

# SLAP

Issue 53

Nov 2015

FREE



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## What's on Entertainment November

- Every Weds Quiz Night 8.30pm plus Curry Night £5.00 meal
- Tues 3rd - 24th Scandianian Day Village Dishes Served 7.30pm £17.00 BOOKING ONLY
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- Thurs 5th Ben Vickers Jammin Open Mic Night 8.30pm
- Sat 7th Sally Haines Live Music 7.30pm
- Tues 10th Tribute to the great Tommy Dorsey 2 courses £11.95pp 12.30pm
- Thurs 12th SLAP MAGAZINE Performer of The Month 8.30pm
- Sat 14th DJ Terry Disco Night 7.30pm
- Fri 13th - 15th Sun CAMRA Members Banks's Czech Mate £2.80 pint
- Thurs 19th Droitwich Standard Night Sponsorship Band of the Month 8.00pm
- Sat 20th Mike Skillbeck The Best of Live Entertainment 8.00pm
- Sat 21st Brendan O'brian Irish Singer 8.00pm
- Thurs 26th Sally Hosts Droitwich 60's Music Night Live Music 8.00pm
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# SLAP

Nov 2015 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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I sat down the other night in a rare, quiet at home moment - resplendent in kimono, brandy balloon comfortably cradled (Get on with it! Sub Ed), compiling a list of possible gigs and shows I'd like to attend with friends in the next month. I was again amazed by the sheer number and diversity of the options available in what we loosely term our region ie the 3 counties: indeed such was the number that there were at least two fixture clashes.

I mention this firstly to once again big-up our vibrant music and arts scene, of which I'm honoured to be part of, and secondly to bring to the table the subject of the Slap Mag coverage area. At Slap HQ the topic of what, who and where we should write about is as you'd imagine regularly debated and is always open for discussion. Slap is editorially based in Worcester but we have always been happy to include events in the West & South Midlands.

This is I feel one of the magazine's strengths but also poses questions about the content, size and distribution of our great organ(!). Whilst of course we genuinely care about our readers and contributors thoughts on such matters we unfortunately haven't got the apparatus to canvas email/facebook/tweet opinion and thus open a full discussion about Slap's future.

We do on a regular basis though discuss such matters with you, *The Great Unwashed*, in the region's pubs, clubs, theatres and other venues are thus constantly jostled, harangued and generally badgered about this very issue.

At the moment we are quite happy about what we do and how we go about it and certainly hope you agree that we're doing a half decent job. Slap though is never complacent and we are always open to new ideas and ways of working. So please keep bothering us in public in the nicest possible way and always remember that we would not exist if it wasn't for you lovely lot getting out there to gigs, concerts, shows, exhibitions et al and sending in your contributions.

I reiterate: we NEED you - it is YOUR magazine - we thank you for it - we love producing it. We love you - of course we do!

*Delight-Ed*



BBC  
introducing...



## Re-calling the Stones

Manchester author **Richard Houghon** is calling in Worcester fans of the Rolling Stones to share their memories of the band - the only catch is that he's looking for eyewitness accounts of the band's performances at the **Worcester Gaumont** in 1963 - twice in October and again in December! He's collected over 500 accounts of the Stones' early performances - including at Cheltenham, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton and Kidderminster - but Worcester's still missing from his list. And as **Mick Jagger** has turned 71 - it's likely that people who saw the Stones when they were starting out would now be of a similar age! If you also attended any of the early Beatles performances as well do contact Richard at [thebeatlesinthe60s@gmail.com](mailto:thebeatlesinthe60s@gmail.com)



## New Mello Fest

Organisers of Upton **Sunshine Festival** have announced another new addition to next summer's packed list of local events. Held over the Spring Bank Holiday 27th-29th May 2016 **Mello** is set to bring back the essence of a big chilled family festival. With an eclectic mix of indie, folk, jazz and dance, Mello will broadly appeal to music lovers of all ages. Set at the iconic **Throckmorton Airfield**, the organisers spotted a gap in the Worcestershire market for a large scale festival that champions 'real' music.



"We feel that musically Worcestershire lacks a festival that champions 'real' music on a large scale, hence the need to create Mello. We're delighted to be holding it at the iconic Throckmorton Airfield and intend to take into account the historical values it holds when producing the festival. It really is an exciting project are we're delighted to be able to announce our first 2016 headline act **The Levellers** and they'll be alongside **Lemar**, **The Blockheads**, **Pentangle & Electric Swing Circus**. Expect many more names to be announced soon as well as a host host of local talent."

Early bird tickets are now on sale for the 3 day event and these tickets, at just £65, include camping from the Friday to the Monday. Available at [mellofestival.co.uk](http://mellofestival.co.uk)

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## Upton Fest Award

Last month we congratulated **Babajack** members **Becky Tate** and **Trevor Steger** for picking up gongs at the **British Blues Awards** - woops forgot to mention that **Upton Blues Festival** also scooped their **Festival of the Year** prize - chairman **Oliver Carpenter** said he was thrilled with the award adding that some of the 15,000 people who attended this year had told him 'it was better than Christmas'...

## Charity Cash-in from Mapfest

Redditch-based charity the **Charlotte and Craig Saving Hearts Foundation** have said thanks to **Andy** and all involved with **Mappfest** - money raised from their stall at the Malvern Link Common bash have helped fund a defibrillator which has been installed at **The Cube** community centre in Albert Road North - well done to all concerned!!

## Marie-Claire for Marrs Launch

Worcester-based folk band **Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands** (!) say that the inspiration for songs for their latest album came from a cold week in Wales in February 2014 when they were barricaded in a remote cottage while the worst storms in 50 years raged outside. They've finished writing and recording the album back in Worcester and the launch gig will be at the **Marrs Bar** on Thursday November 28th - when they'll be hoping for better weather!

## International Success For Worcester Writer

Worcester writer **Kevin Brooke** has sent more copies of **Jimmy Cricket**, his latest Young Adult novel, to Austria; his Austrian contact **Linda**, said: '*... I've spoken to the teacher who is using them and she confirms they are being used in a 'Fachschule für Sozialberufe', with Fachschule being a special, specific school for school leavers and Sozialberufe, literally meaning Social Jobs.*

*'She has explained that the books will be used in her lessons "in a cross-curricular way, combining English language and reading in a foreign language plus discussing the content / the topic of the book about a troubled boy which is also relevant for our students as we are in a social college."*

**Black Pear Press** are delighted to pass on this news from one of our local writers, further details about Kevin's book are available at: [www.blackpear.net](http://www.blackpear.net)

## The man with the 'licence to thrill'

Worcester loses a popular local character with the death of the self-titled **'The Black Bond'** aka **Geoffrey Noble Archer**. He was well known for his impromptu performances in an individualistic rap style, inviting his audiences to join in with his phrases. A regular at The Marrs Bar open mic with memorable raps such as *'When I Drop'* and *'Get lost in Music'*. This well dressed, dapper gentleman will be solely missed on the streets of Worcester and as *'The Black Bond'* would say *'In multicultural England'*.





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There was exciting news last month for **Clik Clik!** The weird and wonderful venue created at Nozstock: The Hidden Valley this summer, 'The Cabinet of Lost Secrets' has been shortlisted for the AIF (Association of Independent Festivals) Festival Congress award 'Unique Festival Arena'!



I'm thrilled that the **Cabinet** has been recognised for its uniqueness and is a great big pat on the back for the whole 'Cabinet' crew. Everyone worked so hard to make this come to life in such a surreal way, turning an empty plot of land into a dark lair of curiosities, secret doors and dancing creatures to mess with the minds of those who dared enter the tunnel!



Photography by Toni Charles

The Cabinet is shortlisted alongside eight other festival areas including Glastonbury, 2000 Trees, Blissfields and Barn on the Farm and the winner will be decided in Cardiff at the Festival Congress on 5th Nov.

## Gin Lane

**Clik Clik** is producing an immersive new installation for this year's **Worcester Victorian Fair**. Step into the dark world of the gin alley: a Victorian alleyway with its debauched inhabitants, cast out of society due to their unsavory behavior!

With interactive performance, sing-song, and surprises, 'Gin Lane' is an alternative Victorian experience from **Clik Clik Collective**, taking you back in time!



The Worcester Victorian Fair runs from Thurs 26th-Sun 29th Nov. Gin Lane is open Thurs-Sat 4pm til 7pm.

You can also see the **Clik Clik Anti-Barber** lurking around Fri, Sat and Sun.

## The Last Frost Fair

Inspired by winter landscape scenes of the frozen River Thames, this creative workshop from **Dancefest** is for all ages and will bring to life the art of the Frost Fairs painted in the 17th to early 19th centuries, an era known as *The Little Ice Age*.

Choreographer **Marie Oldaker** leads a practical session for anyone interested in contemporary dance, theatre, art and music. This workshop will explore how choreographers take inspiration from visual art and history.

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Suitable for both experienced dancers and for people who have never danced before, a sense of adventure and imagination is encouraged!

Children under 12 should be accompanied by a participating adult. £15/£12 concessions/£25 adult and under 12 year old taking part together. The Angel Centre, Worcester. Sunday 22 November, 10am-1.30pm. Further info [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk) or call 01905 611199



## Worcester Christmas

The Worcester Christmas lights get switched on on Saturday 14th with an event full of fun, activities and markets stalls. This year **Free Radio** will be hosting a main stage from 4pm with presenters and acts building up to the switch on at 6pm. Check out free radio broadcasts coming soon for details. Father Christmas arrives the following day outside the Guildhall at 1pm then travelling through the town to the Crowngate precinct where he will be till 4pm. And don't forget the fabulous **Worcester Christmas Fair** with loads of performers and stalls 26th-29th!



COME ALL YE FAITHFUL...  
TO WORCESTER VICTORIAN FAYRE  
26-29TH NOVEMBER

Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre 2018

150 Promotions

## Last call for Feral Film Festival

There is a call out for film-makers for an exciting opportunity with the **Feral Film Festival** based in Leek, Staffordshire. The deadline is November 9th people so get moving! The Feral Film Festival is an annual event organised with **Foxlowe Films** that gives everyone the fantastic opportunity of presenting their work to an independent panel of judges with awards given for a range of categories.

Everyone is eligible and all genres of film will be accepted. From comedy, documentary, horror, music or experimental. The only requirement is that the film is between 1-15 minutes long.

To download the application form please go to Feral Film Festival on Facebook.



Advertise in this space for as little as £30 per month

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

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## Rock Against Racism

A snapshot of late 70's youth culture went on display in London last month documenting the movement **Rock Against Racism**. Produced by **Autograph ABP**, a charity that works internationally with photography & film, culture and human rights, this is the first major exhibition of **Syd Shelton's** photographs capturing one of the most intriguing and contradictory political periods in British post war history. Between 1976 and 1981, the movement Rock Against Racism (RAR) confronted racist ideology in the streets, parks and town halls of Britain and was formed by a collective of musicians and political activists to fight fascism and racism through music.

Under the slogan '**Love Music, Hate Racism**', it showcased reggae and punk bands on the same stage, attracting large multicultural audiences. At a time when the fascist attitudes of the National Front were gaining support, RAR marked the rising resistance to violent and institutionalised racism. Not having an official photographer, Shelton produced the largest collection of images on the movement.



Syd Shelton's photographs document the volatility of a country divided across race, class and gender. They expose the ferocity of cultural difference being hammered out on Britain's streets through the late 1970s, at a time when racist skinheads danced to Jamaican ska, punks embraced reggae and black kids reached out to punk. Shelton photographed performers such as **The Clash**,



**Elvis Costello, Misty in Roots, Tom Robinson, Au Pairs and The Specials** as well as the audiences at RAR gigs and carnivals across England. He captured the history-making **RAR Carnival 1** at Victoria Park, London in 1978, and demonstrations such as the Anti National Front Demonstration in Lewisham in 1977. Shelton also took contextual social and cultural images that informed the politics of the movement across England and Ireland.



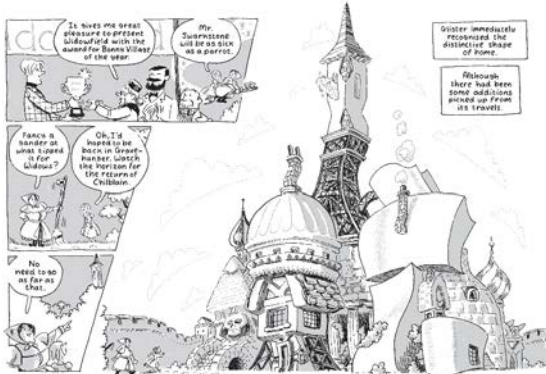
**Rock Against Racism** revisits the energy of RAR, the creative entanglement of black and white musicians, designers, writers, actors, performers and supporters who produced effective counter-narratives to whiteness as superior and blackness as alienated. Shelton's photographs remind us that RAR was a particular treatise on belonging in Britain.

**Syd Shelton's** photographs can be seen at Autograph ABP, Rivington Place, Shoreditch, London EC2A 3BA until 5th December.

There is also a new book of Syd's photographs available. [autograph-abp.co.uk/exhibitions/rock-against-racism](http://autograph-abp.co.uk/exhibitions/rock-against-racism)

# Andi Watson

Currently exhibiting as part of **Illustration Beats Explanation at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum**, **Andi Watson** is a cartoonist, artist and writer. We grabbed a few words from him earlier this month.



*I grew up spending a lot of time lying on the carpet in the living room with felt tip pens and paper. Art was the only thing I really wanted to do. To be completely honest, what I really wanted to do was be a car mechanic, but I have absolutely no practical skills so it ended up being art. I graduated with a degree in illustration/graphic design at what was then Liverpool Polytechnic. I'd always been interested in stories and narrative and became fascinated with comics as a storytelling medium.*

*My inspirations are fairly wide. I'm inspired by manga by creators like Osamu Tezuka, American independent comics like Love and Rockets and King Cat, European comics by people like Dupuy and Berberian and Ives Chaland. I also love newspaper strips like Peanuts, classic comics like Tintin and Alfred Bestall.*

*I enjoy The Coen brothers, Evelyn Waugh, Austen, Mogwai, Kate Bush and a lot of speech radio, Radio 4 and podcasts. It's a long long list that changes and it's always exciting to find new stuff to be inspired by.*

*I guess my overall drive has been to improve and try different things. I love drawing and making stuff up and strive to get better at it all the time.*

Mostly working in illustration (for the Guardian and Radio Times) Andi produces graphic novels where he tries to tell his own stories in a wide variety of genres and styles.

*I've created graphic novels for grown ups about unemployment in the West Midlands with books like Breakfast After Noon and comics for children in my Gum Girl and Glistler (you can see original art from the book in the exhibition currently on at the Worcester Museum and Art Gallery) series for Walker Books. I've tackled romance, YA and sci-fi alongside working for the likes of DC and Marvel comics.*



Currently Andi has a new graphic novel coming out in French in February called *Points de Chute* from Ça et Là. It's a colloquial term for a place to crash. It's about the difficulty in affording a place to live in the UK.

Next he has plans to put *Points de Chute* out in English, finish up a graphic novel called A+E as well as just starting work on a new project.

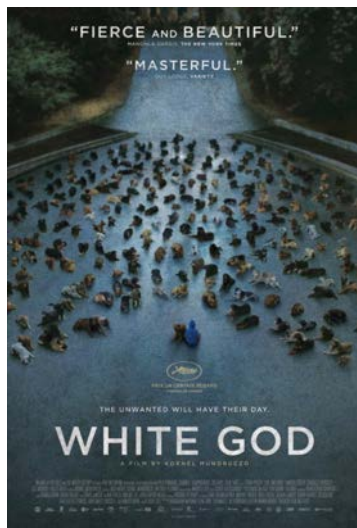
Check out his illustrations at Worcester Museum & Art Gallery until 21st November. *Gum Girl* and *Glistler* are available at all good book shops and online. You can also read one of his graphic novels for free online at [pmidnight.blogspot.co.uk](http://pmidnight.blogspot.co.uk) and [andiwatson.info](http://andiwatson.info)



## REVIEW Splendid Cinema White God

(dir. Kornel Mundruczo, Hungary 2014)  
Worcester Arts Workshop  
Sunday 18th October

*"Everything terrible is something that needs our love".* **White God** outright declares its political position with this opening quote that calls for the realisation that we are all responsible for marginalisation in society. With a slightly demoralised-feeling Budapest providing a backdrop, the film charts the harsh journey of an unpopular cross-breed dog, Hagen, from beloved pet of teenager, Lila, to...revolutionary leader! While this sounds like a potentially ridiculous film, I implore you to invest in this story. This is a bizarre parable that had me teary, just twenty minutes in, when Lila's father



abandons Hagen on the side of a road to avoid paying fees. Heart-wrenching scenes continued, becoming more and more brutal, until Hagen, having gone through several mistreatments, becomes part of a canine uprising. The rebellion recalls some of my favourite scenes in Soviet cinema, most of all the Odessa Steps sequence from Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin*. In the hands of other filmmakers this could have left the audience laughing, but **Mundruczo** creates an energising, emotional and sensational sequence. After an uneasy, yet enchanting ending, the film left me with lots of unanswered questions, but its biggest impact was its call to rise up against oppression of all kinds.

**White God** is part of the current season from **Splendid Cinema** who have got some very interesting titles lined up and are well worth supporting. Take a look at:

[www.splendidcinema.wordpress.com](http://www.splendidcinema.wordpress.com)  
by Siobhan Joan



WEEKEND  
**CUBE**

Don't go into hibernation, let us entertain you this autumn with fantastic music, theatre and film! Tickets are now on sale for the brand new touring show **JIGDOLL** by **Hannah James**. It's coming to **The Cube** on **Friday 6th Nov** at 7pm. You may remember Hannah's appearance at The Cube earlier this year with the sold-out show; **Maddy Prior & Friends**.



A rarity in folk music, Hannah is a singer, musician and innovative clog dancer. **Jig Doll** combines all of these disciplines in a beautiful new show exploring the life of the travelling player: sometimes exotic, sometimes frightening, it's a world where home changes daily, and the only touchstones are the skills you carry with you, and the people you meet on the way. Much more than a concert, **Jig Doll** features newly-composed music in a magical setting woven around percussive dance.

*"Hannah is an incredible musician, a beautiful singer, inventive accordionist and her dancing is out of this world"* Jon Boden, *Bellowhead*

*"Hannah James is a wonderfully talented, young singer, clog dancer and accordion player. She is set for great things. Watch this space...."* Maddy Prior, *Steeleye Span*

Support on the night comes from Malvern's very own Folky vocal trio - **Cruel Sister...** **Gemima, Bryony** and **Heather**, who are all very much looking forward to sharing the stage with Hannah. Tickets are £8 in advances £10 on the door.



