

SLAP

Issue 11

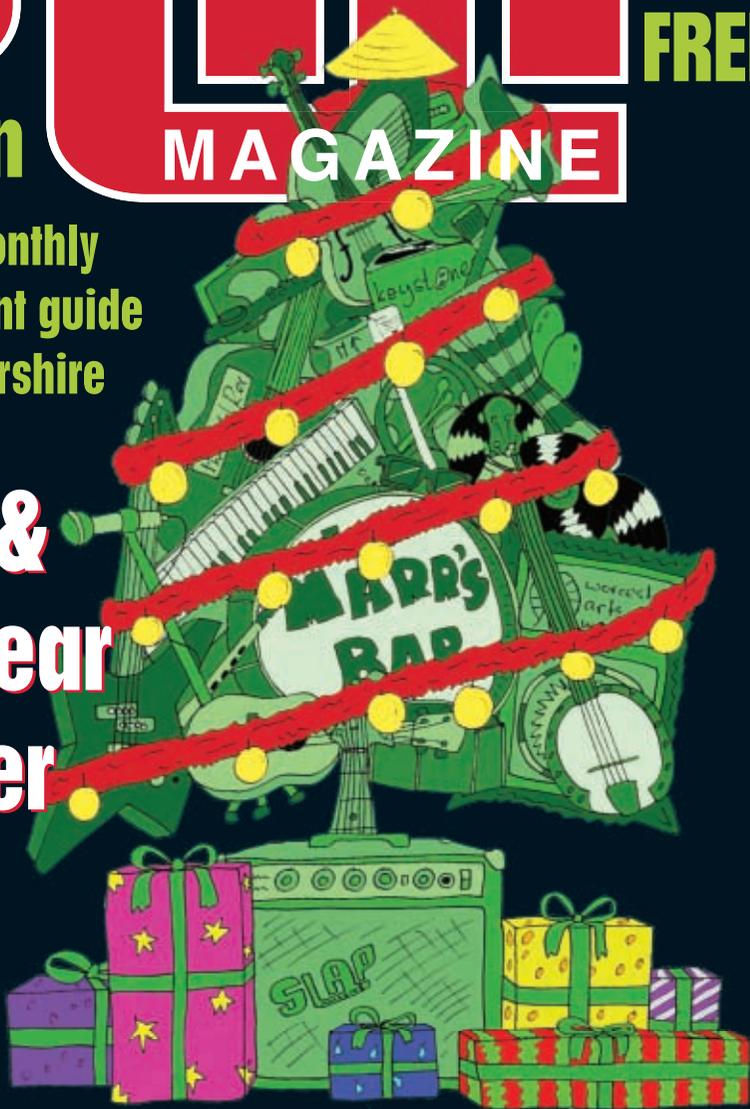
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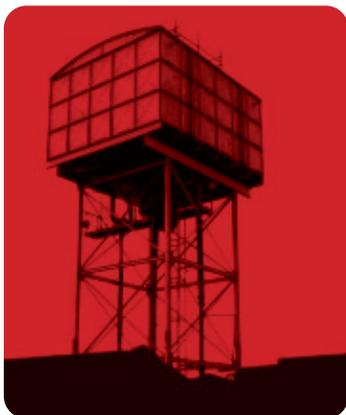
Dec/Jan

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Dec/Jan **MAGAZINE**

Slap Magazine

Unit 3E, Shrub Hill Industrial Estate,
Worcester WR4 9EL
Telephone: 01905 26660
editorial@slapmag.co.uk

For advertising enquiries, please contact:
Paul Robinson on 07852 247 970
adverts@slapmag.co.uk

Editorial	Mark Hogan
	Paul Robinson
Contributors	Andy O'Hare
	Kate Cox
	Steven Glazzard
	Ant Robbins
	Stephen Wilson
	Toni Charles
	Katie Foulkes
	Mel Hall
	Nick Taylor
	Jim Dale
	Garry Jones
	Russel Sprout
	Ben Everard
	Adam Montgomery
	Richard Clarke
	Little Charley & Kim
	Peter Blandamer
	Dysfunctional Bungle
	Dom Dunlea
	Tori de Mise
	Barrie Scott
	Baz Blacket
	Dan Bramhall
	Graham Sweet
	Siân Davis
	Jamie Savage
	Ian Scrapes
	Paige Turner
	Cos Ryan - Cover Illustration
Design	Mark Hogan
Sales	Paul Robinson
Web & Ebook	Dave Marston

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Welcome to our 11th and final issue of 2011, does anyone know where the time has gone?

