

# **SLAP**

Issue 10

**FREE**

**Nov 2011**

**MAGAZINE**

**Your FREE monthly entertainment  
guide for Worcestershire**

**Featuring:**

**Robinson**

**Jake Morley**

**Charlotte Kessler**

**Richard Clarke**

**This Wicked Tongue**

**The One Two's**

**Wooden Horse**

**Hayseed Dixie**

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# SLAP

Nov 2011 **MAGAZINE**

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Hello All

Welcome once again to the world of SLAP. Who would have thought we'd have got to the 10th issue sane and unscathed? We bring you another packed issue thanks to all our lovely contributors who keep us on our toes to bring you all the latest news, views and reviews from around the County.

We are particularly proud of our happy snapper come writer Toni Charles, who fully deserved all the plaudits (and a Slap on the back) after winning the Worcester Music Festival photography competition.

As Slap goes to press we announce our next Slap Night headline act at the Worcester Arts Workshop - non other than Cardiff Techno Punk legends Sicknote who arrive in town on the 19th - Not to be missed!

Andy O'Hare reflects on the summer of festival madness and we look back at Snodfest. This issue covers more art and culture and we take a look at the good, the bad and the ugly architecture around Worcester.

The clocks go back, the nights are drawing in but we find plenty of comedy around to raise our spirits and keep us going till the next Slap...

*The Eds*



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**slapmag**



# Slap News

November 2011

## Pauline Quirke Academy comes to Evesham



Pauline Quirk is probably best known for her role as the plump convicts wife in the sitcom *Birds of a Feather*, however she began her acting career as a 9 year old arsonist in *Dixon of Dock Green* after enrolling in drama classes. She has launched a number of academies in her name, mostly based around the London area, but there is a group now starting at Evesham Arts Centre on the 29th October. It is not all arty farty though as a recent master class in stage combat given by True Edge man Christopher Hanvey at Leicester demonstrated!!

Fees start from £7.50 hour with reductions for multi hours. Classes are held for 44 weeks of the year.

For more info see [www.pqacademy.com](http://www.pqacademy.com) or contact them at [enquiries@pqacademy.com](mailto:enquiries@pqacademy.com)

## The Modern set to Rock the Kasbah

The Modern will be headlining at Keystones in Worcester on Friday 4th November as they warm up for their next fantastic gig. A support slot for the madchester legend, the Manc Icon, Shaun Ryder of Happy Mondays/Black Grape who is playing at the Kasbah in Coventry, on Friday 25th November as part of his solo UK tour.



Tickets are available at £15 or at £23 with transport from Worcester (limited places).

The Modern are a four-piece indie band from Worcester. Think the poetry of The Libertines, the rawness of The

View's Kyle Falconer and jangly John Squire riffs – all put together with a small but brilliant sprinkling of prime-time Gallagher swagger. The band who formed in 2009 have a loyal fan following and have become a favourite live act for many venues across the UK.

For Tickets/Demos/Info email: [themodernband@gmail.com](mailto:themodernband@gmail.com)

## BabaJack sign a deal for 3rd Album

News reaches SLAP that local rootsy duo BabaJack have been signed and are going into the studio with a top producer!



BabaJack are "one of the most exciting blues, roots, folk outfits in the UK" (*Bluesmatters Magazine*) and they are delighted to be signed by the blues label **KrossBorder** and **Proper Music Distribution**. They are also blown away to have been invited by top Record Producer **Adam Fuest** ([www.myspace.com/twinpeaksstudio](http://www.myspace.com/twinpeaksstudio)) to record their third album. They go into the studio on Nov 1st and the album will be on pre-sale very soon!

For further info visit: [www.babajack.com](http://www.babajack.com)

He also tours as tribute act **The Johnny Cash Roadshow** – but Clive John's own original album *The Spirit* is in the running for Best Album Of The Year at the **British Country Music Awards** – we'll bring you news about how he got on next month but if you can't wait – check out the result at [www.clivejohn.com](http://www.clivejohn.com)



Credit to Adam Shipley and Daniel Kepinski for setting up **Shot In The Dark** promotions which aims to provide a 14+ venue for young musicians at the **Room 13** venue in Farrier Street – there'll be live music and a range of activities for all ages – and the official opening is October 28th – we'll keep you posted...

Fancy joining in a Band-Aid type event? Ronda are inviting local musos to join them at **Rich Bitch studios** in Birmingham on Saturday November 5th to join in on a new recording of their seasonal ditty **I Love You Christmas Day** – all in aid of **Help For Heroes**

November 19th sees the opening of the New Park at Coronation Gardens (opposite the Boars Head) in Kidderminster with Stage and Art sculptures with Sudio Suki at 2pm - 4pm Plus The official Opening of the Boars Head Gallery.

Kiddi grungster-ish three-piece Vault Of Eagles made it through to the final of the Marshall Ultimate Band Contest which will be held at the Marshall HQ in Milton Keynes on the 19th November. Tickets available at [www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com) priced £5.



The Worcestershire Literary Festival in association with Apples & Snakes is proud to announce the second in the Autumn 2011 series of Learn : Eat : Perform workshops, with a highly anticipated event run by poet, project manager, producer and promoter Jo Bell on Sunday 20th November 2011.

She has been a poet in residence for Glastonbury Festival and for the Royal Derby Hospital. Collaborations include work within the Companion Stones project, and live poetry shows with other artists. She produces and performs poetry shows such as Fourpenny Circus, nominated for the Ted Hughes Award in 2010. She is a former Cheshire Poet Laureate and her play First Person about the explorer Gertrude Bell was performed at Chester Literature Festival.



MORE than £7,000 has been raised for a homeless day centre in the city thanks to the generosity of this year's Worcester Music Festival supporters.

Mel Kirk, acting manager at Maggs Day Centre in Deansway, said she was overwhelmed by the amount raised during the three-day event to help provide an invaluable lifeline in the city.



"This is a significant amount of money to us and we are overjoyed at the generosity of festival goers and supporters," she said. "We provide more services than people might realise and this will go a long way in helping with the running costs of keeping the centre open."

The only centre of its type in the county, Maggs aims to help those living on the streets, but also those at risk of homelessness or who are socially isolated, vulnerable or lonely.

As well as being an open-door centre for food, shelter, support, washing and laundry facilities, Maggs provides free clothes, bedding and domestic items through the Maggs Clothing Project. Often Maggs is simply a non-judgemental, friendly face to combat social isolation.

It was chosen as this year's Worcester Music Festival charity following news it was to lose a huge proportion of its funding this month and would need to rely on donations to keep it going.

Fundraising organiser Nikki Boraston said the money raised would not have been possible without the support of local companies, who donated raffle prizes, and the band of willing helpers that gave up their time to collect donations throughout the event.

"We had fantastic support this year and we only hope the money raised will give Maggs a bit more security during a difficult time, as well as providing funding for worthwhile projects," she said. "We are now looking for suggestions as to who should be next year's chosen charity, if anyone has any ideas, as well as calling for volunteers to join our 2012 fundraising team."

To put forward charity suggestions or to volunteer, email [nikki@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](mailto:nikki@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk).

For more on Worcester Music Festival, visit: [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk).

For more on Maggs Day Centre and how to help the charity, visit [www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk](http://www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk)

Worcester Music Festival, which took place this year from August 19-21, is an annual event started in 2008 to support and encourage live, local and original music in Worcester and is staged in pubs, clubs, cafes, and historic buildings around or near the city centre. Festival events take place at over 30 venues, with a line-up in the region of 300 bands and musicians. Entry to the majority of venues is free of charge, but there are a few exceptions.

The Festival is a non-profit making event run by an enthusiastic team of 25+ volunteers, largely local musicians or people associated with the Worcester music scene. Not only does it provide a showcase for local musical talent of all genres, but it provides education and professional development opportunities through a variety of workshops and clinics. Each year the Festival supports different local charities selected from a list of nominations. Money for the charities is raised by way of a raffle, donations, collection buckets at venues and merchandising sales.

# Review

The Marr's Bar  
2nd October 2011

## Jake Morley & Robinson

The Robinson line up this sunday evening included Andy Robinson, John-Joe Murray, Wes Dance, Josh Crivelli, Richard Clarke and Will Hughes performing songs from the new album 'Beneath The Ballroom' as well as other great tunes from Andy's expansive back catalog. First up the band ripped out the floor stomping, thigh slapping 'Mr Popular', a nod to Jefferson Airplane and bluesy americana. Robinson built atmosphere and tension with the Waits' influenced 'Nightmares', where mid-flow the song turns instrumental and almost improvised with eerie clarinet, fiddle sounds and stabbing guitar.

The anthemic gypsy-esque 'England's Bleeding', with a terrific fiddle performance from John-Joe leaped out half way through the set, gently followed by the soft harmonies and Andy's engaging delivery of 'Always Talk To Strangers', both from Robinson's debut album 'England's Bleeding'. However changing the band line up may be, the quality of the band performance and Robinson's song-writing is consistent and what a way to open an excellent evening of music.



Jake Morley, who had previously performed at the Marr's bar with the increasingly popular Ed Sheeran, was back and on excellent form. This time round, Jake was accompanied by one of the most dynamic and talented bands on the contemporary circuit, including an enigmatic Harry Mead on drums and percussion, Kevin Pollard on Keys and harmonies and John Parker, who's harmonic



slides, percussive plucking styles and phenomenal control on the double bass are a force to be reckoned with. Jake lifted the roof of the Marr's Bar, opening his set with his guitar on his lap and tapping out (with amazing precision) songs like 'The Light' and 'Reeling'.

Not settling for just his extremely accomplished self-

styled guitar playing, Morley delivered some great vocals through out the night, particularly on songs like 'Freddie Laid The Smackdown'. This was a driving bluesy song about being the new kid at school and dealing with it. Jake manages light work of singing with energy and enthusiasm whilst tapping out complex melodies and chords in the brilliant 'Pondering On A Scenario In Which I Am The Hero' where he imagines himself rescuing girls from fights on buses and pulling people from wrecks of buildings. The truly epic and anthemic 'Feet Don't Fail Me Now' is a feel good tune if ever there was one and demonstrates Jake and his bands ability to match the amazing recorded version on his album.



Jake Morley's debut album is entitled 'Many Fish To Fry' is out now on Sandwich Emporium Records and is available from Jake at gigs and on iTunes. He's certainly an act to follow and not to be missed live.

# Stephen Wilson

## Worcestershire County Arts Officer

One of the many comments I get from people is that they never know what is going on in the county so I thought I would give some information on a couple of projects that are taking place within the county.

12 Moves is part of Dancing for the Games, the programme inspired by London 2012 and one of many Cultural Olympiad programmes taking place in the West Midlands and is being led by Dancefest.

There are 3 main elements attached to it:

Participation: Dance Squads providing dance classes across the county

Trained dancers have been providing classes and workshops in community settings since July 2010. These have taken place from care homes to toddler groups. Some groups have even had the chance to perform their dances in front of live audiences.

both money and resources to each achieve their own priorities. It also seeks to work with those traditionally excluded from arts activities and thus there is an element of increased access to dance which then has a subsequent impact of increasing health and well being.



There is also a delivery organisation in Dancefest who have a proven track record of both dance development in the region as well as running large scale projects. It is a huge project which seeks to leave a lasting legacy for people within the county and I am delighted that the Grand Finale is being held as part of The Hive's work next year. For more information please go to: [www.dancefest.co.uk](http://www.dancefest.co.uk)

3 Verse is predominately led by the County Council. Again its partnership based with three departments working side by side. The project develops and brings together three poetry projects for the county. These are Word Up which is the search for the Young Poet Laureate and two poetry slam projects working with schools.

