

SLAP

Issue 49

July 2015

MAGAZINE

FREE



SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

L4KEFEST

Croft Farm Waterpark, Gloucestershire

7th, 8th & 9th August 2015

MAIN STAGE

EMBRACE ASH Billy Bragg

With Special Guests

THE MAGIC NUMBERS

NEW MODEL ARMY

Hayseed Dixie

goldielookinchain

LLOYD YATES

Nizlopi

Ferocious Dog

Babajack

Haunted Souls

THE SELECTER

Dreadzone

CORRESPONDENTS

D:DREAM

Cheeky Girls

ROYAL CROWNS

Erica

Notorious Brothers

Simon Murphy

FLOATING GLOBE

Jasper In The Company Of Others/The Lounge Crusade/Lisbee Stainton

The No-Good Nancys/John Adams/Future Set/The Cracked/Outcast Band

Foreign Affairs/Robin Pierce Band/Woo Town Hillbillies/Tors

The Hawthornes/Bad Cardigan/Skewwhiff/The Leylines/Crow Puppets

Mark Harrison/Claire Boswell

SLAP

July 2015 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hello and thanks for picking up your free copy of the July issue of SLAP. July already? What happened to June? I here you say...

In last months editorial I talked about the sheer amount of local festivals we've had spring up recently and I think I probably only scratched the surface. The boutique festivals for me are one the great success stories in an ever changing music industry. Perfect for bringing bigger names in to help swell the ticket sales whilst giving local acts the opportunity to play before quite large audiences. Also perhaps more importantly, exposing our younger folk to 'real' music played live instead of the X-Factor bilge they're in danger of become used to. But it's not just music is it? Any excuse to have a festival it seems, which is fine by me. There are literature festivals, poetry festivals, food festivals, film festivals, comedy festivals and my favourite - beer & cider festivals. Last month we even had our first Canal festival followed by a festival of *maps* of all things! (Ok, I've been funnier...). Of course many of these small shindigs raise enormous amounts of money for their respective charities which is now more important than ever, so long may it continue...

In this issue we take a look back at **Wychwood** festival and the lovely **Lunar** festival amongst others and watching Glastonbury on the telly as I burned the midnight oil on my deadline, really has whet my appetite for this year's Nozstock. We also look forward to **Malvern Rocks** a week later, followed by **Lakefest** a week after that. It's relentless!

Talking of festivals, we will be announcing our line-up for the **Worcester Music Festival SLAP Night** in the coming weeks. We have six acts for you of the highest caliber with at least one surprise. The SLAP night takes place at the **Marrs Bar** on the Saturday evening after the amazing Jason Bowld drum clinic (see page 20). So keep your eyes peeled on our facebook and twitter but also check out the WMF website for regular updates.

Also as usual we bring our usual round-ups and arts news from our local art centres and theatres. I say this all the time but it's true; there's something here for everyone...

Add-Ed



BBC
introducing...



Belbroughton Beer and Cider Festival

Back bringing the best brews and bands together, but this time with a brand new stage and arena area. **Belbroughton Beer and Cider festival** (10th-12th September 2015) will be headlined by "funky folk trio" **Clutching at Straws** and folk rock **Leatherat**, topped with afterparties from the likes of **Elektric Custard** and cover band **The Busby Babes**. A Weekender ticket will cost you £40, (30 of which will be swapped for beer tokens) with an extra £10 for those camping, whilst day tickets vary. See their website for more info: www.belbroughtonbeerfestival.co.uk



Success at Severn Sounds

Congrats to everyone involved in the third **Severn Sounds** music and beer festival held at the Pavilion in the Park, Tybridge Street, Worcester from May 29th - the three day event featured performances from acts including **Chase The Deer**, **Sasha McVeigh**, **Haunted Souls** and **Tom Forbes** - and raised £1869 for New Hope and Acorns Children's Hospice - well done guys!



First ever Canal Festival!

An occasionally damp but entertaining weekend was had by all who played, took part in and popped along to Worcester's first-ever **Canal Festival** at Lansdowne Park from June 12-14! A great lineup of local music such as **Delray Rockets**, **Hump De Bump** and **Skewwhiff** was put together by Colin 'Mad Pierre' of the Chestnut Inn - let's hope we don't have to wait 200 years for another...

Blobbie for Eurovision?!

Worcester tribute singer **Tony James AKA Blobbie Williams** has revealed that he's planning on singing for Britain in the next **Eurovision Song Contest** - the portly **Take Fat** frontman is busy working in the studio on his Euro song that he hopes will rise to the top in full-fat style and get more than the pitiful five votes collected this year by UK entry **Electro Velvet**. Tony says that *'the people of the UK need bigger and need fun and that's where I come in'* - couldn't agree more!

4 SLAP JULY

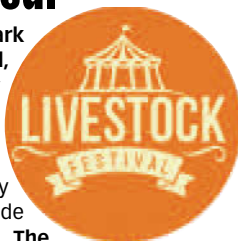
Happy Birthday!

Only right to wish the **Three Choirs Festival** a happy birthday as it celebrates its 300th anniversary in Hereford from July 25 to August 1 with eight days of choral, orchestral and cathedral concerts. The event rotates each year between

Worcester, Gloucester and Hereford cathedrals - and this year's nominated charity will be the **British Red Cross**.

Livestock gets local

Local acts such as **Prism**, **Mark Leedham**, **Bren Haze**, **Jack Of All**, **Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos** and **Done By Sunrise** are on the billing for the star-studded **Livestock Festival** at Longdon near Tewkesbury from July 31 to August 2 - headliners include **Scouting For Girls**, **Toploader**, **The Hoosiers** and **The Feeling** - the festival's been billed as 'a slice of rural Gloucestershire' - but psst it's actually in Worcestershire folks...



Au Revoir with Evesham

After 42 years of performing round the globe **Joan Armatrading** is playing her last major tour this summer and will be including a stop-off at the **Regal Cinema** in Evesham on Friday 7 August - the Grammy-nominated Birmingham-raised singer-songwriter played the Regal earlier this year and had no hesitation in including it again for her farewell (or is it au-revoir?) tour...

(Nearly) Sold out! Sunshine

Over 90 per cent of the advance tickets sold so far for this year's sixth **Sunshine Festival** in Upton on August 28-30 have been bought by people from outside the county. Organiser **Steve High** said that the majority have been purchased by gig-goers from London - but that people will also be travelling to Upton from as far afield as Poland, Germany and Australia! Headline acts include **Gabrielle**, **Chas'n'Dave**, **The Wurzels** and **UB40** - with 'a host of local acts also taking to the stage' - this year's charity is Worcester-based children's care organisation **Orchard Service**.

'Happy Mappy' gets royal treatment

The ever lovely **Andy Mapp** has been mailing us fresh(?) from his eponymous annual event regarding the fundraising success of this year's **Mappfest**.

The worthy charities were **Acorns Childrens Hospice**, **Saving Hearts Foundation** and in memory of Andy Hurrell, the local Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Mr Mapp began his missive by stating that on the day £5,673 was raised, an excellent sum you'll agree. As he typed a further donation of £237 arrived dragging the total up to the most marvellous £6,000 mark!

He continued as yet another message arrived from **Charlotte** and **Craig** of **Saving Hearts Foundation**: they managed to raise an amazing £525 which is half way there to another defibrillator. After discussion the Foundation agreed to donate a defibrillator and cabinet to Malvern for 24/7 usage and availability.



The final figure raised more than doubled last year's total and in his own words Andy was now a Happy Mappy!

More of his own words: "Happy people, great food, music and fun. Plus helping 3 great charities."

His heartfelt thanks also went out to **Coltec Elemental and Floating Lotus** for the first Solar Powered Stages in the area and of course all the bands who performed for free.

A couple of days before it was organiser Andy Mapp's 60th and he said 'it's not often anyone other than the Queen gets the Red Arrows fly by for their birthday'- steady on mate!

Drunken Monkey ROCKS!

The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival organisers would like to thank everyone who attended this years festival which managed to raise in excess of £7,000 with all profits going to **West Midlands Air Ambulance**.



One of the organisers **Stu**

Evans told SLAP "May we take this opportunity to thank all of the bands for their time and talents in providing a fantastic days entertainment. We would also like to thank Mr Paul Harker for allowing us to use his land and facilities as well as all the local companies who helped by providing trailers, barriers, generators ,fuel and most importantly beer!"

Plans are already being developed for next years festival where they hope to bring you a bigger and even more fun filled event with more quality bands!

Grade 8 at Eight!

Roseanna Gray, aged eight from Malvern has just smashed records passing (with distinction!) her **Grade 8** Trinity College exam, making her the youngest person in Britain to have done so. Seeing as the previous youngest was aged at 14, this is quite an achievement.

To pass, not only do you have to play to the highest of standards, but you also have to demonstrate performance skills, compositional ability and be able to improvise... Roseanna must have quite the talent.

Said to take inspiration from **Steven Adler** and **Roger Meddows Taylor**, Roseanna really likes to drum away to the likes of Guns 'n' Roses and Queen. Exciting things are to come from this one!

TALK TO US

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



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www.samaritans.org

We're a charity. It's the public's kind donations that keep our helpline open. To donate go to: mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworcesterbranch

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WORCESTER

*See our website for latest call charges.

The Cabinet of Lost Secrets is a brand spanking new, secret time travelling, interactive den launching at the amazing Nozstock Festival in Bromyard for the first time this summer.



With installations and pop up experiences, this innovative Clik Clik project features performances from artists including music, theatre, spoken word & visual arts. All housed in a unique space, being created as slap goes to press, **The Cabinet of Lost Secrets** is a place to discover yourself, find something that was lost, let go of your mind, time travel or just dance like you never danced before!

Combining regular Clik Clik collaborations and some fresh-faced performers from north and south, expect to discover some unique interactive performances deep inside the secret burrow.

Music includes **Sam Underwood's Glatze**, **Cantaloop**, **The Pink Diamond Revue**, **Collective 43** and **The Blue Dive**, with immersive theatre from **Collective Unconscious** and a live technicolour score from **Trio Diabolique**. On top of this there will be DJ's **Funky Navigation**, **Stef in Space** & **Rich Fox**.



piano action from **Dan Bramhall** and **Heather Wastie**, and a good dose of quirk from **Jim Dale**.

The Cabinet of Lost Secrets opens daily from 1pm with things to entertain you, and then at 8pm we reveal the hidden secrets in a place where we will party until late!

www.clikklikcollective.com



Between The Lines

As part of **Bromsgrove festival**, **Between the Lines** is an exhibition of work from **Brenda Henderson**. She works with pen or brush and ink, taking subjects from life or from her own photographs, then scans and colours the drawings digitally. Her subject inspirations are landscapes and details, forgotten places and the untidiness of everyday living. Her working inspiration is from the 'ligne claire' work of **Hergé**, and the paintings and prints of **Patrick Caulfield**. Until July 12th. www.artrix.co.uk www.bromsgrovethefestival.co.uk



Shifting Worlds

Contemporary Art and the Birthplace of Industry

West Midlands based arts organisation **Meadow Arts** is delighted to announce a new exhibition and residency

programme in partnership with the **Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust**, funded by **Arts Council England**.

Shifting Worlds explores the impact of the Industrial Revolution and challenges our understanding of its legacy in



Three Black Humps David Nash

Image: Rebecca Farkas

an exciting programme of contemporary arts events, featuring a newly commissioned sculpture by international sculptor and Royal Academician **David Nash**, an artist's residency with the highly talented **Faye Claridge**, an interactive adventure from *The House of Fairy Tales*, plus autumn exhibition *Landscape With machines* and symposium reimagining the Industrial Revolution.

Shifting Worlds takes place up until 8 December 2015 at **Coalbrookdale**, the site of three of the ten exciting and varied museums that make up the **Ironbridge Gorge Museums**. The museums give a fascinating insight into the people, processes and landscape of the Industrial Revolution and its impact on the present day.

www.meadowarts.org www.ironbridge.org.uk

The End

Another month of packed festival fun and, locally, where better than **Callow End** for the **End Festival** on Sat 11th! A day of music and fun for the family with proceeds going to maintaining the playing field. £3 adults, £1 12-18yrs and under 12's free. From 12 noon.



Accelerate

Accelerate was a highlight of last year's **Big Dance Week** and **New Generation festival** and **Dancefest** is delighted to present another evening of work created and performed by talented young dancers from across the West Midlands including **W'ire**, **Man Made Youth Company**, **Flexus**, **ACE Youth**, **RDC Youth** and **Elevate**, plus new work created by young choreographers.

Saturday 11th July 7.30pm, Artrix, Bromsgrove
£8/£6 concessions, family ticket £20 artrix.co.uk
dancefest.co.uk



Festival of Food

Discover the tasty treats that Worcester can offer you at the **Worcester Foodie Festival** on the High St. Visitors will be in for a treat with Michelin award-winning chef **Jean-Christophe Novelli** on Saturday, plus there will be a great variety of stalls offering delicious food and drink, demos and master-classes. Street entertainment, competitions, free face painting and fun activities will make sure that there is something for all the family at this celebration of all things tasty. 1st & 2nd August.



KAF on its way!

It's just over a month until the fabulous **Kidderminster Arts Festival** arrives to tease the Kidderminster streets once again

with its vibrant mix of performances, pop-ups and workshops. There are tonnes of gorgeously creative things to get involved with and enjoy so get over to their website for all info and don't forget to put it in your diary.

8th-23rd August kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk



Hope you are all enjoying the many festivals and events that are taking place.

Over the last couple of weeks I went to the final of the **Poet Laureate**, organised through the **Worcestershire Literary Festival** and was delighted that **Heather Wastie** has been appointed **Poet Laureate**. Heather is one of those people who makes arts happen in the county and this was a reward for a huge amount of work. Special mention to **Suz Winspear**, another person who gives a huge amount to the spoken word scene in the county and who was runner up.



I really enjoyed **The Asparagus Festival** in Evesham and what great value too. My family really enjoyed the day and my daughter and I took part in Bhangra dance workshops which was huge fun if only to see how embarrassed my son looked. Congrats to all especially **Tash Daly** for making this happen, shamefully I didn't eat any asparagus but filled my cockney chops with two caramel shortbreads.

Next up was the new **Canal Festival** in Worcester in the Lansdowne Park area. This is an interesting part of the city and it was great to see a new festival there. There was some great music and a really good vibe to it all.

In terms of the **Worcestershire Arts Partnership** I wanted to focus on one of our projects, **Jump Start**.

Jump Start is the informal network of meetings and events for artists of all art forms who wish to work and network on a regular basis.

There are two broad groups, one for visual arts and one for performing arts. The Visual Arts one is being led by **Sarah Seera** and at our last meeting we focussed on pop up spaces and we looked forward to the new open studios project planned for August. It was great to see so many new artists there, especially those who have just graduated.

The performing arts one, took place in the Old Rec and saw over 20 theatre practitioners discuss our last performance event at **Malvern Cube** and to plan our next event which will be in early October. The focus is new work and we are hoping that we are now beginning an exciting initiative where work can be shown, developed and created in the county.

To get involved in any of this sign up to the Arts Partnership's blog on the **County Arts Service** webpage or find us on Facebook either through the **Worcestershire Arts Partnership** or under **Jump Start**.

Finally a list of our next events

Thursday 2nd July is **Voices and Visions Our Talent**, Our Future which will present a new arts offer for Voices and Visions, the schools arts programme, now in its 17th year. At **University of Worcester Drama Department**, from 2pm to 4pm or 5pm to 7pm.

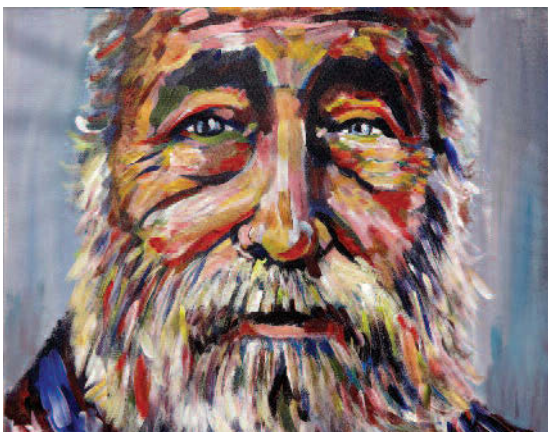
Friday 17th July sees our next festivals meeting where we will be bringing in experts in the field of crowd funding and also on how to apply for a Grants for the Arts bid. This is at the Hive from 10am to 12 noon on Friday 17th July.

Steve Wilson - County Arts Officer

Warren McCabe-Smith

Since graduating in 2001 with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art, Warren has taken on a wide variety of projects ranging from community-based documentaries and personal commissions to establishing a world famous T-Shirt printing business based in the Black Country (Google: Black Country Alphabet). In 2013, I sold my share of the business to be a full-time artist. He currently works from home and in his studio above **Scary Canary The Venue** on Stourbridge High Street.

I find facial expressions, body language, the delicate relationship between facial features and mood and the mystery surrounding individual identity hugely inspiring. I love drawing and painting pictures of different faces as the smallest of details can instantly change the mood of the piece. I am intrigued by the hidden stories behind the faces.



