

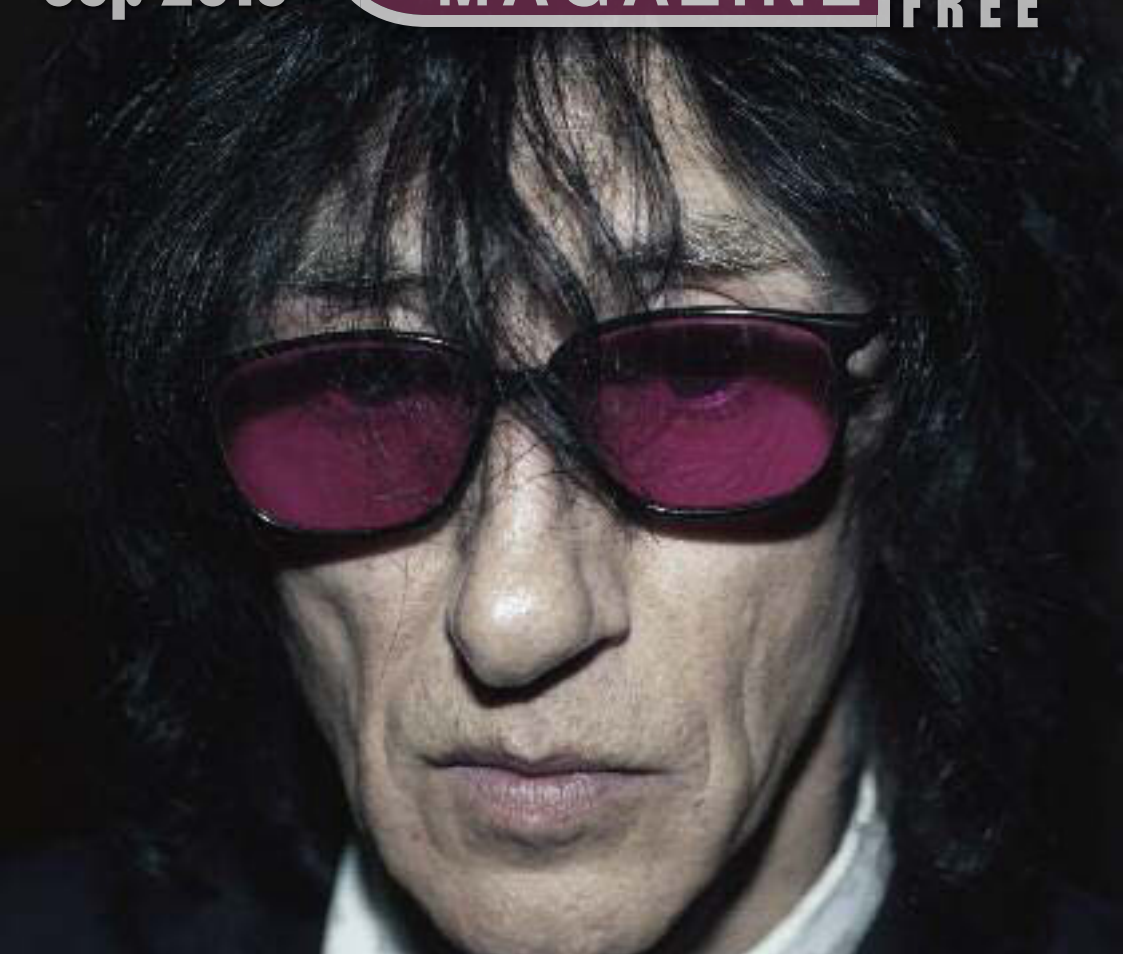
SLAP

Issue 30

Sep 2013

MAGAZINE

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SLAP

Sep 2013 **MAGAZINE**

Hello slappers, here we are again with yet another packed issue of SLAP.

It has been a very busy month for us with never a dull moment. We've been looked after well at various festivals such as Nozstock, see our pictorial on pages 18 & 19 and a personal insight by performer and writer Sion Lidster. Another big highlight of August was Lakefest, another great festival which for me, helped by the glorious weather, surpassed the promise it showed during the formative years.

We were also well looked after at this years Malvern Rocks Festival which again showed great promise. Early indications indicate huge amounts being raised for Acorns, its chosen charity.

As we go to press we are looking forward to this years Worcester Music Festival which should prove to be the biggest yet. Acts are coming from all over the country to get involved to help raise money and awareness for Worcester Deaf Children's Society and Sight Concern Worcestershire.

We also take a look back at some of the highlights at this years Gloucester Blues Festival and Blues at The Jinny Ring, all packed with incredible performances and once again, right on our doorstep.

The summer isn't over yet folks, there's still plenty to get your teeth into this month. There is the Ringmaster Festival which has thankfully found a new home near Cleobury Mortimer. As the festival season slows down we get news of the all new Hereford Live coming in October, more about that in next months issue.

So enjoy this our 30th edition of SLAP which hopefully has something for everyone and highlights many of the diverse Art exhibitions, courses and workshops available. Keep supporting our local performers including the various spoken word and poetry events which again highlight the rich diversity of talent around these parts.

Taking of poetry, I for one am looking forward to seeing the institution that is John Cooper Clarke (cover story) at Artrix in Bromsgrove this month.

And finally, as always we still want your contributions and views, particularly you young 'uns, so get out there and try your hand at writing about a band you see or anything else you find interesting, you never know someone else might do to!

- Ed Banger

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Pushing all the right buttons



Electro duo **F*** Buttons** self-produced third album *Slow Focus* became the first release on the ATP label to break into the top 40 - reaching number 36 in the official charts - it's not been a bad year for the now Bristol-based duo - having had their recordings *Olympians* and *Surf Solar* featuring in last year's Olympics opening ceremony. They st out on a 15-date European tour in September - starting in Paris with stop-offs in Rome, Vienna and Prague among others - then they embark on 10-date tour of the USA in October - phew!!

Huge success for malvern Rocks

The second Malvern Rocks festival was described as 'absolutely amazing' by their spokesman - over 90 bands played over the three-day event at 18 different venues across the hills - with much chatter about the performance by celebrity chef **Loyd Grossman** and his band **The New Forbidden** at Re-Con on Friday night - early figures put the amount raised for Acorns Children's Hospice so far at over £3500 - up by £1000 from last year - but 20-track compilation CDs are still available from all good venues to boost that total even further.



Ringmaster on the move...

Due to an access problem the Ringmaster Festival has moved location from the Whitbourne Estate on the Herefordshire/Worcestershire border to **Hopton Court**, Hopton Wafers near Cleobury Mortimer. Seen by many as a possible replacement for Big Chill - the event takes place on 27th and 28th September and acts include **Maximo Park**, **Hadouken!** and **Mystery Jets** - plus local acts like **Crooked Empire**.



Maximo Park

Cher goes double platinum

It's been a busy summer for Malvern's **Cher Lloyd** - having played three concerts during August in Brazil - she plays an 11-date tour in September across the USA and Canada promoting her new single *I Wish* and her forthcoming second album - seems that across the pond fans have really warmed to her - with single *Want U Back* going double platinum and 4.8 million followers on Twitter!!



Loyd Grossman & the New Forbidden

A tasty dish for Ronin

Worcester rockers Ronin are full of beans after one of their songs was used to soundtrack celebrity chef Jamie Oliver - *Fly Away* was used on the star's FoodTube channel on YouTube which sees Oliver and friends sharing recipe ideas. Singer and guitarist Kit Kinrade said 'I remember watching the Naked Chef as a kid - it's an honour to be picked for his Foodtube, especially more than once - it's a great way of spreading our music and getting it listened by people who wouldn't normally encounter us' - guitarist Loz Crame said the track from EP *Hybris* was written with TV in mind and they'd joked about it maybe featuring on the travel channel.



Done By Sunrise — Single Release

Worcester family trio, Done By Sunrise, released their debut single on 13th August. Their title song hit all major download and streaming websites, just in time for their Ibiza tour. It features the single version, a remix by Halcyon (Bank Records) and an acoustic version as well as a bonus version of their tongue in cheek *Towie* song all about The Only Way is Essex.

This all comes just after their BBC Introducing session which was recorded at Droitwich Music and Arts festival. They then headed off to Ibiza August to perform their hits on the 'White Isle'. 'We cannot believe this is actually happening, it is a dream come true' says Scott Howland, guitarist and singer in the band. The single release comes after an incredible year of gigging and some notable slots for the band including the LG Arena, Birmingham, playing before the likes of One Direction, Girls Aloud, Westlife and the Big Reunion.



MOUTH and MUSIC
Acoustic spoken word & music night
Tuesday 10th September 8.00pm
Poet **Catherine Crosswell**
Surreally funny stories... brilliant! ...captivating
Singer/songwriter **Brett Huckfield**
Beautiful melodic, soulful songs
MC Sarah Tamar
with open floor spots
sign up by 10am 9.30
Admission £3 (free to performers)

The Hague Project | Facebook | www.creativearts.org.uk | Presented by **leaf creatives**

Still reeling from a spectacularly successful festival special in August, Mouth and Music opens its doors again to poets, storytellers and musicians for an evening of spoken word and music on Tuesday 10th September at 8.00pm. This month's featured poet is Catherine Crosswell, whose quirky performances have been described as "delicious and delicate.....feisty and fun".

Featured singer/songwriter Brett Huckfield is promoting his album, "City Blue" which is packed with beautiful melodies and soulful songs. Kidderminster poet Sarah Tamar is MC. Sign up on the night for a 5 minute spot (spoken word) or 2 songs. Do get there early to be sure of a slot. Admission is £3 (free to performers). Mouth and Music is the second Tuesday of every month at the Boar's Head, Worcester Street, Kidderminster DY10 3EW.

Art Studio Space

Artist studio space available from Nov 2013.
All forms considered. Central location.
For more info contact:
klikklikcollective@gmail.com



September is all about learning here at the workshop.....we have courses, workshops, Splendid Cinema and the usual fun and games to get those brains working after the summer's festivals, holidays, sunshine and general playfulness....Come discover a new talent, learn a new activity, give yourself a treat for the start of the autumn!

Courses:

General Introduction to Painting (Part 1). A beginner's guide to painting and drawing, a fun and relaxed short course to encourage any level to pick up a pencil or brush. With Antony Blakemore.

24th Sep – 22nd Oct, Tuesday 7–9pm | £40

Digital Photography for Beginners. A short course into digital photography with Mark Hoy.

24th Sep – 22nd Oct, Tuesday. 7–9pm | £55

Painting & Drawing with Molly Rosier. A morning group and a chance to paint and chat with other budding artists.

25th Sep – 4th Dec, Wednesday. 10am–12pm | £80

Iyengar Yoga, with Alaina Halford.

25th Sep – 4th Dec, Wednesday. 7–8.30pm | £8 session

Life Drawing with Andrew Clacher.

2nd Oct – 27th Nov, Wednesday. 7–9pm | £96

Oil Painting. For all levels and abilities, beginners welcome. With Adam Daffurn. Materials provided.

25th Sep – 4th Dec, Wednesday. 7–9pm | £95

Pottery & Ceramics. With Tamara Carse, all levels welcome.

25th Sep – 4th Dec, Wednesday. 7–9pm | £95

Feltmaking. Fun with felt taught by Marcia Pheysey Wilton. Materials provided.

26th Sep – 24th Oct, Thursday. 7–9pm | £70

Watercolour for Beginner's (Landscapes). A morning class on watercolour painting with Andrew Clacher.

27th Sept – 25th Oct Friday. 10am–12pm £40

General Introduction to Painting (Part 2) with Antony Blakemore.

5th Nov – 3rd Dec, Tuesday. 7–9pm | £40

Creative Textiles. Get creative with fabrics and textures with Marcia Pheysey Wilton.

7th Nov – 5th Dec, Thursday. 7–9pm | £70



Children's courses:

Art Club. Have fun with crafty materials, drawing and painting with Kay Mullett

28th Sep – 7th Dec | £40 or £5 per session

Kid's Pottery. Get messy with clay with Becky Gwynn

28th Sep – 7th Dec | £40 or £5 per session

Splendid Cinema:

The Splendid Cinema returns with a new season launched with an evening of fun on Saturday 14th, and then going back to the usual Sunday showings. Films start at 6.30pm. £5 entry.



Rocky Horror Picture Show (15) Saturday 14th Sept

Jim Sharman | 1975 | US The classic movie gets a WAW showing!

Sightseers (15) Sunday 29th Sept Ben Wheatley | 2012

Ben Wheatley follows up on his breathtaking first film with this blacker than black comedy about two hapless tourists who turn to serial killing anyone who gets on their wrong side.



