

SLAP

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May 2017

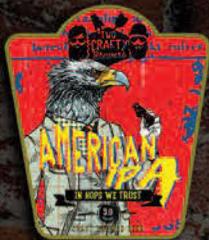
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May 2017 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hello there and thanks for picking up your free copy of SLAP Magazine. It's a jam packed issue and space has been extremely tight so apologies to those who sent in contributions for our editorial and missed the cut. We do try and publish everything we see, space prevailing, providing of course it's to do with 'Local Arts and Performers'.

Our front cover image is all about the 'WOW' factor... Dance Fest are this month calling for artists and performers to get involved in the WOW (Watch out Worcester) event which is coming up in July. Applications are now open until 26th May, see the article on page 7 for more details. The 'infuse DANCE - Bodyguards' (pictured) will be performing at The Hive on the 22nd July as part of Dancefest. So if you're an aspiring dancer or a visual performance artist please get involved.

I think we have enough to get your teeth into and whet your appetite as we glide from Spring to Summer into a full on festival season. At least enough to take your mind off further political turbulence, this time in the shape of another General Election.

In just one weekend in May we have the Lechlade Festival, Gloucester Shanty Festival, Mello Festival & Breaking Bands Festival as well as a few one dayers such as Under The Hill, The Swan at Staunton Cider Fest & Camp House Cider Festival. Spoilt for choice I think you'll agree.

We also have an abundance of the arts to share with you too this month, as we preview plenty of poetry and spoken word events with After Hours and the Evesham Festival of Words which will warm us up nicely for LitFest. This on top of all the contemporary art on view around the Counties.

As always there is some bad news in the shape of the probable closure of a venue which encompassed all of the arts. It's now common knowledge that the future of the Boars Head music venue, gallery and art space is in doubt as Sid and Sand call time in June. Fingers crossed that some like minded people are found to run it as in the case of the new Claptrap venue in Stourbridge, formally the Scary Canary.

So enjoy the rest of your Spring and keep smiling, you never know, we might just end up with a fairer society in a few weeks time, now that's something to look forward to...

Spring - ed



Front cover: - 'infuse DANCE - Bodyguards' will be performing at The Hive 22nd July as part of Dancefest event WOW.

Tom Jones Loses Voice in City

Not exactly queues round the block then - only 20 hopefuls turned up for the opportunity to 'sing for **Tom Jones** on TV' when ITV's **The Voice** auditions came to Worcester - which included seven performers from the **Elgar School of Music**. Other contenders included an 'opera singer' and a lad who covered a song from a defunct Portuguese band - best of luck chaps...

Tell Me Why I Don't Like Cricket - I Love It

More acts have been announced for the '**Concert of Legends**' to be held at **Worcestershire CCC** on Saturday 9th September including the **Boomtown Rats** featuring 'Sir' **Bob Geldof**, **Odyssey** and **Ray Lewis** from **The Drifters** (yes we know!) - who'll join **Billy Ocean** & **Paul 'Ace' Carrack** at the all-day festival.

Was-A-Fest

Wizzafest have announced that they'll be taking a year off - the 'small and affordable' event lost money following its move after 10 years from Stoke Prior to Droitwich in 2016 - and a fundraising evening in February fell short of plugging the deficit. **Wizzafest** has raised over £20,000 for Macmillan in recent years but organisers say that they plan to keep going in 2018 - but maybe at another location elsewhere in the Midlands...

All the Best at Mello Fest

Seems like a cracking lineup for the second **Mello** festival at Throckmorton Airfield on bank holiday weekend **May 26-28** with confirmed headline acts including **Hawkwind**, **Goldie Lookin' Chain**, **Dreadzone**, **Johnny Hates Jazz**, **Altered Images** and **The Alarm** - mellofestival.co.uk

Good Lord, Good Point

Fair play to **Worcester Live** patron and chairman **Lord Faulkner** of Worcester who's had a pop at the government for the disproportionate amount of arts funding channelled towards orchestras, opera and ballet in London - calling for more cash to be spent on 'non-elitist organisations' outside the south-east. He said that areas like Worcester were badly under-funded with finances permanently on a knife-edge - well said Your Majesty!*

What's on at Wychwood

More acts announced for the main stage at **Wychwood** on Cheltenham racecourse from June 2-4 include Irish rockers **The Strypes** - plus **InHeaven**, **Stevie Parker**, **Cabbage** and **Yonaka** supporting headliners **OMD**, **Buzzcocks** and **The Levellers** - wychwoodfestival.com

Are You Experienced?

The Cowleys are back! Frontman **Pete Unwin** of the **George Cowley Experience** is fighting back with their new song '**Boot Out Austerity Blues**' as a challenge to cuts in public services - previous GCE campaign ditties have included protests at the proposed closure of Newport Passport Office and cuts to Cheshire local finances!

Bandstand Planned

Plans are underway for a new 'music performance pavilion' - or a bandstand for the rest of us - to be built in Cripplegate Park Worcester to host live music events - the Friends of the park hope to raise the necessary dosh via fundraising and grants - best of luck!

* we do realise that this might not be the correct form of address for a 'Peer Of The Realm'..

4 SLAP MAY

Rappers Delight at Noz Line-up

Nozstock has announced its second wave of headline acts booked for 21-23 July at **Rowden Paddocks Bromyard** - including **The Sugarhill Gang**, **Hayseed Dixie**, **Goldie Lookin' Chain** and **Remi Harris** joining **Seasick Steve** and **Happy Mondays** on the main Orchard stage - fine weather please!!

So Long John...

Veteran local promoter **John Banner** has decided to call time on his ventures with one last bash at the **Huntingdon Hall** Worcester featuring Merseybeat outfit **The Searchers!** In his 60+ years of organising events, John's also put on whist drives, beauty pageants, football matches and motorbike racing - plus helping to promote acts like **Frank Ifield** and **Jerry Lee Lewis** across the UK

Recognition from Ritchie

Dave Small's band **Drifter** have had their live youtube video posted and credited on the official **Richie Haven** Facebook Page. The song '**Freedom**' originally by **Richie Haven** from **Woodstock 1969** was recorded at live at the **Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop** by **Graham Munn** at April's **Lazy Sunday**.

Visit: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tfy3v1Pkr-Q>). **Drifter** from are **Dave Small**, **Danny Gee** & **Joshua Terrye**, not a bad way to plug your gig on the **6th May** at **La Petite Gare** in Kiddy...

Skank for People in Motion

With current efforts focused on the refugee crisis, **People In Motion** charity, who are a local charity providing support and aid to displaced people, have organised a fundraiser on **May 19th** at **The Boars Head** Kidderminster. Come along, have a skank to the fat sound of dub with **Ben Vickers**, **Drum Love** & guests. During the night the dub plates of **ital sounds** will be peppering the evening with all the best fat dub sounds we've come to expect from **Ital**.

Sid & Sand - Time For a Rest

Well, as nearly everybody is aware.. We (Sid, Sand and family) are leaving **The Boars Head** in Kidderminster in mid June. There has been many many stories to why, the truth behind the decision is based on many facts, Initially when we took over we said that we would do 5 years, This has turned in to 6 and we never started this to become rich which is good Job Really! We always managed but it is always a struggle when not receiving any help from the powers that be. With the uncertainty regarding that area of Kidderminster we thought it time to move on... and have a well earned rest!

What will happen to **The Boars** I hear on a daily basis, That is down **The Brewery**, we have offered to try and help if like minded people took over, however at the moment it looks like relief managers will be taking over.

We are going home, (about 10 minutes away) and will still be involved in the music scene in Kidderminster. So you will have to wait and see. Obviously we want to go out with a bang and see all our fave bands down here before we go, which would be impossible even we held a gig every night. But we have a wicked selection until the 9th and 10th June which will be our last music weekend, 36 bands in all, So probably best not to list them all here.

One last thing, again there is not enough room to list everyone.. But the last 6 years would not of been possible without a lot of help from an awful lot of people. Mainly **Skankin Dub Beats**. Thank you all and thank you **SLAP** for all your wonderful support... Love and Hugs to all from **Sid and Sand**

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Fully submerged in the swing of the season now, I'm prepping for local beauties **Asparafest & Hopfest** next month, popping up at **Upton Blues Festival** and finalizing exciting new editions to my **Pie n' Tash** installation at the wide eyed and wonderful world of



Boomtown **Fayre!** And of course plans are fully underway for the Clik Clik produced **Cabinet of Lost Secrets** at **Nozstock** **The Hidden Valley**; expect the unexpected!

Plus don't forget to pop along to **Pershore Carnival** on Mon **29th May** and see the amazing **Pershore Youth Centre** float being worked on as we speak!

www.clikklikcollective.com



There are very few major art fairs outside London but this month you can take a look at artwork from 45 of the best British galleries at the **Fresh Contemporary Art Fair** in Cheltenham. 'Fresh' is a new art fair with new ideas, aiming to make contemporary art more accessible by welcoming everyone, from complete newcomers to enthusiasts and established collectors alike.

With 400 artists and 5000 artworks, free tickets on the Friday and weekend tickets just £6 (for two!) as well as free parking and free entry for children all weekend, this is a super value chance to go and view visual arts locally and buy at affordable prices.

Cheltenham Racecourse 12th- 14th.
freshartfair.net

David Hockney

This month is your last chance to go and see one of the most popular and influential British artists of the twentieth century who returned to Tate Britain in February for his most comprehensive exhibition yet. This exhibition gathers together an extensive



selection of David Hockney's most famous works celebrating his achievements in painting, drawing, print, photography and video across six decades. Now almost 80, Hockney continues to change his style and ways of working, embracing new technologies as he goes. From his portraits and images of Los Angeles swimming pools, through to his drawings and photography, you can also see

his Yorkshire landscapes and most recent paintings, some of which have never been seen before in public.

This exhibition has been one of the fastest selling in the Tate's history so booking is essential!

Tate Britain, Millbank, London until **29th May**.
tate.org.uk

New culture in Worcester

Bottles Wine Bar has been staging some cutting edge arts evenings of late, courtesy of **Hannah Webb**. The launch of a fabulous new spoken word event on the **20th April** curated and hosted by **Holly Daffurn**, featured amongst others, the fabulous **Joe Cook (Beatbreaks)**. This has turned into a regular feature and with other unusual pop up evenings of music and performance planned, this looks to be a great place to enjoy a glass of vino and a good dose of culture for the city centre.



Worcestershire Litfest & Fringe

Next month sees the **7th Worcester Litfest**, which takes place at various locations in the city from **9th-18th June**. There are a range of events on offer from workshops, performances, slams and quiz nights.
worcslitfest.co.uk

Site Festival Open Studios

Stroud's **Site Festival Open Studios** will feature over 102 artists in 48 locations across the district. This will be their 21st annual Open Studios event that will be even more enticing and exciting, welcoming hundreds of new and regular visitors. The Open Studios weekend is a great way to meet artists, buy art works directly and find out more about the ideas behind their work and the techniques they use. The two weekends are: **6th-7th** and **13th-14th May 11am-6pm**



sitefestival.org.uk sva.org.uk

Evesham Festival of words

Authors, wordsmiths and spoken word artists are getting ready for this year's **Evesham Festival of Words**. With workshops, presentations and performances, the main festival takes place between Friday 30th June and Sunday 2nd July, with fringe events in May.

Regular viewers of **The Great British Bake Off** are in for a treat when cookery writer and romantic novelist, **Prue Leith** visits Evesham as the opening speaker for the festival on Friday 30th June taking the stage at **Evesham's Town Hall**.

Her career is a hugely varied one including journalism, cookery writer and running a cookery school. More recently she has turned her talents to writing romantic fiction and has no fewer than seven novels in print.



There are several fringe events happening this month too, kicking off on **19th May**, 'A Cartoon History of Here' at **Evesham Town Hall** is a highly comical, interactive and improvised cartoon show with Yorkshire poet, broadcaster and comedian, **Ian McMillan**, alongside Cartoonist of the Year, **Tony Husband**. This is a ticketed event starting at 7.30pm.

Then on the **23rd May** at **Evesham Library** get along to 'The Great Big Poetry Read', a free event from 2-4pm.

Pop along to the website for the full programme and how to book tickets. We'll be running more about this next month too so keep a look out! eveshamfestivalofwords.org

Evesham Festival of Words Photography Competition

Enthusiastic photographers attending this year's **Worcester Motor Festival on Saturday 20th May** can now enter a new photo competition! With motifs around the event area, and of course the motors themselves, they want you to share your favourite captured moments for a chance to win prizes! The closing date for submissions is **Sunday 28th May**.

For more info go to: www.worcestermotorfestival.com

Watch Out Worcester (WOW)

A new free arts event for the city Involving quirky, contemporary, fun, theatre, dance, music, spoken word and visual arts, **WOW**, a free event, takes place on Saturday 22nd July in outdoor and unusual spaces around the city centre.

We want to involve local performers and artists whose work is creative and original and would welcome applications to take part. We're interested to hear about your work and how you see it fitting into **Watch Out Worcester**. We can't pay people to take part, but it is an opportunity to promote your work.



Performances can be walkabout or static, up to 20 minutes long and able to be performed 2 to 3 times between 12 noon and 4.30pm. They should be self contained as there is no power supply or staging.

We are also keen to hear from visual artists who could show work either in or out doors –please bear in mind that we can't be responsible for the security of that work. It would need to be set up and dismantled on the day.

How to Apply

Applications are welcome from professional, excellent community or youth groups (performers should be over 14).

Please send an email describing your work, together with a link to a film of performance, or images of visual arts, to **Rose Beeston**, Dancefest's Director at the very latest by **Friday 26 May** including your contact details.

rose@dancefest.co.uk dancefest.co.uk/watch-out-worcester

For further information, email or ring Rose on 01905 611199

Watch Out Worcester is produced by **Dancefest** in collaboration with Worcestershire partners including: **everyBODY Dance, Jumpstart, The Hive, Three Choirs Festival, University of Worcester, Vamos, Severn Arts, The Ring, Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum, Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcestershire Arts Partnership and Worcestershire Litfest & Fringe.**

The first workshop was at the end of last month, but you can still get involved with the next one taking place at **The Pump Rooms, Tenbury Wells**, between 10am-1pm on Saturday 3rd June. The third workshop takes place at **Tenbury Music Festival** on **Saturday 17th June**. To book a place contact Jack Brett on 07825 133690

Grapevine is delivered by **Equal Vision** with support from **Tenbury Music Festival & Arts Council England**. equalvisioninc.co.uk



Are you a young local musician just starting out, aged between 11 and 20?

Do you want to learn more about performing and playing music with others?

Would you like the chance to play at the Tenbury Music Festival?

Grapevine is a new project for young people who love rock music and want to develop their skills. Grapevine musicians will be able to sign up for workshops leading up to and during **Tenbury Music Festival** as well as getting the chance to perform at the festival on June 17th.

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



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John Piper exhibition



Elmslie House, Malvern | 20th-28th May



award-winning Grade II family home dating from 1862, whose 'Free Gothic' style provides the perfect setting to appreciate John Piper's work.



25 years since his death, **John Piper's** reputation as one of the major figures of 20th century British art continues to grow. His magical use of colour and texture can be seen in work ranging from art and printmaking to ceramics, fabric design and stained glass. This exhibition is the largest in the area for many years and brings together a selected range of limited edition prints; beautiful fabrics and original works, all of which are for sale. It will be held in the hall at **Elmslie House** in Great Malvern, a restored and



worcester arts workshop



The award winning Kidderminster Based tattoo artist '**Mandie Barber**', started **True Love Tattoos** in 1998. Enjoy an entertaining evening and meet the four exhibiting artists for an open view on the 6th May 7.30pm. Viewing available in Café Bliss thereafter, throughout the month of May between 10am & 3pm.

Scallywags Comedy

Join us for the first Worcester Arts Workshop comedy night on **8th May** hosted by **Jon Wagstaffe** and featuring some of the best touring comedians out there. **Nick Page** has toured his comedy all over the world, from Abu Dhabi to Vietnam. He comes to us from a sell out Edinburgh Fringe run and performing in Sandi Toksvig's home.



'Hit exactly the right note' Graeme Garden. Also featuring: **Matt Stellingwef, Roger Swift** and **Stu Woodings**.

15th June 2017, 19:30, tickets £7

6th July 2017, 19:30, tickets £7

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Lazy Sunday Featuring Drifter, Portia Reed Bethan & The Morgans, Flatworld Live Cafe Bliss, Worcester | 9th April

I don't get too many weekends away from the day job, fewer still when I wake up and the sun is peering round the curtains inviting me out for a 'Lazy Sunday': live music, a cider or three and some excellent Belize cuisine. So I wasn't about to pass up on the opportunity to chill in the sun and soak up the vibes at the first **Lazy Sunday** at **Cafe Bliss**.

