

# SLAP

Issue 66

Feb 2017

FREE



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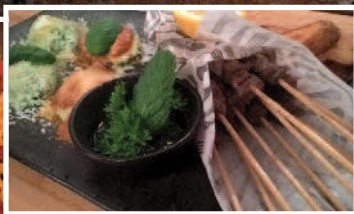
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# SLAP

Feb 2017 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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  
Emily Branson - Sub Editor  
Anna Donaldson - Sub Editor

CONTRIBUTORS Andy O'Hare  
Will Munn  
Graham Munn  
Naomi Preece  
Angela Fitch  
Samantha Daly  
Rosie Hamilton  
Emily Branson  
Trevor Price  
Stephen Wilson  
Alan Musson  
Paul White  
Anna Donaldson  
Sophie Austwick  
Chris Murphy  
Suz Winspear  
Kate Cox  
Helen Mole

Design Mark Hogan  
Web & Social Media Ant Robbins @slapmagofficial



Hello everyone and a belated 'Happy New Year' to you all! Welcome to issue 66 as we head into our seventh year of SLAP publication.

I would usually at this point write with optimism as we look forward to the year ahead, but these are strange times folks and we're living a very uncertain world. Global political instability and economic uncertainty are likely to make 2017 a tricky year for most of us.

That said, let's at least look ahead at the positives locally... In this issue we bring you news of Hereford's bid for City of Culture 2021. This initiative whether successful or not can only be a good thing, breathing new life and ideas into the area.

Talking of things Hereford, we say a fond farewell, for the time being at least, and a huge thank you to Naomi and Oli at Circuit Sweet who have been for many years good friends of SLAP, writing, distributing and generally supporting. Their duties in these areas will fall to the lovely people at Hereford's Underground Revolution who are themselves doing great work promoting and supporting the local music scene.

We at SLAP are proud to support new local promoter Samantha Daly with her UnCover Indie club night. The first of which took place late January at the Marris Bar. London indie upstarts Anteros were the headliners and so got our front page. See the review on page 18. Elsewhere in this issue we have our usual columnists such as Worcestershire poet laureate Suz Winspear, Paul White of Sound on Sound and the tireless Andy O'Hare. Don't worry Andy, we've got virtual reality and artificial intelligence, it surely won't be long before time travel is a possibility...

'Tis a short month so it won't be long before we're back for more. In the meantime do yourself a favour, go to a gig, the theatre, an independent film or an exhibition and let's support the arts and vibrant music scene around these parts!

*Trump-Ed*



Front Cover Image: Laura Hayden of Anteros by Emily Branson from UNCOVER at The Marris Bar 25th January.

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## Olly Day in Worcester

Latest 'superstar' to announce a gig in H&W over the summer is **Olly Murs** who got his break via Simon Cowell in 2009 and has since scored four #1 singles and total record sales of over 10 million - cash in a couple of your life insurance policies and you can get a ticket for his appearance at **New Road Worcester** on **Sunday 25 June...**

## They Call it Mello Festival

**Mello Festival** have announced an appetising line-up of headliners for their **Spring Bank Holiday Weekend** bash at Throckmorton Airfield near Pershore on **26-28 May** including **Hawkwind**, **Goldie Lookin' Chain** and **Altered Images** - plus a DJ set from **Bez** of the **Happy Mondays!**

## Much a Busk About Nothing

The headline-grabbing recent '**busking crackdown**' in Worcester city centre attracted the usual rabid response but in reality was just a clarification and refinement of the already-existing guidelines - on the other hand it did provide an opportunity for some excellent publicity and full-page photo spreads for local artists **Scott Howland** and **The Fidgets** - we like that...

## Worcester Charity Snowballs

The 2nd **Worcester Snowball** in aid of the life-saving **Worcester Breast Unit Haven** raised a staggering £21,000 from their auction at the Bank House Bransford in December - thanks in no small part to the efforts of local singer-songwriter **Deborah Rose** in sourcing a donation of a bucketload of merchandise and memorabilia from country legend **Dolly Parton** - great work!!

## Fairport at 50

Folk legends **Fairport Convention** will be celebrating their 50th anniversary with a UK tour that includes a stop-off at the **Artrix** in Bromsgrove on Saturday 18 February - featuring founder member **Simon Nicol** the band will include a selection from their new album plus a host of Convention classics...

## 'I Got my First Real Six-Ways'

Canadian megastar **Bryan Adams** will be playing one of the few outdoor shows on his summer '**Get Up**' tour of the UK at **Sixways Stadium Worcester** on **Friday 14 July** - his lighter-waving anthem '*Everything I Do*' recently came very close to being toppled from the #1 position of a record unbroken 16 weeks as UK #1 hit single after 25 years!

## Three Quiors Returns

The 290th **Three Choirs Festival** rotates this year from Hereford and Gloucester back to Worcester and the organisers promise an eclectic mix of events from **22 to 29 July** - with the usual choral and classic concerts being supplemented by events featuring the likes of Dixieland Jazz, the music of Scott Joplin - and an evening of Welsh poetry set to music - interesting...

## Young, Wilde but not Free

Upton's 'every generation' **Sunshine Festival** have announced that headliners for their weekend event on 25-27 August will include **Paul Young**, **Sophie Ellis-Bextor**, **Kim Wilde**, **Atomic Kitten** - plus of course the ever-present **Wurzels** - ooh aarr indeed!

## Toyah Talks

Local legend **Toyah Wilcox** will be 'unplugged and talkative' when she appears at **Evesham Arts Centre** on **Saturday 11 February** to sing her hits and talk about her phenomenal history in the music and entertainment business - but please do also mention your Teletubbies talkover - it's our SLAP personal fav!!

## Pay and Dis-play

Double **British Blues Awards** nominees **Mumbo Jumbo** are throwing down the gauntlet for their gig at **Malvern Cube** on **Saturday 11 February** with an invitation to gig-goers to 'pay what they think it's worth' after the performance has ended - with blues, jazz and folk numbers about old soldiers and baldness we're sure the audience won't be disappointed - let's see how this experiment pans out...

## Seth Lake 'Fest' Man

First acts to be announced for **Lakefest** at Eastnor Castle Deer Park on **10-14 August** include **Alabama 3** and **Seth Lakeman** - more headliners to follow soon for the 2017 event which promises a 'Hawaiian Theme' this year - hmmm...

## Magooning Out in Style

Veteran Worcester covers outfit **The Magoos** are calling it a day after 17 years of performing, signing off with a gig at **Sixways Stadium** on **Saturday 4 February** - the band have been prolific fundraisers for **Leukaemia Care UK** over the years and their career highlights include an appearance in front of 10,000 at a speedway event in Cardiff!

## Friends Reunited

Former housemates **Nigel Clark** and **Mark Morriss** will reunite again at the **Malvern Cube** on **Friday 3 February** - that's of course before they both were signed as frontmen of **Dodgy** and **The Bluetones** respectively in the Britpop explosion of the 90s - expect a few Young Ones-type reminiscences!!

## Drunken Monkey for Sale

Tickets are now on sale for the **Drunken Monkey Festival 2017** from **Tower Studios** & **WeGotTickets.com**. For updates on further tickets go to [www.facebook.com/groups/thedrunkenmonkey/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/thedrunkenmonkey/)

## Hereford's Newest Venue

The newly opened **Grapes** pub is Hereford's newest music venue. It has three performance areas including an out-of-sight, atmospheric cellar bar. There's also an eye-opening night-time view of Church Street from the upstairs bar. The pub was relaunched with a blues set from guitarist **Will Killeen** and loads of musicians will be doing their thing in the weeks to come.

## Creative Space for Kids

An initiative from Herefordshire Council, via **Brightstripe-Cultural Health CiC**, to encourage young people to be creative in the newly opened library encouraging young people into creative learning. The aim is to deliver a series of free creative workshops throughout the February half term which cover the main aspects of creative and performance arts, bringing children and their families into the library space and giving them the confidence to explore their art.

[www.facebook.com/events/482659688571312/](http://www.facebook.com/events/482659688571312/)

# Voluntary busking code aims for a lively city centre

A new voluntary draft code of best practice for busking in Worcester city centre has been drawn up by the City Council in consultation with local music organisations and businesses.

*"We're trying to ensure the city centre meets the needs of everyone, so we want to strike a balance between shoppers enjoying live music and the needs of businesses and retailers to trade successfully," said Councillor Geoff Williams, who's in charge of Economic Prosperity.*

*"We want the city centre to be a lively attractive place that everyone can enjoy."*

The current code of practice is a decade old and needs updating. The majority of the feedback received by the City Council shows that people enjoy listening to buskers and street performers, so the new code will be used to support buskers and ensure they have a positive impact on fellow city centre users.



The Council is working with the following organisations on the new code: Keep Streets Live, Musicians Union, Equity, SLAP Mag and the Worcester Music Festival.

The new code will be launched with a "bedding-in period" from 1 April, so that buskers, shoppers and businesses can all give feedback on how well it is working.

For more information, please contact Helen Mole on [helen.mole@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:helen.mole@worcester.gov.uk)

## Hereford's Bid for City of Culture 2021



The **Herefordshire Cultural Partnership (HCP)**, which is a group of countywide arts and heritage providers with local businesses and individuals, was launched with a well attended Networking event at **DeKoffee Pot** in Hereford. This group is preparing to submit its bid for Hereford to become **UK City of Culture 2021**.

The official bid for Hereford to become UK City of Culture will be 10 April 2017. On the run up to this date the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership will celebrate activities and communication around some key themes which include; Light & Dark, Maps & Borders, Urban & Rural and Food Culture.

**Abigail Appleton**, Vice Chair of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership, said: *"Attendance at the networking event was very encouraging and it had a terrific, buzzing atmosphere. Lots of people from different areas attended and there was an enormous energy and determination to work together across the county."*

*"The UK City of Culture is an amazing opportunity to raise Herefordshire's profile on the national and international map, help drive economic growth and give everyone who lives, works and*



*visits the opportunity to experience some never to be forgotten arts and culture."*

The next networking event will be held at **The Courtyard** on Monday 20 February from 6pm. During this event there will be a free screening of **Golden Fire** and the opportunity to network with food and drink providers from around the County. You can book your free tickets online at:

[www.courtyard.org.uk/events/hcp-networking-event](http://www.courtyard.org.uk/events/hcp-networking-event)

The HCP are also looking for other providers to host these events around the county. email [info@herefordcityofculture.org](mailto:info@herefordcityofculture.org)

For further information about the bid for City of Culture look online at [www.herefordcityofculture.org](http://www.herefordcityofculture.org)

## Charity Chosen for WMF

The team behind **Worcester Music Festival** have chosen **St Paul's Hostel** as the charity to support at this year's event. The Festival, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, raises money through donations from generous gig-goers at more than 20 city venues during the festival weekend in September.

**St. Paul's Hostel Charity** is marking its own anniversary in 2017, having worked in the city for 40 years. It is dedicated to supporting the homeless, providing 24 hour emergency care as well as support for those who are at risk of homelessness. Over the past year, the charity has supported more than 300 people. But, over the last three years, numbers have increased by 30% meaning that now, more than ever, the charity needs support.

**Felicity James**, the Community Engagement Manager at St Paul's Hostel said: *"Being nominated as charity for the 10th Worcester Music Festival, is an honour for St Paul's and a tribute to the very difficult work our charity has undertaken in this City over the last 40 years. It will allow us to communicate to a much wider audience the reality of homelessness in this City and add music to our therapeutic approach. We are very, very grateful."*

Festival director **Nikki Boraston** adds: *"The team behind WMF has been supportive of efforts to help the homeless in Worcester for many years. Our chosen charity was Maggs Day Centre in 2011 and we supported the City Council's first Homelessness Action Day, 'Homeless, Not Helpless' at the Guildhall. We are proud to be supporting St. Paul's Hostel."*

Worcester Music Festival runs from 15-17 September 2017  
[www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk)





It's a quiet time for Clik Clik activity out and about the fields and streets! I'm home bound, writing and planning for the year ahead currently, so if you would like to book some weird and wonderful interactive installation, unique photo-booth, event décor or creative activity, please do shout!

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

## Worcestershire Open Studios

Artists, photographers, crafts people, art groups and galleries across the county are being invited to take part in the 2017 Worcester Open Studios.

The event takes place over three days from 26th to 28th August and looks set to be popular with artists and visitors alike. Last year, Worcester Open Studios saw the work of over one hundred artists on show in studios, homes, shared spaces and established galleries at 45 locations across Worcester. Batik, ceramics, drawing, jewellery, painting, photography, print-making and textiles were all featured.



Claudia Wiegand  
In her Studio

Artist and co-organiser, **Cherrie Mansfield**, said "Open Studios are a great way for artists to raise their profile, share their work with new audiences, build a following and make some sales. They don't even need to have a studio. For local residents and visitors, they are a fantastic chance to see a diverse range of locally made artwork and meet the people who created it."

Registration opens in February and the deadline for entries is 10th March 2017. For more information and to register go to [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk)

## Puppet love

**Kidderminster Town Hall & The Courtyard Hereford** host **The Snow Baby**, from **Soap Soup Theatre** this month. Beautiful



tabletop puppetry, imaginative story telling and funny bits from these makers of visual theatre, using many years of experience in puppetry, object manipulation, and clown to create theatre for family audiences.

*"This is a love story. This is story of castles in the air, of weathering the storm, and dreams coming true in the most unexpected ways".*

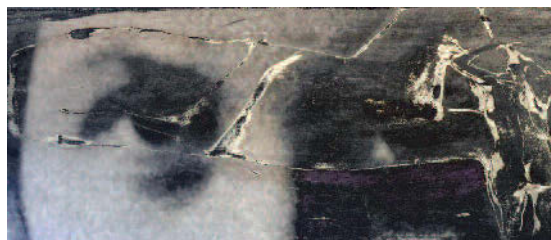
Saturday 18th February at **The Courtyard Hereford**. 11am at £6 Available at [www.courtyard.org.uk](http://www.courtyard.org.uk)

Sunday 26th February at **Kidderminster Town Hall**. 2pm for a 2.30pm start. Ages 3+ £5 Tickets available online at: [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/bookings](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/bookings) Or available from the box office, Mon- Fri 10-2pm 01562 732158

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

## Portraits

**Artists Workhouse** in Studley is delighted to be hosting an exhibition next month entitled **'Portraits (Part 1)'**, featuring the work of 20 artists working in both 2D and 3D. Each has developed a personal visual language of portraiture, challenging traditional forms of representation. The exhibition runs from 4th-12th March.