Workshops:

Writer's lab. An opportunity for writers to develop their scriptwriting skills, working alongside **Everyman Theatre's Creative Director** and a team of professional actors. For all ages and abilities. 12th Sep & 24th Oct, 7-9.30pm. £12/£10 concs per session. Book early as only limited places available.



Drawing and Imagination. An afternoon of experimental drawing with Lisa Griffiths. Materials provided. Saturday October 26th 1-4pm. £35.

Family Gallery workshops will be starting soon, keep your eye on the website for more details.

Exhibitions:

18th- 28th Sept. Worcester Music Festival photography competition. The top 25 photographs from the festival competition with the winner's ceremony held here on Sunday 22nd from 4pm til 6pm. Free.

Plus still chance to see Richard Clarke's album cover designs and the entries to the musical open exhibition.



Click Click Collective

Those of you lucky enough to have been out and about at festivals this summer may have bumped into the **Wildest West Wall of Shame!** Wanted Dead or Alive, these crazy West Country characters entertained the fine fields of **Nozstock, Kidderminster Arts Festival and Green Man Festival**, adding facial hair to unlucky victims and capturing their faces on camera to be seen by all of the **Wall of Shame**. This is one of the many goings on by the **Click Click Collective**, a collective of multi disciplinary artists and performers offering walkabout performance, photo booth type fun, installations, processions and musical endeavours. The **Click Click Collective** have been performing at festivals and doing pop up art fairs since 2010 as well as curating and coordinating exhibitions at the galleries at the **Workshop**. This creative gang are expanding so look out for their antics at outdoor events, gallery spaces, and festivals to come.... they even do weddings for all of your creative needs in one!



Contact clickclickcollective@gmail.com for any enquiries, while we await a new blog/website which is on its way! In the mean time, check out the **Wall of Shame**:

www.facebook.com/TheWildWestWallOfShame

Music:

We are taking it easy after the amazing Worcester Music Festival but don't fear, we still have **Lazy Sunday**, run by **Café Bliss** on the 15th September (free) visit: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk or call 01905 25053.

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



REVIEW - 'Kidderminster Stuff' - songs and poems - Sat 17th Aug

Having seen both Heather Wastie and Kate Wragg performing recently at a couple of events, I went along to the Kidderminster Carpet Museum, with high hopes for a warm, interesting and entertaining evening of poetry and song ... I was really disappointed! I was disappointed for all those unfortunate folk who missed the chance to learn about the town's great history while being entertained by two real artistes, weaving their craft with as much skill as those artisans whose expertise and whose memories provided the inspiration for a wonderful collection of poems and songs.



The results of weeks and months of painstaking, caring research and inspired writing provided an appreciative audience (and hopefully future generations of visitors to Kidderminster) with something that is, now, every bit



a part of the town's history of carpets as the carpets, themselves. Heather, Writer in Residence at the Carpet Museum, has truly honoured both the industry and the individuals who lived and worked in the town. I defy anyone to listen to *'Tying the Knot'* - the piece that, to me, was the very highlight of the evening - and not be moved. This poem, with a song as the chorus, was ... is so moving in its beautiful simplicity - something I don't think I'd ever tire of hearing.

I wanted to record my appreciation and thanks to the two wordsmiths and musicians: Massive thanks to two wonderful, authentic performers - Heather Wastie and Kate Wragg.

by Mike Alma

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Friday - Live Bands

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PREVIEW - Emily Maguire at Artrix, Bromsgrove - Sat 28th Sept '13

Best-known for her strong, thought-provoking lyrics and 'supremely expressive vocals' (Rock'n'Reel Magazine), acclaimed singer-songwriter Emily Maguire songs have been played regularly on Radio 2 and have won her fans across the globe.

Classically trained on cello, piano and flute, Emily taught herself the guitar and started writing songs when she found herself stuck at home with a chronic illness. A few years later, back on her feet and fed up with grey skies and concrete, she decided to give up her flat in London for a shack made from recycled wood, tin and potato sacks on a farm out in the Australian bush. There she set up her own record label Shaktu Records with partner Christian Dunham, and for four years lived an eco-friendly, self-sufficient lifestyle, financing her music by making and selling goats cheese on the farm.

Following the release of her critically acclaimed albums '*Stranger Place*' and '*Keep Walking*', Emily returned to the UK touring extensively with some of the world's great singer-songwriters including Don McLean, Eric Bibb, Paul Brady and Roddy Frame. The title track of '*Keep Walking*' was playlisted on Radio 2 in the UK and on ABC Radio across Australia. Emily's third album '*Believer*', a 'masterpiece' according to Maverick Magazine, won rave reviews in the music press with 2 songs playlisted on Radio 2.

After 7 months on the road in 2011 with the former lead singer of Dr Hook, Dennis Locorriere, Emily took time out from touring in 2012 to write and record her fourth studio album '*Bird Inside A Cage*'. The album was produced by Nigel Butler (K.D. Lang, Will Young, Robbie Williams) known to TV lovers as one of the producers on X Factor. With its release funded entirely by Emily's fans, '*Bird Inside A Cage*' is a bold departure from her previous recordings while still retaining all the underlying trademarks of her emotive, lyric-rich songs. The album was released in July 2013.



Emily will be performing at Artrix Arts Centre, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove on Saturday 28th September 2013. Tickets are £10, available from the Box Office on 01527 577330 or online at www.artrix.co.uk.

Pete and the team would like to invite you to

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PREVIEW - HEED The Thunder with Mark Stevenson - Sat 14th Sept

St. Peter's Church and Tyler Massey proudly present another must-see concert in September, this time featuring Hereford band Heed The Thunder featuring Mark Stevenson. Mark and the band have just released their first EP, which they will be performing on the night. www.heedthethunder.com



Heed the Thunder's musical journey weaves them through folk, skiffle, Americana and punk to a place they call ruralcore.

Also on the bill are Ivor Novello Award Winner Catherine Howe www.catherinehowe.co.uk, legendary guitarist Vo Fletcher www.vofletcher.com, and singer-songwriter Becca Roberts www.themaydolls.com. Tyler Massey, who is organising the event, will be joining in for a few songs with each of the opening artists.



St Peter's features breath-taking acoustics, perfect sound, a friendly atmosphere, a licensed bar and comfortable seating (every seat has a great view of the stage).

Tickets are £5 advance and £6 on the door and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/malvernguitar and Carnival Records, Church St, Malvern. These events usually sell out or come very close, so advance tickets are recommended.

A church in Malvern may not seem a likely venue for music and arts events but St Peter's, Cowleigh is proving otherwise. In recent years it has hosted several 'Shindig' shows, often to full houses. Notable among these have been two story-telling evenings - Hugh Lupton's 'Beowulf' and Daniel Morden's 'A Love Like Salt', and a memorable visit by The New Budapest Café Orchestra. This multi purpose venue is the rehearsal home of The Worcestershire Saxophone Ensemble and runs regular printmaking workshops on term-time Fridays. It has been the venue for three folk evenings in the last year, all of which have attracted big audiences.

Harlan Coal Presents
HEED
The Thunder
with
Mark Stevenson

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BECCA ROBERTS TYLER MASSEY

Top Ten Making Musician 14.11.12 The Mojo Awards 2012

ST PETER'S CHURCH
MALVERN

Saturday 14th September (8pm)

Tickets £5 adv / £6 on the door

Location: Bar, Church and Paved Terrace, St Peter's Church, Malvern, W. Worcs.



St Peter's is also one of the partners in the new Rural Reels cinema project. Several Worcestershire villages plus Upton upon Severn and St Peter's Church have successfully sought funding for the provision of film projection equipment to enable the screening of feature films.

The Autumn programme kicks off on Friday September 13th with a showing of the Richard Burton/ Elizabeth Taylor film adaption of 'Under Milk Wood'

Films to be shown this Autumn, each on the second Friday of the month, are 'Broken', 'Lincoln' and 'A Late Quartet'. A licensed bar accompanies each event. Evenings not to be missed!

Worcester Music Festival

ENTER FESTIVAL PHOTO CHALLENGE - £100 PRIZE UP FOR GRABS!

Worcester Music Festival might be over, but the experience lives on in the form of our annual photography competition, with the chance to snap up a £100 voucher for online retailer Wilkinson Cameras as first prize, courtesy of competition sponsor, Child Care Bureau.

Did you capture any emotive, action-packed or inspirational imagery of bands and artists, audiences or anything directly related to the festival over the three days that you think will impress our judges and local photography experts Mark Hoy, Joe Singh and Steve Johnston?



Last years winner
Craigus 'Lost in Music'
by Sarah Colquitt



Shortlisted
Rubicava by
Carrie Humphries

With a closing date of Friday, September 13th (see rules for how to enter), the top 25 photographs will be displayed at an exhibition at Worcester Arts Workshop from September 18-28th, the top three photographs being announced at our post festival party and awards presentation at the workshop on Sunday, September 22nd (4-6pm).

In terms of making next year's festival even better, organisers are now looking to glean as much feedback on the 2013 event as possible – please take a minute to complete our surveys when they are launched and play your part in making 2014 one to remember.

Also, just before the festival, we launched Wumu TV, the opportunity to get up close and personal with our local bands and artists and find out more about the festival in a series of informal interviews. Check it out at www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/wumutv.

Finally, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped organise this year's festival, performed at the festival or came to savour a piece of the action. T'was a blast. Until next year...

Stay up to date with next year's plans on Facebook and Twitter or visit www.wumufest.co.uk

Melanie Hall

Photo Competition rules

- Any type of camera can be used, basic editing of photos is allowed
- Each individual may enter up to 20 photographs at flickr.com/photos/worcestermusicfestival/ (login: worcestermusicfestival@yahoo.co.uk, password: wmf2012 to upload images. When you upload, we need to know band name, location, date and your name)
- Variations of the same photo are not accepted
- Photos do not need to be of bands, but must be directly related to WMF 2013 events
- Photos must have been taken during the WMF 2013 weekend
- The competition is only open to amateur photographers
- For more information, visit the Worcester Music Festival Facebook page or see: worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/photocomp or flickr.com/photos/worcestermusicfestival/

ANDY O'HARE - Superhero required...



Do you like music? Well - probably that's a no-brainer as you already have this fine publication in your hand (maybe as you're wandering around Worcester Music Festival!) How about new music? Would you like to receive loads of exciting new tunes every day via the electronic netways - or maybe in more traditional formats settling with a gentle thunk into your Royal Mail-approved postbox? And finally - are you opinionated and passionate about the wonderful melodies being generated in our fair region that you want to share your feelings with others - if so this is your lucky day!!

Until a couple of years ago - the go-to reviewer of local music was the legendary Toxic Pete (www.toxicpete.co.uk) - now sadly retired - but there's a burning need for some brave individual to pick up the flame that he's left on simmer and carry it forward! I'm absolutely sure that there's someone out there who shares the love we have at SLAP for our wonderful local music scene and who can wax poetical about it - this is important!!

I guess that there's about 20 or 30 new songs being released locally each week - judging roughly by the hits on our Uploader - and quite probably quite a few more! But what all these bands/acts want is a link/comment/soundbite that they can put on their website to attract new listeners to listen and maybe purchase their tunes - and hopefully get along to their gigs as well! If you can step into this cavernous vacancy on the local music scene then future sainthood surely awaits!!

Well - you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone (said Joni Mitchell) - and that's pretty much how I felt as I popped along to the Marrs Bar for the Inca Hoots farewell gig a couple of weeks ago - as the Stu Matthews-fronted Worcester electro-rockers have decided to call it a day after a few years of gigging without managing to land a record deal (!) or hitting the #1 spot - which considering their quality of course should've been a shoe-in!

So it really pains me that while Inca Hoots breezed this part with magnificent numbers like *Sleeping Lions* and *Cuneo* (the little kids-sticks-jellyfish one) - no major label or station has yet picked up on them - maybe we could have done even more ourselves to promote them perhaps... But of course in the end maybe it's down to the band themselves - Inca Hoots was a wonderful project with some awesome tunes who I reckon just didn't shout themselves out loud enough to get properly noticed - I'm guessing perhaps due to all the individual members' many other commitments - workwise or otherwise... There've been a few other local outfits of total quality in the last few years who've hung up their axes after years of playing without getting the national or international recognition that we all knew they deserved - but please stick at it guys!!

Well by the time this SLAP hits the stands we'll just about be over for another great round of local music festivals this summer - highlights so far for me were Colwall Family Music Festival - with a nail-gripping National Village Cricket KO match next door - and the very friendly Wizzafest at Stoke Prior with Adam Barry and Dan Sealey of Ocean Colour Scene! But definitely one to book early for next year has to be Roving Crows-run Lakefest at Bredon's Hardwick - just outside Tewkesbury but still inside our county boundary!

