



Issue 100

Mar 2020

MAGAZINE

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SLAP

Mar 2020 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Well, here we are, one hundred not out! Who'd have thought it?

When we published the first issue, we had no idea that almost
a decade later we would still be going. Our first editorial started
with... 'Thank you for picking up a copy of SLAP. Don't worry, you
haven't stolen it, it's FREE!' which still holds true to this day! The
principle behind the idea of Supporting Local Arts & Performers
has been and continues to be our ethos.

We owe so much to so many people who have supported us,
written for us, distributed, advertised and generally kept us going
over the years. Then of course there would be no artists or
performers without venues, publicans, club owners, gallery
directors and the many places that stock SLAP in and around the
three counties. And of course you, the readers, we are grateful for
your support which has kept us going when it would have been
easier to give up. But we won't be resting on our laurels, we want
to continue, along with many other organisations, in our mission
to assist the vibrant scene throughout the region.

To mark this milestone, we are holding a SLAP Mag - 'Celebrating
One Hundred Issues Party', on the 7th March, at The Marris Bar in
Worcester. Put together in association with Uncover, we're excited
to bring to you Arcadia Roots, Kick The Clown, The Connor Maher
Quartet, White Noise Cinema and... ***Stop the Press!*** Fights
& Fires have also just confirmed! Andy O'Hare of BBC introducing
will be the MC for the night and between acts we'll be airing the
Slap Spotify playlist of acts featured over the last couple of years.
We are asking for just a £5 contribution on the door so come and
party with us...

Flood-Ed



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SLAP MARCH 3

Steel the Show...

Self-confessed 'grumpy old git' and acerbic wit **Mark Steel** will be bringing his updated *Every Little Thing's Gonna Be Alright* show to our area in the spring with shows at the **Regal Tenbury** on Friday 17 April and the **Courtyard Hereford** on Thursday 14 May. Mark's an award-winning columnist for the Independent, a regular on *Have I Got News For You* and has his own Radio 4 show *Mark Steel's In Town*. Expect biting comments along with cutting jibes aimed at the usual suspects and more...

I'm gonna be (100 miles)

Bromyard Folk Festival have revealed that most of their attendees travel over 100 miles to get to the September event which this year celebrates its 52nd year. Festival director **Lynne Barker** said that the festival's success is due to its 'party feel' and for many it's like meeting up with family and friends every year. Headliners for this year's event include **The Young'uns**, **Breabach** and the **John Martyn Project** - more at bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk

The Death Rattle

Director of the London Symphony Orchestra Sir Simon Rattle has expressed fears for touring orchestras and musicians due to uncertainties over Brexit. Besides possible future checks on musicians and instruments that can take up to 15 hours to complete for each country visited, many of the LSO's players come from 26 different countries and may have problems continuing to ply their trade in the UK...

The Golden 5th

The fifth **El Dorado** festival takes place at **Eastnor Deer Park** from 2 to 5 July and organisers have announced that headliners will include **Groove Armada**, **D Double E** and dub veteran **Dave Rodigan** along with 'mesmerising theatrics, circus performers, gourmet street food and an unforgettable adventure' - more at eldoradofestival.com

Creative Decline

A recent BBC national survey reported that nine in 10 secondary schools have cut back on at least one creative arts subject due to government financial restrictions. It's also understood that the **University of Worcester** has reduced its drama department lecturers to just two, down from six in previous years - though the University did say that 'staffing was based on student numbers in specific courses' but also said that funding had fallen while 'stealth taxes' continue to rise...

What to watch @ Wychwood

More acts announced for **Wychwood Festival** on Cheltenham Racecourse including **The Divine Comedy** and **The Christians** alongside **Dreadzone** and **Craig Charles** - Wychwood is a regular nominee for Best Family Festival each year and runs from 29 to 31 May - wychwoodfestival.com

Water is 'All Around'

Probably with a touch of irony considering the recent weather, **Upton's Sunshine Festival** have announced that their Sunday night headliners at this year's event will be 80s/90s giants **Wet Wet Wet** - the festival runs over the Bank Holiday weekend from 27 to 30 August - uptonfestival.co.uk

4 SLAP MARCH

Music Moving out of City

Unfortunately the Worcester branch of HMV apparently 'couldn't be saved' which we think leaves only **Market Hall records** as the only physical music store remaining in Worcester.

Strength in Depth

She won't want us to mention it again here but a big congrats to the ever-wonderful **Kim Evans** for helping to save a man from killing himself in the river early last month. Kim called the police and held onto the man, who was 6'4" and over 20 stone, for as long as possible until the fuzz arrived to pull him from the water - great work girl!!

Ledbury Poetry Comp

The highly rated **Ledbury Poetry Festival** has announced that its annual competition is open for entries with this year's judge being Black Country poet **Liz Berry**. There's a prize of £1000 plus a residential creative writing course in Wales for the winners in the adult, young people and children's categories who also get to read their poems at the 2021 event. This year's festival runs from 3 to 12 July but the closing date for competition entries is 16 July - more details at poetry-festival.co.uk

Worcestershire artists get ready!

The call for entries for **Worcestershire Open Studios 2020** opens on 16 March. Worcester Open Studios will take place 28-31 August during the Bank Holiday weekend and is open to artists who live and/or work in Worcestershire.

A pre-registration meeting is planned for new and interested artists to find out more about the event before they register for a place. The organisers will outline the aims and values of Worcester Open Studios, what is involved in taking part and there will be chance to pose questions to them and artists who have participated previously. The meeting is on: Monday 23 March at **The Hive**, Worcester from 5.45 until 7.30pm. For more information visit www.worcestershireopenstudios.org

Brewhouse & Venue Closure

A popular live music venue closed its doors for the last time at the beging of February. The closure of Sadler's Brewhouse and Bar in Lye follows the brewery's owners decision to close it and move production of beers to Hawkshead Brewery in the Lake District. The Sadler's bars in Quinton and Harborne will continue to trade. The move would mean the Peaky Blinder Pale Ale, which is sold as a Black Country brew, would now be produced 160 miles from the region.

Annie has left the building...

After weeks of speculation, **Annie's Burger Shack** has left the **Courtyard** following Marstons sale of 137 pubs to Admiral Taverns. The new tenants, who want to take the place in a different direction, have agreed to honour the remaining gigs until 7th March. Worcester will be losing a much needed live music venue which has hosted over 60 gigs in the past year. Promoters are busy rearranging all remaining booked gigs to take place at different venues in the City. Please check social media and Slap listings on line for updates and confirmation.

100th Issue Ramblings

A few years ago an excellent local muso called **Paul J Rose** penned a wonderful ditty about Worthington's DIY, the very old-fashioned 'four candles' type hardware store on the Ombersley Road next to the Northwick Cinema. Desperately wanting to give this a spin on air I asked Andrew for guidance as it pretty obviously could be seen as an advert for a commercial enterprise. His reply was that as Worthington's was a small local independent concern and not a vast multinational conglomerate there was no problem at all in giving them a mention!

And that's to an extent why here at **BBC H&W Introducing** we've been so happy to travel alongside SLAP for the past umpteen years (or so it seems) - as we're both on the same well-worthy mission to support and promote to the fullest extent possible the great live, local and original musical talent right here on our own doorstep - yeah ok with the very occasional hardware shop thrown in now and then...

Of course I've always fancied the idea of being a rock'n'roll star myself - tragically the lack of all but the most basic music talents, plus an unaccountable ability to never find the time to practice and maybe slightly improve on things scuppered that wannabe dream. But if I couldn't crank out the riffs myself maybe it was just possible to support and further the aims of those local musos who could - hope that it's worked out in some small way!

Think myself that it's an absolutely wonderful time right now for our local music scene - because apart from the plague of tribute acts (rant over) you're still able to catch new, live and original performers any night of the week! We've got a whole bunch of

super festivals in our region like **Nozstock**, **Lakefest**, all the Upton events, **Worcester Music Festival** (obviously) and so many more - and we've also got local artists like **Becky Hill** hitting the big-time, following on from past local successes like **Led Zeppelin**, **Mott The Hoople** and **The Pretenders** - just wouldn't mind a little bit of a revival in Hereford-land right now though - it's a bit overdue...

It's been a bloody privilege to be involved with SLAP right from the start and I've got nothing but praise and thanks to Mark and all the amazing contributors over the years - you know who you are! Every single letter they've typed and every single note played by a local muso supports, promotes and uplifts our amazing H&W music scene just that little bit more - so here's to another 100 issues of SLAP - great work guys!!

AOH (so-sue-me@live.co.uk)

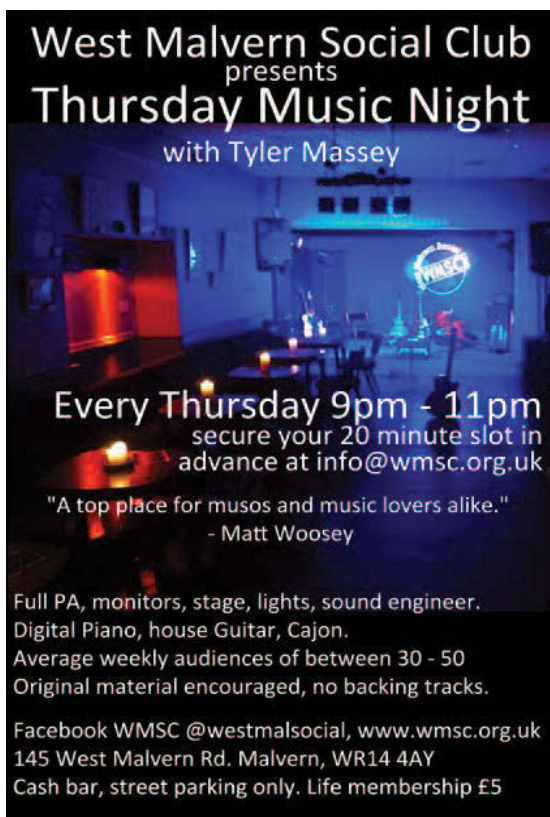
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Women's History Month - Lin Matthias

This month a visual arts exhibition opens, specially created for **Women's History Month**. Multimedia artist, **Lin Matthias**, creates work to provoke and encourage social change, embracing the work of women who have been lost in the channels of time. The exhibition is inspired by a live show, 'Wanted', which will be shown at **The Courtyard** on Wednesday 18th March 2020.

7th – 19th March. The Courtyard Hereford. Courtyard.org.uk



Curiosity Museum arrives at Worcestershire Skills Show

On Wednesday 4th March, **The Curiosity Museum** will be opening its doors to young learners and their families at the **Worcestershire Skills Show** in Droitwich.

This hands-on, careers workshop offers visitors age 10 and upwards with a new way of exploring career options. By getting to grips with the curious objects in the mobile museum, visitors can find out about a range of professions perhaps not considered before - uncovering what career might best suit them, their skill set and aspirations. Whether just starting to think about jobs, confused by the range of options or interested in a change of career – **The Curiosity Museum** is a unique experience, encouraging visitors to open up new ideas and raise their aspirations for the future.



Curiosity Museum director **Manda Graham** explains; *"The Curiosity Museum has been developed to help visitors discover the wide range of career choices out there - in particular within science, technology, engineering, maths, and the creative industries. We know some young people feel they don't receive adequate career advice within school or college. We hope the Curiosity Museum will help visitors to develop their aspirations and challenge career perceptions. And it's not just for young learners - visitors of all ages can benefit from finding out about other opportunities in the world of work, and perhaps inspire them to consider a change in career too."*

The Worcestershire Skills Show is Worcestershire's largest careers event. Young people are given the opportunity to gain an understanding of the career pathways available to them and to find out about the skills and qualifications that employers are really looking for. It's open to the public from 3.30pm – 7pm, Wednesday 4th March at the **Chateau Impney Droitwich**. The Curiosity Museum experience takes just 15 minutes and is open to all visitors.

fb.com/curiositymuseum/

6 SLAP MARCH

Arboretum takes on Storm Dennis!

Worcester's Arboretum community tackled the awful weekend weather and went face to face with **Storm Dennis**, carrying on with the planned 'Love The Arbo' event on Saturday evening.

Windows lit up and installations appeared around 6pm for the start of the community trail featuring resident-made light creations. The event was opened by the Worcester **Mayor Allah Ditta** at **Sansome Walk Baptist Church** where local group **Dancefest** performed a magical light inspired routine from **DFY (Dancefest Youth)** to a packed Church Hall. From here visitors and residents set off, maps in hand to walk the streets and find the lit up displays. The rain eased off for a couple of hours and the area was full of people wandering round exploring. Themes included space, dinosaurs, botanics and even a **Love the Arbo** lego train-set and a special 3D Captain Pugwash window with moving ship! People used paper, plants, lights and projections to create some very diverse, amazing sights.



Claire Durrant from the Arboretum Residents Association said: *"I'm so glad we decided to go ahead with the Love the Arbo event as so many people turned up. More people illuminated their windows than last year and the displays were exceptional. Well done to all the residents who participated. I'd also like to thank all those who made the event so successful including **Kate Brookes** for her art installations and our own cake maker. Money made from the selling cake and refreshments will be donated to a local Arboretum charity."*

With colourful installations from Sansome Walk to the canal and all inbetween, viewers were excitedly giving each other tips on which houses to go to next as others caught up with friends and family sharing the experience together or bumping into old faces. The event attracted not only residents themselves but visitors from all parts of the city who really enjoyed the evening.

The **Arboretum Residents Association** hopes that even more people will get involved for **Love the Arbo** in 2021, hopefully being inspired by other people's creations and they will be looking for support from funders to develop this community event further.

Please contact lovethearbo@gmail.com for information. You can find Love the Arbo on Facebook.



Secret arts lectures!

We discovered a hidden secret recently- since the 1980s **The Arts Society Worcester** have been holding monthly lectures in visual arts and sometimes music too. The Society provides inspiring art lectures from excellent speakers as well as trips to art places. Lectures are held at **Tudor Grange Academy** on the second Tuesday of the month. £7.50 on the door, opening at 7.30pm. For more information: theartsocietyworcester.org.uk/

Upcoming lectures are:

"Threads of History" - 10th March

Bishop Odo of Bayeux fought with William the Conqueror at Hastings, and commissioned the vast tapestry to commemorate their victory. Our lecture will discuss the history, politics and meaning of the tapestry, as well as its great significance as a major survivor of high medieval art.

..... 'Eden' at Edgar Street Gallery, Worcester

Eden holds a promise, that of a capsule of beauty, a sacred and protected environment, an aspiration, a goal perhaps? The ultimate achievement, highest attainment, gold?

Upon entering the gallery, your first threshold introduces your second, in the form of a double door panel by **Wayne Warren**.

Warren's golden doors are one part of his much greater project **Modern Archeology**, which includes the burial of a golden door (on display at the **Commandery**, Worcester, until the end of March) and a series of door panels which have formed the foundations for his explorations into colour, texture and value of past possessions and disposability of the current. Modern Archaeology addresses past, current and future, through recycled and re-presented objects. Warren provokes reflection on acceptance of the complexities of our human contradictions, attraction and temporary value, from gold to detritus.

The basement has become another form of **Eden**, where darkness is explored within the crevices of the cellar's raw walls.

Artist, **AIN**, tackles subjects that border a comfort zone for most. Her work looks at taboos of sexuality, role expectations and liberty within a patriarchal religious culture. These issues echo and also reflect across continents to suppression and restrictions of self-expression and personal choice. **Jess Barretts** work equally addresses issues of Christianity, suppression, role expectations and misogyny, Barrett's gif *'Asphyxiate'*, flashes against the stained Georgian brick, a barbed wire crown and a mouth stuffed to silence. Both these artist's work illustrate the common ground and a unity in the fight against oppression. The basement area has an advised adult only entry.

Jamie Hopkins work could easily have been included in the last **Street Art Exhibition**, his work explores the scribbles and graffiti that are easily accepted within our daily environment, yet these simple words, social labels and slogans present the opportunity to explore culture, sub culture, class categorizing, prejudice and



"Kandinsky" - 14th April

A pioneer of abstract art, Kandinsky used form and colour to create an aesthetic experience that avoided representational copying from nature. Nadia, our Russian born lecturer will explore the origins of his abstractions and compare it with the work of other Russian non-objective artists.

.....
preconceptions. Recently returning from Rotterdam, his influences are drug culture, rave culture and divisions in our society; his work becomes a political conversation in the way that Street Art has given voice to neglected issues through history. A word on a wall can tell a whole story and Hopkins demonstrates his understanding of this potential.

Hillary Jack's work twists texture and challenges our views of materiality of objects; her bronze works include natural oak leaves, which scatter through an open window and drift heavily across the gallery floor. A blue plastic bag hanging from a ladder, tricks visually, as it's opacity hints at heavier materials yet its form malleable, but frozen and solid in its bronze cast form.

S Mark Gubb's work includes pieces like the rich familiar scent of an old leather jacket or nostalgic association with a forgotten album. Gubb's collection contains an invitation to explore, through



his deeply considered detailing, themes of culture, politics and environment and open debate on the choices humankind makes and the impacts of those choices. Music and politics are literally etched into wood **Class of 1986** and floated skywards hanging from helium balloons in his printed acrylic image *'For a Short Moment, I Felt Nothing'*.

