*, which had added poignancy due to Slap contributor Dicky Fisk taking a tumble and breaking his wrist. Get well soon bro!

Fair play to the guys for the effort they've put in - they came over to the source of 2-Tone last year and promised they would be back. It was yet another thoroughly successful night (thanks to all the volunteers) and we heard there may just have been half a bottle of wine left.



Words: Glazz Photography: Katie Doolan



PREVIEW



Then on Sunday, May 20th at 7.30.p.m, Artrix teams up with Bromsgrove Folk Club to welcome 'The Demon Barber Road Show', winners of the " Best Live Act " at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2009.

And finally on Friday, May 25th at 8.00.p.m, one of the great bands of the sixties and seventies, 'The Zombies', featuring Colin Blunstone and Rod Argent, make its Artrix debut. Those of us who saw the band's sellout gig at Huntingdon Hall in December will know that it is a terrific show and well worth seeing again or seeing for the first time, particularly at Artrix, which is such a good venue for live music.

In May Artrix stages shows from three major musical acts making their first appearances at the Arts Centre.

On Sunday, May 6th at 7.30.p.m, the acclaimed Irish singer, songwriter and multi instrumentalist Paul Brady visits with his 'Dancer In the Fire' Tour. If you look at Paul's CV on his website - www.paulbrady.com - he has written for, or performed with, many of the greats and his last television appearance was on BBC 4 in the wonderful tribute show to the late Gerry Rafferty, when he was the artist chosen to sing the classic 'Baker Street'.



Paul Brady



Colin Blunstone and Rod Argent

Tickets for all three shows are available from the Box Office on 01527-577330 or online at www.artrix.co.uk

PREVIEW JUBILEE JAMBOREE - MARRS BAR, SUNDAY 3RD JUNE

Coming to the MARRS BAR, Sunday 3rd June, is the Jubilee Jamboree in aid of the Alzheimer's Society Charity organized by local musician, Wes Dance. The all-day event will take place on the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend and will feature some of the best and promising local talent around. *"The show being on a day before a bank holiday, will give people that extra incentive to have a few more drinks and enjoy themselves"* says Dance, *"I'm amazed and honoured by the quality of acts that have accepted to play, it should be a great day for music."*

The event features the likes of Vault of Eagles, Rich Clarke & the Rafters, Robinson, This Wicked Tongue, Das Sexy Clap and many more. Dance decided to organize the event after the passing of his father last year from Alzheimer's: *"the disease is a little more than forgetting where your car keys are situated, it's terrifying and undignified for any sufferer or family involved."* All tickets sales from the event will be donated to helping make a real difference to the lives and the lives of the carers and their families.

So come on down to the MARRS BAR on the 3rd, listen to some of the best bands in town, with drink in hand, swing the queen in with style, and help make a difference for others. The event will run from 4pm-11.30pm and tickets for £4 can be purchased from Wes (wes_dance@hotmail.co.uk) or from the Plough, Deansway and the Dragon, Tything, Worcester.

Words by Raymond Cutter

All day bank-holiday!

Alzheimer's Society

JUBILEE JAMBOREE

ROBINSON
VAULT OF EAGLES
DAS SEXY CLAP
THIS WICKED TONGUE
RICHARD CLARKE & THE RAFTERS
WES DANCE
THE RETINAL CIRCUS
THE MAY DOBBS
TWINKLE ECHO
MARRS JIVE BAR
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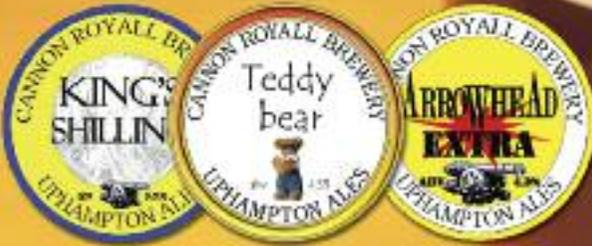
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FEATURE MATT WOOSEY

Singer-songwriter, Matt Woosey is at the forefront of British Blues. Woosey seriously kicks the kind of old boy, harmonica blowing, smoke filled room blues connotations out the window with a sincerity and honesty that is completely his own. Playing an acoustic guitar, he plays blues at a sweat-inducing pace and his performances are intense and emotionally raw. Although he covers themes and ideas from trad blues his writing is very unique and very engaging. Before picking

up the guitar, Matt began his musical journey as a drummer, but had chosen the guitar by the time he joined Taxi, which were a well-respected band in Malvern, Worcestershire, where Matt calls home.

Woosey gained a great deal of attention online after being featured on the infamous 'songs from the shed' sessions. These acoustic video sessions have included the likes of



Alabama 3, Roddy Woombles, Seth Lakeman and Martha Tilston to mention just a few. Matt went on to form 'Matt Woosey and the Strange Rain' and still retains the world class drummer James Elliot Williams in his current 'Matt Woosey Band'. 2012 has been promising so far and has seen Matt gigging throughout the UK and parts of Western Europe, whilst organising his tour of Australia for 2013. Regarded as the best British blues artist since Rory Gallagher, Matt Woosey has established himself as an accomplished singer / guitar player, which has given his band a regular slot at Ronnie Scotts, taken him across Europe, put him on the bill at all the major UK blues festivals as well as being featured on television.

Matt has his own unique singer-songwriter/ playing style that has been coined 'the Woosey Blues', by combining intricate chord changes with poetic lyrics and at times, breaks out into powerful blues movements.

