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Issue 60

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July 2016



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JULY 2016 MAGAZINE

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Unit 3a, Lowesmoor Wharf,
Worcester WR1 2RS
Telephone: 01905 26660
editorial@slapmag.co.uk

For advertising enquiries, please contact:
adverts@slapmag.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan - Editor
Kate Cox - Arts editor
Stephan Work - Sub Editor
Emily Branson - Guest Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare
Will Munn
Graham Munn
Naomi Preece
Rosie Hamilton
Helen Davies
Sally Whytehead
Craigus Barry
Duncan Graves
Toni Charles
Neil Cox
Robin Hackson
Lauren Trim
Paul White
Roweena Davis
Oliver Carpenter
Sophie Austwick
Geoffrey Head
Kate Cox
Stephan Work



Design

Mark Hogan

@slapmagofficial

Web & Social Media

Ant Robbins

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

June was a curious month all round it has to be said. Whether
your interests lie in referendums, football, weather, whatever...
it just got curiouser and curiouser.

The Arts as ever will doubtless get a further financial kicking,
they always do, so we must gird, prepare and protect ourselves
as best we can for even leaner times perhaps.

This is no reason though to accept any kind of defeat, go
quiet, stay in under the continental(!) quilt or stick our heads in
the doubtlessly Blue flag beach sand.

Our 'masters' would have us squabble endlessly and
needlessly whilst they continue to conduct themselves in the
usual corrupt and careless fashion. Divide and conquer has
always been their strategy and at this moment we seem to be
playing into their grubby little hands perfectly.

If you think this is all paranoid nonsense, then there is nothing
I can say except assure you that this is not a party political
statement. This is a wholly heartfelt plea for tolerance,
acceptance of diversity and community in theses seemingly
ever difficult times.

Artists of all persuasions and their admirers/followers have
always been an inclusive fellowship and I believe we should
lead by example, in showing and reminding the wider
community that our country/land/nation, however you wish to
name it, has always been an equitable and merciful multi-
cultural melting pot.

Despite upheaval and upset some things remain reliably
constant: there was lots of mud at Glastonbury and rain at
Wimbledon - ah this green and pleasant land.

Daz-Ed & Confus-Ed



Front cover image taken at Lunar Fest 2016 by

Jolyon Holroyd

SLAP JULY 3

A Taste Of Words

A pair of inclusive poetry workshops takes place at **Museum of Carpet** in Kidderminster on Wednesday 6th July.

The workshops are suitable for all abilities and will draw inspiration from Kidderminster's wonderful heritage, including current research from the **Weavers Cottages project**.

At the end of the sessions, participants will be encouraged to work on a piece for inclusion in the final Weavers Cottages open day and celebration events later in the year.

The workshops are between 10.30-12.30 or 1.00-3.00

See <http://www.weaverscottages.info/Events.htm>

Channel 4 Upton Jazz Showcase

Upton Jazz Festival got a nationwide fillip as one of the event's rising young stars saxophonist **Alexander Bone** appeared on the channel's **Sunday Brunch** programme on June 19th.

Having performed already with the likes of Kylie Minogue, Rudimental and at BBC's Last Night Of The Proms, the 19 year old also received the 2014 BBC Young Musician Of The Year Jazz Award.

For the programme Alexander performed a specially composed piece and wowed the assembled, glittery celebs such as Denise van Outen and Laura Mvula.

Alexander who headlined the Best of Young Jazz marquee at Upton said: "...it was great to represent the Festival and to be able to play to such a huge audience." Alexander's TV appearance undoubtedly added even more kudos to what is already the largest event of its kind in the country.

Gorge on Brass

If you fancy something a little different on the festival front the Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Festival is celebrating its 15th anniversary over the weekend of 9-10 July. Held at the Museum of Iron last year more than 3000 people attended - organisers say that youth is an important part of the event and while there isn't a mosh pit or any crowd surfing, they promise tunes that most will recognise, even a bit of Led Zeppelin!!

Emmy for Kiddi Muso

A Kidderminster musician who's played with the likes of Jason Bonham, Paul Rodgers and Robert Plant's Honeydrippers has been nominated for an **Emmy** award for his score to US documentary film *Bard In The Backcountry*. Now based in New York, **Ian Hatton** said that the music was based on 'old English folk with a twist' and that when he heard the news he went straight out and had a pint to celebrate...

Ellie for Harry

Rumours are flying that Herefordshire's **Ellie Goulding** has found herself a new admirer - in the form of **Prince Harry**, heir to the British throne. Apparently they've been swapping regular text messages and were spotted 'canoodling under a blanket' at a toffs-only polo match - with onlookers reporting that they 'couldn't keep their eyes off each other' The pair first struck up a friendship after she performed at his brother William's wedding back in 2011. She then took part in the closing ceremony of Harry's Invictus Games in 2014. 'He has told friends how much he likes Ellie and she is clearly taken by him,' a royal insider said...

Drumming up business for Woofest

Returning for its second year at the **Drum & Monkey** pub near Upton on July 23, Woofest has announced that this years headlining acts will be **The GTs**, **White Feather Collective**, **The Flames** and **Connor Maher Quartet** and many more. Last year's event raised £6000 for St Richard's Hospice and the organisers hope to repeat that again this year.

Clifford T DVD

A documentary about the life of **Clifford T Ward** is set to be released on DVD later in the year featuring guest performances from Justin Hayward, Colin Blunstone, Bruce Welch and others. The singer-songwriter was born in Stourport and was still a teacher in Bromsgrove when his single *Gaye* reached the Top Ten in 1973 - and his songs such as *Home Thoughts From Abroad* which spoke of his native Worcestershire have been recorded by many other artists.

Chipping Cornbury Capers

Another weekend that you might want to pack into your summer schedule is the **Cornbury Music Festival** near Chipping Norton from 8-10 July - which has announced headliners including **Beverley Knight**, **Jamie Cullum**, **Bryan Ferry** and 'rock survivor' **Wilko Johnson**. Also appearing will be **Stella Parton**, younger sister of Dolly - who organisers say 'has a big voice and a big following'...

Nevermind the Bollocks... Here's the Bingo and er... Bee Gees!

Sex Pistols frontman **John Lydon** has revealed that now he's turned 60, playing bingo appeals more to him than causing *Anarchy In The UK* nowadays - saying 'I like it when they shout 'Bingo!'. I'd rather have a round of bingo than anything else.' He also admits as he grows older his musical tastes are also becoming more mellow, preferring disco music nowadays. 'I love the Bee Gees and bollocks to those that don't,' he declared. Although John has apparently chilled out a bit overall, his punk rock antics still emerge every now and again, but his wife of 30 years **Nora Forster** has developed a way of keeping him in line when he gets out of hand. 'I fell through the front door drunk and passed out,' he recalled. 'I hadn't closed the door so she hit me with a frying pan.'

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Shortlisted for the **AIF Festival Award 'Most Unique Arena 2015'**, **The Cabinet of Lost Secrets** returns for its second year at **Nozstock the Hidden Valley**, bringing you surprises and dancing in this strange underground lair!

Expect the unexpected with a new layout, full of secrets and with interactive performance and pop up experiences you can get funky up by big grooves and slip into



Toni Charles

some cutting edge electronica. Welcomed to the Cabinet this year are **Sam Redmore, Steve Strong, Seas of Mirth, Beatwell, Collective 43, Funky Navigation, Calm Like a Riot, Pink Diamond Revue, Collective Unconscious, Desert Boots, Cantaloop, Rosebud** and interactive surprises from **Clik Clik** guests and the animals who live there!

www.clikclikcollective.com



Duncan Graves

Strong Rooms

Bringing together youth groups, artists and archivists, **'Strong Rooms'** is a touring installation that explores archives through the eyes of the artist. Curated by lead artist



Mohammed Ali (MBE) and supported by nine regional artists, this immersive experience brings the archives to life, bringing new meaning to the past. The installation will tour at four sites during July and August; **Rugby Festival of Culture 4th-11th July, University Square Coventry 11th-18th July, Dudley Market Square 1st-8th August and Gheluvelt Park Worcester 8-15 August** with a special collaboration with the **Annual Flower Show** on **Sunday 14th August**. For more info go to: www.strongrooms.org.uk

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Colourful waterways

Worcester Canal Group is making the canal side come to life again with a new painting for underneath Landsdowne Road bridge. It's being painted as we go to press so get down and see what's been transformed.

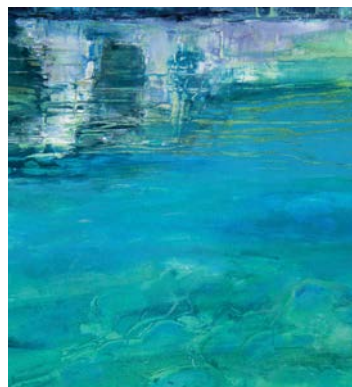
Arts at Number 8

Two new exhibitions showcase at Pershore's **Number 8** this month.

'Wearable Works of Art' - **Philippa Day** creates unique collections of bags and purses using a textural, colour-rich palette of silks, fine leather, vintage buttons, fancy ribbons and rich velvets and tweeds. She has built her reputation around high-quality design, detailing and finishing, and combines colour and texture in her textile treats, which delight both the eye and soul! **Until 30th July.**



'Reflection' - An exhibition from **Janet James** celebrating the beauty of our lakes, rivers and countryside as the artist conveys her emotional response to landscapes within her paintings. The work stretches the breadth of the United Kingdom, from the Cornish coastline to the wild and remote islands of Scotland. From **7th - 30th July**. For further info visit: www.number8.org



Summer Printmaking sessions

Lino printing workshops are available this summer at **Bevere Gallery, Worcester**. Learn how to make a simple lino print or more complex designs, printing onto materials and having a creative time! 2nd, 7th and 21st July and 4th, 13th and 18th August. For more info contact: sally@sallyannemorgan.co.uk



Playing with books

On Saturday 16 July there will be a series of experimental workshops and participatory events as part of the **Never Judge a Book** exhibition we have been featuring at **Richard Booths** bookshop in Hay on Wye.

Emily Wilkinson Between the Lines

Create a story or poem (and a piece of art to take away) out of second-hand book pages. Using drawing and collage, artist **Emily Wilkinson** will help you read 'Between the Lines' and reveal hidden messages. 11am to 1pm. (8+, teens & adults)



Creating Sound Books - Workshop

Listen to the sounds a book can make, whether a normal hardcover book, a book covered in wax, or even a typewriter. The workshop will also work on some found word poems and thinking about the random associations that evolve. 3pm to 4pm. Participants can stay on to be part of the 4.30pm performance. (10+, teens & adults)

Sound Books - Performance

Join the artists and contribute to a participatory sound piece. Using books as instruments, different layers of sound will be developed to create a unique composition. 4.30pm to 5.15pm.



Book a free place now at boothbooks.co.uk (Events)

Never Judge a Book by Meadow Arts runs until **Sun 17 July**.

Call for Artists

DSArts calls for Artists to exhibit in our new **Art & Music Show**, coming soon to **The Rainbow**, Digbeth, Birmingham. This event shall show a selected number of artists in each month with our aim to sell the artists' work and provide a platform to meet new and exciting people. The show will begin with a private showing with performances and invited guests only. This viewing will then be followed by a public exhibition continuing into the night with live music and DJ Sets. We are bringing a new creative bubble to Digbeth, by the Artists, for the Artists.

If you are interested in joining us please send your submissions by 30th July to Maya at dsartsinfo@gmail.com.

We are also looking for investors in this event, anyone interested please also contact Maya at dsartsinfo@gmail.com

Secret Life of Dads

Ever wondered what dads get up to when the kids aren't around? Then this peek into their world might be for you.

Three dads are trying to escape nappies and nursery rhymes by reforming their old band 'The Cabbage Heads' and entering a battle of the bands contest in this brand new play by award winning playwright **Jarek Adams**. It's a comedy about growing up that features live music and is suitable for all ages



It will be running for three weeks in August at the **Guildhall in Gloucester** and is a bit of an experiment for production company **Timezones**. Gloucester doesn't get a lot of theatre, and the Guildhall is better known as a music venue, so the play was written specially for the venue to incorporate music into a fun storyline for all the family.

This will be a really fun event during the summer holidays, with performances on Thursday Friday and Saturday afternoons from **11 to 27th August**.

The play is supported using public funding by the **National Lottery** through the **Arts Council England**. All tickets are £7 each. www.gloucesterguildhall.co.uk

DSArts .

CALL FOR BIRMINGHAM ARTISTS FOR NEW ART EXHIBITION .

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SUBMISSION BY **30TH JULY**

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ART & MUSIC : NEW EVENTS
COMING SOON .

Arts Feature

Artrix Summer Exhibition Wednesday 13th July - Sunday 14th Aug

Artrix Summer Exhibition was launched in 2014 as a way of celebrating the variety of modern work being produced by visual artists from around Worcestershire and the West Midlands. It takes place at **Artrix Arts Centre** in Bromsgrove, a multi-arts venue offering a full programme of theatre, dance, film and music alongside monthly art and photography exhibitions. Taking as its theme the words 'Contemporary and Challenging', the exhibition aims to showcase different art forms including photography, painting, print, collage, sculpture and digital work.



Artrix Summer Exhibition 2016 has attracted a record number of submissions with 106 works from 37 different artists and photographers being entered. The selection process offers a group of young people a unique training opportunity through Artrix's Young Curators programme. Visually-minded young people from local schools and colleges are supported to select works for exhibition and then to curate the show, deciding on how works will be displayed and interpreted.



Artrix Learning and Engagement Co-Ordinator and founder of the Summer Exhibition, **TC Peppercorn** commented:

"We are delighted at the number of works which have been submitted to this year's exhibition. The quality and variety indicates that the exhibition will be of a high standard, showing the diversity of visual arts work being produced locally. My team of Young Curators will have a tough job choosing which works to display!"

Artrix Gallery displays a different exhibition each month from solo artists or groups of artists and photographers. It also has a smaller gallery, The Vestibule, which is reserved for the work of young and emerging artists and work produced by school and community projects. Both galleries are free to visit and are open 10am-5pm and on performance evenings.

For more information, please email TC Peppercorn, Exhibitions Co-Ordinator on outreach@artrix.co.uk or visit www.artrix.co.uk

Que Viva El Salterio!

St. Andrew's Church, Church Hill, Redditch | 3th July

Following on from the very successful **Dulcimer World Congress** last October in Malvern, the **Nonsuch Dulcimer Club** brings an exciting afternoon and evening focusing on the **Mexican Salterio**, the Mexican version of the **English Hammered Dulcimer**. Coming all the way from Mexico are duo **Dulcemelos**, on **Salterio** and **Piano**, together with their sons aged 9 and 12 who will be performing with them. **Dulcemelos** are **Alejandra Barrientos** and **Hector Larios** who have been teaching and performing music for over 20 years, and their sons have been playing since age 6.



In the afternoon there will be a workshop showing the plucking technique with some simple Mexican music. You can attend as an observer or a participant on hammered dulcimer. (2:30 pm, doors open 2pm). In the evening there will be a concert of music from 19th Century onwards, including both popular Mexican folk music and classical music. (7pm, Doors open 6:30pm). This is a very rare chance to see and hear the salterio and its music up close – don't miss it! All tickets £10. www.dulcemelos.org.mx

Book via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nonsuchdulcimerclub>, or contact Sally Whytehead sally.whytehead@gmail.com.

Sally Whytehead

Reaction Theatre Returns to Cube

Following their success with **The Slip** and **Fishhead**, **Reaction Theatre Makers** return to their home at the **Malvern Cube** on



Friday 8th July to show the latest piece from a trilogy of work all written and directed by **Tiffany Hosking**, creative director. This final piece called **'Honey'** takes its story inland establishing itself within the Welsh mountains.

It is an original piece of theatre with an architectural set of three bee hives that transform to tell the story. With a beautiful backdrop of live and recorded folk music they paint a landscape of the hills and those

that live within them, with an original musical score by **Joanna Karselis**.

Stick around afterwards for **Theatre Club** where you can discuss your thoughts on the show. Half of all of the money generated from ticket sales will be donated to **'People in motion'** to support the refugee crisis. Tickets can be brought from the malverncube.com website and through [ticket source.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk).

'BUZZZ' Summer from 'Everybody Dance'

Buzzz is a summer project produced by local charity **'Everybody Dance'** who aim to inspire create and explore great dance experiences for disabled and non-disabled people of all ages and abilities in unexpected spaces.

With continued support from **Arts Council England** and **The Bransford Trust**, Buzzz is an opportunity for schools, community groups, families and elders to immerse themselves in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside while taking part in bespoke activities.

Between 11th - 27th July Buzzz opens up at **Longlands Farm, Whitbourne, Bromyard** for day-long fun and learning offering the chance to experience stunning aerial dance performances, workshops, games, bugs hunts, farm tours and picnics.

There are also various activity days including Family Fun days on 16th and 22nd with aerial dance performances and 'have a go' aerial workshops and on 20th & 21st you can visit the **Longlands Care Farm Tea Dance** with entertainment and tea!

With all activities you can also meet the farm animals and enjoy a picnic in the meadow. £10 adults / £5 children/Carers free
www.everybodydance.org.uk



'Vista' by Dancefest

Saturday 16 July 2pm; Sunday 17 July, 2pm

National Trust Croome, Worcestershire, WR8 9DW

Vista is a series of short pop up performances that together make up a 'dance walk' around the well-loved heritage site of **National Trust Croome**.

Produced and created by **Dancefest**; six choreographers and over 100 community dancers of all ages have made new dances inspired by the landscape of Lancelot Capability Brown.

Visitors collect a 'dance walk' map at the Visitor Centre and are free to travel their own route to pop up sites around the parkland, starting at 2pm on **Croome's Church Hill**.

For more information, go to dancefest.co.uk/performances/vista

Vista is a free event included in the entry price to Croome

Would you like to be part of Vista?

Dancefest is looking for up to 100 people of all ages to be part of a movement choir, performing simple movement, as part of our **Vista** performances at Croome on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July. You don't need any dance experience (and no singing is required!) and it's free to take part! dancefest.co.uk



**To submit your arts news
& events email Kate at
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worcester arts workshop

Things have been very busy behind the scenes here at the **Worcester Arts workshop**. We have been putting together our exciting program for the Autumn season with plenty of new courses, exciting performances, film screenings and live nights to come.

Our last event of the season took place in June with **'The Gary and Robert Blues'** by **Forthright**. Set in our intimate theatre space, actor Stephan Bessant performed this funny, poignant and intense one man show about men's mental health issues, full of audience interaction. Being so close to the action meant the audience could feel connected to his words and immersed in the issues he was delving into. We look forward to hosting more theatre in the Autumn season.

