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Issue 37

May 2014

MAGAZINE

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Hi all and thanks for reading this, our 37th issue
of SLAP - A great issue it is too...

There is so much going on this month I really don't
know where to start! Firstly we've had a record
number of gig listings in so you you may need your
reading glasses for this one. Also, we bring you
more news and information on what's going on in
the three counties than ever before, thanks to our
ever increasing army of contributors not to mention
festival organisers and the artists themselves.

Talking of which we have **Lechfest & Wychwood**
kicking off the festival season to look forward to
this month. Apart from that we have **HellensMusic
2014**: a classical music festival in Much Marcle,
Cheltenham Jazz Festival and **SevernSound Beer
& Music Festival** here in Worcester, not to mention
the **Upton Folk & Stourbridge Blues** festivals this
May too. All good stuff and something for everyone!

We have more arts news than ever before too with
all the latest from the **Worcester Arts Workshop**,
The Boars Head Gallery and the **Malvern Cube** in
addition to news from the **Worcestershire Arts
Partnership**.

Looking back on April it has to be said that **Record
Store Day** was a huge success across the region for
independent shops and vinyl junkies alike. With live
bands, DJs and 'record' record sales, everyone's a
winner. We had our first taste of summer over the
Easter bank holiday and with two bank holidays in
May to look forward to, let's hope the weather can
keep us all smiling throughout the merry month of
May.

Egg Ed

Our cover photograph is of our featured band
Merrymouth, taken by **Mark Hoy** on location at the
Oddfellows Arms in Astwood Bank.

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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



Here's to you Dean...

There's a strong local connection as the acclaimed West End hit *The Simon And Garfunkel Story* visits the Courtyard in Hereford on Friday 16 May - with Dean Elliott from Lower Wick in Worcester taking the part of Paul Simon - with ex-Zebedy Rays' drummer Josh Powell also performing with the live band... The tour takes in over 40 theatres countrywide including Artrix in Bromsgrove on 23rd May and Roses in Tewkesbury the following night.



Record Store Day Rises

Seems like it was a great day for music fans and independent record shops over the country as the punters turned out in numbers to support the seventh annual Record Store Day - with queues forming at Rise Records in both Worcester and Cheltenham well before they opened at 8am! Carnival Records in Malvern, Rapture in Evesham and Death & Glory Records in Redditch had an equally successful day and all venues featured a tasteful selection of live music to entertain the happy shoppers throughout the day!



Kennedy Comeback

Described as 'the most outlandish and charismatic star of classical music' - and also the best-selling classical violinist of all - ex Malvern phenomenon Nigel Kennedy returns to the Hills

for two evenings at Malvern Theatres paying tribute to the music of Bach and Fats Waller in his *Back To The Future* show which also features his own compositions...

Ashdown VW Action

Motors and music are the theme of the first Dubs In The Middle festival at Ashdown Farm Evesham from June 6-8 with plenty of VW 'action' promised! They'll also be celebrating the 70th anniversary of D-Day with an on-site WW2 Army camp - local acts on the bill will include Ronin, Calm Like A Riot, Hennessee, Sally Haines and Stompin' On Spiders - nice!

Mayor makes Music for Maggs

Seems like the Mayor of Worcester has pretty good taste in music as she's picked Remi Harris, Kings Of Folk and Charlie Boswell to star in her charity concert at the Guildhall on Saturday 31 May. Councillor Pat Agar will host the event herself - a joint venture between Worcester City Council and Worcester Music Festival in aid of Maggs Day Centre, St Paul's Hostel and Asha Women's Centre - and she promises a 'foot-tapping night of first-class entertainment'!

Worcester Music Fest work on Line Up

Acts from as far as Japan and Mexico have applied to play this year's Worcester Music Festival out of a record total of nearly 1100 - work has now started to reduce these to the 250 slots available at the city-wide event from August 29-31 - with this year's good cause being Worcestershire Young Carers...

Astiwood Blues

It turns out that the spiritual home for blues in Worcester is Astwood Road - according to Blues In The Fold organiser Oliver Carpenter who says they get more applications from this short street than anywhere else in the county! If you're a resident you'll be able to enjoy a free thank-you drink courtesy of the festival at Bransford on Saturday 5 July!

Tina Trying Now

Worcester singer Tina V is set to release her debut single "I'm Trying Now" at Canadian Music Week in Toronto, where she is due to perform alongside other major British acts such as Ellie Goulding, The 1975 and M.I.A. Canadian Music Week, which runs over 5 days and nights, is one of North America's largest music industry events, with over 3000 delegates from around the world visiting to attend a series of seminars and other conference events. The



Dave Grubb

evening entertainment involves over 1000 international acts spread across 60 venues throughout the city. Tina was invited to perform at this year's CMW by CIMA (the Canadian Independent Music Association), and will perform on 7th May at the **Marriott Hotel Convention Centre** where all the conference events take place - an ideal opportunity to make an impression after the rigours of the day are over.

Malvern Rocks up!

Malvern Rocks applications are now closed. The festival has had a great response from bands and performers registering to play this year and the organisers are pleased with the geographical spread of those applying. They've had people from as far north as Lancaster and as far south as London apply to play with a large amount of interest from all around the Midlands. So along with some Malvern Rocks regulars, expect some new names and new acts when the line up is announced on the 19th May. Malvern Rocks t-shirts will be available soon with a choice of sizes and colours. Buy them from the website or at any of the Warm Up gigs, the first of which is at the Great Malvern Hotel on May 2nd, featuring the Lewis Boulton Band, Stealth and Connie Gordon as the festival begins to simmer for the summer.

Unicorn Extinct - Re Con Return

It seems that every week another pub closes down and this week it's the Unicorn in Malvern. A regular music venue, the inn is one of the oldest buildings in the town but successive landlords have had trouble making it work with an unsympathetic brewery calling the shots. Whether someone else takes it on or whether the brewery installs their own manager remains to be seen. Meanwhile those who used to frequent the place to shoot pool can pop down Church Street to the newly re-opened Re-con which now has two tables!

Bromsgrove Festival Update

Although the Bromsgrove Festival brochure itself has been finalised and sent to the printer, organisers can still contact us to have any further events included on both the Festival and Bromsgrove Arts Alive websites. Please do so at info@bromsgrovethefestival.co.uk

Brochures can be picked up at Artrix, Avoncroft Museum, local libraries, shops and coffee houses as well as at the various venues where events are to take place.

With nearly 80 events scheduled over the period from 14th June to 20th July, ranging from folk music to classical, spoken word, visual arts exhibitions, street performances, dance displays and dance events, it promises to be a very busy summer in Bromsgrove. All of these events, together with venue addresses, contact and ticket details can be viewed on the Listings pages at www.bromsgrovethefestival.co.uk.

Debut EP for Done By Sunrise

Local indie-pop act, Done By Sunrise, have been doing the rounds of gigs, festivals and open mic nights for the past two years, honing their sound and perfecting their live performance. But over the last 6 months they have been putting together their debut EP *Home* due for release on May 25th.



The family trio, who are renowned for their upbeat catchy hooks and riffs, have played gigs supporting the likes of One Direction, Girls Aloud and JLS. Having also played gigs in Ibiza they are lined up to play at the LG Arena again on Friday 16th May, before Little Mix. As well as another gig on the White Isle of Ibiza they are back on the lineup to open Sunshine Festival (previously Upton Festival) at the end of August.

For more on the 5 track EP go to donebysunrise.co.uk and join them on facebook.com/donebysunrise

SevernSounds Beer & Music Festival

SevernSounds Festival is now in its second year, after making just shy of £1000 for charity. The festival is now based at Pavilion in the Park and has some amazing acts to be looking forward to. It is raising money for both St Richards Hospice and New Hope.



BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND SPECIAL

Featuring a stack of local artists such as Jasper in the Company of Others, Time of the Mouth, Done By Sunrise, Abby Inez, Ben Stancombe, Lauren Wright plus much much more who are all giving up their time for this event. There will be raffle and also a beer festival. SevernSounds hopes to showcase young acts and upcoming talents for the city to see.

Saturday 24th May - 3pm - 11.30pm

Sunday 25th May - 3pm - 11.30pm

Monday 26th May - 12noon - 7pm

www.severnsoundsfestival.co.uk

www.facebook.com/severnsounds

www.twitter.com/severnsoundsfes

www.strichards.org.uk

www.newhopeworcester.co.uk

ARTS Round-Up with Kate Cox

It's really quite exciting to see how Worcester has developed artistically, and this month shows that we have what it takes! With street performances, experimental film, local buskers at **The Malvern Spring Show** and the weird and wonderful ('if you dare') **Fools Ball**, not to mention all the festivals on the horizon at which you can see Worcestershire based artists, performers and musicians, there is much to see and do which will tickle those creative tastebuds!

Clik Clik is getting ready for the finest, sleaziest, cattiest, jazziest photo booth style fun and games at **Swingamajig Festival** in Birmingham this month (as well as some surprise outings)! Come find the cool cats and put your face in our



people can have a go and have some fun. Get propped up with fake moustaches, and then snapped forever on the wall of shame!

You can also see Clik Clik shenanigans this month at **Wychwood Festival**, Cheltenham with some fine processions and musical experiences, featuring **Collective 43**.

For more info go to www.clickclickcollective.com

Film a go-go

It's really great to see film stepping up a gear in the region and this month we have four delicious helpings. **The Boars Head**, Kidderminster starts a chain of events screening weird and wonderful films from all around the globe kicking off with **Richard Elfman's 'Forbidden Zone'** on Sunday 18th at 7pm (FREE), **Weekend Cube** (Malvern) re-launches its community led **Film Club** on Fri 30th and **Worcester Film Society** started last month at the **Hive**, both of which are membership only events so get out to the **Cube** & **The Hive** to find out how to sign up. Plus there is 'Watch This Space' films at the **Marrs Bar** last Tuesday of the month. Slap will keep you updated about all of these local film clubs so keep looking and get watching!

Cubism

After the huge success of the **Laetitia Sadier** gig, this month the amazing **Malvern Cube** has more to celebrate with a family fun day on Sun 4th May, a brand new café called **The Cake Tin** with the best soup I've ever eaten, **Fishhead** from **Reaction Theatre Makers** on 10th (see preview page 25) and the relaunch of the **Malvern Film Club** on Fri 30th May. Plus look out for some more really exciting live music very soon! A community space led by the community! Super. For more info go to:

www.malvern-cube.com

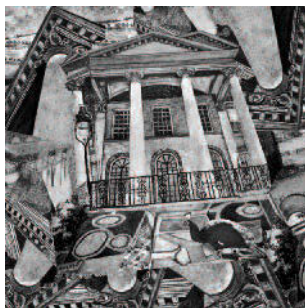
Pentabus

Pentabus Theatre tours a new production this month 'Every Brilliant Thing' by **Duncan MacMillan** is a play about depression and the lengths we will go for those we love. With each performance involving members of the audience, 'Every Brilliant Thing' evolves in a unique way producing a dynamic and touching story based on true (and untrue) stories.

You can see this production at **The Hive** in Worcester on 20th May – for more info go to www.thehiveworcester.org

Take a peek at.... HND Graphic Design Final Show

The institution that is **Barbourne School of Art** is moving this summer to a new building in the centre of town so here is one last chance to have a look at the building, reminisce for all you old art students AND check out some new work at the same time! **Barbourne School of Art**, Worcester Tuesday 6th May 7pm til 9pm



Kitty Kovacevic – 'A Distant Destination'

An exhibition inspired by local architecture but with a twist! Collage, print and drawing is used to create visionary landscapes that merge the ideal with reality. Local landmarks are mixed up and reconfigured to encourage the viewer to reconsider their everyday environment. 8th – 28th May Number 8, Pershore.

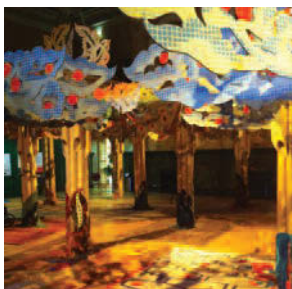
www.number8.org

The Shutter Crew – Wychavon & Dementia

This exhibition at **Evesham Arts Centre** this month shows a series of photos taken at arts workshops for those affected by dementia in the Wychavon area, aimed to decrease isolation and improve well-being. "Seeing how something as simple as song, dance or creative art could enlighten and enrich the lives of those in care was a real joy." – Paul Dyer, The Shutter Crew. Contact jenny.davis@wychavon.gov.uk 01386 565396 for more info. **Evesham Arts Centre**, until 30th June. www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk

A fruitful Forest

At Kidderminster Arts Festival last year I was lucky enough to experience the tranquility of the Brinton's Carpet Forest, a beautiful forest constructed inside Kidderminster Town Hall. Made



from recycled carpet and materials, this sound and visual experience was the creation of Worcestershire artists Jo and Kate De Burgh (known as PLANET), who specialise in recycled art installations. The sisters from Malvern usually work in recycled plastic and this was the first time they had used carpet and cardboard, which was complimented with sound and lighting from Heather Wastie, Andy Edwards and Dragon Leisure and all brought together by Loz Samuels.

If you didn't go, great news! This remarkable and tactile installation will be on display again, this time at All Hallows Hall in Easton, Bristol between the 7th-15th June. www.allhallowshall.co.uk

The busk stops here...

The Malvern Spring Garden Show is building a fresh face this year. Marie Oldaker is coordinating a series of busk stops throughout the weekend and is looking to fill the last few slots. She dropped me a few words...

"A lovely Busk in the countryside sound your cup of tea? Fancy a change of scenery from playing on high streets? The organisers of the well loved annual Spring Garden Show in Malvern have changed its name and want their event to have more of a festival atmosphere this year. They feel a wide variety of high quality, impromptu music across the showground will help achieve this - absolutely right, it will! Four Busk Stops will be dotted around the festival site and we still have some slots available for any buskers out there who are interested and available on either the 8th, 9th or 11th May (10th is full!)."

For more information, please contact Marie as soon as possible at: oldaker_m@hotmail.com / 0785 559 5287

One of our Warhol's is missing!



computer who paid the artist to produce a series of works to aid the launch of the Amiga 1000.

A dozen previously unknown works created by Andy Warhol have been recovered from 30-year-old disks as an experiment produced in 1985 by Warhol under commission from Commodore - creator of the Amiga

The digital images were discovered and recovered by staff and students who are members of Carnegie Mellon University's computer club. Reverse engineering of the format helped to recover the images many of which turned out to be signed electronic facsimiles of Warhol's more famous creations. In total 18 images were recovered, a dozen of which are signed by Warhol.

The discovery and recovery project has been filmed for a documentary that will be shown in a online in May at www.nowseethis.org

Fools Ball Preview by Martin Wilkes

On May 24th Collective Unconscious will be hosting the third Fools Ball at a currently secret location in Worcester. Promising a mix of live music, DJs and interactive performance, the Fools Ball will once again create an immersive and unforgettable experience that will leave attendees talking for weeks to come. Previous events have included a combination of national and local bands including Robinson and Brighton-based Birdeatsbaby along with internationally recognised performance artists such as Dani Ploeger (whose manhood was sucked into a vacuum cleaner) and Louise Orwin (who granted participants fifteen minutes to use her as their own personal Barbie Doll). Artistic Director Mark Ellis hinted at a few of the experiences audiences could expect:



"We're really pleased that we can bring this event to Worcester and we're really keen to push the boat out and make this the best Fools Ball yet. This new venue is like something out of a David Lynch movie. It really suits our overall intention and we're really excited about how people are going to respond to the environment and the artistic work we've put together for the night."

The event, as is now traditional, will be masquerade and audiences are encouraged to have fun dressing up for the occasion (although it's not essential) -

"Dress to dance! That's the most important. We want people to feel like they can step outside of their everyday lives for the evening. Become somebody different and we invite people to accentuate some side of themselves that they'd like to explore. Darker... more sexual maybe. But we realise it's not everybody's cup of tea and everyone is, of course, welcome. It's all about having a good time - not conforming to some kind of dictatorial dress code."

It definitely sounds like the Fools Ball is in the running for Worcester's strangest and most unique event. "If people don't think "What the f***?" at least once in the evening then I think we've failed. Given what we've got planned I doubt that will be the case."