Flatworld opened proceedings taking us on a whistle stop tour across Europe, dipping their collective toes into Turkey, Serbia, Ukraine and beyond for an intriguing mash of styles, proving that despite language barriers and world conflict, music unites and overcomes. The five-piece Malvern collective are either really well traveled or avid World Music collectors as pattered percussion, violin, double bass, guitar and sax weave intoxicating instrumental reels. Close your eyes and you're as far from Worcester's city centre as you dare to dream, perhaps Serbia where Poor Jane originates from or maybe you're spending *A Night In The Garden Of Eden*.



Last time I caught indie folksters **Bethan & The Morgans** they were plying their trade down by the river as part of **The Pumpkin Sessions** for **Worcester Music Festival**. Back last year having been impressed by their short set I'd mentally marked down the



band as one to catch again and where better than to soak up their acoustic indie folk than Cafe Bliss. Two guitars, one double bass and delicious three part harmonies are the order of the day as lead singer, **Bethan Morgan** leads the Wednesday trio through a lifting, hook-laden set of instant sing-a-longs. From the swelling vocals of *Time Lost On Your Side* to the undeniable *Parted Ways to Go Away*, the band gripped from start to finish.



Portia Reed, accompanied by the subdued guitar work of **Simon Willan**, turned out to be something of a revelation. The young singer-songwriter possesses one of those 'stop you in your tracks' voices; a rich, soulful and controlled croon that at times brings to mind both Nina Simone and Amy Winehouse. Portia's opening

number, *Fire*, set the mood beautifully: delicate, spacious guitar provided just the right backing to highlight Reed's mesmeric, emotive lead. Further originals, *Blue Shoes* and *Cheap* equally thrilled before Reed and Willan delivered a stunning reinterpolation of Led Zeppelin's *Your Time Is Gonna Come*, twisting the original into a glorious slice of stripped back soulful blues. Trust me when I say Portia is definitely one to watch for the future.

After a trio of sets spread over a number of genres, **Drifter** proved to be the perfect headliners. **Dave Small, Danny Gauden** and **Josh Terry** (also known as three fifths of **Arcadia Roots**) mix and mash blues, reggae, folk, rootsy rock and more to create a contagious, funky stew guaranteed to kick start even the laziest of parties. Small's expressive percussion work and versatile lead effortlessly moves between rootsy infectious originals such as *Where You Gonna Run To* inventive takes of Bob Marley's *Exodus*. Danny and Josh add a series of addictive licks and a dollop of groove to the proceedings as the trio twist new shapes into firm favourites. The set featured masterclass in the form of a **Dave Small** drum solo before the trio rounded off an eclectic and engaging afternoon's entertainment by honing those festive vibes



for a bewitching run through Woodstock favourite, *Freedom* (Richie Havens), leaving the courtyard, as they should, baying for more.

Words by Will & Images by Graham Munn

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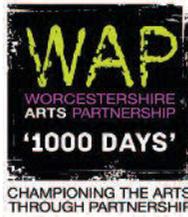
We had over 100 people attend. They came from a wide number of organisations ranging from Visual and Performing Artists to Local Authorities to Local Arts Forums It was also great to see **The Elmley Foundation, The Bransford Trust** and The University and we had representatives from all over the county.

The Programme

The launch itself was a packed programme. We used the theme of journeys and I got dressed as a conductor to give a sense of theatre to the event. Basically it was an excuse to dress up!

The event was opened by our outgoing Chair **Judith Elkin** who gave an eloquent introduction about the **1000 Days Strategy** and about the progress that has been made with **WAP** over the last seven years. I then talked about the format of the event and also talked about how **WAP** has been transformed in that time.

We then had a speech from **Charlotte Gregory** from **Vamos** who talked about ambition and the role that **WAP** has played in supporting the company. It was great to have a local arts company, now working internationally to open the event.



Judith Elkin

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We then went into the Children and Young People strand and had presentations from **Natalie McVey** from **Worcestershire Libraries and Learning** who talked about the role of the **Children and Young People's Group, Merie Ergelsfield** from **Regency School** who talked about the support of the **WAP** network, **Katie Hodson** who discussed the *Moving on Staying On* project and we had a brilliant poetry performance from **Oakley Flanagan** the 6th and latest **Young Poet Laureate**.

From young people we went to Arts and Health and in the absence of **Jan Higgitt** I gave an overall context of the work of **New Prescriptions** before handing over to **Debbie Birch** and **Laura McFall** who presented our project with **West Mercia Police 'Inspiring Futures Through the Arts**. Both Debbie and Laura spoke with eloquence and clarity.

We then looked at Arts and The Economy and we had presentations from **Manda Graham** and **Cathy Mager** from **The Ring**, an arts project which is taking place over the next two years on the waterways of Worcester and Droitwich. This was followed by **Helen Mole** from Worcester City who talked about the ambitions of the arts in Worcester to drive the visitor economy.

Our final priority was Artistic Resilience and we heard from **Lee Farley** and **Sally Morgan** who gave presentations about **Jump Start** and Sally's **Open Studios**. Lee turned his presentation into a performance thanks to **Naomi Rule** from **Ovary Acting**.

It was then back to Judith and then to our new Chair, **Anne Hannaford** to close the event. Every guest speaker spoke with clarity and passion and so a massive thank you from me. It was much appreciated.



Anne Hannaford

Feedback

Feedback has been so positive. Delegates spoke about the warm atmosphere, the scale of projects and the feeling of positivity. But in many ways I feel the hard work starts here and that there is still so much to do.

A Big Thank You

I want to thank **The Hive** for hosting and to **Caroline Mitchell-Wise** for the fab cupcakes!

On the organisation front a big thanks to my team of **Sue Church** and **Diane Thomson** for all their organisation skills and a huge thanks to **Debbie Birch** for her help in making this all happen.

It was also great to have the **Nunnery Wood School Brass Band** play too. They were brilliant and gave the event a great atmosphere – and so good to hear the Rocky Theme too!

by: *Steve Wilson*
County Arts Officer



Photography: Martin Humby

Della Lupa

The Prince Albert, Stroud | Wed 22nd March

I don't know about you, but I always get a special surge of excitement when artists I know and love, up the ante and move to a different level.

I came across Brighton based band **Della Lupa** by chance a couple of years ago on a YouTube trawl and I've been going to watch them at every opportunity since.

They're a piano-based outfit playing a particularly sophisticated modification of dream pop – but goodness me, their performance at this wonderful venue was simply different class.

There are personnel and stylistic changes contributing to this significant progression in their music. Founder member, singer, lyricist and pianist **Steph Brown** and long term musical collaborator and bass player, **Pete MacCourt** form the nucleus of the band, with Brown also playing solo sets under the **Della Lupa** name. But now, they've expanded and are playing as a six-piece formation, and this was simply the best I've ever seen them.



Beccy Blaker & Sally Garozzo

on disc is even more impressive live. Even the recent single 'Closed Borders', is not lessened in its topical impact by being stripped of its disturbing video.

Mike Hawkins' electric guitar work, a new instrument for the band, boosts the richness of the sound and enhances the instrumental breaks while **Chris Gwilt's** drums and MacCourt's bass beautifully underpin the often complex arrangements. But the biggest change is on the vocal side. **Sally Garozzo** and **Beccy Blaker** have joined as supplementary vocalists – their voices are quite similar in range and power and their harmonies are correspondingly pinpoint. The added vocal impetus is startling – 'Goodnight' absolutely flies – the best piece of dream pop you're going to hear this year, while the crunch it brings to arguably the EP's strongest track, 'Genius' is huge.

And in front of this near faultless backdrop is **Steph Brown**. With one of the richest and loveliest voices in this particular genre, and her keyboard expertise both driving the songs along and providing a series of angular and highly memorable musical shapes at the high end of the scale.

There's to be one more surprise. The final song is a reworking of 'Animal' the deepest, darkest track in their repertoire given a new lease of life as the new lineup moves into overdrive and the considerable wall of sound generated is further enhanced by the vocalists striking their mic stands with spare drum sticks. A spectacular finish to a highly memorable performance.

www.dellalupa.com

Geoffrey Head

As Jay Jay's bass pecked around the seeds scattered by Johnny Two Feathers' drums, 'Lil Red Rooster' could be heard crowing, strutting proudly around a rock strewn yard.

The rock grew in weight as the rhythm stormed along, Jimi called it to 'Keep On Raining', despite taking shelter in 'Ricks Casino', the heavy deluge continued as the Fender's strings were tortured, pushed and pulled for some outstanding weighty guitar leads. 'Hoochie Coochie Man' was almost light relief, but no-one was complaining as bodies swayed and heads nodded in agreement. A pulsating 'Long Enough To Sing The Blues' fills the air with its seismic, wall shaking rock.

I can hear my train a coming but don't want to leave as Jimi's voice changes pitch to harmonise with his Strat, he's not working for the devil any more, because the devil can't match the ales and ambience of a Sunday evening at The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury's not quite hidden gem. If **Jimi Whitewolf and the Band of Tramps**, pitch their teepee in these parts again, I will be there for the tribal gathering, and their rhythmic rock riddled blues session that draws you in.

Graham Munn

The material has changed subtly as well – the dark and brooding air on their debut EP "Of The She-Wolf" is still there in abundance but has been joined by an up tempo strand on their new EP, "Lost For The Long Term" and this material, strong as it is

Jimi Whitewolf & his Band Of Tramps

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 23rd April

A little known band led by **Jimi Whitewolf** set up camp in that bastion of Sunday blues at **The Prince Of Wales**. Jimi was accompanied by **Jay Jay** and **Johnny Two Feathers**, setting up their tribal rhythms as Jimi coaxed his Strat for 'That Aint Right'. The band seem to have stolen a few style pointers, not to mention songs, from the Dave Jackson Band, but I could be wrong. There were some great guitar leads laced over the rumbling bass and striking timpani, and that old bullfrog voice kept on croaking as it wallowed in the white powdery stuff of 'Cocaine'. Jimi's fingers danced over the frets, bending those strings, like an irresistible aural drug that has us hooked.



Ruth Royall

Finsbury Pub, North London | Tue 16th March

In one of life's happy coincidences, I happened to be making a trip down South at the same time that one of the South West's leading vocalists was playing a very rare solo gig in London.

I went up to town to see **Stroud** vocalist extraordinaire, **Ruth Royall**, accompanying herself on guitar, at **The Finsbury Pub** in North London.

She's more usually seen fronting **The Bristol Sessions**, a large, dynamic and fluid musical collective that played a magnificently funky set at last year's **Stroud Fringe Festival** and has a residency at The Gallimaufry venue in the city. But tonight, she's on her own.

This is a bustling and noisy building with a dedicated music space at the back almost as large as the pub itself. The stage area is distinctly atmospheric tonight, unfortunately by accident rather than design, because the entire front-facing spotlight rack has blown but all this does is to enhance the singular appeal of the performance.

This was a mesmerising mix of blues, jazz and soul from this extraordinarily talented artist, a blend of originals and covers, enriched by her assured but wonderfully delicate guitar technique, about which she is rather self-deprecating but has absolutely nothing to worry about. Her voice transfixes you - rich, unforced and unfailingly pitch-perfect whether she's singing in a near whisper or fully extending its considerable power.



To top it off, for a much requested encore, she moved to piano to play a deeply moving version of Bonnie Raitt's "*I Can't Make You Love Me*" - it was so exquisite, you hardly dared breathe.

A wonderful evening in the company of a very fine artist.

www.ruthroyall.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thebristolsessions

Brooke Sharkey

The Prince Albert, Stroud | Thurs 6th April

This is probably the fifth or sixth time I've seen **Brooke Sharkey** play but this wonderful performance is going to stick long in the memory.

The Prince Albert in Stroud is filling up nicely this evening for one of the last gigs before her European tour in support of her new album, "*Wandering Heart*", and it's in for a real treat.



Sharkey is normally accompanied by a full band or by her excellent guitarist, **Adam Beattie** but tonight it's just her and her longtime percussionist **Samuel Pert** on stage and very quickly it's established that we have two exceptionally fine musicians in front of us.

Her voice is simply astonishing tonight, with incredible control over sustain and vibrato. She is bilingual and a fair chunk of the set is delivered in French, either completely as in the beautiful '*Offida*', as delicate as the lace making the song speaks of, or partially when she slips into French during a song, or even part way through a verse.

Now you might think that singing blissfully ethereal songs either in English or in French to a packed Stroud pub on a Thursday evening is a rather bold move, verging on completely reckless, but it works. Oh goodness, it works.

There's a moderate level of background hubbub during the set, it is a pub after all, and there's one particularly loud group, guffawing its way through the evening at the back. She creates a loop, drawing the pick down the strings to imitate waves lapping on a shore and sings the beautiful '*Coastline*' to bring the first part of the set to a close and suddenly the place falls almost silent - it is a wonderful moment.

Someone recently said to me that in reviews, drummers only ever get a passing mention. Not this reviewer, and definitely not this drummer. Samuel Pert's wonderfully subtle and absolutely complementary drumming was one of the best displays of the art I've seen in a while. Switching seamlessly between brushes, mallets and sticks, he always seemed to be giving exactly the right level of support at exactly the right point. And yes, that is a tea towel draped over the snare drum.



Her encore was jaw-dropping - an acapella version of *'One Dress'* followed by a deeply moving version of Tom Waits' '*The Briar and the Rose*'. The audience is transfixed.

Absolute magic.

www.brookesharkey.co.uk

Geoffrey Head

Suz Winspear Worcestershire Poet Laureate

I'm starting to feel paranoid. Last June, I'd hardly had time to get used to the idea of being Worcestershire Poet Laureate when the EU referendum happened, and so many things I'd valued were voted to be taken away. Then half way through my year came the American election and its unthinkable result . . . I'd thought there couldn't be any more disasters, but I was wrong. The General Election has been announced for June 8th – the day before our annual LitFest begins, the final full day of my laureateship! Well, maybe this election will give a more hopeful result than the other two – third time lucky, as they say. And while I'm sure that none of this is actually my fault, I am starting to feel paranoid!

Meanwhile, plans for **LitFest** itself are being made, so look out for the brochures – they'll be all over Worcester in the next few weeks!

Meanwhile, here are a few May **Spoken Word** dates for your diary –

Sunday 7th – The Women You Were Warned About Book launch of collection of short stories by C.S. Barnes. Drummonds 4pm. Signed copies available!

Wednesday 10th – 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!

Thursday 11th – 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 31st – 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.

Tuesday 8th - Saturday 10th: Cider with Rosie - The Swan Theatre (LitFest supporting/promoting)	
Friday 9th: Launch Event Evening - Worcester Racecourse - Doors open 8.30pm	
Saturday 10th: Workshop talk/book signing with Holly Daffurn (Natural Mamma) (Daytime - St John's library - 2pm until 4pm)	
Night at the Museum (Evening - The Museum of Royal Worcester) with Suz Winspear/Matt Windle and Worcs Poets Laureate old & new!	
Sunday 11th: 'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know' - Amanda Bonnick & Polly Stretton (A daytime writers workshop - St John's library - 2pm until 4pm) 30-40-60: Kathy Gee, Nina Lewis & Claire Walker (Evening - The Hive)	
Monday 12th: The Worcester Writers' Circle: showcasing their best spoken words! (Evening - Cafe Bliss)	
Tuesday 13th: 'The Murderer' by Clown Funeral - Theatre piece (Evening - The Hive studio space)	
Wednesday 14th: '42' - The Sci-Fi/Gothic Festival Special featuring: The Antipoet (Evening - Drummonds)	
Thursday 15th: SPEAKEASY - Open mic Festival Special featuring: Pete The Temp (Evening - Cafe Bliss)	
Friday 16th: THE JESS PHILLIPS MP EVENT IS NOW CANCELLED DUE TO GENERAL ELECTIONS! THIS WILL BE BACK AS A FRINGE EVENT POST FESTIVAL THOUGH! The LitFest Quiz Nite (Evening - Titania's offices, Barbourne Road)	
Saturday 17th: Children's Wordplay Workshop - Charley Barnes & Claire Walker (Daytime - St John's library - 10.30am - 12.30pm) LONDON PRIDE - Keleigh Wolf & Math Jones - Robert Cole Performances & 'imagined' poetry (Evening - Worcester Arts Workshop)	
Sunday 18th: The Grand Finale/Poetry & FF Siam Finals/Big Fat Raffle draw (Evening - Drummonds)	
All evening events: doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start unless otherwise specified	
Find and like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/worcslitfest/	
The SEVENTH Worcestershire Literary Festival - 9th - 18th June - 2017	
Book your tickets online at: worcslitfest.co.uk	

Exhibition - Pop Art in Print

The Wilson, Cheltenham | 25th March-4th June

Drawing from the Victoria and Albert Museum's outstanding collections of Pop Art graphics, this is the V&A's first exhibition of **Pop Art prints**. Bringing together over seventy works, this

exhibition offers a comprehensive and exciting view of artists working in this style from the 1960s to the early 2000s.