Matt will be appearing at the Marr's Bar with his band on the 5th May, a gig that will certainly be worth attending and at Acoustic Lunch at the Old Rec on the 27th May. You can find out info and where to buy his music on iTunes and t'uther online retailers!...

www.mattwoosey.co.uk

BOAT *to* ROW

Boat To Row are: Michael King – Vocals, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Ben Gilchrist – Bass, Vocals, Percussion, Faye Haddon – Violin, Mandolin, Vocals,

Billy Moss – Keys, Guitar, Bass & Lloyd Miller – Drums, Vocals. Boat to Row are a collective of instrument swapping, harmony sharing friends from the Midlands; meandering through all that life and love have to offer. From its beginnings as a solo university project Boat to Row has evolved into a band confident with delivering intelligent, intricate folk.

Beginning with the 2010 tape only release *Crossroads* to the recent multi format *Grassmarket* EP Boat to Row have been playing a rigorous schedule of shows that have included sharing stages with Slow Club, Willy Mason and Johnny Flynn.



Gaining a reputation for delivering an infectious, uplifting set Boat to Row will be taking this on tour with Dog is Dead and to many festivals this summer including 2000 Trees, Truck and Larmer Tree. According to *Amelia's* magazine they are 'on a course' and 'beautifully their own'.

Boat to Row will be playing on the 9th May at The Hand In Glove with local support.

Free entry! Miss it, Miss out !!!

www.boattorow.com



Party for the World

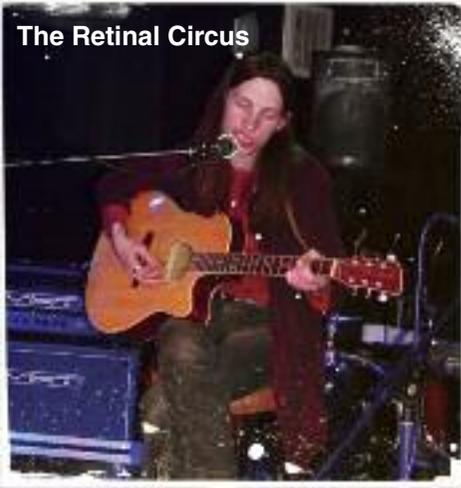
Saturday
5th May



Things change. Once upon a time there was Malvern Festival, a staid and stoic affair with classical music being the preferred form of entertainment. As an artistic compliment to this the Malvern Fringe was formed. Run by a rag tag group of artists, poets and musicians, the Fringe, since 1977 has organised contemporary music events, comedy nights, film screenings and theatre that over the years has grown in scope and scale. The Festival that spawned the Fringe no longer happens which has led the Fringe Festival to become much more a mainstream organisation. The most popular and largest of the Fringe's annual happenings is the May Day parade with music in Priory Park where around three thousand people congregate for one of the most chilled events imaginable. This year the parade will take place on May 5th at 2:30pm with bands performing in the band stand and on the acoustic stage from 11am. The theme for this year's event is World Party and Carnival with the organisers encouraging people to wear masks and costumes from around the world. The Park comes to life on this day like no other with craft stalls, cafes, face painting, circus skills, kids workshops and of course, the parade itself, led by the Baixa Beat Samba band and some vibrantly dressed dancers. Local micro brewery Malvern Hills Brewery will be running a bar serving real ales including a special May Day Ale made specifically for the event. With a few more yet to be confirmed, the musical line up includes four-piece rhythm-and-everything band Treefrogs, soulful-soloist Sam Eden, the sax-tastic Phil, a bit of agricultural cider core from Skewwhiff, Howard Duo, new soul high-impact Hullabaloo and some bucolic indie rock from Threshing Ground. Tribal rhythm-philes Drumlove will be hosting percussive workshops and Jai Hill, the Bard of Malvern will be delivering the now traditional Bardic Address to the masses. Now this all may sound a little bit pagan and New Age, but this is Malvern after all, where a minor Fringe event has become one of the biggest occasions of the year. Change is good!

RT

The Retinal Circus



It spoke volumes to me; music IS the language we all speak and can relate to each other through. It's a vast medium that at times defies definition. It's worth can be measured only by the individual.

Another peak occurred this past week {like I say constantly shifting phases,} with a gig at the Brewery Tap's Thursday Tap! that Jay Clark, Sarah Colquitt and myself arranged... But elsewhere in this issue you may find a review of two other nights that blew my mind in equal measures – the Blue Radio birthday gig {Friday} Et Slap's very own Skambomambo night {Saturday}. All 3 nights took in it's own genres where music was the unifying strand that transcended culture, cliques and divisions we build between ourselves day to day!

Our Tap! line up was a little off the wall, starting with a unique play-list of the likes of Zappa, Mr Bungle Et Cardiacs, followed closely by the first set of the evening, my own brand of patent acid fried psych pop {the less said about this the better, just search for The Retinal Circus on facebook}. Not the serious set I planned that's for sure, but it was fun none the less, it was certainly a

In all the time I have been in Worcester there have been high points and low, as far as the music scene is concerned. It seems to constantly go through shifting phases of activity. Over the past 8 years however, we have seen the closure of various venues that were close to a particular circle of muso friends.. In particular TJ's, was at one point in time a focal point for active like minded individuals to put on eclectic nights with the sole intention of enjoying the moment and sharing our music regardless of the styles. Now TJ's has become Boston Tea Party, which sometimes puts on intimate acoustic evenings, a far cry then from the loud brash extravaganzas of Tea Break nights. But it must be noted, the spirit of community is still apparent around us. If anything it's spread much further afield, became less insular and great things have transpired since, such as the Worcester Music Festival that has grown year after year. The prevalent effect of this has been many fantastic opportunities have arisen, barriers have been knocked down as a result and the scene has gathered to the momentum we see around us today.