This review introduces just a few of the works included in the current exhibition at Edgar Street. It is a discursive exhibition, with multiple links and connections, accessible and curated to operate on many levels.

Messaging appears in unexpected forms, as is the theme of this exhibition, not all that glitters is gold and values can be concealed or revealed depending on the willingness to adventure into Eden.

Juliet Mootz

Dancefest

It's been a busy start to the year, with performances in all sorts of places, including at Worcester's **Love the Arbo** festival, some brilliant guest workshops, and lots of work in local schools.

Coming up this month is **Youth Movement** on Sunday 1 March at **Artrix** in Bromsgrove – a performance presented by **Dancefest**, of powerful and dynamic dance by some of the West Midlands' most highly regarded youth companies.

It's followed by **Art Uplift's Suitcase Stories** on Monday 16 March at **The Commandery**, a symposium on arts and reminiscence with people living with dementia. **Dancefest's Rock Creative Chance to Dance**, a group who meet every Monday in a class funded by **Wyre Forest District Council**, will be performing. Their music has been written and performed by **Deborah Rose**, inspired by memories of people living with dementia.

Dancefest have just started some new **Street Dance** classes for children and young people, led by **The Jestar**. They take place on Mondays at **The Angel Centre** in Worcester (6-11 year olds at 4.30-5.30pm, 12-17s at 5.30-6.30pm) and on Wednesdays at **KGW Hub, Brickfields** (6-11s at 4.30-5.30pm). You'll learn the basics of popping, locking and breaking, and he'll be working on different routines with each class so you can come to more than one if you

like! Their *Postural Alignment Therapy* workshop on Sunday 15 March with **Posture Ellie** is sold out – but there's a reserve list, so get in touch if you'd like a chance to go! And don't forget, there are also over 30 dance classes a week for all ages and it's not too late to join this term.

"A very happy 100th edition to everyone at **Slap Mag** from **Dancefest!** Thanks so much for your support of us and so many other people and organisations, and of the arts and cultural life of the region!"

Find out more at dancefest.co.uk or 01905 611199.



Borderlines Film Festival

This eclectic annual film festival takes place around our local counties this month and tickets are selling fast, particularly for one film. *Parasite*, the incisive and inventive black comedy thriller from South Korean director **Bong Joon-Ho** made history by becoming the first non-English language film ever to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. The film follows the fortunes of the impoverished Kim family as, with infinite wit and resourcefulness, they infiltrate the mansion of the wealthy Parks. Funny, angry and scary by turns, it sharply satirises the growing global divide between rich and poor in a gripping tale, full of twists and turns.



While *Parasite* is the current stand out release of the Festival, the programme offers audiences a rare opportunity to delve into some of the classic treasures of the past.

The recent news of **Kirk Douglas'** passing, aged 103 revealed a connection with *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which will be showing during the festival. Douglas played the subversive 'Mac' McMurphy in the 1963-4 stage version, buying the rights to Ken Kesey's novel in the '60's. Son Michael produced the 1970s movie with **Jack Nicholson** playing the role of Mac, the rogue who leads the patients of a psychiatric institution to revolt against Nurse Ratched's inhumane regime. The film was directed by **Milos Forman**, the subject of a Borderlines retrospective this year.



You can see Forman's other US smash hit *Amadeus* plus two of his earlier films *Loves of a Blonde* and *The Firemen's Ball*, now acclaimed as masterpieces of the Czech New Wave and newly restored by the **Czech Film Archive**.

David Lynch's 1980 follow-up to *Eraserhead*, *The Elephant Man* screens in a new black-and-white restoration that marks the 40th anniversary of the film's release. Stunning cinematography and authentic locations plunge you back into a sinister Victorian London in which John Merrick's severe deformities are exploited and derided until he finds sanctuary at the London Hospital.



John Hurt plays Merrick with a wonderful cameo from the late **Freddie Jones**.

A young **Marlon Brando** smoulders as brutish Stanley Kowalski, opposite Vivien Leigh's faded Southern beauty **Blanche DuBois**, in Elia's Kazan's film version of the **Tennessee Williams** play *A Streetcar Named Desire*. For the first time in cinema, he brings a naturalness onto the screen that comes over like a blast of fresh air.

This year is the centenary of the birth of great Italian filmmaker **Federico Fellini** and to celebrate, in *La Dolce Vita*, we accompany flaky, womanising journalist Marcello Mastroianni through a dreamlike pageant of celebrity that culminates in the iconic wade into Rome's Trevi Fountain alongside the statuesque American superstar Sylvia (Anita Ekberg).

The Festival runs until Sunday 15 March in 27 venues, big and small, across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Malvern, and the Marches.

Full programme details and links to buy tickets are available now online at www.borderlinesfilmfestival.org.

Spring arts activities at Worcester Arts Workshop

There's a number of one-off 'Pop Up' workshops coming up this Spring, including **Pop Up Painting Style Events – Andy Warhol's Pop Art Soup Cans** on Wednesday 4 March and **Van Gogh's Sunflowers** on Wednesday 25 March, where painting enthusiasts can spend an evening working on their very own masterpiece inspired by the originals.

Artists and crafters can experiment with other materials too with a **Ceramic Egg Cup** workshop on Friday 6 March, **Mandala pattern painting** workshop on Wednesday 1 April and **Spring Flower Fused Glass** workshop on Thursday 7 April. Pop Up



Workshops start at £25 per person, including all materials and guidance from an expert artist tutor.

Plus there's a huge range weekly workshops, with a new term beginning w/c 24 February and w/c 20 April. Choose from **Watercolour, Life Drawing, Portrait Drawing** and much more.

Children and young people are invited to unleash their creativity during Easter holiday art camps including **Animal Sculpting** with air drying clay 2 day course on 6 & 7 April, **Easter Egg Rock Painting** on 8 April, Easter Art Days on 16 & 17 April, **Big Canvas Painting, Katsushika Hokusai's The Great Wave off Kanagawa** on 17 April, plus regular Saturday art and pottery clubs.

At WAW you'll find space to create! For full events and workshop listings or to book visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk



Pershire Number 8 Visual arts this month

Until 11th March - **'The 80s Toy box for 30 Somethings'** From Mr T to Muppet Babies - take a trip down memory lane with this exhibition of toys from the 80s curated by **Rob Brown**.



Until 18th March - **Four Abstract Artists - 'Echoes of Reality'** - This group of artists share a passion for abstract art and the process of exploring the power of colour, form and texture. The group's ways of working are often experimental, intuitive and organic and can evoke thoughts of landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes. Their work aims to resonate with memories, special places and moments, seeking poetic harmony and balance through the manipulation of the materials themselves. The group all share the joy of discovering meaning through art whether through the 'echoes of reality' or the interplay of the visual dynamics of colour, form and structure.



From 12th March - Until 22nd April - **Cheryl Steventon - 'Countryside to Coast'** - Warwickshire based glass artist Cheryl

invites you on a trip to the coast and countryside with this exhibition of handmade glass inspired by her native Cornwall. Incorporating sustainably sourced natural stones and pebbles and using a variety of techniques, from traditional copper foil to engraving and fusing, she creates landscapes for her little glass boats and cottages to inhabit.



From 19th March - Until 8th April - **Richard Corbett - 'Light & Shade'** - An exhibition of oil paintings and drawings that capture the light and atmosphere of woodland glades, river scenes, ancient orchards, coastal views and dramatic skies by the Worcester based artist. A celebration of the spiritual and historical importance of the landscape and the wonder of the seasons.

Number 8, High Street Pershore, WR10 1BG. Box Office: 01386 555488 www.number8.org

**For Arts Submissions
News & Events
email Kate at
arts@slapmag.co.uk**

Spoken Word



Last month was incredibly difficult and upsetting for those of us in the Worcestershire Spoken Word community, with the sudden passing away of **Kieran Davis**. We're all still trying to process it. He was the kindest and most supportive person, who would always help anybody out. I remember that when I thought I'd flunked the Worcestershire Poet Laureate competition, he took me outside for a ciggie and calmed me down. He performed at my book-launch, and at so many of the events that I've listed in SlapMag over the past few years. If you've been to a Spoken Word event in Worcester, you'll probably have seen him. He will truly be missed...

We are all now wondering if there is anything we could have done to have avoided this tragedy... In essence, if any of you out there are distressed, please speak to someone – a family member or a good friend (if they're a real friend, they won't freak out and they'll be there to talk you through your problems.) And yes, some things are simply too difficult to talk through with friends or family. I used to be a volunteer on a helpline, and I remember just how many of our callers could only say what they needed to say when they were able to speak to an anonymous stranger, somebody who they would never have to meet or acknowledge on the street, who would never know their name, someone sworn to absolute confidentiality, someone who would just listen, appreciate what they were going through, and help them through the dark moments. Please, for Kieran's sake, if you need some help, just speak to someone!... The phone numbers for Worcester Samaritans are 116 123 (free from any phone) or 0330 094 5717 (local call charges apply)

Spoken Word events Worcestershire throughout March –

Thursday 5th March – Bohemian Voices – at the **Worcester Arts Workshop**. This new monthly event began last year and has already built up quite a following - come along for a memorable night out with a lively atmosphere and a mix of music, Spoken

March at Worcester Arts Workshop

Alongside a programme of creative courses and workshops, **Worcester Arts Workshop** has a whole host of music, theatre and comedy events throughout March.

Bohemian Voices returns for another mix of live music, comedy and spoken word on Thursday 5 March, followed by **Desert Island Flicks**, a hilarious romp through the history of cinema on Friday 6 March.

WAW Quiz Night is back for another round on Thursday 26 March and on Friday 27 March **Three in One Productions**

Word and stand-up comedy! The performances will include the **Odetones**, with music and poetry, popular local poet **Fritz Cavelle** doing stand-up, and musician **Kringo Blue**. £5 admission (£2.50 students/unwaged) 8.30pm.

Thursday 5th March – Bewdley Fringe Spoken Word – at **The Retreat Bar**, Load Street, Bewdley. With special guest **Moggs** – hilarious poetry from the Black Country – once heard, never forgotten! Open mic slots available for poetry, spoken word and storytelling. Free admission - turn up at 7pm to sign up for a slot. 7.30pm start.

Thursday 12th March – SpeakEasy - at Paradiddles, 61/61a Sidbury WR1 3HU. Eclectic poetry, spoken word, randomness, and occasional music – plus the famous raffle! Our Featured Performer for March is **Maria T**, whose deeply-felt poetry explores family, society and the environment. £3 admission, 7.30pm.

Thursday 19th March Dear Listener – at **Boston Tea Party**, Angel Place, Worcester A regular early evening event of eclectic poetry and spoken word. Prepare to be excited and challenged! This month's headliner is Beth O'Brien. £3 adm. 6.30 – 8.30pm.

Saturday 28th March Earth Hour 2020 - at the **Worcester Art Workshop**. A low-impact evening of poetry, spoken word, music, food, drink and fun. This popular annual event is back – it's always a good night ! £5 admission (to include food.) Starts 7pm.

Tuesday 31st March 42 - at Drummonds Bar, behind the **Swan with Two Nicks - Life, the Universe and Everything** – prose and poetry – Worcester's alternative genre spoken word night featuring horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name. You never know what you'll hear at 42... This month marks 42's 9th Birthday – the first ever 42 was in March 2011, and it's been going strong ever since! This month's theme is 'Hangover' (after the celebration, it's an experience some of us might have the following morning...) Some pieces will be on theme, but it isn't essential! Write a piece that you can deliver in 5-7 mins and come along to read it.

To ask for a performance-slot, email: list@42worcester.com... Free entry. 7.30pm.

Also this month, the annual **LitFest** competitions are open – the **Young Writer Competition** is for writers aged between 7 and 17 in three age-categories, for stories of up to 300 words on the theme of 'Words and Pictures'. Winners get book vouchers and the opportunity to be published in a real book! **The Flash Fiction Competition** is for stories of up to 300 words on any theme... And finally – the big one! We are looking for the 10th **Worcestershire Poet Laureate!** It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work and promote poetry across the county and beyond. We need two poems of up to 40 lines, one on the theme of 'Masks and Portraits', the other on any theme. The closing date for all these competitions is April 30th. For further details, terms & conditions, go to worcesterlitfest.co.uk

Suz Winspear

presents *The Price of Coal*, a play that recalls the events of the Exhall Colliery Disaster of 1915.

On Friday 20 March **Bearded Lady Comedy** returns with another daytime baby comedy club. This month's confirmed acts include **Jo Enright** and **Geoff Boyz**.

There's also movie screenings including a free **Emerging Film Festival** in partnership with **The University of Worcester** on Friday 13 March and further WFI screenings.

For full events and workshop listings or to book visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk (please note online booking fees apply).

Piranha Poetry

Adam Horovitz, Spikey Tim, Tish Camp
The Ale House, Stroud | Monday 10th Feb

Piranha Poetry events have a long history. Originating in Edinburgh in 2003, then moving to Bristol in 2009, before settling in Stroud in 2018. Tonight's event is a second "birthday" celebration of its residency in the town.

To ensure the success of an evening that combines guest established poets with an open mic for contributions "from the floor" requires skill, graciousness and humour. The host, **Gary Death** has these qualities in abundance. His skills as compere and organiser guarantee that the evening moves along at a brisk pace. He also makes everyone feel welcome and creates an encouraging atmosphere for any poets from the floor. The open mic slots that start and conclude the evening (sandwiching the guest poets), present an eclectic range of poetic styles and content. There is even a singing introduction to the evening from the very strange, yet harmonic **Cup Full of Tentacles**.

Each of tonight's three guest poets performs their verses with great skill and verve. **Tish Camp** presents joyous poems that are influenced by her Trinidadian Irish heritage. She also movingly reflects on "rebounding through the grief" from the loss of her partner. **Spikey Tim** is endearingly silly and strikes a successful balance of self-deprecating humour and verse. Tonight, he is celebrating having one of his poems published – on a loaf of bread!



Adam Horovitz



Adam Horovitz's latest published collection, the accomplished and moving *"The Soil Never Sleeps"* celebrates the work of *Pasture for Life Farmers* as they seek to farm in a nature enhancing way. This night, in contrast, he presents a set of mostly new non-farming poems about rain and texting and many other things. Adam has a sublime ability to read his poems and produces a powerful and engaging performance.

If poetry is your thing you will be sure to enjoy **Piranha Poetry** nights. If you think that poetry is not your thing, you really should try them. Admission is free. **The Ale House** is a fine venue and an excellent pub. There is always a wide range of real ales, cider, perry and an open fire. All of that, and two hours performance poetry! What more could you want on a Monday evening?

Piranha Poetry takes place on the first Monday of every month in The Ale House, John Street, Stroud.

Words: Bob Fry Photos: Gary Death

Pride of Place 2020 - Hereford

Thurs, 26 March

Are rural areas getting a fair bite of the apple? **The Pride of Place 2020** conference is an arts, heritage and culture conversation in the heart of Herefordshire. Discuss culture-led rural regeneration with policy-makers, funders and cultural leaders, share innovative ideas, network with key organisations, and get your crucial questions answered. This is your chance to dig a little deeper into the role arts and heritage play in rural places across the UK.



The day will include Talks from:

Laura Dyer MBE, Deputy Chief Executive, Places & Engagement, Arts Council England.

Professor Simon Pemberton, Keele University. Author of Rural Regeneration in the UK.

Clive Fletcher, Principal Advisor and Lead Specialist, Historic Places, Historic England. Author of Historic England Places Strategy.

Conversations and breakout sessions with:

Rosie Millard, Chair of BBC Children in Need.

Justine Wheatley, CEO of PEAK: Art in the Black Mountains

Great Place: Lakes and Dales (Great Place Scheme)

Northern Heartlands (Great Place Scheme)

Create Gloucestershire

Herefordshire's A Great Place (Great Place Scheme)

Ferrous Festival

With thanks to **Arts Council England**, **National Lottery Heritage Fund** and the **Elmley Foundation** for supporting this event. Tickets will include all refreshments, lunch, and workshops.

The Green Dragon Hotel, Broad Street, Hereford. HR4 9BG
 09:30-17:00 Tickets £29

For more information JacquiG@ruralmedia.co.uk

For programme details www.the-shire.co.uk/prideofplace2020.

Art at Elmslie House

The **Blue Magpie Contemporary Craft Fair** at **Elmslie House**, Great Malvern returns a week ahead of Mothering Sunday to help you source a beautiful gift for your loved one. With over 28 designer-makers exhibiting in a changing line-up over two floors there is sure to be something for everyone.

Or if you'd like to come and either make something yourself to give as a present, or book your mum onto a workshop so she can make something for herself, we have the following opportunities running over the weekend:

Hand-build a beautiful porcelain vase - with Katie Robbins

Date & Time: Saturday 14th March, 1:30pm - 4pm

Hand-screen print Spring Postcards with Catherine Bowdler

Date & Time: Saturday 14th March / 9:30am-12noon

Polymer Clay: Buttons & Pendants with Sally Boehme

Date & Time: Sunday 15th March, 10am-12noon

Glass fusing in the microwave kiln with Clare Wainwright

Date & Time: Sunday 15th March, 1:30pm - 4pm

Each workshop ticket includes a coffee/ tea and some of the famous Elmslie House homemade cake.

