

Issue 51

SLAP

Sept 2015

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Sept 2015 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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

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

EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan - Editor
Kate Cox - Arts editor
Stephan Work - Sub Editor
Samantha Daly - Sub Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare
Chris Bennion
Will Munn
Graham Munn
Naomi Preece
Kate Cox
Bob Jones
Heather Wastie
Gemma Martyn Smith
Jon Weatherill
Samantha Daly
John Reeves
Mad Dave Bately
John Dudley
Ed Ling
Richard Morgan
Sophie Hillyard
Sorchia Cummins
Reg Richardson
Gavin Brown
Kev Tudge
Wolfren Riverstick
Mel Hall
Sand Baker



@slapmagofficial

Design

Mark Hogan

Web & Social Media

Ant Robbins

Front Cover image

Heather Wastie (Worcs Poet Lauriet)

Performing at *The Cabinet of Lost Secrets* by Toni Charles

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Look it's my genetic imperative, I have to mention the weather. So Thank You Very Much Summer, if that's what you call yourself.

Welcome and come on in Autumn you can't be any worse..?

If you were/are one of the multitude who spent weekends in sodden fields and muddy mires masquerading as summer festivals, I feel your pain cuz I was there also!

I'm 51 now and I'll moan if I want to.

Talking of festivals, on a more positive tip please see Mr O'Hare's comprehensive round up of 3 Counties happenings so far and various fest reviews herein. The season however continues apace as we especially look forward to the wonderfulness that is **Worcester Music Festival**.

From Friday 18th - Sunday 20th the Faithful City sees some 240 acts playing at 30 or so venues in what is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet; so take your picks and maybe surprise yourselves with seeing something outside of your comfort zone, in addition to your much loved faves; bit like putting on a new pair of undercrackers.

The printed **WMF** programme is about to hit the streets as Slap go to print and you can peruse their user-friendly website www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk. Unsurprisingly perhaps we at *Slap Mansions* are deeply involved and wholly supportive of **WMF** and we cannot urge you enough to come and take part. This year's festival is supporting and raising much needed funds for the very important organisation **Worcestershire Rape Sexual Abuse Support Centre**, so all the more reason for you to get involved. Please read more about their crucial work at www.wrsasc.org.uk.

And so as Slap slips into muddled middle-age and rejoices in finding the furry Werther's down the side of the comfy but 'waterproof' armchair: *No Sleep Til Horlicks* you Grand mothers!!

Ag-Ed



BBC
introducing...



Mick of all trades does cider!

When he's not catching moles, writing plays or IT troubleshooting, **Mickey Pincher** from Pershore is a regular on his open-mic circuit - but he's been attracting attention in the Food & Drink columns of the local press, with his travelling



cider-making equipment carried in a trailer hitched to the back of his Morris Minor. If you've got more apples than you need and are interested in having a cider-making party - Mickey's happy to provide the equipment and will also provide some musical accompaniment as well!!

Next years 'breaking' bands announced!

After the success of the first **Breaking Bands** rock and metal festival at **Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club** earlier in the year, organisers have already announced 19 bands and three acoustic acts for next year's event - taking place from May 27 to May 29 - including **Blaze Bayley**, **Reign Of Fury**, **Wretched Toad** and **Evil Masquerade** from Denmark! Organiser



Blaze Bayley

Jason McGuire said that with the support of the public, bands and the press it was hoped to make Breaking Bands into one of the best independent festivals in the UK.

Lakefest to grow with Eastnor Castle move!

Organisers of **Lakefest** have announced that due to the increasing popularity of the event - next year will see the event move to the grounds of **Eastnor Castle** - but they stress that they *'in no way intend to replicate the Big Chill but still bring the same passion for music and a family-friendly festival to remember'*. This was confirmed by **David Ward** (general manager of Eastnor Castle), who said that it's great family vibe made it a great success and though it'll be expanded from its current base near Tewkesbury, there were no plans to grow it 'substantially'...



Order's up!

Frank Turner has revealed that his only 'rock star demand' is a cheeseburger before each gig - so the staff at **Rise Records** in Worcester were happy to get one delivered for him before he played a set of numbers from his new album, round the corner at the former Early Learning Centre in Crowngate. The gig had been moved to accommodate the 100+ fans who turned up on the Tuesday lunchtime - Frank had already played sets at the Rise Record shops in Cheltenham and Bristol - and wanted to 'complete the set'...



All round success for James gig!

Around 5000 people turned up to see Mancunian chart-toppers **James** play a 90-minute set at **Worcester Racecourse** - many of whom had also spent the afternoon at the races. General manager of the course, **Jenny Cheshire** said it was a great success and they were looking to organise similar events there in the future. The gig also raised over £1500 for the Help For Heroes charity - an each-way winner!

Pershore Purples serenaded

There's been some concern that the plum harvest in the Pershore area is a couple of weeks late in ripening, due to the recent heavy rains - so, for the third year the award-winning **Plum Festival** has enlisted the services of **Paul Johnson** - the world's only tree whisperer and plum charmer - who recites poems and sings songs to encourage the trees to fruit. Apparently, serenading the trees with jazz blues works best for the Pershore Purples - but sunshine-themed numbers are more successful with the Yellow Egg variety. Paul also says that Ed Sheeran covers from his X album assist in ripening the fruit. We'll let you know the results next month...

Worcestershire poets time to shine!

Worcestershire **Poet Laureate**, **Heather Wastie** is organising a poetry competition to celebrate **National Poetry Day**. It is free to enter, the closing date is Sunday 6th September 2015 and anyone living in Worcestershire is eligible. The winning poets will perform on Thursday 8th October at the **Museum of Carpet**, Kidderminster as part of an evening of poetry with the theme *"Light and Shade"*. For full details of rules and prizes, contact **Worcestershire LitFest**





Clik Clcik are back from a non-stop August with 'Pie n Tash' at the **Kidderminster Arts Festival & Green Man** festival, **Mad Hatters Tea party** at **Lakefest** and the **Wild West Wall of Shame** at **Boomtwn**. Now, time to get ready for the brilliant **Worcester Music Festival** with the 'Tinkle Me' pianos out and about once again, as well as some roaming action with the Clcik Clcik mobile stage bringing you pop up musical experiences during the weekend of 18th-20th September.

Clik Clcik
COLLECTIVE

Story Jams

Ordinary people with extraordinary true stories. **Rhubarb Creatives** believe that we all have a story to tell and as part of **Kidderminster Arts Festival, Story Jams** invited people to share their stories with an intimate audience at the **Cosy Coffee Café**. From poignant and sentimental yarns about relationships, to hilarious rants about law-breaking, mobile librarians and real life cowboys, the room was buzzing with tales from real life.

The ambient atmosphere of Kidderminster's newest coffee shop provided the perfect backdrop for this new storytelling night and the audience commented that these anecdotes provided "the perfect antidote to the Sunday night blues."

The next event will be jamming at **The Victoria Pub** on John Bright St in Birmingham, on Thursday 10th September at 8pm. There will be 6 Storytellers telling true and engaging tales. **Story Jams** lift the lid on people's stories and preserve them through sharing.

If you want to find out more about **Story Jams** nights or have a story to tell, get in touch with Sarah email: storyjams@outlook.com or find **Rhubarb Creatives** on Facebook and Twitter @tworhubarbs



Illustration Beats Explanation

We encounter illustrations every day, be they instructions, cartoons or anatomical diagrams. **Illustration Beats Explanation** features contemporary artists who work in illustration and use comics, storyboards and drawing as a visual way to convey new ideas about the world. The exhibition is a collaboration between **Nathaniel Pitt, Division of Labour Gallery** and the **Museums Worcestershire Team**.

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum 12 Sept to 21 Nov.

KAF

You might have seen or missed **Kidderminster Arts Festival** in it's fortnight of glory and think it's all over, but you can still see 'Luminous Birds' by internationally



acclaimed artist **Kathy Hinde**. The installation see's origami style birds suspended down Vicar Street in the main town centre. At 9.30pm each night, the birds became animated through clever sequencing of LED lights. **Luminous Birds** will be in place until the 6th of September. You can also see **Dave Simpson's** vibrant artwork at the **Boars Head Gallery** on Worcester Street, find him:

www.facebook.com/artdavesimpson
www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

Dancefest

Our fabulous Hereford & Worcester based dance organisation **Dancefest** has some new courses on offer this month!

Prepare to Power Move (ages 11-21)

A guest workshop of fast paced and energetic moves to develop skills in urban dance. **Dirty Feet Dance** will show how to safely do breakdance power moves and create dance material, with the opportunity to perform in a battle on Saturday 14 November in Newport.

Thursday 24 September
5-7pm at **The Angel Centre**, Worcester. £12.

Therapeutic Movement Workshop (18+)

Useful tools and ideas for dance practitioners and teachers when choreographing and dancing with children who have profound disabilities.

Focusing on bodies and props, this therapeutic day of dance is led by dance movement psychotherapist, **Lauren Glendinning** and dance practitioner **Cat Weager**, and will include a visit to **Worcester Snoezelen**.

Sunday 27 September, 10am-3pm, **Sheila Scott Building**, University of Worcester. £25.

Contact **Dancefest** to book at 01905 611199 or dancefest.co.uk



Peep at Picasso

A unique exhibition boasting nearly 40 pieces of work by world-famous artist, **Pablo Picasso**, will be on exhibit and for sale at Barnbury in Winchcombe. Including a suite of 20 hand-coloured prints representing key periods in Picasso's life, visitors can expect unique and vibrant prints that the artist would have had to create through a long, labour intensive and time consuming process. Featuring work from both his 'Blue Period' and 'Rose Period' Picasso was renowned for experimentation and innovation, so here is a great opportunity to see some of his work from 19th September to 31st October at **Barnbury**, an interiors and gifts shop on North Street, Winchcombe.



Lakefest

Croft Farm, Nr Tewkesbury | 7,8,9 August

The fourth **Lakefest** festival (and last at the Croft Farm site) will be remembered by all that attended as a game-changer, the weekend that has firmly established Lakefest as one of the absolute must attend events of the summer. For the past couple of years I've raved about the merits of this intimate yet fast growing festival but this year's weekender has seen the festival move onto a completely new level, with a line-up to rival any of it's more established competitors whilst still retaining that all important warm, rustic feel.

Aside from the music (which I'll get to shortly), the Croft Farm site seemed to be a buzzing hive of activity during the weekend, with plenty on offer for everyone, whether a spot of relaxation in a spa, a ride on the fair, a bungee run or learning a new craft, the organisers of Lakefest had it covered as they maximized the space on offer with a fantastic program of event, complementing the musical line-up wonderfully. Talking of which...

The Haunted Souls

kicked off proceedings on the Friday with a gorgeous harmony enriched take on rustic Americana, blending acoustic guitars and the beautiful, soulful vocals of **Hannah Dallas** and **Sarah Warren**. They created a warm, rich and instantly accessible sound, finding instant appreciation by all in attendance.

Fellow local favourites **Babajack** followed and as expected, delivered a tight set of rootsy blues, driven by the thunderous rhythm section as they bewitched on the likes of 'Breathe', 'Running Man' and a frenzied 'Skin And Bone'.

Ferocious Dog, were an early festival highlight, with an energetic set that blended social and political commentary, ballsy folk and a hard hitting punk attitude, inciting an outbreak of dancing and a whole lot of hollering. With frantic renditions of 'Ruby Bridges', 'Slow Motion Suicide' and an ode to Thatcher entitled 'Criminal Justice' all standing out during an invigorating and compelling set. Welsh hip-hop nut jobs **Goldie Lookin' Chain** followed with a fun, gloriously over the top set full of posturing, strutting and big hooks, as the large ensemble of rappers delivered a set littered with classics including the evergreen 'Guns Don't Kill People (Rappers Do)', 'Half Man, Half Machine' and shout along set closer 'Your Mother's Got A Penis'. Ska legends **Pauline Black** and **The Selector** continued the good time vibes, with a stunning set of skanking old school classics and funky newbies. Powered by a twin horn section plus dual vocals, the band gave their all



and the crowd responded in kind, lapping up every morsel of the set, from new songs to effervescent 2 Tone classics 'Three Minute Hero', 'Emma Peel' and 'On My Radio'.



A quick break for food and then into a crammed **Floating Globe** for a dazzling set by spirited stage headliners and local indie-pop heroes,

Jasper in the Company Of Others

who took the second stage by storm with a flurry of mandolin, guitar, fiddle and a collection of good time, hook-laden anthems such as 'Waiting For The Weekend', 'Between The Lines' and 'Passive Smoke' among others. **Ash** closed the first day in style with a set littered with punchy indie rock classics, taking in the likes of 'Angel Interceptor', 'Kung Fu', 'Start Of The Summer' and a frenzied set finale of 'Girl From Mars' to rapturous applause.

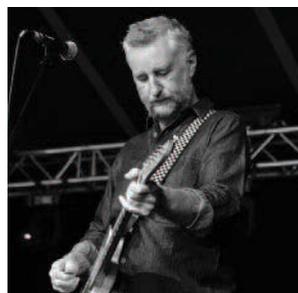


Our second day of Lakefest started with a set of tongue in cheek social commentary, acoustic folk punk and spoken word poetry courtesy of **The Humdrum Express**. Ian (as he's also known) delivered an intriguing, often biting and infectious set, taking in recently acclaimed singles 'Double Edged Sword' and 'Festival At Home' as well as clever spoken word ditties lamenting the power of advertising and tennis among other diverse subjects. A dash over to the mainstage for **Wychwood Festival** heroes **Dreadzone** and another glorious

set of addictive electronic tinged boisterous reggae, with the likes of 'Rise Up', 'Zion Youth' and set closer 'Captain Dread' lapped up by new and old fans alike. Over on the Floating Globe suited and booted



three-piece **Foreign Affairs** delivered a brilliant set that fused upbeat folk and stripped down country with good old fashioned rock 'n' roll for a set of heartfelt laments and rowdy hook-laden anthems such as the rocking 'Piece Of Work' and 'Sell My Soul', proving that Foreign Affairs are definitely a



name for the future. Back on the mainstage **Billy Bragg** was in fine fettle hyping the crowd with a greatest hits set, laced with social and political outpourings with the likes of 'Sexuality' and 'New England' inciting the predictable mass sing-a-long. I would have happily watched Billy from start to

finish but **The Outcast Band** called out to me and drew me in for perhaps the highlight of day two. The folk rock (think an amped Waterboys crossed with The Levellers!!) combo delivered an intense and sweaty set, playing out of their skins as they ran through pretty much all of their *'Longest Mile'* album, with the likes of the *'Intense Garden Song'* and *'Bury Me At Sea'* winning over new converts aplenty. With all the **New Model Army** t-shirts dotted through the audience, the band's set went down like a proverbial storm with the band raining down a torrent of drums and fan favourites over the enchanted masses, whilst **Embrace** wrapped up proceedings with a host of indie sing-a-longs with *'All You Good Good People'* ringing out as we headed off for a bit of kip before the final push.

The final day of Lakefest began with the mellow yet emotive folksy tones of local singer-songwriter **Claire Boswell** drawing a number of curious people away from the carnival of **The Cheeky Girls** with compelling originals such as *'Move In Time'* and choice covers of Loudon Wainwright and Fleetwood Mac. Staying in the Floating Globe, **Mark Harrison** offered a captivating set of stripped back, acoustic blues, complimented by jazzy double bass. Mark's dry humour and winning delivery shone through with the likes of *'Dirty Business'* and *'Your Second Line'* both intoxicating. Next up **The Hawthornes** delivered a fun, contagious set of upbeat folk, delivering inspired takes on *'Hey Ya'* and *'New England'* as well as catchy originals such as *'Drama Queen'* and *'Rainy Day'*. **The Leylines** never fail to impress and once again their driving take on bawdy folk rock left the audience baying for more, having paid witness to an invigorating set by a band built for the biggest of festival stages. **Hayseed Dixie** delivered the ultimate rock classics party set, delivered in their unique, tongue in cheek bluegrass style. *'You Shook Me*

All Night Long', *'Eye Of The Tiger'*, *'Ace Of Spades'* and *'Highway To Hell'*, were all dispatched expertly by the hillbilly brethren to ravid applause, whilst their blistering rendition of *'Duelling Banjos'* left jaws agape in awe, as they produced one of the weekend's stand out moments. That just left the **Magic Numbers** to wrap things up, which they did beautifully as their (fe)male harmonies formed perfect pockets of folk pop perfection on the likes of *'Shot In The Dark'*, *'Forever Lost'* and fan favourite (and festival closer) *'Love Me Like You'*, reaffirming my love for the band after a lengthy absence from my radar.

The fourth year of **Lakefest** was a rousing success, with pin point precision organisation, a top notch line-up and an electric atmosphere during the entire three day duration. Next year sees the festival continue its growth as it moves to **Eastnor Castle** and all I can say is book your tickets early, because you won't want to miss the fifth anniversary of Lakefest.