To complement this exhibition Artists Workhouse will be hosting 2 workshops:

**Louise Blakeway** – Portraiture Workshop, Tuesday 7th March.

**Helena Godwin** – Saturday 11th March, – Portraits in sculpture.

Also, **Artists Workhouse** is calling for artists for an open exhibition there in June. Applicants can download an application form at [artistsworkhouse.com/aw-open-art-competition-2017](http://artistsworkhouse.com/aw-open-art-competition-2017) or email [artistsworkhouse@outlook.com](mailto:artistsworkhouse@outlook.com) for more information.

## Short Story call out

**Evesham Festival of Words** is calling for entries from both first time and established writers to the Festival's 2017 short story competition.

Entrants can write about absolutely anything, making an ideal stepping-stone into the world of written word.

Adults have a maximum word count of 2,500 (£5 entry) with a prize of £150. Junior entries have maximum of 1000 words (free entry) with two age groups of 8-11 and 12-16. Each group winner receives a prize of £30 and a trophy.

All short-listed entries will be included in a hardcopy anthology making a great keepsake of your creative work.

Chairman for Evesham Festival of Words, said: "Many have said

Arts submissions  
& events email Kate at  
[arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)

that we all have a book inside us, just waiting to be written, but a book can be a daunting prospect. The short story competition, with its open theme and manageable word count is a wonderful opportunity to try out your literary skills"

The deadline for all entries, which can be made online or in hard copy, is 24th March. For more info: [eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:eveshamfestivalofwords.org) or email [info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

## The Hop Project

A unique, contemporary art project has been on tour around Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Birmingham and the Black Country since 2016. Funded by **Arts Council England's Strategic Touring**

programme, the project uses the historical migratory movements of hop-pickers as the conceptual basis for a touring exhibition. **The Hop Project** is conceived and produced by General Public (artists **Elizabeth Rowe** and **Chris Poolman**), exploring the social and political implications of hop production in the West Midlands. The exhibition's next stop is **The Courtyard** in Hereford, and includes hip-hop about hop picking, watercolours inspired by inner city graffiti, model railways, quilted beer label designs for fictional ales, history and a polytunnel!



Runs until 19th March. The Courtyard, Hereford.

[www.thehopproject.co.uk](http://www.thehopproject.co.uk) [www.courtyard.org.uk](http://www.courtyard.org.uk)

## Westbury Pocket Park

**Westbury Community Gardens**, (situated in Worcester's Arboretum) has been going through exciting renovations in recent months including the unveiling of a new piece of art created by one of the area's residents.



Named "*The Trades Tree*", the images on the sculpture reflect the industries of the residents of the Arboretum gone by and echoes the land use before becoming a residential site. The 2.5 metre sculpture comprises of stainless steel and wood (sourced from the Wyre Forest), with the images designed by Arboretum resident **Peter Moorhouse**. Local businesses including County Enterprises, TCG and F8Creates helped turn the designs into reality.

New landscaping was completed in autumn 2016 and since then local residents, aided by other community groups, have been transforming the area, included the planting of 105 shrubs (donated by the Woodland Trust), an insect house, the creation of wildlife areas and planting of fruit trees and vegetables, all grown locally.

The **Arboretum Residents Association** (ARA) aim to create a beautiful open space that will bring residents together, allowing them to celebrate their community for generations to come. Westbury Pocket Park is a community initiative backed by funding from the Department for Communities, Local Government, Tesco Community Grants and Worcester City Council.

## Ashmolean Broadway Gertrude Hermes

The **Ashmolean Museum Broadway** will be reopening as the **Broadway Museum and Art Gallery** on 10th of this month. The changes will enable the Community Museum to tell more of the rich history of Broadway.



New exhibits will look at the village's medieval roots and during the year, new displays will be added including exhibits on Broadway in the late 19th and early 20th century when it became an inspiration for artists.

The first special exhibition of the year will be, **In the Groove: Gertrude Hermes and the Natural World**, featuring the work of one of the most innovative wood engravers of the twentieth century. **Gertrude Hermes OBE** (1901-1983) developed a highly distinctive style that combined technical virtuosity with bold imagination.



The exhibition was curated by **Dr. Caroline Palmer**, who said: "*Before coming to work at the Ashmolean, I had not come across the name Gertrude Hermes, but when I discovered her prints and sketchbooks, I was bowled over by the bold, distinctive style of her images.*"

*Although she trained alongside Henry Moore, Hermes has never become a household name, in the way that he has, so it is wonderful to have this opportunity to share her work with a wider audience".*

Adults £5 (16+), Family £10, Child (5-15 years) £2, Under 5s free. For more information:

01386 859047 [events@broadwaymuseum.org.uk](mailto:events@broadwaymuseum.org.uk)

Images © Gertrude Hermes © Ashmolean Museum, Oxford



# WEEKEND CUBE

Happy New Year from **Malvern Cube** - and boy have we got some great events lined up for you! Power through the end of this Winter season with our fantastic offering of live music and film...

## **Nigel Clark (Dodgy) & Mark Morriss (Bluetones)**

Friday 3rd February 7pm

Back by popular demand... Nigel Clark from Dodgy joins the singer from The Bluetones; Mark Morriss for a night of acoustic BRITPOP hits. Nigel is known for hits such as 'Good Enough' and 'Staying Out For The Summer'.

Is it really 20 years since Mark Morriss first shimmied into our lives with The Bluetones? 13 hit singles, 3 Top Ten albums, his ability to sieve poetry from the colander of everyday life remains Tickets £15 Advance.



## **Mumbo Jumbo - Pay What You Think It's Worth**

Saturday 11th February 7.30pm

Top piano-led, close-harmony singer songwriting acoustic trio Mumbo-Jumbo bring a unique 'Pay What You Think It's Worth' performance to Malvern Cube. Twice nominated in the British Blues Awards (including 2016) the trio combine quality songwriting and with a laid back humorous style and broad range of instruments. Regulars on the blues, folk and acoustic festival, small theatre and club circuit they sit somewhere between blues, folk and jazz with tinges of reggae.

'Pay What You Think It's Worth' means that you come to the gig for free and then decide what is a fair price for the entertainment received at the end. Our ticketed performances are normally between £8-10, but we are so confident that you are going to have a great time that this time you can come in for free!



**8 SLAP FEBRUARY**



## **Film - The Fall**

Friday 17th February 7.30pm

Stars: Lee Pace, Catinca Untaru and Justine Waddell. A Little Blessing In Disguise. In a hospital on the outskirts of 1920s Los Angeles, an injured stuntman begins to tell a fellow patient, a little girl with a broken arm, a fantastic story of five mythical heroes. Thanks to his fractured state of mind and her vivid imagination, the line between fiction and reality blurs as the tale advances.

Tickets £4 or 2 for £6, bring your own drinks.

**March** sees the launch of **Cube Comedy Cafe**, more foot stomping live music and a special Northern Soul film and music night...

## **Jim Moray + Jack of All**

Friday 3rd March 7.00pm Tickets £12 adv

## **Cube Comedy Cafe Launch**

Saturday 4th March 7.30pm Tickets £10 adv £12 on the door

## **Wille & the Bandits**

Saturday 11th March 7.30pm Tickets £10 adv £13 on the door

## **Dreadzone**

Friday 17th March 7.30pm Tickets £15 adv £18 on the door



## **St Patrick's Concert**

Saturday 18th March 8pm Tickets £8 adv

## **Maddy Prior (Steeleye Span)**

Sunday 26th March 7.00pm Tickets £16 adv

## **Malvern Soup 3**

Sunday 26th March 3-6pm Suggested Donation £4

## **Northern Soul Night**

Friday 31st March 7.00pm Tickets £10 adv £12 on the door

Full details and tickets for all our upcoming events can be found at [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com) and Malvern Tourist Information.



# Suz Winspear Worcestershire Poet Laureate

A new year begins, and February may be cold, grey and murky, but the Spoken Word scene is as colourful and vibrant as ever. Most importantly, the annual Worcestershire LitFest competitions are being launched.

The big one is the **Worcestershire Poet Laureate Competition**. Yes, the search for the next Worcestershire Poet Laureate has begun! The theme for this year is 'Freedom', the closing date is Friday 24th March.

If prose is more your interest, the **Flash Fiction** competition is open, for stories on any theme, of up to 300 words. If you're one of the shortlisted writers, your flash will be included in an anthology published in the autumn.

For young writers aged between 7 and 17, the **Young Writers** competition is open, and this year's theme being 'Artificial Intelligence'.

Details of all these competitions can be found on the **Worcestershire LitFest** and **Fringe** website and Facebook page.

The **Evesham Festival of Words** is also launching a competition, for poems of up to 25 lines, on the theme of What Makes Evesham Special. For further information, contact:

[www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org).



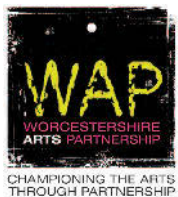
Meanwhile, here are a few Feb Spoken Word dates for your diary

**Thursday 9th – SpeakEasy at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop.** Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're popular, so get there early! £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

**Wednesday 8th – Worcester Writers' Group Meeting** at 7.30 at the **Lunar Bar** above the **Swan with Two Nicks**. This new and informal group welcomes all those who love writing – everybody welcome!

**Wednesday 22nd – 42 at Drummonds Life, the Universe and Everything** – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name . . . You never know what you might see and hear at 42! Free entry. 7.30pm.

*Suz Winspear*



## Worcestershire Arts Partnership News

Hi and Happy New Year! It was *Blue Monday* on the 16th Jan, which as well as being one

of the great songs of the last 40 years (discuss) it is the day when most people give up new year's resolutions and realise that the daily grind has remained victorious. Interestingly artists know about the 'Blues' probably better than anyone and have written, sang, painted their best work when in a state of erm blueness. Of course I wouldn't recommend getting down so you can release your inner artist but it can often be the best time to put pen to paper or guitar to hand!

Being in a state of well-being is one of our priorities within the **Worcestershire Arts Partnership (WAP)** and we all know how the arts can take one to a place of feeling so much better, be it as an audience member or even better as a participant. On the 19th January, WAP was in Pershore to do an event on Obesity, looking at the

causes and seeing the kind of artistic interventions which can alleviate a condition which is rife not only in the UK but in this county. Something like 7/10 men are obese which when you consider the health conditions that result from that is rather bewildering and for the NHS so costly.

One event that made me feel a whole lot better recently was our **Young Poet Laureate Final** that took place at **The Hive** on

Sunday 15th January. Now in its 6th year the project is run by my service and my colleagues in the Libraries and Learning Service and in particular the wonderful **Natalie McVey**. This year the theme was Messages (a cracking early hit by OMD btw) and each young poet from 13-19 had to write a poem on that theme and one of their choice. We had some great entries and whittled them down for a final of 14 young people. The finalists spent the day with us and we gave them some performance tips and helped them to 'perform' the poem rather than just read them. It was a great final and every young person did so well. I was so proud of them all! There had to be a winner and it was the wonderfully energetic and passionate **Oakley Flanagan** who wowed the judges with his Message to his father and his poem about the state of the nation called Business as Usual. It really was a great final. It's an obvious thing to say but young people really rock don't they.

Anyway, perk up or not!

*Steve Wilson, County Arts Officer*



# Andy O'Hare

Well hope that you all had a pleasant midwinter break and are suitably refreshed for what will of course be yet another fantastic year for our wonderfully vibrant music scene! Seems like a strange time to mention summer festivals - but now really is the best time of year to start your planning for the 'season' and to get those applications off! There's a comprehensive list of local bashes with links on the BBC H&W Introducing website - and as there's always at least one every weekend there's plenty of opportunities available!

There's been a lot of fevered speculation recently that when Glastonbury has its 'fallow year' in 2018 (think crop rotation in the 14th century) it'd be moving to a location about 100 miles to the north - just about in our fair area (!) and a number of local sites were mooted as possibilities - such as Rowden Paddocks Bromyard (**Nozstock**) or Eastnor Castle (**Lakefest/Big Chill**) - unfortunately neither of these is quite up to the 150,000+ capacity of Glasto in recent years...

At the time of writing though it seems like the 'alternative Glasto' AKA the **Variety Bazaar** was a bit of a red herring - and now won't happen until 2021 at the earliest - so plenty of time for a suitable location close to us to be found!

At its peak **Big Chill** attracted about 35,000 people - and with careful nurturing there's no reason why Lakefest shouldn't develop into something similar over the next few years! I've loved how **Lakefest** set out from the start to be a 'covered' festival with marquees for all the acts and audiences in case of bad weather - and of course I can't recall it raining once there in the last four years! Those of you who've experienced a soggy event - and I'm thinking particularly **Nozstock** here - will know that it can be a bit 'challenging'...

Some folks have mentioned that **Worcester Music Festival** could maybe expand - perhaps hosting a stage with a marquee on Pitchcroft (in the fashion of **Worcester Beer Festival**) and maybe charging for admission. I'm myself not sure about this as like Lakefest's USP of the promise of dryness, due to WMF's cosmopolitan setup it's also a festival that the weather can't spoil - and as it enters its 10th year the 'ain't broke/don't fix' maxim applies here!

But is there any reason why there shouldn't be a barnstormer of a summer festy in our area to perhaps match the likes of Glasto, **Reading/Leeds, T-in-Park** etc - don't see really why there shouldn't be! We're centrally located with easy motorway access - well hopefully it will be once 'they' complete the seemingly endless improvements to the M5 - maybe it's a bit of an ask to expect a new festival to start from scratch - there's been plenty of 'failed' events over the last few years that have promised lots but have failed to deliver when it counts! Perhaps one of the existing festivals could see the benefits of relocating to our region...