Booking available via www.eventbrite.co.uk or see the **Elmslie House** and **Blue Magpie** Facebook pages.

If that wasn't enough, we also have the fantastic **Lucie Sheridan** with her **Rubbish Portrait Booth**. In just 10 minutes you too can take home your own portrait!

Admission is £2 for Adults, and for this you will be entered into a raffle to win a goody bag of designer-maker items to either give to your mum – or keep for yourself and you'll also get a wristband to allow you back as many times as you like for the duration of the weekend.



Opening times are Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March from 10.30 – 4.40pm daily.

Two cafés will be in operation throughout the weekend serving home-made cakes and savouries.

Follow the Magpie ...!!

Mother's Day Shopping with Blue Magpie Contemporary Craft Fair

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March

10.30 - 4.30pm £2 Admission (Children Free)



28 designer-makers exhibiting over 2 floors with a tea-room open all weekend

Why not book a place on one of our craft workshops or book a portrait for your mum?

For more info on exhibitors and more visit www.elmsliehouse.co.uk

Elmslie House, 8 Avenue Road, Malvern WR14 3AG

Script to Screen

The talent involved in creating and delivering an award winning TV show to millions of viewers daily cannot be underestimated.

Peter Lloyd, the series producer of BBC Daytime Series **'Doctors,'** will discuss the process of producing the show in our **'Script to Screen'** event at 7.30pm on the 2nd April at the Library and Resources Centre in Bromsgrove School.

'Doctors,' is filmed in Birmingham and is renowned for dealing with varied and cutting edge plot lines. The show will celebrate its 20th birthday in March this year. Peter was educated at South Bromsgrove High School and Aberystwyth University. He joined the BBC in 1997 and has



worked on a diverse catalogue of well-known shows, from “Dalziel and Pascoe” to “The Scarlet Pimpernel.”

Tickets for this event are £15.00 each and are available online via the WORDS Website: www.bromsgrovewords.com

Alternatively, tickets can be purchased from: WORDS, 13 Robins Hill Drive, Alvechurch, Worcestershire B48 7NJ

Please make cheques payable to WORDS and include your postal and email addresses.

Access to the Library and Resources centre on the evening will be via the Worcester Road Entrance and Car Park (B61 7HP)

2020 Women of Vision | Angela Fitch

For centuries women have simply accepted the perceived barriers that have thwarted their chances to make valued and significant contributions in the workplace and the economy as a whole. It took until the mid 20th Century for women to truly harness what has always been there: aspiration, confidence and determination and in doing so achieve fulfilling, successful and in many cases, hard-won careers.

In 2018 Worcestershire photographer, **Angela Fitch**, started to photograph women who have made it in a ‘man’s world.’ Her collection of 20 images opens at **The Hive** in Worcester this month and will tour across the county throughout 2020 and into 2021.

‘There has never been any doubt that women are equal, though not the same, as men. 2020 Women of Vision is not a feminist work, visitors to the exhibition will see it for what it actually is: a celebration of the incredible commitment and hard work of an increasing number of women who have carved great careers in traditionally male dominated arenas.

Of course, practicalities of the project make it impossible to cover every sector; indeed there are those which I have deliberately omitted as they are areas where women have always excelled. My hope is that the 2020 Women of Vision project will inspire the next generation who embark on their careers or return to work after a career break, to seize their opportunities, make changes, defy stereotypes and find success and contentment in whatever path they take.’

You can see **Women of Vision** at the Hive in Worcester from 5th-19th March. The exhibition then follows on to the **Jinny Ring Centre, Hanbury** (1 July - 12 Aug), **The Regal, Evesham** (1- 30 Sept) and **The Artrix, Bromsgrove** (1 - 31 March 2021).



The opening and closing exhibitions coincide with International Women’s Day 2020 and 2021

angela@angelaefitchphotography.co.uk



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Sunday 10.00 – 16.00

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Beth Hart + Kris Barras Duo Birmingham Symphony Hall | Sunday 9th Feb

Storm Ciara might be battering Birmingham with driving rain and howling wind but here inside the Symphony Hall the only storm threat is one that'll take place onstage. **Kris Barras** and his electric band's keyboardist, **Josiah Manning**, are taking their places, acoustic guitars at the ready.

Josiah is obviously a smarty-pants multi-instrumentalist, stomping bass pedals at his feet, pumping his way into "What You Get", lifted from Light It Up. Kris provides a gritty vocal and some lovely, decorative fingerpicking as the rhythm flows forward. He tells us that "Rain" was written as an acoustic but had turned electric by the time it was recorded. Either version would be happily appropriate for this weekend and the duo are going down nicely with the ever-crowded hall. Kris leans into the Allman Brothers' classic, "Midnight Rider", for a beautifully presented rendition aided by Josiah's harmonising vocal. The set seems all too short, and before long Kris is driving into the song that first catapulted him into the limelight. The audience stand to "Hail Mary", showing their appreciation for this moreish taster.



There's an air of expectancy in the full house, as the lights dim and shadowy figures emerge to take their places onstage. The band strike up and Beth steps in from the wings, resplendent in sparkling black and red. The fabulous "Love Is A Lie" powers out, drums pummelled by the venomous strike of **Bill Ransom**, grounded by the subtle solidity of Tom Lilly's bass. Long-serving guitarist **Jon Nichols** is at home onstage, his Gibson slung somewhere down by his knees - he must have the reach of Floyd Mayweather. Beth moves on, to the slinky, jazz-edged "Why Don't You Do Right?" a classic Peggy Lee, it sits nicely in Beth's

repertoire; sultry and beautiful, pitched between Peggy's tempo, and that of Roger Rabbit's animated Amy Irving.

The tempo drops further for the gorgeous, "Your Heart Is As Black As Night", and Beth is in divine form, compelling us to cosy up to this luxurious selection of opening songs. Lifted from *War In Mind*, the impassioned ballad "Rub Me For Luck" charges the atmosphere; the battle rages, building slowly, "there's blood on the wall", it's powerfully dark and irresistible. "Bad Woman Blues" shoulders its way in, with an attitude and swagger that can't be ignored. Bill crashes down on the cymbals, and Beth's got 'em bad.

The band slip away, leaving Beth alone cradling an acoustic bass, to deliver the edgy "Isolation" - turning inwards to face the darkest corners of imagination, a place where "Spiders" lurk. Piano solo's follow, with Beth comfortably seated at the Grand, instinctively caressing the keys. Seated in the audience are her sister and niece, and emotions are high and, as Beth sings "Sister Dear", she breaks down into tears before inviting her sister to share her seat at the piano. Soul stripped bare, it's an emotive and moving moment that is followed through with the stunning, "Baddest Blues", burning deep and slow. Time to kick things up a gear or two, a bit of audience participation is called for, and the rhythm is intoxicating as Beth conducts "Money Back". "Hey you, you

mother f****r, gimme my money back!" Our choral response resounds through the Symphony Hall, echoing, the Hall shouts back.

Jon, Bill and Beth sit above the stalls, as Tom stands up to his double for a Latinesque "Baby Shot Me Down", that has big Bill brushing a cahon, before Beth slips into French Café mode - think Edith Piaf meets Marlene Dietrich - for a sexy, "If I Tell You I Love You". Bill's adding all sorts of percussive touches, blocks, bells and shells; a gourmet feast with champagne to bathe in. We're winding toward the end of a stupendous evening, and Beth gives the passion-wringer an extra turn, with Etta James's "I'd Rather Go Blind", gobsmackingly gorgeous.

I'm lucky enough to have seen Beth a few times over the years, and I can honestly say that I think this outshines all those magical shows, even the first with Jo Bonamassa, in the amazing setting of Hampton Court. Beth fizzes with energy, and the connection she builds with her audience is tight, personal, sharing the moment through the music we all love. Needless to say, there is a long, long standing ovation. A few slip away - travel is difficult this evening - but the deafening applause and waving arms continue until, of course, she returns to the stage, settling at the piano and we're at one with her. Tom strums deep, rich double bass, "With Only Words In The Way" slips out gently, taken from that superb album, *War In Mind*. Applause fills the air once again, as Beth takes a final bow with the boys; the end of a memorable show and one I will long treasure.

Graham Munn

Who's F*ckin Planet

Martyn Goodacre's

Images of London Squat Culture 1980s-90s

Who's F*ckin Planet is the new book by self-proclaimed 'Malvern boy gone bad' **Martyn Goodacre** aka **Aki**. A renowned rock & roll photographer Martyn captured many iconic bands and artists whilst working as a freelancer for the music press throughout the 1990's. But this publication exhibits the period before that, the early 80's when Martyn, Ronnie and a few others began the exodus from Malvern to Elephant and Castle. Squatting in Southeast London they were provided 'free' accommodation by the squat committee. A hardened band of gypsies, punks, squatters and new age travellers who took it upon themselves to populate the 100's of empty council properties in an area described by Martyn as *'dirty, messy, rundown, dangerous and very very exciting'*. It was a wild time in our lives and one I remember affectionately from regular weekend visits.



Raised in The Hills and known as Aki by all of his contemporaries Martyn was heavily involved in the grass roots of the local punk scene featuring in such bands as **Pussy Whipped**, **The Great Ethnics & Bandeito Bandeko** and later the punk revival outfit **Fabulous**. He regularly published a fanzine **Tea 'n Toast**, a first for the Worcester area featuring reviews and photos of gigs and the arts remind you of anything? Rolled out on an old photocopier, of course it was nothing as suave and sophisticated as Slap magazine, but it was essentially an early pre-cursor to it.

Aki is always the drive behind any collective he is involved in. He is a go getter. He doesn't wait for things to happen he makes things happen. Rarely without his camera, back in our late teens and early twenties he was constantly capturing life. It is his passion and one that has led him to rub shoulders with some of the biggest names in the international music business. **The Stones**, **The Who** and of course there was 'that' photo of **Cobain**. But this new publication shows a different side to his talents. A personal photographic diary of the lives of squatters and New Age Travellers in 80's and 90's England. A visual record, a snapshot of



history in a time when the unemployment rate was 1 in 10 and when a group pushed to the edge of society banded and boarded together to live, eat, demonstrate, perform, create and say F*CK YOU to the government.

Now living in Berlin, Martyn is showcasing a number of the images featured in the book at an exhibition which opened on 21st February at **Das Gift**, Neukölln, Berlin, and hopes to bring it to the UK later this year. The book is published by **Coldlips** Ltd edition.

Below is Martyn in the window of **Das Gift** in Neukölln in South East Berlin. Birthplace of influential musician Alexander Hacke and Christiana F. author of *Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo*.



The exhibition, **Who's F*ckin Planet** (taken from the T-shirt of influential band **Back to the Planet**) will also feature images from the new age traveller community, protesters and general life in London during the 1980s/90s.



<http://martyngoodacre.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/martyn.goodacre/>

Words of Warr

Nightblade Ignorance Is Bliss

Kidderminster based, **Nightblade**, originally formed in 2010 with a debut album, *Servant To Your Lair* following the year after. Rock monthly Metal Hammer picked up on the album and featured the band, helping them and the disc gain a great deal of support. Following a lengthy UK tour, the band began work on a follow-up album, with *Closer To The Threshold* arriving in 2013 to critical acclaim both home and abroad. The second album saw **Nightblade** tread the boards at such prestigious venues as the 100 Club and the 02. That popularity continued through to 2015 and the release of their *Crisis Has No Prejudice* EP, resulting in high profile slots with the likes of Wolfsbane and Diamond Head and continued popularity across the globe.

This year sees a new look **Nightblade** return with a brand new full length album, in the shape of the ten-track, *Ignorance Is Bliss*. A disc that sees the band wear their NWOBHM influences proudly on their battered leathers as they run into battle with a collection of razor sharp riffs and a driving rhythm section.

The title track acts as bold statement of intent as **Sam David** cranks his axe to eleven and delivers an instantly memorable, muscular riff. The rhythm section of **Tim Cutcliffe** (bass) and **Rich Lawley** (drums) thunder into view, prior to introducing the

Dickinson-esque vocals of **Crosby**, who leads the band through a taut and powerful opening salvo. *Steering Wheel* continues in much the same vein, a classic metallic riff combines with a bludgeoning rhythm section, while Crosby snarls and hollers his way towards an impressive choral hook. *Only You* really begins to set **Nightblade** apart from the crowd, with a throbbing bass intro and an unexpected Crosby rock croon. The band deliver what can only be described as a 'big ballsy, near ballad complete with claws'.

From there **Nightblade** strip things back further as a melodic guitar and a restrained Crosby vocal signal the first of two seven minute epics. *Never Take For Granted* - a track that builds from humble beginnings into a towering anthem, complete with military like drums and David's swooping guitar. The band probably save the best for last with the penultimate ballad, *Find The Strength Within*. Soaring in all the right places courtesy of David's expressive guitar (and a previously unheard touch of piano). The concluding *Stop* showcasing a condensed, frantic **Nightblade**, galloping off into the sunset leaving the listener gasping for more.

As I alluded to early, **Nightblade** wear their influences loud and proud for all to see, but when they're capable of delivering an album as impressive as this, ignorance is bliss!!!

www.nightblade.co.uk

Will Munn



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Martin Thorne & Company Feel The Fire

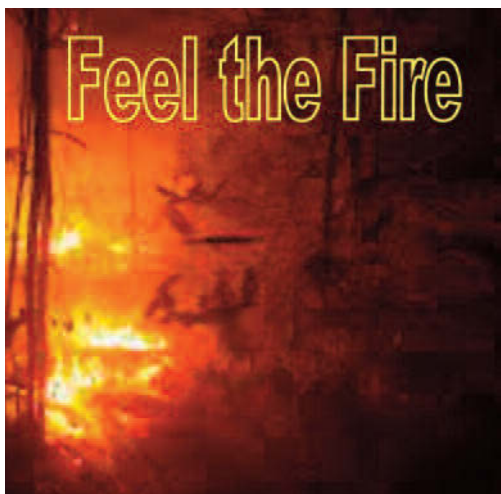
Martin Thorne has been finding audiences around Worcestershire for nearly 20 years, having become the first licensed busker on the streets of Worcester, after much lobbying, back in '81. This ground-breaking move has seen our city centre become a cultural home to innumerable musicians over the years, and whilst not all of us have Martin's ability, the 'open doors' policy has given our streets a little soul.

His music is described as improvisational folk formed through freebase jazz, and I'm not about to argue with that. Martin's gathered company comprises **Sam Ware**, percussion; **Tim Cranmore**, clarinet and piano; **Gwyn Norton**, electric bass; **Lorna Joy Davies**, flute and cello; and **Charlie Lunn** providing backing vocals. The resultant album is eclectic and strangely involving; a fusion of sound that emits an aura of warmth and magic mushrooms (well not literally - at least I don't think so)!

Title track "*Feel The Fire*" has a chilled yet dark feel, with deep slices of cello, brushed snare and stark piano, to echo lyrics testifying to denial while staring into the abyss. The messages carried in these songs are warnings that can't be ignored anymore, maybe it's already too late. "*It's Very Real*" will keep you

focused; ready to undertake, "*Roll Me To The Right*", with its hauntingly low, slow, pulsing bass. Clarinet weaves alongside Martin's lyrics, that worm their way into your psyche; weird and wonderful. I hit repeat and hear the lap slide underneath - this is dark and delicious. Think Wicker Man, with **Martin Thorne & Company** circling around, chanting their incantations.

Just the title "*Refugee*" is description enough, combined with a



comforting backwash of acoustic rhythm and flute. That addictive, low, rhythmic throb returns, with swooping, vulture-istic flights of electric guitar; they're "*Taking It Down*", all the way to the bottom. Equally irresistible is an esoteric invention driven by hand drums and some magical flute, as Martin asks us to "*Wake Up*". The album closes on the deliciously crafted, "*It All Adds Up To Love*": short and very sweet.

I would not normally pick up something like this album, but I'm pleased to have been passed this particular baton by our esteemed editor. I cannot give any qualified opinion on the superbly free-formed rhythms laced over

Martin's framework. Suffice to say, there is an awful lot to enjoy in the sound, even if the messages are dire warnings of a bleak future. A perfect choice for ageing hippies, giving homage to their plant life (I'm not saying which plant), and anyone who wants to explore such intriguing music or just appreciate this strangely absorbing collection of songs. *Feel The Fire* owes itself, in part, to **Ben Okafor's** charity, **Amaka Beautiful Child**, and Ben joins the group to feature on "*Taking It Down*".

Graham Munn

Dan Knight | The Violence

From the imagined crepuscular and perhaps foetid depths of a Worcester bedroom comes this quintet of quintessential dance-oriented and disorienting dark techno blasts.

You may recognise the name **Dan Knight** from the very pages of this mighty organ (steady! *Ed*) as this renaissance man is a king of keyboards both lexical and musical.