Great planning by Paul and Caitlin of the Crows - massive marquees for each of the stages to ensure shelter whatever the weather - a very good idea considering the uncertainties of recent years - but also a very engaging 'travellers' theme to the event - and some great music from near and far as well - highly recommended!!

Have to say that only the second Malvern Rocks was a great success - with good crowds at all venues on a slightly damp Sunday - a fine effort from Ralph, Jem & Kev and their vast team of helpers who made it a great success - and thanks to all the musicians who helped raise over £3500 for Acorns Hospice! I also thought that the 'newspaper' format for the programme was a very neat novelty

But of course highlight of the local festival scene has to be Worcester - the one the weather just can't spoil!! So many wonderful (and mostly local) acts on show over 30 venues of just about every genre - plus workshops for all ages and abilities - plus a BBC introducing recording session on the Sunday. As usual I'll be trying to get to see as many acts as possible over the three days - tell you all about it next month!!

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



Many people ask me what bands I like - no that's really not where I'm at - I'm just constantly on the listen-out for great tunes - and it doesn't matter what format or genre or who they're by at all - but I reckon that at least once per week I hear a tune that passes what used to be called the Old Grey Whistle Test for memorability and hummability!!

CD REVIEW - Tom Forbes

If I was asked to earmark one local performer for success in the future, I'd find it hard pressed to look beyond young singer-songwriter Tom Forbes, both as a performer, musician and songwriter his talent far exceeds his years, in fact the kind of things Tom is already doing most artists won't reach in a life time.



The first time I saw Tom live he performed a number of originals showcasing a stunning vocal range and technical ability that he seems to have honed and developed further on his Gavin Monaghan (Editors, Twang, etc) produced EP, *Train Back*. The four track affair is a glorious combination of groove, pop hooks and infectious vocals with something of an indian influence seeping into the already rich and intoxicating mix.

The EP opens with the sub three minute title track, the song opens with a gorgeous slice of vocal harmony before Tom creates a wonderful groove with his clever use of percussion, infectious guitar and catchy pop-laden vocals.

From here Tom never lets up whether he's delivering a mantra like middle section of *Do The Groove*, complete with Tom's lovely wordless humming, the stunning acoustic strum and falsetto of *Another Story Of Love* or the dramatic thrills and descriptive lyrics of the Bollywood inspired *King Of India*.

Each and every song on here ticks all the important boxes, strong structure, passionate vocals and massive hooks but Tom also weaves in his own twists and turns elevating him way beyond the usual cannon fodder pop artist.

Tom has a maturity way beyond his years creating and formulating his own unique sound, I seriously suggest you checkout Tom Forbes whilst he's still performing locally, on the evidence of this EP and the live shows I've seen to date, his share should be ascending soon and fast.

www.tomforbes.co.uk by Will Munn



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Luke Jackson 14th Sept Rowney Green Village Hall, Birmingham

With a bold show stopping voice and honed guitar skills, Luke is a rising 19 year old Roots singer/songwriter from Canterbury, Kent. He was a double finalist in the 2013 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards – nominated for both the Young Folk Award and the coveted Horizon Award for the best emerging talent. In 2012 Luke won the FATEA Debut Album of the Year title.

Having launched his dynamic debut album *More Than Boys* last summer, Luke has undertaken 2 UK tours supporting Welsh singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph, to whose label he is signed. Luke is a confident and captivating performer demonstrating an astonishing maturity. Honing his craft, his fast-rising career has also seen him support such luminaries as Show of Hands, Paul Brady, Chris Wood, Steve Knightley, Karine Polwart, Lucy Ward and Boo Hewardine while in June he opened for Oysterband.

Luke has also appeared on BBC South East TV, guested on BBC Radio 2's *Good Morning Sunday*, interviewed by Aled Jones, and received national airplay from such respected DJs as Bob Harris and Mike Harding.

The 11-track debut album is a riff-layered "rite of passage" CD that draws inspiration from memories of childhood camaraderie; a lyrical real-time journey from adolescence to young adulthood.

A cache of arresting but honest, uncluttered narrative numbers it brilliantly conveys the free-wheeling freedom of youth – climbing trees with friends in Bakers Woods, scoring a Winning Goal, riding down the Big Hill on a bike with no brakes – and then changes tack with a totally unexpected insight into parents watching their children grow in the perceptive and graceful *How Does It Feel?* His lyric "now it seems like all my childhood songs have been sung" seems to underpin the whole album mirroring Luke's own journey into what promises to be a "tipped for the top" future.



'A huge talent is emerging' – Acoustic Magazine

Review - Rethink Mental Illness

It's official, The Chestnut is hot right now. But unlike the beer garden days of the summer, this heat is set to last. The hosts, Mad Pierre and Dann, followed up recent storming gigs from the likes of *Allstars Dub Band* and *The Remi Harris Quartet* with another Saturday night spectacular. This time it was in aid of *Rethink Mental Illness*, a charity providing support and advice to vulnerable and severely mentally ill people in the community. Three of the most popular acts around converged to encourage the raucous audience to dig deep. And dig deep they did.

Anybody who's witnessed the 8-bit wizardry of *Goodnight Lamplight* knows how underrated the old gameboy is as a musical instrument. They will have experienced an epiphany right around the fourth bar of the first tune. With a setup consisting of three of the Nintendo classics, a keyboard and a sampler, *Gdnghnt Lmplght* layered up lavish beats with catchy melodies and gorgeously distorted vocals to have everybody hooked.

By now the crowd were well fed and watered, leaving the scene perfect for the thoughtful lyrics and punchy rhythms of *Wes Dance*. That man is a poet and a sage. You only need to have heard *'Silverhorse'*, *'Paper Helmet'* or *'Fiesta'* to know that. He finished off an otherwise all-original set

with a beautiful version of Neil Young's *'Heart of Gold'*. Wes is a busy man at the moment and it's easy to see why.

The last act was led by **Vince Ballard**, a man who is synonymous with the Worcester music scene and probably the best bloke the faithful city has to offer. Backing Vince and a host of other lovely voices was the impeccable *Marr's Bar House Band*. These guys play together every Wednesday and it showed as they delivered a slick and energetic set from their soul and rock repertoire. The busy evening was capped-off in true Mad Pierre style as the ex-accountant (I know, I could scarcely believe it when he told me!) joined the band with his trombone and sousaphone.

They've built something special at The Chestnut. If you haven't been lately then hurry. Spaces are limited!

If you didn't get a chance to attend, or would like to make a donation to this worthy cause, it's not too late. Visit justgiving.com/MensLib to donate online or come along to the legendary Dragon pub quiz on 10th September, all in aid of Rethink Mental Illness.

Martin Wilkes



PREVIEW - Old Dance School at Artrix, Bromsgrove - Fri 13th Sept

Artrix are delighted to present **The Old Dance School**, with their expansive cinematic sound, supported by Bromsgrove born **Marie Claire Berreen**.

The forward thinking septet, **The Old Dance School**, combines flavours of folk, classical, electronica and jazz, whilst still keeping one foot placed firmly in their folk roots. This creates a unique blend of music, one moment rip-roaring, the next beautifully delicate.



Duelling fiddles, soaring brass crescendos, foot-stomping grooves and some of the most ambitious arrangements you're ever likely to hear, their new show charts their remarkable journey from ballet school basement jam sessions and cowshed rehearsals, to remote lighthouses, to headline appearances at international festivals.

Local singer **Marie-Claire Berreen** and her band of 'husbands' returning to her old stomping ground to support 'The Old Dance School' at the popular 300 seater arts venue.

Described by one music critic as "Cabaret folk", the former St John's church choirgirl combines classical, folk and eclectic styles to create a pure and unique sound with songs that are both haunting and mesmeric.

No stranger to the stage and with an innate passion for singing, Marie-Claire spent a decade performing solos for fellow Bromsgrovians at what she says "must have been hundreds of weddings!"

The ex-South Bromsgrove High School pupil, now based in Worcester, has written music since her teens and sang live with bands and in studios for nearly 20 years, finally plucking up the courage to perform her own music only a few years ago.

Having performed at many gigs and events nationwide and now with her own ever-growing online following, she explains, "I never expected that people outside of my family and friends would become 'fans' of my music but they have and it's really encouraged me to write and perform more".

Last year saw the release of her debut album '*Box and a Ribbon*', which Marie-Claire describes as "about life, love, relationships and all the in-betweens. My songs are inspired by many things, like falling in love, feeling lost, feeling brave - there's even one about my embarrassing fear of spiders!"



With an eclectic mix of influences - including Ray LaMontagne, Tori Amos, Elbow, Goldfrapp, Lisa Hannigan and Eddi Reader - Marie-Claire is relishing the chance to perform in her own town for one particular reason, "What I'm really thrilled about is that I saw Eddi Reader perform at the Artrix a few years ago. She's been one of my greatest musical inspirations so to grace a stage that she's sung on is exciting."

These two amazing folk performances live at Artrix are not to be missed.

Performance begins at 8pm and tickets are available at £12 from Artrix box office on 01527 577330 or at www.artrix.co.uk



Let the Good Times Roll

There are few sites as appealing as a sea of tents, vans and people colourfully scattered across a range of fields and yet all merged together for the same purpose: The Festival.

I sat in the passenger seat of our van as we pulled up to an eager and bearded traffic conductor. He had a comic temperament that served to ease the stress of getting lost in country lanes for the last hour, gearing us up for the party days to come. We'd arrived at Nozstock 2013.

There are certain festivals where the attitudes and atmospheres overshadow the bands that are actually playing. Where the people, the artwork, and the scenery is all it takes to have one of the best weekends of your life. This could easily have been the case with Nozstock. The people were excited and exciting, as friendly as you could have hoped for, and determined to make a highlight of their each moment there. The artwork was plentiful too, a circus of stimulation for the eyes at each turn - a personal highlight included the rusty old tractor with a giant old lady sculpture riding inside. As for the scenery, what more can you ask for than country fields in the heart of Herefordshire met by an even mix of warm sunshine and torrential rain? The best of both festival worlds...



Nozstock 2013

Luckily, however, the music served to compliment the good times in spectacular fashion. I had arrived to play with my band, Zinc Bukowski, and we had a blast. Admittedly we were a good few decibels louder than most on the Bandstand, but most of the crowd persevered which I am, of course, grateful for. There was a heady mix of music throughout the weekend to cater to most tastes, from acoustic chill out (Prosperina, Lost Tuesday Society, Rum Puppets) to distorted wails (The Wytches, The Computers, Chineapple Punks).

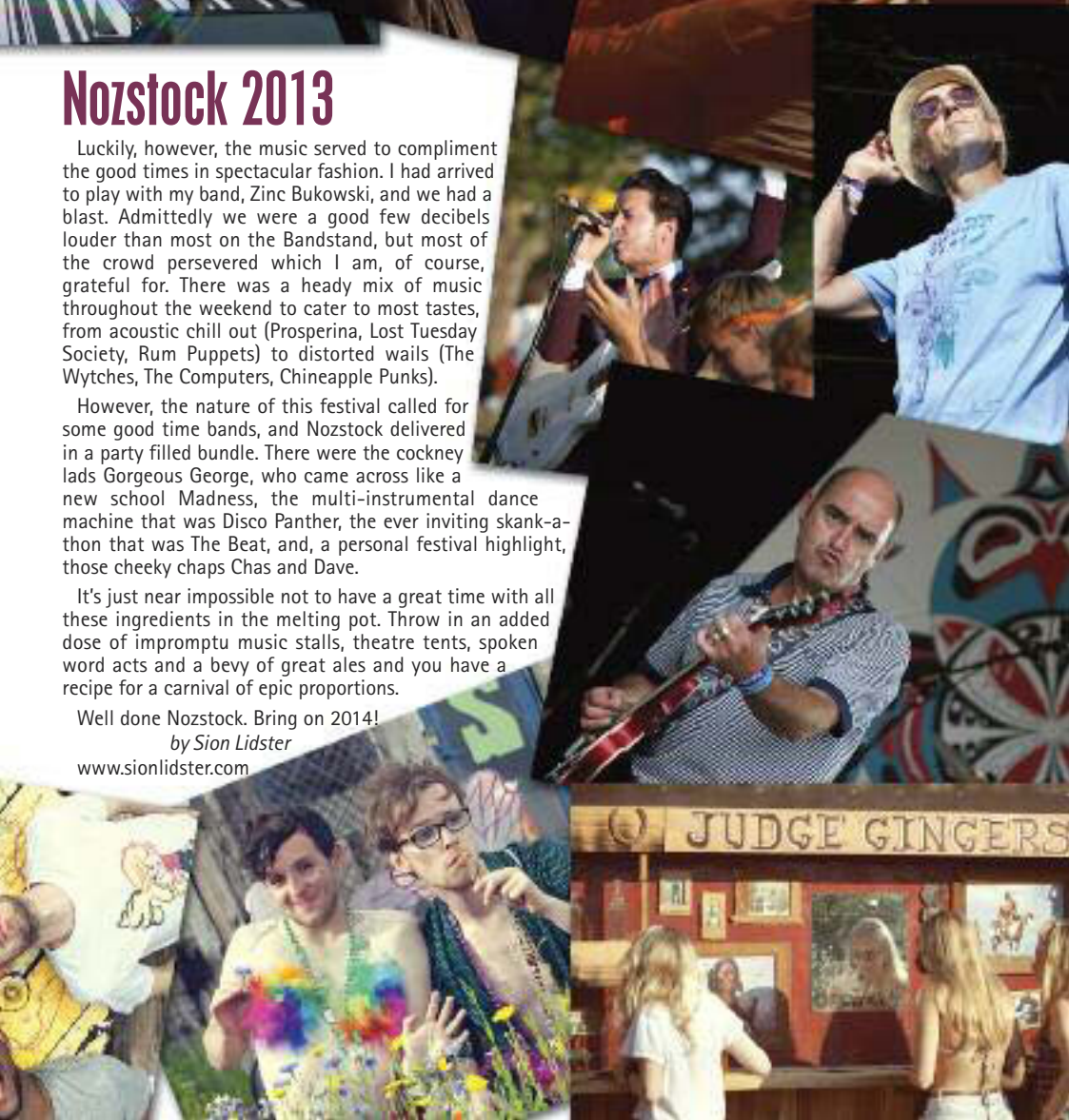
However, the nature of this festival called for some good time bands, and Nozstock delivered in a party filled bundle. There were the cockney lads Gorgeous George, who came across like a new school Madness, the multi-instrumental dance machine that was Disco Panther, the ever inviting skank-a-thon that was The Beat, and, a personal festival highlight, those cheeky chaps Chas and Dave.

