

SLAP

Issue 62

Sep 2016

FREE



SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

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Fri 2nd - The Underdogs

Sat 3rd - The Little Band

Thu 8th - The Bar Room
Anthems

Fri 9th - The Sunshine Band

Sat 10th - Ricky Cool
& the In Crowd

Thu 15th - The Ferrets

Fri 16th - Pigdaze

Sat 17th - The Tom Walker Trio

Thu 22nd - The Mob

Fri 23rd - The Terry Clarke Band

Sat 24th - The Big Wolf Band

Thu 29th - Velvet Tardis

Fri 30th - The Kate G Band

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SLAP

Sept 2016 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Happy September to one and all I trust you had a wonderful August...

We here at Slap have been having a blast this summer and August was no exception. In this issue we report back from the wonderful Lakefest, Livestock, Jinney Ring Blues & The Old Bush Blues festivals as well as bringing you just some of the news, reviews and previews from around our artistically rich region.

Also in this issue we very much look forward to the Worcester Music Festival weekend including our involvement with our SLAP night at the Marr's Bar on the Saturday, as well as many other exciting events around the counties. In fact you only have to glance through the listings pages in this publication to see that the events covered within the editorial are just a very small part of what is on offer in our region these days. Indeed it feels to me that despite the enforced austerity measures, job insecurity and funding cuts, we here in the 3 Counties region are holding our own with co-operation and a DIY attitude. Curtis Fulcher, Head of communications at The Courtyard, Hereford for example, is running a series of half marathons to raise money following a withdrawal of funding from Herefordshire Council (see page 33).

The recent 'Wish You Were Here' report into the live music industry reveals that despite an estimated 40% of London venues closing over the last ten years - plus many others round the country - the 'toilet circuit of dive bars and clubs' (who came up with that phrase?) has become an unlikely tourist attraction with some 5.6 million people attending small venues - and 27.7 million going to a live music event, with 17 million of these going to a local bash! The report says that the government recognises that 'while music is one of the UK's strongest hands it doesn't produce policy to strengthen that hand' - yeah spot on!!

So it seems that the more the arts are attacked financially and discouraged educationally, the stronger its resolve. Most charities are supported in part by fundraising festivals, where organisers and performers give up their time for free, such as Musicians For Homelessness (see adverts on pages 19 & 44). In essence and somewhat superfluously, the government continues to cut arts funding and then sit back while we on the front line raise all the cash... Ooh the irony!

Purge Ed



Front cover image: The Charity collectors at Worcester Music Festival 2015 by Dave Grubb

Men In General

Men In General is on the lookout for a singer of indeterminate age and even less sartorial elegance to join four other blokes in a quest for à cappella groove for about 20 dates a year.



www.meningeneral.org.uk Info: Adrian 01684 540366

Snarling Over The Pond

The Midlands made, independent feature film, **'The Snarling'** WON its category at the **International GenCon Film Festival** in the United States. This unsigned comedy-horror feature has had audiences in gales of laughter at sell out screenings as well as being a hit at film festivals in the UK but now, it has received WINNERS laurels.

The film features such names as – **Laurence Saunders, Chris Simmons, Ben Manning, Julie Peasgood, Julia Deakin, Ste Johnston, Pablo Raybould and Albert Moses.**



Shooting Lodge Productions, the makers of this film, would like to thank everyone that was involved in the making of this film and are hoping that this might place them closer to getting a distribution deal so that it can be enjoyed by a wider audience.

The facebook page is - <https://www.facebook.com/TheSnarling>

Building Up the Vibes

Vibes FM uk is a dance music station broadcasting each and every weekend just like the old pirate radio days from friday evening 'til midnight sunday we will be playing oldskool dance tunes. They are currently looking for djs so if you would like to become a dj on **Vibes FM** uk then please contact dj shylo at djshylo@yahoo.com www.vibesfmuk.tk

Remi Flying High

It's been a stellar couple of months for Bromyard's own **Remi Harris** - the jazz guitarist was flown over to play the **Montreal Jazz Festival** - which was aired on BBC Radio 2 and 3 - and has followed it up with a performance with **Jamie Cullum** at the **Royal Albert Hall** - televised on BBC4 (and available on the iPlayer) Catch him locally at the **Market Theatre Ledbury** on September 24th before he goes global!!



Woofest Total

Congratulations to **Woofest** who raised more than £8000 for **St Richards Hospice** from the around 400 people who attended the bash at the **Drum & Monkey** pub on 23 July featuring **White Feather Collective** and **The Fidgets**. The record 'pounds-per-punter' ratio was achieved with the entire ticket price going to the local charity - plus a bucketload of side activities!

Rocks on Hold

Organisers of **Malvern Rocks** have apologised for the last-minute cancellation of this year's event as they ran out of time trying to change the festival's structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - which would have helped them to apply for grants from the **Arts Council** and others. Spokesman **Ralph Tittley** said that *'rather than do it badly this year we'd rather put our efforts into making next year's Malvern Rocks the event it deserves to be'* - best wishes chaps!!

Bewdley Billing Bonanza

Some interesting names on the billing for probably the latest and last of our local summer festival bashes - with **The Rutles, Miles Jupp** and the manic **Andy McConnell** from the BBC's **Antiques Roadshow** lined up for the 29th **Bewdley Festival** from 7-16 October - organiser **Dave Collins** promises *'something for everyone'*. See our preview on Pages 48-49, but for more info please visit bewdleyfestival.org.uk

DJ Single Launch

Local BBC Introducing presenter **Andrew Marston** turned performer when he launched his first single *Pray* at the awesome **Lakefest** - teaming up with Hereford vocalist **Lucia Nicole** and producer **Jon Sidwell** - saying that *'after 10 years I realised that if I suddenly died, there'd be no evidence that I could actually play myself'* - check it out on iTunes!!

Blast from the past at Local Theatres

Timeshift season is fast approaching - and you can checkout **The Osmonds** featuring Jimmy, Jay and Merrill at **Malvern Theatres** on Thursday 22 December - also the current version of **The Three Degrees** will play **Evesham's Regal Cinema** on 22 September - wonder if their biggest fan will pop along?

Oysterband Return to Bromyard

Oysterband have once again been confirmed as headliners for the **49th Bromyard Folk Festival** from 9-11 September - with ceilidhs, workshops, processions and the young **Future Of Folk** competition - plus a choice pick of local, national and international traditional artists - BFF is late in the summer season but always good fun!!

Locals Like Lakefest

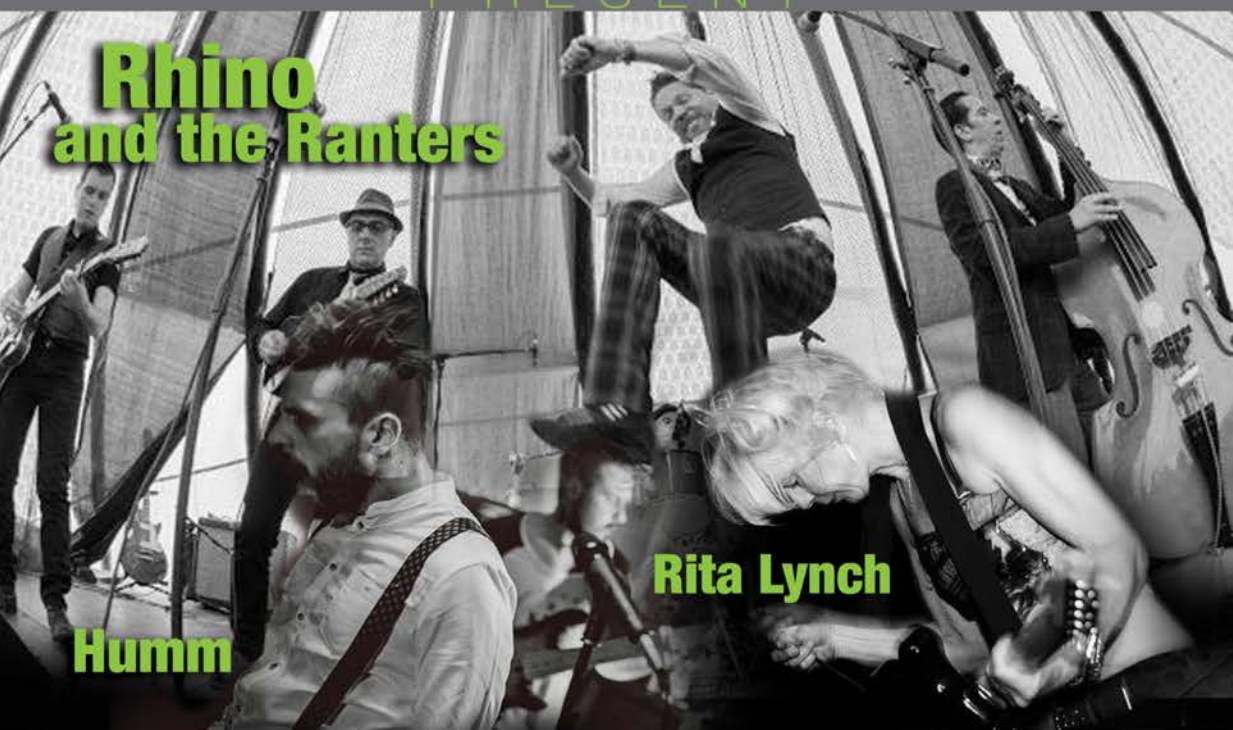
Ledbury locals have welcomed the success of **Lakefest** following its first 'brilliant weekend' at Eastnor - happy that it's plugged the gap left by the sudden departure of **Big Chill** in 2012. Over 7000 attended the mix of carnival, concert and Alice in Wonderland - helped by a sun-soaked weekend and storming sets from the likes of **Primal Scream** and **Big Country** - plenty of reviews inside!!

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Rita Lynch

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Well things are starting to settle down a little after a mammoth summer of festival frolics! Just recovering from my anti-barber shop 'Pie n Tash' getting fully into character in the Wild West district at **Boomtown**, plus the launch of my new installation for 2016 *The Cabinet of Strange Reflections*, a strange micro venue at both **Green Man** and **Shambala**! But not much time to rest as this month I'm promoting a night for the most awesome local event there is, the fabulous **Worcester Music Festival**!



Licensed to Rhyme

A new monthly spoken word event mixing poetry, prose and occasionally music starts this month. Previous Worcestershire and Birmingham poet laureates **Maggie Doyle** and **Spoz** will invite a selection of guest poets, plus a headline act, and the rest of the evening will be given to open mic performances. *Licensed to Rhyme* will also take place 10th October, 7th November and 9th January. Those wishing to perform should contact Maggie at maggiedoyle@gmail.com or sign up at Artix on the evening of the event. Mon 12th Sept. £5. 7.30pm.

Dancefest

Their new term starts on 19 September and they have a special early bird offer on many of their classes. If you book and pay for the term online before 12 September, you'll get 10% off - you can start dancing with them at 18 months old and continue until you're 108 if you like; **Dancefest** exists to enable anyone to experience the joy of dance, in their eyes everyone is a dancer,



Clik Click is promoting a funk-based night, and of course there couldn't be funk without our glorious new groove-steppers **Desert Boots** showing their faces, alongside funky hip hop veterans **Cantaloop** and pop up dancing action from **Funky Navigation**



aka **Del & Dan**! As if that's not enough for you I am also bringing to the table London's **Lit FM** with some slick jazz grooves and East Midlands based **The Shadow Cats** reggae & beats sounds not unlike Fat Freddy's Drop.

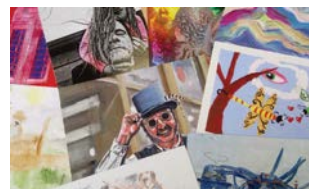


regardless of age, ability or experience. Their work is about joining in – they run over 30 weekly classes across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, have three youth companies, lead projects in schools, colleges and universities as well as in community settings, such as residential homes. Dancefest pride themselves on delivering work of high quality that makes a genuine difference to people's lives, all led by an experienced professional team.

Visit dancefest.co.uk to find out more and find a class for you!

Art of Conversation

This month sees the **Art in Minds Foundations'** annual exhibitions to mark **World Mental Health Day** (10 October). Art in Minds, based in Worcester, work with adults in the community with experience



of mental ill health. By creating opportunities to exhibit member's artwork, sharing new creative skills and keeping members and volunteers actively engaged in the local community, the charity helps foster their personal and professional creative interests. On World Mental Health Day each year they exhibit members' work to raise awareness and encourage openness around the subject of mental health. Exhibiting the work helps to raise participants' confidence and self-esteem. www.artinminds.org.uk

The Hive, Worcester - 24th Sept until 20th Oct

Artix, Bromsgrove - 28th Sept until 23rd Oct

Ironbridge Gorge Anniversary

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of **Ironbridge Gorge** being a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** this month, with entertainment and activities spread across the gorge and a magical river procession finale by **Walk the Plank** featuring illuminated boats, music, performers and pyrotechnics. With arts and crafts, music, dance and street theatre, Heritage walks and talks, stalls and food and drink. From 2- 9pm. Sat 17th. Dale End Park, Telford.



Facebook- World Heritage River Festival for more info...

Multi-media exhibitions at Number 8

Hazel Morris & Karen Lilley - 'Reflections'

Jeweller **Hazel Morris** and glass maker **Karen Lilley** embrace the challenge of working with reflective materials whilst also maintaining smooth, sharp lines. Their collections incorporate layers, textures and colours. Whilst Hazel draws inspiration from Anglo-Saxon designs, Karen is influenced by age-old glass-working traditions such as trailing and feathering. All pieces are one-offs and both artists work to commission. Until Wednesday 14 September



Schools Showcase 2016

This year's showcase was inspired by Aztec, Mayan, Egyptian, Brazilian and Aboriginal art. Children from **Abbey Park Middle**, **Holy Redeemer**, Vale of Evesham, **Overbury First** and **Bredon Middle schools** took part in workshops led by artist **Marie-Thérèse King** to create this collection of ornate metal masks. Thursday 15 September - Wednesday 5 October

Cut, Fold, Bind - 'Bound by Books'

This exhibition brings together the work of a group of artists who combine traditional and contemporary approaches to bookbinding with drawing, painting, printmaking and textiles. Alongside showcasing the beauty of this art form these exquisite creations also serve as sketchbooks, diaries, travel journals, notebooks or decorative sculptures. Thursday 15 September - Wednesday 26 October.



To submit your arts news
& events email Kate at
arts@slapmag.co.uk

The Magnetic Diaries Review

Reaction Theatre Makers brought their production of **Sarah James'** poetry play *'The Magnetic Diaries'* to **The Studio Space** at **The Hive**, Worcester, as part of the **Worcestershire Literary Festival & Fringe's** festival programme on Tuesday 14th June.



Veyatie Straker plays Emma Bailey, a 'modern day *Madame Bovary*', mother and wife, undergoing an innovative treatment for her mental health. The heroine battles with romantic idealism, illusions about love, a stifling middle-class lifestyle, boredom and depression. Moving lyrical fragments and crafted poems from Emma's diary are set alongside the voices of her doctors and emails from her husband Carl; the intricate poetry, and visually stunning movements made for an electrifying performance from the actor. **Tiffany Hosking's** direction seemed incredibly precise, and the remarkable, sympathetic musical score by Joanna Karselis created a chilling atmosphere. The overall look, feel and sound was totally immersive and the audience were deeply appreciative: their positive response post-show is perhaps testament to how truly moving the play is. A narrative of love, lust, betrayal and depression, *The Magnetic Diaries* is not easy to watch. However an accurate depiction of depression is hard to find in the mainstream media, and the painful, complicated combination of the physical and the auditory make this a powerful piece of theatre.

The Magnetic Diaries is performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival until the 27th August (except 21st) at ZOO, 140 The Pleasance, at 1pm.

A further tour of the show in October 2016 includes **Malvern Cube**, 15th October.

Martin Driscoll

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Livestock Festival Friday 29th to Sunday 31st July

It may have only been the second **Livestock Festival** in existence but the organizers made sure that the whole weekend feel like it had been happening for years. Everything was carried out down to the T – you could rely on the bars to be well-stocked, the sets to start with impressive punctuality and the sound being second to none. They even provided seating, cover for the main stage and plenty of shade for when the sun got too much. You could even detach yourself from the busy main festival arena and hide yourself away within the woodland area that was home to the magical Woodland Stage, only accessible by a walk through a canopy of trees, lighted by the warming presence of fairylights.

From the get go on Friday, festival-goers were submerged in the full power of Livestock. Throughout the day, they were treated to the **Skaletrics**, **Other Animals** and a DJ set on the **Woodland Stage**. But, the further into the evening you got, the better the sets became. **Quigley** took away breaths with those resonant and powerful vocals before **Late Night Legacy** brought a high energy set that got both young and old moving along to their blasts of infectious, speedy rock'n'roll gold. **Reef** successfully closed the night with their 90 minute set, fitting in their iconic 'Place Your Hands' as well as their latest single 'How I Got Over You'. From the expressions on the audience's faces, this was a performance they weren't going to stop talking about any time soon.



Late Night Legacy

There was no better way to wake the crowds up on Saturday than with **Heir** who were busy reaching pitch-perfect harmonies on the main stage. Saturday also brought with it the extra excitement of an **Acoustic Stage** and the opening of the Woodland Stage, leaving room for everyone's tastes and desires to be fulfilled. If you needed a bit of time out, the covered intimate Acoustic Stage was the place to go, with sets from **Meg Haydn** and **Martha Makes Mistakes** delivering pitch-perfect sets that inspired and moved the audience to feeling stunning emotion. The Woodland Stage boasted faultless sets from the likes of **Lila J** and **Anthony Price**, with **Dry Clean Only** making sounds just as colorful as their bright Hawaiian shirts.

The day fell into an easy flow, with **Brad Dear** delivering rusty vocals over gorgeous folk harmonies that you couldn't help but love before **Imprints** took everyone's breath away with their infectious gypsy rock that went straight to the crowd's heads - the ban managing to entice screams for 'more' which is no surprise



Johnny Kowalski
and the Sexy Weirdos

considering the contagious energy of the set. **Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos** well and truly lived up to their hype by delivering a shambolic sound that reached an deafening climax as the band flitted across the stage, letting the music completely take over their bodies. It was mesmerizing to watch, but not as compelling as the set **Reverend and the Makers** delivered. Speaking to people in the crowd it was obvious that this was the band that had stolen peoples hearts on the second day.



Reverend and the Makers

Whilst the crowd may have been feeling a bit more worse for wear on Sunday morning, it definitely did not put them off. After early bands only adding to the lethargic atmosphere, it was down to **Done By Sunrise** to get things moving as people were finally getting up off their feet to dance to their addictive, sunny music. **Gaz Brookfield** then took to the stage armed with his delightfully honest quips and humble songwriting that brought a smile to even the most cynical of the crowd. But even this young writer couldn't argue with the fact that **Chesney Hawkes** stole the spotlight on Sunday, asking his adoring audience to help him take part in the #22PushUps charity initiative to help raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention as well as belting out various tracks, including his famous hit 'The One and Only'.

I'm sure that everyone one of the 4,500 crowd that descended upon Livestock's field's will agree and say that this is perhaps one of the best weekends they've had all year - you can't argue with the smiles that reached from ear to ear on the families, the music fans, and the people who were just there to enjoy festival life.

Emily Branson

Tewkesbury Art | A gem of an exhibition



Tewkesbury Art Society's summer exhibition was displayed in July and the variety and quality was amazing.

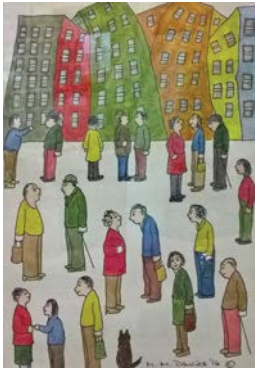
There were local landscapes and watercolours that evoked holiday memories, comic acrylics, artistic abstract and stylised artworks made with colouring pencils with a Japanese feel and there were beautiful portraits. The variety was intriguing and each corner turned brought more and unusual paintings that really



woke the imagination, and the quality if the work was astounding, it's no wonder there were so many visitors who bought so many pieces.

Nearly 500 visitors came to the display, sampled the lovely cakes and welcoming hospitality and voted on their favourite pictures. 33 pictures were even sold along with many cards, helping to offset the costs, and the society's prize winners were **Meg Haslehurst** for the **Kershaw Cup** & **Jim Mitchell** for the **Stagecoach Award**.