Looking ahead to the summer, we have some very exciting and alternative workshops in visual arts, dance, oil painting and gargoyles planned for the school holidays. With something for everyone, these workshops will give you a day to try something new or improve on your existing skills but most importantly, have fun!

On Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th August, Worcester Arts Workshop and **Dancefest** will join forces to bring



children and young people three days of creative workshops in visual arts and dance. Dancefest will be running interactive and fun dance classes for a variety of ages where you can explore dance sequences and make up your own dance based on the theme of oceans.

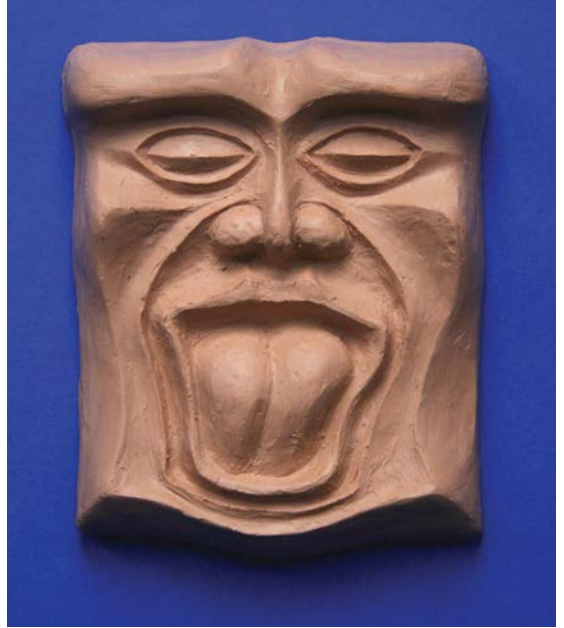
On the same days, resident Worcester Arts Workshop tutor **Kay Mullet** will be running visual arts workshop for children and young people where you will be able to use your creative eye and imagination to create a piece of art exploring the theme of *'wonders of the ocean'* through media such as drawing, painting or ceramics.

On Thursday 24th August resident tutor **Andrew Clacher**, will be sharing his knowledge and expertise with young people aged 11-16 in a one off oil painting workshop.



Learn how to Paint an amazing portrait with oil paints, prepare a stretched canvas and have fun painting a full head and shoulders self-portrait in oils.

Chris Russell will be hosting two workshops on Friday 19th and 26th August, exploring and making your own ceramic grotesques or gargoyles. This one-day practical workshop will introduce the techniques so that you can make your own grotesque, inspired by medieval carvings, including those from **Worcester Cathedral**. The day will be based at the Arts Workshop following a visit to Worcester Cathedral to see the carvings and get some inspiration. The workshop is suitable for beginners and those with some ceramic experience.



To book your place on any of our wonderful workshops contact us on 01905 25053, info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk or just pop in. Our office is open Tuesday – Friday between 11am and 2pm.

Are you still not sure what the **Worcester Arts Workshop** is all about; or looking to try something new and just don't know where to start? On the 27th August, we will be running it annual open day where for one day only, Worcester arts workshop will be opening its doors and inviting you to come and see what is going on at this independent and vibrant arts hub. With pottery, workshops, music and food on offer who could resist escaping the world for an hour or two? We look forward to seeing you there!



For all the latest information on our events and workshops Call 01905 25053 or visit: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

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www.patmolloyssummerschool.co.uk

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Shaping Up Nicely Worcester Music Festival Announcements

With September creeping ever closer, the **Worcester Music Festival** team are polishing up the line-up for the upcoming festivities, which has seen completed schedules for a number of stages already released. While there are many more bands to be announced over the coming weeks, already the likes of **Worcester Arts Workshop** have confirmed their Friday line-up – **Shuddervision**, **Sister Sandwich** and **The Stiff Joints**, for the punk and ska fans amongst you – while the **Young Pop Things** are also brandishing a full schedule for Saturday evening and **Steffo Presents** has a full and very different line-up ready for the Sunday afternoon.

Young Pop Things' Saturday night antics will see Worcester Music Festival go global with **Pokemon Reaktor** flying in from Berlin for the event, alongside electro act **V2A** who will be flying out to start their European tour after their appearance at the festival. Sharing the stage throughout the evening, we will also see performances from **Ross Angeles**, **Tom Cassidy** – who will tick the experimental music box for this event, that's for certain – and **Whitely**, who are set to bring a taste of dreampop to the evening. Of course this is just one of many events that will be happening in Worcester on the Saturday.

Sunday daytime brings yet another new and interesting event as **Steffo Presents** takes over **The Friends Meeting House** for an afternoon of electronic acts performing live soundtracks to experimental short films. The theme of the event is **100 Years of**



Dada, which for the uninitiated, is an avant-garde *European art movement* of the early 20th Century.

Steffo sets out to prove that Dada is alive and well, as **Ferric Lux**, **Rosebud**, **Deathly Pale Party** and **Dmitri & The Godhead** perform for this DADADAY!

In addition to all the above plus much much more to come, **Worcester Music Festival** will also be opening its proverbial doors to **BBC Introducing** in Hereford and Worcester throughout Sunday's various sets and performances. During their time at the festival, BBC will be filming several of the acts with the aim of airing them on their BBC Hereford and Worcester Introducing show in October. As you can see the weekend line-up is steadily and excitingly building week by week, so it is worth keeping your eyes out for further updates from the Worcester Music Festival team as they arrive over the coming months.

Please visit www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk
www.facebook.com/Worcestermusicfestival/

LAZY SUNDAY



Carlton Curtis
Lady Nade
ElA@a Calvet
The Players



10TH JULY '16

£3 ENTRY

OPEN MIC 12-1:30pm

Line-up 1:30-5:30pm

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For more Info contact Cafe Bliss: 07821733246

Our usual 'Lazy Sunday' will be raising awareness for 'People in Motion'. Bring your pockets full and your bellies empty to help raise funds for <http://www.people-in-motion.co.uk/>.

WEEKEND CUBE

July we have film and theatre to keep you entertained.

Kicking off the month on Friday 1st July at 7.30pm to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the cult surfing thriller **Point Break**, **White Wall Film** are showing the movie along with

food and live music. Please feel free to come along in Bermuda. Hang ten dudes! Starring Patrick Swayze and Keanu Reeves. Kathryn Bigelow's fourth action film follows FBI agent Johnny Utah (Keanu Reeves) as he goes undercover to infiltrate a cache of Southern California surfers suspected of robbing banks.



Anniversary Special Tickets £15 available from malvern-cube.com
IMDB 7.2/10 Rotten Tomatoes 68%

White Wall Film Club is an open entry club, all you need to do is turn up on the night. Tickets are £5 in advance or £7 on the door. The bar will be open from 7pm for refreshments, so there's even more excuse for a pre/post film discussion!

Malvern Cube-based theatre company **Reaction Theatre Makers** is to stage **Honey** here on Friday 8th July, a fantastic show which recently premiered at Brighton Fringe.

'Honey' is an original piece of theatre with an architectural set of three beehives that transform to tell the story. With a beautiful backdrop of live and recorded folk music we paint a landscape of the hills and those that live within them. 'Honey' weaves together



the lives of an a tattoo artist, a boy with autism, his mother, her husband away at war, and those that want to love them. This is not a story of war, but of community and of all those communities that are breaking down. Woven throughout is a quilt. It is stitched with hopes and dreams, pieced together throughout the performance. It is made as a gift for the boy with autism who loves to dance.

With an original musical score by Joanna Karselis you will taste the honey, feel the richness of the hills and hear the music that fills this land.

The beautiful beehive quilt used in the show was provided by a group of women who gave of their skill and time as part of a community project to make the quilt. **Becky Gunton** of Malvern was the textile artist leading on the project.

Their last piece received several five star reviews ★★★★★ 'Truly was a triumph.' Broadway Baby, ★★★★★ and 'Incredibly beautiful in all aspects...' Remote Goat. Judging by audience responses, this one is set to do the same. Don't miss it! Tickets £12 adv with half of the proceeds going to local charity People in Motion.

We also have two pieces of community theatre showing this month. Firstly **Inter-Act** will perform **WR14** on Sunday 10th July. Inter-Act are a new group running from Malvern Cube, for those who love drama and lack some confidence. Come and support their very first piece of scratch theatre: **WR14**. This piece is an exploration and celebration of Malvern and some of the historical characters that have sprung from here.

Tickets on the door on a "pay-what-you-can" basis.

The second piece of community theatre is **Can I Have Some Moore Please?** Performed by **Malvern Source** on Tuesday 12th July at Midday. This group of learning disabled adults work hard each week to create a brand new piece of theatre for their summer production. It promises to be full of dance, music and dramatic tension! Come and be touched, moved and inspired!

Tickets on the door on a "pay-what-you-can" basis.

As always tickets for all our events are available from www.malvern-cube.com and Malvern Tourist Information Centre.



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HOGAN'S

An array of arts at Nozstock!

You may have heard of **Nozstock the Hidden Valley** in Bromyard, a local boutique festival with eclectic live music and DJ's, but did you know that it also has a rich and vibrant feast of arts on offer during the weekend, both day and night?



From visual arts, theatre, performances, comedy, walkabouts, workshops, words, cabaret, kids stuff, film and interactive goings on to the downright weird and wonderful! Here is a brief snip of some of the fabulously creative things you can expect to see, take part in, and bump into at this extra special family run festival!

Young people and their adults can get creative with Worcester's **Spare Room Arts** bringing you a 'Little wonderland'. With stacks of arts activities including 'Painting a Corinthian Pillar', tie dye workshops, making Egyptian head dresses & Aztec Masks and much more.



Be wowed by the skills on show in the **craft area**, offering demonstrations of traditional techniques using metal, wood, textiles and stone, including recycled copper wire bracelets and a blacksmithing workshop.

Head into the **Wrong Directions Cinetent** by **Mash Cinema** and find an audio-visual sanctuary for the weary traveller, immerse yourself in cinema classics, an array of quality shorts and an eclectic selection of experimental works. MASH Cinema have been producing events and screenings since 2002 and continue to promote art, film and music, gaining recognition for visual performances working with artists, musicians and DJs at events, clubs and festivals throughout Europe.

In the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets**, as well as the interactive performances and live music, you can take part in mythological mask making and life drawing class, then interact with its hosts and wonder at the general creative weirdness inside!

Grab some yummy food and drinks at **The Chicken Cow Café** while you take part in Chicken S**t Bingo, drag racing and live art.

Close by, **The Psyconauts Twisted Brain Machine** will spin you right round baby, right round!



The **Laughing Stock** delivers a mixture of Edinburgh previews, musical artistry, workshops for budding comedians and good old fashioned wit! This year headliners include **Phil Kay** and **Richard Herring**.

The Bantam of the Opera will be filled with a weekend of strange occurrences, enthralling theatre, jaw-dropping circus, sidesplitting poetry, mesmerizing puppetry and more moments of magic than you can shake a stick at.

The Tent of Temporary Thought - hosted by **Matt Cummins** & **Rikki Livermore**, is a spoken word tent fixing up to be its most exciting yet! Whether you want to laugh, cry, reminisce, get fired up or get aroused by words; check out the goings on as well as the coveted '**Nozslam**' poetry competition!

For decadent 'after hours' delights, sink into luscious cabaret, theatre and burlesque from the **Velveteen Valley**.



And while exploring the site you are bound to bump into some of the interactive walkabout performances with surprises around every corner - stunts, acrobatics, UV puppetry, roaming theatre, storytelling and craziness! Look out for the **Geofest Collective**, **Hummadrums**, **Circo Inferno** and our very own aerial silk performer **Orly Phillips** to name a few...



Nozstock is so much more than a music festival. With all this creativity to tickle your fancy, get your tickets for this friendly get together set on a family farm in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside! **July 22nd-24th**. www.nozstock.com

Alaw St Swithun's Institute | Thurs 19th May

I think it would be fair to say that in popular culture the term 'Celtic music' has become synonymous with Irish music, however those with a deeper interest in traditional music will be aware that there are other Celtic countries and regions in the United Kingdom, and the rest of Europe with their own rich and distinctive tunes, songs and dances.

Welsh traditional music could have no better ambassadors than **Alaw** (pronounced 'allow'), a trio of outstandingly talented and passionate musicians. The audience of this **Worcester Acoustic Music Session (WAMS)** via **Shindig** event were immediately captivated by the group's repertoire of mainly ancient Welsh tunes which were interspersed by traditional and original songs and even a couple of sets with a Bulgarian influence! The interplay between the three musicians was seamless and their arrangements were varied and complex. **Oliver Wilson-Dickson** on fiddle and **Jamie Smith** on the accordion, long time collaborators in 5 piece '**Jamie Smith's Mabon**', wove delicately simple tunes into a beautiful tapestry, slipping effortlessly between tune and harmony, backed by the versatile **Dylan Fowler** on guitar. Accordion and guitar led some tunes with rhythm provided by the fiddle and then back again to soaring, lyrical violin or harp playing inspired finger picking on the guitar.



The mood ranged from the haunting longing of '*Lisa Lan*', the dramatic '*Gwen Lliw'r Lili*', which was apparently well suited to being filmed in an underground drained reservoir in Lorient, (available to watch on Youtube!) to the humorous and lively set beginning with '*Ffarwell I f'lenctid*', which the band started as a Welsh version of *Duelling Banjos*! The tunes were interspersed with amusing banter plus just enough information and translation of Welsh lyrics and titles, helping the whole evening to be yet another triumph for our host **Barry Walmsley**. Support was provided by **Jo Cross** with two beautiful self-penned songs and **Paul Rose** with a locally inspired song, all adding to the musical diversity of this excellent, well received and supported event.

Words by Nell Gordon

Moulettes Rise Records, Worcester | 30th May

Indie Art Rock band **Moulettes** stopped off at Rise in Worcester as a part of their whistle stop tour of Britain's Independent record stores. With a fourth album '*Preternatural*' to promote the band gave us an exciting taste of their latest work. Inspired by the documentaries of Sir David Attenborough, the new album is all about small strange and interesting creatures. Electric cello, bassoon and auto-harp combined with bass and guitar to build the foundations and structure for their songs. Whilst the beautiful vocal harmonies captivate and draw you in like the singing of mermaids. The result takes you on a surreal sophisticated journey dancing between the corals below the beating waves. Although this was only a short set. It was enough to captivate me and want



to see them again. This is music to make you smile on a rainy day. Bring on the British summer.

Duncan Graves

Plastic Scene Worleys At The Swan, Stourport | Tue 16th June

I'd say it is nigh-on impossible to find anything fresh, then you come across a band like **Plastic Scene**... and realise how wrong you were. Plastic Scene are a five piece local group signed to Kidderminster's M.A.S Records. "*Creating and playing unique, genuine music, layered guitars and synth with interesting bass lines*" is what the packaging says.

Billed to be playing support, the band take the headline slot at the last minute, for a 45min set of clever dynamic songs awash with thick layers. Guitar players **Joel** and **Sam** (also on keys bringing an added texture to the sound) while frontman **Ben's** fizzing guitar riffs and vocals pull all the pieces together. Taking the lead in the rhythm section are **Jake** on drums, locked in perfectly, with **Lucy** on pure low end bass.

Starting with an mood lifting intro jam going into songs '*Backseat*' and '*Apathetic*'. Their almost lack of confidence on



stage comes across as cool and unfazed. They treat us with a musical interlude ending with my favourite song of the night '*Persona Of Paint*'. A set of well crafted songs with catchy melodies that keep you on your toes from a band with a maturity far surpassing their teenage years. Brilliant!

Photography & words by Toots Charles

Competition Time

For the sadly uninitiated, **The Cravats** were a marvellously inventive and influential punk band hailing from Redditch, whose mission was to astound and entertain in equal measure, which they more than managed with much aplomb.

Formed in the Year Zero of '77, after their first self financed single 'Gordon', Peel darlings **The Cravats** recorded four sessions for the great man's show whilst going on to release a veritable slew of classic singles and two superb albums in 'The Cravats In Toytown' and 'The Colossal Tunes Out'.

In that frustrating but rich tradition, **The Cravats** though always critically lauded never achieved the level of attention and sales they so obviously deserved. They can perhaps take some solace in that the list of such underrated bands is a long and magnificent one and maybe they were just TOO good?

Original Cravats founder member **Robin Dalloway** has unearthed 3 re-issue copies of their incendiary debut long player 'The Cravats In Toytown' in glorious black wax and generously donated them to Slap Mag for a competition giveaway.

All you have to do dear readers is answer the question below and send it to the email address also below before Thursday 21st July 2016. The 3 lucky winners will be drawn from a doubtless

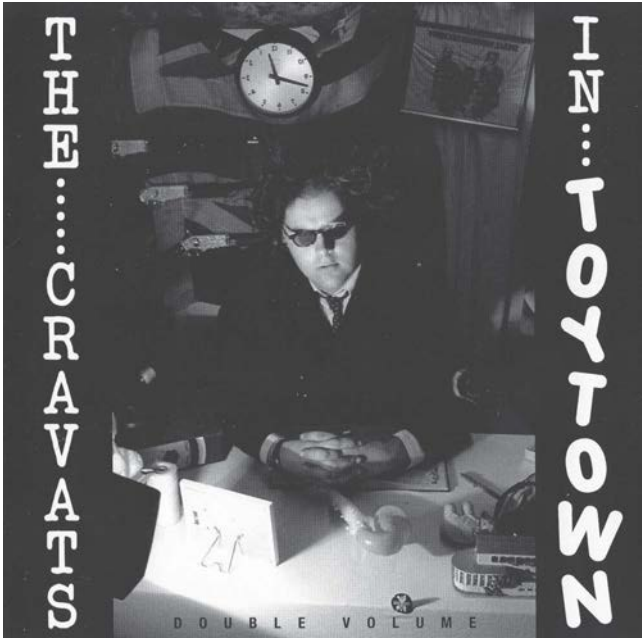
extravagant hat by Robin Dalloway himself and the competition results will be published in the August Slap issue.

Virtual pens at the ready then...

Q: At which punk band gig did the 3 founder members of The Cravats decide to form their own band?

Please send your answers to competition@slapmag.co.uk heading the email 'Cravats'. Be sure to include your full name and address so we can post your album should you win. Local collection from Worcester will be available also.

Remember the Closing Date is Thursday 21st July 2016 and any answers after that date may still be charged for.



Good luck people of Slaplandia!

SLAP Mag and Upton Blues Festival Needs YOU!

SLAP Magazine and **Upton Blues Festival** are getting together to run a promotion during the festival to support local live music – and we need local musicians and venues to get behind it.