For more information (including the location and line-up when it's released) see Facebook - [tinyurl.com/foolsball](https://www.facebook.com/foolsball) Earlybird tickets priced at £6.50 (plus booking fee) are still available from [tinyurl.com/foolsballtickets](https://www.tinyurl.com/foolsballtickets)



First bands confirmed for WMF 2014

The first 100 acts have been booked for this year's Worcester Music Festival as the event's trusty band of promoters get stuck into filling around 150 remaining slots from over 1,100 applications.

WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Local highlights on the bill include instrumental rockers **The Broken Oak Duet**, who played at Rise record shop on World Record Store Day, **Granny's Attic**, who made the final five in this year's Young Folk Award at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, and stutter-poppers **God Save The King**.



Broken Oak Duet by Roy Jenkins

Audiences can also catch Worcester folk act **Bitterroots**, indie rock three-piece **The Crooked Empire**, gifted guitarist **Claire Boswell**, and 14-year-old singer-songwriter **Jodie Hughes**, whose band came second in the UK Battle of the Bands in 2010, when she was just nine.

From the county, the festival is set to welcome the likes of Stourbridge math rockers **Constant Waves**, Malvern pop punk band **Dogs of Santorini**, Kidderminster's **Marina Del Ray**, Evesham folk outfit **Skinny River**, and Inkberrow looper **Tom Forbes**, who played at the O2 Academy 3 in 2013.

A few highlights from beyond county borders include Birmingham's reggae/pop **XOVA**, who took Cafe Bliss at Worcester Arts Workshop by storm at last year's festival, and instrumental rockers **Arbour Lights**, as well as Somerset's rumbustious, balkan-inspired folk sextet, **M.O.D.**

Festival goers can see Cambridge folk rockers **Fred's House**, who have had airplay on BBC 6 Music, and London's **Kill Bill**-esque, Japanese pop rock trio, **No Car**.

The festival has also had a re-brand to bring it into line with today's vibrant festival scene, with a new-look website! Stay up-to-date WMF 2014, visit www.wumufest.co.uk, Facebook and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest. You can also sign up to the e-newsletter at the website.



XOVA by Siani Price

Preview - Reaction Theatre Makers | FishHead Tour



Reaction Theatre Makers are currently doing a national tour with an original contemporary play '**FishHead**'. They received backing from the Arts Council, and the play has received rave reviews since **FishHead** piloted at the Mac Birmingham.

FishHead is a highly visual, stimulating and visceral piece, as well as an intriguing story about friendship and following simple dreams. The play takes place in and around a pristine and beautifully

lit perspex cube, which floods the piece with a mystical, watery atmosphere. It is brought alive through music, which adds to the plays emotional intensity and oceanic depth. Suited dancers wash over the set with flowing choreography that transforms the cube from caravan to boat to cliff top in this unforgettable fishy tale.

This fascinating play tells the story of an oyster fisherman and a ventriloquist on the beach. It moves and uplifts the

audience, ebbing and flowing and carrying you away on a powerful emotional current, submerging you in it's charm.

Midlands based theatre group **Reaction Theatre Makers**, are a collective of Midlands based artists, creating innovative, cross art visual theatre. They tell stories that focus on mental wellbeing and our changing environment. They aim to create quirky, abstract theatre that is also accessible and enjoyable, balancing theatre as a tool for social change as well as entertainment. They have collaborated with **Worcester University** creating dance sequences that slot into the piece. They hope to expand this collaboration with other dance and performance students from other Universities.

Jessica Charles

Local tour dates

Saturday 10th May 8pm
Malvern Cube Malvern
 Thursday May 22nd 8pm
Worcester Arts Workshop
 Thursday 29th May 8pm
Hellens Manor, Much Marcle
 Tuesday 10th June 8pm
AE Harris Birmingham

THE BHG

Hello There!

We have got rid of those smelly wellies and festival types from our festival show, although there might be some



tatters still lurking under the tables, who knows! Its been good fun with an indoor festival for the month but nice to breathe again! Many thanks to Gaz, Paul, the Nozstock crew and Saffron Toms for making a brilliant show. Next up we have a veteran BHG artist who will be holding his first solo show in the gallery.



Painting under the name 'Deeds', Dom Dunlea has been making stencil art for over 25 years, and has been involved in the UK street art for many years, making regular appearances at paint jams across the country. Dom's work has been exhibited as far afield as Australia, and has been sold in America, Israel and

Europe. Dom was also responsible for the original, **Subway Deluxe** projects, which saw the artwork created in the subways. In a move away from stencil art, this exhibition, entitled '**Not Cut Out For This**' sees the artist experimenting in different styles, including his unsettling shadowy



figures, which have proved a bit of a hit over the last few years. To find out more about the artist, go to facebook.com/deedsart or @deedstencils on Twitter and instagram.

Making his BHG debut will also be Junior stencil mastermind, **Mr Mind Control** aka Aidan Ryan. Aidan is only 13 years old and has been inspired by the current street art including the notorious Banksy. Since visiting The BHG and witnessing the artwork in the **Comberton Hill** subways, he has been inspired by more local talents. He has now taken up stencil art for himself and even



painted on the walls for last years '**Above Boards**' project which saw the decoration of the subways and abandoned buildings on Worcester Street. His other influences include comics & BMXing and was also inspired by a recent tour of the street art in Brighton.

Aidan was over the moon when Dom asked him to be part of his show

The show is launching on Friday 4th June at The BHG (Boars Head Gallery) from 7pm. There will be live tunes from local DJs and admission will be free. There will be music downstairs from Neck.

As usual we will have **Life Drawing** on Thurs 1st May
Swap and Sew on Monday 19th May
and **Stencil Workshops** on Saturday 4th May
Many Thanks and see you all soon - Coz x

Add The BHG, Boars Head Gallery on facebook to see examples of my artwork, artwork of the others involved and upcoming events: facebook.com/pages/The-BHG-Boars-Head-Gallery-Kidderminster/236156199742477

For information about The BHG and The Boars Head visit our website www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk/

For Gallery information please email Coz at gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

Worcestershire County Arts News with Steve Wilson

Hi, I am writing to update you on the progress of the Worcestershire Arts Partnership.

The Partnership was created in 2010 with the aim of bringing together as many different arts and non arts stakeholders throughout the county. These included arts organisations and artists and local authority officers but also we wanted to bring together the many other sectors who may use the arts to fulfil other objectives such as those who work in health and children and young people. Broadly the vision was to place artists, arts organisations in the centre of the partnership and to provide as many different and varied services and opportunities for them.

To develop this further we set up a Steering Group, Sub Groups and an Advisory Group. We have run events such as arts and health symposiums, seminars on income generation and have also used the partnership as a way of getting the arts placed at the heart of public sector



**CHAMPIONING THE ARTS
THROUGH PARTNERSHIP**

agendas. We now have around 80 active members of the Partnership.

In 2013 we applied for some development funding from the Arts Council and were delighted to have been awarded two year funding. This will be primarily to do three things:

- Look at operating models of the Partnership.
- To give the sub groups funding for events and projects
- Write a new business plan/strategy for the Partnership.

The operating model is important for us. As some of you may know public funding has been severely cut over the last four years and this is something that is likely to remain at best challenging. For us to develop we need to think carefully about how we operate. We need to be an organisation that can operate and trade in a way which complements the existing arts offer in the county. It needs to be able to respond to the ever changing arts climate but to also not compete with the organisations and artists working in the county.

The Sub Groups need to develop interesting and innovative arts projects and events. The projects need to show how the arts can work in different sectors, both public and private and our events need to create long term sustainability in the sector.

Our new business plan/strategy needs to be more than a document that gathers dust in a corner of county hall. It needs to have meaning, be able to deliver on projects and have clear outcomes.

So – how can you be involved in this? On a practical basis sign up to our blog on:

worcsartspartnership.blogspot.co.uk/ or like us on facebook too (Worcestershire Arts Partnership).

We are running a series of arts events over the next two years so again come along to one of these – next one is called The Art of Festivals which takes place on the 8th of May at Tenbury. If you fancy coming along or want to find out more email artsenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk

I will be writing regular updates on the Partnership to let you all know how we are getting on with it.

Have a great spring and thanks to all those who work so hard in keeping the arts alive in the county.

Steve Wilson – County Arts Officer

A green and white poster for 'Blues at the Fold No 6'. The title 'BLUES AT THE FOLD' is in large, stylized green letters. Below it, 'No 6' is in a green circle. The poster lists featured acts: Wily Bo and Mescal Cantone Troubadours, Vincenty Platts Final Drive, The Official Receivers, The Blues Duo Tommy Allen & Johnny Hewitt, Mumbo-Jumbo Steve Morrison, and '...AND MORE'. It also mentions 'LIVE MUSIC 2-11PM', 'TICKETS £13 FOR THE WHOLE DAY', and '£15 FROM 1/7/14'. The date 'SATURDAY 5 JULY 2014' and venue 'LIVE AT THE FOLD' are prominently displayed. The location 'BRANSFORD, WORCESTER WR6 5JB' and time '1PM - 11PM' are at the bottom. The website 'WWW.BLUESATTHEFOLD.CO.UK' is at the very bottom. There are small photos of musicians and a QR code.

Abby Inez

Abby Inez, an unsigned singer-songwriter from Droitwich, is aiming to pursue a career in the music industry after her track reached the dizzy heights of Number 7 in the iTunes Singer-Songwriter Charts.

Abby, a former Worcester Sixth Form College student, released her debut EP, *Say What You Think* on Easter Sunday (April 20th) and it started climbing the charts.

"It's crazy really because it is just so unexpected. I was really happy when it went to 68 and I thought, 'imagine if it went to top 50', and it just kept going up and up through all the way to the top 10."

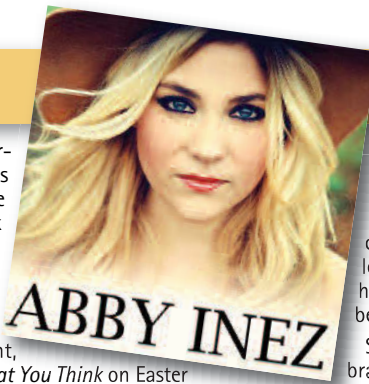
She credits her local support and fan base with helping her to have an internet hit, as well as the power of people sharing her work via Facebook and Twitter.

"I'm just hoping to keep the ball rolling and I'm going to start writing again."

Abby is now preparing for one of her biggest gigs to date, when she will appear at the LG Arena in Birmingham ahead of Katy Perry's concert on Wednesday, May 14 and also has a BBC Introducing Recording session lined up in the beginning of May.

She also recently followed her dream by travelling to Nashville in America to meet producers and play gigs.

For more information, go to www.abbyinez.com or www.facebook.com/abbyinez.



Say What You Think

Everybody loves a success story. I first saw Worcester Based acoustic country pop artist and singer songwriter Abby Inez perform nearly two years ago, still a college student with a passion and a lot to learn. What has she done since then? She has learnt, she has experienced and she has begun to rise.

Single '*Say What You Think*' taken off the brand new EP of the same name is the perfect concoction and centre point between

great British singer songwriter acoustic pop and Nashville country music. You really can hear the influence of the Tennessee from the strongly accented American singing voice, the upbeat country feel and simply, the instrument choice.

It's not just me who likes it either, at the time of going to press, Abby has peaked with the single at 7 in the iTunes singer songwriter chart alongside the likes of Ed Sheeran. The 18 year old has also recently travelled over to the home of country music itself, Nashville, to meet with producers and play shows in venues such as the prestigious Bluebird Café.

You can stay up to date with her and find out tour dates including a support slot for Katy Perry's Birmingham stop on the Prismatic World Tour via her official Facebook page, you can stream the three track EP on Soundcloud and Spotify, and safely download it from iTunes.

You may want to keep an eye on this one, it seems the sky is not the limit.

Dom Beale

Banksy hits Cheltenham with poignant new artwork



A piece of street art was found on the side of a house in Cheltenham that is believed to be the work of renowned, anonymous artist Banksy.

It is believed to be a stab at GCHQ, which is based in Cheltenham. This is typical of the political and social remark Banksy makes, often criticizing the establishment and the government with satirical murals. It has the hallmarks of a Banksy piece.

Mum of 5, Karen Smith heard voices outside her house one morning, and was stunned when she found the mural of three men with listening devices eavesdrop on the telephone box they are surrounding. The artwork has doubled the price of the house.

In 2007 a piece of wall art on the side of a public toilet in Evesham was also believed by many to be a Banksy, however there was a similar piece nearby which had the tag "Jukebox hero," which when searched led to a MySpace page of a local wall artist.

Jessica Charles



worcester arts workshop

Well, the Lazy Sunday season got off to a cracking start with a full house (i.e. a packed courtyard and café) for the glittering line-up on April 13th. The sun shone all day – thanks universe! – and we're hoping for similar meteorological blessings for the May gig on Sunday 11th.

Headlining will be the wonderful Robinson – local hero – and also on the bill are Ali Fawcett (male solo acoustic), Portia Reed (also acoustic – a lovely, haunting voice) and Martin Thorne and Company – a fantastic fusion of east-meets-west blues. His band features John M Charles on sitar, Lorna Joy Davies on cello, Sam Ware on percussion and Martin on blues guitar and vocals.

Speaking of which, Martin played a great solo set at the launch of our latest exhibition(s) last Friday night. He would do! – he is one of the artists, with his amazing ivy sculptures gracing the courtyard and gallery. His work is titled 'Evolutionary Steps', which ties in nicely with Andy Robert's 'En Brogue' – an exhibition of mid-century and modernist inspired prints, illustration and photography. Andy, of speakersfive, is a graphic designer (and friend of the Workshop) whose love of this period was reflected in his dapper appearance at the launch – wearing the brogues to boot, as these shows are a real shoo-in. (Enough puns – Ed.)

The Vamos Theatre mask-making workshop on Sat April 12th was a sell out and hugely enjoyed by all who took part. Rachael Savage of Vamos led the day, demonstrating



en-Brogue

An exhibition of mid-century and modernist inspired prints, illustrations and photography

22nd April – 17th May 2014

at Café Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop

Visit worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk for details



May 11th 1-6pm

Lazy Sunday

Andy Robinson

Martin Thorne & Company

Portia Reed 

Ali Fawcett

Free Entry

Worcester Arts Workshop



each stage in the process of making a mask from a sculpted mould made by each student. This was then transformed via a vacuum press (!) into a plastic mask, which was later 'undercoated' and decorated – defining its character. A long day and hard work, but absolutely fascinating! We're pleased to be hosting events for both Worcester LitFest and Worcester Music Festival in June, as well as acting once more as WMF's HQ for the festival itself, come August – details to follow, nearer the time.

Meanwhile, the spring/summer term of courses is about to get underway. Lots of classes – in drawing and painting (life study, oils, watercolour, portraiture, exploration through colour), printing (with an expert tutor from the Birmingham Guild, teaching many fields of the discipline) and textiles. See the website for more details – it's not too late to book yourself in!

The ever-popular Children's Workshops (pottery and craft) on Saturday mornings are now joined by Teenage Art Club (12-16 years) and Allsorts of Performing Arts (pop dance, cheerleading etc). This took off spectacularly in the Easter holidays, with some really fun sessions.

Please phone the office 01905 25053 or, better still, call in to find out more. And if you have any ideas of other creative things which could happen here, please let us know – we're always open to new initiatives and interesting ideas...

Clare Harker



LP Review - I Am Ryan-Friday Nights

A wee whilst ago I had the pleasure of reviewing the debut album by Evesham based quintet **I Am Ryan**, a collection of striking, infectious stadium rock anthems with massive pop hooks creating an instantly memorable debut, that became something of a regular repeat player on the Rhythm & Boogie decks. Now with loads of live experience behind them the band have returned to the studio to record their second album, again with the aid of producer **Dave Draper**.

My initial reaction to their first album was "Why aren't this band massive?!" but listening to *Friday Nights* I now have to jump up and down and scream to the musical powers that be to take notice of **I Am Ryan** right now, because here is a band handmade for stadiums and mass airtime. *Friday Nights* is big, it's bold, it's loud and hosts more anthemic, hands in the air moments than most bands can muster in a lifetime.