Of course **Glastonbury** itself started small and has evolved over the years - given a bit of time there's a number of existing H&W events that have the possibility of growing into something bigger that would put us and the great music we produce firmly on the summer national festival circuit - this area has a wonderful music pedigree but maybe we're a bit too shy to really shout about it!!

I don't think that there's any need to press the panic button just yet though - for the summer to come (and I'm reliably informed it'll be a scorcher!) there'll still be a bewildering number of festivals to choose from every week all over our very dynamic region in just about every musical format possible!

So plenty of opportunities available locally for the giggers and gig-goers like myself - as usual my main gripe will be that the boffins still haven't solved my time-travel quandary for simultaneous events (it'll happen soon I'm assured) - so please do visit our local festivals websites and get those applications filed - and of course don't forget that there'll always be plenty of last-minute cancellations and no-shows - if you've got your act polished and able to play at short notice you'll be very much appreciated!!

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



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# Claire Hilton

*"From an early age, I found that the only subjects which really engaged me in school were those that allowed me to be creative. I really enjoyed my time at the (formally known) Barbourne Art College in Worcester and went on from there to complete a Fine Art Degree at De Montfort University in Leicester. After graduating with a BA (Hons), I worked in private residential and social care settings, supporting people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and mental health issues. I aspired to find a way to utilise my creativity to compliment my passion for helping people, so in 2012 I began an MA in Art Therapy at Derby University. Since becoming a qualified Art Therapist, I have worked within Worcestershire NHS and community mental health services. Personally, I have found being freelance works really well for me; I am able to take on and consider a variety of work in different settings as well as flexibility of working hours. A lot of my work involves championing being creative and how this can benefit people in many different ways.*



*create fairly small pieces for convenience but last year I was able to find a studio space enabling me to revisit larger, more traditional oil paintings.*

*My favourite way to work is assemblage; using recycled or found objects, but if time is limited, sometimes a quick collage will do the trick. Frequently, I can see how pieces (images or items) go together, but the piece is not complete, so I tend to group things together in a box, wallet or drawer and come back to them later. I regularly take something worn down or plain and embellish and enhance it to make it more enticing and eye catching. I am often working on more than one piece at once, as I am waiting for things to fix and dry. As a result, my studio space often looks chaotic, and once a month or so I put everything away and start again.*

*I am inspired by 'nature vs manmade', contrasts in materials, colours and shape and have a pull towards bright Mexican offerendas and the work of Fridah Khalo. The moody hue of Marlene Dumas's ink drawings attracts me too; anything expressive! I'm quite drawn to crafting elements and was inspired by a trip to Australia during my studies to look at aboriginal art and symbology – I can still see some of this creep into my practice every now and again.*

*2017, for me is the year where I make more artwork around and with people. I just co-delivered my first creative wellbeing workshop making intention sticks in a group and talking about our New Year's intentions. This went really well and has inspired me to create more similar creative spaces and sessions – so watch this space".*

*Look up 'Miss Hilton Ink' on FB Twitter and Instagram*



*As a result of my varied work, my art practice tends to utilise whatever materials are available. I enjoy working in lots of different styles and mediums, usually completing a small series of pieces in one go before swapping to another approach. I tend to*

## David Cox & his Contemporaries Worcester Museum and Art Gallery

Discover the vibrant art scene of the West Midlands during the nineteenth century through the work of Birmingham born David Cox. Renowned for his landscape paintings, this exhibition explores the artists that influenced Cox, as well as the influence that his own work and writing had on watercolour painting, landscape art and the vibrant artistic communities of the Midlands. Bringing together Worcester's amazing collection of paintings by Cox with high profile loans by Turner and Constable from the British Museum, this exhibition uses rarely displayed artworks to explore Cox's place as a world class artist. Taking the story of making and collecting art into the 21st century, the exhibition will also host work by recent graduates as part of New Art West Midlands 2017, accompanied by a selection of works



from the Worcester City collection acquired through the Contemporary Art Society.

The exhibition runs from 11 th February to 3 rd June 2017.

# White Feather Collective & Matt Woosey

## The Cube, Malvern | Sat 17th Dec

Home turf for this distinctive and well supported band and an ideal opportunity to close out 2016. What could you add to that? Some may think that's enough, but also lined up for the evening was **Matt Woosey**, currently residing with his new family in Germany, but back home for a Christmas visit. He brought a band for the occasion from his adopted home with the addition of familiar face on drums. It promised much for the evening.

As you would expect, the Cube was sold out. The foyer, makeshift bar, and austere hall buzzed with expectation. Matt, unusually, was in support roll but with a completely fresh line up. The result? A stupendously good session deserving of a full report in itself.



Everything set, Matt took to the stage followed by his Euro band **Michi Oertel, Lukas Steinmeyer, Ralph Kueker** and standing in at the last moment, **James Williams** on drums. This was one dynamic line up with Matt, as ever, on exemplary acoustic guitar. Michi and Ralph were exchanging electric leads throughout, Ralph adding serious bass and keyboard runs were under the hands of Michi again. And though he may have had a very short rehearsal, James added significantly to the sound. Many of Matt's signature songs were aired in style from *'Cruel Disposition'* to the closing signals over the hill, of *'Black Smoke Rising'*. The musicians are hardly going to be household names here (yet) but to say it was memorable is an understatement. Matt was certainly fired up for the show, and I suspect that many of the WFC fans were swept along, unexpectedly, by the surge of mesmerizing music. *'Lighthouse'* flaunted a change in musical stylings. It's a tricky hip hop track that grows in your mind as you hear it more. This evening, an electric surge brought a new intensity to the beam, stunning in its intensity. Come back Matt, bring your band, and stay for a full session.

Having truly warmed the audience up, the White Feather boys stepped up with the addition of bongos and keyboards. It was a partisan crowd and they could do no wrong. *'Parakeets'* chattered their opening bars, the 60's style gurus played themselves in. Will on his Gibson, head down, serious, intent on his work whilst Roo was across the stage, bouncing around in the groove, unable to keep still and Chris was working his percussion as Josh, 12 string hung from his shoulders, seemed dispassionate as ever but thoroughly 'in the moment'. *'Louise'* was waiting before the unmistakable blues pulse of *'Crosstown Shootout'* throbbed in



with its Doors like feel. It's intoxicating as it feeds into the atmosphere and Josh breathes into his harp. Leaving the Doors open, the groove of a *'New Inside'* drifts in as the music rolls on through.

The harp blows in a fresh, breezy, surf rocking *'You Got The Time'*, the air warms and thickens, as all move to the tidal flow. LA Pod splits open onto the crowd, it's Rob's Ride, and It's All Good, time to turn up the tempo and time to *'Shake It Up'*. Will picks his way through, Chris is pounding out the beat, Roo is still out there on his pogo stick bass and the harp sits in Josh's fingers. The feathers have flown, the crowd drunk with the rhythms of the night and the evening draws to a close. This has been a fantastic showcase of Malvern's talent and a night to remember - cubist art at its best.

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# C-Jam

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 22nd Jan

**C-Jam**, a seemingly odd name for a band, is a high quality preserve of pro musicians that have created a rich mix of succulent fruits to suit all tastes. The 4 piece band consist of renowned guitarist **Bob Wilson**, Hammond hopper and vocalist **Brian Badham**, tub thumping cymbalist **Brendan Day** and bass boomer **Frank Walker**. All are easily recognised through their many band connections throughout the West Midlands.

**C-jam** were here to play a variety of styles, dipping into a catalogue of music from almost every genre: soul, jazz, reggae, rock and blues, all of which made for a very enjoyable evening.

First up a funk soaked blues in 'Serve Somebody'. The scene was set: Frank rumbled out the funk filled bass, Brendan crashed across the cymbals as Brian and Bob, created bridges, linking Brian's lyrics. An excellent opening that pointed the way the evening would go and immediately justified the journey over to Ledbury. Mixing in a measure of jazz with piano lead, 'Moon Dance' (and we're not talking Michael J here) filled the air. We sampled BB King, switching across to the Beatles, beseeching all to 'Come Together'. That seriously funk up bass gave support to some lovely Strat slide from Bob. A leap across the ocean to find comforting reggae rhythms left us 'Waiting In Vain' as Frank and Brendan pushed all along. Brian kept us guessing, switching

easily from piano leads to Hammond grooves as we searched into our soul, only to uncover Steely Dan hiding underneath. Just time to post 'The Letter' before a break.

The music moved on, a rich honey dipped guitar tone brought Freddie King's 'I Believe I Don't Love You' followed quickly by Peter Green's jaunty rip 'You Don't Love Me'. My train was rushing up from Hereford to collect its miserable baggage, so I left to the strains of country music just in time.

I can only say, if you see this band listed for a gig near you, go and see them - you will have a fantastic evening with a band that obviously enjoy performing. Drummer, Brendan, not only impressed with his play but grinned like a Cheshire Cat throughout the session, leaving me with a smile on my face as I walked away.

Graham Munn



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# Trevor Burton Band

## The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Jan 8th

Trevor Burton is probably best known from his mid '60's membership of **The Move**, he was earning more money than his dad, playing 6 times a week with his own band. That's quite a foundation for a man who is known throughout the music scene and he is still playing. The band itself has morphed over time, but at the **Prince of Wales** he was rejoined by **Maz Mitrenko**, along with drummer **Phil Brittle** and **Derek Wood** on bass. Two things stand out for me. First, there is a magical connection that sparks into life when Trevor and Maz are brought together. Second, there is Phil who is completely 'in the zone', a 'gypsy' who dances across the drums and cymbals, hovering over those golden discs with arms and sticks as one - a dragonfly strutting over the high hats.

The band exploded into life from the start. Trevor was quickly into his stride with *'Further On Up The Road'*, proving already that this was going to be a good session. Perhaps its sacrilegious, but it already seems there is more intensity and fire than the last visit. The difference is Maz, together they work off each other brilliantly. Trevor's easy style and 'lived in' voice is *'Caught In A Breeze'* as Maz builds a complex bridge full of struts and ties, spanning the blue waters whilst Trevor waits on the other side. Phil and Derek hammer in the rivets that hold it all together as *'Little Rachel'* awaits ahead.

Phil is hovering above his cymbals, dancing on them and teasing around the rims, as the heavy bass notes thunder on he screws his face as he crashes down to close the song. *'Little Rachel'*, an old favourite from the days of Cream which is about right for Trevor's lineage, rocks along nicely. The pub is heaving with music fans with



barely room left to lift a glass.

I know I'm not going to be able to see the gig through, but it's worth the trip to join all the others in this home of Sunday blues. The band may be playing for the Prince Of Wales but they are just about to play for a King. Freddie that is and they're *'Going Down'*, and the two guitarists are having a field day as the drum and bass build the foundations. They face off, jousting with each other, as Trevor fills in the lyrics. It's superb and worth stepping through the door just for this. Hold on though, the pack is shuffled and another King is dealt, this one is BB and its going to be a more laid back rhythm. Maz is on a run, flicking the lead over to Trevor and the atmosphere is heady, mesmerizing as the guitars are talking to us and we're all listening. Any chatter drops so best ease off on the throttle as Pete closes off and we drift into the view of *'Angel Eyes'*. I hear my train approaching, sometimes you've just gotta move! Damn.

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## Wille & The Bandits | Steal

Confessions first: I am an outright fan of this remarkable, and to date not fully recognised band. That recognition has been growing though, particularly over the last 12 months. So now I am going to 'sell' you their latest offering, you will think it an absolute *Steal*.

Let's first take you 'Miles Away' and listen to the distinctive slide guitar opening and the growling vocals of Wille. Andy gives some stick whilst Matt bends those heavy bass strings as we are driven forwards towards the pulsating 'Hot Rocks' that boasts soaring guitar, thumping percussion and a throbbing bass. Time to slip in a public health warning as the mood softens and the temperatures rise with 'We Should Be Scared Of The Sun'. Dylanesque in



its message, the song burns into the memory as Wille slides off into the thin stratosphere before melting away. It's an anthemic, soul searching song that will inevitably stay with you.

An Icelandic hot spring belches up mud and molten rock, bursting out into 'Atoned', a full on rockfest that rips along at scorching pace, spinning off into the distance. An almost soft and cuddly Wille narrates the opening bars of 'Crossfire Memories' in search of redemption in far off lands, away from conflict and darkness. This is about as melodic and easy listening as your going to get on this, or probably any other, WATB album, but its still a cracking good track.

Time to turn up the tempo and take a retrospective look back to a nostalgic era of love and peace, it's a '1970' rock on. It has that hard driving primeval rock sound so reminiscent of those days. That's if you were around then! Delve a little deeper into 'Our World' and you'll hear Andy on djembe tapping out the message as our leaders take us further toward destruction. The track lifts and dives through a complex structure of acoustic bridges and chorused lyrics, it's going to leave us all 'Living Free'.

We've reached the final track and, despite its title, it's not 'Bad News', not if your in full rock mode. But it's never going to be that simple. The pressure eases, Wille's guitar talks to us as Matt's bass is driving on and Andy pushes up the tempo forcing the pace to rise.

Wille is the king of slide and pedal, whether its lap steel or 'acoustic' the sound is simply awesome to behold. Matt is in my mind the best bassist in this field and Andy, a British Blues Award winning percussionist, controls the pace with all manner of implements at his finger tips. They are **Wille and The Bandits** and they are one of the best damn bands in the UK. If you have yet

to see and hear them, then you can start by buying this album. It's the nearest thing yet to a live performance, but those performances are mesmeric. Go find them, it will be worth the trip.

If your a fan of WATB, or if you just like rock, you will find enormous pleasure in this blisteringly hot album, so hot you'll need to slot it straight into the drive before it burns your fingers.