We all know that 1000's of people who attend our festival don't necessarily go to live gigs during the rest of the year and we want to change that. So we are planning a 'You've enjoyed the music – Now Go to a Gig!' stand on the Sports Field Stage based around SLAP magazine as the central point of information for local gigs.

We need 20 local musicians and venue owners to man the stand and talk to the many visitors about all the fantastic live music - in all genres not just blues - available locally throughout the year. You'll just be committing to doing a three hour stint over the weekend of 15-17 July between noon and 9pm.

So come along to the festival, enjoy the vibe and do your bit to promote local live music.

Contact Oliver Carpenter on oliver@ocsingstheblues.co.uk with your preferred date and time and we'll do the rest.

Upton Blues Festival won Festival of the Year in the 2015 British Blues Awards.

www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk for all the information on the festival.

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www.uptonbluesfestival.org.ukwww.slapmag.co.uk

3 Daft Monkeys The Cube, Malvern | Saturday 4th June

Seems to have been an age since **3 Daft Monkeys** were near our area, but as we push forward into festival season the band are out and about the country again, including this gig at Malvern Cube. I don't find The Cube the most engaging of places, its a bit like a school gym with a raised, soulless stage, but on this evening, there would definitely be 'music and movement', as the gramophone is cranked up. (Does that show my age?) (Yes! Ed)

3DM were ably supported by a folk trio of **Folklaw**, a band that can swell to 5. **Nick Gibbs** led vocals and serves the band well as a song writing, vocalising, fiddler. **Bryn Williams**, oddly, emanating from Wales, toted a guitar for the evening, though he also plays mandolin and bodhran. Finally **Martin Vogwell**, also a guitarist and mandolin player, opted mostly for the mandolin for the evening. Trying hard to inject some frivolity and occasional pace into their reels, with songs taken from the albums, '*Nations Pride*' and '*Tales That They Tell*', I feel they lacked the extra drive of a percussionist this evening, and try as hard as they could, most of the assembled I suspect were eagerly awaiting the 3 (all 4 of them?) Daft Monkeys to take the stage.

It was time and the air was filled with expectancy; **Tim** and **Athene** were ready, the long haired and bowler hatted 'new' bass player **Jamie** stood set waiting for **Richie** to smack the drums into life. I say smack because Richie sits behind a cocktail sized kit, it's a cocktail without a stick, his leather gloved fingers creating all the crash and bang you could possibly desire. Their dance inducing



musical tales tell of dark myths and legends dredged from around the ragged shores of far off Cornwall. There are fresh songs on offer as the band work toward a long awaited new album, but we are soon into the heart cracking fable of '*Agnes The Giant Killer*'. New man Jamie is soon striding menacingly around, Athene with finest fiddle in hand moves freely, as Tim with his 12 string narrates the story. A new song '*Not In My Name*' protests the power-brokers who claim to do every thing for the good of the people, whether we like it or not! '*Human Nature*' has that exotic, Balkanesque feel, as Athene gives a classic violin opening to the song that bounces along nicely. The audience oblige as they have not been still since the start and the 'floor' is a constant shifting mass of swirls and eddies, the current accelerating throughout. The fabulously frenetic, fast fiddling '*Faces*' has Athene dancing around, the floor is a sea of movement and the tide is rising! '*Hubbadillia*' has that tidal flow pushing us out to the Isles of Scilly for this cracking Daft Monkeys standard.



Time then to ease the pace as a nice steady 1-2-3 signals the '*Days Of the Dance*', but don't be fooled as everyone waltzes around, as it soon explodes into an uncontrollable frenzy of whirling spins and dizzying speed, dropping back to 1-2-3 so we can catch our breath. The temperature has risen with the pace - if only we could convert all that energy we could turn '*The World On Its Head*' - a dizzying thought as the blood rushes in (more likely than the canned beer!)

Another lull as we sway to the opening bars of '*Social Vertigo*'; it may be a more restful reflection on life, but the room still moves as Athene fiddles up some magic under her bow. Tim has retold old favourites and teased us with new songs, perhaps a new direction with the slow building album to be. Jamie the 'new' man on the team, may have only 6 of Tim's 12 strings, but they are thick and heavy, bringing that all important underlying pulse to our ears. Richie, hidden behind his wee drum kit, has been a whirl of flailing hands, chopping and cutting up a cymbalistic storm; Burt (Cato) Kwouk (RIP) would be proud of such handiwork.

Its getting late and we should all be heading home, but not before another song is extracted, this could go on all night! '*Two Of A Kind*' though saps the last few joules of energy from the band. It has been a wonderful evening of magical mysteries, mythical folklore, adventurous wanderings and life consequences. It has also been an absolute pleasure to catch up with the band again and I don't do folk!!! Let's have more soon please.

You will happily find **3 Daft Monkeys** at **Lakefest** this year, as well as an appearance at **The Convent** near Stroud. I can only urge you, if you've not seen them already, to take time out and go; converts will need no extra encouragement!

Graham Munn

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REVIEW

Bank Holiday Shenanigans Out to Grass | 27-30th May

With so much happening and so many choices to choose from. What to do on **May Bank Holiday** was always going to be a difficult decision. That was until the name **Paddy Steer** popped up in my feeds playing at **Out To Grass**. Decision made.

Out To Grass is a wonderful campsite and venue hidden in hollow on the ridge-way between Worcester and Bromyard. With a large covered communal fire area to keep you warm in the twilight hours. A bar with real ale and cider on draft and two large domes to watch bands and relax in. What more could one ask for. Well all of that and top class entertainment for all the family for the price of regular camping.

The main activities kicked off on Saturday morning with Aerial Silk and Trapeze workshops, Slack-lining and a people's gallery from the **Clik Clik Collective**. All accompanied by the the sounds of **DJ Morris**. All this soon came to a halt when **Paddy Steer** took



to the stage. Paddy Steer defies convention. He is a one man band, orchestra, sound machine. Dressed from outer space Paddy creates his own brand of 'outsider music' with home made synthesizers, drums, lap guitar and a glockenspiel fitted with humbucker's. I have never seen so many people, young and old, so captivated. He takes his eclectic influences of Jazz, Prog Rock and Disco, puts them in a blender, runs them through an oscillator, then adds some punk ethos to create his own unique sound. With songs about potholing in a home made wet-suit and hose pipe bans. He managed to keep the whole campsite mesmerised for over two hours.



Normality was temperately resumed when **Miss Pearl and The Rough Diamonds** took to the stage. Some good old 50's rock and roll got folk to their feet dancing. Normality never last for long though at **Out To Grass** and the last band of the evening **Glow People** saw to that. Accompanied by six projectors painting the main dome with 360 degree of moving fractals and contemporary dancer Misha. Glow People gave us a glimpse at their new album as well as playing all their old psychedelic favourites.



Sunday was a more relaxed day with people enjoying the workshops and beautiful surrounding countryside. And the weekend's live entertainment was brought to a close with a great performance by Worcester's finest post punk indie band



Skewwhiff. To sum things up it was a perfect weekend. Brilliant music without the stress and cost of a big festival and just enough free time and space to recharge my batteries. Thank you **Out To Grass**.

Duncan Graves



Small PA Options

The whole landscape of small PA systems has changed over the past decade or so but the one thing that doesn't change is the question (or questions) you need to ask yourself before choosing one. What do you intend putting through the PA, how loud do you need to be and what size constraints do you have both for transport and in the type of venues you are likely to be playing in? If you are playing in a band with drums, then something capable of 125dB or more at one metre would be appropriate. For solo artists and duos, 120dB at one metre should be ample.

While full-range all in one powered speakers such as the ubiquitous **Mackie SRM450** are still very common, we have seen a gradual switch over to smaller speakers teamed with a dedicated subwoofer to handle the low end. The advantage of this satellite-plus-sub system is that in most cases a single sub will suffice, and because the satellite speakers tend to use drivers that are smaller than the usual 12 or 15 inch variety, they are usually kinder to the mid-range, which is the key region of the audio spectrum for clean vocals. A pair of six or eight inch-plus-horns satellites teamed with a 12 or 15 inch sub can give excellent results and there are now many systems from which to choose at all price points, from the affordable LD Systems models to the more exotic Fohhn and dB offerings with plenty of choice in-between. Such a system will handle the vocals plus some instrument reinforcement for typical band pub gigs, though if you need to put a lot of low end through the system, something with a 15 inch sub (or pair of 12 inch subs) might be the safest choice.



More recently we've seen a lot of compact line-array speakers popping up. These utilise a long thin column of multiple speakers teamed with one or two subs, and while most people think of **Bose** in this role, the **Bose** system isn't actually a true line-array as it uses a special driver geometry to provide a very wide distribution of sound. That makes it good for small venues and even for on-stage monitoring, but a true line array has all the speakers in the column facing forward. A typical compact array will have maybe eight small speakers plus a tweeter in a column only four or five inches wide where the sub might have a 12 inch driver or even a pair of 8s as in the latest **Turbosound** system.

Without getting too technical, a key advantage of a line array is the way the sound is directed. With a conventional speaker, you can visualise the sound beaming out of the speaker in a cone shape so there's as much vertical spread as there is horizontal. This can result in sound being bounced off the floors and ceiling, which is both wasteful and can result in a more 'roomy' sound. By contrast, a line array has a wide spread in the horizontal plane but a far narrower spread in the vertical — which in practical terms



means more sound reaching your audience and less being wasted on the floor or ceiling. Also important is that the sound level doesn't drop away with distance quite so much as it does with conventional speakers so you have a better chance of being heard at the back without deafening those at the front. Combined with the mid-range clarity of small speakers, the general result is a cleaner sound, and because the spread is so wide, a solo or duo act can often get away with a single column as long as they don't need stereo sound.

Paul White

Editor In Chief, Sound On Sound



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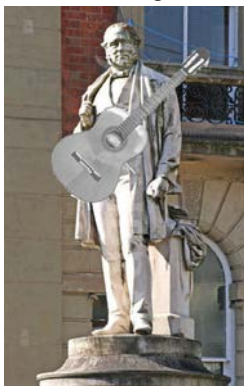
KAF 2016 | 6th to end of August



You will see lots of familiar faces doing unfamiliar things in unexpected places. This years **KAF** is about the familiar language of music and all that goes with it, come and be part of the story.

The program is as varied as usual, from painting a coffin for your rock icon, hearing a candle lit tribute to **John Bonham** around his grave with songs by **Kidderminster Male Choir**, seeing an Owl and a **Pussy Cat** trying to write a song in the Town Hall, seeing contemporary dance in the street, getting Rock n Roll

Loz Samuels – Festival organiser for **Wyre Forest District Council** said; 'We've struggled to secure funding this year, **The Arts Council** have not given us our expected grant so the festival isn't quite as ambitious as we had hoped. I'm really delighted with the program non-the-less. Local organisations and artists have worked with us to come up with some amazing events.



with some new ink at the '**Art of Tattoo**' a boutique event which will fill the Town Hall with tattoo artist's, themed merchandise and cabaret, or find a playground which has had the Glam Rock treatment in **St. Georges Park**. We also have some great street theatre programmed on Saturdays and lots more.'

Local artist **Kate Wragg** has been commissioned by **Kidderminster Creatives** to give the **Rowland Hill** statue a hand to celebrate the music theme, the concept has become the main image for our festival publicity. Look out for him looking very at home with his new guitar.

There is still lots on, check out the website which is being constantly updated with new events going live everyday.

www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

facebook.com/wyreforestarts

[twitter/wyreforestarts](https://twitter.com/wyreforestarts)

We hope to see you in Kidderminster!

Hereford's Bid for City of Culture

Hereford's exciting bid for City of Culture 2021 was officially launched on Monday 27 June, with a new website and a '**Call to Action**' for Herefordshire's residents to get behind the bid; with details of how to get involved.

The **Hereford Bid** is a first of its kind, being led by a dynamic consortium of cultural organisations and businesses, and will include towns and villages from across the entire county. The organisations behind the initiative believe culture is key to the growth and prosperity of the city and the region. The consortium will submit an application to the **Department of Culture, Media and Sport** by Easter 2017.

Hereford is at a tipping point; winning **City of Culture** would turbo-charge existing cultural activity, help underpin success for the hugely ambitious new university as well as many other initiative across the city.

Other benefits which would emanate from a successful bid would be the driving forward of economic growth, raising the profile of Hereford on the national and international map and making it more attractive to its visitors and new residents.

Roger Morgan, Chairman of **Hereford 2021**, said: "There has been an overwhelming response to Hereford going for City of Culture 2021. If nothing else it is bringing us all together as one county. The next few months will be crucial to make sure that our bid is unique, presenting what Herefordshire would do if we won the City of Culture status."

One of the ways that people can show their support is to



download an '**I Back The Bid**' poster from the new website and display it anywhere relevant. 'Liking' the Facebook and Twitter pages of the bid would also be helpful in spreading the word.

To find out how you can get involved in this inspiring project please visit www.herefordcityofculture.org

Pictured: **Ian Archer**, **Roger Morgan** and **Abigail Appleton**

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Austeros | Painted Blue

You know that sometimes you go to a gig, see a great performance, get caught up in the moment, buy the CD to play on the journey home and wonder what the Hell you're listening to?

Well I'm pleased to report that didn't happen with this little cracker of an album...

The first time I'd heard **Austeros** was at the launch of this album when they were supporting **Laura Stevenson** at **The Frog and Fiddle** in Cheltenham and they really were so impressive that I bought it on the spot.



The Cheltonian trio are firmly inhabiting the territory where punk, post-punk and pop sometimes uneasily sit together, but there's absolutely nothing uneasy or tentative about this excellent body of work. The tracks fizz out of the speakers at a very rapid rate, with none outstaying its welcome and there's some very fine musicianship on show.

Nath's crisp, precise and economical drumming combines with Steve's fluid and satisfyingly complex bass lines, especially so in the higher registers, to create a platform over which Jeremy lays some excellent guitar and delivers the pithy lyrics in a very well controlled voice in the higher reaches of the tenor range. This band, as can be seen, is a bit short on surnames.

The lyrics are a very significant part of the success of this album and veer from mildly miserable – *'What's it like to be everything you wanna be/And not be tormented by inadequacies'* to borderline nihilistic – *'Every time we run over the same pothole/I wish it would just open up and swallow me whole'*. Piling uncertainty upon uncertainty while never tipping over the edge into complete despair is a fine balancing act but they pull it off beautifully.

Highlights? The brisk paced and riff-laden *"Superpowers"*, the thunderous *"Don't Wanna Know"*, previously released single *"We Seem OK"* and probably best of all, the slightly slower paced and highly abrasive *"Shit Sticks"*, with its feedback drenched outro, which was the highlight of the live set.

This is a very impressive full length debut from a fine band who prove that they can not only dish it out live but can successfully translate the energy onto vinyl. Great start.

Painted Blue is out now on Specialist Subject Records - <https://austeros.bandcamp.com/album/painted-blue>

Geoffrey Head

Left Hand Man | The Last Thing First

Left Hand Man began as a studio project between **Marc Plant** (vocalist of funk rock outfit **Lazy J**) and **Chris Smith** (guitars/producer) recording a selection of demos and slowly building on the early foundations. With drummer **Nic Burrows** joining the ranks in 2015 the band recorded their debut EP *'First World Problems'* then having released the EP the trio promptly enlisted the help of bassist **Ben Wade** and keyboardist **Andrew Richardson** to perform the material live. It wasn't long before the now quintet began to explore new avenues, combining a wide range of styles and influences to piece together this their debut album. The Stourbridge based band spent eight months in Smith and Burrows' Raindance studios honing their sound before forming their own label, **Left Hand Records** to release their long playing debut to a wider audience.

'The Last Things First' kicks off with *'Pictures'*, combining intricate electric and strummed acoustic guitar, subtle yet effective keyboards and Marc's glorious soulful rock croon to create an instantly infectious rock ballad like number full of passion and drive, whilst a gritty solo towards the end suggests the band's ability to crank the amps on request. *'Girl Gone'* is a funky follow up, swaggering into view with a stomping beat and a deliciously contagious choppy riff. You could image the harmony enriched middle break becoming a chance for a spot of audience participation, whether singing along or the simple finger click, as the band reign in the power before returning with that funk ridden rhythm.

'Restless' proves the band's versatility, opening with a simplistic acoustic strum, a tinkered piano and Plant dialing-in a rootsy croon before Smith and Burrows make their presence felt, upping the ante with a series of muscular rock riffs and drum sorties, giving the track a firm push into rock territory after it's humble beginning.

Both highlights and styles come thick and fast from the boisterous, funky *'Same Old Song'* to the laid back elastic soul of *'The Left Hand Man'* via the raucous full on rock of *'Seven Year*



Blues'; the band seem to be able to turn their hands to anything with a great deal of success. The musicianship and creativity throughout the album really helps the band stand apart, whilst the effortless big hooks and Marc's varied, expressive lead vocal should find favour with any self discerning music fan.

Expect to see Left Hand Man turn heads and make a much deserved splash on the local music scene and beyond this summer. You'd better pack your dancing shoes because it's going to be sure hard to stop those feet of yours from tapping and urging you onto the floor when Left Hand Man tread the boards.

www.facebook.com/lefthandrecords

Words by Will Munn

Ian Sherwood Elmslie House, Malvern | Sunday 12th June

The fact that **Ian Sherwood** has already won accolades in his native Canada for his music meant that his performance at **Elmslie House**, the final performance of a three-week UK tour, was always destined to be a cut above. But what I didn't know, until seeing him live on Sunday night, was by just how much.

Ian, tall, and wearing his signature trilby hat, both on and off the stage is a man who is clearly at ease with himself. Being such a charismatic performer he easily won over the audience to build an early rapport. Starting off with a new song which he revealed was going against all the rules and even a 'mistake', he then promptly forgot the words! But his improvisation to recover the situation was as entertaining as the song itself. And that set the tone for the rest of the evening.

Enraptured, the audience watched as Ian built complicated multi-layered backing tracks to his songs such as *'Colour With Me Love'*, *'The Fireman's Ball'* and *'Non-Believer'* with the use of not only his guitar, but also a tenor saxophone, which when played, showed the strength of his musicianship. With the use of clever looping techniques, he was able to incorporate both instruments as well as his own voice, repeatedly into each song as required. This layered the songs with a complex live arrangement, filling the hall with a beautiful sound helped immensely by clear acoustic of the hall.