Words: Will Munn Images: Graham Munn



The Lamb & Flag
**The Tything
Worcester**

Friday 18th Sept
Worcester Ukulele Club
Bitterroots
Granny's Attic

Saturday 19th Sept
The Fidgets
The Poor Boys of Worcester
The Whole Caboodle Ceilidh Band

Sunday 20th Sept
Danny Whitehead
Benjamin Dallow
Dennis and The Menace
The Humdrum Express
Skewwhiff

Steffo Presents

The Lamb & Flag
is proud to support
Worcester Music Festival

**worcester
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

18 - 20 September 2015

Toni Charles

Kidderminster based **Toni Charles (Toots)** has been seen snapping about the area for a while, with her (mostly) band photography taken at many gigs, shoots, **Worcester Music Festival** and us at **SLAP** over the years. This summer I asked Toni to take photos for me at **The Cabinet of Lost Secrets**, the new **Click Klik** project at **Nozstock** festival and the results were so stunning that they needed sharing! I asked Toni a couple of questions about how she feels about the work she produces.....



How long have you been using photography as a medium?

"Photography is something creative that I have always been aware of, shooting since I picked up the family 'point and shoot' to investing in my first DSLR, and it still fascinates me."



"While studying fine art I took up photography as an extra class, which led to my makeshift darkroom. I'd say it was pretty much a learn as I went along process, with inspiration coming from the pages of National Geographic magazine and later on photographers like Mary Ellen Mark, Martin Parr and Weegee. Photojournalists from Magnum and LIFE magazine are what I always come back to time and time again when I need inspiring."



Your work for SLAP?

"My first photo was in issue 5! I happened upon a copy of SLAP one day in Worcester and it sort of made sense that this was something I should do. I had been taking pictures locally for a while at venues and being involved with SLAP gave me a reason to just go out and take more pictures. Since then I've been lucky enough to have had 3 front covers, I won the WMF photography competition one year and met some amazing, talented and creative people along the way."



You have quite an abstract approach, is there thought behind your style or do you just go for it?

"I think to begin with, I have no idea what I'm going to shoot and that's exciting. It's only by going for it sometimes, that I think 'yeah that angle works' then you can put more thought into framing and lighting. Photos have no rules, that's the great thing. At the end of a gig or event, I hope to come out with a picture that gives a sense of energy and excitement and of being there. Sometimes a blurred over exposed picture from a film camera can express that. That's what I love about photography."



Take a peek at her work by searching **Toni Charles** on flickr.com



Paul Baker Exhibition Kestrel Gallery, Worcester

The **Kestrel Gallery** in Sidbury, Worcester is proud to present an exhibition of work by artist and photographer **Paul Baker**.

Using experience gained during a career that has ranged from butchery to construction to care work, Paul has always shown an exceptional attention to detail and use of technology. Starting with a 35mm SLR bought with his first pay packet, and a desire to perfect his art, his work has moved from developing his own prints in a purpose built dark room, to superb reproduction of image and optional manipulation via the latest digital innovation.

Whether setting up a studio for portrait or product photography, photographing railway viaducts, derelict streets

in Liverpool or street art in Brick Lane, inspiration is taken from architecture, history and art movements. A series of art deco interpretations of iconic Worcester buildings has proved amazingly successful and exhibits Paul's unique observation of everyday images. An imaginative presentation of the female form using gothic style and dark art casts his models as steam punk scientists, latex clad vampires or vertebrae covered candy skulls.

The connection with The Kestrel Gallery is well established where the development of styles and digital printing skills are fully recognised. His knowledge is generously shared with a small group of keen photographers based at the gallery. This venue is now delighted to be hosting an exhibition of Paul's work to showcase his exceptional range and skill.

The exhibition runs from 12th September until 10th October 2015, 103 Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU. Tel : 01905 767007
info@kestrelgalleryandstudio.com



Kestrel Gallery and Studio

Picture Framing
Fine Art Printing
Gallery Space

103 Sidbury
Worcester
WR1 2HU
01905 767007
kestrelgalleryandstudio.com



worcester arts workshop



As the summer holidays fade away, we're looking forward to the return of our workshops and courses this September, as well as a host of exciting live theatre and fantastic films across the autumn season!

Our children's summer activities were a huge hit and lots of children created 'Mythical Creatures' inspired tee-shirts, puppets and pottery! If your child joined us for one of our craft workshops during the holidays and hasn't stopped talking about it since, you'll be pleased to know our term time courses are starting again from September!

Every Saturday morning during term time, we run **Kids Art Club** from 10am-11am for ages 5-11 at only £5 a week. Children learn to experiment with various art materials in this engaging workshop, whilst having fun. We also run two pottery workshops for ages 5-16 on a Saturday morning, from 10am-11am and again from 11:15am-12:15pm for just £5. Numbers are limited for **Kids Potter Club** so be sure to book your place to avoid disappointment!



Our teenagers **Art Sessions** run for 7 weeks from 12 Sept-24 Oct and 7 Nov-19 Dec, 10am-11:30am, £42 for the term or £7 drop in. This workshop is aimed at young adults eager to improve their painting and drawing skills. If you are passionate about art or want to improve your art portfolio in a fun, relaxed environment, this is the session for you!

We are very excited for **Vamos Young People's Theatre** (VYPT) starting a new group for 9-13 year olds this September. VYPT members have the opportunity to experience high-quality drama training, focusing on the innovative and engaging mask theatre that Vamos is well known for. VYPT run regular skills sessions in research and development as well as technical work and performance. The term starts on Wednesday 30th September, 5:30pm-6:30pm and will meet weekly every Wednesday until 16th December with a half term break. The cost is £50 per term and a free taster session will run on Wednesday 30th September. For more details please contact the Vamos Theatre office on 01905 312921 or email: info@vamos theatre.co.uk

The annual **Worcester Music Festival** returns on Friday 18th – Sunday 20th September and, as usual, the Worcester Arts Workshop is playing a big part in this free event. With over 250 acts performing all over Worcester, the Workshop will host various acts, from Japanese pop rockers **No Cars**, cosmic blues duo **Vienna Ditto** and classic rockers **Priests to Pilots** over the three days. It's set to be an un-missable weekend of live, original music, so make sure you head down to the Workshop and check it out!

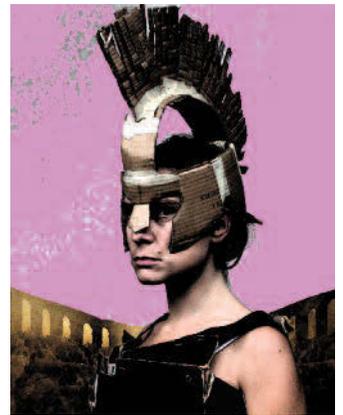
August saw the last of the amazing **Lazy Sundays** for 2015 but don't worry **Café Bliss** will be providing two afternoons of music '**Lazy Saturday**' and '**Soul Sunday**' over the WMF. This is a busy time for the **Bliss Crew**, not only will the café be in full swing on the 19th September, but we've agreed to cater for **Belize Independence Day** in London. You might think this is bad timing, but they know better! **Amanda** and **Eloina** will hopefully be bringing back with them '**Ernestine Carballo**' a Soca singer all the way from Belize to play as special guest for Soul Sunday.

We hope you've enjoyed their season of music, food and company as much as we did! Big thanks to Cafe Bliss and everyone who took part and came along throughout the summer – come back next April for even more great music!

As Lazy Sundays comes to an end, we welcome the return of **Splendid Cinema** in October! An independent film society, Splendid Cinema screens contemporary world cinema releases, as well as locally produced independent films. On Sunday 4th October, we kick off the film season with "**Tokyo Tribe**" (Japan, Shion Sono 2014), a Japanese hip-hop musical about warring gangs in a dystopic future Tokyo, based on Manga series. Starting at 6pm, tickets are £5. Come along, munch on some pop corn and enjoy an original, independent film you won't see anywhere else!



If that was not enough, we are welcoming back **Shindig** to open and close our live season. They are bringing us **Kerpow Theatre's Crazy Little Thing Call Love** on the 22nd October. This is comedy at its best. A completely improvised show, which looks at love in all its forms. On the 5th December, to get us in the festive mood, we will be welcoming the renowned **Farnham Maltings** version of *It's A Wonderful Life*. Sandwiched between these cracking shows, we have got **Spitz and Co** bringing their inventive, physical and very silly new show **Gloriator** on the 12th November. This award winning show reveals



just what happens when a glamorous French actress and her hapless assistant, stage their own version of Hollywood blockbuster *Gladiator*. This is shortly followed by *Echo Beach* on the 25th November, a touching, delicate and honest piece of dance theatre.

For more information on all events and Autumn courses taking place, visit our website on:

www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

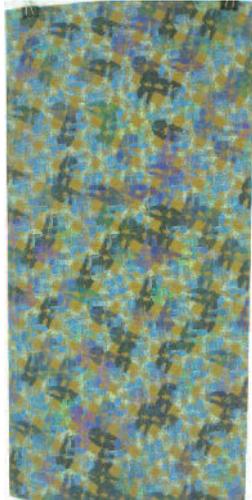
Worcester festival's pop-up exhibitions

This year's **Worcester Festival** was no disappointment, bringing with it some wonderful talent to the city in the form of several exhibitions literally 'popping up' all over the place. And they all had a lovely local and historical twist. In the usual places, we had an exhibition in the **Cathedral** by **Genevieve Belgard**, and exhibits in the city's museums, while **Crowngate** shopping centre hosted the **Narrative exhibition** complete with drawing classes for adults, and **Reindeer Court** hosted a pop-up museum with children's activities.

Genevieve Belgard's *Walking Medieval Worlds* looked at medieval imagery, with delicate intricate drawings, collages and etches. Her training and work in theatre design really shows in her carefully constructed pieces, some of which have taken many years of painstaking work, and are inspired by research in the medieval libraries of Worcester and Hereford cathedrals. The collage details such as feathers on an angel's wings really added an extra depth to the beautiful and often uniquely coloured pieces. Particularly well suited to their setting in the Cathedral's Dean's Chapel.



In contrast, the **Narrative exhibition** in Crowngate's Friary Walk demonstrated the talents of a group of contemporary artists in many different mediums, in its consideration of consumerism. A wall of children's drawings took a central place amid the artworks, with children given the opportunity to draw from the art on display, or create their own pieces. While adult drawing classes inspired us grown-ups to have a go too. A beautifully delicate pen drawing of a face by **Harriet Carter** which was seemingly ruined by the pink acrylic that starkly highlights the way we all manufacture a different kind of beauty with products from shops, while **Patrick Dunn's**



'*Geoff*' was a clever cubist drawing in pencil that made the eponymous Geoff look crumpled in his sleep, like a big piece of paper. But while the artworks here all have a clever point, favourites were those that highlighted a little of Worcester and its historic past. **Robin Woodward's** '*Wallpaper*' series did so subtly, with almost invisible images of **Charles Hastings** within its pattern, while **Mark Hilsden's** atmospheric *Worcestershire Sauce* scene evoked another period, another place, while being firmly rooted in the city.

And last but not least, that theme of Worcester and its

history was continued by the **My Worcester Pop-up Museum** in Reindeer Court. For one weekend only, the Skills for the Future trainees based in heritage placements across the city, brought together a wonderful exhibition of local interest. Panels depicted the favourite objects picked out by visitors and volunteers from each of the city's museums, historic libraries and archives involved in the scheme. Objects from many of the city's museum's could actually be handled, and children could make their own museums to take home. It was a wonderful adventure through Worcester's heritage and a fitting introduction to its many museums.



Once again this year, the **Worcester Festival** has been able to provide a wonderful range of artistic and heritage inspired activities and exhibitions, and all with a local feel. Long may it continue to highlight how wonderful and full of talented individuals this City is.

Sarah Ganderton

Relax with a good Book

The beautiful book benches that were in Crowngate until last month are now touring around, with three of them currently being displayed in the garden at the Hive, and another six sneaking into the children's library there.

Over three hundred Worcestershire students aged seven



and over took part in the competition to design the book benches. From May to July, all the designs entered in the competition were displayed in a shop space in Crowngate, while nine designs were selected as the winners and were made into actual book shaped benches. These have been in Crowngate's Chapel Walk for people to see, and sit on, and are now 'on tour.' The three large benches

will be outside the Hive in the grassy seating area by the viaduct, until mid-late September, so grab yourself a book from the library, take a seat on the book bench in the (eventual) sunshine, and relax.

Sarah Ganderton

Karpet Kickers | Fitted

The **Karpet Kickers** are a six-piece band hailing from Kidderminster, taking their influences from various classic rock bands and splice that with both a funk and reggae influence to create something that's instant and naggingly familiar, yet delivered with a stomp all of their own.

The various members of the band are all veteran, long serving members of the local music scene, so as you'd imagine the band have a tight, well put together sound. Lifting liberally from The Stones on album opener, *Shake Your Hips*, with it's chugging infectious riffs, driving rhythm section, short, sharp solo and a swaggering, attitude licked vocal, courtesy of singer, **Gehardt J Kruckow**. So sure they might not be reinventing the wheel, but as opening salvos go, *Shake Your Hips* ticks all the right boxes, it's fun, energetic and catchy as hell, in fact I can already imagine a rammed full pub hollering it back at the band.

Trailer Trash opens with another big retro rock riff, soon joined by a good old tinkering of the ivories, a pounding bass line and a stomping beat, before

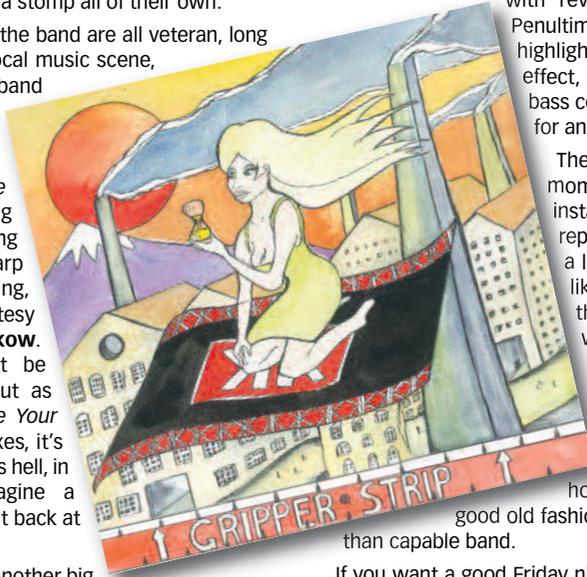
Gehardt lays down another ballsy memorable vocal. Both *Eastern Curse* and *Save Yourself* offer something a little different, with the former driven by an elastic bass riff, that sends the band into a funky reggae spin complete with smooth, almost crooned vocals, whilst the latter opens with a slice of Doors like organ before veering off into a trippy take on indie rock, bringing to mind The Stone Roses complete with reverb soaked, drawled vocals. Penultimate track, *In You I Truly Believe*, highlights that funk element in full effect, as choppy guitars and slapped bass combine with half rapped vocals for an impressive homage.

There are a few questionable moments during the album, for instance *Out Of Sand* opens with a repetitive kick drum that lingers on a little too long (almost sounding like a drum soundcheck) before the track really kicks into gear, whilst the dated keys on *Expertease* threaten to mar an otherwise, pretty decent, reggae number. But minor niggles aside, *Fitted* is a fun album, littered with catchy hooks aplenty and a couple of good old fashioned sing-a-longs, from a more

than capable band.

If you want a good Friday night out with your mates down the pub, **Karpet Kickers** would (on the evidence of *Fitted*) make a damn fine soundtrack.

Will Munn



MOUTH & MUSIC

On Tuesday 8th September 7.30pm, spoken word and acoustic music night **Mouth and Music** returns to the **Boars Head** Kidderminster. This month **Sarah James** and **Angela Topping** will read poetry duets from their new book, *Hearth*, exploring home, memory & commonality. From old fires that 'spark and flame' to 'the heart of a secret' and 'silenced tongues', the sequence picks out the people, places and things that shape our lives.



Sarah James

Elena Thomas is a visual artist who explores and enhances her textile work through songwriting. She will sing songs from "Nine Women", a project about love, lust, loneliness and the life of the middle-aged woman. Joining her on guitar and voice is **Dan Whitehouse**. Admission is just £3 and is free to anyone who signs up for a short spot on the night. The theme this month is "Heart". See www.mouthandmusic.co.uk for more.



Angela Topping



Elena Thomas

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Sculpture Trail

Jinney Ring Craft Centre | 27th Aug - 4th Oct

It's that time of year again when the **Jinney Ring** gardens transform into an outdoor exhibition of dramatic sculptures. 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the **Sculpture Trail** and is set to be the best yet, featuring new as well as returning artists from around the country.

There are some really wonderful pieces in the gardens, including the creations of young local sculptor **Ed Elliot**, who returns to the trail with his figure work carved from tree trunks. Also on display will be a teddy bear's picnic in willow as well as striking semi-abstract pieces and water features. A collection of indoor sculptures will be exhibited in the garden marquee.

This year we are offering guided tours of the exhibition, followed by morning coffee or afternoon tea served in the gardens. This is an opportunity to learn more about the artists



and sculptures on display, as well as the history of the craft centre. Tickets for the tour will be £10 and available to groups of a minimum of 4 people (please book ahead).

The trail itself is free entry as always, and open from 11am until 4pm.



All exhibits on the trail can be purchased or commissioned to be enjoyed in your own home or garden and our staff will be on hand for any enquiries.