**White Wall Film Club** starts back up this month with new organiser **Justin Willis** at the helm, and if his first selection of films is anything to go by, we know you're going to love him! Saturday 7th November we will be showing *Nightcrawler* starring **Jake Gyllenhaal**. Entrance is £5 in advance, £5.50 on the door. December's film is the fantastic *Whiplash* and January's is *Foxcatcher*. More information on **White Wall Film Club** can be found at [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com).



On Friday 13th November **Forthright theatre** will be bringing **The Gary and Robert Blues** to our stage. The Gary and Roberts Blues is a comedic, sometime poignant, journey through one man's mental health issues. *'Forthright'* deals with significant health and social issues. Typical matters tackled include domestic abuse, debt and mental health issues. It aims to produce quality prices of drama for public performance which both engage and inform. Their style of work is to research real human stories through one-to-one interviews and then weave a fictional narrative which is truthful, honest and engaging. Tickets £6.

They're calling it *'a return trip to madness that finally makes sense'*, Malvern's prodigal fool is back as a part of **Wyrd-O: Tales from the Absurdicon** on Friday 20th November at 7.30pm. **Simon Blakeman** will perform around 8.30pm amidst a dance evening with theatrical beginnings. Absurdity is the quality or state of being ridiculous or wildly unreasonable, illogical, and/or relating to some sorts of ancient math written in feathers and paste. Wyrd-O performance in the theatre, live music and DJ to take you from audience to puller of shapes. The lounge - lit by the light of vintage cartoons, Beckett films and extraordinary others - will be a place to watch and drink cocktails at our candlelit bar or plink plunk on the old Joanna...the rest of it is yours to make up! Tickets are £9 in advance £11 on the door.



Coming your way in December we have a family theatre performance *'The Mighty Prince'* on Sunday 13th December and **'The GREATest MALVERN charity Christmas concert EVER!'** raising money for the Calais and Dunkirk refugee crisis on Saturday 19th December.

As the nights draw in this Autumn, venture out to **Malvern Cube** and join us for these amazing music, theatre and film events. More information and tickets for all events are available from [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com).

*Sophie Awstwick*



# worcester arts workshop



October was a busy month here at the Workshop, with the return of Splendid Cinema, ongoing courses and our open day. We also held an award ceremony for the winners of our Worcester Music Festival photography competition, celebrating some amazing photography talent in the local area.

## Open Day

Our open day on Saturday 24th October was a huge success with lots of people popping in to see what we do here at the Workshop, including the Mayor of Worcester. It was great to see so many of you Worcester folk getting involved and taking part in our taster sessions – just goes to show there really is something for everyone at the Workshop! We hope you'll come back and see us soon, as we've plenty of exciting things happening throughout the next month!

## Splendid Cinema

This month Splendid Cinema is showing more intriguing, must-see films. On Sunday 8th November we have action-packed Bollywood extravaganza **Baby** (India, Neeraj Pandey, 2015, Cert. 15), about an elite counter-terrorism unit trying to prevent a massive attack in New Delhi. To follow on Sunday 22nd November we are screening **Mommy** (Canada, Xavier Dolan, 2014, Cert. 15), an intense drama about a single month trying to raise her delinquent son. This film received a five minute standing ovation when screened at the 2014 Cannes Film festival, so really is one to watch.

## Worcester Film Festival - November 6th-8th

On Friday the 6th of November **Worcester Film Festival** opens from 6pm there will be a screening of a variety of short films and 2 documentaries. The documentaries are 'Steps of the Giant Killer' on the local football club **Worcester City FC** and 'Rock and Roll Island'. This focuses on a famous music venue in London, **Eel Pie Island**.

On Saturday from 10am till 5pm there will be a host of family friendly films and documentaries. Then from 6pm to 10pm we will be presenting our "After Dark" section which includes horror and thriller films!!

Between 10-5 the Sunday programme has a plethora of short films but includes two feature films; 'Selfie', a documentary on the modern phenomena of Selfie's and 'Ur: The End of Civilization', a zombie film. Who doesn't like a zombie film?!

**The Worcester Film Festival Awards Ceremony** will start at 6pm where prizes will be presented for the winning films.



After a fully packed weekend of film we still have Splendid Cinema at 7pm with 'Baby' a Bollywood extravaganza. Not to be missed!



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## Theatre Coming Up

### Gloriator – Thursday 12th November

French/English female comedy duo Spitz & Co present a hilarious show which follows a glamorous French actress as she stages her own version of the Hollywood blockbuster **Gladiator** with the help of her hapless assistant. The result is an inventive, physical, fun and rather silly production topped off with costumes made out of cardboard – who needs Russell Crowe anyway? Created with the help of *Spymonkey's* **Aitor Basauri** and *Publick Transport's* **Angus Barr**, it won the Critics' Choice Award at Exeter Ignite in 2014 and was developed with support from the **Arts Council England** and **Bristol Old Vic's Ferment**. Tickets are £10 and the performance starts at 7:30pm. For more info on the duo visit [www.spitzandco.com](http://www.spitzandco.com)



### Echo Beach – Wednesday 25th November

Written and performed by **Hannah Sullivan**. *Echo Beach* is dance theatre that celebrates casual social dancing and the way it is unique to everyone. Hannah has been gathering her dance collection for a while now and calls it 'dancing like everyone I know.' Her performance uncovers the delicacies of family life, unveils memory through music and movement, and touches upon the fragility of what is seen and what is felt. Supported by **Ideas Tap**, **Bristol Ferment** and **Arts**, audiences have described Hannah's performance as 'Brilliant, honest and absorbing' and 'A story buried in dance.' The performance starts at 7:30pm and tickets are £10/£7 concessions.

### It's a Wonderful Life - December 5th

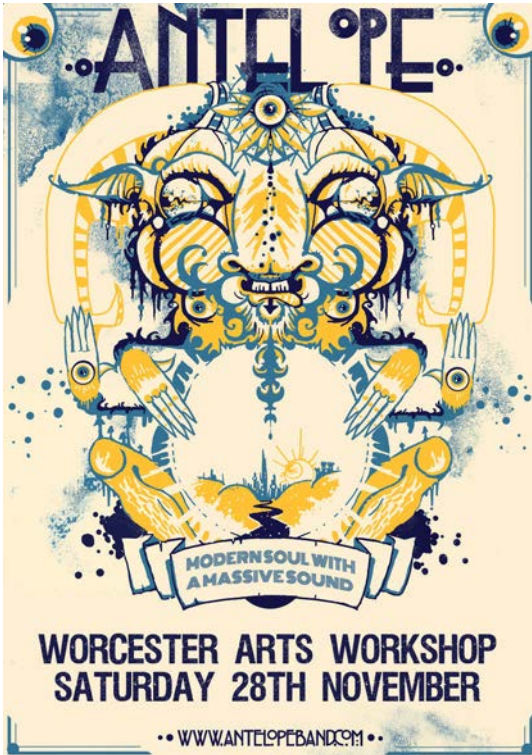
Although it's still a bit early for the C word, we are very excited for this! Based on Frank Capra's classic feel-good movie, downcast George Bailey discovers the difference he has made to his family, friends and home town with a little help from Clarence, the apprentice angel. Celebrated theatre company, Farnham Maltings, bring this heart-warming tale to towns all over England, using their own distinctive style to create two hours of theatre that promise to warm the coldest of places this winter. Tickets are £10 (suitable for ages 8+) and the performance starts at 7:30pm.



For more info: [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)  
21 Sansome St, Worcester WR1 1UH Tel: 01905 25053

# Antelope

Worcester Arts Workshop | 28th Nov



Tickets available at Café Bliss...£5 Entry or £10 for entry and a meal, student discount available.

# Priests To Pilots

Dan Griffin, J2 and The Aura  
Worcester Rowing Club | 12 November 7pm

**Priests to Pilots** deliver a fresh and gutsy portion of indie rock with bite, and edge. They'll play some of their own material along with some indie hits to rock out to, by bands like Kings Of Leon and Arctic Monkeys, giving them some edgy little twists and riffage of their own, and showing impressive skill. A stand out is their awesomely rocked up cover of Paolo Nutini's *Jenny Don't Be Hasty*.

Young and driven, the West Midlands based band have been gigging like their lives depend on it, hitting up several venues in Birmingham and even playing the main stage a **Hopfest**, since they got together just 5 months ago!



A **Priests to Pilots** gig is sure to be fun, cool with no gimmicks or cocky stage antics, just great songs and massive amounts of musicianship, excitement and energy. We can't wait to hear some of their stuff, as they've been grabbing audiences and becoming known all over the midlands. They're sure to get you coming back for more, and they're only just getting started! This is not to be missed!

Jessica Charles

# November at The Room Upstairs

## Palace Theatre, Redditch

Top quality comedy, roots music and one-man theatre come your way this month at the ever eclectic Room Upstairs.

First up the comedy in the very clever shape of **Nish Kumar**; indeed the show is called 'Long Word, Long Word, Blah... Blah... Blah...I'm So Clever.' at the **Room Upstairs** on Friday 6th Nov.

This title leaves you in no doubt where Nish is coming from - yes it's intelligent and impressive stand-up but with a self-deprecating twist and this what makes him so loveable.



Indeed the **Double Chortle Award** nominee has wowed the audiences of such TV shows as Live at the **Comedy Store** and **The Alternative Comedy Experiences**, plus 'appeared' on Radio4's **The Now Show** and is the host of Radio 4 **Extra's Newsjack**.

One of the most sought after roots bands on the circuit are the ever-rising **Babajack**. You will find a report on their album launch in Malvern elsewhere this issue and regular readers will have been kept informed of their exploits throughout the last few years.

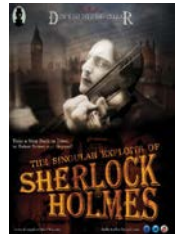
Meteoric is definitely the word for **Becky, Trevor, Tosh and Adam's** rise as they go from strength to strength, seemingly gaining plaudits and awards effortlessly along the way.

**Babajack** combine passion with great musicianship, energy with charisma to create a quite unique sound and brilliantly breathtaking stage show. Go and see them at The Room Upstairs on Friday 13th and find out why *Classic Rock* magazine called them "...an intoxicating brew of blues, folk and roots music."



Saturday 14th November at the Room Upstairs is **Sherlock Night** as **Don't Go In The Cellar** present some stirring adaptations of Conan Doyle's detective hero.

**The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes** is a high energy one man show which dashingly dashes through some of the great man's greatest moments. Containing quick costume changes and wry humour this is an affectionate homage to Mr Holmes' crime-busting career, so expect villainous rogues and vintage thrills as we are whisked through the very veins of Victorian Britain.



www.redditchpalcetheatre.co.uk for more tickets for all events.

# Blair Dunlop

Hartlebury Village Hall | Sunday 18th October

I'm in Hartlebury tonight for a gig at the local Parish Hall. It forms part of the **'Live & Local/Shindig'** series of events to promote gigs in small traditional village and town venues and tonight, **Blair Dunlop** is visiting.

I saw him with a full band last year in Bristol, but tonight he's playing solo on a theatre stage in this lovely hall, recently restored.

What we're treated to over the course of the next two hours is a masterclass on holding and entertaining an audience, many of whom I guess would not have heard of the artist before. He's funny, he's down to earth, the spaces for retunes (which are many and complex) are filled with anecdote and song backgrounds - there's no point at which your attention wanders.

Recent addition *'She Won't Cry For Me'* kicks us off and a brand new song, the upbeat *'Porsche 356'* is followed by the elegant and philosophical *'Chain By Design'* and a haunting version of the traditional song *'Black Is The Colour'*.

By now, anyone who was unfamiliar with Dunlop's work will surely know they're in the presence of a very talented musician. Not only is he in exceptionally good voice tonight, especially in the upper registers but the wry and often ironic lyrics, acutely observing life and love raise his song writing way above the pack - the new love song *'Let's Dance to Paganini'* and *'Eternal Optimist'*, about the influence of new technology are both excellent. *'No-Go Zones'* about a disorientated American visitor to Birmingham who's been watching way too much Fox News is comically mischievous. And then there's the guitar playing...

He really is an extraordinarily gifted player, whether in conventional finger style, or on the Celtic ballad *'Si Behg Si Mohr'*, giving a dazzling display of bidextral playing.

The sound is wonderful tonight, very crisp indeed and with a pinpoint balance between voice and instrument - a special mention to **Gerry and Ani McNeice of Wee Dog Sound** who are covering the whole tour.

His love affair with Italy continues, as a exquisite version of *'The Song of Two Bridges'* written by his father, **Ashley Hutchings**, is followed by the stately *'Castello'*.

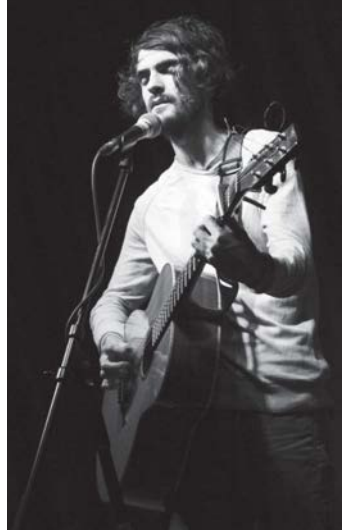
There's no setlist tonight and we're invited to call for requests or submit them at the break - I have about six, but ask for my favourite *'Secret Theatre'* and I'm rewarded with a breathtaking version. He observes ruefully that the only other request was for a cover, Richard Thompson's *'1952 Vincent Black Lightning'* which is delivered with great power, the speed of the intricate left hand work deceiving the eye.

There's an encore, enthusiastically requested and answered with amusing haste and it's all over... until November, when happily, he returns on the same tour just a few miles down the road at Cookley Village Hall on the 15th.

I'm aiming to be there and can't recommend strongly enough that you should make the trip, too. Brilliant performance from a very fine artist.

*Geoffrey Head*

[www.blairdunlop.com](http://www.blairdunlop.com) [www.liveandlocal.org.uk](http://www.liveandlocal.org.uk)



# King Size Slim The Ginger Pig | 2nd October

**Toby Barelli** aka **King Size Slim**, joined a select group of diners

and music lovers in the lovely little café, nestling in the side streets of Worcester. This was the first opportunity I had of seeing what would prove to be - a King Size performance. He is an off the wall entertainer who twists together a variety of musical roots and delivers them in a blues coloured bag. There are elements of reggae, rap, American Indian and African beats. Did I mention soul? - should have done. All the parts are imported and assembled on the work bench of a steel bodied Tricone Resonator, that looks like it's been dipped in copper and left in the rain. An instrumental opened the set; an exhibition of his guitar qualifications, then *'Milk Drunk'* is rattled out which is a full on rap, spread over a bed of a blues riff: superb stuff. *'Go On Back To Your Mother Babe'*, it's *'Roast Beef'* time and the beautifully soulful *'Angel Dear'* is on her way for dessert. The delivery is loud, brash and confident so no need for a microphone. Toby's voice fills the air, bounces of the walls and the **Ginger Pig** crackled in response. We took in a King Size *'Spoonful'*, but this one has been cut by Grand Master Flash - just to keep us from going under. His *'Dark Soul'* is revealed but watch carefully



because it's going to race past on full throttle, powered by that big Tricone. Whew! time for a break as Bob Marley slipped by with *'No Woman No Cry'* - would he recognise it though? The Stones appear but it's fast and soon starts to *'Fade Away'*. A caffeine addled Hendrix is given life with *'Mary'* before we drop into a gentle love song *'I Hope It's You'*.

Now none or maybe all of this actually happened, such is the power of the show. It seems at times like a concentrated, freshly squeezed roots festival, poured into a tall glass with a hot chaser waiting by the side. It was a brilliantly entertaining evening and **King Size Slim** is like his voice, a larger than life persona worn with style by **Toby Barelli**. I am scouring the listings as I'm hooked and need a second dose. No doubt there were many who looked at the billing and thought 'never heard of him', but they would have done if they had found their way to Upton this summer, or even Ledbury the evening before this. You will, no doubt, all be hearing more of this particular *'smoke'* in the near future; intoxicating, certainly, but more satisfying than a nicotine hit.

Type in 'King Size Slim' and you will find plenty of video samples, but don't bother with the rolling ups. We join in for the spiritually uplifting *'Redemption Song'*, with its African rhythms and acknowledgement of the tribulations of mass migration. A fabulous evening.

Join the **Ginger Pig** at the trough and I'm sure you'll enjoy the feed.

*Graham Munn*

# THE BHG

**Life Drawing** this month is a bit of treat (no tricks!) as we will be having a COUPLE of professional models who will be modelling for the class. Those who have yet to come to the class, I can say no more than this is a great chance to introduce you to the idea of Life Drawing. The class is informal, which means we chat (but you don't have to chat), we have a beverage (warm from the kettle or cold from the bar) and we listen to tunes (you can err, bring headphones) while drawing.



Beginners are more than welcome as we can offer tips and guidance or you just happily carry on and do your own thing.

**Materials are available or bring your own.**

**Bring a friend or make some new ones.**

**Just hope we see you there!**

(I am hoping to continue these classes for as long as possible, but due to work commitments, these sessions might be limited so please, seize the opportunity while we can!)

These Sessions has been described as 'Interesting', 'Stimulating', 'Fun', 'Individual' & 'Bizarre'.

## Life Drawing

**THE BHG**  
THE BOARS HEAD GALLERY

An informal Session, open to all abilities over the age of 18. Materials are available. Tunes will be on the Stereo and there will be Beer available at the Bar.

For anyone who hasn't been before, Life Drawing is a great chance to practice traditional drawing skills. This class in particular encourages people to bring whatever materials they might use and experiment with their own creativity.

**Thursday 5th November**  
1st Thursday Monthly Cost is £4 per person



## VIDEODROME

As well as Life Drawing, do look out for **Videodrome** who will be having unique film nights in the gallery and as always there is the ever changing art work. There is artwork available on commission from all of the gallery regulars, including **Sid, Coz** and **Melo**. If ordered now, we can sort you something special in time for Christmas.

Many Thanks and see you all soon  
- Coz

**TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 7.30PM**  
**SPOKEN WORD & ACOUSTIC MUSIC**  
**OPEN MIC**

# STEVE POTTINGER

**POET ...THE SCOURGE OF TAX-DODGING COFFEE CHAINS**

**THEME: OVER THE EDGE**

# SWINGERELLA

**GODDESS OF FABULOUSNESS**  
**SPOKEN WORD BURLESQUE**

MC: Heather Wastie Admission: £3. Free to performers. Sign up from 7.00pm  
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[www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk) [www.facebook.com/mouthandmusic](http://www.facebook.com/mouthandmusic)

Wyre Forest District Council Kidderminster Creatives Supporting Local Creativity The Boars Head

## Mouth & Music

**Mouth and Music** in Kidderminster will be 'Over the Edge' on Tuesday 10th November, featuring burlesque spoken word artist and 'goddess of fabulousness', **Swingerella**. Also doing a 15-minute set is poet **Steve Pottinger**, who writes with wit, skill and passion about love, life and politics. As usual, the event also offers the opportunity for spoken word and music acts to book open mic slots. The evening kicks off at the **Boars Head**



in Worcester Street at 7.30pm and short performance slots can be booked from 7.00pm. Musicians are particularly encouraged to come along this month as there is no music feature act. Admission is £3 (free to performers). The Worcestershire Poet



Laureate **Heather Wastie** is MC and further info can be found at [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk).