From the opening riff and drum bombardment of *Open Your Eyes* you know **I Am Ryan** mean business, by the time the first chorus hits home you're hooked, then there's a tasty little guitar solo a lovely harmony enriched breakdown and a ghostly vocal finale to deal with.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words somehow manages to up the ante even further with some stunning stick work, glistening shards of atmospheric guitar and a powerful, yet equally soulful vocal from frontman **Ryan Corbett**.

The album continues with a masterclass in the art of writing the perfect collection of amped up, fist in the air sing-a-longs such as *Turn The Light Out* or the melodic indie of *Live With What You've Got* with it's marching drums and instantly contagious guitar riff. Then alongside the upbeat

rockers you're served with the likes of the stunning, piano led ballad, *Slow Suicide*, featuring an aching heart wrenching vocal by Mr Corbett and a tasteful string section that further pulls at the listeners' emotions.

Massive shout-outs and respect must also go to *Ghost Town*, a track that oddly reminds me of prime time *Soul Asylum* only with a bigger group chorus, the title track which adds an almost punk like attitude to proceedings and the album's closing, seven minute epic *Jealousy* another brooding number full of atmospheric instrumentation and yet another emotional **Ryan** vocal rollercoaster.

Friday Night dazzles from beginning to end, every track captivating the listener with hooks and drama aplenty. As aforesaid, I truly believe that **I Am Ryan** deserve mass exposure so let's hope the boys can grace a few festival stages this year and begin to generate that attention they so rightfully deserve.

Will Munn



EP Review - Das Sexy Clap - A Bit Early For Kung Fu

The last time I wrote up a review of **Das Sexy Clap** they were a noisy alternative rock duo, since then the band has had something of a restructure, frontman **Chris Wemyss** is now joined by bassist **James Willis** and **Ben Pemberton** on drums, who both help to up the ante even further, to create a wonderfully angry combination of filthy fuzzy rock, hardcore yelping and full on rage on their brand new five track EP, *A Bit Early For Kung Fu*.

Everyone's A Ghost opens proceedings and sets the stall out with a pummeling beat and a howling guitar before developing into a brutal slab of driving, near hardcore, rock complete with a Sabbath like rhythmic groove, frantic, feedback drenched dense riffs and pretty much the most anguished vocal ever committed to record, with **Chris** howling and bellowing as if he was dogged by the hounds of hell.



The EP continues in the same rich vein, with **Das Sexy Clap** somehow submerging groove-laden hooks in a barrage of hard hitting riffs to subliminally seduce the listener whilst simultaneously bludgeoning them over the head, they're sound is infectious yet full of aggression, it's contagious yet razor sharp. *Take Rats!!* for instance, sure there's a big rowdy riff but there's also a melodic groove running alongside that you can't help humming along. Then there's *Wear It*, a track that's based around a wonderfully infectious drum beat that echoes throughout competing with the wall of fuzz ridden guitars. And even during the down tuned, downright filthy sounding EP closer, *Bold In The Dark* the band still manage to hide a repetitive groove that'll have the listener scrambling back for a future spin.

The new look power trio, **Das Sexy Clap** have produced something very special indeed with, *A Bit Early For Kung Fu*, an EP that's full of ferocious, dense hooks and intense grooves. If you like music from the heavier end of the musical spectrum but still want something that draws you in, **Das Sexy Clap** have created the perfect CD!!!!

Will Munn

Re-Con - Re-Boot

One of the things about living in Malvern that makes me happy is the seemingly endless supply of music. Music that ranges from the unsteady delivery of a hastily learned cover from an open mic debutante to the intricate perfection of a musical prodigy.

We've got the whole caboodle; the alpha to omega of musical styles, ability and passion. Over the last decade or so the town has transformed itself. Once, there were a few places putting on music occasionally, now there are lots of live music venues with gigs or open mic sessions happening virtually every night of the week. Great if you're a performer, even better if you're a music lover. But every now and then, there's a hiccup that disturbs our musical nirvana. The latest hiccup was the closure of Re-con, the perfectly sized club-like subterranean venue. Re-con was originally the town's Conservative Club, the haunt of grey-haired, pint-swilling tory types propping up the bar under the stern gaze of Mrs T and old Queenie whose images adorned the walls. When members of Malvern indie band **Easy Tiger** discovered the late night town-centre drinking spot they paid their subs and joined the club and shortly afterwards convinced the landlord to let them play a gig there.

And thus, a new era was born. The **Con Club** became the place to be. The place where everyone went when the pubs closed, the place for music and partying and all that jazz. Alas, all things have their season and the Con Club's was curtailed when the lease came up for renewal. For eight long years it was dark, cold and empty until Neil

Collins took it on just in time for Christmas 2012. With a bit of a spruce up, a sound system and a new floor the venue was reborn as Re-con (the name originating from a SLAP article penned by your humble correspondent). There have been literally hundreds of gigs at Re-con since that snowy opening night. It became the must-play venue of the whole region with bands travelling from far and wide to perform in the dark, cavern-like room. **Mappfests**, **Pyramid Parties** and **Malvern Rocks** have all used the venue while every band around jostled to secure a gig. So, understandably, it surprised everyone when, after twelve months Re-con closed once again. This time however, we have not had to wait long. In a bittersweet move that has seen another town centre pub close down, the landlord at the **Unicorn Inn** has taken on the venue, moving lock, stock, staff and a Monday night open mic session down the road to Re-con.

The walls have been painted chocolate purple and the lounge has been refurbished to fit it with the impeccable taste of the new manager, **Charney**. She is also a Unicorn fixture that has made the move. Good Friday lived up to its name as Bromyard based party band **Hot Feat** played to a contented crowd of pleased punters, happy that the little music club is alive and kicking once more. And the bookings are piling up.

Brit-pop favourites **Dodgy** are there on May 2nd and there is an ever growing list of upcoming performers; **The Way**, **Johnny Kowalski** and the **Sexy Weirdos**, **Beans on Toast**, **Skewwhiff**, **Captain Hotknives**, **Skabucks** . . . with rumours of a Pyramid Party weekend and of course, **Malvern Rocks** in July. Re-con is back. Let's make it stick this time.

RT.

Preview - Dodgy & Tom Forbes | Re Con, Malvern | 2nd May

A great chance to see Dodgy in a warm up show before they hit the road for their first tour of 2014 with the "**Out In The Open**" Acoustic Tour which will feature the first airing of new songs written for their forthcoming album to be released by **Cherry Red**, plus a fine selection of their back catalogue including **HITS**, fan favourites, covers and rarities.

On tour Dodgy will also host an open-mic session for the support slots to tap into the wealth of local talent in the towns that they visit and are inviting local acts to submit their music across the band's social media platforms. An idea that started with Nigel's hugely successful open mic night in Pershore, and then tested rather effectively at their **Borderline** show last month. This show will feature **Tom Forbes**.

If you are (or know) a singer/songwriter and want a chance to play with Dodgy at one of the Open Mic nights then just submit a track or video to Dodgy's twitter or Facebook with

the hashtag **#DodgyOutInTheOpen** + the gig you wish to play. If successful then you get to get 2 songs and a guest in free.

Visit www.dodgyology.com for full tour details.



Review - Paul Lamb & The Kingsnakes | Artrix, Bromsgrove | 4th April

Artrix played Host to Paul Lamb and the Kingsnakes for an evening of blues. Supporting Paul was **Jacksboro Highway**, an acoustic blues trio from Northampton. The lead and rhythm guitars of **Martin Fitzhugh** and **Steve Smith**, joined **Key Buxton** on harmonica, for some classic blues standards from the likes of **Jimmy Reed**, **Sony Boy Williamson**, and **Robert Johnson**. They also gave a nod to more recent artists like **Taj Mahal**, **JJ Cale** and notably a song by **Brian Protheroe**, '*No Snow Blues*', bringing to mind the wonderful '*Pinball*'.

Paul Lamb then strode onto centre stage, a solo harp intro leading to the arrival of **The Kingsnakes**: guitarist **Chad Strentz**, bassist **Rod Demick**, on percussion **Dino Coccia**, and 'new born' **Lamb, Ryan** also on guitar.



Paul then takes on the vocals, mixed with his harp, for '*Ya Ya Blues*' accompanied by **Chad** and the audience really get behind this fun bit of music, played with a bit of bite, crocodile shoes tapping out the rhythm.

Sad to say, there was only a moderate turnout but no matter as the band gave their all and those fortunate to have made the effort were richly rewarded. All joined in for '*Midnight Special*', as the band share mics leading the vocals for this finale..

Well not quite as 2 days later I found my way to the **Prince Of Wales** at **Ledbury**, to find **Paul** and **Chad** galvanising the crowded bar. I joined in for **Gershwin's** '*Summertime*' and enjoyed an hour in the company of the harmonica maestro, accompanied by **Chad** on guitar and vocals. The duo played songs from their worthy and recommended album '*Going Down the Road*'. So in conclusion a superbly entertaining couple of days entertainment.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn



Straight into **Ray Charles** '*Good To Me*', then **Johnny Cash** is given breath with '*Folsom Prison Blues*'. As you would expect **Paul** is mesmerising on his harmonicas, played with such subtlety with **Chad** taking care of most of the vocals. Visually **Ryan**, who obviously enjoys using the stage, his face reflecting the energy of his style, is a perfect target for my lens!

Comedy Zone - Robin Ince | Marris Bar, Worcester | May 22nd

One of the funniest, cleverest and most prolific comedians of our age, **Robin's Ince's** new show, *In and Out of his Mind*, sees him touring around the country and we are lucky enough to have him appear at **The Comedy Zone** at **The Marris Bar** pm Thursday May 22nd (**Morrissey's** birthday as **Robin** pointed out to me!)

In case you haven't heard of this prodigiously talented comedian: What hasn't **Robin Ince** done? He has a long running **Radio 4** show with co-host **Professor Brian Cox**, **The Infinte Monkey Cage**, he has edited **The New Statesman**, appeared in hit **BBC** sitcom **The Office** with **Ricky Gervais**. He is a successful author, regular **Steve Lamacq** guest on **Radio 6** podcast collaborator alongside **Stewart Lee** and **Josie Long**, he is personal friends with **Alan Moore**, the graphic novelist whose work includes **Watchmen** and **V for Vendetta**, he single-handedly organised an end of the world show at the **Hammersmith**

Apollo with guests including **Dara O' Briain**, **Steve Coogan** and **Hugh Grant** and he has performed at **TED** conferences, **Lattitude** festival, **Hay on Wye** literary festival and so much more that I can't actually be bothered to list cos there is no end to this man's talents. Oh and he's appeared on **Mock the Week** and does the best **John Peel** impression ever.

In other words you are in for not only an hilarious but a seriously eclectic and interesting night's entertainment. Come and be shocked and surprised by the limitations and possibilities of your mind.

Tickets are available on ticketweb.co.uk - here to be precise priced at £10 each. 8 o'clock doors for an 8.30pm (ish) start.

It's good to be back. Why not come and join us and catch up with a few old friends. See you down the front.

Adam Montgommery

ANDY O'HARE - Here comes the summer...



It's the time of year to look forward to a packed summer festival season - which for us kicks off in now traditional fashion with the **Wychwood** bash at Cheltenham Racecourse from May 30 to June 1. Yes of course it's slightly 'out of area' but that doesn't cause my well-know parochial principles too much trouble as we've been involved with Wychwood from the very start - initially taking our turn at running the BBC Introducing Stage with a dozen other regions - we now have the whole day of the first day to showcase local acts before handing the stage over to two other nearby Intro regions...

It's a chance for local acts to have themselves billed alongside major talent which this year includes bands such as **The Levellers** and **The Stranglers** - like the wonderful **Nozstock**, Wychwood's still got the 'home-grown' feel about it that makes it a firm favourite with families and those looking for an early summer mini-break. It'd still be wonderful though if this region could once again hold a 'major-league' festival of the order of the late-lamented **Big Chill** - sadly there seems no prospect of that returning in the near future - but I still find it surprising that with the convenience and easy access to our centrally-located area that some kindly entrepreneur hasn't seen the potential - soon once again perhaps...

We'll be hosting stages at a couple of other local festivals over the coming months and I'll bring you a full guide next month along with reports over the summer of how we get variously baked in the sun or soaked to the skin - something passably in-between for the duration would be quite acceptable for a little change... We'll also be putting forward local acts for the Introducing stages at the major festivals like **Glasto**, **T-in-the-Park**, **Big Weekend** etc - and perhaps hoping for a bit more luck from the selectors than perhaps has been the case in recent years!

Of course to get the chance to get airplay, record a session with us at one of our monthly 'roadshows', appear at a local festival or be put forward for a 'major' you've got to have sent your music in to us - and the preferred and best way of doing this is via the Uploader on our website - as it's then available across the whole Beeb network. But I'd ask once again that you do give your tracks the 'once-over' before clicking the send button - as we still get songs that are riddled with noise and easily fixable pops and clicks - another major issue is long bouts of silence at the beginning and end of tracks which need 'topping and tailing' at our end - something we really don't have time for - and while I guess there's still some CDs being produced with 'hidden tracks' - a two-part song with 10 minutes of silence half-way won't get past the Uploader limit - and of course numbers with swearing or offensive content are still a total no-no for Auntie Beeb...

But what we're looking for - and what acts and bands are trying to create is the killer number that'll get you noticed - there's a whole bunch of tips on songwriting, promotion, gigging etc in the Intro Masterclasses from the likes of **Tom Robinson**, **Bob Harris**, **Steve Lamacq** etc - as far as songwriting is concerned one recurring tip that I've spotted is the recommendation to simply write as many songs as possible - with the expectation being that in every ten you write there'll be one decent number - and for every hundred there'll be one or two crackers! Another tip is if you're having 'writer's block' is to take a tune that you already like and write different lyrics to it - but please don't forget to then write a different tune - as this has landed a number of acts in hot water over the years - but amazingly it still seems to be happening...

Now despite me probably having the largest collection of local music CDs in the country - it's not my preferred listening format and (this'll probably land me in hot water) neither is listening to the radio - I just prefer to get my musical fix by going out to as many live gigs as possible! Yeah there's always the risk of broken strings, PAs blowing up and a dozen or so other potential mishaps - but you get to see music being made before your eyes and it's a good marker of an act's ability if they can reproduce that polished studio sound live in front of an audience without too much 'outside assistance' - think it's also fair to say that I feel you'll usually get the pick of an artist's material at a live gig - because they'll be looking to make an impression on the audience immediately and every artist thrives on instant adulation...

So probably the best tip for successful songwriting is to actually go out on stage and perform your carefully-crafted ditties in front of an audience - and for newbies by far the best way of doing this I feel is at one of the many open mics around our fair region - most during the quieter weekdays - they're great opportunities to hone and refine your skills in front of an audience who'll generally be forgiving of newcomer nerves and the odd bum note or howler - but give yourself more of a chance by putting in a little bit of practice beforehand and don't forget to keep your instrument in tune! Despite all the difficulties and pitfalls of the music business - the record companies are still always looking for new acts to sign - and there's no reason at all why their next one shouldn't be you!!

AOH

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

ps - last month I mentioned about using your old and abandoned website as a pointer to your current and active sites - of course I meant to say Myspace rather than YouTube - whoops...

Review - Cantaloop | Avalanching

Back in town SlapMag funky faves Cantaloop return with a stunningly different single.

Musically the big difference and addition here is the guest vocals of Sam Rogers which meld seamlessly with the top-class arrangements of the ever soulful Cantaloop boys.

As is often the case with songs that are truly inspired, the catalyst is one of profound sadness and so it proves here as Avalanching laments the passing of a founder group member whilst also celebrating his memory and legacy in fine style.



Unsurprisingly there is an elegiac almost fragile feel to proceedings as this delicate tale is delivered as an emotional and touching eulogy to their close friend. The beautiful harmony between Sam and Dannie's vocals make for a wistful, heart-wrenching

experience, with a nagging, melodic undertow reminiscent of Walk On The Wild Side.

Cantaloop keep getting stronger because they come from a real place full of genuine heart and soul and this



single continues the band's ethos of not conforming to style or stereotype and defying all genres.

A worthy philosophy backing up this beautifully moving and worthwhile release. Carry on Cantaloop!

Marky DeSade

Preview - West Fest, Malvern

Malvern's popular music festival West Fest will return on Saturday July 5th. It will be held on the West Malvern playing fields between 11 am and 10 pm.