Further information at: www.jinneyring.co.uk

Work pictured by:
 Top Left: Ben Greenwood
 Bottom Left: Victoria Hunt
 Top right: Ed Elliot
 Left: David Meredith

SPOKEN WORD & ACOUSTIC MUSIC
OPEN MIC Tuesday 8th September 7.30pm

Sarah James & Angela Topping
 Poetry duets from **Hearth** exploring home, memory & community

Elena Thomas
 with **Dan Whitehouse**
 Songs from **Nine Women** - love, lust, loneliness & the life of the middle-aged woman

MC: Heather Waste
 Theme: Heart
 Admission: £3
 free to performers sign up from 7.00pm

The Boars Head
 39 Worcester St.
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 Tel: 01562 861870

www.mouthandmusic.co.uk
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Sculpture Trail 2015

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27th August – 4th October
FREE ENTRY

Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury Road, Hanbury, Worcestershire B60 4BU
 01527 821272 www.jinneyring.co.uk

Artrix Bromsgrove September highlights

There is a strong classic rock/pop feel to this month's awesome Artrix line-up and first up is the welcome return visit of **Andy Fairweather Low and the Low Riders** on **Sunday 20th September**. Andy first came to prominence as the lead singer of Amen Corner and has a very rich history of collaboration with everyone from Eric Clapton to Kate Bush, testifying to his sheer brilliance as a musician. Andy has also worked with Roger Waters extensively since 1985 - please see below!



the likes of 'Meet Me On The Corner', 'Lady Eleanor' plus of course 'Fog On The Tyne' and the group achieved international success. Former group members **Billy Mitchell** and **Ray Laidlaw** tell the story of the group that became the standard bearers for acoustic rock music.

To round off a packed Artrix month, there's an encore screening of **Roger Water's The Wall** which had its world premiere at last year's **Toronto Film Festival**. This is an event film that unfolds on many levels – an immersive concert experience of the classic **Pink Floyd Experience**, a road movie of Water's reckoning with the past and a stirring anti-war vehicle. Beyond the outstanding music and concert footage, the film offers a rare glimpse of Waters as he reflects on the loss of his father during the Second World War, the impact of which provided the inspiration for many of the songs on the Wall album. This is a cinematic journey that offers a revealing portrait of a musician who has been through enough, and lived in the world long enough, to be passionately and unapologetically anti-war.

This very special screening is on **Tues 29th Sept** at 8.00pm

For tickets and further information on all events at Artrix please visit www.artrix.co.uk

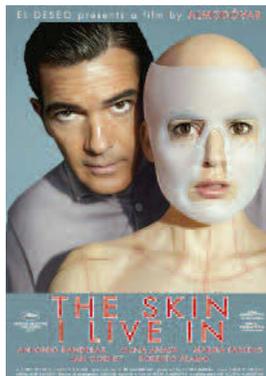


On **Sunday 27th** **The Lindisfarne Story** will be playing acoustic versions of some of their classic songs. Their sparkling songwriting cut through the prevailing pop and glam sounds of the seventies, with



September see's the most varied programme of events so far for the newly re-established **Weekend Cube!** We have **Darts, Music, Theatre, and Film** events this month so there really is something for everyone!

Kicking off we have the our **Spanish Food and Film** night hosted by the **Cake Tin Cafe** on Friday 4th September. Tickets cost £15 and include a two course spanish meal along with entry to the showing of 'The Skin I Live In' (2011) the story of a brilliant plastic surgeon, haunted by past tragedies, creates a type of synthetic skin that withstands any kind of damage. His guinea pig: a mysterious and volatile woman who holds the key to his obsession.

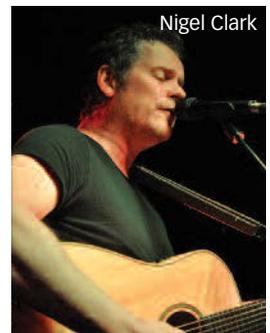


Saturday 5th September see's our first sporting event at Malvern Cube! We welcome **World Champion Darts** stars **Terry Jenkins, Steve Beaton, Ian White Andy Smith** and **Justin Pipe** to **Dartsfest!** Players will be around to entertain you with the skilled play and mingle with their fans for the evening. This event will be ticketed entry only with limited tickets still available from Elite Services Malvern.

Home grown talent **Ovaryacting** are celebrating their first birthday as a collaborative theatre group this month. They will be performing their fantastic piece 'Not Fast Enough' on Friday 11th September followed by some celebratory drinks. The piece strives to invite the audience into a conversation of what it means to be a feminist in today's society, the joys and fear that it can mean; but also to look at how gender and social constructs are integrated into our daily lives.

Cube Shuffle is back on Sunday 13th September. This FREE, family friendly, Malvernesque Sunday afternoon event features a beautifully eclectic line up of musicians and DJs, local ale/cider/food, and arty crafty stalls. There will be plenty of child friendly activities going on throughout the day, including bouncy slide, candy floss, face painting and cake sprinkling with the **Cake Tin**. We will also have some lovely craft stalls from local artists and designers for you to have a good fumble through! Fantastic local live music will be showcased all day with the line up still to be finalised. The Cake Tin will be kindly adapting their menu and will be cooking up some tasty hot-pots in addition to their regular selection of great snacks and delicious cake.

Coming up in October we have performances from **Nigel Clark** of **Dodgy, Babajack** and the **New Forbidden** and a fantastic show, 'Nine Lives'. For more information check out www.malverncube.com



The Remi Harris Project

Artrix, Bromsgrove Saturday | 19th Sept

Local guitar hero (he'd hate that!) **Remi Harris** stays loyal to his Three Counties roots, despite garnering increasing amounts of national and international acclaim, by bringing his singular blend of gypsy jazz to the beloved Bromsgrove venue **Artrix** on September 19th.



Two quotes well worth re-printing are **Jamie Cullum**: "*Incredible guitarist...I'm absolutely blown away by his talent*" and UK jazz legend **Digby Fairweather**: "*...probably Britain's greatest jazz guitarist to emerge since Martin Taylor*". Praise indeed but Remi effortlessly lives up to his reputation and indeed as **Ian Mann** of *The Jazzman* wrote he "*...just keeps getting better and better*".



Remi's renown is rightly spreading and he has gained plaudits from the esteemed likes of Jamie Cullum, Cerys Matthews, Digby Fairweather and Terry Wogan, whilst getting rave reviews from *The Jazzman*, *Guitar Techniques* and *Brumlive* amongst many others.

The gifted 27 year old's unique style is a cauldron of elements from swing, blues, bebop, rock, world music, pop and contemporary jazz, flavouring the main ingredient of gypsy jazz and he sure to wow, stun and entertain the Artrix faithful in equal amounts. Make sure that you are among that number!

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John Etheridge



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www.thejazzmann.com
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Artrix, Bromsgrove
Sat 19th Sept
www.remiharris.co.uk

Ash Mandrake

Red Lion, Evesham | Saturday, 8th August

Something different this way cometh! Should you be requiring a suitable act for a medieval festival (or any other event for that matter), then **Ash Mandrake** is definitely the ideal candidate for the task. And so it came to pass that **The Red Lion, Evesham**, managed to procure this very man for a sweltering afternoon gig, not to be left out of the town's **Battle of Evesham** weekend celebrations.

This was the first occasion that Ash had performed in Evesham, something that has been far too long a time in coming, but well worth the wait! Initial expressions of uncertainty (so obviously portrayed on the faces of a few), quickly melted away to become replaced with ones of mesmerizing admiration for this extremely talented individual as he commenced the first of three sets, splendidly orchestrated for this particular three-hour show. A high-octane, energy-fuelled spectacular from this songwriter and wordsmith extraordinaire, who is also one of the most convincing storytellers to ever grace our shores.

Ash skilfully tells his tales (each one accompanied by a different hand-made leather hat), woven between his music (played on a twin-neck, custom-built, leather-clad guitar equipped with sixteen strings, no less!) consisting a mix of his own tunes and the most magical of covers one could ever imagine. Whilst holding the audience spellbound with his astonishing looped vocal accompaniment, he amuses with an array of facial expressions whilst making use of regional dialects, in a display of theatrical antics worthy of any great

stage. To this end, one could only describe his act as "folk meets Frank Zappa, with perhaps a little Robin Williams thrown in for good measure."

A former English teacher turned full-time performer, Ash is literally a wandering minstrel, for he lives on the road. Unfortunately, though, his car and caravan were written off whilst travelling between gigs in late July. This has not prevented him from honouring his bookings, mind you, and he has continued in the face of adversity to please audiences nationwide. Having set up a crowd-funding campaign following the loss of his home in order to finance the continuation of his lifestyle, the good news is that support for him realized the intended target in less than two days and he will no doubt be coming to a venue near you very soon!

So, if you haven't taken the opportunity to witness this superb showman in action, please endeavour to do so at your nearest given opportunity. Do go with an open mind and ears however and expect the unexpected as well as being fully entertained. There is not enough space here to write all that could be said about this wonderful performer, but you can learn just about all you need to know at:

www.ashmandrake.com.

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Missing Sparrows

Priests To Pilots, Special Guest Worcester Rowing Club | Friday 31st July

The end of July saw three new (ish) local bands join together to raise some money and awareness for a worthy local charity, **Backwards4Butch**, in aid of local girl **Alice Butcher**, a rare cancer sufferer and live music fan.

Worcester's Rowing Club played host to the eclectic mix of musical styles, as the trio of bands plied their wares to an enthusiastic crowd. Opening proceedings were **Special Guest** (although I get the impression by now they will have changed monicker a dozen times or more), a young, energetic and somewhat ramshackle rock covers act, that performed everything from The Arctic Monkeys to Hendrix via Stevie Wonder and Queens Of The Stone Age. The band proved to be a great deal of fun with renditions of Johnny B Goode and Fell In Love With A Girl particularly worthy of note, warming the audience with a contagious energy and a desire to entertain.

Special Guest may have been all about a couple of mates forming a band and blasting out their favourite songs for fun (and I commend them for that!!), but in contrast you get the impression that second act **Priests To Pilots** have their sights set slightly higher. The indie rock outfit are a new addition to the local music scene but have already performed across Birmingham, as well as performing on the main stage at **Hopfest**. The four-piece, led by **Jack Charles** are currently peddling covers from the likes of The Killers (Jenny Don't be Hasty) and The Vaccines (If You Wanna), but the band already understand the use of rise and fall, whilst also possessing a vocalist who's equally adept at the rousing rocker and more melodic, laid back indie ballad. Given time, a few more gigs and an original hook or two, Priests To Pilots could be well worth a second look.

Headliners **Missing Sparrows**, despite their tender years (lead singer **Tallula V** is a mere 15 years old, whilst the oldest



member, drummer **Carlos Browne** is only 21) have already managed to write a "hook or two", they've also crafted an original and infectious sound. Combining 60's pop, modern day indie rock, Americana and upbeat rock n roll to dazzling effect. Watching the band for the first time is somewhat startling, the pure (think American high school) vocals of **Tallula**, clashing elegantly with the spikier tones of **Niall Addis** work brilliantly, whilst duel guitars, infectious keys and clever rhythms help layer and frame the (mature beyond their years) lyrics wonderfully. An all original set, lifted from an apparent list of over seventy songs written, was littered with highlights from start to finish with the likes of *Alien* and the bouncy *Teenage Joyride* taking early honours, *Cowboy* showcased that stripped down acoustic Americana influence, with even the drummer breaking out an acoustic guitar, whilst the sing-a-long radio anthem in the making, *Stole A Song From Elvis* and set closer *Bright Light City* both provided a winning, punchy, crowd assisted chorus. **Missing Sparrows** are more than capable of making a massive splash, given time, nurturing, exposure and a well produced CD. They already have the sound and a plethora of addictive dirty pop anthems that are just begging to be heard.

Will Munn

Will Killeen

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | Thurs 13th Aug

The **Gardeners Arms** saw host to **Will Killeen** as he filled the Spa with music for Slap Mag's **4 Shires** events and festivals night as this months main featured artist.

A highly acclaimed Irish, acoustic, blues guitarist and singer/songwriter, he showed he has a totally unique style; Celtic roots mixed with American blues.

Performing tracks that range from early blues standards right through to Dylan classics, delivering them with inimitable percussive guitar and whirling vocals. He's also considered to be one of the foremost slide guitar players in Europe today, showcasing this brilliant talent on a number of his songs.

A dazzling player with a huge repertoire of songs, Will is a walking representation of blues history, taking you on a journey from the likes of



Robert Johnson and Elmore James... through to an unlikely, but brilliant version of "*Duelling Banjos*" - all on one acoustic guitar!

Whatever he played he amazed the audience with his own compositions and new arrangements of traditional songs, inspiring the supporting duo **Missing Sparrows** and local Spa singer **Lauren Nicole**!

The Missing Sparrows 'Duo' focussed on their own songs with tremendous high energy and enthusiasm, songs of the calibre of *Technophobe*, *Rita*, *Teenage Joyride*, *Candy Girl* while *Stole a Song From Elvis* had the audience singing along.

All this more than justifies them going into the studio for 10 days at the end of August, to record these catchy self penned songs.

The evenings opener was Spa's own **Lauren Nicole** who performed covers by Paloma Faith, Ed Sheeran and Christine Aguilera to name a few. Additionally, performing her own songs such as, *Lock Down* and *Prada Shoes*, which she will be releasing on an EP in the near future. She finished her set with her vocal focussed cover of *Rudy*, setting the audience up for a high-energy night.

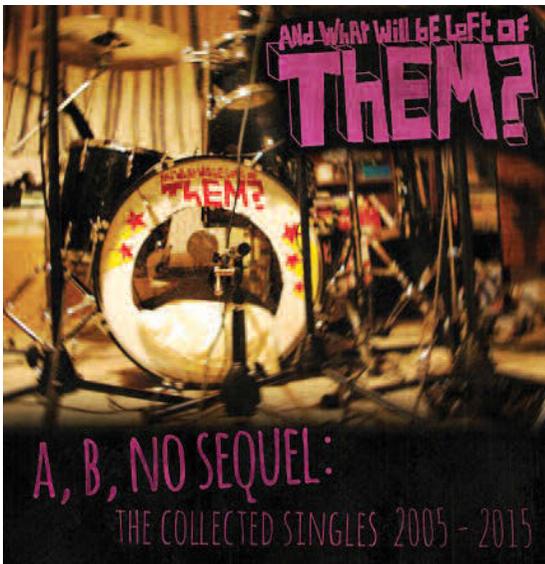
All in all a great night of individual music by all performers, enjoyed by a more than appreciative audience.

JD

And What Will Be Left Of Them?

A,B, No Sequel: The Collected Singles 2005-2015

Back in 2003 the Worcester music scene received a much needed jolt of energy when, the smoldering ashes of **A Way To Manchua** and **Alice Loves Picasso** join forces to create a new beast, built on energy, battered punk guitars and big pop hooks, the band quickly established themselves as firm favourites as they marched across the county and beyond.



AWWBLOT were driven by the frantic drums of **Chris Wemyss** and the pounding bass of **Joe Beech**, combined with infectious splashes of the gloriously lo-fi pop keyboards of **Matt Pooler** and the punchy riffs of **Pete Adams**, topped off with a combination of Pete's yelps and the edgy pop wail of **Lucy Harvey-Wells**. The songs themselves tended to be sub three minute blasts of frantic fun, that at times sounded like they were on the brink of collapse, yet somehow remained in tact, held together with a delicious combination of hair clips, killer hooks and superglue.

The shows were always memorable, electric affairs, Pete and Lucy played the part of the most dysfunctional pop couple to sheer perfection, pushing and pulling one another in different directions, whilst the ever growing crowds lapped and hollered along with every morsel.

Between 2005 and their decision to originally split in 2009, the band recorded a host of contagious stand alone singles, B-sides and compilation contributions (as well as a critically acclaimed album **The Hi-Fi Low Life**), which they've now decided to collate (along with a brand new track) in one glorious package for fans and newcomers alike.

The eighteen track compilation, perversely opens with the brand (and near self-titled) new track (recorded this year), **AWWBLOT X**, a two minute summation of why the band were so (and still are) revered, a thrashy punk bass line, buzzsaw guitars, beaten to death drums, the cheesy yet catchier than the common cold keyboards and Pete's semi spoken vocals, clashing gloriously with Lucy's pretty yet deadly tones, all welded together to create a beautifully shambolic and essential noise that quite frankly, I've missed.

From there, it's all thriller, no filler, *Get Him A Gun* opens with some nice delicate, tasteful keyboards and new wave vocals, until Pete and Chris break down the door with a filthy slab of punk guitar and barrage of beats, for an adrenaline fueled chorus, *Come With Me* is a wonderful spiky ode to the dancefloor romance, complete with a simplistic, choral vocal hook and one of those aforementioned essential yet cheesy keyboard breaks.

AWWBLOT always had a thing for Christmas, back in 2007 they delivered a version of Jesus. Changes that showcased the band at their most stripped back, as the band donned acoustic guitars and delicately tinkered the ivories, whilst the previous year saw Lucy and Pete trading bickering vocals (think a modernised lo-fi pop version of Shane MacGowan /Kirsty MacColl) on the Christmas Number One that never was, *Filthy Little Christmas*, both are included here as you warm up for the silly season.

I could go on and on, I could tell you about the whooping hook of *Four Years To Be An Artist*, or the dirty grunts and groans of *Dripping Wet*, or the infectious clatter-pop call to arms of *Vive La Revolution*, or the Joe Jackson (is she really going out with him?) aping, *Worth Nothing*, or early fan favourite *Wendle, No!* But, I should leave you something to discover for yourself.

And What Will Be Left Of Them? provided light in an other wise grey and dreary scene and ten years later they still sound as vibrant and as fun as ever, let's hope they can get it together and come and play a few shows in support of this essential release.

Available 31st August on iTunes, Spotify etc!!!