It's just near impossible not to have a great time with all these ingredients in the melting pot. Throw in an added dose of impromptu music stalls, theatre tents, spoken word acts and a bevy of great ales and you have a recipe for a carnival of epic proportions.

Well done Nozstock. Bring on 2014!

by Sion Lidster

www.sionlidster.com



REVIEW - Gloucester Blues Festival 27th July - 4th August

The Blues Duo - Cafe Rene - Wed 31st July

Don't let the 'ordinary' name fool you, these boys are up there with the best.

Tommy Allen and Johnny Hewitt are human dynamos that generate enough energy to electrify anyone within earshot. I'd seen what they could do to a crowd with no constraining walls, at Upton Blues 10 days prior to this gig. This time the walls were the atmospheric bottle laden vaults of the lovely Café Rene. If you could have captured the fission burn, it would have saved worrying about fracking.



Young and not so young were up and moving en masse to the relentless beat of Tommy's kick drum, writhing to the bending notes from Johnny's harp. The aged, who should know better, joined in the throng, I remained cool, this must be devils work, such was the magnetic vortex conjured by The Blues Duo.

These boys give life to Chicago Blues, with a master class of harmonica from Johnny. Self penned songs from Tommy Allen, classics from Arthur Crudup's *'Thats Alright'* and Sonny Boy Williamson's *'Eyesight To The Blind'*; Sonny is a major influence in their performance.

'Backdoor Boogie', went down a storm, and a bit of R&B with *'Riding in a Cadillac'*, was a foretaste of what was to come. A seamless maelstrom of rock n' roll, *'Johnny B Goode'*, *'Reet Petit'*, *'Chantilly Lace'* back to *'Reet Petit'* and into *'Rock This House'*; a brilliant blast from the past, nobody could sit through this. You just had to get up and strut your stuff, and everybody did, this was raw power to be tapped and channelled into your very soul.

Midnight passed, and Johnny still seemed to have plenty of air left to blow that harp, Tommy's drum underpinning the guitar and vocals, 1.00am loomed and beds called, high calorie burns like this can only last so long before a recharge and fresh shirts are called for.

You do not have to be a die hard Blues fan, or even of a pale Blue disposition, if you like real live and lively music, can dance the night away; or just loose yourself to the rhythm, then you cannot fail to enjoy this pairing. The Blues Duo is not the most dynamic of names, do not misjudge the

title, as I nearly did at Upton; look them out, go, feed off the energy and have a great time. I promise you will be back for more.

An interesting website can be found at www.thebluesduo.com

I will quickly give mention to The Café Rene in Gloucester, its a lovely location. An atmospheric vaulted building with regular live music and serving excellent beers and food, host to Gloucester Blues week.

Clair Le Brocq - Dick Whittington 2nd Aug

I nearly gave up with futile attempts at parking the dreadnought in Gloucester, but was only too pleased in the end that all the effort prevailed.

This was the Friday of Gloucester Blues week and many performers from Upton were making appearances in the local pubs and bars. The Dick Whittington was playing host to Clair le Brocq and The Bordellos. Clair is an outstanding vocalist fronting 3 other stalwart musicians on lead bass and drums.

Clair is gifted with an ideal blues voice, the power of a Maggie Bell and passion of Janis Joplin. The Bordellos consists of Iain McKay, lead; Steve Fuller, Bass and Ivor Lane on drums, all have decades of experience, playing the circuits in different bands.



Stand out song for me in the opening set *'Better Slow Down'*, a self penned, soulful piece, beautifully presented by Clair. Danni Wilde's *'Love You More Than I Hate Myself'* was also delivered with passion, it would be difficult to believe, Danni could better it.

Self penned *'The Writings on the Wall'*, has to me the underlying bass and drumbeat of Peter Green's *'Black Magic Woman'*, it sits quite comfortably here.

There was a band break with Clair and Iain performing a few acoustic songs. A very nice rendition of Melody Gardot's *'Your Heart Is as Black as Night'*, exceptionally good.

Back in full Bordello set, 'Ease My Blues', had pauses and changes of tempo, from ticking clock, to full on Bordello drive.

I did not get to stay for the full gig, work and travel taking its toll, but for sure I will be looking out for the next session in striking distance. It would be great to see Clair and the Bordellos make a main stage at Upton next year, certainly they are worthy candidates. Clair is a truly unmissable performer, powerful, passionate and soulful, with a good solid band in the Bordellos behind her, what more could you want.

Aynsley Lister, Sibun, Laurence Jones Band Cafe Rene - Sun 4th Aug

Looked like it was going to rain but took the gamble and went anyway and it was definitely worth it and the rain held off. This was held by Cafe Rene by Greyfriars. First up was the Laurence Jones Band. This young fella is a real talent who plays a rocking blues and some mean guitar work and at 21 years old can only get better and deserves recognition.



Next up was Innes Sibun a virtuoso guitarist who mixes in some beautiful sounding slow burning blues with some livelier rhythm and blues but this guy really is

an outstanding guitarist who wealds his axe to great affect and was very appreciated by the audience. If you like your blues players he is definitely one to see.

Last up was Aynsley Lister who I understand is getting some good press and now I know why. Not a pure blues band but they do throw some in. Makes guitar look easy and a really slick performer, this guy is going places with well written songs delivered with panache. Joined on stage for a duet by the aforementioned Laurence Jones (I am not the only one who recognises talent when I see it). I am a sucker for duelling guitars and they pulled it off with no practise. I predict that Aynsley will be a huge star and to see him free was I suspect not going to happen much in the future. They played a few tracks off their album released in July and if this is anything to go by well worth an investment of your hard earned money.

Overall a great evening of entertainment.

Lumpamundo

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REVIEW - Ann Bennett - Tabula Rasa - Artrix Arts Centre - 31st July

If Nigella made art then this might be what she would make – creamy blobs of sticky figurativeness wrestling with lashings of vivid detail inviting the viewer to dip their finger before stepping back and idly contemplating the canvas through half closed eyes. One can almost imagine a soft focus Ann Bennett winking at the viewer as she dreamily teases out another oily motif, perhaps brushing her lips against the tip of soft, squirrally sable, her eyes briefly meeting yours before she tilts her head to contemplate another bout of languid mark making.

So it's a touch odd to then realise that the six large canvases that make up Tabula Rasa, the centre piece of her show at the Artrix are of chubby, healthy looking babies, possibly the artist's own, each one luxuriating smack dab in the middle of their own large, creamily dreamy canvas. Each baby appears content, as though they have just been tickled by a favourite parent or been gently woken from a particularly satisfying nap. No chiaroscuro here, nothing so dramatic, instead each huge baby comprises a series of fragmented gestures; a curious eye, twisted fingers, the curve of limb, a cowlick, that leap from the canvas whilst their torsos blur into marsh mellow yellow and white chocolate fudge-cakey nothingness.

But it is as much about the paint and it's application as it is the image. If you step up close to the canvases, real

close, no – closer, so close that you can almost taste where the butter and the turpentine meet and where the edge of the canvas melts away until form becomes meaningless, and you allow your gaze to skirt around caked ridges before it tumbles down linseed alleys and painterly micro valleys then it is like being once more escorted back into your own private childhood, one of imaginary landscapes where your imagination could run wild and for a moment no one could know what you were dreaming, no one in the grown up world.

Paul Johnson



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Arts Feature - Diglis Bridge: Portrait bench

Slap magazine's own representative Sarah Ganderton was able to attend the unveiling ceremony for the new Portrait Bench beside Diglis Bridge.

The footbridge connecting both sides of Worcester's riverside footpath at Diglis means that pedestrians and cyclists can now travel a full circle along the riverside, well away from traffic. The bridge was the brainchild of Sustrans who are responsible for 84 such initiatives, funded by the Big Lottery Fund. This particular project was achieved in partnership with Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council. At each of the Sustrans sites an art project has been installed for an added cultural element and in the case of Worcester's Diglis Bridge, there are four statues representing local figures as voted for by thousands of local residents through the Worcester News.

Worcester's artwork features two dimensional metal cut-outs of the characters made from Corten steel as used for the famous Angel of the North, which will weather to a fine rust surface becoming a natural part of the landscape.

The figures chosen by the public are Ernest Payne, Sir Charles Hastings, and two soldiers from the Civil War. Worcester rider Ernie Payne, won the 4000-metre cycling pursuit in the London Olympics in 1908, while Sir Charles Hastings founded the precursor to the British Medical Association (BMA) back in 1932 within the former Infirmary building, where visitors to the building can still learn about him within the new museum exhibit there. Also chosen were a royalist and a parliamentarian soldier to reflect the city's importance in the English Civil War.

cabinet member for safer and stronger communities and chairman of the joint museums committee, and by Counsellor John Smith, the county council cabinet member for highways and transport.



David Brownridge, chairman of the Worcestershire and Herefordshire division of the BMA, who came especially to see the statue of Charles Hastings said: "We're very pleased that has been commemorated in this way, especially in a location that has been provided to improve public health, of which he was one of the leading figures in the Victorian period."

Meanwhile, Brian Bullock of Worcester Re-enactors and the Battle of Worcester Society, representing the two soldiers unveiled was happy to have the Faithful City's pivotal role in the Civil War marked publically. He said: "The fact the public have chosen to include a Parliamentarian and a Royalist soldier within the design shows people are becoming more aware of its importance."

Several local cyclists gathered to celebrate the unveiling of Ernest Payne, and representatives of the City Art Gallery and Museum proudly displayed a replica of the cyclists original Olympic medal.

Tracy Moseley, the former World Champion mountain biker, who came second to Sir Charles in the public vote was very gracious about it, saying: "I am disappointed not to have won, but then Sir Charles did found the BMA, which I think has had a far greater impact on our society than me riding my bike down a hill faster than anyone else in the World , so I think he did deserve to win"

The Portrait Bench is a simple bench with life-size characters chosen by the community and visitors can see these figures by walking or cycling along the river towards the Diglis Bridge, or down nearby Sling Pool Walk footpath or Weir Lane from Bromwich Road, or Navigation Road leading from Diglis Road off Bath Road.

by Sarah Ganderton



The statues were unveiled in the baking sunshine on 19th July before representatives from local groups and museums for each of the individual statues, as well as local dignitaries. Children from Pitmaston Primary School removed the covers from the statues after speeches by Henry Harbord, Area Manager for Sustrans, as well as Counsellor Roger Berry, who is city council

REVIEW – SevernSounds Festival

Worcester was brought to life for the first ever SevernSounds Festival over the weekend of 26th-28th July. Raising money for both Acorns Childrens Hospice and SHYPP (Supported Housing for Young People Project Herefordshire), there were 21 bands playing in 3 venues. First of all Vue Bar, Newport Street, hosted the opening night of the festival, with Time of the Mouth bringing the evening to a close with a smashing headline set.