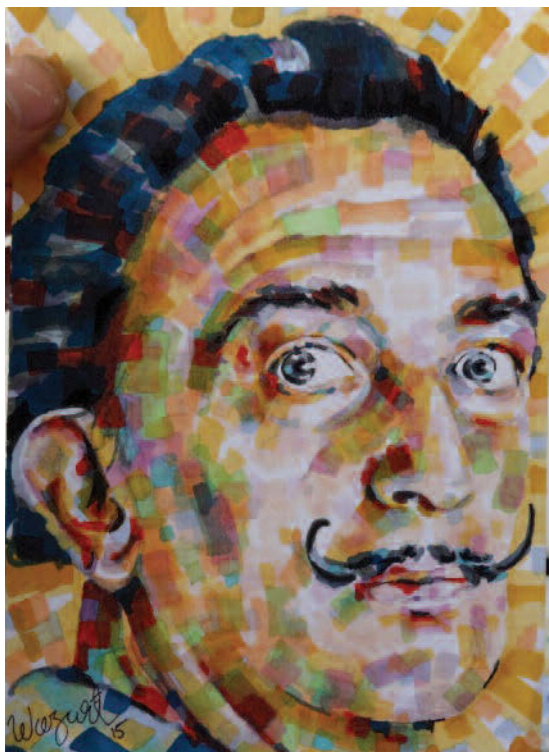
Watching people's lives unfold outside my studio fascinates me. They can be rushing, strolling, talking, running, eating, sometimes sad, sometimes happy, angry, laughing. I wonder who these people are and what is their story. A person's inner life is just about the only thing that is a mystery in this technological age: everything else can be Googled. This contrast is what I like to explore in my work.

In addition to drawing and painting, Warren is a member of Midland Film and Art, a voluntary group that promotes art and film in the local community. He designs posters for events at Scary Canary and volunteers at The Oaks Project, which is a creative organisation that works with adults with learning disabilities. These two projects allow him to flex his creative muscles in a range of settings with a wide variety of people.

Since 2013, he has experimented with different techniques, combining drawing, inking, painting, digital manipulation and video/film production. He takes on a variety of commissions, from pet portraits using ink and graphite to illustrating commercial product labels.

I am currently working on portrait commissions using a professional range of coloured marker pens on paper. I have been intrigued to note that I have received numerous requests for celebrity portraits, such as Clint Eastwood, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Clive Barker. It is fair to say that I will draw anything with a face! My reach is widening, helped in part by social media: I recently sold a portrait of Salvador Dali to a buyer in New Zealand, which was very pleasing.

Inspired by the Dali sale, I recently inked on paper the faces of several well-known artists, which are currently being exhibited at Scary Canary The Venue, Stourbridge.



Aside from portraiture work I am keen to develop the 'How To Draw' video project, which comprises short, instructional, easy to follow videos showing people how to draw things such as owls and astronauts. The sky is the limit!

www.wozart.co.uk

www.facebook.com/wozartuk

www.twitter.com/wozartuk

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 www.facebook.com/cinebaruk
www.scarycanaryvenue.com

Origami Bird Call & Tattoo Ted Raffle! KAF

This year's **Kidderminster Arts Festival**, happening from 8th-23rd August is calling for the public to take part in a mass white bird origami make!



Luminous Birds by **Kathy Hinde** will see Vicar Street have its own beautiful flock of birds throughout the 2015 festival. **KAF** wants your origami birds to fill Kidderminster Town Hall, all with your wishes, hopes and prayers for the future hidden inside them.

To make a bird, follow instructions via the YouTube tutorial: search 'Kathy Hinde Origami Bird Instruction Video' or visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSZK-WHBn7w; download the instructions as a pdf; ask for a group tutorial or pick up paper instructions from **Kidderminster Town Hall** or **Wyre Forest House**. All you need to make one is white paper (feel free to recycle paper you no longer need), a pair of scissors and a flat surface. Drop off your paper birds in the bird boxes at Kidderminster Town Hall or Wyre Forest House then try to spot your bird during the festival.

If you would like any more information, a tutorial on how to

make a bird or know a group that may be interested in making paper birds email: Nicola.Genner@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Also to raise funds for **Kidderminster Arts Festival**, **Tattoo Ted** will be taking part in a raffle! Tattoo Ted has been hand made using carpet wool, by local artist **Kate Wragg**. Multi talented Kate is a freelance set designer, maker, artist, Singer/Songwriter. A shortlisted artist for the **London Winter Pride Art Award**, Kate has worked with prestigious theatres and theatre companies both nationally and internationally. www.katewragg.co.uk

To enter: buy a raffle ticket from Kidderminster Town Hall Box Office or contact us direct to find out how you can be in the running to have Tattooed Ted as your new house mate. The winner will be announced on Saturday 22nd August at The Art of Tattoo at Kidderminster Town Hall.

kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

MOUTH & MUSIC

Poets and musicians will be getting inventive at the Boars Head on Tuesday 14th July when the theme for **Mouth and Music** is *"Invention – it didn't happen but it might have!"* The idea for the theme came from Staffordshire Poet Laureate **Gary Longden** who is featuring along with exciting young singer-songwriter **Jess Silk**.



Open mic performers are welcome to share their work on any theme and can book in from 7.00pm. The evening starts at 7.30 and the MC is **Sarah Tamar**.

See www.mouthandmusic.co.uk for more details.

	SPOKEN WORD & ACOUSTIC MUSIC OPEN MIC
	TUESDAY 14th JULY
7:30PM - OPEN MIC SIGN UP FROM 7pm	

feature #	Gary Longden
NOTES: Staffordshire Poet Laureate	

feature #	Jess Silk	additional #	Open Mic
NOTES: Exciting young singer-songwriter who tells it like it is		NOTES: Spoken Word & Music	

* THEME *

Invention - it didn't happen but it might have

ENTRY £3 (FREE TO PERFORMERS) MC: SARAH TAMAR





worcester arts workshop



Amanda and Eloina were back from Belize just in time for June's Lazy Sunday and, thankfully, they brought the sunshine with them! Yet again 'Café Bliss' exceeded themselves providing an afternoon of eclectic music and once again on the '12th July' bands will be traveling from afar to entertain the folk of Worcester.

Starting with **Zaria**, a singer songwriter from Pennsylvania performing some haunting dreamy sounds to slip you into an afternoon's entertainment.

Next, **Jamie Joseph** from Derby will be upping the tempo with some RnB before Bristol's **Ushti Baba** bang-out their stomping Balkan beat & heart wrenching Celtic melodies with gypsy jungle turbo folkstep! Guaranteed foot stomping good times. If that's not enough, wind down with our last band of the day **Anja McCloskey** from Brighton; a half-German, half-American singer and accordionist whose music has been described as sultry folk, like a Romany gypsy cabaret show.

www.youtube.com/zariamusic328

www.itsjamiejoseph.com

ushti-baba.bandcamp.com

www.anjamccloskey.co.uk

Doors open mid-day for customers to grab a seat, chill out with a drink and sample the scrumptious food provided by our Belizean chef **Ms Bliss**. Oh, and look out for some puppetry shenanigans by the **Story Hunter**.

On Friday 10th July, **Perfect Circle Youth Theatre** are performing a double bill here in the theatre. The company creates contemporary work and explores modern theatre

practice via productions, workshops, street theatre, devised projects and education packages. They always offer something worth watching and come with a Worcester Arts Workshop recommendation, so please do come along!

The show starts at 7pm and begins with 'God Bless the Child' by **Molly Davies**, followed by 'The Odyssey' adapted by **Hattie Naylor**. Just £3 a ticket available on the door.

Creative Enterprise is running another half day course on 16th July from 2pm, 'Selling Crafts Online'. Are you thinking about selling your craft online but don't know whether to begin with Etsy, Folksy or any other selling platforms? This course can help you get to grips with these key platforms, as well as other online options such as Facebook and stand-alone websites.

Led by **Rebekha Harriman**, a freelance social media strategist, the workshop covers techniques and tips for improving sales, profiling and managing your customers, and developing your social media. This fantastic workshop is a free event, but places are limited. To book your free place visit: sellingcraftsonline-worcester.eventbrite.co.uk or call 024 7615 8304.

This not to be missed event will start at 7pm with our very own Worcester musician **Terry Hughes**, providing a perfectly groovy introduction to the evening with his stylised interpretation of popular classics before the **BD Trio** take to the stage.

The boys have a distinct style and are always open to improvisation, keeping the audience on their feet! Tickets are only £7, so come on down! For more information call the Workshop on 01905 25053 or visit www.bdlenz.com

The WAW calendar continues with a rare and exciting treat for all you fabulous music fans! **B.D. Lenz**, an International jazz guitarist from the states will be in the UK and performing here on 18th July. He brings with him the phenomenal talents of **Joe Falcey** on drums and **James Rosocha** on the bass.

Lenz's music has been used in hundreds of TV shows internationally, most recently 'Breaking Bad' and 'Catfish the TV Show'.

Finally, there's a **Veggie and Vegan Fest** to be held in our yard on Saturday July 25th between 10am-4pm. There'll be a variety of stalls, and plenty of knowledge on offer to advise you if you're thinking about reducing meat and dairy in your diet. To tempt you there'll be a vegan menu provided by **Café Bliss** on the day (with a taste of Central America). For more information contact Paul on 07976868484 .

www.facebook.com/WorcesterVegansVeggies

Whilst mooching around the WAW please feel free to view the gallery in the Café & pick-up a leaflet telling you what's happening. For instance in July the beautiful exhibition from



Stephen Hewson and Susan Lawler continues but will change on the 12th as the winners of the Asha womens' centre art competition will be chosen to display at Cafe Bliss. Be certain to catch both exhibitions over the month and why not have a cup of tea and a piece of cake in the Cafe whilst you do so!



All Ears

An exhibition of sound art was showcased at **Millenium Point** Birmingham as part of **SuperSonic Festival** last month. Responding to innovations in early music technology, it featured work from artists including **Sarah Angliss, Colin Uttley, Eve Warren, Paul Gittens, Owl Project** and Worcestershire's **Morton Underwood**. SLAP hopped along to the opening night for some unusually fascinating demos and performances as well as the chance to view some beautifully old music boxes and tabletop organs from Birmingham Museum's collection.



Your eyes and ears were first met by **Morton Underwoods** listening device, a giant disco-ball face with sousaphone ears (with the help of **Phil Wilkins** on construction). This huge seat enabled you to listen to all kinds of strange aural perspectives.



Then we were treated to a huge newly commissioned sound sculpture by **Owl Project** with paper discs, synth modules and wooden speakers projecting a resonance within the room. Correspondingly, we were also presented with the **Oak Apple Orchestra** by **Paul Gittens** and a reconditioned five-octave pipe organ from **Sarah Angliss, Colin Uttley** and **Eve Warren**, all thrown into the mix with a fabulously strange opening night performance from Sarah using her robotics, bells and a theremin.

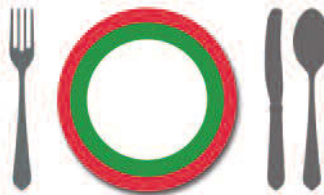
The exhibition ran as part of **Supersonic Festival** which ran throughout June, an experimental arts and music festival from Birmingham's dynamic arts & event producers Capsule, now in its 12th year.



WEEKEND CUBE

July is a month of firsts. We have our first **Comedy Night**, our first **Food and Film Special** and our first **VIP Pre-Gig dinner**!

Kicking off this month we have the **Italian Food and Film** night on Friday 3rd July. Our regular **White Wall Film Club** have teamed up with the resident **Cake Tin Café** to provide



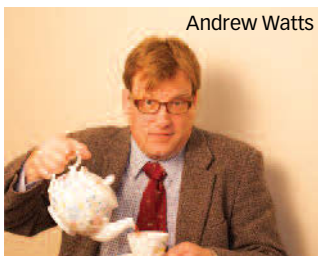
you with a special showing of 'I am Love'. The Cake Tin will be providing a two course Italian meal at 6pm before you sit down at 7.30pm to watch this oscar nominated tragic love story.

Andy White



On Friday 10th July **Malvern Cube** hosts its first **Comedy Night** starring **Andy White**, **Andrew Watts** and compere **Tony Vino**. **Andy White** "Oozes talent" (What's On Magazine). An energetic, confident Brummie who combines comic voices and a mad afro to a devastatingly funny effect. His appearance on the BBC quiz show 'The Weakest Link Comedy Special' featured in his five star Edinburgh show, 'It Started With A Quiz'.

Andrew Watts, as seen on ITV's 'Stand-Up Hero' and Comedy Central's 'The World Stands Up', has a very distinctive style. His posh boy humour is intelligent without distancing himself from the audience. Lawyer turned comedian,



Andrew Watts

Andrew is extremely likeable and wins the crowd over as he canters through challenging subjects like an apologetic tsunami. This pair combined with **Tony Vino** and his friendly observational humour and quick witted responses, are sure to have you chuckling away all evening.

Friday Beer, sponsors of the event, have teamed up with **The Cake Tin Cafe** to offer a delicious pre-show curry and beer. What could be better! Show tickets £10 and Dinner + Show tickets £20.



Tony Vino

Our slice of theatre for you this month comes from our youth theatre group **Perfect Circle**, who will be performing a double bill of plays. The first of these will be 'God Bless the Child' by **Molly Davis**, the story of a young school class in a state of mutiny. The second is 'The Odyssey' adapted by **Hattie Naylor**, an epic tale of courage, adventure, cunning, and love. The performance will take place at 7pm on Saturday 11th July with tickets available for £3 on the door.

Saturday 25th July we are bringing you our first VIP Pre-Gig dinner with **Marcus Bonfanti** provided by **The Cake Tin Cafe**. For just £25 you'll receive two courses, entry to the show and a lovely beer giving you the opportunity to spend some time and share a beverage with the wonderfully talented Marcus! There will be limited numbers for this special VIP dinner before the main doors open 8pm! Marcus "will knock you out" (Huey Morgan BBC 6 Music) at this solo acoustic show. Moving seamlessly from moments of extreme intimacy to high energy foot stomping rock & roll, regaling the audience with humorous tales of his life on the



Marcus Bonfanti



BabaJack

road in between. Last year saw Bonfanti guest with the likes of Ginger Baker, Van Morrison and PP Arnold as well as putting another hundred or so solo shows under his belt from America to Russia and everywhere in between. Standard entry is £10 which includes support from local touring band **BabaJack**, who will be adding to the evening their "intoxicating brew of blues, folk and roots music" (Classic Rock Magazine)! This gig really is one not to miss!

Tickets for all events are available from:

www.malverncube.com! We hope to see you there!

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The Return of Swampcandy UK Tour

Raw, hard hitting blues is the footprint of **Ruben Dodds** and **Joey Mitchell**, who make up **Swampcandy**. They are in the UK and promoting a new album, 'Swampcandyland', which builds on their style of frenetically paced, punchy music, best served with a glass of your favourite to hand.

Their visit last year to this area took in **The Gardeners** at Droitwich, **The Chestnut Inn**, Worcester, **The Prince Of Wales** in Ledbury and **Cafe Rene** in Gloucester. It certainly left an impression - dates conspired against a return to Ledbury and Droitwich but the band were eagerly anticipated at both The Chestnut and Cafe René. Memories of steaming atmospheres and alcohol driven stomping come to mind: they will be repeated.

Added to this visit to the area is **Blues At The Fold**, where they join an outstanding list of performers. Ruben's resonator guitar will be driving along the music, as Joey buries himself in his double bass whilst kicking in the beat on his drum. If you like your music with bite, forcing you to stamp your feet, then I suggest you find your way along and raise a glass as Ruben invites all to 'Drink Whiskey With Me'.

Swampcandy will be appearing at **Cafe René** on Friday 3rd of July, **The Fold**, Saturday 4th, and **The Chestnut Inn** on Sunday the 5th... join me there one and all one or all!

Graham Munn



CAFE RENE'S RHYTHM AND BLUES FESTIVAL 2015

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VICTORIA KLEWIN & THE TRUE TONES
MARTY OREILLY & THE OLD SOUL ORCHESTRA
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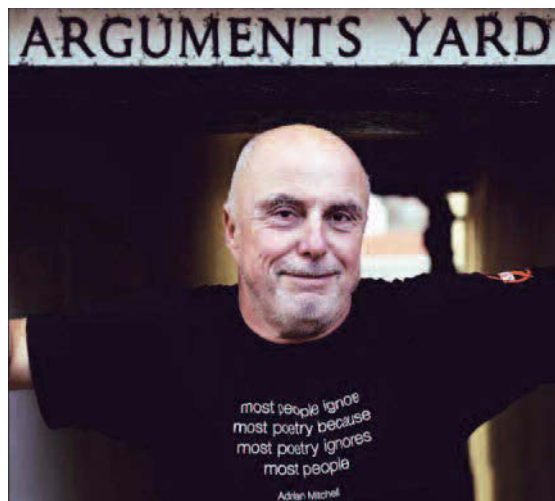
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 LIFE CHANGING

Atilla the Stockbroker John Cooper Clarke at Ledbury Poetry festival

Versatile Arts are working in partnership with **Ledbury Poetry Festival** to bring a touch of punk rock to this year's programme. The festival runs between **3rd-12th July**. **Atilla the Stockbroker** performs at the **Burgage Hall, Ledbury** on **Thurs 9th July**. Atilla is a sharp-tongued, high energy, social surrealist, rebel poet and songwriter. His themes are topical, his words hard-hitting, his politics unashamedly radical. Atilla



will make you roar with laughter as well as seethe with anger... Inspired by the spirit and 'Do It Yourself' ethos of punk rock, and above all by The Clash and their overtly radical, political stance, he started blagging spots between bands at punk gigs.