First off *Cubical* announces itself with a stark strident beat introducing not just one or two but three basslines to the fray topped off with a catchy as hookline over the top, bringing to mind an early Detroit techno classic.

Followed by *The Wheel* which unsurprisingly evokes a motorik feel as the foreboding throb of woozy bass moves us magically in a minimal way: difficult not to mention the titans of transport obsessed tunes Kraftwerk when such musik is in motion.

C17H18F3NO may be a familiar title to fellow depression sufferers as the chemical structure of fluoxetine known better as prozac. My ears hear this as Dan reacting positively to the drug as the piece has a euphoric buzz about it. Got a groove which reminds me of Orbital's Chime which is a very beautiful thing.

Mid Term Technical Note: for all you dancehall movers this EP runs at around the 124-128 BPM mark just to let you know where we're at.

Onto the title track *The Violence* which aptly sets out its darkened techno intentions with sharp synth stabs & a menacingly insistent go-on-then bassline. To his credit Dan never loses his sense of melody amidst this black buzzing beat bolero.

The final track *Departure* fittingly speeds us to the finish with an elegiac tune & magisterial melody complementing the nicely building shrieks & screams of synth which I would have been happy to listen to for a couple more minutes before it blisses out.

The Violence is an eminently and constantly interesting work from a name you should watch as there is doubtless much

more high quality music sure to emanate from this man's mercurial mind.

A compelling listen and a total treat for your auricular orifices, *The Violence* is available from danknight95.bandcamp.com.

Words by Cynthia Soundz



Flying Ant Day Do The Flying Ant

Flying Ant Day - one of the region's most endearing live acts, return with their eagerly awaited second studio album. The twelve track '*Do The Flying Ant*' has a similar 60s beat/punk tempo to 2018's debut '*Lemmings*' and fans of the band will be delighted.

While the raw sound could easily sit alongside 1964 era Kinks, the narrative is very much set in modern times.

Front man **Bodmin Moore** is a wonderfully peculiar talent.

A prolific lyricist, currently spreading his words comfortably between three bands (to my knowledge at least - there may be more!) A delightful mix of hard hitting observation, poetic imagery, wry humour, wistful day dreaming and warm nostalgia; the unique range of subject matter never fails to surprise and delight.



Self produced (assisted by the vastly experienced **Steve Foxall**) and mastered by **Claptrap** supremo **Sean Lloyd**, the album showcases **Steve Lowe's** punchy, melodic bass to great effect, particularly on the opening track, *When I'm Dead*.

Sticks man **Carl Bayliss** not only lays down the infectious beat but also leads the canary-like backing vocals; while **Andrew Boswell's** reverb heavy guitar lines are both ambitious and inventive, at times evoking the spirit of a young Hank Marvin.

There are too many highlights to mention here, but personal favourites include *Glen Marnoch*, *Kirsten*, the bittersweet *Escape To Barmouth* and the downright hilarious *The Night The Drifters All Came Back*.

The band celebrate the release with a special Sunday afternoon launch show on 8th March at the ever wonderful **Claptrap the Venue** in Stourbridge. Special guests are the effortlessly stylish Parisian mod/pop outfit **French Boutik** and admission is a mere £3 on-the-door. Please note that an early arrival (from 4pm) is advised.

Terence Stomp

Darla Jade | Overcrowded

One of the reasons I write blogs and reviews is because there is so much going on in my head, the release of getting it "out there" is a way of giving my brain a break.

The new release from **Darla Jade**, titled "*Overcrowded*" perfectly sums up the feelings I experience when everything gets a bit too much.

The single from Staffordshire based singer / songwriter is set to be released on 7th February, and is quoted as being one of the most honest songs she's created to date. Dealing with the challenges that people dealing with mental health issues, such as OCD and anxiety, face on a daily basis, this song is like a warm hug embracing you and reassuring you that you aren't alone.



A soft intro leads the way perfectly into angelic vocals, with a story so heartfelt, it feels like we're being allowed to read a private diary entry. The music stays subtle and gentle throughout lending support for the singer to tell her story without being overpowered. For me, the song takes on a dream like quality as it reaches its conclusion, with whimsical tinkling, an indication that the mind is a fragile place, easily shattered.

This song is nothing short of beautiful. It's confirmation for me that music is indeed a form of escapism, and the fact it was written about issues that she and some people close to her have experienced first hand, makes it even more special for me. A song written about personal experiences is so, so powerful. A brave move too, to wear your heart on your sleeve so openly.

After an exciting 2019, seeing the release of her first single "*This Time*", and writing an albums worth of material in Thailand, which is where "*Overcrowded*" was written, Darla Jade is hoping to continue her success and up the momentum in 2020. Watch this space, I have a feeling this could be her year.

Kate Ford

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Troy Redfern This Raging Heart

Troy is renowned for savage slide attack and a granular voice like stone chippings. A 'Marmite' mix? I like Marmite. Based in Hay on Wye, Troy recorded 10 track *This Raging Heart* at **Dark Horse Studios** in Wales, all instruments and engineering solely in Troy's Hands, only mastering done out of house.

Admit it, you'd be disappointed if there wasn't the throat tearing vocals vying with scorching slide guitar attacks. Yes! there's plenty of that. There's Troy the impregnable bastion that takes no prisoners, the blitzkrieg of *'Wrong Side of the Tracks'*, *'Left For Dead'* and, suitably labelled, *'Slash And Burn'* and, be honest, you would feel short changed if there wasn't.

Less menacing the Troy's inner walls, as it were, reveal more melodic, sliding gritty voiced, yet more 'comfortable' rhythms. *'Tonight'* slides down easily with a swaggering canter, reined in from the galloping express that can lose its shape. *'It Ain't Easy'* could comfortably sit in a radio play list with its double beat, 'cleaner' vocal line, engaging guitar, and sweeter slide. A bit of light, to contrast with the dark, subterranean blues of *'My Oh My'*, deep and demonically dirty, yet some lovely touches that give glimpses of light - an easy tempo that sits easily in your mind. Gritty, full of attitude but with a lovely swing rhythm, *'Don't Let Me Down'*, will soon have you moving to the groove.



Then Troy's gates are thrown open and we see Elysium rising from the Aegean seas, ethereal delicacies to be savoured. An infectious, African drum and bass pumps in, mellow lyrics (why has Phil Collins just popped into my head?) and delta slide adds to the atmospheric *'Engraved'*. Absolutely superb, it's going to cut a deep, lasting furrow in your mind. *'In Memories'*, with its honey sweet slide, is an esoteric though short journey that's hauntingly beautiful; obviously meaningful to Troy himself but free of lyrics, you can add your own inner reflections to this short piece.

Now the walls have been torn down we can drift across into the Mississippi Delta and wallow in the lovely spirited blues of *'On My Knees'*, with silken slide and dark mellow guitar, underpinned with an intoxicating rhythm - a beautiful track.

This Raging Heart is a fascinating album. **Troy Redfern** is often viewed as a ferocious, hard, even frantic, guitarist, with a vocal attack to match and undeniably those songs are evident in this album. BUT, there are also some plainly

beautiful, intriguing songs that have been brilliantly crafted by Troy. Overall, I really like this solo release: a sort of moonscape, with craggy craters, desert plains, and mystical valleys, revealing ethereal (arcane) vibes, temptations that can't be ignored. Get yourself a copy at one of his gigs, and surprise yourself - you're going to like it.

Graham Munn

Chloe Mogg Judgement Day

Although this rainbow haired beauty has been gigging almost constantly, proving herself to be a dedicated, hard working artist, *"Judgement Day"* is her first new release in two years.

West Midlands based **Chloe Mogg** is often heard performing lyrically beautiful alternative folk songs, this new single is pushing her boundaries wide open to encompass a much wider mix of genres which I feel will appeal to an even wider audience in return.

With the likes of Billie Eilish taking over the charts, female vocalists are getting more recognition than ever before, and this sultry trip hop number is the perfect way for Chloe to plant her flag on the music industry and show she means business.

Judgement Day was written years ago, and confronts her fear of love, and finding out if love is reciprocated, and is a track that stands defiant whatever the outcome of the quest is.



It's industrial sound, and gritty backing track was mostly self-produced, and was arranged and mixed with the help of **Mirron Webb**, guitarist for Chloe and known locally as a member of **Hey Jester**. The combination of music and vocal, create an eerie beauty, an air of gothic decadence, and a smoky embrace. It's a strong track which would hold its own amongst any other female solo artist around at the moment. Equally sultry guitar just makes you wanna dim the lights, burn some candles and sip on a glass of wine. Mood inducing at its best.

The same laid back pace is kept throughout the track, and Chloe's liquid smooth vocals flow effortlessly over a beautiful cacophony of music, reminding me of early tracks from Dido. Chloes influences of Alanis Morissette and Björk are apparent in her work, in the way that the lyrics and the message they hold are truly personal. An artist that vows to stay as true to herself as possible will always deliver tracks designed to strike a chord amongst us.

Judgement Day will be released on 14th March and her debut album, which is currently being recorded, will be available later this year.

Kate Ford

The White Feather Collective Born Too Young

It's been a wee while since we've heard anything from Malvern based psych surf heroes, **The White Feather Collective**. They were last seen heading into the infamous **Toe Rag Studios** back in April last year, and bar a couple of social media posts, the quartet have been somewhere under the radar or as a more recent social media post put it, the band have been taking it 'easy and breezy'. But January saw the band finally saunter back into view, with the release of a brand new six-track EP, entitled '*Born Too Young*'.

The band's return has been well worth the wait, opening with *The Squeeze*, the band kick off proceedings with a glorious surf inspired riff (courtesy of **Will Turner**), before a jangly 60's styled melody takes over, propelled by a hip shaking, toe-tapping rhythm (bassist, **Roo Macphee** and drummer, **Chris Reynolds**) and topped by the infectious Morrison like lead from **Josh Lambe**. Weighing in at around three and a quarter minutes the band set their stall from the off, with their addictive retro sound that we've become so accustomed to.



Near two and half minute instrumental, *Parakeets*, follows, once again showcasing those surf elements to the band's sound alongside those prominent sixties elements as the band kick into an instant groove. *Commit Your Head* moves from a Doors (minus the keys) like opening into a more ragged garage feel as Turner cranks out the riffs at an increasing velocity as the 'Collective race through an essential three minute burst.

From there *The Man Who's Damned* changes direction and pace with Lambe alternating from a 60's croon to an impassioned holler at ease. Whilst the title track couldn't be more aptly named for a band that liberally plunders all the best bits from yesteryear, shakes them up and re-delivers them as cohesive anthems in their own right.

The White Feather Collective are back, the balance of 'universal harmony' (see *what you did there - ed*), is restored and we have a reason to dust down those flares lurking at the bottom of the wardrobe and bust out those retro moves we all learned from watching Woodstock.

Will Munn

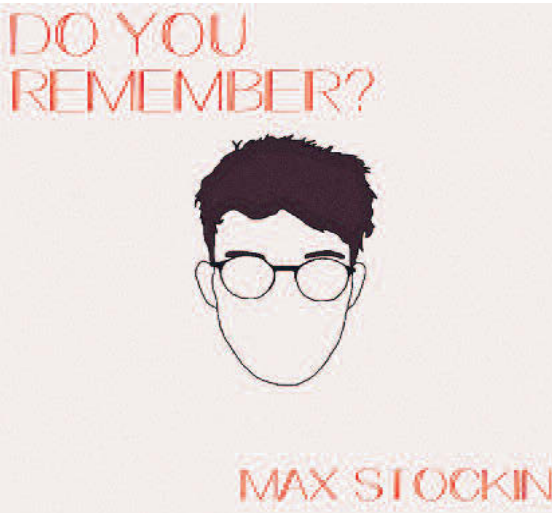
A song about longing for someone, wanting to be with someone even though deep down knowing that'll it probably end in heart ache.

This is a funky upbeat track reminiscent of offerings from the likes of Harry Styles since he's gone solo and gotten cooler, but the mid section drops to a mellow groove to introduce the sting in the tail of the message, questioning whether the plan was to end in heartbreak from the start.

With clever effects on the backing vocals that have been mixed in, this is a song that sounds well produced and professional, after just a couple of listens, I found it to be easy listening and wildy infectious. A beautifully written track, and Max's vocals are distinctive, which will certainly help with forging his way to creating that unique sound. The track also makes me think of upcoming artist JP Paxe, whose solo tracks and more recent collaboration with Julia Michaels are mood enducing chill out tunes, and with all the mayhem going on in the world, we could all do with a little chilling out. Stick this track on if you wanna move and groove, and follow **Max Stockin Music** on Facebook for more news on his upcoming releases.

Kate Ford

Max Stockin | Better to Burn



Perhaps a new name on the local music scene, but certainly not a new face. **Max Stockin** is probably better known as one half of **The Fidgets**, a band much loved in the West Midlands, and well known for busking in the streets with their upbeat renditions of songs from the 60s.

Singer/ songwriter Max is now embarking on a solo career with new single "*Better To Burn*". In a video released on his Facebook page, Max explains that the song started with the guitar riff and chords, inbetween sets at a gig in Worcester. The lyrics were built around it, and the chorus was redeveloped in the studio with the help of his producer Ben.

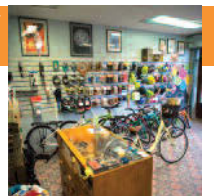
With a passion for fusing classic chord progressions from the 50s and 60s with contemporary recording techniques, Max is hoping to create a unique sound, and "*Better to Burn*" is certainly is a wholesome start.

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Choked | Blood Sport

Clearly, the members of any band want to see their name up in neon – for their Warholian 15 minutes of fame – and I guess this debuting band is no different. **Choked** are an amalgam of **Jonny Parkin** on guitar, **Dave Jones** on drums, **Leonardo Di Piccolo** on bass and **Sam Lennox** Vox...and you never quite forget that their new debut EP is made up of these four different elements.

The elemental lyrics are as direct as a middle-class stare cast when you have broken protocol by not telling a humble-bragging yummy-mummy that her child is doing well. **Choked** lyrics are reminiscent of Crass who were notorious for writing lyrics in this manner/with a dismissive stance against punctuation/ Furthermore, one senses Choked's protest lyrics were sprayed on an estate wall, originally, rather than written in a 99p jotter from the BookPeople.

Crass were not interested in any social order – "*There Is No Authority But Yourself*" – and Choked in homage to the anarcho-punk legacy are not interested in the world order dictated to us. The accusatory opening track, *Two Can Play*, is determined to confront, with wide arcs of rattle-can venom, and bring the

"system" and the "machine" if not to justice, then down! These invisible forces on society, perceived wrong doings that will be held responsible for and held up in the natural courts of social injustice: our pubs, litter strewn carparks, misty windowed cafes and begrudging workplaces.

The five track Ep's titular track, *Blood Sport*, aided with a rumbling bass intro, is an angry diatribe against blood sports from the perspective of the fox: "*I am the hunted, I am the hunted,*" before concluding: "*your tradition means nothing to me.*" With the aid of the incised guitar chops the protest song rips apart the notion that the "*inedible being chased by the unspeakable,*" is a moral argument that has more than one reasonable outcome.

The reasonable perspective of *Blind Faith* is the futility of organised religion. Questioning the injustices in life – "*A child beaten black and blue...another life was taken while you were busy praying*" – and with the evidence presented it is not difficult to appreciate the sentiment. How can these unfair acts continue if there is an actual God? "*I look to God and the sky is empty....*"

Choked eschew contemporary musical trends preferring instead their own brand of soaring guitar solos in the background, bass lines that make up their own meandering rhythms and let's be elementarily clear Lennox's voice is more Poly Styrene, or even more Eve Libertine than Annie Lennox but I think her conscience is clear...

Sir Gonzo



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Release The Hound Movement In Time

Release The Hound are a brand new Worcestershire based trio who, as far as I can tell, have barely played a gig and yet despite their infant steps, they've just released one of the most impressive local debuts I've heard in a long time.

The six-track *Movement In Time* is hard to pin down or describe as a certain sound or genre as the trio effortlessly glide between melody and controlled chaos, driving rhythms part oceans of shimmering guitars, while frontman (and guitarist), **Rupert Lewis** offers a weary outlook on a decaying world, delivering hard hitting lyrics with an accessible bite.

Call Of The Ocean opens proceedings with those aforementioned guitar shimmies before bassist, **Ben Blackshaw** and drummer **Ali Davis** unite to lay down an impressive almost funky groove. Lewis propels the track with a collection of searching stoner riffs, before suddenly taking flight with an 70's

psych-tinged solo bringing the track to an impressive crescendo. Following the 'Hound's' startling opening salvo, *Superblood* again opens with the sound of a restrained Lewis, bubbling bass and tapped rhythms. Then a quick time change and a gravelly Lewis sends the track spinning off in a different direction, perhaps even hinting at fellow local (faves) *Nuns Of The Tundra* and their ability to change at the drop of a dime.



Melodic groove-laden beginnings of *Exit From Reality* explores the current confusion over the current British socio-political landscape, soundtracking our worries with an increasing volley of riffs and drums. By *Restraint*, the 'Hound are off the leash, weaving intoxicating prime time Faith No More like grooves with chugging metallic riffs and a whispered mid section, as the band continue to bend compelling new shapes.