Inspired by commercial graphics and popular culture, the movement generated an innovative and prolific culture of printmaking.

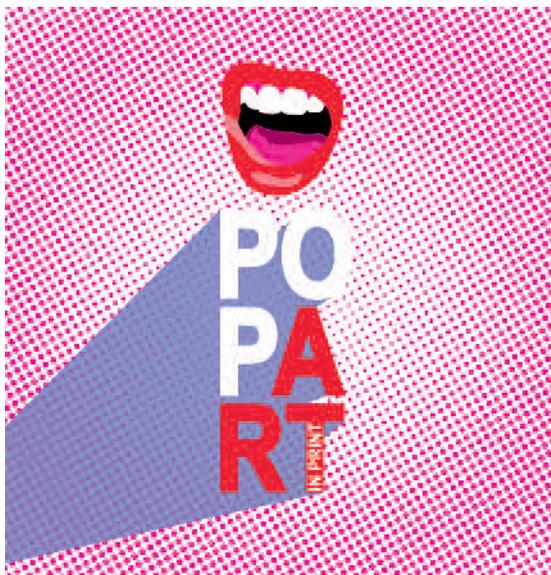
The work of over 30 artists is featured in the exhibition; amongst the most iconic are Andy Warhol, Allen Jones, Robert Indiana, Roy Lichtenstein, Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney, Richard Hamilton, Peter Blake, Gavin Turk and Julian Opie.

You need to book tickets for this exhibition via the website - there are various options and concessions, including Gift Aid.

The Wilson, Cheltenham's Art Gallery & Museum, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3JT

<http://popartinprint.com/>

Geoffrey Head



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www.hellensmusic.com   /hellensmusic

Hellensmusic Festival Herefordshire | 3rd to 7th May

Artistic Directors **Christian Blackshaw** and **Máté Szücs** lead a group of internationally acclaimed musicians in the fifth year of the festival which brings the finest music-making to the heart of rural Herefordshire.

World-class concerts, masterclasses and a trip to the pub – the fifth **Hellensmusic** promises programming favourites and a couple of surprises.



Firmly established as one of the main musical calendar events in Herefordshire, **Hellensmusic** kicks off on Wednesday 3rd May at St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle with a special opening concert featuring the freshly crowned **Barnardo's National Senior School Choir of the Year** **Cantabile Girls' Choir** from Hereford's Cathedral School. Reflecting the festival's growing involvement with the local music community, they will sing a selection of madrigals, sacred partsongs and traditional folk songs from Europe and the British Isles under the direction of Jo Williamson.



FOLK FESTIVAL 2017
SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 12pm - 11pm

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& SEAN LAKEMAN**
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RUTH THEODORE
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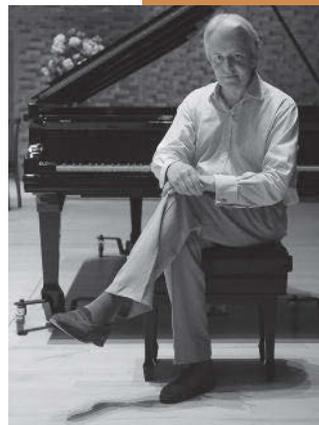
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Thursday 4th May sees the return of **Christian Blackshaw's** solo piano recital at the church with a programme of Mozart and Schumann. Friday 5th May continues at Hellens with an evening dedicated to Schubert's chamber music, performed by resident artists **Markus Däunert** (Aldeburgh Strings), **Maya Iwabuchi** (Royal Scottish National Orchestra), **Máté Szücs** (Berlin Philharmonic), **Bruno Delepelair** (Berlin Philharmonic) and **Waldemar Schwierz** (Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra). A concert featuring masterworks by Schumann, Gubaidulina and Mozart completes the main programme on Saturday 6th May with all artists coming together at **Hellens' Great Barn**.



Sat evening continues in Ledbury with Hellensmusic's first ever pub concert promising a dazzling blend of folk, classical and world music. **Máté Szücs** is joined by gypsy violinist **Béla Farkas** (Szeged Symphony Orchestra) and acclaimed pianist **Julien Quentin** on a journey of unexpected pairings and unforgettable tunes that will take over the Feathers Hotel's pub from 9.45pm.



The final concert takes place on Sunday 7th May at **Hellens' Great Barn** and is the culmination of **Hellensmusic's Masterclass Programme**.

Festival goers are welcome to spend the day at Hellens, whether enjoying a garden picnic, with superb views over the Malvern Hills, or attending masterclasses which are free and open to the general public.

Tickets cost from £5 to £17 and are available from Hereford Courtyard's Box Office 01432 340555 or online. Also from Ice Bytes (Ledbury), River Music (Ross-on-Wye), Premier Stores (Much Marcle).



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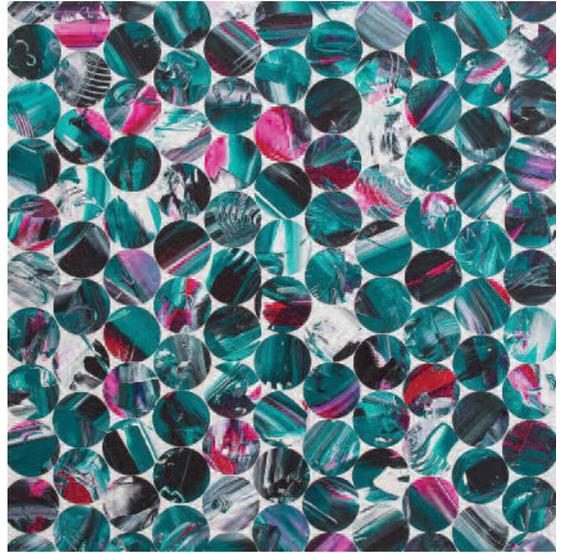
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Abundant Colour

Worcester artist, **Cherrie Mansfield**, is busy preparing for her next exhibition 'Abundant colour' taking place in Pershore this month, which promises to be a colourful affair. Cherrie's bold, richly textured paintings contain references to geology, science and the natural environment, and her artwork is regularly exhibited at venues across Worcestershire and beyond.

Cherrie says, "Colour is the starting point for a lot of my artwork, everything else tends to flow from there. I'm creating several new, larger pieces for this exhibition, which will feature alongside some



of my existing work. There's nothing like an imminent event or show to motivate me to get painting!"

Her artwork has also gone digital and two of her pieces were included in **101 Abstract Artworks**, a global publication by **Art Has No Borders**, available on iBooks or iTunes. She's also had a painting pre-selected for the 2017 Society of **Women Artists Annual Exhibition** at the Mall Galleries in London.

Abundant Colour runs from 11th until 31 May.

Number 8, High Street, Pershore. 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday (and evenings when there's a live film or event).

www.cherriemansfield.com.



Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum Museum after Hours FREE events 19th May, 16th June & 14th July 2017

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum is launching a series of new events to welcome visitors into the Foregate Street building outside of its usual opening hours.

Museum after Hours will take place on select Fridays in May, June and July starting on Friday 19th May. The Art Gallery & Museum will reopen from 5.30pm until 8pm with the aim of attracting a post-work pre-pub crowd to enjoy live music, poetry, food and drink, as well as art.

The first event in May- which coincides with the **National Museums at Night** scheme - welcomes fabulous live music from **Fiddlebop** who play hot jazz swing with gypsy zing, plus poetry from Worcestershire poet **Ruth Stacey**. The popular **David Cox** and his Contemporaries exhibition will be open, celebrating the life, work and influence of one of the West Midland's greatest painters and featuring works from the British Museum by Constable and Turner.

The Balcony Café will be serving tapas and sharing platters (last orders 7.30pm) and drinks can be purchased from the bar.

No booking is required; visitors can just drop in between 5.30 and 8pm and enjoy the **Museum After Hours** events which the Gallery hopes will provide the perfect way to end the week.

For more information please call the Art Gallery & Museum on 01905 25371 or see www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

If the Museum after Hours events are well supported they may become a regular feature of Worcester's growing evening offer.



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Museum after hours

Fridays
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 5.30 – 8pm

NEW

Enjoy the Museum after Hours with live music, poetry, food, drink and art.

Free entry

No booking required, just drop in and enjoy – *the perfect way to end the week*

19th May features music from Fiddlebop and poet Ruth Stacey

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Boars Head Gallery



Well here is it! Our final run with **Sid and Sandra** at The BHG! But fear not, for this final furlong is laden with many wonderful things! We all know that things will be changing in June but hopefully we will find a way to carry on with our classes & exhibitions (somewhere).

Firstly, huge love to **Ginny** for last months **Life Drawing** session.

Our scribblers were blown away by jaw dropping poses and a dynamic performance at the end too (drawing by **Craig Simmons Art**). Our plan for Life Drawing is to find a new venue, but must admit the run here has been something magical. **On Thur 4th May, Worcs Poet Laureate Suz Winspear** will be

modelling for us in some of her incredible gothic attire and will be joined by another model too (TBC). She may even be treating us to some of her wonderful verse. The session is just £5 per person and materials are provided. Our last ever Life Drawing session will be on **Thurs 1st June** and will feature a host of some of our previous models, so if you have ever wondered what it is we get upto in these sessions please join us. 7.30 till 9.30pm.



On Tues 9th May we will be serenading you with our noise as we present the last ever **'Mouth and Music'** in the guise of **Gobs And Guitars**. This night will have open mic space for anyone and the theme for the night is **PROTEST!** All proceeds on the door will be going to our good friends at **People In Motion**. Doors open and 7pm and slots are allocated on a first come first serve basis. Recommended donation of £3 per person. Then on **Friday 12th May** we will be launching our **'Exposition finale'**; one last final show in The BHG where our walls will be absolutely brimming with bargains and treasures. To launch the show, our good friend **Ginny Lemon** will be returning for a full stage show that is not to be missed. £3 per person on the door.

www.facebook.com/pages/The-BHG-Boars-Head-Gallery-Kidderminster/236156199742477
gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk
www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk



Elsewhere in Kidderminster The **WEA** are launching their new Spring/Summer course programme. Our courses include **'Fit can be Fun'** which runs on Thursdays at St. George's Annexe from 10.30-Midday, **'Arts for All'** which also runs at St. George's Annexe from 11.30-1.30 and/or 2-4pm on Wednesdays, and **'Mindfulness'** at the **Museum of Carpet** on Mondays 1-2pm. There are many more and will be listed on the general **WEA**



website or on our facebook page **WEA Arts Worcs**. Courses are **FREE** to those on certain benefits and focus on developing *Confidence Through Creativity*. The Drama group are currently well underway with their rehearsals for their **KAF** production, **'Wish You Were Here - Costa Del Kidderminster'**, working in association with **Vamos Theatre and Arts** Etc. The performances will be on **Friday 15th July** and **Friday 25th August** at Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster.



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Evesham Festival of Words

Fri 30th June
until
Sun 2nd July

eveshamfestivalofwords.org



Bake off judge headlines local littfest!

Prue Leith will formally open the main weekend of events at Evesham Festival of Words on Friday 30th June. 'An Evening With Prue Leith', her candid, entertaining and amusing reflection on a very interesting career which has taken her all over the world and into some incredible work, which includes: running a cookery school, journalism, crafting many of her own cookery books, writing seven successful romantic novels and, more recently, her appointment to one of the nation's favourite programmes, The Great British Bake off.



Other Festival contributors include:

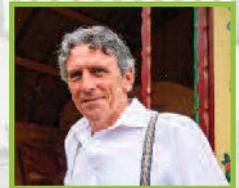
Ian McMillan & Tony Husband
Presenting 'A Carton History of Here!'

Rachel Kelly
The healing power of poetry



Susan Lewis
Sunday Times best-selling author

Richard O'Neill
Children's author



John Simpson
The Word Detective

Philip Douch & Suzie Latham
An evening of stories and songs



The main Festival weekend closes on Sunday 2nd July when David Bramwell and Jo Keeling present 'The Odditorium', tales of tricksters, eccentrics, deviants and inventors who have changed the world in which we live.

Don't cut the fringe!

Evesham Festival of Words has a magnificent fringe, which has already opened and is jam-packed throughout the year with: writers' workshops, seminars, concerts, readings and poetry, all right on Evesham's doorstep and dripping with entertainment, interest and amusement right up until Christmas!

For the full programme, Festival information and online ticket sales visit
www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org

Upton Blues Fundraiser

Upton Memorial Hill | 15th April

An intriguing evening about to unfold in what is designated as the acoustic stage during the festival, the towns memorial hall.

A **Drifter** trio, with **Dave Small**, **Danny G** and **Josh Terry**, brought in on bass.

They were opening the evening for the **Luther Grosvenor Band**, with veteran rocker Luther, fronting, whether they liked it or not, **Paul (Slowburner) Bridgewater**, bassist **Jacqui Savage**, and **Rich Shelton** on drumming duties.

Drifter have a well proven track record, playing acoustic originals with re-interpretations of blues, ska and soul, the result is an infectious mix impossible not to enjoy. A Creedence Clearwater revived 'Green River' flowed, taking us to the pulsating blues of, 'Just Be Mine', powered along by Joss's bass. Their own swampy roots, 'Rumours', took us in a different direction, uncovering the calypso rhythm of 'The Womans Love'. This was an event supporting **Upton Blues**, so a rehashed but superb 'Hoochie Coochie Man' was beaten out on Dave's djembe, with Danny's acoustic conjuring up the magic on his resonator guitar.



Like the 'fatter' version, **Arcadia Roots**, **Drifter** produce a lovely fusion of roots sounds, 'Where You Gonna Run To' is certainly dipped in a spicy reggae sauce, served up before Dave borrowed 'Rambling' from his other role as drummer for Slowburner Paul would have been pleased with the result. 'Tell Me Where You Want To Be' was chorused around the crowded hall but time, as ever, was moving on. 'Whole Lotta Love' echoed around the walls, before Drifter closed out with a fabulous 'Freedom', a tough act to follow at any time, step up **The Luther Grosvenor band**.

'Ain't Superstitious' opened the set with Paul's powerful vocals dominating the stage, drawing attention as arguably the best UK rock vocalist grabbed the mic. By the time they hit 'Rock Me Baby', any doubts as to the sudden forming of this band had evaporated, Slowburner's heart was beating hard, pumping out an adrenal rush to our ears. Luther, who has played with numerous 70's bands including Spooky Tooth, Mott The Hoople and Stealers Wheel, as Ariel Bender (I checked mine before driving away, high top, on the roof, safely out of reach) was busy doing his thing, I'm not sure if it was the same as everyone else.

'Don't Need No Doctor' with the rhythm section of Jacqui and Rich, having fun, laying down a carpet of rumble strips and big hits, stitching together the rich vocals and Luther's punk rock approach, big chords, and big poses, cannoning across the stage apron. 'Stormy Monday' and Paul was pouring out the moody, passionate classic, with rhythmic thunder crashing, as the occasional fork of lightening flashing off Luther's guitar. 'Black Cat



Moan' shut off the blues connections, as we moved towards a big rock n' roll finish. Indeed it was Mott's, 'Golden Age Of Rock N' Roll' that opened the exit door, though he may not have the recognition, it would be hard to believe that arguably greatest voice in the world of rock music (Paul) could better the great Ian Hunter, but.....?

'Shaking All Over' and the band have had a ball, Luther strutted his stuff, striking chord, if not accord, Jacqui and Rich had done a great job of joining up the dots, and Paul Bridgewater, as brilliant as ever. A full house, supporting this year's award winning festival, through this ticketed event, if you missed this make space in your diary for the main event, **July 21st-23rd**, the greatest free music festival in the world, probably.

Graham Munn

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Tunes & tales at Artrix, Bromsgrove

With no less than 4 Edinburgh shows under his belt, comedy writer and performer **Paul Richards** is well worth seeing in action. He's joined by the talented singer-songwriter **Griff Jameson** - the front man of **Fred's House** - for a special evening of songs, stories and silliness at the Artrix Studio on 6th May.



Paul Richards

Part auto-biography, part oral history, **20B** unearths the stories of a demolished building on a council estate in East London. The piece, which is to be staged in Artrix Studio on 12th May, was written by **Jane English** and produced in association with **mac Birmingham**. 'I was moved to tears, laughter and anger. A really important piece of theatre' (audience member.)