## FCS#11: Palm Reader Vera Grace, Richa, Royal Ascent The Marris Bar Worcester | Thurs 1st October

What better way is there to kick off the month than a trip down to the Marris Bar to see the latest hardcore offering from **Faithful City Shows**.

First up came Worcester's very own **Royal Ascent**. They may be young but these no nonsense, no frills metalcore mates are continuing to grow in stature with every performance. Tight riffs and thumping bass where punctuated by raucous lyrics and a style and persona that elevates them above the status of mere college band. With a growing gang of passionate followers, they are not just a band to watch out for in the future. They are a band to go out and see now.

Hereford's **Richa** were the next band to take to the stage. Smooth dreamlike melodies played with industrial levels of carefully controlled feedback and distortion gave Richa a quite unique feel. With over thirteen hundred music genre listed on the internet. It is hard to pigeon hole them into any one. This is



a band that can tick a lot of boxes for a lot of people. 'Alternative', 'Atmospheric', 'Grunge', are just a few that could be used to describe their wonderfully crafted and hypnotic set.



**Vera Grace** took us back to the theme of Metalcore for our next indulgence of the evening. Lifting the tempo to a level of frenzied. The band were happy to take their pumping melodic sound directly into the audience. Choreographed chaos with an attitude of sweat and blood. Vera Grace gave it all. And we lapped it up.

With barely enough time to gather breath it was soon the turn of **Palm Reader** to entice the hardcore throng into the mosh. Loud, heavy, hard and fast is what it says on the tin. And that's exactly what you get. Animating the audience into a tangle of flying bodies and limbs, Palm Reader have developed a symbiotic relationship with their fans. The harder you mosh, the harder, louder and faster they play.



With every last morsel of energy extracted and consumed at curtain fall. **Faithful City Shows** continue to move from strength to strength. Notching up another first class event that gave a hardcore audience exactly what they desired.

*Duncan Graves*

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**SAM DOWDEN - WED 4TH**

Acoustic Singer Songwriter

**ECHO TOWN - FRI 6TH**

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**DARREN HODGE - WED 11TH**

Instrumental Guaitrist

**MR. TEA AND THE MINIONS - FRI 13TH**

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**GAZ BROOKFIELD - WED 18TH**

Bristolian Journey Man

**SOLANA - FRI 20TH**

Gypsy Folk Band

**TOBIAS BEN JACOB - WED 25TH**

Acoustic Singer Songwriter

**DEAD SEA SKULLS - FRI 27TH**

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# HOOSIERS



The Hoosiers first exploded onto the UK music scene in 2007. The singles "Goodbye

Mr A" and "Worried about Ray" both zoomed into the Top 5 whilst their debut album "A Trick to Life" hit the Number 1 slot in the UK charts. Their second album

"The Illusion of Safety" also reached the Top 10 and included the hit single "Choices". Their infectious songs are catchy, quirky and instantly recognisable. This

special "one off" ACOUSTIC show which will feature tracks from all 3 of their albums in an intimate setting with new and exciting versions of their classic songs

**Saturday 14th November 7.30pm**  
**Huntingdon Hall , Worcester**  
**Box Office: 01905 611 427**

# Contempt & The Domestics

## The Boars Head, Kidderminster - 9th October

It was that time again when **The Boars Head** hosted one of its monthly punk nights. Tonight's feast for the ears came courtesy of Midlands's anarcho legends **Contempt** supported by East Anglian hardcore outfit **The Domestics**.

Suffolk band **The Domestics** formed in 2011 and have been making quite a name for themselves on the UK hardcore scene, culminating in slots at the **Rebellion** punk festival this year and last. Their music sits between the US Hardcore sound of the likes of **Poison Idea**, **Circle Jerks** etc. and the UK hardcore punk of **Discharge** & **Chaos UK**. Needless to say their tunes are hard, fast and loud! The five piece consists of **James** on vocals, **Ed & Daniel** on guitars, **Rhodes** on bass & **Simon** on drums. They play through a blistering set of 21 songs in what seemed like less than half hour. Frontman James brings a real intensity and presence to the stage delivering songs with an angry passion. Songs such as *Life Stinks/We're F\*\*\*ked*, *F\*ck Your War* and *White, Male & Ignorant* serve to highlight the anger being vented. As their set draws to its conclusion they move away from their own material and play out with a medley of tracks by Rudimentary Peni. It's a fitting way to end their set. So, if you like your punk hard and fast, you really should check them out.

Midlands's anarcho punk bands **Contempt** have been making music with a social & political conscience since 1984. Not afraid to confront issues such as fascism, racism, animal rights, poverty and war they have become a much respected band on the anarcho punk scene. Contempt's line up has changed a few times over the years but in the last 5-6 they have stabilised on a line up of **Steve** on vocals, **Martin** on guitar, **Sam** on bass and **Craig** on drums. Sadly though, for this gig, Craig had to step down from his



drum kit due to a trapped nerve in his shoulder. He was replaced at short notice by former Contempt drummer **Paul** (now of Healer of B\*stards) who did a sterling job as a stand in.

The short notice change of personnel also had an impact on Contempt's set and led to some songs that had been mothballed many years before getting an airing. This mix of older tracks and more recent ones made for an interesting night for fans of the band. Their set kicked off with *By Any Means* and included many live favourites including *Maggie's Grave*, *War For Oil* and *ACAB*. Alongside these were dusted off versions of songs such as *Brainwashed* and my personal favourite *12 Years On*. The audience were also treated to a new song, the rather appropriately titled *UKIP W\*nkers*. A song which showed that, even after all these years, Contempt are a band that will still stand up for what they believes in and write songs that reflect this. Also thrown into the mix was a punked up cover of *Motorhead's Ace of Spades*. The set drew to a close in familiar fashion with Martin and Sam swapping guitars for the ska-tinged anarcho anthem that is *F\*ck All Governments*. It made for a fitting end to a most enjoyable evening. Roll on the next **Boar's Head Punk Night!**

Jason K

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# Thea Gilmore

## Pershore No8 | Sun 22nd November

Versatile Arts are working in collaboration with Edge St Live to bring Thea Gilmore to the No8 Art Centre in Pershore.

Thea has been described as the "most coherent, literate and charged British songwriter of her generation" by Mojo Magazine, she is a musician of searing talent.



The Oxford-born songwriter has settled into a 'best-kept-secret' role that allows her considerable freedom. She makes exactly the records she fancies and she's able to change her live show at will. Touring to promote her 15th and latest album, *Ghosts and Graffiti*, Thea is taking a break from her usual 10 piece set up and is going acoustic, backed by a violinist, a cellist, guitarist and her husband Nigel Stonier on guitar and keyboards.

Furiously individual singer/songwriter and Brit Award 2001 nominee. 'Britain has spawned very few world class female songwriters, but Gilmore is already in a league of her own' (Q Magazine). She has received acclaim and admiration from her peers such as Bruce Springsteen, Joan Baez and Martha Wainwright. Thea is a regularly play listed artist on BBC Radio 2 and has been a guest on the Jools Holland show,

Tickets are £22.50 and available from the No8 box office 01386 555488. Doors open at 7.00pm with the show starting at 7.30.

Versatile Arts with Edge St live presents

# Thea Gilmore



Sun 22nd Nov  
No8 Arts Centre Pershore

Performance 7.30  
Tickets £22.50 01386 555488

# Wreckless Eric

## Marrs Bar, Worcester 6th December

Described in the same hushed tones as English songwriting greats like Ian Dury and Ray Davies, Prince of the 'kitchen sink drama' song **Wreckless Eric** graces us with his presence with a much anticipated appearance at **Marrs Bar** on Sunday 6th December.

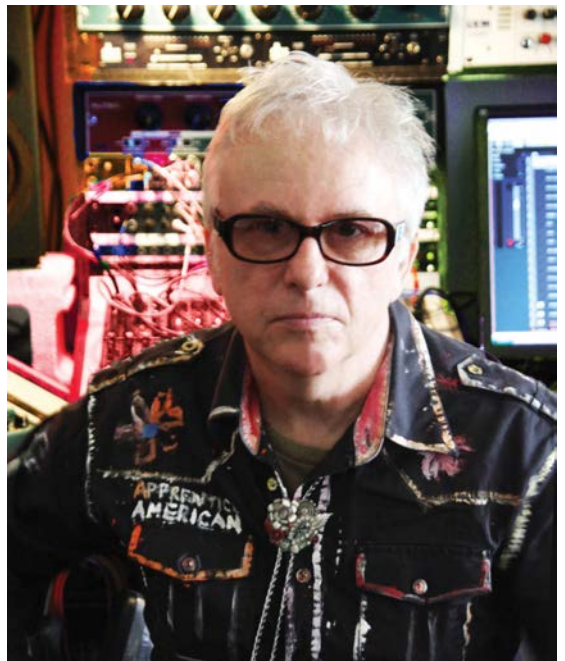
Stiff Records star and bona fide new wave legend Eric has been reissuing a number of past album triumphs on Fire Records in the past year or so and this has now led to the imminent release Mr Wreckless's first solo album in over a decade.

Though as aforementioned, a quintessentially English troubadour, Eric now lives in the USofA and this unsurprisingly autobiographical and personal new album entitled '*amERiCa*' deals with his experiences and relationship with *The Land of Opportunity*.

*amERiCa* was typically recorded in a defiantly lo-fi and somewhat ramschackle fashion in upstate New York with amps in the kitchen, mics on the landing etc and features the Eric-manipulated contributions of various local US musicians on the like of cello, e-bow geetar and wurlitzer among others. Despite the arcane and archaic working methods Eric is no Luddite as he weaves drum loops and synthetic choirs into the exciting and eccentric mix.

The album includes meditations on many (middle-aged) concerns such as loss, regret and even desperation but this is not a wholly navel gazing exercise as he explores aspects of civil liberties, firearms and imm/emigration in these quietly epic tunes.

This truly is a most welcome return to recording form and definitely gets awarded the Slap "Highly Recommended" stamp plus Wreckless is bound to be bang on form live at Worcester's wonderful Marrs Barr on 6th December a mere 3 days after his headline gig at St John's Hackney in that London.





## Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands Come Home

Come Home is the second studio album from Worcester based singer-songwriter, **Marie-Claire Berreen** and her band of husbands. The album is something of a labour of love, taking a year and a half to write and record, with its beginnings taking place in a remote cottage in the north west of Wales during the stormy February of last year and continued at home in Worcester.

**Marie-Claire & Her Husbands** unite an obvious love of folk with elements of rootsy country and subtle rock to create an album full of drama, delicate hushes and mesmeric highs, topped by Marie-Claire's crystal clear, soaring vocals that at times sound like they're beamed directly from heaven above.

The album opens with the sound of the sea lapping on the shore, before a plucked acoustic summons delicately brushed drums, tinkered keys, subtle harmonies and Berreen's stunning croon, creating a serene, blissful opening, that both simultaneously lulls and seduces the listener. From there *The Fury Of The Storm* (influenced by the album's early writing sessions) introduces that aforementioned country tinge, shuffling drums meet twanging guitars as the band, musically bring to mind Calexico, whilst Marie-Claire harnesses the power of the storm to deliver a soaring vocal full of drama and passion.



Like all good folk albums, *Come Home* is a rollercoaster of emotion, yearning, loss and despair with the likes of *Happy Song* (lamenting loss and the celebration of life) pulling at the heartstrings as Marie-Claire emotes beautifully over a sparse combination of finger picked guitar and subtle piano, whilst *Darkness Of The Day* is a haunting song of self reflection that begins as a stripped back acoustic strum and aching lead vocal, before developing with a choir of harmonies and near orchestral chorus recalling the kind of full bodied sound of The Unthanks.

Further highlights include the simmering tale of love and lost on the rock tinged *Spark*, with it's instant, addictive chorus and fizzing electric guitar, the country tinged 19th century tale, *Husbands* with it's use of male/female harmonies, the widescreen *The Owls Are Not What They Seem* with it's gorgeous ethereal middle breakdown and the mournful cello laced final number, *Foundlings* with its rich harmonies and occasional heartbeat like percussion.

Marie-Claire and her husbands have delivered an inventive and engaging album that draws the listener in and encourages full immersion, whilst they push and blur the boundaries of folk, a captivating listen from start to finish.

*Will Munn*

[www.marie-claireberreen.co.uk](http://www.marie-claireberreen.co.uk)

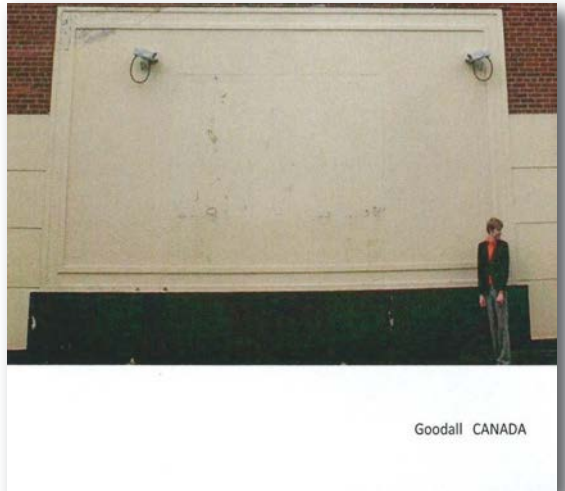
## Goodall - Canada

**Jack Goodall** was once the frontman of hotly tipped indie rockers **Our Mutual Friend**, a band that once courted the attention of both Guy Garvey and bluesman Aynsley Lister and performed around Ireland, the UK and Canada during the group's short tenure. The other members of Our Mutual Band moved onto other projects and so Jack decided to focus his time on his own music, resulting in the writing and recording of *Canada*, under the monicker of **Goodall**.

The album runs through a gauntlet of styles and influences from upbeat, and bombastic indie rock to a more hushed, rootsy take on modern day folk and beyond, hinting at numerous contemporaries and yet retaining an original and compelling identity all of its own.

The album opens with *Phenomenal Joe*, a track that one minute sounds like a striking indie rocker, complete with anguished yelps and the next an atmospheric 80's slice of electro with a near spoken vocal hook, it's a quirky yet compelling opener that urges the listener on. From there *Yorkville* changes direction again with a sub two minute piano led aching ballad, with Goodall delivering a wonderful, weary croon lamenting the irritants of the location, whether that was the weather or indeed the fellow habitats.

*Cities Burn* twists and turns, opening with a solo acoustic guitar before a distorted electro throb joins the mix and shards of punctuating electric guitar, whilst a combination of both spoken word and effects ridden vocals at times bring to mind Slaves before the melody mutates again into a mutant take on 50's rock 'n' roll. In direct contrast, *Liberal* is all social commentary, mournful violin, plucked guitar and subdued vocal drawls hinting at that aforementioned folksy tinge, *Saskatoon* is a stunning bluesy



number that ranges from a hushed, jazzy beginnings to a brief White Stripes like outburst and back again.

The album continues in much same the manner with Jack throwing everything and the kitchen sink in, as he lives out all his musical fantasies over the compelling, inventive and above eclectic twelve track affair.

*Canada* shouldn't work, it truly is a ramshackle mix of style and substance and I guess I should be using words like self-indulgent mess, but instead I'm drawn towards such couplings as maverick genius, visionary and true originator, a unique and captivating debut from a unique, compelling talent.

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

*Will Munn*

## Highlights from Artrix, Bromsgrove

Anyone who saw **Grey Wolf** alongside **Deborah Rose** at her album launch at **Artrix** earlier this year witnessed something special. This old-time American/Country music band have been performing at a few local festivals lately including the **Tamworth Bluegrass Festival** and the **Tenbury Music Festival**. Appearing at **Artrix Studio** on Saturday 7th November, expect driving fiddle, sublime banjo and smoky vocals which will transport you to Mississippi in seconds.

Fronted by the UK's leading Jon Bon Jovi impersonator, **Andrea Ojano**, **Bon Giovi** are a celebration of Bon Jovi's musical career to date. It's one helluva stage show and they cover many of the iconic band's greatest hits. So if you're ready to *Runway* down that *Lost Highway* for a taste of some of the world's greatest stadium anthems, then this on Friday 13th is an unmissable night.

A very special show up the very next night on Saturday 14th and with profound local interest sees the return of the **Robinson Stone Brothers** with *The Life and Music of Clifford T Ward*, a tribute to one of England's greatest singer songwriters. **Danny** and **Dean**, accompanied by their sister **Leyna**, will be performing some of Cliff's most memorable tracks including *'Home Thoughts from Abroad'* and *'Gaye'* as well as some rare unreleased material. Join them on this special evening to look back on Clifford's inspiring legacy.



Award-winning choreographer **Tamsin Fitzgerald**, from Worcester-based **2Faced Dance** has excelled herself with *'Dreaming in Code'*.



The production, which is the brainchild of Tamsin and co-choreographer **Eddie Kay** from **Frantic Assembly**, is a breathtaking collision of kinetically charged dance and theatre. This double bill of dance is on at Artrix on Friday 20th and features one of the UK's most innovative, powerful and fearless male dance companies and is both powerful and fearless.

Our final Slap Artrix pick of November on Saturday 21st is The **Night Watch** (**Ian Pittaway** and **Andy Casserley**) who sing and play plucked, bowed and blown instruments from the medieval, renaissance and baroque period. With their *'Singing the Seasons'* concert, they celebrate 13th and 18th century music, reprise some of the oldest surviving carols, a 13th century round celebrating the arrival of summer and the very first version of *Old MacDonald had a Farm*. An eclectic mix I'm sure you'll agree and a fascinating night in prospect.



## Montparnasse

Marrs Bar, Worcester | Sunday 8th Nov

A couple of crackers in prospects at the magnificent Marrs bar this month as they firstly welcome local lounge-jazz heroes, **Montparnasse** on Sunday 8th November.



The seemingly ever expanding and indeed once duo now basically comprise of Djangologists **Trio Rosbifs** with the cherry **Celine Dommart** on top. Guitarist **Cris Tolley** together with Celine comprised the original double act but are now joyfully joined by frequent contributor/member - the most marvellous bass slinger in town - **Paul "Plucker" Smith** plus curly-locked maestro of the stringed instrument, **Woo Town Hillbilly** and *Breaker of Machines*, **Simon "Strummer" Othen**. You just know with this quality quartet you're in for a sensational, sultry and (E-)smoky night of Piaf, Aznavour, Brassiens and all manner of Gallic gorgeousness.