We once again would like to thank everyone that got involved with us during the year, submitting reviews, photography and helping with distribution to make Slap a success. Thanks too for the support of the Arts Council, The Arts Workshop as well as the many venues, artists and performers. Most importantly we are grateful to you our readers and the positive feedback. High demand for Slap has meant another increase in copies this month as well as hitting 56 pages.

Our monthly Slap nights are proving popular too with a sell out crowd for Sicknote at the Arts Workshop last month. Big thanks there to all the volunteers. We look forward to the next installment with the visit of the mighty Cracked Actors.

It's great to see so many community based projects such as those in the Kidderminster under pass scheme and the Boar's Head Gallery, an inspiration to us all.

Excited as we are to mark the completion of our first year of Slap with the publication of this edition, our thoughts are firmly with the family of Justine Miskimmin who sadly passed away last month. Friends pay tribute to her on page 20.

That just leaves us to say have yourselves a Slappy Happy Christmas and New Year. See you in a venue near you soon..

The Eds



Also on ebook!



slapmag

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Slap News

December 2011

SWAN THEATRE TO HOST ROYAL VISIT!

The Swan theatre plays host to a very special visitor on December 1st as His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex pays a visit to celebrate the recent and extensive refurbishment.

His Royal Highness will be entertained with excerpts from this year's professional Swan Theatre Pantomime Jack & The Beanstalk, from The Swan's Theatre In Education Show Worcester City of Liberty, and from Vesta, the one-woman sell-out biopic of Worcester's forgotten mega star of the Music Halls. He will also enjoy performances from the talented youngsters of Academy Dance and meet representatives from the Swan Youth Theatre, Friends of the Swan, Worcester Society of Artists and Worcester Camera Club.

Chief Executive of Worcester Live, Chris Jaeger, is delighted to welcome what is thought to be the first official Royal Visitor to the theatre since its opening in 1964. "It is a huge honour for the Swan Theatre to play host to his Royal Highness, and is a fantastic opportunity to showcase some of the wonderful work we are doing both professionally and with the local community."

The Empire strike back!

"The Crooked Empire epitomise the defining qualities that have made this country the acme of musical talent that it is. Four down-to-earth lads from the Midlands nonchalantly carve out honest indie gems," said Live & Loud. With a new guitarist on-board and a debut album (produced by Tim Lewis) due for release in 2012 they are sure to ignite the touchpaper when they land at a venue near you.



Then there were four!
Photography: Rob Gale

The indie/rock band will play for the first time as a four piece band at LUV Camden on 10th December & will also make a local appearance on Sunday 18th December at the newly opened bar 360 Degrees in Broad Street, Worcester. For more information visit: www.thecrookedempire.com

Worcester Music Festival 2012 plans get underway

Worcester Music Festival 2012 will be four days instead of three and will take place later than usual to coincide with the August Bank Holiday weekend, organisers have confirmed.

New festival committee chairperson Helen King, who takes over from Brian Hoggard and shares the responsibility with Ant Robbins, said the decision reflected the growing popularity of the free celebration of live, original music from hundreds of, mainly, local bands and artists.

"We attracted a huge audience of 11,000 across around 30 venues in 2011, but quite a few people said they couldn't make the gigs or bring their families to our workshops because the event was slap bang in the middle of the summer holiday when they were away," she said.

"The August Bank Holiday is, traditionally, the time when everyone lets their hair down and, by holding next year's festival from the Friday until the Monday – an extra day on previous years – we will finish with a bang the same day as Worcester Festival and its fireworks display."



Organisers are now keen to hear from bands and artists from across the county and beyond who would like to play at one of the city's participating venues during the festival, from pubs, clubs and cafes to impressive historic buildings such as the Guildhall.

Around 300 of the 700 bands and artists who applied to play in 2011 won a slot, but, with an extra day on the cards, even more home-grown talent could get an opportunity, said Helen.

"We are also looking to build on the venues that enable us to put on such a feel good festival, particularly outdoor spaces so music can be heard everywhere over the weekend," she said. "We have some great ideas we'd like to see come to fruition this year, so watch this space."

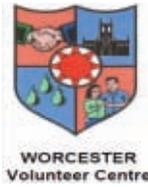
Worcester Music Festival, which celebrates its fifth birthday in 2012, is run entirely by volunteers and has raised nearly £20,000 for local charities through raffles and donations. In 2011 alone, the festival raised £7,030 for the city's Maggs Day Centre, enabling the Deansway lifeline for the homeless to stay open an extra day during the winter months.