Photo: Instagram

Renowned for their intricate vocal harmonies, **Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young** had a huge influence on music and politics in the 70s. On 12th May **Marrakesh Express** will tell the story of this super-group and take you back to a time of great music and revolution.

The gravelly tones of Joe Cocker are unforgettable and **Paul Cox** is one of the most authentic tribute acts to pay homage to the great man. Expect a host of hits such as *Unchain My Heart*, *Up Where We Belong* and *Delta Lady* on 27th May. 'A brilliant show with a moving finale' (Blues Matters)

For further details contact the box office on 01527 577330 or visit the website at www.artrix.co.uk

Sari Schorr & The Engine Room Huntingdon Hall, Worcs | The Engine Room

This old Calvinist chapel, has not seen the likes of Sari's sermonising in all the days since its inception in 1773, fiery blues, with an animated Innis Sibun, throttling his six string like few others can.

If anyone was in doubt, within this usually conservative venue, they were soon enlightened by this preacher of the gospel according to the blues, as 'Ain't Got No Money' powered out, **The Engine Room** fully fired up from the start. 'Demolition Man' hits the right note for Sari, with Anders leading the way on his keyboard. Sari is moody, soulful, as she asks, 'Where Did You Sleep Last Night', the power erupts like a volcano, Innis is ignited, burning, 'in the pines', the aged hall in danger of blowing its roof to release the energy.



The combined power of the rhythm section, **Kevin O'Rourke** and **Kevin Jefferies** unlocked the force of 'Rock And Roll', a wild Led Zep party thrash that Innis was not going to miss, as Sari stirred the pot. Songs co-written with producer Mike Vernon were never going to be far from the mix but the heavens were about to descend into this old chapel. 'Stormy Monday', had arrived, in all its smouldering, pent up passion, as Sari's voice rolled like thunder through the air.

'Kiss me', 'I Just Want To Make Love To You', invitations no red blooded male could ignore, but beware what you wish for. The fuse was lit, leaving its trail of ash before exploding into life, as the spectre of 'Black Betty' was released into the heady atmosphere. Innis jumped and squeezed, agonizing over his chords, as Sari discharge enough energy to blow away a black star.

The evening was evaporating away far too quickly, truly, this album tour is a 'Force Of Nature', **The Engine Room**, like a roaring V12 Rolls Royce Merlin, powering a **Sari Schorr** Spitfire over the skies of Britain, is a fabulous, unbeatable combination. Inscrutable Innis, the rumbling rhythm's of the Kevin's, and some beautiful touches of piano from Anders, all added to the feast topped by the rich smokey, peppered, Sari sauce for us all to gorge on.

But there's a bit more high octane fuel to burn, a particular favourite of mine, 'Aunt Hazel', came to call, leaving a trail of sweet brown sugar, no good can come of it, I'm for the 'Ordinary Life', as the power is cut, and I join the queue to have my album signed by the enigmatic **Sari Schorr**. A rare treat in the wonderful sanctum of the Countess Of Huntingdon's Hull, preaching fire and brimstone to her arcane followers.

Graham Munn

www.worcesterlive.co.uk/boxoffice or call 01905 611427

Music in May at Elmslie House

Elmslie House will be welcoming to their stage award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter, **Ian Sherwood** on Saturday **May 13th**. He is a musician, storyteller and a constant creator who has penned tunes for many other artists as well as theatre, film and television. Despite this, his passion remains primarily for his unique brand of folk/pop music.



Sherwood's unique musicianship combined with his tales of heartbreak, victory and adventure quickly gained him recognition as a solid performer, lyricist and player. Ian plays guitar and saxophone and with clever use of looping techniques he incorporates the two instruments into his live solo set brilliantly and puts on an entertaining show. His energetic stage presence and honesty truly captures the essence of what has made Ian so popular at home and now UK audiences have the chance to find out what has got Canadian music industry buzzing.



Another artist who will be taking on Elmslie's stage is singer-songwriter **Katey Brooks** on **May 27th**. Her unique sound epitomises the culturally diverse environment in which she grew up. Born and raised between Bristol, London and Arizona to musical parents, the Indie Award nominee is best described as a female Hozier, with all the haunting intensity and every bit of the soul.

The haunting, ethereal sound of her EP *I Fought Lovers* is prelude to the sonic largesse of future releases, as she heads to the studio to record her new album with a few of Britain's finest. Having led a fascinating life with a vivid cast of characters, Brooks takes to the road often to draw inspiration from the people she meets. The writing for her current album began in the chaos of London life, continuing on tour in the dusty expanse of Australia at the beginning of 2015, and finding its completion on the side of a beautiful little mountain in the Welsh wilderness.



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Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, both on Church Street, Malvern.



Preview

Huntingdon Hall Slap May Picks

Our first pick of the month comes in the form of **Roy Sainsbury** on **May 5th**. He will be performing with his six piece band the **Rhythm Chiefs** who are inspired by the swinging music of the Count Basie small groups. His band are similarly talented with **Tom Hill** on bass, **Bryan Corbett** on trumpet, **Charlie Wright** on tenor saxophone and **Dave Newton** on piano. **Mal Garrett** on drums and **Roy Sainsbury** on guitar, providing the rhythmic pulse throughout. With the Hall offering an intimate experience with fabulous acoustics it will certainly be an evening filled with music to warm your heart and bring a smile to your face. Tickets £16.



The next event to put in your diaries is **May 9th** when **Daphne's Flight** comes to town. For the uninitiated, **Daphne's Flight** comprises **Christine Collister, Julie Matthews, Melanie Harold, Helen Watson** and **Chris While**. Back in 1995, five of the finest



folk, blues and soul singers of their generation found themselves at the Cambridge Festival. They decided to sing some songs together... Now, two decades on their much loved eponymous debut album '*Knows Time, Knows Change*' is due for release by Fledg'ling Records on **May 5th**, this stunning second album covers a huge range of topics and genres, blending folk, blues, jazz and pop, whilst also dipping into new and vibrant arrangements of classic songs like Elvis Costello's Shipbuilding, proving that you can't miss out on their Worcester performance. Tickets £18.

Our final May favourite is **Kathryn Tickell & The Side** who will be performing on the 17th. Featuring **Kathryn Tickell** on Northumbrian pipes and fiddle, **Louisa Tuck** (Principal Cellist, Oslo Filharmonien) on cello, **Ruth Wall** (Goldfrapp, Fitkin) on harp, and **Amy Thatcher** (The Shee) on accordion and clog dancing duty, **Kathryn Tickell & The Side** bring together folk and classical worlds with an irresistible combination of players and instruments. Amy storms into a clog dance; Kathryn's dizzying rapid-fire piping contrasts with the richness of the cello and Ruth's sparkling harp playing melds it all together – needless to say, a very special evening is in store in the company of Kathryn and The Sides. Tickets £18.50.



What's On?

at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall



Daphne's Flight
9th May - £18

Kathryn Tickell & The Side
17th May - £18.50

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Chris Difford & Vinny Perculier

The Cube, Malvern | May 13th

Chris Difford is a rare breed. As a member of one of London's best-loved bands, the Squeeze co-founder has made a lasting contribution to English music with hits such as 'Cool For Cats', 'Up The Junction', 'Labelled With Love', 'Hourglass' and 'Tempted'. Despite the fact that Chris has helped soundtrack so many fans' lives since his first release in 1977, the passion for innovation and love of playing still drives him to carry on writing rather than sit back and admire his handywork.



Over the course of a 13 album career with **Squeeze**, it was clear from the very beginning that **Chris Difford** has few peers when it comes to smart, pithy lyricism. His 'kitchen sink-drama' style has drawn plaudits from fans on both sides of the Atlantic, while his influence is keenly felt today. The likes of Lily Allen, Mark Ronson, Kasabian, Razorlight and The Feeling have all recognised the debt they owe to Squeeze's music and to Difford's way with words.

Support comes from Vinny Perculier whom if you have never seen it's an absolute must. Tickets £15 in advance

With Squeeze planning a major tour and Chris planning a book, an album and a box set, we found time to catch up with him ahead of his Malvern show.

Slap: You've just released 4 CD box set including your last 3 albums. Is there a particular reason for this or did you just feel the time was right? and why 'Chris to the Mill'?

Chris: *Chris to the Mill because it sounded right and very much me, it is after all very gris to the mill... It seemed like the right time for a box set the end of an ear hole.*

Slap: It works for me as I've lost 'I didn't get where I am' and I've completely worn out 'The Last Temptation of Chris' which is my favourite.

Chris: Thank you!

Slap: You have worked a lot with Boo Hewerdine and indeed have an album in the offing, what do you like about working with Boo? And what can we expect from the next album?

Chris: *Boo is amazing to work with, he brings a sense of humour with an ample amount of twists and turns...*

Slap: What can we expect on this tour, I guess you'll play some squeeze songs, will you be picking songs from your previous solo albums or mainly new material?

Chris: *On my solo tour there will be all of me and much more, and yes more new stuff too.*

Slap: Is there anyone in the business who you would like to work with down the line?

Chris: *Gregory Porter, and Bono.*

Slap: You also have an autobiography coming out later this year, is this all part of a conscious effort to document your life to a degree?

Chris: *Its with a degree of nerves that it sits on my desk not finished, it has to be worth reading and telling, I'm not sure I'm there yet, but I have to get a move on....*

Slap: Are you comfortable with you and Glenn being as songwriters being compared to Lennon and McCartney?

Chris: Yes very much so, he is Ringo and I'm George!

Slap: With a UK & US tour coming up for Squeeze as well as a new album do you still get excited about touring, it must be a completely different experience to playing solo...?

Chris: I love both, I love all of my life I'm so blessed to have so much going on.

Slap: What's your take on the music business at the moment, is it changing for the better, how do you see it panning out, what would you like to see happen?

Chris: *It's all about Netflix, and music is going that way, streaming and floating songs around the Universe for all to hear...the horse has bolted...*

Slap: SLAP is an acronym for Supporting Local Arts & Performance, do you get involved in any local scene in Sussex.

Chris: I might do... if I knew who they were.

Thanks again for talking to SLAP, we'll see you on the 13th...

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Supporting



Michael Knowles a stream of consciousness

Technology is a wonderful thing. For example, it allows you to interview artists even late at night from the comfort of your own office. You type the questions into instant messenger and wait for the answers to arrive. Piece of cake. On the downside, technology can't replicate that old fashioned feeling of excitement that every music journalist feels when meeting a new and promising act in person. And you need to know **Michael Knowles** surely earned himself a name to be regarded as exciting and controversial in equal measures. He fronts a band called **The STD's**, dresses like it's the 1980s and is known for performances that are politically incorrect yet hilariously funny. No journalist would pass the opportunity to see what makes Michael tick and we are no exception. Here's what we have found out:



Slap: Tell us about the band. How did you start?

MK: *There were only three of us to start with: Steve Church, Dean Thomas Carter and myself. Steve and I had worked together in the past on an album I never released. Dean and I had played together in the house band of The Flag in Worcester (back then known as The Tap). One day we went to this kid's backyard studio and we all fit really well so we started looking for a bassist as at the start Steve was on guitar. Over time we've had some great musicians join us on - George, James or Tadd. They have come and gone to find new projects. Right now the line up is Steve on bass, The Jack (Tad Jones) on guitar, Dean on drums and myself on vocals. Plus I play guitar too.*

Slap: You have a very distinct image - very 80s classic rock. On purpose or is it just how you guys roll?

MK: *To be honest, we've only really dressed up for gigs a few times but now I mean we don't really want to have to look through stuff to wear!*

Slap: Are you still evolving sonically?

MK: We've got a lot of new stuff in the pipeline. We always do.

Slap: If you were to describe new songs- what would you say? Shall we buy earplugs in advance?

MK: *Possibly. There's material about some dark times and then whatever we write in the meantime. Plus a concept album.*

Slap: So no more comic rock & songs about female attributes?

MK: *Probably not. But who knows? Let's face it there's no plan.*

Slap: You said that world doesn't need love songs anymore. That world needs anger.

MK: *This is true. I think a lot of anything I've written that could be considered "love songs" are usually bitter sweet. With a hint of sarcasm and a lot of anger.*

Slap: Well, Ledbury Song is very angry but at the same time hilariously funny. You have audience roaring with laughter.

MK: *It's less of a song, more of a rant really.*

Slap: You come from a small place?

MK: A small town. Small in size and small minded. Hard to be anyone there.

Slap: Do you think you would be different if you were born in London?

MK: *I've been to London and I hate that place. Too big and far too busy. Everyone in a hurry to go nowhere.*

Slap: So perhaps there's a positive side of being born in a small town?

MK: *I think the point is everyone hates where they are from eventually but it's always where you call home.*

Slap: Who would you put in your top 5 artists?

MK: *I'd say Tool, Amen, early Slipknot and honestly Trent Reznor and Bill Hicks. I just love their attitudes and way of creating. I love how Bill Hicks was born in the religious South yet could deconstruct the archaic institutions that he was thrust into. I love how angry Slipknot were and to a 13 year old outcast they represented hope that you might be a freak but there was a place in this world for you. Amen taught me that record companies are just stupid. Tool taught me the beauty of feedback and how atmosphere can really make the hairs on your neck stand up. And Trent is just the god of chaos in noise.*

Slap: You talk so poetically about music. You will put Moz out of business one day.

MK: *It's all I have really. My whole life has been music and everything else has come and gone but there was always solace in music.*

Slap: Where do you think the music will take you or the band?

MK: *It's less about what music can do and more about how far we take it. We're not looking to be billionaire rock stars with handlers. Our goals are to play every show and know at least half the audience.*

Slap: And will that be enough?

MK: *It was always enough to have fans to grow with than trying to appease the masses.*

You can follow Michael Knowles online at:
www.facebook.com/MKandSTDs
www.instagram.com/michael_knowles217
soundcloud.com/michael-knowles-music

At the beginning of April 2017, Michael Knowles and The STDs began recording of their new material using premises at Marrs Bar in Worcester as a studio.

Malicia Dabrowicz/Vanadian Avenue

Full interview can be seen at:

www.cocamidemea.wordpress.com/category/indieterrria/



Photography: Robin J. Lowe

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Brigitte deMeyer & Will Kimbrough
St Georges Hall, Bewdley | 31st March

In the almost reverential atmosphere of **St George's Hall**, we were all invited to share a little time listening to local artist **Elisha Green**, who undoubtedly has a fine voice and indeed was awarded the **Wyre Forest Young Musician 2016** award. She performed many of her own songs, finishing with a rumble of *'Thunder'*, which, I think, stood out as being the best of her set, whilst also making a fine effort in proving she was 'Human' after all, courtesy of a certain Rag n' Bone man.

Having just listened to and reviewed Brigitte and Will's album, *'Mockingbird Soul'*, it goes without saying, that their final UK tour date, just 40 minutes from me, was too much of a magnet to resist.

Like the album, the set opened with the sweet harmonies of, well, just about *'Everything'*. Followed with a driving, finger-picked guitar from Will as he repaired his *'Broken Fences'*. All truly lovely stuff, but then that wonderfully swampy blues of *'Juke'* was delivered by Brigitte, with soulful deep South Orleans style vocals, as Will stirred the gumbo with guitar, and the harp, framed around his neck, absolutely superb.

Of course, we had to work our way across to the title song from *'Mockingbird Song'*, Brigitte and Will gave their all for this achingly lovely picture, painted of the early dawning chorus, passionately narrated by Brigitte's lead vocals. We were taken to a break by harmonic perfection, their introduction to Mobile Alabama, the *'Little Easy'*.

The slinky lyrics of a laid back blues tempted our taste buds with the nectar of *'Honeybee'*, far too sweet to resist. A more funk



inspired session with Tommy Womack gave Will the *'Wash And Fold'* to bring home, freshly rinsed through in a blue tub. Dipping in to her *Savannah Red* album, Brigitte took us for a walk down a country road, with *'Say You Will Be Mine'* but we're quickly brought back to the porch for a Jimmy Reed inspired riff and a glorious wallow in *'Mud Bottom'*. Suitably plastered, Brigitte pouted out the seductive New Orleans blues of *'Say Big Pa Pa'*, which was bound to lead to *'Trouble'*, with Will pushing up the tempo and rocking out. The unmistakable rhythm of the late, great Chuck Berry brought a riotous rock 'n' roll romp with Will crunching out those familiar chords of *'Don't 'like It'*. A double dose of Hank Williams was served for dessert, closing the set with Brigitte singing a superb *'You Win Again'*.