Atilla has spent the last 35 years performing across the world. He's written for many publications including The Guardian and The Independent but writing for his own performances inspires him most. Doors open 7.30pm. Bar available, performance at 8.00pm

John Cooper Clarke performs at the **Community Hall, Ledbury** on **Sund 12th July**. Britain's best loved performance poet, John is as vital now as he was in the 70s; his biting,



Versatile Arts present

Atilla the Stockbroker



**Thurs 9th July
Burgage Hall,
Ledbury.
£8.00. 8.00pm
bar from 7.30**

John Cooper Clarke

**Sun 12th July
Community Hall
Ledbury
£19.50
7.30 pm
bar from 7.00
plus Luke Wright**



Tickets, festival box office.
0845 458 1743
www.poetry-festival.co.uk



satirical, political and very funny verse is delivered in a unique rapid-fire performance style, resonating with the punk movement. JCC toured with all the seminal bands; The Sex Pistols, The Clash & Buzzcocks.

A whole new generation is clamouring over John's work and he can be seen often on TV on shows like **'Nevermind'** and **'Have I Got News for You'**. He also guests as a DJ on **BBC Radio 6Music**. John continues to write new work which he performs solo, alongside old favourites such as *Beasley Street* and *Evidently Chickentown*. His shows are always packed and his audience always leave ecstatic.

Support comes from the energetic, eccentric and engaging **Luke Wright!**

Tickets for both gigs are available from Ledbury poetry festival box office. 0845 458 1743 or via the website www.poetry-festival.co.uk

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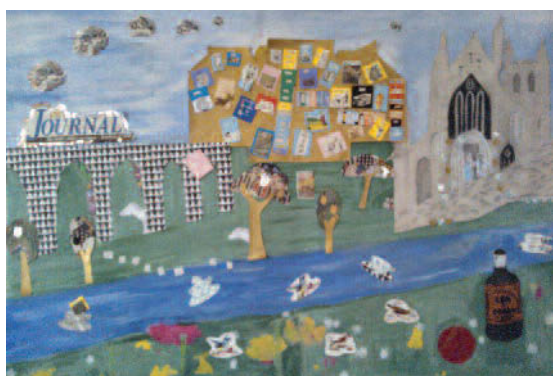
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Young at 'Art

This review looks at two very different art exhibitions that were on in Worcester last month. As the academic year came to an end, students from **University of Worcester** put on their end of year show in various locations around the city. Meanwhile, the annual celebration of children's school art projects went on display at **Worcester Cathedral** in the **Voices and Visions** exhibition.

There seemed to be more exhibits than ever before, many of which combined the work of different children within a single theme - and that is what I love best about this exhibition. It's not about competition or showing off, it's about



sharing art in communal projects. There were remarkable exhibits combining similar themes from different schools like the poppies to commemorate the 100 years anniversary of World War One. But there are also some projects where a whole class worked together to create one display, like the little clay monsters of **Abbey Park Middle School** or the fantastic collage of Worcester by **Perdiswell Primary School**. But it's not just about community projects it's about all sorts of different methods of creating art. There are clay models and statues made from wood or wire, collages from lots of different materials, drawings and paintings.

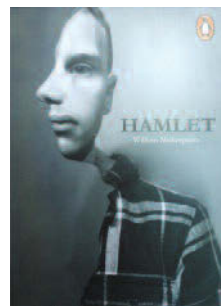


Meanwhile the graduating students at University of Worcester had also experimented with many different formats and mediums to create their (once again) outstanding quality work as part of their final assessments for their degree courses. Over 100 emerging artists, designers, photographers, filmmakers, animators and illustrators showcased their work.



Of those with work on display some students had previously been exhibited elsewhere and won awards for their work, including **Jade Blackstock** who was recognised by the **Leverhulme Trust** with a prestigious grant to help facilitate her postgraduate studies at the **Royal College of Art**. Meanwhile **Rosemary Foad's** 'Welcome to the Afterlife' immersion installation won the **Worcestershire County Council Illustration Graduate Scholarship** and **Emily Dove** won the **Teresa Killian Memorial Prize** for professional practice.

Illustration students had created animations, drawings and even and full-wall murals, while graphic design students had created impressively professional posters to advertise books and events, and designed new fonts. Photography students had captured some lovely aspects of Worcestershire and creative angles of other things, while the animation students had created many wonderful things. This is by far my favourite section, as I love to see how the stop go animations are created, and see the sets as well as the characters created,



and story boards of drawn animations. By far the most fun though is seeing the finished products zooming around on the many screens set up in the room, the product of many hours of creativity and hard work.

All of the art viewed over the same weekend was of incredible quality and by amazingly talented students. Whether first school, middle school, high school students, or university graduates, all the students whose art I saw this weekend was amazing, and I heartily congratulate all of them on their hard work.

Sarah Ganderton

Exciting things are coming up at Artrix!

Fresh off the release of third album *'Magnificent Creatures'*, **Gren Bartley's** new band line up are set to grace Artrix on Saturday 18th July, sporting a unique sound influenced by folk and world music traditions.



Whilst the largely anticipated **The Paperboys** bring their Folk, Celtic and Bluegrass fused music to Artrix on Sunday



26th July, a band that's seen a lot of evolution since their inception, they're sure to flow between joyful and heart breaking tunes to appeal to everyone.



Colour and vibrancy come on the 1st August with **Coco and the Butterfields**, after playing an impressive three slots at last year's Glastonbury, interestingly mixing folk, pop and rap...

Finally, one for fans of **The Stranglers**, **Hugh Cornwell** (their original frontman) will celebrate his extensive music career on Sunday 30th August, sure to feature some classics such as *'Skin Deep'* and *'Peaches'*.



Evesham Carnival - 6th June

It was D day on the 6th of June (couldn't let that one go) for the **Evesham carnival**. With a rousing warm up from the **Avon Town Band** with a selection of well known tunes from bloody Disney film to music hall faves the carnival got underway at just after 1pm. This was the first Evesham Carnival in seven years and the first one I've seen in a long while. Flashback to the 1970 & 80's and it was a trip down memory lane. In bygone years carnivals had a bit of a following and people often talked about going to several local ones through the summer. Carnivals still hold a big attraction for the public and it was good to see a good turn out from the town. A lot of time and effort had been put in to some great floats, the theme of which was 'At The Movies'. The floats ranged from that bloody Disney film (Frozen) to old favourites like Carry On, which always gives a couple of blokes the opportunity to dress as a nurse (wish I'd gone now: *Sub Ed*).



With bucket-chuggers, balloon sellers, vintage cars, an old bus and the mayor in a open top car, (must do something about those Dallas flashbacks!) this Evesham event had all the right elements you could want in a carnival. It was great to see Evesham coming together as a community and making the effort to show what is on offer in the town. My only criticism was the lack of advertising for the event; a few well placed billboards on the bypass would have got a lot more people into the town I feel. Ten out of ten for a great carnival though.



After the carnival there was an It's A Knock Out Tournament plus live music from the **Maraboooboo Allstars**, **The Birmingham Blues Brothers**, **Country Chicks**, **Los Morados**, **Journey 2Toto** and **Viva Abba**, all topped off with a fireworks finale. Hopefully the Evesham music festival in July will see a good turn out too and hopefully better advertising.

On the subject of advertising, **The Avon Town Band** are always looking for new members, so if you are full of wind and like a bit of Glen Miller or that bloody Disney film and fancy learning a new instrument then check out their Facebook page for details. Let's hope this is the first of many **Evesham Carnivals** to come.

Mad Dave Batley
SLAP JULY 17

Manic Street Preachers 'The Holy Bible' Tour Wolverhampton Civic Hall | June 1st

I'm going to do this review (slightly) in reverse. Ending with 'A Design For Life', The Manics proved that after over 25 years in the industry, they have (arguably) become one of Great Britain's most loved and respected bands. The 'greatest hits' second set was a neat cross section of their sometimes bewildering back catalogue, starting with their first truly brilliant track, 'Motorcycle Emptiness', the rousing 'Walk Me To The Bridge' from their most recent album 'Futurology', a surprise in 'Condemned To Rock & Roll', a bona fide number one in 'If You Tolerate This ...', still enough room for album tracks such as 'Removables' (for the first time since 1997) and 'Golden Platitudes' from the slightly disappointing 'Postcards From A Young Man' yet ignoring the 'Know Your Enemy', 'Lifeblood', 'Rewind The Film' and (surprisingly) 'Journal For Plague Lovers' albums completely. The back catalogue is now so extensive that there will always be personal favourites omitted, but there is still 'Your Love Alone Is Not Enough' (no Nina Persson guest slot unfortunately ...) and 'You Love Us' to keep both new and old fans more than happy.

But, this tour is all about the first set and is the purpose of it all, the 21st anniversary of their third album 'The Holy Bible' - the turning point in the band's earlier career and the last one made with **Richey Edwards** before his disappearance back in 1995 at the horribly clichéd age of 27. Not a turning point in terms of commercial success, but the one where the critics started to take them seriously and fans were vindicated for their dedication. To call it 'uneasy listening' may be somewhat of an understatement yet with its post punk guitar leanings (see Gang Of Four, Wire and their ilk) and seemingly impenetrable lyric matter, it spoke to many people that had previously given The Manics a wide berth and still resonates to this day.

Unsurprisingly, the album was played in exact running order



so I won't list all the tracks. Hindsight is also sometimes a hindrance as one can read into the 'lyrics' and view the album as being Richey's last will & testament. He did, however, inhabit many characters and contradictions, so some of the words are undoubtedly about his own psyche, yet in tracks like '4st 7 lbs' (the highlight for me tonight) it is written from a female point of view, a fact often overlooked. My other highlight was 'This Is Yesterday' a little light in the darkness of the album and a **Nicky Wire** lyric often wrongly attributed to Richey. The album was played as a three piece (the second set featured an extra guitarist and keyboard player, yet still leaving an empty space stage right where Richey once stood) and **James Dean Bradfield** played magnificently. Though there were gaps in some of the lyrical delivery (most notably, "hurt myself to get pain out" in 'Yes'), he made the guitar look like the easiest instrument in the world to play. A true unsung talent in the big scheme of vocalists/guitarists and it's still baffling how anyone could take the words presented by Edwards & Wire and make sense out of them, let alone (if somewhat skewed) verses and sing-a-long choruses. It was an emotional affair, and one shouldn't forget that The Manics didn't just lose the man who directed the whole presentation, image and manifesto of the band (and, to quote James "a fucked up idiot"), but a childhood and family friend.

How it must feel to sing and play *The Holy Bible* without breaking down is a testament to the belief, sheer passion and determination of **The Manics** to still stick their 'V's up to their detractors even after all these years, which can only be commended. They truly are '4 Real' and are here for the long haul. Get used to it.

Baz Bojak

New Comedy Night at the Berkeley Arms

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Not content with being the 'go to' music venue in Tewkesbury there is a new addition to the entertainment at **The Berkeley Arms. Sclallywags comedy!** It is a brilliant night and will be every 4th Wednesday of the month for more information please call **Jon Wagstaffe** 07980 858557

Andy O'Hare

Now while we're all in no doubt whatsoever that it's an amazing time for live, local and original music in this wonderful part of the UK - with so many acts of every genre under the sun producing great tunes on a weekly basis (and being very warmly applauded for their efforts) the hard fact remains that still only a very few are actually making a living from their musical talents. So why on earth is this the case? Every week I hear at least two or three magnificent new and original local songs that by right should be spending weeks at #1 in the charts-but that's not happening-so what's going wrong?

The Musicians Union (MU) are acutely aware of this problem. They know that only a tiny proportion of musicians are well paid - with the vast majority fitting their music between the day job and other worldly cares for little or no reward but does this really need to be how it is? I don't think so!

A whole lot of acts start out nowadays either via the open mic circuit or after a few months practice in their local church hall. They get their set worked out and maybe record their best couple of numbers so what's the next step? There's venues and gigs available to play but somehow most of them seem to be unpaid...

Don't start panicking! This is the time to fine-tune your set of carefully-crafted numbers into an act that people will start talking about but it's at this point that many outfits see the 'unsigned talent' contests as being a quick route to international stardom. Sadly the truth is that these sleezebags only exist to obtain as much publicity for themselves (which you generate for them) without having to lift a finger - promising 'jam tomorrow' while gleefully extracting as much dosh from you and your supporters as you 'advance to the regional semi-final stage'... It's pretty much the same with the 'pay to play' gigs - if the first question you're asked when phoning a venue is 'how many will you bring' rather than 'what type of music do you play' then put the phone down straightaway - or in other words they're basically all complete bollocks - so the first and greatest step you'll take is to avoid losing money from playing your music there in the first place...

But now's also the time to take a rain-check on the business side of your act. Get business cards and flyers printed with your website addresses - you might be playing a local support slot for no fee but there's no reason why you can't shift some t-shirts, CDs with two or three tracks (don't bother with albums!) all these can be produced from home for pennies and will probably give you a greater return than all the online music sites combined...

What about charity gigs I hear you ask? Yes and quite right! The MU feel that it's unfair for musicians to be 'emotionally blackmailed' into playing these events for no reward while venues, staff, caterers etc are being paid as normal - and that they should be offered their usual fee. My view (being associated with many charity gigs myself) is that the musos are hugely appreciated for these occasions and it's only fair and proper that at the very least they're given some sort of material thanks for supporting these ventures. Plus all of the publicity's usually handled for you - so it's another chance to shift some merch!!

The MU do recognise that many acts consider their music as a hobby rather than a career (that's fair enough) but if your aim is a little higher and you actually have a kicking repertoire of numbers in your set then it's now time to adopt a thoroughly professional attitude - and this can be done!!

You've served your apprenticeship but now you've progressed to the next level. If you want us to play your gig we'll require a fee and if you're good enough that won't be a problem!!

I'd love to see every muso I come across getting paid a fair whack for performing but (thankfully not so often) I feel that maybe it's the audience who should be getting a back-hander for patiently tolerating an act that's not bothered to rehearse or do even the most basic promotion. If you have to ask 'what's this act called' and nobody knows then that's a major fail...

It ain't easy - there's no instant magic button you can press and it can take years to become an overnight success! But if all else fails listen to the very wise words of local legend Verden Allen of Mott The Hoople - who when asked how to succeed in the music business said 'Chances are you won't - just get a proper job...'

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



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Powerhouse drummer Jason Bowld confirmed for Worcester Music Festival 2015

Worcester Music Festival is pleased to announce that world-renowned session drummer and composer **Jason Bowld** will be performing a drum clinic at Marr's Bar on Saturday 19th Sept at 4pm. Known for his powerful drumming with industrial legends **Pitchshifter** and supergroup **Axewound**, experienced drum tutor and accomplished songwriter Jason has toured the world from club level to stadium level with the likes of **Fightstar** and **Bullet For My Valentine** and continues to do so with various artists including **Killing Joke**, **Pop Will Eat Itself** and **Bill Bailey**.

Featuring as one of the festival's must-see workshops for drummers and music fans alike, Jason will demonstrate material from specific songs to different drumming techniques and concepts, including drum and bass, linear patterns, soloing and showing off!

Having gigged and recorded with **EMF** guitarist **Ian Dench** and singer **Amanda Ghost**, Jason has earned respect from U2 and Depeche Mode producers Dave McCracken and Steve Fitzmaurice.

Personal requests from Sony BMG to record for up and coming bands has reinforced his efficiency in the studio, where he has been known to record drum parts for albums within three days.

On the drum clinic front, Jason has great experience playing and teaching at most of the main, worldwide drum festivals. His passion for education is further backed up by his tuition column in *Rhythm* magazine and contributions for the latest *Rockschool* syllabus, which he has written and performed tracks for.

Worcester Music Festival welcomes local music hero Jason Bowld back for his continued support of one of the UK's fastest growing, metropolitan live music events.

Be sure to catch a heart-stopping masterclass from Worcestershire's own world acclaimed drummer - for FREE at Worcester Music Festival 2015.



For further information visit: www.jasonbowld.com

Jason Bowld appearing at Worcester Music Festival in 2009
Photo: Steve Johnston



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Relax and enjoy a Sunday roast with live music by Malc Evans, an entertaining & engaging singer and guitarist.

Foxes Morris Foxtrot Weekend. 11 & 12 Jul, Free - Expect plenty of music, morris dance and merriment!

BretFest: Violin and Piano Recital with Marcel Zidani & Michael Bochmann

Sun 12 Jul, 5:00pm for 7.30pm. Bretforton Manor, £30

BretFest: Richard Durrant – The Guitar Whisperer. Wed 15 Jul, 7:30pm. Tickets £14, Under 16's £5.

A chance to see the UK's only stand up, barefoot, un classical guitarist.

BretFest: Piano, Cornet and a Cuban Twist with Paul Wood & Marcel Zidani. Fri 17 Jul, 7:30pm. Bretforton Manor, £12

BretFest: Bretforton Proms. Sat 18 Jul, 5:00pm, Bretforton Butty, Free

It's time to dust the picnic chairs & tables for Bretforton Silver Band's annual Last Night of the Proms

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The Courtyard, Hereford

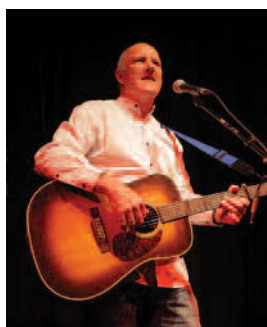
July at **The Courtyard** promises to be as diverse as ever as we highlight four events which range from deeply moving youth theatre, through stunning show tunes to quality comedy folk.