[www.willeandthebandits.com/tour-dates](http://www.willeandthebandits.com/tour-dates)

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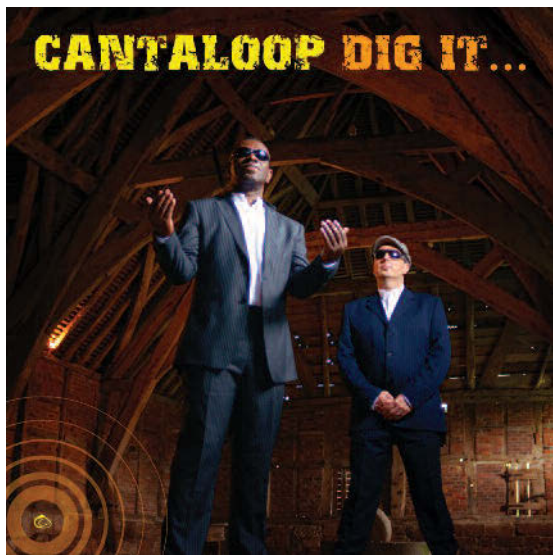
Robin Bee

## Cantaloop | Dig It

Bewdley funaketters, **Cantaloop** have made a name for themselves for their addictive sound, energetic live performance and instant sing-a-long hooks, finding favour across the UK live scene, taking in numerous festivals along the way.

Fronted by versatile frontman **Dannie Sanderson** and the guitar licks of **Justin Metti** the band have released a handful of acclaimed singles, EPs and albums, which has seen the band weave elements of soul, hip-hop and that all important funk twist in varying measures to create a delicious back catalogue guaranteed to get any party moving.

Continuing the same theme, for their latest single **Cantaloop**, have rolled out the big guns, collaborating with Derek Garten and Multi-Grammy Award winner Joe Palmaccio (Taylor Swift, James Brown etc) along with the renowned Haggis Horns (Amy Winehouse, Mark Ronson) for perhaps their most addictive track to date, Dig It...Led by a crack of drums, a slice of elastic bass and the aforementioned guitar of Metti before the deep soul vocals of Sanderson and a blast of the Haggis Horns aim the track firmly at the dancefloor. Add Reverend Cleve's backing vocals and a spiralling trumpet solo to the mix and you have one seriously potent funk number destined to drag the most resistant reveller to the dancefloor.



destined to become a real live (and festival) favourite and perhaps, in a just world, Cantaloop's major break. If you've not yet felt the funk, I urge you to track this one down, but be warned standing still ain't an option!!!

[www.cantaloop.net](http://www.cantaloop.net)

Will Munn



## Starlight Cambell | Blueberry Pie

Not a familiar name? Look out for the tour when **Suzy Starlite** takes bass, **Simon Cambell** takes guitar and percussion alongside **Steve Gibson** on additional percussion and **Jonny Henderson** on keyboards in 'Blueberry Pie'. Suzy was born and raised in nearby Ross before heading off to Uni. Suzi and Simon married in '14, creating the recipe that cooked up this dish to be served up on Feb 1st '17, ideal for a SLAP up feast.

Cut in through the crust and you will reveal the rich blue colour of 'Walking Out The Door'. With a 60's groove of early F/Mac and John Mayall, Simon's vocals bubble on the surface as the guitar oozes juicily through with Jonny's Hammond giving it that vintage touch. It's a tasty opening that invites another slice that has a pulsating bass at the heart of it. 'I Need Light' boasts a lightly dancing drum rhythm that flits over the top of the bass, making it subtle with a lingering flavour.

We up the pace and the era with 'Your So Good For Me'. With its 70's styling, superb guitar and Hendo keys, it's one for the slick and stylish. Then the pace drops as weeping guitar floats in for soulful, smouldering blues. Simon stays on vocal lead for 'Cry Over You', a classic tear jerker of a song with the essence of Gary Moore. All aboard for railroading blues with smoking harp notes in 'Say What You Want', it's Chicago Blues and I'm not complaining about the ride.

There are 11 succulent portions in this dish, big slices to satisfy all tastes. Title track 'Blueberry Pie' is acoustic with lovely harmonies, and satisfying slide - all the best dishes are simple! Suzy takes vox for the smouldering, dark, juice stained 'Guilty'. The undercurrent is throbbing bass and drum, laced with superb Hammond and gorgeous guitar, bridging the vocals. A 'Guilty' pleasure indeed.



Stevie Ray, Texas styling ripples throughout the 'Empire' before slide comes back to hand with a mellow, easy drinking Merlot sound. Jonny is still in there on the keys in 'Don't Get Me Wrong', it's a delightful, tongue firmly in cheek song. And 'Shimmy' is just that, a jazz infused late interlude with honeyed guitar, percussive rhythms, and that bloody lovely Hammond. The sort of stuff used for 'the in scene, uber cool' club music for late 60's films takes us to the finale, a slow burning 'Thrill You'. A late night smoocher that finds your inner soul to close an album that fits like a soft leather glove.

**Starlight Cambell** are based in Spain, just North of Valencia, where their studio is fitted out with choice vintage and the best of today's recording equipment, meaning 'Blueberry Pie' is indeed a quality offering. I would liked to have heard Suzy take vocals perhaps for more than just the one track but that's not a criticism really. This album brings memories of Garrard SP25 and Rogers Amp, Wharfedale Linton's and 12" vinyl fresh from shop, Mayall, Mac, taken with Cream!

*Blueberry Pie* is laden with rich fruit, go get yourself a slice.

Graham Munn



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# Uncover Presents Anteros, The Rhythm Method The Assist, Jodie Hughes The Marris Bar, Thursday 26th Jan

Filling a gap in Worcester's music scene, Uncover launched on 26th January 2017. Declaring that on the last Thursday of every month it will bring with it some of the most exciting brand new acts from around Worcestershire and the entire country. With a focus on indie rock/pop/electro music, an event like this has been long overdue on the streets of Worcester.



January's launch night brought with it a variety of talent. Firstly in the shape of Worcester's own **Jodie Hughes**. Joined only by her semi acoustic guitar (Aria Pro - ok by me - Ed), Jodie met the crowd with her beautifully melodic vocals, opening up the night perfectly with a selection of covers.

Next to the proceedings were Walsall's **The Assist**, aptly named as they came to our assistance, taking the place of formerly announced Birmingham act Quinn, who had had to unfortunately cancel their slot two weeks prior to the event. **The Assist** were more than capable of filling in, with talents and a comedic frontman that will no doubt take them far.

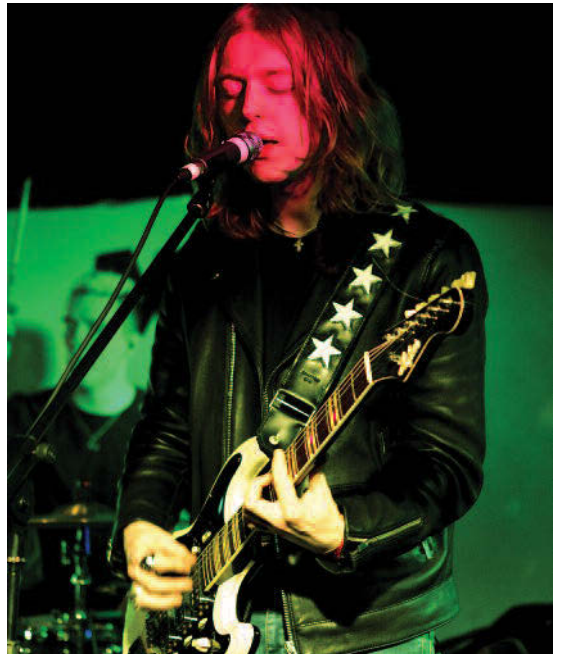


London's **The Rhythm Method** were up next, having spent 2016 supporting the likes of Slaves on tour and making none other than Elton John a fan, here they were in Worcester bringing their



unique The Streets-esque style of satirical lyricism to **The Marris Bar**, brilliantly placed on the bill to break the acts up a bit.

With three excellent acts down it was a wonder as to how it would get better, but then London's **Anteros** took to the stage. Having spent the previous two nights supporting the incredible Two Door Cinema Club on tour, Anteros seemed equally as ready – and excited – to take on the people of Worcester, as they were to take on crowds of 1000's.



Their performance was polished from start to finish, their bubblegum pop sounds evoking a series of questionable dance moves from around the room. Hits *'The Beat'*, *'Breakfast'* and set-closer *'Anteros'* were particular highlights.

With a first event as successful as this one, it can only mean great things for this months. So save the date - **Thursday 23rd February** at the Marris Bar. Confirmed so far are Birmingham's **Ivory Wave**, check out their recent single *'Paradise'*. Also confirmed are highly rated Worcester band **Nth Cave**.

See you there, in the meantime keep a look out for more updates...



# Music in the Hall St George's Hall, Bewdley

Friday 3rd February will see **Amanda Rheame** and **Band** take to Music in the Hall's stage. The evening will start with local young



duo **Grace Winterburn** and **Abby Foxall** who will be followed by **Mark Leedham** and his band before **Rheame** takes over **St. George's Hall**. The artist has built a formidable reputation as a performer with her recent shows across Europe and the UK receiving tremendous plaudits. Her latest album **'Holding Patterns'** is similarly receiving high praise, proving that the show

is set to be a magical one. Doors Open at 7.30 pm and tickets are £8 (£5 for those 18 and under).

The Third **Wyre Forest Young Musician** of the Year Competition will be hosted in the Hall on **Saturday February 11th**. The night will offer an insight into the depth of the talent in the local area with some of the finest musicians competing for the title of Young Musician of the Year at the gala show. Last Years event was a real treat with the overall winner being **Elisha Green** so you should anticipate a very high standard of talent this year. Door 7pm.

**March 3rd** will also see **Remi Harris** at St. Georges Hall. On his previous visit, **The Remi Harris Project** blew the house down just before hitting the Royal Albert Hall as part of Jamie Cullum's Prom. Support will come from **Matahari** who will be joined by Special Guests from Bewdley School playing some cool jazz and Latin music that you will not want to end!



Also coming in March - **Peacock Angel** on the 10th and **Brigitte Demeyer** from California (with **Will Kimburgh**) on the 31st with upport from **Elisha Green**.

Tickets are available at the Hall Cafe or online at: [www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk/](http://www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk/)

**UNCOVER**  
In association with **SLAP**

**Headliner TBA**  
**Ivory Wave**  
**Nth Cave**  
**Ben Dallow**

**CLUB NIGHT from 11pm**  
Guest DJs

**THE MARR'S BAR**  
Pierpoint Street, Worcester

Door 7.30  
£5 Advance £7 door

Includes club night entry

**Thursday 23rd Feb 2017**

*The Task In Hand & Surprise Attacks Present*

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*"Piledriver riffs brutally delivered, with hazy, meandering psych allowing chinks of pop light to shine through. This is raw, uncompromising stuff."*  
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**EXECUTIVE SA**

# King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys

Artrix, Bromsgrove | 7th January

This post New Year yomp at the delightful **Artrix** seemed to be firmly embedded in the calendar, starting off the year for KP and their many fans in this area. The theatre was set with partial seating for cranky old B's like me and an open floor for the young at heart who were ready to swing with the rhythm. That, in essence, is what the band are all about - bringing a smile and pleasure to the faces that beam atop the moving mass of swinging hips and willing hands.



This year we had the return of **King Pleasure** and his band, featuring **Big John Battrum**, **Matt Foundling**, **Shark Van Schtoop**, **Gary Barber** and, of course, **Bullmoose K Shirley**, a founding band member. Rhythm and Blues is their business and they sold it hot and steaming straight from the stage, even those seated struggled to stay still.

'Clipped' piano and a twin sax drive breathed life into the show as the King sang out '*I Was Born To Swing*', blowing away the cobwebs and giving way to a '*Boogie Blast*' from Big John and some Skirving Scat. Matt has his turn on boogie barrel house piano, all the band soloing their way through the evening. There is never any doubt about their well honed musicianship.

The colour turns to a deeper shade of blue with '*This Is It*', before pointing the way to '*Don't Leave Me Baby*' and '*Enough Of That Stuff*' as we head for a break, but not before a vibrant '*Shake Rattle & Roll*' is performed for all the jive bunnies out on the floor. Shark returns with his bass but '*Barracuda*' is in the air, snapping at Jackie Wilson's soul. Get out of the water and into the vibe of New Orleans and '*I'm Walking*' along with Fats Domino to keep me company.

This is the 30th year of King Pleasure and they've been ripping out '*Reet Petit*' for all those years so there's no point in changing now. KP supported BB back in those 30 years of shows and he's honoured here with '*You Upsets Me Baby*', played in style by The Biscuit Boys. The music plays on, songs dovetail into each other and KP goes 'walkabout' into the dancing fans. '*Tequila*' is at the bar and it goes down well whilst the band have their moments of glory as they steal solo leads but Big John's Sax is always going to make the biggest blast. The clock's ticking and the band are winding themselves up for the full on, horn blowing, drum rolling, string bending, key rattling '*California*' as King Pleasure takes a bow and promises to return next year.

There cannot be many better ways to welcome the New Year, than an evening at **Artrix** with the iconic big brassy R&B band that is **King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys**.

Graham Munn

# The Whipjacks/One Second After

The Marr's Bar, Worcester, 8th Dec

2016 was a tough year for local favourites **The Whipjacks**. Losing their brother and bandmate **Tim Stamps** through illness, I'm sure there must have been times when the band thought about calling it a day. However, knowing that Tim wanted the group to push forward, his inspiration ringing clear, the five-piece have rallied round and set about cementing not only his legacy but theirs too by recording a brilliant EP, *Scoundrels And Rogues*, and hitting the stage running for a welcoming heroes return to a packed out Marr's Bar.



Prior to **The Whipjacks** storming the stage, the audience were treated to a warmup set by another local bunch, **One Second After** a relatively new four-piece who blend the punky rock riffs of The Wildhearts, with a slice of grunge and a dose of pop-punk attitude to create an instantly infectious sound full of vigour. The group made all the right moves. Low slung guitars blazed over a driving rhythm section, whilst the frontman hung from his mic-stand with appropriate attitude. Currently, I think the band needs a bit of fine tuning. The riffs and hooks are there but they need a few more shout-a-long tracks to really stand out. Hopefully we'll see a bit more of them in 2017.