The penultimate *Scourge* takes another wry look of the state of the nation - we're all in this together - over a slab of gritty, grunge guitars before *Release The Hound* marry up the perfect combination of melody and power as they glide through the gears one final time on the EP's mesmeric seven and half minute title track, laying down a final exclamation point on a fascinating debut of twists and turns.

Will Munn

Liberty Lies | Letters

Black Country rockers **Liberty Lies** have been steadily establishing themselves as ones to watch over past couple of years, treading the boards with the likes of Shinedown, Halestorm, Mike Monroe and Rival Sons among others. A storming opening set at last year's Steelhouse on the mainstage (prior to Temperance Movement, Gun and Thunder no less!!!) and two slots at Hard Rock Hell has seen the band's profile continue to rise.

2019 also saw the release of a couple of singles and the 'Lies' second album, *It's The Hope That Kills You*, a disc that saw the band pick-up much deserved plaudits from likes of national rock and metal mag, Powerplay and radio airplay from both Kerrang! and Planet Rock. In a bid to continue their momentum into 2020, the band have lifted a further track from the aforementioned album in the shape of *Letters* as their new single.



West Bromwich Albion football club has already given the track airplay during the half time interval at their recent game against Stoke. In contrast to their previously released singles, *Letters* sees the band strip things back to deliver something of a soulful, yet powerful rock ballad, highlighting the incredible vocal exploits of **Shaun Richards** at their absolute best. That must have sounded amazing echoing round the Hawthorns.

Opening with an acoustic guitar and a tender Richards' lead, **Liberty Lies** set the mood for a moving ballad. But read deeper into the lyrics and watching the video there's more going on than first meets the eye. By the time the melodic electric guitars of **Josh Pritchett** surface, you realise the longing looks are one way traffic as Shaun yearns for all he's worth. The rhythm section of **Adam Stevens** (drums) and **Miles Bagshaw** (bass), drive the track to a towering crescendo that sees Richards wringing out every last drop of emotion during a stunning conclusion.

Liberty Lies have opened their 2020 with a real bang, expect to be hearing a great deal more from the Black Country's latest rock export as the year moves on.

Will Munn

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife | Swayed

I'm not sure if there's a friendly competition running between **Emma Howett** and **Pete Adams** for the title of most productive musician, but currently they stand neck and neck with a multitude of projects, each one no less essential listening.

Currently I know that Emma is busy beavering away on both **Fix Me Margo** and new solo material, but her first release of the year is with her Chevy Chase... brothers in the form of new single, *Swayed*.



The three and a half minute track sees Chevy Chase at their most muscular, led by a **Neil Burton** drum tattoo and a striking **Stu Silcock** riff, before dropping down to **Jamie Raynor's** bubbling bass and a defiant lead by Howett, only for the guitars to return to the mix as the band swagger towards the songs instantly infectious vocal refrain. Throw in a short sharp solo and a hearty Howett holler, bottle up and shake before serving and voila another gloriously, fizzy slab of addictive indie-pop-rock is delivered.

Of course with all this **Emma Howett** activity in the studio the real winner is the music fan, as we won't have to wait long for her next delivery, whether that's with Chevy Chase or one of her other projects, you can guarantee you'll have a chorus bouncing around your noggin' for the next week or two.

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Will Munn



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Hardwicke Circus

The Prince of Wales | 20th Feb

The lads from sunny Carlisle found their way back down to the POW at Ledbury for the third time and, I'm pleased to say, I've been present at all. I'm not the only one. The place was packed, emulating the 6 piece band wedged into their allotted space - 4 keyboards, 3 guitars, sax and drums, plus all the accompanying amps, speaker boxes and bits, which conspire to bring their sound that harks back to the fledgling 60s clubs. Good enough for the Cavern? Better than many that have stepped into that hallowed vault.



Up front is the Jagger swagger lead vocalist, Jonny. He connects with the tight knot of newly acquired fans as easily as a road weary veteran, his warm Carlisle accent not dissimilar from someone with a heavy cold! Jack, to his right, is pent up; his style has the flamboyance of a Pete Townsend, manacled by the tight constraints. To the left, the confident if confined bass with its long neck, kept safe by Ben. Andy stands tight, sideways on sax, facing a hyper charged Lewis on his banks of keys, whilst Tom, sat low surrounded by his drums, works up the rhythm and timing but is hidden from our view.

They pull songs from their recordings - there's plenty to enjoy - with elements of early Stones, Berlin Beatles, some Tom Petty, Who, Doors and a myriad of other influences but the overall vibe is 60s and 70s. It's real, and sounds great.

Talking of Petty, '*Nowhere Left To Run*', seems a good place to start. Jonny throws his voice in, Lewis gets busy, Jack pouts and flits across his Gibson tucked in tight and Andy adds some lovely sax as the song swings through beautifully. Ben has his chance to lead vocals for '*Ride On The Tracks*' with Jonny and Jack chorusing in, Jack has his moment bending strings and flexing the neck. Jonny fills in the gaps with his easy banter and Jack leads in with a thundering drumfire - it's all about a heartless '*Woman*'. Strident keyboards and boogying guitars bring the momentum for this firecracker of a song.

I'm finding it hard going to keep up the song titles as the songs rattle by like a roller coaster - sod it, '*Lets Make New Mistakes*', (I'm winging it now!). This is all about the groove. They have the whole pub in the palm of their collective hands, including a good sprinkling of local, well respected, musicians all drawn to this band. Have I bigged them up too much? Two old friends have come up from South Devon but they're smiling and buy me a beer (phew!).

A thunderous '*Broken Angel*' flies by and we're wired up and put way '*Down In The Hole*'. The clock is racing and it's a long way from Carlisle - time for a bit of audience help for the infectious '*Hands Up Don't Shoot*'. The two bars respond in unison, it's a stick up that surrenders to the night.

Another brilliantly engaging session at the wonderful **Prince of Wales**. All this happened (not necessarily in that order!) but there's more ... **Hardwicke Circus** are returning once again for a Sunday afternoon session, April 26th, so for those who haven't found this band yet, there's another opportunity. Miss them at your peril.

Graham Munn

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Anna Watts



The Salts

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The Salts are one of the most exciting and energetic folk concepts around, performing original material alongside their own interpretations of traditional songs we all know and love. The band features five seasoned musicians:- Brian Doran, Lee Collinson, Jeremy Hart, Richard Nash and Tim Cantrell producing great harmonies backed by thumping beats and delivered with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Guaranteed to get the crowd singing and dancing along. Their latest album 'Brave' has received rave reviews and radio plays around the world.

"unafraid to blend, develop and move folk forward while still retaining an abiding and healthy respect for tradition. And sometimes along the way taking the tradition to places it never thought to go." - Folk Words

"Incredibly gutsy stuff with a big sound." - Mike Harding

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INNAWORX

Worcester Arts Workshop | Feb 21st

I can confidently announce that the tiresome acronym **NEHIW**, which stands for **Nothing Ever Happens In Worcestershire** is a complete falsehood. And, in the **Worcester Arts Workshop**, emerging from the drenched depths of Storm Dennis, a growing collective of eclectic musicians, synth builders and visual artists, were crafting a **NEW** acronym in the art centre's famous bunkers. **SIHIW** (*Something Is Happening In Worcestershire*)

So for the uninitiated, you are going to need a quick guide.

Firstly you'll need to know that this incredible little showcase called **Innaworx**, was hosted by **Inwards**, a rising star in the electronic music scene not only locally, but nationally - airplay on Radios 1 and 6, and has a forthcoming album release which will not go unnoticed. He spearheads a movement of impressive upcoming talent locally.

Secondly, it was not so much a gig, but a collective workshop - a space to perform, network, and collaborate. Away from the main stage was a room where you could play with the gear, talk about oscillators and drum patterns, gawp at some of the incredible electronic music setups on show.

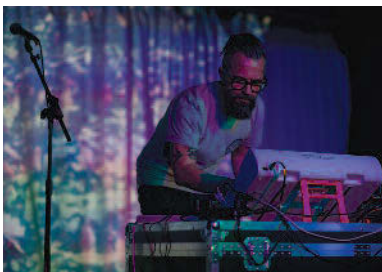
Thirdly, and sorry to be the one to break it here but essentially the DJ is well and truly dead. (Disputes to the usual address - *Ed*.) These creative music makers come from DJ culture, but essentially - they've switched from using other people's music to creating their own, using the implausible hotchpotch of old and new technologies from 80s groove boxes to ...err, guitars.

The actual guitar itself (the only one seen all night) was used by the effervescent **Emma** from **Deathly Pale Party** duo, but she ran so many effects through it, it sounded like an orchestra. The accompanying beats by **Pandemon** merged anarchic ambience with addictive synth pop. They set high standards for the performance element of the night.



DPP were preceded by **Monojack**, whose impressive modular set up is entirely built himself, right down to soldering each circuit board and wiring up oscilloscopes to webcams. You could presume therefore that a geek of these proportions might create music lacking in ethereal beauty or human emotion, but no such thing. Monojack's modular harmonising was generously fused with breakbeat drums and clever sample loops. His infectious, modest personality shining through.

Another modular synth star was **Polokov**, spacier and more ambient but still pushing the audio boundaries with his array of wires, dials and magic boxes. **Polokov** is another artist who is popping up all over the place and deserves all the attention he gets.



Next up was **Kurt Moss**. He had broken down his performance to just two pieces of relatively affordable gear merging jungle and hip hop with live jazzy vibes. The swooshes, stabs and killer basslines were brilliantly collated into his sampler, but he had keyboard skills too, like soft minor 7ths and jazz scales. The crowd appreciated this for its raw simplicity.



The two final acts were **Inwards** himself and **Rosebud**. I'm not sure I could give you an accurate written description of the **Inwards** sound. Instead I urge you to type him into your chosen music platform thing or look out for him on national radio. You will not be disappointed. It's a soundscape falling somewhere between Orbital and Aphex but its fresher, and more current. Worcester is so lucky to have this talent.

Rosebud was the eclectic finale. A dancier, darker, punkier duo. A high energy modular soundtrack with a unique vocal performance from a situationist in a hoodie - gurning, screaming, crooning, reciting poetry. He did it all. Essentially, **Rosebud** is what would happen if the Slaves or Sleaford Mods had a go at a pretending to be the Pet Shop Boys for a few moments (and I mean that in a good way).

Massive shout outs to **Inwards** himself, all the artists, the WAW, and to the sound and visuals people too. This was a real example of **SIHIW**. More please!

Words: Bozza(Dog)

Photos: Sheldon Hendon



Ruby Turner

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat 1st Feb

Ruby Turner, house vocalist for **Jools Holland** and his big band, proves her popularity with a full house at the **Artrix**, just a short hop from Birmingham, where her roots are intertwined with Jamaican heritage. An impressive CV and a voice made for Blues, Soul and Gospel, have earned Ruby a huge following, and tonight she's playing with her band on home turf. The lights are dimmed as Ruby joins her band on the stage, her warm, powerful voice bringing a hush to the audience. She's soon settled into the task; *"It's Got To Be Done"* is a soulful strut, echoed by a ripple of movement across the seated auditorium. The show would feature many songs, from many albums spanning Ruby's long career. The lovely, spiritual *"Master Plan"* is plucked from her latest album, setting up a little rhythm for *"A Better Way"*, over an excellent piano roll and driving drums. Ruby explains how some of her most recent releases had been recorded at home in the kitchen, before a deep, pulsing bass announces the beautiful, impassioned title track, *"Love Was Here"*, showcasing Ruby's wonderfully rich timbre.

An intermission is brought about to emphatic theme music, *"Stay With Me Baby"*; the track that found success in the charts back in the mid '90's. It's a full-power soul ballad that can bring tears to the eye, and Ruby delivers it with a passion and energy reminiscent of Etta James. The band are back on stage now; **Nick Marland** on guitar, **David Guest** on bass, **Simon Moore** rolling out the rhythm on drums and finally, leading in with a piano intro, is **Al MacSween**, King of the Keyboards. Ruby steps up and *"That's My Desire"*, it wraps us in its cosy warmth, leaving us drifting around the ballroom. The jazz-edged blues of *"Blow Top*



Blues" harks to the swing era of the 50's; Al's at the keys again, while Nick adds honey-licked guitar notes. Run, run, run, the clock is ticking... But the spellbound audience are assured, the *"Time Of Your Life"* and the best is yet to come, as Ruby Turner turns to another classic, another massive hit; a reworking of the fabulous Ellington Jordan/Etta James, *"I'd Rather Go Blind"*, a perennial favourite of any discerning music lover. Ruby pours out emotion, baring her soul as the band slip away for this gutsy, expressive closing song. Of course, it's not the end! A standing ovation of thunderous clapping, foot stamping and demands for more brings about its intended result. The band return to the stage, and it seems Ruby's in a spiritual mood. Al adds a lovely, reed-bending harp, while Ruby invites us all aboard *"This Train"*, as it steams off down the track. Nick lets fly on guitar, David's bass rumbles away and Simon thrashes across the skins, before Ruby fuels their ride all the way to the end of the line. A brilliant ticket to ride. The packed house files out into the night, or to get their own signed copy of *Love Was Here*, or maybe even a quick chat with Ruby. A sparkling evening at the Artrix.

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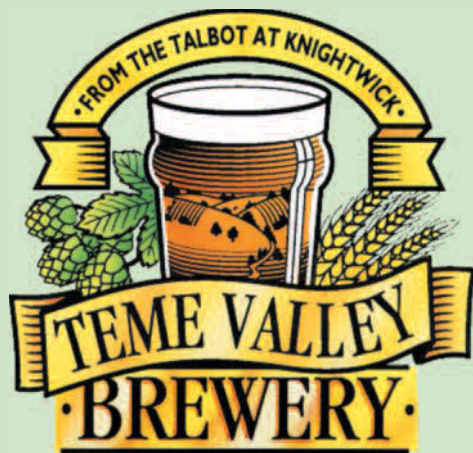
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Seth Lakeman

Norbury Theatre, Droitwich | 7th Feb

It's an evening at **Norbury Theatre** and a sell-out show for **Seth Lakeman** and his band, whose *'Pilgrim'* tour celebrates the newly released album, *A Pilgrim's Tale*; a conceptual collection of songs that tell the story of the Mayflower's momentous journey 400 years ago. The album features **Cara Dillon**, **Benji Kirkpatrick** and **Ben Nickolls**, as well as Seth's father **Geoff Lakeman**, with narration by **Paul McGann** to guide us through each chapter. Although Cara, Geoff and Paul do not appear on this occasion, Paul's narration is still included, with **Alex Hart** bringing a feminine touch.

A stylised image of England is projected onto a large sail backdrop, with a view of what is, in reality, Cape Cod, and not the new world they had sought. Images appear of dock scenes; of passengers, a silhouetted Mayflower, the settlement, an indigenous tribe, all the while McGann reacquaints us with their story, lights dimming between tales. It's all fascinating stuff, and the music itself paints pictures of the Separatists, unwanted in their homeland and unable to find work; ostracised from society alongside their Dutch compatriots. The Mayflower was chartered to deliver them to their new life in America. Sadly, the travellers had brought with them all of the European ailments rife in England, successfully depleting the defenceless Wampanoag tribe.

The songs that form this initial part of the show vary from bright, optimistic Cornish-inspired folk to stormy, dark and dangerous songs that reflect an arduous journey. The opening, *"Watch Out"*, is delivered by a Wampanoag seer, who warns of changes coming. Music carries us all the way to a closing, and euphoric, Mayflower Waltz, where surviving settlers and native tribes are united, to learn from one another. Meanwhile, Seth's flipping from plucked violin ah-la ukelele, to taking his bow to violin number two, as well as acoustic guitar, bouzouki and lead vocals. The gruelling *"Western Journey"* brings a haunting melody, while Benji battles even more 'costume' changes; wonderfully energetic guitar, banjo, bouzouki, and a lovely, deep marching drum, adding a phenomenal atmosphere to *"Sailing Time"*. Alex chooses between electric guitar and hand-pumped harmonium, while Ben brings depth with



double bass. A rarity for me; Ben also plays some magical Jew's harp. The rhythm is taut with tension, while Seth cuts a swathe across his fiddle; the mast has failed, repair fashioned with a large iron screw. The settlers make it through a tough and costly winter, their number depleted, but a treaty is agreed before the sweet sound of the waltz rings out from Seth's violin.

A break brings the reprisal of some of Seth Lakeman's previous work, kick drum pumps out, setting an insistent rhythm free; *"The Bold Night"*. An upbeat reading of the traditional *"Setting Of The Sun"* flows out into the room. Ben plays his Jew's harp to the lovely Cornish reel of *"Changes"*, before the audience bring their hands together for the frantic buzz of an ascending *"Kitty Jay"*, before a standing ovation delivers a couple more songs. The close of a fantastic evening's journey across the Atlantic, and back home to more familiar sounds, with a train ride on the *"Last Rider"*. A brilliant evening. There's nowt so strange as folk!