On Thursday 2nd is a musical double bill as acclaimed show **A Tribute To Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons** hits Hereford with local act **The Silhouettes** giving their all as they blast out the immortal likes of *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Sherry* and many other hits.



Completing this night of West End magic will be **X-entricity** who are a musical theatre group for under 25's which gives its members training in musical theatre and opportunities for live performance across the county.

This concert is a fundraiser for both **X-centricity** and **The Courtyard** and as such there will be a raffle with prizes kindly donated by local businesses and a bucket collection. All support will be most gratefully received.



The next night, Friday 3rd sees legendary comedy-folk singer/songwriter **Richard Digance** return to Hereford, as he once again brings his singular blend of pithy wit and observation together with tasty tunes.

BAFTA nominated and Gold Award recipient from The British Academy of Composers and Songwriters, Richard has also duetted with Brian May

and worked with the estimable likes of Steve Martin, Status Quo and the late Robin Williams.

This will indeed be a merry and lighthearted night of musical amusement and is sure to delight all that attend. Recipient of The Slap Mag "Highly Recommended" Stamp of Approval!

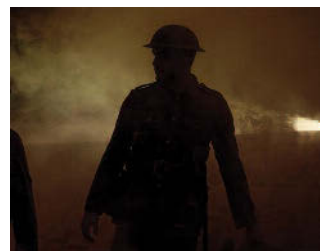
Third of The Courtyard picks is local dance troupe **2Faced Dance** who bring their explosive, urban-meets-classical dance show 'Alpha' to the stage on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th July. The show features a amazing 120+ young performers who are bound to thrill with their exciting fusion of street dance, urban contemporary and breakdance.



'Alpha' will truly astound the audience with this stunning showcase for the high-calibre talents of 2Faced Dance youngsters. Miss at your peril!

Also showcasing more gifted youth is **The Courtyard Senior Youth Theatre's** production of **HeRo**, a brand new play which commemorates the Great War.

HeRo is an explosive and emotionally charged piece which uncovers stories of love, struggle, violence and above all, courage from local people who fought in the war or were equally heroes on the home front.



The Youth Theatre have worked with playwright James Baldwin to create the play from real life stories of people from this county. The name has been devised in tribute to the Herefordshire Regiment.

This project has been made possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery and has involved working with Hereford Library, local museums and historians from the county to build a big picture as they research the work.

An important and worthy piece of work then which doubtless deserves your patronage; 'HeRo' will be performed from Thursday 16th through to Saturday 18th July with Saturday having a matinee performance also.

As always for more details and tickets please head over to The Courtyard website: www.courtyard.org.uk

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White Feather Collective Malvern Bicycle Shop CIC 7th June & West Malvern Social Club 13th June

I went to see this band on a recommendation on the 7th at a fund raiser for the **Air Ambulance** in Malvern Link at the **Malvern Bicycle Shop CIC** which was held in the garden. Sometimes you go to a gig not knowing what to expect and then see something that you had wished you had seen before. This was one of those moments. I was bowled over by their retro late sixties/early seventies sound.



They reminded me of The Doors with some Velvet Underground thrown in, but also other influences from that period. I hadn't seen them before but found myself looking to



see where they were playing next. One of the opening songs was 'Louise' which I thought was a cracking start followed by 'Crossroad Shootout' (see You Tube), 'Taxman' and 'Writing a Novel'. They played for nearly 3 hours in total and kept me interested all the way through.

I Decided I would see them again and went to the **West Malvern Social Club** on the 13th, figuring it might be a bit different in front of people who paid their fiver to see them. It was a bit more in your face but none the worse for it. Another 2 hour plus gig, full of as yet unnamed songs and a cover of Lou Reed's 'Waiting For My Man'.

They do have one album out that they sell at their gigs which is well worth the fiver it cost me but I cant wait for the second album (I think it will be even better) that they are currently working on. I will certainly be in the queue to buy it. I sit here writing and find myself already wanting to see them again - I cant recommend them enough. Buy the album and pay to see them while they are still a bargain I fancy they may not be so cheap to see in the future. I cannot urge you enough to go and see them.

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- Sun 5th **Gardeners Jazz Club** Hosted by JAZZ ALCHEMY Band + Guest performer 1.30pm
- Thurs 9th **SLAP MAGAZINE** Band of The Month **Guest Band** Night 8.30pm
- Sun 12th **Wychway Trio Country Band** Live Music 1.30pm
- Thurs 16th **Sally Ladies Night** Live Local Girl Musicians Night 8.00pm
- Sat 18th **Arkvard Stew** Live Music 7.30pm
- Thurs 23rd Local Up Coming Musicians Night 8.00pm
- Fri 24th **Haunted Souls** Band Live Entertainment 7.30pm

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Sunday at Canal Fest | 14th June

The afternoon of Sunday 14th June saw the last of the events and performers at the very successful **Worcester Canal Festival**, an event in aid of local charities and community groups. It also marked the 200th anniversary of the **Worcester & Birmingham Canal**. Besides the selection of well known local bands there was also a plethora of activities such as sideshows, craft stalls and craft boats and in addition a delightful performance from the local **St Barnabas Primary School Choir** led by teacher **Esther Penwarden**.

The penultimate live act of the afternoon was the **Collective 43**. This band plays its music with a trad jazz style that incorporates a modern feel, displaying an open minded approach to other musical genres and personal influences. Collective 43 set include original material together with classic standards reworked to fit into their musical concept



and so we get 'When the Saints go Marching In', The Cure's 'Love Cats' plus the Dick Dale standard 'Misirlou' amongst others. They are an expanding and contracting group (depending on availability) which notably uses brass to the fore, however everything and the kitchen sink (which probably has been used at some point) can quite easily find its inclusion into the musical mix. This eclectic euphony of instruments and influences creates a musical experience that guarantees to bring a smile to the face, whilst The Collective's style, humour and a strong penchant for audience inclusiveness are key factors in the band's popularity.

Living very local to Canal Fest it was only fitting that **Skewwhiff** headlined the last day and finished the festival. Seen quite frequently since the band's inception in the late noughties, they have become a tight musical unit that consist of a very strong drum, bass and guitar section backing the wistful, wonderful and melodic vocals of **Hannah Beanie**.

A great sound with well constructed songs with a strong eighties' Indie music influence can be found in anything they write but only obvious (*It's Obvious*) to those who at the time had to dig out the 'good' music.

Playing songs off their debut album, they have a nice habit of having great vocal hooks that use ad lib words, the oh oh oh's and yay yay yay's of 'Skiddadle' to the shobbie bo bo bow's of 'Gizmo' (a personal favourite) giving their compositions added catchiness. The band finished of their set with an early 90's uni anthem by The Breeders' 'Cannonball'.

The band can be seen this year predominantly playing the local festivals in support of their 2014 debut album 'Nice Little Upper'. Skewwhiff can be found at www.skewwhiff.org.uk

Pic by Duncan Graves, Words by Richard Morgan

"A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY"

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Worcester Repertory Company presents The Comedy of Errors

The Commandery Garden | 7th - 19th July

Something different and summery for Worcester as **The Worcester Rep Company** once again return to **The Commandery Gardens** for their annual **Outdoor Shakespeare** event.

Inaugurated in 2007 their fun filled approach to **The Bard** this year sees the Company interpreting one of his most hilarious works **The Comedy of Errors**.

For those not in the know **The Comedy of Errors** tells the tale of two sets of identical twins separated in infancy. When all four end up in the city of Ephesus, a series of mad mishaps based on mistaken identities leads to odd seductions, unwarranted beatings and wild accusations of infidelity, theft and insanity!

The Anipholus twins will be played by Rep debut performers **Sam Patrick** and **Jamie Kwasnik**, whilst another Rep debutant **Wilf Williams** plays one of the other set of identical bro's with Rep regular **Rob Leetham** taking the role as his oppo..still with us?!

Director, **Ben Humphrey** sums this madcap production up: "*The Comedy of Errors is one of Shakespeare's most ridiculous works that can only really be*

summed up as a complete farce. It's a play that boasts big characters, lots of misunderstandings, a small amount of subterfuge, and, of course, a happy ending. What more could one want from an evening of theatre?"

Light hearted, humorous and accessible for all, this interpretation of *The Comedy of Errors* is sure to be an evening to remember. Bring a picnic, crack open a bottle, relax and enjoy the great British outdoors in beautiful surroundings. Flexi tickets are available for those who want to watch the weather and decide on which day to come closer to the time.

Enough said so pop along to www.worcesterlive.co.uk for lots more information and tickets, it would be a major error not to!



Raymond Froggatt

The Golden Anniversary Tour

Huntingdon Hall | Thursday 9th July

Come along and enjoy a magical evening at Huntingdon Hall as popular singer and songwriter plus total Brummie legend, **Raymond Froggatt**, brings his Golden Anniversary Tour to Worcester.

Froggatt is a star 50 years in the making. Early in his long career in the music industry, his band was signed by top record companies Polydor, Bell and Jet Warner, and he has spent decades writing and singing songs that have been covered by many other successful artists.

Affectionately known by his fans as 'Froggie', the Birmingham-born artist was songwriter for Sir Cliff Richard for ten years and one of his compositions, *Red Balloon* was a massive Top Ten hit for The Dave Clark Five. There are few artists that Froggie has not written for or recorded with including Isaac Hayes and Sir Elton John to name but two and today his songs are still recorded by major artists. In 1992 he became an author, releasing his autobiography telling stories of his earlier years in the music business.

Onstage Raymond mesmerises his audience, making them laugh with one of his many stories or cry with emotion, whilst touching them deeply with songs wrought from his own pen. His concerts are regularly sold out across the country and abroad.



Raymond has toured with ELO, Rod Stewart and Jerry Lee Lewis, in addition to supporting various Country artists including Tammy Wynette and Glen Campbell. He was voted the top male singer by the British Country Music Association for six years in a row.

Mr F comes to Woo's own Huntingdon Hall with a brand spanking new album as a further treat to the Froggatt faithful.

An evening with **Raymond Froggatt** and his band is magical and not to be missed.

The Hungry Ghosts, Armchair Committee, Barefoot In Baltimore Oui Legionnaires

Firefly, Worcester | Thursday May 28th

Eclecticism and a catholic (small c, literary definition) approach to musical style is a wonderful and necessary thing. It helps to slow the ossification of the mind, arrest the steady decline into obscurantism, stem the spread of narrow-mindedness and check the growth of generally moribund, reactionary thought.

It also makes for a good night and loads of lovely noisy fun and larks, yeah?

So anyway. This soiree upstairs in the Firefly was kind of like that. And the bands that played were as follows.

Oui Legionnaires. Three piece, high speed, yelpy hardcore punk. Not unlike a prettier-sounding version of the now late and great (i.e. disbanded) Stillbust. And despite their joyous and charming geek-core schtick, these boys had more balls and interesting things to say per pound than any of the current crop of cookie-cutter hardcore kids currently plying their trade. But they probably wouldn't shout about it. They're too nice for that.

Barefoot in Baltimore. Sugar-sweet female vocals swooping



above a sound that was somewhere between US college rock, shoegaze and the dreamiest of the early 90's Sub Pop records roster (remember them?) like Velocity Girl or more latterly Jale. Airy and spacious but not one iota lacking in heart.

Armchair Committee – hailing from that Bristol, and sporting both ambition and a growing following – were by contrast not in the least dreamy. Filthy dirty, sleazy, chugging, swaggering. Yes. Dreamy, no. I suppose to the casual ear there was plenty of Queens of the Stone Age going on here. But this was a peculiar kind of bastard swampy alt-rock with plenty of interesting stuff going on. Not least the seeming disregard of gravity and physics that allowed the bassist and effective frontman of this little crew to play his bass at well below knee level like a proper fucking boss throughout. Skills.

And finally: **Hungry Ghosts.** Imagine if Bob Dylan hadn't had that motorbike crash and had somehow stayed as credible and demoniacally inspired as he was up to Highway 61 Revisited. Imagine a band fronted by a lyricist with the confidence and glint in the eye to play with words and



imagery to the extent that the words themselves have a life and a vigour, but that are yet intertwined with but also separate from the music. Knot this all together with an ensemble musical unit pretty much right on top of their game and able to weave a towering and bloody mass of dark-psychadelic Americana with seeming casual ease. And you'd be about there. Ones to watch.

Words: Egon Coalsack Photography: Indie Images

Humm - Savannah

Humm are a West Midlands based trio, rising from the ashes of local cult heroes **Rattlin' Doors**, the band arm themselves with dirty blues rock guitars, pulsating drums, urgent and almost feral lead vocals and a wailing harmonica to create the kind of sound that The Black Keys can only ever dream of creating.

Savannah is the band's debut single and my god was an introduction, from the opening few seconds of wailing harmonica, Humm grab you by the lapels and demand your attention. Then the combination of raw punk blues guitar and thumping drums take over, creating a dark and seductive groove that frontman, **Andy Teece** uses as a launch pad to spit his half spoken, half sung vocals over. If that doesn't sound thrilling enough already, the band throw in another couple of blasts of harmonica and a rather tasty percussion based breakdown, all in the space of four minutes, creating one of the most intoxicating and essential opening salvo's from any band, anywhere!!



On the evidence of their debut single, **Humm** create the perfect soundtrack to sleaze, sin, lust and desire, be prepared to be left feeling a little dirty, but ultimately begging for more.

Will Munn

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That tricky fourth year . . .

Once more the many headed monster that is Malvern Rocks is ready to pounce on the unsuspecting folk of that musically replete hillside oasis.

The festival kicks off on Friday, 31 July at 6 o'clock with The Clark Kent trio at the Great Malvern Hotel. Other highlights of the Friday include The Futures, Dolls Eye Weaver, Loophole and Skewwhiff. Saturday afternoon will see acoustic performances on Belle Vue Island, with The Naughty Corner, Leon Gormley, and Lounge Toad helping to wile away a summer's afternoon. The Nags Head will also have music through the afternoon with Red Dawe, Megan Bradley, Freaky Trigger, Underground Ocean and Pig Daze keeping things lively until the evening when Amorphica, Nuns of the Tundra, Dr Stanley's Medicine Show and the White Feather Collective will play alfresco at the Link Top pub.



For the first time, the Red Lion at Stifford's Bridge will be taking part in the festival. The pub, on the Hereford road, is a short drive away from the town centre and will host Dinosaur Squeak, the Rainbreakers and Answer Back. The Unicorn is back again as a venue for Malvern Rocks having missed out for the last two years. Saturday night there will see Sean Brookes, A Hundred Suns, Black Heart Angels and Dogs of Santorini. In Colwall, the Chase Inn will have an evening line up that includes Jennifer Ludlow, Tone Tanner, the Kitchen Island Band and Penny while back in the town centre, Malvern Lounge has Stealth starting proceedings at seven. Another first time venue is Malvern Town Football Club where Raptor, Dirty Harry Band, Black Russian and Medusa Rising are set to play.

On Sunday it's more of the same with afternoon performances at Belle Vue Island, the Unicorn, the Nags Head and the Great Malvern Hotel. Sunday evening at Oliver's wine bar sees Naked Sunday and Jüpitronz, lead by Steve Eagles, formerly of Bang Bang Machine, the Photos and Blurt.



Jul 31 - Aug 2 2015

malvern rocks

With music at the venues continuing, the town centre will be busy on the Sunday night before the customary wrap party at Oliver's Wine Bar with the Malvern Rocks All Stars; a motley crew from a plethora of bands performing over the weekend. With more performers yet to confirm, full details can be found on the Malvern Rocks website (malvernrocks.com). As always, the festival raises money for Acorns and Saint Richards Hospices. Three days of non-stop music featuring some of the best musical talent around. Who could ask for anything more?

RT



Photographs from Malvern Rocks 2014 by Stefan.

A Werewolf, Oui Legionnaires Transmissions

Cellar Bar, Worcester | Thursday June 11

Every town has its underground. Both artistic and physical. Sometimes you find both in the same place at the same time. Take this subterranean guitar-based cacophony down in a bare brick barrel vault underneath Foregate Street. On a schoolnight. For example.

Transmissions. Sexy, howling, blocky as fuck post-rock beasts. Deep in the vein of Neu or Drive Like Jehu, and fronted by a febrile creature who alternately screamed and crooned along the edge of an emotional straight razor, this was powerful, soulful stuff and no mistake.

Oui Legionnaires. Somebody called Coalscuttle or something has already written about them this issue at some other gig they played in the area, or so I'm told. They're nice boys, but they still like to put it about. In a nice way. But, down in this semi-airless bunker of a venue, they were undeniably spunky without being brash. And delightfully abrasive.

And then there was the real point of the evening. A recital of jazz-math nutjob noise courtesy of Evesham's two-piece drum and guitar combo **A Werewolf!** Musically, this was Shellac or some other high-end analogue dischordancy ripped to the little gills on an olympic dose of Ritalin - and played at three times the normal speed. More time changes than you could easily count or track - and equally as many ideas - this was as progressive and tight as it was unhinged.

The proper start of proceedings was delayed by the drummer soundly and spectacularly braining himself on the



low ceiling of the aforementioned brick vault while capering about during the set intro. That the fellow was back hammering his kit at an inhuman speed within ten minutes, blood pouring down his face and spraying around like some kind of latterday Terry Butcher in a Hawaiian shirt was itself a thing to behold. Radical.