Congratulations to **Tewkesbury Art Society** for such a wonderful and welcoming event.



Sarah Ganderton

CUBE sHuFFle

Saturday 10th September 12pm-6pm

A FREE, family friendly, Malvernesque Saturday afternoon event featuring a beautifully eclectic line up of musicians and DJs, local ale/cider/food, and stalls.

There will be plenty of child friendly activities going on throughout the day, including bouncy slide, candy floss, face painting.... We will also have some lovely craft stalls from local artists and designers for you to have a good fumble through! (please get in touch with the Cube office, if you'd like to get involved - 01684 575363)

Cafe At The Cube will be kindly adapting their menu and will be cooking up some tasty treats in addition to their regular selection of great snacks and delicious cake.

Fantastic live music will be showcased all day featuring: **Sam Eden / Adventure Club / Skewwhiff / The Futures / Folk Law / David Jenkins / John Denton / The Hill's Angels** / plus some retro action from the **Carnival Records** vinyl DJs filling all the gaps.

CUBE sHuFFle

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www.malverncube.com



www.antonybridge.co.uk



16th Sept Malvern Cube 8pm Bar&Nibbles

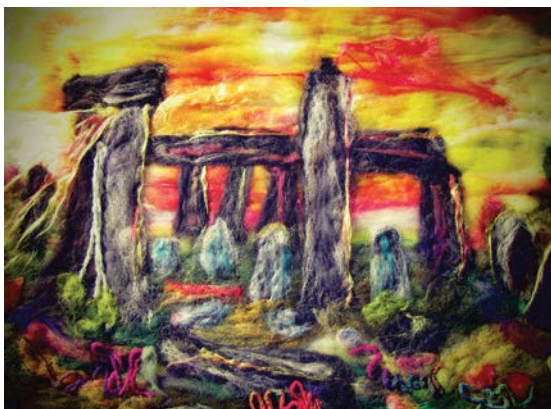
www.malverncube.com



worcester arts workshop

September brings a lot of excitement for the **Worcester Arts Workshop**. With our new term of classes starting, **Worcester Music Festival** and the return of **Splendid Cinema** there are more reasons than ever to come along and see what WAW has on offer.

Our new term will start back on the 5th September with lots of new and exciting courses to get your teeth into. As well as the usual pottery, life drawing and watercolour painting we have a whole new range of courses starting this Autumn term. With new classes such as **Singing for Health**, **Sculpture/ Relief Modelling**, **Needle Felting Landscapes** and **The Rhythm of Life**, we really are expanding our courses to cover a wide range of interests not found anywhere else in Worcester. So have a look on our website or pick up a copy of the new Autumn brochure for the full list of classes and events here at WAW. Booking in advance is essential as these popular courses get booked up quickly.



We are very excited to be hosting a stage for the **Worcester Music Festival** during the weekend of 16th – 18th September. **The Worcester Arts Workshop** stage will run between 6pm and midnight on all three days, celebrating live, original and diverse music in Worcester all in aid of **Acorns Charity**.

On Friday 16th **Shuddervision** presents **The Stiff Joints**, **Sister Sandwich**, **The Miffs** and DJ's **MR Robot** and **Digits McPhee** with a mix of Ska, Punk and of course **Sister Sandwich**.

On Saturday 17th **Young Pop Things** presents a mix of electronica, experimental and electro with **V2A**, **Ross Angeles**, **Pokemon Reactor**, **Whitley** and **Tom Cassidy**.

And finally, on Sunday 18th **BBC Introducing** in Hereford and Worcester will present a varied night full of up and coming local artists to keep your eye on.



The Stiff Joints

This September sees the return of **Splendid Cinema** to the Worcester Arts Workshop theatre. Kicking off the season on Thursday 22nd September we have **Son of Saul** (HU, László Nemes, 2015, 107 min. Cert. 15) During World War II, a Jewish worker (Géza Röhrig) at the Auschwitz concentration camp tries to find a rabbi to give a child a proper burial. Winner of the 2015 Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival and both the Golden Globe and Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Doors will open at 7.15pm with Café Bliss open for refreshments beforehand. Tickets are £5 on the door.



For more information or to book on a WAW courses please visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk or call us on 01905 25053. The office is open Tuesday – Friday between 11am and 2pm.

Exhibition

Peace in moments of chaos Meet the artist **Nash Riazi** at her open view on the 2nd Sep 7-9pm.



I grew up in Germany, but was born in Iran. The exposure to different cultures, specifically Iranian poetry, encouraged me to follow my creative impulses. Although originally a realist painter, I found myself through abstract art and have been practicing techniques for the last couple of years. My biggest inspiration is Mother Nature and all that surrounds us.



The Strongrooms Project

The **Worcester Show** is always a popular event and this year the sunshine really brought out the crowds!

The **Strongrooms Project** allowed artist **Muhammed Ali** to work with the artefacts at archives across the West Midlands and with local community groups and schools to develop their own artwork.

The cargo containers holding the artwork had been open in **Gheluvelt Park** for the week leading up to the show. Sunday was by far the busiest day, inundated with visitors of all ages and interests. The display by **Worcestershire Archive** and **Archaeology Service** showed photographs of the park and surrounding area through the years where visitors placed stickers to represent their own house on a copy of a Worcester map from the 1750s. We had over 3000 visitors, from toddlers and teenagers to those with memories of their own from days gone by.

The brilliant pieces in the first container, all by Muhammed Ali, played an audio introduction to the Strongrooms each time someone pushed past the door to step inside. The container had been transformed so that all you could see were the spot lit canvases. The figures depicted around the 'Strongroom' represented the lost histories of individuals Muhammed had learned about in different archives. Depicted in a contemporary style as silhouettes made with stencils, the display was upbeat and innovative and really brought the stories to life.



In the second container local community groups and schools had worked with the artist to create their own interpretations of similar stories. The character depicted on the outside of the container, Dorothy, a WWI aristocratic ambulance driver on the front line, had inspired the creation of a writing desk, full of her letters and sprouting the poppies to represent the end of the war. Meanwhile, a collection of Fez's hung from the ceiling decorated individually and represented other lost soldiers.



Muhammed was on hand all day to meet visitors and he gave an inspiring talk about how he came to create graffiti-style murals and to work on this project. Recently in South Africa he had been working on other cargo containers helping to design and decorate them as houses for the poor. He was keen to stress that his work is always done with permission and always takes inspiration from his surroundings or the history of the place and people who it is created for. Previous pieces have included community sports grounds, abandoned factories and the walls of shops or hoardings for development areas. He has also designed cubes erected in town centres, decorating them with locally important people and stories. This **Strongrooms Project** was an obvious next move for Muhammed and his love of history is clear in his work.



The visitors enjoyed the exhibition and the opportunity to chat to staff and volunteers and browse through old local documents. Perhaps this will even inspire them!

For more details, the website for the project is: www.strongrooms.org.uk and if you are inspired to do some historic research, you can contact the Worcestershire archive and archaeology service through their website:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/waas

Sarah Ganderton

All Ears Avow

The Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | 5 August

Lucky boy that I am, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to watch splendid Swindonian alt-rockers, **All Ears Avow** for the second time in little over a week, when they played at Summerfest 2016 at The Frog and Fiddle in Cheltenham.



There's always a slight trepidation in watching a band for a second time - "were they really that good when I saw them first or was it a fluke?" - well, I'm pleased to report, it was absolutely no fluke. This was a brilliant set of melodic, driving alt-rock - the room was about as hot as the sweat box in *Cool Hand Luke* to start with and they certainly managed to raise it a few degrees.

This band has all the elements you need - they're on the heavy side of the genre, so you get monster riffs, a tighter than tight rhythm section and, with the whole band singing, absolutely top-class vocals. There's also sparing and discrete use of streamed

media and the whole thing is shot through with melody and big, big hooks. Even though this is in all respects a pretty damn near perfect ensemble performance, it would be completely remiss of me not to mention **Claire Sutton's** lead vocals, which are huge. She cuts a powerful figure onstage and this is reflected in the depth and attack of her delivery - certainly one of the best vocalists I've seen this year.

Sean Ivens on drums and **Joe Bishop** on bass drive the sound forward with both force and much subtlety in the quieter moments, while Sutton's rock solid rhythm guitar work allows lead guitarist **Jake Willcock** space to inject his chiming solo work and earworm shapes.

Their excellent debut EP, "*Home*" is best represented by the title track and the crunching "*Better Now*", while their new and equally fine offering "*Reach (Side A)*" - it's part one of two - produces the frantic "*Getaway Car*" and the more measured, but no less powerful title track. The conclusion to the set, placing the mean crunch of "*Getaway Car*" before concluding with the almost stately power balladry of "*Reach*" is a masterpiece of pacing and nuance - it takes a special sort of confidence in the strength of your material to do that.

I'm convinced this is a band going places - could have listened to them all night. Superb.

www.allearsavow.com



Geoffrey Head



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Mercury
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Rhythm & sound at Artrix

Artrix are ringing the changes and you'll notice some new events jostling amongst the usual mix of eclectic entertainment this autumn.

Birmingham's favourite housewife **Barbara Nice** and **Josh Pugh** will be amongst the comedians performing at Artrix's second **Comedy with Cake** event on 11th September. **Maureen Younger** will MC as they present their best, family-friendly material which you can enjoy over a cuppa and a piece of cake.



12th September sees the launch of **Licensed to Rhyme** which is a new monthly spoken word event mixing poetry, prose and, occasionally, music. Co-hosts **Maggie Doyle** and **Spoz Esposito** will invite a selection of guest poets plus a headline act to strut their stuff with the rest of the night devoted to open mic performances. Would-be acts should contact Maggie via email maggiedoyle@gmail.com



Lynched are a four-piece traditional folk group from Ireland with a repertoire which spans Dublin music-hall ditties, street songs and classic ballads. With the current upsurge of interest in Irish folk bands, this is a timely performance and a must-see for folk fans on 16th September.

Graham Parker & Brinsley Schwarz have worked together on and off since 1975. They are best known for their stint as **Graham Parker and the Rumour**. The band were rivals to the likes of Joe Jackson and Elvis Costello and their 1979 album *Squeezing Out Sparks* is amongst Rolling Stone's list of 500 greatest albums of all time. Nowadays the duo perform songs from their early albums as well as tunes from their two latest Rumour reunion albums *Three Chords Good* and *Mystery Glue*. Catch them at Artrix on 30th September.

For further details see www.artrix.co.uk or contact the Box Office on 01527 577330

Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways

Written and performed by **Heather Wastie** and **Kate Saffin**, a double bill of theatre, poetry and music to whisk you back to the days of World War II when a shortage of crews to keep the working boats going brought a new breed of boater to the canal. Young women, later nicknamed Idle Women, took on the challenge of managing a pair of 72ft narrowboats and 55 tons of cargo Enjoy an outdoor event at a riverside venue featuring Isobel's War (Kate Saffin) and Idle Women and Judies (Heather Wastie)

Wednesday 7th Sept - 7.30pm • Garden of the Camp House Inn, Grimley, WR2 6LX, 01905 640 288 - In association with **The Worcestershire Literary Festival & Fringe**

Free entry with donations welcome to support the artists
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Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways

*Splashed across the Evening News
"Idle boats in need of crews"
so young girls, greenhorns
applied and went off for interviews*

A double bill of theatre, poetry and music to whisk you back to the days of World War II when a shortage of working boat-crews brought a new breed of boater to the canal

Written and performed by Heather Wastie and Kate Saffin

Wednesday 7th Sept - 7.30pm

Garden of Camp House Inn, Grimley, WR2 6LX, 01905 640288

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admin@alarumtheatre.co.uk
www.alarumtheatre.co.uk
Free entry - donations welcome

Proudly supporting Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways

The Kut

Pig 'n' Drum | Wed 18th August

The **Kut** are a London-based power trio of several years and this was the second time they visited Worcester (same venue) in just 10 months. Essentially the artistic child of charismatic front-woman **'Princess' Maha** (vocals & guitar) being the sole permanent member and songwriter, this band has seen several line-up changes in its rhythm department (both bass and drums player have changed since their last visit) throughout their career.

2016 has been a pretty intense year for them, getting big endorsement from Kerrang! Magazine ("They're more than just Hole II") and embarking in their first full-blown nationwide tour; it seems the girls are finally getting the recognition they deserve.

Musically I wouldn't be able to pin-point exactly what genre they fit in: too melodic to be 'punk' yet definitely loud, fast and somewhat 'angry'. At the same time they avoid other constraining labels like "Riot Grrls" of recent memory. The media has drawn somewhat justifiable comparisons with L7 or Hole.

The current line-up sees Hannah on bass and German-born Diana on drums who perform with such tightness and precision you may think they've been together for decades. They kick off the set with one of their signature tunes: "Mario". As well as the crowd's favourites there is also time to squeeze two new tracks "If Looks Could Kill" and "Hollywood" reveal an even subtler approach to melody and some nice solo work from the leader. After many singles and a few EPs it looks like a full album might be in the pipeline after this tour. We have been lucky to catch them



halfway in and looking and sounding galvanized by the whole experience.

I have to say that both recent Worcester gigs were criminally under-attended in my opinion (OK, mid-week is not usually a great time, but hey?!). I have also seen this band play in front of hundreds and believe me, they did put the exact same sweat, blood, tears and effort in for us lucky few at the Pig as they do on bigger stages.

A little bird told me (it was an 'ant' actually: sorry if not many outside of the SLAP crowd get the [attempted] joke) that **The Kut** might be heading back to town already in September for the **Worcester Music Festival** weekend. So watch this space, look out for the forthcoming WMF brochure, write it in your diary, or better still, check out **The Kut** videos online (I recommend 'Doesn't Matter Anyway' and this years' hit 'Bad Man'), so next time they're around we can give these hard-working girls a proper, warm West Midlands welcome!

J Beppe Tyrell

Towers

The Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | 19th August



There comes a point when the weight of people suggesting you check out a band (including my esteemed Editor at SLAP) becomes irresistible. So I was very pleased to get a chance to see Bristolians **Towers** really close to home when they played on promoter **Oliver Roylance's** bill at **The Frog and Fiddle** in Cheltenham.

You can tell pretty early on in a set whether a band has got "it" or not, that indefinable quality that sets them apart

from their peers, and for me with this band that takes about two minutes into the opener 'Low Tide'.

Crisp, energetic, driving alt-rock - and oh, the vocals... This is what everyone I've heard talk about this band has made a point of mentioning, and they're not wrong.

As well as the simply extraordinary voice of lead singer **Jay Walker**, rich and exceptionally powerful right through the range,

lead guitarist **Chloe Bell** and bass player **Jess Waller** add both lush harmonies and support lead vocals. When all three are in full flight, it's a glorious sound.

Their only currently available track, 'Can't Help Myself' follows and paves the way for a series of beautifully constructed songs - there's no weaknesses here - driven on by **Nathan Searle's** deft drumming and Waller's fluid bass, the double guitar attack rings out to great effect, with Bell's lovely chiming shapes providing memorable highpoints.

They save the best until last. The final track 'Ties' is simply wonderful, with Walker's voice at its most melodic and forceful.



So what's next? They're gigging pretty regularly, but some more recorded material would be useful to establish a strong musical presence online.

You need to see this band - they are definitely living up to their reputation. I think this may be where I came in...

www.facebook.com/bandtowers/

Geoffrey Head

BLACK BOXES

Formed earlier this year - and featuring former members of the unspeakably loud **Plane Crasher** - Hereford's **Black Boxes** are rapidly establishing themselves as a ferocious live prospect. You can find out for yourself how ferocious when they play the **Surprise Attacks** show at the **Firefly** on the Saturday night of this month's **Worcester Music Festival**. In advance of this, we caught up with their four constituent parts - **Edd Tipton** (guitar and Vocals), **Matt Rees** (guitar), **Ben Davies** (bass) and **Andy Williams** (drums) to discuss amplification, Hawkwind and... Sangria.



Photo: Duncan Graves

SLAP: BLACK BOXES. Hello. What are you doing at this exact moment?

BB: *Sitting at a laptop answering some questions for SLAP. And drinking Sangria*

Classy. I am aware that several of your number once flew inappropriately low over unsuspecting residential areas at night under the name of **Plane Crasher** - a staggeringly high-volume outfit famed for blowing backlines and loosening the plaster on the walls. How does this new sonic venture compare?

It's very similar - but more streamlined and direct, like maybe we don't need a drum solo in EVERY song... Basically if you liked Plane Crasher you'll like Black Boxes. Possibly even more.

And how would you describe your new sound - have your influences changed, evolved, mutated?

It's a little bit Melvins, a little bit Ramones, a smidgen of Hawkwind, a dash of Mudhoney, a twist of Cain, all served up in a loud tight parcel of fun with a cherry and a little umbrella... basically, we don't really know.

But yes, most of our influences have mutated and grown extra limbs. The three **Plane Crasher** guys' [Edd, Matt and Ben]

influences are the same obviously - garage, noise rock and punk in all its forms. Andy [Williams, drums] has however brought in all his influences like Hawkwind, Deviants and Pink Fairies - so it's changed in that regard.

You're all well established faces on the stellar and well-heeled music scene in Hereford. How are things out there in the Marches? I hear things are picking up again nicely - the refurbished Booth Hall putting on regular shows, all sorts...



Photo: B at Gippa

Hereford's music scene is constantly either growing or retreating. It's currently on an upswing thanks to the growing number of local promoters, and the excellent people at the Booth Hall. It's such a relief not to have to feel like you're intruding on a venue that just wants to have a jukebox and football on the TV. Finally the Hereford scene has a solid permanent place it can revolve around, with other venues following suit too. You should check the Booth Hall's gig listings to see a large selection of the great stuff happening in Hereford at the moment.

Great to hear... And back to Black Boxes. Future plans - live dates, releases? Tell us more...

Yes, all of those. We've got a killer show coming up at the Booth on 18th October with New Cowboy Builders, Brunel and Fetus Christ. That's going to be a great one. We're also in the final stages of fine - tuning our songs ready to record and finding the best studio to record them in.

Imagine I was a music festival goer unfamiliar with your work. What could I expect from your Worcester Music Festival show? Sell yourselves to me. I'm half tempted by the alt-rock and charming quirk pop that's on at the same time just down the road, but can't make my mind up...

Black Boxes pride ourselves on our reputation of being loud, tight and heavy. We mix huge riffs with a vicious punk rock attack and memorable melodies to give crowds the sweatiest loudest memorable night they can imagine. We appeal to punk fans, metal fans and even fans of traditional hard rock and we ALWAYS give an audience the hardest played show we're physically capable of.

Nice job. And finally, anything else I or we need to know about you all before we go? Literally. Anything.

Triple sec gets it's name from the triple distilling process that it used to go through when they first produced it in France. It's subtle flavour (and comparatively low strength) makes it much better suited for Sangria than Courvoisier, Grand Marnier, Aperol or Brionnet.

Black Boxes play the **Surprise Attacks Worcester Music Festival** all-dayer at the **Firefly**, Lowesmoor on Saturday 17th September 2016 with **The Hungry Ghosts**, **Soden**, **Soeur** and many more. Earplugs recommended.

Just Announced **Black Boxes** supporting Anarco Punk legends **Subhumans** at Booth Hall, Hereford on Wednesday 2nd Nov.

www.facebook.com/blackboxesband Veronica Bloodsausage

Dana & Susan Robinson Elmslie House, Malvern | 3rd September

Dana & Susan Robinson are two guitar playing, harmony singing interpreters of the American experience and their unique blend of song writing and traditional Appalachian music brings to their performance a deep understanding of America's musical heritage. Dirty Linen magazine said, "Many songwriters such as Bruce Springsteen or John Mellencamp have been heralded as a modern day Woody Guthries or keepers of the American rural spirit, but that mantle might be better entrusted to musicians like Dana Robinson who embody both the heart and soul of folk music."

Dana is a native to the Pacific Northwest, but relocated to New England where his partner Sue had grown up. They had discovered a thriving songwriter's scene and the deep well of mountain music in New England, and later in the 1980's Dana founded a popular bakery, café and folk music venue. Before they had met they were familiar to the music scene, Dana had released his 1994 debut CD, *Elemental Lullabye*, and Sue had studied with many great old-time musicians in the Asheville area. Susan was raised in a musical family and she had studied piano, oboe and the Scottish fiddle before meeting Dana in 2002 and beginning their on-the-road journey.