Last year it raised £5500 for over 14 different community groups in the Malvern area. The non-profit event saw the arrival of the Andy Dakin Memorial stage, which held an eclectic range of performances including poetry, storytelling, and choir singing. There was also a silent disco, which was a great end to an exciting and fun filled day.

The kids can enjoy inflatable games, face painting, hair braiding and performances from Pete the Juggler and others. The grown ups can watch some of the new bands as well as some old favorites on the main stage and acoustic stage, then chill out in the beer tent, which will have ales provided by the West Malvern Brewery, and cider, lager, wine and soft drinks. There will also be a cocktail bar ran by Oxfam and local caterers will provide all sorts of food including tea and cakes.



If your band would like to play at the event, email music@west-fest.org.uk. There is also space for exhibitors in the arts and crafts marquee. For this email carol@west-fest.org.uk. The entry charge for a family is £16, adult tickets are £7, under 18s £4 and under 5s free.

Last years funds will help groups including Colwall Rotary club, Mathon Tennis club, Hanley Castle High school PTA, Hills echo, West Malvern British Legion and many more.

10 mins with Layers...

Representing for North Worcestershire and a bit of that Birmingham, punk - soul - metal mash up merchants **LAYERS** have built a reputation for an incendiary live act – and work hard. Very. On the back of a blazing Record Store Day In-Store show at Redditch's own Death or Glory Records, SLAP caught up with bass player Nick to talk about the pop and punk melting pot, Freerunning and future plans.



So, Nick. I see you've been busy... what's on the Layers agenda for 2014?

Yeah, we played a few shows down in Brighton last year – at The Alternative Escape festival (sister festival to The Great Escape) and The Green Door Store which were enjoyable! We kicked off this year with another cracking show at The Old Blue Last in Shoreditch. We're writing new tunes and we're just itching to get them finished and slotted into the set. Apart from that we've got a spring tour and we're looking to hit a few festivals, closing the year out with a possible release and another tour. So potentially a busy year for us.

You have an accessible sound, ripe for industry attention, but still seem driven by an old school "punk" work ethic – and can switch from pop to shredding in a heartbeat. But how do you see yourselves – and who are your influences?

We come from a variety of musical backgrounds; guitarist Thompson was steeped in metal and hardcore, Lance and myself discovered punk and hardcore after upbringings of heavy doses of reggae, ska and soul. Elliot has an affinity with more refined rock, indie and folk, amongst other styles, and this has helped to define our collective sound. The common denominator for us is our passion for a straight up pop song and that forms the foundations for us. We're not traditional punk but then you could argue that the shape of punk has changed dramatically over the years. With the new songs we're writing we're developing a more interesting

sound that maybe doesn't rely so heavily upon being accessible; it's like we're letting out the reins a little, seeing where it's going to take us.

Collectively though, artists like Incubus, At The Drive-In, Rx Bandits, Seal, Reuben, Boyz II Men, Deftones, Refused, Bad Brains, Faith No More and Living Colour serve to influence us!"

In Lance you've got one of the most spectacular and explosive frontmen around right now – the boy has a unique command of the air and an awesome lung capacity... Tell me, how did he hone these skills?

Lance has been running, jumping and flipping over things for as long as I can remember! In fact, it kind of runs in the family – his brother is a professional freerunner and has been for many years. Lance has this natural energy; he always seems to be in motion. In terms of his voice, it's just one of those enviable things he was born with. This band is his first attempt at being the front man and it's fair to say he hit the ground running, so to speak.

It's fair to say you're pretty genre defying and pretty hard to categorise. What's your take? And is there anything about the local scene that's given you the nerve to be so free?

I think it's almost an easy way out to say that you don't want to, or you cannot be categorised; I myself have been guilty of saying this about our music occasionally, but in reality we're probably quite easily labelled. Genres have gotten a bad reputation of late as more and more pseudo-subgenres crop up to describe

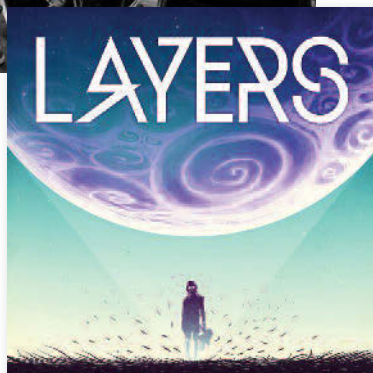
musical idiosyncrasies and artists actively try to push the boundaries of what can be done. Personally, I feel we embrace the pop element of our music; that's the defining feature. But it also encompasses punk rock, metal, soul, r'n'b, or anything else that takes our fancy!

Birmingham has always had a traditionally rich vein of musical styles running through it, and still is a melting pot of all kinds of music. There are pockets of indie, rock, punk, metal, funk, reggae, soul and jazz. It's a very cosmopolitan mixture; there's a bit of something for everyone. It's one of the reasons our sound is so diverse.

And just finally are there any acts that you think way more people should know about – and deserve a shout?

There are almost too many bands to mention! God Damn, Mount Fuji, Racing, Templeton Pek, Dead Sea Skulls, Youth Man... I know I have forgotten someone! But yeah you definitely can't go wrong with this bunch."

Thanks Nick! – Ed Ling





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Preview - Tina V Album Launch | Keystones, Worcester | 29th May

Tina V will launch her new album *Cut The Tent* at Keystones, Worcester on 29th May, with support from three of the country's best upcoming and unsigned bands, El Born, Jessica Rhodes and Drifter.

The gig will open with Drifter. Front man Dave Small is well known for his work with Naked Remedy. His volcanic voice and the sweltering guitar sounds of his partner Danny G, create a provocative mix of old school blues and modern passions. Jessica Rhodes will then bring their energy with their old school soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae and mow town fusion with catchy riffs and grooves.

Main support will be London Band El Born. They play un-pasteurized pop songs with testosterone and an

adrenaline rush. Their recent album *Kangaroo* has had great reviews.

Cut The Tent is the first studio album from Tina V, completed with the help of local legend Dave Draper. Tina, who is also part of rock band This Wicked Tongue, will perform her original songs and the gig will showcase the poppier side of her musical personality. Her influences according to her facebook page include Lumineers, Alt-J and Beyonce. This will be the first time the Tina V band has performed in Worcester. Last November they supported Finlay Quave at Brixton Jamm. Tina will also appear at Canadian Music Week in Toronto this May.

Tickets are priced at £7 each in advance, or a tenner OTD. Full details are on Tina's website www.tinaveronica.com.

Preview - Remi Harris | Conquest Theatre, Bromyard | Sat May 17th

Renowned gypsy Jazz guitarist Remi Harris is returning to his hometown of Bromyard for a special performance at the Conquest Theatre on 17th May.

Since the release of his debut album *Ninick*, released on Birmingham label Big Bear earlier this year, the gifted 26 year old has been performing at prestigious venues including The Royal Albert Hall. After a successful tour across France, and a four-week tour of Australia this winter, he is looking forward to doing some intimate shows.



By infusing traditional gypsy jazz and swing elements with blues, behop, rock, world music, and contemporary Jazz, The Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project have mastered a unique sound. He has caught the attention of key players in the music business, with great reviews of his live shows and his album.

This year Remi will be playing at Jazz festivals across the country alongside midlands venues, including Warwick Arts Centre and Birmingham's Midlands Arts Centre in June.

Tickets to the Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project's performance at the Conquest Theatre are £10 and are available from www.conquest-theatre.co.uk or at the theatre located on Tenbury Road Bromyard.

Liz Armstrong

Preview - HellensMusic 2014 | Hellens Manor | May 2nd-5th

A new classical music festival in collaboration, HellensMusic will take place at Hellens Manor between May 2nd-5th. Versatile Arts are collaborating with the Pennington-Mellor-Munthe Charitable Trust to bring this festival to Hellens Manor in Much Marcle. It is one of the oldest houses in England, dating from 1096, and is still a loved family home.

The Artistic director of the festival is Christian Blackshaw, an internationally acclaimed pianist who will be doing a concert. There will also be a performance by Markus Däunert, a violinist and Concertmaster with Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, and principal guest at the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Other renowned musicians that are set to play include Máté Szücs, the principal Viola of the Birmingham Philharmonic, and Oleg Kogan, Celloist and director of the Razumovsky Ensemble and Academy.

Three gifted young singers Elinor Rolfe Johnson (soprano), Rachel Kelly (mezzo-soprano) and Frederick Long (bass-baritone), will perform at a special song evening.

Hellens' bar and tea room will be open and you can bring your own picnic.

For full programme details please visit www.hellensmusic.com. Tickets are available online from Orpheus-events.com (tel 01905 570979) and also from Premier shop Much Marcle, Ice Bytes Ledbury, Outback Hereford and the Music Box Ross on Wye.



Rachel Kelly

Dee Caitlin

CUT THE TENT

TINA V

ALBUM LAUNCH

WITH SUPPORT:

EL BORN

JESSICA RHODES

DRIFTER

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TICKETS AVAILABLE:

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Review - Will Charles & Strawberry Jam | The Chestnut Inn, Lower Moor | Friday 18th April

The Chestnut Tree Inn, Lower Moor was saved at the last minute and doing better than ever.

The residents of Lower Moor and the surrounding villages were devastated to hear that in March, their much-loved pub, The Chestnut Tree might have to serve its last pint when the owner announced they were finished. They were then overjoyed to hear that it had been saved. Over the years they have seen a great deal of quality music acts playing including the funky seven-piece **Please Make Love in the Garden** and local lad, singer-songwriter **Rob King**. Apart from a brief Morris dancing period, The Chestnut has been a cool place. The classic village pub makes for a lovely cosy venue with a friendly atmosphere created by the loyal locals, guaranteed to be a lively and supportive audience. Gigs at the Chestnut, are always great fun, with lashings of banter, beer and village cheer.

On Thursday The Chestnut gave a warm welcome to oodles of young talent. Baby faced **Will Charles**, looking slightly nervous opened with *I wish I knew How it Feels to Be Free* by Nina Simone. He is an impressive singer. His voice, deep and bassy with powerful, warm tones, is an instant head turner. He writes great songs, poppy and accessible but insightful, angsty and moving. He has a unique sound, dabbling with a 60s/70s vibe in places, and wrapped in a maturity that is unheard of in the rest of the 17 year old singer songwriter scene.



Strawberry Jam, a band formed of music students from Stratford College, provide more musical flair and energy to the evening. They join in with some of Wills songs, and perform a few numbers on their own. (*Should I Stay or Should I Go*, *Johnny Be Good*, *All Day and All of the Night*) Singer **Ruby Pobjee** charms with her dreamy old style voice on *Dream a Little Dream*, **Brandon Harding** plays a mean Guitar, and **Chloe Gumbley** packs a real punch on the Cajon drum. Will joins his pals with the catchy original song *Impulse*, which goes down a treat.

17-year-old **Caitlin Loxley** also joins Will for a few songs, her soulful voice impresses on *Hallelujah*, *Mr. Brightside*, and *Chasing Cars*.

The night continues with more great covers, plus a few of the band's originals. The kids try to escape, but the merry punters are having none of it, badgering them, insisting they play at least one more. The hard working young whipper snappers are eventually over ruled and play a few more tunes that get the enthusiastic crowd joining in.

The night was a great success, proving there's life in the old pub yet. You can listen to Will's first EP on: soundcloud.com/willcharlesmusic100/sets/will-charles-ep

by *Jessica Charles*

Preview - Clutching at Straws | Moochers Stourbridge | Friday 9th May



Kinver Quartet **Clutching at Straws** will be returning to Stourbridge after a successful tour that has taken in London, Norwich, Swansea, Manchester and Cambridge.

They are a multi talented, diverse alternative folk band that includes an impressive variety of instruments creating a layered sound. They've been compared to Mumford and Sons but their eclectic influences range from the irony bluegrass to the drama of musical theatre. They play infectious folkly tunes with deep

meaningful lyrics about real life observation, lightened with a dose of dry English humour.



They released a mini album, *'Come What May'* in mid December 2013, which has received high praise acclaim from many music magazines.

Their shows are full of energy and banter and this will surely be a fun evening to remember. They are looking forward to gigging on home soil once again. Tickets are £5 and it starts at 8pm.

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... lack of commercialism is the very charm of the festival. Nozstock boasts a real laid-back vibe and is essentially the epitome of what a music festival originally set out to be." *Summer Festival Guide*

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10 mins with Revere

Q - I believe the band name Revere comes from the 200AD comic stable, so own up who's the geek and what are your comic faves?

Russ - *first of all, Hi Mark. I hope life and the band is going well... (All good mate - Ed). Yes, that's right. In all honesty, I think every one of us embraces our inner geek a little - some of us more than others though. But nearly every member has a penchant for vinyl and, seriously we are very geeky about that. We also have some zombie film geeks in the band, naming no names. Yup.*

Q - Revere have recently have been through a few lineup changes and as a result on the new album *My Mirror/Your Target* you seem to have a harder-edged rockier sound. Is that fair to say and could you please elaborate.

Russ - *It's fair to say that the more upbeat tracks have won out on the latest record, but we feel that it's their balance with the few softer moments that make them seem harder. Some of the 'heavier' sounds you hear were there on the first album, but as you know, with each record being it's own narrative, battles between sounds ensue, with some becoming more important than others and, ultimately, dictating the direction of the songs. With *My Mirror/Your Target* we feel that we have picked up on sounds that were, perhaps, only introduced on the first record, tapping us into another one of our gears as a band.*

Q - As a group you appear incredibly open to all influences which is reflected in your kaleidoscopic soundscape. This includes working and appearing with West African musicians such as Toumani Diabaté, Diabel Cissokho and Vieux Farka Touré. Can you tell us how these collaborations came about and any plans for such future ones?

Stephen - *We have our booking agent, Jason, to thank in part for that. He has a brilliantly refreshing approach to music in that pairing up an oddly English post-rock group with one of the worlds best Kora players from Mali made absolute sense to him. The thing is I'd been listening to Toumani and Ali Farka Touré since I was at school so it was like being paired up with Jimi Hendrix. Toumani was very generous with us, even performing on our cover of 'Love Will Tear Us Apart' and I wrote a new song with him as well.*

Q - Another close link appears to be your love of the Netherlands including playing a plethora of instore gigs there for Record Store Day this year. Has Europe and particularly Holland taken you to their collective bosom?

Stephen - *the wonderful thing about it for us is that it has all happened so organically. No PR generated buzz. It all started with a review on a Dutch music forum which got passed around until one of the people reading it got in touch saying he had started at V2 and did we have a second album ready? We couldn't believe it when we were finally heading over there to play for the first time. We're really in touch with our supporters over there too and they're actively spreading the word so that each time we play we're getting to meet more and more wonderful people.*

Q - Being an integral part and supporters of Record Store Day does that mean you're all vinyl junkies (like me!) and what would be that one precious album that you'd save from that theoretical house fire?

Russ - *Well, that depends on who you ask. If you ask me - it'd be my copy of *Zeppelin Four*, which was passed on to me by my parents.*

Stephen - *We're all vinyl junkies. We spend most of our gig fees on new vinyl! I'd save my copy of *Naked City's* first album or all of Nino Rota's soundtracks for Fellini. I'd keep running back inside...*

Q - My fave description of you came from the Time Out shout for your recent Album Launch Night at London's The Lexington: "An unlikely but bold and beguiling blend of post-rock, shoegaze, gospel, gypsy folk and cinema soundtracks.."

Russ - *The Lexington is a fave of ours, we can't get enough of it, so to do the launch there and to see the place so full was fantastic. We even baked cakes! The response to the album and pre-orders of vinyl and such were incredible too. We all go there to see gigs and it's one of those places where, if you love music, it feels like home. It's the same being on stage.*

Q - Another innovation you've come up with is Revere: Reworked which is a series of remixes released as four EPs done by other musicians inc friends of the band and also featuring artwork by fans and other supporters. Could you please tell us more about this exciting development?