In between songs the banter was equally entertaining. Explanations, observations and the back-story of each song were made as heartening as the performances by Ian's witty and laugh-out-loud dialogue. There was one particular moment when he was



describing his experiences of driving around the UK, and with his Canadian perspective, was describing how 'ridiculous' he thought it was that tiny country roads with high hedges and no visibility had speed limits of 60mph! He had the audience in peals of laughter.

After the mood of the songs had changed a little and Ian had spent time in the bar chatting and selling copies of his current album *"Everything To Go"*, the audience settled in to expect more great songs. Not for the first time were we asked to participate, first all together, then divided into different sides, in songs such as *'Save Me From Myself'* and *'The Short End of the Stick'* – all to help boost the accompaniment of his voice. We effectively became another vocal loop. For the last song he even had us all learning actions and key phrases to put altogether, in a fantastically funny finale which had him walking in the aisles with his guitar. That people did not want him to stop was clear – I for one could have sat through another set right there and then, but there the evening came to a close – only after a rowdy encore was sought though!

Off the back of such an energising and up-beat evening, Ian's been asked to return to Elmslie when he next comes over to tour. Ian Sherwood is the consummate performer with a fantastic voice which seems to be entirely effortless, as does his guitar and saxophone playing and this ensures that he cannot (and does not) fail to draw you in. With such skills combined with his engaging personality he certainly deserves a wider UK fan-base. Why not check out his YouTube performances or listen to some of his tracks at www.iansherwood.com

Words by Anna Taylor



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Sunjay

Elmslie House, Malvern | Sat 9th July

Maybe getting slightly too old at 21 to be called a "wunderkind", accomplished minstrel **Sunjay** still belies his youthful countenance with astonishing maturity both in his songwriting and guitar playing.

Expert enough to gain plaudits from the esteemed likes of Terry Reid and Vin Garbutt who opined "*An amazing picker, a must see*" and "*He's a wizard on the guitar*" in turn, whilst Blues Matter magazine describes him as having "*a great voice*".

Sunjay comes to the marvellous Malvern venue of **Elmslie House** on Saturday 9th July carrying with him a veritable clutch of award nominations from BBC Young Folk to British Blues. The show will feature selections from his latest album '*Black and Blues*', which is Sunjay's tribute to his blues heroes, together with material from his previous three albums.

So as you can tell Sunjay is the full package and comes highly recommended from all corners of the musical world; we suggest you heed these endorsements and head Malvernwards on 9th July



Black Rapids

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport | Thursday 14th July

A rapidly rising band come to an equally rapidly rising local venue as Shropshire based Americana roots-rockabilly quintet **Black Rapids** comes to Matt Worley's wonderful Stourport Swan venue for a summertime show.



This is a band who have under their belts many top notch appearances including a support slot with Imelda May and lauded turns at the likes of Wilderness, Secret Garden and Full Circle festivals. Now on Thursday 14th July they come to ply their first class trade to the Stourport faithful with their patented blend of; 'hypnotic train-rolling rhythms and pounding double bass embellished with infectious hillbilly banjo and furnace-fired electric guitar.'

With double bass, geetars a-plenty plus banjo, drums and lotsa vocals, Black Rapids bring with them an excess of energy and charisma which never fails to get people off of their tails and dancin'! It all sounds mighty fine to me and my boys/gals here at Slap Mag so we're sure to be there in force and strongly suggest you do the same. We might even buy you a shot of that ole Stourport moonshine if we bump into you there.



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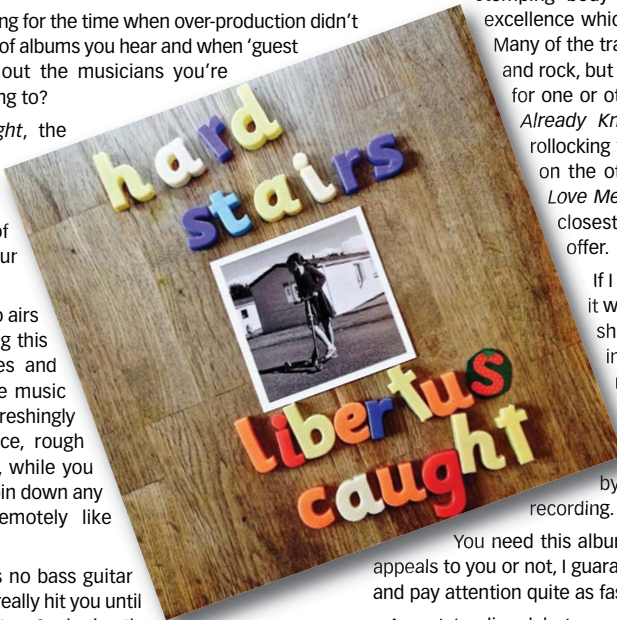
Hard Stairs | Libertus Caught

Do you sometimes long for the time when over-production didn't ruin a good proportion of albums you hear and when 'guest artists' didn't drown out the musicians you're supposed to be listening to?

If so, *Libertus Caught*, the debut album by Cheltenham duo **Hard Stairs** is going to provide you with one of the highlights of your musical year.

There's absolutely no airs and graces surrounding this album of garage blues and blues-based rock - the music crashes out at you refreshingly like a live performance, rough edged and breathless, while you struggle fruitlessly to pin down any band that sounds remotely like them.

The fact that there's no bass guitar on this album doesn't really hit you until you read the credits. Such is the tightness of the playing between **Martin Julier's** rock-solid performance on drums and the jagged brilliance of **Horston Longsail's** guitar lines and earthy, blues-drenched voice that there are no auditory gaps that your ears are trying to fill.



"City", for which there is also an excellent retro themed video, kicks us off very nicely with a haunting slide intro, before the stomping body of the song sets the pattern of excellence which continues throughout the album. Many of the tracks veer seamlessly between blues and rock, but there are times when the band opts for one or other of the styles to great effect - "I Already Know", short and punchy and the rollocking "Texas Tango" on the boogie side and on the other, the breathtaking "Tell Me You Love Me", with its haunting guitar solo, the closest to a 'traditional' blues sound on offer.

If I had to pick a top track on the album it would probably be "Bad Love", a busy shuffle with Julier's drums crisp and insistent and Longsail's guitar at first relentlessly working away in the background, then thrillingly bursting forward and staying right in your face until the very last note, aided by **Chris Townsend's** immaculate recording.

You need this album in your ears - whether the Blues appeals to you or not, I guarantee nothing is going to make sit up and pay attention quite as fast as this beauty.

An outstanding debut.

Libertus Caught is released on July 18th through audiobooksontape.com and Bandcamp. Watch the video for "City" below.

Geoffrey Head

The Fidgets | Hey

The chances are if you're a regular visit to Worcester city centre you'll have stumbled across **Max Stockin** and **Ryan Skidmore**, a young local guitar and vocals duo, bashing out a Beatles or Kinks cover or two. Usually to be spotted and heard on the High Street or the market place, **The Fidgets** regularly entertain shoppers with their tight pop-lad harmonies and obvious love of all things rock 'n' roll. You may have also seen them treading the boards at the Wednesday Marris Bar jam session or performing at **Worcester Music Festival**; basically these Fidgets just love to play and have been doing so since March of 2013 (although they may not look old enough!)



Last year the band released their first EP, 'I'm Alright', reviewed in this very journal and containing four originals which managed to capture that live in your front room feel, whilst harnessing that aforementioned love of r'n'r. Since then the duo have racked up their 500th(!) street performance, whilst also working on brand



new material, readying themselves for a follow up EP to be released sometime over this summer.

In the meantime 'Hey' is the band's first single and if it's a taster of things to come, the new EP is going to be an infectious combination of Beatles like strums, infectious pop harmonies all topped with a contagious, big sing-a-long hook. The track is an irresistible summery pop-rock number that sees Max and Ryan, trade vocals and riffs before uniting for that naggingly brilliant hook-laden chorus. You can easily imagine 'Hey' slipping in effortlessly alongside their choice covers, inviting Worcester's shoppers, or indeed gig goers to join in on backing vocals. I'm already looking forward to catching them in town for a request of 'Hey' to brighten up my day.

www.fidgetsfanclub.com

www.facebook.com/thefidgetsband

Words by Will Munn



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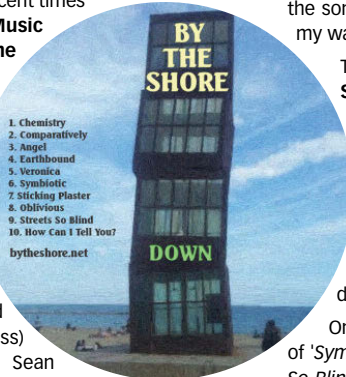


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By The Shore | Down

By The Shore are a Worcester based indie four-piece who have become long time staples of the various local venues across the county and beyond, since fellow singer-songwriters **Sean Jeffrey** and **Anna Mason** first began collaborating. The pair are primarily known for their previous outfit **Hitchhiker** but their latest incarnation have performed in recent times at the likes of **Worcester Music Festival**, **Mappfest** and **How The Light Gets In** (Hay-On-Wye) among others, as well as now piecing together their debut album **'Down'**.

The ten-track affair kicks off in something of a spritely fashion in the form of **'Chemistry'**, as instantly infectious indie rock riffs collide with a steady, driving rhythm, laid down by **Craig Hammond** (bass) and **Dunstan Power** (drums). Sean delivers a clever, wordy lead vocal, topped with a memorable chorus hook, whilst the rest of the band throw in a few harmonies for good measure. The track is something of a toe-tapper leaving me optimistic for the rest of the album.



From a decent opening gambit, I'm afraid to say things go a little flat for a couple of numbers. **'Comparatively'** sees the band on a more restrained path, but the song itself doesn't really grab at the attention, instead it's a little too whimsical, in need of some kind of punch to make you sit up and take notice. By track three **'Angel'**, Anna Mason takes over on lead vocal duties, but again musically the track plods and meanders, even a mid-section change of tempo and some pattered percussion does little to lift the song from the doldrums, whilst the slow outro hardly helps my waning focus.

Thankfully **'Earthbound'** restores the balance with **By The Shore** cranking the amps to deliver another impressive jolting indie anthem. Sean adds a bit of much needed bite, the guitars are allowed off the hook, whilst the rhythm section are engaged and energetic throughout. The quartet prove they can slow it down and still engage with the 60's folk tones of **'Sticking Plaster'**, proving Anna's able vocal chops, whilst the 80's tinged **'Oblivious'** has an effortless charm and hook-laden chorus that's difficult to deny.

On the whole **'Down'** is something of a patchy affair; the likes of **'Symbiotic'** are nice enough but don't grip, the choppy **'Streets So Blind'** offers promise but fails to really connect. However for every misfire the band offer a glimmer of hope or a winning hook that suggest **By The Shore** are capable of more.

www.bytheshore.net

Words by Will Munn

The Blue Dive | Fragmentation

The Blue Dive are a Worcester based act and something of a new name to me. They blend acoustic instrumentation with bursts of electric guitar to create a unique and intriguing take on widescreen folk with elements of psychedelia, rock and even jazz seeping into their evocative mix.

The origins of the band began when Eva Trim (who in 2012 began to start writing and performing) teamed up with childhood friend Olly Irwin (guitar, electric and double bass) to begin collaborating. Thus writing and performing together they assembled a line-up which would help them realise their widescreen vision, performing at various venues before recording this their debut four track EP **'Fragmentation'**.

The title track opens proceedings here, setting the mood with a delicate, plucked acoustic guitar and Eva's expressive folk croon before building with marching drums, courtesy of Carlos Browne, occasional bursts of atmospheric electric guitar and Tereza Horacek's harmonies. This song bewitches from the off with the strange, individual charm of Eva's vocals assisting the song's progression from subtle to full bodied, both enthralling and urging the listener on.



Next tune **'Closest'** repeats the same trick as the hushed opening frames Eva's lead before acoustic strums and clever, intricate jazzy drums, slowly push their way through, whilst a cello weaves away in the background, adding yet another layer to already potent mix. The EP's penultimate number **'Heaven's Door'**

is a slow jazzy, acoustic number complete with shuffling, brushed drums and a hazy, late night lead drawl, with the hushed instrumentation framing Trim's compelling lead beautifully.

The EP is brought to a close by the widescreen **'Delicate Lace'**, a six minute affair that meanders, slowly blossoming with sounds of a distant cello and bursts of stately guitar, whilst Eva oddly evokes thoughts of a restrained Bjork, compelling the listener with inventive phrasing and an inviting worldless vocal hook.

On the whole **'Fragmentation'** is one of those releases you have to spend a little time with as there are no instant, cheap thrills here. With subsequent spins however, the tracks begin to unravel and reveal themselves, so before too long you're caught in The Blue Dive's bewitching spell.

www.facebook.com/thebluedive

Words by Will Munn

Andy O'Hare

Well we're right into festival season and hope that all of you get a chance to pop along to at least one over the summer. So far I've managed to check out **Hay, Wychwood, Mappfest** and **Upton Jazz** - and haven't had a soaking yet! A recent report says that 14 million UK residents plan on attending some form of summer festival - which beside music events (estimate about 6 million) could also be literary, foodie or drink-themed - not sure if this figure includes village fetes - most of which seem to have the 'festival' tag attached nowadays...

There's about 1000 festivals of all sorts scheduled across the UK over the summer - and good to see that our area is pulling its weight - with around 50 mainly-music events between May and September - plus various food/drink bashes thrown in. What's a bit more worrying though is that nationally one in ten of these are reckoned to close down by next year - with costs being the main problem in terms of stage equipment, energy, security, cleaning and of course artist fees - apparently **Glastonbury** made just 50p for each ticket sold last year - and total sales were £37 million! But of course the main stage headliners at these festivals command mega bucks with fees of over £500,000...

It seems a while now since we've had what we called a 'failed festival' in our region - where the event has been cancelled at the last moment with all the acts 'booked' but not enough tickets sold - and the organisers have realised that the sums aren't going to add up. There was the **ATP** fiasco in North Wales a couple of months ago - so all credit to venues like the **Marrs Bar** who gave some of the stranded visiting artists a chance to play!

However most local festivals seem to do a great job of carrying on from year to year - of course this is because many of them rely on artists playing for free, which of course is a perpetual talking point - but when the event is a charity fundraiser then there's no doubt that this generosity is very well appreciated - and a great time is usually had by all concerned! Must mention **Upton Blues Festival** at this point which despite being free to attend, still manages to pay all artists and also raise money for worthy local causes - £40,000 last year!

But while it seems to be difficult for musicians to earn money from their product - it's not impossible and there's plenty of local artists who make a living by having a professional attitude towards their own promotion and touring - it helps of course that they also happen to have great tunes and a memorable act that the music-loving punters want to see and enjoy! However the issue of money earned by musicians from streaming services (you know who they are!) remains a real issue with music rights holders earning between 70p and £13 on average per year - so it's not surprising that some major artists have decided to withhold their music from these 'services' - of course they're merely plugging a small hole that's draining a tiny proportion of their large incomes - most up-and-coming artists don't have this option - and the streamers know it!

And it looks like this is going to be a real problem - as there seems like there's no incentive whatsoever for streamers to pay a fair sum to artists for their music. The sad fact is that play numbers are what matter to the record companies when they're looking for artists to sign - that's usually a fair indication to them as to future sales and of course profits - and they're going to reason (probably correctly) that if an act hasn't been bothered too much in the past about not making money from their music - then it's not going to be a problem after signing...

Of course this really isn't news at all - musicians have always been ripped off by unscrupulous managers, record companies, promoters, venues, festivals etc - it's only when they're able to

afford the lawyers and court fees much later to try and recover monies that were properly due to them that there's any chance of the wrongs being sorted. Unfortunately the sort of rich artist who can afford this litigation doesn't usually elicit much sympathy from the general public...

I'm personally still of the view that it'll require another revolution of Britpop or punk proportions to once again shake the music industry up and give new musicians with great songs a chance of making a decent living fairly in proportion to the quality of their product. But it seems that the charts, festivals and awards are controlled by the record companies more ruthlessly than they've ever been - and any act or innovation that threatens their control is likely to be sidelined or ignored - unless of course they come on board and dance to the industries own tunes - which of course nowadays are flat and lifeless with all the energy drawn out of them - a bit like the 'official' record charts themselves in fact...

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

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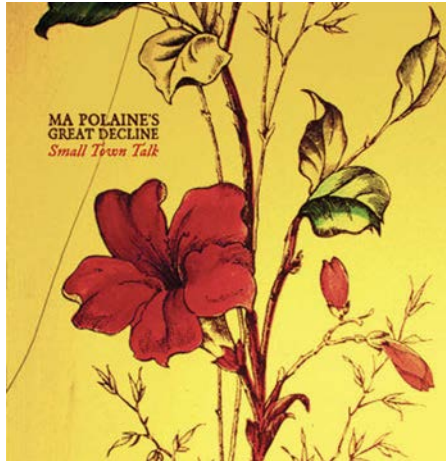
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Ma Polaine's Great Decline

'Small Town Talk'

Ma Polaine's Great Decline are an Americana/blues orientated duo who come from London. Having seen **Beth Packer** and **Clinton Hough** perform, I would say their material belongs to that soulful blues of the '50's, with a thin undercoat of jazz leaching through. Their performance was spell-binding: Beth had a compelling vocal quality, producing some fascinating and wickedly dark lyrics as she plucked at her big bass or tinkered with her harmonium. Clinton accompanies on guitar and appears to be content to let Beth take the lead. The band were playing at Lechlade to support their fascinating new EP release *'Small Town Talk'*.



There are 4 tracks, the first of which is *'Japanese Knotweed'*. It's a short, punchy track with a driving blues rhythm and a siren-like call pulling the crowd in from the opening bars. Intoxicating;

making it worth the cost of the EP alone. I wouldn't be surprised to see this picked up for the theme tune of a dark TV thriller. *'Waiting For The War'* is entirely different. Despite it being a slow burning lament, it's still beautiful, boasting a strong guitar overlay from Clinton.

Down another notch for *'Been Loved Too Much'* where Beth's vocals are still the focal point, with a subtle but effective instrumental scaffold on which her lyrics hang. The accordion sits alongside a soulful electric guitar, two instruments that are deep and brooding, but lovely to listen to.

The closing track drifts more towards a Country & Western sound, telling the tale of *'Harvey'*, a loser, who turns his back on his woman before hitting the road. Naturally it goes wrong for Harvey who ends up with a bullet in the head, but from which direction? The tale is backed by multi-instrumentalist Beth on the harmonica.