In many ways 3 Verse has similarities to 12 Moves in that it aims to get those traditionally excluded from the arts to take part. Poetry is an interesting art form and we sell 3 Verse very much down the Rap lines. We also work with the poets, Spoz, Matt Windle and Dreadlock Alien from the Midlands who are on a mission to spread poetry to young people. I always enjoy challenging people's perception of art forms and that is one of the aims of 3 Verse.

For more details please go to:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/3verse](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/3verse)

If you know of any young people from 13-19 who would like to enter Word Up and become the next Young Poet Laureate please point them towards the website.



Demonstration: Surprise dance during summer 2011

Summer 2011 saw 12 Moves come out into the streets. Surprise dance performances took place across the county.



Celebration: The grand finale, March 24 2012

12 Moves culminates in a grand outdoor event in Worcester with spectacular projections and live performances – this is also linked to a large scale event at The Hive on that day. The finale is called 12 Moves: After Dark.

12 Moves is in many ways a perfect example of the kind of project that Local Authority

Officers like. To begin with, 12 Moves is a partnership project with many different organisations each putting in



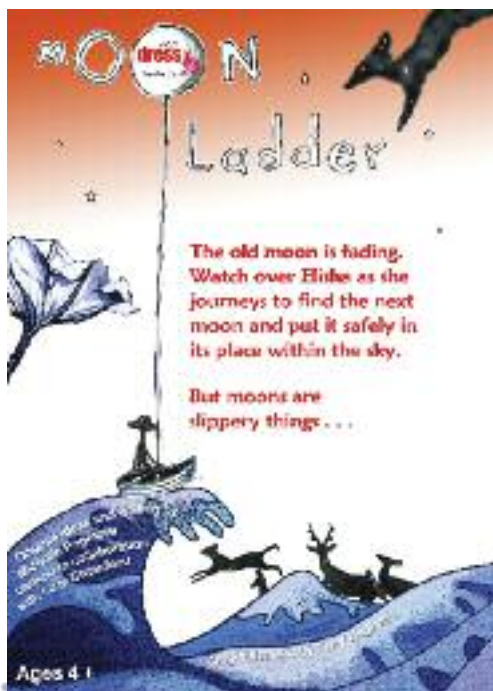
# worcester arts workshop

Hello you lovelies.....We have lots of fabulous things coming up this month but before I tell you all about them, please make note that we have a new phone number. It has changed to 01905 25053.....

Righty, thanks to everyone who made their efforts to support new and experimental music by coming along to the second helping of rather good tunage from the brilliant Slap magazine. SmileyMic and Jak Raven treated us to some beautiful and unusual sounds and a fun night was had by all, leaving us waiting like euphoriacs for the next instalment when we welcome the renowned 'Sicknote' through our doors on Saturday 19th November.

Cafe Bliss' Lazy Sunday continues on Sunday 13th with acts including Angiebones, Jake Abbott, Marina del Ray, The Players and The Dean Elliott Band. It will be indoor throughout the winter months getting all cosy in the cafe!

As well as our magnificent musical events, we have a range of performances coming up this month. 'Moon Ladder' from the Red Dress theatre company is an original work inspired by a story sung to a little girl at bed time. Told through a solo performance of visual/dance theatre with original music and animation. It is a magical, intimate and lyrical journey of self-discovery and imagination for children 4+ and their grown-ups!



Mon 14th to Fri 18th Nov, 10am and 1.45pm (except Wed) & Sat 19th 2.30. £20 for a family ticket (ie.2 adults and 2 children) or £6 each. If you are interested in your school attending performances and for more details, contact [michelle@reddresstheatre.co.uk](mailto:michelle@reddresstheatre.co.uk) or the workshop.



'Zulu', a Shindig promotion, is a thrilling show which encompasses a wide range of musical styles to present a spectacle of rich African culture.

You will be taken on a journey to experience Maskandi (traditional Zulu music), afro-jazz and long established Zulu songs and psalms. Don't miss this exciting journey into African dance and culture!! £9 (£8 concs). With pre performance meals at Cafe Bliss from 7pm.

And..... come check out Birmingham's Kindle theatre on the 2nd December where we have **THE FURIES**: a dirty girl band..... The Furies smashes together rock, metal and soul songs with text and poetry to drastically retell the story of Clytaemnestra – a woman betrayed. Think Rocky Horror meets The Ramones, The Furies is a vivid exploration of human rage through voice, hot and sensual, this is the ultimate tale of rage, revenge and envy. Tickets £12 / £10 concs. From 7.30pm.



For all you arty lovers, you still have time to check out Richard Clarke's marvelous drawings and prints, 'Everything is Rectifiable and Terrific' is on until 18th Nov as well as 'Indigenous Reality' from Fran Horne, Toby Whitaker and Toft Laski.

Then from the 25th and into Xmas, come and view work from the Klik Klik artists and find some original and individual presents.

The First Worcester Bob Dylan Festival "Bob Dylan – Now and Then" is being held over the weekend of Jan 13th –Jan 15th 2012. Over 20 bands and solo artists will be performing across five local venues. Worcester Arts Workshop will be hosting music and literature events as well as the "Inspired by Bob Dylan" art exhibition. If you are interested in taking part, we are calling for artists to submit images of work between the 14th and 25th Nov. For details, mail us on: [klikklikcollective@gmail.com](mailto:klikklikcollective@gmail.com)

Splendid cinema this month presents:

13 November: **Dark Waters**

(UK, 2010, Andrew Gale) 76 min.

The Splendid Cinema is very proud to present this thriller about a young man, Niall (Dafydd Brooks), who had gone missing returning to his Welsh town to discover the world has changed in his absence. £5 entry. 7.30pm.

Director **Andrew Gale** and screenwriter **Andrew Stevenson** are scheduled to be in attendance and will be available for a Q&A after the screening.

27 November: **13 Assassins**

(Jap, 2010, Takashi Miike) 141 min.

**13 Assassins** is an out-and-out win; made by someone who knows their Samurai films! A restrained (at least for Miike) adventure yarn that gives us exactly what we want! 15 cert. £5 entry. 7.30pm.



Worcester Arts Workshop

21 Sansome Street,

Worcester, WR1 1UH




Telephone: 01905 25053



Email: [info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](mailto:info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)

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# Richard Clarke

## 'Everything is Rectifiable and Terrific'

For those of you who have never had the pleasure of observing the artistic abilities of our Richard Clarke, now is your chance.

Situated in the 'Cellar Gallery', the Worcester Arts Workshop's urban and innovative space, one is immediately overwhelmed by the calm and understated body of work, some familiar, some neoteric, which demonstrates the strength of this home grown creative genius.

Following the journey around the room, from dark thoughts, birds and natural inspirations to quirky surprises, I guarantee there is something which will make an impact on everyone. He is an advocate for all which is creative and I feel very privileged to see a collection of his own work on display for us to peruse.



After studying Fine Art in Bournemouth, Richard became a freelance illustrator, working in London for several years prior to his move back to the Midlands where, alongside James Willis he coordinated 'The Task in Hand', a curious little gallery/shop which offered a strong networking system for many of the county's arts folk.



Richard Clarke now lives and works in Worcester as a designer, artist and musician. He regularly gives up some of his valuable time helping out the Slap design team. For commissions and design production, you can

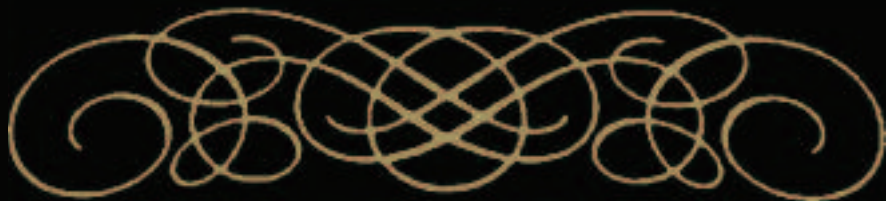
contact him at [www.richardtclarke.co.uk](http://www.richardtclarke.co.uk)

The exhibition runs until 18th November at Worcester Arts Workshop, 21, Sansome St, Worcester WR1 1UH. 01905 25053.



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# Featured Artist

## Charlotte Kessler At Lemonstone Art Gallery

On a day that would otherwise have been filled with footage of riot police battling angry travellers at Dale Farm, I ducked through the hail to Worcester Arts Workshop for a coffee and a chat with Charlotte Kessler to talk about her work and the new gallery she shares with fellow artist Leigh Charman in Bishops Frome.

As the sun reappeared, Charlotte's laptop came to life and I was able to forget about reality as I was drawn into the hypnotic colours and patterns that she creates.

As a child, Charlotte was particularly inspired by the artist Errol Le Cain and his illustrations in children's books. His fantastically detailed drawings and use of colour are an obvious influence in Charlotte's work.

Taking inspiration from artists as diverse as Marc Chagall and Aubrey Beardsley and having a Masters Degree in Art Therapy as well as a BA in Fine Art, Charlotte's current work is divided into two styles. Originally drawing on her experience of working with addiction and mental health, her earlier work is an evocative form of spontaneous expression, gradually allowing colours and shapes to dictate the final form of the piece. 'Coffee Clouds', for example, developed from a



drop of black coffee and a torn up weather report from the local newspaper to show, eventually, two faces disappearing into darkness. 'Coy Boy' was originally planned as an interior design Buddha piece, but after days of developing texture and depth of colour, Coy Boy showed his face and Charlotte 'yielded to his wish' to be painted in. It became her first original sale at the gallery and has been likened to the infamous Tim Burton style sketches



or Little Prince illustrations. She has now designed and made a limited edition range of Coy Boy mugs! I don't know if there's one at Slap HQ but I think I probably want one...

Moving away from this stream-of-consciousness style, her other style of work is far more geared towards commercial art and illustration, celebrating beauty and the feminine. Charlotte has been working on a series she calls the 'Long Ladies'. As a singer and trained dancer she has always been drawn to figurative work and these paintings allow the figures to take centre stage, usually gazing upwards to the sky, boldly silhouetted against the scenery behind, in turns either echoing or contrasting with their environment. The beauty of nature is always present, whether a seascape or flower and an Eastern influence also becomes apparent, with silhouetted geisha girl designs coming through an ever expanding repertoire of clouds and skiescapes.



At this point I realised I'd let my coffee get cold and the black clouds were rolling in again but before I could start thinking about Tazers and burning caravans again, Ms Kessler had started telling me about a new project. So coming full circle from Errol Le Cain we are back to illustrating children's stories and a potential collaboration with a US writer. I can't think of anyone better suited to illustrate a book about a child who flies through clouds with her dog. It will undoubtedly inspire new generations of artists.



Charlotte works with mixed media/acrylics/tissue paper/watercolour crayons and coffee/tea which are particularly good for skin tones, apparently. Her prices range from £20 up to £500 and Lemonstone Art Gallery, which opened in August, is at the Hop Pocket Craft Centre, Bishops Frome, WR6 5BT. For more information see -

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

[www.lemonstone.co.uk](http://www.lemonstone.co.uk)

[Lemonstoneart@gmail.com](mailto:Lemonstoneart@gmail.com)

Words: Sammy Griffin



# Slap visits Upton

20th October 2011

It was a Thursday evening and the Slap team fancied a change of scenery. We decided to head over to Upton which is always worth a visit. For as long as I can remember Upton upon Severn hasn't just been a small riverside town but a venue of international renown. There is a strong tradition of opening up the town to music enthusiasts of all genres. The folk festival, the Blues festival and of course the Jazz festival which for many years has gone head to head with Glasto.

It came as no surprise to find live music in at least two of the many great pubs around here. We first head over to the King's Head where a popular open mic night is held every Thursday. It was comparatively quiet in terms of

performers but no matter, host Tom Franklin kept the enthusiastic audience happy in this ideal spacious venue.