Before the curtain could be raised, **The Whipjacks** lurched for the audience's attention as the band's unaccompanied collective voices - led from the front by **Dean Miles** - hollered in unison, signalling in *Song For A Swine*. The rhythm section swooped in

with guitar and mandolin, lifting the track further and kick starting an energetic rush of attitude drenched speed folk (as they themselves call it). Echoing sounds of US/Celtic heroes Flogging Molly, The Dropkick Murphys and The Levellers.

*My Madness Molly Murphy* has a shanty like appeal, encouraging an unusually restrained audience to jig in their seats or nod furiously before the first revellers break rank to spin across the floor. The band upped the ante for a tear through and sprightly rendition of *Another Bag Of Bricks* - Dean strutting and posturing across the stage, whilst his fellow Whipjacks tore at their instruments.

The party well and truly kick-started, a charged *Upstarts And Broken Hearts* careers along with the attitude of the original, whilst a rollicking *Bad Touch* perhaps nods back to the past glories of Logan. A seasonal run through of *Merry Christmas Everybody*, completed with backing vocals courtesy of **One Second After** helped summon the festive period.

But, among the frivolous covers and the frantic strumming, The Whipjacks delivered a host of their own classics. From the festival friendly, *Campfire Song*, to their defiant anthem, *Scoundrels And Rogues*, with its apt refrain of '*We're the Whipjacks and we're just having fun*', the band delivered a poignant and fitting tribute to their fallen friend whilst simultaneously announcing their return to the glee of a, now, rapturous crowd.

The audience demanded more and the band, in the mood to party, duly delivered with a run through of *The Grace Of God Go I*, brand new, *Push On*, rounding off the evening with a rousing rendition of *What's Left Of The Flag and Wild Rover*. The audience were left with a keen melody and one final hook, reverberating through us as we filed into the cold December night, warmed by the return of a group of local favourites.

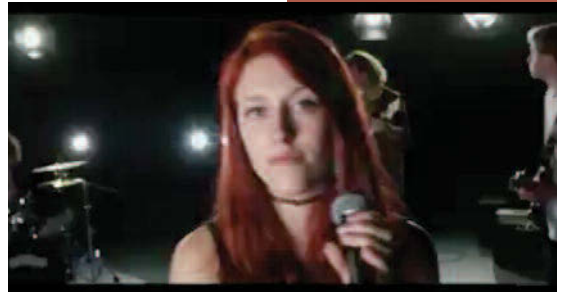
Will Munn



# Nth Cave | Bass

Four piece Worcester based band **Nth Cave** channel 90's grunge in their new single 'Bass'. It's obvious from the off that the band have been together awhile. With a history reaching back to 2013, their music is seamlessly joined, each melodic component flowing together to make 'Bass' feel more fluid than your native tongue. True to the tracks name, a seedy bassline drives the song forward, sitting as an ominous undercurrent to the blurred lines of **Danni Timmins'** dreamy vocals. The track isn't all dark though, a whimsical riff is spliced in to add a heavenly, lighter facet to the otherwise muddy melodies. All in all, it's a song that will set the mark for the young indie innovator's future - it's a future that's as grungy as it is bright.

Emily Branson



**Nth Cave** are appearing at **The Pig and Drum** in Worcester on **February 3rd** with **Kilkovec** and again at **UNCOVER** at the **Marrs Bar** on **Thursday 23rd February**.

# Vinny Peculiar

## Silver Meadows (Fables From The Institution)

**Vinny Peculiar's** (Or **Alan Wilkes'** if you prefer) thirteenth album slipped out last year to little fanfare. The band having gained such plaudits as '*the missing link between Ray Davies and Roger McGough*' (Irish Times) and '*an under-sung national treasure*' (Uncut). Performing in the past with such musical heavyweights as **Edwyn Collins** and **British Sea Power**, his various former bands have featured former members of **The Fall**, **Aztec Camera**, **Oasis** and **The Smiths**. An acclaimed songwriter and former **Glastonbury Festival** stage compere, somehow commercial success and wider acknowledgement has still, somehow managed to pass Vinny by.

Perhaps Vinny is destined to always be described as a cult singer-songwriter. Maybe, his subject matter doesn't resonate with the mainstream but, for me, that's exactly why I consider Peculiar to be so important. Few would write a concept album around a fictional mental institute (inspired by Wilkes' former work in an institution and his own brother's fight with schizophrenia). Fewer still would deliver these fabled tales with both a deep understanding and a poetic license that grips the listener. Previous projects have seen him lament the struggles of day to day life of working in Heaven's call centre and, since Vinny's relocation to Worcester, he's been writing about his adoptive home.



Vinny is currently developing a stage-play around the album bringing the characters and songs to life. Listening to the fourteen tracks you can almost imagine him wandering the corridors of the



institution, hearing the conversations of patients and nurses alike. The opening track, *The Institution*, is a hushed piano led piece that sees Vinny lamenting another typical day; Janis the Liverpudlian who runs the day centre and knows all the Beatles lyrics; nurses doing the rounds; women who have been here all their adult lives; a pretty psychologist on LSD for the first time; the ghosts that either occupy the wards or stalk the minds of the patients. The stripped back instrumentation frames Vinny's lyrics, compelling and urging the listener on.

Cooed harmonies and driving pop rock guitars propel the contagious, hook-laden *Everyone Has Something To Say* - a glimmer of hope for patients and staff, which is offered on the delicately plucked and strummed folksy lament. *The Saviour Of Challenging Behaviour* as a new psychologist sweeps in with new ideas before falling foul to the bureaucracy and a resistance for change. End of life care is questioned over a soundtrack of underpinned keyboards, acoustic strums and swirling electric. A young man is ushered into a side ward and murals of Disney characters fail to mask a loss of dignity on the heart wrenching Hospital Wing. Vinny's vocals moving from a weary croon to a defiant holler, slowly fading to a mere whisper by the songs close.

Elsewhere, *Room Management* is a student-led therapy session with a Bowie like stomp. The title track, *Silver Meadows* sees a patient return to where she 'felt safe and sound' having failed in the outside world, jangly guitars and sun-kissed piano unite serenading her return. The album continues with tales of institutional love and tragedy (*Wednesday Club*) and the unheard thoughts and desires of a severely disabled patient (*Waiting Game*). As Peculiar brings the wards to life, with a vivid set of characters and scenarios, it is often harrowing but somehow always compelling.

On *Silver Meadows*, Vinny continues to challenge, intrigue and reveal, visiting spaces where few writers dare to tread. Managing to discover hooks and light in the darkest of places, where his tour of the Midlands may take him is anyone's guess. But one thing you can be sure of, Peculiar will always fascinate and deliver in equal measure.

Will Munn

SLAP FEBRUARY 21

# Vocal Mixing Part 2

Having cleaned up your vocal and addressed any minor pitching and timing problems, the next step is to ensure that the vocal sits at a reasonably consistent level against the backing. The best way to do this is to first use your DAW's (Digital Audio Workstation software) level automation feature to pull down the levels of words or phrases that are too loud and to turn up phrases that are too quiet. There are also plug-ins such as the Waves Vocal Rider that do this for you more or less automatically.

Only once you've got the vocals sounding reasonably even should you think about adding compression. Also — and this is important — the compressor should come after the level automation, so rather than just drop a compressor into the vocal channel insert point (which would put it before the channel fader automation), you should route the vocal track to a bus and then route that bus to the main stereo mix. That way you can drop your compressor into the bus insert point making it the last thing the vocal passes through. If you do decide to invest in Vocal Rider, then you simply insert it in the channel directly before your compressor.

It can be tempting for the less experienced mix engineer to use plug-in presets and if you have a compressor preset for vocals then by all means use it — but with one caveat. You will still need to adjust the threshold level (or compression amount control in some plug-ins) to get the required amount of gain control as the guy who created the preset had no idea how loud you were going to record your vocal part. Pretty much all compressor plug-ins have a gain reduction meter and I generally aim to tweak the threshold control until I see between 5 and 10dB of gain reduction on the loudest peaks. As with level automation, the compressor attempts to reduce the difference in level between the loudest and quietest sounds but most compressors also impart a

character to the sound that adds a sense of weight and 'up-frontness'. The final setting has to be confirmed by ear as different degrees of compression suit different styles of music.

Now it is time to see if the vocal needs any EQ — and most times the EQ will work best placed after the compressor. Work on the vocal EQ with the backing track playing as most things sound different when heard in context rather than in isolation. Rolling off the low end below around 150Hz can help clean up excessive bass, especially if the vocal comes close to popping in places, while using a simple shelving high boost set at around 6 to 7kHz will add a sense of air and brightness without making the vocal sound too aggressive.

As a rule the less EQ you have to use, the more natural the vocal will sound. It is also worth bearing in mind that the human ear is much more sensitive to EQ boosts than it is to cuts, so if you can fix a problem, such as a boxy mid range, by pulling down the offending frequency range, it will sound more natural than adding boost in other areas. You can often locate a problem frequency by setting up a narrow band of EQ with maybe 10dB of boost and then sweep this across the audio spectrum until you hear the offending sound jump out at you. Once you've found it, apply cut rather than boost to this region.

Where you do need to add boost, then using a modest amount of wide boost will always sound better than trying to boost over a narrow region. If turning up the high end brings out too much sibilance, you can try a de-esser plug-in but use these with care as they can add a lisping quality to the vocal if over-used. Sometimes it is better to put the de-esser in the feed to the reverb (if you decide to use reverb) as a bright reverb exaggerates sibilance.

Next month I'll look at ways to combine reverb and delay to create a 'produced' vocal sound.

*Paul White Editor in Chief, Sound on Sound*

## Circuit Sweet with Naomi Preece

Happy New Year to all the amazing readers and supporters of **Slap Mag**. February 2017 marks 5 years of the **Circuit Sweet** article in the magazine.

For 5 years we've had the utter privilege in writing for this magazine, each month up until late we've been traveling to Worcester to pick a few boxes of Slap up to drive to Hereford and distribute throughout venues, pubs, cafes, shops, and various other destinations in the city. Back in 2012 we met up with the good folks of Slap Mag to talk to them about our vision and what we wanted to achieve locally, at the time we met music magazines in Hereford had slipped through the net yet live nights were on the up and the music community was uniting, we wanted Slap to showcase Herefordshire too and Slap agreed so we grabbed the magazines, called out for your gig listings and documented our month in music time and time again- and we've loved to see the support from Herefordshire for the magazine.

When we started contributing we were then a 3 year old music media company with just one person at the front of it all, this year we turn 8. In 5 years our little company and vision has grown and exceeded our expectations and with that so has our time. After 51 articles we've contributed to the magazine we've come to a point we are gracefully (for the time being) bowing out on the 56th one! Due to our ever growing expansion and no longer being based in the heart of the city we haven't been able to give the time we wanted on all things slap. So whilst we work on the campaigns we are signed up for and our passion to continue to

promote music we've got to take a break from our monthly articles.

During our time in print we've featured local acts and nights to international acts near by. From **Mike Watts** to **Weathered Hands**, saying goodbye to **Zebedy Rays** to discovering **The Broken Oak Duet**, from promoting Hereford duo **Aulos** to being on tour with **Tera Melos**, capturing **Worcester Music Festival** to 3 nights in mud in Bromyard at **Nozstock**. We've featured **hART** week and the talents of artist such as **Tom Roberts** Illustration to our own releases through Circuit Sweet and our store such as **Simon Gore** and **Temple Complex**.

Always singing the praises of Worcester's **Surprise Attacks** to welcoming back the notorious **Never Mind The Bullocks** (NMTB) live nights in Hereford. Working with **The Cast of Cheers** to helping with **The Music Pool** - we've shared a lot of our work, nights we've witnessed and individuals who work hard for their love of music- Slap Mag has been such a powerful outlet for us to write in and we've loved every opportunity.

This isn't a permanent goodbye to us in Slap we just need some time off- but we are still here in the digital world. If you have a release you want us to feature on [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk) then get in touch, if you'd like us to cover your live night, to photograph or film your shows - email us! We celebrate 8 years at the end of March and we've got some presents up our sleeves so keep an eye out for that, alongside our involvement with **Cassette Store Day** and more. Hopefully we may have some 'guest' articles in the future but for now a huge thank you to all your continued support.

*Naomi x*

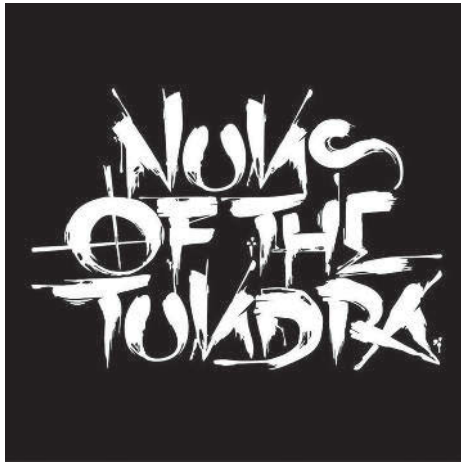
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## Nuns Of The Tundra | Robot Love

Malvern based four-piece, **Nuns Of The Tundra** have been prowling the local scene (and beyond) for a few years now, delivering a deliciously spiky sound. Lodged somewhere firmly between garage punk and the noisier end of alternative rock, a rough and ready racket that's found favour across the local music scene and has seen the band become regulars at both **Mappfest** and **Worcester Music Festival**.