To apply to play at Worcester Music Festival 2012, to discuss hosting an event or to volunteer your time in return for a uniquely rewarding experience, contact us by visiting www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk. You can also follow the festival on Facebook and Twitter.

Plans for LGBT Youth Support Group

Do you define yourself as Lesbian, Gay, Bi or Trans? Are you between the ages of 16-25?

If you're interested in a group like this or if you have any ideas such as places to meet, activities for the group or how often we should meet, please email us at: worcesterlgbt@hotmail.co.uk
Or call Worcester Volunteer centre on: 01905 24741 Charity Number: 1060980



Bad news for County's Youth

The Conservative-run County Council have proposed plans which see the possible closure of up to thirteen Youth Centre's in a bid to save £1.4m over the next three years. Under the proposals being discussed as we go to press could see Kidderminster, Tenbury, Riverside, Bewdley, Droitwich, Redditch and Worcester youth centres closed completely by 2014.

Will we see Community groups and town councils in come forward to take over the running of ten local youth centres as they are in Gloucestershire? One must hope so...

STOWFORD PRESS PRESENTS EVESHAM'S 2012 MUSIC BATTLE AT THE RAILWAY HOTEL

The Railway Hotel, Evesham are running a new year 'Battle of the bands'. With only 24 places available you need to act quickly if you want to be involved.

The competition is open to any artists over the age of 18, they can be originals, covers or a mix of both. The heats commence on 27th January and will comprise of two performances per night with 40 to 60 minutes sets.

As with last year the competition is sponsored by Stowford Press which will be on sale throughout the event at just £2 per pint all night.

The first prize is £1,500 so get your entries in by calling 01386 6446135 or 07710 522755. - First come, first served.

LOCAL MUSICIANS JOIN TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS IN AID OF ACORNS CHILDREN'S HOSPICE.

On the 5th November 2011, some of the most talented musicians from Worcestershire, Herefordshire and the West Midlands came together and recorded a seasonal message of hope and happiness in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice Trust, a registered charity offering a network of care for life limited and life threatened children and young people, and their families, across the heart of England. Acorns are currently supporting over 600

children and 865 families, including those who are bereaved.

With a fabulous range of talent including but to name but a few, Jamie Knight, Laura Broad, Christina Maynard, Jenny Hallum, Time of the Mouth and the Roving Crows, the Studio was a vibrant meeting of musical talent and the air of excitement and festiveness was contagious.

With a background of children's voices and even the dulcet tones of BBC's Introducing Andy O'Hare being donated to the mix, the result was 'I Love You Christmas Day', a celebratory, catchy and celebratory song.

Ronda would like to send a special note of thanks to Riz Khan, The Morgan Pub in Malvern, Andrew Slater of Malvern and SLAP Magazine for their generous contributions which made the recording and production of the finished CD possible, and of course to each and every one of those who donated their valuable time and talent for such a worthy cause.

The CD 'I Love You Christmas Day' is now available at £3.00 each from HMV Worcester and various music venues and of course via participating bands and artists, with all profits going towards the Charity.

For more information go to www.rondaband.com or <http://rondauk.bandcamp.com>

Congratulations to Malvern muso Clive John for picking up Hot Disc Of The Year at the British Country Music Awards for his album 'Spirit' which just missed out on winning Album Of The Year. Clive - who also tours as tribute act The Johnny Cash Roadshow - is still well-chuffed as the Hot Disc prize is selected by the country scene DJ's and journalists.



Kiddy three-piece Vault Of Eagles' stickman Scott Ewins won the Best Drummer award at the Marshall Amps Ultimate Band Contest Final held in Milton Keynes - the grungesome trio missed the top spot but still come away with a bunch of gear to wow their fans at future gigs - Mari, Hettie and Scott would like to thank everyone who supported them on the way!



Review 15th November

Cellar Bar

Poor Bob's Blues Night 6th Anniversay

'The blues ain't nothing but a good man feelin' bad.'

It also ain't nothin' but a genre that keeps coming, the backbone of rock in all its guises despite quips like all blues songs starting with "I woke up this mornin'"

Bob Jones, who runs Worcester's Cellar Bar Blues Night every month with associates, presents the case for the defence with songs spanning some ninety years in all kinds of styles.

It's Worcester's appreciation of the sounds of US juke joints of the 20s and 30s, rough arsed barrelhouses where some of the greatest licks in guitar history incubated. They inspired William Faulkner to write "If you ain't been black on a Saturday night you ain't had a Saturday night." Blues boomed in sixties Britain. Those passionate, exotic songs carried a sense that, amongst the lynchings and beatings that darken American history, with this music black people found the spirit to endure. It went on to inspire post war Britain and its music amongst which a youthful Bob found the only cure for the bug was to pick up a guitar, commence hollering and give big encouragement to anyone else who fancies a go.