Though their sound is wholly American, a British thread runs throughout showing the influence of their fruitful years touring the UK folk circuit too. Dana and Susan's last two albums, *American Hornpipe* and *Big Mystery*, went to number one and number three respectively on the folk DJ charts with two top ten singles, along with their latest recording *The Angel's Share*, which is a distillation



of traditional and contemporary folk. The genius in a Dana and Susan Robinson performance lies in their ability to take their audience on a road trip across America and convey the mystery and wonder of the places they visit.

Underpinning their songs is the undeniable rhythm of their trademark banjo and guitar sounds. Whether you're sitting quietly or driving through the countryside, there is a steady and unrelenting groove that supports the lyric and delivers the story in an effortless and magical way. "...musical priorities are beauty and simplicity and these are present in abundance." R2. The pair are playing at the **Elmslie House and Gallery**, Great Malvern, on Saturday September 3rd at 8:00pm. For more information on their upcoming September tour and how to get tickets go to their website at www.robinsongs.com.

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White Feather Collective

Jenny Hallam, Lou Clark

Elmslie House Venue & Gallery, Malvern | Sat 24th Sept

On Saturday 24th of September, **Elmslie House** will be launching one of their first "Unplugged" acoustic sessions and opening the event is a British band from Malvern, and the heart of the English countryside, **The White Feather Collective**. They describe themselves as a psychedelic foursome and their varying layers of tone contribute to this, including the sounds of drums, bass, electric guitar, vocals, acoustic guitar and harmonica. They create a high energy performance, that incorporates many aspects that made the late 1960s – the golden era of music. The bands sound could be considered close to that of The Rolling Stones, The Doors, Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac and perhaps even The Black Keys.



The band share universal values and believe that the soul of music is adrift, so they are now striving to restore music's essence for change, reason and imagination. **The White Feather Collective** also aim to immerse their audiences into an awe-inspiring live set, and their well considered recordings boast this quality. They're getting stuck into 2016 and have been touring

many festivals and venues around the UK, such as **LakeFest**, **Edinburgh Fringe Festival**, **Nozstock** and many more. The White Feather Collective were formed in 2014 and the members include William Turner, Christopher Reynolds, Josh Lambe and Roo Macphee. For more information on this four-piece band go to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thewhitefeathercollective.

Supporting The White Feather Collective at Elmslie House's "Unplugged" is **Jenny Hallam** and **Lou Clark**. Talented and quirky singer-songwriter Jenny Hallam charms audiences with her whimsical piano joviality. Nurtured in her home-town of Malvern, she collected songs to take to London, performing in some spectacular venues where she released her debut album '25,000 days' in 2012. Many of her thoughtful songs on this album revolve around the expression of time - the title track '25,000 days' being about the average life-span of a human! Armed with only her keyboard, and occasionally double-bass accompaniment, Jenny will take you on an entertaining journey of fun, verve and character which will make you realise just how little time 25,000 days really is. If you're interested in Jenny's music you can go to her website at www.jennyhallam.co.uk or her Facebook page www.facebook.com/jennyhallammusic.

Local singer **Lou Clark** is a young songwriter who writes and performs a unique mix of pop, jazz, rap and rock which sets her apart from the average musician. She has been compared to such artists as Tracy Chapman, Jason Mraz, and Ed Sheeran, and Lou's low vocal line and insightful lyrics make for intriguing and enjoyable listening! For more information on this event, the Elmslie House website is www.elmsliehouse.co.uk and tickets are £8 in advance from the Elmslie House website or you can purchase them from Carnival Records or Malvern TIC on Church Street, Malvern. Or £10 on the door. There'll be local wine served from Lovells Vinyard, Cider from Three Counties and soft drinks available at the bar; what more do you need for Saturday night!



ELMSLIE HOUSE
VENUE & GALLERY

Elmslie is an elegant venue in the heart of Malvern, within a restored Grade II listed family home. As well as weekly classes, we are holding Designer-Maker Craft Markets 10.30am - 4.30pm on each of the Sundays **Sept 18th, Oct 16th & Nov 20th**



American Folk Duo
Dana & Susan Robinson
Traditional Fiddle Tunes
& Earthy Grooves
Saturday Sept 3rd
Doors open 7.30pm
Tickets £12/£10 concs



The White Feather Collective & support
from Jenny Hallam
Saturday Sept 24th
Doors open 7.00pm
Advance Tickets £8
On the door £10



'Elements' is our inaugural Fine Art Exhibition featuring work of three local artists. **October 1st - 13th** Free Entry
Opening times vary. Plus on **October 5th at 7.30pm** join composer Liz Johnson for a musical premiere.



Soprano **Linda Tolchard** plus **Tim Sidford** on piano /violin & **Catherine Handley** on flute present: 'A Nightingale Sings at Elmslie House'
Saturday October 8th
Doors open 6.30pm
All Tickets £15 to include a glass of wine/juice.

All tickets available from the website - www.elmsliehouse.co.uk or from Malvern Tourist Information Office, Church Street, Malvern.

8 Avenue Road, Malvern WR14 3AG, E: info@elmsliehouse.co.uk M: 07789 470780

Slap Night@WMF

Marrs Bar | Saturday 17th September

SLAP have a top line up for you at the Marr's Bar - an event that you'll really not want to miss.

With London-born **Rhino and the Ranters** set to headline, you shouldn't need much more of an excuse to get your bum down to Marr's Bar for the evening's shenanigans, but, to get your juices properly flowing, we have locally disturbed, romance rockers, **HUMM**, Anglo-Irish singer-songwriter **Rita Lynch**, Worcester's very own **Skewwhiff**, and kicking us off for the night is Kiddi singer-songwriter and compère for the evening, **Ian Passey, aka The Humdrum Express**.

Self-proclaimed cow-punk gospel blues band The Ranters, are hitting the stage to rack out some of their infamous and indescribably punky bluegrass originals, having been in the studio over the last few months working on their latest album for 2016. With no doubt that The Ranters' frontman, **Ryan Webb**, known for his dangerously dynamic presence on stage and tireless delivery of the bands classic tunes, will be bringing his A-Game for the festival's **SLAP Mag** extravaganza.

The Ranters are now settled in the industrial gothic beast that is Birmingham and enjoy a large but cult status in the city. The rabble that make up this gang are: **Loz Kingsley** on mandolin and backing vocals, drummer **Pete Hammond** (formerly of the influential post-punk band **Au Pairs**), bass player **Richard March**, who was a founding member of 90s legends **Pop Will Eat Itself** and one half of chart toppers **Bentley Rhythm Ace**) and local guitar virtuoso, **Andrew Pell** on lead/rhythm guitars and backing vocals.



The dark romance and "febrile chaos" of **HUMM** who graced the stage at The Firefly last month, are back in their hometown to rock out again after a string of successful events across the West Midlands this summer.



We also have legendary Anglo-Irish singer-songwriter **Rita Lynch**, her latest album, "*Hey You*" is set to be released later on this year following the success of her anthropological album "*Story to Tell*". With 12 albums under her belt, she is also known for her time as backing singer and guitarist for Bristol's **The Blue Aeroplanes**. Lynch's current 3-piece line-up consists of Blue Aeroplanes' band mates, **John Langley** on drums and **Mike Youe** on bass.



Worcester's Indie-punk misfits, **Skewwhiff**, are making an appearance with lead vocalist **Beanie**, a rose between three horns, and **The Humdrum Express** promises to keep you



appropriately fluffed throughout the evening with some Spoken Word entertainment between acts; his opening acoustic set highly acclaimed and frequently played by Steve Lamacq on BBC's Radio 6. A jam-packed night of grunge, punk, rock and acoustic banter!



Musicians unite for gig against homelessness

The local music scene is putting on gigs to tackle the scourge of homelessness as part of a famous music mogul's national campaign.

Degs Ridge of The Miffs and **The Marrs Bar**, are organising a one-off gig featuring local talent on **Saturday 1st October**. Similar gigs are going on all over the country in support of **Crisis**, including **Booth Hall, Hereford** on **24th September**. See the ad on page 44

The gig came about after **Alan McGee**, who most notably discovered Oasis, launched **Musicians Against Homelessness (MAH)** to raise money for homeless charity **Crisis** earlier this year. Local band **The Miffs'** Degs Ridge heard about the campaign and immediately rose to the challenge of finding the right venue to host great local talent for the cause on **Saturday 1st October**.

All the MAH gigs across the country are endorsed by McGee, who formed Creation Records and manages bands including **Black Grape** and **The Jesus and Mary Chain**. He said: "I am delighted that bands of this calibre want to be part of this campaign. The support in the region has been tremendous and inspiring and it's fantastic to see so many come forward to take part. Although our primary concern is to combat the scourge of homelessness it is vital that the MAH gigs also give up-and-coming combos a chance to play to larger audiences."

The **Musicians Against Homelessness** gig is at **The Marr's Bar**, 12 Pierpoint Street on **Saturday 1st October** from eight until late. Tickets are available from the venue www.marrsbar.co.uk or online at www.wegotickets.com

MUSICIANS AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

2016 supporting **CRISIS**

Saturday 1st October, 2016

Announcing new headliner...

the miffs

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Patron: Alan McGee

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Musicians & Speakers at Corbyn Support Rally

Momentum Worcester are organising a free event in support of **Jeremy Corbyn** for labour leader with a jam packed line up of speakers and musical acts taking place at **Tramps** in Worcester on the **4th September 2-5pm**.

We have **Peter Stefanovic** who is a lawyer, NHS supporter and is well known for standing with the Junior Doctors. He fully supports Corbyn in the labour leadership and his current Facebook following is over 18,500 and rising!

JJ from 'A Up Let's Talk' is a blogger from Leeds who's YouTube channel, 'A Up Let's Talk' has nearly 3,000 subscribers & 3,500 followers on Facebook. He is a fellow Corbyn supporter with brilliant videos and opinions on all that is happening with the Labour party and leadership! Check him out!

We also have **Peter Willsman**, the secretary of **Campaign for Labour Party Democracy**, he has recently been re-elected to NEC (first on NEC in 1998) and on the National Policy Forum.

Finally, **Darren Williams** who has been Cardiff County Councillor since 2013, industrial officer at PCS; elected to NEC in recent elections.

We have many more speakers confirmed, in addition we have **Nigel Clark of Dodgy**, **Andy Robinson** and **Martin Thorne** all performing on the day.

To guarantee your place at this event, please register for a free ticket at www.momentumworcester.wordpress.com.

Come and show your support!

MOMENTUM WORCESTER presents

4th of September 2-5pm @ Tramps

Worcester 4 Corbyn

A rally to show support for the **Jeremy Corbyn** for Leader campaign

Speakers **Live Music**

Peter Stefanovic

JJ from "A Up, Let's Talk"

and **Pete Willsman & Darren Williams (NEC)** ...and more guest speakers TBC

with DJ Ed Steelfox and live music

This is a **FREE** event but to guarantee entry, please **BOOK** online at www.momentumworcester.wordpress.com

FEATURE



The greater Gloucestershire scene has a pedigree in the production of sparky guitar music. Bands such as **Stillbust**, **I the Lion**, **Oui Legionnaires**, **Lanterns** and many more. From this primordial punk soup has recently arisen the pleasingly unhinged four-piece **ORTO**. Writhing somewhere between the intelligent scream of Maths, the punk n'roll chug and riff-fest of **Fights and Fires** and the surf-punk of **Man or Astroman**, **ORTO** make a distinctive and rather compelling noise. We caught up with them in advance of their slot on the **Faithful City Shows** bill on the Friday night of this month's **Worcester Music Festival**. And found out some more.

SLAP: ORTO. Hello. You're new. But I hear you are not new to being in bands. Please explain who you are and what it is that you do.

Hey! We are ORTO, and we consist of Jason, Matt, Iain & Phil. Jason is on vox, Matt is on drums, Iain on bass, and Phil plays guitar. We've all been in various bands for as long as we remember, and this is now what we are all doing. We started as a proper band at the beginning of this year.

And do tell us more about what particular species of sound you make. From what I can hear you have a lot going on in there. Have you got a label for it yet?

We sound like the heavier end of post-hardcore with garage punk elements and the occasional spoken word vocals. We are the pioneers of Riffhop.

Nice. That'll do. All this said, in the classic, post-hardcore vein you still do both the screamingly LOUD - and the quiet and reflective. Which do you prefer. AND WHY.

LOUD. Because we're all old and have tinnitus now so we have to play loud so we can hear ourselves.

And this name. ORTO. Sounds like the initials for something. And as it forms a word, it's an actual acronym. Please explain your name. I'd like to remove all doubt.

Yeah, it stands for One Replaces The Other (never call us that though). It's a very literal term, about the inevitable flow of time and how tastes can change. Such as our own musical endeavours and everything in between.

And if it had to stand for anything else what would it be?

One Really Tight 'Ole.

So you say. I understand that you're playing this month's Worcester Music Festival. Where are you playing - and what, pray tell, can we expect when you do?



We are playing at the Firefly venue on Friday the 16th September. It's our first show out of the Gloucestershire. We're really excited to be playing it and sample many of their beers! Shoutout to Faithful City shows. It'll be unnecessarily heavy bass, shrieking guitar riffs and greasy, topless boys.

Ladies - you have been warned. And with reference to your end of the SLAP magazine patch, namely the Regency glories of Cheltenham and Gloucester. How's the scene down there?

It's exciting times in Cheltenham, as there are a lot of bigger bands coming through now at venues like the Frog and Fiddle and the 2 Pigs - which give the local bands an opportunity to play a good show. Also, the lineup for the Underground Festival in Gloucester this year is cracking.

Any particular new bands that we should be looking out for?

We're all fans of Dead Hands and Saltwounds, from your native Worcester!

And back to you. As in ORTO. Any upcoming releases, other future plans?

We're releasing our debut EP with Ghoulish records in the middle of September, and it will be called Kinda Dismal.

We've got the Worcester Music Festival show obviously, and the Underground Festival at Gloucester Guildhall on September 26th! After the EP has been released we'll be booking a tour or two. Keep your eyes peeled.

And finally. If you had to use five words to sell yourselves to prospective fans and admirers what would those words be? There is no restriction on number of syllables but these must be real words.

Riff mad and wrist deep.

Enough said... ORTO play the **Faithful City Shows Worcester Music Festival** show at the **Firefly**, Lowesmoor on Friday 16th September 2016 with **Aulos**, **Saltwounds** and **After Eden**. And it could be sweaty.

Veronica Bloodsausage

www.facebook.com/ORTOtheband/
www.orto.bandcamp.com/releases
Photography: ORTO/Michelle Hobbs



Lazy Sunday presents: Summer, We Salute You!

Café Bliss, Worcester | Sunday 4th September

Ladies and gentlemen! Next month - Sunday 4th September - **Café Bliss** at the **Worcester Arts Workshop** is being hijacked by **CHILD.org** to bring you the very best in local DJs, bands and open mic as we wave goodbye to yet another summer and raise a bit of money for charity.

Just announced... We are excited to confirm our line-up of **Arcadia Roots**, **Call Me Unique**, **Demi Marriner** and **Tiger**.

DJs **Rob Williams**, **Si Bullock** and **Dan Wall** will be there, cracking out some great records at this special Lazy Sunday event.

In helping communities to implement their own solutions to inequality and the barriers they face to good health and education, **CHILD.org** help empower people to work towards a better quality of life with more opportunities.

Representing them in Worcester since January, I have thoroughly enjoyed organising things to raise a bit of cash and I'm chuffed that so many people have come through and shown their support.

We're all just trying to help make a bit of difference in a world that still experiences unimaginable and unnecessary poverty.

So far we have raised over £1900 this year and we're looking to tip the scale by putting something together that everyone can come along to and enjoy.

What better way to spend a Sunday with your friends and family, chilling out in the courtyard with a coffee or a beer, nibbling on a piece of homemade cake or a quesadilla and lapping up the incomparable vibes of outdoor live music?

Early bird tickets available at £4 a pop, £5 OTD and kids come for free. Doors open 12 - 6pm, and all ticket proceeds go straight to the charity.

The lovely **Eloina** will be making up some of her tasty, homemade Belizean grub, and as always, there will be booze!

Contact **Café Bliss** via their Facebook page, or give them a call on 07821 733246 for tickets and for more information about the day or how you can get involved. Open mic-ers welcome!



Café Bliss **Hijacked Lazy Sunday CHILD.ORG**

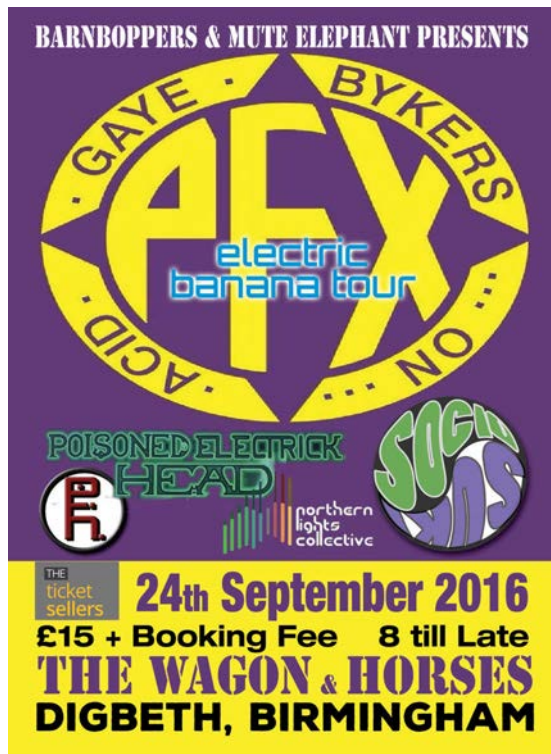
4th Sep' 12 - 6pm

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Demi Marriner
Tiger

Open Mic **Rob, Dan & Si** DJs

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Electric Banana Tour

Gaye Bykers on Acid

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The Wagon & Horses, Digbeth | 24th Sept

How many people loved the psyched out, acid fused, funky up, heady rock sounds that **GBOA** served up back in the day and wish they could still get to throw some shapes while **Robber, Mary, Tony**, and **Kev** wang their twisted aural delicacies at them live?

Sadly back in 1990 would've been the last time it was possible as the band went their separate ways to work on individual projects. Well, 26 years later and they're back! Really! They're back! The lads are set to perform three special live events, and in addition have decided to add a few select dates for a mini tour, and we've gone and booked them for a Birmingham gig! :D

Dysfunctional Bungle & The BarnBoppers Collective with **Mute Elephant** have made this happen so put Saturday 24th September in your diaries folks as they're heading to the **Wagon & Horses** in Digbeth for a good old git down.

On turntable duties for the evening **Austin Corrosive** (System Rejects/ Corrosive Records/ BarnBoppers) & **Art III** (Shuddervision/ Shake the Fuzz/ BarnBoppers). Visual delights come courtesy of our friends **Northern Lights Collective**. This will be a ticket only event and we're expecting tickets to fly out.

www.facebook.com/events/510486222493924/

Lakefest 2016

Eastnor Castle, August 12,13,14th

Wow... what can I say about this years **Lakefest**? Moving from the festival's former site of Croft Farm in Tewkesbury to the lofty grounds of **Eastnor Castle** was always going to be something of a step up, a new home was required for the ever swelling number of revellers, campers and of course entertainers. With a higher capacity and expectations, the organisers pulled out all the stops to deliver an incredible program that have helped permanently cement the festival's reputation as one of the 'must go to' events of any discerning music fan, both local and beyond.

For the first time, the organisers of Lakefest decided to host a national competition (Livewire) to find their mainstage opening act, numerous artists applied but Bewdley based **Plastic Scene** claimed the prize and set about proving why by fusing Floyd like guitar passages with shimmering shoegaze indie on the likes of *Backseat* and *Obsessed* before rounding off with a unique and impressive take on Gnarls Barkley's *Crazy*. By the time Latin/Afrobeat funkateers **The Cracked** took to the stage with their intoxicating rhythms, parping horns, call and response vocals the tent was awash with previous nights campers and early risers laying down their best shapes (including this scribe) to the likes of *Little Bit Of Sunshine* and *Things Are Getting Better*.

Across from the main stage the likes of **Wet Desert** and **Polly Money** were giving it their all as the site became a hive of activity pulsating as one to the various sites and sounds on offer. **Molotov Cocktail** were the next act to tread the boards in the main arena offering an arresting mix of tropical gypsy dance fronted by the sultry tones of **Natalia Tena** and **Sam Apley's** evocative fiddle. The band seduced with the likes of the jazzy *Don't Panic* with its muted trumpet before leading the audience on a gloriously summery calypso jig of *Pineapple Girl*.