Next up was the Talbot, Barbourne, where the event started off outside. With a great lineup of local talent, there was a great turnout. The crowds stayed, even when the weather turned for the worse and the festival was halted whilst moving inside, and AKA Wyoming, winner of Saturday Sounds Competition, took to the stage to complete the lineup for the day.



The final day was upon us, and the third venue, Pavilion in the Park. The event was moved inside due to the weather, and there was a real buzz around the venue



with another great lineup of local talent waiting to play. With bands such as Lauren Wright (Radio 1 Playlisted), Done By Sunrise and Institutes, playing great sets the crowds stuck around and Hannah Dallas and the Button Down Souls took to the stage in the packed city centre venue. They didn't disappoint, and the festival finished on a massive high.

Raising around £700 for the charities, and fighting the weather, SevernSounds Festival's first appearance was a huge hit. With plans already afoot for SevernSounds 2014, it is here to stay. SevernSounds Festival are also working very closely with Malvern Rocks and Worcester Music Festival and will be seen in various venues supporting all the bands and charities possible.

For more details on SevernSounds Festival, please visit our website www.severnsoundsfestival.co.uk or email info@severnsoundsfestival.co.uk.

by Scott Howland

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REVIEW – Time of the Mouth - 8th Aug - Somewhere in a garden near you!

Within moments of finishing as storming set at MiniFest 2013, Time of the Mouth band members were mobbed by adoring young fans. The band responded by running a competition. The prize, for the person who could come up with the best reason, was for the band to perform a gig for them.

Despite her name not being drawn from the hat, shortlisted high school student, Tia Baldwin, impressed the band with a whole list of reasons why they should play at her birthday party that they decided to come anyway!

The boyishly handsome Chris, Carl and James arrived at Tia's house to delighted shrieks from the guests. After setting up in the garden, manager Steve was dispatched to the van to retrieve the "Jamaica Bag": home to a tatty piece of cardboard containing an impressive and extensive list of songs to let the guests choose from. It was clear from this list that these boys had been well brought up musically!



..... And speaking of parties, I look back towards the garden where charismatic singer, Chris, is now drenched from head to toe, having joined the other party guests in an almighty water fight!

Time Of The Mouth are a young band well worthy of your attention so head on over to:

www.timeofthemouth.com and join in the fun.

Words by Anita Mann



The warm summer's evening started gently with Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds" before treating us to some of their own songs: "Belle of the Ball", "Six Feet Under" and "Tears" – excellent numbers all.

The young audience divided into three distinct camps: The exuberant dancers, the quiet listeners and those who viewed the whole thing through their smart phones! The phones were gradually put away as more of the audience joined the party as the band ran through accomplished renditions of songs by The Buzzcocks, Arctic Monkeys, The Killers, The Fratellis and The Vapours. The piece of cardboard was eventually ditched in favour of random requests even including Michael Jackson's "Thriller"!

After the set, I watched the band get mobbed again while I chatted to their manager. This is a hard-working band. They are currently touring the length and breadth of the country promoting their EP "Third Time Lucky". The downside of this is that they are playing less local gigs than previously. So you need to catch this band while you can still enjoy the party.

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REVIEW – John Cooper Clarke - Artrix, Bromsgrove - 17th Sept

Like his slightly younger, cantankerous Salford compatriot, Mark E Smith, John Cooper Clarke would have to have been invented had he not actually existed. The doyen of performance poetry or the Salford bard or, simply, punk poet, JCC rose to prominence simultaneously with the first wave of punk in the febrile late 70s. His rapid fire spitting of political and satirical social commentary, in verse, struck a chord with the emerging DIY ethic and ensured he toured with such luminaries as The Sex Pistols, The Clash and The Buzzcocks. Signing to a major label (Epic/CBS) allowed for hit records and hugely popular live shows, and a massive collection of his poetry and words "*Ten Years In An Open Necked Shirt*" became the best-selling poetry book of the 1980s.

What happened next? Full blown heroin addiction, that's what. His writing and performances dried up, "It was a feral existence. I was on drugs. It was hand to mouth." But he even managed to be a junkie with aplomb - shacking up with iconic Warholian and Velvet Underground singer, Nico, in Brixton. They were drug buddies until her untimely death in 1988, the same year that JCC popped up on our screens again supporting the Honey Monster for a couple of Sugar Puffs adverts. They're not his finest minutes but when you need money for smack, there are worse decisions than pushing unhealthy sugar coated cereals to children - have a look on YouTube. Monsterrific!

More recently, Johnny Clarke (as he likes to call himself) is back to his best and his influence has seeped further into the mainstream of British popular culture. Alex Turner of Arctic Monkeys is a massive fan (to the point that he has a JCC tattoo) and Clarke's words will appear on the band's album AM, set for release on 9 September 2013, in the track *I Wanna Be Yours*. Last year, he appeared in Plan B's directorial debut, *Ill Manors*, and duetted with the rapper on *Pity the Plight of Young Fellows*; and a BBC documentary, *Evidently...* John Cooper Clarke featured the likes of Steve Coogan, Bill Bailey and Stewart Lee waxing lyrical about his contribution to poetry.

This year has seen him appear on *Have I Got News For You* and receive an honorary doctorate from Salford University - no doubt a recognition that his work appears in academic syllabuses worldwide thus ensuring that he will be forever ingrained in the psyche of the world's youth.

He's not going anywhere. Catch him live at Artrix, Bromsgrove on Tuesday 17 September at 8pm.

- Glazz



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REVIEW - Blues at the Jinney Ring - August 10th

Only managed a snapshot view of the Jinney Ring Blues & Beer Festival, so settled for the Saturday. The Jinney Ring is a lovely little craft centre, tucked away in the rural green belt of the Hanbury metropolis. Some good local ales and ciders were there to sample, along with a selection of tasty food in the duck filled gardens or the overlooking restaurant.

Mumbo Jumbo had gently opened proceedings on Friday evening, and now, soloist guitar picking Dave Onions, with his self penned observations on life today, we were being eased in to next gear.

Boperator, brought us the boogie, swing and jump jive of the 40's and 50's. A 7 piece band, 2 sax, 2 guitars, piano, double bass and drums gave air to the likes of Ray Charles and Willie Dixon, as well as a nice bit of Cara Emerald. *'Aint Nobody Here But Us Chickens'* (well there were plenty of ducks!) but certainly no *'Mess Around'*. A good jump up and dance band of local musicians who have many years of live performances between them.

Sarah Warren and Band, were up next, with theirslant on country blues. There is no doubt Sarah is a class act, an outstanding voice, big personality, and a top draw band, arguably the very essence of the Fabulous Boogie Boys. *'Keep Your Hands To Yourself'*, a lively suggestive bit of country blues, opens the set. Ry Cooder may be *'Crazy About An Automobile'* but we all agree, we would rather have Sarah and her band anytime. Only the ticking clock prevented more.

Robert Hokum and Devil Drives Band brought us guitar fuelled funky blues, with a big serving of good humour and great riffs, all the way from Ealing Blues, I'm pleased they found their way to The Jinney Ring.



Robert Hokum

'In Trouble Again' is country blues with latin rhythms underneath. *'All Play No Work'* a cross between Carlos Santana and Ian Drury. *'Don't Miss The Bus'* no worries, everyone was on board.

Stomp & Holler, I have now seen many times since the band rose from the ashes of The Blues Tribe. Though I am familiar with much of their set, I still find the band entertaining and a pleasure to listen to; the rest of the festival revellers seemed to agree. From Chris's *'Why's It Always Me'*, to Oliver's gruff *'St. James Infirmary Blues'*; Abi's tickled piano, to John's soulful sax, all were superb as ever. Not to forget Martin's expressive drumming and the 'apprentice' guitarist Dave Carroll, all eased along by a little groove grease.



Dr Teeth

What more could you want to end with, but larger than life Steve Steinhaus aka Dr Teeth, with his Big Band, fun is the name of the game. Big brassy and brash is the sound, guitarist Clancy also gets in on the act, 'Chuck Berry'ing across the stage. This is a party band that you cannot help but get up and move to, if you don't then Steve is going to chase you out onto that floor. A slight diversion was *'Mini The Moocher'*, with the microphone passed to Steve's son, Saul, for a stage initiation. *'Let It Rain'* was completely ignored by the heavens, the party continued. *'One Woman Man'* didn't seem to affect the bevy of girls squeezing onto the small stage with Steve and the band, as the extravaganza continued. If room on stage is tight, then why not move to the floor, the band are not averse to getting down and dirty, mixing it with the grating (you'll be sorry in the morning) crush of party people.

Sadly, Lakefest called for Sunday, and I was unable to hear the local bands lined up for the day. It would be difficult to believe that such a well organised little festival could not have closed on high. More next year.

Words & Pics by Graham Munn

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Review - HEY YOU GUYS! Album launch - Marrs Bar 16th August

Hey You Guys!, This Wicked Tongue and Rattlin Doors

Hey You Guys! are the latest project from local mainstays Pete Adams, Dave Draper, Oly Edkins and Ben Pemberton, a quartet who have trod the boards under numerous guises (too many to mention here) before joining forces to create a potent, rough and ready mix of garage punk, infectious rock and rowdy indie. Since their inception they've played a handful of gigs here and there, whilst honing their brash and ballsy debut album *Gasp! Shock! Horror!* before unleashing it on the world with a side order of pass the parcel, balloons and party poppers thrown in for good measure.

Before I get to the main event I want to mention the two support acts for this prestigious event. Having recently reviewed the debut single by The Rattlin Doors, my expectations for the rowdy trio were suitably high. Here was a band that on disc at least took elements of feral blues, post punk and menacing country - add some adrenaline and a whole lot of attitude and serve it up in three minute spiky blasts. From the opening number the band managed to exceed any preconceptions with a stunning ramshackle set of blues/punk riffs, infectious rhythms and howling half sung/half hollered vocals that compelled even the most casual of listener. Obvious highlights included the aforementioned single, *In The Treehouse*, the contagious *Merseybeat* and a wild take of *Love In Vain* (by Robert Johnson) to name but a few.

This Wicked Tongue were chosen as the main warm-up act and as ever the band delivered a solid set of female fronted rock. The band set about laying down a tight groove complete with metallic riffs, bombastic drums and catchy hooks, whilst Tina V showcased her finest rock wail, rocking out with the audience and throwing her finest shapes displaying exactly why she is regarded as one of the finest singers to grace the various local arenas. The band delivered a couple of brand new tracks which bode well for their next release whilst long term favourite 22 was delivered with a new sense of urgency as the band shook the audience into life.



And so to the main event, Hey You Guys! performing their entire debut album plus a thrash through a We Are Scientists cover and a brand new track all to the delight of the assembled masses. Now any act that includes Dave Draper among their number are going to deliver a flurry of hard hitting serrated riffs but I've not seen the guitarist this animated before, he was throwing shapes, singing along and delivering punchy riff after punchy riff as if it was going out of fashion. Add to this the one-two knockout rhythm section of Oly Edkins and Ben Pemberton, who pummeled and strangled their instruments into submission leaving the audience drained but exhilarated. Topping off this already potent force was a newly energised master of ceremonies, Pete Adams, who came across as a reborn frontman, hollering, shouting, and gesticulating wildly.



Imagine if you will a fine combination of The Wildhearts, Art Brut, (long forgotten UK rockers) Honeycrack and a metallic Carter and you're in the right ballpark for the glorious sounds of Hey You Guys! A perfect unison of rock, metal, infectious indie and punk with shout at the top of your lungs vocal hooks and layers of thick fuzz that just demands you to throw yourself across the room. To pick out individual highlights would do other tracks a disservice however opener and album title track *Gasp! Shock! Horror!* laid down the foundations whilst *Record Deal*, *Whiter Shade Of Pale* and *The Three Ronnies* all left me with a huge grin on my face and a crashing chorus rattling around my noggin'.

Hey You Guys! both live and on disc are brash, bold and bombastic, you can expect a good time, whether in the comfort of your own living room or the snot and sawdust of your local fleapit but however you decide to devour the band's wares I suggest you stop what you're doing and seek them out now!!

Words: Will Munn. Photos by Graham Munn

CIRCUIT SWEET – HEREFORD with Naomi Preece

Thinking and believing there is no live scene in Hereford is OVER!

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Hereford Live Launch Night

A new community group in Herefordshire is aiming to put Hereford on the live music map, starting with a launch night at The Jailhouse on Wednesday 25th September at 7pm.