And he's still at it. The sixth anniversary of Blues Night on Tuesday swung appropriately. Bob has a knack for getting the best of West Midlands blues performers to drop into his cellar and let rip.



First up we had Blueswamp Southern from Birmingham - all that an acoustic blues band should be. This set had traditional fare like Robert Johnson's *Steady Rollin Man*, songs by Sleepy John Estes, Fred McDowell and Muddy Waters through to the excellent *Lay Down By My Side* by Guy Davies. The rare sound of two steel bodied guitars is powerful and these gents' enjoyment of the job was thoroughly infectious.

Next an old Cellar Bar favourite: Dave Bristow. This lad sings and plays guitar so sweet; the main problem's the sound of dropping pins. Dave's a dedicated and much sought after artist but finds time to drop in with the likes of *Devil on My shoulder*, *Basin Street Blues*, a 30s version of *House of the Rising Sun* and a clutch of his own recorded

material including *Pallet On The Floor*, a dedication to his ancient, distinctive overcoat which has probably been shot by now.

Then the accomplished Gazza Tee and Noor Ali of *Stompin'* on *Spiders* did Gazza's guitar rich number *Never Tell a Woman* and *Sawmill Blues*.

Tempos moved up a notch with the inauguration of a new local combo Wayne Conn and The Big Beat featuring the boogie piano, dancing knuckles and vocals-like-he-means-it of Wayne Conn, boss drummer Steve Strain of Music City fame and Steve White on



bass. Keep an eye out for this lot but only if you fancy a great night out. *Jump Jive and wail*, *Route 66*, lots of goodies in there, Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino - solid pure Rock and Roll, love child of the Blues.

Capping the proceedings Bob's band *Stripped Down Blues* had Bob roaring and crooning through Bessie Smith's *Down and Out Blues*, *Rollin' and Tumblin'*, Eric Bibb's sweet and spiritual *Now Is The Needed Time*, swinging into worthy jazz standard *Hallelujah I Love Her So*. It features Andy Dent, saved in the nick of time from accomplished classical guitar for the good sound and the mellow, never-a note-out-of-place bluesharp of Darren Mather who proceeded to publicly 'come out' as a banjo plucker on *Scald Dog* - full power to his claw!



Winter recess now for Blues Night but keep an eye out for this session from January. It's a rare old show. Next Blues night is Tuesday Jan 17th.

Words: Barrie Scott

Stephen Wilson

Worcestershire County
Arts Officer

Shindig

Shindig is the county's touring arts programme which takes professional arts shows to small scale venues both in rural and urban areas. Before I arrived in the county I was not really aware of touring work but I have to say I have been completely converted to it.

It was set up eight years ago through a partnership between all the local authorities in the county and is funded through a mixture of Arts Council, Local Authorities and box office income. This subsidy allows local village halls, community centres and smaller arts centres the opportunity to showcase top quality professional artists and arts organisations at a fraction of the usual costs. This is also passed on to audiences who get the chance to see some incredible talent at half the price you would expect.

It was co-ordinated by the fabulous Sue Roberts from Artservice whose energy and expertise made the scheme one of the leading touring schemes in the country. Last year Sue retired and we were lucky to bring in John Laidlaw from a company called Live & Local who have consolidated the scheme but are now looking to develop it over the next three years or so.

Live & Local are also one of the Arts Council's National Portfolio Organisations which means that the



is relatively financially safe. A good example of the scheme at its best was the show For One Night Only which was produced by Farnham Maltings and was performed at Feckenham

Village Hall this October. Feckenham is one of my favourite Shindig venues. The promoter and volunteers all dress up for the show and there is a sense of occasion and excitement generated. The show was about two young African immigrants and their attempt to stay in England and to make it as musicians. Performed in the round the two actors were fantastic, constantly interacting with audience members, it featured dance, music as well as an array of characters all brought to life in a magical way. In late November I am going to see Zulu



at The Worcester Arts Workshop and the Workshop is one of the venues who create Shindig magic – just ask anyone who saw the brilliant Worcester based company, Vamos, perform their show Nursing Lives there at the start of 2011.