Marie-Claire Berreen and **Her Husbands** have become a well documented local favourite of mine, so it was great to see the band perform to a busy H&W Introducing Tent, delivering the likes of (personal favourites) *The Fury of The Storm* and a spellbinding *Come Home* to fans and new-comers alike. A noticeable surge to the front for the festival's well groomed indie rocker greeted **We Are Scientists** as they delivered an infectious set of alternative



anthems complete with a rousing *Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt* with it's effortless shout it loud refrain. Over at **The Floating Globe** things had taken something of a surreal twist as **Barberella's Bang Bang** offered a somewhat unique take on the ramshackle gypsy indie scene with accordion, double bass and even kazoo framing the captivating lead vocals of **Barbara Pugliese**. The legendary **Primal Scream** brought the first night to



a fitting climax mixing the likes of the effervescent *Moving On Up*, *Loaded* and *Higher Than The Sun* with tracks lifted from their latest (and much underrated) album, *Chaosmosis* such as *100% Or Nothing* and *Trippin' On Your Love* before bowing out with the delicious one-two knockout punch of *Country Girl* and a swaggering *Rocks* with fevered backing vocals courtesy of an exhilarated audience.

Foreign Affairs were charged with shaking off the first night's hangover and the Bristol based brothers hit on just the right formula of rootsy rock, blues and folk to blow any lingering cobwebs, as their combination of chiming guitars, simplistic rhythms and the expressive lead vocals of younger brother Lawrence soon beckoned a sizable audience into the main arena. With the soaring ballad, *I'm On Your Side*, the blustery *Sell My Soul* and a strut through *Folsom Prison Blues* all finding favour with an already vibrant mainstage.

Local rockers **Erica**, cranked up their guitars and tore into their set like a band possessed, much to the delight of a mostly partisan audience, who mouthed the words, waved their signs and hollered in all the right places, whilst the band proceeded to deliver a hard rock masterclass.

Eclectic musical maverick, **Duke Special** is always highlight of any program and again, along with expressive percussionist **Chip Taylor**, he delighted with the likes of his own *Last Night I Nearly Died*, *Apple Jacks* and an elongated version of *Digging An Early Grave*, that saw Duke abandon his piano and stage for some audience participation before returning for a tender, heartfelt rendition of *Harvest Moon* and a host of well received Ivor Cutler laments. Back at the **Introducing Tent**, Malvern natives **White Feather Collective**

proceeded to make a host of new friends with a brilliant set of 60's tinged psychedelic surf rock with the likes of *Louise* and *Because Your Mine* particularly standing out and providing the odd sing-a-long.



Now before I continue I have to make a confession, I can't say I was ever a big fan of **Cast** back in their heyday, but (when at a festival) I thought I'd give them the benefit of my doubt and I'm more than happy to report that I'm glad I did and have to say they were one of the big revelations of the festival. The band led by the still baby-faced **John Power** were an absolute blast from start to



finish, the big hits of *Fine Time*, *Sandstorm* and the closing encore of *Alright* had me singing and bouncing along with a huge smile etched across my face, whilst new tracks such as *Roar* and *Do That*, suggest the band maybe set for another bite at the (very) big time and suggesting I need to reassess that back catalogue of theirs. I finished the second day with **The Filthy**



Spectacula and their take on ramshackle gypsy pirate folk (served with a somewhat punk attitude), the band of sea lovers served up tales of hi-jinx, vagabonds and brothels to a soundtrack of blazing fiddle, swinging bass and razor sharp riffs whilst the audience responded in kind with a merry jig, a drunken swagger and the old opened mouthed gawp at the group's frenzied skullduggery.

What better way to start the final day of Lakefest than with the local indie folk pop heroes **Jasper And The Company Of Others**, having packed the Floating Globe stage last year the quartet were promoted to the main stage and despite their early start grabbed the opportunity with both hands delivering an energetic, infectious set to an ever swelling and enthusiastic crowd united by Jasper's hook-laden melodies and instant sing-a-long's. Festival house band and Celtic folk warriors **The Roving Crows** followed to an



already hyped crowd, opening with the instrumental reel *Guns*, the band soon had the crowd whooping in delight for the likes of the **Caitlin** fronted *Ride On*, *Dirty Habits* and the surging, festival fave, *Days In The Sun*.

A quick dip in **Crew Salem** offered a brief look at the beautiful harmonies of **The No Good Nancy's**, whilst the Floating Globe offered the biting acoustic folk punk of **Gaz Brookfield**, but it was the mainstage that commanded most of my attention and a spellbinding performance from **Nahko And Medicine For The People**, a groove-laden call for unity delivered with a funk driven, elastic bass, a touch of reggae, a dose of soul and a smidgen of rock had me thanking the selection committee for their diverse, yet always engaging taste in the finest acts from across the globe.



Newton Faulkner draws a huge crowd for his inventive guitar work, whilst the likes of *Brick By Brick* and mega selling single *Dream Catch Me* received a rousing choral of support whilst the



aply titled *People Should Smile More* had me grinning like a Cheshire cat. As I reflected on a fantastic three day weekend, before **The Coral** send me home on a wave of psychedelic euphoria with a set lifted from across their discography including new album favorites *White Birds* and

Million Eyes performed alongside long firm festival favourites *In The Morning* and *Dreaming Of You*.

From such humble beginnings, **Lakefest** has continued to grow and develop and now in it's new home of Eastnor Castle, the organisers, have delivered an incredible statement of intent, from the extended music line-up to the **BMXDirt Series Final** and the ever evolving workshops and family attractions. The festival has firmly established itself as one of the must attend events of the summer and like the rest of the devoted Lakefest followers and newcomers, I'll be awaiting that first (2017) announcement and counting down the months until we meet again.

Words: Will Munn Photography Graham Munn & Roy Jenks

Old Bush Blues Festival Callow End | 19th-21st August

This was the second of **Matt Williams'** blues festivals at **The Old Bush** in Callow End and like last year the weather forecast was wet and windy. By Friday there was torrential rain in the afternoon, but there was plenty of canvas to shelter under. **Melvyn Hancox** warmed up the car park marquee with his Gibson guitars and plenty of love and peace.

I arrived to find **Tim Hain** and his band, including renowned harp blower **Alan Glen**, sound checking on the garden stage. Tim brings plenty of banter, blues and Caribbean vibes. Kidderminster based **Paul Snook** also awaited with his gritty, raw blues on the dark car park stage which was made lighter by **Jacqui Savage** on bass and a certain **Bill Withers** who was sat behind on his drums. I found my way to the hushed bar to catch the last of the award winning **Lucy Zirens** who was accompanied by a double bass. She closed with *'The Fall'* and in the reverent atmosphere I moved back to the garden.



Lucy Zirens



Debbie Bond

All the way from Alabama **Debbie Bond** played *'Radiator'* with **Rick** on keys and harp and **Mickey Barker** on drums. Their juke joint music filled the air but *'I Can't Stand the Rain'* was more fitting as stagnant water poured from the stage roof and



Sam Anderson

later on **Debbie** could not resist adding a soulful, gut wrenching *'Blues Rain'*. Back in the packed bar **Sam Anderson** moved and grooved his way through blues, rock 'n roll, and funky soul. *'Riders On the Storm'* echoed in the dense air as I fought my way through to the doors to leave and to find **Dave Jackson** edging toward the close of his hard edged, raw boned blues. Shouldn't have missed that!

Lenny James and **The Gator Squad** put smiles on our faces as the light tailed off. **The Official Receivers** soul band was travelling the dirty road into blues territory, they fitted it well – and I will catch up for a full review on them another day. Friday ended with **Richard Clarke** coming from the **Bibi** school of music as he brought his soulful sound to the car park stage.



Lenny James and The Gator Squad

Day Two at the **Old Bush** and after a great opening the team at the Bush were ready to hold their position and even exceed last year's fantastic result. **Red Butler** had travelled in from Brighton and was suitably *'Road Aged'* to open the show. **Jane Pearce** also found the energy and front to flirt with the crowd whilst strutting around on stage. In the garden, a bunch of pensioners **For Crying Out Loud**, were *'Living It Up'*. Later on I slipped through into the bar to find solo acoustic **Jon Walsh** gritting his way through the blues in the darkened recess of the pub. On stage were **Five Field Holler**; Emil's fingertips were inevitably at his funky bass. There was no time to rest because **Rollo Markee & The Tailshakers** were set to perform their 30's style, lounge R&B. Smoothly delivered by Rollo's harp, double bass and electro acoustic.

I dodged the rain and unearthed **Chickenbone John** who was apparently an early exponent of the cigar box guitar. His gruff vocals were perfect for Tom Waits' hard-wired *'Way Down in The Hole'*. It was **Melvyn Hancox** and it was not going to be blues. Instead it was an eclectic mix of rock, pop and psychedelic guitar driven trips around the universe. Soon after a particular **Catfish** also cradled a fat sounding Gibson, that looked diminutive in the hands of the mighty **Matt Long**. **Catfish** had us on the hook as their slow steaming but stupendous *'Let It Rain'*, grew into a storming finish. The atmosphere charged and the heavens opened as if in acknowledgement.

Mayhem waited around the corner because **Northsyde** had arrived. Ian was playing the funky and fabulous bass, Jules was string stretching the guitar and Hayden rolled out some drum beats. Lead singer



Catfish

Lorna conjured up a voice that defied her slender frame and the marquee was alive with a rolling mass of bodies unable to keep still.

It was Sunday and **The Delray Rockets** had exploded into action on stage – rattling distant windows with their kick ass, rockabilly riot. In the garden a gentler, **New Amen Corner**, (**Joules Benjamin**) had slipped easily from his role as compère and took us back to '60's pop. However, we were all here to see **Chris Farlow**. He took us 'Out of Time' and with a standing ovation he



threw back a Jack Daniels which added a little colour to his cheeks. **Tone Tanner** waited in the bar with his mobile 'karaoke' sack-truck and **Robin Bibi** was drawing the numbers to his session on stage. He was accompanied by **Tony Martin** on bass and **Craig Bacon** on drums and he circled the marquee. Robin climbed on tables, played BB King and passed his guitar to **Richard Clarke**. His accapella 'Down to The River to Pray' took us wading toward the end of their set. Quality.

Danny Kyle took to the **Garden stage** with his solo blues and country set and raised the bar. In the bar **Perry Foster**, was also delivering his acoustic set. **Back Water Roll** were performing as evening came and the giant figure of **Mif Smith** dominated the



stage. **633 Squadron** – myth or legend? We were about to find out. Tony rumbled and belched exhaust through open pipes and Cliff ran a raw edge, spitting fire. Engines vied with each other for dominance but all pushed forward and throttling back to reveal Damon, he had held the flight together.

It was the second year for the Old Bush blues fest and numbers had swelled, but there's always room for more. There was great music, great beer and great cheer. It was an absolutely brilliant three days of music and it was brought to us by **Matt Williams** and his hard working crew. Worth the ticket? Too damned right it was.

Graham Munn

Zoe Green

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove | 4th August

The **Zoe Green** band had travelled from Birmingham so they could shake the walls and rattle the windows of **The Hop Pole**. The twin guitars of **Andy Bunn** and **Steve Woodley** echoed through my brain, as **Dave Powers** and his five-string bass took my breath away. Percussion strikes, **Dean Gauntlett** is on drums, but this is the Zoe Green band. She burns and explodes out rock infused blues that electrifies my soul. Zoe brings passion and presence to the stage and she is a lady that is impossible to ignore.



It wasn't long before Zoe and the boys were warming up to 'Steamy windows' and later on Zoe is insisting that we all 'Come Together'. Steve Woodley was ably supported by the wall whilst on

his honeyed, hollow bodied Gibson, that is layered with a raw Strat sound from Andy. Throat lined with a *Honey Jack*, Zoe introduced us to *Willy the Wimp*, a liberal lifestyle to be interned in a *Cadillac* and we turned to some signature blues. 'Baby Please Don't Go' seemed appropriate as nobody wanted the gig to end. This is intimate, rock laden blues at its best. In a small crowded bar, where the air is heavy and the audience is at one with **The Zoe Green Band**.

Time moves on relentlessly and we were being drawn in to the final stages of the performance. Zoe pulls out all the stops as they lay down their opening riffs to 'Superstition'. However, this is not the Stevie Wonder clean cut classic, this has balls. A kick ass, rock driven rendition. Afterwards there is always the demand for one more song and there's just enough time for 'Rock Me Baby', and Zoe Green certainly did that!

Words & Images: Graham Munn

VH YES, Time Of The Mouth Ross Angeles

The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 5th August

Ross Angeles kicked off the night's proceedings and **Michael D. Wynn** was sat behind a combination of a Korg keyboard, an Acer laptop and a Yamaha drum pad. He went about transforming **The Marrs Bar** into the hottest night club, with a program of beats and synths. They were then joined by vocalist **Flossie**, who was complete with flashing shoes and club anthem tones. They performed 'No More Words' and there was an outbreak of dancing from the audience – who were probably more used to a guitar wielding act. Wynn looked busy moving between his electronic weapons, that were manipulating beats and tweaking melodies. Whilst Flossie teased out instantly infectious vocals with ease and conviction.



Soon the night swayed from electronic pop to rock, as Kidderminster based trio, **Time Of The Mouth**, took to the stage with a crank of the amp and a volley of drums signals. They were intent in delivering an energetic and spritely dose of pop punk, complete with the all important shout along numbers. I've seen Time Of The Mouth and front man **Chris Jones** in some of their past trios, but now with the rhythm section consisting of **Ash Greenway** and **Jake Fox** they've cultivated their sound. They were blasting out three or four minute pop punk anthems that were packed with an explosive punch. Down towards the front the band's loyal fan base (or the Mouthettes as I've now christened them) sang out to each and every one, whilst the rest of us were blown away by a rip-roaring cover of *My Generation* at the end of their quick paced set.



VH YES rounded off the evening; a noisy pop combo that unite subtle synths and electronic grooves with the guitars of **Dave Draper**, **Tina Maynard's** vocals, **Ben Pemberton's** drums and the funky bass of **Oly Edkins**. They have a unique and contagious take on the pop genre and from their first few songs, **VH YES** had me



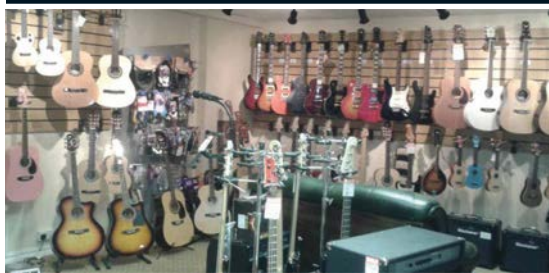
intrigued. They are a local group and they have various influences, especially from 80's pop, alternative rock and beyond. They are roughing up popular music's smooth edges and creating something new, intoxicating and fresh. The band took the stage by storm with songs like 'Girl' proving an early highlight and Tina leading from the front with a combination of sass and swagger, as she struck her guitar and delivered a ballsy and addictive lead. Ben took care of the electronic elements whilst pounding out a controlled beat and Draper unleashed an array of crunchy riffs whilst mouthing every word. Edkins looked like he was having the time of his life whilst pumping his bass and offering backing vocals whilst the band performed some perfect pop. **VH YES's** throbbing synths and far out vocals were made for radio blaring and jumping up and down.

So there you have it, a triumphant night of pop music in it's many forms. These are three of our best and if you managed to miss it then both **VHS YES** and **Time Of The Mouth** have brand new EP's both worthy of your attention.

Words: Will Munn Images: Andy O'Hare

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Dmitri and the Godhead

The Retinal Circus

Worcester's prolific, discordian musical entity the **Retinal Circus** is an established presence in the demi-monde of matters avant garde. And this release - under the moniker **Dmitri and the Godhead** - is something of a magnum opus. Apparently several years in the conception and realisation, this collection of 11 tracks has an expressionist, surrealist immediacy - and the whiff of actual art.

Assembled from layers found, recycled, field recorded and manufactured sounds - including loops of ethereal vocals by local singer-songwriter **Becky Rose**, cuts from previous Retinal Circus material and if I'm not much mistaken, Worcester seagulls played backwards - and rather pleasingly mixed and manipulated on common or garden smartphone, this is immersive, fractal stuff. Overall the feel of this is not unlike a more floral and consciously transcendental *Nurse with Wound* or a less creepy *Coil* - and there is plenty to get lost and generally "decoupled" in here.

Dedicated to the memory of the late and much loved local poet **Clive Dee**, this is a mass of worked audio sewn together with love and euphoria. Stand out tracks are perhaps *Indifference Engine* - nearly eight minutes of scissoring, hypnotic drone - and *Shorley Knot*, which has a blissful, soaring quality evocative somehow of the altered state reportedly achieved at the point of total sensory deprivation. A state which is a lot of fun, if reports are to be believed.

All this is not to say that *Accidents and Emergence* doesn't drift into more accessible trance territory, particularly towards the back end of the album: *Steer across the Firmament* in particular could



find a much larger market, if it wanted to. Or if that was the idea. Which it isn't. This is not music to shock or subvert, or to appeal to the masses. That's way too temporal and, well, prosaic.

However, if you want to pick this up and support the work of the artist involved, head over to: [theretinalcircus.bandcamp.com/album/accidents-emergence](https://www.facebook.com/theretinalcircus/) where you can purchase this - and all 11 other Retinal Circus releases. Because you should.

Veronica Bloodsausage

<https://www.facebook.com/theretinalcircus/>
<https://www.facebook.com/dimitrigodhead/>

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Fight Rosa Fight!

The Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | 5 August

It takes finesse and balance to mix politics and music in the right proportions to not only entertain but also get your message across without switching your audience off. Billy Bragg's been doing it for years, Chris T-T does it to great effect and now add a new name to this list – **Fight Rosa Fight!**

Didn't really know what to expect here, but I'd had some advance warning of how good this band were from Bristolians who saw their recent performances in the city and they certainly weren't wrong – this was a wonderful performance.

6.30 in the evening may have been a little early for the Cheltonian Punk-politicos to get a crowd worked up at the **Frog and Fiddle's Summerfest 2016**, but that's exactly what they did, with a mixture of short, snappy tracks beautifully anchored by Emily's economical and very precise drumming, driven forward by guitarist Lindsay's thunderous power chords and topped off by bass player and lead voice Cassie's abrasive delivery and snapping bass lines. They're not big on surnames in this band...

They keep to a fairly classic fast-paced Riot Grrrl/Punk delivery, ensuring the message remains forceful, consistent and absolutely focused throughout. The music is of such a uniformly high quality right through the set, it's difficult to name standout tracks but their latest offerings "Sick of You" and "This Scene, This Scene" off their new split EP with band **Little Fists** keep up the standard from their previous two EPs and promise much for the future.

Even though there is a high political content (both constitutional and sexual) and many social themes in the songs and in Cassie's measured and thoughtful statements, particularly on the ethnic diversity of live audiences and of band members, you never feel



you're being preached to and consequently the message goes down exceptionally well. And it's a measure of the strength of the band's convictions and the quiet power of her delivery that this particular message doesn't seem incongruous, delivered in the heart of The Cotswolds. There's also a rallying call to potential performers to just take the plunge and get on and start a band – sound advice, which gets a very good reception.

The atmosphere isn't grimly serious either, there's much humour provoked as well – at the end of one track, there's a list of names of despised Tory politicians – Cassie admits that with recent developments, the list is going to have to be radically revised – the wag next to me suggests that there's so many contenders, they'd need a double album to do it...

It's a brief set, at a bare half hour and one clear sign of when you've been watching a class act is when the time just disappears – in future, I'll make sure to see them when they headline.

Tremendous and thought-provoking band.

Geoffrey Head

fightrosafight.bandcamp.com



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Time Of The Mouth | What Would Dave Do?

One of the pleasures of attempting to write reviews and hit as many gigs as the day job/family life allows is watching musicians grow and develop, from small seeds, mighty trees tower and all that. **Chris Jones** is one such musician from first booking him as a solo performer (at the tender age of 14), to watching his song and stage craft grow, then forming the first incarnation of **Time Of The Mouth** before eventually finding his recent cohorts (**Jake Fox** and **Ash Greenway**) and honing the band's sound. Last year the band really came of age and a support slot with **Spunge** at **Worcester Music Festival** highlighted just how the band and Chris as a frontman had progressed, here was a trio, writing a collection of stripped back, short, sharp pop punk anthems and having a blast on stage performing them. A half an hour, no fat set full of crunchy riffs, big hooks and the harmony or two had me grinning from ear to ear, now all they had to do was capture that energy on tape.