Will Munn

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- Thurs 10th SLAP MAGAZINE Performer of The Month 8.30pm
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- Fri 18th Glam Rock Tribute Singers Night Fancy Dress 7.30pm Live Music 7.30pm
- Sat 19th German Oktoberfest Bottled Beer German food Festival All Day
- Thurs 24th Sally Hosts Droitwich Divas Ladies Night Sing Dance Drink Live Music 8.00p
- Fri 25th Stewart Anthony Live The Best of the 80's 7.30pm Live Entertainment 8.00pm
- Sun 27th Remi Harris Live Entertainment 1.30pm

Saltfest Vines Park Droitwich

- Fri 11th Junction Seven Band - Shaun Lane DJ 2n in the World Music Starts 7.30pm
- Sat 12th Missing Sparrows - The Capital Band Music Starts 6.30pm
- Sun 13th Chicago Bytes Band - Stompin' on Spiders' - Roving Crows Band Start



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The Stirs

River Rooms, Stourbridge | Friday 7th August

I was off to see **Oasis vs Stone Roses** at the River rooms in Stourbridge to enjoy some BritPop nostalgia. I didn't know it at the time, but it would be a band from the present day that would leave an impression on me.

The Stirs were supporting the night's show and after asking around about them, I discovered that these four men have been making music together for only the last 18 months, but were already pioneering their well honed songs and stage presence into a well welcome breath of fresh air.

The band casually took to the stage and without so much as a quick "hello", picked up their instruments and began to own their creative space. Front man Mike positioned his pint of Guinness on the edge of the stage as the rest of the band launched into their first number. Having taken a setlist off them following the show I now thankfully know the song names, ready and waiting for their next local bash. "Surrender" was the perfect set opener for any provocative guitar band to open with, and the build up between drummer Danny and bassist Ben immediately sets a feeling of suspense (and for me anticipation). At the height of this frantic, groovy build up, a crash of cymbals and guitarist Jon sneers his guitar lines into the mix, which seemed to pull the crowd (me included) out from every nook and cranny, filling the space before the stage just in time for their opening verse.

Mike's vocals cut through nice and loud as the band continued into the story of their set. One never really grasped

at the time the exact subject he was singing about, but it is meaningful and leaves you pondering every couple of lines. The melodies complement the four piece's organised, yet raw rock sound, with every tune as upbeat and melodic; just the sort of thing (if I remember rightly) indie giants The Libertines and even Oasis themselves used to do oh so well.



The band end their time on stage with an absolute belter of a tune. Mike snarled "This is our last one Argentina, cheers!" before bolting into a riff driven song the band obviously love to play. It's an assault of guitar solos, gritty real life poetry and ultra modern indie, with almost digital like bass and drums. It summed **The Stirs** and their set up perfectly and these guys are a must see. You never know, they could end up fuelling a new generation, like great British rock bands 20 years before them!

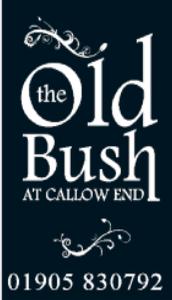
Duology: Vincent - A Stranger to Himself and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Swan Theatre, Worcester | Thurs 24th September

An exciting event at the venerable Swan, with special local interest as young Worcester dance **Grace Rayner** has been chosen to join **Chantry Dance Company** for this their 2015 UK tour, **Duology**. Grace is a student at top Worcester performing arts school **The Academy** and won her place via audition, giving her an amazing opportunity.

The Chantry Dance Company is one of the UK's most versatile and exciting modern ballet companies and this innovative double bill showcases two original ballets; one based on the life of Vincent Van Gogh and the other on Mozart's famous serenade. Celebrating the lives and works of these two geniuses, *Vincent - A Stranger to Himself* is a dramatic ballet based on the life and loves of Vincent Van Gogh, as well as the relationship with his one true passion - his art.

Set to Mozart's famous composition of the same name, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* is especially designed to encourage the audience to feel that they can create their own interpretation of the dance imagery presented, showing that often there is no 'right' or 'wrong' way of understanding dance.





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www.old-bush.com

Duology: Vincent - A Stranger to Himself and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
Swan Theatre, Worcester | Thurs 24th September

An exciting event at the venerable Swan, with special local interest as young Worcester dance **Grace Rayner** has been chosen to join **Chantry Dance Company** for this their 2015 UK tour, **Duology**. Grace is a student at top Worcester performing arts school **The Academy** and won her place via audition, giving her an amazing opportunity.

The Chantry Dance Company is one of the UK's most versatile and exciting modern ballet companies and this innovative double bill showcases two original ballets; one based on the life of Vincent Van Gogh and the other on Mozart's famous serenade. Celebrating the lives and works of these two geniuses, *Vincent - A Stranger to Himself* is a dramatic ballet based on the life and loves of Vincent Van Gogh, as well as the relationship with his one true passion - his art.

Set to Mozart's famous composition of the same name, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* is especially designed to encourage the audience to feel that they can create their own interpretation of the dance imagery presented, showing that often there is no 'right' or 'wrong' way of understanding dance.

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester Fri 25th Sept

It would be fair to say that the musical partnership of **John Otway** and **Wild Willy Barrett** has been a rocky one to be sure. Willy was a musical prodigy who learned to play at the



age of four and had already mastered the guitar, piano, banjo and fiddle by the time Otway gave his first performance - drinking a bottle of ink, down in one, in the school playground! It was only because they lived a hundred yards apart and a fortune-teller told Otway that he would achieve fame with a blonde haired musician that they ever worked together in the

John Otway & Wild Willy Barrett



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Simon Weston: My Life, My Story
 25th September - £15



John Otway & Wild Willy Barrett
 25th September - £15



Photo by Dani Bower



Chris Ramsey: All Grown Up
 24th September - £17.50



Iain Lee Versus Radio
"Brave and fearless... unmatchable"
"Fiercely and earnestly... compelling"
 11th September - £15



Jack and Jill & The Red Postbox
 11th September - £12



Photo by Kevin Gibson

Duology: Vincent - A Stranger To Himself and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
 24th September - £12.50



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www.worcesterlive.co.uk

WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

18th - 20th September Immense talent en route to Worcester

The line-up for the eighth **Worcester Music Festival** is now complete, with around 250 of the hottest emerging bands and artists from across the UK getting ready to play at the mammoth, original music celebration taking place in the city from Friday, September 18th to Sunday, 20th.

With SLAP being such a great ambassador for local talent, we thought we'd share a few of our top picks from out of town, acts that are coming from far and wide to entertain at our free entry event. It's also a great opportunity to introduce some of our amazing venues across the city.

One act we are particularly excited to have on the bill at **The Marr's Bar**, is acclaimed punk poet **Attila the Stockbroker**, who was launched into public consciousness by legendary DJ John Peel in the 1980s and has spent 35 years touring the world as a one man cottage industry, performing over 3,000 gigs in 24 countries and releasing 40 LPs/EPs/CDs and seven books of poetry.



At the **Paul Pry**, check out folk punk solo artist **B-Sydes**, who describes his music as '*Like Frank Turner and Jeff Buckley in a fist fight*'. He has just recorded his debut album *Constant Fictions* in between stints on the road, which looks to be a real cracker.

Below ground in **Monroes Cellar Bar**, we have Whitely, who has been composing chipmusic (8-bit) since the age of 12 and is now exploring seapunk, tropical tunes that incorporate bits of 90s house, pop and R&B and the latest in southern trap rap.

At **The Firefly**, you can feast your eyes and ears on **Constructor**, who are becoming well-known for their energetic-hectic live shows and fast heavy riffs, sharing the stage with the likes of Wilhelm Scream, Palm Reader, Baby Godzilla, 68, Stillbust, He Is Legend and Monuments.

You can also see **Steve Strong** at The Firefly, an immense drummer with 15 years under his sticks who expanded his repertoire to include multiple instruments. Building live guitar loops and overdubbing drum tracks, to create his first solo projects. A one-man band with a difference.



The main folk programme, which takes place over the weekend at **St. Swithun's Institute Halls**, is a huge part of the festival and ones to see this year include **Fred's House**, who have extensively toured the UK and played some major festivals, their outstanding live shows gathering them rave reviews from all corners of the country, including live sessions with Bob Harris and BBC 6 Music.

More quality folk acts plus Indie and general wackiness reigns supreme at **The Lamb & Flag**, as this venerated venue plays host to ever-faithfuls such as **Bitterroots**, **Worcester Ukulele Club**, **Poor Boys of Worcester** and **Skewwhiff**, whilst welcoming talented newcomers plus 1st time appearances from the very marvellous **Granny's Attic** and wonderfully witty **Humdrum Express**.

At **Worcester Arts Workshop**, highlights include voodoo sci-fi blues band **Vienna Ditto**, which, after being played on Huw Stephens' Radio One show, performed on the BBC Introducing stage at Glastonbury Festival and earned a Maida Vale session for Tom Robinson on BBC 6 Music.

At the workshop, you can also see **Establishment**, an eclectic, fierce mix of raw metal and dark electronic complete with epic, cinematic soundtrack elements, sinister samples and eastern influences. This is backed by an intense and physical energetic live experience.

Pavilion In The Park, meanwhile, is playing host to **The Assist**, a 4 piece indie/alternative band who have performed headline gigs at the O2 in Birmingham and Manchester and had support slots with Happy Mondays, Reverend and the Makers and bass player of The Jam Bruce Foxton.

Young Causeway at **Swan With Two Nicks** is another must-see, a 2-piece folk pop band founded at Camberwell College of Arts who are now becoming established on the London live music scene, collecting influences from a number of singer/songwriters of the '60s and '70s.



The Pig & Drum also has a top-notch line-up, including alternative rock band **Go Primitive**, who have supported We Are The Ocean, The Subways and many more. **The Bridge Inn** is also set to wake up the city with the likes of **Masiro** on the bill, an experimental mathcore and instrumental techcore band – think 10,000 geometric-edged, titanic-sized boulders slamming down off a mountain and razing an episode of Springwatch to the ground and you're halfway there.

Off the scale artists returning to WMF include Japanese Kill Bill-esque pop band **NO CARS**, **Barnaby Carter** and his blissful electronic music and **Luke Wylde & The Japes** and their acoustic guitar undertones, delicate ukulele highlights, full-bodied bass and energetic percussion that flirt with Californian surf pop riffs. There's also '90s grungers and MTV UK's unsigned comp winners **The Kut** and **The Pink Diamond Revue** for those who love music that blends darkwave washes with '50s, reverb guitar twangs and psychedelic effects.

Overall, we're spoilt for choice again this year, both from the county and further afield – to check out the full line-up of who's on and where, visit www.wumufest.co.uk, Facebook and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.

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B:Fest at The Bridge Tenbury Wells Saturday 8th August 2015

The Bridge at Tenbury Wells is no stranger to hosting Live Music. It has a strong tradition going back to the days when Rock 'n' Roll was in its youth, hosting none other than The Beatles in April 1963. At the time, the Fab Four had scored two number one singles and were at the top spot in the album charts. Jump back to the future and we find that musical tradition being kept very much alive with **B:Fest**, an all-day free music festival, organised by **Mike McBride**. Mike started this event five years ago as a way to give up and coming local acts the opportunity to take to the stage alongside some more established names.

The first up and coming act this year was 18 year old **Max White** from Tenbury, who opened **B:Fest 2015** with a mix of self-penned songs and some popular covers. Max has been writing songs for a good number of years, which can clearly be seen as he performs with a maturity beyond his years while keeping a fresh youthful sound that cleverly mixes guitar and vocal loops. Max is heading into the recording studio soon to record his first single.



Next up, **Michael Knowles and the STDs** from Worcester, describing themselves as the most infectious band in the country. The STDs put on a show that combines no-nonsense rock with outrageous, bawdy humour. Many laughs were to be had amongst this year's B:Festers especially during the highlight of their set; a song devoted by Michael to his band, telling of how much he loves them while referencing the frontman of a certain Worcester band who is known for dressing in white. All very tongue in cheek (wasn't it?).

Tom Hingley, formerly of Manchester band **Inspiral Carpets**, pleased the crowd in the mid-afternoon sunshine. Younger music fans may not be aware of how huge Tom's band were back in the early nineties, so much so that a certain Noel Gallagher was a roadie for them for a while. Tom played new material and some classic Inspiral tunes, including *'This is How it Feels'* and *'Dragging Me Down'*. Tom stuck around after his performance signing merchandise that included CDs and bottles of his own Hingley brew. Apparently, former members of his band told him he was so bitter they should name a beer after him . . . so he did!

Tenbury's own **Steve 'Reggie' Roberts** proved popular with a set of his own songs. Two stand-out tunes for me were *'King or Queen'* and *'Diggin' My Heels'*.

By this time in proceedings, the sun had firmly got its hat on and the good music lovers of Tenbury were coming out to play as Cardiff's **The Undivided**, recently back from Canada Music Week in Toronto, took to the B:Fest stage. This four piece band know how to get a party started and brimming with confidence, they would sit comfortably on any stage. They write and perform original songs and judging by this

performance, they display a clear ambition to succeed at everything they do.

Local duo **The Restraints**, had some in the audience singing along to a set of songs written by none other than event organiser himself **Mike McBride** (or so they said!). The Restraints were clearly a crowd pleaser with this year's B:Festers.

Heading into the early evening, indie four piece **The Stirs**, from Kiddy, impressed with a lively, jumpy set of well-crafted original songs, full of hooky guitar riffs. A particular stand out



track was their recently released single, the aptly named *'Summertime'*. **The Stirs** have been together for a mere 18 months and already they are hard at it, gigging all around the country.

From indie to the pop rock of Worcester band **Answer Back**, who performed a set of originals with a smattering of covers. This band understand how to engage with the audience and in doing so had B:Festers singing and dancing during their entire performance. The three way harmonies help make the songs stand out and, with **Chris Lewin** on both drums and vocals, Answer Back have a real gem in the band. They closed their set with a modern twist on the Proclaimers *'500 Miles'*, with an energetic audience raucously singing along.

Now for something completely different: the guitar talent that is **Bren Haze**. Bren, one of the nicest musicians I have ever met, had just made the trip from **Lakefest** in Gloucestershire, where he had performed earlier in the day on the BBC introducing stage. Bren performs alone, mixing up acoustic and electric lead guitar effortlessly in his inspiring songs. Bren's style fits perfectly with the festival season and this man is a real talent. Bren has a new album *'Step into the Haze'* at brenhaze.com, well worth checking out.

The penultimate act of B:Fest 2015 was Cheltenham alternative rock band, **Ocean Breed**. With the sun starting to set, they banged out a strong set of originals, influenced by the likes of Pearl Jam, Metallica and Offspring.

I really do not think I will have to explain what **BC/DC** were all about, just that they were a fitting finale to a fine day of live music, with authentic versions of *'Whole Lotta Rosie'*, *'Thunderstruck'* and *'Highway to Hell'* that had the whole little festival head-banging.

I must mention one of the godfathers of the local music scene, Mr **Malvern Rocks** himself, **Ralph Tittley**, on this occasion wearing his sound tech hat as he has done at every B:Fest to date. Is there no end to Ralph's musical talent? Well, seems not, as he yet again did a great job on sound.

B:Fest, run by musicians, for musicians, supporting local music. **Mike McBride**, well done to you sir!

Words: Kev Tudge Photos: Jem Vipond

Pretty Things Peep Show

The Iron Road, Evesham | August 5th 2015

With a preponderance of pulchritudinous players performing perfectly practiced procedures for public pleasure... welcome to the **Pretty Things Peepshow!**



This four-person troupe took the form of a carnies side-show, so if you like pretty girls with tattoos, pretty girls with knives, pretty girls with swords, pretty girls playing with fire, pretty girls not wearing a lot or small, muscled Scotsmen with big sideburns... this is the show for you. Did I mention there were pretty girls? I did? OK, how about **Scraps** the psychic dog!

The MC for the night was **GoGoAmy**, an American with a fantastic pair... sorry personality and a list of jokes to tickle anyone's fancy (and yes, there were plenty of feathers for that too). GoGoAmy was well supported (well, most of the time quite unsupported actually!) by **Madeline Lugosi Glasseater** and husband and wife combo, **Charlie** and **Rachel Atlas**.

After the introductions were over it was down to business!



First up, following an impressively quick change of costume by GoGoAmy, was Charlie & Rachel Atlas showing just how easy it is to climb a ladder of swords, no accidents here but I can think of better ways to cut toenails. Corsets came off (several times throughout the show), tassels were twirled and even set on fire as the stars of the show jiggled, wiggled and performed some death defying routines including the swallowing of swords, having knives thrown at them or almost being skewered in the **Transylvanian Spike Box of Doom!**



Other highlights included Scraps the psychic dog, who had a strangely human voice, flaming boobs and one young lad having his wish come true after rubbing something hard. If you're into boobs, bums and general tomfoolery get along to one of their shows before they disband to all corners of the globe, they're well worth seeing. Oh, and lads, don't forget to wash your hands.

Reg Richardson

prettythingspeepshow.com

September Picks for Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Room Upstairs at Redditch's **Palace Theatre** is an intimate studio space which really punches above its weight in both terms of quality and value.