All through the spirit of co-operation and selflessness. It's easy to think that sincerity can be seen as such a scarcity in these modern times, but it's to be found all around, it really must be embraced, as and when. In particular one comment I found to be immensely profound was from none other than 'Poor' Bob Jones at Cafe Bliss "Lazy Sunday" last week ; "You kids wish you had lived in the 60s and seen what it was all about, but there's so much going on around this town that it's better if not equal to those days".

Ria Parfitt



unexpected sign of things. The turn out was fantastic - we were more than pleased by this!

Next up was Hereford's reverb rebel and surrealist artist Ria Parfitt, who bought to the mix her inspired takes on classics such as 'Bang Bang' {perhaps most recently recalled for it's inclusion in Kill Bill Vol 1}, 'Hot Stuff' that had the most hilariously intriguing metal lead that will forever stay with me, then followed by some of

The Rusty Knives



her originals which were in equal parts crunchy energetic wails and soft reverb soaked lullaby. Her voice was expressive and confident with control and nuance. Throughout she showcased a masterful approach to guitar, playing through a custom Pit Ball amp "The sort of thing sweaty blokes play through" at excessive volume... She rounded off her set with a fantastic take on Petula Clark's 'Downtown' that left the audience wanting more..

Next up were newly formed three piece **The Rusty Knives**, which have a concise set of simple yet infectious moody punk stompers. Comprising of Elli on Bass {who rarely seems to stop bopping about in time to every note she conjures}, **Abi Brooks** on drums, who certainly hones the sound down to a unique catchy clatter, all of which provide a strong foundation to enhance **Al Terry's** nails down the black board guitar solos straight from the nursery school of Sonic Youth, dipped in the early Bleach



Sick Boys Club

of Cobain... Al's sardonic lyrics are fun & surreal, such as a song oddly about *Talk To Frank* {the hotline for support and info on certain illicit substances} which peaks with it's chorus of "Into his mouth into his brain". Al is not afraid to speak his mind with such numbers as '27 Club' and 'Chelsea Smile', each dripping with his trademark sardonic couplets. At one point Al decided to impulsively jump into the amassed crowd and let them add their own notes to the resulting cacophony by tapping on his fretboard, before he returned to the stage to rip a small hole in his Marshall stack and then nonchalantly toss his Gibson SG to floor for a final guttural roar of noise and tentacles of tenacious feedback.

Next up were Birmingham's own experimental outfit **Sick Boys Club**, an 8 piece super group that simply defies

description. Comprising of former members of **Gurdan Thomas**, **Graham Parsnip** **Torture Think Tank** **Liquidiser** {Revival}& various other outfits. With 3 singers in close part harmony throughout, lashings of parping Trumpet, Clarinet, Tuba, saxophones, guitar {in many many styles!} bass and drums.. This band did not mess about in making their mark. Opening with a brass led fan fare pastiche on a spaghetti western standard named 'Smile', front man **Matt Davis** crooned lovingly about the world being a melting Corneto in our hands. Interesting commentary on climate change for sure. A few numbers in we enjoy the warm trad jazz of 'Cherry Pie', the funkadelic compact soul of 'Dusk Till Dawn', **The Squirrel Nut Zippers'** catchy 'Cats', a joyous bizarre blast of 'Danger Mouse' that had a whole chorus line singing along the side of the bar to the bemusement of the Taps staff! There were a few more lashings of **Bonzo Dog** workouts but the short sublime set was rounded off with the already infamous **Mike Patton** inspired 'Welcome To The Vicarage', which I can only elude to in this article, you'll have to seek it out yourself! It opens with **Rob Brampton's** bass run, then quickly jerks you into two-tone Bungle territory, followed by abrasive stabs of metal and fanfare time changes. At the end there is an absurd 5 piece harmony of slow dance proportions before twisting round back to a run down that **John Zorn** would be proud of! This band are simply incredible DO NOT MISS THEM when they next make an appearance! The crowd wanted more but **Matt** just laughed like an evil ring master before informing the audience there was no more! I was left with the feeling that something mesmerising & magical had just occurred. But as I said this feeling is more often than not somewhere within the counties occurring on a day to day basis. As both Friday and Saturday proved. So be sure not to miss out!

A wise man once said "Information is not knowledge. Knowledge is not wisdom. Wisdom is not truth. Truth is not beauty. Beauty is not love. Love is not music. Music is the best" that man was **Frank Vincent Zappa**, words that are still relevant today!

by **Craigus Barry**

Craigus Barry runs the shop **Retinal Comics** in the Market Hall, **Shambles Worcester** {next to Poundland} in addition to promoting music and cabaret events he has been in short lived experimental outfits over the years such as **Meteor Street & Shambollix**. He currently makes psychedelic pop music under the name **The Retinal Circus** and you can help yourself to the free Quiver EP here, www.theretinalcircus.bandcamp.com, it features local musicians **Paul Jeffery**, **Becky Rose**, **Hywel Payne**, **Phil Butler** & **John-Joe Murray** amongst others.