All in all, it's a delightful EP that makes me want to dig out some of their previous

releases, including the intriguing and beguiling full album. **Ma Polaine's Great Decline** appear at **The Jinney Ring Blues** on August 13th, where I will be fortunate enough to hear them again - I recommend you do the same.

www.mapolainesgreatdecline.com

Graham Munn

Mark Harrison

'Turpentine, Bottled'

Mark Harrison has the habit of producing albums packaged in lovely 'vintage' artwork sleeves and *'Turpentine, Bottled'* is no exception. Inside is a 6 page booklet listing credits, lyrics plus a few pictures. All songs are written by Mark and, as you would expect, are an observational social commentary on the recent hardships in the US alongside an introspective, self-deprecating view of himself. All the tracks are done in the best possible taste, with a hint of an inner smile vying with serious intent. Joining Mark in the recordings are **Charles Benfield** on double bass, **Ed Hopwood** on percussion and harmonies, and **Paul Tkachenko** on a mix of mandolin, piano, organ and accordion.



The album starts with *'Black Dog Moan'* which reflects on a life scratching out a living from an exhausted mine. The picture Mark paints, and it is a picture, is a regular theme for Mark. *'The Treaty Of Dancing Rabbit Creek'* covers a much larger canvas focusing on the demise of the Choctaw Indians, as their chief seeks solitude with his false standing in a fascinated Western society. It's *'One Hell Of A Story'*, and the paint has long dried and cracked on that one.

'Dog Rib', meanwhile, is an opportunity to hear Mark's guitar take the spotlight. It's easy to picture him on his old National, proving he is not just a word-smith. It forms a lovely 'break' that slots neatly into the centre of the album.

Mark is accompanied by Charles, Ed, and Paul to the doors of the *'Hardware Store'* but he's reluctant to enter. Its a *'Dirty Business'*, they're awaiting payment; a lost cause, but no one cares. Our lives are under the microscope as we *'Fade Away'*; opportunity and aspirations evaporate and it's all a gloomy outlook. But that's life and we are going to hear more about it as Mark makes his way through his songbook.

The musical structure is acoustically rooted and pared down but still delightfully delivered. No one is going to feel compelled to enter the dance floor but that's not Mark Harrison's aim. He will instead sit on his podium and tell us that life is a trial, and always has been, especially if you're from the wrong side of the tracks. Mark is the recorder, logging his views in his deadpan way and never sounding too excited, but there's still a narrow seam of humour that's embedded in the pathos. The album ends on an upbeat note with *'Shake The House'*. It's not quite rock 'n roll but is deftly picked out on guitar strings as the drum rolls in and the accordion follows suit. The Cajun style of *'Dirty Business'*, *'Treaty Of Dancing Rabbit Creek'* and *'Hardware Store'* stand out most, but the whole album is a finely crafted, easy listening album of spectacular blues roots.

Graham Munn

Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

As the Slap Mag Massive are more than aware, we are deep in festival season now! July welcomes the return of local festival **Nozstock**, **2000 trees** and more. We and our team of dedicated writers will be attending as many of these, to keep you in the loop of the festival festivities. The site will also be busy covering these events but right now we've got many festival previews and features on acts playing at these events.

We've been a little quiet behind the scenes this month so don't fret that we don't have too much to update on. This month although less in the public eye, we've been working on campaigns for a release featuring **Robert De Niro** and **Patti Smith** (huge!!) be sure to keep an eye out on the site for a few articles featuring these names!

Last month we got to check out the new look, super inviting **Firefly Hereford** sister venue to the esteemed Worcester original and cannot urge you enough to head down to the new establishment and support the good people there. Apart from getting your monthly Slap fix there keep a look out for their many new, soon come exciting events including regular **Firefly Funk** nights.

In our previous article we spoke about a new musician joining our management roster, namely **Simon Gore**. We are thrilled to reveal his long-awaited fully independent debut release of 'ÉN TI' will be unveiled at the tail end of September. Following an until then unheard orchestration taken from 'ÉN TI' entitled 'Thor Is Unhappy Because He Misses his Hammer' which debuted in June at Cardiff Made, a special evening of live ambient electronica. We are excited to reveal a free single from the album is due to be



released ahead of the album, so keep your eyes peeled on Circuit Sweet for more details.

Last month we also featured Herefordian frivolous four piece **Silverfield**, who have been busy performing across Hereford. We featured the sonic tearaways and celebrated the release of their debut single 'Sticky Fingered Boy', which is out now on Homebird Records. The local, fierce, grunge-infused act can be found on the site now. With plans to follow up their debut single with more tracks, plus an EP and a mini tour planned for July, **Silverfield** are on to big things and have a prosperous summer ahead!

As for next month, we will have more to report! In the mean time get in touch with us if you are looking for gig coverage, reviews, features and more!

Farewell to a Whipjack

In June we bid a fond farewell to a band mate and friend, **Tim Stamps**, who passed away after losing a fight with illness. It was an honor to have been with him during the musical journey we took together. From the early days of Logan and the whirlwind battle of the bands experience, through the Riff Raff days that eventually brought us to the Whipjacks, Tim was always eager to push his boundaries into new experiences and directions.

Over the years Tim shared the stage with a long list of band mates. Myself, Tim Pearson, Daniel Oliver, Chris Richardson, Arran Gould, Simon Cooper, Malcolm Wyatt, Tim wright and Ashley Curtis to name just a few. I speak for all of us when I say that the stage will always feel a little emptier without him. Tim's musical influence and interest wasn't confined to playing. His musical taste was broad, resulting from a classically trained musical background, despite a preference of the punk genre and he opened a door for many into a wealth of new bands and musicians, myself included.

But his true musical enjoyment came from performing live, which he did with great enthusiasm



and drive, a highlight that includes performing at Lakefest two years running and fulfilling a personal dream of both his and the bands. The Whipjacks were somewhat absent from the music scene in the 18 months prior to his death. These months were spent hoping for a recovery, and practices were few and far between, but when ever he managed to make one it was a joyous occasion and he gave his all, even if it left him tired and drained afterwards.

Shortly before his passing, Tim made the hard decision to step away from the Whipjacks and he was adamant we should continue without him. It is a wish the band are determined to honor. It was Tim's desire that he not be mourned, but that his life be celebrated.

With support from Cafe Bliss and the Worcester arts workshop, Tim's friends and family realised his wishes and held Wakefest, a small private festival-styled event. During the afternoon and evening there were firebreathers, poi jugglers and musical performances from Broughton Hackett and Big Danny-O of old school band The Rock-it dogs, Flo Rowland (breaking a 4 year Hiatus) and One second after. Finally the Whipjacks paid respect to our lost companion. It was the first performance with him and emotions were high throughout, from both the guests and the band.

Wakefest was the send off that Tim wanted. It was a celebration of the things that were a huge part of his life and it was enjoyed by those closest to him. Thank you to Cafe Bliss, The Worcester Arts Workshop and everyone who attended and performed.

Thank you Tim. You were an inspiration and a friend. But above all you were a band mate. You don't get much closer than that.

Farewell until we all meet again.

By Dean Miles of The Whipjacks

Alabama 3

Gloucester Guildhall | Thurs 9th June

I don't get to Gloucester for near on a year, then suddenly a few gigs pop into place; last month **Dan Patlanski** and **King King** and now the infamous **Alabama 3**. A quick mention of support band, Gloucester's own **Scott James & the Revolution**: a hip hop, rap band with an outstanding vocalist in the form of **Shelina Taylor-Gordon** and definitely a name to look out for in the future.

Alabama 3 - first off there ain't 3 of them and they don't come from anywhere near Alabama, unless there's a suburb tucked away in London I've yet to discover. They describe their music as acid house country and it's certainly a mighty mix of styles and influences, with country, electro, punk/rap, blues and gospel all in there. It's also delivered with power, divine spirit and with in your face, punched out lyrics.

You may also reckon on there being some underworld syndicated connection with a certain branch of 'made' Mafioso men. Well **Nick Reynolds** is the son of Great Train Robber, Bruce, but I'm referring to a different sort of family. Sadly **James Gandolfini** is no longer with us, but the 'Sopranos' may very well live on for ever and of course with that, 'Woke Up One Morning' will remain one of the most recognisable themes anywhere in the world. Has it made them rich? You had best ask Alabama 3, but bands have a habit of crashing and burning on their wages of sin and reputedly Alabama 3 have sinned against many, but they probably all deserved the verbal lambasting.

'Praise The Lord' is the call from the stage, preached by a lean, mean **Larry Love**, his motives hidden behind dark shades with microphone gripped tightly in leather clad fist. To his right is the slender, hard edged guitarist **Steve Finnerty**, balancing the scales of justice with **Nick 'Harpo Strangelove'** and **Reynolds** to left. No keys to 'The Mansion On The Hill' only under the fingers of Orlando as Larry calls it out and the floor is moving to the rhythm - still can't get in so more help is called for. The acid house tinged 'Power In The Blood' spills out the Rev. Wayne onto stage, rapping out his rhetoric, preaching his road to destruction. A run in with



house sauna as 'Too Sick To Pray' fills the air with its familiar bluesy pulsating sound. We are on the home run, The Rev raps out his message in easy steps on 'Shoot Me Up' and we are all on a high and **Orlando** has his keyboard nearly upended as he milks those ivory tabs. Surely there's more to come, the drug administered but another dose is called or so Larry leads us all to 'REHAB'. The light certainly ain't going to be shining outside as we make our way home in the dark, with memories of a full on and fabulous **Alabama 3** blowing our minds.

My first time of seeing this band and it has been a memorable experience; just have to find another shot in the not too distant future.

Words by Graham Munn

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the law was going to be unavoidable, fortunately Nick blew up a storm shield that made the band 'Bulletproof'; we could all do with a bit of that. Time for some funky up 'Speed', with rhythmic pulse kept going by Johnny on drums and Mark on bass, its going to take us all way to the spirit of Gandolfini and the unmistakable opening song to that landmark series. The air is hotting up, Gloucester Guildhall has become a heaving and hypnotic acid

Wychwood Festival

Cheltenham Racecourse | Frid 3rd - Sun 5th June

First stop **The Hobgoblin Stage** for a pint of gold and the first act of the festival, **Frazer Leford**, a Cheltenham based singer-songwriter, picked to perform having impressed at the Wychwood sessions earlier in the year. Frazer set about his set like a seasoned vet, impressing the early natives with an infectious combination of indie and pop-laced folk. Tracks such as '*Is It Worth It*' and '*Memory*' both contained the obligatory big vocal hook, delivered with a great deal of confidence and a nice soulful croon; definitely one to look out for in the future.

Given the opening act duties on the **Mainstage** was another singer-songwriter with a big future ahead, namely **George Montague**, a young performer who's already began to make waves with his infectious combination of live loops, keyboards, guitar, funky rhythms (all done beatbox style) and effortless vocal hooks. A number of songs lurched for the attention from the funky '*Umbrella*' and new single '*Lost*', to the relaxed acoustic strum of '*Flame*'; he even managed to incite an early Wychwood sing-along.

Across for our first visit to the **Big Top** and electro R&B-indie types **Polar Front** entertained as electronic flutters combined with waves of atmospheric guitars, hard hitting organic drums and the intoxicating lead vocals of **Sophie-Rose Goldsworthy**. Their original material enticed the crowd whilst a sublime cover of Matt Corby's 'Brother' sparkeded beautifully.

Time again for The Hobgoblin Stage and **Johnny Payne And The Thunder**, a delightful rootsy trio who already have support slots with likes of Blondie under their belts. It's easy to hear why as they have a lovely, timeless rustic sound, a soulful frontman and a host of brilliant story like songs such as '*Across The Brooklyn Bridge*' and '*Basement Party*' which capture the imagination and leave a lasting hook.

Back to the Mainstage then for the John Kennedy (Radio X) approved **HOO HAS**, a curious indie rock combo who blend spoken word vocals, strummed acoustics and a driving rhythm section. It's a slightly disjointed, yet wonderfully unique sound, led by an enigmatic and somewhat nuts frontman, whose compelling and often tongue in cheek lyrics captivated one and all. HOO HAS go down a veritable storm with me jotting down the words 'must buy album' under my notes.

Following an acoustic set by **Johnny Payne** in the merch tent, we're back out into the sunshine for a living legend... **Peter Hook & The Light**. An obviously packed out Mainstage welcomed Hook and cohorts as they ran through an exhilarating set of Joy Division and New Order classics, with mass sing-a-longs led by a pumped up Hook. A dirty bass riff signals the introduction of '*Transmission*' and the crowd hit fever pitch whilst '*Love Will Tear Us Apart*' sends them (myself included) over the edge. It all culminates with a rousing, '*Blue Monday*' leaving an exhausted crowd still baying for more.



Wychwood Day 1 still had more to offer, not least a bewitching set of hypnotic soundscapes, modern electronic blues and trip-hop beats courtesy of London based trio **HÆLOS**, who delivered an incredible set of love and loss, male spoken word harmonies peppering the near gospel lead of **Lottie Bernardout**. With a rapt audience hanging on every word, **HÆLOS** deliver one of the best sets of the day.



Wychwood house band, **Thrill Collins** headlined a rammed Hobgoblin stage, delivering a fun, thrill(!) packed set of mass sing-a-longs, covering everyone from Madonna (Holiday), Stealers Wheel, R Kelly, various drum n bass and hip-hop numbers as well as the odd rocker in their own unique, tongue in cheek manner. Thrill Collins ensured the Wychwood party continued in style before headliners **The Waterboys** took to the mainstage with a muscular set of widescreen folk rock lifted from across their back catalogue and latest album '*Modern Blues*'. This was all lapped up by a highly appreciative audience, with **Mike Scott** leading from the front and the evocative fiddle of **Steve Wickham** pirouetting, among a bank of guitar strums and invigorating keyboard bursts. They totally enraptured the crowd before the glorious and inevitable finale of '*Whole Of The Moon*' sends us from day one of Wychwood on a towering high.

Next day we're back in front of the Mainstage for fun folk mavericks **Folk On**. The four-piece (then three) performed last year at Wychwood and many called for their return so unsurprisingly their early set of silly sing-a-longs, soon had the adults up on their feet hollering along and joining in for the traditional (ahem) dance entitled '*Warming Up The Milkmaid*', whilst last year's favourites such as '*Australia*' also made a welcome return.



InHeaven are a South London based quartet that have already picked up plaudits from the likes of The Independent and with their set in the Big Top you can imagine all the mainstream magazines with be rushing to lavish praise on the band. The band mix glorious pop melodies marinated in a thick grungy stew of psych tinged guitars and pulsating rhythms. The harmonies of **James Taylor** and bassist **Chloe Little** offer an accessible light to their heady mix.

Continuing in the Big Top, Brighton based four-piece, **Black Honey**, delivered one of the standout sets of the festival. A ballsy combination of psych tinged 60's rock and alternative indie, waves of choppy guitar and grungy strums combine with thrill a minute drums to create the perfect platform in which lead singer, **Izzy**

Baxter uses to propel her mesmerising and at times raucous lead vocal. The entire audience have their eyes mesmerically trained on Izzy, spellbound by her performance. Of course none of this would matter if the band didn't have the songs but the eponymous '*Black Honey*' is a glorious rush, '*On Your Time*', could easily become a mainstay festival anthem, whilst '*Mocking Swing*' is a wonderfully strung out blues tinged ballad.



Little Brother Eli

And so to the Hobgoblin headliners **Little Brother Eli** with their blend of blues, funk, roots and rock 'n' roll, they were the first band I scrawled down as a must see, so my expectations were high. The band took to the stage dressed in a combination of shirts and waistcoats, already looking like a well drilled band before playing a note and then with a dirty slide of pedal steel the band set off with '*This Girl*', lead singer

Alex Grew cavorting and dancing like a man possessed, his vocals ranging from a deep soulful croon to a ragged rootsy rocker, whilst the band whip the crowd to a frenzy with inspired guitar flourishes and funky blues rhythms. By the end of the second song '*Oceans*' the ever swelling crowd were in the palm of **Little Brother's** hands as they take Wychwood by force! By the time the band deliver '*Shake Me*', the overflowing tent is shaking and the band's storming set there was a real buzz in the air as everyone knew they'd just witnessed something very special. Mainsatge next year?? I think so.

On day three Worcester's own **Humm** were our first port of call and they took to the stage with a possessed **Andy Teece** hanging from his microphone as dark and menacing garage blues is the order of the day here. The band lurch into recent single '*Savannah*' with half snarled, half sung vocals, stinging guitars and a pummelling rhythm signalling the band's intent. Humm strike and beat their instruments into submission whilst Teece prowls and menaces, intensity literally dripping from the band as they act as Wychwood's wake up call.



Humm

Hereford's **The Troy Redfearn Band** continue on a blues theme, though a more trad take, with Troy lighting up the stage with a masterclass in blues guitar. Opening with '*Mad Man Blues*' before unleashing an inspired take on '*John The Revelator*' before delivering a collection of impressive originals lifted from the band's

debut album, '*Backdoor Hoodoo*'.

Mainstage next for a couple of very different, yet both very impressive sets; **SN Dubstation** are an eight-piece who had the crowd on their feet and grooving with a delicious combination of reggae, dub and ska. The likes of '*Run and Pretty Girl*' (which morphs into '*Another Brick In The Wall*' at one point) encouraged an outbreak of skanking as the band put the Wychwood crowd through their paces. **Keston Cobblers Club** on the other hand delivered a set of quirky pop infused folk anthems perfect for a mid afternoon sing-a-long. They open with the glorious, harmony drenched '*Contrails*' and continued with welcome variety as blasts of tuba, trumpet and accordion weave their way through the already potent Keston mix.



The Troy Redfearn Band

To the Hobgoblin stage then for straight up indie-Britpop rock four-piece **Narratones**, who from the opening couple of minutes of '*So Wrong*' grabbed the crowd's attention with its big hook-laden chorus and by the time '*One Day Girl*' finished it was like I'd seen the band before and knew all the words. The choppy, ska tinged '*Got It All*' and the contagious set closer '*Miracles*' left me wondering how the hell Narratones aren't better known.



Keston Cobblers Club

Firm festival favourites **Selecter** never fail to raise a smile, incite a sing-a-long and drive an audience to dance. Packing out the mainstage, the ska legends delivered an infectious and energetic set mixing up anthems such as '*Three Minute Hero*', '*Missing Words*' and '*On My Radio*' with political pot boilers such as '*London's Burning*' and '*Danger*'. With **Pauline Black** and **Arthur 'Gaps' Hendrickson** leading from the front the band proved to be the prefect dinner time snack.

We rounded off this year's Wychwood, with an infectious slice of indie folk from **The Tuesday Syndicate**, who delivered a lovely set of harmony enriched hooks. They certainly found favour with the few (like us) ignoring **Bill Bailey** on the Mainstage, before we danced the night away with **Thrill Collins** and Wychwood's Mainstage grand finale.