This month Upstairs finds regular Midlands' comedy club **Ship of Fools** making its debut on **Friday 18th** with the best in rising, rib-tickling talent. Be assured that you

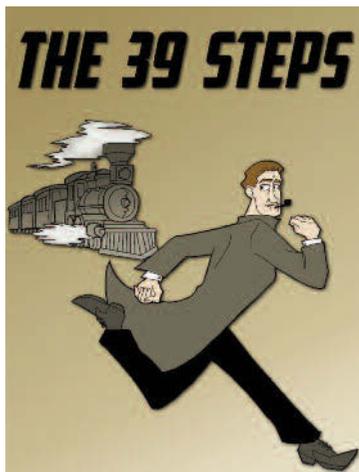


will experience a wide 'n' varied bill of fun-filled, frolicsome acts...and remember, when you see them on telly that you saw them here first!

Later in the month from **Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th**, a

splendidly inventive version of the **Buchan book/Hitchcock** film classic **The 39 Steps** arrives in Redditch to thrill and entertain at every turn.

Amazingly in this hilarious and inventive recreation, you will experience 100 minutes of 4 actors playing 139 roles! You may remember that this gripping whodunnit follows the incredible adventures of one pencil mustacioed Richard Hannay as he encounters dastardly murders, double-crossing special agents and of course beautiful women. Treat yourself to a night of gung-ho derring-do indeed!



As always for tickets and full details please visit www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk

“Poet, Publisher, Planter of Trees”

Felix Dennis sadly passed away last year and is immortalised through his poetry and the **Heart of England Forest** he established. And for one weekend in August, people were also able to celebrate the poet's life and work in the garden he created in Dorsington. The statues throughout the garden he left behind were commissioned by Dennis to represent the people and things that inspired him. Depicting anything from poetic characters, to historic people, all with a fantastic feeling of motion.



Around every corner is a different character. We were greeted to the garden by Roger Banister breaking through the finishing line, and round the corner is a group of early men hunting a mammoth. There are characters dancing, running, inventing, and drawing. The owl and the pussycat sail across a lawn in their pea-green boat, while Lawrence of Arabia charges across



another part of the garden on his camel. There are caricature artists, cleverly represented in caricature drawing themselves, and airmen running from an airplane while imaginary characters guard the maze I dared not enter. Historical adventurers, inventors, characters and athletes literally bound across every corner of this amazing garden, and as part of this open day a new garden was opened to commemorate the poetry of the man himself, on shards of different materials which look like they have just fallen from the sky.



The garden is amazing, exhausting, and well worth a visit the next time it happens to be open. Meanwhile, the Heart of England Forest, begun and inspired by the man himself can be enjoyed at any time, and you might even come across a statue of **Felix Dennis** in its centre.

Sarah Ganderton



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Friday 4th September 7.30pm to Sunday 6th September 11pm

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So Sunday! 20th September 1pm-3pm

Good food, Good music, good friends. Relax and enjoy a Sunday afternoon at the Fleece with the romantic flamenco guitar of Matt Hernandez. Call to book a table

Fleecey Folk: O'Hooley & Tidow Summat's Brewin' Micro Tour

Sunday 27th Sep, 7:30pm Tickets £10

Join much-loved Yorkshire folk duo, Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tidow as they travel the land in Birgitte; their trusty old camper van, to play 30 micro gigs in 30 real ale venues.

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Dulcimer World Congress

Various Venues, Redditch and Malvern Throughout October

Musicians from 18(!) countries will be heading to Redditch and Malvern next month, brought together by their common fascination for the **Dulcimer** family of musical instruments.

For the uninitiated dulcimers are from the *zither* family of string instruments and are struck with sticks or plucked. Also included in this family and from many cultures are the cimbalom, hackbrett, salterio, santur and yangqin. Don't however feel alienated by such talk of unusual instruments as the sponsors of the congress have worked hard to assure that this world class event is open and welcoming to all especially the young people of Worcestershire and beyond.



The launch event will take place at **Palace Theatre Redditch** on Thursday 8th October and this event ushers in 10 days of workshops in 10 Worcestershire Junior Schools, leading up to the actual congress between Mon 26th - Thur 29th Oct at Malvern **St James School**, culminating in a Gala Concert there.

The congress features performances from 18 countries and 4 continents from such diverse cultures as Iran and China, Hungary and Switzerland and as far flung as Australia, so this is a truly pan-global event. The performers will play a wide range of contemporary, classical, folk and world music pieces, so there will be music to cater for all tastes.

For more information about this unique happening and for tickets please visit www.dulcimerworldcongress.co.uk; tickets can also be purchased from Malvern Tourist Information Centre (01684 892289).

To find out more about learning to play the dulcimer in the UK take a look at www.dulcimer.org.uk

At: Malvern
St. James
School,
Malvern.

Tickets:
Malvern TIC
(01684 892289)

and ticketsource.co.uk/dulcimerworldcongress



Performances from 18 Countries and 4 continents
Don't miss this unique event!



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Tues 27th: International Youth Dulcimer Celebration*
Wed 28th: The Adventures of Prince Achmed (Film/Live Music* (*Age 7+)
Thurs 29th: International Gala Concert
And more! See dulcimerworldcongress.co.uk

This programme is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and by The Leche Trust, The Elmley Foundation and Worcestershire County Council.

Organised by the Dulcimer World Congress (reg. charity no. 1157100), in association with Nonsuch Dulcimer Club & the Cimbalom World Association.

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HOGAN'S

New Shoots At The Old Bush

After barely getting settled at the **Old Bush** in Callow End, landlord **Matt Williams** has teleported his **Bentworth Blues** onto the grounds of this fine old pub. With 2 stages and extensive cover, it was ready for any uncertainties of our weather. Friday noon seemed a little early to start the ball rolling, with many potential visitors still working or travelling in, but there were 'campers' and a sprinkling of perhaps more local customers, enough to cluster maybe 50+ in the large marquee to hear **Melvin Hancox** demonstrate just what an electric guitar can do. He started *'Oh Well'*, then time to climb *The Watchtower* and see what was happening next door.

The adjacent stage found **The Woo Town Hillbillies** taking us for a ride down cart tracks and across ploughed fields, under the grey skies that promised little. Their blend of straw chewing country blues sometimes sits nearer

Devon than Arkansas, as we went from a *'Barefoot Nanny'* to visit *Dartmoor Prison*, then robbing some Cash to spend time at *Folsom*. Numbers were growing as the hoedown ensued with dancing across the turf already evident. We slipped back to the Delta for some good old back porch blues, with **Perry Foster** holding court with his array of acoustic guitars. Perry was also compère for the day, for his sins, bringing some cheeky humour to blend in with his set, covering the greats from Robert Johnson to Tampa Red and Blind Blake.



Then a new band for me, **Five Field Holler** and what a revelation this 3 man line up was. Funky is definitely the vibe for these lads with an *'Appetite'* for jungle rhythm's. *'Overheads'*, reminded me of the late great Jack Bruce's *'Politician'*, their own music blending nicely with the funkyed up blues from the likes of Muddy and John Lee. An encore, with Anders Osborne's *'Please Me'*; superb stuff all! Next up the car park stage was now filled with the 7 strong boogie/swing band **Boperator**, based in Stoke Prior, with a strong brass section, guitars, double bass, keys and drums. They're really led by the girls with Sylvie on guitar and lead vocals, Carolyn on sax who also takes a breather for the odd song, but there is input from all, with Rob, guitar, and Mark, keyboard, also taking to their mic's. A feather Boa makes a seductive appearance as Sylvie teases Rob, for a *'Big Ten Inch'*.

It's mid evening, the numbers have continued to rise and on the garden stage sits **Steve Whalley**, a man who took over from Noddy, fronting Slade for 15 years. Here he performed with a passion and skill, not necessarily associated with a pop band. Acoustic guitar dominated, with plenty of slide, before the mandolin took over. His set was simply spellbinding, with able



support from base and some very subtle percussion from **Major Baldini**. A distinct gospel blues flavour was evident, mixed with Americana and 'soft' rock, all soulful stuff. *'Mercy'*, was excellent, but *'110 In The Shade'* was an absolute scorcher. Lets have more of this.

As Steve finished the traffic drifted next door to settle for **Trafficker**. **Tommy Allen** is one mean guitarist, demonic drummer **Damon Clarridge**, is Muppet's Animal, on speed, **Emil Engstrom** (Five Field Holler) brings some heavy, intoxicating funk to the bass line, this band rocks and proved great headliners for the day, closing with an outstanding *'Voodoo Chile'*.



Saturday and **Luke Doherty's** band took their place with a seemingly almost reluctant Luke hidden under his Stetson plus band opened with a cracking *'Bullfrog Blues'*, their own *'Solar Flares On The Sun'* following on and so it continues in great thrashing style. What a contrast then to find the delightful voice of **Lucy Zirins** floating out from the adjacent stage. *'Tearing Me Down'*, penned by Lucy, riveted the audience as did her lovely version of *'Wade In The Water'* and bluegrass *'Tall Buildings'*, before closing classily with *'God Gave Rock & Roll To You'*! Enter **The Mustangs**, a slight change of contrast with a mix based on Catfish Blues easing us in; in fact those catfish seemed to be everywhere this weekend - best start fishing. John Lee, Muddy and Dixon provided more fodder for the Mustangs, but there's no shortage of their own material from their excellent back catalogue.

Next door **The Sam Paine Trio** were ready to go; a rock blues trio with a Texas tainted sound, distinctly influenced from the Stevie Ray Vaughan stable. As *'No Regrets'* rang out it was time for me to slip across to the outdoor kitchen and try some of the tasty offers. Wooed by the smell drifting over to the stage area, I was not disappointed; good food, even for us veggies and no inflated festival fare. Top marks for Karen and her crew.



I then slipped into the bar to find **Lenny James and The Gator Squad** in the shadows entertaining a crowded floor. Lenny, better known as front man with the *Official Receivers*, was on a roll - sod the Northern Soul, this was blues and it was brilliant, with half the OR band present, completed by harp and bass. Classic blues and a most welcome surprise of the day! Toe-tapping stuff indeed for all.

All good things come to an end as I found one of my favourite bands, **The Blues Duo**, the skies threatened then delivered, but the canopies held good and true! Tommy and Johnny were ready to go and *'Had My Fun'* filled



the air with sounds of Johnny's harp drawing all in, like a magnet. He took over the vocals interspersed with his stunning harmonica playing for a superlative 'Steady Rollin Man', the strengthening wind flapped the canvas in applause. The girls were up and dancing but with thunder was in the air and as a gust brought down the Music Shop stall, lightning forked across the sky then 'Boom Boom, Out Went The Lights' and the power completely failed. Undeterred - troupers both - Tommy and Johnny mustered the crowd close to the stage to join the duo in an acoustic cluster, with borrowed guitar for Tommy and harp blown into a pint glass: all good fun and taken in good heart.

The power was restored oddly in time for the awaiting band 'Electric'; you couldn't write this script. 'Thunder in The Air', 'Everything's Gonna be Alright', 'Electric'!! - powerful stuff this blues. For

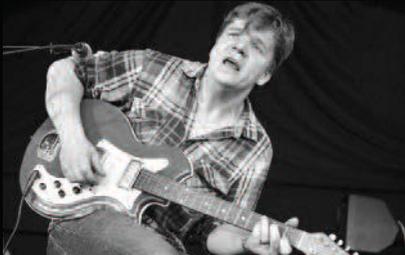


Electric think **Sugar Mama**, a renamed and slightly matured, high speed, guitar driven trio, who fill the stage with frenetic energy. Plenty of blues classics driven hard, with bedrock stuff thrown in. Back into the bar to catch a more mellow **Dan Sowerby** with 'Love And Life' and 'Death' covered, plenty of nice electric slide, all good blues essentials, I will have to give this band a bit more time when the opportunity arises.

No time to prevaricate, **Northsyde** were due onstage and I'd heard the good chatter. Lorna steps on stage dressed in black with borrowed red top, moving cat like across the boards; sultry and yeah sexy, this girl smoulders, but never mind that she is vocal dynamite - a sandblasted, smoke dried, stunning voice - step aside Beth Hart and Dana Fuchs, Lorna is here and she's ours! This is one funky band, Stevie Wonder was never far from or ears, but 'Death Came A Knocking', was a superb gospel like song. Powerful vocals need a powerful band and they provide some great guitar riffs and suitably supercharged backing to what proves a very memorable, striking, electric performance. Another great headline finish to our second day.

And so to stormy Sunday and oddly named soloist **Bluesbeaten Redshaw** who proved to be the most entertaining act imaginable. Gavin, a lad from Yorkshire, brought some great humour plus audience participation to the festival. Featured on stage was a nondescript bright red guitar, banjo, and what can only be described as matchwood, clamped to a small box: his diddly bow, a single stringed, seriously deranged collection of bits. Oh and a pitcher of Guinness to be replaced later by another pitcher of Guinness.

Plucking the electric guitar as he sank some of the dark stuff, was an indication of what was to



follow. Gavin stomped and played his way through some seriously good blues in true roots fashion. Stomping away the floor bounced and we watched the full pitcher creeping along the stage. The inevitable spillage was swiftly dealt with as he mopped the floor with his knees - good housekeeping skills! 'Rollin & Tumblin' bled into 'John The Revelator' then 'Oh Mary Don't You Weep' as never before.

The diddly bow was picked up and promptly fell apart, but soon enough the frankenstein instrument was 'stitched' back together and away we went with Redshaw displaying an exceptional demonstration of musicianship overcoming adversity.

The numbers had drifted by Sunday afternoon with long journeys ahead for many, but this was too good to be missed. **Chicago 9** were, needless to say, **Chicago Blues** with a few of their own compositions thrown in plus even a little **Humble Pie**. I had made a pit stop at the 'kitchen' and then was pleased to have drifted into the bar to discover more catfish.

This Catfish was a 4 piece band and I went no further as the place was rammed with 'ears' for some seriously good guitar driven blues. The band only formed recently but established musicians all. They are nominees for this year's Emerging Artists, and with guitarist Matt's dark, expressive fretwork, they fully deserve their standing. Naturally 'Catfish Blues' is a

sig. tune, but never heard quite like this before; a seriously deep water fish!



Will Wilde was already on stage when I stepped out; another award nominee and indeed holder of **Best Blues Harmonica**, which is no surprise when you hear him play. Suffice to say he is a class act, finishing his set in fine style with a trademark gutsy and superb harp solo.

Voodoo Sheiks were headlining the car park stage and they would be my final call, with plenty of original material to add to some time worn classics. A very good 'Negative Equity Blues', a song of our times then a nod to the great man BB King with 'The Thrill Ain't Gone', together with a more abstract



connection namely U2's (yes they did it with BB) 'When Love Comes To Town'. Suitably reworked and funkied up this version sat well in the set with their own 'Exit Wound' and 'Stupidity'.

Rapidly running out of steam, I skipped an interesting 'brassed up' **Andre Bisson** band, but did catch a song from **Howling Matt** in the bar and reclining on the floor with yet another jug of G, was Gavin, adding a bit of ad hoc percussion.

What can I say, this festival was simply brilliant weekend. Gaffer Matt has obviously brought with him a slick, experienced organisation keeping us all truly entertained. Plus significantly respect was given to Matt by the bands and all the fans who had travelled from far and wide to attend one of his gatherings. Highly recommended.

Graham Munn

Random Hand, Fights And Fires Brassick, Time of the Mouth The Marris Bar, Worcester | Fri 21st August

A celebration of punk rock this evening as four bands bring a variety of styles to **The Marris Bar**. Kidderminster boys **Time of the Mouth** put smiles on faces right from the get-go with their optimistic brand of pop-punk. Aided by a couple of thoughtful covers, and with a level of professionalism you'd expect from a band twice their age, this reviewer would not hesitate to see them again.

Next up is Birmingham-based **Brassick**, who capture the true essence of punk music while still managing to sound bang up to date. A snappy rhythm section is the foundation for front-woman **Nicola Hardy's** unique rasp, which provides the abrasive edge that this kind of music deserves. They will surely have made some new fans this evening.



Ever-present in the Worcester scene, **Fights And Fires** deliver a high-energy set of hardcore punk with all the usual favourite tunes. Guitarist **Ryan Price's** riffs positively bounce along, while frontman **Phil Cox** does his best to round up the crowd with his microphone cable. One of Worcester's hardest working bands and always a pleasure in the live setting.



And so to our headliners for the evening. **Random Hand** will be familiar to anybody who's connected with the underground punk scene in the UK, and on this - their farewell tour - their enthusiasm for being on stage clearly hasn't waned. Frontman **Robin Leitch** switches from vocals to trombone to obligatory North/South banter in captivating fashion, and after the first few songs a party atmosphere has taken over the venue. Punchy ska-core cuts from the West Yorkshire veteran's impressive back catalogue keep the audience moshing and skanking (whatever that means) away until the bitter, beer-soaked end.



Finally, a word on promoters **Faithful City Shows**. These chaps have been doing some great work in recent months, managing to entice some seasoned rock acts to Worcester. SLAP is intrigued to see what other treats they are able to conjure up going forward - head over to their Facebook page to find out more!

Jon Weatherill

Black Slate

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham | 14-Aug

"The Night of the Licked Nipple"

A major British reggae band with a thirty year pedigree and at least three original members playing in sleepy Evesham, what was not to like? Nothing as it turned out. The old guard - **Anthony Brightly** on keyboards and backing vocals; **Chris Hanson** on drums; and guitarist **Desmond Mahoney**, were joined by a new bassist and two vocalists, whose names sadly escaped me and the internet.