Graham Munn

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8th - Jake of Diamonds + Tom Walker
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22nd - The Jamesons
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Nozstock The Hidden Valley 2020 “Into the Great Unknown...”

Nozstock is one of the UK's longest running festivals and enters its 22nd year, with **Into The Great Unknown** as its theme. From the dawn of time through to its farthest futuristic reaches, this summer will be its most inspiring and enchanting journey yet.

Set on a beautiful working farm across Thurs 23rd - Sunday 26th July, the intimate odyssey is family-run, home-made and proudly independent.

Sister Sledge are responsible for some of the biggest dance anthems of all time, universally cherished songs that bring everyone together in love, life and soulful groove - they are the perfect Sunday night headliners. **Bill Bailey** is a comedian, musician, writer, author, director and presenter known for his live shows and his work on TV. **Andy C**, who will be joined by **Tonn Piper**, is one of the most significant British artists in global dance music. He's guaranteed to be packing tracks that no other DJ has - he is constantly immersed in new music, bringing a wholly unique experience each time he plays.

As pioneers of the future-facing, tech-step sound, **Calyx and Teebee**, joined by **LX One**, are two of the scene's greatest duos, with three albums behind them. **The Ram Records** icons will have **The Garden Stage** booming, whilst **Flava D's** earth-shaking UK garage, grime and bassline sounds have seen her signed to the Butterz and now to Hospital Records. Next up, **Gentleman's Dub Club** return, having made a name for themselves as one of the most respected names in dub/reggae music; **Submotion Orchestra** are one of the most interesting and exciting projects working in the UK today, drawing upon electronica, soul, ambient electronica, jazz and dub; and **Ibibio Sound Machine** bring a vibrant clash of African and electronic elements, inspired by the golden era of West-African funk and disco and modern post-punk and electro.



Dirty Dike is a rapper and producer, gifted with a psychedelic voice, and **Mungo's Hi Fi** are joined by Bristol's finest lyricist, **Gardna**. Expect lots of old school breaks from **Stanton Warriors**; **Break** is one of DnB's most prolific producers; **Rodney P, Ty and Blak Twang** - aka **KingDem** - are a heavyweight UK hip-hop supergroup; **Tankus The Henge's** funk-fuelled, open-top, custom paint -job, rock 'n' roll jalopy will have **Nozstock** jumping; and finally, **Dutty Moonshine Big Band** fuse UK bass with jazz in a high octave live 14-piece show.

For the 6th year **The Cabinet of Lost Secrets** returns, bringing a slice of unique weirdness to Nozstock. Surprises, characters and dancing await the brave in this strange and shape-shifting underground lair. Artists include **The Social Ignition**, **Young Jack**, **Bethlehem Casuals**, **Year of The Dog**, **Inwards**, **Happy Daggers**, **The Imaginary Hat** and **Funky Navigation** DJs.

And don't forget the incredible - and completely free - **Little Wonderland Kids Area**, which even includes a bottle-warming service. **Spare Room Arts** present **The Re Psych Project**, **Mini Mixers**, **PimpSouls Dance Workshop**, **Hatha-Vinyasa Yoga**, **The Theatre of The Great Unknown**, **The Freedom of Expression Table** and loads more over the weekend for kids of all ages.

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PLUS MORE ACTS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Johnny Kowalski & the Sexy Weirdos Centrala, Birmingham | Sat 14th March

After 10 years of carnival punk and international party music, **Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos** play at **Centrala** at Minerva Works, Fazeley Street, Birmingham for their biggest hometown headlining show to date. The main room will feature space punk surrealists **Shaun Gambowl Walsh and the Plagarists**, plucky indie upstarts **Hot Little Hands**, anarchist folk punk rabble rousers **The Tenbags**, violin heavy ravers **Dissident Noise Factory**, antifascist singalong street punk and two tone from **The Alcohol Licks**, and gonzo ska from **Sick Pins**.

The Enchanted Lounge will feature the cream of Birmingham's acoustic based acts, and is headlined by that nice young man with the sharp lyrics, **Jack Goodall**, and new funk hopefuls **Oneironauts**. Also playing are psychedelic troubadour **The Retinal Circus**, that benevolent aunt to the Birmingham counter culture **Karen Swan**, and a plethora of other acts. Oh and there'll be some circus performers doing juggling and hoola hopping, all that jazz. And all for £8 a ticket if you buy one now!

March 14th also sees the launch of the band's fourth album "*Until The Day*". The first with folk rock behemoth **Katherine McWilliam** on violin (Quill), this time round the band present a



by Kat Bennett

string laden sound enthused with energy. It was recorded in two days at the legendary **Old Smithy Recording Studios** near Worcester where Judas Priest have recorded some of their latter day albums. Lyrical themes include Caribbean death rituals, strange adventures on tour, political struggles and there's even a heart felt love song. The band sincerely believe it's their best yet and are looking forward to taking it on the road later this year. Ticket link via facebook.com/events/704767610053969/

You can get a sneak preview to the album at:
soundcloud.com/johnny-kowalski/jkswtteaser

Matt Woosey The Cube, Malvern | Sat 7th March

I make no excuses for reminding our readers that Matt Woosey is scheduled to appear at **The Cube** on Saturday March 7th. He will not be alone; his full German band is touring with him, guaranteeing a fabulous night full of Matt's exceptional music. Matt, whose roots are Malvern, now lives in Germany with his young family and over the years he has delivered a multiplicity of albums, 4 of the more recent releases available on his website and, no doubt, also on the night. More recently his *Desiderata* album took him into a new, esoteric dream world with a fascinating and eclectic collection of absorbing songs. Matt's latest release, *Live At Gallagher's Nest* (a nod to his hero Rory), was recorded by the full band at the venue in his new home. The band has brought a new dimension and energy to many of our favourite Woosey songs, not to mention the odd classics that Matt has made his own.

It promises to be a memorable evening but there is a bit more to add, and just maybe tempt you out for another evening - **Trevor 'Babajack' Steger** will also be there with his grit strewn acoustic attack on his hand built guitars and golden harmonica, worth the trip in itself.



One of Matt's band, guitarist **Michi Oertel**, will also be playing, along with his band at two evenings sandwiching Matt.

On the 6th, he will be at **West Malvern Social Club**, and on the 8th, it will be at **The Pavilion, Colwall**, at 7.00 pm. Matt himself will be supporting Michi's gigs - a nice opportunity to sit back like the rest of us and enjoy the evening.

Tickets for The Cube will be available on the door or in advance through www.malverncube.com

Oujamaflip & Julie July Trio Pershere Number 8 | Saturday 14 March

Known for energetic live sets, local duo **Oujamaflip** play a mix of original and traditional music in folk and Eastern European styles. **Paul Groom** (Bouzouki, mandolin, Vocals) and **Georgina Groom** (Violin, Recorder, Vocals) have wrtten and performed together for the last 15 years.



The Julie July Trio pay a heartfelt tribute to the great singer-songwriter **Sandy Denny**. From dreamy acoustic melodies to driving progressive folk-rock, the trio perform a selection of Sandy's songs from, *The Strawbs*, *Fotheringay*, *Fairport Convention* as well as her solo career. www.juliejuly.co.uk

From 8pm, Tickets: £8



'A Rock n Roll Suicide! Still Alive? The Marris Bar, Worcester | March 12th

Ziggy Stardust returns to take us on a 'tragical' Mystery Tour through the life of **Lee Mark-Jones (The Gypsy Pistoleros)**. This one-man show plays out against a backdrop of videos and scenes from his early life, our jaded, ageing rocker sings along with his young pretty self and belts out songs from Punk to the Present, from an initially glamtastic, then tragic Rock N Roll career.

'A Rock 'n' Roll Suicide' was a surprise hit at Edinburgh Fest Fringe 2019 and now the original show with funding from the **Arts Council England Lottery Grant** is being re-written, re-developed with the legend **Chris Thorpe** and will tour all over the U.K during 2020 at venues from Rock Festivals to pubs. Taking it back to the real grass roots, to real rock fans & people who may not have the chance to see live theatre.



This autobiographical roller coaster is the story of a man who comes to terms with himself after the diagnosis of a condition that has defined his life. Come and see for yourselves what Ziggy Stardust is finally revealed to be, with a roll call of virtual celebrity guest stars, this suicide is by turns glamorous, punky, anarchic and tragic.

For further information please contact
info@theatreofthewildbeautifulanddamned.co.uk

Artrix in March

Join us at **Artrix** during March for a host of exciting events. There are gigs from big name comedians including **Geoff Norcott: Taking Liberties** on 4 March, **Clive Anderson: Me, Macbeth & I** on 13 March and the return of sell-out show **Gary Delaney: Gagster's Paradise** on 18 March.

There's top live music from **Martin Turner: Wishbone Gold** on 12 March, 90s Legends – three brit pop legends, each performing a solo acoustic set - **Chris Helme**, (The Seahorses), **Mark Morriss** (The Bluetones) and **Nigel Clarke** (Dodgy) on 14 March, plus upcoming folk singer and musician **Iona Lane** on 20 March.

There are regular Saturday matinee family cinema screenings including Harrison Ford's latest adventure **The Call Of The Wild** (PG) on 28 March, plus **The Personal History Of David Copperfield** on 6, 8 & 9 March and the award winning **1917** on 13 March.

For further info on all events: artix.co.uk or call 01527 577330.



Coming Soon at Artrix

Women In Rock 6 March
Robinson-Stone 7 March
Martin Turner – Wishbone Gold 12 March
90s Legends 14 March
 Chris Helme (The Seahorses),
 Mark Morriss (The Bluetones) & Nigel Clark (Dodgy)
Iona Lane 20 March
Soul Manifesto 21 March
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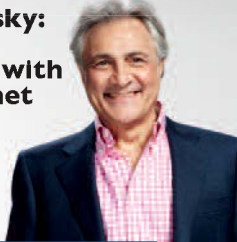
Clive Carroll 5th March £16



Rowan Godel Trlo with Benji Kirkpatrick & Tim Cotterell 6th March £15



Tchaikovsky: The Man Revealed with John Suchet 13th March £18



An Evening with John Illsley 12th March, £28



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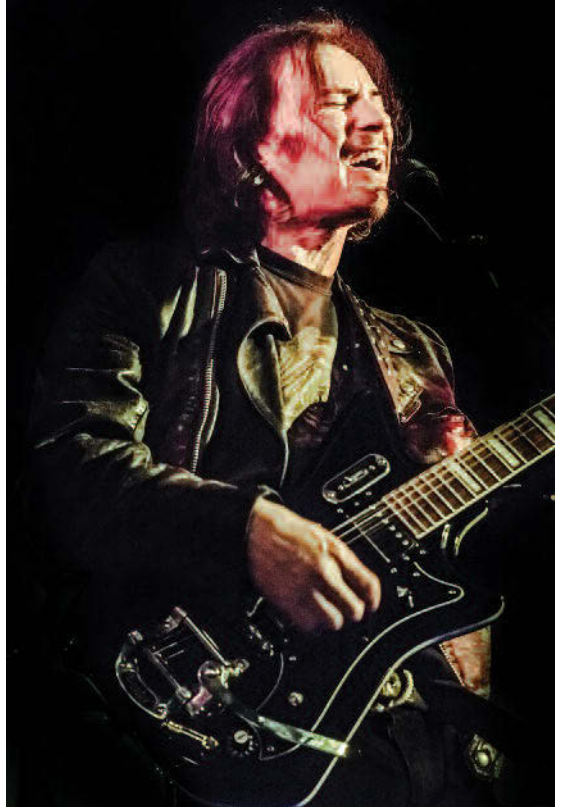
The Marrs bar | 7th Feb '20

Worcester four piece **Skewwhiff** are no strangers to **The Marrs Bar**, they know how to draw in a crowd and keep them entertained and that's exactly what they do with the audience of this sold out show. As they kick off the night the room is abuzz with some of Skewwhiff's most loyal fans filling the crowd and propping up the bar as they play the title track from their latest release, *Cancelled Rearranged*. The room is filled with the sound of the hard hitting drums, as vocalist **Hannah Bean** sings out the equally hard hitting lyrics "*Scraping up all your strength, to speak out your pain, to those who know nothing about you, but they can label you insane*".



The band plays through their set effortlessly and share a great rapport with the crowd, as if everyone in the room is a familiar face, showing everyone exactly what the music scene in Worcester is all about - inclusivity and a hell of a show. As the opening to a crowd favourite *Doll Parts* plays, the pace is lifted yet again; the crowd, now a sea of bopping heads, in full swing ready for more.

Space have been tearing up stages since they formed in 1993 and the first show of their *Music for Pleasure, Music for Pain* tour was no exception. Bringing their talents to the **Marrs Bar** for the very first time, the four piece from Liverpool have played with varied line ups but this proves to be the most harmonious grouping yet. Working in perfect unison with each other, vocalist **Tommy Scott** commands the attention of everyone in the room effortlessly with his high energy and theatrical performance. That energy is shared with the crowd as Tommy himself comments "*two songs in and you lot are already a boss audience*" said in true Liverpudlian style.



The four piece show they have no intention of slowing things down as they use every inch of the modest Marrs Bar stage, inviting fan **Stacy** onstage to join them in performing one of their most notable songs *The Ballad of Tom Jones* (originally performed with Cerys Matthews of Catatonia); the two vocalists showing the full emotion and passion behind the song as they dance together on stage with the audience joyfully joining in with the chorus. The band has another guest vocalist in the likes of 20 year old **Jordan** from Liverpool, who joins the band on stage to perform one of their newer tracks, *Pterodactyl*, a change in pace for the band, with a country feel to the track but a welcome cool down in the midst of such an intense show.

As the crowd settle, the opening chords to *The Female of the Species*, arguably the bands most recognisable song from the 1996 album *Spiders*, fill the room and the crowd erupts, almost as if this is the moment they had been waiting for. Jumping down from the stage, Tommy takes full advantage of the song by dancing with as many female audience members as he can get to within the packed crowd. Using every inch of the Marrs Bar's floor space, Tommy finds himself at the back of the room perched on top of a bar stool by the time the song draws to a close. When he eventually gets himself back onstage he announces that the next song will be the band's last for the evening, cheekily commenting "*that's the most we've ever played in our lives!*" as the audience boo the prospect of the evening drawing to a close. **Franny Griffiths** takes this opportunity to put his array of keyboards and synths to good use, providing the amazing mixture of samples which set the band apart from so many within the alt-rock genre.

The band thank the audience again, and leave the stage, exhausted after a whopping 15 song set but the crowd aren't done yet - chanting and teasing the band, egging them on for more. **Franny, Phil, Alan** and **Tommy** bounce back onto the stage as if they're starting a fresh set to deliver a blistering encore that sends the happy crowd off into the crisp Worcester night.

Words by Lottie Burgess Photography by Lissywitch Photos

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Hannah Randall – The VHT's



Harry Davies – I Cried Wolf

Photography by Geoffrey Head

Independent Venue Week

Independent Venue Week this year ran from 26th January to 2nd February, with hundreds of gigs going on all around the UK. Independent venues are vital to the wellbeing of original music and the artists that play it and it was good to see gigs in our area so well supported. Here's a few images from just two of them; **The VHT's**, **The Lightweights** and **Tokyo Taboo** at **Annie's Burger Shack** in Worcester and **Indifferent Engine**, **Skora** and **I Cried Wolf** at **The Frog and Fiddle** in Cheltenham.



Jasmine Randall – The VHT's



Mickey Danger – Tokyo Taboo



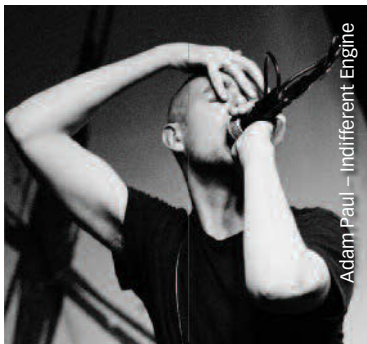
Adam Paul – Indifferent Engine



Jacob Rudman and Alexander Gibbons - I Cried Wolf



Louie Hodgson – I Cried Wolf



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Jodie Hughes – The Lightweights



Will Broome – Skora

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Dave Onions, (4pm)

The Plume Of Feathers, Malvern

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The Chestnut, Worcester

Vintage Inc. (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Kringo Blue

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Chris Slater

Alestones, Redditch

John Coghlan's Quo

Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

Kel

The Alcester Inn, Alcester

The Tangents

The Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Merrymaker & Friends

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

The Honeymoon Swing Dance Band

Smokey Joe's Cafe Bar, Cheltenham

Sunday Music Session

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Jazz Night

The Bayshill Pub, Cheltenham

Nothing Like A Whale

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Escobars

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Witcher

The Swan, Evesham

Middy

Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham

The Undercover Hippy

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Madi Stimpson Trio

The Queens Head, Stourbridge

4 + 6

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Dave Onions

Plume Of Feathers, Castlemorton, Worcester

Forfeits

The Lichfield Vaults, Hereford

Mark Hepworth

Red Lion, Evesham

The Beki Brindle Band (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Little Dave

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Riché

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Totally Tina

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Feel The Fire

The Space ., Malvern

Monday 02 March 2020

Pretty Vile, The Butters Aliens, Twelve Twelve, P.E.T, Meel Deel

Mama Roux's, Birmingham

Tuesday 03 March 2020

Claude Bourbon

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 04 March 2020

Vo & Tyler

The Plough, Worcester

Dragon Folk Club: Silvington

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Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rat Affair Present Rat

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Kim Lamm, Rea River Roots Featured Artist

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Keith James: Songs Of Leonard Cohen

The Fold, Branford, Worcester

Rebil

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 05 March 2020

The Magic Of Motown

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Kyle Parsons

The Oil Basin, Worcester

Tom Can't Make It

Aquavitae, Cheltenham

Ben Wildsmith

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Sefrial

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Limelight Sessions 10: Natalie Shay, Ben Roberts & Roisin

O'hagan

Guildhall, Gloucester

T.Rextasy

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Undercover Hippy

Left Bank, Hereford

Jazz Club Featuring Sue Richardson

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Vo Fletcher

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Bohemian Voices, Making Waves Throughout Worcestershire

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Huntingdon Hall

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Vinny Peculiar, Robert Rotifer, Wes Dance

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Stephen Hough

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Friday 06 March 2020

Vintage Inc.