Enter a certain **Mr Draper** and a bout of recording, with producer and band bouncing ideas and voila a four track EP entitled *What Would Dave Do?* that captures the essence of a **Time Of The Mouth** live performance. Punchy riffs, collide with a bruising rhythm section, infectious vocal hooks, the intelligent use of melody and a knowledge of when to step on the power and



when to refrain, it's meaty, it's melodic and despite tales of heartbreak and yearning, like all good pop punk it's fun.

From the opening riff of (the bizarrely named) *Elmridge Lovegood III* and the explosion of drums that follow I was sat happily bouncing in my seat, admiring the heads down energetic crunch of the intro, the sudden melodic kick and above all the instant vocal hook, if you didn't know in advance this could easily be major label pop punk. From there the band immediately plow straight into the glorious three minute *Going Back* and it's naggingly familiar riff, the melodic verses, the occasional group shout out and yet another hook-laden chorus that'll have you hollering along from the first spin. *Too Obvious* is no less impressive, chugging riffs and a driving rhythm section collide with a glorious melodic, harmony led break, highlighting the band's songwriting and arrangement prowess as well as the ability to change gears to hook the listener further. The band round the EP off in style with the blustery *My Disguise*, welding those aforementioned harmonies with another blast of controlled power, a bass thump, pounding drums and another one of those razor sharp punk riffs that the T.O.T.M seem to conjure at the drop of a hat.

Not only have **Time Of The Mouth** delivered a storming four-track EP of potential pop punk anthems but they've thought about the packaging, collaborating with local artist **Amy Lou Holland** (who spent time with the band capturing their individual personalities) to deliver a local CD that stands out not only musically but visually too. If like me you're partial to a bit of bouncy pop punk, ignore the latest by Blink 182 and pick up the latest by **Time Of The Mouth**, you won't be disappointed.

Will Munn

Glowpeople | Forever Until...

'Forever Until' is the new album by West Midland psychedelic jazz fusion foursome **Glowpeople**. And what a special album it is. Released on drummer Nick's birthday. It is just in time for their visit to Stoke Prior's 'Onboard The Craft'. The album sets off at a mellow pace, with undertones of ska in their first track 'Forever'. But don't let this lure you into a false sense of tranquillity. 'Tangy Fruit Shoot', my favourite track on the album, is sure to awaken all your synapses. Like the soundtrack to a 'Dirty Harry' hot pursuit. The track starts at pace and just keeps going without a pause for breath. The liveliest and most fun track in their genre for quite some time. From here on in the album takes a more familiar path using aural fractals to take you on a journey to the twilight zone and beyond. The band leave their darkest track 'Ground Above' till last. For those that have not already visited the far dark corners of their subconscious minds, the short poetic hidden track will surely help you on your way.



With its light side and its dark side. The album manages to find a perfect balance. This is not just an album for the psychedelically inclined to watch raindrops converge on their journey to the bottom of the pane. This is the perfect album to accompany the sharing of a bottle of rouge amongst friends as the evenings draw in. Bravo Glowpeople you have done yourselves proud with this one.

Deathly Pale Party | Vulnerable Adult

Deathly Pale Party are a duo hailing from Birmingham who aren't interested in delivering mass sing-a-longs or even instrumental hooks, instead the band create cinematic soundscapes that linger in the darkness slowly creeping up on the listener. On the band's latest eight minute epic *Vulnerable Adult*, bubbling atmospheric electronics collide with haunting organ flutters and subtle yet affecting guitar rise and fall. Half whispered vocals float in and out of the mix, dispersing almost as suddenly as they appear, whilst shallow, ominous breathing persists throughout. The mix is unsettling yet somehow strangely compelling, the mind whirs, conjuring up visuals of blackened chambers or a perhaps as yet unwritten cinematic masterpiece.

The band are set to perform at this years **Worcester Music Festival**, creating a live film soundtrack to an experimental Dadaist film. On the evidence of both *Vulnerable Adult* and the duo's previous single *Nighty Night*, you can expect ghostly murmurs, fluttering and clanging electronics fused with live instrumentation to create a spellbinding audio/visual crossover that's sure to simultaneously intoxicate and chill to the bone.

Deathly Pale Party perform live at **The Meeting House** on Sunday 18th September for WMF.



BOOK REVIEW

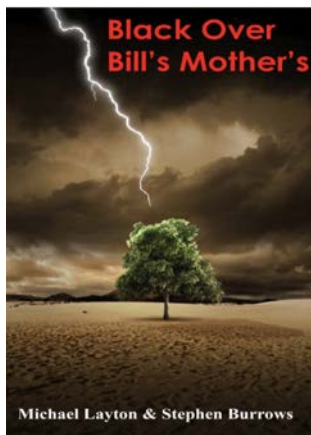
Black Over Bill's Mother's a tale of Birmingham gangs

Amazon Kindle <http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B01HQN8Q2W>

During World War Two, a one-night stand results in the birth of miracle twins, one white, and one black. Their destinies lead them to opposite sides of the law. Elsewhere in Birmingham, a violent child of Irish descent begins his journey towards leading the first Hells Angel Motorcycle Chapter in Britain.

Police, gangsters, and bikers clash against the backdrop of Birmingham and the West Midlands in the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies, whilst the ominous presence of the Irish Republican Army pervades all.

A fast-moving, violent and bloody tale of crime, Hells Angels, gangsters, terrorists and the police, incorporating real history and locations, imbued with Brummie language, police slang, music and culture of the times.



Michael Layton and **Stephen Burrows**, both Birmingham authors, are retired police officers with more than seventy years' experience of CID, and uniform policing, between them. In this novel, they draw upon their knowledge and experiences, to provide a gritty, realistic and colourful story of gangs, violence and organised crime.

Michael Layton QPM is the author/co-author of a number of other factual

books dealing with football violence and police history including 'Hunting the Hooligans' and 'Birmingham's Front Line'.



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Son of John | Autumn's Hymn

Worcestershire singer/songwriter **Son of John** - real name **Jacob Johnson** - belies his relatively youthful twenty four years here with a fluid and assured release of timeless yet very modern gestalt folk.

These ten tracks, a mixture of originals and standards, form a series of intricately and sometimes delicately orchestrated stories, vignettes and ballads that switch in a heartbeat from reference points as diverse as Appalachian bluegrass to the arid string patterns of the Maghreb, all complimented by a careful analogue production that both creates a real sense of space and forms an apt canvas for Johnson's distinctive, softly rasping vocals.



There are touches of gospel and slave spirituals in here (the eponymous *Autumn's Hymn*), along with the everyday sorrow of traditional British folk (*Bastard is Born*, *Seven Gypsies*) and cracked, sepia-tinted Americana, such as *American Progress*, which has all the railtracks and prairie winds of early Bob Dylan. Another stand out is *Homeless*, which is perhaps in spirit, imagery and in subtle chord patterns, a quiet updating of Nick Drake's *Poor Boy*.

In all, *Autumn's Hymn* glows with a calm and accomplished command of the global diversity and fine-grained texture of the folk oeuvre, whilst still maintaining deep and authentic roots. And, just like this original music of the common people should, also elevates vignettes of the unremarked to the level of something just a little bit sublime.

Veronica Bloodsauseage

<https://sonofjohnfolk.bandcamp.com/releases>

<http://www.sonofjohnfolk.com/>

Remi Harris | In On The 2

Guitarist **Remi Harris**' star continues on its meteoric rise. His debut album "*Ninick*", released on **Big Bear Records** in 2013 was quickly championed by jazz pianist/vocalist **Jamie Cullum**. Since then, Cullum's help and encouragement has proved to be invaluable. This year alone has seen a performance at the **Montreal Jazz Festival** in July followed in August by an appearance at the **BBC Proms**. Furthermore, Remi has recently released his second album, this time on his own label; **Yardbird Arts**. All this before reaching the age of thirty.

Here we have a collection of eleven tunes which Remi has been performing over the last few years and, as such, will give you a good idea of what to expect live in concert. The material is varied, including the Beatles' '*Can't Buy Me Love*' and '*Have You Met Miss Jones*', in tribute to fellow guitarist Joe Pass. Also, '*Need Your Love So Bad*' is a tune Peter Green recorded with Fleetwood Mac in 1968, and reflects Remi's love of rock and blues. Indeed, whilst



REMI HARRIS

Remi has made a name for himself playing gypsy swing, his music also includes elements of jazz, hip hop, and world music along with the aforementioned rock and blues.

Unlike his earlier recording, the current release is a largely solo effort with additional guitar over-dubs added here and there. It's pleasing to hear Remi's long-time collaborator **Mike Green** adding on double bass on some tracks too. All-in-all this is a very enjoyable, very well produced set from one of the nicest guys you could ever wish to meet.

With all the high-powered activity of late, it's good to note that Remi has no intention of deserting his loyal fan-base locally with gigs coming up at **The Den** at Stanford Bridge on 15th September, **Ledbury Market Theatre** on 24th September and **Stratford Jazz** on 12th October.

IN ON THE 2

For more information and gig listings go to www.remi-harris.com

Purchase the album at www.yardbirdarts.com where you can also keep up-to-date with events at the Jazz Club which Remi and Dani Harris run at **Clows Top Victory Hall**, Worcestershire.

Words: Alan Musson

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Lord of the Flies

The Courtyard | Thurs 6th - Sat 15th October

Based on the 20th century classic novel by Nobel Prize winner **William Golding**, **Lord of the Flies** will be hitting **The Courtyard** stage in Hereford this October with a cast of professional actors and young local talent.

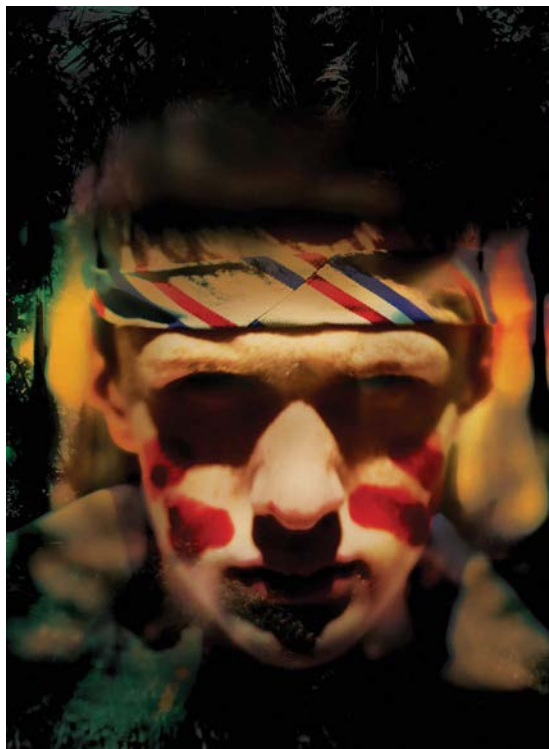
After finding themselves abandoned on a desert island, a group of school children struggle to survive as rules and instinct clash. What starts as an adventure quickly descends into a struggle for survival. By day, it's a tropical paradise of sun and sea; but each night, a terrifying beast takes over their dreams. Emotions run high in the battle between civilisation and survival in this tale of life on the edge of savagery.

Packed with action, passion and emotion, this adaptation of William Golding's masterpiece, adapted for the stage by **Nigel Williams** and directed by **David Durant**, is an exploration of the good and evil that is within everyone. It also tackles many issues central to the lives of today's adolescents, such as peer pressure, bullying and gang rivalry.

David Durant, associate director at The Courtyard, said "*Lord of the Flies is a fantastic play for all to enjoy. It has two very distinct sides of light and dark, and some of the dark moments are pretty spooky. It is one of my all time favourite plots as it is timeless with its content. We are lucky there is a lot of talent in Herefordshire - some of these I young local people will take on large roles within the play as their first step into the professional acting environment*".

Lord of the Flies will be performed at **The Courtyard** from Friday 6 - Sat 15 Oct 2016. Tickets are £13 and concessions £11.

For more information on The Courtyard's Production of Lord of the Flies go to courtyard.org.uk or contact the box office on 01432 340555.



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courtyard.org.uk

Torch Theatre Present Oh Hello!

Courtyard Studio | Thursday 15 Sept

A tribute to **Charles Hawtrey**, one of the leading lights of the **Carry On Film** franchise, will be performing at **The Courtyard, Hereford**.

Oh Hello! is a one man show about Hawtrey's life on and off screen. As one of the best known comedy actors of his generation, the performance is filled with stories from his 50 years of working in the film industry. As well as performing in 21 *Carry Ons*, Hawtrey also starred in films including *The Ghost of St Michael's* and *Passport to Pimlico*, and worked with the likes of Alfred Hitchcock. However, as his career waned, Hawtrey's behaviour became more drunken, promiscuous and eccentric, losing him many friends.

Oh Hello! received fantastic reviews after its sell out run at Edinburgh Fringe in 2015 and an extra date had to be added to satisfy audience demand. After **Torch Theatre's** sell out show *Grav* at The Courtyard earlier this year, the company make a welcome return to Hereford.

Tickets: £14, Concessions: £13. To book tickets, or for more info contact the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit: courtyard.org.uk.



Keep on Running

An energetic member of **The Courtyard** team will be running over 100 miles to raise money to continue its work in the community. **Curtis Fulcher**, Head of Communications at The Courtyard, is currently half way through his challenge to run eight half marathons in eight months. The challenge will see him run the equivalent of the distance from Hereford to Southampton to raise awareness and generate funds for The Courtyard after a 100 percent cut of funding from Herefordshire Council this year.



Since beginning in April, Curtis has already run half marathons in Warwick, Hereford, Cheltenham and the Black Country with the challenge looking to be completed in November. The next four half marathons are **Chase the Train** in the Tywyn Valley, **Disneyland Paris** half Marathon, **Cardiff Half Marathon** and the **Grand Union Canal**.

Curtis Fulcher, Head of Communications at The Courtyard, said: *"So far I have run 53 miles in competitive races, about 250 miles of running in training and I am only half way there! The Courtyard has gone through a difficult financial time. In the last few months. Known UK wide as being one of the most vibrant arts centres catering for people of all ages and it is a very worthy cause to run for!"*

If you would like to donate go to Curtis' Just Giving page justgiving.com/fundraising/curtis-fulcher1 or visit The Courtyard's website or go to the Arts Centre www.courtyard.org.uk/donate.

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Setting Suns | Crest Of Time

Who are **Setting Suns** you may ask. Well, they are a newly formed amalgam of established musicians; **Lee Evans** (not that one) and **Jon Pegg** on guitars, bassist **Gary Frost**, **Dan Blake** on drums and **Paul Bridgewater** on vocals. Its 70s rock in style with vocals are as you would expect from the sand blown larynx of Paul, better known fronting **Slowburner**, and perfectly in keeping with the genre.

The first track, '*Lonesome Town*', is oddly familiar, I seem to recall this being in the set of Stomp & Holler, whom Lee played with for a while. It was good then, and remains so now, even with a different cast.



'*Broken Angel*', a slow rock ballad that showcases Paul's strong vocals with some nice guitar runs interspersed, is one of the stronger songs on the album.

'*Rocking Chair*' is full-on rock with Paul on-song, over driven guitars, drum and bass, that is more Led Zeppelin than Oasis! 4 1/2 minutes of headbanging hedonism. '*Save it Up*' goes in the same direction, a decidedly vintage rock feel. The title track, '*Crest Of Time*' opens in acoustic mode, sort of 'Lindisfarne' in feel, with some harmony and strong vocals. Then it moves up a gear

becoming a much more involving track. The vocals end as the riff drives on, but then strangely fades away leaving you wondering where the crest was.

Overall, it's a solid start from a band, full of respected musicians, brought together under the umbrella of **Setting Suns**. I look forward to seeing them live - they play at the **Linton Sessions** on September 10th at **The Alma**. It will breathe life into these recordings.

Graham Munn

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Worcester Music Festival

September 16/17/18th

If you're looking for one final festival before we wave goodbye to the summer months then look no further than our very own **Worcester Music Festival**. Free, and based in and around the city centre, the 2016 festival is offering a staggering line-up of 200 over bands spread across 20 venues over the three day run, with music themed workshops over the course of the weekend as well.



Rhino & The Ranters

The line-up of music for this year's festival is better than ever, boasting folk to heavy metal, local to global acts with the likes of Birmingham's **Rhino & The Ranters** set to make an appearance, alongside Berlin-based **POKEMON REAKTOR** – and many, many more stellar acts set to take to the stages. Over the course of the weekend you'll have the opportunity to hear music from all genres, explore the wonderful city of Worcester, and maybe even develop some musical skills of your own while you're at it – oh, and did we mention the whole thing is for charity?

Every year Worcester Music Festival supports a chosen charity and this year the team have been working closely with **Acorns Children's Hospice**, who work tirelessly throughout the year to support children with life-limiting conditions. So if you want to finish your festival season with a bang, and support a brilliant cause in the process, Worcester Music Festival is the one for you.

A full roster of the bands available for your listening and viewing pleasure over the course of the weekend can be found on the Worcester Music Festival website now, featuring some of the best and freshest artists around – from acoustic to funk and everything in between.

If you're hankering for some soul in your Friday night at the festival then **Lit FM** are worth adding to your watch list, boasting a jazz-funk fusion with elements of trip-hop thrown in for good measure. The band hail from London and their performance comes complete with a five-piece horn section – what more could you possibly want? Elsewhere, you'll be able to find more local acts such as **The Humdrum Express** – the musical moniker of singer/songwriter Ian Passey, who will be gracing the stage at The Marrs Bar as part of the weekend's line-up. Kidderminster-based Passey has a brilliant and enthusiastic following around the county and, with glowing reviews trailing after him wherever he performs, this Saturday night acoustic set is definitely one worth coming along to.

The Crown will be playing host to the deliciously quirky **Duck Thieves** who will come complete with enough props to keep a small theatre together, promising a lively performance of their indie-pop style that draws on Hong Kong cinema and bad B-Movies (c'mon, do you really want to miss something that unique?). For some sexy aggressive alt-blues, you might want to consider popping over to the beautiful **Cafe Bliss** at **Worcester Arts Workshop** on Saturday afternoon to catch **Pre Sleep Monologue**. The Midlands-based three piece are well-known for their spectacular live shows so we're already tipping them as a band to watch out for over the festival weekend.

These acts, and many more, will be gracing Worcester from September 16th to the 18th this year so grab a programme, check the website, and get involved, because this year more than ever before **Worcester Music Festival** is not an event that you can afford to miss.

For more information visit: worcestermusicfestival.co.uk



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Chambers

The Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | 19 August

I've lost count of the times I've said to people - "Go and watch live music, you never know what you'll discover."



Well, as discoveries go, Leeds power-duo **Chambers** who played at **The Frog and Fiddle** on Friday night may well be one of the most significant I've made in quite a while.

They're part of an excellent five band bill, the latest in an increasingly impressive series put together by local promoter **Oliver Rylance**.

It was a close call, as nearly didn't stay to see them, having ingested several lungfuls of some anti-social sod's vile e-cigarette I was finding breath a bit hard to come by, but safely installed in a relatively unpolluted area, we were all treated to one of the best performances I've seen this year.

The medium is Grunge, Stoner and heavily altered Blues and the glorious racket this pair kick up is truly formidable. Guitarist **Aeris Houlihan's** giant riffs are enhanced but not overwhelmed by a decent sized pedalboard and the intense vocal attack, combining with **Eleanor-Cara Churchill's** thunderous drumming propel the sound off stage in an irresistible wave. I'm trying to take photos but my head simply won't keep still.



The two players adopt a completely dissimilar stage presence. Houlihan begins perched on top of an amplifier, a move repeated later on in the set, stalks around the stage with an air of some menace and delivers the vocals in a mezzo growl as if paying back the microphone for some disservice. In complete contrast, Churchill is a study in concentration, head down to the extent that I'd have had to be lying flat on my back to take a shot of her face. Without a bass player, the drummer has to work seriously hard and she puts in a tremendous shift.

Highlights of a set like this are always difficult to pick out but the new single '*Disappear*' would certainly be one, and the concise bite of the closer '*Love Song*' is pretty much the perfect finish to a damned near perfect performance.