In recent times the 'Nuns have retreated to the studio in an attempt to harness that live



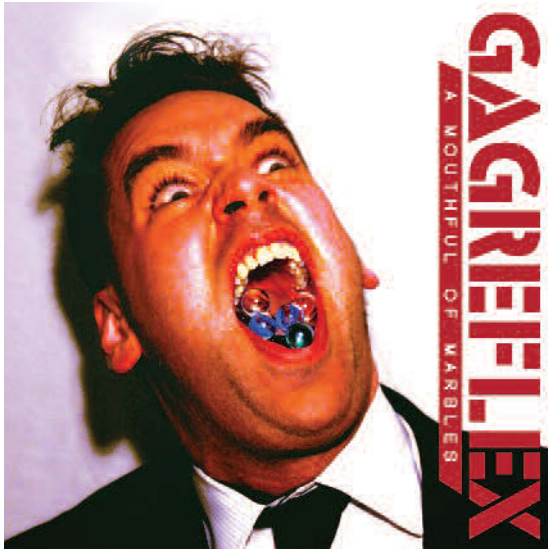
energy resulting in the release of a brand new single, *Robot Love*. A frantically fuzzy affair, complete with powerfully pummeled drums, chugging bass and a low slung, groove-laden guitar. Whilst the lead vocals are the right side of melodic and accessible, yet still punch through on the rousing, addictive chorus. This suggests a nod and a wink to the likes of Royal Blood or prime time Josh Homme, whilst summoning a whiff of grungy goodness along the way. Like any good single the band throw in a nice false end before leaving the listener with a final burst and a real desire to hear more.

If **The Nuns Of The Tundra** can continue in the same rich vein set by *Robot Love* we could well be hearing a great deal more from this bunch of Malvern based noisemongers in the near future, perhaps gracing a few bigger stages along the way.

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

## GagReflex | A Mouthful of Marbles

A few years back, I had the fortune of reviewing an EP - *Nails* by Cheltenham based duo **GagReflex**. A drum and bass based combo that welded together a myriad of influences from the punk/alt/hardcore scene, which created a unique, punchy sound full of serrated and addictive, hooks and spills. The EP was well received and saw the band perform with the likes of The Computers, Johnny Foreigner and Electric Eel Shock among others. Over this busy 18 month period followed a period of silence; the duo seemingly going to ground due to typical life cycle of house moves, kids, job changes and so on. And, although the duo returned to the studio to record a track for a tribute album, little was heard from the band bar the odd gig here and there.



A couple of years down the line, the band returned to the studio. Having recorded a few tracks, the band soon decided to piece together their debut, full-length release in the shape of *A Mouthful Of Marbles*, thus marking a development of the duo's sound, which simultaneously retained their unique edge.

The album opens with **Stuart Hawkins** unleashing a deep bass drone that morphs into a jerky chug before adding his melodic, alt

rock vocals and the first sign of **Seb Goffe's** drums to the mix. A sudden time shift and a thunderous drum bombardment sees the band change tact, put peddle to the medal, and head into a glorious heads down punk thrash. Whilst the vocals remain melodic, they're delivered with a venomous bite as the band show their teeth for the first time. *Earth Fault Develops* follows and there's a post-hardcore influence on display; the bass rumbles, stomps and snarls, negating the need for a six string while drums snap and clatter, propelling the lurching track onwards towards it's snarling vocal hook. *My Disregards* seems to up the ante even further, opening with a wonderfully distorted four string and morphing into a snarling slab of near hardcore menace, full of disdain and spitting attitude as **GagReflex** set the world to rights.

*What Can Change The Nature Of A Man* sees something of a change in direction as the band slow things down to a measured throb over a stuttering slab of time changes. Rhythmic mix ups and anguished emotive outpourings suggest there's a lot more to GagReflex than just a balls to the wall punk racket. *Black Start*, is a gloriously unhinged grungy, punk thrash outro, whilst *Safety Third* perhaps sits somewhere between the two proving the album's surprising diversity despite their drum and bass set up.

Sure, it's been a long wait for the follow up to *Nails* EP, but the ten-track, debut album, *A Mouthful Of Marbles* has been worth sticking around for. Stuart and Seb have delivered an album that combines thought provoking, barbed wire lyrics with a punk crunch and jerky, hardcore rhythmic groove. A 32 minute, loaded package that should appeal to anyone with a love of the noisy end of the alternative rock/punk spectrum. Here's hoping **GagReflex** pack the car and head back to Worcester in the near future.

Will Munn

# Three Chords and the Truth UK Emily Barker

St. George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday Jan 13th '17

In a positive way it can be exhausting keeping up with the work of **Emily Barker**. Just in the last couple of years she has been caught live in the **Applewood Road**, **Vena Portae** and **Red Clay Halo** formats, each of these collusions proving an ideal mode for her expansive talent credentials. This evening the live format has been widened further to a duo performance with **Lukas Drinkwater** and this winning combination successfully opened the year for the music operation dedicated to bringing high quality artists to Bewdley.

It was business as usual for these shows at **St. George's Hall** – youth and local opening acts, a packed venue and a headliner representing the cream of music proudly flying the flag for the country, folk and Americana banner. Emily has been on the organisers' horizon for a while and her time in the spotlight didn't budge one iota from the lofty expectation. The vocals were as sublime as ever and a song selection framed the majesty of how her influences form a very individual take on music. The guitar and harmonica were the main instruments of choice, but the availability of a decent sized piano adjacent to the stage proved irresistible.

This little sortie to utilise the keys was an opportune moment to introduce a song from her next project which is a solo album, already recorded last year in Memphis, but now going through a final fund raising push to get it out to everybody in May. The song was inspired by rock 'n' roll pioneer Sister Rosetta Tharpe and written from the perspective of her accomplice Maria Knight. *'Goodbye Sister'* was mightily impressive and we were treated to another fascinating new song when she returned to the stage to sing *'Over My Shoulder'*, a piece co-written with **Boo Hewerdine**.

Before we leave the piano behind, Emily wasn't the first

performer on the evening to use it. Fourteen year old local school girl **Rachel Howell** played an opening set displaying a poise, maturity and level of performance way beyond her years. Piano was one of her three chosen instruments and not a single person present would have failed to be moved by the way she delivered an array of songs featuring such diverse sources as Red Hot Chili Peppers and Peggy Lee, alongside a couple of originals. Sandwiched between Rachel and Emily was another local band in the guise of **The Dharma Bums**, bringing a selection of roots orientated cover and original tunes to the evening. Both artists essential to the promoters' ideals of mixing and matching the presentation.



No sooner had the band ended their set with a fine version of Dylan's *'Tangled Up in Blue'*, Emily and Lukas were on after a quick turnaround and there was no better place to start than the acoustic rendition of *'Dear River'*. This is one of Emily's best songs and although the electric version slightly edges it in my book, it



still got the set off to a tremendous start. The audience didn't have to wait too long before we were serenaded by her most widely known piece and the essential story of how **'Nostalgia'** became the soundtrack to the TV series *Wallender*. We weren't finished there with screen adaption music and the sheer beauty of *'Anywhere Away'* was heralded in full glory as we learned of its original for use in the indie film *Hector*.



Elsewhere in the set, the style of music fluctuated without any reduction in awe inspiring quality. Frank Turner's *'Field of June'* took the theme in the folk rock murder ballad direction, Springsteen's *'Tougher Than the Rest'* was a nostalgic nod to her Aussie upbringing and the stunning gospel inspired main set closer *'Precious Mama'* sent chills around the room. Just when we were getting to grips to what Emily is presently doing, she proudly introduced another new tune (name escapes me) which had just been recorded in Stroud with Lukas and a couple of other artist friends.

This was a truly special show to launch not only the Music in Hall 2017 programme but the annual gig journey of many folks in attendance. Lukas played a sterling stoic role on cello displaying evidence why he is a sought after musician on the folk music circuit. The framework he provided for Emily's songs was a key component for the success of the evening which inevitably was another confirmation of **Emily Barker's** position as a treasured artist on the UK's folk, Americana and singer-songwriter circuit. Like many a previous year, 2017 is shaping up to be another sensational twelve months for Emily and maybe her appreciation gathering gained a few more converts after this debut Bewdley show.

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

Words: Trevor Price Photography Colin Hill



# Casey Greene's Farewell Jam

## The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge | 9th Dec

Under the flamboyant leadership of Stourbridge vocalist **Devon Harrison**, the long-established jazz sessions at **The Bonded Warehouse** have recently entered a new and exciting era.

The concert on 9th December was both a fitting finale to the year's activities and an auspicious way to mark the final appearance in the UK for Australian saxophonist and flautist **Casey Greene**. It is a mark of the esteem in which his Antipodean musician is held that so many fellow musicians were able to come along to bid him a fond farewell.

Greene has become a popular and well established member of the jazz community in the Midlands and beyond during his twelve year residency.

Tonight, his core Quintet completed by regular collaborators **Tim Amann** (piano), **Simon King** (guitar), **Ben Markland** (bass) and **Carl Hemmingsley** (drums) were expanded to include local trumpet hero **Ray Butcher** and the delightful **Martina Biguzzi** playing flute and alto-flute. This gave ample opportunity for Greene to showcase some of his own compositions and some well-chosen jazz 'standards'.

As the evening progressed various guests added their talents to the proceedings including the ubiquitous **Tom Hill** on double-bass and vocals, **Liam Byrne** on tenor saxophone and vocalists **Linda Angelis**, **Roy Forbes**, **Devon Harrison** and **Angel**.

There was even time for an impromptu dance routine featuring Angel with the omnipotent Mr Harrison which added greatly to the good-time party atmosphere.



All credit to **Devon Harrison** for so willingly and enthusiastically taking over the reins at Stourbridge's premier jazz club, but credit must also be given to the loyal band of volunteers working ceaselessly behind the scenes to ensure that the evening was such a great success. However, this is something that they are well used to as they willingly give their time every month to ensure the jazz sessions run seamlessly.

The 2017 season continues on 10th February with the return of the irrepressible **Tom Hill** with his Quartet. With jazz standards and bluesy vocals and jazz-funk, plus Tom's own particular brand of humour. They take the stage at 7:30pm. Highlights later in the season include **Linda Angelis Quintet** and **Art Themen Quartet**. Find out more at [www.jazzbw.org.uk](http://www.jazzbw.org.uk)

Words: Alan Musson Photo: Devon Harrison

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REALITY ATTACK

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2017  
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Hereford  
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18+

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# Gaz Brookfield

**The Marris Bar, Worcester | Sunday 19th Feb**

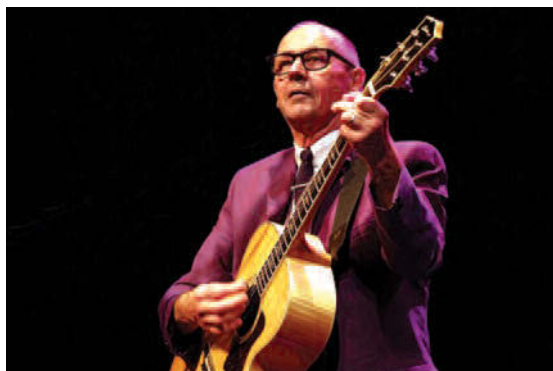
If you're normally stuck for something to do on a Sunday, keep February 19th in your diaries because **Gaz Brookfield** will be gracing the Marris Bar with his humble presence. For those who don't know him, Brookfield is a Bristol based singer/songwriter who creates fiercely independent music that sits somewhere on the fence between Frank Turner and The Levellers. He's known to have an ear for a great tune and a voice strong enough to carry hook filled melodies that are undeniably catchy.

The tour is to support the release of his new latest album '*I Know My Place*'. The release, rated 10/10 by Louder Than War, is his most accomplished yet, boasting clever, reflective lyrics and his one-of-a-kind talent. So, if the LP is anything to go by, Gaz Brookfield's appearance at The Marris Bar is definitely worth sacrificing your lazy Sunday in bed for. Support comes from **Nick Parker**.



# Artrix this February

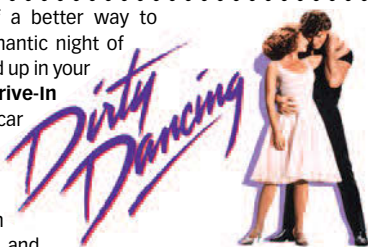
As the lead singer in **Amen Corner**, **Andy Fairweather Low** earned a global reputation. The 60s saw the band clock up hit after hit. Songs such as *Bend Me Shape Me*, *Hello Suzy* and (*If Paradise is*) *Half As Nice* are remembered to this day. Since then Andy has gone on to work with Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, David Crosby, The the Bee Gees, Jeff Beck, The Impressions, Pete Townshend... and that's just a few!



**Andy Fairweather Low and the Low Riders** are saddling up and will be riding to **Artrix** on **Friday 17th February**.

We can't think of a better way to spend the most romantic night of the year than cuddled up in your car watching a **Drive-In**

**Movie**. Grab that car blanket and hot water bottle and get ready to snuggle up to **Dirty Dancing** on **Valentine's Day** and **Carol** on **15th February**. You can even order food when you book your ticket.



Local musicians including **Jack Blackman**, **Abi Budgen** and **Dan Wilkins** are getting ready to perform at Gimme Shelter, a



fundraising concert to be held at **Artrix** on **22nd February** for **Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees**. The compère for the night will be the inimitable poet and Rubery legend '**Spoz**'. Funds raised will help support the integration of Syrian refugees.

**The Style Councillors** will take you for a trip through one of Paul Weller's arguably best periods as a songwriter. In a relatively short space of time, this band has gained a sizeable following playing at the likes of the Jazz Café and London's 100 Club. With a swirling Hammond organ and a fantastic brass section, they'll be going underground at **Artrix** on **25th February**.

# Diamond Days, Calling Apollo Time Of The Mouth, We Signal Fire, Rivas The Marris bar | Thursday 16th February

**Diamond Days** descend upon *The Marris Bar* alongside Welsh melodic rock quintet **Calling Apollo** who will be releasing new single '*The Wars*' at the end of the month, ahead of the release of their upcoming EP. Headliners **Diamond Days** are an up and coming four-piece from Northwest England. With gigs under their belt including support slots with Metro Station, Motion City Soundtrack, The Blackout, Fearless Vampire Killers and Hawthorne Heights and positive media coverage from the likes of BBC Radio 1, Kerrang! and Rocksound. Also on the bill is **Time Of The Mouth, We Signal Fire + Rivas**. The night at The Marris Bar promises to be a night of fearless alt-rock that you wouldn't want to miss.