PREVIEW HOOT FEST - University of Worcester

Come and join us at the 'University of Worcester' for a 3 day event, in which we will have performances from six different companies which include: Flex, Loose Joints, Ladybug Theatre Company, Sine Timore, Steadfast and What a Pair.

The final year BA Hons Drama and Performance students will be performing on the 10th, 11th and 12th of May in and around the Drama department from 12 o'clock, and also offering after show talks and workshops for anyone who is interested.

You can expect to see a very diverse range of theatre such as mask acting, naturalistic theatre, physical theatre and theatre and digital media, as well as performances from other final year students taking the 'Theatre and Disability' module. We will also have 'Lyrical' and 'Hip-Hop' performances from 'Worcester Saints Dance Society'!

This event will be the last performance that these final year students perform together which is why your support would be fantastic! Whether you are interested in the theatre styles we are performing, or you are interested in coming to the University of Worcester to

study, then come along and let's have some fun!

Tickets can be bought when you arrive (Adults £4 and Students £3). For further information on the festival please contact our marketing team by email on n.p_2012@hotmail.co.uk, or alternatively contact Liz Swift by email on e.swift@worc.ac.uk.

Look forward to seeing you there!



PREVIEW Mostly Jazz Festival, Moseley Park, Birmingham

The Mostly Jazz Festival is set to return on 29th, 30th June & 1st July 2012 as The Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival.

Doing exactly what it says on the tin, The Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival offers a blistering weekend of Jazz, Funk & Soul with a host of household names bringing the party atmosphere back to Moseley Park!

This year will be headlined by London Hip-Hop virtuoso **Roots Manuva**, Woodstock legends **Family Stone** and Godfathers of Funk - **George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic**.

Truly one of the most creative and unique festivals on the UK festival calendar in 2012!

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic / Family Stone / Roots Manuva / Fred Wesley & The New JB's / Odyssey / Ghostpoet / Craig Charles / Gilles Peterson / Mr Scruff / Soweto Kinch / Introducing Play DJ Shadow & Mr Scruff / Speedometer / Neil Cowley Trio / Zoe Rahman / Bad Bad Not Good / The Bongolian / Andy Hamilton & The Bluenotes / Colman Brothers / Abram Wilson / Troumaca / Federation of The Disco Pimp / Interleave / Atlantic Players / Free School / Miles Levin Quintet / Lack of Afro (DJ Set) / Maylight / Sam Redmore / Electric Swing Circus / Rotuna of Wonder / Husk / Steve Ajao / Birmingham Jazz Ensemble.

Tickets are available from the website: www.mostlyjazz.co.uk



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Neil Collins had the bright idea of doing some live music – What – music @ GMH ??? And so we tossed and turned, thought and regurgitated and agreed that a Blues night would work.....

July 2009 saw the opening night and on a sunny Tuesday evening we waited for the customers to turn up..... and they did.....and they really did.

Blimey O'Reilly.....

Since then Neil and I have hardly spent a Tuesday night apart.....

Once a month – they turned up all bright eyed and bushy tailed. And so we thought why once a month – lets do it once a week – and by eck lets turn it into an Open Mic Night.....! So Mummy bear talked to Daddy bear and they all agreed to go for it !

Have we looked back since – I think not !!!

Neil (Daddy Bear) now is moving onto pastures new (just up the road) and Enzo (Italian Bear) is taking over the helm of the Open Mic night.

Neil Collins



I would like to thank Neil for all his hard work which made the Open Mic night what it is today and wish him all the best in the future.

What will happen ??

Watch this space..... and don't go anywhere.....

by Lisa B

A promotional poster for Enzo Acoustic Solo Artist. The background is a textured, golden-brown pattern. On the left, the word 'OPEN' is written vertically in large, stylized letters. In the center, a man with glasses and a dark shirt is playing an acoustic guitar. On the right, the text reads: 'ENZO Acoustic Solo Artist' at the top, followed by 'Takes the reins of the GMH Open Mic night from the 8th May' in large, bold, white letters.



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Stan's work has been on show in the Oxfam book and record shop on the High street. 25% of sales goes to the the charity. You can see more of Stan's work at

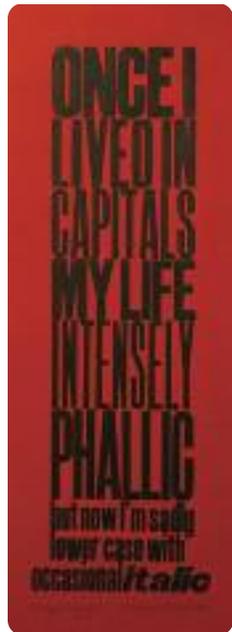
www.stangreer.co.uk



Stan Greer is a lettering artist who uses a variety of media to create plaques, woodcuts, linocuts, papercuts, prints, murals and lettering in the environment.

Inspiration is always from the text itself, whether poetry, literary quotation, or simply wordplay. The aim is always to interpret or express the text in appropriate visual and verbal form: word-pictures or visual metaphors.

Enquiries are also welcome from galleries interested in word-based exhibitions, and from literary festivals, societies and publishers seeking illustrative material for publicity or catalogues.