We are told that local radio stations continuously reporting Upton's traffic problems due to bridge repairs and construction of flood defences, has had an impact on visitors numbers.

We waited at least a minute and a half at the lights before we could get into town - shocking! Stick to reporting real issues that matter before you kill of this vibrant little town completely...

So, over to the Star Hotel where we find 'Guilty Pleasure', a real quality local covers band, fronted by the powerful voice of Zoe Maybanks. They plough through a varied mix of classics from Golden Earing to Blondie.



The solid rhythm section of Music City's own Steve Strain on Drums and Micheal Whittaker (Bass) forming a perfect backdrop to the slick guitar of Richie Yeates. Zoe working the crowd soon finds people to dance with, enjoying it just as much as her audience.

A great Slap night out helped along by some nice ales and a nice vibe. We'll be back for more...



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# Review

## Poor Bob's Blues Night

The Cellar Bar, Worcs. 18th October

Bob Jones' Blues Nights take place on the third Tuesday of every month at the Cellar Bar on Foregate Street. The nights are long established and a bit of an institution amongst local musicians and blues aficionados, with next month's night marking their sixth anniversary. I have to confess, while I like blues, I'm far from knowledgeable about the genre and so apologise for the lack of detail.

I'd never been to the Cellar Bar before and immediately liked its snug red brick, arched ceilings and subterranean feel, and was impressed with the range of scotch and whiskey behind the bar. The blues night was an informal, relaxed affair: it never felt cliquey and is open to all. Bob Jones hosted the evening and his mellifluous tones casually introduced the evening's acts.

Tonight saw Vince Russel, Dave Riles, Chris Gibbons, Bob Jones and Martin Thorne playing: along with a subtle harmonica player known as D.J. who played with most of the acts and a flautist playing with Martin

whose name I didn't catch. Bob himself added vocals here and there alongside his own set. The night was rounded off with a jam by most of the musicians who'd played and Barrie from Black Cat Bone, who'd magnanimously been handed a harp by D.J.

There was an eclectic mix of genres and playing styles tonight, including acoustic blues, jazz, electric blues, folk, rhythm and blues and country. Personal highlights were Vince Russel's sterling cover of Dylan's 'Tangled Up In Blue', Bob and D.J. joining Dave Riles for a couple of understated Ray Charles covers, Chris Gibbon's beautiful Gibson semi-acoustic and clever use of a loop pedal, and Martin Thorne, who defies categorisation, playing guitar in a sort of country style, accompanied by a flautist that gave his set a kind of 60s folksy vibe.

The standard of playing tonight was consistently high and I think any enthusiast of guitar music would have enjoyed it, and a genuinely relaxed, friendly atmosphere permeated the place. The nights are open to anyone wishing to play and are well worth checking out. Next month's night (November 15th) promises to be something special as the sixth anniversary celebrations get under way. Welcome to Poor Bob's Blues Night....Nice.

Karl Turner

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# This Wicked Tongue

July this year saw Worcester band This Wicked Tongue put its foot on the gas and pull out into the fast lane.

From the four pals who had started the band back in April 2010, almost as a project to go alongside more serious work, two remained, singer and keyboardist Tina Maynard and guitarist Haydn Rogers. Recruited along the way, drummer Ben Pemberton and bassist Rob Taylor complete the quartet, with Taylor having joined during the first week of July following the sudden resignation of previous member Si Anthony. That came as a shock, but as they say, the toughest steel comes from the hottest flames. Within a fortnight the band had not only recruited a replacement but had honoured gigging commitments in Birmingham, Evesham, Worcester and Droitwich, earning themselves a whole bunch of new friends along the way.



Right from the start the band has had a good reception, with local music journo and presenter Andy O'Hare among those championing them and singing their praises. The first half of 2011 had seen the reviews and plaudits continue to roll in, with the band gigging far and wide, and looking forward to a summer of small festivals across the region. So



what exactly happened back then? "Nothing really" according to Pemberton: "Si just decided that being in a band – this band – wasn't for him, and we respect that – it wasn't easy but we've moved on. It was just one of those things, maybe it was meant to be." Maynard adds "there's such a great chemistry in the band now – we're all very similar ages, we all contribute equally and share equally – it's a democracy and we've gone from strength to strength".

Fans of the band have noticed an added dimension, a more dynamic and uplifting edge to their distinctive sound. Visually, the band strikes a more and more noticeable pose as it accumulates the stage miles under its collective belt. Rogers, now on full time guitar duty has developed a panache and style all his own, understated, clever, technical without being flash; dynamic and energetic; bassist Taylor cuts a fine figure with his long flowing locks as he jumps onto the monitors, the speed of his playing too fast for the eye, in perfect time with the monster that is Pemberton.

Loud, powerful, open-handed,  
Pemberton has a  
trademark



motion as he momentarily holds the drum stick aloft before bringing it crashing down, in perfect timing with Taylor et al. As one reporter wrote, following a headline gig at the Birmingham O2, their music is "raunchy, sexy, headbanging rock, and audiences love it". The energy, musicianship and yes the sheer sex appeal of its three males is complemented perfectly by the presence of the eyecatching Tina Maynard aka Tina V on vocals and keys. "I front the band but that doesn't define us. We're a rock band, end of story." The combined impact of the four is that trademark sound, with its sudden twists and turns, distortions and decibels, sex and swagger; and in the words of another critic, those vocals are indeed sublime, so unusual in a band such as this. Visually and aurally appealing, what's not to like?



The last few months have seen a vast number of festival gigs, an EP recording and, as SLAP goes to press, the finishing touches are being made to the band's latest video, to accompany its song "Creature". The video will be premiered at Worcester's Marris Bar on 25th November with special guest appearances from Mansize, Vault of Eagles and Age, after which the band will embark on an extensive tour throughout December.

The last words are left to Taylor, the newest and youngest member. "I loved this band right from the start, and being in it is even better." 2012 looks like starting as 2011 ends, with the band in the fast lane, going through the gears as it works its damndest getting its music to as big an audience as possible, and that includes a North American tour....



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# Stompin' Down Under

by Gazza Tee

The man from the local Worcester radio station said it couldn't be done. But it happened. The man also said that music from Worcester performers and bands would never be played on a radio station in Far North Queensland, Australia. But it happened. And who would have thought that the music from Worcester performers and bands would command four hours of prime-time Aussie radio? Not many – and certainly not me. But it really did happen!

On the 22nd and 29th August, radio presenters Sally and Roy Weavers broadcast a variety of tracks from Worcester-based musicians during their early-evening, drive-time programme on Radio Port Douglas; the principal independent radio station of Tropical North Queensland in Australia.

Robinson, Hitchhiker, Da Vinci (UK), Laura Thompson, Foxtail Soup and Stompin' on Spiders along with another sixteen Worcester-based bands/musicians were given the "Supa" Sal and Wevs treatment on the "Not Just Worcester Sauce" shows, featuring yours truly, as a guest presenter!

The seeds of the "Not Just Worcester Sauce" shows were sown in December 2009 when I visited my eldest son, who lives and works in Port Douglas. I made contact with Radio Port Douglas before I left the UK and suggested that I should drop by with some CD's from Worcester based bands and performers for them listen to and pass comment. Three months later I received an e-mail from Sally Weavers telling me that tracks from the Cohen Brothers, Carol Lee-Sampson and Laura Thompson had been played on Radio Port Douglas and "please, please, could I ship over some more CD's from Worcester musos?"



In August this year, I returned to Port Douglas with Vivien, my long-suffering wife to celebrate our 30th Wedding anniversary and thirty-two EP's, albums and demo/press packs from local musos, accompanied us in our travel luggage. I dropped the "goods" off at Radio Port Douglas as soon as I arrived in "paradise" and 36 hours later, while I was supping on a cold Blue Tongue beer on the sun-drenched Four Mile Beach, next to the

Coral Sea, I received a call from Sally Weavers telling me that two programmes called "Not Just Worcester Sauce" would be going live on the 22nd and 29th August. And the rest, as they say, is history...

The "Not Just Worcester Sauce" programmes were extremely successful and Radio Port Douglas received some very good feedback from their listeners across Far North Queensland and globally, via the world-wide-web (You can listen to Radio Port Douglas on your smart phone/iPad/PC via the "Tune-In Radio" application). And the added good news is that tracks from Worcester musos continue to be played by other radio station presenters. Only the other day, I received a Facebook message informing me that "Veins" by Becky Rose, "Standing Stones" by The Cohen Bros, "The Henpecker's Grind" from Ragtime Ewan and "Photo 51" by Hitchhiker were aired on Radio Port Douglas during September.

It is unlikely that I will be returning to Port Douglas in the foreseeable future (it's quite expensive flying to/from Australia), but if and when I do, I will send out a call for Worcester muso material because I have been told that another "Worcester music" show in "paradise" is a really must do! The only worry I will have then, is getting an extra suitcase full of CD's through the airport check-in and Aussie customs..... Hmm? Any suggestions?

## Tracks played on Radio Port Douglas 22nd/29th August

- Close To You – Laura Thompson
- Butterfly Against A Tiger – Laura Thompson
- Radar – Sarah Orregio
- One Night Stand – Mikey Mann
- Show Me The Money – Da Vinci (UK)
- Can't Find My way Home – Cohen Bros
- Do It Right – Cohen Bros
- Country Life – Foxtail Soup
- Empty Streets – Sam Eden
- Oh I Feel Fine – Ronda
- King Harvest (Will Surely Come) – Stompin' on Spiders
- Kuranda Brake (The Railway Song) – Stompin' on Spiders
- Back Seat – Autumn Lily
- Dirty Little Secret Love – The Pull
- Just One Night – The May Dolls
- When – Hitchhiker
- Fire Within – Becky Rose
- Big Man Blues – BabaJack
- The Last Train – BabaJack
- The Henpecker's Grind – Ragtime Ewan
- Never Tell A Woman – The Abbot of Unreason
- 21st Century Global Depression Blues – Jack Blackman
- First Time – Robinson
- Take Me Down – The Misers
- Hangover Blues – Flo Rowland
- Sweet Love – The Players

# Preview

Vamos Theatre

## "Much Ado About Wenlock"

Following on from its very successful production of "Nursing Lives", much acclaimed Worcester based Vamos Theatre takes its new show - "Much Ado About Wenlock" - to three local venues in November. It plays at The Roses, Tewkesbury on Thursday 17th, Evesham Arts Centre on Thursday 24th and Artrix, Bromsgrove on Friday 25th.

In the year of 1850 the small Shropshire town of Much Wenlock hosted its very own "Olympian Games", an event that was to be an essential inspiration for the modern Olympics which began forty six years later.



Behind this seemingly well mannered event lay a struggle for equality and the right to health and well being, set during the changing world of the Industrial Revolution.

With London 2012 approaching, Vamos Theatre explores the Olympic Games unlikely U.K roots in a full mask show with original music and a combination of physicality, theatricality and dance choreography, rooted in historical research.

For more information on the production visit the Vamos Theatre Website - [www.vamostheatre.co.uk](http://www.vamostheatre.co.uk).

# Album Review

## Wooden Horse – What Comes Around

Received wisdom has it that we should refrain from judging books by their covers, however in this instance the external elements perfectly illustrate and complement the contents within.

This whole package screams "classy", from the soulful and brooding pics of our heroes, Jamie Knight and Ben Church, to the leafless trees in a landscape with just enough greenery to represent hope and a better future.

All this is wrapped up in sepia toned warmth with a modern edge and that could well be the nutshell phrase for this set of songs.

The album seems like a live set where it's usually a shrewd move to scatter some covers amongst the originals as familiar touchstones for the crowd, but honestly I don't think they're necessary here.