The main aim of the group is to publicize the best in live music events across the county, and ensure that live music events are well-attended by the community of music lovers who tell us they want to see more live music in the county.

The launch night will see main room performances from Red Room Therapy, Screwfaze and Line Runners, with more to be announced. The beer garden will be home to a more mellow tone with acoustic and blues artists performing, including Jennifer Booton, who recently performed at Nozstock, and Arthur Mills and the Black Eyed Fridays.



Red Room Therapy

Tiegan Neary

Anthony Murphy of The Jailhouse stated: "Hereford is no stranger to best-selling artists; bands from the Rolling Stones, Manic Street Preachers, Stereophonics and The Beautiful South, to Pulp, James, Two Door Cinema Club and The Wombats have played in Hereford over the years. Also there are some incredible homegrown artists in Herefordshire, many of whom are destined for great things. We want to get as many people as possible to support the live music scene we have in Herefordshire - not only will they be seeing the talent of tomorrow now, it will help us to stage bigger events in the future too."

The launch night promises to be just the beginning of Hereford Live, with October listings being finalised for venues across the county and fliers to be handed out at the

launch and host venues. Entry is strictly 18+ and ID may be required. To find out more, or to get involved, visit herefordlive.co.uk or like the Facebook page: [facebook.com/HerefordLive](https://www.facebook.com/HerefordLive).

Aside from this, Herefordshire this summer has been a hive of musical activity. We've been to Peterchurch to cover a community hall concert the evening was hosted by local talent Keygreen & also boasted excellent live performances by Slippery Slope and Manu.



Malvern Rocks was also a fantastic success and at time of print we will be enjoying Worcester Music Festival!!- We are also delighted to announce we are covering this year's Ringmaster Festival.

Thanks must go to all acts who submit work to our website & we would like to assure you we are listening and will be featuring your submissions shortly. We promise!

If you are based in Herefordshire and would like to stock SLAP mag, submit releases, reviews or request interviews/ gig reviews from us then email us at:

Naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk OR if you want a band photo shoot either live or on location, for budget gig photography and music shoots email oli@circuitsweet.co.uk.

REVIEW - Inca Hoots Farewell Show - Marris Bar 27th July

Inca Hoots, Shatter Effect, The Broken Oak Duet and Terrors

In the past few years if I had have been asked to recommend a local band, one of the first names I would have uttered would have been that of **Inca Hoots**, a band that effortlessly merged indie pop with infectious synths to create a unique and euphoric sound that would incite dancing and mass sing-a-long alike. The band released a couple of locally acclaimed EP's and performed numerous shows across the county and further afield. So you can imagine my obvious dismay when the four-piece band decided to call it a day, at least they decided to end on a high with one final flourish at the Marris Bar.

Before the main event at the soon to be packed venue we were treated to a trio of support acts. First up and making their debut in Worcester, Stoke based racket-mongers **Terrors**, a band that combined meaty hardcore riffs with a dark indie influence. Imagine Ian Curtis fronting a rudimentary thrash punk combo and you're in the right direction. The band gave it their all, with the frontman stalking the audience off stage trying to incite a reaction, whilst the band thrashed around on their instruments but, in all honesty the band offered little in the way of hooks and left me wanting a big chorus or two to really help the band stand out.

Second to take to the stage were post rock instrumental duo, **The Broken Oak Duet**, a concise unit that mix clattering drums with stop-start angular riffs to create clever, sharp, spiky soundscapes that managed to incite a little jerking and appreciative nodding from the reserved masses.



Shatter Effect, regular gigging mates of Inca Hoots served as the final warm-up for the main event with female fronted contagious indie synth pop (think mellow Garbage meets Goldfrapp). Catchy guitar riffs collided wonderfully with stabbing synths whilst lead singer, **Rebecca Davies** serenaded the audience with such standouts as *Forever 27* and *Rebecca* among others.



For those of you who haven't seen the five-piece they're definitely worth a look if they return to this fair city.



As soon as **Inca Hoots** took to the stage the previously subdued audience surged forward and from the first blast of synth, the atmosphere changed into something of a celebration, as every song was embraced like a long lost friend, as the band whipped up a storm with Niall's guitar chiming, Stu's punchy synths reverberating around the room, whilst the rhythm section of Joshua and Pete laid down a thick groove propelling the band on. The quartet played everything from early punkier numbers to recent delights such as *Elusive Macabre* and *H.I.T.J.O.N* from their most recent self-titled EP. Inca Hoots were on fine form and the audience fed on the energy flooding from the stage, so much so that they even sang back a synth riff to the band as the group delivered fan favourites such as *Sin Cera*, *Noise Pollution* and grand finale *Cueno* (with the assistance of **Shatter Effect** and Niall joining the audience for a frenzied percussion fuelled conclusion!!).



Inca Hoots final show was a glorious send off for one of the finest local bands out there, the Worcester music scene will be a poorer place without them, so if for some strange reason you didn't catch them live. I urge you to checkout their recorded legacy online to hear what you missed.

www.facebook.com/weareincahoots
by Will Munn

Photography by Mark Hoy (*Broken Oak Duet*)
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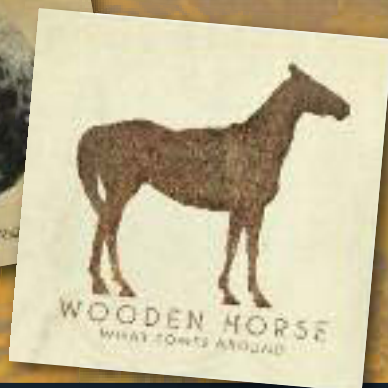
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REVIEW – Skewwhiff, Rattlin Doors & Richard Clarke and the Rafters

Marrs Bar, Worcester – 10th August

Richard Clarke & The Rafters open the night with a gentle glissando of wind chimes to usher us into 'Where I Will Reside', a song about leaving London for Worcester and vice versa, it perfectly captures the ambiguity attached to a certain place with it's friends and experiences the trade off being less hustle n' bustle and polar extreme communities. This kind of nakedly sincere sentimentality could be dismissed as hogwash in any other singer songwriter fare, but what you get with



The Rafters is a dynamically considerate rhythm section, occasional lifting harmonies both of which takes nothing away from the honest hymns of Richard Clarke – truly Worcester's finest songwriter! I'm quite a fan of 70s soul and they instilled plenty of that within the room with their very own penned number 'Leavers'. What else? 'Only us' – with its tooting and glock solo passes the indie whistle test, nice mouth trumpet too. New song 'Constellations' uses alternate tuning, mild bass overdrive & synth FX. This doesn't over complicate, rather it adds to the theme where's most fx can distract or be showy this is delicate & concise as is most of the Rafters output. I don't say it lightly when I comment that Clarke & his Rafters are inadvertently setting out to write standards, rather than just throwaways. Time is the teller and these songs will long outlive us!

Shaking us outta our contemplative silence intractably polite like a determined mighty morphine power trio, come the aptly named The Rattlin Doors!



Fronted by a bespeckled-Dalmatian-legged frontman, wielding a junk shop axe & intent on perforating ear drums within shooting distance. This band are fun and frantic from the off producing a groove similar to Primus for the first few numbers before bounding between Rage Against the Machine strathing strut and stompers like 'In A Tree House' and 'Mersey Beat'.

The humor, the crusty *Mr Krinkle* box of wood n rusty wire and the impeccable interpretation of Robert Johnson aside, this group boast a concise & firmly anchored rhythm section.

Together they clunk and shimmy along throwing in the occasional machine gun stabs matched by brittle snare, contra snarls and scratching git box. Having not experienced The Rattlin Doors before, I'd say overall they have the blase swagger of a well oiled shaggy, scaggy Magic Band! Roll over Zoot Horn Rolo!

At this point in the night the twat phone had died, it's battery depleted, so I resorted to erm drinking and in turn scribbling notes on till receipts, as you do. **Skewwhiff** to me are a bit of oddity round these parts



– neither new wave or Britpop but drawing on scuzzy post punk in equal measure. Many eras of influence collide to produce a warm mix of genres on the rocks. I don't want to repeat what's been written before about them but... vocally they reminded me a bit more relaxed B52s mixed with No Doubt? I got elements of Pixies & Wire from the guitar of... my 'boss'.. Madchester bass grooves from that dude in the festy hat who chain smokes rollies and even some beats from that Glazz bloke (who was uncharacteristically sober) that seemed to be of the Mani Scream persuasion. There were surprising forays into ska and dub at times with a side order of dry ice rising ominously. Is that a fair drunk analysis? I sure hope so. See other Slap articles for more (coherent scribes) opinions on Skewwhiff. Now (if I don't get sacked for that sacrilege), see ya all next month eh!

by Craigus Barry



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REVIEW – The Worcester Open

Invigilating at the Worcester Open seems to have gone well, sharing the duties with Chris, an engaging young chap, three days each and all the leftover crisps and nuts we can eat. An opportunity to round off that unread novel, catch up on correspondence and spend some quality time with some rather good artwork. The DVD machines are working, viewing figures on the up, the gallery looks splendid and *I Am the Warrior* is starting to fill out nicely.



What is *I am the Warrior*? It is a mis en scene put in place by Juneau Projects, whose original intention was to house work entered for, but not chosen to be in the Open Competition. In reality it's the former library shelves at the far end of the gallery that once held children's books but now, resplendent in blobby-esque yellow and pink, only with the goalposts repositioned slightly with it now being open for anyone to enter work; just drop it off and Chris and myself will do the rest.

The Worcester Open contains, as one might expect, interesting work with all the usual suspects being present and correct: some film, some animation, paintings of course, a smattering of photographs, a wooden structure that may have once been part of someone's staircase, a flag and a couple of small sculptures. Nothing truly remarkable, but generally speaking all are excellent in their own way and each a worthy entrant in the show. Trouble is, is it just me or is it all a bit predictable.....dull even? It's all been made and chosen seemingly in the best possible tasteful but, isn't good taste the enemy of art?

Contrast this with 'I am's' exhibits – take Alexander Williams's *'Not Now Pet'*, a pink and blue psychedelic yodel seemingly puked up over a cheap canvas and all in the name of 'art'; on a nearby shelf sit a pair of seeds, credited to and possibly accidentally stolen from Ai Wei Wei's Tate show they find themselves teamed up with a pair of peanuts that the invigilators probably dropped and the cleaners missed and called 'Not Ai Wei Wei'. Ned James has entered what appears to be a death head pin cushion whilst Charlie Pitt has exhibited work that a five year old might have done. No disrespect to five year olds, some of their work has merit.

Let's finish with what the audience thinks. Is Jed Edwards's lovingly detailed yet possibly pointless micro copy of Picasso's *'Des Moiselle d'Avignon'* that finds itself tacked onto some green boarding any worse, or less relevant than James Brennan's *Myth 111 – Protect and Survive*, a small study in oil

of a pair of pert yet undemonstratively undraped breasts which cushion a pendant and which is strategically placed above another work by the same artist of a tree, or bush, that is included in the main exhibition?



Perhaps we should leave it up to the Italian student who came in with his classmates on the Tuesday to decide. After all they, their Italian forbears rather than the students of today that is, masterminded the Renaissance, invented egg tempura and could call on Leonardo, Titian and Caravaggio if there was a bit of al fresco that required tagging, He must have thought Brennan's topless temptress the more critically engaged of the two works because he kept returning to it, over and over again, each time with a different classmate, pointing and giggling, eager no doubt to garner their opinion.

So, there you have it, one occasion where going tits up pays. The Worcester Open just nudging out *I am the Warrior* in the popularity stakes.

by Paul Johnson

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Colne British Blues Awards 2013

Colne is a small Lancastrian town, hidden up there amongst the dark satanic mills of our forefathers, it's also the annual home to an iconic Blues Festival. A festival that hosts many major US imports as well as home grown Blues giants, such as **Bill Wyman**, **Ian Siegal** and this year, **Ginger Baker**.

I had travelled up with local band **Babajack**, who were nominated for 5 categories in this years accompanying awards ceremony. Arriving Saturday, the 'gear' was lugged down into the cellarage of the Green Chimney Café, for an initial gig. The small, dark, very crowded cellar reverberated to the sound as carrot cake and ground coffee shook on the tables above our heads. A good start to what was to be a hectic 2 days. Before the late evening show on the acoustic stage, I had time to look in on some of the many bands playing around the pubs and bars of Colne. I picked up on **The Mustangs**, one of the more notable bands playing the early evening, definitely worth a full listen in the future.

I also found **Deborah Bonham** (yes, she is John's sister) back in that same tight cellar. In the restraints of a packed underground dungeon, she sounded OK, her style is more Janis Joplin, I would catch her later as a prelude to Babajack on the acoustic stage.