REVIEW

RECORD STORE DAY

APRIL 21, 2012



Rise records



DJ Ed Steelefox



The May Dolls

Record Store Day! A day dedicated to celebrating independent music stores throughout the U.K. It is an absolute joy for music lovers and record buying fans alike and this momentous day provides opportunity for record labels to really push the boat out. Bands, labels and musicians use this special day to push limited run discs and vinyls, offering rare singles, albums and EPs.

Queues formed as early as half 6 in the morning as record enthusiasts waited eagerly to buy the latest limited edition records all over the country.

Many stores offered events and live bands to celebrate the day. Worcester's 'Rise' records, in association with 'Not Just Sauce' layed on some special treats including live bands next to Huntingdon Hall with Poetry in Numbers , The May Dolls, The One Two's, Sam Eden, Our Mutual Friend & the fabulous Lewisspeltbackwards.

Rise records had the pleasure of presenting an instore performance with Miles Hunt and violinist, Erica Nockalls, famously of The Wonder Stuff. The Wonder Stuff released a double A side vinyl 7" single featuring covers of The Move's 'Blackberry Way' and The Beat's 'Save It For Later'.

Local DJ Ed Steelefox ripped it up instore playing mash ups and classic bangers throughout the afternoon.

Support your local record store! A good day was had by all!



Our Mutual Friend

Miles Hunt and Erica Nockalls





Elsewhere our regular artist **Alex Amici** from Philadelphia has been working hard for us to create the perfect new poster to promote our Live Sessions. Of which we have now booked our first major touring band to come visit us at our office at **KJM Studios Hereford** for a filmed set and interview. We don't want to give anything away just yet but a little clue is they are signed to renowned USA label **Sargent House**.

April was a momentous and rewarding month and a big milestone for Circuit Sweet. Although the past few weeks have flown by and we've passed the third year anniversary of Circuit Sweet; the highlight of the month without a doubt has to have been the relaunch of the site. We've been working hard on developing the site and expanding our boundaries for over a year and finally the day had come. Both our capabilities and opportunities have come a long way with our dedicated work. As our client base has flourished, the site's look has been untouched since it first began. Despite having a vision as to how the site should look and to show professionalism, we've never got round to catching up with ourselves - until now.

With the fantastic work of Bristol based limited company **Oogly**. Oogly use a unique combination of creative and technical savvy delivering what their client wants; developing their beautiful web design. And the Oogly team did just that! We couldn't have asked for better individuals and friends to work beside to create what we were after. After planning the new look and being over the moon about the end result- We set the date for the relaunch. And with that came another new aspect to our company. We opened the online **Circuit Sweet Shop**. Our next step to promote, introduce and provide talent to more. A home for hardworking musicians' efforts. An idea we had a long time ago, and have been promoting ever since it cultivated. Here we have stocked rarity's, Ep's, Album's, Cds, Tapes, Merchandise and more. One off items, the last run of releases, all of which can be found on the new look site.

Record Store Day of 2012 was officially launch day of the new site and the new shop, where we travelled to Bristol to celebrate the launch with **Caroline Wilkinson** and **Jonathan Holloway** who run Oogly. So far the response has been overwhelming! We'd like to thank everyone for their support, we've received some lovely messages from friends and fans local to friends and fans afar.

We urge you to keep checking the new site at www.circuitsweet.co.uk where you can find the shop and find some collectables. We've been gifted with such products like - **Aulos'** last ever 10 copies of "EP IC." The instrumental 2-piece from Hereford/Bristol UK have now sold out the debut EP which we have exclusively for sale. To **Well Weapons'** **Dios Trio** debut- Melodic math rock, mixing frantic guitar work with a pop sensibility and a nice twist of midwestern emo. For fans of **Ghosts** and **Vodka**, **Piglet**, **Tera Melos**, **Fang Island** & anything **Kinsella!** Plus lots lots more.



In last month's Slap we mentioned our live filmed interview with Dublin 4 piece **The Cast of Cheers**. The interview is now uploaded onto our site and we hope you enjoy!- We will be revisiting the band whilst they are on tour with duo **Blood Red Shoes** throughout May are are looking forward to having a catch up and hearing how their European tour went. This will then lead onto another live feature. Another event we are covering in May which is on the Circuit Sweet calender is the live return of noise rock two piece **Japandroids**.

Across Herefordshire we are currently working on getting Slap Mag to more people and will list a full place of venues and shops who support the fantastic free publication in the next issue.

All press releases and music Submissions to naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk or MAIL to Circuit Sweet @ KJM Studios Unit 15 Sweetmans Yard, Hereford, HR4 0EE

Interested in a photo shoot, live film or music video email oli@circuitsweet.co.uk
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by *Naomi Preece*

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Wychwood Festival 2012

8TH - 10TH JUNE CHELETNHAM RACECOURSE, CHELETNHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Wychwood Festival, the UK's leading family festival, has announced that Sunday's mainstage headline act will be legendary Irish rock band **The Saw Doctors**. Wychwood Festival is also delighted to announce that French sensation and BBC 6Music favourites **Francois & The Atlas Mountains**, punk forefathers **Hawkind**, Britpop trio **Dodgy**, stunningly talented accordionist **Sharon Shannon** plus champions of pop music, Oxford band **Alphabet Backwards** have also been added to the already burgeoning line-up. Set in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside on Cheltenham Racecourse from 8th-10th June 2012, Wychwood is widely regarded as the UK's leading festival for families, providing an utterly delightful festival experience for all ages, featuring an eclectic mix of music from folk to world and through to pop and picking up nominations for 'Best Family Festival' at the UK Festival Awards every year since it launched in 2005.