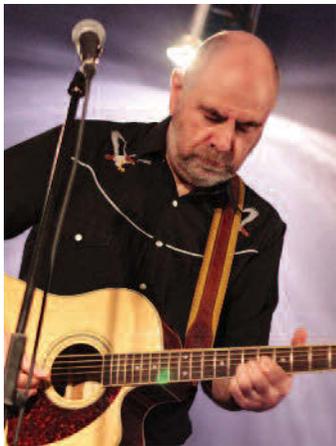
I knew before setting out that this was going to be something special and I was not disappointed by what was a fabulous evening, leaving me to await the next tour whilst listening to that *Mockingbird Soul*.

Graham Munn

O'Hooley and Tidow with Ashland Evesham Arts Centre | Thursday 30th March

First off tonight at this beautiful and very well organised venue, we are treated to a tiny gem of a set by Birmingham duo **Ashland**, who I've been wanting to see for quite a while. They have **Dave Sutherland** on acoustic guitar and vocals and **Kathryn Marsh** taking lead vocals and they deliver a wonderfully balanced and melodic performance, with Sutherland's subdued and delicate guitar work and Marsh's

soaring, crystal-clear voice in perfect unison. It's a measure of his fellow musicians' respect for Sutherland's work that he was recently asked to perform with the excellent folk ensemble **The Company of Players** when their bass wizz **Lukas Drinkwater** was unavailable. The jazzy tinges of the opener, *'Still So Much In Love'*, mix with the more stately homage to singer/ songwriter Shawn Colvin, *'The Wanting'* and the excellent closer *'Halo In A Hurricane'*.



I feel a bit short-changed when they finish at about 25 minutes and need to see them again when they're headlining – they're very good indeed.

Even given the huge reputation that precedes them, the performance from **O'Hooley and Tidow** is astonishing. They're here warming up for their nationwide tour in support of their much feted and award-nominated album *"Shadows"*.

Belinda O'Hooley is one of the best pianists I've seen in a long time and with the women's pinpoint harmonies and counterpoints and occasional help from **Heidi Tidow's** stomp box, this drives along a body of songs with a bewildering and highly diverse

number of themes - beer, ace cyclist Beryl Burton, living in Huddersfield, orphan elephants, more beer, bigotry, horses, tattoos, beer again. These women like their beer - they once even did a nationwide tour of micro-breweries!

The darkness of some of the material was intense – there's a crushing and deeply moving song about enforced child migration, and another in the form of a hymn to children abused by the church. The contrast with the more outlandish subjects is stark and the two diverse halves come together in *'The Pixie'*, where a woman teaches Morris Dancing to groups of wounded and shell-shocked servicemen in World War I. The child migration theme leads also to the piano piece, *'The Dark Rolling Sea'* - a classically infused keyboard tour-de-force from O'Hooley as reminiscent in its evocation of the massive swell and crash of water as Debussy's *'Le Mer'* - yes, really that good.

The contrast is again reinforced when they come to the front of the stage for a rousing sing-song, complete with accordion and kazooos, and then sing *'Small, Big Love'* a most beautiful, romantic piece composed for their wedding last year by singer/songwriter **Kathryn Williams**.

The finale, after a satisfyingly lengthy set, is startling. Joni Mitchell's *'River'*, with the central piano motif stripped out, is uncompromisingly delivered in Yorkshire accents as broad as a cowering batsman's eye view of Freddie Trueman. A different, but respectful, treatment of a great song and a fine finish to a damned near perfect evening.

www.ohooleyandtadow.com

Geoffrey Head



Will Hunt

The Bull, in Fernhill Heath, Worcester

Breaking free from a Sony Colombia contract following a stint in London, **Will Hunt** returned to his roots in Worcestershire to launch his new CD, *Momentary Romance* at **The Bull** in Fernhill Heath. With an impressive pedigree (his dad was a founder of ELO and Wizzard, his cousin, frontman of The Wonder Stuff), Will consciously decided to debut his album at one of the pubs that gave him an early gig when he was just 16, and the watering hole was as busy as a cattle market on auction day, jam-packed with partisan fans and family.

With so many old acquaintances taking the opportunity to catch up throughout the evening, this was, possibly, not the perfect venue for an acoustic launch. However, following Will's first couple of folk songs, which were swallowed up like wet lettuce, a much crisper iceberg cut through the air, the aggressive guitar of *The Fool* breaking through the overwhelming chatter of competing voices. *Joanna* fuelled the memories, building on a selection of songs from *Momentary Romance* in what was essentially an



Americana folk evening. *Sneaking Up On The Rails* was, for me, the most dynamic song, with the storyteller's style of a Gaz Brookfield, a journey down to the 'big smoke'. Then, there was the chase around of *Lost & Found*, Will digging deep into his guitar chords, finishing his short, snappy and to-the-point set with a flourish.

See Will's album review on page 34

Graham Munn

Punk by Nature

Presents an evening of Mostly Local Music

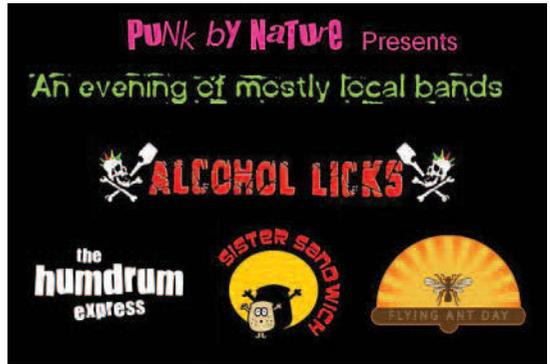
The Boars Head, Kidderminster | Sat 20th May

The line up for this event sees headliners (and Boars Head favourites) **Alcohol Licks** capably joined by 3 of the local bands that have supported the **PBN** promotions over the past 18 months.

Opening the show is the most excellent **Flying Ant Day**. This Stourbridge band are true originals and have a unique sound that combines psych, garage, 60's beat and punk. Musically and visually this band are a joy live. Through constant gigging Flying Ant Day are building up quite a following locally. So get there early not to miss out.

Next on the line up is everybody's favourite bread based comedy punk band **Sister Sandwich**. Over the last 25 years the Bewdley band have been entertaining local crowds with their food based re-interpretations of well known tunes. With such classics as *Blitzkrieg Bap* (Ramones), *Eat Some Trifles* (The Jam) and *I Bet that you look good wearing Coleslaw* (Arctic Monkeys) this is a band that just makes you smile. **Mayo Let's Go I say!**

The penultimate act of the night is **The Humdrum Express**. Having played the very first **Punk By Nature** gig the Kidderminster singer-songwriter will be bringing his special brand of music and poetry back to the **Boars Head** one last time. But what does The Humdrum Express sound like? It's difficult to describe as he truly is an original but his songs are tinged with wry observational



humour and social commentary that places him musically between Half Man Half Biscuit & Billy Bragg with a hint of John Cooper Clarke. His one man shows are always entertaining and memorable, and I'm sure tonights will be no exception.

Last up on the line-up but not means least are **Alcohol Licks**. Fronted by Brummie punk legend **Samuendo** (of **Contempt & Balsall Heathens**) and complimented by **Spud & Scott** their sound is a mix of punk, ska, dub, blues and rock 'n' roll. Their songs cover a variety of subject matter from lecherous men not taking no for an answer to the problem of racism in modern society. Throw into that mix a light-hearted cover or two and it makes for an enjoyable and entertaining live experience.

Admission for the gig is only £3. Doors are at 7:30pm.

Jason K

Courtyard Hereford Slap Round-up

Internationally recognised tenor group, **The Celtic Tenors** will visit **The Courtyard** on **May 5th**.

Promising a night to remember, **The Celtic Tenors** provide a professional, sparkling and good humoured performance as they sing their renditions of beautiful Celtic songs and exhilarating classics like *Nessun Dorma*. With just over a million album sales under their belts, the trio offers something truly unique as the skill range and ability of world-class tenors combine with the personality and fun of genuine performers. **Matthew Gilsenan, James Nelson and Daryl Simpson** form the only tenor group with a truly global audience. The Celtic Tenors have played in many international venues and performed in major concert halls and cathedrals. Former US President Bill Clinton describing their performance of his favourite song, *Danny Boy*, as the best he had ever heard.



On **May 18th**, one of the world's best known and most admired gypsy jazz acts of the last 20 years will perform at **The Courtyard**. **The Robin Nolan Trio** features top Dutch double bassist **Arnoud Van Den Berg** and UK guitar virtuoso **Chris Quinn** alongside Robin. Legendary in the Django Reinhardt world, Robin has played with every major gypsy jazz artist and headlined every major gypsy jazz festival across the globe.



Nolan was encouraged and taught to play the standards of **Hank Williams** and the subtleties of traditional jazz. However, like many journeymen before him, Nolan's musical path led him down many roads before securing a place at the **Guildhall School of Music** in London where he established himself on the capital's local jazz scene with his own swing quartet.

And finally, on 27th May, singer-songwriter **Lisbee Stainton** will perform. She has been writing music since she was eight years old and received her first airplay on BBC Hereford and Worcester. She graduated in 2009 from Goldsmiths College, University of London, with a degree in Popular Music and her first album release already under her belt, *Firefly*. She was also the first unsigned singer-songwriter to play London's O2 Arena in 2007, performing two shows to 30,000 people.



Since graduating, she has recorded a further three critically acclaimed albums. *Girl on an Unmade Bed* (2010) was recorded at Abbey Road Studios and produced by Rupert Christie (Lou Reed, Fisherman's Friends). Lisbee has also toured with such notable artists as Joan Armatrading, Paul Brady, Gretchen Peters, Paul Carrack and Seth Lakeman, who was so impressed that he invited her to join his band in 2012.

To book tickets, or for more information contact the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk.

Wreckless Eric

Marrs Bar Worcester | Friday, 12th May

Wreckless Eric is **Eric Goulden**. He was given the name to hide behind and after a while he realised he was stuck with it. Onstage he hides behind nothing, he tells the truth with big open chords, squalls of feedback, lilting enchantment, bizarre stories and backchat.

His new album "amERiCa" out now on Fire Records is enjoying universal acclaim from critics and public alike. Nothing Eric has to say sounds like it was said by someone else first. Some people can't take it. Thirty seven years of touring have left him in good shape. He's coming to town.

"One of the greatest songwriters ever to come out of Great Britain" Marc Riley BBC 6 MUSIC.

"amERiCa is that rare record. Goulden is grownup, with all of the stereotypical benefits: an air of wisdom, emotional texture, and, perhaps most cliché of all, a seasoned voice. amERiCa isn't complacent or satisfied; Wreckless Eric anatomizes his surroundings with the wide-eyed thrill of discovery. His American flyover reveals simmering cultural disturbances and essential beauty alike." Pitchfork



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Will Hunt | Momentary Romance

This six-track CD opens with *Theme Park Suicide*, not a *Nemesis* or *Shockwave*, but a gentle rollercoaster ride. Unsurprisingly, it's far better than came across at the pub, with Will essentially in solo, acoustic mode.

The Fool still stands out, any song containing the word of the devil having a certain gravitas and this does. It's an altogether bigger sound that's hard to resist. Let's go "dancing with the devil again".

Title track *Momentary Romance* is a big, warm ballad, complete with strings and solid percussive rhythm to tie it together. A momentary romance, maybe, but it's a song that will stay in your head a bit longer.

Lost At Sea opens with expressive keyboards and builds, the lyrics flowing in with the tide. A distinctive track, with plenty to enjoy in the instrumental structure and worthy of hitting the repeat. Probably a tough song to perform in a gig without a full band behind you, but I'd like to hear it.

Dropping back to a gentle, acoustic song, Will's vocal qualities come over strongly. *Hearts Of Gold* is an easy going folk song, best taken with cold coffee and time to reflect.

Closing this neat, little package is *Remember*, a poppy, effervescent song that seems slightly out of place here, but does bring more variation.

Overall, it's not hard to see why Sony signed Will up, but, perhaps, didn't give him the freedom to take his music in the direction he wanted. *Momentary Romance* is not going to rattle your teeth or get the pulse racing, but is a nicely crafted, well performed set of songs that showcase Will Hunt's talent as a singer/songwriter, coupled with his easy style.



King Solomon | In The Snakepit

Cheltenham based ten piece reggae outfit **King Solomon** may only be in their fifth year as a band but have already established themselves both locally and nationally. With a string of impressive releases and a number of high profile festival performances at the likes of **Boomtown** and **One Love**, the band have courted attention from the likes of both Dennis Bovell and Brinsley Forde (of Aswad fame), as well Behind The Scene magazine, who back in 2014 crowned the group 'Band Of The Year'.

In more recent times the band have been hard at work writing, recording and self producing a brand new album at a number of Gloucestershire based community studios, resulting in six new tracks and five dub remixes that should see **King Solomon** cement their reputation as one of UK's finest purveyors of roots reggae by adding elements of blues, soul, funk and even rock to create their own unique twist on the genre.

The album opens with the gloriously infectious, elastic rhythm of *We All Make Mistakes*, throw in a handful swirling keyboards, funky horns, a touch of blues harmonica and the obligatory choppy reggae guitars, turn up the heat and simmer before frontman, **Kingsley Salmon**, delivers an instantly addictive, laid-back roots-reggae drawl. They follow up with *Go*, an end of relationship lament highlighting a jazz element working hand in hand with their love of reggae, the band's freewheeling horn section are given space to shine, whilst a tinkered piano also joins the mix of pattered percussion and bouncy bass as the band stretch out and offer a fresh look at the reggae genre.

If the jazzy strands surprise, the band's take on Black Sabbath's *Paranoid* will simply astound, as the band give the rock classic a major makeover. A combination of dub like rhythms and parping horns replace the down-tuned rock riffs of the original (although Salmon show off his own rock chops with an impressive guitar solo of his own), as they reinvent, making the song very much their own, a trick they repeat later on with the glorious *Snake Eyes Dub* mix, twisting further new shapes from the Sabbath anthem.

Proving there's more to **King Solomon** than meets the eye, *Run*

For Cover sees the band deliver a lyrically hard hitting state of the nation address, asking how, in 2017, we can still tolerate racist and fascist behaviour, the message delivered on the back on an undeniable hook that's absolutely impossible to ignore.

The five *Breadwinner* remixes are each worthy of their own merit, as the self confessed analogue lover cuts up the King Solomon originals, upping bass levels, twisting and tweaking, creating glorious slabs of dancefloor friendly dub, whilst being mindful to retain each of the track's original grooves with the aforementioned *Snake Eyes Dub* and *Dub Temptations* mix of *We All Make Mistakes*

particularly worthy of note.

In *The Snakepit* has it all - an infectious summery vibe, plenty of addictive hooks, inventive twists and lyrical, socially conscious bite. Who would have thought that not so sunny Cheltenham would produce one of the must have reggae albums of the year!

www.kingsoloman.co.uk

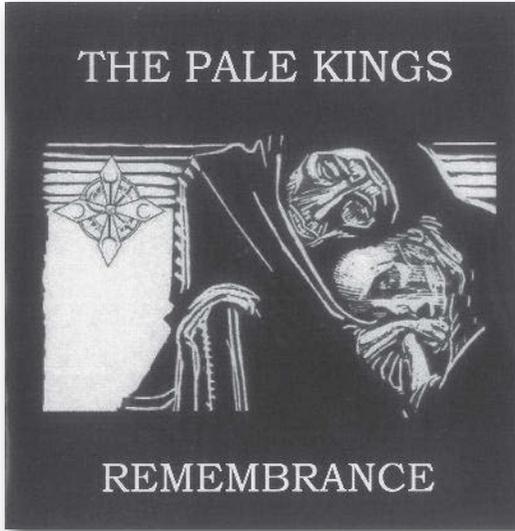


The Pale Kings | Remembrance

The **Pale Kings** first formed in the Wyre Forest area back in 1988, despite a number of line-up changes the band made a real mark, becoming residents at Kidderminster music mecca, The Market Tavern, whilst courting attention from a London based management company. The band eventually parted ways in 1995 but renewed interest saw original members, vocalist **Rich Morley** and keyboardist **Mike Nock** reunited with former bassist **Boogie Stew** and new members **Marc Temple** (guitar) and **Steve Smith** (drums) to resurrect the name and finally record a full length album (having previously recording various demos and EPs in their original seven year tenure).

Remembrance is a self confessed 'unashamed tribute to the 80's' as well as serving as memorial to former guitarist **Paul Harvard**, who suddenly passed away in 2014. The eight Pale Kings originals were all written back in the band's late 80s, early 90s heyday, whilst a further four cover versions pin down the band's influences and sound, from Joy Division to Sisters Of Mercy and Bauhaus.