Down at the British stage, local based band **Stomp & Holler** received rave response from the rapidly filling sports hall, no natural ambience here, its down to the band. What it wasn't lacking, was a good spacious, well lit stage, arguably the best stage set of any of the main venues.

Oliver and the band won over many new fans to their style of Orleans blues. Guitarist **Dave Carroll**, newly inducted into the line up, seems to have firmly settled in the groove, and I think seemed more at ease than the gig at Jinney Ring only two weeks ago. Did Martin outplay Mr. Baker on the night, he certainly tried. *Webtop Checker* was superb.

So this was the showcase for the weekend, the acoustic stage at Colne is of moderate size, breathing out was definitely an option if you synchronised with the heaving hot heaving mass of an enthusiastic audience. Extra care was required to lift a glass, let alone try a refill. Deborah was back on stage with her band, her efforts were visible, but for me a little disappointing, the vocals seemed to fade away despite the exertion. I'm sure she normally has more to offer. Trevor stepped up on stage with harp, for the closing song, an unexpected bonus.

Stage cleared and reset with Babajack's African drum, cajon, stomp box and a rack of guitars.

Old favourites from previous albums, notably *Rooster*, filled the air, *Running Man* from the forthcoming album, gave the crowded room a glimpse of what awaited next month. The beautifully delivered '*Death Letter Blues*' sang out, can anyone do it better than this? The early hours of Sunday morning descend upon us, as Becky and Trevor wind up to closing favourite, '*Black Betty*'. Now it should be noted, this has always been an energetic, full on, closing song, BUT, I think Bec and Trev have taken it to a new level. A full 10 minute workout that would have exhausted the most, protein pumped gym fanatic. Both were drained, Trevor near collapse

from his stool, Becky drummed out. The crowd proverbially raised the roof, a fantastic finish to a great set. Yes I'm a fan, and maybe biased in my opinions, but I try to stay objective, Babajack always perform 100% they have found another 10% on top. Believe it!

Sunday afternoon, at the British stage, hundreds are gathered for the awards ceremony. Tension was high as Blues broadcaster **Gary Grainger** opened the envelopes, I am not going through all the results, merely the ones of interest to this review. Babajack had 5 nominations, they were placed 3rd in acoustic to **Marcus Bonfanti**; Trevor awarded 3rd in Harmonica to acknowledged harp hero **Paul Lamb**; 2nd for best album '*Rooster*', to **Ian Siegal**'s '*Candy Store Kids*'; and.....wait for it, roll the drums for category winner, Instrumentalist Of The year.....**Becky Tate**. This follows last years award in the same category; 2014? All is possible.



Overall a fantastic outcome to the 2013 awards, each mention received truly enthusiastic cheers from the gathered blues lovers, the band is undoubtedly in the top echelon of acoustic music. Only Ian Siegal had more presence in the overall results, he needs to turn round and glance over his shoulder, Babajack are closing fast, next year could see different result.



A quick mention of other previously reviewed artists, **Chantel Mcgregor**, took best guitarist and female vocalist, which must have dented many a male ego. **Dan Owen** tied with **Lucy Zirins**, for best young artist. Lifetime awards to **Mike Vernon** and **Barry Middleton**, with **Bill Wyman**, **Wilko Johnson** and **Chris Farlow** receiving Blues Greats Awards.

This is a major milestone in Babajack's year, a brilliant starting block for the forthcoming '*Running Man*' album, more of which I hope to give you in the next month. *Rooster* did well, this is going to be unmissable.

Graham Munn

Art at the Worcester City Flower Show – Gheluvelt Park

The Worcester City Flower Show, now in its eighth year, was really popular with visitors in the August sunshine. There were exhibitors from different cultures around the city, showcasing the theme of this year's show: 'Diversity'. There were performances through the day from dance and music groups, as well as talks on gardening, baby feeding and cake decorating. And best of all, visitors could view the entries in the show: flowers of all colours and vegetables of all shapes, delicious smelling cakes and sweets, handicrafts including paintings and several categories of photography.

In the handicraft section which included paintings, the overall section winner was Shirley Jackson. The winning landscape painting was of three brightly coloured beach huts by Jenny Moon, while a beautifully painted owl



won the nature painting competition. Meanwhile in the children's section, a painting on a global theme drew praise from the judges who wrote that it was "well presented" with "excellent use of colour and good use of mark making and linear brushwork"

The overall winner in the vast photography section was Maureen Ovington who won many categories, with photographs including three different shots of a male peacock, and a black and white shot of weeping willows covered in frost with what the judges described as "super reflections". She also won first prize in the caption



competition with a fun photograph of a child covered in chocolate ice cream.

Other winning photographs included a picture of empty beer bottles by Lisa Sullivan representing summer. A macro shot of a moth on a stalk entitled "skipper", by Tony Woods also won the Best In Section award. Garth Williams won a prize with a picture of a ginger cat, while Mike Townley's photograph of garden tools won another.



There were plenty of categories at the show in all sections so that many different diverse people could have a go, thus fulfilling the theme of the show, and the quality of all the entries was incredible.

by Sarah Ganderton

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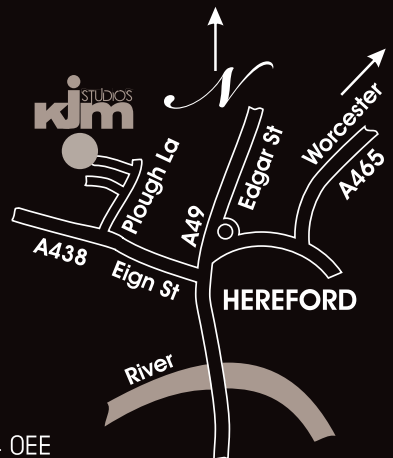
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REVIEW Lakefest, Croft Farm Waterpark - 9th-11th August

Graham & Will Munn

Lakefest is only a couple of years old but with its idyllic setting, family friendly atmosphere and compelling mixture of musical mayhem it's already fast becoming a real favourite for festival followers bringing in locals and folk from further afield.

This year's event saw the organisers compile a wonderful line-up from cult favourites (The Crazy World Of Arthur Brown, Duke Special, etc) to festival mainstays (Missing Andy, The Levellers, Ocean Colour Scene, The Beat) via up and coming locals (The Lights, Whipjacks, The Feddens, etc).



Over on the second stage (Floating Globe Stage) we caught the delightful country musings of Juey a couple of songs by local punky misfits Skewwhiff and a

glorious set of accordion wielding, double bass pumping, pirate punk by local favourites, The Whipjacks.



Back on the mainstage, the suitably lubricated audience wanted to strut, skank and dance so ska legends The Beat provided the perfect soundtrack to get the party started. The band rattled off *Rock The Casbah*, *Big Shot*, *Tears of A Clown* and of course *Mirror In The Bathroom* to captious applause and

frantic bouncing aplenty as The Beat once again delivered a thrilling set of crowd pleasers.

The Lights rocked the Floating Globe with a brilliant set of male/female vocal interplay and infectious indie pop,



before Ocean Colour Scene completed the opening nights proceedings with their usual set of Brit-pop anthems and hook-laden indie classics, sending us off into the night in style.

Due to the day job I had to miss the likes of Cosmo Jarvis and Baka Beyond, but thankfully we managed to hit Lakefest as the maverick genius that is Duke Special took to the stage. Now it's almost impossible to describe the sound of the three-piece band, but the combination of piano, sax and the most extensive drum kit you can imagine helps create one of the most intriguing and infectious blend of caberet pop known to man and the likes of *Digging An Early Grave* and *Apple Jack* (not to mention a wonderful laidback take on *Love Will Tear Us Apart*) soon seduced the masses.



The Indigo Kings opened the proceedings with a delightful mix of swing, upbeat pop and sing-a-long harmonies that soon had the assembled masses swaying, nodding and even bopping (bit early for full on dancing!), the likes of *Jump Jive Daddy* and *Holy Woman* seduced the masses and proved to be the perfect start for the forthcoming proceedings. Missing Andy arrived late but quickly stole the stage, packing out the arena with a

frenzied combination of upbeat, holler along indie anthems, ska infused dance alongs and punchy, fist in the air laments that had the whole tent bouncing in unison. As ever the likes of *Young Disciples*, *Money* and *Dirty Suzanna* incited a mass sing-a-long, with the crowd baying for more after a pummelling finale.



Covers bands aren't normally my kind of thing, however The Chip Shop Boys are worth a mention for their tight, energetic and fun set taking in everyone from Daft Punk to The Killers via Chic, The Beatles and Queen.



Continuing the off-kilter sound only in a more spaced out psychedelic manner was veteran **Arthur Brown** and his **Crazy World**. The band kicked up a witchy brew of synths and riffs whilst the man himself acted as master of ceremonies on a deranged take of *Put A Spell On You* and the obligatory *Fire*. Arthur even managed to venture into the audience much to their delight to boogie with the masses at one point during his memorable set.

Local heroes **Roving Crows** stormed the mainstage with their blend of celtic ska, folk and good old fashioned rock n roll. Imagine if you will a mash-up of all that's good from the likes of The Waterboys, The Levellers, Runrig and New Model Army, throw in some Dexy's soul and a dose of ska and you have one of the most potent sounds to have taken to the stage. The crowd lapped up the band's fantastic and diverse set with *Roll On Tomorrow* proving to be a particular note worthy highlight from their glorious playlist.

The Levellers concluded the night with a storming set of infectious, driving political folk/punk, delivering all the fan favourites such as *Beautiful Day*, *One Way Of Life* and the evergreen anthem *Hope Street*, each one hollered back by the crowd and received with the plaudits they richly deserve.

Sunday, and some had started journeys home, ready for the toil of Monday morning. There was still plenty of footfall and the camp followers were spread around the grounds of the festival. **Wille and The Bandits**, were sound checking, and were ready to kick off in a sparsely populated main stage. This was going to be good, it always is from this band. They take essentially blues and classics, restructure them, and perform them in a unique way, alongside their own well crafted songs. Elements of rock steady and ska are present in their music, it is a beautiful sound. The huge canopy starts to fill, drawn in by the magnetic rhythms of Wille & co. *'Black Magic Woman'* streams out across the grounds, more pack in.

Previously uninitiated were transfixed, *'Angel'*, opens with a long lead in from Matt on 6 string bass, superb. They close with a reworked *'Money For Nothing'*, a full 7 minutes & a pleasure to listen to, they have won many new fans here. Wait for the new album to be launched in autumn, followed by a UK tour. **Jim Lockey And The Solemn Sun**, followed, a



local band from Cheltenham. Styled as folk rock, they sort of brought Big Country to mind. The band is never still dipping and shifting back and forth, only the vocal stream pulls them to a microphone, an element of punk maybe. *'A Song About Death'* and *'England's Dead'*, seem morbid subjects, but the songs are anthemic with arena filling sound. Worth a listen if that's your taste,

check out some videos on You Tube. 3 **Daft Monkeys**, is a 'world' folk band, and for this outing, 4 turned up, Athene, Tim and Lukas were joined by percussionist Richie using



hand drums and cymbals. Athene plays fiddle, Tim a 12 string acoustic and Lukas looks after bass. Athene is like a dancing nymph ably assisted by Lukas, as Tim presents most of the vocal leads. I particularly liked *'Paranoid Big Brother'*, nice fiddle from Athene, quirky lyrics, and changing pace, drive this song along. *'Under One Sun'*, again brings interesting lyrics, lead vocals from Tim again. The band are entertaining to watch and listen to, plenty of interaction and good humour in the songs. Hope to see them again for a forthcoming CD launch tour, including Hare & Hounds in Birmingham. All in, a good, fun band with a different approach to writing and performing, almost befitting a circus setting.

Top of the bill on Sunday, **Chas & Dave**, 50 years as likeable cockney geezers, ready for a knees up and boogie woogie. I have to be honest, as popular as they appeared to be, I had hoped for a bit more depth, but it was, as it always has been, simple sing along songs. That did not seem to concern the packed main stage, all the remaining festival fanatics crowded in and around the the marquee. The beer and cider flowed, all had a good time. Only a spectacular firework display awaited to close the event.



ARK FEST 2013

Sun 29th September

BARKING MAD STAGE - Great Malvern Hotel 3-11pm

The Black Heart Angels Answer Back Krescendo Maydolls
Set them up Joe Tasha Bee The Tarts and guests
Zynthia & Mike Andy Linsey Ruben Seabright Lounge Toad
Gerry Chester Amanda Stone & Billy Stone

THERE WILL ALSO BE A JAMMING STAGE AT THE GMH!!!