Irish rock band **The Saw Doctors** will take to the stage on Sunday 10th June. Having achieved a spectacular nineteen top 30 singles in Ireland, including three number ones, and developed a reputation for their barnstorming live performances, crowds will go wild for their Irish charm.

Storming onto the British scene, this year's international act of the moment, **Francois & The Atlas Mountains** will be performing at this year's Wychwood Festival. A multi-talented songwriter, musician, animator and artist, **Francoise Marry's** French roots combined with his British influences have created a swell of rhythmic piano chords, shimmering electric guitars and a blend of styles unique to any other act releasing new material at this moment. **Francoise's** fluctuation between French and English lyrics is both charming and hypnotic. A must see act for 2012.

Hawkind are one of the earliest space rock groups and since forming in 1969 they have been recognized as the precursor to punk rock and are considered a link between the hippie and punk cultures. Expect the bizarre with an urban and science themed set to thoroughly entertain at this year's festival.

Britpop English power pop rock trio **Dodgy** are welcomed to this year's Wychwood bringing classic crowd pleasers,

'*Good Enough*' and '*Staying Out For The Summer*' that will undoubtedly create quite a stir and stick firm in the minds of revelers for years to come. Accordionist **Sharon Shannon** has music at her fingertips with her multi-maligned accordion playing bringing songs influenced by her Irish roots but also stretching across all musical genres including Hip-Hop, Cajan, Country, Classical and Rap.

Champions of Pop music, Oxford band **Alphabet Backwards** with their infectiously catchy tracks, their punctuated and irresistible synth buzz and a thoroughly entertaining live show, will also be playing. Already receiving airplay from 6Music's **Tom Robinson**, **Steve Lamacq** and **Huw Stephens**, they will delight crowds at Wychwood Festival 2012.

Wychwood Festival is shaping up to be the most exciting line-up since its birth in 2005. With a hugely saturated festival market fans will flock to the Gloucestershire countryside to experience the best in world and folk music in an utterly delightful atmosphere enjoyed by all who choose to place it in their summer calendar. Today Wychwood announces new acts to ensure festival lovers make Wychwood their number one stop this summer.

For tickets call 01993 772 580 or visit the website: www.wychwoodfestival.com

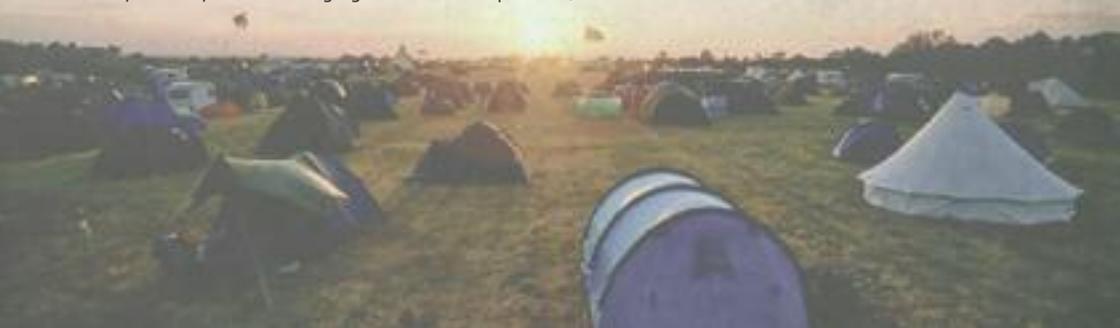
WIN TICKETS TO WYCHWOOD FESTIVAL!

For your chance to win two weekend tickets with camping to this year's festival, please answer the following question:

Where does Wychwood Festival take place?

- A. Cheltenham Racecourse
- B. Aintree Racecourse
- C. Sandown Racecourse

Email answers to editorial@slapmag.co.uk titled 'competition' in the subject.





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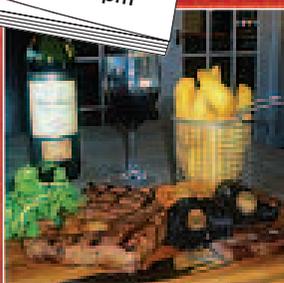
MAIN ROAD, OMBERSLEY, WR9 0JG
e-mail: thereindeeratombersley@gmail.com

Wooden Horse Bank Holiday Monday 7th May

Free Admission 7.30 - 10.30pm

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- Sunday Carvery 12 - 6 pm



Live Music Every Friday & Saturday

**'Sounds Like Thunder' - Tribute Band
26th May - Tickets £5**

140 High Street, Evesham, WR11 4EJ

Tel: 07710522755

Opposite Evesham train station. Last train to Worcester 11:58pm.