## Sharon Shannon

Marrs Bar, Worcester | Sunday 8th Nov

Later this month on **Tuesday 17th** the Marrs mob have pulled off a definite coup in securing the sublime services of arguably one of the world's greatest button accordionist **Sharon Shannon**. Whilst famed for her unsurpassed skills on the box Sharon is no slouch when she turns her hand to the fiddle, tin whistle and melodeon. Accompanied by her these days almost constant cohort and touring companion, the stunningly talented multi-instrumentalist **Alan Connor**, the pair weave a wide-ranging and ear-boggling(!) amount of world music influences into their magical mix. With Irish folk as the constant core we also get flavours of reggae, funk, classical, cajun, Portugese and French-Canadian traditions throughout the set and this is a definite date for all diaries.



**Tickets for all shows can be bought either by phone 01905 613336, by calling into Marrs Bar or Music City or online from [seetickets.com](http://seetickets.com)**

## Art in Minds Foundation Worcester Exhibitions The Hive | Arts Workshop | Museum of Royal Worcester

Art in Minds Foundation (AIMS) which is a Worcester based, adult mental ill-health charity has organised three separate arts exhibitions to celebrate annual **World Mental Health Day**. All of



the exhibited works are the product of the creativity and determination of over 30 AIMS members who have submitted this year. The artworks are displayed across

**The Hive, Worcester Arts Workshop and Museum of Royal Worcester** each showcasing different mediums and narratives. For the past 12 years, the organisation has been curating an organising exhibitions, in order to support its members and raise awareness of mental health within the region. **Art in Minds Foundation** currently supports over 170 adults who are effected by ill-mental health or have experiences ill-mental health at some point of their life.

As a registered charity they rely heavily on grants and donations as well as work of volunteers which enables them to continue to work with the local community. Since 2004



AIMS' artists have been able to develop, share and broaden their creative skills in a supported environment where attending practical arts-based workshops, one- to-one tutorials, as well as participating in exhibiting opportunities, art groups and social events is actively encouraged. Additionally, getting involved with the organisation through its volunteering opportunities has helped some of our members re-engage with employment and education, leading to a more fulfilling life.

This year's exhibitions would not be able to take place without the support of the following organisations: **Worcester County Council, Arts Council England, Co-operative Community Fund, Allen Lane Trust, Foyle Foundation, Hopmarket Charity, Brandsford Trust, Worcester Health and Care NHS Trust and Eveson Charitable Trust.**



# The Hive

## What's On at The Hive



**A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT (18)**  
A Persian tale from multiple award winning director Ana Lily Amirpour.  
1 November, 7pm. £3.50



**NOT ALL JAM & JERUSALEM: THE WI IN THE TWO WORLD WARS**  
Exhibition of images, artefacts and information about the history of the Women's Institute Movement.  
17-22 November



**THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF LIBRARIAN LIL**  
Family show presented by Rhubarb Theatre. Suitable for children 5+ years.  
12 December, 3 & 6pm. Adults £5, children £3, babes in arms free

Book tickets... [www.thehiveorworcester.org](http://www.thehiveorworcester.org)  
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01905 765576

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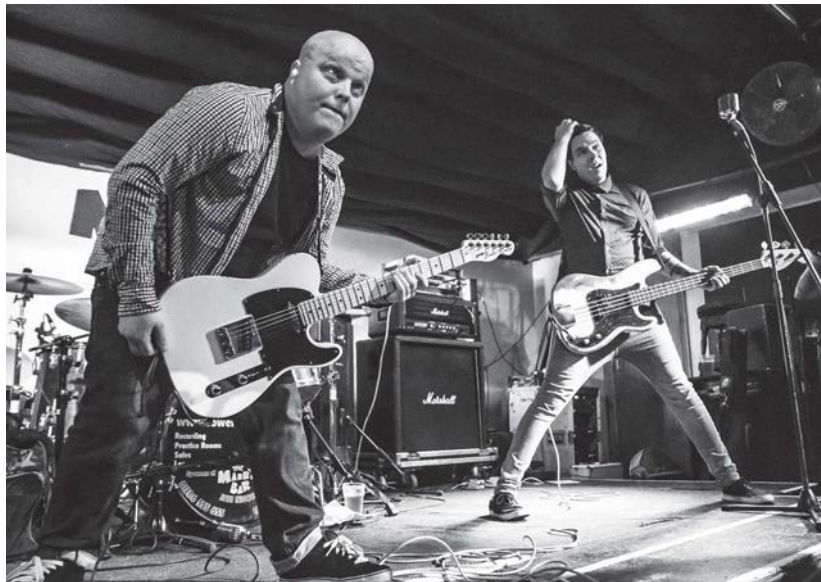
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# Gasp! Shock! Horror!

## Mad-cap band photo wins music festival challenge

The mad-cap stage presence of four-piece bubblegum rock band **HEY YOU GUYS!** has been perfectly captured in this year's winning image in Worcester Music Festival's annual photography competition.



The black and white photograph by **Brendan Stephens** features guitarist **Dave Draper** and bassist **Oliver Edkins** surveying the crowd at a ram-packed Marr's Bar during the three-day, free celebration of live and original music across a host of diverse city centre venues in September.

Second prize went to **Chris Bowley** for his emotion-fuelled photograph of guitarist and vocalist **Jake Crawford** from progressive rock band **Acoda** at **Worcester Arts Workshop**, while third prize went to Roy Jenks for capturing tuba player **Phil Wilkins** from swing and ragtime big band **Collective 43** about to blow at **The Chestnut**.

Brendan was presented with a £100 camera store voucher courtesy of festival sponsor **Child Care Bureau**, which provides high quality foster care placements throughout Worcestershire and beyond, at a prize giving ceremony at Worcester Arts Workshop in Sansome Street last night, with a £50 and £25 voucher for the runners up.

Judge **Steve Johnston**, who was joined on the panel by accomplished music snappers **Joe Singh** and **James Watkins**, said: "**HEY YOU GUYS!** describe their genre as *Gasp! Shock! Horror!* and I think that comes across perfectly in **Brendan's** winning image, the only photo to be chosen by all three judges in the first round of shortlisting.

*"Overall, Brendan submitted a really strong set of images, but this one stood out for the moment he caught the two guys surveying rather than playing. Just a great frame.*



*"Chris' image was a great, emotional shot of the Acoda guitarist with shallow depth of field and precise focus on his face, which makes it a really strong image. If the crop had been tighter, this might have won. Roy's image is a lovely, well framed character portrait. Something different, but right up there with the best."*

Entry to the competition was open to all amateur photographers, who could submit up to 25 photos. They just had to have been taken during the festival that took place in scores of diverse venues, on outdoor stages and in the streets, with around 250 of the best, new and emerging artists from across the UK taking part.

For more information and to see the photo galleries from this year's festival, visit [Worcestermusicfestival](#) on Facebook and [@worcsmusicfest](#) on Twitter.



**Anna Pancaldi** has already performed at the prestigious **Cambridge Folk Festival** and has just secured a deal with Levi's so for her to take to a small stage in Malvern felt like something of a major coup, perhaps one of those gigs that more people than actually attended, will proclaim to be there when Anna starts gaining the column inches. However like Sam, I felt that Anna is not quite the finished article, yes she has a pretty voice and a keen sense of melody and unlike Sam sings from the heart, but has perhaps yet to have written that one big song that everyone will remember. For now the one real standout moment of Anna's set was her mesmeric reinvention of Bob Marley's *Waiting In Vain*.

The two performers topped off a pleasant night's entertainment with a duet entitled *Dangerous*, leaving a content audience queuing up for a chance to say hi and a copy of Anna's recently released EP, whilst this scribe made a mental note to catch up on this pair somewhere further down the road to see if they'd made good on the promise of potential.

Words: Will Munn Photography: Graham Munn

# Sam Way + Anna Pancaldi

The West Malvern Social Club | Thurs 22nd Oct

A candle lit Tuesday night in Malvern can only mean one thing, an intimate night of folk courtesy of two touring, London based singer-songwriters in the shape of **Sam Way** and **Anna Pancaldi**.

The lighting set to low, no sign of any amplification just the sound of an artist singing their heart out accompanied by their own acoustic strums and the smattering of applause from a rapt audience. Autumn nights were made for stripped back affairs and you couldn't get much more stripped back than this.

**Sam Way** took to the boards first, offering up a series of simplistic and on occasion emotive laments fused with a big vocal hook or two. When Sam decided to croon he came across as any other wannabe singer-songwriter, it was pleasant enough but didn't really grab the attention, but the more upbeat, half rapped material such as *Dancing Shoes* and the deliciously tongue in cheek, *Bucket List* both struck the right chord, with the audience

singing the refrain back as Sam finished on a high. Perhaps at the moment Sam is still finding his feet as a songwriter and could be one to watch in the future.



# What's On?

at **Huntingdon Hall**



**Jamie Smith's Mabon**  
5th November - £15

**Nine Below Zero**  
6th November - £15

**Eddi Reader**  
10th November - £23.50

**Martyn Joseph**  
12th November - £17

**King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys**  
13th November - £16.50

**Nick Harper**  
20th November - £12.50

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# REVIEW

## Kenny White + Deborah Rose & Mari Randle The Fold, Bransford | Tuesday 13th October

The Fold team conjure up another magical bill as siren and songstress **Deborah Rose** joined forces with Vault of Eagles' mainstay **Mari Randle** supporting the distinctive jazz stylings of New Yorker **Kenny White**.



The crowd seem to arrive at the last minute as **Deborah** and **Mari** begin their set, immediately gelling as a duo, their enchanting voices melding melliflously.

Quality selections from Rose's oeuvre spill out into the night as the duo tackle *'The Lady of Shalot'* and *'Night With Her Train of Stars'*, showing Deborah's deep love of Victorian poetry and painting. Mari's vocals weave a haunting backdrop as Deborah excels, displaying her full range.

The patently Pre-Raphaelite spell is temporarily broken as Mari ups the tempo with Irish classic *'Rocky Road To Dublin'* performed perhaps most famously by The Dubliners themselves. This and the likes of *'Little Beggar Man'* keep the set pace nice and varied, whilst setting the stage well for the entrance of New York maestro **Kenny White**.

Unsurprisingly for a man who has been in the music business for some 40 years Kenny gets effortlessly into his stride teasing them tinkled ivories and tonsils together as the crowd warm to the man immediately.



Though a fellow of great musical experience Kenny came to performing and writing for himself late in life and on the evidence here tonight we have been denied a larger back catalogue of more beautifully written songs. Both melodically and lyrically, Kenny is quite stunning, certainly top drawer and when joined by Julia on viola and himself switching to guitar, his range and variety is enviable.

My notes say throughout his set I'm reminded of Van Morrison, Blaze Foley, Townes van Zandt and Willie Nelson, even though Kenny is usually jazzier and mostly smoother than those guys; to prove the point he is joined onstage by **Deborah Rose** for an Emmylou Harris tune.

The man is most definitely an entertainer though as he hilariously regales the audience with a satirical take on how to have a modern X-F\*\*\*\*r type hit: "*You gotta sing hiiigh..and then repeat the line...even hiiigher!*" He's not above expertly improvising 'mouth trumpet' either for a more dance hall tinged number and then stuns us with an emotional paean for his father who has passed, the superb *'Symphony In 16 Bars'*: "*...How do you fit an ocean into a river bed? How do I turn a memory back into you instead? I may as well try naming all the stars, or write a symphony in 16 bars.*"



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# Grainne Duffy Band, 3Sixty-Lite Iron Road, Evesham | 24-September

Having caught and enjoyed **3Sixty** at the Marrs Bar as part of Stu's birthday bash, it was a nice surprise to see **Mark Grimmett** on vocals and guitarist **Nick Singleton** providing the acoustic support. It was a short set of mainly their own material, which opened with "Long Time Coming" and "Carolina Jane".

**Grainne Duffy** and her band were soon up on stage, setting out their stall of blues / rock with "Let Me In" and "What Am Supposed To Do". To my ears the sound wasn't quite right at the start, which is was unusual for the Iron Road. It was soon sounding fine.

Grainne plays a mean electric guitar, while **Paul Sherry** played guitars - electric, slide and acoustic versions.

They were ably backed up by the bassist and drummer. Grainne herself switched to acoustic guitar for a couple of numbers including "Shine" which will be on the next album.

Highlights were "Good Love" which was slow and emotive, with a couple of guitar breaks; a cover of "Love Me Like A Man" made famous by Bonnie Raitt, with whom Grainne bears close comparison; and then there was Grainne's vocal tour de force "I'd Rather Go Blind". All in all a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

John Reeves



I would hazard their songs are rock with a melodic edge ie plenty of hooks in the choruses. Actually seeing them in this acoustic mode allowed one to hear the lyrics better. They threw in a good cover of Whitesnake's "Ain't No Love in the Heart of the City", before finishing with "Just Around the Corner".

# Rebecca Downes

## Steps Bar, Redditch | Sunday 4th October

Rebecca has been getting some excellent press in the blues world over the past year and her album 'Back To The Start' has been widely acclaimed. I had the good fortune to see her with full band at **Stourbridge Festival** back in May and now here with a downsized acoustic set at **Steps** in Redditch. Steps?.well there aren't any, but it's a useful base for Lord Adrian Stone of beerweek.co.uk fame, to hold Sunday sessions with many bands

free to see, though some do require a moderate ticket entry. Rebecca has been described as a British Joplin but I don't agree with that as her vocal quality and range is far greater plus the delivery is smoother and slightly smoked, rather than the undeniably wonderful and gritty power of the late great JJ. Rebecca does not need comparisons because she is a superb singer in her own right, whether from the country side or full on blues rock, that soulful & powerful voice defies her modest stature. After an



accompanied opening from guitarist **Steve Birkett**, we listened to the eponymous song from her album 'Back To The Start'; an upbeat soft rock song that eased us into the session. 'Night Train' is a great, soulful blues which is destined for the next album due out in February - so something to look forward to warming the cold winter air. Also from the current album came the beautifully

heartfelt 'Walking With Shadows', but what came next was a particular old favourite of mine, bringing back memories of the great Duster Bennett with 'Bright Lights Big City'; a great piece of Chicago Blues laid down by Jimmy Reed in '61. More tempting new songs with 'Stand Me Up' and some real soul from Aretha's 'Say A Little Prayer'. We were being treated to a mix of original songs and some truly great classics from the soul and blues world. Rebecca has a gift as everything she sings seems perfect and naturally her devotees demand a few more songs after the set's end and she obliges, first with a new to her, cover 'I'd Rather Go Blind' and then a real off the wall treat 'What's Going On'.

The answer to that is - you are Rebecca - and like all those present today I will be looking to see her again soon.

My thanks to Adrian for inviting me to see Rebecca and if you are short of something to do on a late Sunday afternoon, you could do far worse than find **Steps Bar** on Evesham Road in downtown Redditch. Well worth supporting their efforts in bringing us this live music and look out for some **Steve Big Man Clayton** soon; he only comes back

to his roots from Germany twice a year and will be dusting off the old joanna at Steps on Sunday November 15th, doubtlessly delighting the crowd with his patented fabulous Barrelhouse Blues and Boogie Woogie.

I will be there and so should you too!

Graham Munn

# REVIEW

## Joanne Shaw Taylor + Federal Charm Artrix, Bromsgrove | Monday 12th October

Joanne Shaw Taylor was brought up just along the M42 in Solihull, so this was almost a homecoming and two sell-out nights at the Artrix point to the support she has in this area. Joanne is promoting her *'Dirty Truth'* album throughout this UK tour and supporting her are blues rock band **Federal Charm**, who are in the mould of Led Zeppelin with a splash of Indie style. They were using the opportunity of supporting Joanne to promote their own latest and worthy album *'Across The Divide'*.

The boys took to stage and gave an outstanding show - the dual guitars of vocalist **Nick Bowden** and **Paul Bowe**, entwined nicely with **LD Morawski's** bass and the wind swept drums blown along by **Danny Rigg**. Outstanding songs for me were the distinct and superb blues *'Reconsider'* and the current single *'Hercules'*. Nick produced a harp for the rip snorting *'Give Me Something'* to ease us towards the break. This young band from Manchester are receiving great reviews and are undoubtedly worth looking out for when they host their own tour.

Joanne needs little introduction as she is an artist of international standing and bringing her own style of blues rock to the Artrix, she made the most of playing to a partisan audience. Her music is heavily influenced by the likes of Stevie Ray Vaughan and his Texas blues, but she makes it all her own. Joanne was 'nursing' her battered Fender Albert, who had been suffering at the hands of low budget baggage handling; fortunately her Gibson was looking and sounding good. Joanne was here to promote her highly acclaimed *'Dirty Truth'* album, which alludes to an old boyfriend and telling tales. Her previous releases had a far greater blues slant, whereas *'Dirty Truth'* is near to an outright rock album



and Joanne is arguably capable of holding her own against any of today's rock guitarists. There was evidence of that on show with heavy guitar riffs taking centre stage, 'Albert' seemed to have recovered well. The mellowed sound of the Gibson was *'Tried Tested And True'* before a couple of gems from *'Diamonds In The Dirt'*, a rough cut title track and a beautifully faceted *'Lord Have Mercy'*. A nice little solo acoustic section gave her band a break featuring a poignant and heartfelt *'Almost Always Never'*, followed by the excellent rhythmic and tub thumping *'Army Of One'*. Back to the rock riffs and finishing up with some *'Dirty Truth'* indeed. The two night sell-out concerts at **Artrix** had been a complete success, indeed much of the UK tour is already sold out and I am sure judging by the numbers purchasing their CDs, that we will also be hearing more of **Federal Charm**.

Graham Munn

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# Theatre Club



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Part of the New Theatre In Your Neighbourhood project, funded by Arts Council England and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Theatre Club is working with Fueled by Theatre and Worcestershire Arts Partnership to promote and celebrate innovative theatre in the rural West Midlands.



## Gabbidon & King Solomon Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham | 3rd October

First time for me at the Frog and Fiddle which is a venue connected to a sports bar. It happened to be the night that England were playing Australia in the Rugby World Cup, so it was heaving. We eventually got allowed into the decent sized function room, where there was another wait for the first band to appear on stage (maybe Cheltenham works on a different interpretation of time-keeping).

**King Solomon** is a well thought of Gloucestershire reggae band – and you could see why. For once the expression that the members are too numerous to mention is true - I reckon it was nine. **Kingsley Salmon**, from whom I guess the band gets its name, was the main singer. They delivered a driving reggae beat, with the two brass players adding a bit of colour. They did seem to have a few sound problems. They were good and did all a support band can in do i.e. keeping the audience entertained until the main act took over. They were certainly worth another look.