I urge you all to see a Shindig show, there is a wide variety on offer and to see some of the top musicians, dancers and actors in small intimate venues is a special and memorable experience. The shows are all under a tenner and they help keep village and community life together, having at their roots the tradition of players arriving in villages and entertaining communities before going on their way. If you do see a show and like it – tell the performers



too and of course tell us. For more information pick up a brochure across the county or check out www.shindig.org.uk





worcester arts workshop

Ho ho ho....what's been going on then?...Well we are just about recovering from a super fabulous sell out Slap night with Sicknote, Das Sexy Clap and Shuddervision dj's....A big sorry to those of you who did not manage to get tickets, so I won't go on about what an amazing night it was! (Read the review instead! ;))...



So, twinkling in to the festive period and with the opening of the World famous 'Victorian Fair', we see lots of cultural delights beginning on Fri 2nd Dec, when we welcome local Hereford band 'Muchuu' to the workshop plus support 'First Season'.

www.muchuumusic.com
£5 admission.

If you are trying to avoid the tourists, come along to the workshop craft fair on Sat 3rd to buy some goodies and drink some mulled cider and eat the usual Mexican gastronomic delights in Cafe Bliss!

Then Fri 9th sees sparkling 50's diva Natalie Ross along with a vintage fair for you to come and buy some retro bits and bobs while you get your polka dots out....fair starts at 5.30pm, with the show at 8pm. £9 tickets. (£8 concs).



<http://www.natalieross.co.uk/>

The Ill skillz boys are back with Circular Cypher Sat 10th, presenting very special guest 'Cutmaster Swift' from the legendary UK Dj crew 'The Enforcers' and 1989 world DMC Dj championship winner, blazing up the turntables for the 1st time ever in Worcester... £5 entry from 7.30pm. <http://www.myspace.com/cutmasterswift>



It's Café Bliss' last Lazy Sunday until March 2012 so get yourselves down on Sunday 11th. They take a well earned break for the Dylan weekend in January and holidays in February. Line-up includes Lea Haworth, Laszlo's Diary, Stompin' On Spiders and East of the Sun (acoustic).



Skatastic festive Slap, just in time for Xmas, give a hip hip hooray it's the 'Cracked Actors', funky ska punk all the way from Birmingham....a definite not to be missed! Sat 17th £6. From 7.30pm. Slap takes a break for Jan, back in Feb with guests to be announced....

'Fudge' from the Cracked Actors
by Thea Baddiley

The last Learn:Eat:Perform of 2011 is on the 18th, 11am til 3pm £7 (£6 advance)...It returns in Feb....

Sun 18th Splendid cinema presents: 'Rare Exports' (Fin, 2010, Jalmari Helander) 84 min. 7pm. £5.



This wacky Finnish black comedy is about abducting Santa from his tomb and holding him for ransom. This film won the Best Film award at both Sitges and Abertoir film festivals in 2010. 15 cert.

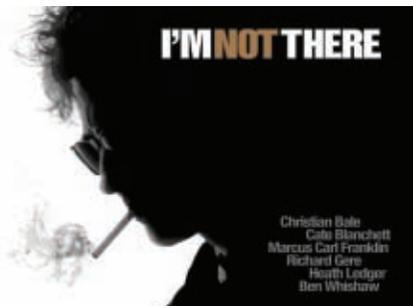
All this while you can come and explore work from members of the Clik Clik Collective in both galleries including more of Clik Clik co-founder Richard Clarke's fine drawings as well as works from Sarah Jacobson, Kate Cox, Sheila Bradburn, Alex Rowan, Rachel Troth, Di Cope and Tamara Cars.....come purchase an individual or handmade festive gift for something extra special!

And don't forget....

...as always we have life drawing Wed evenings, 7th and 14th Dec and 11th/18th/25th Jan 7pm til 9pm. And.... salsa? Check out Cuban Salsa, the real deal straight from Havana, full of passion and flair, top quality timba and reggaeton (with a few ruedas thrown in for good measure!!)

If you're new to all this, just one thing, get ready to have a great time! (And no... you don't need to bring a partner). Sunday 4th and 11th Dec. 4 til 8pm. £5.

And finally (almost), come beat the winter blues by enrolling on one of our creative courses for Jan including ceramics, watercolour painting, painting and drawing, jewellery making, guitar, children's art and more.....



Which takes us tidily up to January 2012. really?), beginning with a good dose of belly dancing to shake off that Xmas greed on Saturday January 7th followed by the Bob Dylan weekend with the film 'I'm not there' on Fri 13th and the Dylan inspired group exhibition opening on Sat 14th Jan plus a Bob-tastic 'Lazy' Sunday on the 16th...