There are seven originals and five covers but with this quality of original songwriting the presence of other people's material is almost rendered superfluous.



That's not to say the cover versions are inferior, they're not, but these boys' own songs are more than worthy additions to the Americana canon.

Yes, like the word or not Americana encompasses the range of styles on show here pretty well and if I tell you that the covers include songs from Bob Dylan, Ryan Adams and Old Crow Medicine Show then you hopefully get a pretty good idea which territory we're in.

The full, sonorous tone of Jamie's voice fits the downbeat sentiment of songs like "Hell Ain't Going Home" and "Yonder Calling" perfectly and the excellent title "Be Lonely With Me" could be one of Hank's own. I personally love it especially when the tempo quickens and Jamie ratchets it up and gets growling, as on "Freight Train Blues" which fairly rattles along with musical alliteration. Perhaps it's unfair of me to pick a favourite but "We'll Move On" is simply beautiful.

Be it banjo, geetar or pedal steel Ben and Jamie are masters of em all and their versatility shines brightly throughout the whole album.

Indeed the interplay of voices and instruments is often stunning and quite mellifluous, underlining what a supremely accomplished duo

Wooden Horse are.

Buy this album - treat your ears - and to futher your enjoyment go and see them live where I always say good voices sound better.

I don't think you'll have any trouble catching them though, because on the evidence of this set they're gonna be around for a mighty long time.

*Words by Rocky Terrain*

# The One Two's

## 3 Track Demo Review

Herein are three gritty & sometime cautionary kitchen-sink dramas of Kiddi (Kidderminster) life.

Tommy Gunn the right rollicking opener concerns a wannabee bad-boy-big-fish-inna-small-pond.

His gansta guff ain't got him nowhere & no-one's impressed. We all know similar characters about town & this tune rings true and is played with verve & chutzpah a plenty.



Same with the other two numbers, Dirty Knees & Council Estate Romance, which speak for themselves as more vignettes from the mean streets.

The latter title might be over-egging it somewhat but these are songs firmly in the verite tradition of Arctic Monkeys and The View. The singer intones in his vernacular and whilst that can be cheesy elsewhere, it works well here as the band bounce around him with some class guitar & bass work.

This band mean it and write what they know and that's more than enough to start with.

With experience comes the difficult but potentially more rewarding challenge of writing what they don't know. More power to 'em...

The One Two's are:

Matt: Vocals  
Ben: Lead guitar  
Dan: Bass  
Charlie: Drums  
Adam: Rhythm Guitar

*by Rusty Primera*



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# Art-itecture (TM)

Words: Steven Glazzard

Architecture is the most political of ALL art. Even if you don't appreciate music, painting, sculpture et al, the aesthetics of our built environment affect our everyday lives – whether it is recognised or not.

With *The Hive* appearing in the last issue of SLAP we thought we'd broaden our horizons and take a take on Worcester's constructions.



The Hive is an installation masterpiece – everything the critics don't like are the pastiche elements of nature. What Architects Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, and Engineers Max Fordham, have done is created a discourse from controversy so that the gaudi (sic) honeycomb panels, shaped to mimic the Malvern Hills, hide the true meaning of the design – sustainability! What greater artistic buzz is there than to rile the knockers for precisely why this building works – harnessing as much natural heating, ventilation and acoustics. In Worcester. Brilliant!

Let's hope that, with libraries all over the country closing, the innovative procurement process (a collaboration between the university, local authority and business) ensures that the Hive is a success. Early indications suggest that when it opens, it will quickly become a cultural hub.

Worcester has good and bad design so, just to contrast, have a look at these erections:

Shrub Hill train station designed by Edward Wilson and built in 1865 – a superbly engineered Georgian style.



Getting in the way – mid-sixties monstrosity, Elgar House.



Former Worcester Engine Works designed by Thomas Dickson (*below*) also built in 1865 – a bold statement of Victorian optimism needing some care and attention.



Opposite to:

Isaac Maddox House, 1937/8 (brutal) Deco style reflecting Great Depression austerity in the inter-war period. (*Below*)



These are just a few examples a mere stones-throw from SLAP HQ but you get the idea – the wonderful Cathedral juxtaposed with an awful car park and hotel (for which much of Elizabethan Worcester was demolished in 1965) is the most obvious planners' hubris.

Look out for other gems such as the facade of Three (above the shop entrance) or the Northwick cinema, which should be the setting for cover artist Robinson's new video.

Urban life is essential and the quality of the built environment is critical to our well being. We shouldn't need to go out to the countryside for inspiring scenery, sometimes we walk past it every day without noticing.

Photography: [www.katiefoulkesdesign.co.uk](http://www.katiefoulkesdesign.co.uk)

# HAYSEED DIXIE

Marrs Bar Sunday 23rd October 2011

Inventors of the genre 'ROCKGRASS' known as Hayseed Dixie (an AC/DC tribute band for those of you who have been living in a cave or one of those people who isn't very good at working out rhyming slang either) came to town! The Marrs Bar on 23rd October was sold out and at full capacity. I have seen AC/DC tribute bands before but nothing prepared me for this gig!

Supporting the main act was Cole Stacey and his band from Devon. An acoustic act with a strong voice and an equally strong set list. Cole even said it himself, it is extremely difficult to open for such a big band, but I think he went down really well. I hope to catch Cole and his band again in the near future.



with their own songs such as 'I'm Keeping Your Poop'. That song particularly stood out for me personally, 'I'm keeping your poop in a jar, so if you ever come back I'll remember just what you are'. Lyrical genius in my eyes.



The eagerly anticipated Hayseed Dixie came on stage, the crowd actually went wild like the real AC/DC had just came on, however they are minor celebs in their own right now after over 500,000 album sales worldwide!



The band is a four piece made up of Barley Scotch (vocals, violin and acoustic guitar), Don Wayne Reno (banjo), Dale Reno (mandolin and acoustic guitar), Jake Byers (acoustic bass) from Southeastern America. Is it really possible to pull off an hour+ set of one of the greatest rock groups of all time with only acoustics? YES – if you do it hillbilly that is!



I have never seen so many brawly tattooed men dance like they're in a barn before, singing along to all the great tunes such as Highway to Hell and Hells Bells. The band continued to keep the audience entertained

The most entertaining and, surprisingly, the most multi talented band I've seen in ages. Thanks Marzy for having Slap Magazine again. I think the man who was asleep on the car outside the door enjoyed it all a bit too much!

Words and pictures: Little Charley

## Worcestershire Arts Trail 2012 Launch with a call for entries

The 2012 Worcestershire Arts Trail launched in October with a call for new artists and makers to get involved in the event.



A flourishing Open Studio and Arts Trail for the 2011 event saw hundreds of visitors being welcomed into more than 50 artists and crafts people's workshops around the county. From enamellers in Bromsgrove to illustrators in Worcester, it gave the event a

real sense of how much hidden artistic talent there is in this beautiful county.

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"Artists are so often hidden away, working in their studios - some of us rarely meet the people who buy our work" explained Becca Williams, a local jeweller, who helped to organise the 2011 Trail. "We wanted to get people into artist's studios, seeing what was going on amid the dust and disorder where creativity happens."



The 2012 Arts Trail is set to be even bigger, with plans to involve up to a hundred artists and makers alongside workshops, classes and demonstrations all around the county over the Jubilee weekend (1st - 4th June). With

a lower rate for students and those in the first year of running a creative business it's a great time to be part of the Arts Trail.



If you'd like to get involved in the Trail (1st - 4th June 2012) then visit [www.worcsartstrail.org](http://www.worcsartstrail.org) to download an application form, email:

[worcestshireartstrail@live.com](mailto:worcestshireartstrail@live.com) or call Becca on 07845 579 377 to request one.

Pictures: Left - Illustrator Petr Horacek

Bottom Left - Fine Artist Eugene Conway

Above - Wire and Mixed Media Artist Jo Dewar and children enjoying Rowan McOnegal's stained glass work

# Review

## Naked Remedy

### Swan Inn, Bengeworth 1st October

The Slap team were invited (or did we invite ourselves?) along to the Swan Inn at Evesham where Naked Remedy were performing. We were lucky enough to get a lift with manager Tess, who goes everywhere with them making sure they stay out of trouble. Although it has to be said at least 50% of the Slap team were even luckier to get a lift home! More of that later...

We were welcomed by landlord Ade and bumped in to some old friends before settling in for an evening of gutsy, bluesy rock with duo Dave and Tom. Naked Remedy were a four piece when I first saw them until singer frontman Dave Small replaced the drummer but remained on vocal duties. This however was the first time i'd caught them

as a two piece, with the amazing guitarist that is Tom adapting his style to compensate for the lack of bass player.

They sound every bit as full and rich but with the freedom to roam and freestyle like never before. These guys are great musicians who gig more than most and it shows. The audience love them here and are soon loosening up themselves, standing on chairs dancing wildly wherever they find a space.

Some of the audience got a little too excited though when one of them tried to drown the boys with pints of water, a dangerous act at the best of times but with drummer Dave chasing you down the road you had better keep running!

We hampered the band packing away equipment before heading back to Worcester. That's when the mayhem ensued... A misunderstanding between a very drunk person and a very sober person meant a long walk home for someone, no need to expand on this, suffice to say there may be certain ground rules in place before our next encounter with the Remedy.

All in all a good night if the memory serves me right!



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# ROBINSON

It all started for Andy Robinson when a frustrated ex girlfriend dragged him down to the Coach & Horses to play for the landlord who promptly offered him a residency slot.

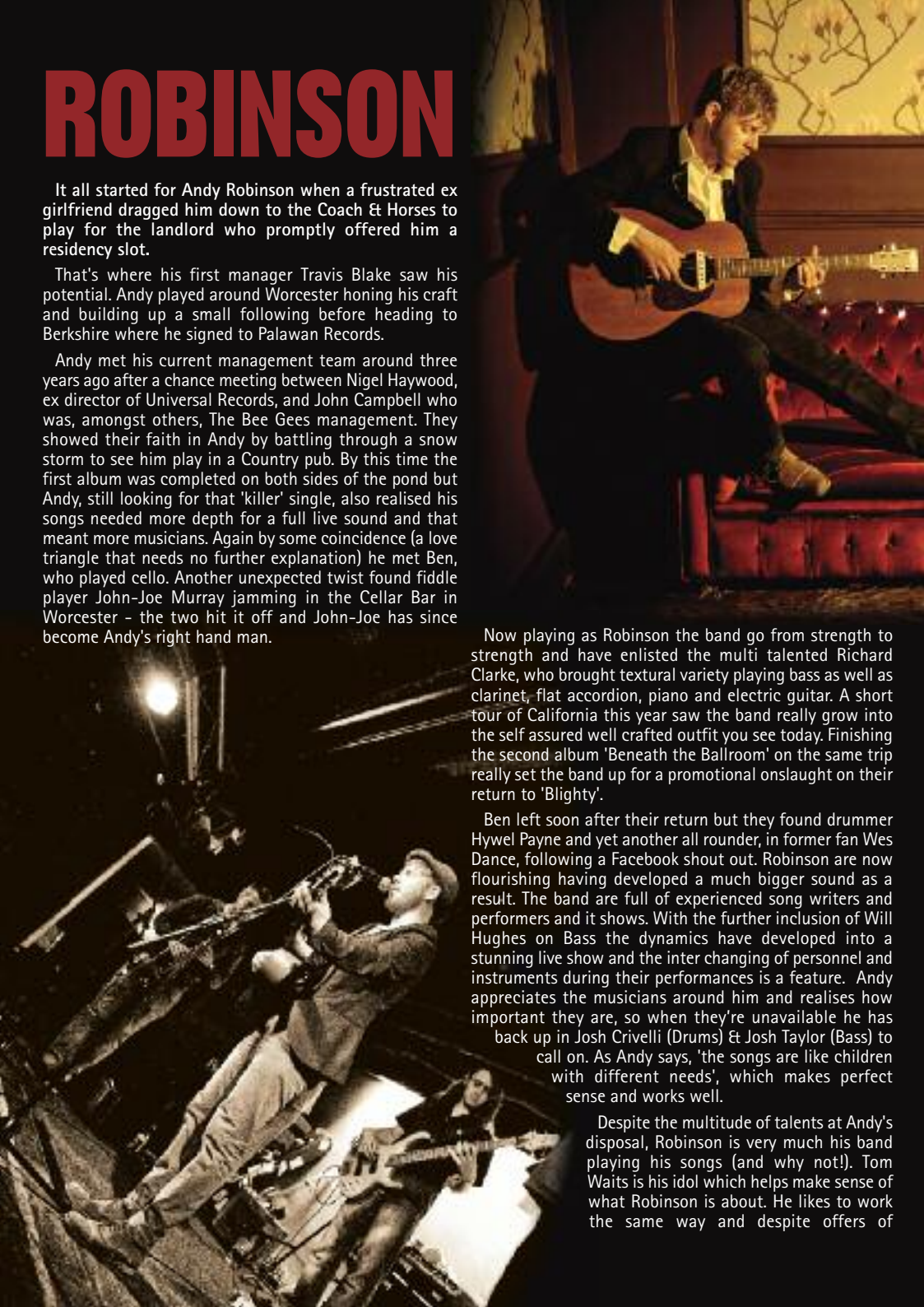
That's where his first manager Travis Blake saw his potential. Andy played around Worcester honing his craft and building up a small following before heading to Berkshire where he signed to Palawan Records.