The Millers Arms, Pershore

One Night in Dublin

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Claude Bourbon, Medieval Spanish Blues

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Kiel Wilkinson

The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Imaner

The Rocklands Club, Redditch

Tyler Massey Trio

The Swan, New St, Worcester

Pentire

King Charles II, Ross On Wye

Flowerpot, Rollin Sixes, Poison Crow

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Ricky Cool & The in Crowd

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

The Rock Bottoms

No 3A, Bromsgrove

Remi Harris Light & Shade Trio

Lighthorne Village Hall, Warwick

Cloud

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Leaves

Brewhouse & Kitchen, Cheltenham

The Leon Daye Band

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Isolation, The Wild Strays

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Michael Oertel Band

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Jack Mac

Café René, Gloucester

The Phonics

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

New Ruffians

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Joanne Shaw Taylor

Guildhall, Gloucester

Black Jack Davy

Gloucester Irish Club, Gloucester

Mister Wolf

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jazz & Me

The Kings Theatre, Gloucester

Polly Edwards, Hannah Law, The Debbie Parry Band

Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

Mumbo-Jumbo

Ombersley Village Hall, Ombersley

The Rotundas
Swan Brewery, Leominster

Women in Rock
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rubble
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Cheating Lights, Sober, Foxbite
Left Bank, Hereford

The Ronaldos
Hogarths, Hereford

The Ones
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Rhythm Slingers
The Ale House, Stroud

Kezzabelle Spoken Word Poetry Night
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Dale Von Minaker
Pin Kings Arms Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster

Blyth Power, The Humdrum Express
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

The Dirty Smooth
The Vaults (The Golden Farm Inn), Cirencester

Mumbo-Jumbo
Ombersley Village Hall, Droitwich

Solid Gold 70s Show
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Dan Greenwa
Eagle & Spur Cookley, Kidderminster

Gareth Lemon
The Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

Louis Bennett
Red Lion, Evesham

Soul Stripper
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Lionel - The Music Of Lionel Richie
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Rowan Godel Trio
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Matt Woosey & Michael Oertel Band
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Little Bluebird
Elmslie House, Malvern

The Leylines
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Coyte Blue
The Bluebell, Malvern

Elizabeth Bass
Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester

Kerry Smyth
Hickory's, Worcester

Saturday 07 March 2020

The Face Stealers
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Buddy Holly & The Cricketers
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

The Ferretts
The Chestnut, Worcester

Dead Dad's Club
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Vintage Inc.
Cricketers, Worcester

Ricky Cool And The in Crowd
Beoley Village Hall, Redditch

Ellisha Green
Alestones, Redditch

Steel Wizard
Red Lion, Redditch

Otis Irie
The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Wyefi
King Charles II, Ross On Wye

Singled Out
The Eagle Inn, Ross On Wye

Jay & Eli
Bar 57, Pershore

Kaos Live
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel

Wingwalkers
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

40 SLAP MARCH

Stuart Bishop'S March Madness
Queens Head, Bromsgrove

The Taboo To-Do
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Swamp Stomp String Band
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Attila The Stockbroker
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Zookeeper, Sydney Fate, Blood Uncle
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Special Kinda Madness
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Holly Maria
The Hare And Hounds, Wollescote, Stourbridge

Orphic
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Whitney Houston Tribute
The Queensway, Stourbridge

O.C.D
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Reflections
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Daz Saxon
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Solid Gone
The Deans Walk Inn, Gloucester

Mister Wolf
The Swan, Evesham

Roving Crows
Ashton Under Hill Village Hall, Worcester

Ska'titude
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Hannah Webb And Emilie Eleonore Westcott, Becky Rose Lowe And Emma Howett, Liz Pearman, Josie Field
Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

James Baker
Brothers Of Ale, Stourport-On-Severn

The Schmoozenbergs, Slippery Slope
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Robinson-Stone
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Birmingham Blues Brothers
Left Bank, Hereford

Bob Porter Project
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Doonies
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Midnight Sun
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Rob Lane, Minnie Birch
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

4 And 6
The Bear And Wolf, Kidderminster

Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Kev From The Murmur
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

The Frenzies
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Battle Of The Bands
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Plan Of Attack
The Cavalier, Kidderminster

Fret Wolf
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Matt Bowen
Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

Risky Galore
The Albion, Tewkesbury

Jagged Hands
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Gaz Hughes Sextet
The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Slap Mag - One 100 Issues Party: Fights & Fires, White Noise Cinema, Kick The Clown, Connor Maher Quartet, Arcadia Roots
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Matt Woosey, Trevor Babajack Steger
Malvern Cube, Malvern

The Busquitos
Kingsland Coronation Hall, Leominster

Bruce Juice
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Terry
The Alma, Worcester

Vince Ballard & Martin Bradley
The Kings Head, Worcester

Band On The Run
Francesca's, Worcester

Redwood, Hanna Piranha, Mishkin Fitzgerald
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

The 79'ers, The Deep Six
The Courtyard, Worcester

Sunday 08 March 2020

Woo Town Hillbillies (6pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Connor Maher Acoustic
Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Lenny James And The Gator Squad
The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Ray Mytton
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Sunday Music Session
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Flying Ant Day, French Boutik
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Black Mercian
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Lenny James & The Gator Squad
Red Lion, Redditch

Chloe Mogg
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Witcher @5pm
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Trevor Babajack Stager
Plume Of Feathers, Castlemorton, Worcester

Natalie Hobbs
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Roving Crows
Clows Top Victory Hall, Kidderminster

Peter Fisher & Margaret Fingerhut
Great Barn, Hellens, Hereford

Lobelia Lawson Female Voices
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Make Mine A Double
Red Lion, Evesham

Black & Blues Band (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Jake Of Diamonds + Tom Walker
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Just Adam
The Albion, Tewkesbury

U2 2
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Monday 09 March 2020

Susan Santos Band
The Iron Road, Pershore

Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Paul & Glen Elliott
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Tuesday 10 March 2020

Masterplan
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Wednesday 11 March 2020

Tyler Massey
The Brick Room, Worcester

Swedish Philharmonia
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Leo
The Retreat, Cheltenham

Raising Cain
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Frazer Lepford
The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

Lewis Creaven Band
Café René, Gloucester

Abba Forever
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Wildwood Jack
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Sandy Williamson, Martin Smith
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Thursday 12 March 2020

Tenuto
The Retreat, Bewdley

Ray Cooper, The Kilpecks
Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford

Lewis Boulton
Tripelb Belgian Beer Cafe, Worcester

Tommaso Starace Quartet
Smokey Joe's Cafe Bar, Cheltenham

Frazer Lepford
The Hewlett, Cheltenham

Billy Driscoll
Tailors, Cheltenham

Hair Of The Dog
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Kickback
The Bayshill Pub, Cheltenham

The Elvis Presley Songbook
Guildhall, Gloucester

Weirdshire: Toby Hay. Peiriant
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Martin Turner: Wishbone Gold Spring Tour
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ray Cooper
The Green Dragon, Hereford

Dom Franks
SVA, Stroud

Bagelites
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Sandy Williamson, Martin Smith, Rea River Roots featured Artists
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Katy Hurt & Gab Zsapka
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Abba Forever
Swan Theatre, Worcester

An Evening With John Illsley
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

A Rock N Roll Suicide
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Friday 13 March 2020

Stray, Groundhogs
The Iron Road, Pershore

Dead Dads Club
The Swan, New St, Worcester

Jeff Chapman's Roosters
The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Damn The Weather
The Royal Oak, Alcester

Jersey Boys
Catshill Working Men's Club, Bromsgrove

Sally Barker & Anna Ryder
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

The Rolling Stones Story
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Garrington T. Jones, Theone Dawes
Chesters Mexican Restaurant & Bar, Worcester

Monkey Jam
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Whitney Houston - A Tribute By Nya King
Somerset Arms, Cheltenham

Over The Hill
The Bayshill Pub, Cheltenham

Freefall
The Whittle Taps, Cheltenham

Tmyk
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Satellite Down
The Outside Inn & Courtyard, Evesham

Oasis V The Stone Roses
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Gary Slade
The Bengeworth Club, Evesham

Wendy Kirkland
The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

Bones
Café René, Gloucester

The Magpies
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Usual Suspects
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Accolade

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Wille & The Bandits
Guildhall, Gloucester

Kemastree

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ruffnecks

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Katy Hurt

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Steve Davis & Kavus Torabi

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Howlin Mat

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Band For Hire

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Limelight

The Ale House, Stroud

Sophie Henderson

The Crown, Stroud

Ward & Thorne

Clothiers Arms, Stroud

Steven Tilley

The Vaults (The Golden Farm Inn), Cirencester

The Escobars

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Andy Marlow

Land Oak, Kidderminster

WorbeY & Farrell

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Woo Town Hillbillies

Red Lion, Evesham

Forty Blue Toes

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Undercovers

The Swan Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

Jeff Chapman's Roosters

The Boathouse Tapas & Gin Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Trevor Babajack Steger

Ye Olde Anchor Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Star House Band

The Star Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

Becky Rose

The Great Malvern Hotel

Laura Christopher

The Star Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Fireballs

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Vo Fletcher

The King's Head, Upton-Upon-Severn

Jibbafish

Bar Severn, Upton-Upon-Severn

Groovyhead

The Little Upton Muggery, Upton-Upon-Severn

Tchaikovsky: The Man Revealed With John Suchet

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Bones

The Drum & Monkey, Upton-Upon-Severn

Susie Ro & Ravi Ji - Sound Journey

Malvern Cube, Malvern

Sarah Warren & Nick Lyndon

The White Lion Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

Mice in The Matchbox

The Bluebell, Malvern

Uncover: The Earnest Spears 1St Birthday! With Flares, Echo

Gecco & Sedatedsociety

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Plane Crasher, Gag Reflex, Downard

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Saturday 14 March 2020

The Ferrets

The Cricketers, Worcester

Jack J Hutchinson Band, Verity White Band

The Iron Road, Pershore

Foyer Folk: Oujamaflip & Julie July Acoustic Trio

Number 8, Pershore

Hennesea

The Chestnut, Worcester

42 SLAP MARCH

Jay & Eli

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Knight & Hodgetts

The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Altamont Stones

The Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Risky Galore

The Eagle Inn, Ross On Wye

Dale Von Minaker

Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley

Just Charlotte

The Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

Not So Young - A Tribute To Neil Young

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Macca, Gaf Franks, Bobby Smith, Colin Hartley

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Blacksheep

The Dog And Pheasant, Bromsgrove

The Troubadours

No 3A, Bromsgrove

Sun Records: The Concert

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

The Hush

Charlton King's Club, Cheltenham

Ruben Seabright

Brothers Of Ale, Stourport

The Fangs Of The Dodo, Elkaphath, Surrge

The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Damn The Weather

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Tensheds, Fiction Piece, Ria Plays

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Battle Of The Decades Band

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Mickey Dee

Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham

Biscuit Head And The Biscuit Badgers

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Smokeroom

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Style Councillors - Cafe Bleu

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Fangs Of The Dodo, Elkaphath, Surrge

The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Mute The Flute

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Abba Tribute Band Sensation

The Kings Theatre, Gloucester

Mister Wolf

The New Wellington, Brierley Hill

Roving Crows

Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

The Joe Elvis Show

Fouracres.Socialclub, Stourport-On-Severn

Bach Mass in B Minor – Stroud Choral Society

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Trading Post Presents... Don Letts

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

90s Legends: Chris Helme, Mark Morriss, Nigel Clark

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Glitter Sisters

Hereford Railway Club, Hereford

Phoenix

Secret Garden, Hereford

Yama Warashi & Ishmael Ensemble

SVA, Stroud

No Limitz

The Grapes, Hereford

The Whiteshillbillies

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

No Parkin

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Sunjay

St James Church, Welland, Malvern

Evermore

The Plough, Hereford

Visitation

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Ian The Goat And The Goatmen

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Susie Ro & Ravi Ji - Sound Journey Concert
Trinity Rooms, Stroud

Ama Warashi & Ishmael Ensemble
Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

Rookes - Donation / Pay What You Can
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Seven Drunken Nights
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Mickey Dee
Dumbleton Village Club, Tewkesbury

Hard Graft
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Jack The Biscuit
The Swan Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Bones
The Boathouse Tapas & Gin Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band
The Boathouse Tapas & Gin Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Brethryn
Ye Olde Anchor Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Worcestershire Levellers
The Star Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

Without Flight
Shooters Bar, Leominster

The Hot Chilli Blues Band
The King's Head, Upton-Upon-Severn

Andy Flynn
The King's Head, Upton-Upon-Severn

Cheshire Brooks
The King's Head, Upton-Upon-Severn

Fret Wolf
Bar Severn, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Hot Tubes
The Little Upton Muggery, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Subterrestrials
The Drum & Monkey, Upton-Upon-Severn

Abby Inez
The White Lion Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Dick & Bob Show
The White Lion Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Reflections
Cross Keys, Malvern

The Machine Rages On (Ratm Tribute), Liberty Artillery
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Black Heart Angels
The Unicorn, Malvern

Neon Creatures, Brick Kiln Street, Lordless,
Evesham Town Hall, Evesham

Maja Bogdanovic Plays Haydn
The Priory Church, Malvern

Sunday 15 March 2020

Dave Omions (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Men in General (5:30pm)
The Ale House, Collwall, Malvern

Will Killeen (6pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Emilie Eleonore (Feat Hannah Webb)
Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

The Victorians, Harp & A Monkey
Feckenham Village Hall, Redditch

The Jives
The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Jay & Eli
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Sunday Music Session
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Dave Beale Solo Artist 6.30pm
The Ducker, Leominster

Screaming Wolves, Jess Silk, Nova Bloom, Jifnotsniffle
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

The Bryan Adams Experience
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Katey Brooks
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Follicles
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Vo Fletcher
Plume Of Feathers, Castlemorton, Worcester

Nakatomi Plaza
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Innocent Criminals
The Rock Tavern, Wilden, Stourport-On-Severn

La Vivas
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Deep Cabaret
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Female Voices
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Men in General
Ale House Colwall, Malvern

Wolfrén Riverstick
The Albion, Tewkesbury

Drew
Red Lion, Evesham

Hot Chilli Blues Band (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Mark 'N' Kay Duo
The Swan Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

Polly Edwards
The Oak Inn, Ledbury

Shepherd's Crook Folk Choir
The Boathouse Tapas & Gin Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Vox Rox Choir
The Boathouse Tapas & Gin Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Garrington T. Jones
The Boathouse Tapas & Gin Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

Connor Maher
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Dino Baptiste
Ye Olde Anchor Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

Ryan Nicklin
The Star Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

Joe Wheldon
The King's Head, Upton-Upon-Severn

Adam Lee
The King's Head, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Trials Of Cato
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jeff Chapman's Roosters
Bar Severn, Upton-Upon-Severn

Jay & Eli (3pm)
The Morgan, Malvern

Neil Ivson
The White Lion Hotel, Upton-Upon-Severn

Monday 16 March 2020

The Standford Hill Mob
The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Remi Harris, Dave Kelbie, Tom Moore
Yardbird Arts Jazz & Blues Club, The Hatch, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells

Tuesday 17 March 2020

We Steal Flyers
The Boat Shack, Bromsgrove

Roh - Fidelio
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Patrick Hannon
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Subfusion Day 1: Sonic Tapestry, This Winter Machine
Kidderminster College, Kidderminster

Paul Henshaw
The Boat Shack Cafe, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 18 March 2020

Jack Forster
The Brick Room, Worcester

Blind Justice Page
Café René, Gloucester

Jon Wilks
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Ick Brown And Maddie Mew
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Subfusion Day 2: Red Bazar, Coma Rossi
Kidderminster College, Kidderminster

Banshee
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 19 March 2020

Palace Drum Clinic
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Will Killeen
The Oil Basin, Worcester

The Long Game, Lead Shot Hazard
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Swamp Stomp String Band

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Turin Brakes - Acoustic

Guildhall, Gloucester

Robby Monk

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Keith James Concert For A Changing World