Tuesday 1 May 2012

Blaze Bayleys Full Metal Tour
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Claire Boswell and Jez King, The Malvern Hillbillies,
Richard Clarke and The Rafterers
The Crown Inn, Worcester

Wooden Horse
The Bell, Leominster

Wednesday 2 May 2012

Ian Parker
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Marzys Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Thursday 3 May 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Connor Maher Band, tbc
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Poetry In Numbers, Rusty Knives, Open Mic Night
The Crown Inn, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Rich Hall
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Leah Haworth
Hand in Glove, Worcester

Dan Greenaway
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Friday 4 May 2012

Bluestack
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Junction 7
The Talbot, Pershore

Raw Deal
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Junction 7
Millers Arms, Pershore

Les Trios Rosbifs
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Voodoo Blue
Queens Head, Wolverley

Vault Of Eagles
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Koon Sound
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Black Heart Angels
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Aquarius
The Talbot, Barbourne Road, Worcester

Massive Head Trauma, The Rusty Knives, 11:11
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Shatter Effect, Oui Legionnaires, Inca Hoots
The Firefly, Worcester

Lunasa
The Courtyard, Hereford

Naked Remedy
The Rose & Crown, Wordsley, nr Stourbridge

Seall , Villa Rise, ForeverGrace, Silent Screams, Our People
Versus Yours
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Delray Rockets
The Star Hotel, Upton

Edd Rodgers
O'Neills, Worcester

Citizen Fish
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Festivals Experience
Drummonds, Worcester

Soul Centric Presents The Quiet Boy, Robbie & Scott Jenkins
Keystones, Worcester

Bling Tidy Friday 'May the 4th be with you'
360 Degrees, Worcester

Naked Remedy
The Crown, Wordsley

Wooden Horse
The Barrels, Hereford

Pillars Of The Community
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Saturday 5 May 2012

May Day Celebrations from 11am (see page 29)
Malvern Wintergardens

Bluestack
The Express Inn, Malvern

Little Minx
Oast House, Paper Mill Drive, Church Hill, Redditch

Devoted to Rock
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Collective Soul
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Midnight Movers
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Vo & Tyler
The Old Chesnut Tree, Pershore

Dressing For Pleasure
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Matt Woosey and the Band
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sicknote plus DJs
Malvern Youth Centre

The Magoos
O'Neills, Worcester

The Maz Mitrenko Band
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Delray Rockets
The Cross Keys, Alcester

Mumbo Jumbo
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Sunday 6 May 2012

Gordon Wood and Phil Bird
Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Cheltenham

Geoff Skillings Trio Jazz (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Acoustic Jam Session
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Northern Soul All Nighter
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Dean Elliot
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wooden Horse
Katiesfest, The Bridges, Ratlinghope

Paul Brady - Dancer In The Fire
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Delray Rockets
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Drumonica and Milly 'One More, No More'
The Robin Hood Pub, Castlemorton Common, Nr Malvern

The John Steeds
The Brook Inn, Elcocks Brook, Redditch

Monday 7 May 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Vo Et Tyler
The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley Castle

Wooden Horse
The Reindeer, Ombersley

Upton Folk Festival
Upton - Obviously

Tuesday 8 May 2012

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 9 May 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Soultown
Hop Pole, Bewdley

BabaJack
The Masons Arms, Wichenford

Boat to Row
Hand In Glove

Remi Harris in 'Hatch Box'
Queens Head, Wolverley

Grumpy Old Guitarists
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Thursday 10 May 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Ex Presidents
The Bell Inn, Leominster

Albert Lee
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Richard Clarke Et The Rafters, tbc
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Keith Slater
O'Neills, Worcester

Albert Lee Et Hogans Heroes
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Crooked Empire
Upton Festival audition, Subtone, Cheltenham

The Stubble Brothers (Cellar Bar Downstairs)
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

I Am Locutus (Bar Stage Upstairs)
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Friday 11 May 2012

The Reflections
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Maydogs
Drummonds, Worcester

Bluestack
The Cross Keys, Bredons Hardwick, Tewkesbury, GL

Aquarius
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The May Dolls
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Rubicava
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Dennis Locorriere
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Delray Rockets
Queens Head, Wolverley

And Finally... Phil Collins
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

tbc
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Hawker
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Enzo
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Babajack
Millers Arms, Pershore

Heroes of Hanoi
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Bang On The Ear
O'Neills, Worcester



Babble
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Shellshock
Keystones, Worcester

Barrellhouse Bluesband
Kings Head, Upton

Adrian Burns
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

The Fureys & Dave Arthur
The Courtyard, Hereford

Saturday 12 May 2012

The Ex Presidents
O'Neills, Worcester

Freewater
The Red Man, Kidderminster

The Tree Frogs
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Boobytraps, Crooked Empire
The Shed, Leicester

The Delteurs
The Unicorn, Malvern

Wooden Horse
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Bluestack
Treacle Mine, Hereford,

Come Up and See Me
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Openmikers
Powick Village Hall, Malvern Road, Worcester

The Matchless
The Express Inn, Malvern

I Am Ryan
The Vauxhall, Evesham

Aquarius
The Prince of Wales, Warndon, Worcester

The Sarah Warren Band
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Come Up And See Me
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Fifteen English Pounds, Riff Raff
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Showaddywaddy
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Stripped Down Blues & Beer Festival: Poor Bob, Andy Dent, DJ Mather, Garrington T Jones, & Charlotte Kessler
The Holly Bush, Stourport

Boogie Street
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Sunday 13 May 2012

Lazy Sunday, Anja McCloskey, Lewis Mason, Richard Clarke and the Rafter's
Worcester Arts Workshop

Acoustic Jam Night
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The May Dolls
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Drumonica and Milly 'One More, No More'
The Robin hood, Castlemorton Common, Nr Malvern

Beetle Deuce Jazz (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 14 May 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 15 May 2012

Brand New Open Mic Night
Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 16 May 2012