I'm in a bit of a daze after this, and I strike up a conversation with a somewhat refreshed gentleman, who's looking in pretty much the same dazed state. I ask him what he thought of the performance.

"That was [expletive deleted] amazing, mate - not what I expected though. When I saw the posh frock, I thought we might be getting Country."

Not in this lifetime, mate... Absolutely brilliant band.

www.facebook.com/ukchambers/

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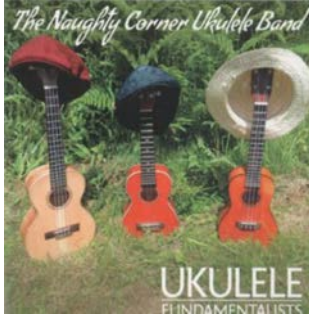
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The Naughty Corner Ukulele Band Ukulele Fundamentalists

I'm not sure whether the humble ukulele is an easy instrument to master but, in recent times, there seems to be a newly found interest in the instrument, from local and national groups, to Uke based festivals, magazines and the emergence of a host of Uke fueled bands. Here in Worcester alone I know of a handful of uke based bands, whilst Jasper in the Company of Others have made good use of the instrument from day dot. The thing with the uke is no matter who's playing it you can't help smiling (actually I've never seen a uke player without a smile, come to think of it), it just has that feel good, simplistic sound, whilst not to mention, looking a little silly in the hands of a grown man (or indeed woman).



I first encountered the band strutting their stuff at the Crowngate Summer Sessions with their three part harmonies and I'm not sure that I've stop smiling since. They then spoke of a twelve track album that they were just finalising, featuring a number of originals interspersed with a handful of well chosen live favourites, I wondered whether the fun live performance would translate to CD without the the visuals. Well apparently not so, from the opening strum of *Mrs Robinson*, my mood was instantly lifted, my foot tapping and I found myself battling with the urge to sing out loud (which ultimately I lost), thus firmly proving whether it's live or recorded life is better with a uke.

The band's own *Ukelele Fundamentalists* follows, a two and a quarter minute manifesto that laments the joy of playing uke and how it'll improve your life and you know what, I think I might just go and hand in my notice and join the Naughty Corner's cause, it sure sounds a great deal more appealing than working 9 - 5. If ever there's a national drive for more uke musicians, this has to be the soundtrack, it's fun, has an infectious chant along chorus and even finds time for a quick wordless refrain that's impossible not to like. Elsewhere, **The Naughty Corner** address the serious issues of the day such as the older man still trying to act hip and wearing lycra on aloha styled *Sad Dad* and those people determined to suck the life and soul out of the party on *Moodhoover* (although I'd imagine that's almost impossible at a Naughty Corner party) and even the well-chosen covers have an important message to convey, such as *You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile* (sage advice I'm sure you'll agree).

Do You Remember? opens with a delicately plucked uke before bringing back memories of childhood, with smirk inducing mentions of *Tiswas* and *Relax* (Frankie Goes To Hollywood) all delivered with a heartfelt harmony and a mischievous wink, *Theatre Of The Absurd* opens with an unaccompanied hum before a tap on the back of the faithful four string summons an infectious strum and a winning chorus, before the Corner bring the album to a close with Formby's *When I'm Cleaning Windows* and a glorious and aptly summery rendition of *Bring Me Sunshine*.

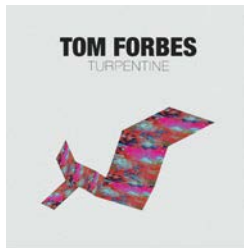
Ukelele Fundamentalists is a genuine joy to listen to from start to finish. In an often dull and grey musical landscape, this album will have you smiling and singing in no time. Perhaps **The Naughty Corner** could pen some kind of deal with the NHS, throw out that Valium and take a dose of the band's debut once a day for an immediate and long lasting lift. As the band encourage, abandon your jobs, rid yourself of life's oppressions, buy a Uke and join the ever growing movement and wear that smile proud.

Will Munn

Tom Forbes | Turpentine

Tom Forbes has dropped a groovy new track, and it's a good sign of the E.P that is to come. Funky, catchy, and layered, this is Tom in his element. His everlasting love for Tame Impala is evident in the free loving guitar, and the summer vibes of *Turpentine*, are rounded off nicely by the production: fuzzy in the baselines, funky in the beats, and sassy in the vocals.

As well as being inspired by Prince, Tom is aiming for something in the direction of psychedelic pop, something that is dancy and relatable but musically substantial, with lots of synths too. He calls the genre 'space pop', and it is "all about a vibe" says Tom. "I want the ladies to dance to it, and the musicians to appreciate it."



Turpentine was written about celebrating yourself freely and enjoying life, the single helped Tom form his space pop flavours that would get his new E.P moving.

"It gave me a direction to work with, I knew what amalgamation of sounds worked for me."

The new EP is to be released to the public soon, and amongst the songs is *Alpha Male*, helped by Toms obsession with Kurt Cobain and an artist who influenced Cobain, named William Burroughs who introduced Tom to the cut up method. It started with a riff, and after reading articles about Alpha, Beta and Gamma theories, Tom combined his own insecurities and debating



sexuality with ridicule of today's macho culture, or the "Hench, scary men that I don't like."

Stay For Alice is a playful relationship anthem about casual liaisons, desire and growing up - evoked by a mysterious girl who Tom says "looks like Courtney Love."

Finally, *Addiction and the Art of Telling Lies* is about "my relationship with alcohol." It demonstrates how young people turn to alcohol to deal with life's complications and confusions, and Tom deal's with our general frustration with existence. "We don't have the answers, why are we here?", he asks.

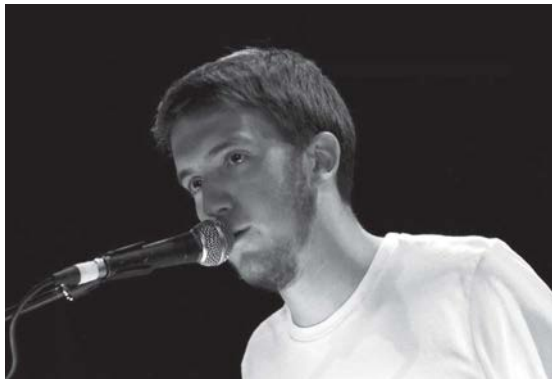
Tom seems energetic and excited, with lots to talk about. He speaks compellingly about his new music and, on listening to it on a private link, I can feel the angst and passion he has infused in it. He is especially keen to mention his gigging with artist Mike Hayes "He does beats on ableton a bit like Jagwar Ma, with that rock/ dance vibe."

A new video for *Turpentine* is also on it's way, it has been made by a film maker called Heliszhan who Tom met at Bristol university.

By Jessica Charles Photo by Jack Green

The Palace Theatre, Redditch | September

The **Palace Theatre** in Redditch is host to many intimate and fascinating productions and events, and this September is no exception - starting off on the 3rd in the Main House. The doors open at 8pm to a night of music from four local, talented bands that will suit many tastes. The bands include **Data** from Leicester, **Heinz-Sight** from Bromsgrove, **The Loved and Lost** from Worcester and Redditch renowned **Sam Ostler**. Tickets are just £5.00.



On Saturday 17th of September **The Room Upstairs** at the theatre will be presenting **The Jigantics**. At 7:45pm the five-piece band from the West of England will be performing, and they're described as one of the roots music's 'super groups'. Their debut album *Daisy Roots* has been critically acclaimed by music journalists across the globe and has been featured on radio stations in over thirty-six countries. It's an on-going journey for the band, as they explore their new music career and courageously blend together musical styles. **The Jigantics** are feel good and infectious, and they will make for a spellbinding evenings' entertainment. Tickets are £13.00.

bookings.redditchbc.gov.uk/ Telephone 01527 65203

Box Office Alcester Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 8AE

Blues Sisters

The Iron Road, Evesham | Sat 17th Sep

Now in its 12th triumphant year, the **Blues Caravan** is a touring showcase for the hottest young acts on the **Ruf** label. With past treks helping launch stars including **Joanne Shaw Taylor**, **Bart Walker** and **Samantha Fish**, it's a springboard for the blues scene's next-big-things, and a magnet for fans who want to catch them before lift-off. In 2016, the **Blues Caravan** lineup is sure to raise the roof each night as it rolls across the USA and Europe.....the **Blues Sisters** are doing it for themselves...

Tasha Taylor has the blues in her blood. The youngest daughter of R&B trailblazer and Stax icon **Johnnie Taylor**, she inherited his musical talent, but walked her own path, studying drama at Boston University before lighting up hit TV shows including *Ugly Betty* and *House*. The pull of music proved too strong, however, and having composed soundtracks for shows like *Men In Trees* and *Lipstick Jungle*, Tasha broke through with *TaylorMade*: the album whose self-penned, sharply observed material pinballed from early soul single "Queen" to the redemptive gospel of "I Got Love". She'll start the Blues Caravan as a hot tip – and end it as a world-class contender.

Layla Zoe is ready to explode. Like her early influences – from Bob Dylan to Muddy Waters – the Canadian bandleader is a fearless writer, earning victory in 2006's auspicious **Blues Compo** songwriting competition, and critical acclaim for albums including 2013's *The Lily*. For the Blues Caravan 2016, Layla will be drawing on the best of her catalogue, previewing this year's new release, and leaving it all on the stage. "With live performances," she explains, "I believe that the more raw and uncensored I am, the more I can connect with my listeners."

When **Ina Forsman** steps up to the mic, you'll believe every word. The Finnish vocalist hit the radar aged 17 with a show-stopping rendition of Etta James's "All I Could Do Was Cry" on a TV talent show. Since then, she's achieved international recognition,

guesting with blues heavyweights **Helge Tallqvist** and **Guy Verlinde** on the road, touring mainland Europe and proving her own songwriting chops with her self-penned and fiercely personal material. When Ina hits the stage, all bets are off. "I rarely plan anything," she says, "so what happens on the stage, just happens."

Words alone cannot convey the special sound that this trio create together and the only way to truly experience this is by seeing them live. Having said this, you can get a feel for what's in store, by having a look and listen to a couple of video tracks on YouTube, a punchy, sexy version of the Beatles classic "Come Together" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-TzsuT9v8g> and a mesmerizing delivery of "Chain of Fools" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-yMNdS1d0>.

Advance tickets can be purchased by calling 0783 133 8277 or online at theironroad.sqwig.co.uk



Babal + Back Light Secret

The Marrs Bar | 30th Sept

After a hugely successful summer festival season, Malvern's Psych wizards **Babal** make a welcome return to the Marr's Bar.

Their extraordinary stage show is a head-on collision of art, theatre and music with wonderful back projections, dazzling lighting effects, some truly weird and wonderful stage costumes and a bag of jaw-dropping props, modelled, brandished and sometimes hurled by mime artist Alice the Worker. It's like being parachuted onto the set of a Kate Bush video shoot but the music comes from a very, very different place.

The sound is a heady mash-up of psych, goth, jazz, far Eastern rhythms and Funk - by turns, heavy, hypnotic and in places, intensely beautiful. There's more going on here for your ears and eyes in one performance than most bands achieve in a lifetime.



Keith Egton

Whatever your taste in music, this is a spectacle not to be missed.



Cynical Thrills presents...

Mark Morriss

Scarycanary the Venue | Sat 1st October

Fans of the Britpop era will be in for a treat when indie singer/songwriter and **Bluetones** front man **Mark Morriss** performs in Stourbridge for the very first time.

With thirteen hit singles and three top ten albums under his belt, he'll take to the stage at **Scarycanary the Venue** on Saturday 1st October.

Can it really be 20 years since the Bluetones shimmied into our lives? Apparently so, but Mark continues to sieve poetry from the colander of everyday life in a unique and engaging manner.

"I always try to add little things that most songs wouldn't use," he says of the lyrics of his 2013 solo album, *A Flash Of Darkness*. *"If I can squeeze a mention of Bergerac into a song then I'm happy."*

Expect a mix of new material and old favourites on the night, served up with infectious humour and affable charm in a wonderfully intimate venue.

Support comes in the form of bookish Wolverhampton based indie favourites **Sleuth**, and the ever inventive singer/songwriter, **PTR Williams**.

Tickets are now available from:

<http://www.wegotickets.com/event/367523>

£8 in advance / £10 on the night. Doors from 7pm.

Terence Stomp





Jeremy Deller

The Battle of Orgreave

17th September – 26th November 2016

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

Foregate Street • Worcester WR1 1DT • Tel: 01905 25371

Open Monday - Saturday 10.30am - 4.30pm

Free entry

Jeremy Deller, The Battle of Orgreave (An Injury to One is an Injury to All), 2001. Courtesy The Artangel Collection. Photo: Martin Jenkinson

The Battle of Orgreave (An Injury to One is an Injury to All) is part of The Artangel Collection, an initiative to bring outstanding film and video works, commissioned and produced by Artangel, to galleries and museums across the UK.

For more information visit
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

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Jeremy Deller | The Battle of Orgreave

17 September – 26 November 2016

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum

Open Mon - Sat 10.30am - 4.30pm FREE

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum, brings an important and challenging work to Worcester by one of the most significant artists of this generation. **The Battle of Orgreave** is particularly relevant to Worcester because **Jeremy Deller** compared the confrontation at Orgreave to the English Civil War, a conflict that began and ended in this city.

On 18 June 1984, the area around the Orgreave coking plant was the site of one of the strike's most violent clashes. Jeremy Deller's artwork **The Battle of Orgreave**, was a spectacular re-enactment of that day. More than 800 people participated in the re-enactment, including former miners and former policemen, reliving the events from 1984 that they themselves took part in. Other participants were drawn from Civil War re-enactment societies across England who were more used to re-enacting medieval battles and Tudor wars.

Jeremy Deller said: "It would not be an exaggeration to say that the strike, like a civil war, had a traumatically divisive effect at all levels of life in the UK. Families were torn apart because of divided loyalties, the union movement was split on its willingness to support the National Union of Mineworkers, the print media especially contributed to the polarization of the arguments to the point where there appeared to be little space for a middle ground. So in all but name it became an ideological and industrial battle between the two sections of British society."

Philippa Tinsley, Senior Curator, Museums Worcestershire said: "We are particularly interested in Deller's view of the events at Orgreave as a civil war which divided families and the nation's loyalties. Worcester was the site of the decisive battle of the English Civil War in 1651 and this contemporary comparison will give that local and national history a new perspective."

The work has further resonance in Worcester because the constituency's MP **Peter Walker** was the Energy Minister throughout the Miners' Strike of 1984, and thus the voice of the government behind the significant period at Orgreave. His son Robin is the current MP for Worcester.

On loan from **The Artangel Collection at Tate**, the exhibition includes a documentary film directed by **Mike Figgis**, alongside objects, images and audio recordings from the artist's archive of research materials for the re-enactment of the battle.

On show at the same time as **The Battle of Orgreave**, is an exhibition drawn from Worcester's collections entitled **Divided Loyalties** which considers Worcester personalities, opinions and traits making the link back to the English Civil War and to more recent history.

A bite-sized talk will take place during the exhibition's run. On the 11th Oct 1-1.30pm is an Introduction to the Jeremy Deller exhibition. Price £2 can be booked in advance at the Art Gallery.

The Battle of Orgreave is part of **The Artangel Collection**, an initiative to bring outstanding film and video works, commissioned and produced by Artangel, to galleries and museums across the UK. The Artangel Collection has been developed in partnership with Tate, is generously supported by the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** and **The Foyle Foundation** and uses public funding from **Arts Council England**.

Info via 01905 25371 www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk



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WEST MALVERN SOCIAL CLUB - SAT 26TH NOV 8:00PM
THE TROUBADOUR - LONDON - SAT 3RD DEC 8:00PM

JULIE JULY BAND



The Julie July Band



juliejuly10

The Julie July Band

The Lady.....A Tribute to Sandy Denny

Sandy Denny was one of the UK's foremost Singer/Songwriters and said to be the founder of the British folk rock movement. Her brief career spanning just thirteen years - she left a legacy of beautiful, haunting original compositions and traditional material. Richard Thompson called her '*The Greatest female Artist of her generation*'. Melody Maker readers twice voted her '*Best British Female Singer*' in 1970/71. Her most famous song '*Who Knows where the time goes*' - was voted "Favourite Folk Track of All Time" by listeners of BBC Radio 2 and has been covered by many artists including:- Judy Collins, Nina Simone and Eva Cassidy.

Local musicians '**The Julie July Band**' will perform songs from her Solo career, Fairport Convention, Fotheringay and the Strawbs. Songs including: Who Knows Where the time goes, Fotheringay, Listen Listen, Blackwaterside, Gypsy Davey, The Lady, I'm a Dreamer and many more. Line up this year includes: **Julie July** on Vocals, **Nick Smith** on Acoustic Guitar, Steve Rezillo on Lead Guitar, **Clive Pearsall** on Bass, and **Martin Enemy** on Drums.

The Julie July band will be performing at the following Venues:-

August 21st 8pm The Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath

Saturday 10th Sept 8pm The Bromyard Folk Festival, Bromyard

Saturday 5th Nov The Angel Inn Hotel, Pershore (TBC)

Saturday 26th Nov 8pm The West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Saturday 3rd Dec 8pm The Troubadour Club, Earls Court, London

<https://www.facebook.com/Thejuliejulyband>

<https://soundcloud.com/juliejuly10>

Mumbo-Jumbo

Martley Village Hall | Saturday 17 September

The Acoustic Vaudeville show of top piano-led, close-harmony singer songwriting acoustic trio **Mumbo-Jumbo** comes to Martley Village Hall on Saturday 17th September in a unique '**pay what you think we're worth**' performance.

Playing regularly in village halls for **Shindig** and **Live & Local**, Mumbo-Jumbo features former Martley resident and singer/trumpeter **Oliver Carpenter** along with pianist **Phil Bond** and bass player **Chris Lomas**.

With Mumbo-Jumbo you not only get excellent, interesting songs and three lead voices, but also a whole flock of instruments including piano, accordion, bass, trumpet, ukulele, guitar, washboard, kazoo and percussion.

"We really enjoy the village hall atmosphere where local communities come together to share in the music," said **Oliver Carpenter** of Mumbo-Jumbo, who were shortlisted in the 2012

and 2016 British Blues Awards. "*We chose Martley to test out this new idea of 'Pay what you think we are worth' which means that you come to the gig for free and then decide what you want to pay at the end. Shindig gigs are normally between £8-10 up front, but we want to see if, by getting people along to check us out for free,*

we might attract a bigger crowd who each decide at the end of the night what is a fair price for the entertainment they have received. We are confident they are going to have a great time!"



Regulars on the blues, folk and acoustic festival and club circuit, **Mumbo-Jumbo** sits somewhere between blues, folk and jazz with tinges of reggae and whatever else takes their fancy on the night. With songs about old

soldiers, baldness and the joy of life; the guys bring humour and fun to the performance. Tracks from the trio's 2016 album '*Sonic Gumbo*' has featured widely on the radio.

There will be a good bar on for the evening with Teme Valley ales, a range of wines and Mill Orchards apple juice etc.

For more information including videos and tracks and to book your tickets check out www.mumbo-jumbo.biz

Trafficker Steamrollers

The Prince of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 7th August

It was a warm day as **Tommy, Emil** and **Damon** were in Ledbury. So it was time to get over there and chill out with a cold beer – whilst many others settled in front of their TV's to watch the Olympics unfold.

Nonetheless there was a gathering of the usual suspects at this terrific venue. The boys were setting up their kit and the temperature was rising rapidly as the bar filled out. **The Trafficker Steamrollers** tuned in and got stuck into 'Rock n Roll Superstar'. They were quickly into their stride and Tommy assured us that the 'Pleasures All Mine'. He let his age-weathered Fender do the talking and it was a language we all understood. Tommy stretched and stroked his strings and Emil was laying down some seriously funky bass.

Damon was introduced as he thrashed onto stretched skins and crashed wood onto cymbals. The band's 'Texas Love' jammed them off into range as they rose to a big finish. Tommy squeezed shimmering, wistful chords out from his Fender and later cradled his semi acoustic Gretsch. It was a tasty jam and there were more string acrobatics to come from Tommy's fingers. They eased the pace before Tommy was joined by a 'guest' harp player and Damon surrendered his tambourine to a member of the audience for a bit of *Jimmy Reid*.