Stephen - *well this just came out of our love of collaborating. We started off getting a few friends such as Tim Allen (*Bat For Lashes / The Adding Machine*) and Cajita to do some remixes of our latest singles and we loved them so much we decided to see who else we could get to be involved. The response was amazing, moving from glitchy electronic versions by Tom Monger (*Florence And The Machine*) to full on avant garde reworkings by Claudia Molitor and ambient remixes by Riz Maslen (*Neotropic*). We've even had brass band versions arranged by Paul Whalley for *The Strangled Brass* which were performed live in an underground carpark. Oh, and they're all free to download from <http://www.revereonline.co.uk/reworked/> EP#6 is nearly ready to go and we're very excited about some potential reworks for EP#7. Fingers crossed...*

Marrs Bar - 17th May
I'm there - Ed!



Before we tell you about our meeting with SLAP cover story Merrymouth, we thought you ought to know a bit about the gem of a pub where we met up with them.

For those of you that don't know, the Oddfellows Arms or the 'Oddies' in Astwood Bank has a fast growing reputation as one of Worcestershire's most consistent provider of great local music acts.

At a time when a lot of pubs and venues are struggling they have reaped the rewards of continually giving the people what they want, musically as well as liquidly(!) and a huge reason for the success is down to their 'Open Mic' nights on Tuesdays.

The evenings are hosted by any combination of the following: Andy Bennett (Ocean Colour Scene), Dan Sealey (OCS), Dan Hodgetts (Nigel Clark Band), Andy Flynn (The Steve Cradock Band), Adam Barry (Merrymouth), and previously Emma Skipp (The Enemy). It is due to the high calibre of the acts that host the evening, that has earned the pub its rising reputation.

May 4th sees their annual "Oddfest" festival, which



allows every Open Mic act that has performed over the past 12 months to play on one stage over the course of the day. This has grown from a mini-fest that was held inside the pub, to a full takeover of the grounds outside together with bars and stage.

Landlord John Hodgetts says *"It's been amazing seeing the Tuesday nights, and now Oddfest, grow into what they are now. We've obviously been blessed with having Andy & Dan from OCS able to come and host it most weeks, but the standard of the talent that perform each week are always of such a high class, sometimes I watch and I think, how have we managed to pull this off in just a small country pub in the back streets of a village on a Tuesday night!"*

If you would like to go along and watch, or perform, the Open Mic is held every Tue from 9pm. Food is also served from 7pm til 9pm, please book (01527 892806) to avoid disappointment. Well worth a detour!

...And so it came to pass that whilst a couple of us Slapheads were sampling the delights of this esteemed hostelry we hooked up with the aforementioned regulars/locals/barflies Merrymouth; a marvellous musical melange of OCS members Simon Fowler and Dan Sealey plus ex miser Adam Barry.

With their 2nd album *"Wenlock Hill"* imminent and a launch night in That London we seized the moment to prod their collective noggins with a clutch of cunning questions.

Here's what they had to say...

Slap: A good place to start would seem to be to ask you about the origin of your enigmatic band name; to me it conjures up the likes of Incredible String Band, Sunforest and Gryphon

Simon: *Merrymouth was a name of a pub, not surprisingly! It was on the road that we used to use as a family for our holidays down on the south coast, just as you pass Burford. I think I was the annoying child that was always asking 'are we nearly there yet', or just generally moaning about the journey, so 'Merrymouth' became my childhood nickname.*



Slap: Whilst we're on the subject of names perhaps you could enlighten the Great British Public on the new album title *"Wenlock Hill"* : echoes of Houseman, Shropshire heritage/links mayhap?

Simon: *I had been reading A Shropshire Lad by AE Housman round about the time that we were starting to demo songs for the album, so I stole a few things from that and put them to a tune that I'd had in my head for a while!*

Slap: And talking of the new album until very recently it seemed that Merrymouth were playing hard to get with not much in digi-land to tempt or treat us? Has that now been rectified as the release date gets closer or is it, if I may be so bold, that you aren't scrupulous at updating your social media outlets?! (i.e as I've been cyber-stalking Simon and he hasn't tweeted since 28th May 2012! Outrageously slack behaviour!!)

Adam: *There is plenty out there now! The band have Twitter, Facebook etc which is updated daily by us and our record label, in fact there is a trailer for the album that you can hear on our youtube channel. Simon however isn't one for social networking, he's only just started to use text messages!*

Slap: The tracklist for *Wenlock Hill* reveals an interesting trio of diverse cover versions, in addition to the 8 self-penned songs, these being Duchess by The Stranglers, The Stone Roses' I Am The Resurrection and the standard He Was A Friend Of Mine, popularised by

The Byrds and Willie Nelson amongst many others. What lead to including this unusual set of covers and also it seems to suggest an expanding of influences and change of direction from 2012's eponymous album? On that album the covers were perhaps more suited to the folk milieu including a Bert Jansch tune, a trade arr and a beautifully adapted W B Yeats poem.

Dan: *There is a great 'folked-up' version of The Stone Roses' I Am The Resurrection that I arranged mainly as just a piano version, but we ended up putting cellos and violins on it in the end and it sounds great! Very different from the original, which is what we wanted to achieve.*

Adam: *We did the same with Duchess, a Stranglers' tune, I think Simon came into the studio one day with a the idea of doing it, and once we stripped it back, you soon realise what a great melody it had, and could almost be a Ray Davies song.*

Slap: Continuing on the covers theme, He Was A Friend Of Mine has been adapted to be about the killing of John Lennon. Can you tell us how this came about?

Simon: *He Was A Friend Of Mine was interesting to do, Dan had suggested covering this on the last tour that we did, and we sang the version that The Byrds made famous, being about JFK, but we always felt that we weren't personally connected to that, so we messed around with the lyrics, and we wrote it to be about the killing of John Lennon.*

Slap: The music of Merrymouth seems firmly planted in the classic modern folk section, can you tell us about your musical touchstones and which inform your sound and any other inspiration?

Simon: *We all have a very similar background musically, and influences. Dan and I have always been into folk music; Dan's Dad was in a folk duo called Cosmotheke with his brother Al and they had great success in the folk world, so folk music has always been around us. Sandy Denny, Fairport, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Dylan, kind of the usual mob really! The album has all sorts of influences on it though, not just traditional folk, whatever we do it's always going to sound a bit like Ray Davies or The Beatles etc because that's who we love.*

Slap: Are you looking forward to taking the new album to the people and are Merrymouth going to tour extensively? Please tell us your plans for light shows, stage costumes etc..also a little birdie tells us you're going for a more mellow, sit down vibe at upcoming concerts?

Dan: *We will be doing a full UK and Ireland Tour initially to support the album release, and then festivals throughout the summer, and another UK tour at the end of the year.*

Simon: *As for costumes, we have decided that we will all wear clothes and always be holding candles!*

Slap: I can imagine that such a group of sensitive artistes as yourselves have demanding and outrageous backstage riders: care to share any secrets of these and general on the road excess??

Simon: *Gruel and water I should think! No we're fairly easy to cater for, lager for me, cider for dan and ale for adam, very simple! Maybe a few bottles of Whiskey thrown in for good measure.....*

www.merrymouth.net
[www.twitter.com/merrymouthband](https://twitter.com/merrymouthband)
www.facebook.com/merrymouthband

Tour Dates:

8th May, The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen

9th May, Rothes Hall, Glenrothes

10th May, Tolbooth, Stirling

16th May, The Met, Bury

17th May, The Mac, Birmingham

18th May, The Glee Club, Nottingham

22nd May, Bakers, Clonmel, Ireland

23rd May, Danny Byrnes, Mullingar, Ireland

24th May, The Workmans Club, Dublin, Ireland

25th May, The Spirit Store, Dundalk, Ireland

31st May, The Brook, Southampton

1st June, The Glee Club, Cardiff

2nd June, Kings Place, London



Band photography by Mark Hoy

Album Review - Merrymouth - Wenlock Hill

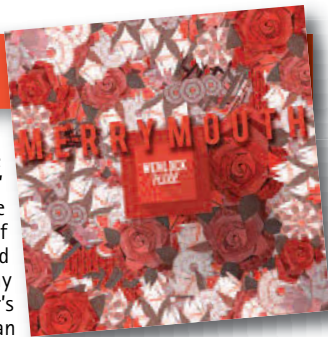
This little number – the second full-length by Merrymouth, a folk and acoustic project courtesy of the greater part of Ocean Colour Scene and some choice friends – has three distinct flavours. First, there are some thoroughly modern, richly multi-instrumental post-folk numbers like opener *Wenlock Hill* and *Duchess* that bounce easily along and down the winsome trail most popularly blazed by Frank Turner and the Sleeping Souls, and not to mention some other luminaries on Extra Mile Recordings like the wonderful Crazy Arm. Heavy on the banjo, with a surge of hammond, the odd squeeze of accordion, and if I am not very much mistaken Chas Hodges – of Chas and Dave his bad self – banging the old Joanna in there too.

Nothing not to love here, and the song writing is pretty much effortless. Second, there are a couple of tracks that could have been playful, erstwhile Cool Britannia era B-sides – *Tea Shop Serenade* being so Beatles-esque it could be John and Paul do folk, with its chinking teacup sound effects and Edwardian upper class imagery – the works. While this may smack of high Britpop indulgence to some, to others it's a thing to love on principle. And then, finally, there are the restrained, sparsely hand-crafted tracks. And it's these that perhaps are at the heart of the matter here.

Now. Whatever you thought of matters back in the nineties, for a whole age-band in society the opening

bars of OCS's *The Riverboat Song* – the theme to Chris Evans' TFI Friday – will be eternally evocative of the liberation and expectancy of Friday Night. Simon Fowler's soaring, everyman voice was – arguably – one the most credible and enduring things about that whole scene. Nostalgia and revivalism will no doubt draw many a moth to this folksy flame. And there's nothing wrong with that. Nonetheless, all that was nearly twenty years ago. A lot of water has flowed down the pop river since then. And so it's on tracks like *He Was a Friend of Mine* and closer *The Ragged Spiral* that show Merrymouth are a distinctive, forward-looking proposition, hitting their stride and finding their own voice. Simon Fowler's vocals are unmistakeable throughout, but they take on an range of personalities here, rising and falling with the minimalist piano and strings. Perhaps the standout track is in fact a cover – a slow burning, understated reworking of *I Am The Resurrection*, finding a complex emotional acidity in this song that simply never came over in the swaggering Stone Roses' original – and making for something altogether rather special.

Ed Ling



Preview - Lechlade Music Festival | 23rd-25th May

Lechlade Festival which is the first small festival to host a Dance tent has also bagged The Blow Monkeys to headline the main stage. Brown Bear Events has teamed up with the infamous underground internet radio station Break Pirates to bring the best of UK breaks to the ever growing Lechlade Music Festival, creating a new entity for the small festival scene.

Break Pirates have been operating since 2001 with founding member Nick McAuliffe Aka Drift, leading the way, supported by a group of master DJs from around the UK. They play the best breakbeat-orientated music live over the Internet, 7 days per week.

Some big names have already signed up to play the festival including Drift, Skywalker, Deluxe, Jow, Abo, Spam and Phil the Bass. Local DJs Bob and Coxy will also play.

Dominic Smith and Richard Sharp, the founders of Brown bear events, will be creating a mini club bar in the Green Welly tent, with lights, lasers and a re sprayed boats hull acting as a stage! Dom and Sharpy said "Although we both love live music, 70 percent of all record sales in the UK are dance music and it would be a shame to not be making the most of this gap in the market."

The new wave 80s band, The Blow Monkeys will be headlining the Festival on the main stage on Sun 25th May.



The band blazed an iconic trail across the 1980s. Last year their first 2 albums were re issued successfully. With all four original members, they are a must see band right now, with a career spanning over three decades, they continue to evolve. The Blow Monkeys are celebrating the success of their critically acclaimed album "*Feels Like A New Morning*," with a string of dates across the UK over the summer, including Lechlade.

To find out more about the Blow Monkeys tour: www.facebook.com/TheBlowMonkeysOfficial

Tickets to Lechlade Festival are available from: <http://lechladefestival.co.uk/tickets>



23rd-25th May

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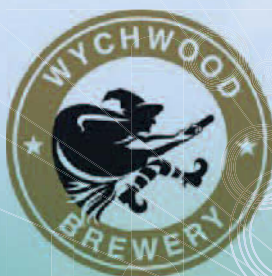
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www.lechladefestival.co.uk

Preview - Cheltenham Jazz Festival | April 30th-May 5th

This year's festival will feature a great line up of artists that will make it possibly the festival's best year yet. The festival opens on international Jazz day and will include many big Jazz names, world music, blues performers and the best emerging talent.

Jamie Cullum will premiere his new album, Laura Mvula is this year's artist in residence and there will be sets from Jools Holland, Curtis Stigers and Gregory Porter. New York based instrumental fusion band **Snarky Puppy** will join DJ Gilles Peterson for a festival club night.



There is plenty for real Jazz fans including pianist Jason Rebello and The Julian Siegel Quartet. Fans of the free improvisation scene will enjoy Saxophonist Paul Dunmall.

The highlight of the festival for many will be the reunion of **Loose Tubes**, a twenty on piece big band. They combine the excitement of big band Jazz with influences from Africa, circus music and the spirit of Frank Zappa.

Alan Musson



Local Faves return to Festival

Local Jazz/blues vintage pop band **Indigo Kings** will return after four years since they last played here, to launch a new album '*Contotally Confused*'.



The Cheltenham based band have their own unique style with swinging piano slabs and creamy sax, with hints of the Andrew Sisters, Billie Holiday, Diana Ross and Caro Emerald. Their new album is about falling into, out of and being fed up with love. It is jazzy and bluesy with bits of soul, vintage pop and hint of latin Jazz. The **Indigo Kings** are being showcased at the Festival with a concert in the **Jazz Arena**, Montpellier Gardens on Monday 5th May.

The band will support the album launch with a summer tour, taking in several big Jazz festivals and Jazz clubs, culminating with a main stage appearance at the **Twinwood Vintage Festival** on 25th August. Cheltenham is the icing on the cake for them though. As well as being home, it's also the Premier Jazz festival in the UK. "We are so chuffed to be chosen by the festival for this showcase and it's great that it ties in with the launch of our new album", said a band member.

For more details and to book tickets for the festival go to www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz/

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Review - The Dualers & XOVA | The Robin 2 | 21st March

London based festival favourites, The Dualers were supported by a Birmingham band, who impressed at The Isle of White Festival last summer. XOVA, is a 6 piece, Indie reggae band, sporting a brass section along with the usual guitars, drums and keyboards. Their influences range from Beatles to Marley, though I feel the dominant pulse is Bob Marley. The band write their own material,



that reggae beat coming through strongly, opening with 'Sticks And Stones', they certainly have a presence on stage. I have to say, that I do not think the sound set up was helping them much as lyrics were confused here at the Robin, and it may be just possible that the crowd were there to hear The Dualers. That would seem a little unfair, this band are worth the effort. I particularly liked the brass opening of 'New Revolution', a good reggae



number with a thumping bass. The band finished with 'Tears' more bone rattling bass in this fast paced song, I'm sure to cross their path again in the future.

Enter The Dualers, this band are a class act, fronted by a charismatic cheeky chappie, Tyber Cranstoun. Aiding and abetting are a, top hatted Peter Lee on lead guitar, Tom Hindley on rhythm guitar, Jason Gale on bass, Dredy on drums, Enoch on keys, and a fabulous horn section, Tim on sax and Raphael on trombone, sadly absent, the trumpet of Paul Bilson could only have taken us to greater heights. That brass unit fires us off into the intoxicating rhythms of ska and reggae, opening with, 'Rocking Back To Kingston'. The heaving mass of fans squeezed forward onto the wooden boards moving as one to the sound, goaded and provoked into action by Tyber, no doubt there would be many sore bodies in the morning.

The great ska favourite, 'Message To You Rudi', drew us all in, melting smoothly into 'I'm In A Dancing Mood', how right they were. All were working up a sweat on the 'dance' floor, as The Dualers moved on to the menacing 'Man Next Door' before we were asked to 'Take A Trip'. We could not go through the evening without the song that catapulted this band into the charts in 2005; 'Kiss On The Lips' was played with the passion implied, the years have not diminished their debut single. How to follow the milestone that heralded this wonderful ska, reggae institution that is The Dualers, it had to be, 'Monkey Man', Aye Aye Aye, sodden towel draped across his shoulder, Tyber invites everyone to join in with the steady rhythmic style of the original Maytals song. A fantastic finish to a dynamic night with the Dualers at the Robin, they will be back, make sure you don't miss them.