The album's opener sets the mood with an elongated introduction that brings to mind The Cult, before taking something of a crunchier turn, as Rich Morley's half spoken, half drawled



gothic holler join the mix of driving riffs and clattering beats. Throw in some added keyboard atmospheric and you can almost see the smudged guyliner as you are transported back to a time when Andrew Eldritch and Pete Murphy competed for the throne, while Wayne Hussey waited in the wings to pick the bones.

Something's Happening (All The Time) follows, driven by an infectious thick, Hook-like bassline from Boogie Stew and Smith's drum tattoo, whilst those omnipresent keyboards and Temple's classic rock riffs (and solos) add to the swirling sonic stew whilst

Morley again summons the ghosts of old with his gloomy lead. The first of the covers, *River Of No Return* (originally by Ghost Dance), is an infectious slab of goth rock, complete with a genuine holler along chorus, that rather suggests further investigation into the song's origins, whilst *She's In Parties* (Bauhaus) is a scene classic, guaranteed to liven up any graveyard boogie. Of the band's originals *Half The Man* is worth a mention as The Pale Kings forge a dense psychedelic, gothic soup over rumbling beats, whilst the tracks outro features a glorious guitar fuelled wig out.

Remembrance does exactly what it says on the tin (or CD case), and serves as a timely reminder of the late 80's goth scene. The album left

me with an overwhelming urge to black out the windows and play Bela Lugosi's Dead at obscene volumes Take from that what you will.

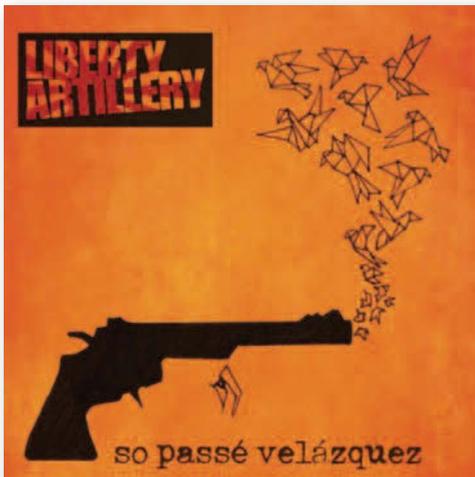
www.facebook.com/palekingsforever

Will Munn

Liberty Artillery | So Passe Valesquez

Liberty Artillery are a five-piece Worcester based band who originally formed back in 2015 as a drum and bass duo before evolving into a full, five-piece band incorporating guitars, duel vocals and a wide array of influences (from indie to urban via rock and hip-hop) in an attempt to create a fresh and unique sound. Since the band's formation they've created something of a stir on the local scene (and beyond) with a number of choice gigs and have continued to write and record new material, honing their sound along the way. The resulting *So Passe Valesquez*, a six track, thirty minute affair, showcases their unique vision.

The band open proceedings with *Darkest Days*, a funk-laced organic hip-hop track that sees **Jamie May's** thunderous drums and the elastic bass of **Sean Gandy** lay the foundation for the choppy guitars of **Jake Aprea Price** and **Josh Newey**. Vocalists **Mark Ballard** and **Newey** unite to deliver an addictive amalgamation of laid-back rap and soul, gradually building over the five minute duration, eventually resulting in an inspired rock twist as the band crank up a number of gears for a rousing finale.



Psycho Babble again originates with a combination of funk-ridden guitar and the infectious rhythm section of May and Gandy. The opener's hip-hop vocals take a back seat as the band concentrate on delivering a more laid-back sun-kissed soul vibe before segueing effortlessly into a quick rock burst of *California's Dreaming*, again closing the track in something of a frenzy. *Heavy*

Dreamy Disco lives up to its strange monicker as the band open with a barrage of Rage Against The Machine styled rapid fire riffs and raps before stripping back for a gorgeous, dreamy, psych-tinged indie choral hook.

As the mini album continues, **Liberty Artillery** continue to impress, throwing in more unexpected twists and turns. *Fallen Angel* sees Ballard and Newey trade lines as the worlds of organic hip-hop, funk and rock collide to form a modern day, wide reaching alternative anthem, whilst both (the already BBC H&W Introducing featured) *Prowess* and the closing *Hot Sauce* see the band stretch out and reach further heights as the band add further layers to an already potent and heady mix.

So Passe Valesquez is a stirring, fresh and invigorating debut that catapults Liberty Artillery firmly into the 'must see' category in my book.

www.facebook.com/libertyartillery

Will Munn

Hereford's Punk Promoters The Underground Revolution

The **Underground Revolution** have spent a lot of time trying to give local bands a platform alongside bands around the country, noteworthy ones who as well. We paired local serious noise rock band **Black Boxes** with the **Subhumans** and **Alvin and the Angry Barrels** with **Culture Shock**. Pretty memorable shows to tell their grandchildren about. We promise to keep our legacy up and bring you some amazing shows.

May 6th at The Booth Hall Hereford – Belated Beltane with The Rhythm Thieves, The Fireside Family and Brent Lee just £3

Now that the sun is wanting to come out and shine upon the Hereford punks and rockers, **The Underground Revolution** are enticing its followers with something a little gentler, a Belated Beltane celebration that by no means will disappoint. It is all about celebrating this ancient tradition with a night of psychedelic folk/ funk from headliner the **Rhythm Thieves**, a very interesting fusion indeed. Also performing acoustic indie/folk, will be **The Fireside Family** and **Brent Lee** opening the night with his rhythm acoustic folk. You may feel like you are in Glastonbury for the night.



May 12th at The Booth hall – Under A Banner, Headsticks and Terminal Rage 8pm £6 or £5 in advance at www.headsticks.co.uk

I have been anticipating this show since last year when we booked them a second time after both bands performed amazing well-attended shows for us at **The Booth Hall**. They weren't touring together then, but are now which is exciting, and we have the good fortune of putting them on in May.

Under a Banner and **Headsticks** are having a good run in the UK folk circuit and have received plenty of airtime on David Owen's Folk Radio Station heralded the UK's Number 1 Folk Radio show. If you haven't heard this online programme you are missing out. David is the frontman of Sons of Clogger who also host Cloggerfest. Have a listen every Wednesday from 8pm-10pm by visiting the website www.windmillbroadcasting.com.



Terminal Rage are Hereford's local punk outfit who bring an old skool and very forward political vibe with them, and seriously have worked hard to get recognition and their spot in the Rebellion punk festival in Blackpool this year. Second band from Hereford to make it to Rebellion, the first being The Youth Within. We wish them luck, but in the meantime come to Hereford and check them out. This is going to be a night of EPIC folk-punk and punk bands.

by Michelle Cuadra

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An imposing building, located in an edge of town area that's awaiting regeneration and investment, the pub's already a popular haunt for music followers and students alike – and is now available on a Leased Partners agreement.

The traditional bar area houses a pool table and darts throw and also services the lounge. From there, a large covered alleyway leads directly to the main function area, which has the stage as its centrepiece for hosting live performances. In addition, there's an unused kitchen that's ripe for some sort of investment and upstairs there are another 2 large rooms that are ideal for meetings and parties.

On top of all that the pub has a small enclosed garden area and comes complete with private accommodation that consists of 4 spacious bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen and separate office space.

By now, we hope you're seeing the bigger picture and coming to realise what's on offer. Yes, it's in need of some redecoration, but if you've relevant live music/promotions experience then that won't hold you back from driving and growing the business to give you a solid return on your investment.



The Boars Head rocks and is an integral part of the local music scene – together we can make it even better!

For information and to throw your hat into the ring for this outstanding opportunity simply visit: www.marstonscareers.co.uk/leasedpartners or call our Recruitment team on **01902 329713**.

Arts at the Courtyard, Hereford

There are loads of fabulous arts events happening at the **Courtyard in Hereford** this month including film, theatre and visual arts. Here is just a snippet of what you can get along to.

The Marked is visually stunning performance inspired by real-life stories of homelessness comes to The Courtyard this May. Multi-award winning physical theatre company, Theatre Témoin present *The Marked*, the story of Jack who, as a boy, lived in a world of monsters and invisible guardians as he fought to protect the people he loved.



Now grown, his life on the streets of London is less fantastical but when a ghost from his past turns up, Jack must harness the power of forgotten myths to defeat her. Spinning together mask, puppetry and physical theatre, Theatre Témoin will create a haunting, mystical wonderland.

The Marked received much acclaim during its sell-out run in Edinburgh Fringe and was dubbed 'one of 2016's most anticipated Fringe shows' (The List) 4th May. 7.30pm

Cabinet of Curiosity is an exhibition featuring work inspired by curious objects from around the globe will be on display at The Courtyard this spring.

The project invited participants to delve into their very own Cabinet of Curiosity as they imagined the purpose and past of a selection of intriguing items. Working with local poets, participants responded to the collection of strange objects which were gathered from across the globe by early explorers.



Creative sessions took place at Eastnor Primary School, Ledbury Nursing Home and The Master's House and resulted in participants writing their own poems. These poems will be displayed alongside the objects in place of artwork descriptions. Runs until 31st May.

Mulholland Drive is typically moody, menacing and bizarrely funny film noir from the master of surreal David Lynch, was recently voted Best Film of the 21st Century. Both a surreal thriller and a satirical dissection of the Hollywood dream factory, the film is as much about visual texture, inexplicable characters, dreams and stunning scenes as anything to do with a conventional story. Betty, young, blonde and perky, arrives in L.A. to try her luck as a Hollywood starlet only to find a perplexing mystery in the form of sultry amnesiac, Rita. Events proceed with a mounting,



unaccountable menace that occasionally descends into bizarre farce. Not a film to be followed in the traditional sense, but which, if taken on its own terms, is one that will reward you with an intense and haunting experience.

"A bona fide masterpiece" Empire 22nd-25th May

For the full programme of events, to book tickets or for more information contact The Courtyard, Hereford on Box Office 01432 340555 or go to the website www.courtyard.org.uk

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Fri 19 - Thu 25
May, Wed 21 June



THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE (12A)

Fri 2 - Thu 8 June



WHISKY GALORE (15)

Fri 9 & Tue 13 -
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BOX OFFICE 01432 340555

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Punk by Nature | Final Half Dayer

The Boars Head, Kidderminster | Sat 6th May

Saturday 6th May sees **Punk by Nature** putting on their final Punk half-dayer at the Boars Head in Kidderminster. This is the penultimate PBN gig at the venue before the current landlord and landlady (Sid & Sand) leave and move on to pastures new. The future of the pub and its use as a live music venue is then in the brewery's hands. But before they leave, PBN is putting on one hell of a punk rock party to say thanks for putting on 6 years of wicked live music and supporting many genres including my beloved punk. The line up for this half-dayer features 8 awesome bands from both the Midlands scene and further afield.



Opening the show is up and coming Birmingham punk band **Suckerpunch**. During the last 12 months this band has been making quite a name for themselves with their loud, fun and catchy songs full of big hooks with melodic choruses.

Next on stage is the excellent Herefordshire band **The Youth Within** - another band making a name for themselves at a number of punk festivals/all-dayers including last year's Rebellion. Their songs are tight and catchy; mixing street punk, hardcore and Oi, delivered with a youthful swagger.

Third on the line up are Gloucestershire punks **Borrowed Time**. No strangers to the Boars Head but their first time on a **Punk by Nature** line up. Having formed in 2013, their sound is kind of like late 70's melodic punk with a modern edge. With their 2nd full length due out at the start of May this is going to be a great time to catch these guys live.

Making his Boars Head debut is acoustic punk legend **Paul Carter**. His songs are observations about the everyday things in life: beer, punk, football, work, drugs, masturbation etc, all delivered with acoustic punk abandon. Paul is one of the most entertaining acts on the UK punk scene, just check out '*Because I had Speed*' (Paul's reworking of the Afroman song *Because I got High*) online to find out why.

Another debutant is Yorkshires superb **W.O.R.M.** Formed in 1992 the band have released 4 albums and a number of EPs delivering their own brand of fast catchy melodic hardcore. Live, this band takes it to another level and personally, I can't wait for them to blow the roof off the Boars!

Sixth up on this amazing line up is the reformed and re-energised Brum punk band **The Liarblitys**. Their return to the live scene (after 6 to 7 year hiatus) at the December PBN half-dayer was one of the most amazing live sets I have seen at the venue. The band was on fire and their songs were so tight and on it. I really can't wait for Mez and the lads too rip it up again!

The penultimate band playing, **Brassick** need little introduction. They have played and the Boars a number of times since Sand & Sid have run the pub. Brassick have become one of the shining lights of the Brum Punk scene over recent years. They deliver their own special brand of grunge punk that is perfectly complimented



by singer Nicola's unmistakable vocals. Loud, powerful and infectiously catchy **Brassick** really are something special.

Headlining the event are Birmingham punk legends **Drongos For Europe**. Having formed in Birmingham in 1979 and with their DIY ethic they went on to be part of the UK82 scene. Drongos for Europe are one of the hardest working punk bands in the UK and through constantly touring have built up quite a following around the country. DFE are no strangers to the Boars Head and have supported this great little venue for a number of years now. In fact I can't think of a more fitting band to headline what is going to be an epic FINAL half-dayer of live punk tuneage!



Advance tickets are £8 and are available to purchase from the bar at the Boars Head. Admission is £10 on the door. With 8 great bands for only a tenner this gig is one not to be missed.

Jason K

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Kenny White

Deborah Rose & Marie Randle

The Ginger Pig Worcester | 4th April

Tonight's calling was a genre of music I tend to sidestep, but, on this particular evening, I was ready for some R&R and **Ginger Pig** host Steve was on hand to offer a warm welcome to this lovely, little café and bistro. I was not disappointed.

On the menu, a rich cream soup of **Deborah Rose and Marie Randle**, followed by a main of New Yorker **Kenny White**, served with a side dish of **Giulia Nuti** on the viola.

The combination of Deborah and Marie has been served at the Ginger Pig before, a poplar dish chock-full of English folk, Welsh and Irish laments and hauling sails with Viking queens. The duo started out in a capella harmony, looking into a 'sunset and evening star' with Tennyson's *Crossing the Bar* set to music, a piece inspired by a stay in the bard's house on the Isle of Wight.



They sailed back with those Viking queens to land in *The Foggy Dew*. Then, pure silk and smooth as a bar of Galaxy (can't believe I'm saying that, I'll take deep, dark and bitter every time..chocolate, that is), *Plaisir D'amour* floated across the ether on gossamer wings as we neared closure.

The whole set was a delightful dish, with some extra spice thrown in as Giulia joined the pair for a Dylan song, *One More Cup Of Coffee*. Featuring a superb string joust, Marie's driving guitar and the deep rounded tones of Giulia's viola were worth the visit alone.

I had no preconception of **Kenny White**, although, undoubtedly, he has a significant footprint. Suffice to say, while he may not be a household name, he has worked with the best and is a wordsmith par excellence in his own right.



The electric piano, braced ready in the corner, sprung to life under Kenny's fingers. Hearing *Out Of My Element*, there was little doubt that the rest of the evening was going to be good, Giulia picking up on *A Road Less Travelled* as lovely company for a long journey. The beauty of Kenny's songs is that they are wonderfully-crafted stories, observations and life tales, all wrapped around a



core of musical composition. The wonderful tattoo of *5 Girls* takes us on a journey to downtown bars with unspoken erotic thoughts, followed by the resigned declaration of *You Might As Well Leave*, much of Kenny's work having a Dylan-esque feel, even more so with guitar slung and a harp framed around his neck. The difference is, with no disrespect to the Nobel prize winner, Kenny is gifted with a finer voice and a cheerier persona, his spellbinding lyrics and Jackanory tales set to piano or guitar complemented perfectly tonight by the rich, tasty nibbles of Giulia's strings. Teasingly brief, but decidedly moreish.



In a change of direction, the thin, staccato thwack of the relentless beat box and lyrics delivered with intent were followed by an absolutely spellbinding, key curling, ivory poaching, two-tone trip across the piano. Kenny's hands danced and leapt across the Roland like two land crabs in a frenetic love dance to a jazz band. It was almost, but not quite, *The Last Stop*, but there was a little more to come yet. Absolutely absorbing and if you only heard this, your night would have been complete.

Deborah stepped in for a vocal lead, a gentle folk song, before the curtain was brought down with *Live In Peace*, a superb instrumental duet between Kenny and Giulia.