Andy met his current management team around three years ago after a chance meeting between Nigel Haywood, ex director of Universal Records, and John Campbell who was, amongst others, The Bee Gees management. They showed their faith in Andy by battling through a snow storm to see him play in a Country pub. By this time the first album was completed on both sides of the pond but Andy, still looking for that 'killer' single, also realised his songs needed more depth for a full live sound and that meant more musicians. Again by some coincidence (a love triangle that needs no further explanation) he met Ben, who played cello. Another unexpected twist found fiddle player John-Joe Murray jamming in the Cellar Bar in Worcester - the two hit it off and John-Joe has since become Andy's right hand man.

Now playing as Robinson the band go from strength to strength and have enlisted the multi talented Richard Clarke, who brought textural variety playing bass as well as clarinet, flat accordion, piano and electric guitar. A short tour of California this year saw the band really grow into the self assured well crafted outfit you see today. Finishing the second album 'Beneath the Ballroom' on the same trip really set the band up for a promotional onslaught on their return to 'Blighty'.

Ben left soon after their return but they found drummer Hywel Payne and yet another all rounder, in former fan Wes Dance, following a Facebook shout out. Robinson are now flourishing having developed a much bigger sound as a result. The band are full of experienced song writers and performers and it shows. With the further inclusion of Will Hughes on Bass the dynamics have developed into a stunning live show and the inter changing of personnel and instruments during their performances is a feature. Andy appreciates the musicians around him and realises how important they are, so when they're unavailable he has back up in Josh Crivelli (Drums) & Josh Taylor (Bass) to call on. As Andy says, 'the songs are like children with different needs', which makes perfect sense and works well.

Despite the multitude of talents at Andy's disposal, Robinson is very much his band playing his songs (and why not!). Tom Waits is his idol which helps make sense of what Robinson is about. He likes to work the same way and despite offers of





Meanwhile Andy is happy to stay in Worcester where he has built up a loyal fan base and now, with the backing of BBC Hereford & Worcester, there are surely great times ahead. If, however, things don't go to plan he is fully prepared to go to America where they seem to 'get it'. Success has also come in France and Germany but you feel when talking to Andy that the Englishness of his songs mirrors his passion for this country. This is shown in his eagerness to help, by playing the last single 'England's Bleeding', at St Pauls to the 99% occupying London, which he hopes will highlight the cause and help boost donations to the organisers. Despite it being publicity for Robinson, Andy is right behind the cause and what can be achieved as a protest.

Next gig is The Station Sessions at St Pancras station, which is the result of a facebook vote that Robinson won. It's a chance to play in front of thousands of people who maybe, just maybe, get it!

Has Robinson found that 'killer' single? I hope so - we don't want to lose them to America... You decide - single 'Without Love' and album 'Beneath the Ballroom' are available on itunes.

[www.myspace.com/andyrobinsons](http://www.myspace.com/andyrobinsons)

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

Photography: James Collier

collaborations with the likes of Katie Melua, for example, Andy is happy in his own skin doing his own thing.

Other recent successes to build on would be appearances at South by South West, Glastonbury acoustic stage and supporting Baby Bird at the Scala. Highlights also include playing on the same bill as Van Morrison and Bob Dylan as well as supporting Newton Faulkner at Cannes Festival too.

So what's next for Robinson I ask ... To keep the promotion going and follow up on successful sessions on Jo Whiley, Janis Long, IBFBS (Army Radio) & Absolute Radio. Keep fighting the X-Factor beast in the hope that real talent can find a way through without having to go abroad. The big goal for now is to get plugged into the play lists at Radio 2 and 6Music with new single 'Without Love' which, as Andy puts it, is more 'radio friendly' than the thought provoking live arrangement 'You'll Never Be Her'. Perhaps now is the time for that 'killer' single.



# Andy O'Hare looks back at the summer's local music festivals



Brrrr... the nights are drawing in and the temperatures plummeting - so time for a last look back at what's been not such a great summer weather-wise but just about the best musically as far as local festivals were concerned!!

It all kicked off in May with the first Pyramid Party of the year at Godzillaz just off the M50 - a bit chilly on the first night, but the weekend warmed up with great sets from the Cohen Brothers, Vault Of Eagles and Dandelion Killers among many other great local acts. Quite enjoyed the first Mockfest at Droitwich (one of five across the region) featuring a mix of local acts (Crooked Empire and Mansize) supporting the later covers and tribute acts - not sure if the well-worthy enterprise broke even by the end of the run though and I'll be surprised (but not disappointed) if the format is repeated next year...

June saw my only excursion 'out-of-area' for the Wychwood Festival at Cheltenham Racecourse - featuring local acts like Babajack and Roving Crows on the main billing - plus Carly Dee and Tallulah Fix on the joint BBC Introducing stage run in conjunction with the shows from Gloucestershire, Wales, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Bristol and Coventry - but of course our guys blew all the others away! Highlights of the Arley Festival included great sets from Naked Remedy and Shaking Trees - but I'm pretty sure that I was the youngest person at the very blues-ey Linton Festival near Ross-on-Wye featuring one of the Wishbone Ash incarnations - yaaawwnnn!!! No local music - no cigar...

What's a festival anyway? Well not if there's a tombola and the vicar's judging the best vegetables competition - but neither was evident at the delightful Mappfest in Malvern - with the music provided by Gandhi's Walrus, Sam Eden and This Wicked Tongue. More 'contractual-obligation' attendance at Upton's Jazz Festival - but I quite enjoyed the Friday night as I niftily dodged the 'Jazz Club' free-form and avant-garde extremists - phew!! As always the sun shone bright for the wonderful MiniFest in Cripplegate Park with great sets from Laura Cowley, Ronin and Nomad 67 - with a great last-minute stand-in performance by Joe Shellam in a hastily reformed This Wicked Tongue - respect!! An early finish gave me time to bomb down the M5/M50 to catch headliners Dandelion Killers at Ross Rocks - the community replacement for the disastrous Jamstand - and looking promising for next year!

Most towns are happy with one music festival a year but apparently not Droitwich - who held three separate festivals on the flimsiest of excuses (we like that) - first up was the Water Festival in July to celebrate the completion of the canal 'ring' - with Becky Rose, Stompin' On Spiders, Mike Mann and Laura Broad celebrating all things watery... Hitchhiker, Ronda, Time Of The Mouth all delivered great sets at the Worcester City FC two-day Festival at the St

George's Lane ground - great fun (and some quality beer as well!!) So impressed also with the first-ever Colwall Family Music Festival on the only flat bit of land for miles around on that side of hills - and memorable performances from John Denton, The Pull and Jenny Hallam thrown in!

Well what could have been one of the best events of the summer was sadly spoilt by a combination of some pretty indifferent weather - coupled with some totally inconsiderate and antisocial individuals. Bridgebash at Clifton-on-Teme looked a corker on paper and there were fantastic sets from V2A, Omnia Opera, New Chapter, Rase, Pink Traffic Band, Case Closed, Roving Crows and Saturday headliners Dodgy - but let's hope that what looked like the breeziest festival going last summer gets its house in order before next year...

The past few years have seen the fields outside Bromyard resemble The Somme but wonderful to see the sun finally shine on Nozstock at last with Zebedy Rays, St Tropez Javelin Experience, BSN[4:20] and The Anomalies bringing back the good times to the event that probably best captures the local festival spirit!! God I've tried but I wish I could say the same for the biggest event to hit our region - we put on some local acts like Sam Eden and Kamos from Leominster at Big Chill in our allocated Friday afternoon slot (!) but the nearest the fifth-biggest festival in the UK came to local over the next three days was Robert Plant on the Sunday night graveyard shift - must try harder...

The high-summer of mid-August was mostly grey skies with intermittent drizzle - but warmth-a-plenty provided over the peak period by Worcester Beer Festival - with sets from Crooked Empire, This Wicked Tongue and The Cohen Brothers encouraging the cider and real-ale fiends to drink the place dry!! B-fest in Tenbury was a little gem of an event with classy appearances from Ria Parfitt, Ronin, Matt Woosey and of course organisers Ronda. And of course I told you about a few of the 300+ acts who took part in this year's record-breaking Worcester Music Festival in last month's issue - so many great performances!!!

Thanks to the First-Aiders at Upton Music Festival who sheltered me as it p\*\*sed down during Sugar Mama's set - and despite all the fol-de-rol, dulcimers and Appalachian Line Dancers - I had a pleasant enough time at Bromyard Folk Festival (Flo had pinched the closing Pyramid Party away from me - for which I will never be able to forgive her...) One more Droitwich mini-festival celebrating Salt Day (!) with Babajack, Robinson and The Capital before the best festival season ever closed off with the small but perfectly formed Snodfest with Cara Luft, The Remi Harris Trio and those Roving Crows (they get everywhere!!) Do I have a favourite? Not a bit of it - there were great moments to remember at each and every one! But could it be as good next year? Well there's already plans for a Malvern Festival to plug the mid-July spot - not sure about Mockfest (and maybe one or two of the others) but don't be in too much of a hurry to book Pheonix, Reading, Leeds etc - because you don't have to travel too far to have a great summer festivaling...

- AOH

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# Comedy Zone

with Adam Montgomery

## The Best Joke of 2011?

For the first time at this year's **Edinburgh festival**, there was an award for the Best Joke, sponsored by TV channel, Dave and won by comedian **Nick Helm**. Here are my favourites from the top ten list:

1. **Nick Helm** – "I needed a password eight characters long so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."
2. **Tim Vine** – "Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels."
3. **Matt Kirshen** – "I was playing chess with my friend and he said, 'Let's make this interesting'. So we stopped playing chess."
4. **Alan Sharp** – "I was in a band which we called The Prevention, because we hoped people would say we were better than The Cure."
5. **DeAnne Smith** – "My friend died doing what he loved ... Heroin."