Blues tumbled out and it was a blistering finish that saw Tommy break two strings, but the band played on (to exhaustion). There may be bigger names on the blues rock stage but Trafficker is a big hitter – by any standard. **Tommy Allen** is a superb guitarist, Emil Engström and Damon Clarridge are from that same top draw of select musicians and most importantly, they can be found playing locally. Don't take my word for it, just go and hear them perform. Its been a while since I could sit through an entire gig but here, at the Prince of Wales, it was exceptional rocket fuelled blues at its best.

Words & Photography: Graham Munn

Robin Bibi

The Old Bush, Callow End | Sunday 31st July

If you cared to look behind that Old Bush on this particular Sunday, you would have found a bird singing away. I am not talking of a red plumaged, garden favourite, because this one comes with a distinctly blue tinge and answers to the call of **Robin Bibi**. Many of you will already have heard Robin perform but for me it was the first time, and the Old Bush's garden on this summers day was the ideal setting for Robin to roam and entertain.



Robin was supported by a funky drum and bass combo in the form of **John Steel** and **Matthew Saunders** with their first song 'Play'. Robin's fingers were on his guitar and he played through his album. Despite the garden setting Robin decided 'The Sun Has to Stop', allowing the bass and drum to shine through instead. There was plenty from his new, highly acclaimed album, and 'No More a Secret' and 'In Too Deep' were just a few. They were soulful and bluesy – full of a six stringed interrogation that stretched and embellished the recorded version.

Robin later pulled out his harp to blow us into BB Kings '4 o'clock in the Morning' and the unmistakable sounds of the 'Albatross'. I nursed a beer whilst walking back to the garden, the pulsating bass combined with the constant soft beat of the drum carried me into a psychedelic, coloured sky. Peter Green's ride on his 'Long Grey Mare' was a superb gallop through a classic, which saw Robin climb on top of a shaky table with his guitar behind head.

The funky bass continued as Robin dived into the rippling and dark 'Muddy Waters' from his album. 'Down in The Valley' took us deep into the spiritual core of song, before the band and Robin's guitar lifted us up to a full on rock crescendo. If this had been all I

would have heard from **Robin Bibi**, I would have been very happy, but time was pressing and a big finish was inevitable. **Robin Bibi** introduced 'Little Annie Brown' full of fabulous riffs with elements of Hendrix, Peter Green and maybe even Stevie Ray.

Robin Bibi is not only a master of the guitar but he is also an entertainer. Robin is set to return in a few weeks to play more rich blues at **The Old Bush** and I will be there – eager for more.

Graham Munn

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Demo's & Recording

When trying to get gigs it really helps to have some decent demo recordings, whether on CD, memory stick or on-line. However promoters are rightfully wary of 'tarted up' studio recordings that may sound nothing like the band playing live, so if you plan to use a studio to do your demos, it is worth taking the 'play it live' approach and put everything down at once other than perhaps replacing the vocals afterwards if necessary. Once recorded, the parts can be balanced to sound at their best, but there's no need to go much further. This will save you a lot of money and you'll end up with a much more believable demo than a studio epic with multiple guitar layers and extra vocal parts that you couldn't add live. I'd also suggest that you tell the engineer you'd prefer to play without a click track; clicks can easily choke all the life out of a performance as everybody struggles just to stay in time with the click.

Of course you might want to produce recordings to sell or to put on line and you might want these to have a bit more polish. Hiring a studio is one option, but it can get expensive. The other option, and one of the main reasons that **Sound On Sound** magazine exists, is to do it yourself. These days the equipment required is relatively inexpensive, and though the high-end software stuff can get complicated, there are several simpler options. You can still buy digital 'portastudio' types of device capable of recording anything from four to 24 tracks, but you can go a lot further by using software and that's the route the vast majority of people are taking.

To set up a software studio, you need an audio interface, a computer, recording/mixing software and a reasonably accurate means of hearing what you have recorded — which could simply be headphones. You can make start using your live sound mics

but I'll talk a bit more about choosing suitable studio mics in a future column.

I'm often asked what is the best music software to use and my usual answer is to go with what your mates already use as they'll be able to help you get up and running with the basics. In most cases, the 'lite' version of any of the big names will do all you need to make great demos, but if you have a fairly recent Mac or iPad, I'd really recommend **Garage Band** as you can find your way around it in around an hour, it includes some great effects and it also includes powerful software synths and samplers that you can play from a USB music keyboard. For Mac owners with a little more experience, **Logic** is fantastic value and still fairly easy to use. **ProTools** is often used in pro studios but is quite an expensive option and doesn't really do anything significant the others don't. **Studio One** is also getting very popular as it is user friendly, affordable and is available for both Mac OS and Windows.

Probably the hardest thing to choose is the audio interface (like a soundcard but in an external box). Several dedicated models are available for iPads with many more for computers where the computer versions mainly use USB2 to connect. You'll need one that has mic inputs as well as line/instrument inputs as most recording is done using microphones, but if you want to be able to record more than two things at a time to separate tracks, you'll need an audio interface with multiple inputs, which of course costs a little more. There are models from **Focusrite**, **Presonus**, **MOTU** and others that have eight mic inputs plus the option to add a further eight channel expander when the need arises. This is the route to take if you want to record a complete band and then mix all the separate instruments later. If you go to **soundonsound.com** and register (free), you can look back over years of reviews where we have covered dozens of audio interfaces. I'll dig a little deeper next month.

Paul White

Editor in Chief, Sound on Sound

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Circuit Sweet

with Naomi Preece

What a month! We've got a full **Nozstock** festival review on the website now thanks to our lovely writer **Gavin Brown** who went deep into the rolling fields of Bromyard and the Hidden Valley. Gavin sums up his time... *"Nozstock is undeniably one of the highlights of the festival season and this years event was no different as 5000 revellers of all ages descended on Rowden Paddocks in Bromyard for this year's event. In contrast to the usual dire British weather that can happen during the summer festivals, everyone in attendance was blessed by glorious sunshine over the three days, with thankfully only a few minutes of rain over the duration of the event which only added to the laid back but excitable vibe. With everything from hip hop and grime to psych-trance and ska punk, Nozstock had it covered music wise and fans of comedy were well catered for too and with everyone here up for a good time this resulted in a celebratory feel and an incredible atmosphere throughout. Nozstock is a festival that does things on its own terms and has a unique vibe and I don't think I've been to a festival in over twenty years with such a good natured feel to it. Everywhere you looked and everywhere you went, people were simply having a great time and long may this continue. Nozstock 2016 was a very memorable event and I am counting down the days until next years event!"*

We've been busy behind the scenes over the last few weeks preparing for the forthcoming release of one of our new artist **Simon Gore**. His debut will be dropping soon and we can't urge you enough to keep your eye out for a new video and further release details.

We've got a full festival feature hitting the site in due course of our time at this year's **ArcTanGent**. Hiding on a farm in Bristol/Somerset for a few days towards the end of August at what can only be described as one of the greatest UK festival for all



those that love anything experimental, mathy, instrumental and that bit different. Music fans united for a festival which featured acts from across the globe, bands you never thought you'd be seeing in such an intimate environment, and for many the last show for several notorious acts - **Cleft**, **A Werewolf!** A few live returns - **Gallops** and an all round showcase of some of the best acts about. Circuit Sweet shop favourites **Vasudeva** (USA) and **Quadrupede** (FR) played some incredible sets but our attention went to what began as the last **A Werewolf!** show. Worcester

based two piece **A Werewolf** previously announced this would be their final show, so their fanbase gathered all sporting one of many A Werewolf shirts the band have created during their time together. Joining forces A Werewolf's fans took to PX3 stage to see their favourite band for the last time (or so they thought). In one of the best sets of the entire weekend, A Werewolf broke all band/audience boundaries to inject the festival with the fierce fun these two provide.



A Werewolf!

Frantic orchestrations from the get-go, feedback, fuzz, outrageous samples, circle pits, a pedalboard/flightcase crowd surf with fans both sat and stood on top, a security guy assisting with the chaos and a crowd in utter awe. We witnessed the local pair see how many friends, fans and people who genuinely care about **A Werewolf** turn up to see them, and with that the pair realised its not their time to be over. A highlight for us at this years Arc. Find the full feature and more details on www.circuitsweet.co.uk

Our post arc come down was made a little easier with **Suprise Attacks** hosting a special show as we went to press, hosting the final **Alright The Captain** show with support from **Chiyoda Ku** and **The Broken Oak Duet**. Over in Hereford as Slap was put to bed, Hereford food lovers rejoiced as they enjoyed the first ever **Hereford Indie Food festival** complete with some unmissable live music/DJ sets from acts such as **Gus** from **ALT-J** as a guest DJ, live sets from **The Undercover Hippy** and vintage cool from **The Spitfires**. We hope they are already planning next years event!

Images by Oli Montez.



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- 9-10 Ray Mytton Band
- 10-Close Hump De Bump



Thursday 15/9/16 (Mad P's Birthday)

- 8-9 WooTown Hillbillies
- 9-10 Dan James
- 10-Close WooTown Hillbillies

Friday 16/9/16

- 8-9 A Month Of Sundays
- 9-10 Ray Stroud
- 10-Close A Month Of Sundays

Saturday 17/9/16

- 1-2 Carol Lee Sampson
- 2-3 Perry Foster
- 3-4 The Ferrets
- 4-5 Vo Fletcher
- 5-6 Groovyhead
- 6-7 Bitterroots
- 7-8 Big Fat Shorty
- 8-9 Voodoo Stone
- 9-10 The Fireballs Uk
- 10-Close Voodoo Stone



Sunday 18/9/16

- 1-2 Rubens Seabright
- 2-3 Jasper & The Company of Friends
- 3-4 Clarksville Mountain Boys
- 4-5 Collective 43
- 5-6 Mark Leadham
- 6-7 Barry Cooder & The Sharks

Indoor Stage

- 1-7 Open Mic / Jamming Session
- 7-8 Marrs Bar House Band
- 8-9 Toad Pack
- 9-10 Jenny Hallam
- 10-Close Toad Pack

Open Mic and Jamming Sessionites

Be Dalow, Harley Kester, Polly Edwards, Pat & Steve, Brin, Andy The Bass, Cookie, Mary Middleton Pollack, John The Sax, Nick Lambert, Mike Mann, Conga Dave, Mr Toad, Mr Avery's Bonkers Nylons, The Jazz Singers, Remmi Harris, Skewwhiff, Gary Tolley, Bob Jones, Bob Dovey, Chris Mulvey, Mad P, RTC, Ruth & Loll.

Jinney Ring Blues

Jinney Ring Craft Centre | 13th August

On what would be a blue ribbon day for Team GB in Rio and a moment of track history, I was settling for a blues rhythm day at home. The outstanding setting of the **Jinney Ring**, with its craft beers, confusion of ciders and lovely food didn't make it too difficult to enjoy a day here.

Andy Twyman quickly sorted his drums, cymbals and guitars.



Ready to bring a smile to the faces that were across the lush grass and fowl waters of the pool. He played one of his signature songs – 'Viagra For Pandas' – I'm saying nothing more! **Ma Polain's**



Great Decline with **Beth** and **Clinton** brought sombre but comforting songs to our ears. Beth has a mesmerising voice and delivered with the ease of a Piaf in a Paris cellar bar. 'Send Me to The Electric Chair' is hardly joyous stuff, but a hell of a song. Ma Polain's *Great Divide* takes us back to the era of the great depression, prohibition, dingy bars in dark alleys. Infectious stuff.

The Rainbreakers were guaranteed to lift the spirit and charge



the air with their electric, rock infused blues songs. The bearded brothers were **Ben** on guitar/vocals and **Sam Edwards** on drums, bassist **Peter Adams** and a very young looking **Charlie Richards**. Charlie may not show his years, but he certainly played some mean guitar. Sam kept the thunderous percussion rolling on and Peter added layers of tone with his bass. They really are due an album after their acclaimed debut EP, *Blood Not Brass*, which is a stupendous introduction to a band heavily steeped in 70's rock blues.

Half way through the day and it was my first opportunity to see the **Laura Holland Band**. Laura reminds me a lot of Imelda May,



but perhaps 10 years back. She has great stage presence, humour and rapport with both band and audience. She served up a jazzed up 'Spoonful', followed by a caffeine overload with '40 Cups of Coffee'. 50's soulful blues fitted the brass band well, and Laura knew how to front it. The band pulled out all the stops for their album title track, a passionate, 'Dare I Believe' in their performance. R&B at its best.

Phew, follow that, well **The Jinney Ring** did us proud because next up was **Northsyde**. A funky blues-rock, soul bursting band fronted by **Lorna Fothergill** and her partner Jules on guitar along with Ian and Hayden on bass and drums. Lorna is electric on stage and she is never still. She prowled her musical territory like a lioness and shocked us with a powerful voice that evokes thoughts of Joplin, infused with Tina Turner. A stunning 'Ribbon Bow' is played and it leads the way to more Stevie influences like 'Higher Ground', and a 'Smokestack' at its pinnacle. They were a superlative burn that had left their glow as darkness descended.



Only one thing left to do and that's to get everyone up and moving. With that in mind **Simon Kemp** had brought a slightly reduced R&B orchestra to shoo horn onto the stage. With plenty of brass, bass and drums, along with vocalists and Simon on keys. Blues soul and gospel were on the menu to dance the night away. It had been another glorious day at **The Jinney Ring**, the weather had held nicely and the food had satisfied. The ales and ciders were sampled and we had been wonderfully entertained. I look forward to the opportunity to return for more.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn

Bewdley festival

The Mercure Hotel | 7th-16th October

This October welcomes the **29th Bewdley Festival**, located just outside of Worcestershire's charming Georgian town, at the **Mercure Hotel**. The festival celebrates local and international artists, and has recently acquired a **Bewdley Book Week** too – consisting of readings, poetry days and more. The Bewdley Festival has a superb line up this year, which is an excellent end to the summer, from an evening with **Andy Kershaw** to the hilarious **Rutles**.

Bewdley Festival begins on the 7th of October with acts performing throughout the day and into the evening. It's £22 to see **The Rutles** play this year, the band consists of **Neil Innes**, a musical genius and a member of the **Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band**. However, his true masterpiece is his music for The Rutles, a near



perfect, joyous and hilarious Beatles pastiche created for Eric Idle's cult 1970s BBC2 TV series *Rutland Weekend Television*. Yes, even George Harrison appeared with Neil in a 1978, NBC funded, mockumentary entitled *All You Need Is Cash* featuring twenty of Neil's songs. They have played everything from village halls to Glastonbury, but this time they'll play to Bewdley.

On Saturday the cabaret show *I Love to Sing* by **Anne Reid** will send you on a journey at 8pm alongside her musical director **Jason Carr**, performing various songs, stories, music and memories – such as filming with Daniel Craig, performing Shakespeare at Buckingham Palace and creating *Last Tango in Halifax*! Anne is a loved and respected actor, she's starred in the likes of *Ladies of Letters*, *Dinnerladies* and *The Mother*, as well as selling out at numerous cabaret shows across London. The Times have described her performance to be '*an absolutely joyful evening*' and now she brings her show to Bewdley. You can see Anne Reid for just £19 on Saturday the 8th of October.



It certainly won't be a lazy Sunday at the Bewdley Festival as **Ashley Wass** and violinist **Matthew Trusler** are producing a family concert in the afternoon of the 9th of October. Ashley and Matthew have a brand new project called *Wonderland*, a reimagining of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, created by the pair in order to raise funds for the Lenny Trusler Children's foundation – which is dedicated to providing relief from suffering and illness in very sick babies and children. *Wonderland* marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Carroll's classic tale, and thirteen different composers have each written a short piece that is inspired by its preface and twelve chapters, also performed in order so the story's narrative is told through music. It's £15 admission into *Wonderland*, however a child can go for free, and any other children under 13 years of age will be an extra £5.

Ashley Wass will also be performing a piano recital in celebration of William Shakespeare that Sunday evening. For £20 admission you can see '*an endlessly fascinating artist*', Ashley is firmly established as one of the leading performers of his



generation. In 1997 he won the London International Piano Competition – the only British winner thus far. He's also won prizes at the Leeds Piano Competition, and is a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. Ashley has also appeared at Buckingham Palace in the Golden Jubilee Concert broadcast live to millions of viewers. Most recently, Ashley tours extensively with his programme celebrating the works of Shakespeare, incorporating the Tempest, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream and more.

The ten-day festival will see **Andy Kershaw**, legendary broadcaster and foreign correspondent, at 8:00pm on Wednesday the 12th of October. *The Adventures of Andy Kershaw* is a one-man show and also a successful highlight of many literary festivals and theatres around the UK. Fascinating, and often hilarious, this two-hour audio-visual presentation treats the audience to recollections from a life spent on the front lines of rock and roll and memories in some of the world's most exotic countries. Stephen Fry has even branded Andy '*The finest British broadcaster bar none*' and you can have an evening with Andy for £17.



Thursday 13th of October at 8:00pm, Bewdley will be introduced to **Judie Tzuke** and her *Songs and Stories*. After her sell-out success in her 2015, Judie is back on the road. This evening promises to be an intimate evening of songs and tales from across her life and career and she is one of the UK's finest singer songwriter's. Judie is known all over the world for her timeless song, *Stay with Me till Dawn*, and her exquisite live shows. Judie will once again be proving what an extraordinary artist she is. 'Much of the audience has been in love with her since *'Stay with Me till Dawn'* echoed around their bedrooms' The Times. It's just £20 a ticket to fall in love with Judie too.



These are just a few of the events at the 2016 Bewdley Festival and there will be many more to be discovered. Tickets for the events at the festival can be bought through post or telephone at the **Worcester Live Box Office**, Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate, Worcester WR1 3LD, 01905 611427. The box office is open Mon to Sat from 10am – 5pm. They can also be bought in person at the **Bewdley Tourist Information Centre**, Load Street, Bewdley, DY12 2AE – open everyday. For more information on the acts and the line up for this years Bewdley Festival go to their website at www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk.

Bewdley Book Week

Louis de Bernières

internationally acclaimed author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* tops the bill in **Bewdley Book Week** which starts on Sept 5th. In an evening of words and music in a relaxed St George's Hall, Bewdley on Friday 9th Sept, 7.30pm the author will read from his poetry collection *Of Love and Desire* and talk about his latest novel *The Dust That Falls From Dreams*.



Musical support will be provided by **The Bookshop Band**, comprising **Ben Please** and **Beth Porter**. They are superior musicians who write songs inspired by books and folk stories. **Louis de Bernières**, who is also an accomplished musician, will join the band playing the mandolin.

The evening features performers who are at the very top of their game and is sure to delight fans of live music and the author's writing. There will be a licensed bar.

Ian Rankin (author of the Inspector Rebus crime series who has also appeared with the band said: "I was enchanted and enthralled by The Bookshop Band. What a great, clever, literate musical night!")

The full Book Week programme can be viewed on-line at www.bewdleybookweek.org.uk. Tickets are available on-line or from the Tourist Information Centre in, Bewdley (084560778190).