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

The Blockheads, The Humdrum Express

The Robin 2, Bilston

Red Voice Blues Band, Crossroads Blue

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Subfusion Day 3: Hayley Griffiths Band, Landmarq

Kidderminster College, Kidderminster

Howlin' Matt

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 20 March 2020

The Long Game, Black Market Beat, Bombs For Breakfast

The Fireky, Worcester

Supernova

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Boz, More Tba

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Carpenters Gold

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Fred Zeppelin

White Hart Inn, Redditch

The Skastuds

The Black Boy Hotel, Bewdley

Gagreflex

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Emily Duff

Smokey Joe's Cafe Bar, Cheltenham

Ruben Seabright

The Swan, New St, Worcester

Kimmy & The Wahoos

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Fretwolf

Droitwich Working Men's Club, Droitwich

Maverick Angel

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Kings And Captains

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

The Ska45s

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Abdabs

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Lil' Jim

Café René, Gloucester

The Last Internationale

Stourport Workmen's Club, Stourport

Missing Lynx

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Dreadzone

Guildhall, Gloucester

Dr Cornilius

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The James Brothers

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Harcourt Players

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Dan & King Rich

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Lost Chord

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Bromsgrove Concerts: Fitzwilliam String Quartet

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Iona Lane

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Texas Tic Fever

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

We!Rd Sh!T

SVA, Stroud

The Worried Men

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Megson

The Painswick Centre, Stroud

Jess Silk

The Bear And Wolf, Kidderminster

Fusion - Music Without Boundaries: Melltronaniam, The Wood Demons, Lazuli

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Dale Von Minaker

The Harriers Arms, Kidderminster

Paul McCormack

Red Lion, Evesham

Brandon O'Brian

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Journeyman

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Splitting Frequencies

Priors Croft Bar & Club, Malvern

The Four Cellos

Elmslie House, Malvern

The Hills Angels

The Bluebell, Malvern

Hotrox

The Bell, Pensax, Worcester

Diio (Ronnie James Dio Tribute), Primal

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Bootleg Beatles

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Saturday 21 March 2020

The Black Pears

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Derek & The Checkmates

The Chestnut, Worcester

80's Mania

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Rebecca Rhosyn

Bridley Moor Social Club, Redditch

Chewie

The Great Malvern Hotel

Chaos

The Railway, Redditch

Purple Tree - A Tribute To The Deep Purple Family Tree

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Raising Cain

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Catbamboo, Let's Swim, Get Swimming, Sub Cultures

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Red Hot Riot

Smokey Joe's Cafe Bar, Cheltenham

Mzleading (5 Piece Covers Band)

The Robin Hood Inn, Monmouth

The Liabilities Ad, The Bitten, Deathtraps, Addiction

System Reset, Flare Up

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Folk The System

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Chiggypig

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Matt Philip Hale

The Mitre, Stourbridge

The Reflections

The Swan, Evesham

Maetlive

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Beckii Amanda

The Hare And Hounds, Wollescote, Stourbridge

Slate Trio

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Smokin Tones

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Fleetwood Bac

Guildhall, Gloucester

Dry River

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Rattle Snake Jake

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Strattles

The Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

Connections

Baker Street, Gloucester

Chloë Elliot

Brothers Of Ale, Stourport-On-Severn

Jazz With The Jukes

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Soul Manifesto

Artrix, Bromsgrove

44 SLAP MARCH

Sons Of Yoda

The Plough, Hereford

Ruzz Guitar Blues Revue

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Meg Shaw

Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

Ne'Er Cast A Clout

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Wootown Hillbillies

Kilverts, Hereford

Thirsty Work

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Sun Marshals

Kings Head, Kingscourt, Stroud

Midnight City Soul

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Fusion - Music Without Boundaries: The Emerald Dawn, Esp

Project, Kyros, Maschine, Marley Davidson, Quill, Frank Carducci

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

El Torro

The Vaults (The Golden Farm Inn), Cirencester

Uk Pink Floyd Experience

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Usual Suspects

The Cavalier, Kidderminster

Rumour

Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

Malpractice

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Whole Lotta Led

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Nine Lives

Cross Keys, Malvern

James Taylor Quartet

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Aaron Cook

The Brewers Arms, Malvern

Sunday 22 March 2020

Jenny Hallam (6pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Terry Walls

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Polly Edwards

The Dragon Inn, Worcester

Good Knight Hall (3pm)

The White Lion, Ross On Wye

Abba Alike - A Tribute To Abba

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Vo Fletcher

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Slowjin

Charlton King's Club, Cheltenham

Sunday Music Session

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Buddy Holly & The Cricketers

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Ray Cooper

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Gotta Groove

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Keith Thompson

Plume Of Feathers, Castlemorton, Worcester

Bryn & Steve

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Stroud Refugee Aid Choir: Handel'S Messiah

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Jay & Eli (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Fusion - Music Without Boundaries: The Paradox Twin, Sky

Architect, Leafblade, That Joe Payne, Magenta, Lifesigns

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Big Q Fish (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Jamesons

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Tone Tanner

Red Lion, Evesham

Royal Opera Fidelio

Playhouse Cinema, Leominster

Chewie (3pm)

The Morgan, Malvern

Tuesday 24 March 2020

The Fortunes, Rockology

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Wednesday 25 March 2020

Labelled Dead, Brain Dump

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Jazz At The Chapel: Byron Wallen

Chapel Arts, Cheltenham

Trio Volant - A French Fancy

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Keith Thompson Band

Café René, Gloucester

Mama Shakers

Pershore Town Football Club, PERSHORE

Nordic Giants, A.A. Williams

Guildhall, Gloucester

Josie Field, Rea River Roots Featured Artist

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Feast Of Fiddles

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Dragon Folk Club: Town Musicians Of Bremen

The Dragon, Worcester

Shaggy Dog Raconteurs

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 26 March 2020

Tina Law & The Garry Allcock Trio

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Vampire Money, I, The Lion, Cornflakes At Kelly's

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Boyzlife

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Jack Forster

Tripelb Belgian Beer Cafe, Worcester

Leon Daye

Aquavitae, Cheltenham

The Oddfellows

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Fleetwood Mac - Don't Stop

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Orchestra Of The Swan Present: Umpteenth Violin Concerto

Courtyard, Hereford

Surprise Attacks & Tarantism Present: Enduser (Live), Tanooki

Suit (DJ Set), Basshoven (DJ Set), Rosebud (Live),

Vashtestampede (DJ Set), Drkmt (DJ Set),

Heroes, Worcester

John Illsley: The Life & Times Of Dire Straits

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Friday 27 March 2020

Someone Like You - The Adele Song Book

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Tall Ship, Gloucester

Rebooted Official

Royal Forester, Bewdley

The Ron Jeremy Band

The Ladybird Inn, Bromsgrove

Bonnielou

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Fangs Of The Dodo, Minni Misery, Viva La Bear

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Zoë Beyers Plays Weinberg

Routh Hall, Bromsgrove

The Boomtown Rats

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Ruben Seabright

Chesters Mexican Restaurant & Bar, Worcester

Mike Allen

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Freefall

The Old Restoration, Cheltenham

The Sounds Of Simon

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Black September,Vicarage, Zilch, Frozen Oceans,

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Fred Zeppelin

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Tim Manning

The Great Malvern Hotel

The Leon Daye Band

Café René, Gloucester

Marmalade

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Brittlebones

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rocker Covers

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Munnur

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Oohz

Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

That 70's Show

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Barry Steele And Friends: The Roy Orbison Story

Courtyard, Hereford

The Corduroy Kings

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Jake Of Diamonds

Hogarths, Hereford

Jay & Eli

The Swan, New St, Worcester

Forfeits

The Monument, Hereford

Liam Ward Band

The Ale House, Stroud

Jazz At The Tower

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Re Booted

The Forester, Kidderminster

Bobbie Nichols

The Vaults (The Golden Farm Inn), Cirencester

Chris Greve

Eagle & Spur Cookley, Kidderminster

Brynley Thomas

Red Lion, Evesham

Stevie Mac (Fleetwood Mac Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Nancy & Pearl

The Cosy Club, Worcester

Sun Fire

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Kringo Blue

The Feathers, Worcester

Mel And Him

The Bluebell, Malvern

The Waymores - Honky Tonk, Americana

The Boat Shack Cafe, Bromsgrove

Saturday 28 March 2020

The Delray Rockets**Worleys The Swan, Stourport****Handel: Messiah**

Pershore Abbey, Pershore

Hats Off To Led Zeppelin

Number 8, Pershore

Tim Holehouse, Greg Rekus, More Tba

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Wootown Hillbillies

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Escobars

The Chestnut, Worcester

Vintage Inc.

Bar 57, Pershore

The Sixties Invasion

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Off The Grid

The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Amelia

Wribbenhall Social Club, Bewdley

Midnight City Soul Band

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

The Ladybird Inn

The Ladybird Inn, Bromsgrove

Legend

The Dog And Pheasant, Bromsgrove

First Offence

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Scratchy Beard

Fairfield Village Hall, Bromsgrove

46 SLAP MARCH

Joe Le Taxi, Will Killeen

Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford

Binomial: Synth-Pop Reimagined

Baker Street, Gloucester

Witcher

The Unicorn, Malvern

Faithful City Shows: Muncie Girls, Perkie & Sick Pins

Cirle of Swords, Worcester

Terry Walls

The Brick Room, Worcester

Remi Harris Duo With Tom Moore

Thornbury Jazz Festival, Thornbury

Ruben Seabright

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Spaced Out World Piano Day 2020 Recital, Matthew Doidge

Atrix, Bromsgrove

Jibbafish

The Bayshill Pub, Cheltenham

Risky Galore

The Old Restoration, Cheltenham

Robbie Williams Tribute

The Crown Inn, Wychbold, Droitwich

Frozen Oceans, Zilch, Vicarage

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Ian Prowse

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Breathe Fire

The Swan, Evesham

Noughty Nineties

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Exclusively Elton

Pin The Hare And Hounds, Wollescote, Stourbridge

Alcuna Wilds

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Limelight Sessions 11: Marty O'reilly, The Riverside**And Kirsty Crawford**

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Test Pilots

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Make Mine A Double

Kingsholm, Gloucester Rugby, Gloucester

Moose Jaw

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Rhythm Slingers

The Tall Ship, Gloucester

Arcadia Roots

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Roving Crows

Market Theatre, Ledbury

The Salt Road

Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

True Strays

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Glen Darren And The Krew Kats

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Katie O'Malley

Courtyard, Hereford

Subtrax Presents... Father Funk And Wbbl

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Open Mic With Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Rodda'S Hairy Craic

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

The Goldblums

Secret Garden, Hereford

Flamingods

SVA, Stroud

Monkey Ride

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Western Rock

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Lewis Clark

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Nick Preston

Imperial Inn, Hereford

Forfeits

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Aaron Cook

The Little George, Stroud

Motown Motion

Far Forest Caravan Park, Bewdley Kidderminster, Kidderminster

Chris Wood

Lansdown Hall & Gallery, Stroud

Tom Martin Celtic Soul, Celtic Soul
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Dale Von Minake
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Upbeat Duo
Royal Fountain Inn, Kidderminster

The Follies
Three Crowns & Sugar Loaf, Kidderminster

Elvis Tribute Night With Memphis Mike
St Peters Community Church, Kidderminster

Cheltenham Bach Choir
Tewkesbury Abbey, Tewkesbury

Keri Hoffman
Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

Thirsty Work
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Dead Dads Club (2pm)
Carnival Records, Malvern

Jamie Knight & The Big Swing Band
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Frontrunner
Cross Keys, Malvern

Mused (Muse Tribute), White Noise Cinema
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sunday 29 March 2020

Worcester School Of Rock Showcase
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Knight & Hodgetts (6pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Matt Waddoups & Pete Mann Acoustic
Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Locked And Loaded (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Will Killeen
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Keith James – The Songs Of Leonard Cohen
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 11th - The 80s Toybox for 30 Somethings,
Persore Number 8

14th - 1:30pm - 4pm - Hand-build a beautiful porcelain vase
- with Katie Robbins Elmslie House, Malvern

14th - 9:30am-12noon - Hand-screen print Spring Postcards
with Catherine Bowdler Elmslie House, Malvern

15th - March 10am-12noon - Polymer Clay: Buttons & Pendants
with Sally Boehme Elmslie House, Malvern

15th - 1:30pm - 4pm - Glass fusing in the microwave kiln
with Clare Wainwright Elmslie House, Malvern

Until 15th - Borderlines Film Festival, various locations
around Herefordshire, Shropshire, Malvern, and the Marches

Until 18th - Four Abstract Artists - 'Echoes of Reality'
No.8, Persore

Until 18th - Georgians: The Pride & The Prejudice exhibition,
Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

Until 22nd - Herefordshire Life Through A Lens: The Derek Evans Exhibition-Studio Photographs Courtyard Hereford

Until June, Eden & Microplastics Rain Down From the Sky
Edgar Street Gallery, Worcester

1st The Fold Market, Bransford

2nd until 5th April Yasmin Agilah Hood Exhibition: Deep Thoughts from the Heavy Flow Worcester Arts Workshop

Until 23rd - Painting For Pleasure Exhibition Local amateur
artist Stephen Evans. Park's Cafe, Victoria Square, Droitwich

4th - Worcester Skills Show, Chateau Impney, Droitwich

4th - Pop Up Painting Style event - Andy Warhol, Pop Art
Campbell's Soup Can, Worcester Arts Workshop

5th-19th Women of Vision exhibition, The Hive Worcester

6th until 2nd May Bursting, exhibit at Evesham arts Centre

7th - Rag Rug workshop, New Brewery Arts · Cirencester

7th -19th Lin Matthias Exhibition Courtyard Hereford

Sunday Music Session
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Unconventionals
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Lenny James & The Gator Squad
Vaughans Bar, Redditch

Baroque Night
The Prince Albert, Stroud

March Mark Cole
Plume Of Feathers, Castlemorton, Worcester

Elisha Green
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Ber1amin Page
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Marika Hackman
The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Bryn Thomas
The Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

The Root Doctors (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Dick And Bob Show
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Jack Blackman
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Iain Cother
Red Lion, Evesham

The Salts, Julie July & Don Mac, Anna Watts
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Rock Academy Worcester Showcase
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Monday 30 March 2020

Alcester Rock Academy Acoustic Night!
The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Tuesday 31 March 2020

The Fun Lovin' Crime Writers
The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Ad your event at slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/

7th - Printing with Lino, Bevere Gallery, Worcester

10th - Arts Society Worcester - Threads of History: the world
of the Bayeux Tapestry, Tudor Grange Academy Worcester

11th Art House Open Lecture - Sally Payen Art House Worcester

12th March - Until 22nd April - Cheryl Steventon -
'Countryside to Coast' No8 Persore

13th Emerging Film Festival in partnership with The
University of Worcester, Worcester Arts Workshop

14th - Stained Glass Workshop, Three Little Pigs, Birlingham, Worcs

18th - Art House Open Lecture - Jack Evans, Art House Worcester

19th - Until 8th April - Richard Corbett - 'Light & Shade' No8 Persore

19th - Pop up painting Lowry's The Rush hour, No8 Persore

22nd - Craft Festival, Cheltenham Town Hall

22/23rd - Inspired Festival, Courtyard Hereford

23rd - Paper-cut Lampshade Workshop, New Brewery Arts,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire

25th - Pop up painting Van Gogh, Worcester Arts workshop

29th - Outside the City (PG) plus post screening Q&A

with Director Nick Hamer, Courtyard Hereford

**We have removed the regular
Music Sessions/Open Mics to:
www.slapmag.co.uk/sessions/**

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www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/**

**For Arts listings email:
arts@slapmag.co.uk**

THE MARRS BAR

MAR | APR 2020



James Taylor Quartet
Saturday 21st March

Thursday March 5

**Vinny Peculiar, Robert Rotifer,
Wes Dance**
£5 in advance £6.50 on the door

Friday March 6

The Leylines
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday March 7

**SLAP Mag - Celebrating One
Hundred Issues Party: Fights & Fires,
White Noise Cinema, Kick the Clown,
Connor Maher Quartet, Arcadia Roots**
£5 Donation

Thursday March 12

A Rock N Roll Suicide
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday March 13

**Uncover: The Earnest Spears
1st Birthday! + Flares, Echo Gecco,
SedatedSociety**
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday March 14

**The Machine Rages On (RATM
tribute), Liberty Artillery**
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday March 20

DIIO (Ronnie James Dio tribute), Primal
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday March 21

James Taylor Quartet
£20 in advance

Friday March 27

Stevie Mac (Fleetwood Mac tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday March 28

Mused (Muse trib), White Noise Cinema
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday March 29

Rock Academy Worcester showcase
£5 on the door

Friday April 3

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday April 4

The Vibrators
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday April 10

Sound Of The Sirens, Samantics
£10 in advance

Saturday April 11

Guns Or Roses
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday April 18

Straighten Out (The Stranglers tribute)
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Sunday April 26

Ruts DC Acoustic
£16 in advance

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

www.marrsbar.co.uk

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