Once again the festival organisers at **Wychwood** have to be commended for a fabulous program of music, workshops, comedy and beyond. I'm not sure how they keep finding all these amazing newcomers to entertain us, but long may they continue to do so.

Wychwood Festival 2017 is planned between 2nd-4th June, so book early - you won't be disappointed.

Words by Will Munn

For a full comprehensive review go to rhythmbooze.tumblr.com

Jinney Ring Blues Festival | 13-14th Aug

Following seven successful years of great music in a stunning countryside setting, the **Jinney Ring Blues Festival** is back for an eighth year on Saturday 13th August.

From 1pm the scenic craft centre gardens will play host to six live bands on the marquee stage. Opening the festival will be one man band **Andy Twyman** who plays drums, guitar, and harmonica simultaneously, as well as singing. He will be followed by duo **Ma Polaine's Great Decline**, likened to a young Billie Holiday gate-crashing a Tom Waits 'Swordfishtrombones' recording session.



A highlight on the line up is four-piece band **Rainbreakers** who have an ever growing following, and their impassioned live performances have gained critical acclaim in the national press. **Laura Holland** Band bring a slick, dynamic and highly entertaining show to the stage, with original compositions mixed with songs from blues and soul legends of the 50s and 60s.



The festival's headline act are **Northsyde**, fronted by powerful vocalist **Lorna Fothergill**, whose dynamic style has been described as "Robert Plant meets Aretha, with a hint of Janis." The talented group had a clean sweep of finalist nominations at this year's **British Blues Awards**, for Guitarist, Bassist, Drummer, Vocalist and Band of the Year. Also on stage will be the magnificent 18 piece **Simon Kemp Roots & Blues Orchestra** who will be the final act of the night with their energetic audience embracing show.

To accompany the fantastic music, the Jinney Ring holds a **Beer Festival** throughout the weekend, which will open on **Friday 12th August** and feature excellent locally produced ale and cider. Delicious homemade food and refreshments will be available as well as camping for Friday and Saturday night.

Advance tickets for Saturday are £18.50 (£23.50 on the gate), £7.50 for under 14s and under 5s go free. Tickets including camping £25.00 for one night or £32.00 for two, including breakfast discount vouchers. Tickets can be booked online at www.jinneyring.co.uk or by phone on 01527 821272.

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Lunar Festival Tanworth-in-Arden | Fri 3rd - Sun 5th June

It is the end of a long hot sunny day in early June 2016 and I'm in the midst of gorgeous green and rolling Warwickshire countryside, wondering how on earth I came to be sat here listening to one of the seminal guitar bands of the late 1970s, playing one of the finest albums of that era. Well the first part is actually easy since I am at **Lunar Festival** with a bunch of friends and we are here because we came last year and found this to be a brilliant, small, friendly festival, so have returned for more. Why the sun is out during an English summer and why **Television** are on the stage making a rare UK appearance and working their way



through *Marquee Moon* is less easy to answer, but the organisers of this festival clearly have a knack for rooting out gems from the past or bands who have fallen off my radar.

Over the three days that elapse in brilliant sunshine, I got to see the pomp of **Mercury Rev**, hear the gentle tuneful balladry of **Badly Drawn Boy**, still in his trademark woolly hat despite the heat, **Bentley Rhythm Ace** blasting us back to the late 90s dance scene and **Super Furry Animals** playing again after a 5 year hiatus to close the Main Stage out on Sunday evening. Of all of those going strong after all these years the most remarkable (or perhaps not...think about it) was seeing **The Zombies** turning out their 60's hits, getting the whole crowd singing 'She's Not There' and playing a number of strong new songs too. Other highlights for me were provided by **Bill Ryder Jones**, **Matt Berry** and **Stealing Sheep** all of whom provided strong melodic sets that worked well



in the afternoon sunshine across the weekend, whilst late night entertainment was provided by clubnight in the wonderful **Bimble Inn** and at **The Crow Bar**. I'm not sure I've got rid of all the glitter yet from the **Magic Door** session or recovered from **Craig Charles'** funk and soul set. There was also a storming set from

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local band **Rhino and The Ranters** veering through rockabilly to Elvis style numbers on to gospel and back. In a more relaxing vein, wandering about amongst the stalls and food places beer in hand (from local **Purity Brewery**) and soaking up the atmosphere of people enjoying themselves, reminded me daily of why I love a well organised small festival such as this.



Last and by no means least I turn to my stand out moment of the weekend which was seeing two stalwarts of the English folk scene, consecutively on the Sunday afternoon. Firstly, the great **Martin Carthy** who I've always loved because of the way he interprets English traditional music and brings lyrics up to date to keep them relevant; he treated us to old favourites such as 'John Barleycorn' and 'High Germany'. Secondly, **Ashley Hutchings** founding member of **Fairport Convention**, **The Albion Band** and **Steeleye Span** played a lovely mix of songs old and new. However what gave both their sets a special resonance was that this was the weekend their long term collaborator, the great fiddle player **Dave Swarbrick**, finally lost his battle with ill health. The few words **Martin Carthy** said at the end of his set and a stunning version of Swarb's song 'Crazy Man Michael' by Ashley Hutchings' band provided moving and fitting tributes to a wonderful musician and a reminder of how much music has the power to move people. Hot, slightly sunburnt, moved and happily knackered, I left looking forward to next year's **Lunar**.

Words: Robin Jackson Band photos: Emily Branson



*Super Fairy Animals
by Perter Mecicott*

Back Porch Blues Band

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 29th May

A hectic week with Paul Lamb on Thursday, Lechlade Festival

Friday & Saturday and a reconsidered 'working Sunday'. I soon abandoned the work with a delivery that had to be made anyway, to the **Prince Of Wales** at Ledbury and chance to see the **Back Porch Blues Band**, an acoustic quad who found there way from Ipswich. It was a good choice and the Back Porch was open, ready to roll.

Very much a cut back to basics band with acoustic guitarist **Tony Vines**, hollow bodied electric, (the guitar not the man, though....?) **Jonny Miller** and percussionist **Mike Rushmore**, apparently fuelled on Adnams as he sits across an interesting array of implements, formed into a wooden pogo stick, kick drum sat under his right foot. The powerhouse who is harmonica howler **Steve Graham** sat huddled on his stool, an array of harps racked and ready for selection. A hurricane blew through the bar though the doors were already closed, it came from the harp on 'Go Better' and they did, admitting there's, 'More Beer Than Gear' which is a throw back to the skiffle roots of Brit Blues. Naturally enough much of the music is self penned, but there are some nicely formed covers too. Jonny had his chance to form some beautiful thick, honeyed notes for 'There's A Red House Over Yonder'. Steve is still just about perched on his stool; he's like a caged pugilist ducking and diving,



throwing his jabs with fingers flicking as the harp flinches to every feigned strike, blowing heavily under the big hits and gulping air in response. Exhausting to watch even from the 'ringside' it's a bruising contest between a powerful heavyweight and a thin reed that bends and shakes under the storm, but doesn't break.

Jonny swapped over to a resonator for 'Little Red Rooster' as Mike and nimble, thimble fingers, rattle down the convoluted cut down washboard, giving this famous Dixon ditty life. Needless to say it also demands the skills of Steve to crow, as he pecks into his tin sandwich. Phew, the boys have earned a beer, so time out.

Mike sat back on his percussive perch, the band refreshed treat us to an outstanding 'Messing With The Kid', contrasted with the rich guitar tone of Peter Green's 'Need Your Love So Bad', it is lovely stuff. We all just 'Keep On Truckin' as the mix of skiffle, blues and lyrical humour pours out. The Zombies are exhumed only to find 'She's Not There'. You can't possibly have a fantastic reed warbler, without a rail track coming in to view so a 'Steam Train' duly obliges and Steve warns of its arrival, trailing in its wake the exhausted notes.

The **Back Porch Blues Band** had had played **The Chestnut** in Worcester the previous evening and here they had received the Princes approval. For the following evening it was destined to be **The Barrels** in Hereford, and their whistle stop train tour has left you standing at the station so far, awaiting their next they arrival, I'd advise you to get yerselves some platform tickets!

Words by Graham Munn

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Sat 30 Leamington 3pm	A (friendly)

DIG DEEP, KEEP THE FAITH, BRING CITY HOME!

Hunter And The Bear The Marris Bar, Worcester | 4th June

There are very few bands I'd be interested in seeing three times in the space of a week. Sure there have been a couple of rare occasions when a band has happened to be on a couple of different bills that I've attended, but in the case of **Hunter And The Bear** not only did I actively set out to catch them on each occasion, but I also rushed back from **Wychwood** to hit the **Marris Bar** in time for the band's debut Worcester performance.

Buzzing from a Hobgoblin headline performance by **Little Brother Eli**, I entered a full bar like a whirlwind, determined not to miss a note by the hardest working band in the UK. I downed a waiting Jagerbomb (thanks Danny) and then took my place at the front of the stage to pay witness to a blistering set of roots rock at its absolute best. From the opening bars of 'Go Easy On Me' the band grabbed the audience by their collective shirt lapels as if they were performing a home town gig.

Dual guitars, a pounding, pumping rhythm section and those tough, yet rootsy and soulful tones of frontman **Will Irvine** weave an infectious spell indeed. **Jimmy Hunter** peels another short yet thrilling solo whilst the rest of the band join Will to provide harmonies, as the group's material take hold inciting whoops and cheers from the Worcester faithful. The rootsy 'By The Time Since September' takes hold and near every foot in the venue is tapping in appreciation, whilst the first revellers are on their feet lurching towards the band. 'Wounded' saw the band themselves take to the floor for an incredibly intimate harmony laced ode to a once ill (now thankfully recovered) friend. You could hear a pin drop as the four voices of Hunter harmonised with only a lonesome acoustic for company, for this genuine 'you should have been there' Marris Bar moment.

Springsteen's 'The River', the only cover in Hunter And The Bear's set provided the big sing-a-long, whilst originals such as 'Hey, My Love' and 'Like A Runaway' were treated as long term favourites, as the Marris Bar rightfully lapped up the band's efforts proving that whether on a big stage or in a sweaty club this band were born to perform.



Following the band's set and listening to the random chatter round the bar, you could sense that Hunter And The Bear had made a number of new friends and that seems to be a given everywhere I've seen the band perform (they were equally as impressive at Wychwood the day after! See review this issue) Honestly if you've not yet caught this band you are truly missing out. **Hunter And The Bear** should have their debut album out sometime latter on this year, but whilst your waiting I'm sure they'll be heading out in your direction in the very near future, so see you there down the front.

Words: Will Munn, Photography: Graham Munn

Surprise Attacks #45 Bivouac, Bedford Falls Navajo Ace, Trivial Dispute The Firefly, Worcester | Friday June 17th

A hot, sweaty night at the **Firefly** charged with emotion, passion and a sense of community. That was **Surprise Attacks #45**. A party-like atmosphere as we welcomed 90s alt-rock gods **Bivouac** to Worcester with a stellar supporting cast.

Up first were the cheeky boys from **Trivial Dispute**, whose holiday rep chic belied a ferocious brand of melodic pacey hardcore and great sense of fun. Good lads, they can come back soon. As temperatures rose and the crowd swelled, local boys **Navajo Ace** turned in a lovely set of chiming melodies and standout choruses with a great live sound, which shows why that cramped room upstairs at the Firefly is a great place to listen to live music. They got a rousing reception which was utterly deserved.

Temporarily a three piece for the night, South Wales' finest **Bedford Falls** probably didn't fool many of the crowd by announcing they were "Cheap Trick from Chicago" but their hooks and choruses were every bit as sweet. A belting guitar sound, and another band playing with big smiles just happy to be part of the night.

And then came the main course of the beautifully emotive **Bivouac**. There were plenty of us in the crowd who thought we'd never see this bunch again since they split in the mid-90s, so I'm not ashamed to admit there were a few butterflies in various



stomachs as they set up. From the opening bars of "Sweet Heart Deal" though they proceeded to blast through a set of totally joyous tuneage played with a passion and spirit that belied the 20 year odd hiatus since their last gig. A few old timers even had a pogo and many of us would have been hoarse the next morning singing along to the old classics like "ABC" and "Drank". It's amazing what the power of a well written song can do to a grown man.

I asked Paul, their frontman to sum up the evening; "I was blown away by people's enthusiasm and generosity, one guy flew from Sweden, another wept. An intimate and amusing racket, a quality singalong. I reckon we made some new friends and they reminded me what playing live is all about"

That'll do for me. The after show party weren't bad neither.

Manly Banister

Pete Clinton's Non Wake 3 The Barrels, Hereford | Monday 30th May

This all started in 2014 when Pete was in trouble with cancer and he decided to hold a wake when he could still enjoy the music - **The Barrels** obliged. Fortunately, with a bit of surgical assistance, he is still with us and the now annual 3rd wake, was held at the Barrels on a pleasant Bank Holiday Monday. Now Pete happens to love the blues so it was no surprise that the day saw 3 excellent bands lined up to entertain a large gathering in aid of St Richards Hospice.

The session opened with the **Back Porch Band**, these boys from Ipswich were on a bit of a tour and had appeared at Ledbury's Prince Of Wales the previous day, so having seen them and already written a review, I skipped this semi-acoustic band. This is not meant to dismiss their presence as I'm pretty sure they would have found many friends here.

I arrived to catch **The Mosquitos** in full flight and they were buzzing. **Steve Walwyn** in full attack on his Telecaster, **Nick Rowbotham** in fine voice with **Steve Aaron** cradling a Les Paul on his right flank, whilst behind, the pulsating bass of **Chris Wright** was working his magic with drummer **Andy Bentley**. Steve was given freedom to sting the crowd with some superb solo flights,



but a change of wings brought out the bottleneck slide to wonderful effect. Last time I saw him he was slinging some beaten metal from a French blacksmiths forge, but this time round he was rocket powered. Making *'Something Out Of Nothing'* the band

moved from the soul filled *'I'd Rather Go Blind'*, to being bitten by a *'Hounddog'*. A high speed chase in a *'Cadillac'* took us all the way to a glorious *'Gloria'*, where everyone joined into the chorus lines. **The Mosquitos** were humming and finished on a fabulous bottleneck slide driven *'Bullfrog Blues'*. Out with the DEET to clear the stage then and ready for what was to be a smouldering fuse of a **Slowburner**; they were going to have to be on form to keep up the buzz.

There is no doubting their standing and they may not be a household name, but Slowburner are an outstanding band. **Paul Bridgewater** has the vocal lead many bands can only aspire to, whilst guitarist

Mike Bannister is a force to be reckoned with. The drum and bass foundations are superb; the heavy stringed bass wielded by **Simon Neale**, alongside the explosive drumming from **Dave Small**, light the fuse that fizzles through Slowburner. *'Messing With The Kid'* blasted out followed by a rocked up Robert Johnson's *'Stop Breaking Down'*. A call came out for Small Faces - *'Three Button Hand Me down'* and Paul obliged in style with the fuse having burned through. Slowburner's eruption was unstoppable and we were all left *'Standing On Shaky Ground'*. Dave took over vocals for a funky up *'Midnight Train'* which was my signal to leave for the station. It had been a Barrel full of Blues and I'm pleased to say **Pete Clinton** was looking well, so we can look forward to more of these 'non-wakes' in the future. I walked away, the sound still carried on the air, before eventually fading under the rumble of traffic.

Words by Graham Munn

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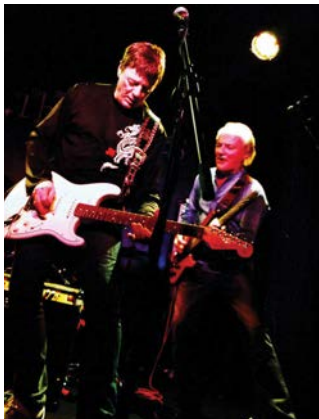
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July Jubilations at Artrix



The Kinks are still regarded as one of the most influential rock bands of the 60s and many of the original members are still playing as **The Kast Off Kinks**. **Mick Avory, Ian Gibbons, Dave Clarke and John Dalton** will be performing all the hits at **Artrix** on 8th July including 'Lola', 'Waterloo Sunset' and 'You Really Got Me'. You'll be back enjoying that sunny afternoon before you know.

Voted best tribute band of 2015, **Purple Zeppelin** are a hugely entertaining and authentic tribute band. Whether you were lucky enough to have seen Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple in action or not, this band will recreate the excitement and raw energy of two of the greatest rock bands of all time. You can see them in action at Artrix on 30th July.



We like to be ahead of the pack here at Artrix and on 31st July we're looking forward to hosting our first ever **Baby Rave** on Sunday 31st July. Parents, carers, children and grannies can dance, wave and wriggle along as Jessie DJ plays a selection of CBeebies and 90s tracks. Sound and light levels will be suitable for young children and families can relax in the chill out area available in the Studio.

Hannah Phillips, Artrix's Director says 'As a parent of two young children myself, I know how difficult it can be to keep them entertained. We hope that families will join us for what promises to be a fun and exciting afternoon'

Artrix's Baby Rave will take place on Sunday 31st July from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Tickets cost £3.00 for 6 months to 12 year olds or £5.00 for those who are 12 years and above (no age limit.) There is free entry for 0-6 month year olds.

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Spaztic Robot | Skip Rope Rhymes

Spaztic Robot is the new project by **Robbie Sparks**, once of splatter-punk heroes, **Rebel City Radio**. Reading the accompanying bio however it would seem the initial seed for **Spaztic Robot** may have been planted way back in 1990, when a fertile minded nine year old Robbie chanced upon two dead dogs at opposite ends of a nothing street littered with ugly houses with dark secrets hidden within... *Skip Rope Rhymes* was created in much the same vein; a collection of characters and stories that could all live on that same faceless street, behind the closed doors of ugly new houses with identical square gardens laid out in front.

The album opens with *'Robot Rape'*, ominous chime, secret whispers, a sampled radio announcement and sinister distorted soundscapes before making way for a programmed beat and an unsettling Trent Reznor-like half whispered lead vocal, before fading out to be replaced by an over-driven guitar or bass introducing the dark, clanking groove of *'Walk The Long Way Home'*. This track's twisted near-rapped vocals, anguished screams and disorientating Oompah chats over a wave of distorted riffs and beats, whilst the bleak, twisted lyrics and clattered instrumentation bring to mind that of Rob Zombie, only instead of some disused fairground this is happening right now on your street.