And it's our birthday on the 29th Jan! Woo hoo, one whole year and a massive and heartfelt THANKYOU to all of you who have supported us these last 12 months. And guess what? We share our birthday with the very lovely SLAP magazine itself....hmm a party me thinks???

Merry festivities and a prosperous 2012 x
Worcester Arts Workshop
21 Sansome Street,
Worcester, WR1 1UH
Telephone: 01905 25053



info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk
Website: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

by Kate Cox

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Review Howard Marks is *Mr Nice* – Artrix

Wednesday 26th November 2011

Slap Magazine headed fifteen miles up the road to the Artrix in Bromsgrove on a chilly Wednesday night to see the legend that is Howard Marks aka Mr Nice. During the mid 1980s, Howard Marks had 43 aliases, 89 phone lines, and 25 companies trading throughout the world. Bars, recording studios and offshore banks, all were money-laundering vehicles serving the core activity: dope dealing (Marks claims he never dealt in hard drugs).

Howard began to deal during a postgraduate philosophy course at Oxford and was soon moving large quantities of cannabis into Europe and America in the equipment of touring rock bands. The academic life began to lose its allure. At the height of his career, he was smuggling consignments of up to thirty tons from Pakistan and Thailand to America and Canada and had contact with organisations as diverse as the CIA, MI6, the IRA, and the Mafia. After many years and a world-wide operation by the Drug Enforcement Agency, he was busted and sentenced to twenty five years in prison at the United States Federal Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Indiana, the site of America's only Federal Death Row. He was released on parole in April 1995 after serving seven years of his sentence.

In 1996 he released his autobiography, 'Mr. Nice', which remains an international best seller in several languages and was the best selling non-fiction book of 1997. Slap Magazine had front row seats on the balcony looking down on the sell out audience who were waiting for his arrival. A big round of applause greeted the 66 year old when he eventually shuffled along to the microphone. He needed the lights dimming as he had just smoked a couple of joints (he smokes half an ounce a day!)

Howard started off by relating his arguments against the current UK drug laws. He says cannabis should be legalised. The police could then concentrate on proper criminals. "Every society has to have policemen but when you've got policeman enforcing silly laws then you are going to have huge problems.

"It makes kids hate the police which is entirely unnecessary. By legalising the drug it would avoid confrontation. It's not the police that is the problem, it is the politicians."

He seemed to be getting a bit more life and energy about him as the show went on, probably the effects of the cannabis wearing off! He also talked about tobacco or nicotiana in its purest form which is not what the public are smoking today. The slide show projecting images of the purple nicotiana plant then flicked across to the green tobacco plant. Explaining the difference to us he said, "Anything that is purple must get you wrecked, so therefore this rubbish green tobacco we smoke doesn't get you high like the purple nicotiana plant did." Tobacco companies pump up to 4000 chemicals into the stuff available today, many of which cause cancer. He argues the South American shaman thousands of years ago wouldn't have died from cancer.

When Slap headed downstairs at half time to enjoy a beer, nearly half the audience were outside the building and there was a strange fruity aroma floating in the air by the front door as we walked past...

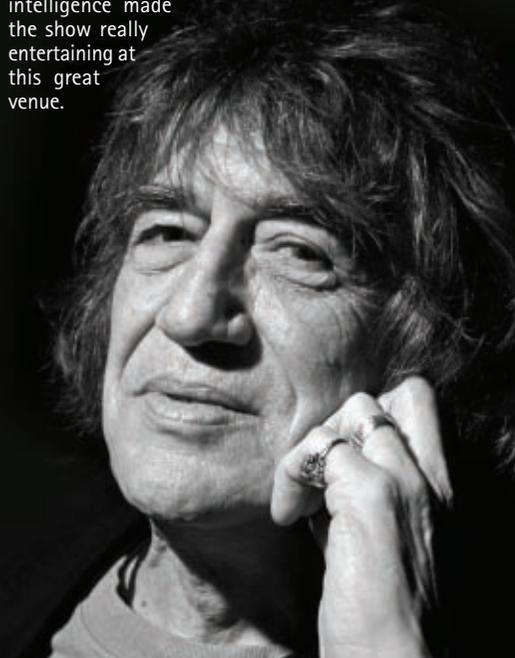


The other part of the show was mainly talking about the other book he is selling, 'Sympathy For The Devil' which is a fictional novel. The painfully slow ten minutes he spent reading extracts I will never get back! An audio-visual show followed whilst he sat on a stool, enjoying a lager. He interacted with the audience well and resisted the shouts from a few people to "skin up" stating he valued the Artrix Theatre's licence and reputation but did say if anyone knew of a venue due to close down, he would gladly do a show there and smoke joints all night whilst entertaining the crowd. The questions and answers section at the end was a little short though, I thought.