Words: Veronica Bloodsauseage
Image: B At Gippa:

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Sheelanagig

Malvern Cube | Friday 29th May

Having spoken to **Becky Tate (Babajack)** about her involvement promoting **Malvern Cube** as a music venue of choice, I took her up on her recommendation to go see **Sheelanagig** perform. I was very grateful to have had the opportunity to take my lovely partner along, as I knew she would love the crazy show and foot driving music. I was right, she could not help being drawn into the liquid morass of heated, wriggling bodies, as this leaden footed would-be reviewer and photographer, stood by, swaying gently in the maelstrom of movement. Meanwhile onstage the circus continued and I feebly tried to keep up with the action - tumbling musicians, 'drunken' stumbles, 'crunching' collisions, a five piece band that career about whilst still managing to produce there intoxicating sound - that's Sheelanagig. My quest was to manage a few pictures to accompany this review, as I neglected my lady and the desire to find some rhythm in my stiff old legs, but such was the intensity of the action I failed miserably on all counts. A dilemma that raises its head occasionally with fast moving bands. Normally I can watch for a pattern or focus on the inevitable turn to a microphone, a step into a pool of light say, but alas no as this band are like trying to predict the path of free radical molecules out for a wild night of hedonistic hell raising.



Sheelanagig has strong connections to Malvern, featuring Aaron on violin, Adrian on flute and banjo + others, a long haired youthful Kit on guitar and tumbles, a somewhat stoic (comparatively) Dorian on double bass and John, back in the shadows, on drums. That's not to say that nothing changes, because it does, even to the point of all 5 lads piling in on the drums, Kit climbing up above Aaron and Adrian, head disappearing into the shadows above the pools of light (damn). Let's for a moment try to break from the spectacle and mayhem, to consider the music. They produce some fascinating sounds, rooted in the dark foreboding depths of the Balkans and Transylvania. Gyrating gypsy rhythms that barely pause for breath, whether instrumental inquisitions or 'Vlad Inhaling' vocalising from Aaron and Adrian. Beautiful, fun, musicianship on pieces like 'A Sauce Too Far' and 'Lamento Di Tristano' to tasty & dark forbidden lyrics of 'Cirque Insomnia' and 'The Magic Lantern'. The music is as entertaining as it is finely crafted, poured over the frenetic fusion that is the stage show; this is indeed a heady brew and one which should be sampled with abandon, as often as possible.



I must make mention of supporting artist **Jack Cookson**, an acoustic solo artist based in Bristol, who had the unenviable task of opening for **Sheelanagig**. He brought with him some delightful, self penned folk songs and I hope to bring a review of his album '*Revolt and Resolve*' to you all soon.

The Cube is making its mark; an extensive stage area sits well with the spacious floor. It's true the décor is in need of attention, hard surfaces and a deep box shape do not help the sound dynamics, but it's early days and with good support for their programme of live music it can and will evolve. Interestingly when **Babajack** had their live album session there they achieved a more intimate feel and better sound, simply by reversing the auditorium, with the stage becoming a tier for the audience, with the band offset to a rear corner. It worked well and will no doubt be used again like this for more 'static' live shows. I for one am looking forward to July 25th, when **Babajack** are joined by **Marcus Bonfanti** at The Cube: unmissable in my book.

Words & Images: Graham Munn

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The Old Bush Blues Festival Callow End | 21st - 23rd August

After running the popular sell out **Bentworth Blues Festival** for 14 Years, Matt and Karen moved up from Hampshire to **The Old Bush** at **Callow End**. Although less than a year since they took over it's fair to say that Matt and Karen have transformed and revived the pub with their warm welcome, regular live music and quality, home-cooked food.

Transferring their experience from down south in organising such events Matt and Karen are hosting the inaugural **Old Bush Blues Festival** this year on the weekend of 22nd - 24th August. Over 24 top artists/ bands will be performing on two outdoor. covered stages and one indoor. Amongst the names confirmed are, from the Deep South (Berks, Surrey & W.Sussex) **The Voodoo Sheiks**, the husband and wife led outfit **Northsyde** and award winning wunderkind **Lucy**



The Voodoo Sheiks



Northsyde

Zirens. Together with such luminaries as **Luke Doherty**, **Steve Whalley Band**, **Melvyn Hancox** and local legend **Perry Foster**, you know Old Bush Blues is gonna be one helluva festival!

Camping & caravanning is available a short walk away and there is plenty of free car parking at the pub. Breakfast, all day BBQ and evening meals will be available together with plenty of great beer and cider. Weekend tickets are £50 and extra £10 for camping/caravanning, day tickets £30, and are available from the Old Bush by phone 01905 830792 or online at www.old-bush.com where you will also find details of the full line-up and much more.



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Reflections on the Moon Lunar Festival | 5th - 7th June

As an attendee of one particular small festival (Trowbridge) every year for the past 30 odd years, I have been somewhat at a loss since the effective demise of this long-term favourite of mine several years ago. Now **Lunar Festival** has come to my rescue. Attracted by the reasonable ticket price, an excellent line up and the fact that it is virtually on my doorstep, allied to good reviews I went along with some old friends and family and I have to say I enjoyed the best festival experience I have had in many a year.

Established only a couple of years ago, the festival is held at Umberslade Farm Park just outside Tanworth in Arden, a site set in gently rolling, near perfect middle-English countryside with the sort of lush pasture that is a delight to camp in and sit middle-aged bones down in. It is charmingly small with only about a 5 minute walk from camping areas through the shopping and children's activity area (the *Pink Moon Meadow*) to the main festival site. The latter features an outside main stage, a beautiful tented second stage with bar (the *Bimble Inn*), a main bar selling excellent Purity Brewery beers and several large tented dance venues with various themes. There was a green craft area and several excellent food outlets including a veggie thali from a converted American school bus, a wood fired pizza and a very fine beef burger.

Now clearly, however good the venue and its facilities, what makes or breaks a festival is the music and Lunar really delivered here. On Friday I really enjoyed an old favourite **The Fall**, although my friends found the ever curmudgeonly and misanthropic **Mark E Smith** not quite to their taste. Then I



Mark E Smith

headed to the Bimble Inn which was full of hot and happy people dancing to the sounds of Birmingham's fantastic **Electric Swing Circus**. Lastly back to the main stage where



Electric Swing Circus



Wilko Johnson

Tinariwen closed off the evening with their hypnotic desert blues – just shut your eyes and you'll find yourself swaying along as if you were riding a camel (minus the unpleasant spitting and biting habits).

Saturday provided an eclectic smorgasbord of music. During the day I caught **Mike Heron** and **Trembling Bells** providing quintessential Britishness and Mark Radcliffe's **Galleon Blast** hurtling through a set of raucous sea shanties amid great hilarity. However the best came at the end of the evening with **Wilko Johnson** as effortlessly cool, compelling and unique as ever, accompanied by the brilliant bass rhythms of **Norman Watt-Roy** (the drummer was pretty useful too) and then finishing the day the marvellous **Public Service Broadcasting**. For anybody who hasn't seen or heard PSB (PSB will always be Pet Shop Boys to me. *Sub Ed*), in my opinion they have evolved into one of the most innovative and inspiring outfits of recent years, marrying samples from public information films, propaganda productions, newsreels and other archive sources to a rich soundscape based around strings (guitar and banjo), drums, keyboards and a brass section. Think Kraftwerk combined with Arcade Fire with more than a little dash of their own style. All of this is presented with a visually arresting backdrop of film footage.



Julian Cope

Lastly Sunday featured two storming sets from Nuneaton's **Rhino and the Ranters**, rambling musings from **Julian Cope**, jazz for jazz aficionados with great costumes from **Sun Ra Arkestra**, a procession with lots of fire and rounding it all off a singalong with the **Bootleg Beatles** who I enjoyed much more than I'd expected.

Minor grouses would be the price of beer, which given the restriction on bringing alcohol onto site seemed a bit steep and the obligatory terrible toilets. However the sun shone more or less constantly (bloody cold at night tho'!), everybody was friendly and the atmosphere throughout was great. I will definitely be landing at Lunar again next year as will all the other folk I went with, so all-in-all a ringing endorsement.

Words: Robin Jackson Photography: Richard Shakespeare

Lock And Key, Boxkite Carving A Giant, Fractures Marrs Bar | Sunday 31st May

Faithful City Shows 6 set out to fill the desires of Worcester's ever growing hardcore fan base.

Five piece metal hardcore locals, **Fractures** were the first to hit the Marrs Bar stage. With a depth of guitar talent and a raw animalistic energy. They certainly knew how to energize their audience.



Carving A Giant were next to take stage. Hailing from Wolverhampton this second five piece band of the night moved up through the gears with a frenzied torrent of hard hitting hardcore songs. The audience response.



Equally frenzied dancing that sent the meek scurrying for safety. Like a scene from an un-choreographed Bruce Lee film. Flying kicks were met with flying arms and fallen fellows were lifted to fight again by smiling faces .

Plymouth's hardcore punks **Boxkite** were the third act of the night. As lead singer Joe leapt from stage and strutted his stuff up close and personal. The audience had chance to draw back and gather themselves for the storm to follow.



Tension filled the air as **Lock and Key** took to the stage. This was the band that most had come to see. Coming together from across the county this young band are quickly gaining a big reputation for their evocative style. As the first chord was struck the audience erupted into a maelstrom of flying limbs that appeared to defy gravity. Ripping through their set. Lock and Key melded with the crowd in a symbiotic adrenaline fuelled one way trip to oblivion. Playing all the songs from their debut EP 'The Divide' they gave it everything they had and their wild following gave it everything they had back in return.

It took a while for the dust to settle at the end of this show, but I am happy to report that no willing participant was permanently maimed in any way. Success.

Words & Pics: Duncan Graves

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Wychwood Festival

Cheltenham Racecourse | 29/30/31 May

For the last couple of years I've had the privilege and honour of being invited to cover perhaps the best family friendly festival on the events calendar, namely **Wychwood**.

The festival organisers have always brought together a mix of the biggest family favourite bands, brand new acts, comedians, children's performers, workshops and literature to create a unique, memorable and ever enjoyable long weekend.

This year's event was no different. In fact, if anything the line-up seems to be getting stronger by the year with the likes of **Ali Campbell's UB40**, **The Proclaimers**, **Boney M** and **Justin Fletcher** all entertaining this year's main stage masses over the weekend. Whilst the supporting cast offered an eclectic and intriguing mix of sights and sounds and every corner of the racecourse seemed to have something happening, lifting spirits and smiles on adults and children alike.

Opening a main stage would seem like a daunting task for even the most seasoned pro, but Cheltenham's **Grace Palmer** and her guitar took to the stage, confidently taking the slot by the scruff of the neck. Delivering a fine set of covers and originals, Grace's vocals swooped and soared elegantly, with the likes of her own 'A Game Of Love' and the blustery 'Charlie's Song' hooking the crowd, whilst a unique take on 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun' and 'Ain't No Sunshine' incited the first sing-a-long's of the festival.

Over in the Big Top, **Pocket Club** opened proceedings with a soulful blend of dance and indie, whilst at the main stage, both **Talk In Code** and **A Way With Words** dazzled in the sunshine, a blend of infectious indie and contagious rock in



Josephine Permaul

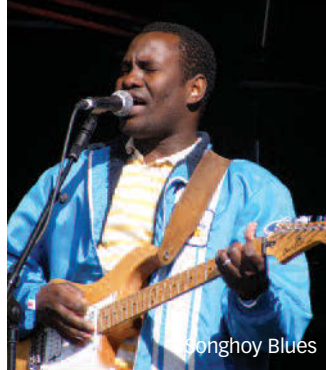
'Brave The Elements' from the former and from the latter, an acoustic 'Set In Stone', both impressing.

Josephine And The Artisans stunned with an incredible (and seemingly impossible) blend of hip-hop and classical opera, strings and beats uniting to create a jaw dropping, intoxicating platform. **Josephine Permaul** using it to launch incredible, and often chilling, operatic vocals whilst dual rappers battle it out for supremacy.



Grace Palmer

Songhoy Blues delivered one of those "you should have been there" sets, merging desert blues, funk and rock with effortless groove and an addictive passion that few bands could muster in a lifetime, breaking out into dance at every opportunity.



Songhoy Blues

Wowing audiences with their fusion of dub, reggae, folk and rock, **Dreadzone** have been dishing all things groove out for years and their set at Wychwood was no different. Entrancing the masses from start to finish with a summery set of anthems and social commentary, the likes of 'Captain Dread', 'Different Planet', 'Tomorrow Never Comes' and 'Love, Life And Unity' were welcomed by a frenzied audience.

After a brief stop off for food (Lebanese in my case) and a massage for the other half in the beauty bus, we took in **Hunter & The Bear**. A young band (who've already supported Eric Clapton) destined for a massive future. Blending together a mix of rootsy Americana, folk and driving rock and blues during a thrilling set, seeing 'Montana Men', 'On The Run' and 'Burn It Up' particularly standing out amongst many other 'would-be' anthems.

Drawn through a mist toward the unmistakable sounds of 'Jimmy Jimmy', 'I Know A Girl' and 'I Don't Want To Get Over You' as The Undertones delivered a rousing set of punk classics to a rabid following. Sending these weary writers home with a hook in our hearts and a song on our lips.

Local based Cheltenham crew **The Going Goods** seduced



The Going Goods

Saturday's early risers with a couple of acoustic guitars, a guy on beat box duties, duel vocals and a good sing-a-long or two. Whilst wandering around the site, it was truly a wonderful spectacle as we sipped our tea (tea is the new rock n roll). There were children indulging in all manner of

things, from painting to story time via belly dancing, everyone seemed to be embracing the fun and, in true festival spirit, trying something new.

Continuing the fun, **Folk On** delivered a set of tongue (firmly wedged) in cheek comedy folk laments that proved to be massively popular, with a packed out tent hollering to the likes of 'I'm In Love With A Morris Dancer', 'Ernie The Slug' and 'Australia'.

Speak, Brother, a three-piece indie folk band, delivering one of the best performances of the weekend, welding delicate piano melodies and driving guitar together to create an intoxicating sound. Whilst new single 'Slow To Now', (hopeful Rugby World Cup anthem) 'Lions Roar' and 'Dry Bones' were welcomed like lost friends by a full tent of music lovers.



Folk On



Electric Swing Circus

Perhaps my current favourite festival band, **Electric Swing Circus**, brought the party to Wychwood. Their insanely catchy union of modern electronics and vintage swing matched with guitarist **Tom Hyland's** crowd hyping abilities, incited the audience to clap and dance away whilst **Laura Louise** and **Bridget Walsh** bounced energetically around the stage, trading lead vocals on the likes of 'Loop De Lopp', 'Everybody Wants To Be A Cat', 'Penniless Optimist' and 'Valentine'.

Another food run (Ostrich Burger, in case you were wondering) and the end was nigh, finishing the second day off with **Fickle Friends**, **Mt Wolf** and **Ghostpoet** (well actually the better half had a brief dance to both **The Proclaimers** and **Ali Campbell**). Only managing to catch a few songs by the former, but with catchy melodies and a track like 'Swim' I'm definitely intrigued.

Mt. Wolf build layers of electronics and guitars to create a somewhat filmic, widescreen sound that hints at post rock, folk and electronica as their lengthy instrumental sections weave their spell, whilst **Ghostpoet** offered an interesting distraction from the pop on the main stage with a sound that thought provokingly unites: poetic vocals, moody electronics and pulsating rhythms.

What better way to showcase the variety of family flavours then with the final days entertainment being opened by children's favourite, **Justin Fletcher** (Mr Tumble, etc). Not to mention the annual parade later on, where the younger generation get to show the various different things they've made or learnt during the weekend, with both slots proving to be wildly popular, not only with the children, but also their smiling parents.

In terms of music, it was all things folk, with **The Outcast Band** taking the early main stage slot by storm, hard hitting riffs, and pummelling drums collided with sea shanties and mandolins, as the band performed a number of tracks from *The Longest Mile*. This was continued by **Rusty Shackle**, but with a more stripped down sound featuring multiple vocal harmonies. Effortlessly



The Outcast Band

seducing the audience with their youthful energy, infectious melodies and a good old sing-a-long, a surreal medley of 'The Hokey-Cokey' and 'The Cheeky Girls' sure to be remembered by all.

Mad Dog Mcrea delivered a winning set of contagious folk, driven with an acoustic guitar and outbursts of whistle (or flute on occasion) delighting the folk purist and casual observer alike, with 'Joey-No-Legs' and an inspired run through 'Bare Necessities'.

Tom Forbes instantly set the mood with his brilliant pop



Tom Forbes

original, *Another Story Of Love*. Armed only with a guitar and a loop pedal, Tom delivered a flawless set of dirty pop perfection. Originals 'Sleeping With The Stars' and 'Stay For Alice' enticed the audience, whilst inventive takes on 'Laura' (originally Scissor Sisters) and 'Cry Me A River' (Timberlake) during his set offered the uninitiated an infectious entry point.

Finishing our Wychwood experience with a couple of spellbinding sets in The Big Top from the shimmering and seductive **Charlotte OC** and indie/folk favourite **Lucy Rose**, both of whom dazzled and soared in their own unique style.



Charlotte OC

Leaving any festival is always something of a wrench, knowing that I'll be back to the everyday trials and tribulations instead of soaking in the euphoric atmosphere, but Wychwood is always harder than most to leave behind.