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Music Sessions/Open Mics

Every Monday - Folk Session

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Every Monday - Open Mic

Royal Oak, Ledbury

Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Every Monday - Folk Night

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon Open Mic

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Tues - Jazz Night

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

First Tues - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night with Ian Fuller

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Hereford

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel

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

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tues - Folk Evening

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wed - Electric Jam Night

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Green Dragon, Bishops Frome

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Fox & Hounds, Breden

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions

The Crown, Colwall

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

First Wed - Open Mic

The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marris Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

1st Thurs - Folk Session

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions

The Pheasant, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

1st Thursday Polly Edwards Open Mic Jam Night

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Every Thursday - Acoustic Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Every other Thursday, Open Mic

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Every Thursday - Open Mic

The Firefly, Hereford

Every Thursday - Local Artists

The Pheasant, Worcester

Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance

Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Every 4th Thursday - Session

New Inn, Malvern

2nd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

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

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

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

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

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

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

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

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

2nd Sun - Singaround Session

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session

Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sun Lazy Acoustic Afternoon 4pm

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Every Sunday - Open Mic 7.30

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00

Lichfield Vaults

Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

1st & 3rd Sun - 'Baa Chords' Open mic Session

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Thursday 01 September 2016

The Badgers Of Furious Fusion

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Troublesome Trio

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Simon & Garfunkel

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dan Greenaway

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Barmer Boys

Guildhall, Gloucester

Adam Holmes & The Embers

The Convent, Stroud

Gary O'dea

The Plough, Deansway, Worcester

Friday 02 September 2016

Plastic Scene

The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

The Underdogs

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Ignition presents: Gehtika, The Face Of Ruin & Slaughter Horse

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Folk in the Foyer - Mice in a Matchbox, Vaginapocalypse

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Mosley Folk Festival

Mosley, See Moseleyfolk.Co.Uk

Rod Picott

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

John Emil

Bourbon Smokehouse, Leamington Spa

Sarah Martyn

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley, Worcestershire

Beer & Blues Weekend

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Come Together

The Maltster, Worcester

James (Duo)

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

The Woo Town Hillbillies

The Red Lion, Evesham

Freebase

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Raw Comedy:, Chris Norton-Walker, Mike Dryburgh, Paul

Mutagejja, William Collishaw, Nick Clarke, Liam Mitchell,

Harvey Hawkins

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Stuart Woolfenden

Lower Drayton Farm, Stafford

The Delray Rockets

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village

The Interpreters

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Nuns Of Tundra Un-Plugged

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Mother Popcorn

Drummonds, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Falcon Hotel, Bridgnorth

Free-Men-Life

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Catch Fire, Salt Wounds, Sioux Falls, Bathtub

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Knebakeye Alley

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Jay & Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

Sarah Martyn

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Gwyn Ashton

The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

Bryn Teeling

Rustic Pizza Company, Rustic Pizza Company, Bewdley

Brooks Williams

The Ginger Pig Cafe, Worcester

Beer & Blues Weekend 2nd - 4th

The Fleece, Bretforton

The Ben Cipolla Band

Café Rene, Gloucester

Tinchy Stryder + Bro, Mark Marks & Dj Caviar

Subscription Room, Stroud

Elvis Presley - Gordon Hendricks

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Journeyman

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 03 September 2016

Data, Heinz Sicht, The Loved And The Lost, Sam Ostler

The Palace Theatre Main House, Redditch

Otic Mac

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

Mister Wolf

The Wharf, Mart Lane, Stourport, DY13 9EN

Institutions

The Wharf, Stourport

The Little Band

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Mosley Folk Festival

Mosley, See Moseleyfolk.Co.Uk

John Emil

The Victoria, Walsall

Protocol

Hop Pole, Bromyard

Fight The Bear, A Hundred Suns, Teddy's Leg

Throwline Festival At The Booth Hall, Hereford

Johnny Gold

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Beer & Blues Weekend

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Data, Heinz-Sicht, The Loved And Lost, Sam Ostler

The Palace Theatre (Main House), Redditch

Bootleg 60S

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dan Reed + 3Sixty-Lite

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Delray Rockets

Oxford Arms, Hereford

The Works

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Sax Appeal

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Skint

The Saracens Head, Worcester

Dana & Susan Robinson

Elmslie House, Malvern

Heavy Rain

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Autumn

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Emily Lee & Band

Guildhall, Gloucester

Dave Small And Friends

Rustic Pizza Company, Rustic Pizza Company, Bewdley

Voodoo Blue

Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Dean Owens

The Convent, Stroud

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds

The Chestnut, Worcester

Common Ground

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Nightshift

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Paul Rose Dictatorship

Picnic In The Playground @ Hanbury First School 3Pm, Worcestershire

Throwing Line Presents 4Pm - Late, Mixed Cabaret & Circus,

Fight The Bear, Seasons Hollow, Teddy's Leg, A Hundred Suns

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Ghost Trail

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Flares

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Bourbon Alley Blues Band

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Sunday 04 September 2016

Wychway Folk Trio

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Passion

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Mosley Folk Festival
Mosley, See Moseleyfolk.co.uk

Beer & Blues Weekend
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Lazy Sunday in Aid Of Child.Org, Arcadia Roots, Call Me Unique, Demi Marriner, Tiger, Djs Rob, Dan & Si
Café Bliss @ Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Bootleg 60s
Artrix, Bromsgrove

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

Stuart Bishop
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Hometown Tourist
The Pheasant, Worcester

Nickle And Dime 4-7pm
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Lazy Sunday: Arcadia Roots, Call Me Unique, Demi Marriner & Tiger
Café Bliss, Worcester

Moore Moss Rutter
The Convent, Stroud

Vo Fletcher 5.30pm
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Notorious Brothers
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Wednesday 07 September 2016

Tyler & Friends
Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Andy Twyman
Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 08 September 2016

The Bar Room Anthems
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Troublesome Trio
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Mark Morris
The Swan, Cheltenham

Anthony John Clarke
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

999 + Army Of Skanks
The Iron Road, Evesham

Voodoo Blue
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Smokin Pilchards
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Wilson
The Convent, Stroud

Tannara
The Convent, Stroud

Howlin' Mat
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 09 September 2016

Oas-Is
Guildhall, Gloucester

Wet Desert (Album Launch)
The Wharf, Stourport

Bromyard Folk Festival
Bromyard, See Bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk

Ramonas, The Irascibles, Reggae Pie DJs
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Sunshine Band
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Weirdshire Weekend, David Ian Roberts, Andy Skellam, Mike Whittaker
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Underclass
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

The Ramonas, The Irascibles, Reggae Pie
A Punky Reggae Party At The Booth Hall, Hereford

New Two
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Jay And Eli
The Red Lion, Evesham

Morass Of Molasses, Black Boxes, Pilla, Soden
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Rhino And The Ranters
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

he Magoos
Drummonds, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Black Country Boating Festival, Dudley

Mike Allen
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Mister Wolf
The Lamplighter, Stratford Upon Avon

Underclass
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Dave Onions
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Nr Pershore

Neil Ivison
The Pheasant, Worcester

Tubby Bluesters
Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Molly's Daggers
Café Rene, Gloucester

Black Knight
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Soul Survivors
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 10 September 2016

Vo Fletcher
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Swede Dreamz Abba Tribute
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Lazy Sunday's
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

Bromyard Folk Festival
Bromyard, See Bromyardfolkfestival.Co.Uk

Notorious Brothers
New Inn, Pershore

Small Changes
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Ricky Cool & The in Crowd
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rehydrated Turkeys...(Unplucked!!)
Green Dragon, Malvern

Punk By Nature Presents: Eastfield, Contempt, The Obnoxious, Sister Sandwich, The Domestics, The Victims & The Youth Within
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Jagged Hands
The Express Inn, Malvern

The Rehydrated Turkeys....(Unplucked!!)
Green Dragon, Malvern

Cube sHuffle 12 - 6pm (see page 9)
The Cube, Malvern

Recovered
The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Mel & Him
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Official Receivers + Gary O'Dea
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Fury, Torous, Ronin, Valous
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Heavy Oil + Blackballed
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Mighty Boing
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Timeless Jaz
Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

The Chequered Souls
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Falst Stanley
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ko Kumo Reggae Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Happy Few, Brothers
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Dancefloor Delux, Soul Patrol
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Ells And The Southern Wild
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Wonderful Weirdshire Weekend, Steve Ashley, Bird Radio, Sproatly Smith, Mark Stevenson
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Roving Crows + More
Newent Onion Fayre, Bury Bar Ln., Newent, Glos

Sunday 11 September 2016

Forty Blue Toes - 3.30Pm

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

Bromyard Folk Festival

Bromyard, See Bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk

Dave Beale

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Weirdshire Weekend, Aula Down, Elisbeth Anne, Bones And The Aft, Lisa Harres, Tobion, Vaginapocalypse, The Barrels, Hereford

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)

The Red Lion, Evesham

UK Pink Floyd Experience

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Greg The Axeman Winters 4-7Pm

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Lounge Toad 5.30Pm

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Wap Waps

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 13 September 2016

The Syd Lawrence Orchestra

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Wednesday 14 September 2016

Hump De Bump, Ray Mytton Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Tyler & Friends

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Madison Violet

The Convent, Stroud

Mad P's Birthday Weekender & WMF - See Ad Page 46

The Chestnut, Worcester

Meg Hayden

Café Rene, Gloucester

Whispered (Finland) + Countless Skies

The Iron Road, Evesham

Born in Chicago - Blues Brothers Tribute

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Thursday 15 September 2016

Remi Harris

The Den, Stanford Bridge, Worcestershire

The Ferrets

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Notorious Bros

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Mad P's Birthday Weekender & WMF - See Ad Page 46

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Spacehoppers

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Jack Henderson

The Convent, Stroud

Vo Fletcher

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 16 September 2016

Manalishi

The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Festivals Experience

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Pigdaze

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Conor maher

The Saracens Head, Worcester

Subs Of Anarchy - Bus and Bike Show

Evsham, See Dubsofanarchy.co.uk

Lynched

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mad P's Birthday Weekender & WMF - See Ad Page 46

The Chestnut, Worcester

Fifty Shades

The Red Lion, Evesham

Bowie Experience

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Surreal Panther

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Core

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Madi Stimpson

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

The Ron Jeremy Band

Drummonds, Worcester

Frogfest 2016

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Jessica Rhodes

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Worcester Music Festival

Worcester, See Worcestermusicfestival.co.uk For Line-Up

Rebecca Downes

The Convent, Stroud

The Worried Men

Café Rene, Gloucester

Voodoo Room

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Saturday 17 September 2016

Kick Up The 80s

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Jigantics.

The Palace Theatre Room Upstairs, Redditch

Mad P's Birthday Weekender & WMF - See Ad Page 46

The Chestnut, Worcester

Notorious Brothers

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

Underground Revolution, Cherryshoes, Nuns Of The Tundra, Perk

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Torn Atlas

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Glam Rock Tribute Singer Night Fancy Dress

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Autumn

The Black Star, Stourport

Solid State

The Bell, St Johns, Worcester

Tandem / Father And Daughter Duo

Tewkesbury YMCA, Tewkesbury

The Tom Walker Trio

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Nightshift

Green Dragon, Malvern

Pirate Night: "Fancy Dress" Matilda's Scoundles & Whipjack

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Subs Of Anarchy - Bus and Bike Show

Evsham, See Dubsofanarchy.co.uk

Mumbo-Jumbo

Martley Village Hall, Martley

Without Flight, The Rouges

Upton Social Club, Upton On Severn

Matt Peplow

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Tasha Taylor, Layla Zoe, Ina Forsman

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Jigantics

The Palace Theatre (Room Upstairs), Redditch

Blues Caravan 2016 - Blues Sisters

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Delray Rockets

Archdales's Club, Worcester

Fabulous Bordellos

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Jay & Eli

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Planet Loco

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Worcester Music Festival

Worcester, See Worcestermusicfestival.co.uk For Line-Up

The Core Band

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Mad P's Birthday Weekender & WMF - See Ad Page 46

The Chestnut, Worcester

Izzy The Push

Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Torn Atlas

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Damien O'kane

The Convent, Stroud

Reverend Schneider & The Band Of Angles

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Hybrid

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Steve Ferbrache

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Sunday 18 September 2016

Malvern Hillbillies

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Subs Of Anarchy - Bus and Bike Show

Evsham, See Dubsofanarchy.co.uk

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)

The Red Lion, Evesham

Lennon - Through A Glass Onion

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Stuart Woolfenden

Courtyard Music, Tardebigge

Worcester Music Festival

Worcester, See Worcestermusicfestival.co.uk For Line-Up

Mad P's Birthday Weekender & WMF - See Ad Page 46

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Woo Town Hillbillies 4-7pm

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Jane Siberry

The Convent, Stroud

Jazz With Dave Ayre

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Worried Men

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 20 September 2016

The Blueswater

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Dirty Aces

The Iron Road, Evesham

Wednesday 21 September 2016

Tyler & Friends

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Peggy Seegar & Special Guest Sam Gleaves

The Convent, Stroud

Mike Parker

Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 22 September 2016

The Mob

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Woo Town Hillbillies, Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

Protocol

Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Trio Rosbifs With Mathias Svensson

The Lamb And Flag, Worcester

The Three Degrees

The Regal Cinema, Evesham

The Maz Mitrenko Band

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Fake Thackeray

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Claire Hastings

The Convent, Stroud

Soccer96

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Perry Foster and Thom Colne

The Plough, Deansway, Worcester

Rura

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Politically Incorrect: The Songs Of Tom Lehrer

Subscription Room, Stroud

Friday 23 September 2016

Junction 7

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Bowie Experience

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Spoz & Dave

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Jumping Jim & The Gumbo Shakers with Sarah Warren

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Vehicle

Queens Head, Wolverley

The Terry Clarke Band

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Sick Monkeys & Flat Back Four

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Something Else in The Dean Festival

Forest Of Dean, See Somethingelseinthedean.co.uk

54 SLAP SEPTEMBER

Journeyman

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Morganisation

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Grimaldi Band

The Red Lion, Evesham

Jupitronz, James Matthey

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

La Villa Strangiato - The Spirit Of Rush

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Festivals Experience

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Emma White

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Stone Farm

Drummonds, Worcester

Mike Allen

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

The Fb Pocket Orchestra

The Ginger Pig Cafe, Worcester

Ben Stancomb

The Pheasant, Worcester

Soul Strutters

Café Rene, Gloucester

Ben vickers friday

The Saracens Head, Worcester

Soul Patrol

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Midnight City

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Saturday 24 September 2016

Remi Harris

The Market Theatre, Ledbury

The Weekend Anthems

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Gaye Bykers on Acid, Poisoned Electric Head, Socio Suki

The Wagon & Horses, Digbeth

Tony Sings The 60'S

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Parkin' Lot

New Inn, Pershore

Bex's Midnight Runners

Tewkesbury YMCA, Tewkesbury

The Big Wolf Band

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Sax Appeal

Green Dragon, Malvern

Something Else in The Dean Festival

Forest Of Dean, See Somethingelseinthedean.Co.Uk

Without Flight, The Rouges

The Bakery, Malvern

A Crisis Of Conscience - 40 Years of Punk! TV Smith, On Trial Uk,

Terminal Rage, The Youth Within, Linerunners, Freeborn Rising,

The Delinquents, Rosebud, Live Art & Spoken Word

The Booth Hall, Hereford

James Delarre And Saul Rose

The Courtyard, Hereford

Take That Experience

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Guns Or Roses

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Underground Festival

Underground-Festival.co.uk

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Sari & The Engine Room

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Delray Rockets

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Amie Woodyatt

Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

The White Feather Collective, Jenny Hallam & Lou Clark

Elmslie House, Malvern

Charlton Blues Kings

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Eastwood

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Still Crazy

Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Bourbon Alley Blues Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Blair Dunlop

The Convent, Stroud

Wotton Blues Fest www.wottonbluesfest.org
Wotton Under Edge, Gloucestershire

Eye
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Over The Hill
Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Born in Chicago - Blues Brothers Show
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Blind River Scare
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Sunday 25 September 2016

Merry Hillbillies
The Wharf, Stourport

Ray Mytton
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Wotton Blues Fest www.wottonbluesfest.org
Wotton Under Edge, Gloucestershire

Something Else in The Dean Festival
Forest Of Dean, See Somethingelseinthedean.co.uk

Dean Friedman
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Delray Rockets (Afternoon)
The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

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

Underground Festival 2016
Guildhall, Gloucester See Underground-Festival.co.uk

Bryn Thomas 4-7pm
White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Ralph Allin Quartet 5.30pm
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sarah Miller band 5pm
The Saracens Head, Worcester

The Petty Heglars
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Standard Lamps
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 27 September 2016

Saiichi Sugiyama
The Iron Road, Evesham

Wednesday 28 September 2016

10Cc 2016
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Tyler & Friends
Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

Chris Webb
Café Rene, Gloucester

Mustard
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Thursday 29 September 2016

Sally Live 60'S
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Eskies
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Of Kings & Captains, Hardwicke Circus
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Velvet Tardis
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Colum Sands
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

1st-25th The Embroiders Guild - Capability Brown landscapes
Artrix Bromsgrove

4th - Telford Kite Festival

10th/11th - Leamington Spa Food & Drink Festival
Pump Room Gardens, Leamington.

12th - Licensed to Rhyme, Artrix

16th - Worcester Music Festival
www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

17th - World Heritage River Festival, Ironbridge Gorge

24th - Digbeth Vintage & Vinyl Trail

24th Sept - 20th Oct - Art in Minds 'Art of Conversation' -
The Hive, Worcester

28th Sept - 23rd Oct - Art in Minds 'Art of Conversation' -
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Until 14 Sept, Hazel Morris & Karen Lilley - 'Reflections'
Number 8 Pershore

T.Rextasy
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Folk in the Foyer: Ange Hardy, Lukas Drinkwater, Mike Weaver
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

The Heretic Order + Hell Puppets
The Iron Road, Evesham

Time Enough
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Dave Mcpherson [Inme], Marc Halls [Fei Commodo],
Forefathers (Acoustic), Ricky Brown**
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Dave Sharp
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tcha Limberger'S Budapest Gypsy Orchestra
The Convent, Stroud

Friday 30 September 2016

Bee Gees Fever
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Super-On-It (Oasis Tribute Band)
The Wharf, Stourport

Cabaret With Mike Skilbeck
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Rue Royale & Support
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

The Kate G Band
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Liz Berry, Pete Williams & Kate Pereira
St George's Hall, Bewdley, Worcestershire.

Graham Parker & Brinsley Schwarz
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Melvin Hancox One Man Show
The Red Lion, Evesham

Dogs Of Santorini
The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Mike Zito & The Wheel + Albert Castiglia
The Iron Road, Evesham

Babal
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Andy Lindsay & Zoe Devenish
Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

The Core
Drummonds, Worcester

Steamroller
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Robert Lane
Foley Arms, Great Malvern

Sonic 3
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Mister Wolf
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Answer Back
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Ben Vickers
The Pheasant, Worcester

Big Bang Billie
The Pheasant, Toddington

The Eskies
The Convent, Stroud

Graffiti Classics
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Roving Crows
Overbury Village Hall, Overbury, Worcestershire

Upload your events to www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed

15 Sept - 5 Oct Schools Showcase 2016
Number 8 Pershore

15 Sept - 26 Oct Cut, Fold, Bind - 'Bound by Books'
Number 8 Pershore

Bewdley Book Week Events

6th - Rob Barratt - Distressed 14:00 St George's Hall

6th - Emma Purshouse - 15:00 St George's Hall

6th - Poetry Slam - 19:30 The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

9th - Louis DeBernières with The Bookshop Band 19:30
St George's Hall, Bewdley

9-11 - Stroud Theatre Festival - Stroud Subrooms
www.stroudtheatrefestival.co.uk

9th - Black Mountain Poets
Conquest Theatre, Ledbury 7.30pm £6 £5.50

THE MARR'S BAR

SEPT | OCT 2016

The Eskies
Thursday 29th September



Friday 2nd September

Tower Studios presents: Freebase
£5 on the door

Saturday 3rd September

Kinship Carers fund raiser
£5 in advance

Friday 9th September

Lo Promo presents: Morass Of Molasses,
Black Boxes, Pilla + Soden

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Saturday 10th September

Fury, Torous, Ronin + Valous
£4 in advance £5 on the door

Friday - Sunday

16th-18th September 6-12pm

Worcester Music Festival

Free Entry

Friday 23rd September

Tower Studios presents
Jupitronz + James Matthey

£5 on the door

Saturday 24th September

Guns Or Roses

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday 29th September

The Eskies

£7 in advance £9 on the door

Friday 30th September

Babal, Black Light Secret

£4 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 1st October

Musicians against homelessness

Take the 5th, The Miffs + Stop the World

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Monday 3rd October

The Task In Hand presents...

MIKE WATT's Il Sogno Del Marinaio

The Broken Oak Duet + Navajo Ace

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 7th October

Tower Studios presents

Cerebral scar + Days of End

£5 on the door

Saturday 8th October

The Leylines + Folk The System + Nick Parker

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Tuesday 11th October

Hey You Guys

£3 on the door

Thursday 13th October

Faithful City Shows presents

Sonic Boom Six, Population 7, You Know The

Drill + Calm Like A Riot

£7 in advance

Saturday 15th October

30th Anniversary Rockfest in aid of WMRSASC

Soul Stripper, Thousand Mountain and more

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 21st October

The Official Receivers

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 22nd October

Seas of Mirth + Jasper in the Company of Others

£7 in advance £10 on the door

Tuesday 25th October

Faithful City Shows presents Johnny Foreigner

The Cape of Good Hope + Nuns Of The Tundra

£7 in advance

Thursday, October 27

Back to the Planet + Skewwhiff

£10 in advance

Friday 28th October

Soeur, Palm Pleasures + Junior Weeb

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 29th October

Oas-is

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

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