Now it just so happens that Nick Helm appeared at The Comedy Zone in June this year, just before the Edinburgh festival. He may or may not have told the above joke at that show, because to be honest I can't recall any of his jokes, although I laughed my way through his half hour set. Why can't I recall the line? Because Nick Helm is one of many comedians who defines the cliché "it's the way he tells 'em". His show at Worcester was a dynamic performance that variously consisted of him wading into the audience to read poetry to an unsuspecting woman; playing guitar and singing angrily and bitterly of lost loves. His set climaxed when he invited a member of the audience onto the stage. You could have mistaken them for a professional double act. Nick lost it. He dropped his angry persona and giggled his way through the finale which ended in a spontaneous kiss, greeted by rapturous applause.

See what's missing from the above list is any sense of context. A joke is only as good as its delivery to start with and even then how well it's received will depend on the audience, the room in which the performance is taking place and so much else.

There are some comedians whose success is far more attributable to their physical performance rather than the quality of the writing – Lee Evans and Phil Nichol for example. Others rely heavily on the quality of their jokes – Jimmy Carr and Gary Delaney are prime examples. But generally genius occurs when the two come together – Tim Vine's lines whilst brilliant only really come to life in his hands. His breakneck speed of delivery (he is in the Guinness Book of Records for the most number of jokes told in one hour – 499) combined with his genuinely joyful and naive personality is what completes his act.

So the lines above probably weren't the things that caused the most laughter at Edinburgh. The funniest moments were probably something almost indescribable like Tim Vine spending five minutes trying to catch a pen in his ear or admonishing his fellow comedian John Archer, dressed as a hippo (search you tube for Tim Vine and flag hippo and pen behind the ear to cheer up your day no end). And probably even funnier will have been the spontaneous responses to hecklers and the ad-libs and improvisation as comedians reacted to the unique situation at each show. Because there's more to jokes than words as all successful comedians know.

And that's the reason why, when you try to re-tell a joke at work, it doesn't always receive the same huge round of applause as when you heard it the night before.

It's also the reason why it's infinitely better to watch stand up comedy live than on the TV. It's about being present at a unique moment. It's about sharing the laughter with the other members of the audience. It's that anything could happen. It's about being part of something and not just a passive observer. So whilst Live at The Apollo and Michael McIntyre's Roadshow are great entertainment they are no substitute for the moment.

Adam Montgomery has worked in the comedy industry for 15 years as a professional stand up and a promoter. He currently promotes The Comedy Zone at The Marris Bar where he is resident compere.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Seann Walsh tour date at the Marris Bar has been moved from Thursday 2nd November to Thursday 26th January. Purchased tickets will be automatically transferred to this date. We apologise for any inconvenience and look forward to seeing you there. Meanwhile watch out for Seann in November on Channel 4's Stand Up for the Week, BBC's Live at The Apollo and Dave's Argumental.

So the next Comedy Zone show is on Thursday 1st December starring the unique **George Egg**, **Loretta Maine** and a special guest to be announced.



Meanwhile if you haven't done so yet, like us on facebook for advance news of shows and videos of the comedians appearing this week onwards.

# Preview

## Evesham Arts Centre Friday 11th November

Evesham's comedy season is in full swing as the nights draw in with a fresh clutch of club comedians. This month's headline is the highly-inventive, high-energy **Naz Osmanoglu** - backed up by the smart-but-accessible **Jon Williams**, the youthful exuberance of **Chris Mayo** and all superintended by devious cad **Rob Wells** as MC.

Opening act **Chris Mayo** just fizzles with youthful exuberance and gags galore. He's been doing stand-up at clubs, festivals, universities and arts centres up & down the country since 2005, often supporting big name acts



**Jon Williams** stumbled onto the stage at Northampton University's open mic night in November 2008 and left as the star of the show. Since then he's done several hundred actual comedy gigs full of one-liners, stories, clever



plays on words, and fantasy rants on a wide range of subjects - on the way reaching the semi-finals of 'So You Think You're Funny' and the Chortle Student Comedy Awards.

Headliner **Naz Osmanoglu** - full name **His Imperial Highness Prince Nazim Ziaeddin Nazim Osmanoglu** - comes across as half English poshboy and half Turkish warlord. Highly inventive, with the added advantage of a claim to the Turkish throne and more energy than a dozen Duracell bunnies. Already an Edinburgh fringe veteran with the acclaimed sketch trio **WitTank**, Nas is now diverting his angry Anglo-Turkish energy to stand-up, winning the **Amused Moose Laugh-off Competition** and making Runner-up in 'So You Think You're Funny'.



Show starts at 8pm. Strong language is likely & minimum age is 16.

## The Old Rectifying House Wednesday 16th November

Opening for the Old Rec tonight is **Paul F Taylor** who is a one of a kind comedian. An instantly watchable performer, whilst onstage he exhibits a lost playful vulnerability. This coupled with his



hilarious and surreal observations never fails to leave audiences crying with laughter, gasping for air and wondering "What the F\*\*k... It's Paul F. Taylor!"

**Mark Felgate** is the headline act tonight and a man with unique talents. His startling abilities

as a ventriloquist, combined with a wickedly daft sense of humour, have helped him become a sought

after act on the stand-up comedy circuit. Performing

without a dummy, Mark throws his voice to create side splitting routines on school

life, freaking out drunks and pallbearers and the vagaries of censorship. His performances include a slew of silly voices, noises and vocal acrobatics. Mark has appeared many times at the Edinburgh Festival, culminating in him performing his first solo show, "Freelance fool" in 2003. He is also an international performer being booked for shows in Germany, France, Holland, Cyprus and Croatia.

The comper is **Iszi Lawrence** who cuts a lean figure onstage, she is the intelligent resident comper of the **Lil Fat Comedy Club** in Witney. She will be telling her silly jokes and stories to entertain the hungry crowd.

Also in the open slots are **Jen Ellison** & **Tom Glover**. **Slap Magazine** are looking forward to another top evening at this cracking venue.



# Review

Dean Friedman

The Artrix, Bromsgrove – 13th Oct 2011

Dean Friedman is best known for (probably only known for by most people) a brief period in the late 70s with the chart topping single 'Lucky Star' and album 'Well Well Said The Rocking Chair'. He gave a gentle, comfortable performance at the Artrix to a crowd of little over 100. He seemed a guy absolutely at ease with his playing and songwriting.



His knowledgeable audience was equally relaxed and his performance showed how artists such as Friedman can maintain a fanbase. He acknowledged this during one of the many between-song stories saying that without the internet his recording career would have been over a few years after Lucky Star when he was dropped by his label.

In a high quality ninety minutes he played many songs from the new album: 'Submarine Races' which sounded contemporary yet had the same story telling nature of old favourites. The audience sing-a-long to 'Lucky Star', which was the main set closer, was genuinely touching. Admittedly he struggled to hit the high notes (which ended up as a bit of a shout) and I think the audience would have rather he had concentrated on songs and less on stories – the question and answer session was a bit strained.

He came out to the bar areas after the show to sign autographs (on the rather expensive merchandise) and have photos taken – another reminder of how artists who seem to have disappeared from the scene can keep a connection with a loyal fan base.

*by Peter Blandamer*

## Kidderminster Rocks

A Tribute to John Combe – Fri 21st Oct.

John Combe's involvement in Kidderminster's music scene saw him bring some big names to the area and all his experiences lead him to write two volumes of his book 'Get Your Kicks on the A456' chronicling groups, musicians, gigs and venues in the town spanning from 1956 – 1999.



When local musician Mike Smith was given a copy of John's book he was inspired to organise 'Kidderminster Rocks' a concert to take place at the town hall to thank Mr Combe as well as raise money for THE PROTON EFFECT.

Eight months of hard planning later and Mike not only organised tonight's event at the town hall but saw him hold warmup gigs at the Swan and the King and Castle in the week running up to tonight. This included bands such as the Sunshine Band, Naked Remedy, and You2.

Tonights town hall show saw performances from solo artist Billy Davis, a memorable set from Weak 13,

Sweet Fanny Adams, Dead Ringer And The Clones which saw one of their members returning from New Zealand. Alex Cooper, reformed 80s pop rock Kiddi band Rouen.

Roy Matthews who treated us to a christmas song. Organisers Mike Smiths band Trower Power. John Bates & Sally Haines and 70s tribute act Ballroom Glitz. All acts which John mentions in his books, its a shame that we dont get to see Kidderminster town hall



used as a venue for these events more often. Congrats to Mike and everyone involved who put on a show that looked and sounded great for a good cause.

For more info on John Combe and the charity THE PROTON EFFECT visit

[www.kidderminsterrocks.co.uk](http://www.kidderminsterrocks.co.uk)

*Words & Pics: Toni Charles*

# Review

## The Amber Bar, Evesham 14th Oct 2011 I am Ryan, Into the Fire, Dale Tompkins

14th October kept staff at the Amber Bar, Evesham on their toes. Around five hundred people came from Evesham and surrounding areas to witness the highly anticipated launch of local group I Am Ryan's debut album 'Head first'.



The building was filled with fans, very busy staff, Straightline Productions film crew, BBC Radio and also three very excited acts for the evening. I am Ryan received first class support from both Dale Tompkins and Into the Fire. Dale opened the evening with a great acoustic set which immediately captured the attention of the crowd. Following this Into the Fire fronted by Evesham's Greg Charman took the stage to perform their first class, original, melodic rock. The reception they received was unbelievable, especially when ending their set with a cover of 'Feeling Good'.

Having roamed the venue greeting fans, speaking to radio, selling over 300 albums and drinking copious amounts of beer, I am Ryan finally took the stage opening the set with title track 'Head First'. The set list covered the album in its entirety as well as consisting of a couple of covers. A cover of Chasing Cars brought a very gentle, intimate atmosphere into the crowd which was soon to roar back to life with a powerful version of Duffy's Mercy, giving both Scott Wallace on guitar and guest Fiddle player Ross Grant a moment to show their flare. The band closed their set to hundreds of screaming fans with a favourite of BBC Hereford and Worcester's Andrew Marston 'Hit Reset'.



If you missed this gig, try and catch the band at Birmingham's O2 Academy 3 on Friday 9th December! This show is not to be missed. Albums available from Rapture Evesham and iTunes.

For more news and updates check out 'I am Ryan' at [www.iamryan.co.uk](http://www.iamryan.co.uk)



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# Review

The Artrix,  
16th Oct 2011

## Toploader, Sugar Mama & This Wicked Tongue

1990s Toploader played The Artrix as part of a comeback tour (after a 8 year absence), promoting their new album, 'Only Human'. Hats off to them in that as soon as they announced the tour they offered the opportunity for local bands to support.

First up was This Wicked Tongue from Worcester. The sound wasn't right to begin with (I couldn't hear the guitar) but it got better and they hit their stride with '22', 'Carry This' and 'Damn It'. When the mix was right, Tina V's vocals were spot on.

Next on were Sugar Mama, a young Redditch three piece with obvious Rory Gallagher, Humble Pie and Free influences. This was the first gig where they played an entirely original set so it was pleasing that they opened really well and the first few songs really grabbed the audience. Guitarist and vocalist Sam Anderson was excellent and I was reminded of early Status Quo (when they were any good) and The Fratellis (who were always good). Sugar Mama were obviously enjoying themselves and the impact they were having.



This was a great evening and something that The Artrix should certainly try more of – an experienced touring band to draw the crowd with local bands giving support and building on the experience. The lights and sound were great although it may have worked better if they had turned the auditorium to standing – I think all the bands would have enjoyed it more if the audience had been on its feet. This was a really enjoyable and great value (£15 for 3 bands and 3 hours of music) night out.

Well done to the Artrix for this one.

*by Peter Blandamer*



Under the guidance of Groove Records this band surely have a big future. They will be showcasing their new material at Keystones on 18th November where rumours are rife that they will be under a different name mirroring their new direction.