PUSSY GALORE STAGE - The Foly Arms 2-10.30pm

Dublin Jacks Paul, Ray & Ken..(the PRK band) Hennesea
Fiona & Alice Ray Stroud Maydolls Dave Cartwright
The Malvern Hill Billies Lounge Toad

TOADS LILLY PAD STAGE - Olivers Wine Bar 3-8pm

Answer Back Lounge Toad Amanda/Billy Stone & Tasha Bee
Carol Lee Samson Richard Monk

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RSPCA

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Function Room



Sunday 1 September 2013

The Acoustic/Folk Jam Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Wes Dance
The Chestnut, Worcester

Worcester Music Festival
See Guide for further details or visit:
www.theworcestermusicfestival.co.uk

Unplugged Sunday
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Delray Rockets
The Cross Keys, Alcester, Warwickshire

Jam night
Oast House Redditch

Sunday Shenanigans – Open Mic night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Monday September 2013

Open Mic night
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 3 September 2013

Luke Warm & the cold fronts
Farriers Arms Worcester

Open mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel
Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Wednesday 4 September 2013

Marzys' Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Open Mic
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Reggae Wednesday
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

David Lawrence
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

The Gastric Band
The Masons Arms in Wichenford

Thee Ones
Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 5 September 2013

Open Mic
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Martin Simpson
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Baby Godzilla, The Callout, Forever Grace
The Firefly, Worcester

Drum Love adult workshop – all Abilities
Angel Centre, Worcester

Acoustic Brew
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Natasha Tashy Doll
Great Malvern Hotel

Jailhouse Sessions
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Sarah warren Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Friday 6 September 2013

Luke Warm & the cold fronts
Farriers Arms Worcester

Aquarius
The Royal Oak, Kinnersley

Weirdshire presents In Gowan Ring,
Sproatly Smith and Jus Jay
The Black Lion, Hereford

Manalishi
Millers Arms, Pershore

New Rope String Band
Number 8, pershore

Metallica (Metallica Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Mob + Alchol Licks
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wizard of Oz
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Magoos
Drummonds, Worcester

The Undercocks
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jive Aces
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Big Jim's Boogie Band
Moochers, Stourbridge

Classic Clapton
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Delray Rockets
The Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

The Magoos
Drummonds, Worcester

New Rope String Band
Number 8, Pershore

Jenny Hallam Band
Great Malvern Hotel

Radio Nasties
Café Rene, Gloucester

Saturday 7 September 2013

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Freewater
Callow End Village Hall, Worcester

Cassini (Adam Zindani Stereophonics)
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

It's the Roots that makes the fruits
Abie's Miracle Tonic, Gren Bartley, Mellow Peaches
The Artrix, Bromsgrove (studio)

The Official Receivers
The Artrix, Bromsgrove (Theatre)

Crowded Out
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Woo Town
The Chestnut, Worcester

Nostalgia
Moochers, Stourbridge

Skint
Pillar of Salt

Mr Wolf
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Social Ignition, Blackballed, Stevie Jones & The
Wildfires & Humdrum Express
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Boogie Street
Pavillion, Worcester

Woo Town
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Reflections
The White Hart, Redditch

Dave Onions
Piesse of Piddle, Pershore

The Filthy Kind, Ronin, This Wicked Tongue
Re- con, Malvern

Sunday 8 September 2013

Sunday Shenanigans – Open Mic night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Woo Town
White Bear Tewksbury

Aquarius
The Coppertops, Worcester

Unplugged Sunday
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Jam night
Oast House Redditch

Monday 9 September 2013

Folk sessions
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Dave Onions Open Mic
Cock and Magpir, Bewdley

Open Mic night
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 10 September 2013

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Jon Gomm
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 11 September 2013

Keve from Murmur
The Masons Arms in Wichford

Acoustic Music Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

The Exiles
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Laurence Jones Band
Café Rene, Gloucester

Marzys' Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Open Mic
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Thursday 12 September 2013

Cracker and the Woodpeckers
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Andy Kershaw
Moochers, Stourbridge

Perry Fosters Open Mic Night
The Chestnut, Worcester

Drum Love adult workshop – all Abilities
Angel Centre, Worcester

Luke Warm and the Cold Fronts
Great Malvern Hotel

Acoustic Brew
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 13 September 2013

Captain Hotknives
Café Rene, Gloucester

Punk in yer eyes : Stiff Joints as you never seen them
before. As 5 fave Punk Bands The Ramones, Dead
Kennedys, The Misfits
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The M42's
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Kirk Shuttleworth
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Quo Motion
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Ron Jeremy Band
Drummonds, Worcester

Stomping on Spiders
Great Malvern Hotel

The Old Dance School, Marie-Claire Berreen
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Carnage Club Presents
Hesked from Norway, Local boys Opium Lord and
Manchester's Esoteric Youth
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Beautiful Sound (Beautiful South Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Aquarius
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Delray Rockets
The Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

Saturday 14 September 2013

Moonshakers
Pavillion, Worcester

Brightside Promotions – Luke Jackson
Rowney Green Village Hall, Birmingham

Highroller
Callow End Village Hall, Worcester

Jam night
Oast House Redditch

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

Becca and the Sound
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Four Flights Up
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Heed The Thunder, Vo Fletcher, Catherine Howe,
Becca Roberts, Tyler Massey
Saint Peters Church, Malvern

Moochers' House Band
Moochers, Stourbridge

Esther Turner
Great Malvern Hotel

Tommy Gun
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

All Star Dub Band
Boars Head, Kidderminster

TBA
The Chestnut, Worcester

Aquarius
The Black Star, Stourport

Answer Back
Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

Massive Head Trauma, Gobi, Da Vinci
The Marris Bar, Worcester

A Masked Ball: Recorded at the Arts Centre Melbourne
Number 8, Pershore

The Treorchy Male Choir
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 15 September 2013

Unplugged Sunday
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Barry Cuda & The Sharks
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunday Shenanigans – Open Mic night
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Lazy Sunday
Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop

Dave Onions
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

The Lazy Sunday
Cafe Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester

Monday 18 September 2013

Open Mic night
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 17 September 2013

John Cooper Clarke and guests
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Stuart Woolfenden
The Roadhouse, Kings Norton, Birmingham

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Wednesday 18 September 2013

Delray Rockets
The Adam and Eve, Digbeth, Birmingham

Marzys' Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Lewis Craven Band
Café Rene, Gloucester

Open Mic
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Adam and Dan from Ocean Colour Scene
The Masons Arms in Wichford

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Murmur
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Drum Love adult workshop – all Abilities
Angel Centre, Worcester

Thursday 19 September 2013

Tenor UnLimited: 10th Anniversary Tour
Number 8, Pershore

Zinthia and Mike
Great Malvern Hotel

Acoustic Brew
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Keith Thompson Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Stourbridge Folk Club presents David Gibb & Elly Lucas
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge (cellar)

National Talk like a Pirate Day
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Friday 20 September 2013

HangFire at the Rock n Metal Circus Fest
Stoke Prior Bromsgrove

The Official Receivers
Drummonds, Worcester

Foo Fighters The Tribute
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Remedy
Moochers, Stourbridge

Delray Rockets
The Queen's Head, Wolverley, Nr Kidderminster

Junction 7
The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Ghouls
Café Rene, Gloucester

Hyperreality + Guests
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Pure Instinct
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Woo Town
Antelope, Warwick

Aquarius
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Junction 7
Millers Arms, Pershore

Slowburner
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

The Exiles
Great Malvern Hotel

Saturday 21 September 2013

KAF Fundraiser. featuring Lewis Spelt backwards,
Alex Round and More TBA
Boars Head, Kidderminster

A.K.A.
Pavillion, Worcester

Henry Sandon: Potaholic
Number 8, pershore

Themid-Land Regulators
Callow End Village Hall, Worcester

HangFire at the Rock n Metal Circus Fest
Stoke Prior Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Vo & Tyler
The Chestnut, Worcester

Ann Duggan Band
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Memory Tones
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Aquarius
The Swan Inn, Worcester

The Reflections
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Hard Drive
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Sunday Shenanigans - Open Mic night
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Capital
Pillar of Salt

Slowburner
The Vaults, Bishops Castle

Sunday 22 September 2013

Nick Harper, Gaz Brookfield
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Tash
The Halfway House, Fernhill Heath

HangFire at the Rock n Metal Circus Fest
Stoke Prior Bromsgrove

Jam night
Oast House Redditch

Unplugged Sunday
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Time Enough
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gastric Band
Grapevaults, Leominster

Monday 23 September 2013

Folk sessions
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Dave Onions Open Mic
Cock and Magpir, Bewdley

Open Mic night
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 24 September 2013

ConFab Cabaret, Ash Dickinson, Fanny Libido, Shambollix,
Loungetoad, Adrian Mealing, Amy Rainbow, Fox Pops
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Folk Night
Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Wednesday 25 September 2013

Hereford Live Presents their Launch Night:
Red Room Therapy, Linerunners, Skrewfaze, Key
Green, Jennifer Booton, Bandonium , Arthur
Mills and the Black Eyed Fridays + More tbc
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Gloucester Studio 'Best of Glos' Acoustic Night
Café Rene, Gloucester

Gwyn Ashton
The Masons Arms in Wichenford

Matt Woosey
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Marzys' Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Open Mic
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Thursday 26 September 2013

Drum Love adult workshop - all Abilities
Angel Centre, Worcester

Open Mic @ Worcester Uni
The Pear Tree, Worcester

Grey Goose Blues Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Aytch & Co
ReCon, Great Malvern

Acoustic Brew
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

James Hickman and Dan Cassidy
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge (celler)

Stuart Woofenden
Great Malvern Hotel

Friday 27 September 2013

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys
Moochers, Stourbridge

Sax Appeal
Millers Arms, Pershore

Cabstars
Café Rene, Gloucester

Hannah Dallas and the Button Down Souls
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Ujahn
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Pull Unplugged
Great Malvern Hotel

Ronin
Stone Manor Hotel, Stone Hill, Kidderminster

Mother Popcorn
Drummonds, Worcester

The Hey Riders plus Rockabilly DJ
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Reflections
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Saturday 28 September 2013

Emily Maguire
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Reload
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Flat Stanley
Boars Head, Kidderminster

New Hope Charirty Presents:
Jasper in the Company of Others
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jo Caulfield: Better the Devil You Know
Number 8, pershore

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

Acorns Charity Gig with Journeyman
Callow End Village Hall, Worcester

Trevor Burton
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Woo Town
The Swan, Hanley Swan

Breach of the Peace
Pavillion, Worcester

Thunderdaze
Moochers, Stourbridge

Ricky Cool Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ronin
The Secret Venue, Pearson Street, Brierly Hill

Parkin Lot
Kings Arms, Beoley Rd, Town Centre, Redditch

TBA
The Chestnut, Worcester

Junction 7
The Talbot, Worcester

Perry Fosters Open Mic Night
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunday 29 September 2013

Jam night
Oast House Redditch

Unplugged Sunday
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Sunday Shenanigans – Open Mic night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Maddie Stimpson Trio - 5pm
The Chestnut, Worcester

Ark Fest
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern, The Foly Arms, Malvern
Oliver's Wine Bar, Malvern. See Ad on Page 42 for full details

Monday 30 September 2013

Open Mic night
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

THE MARR'S BAR

SEP 2013



Nick Harper - Sunday 22nd Sept

Sunday 1st

Worcester Music Festival
Alex Rainsford, Bethan and the Morgan's, Seas Of Mirth, The Stiff Joints and The Whipjacks
FREE ENTRY

Friday 6th

Metallica (Metallica Tribute)
£5.00 a ticket £7.00 on the door

Saturday 7th

Casino (Adam Zindani *Stereophonics*)
£10.00 a ticket £12.00 on the door
Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)
£2 between 11-12 or £3 12-4

Tuesday 10th

Jon Gomm
£10.00 a ticket £12.00 on the door

Friday 13th

The Beautiful Sound
(Beautiful South Tribute)
£7 a ticket £10.00 on the door

• **Saturday 14th**

• **Massive Head Trauma**
• £3.00 a ticket £5.00 on the door
• **Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)**
• £2 between 11-12 or £3 12-4

• **Friday 20th**

• **Foo Fighters The Tribute**
• £5.00 a ticket £7.00 on the door

• **Saturday 21st - Private Party**

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

• **Sunday 22nd**

• **Nick Harper, Gaz Brookfield**
• £10.00 a ticket £12.00 on the door

• **Friday 27th**

• **Hannah Dallas and**
• **the Button Down Souls**
• £5.00 a ticket £7.00 on the door

• **Saturday 28th**

• **New Hope Charity Night Presents:**
• **Jasper in the Company of Others**
• £3.00 a ticket £5.00 on the door
• **Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)**
• £2 between 11-12 or £3 12-4

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