'The Ants!' changes direction completely; gone are the nightmare landscapes replaced by a delicate plucked guitar and a dreamy, floating lead vocal, peppered by snippets of spoken word samples, marching drums and the low throb of bass before returning to the becalming guitar for a suitably lulling close. *'Confetti Crowns'* is different again with its upbeat repetitive, beat

led groove complete with crooned vocals and a nagging hook seducing, which despite the call to arms like lyrics brings to mind the likes of the long forgotten VAST or Rico. *'Fingered At The Disco'* is a suitably twisted slice of warped vocals, clanking instrumentation plus industrial like groove that's nigh on perfect for disturbing your neighbours; Robbie murmurs and sings through gritted teeth, whilst creating a sinister, creaking backdrop as he unsettles with his tale from beyond the twitching curtain.

The album continues in much the same vein as organic guitars fight to be heard among programmed machines. Moments of light may be shattered by a well timed sample, a blast of icy instrumentation or devilish incantation, all which leads to a demonic nine minute centre-piece, *'This Is God'*; a murderous rampage all delivered with a smarmy, boastful vocal that's probably twisted enough to get Robbie

sectioned on the spot. Even Robbie's fairly faithful and seriously impressive rendition of *'(Don't Fear) The Reaper'* manages to somehow chill to the bone due to the album's context.

But here's the thing; this album may not be aimed for those faint of heart or of a nervous disposition and yes it's dark, yes it's sinister and sure Robbie could well be the devil's right hand man, but despite all of that (or maybe because of that, depending on your demeanour), *'Skip Rope Rhymes'* compels, urging the listener to wait for the next reveal, whether lyrically or indeed instrumentally as Robbie searches the dark recess of his fertile, inventive mind. Those looking for a nice harmony or a sing-a-long hook look away now, but for those of unafraid to embrace the unknown, Spaztic Robot may well be for you. A word of warning though - if you're going to listen to this late at night, bolt your door as you never know who's living across the road in that faceless house! www.spazticrobot.com

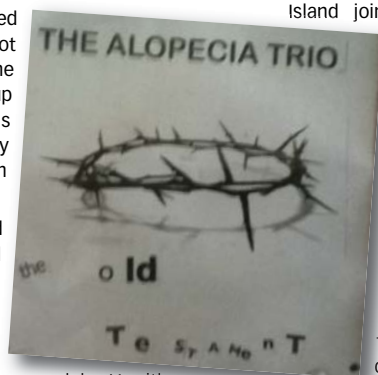
Words by Will Munn

The Alopecia Trio | The Old Testament

When it comes to local bands, Bewdley based three-piece The Alopecia Trio, led by Elliot Fishwarmer, may well be just about the region's best well kept secret. This is a group that has been constantly churning out albums to little or no attention; indeed to date they have recorded eighteen discs to widescreen ignorance and disregard.

Following on from such wonderfully titled albums as *'Bullshit Baffles Brains'*, *'Turd'* and *'Shark Shit Soup'*, the trio return to the fray with *'The Old Testament'*, a rowdy twelve affair, (un)produced in what sounds like the band's garage, recorded straight to a warped c90 cassette and performed very live with no overdubs. Yes it's rough and ready, but once upon a time all unsigned bands sounded like this; The Alopecia Trio are punk and they're proud.

With guitars set to fuzz and the drums recorded somewhere in the next door neighbor's toilet, the band open with a guttural roar and *'Wings Of Fudge'*, a tongue in cheek punk rock affair with half spoken, half shouted lead vocals underpinned by a pacey rhythm and a cutting solo that suggests the Alopecia Trio can play a little if they choose. *'Horsefair Love'* continues in much the same vein, before the band slow things down for the filth infested sludgy groove of *'Automatic Vulva'*.



'You Are The Trauma Of My Life' opens with drummer, Rongo Stour exploring his pots and pans before Fishwarmer and Barry Island join in battering the crap out of their instruments, whilst drawling about that special person who went and ruined it all. *'I Bought A Bike'* is a silly yet infectious slice of pop punk lamenting the joys of peddle power, whilst *'I Don't Know What To Say'*, musically brings to mind The Ramones ie short, sharp and to the point - three and half minutes, two and half chords - done. Elsewhere there's puerile humour and dodgy non-PC lyrics aplenty on the likes of *'Fire In My Arse'* and *'Blubberfuck'*, whilst musically there's little time or need for finesse or style, more of a case of crank it up and pound it out as the Alopecia boys prove they are fine advocates of that time-honoured Sniffin' Glue advert *'This is a chord, this is another, this is a third, now form a band'*.

If you're looking for the so-called modern day polished punk of Kerrang or Big Cheese, I recommend you head for the hills, but if you can remember a time when punk was about noise, more spit than polish, a shit load of fuzz and zero production value, you might just get something out of the Alopecia Trio. Brash, loud and more than a bit silly, heed this warning, the trio are heading out of the garage and into your local.

Words by Will Munn

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Folk At The Jinney Ring

Sat 11th June | Jinney Ring Craft Centre

Following on from last year, where the line up included many top class, but more mainstream acts, this year's festival had reverted to a more roots folk basis. When the dates are set on tablets of stone, it probably could not have been foreseen that the festival would clash with some major sporting fixtures. Undoubtedly, the first European clash for England, did have an impact on numbers. All the more beer for me then, shame that driving was going to impact on those aspirations, **The Jinney Ring** always puts on some fine ales and ciders, along with some of the best festival food out there.

The air was damp as I arrived to catch the tail end of harmonising sisters from Bristol, **Honeyfires**; the description of dreamy, pop-folk, may well be right, but I had unfortunately been delayed.

The stage was rapidly reset, not much to do really as solo artist **Mark Stevenson** from Ledbury, stepped up with his bodhran and whistle. His style is traditional with an Irish influence, also setting some of his poems to the paganistic rhythm of the bodhran. '*Pretty Fair Maid*' was orated and rough cut from ancient timbre, this man needs no microphone. As the tribal beat continues along with some rain, Mark poignantly sings '*Listen To It Fall*'. With verse he paints pictures of his semi nomadic times around the area, but the climax was the excellent '*Ledbury Rap*', an irreverent rant through historical Ledbury, the drinking holes that are long gone and the few that you may find Mark patronising now. '*Odysseus*' was recited, a monumental myth given life by the vocal power of Mark Stevenson. He finished with a flourish, breaking into my blues world with Captain Beefheart's '*Grow Fins*' - marvellous.

Staying close to home Malvern based duo '*Jack Of All*', with **Laurence** on guitar and vocals and **Anna** on fiddle, bring their



punk folk polemic to the growing numbers of listeners. There seems to be an endless stream of crises, putting ink in the pen to produce political protestations and social comment. '*Bird Of Fire*' was inspired by Victor Jara, an early Pinochet victim in Chile. The fund-raising '*Welcome To The Others*' followed on, a call for support of the many migrants risking their lives to reach safe shores. A lighter note to close on as a Tears For Fears cover, nicely fiddled up by Anna, for Laurence to sing; its all a bit of a '*Mad World*'.

The next set was going to be much more animated, in fact the constraints of the stage are the only controlling factor, as local



dynamic trio **Granny's Attic** stepped up. Much of their music is traditional folk, deeply buried in history, when Britannia ruled the waves. They warmed up with instrumental '*Royal Oak*', scribed by fiddle playing Lewis, a complete contrast to '*The Death Of Nelson*' and the deep baritone recital from **Cohen**, conjuring up in my mind '*Heart Of Oaks*'. George 'bounces' from left to right, reminding both Lewis and Cohen that they were not alone. He's like an unbalanced super-ball that cannons into every corner. A labourers lament is amiably put to verse in '*County Hirings*', a reflection on grafting for a pittance, scant reward that brings comforts to the landlord but only misery for the workers. The constant interaction on stage brings us the crescendo with the superb imagery of '*Paddy on The Railroad*'. Granny's Attic certainly livened up the pace of the day, injecting their infectious spirit into a slowly warming late afternoon.

Numbers had swelled throughout the day, as a fork melting Portobello Mushroom and Tomato burger awaited, washed down by a fine ale. The stage was reset for the numerous **Woo Town Hillbillies** to settle. Like the previous band, there is always plenty of interaction on a stage filled with Hillbillies, as country crashes into bluegrass and guitar duels with banjo, with the rhythm laid down by rasping washboard and big double bass. The dungaree and Stetson clad **Luke** leads the vocals, standing tall on stage, **Simon** and **Emmy Lou**, string themselves up in vocal support, **Goose**, brooding in the wash house has half a hardware store



strapped to his 'board', as **Paul** quietly goes about his business on a much lower scale. Songs are rattled through from '*Foggy Mountain*' via a tasty '*Hot Dog*' and a spell in '*Dartmoor*', shared no doubt with '*Fat Bottom Girls*'. All done in the best possible taste!

Jinney Ring had spread their net a little further to trawl in award winning 'Best Newcomer' of 2010, **Sam Carter**. Since then he has become firmly established, here bringing with him **Mat Ridley** on bass and **Ed Jenkins** on drums. If folk meets rock this is where it

happens, with influences as diverse as Fairport Convention and Radiohead. It certainly shows on stage, with searing electric guitar leads, strong lyrics and a very solid bass and drum, which seemed to owe much to the rock world.

A more traditional 'Dreams Are Made Of Money', with its superb and pertinent lyrics, contrasts with a full on 'Dark Days', taken from his latest 'How The City Sleeps' album. 'Jack Hall' takes us back to a time highway robbery ending with a hangman's noose. We are transported forward into the guitar driven 'Said It All Before' and the blues bars of the rolling 'Waves And Tremors'. All in a fascinating and excellent set full of fine lyrics and musicianship.

How do you follow that? Well you bring on the vivacious and vibrantly expressive **Lucy Ward**, carrying with her a selection of instruments; however it is her delivery that stands out. Something akin to a female Brian Blessed or Shakespearean song lead, she carries her Derbyshire roots with pride, bringing a splash of colour to entertain us all. The delightfully dark 'Last Pirouette' kicks off and oddly I'm reminded of Black Sabbath on tranquillisers - hmm no idea why! The beautiful lament of the monumental 'Lion' pays homage to the hidden cost of The Great War, it came from a Billy Bragg '1418 Now' commission; it's a memorable song that has a full colliery brass band on the recorded version. Lucy expounds the mesmerising '3 Fisherman And Me' which is a slippy tale where the mermaid gets off the hook. With Europe so much in mind at present Lucy decided to hold that thought and 'Waterloo' seemed an ideal 'cover', but it really points towards times of turmoil in the fields near Brussels; nothing is new then. Lucy is a fabulous entertainer, a warm spirit conjured upon the stage, with much of her material coming from local characters, myths and tales, all parts of our dark history. She closes with another reminder of our sorry past 'For The Dead Men'; death and glory in the streets gloriously narrated at Jinney Ring by **Lucy Ward**.



The night had rapidly closed in now cool and damp, but under the canvas the stage glowed red as **Jasper In The Company Of Others**, was readying to liven up the scene, with a steady influx of supporters now clustered near the stage. The sound check sorted it was not long before we were all grooving on the grass, to the raw edged 'Indie' rhythms of this very popular local band. Jasper & Co seem to have established a solid standing on festival stages, but it was unfortunately time for me to slip away. **The Jinney Ring** as ever had created a fine festival of folk, with the essential seasoning of excellent food and drink. They could not of course 'fix' the atmospheric conditions, but Sam and Lucy had 'warmed' us all, **Woo Town** had won us over and we were cheered to be found 'In The Company Of Others'.

Take a look at **The Jinney Ring Blues Festival** line up, as it's a cracker and no doubt will be another fantastic day of music, set in such lovely surroundings - August 13th is a must mark your calendars.

Graham Munn

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The Cotswolds' **Lechlade Festival** is a small but fully event that has been running for a few years now, offering a delicious combination of the best new acts on the circuit, alongside a collection of established firm festival faves.



The first beer of the day and then a set by the highly recommended **Ma Polaine's Great Decline**. This intriguing duo are influenced by 50's blues and jazz with a rootsy country swing that's found comparison to a young Billie Holiday gatecrashing a Tom Waits session. It's easy to see why people become intoxicated by the duo's sound, as the intriguing lyrics, brooding vocals and lyrics compel, whilst fragmented shards of guitar pepper the set and bass vies with accordion ,offering a mouthwatering flipside to the band's more typical jazzy blues sound.



Then came **Doctor And The Medics** for their third year turn. The band took to the stage accompanied by a Cyberman to the backing sounds of Dr Who And The Daleks, before launching head first into a rowdy take on 'You Spin Me Round (Like A Record)'. By the time the band laid down the familiar chords of 'Tainted Love', the field became a mass swarm of revellers feeding from the band's energy and hollering the track's refrain back at the band who responded in kind as the weekend began in earnest. Spirited(!) versions of 'Love Shack' and 'Kids In America' are dealt with before inevitable mega hit 'Spirit In The Sky'. That wasn't it though S THE rousing one-two knockout punch of 'Teenage Kick's' and 'Ace Of Spades', leaving an exhilarated crowd baying for more.

One more chance to dance then as I witness seven-piece funk rockers **The Standard** tearing up the place with a sweaty combination of ska horns, choppy guitars, groove laced rhythms

and frantic vocal trades. Band - audience - palms - hands. As we left day one **Vesbim's Pink Floyd Show** were entertaining the masses with what looked like an incredible homage to Floyd, light show and all.

Day Two and **Mark Harrison**, looking lost on the big main stage with only percussionist **Ed Hopwood** for company, however his nicely crafted songs of modern life and the tough Southern States were a welcome, gentle start to the day's proceedings, with plenty of people sat listening attentively.

Next up dropping in for 45 minutes was **Elles Bailey** and her band; there was no shortage of energy being burned as Elles dominated the stage with her band in more than able support. Superb stuff all round!

Later on I found **Pistol Pete Wearn** tucked away in the smaller



Yuasa stage for his acoustic set. Pete had warm applause even for his sound check before a gritty 'Rollin & Tumblin' was quickly followed by 'Make Me A Pallet On Your Floor'; all good solid Mississippi



Delta music. This stage was the smallest of the 3, but perfect for Pete to air his own work, alongside a few interpretations of his choosing. At the finish Pete trades Gretsch for harp for a very fine, bare boned 'Police And High Sheriff'; a perfect way to close his set as the blue sky paled into the evening.

Back then to Mainstage for the turn of **Alex Rainsford**, who was treading the boards with full band in tow, delivering an impressive set blending laid back folky laments with more upbeat indie styled rockers, with his band providing the sonic textures to frame his expressive vocals and lyrics. Having previously only seen Alex in a solo setting, the full five-piece band experience was something of a revelation.

Welsh four-piece **4th Street** follow, cranking up the amps to deliver a bolshy set of anthemic rock. The band bound onto the main stage and immediately set about waking the audience with an energetic and contagious set of spiky riffs and pounding drums. This band were determined to leave a lasting impression and by the time they delivered a suitably rousing cover of 'Whole Lotta Rosie', pockets of the audience were on their feet hollering along in unison. The band kept up the pace with impressive ballsy originals and a rollicking 'Sweet Child Of Mine' amongst other fine selections.



Glam punk 'n' rollers **The Last Great Dreamers** were up next, with a blend of the best of The Beatles, Stones and New York Dolls all rolled into one potent force. TLGD took to the stage dressed to impress and armed to the teeth with a collection of killer hooks and razor sharp riffs. The band set off at a frantic, charged pace, stalking the stage with intent and their incendiary set is all delivered with a glorious snotty attitude that's impossible to ignore.

Hunter And The Bear are set to become stars and last year they began to make serious inroads on the festival circuit. As soon as the band walked on you could feel a noticeable surge towards the front and by the time they'd finished their first number, the crowd seemed to swell, embracing the band's take on driving roots rock (imagine a combination of The Hold Steady, Springsteen, Zeppelin and The Band). The masses seemed to hang on frontman Will's every word and their cover of the aforementioned Springsteen's 'The River' proved a winner with the audience allowing a big sing-a-long moment. It's fair to say that **Hunter And The Bear** definitely left a lasting impression on the Cotswolds.

The final day of **Lechlade** and we were back onsite for the first band of the day, **Kamikaze Test Pilots**, a band that the program described as 'melodic vocals, chugging rhythms, searing solos,

world music and many other things'. I would add to this that metallic riffs rain from above, combining with intoxicating stop-start world rhythms, funk bass and melodic vocal chants and hook-laden hollers creating something wildly different. The four-piece performed a number of excellent originals before their, had to be heard to be believed, metallic version of Bob Marley's '*Could It Be Love*' proved the thrilling midday wake-up call.

Dirty Rotten Souls were unexpectedly shoe-horned onto the mainstage and seized their upgrade with both hands delivering a well received set of hard rock anthems with the delightfully named set closer '*You Look Better With A Bullet In You*' being the pick of their riff friendly set.

The Dirty Smooth were the next band to leave a lasting impression with a glorious set of dirty rocks riffs and smooth vocal melodies. They got the crowd on their feet after a bit afternoon lull with a collection of searing guitar solos, contagious originals and inspired covers of '*Jumpin' Jack Flash*' and '*Hot N Cold*' especially proving big winners with the busy tent, suggesting a Mainstage slot for next year's event.

Being the last day of any festival, you tend to notice people begin to drift away and that was very much in evidence as the day drew on. Only the hardcore rockers then stood on the barriers for the dual guitar attack for local cult heroes Dealer. They were to be our final band of a highly enjoyable long weekend, leaving me with a smile on my face and a slightly sore neck from headbanging as we unfortunately curtailed our festivities prematurely.

If you're looking for a small, fun, family flavoured festival then I highly recommend you checkout Cotswolds' finest next year.