# Sunjay

The Bush, St Johns | Friday 20th Jan

'Awoken' from a forgettable evening, by the loud thring of the phone, and a nudge to look in at **The Bush**, if I had nothing in mind; And my mind was a blank, so why not reacquaint myself with an old friend **Sunjay Brayne**.

The bar was bustling as Sunjay set up, a tasty Porter in hand, I was soon looking forward to an evening of impeccable finger picking acoustic guitar, and the easy style of Sunjay's music.

'*Make A Little Room For Me*', sang out, a foot tapping country blues, perfectly in keeping with the tight 'stage' of this old Worcester pub. As Sunjay stomped out the rhythm on his board, he presented Jim Croche's '*You Don't Mess Around With Jim*', swiftly followed by a Tom Petty like cracker, '*Town Called Hope*'.

We listened to country styles, that of the Johnny Cash mould, delivered by those fast fretting fingers, a Wolverhampton ditty '*Faith Healer*' and the song that brought the BBC knocking on his door and the rattling good '*Love You Like A Man*'. Woven between Sunjay's own songs, James Taylor, John Lee Hooker, and Donavon added '*Colours*' to the session. Not usual today to find much Donavon out there, but '*Colour*' is stomping, street busking, material at its best.

A quick beer, but '*Hold On*', there's more, a pulsating guitar driven '*Johnny the Devil*' sees Sunjay stringing it along with a fine instrumental run before turning to find '*The Truth*' from Sunjay's last album *Black & Blues*.

Perhaps I'm a bit of a philistine, but I have never been an ardent fan of John Martyn, though he is of course widely acclaimed but for Sunjay, his songs are perfect material, so the gentle strains of



'*May You Never*' drifted through The Bush. The tempo rises as the evening draws on and the excellent '*London Road*' points the way, a thumping rhythm that cannot be ignored as feet tapped and heads nodded to the pulse. Sunjay brought the evening to a fiery close with a superlative bit of Bo and '*Who Do You Love*'.

An excellent way of spending a Friday evening, a good ale, friendly atmosphere and a highly acclaimed artist in Sunjay. Exemplary musicianship with songs that gently settled us but demanded our participation. An evening of excellence, my thanks to the Bush for keeping it Live.

Graham Munn

# The Queens Head

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# Fairport Convention

## Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat, 18 Feb 2017

Iconic folk group **Fairport Convention** will be hitting Artrix as they celebrate their golden anniversary in 2017 and brand new album **'50:50@50'**, a release featuring new original songs and live recordings of fan favorites. The set promises to revive established hits from their ever growing repertoire as well as tracks from the new record. The folk-rock heroes continue to attract critical acclaim, having won the **BBC Lifetime Achievement Award** as well as being voted **The Most Influential Folk Album of All Time** with **'Liege & Lief'**.

The group, who revolutionised British folk music with their electric sound and traditional tunes in the summer of love of 1967, has survived numerous lineup changes over the decades and still performs with the passion and precision their reputation demands. Fairport Convention's current line-up is the longest running in the band's history, and with **Simon Nicol** on guitar and vocals, **Dave Pegg** on bass guitar, **Chris Leslie** on fiddle, mandolin and vocals, **Ric Sanders** on violin and **Gerry Conway** on drums and percussion, audiences across the land will be in safe hands for an unforgettable night of folk history.

*"Impressive musicians with a great back catalogue... (they) take chances and clearly enjoy themselves"* - The Guardian

*"Vigorous and confident...the music leapt around the room"* - The Mirror

Opening the concerts on this celebratory tour will be BBC TV's 'The Voice' 2014 Runner Up, **Sally Barker**, one of England's most talented singer-songwriters and formerly of all-girl folk group, The Poozies.



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**A unique chance to see award-winning Scottish musicians at the intimate Fleece Inn:**

**Thurs 9 Feb, 8pm, £12 - Breabach**

Voted 'Best Folk Band 2016' & 'Best Album of 2016' at the Scots Trad Music Awards and twice nominated 'Best Band' at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Scottish five-piece Breabach deliver a thrilling and unique brand of contemporary folk music that has earned them international recognition on the world and roots music scene as one of the UK's most dynamic and exciting bands.

**Sun 12 Feb, 8pm, £12 - Fara**

Fara brings together four emerging musicians at the forefront of today's young Scottish folk scene, Jennifer Austin, Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price's three fiddles and a piano, to produce a fiery sound rooted strongly in their upbringing among the music of Orkney.

**Thurs 16 Feb, 8pm, £15 - McGoldrick, McCusker, Doyle**

Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle, three members of the BBC acclaimed Transatlantic Sessions, are touring in early 2017 to celebrate the release of their latest album. This is a rare chance to see three of the world's finest musicians share a stage together.

The Cross, Brettforton, Nr. Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 7JE Tel: 01386 831173 Email: info@thefleeceinn.co.uk

**To Book: [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk)**

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Located in the city centre and housed in one of Hereford's oldest buildings, The Firefly Hereford aims to bring you a pub that has something for everyone.

The newly refurbished site, which was once home to the Orange Tree on King Street, is a world away from its previous offering.

Having 16 rotating draft beers and ciders, and our fidges full of over 60 international and local bottled beers we also have our own in-house smoker which serves up a fantastic smokehouse style menu to be consumed in a comfortable environment and an amazing uncover beer garden.

We host a fortnightly open mic as well as DJs playing the best funk, soul, reggae and pretty much anything else in the bar once a month!

Being part of a small independent group, The Firefly steps away from the usual offering of most other pubs and bars. We continually update its offering to bring people the best beers we can.

As we approach our 1st year of opening we are looking forward to another successful year!



## The Firefly Hereford

16, King St, Hereford HR4 9BX

01432 358252



# 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

## **Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights**

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Every Tues - Jazz Night**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

## **Every Tues - Jazz Night**

The Queens Head, Wolverley Nr Kidderminster

## **First Tues - Open Mic**

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

## **First Tues - Open Mic with Andy Lindsey & Zoe Devenish**

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

## **3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night with Ian Fuller**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **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 Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris**

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

## **1st Tues 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 - Open mic/Sessions**

Green Dragon, Bishops Frome

## **Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions**

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

## **Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions**

Fox & Hounds, Breden

## **Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions**

The Crown, Colwall

## **Every Wednesday - Irish Session**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Fortnightly Wed Open Mic**

The Queens Head, Redditch

## **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

## **3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

## **Every Thursday - Drumlove Adult Workshop 7.30pm**

The Angel Centre, Worcester

## **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

## **Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club**

Catskill Club, Bromsgrove

## **Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session**

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## **1st Thursday Polly Edwards Open Mic Jam Night**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## **Every Thursday - Acoustic Session**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

## **Every other Thursday, Open Mic**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

## **Every Other Thursday - Open Mic**

The Firefly, Hereford

## **Every Thursday - Local Artists**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Every Thursday - Folk Night**

The Fleece, Bretforton

## **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

## **Every 4th Thursday - Session**

New Inn, Malvern

## **2nd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers**

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

## **Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session**

The Morgan, 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 Friday - Resident band The Future Set**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

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

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

## **Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm**

The Morgan, Malvern

## **Every Sunday starting at 7.30pm**

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

## **2nd Sun - Singaround Session**

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

## **Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session**

Social Club, West Malvern

## **Every Sun Lazy Acoustic Afternoon 4pm**

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

## **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

## **Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish**

Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club**

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs



## Wednesday 01 February 2017

### Ged Wilson

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### Omid Djallili

Courtyard, Hereford

### Funk-In Sessions

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

## Thursday 02 February 2017

### Joe Swift: A Man About The Garden

Courtyard, Hereford

### The Novus, Uncomplicated, Silent J, State, Outline, Short Circuit

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### Bekki Cameron

The Pheasant, Worcester

### Voodoo Stone

Worley'S At The Swan, Stourport

### Surprise Attacks Presents: Yonen / Steve Strong / Downard

The Firefly, Worcester

### Ian Luther Duo

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Mark Walby Band

The Bierkeller, Cheltenham

### Troublesome Trio

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

## Friday 03 February 2017

### Protocol

Millers Arms, Pershore

### Hip Route

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### Nicholson Heal (6 piece Indie brass) 11pm

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### Dinosaur Squeak

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Chronicle Of Zee

Queens Head, Wolverley, Kidderminster

### Bubby Holly Birthday Texas Burger Weekend

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Max Boyce

Courtyard, Hereford

### Steve Ferbrache

The New Inn, Gloucester

### Kilkovec, Nth Cave

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

### Will Killeen

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### The Other Covers Trio

Drummonds, Worcester

### Nigel Clark (Dodgy), Mark Morriss (The Bluetones),

### Hedluf&Passman (Cornish Comedy Rappers),

Malvern Cube, Malvern

### The Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels

The Malt Shovel, Highley

### No Poetry Presents, Crows & Crosses, Free Sun Rising,

### Smokestack

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, By The Shore, Jenny Hallam

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Definitely Mightbe + Adored

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### Neil Iverson

The Pheasant, Worcester

### The Bridge

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

### Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Ignition Presents : Valous, Ritual King & Devils Platground

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Chewie

The Bush, St Johns, Worcester

### Martin And Ciara O'neill

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### Rattlesnake Jake

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Population:7

The Iron Road, Evesham

### The Ataris, Red Light Rebels, Sioux Falls, White Crosses

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Vehicle

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

### Sare & Sean's Social Club - Alt-Indie-Pop Covers

Red Lion Amblecote, Stourbridge

### Amanda Rheaume Band, Mark Leedham Trio, Abby Foxall &

### Grace Winterburn,

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

### Motion Enterprise

The Swan Chelt.

### Mr. Markos Outer Space Emporium

Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

### Protocol

Millers Arms, Pershore

### Folk in The Foyer: Borderline Crossing

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

### The Troubadours

The Red Lion, Evesham

### Motion Enterprise Live

The Swan, Cheltenham

### Parallel

The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

### Worcestershire County Of Talent Showcase

The Iron Road, Evesham

### Peter Morton

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

### Steve Franks

The Jrool Bistro, Stroud

## Saturday 04 February 2017

### Vehicle

White Hart, Redditch

### Enzo

Green Dragon, Malvern

### South Of Salinas

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### Hedluf & Passman (2 Cornish Rappers And A Casiotone)

### Plus Calm Like A Riot

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Beaver & The Foghorns

The Cotswold Inn Chelt

### King Mantis

The Plough, Hereford

### Test Drive

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### Beaver & The Foghorns

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### Abba - Swede Dreamz

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### Sam Clines

The Pheasant, Worcester

### Midnight Sun

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

### John Otway & The Big Band

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Jake and the Jesters

Reet Petite-Music Cafe, Leominster

### Oye Santana

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Steve Brooks Founder Member of The Jam

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

Royal Oak, Ledbury

### Steve Ignorant's Slice Of Life, Headsticks + Terminal Rage

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### The Final 4

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

### Subduction

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Aardark Stew

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### Cada

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Vehicle

White Hart, Redditch

### Ethemia

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### Bedlam

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### Green Haze

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Protocol

The Swan, Evesham

**The Beat Feat. Ranking Roger**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**The Dirty Harry Band**

The Unicorn, Malvern

**Autumn**

New Inn, Pershore

**The Upbeat Beatles**

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**The Magoos, in Aid of Leukaemia Care, Get Your Tickets****From Leukaemiacare.Org.Uk**

Worcester Six Ways Stadium, Worcester

**Hotter Than Hell (Tribute To Kiss)**

The Iron Road, Evesham

**Soul Stripper**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Hedluv & Passman - 2 Cornish Rappers and a Casiotone 2pm**

Carnival Records, Malvern

**The Reflections**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Hump De Bump**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Sunday 05 February 2017****Steve Brookes**

The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

**The Gumbo Shakers (4Pm)**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**T.Rextasy**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Errols Kitchen Play Cookie, Sian, Slick 'Ian's Birthday Party'**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**European Union Chamber Orchestra**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Wolfren Riverstick (4Pm)**

The Red Lion, Evesham

**Pete Miln & Dan James (5.30Pm)**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Monday 06 February 2017****No Poetry presents: Atropas, Defender, Hate.System, Rustlung**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Tuesday 07 February 2017****Megson**

The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Wednesday 08 February 2017****Paul Rose Dictatorship, 8pm**

, Wyre Piddle

**Big Man Clayton**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Rock Icons**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Acoustic Folk Session**

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**Fizz & Crackle: John Singer Sargent**

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Thursday 09 February 2017****John Connor**

Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

**Richard Digance The Golden Anniversary Tour**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Jodie Howland**

The Pheasant, Worcester

**Amy Wadge & Luke Jackson**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Breabach**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Second Thursday with Tone Tanner and Friends**

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Andy Thomas**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Soccer96**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Fairport Convention**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**Friday 10 February 2017****Gunnrunner**

Millers Arms, Pershore

**Vo Fletcher & The Truckstop Trixies**

Malvern Cube, Malvern

**Skewwhiff, Smokin' Pilchards, The Humdrum Express**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Mollys Dagers**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Adam Giles**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Barrel House Blues Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

**Come Up and See Me**

Drummonds, Worcester

**Robert Perry**

The Malt Shovel, Highley

**The Kev And Ben Experience**

The Red Lion, Evesham

**Claude Bourbon, Medieval & Spanish Blues**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Uk Guns N' Roses**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Jay And Eli**

The Pheasant, Worcester

**The Machine Rages On, Tempus**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Alex Rainsford**

The Bush, St Johns, Worcester

**Huw Eddy & The Carnival, Pete & The Hicks, Ben Roberts,****Harry Daniels**

Frog &amp; Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Executives**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Vehicle**

Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**The Delray Rockets**

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**The Goat Roper Rodeo Band**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**The Ragged Edge Soul Band**

Crown &amp; Sceptre, Stroud

**Fisherman'S Friends 2017**

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Just Adam**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Jaguars**