Graham Munn

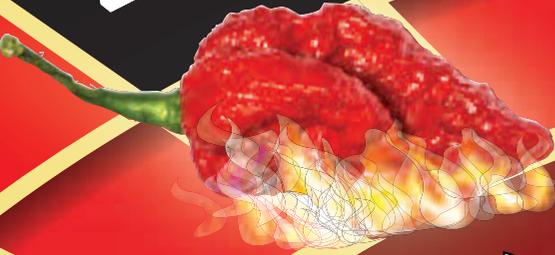
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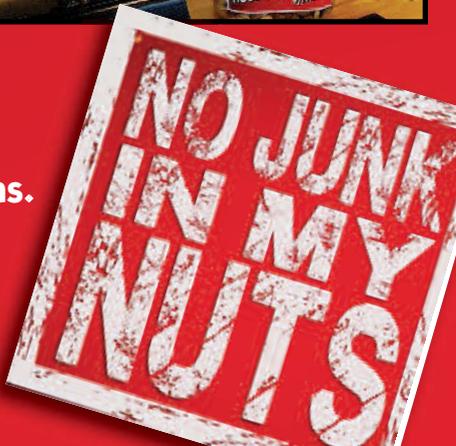
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Bank Holiday double header The Booth Hall, Hereford | Sat 15th & Sun 16th April Raptor, New Revival & As Mamas

With a variety of bands and an eclectic mix of styles over the weekend brought to you by the wonderful people of Hey **Little Monster** and **The Underground Revolution**, there was something for just about everyone to enjoy during the Easter weekend at **The Booth Hall** and every band played their hearts out.

As Mamas set the precedent for the whole weekend with the duos blues swathed, uptempo rock that perfectly set the mood for the night from the second the first note was played. The twosome play high energy rock with that crucial blues element right at the heart of it and they really nailed their tight sound with the bands set going down tremendously well with the assembled throng.

Up next were South Wales own **New Revival**, who also went down a storm with their big sounding songs that incorporated huge choruses and some dirty sounding riffs. The likes of the gloriously catchy *Twisted* and faithful covers of Talking Heads' *PsychoKiller* and *Feels Good Inc* by Gorillaz were standout moments in a fun set that



really got the crowd going. The bands mixture of highly energetic sixties psychedelic pop and catchy melodic rock is a nice touch and they made more than a few new fans in Hereford tonight.

Raptor were the final band of the night and took to the stage to the sound of a heroes welcome. They immediately cranked out the bluesy hard rock that they are known and loved for. The 3-piece made a hell of a beautiful racket with their excellent playing at the forefront and to complete the package, they know exactly how to rock the crowd. Those who have seen Raptor before know what to expect and but for the uninitiated, it's plenty of extended hard rocking jams and psychedelic flavoured music played with the passion of the



The atmosphere reached fever pitch when the band played their version of Led Zeppelin's *Dazed & Confused* complete with vocalist/guitarist **Kurt Fletcher** playing in the crowd and the delivery of the song went down a storm. Their own material was received with just as enthusiasm and was played with the same amount of vivacity. **Raptor** ended their set with their customary version of Sabbath's *Fairies Wear Boots* with the band nailing the best parts of Ozzy, Tony and Co.

Teddy's Leg, Dischord & Trioxin Cherry

The Sunday night was a decidedly heavier and more punk affair and the bill is first class with an air of excitement at seeing local heroes **Teddy's Leg** live along with **Dischord** from Blackpool and **Trioxin Cherry** from Nottingham coming across to provide stellar support.

Loud, angry and pissed off hardcore punk was the order of the day and **Trioxin Cherry** certainly blew the cobwebs away with their furious music. Despite the brutal nature of Trioxin Cherry's music, there was an air of fun to the proceedings with everyone in attendance out to have a great time with a constant stream of people moshing to the bands energetic speedy punk set. The band are a formidable live force with vocalist Rebecca (complete with Bunny ears on) spitting venom onstage while declaring that the only good fascist is a dead one before launching into the vicious *England Shirt*. The band finished with a closing cover of the Beastie Boys *Immortal Sabotage* that undoubtedly set the standard for the night.

Following them were **Dischord** who emerged on stage to a long and menacing intro before their music exploded with life. They were just as heavy and as punk but just a bit darker than their predecessors. The band roar through their set with enthusiasm, especially from their similarly bunny eared and commanding frontman Chris who doesn't stop moving for the whole of the bands set, jumping into the crowd and getting amongst the



audience to their obvious delight. Belting out songs from their latest release *War Or Peace*, **Dischord** go down a storm and, as with Trioxin Cherry, there is a sense of fun with human pyramids and rowing boats on the dancefloor. The band thrash away onstage with their defiant heavy punk that has added metal tendencies and was received like a lost friend. The band leave the stage to rapturous applause knowing that they have conquered Hereford tonight.

It's left to local boys **Teddys Leg** to round off a great night with their raucous fuzz punk. The band thrash through their two EPs with reckless abandon, leaving the audience breathless. Frontman Robin even brandishes a trumpet at one point which adds to the unpredictable nature of the band's music. Dry ice covers the stage and it's like being at a Venom or Celtic Frost gig but this only adds to the bands manic stage presence as they go through songs to back up that are hell bent on speed and energy, drawing from both hardcore and metal. As the set draws to a close with a free form jam, half the audience is up on stage with the band and the atmosphere is fully charged, leading to a stunning end of a great set from one of Hereford finest.

All in all, this has been a superb weekend of versatile live music with every band that has played putting in a great performance and all six bands need to be checked out.

Articles by [Gavin Brown](#), full article at [Herefordcitycentric.com](#)

Photography by [Nick Vidal-Hall](#) for Booth Hall

Uncover Presents
**Pleasure House, The Cosmics,
 Teddy Matthews, Happy Bones**
 The MARRS bar, Worcester | 25th May

Worcester's premiere new music night, **UNCOVER**, is back for it's fifth running! Bringing with it indie masters **Pleasure House** as part of their highly anticipated U.K. tour. Following their whirlwind 2016, which saw them take on a successful debut UK headline tour, combined with three sold-out hometown headline shows alongside supporting the likes of Sundara Karma, SWIM DEEP, High Tyde, Black Honey, Fickle Friends, INHEAVEN & more.



Supporting them are garage-punk trio, **The Cosmics**, adding a vintage retro feel to their music, complete with infectious melodies and a live energy that will blow you away.



Supporting these two bands are the local talents of **Teddy Matthews**, bringing his gritty vocals inspired by the likes of Ben Howard and Bon Iver, with a unique power that will astound all and finally with **Happy Bones**, Worcester's folk singer/songwriter who draws inspiration from the likes of Bright Eyes, all the way to Elliot Smith. It's definitely not one to be missed!



Tickets are £5 in advance £7 on the door
wegottickets.com/event/396833

Lisbee Stainton
 MARRS Bar, Worcester | 30th May

Highly acclaimed singer-songwriter **Lisbee Stainton** will be performing at the **MARRS Bar** this month following the release of her first album in three years.

As part of a nine day UK tour, the Worcester venue welcomes Lisbee, still only 28, as she promotes her fifth studio album *'Then Up'* released on 21st April, preceded by a new single *'Reason'* in March.

She was the first unsigned singer-songwriter to play London's O2 Arena in 2007, performing two shows to 30,000 people. Following a further three critically acclaimed albums, extensive airplay and features on both BBC Radio 2 and 6 Music, Lisbee has gained huge support from Tom Robinson, Joan Armatrading and Seth Lakeman, who was so impressed that he invited her to join his band in 2012.

'Then Up' is a triumphant, exultant journey through story telling and self-discovery and the first album to be entirely self-produced. It was recorded at Monnow Valley Studios and Real World studios and includes co-writes with Eleanor McEvoy, Ivor Novello nominee Charlie Dore and Tom Robinson.

Lisbee said, "A large reason for producing *'Then Up'* was that I wanted to focus on each song as an individual creature to nurture and evolve in its own way. I relished the challenge of discovering whether I could achieve that myself."



With continued collaborations with Seth Lakeman's band and UK dates and festivals including Glastonbury, Wickham Festival, Towersey and Blacksheep Festival in Germany, here is a chance to catch Lisbee as she returns to the MARRS Bar on 30th May.

Support comes from **A Different Thread**, a travelling singer songwriter with a distinctive voice and a versatile classical cellist bringing an unusual mix.

Hailing from Worcestershire, **Ellie Anna May** blends soulful vocals with relatable lyrics of coming of age themes that resonate with so many. Her ability to pen experiences in a way that makes any listener feel involved in the songs, makes her a notable up and coming songwriter with a twist.

marrsbar.co.uk lisbee.com Tickets £10 & £12 on the door

Monday 01 May 2017

The Innocent (5Pm)

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Upton Folk Festival

Upton Folk Festival, Upton-Upon-Severn

Glos Uni Battle Of The Bands

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Upton Folk Festival See www.Uptonfolk.Org

Town Centre, Upton-Upon-Severn

Open Mic With Pete Kelly From 2Pm Till 5Pm

Queens Head, Wolverley

Roving Crews

Eastnor Chilli Festival, Eastnor

Tuesday 02 May 2017

Kidderminster College Presents Neil Murray + Ley Lines

Worley's At The Swan, Stourbridge

Corinne West

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Sally Live Music 3.00Pm

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Wednesday 03 May 2017

Elevesens

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Luckless

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Hellensmusic Festival see hellensmusic.com 3rd - 7th May

Hellens Manor, Much Marcle

Thursday 04 May 2017

Fraser Lepford

Tank, Gloucester

Eddie Martin

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Kettle Of Fish

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Area 8

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Gaz Brookfield, Jake Martin & Bsydes

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Surprise Attacks: Qujaku (Japan), Esuna, Insomnichord

The Firefly, Worcester

2000 Trees Showcase, Feat. All Ears Avow

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Berkeley Square

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Phil Beer Band

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Friday 05 May 2017

The Troubadours

The Red Lion, Evesham

Dizzy Lizzy /Thin Lizzy Tribute Band

New Tardebigge, Redditch

Elmore Row

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

The Bourbon Alley Blues Band

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Ska Studs

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Cher v P!NK

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Waaju

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Dave Onions

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

The Connor Maher Quartet

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

James Carr & The Comrades

The Swan, Cheltenham

The Celtic Tenors

The Courtyard, Hereford

The Del Ray Rockets

Saracens Head, Worcester

Luke Doherty Band

The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Breath

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Rule No1

Drummonds, Worcester

Happy Bones, Mc Junkie, Junior Weeb, Mad Love, Nth Cave

Roving Club, Worcester

The Relaxos

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Locked & Loaded UK

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Ignition Presents Unhinged. XVII, Aversion & Life Against Time

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Skints, The Tuts

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Mr H - Blues

Reet Petite, Leominster

Crosstown

Queens Head, Wolverley

Jay & Eli

The Bush, St. Johns, Worcester

2 Tone Revue

The Star Inn Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

Roy Sainsbury's Rhythm Chiefs - Featuring Dave Newton

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Anna Bale

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Upbeat Beatles

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jon Eselle - Ollly Murs Tribute

The Blue Brick, Brierley Hill

Linerunners

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Dizzy Lizzy /Thin Lizzy Tribute Band

New Tardebigge, Hewell Lane, Redditch

Rhino's Revenge

The Iron Road, Evesham

Saturday 06 May 2017

Skrood

The Swan, Evesham

Housebound

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

O.C.D

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Forever Sabbath

Rocklands Club, Headless Cross, Redditch

Christian Bufton, Vern, Freeborn Rising, Alvin and The Angry

Barrels, Hot Feat (from 11am)

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Straight Aces

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Final 4

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Drifter (Acoustic Blues, Soul & Reggae),

La Petite Gare, Kidderminster

Hotfoot

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

A Petite Festival - Featuring Vern, Christian Bufton, Freeborn

Rising, Alvin and The Angry Barrels, Hot Feat

Reet Petite, Leominster

Dark Island

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

UB40 - Ultimate4

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Hells Bells

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Threepennybit

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Journeyman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Kylver, Esteban! and Bleak Zero

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chaos Tiger, Feral Sun

The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

The Desperados

The Cavern, Gloucester

The Delray Rockets

Upton Social Club, Upton-Upon-Severn

Forever Sabbath - Headless Cross

Rocklands Club, Redditch

The Underground Revolution Presents Belated Beltane, Brent

Lee, The The Rhythm Thieves, The Fireside Family

The Booth Hall, Hereford

P T H

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Clarksville Mountain Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Amie Woodyatt

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Underdogs

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Deja Vodou

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Dale 6 Strings

Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

The FB Pocket Orchestra
Cafe At The Stalls, Colwall

Amie
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Punk By Nature Presents Dronos For Europe, Brassick, The Liarbilities, W.O.R.M., Paul Carter, Borrowed Time, The Youth Within & Suckerpunch
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Floyd Effect - The Pink Floyd Tribute Show
The Core Theatre, Solihull

The Daniel Wakeford Experience (The Undateables), The Strays, Steamroller, Dan Cooper
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Sax Appeal
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Lee Price
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

The Disciples
Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Antimatter Take Over Pt.2 With Filthy Habits
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Gin Annie
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Yes Please! Recreating The Iconic Music Of Yes
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Outcasts
New Inn, Pershore

A Night Of Music & Comedy: Paul Richards & Griff Jameson
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Roy Orbison & The Wilburys Tribute
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jon Eselle
The Drum & Monkey, Upton Upon Severn

Bonsai Pirates
The Stable, Cheltenham

Terry O'sullivan Rat Pack
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Not The Rolling Stones
The Iron Road, Evesham

Sunday 07 May 2017

Lazy Sunday Afternoon With Keith Boulton 4pm
The Red Lion, Evesham

Panic Station (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Kezza Belle (5Pm)
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Peatbog Faeries
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Gator Squad (3-5pm)
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Jay & Eli
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Papilon (Anna Phoebe & Nicolas Rizzi)
Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

Kim Cypher's Sunday Jazz (1pm)
The Stable, Cheltenham

Tuesday 09 May 2017

Daphne'S Flight
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wednesday 10 May 2017

An Evening With Tony 'Bomber' Brown
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Spanish Duo; Janine Parsons-Piano & Corinne Frost-Cello
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Dave Parsons
Mr Twitchetts Coffee House And Bar, Stroud

John Harries
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Coope Boyes & Simpson
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Lila J, Dan Vickers, Dot3
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Voodoo Stone
The Iron Road, Evesham

Jon Eselle - Olly Murs Tribute
Ye Olde Toll House, Willenhall

Devon Allman + Voodoo Stone
The Iron Road, Evesham

Thursday 11 May 2017

Live Sessions Part Deux
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Joel Darkes
Tank, Gloucester

Neil Ivison
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Real Thing
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Drifter
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Jonny Cole
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Jazz Classics With Rachael Medhurst & Alex Albrow
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Ezio And Mark 'Booga' Fowell
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Uk Subs, Brassick, No Weather Talks
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sounds Of Simon
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Panic Switch, Now We Know
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

HCA Collective Presents "Under Exposed"
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Spring Showcase
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Jon Boden
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Friday 12 May 2017

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Remi Harris
The Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Little Dave
The Red Lion, Evesham

Red Shoes
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Le Freak
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Rubio
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Hannah & Brian
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

The Cherry Bluestorms, The Humdrum Express, Molly Mallinson
St George'S Hall, Bewdley

Definitely Mightbe V Adored
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Raymond Froggatt
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Thunder Daze
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Gary Hall
The Stable, Cheltenham

Wreckless Eric
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Offthegrid
The Bear, Evesham

The Delray Rockets
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Ex Presidents
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Amie
The Bush, St Johns, Worcester

Come Up And See Me
Drummonds, Worcester

The Underground Revolution Presents, Terminal Rage, Under A Banner, Headsticks
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Vinces Blues Jam
Saracens Head, Worcester

Steve Lindforth
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ginny Lemon And Guests
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Crows
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Drones, Frown Upon, Saltwounds, Gomme
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Dave Curtis
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Chronicles Of Zee
Queens Head, Wolverley

Jay & Eli
The Bell, St. Johns, Worcester

Rae Morris
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Vehicle
Lampighter, Stratford Upon Avon

The Marrakesh Express
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 13 May 2017

Metal Wave Promotions: XVII, Reign Eternal, We Come From Ashes And Cenfora
The Iron Road, Evesham

Rick Gable's Lounge Sounds
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Pigdaze
Reet Petite, Leominster

Chris Difford (Squeeze), Vinny Peculiar
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Three Blind Mice
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Starving Rascals
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Danadra
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Festivals Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Style Councillors
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Sweet Home Chicago Blues Brothers
Railway Inn, Studley

The Follicles
Bewdley Hotel, Bewdley

Nightshift
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Population 7
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Soulskunks
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

The Futures
The Express Inn, Malvern

The Bad Dads
The Ale House, Stroud

Breast Cancer Benefit: Sam Clines, Poppy Ws, Chip Langley
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Undercovers
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Fireballs
The Chestnut, Worcester