After a short break the stage was turned over to Birmingham's **Gabbidon**. They were lead by **Basil Gabbidon** on lead guitar and vocals. He was a founder member of famed Midlands reggae stars **Steel Pulse**. And his experience (and class) showed through. The band is a bit of a family affair with several other Gabbidons in the

line-up. The first couple of numbers were just Basil on acoustic guitar and the two female singers. They were joined by the rest of the band, which included an excellent brass section. These and the majority of the set were self penned material, only playing a Steel Pulse original "Bad Man", Bob Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff" and Third World's "96 Degrees in the Shade" at the end of the show. To be honest they didn't need to do covers, their material was strong enough anyway. But I guess they were crowd pleasing songs to finish with. This was roots reggae at its finest and made for a good night in a good venue.



John Reeves

[www.gabbidonband.com](http://www.gabbidonband.com)  
[www.kingsolomonband.co.uk](http://www.kingsolomonband.co.uk)

## Underclass & King Solomon Iron Road, Evesham | 11th October

Well I said **King Solomon** were worth another look, and sure enough the opportunity to see them arose less than a week later in Evesham. I found out that they hail from Cheltenham, Gloucester, Swindon and Bristol, and have been in existence for a couple of years. They were even better at Evesham than Cheltenham, being so close you could see the whites of their eyes must have made the difference. And hats off to the Iron Road's sound man, it sounded perfect, which can't be easy with nine musicians on stage. They played with loads of energy and were given a well deserved encore. They will be working on an album over the winter, which if it's as good as their EP "In the Dragon's Den", will be a cracker.

Most likely it was a case of them following a band I really rated. But they are a busy band and you could probably catch up with them and have a really good night.

[www.facebook.com/theunderclass](http://www.facebook.com/theunderclass)  
[www.kingsolomonband.co.uk](http://www.kingsolomonband.co.uk)

John (the man who forgot his camera not once but twice) Reeves

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**Underclass** are a talented ska / rock band from Birmingham. They have released three or four CDs since forming in 2011. Their line-up (so Facebook told me) as **Robb Swadkins** (Guitars/Vocals), **John Ward** (Lead Guitar/Vocals), **Paul Shirley** (Sax), **Sam John Jones** (Bass/Vocals) and **Sam Harris** (Drums/Percussion). Some songs such as "Original Birmingham Ska" were more Ska than others. They were a very tight unit and did have lots of people up on the dance floor, but somehow they didn't connect with me.

# WEAK13

## Album Launch

### Plug, Birmingham Friday 6th November



Founded in Kidderminster 1999 by mainman **Nick J Townsend**, **WEAK13** spent many years flying the underground music scene flag before emerging and taking it to the next level after the success of some of their music videos. Plans were made to create a full debut studio album with top quality engineers and mastering experts and the fruits of all their labours entitled 'They Live' can be witnessed at the launch night.



Three years went into the writing, recording and development of *They Live* and the word is that this release will rank with any rock album by any major artist. The current and solid line-up have been together since 2010 and comprise of **Neel Parmar** on drums, bassman **Wesley Smith** and Nick J himself on guitar and vocals. This powerhouse trio have worked tirelessly to attain a great live reputation and were determined to encapsulate this essence on their album. *They Live* is packed full of song stories inspired by 80's video nasties, comic books, 90's grunge and underground music, with lyrics telling of loss, loved ones, life and everything in-between and beyond.

**WEAK13** take a staunchly non-corporate approach to their music and definitely put their money where their mouths are. The album is produced independently and you can buy hard copies either from the band's website: [weak13official.com](http://weak13official.com) or at their gigs including of course the PLUG album launch. Nick says, "We control our album and not a record label at the moment. As of next year we'll be touring, we're also playing shows supporting independent record and book shops around the UK; we're interested in repairing the damage done by the big

players. We're living in a world full of sheep bleating to the cosy Saturday night karaoke slaughter house on television and the real music industry seems to have no clue what to do other than tag along for the ride".

The **WEAK13** *They Live* album launch night takes place at PLUG, 79 Digbeth High Street in Birmingham from 9pm - 3am on Friday 6th November. Tickets cost just £4 or £10 to include a copy of the album on entry. There will be a DJ set from **Oandora Rox** (Eddie's) in addition to the **WEAK13** live set and guests will also be offered the chance to participate in the filming of a new music video.

For a night of raw rock sounds - original and erratic structures teamed with dark, strange low guitar tuned epics, filled with surreal subjects and heavy hooklines, you'd be mad to miss **WEAK13!**



Photography

Top - Mark H Roberts.

Left - Fifty Seven Studios

Bottom - Mark Hopson

[weak13official.com](http://weak13official.com)

## The Lemonheads + Few Things Live The Birmingham Institute | Thurs 1st Oct

I fell in love with **The Lemonheads** like I imagine a number of 'fans' around the release of the classic *Shame About Ray* album, a little over the half hour of indie pop perfection, complete with big hooks, catchy sing-a-longs and a knowing effortless cool that just seemed to be welded into the albums groove. From that point on **Evan Dando** could do no wrong as far as I'm concerned. Sure, maybe subsequent albums didn't match sales, but each one had their own moments, the likes of *Car Button Cloth* and the groups most recent album *Versions* (released six years ago) became constant companions, whilst Evan's solo album, *Baby I'm Bored*, is a classic as far as I'm concerned.

A good few years ago I got to see **The Lemonheads** perform (I think at Truck Festival) where they ran through pretty much all of *Shame About Ray*, much to my delight, I also caught Evan on his solo trek in support of the aforementioned *Baby I'm Bored* disc and again I was left more than satisfied with his performance and so when the chance of catching him and the new Lemonheads at the intimate Birmingham Institute, Library Room came my way, I practically dived at the chance.

The Lemonheads current jaunt around the UK is a bit of a strange one, the band have no new product to push, but that still didn't seem to bother the faithful as the venue filled out before the new look band took to the stage. Introduced by guitarist **Chris Brokaw** with a "we're *The Lemonheads from motherfuckin' Boston*" the band lurched into their set with a powerful rendition of *Hospital* before barely drawing breath for a jagged sprint through *Down About It*. This was a re-energised version of the 'heads with Chris and Evan riffing furiously, drummer **Todd Phillips** beating up his kit and the peppy **Jen Turner** bouncing enthusiastically as they strutted through the first handful of songs without pause.



The crowd soon found their collective voice in support of an Evan solo spot, lending harmonies to beautiful versions of both *Into My Arms* and *Frank Mills*. As the band returned Evan took time to engage the audience by speculating on the day and then introducing the band before delivering bouncy runs through both *Confetti* and the seminal album's title track, with the crowd hollering back the vocals with a real sense of vigour. The room continued to show their love for the band for both *My Drugs Buddy* and a raw *Rudderless* before leaving the stage for a quick breather before finishing up with encore that included the punchy *Don't Tell Yourself* and Evan leaving us with a solo *Divan* and a suitably frenzied take on a macabre cover *Skulls* by The Misfits.

Evan and his band seemed to give their all on that stage and leaving audience baying for more, to the point where a roadie had to return to stage and turn off the amps to signal that it really was the end of the night, suggesting that, should the band return to the studios, there's audience ready and waiting.

Before I go I must mention the excellent duo, **Few Bits** (normally a full band) who delivered a short yet dreamy set of indie pop bringing to mind the likes of *Beach House*, *Warpaint* and one of my personal favourites *Joy Zipper*, led by the beautiful crystalised tones of **Karolien Van Ransbeek**, a band I'll certainly be looking out for again in the future.

Will Munn



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# Oxjam Music Festival

## The Ginger Pig, Worcester | Saturday 14th Nov

to the mix. The very popular **Chevy Chase Stole My Wife** will entertain with Rock and Pop and **Mark Leedham** will bring a close to the evening, performing in a power trio, with **Marc Miletitch** on double bass and **James Randle** on drums.



The **Ginger Pig Cafe** in Worcester is taking part in this year's **Oxjam Festival**, playing host to 6 diversely talented musical acts from across the region.

Oxjam began back in 2006 with the aim of creating a network of music-loving people with the shared goal of raising funds to fight poverty around the world. Music venues across the UK take part in this growing event with so far the biggest line-up in the UK and Worcester will be playing its part on Saturday 14th November.

Starting at 6pm the event kicks off with international musician **Terry Walls**, followed by the hard hitting guitar solos from **Bren Haze**. **Chuck Harriet** will take us back to a bygone era with Jazz and Swing, with **Dan Williams** bringing a folk and roots element

It's shaping up to be a fantastic evening of music and fundraising for a great cause.

**Alexandra Ivanchuk**, who is organising the event commented, "I am very excited that *The Ginger Pig* has agreed to host the event and I am extremely grateful to the artists who have agreed to take part. We have a great line up of varied musical styles, so there will be something for everyone".

Tickets for the event cost £5, are on sale from the beginning of October and can be purchased from the venue or the two Oxjam shops in Worcester city centre. Limited tickets will be available on the door. All funds raised will be going to Oxjam charity (reg. in England and Wales no. 202918, Scotland no. SC039042).



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# Squeeze + John Cooper Clarke

## The Symphony Hall, Birmingham | Sat 3rd Oct

I have to be something of a late comer to the **Squeeze** party, sure I tapped my foot to the likes of *Pulling Muscles* *From A Shell*, *Up The Junction* and *Cool For Cats* when they came over the airwaves but until recently I had never dived into the sea of lyrical pop wealth. Last year it all changed, I was lucky enough to cover a **Difford and Tilbrook** acoustic tour, the two of them performing stripped down tracks lifted from both the Squeeze back catalogue and their solo journeys, I became a convert over night, I realised the songwriting genius, I lapped up the infectious melodies and I sang along to the few I knew.

Since then the full Squeeze band have hit the trail again in support of their first collection of new songs since 1998, *From The Cradle To The Grave* and once again I leapt at the opportunity to catch the full Squeeze experience.

Before the main event **Dr John Cooper Clarke** was charged with the duty of warming up the audience with a set of poetic prose and acidic wit. Part wordsmith, part stand-up comedian, Clarke soon had the audience eating out of his hand as he delivered volley after volley of high speed observational humour, regaling tales of a fictional Oldham, Bi-polar inmates, bed blocking and the alike. A high speed *Evidently Chicken Town* roused the biggest cheer of Clarke's set before a quick encore of the track "*dragged me to the top of the hit parade thanks to those Article Monkees*" concluded an enjoyable romp around John Cooper Clarke's back pages.



Suitably warmed up it was time for the main event, the lights dropped and the somewhat dapper, true purveyors of the pure pop anthem (along with the likes of The Beatles and Ray Davies), trooped on, to the delight of the hall to deliver a masterclass of songwriting and deliverance. Obviously the band wanted to promote the new album so the likes of the discs contagious ode to football, *The Beautiful Game*, *You're Only 15* and glitterball friendly, disco anthem *Nirvana* were all delivered early into the band's set, all lapped up with the same rousing response as firm favourites *Now She's Gone*, the stripped back *Black Coffee In Bed* and a storming *Goodbye Girl*.

Pedal steel and tinkered keys complimented acoustic strums and electric solos as each of the members of **Squeeze** shined as Tilbrook and Difford's memorable wares were delivered brilliantly by the well drilled group, sprinkling magic on the likes of *Tempted By The Fruit of Another* and the aforementioned *Pulling Muscles*.

A rowdy mass sing-a-long, by the now standing hall, to *Up Junction* signaled the end of the main set, allowing the band a breather as the crowd clambered for more,

before the band returned for an encore that featured another couple of tracks lifted from the new album, before Difford delivered the effervescent *Cool For Cats* and Tilbrook led a still vibrant band off the stage and through the welcoming masses during the grand finale of *Take Me I'm Yours*.

Few bands of Squeeze's stature would venture into the throng, fewer still would spend an hour or so pressing palms and signing CD's but Squeeze truly give it all to their devoted followers (which I'm now proud to be a part of) night after night.

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

Will Munn

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# WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

## City music festival helps launch children's sexual abuse support service

Organisers of **Worcester Music Festival** have revealed that this year's event raised £4,148.72, which will set the balling rolling on setting up a new county support service for children who have suffered sexual abuse.



The money raised through collections during the three-day, free celebration of live, original music in September will enable **Worcestershire Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC)** to take the first steps in creating a much needed specialist therapeutic counselling service for boys and girls aged 11+.

**Siân Patterson**, policy and sustainability officer for WRSASC, said: "We are absolutely overwhelmed and delighted with the amount of money raised for us by Worcester Music Festival.

*"It will enable us to purchase all of the facilities and furnishings for the counselling rooms, so that we can create an appropriate, comfortable and friendly environment specific to the clients of our newly-launched children's counselling service. It will also allow us to buy the resources needed to aid these counselling sessions and outreach work over the next year, which is brilliant.*

*"Our experience of working with the festival prior to and during the weekend was fantastic, and they put a huge amount of effort into raising awareness of our service, which is invaluable and hugely appreciated. All in all, it was a fabulous weekend, we can't thank the team, the bands and those who donated enough."*

The new specialist therapeutic counselling service for children builds on WRSASC's free, confidential and non-judgmental support service for individuals aged over 16 who have experienced rape or sexual abuse at any time in their lives, which the charity has provided since 1986.

Overall, the charity is reliant on funding from the local Police and Crime Commissioner, authorities, charitable trusts, donors,

**30 SLAP NOVEMBER**



organisations and individuals to cope with an annual increase in demand for its services.

However, despite its service statistics, national statistics and current media focus, sexual violence is still not recognised as a priority in any strategic document in Worcestershire.

Festival chair **Ant Robbins**, who presented the cheque to the charity at a presentation at **Worcester Arts Workshop** last night (Saturday, October 17), said: "We saw an outpouring of generosity at this year's festival, with audiences across our venues showing great support for this cause to help set up a vital service."

The eighth Worcester Music Festival took place in scores of diverse venues, on outdoor stages and in the streets, with around 250 of the best, new and emerging artists from across the UK taking part.



Since the festival was launched in 2008, it has raised more than £40,000 for charity.

For more information, visit [Worcestermusicfestival.com](http://Worcestermusicfestival.com) on Facebook and [@worcsmusicfest](https://twitter.com/worcsmusicfest) on Twitter. For more on WRSASC, visit [www.wmrsasc.org.uk](http://www.wmrsasc.org.uk).

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# Babajack+The New Forbidden

## The Cube Malvern | Saturday 10th October

The Cube played host to the launch night of Babajack's 'Live' and the appetiser for this hedonistic evening of delights was New Forbidden, Lloyd Grossman's reborn band of indie tilted punk. Lloyd's well known, mid Atlantic drawn vocals were not put to the test with the band being fronted by an Oxbridge voiced Valentine Guinness, so really a sort of Posh Punk pasta mix! The music is more post anarchic, new wave punk, with plenty of gutsy Gibson thrashing from Lloyd and poignant posturing by Valentine. Some excellent drumming and bass forged the rhythms with keyboards and backing vox, the band made good use of the delegated stage area. 'Ain't Doing Nothing' was a minor 'hit' for Lloyd in his original Forbidden band and started the ball rolling here. 'Skinny Girl' was a soft & tender homage which contrasts completely with the very upbeat 'Rock & Roll Romance', from the pen of the pasta sauce gourmet. All in it was a nicely balanced mix of spicy lyrics, tasty licks and robust rhythms: a fine starter before the main course.

The stage was changed swiftly as Babajack's Becky and Trevor mingled with an expectant 'home' crowd. The Cube was sold out with every inch taken up by fans and equipment. The atmosphere was heavy with expectancy but no more the nervous, pressure air of recording night, this was a celebration and it burst into exploded life with 'Money's All Gone'. A flurry of activity resulted in Julia arriving with her Cello, just in time to join for 'Coming Home' and that old instrument yielded some fabulous sounds as Julia stole the stage. Becky and Trevor were at their dynamic best, probably as well as I have ever seen them perform and I've witnessed them perform many times. 'Death Letter Blues' is a betting cert for any Babajack gig and Becky is at her soulful best with this heartfelt old Leadbelly song. The beautiful 'Breathe' follows on quickly with some lovely duetting between Trevor and

Julia on their strings: this whole 'Live' recording plucks selections from all their previous albums but mainly 'Running Man' and 'Rooster'. A firm favourite with most of the converted present this night is 'Gallows Pole', an old folk song rocked up by Led Zep back in the day and here given passion and drive by the empathetic voice of Becky, with Trevor as ever working hard on his cradled harp sitting above his lovingly created cigar box guitar 'Joanna'. The song reaches its dramatic close with Tosh on drums dropping bombs that reverberate around the room, while Julia's strings scream and drop into the darkness below the trapdoor.

The evening has like *Running Man* exhausted itself, breathless but ecstatic - only one thing left to do then - summon up some 'Skin And Bones'. The band throw in the kitchen sink and Adam, who tends to be the quiet man of the band, yet again provides the bass on which Trevor is given freedom to explore his guitars. Adam doubles up as onstage sound man and the mix has been superb as always. Tosh winds up for his explosive finish with Becky coiled, Trevor lost in his frenetic fretting and Julia pushing the limits as she cradles her cello: a truly fabulous finale to a great evening. Nobody leaves without a smile of satisfaction on their face, with their precious and signed CD's tucked safely in their hands.

Graham Munn



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# Andy O'Hare

Yes seems a bit strange at this time of year to still be banging on about the summer festivals - but of course we're all still feeling the love and warmth from a wonderful **8th Worcester Music Festival!!** Have to say that I was a tad worried about my own promo on the Friday night at the **Pig & Drum** - as there were so many other great acts on the night elsewhere in town like **[spunge]** and **Vienna Ditto** (that tbh I'd have loved to have caught as well myself!) But awesome sets from **Amorphica**, **Mike Knowles**, **Barefoot in Baltimore** and those **Bleeding Hearts** made it an evening to remember - nothing beats a rammed Pig where everyone's pogo-ing!!

I had a bit of a 'day off' on WMF Saturday - well you know what that means - so the limbs were a bit of a blur as I checked out as many acts as possible - but of course I wouldn't have minded seeing even more! Reckon we had one of our best-ever recording/roadshows at Drummonds on Sunday - finishing just in time for me to catch both **Granny's Attic** and those **Roving Crows** at St Swithun's - both paying fine heartwarming tributes to the very much-missed JT!!

WMF was a bit later this year - to coincide with Worcester Uni Freshers' Week - I'm sure that I spotted a couple of mortar boards and gowns over the weekend - but still after that was **Bromyard Folk** and **Bewdley Youth Music** festivals running into early October - have to say I didn't mind in the slightest bit this late running of the 'season' - as it looks like we now have music festivals across our region every week for the about half the year from May to October!

And that has to be an wonderful achievement! And even more incredible that there've been very few 'clashes' - I can think of one or two but they've mostly been different genres - so no problem! Cheering to see that the local organisers seem to have their fingers on the pulse and have considered the compulsive gig-goers' eternal dilemma!