Words by Will Munn and Graham Munn

For our comprehensive review of Lechlade Festival checkout: www.rhythmbooze.tumblr.com

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Music Sessions/Open Mics

Every Monday - Folk Session

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Every Monday - Open Mic

Royal Oak, Ledbury

Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Every Monday - Folk Night

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon Open Mic

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

1st Mon of Month - Open Mic

The Regal Cinema, Evesham

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Tues - Jazz Night

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

First Tues - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

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 Tues - Folk Evening

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

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 Wed - Electric Jam Night

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions

The Crown, Colwall

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Plough & Harrow, Guarfild

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 - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

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Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

1st Thurs - Folk Session

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

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

Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

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

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Every Thursday - Acoustic Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Every Thursday - Local Artists

The Pheasant, Worcester

Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance

Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Third Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See malvernstorytellers.co.uk

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton

The Unicorn, Malvern

Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club run by Sam & Eleanor

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

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

2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Last Sun - Open Mic with Simon Wallace

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

2nd Sun - Singaround Session

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

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

1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

1st & 3rd Sun - 'Baa 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

Friday 01 July 2016

Southfall, Crows & Crosses & Inclosure
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Popes Of Chillitown
Café René, Gloucester

Erica, Priori
Iron Road, Evesham

Harare
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Collective Soul Band
Drummonds, Worcester

Ray Mytton Band
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

The Doonies
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Tower Night: Grizzleroot, Massive Head Trauma, Days Of End
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tbc
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Sister Sandwich, Charley Wilde
The Talbot, Bewdley

Lynne Hanson & The Good Intentions, Sunjay
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Neil Ivison
The Pheasant, Worcester

Dave Onions
The Black Boy, Bridgenorth

The Delray Rockets
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ricky Cool & The in Crowd
Queens Head, Wolverley

Griff Collins
The Red Lion, Evesham

Jazzy B - Soul li Soul
Subtone, Cheltenham

Nice'n'sleazy
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Club Dead Iv, Maniac Ss, Dj Dead
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Rock 'N' Roll Paradise
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Kimber's Men
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Zervas And Pepper
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Naked Beatles, Lusty Springfield
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 02 July 2016

Hostiles, Time Of The Mouth
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Nwobhm Special - Sacrilege, Toledo Steel
Iron Road, Evesham

Threepenny Bit
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Kinstrikea
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

After Dark
New Inn, Pershore

Hybrid
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

The Counterfeit Eagles
The Wharf, Stourport

Mark Leedham
The Chestnut, Worcester

Reflections
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Soul Stripper, Rock Bottom
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chris Hutchinson
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Chronicles of Zee
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

West Fest See: West-fest.org.uk 12pm - 10pm
West Malvern

Stuart Woolfenden
Arrow Valley Lake, Redditch

Stuart Woolfenden
Bromsgrove Rugby Football Club, Bromsgrove

Playground
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

White Feather Collective Ep Launch Party
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Ash Mandrake (2-4Pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Soul Stripper, Rock Bottom
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Carnival Day With Midnight City
Queens Head, Wolverley

Still Crazy
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

The Cuginis
Subtone, Cheltenham

Acoustic Night Hosted By James Allen + Support
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Coverjunksies
The Bell, Worcester

Alabamaman
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Jive Talkin' Perform The Bee Gees
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Steve Page (Open Secrets)
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

George Monatgue
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Soultown
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Sunday 03 July 2016

C.Lorkin O'reilly
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Kickback Party Band
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Month Of Sundays
The Chestnut, Worcester

Hair Of The Dog Sessions With Steve Linforth
The Swan, New Street, Worcester 5Pm

Jem's Ep Launch
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Hills Angels
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Dave Beale
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Bob Fox: The Warhorse Songman
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Sam Outlaw
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Sons Of The Delta Band
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Matt Cardle
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Bridgefest - All Day Metal/Rock Festival, See: Riverrooms.Com
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Monday 04 July 2016

Danny Bhoy Preview Show
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Flying Ant Day, Planet Loco, Disco Tramps, Harpdog Trucker, A Different Beast, Jessica Law, Dave Coughlin, Linda Marita Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Crazy Town, Go Primitive, Ways Across, Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Tuesday 05 July 2016

International Poets Society Of Stourport, Open Mic 7-10Pm
The Swan Stourport, Stourport

Wednesday 06 July 2016

Katey Brooks
Café René, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Thursday 07 July 2016

Solana
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Bromsgrove Folk Festival, See: bromsgrovefolkclub.co.uk
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

FCS Presents: Moose Blood, Muncie Girls, Navajo Ace
Mars Bar, Worcester

Vincent Flatts
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

The Youth Within, Pablo Alto, Jonny Fluffypunk, Spoz
Ledbury British Legion, Ledbury

Steve Ajao
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Kettle Of Fish
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Gaz Brookfield
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Punk 'N' Poetry, The Youth Within, Pablo Alto, Jonny Fluffypunk, Spoz
The British Legion, Ledbury

Friday 08 July 2016

Taffy Was A Thief
Café René, Gloucester

Plastic Scene
The Rainbow, Birmingham

Steve Daggett
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Kast Off Kinks
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Bromsgrove Folk Festival, See: bromsgrovefolkclub.co.uk
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Mike Stewart-Lawrence
Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

The Core
Drummonds, Worcester

Alex Rainsford
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Christian Album Tour
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Bleeding Hearts
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Shenanigans VII, Leading Lights, Mick Brigdale, James Taylor
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Tasha
The Red Lion, Evesham

Solid State
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Ben Stancomb
The Pheasant, Worcester

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds
Clarence Court, Malvern Link

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Ian Luther & His Band
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Solid State
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Vaseline
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Counterfeit Stones
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Abba Forever
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Lisa Mann
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

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Legend - Classic Rock
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 09 July 2016

Last Edition And Support
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Nirvana Uk, Pearl Skam
Iron Road, Evesham

Chicago Bytes
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Hut People
The Courtyard, Hereford

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

Junction 7
Green Dragon, Malvern

Bromsgrove Folk Festival, See: bromsgrovefolkclub.co.uk
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Sunjay
Elmslie House, Malvern

Devoted To Rock
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

3 Bands For £3
Marris Bar, Worcester

Timeless Jazz
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Nice'n'sleazy
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

The Meharis, Planet Loco, Flying Ant Day, 1 - 5Pm
The Spotted Dog, Digbeth

Appleby Kinsey & Friends
Cafe At The Stores, Colwall, Worcs

Stuart Woolfenden
Sanders Park, Bromsgrove

Matt Peplow
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Arcadia Roots
The Black Boy (Bewdley Hotel), Bewdley

Midnight City
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Harlem Dandy + Support
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Test Drive
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Forever in Blue Jeans
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Genesish
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Tadek Chyliniski-Reid
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Sunday 10 July 2016

Reflections
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Vo Fletcher
The Chestnut, Worcester

Bromsgrove Folk Festival, See: bromsgrovefolkclub.co.uk
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Hair Of The Dog Sessions With Jules Benjamin
The Swan, New Street, Worcester 5Pm

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Ray Mytton
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

C-Jam
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 11 July 2016

Lisa Mann
Iron Road, Evesham

Brothers Groove
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 12 July 2016

Vin Garbutt
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 13 July 2016

Kev Minney + Della Lupa
Café René, Gloucester

Tim Loud And Will Wood
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Artrix Summer Exhibition
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ardvark Stew
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Tyler & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

7Sidesouth
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

Thursday 14 July 2016

Chris Antonik
Iron Road, Evesham

Mal Webb, Kylie Morrison
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Babajack
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

The Black Rapids
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Lucas D And The Groove Ghetto
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Mad Dog Mcree
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Some Guys Have All The Luck - The Rod Stewart Story
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Friday 15 July 2016

Thee Ones
Café René, Gloucester

Weston & Dellow
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Official Receivers
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mr Wolf
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra Big Band
Droitwich Legion Inn, Droitwich

Wings Over Abbey Road
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Worried Men
The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Underdogs
Drummonds, Worcester

Clarksville Mountain Band
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Treble A
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Dilemma Council
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Hennesea
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tbc
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Wolfren Riverstick
The Red Lion, Evesham

Upton Blues Festival www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk
Upton-Upon-Severn, Worcestershire

Tom Forbes
The Pheasant, Worcester

Tbc.
Queens Head, Wolverley

Outrage Against The Machine
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

OCD
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Mister Wolf
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

A Night At The Musicals: Sue Ryder Fundraiser
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Courtney Pine
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Bon Jovi Experience
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 16 July 2016

Stacie Collins - Nashville Usa
Iron Road, Evesham

Red Propellors
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Hump Da Bump, Notorious Brothers, Dave Onions, River Chickens
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Institutions
New Inn, Pershore

Leslie Wilson
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

The Fireballs Uk
The Chestnut, Worcester

Rock'n'roll Back The Years With David Hamilton
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Chasing Yesterday
Marris Bar, Worcester

Terry Walla
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tbc
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Wams Presents: The Whole Caboodle Electric Ceilidh Band
St Swithun's Institute, Worcester

Upton Blues Festival www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk
Upton-Upon-Severn, Worcestershire

Mad Mick!
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

The Kitchen Island Band Summer Party
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Chasing Yesterday
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jack Of All
Fabfest, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Buzz Family Fun Day By Everybody Dance
Longlands Care Farm, Whitborne, Worcestershire

The Delray Rockets
The Camp House, Grimley, Worcester

Attack! Pro Wrestling - Club One Hundred #1
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Mister Wolf
The Star, Upton Upon Severn

The Executives
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Taylor & Co
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Chas And Dave
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Enid
Guildhall, Gloucester

Claire Gaynor & Paul Merrell
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Commandments
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunday 17 July 2016

Soul Stripper, GT Band
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Jay & Eli
The Chestnut, Worcester

Loz Rabone
The Swan, New Street, Worcester 5Pm

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)
The Red Lion, Evesham

For Details See: www.Uptonbluesfestival.Org.Uk
Upton Blues Festival, Upton-Upon-Severn

Medicine Spoon
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Edd Bateman's West African Love Affair
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Malar
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Monday 18 July 2016

The Cut Ups, Time Of The Mouth And Saltwounds
The Cellar Bar, Worcester

Tuesday 19 July 2016

John Etherington

Clows Top Victory Hall, Clows Top, Worcs

Floorboards, Oui Legionnaires, Stay Gone, Campfires,
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Accoustic Jam Session with Ian Fuller

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Symphony To A Lost Generation

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 20 July 2016

Earl Thomas

Iron Road, Evesham

Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Symphony To A Lost Generation

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

A Night Of Dirty Dancing

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Thursday 21 July 2016

Who's Next (Tribute)

Iron Road, Evesham

Speed Buggy, Lonesome Gods

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Friday 22 July 2016

Back:N:Black - The Girls Who Play Ac/Dc

River Rooms, Stourbridge

Echo Town, Adam Scriven

Café René, Gloucester

Davy Rocks

The Express, Malvern

Desperado

Artrix, Bromsgrove

KTO

The Pheasant Inn, Toddington

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Michael Knowles And The Stds, By The Shore, Tba,

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jenny Hallam

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Rovin' Fest 2016 see: rovinfest.com

Cheltenham RFC, Newlands Park, Cheltenham

The John Steeds

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Bang Bang Billie

The Red Lion, Evesham

Nice 'n' Sleezey

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Nozstock see: www.Nozstock.Com

Nozworthy Farm, Bromyard, Herefordshire

Jay & Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

Buzz Family Fun Day By Everybody Dance

Longlands Care Farm, Whitborne, Worcestershire, WR6 5SG

Forty Blue Toes

Queens Head, Wolverley

Vehicle

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Legend Of A Band - Tribute To The Moody Blues

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Livewire - The Ac/Dc Show

Guildhall, Gloucester

Mark Harrison

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Cheltenham Connections - The Acoustic Boys (Pillar Room)

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 23 July 2016

The Starving Rascals

River Rooms, Stourbridge

Mistrusted, Balaban And The Bald Illegals

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Black Circles, Kid Harlequin (NI)

Iron Road, Evesham

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After Dark

Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Deborah Bonham Band, Jo Burt, Arcadia Roots,

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

The Outcasts

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Carol Lee-Sampson & Ben Church's Country Blues

Green Dragon, Malvern

Jibbafish

The Chestnut, Worcester

Carol Lee-Sampson & Ben Church.....Country Blues

Green Dragon, Malvern

Rhombus, Dj Cruel Britannia, Last July, The Glass House Museum

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Wet Desert

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

The Bad Soul Buskers

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Nozstock see: www.Nozstock.Com

Nozworthy Farm, Bromyard, Herefordshire

Claire Boswell

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Rovin' Fest 2016 see: rovinfest.com

Cheltenham RFC, Newlands Park, Cheltenham

The Mob

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Normandie, Adelpia, Breathe in The Silence, Muchos Tequilas Later

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Dirty Smooth (Main Room), Who's Next (Tribute)

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Protocol

The Swan, Evesham

Arcadia Roots, Deborah Bonham

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Sunday 24 July 2016

The Ray Mytton Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Hair Of The Dog Sessions With Ben Vickers

The Swan, New Street, Worcester 5Pm

Rovin' Fest 2016 see: rovinfest.com

Cheltenham RFC, Newlands Park, Cheltenham

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)

The Red Lion, Evesham

Nozstock see: www.Nozstock.Com

Nozworthy Farm, Bromyard, Herefordshire

Swampcandy

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 25 July 2016

Lucky Peterson

Iron Road, Evesham

Alash

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Drifter

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Wednesday 27 July 2016

Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Peppers, Gloucester

Thursday 28 July 2016

The Barrel House Blues Band

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

The Humdrum Express, Cal Doonican, Ian Marrey

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

These Minds, Goblins, Wreckage (NI), Icymi,

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Lenny James & The Gator Squad

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Folk in The Foyer: Green Diesel, Emi Mcdade

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Blind Boy Paxton

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Friday 29 July 2016

Ultimate UB40

River Rooms, Stourbridge

Beer Beer Orchestra & Support

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Motley Crude, Electric Circus UK (Mc Tribute)

Iron Road, Evesham

The Disciples

Drummonds, Worcester

Tony Sands

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

OLB #5: Grove Street Families, Blanket Hill (Lux), Headcase

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lucas D And The Groove Ghetto

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Bad Names

The Red Lion, Evesham

Magic Eight Ball

The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

4 Shires Real Ale Cider Music Festival

Droitwich Spa see: www.4shires.events

Livestock Festival See: www.Livestocklongdon.co.uk

Longdon, Glos

Ben Vickers

The Pheasant, Worcester

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tom Walker Trio

Queens Head, Wolverley

Gunnrunner

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Mother Popcorn

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Up On The Roof

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Black Feathers

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Saturday 30 July 2016

Permageddon: 80s Pop v 80s Rock

River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Greasy Sticks

Iron Road, Evesham

The Outcasts

Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Cougar

New Inn, Pershore

Into The Shadows (Tribute)

The Courtyard, Hereford

Dulcemelos (Mexico)

St Andrew's Church, Church Hill, Redditch

The Futures

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Que Viva El Salterio Workshop & Concert

St Andrew's Church, Church Hill, Redditch

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

1st Point Break. Malvern Cube

2nd Cheltenham Midsummer Fiesta

Until 2nd Warwickshire Open Studios

5th - The Magnetic Diaries by Reaction Theatres

- Ledbury Poetry Festival

7th – 30th Reflection by Janet James. Number 8 Pershore

8th Honey by Reaction Theatre Makers– Malvern Cube

8th – 10th July Retrospectively Speaking: Norman Neasom
1930's-2010. Artrix Bromsgrove.

9th The End Festival, Callow End, Worcestershire

9th-until 11th Sept Grayson Perry Vanity of small
Differences Croome NT.

10th-17th Vista Movement Choir by Dancefest. Croome NT

13th-15th Buggy Malone John Moore Theatre Worcester
(Elgar School of Music)

The Executives

The Express, Malvern

Built For Comfort

The Chestnut, Worcester

Vo Fletcher

Green Dragon, Malvern

Purple Zeppelin

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Local Acoustic Artists Night

The Paul Pry, Worcester

Version

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Smokefarm, The Foreign Quarter, Ross Angeles,

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Antiquity

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bone

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

4 Shires Real Ale Cider Music Festival

Droitwich Spa see: www.4shires.events

Livestock Festival See: www.Livestocklongdon.co.uk

Longdon, Glos

Jay and Eli

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Prism

Beefest, Much Marcle

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

Upton Social Club, Upton Upon Severn

The MTS

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Tristan Watson Trio

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Jigantics

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Sunday 31 July 2016

The Greasy Sticks (Unplugged)

Iron Road, Evesham

Matt Bate

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

The Petty Heglars

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Hot Tubes

Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Clarksville Mountain Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Hair Of The Dog Sessions With Dan Greenaway

The Swan, New Street, Worcester 5pm

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)

The Red Lion, Evesham

4 Shires Real Ale Cider Music Festival

Droitwich Spa see: www.4shires.events

Livestock Festival See: www.Livestocklongdon.co.uk

Longdon, Glos

The Delray Rockets

The Bear & Ragged Staff, Bransford, Worcester

The Barflys

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

13th – 14th Aug Summer Exhibition, Artrix Bromsgrove

16th Honey by Reaction theatre Makers

- Blue Orange Theatre Birmingham

16th Never Judge a Book explorative workshops, Richard Booth

Bookshop Hay on Wye.

16th-17th Vista by Dancefest. Croome NT

Until 17th Never Judge a Book at Richard Booth

Bookshop Hay on Wye.

22nd-24th Nozstock the Hidden Valley, Bromyard

22nd-24th Jewellery Quarter Festival, Birmingham

23rd-25th Upfest Urban arts festival Bristol

29th Birmingham Caribbean festival, Centenary Square

Until 30th Philippa Day- Wearable works of Art.

Number 8 Pershore

Every Tuesday & Thursdsay Capoeira classes 7-8pm at Studio B

– Performing Arts Centre, St Johns, Worcester

THE MARR'S BAR

JULY
AUG 2016



Steve Daggett
Friday 8th July

Friday 1st July

Tower Studios... GrizzleRoot Massive
Head, Trauma Days Of End
£5 on the door £6 after 9pm

Saturday 2nd July

Soul Stripper, Rock Bottom
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 3rd July

Jem's EP Launch
£3 in advance £5 on the door

Thursday 7th July

FCS Presents Moose Blood
Muncie Girls + Navajo Ace
£11 in advance £13 on the door

Friday 8th July

Steve Daggett
£4 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 9th July

3 bands for £3

Friday 15th July

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

Saturday 16th July

Chasing Yesterday
£5 in advance £7.50 on the door

Friday 22nd July

Michael Knowles & the STD's, By the
Shore + tbc
3 bands for £3

Saturday 23rd July

Rhombus, Last July, The Glass House
Museum + DJ Cruel Britannia
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday 29th July

OLB #5 - Grove Street Families
Blanket Hill (LUX), Headcase
£4 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 30th July

Smokefarm, The Foreign Quarter,
Ross Angeles
3 bands for £3

Thursday 4th August

OLB: Dock 83, Glass Harbour
£4 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 5th August

VH-YES
£3 in advance £5 on the door

Sunday 7th August

FCS presents: Clowns, Golden
Deathmask, Trivial Dispute, Bathtub
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday 12th August

The Boss UK
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Friday 19th August

Missing Sparrows, Natural Emotions
£3 in advance £5 on the door

Friday 26th August

Fred Zeppelin
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 27th August

Cystic Fibrosis Trust - Multiple
Sclerosis Society charity event

Sunday 28th August

OLB: Tempers Fray, Restrict
£4 in advance £7 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

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