Hennesea
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Rattlesnake Jake
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Soul Stripper
The Bull, Fernhill Heath

TFI Band
Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

Ian Sherwood
Elmslie House, Malvern

Jibbafish
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Rick Gable
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Follicles
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Toby Webb
The Garibaldi Inn, Worcester

Vehicle
White Hart, Redditch

The Billy Joel Songbook Performed By Elio Pace & His Band
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

Sunday 14 May 2017

Lazy Sunday Purely Acoustic) With Daniel B. James (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Warren James (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Ben Vickers (5pm)
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Kast Off Kinks
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Masud Milas
The Prince Albert, Stroud

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

Jack Of All, Jabba Cartel, Sundara, Ben Vickers (12-7pm)
Café Bliss, Worcester

Jon Eselle
The Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

Tuesday 16 May 2017

Skraeckoedlan (Swe) + Prosperina
The Iron Road, Evesham

46 SLAP MAY

Wednesday 17 May 2017

Gloucestershire's Battle Of The Bands
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Jazz With Mark Latimer And Ruth Bowen
Reet Petite, Leominster

Joe Longthorne
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Teri Bramah - Reflections
Mr Twitchetts Coffee House And Bar, Stroud

Eleanor Mcevoy
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Kathryn Tickell & The Side
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

How College Performing Arts Showcase 2017
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Kate Rusby
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Thursday 18 May 2017

Matt Hopkins Trio Live
Tank, Gloucester

Buddy Holly And The Cricketers
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

The Simon And Garfunkel Story
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Hawkwind
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Barberellas Bangbang
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Robin Nolan Trio
The Courtyard, Hereford

Emily Barker - 'Sweet Kind Of Blue' Album Launch
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Dan Greenaway
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Bitterroots
The Plough, Worcester

Friday 19 May 2017

Electric Ballroom (Italy)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Rod Barlow
The Bush, St Johns, Worcester

Jo Silver
The Red Lion, Evesham

Hipkiss
The Fold, Bransford

Surprise Attacks Presents: Roar (Japan), Steve Strong, Tempus
Heroes, Worcester

Shimaj & Sam Thomas
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Lucas D And The Groove Ghetto
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Ollie Hughes (Robbie Williams Tribute)
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Jaywalkers
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Laura H Davis
The New Inn, Gloucester

The Awesome Pontiacs
The Foley Arms Hotel, Malvern

Hattie Briggs Trio - Hide Ep Launch
Meme Art Bar Café, Stroud

Stone Farm
Drummonds, Worcester

Vinces Blues Jam
Saracens Head, Worcester

Toby Wren & Lee (Of The Way)
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Executives
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

People in Motion Presents Rude Boy
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Will Killeen - Music & Art Evening
Ginger Pig Café & Bistro, Worcester

3 Bands £3
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Medicine Spoon
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Plink, Twang, Holla
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Forever Sabbath
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Fred Zeppelin
Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

Protocol
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Roy G Hemmings: Hits Of Motown
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mr Joe Summers
The Stable, Cheltenham

Saturday 20 May 2017

Air Ambulance Fundraiser - V8 + Chimp On A Bike
The Iron Road, Evesham

Led Hendrix
The Swan, Evesham

The Stone Cutters
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Rick Gable's Lounge Sounds
The Red Lion, Stiffords Bridge, Cradley

Ceri Ridge Trading Company
Reet Petite, Leominster

Tim Edey
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Simply More Red
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Meharis
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Street Party- Polly Edwards & Kringo Blue, Howard Kenny & Thom Colne Acoustic Entertainment
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Evenine
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The 2 Anchors
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Swede Dreamz (Abba Tribute)
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Red Tails
Railway Inn, Studley

Sarah Martyn Acoustic Duo
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Eye brow
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Haunted Souls
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Subhuman Race (Skid Row Tribute), Foreign Quarter
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Digital Criminals, Jenovese, Scarsun, The Boom Sons
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Gotta Groove Band
Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

Voodoo Stone
The Chestnut, Worcester

2 Tone Revue
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Red Line
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Ray Mytton Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Ron Jeremy Band
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Underdogs
Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

Worcester Motor Festival, Live Music Various Locations
From 9-5pm See Worcestermotorfestival.com
City Centre, Worcester

Punk By Nature Presents Alchol Licks, Humdrum Express, Sister Sandwich & Flying Ant Day
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Festival At The Fountains (Daytime)
South Quay, Worcester

Welcome Back Delta, Black Orchid Empire, Hired Guns, Zen Motel
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Kevin Rhodes
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Mark Hammond
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Toby
The Old Waggon & Horses, Bewdley

Reggae On The River Severn 2017 Launch
The Pride Of The Midlands, Worcester

6 Appeal
The Cricketers, Worcester

Simon Goodall & The Bourne Again Shadows
Number 8, Pershore

Two Pianos
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Emptyhead
New Inn, Pershore

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Wellington, Brierley Hill

Vehicle
Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Blake
Artrix, Bromsgrove

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25.05.17
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THE COSMICS
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UNCOVER x SIAP
MAGAZINE

2 Pigs Spring Fair With Live Music And Dj's
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Witcher
The Express Inn, Malvern

The B Sides
The Stable, Cheltenham

Appleby Kingsley
Cafe At The Stalls, Colwall

Sunday 21 May 2017

Lazy Sunday with G&T Mix (Tone Tanner + Gazza Tee) (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Luke Doherty Band (ppm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Dhama Bums (pm)
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Maddie Stimpson (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Dan Greenaway
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Natasha Rock Chic
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Monday 22 May 2017

Foon
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Dan Walton Album Release Show
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Jake Leg Jug Band
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

Remi Harris (1:30pm)
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Tuesday 23 May 2017

Live Jazz
The Hatch, Near Tenbury Wells

Miranda Sykes
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Emma and Daniel Reid, Violin and Sax.
Ruskin Mill, Nailsworth

Wednesday 24 May 2017

The Ballina Whalers, Pete Roe
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Thursday 25 May 2017

Murray Kinsley & Wicked Grin (Canada)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Slightly Ocd
Tank, Gloucester

Martyn Joseph
Stourbridge Folk Club, Stourbridge

The Songs Of Leonard Cohen 1934 - 2016
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Mae Karthuser
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Uncover Presents: Pleasure House, The Cosmics, Teddy Matthews, Happy Bones
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Honeyboy Hickling
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Surprise Attacks Presents: Ræppen, Rosebud, Mntz
The Firefly, Worcester

James Keelaghan
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Folk In The Foyer: Steve Pledger, Under The Wychwood
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Friday 26 May 2017

Kamikaze Test Pilots
The Iron Road, Evesham

Seas Of Mirth
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Brynley Thomas
The Red Lion, Evesham

Chris Hutch
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Vapor
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Seething Akira, Forgotten Remains, Syren City, Fahren, Dakesis
Breaking Bands Festival: Stoke Prior Sports Club, Bromsgrove

Paul Rose Dictatorship
Plesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Tom Walker
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Acoustic Night with Every Thread and Wolfe Sunday
Reet Petite, Leominster

Jordan Mackampa
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Executives
The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Strays
The Bush, St Johns, Worcester

Mister Wolf
The Lamplighter, Stratford Upon Avon

Vinces Blues Jam
Saracens Head, Worcester

Dinosaur Squeak
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mother Popcorn
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Tom Forbes
The Pheasant Inn, Taddington

Phillip Henry And Hannah Martin
The Fleece Inn, Brefferton

Chris Hutchison
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Lechlade Music Festival 26-28th May
Lechlade, See Lechladefestival.Co.Uk

Super Nova
Drummonds, Worcester

Staffs Fest See: [Http://Staffsfest.co.uk](http://Staffsfest.co.uk) 26-28th May
Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge (Staffs)

Barb Wire Dolls, Borrowed Time, Snog The Dog, Vajazzle Dynamite
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

3 Bands £3
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mello Festival 26-28th May
Throckmorton, See Mellofestival.Co.Uk

The Future Set
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Lenny James & The Gator Squad
Queens Head, Wolverley

Protocol
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Pet Shop Boys Tribute
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Adele Aka Natalie Anne Black
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Flash (Queen Tribute)
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 27 May 2017

Tim "Ripper" Owens (U.S.A) + Neuronspoiler
The Iron Road, Evesham

Dire Streets
Guildhall, Gloucester

Drew Hall
Reet Petite, Leominster

Katey Brooks
Elmslie House, Malvern

Someone Like You - Adele Song Book
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Ella Celebrating 100 Years
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Superhooch, Pilla, Colour Of Noise, Core Of Io, Idestroy, Die No More, Sinnergod, Falling Red, Massive Wagons
Breaking Bands Festival: Stoke Prior Sports Club, Bromsgrove

Arcadia Roots
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Kinstrife
Plough Inn, Hereford

Dead Dog Cider
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Dominic Kirwan in Concert With Lisa Stanley
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Ben Vickers
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Beaver & The Foghorns
The Bath Tavern, Cheltenham

Bourbon Alley, Calling Card
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Gloucester Shanty Festival
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Lisbee Stainton
The Courtyard, Hereford

Kaptiv8
The Grapes, Hereford

Mister Wolf 4 - 5pm
The Hagley & Old Hales Beer, Music & Food Festival, Hagley

D N A
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Build For Comfort

The Chestnut, Worcester

Groovyhead

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Zeppelin 3

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

China Shop Bull and Cracked Actors

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

Out To Grass, Cradley

Under The Hill Fest 2017

Secret Location, Evesham See Underthehillfest.Co.Uk

Realm Of Torment, Full Contact, Petulance, Mind

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Paarthurnax, Plus Other Acts T B C., Hannah Clayton, Zoe

Phillips, Lady Z, 2pm Til 9pm 6 Acts in All.

Sapey Village Hall, Upper Sapey Nr Clifton On Teme

The Doonies

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Pete Harrington

The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Camp House Cider Fest 2017 With Live Music From Noon

Camp House, Grimley, Worcester

2Magpies Theatre: Ventoux

The Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Rumour

Queens Head, Wolverley

Steve Ajoa Blues Giants

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Tony Pugh

The Garibaldi Inn, Worcester

I Remember You – Legendary Frank Ifield

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Facestealers

New Inn, Pershore

Unchained: The Best Of Joe Cocker

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Lonely Robot, Touchstone, Ghost Community, A Formal

Horse, Kim Seviour, The Dec Burke Band

The Assembly, Leamington Spa

Motown & Soul Tribute

Amber Cafe, Evesham

Sunday 28 May 2017

The Superskas

The Iron Road, Evesham

Remi Harris

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Della Grants (4pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Featherz, Escaping Arkham, Wicked Stone, Departed,

Gothzilla, Skyteria, Hell's Gazelles, Metasoma, Acid Reign

Breaking Bands Festival: Stoke Prior Sports Club, Bromsgrove

Drifter (Acoustic Blues, Soul & Reggae),

www.Driftertheband.com

The Rock Tavern, Stourport-On-Severn

Dreams Of Fleetwood Mac

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Remi Harris Project

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

1st Bewdley Spring Fair, Bewdley Museum

3rd Life Drawing. Artists workhouse, Studley.

4th Life Drawing at the Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster

4th The Marked. Courtyard Hereford. 7.30pm

6/7th Site Festival Open Studios. Stroud Valley.

6th-27th Hues. Line Gallery, Stroud Valley Artspace, Sat 11-3pm

6th Delight a Thief, The Ark ensemble, Nick Twilley, Redheart Hillies House & Hillies Studio, Gloucestershire

8th-11th Another Mothers Son. Courtyard Hereford.

9th Mouth and Music. Boars Head Kidderminster

11th-31st Abundant Colour – Cherrie Mansfield. No 8 Pershore

12th 'Exposition Finale', Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster (opening night with Ginny Lemon)

12-21st That Third Realm- the Underworld.

Artists Workhouse, Studley

13/14th Site Festival Open Studios. Stroud Valley.

13th May – 16th July 100 years of the Rotary Foundation Exhibition, Bewdley Museum

The Follicles

Horn and Trumpet, Bewdley

Heronimus Fin

Southcrest Manor Hotel Beer Festival, Redditch

Without Flight

Shooters Bar, Leominster

Dymock Festival See: Dymockfestival.Co.Uk

Dymock Festival, Dymock

Grizzly Rhys Morgan (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Mouse Police And The Mts (6pm)

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Beer & Cider Festival (12-12)

The Swan, Staunton

Annual Bretforton Silver Band Asparagus Auction

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Nth Cave, Happy Bones And Friends

Waylands Yard, Worcester

Lechlade Music Festival

Lechlade, See Lechladefestival.Co.Uk

Cider Festival With Live Music

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Mad Mick

The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Winchcombe Festival: Roving Crows

Toddington Village Hall, Toddington

One Tree Canyon

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Jon Eselle

Croft Farm Waterpark, Bredon's Hardwick, Tewkesbury

Sally Live Music 3.00Pm

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Monday 29 May 2017

The Follicles (5pm)

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Fred Fest 17 - Hardwicke Circus Plus Local Bands (3-10pm)

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Pete Clinton Iv Wake Presents: The Blues Duo, The Delray

Rockets, Steve Walwyns Mosquitos (From 2Pm)

The Barrels, Hereford

Petes Wake Charity: The Del Ray Rockets

The Barrels, Hereford

Open Mic With Pete Kelly From 2Pm Till 5Pm

Queens Head, Wolverley

Tuesday 30 May 2017

Lisbee Stainton, A Different Thread, Ellie Anna May

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 31 May 2017

Justin Sullivan & Guests

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Bikers' Nite: Kemastree

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Leo Sayer

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

upload your listings at www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/ or email editorial@slapmag.co.uk

15th & 16th Letters from Baghdad, The Courtyard, Hereford

16th Exhibition on Screen: I Claude Monet. Number 8 Pershore

17th Exhibition on Screen: I Claude Monet. Conquest Theatre

19th A Cartoon History of Here, Evesham Town Hall 7.30pm

19th I'm sorry I read that again, & again! Courtyard Hereford.

20th Worcester Motor Festival, High Street and around

20-28th John Piper exhibition, Elmslie House Malvern

20-29 Abstract Edge, The Chapel Gallery, Bromyard

22nd Mulholland Drive. Courtyard Hereford. 8pm

23rd The Great Big Poetry Read, Evesham Library 2pm

23rd Edge. Courtyard Hereford 7.30pm

25th Missy Malone & Friends' Burlesque, Swan Theatre Worcs.

25th Mulholland Drive. Courtyard Hereford. 2.30pm

26th Scorched. Courtyard Hereford. 8pm

27th Sculpture workshop. Artists Workhouse, Studley

until June 4th Pop Art in Print. The Wilson, Cheltenham

Until 25th June Bones of the Landscape Bewdley Museum

Until 31st Cabinet of Curiosity. Courtyard Hereford

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 & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Tues - Jazz Night

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Tuesday - Plug n Play

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

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

Last Wed - Under 18s open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

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 other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

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 - Conor Maher & Friends

Keystones, Worcester

Every Thursday - Spoken word 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

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

3rd Thur - Jam Session

Reet Petite, Leominster

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 weekly folk night

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Every Friday - Open mic 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

2nd Fri - Open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

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 Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm

The Wharf, Stourport

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 with Liz Kirby 4pm

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

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, Himpleton, Worcs

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

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• SUNDAY •

EDITORS
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PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT × **NADINE SHAH**
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THE MARR'S BAR

MAY
JUN 2017

Lisbee Stainton
Tuesday 30th May



Friday 5th May

The Connor Maher Quartet

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 6th May

Lo Promo: Kylver, Esteban! Bleak Zero

£5 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 11th May

FCS: UK Subs, Brassick,

No Weather Talks

£12 in advance £15 on the door

Friday 12th May

Wreckless Eric

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 13th May

Population 7

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Friday 19th May

3 bands £3

Saturday 20th May

Subhuman Race (Skid Row tribute),

Foreign Quarter

Cost: £6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 25th May

UnCover: Pleasure House,

The Cosmics

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 26th May

3 bands £3

Saturday 27th May

Bourbon Alley

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Tuesday 30th May

Lisbee Stainton, A Different Thread

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Friday 2nd June

The Official Receivers

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 10th June

Mused (Muse Tribute), The Switch

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 16th June

Add Bryan Adams Experience

Price TBC

Saturday 17th June

Under A Banner, Headsticks

£7 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 22nd June

Chris Holmes Mean Man

Price TBC

Thursday 29th June

UnCover: The Real Cool, LIIS

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 30th June

Panic Room

£15 in advance £17 in advance

Saturday 1st July 1

Soul Stripper (AC/DC tribute)

The Wizards of Oz (Ozzy tribute)

Cost: £8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

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