Now guess you already know that I'm not the greatest fan of 'talent' shows in any form - whether on TV or at your local venue - which over the last five years and more have succeeded in diminishing creative music talent in favour of bland autotuned pap. This is helped by allowing a 'public vote' - cost 50p plus your usual message rate for your favourite act - which happens to be for your neighbour's cousin's best mate - and it just seems to be that it's popularity not quality that decides the direction of current music...

And sadly it also appears that when it's occasionally left to 'experts' in the music industry to pick acts for a wider showcase - it's their commerciality rather than musical capability that seems

to be overriding - ahh never mind - the million-pound video shoot will take care of that...

But have to confess that I took a few seconds to vote in the **UK Festival Awards** poll for my own favourite events of the summer - as mercifully it seems as yet untainted! Got to say that I was gobsmacked how many of our local wonderful summer festivals were up for gongs on this respected site - including **Wychwood**, **Nozstock**, **Lakefest** and of course **Worcester Music Festival!** And this looks like a fair reflection on the amazing concentration of wonderful events we now have each summer in our region!

Now while we might occasionally moan that we're pretty much adrift from traditional UK music strongholds like London, Manchester and Liverpool - and the artificially constructed Leeds 'scene' - what we have here is a central UK location with easy motorway access (well most of the time anyway) - and this was recognised by **One Love Festival** which seamlessly relocated to the Lakefest site near Tewkesbury after having to vacate its South Coast venue at a week's notice!

It would be amazing to see this heartwarming bash again next year at the **Croft Farm** location - but of course Lakefest themselves next year will be based at **Eastnor Park** - site of the much-missed **Big Chill** - no don't worry, there's a big lake there as well so no conflict of interest!! But great news also of another scheduled event in the form of **Mello Festival** for next May bank holiday with **The Levellers** and **Blockheads** already billed!

So it's already looking like a fantastic 2016 'spring to autumn' festival season for our conveniently-located and accessible area!! Plus of course we happen to have the finest original and inspiring musicians in the known universe - so it's time I think to shout it out a bit more and let the rest of the UK know about it...

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

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# Red Butler

The Old Bush Callow End | Friday 16th October

I'd heard much of this young band but they had yet to venture hereabouts, so here was the opportunity to see what the fuss was about. Well suffice to say, they blew the cobwebs clear out of the aged timbers of this fine pub. The **Red** is **Alex Butler** - a superbly expressive lead guitarist, **Stephen** - the gut-thumping rhythmic bassist, with the hot drums of **Charlie** stoking from behind. Up front and really out there is **Jane Pearce**, a young and passionately powerful vocalist. The band creates an unbelievable energy, obviously enjoy themselves playing to a crowd and are quite simply, bloody good.



day for the aforementioned Blues Awards ceremony. Time then for a stonking burn-out close with Jane giving all as she sings with 'Pride And Joy'; the boys are still having fun and Charlie is given time for a full on thrashing of those tight skins - a fabulous finale.

They will be definitely be playing at Matt's Blues festival next year at the Old Bush, as they were booked on the spot with Jane duly and proudly announcing it on the mic! Now come on Upton, get them lined up for next year before the queue gets too long. I suspect they will make it through to the European Blues Challenge to represent the UK and I am absolutely certain **Red Butler** will be winning awards in 2016.

They an astonishingly good British blues band only now in their third year and it's both difficult and exciting to imagine what they can achieve in the future. I urge you if they are within striking distance to go see Red Butler, before they undoubtedly explode onto the world stage.

Graham Munn



There music is genuine blues rock; a mix based on Chicago and Texas styles, influenced by the likes of Gary Moore, Free and soul queen Etta James, all performed with home-grown flair. Straight off you know you are seeing something special; 'Moving On' opens the show before 'Going On The Road' takes us on, then Jane has us 'Shakin All Over' encouraging the crowded bar to follow and they do. Another great classic sees dancing break out in the tight stage front area as 'Hit The Road Jack' powers out. Jane then calls a break with a bit of 'Hard Drivin Man' and a stupendous first half to the evening comes to a close and it's time for a beer!

Red Butler restart with Jane showing why she's a 'Jaywalker', as she struts and postures about the stage. Then follows a fabulous medley mix of 'Going Down', 'Purple Haze' and 'Cocaine', giving all band members the chance to show why they are earning such acclaim. However despite these covers much of tonight's set is their own marvellous material and comes from their 'Freedom Bound' album. Jane is 'Feeling Good' and her tremendous voice is just lightly smoked to suit the genre, which together with some serious n'sassy attitude brings great presence. 'Pension Blues' is all their's for instance and it's a great piece of blues with Alex amply showing why he earned his Runner Up for Young Artist at this year's British Blues Awards. The band itself also were Runners Up in the Emerging Artists category and on this evidence will be taking titles next year for sure. Next up the instrumental 'Devil' allows Alex and Stephen to have a bit of fun showing off with their guitars with another opportunity presenting itself as they enter the 'Danger Zone', wherein

Stephen helps Alex with fascinating fret & finger work as four hands play the custom built Feline guitar. The evening is drawing on and the band are off straight up to Nottingham the next



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# PREVIEW

## Peter Knight's Gigspanner The Fleece at Bretforton | Sun 29th Nov

Legendary fiddle player **Peter Knight** left behind folk-rock pioneers **Steeleye Span** back in 2013, to concentrate fully on trio **Gigspanner** and in the process firmly establishing them as one of the most innovative acts on the folk/roots scene.

This Fleece gig is in support of their acclaimed new album '*Layers of Ages*' which true to form dusts off some well-worn trad tunes and reinterprets them to reveal their authentic beauty and originality.

Modern in re-design yet classical in virtuosity this is music that continues to inspire audiences as the carefully curated and skilfully delivered material flies way beyond the usual folk genre boundaries.

Joined by **Roger Flack** on guitar and **Vincent Salzfaas** on percussion, **Peter Knight's Gigspanner** are bound to amaze, confound and delight at equal turn, so be sure and book early at [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk)



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## November at The Courtyard, Hereford

Three wildly contrasting picks from Hereford's finest The Courtyard this month starting with an appearance from TV's once man of mystery from **Top Gear**, yes it's...**The Stig**.

These days now aka **Perry McCarthy** arrives (in fine motoring style I'm sure!) at The Courtyard on Sunday 8th November to regale all present with torrid tales of the track and beyond. Perry's natural Cockney exuberance is sure to warm the cockles of **The Courtyard** faithful with his stories and reminisces of rising to the top, combining the humorous with the sometimes heartbreaking. Add to this mix comic sketches on F1 greats such as messrs Schumacher, Hamilton, Raikkonen, Mansell together with Murray Walker plus of course Jeremy C, you know you're in for a fun filled night.



tiring to watch, displays of Welsh step dancing. Their set will blast through many reels, jigs and hornpipes which are freshly arranged, contrasting with beautiful and haunting songs from the Welsh canon. With their unique instrumental blend including fiddle, bagpipes, whistle, guitar, harp and accordion (phew!), plus the aforementioned Welsh clog step dancing adding percussive to this most marvellous sounding mix, **Calan** are bound to be a magical musical melange.



Our third pick is one which we can't ignore because of the rapidly approaching season of the pantomime. This year's Courtyard offering is the perennial fave **Beauty and the Beast** and runs from Friday 27th November until Saturday 9th January. Featuring star turn **Jason Marc Williams** in his second year as the Dame plus newcomers **Beth Dillon** and **Ben Astle** as the titular twosome. Ian Archer, both producer of *Beauty and The Beast* and chief executive of The Courtyard, announced, "There's no better way to gear up to Christmas than with a classic pantomime and this year it's *Beauty and the Beast!* I can't wait for everyone to see what we have in store this year, but we promise it will be bigger and beast-ier than last year!"

Tickets and info for all events can be found at [www.courtyard.org.uk](http://www.courtyard.org.uk) or please contact the Box Office on 01432 340555



For our next Slap Courtyard pick we choose what is sure to be a quality slice of Welsh music with the fresh and vibrant sound of **Calan** on Tuesday 24th in The Studio Theatre. Comprising five remarkable young musicians, Calan can breathe new life into old traditions through a contemporary and energetic approach which includes, even

## Hey Colossus | Vault Of Eagles Falling Stacks | Mutt

### Firefly Worcester | Thursday 12th November

Powerful, dark and joyously heavy, **Hey Colossus** are a savage adventure deep into the furthest cosmos of cataclysmic noise rock.

Over the last decade the London sextet have built a reputation in the DIY underground's murkier corners for their primal and intense live act - and dished out a formidable array of wax. Specialising in a primordial barrage of abject noise drawing influence from Krautrock, Heavy Psychedelic Rock, Noise Rock and Doom, **Hey Colossus** will be crashing head on into the Firefly Worcester on Thursday 12th November.

With a new long player 'Radio Static High' released on 2nd October to critical acclaim, and finding plaudits as high up the radar as the Guardian - this is not one to be missed.



Main support will be provided by the local giants **Vault Of Eagles**. Visceral, angular and exposed, and presiding over a sonic spectrum of blues, psychedelia, grunge, alternative and rock, this band should need little introduction. And if their live outings earlier in the year are anything to go by, this is also a band right on top of their game.

Bristol's *Falling Stacks* - a blast of filthy, disorderly avant-garde noise rock, with the hard edge of Big Black, the lunacy of the Jesus Lizard and the agit-groove of Fugazi - and Birmingham's **Mutt** - raucous and curiously melodic neo-grunge somewhere between Sonic Youth, L7 and the Pixies - complete the bill.

You might as well come. And if you do - bring your eaplugs. Because this could all get a bit loud.

Billy Balowski

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# Tour Announced

## Sœur | Downard | Theo | Vault of Eagles

When a collection of musicians come together for reasons that surpass simply filling the need to play a show, so comes a desire to be a part of whatever force lies behind those reasons. Of course, this isn't the first friend founded tour in existence, but what sets it apart is the way it has been expertly curated to showcase not only some of the finest musicianship the UK has to offer, but how bands within their respective scenes interact with one another.



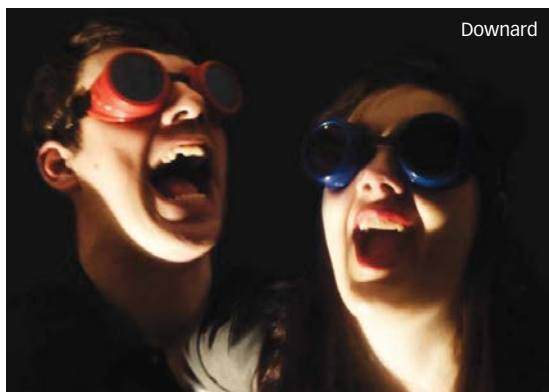
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Stoney Darkstone

Those who are no stranger to the **Worcester Music Festival** will be all too familiar with the work of **Blue Radio Records'** head honcho **Anya Pulver** and **Firefly** veteran **Christina Maynard**. Formerly of **Mansize** and **This Wicked Tongue**, the two have joined with **Tom Vincer** to create a forward thinking trio, filled with originality and vocals so erratically entrancing they could have Chino Moreno looking back over his shoulder. After hiding away for the better part of a year, crafting their more melodic take on grunge, it goes without saying that these three are not ones to be missed.

The surge in two piece bands over the last year has somewhat disparaged the 'genre', bringing with it an over-saturation of Royal Blood rip-off's. It is wholly refreshing for a duo such as **Downard** to draw on influences far from the norm; encompassing clear cut references from the Psychedelic era and donning elements of Steam Punk fashion to create something Captain Beefheart would be proud of.



Downard

**Sam Knight's** alias, **Theo** shows first and foremost how multi-instrumentalism can be mastered and this solo act shows up most bands when doing so. The ingenious use of a smaller drum kit enables Theo to create sonically crisp rhythms that cut through a series of well executed, looped riffs to create a phenomenal sense of depth and progression during his performances. Those of you who were lucky enough to find a space upstairs in the Firefly during the 2012 WMF will agree that having him grace the WR1 postcode again will provide an opportunity for another memorable, elbow to elbow, sweat sharing performance.

At a time where rock as a genre can become stale and absent of originality, **Vault of Eagles** prove to be the anomaly - presenting everything that is ever desired from a fan of the genre. An evident and harmonious relationship between the trio is perfectly displayed in their single "*Spoonfed Dead*", released last year. With



Toni Charles

no one fighting for precedence, what results is a timeless, fundamental example of how a rock band should sound.

The tour begins in **Downard's** home town of Bristol at one of the **Stag and Hound's Pay What You Want** events on Wednesday December 9th. Following this the four bands will head to Worcester's **Firefly** (£5adv) on Thursday 10th, London's **New River Studios** on the 11th (PWYW) and Birmingham's **Sunflower Lounge** to finish on the 12th (£4adv).

Words: Brad Jeans

### Tour dates:

- Wednesday 9th December - Stag & Hounds, Bristol
- Thursday 10th December - The Firefly, Worcester
- Friday 11th December - New River Studios, London
- Saturday 12th December - The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

## The Hawthornes - Stoneville Street

The Hawthornes are a Cheltenham based trio who only formed back in 2013 but are already making ripples in the music scene, both local and beyond with their infectious combination of folk, pop and a punk like attitude. The band have already racked up a number of high profile support slots with the likes of 3 Daft Monkeys, Phil Beer (Show Of Hands), Babajack and The Cadbury Sisters among others, whilst this year also saw perform to a packed out tent at Lakefest.

Following on from their debut four-track EP the band spend time writing and recording their debut album, *Stoneville*, a twelve track half an hour blast that showcases what the band are all about and captures that live energy that they exude at every performance. Beaten percussion - **Jesse Benns**, pumping bass - **Gordy Partridge** and jagged acoustic strums frame, **Louisa Gaylard's** contagious lead vocal hooks.

The album opens with Louisa crooning beautifully over a delicate strum before the percussion and driving bass join the mix and up the ante to create an upbeat, poppy folk number, that's furthered peppered by a tasty trumpet solo that brings the near three minute blast to a close. As opening romps go, it's nigh on perfect,

it's fun, has an obvious, memorable hook and leaves you nodding with approval from the first spin.



Both *Edgar* and *Frank* are both stripped down vulnerable affairs with Louisa delivering an aching and bruised lead vocal accompanied by delicate percussion and male harmonies on the former and her own lone acoustic strum on the latter, proving the band are more than capable of yanking at the heart strings as well as having fun.

Other notable tracks include the folk punk of *Drama Queen* with its bashed out rhythm, choppy guitar and the gloriously snotty sing-a-long chorus, the gorgeous acapella folk of *Circus Light*, *Shacklehead* has loads of rise and fall, opening as a moody roots number before working up to a dramatic, powerful chorus assisted again with a blast of trumpet and a hollered lead vocal. Whilst, *Where Are We All Going* is **The Hawthornes** at their most accessible as they deliver a brash summery pop-laden sing-a-long, that's short, punchy and impossible to ignore.

As debut albums go *Stoneville Street* has pretty much all you can ask for, stripped down folky roots, upbeat rockers, drama, sing-a-longs and a whole lot of hooks, if The Hawthornes happen to head your way, put on your dancing shoes, expect a good time and a grab a copy of the album on your way out.

Will Munn

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

## Priori - Jokers EP

A few months back I had the pleasure of stumbling into Evesham three-piece *Priori*, treading the boards over at **The Iron Road**, the group were first on, supporting a couple of touring Finnish rock bands, but it was the local trio that left the lasting impression, with a gloriously noisy set that combined alternative rock and pulsating, modern day indie rock (think an amped up Arctic Monkees). The band's set was a short energetic burst with the band bouncing

around the stage and feeding from the fevered audience's reaction, guitars were throttled, drums beaten into submission and rock star shapes thrown aplenty leaving this scribe (and the rest of the assembled) breathless and longing for more.

Thankfully I've been signposted to more in the shape of the band's new four track EP, entitled *Jokers* and thankfully the band have somehow managed to capture that live energy on disc, with a compelling and infectious showcase of their wares.



The title track open proceedings with a click of the sticks (**Jay Kirk**), an instantly contagious riff and a groove-laden bass-line (**Jacob Coley**) before the band crank it up the power, unleashing a crushing alternative rock riff before frontman, **Ben Coley** unleashes an impassioned roar full of attitude and swagger as the band lurch forward with a howl of feedback and a stomping hook.

*Say Something New* quickly proves the opening salvo is no mere fluke, as the band once again drum up a riotous combination of thrashed indie guitars and rolling beats whilst weaving in that all important vocal hook. *I Don't Love You*, opens with a glorious cacophony of drums and guitar before the band change direction with a choppy, funky riff and a more melodic croon before rising into a glorious, short, sharp chorus, powered with a barrage of drums and a delicious, hollered refrain, whilst any stadium rock band would be jealous of the compelling, melodic middle break and proves these boys know all about structure and not just bluster.

The EP closes with *Priori* on all out assault mode, in the form of the powerful *Mercurial* as frenzied guitars, semi roared vocals and a flurry of drums collide deliciously leaving the listener, in much like the same state as the live experience, exhausted, satisfied and desperate for another blast.

Will Munn

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

# REVIEW

## Midlands Air Ambulance Benefit Gig Hare & Hounds, Stourbridge | Saturday 10th October

Not my thing usually to review benefit gigs but this was a great cause and night so here we go:-

**Effigy for Sleep** kick us off and you know by a couple of songs in that you're looking at something quite special. They're a three-piece, recently expanded from a duo by the addition of excellent guitarist/saxophonist **Sam Baldwin**, allowing former guitarist and singer **Calvert Stephens** to switch to bass, a six-string beauty which he plays with exceptional fluency; he also has a fine voice. **Tom Johnson** lays down some very complex drums patterns and also shows his versatility by adding a long piano intro to their best track of the night.



I suppose you'd class this as alt-rock, but my word, there's a lot going on here and I'm keeping my eye out for their next gig.

**Cosmic Goldfish** are all about covers. They work extremely hard over a wide range of material ranging from 'Louie, Louie' to Kings of Leon, but almost inevitably the highlight is 'Rocking in the Free World' - we begin to sing at this point and dancing also breaks out. This is what cover bands do best, they introduce familiarity and warm up an audience and this is what **Darren Smith** on guitar and vocals, **James Fisher** on bass and backing vocals and **Mark Whiston** on drums do



beautifully tonight. And the next time you roll your eyes at a gig when a covers band comes on, remember that up and down the country, bands like this are what protects you from having to listen to **One Direction** at weddings, for which we should all be grateful.