Always engaging, warm and welcoming to all, we're always left eulogising long after the festival has packed away. 2015's event was no exception, once again the organisers managed to provide something for everyone, from the young to the seasoned music fanatic, from your long term favourite band to that previously unheard up and comer that you've been unable to stop humming ever since.

If you haven't experienced *Wychwood*, I highly recommend you round up the family and book your tickets for next year... and hopefully I'll see you down the front!

Will Munn

PREVIEW

Salad Days: A Decade Of Punk In Washington Dc

Marrs Bar | Thursday 9th July 2015

Salad Days is one of the most critically acclaimed music documentaries of recent years. Google it and see what the old NME and Guardian say if you don't believe me. It tells the story of Washington DC's highly influential hardcore punk scene at its height between 1980-1990. This was the defiantly independent music community that gave the world **Minor Threat, Fugazi, Bad Brains, Dischord Records**, amongst many others – and whose legacy continues to be felt to this day.

The ferocious and inspirational upwelling of creativity and raw, youthful energy that erupted in the US Capital in this decade set the template for "Do It Yourself" or DIY "punk" culture. Anti-commercial, politically conscious and uncompromising, the DC scene and its compelling story showed what can be done without any major label or mainstream media attention – and continues to be the real benchmark for independent music movements that followed.

This was the scene that launched the musical careers of **Henry Rollins, Ian Mackaye** and **Dave Grohl** - all of whom feature in the film along with exclusive and previously unseen footage and images of these seminal acts at their peak. **Salad Days** director, independent film-maker and music journalist **Scott Crawford** - is touring the film around DIY venues in the UK during June and July 2015.

Worcester's own DIY promoters **Surprise Attacks** are celebrating their second birthday and 32nd show since May 2013 by bringing an exclusive screening of **Salad Days** to the **Marrs Bar** on Thursday 9th July.



The screening will also feature an introduction recorded by **John Stabb** of **Government Issue** exclusively for **Surprise Attacks**, with the night topped off with DC-inspired DJ sets. This is the only screening of **Salad Days** in the South and West Midlands, and there is limited capacity with unreserved seating. So booking a ticket and arriving early is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Veronica Bloodsauseage

Event Page: www.facebook.com/events/110524612612500/
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SLAP Meets Grace Palmer

One of the things that I really love about attending music festivals is being introduced to new artists, that have previously passed me by. The organisers of Wychwood are particularly good at finding and promoting tomorrow's household names and this year's event was no different, with loads of new names littering the various stages across the festival.

Of the new acts plenty impressed, but none more so than Cheltenham based singer-songwriter **Grace Palmer**, who was chosen to open the festival's Main Stage and despite the daunting task she took the festival by storm. Therefore I thought it was only right to catch up with Grace for a quick chat.

I just wanted to kick off with a couple of typical questions, how did you first start getting into music, was there a particular artist that inspired you or do you come from a musical background?

I've been involved in music for as long as I can remember, despite not coming from a very musical family. I started piano when I was quite young, and ended up trying an array of different instruments. I eventually picked up the guitar around four years ago and started teaching myself. My love for the guitar and songwriting started there.

When did you first start writing songs and performing?

After I'd started playing guitar, writing was something that happened soon after. In the same way that some people write a diary, I'd turn to my guitar and grab a pen and paper. I started performing after I'd been playing for about a year. My first gig was a charity event - I always love doing charity events and always try to make myself available for them.

What were your original aspirations when you started performing?

I don't think I really had any aspirations at first, I just really loved writing and performing!. I didn't know where music would take me, if anywhere, when I first started out. It's something I enjoy and love and I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunities I've had so far.

And what kind of things influence your lyrics at the moment?

There's so many different things that influence my writing. I find inspiration in everything around me - people, different situations and things I've seen. I've always found myself wondering what makes other people who they are.

Naturally, there's lots of songs I've written that are about my personal experiences, but you'll have to guess which ones they are!

So we saw you perform on the main stage at Wychwood as the opening performance of the festival, how did you feel on getting the gig?

I was so excited, and I still can't believe I was the opening act! I was so lucky to be able to perform at such a prestigious festival and be on the same stage as so many wonderful musicians.

Your performance seemed full of confidence, how did you feel when you first took to the stage? Was there any nerves? and how do you think your set went?

It felt absolutely amazing walking onto the stage. I didn't feel very nervous, which is a bit odd considering how huge the stage was! But my calmness was totally down to the lovely



crew, stage manager and front of house. They were all so supportive - it felt as if they were up there with me! I really can't thank all the team enough. It was so much fun being able to perform at the festival, I really enjoyed all of it! Overall I was happy with my set - I was playing some of my favourite songs and my new original work. The crowd watching were incredibly supportive and that means the world to me.

Tell us about the EP you released and had on sale at the festival?

The EP has four songs on and is on sale in aid of MacMillan Cancer. I wrote all the songs that feature on it: 'Next November', 'A Game of Love', 'I'll Let You Go' and 'Long Way Gone'. It's £1 and all the proceeds are going to MacMillan.

After your set we saw you around the site a few times, did you manage to catch any other acts during the weekend?

*Yes, I was there all weekend and watched as many performances as I could. Everyone was amazing, there was an awesome line up. I really enjoyed **A Way With Word's** set - they were brilliant and had so much energy on stage. Then after watching **Songhoy Blues'** brilliant set I bumped into them backstage - they were all so lovely! I also loved watching **Electric Swing Circus**, **Lucy Rose**, and **Tom Forbes** who was over on the Hobgoblin stage.*

What's next for Grace Palmer, have you got more festivals during the summer? are you planning to record any new material soon (personally I'd like to hear a recorded version of Charlie's Song)?

*I've got quite a busy summer, a few coming up include **MIDSUMMER Fiesta**, **Rovin' Fest** and **Music For Youth National Finals** at Birmingham Symphony Hall. Updates and events can be found on my Facebook and Twitter pages. Please check them out!*

www.facebook.com/GracePalmerMusic
www.twitter.com/GracePalmerUK

As for 'Charlie's Song', there will be some exciting news on that very soon! I might need to fess up to Charlie before it's released though... oops!

Dr. Feelgood Eddie & The Hot Rods, Hijack The Robin2 | Friday 27th May

What can I say - this is one hell of a dual headline which would find a spot anywhere in the country. Fortunately this was not too far away, to seek Canvey Island's finest at Wolverhampton's Robin 2. Let's slow down a bit first, because a support was also listed and it transpired to be Worcestershire's, UK rock classic playing **Hijack**.

Rob managing both bass and vocals, with man mountain guitarist and vocalist Pip and Tony on drums, don their Hawaii shirts and blasted us with some damned good rock. Bowie, Cream, Free, Stones and Led Zep, all thrown at us in style. The guestimated 350 crowd were up for it and nicely primed for **Eddie And The Hot Rods** to take over.

The Hot Rods are a bit of a phenomenon - vocalist **Barrie Masters**, a gaunt figure bristling with energy with the band colliding like neutrons - nothing stays still and the very air is alive. The band have a faithful following but are also still winning over new fans, as they relive some of their great hits and album songs from the pre-punk, fast and furious era. '*Bad Time To Kill*', crashes out with their early single hit from '77 '*Quit This Town*' not far behind. Guitarists **Richard Holgarth** and **Chris Taylor** are strangling their weapons as **Simon Bowley**, who would not look out of place astride a Harley cruiser, vehemently attacks his drums. Mustn't forget bassist '**Dipster**', hiding under a flat cap and adding to the rhythm. '*Power And The Glory*' winds things up to the inevitable signature hit, '*Do Anything You Wanna Do*' which is completely and energetically nailed. The band finish on the Van Morrison song, '*Gloria*' - glorious! They left the stage fizzing with the fuse well and truly burning for their Canvey partners in crime...



Dr Feelgood has undergone numerous changes to its line since the joining together of Brilleaux, Wilko, Sparks and John 'The Big Figure' Martin back in 1971(!) but it was, is and evermore shall be an 'in your face', calorie burning, rock-blues and yes punk-tinged band. You will not leave a Dr. F gig without a smile on your face plus an increased heart rate. Today's line up, includes long serving drummer **Kevin Morris** and bassist **Phil Mitchell** (no not the heavy handed baldy



bloke from East Enders). Next comes guitarist **Steve Walwyn**, with 25 years on the clock and vocals are taken by the charismatically fierce **Rob Kane**, a newcomer at only 15 years fronting the band.

The start is explosive and no time for easing in as '*All Through The City*' kicks in followed swiftly by a frenetic '*Baby Jane*', preceding major crowd-pleaser '*Milk And Alcohol*' - you just gotta have it! Steve breaks out his blacksmith crafted steel axe, complete with slide jammed on his finger, he goes for '*Rollin & Tumblin*'. Rob orchestrates some audience participation with '*Back In The Night*'; it's a big crowd but they don't take much coaxing and soon the room reverberates to the sound. More calls for '*Roxette*' echo around the Robin and the band oblige gracefully...no that's silly...it's played with all the aggression and power you could hope for and is fabulous! The fans and the band are together in tune as '*All Night Long*' (yeah why not) feeds into '*Down At The Doctors*', to no doubt get '*One More Shot*' and we ain't talking penicillin here.

The crowded floor demand more before the boys disappear down the road to follow The Hot Rods. Just time for a '*Riot In Cell Block 9*' and it's been an absolutely brilliant, exhausting evening of Canvey Island cream: can't wait for their return.

Words & Images: *Graham Munn*

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Ricky Warwick & Damon Johnson Simon Kaviani Iron Road, Evesham | 2nd June

In my youth (and before broadening my musical horizons), I would have considered myself something of a rocker; battered leather jacket, jeans, band T-shirt and a desire for all things loud. If you knew me back then you would have found me poring over the rock and metal weeklies trying to find a new fix, or waxing lyrical about a current fave. Back in those days my favourite bands included the likes of Metallica, Guns N Roses, Kiss, Maiden, Cooper and a Glaswegian band called The Almighty.

In the years that have passed my tastes may have diversified but I still carry a candle for rock and my musical first love, so when the Iron Road in Evesham announced that **Ricky Warwick** (formerly of **The Almighty**) was to appear alongside **Damon Johnson** (Damon and Ricky both feature in **Black Star Riders** and the latest incarnation of Thin Lizzy) for an intimate stripped down affair, I could barely contain my excitement.

As we hit the packed out venue you could feel the excitement and expectation in the air, with Almighty, Black Star Riders and Thin Lizzy T-shirts seemingly the uniform of choice for the masses, beer and good spirits flowed in equal measure as we awaited our heroes.

Before the main event singer-songwriter **Simon Kaviani** took to the stage to deliver a tasteful set of acoustic rock pop originals. His soulful voice and driving guitars seemed to be received well by the assembled, with the likes of 'Decaffeinated Love' and 'Message To Myself' being particularly of note.



Ricky and Damon took to stage to rapturous applause, leading off with Johnson singing lead vocals on the Alice Cooper classic 'Eighteen', with Ricky joining in for the chorus, both striking their guitars like their lives depended on it. From that opening salvo to the last chord the duo had the audience grasped firmly in the palms of their collective hands, urging us to sing and clap along, which we did with more than a little gusto. The duo bantered between themselves, regaling us with tales of the road between whilst making up the set list along the way.



Damon Johnson

A rousing 'Keep On Rockin' In The Free World' had the venue hollering in unison, whilst Black Star Rider fans lapped up the likes of 'Charlie I Gotta Go' and 'Killer Instinct'. The Thin Lizzy numbers were always going

to receive a thunderous reception and Ricky did Lynott proud

Ricky Warwick



with a superb lead vocal on the evergreen 'Jailbreak', 'Dancin' In The Moonlight', 'Whisky In The Jar' and of course 'The Boys Are Back In Town'. If that wasn't already enough, Johnson proved his vocal chops with a solo number entitled Pontiac' (apparently Ricky's favourite from Damon's solo album), whilst Ricky fronted a spirited 'Free & Easy' from **The Almighty** back catalogue. The audience also more than played their part helping out on the likes of 'Ace Of Spades' and a stunning set closer of 'Born To Run'.

This will go down as one of my favourite gigs ever (and I've been to a fair few); two musicians giving it their all for two and half hours non-stop, in such a small and intimate environment delivering classic after classic, with a frenzied audience responding in kind.

One of those unforgettable nights that you had to be there to really understand just how incredible this gig was.

Will Munn

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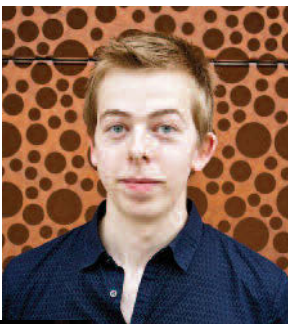
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Edinburgh Festival of Comedy Evesham Arts Centre | 16th, 17th & 24th July

Edinburgh Festival of Comedy hits the Evesham Arts Centre this July with a hat trick of double whammies.

After being diagnosed and given a life expectancy of 25, **Chris Turner** will be celebrating reaching the quarter of a century milestone by winning over the audience in Evesham with some witty wordplay on the 16th July. Sharing the night with **Racing Minds**, improvisation masterminds, who shape their



performance simply around audience suggestions... So be sure to prepare.

If that's not enough, the very next day (17th July) will see another double whammy: **Chris Turner** will take the spotlight once again, but this time with a backing



track... That's right, a stand up show with a soundtrack, sound interesting enough?

Ex copper, **Alfie Moore** will also be dishing out some laughs, taking a break from his BBC Radio 4 show and touring with the likes of Sarah Millican, to come to Evesham.

The festival will see its last laugh on the 24th July, Irishman **Andrew Ryan** will be sure to take you on a humorous journey with his storytelling ways and Omar Hamdi, an Egyptian Welshman with mummy issues will see the festival to a close before heading back out on tour with Russell Kane.

For more information visit:
www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk



<h1>The Edinburgh Festival</h1> <h1>fringe</h1>		<h1>PREVIEWS</h1>	
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<p>FRI 24 JULY : 8pm Irish storyteller <i>Andrew Ryan</i> and Welsh-Egyptian motormouth <i>Omar Hamdi</i></p>			
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Funeral For A Friend Korsakoffs & Stillbust Marrs bar | Sat 7th June

When a gig sells out on-line in forty minutes you know you are in for a treat. All credit must go out to **Lee Jackson** of **Faithful City** for putting this show together. Possibly the biggest show Worcester has had for some years.

Gloucester's **Stillbust** opened the night. And what an opening. Wielding their guitars like swashbucklers. It did not



take long for them to abandon the stage and take their high tempo but cleverly crafted melodic punk, directly to the massed audience. I have seen many bands try this in recent times but none have done it with such verve and swagger. Not to be outdone by the guitarists even Niall the drummer decided to relocate his kit amongst the swelling crowd. After a performance like this we can only hope that the decision to put the band to bed are quickly rethought.

Next up came **Korsakoffs**. These Welsh rockers have been playing together for five years now. Nineties metal undertones where matched with confident but angry lyrics in a performance full of self acclaim. Arrogance may not be everyone's cup of tea, but when used as a tool of provocation it cannot be dismissed. Ever seen Jonny Rotten?



The crowds edged for position as **Funeral For A Friend** took to the stage. For a band that normally play the larger venue. This was going to be one of the most intimate shows they had performed for quite some time. With a new album 'Chapter and Verse' to showcase they did not disappoint. Revelling in the charged atmosphere it was great to see a band get back to their roots and really enjoy themselves. No need for barriers. Just the occasional calming word to the mosh was all that was needed to ensure safe landings as crowd surfers launched themselves from the stage. Mimicking every chant and boisterously joining every chorus those lucky enough to attend where treated to an adrenaline fuelled night that they will remember for some years to come.



After this night, **Faithful City Shows** are proving to be one of the local promoters to watch. It may take something special to top a night like this but I am sure it is well within Lee's plans and capability. Make sure you follow on facebook or you could miss out when the next big act hits the city.

Words & Photography: Duncan Graves

FAITHFUL CITY SHOWS

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A Song For A Hero

Music with a message! Or should I say a musical with a message... In amongst productions made purely for entertainment purposes and not much depth, 'A Song For A Hero' is refreshingly raw.

Paul Snow, himself a veteran of over 22 years service, presents an insight into the lives of vets and the issues that are ever present when soldiers re-enter society, presented in possibly the most accessible way... through music.

Incredibly more powerful than using the standard method of pushing facts and figures in a bid to raise awareness, each track here tackles a largely difficult, touching topic.

'When The Killing Ends', a track that was made the cornerstone of the whole 'ASFAH' project and the track that connected with talented local musician and fellow veteran **Vince Ballard** strongly enough for him to get deeply involved and to push for the project progression as a whole.

Recorded and produced by a multitude of talented characters including **5:15** the band, who were also inspired by 'When The Killing Ends' – a track that is destined to touch the hearts of those listening to the album, or viewing the production.



This album is most definitely worth a listen...and worthy of everyone's time, if for no other reason than the important information and awareness that it will no doubt raise.

Please visit www.asongforahero.com for comprehensive details about the project, its future and importantly to buy the album.

A Song For A Hero is also available at various local hostellers throughout the Worcester area and beyond.

Samantha Daly

Vehicle

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | Thurs 11th June

Recently formed by ex members of **The Official Receivers** **Dave** and **Simon**, along with new and not so new blood. A young **Ashley Picken** looks after percussion, guitars are shared with **Matt Throssell** and **Andy De Looze**, this Vehicle is well and truly on the road and making headway with its unashamed approach to rock covers.