Originally formed in London in the early 1970s, they had reformed in 2013 after a lengthy layoff. The gig didn't appear to be part of a tour, so quite how they ended up in Evesham is a bit of a mystery. But for whatever the reasons, people came out from near and far. One couple were overheard to say that they expected a bigger venue considering the status of the band. Those there approved of what they heard in a two hour concert.

They started the evening by thanking the audience for coming - they seem genuinely pleased to be playing.

They played songs from the whole of their history, including "Live A Life", "Freedom Time", "Sticks Man", and a marijuana praising number (almost compulsory for a reggae band) "Legalise Collie Herb".



A couple of notable covers played were Bob Marley's "Redemption Song", apparently from a recent release; and "Should I Stay or Should I Go" by the Clash. I didn't think the later song was the best song of the night, but as it's on a CD compilation of Clash songs called "Peaceful Demonstration" aimed to raise money for charity, its heart was in the right place.

"Amigo", their 1980 top ten, was saved until the end of the show. Then it was into the three song encore, which included the sing-a-long "Boom Boom" and "Rockers Palace".

Oh yes the nipple licking. It's not often that a correspondent for the venerable SLAP magazine has his nipple licked by (a male) member of an audience. My lips are sealed, but neither person was me. I gather it was the result of a bet.

John Reeves

Remembering John Bonham 35 Years

Friday 25th Sept | The Rose Garden, Redditch

Every true music lover will have heard of him and for those too young to remember his untimely demise, **Led Zeppelin** powerhouse drummer and Redditch born, **John 'Bonzo' Bonham** died on 25th September 1980 aged just 32.



Weeks later realising there was no way they could continue without him, the other members of Led Zep decided to disband. Ever since, fans worldwide and especially local friends and family of John have been keen to keep his flame alive and so on Friday 25th September there will be A Memorial Weekend, organised by **The John Bonham Memorial Fund** and **Steve Barnes** of **Redditch Music Festival** to remember John, just yards from where he was born in Headless Cross, Redditch.

Firstly a candlelight vigil will be held from 8pm in **The Rose Garden, Birchfield Rd** (next to **Vintage Trax** record shop)

where people can gather quietly to pay their respects and leave tributes to John.

This will be followed next day by a mini-festival to commemorate John's short but impactful life with music and words from local musicians, friends and fans.

Free to attend, the event will run from 11am – 5pm.

"35 years on, music fans worldwide still talk about John Bonham and his unique and hard hitting drumming style. We want to ensure he is never forgotten here in Redditch" says **Ros Sidaway**, Treasurer of the Fund *"We invite local people and fans of Led Zeppelin from further afield to join us to remember John and celebrate his life."*

Formed in 2013, **The John Bonham Memorial Fund** is working to raise £50,000 for the design and installation of a permanent and fitting memorial to the great man.

For further information and to donate to the fund please visit www.johnbonhammemorialfund.com

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JOHN BONHAM MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Remembering John 'Bonzo' Bonham on the 35th Anniversary of his death

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Candlelight Vigil Fri 25th September - 8.00pm

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In association with Redditch Music Festival

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Esperi, Brains for Breakfast, Colin Baggs Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester | Wed 29th July

A summer, midweek evening saw event promoters **Embrace the Chaos** host an evening of entertainment at the **Pig and Drum**. It was an enlightened and sublime bill which had the mercurial acoustic guitar instrumentalist **Colin Baggs**, lighthearted song-smith **Brains for Breakfast** and Caledonian multi instrumentalist and soundscape specialist **Esperi**. **Embrace the Chaos** have an excellent approach to promoting in that performers get paid and entry is mostly free with donations asked for to help cover the costs. In doing this the financial burden is alleviated from promoters, performers and venue.

First on the bill was acoustic virtuoso instrumentalist **Colin Baggs**, a regular at the **Worcester Music Festival** and open mics, but for a man of his considerable talent, falls below the radar on the general local music. It was nice therefore that he was allotted such a platform in which to perform. Armed with a Lowden acoustic cutaway guitar that just rings the notes out, Colin performed his own technically intricate, but very melodic self-penned compositions. Very much in the school of guitarists such as Giltrap, Hedges and Jansch, Colin has the ability to entertain and engage audiences with just playing acoustic instrumentals with no backing and with minimal effects. Colin will be performing at this years WMF at The Farriers Arms Friday 18th at 9pm.



Next was **Brains for Breakfast**, aka **Andy Webster**, an acoustic performer and native of Walsall who performs compositions with a feel good factor reminiscent of the song craftsmen of the late 80s and most of the 90s (a la Ian Brody). Predominately an acoustic guitarist with instantly rememberable and catchy tunes such as *Ola* but has a Ukulele on hand to pop up with a nice instrumental tune and an anecdotal composition about the sometimes pitfalls that artists have with promoters superbly titled *Dave's a ***** he owes me eighty quid! It's hoped that Andy will be seen performing in Worcester again in the not to distant future and you can check him out at www.brainsforbreakfast.co.uk



Last of the nights artists, from north of the boarder and doing a mini UK tour was **Esperi**, aka **Chris James Marr**. Chris is a multi instrumentalist who's compositions comprise of acoustic tunes which also involves a high degree of technical ability. Compositions that involve different musical textures and of building up soundscapes using a variety of effects and looper pedals. On these tunes, there is a relatively simple musical motif that gradually builds up into something truly symphonic. For more information on Esperi checkout esperimusic.wix.com



Images by Duncan Graves, Words by Rich Morgan

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Above Boards

Well Kidderminster, that looks better now doesn't it?



Dave Simpson

As you can see from the stunning pictures, parts of Kidderminster have been given their annual **Above Boards** make-over by some stunning artists who came from across the country to paint at the jam alongside **The Boars Head Fringe Festival**. First the artists were frazzled by

baking sunshine only to then face rain of biblical proportions, but of course like good Britishers we all soldiered on.

To give you a brief overview, there is new artwork at **The**



Anna Stus

Blue Bell Inn by **Nathanael Draws**, **The Sportsman** by **Peachzz**, across the old law courts on Worcester street, in Coronation gardens, in front of The Boars Head, outside Secret Garden and along the panels opposite the college. But why are you reading this when you could go for a look??

This little write up wouldn't be complete without a mention about the supposed Banksy fiasco that kicked off. A lot of you may have seen the press attention that ensued after a graffito appeared of Paris Hilton wearing a Banksy T-shirt and her dead dog. The press lapped it up and the owners of the wall panicked and boarded up the artwork. A couple of days later they were all left feeling a little silly after artist **John D'oh** said 'it was me'. All good fun!



Andy Dice Davis



Dee Kay

Again, massive respect to all the artists (please see our website for the full listing) those involved and please folks...don't be drawing willies!



Nathanael Draws

Coz, Melo and Aidan - Much Respect

Morton Stanley Festival Redditch | 22nd - 23rd August

It's festival season - it's raining - deal with it...and the redoubtable people of Redditch did so as 5,000 or so hardy souls whooped it up for 2 days in **Morton Stanley Park**.

A veritable plethora of local talent thrilled and entertained the 5,000 whilst they were also well catered (and fed?) for by the best in international street food stalls as a min food fest ran in conjunction with the aural event.

Morton Stanley was truly a family friendly fest as there was a climbing wall, various games and stalls, mainly run by creative local community groups.

Music wise **Sam and The Womp** proved worthy headliners



as they worked hard and got their reward as the masses bopped up and down as one, especially to their much loved 2012 Number 1 hit 'Bom Bom'. Fellow headliners **Gypsy Hill**



also wowed the Redditch faithful as they effortlessly entertained with their own blend of Balkan brass, Mediterranean surf rock, ska and swing (phew!).

Among the local talent picks were **Stuart Woolfenden** and **Rebekah Buffong** who both lit up the stage with their fresh, energetic performances, ensuring a bright future for this ever growing local festival.



Redditch Rotarians were also delighted with how the festival went as they collected £836 for their local charity for the homeless, St Basil's.

We'll definitely be back for more next year so see you there!

Ros Sidaway

Andy O'Hare

Local Festival Round-up!

Well 50 issues of the fine organ that you're holding have slipped through your hands in what seems to be no time at all!! And it's been a bit the same with this summer's festivals across our region, as suddenly there's now only a few more to check out - finishing of course with the **Big One** in mid-September!! Fair to say that it's been a bit of an up-and-down few months with the weather blowing so hot and very cold - with bashes like **Nozstock** and **Colwall** having a lovely day followed by a soaking the next - but most seem to have avoided a complete washout!

After a whole bunch of wrangling and petty bickering, we now consider a 'proper' music festival to be either an outdoor event over more than one day/more than one stage - or an indoor event happening over many venues - I prefer to use the terms 'micro and mini-festivals' for one-dayers - as they're not really on a par with say **Big Chill** - but if anyone can come up with anything better than the F-word please do let me know!!

The 'season' started off for me at **Upton Folk** in early May - a tad disappointing as I didn't spot any local acts (and you know how parochial I am) and the timings weren't quite up to scratch - but something different a week or so later with the **Beat It** event which actually took place at venues in both Worcester and Malvern - that's got to be a first!! Tremendously impressed with the first **Breaking Bands** rock and metal event at Stoke Prior, which featured a tasty pick of both local and national up-and-comers - definitely worth



checking out again next year! A busy weekend at the end of May as I popped into the first evening of the **Severn Sounds** three-dayer at Cripplegate Park, before spending the rest of the weekend at wonderful **Wychwood** on Cheltenham Racecourse where we were able to feature nine fine local acts on our Sunday stage!!

It was a bit of a grey and damp June as far as the weather was concerned - but impressed again with the VeeWee-themed **Dubs In The Middle** event in Evesham - and the inaugural **Hopfest** in Bewdley the following week looks like a promising newbie to the local scene!! One of my gems of the summer though, was the three-dayer **Worcester Canal Festival** just off Lansdowne Road which like others such as Lakefest had invested in big marquees as an insurance against excess humidity - so despite a very damp Friday the great music was hardly affected at all!

A delightful Saturday at **Mappfest** in Malvern, with an overdose of the best of local talent - credit to Andy and his

team for slinging together the best event ever - we returned the next day for a recording session on the **Link Top** stage - but gutted that I missed the Red Arrows fly-past as I had to get back again to the Wu for a 'live one'! Even though it's not exactly my #1 music genre of choice - once again I closed off June with a checkout of **Upton Jazz Festival** - which I can highly recommend even if you ain't particularly of a jazz-some disposition - as there's so much else happening across this wonderful town over the weekend!!

Well it's into its 24th year so only right to pop along to the **Bromsgrove Folk Festival**, held over three days at the **Bowling Green Inn** at Stoke Prior in early July - compact but highly enjoyable and this year featuring the World Dry Foam Throwing Championship - I'm still none the wiser I'm afraid... Only a brief stop-off this year for me at our current premier bash at the wonderful **Nozstock** on the slightly soggy Friday - but good to hear that the Saturday was delightful!! We drew the short straw again weather-wise on the Sunday at **Colwall Family Music Festival** - but big thanks to our acts who braved the 'orrible wet and cold that day! Good to hear that it'd been marvellous the day before though!

I kicked off August with a fantastic Saturday at **Malvern Rocks** - starting at the Nags Head on Link Top before getting



a welcome lift into the town centre (thank you Amelia!) for even more great local acts! Once again every venue was absolutely buzzing and just more confirmation that the Hills have without doubt the best concentration of quality musos in our entire, amazing region! It was a great day but the following weekend was without doubt the best musical event I've ever been to! I'm talking of course about **Lakefest** near Tewkesbury, which benefitted from the best weather of the summer - helped of course by a stunning selection of the cream of local live and original acts - plus an awesome array of headliners!! They've announced that Lakefest will be moving next year to the Eastnor site previously occupied by Big Chill (don't worry - it's also got a lake as a main feature!) and I really believe that Lakefest could very soon be one of the unmissable events of our unpredictable summer - because all the stages are under canvas - simples!!

Still more to come over the next few weeks with the **Big One** at Upton, **Beermageddon** at Stoke Prior, **Bromyard Folk** and of course **Worcester Music Festival**! As always though, I'm still regretting that 'they' haven't yet found a convenient solution to time-travel as my inability to be in more than one place at once meant that I missed out on **Upton Blues** and **Livestock** - but please be assured I will do my very best next year...

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

ArcTanGent Festival

Fernhill Farm, Somerset | 20th - 22nd Aug

Festivals. Back in the day there used to be just Reading, Glastonbury and that one with bottles of pee wee at Donnington. More or less. These days though, there's literally thousands of the fuckers.

For the kids they are a chance to peacock around and snapchat themselves into a coma. For the older generation they're a weekend away camping, with booze on tap and the ever-present scent of class C narcs. And there's nothing wrong with any of that, per se.

Nonetheless you have to look hard to find a festival where it's more about the music than the big flags and silly hats. **ArcTanGent** - daughter festival of the bigger and more established **2000Trees** and now in its third year - is however just such a beast.

Boasting a few big names from the math / post rock world- **Cult of Luna**, **Fall of Troy** and **Rolo Tomassi** to name a few, the four tents that comprised this three-dayer sheltered a sparky little riot of stylistic colour and ideas. And there were a few standouts.

Bodyhound: Textbook instrumental mathcore with great algorithmically plotted hooks that arced like the movement of the fucking universe. With a spring in its step and a charismatic boyish glint in its eye. Basically the best of its kind out there. Seriously. **USA Nails**: Clattering and clanging noise



the best science fiction film never made. Epic? Yes. **Dillinger Escape Plan**: Probably the most conventional band of the festival. All taught, sinewy flesh, shearing guitars and inhuman rhythms. A visceral, physical prospect in a scene that is better known for its cerebrealty. A sweaty highlight. **100 Onces**. Shitnuts tight, technically jaw-dropping two-piece

precision punk. With the wit and irreverence of the mighty NoMeansNo. Utterly loveable. And deserve far more credit than I can give them here. **IEPI**: Three pieces of tightly knotted, Spanish jazz/funk rock that somehow has both the edge of the Jimi Hendrix Experience and the Catalan anarchists of yore. Hot sexy stuff.

Talons: Hereford's own bombastic and symphonic progressive metal juggernauts. With violins. It may sound a little bit shit on paper but in the ear and played in front of you this is not unlike the theme to a James Bond film where the communists win. Which has a unique appeal. **Deerhoof**. Imagine a band fronted by a manic bass playing pixie, backed by that Morello bloke out of Rage



Against the machine and a Polynesian god on guitars - and Animal out of the muppets playing drums. All playing a mix of perfect anti-pop and noise and god knows what. With charm and swing. You probably can't imagine that. Which is part of the genius of this ultra-prolific and happily under the radar San Francisco outfit. Essential. **Vessels**. Progressive electronic crowd-moving fare. Stylish, euphoric soundscapes. Bang on the money. **Deafheaven**. A normal enough looking bunch of American post-hardcore kids, with the power to flit between soaring shoegaze and wrenching black metal blast beats. In a heartbeat. Probably a fucking nightmare to dance to. But technically very, very impressive. *DB Schenker*



rock out of the Jesus Lizard or Pissed Jeans stable, floated along on some of the filthiest bass heard since David Wm Sims hung up his four string and took up bookkeeping. **Blanck Mass**: Solo project of Worcester boy done good **Ben Power**.



Imagine Daft Punk with grit and all the depth, layering and sonic spectacle of the second coming itself. The soundtrack to

So in summary, some interesting things happened in some muddy fields in the Mendip Hills last weekend. And that is a good thing.



Dok Haze's Carnival of the Bizarre

Robin 2 | August 6th 2015

So the previous night I'd been entertained by the **Pretty Things Peepshow**; a quartet of carnies constantly cajoling the crowd, while charismatically conjuring up a collection of carnival sideshow tricks. **Dok Haze's Carnival of the Bizarre** may have many similarities, but is not for the faint of heart as this troupe serves up girls and gore galore.

For those who know the **Circus of Horrors**, the Carnival of the Bizarre will be very familiar. It is a stripped down version, but the content isn't diluted in any way. In fact, with a small intimate audience the gore is right in your face. Many of the usual suspects were present including **Hannibal Hellmurto**, **Captain Dan**, the **Mongolian Laughing Boy**, **Anastasia IV** as well as the **Zulu Warriors**...and more, including **Henry** the knob eating vacuum cleaner!

The show opened with the girl in the bell-jar, followed by the **Mongolian Laughing Boy** performing one of his many eye-watering tricks, sticking things where they don't belong, a trait running throughout the show.

Hannibal Hellmurto showed how to lift a railway sleeper with a hook hanging from his nose, while the diminutive **Captain Dan**, the smallest man in the show (in more ways than one) stapled playing cards to vacant areas of skin including his face, chest and knob (yes, he stapled a playing card to his knob!). Like the Peepshow, we were shown the art of hoolaHooping (is that a word?), climbing the ladder of blades and sword swallowing (and chair leg swallowing). Some of the things the Peepshow didn't attempt included hanging a bowling ball from a pair of testicles, swallowing 3 swords at once, swallowing a neon tube, nailing arms and tongue to a plank of wood and, of course, getting Henry the hoover to attach itself to a knob, the same knob that had the playing card stapled to it!



Audience participation was a must with willing, and unwilling members being offered the opportunity to pull pins from the Mongolian Laughing Boy's face and neck or touching his knob while sitting in an electric chair. There were some unspeakable things done with fluorescent tubes and fireworks, and all the time the ladies giggled and winced, particularly if this had been their introduction to the **Circus of Horrors**.