If this were not a small, neat pub in Stourbridge, you'd say headliners **RKB** played stadium rock. It's highly melodic AOR from a very tight unit indeed. They play without a bass guitarist, so drummer **Kevin Greaves** works hard throughout, maintaining a metronomic beat, along with keyboard player **Emily Hinds**, who alternates between laying down bass lines and firing off excellent lead work on her twin boards. Paul's guitar is both fluent in his lead work and absolutely solid in the rhythm department, on which this type of rock is so dependent - he's also very selective in his choice of modifiers, never letting distortion mask his technique. Now, I've seen some really fine women vocalists this year and Kim RKB is right up there with them. She's very slight of build, so it's a bit of a shock when your ears are pinned back by the strength of her voice. Pitch-perfect throughout, her voice, and the rest of the band's talents are ironically best displayed when they reign things in on the slower 'No Going Back', which is probably their's and the evening's stand-out track.



Dancing is now in full swing, as is the fulsome appreciation of Kim's fan club, who envelop her in a rugby scrum at the end of each song - it's a brilliant atmosphere and hopefully this truly worthy cause will have benefited greatly from the evening.

Highly entertaining.

Geoffrey Head

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

[www.facebook.com/effigyforsleep?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/effigyforsleep?fref=ts)

[www.facebook.com/CosmicGoldfish2015?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/CosmicGoldfish2015?fref=ts)

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## Erja Lyytinen, Jack Blackman Iron Road, Evesham | Wed 14th October

Since first hearing her on RUF records anniversary disc I was determined to see **Erja** and here she was, appearing just down the road in Evesham: a blues guitar sensation from Finland with 3 piece band in tow and supported by the talented **Jack Blackman** - what more could you want?

I happened to collide with Erja outside as I approached and straight off you realise what a personable character she is and this augured well for the evening. Jack Blackman took the stage and delighted us with his cut back style of acoustic country blues, only hesitating to retune to different keys. A ragtime '*Ophelia*' was a good start turning heads toward the stage, a harp was then cradled as we were encouraged to '*Patch Up That Hole*'. Jack produced the glass 'bottle neck' to prove that he too could use slide, before an all too early ending flourish with Blind Blake's '*Police Dog Blues*' and the final tippie of '*Hogwash Gin*'. A short but very satisfying set.

Erja's band were soon taking their place with **Markku Reinikainen** on drums, **Juha Verong** on bass and **Davide Floreno** sharing lead with Erja. These are men of stature and overshadow the petit Erja, but with the opening bars of '*Spoonful*' she has suddenly filled the stage with her presence; it's a superb start. Still with wet ink a newly penned '*Awakening*' was tested out, no problem as we were all riveted. Autumn has brought in the '*Change Of Season*' and a great solo lead from bassman Juha with powerful, pulsating notes picked up by Erja as she rejoined pushing up the tempo. Not to be left out, a funky opening saw Davide faced up to Erja, with both guitars crying like sirens; '*Black Ocean*' is as yet an unrecorded new song, but a cert for the next album. They went forward, '*Hand In Hand*' for a bit of Elmore



James and slide of course. All this is done on a stunning pearlescent blue G&L ASAT guitar with an eye watering array of pick ups - sounds good and looks good in the more than capable hands of Erja. A '*Lullaby*' for her baby twins, she then turns to some slow, soulful and beautiful slide with '*The Sky Is Crying*', taken from the album of that name. We are heading far too rapidly towards the evening's close and with a mish-mash of familiar Latino riffs playing Erja moves out into the room to fraternise closely with her fans and still playing orders a shot of whiskey at the bar, emptied quickly and continues with the shot glass as her slide - Erja is truly connected with her fans. A skin-splitting drum solo from Markku confirms that this band are a crackingly good outfit: we cannot let Erja go but time enough to fin(n)ish with a superlative '*Dust My Broom*' Elmore James style and with slide polished Erja is skating away on those strings; this has been a truly fabulous and memorable gig. Those not there will rue the day so let's hope she returns to the Iron Road on her next tour.

Graham Munn

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# Comedy at Evesham Arts Centre

Continuing their mission to bring you the best in thought provoking comedy, **Evesham Arts Centre** gear up for a couple of exciting and challengingly hilarious comedy events in November.

First up on Friday 13th(!) is **Raw Comedy!** which showcases no less than 6 vastly different talents as they try out new material in 10-15 minute slots in the Arts Centre foyer.

So we get headliner **Max Dickens** who weaves clever material from diverse subjects both topical and surreal, together with the likes of cool feminist-philosopher comedian **Anna Dominey**, rural-rhyming-hip-hopster **Chris Joyce** and gangly, self-hating 'So You Think You're Funny' finalist **Alex Kealy**. Other comedic leading lights **Paul Nightingale** and **Dimitry Bakanov** complete this top quality bill and all for only five of your measly English pounds in advance! This is your chance to say "Oh yes I saw them at Evesham before they were famous."

On Saturday 28th November Evesham welcomes **Matt Forde** through its doors as this fast rising political comic brings his latest hit show 'Get The Political Party Started' to the Arts Centre. Mixing topical material with political debate and generally taking the P out of politicians, Matt will be asking such burning questions as



Max Dickens



Anna Dominey



Alex Kealy

What is the future of Britain? How do we make a more equal society? Will Jeremy Corbyn still be Labour leader by the time this gig happens?

**Matt Forde** is a comedian, impressionist, broadcaster writer and former political advisor - so he knows exactly what he's talking about. Having under his belt many TV appearances on shows such as 'Mock The Week', '8 Out Of 10 Cats' and 'Have I Got News For You' to name but a few, you know you're in safe if rowdy hands and this top notch show is definitely a must see.

The Ayes have it!



Matt Forde

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feat. Alex Kealy, Dave Parton  
Anna Dominey, Chris Joyce  
and Dimitri Bakanov

FEATURED EVENT



## MATT FORDE

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

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# Donato - Daydreaming On Rainbow Hill

I would imagine **Donato** will be something of a new name for the majority of you and indeed after years of being a bedroom musician, **Donato Iacoviello** (or Danny as I know him) has suddenly broken free and has hit the Worcester music scene running, he's the frontman and lead guitarist of **Rivers Edge**, the drummer of **Bombshell Babies** and now the talented singer-songwriter has constructed a solo acoustic album under the Donato monicker.

Bar catching a brief song in the front of Tesco I've not had the pleasure of catching Donato live either as part of a band or indeed solo, so I wasn't sure what to expect when I hit play, I'd heard reports of wild solo's and near screaming with **Rivers Edge**, but away from the amplification and the comfort of a band could he grab the attention?

Well the short answer is a resounding yes, Danny's guitar work is mesmeric from the off whether he's picking or strumming, he manages to either lock into a groove or discover a clever, intricate melody that nags and infatuates, which is a rarity for such an instrumentally sparse affair (all guitar and vocals bar a couple of effects, strings and studio trickery).

Vocally, Danny has this slightly off-kilter drawl that ranges between near spoken word, a brief falsetto and a stoned Cat Stevens, that works well on the whole, but I do think that he should have a little more faith in his pure singing voice, as on occasion he hits a near falsetto or offers a harmony that hints at



a wider range, whilst the likes of Peruvian Skies would have perhaps worked better with a more melodic delivery.

The album's opening track, *Contradiction* is an impressive seven minute introductory number, with Danny showcasing his nimble fingers, as he lays down a gorgeous plucked groove, whilst delivering that aforementioned half spoken drawl, it's a reflective, laid-back number that encourages repeat spins. From there, *True Colours* adds a vocal effect and sweeping strings to the proceedings as Donato reveals his an obvious knowledge of instrumentation and arrangement to create a clever, full bodied, wide screen affair.

*Groove* offers something different again, this time combining dramatic strums and deft plucking to create a Spanish flamenco inspired number that's further peppered with a clever use of harmonies and a hint of that aforementioned falsetto.

*Little Phil's Biff Riff* may have something of an odd title, but the near six minute instrumental is a stunning showcase of Danny's impressive finger work, as he creates a beautiful, meditative state as he effortlessly glides between strings. Other notable tracks include the aptly named *Dreaming* with it's wonderfully languid introduction and a dark almost demonic take on *Billy Jean*, which sees Danny's default setting vocals become a sinister howl as he completes the album with a delicious dark twist.

As a debut album, *Day Dreaming On Rainbow Hill* has a great deal to offer, instrumentally it's faultless as Danny bewitches with his incredible playing and whilst the vocals at times need work the songs themselves and the arrangements impress. Whether it's solo or with a band Danny (or Donato) has all the elements to shine.

*Will Munn*

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Tue 17	Boston United	Home	19.45
Sat 21	AFC Telford United	Home	15.00

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**'fAITH' present 'A Song & Dance' Concert at Holy Innocents Community Hall, Stourport Road, Kidderminster Saturday 7th November 2015. 7.30pm until 10.00pm**

A fantastic evening of live music, have a dance or just listen, songs by The Everly Brother, The Zombies, Ian Dury, The Beatles, The Travelling Wilburys, Cliff Richard, Elvis Presley and many more.

Tickets for this event are now just £5 and every single penny taken goes to the Omwabini Orphanage in Kenya. <http://www.omwabini.org/programs/orphanage>. Just contact Sue on 01562 755552. This concert is a bring your own drinks/nibbles & glasses. For further info on the duo 'fAITH' please go to: <https://keithjonesmusic.wordpress.com/faith/> or:

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

fAITH have a new album 'Captain Grez and the Professor' out in the new year, the album will also feature a track with local Kidderminster Community Vocal Harmony Choir 'Voice Squad'.



**The Vocal Company + A Fistful of Spookies Colwall Village Hall, Malvern | Friday 6th November**

Looking for an interesting night and something quite different?? Well look no further as the delightfully dotty double bill comes to an out-of-the-way village hall probably nowhere near you..but well worth the effort of seeking out.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Danish women's right to vote, **The Vocal Company** perform a heart-stoppingly outstanding selection of songs all written by female artists. You will hear tales of destruction & creation, of letting go & holding on, of



disappearing for a while & returning to life:- well you get the idea. The Vocal Company arrive from Denmark 20 in number, bringing their sharp as knives vocal skills

and a show which ranges from the incredibly soulful to the absolutely hilarious.

**A Fistful of Spookies** are remnants of The Spooky Men's Chorale who retreated to Oz after their sell-out 2015 UK Tour. These few wizened stalwarts loiter, like a tide mark in the enamel bath of song and dare to delight and dumbfound those brave enough to engage with their patented tomfoolery and testosterone-fuelled tunes.



A night not to missed or messed with: get your tickets hereabouts <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/324974>

**The Urban Folk Quartet**

**St Swithun's Hall, Worcester | Sunday 29th November**

As part of **Shindig's 'Live and Local'** and **Barry Walmsley's 'Acoustic Sessions'** programmes, the wonderfully inventive **Urban Folk Quartet** storm St Swithun's to doubtlessly thrill the assembled throng.

For the uninitiated these are four brilliant musicians playing a dozen instruments in this knockout show of globally-influenced, electrifying acoustic music that has been taking the international folk scene by storm.

**The Urban Folk Quartet** play an inventive blend of traditional British themes and global influences; from Spanish party music and laments, and classic American tunes with rousing reels, to echoes of Turkey and the Middle East.

All four members of the band are heavyweights on the folk scene. There's **Joe Broughton (The Albion Band)** on fiddle, guitar and mandolin. He is joined by Galician fiddler **Paloma Trigas**, percussionist **Tom**



**Chapman (The Old Dance School)** and banjo virtuoso, singer and guitarist, **Dan Walsh**.

The UFQ are charismatic, enthusiastic and entertaining, and every barnstorming performance bursts with energy! We'll be there reporting for Slap - why not come and join us, it'll be a blast!

# Circuit Sweet by Naomi Preece

This month we celebrated all things Cassette related. We were lucky to be a participating store in this year's **International Cassette Store** day following the success of last year's involvement. October 17th saw a special compilation release from **Alco Pop! Records** and **Super Fan**. Together the labels curated a 'band sourced' Secret 7th compilation for Cassette Store Day-



featuring 6 tracks from **The Orielles**, **Zooz**, **Cotillion**, **Helen Love**, **Get Inuit** and **The Spills**. However...the 7th song of each cassette are all different and hand recorded on each cassette, sourced from musicians from all spheres from across the country. Also released that day we welcomed Bristol based mesmerising talent **Jesuits** who released their '*Dinner Jazz/Carpet Floors*' record via **Gravy Train Recordings**. The Jesuits find spiritual bliss in merging the heady influences of 60's psychedelia and early 90's grunge to create a sonic wave of fuzz and jangle. Finally we had "*Herzog TV: A Dublin Lo-Fi Collection*", a compilation of young DIY bedroom artists in Dublin, compiled by local label **Little L Records**. This collection showcases what's going on in the bedrooms of the Irish capital, featuring artists who have previously been featured on everywhere from Vice to Bandcamp. The weekend was a success and we've still got a few limited copies left if you fancy owning something CSD related.

Earlier in the month on the site we introduced you to the sounds of young local, Ross-on-Wye based talent **Dexter Henry Millest**. Dexter's comprehensive vocal range captures a unique and soulful delicate essence. At only 18 years of age, Dexter is already proving unstoppable with his songwriting efforts and creativity constantly improving: this artist can so easily capture something so sincere and tender. Drawing inspiration from artists such as Ben Howard and Marika Hackman, it's fair to say **Dexter** is making waves within his chosen genre and creating something to call his own. You can find more on this act including a special stream on the site now [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk).



And finally as SLAP went to press we were at **The Venue** in Hereford to say goodbye to one of our favourite promoters, **Never Mind The Bullocks** for their **Oxjam Charity Night of Noise**. **Brendan Stephens** founder of **NMTB** started the promotions company 10 years ago whilst photographing local gigs. The night saw the final show **NMTB** will be solely hosting, but don't fear as he has teamed up with **Hereford Live** to continue with helping their must see events. "*I joined the Hereford Live committee in order to work with like minded people, but a show like this Oxjam gig seemed a fitting farewell to NMTB promo; something that has been a big part of my life and a passion for so long,*" said **Brendan Stephens** "*I will still have a heavy involvement in live music with Hereford Live, and bands will still see me behind the camera lens as B at Gippa!*". So



The Broken Oak Duet



Friday October 23rd and The Venue hosted this special dedicated noise night featuring local acts **Brocken Spectre**, **Maniac SS**, **A Hundred Suns**, **Skinhorse** and **The Broken Oak Duet**.

A fitting line up for an incredible finale to a promotions company who have bought some of the best live nights to Hereford and surrounding areas. Keep an eye on the site for a full live review and pictures of the evenings proceedings to follow.

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Photography: *B at Gippa*

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# 9Bach + Vault of Eagles

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley | Sunday 11 October

'Twas hidden amongst the pages of this esteemed publication that I happened upon this 'secret' gig. For 'secret' it was, as tomorrow award winning band **9Bach** were heading off to **Real World Studios** to record their third album and we were to be their 'guinea pigs' for the evening.



First up though was a stripped back **Vault of Eagles**; no drummer, just **Mari & Hetty** 'unplugged' with glorious harmonies and gutsy reworked acoustic versions of their original songs. An fine aperitif for what promised to be an excellent evening.

Now, if you were expecting a sing-song there was a strong chance you were going to leave disappointed. As the name may or may not suggest, **9Bach** is a Welsh band and

most of their songs are in the Welsh language. The band is fronted by singer and songwriter **Lisa Jen**, whose cool and exquisite vocals are perfectly suited to this ancient and beautiful language. The others blend guitars, drums, bass, harp, keyboards and occasional glockenspiel and hammered dulcimer with a subtle use of technology adding loops or dub effects to give an almost Portishead like feel to some of their material. Whilst all songs are written by Lisa, it becomes apparent that the band play a large part in the arrangements.

As I've mentioned the songs are all in Welsh, so something of an English reviewer's nightmare trying to jot down the titles, however thought provoking banter from Lisa between numbers (she likes to chat!) goes some way to helping you into the songs when you don't understand the language. There are a lot of songs with animal themes; one about a Crow, another one simply called *Aderyn* (Bird) and another one written from a poacher's perspective. Other songs included '*Llyn Dulyn*' (Black Lake), inspired by a Welsh Novel called '*One Moonlit Night*', with



throbbing bass and subtle, understated drums, the skins delicately caressed with brushes. Then there was Ivan, a song about a 4 year old boy from Moscow who left his home and went to live with a pack of dogs. The last couple of songs are taken from their 2015 **BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards Album of the Year**, '*Tincian*'; the gorgeously ethereal '*Liwiau*' (Colours) followed by '*Wedi Torri*' (It's Broken), a dark song about a broken man, with tinkling glockenspiel building up to a booming crescendo on drums. The siren-voiced Lisa then explained in great length why **9Bach** never do encores, we finally persuade them otherwise and are duly treated to 9Bach's first ever encore, '*Plentyn*' (Child), a song about stolen Aboriginal children. At times this one drifts between Kate Bush (circa *The Ninth Wave*) and Loreena McKennitt, with its breathy mouth generated beats garnished with sensitive harp.



I'm sure it won't be long before Jools comes knocking at the door of this genre-defying band, so to catch them free at an intimate venue like this was a real treat and what better way to round off a weekend of Welsh triumphs - *Diolch yn fawr iawn 9Bach*.