Toploader generously acknowledged both support acts during their set and I hope both are better for the experience.

Toploader, as expected, were excellent. The set was dominated by songs from their new album, 'Only Human', which sounded fantastic and I would therefore heartily recommend. Dan Hipgraves' guitar sounded excellent and backed by a powerful rhythm section the whole thing sounded great. 'Dancing in the Moonlight', played surprisingly early in the set, sounded as good and contemporary as the new stuff and drew a fantastic reaction – it sounded as good as it did when it was released and was played with real enthusiasm.



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# Shrub Hill Workshop Exhibition at Worcester University

The Shrub Hill Workshop Art Studio based in Worcester provides a creative environment using tutors, resources and encouragement to help budding artists with mental health issues as a means of healing that has been recognised since the time of Florence Nightingale. The work produced by these artists is currently on display at the University of Worcester as part of **World Mental Health Day**. But as most Worcester Residents won't have the opportunity to view the paintings in the show itself, SLAP Magazine has brought the art to our readers.



The exhibition is displayed outside one of the lecture theatres used by students and involves a range of styles by various artists, all of whom have previously suffered from mental illness and who had enjoyed learning the new skills needed to produce these

pieces as part of their therapy. Brenda Wholey's piece **Doorways Onto The World II** is a mixed media piece including actual door parts such as keys, nuts and bolts, buttons, hinges, and door handles, symbolic of the change she has been through as part of this project. She says "the encouragement guidance and help (of Shrub Hill Workshop) has opened a whole new world". Adrian Mitchell who has been working at the workshop for several months is really happy to have had a piece selected to be printed on a greetings card. His pieces are dramatic portraits using a mix of black and white to create silhouettes, and it is clear why they would make a great



greetings card. Vanessa Miller, who has previously illustrated children's books and designed giftware, says she has "used the opportunity of the Shrub Hill Workshop to try out new media and explore new



ways of working as part of a healing process following depression and OCD". Her abstract pieces, such as *Seascape* have a textured look that makes you want to reach out and touch them.

Vicky Mold's pieces are alive with colour which makes you smile involuntarily, while Gary Page's 'Blending In' is more of a clever statement of society which takes a moment to realise the more subtle differences



within his work before the smile takes shape. The pieces are all interesting and inspiring and I am lucky to have



been able to view them and enjoy them in person, and I am glad this healing process has benefitted not only the artists themselves but also those who are able to enjoy their art. For further information on the workshop and the

art featured in this article which can be purchased from the artists, go to the website:

[www.artinminds.org.uk](http://www.artinminds.org.uk)

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# Toni rocks as top snapper at Worcester Music Festival

AN adrenalin-charged snap of the lead singer of a psychedelic grunge band from Kidderminster has won this year's Worcester Music Festival photography competition.

The black and white shot of **Mari Randle** from sister-led band **Vault of Eagles** was taken by **Toni Charles** at the **Worcester Arts Workshop** during the three-day music event in August.

Mari Randle by Toni Charles



The elated winner was crowned at a presentation on Saturday, along with runners-up **Tania Field** and **Sarah Colquitt**, the first time all three top spots have been taken by the fairer sex.

Toni's photograph was chosen from nearly 170 entries, whittled down to a final 25, all of which taken during the celebration of live, local and original music which saw around 350 bands and artists performing at 30 venues, from pubs to historic buildings, across the faithful city.

Judge and previous competition winner **Mark Hoy**, who was joined on the panel by rock photographer **Steve Johnston** and **Joseph Singh**, also a former competition winner, said Toni's sultry snap was the only one chosen by all three judges in the selection process.

Andy Robinson by Tania Field



"It was the combination of composition, lighting, angle and pose of the guitarist that did it for us, fusing together perfectly to exemplify the atmosphere at the performance," he said. "Toni captured the energy of the **Vault of Eagles**, with the black and white adding to photo's dynamic feel. A worthy winner of the 2011 Worcester Music Festival photography competition."

In second place, **Tania Field's** photograph of

Worcester singer **Andy Robinson** was described as "suitably moody, reflecting the passionate nature of Andy's music", while **Sarah Colquitt's** shot of Worcester rockers **Das Sexy Clap** perfectly captured lead singer **Chris Wemyss** staring out at the audience as he prepared to deliver another ferocious onslaught of high octane music.



Chris Wemyss by Sarah Colquitt

The winners of this year's film soundtrack challenge, in conjunction with **Worcestershire Film Festival**, was also crowned at Saturday's presentation. Entrants were asked to pick a classic film from a set list and compose a soundtrack or soundscape to support a certain scene.

**Steve Ashby** won for his interpretation of 1927 classic **Metropolis**, **The Kroton Ensemble** won for 1967 horror **Night of the Living Dead**, while joint entry from **King Music Productions** and **Let's Feel The Bass** won for 1950 thriller **D.O.A.**, also voted overall best entry in the challenge.

A special award for best soundtrack theme song was made to **Babble** for **Tied to the Machine**.

Judge and lecturer in sound design at the University of Worcester, **Kevin Jenkins** of **SelectaSound**, who is looking to collaborate with the first **Worcestershire Film Festival** in 2012, said the standard of entries was very high and it was a challenge to choose the winning entries.

"The objective was to create a soundtrack that supported the imagery and reflected the pace and emotion of the story line in the film clip," he said. "The best example of this was from overall winner **King Music Productions** and **Let's Feel The Bass** for **D.O.A.**

"I really liked this as it used a good mix of environmental sound and supporting music," he said. There was also some great use of sound effects, a bouncing ball, a door slam, a gun shot, to support the story, adding to the production quality. A really great start to our first challenge."

Entertainment at Saturday's presentation and post fest party, in conjunction with **Slap Magazine**, was provided by folk rocker **Lea Haworth**, voted the act with the best audience reaction at Worcester festival, acoustic guitarist **Oscar Bell** and looping hip hopper **SmileyMc**.

For more on Worcester Music Festival, which runs from August 17-19 in 2012, visit

[www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk).



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# Snodfest 2011

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a person in possession of a large Snod must be in want of a Fest" (apologies to Austin). And so in the Parish of Upton Snodsbury, it came to pass that Snod was joined with Fest, creating the SnodFest.

SnodFest 2011 was on Saturday 24th September and the sun shone for the 4th year running. There were 19 great bands, 7 fabulous free workshops, bar, food, stalls and 1500 lovely people. It was the most successful SnodFest to date – this not-for-profit festival just keeps on getting better and better.

People were arriving well before the festival opened at noon. Campers pitched tents, kids played with Jan's Van's tubes and started chalking and painting on the big black van. The real ale from Wyre Piddle Brewery was sampled and I checked that the Tardebigge Cider had good stocks left.

Andrew Marston from BBC H&W kicked off SnodFest 2011 with four fantastic acts on the BBC Introducing Stage – Andrew's been a fantastic supporter of SnodFest from our beginning 4 years ago and a big part of our success.

Blues track half way through the set. That sold me totally – what an incredible trio.

Remi Harris reluctantly parted with 5 cds for us to sell on the merchandise stall before he zoomed off to 2 more gigs. They sold within minutes and we texted him strightaway. Lots going on at SnodFest 2011 and the merchandise stall had SnodFest t-shirts, band cds & T's, and glow products to keep people happy if their CDs of choice had sold out.



The final BBC Introducing stage act introduced by Andrew Marston were Mamoolian – and a first for a SnodFest band with their fabulous disc DJ. Some crowd comments: "Very good!", "Just my type of music",



and to Flo Rowland: "Bit of dance, a real mix of styles & hard to describe but we loved it!"

Elsewhere in SnodFest the sun was still shining and kids wearing the "planets" ran throughout the park. Some came into the music marquee to watch the Miracle Workers stage to see the very talented Ellys Lloyd Jones from Pershore High School & a W Factor 2010 Winner. But at 11, 13 and 13 it was the boys from Maxed Out who are the youngest Musical SnodSingers we've ever had, and well deserved W Factor 2011 winners too. Incredibly talented (and polite) youngsters – and they and Ellys can hold their heads high with their performances on the same stage as older, highly experienced and fantastic local bands like The Cohen Brothers, Guilty Pleasure, Cara Luft, The Crazy 88's, and Daniel Seth.



After a massive 11 afternoon SnodTastic bands, DrumLove led the drumming procession around the whole park, joining up the workshops with the bands. People relaxed and refuelled. I checked that the Tardebigge cider was still flowing at the bar – disaster struck shortly after my visit, but the cider house managed to restock SnodFest with their superb, and I understood later, strong cider. It ran dry again that evening...



George Barnett (pictured) and the Jungle opened the festival – he sings and plays guitar, drums, piano, trumpet, bass, percussion, keyboard and harmonica: pretty impressive at just 17 years old.



IncaHoots were next up on the BBC Introducing Stage at SnodFest: "I hear that every year you guys put on a show here in Upton Snodsbury and that every year the sun comes out. You guys must be seriously blessed – I think I might move here and start a family!"

The fans, interviewed by Flo Rowland, BBC H&W: "We couldn't believe how fast the marquee filled up when they started playing! Inca Hoots were great, something really different."

Inca Hoots say: "Pete plays bass lines that can provide a tight rhythm as well as a memorable, if sometimes unexpected, lead." The photos show just how far Pete really gets into the music – long live the crazy hair!

Who is it that the genius guitarists themselves identify as a genius guitarist? That'd be Remi Harris! His Trio were mind-blowingly superb – jaws were audibly dropping throughout the park as he amazed us with his playing. Oh, and incidentally, they decided to make up a SnodFest

The evening session had another 8 excellent bands, with everyone up on their feet for the 'Gutsy Celtic Fusion' of the **Roving Crows** who were introduced by Andy O'Hare, the electric high energy **Zenzai**, the fabulous "four piece, female fronted indie posters" **Skewwhiff**, the already-signed-and-going-places **Mitch and Murray**, and the sheer excellence of **Adrian Styles and Friends**. There are more change overs at a SnodFest than you've had hot dinners (almost), smoothly done thanks to



the brilliance and professionalism of Intasound and the stage management team. **Pete Adams** pulled a band together around his fun and funny and musically witty **Lost Boy Scout** just for SnodFest, this year being both musician and stage manager: "Bands fear that without a line check they'll sound bad, but it works! Intasound make sure we all sound excellent – they make it happen for us brilliantly!"



**UncleFuncleMuncle** played their covers and getting everyone up and dancing as well as grooving on down , before the "toes a-tapping and teeth a-smiling" **Beeza** and the **Wildcats** finished the evening on a high!

Security were on hand to help the cider and Piddle-Ale drinkers out of the park in an orderly fashion, finally just leaving the over-night security on their own: they had a rude awakening at 3am though when Remi Harris finally finished his post SnodFest gigs and replied to our earlier text, saying: "Fantastic!" which sums up SnodFest 2011 just perfectly.

Roll on SnodFest 2012 on Saturday 15th September in Upton Snodsbury Park. SnodTastic bands needed!

Goodwill and support for SnodFest 2011 from the professionals – all local companies:

**Tarplett Generator Services (TGS)**

**Intasound PA**

**The Marquee Company**

**Prestige Toilet Hire, North Piddle**

**Main Event Catering**

And the grant for the many of the free workshops from the Arts Council for England and the County Council.

Photography: 1: George Barnett by Joe Singh, 2: Inca Hoots by Lottie Rose, 3: Remi Harris by Joe Singh, 4: Mamoolian by Joe Singh, 5: Daniel Set by Tony Robson Dyer, 6: Drumlove by Tony Robson Dyer, 7: Roving Crows by Glen Eldridge, 8: Lost Boy Scout by Rich Neal Words: Catherine Milner



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## Promotions

### Stuntdog, Joe Patroni & East of the Sun The Marris Bar, 5th November

Explosive evening of fun, frivolity, fracas, and Faulks!