One member of the audience asked "If you had the chance to relive your life would you follow the same path again?" His reply was simple, "Hell yes!"

I had a chat with Nick, the manager of the Artrix, about how well all the merchandise was selling for Howard. £25 for a t-shirt is a bit expensive we thought but I did buy one of his books entitled 'Senor Nice'. I read 'Mr Nice' whilst on a beach in Thailand a few years back. I doubt the location where I read this one will be quite so exotic.

The morality of Howard's life within the drugs trade might create anxiety and unease with some people as he was a drug dealer, yet he doesn't take himself too seriously. His sharp wit and intelligence made the show really entertaining at this great venue.



Preview **Dodgy & Skewwhiff** Artrix 12th Jan

“Dodgy” is Back !!!

Probably Bromsgrove's biggest ever band, "Dodgy", returns to its roots when it plays at Artrix on Thursday, January 12th.



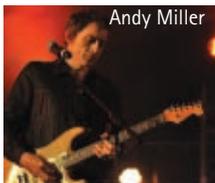
Nigel Clark



Matt Priest

The band – Nigel Clark, Mathew Priest and Andy Miller – will be playing songs from its forthcoming album – “Stand Upright in a Cool Place” – and no doubt reprising such hits from the 90's as “Staying Out For The Summer”, “If You're Thinking of Me” and “Good Enough”.

Photography: Dodgy by Mike Woods



Andy Miller

“We're really looking forward to this” says frontman Nigel Clark. “Bromsgrove is where it all started for Math and I, from rehearsals at Stoke Prior community centre and Avoncroft to our first gig as Four at the Golden Cross and then regular gigs at the Coach and Horses back in 1986.”

Opening the show will be “Skewwhiff”, a four piece female fronted indie band from Worcester with a nod to the festival scene.



Photography: Phil Williams

The show starts at 8.00.p.m and tickets, at £15, are available from the Box Office on 01527-577330 or online at www.artrix.co.uk

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Review Halloween at Drummonds

Monday 31st October

Vault of Eagles, Das Sexy Clap & Trap Floors

As someone that hates Halloween with a passion I would normally stay at home hiding away from drunk people in masks. On this occasion I couldn't stop myself venturing out into the night and heading down to Drummonds to catch not one but three of my current fav bands.



heard over 'a' guitar that sounds like 'ten' and some of the fastest, heaviest drumming you'll ever hear from the fairer sex. The songs are crafted, delivered with precision and never too long. The So So Sick ep has been a permanent fixture in the Slap office and Chris Wemys and life long friend and musical partner Katy Birch have much to be proud of.

Despite the fake blood attack by Mari of the Vault of Eagles I'm still enjoying my Halloween! It was to get better as she took to the stage with the formidable rhythm section that is sister Hetti on bass and drummer Scott. They hit the stage like a battering ram and they're immediately forgiven for enticing me out on a chilly Monday evening.



Their set is now so familiar I feel I could join in... I couldn't of course, I would in no time be lost as they effortlessly change from 7 time to 4/4. Favourites like 'Bleed' and 'High' hit the spot as well as that obscure cover they do that I love but the old grey matter won't allow me to retain the title of.



In short, probably the best and most memorable Halloween to date. I might join in next year...



First on were the enigmatic Trap Floors fronted by the enchanting and multi talented Holly Jeffrey. Improving every time and now noticeably oozing confidence they kept the healthy sized audience fixed stagewards with soundscapes that fill the room. Stand out songs for me have to be 'Cellophane' from the forthcoming second EP 'Colazipne with Confidence'. The first ep, the beautifully entitled 'A Hospital for People With Nerves' was represented too.

The guitar work is brilliantly understated and compliments the Liz Fraser-esque ululations of Hollis vocal. In fact their own songs get stronger with every airing for me, no need for Portishead covers here.

The next band on duty were the brilliant (and I don't use that word often) Das Sexy Clap. Yes, thats right, I love this band. But then why wouldn't I, after all, I love the Pixies and thats enough isn't it? Don't get me wrong, a one trick pony DSC are not, with throat throttling, ear drum bursting vocals that somehow make themselves



Don't Let It Happen Here...