Graham Munn

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Review - Thomas Ford | Café René

On the 2nd April 2014, the Mississippi Delta found its way to this, bottle lined, barrel bound, vault that is the Café René in Gloucester. Thomas Ford is the reincarnation of this traditional style and delivery of blues, played on his beautiful National Resonator, harp and electric guitars. The resonator and slide were put to good use from the off, with Blind Joe Reynolds 'Outside Womans Blues', swiftly followed by one of his own songs based on hair raising moments spent in Bucharest, 'Danger Blues'. Swapping to his electric guitar along with harp slung around his neck, Tom took us back to the days of Little Walter, Blind Willie McTell and Son House, with the traditionally delivered 'Death Letter Blues'. A bit of country blues 'Bottle Up And Go', attributed to one Tommy McClennan, and sung by the likes of Leadbelly and John Lee Hooker, preceded closing for a break with another Hooker classic, 'Boom Boom Boom'.

The second session followed pretty much the same pattern, old classics, like Muddy Waters, 'Rollin and Tumblin', later to be re-worked by Cream, interspersed with some from Thomas's own song book. 'Lightning Seed', was one, played on his electric guitar, with vocals breathed through the harp and mike. 'A Bottle Of Turpentine' was an 'uplifting' bit of old blues folk law, is this why there were so many 'Blind' blues men? Perhaps not, but they could have found solace in a 'Whiskey headed Woman', another old McClennan song. What the



evening has shown, is Thomas Ford's fine skills as a finger picking, slide slipping, harp player, added to a vocal style that brings fresh breath to traditional delta blues. Performed with a genuine passion for this root music, his self penned songs would not disgrace some of those old blues legends. Look out for a CD release in the making, it will, no doubt, be as well crafted as his live performance at the atmospheric Café René.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn



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Review - Laetitia Sadler Trio | Malvern Cube | Sat 19th April

It isn't every day you get the chance to see an iconic musician perform in your hometown, so this gig was an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

My prior knowledge of Laetitia Sadler's work was limited to a few chance encounters of the influential Stereolab on the now sadly defunct 120 Minutes on MTV2, but this didn't stop the excitement from building.

The Cube looked and felt the part and a rare live appearance of Worcester's Howard James Kenny set the tone perfectly as his one-man Sigur Ros sounds of beauty kept the crowd hushed and entranced.



He showed a typically deft hand to built loop upon loop until each number meandered around the venue in a lush fullness, showing exactly how FX pedals should be used.

Laetitia's trio similarly enchanted the room as she delivered a crisp and tight set of gently jangling tunes that showcased her honeyed vocals to great effect.

She explored weighty themes of life and loss, freedom and liberty with a charm you would expect from a Frenchwoman but there were plenty of lighter moments and exquisitely crafted pieces to keep the set moving along nicely.

It certainly wasn't a surprise when they were called back on for an encore despite barely leaving the stage.

This was promoter Malvern Live's first attempt to bring live music to the town and hopefully it is a sign of more exciting events to come.



By Neil Watts Photography: Tom Boldry



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Single Review – World No Limits - Tied Down

It's nearly that time of year again, festival season. By this point most festivals have released the majority of their line up and the majority of punters know where they'll be pitching their tent for the weekend. So while we sit around, tapping our toes to kill time until it all kicks off, let me take you back to one of Slap's favourite weekends of 2013's festival season – Nozstock.

Jolly old Herefordshire plays host to one of Britain's best small festivals, at an equally small price. It is a local treasure in some eyes, with The Big Chill now in the past. We saw the festival play host to the young Irish lads The Strypes, and the not so young Chas & Dave. Everyone knows however that the best acts are the lesser known gems you see by accident, so let me introduce you to main stage openers on Friday, Lakota Sioux.

Lakota Sioux are a band that first gigged almost half a decade ago with members barely touching 13, and a consistently inconsistent line up has been on the cards since. Come 2013 though, they seem set on their line up. What next? Play a few shows, go off to uni and rebrand the band for a release of two EPs without the stigma of 'those young boys'? Oh go on then. Welcome to the world of the fresh faced World No Limits.

Same line up, same music, new attitude. Their debut single *Tied Down* showcases the slightly imperfect vocal style of Neutral Milk Hotel's Jeff Magnum, with the British twinge of Keane's Tom Chaplin. The track as a whole gives an insight to the raw power of music coming from a group of young men with a passion and who don't care for music submerged in overproduction. You can hear it via their Soundcloud, and you can stay up to date through their Facebook page 'World No Limits'. Stay tuned for exciting new releases coming from the group soon, and let them help you pass the time until that perfect summer weekend.

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Review - Johnny Kowalski & the Sexy Weirdos | Hare & Hounds | 4th April

If I seem over enthusiastic about this evening, well though I make no apologies because it was a great nights entertainment with 3 brilliant performances by 3 hugely entertaining bands.

The first band on were the **Culture Dub Orchestra** who are a 6 piece band who played driving reggae rhythms with a kiss of the east thrown in. I was totally blown away by how good they were and if you get the chance they are a must see. They are a 6 piece and play instrumentals that will have you dancing instantly. They have only been playing 12 months and I hope they get the support that they deserve. They are apparently currently working on 2 albums to be released this summer (I am already in the queue) Venues in Worcester start booking them is my plea and they are looking for gigs, I would pay good money to see them again.

The following band was the **Harlequin Dynamite Marching Band** who apparently have up to 14 members

got the whole room bouncing and it didn't stop for the rest of the night.



Being in my late fifties if I went to more than one a week of concerts that make you dance like this did I reckon I would need life support. Great line up, impossible to keep still and all for £6. A truly wonderful evening even if I am now completely knackered.

Lumpamundo



but only 12 on this occasion. Its not often you will see 2 trumpets, saxophone, tuba, clarinet, cymbals, 4 drums, bassoon (a bassoon for heavens sake) and a synth and singing through a bull horn. All of this added up to a incredible full sound as you would expect. The drumming is in that marching style and their timing was spectacular and the overall sound reminded me of the roaring 20's there was something of the Charleston about them and once again the crowd danced to their hearts content.

I have to hand to the Weirdos, to get 2 support acts like this was a real coup. So finally the **Sexy Weirdos** who played with their usual infectious gusto and they went down a storm. They are truly a great live band and their new songs off the *Kill the Beast* album went down well mixed in with some old favourites. The single *Tequila Song*

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Review – Suggs - My Life Story in Words and Music | Malvern Theatre | 25th April

After yet another shit week at work what a relief come Friday that my kind rents had bought me and the Missus tickets to see Suggs - *My Life Story in Words and Music* at Malvern Theatre. To make a proper night of it we'd even booked a room at the Abbey Hotel. After necking a bottle of Cava in the room - bought from Sainsbury's for a fiver not from room service for £25- we wandered down to the theatre. I expected to see a load of ageing 50 something ex skinheads, mods and punks from a certain era, my era, but I was quite shocked to see such a well dressed somewhat middle class looking bunch. We went to the bar for a quick scoop when the bell went for the start of *'The Play That Goes Wrong'*. Had we got the wrong day? Slowly I realised that there were two shows on that night. As The Play audience drifted away it revealed those of us left to see Suggs... a load of ageing 50 something ex skinheads, mods and punks together with the obligatory bloke in a Fez.

We took our seats, fortunately the bloke with the Fez wasn't sat in front of us, the theatre went dark and then suddenly with a flash the lights came on and Suggs was stood there centre stage with Dino on the piano next to him. What a reception he received. We were ready to be entertained and entertained we certainly were. Graham McPherson or Suggs as he is better known was enjoying his 50th Birthday when his cat had committed suicide, in the bathroom, next to him, whilst he was having a bath!

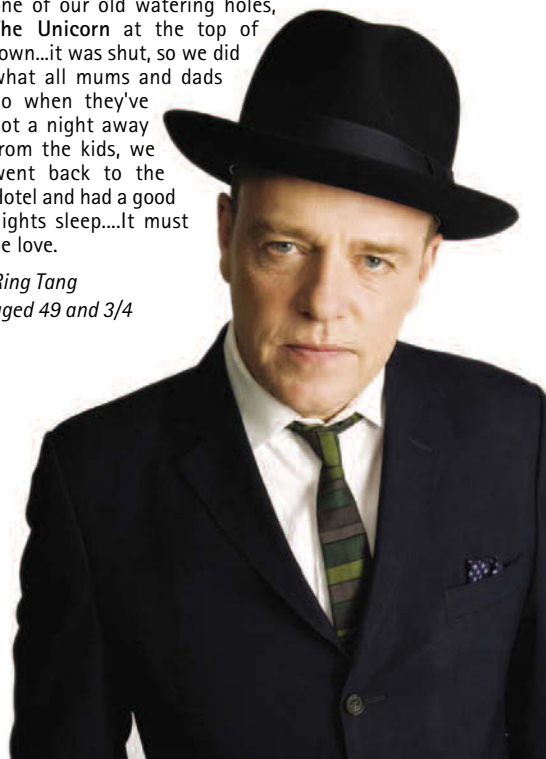
He decided it was time to find out more about his Dad who had left the family home when he was just 3 years old. A very clever production took us on a parallel journey jumping effortlessly from the quest to find his father and then his own life story so far. And of course he could not help but throw in more than a few acoustic ditties from his *Madness* back catalogue. Brilliantly accompanied by Dino, they weren't full tracks but just enough to get your foot tapping and thinking... I must dig out that *One Step Beyond* album, it's an over used expression, but it is a classic.

With a polished delivery he took us from his deprived upbringing in Soho "*at the time it was full of prostitutes, pimps, criminals and drug dealers, yet there was dark side to soho*" to his Top of the Pops appearance at just 18, the story of Madness and through his television and radio careers. One minute he would make us laugh out loud, yet the next the auditorium would fall deathly silent as we found out more about his Dad. We were genuinely shocked to silence at times and I wondered afterwards what a shock it must have been for Suggs.

Suggs is an entertainer. I don't get out much but this was the best one man show I have seen for a long time. It's up there with Rik Mayall or Ben Elton all those years ago. 5 stars. Absolutely brilliant. Catch it if you can. You won't be disappointed.

To round off the evening me and Claire decided to go to one of our old watering holes, The Unicorn at the top of town...it was shut, so we did what all mums and dads do when they've got a night away from the kids, we went back to the Hotel and had a good nights sleep....It must be love.

Ring Tang
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Review - Werewolf! EP Launch Show | The Firefly, Worcester | Friday 28th March

Despite being essentially a live-action joke about poo Brown Torpedo are unlike anything currently sitting in the local DIY pan - an artsy-looking electronica duo, who sound like a mash-up of the



nineties gems Leftism by Leftfield (the one with John Lydon) and Bomb the Bass's Clear (the one with Will Self and Benjamin Zephaniah). I have absolutely no idea what half of the Kraftwerk-like homemade kit they were tatting about with actually did. I suspect a lot of it was for show. There were touches of Ginsberg and

Bukowski in the performance poetry that passed for vocals. So Mr Hanky gags to one side this was, on the whole, unexpectedly dazzling.

I've written about Arbor Lights before and I've exhausted my adjectives already. Lead agents of the alt-instrumental thing - with *Those Among Us Are Wolves* - these boys work hard, and have a following built on the blinding quality of their workmanship. For the uninitiated, their sound is Mogwai-esque but harder and heavier. Sweeping, shimmering and altogether majestic.



And then... Aulos. Representing for Hereford, and while technically a two-piece (drums and bass), the third member was actually the pedal board. Including at least two samplers this immense bank of kit seemed to hum and glow with its own cybernetic intelligence and innate musical talent. Coupled with almost seismically



disruptive live percussion - the lad on the stool generated an atmospheric shockwave so deep it hit you in the spleen - this was monumental stuff. Monumental also as the huge, righteously hairy pedal board operator / bassist in this unit, looking like an animated statue of a Roman emperor (Hadrian or somebody) - seemed to control proceedings with an imperious precision throughout.

A Werewolf! have been busy since their first ever show a month or two ago - gigging like eijits and, of course, releasing the evening's titular EP. And they gamely nailed through all seven tracks here without pretence or fanfare. Watching this two-piece (plus pedal board and sampler) sweating away and sparking freely off each other it hit me what they - and the other bands on this bill - basically are.



Largely barking mad but technically awe-inspiring, this was Captain Beefheart and Frank Zappa for the post-internet world. And as clear a statement as possible that fearlessly original, progressive and experimental music is alive, well and kicking hard amongst the kids - right here in the second decade of the twenty-first century.

What I also know is that a huge shout out must go to Niall Jones - he of A Werewolf!, Officer Down and now the mathcore luminaries Stillbust - for putting this all on. For a quid. Awesome work fella.

Photography: Mark Hoy Words: Ed Ling

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Review - Hereford Dead – The Black Lion, Hereford – April 19th

Hereford may not be the first city that comes to mind when searching for anything a bit alternative, but a burgeoning underground scene is proving that heavy music can indeed thrive there – even beneath a thick layer of cover bands and drum'n'bass DJs. The second night from promotions-collective **Hereford Dead** featured several out-of-town bands, plus solid support from home-grown acts.

Locals **Brain Wreck** opened the night with an unashamed homage to classic 80's hardcore-punk. While much of the set consisted of thoroughly enjoyable Discharge-influenced riffs and breakdowns, it was interesting to see them take a new direction towards the end, closing their set with an experimental 10-minute noise jam.



Unfortunately this reporter missed Leicester one-man vegan grind unit **Meatpacker**, but was lucky enough to catch an unscheduled set from members of **Brain Wreck**, **Mangle** (Leicester) and the aforementioned **Meatpacker**. Conceived the previous afternoon while "sunbathing and drinking cheap tins" in Bristol, **Friends** delivered a violently brief serving of A-grade power-grind nonsense that was astonishingly tight considering the near total lack of rehearsal. Song titles such as 'Ham of Rod', 'Les Dennis Sex Gag' and 'Emperor's New Mosh' say it all.

Next up were **Torpor** from London, a band who know the value of repeating a few great riffs many, many times. Their powerful three-song set was filled with excellent use of syncopation, a clear understanding of musical space, and plenty of grimaces from drummer **Simon**. **Nats Spada's** brutal vocals topped off this sludge-doom feast perfectly, turning the whole experience into something akin to a recurring nightmare on the edge of a troubled sleep. If **Torpor's** set was the aural equivalent of violent sedation, Hereford's own **Skinhorse** could conversely be



described as some kind of caffeine-fuelled hyperactive trip. This frenetic instrumental drums and bass two-piece powered through their set with barely a moment's pause, pumping out a seemingly limitless series of top-notch stoner riffs at lightning pace and pausing only to play a newer, slower number *Straight out of Holy Mountain*.



Headliners **Opium Lord** brought things back down to earth with a no-nonsense set of the harshest of doom-metal. Some excellent grooves were sadly lost in the mix due to a lot of quite busy riffing, but the lack of definition was more than made up for in sheer ferocity of delivery. When things slowed down these Birmingham boys really excelled, with rock-solid drums and a wall of pure tone overlaid with discomfiting effects-laden guitar wails and some angry, angry vocals. Their upcoming debut album will surely be a filthy treat for the ears.

James Simmons

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Mouth & Music and Kidderminster Poetry News

Published Kidderminster poet and performer Heather Wastie continues to run the popular Mouth and Music nights at Boars Head Gallery.

Next up is the unforgettably named Johnny Fluffypunk on Tuesday 13th May: a man who calls himself an "armchair revolutionary", Mr Fluffypunk is a brilliant stand-up poet who mixes acute social observation, intricate humour and surreal fantasy. A treat indeed! Also on this quality bill is **Four Tart Harmony**; a cracking four-part womanly group with lush harmonies.

The show starts at 8pm and is MC'd by Heather, but as always there are short performance spots available on the night from 7.30pm, so be sure to turn up early at BHG.