Words: Stewart M Tock Photography: Geoffrey Head

## Sunday 1 November 2015

### **The Grimaldi Band, The Players, Stompin' On Spiders**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Tim Walkerdine & Friends**

Steps Bar, Evesham Rd, Redditch

### **The River Thieves**

Hop Pole, Bewdley

### **Trevor Burton Band**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Jazz Alchemy Band plus guest 1pm**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Stackridge - The Final Tour**

Cheltenham Town Hall/ Pump Rooms

### **Triple A (5.30)**

Old Bush Inn, Callow End

### **Raymond Froggatt**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Medicine Spoon**

White Bear, Tewkesbury

### **Jaz Deloreon**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Show of Hands**

Cheltenham Town Hall/ Pump Rooms

## Monday 2 November 2015

### **Give It To Me On The One - Funk & Reggae Night**

Cheltenham Town Hall/ Pump Rooms

## Wednesday 4 November 2015

### **Show of Hands**

Cheltenham Town Hall/ Pump Rooms

### **Sam Dowden**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **The River Thieves**

Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

## Thursday 5 November 2015

### **Jo Harman & Company, Tone Tanner**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Stripped Down Blues, Wayne Connor, Jack Blackman**

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

### **Permission To Speak; spoken word open mic**

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

### **Ralph McTell**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Ben Vickers**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Simi Stone**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Lounge Toad**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Paperwing**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Troublesome Trio**

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### **Jamie Smith's Mabon - The Space Between Tour**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Friday 6 November 2015

### **The Underdogs**

Drummonds, Worcester

### **Jig Doll - Hannah James + Cruel Sister**

Malvern Cube, Malvern

### **Katie Stillman and Simon Lane**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Mike Mann**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **High Jacks**

Droitwich Legion Inn

### **Darts & Discs - DJs for Refugee Crisis & Children In Need**

The Winning Post, Worcester

### **Dave Onions**

The Black Boy, Bridgnorth

### **Sarah McQuaid**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Nickel and Dime**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **Marcus Power Trio + One Last Thrill**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Ricky Cool & The In Crowd**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Protocol**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Stone Cold Killer + Hump De Bump + Kinstrife**

Marris Bar, Worcester

### **The Ferrets**

Old Bush Inn, Callow End

### **Echo Town**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Ash Mandrake**

Red Lion, 6, Market Place, Evesham

### **Pink - Miss Understood**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Flaunt 1st Birthday with Angry Man 12-4am**

Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Dan Smith, Kris Rochelle + guests**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Mr Wolf**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Ignition presents: Death Remains + Left for Red + XVII**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Woo Town Hillbillies**

The Bush Inn, Worcester

### **The Delray Rockets + Vince Ballard: The Jazz Singer**

Barbourne ex-Servicemens Club, Worcester

### **Busker Dave**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

### **Young Kato**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **The Simpletone + Mistrusted**

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

### **The Vocal Company + A Fistful of Spookies**

Colwall Village Hall, Malvern

### **WEAK13 Album launch**

PLUG, Digbeth, Birmingham

### **Nine Below Zero**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Tomato Promotions presents: Hammer Born + Bombshell**

Babies + Rusty Knives + James Allin

Pig & Drum, Worcester

## Saturday 7 November 2015

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Crown, Martley, Worcester, WR6

### **The Executives**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **Ben Stancombe Band**

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### **Leslie Wilson**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

### **Hopfest On Fire see: [www.hopfest.co.uk](http://www.hopfest.co.uk)**

Hopleys Family Camping, Bewdley

### **Wych Way**

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### **Gravy Train**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **Keven Dave Soul & Motown Revue**

Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Ashley Hutchings - From Psychodelia to Sonnets**

Shrawley Village Hall

### **Martyr De Mona + Glassbullet + Pellugion**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **fAITH present - A Song & Dance**

Holy Innocents Community Hall, Kidderminster

### **Mark Drew and Tippo**

The New Inn, 75 High Street, Pershore

### **The Swing Commanders**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Dead Dog Cider**

Stroud Brewery

**Sally Haines**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**The Delray Rockets**

The Richmond Club, Hereford

**Vehicle**

Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Chuck Harriot Trio**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Stroud Ceilidhs - Threepenny Bit**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**FM**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**SBD presents: P.A.I.N + Malakey**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Montparnasse**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Remi Harris Project**

Trinity Centre, Lickey

**Midnight City**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**The Grahams**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Dilemma Council**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Dirty DC - AC/DC tribute**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Acoustic Jam Night hosted by Steve Neal**

Pig &amp; Drum, Worcester

**John Kirkpatrick - Tunes From The Trenches**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Cuginis**

Subtone, Cheltenham

**Beyond Recall + Anchors Lake + Kill The Silence**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Eastwood**

Eleven, Stourbridge

**Grey Wolf**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Colin Baggs, Grahame Collins, Jennifer Ludlow, Set 'em Up Joe**

St. Swithun's Institute Halls, Worcester

**Stuart Woolfenden**

The Black Tap, 6 Church Green E, Redditch

**Fallen Branches**

The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Sunday 8 November 2015****Montparnasse**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Fred Skidmore Trio**

Steps Bar, Evesham Rd, Redditch

**Honey Boy Hickling**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**The Delray Rockets (afternoon)**

Actress &amp; Bishop, Birmingham

**FM + Vega**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Marc Drew**

White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Mawkin**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Jogliaresa + workshop**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Tuesday 10 November 2015****The Vigil + support**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Mike Harding: The Adventures Of The Crumpsall Kid**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Eddi Reader**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Pat McManus + 3Sixty**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Tribute to Tommy Dorsey 12.30pm**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**The Bootleg Sixties**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Wednesday 11 November 2015****Darren Hodge**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Drifter**

Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Thursday 12 November 2015****Martyn Joseph**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**From The Jam - Bruce Foxton**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**King King + Ben Poole**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Arcadia Roots**

University of Worcester, Students Union

**Slap - Performer of the Month**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Ian Luther**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**The Ramonas + Army Of Skanks**

Iron Road, Evesham

**The Treacherous Orchestra**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Surprise Attacks presents - Hey Colossus + Vault Of****Eagles + Falling Stacks + Mutt**

Firefly, Worcester

**Keith James, Two Concerts**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Friday 13 November 2015****Stone Farm**

Drummonds, Worcester

**Policed (Police Tribute)**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Martin O'Neill and A3**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Black Volvo + Matilda's Scoundrels**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Gravy Train**

Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Lightning**

Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Stretch Bentley**

Droitwich Legion Inn

**Faster Pussycat + Pirates Of Panama**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Skin Horse + Soden + Gurt**

Pig &amp; Drum, Worcester

**Mr Tea and The Minions**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Vehicle**

Old Bush Inn, Callow End

**Liam Frost**

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

**Mark Morriss**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Trio Rosbifs**

Amber Cafe, Evesham

**The Phonics - Stereophonics tribute**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Music of John Denver**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**King Pleasure and The Biscuit Boys**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Gary Hall**

Paul Pry, Worcester

**Babajack**

Palace Theatre, Redditch

**House Party**

Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

**Arcadia Roots**

Cock &amp; Magpie, Bewdley

**Lucas D & The Groove Ghetto**

Queens Head, Wolverley

**Dave Onions**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Little Dave**  
Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

**Purple Fest - In aid of Pancreatic Cancer Charity**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
The Bridge, Stanford Bridge, Worcester

**Bon Giovi**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Saturday 14 November 2015

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
The Bull, Bull Ring, Ludlow

**Protocol**  
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

**OXJAM Worcester Festival, Mark Leedham, Chevy Chase  
Stole My Wife, Dan Williams, Chuck Harriet, Bren Haze,  
Terry Walls**  
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Born In Chicago - Blues Bros Show**  
Cross Keys, Malvern

**Kevin Rhodes**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Jayne & Andre**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**The Two Anchors**  
Stroud Brewery

**Arcadia Roots**  
Rock Tavern, Stourport

**Victims Of A Down + Doomsday Outlaw**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Vehicle**  
The Greyhound, Stourbridge

**Hi Jack**  
Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Rubicon**  
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

**Kevin Pearce**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Sherry Babys: Frankie Valli tribute**  
Evesham Arts Centre

**Rollin Clones**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Cracked Actors**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

**5:15**  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**The Jellycats + Last Edition**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Gordon Davis as Elvis Presley**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**The Robinson-Stone Brothers present  
The Life & Music of Clifford T. Ward**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Got The T-Shirt**  
Eleven, Stourbridge

**Crisis Blues Band**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Purple Fest - In aid of Pancreatic Cancer Charity**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Duran**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Hoosiers Acoustic + support**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Naked Beatles**  
River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Vo Fletcher**  
Great Malvern Hotel

**Jay and Eli**  
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**The Notorious Brothers**  
The New Inn, 75 High Street, Pershore

**Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra**  
St.Martins Church, London Road, Worcester

**Soap**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## Sunday 15 November 2015

**Boycott The Baptist, Healer Of Bastards, A Werewolf,  
Horror On The High Seas**  
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

**Steve Bigman Clayton**  
Steps Bar, Evesham Rd, Redditch

**By The Shore**  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Jackie Baker**  
White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Slowburner**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Blair Dunlop**  
Cookley Village hall

## Monday 16 November 2015

**Skinny Lister**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

## Tuesday 17 November 2015

**Sharon Shannon**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Syrinx Harp and Flute Duo**  
Evesham Arts Centre

**The Black Feathers**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

## Wednesday 18 November 2015

**The Exiles**  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Seckou Keita**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Twitchett's Live - Simply Acoustic**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Skinny Molly + Heavy Oil**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Gaz Brookfield**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Martin Healey**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Thursday 19 November 2015

**Attila The Stockbroker, The Humdrum Express,  
Cal Doonican**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, 187 Enville Street, Stourbridge

**A Charity Night presented by Inessa Promotions**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

**Mark Billingham and My Darling Clementine**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Hidden Charms**  
River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Droitwich Standard - Band of the Month**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Demons: A Film Premiere (Free) + Ronin + Haunted Souls**  
Marris Bar, Worcester

**Lounge Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel

**Sham 69 + Spoils Of War**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Rave On - Buddy Holly tribute**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

## Friday 20 November 2015

**Jay & Eli**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**The Festivals Experience**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Nick Harper**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Bandwidth**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Ray Mytton Band**  
Great Malvern Hotel



**Suzi & The Backbeats**

Queens Head, Wolverley

**Mike Skilbeck**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Solana**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Eureka Machines, Hey You Guys, Tropical Contact**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Fidgets**

The Bush Inn, Worcester

**Carnage Club: Bismuth, Sealclubber, GDM and Women**

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

**Twelfth Day, Deborah Rose**

St Georges Hall, Load Street, Bewdley

**Blue Rose Code**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Quireboys, Fireload, 3Sixty-Lite, Mike Rancid**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Rose Keith & The Alchemists + Support**

Pig &amp; Drum, Worcester

**Definitely Mightbe + Adored - Oasis v Stone Roses**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Wez Finch**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Woodman, Lower Gornal, Dudley

**Andy Brumby**

Red Lion, 6, Market Place, Evesham

**The Notorious Brothers**

Old Bush Inn, Callow End

**Sax Appeal**

Millers Arms, Pershore

**Another Band, Nycosia, Indie Hawks Undercover**

MFA Bowl, Station Approach, Hereford

**Ohm Bomb**

Crown And Anchor, Hylton Road, Worcester

**Blackballed, The Humdrum Express**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Saturday 21 November 2015****CoverJunkies**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Journeyman**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Warrior Soul, Master Charger**

Iron Road, Evesham

**After Dark Fonksters**

West Malvern Social Club

**Hump De Bump**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**The Foremen**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Weekend Anthems feat Killerstream**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Edd Donovan and the Wandering Moles**

Stroud Brewery

**Visitation**

Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Tom Baxter**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Dire Streets**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Delray Rockets**

Queens Head, Wolverley

**After Dark**

Droitwich Legion Inn

**Singing The Seasons**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Peter Jagger**

Great Malvern Hotel

**Brendan O'Brian**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Shatter Effect**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Future S**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Boogie Street**

Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

**The Jazz Singers**

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Tankus The Henge + guests**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Stiff Bizkit**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Barrel House Blues Band**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Dana Immanuel and The Stolen Band**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Roger Taylor's Queen Extravaganza**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**A Night of DJ's**

Pig &amp; Drum, Worcester

**Mel and Him**

Paul Pry, Worcester

**Woody Bop Muddy's 'Record Graveyard', Andrew Watts,****Stickleback Plasticus**

The Venue, Hill St, Ross On Wye

**Nice 'N' Sleezy**

The New Inn, 75 High Street, Pershore

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Cavalier, Tennyson Way, Kidderminster

**Sunday 22 November 2015****Sam Brooks & Friends**

Steps Bar, Evesham Rd, Redditch

**James Yorkston**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Ferrets**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Thea Gilmore**

No 8, Pershore

**Bryn Thomas**

White Bear, Tewkesbury

**The Hoaxx + Plastic Scene + Priests to Pilots + Louie****Marlow + Age of Aquarius + Dan Griffin + J Squared +****Hannah Law + Savannah Roberts**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Joe Brown**

Cheltenham Town Hall/ Pump Rooms

**Monday 23 November 2015****Kvelertak**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**Tuesday 24 November 2015****Ultra Zook (Fr), 100% Chevalier (Fr), More tbc**

The Pig &amp; Drum, Worcester

**Calan**

Courtyard, Hereford

**Faithful City Shows presents - Heart Of A Coward, Carcer****City, Red Enemy, She Must Burn**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Wednesday 25 November 2015****Tale Lights**

Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Velvet Insane**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Rob Heron and The Tea Pad Orchestra**

St Peter's Church, Cowleigh, Malvern

**Tobias Ben Jacob**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Ukulele Playing Night - All abilities welcome**

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Thursday 26 November 2015****Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands, Les Trunkwell**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Off The Wall - The Music of Pink Floyd**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**Dark Side Of Pink Floyd**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Sally Hosts 60's Live Music**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Songwriters In The Round**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Friday 27 November 2015****Mister Wolf**

The Bell, Worcester

**Come Up & See Me**

Drummonds, Worcester

**The Future Set**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**The Replicas**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Neil Iverson**

Great Malvern Hotel

**The Dave Jackson Band**

Old Bush Inn, Callow End

**Vehicle**

The Tardebigge, Redditch

**Alex Rainsford**

Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**X-SLF + Faintest Idea + Borrowed Time**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Remi Harris Project**

The Fold, Bransford

**Joanovarc with John Altman (Nasty Nick, EastEnders)**

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser with V8, 11:11, Aramantus**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Steeleye Span**

Cheltenham Town Hall/ Pump Rooms

**The Blues Band**

Tithe barn, Bishops Cleeve

**Bad Cats + Parkin Lot**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Executives**

Millers Arms, Pershore

**When It Rains**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Stornoway (Unplucked)**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**Kathryn Williams and Michele Stoddart**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Ferocious Dog, Folklaw, Gaz Brookfield**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Bad Names**

Red Lion, 6, Market Place, Evesham

**The Strawbs**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Delray Rockets**

Queens Head, Wolverley

**The Wootown Hillbillies**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar &amp; Bistro, Worcester

**Falling Stacks + support**

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

**Dead Sea Skulls**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Priori, Bryon Hare, The New Infection, Silhouettes**

The Rainbow Cellar, 160 Digbeth Street, Digbeth, Birmingham

**Saturday 28 November 2015****CoverJunkies**

The Castle, Droitwich

**Into The Shadows**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Orchestra of St John**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Over The Hill**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Warren James**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Buzzcocks + Borrowed Time**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**50 SLAP NOVEMBER****Green Haze - Green Day tribute**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Antelope**

Worcester Arts Workshop

**Cracked Actors + Red Ruf**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Jon Eselle**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Malvern Lights Opening Night with Amanda Stone**

Great Malvern Hotel

**Nice 'N' Sleazy**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Ultra90s**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Tasha**

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Reloaded**

Cross Keys, Malvern

**Still Crazy**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Reloaded**

Cross Keys, Malvern

**Freddie Mercury tribute**

Amber Cafe, Evesham

**Topette**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Carol Lee Sampson & Friends Gareth & Ben Church**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Della Grants**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Screaming Eagles + Hell's Addiction**

Iron Road, Evesham

**The John Steeds**

Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Gary Hall**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar &amp; Bistro, Worcester

**Taylor & co**

The New Inn, 75 High Street, Pershore,

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Red Man, Blackwell Street, Kidderminster

**Billy Whizz, The Youth Within, Pablo Alto, Koura Freely**

Royal British Legion, Church Street, Ledbury

**Raptor, Bren Haze, As Mama**

The Victory Pub, St Owens Street, Hereford

**Soap**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Sunday 29 November 2015****The Urban Folk Quartet**

St. Swithun's Institute Halls, Worcester

**Rob Heron and The Tea Pad Orchestra**

Castlemorton Paris Hall

**Sean Saye**

White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Perry Foster**

The Bush Inn, Worcester

**Dave Jackson Band**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Peter Knight's Gigspanner**

The Fleece, Bretforton

**Marry Waterson and David A Jaycock**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos



# 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 Mambó @ 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

## Third Tues - Acoustic Jam Night

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 Queen's Head, Redditch

## Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

## Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Plough & Harrow, Gualford

## 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

## Arts & Exhibitions

**2nd - 5th The Black Panthers** - Vanguard to the revolution (film)

mac Birmingham

**2nd til 5th Dec Rock Against Racism exhibition**

Rivington place London

**3rd Jump Start** Old Rectifying House Worcester 8pm

**4th - 20th Into Film Festival (nationwide venues)**

**5th Life Drawing** at the Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster

**6th Darts & Discs** 24hr fundraiser for Calais

The Winning Post, Worcester 7pm

**10th Mouth & Music** Boars Head Kidderminster

## Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

## Thursday - Monthly Open Mic Night

The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

## Every other Thursday, Paul And Rays Sessions

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions

The Pheasant, Worcester

## Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catsfill 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

## 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

## Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

## Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson

Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

## Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## 1st Sat - Acoustic session

The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

## 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, Hibleton, Worcs

## 3rd Sun - 'Bar Chords' Open mic Session

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

## Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

## 2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

## Listings in conjunction with NotJustSauce.com

**11th Weaving Yarns Book launch**, poetry by Heather Wastie.

Museum of carpet Green St, Kidderminster. 7.15pm

**13th/14th Christmas shopping craft event**

St Pauls Church, Worcester

**13th The Gary & Robert Blues** Malvern Cube 8pm

**14th Worcester Christmas Lights Switch on**

**12th Nov - 22nd Dec Birmingham Christmas market**

**28th 29th Ludlow Christmas Medieval fair**

**26th-29th Worcester Victorian fair**

**12th Nov - 2nd Dec Lukasz Snopkiewicz** - 'Reflexiones Aqua Et'

Pershore No8.

**25th Nov until 3rd Jan Lynne Sawyer & Katherine Watson:**

Contemporary Art/Natural Landscapes, Artrix Bromsgrove

# THE MARR'S BAR

NOV 2015

Sharon Shannon  
Tuesday 17th November



**Sunday 1st November**

**A Rogues Acoustic Lunch**  
The Grimaldi Band, The Players and  
Stompin' on Spiders  
£3 on the door

**Friday 6th November (11pm-4am)**

**Flaunt 1st Birthday with Angry Man**  
£8 in advance

**Saturday 7th November**

**Stone Cold Killers, Hump De Bump**  
+ Kinstrife  
£3 in advance £4 on the door

**Sunday 8th November**

**Montparnasse**  
£5 in advance £6 on the door

**Friday 13th November**

**Policed (Police tribute)**  
£7 in advance £9 on the door

**Saturday 14th November**

**Duran (Duran Duran tribute)**  
£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Tuesday 17th November**

**Sharon Shannon**  
£17.50 in advance £20 on the door

**Thursday 19th November**

**Demons: A film Premier**  
Ronin + Haunted Souls - Free entry

**Friday 20th November**

**Eureka Machines, Hey You Guys +**  
**Tropical Contact**  
£8.00 in advance

**Saturday 21st November**

**Shatter Effect**  
£5 in advance

**Tuesday 24th November**

**FCS: Heart Of A Coward, Carcer City,**  
**Red Enemy, She Must Burn**  
£8 in advance

**Thursday 26th November**

**Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands**  
£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Friday 27th November**

**Bad Cats plus Parkin Lot**  
£5 on the door

**Saturday 28th November**

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

**Coming up in December**

**Friday 4th December**

**Keith Thompson**  
£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Sunday 6th December**

**Wreckless Eric**  
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

[www.marrsbar.co.uk](http://www.marrsbar.co.uk)  
01905 613336

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