Parked between the outbuildings of the Gardeners, which formed an amphitheatre, it was tight, but the sound was projected forward to a good turnout of family, friends and regulars, with more dotted around the gardens above.

It seemed the choke was still out at the start but as they motored forward, a well oiled engine became apparent. Simon taking lead vocals as he worked those keys. We listened to some of rocks great classics, from the likes of Bad Company through to Bob Seiger, Joe Cocker to Thin Lizzy, and I'm always pleased to hear a bit of Tom Petty.

The band have many years of experience behind them in their previous guises, that is evident, and given that this was only their 3rd live session with this line up, it bodes well for the future. They have a good full sound and some impressive guitar licks from Andy who matches that with some fitting rock stances.

As the warm comfortable evening moved on toward dusk, the girls were up and dancing, making the most of this most welcome wall of sound.

Graham Munn



NoZStock

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F Block // Gypsy Hill // Hollie Cook // Jenova Collective // Kenny Ken
Lisbee Stainton // Madam Electrifie // Molotou Jukebox // Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer
Mr Woodnote & Eva Lazarus // Octo Pi // Peluche // Ragtime Records // Ratpack
Remidy M.C // Ruffnek Diskotek w/Dub Boy Dutty Inspectors and Ghost Writerz
Sean Grant & The Wolfgang // Skinny Lister // Slipmatt // Smokey Joe and The Kid
Solko // Sounds of Harlowe // The Stiff Joints // Wolfie Razzmatazz

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LAUGHING STOCK COMEDY // LITTLE WONDERLAND 4 KIDS // SWING THEORY
TENT OF TEMPORARY THOUGHT // VELVENTEEN VALLEY CABARET



HEREFORDSHIRE WWW.NOZSTOCK.COM

OvaryActing - Not Fast Enough Malvern Cube | 26th April

OvaryActing are a new theatre collective based in Malvern. Their first devised work, *Not Fast Enough*, is a provocative and dynamic sprint through contemporary gender politics and imaginative theatre structures. On tour at the moment after having presented the work at **Battersea Arts Centre** and **Camden Etcetera Theatre**, It's gripping, angry and courageous theatre with an old-school, unfashionable punk rock ideology. If you're interested in how theatre can push boundaries, entertain and illuminate, you should go see it at the first opportunity.

In *Not Fast Enough* **Naomi Rule & Gemima Hull** perform a series of short thematically connected scenes. A simple and effective format featuring songs, comedy and stories, like a Royal Variety Performance in an alternative theatre universe where ideas and passion are more important than special effects and celebrity. We move quickly between bars, clinics, builders vans and domesticity. Characters are created instantly and then discarded. This broad-ranging scatter-gun approach is heartfelt, serious, frivolous and beguiling. The production uses your classic alienation techniques - cardboard props, a couple of chairs, a new coat means a new character - leaving us to focus on the concepts & conversations. There's no time for lengthy relationship back stories or plot, *Not Fast Enough* gets straight to the point. Why

isn't enough being done to address the equality gap? When and how can we effect change? Who's better - 4 Non Blondes or Alanis Morissette?

In less skilled hands, this approach would be mere polemic, castigating the patriarchy for its many familiar crimes, but **OvaryActing** are careful not to abandon their audience. We're invited into the discussion, not presented with a lecture.



We're invited to get up and engage, sing & dance, celebrate the ridiculous. *Not Fast Enough* is joyful & often properly funny. The performances are full of vulnerability, honesty & openness, the overall effect is celebratory not hectoring.

The relationship between the various characters is important in exploring and developing the arguments. Predator and victim, professional and client,

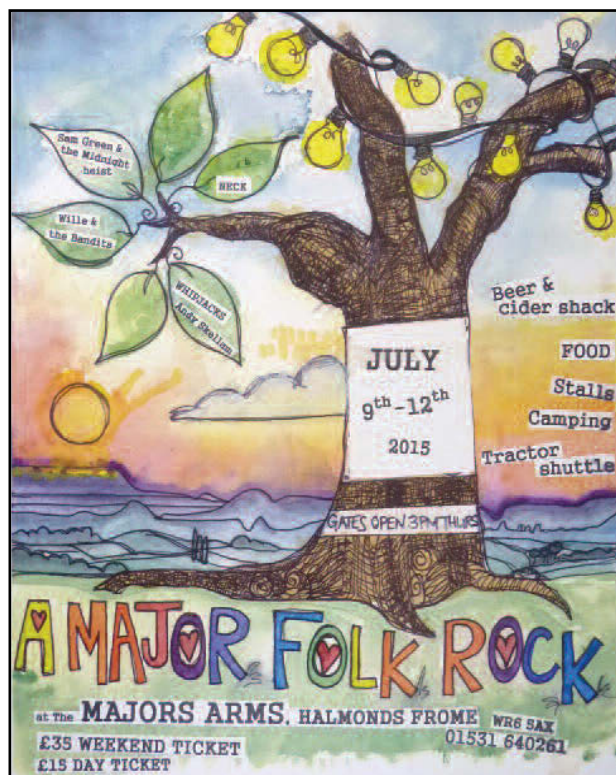
manipulation, abuse, tension and affection. The characters make choices, ask questions and instigate debate. No easy answers, no simple stereotypes, these women are intelligent, questioning & unaccepting of the established social order.

The most impressive thing about a production packed with more ideas than most theatre companies can muster in 20 years is its hopefulness, its absolute conviction that theatre can question existing prejudice. Through discourse & dispute, theatre audiences can move forward with humour, armed with experiences & belief.

"Our daughters' daughters will adore us"

Go & see this moving, heartfelt, important & inspiring work as soon as you can. It's what theatre is for.

By Lee Farley



The Majors Arms Halmonds Frome

FRIDAY NIGHT:

WILLE AND THE BANDITS
THE WHIPJACKS
THE HAUNTED SOULS
LOUNGE TOAD

SATURDAY NIGHT:

NECK
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS
BEN JORDAN
THE ALL STAR DUB BAND
VAGINAPOCOLYPSE

SUNDAY:

SAM GREEN AND THE MIDNIGHT HEIST
ANDY SKELLAM
THE FEATHERS
WILL KILLEEN

www.themajorsnailsbank.weebly.com
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Follow facebook link to buy tickets online

Jinney Ring Blues & Beer Festival

Friday 29th - Sunday 31st May

A well established 3 day festival, Jinney Ring this year saw arguably the best line up to date and has an idyllic setting with rolling greenery, pools with water fowl plus craft shops and a restaurant.

So to the music and **Trev Bambridge** from **80 Per cent Mojo** introduces the ever popular London blues-man, **Steve Morrison**. Steve played his well travelled Fender with slide and a certain panache. His rapport with the admittedly spread out audience, sucking up the rapidly thinning sunlight is perfect to turn heads toward the stage. He mixes some great covers alongside his own songs; *'Let's Work Together'* seemed an apt start. His set included the lovely and warming *'Summertime'* which slips down easily with the local ale. BB King is acknowledged together with JJ Cale, then Steve closes with the Elmore James styled *'Dust My Broom'*.

Hereford band **Jackhammer Blues** step up next; a three piece with percussion and two guitars playing traditional delta blues. The resonators being put to good use with a washboard accompaniment, some soft brushed drums took and even a mandolin making an appearance. Jackhammer led us through Tamper Red and Robert Johnson territory. *'Ramblin' On My Mind'* paired up the resonators with the sweeping brushes to close their set.

Then a big volume hike as an on-form **Slowburner** took to stage. Front man **Paul Bridgewater** was in fine form, and you would be hard pressed to find a better blues rock vocalist in the country. Alongside him were **Mike**

Bannister, cradling his Les Paul, bassist **Simon Neale** and behind on raised podium is drummer **Dave Small**. The whole site has been lifted and transferred into a stadium rock concert as *'King Bee'* buzzes out followed by Buddy Guy's *'Midnight Train'* - they were going to be a hard act to follow.



Steve Ajao and his **Blues Giants** were about to attempt to fill those big shoes and because they are actually giants, (barring **Pete 'washboard' Hammond** of course) they would fill them nicely. The band launched straight into Chicago Blues mode with *'Times Getting Tough'* and with evil intent *'Midnight Creep'* is next. Then it's walkabout time as Steve, Mike and Pete move into the crowd and though tempted by the waft of the food tent, they all manage to find their way back stagewards for some more Chicago classics with *'Boogie Chill'* seeming an appropriate title to close with as the cool breeze chilled the air.



And now for something completely different; The wonderfully eclectic **Dave Migden** and **Twisted Roots**. I particularly like the jazz edged, swamp soaked, blues tinged, and deliciously dark music that this band offers. Like Slowburner drummer Dave, here **James Sedge** is a joy to watch and I cannot think of anyone else who manages to smile with his mouth turned down into the crescent that usually denotes gloom; he has a magnetic pull for my lens! Those dark swampy depths uncover the *'Rougarou'*, a myth? Maybe not. Dave leads the way to the light and *'Wild World'* has the turf 'dance floor' filled with gyrating bodies, losing themselves in this strange musical amalgam. The tale of *'Reverend Jack Crow'* gives the opportunity for Graham to play with his collection of percussive implements, set above his keyboard, trombone sat menacingly to the side. Behind him Phil is lost in his bass rhythm, his worn body testament to the hard life it's led. All too soon we near the finishing line and they cross it impressively with *'Killing It'*, the title song from that album.

Trev our trusty compere then finally introduces a bandbBlues festival and no they are not blues, but nobody cares, the night air was going to fill with some great soul music. The 'stalls' filled by feet trying to cut a groove on the grass. With a strong brass section of trumpet and dual sax this band have a formula that works plus plenty of devoted fans who always return for more. Their favourite subject matter stems from the likes of Wilson Pickett, Booker T and Sam & Dave - *'Mustang Sally'* through *'Geno'* to the *'Nutbush City Limits'*. The sound blasts out from the boys with their slick suits and formation steps: if you are going to party there are few others you would rather lead it. All those burgers and beers are being burnt away and exhausted but happy revellers can fall into bed knowing they have had a brilliant day out.

That's the essence of **The Jinney Ring Blues Festival** - an excellent selection of bands, some fine ales, vintage ciders and moreish food, set in an impossibly lovely location. Roll on next year!

Words & Photography by Graham Munn

Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

As we go to press **Surprise Attacks** were hosting another incredible night at **The Firefly** in Worcester featuring: **Alright The Captain, Downard, Steve Strong** and **Transmissions**.

Herefordian promoter **Spotlight** has launched regular live nights at **The Venue**, showcasing the best of Herefordshire talent - a welcome addition to the local scene. As for July, we will be covering both **Nozstock festival** and **2000 Trees**, visit the website to see the festival features.

At the end of May, we introduced our readers to **Temple Complex**. Dropping his first track 'Eat Flowers', **Joshua Lamdin** celebrated the release of his Debut EP 'Self-Interest Behaviour' via **Circuit Sweet** on June 20th. An experimental multi-instrumentalist known for his involvements in bands such as: **Aulos, Black Elephant** and **The Anomalies**. Josh has indulged in an intellectual solo creation and produced his most immersive and compelling work to date, described as a personal project of musical expression. We spent some time with Josh to find out more about this record...

For those that aren't familiar with your work please introduce yourself and how long have you been playing/performing live?

I was born in Bristol a bit over 22 years ago and I've been playing music for about 8 years. I started with the guitar around the age of fourteen in High School in Hereford and I began playing live shows with Aulos on bass in Summer 2010 before moving on to drumming for them shortly after.

What's the story behind Temple Complex?

Temple Complex came about out of a need I felt to make a record on my own terms. By 2013 I had been through more than a few attempted bands trying to put a project together more to my sensibilities, but not one of them made it outside the practice room. It just kept not happening, baiting my creative frustration to the point where I felt like the only way I was going to get something done was if I did it myself.

I had already been writing my own songs for a while and was hungry to put ideas together. August of that year I used a tax rebate I had earned for a new computer good enough to record my own music on and decided I would make an EP.

What are your main influences that you've portrayed within the style of your music?

Independence more than anything. From the outset and prior to starting this project, artists who've been most influential to me have been those I felt stayed true to their



progression and creative course despite whatever the stylistic or cultural trends/norms of the time might be. Flying Lotus, Bjork, King Tubby and Mingus were just a few whose careers I really gathered a lot of inspiration from early in the project. Some more subtle influences that really fed into the whole process also, were my interests with history and society. The inspiration for the name, a lot of the imagery and the feel of the project came from researching ancient cultures like the Neolithic, Sumerian and Nubian. By the end it was things like the teachings of Malcolm X that were really keeping me inspired and focused to bring this to release.

The EP was written, recorded and produced by yourself, how did you find having such control and vision over every detail of the record?

It was really difficult and I put a lot of pressure on myself throughout; it was a huge learning curve. I'd played with music software here and there over the years but I'd never mixed a full song, composed in a DAW or been responsible for every sound. At the same time I'd never had to engage fully with the other side of the music ie considering the artwork and identity or editing a music video.

I underestimated the amount of work when I started and there were certainly times where it seemed I might've bitten off more than I could chew. Getting through that meant not



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rushing for results, and allowing myself as much time as I needed to learn and overcome to the necessary challenges. There were things I should've done better and mistakes I'll look to improve on next time, but that's part of the process of making any kind of art.

You began writing 'Self-Interest Behaviour' back in December 2013, enlighten us on your writing process.

I feel making a record is about creating a journey and the initial step was deciding how I wanted that to flow dynamically. I had intended to do a four track EP to begin with, but by March about 3 tracks were written and gaps were already showing themselves in the context of the 'journey' I had drawn out at the beginning. By the Summer of 2014 I had 6 full songs and a couple of interludes.

The songs really wrote themselves, some a little easier than others, I never had any intentions for the direction of Eat Flowers. On the other hand, writing tracks like Pocket Geography became quite a journey. I had to leave some songs for months while working on others until I felt naturally pulled to finish them.

What does the final finished EP mean to you and what do you feel it captures?

As the first record I've made I can truly call my own, this release really means a lot. At this point I'm pretty tired, I've heard it so much the musical statements on the EP might not be exciting me as some of the newer demos, but the songs themselves and the record as a whole really encapsulate a time when I was really trying to do everything and be everything I thought I was supposed to be to the best of my ability. Having put the best of my efforts into this and to be able to have the power in this particular situation to bring it

to completion despite everything that's happened is a big personal step.

You've teamed up with an array of talented singers on the record- How did working with Daniel Garland, Sam Meehan and Aisling Trafford arise and why were they the ones for you?

Working with each of those guys really pushed me out of my fear of singing and I learnt a lot. These were the friends I knew were talented and had worked with in the past, either in bands or youth workshop projects. I was writing and arranging these pieces and the more complete they became the more they called out for a certain vocal feel.

As with the entire process of the record through to the format you've done it all yourself and stayed true to your DIY mentalities. Why is this important to you?

If not for that DIY ethic as a mentality that's always been central to underground music, I wouldn't have any of this ready today. It's as true of life as it is the music industry, if you don't have the means or the systems of support around you, you're left with yourself to depend on to get things done.

What can we look forward to from you in the future?

Expect some live videos later in the year, I'm as keen as anybody to hear these songs brought to life outside the CD and I've been in talks with a band of friends who may be able to help. Over the course of this summer as well as pushing this EP I'm playing with Herefordshire bands Keygreen and The Anomalies at Nozstock as well as Boomtown and a couple of UK venues. Other than that I've started writing and recording the second release and have 6 usable songs already, once rehearsals have settled down a bit I'll be putting real time into getting that done.