To further whet your appetites here's what previously featured poet Nadia Kingsley had to say after her recent Mouth and Music performance on April 8th, *'After last night I can wholly recommend Mouth and Music - for performers, and audience alike. It is wonderfully real - in the very best sense. The Boar's Head itself is tiny. Reggae was blaring when I ventured in; with a guy working on an extraordinarily effective figurative poster on one of the three tiny tables. Then through the bar's Narnia-like back door was a wonderful wonderful room - with stage, lights, and two M.C.s - Heather and Sarah - who created such a non-threatening relaxed atmosphere... it was an absolute*

pleasure to both listen to the others, and to perform. There was music, light hearted rhymes, more serious poetry - and the audience was open to it all, and very appreciative. What more can I say? Just this - I am tempted to pull out of the purchase of a house just because it will mean my journey to Mouth and Music will soon be 2 hours each way.. and I want it to be my Local! Thank you for having me x I will think of you each month!

Please see www.mouthandmusic.co.uk for further info

Kidderminster Creatives will be running a lively and exciting poetry slam for the Bank Holiday Sunday, May 4th, 7.30 pm, £3 entrance, at **The Boar's Head** in Worcester Street. Hosted by local poet Fergus McGonigal, the slam will see a dozen poets battle over three rounds for the title of Kidderminster Creatives Poetry Slam Champion. Further details can be found on the Kidderminster Creatives website address below.

The ever busy Heather Wastie is also running a series of friendly poetry workshops at the **New Meeting House**, Church Street, Kidderminster. The workshops are open to anyone who would like to improve their poetry, from beginners to more experienced writers. The next one is Wednesday 21st May 7.30-9.30 and the cost is £10. To book, email info@kidderminster-creatives.org.uk.

For further info... www.kidderminster-creatives.org.uk

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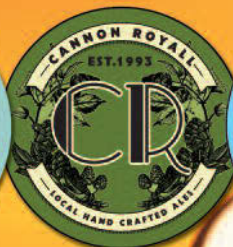
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Review - Surprise Attacks | Fantastic 4 Tour | The Firefly, Worcester | 18th April

Maybe it was the bank holiday effect. Maybe it was social media. Maybe it was the power of the beard. Whatever it was, the boutique little room above the



Firefly was packed to unheard of capacity for the debut gig of local post-indie monkeys **Holy Casper!** This was thoroughly modern guitar pop that repeatedly hit the hipster demographic bullseye - with just enough rough edge to make the girls swoon... and the boys wish they could be up there themselves. Mission accomplished, gents.

Next up, local heroes **Hey You Guys!** Fronted by a righteously eccentric ultra-nerd turned out like some dystopian, down-at-heel Bryan Ferry - and with plenty of poke behind - this was high entertainment, pure and simple. The distribution of free sweets to the entire audience half way through the set was a nice touch. I also find it hard not to love a band that does a song about their home town being destroyed by bombs. Joyous, celebratory nihilism like this is ever wont to warm the cockles. The old Faithful City of Worcester does seem to do something of a line in "geek-core" - I'm thinking of you here, Fights and Fires - and long may it continue.



Bristolians **Pohl** were a change of tack: a towering and crushing three-piece that walked a line between sludge

and noise, with a red-haired Albini-alike on guitar decorating the brutalist wall of sound with short, controlled bursts of screaming. This also thoroughly cleared the pipes of any fluff or fancy left there by the previous two bands. Fit to make the ears bleed.

And finally - into the late shift - headliners all the way from Portugal: **Ash Is A Robot**. These hot Iberians smashed the legs off it when they played at the Bridge earlier the year. In the short months since then their beards have grown and their post-hardcore sound has evolved - frontman **Claudio** having taken to using effects pedals to take his frankly peerless Roger Daltrey-esque scream to the next level, wherever that may actually be - and if anything they have become an even more intense and physical prospect. Most of this band spent half of the set in mid-air. Killer melodic hooks sunk in deep and pulled you into their world. They got sweaty. Some of their kit got broken. The drummer wound up at the back of the room by the end. These guys just... rocked.



Blinding. Happy goddam Easter, people.

Words: Ed Ling Photography Mark Hoy

Album Review - Fetus Christ / Meatpacker Split 7"

Now this is basically horrible. A split 7" courtesy of Hereford's premier grindcore three-piece **Fetus Christ** and some furious vegans from the East Midlands (**Meatpacker**). Average length of each of track is 48 seconds. A pretentious, aspiring-music journalist type - seeking to appear edgy and all down with the heavy shit might describe it thus: "this is the musical equivalent of a TWOC-ed Ford Fiesta ram-raided through the shop window of a boutique charcuterie. Ram-raided not for theft or personal gain though, but simply on principle. What you get in this nasty little tin is industrial-strength agitational noise that is as unapologetically inaccessible as it is confrontational". However. This reviewer is of very limited aspirations, so I never said that. But what I will say is that this is savage stuff, uncomplicated and direct, and keeps the grinding

conscience of Scum-era Napalm Death alive and well right into the second decade of the 21st century. What's telling - and a bit wonderful - is that this actually sounds as fresh and feels every bit as relevant as that stuff did way back then. Things just don't change. And there's always a place in the world for antisocial shittery like this.

Check out at:

meatpacker.bandcamp.com/album/meatpacker-fetus-christ



Ed Ling

CIRCUIT SWEET - Looks forward to Down on the Farm Festival with Naomi Preece

As always another busy month here at Circuit Sweet. Firstly we hope you enjoyed our 21 track free compilation we released for our 5th birthday which is still available!

On Record Store Day we were at Rise, Worcester where we got to see another fantastic set from the mighty **The Broken Oak Duet**, in addition to picking up the new **Skewwhiff** album out that day! Aside from that, we've been working hard promoting the live music at the forthcoming **Ross-on-Wye May Fayre** whilst busying ourselves with new releases and reviews.

On our website and fbook page we've been actively promoting a forthcoming local festival- **Down On The Farm**, back for it's 3rd year! Last month we featured the details of this festival, rapidly becoming one of the biggest events in The Shire, which is run by owner of **Gwatkin Cider** **Denis Gwatkin** and stage managed by **Rich Lovell**.

This year's bill is led by the superbly entertaining chart toppers **Dr & The Medics** and fantastic tribute act **Hats off to Led Zeppelin**. New for this year is an exciting second arena - **"The Hereford Live Acoustic Stage"** - showcasing a variety of acoustic bands and solo artists.

Circuit Sweet caught up with **Rich Lovell** to find out more about what's on offer over the 3 days:-

The festival is now in it's third year, but casting back to it's first year-how did the festival first begin and how has it since evolved?

*Denis Gwatkin, who owns the festival site, and I are part of a band called **Abysmal**, we have played a few gigs at the farm to friends and the idea for a festival gathered steam from that.*

The line-up over the weekend of **25th - 27th July** boasts a variety of tribute acts, original acts and an exceptional plethora of local talent- how did the line-up come about?

*"Plethora" - such a good word! We had an idea for the headline acts for a while - **Abysmal** have played a gig with **Dr & the Medics** and they were such an enthralling live act we just had to book them. But we have always wanted to ensure we have a good proportion of local acts playing - giving them a chance to play on a bill with a respected, experienced, chart-topping band. Hereford is the same as anywhere - it has a lot of talented musicians, but the difference is they don't always get an opportunity to show that and to grow further.*

Is there a band you just can't wait to see perform live?

*Outside of the Hereford bands (don't want to upset them!) I'd say **Headsticks**, a folk rock band from Stoke - they have the same attitude as us - it's all about friendships & music - and they make good music.*

This year you've teamed up with the hardworking guys at **Hereford Live** to provide a special **Hereford Live Acoustic Stage**- please tell us more about this partnership and what the stage is set to hold.

*I am part of **Hereford Live**, but I think, being a bit of a **Punk/Metal-head**, knowledge of the acoustic acts would not be my strongest point! They offered to get involved - both **Down on the Farm** and **Hereford Live** are trying to do the same thing for the local music scene so it makes absolute sense for them to be a part of this. There are some great acts - some very experienced, some who will be playing their first festival and that's how it should be. We have **Rick Monk**, **Bren Haze**, **Ria Parfitt** (singer from **Artstar**), and **Steve Gummersome** to name a few. In all there will be around 15 acts on the **Hereford Live** stage and I am really excited about it.*

If you could describe the festival in just ONE word to entice more to support the event, what would be that word.

*Abbeydorable (We are in **Abbeydore** and I should be beaten with a battle-hardened sheep for coming up with an answer like that!)*

This is such a fantastic event that emphasizes all things local why is this important to you?

*I have only recently discovered the wonder of playing in a band live on a stage and it is such an exhilarating experience that we want to give others the chance to have a go. Most festivals are so big that acts that have not had a great deal of exposure or promotion don't get a look in. The **Hereford Live** showcase events have shown that there is a great deal of talent out there and there are some real music lovers - put the two together and you have **Down on the Farm**.*

Other than the incredible talent on offer over the 3 days what else will the festival be offering to the attendees?

*We have great locally produced food, free camping with a weekend ticket, full bars and, well, it's on the **Gwatkin Cider Farm** - so there will their amazing real cider & perry - award winners. If you dare, you can try to get through every variety over the weekend - a challenge if ever there was one. There will be some stalls and the bands are invited to sell their cds or shirts if they so wish.*

If bands or any helpers wanted to get involved next year what's the best way to go about contacting the festival?

We have a website:

www.downonthefarmfestival.gwatkinscider.co.uk

email address: festival@gwatkinscider.co.uk

We are also on Twitter @DDDownOnTheFarm and Facebook www.facebook.com/gwatkindownonthefarm

And finally any last words?

We hope to see you all there....

If you are based in Herefordshire and would like us to attend an event you are putting on please let us know via our facebook, email or twitter @circuitsweet, if you want a band photoshoot, budget gig photography videography or simply want us to post some related news to your outfit then make it known.

Single Review - Of Kings And Captains - Takes All Night/You And I

CD in and blast we're away with an infectious, hi-octane number deftly executed by this bunch of Strourbridge boys, the enigmatically named Of Kings And Captains.

Back in 2013 they entered a competition through Absolute Radio to support Bon Jovi on their UK Tour and guess what - they won!

Listening to "Takes All Night" it's not hard to see why as not only does their music have an addictive hook-laden quality but this band has personality aplenty to set them apart from the crowd.

They have been touted as the UK's answer to Fall Out Boy and that together with a whiff of Paramore about them gives you an idea which park the ball is in.



The equally affable "You And I" completes a single which is perfectly produced by Gavin Monaghan of Editors, Ocean Colour Scene, Goldblade and Robert Plant fame.

OKAC are a very well-drilled outfit with excellent interplay between bassist Dean Greatbatch and drummer Kieran Lock, overlaid with some crisp, punchy guitar work from Joshua Lomas and topped off by the soaring vocals of Luke Wassell.

These lads deserve your support and apart from buying this single from all the usual outlets, you can catch their competition winning live act at:- Forum LG Arena in Brum on Sat May 3rd and Sun May 4th at Katie Fitzgerald's in their home town of Stourbridge.

Words by Anna Glypta

Review - Tommy Allen & Johnny Hewitt @ Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 30th March

This small historic pub, tucked away in the narrow Church St. of Ledbury, was subject to a severe case of 'sardines' as people filled every void to try the beers and be entertained by The Blues Duo. Definitely a case of 'no room at the inn', as the sounds of the Chicago street styled blues band filled the warm, thick air of the heaving bar. Little Walter provided the opening with 'I've Had My Fun', but there wasn't much breathing space as the pair rattled through



some wonderful old blues classics, and a few of their own, Tommy kicking up percussion as he put his Gretsch to work, as Johnny went into hyper drive on the harp. A lovely rendition of William Clarke's, 'It Must Be Jelly', wobbled its way to a short break and Muddy Waters, 'Baby You Don't Have To Go'; so we didn't, there was plenty more to come, as Johnny mopped his brow with a beer towel!

The break was brief, the packed bar, riveted, the only sounds were coming from The Blues Duo, as they called out, 'Hey Bartender', it wasn't a round of drinks, rather an almost endless round of blues. Almost endless was the soulful sounds from Johnny's harp as Tommy took a break

to study a handy dictionary, only A,B,C though, as his breathless partner, gave way for to wind up, Sonny Boy Williamson's, 'Nine Below Zero', a breathtaking marathon.

We edged slowly forward, no hurry, towards a medley of seamless rock & roll, as the boys were really getting into their stride.

Reet Petit, Chantilly Lace, Rock This House, Johnny B

Goode were stitched end on end, with a rapidly closing, 'Mystery Train' close behind. 'Backdoor Boogie' belts out, by this time, despite the sardines being very tightly packed, there was not a still pair of feet in the place. The clock was moving on, nobody gave a damn, certainly not the Blues duo, as they launched into 'Don't Bite The Hand that Feeds You', 'That's Alright' and after an ecstatic evening of endless superlative blues, they closed on 'Give Me One More shot'.



What can I say, 3 hours of of breathless blues, the Blues duo are definitely the real deal. Don't miss them, but be ready for an enthusiastically driven long session, brilliant.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn

Review -The Hip Priests, Sick Livers, 10:94 | Firefly, Worcester | 3rd April

Local jive-ass monkeys the 10:94 are a lesson in Rockabilly. They had it all. A charismatic greaser in a Marlon Brando vest on drums up front, nonchalantly manning his custom chequerboard kit while mastering the whole ceremony; Mark Kermod's edgier younger



brother on geetar; and of course, the double bass plucked with intent. A complete retro package that sounded intensely and infectiously fresh. Only Walsall's Dead Sea Skulls – residents down in that Camden – come remotely close in the cool-as standing drummer stakes. Swinging.

And then, straight out of the glories of the lower Usk valley... Newport's Sick Livers. This reprobate crew lifted the Rock out of the Billy and, greasing it up with margarine, shoved in a Punk. Pure. Garage. Filth. Imagine if Rocket



from the Crypt turned up howling drunk at your house in the middle of the night and demanded unspeakable sexual favours (and you had to think about it twice before saying no). Or if Elvis, wired on meths and snakebite, sloped over to you in some god forsaken valleys boozer, slipped his arm around your shoulders, popped his RayBans on your nose – and then proceeded to attempt to dry hump you against the wall. Keeping his lit fag perched in his mouth all the way through. And you'd be about there. Dirty, howling, cirrhotic chaos.

And then – headliners The Hip Priests. These black denim and patches-wearing rock n'roll fundamentalists are the real deal. The showmanship and the wild stage theatrics were simply in another league. This Nottingham four-piece preached their debauched gospel of righteous original garage punk – straight out



of the heady days of the Dead Boys and the Stooges – with a verve and passionate intensity that could have converted the furniture to their cause. The little skull monkey up front, his thick make-up freely running by about the second number, writhed, ground and whooped as if possessed by the spirit of a young Iggy Pop – ending the set encore with a note-perfect cover of TV Eye, riding the shoulder of some local knucklehead for the whole song like he was at some creepshow rodeo. Amen.