November 5th, 1605. A mere 406 years ago, Guy Fawkes gave us a reason to annually celebrate a failed attempt to blow up parliament. So, 406 years later, to the very day the Marris Bar will be rocked with 4 explosive acts to rock through the night.

Headlining the night is local champions of prog-pop lore **Stuntdog**. These guys are no strangers to the scene, and are making a special Bonfire Night appearance for this event. The group has a sound that marries clever melodies and hooks along with unexpected bouts of fiendish complexity: all tinged with their unique sense of

humour. Their sound is driven skins from the rhythm section by **Dominic Luckman**, who formerly pounded skins for the legendary (and also fiendishly complex) **Cardiacs**. This band will have

you giggling and reeling from the first beat to the last and provide much merriment and mirth! Stuntdog really needs to be seen to be believed!

**Joe Patroni** is back after an extended break of studio recording and are now raring to get back onto stage. The three piece featuring ex-members of 'B-Movie Heroes', 'The Yo Yos' and 'And What Will Be Left Of Them?' feature a strong melodic alt-rock sound (with a tinge of classic stoner rock) that wouldn't sound out of place with Kyuss or the Queens of the Stone Age. These guys will be shaking the house down!

**East Of The Sun** is surging from strength to strength following airplay on **AllRadio** with DJ Yorkie (Andy John Bradford) and on **Kerrang!** with **Johnny Doom**. These guys played a storming set at the **Worcester Music Festival** and their Blues-inspired alternative sound is winning them friends and fans throughout the country. In fact, that they were once known as 'Unkle Monty' doesn't matter...the Sun is rising on this band!

And finally, opening proceedings on the night will be **F.T.A. (Failure To Attend)**, a 2-piece so new that we're only guessing what they could sound like – but expect to hear electric violin, bouzouki, and mandolin amongst other things...

So...forget the gunpowder, and bring 36 Barrels of ROCK to shake the Marris Bar to the ground.

Wick is lit at 20h30. £3.00 on the door, and we'll let you out for free afterwards. Promise! November 5th, 2011. Marris Bar.

by Marc Hache



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# Review

## SLAP Night 2. Smileymic & Jak Raven Worcs Arts Workshop 16th Oct 2011

This eclectic evening began slowly, perhaps too slowly for some. Though for those of us with patient anticipation and an appreciation of experimental music the wait was well worth it.

Cafe Bliss was abuzz with its diners and drinkers and the hard working volunteers were busy bee's while in the depths of the theatre at the Worcester Arts Workshop, Jak Raven and his fine bunch of musicians arrived on stage. With folkish tunes, some fine fiddling and other musical apparatus, these softly delivered songs touched places in the audience's hearts, whilst playfully using their roguish gypsy like charm to its full potential.



This was an aurally rewarding night, with Slap magazine treating us to sounds which push our musical boundaries to new levels and out of our existing comfort zones, something which I feel we, the people of Worcester, all need to do more of.....

Next instalment:  
19th November  
SICKNOTE.



A swift changeover and the gentle ebb and flow of the evening jumped headlong into Smileymic, a contemporary one man band from Tamworth. Smileymic uses loop peddles, instruments and beatboxing to create a mixmatch of sounds that journey through guitar tunes, comedy and out and out banging hip hop. His range of tools include glockenspiel, cowbell and keyboards all coming together to make his experimental compositions work in a rhythmic harmony no one would predict. The crowd bounced and jumped in his playground, cheering for more many times before finally being given our last dose bang on kicking out time!

*Photography: Isabel Infantes*

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## Tuesday 1 November 2011

East of the Sun  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Open Mic Night  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Troublesome Trio  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Wednesday 2 November 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Matt Woosey  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Wooden Horse  
Mason's Arms, Wichenford

## Thursday 3 November 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Rickshaw Brides  
The Star Hotel, Upton

Mike Mann & Friends  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Skankster Sid (Ska, Punk & Reggae)  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Avert Francis  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Friday 4 November 2011

Cantaloop  
The Swan, Kidderminster

The Reflections  
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Babble  
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Da Vinci  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

The Modern, One Twos  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets  
The Kings Head, Upton

Dave Onions  
The Black Boy, Bridgnorth

Ronda, Ronin  
The Firefly, Worcester

The Pull  
The Talbot, Pershore

Take Fat, Charlie Green  
Worcester City Football Club, Worcester

The Pull  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

The Texan Peacocks  
Drummonds, Worcester

Pete Zimmer Band  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Rattlesnake Jake  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Saturday 5 November 2011

The Peers, Foldback, Done by Sunrise  
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

The ExPresidents  
O'Neills, Worcester

Wooden Horse  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Delray Rockets  
The Blackpole, Worcester

Dave Onions  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Locked & Loaded  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Fretless Duo  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

The John Steeds  
The Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Soultown Hopleys Bonfire Frenzy  
Hopleys Farm, Bewdley

Stuntdog, East of the Sun  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Junction 7  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

This Wicked Tongue  
The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Izzy The Push  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport

FreewaterR  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Skewwhiff  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Funky Skunk  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Rock Shop & Mad Dave  
Con Club, Studley

I Am Ryan  
The Trumpet, Evesham

## Sunday 6 November 2011

Umphff  
Sticky Wicket, Redditch

Jazz Sunday with Jazzenco (1-4pm)  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 7 November 2011

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Tuesday 8 November 2011

Open Mic Night  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Troublesome Trio  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 9 November 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Soultown  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Open Mic Night  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Grumpy Old Guitarists  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Thursday 10 November 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic  
Malvern

Oaken Lee (Jake Flowers)  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Ringo (Acoustic set)  
The Hand in Glove, Worcester

Foreign Quarter  
The Star Hotel, Upton

Mike Mann & Friends  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

National Alien Night  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

## Friday 11 November 2011

The John Steeds  
The Garibaldi, Worcester

The Ex Presidents  
The Kings Head, Upton

The Mood Elevators  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Ronin  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Bella Diem, Becky Rose, Shaking Trees  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mother Popcorn  
Drummonds, Worcester

China Shop Bull  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wooden Horse  
Blue Bell Inn, Worcester

Skewwhiff  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Honeyboy Hickling Band  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Acoustic Night with Cliff & Tony  
Frutierers Arms, Uphampton

The Whole Caboodle  
Ombersley Village Hall, Ombersley

Babajack  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Mother Popcorn  
Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 12 November 2011

Tall Ships, Inca-Hoots  
The Flapper, Birmingham

Stuntroxx  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Marabooboo Allstars  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Branded  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Sarah Warren Band  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

John Denton  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dodgy, Umphff  
Cox's Yard, Stratford

The Delray Rockets  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Riff Raff  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

We Are Goose & Gringo  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Texas Medicine  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

The Mouse Police  
The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

## Sunday 13 November 2011

Clive John  
Gloster Arms, Malvern

Jazz Sunday with Remy Harris Trio (1-4pm)  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 14 November 2011

Gari Live Lounge Open Mic  
Resident Bands Sugar Mama & Soulshine (Alt Weeks)  
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Tuesday 15 November 2011

Open Mic Night  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Brewers Troupe Performance Poetry Workshop  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic Night  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Troublesome Trio  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Wednesday 16 November 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Wooden Horse  
Bridge's, Worcester

## Thursday 17 November 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Guilty Pleasure  
The Star Hotel, Upton

Mike Mann & Friends  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Fabulously Famously Mr Ed Frid  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

## Friday 18 November 2011

Blind Lemon  
Drummonds, Worcester

The Reflections  
The White Hart, Redditch

Blues Anoraks  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Kybosch (Punk Night)  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Partners In Crime  
The Kings Head, Upton

The Mood Elevators  
The Village Inn, Redditch

East of the Sun  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Delteurs + Support  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Guilty Pleasure  
The Wheelbarrow Castle, Radford, Inkberrow

Stained Glass Alice (Stowford B.O.B. Winners)  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Paul White & Ray Minton  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Delray Rockets  
Gainsborough Hotel, Kidderminster

Blind Lemon  
Drummonds, Worcester

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Saturday 19 November 2011

Sicknote plus Support & Dj's  
Slap Night @ Worcester Arts Workshop

Hotfoot  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Nobby's Nuts  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Babble  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Underdogs  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vo & Tyler  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Guilty Pleasure  
The Express Inn, Malvern

Fifteen English Pounds  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Flat Stanley  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Branded  
The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

## Sunday 20 November 2011

Umphff  
Yew Tree, Kemerton

Jazz Sunday with Strumpit (1-4pm)  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 21 November 2011

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Gari Live Lounge Open Mic  
Resident Bands Sugar Mama & Soulshine (Alt Weeks)  
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

## Tuesday 22 November 2011

Mike Mann & Friends  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 23 November 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Chicago Bytes  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Hitchiker  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Mic Night  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

## Thursday 24 November 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Matchless  
Drummonds, Worcester

Drum & Bass Night  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Nice n Sleazy  
The Star Hotel, Upton

Mike Mann & Friends  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dan Cassidy & James Hickman  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Wooden Horse  
The Hand In Glove

## Friday 25 November 2011

GreenHead Man  
Queens Head, Kidderminster

The Reflections  
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Bunter & The Vibes  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Capital, East of the Sun  
The Bell, Worcester

Jack The Biscuit  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

The Delray Rockets  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Worcestershire Arts Education Rock Event  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Felix Leiter  
Drummonds, Worcester

The Navigators  
The Kings Head, Upton

Soultown with Bunter & The Vibes  
Tribe Nightclub, Kidderminster

Black Sabbath Tribute  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

A Seabright Night  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Umphff  
Antelope, Warwick

Felix Leiter  
Drummonds, Worcester

The Ronaldo's  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Saturday 26 November 2011

The Barflys  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

The ExPresidents  
The Express Inn, Malvern

The Matchless  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Journeyman  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Stone Farm  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Wooden Horse  
The Morgan, Malvern

P.A.I.N. + Black Start Dub Collective & Automads  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Pull  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mumbo Jumbo  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Seria Mau  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Not For Squares & Wet Dream  
Three Hundred & Sixty Degrees, Worcester (9-1)  
Room 13, Worcester (10-4)

Underdogs  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Skin Deep  
The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

## Sunday 27 November 2011

Vo & Tyler  
The Three Kings, Hanley Castle

Babble  
The Old Rec, Worcester

Jazz Sunday with Big B Jazz Swingtet (1-4pm)  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 28 November 2011

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Gari Live Lounge Open Mic  
Resident Bands Sugar Mama & Soulshine (Alt Weeks)  
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

## Tuesday 29 November 2011

Open Mic Night  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 30 November 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Mojo Hand  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

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**Friday 11th**  
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**Numbers & Farewell Vera**  
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**Saturday 12th**  
**The Paul Menel Band**  
£5 a ticket, £6 on the door

**Sunday 13th**  
**Howard James Kenny & Band**  
**Support from Sam Eden**  
£5 a ticket, £6 on the door

**Friday 18th**  
**New Hope Charity Night**  
**with Jasper In The Company Of Others**  
£5 Minimum Donation

**Saturday 19th**  
**3 Daft Monkeys**  
£10 a ticket, £12 on the door

**Sunday 20th**  
**Vix From Fuzzbox**  
£4 a ticket, £5 on the door

**Thursday 24th**  
**Mike Peters - 30th Anniversary UK Tour**  
£15 a ticket

**Friday 25th**  
**This Wicked Tongue Presents:-**  
**Mansize, Age and Vault of Eagles**  
£4 a ticket, £5 on the door

**Saturday 26th**  
**All for One & Answer Back**  
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