The Queens Head

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LIVE MUSIC in JULY

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Sat 4th - Ricky Cool & The In Crowd

Fri 10th - Trevor Burton Band

Fri 17th - Suzi & The Backbeats

Fri 24th - Lucas D & The Groove Ghetto

Fri 31st - Forty Blue Toes

Every Tuesday - Open Mic with Pete Kelly

Sunday Night is Quiz Night 8.00pm

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Wednesday 1 July 2015

It's Michael Buble Night
Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Three Degrees
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Worcs Youth Jazz Orchestra
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Thursday 2 July 2015

Pure Instinct
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

The Simon & Garfunkel Story
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

Permission To Speak with Chris Stewart
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

Friday 3 July 2015

Keith and the Alchemist + Quarterstone
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Mister Wolf
Event House, Worcester

Mother Popcorn
Drummonds, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Black Star, Mitton Street, Stourport on Severn

Puma Creek
Hereford Skatepark, Holmer Road, Hereford

The Haunted Souls
The Royal Fountain Inn, Cleobury Mortimer

Gooche, Sky Children, Niente, Priests to Pilots
Worcester Rowing Club, Grandstand Road, Worcester

Hellbound Hearts, The Miffs, Smokefarm
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sky Dogs
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Delray Rockets
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jive Talkin' (Bee Gees tribute)
Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Wall Of Floyd
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Cast
Guildhall, Gloucester

The Berlin Guitar Ensemble
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Lucas Drinkwater and Tobias Ben Jacob
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Mambo Jambo
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Ex Cathedra: Singmaker Project
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Texas Fraud
Secret Garden, Kidderminster

The Rock Bottoms
The Old Bush Inn, Callow End

A Tower of Crows, Healthy Junkies + Unknown First
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

When It Rains
Miller's Arms, Pershore

Junction 7
Bluebell Inn, Ryall

The Underdogs
Queen's Head, Wolverley

Tom Forbes
The Pheasant, Worcester

James Matty
Great Malvern Hotel

Swampcandy
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Licks'n'Trix
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

milefest (www.milefest.co.uk)
Hartpur, Gloucestershire

50 SLAP JULY

Saturday 4 July 2015

Blues at the Fold - Chris Hall's Louisiana Swamp Band, Slack Alice, Will Wilde 'Harmonica' Wilde Band, Swamp Candy, Jack Blackman, King Biscuit Boys
The Fold, Bransford, Worcestershire

Rocked Up Stuff plus Satellite Down
Pig & Drum, Worcester

The John Steeds
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Stuart Woolfenden
Netherton Park, Netherton, Dudley

Ocean Breed, Fall To Rise
Subtone, 117 The Promenade, Cheltenham

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Crown, Martley

West Fest (www.west-fest.org.uk)
Malvern Playing Field, Malvern

Rebel Rebel
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Joanovarc
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Capital
The Legion Inn, Salwarpe Road, Droitwich Spa

Disco Inferno
Olivers, 36 Belle Vue Terrace, Great Malvern

Stuart Woolfenden
SWB Academy, Dudley Street, Bilston

Rhythmic Unity presents Drumlove
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Ricky Cool & The In Crowd
Queen's Head, Wolverley

Hybrid
Cross Keys, Malvern

Sally Holmes
Great Malvern Hotel

Journeyman
The Chestnut, Worcester

Rewind
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Frank Sinatra Tribute
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Hagfest
Hagley Playing Fields

milefest (www.milefest.co.uk)
Hartpur, Gloucestershire

DJ Night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 5 July 2015

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Stourport Riverside Festival, Stourport Gardens, Stourpor

Stuart Woolfenden
The Cranning at O'Neill's, Broad Street, Birmingham

Bric-A-Brac
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Haunted Souls
The Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Andy Thomas Acoustic
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jamie Knight
The Old Bush Inn, Callow End

So Sunday with Malc Evans
The Fleece, Bretforton

Sunday Sessions
The Pheasant, Worcester

Thunder Road
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Swampcandy
The Chestnut, Worcester

Bridge Radio Live Broadcast in aid of Macmillan
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

Matt Bowan
The Ambassador, Evesham

Jazz Alchemy + guest 1.30pm
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Wednesday 8 July 2015

Malar

Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Pasadena Roof Orchestra

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Underground Festival Battle of The Bands

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 9 July 2015

Franks Masai Blues

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Raymond Froggatt

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Kast Off Kinks

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Eliza Carthy & The Wayward Band

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Appelation Dancers

The Chestnut, Worcester

Surprise Attacks presents Salad Days:

A Decade of Punk - DC (1980-90) Film

Marrs Bar, Worcester

SLAP band of the month

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Bromsgrove Folk Festival

The Bowling Green, Stoke Prior

Friday 10 July 2015

Souled Out 2 Funk

Drummonds, Worcester

Clockwork

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

2000 Trees Festival

Upcote Farm, Cheltenham

Chuck Harriet Band

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Mary Hinge

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Counterfeit Sixties

Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Avenue, Evesham

Ash Mandrake

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Absolute Blondie

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Blake

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Harry's Welcome Home Speakeasy

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Matt Eaves

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Julie July Band

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Boys Make Noise

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Blackheart Angels

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

The Paul Snook Band

The Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Talent Night - mix of local bands

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Manalishi

Miller's Arms, Pershore

Junction 7

Bar 12, Worcester

Trevor Burton Band

Queen's Head, Wolverley

Roger Roberts

The Pheasant, Worcester

The V Club - Variety Night

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

Victoria Klewin & The True Tones

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Midnight Sun

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets

Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury

Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham

Major Folk Rock Festival (see Ad page 46)

The Major Arms, Halmonds Frome

The Bromsgrove Folk Festival

The Bowling Green, Stoke Prior

Beer on the Wye Festival

Hereford Rowing Club, Hereford

Saturday 11 July 2015

Swan Staunton – Festival

Skewwhiff, Fallen Branches, The Hawthornes,

Ukey D'ukes, Fallen Branches, Frank Bow

The Swan, Staunton, Gloucestershire

Mister Wolf

The Swan Inn, Evesham

Jay & Eli

The New Chequers, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Plough, The Walk , Upton on Severn

Stuart Woolfenden

Sanders Park, Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove

Mother Popcorn

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Lewis Boulton Trio

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

2000 Trees Festival

Upcote Farm, Cheltenham

An Evening of Dirty Dancing - tribute

Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Massacre Festival

Guildhall, Gloucester

Finlay Quayle

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Brothers Groove

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Bar Stool Preachers + support

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Recollection - 80's Tribute

Cross Keys, Malvern

The John Wood Big Band, Bretforton Rec Ground

The Fleece, Bretforton

Malvern Rocks Warm Up with Tom Forbes + Loophole

Great Malvern Hotel

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds

The Chestnut, Worcester

Planet Rock UK

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Journeyman

Callow End Club

Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival

Moseley Park, Birmingham

Major Folk Rock Festival (see Ad page 46)

The Major Arms, Halmonds Frome

The Bromsgrove Folk Festival

The Bowling Green, Stoke Prior

Beer on the Wye Festival

Hereford Rowing Club, Hereford

Sunday 12 July 2015

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Vine, High Street, Kinver

Beer on the Wye Festival

Hereford Rowing Club, Hereford

Larkin Poe

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Junction 7

Green Dragon, Malvern

2000 Trees Festival

Upcote Farm, Cheltenham

Marcel Zidani & Michael Bochmann, Bretforton Manor

The Fleece, Bretforton

Mark Barrett
The Pheasant, Worcester

Marc Drew
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Thyme Bandits
The Chestnut, Worcester

Andy Brumby
The Ambassador, Evesham

Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival
Moseley Park, Birmingham

Wychway Trio Country Band 1.30pm
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Major Folk Rock Festival (see Ad page 46)
The Major Arms, Halmonds Frome

The Bromsgrove Folk Festival
The Bowling Green, Stoke Prior

Tuesday 14 July 2015

All Things Considered, Circle on the Road
Crescent Theatre (Bar), Sheepcote Street, Birmingham

ODS Songs From The Shows, St Leonard's Church
The Fleece, Bretforton

**Faithful City Shows present: Blood Youth, Trash Boat
Black Art, Black Tie + The Romance**
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 15 July 2015

Gwyn Ashton
Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Vogwells
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Richard Durrant - The Guitar Whisperer
The Fleece, Bretforton

The Sons of Warren James
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 16 July 2015

You Know The Drill, Elessar, Elements
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Steve Big Man Clayton
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Panic Brothers & Mike Gunn
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Black Feathers
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

The Remi Harris Project invites Kelsey James
Clows Top Victory Hall

Sally
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Friday 17 July 2015

Mister Wolf
The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

Jay & Eli
The Pheasant, Worcester

Whiskey River Boys
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Folf And Routes Festival, Claire Boswell, Bric-A-Brac
The Angel Hotel, 9 High Street, Pershore

Stripped Down Blues
The Memorial Hall, High street, Upton on Severn

Bright Eyes
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dick Gaughan
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Redwing
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Money For Nothing
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Traffiker
The Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Buzzard + Mistrusted
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Retroreflector
Miller's Arms, Pershore

Suzi & The Backbeats
Queen's Head, Wolverley

Piano, Cornet & A Cuban Twist, Bretforton Manor
The Fleece, Bretforton

Dave Onions
Great Malvern Hotel

Jonah Matranga + support
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

Waiting For Kate
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Mia and the Black Hawks
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Perry Foster
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Blues Festival (www.uptonblues.org.uk)
Upton upon Severn

Rovin Fest (www.rovinfest.com)
Cheltenham RFC, Newlands Park

Saturday 18 July 2015

**EmbraceThe Chaos presents The Bendal Interlude, Acid
Goat, Electric Soup, Hammerborn**
Pig & Drum, Worcester



Jay & Eli
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Green Haze (Green Day tribute)
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Plough, The Walk, Upton on Severn

The Haunted Souls
Hadley Bowling Green, Droitwich, Worcestershire

Folk and Routes Festival (see advert page 30)
The Angel Hotel, 9 High Street, Pershore

Stuart Woolfenden
Bandstand, Church Green Bandstand, Redditch

The Notorious Bros
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Vale Harmony, Vale Connection & The Redditch Orchestra -
Celebrate America!**
Evesham Arts Centre

Bars and Melody
Guildhall, Gloucester

Soul Town
Stroud Subscription Rooms

George Montague
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Stylus Groove
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Gren Bartley
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Afterdark
Cross Keys, Malvern

Record Fair
Guildhall, Worcester

Bretforton Silver Band, The Butty
The Fleece, Bretforton

Ash Sherlock
Great Malvern Hotel

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Monochrome Set + Interior Castle
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

The John Steeds
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Arkvard Stew
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Blues Festival (www.uptonblues.org.uk)
Upton upon Severn

Lazy Sunday
Callow End Club

Band Beer & BBQ
Lobster, Wes Dance, Skewwhiff, Paddy Steer,
Stiff Joints & Last Tree Squad
Out To Grass, Woodend Farm, Cradley

Rovin Fest (www.rovinfest.com)
Cheltenham RFC, Newlands Park

DJ Night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 19 July 2015

Mister Wolf
The Star, Upton Upon Severn

Stuart Woolfenden
The Rainbow Venues, Birmingham

Slowburner
The Swan, Waterside, Upton on Severn

Ian Luther
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Paper Aeroplanes
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Tom Davies
The Pheasant, Worcester

Bryn Thomas
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Remi Harris
The Chestnut, Worcester

Matt Peplow
The Ambassador, Evesham

Premier Listing

Your event in this space just £10
advert@slapmag.co.uk

Blues Festival (www.uptonblues.org.uk)
Upton upon Severn

Rovin Fest (www.rovinfest.com)
Cheltenham RFC, Newlands Park

Tuesday 21 July 2015

Stripped Down Blues, Guests, The Players
The Cellar Bar, Foregate st., Worcester

The Haunted Souls
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank, Redditch

Wednesday 22 July 2015

Sally Rae Morris
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Vapor
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 23 July 2015

The Humdrum Express + Special Guests
Scary Canary The Venue, 108a High Street, Stourbridge

The Troy Redfern Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Music Lab: Open Mic Night
Guildhall, Gloucester

Ciaran Lavery
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Friday 24 July 2015

Skabucks
Drummonds, Worcester

The John Steeds
The Cross Keys, Bredon's Hardwick, Tewkesbury

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife
The ECC Club, Showell Road, Wolverhampton

Ricky Cool and The In Crowd
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jan Vaisey & Ian Harvey
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Cara Dillon
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Mary Chapin Carpenter
Cheltenham Town Hall

Murmur
Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Sax Appeal
Miller's Arms, Pershore

Lucas D & The Groove Ghetto
Queen's Head, Wolverley

Neil Ivison
The Pheasant, Worcester

Red Dawe
Great Malvern Hotel

Waiting For John
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Haunted Souls
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Nozstock (www.nozstock.com)
Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard

TBC
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

DJ Night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 25 July 2015

Mister Wolf
The New Inn, Pershore

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Barnt Green Social Club, Barnt Green, Birmingham

Sarah Warren & Nick Lyndon Acoustic
The Bakery Inn, Malvern, Worcestershire

Nightshift
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Rhino and The Ranters
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

5:15
Callow End Club, Worcester

Whole Lotta Led
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Rattlesnake Jake
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Vintage Extravaganza with Indigo Kings + The Jiveoholics
Cheltenham Town Hall

Desperado
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Horror Rock Night with Dr Hell, Thirteen Shots, Lupen Tooth + The Bloodthirsters
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Ian Scott as Neil Diamond & Tom Jones
Cross Keys, Malvern

Chris Hutchinson
Great Malvern Hotel

Will Killeen Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Satan's Barber Shop
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets at The Indian Riders Club Bash
Bugatti Owners' Club

Tower Studio presents: Stone Cold Killers + Clockwork Rifle
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Nozstock (www.nozstock.com)
Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard

Colwall Family Music Festival
Colwall Cricket Club, Malvern

Sunday 26 July 2015

New Hope Festival
Top Barn Worcester, Worcestershire

Colwall Family Music Festival
Colwall Cricket Club, Malvern

Eddi Reader
Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve, Glos

Paul Lamb & Chad Strentz
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Eddi Reader

Cheltenham Town Hall

The Paperboys

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Paul Terry

The Pheasant, Worcester

The Midlands Regulators

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Chestnut, Worcester

Dolly Dee

The Ambassador, Evesham

Bearfest (see Facebook page BearfestUK)

The Bear & Ragged Staff, Bransford

Nozstock (www.nozstock.com)

Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard

Wednesday 29 July 2015**The Grumpy Old Guitarists**

Hop Pole, Bewdley

Embrace The Chaos presents Esperi + Soundscapes

Pig & Drum, Worcester

Thursday 30 July 2015**Surprise Attacks present: Calm Like A Riot/****Repo Man/Y CVN/Brownfield**

Firefly, Worcester

Vincent Flatts

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Martin O'Reilly and The Old Soul Orchestra

The Convent, Stn Woodchester, Glos

Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel

Friday 31 July 2015**The Underdogs**

Drummonds, Worcester

The Works

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Dick Whittington Inn, Gloucester

Artisan

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Acoustic Jam Night with Steve Neale

Pig & Drum, Worcester

Victims of Circumstance + Between The Lines

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Ian Luther Band

Miller's Arms, Pershore

Forty Blue Toes

Queen's Head, Wolverley

Ben Vickers

The Pheasant, Worcester

The Soul Strutters

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Official Receivers

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Rattlesnake Jake

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Malvern Rocks 31 July - 2 Aug (www.malvernrocks.com)

Great Malvern Hotel

The Midland Regulators

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Livestock 31 July - 2 Aug (www.livestocklongdon.co.uk)

Livestock Festival, Longdon

Can't see your gig or event?
Next time get listed!
 Upload your event to:
www.notjustsausage.com
 or www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed



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NOW OPEN!

Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

Every Monday - Open Mic

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every Monday - Folk Session

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon Open Mic

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

First Tues - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every other Tues - Acoustic Session

Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel

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

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every other Wednesday - Acoustic Sessions

The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Plough & Harrow, Guarlford

First Wed - Open Mic

The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Music at The Red Lion

The Red Lion, Malvern

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

Every Thurs - Open Mic with Dave Onions

Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

Thursday - Monthly Open Mic Night

The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

Every other Thursday, Paul And Rays Sessions

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions

The Pheasant, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catskill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

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

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Every Thur - Acoustic Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Comedy Night

The Bridge, Worcester

Every 4th Thurs - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton

The Unicorn, Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

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

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson

Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

1st Sat - Acoustic session

The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session

Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Every Sunday - Open Mic 7.30

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00

Lichfield Vaults

Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

3rd Sun - Singaround format Session

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Listings in conjunction with NotJustSauce.com

Arts & Exhibitions

1-4th Write On Festival, Hereford Courtyard

2nd Voices and Visions, University of Worcester, 2pm

3rd The Simon and Garfunkel Story, Malvern theatres

3rd -12 th July Ledbury Poetry Festival

4th Nibley Festival, Gloucestershire

7th Number 7 Readers Group, No 8 Pershore

11th The End Festival – Callow End

11th Accelerate – Dancefest. Artrix, Bromsgrove

12th Warndon Villages Summer Fete

Lyppard Grange Worcester, 12-4pm

14th Mouth & Music, Boars Head Kidderminster

Until 17th Brenda Henderson Artrix Bromsgrove

From 15th Artrix summer exhibition

Until 16th Aug Lickey Hills Primary School Arts Week

Exhibition Artrix Bromsgrove

17th WAP Festivals sub-group meeting The Hive Worcester, 10am.

19th Simmer down Festival, Handsworth Park, Birmingham

20-21st Kite making workshop Malvern theatres

24th-26th Nozstock Festival

25th Help Make Perdi Better, Skateboarding event,

Perdiswell skatepark, 2pm

Until Dec- Shifting Worlds, Ironbridge Gorge Museums

THE MARR'S BAR

JULY
AUG 2015



Random Hand
Friday 21st August

Friday 3rd July

Hellhound hearts & The Miffs
£3 in advance £5 on the door

TNT2: Britpop vs Madchester
DJ Pantry Boy (12pm - 4am)

£5 door/£3 with Partner venue stamp

Saturday 4th July

Rebel Rebel (Bowie Tribute)
£6 in advance £7 on the door

Sunday 5th July

Bric-A-Brac
£5 in advance £6 on the door

Thursday 9th July

Surprise Attacks presents Salad Days:
A Decade of Punk - DC (1980-90) Film
£5 in advance

Friday 10th July

Mary Hinge
£4 on the door

Tuesday 14th July

Faithful City Shows Present:
Blood Youth, Trash Boat Black Art,
Black Tie + The Romance
£4 in advance £6 on the door

Thursday 16th July

You Know The Drill, Eleasar & Elements
£5 in advance £6 on the door

Saturday 18th July

Green Haze (Green Day tribute)
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday 24th July (11pm - 4am)

Flaunt Presents Anne Savage
Amp Attack, V4ugh4n, Chris Harris
Russell Priest
£8 in advance

Saturday 25th July

Tower Studios presents...
Stone Cold Killers + Clockwork Rifle
£5 on the door

Friday 31st July

The Official Receivers
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 1st August

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 21st August

Faithful City Shows Present:
Random Hand, Fights & Fires, Brasick
£7.50 in advance

COMING UP...

Friday 18th - Sunday 20th September
Worcester Music Festival
Free Entry

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

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

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