Words: Ed Ling

Pics: Chris Burton Et Sian Patterson. Aka Surprise Attacks

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Thursday 1 May 2014

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Harlem Dandy, Quarter Stone
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

Dan James' Open Mic
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Music Sessions with Paul & Ray
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Lucas D and the Groove Ghetto
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

VIX and the MsChief's
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Will Killeen
Bistro Mondo, Ross on Wye

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club

Friday 2 May 2014

The Budapest Cafe Orchestra
The Courtyard, Hereford

Dodgy and Tom Forbes
ReCon, Malvern

Mary Hinge
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Frys Cream (Cream tribute)
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Upton-upon-Severn Folk Festival

Daniel Seth
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Music @ The Legion
Royal British Legion, Bosbury Road, Cradley

Marina Del Ray, The Humdrum Express
O'Neills, Worcester

Time of the Mouth, Winstons Big Brother, The Vectors
Moochers, Stourbridge

Abby Inez, Scott Howland
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Executives
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Captain Accident & the Disasters
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Dj Night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The John Steeds
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Saturday 3 May 2014

Mister Wolf
The Bull Hotel, Ludlow

Steve Brookstein
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Last Tree Squad
Re Con, Malvern

The Executives
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Upton-upon-Severn Folk Festival

Walter Trout Blues Night
Sketchleys Bar, St Johns, Worcester

Blues Brothers Sing-along
The Lamb and Flag, The Tything, Worcester

Pewke Band
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Rene:Gade Festival 2014, Man V Heat Chilli Competition
& The Guerilla Art Sessions
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The May Dolls, Tres Primos, Connie Gordon
Saint Peters Church, Malvern

Busby's Babes
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Daniel Seth Trio
The Queens Head, Wolverley

The Reflections
The Castle, Worcester Road, Droitwich

The Vintage V.E. Festival, Incl. Miss Pearl & the Rough
Diamonds at Amber Cafe, Evesham see guide for details

A Foreigners Journey (tribute)
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Neck & Support
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Perry Foster
The Paul Pry, Worcester

The Mob
The Wolverley Sports & Social Club

Jay & Eli
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

The Urban Folk Quartet
The Palace Theatre, Alcester Street, Redditch

Crazy 88's
The Coventry Arms, Upton snodsbury, worcester

Vault of Eagles, Bleech, Reap
The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Plump Djs
The Queens Head, Redditch

Nostalgia – our monthly 80's night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Steve Brookstein
Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove

That Swinging Sixties Show
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Notorious Brothers
Callow End club, Worcester

Festivals Experience
Pavillion, Worcester

The John Steeds
Saltmashs Caravan & Leasure Park, Bromyard

Sunday 4 May 2014

The Machine Breakers
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Swingamajig Festival – The Destroyers, Electric Swing
Circus, Molotov Dukebox, Renegade Brass Band, Collective43)
Digbeth, Birmingham

Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Poetry Slam
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Upton-upon-Severn Folk Festival

ZZ Tops
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

The Vintage V.E. Festival, Incl. The Delray Rockets
Evesham see local guide for details

Black
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday Shennanigans – Open Mic Night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Oddfest
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

CoverJunkies
The Bull Inn, Fernhill Heath, Worcester

Keith Slater, Tony Arris & Guests
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Lounge toad
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Stuart Woolfenden
Highfields Social Club, Barnes Road, Stafford

Monday 5 May 2014

Collective 43
Discover Bewdley, Bewdley Town Centre

The Redlands Palomino Company
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Open Mic
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Bobby Wellins Quartet
Bank House Hotel, Worcester

Open Mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Upton-upon-Severn Folk Festival

Folk Session
The Lamb and Flag, The Tything, Worcester

Tuesday 6 May 2014

Open mic at the Oddies
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood

Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Perdido Street Jazz Band
The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

Open Mic
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Wednesday 7 May 2014

Marzy's Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music at the Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Bob Smith
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

ConFab Cabaret, Dizraeli, Catherine Crosswell, Amy
Rainbow, Myfanwy Fox
Olivers, Malvern

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thursday 8 May 2014

Bromsgrove Folk Club
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Attila The Stockbroker, The Humdrum Express
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Dave Onions
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club

The Sarah Warren Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Hitchhiker
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Ian Lockyer
Bistro Mondo, Ross on Wye

Virgil and the Accelerators
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Friday 9 May 2014

The Barflys
The Coventry Arms, Upton snodsbury, Worcester

Abby Inez, Scott Howland, Pig Daze, Oliie Roberts, Rammar
The Talbot, Worcester

West Coastin'
Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

Deep and Dirty Project
ReCon, Malvern

The Works
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Battle of the Bands – Round 1, Heat 1
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Dj Night

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Black Russian

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Honey Boy Hickling

The Queens Head, Wolverley

The Real Thing

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Clutching at Straws support from Shaken Faith

Moochers, Stourbridge

Metallica (Metallica tribute)

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Surprise Attacks Presents:

Violent Arrest, Grand Collapse, King of Pigs, Brain Wreck

The Fire Fly, Worcester

Three Blind Mice

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Martin and Eliza Carthy

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Drifter with Dave Small & Danny Gee

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Snooty Bobs, Pickering White, Poets & Thieves, Stuart Woolfenden

O2 Academy 3, Bristol Street, Birmingham

Saturday 10 May 2014

Voodoo Vegas, The Greasy Slicks

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Babajack

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The 2Tonic

The Wolverley Sports & Social Club

The Delray Rockets

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Planet Rock Band

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Kitchen Island Band

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Lee Hurst

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Danny Whybrow

The Lamb and Flag, The Tything, Worcester

Still Crazy

The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Rich Goble

The Virgin Tavern, Tolladine Road, Worcester

Boogie Street

Pavillion, Worcester

Dire Streets

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mister Wolf

The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

Black Heart Angels

ReCon, Malvern

The Capital

Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Cougar Attack

The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Punk Night - 2 Sick Monkeys & Real Detonators

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Burlesque 40's Night for VE Day

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Blind Lemon

Moochers, Stourbridge

The Reflections

The Cross Keys, Malvern

The John Steeds

Callow End club, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Hollybush, Mitton Street, Stourport On Severn

Nightshift

The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Audio

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Gandhi's Walrus

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Done By Sunrise

The Castle, Droitwich

The John Steeds

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Sunday 11 May 2014

John Denton's Midnight Band

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Cheryl Balzan

Ambassador Club, Evesham

Sunday Shennanigans - Open Mic Night

Moochers, Stourbridge

Sunday Night Jam night

Oast House, Redditch

Kidderminster Collective

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Will Killeen

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Sunday Jam @ The Morgan 3pm

The Morgan, Great Malvern

John Denton's Midnight Band

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Kidderminster Collective

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Lazy Sunday presents: Andy Robinson, Martin

Thorne & Company, Portia Reed, Ali Fawcett

Cafe Bliss at Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Monday 12 May 2014

Open Mic

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Open Mic

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 13 May 2014

Open Mic

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Open Mic with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

The Farriers Acoustic Monthly Music Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Open mic at the Oddies

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood

Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Wednesday 14 May 2014

Marcy's Jam Night

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Paul Sharpe
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Searchers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Music at the Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thursday 15 May 2014

Sonds of Simon
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Kim Cypher
Bistro Mondo, Ross on Wye

Cara Dillon
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

New comers music sessions with Kim Ryder
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club

Stackridge
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Dan James' Open Mic Night
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Swampcandy
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Adrian Burns
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 16 May 2014

The Usuals Hat, Esther Turner and Peter Williams
Moochers, Stourbridge

Flat Stanley
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Steelyard Blues
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Reflections
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Total Stone Roses (Stone Roses Tribute)
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Battle of the Bands – Round 1, Heat 2
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Dublin Jacks
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

The Neil Diamond Story
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Anthony John Clarke
Heightington Village Hall, Heightington, Bewdley

Time of the Mouth, Secret Cabaret & Jon Townley
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Junction 7
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Lucas 'D' & The Groove
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Austentatious
Artrix, Bromsgrove

CoverJunkies
Bushwackers, Worcester

Stourbridge Blues Festival
Old Halesonian Rugby Club

Cheesy Disco
ReCon, Malvern

The John Steeds
The Bell, Worcester

Saturday 17 May 2014

Swampcandy
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Chantel McGregor
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Midnight City
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Mister Wolf
The Fairfield Pub, Battleton Road, Evesham

Black Acid Souls, Anti-Clone
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Revere plus Charlie Barnes & Jeu
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Allstars Dub Band plus DJ Scratch Parry
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Mike Parker
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

The Straight Aces
Callow End club, Worcester

The Executives
The Green Dragon, Malvern

The U2 Tribute Band with support I Am Ryan
Ambassador Club, Evesham

Flat Stanley
ReCon, Malvern

Steve Taylor's Buddy Holly Rock'n'Roll Party
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Recovered
Moochers, Stourbridge

Richard Clarke
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Pete Hyde & Friends
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

I Am Ryan Album Launch
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Dj Night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mr. Ben
Pavillion, Worcester

The Nostorious Brothers
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Hanley Voices
Upton Parish Church, Upton upon Severn

Sunday 18 May 2014

Stuart Woolfenden
Rushwick Cricket Club, Upper Wick Lane, Rushwick

Remi Harris
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Sunday Night Jam night
Oast House, Redditch

Sean Stewart
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sunday Shennanigans – Open Mic Night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Swampcandy
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 19 May 2014

Folk Session

The Lamb and Flag, The Tything, Worcester

Open Mic

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 20 May 2014

Open mic at the Oddies

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood

Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Open Mic with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

Open Mic

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Stripped Down Blues' Blues Night

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 21 May 2014

Chris Wood

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Slim Lores

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Rodney Branigan

Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Marzy's Jam Night

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thursday 22nd

Maybe, Novac and Goode

Bistro Mondo, Ross on Wye

The Paul Steadman Band

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Comedy Zone Presents Robin Ince

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lounge Toad

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Gwyn Ashton

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Open Mic

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

The Reflections

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Matt Richardson

Artrix, Bromsgrove

West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club

Bryan Corbett Trio

Silvershine Jazz Club, Sherwood Road, Smethwick

Friday 23 May 2014

Rich Goble

The Yew Tree Pub, Main Road,, Conderton, Tewkesbury

Battle of the Bands - Round 1, Heat 3

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Jay & Eli

The Bell Inn, Malvern Road, St Johns, Worcester

Kinstrife

The Bridge Inn Kentchurch, Herefordshire

Vo & Tyler

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

Hip Route

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Simon and Garfunkel Story

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Fairport Convention

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

'Acoustic Sense' In aid of Sense (deaf/blind) charity

Mad Dave/Buzz/Alan Mason/Imaner/George Wilson/Black Tie

Event & Damaged Goods

Studley Conservative Club, Studley, Warwks.

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Copcut Elm , Copcut, Droitwich

Carnage Club

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Kazlon

Moochers, Stourbridge

Under A Banner & Support

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Memory Tones

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Stomp & Holler

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Thyme Bandits

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

The Cats

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 24 May 2014

Agape

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Skewwhiff & Support

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wes Dance

Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Rattlesnake Jake

Moochers, Stourbridge

AllStar Dub Band

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Femme du Rock - Alice in Thunderland, Black Russian &

Greenfire

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Protocol

The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

The Delray Rockets

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Voodoo Blue

The Coventry Arms, Upton snodsbury, Worcester

Flutacious, Crowsaw, Linerunners, Jackhammer Blues Band, Iron

Lotus, Ben Huws, The Kitchen Singers

The Bridge Inn Kentchurch, Herefordshire

Aladdinsane

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Devoted To Rock

The Wolverley Sports & Social Club

Steve Ajao Blues Giants

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Blacksmith Lane

Zephyr Lounge, Leamington Spa

Severn Sounds Beer and Music Festival

Pavillion, Worcester

Aquarius

Callow End club, Worcester

Comedy Skool

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Barnstormers

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Alladinsane: The Sound and Vision of David Bowie

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Vaginapocalypse

Beer in Hand, Eign street, Hereford

Suzy and the Backbeats

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Test Pilots

The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Miss Pearl & the Rough Diamonds, Answer back,

Lounge Toad, Amanda Stone, Da Vinci, more acts tbc

Re-Con, Great Malvern

The John Steeds

The Swan Hotel, Swan Street, Alcester

Sunday 25 May 2014

Hereford Live Summer Showcase

The Jailhouse, Hereford

The Capital

Masons Arms, Wichenford, Worcester

Nigel Smith

The Coventry Arms, Upton snodsbury, Worcester

Severn Sounds Festival

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Sunday Shennanigans – Open Mic Night

Moochers, Stourbridge

May, Music in the Hall – Vault of Eagles with

Deborah Rose and Swallow

St. George's Hall, Bewdley

Motorkill, Saxonized

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Dave Onions 4pm

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

The Delray Rockets

The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Vo & Tyler

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Prism, The Notorious Brothers

Angel Inn Hotel, Pershore

Ross-on-Wye May Fayre, Live acts all day

Ross on Wye

Acoustic Brew All Dayer

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Monday 26 May 2014

Mickey & Griff

Angel Inn Hotel Gardens, High Street, Pershore

Julie Fowlis

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Open Mic

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Slowburner

The Barrels, Hereford

Severn Sounds Festival

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Prism

Abbey Park, Abbey Park, Pershore

Tuesday 27 May 2014

The Bills

All Saints Church, Hereford

Open mic at the Oddie's

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood

Open Mic with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

Miles Jupp

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Open Mic

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Wednesday 28 May 2014

Bewdley Jazz Club with The Hot Coq and Boogaloo Jazz

Quartet and more

The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

Marzy's Jam Night

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Tom Hill's ZZ Bop

No 1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Music at the Morgan

The Morgan, Great Malvern

Jon Gomm

The Queens Head, Redditch

Live @ Glos Acoustic Showcase

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Delray Rockets

St.Peters Garden Centre, BroomHall, Worcester

Thursday 29 May 2014

Larry Miller

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

New comers music sessions with Kim Ryder

The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Brothers Groove

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrov

Jade and JP

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Stourbridge Folk Presents Kim Lowings in the celar

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Adamantium

Velvet Lounge, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club

Dan James' Open Mic Night

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Friday 30 May 2014

The John Steeds

The Fellows Bar & Grill, 1 The Broadway, Dudley

Satans Barbershop

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ska Hight – Big Fat Panda and Support

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Hitchhiker

Re-Con, Great Malvern

Stone Broken and Hope for Return

Moochers, Stourbridge

Door to door transport in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury

Community Transport



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Third Sector Services, Sandford Park Offices, College Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7HX

Mother Popcorn
 The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove
The Citrons
 The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester
Battle of the Bands – Round 1, Heat 4
 Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham
Bill Ocean
 Palace Theatre, Redditch
The Official Receivers
 Marrs Bar, Worcester
Jonathan Gee Trio
 Victoria Club, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham
On The House – Oh The Humanity! 12 – 4am
 Marrs Bar, Worcester
Ex-Presidents
 The Millers Arms, Pershore
The Delray Rockets
 The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster
Doug Segal
 Artrix, Bromsgrove
Vo & Tyler
 The Plough & Harrow, Guarlford, Malvern
Hellfire Orchestra
 Cafe Rene, Gloucester
Saturday 31 May 2014
 Ross Gig Club presents Kel Elliott
 Yzone, Ross-on-wye
The Kast Off Kinks
 The Artrix, Bromsgrove
The Axemen Cometh
 Palace Theatre, Redditch
Eternity– 90's club night
 Moochers, Stourbridge

Voodoo Blue
 The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn
Mood Elevators
 The Chestnut Inn, Worcester
Paul Parker and Friends
 Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge
Fury
 Marrs Bar, Worcester
Otis Mack & the Tubby Bluesters
 Callow End club, Worcester
Highway Five 10th anniversary gig
 The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester
Answer Back, Time of the Mouth, Viva La Revolution, Breakfast at Charlies
 Olivers, Malvern
Bo Pilar & The Mountain Valley Boys, The Humdrum Express, Disco Tramps
 The Boars Head, Kidderminster
The Citroens
 The Green Dragon, Malvern
Game On, Disco Tramps & Bo Pilar & The Mountain
 The Boars Head, Kidderminster
Rattle Snake Jake
 Pavillion, Worcester
Jeff Leach
 Artrix, Bromsgrove
Charlie Boswell, Kings of Folk and Remi Harris
 Guildhall, Worcester
Adamantium, Burden of the Noose, Elysium
 The RoadHouse, Wharfside Leisure Complex, Birmingham
Heavy Oil, Devlin Blues, Aynsley Lister
 Palace Theatre, Alcester street, Redditch

*Listings in conjunction with www.notjustsausage.com

THE MARR'S BAR

MAY 2014

Revere
Saturday 17th May



Friday 2nd

Frys Cream (Cream tribute)

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 3rd

A Foreigners Journey (tribute)

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Sunday 4th

The Machine Breakers

£5 a ticket £6 on the door

Monday 5th

The Redlands Palomino Company

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Thursday 8th

Virgil & The Accelerators

£10 a ticket £12 on the door

Friday 9th

Metallica (Metallica tribute)

£6 a ticket £7 on the door

Saturday 10th

Burlesque 40's Night for VE Day

£10 a ticket

Sunday 11th

John Denton's Midnight Band

£3 a ticket £5 on the door - 1pm

Friday 16th

Total Stone Roses

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 17th

Revere plus Charlie Barnes & Jeu

£4 a ticket £6 on the door

Thursday 22nd

Comedy Zone presents - Robin Ince

£10 a ticket

Friday 23rd

Stomp & Holler

£7 a ticket £9 on the door

Saturday 24th

Steve Ajao Blues Giants

£4 a ticket £7 on the door

Friday 30th

The Official Receivers

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Friday 30th 12 - 4am

On The House - Oh The Humanity!

£3 on the door

Saturday 31st

Fury

£4 a ticket £5 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

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