The **Zulu Warriors** entertained with their acrobatics using flaming ropes, limboing under flaming poles and balancing skills, while **Captain Dan** had his knob up Henry's hose! Therein lies the far-flung limits of taste. The lovely **Anastasia IV** performed her fire-eating routines and the entire caboodle was held together admirably by **MC Dok Haze**.

If you haven't seen the **Circus of Horrors** or **Carnival of the Bizarre** then get yourself along the next time a show comes to your town, the entertainment is

endless, as **Captain Dan** will one day be, when Henry decides not to let go! www.circusofhorrors.co.uk



Sounds Of The Shire Presents: Live-Shred-Die live

The Venue, Hereford | Wednesday July 29th

This was the **Sounds Of The Shires** night of noise featuring a whole host of bands well versed in all manner of heaviness.

Kicking things off were local punks **Terminal Rage** who blasted through a well oiled set of boot stomping punk rock that had the audience engrossed. Covers of The Clash songs *Should I Stay Or Should I Go* and *English Civil War* (sung by the band's Clash t-shirt clad drummer) and the Sex Pistols *Anarchy In The UK* went down extremely well, as did their own material. Finishing off with a cover of Anti Nowhere League's censor baiting classic anthem *So What* (although I did notice that the band changed one line in the song, although knowing what it was it was probably for the best!) ensured the band's set ended with a bang.

Next up were **Brocken Spectre** who wowed the audience with some fearless instrumental soundscapes and intricate playing. Reminiscent of the progressive likes of Between The Buried And Me and Animals As Leaders with a bit of Meshuggah thrown in, Brocken Spectre put on a show that had the crowd watching in amazement at the musicianship on offer. Eight string guitar playing some elaborate rhythms merging with the bass and the drummer annihilating his kit, made for an epic spectacle. Playing material from their latest EP, their set went down extremely well and the band ended their set having left the whole crowd in awe.



Some distorted bass akin to what Nick Oliveri or Scott Reeder would kick out at a classic Kyuss gig, signalled the arrival of two piece noise rock band **Hindbrain** to the stage. Plenty more distortion seared through the band's set, with their brand of psych influenced noise freakouts. Having not played live for a while, this was Hindbrain's comeback gig and they have not lost anything during that period of hibernation. They simply came on and slated with their mind bending jams, with a grooving set featuring the use of slap bass that put the audience in some sort of grooving noise rock trance.

By far the heaviest band on the bill, **Fetus Christ** came on and took absolutely no prisoners with their brand of no nonsense and hate filled grind. With guitarist Joe and drummer Oli

thrashing out the grind violence from The Venue's stage, vocalist Liam prowled the dancefloor like a wild animal looking for its next piece of prey, all the while spewing out venom like a madman much to the crowds delight. A short sharp shock of a set that delighted the crowd.

Last band of the night were fuzz rock behemoths **Skinhorse** who created a barrage of noise rock goodness. Their grooving and fuzzed out take on instrumental noise rock had everyone nodding along, as the waves of riffs and banging drums hit all in attendance full on in the head. You couldn't help but get drawn into their infectious and massively heavy web as riff after riff clashed with an insane drum tattoo. A fitting end to a night of majestic heaviness.



All the bands played a blinder and the night was a fine showcase for their talents, as well as showing the breadth of heavy bands from Hereford.

Words: Gavin Brown Images: BatGippa.

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CD REVIEW

The Whisky Brothers | Bottle Up And Go

This 2012-formed Birmingham duo comprises Richard Heath, vocals and mandolin; and **Gerry Smith**, piano. 30 years ago they formed the **Splinter Blues band**, and ran Brum's **Hare & Hounds Blues Club**.

But this is a superb back-to-the roots recording. Eighteen standards, three originals. Vocals and instrumentation are tastefully restrained; arrangements simple and understated, reaching back faithfully but not slavishly to the mood and attitude of a previous century. Dylan once said white 60s bluesmen had it wrong, trying to get inside of the blues; whilst the original bluesmen were in fact struggling to get outside it. Richard & Gerry do both, and it works.



Particularly in *'Sitting On Top of The World'*, in which they clearly get the irony of the lyrics, where others have seen the song wrongly, in my view, as boastful. *'Alberta'* is suitably appealing; and the duo's original *'Dr John's Boogie'* riffs on John Lee Hooker as well as the eponymous pianist.

Unexpectedly, the pairing of a mandolin with a piano works: Richard effortlessly avoids the hazard of his instrument's jolly folksiness, harking back to an earlier Yank Rachel flavour.

Bob Jones



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ARK FEST 2015

Sun 26,27,28th September

VENUES:



THE GREAT MALVERN HOTEL
THE UNICORN OLIVERS
THE RED LION THE FOLEY ARMS
MALVERN TOWN FC MALVERN LOUNGE
THREE HORSE SHOES
THE RED LION AT STIFFORDS BRIDGE
THE ROSE & CROWN AT SEVERN STOKE

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Courtyard, Hereford September Round-up



3 Top Slap Picks from the exciting and varied September Courtyard line-up First up on Friday 4th is acclaimed and Hereford born singer-songwriter **Sasha Mc Veigh**.

Fresh from her storming and sold out set at this year's **Hay Festival**, Sasha brings her beautiful blend of country music stylings to her hometown crowd, after a summer spent in the company of some of the biggest names on the US country circuit.

Equipped with a newly released and critically acclaimed album, recorded in Nashville and chosen as Best of the Best by BBC Introducing, this young starlet is certainly one to watch and more than worthy of your time to take in her Courtyard show.



On 11th and 12th The Courtyard hosts the first play to tackle climate change, namely **Rivers Up**,

which focusses on the impact of climate change through the floods in Worcester and combining this with a memorable love story.

Tom and Sally's house is about to flood again, but this time there is no respite and soon they are literally drifting around in search of dry land. Laugh and cry as two extraordinary but everyday people bravely battle cataclysmic odds and rediscover deep-seated love and affection to help carry them through events which are truly global. This show is something different for sure.

Our final Courtyard pick, though there is so much more to choose from, is an afternoon with **DaPaul** on Sunday 20th September. This talented London singer-songwriter began singing in church as a young man and has gone on to work with such luminaries as Alexander O'Neal, Gabrielle and Eternal. Now DaPaul brings his marvellous mix of gospel, soul, jazz and blues to Hereford to mellow your mind and sooth your soul on a Sunday.



DaPaul has also appeared on such TV events as the World Music awards and Montreux Jazz Festival and is sure to ooze class appeal with the Hereford faithful.

Shuddervision Soundsystem Presents Arcadia Roots Official launch night

Kidderminster Town Hall | Sat 5th Dec

The new project from **Dave Small** on vocals and percussion, **Tom Callinswood** and **Danny Gauden** on guitars and backing vocals, Josh Terry on bass. With a collective of musicians from across the country including, **Patrick** and **Steve McArdle** from **Drum Love** and many more guest musicians.

By blending traditional African rhythms and instruments with infectious soul melodies, this brand new line up are creating a sound and atmosphere that defies genre.

In control of the lights, lasers and huge speakers are **Shuddervision Sound System**. **World House** and **Dub DJ** sets from **The Greys**, **Digits McPhee** and **Lord Lucan** along with fire performers, dancers and guest musicians throughout the night. £8 in adv £10 on the door



Shuddervision Soundsystem Presents

ARCADIA  **ROOTS**

Special Guest Performers and DJs World (Dub | Dance | Rhythms & Writing)



KIDDERMINSTER
TOWN HALL

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

£8 ADV | £10 Door WWW.ARCADIAROOTSCOM

WeGot Tickets  Poster Designed By: A x W x K x K

Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Another incredible month of live music has just passed and as Slap went to press, we were at **The Firefly** for another unmissable **Surprise Attacks** show, this time team SA! hosted an evening with **100 Onces**, **Steve Strong**, **The Broken Oak Duet**, **Aulos** and **A Werewolf!** With 100 Onces and Steve Strong fresh from **ArctanGent** (which we had the pleasure in covering, find a live review on the site shortly), **A Werewolf!** celebrating their mind blowing sophomore release, this was always going to be a top notch night! Again check the site for coverage of this event too.

As we celebrated SLAP's 50th last month we, alongside thousands of others, basked in all things **Nozstock** and so once again Bromyard's Rowden Paddocks Farm opened it's beautifully bucolic grounds after another hard working year of constant organising, planning, booking and promoting. Just hours prior to the event kicking off, news broke that Saturday's headliners **Wu Tang Clan** had to pull out of their appearance and although a truly heartbreaking shock to those die-hard fans, team Nozstock just smiled through the news and announced their replacement- the legendary **De La Soul**.



De La Soul

If there is one thing that sets Noz miles apart from other festivals, it's the unique atmosphere with every attendee full of fun and friendliness, wanting one another to fully enjoy and absorb their own N-stock experience.

Despite the dire downpours on Friday and Sunday Noz proved undefeatable from the drizzle. The entire weekend was a great success, with such a plethora of musical talent across all stages throughout the event, plus comedy, crafts and so much more. This year the Garden Stage set out for something different by carrying on their live music after the normal finish time. Several bands took to the stage playing until the sun came up, with crowds aplenty, unfazed by the clock and spirits remaining high despite the challenging



Molotov Jukebox

muslides and dropping temperature. Our highlights included: **By The Rivers** - who kept the crowd on their toes with a great set of original, well written and authentic reggae songs. **The Anomalies** - here's a band who know how to keep their crowd alert by giving their full attention to their set. The mash-up hip-hop local legends took to the stage in the very early hours of the morning and gave a very energetic performance with some of the best crowd participation we've ever seen. **Last Tree Squad** - who provided their own mix of hip-hop inspired dub: a local and somewhat iconic force indeed. **Molotov Jukebox** - returned again for another captivating set, the vibrant gypsy punks know how to hold their own on a big stage providing the perfect festival tracks. **Sean Grant and the Wolfgang** mesmerised their onlookers; the folk/punk storytellers gave a very honest, provoking performance and looked right at home amongst Herefordshire's finest festival. **Skinny Lister** - the festival experts proved why their sets are always worth your attention bringing together elements of folk with the attitude of punk and rock'n'roll, bursting with



Skinny Lister

sing-a-long choruses and infectious raucous energy. And finally of course, we have to mention **De La Soul** who thrived on crowd interaction and rightfully owned their headline slot.

As for September - it's **Worcester Music Festival** time, so keep an eye out for us at some of the amazing shows on offer. Be sure to keep checking the site and our social media outlets as we bring you news, reviews and interviews!



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Done by Sunrise

We Fight! We Argue! We Dance!

Infectiously catchy, self-defined Indie-Pop, right here is your new musical dessert. Your pick me up, that will be perfect listening to end any boring or overly serious day. But you may have to brace yourself... because this is some seriously, sickeningly sweet music.

However, as long as you're prepared you'll be able to enjoy the rainbow filled journey that is **Done By Sunrise's** album *We Fight! We Argue! We Dance!*

The almost flawless harmonies seem to form the basis of the album, proving to be the strongest showcase of their talent. This matched with their ironic, almost cringe worthy level of likability is what makes this quite a full on album, especially because it's consistent from start to finish.

This peaks in track *TOWIE Song*, where they respectfully make fun at those on The Only Way Is Essex. You'll be torn between loving them for it, or hating the fact that they've dedicated a whole song to them in the first place... even if it is in a mocking way.



This love/hate vibe is a constant theme throughout the whole album, always teetering on the line between respectably cheesy and just plain too much. The question of whether too much would be a bad thing has to be asked though. This kind of music is perfect for the younger generation who always seem to fawn over such extremes, thus ensuring oodles of success.

Checkin' It Out is humorously placed as the album opener, allowing you to jump into the deep end of their hyperactive level of energy. The track brilliantly works as an introduction to the album, but it almost loses its worth as an individual track. It seems to only be there as a fun play on the fact that listeners are 'checkin' them out...

When it comes down to it the music represents what they are: a group of friends/family having some fun, as each track goes on it gets more and more impossible to imagine their faces unsmiling, which can't be anything but a good thing.

Tracks such as *Home* and *Grandad's Song*, truly instil the idea that they're completely down to earth, genuine people, with an admirable respect for their roots and family values.

With relatable lyrics and such on point harmonies, it seems that **Done By Sunrise** have almost cracked the perfect pop formulae that will surely be the key to their success. There's most definitely a lot of potential here, and with a Halcyon remix and acoustic cover of their flagship track *Done By Sunrise*, what more could you want?

By Samantha Daly

A song's cycle from concept to competition

I Fell for the Spell - Mickeywonames



Last August my father died aged 100 and I took a trip to Ireland in late autumn to scatter his ashes on a favourite river on the West Coast. Close by I find there's a Storytelling Festival in Sneem, so I set out on my way onto the coast road towards the Ring of Kerry. Immediately there's a sign for *'The Wild Atlantic*

Way'; two thousand miles of ragged coastline that stretches for Donegal to Cork. That very moment a song worm entered my ear. A tune quickly emerged. It was a song to take me on a longer journey than I expected. One that was to end up with me singing it in the **Sean McCarthy Memorial Songwriting Comp** six months later in the Community Hall in Finuge.

The **Storytelling Festival** was a ramshackle affair but back in my room a melody fell out of my hands and within 24 hours I had completed the bare bones of a singable song.

On the last day of the Festival everyone gathered in a bar. Anyone could tell a story or sing a song. So I did. The crowd loved it. You'll make money from that!

Emboldened by the encouragement, I set off further up the coast. Walk into a bar in Ireland with a guitar and they expect you to play it - and so I did. All the way to Connemara I honed my tune. In one bar a local fell in love with it. Every time a friend came in he'd make me play it again. *'Listen to this, he'd shout.' He's written a song about us. It's breaking my heart'*. I played it seven times.

The song was now performable less than a week after it was written. It demanded to be recorded. By the next day, with me laptop, a hermit cottage and a drop or two, I had a rough cut but needed a slicker version. Through an old friend I was given the name of **David Ayres** who had a studio in Carlow so I went to see him, played him the song, his foot started tapping and we went straight to the studio.

We recorded it after a few takes, mixed it down and after being told to come back in an hour, upon my return David had added a bass line and overdubbed a transposed guitar part to fill it out. We then selected some Bodhran drum samples and I left a master of his craft to produce a broadcastable version of *'I Fell for the Spell of the Wild Atlantic Way'*. The next day he handed me a mix with mandolin fills and a solo. *'Hope you like it' he said, 'I'm not much of a mandolin player'*. It was brilliant, I paid him half as much again as he asked. Worth every cent.

My next task was to add some visuals to it and get it up on YouTube. I sourced royalty free pictures of the coastline I was singing about and turned the song into the vid below if you follow the link. I now had my product in place a week after I'd arrived in Kerry. Have a look and see/hear what you think...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLU6GNQByDo>

Wednesday 2 September 2015

PTR Williams, Dave Halama, Spirios
Scary Canary, Stourbridge

Ben Stancombe
Hope Pole, Bewdley

The Schmoozenbergs
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 3 September 2015

PTR Williams, Dave Halama, Spirios
Scary Canary, Stourbridge

Vice Squad + Borrowed Time
Iron Road, Evesham

The Funk Breakers
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Neil Ivison
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 4 September 2015

The Core
Drummonds, Worcester

British Sea Power + Special Guests
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

CoverJunkies
Event House, Worcester

Jules Benjamin
The Old Bush, Callow End

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Ye Olde Black Cross, Worcester Road, Bromsgrove

Ignition presents; A Born Disaster + Destroyed Beyond Belief + At Dawn We Attack
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Laburnum
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Sax 'n' Axe
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Elvis - Gordon Hendricks
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Still Crazy
Queen's Head, Wolverley

Asters, Happy Accidents, Young Attenborough, Isaac
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Beer & Blues Weekend www.thefleeceinn.co.uk/
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

Ignition presents; A Born Disaster + Destroyed Beyond Belief + At Dawn We Attack
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Worcester Music Festival Beer Launch
Calm Like a Riot & Brocken Oat Duet, Wes Dance, Neil Phillips
Popes Brewery, Blackpole, Worcester

Nightspell (Acoustic Duo)
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Sasha McVeigh
Courtyard, Hereford

Ben Vickers
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Rainbow Girls
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Quo Motion
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Mike Parker
Great Malvern Hotel

Jive Aces
Artrix, Bromsgrove

What Keys
Plesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

The Delray Rockets
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Spooky Men's Choral
Stroud Subscription Rooms

The Moscow Drug Club - Berlin/Hot Club/Gypsy/Tango Meet/Melt
Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

Raptor + As Mamas
Iron Road, Evesham

Merciless Terror, Soden, Bleak Zero, Skinhorse
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Saturday 5 September 2015

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

The Stiff Joints, Skewwhiff, The Humdrum Express
The Marrs Bar, Worcester



Carol Lee-Sampson, Ben Church & friends
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Black Heart Angels
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

David Rattenbury
The Swan Barbourne, Worcester

Thunder Road
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Bourbon Alley Blues Band
Callow End Social Club

Bad Cats
The Wheelhouse, Upton

The Blues Brothers
The New Inn, Pershore

Addictive Philosophy
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Magic of Motown
Courtyard, Hereford

Beer & Blues Weekend www.thefleeceinn.co.uk/
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

Metaprism + Thrills Mantra
Iron Road, Evesham

Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Hump de Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Mersey Beatles
Palace theatre, Redditch