The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

**Palm Reader // Toy Mountains // Goblins // Conspire**

Frog &amp; Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Koral Society - Kora Led Trio & Workshop**

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**The Haunted Souls**

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Sunjay**

The Globe At Hay, Hay-On-Wye

**Saturday 11 February 2017****Journeyman**

Green Dragon, Malvern

**Desert Boots, Sam Redmore**

The Dark Horse, Moseley Birmingham

**Arkfest Warm Up Gig Line Up To Come**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Mumbo-Jumbo**

Malvern Cube, Malvern

**Brendon O'brian Live The Irish Music**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Rubble**

The Plough, Hereford

**Choirs At The Palace**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Tom Davies**

The Pheasant, Worcester

**Mustard Band**

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

**Voodoo Stone**

The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Blues Band**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Dire Streets**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



**An Evening With The Superstars Of Country Music,  
Performed By Country Legends**

The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Chalky Martin**

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds, Dave spinning the Wax**

Red Lion, Stiffords Bridge Malvern

**The Good Water**

The Globe At Hay, Hay On Wye

**Ruzz Guitars Blues Revue**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Thirsty Work**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Mat Treiber**

Reet Petite-Music Cafe, Leominster

**Kimber's Men**

St. Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

**Club Dead Vi With Bismuth, Black Boxes, The Seventh Circle**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Moretallica**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Tristan Watson And Pasty Gamble Jazz Trio**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Journeyman**

The Green Dragon., Malvern

**Politics Of The Heart With Spiro**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Wyre Forest Young Musician Of The Year**

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

**O.C.D**

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Toyah - Acoustic, Up Close & Personal**

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Catfish + Voodoo Stone**

The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Delray Rockets**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Groovyhead**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Sunday 12 February 2017**

**The Standard Lamps (4pm)**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Fara**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Hitchhikers Guide To The Wind Band!**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Colin Blunstone**

Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

**The G & T Mix**

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Bill Pullen And Tony Beysens (4pm)**

The Red Lion, Evesham

**Remi Harris (2pm)**

The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Clarksville Mountain Band (5:30Pm)**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Monday 13 February 2017**

**9Bach**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Tuesday 14 February 2017**

**Black Cat Bone**

The Hog, Horsley

**Wednesday 15 February 2017**

**Rodney Branigan**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**No Poetry Presents, Diamond Days, Calling Apollo,**

**Diamond City, Rivas**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Ina Forsman (Finland)**

The Iron Road, Evesham

**Thursday 16 February 2017**

**No Poetry Presents:, Diamond Days, Calling Apollo,**

**Time Of The Mouth, We Signal Fire, Rivas**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Celtic Fiddle Festival Featuring Kevin Burke**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Mccusker, Mcgoldrick, Doyle**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Rock N Roll Rodeo**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Poor Boys Of Worcester**

The Plough, Worcester

**Fara**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Friday 17 February 2017**

**Nightshift**

Green Dragon, Malvern

**Executives**

Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Worried Men**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Blind River Scared**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Big Wolf Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**Rodney Branigan**

The Globe At Hay, Hay-On-Wye

**Moonlight Drive**

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Stone Farm**

Drummonds, Worcester

**Jo Silver**

The Red Lion, Evesham

**Mister Wolf**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Chris Bannister Performs The Music of John Denver**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Dreams Of Fleetwood Mac**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Dan Greenaway**

The Pheasant, Worcester

**The English Symphony Orchestra**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**The Task in Hand: Theo, Hoggs Bison, A Pig Called Eggs**

**+ Deathly Pale Party**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Punk By Nature Presents : Heavy Drapes, Erection Police and Suckerpunch**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Rod Barlow**

The Bush, St Johns, Worcester

**The Skastuds**

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

**Hereford Heavy Present Heavy Live 3 Featuring: Maniac SS,**

**Brocken Spectre, Harambe, Enmerkar**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

**The Narco Lounge Combo**

Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Judie Tzuke**

Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

**Limehouse Lizzy**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**Big Fat Shorty**

The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

**Blackballed (Feat Marshall Gill of New Model Army)**

The Iron Road, Evesham

**Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra Big Band,**

Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

**Jon Walsh - Blues Singer Slide & Finger Picking Guitar**

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Saturday 18 February 2017**

**No Poetry & Ar Studios Presents, Hide Your Eyes**

**Album Launch, + Guests**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Erdington Club, Birmingham

**Ian Luther**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Mumbo-Jumbo**

Willersey Village Hall, Nr Broadway, Willersey, Nr Broadway

**Sons Of Yoda**

The Plough, Hereford

### **Mister Wolf**

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport

### **Melvin Hancox Band**

The Grapes

### **Ben Vickers + DJs**

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

### **Ub40 - Ultimate40**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Polly Edwards**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **Fourty Blue Toes**

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

### **Nearly Dan**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **King Of Pop – The Legend Continues... Starring Navi**

The Swan Theatre, Worcester

### **Fairport Convention**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **The Foreign Quarter, Motion Control + 1Tbc**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Matt Peplow**

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### **People in Motion Day Featuring A Range Of Acoustic Acts**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Medicine Spoon**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **Nite Train**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **The Hawthornes**

The Cavern, Gloucester

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Crew/Queens Hall, Nuneaton

### **Tom Hill With His Quartet**

The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

### **Danadra**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### **Sound Of The Sirens**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **The Charlton Blues Kings**

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

### **Dreadzone**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Station 2 Station**

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

### **The Outcasts**

New Inn, Pershore

### **Metaprim + Devil's Playground**

The Iron Road, Evesham

### **Zuby, Griz-O, Wild Boyz Wasted**

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **2 Tone Revue**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Built For Comfort**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Remi Harris**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## **Sunday 19 February 2017**

### **John Walsh**

The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

### **Built For Comfort (4pm)**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### **Ben Vicker's Jam Night 4pm**

Saracen's Head, Worcester

### **Gaz Brookfield, Nick Parker**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Stephen Fearing**

Elmslie House, Malvern

### **Flowers Band**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **Stuart Davies (4pm)**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **Journeyman (5:30pm)**

The Chestnut, Worcester

## **Monday 20 February 2017**

### **Matt Dickinson: Everest And Beyond**

Courtyard, Hereford

## **Tuesday 21 February 2017**

### **Fcs: Heavy Heart, Horror On The High Seas**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **I Am Beast**

Courtyard, Hereford

### **Menopause The Musical**

Courtyard, Hereford

### **Trio Dali**

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

## **Wednesday 22 February 2017**

### **The Tannahill Weavers**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Alcuna Wilds**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

## **Thursday 23 February 2017**

### **Thought Forms**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport On Severn

### **Thought Forms (Invada Records), Alcuna Wilds, Outlander,**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### **Droitwich Sally**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Pageant**

Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

### **2Faced Dance Company Present Run**

Courtyard, Hereford

### **Lesley Garrett**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

### **Talon - The Acoustic Collection**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Uncover: TBC, Ivory Wave, Nth Cave, Ben Dallow**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **All Ears Awow, Ten Tombs, Floorboards, Indigo Haze**

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Stu Bishop**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Justin and the Argonauts, Esk Forte, Eskarina Esk and Ali Strong**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### **Folk in The Foyer: Mark Harrison**

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

## **Friday 24 February 2017**

### **Manalishi**

Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Doghhouse (Ex Sicknote Members), Reality Attack, Wolf Crier**

**Plus Bds Silvashiva (Of Last Tree Squad) Djing**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### **Dave Onions**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Trevor Burton Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley, Kidderminster

### **Brendon O'brian Live The Irish Music**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **'The Send Off' DnB/HipHop DJs**

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

### **Chalky'S Mod, Soul & Ska Show**

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### **The Underdogs**

Drummonds, Worcester

### **Bad Names**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **Just Adam**

The Brewers Arms, West Malvern

### **Mister Wolf**

The Lamplighter, Stratford Upon Avon

### **Sunfire**

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

### **Sinatra Celebration (Room Upstairs)**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

### **You Win Again**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

### **Ben Vickers**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **The Connor Maher Quartet**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Cclarkesville Mountain Band**

The Bush, St Johns, Worcester



**Marc Hammond**  
Saracen's Head, Worcester

**The Future Set**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**The Festivals Experience**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Bob Porter Project**  
Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**The Clone Roses**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**The Reflections**  
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

**Women in Rock**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Solid Gone & Hard Stairs**  
2Pigs, Cheltenham

**Tarion - Female 4 Piece Band**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

## Saturday 25 February 2017

**Vehicle**  
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

**Aardvark Stew**  
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Lewis Clark + The Essentials**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Kim Rydr**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Contrast**  
The Plough, Hereford

**Bad Medicine**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**The Official Receivers Soul Review**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**The Subteraneans**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**After Dark**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

**Roger Roberts**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**The Style Councillors**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**The Everly Brothers & Friends Tribute Show**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Outlast presents: Full Contact Stranded, Flatline, Slamgrind69**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Mother Popcorn**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

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

**Live Music Gig in Aid Of No Herefordshire Cull With The Mega Citizen Fish with Dick Lucas, The Rev Schneider and The Band Of Angels, Owain Price**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**The Bob Porter Project**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Junction 7.**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Big Band Extravaganza with Gyjo & Oybb**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**The Illegal Eagles**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**The Hush**  
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Mimosa**  
New Inn, Pershore

**Western Sand + The Troy Redfern Band**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Sax Appeal**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Hollyfest 2017 The Travelling Band + Antarctic Monkeys**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Essential 80S Tribute Band For The Gaffers Birthday**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Jibbafish**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Sunday 26 February 2017

**Elles Bailey (4pm)**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Benjamin Frith - Piano Recital**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Syd Lawrence Orchestra**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**The Players, Rootsbyluesycountryjazzyfolkyresonators**  
Cap N Gown, Worcester

**Guy Challenger (4pm)**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Woo Town Hillbillies (5:30Pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Monday 27 February 2017

**Little Thief**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Luke Rainsford Craterface Chris Smee Sioux Falls Jack Cooper**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

## Tuesday 28 February 2017

**Rusne Mikiskaite (Saxophone) & Imma Setiadi (Piano) - Luncchins Recitals (1pm)**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

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## Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

**1-26th - Exhibition: Bernadette Louise Accused: An Autism Mother.** Artrix Bromsgrove

**2nd - Life Drawing Valentines Special.**  
Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster, 7.30pm

**3-9th- Assassin's Creed (15)** Courtyard Hereford

**8th - Howl Spoken Word.** Dark Horse, Moseley, Birmingham

**8th - Worcester Writers Group,** Lunar Bar, Worcester. 7.30pm

**10th until 1st May - Gertrude Hermes**  
Ashmolean Museum Broadway.

**13th - Licensed to Rhyme, spoken word**  
Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove.

**17-23rd - Snowden (15)** Courtyard Hereford

**18th - The Snow Baby.** Courtyard Hereford. 11am.

**21st - I Am Beast.** Courtyard Hereford. 7pm

**22nd - '42' words, poetry and science fiction**  
Drummonds, Worcester 7.30pm

**23rd - King Lear, pop up theatre.** St Swithuns church, Worcester

**23rd - 2Faced Dance Company present Run,** Courtyard Hereford

**25th - Immersive gin tasting with Cliik Cliik**  
St Swithuns Church, Worcester

**25/26th - Worcester Pub Theatre Festiva**  
Hallmark Hotel Stourport Manor. Worcestershire

**26th - The Snow Baby,** Kidderminster Town Hall 2pm.

**26th - Worcester Vintage Wedding Fair,** Guildhall, Worcester

**Until 19th March - The Hop Project,** The Courtyard Hereford

# THE MARR'S BAR

FEB  
MAR 2017

Gaz Brookfield  
Sunday 19th February



## Friday 3rd February

3 bands £3 - Chevy Chase Stole My Wife,  
By The Shore + Jenny Hallam

## Saturday, 4th February

Green Haze

£6 in advance £8 on the door

## Friday 10th February

The Machine Rages On (RATM tribute), Tempus

£6 in advance £8 on the door

## Saturday 11th February

Moretallica

£7 in advance £10 on the door

## Thursday 16th February

Diamond Days, Calling Apollo, Time Of The  
Mouth, We Signal Fire + Rivas

£4 in advance

## Friday 17th February

The Task In Hand: Theo, Hoggs Bison,  
A Pig Called Eggs + Deathly Pale Party

£3 in advance £5 on the door

## Saturday 18th February

3 bands £3

The Foreign Quarter, Motion Control, tbc

## Sunday 19th February

Gaz Brookfield, Nick Parker

Cost: £6 in advance £8 on the door

## Tuesday, 21st February

FCS: Heavy Heart, Goblins, Nuns Of The  
Tundra + Horror On The High Seas

£4 in advance £6 on the door

## Thursday 23rd February

UnCover: tbc, The Ivory Wave, Nth Cave

£5 in advance £7 on the door

## Friday 24th February

The Connor Maher Quartet

£3 in advance £5 on the door

## • Saturday 25th February

• Outlast Bookings: Full Contact

• Stranded, Flatline, + Slamgrind69

• £6 on the door

## • Saturday 4th March

• Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi tribute)

• £8 in advance £10 on the door

## • Sunday 5th March

• Tia McGraff

• £8 in advance £10 on the door

## • Thursday, 9th March

• SA + TTIH: Hey Colossus,

• The Broken Oak Duet + Black Boxes

• £5 in advance £7 on the door

## • Friday 10th March

• The Official Receivers

• £8 in advance £10 on the door

## • Saturday 11th March

• Vinny Peculiar

• tbc

## • Tuesday 14th March

• FCS: Empty Lungs, The Harts + TBA

• £4 in advance £6 on the door

## • Saturday 18th March

• The Cracked Actors

## • Sunday 19th March

• Matt Woosey

• £8 in advance £10 on the door

## • Thursday, 23rd March

• Sœur, The Broken Oak Duet, Chiyoda KU

• £5 in advance £7 on the door

## • Friday 24th March

• Them Heavy People (Kate bush tribute)

• £7 in advance £9 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk

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