Marzys Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Sarah Warren & Nick Lyndon (Acoustic)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Inn Verse Poetry, with Philip Rush and Amanda Bonnick
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

The Humdrum Express
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Thursday 17 May 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Black Cat Bone, Dave Bristow
The Retreat, Ledbury

Dave Sharp
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Ronin, Abberline
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Naked Remedy
The Talbot, Bewdley

The Jive Aces
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Richard Clarke
Hand in Glove, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Loz Rabone
O'Neills, Worcester

Friday 18 May 2012

Bad Amber
The Railway, Evesham

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
Keystones, Worcester

Jack Beats
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Notorious Brothers
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Ex Presidents
The Kings Head, Upton upon Severn

This Wicked Tongue, October Sky, The Manic Shine,
Twinkle and the Sluts
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jimbo and Friends
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Nappatandy
Millers Arms, Pershore

Coull Quartet
Huntington Hall, Worcester

China Shop Bull
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Andy Thomas
O'Neills, Worcester

Trevor Burton
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Will Killeen
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Bayou Seco
The Fold, Bransford, Worcester

Stone Farm
Drummonds, Worcester

The Journeyman
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Saturday 19 May 2012

Naked Remedy
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Crooked Empire
Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Mood Elevators
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Liam Mullone - Done To The Bone
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Hanncoxx
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Dave Onions
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Ital Sounds
The Unicorn, Malvern

The Rusty Knives, Breaking Steel, Aeonian Dog
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

The May Dolls
Tower Of Song, Birmingham

This Wicked Tongue
The Railway, Evesham

D Ran D Ran
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Hollywood Bees
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Gandhi's Walrus
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Naked Remedy
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Crooked Empire, The Modern, The Common
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Time of the Mouth
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Heroes of Hanoi, Passengers, more acts tbc
The Crown Inn, Worcester

Kevin Underwood
The Maverick, Amblecote

Stone Farm
O'Neills, Worcester

Two Dollar Salad
The Horse & Jockey, Bodicote, Banbury

Rattlesnake Jake, Mojo Hand, Final Measure, The Unknown,
Rubicava, Vault of Eagles, This Wicked Tongue, Soultown
Hop Fest, Bewdley

Counterhold
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Sunday 20 May 2012

Demon Barber Roadshow
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Acoustic Jam Night
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Cantaloop
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Remi Harris Trio Jazz (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 21 May 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 22 May 2012

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 23 May 2012

Marzys Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Thursday 24 May 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Fortunes, The Ivy League
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Fabulous Bordellos, tbc
The Brewery Tap, Worcester



West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Eddy Morton, The Toy Hearts
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Friday 25 May 2012

Bluestack
Golden Cross, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford

Spoz And Dave
Ye Olde Seven Stars, Kidderminster

The Zombies
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Oxzide
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters
Queens Head, Wolverley

Journeyman
Millers Arms, Pershore

Deap Pleasures + The Angry Bombs
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wooden Horse
Horse & Hounds, Broadway

Naked Remedy plus support
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Fred Zeppelin
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Les Barker
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Rattlesnake Jake
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Calm Like A Riot, God Save The King, The Thyme
Machine, Fusterclunk
The Firefly, Worcester

Captain Jeffrey
The Railway, Evesham

The Badgers
Drummonds, Worcester

Young Pop Things presents Calm Like a Riot, God
Save The King, The Thyme Machines, Fusterclunk
Firefly, Worcester

Saturday 26 May 2012

Sounds Like Thunder
The Railway, Evesham

Bluestack
The Old Beams, Stourport On Severn

Aquarius
The Plough Inn, Pershore

Freewater
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Toby Wrens Band
The Unicorn, Malvern

Marabooboo Allstars
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The May Dolls
Speed The Plough, Tibberton

Oak
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Acker Bilk and His Paramount Jazz Band
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Bang on the Ear
O'Neills, Worcester

Soultown
Wagon & Horses, Bewdley

Junction 7
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Sunshine Band
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Katiesfest 2012
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Sunday 27 May 2012

Acoustic Jam Night
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Acoustic Lunch with Matt Woosey and others TBC
The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Grumpy Old Guitarists
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 28 May 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 29 May 2012

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 30 May 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Connie Lush & Blues Shouter
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Thursday 31 May 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Captains Of Industry, tbc
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Listings in conjunction with:



THE MARR'S BAR

MAY 2012

Matt Woosey
Sat 5th May



Tuesday 1st

Blaze Bayleys Full Metal Tour
£10 ticket

Thursday 3rd

Comedy Zone Presents
Steve Best, Micky Sharma and Elis James
£10 tickets £12 on door

Friday 4th

Silent Screams, Our People Versus
Yours, Villa Rise, Forever Grace,
Seall
£7 on the door

Saturday 5th

Matt Woosey and the band
£5 Admission

Sunday 6th

Northern Soul All Nighter
£10 ticket

Friday 11th

Rubicava
£4 ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 12th

Fifteen English Pounds & Riff Raff
£5 ticket £6 on the door

Friday 18th

This Wicked Tongue, October Sky,
The Manc Shine, Twinkle & the Sluts
£3 ticket, £5 on the door

Saturday 19th

D Ran D Ran
£6 ticket, £8 on the door

Friday 25th

Fred Zeppelin
£8 ticket £10 on door

Saturday 26th

TBC - Call Venue for details

Friday June 1st

Miss Hilton Presents:-
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