The All Star Dub Band + DJ
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Danadra
Stroud Brewery

Upbeat Beatles
Malvern Theatres (Forum)

Hannah Drybury, Kasia Smith, Billie Stone & The Hills Angels
Great Malvern Hotel

XL5
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Addictive Philosophy
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dilemma Council
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Official Receivers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Kings and Folk, Folkaholics
St Helen's Church, Worcester

Spooky Fest - www.thefold.org.uk/
The Fold, Bransford

The Cuginis
Subtone, Cheltenham

The Undercovers
Cross Keys, Malvern

Tony's 60's
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Delray Rockets
Upton-upon-Severn Social Club

By The Shore
The Northwick Arms, Worcester

Sunday 6 September 2015

Jazz Alchemy Band
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Tubular Bells For Two
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Or (Czech), Soden, Rusty Knives
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Beer & Blues Weekend www.thefleeceinn.co.uk/
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

Dan Vyleta
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ralph Allin Quartet
The Chestnut, Worcester

Jazz Alchemy (afternoon)
Pickled Plum, Pershore

Greg The Axeman Winters
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Steve Ajao's Blues Giants
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 7 September 2015

Carnage Club: OR + NewAlaska + The Dead At Sea
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Tuesday 8 September 2015

Tracii Guns' L.A. Guns feat Rudy Sarzo + Chase The Ace + Stone Trigger
Iron Road, Evesham

Tribute to Benny Goodman
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Wednesday 9 September 2015

T.Clemente Band
Iron Road, Evesham

Rachel Abbots and Friends
Hope Pole, Bewdley

Doc Brown
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Steve Ashley (Bar)
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Cavern Beatles
Courtyard, Hereford

Darren Hodge
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Goat Roper Rodeo Band + Michele Stoddart
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Thursday 10 September 2015

Letz Zep
Iron Road, Evesham

Slap Mag Performer of The Month
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Nick Parker & The False Alarms
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Friday 11 September 2015

Stone Farm
Drummonds, Worcester

Alex Rainsford
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Acoustic Straws, Auburn Acoustic
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ruzz Guitars Blues Revue
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Black Knight
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Jazz festival - www.malvernjazzweekend.co.uk
Great Malvern Hotel

Aquarius
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Midnight City
Queen's Head, Wolverley

Carole Ann Duffy, Bitterroots
St Georges Hall, Load Street, Bewdley

The Rock Bottoms
The Old Bush, Callow End

Louise James
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Suzi and The Backbeats
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Pablo Snow presents Song For A Hero + Woo Town Hillbillies
Sketchley's, Worcester

Stretch Bentley and the Rocking Tables
Droitwich Legion Inn, Salwarpe Road, Droitwich

Rock Your Socks Off For Downs Syndrome - Erica/Chevy Chase Stole My Wife/One Second After/Tone Tanner
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

The Animators
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Shaun Lane DJ, Junction Seven Band, BBC Introducing Salt Fest 2015, Vines Park, Droitwich (see saltfest.co.uk)

Saturday 12 September 2015

Riff Raff, 3Sixty, Stone Cold Killers
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Ashley Cross Inn, Areley Common, Stourport on Severn

Vinyl DJs
Dyson Perrins Cof E Academy, Yates Hay Road, Malvern

Otis Mack & the Tubby Bluesters
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Newent Onion Fayre: The Beat, 3 Daft Monkeys, Nislopi, Roving Crows & More
Neweet, Glos

Mood Elevators
The Wheelhouse, Upton

Skint
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

UB40 - Labour of Love
River Rooms, Stourbridge

2 Rude
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Jazz Festival - www.malvernjazzweekend.co.uk
Various Venues, Great Malvern Hotel

Hybrid
Cross Keys, Malvern

Skrood
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Amanda Stone
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Journeyman
The Chestnut, Worcester

Simon Blight
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Saturday Night Bee Gees
Courtyard, Hereford

Dark Side Of The Wall
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Chevy Chase Stole My Wif + Radar Test Target
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Tom Davies
The Swan Barbourne, Worcester

The Haunted Souls
Callow End Social Club

The Bad Dads
Stroud Brewery

The Counterfeit Eagles
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Trevor Burton Band
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

The Manfreds - Hits, Jazz & Blues Tour
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Supersonic 70's
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Kartoon Hedz
The New Inn, Pershore

Kodak Jack + Doors To Manual
Iron Road, Evesham

Jim Johnston + Special Guests
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

The John Steeds
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Afternoon - W Factor – finalists, The Smoking Cat, The Switch, Camden Vampire, Paper Moon
Salt Fest 2015, Vines Park, Droitwich (see saltfest.co.uk)

Evening -Droitwich Community Choir,Missing Sparrows, The Capital Band
Salt Fest 2015, Vines Park, Droitwich (see saltfest.co.uk)

Mike Johns, Ingrid's Hotel Quartet (see saltfest.co.uk)
Salt Fest 2015, Saltbarrow Market, Droitwich

The Bad Cats
The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

One Tree Canyon
Stagborough Arms, Stourbridge

Sunday 13 September 2015

Stuart Woolfenden
Courtyard Music, Tardebigge Court, Redditch

Roving Crows, Rhythm & Jewels, Chicago Bytes, Stompin on Spiders
Salt Fest 2015, Vines Park, Droitwich (see saltfest.co.uk)

Hop Picking with Dave Ayre & Friends
Stroud Brewery

Jazz festival - www.malvernjazzweekend.co.uk
Various Venues, Great Malvern Hotel

The Woo Town Hillbillies
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Jazz Express
The Chestnut, Worcester

Cocktail Hour (afternoon)
Pickled Plum, Pershore

Michael Gray: Bob Dylan & The History of Rock'n'Roll
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Worried Men
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 15 September 2015

Stripped Down Blues, The Foregate st blues Band, The Chuck harriett band
The Cellar Bar, Foregate street, Worcester

Wednesday 16 September 2015

Sabella
Iron Road, Evesham

James Carr and The Comrades
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 17 September 2015

Mike Tramp Band + Lucer
Iron Road, Evesham

Permission To Speak: Open Mic with Heather Wastie
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

C-Jam
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

OPM, Ceekay Jones, Big B and Lobster
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Kenneth Nash
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Music Lab - Open Mic Night
Guildhall, Gloucester

OPM ,Ceekay Jones, Big B and Lobster
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Sallywags Comedy
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Friday 18 September 2015

The Festivals Experience
Drummonds, Worcester

Kevin Rhodes
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The John Steeds
The Cross Keys, Tewkesbury

Stroud Folk Festival - www.stroudfolkfestival.co.uk
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Paul Snook
The Old Bush, Callow End

Glam Rock Tribute + Fancy Dress
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Polly Edwards
Great Malvern Hotel

The Vehicle Band
The Bluebell, Ryall, Nr Upton upon Severn

Worcester Music Festival - See Guide
(www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk)

Voodoo Blue
Queen's Head, Wolverley

Peter Hook and The Light
Guildhall, Gloucester

Woo Town Hillbillies
Ye Olde talbot, Worcester

Bon Jovi Experience
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Blue Eyed Beggars
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Bad Cats
The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Notorious Bros
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Simon and Garfunkel Story
Courtyard, Hereford

Poor Old Dogs
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Eldorado
Iron Road, Evesham

The Mad Banditos
Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Overboard
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Saturday 19 September 2015

Skiltron
Iron Road, Evesham

Bright Eyes
The New Inn, Pershore

Izzy The Push
Stagborough Arms, Stourbridge

Remi Harris
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Outcasts

Callow End Social Club

Aardvark Stew

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Aladdinsane

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Gicci Pimp, Superficials, Linerunners, Ellie Downen

The Cranning

O'Neil's, Broad Street, Birmingham

Orchestra of The Swan with Peter Donohue

Courtyard, Hereford

Tom Forbes

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Darden Smith

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Stroud Folk Festival - www.stroudfolkfestival.co.uk

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Gabba Gabba Hey

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Madi Stimpson Trio

Great Malvern Hotel

Pirate Dsday with Black MAX and the Pirates

The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Hotwired

The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

Crazy Legz

Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Peas Band

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Notorious Brothers

Cross Keys, Malvern

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

The Poorboys of Worcester

Worcester Brewing Company, Railway Arches, Worcester

Worcester Music Festival - See Guide

(www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk)

Jon Eselle

The Swan Barbourne, Worcester

Thirsty Work

The Wheelhouse, Upton

Pirate Night Featuring Black Max & The Pirates

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Harlem Dandy

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Sunday 20 September 2015

Worcester Music Festival - See Guide

(www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk)

Stroud Folk Festival - www.stroudfolkfestival.co.uk

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Kirk Fletcher

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Andy Fair-weather Low & The Low Riders

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Aquarius

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Marvin Handcocks Solo

The Old Bush, Callow End

Kast Off Kinks

Courtyard, Hereford

An Afternoon with DaPaul

Courtyard, Hereford

Dutch Lewis & Jane Steele (afternoon)

Pickled Plum, Pershore

Mike Hernandez 1-3pm

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

Maz Mitrenko Band

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 22 September 2015

Ricky Warwick & Damon Johnson (Black Star Riders)

Iron Road, Evesham

Wheatus

Guildhall, Gloucester

Temperance Seven

Courtyard, Hereford

Oil Slick Fire

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 24 September 2015

US Slide Guitarist John Emil

Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Grainne Duffy

Iron Road, Evesham

Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Droitwich Divas hosted by Sally

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Fumaca Preta + Support

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Kelly Oliver

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Friday 25 September 2015

Jay & Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

Killerstream

Drummonds, Worcester

Without Flight, Blame Kenny

Ludlow Brewing Company, The Railway Shed, Ludlow

Kris Dollimore of Del Amitri

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Stroud Out Loud - Spoken Open Mic Night

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Blues Anoraks

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Ben Stancombe

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Alabamaman

Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Notorious Brothers

The Old Bush, Callow End

Sumerians + Deathly pale Party + Special Guests

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Are You Experienced

Iron Road, Evesham

Delray Rockets

Queen's Head, Wolverley

The Purple Shades and Friends

Evesham Arts Centre

Ark Fest - see ad page 38

Malvern, Various Venues

Stewart Anthony

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Oye Santana

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Simon Campbell Band

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Barrelhouse Blues Band

The Millers Arms, Pershore

John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mumbo Jumbo, Tom Callinswood, Joel & Conor

Saint Georges Hall, Bewdley

Soul Strutters

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Stash

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Carducci String Quartet
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Illegal Eagles
Courtyard, Hereford

Not So Merry
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Killerz
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 26 September 2015

Mister Wolf
Ye Olde Black Cross, Worcester Road, Bromsgrove

Underground Festival - see website
Guildhall, Gloucester

Skrood
The Wheelhouse, Upton

Mike Skilbeck
The Swan Barbourne, Worcester

Steve Knightley + Support
Stroud Subscription Rooms

The Honey Riders
The Swan, Staunton

The Soul Survivors
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Record and CD Fair
Guildhall, Worcester

Dancefloor Deluxe
Cross Keys, Malvern

Dreadzone
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Dark Island
Stroud Brewery

Riff Raff
Callow End Social Club

Sax Max Appeal
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

The Bones
The Chestnut, Worcester

Psychedelic Art Rock Night with Babel, Glow People and Zenjen Projections
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Protocol
The Castle, Droitwich

Guns Or Roses
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Juan Martin
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Lindisfarne Story
Courtyard, Hereford

Waterloo - The Best of ABBA
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Dire Streets
Evesham Arts Centre

The Bad Cats
The New Inn, Pershore

The Handsome Beasts + Kikamora
Iron Road, Evesham

Spitfire
The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

Ark Fest - see ad page 38
Malvern, Various Venues

Honey Riders
The Swan, Staunton

the Poorboys of Worcester
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Cher Tribute Act
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Babal, Glowpeople, Zenjen Projections
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 27 September 2015

Delray Rockets (afternoon)
Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

Underground Festival - see website
Guildhall, Gloucester

Elliot Morris
Hope Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Howard Shelley and the London Mozart Players
Courtyard, Hereford

Boo Hewardine
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

O'Hoolley & Tidow Summat's Brewin Micro Tour
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

The Lindisfarne Story
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jax Catz (afternoon)
Pickled Plum, Pershore

European Union Chamber Orchestra
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Zoe Green Band
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Ark Fest - see ad page 38
Malvern Various Venues

BJ Cole & Emily Burrige
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Sax and Axe
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Clarksville Mountain Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Remi Harris
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Monday 28 September 2015

Carlton Melton + Special Guests
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Roger Waters' - The Wall (film)
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 30 September 2015

The Amorettes + Arconna + The Sherpas
Iron Road, Evesham

The Eden Quartet
Evesham Arts Centre

The Robbie Williams Experience
Courtyard, Hereford

Adam Scriven
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Listings in conjunction with NotJustSauce.com

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Next time get listed!
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Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

Every Monday - Open Mic

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every Monday - Folk Session

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon Open Mic

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

First Tues - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every other Tues - Acoustic Session

Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel

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

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every other Wednesday - Acoustic Sessions

The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Plough & Harrow, Guarlford

First Wed - Open Mic

The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Music at The Red Lion

The Red Lion, Malvern

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

Every Thurs - Open Mic with Dave Onions

Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

Thursday - Monthly Open Mic Night

The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

Every other Thursday, Paul And Rays Sessions

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions

The Pheasant, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catsfill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

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

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Every Thur - Acoustic Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Comedy Night

The Bridge, Worcester

Every 4th Thurs - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton

The Unicorn, Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

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

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson

Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

1st Sat - Acoustic session

The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session

Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Every Sunday - Open Mic 7.30

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00

Lichfield Vaults

Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

3rd Sun - Singaround format Session

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Listings in conjunction with NotJustSauce.com

Arts & Exhibitions

Until 6th Dave Simpson, Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

Until 9th Brian Cook, 'Aves', Pershore No 8

1st - 6th 'Amy', Artrix Bromsgrove

2nd-27th Jain Mckay prints, Artrix Bromsgrove

3rd - 30th Rachel Wood, Chiu I Wu, Adam Frew

Bevere Gallery Worcester.

8th Mouth & Music, Boars Head, Kidderminster

10th Story Jams, Victoria Pub, Birmingham

12th-21st November Illustration Beats Explanation

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

13th 'Far From the Madding Crowd' The Hive Worcester

14th Creative Writers Group, The Hive Worcester

15th-19th Oliver, Evesham Arts Centre

18th-20th Worcester Music Festival

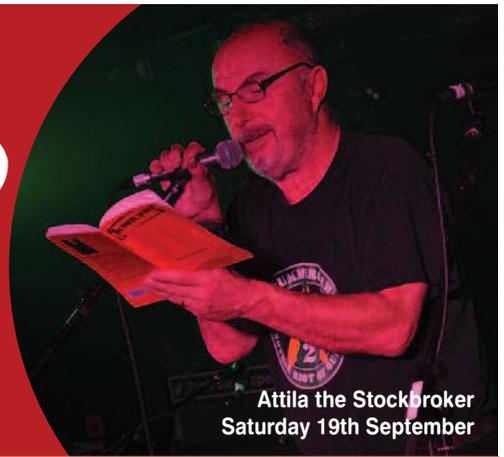
19th- 31st Oct Picasso exhibition, Barnbury, Winchcombe

Until 4th Oct, Jinney Ring Sculpture Trail, Hanbury

Until 29th Oct AIM's Beneath the Surface, The Hive Worcester

THE MARR'S BAR

SEPT
OCT 2015



Attila the Stockbroker
Saturday 19th September

Friday 4th September

Monster Riff's - Merciless Terror, Soden,
Bleak Zero, Skinhorse
£3 in advance

Saturday 5th September

Worcester Music Festival & Slap Mag
presents WMF 2015 warm up The Stiff
Joints, Skewwhiff & Humdrum Express
£3 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 12th September

Stu Ev's 50th Birthday celebration
Riff/Raff & Stone Cold Killers
Free Entry

Worcester Music Festival

Friday 18th September 7-12pm

Rhythm & Booze presents:
You Know The Drill, HEY YOU GUYS!,
The Bophins, Lying for Friends plus
Special Guest

Saturday 19th September WMF

11:00: Worcester school of Rock and
Performance Workshop
13:00: Worcester school of Rock and
Performance Workshop - Showcase
16:00: Jason Bowld Drum Masterclass

6 - 12pm SLAP Presents WMF

Cantaloop, White Feather Collective,
Flat Stanley, Attila the Stockbroker,
Vault of Eagles, Silverlake

Sunday 20th September WMF

Task in Hand Presents: Das Sexy Clap,
Theo, The Broken Oak Duet, Esteban,
Howard James Kenny, special guest

Friday 25th September

Oye Santana (Tribute)
£11 in advance £13 on the door

Saturday 26th September

Guns Or Roses
£8 in advance £10 on the door

COMING UP IN OCTOBER

Thursday 1st October

Faithful City Presents - Palm Reader,
Vera Grace, Seasons, Royal Ascent
£4 in advance £6 on the door

Friday 2nd October

Charity night in aid of Cystic Fibrosis &
Multiple Sclerosis
Alex Rainsford, Sam Deacon, Chris Taylor
£4 in advance

Saturday 3rd October

Rust For Glory (Neil Young Tribute)
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 10th October

Gary Moore Legacy (Featuring ex
members of Gary Moore's band)
£12 in advance £15 on the door

Friday 16th October

Hawklords and Black Light Secret
£12.50 in advance £15 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

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