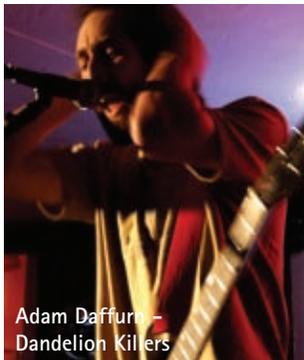
by Andy O' Hare

Ahhh - it's the time of the year when you sit back in the armchair with your pipe and slippers (does anyone still have either of those any more?) and reflect on what a grand year it's been on the local music scene - so many great gigs and festivals and with prospects at their brightest for a number of our up-and-coming talents (most notably those who've worked and gigged and plugged themselves like there's no tomorrow!)

My hope for 2012 is that we'll see at least one local act of genuine talent get the national recognition they deserve - and I'm pushing as hard as anyone for this!! Yeah we've had Ellie Goulding and Cher Lloyd from our region make it big over the last 18 months or so - but to my knowledge Ms Goulding's not been seen in Hereford for over a year (though if you can whistle up the plane fare, you can join one of her 'jog-a-thons' in Central Park, New York - oh goody!) Fair play to Cher however in my book - of course her music's nothing other than for the audience it's intended to appeal to (pre-teens mostly!) but she's never lost track of her Malvern roots (insert your pun here...!)

So apart from one genuine local act getting that big break - all in all this is a pretty damn good time on the local music scene with gigs and open mic nights taking place across the whole area virtually every night of the week - and I reckon a hell of a lot of credit should go to those individuals who've spent so much of their time working to make the local scene develop into something really special. So a big three cheers I think is due to the likes of Tyler Massey, Vo Fletcher, Neil Collins, Ralph Tittley and Mike Mann who've done wonders for the Malvern scene - and Chris Bennion, Brian Maher, Will Munn and the late lamented 'Toxic Pete' for their efforts over the years in Worcester - of course there's so many others but I reckon these lot deserve special mention.

But it wasn't always like this - a few years ago the happening place locally was undoubtedly Hereford - with great live acts like **Dandelion Killers**, **Bitchpups**, **Tastyhead** and **Common Orange** on stage every weekend at the Herdsman, The Imperial and The Jailhouse. The



Adam Daffurn -
Dandelion Killers

Wyeside Festival would attract thousands down to the riverside over the May Bank Holiday and all in the garden looked rosy...

So what happened so that nowadays the last place Hereford bands want to play is in their home town? Well some have put it down to general

apathy setting in, or venues like the Jailhouse opting instead for predictable weekend crowdpullers (ie dubstep DJ's) or even the bunch of trolls who reduced the once-lively Hereford Music Forum website to the pits by slagging off every single act that poked its nose above the parapet - the day when the last two 'contributors', having no-one else left to insult, finally turned on each other wasn't really one of finest moments I've witnessed - but just seemed like the final nail in the coffin...

So the current Hereford scene is usually summed-up nowadays as 'dubstep at the Jaily - that's it mate' - I don't want to start a debate about whether DJ's/drum'n'bass/mixmastering is 'proper music' (well I do really - maybe another time) There was one BBC Introducing Masterclass earlier this year at Abbey Road (still on the iPlayer by the way) which focussed on 'remixing' - and they used 'I Want Candy' by BowWowWow as an example - there was a really awkward moment at the end when someone from the PRS brought up the subject of using other artists' material and copyright issues - oohh touchy...

But I reckon that it was a total absence of 'movers and shakers' that's been the real problem across the border - the only one with any real clout saw the stormclouds coming and upped sticks to Gloucester - leaving maybe two others - one with wonderful visions but blindly incompetent when it came to the basic formalities and another who seemed to be cursed by a combination of bad weather and bad luck. There've been some efforts at revival - but any local bands who had the misfortune to play the doomed (and apparently cursed) Blue Rooms came away with maybe a good hour's practice with a great PA - but accompanied by an acute sense of despair!!

Could this happen over here then? Well not for the near future at least I reckon because the Worcester(shire) scene at the moment has two great things going for it... First are a whole bunch of people (and there are loads more than those I've mentioned!) who are totally dedicated to promoting and playing live, local and original music - and by this I mean everything from one bloke/girl-with-a-guitar in a pub upwards - but most important I reckon is the sense of a true 'music community' involving the performers, promoters and venues all pulling in the same direction (with the added bonus of websites like **NotJustSauce** and the fine publication in your hands right now!) Yeah sure there's the occasional 'blip' with the occasional turkey of a gig maybe - but overall I reckon there's a network of co-operation with real strong roots that should give us massive hope for the future!!

So hope you all have a wonderful Midwinter Public Holiday - and if you see me at an open mic night, a gig or a festival in 2012 (I'm the one at the back disguised as a pile of old newspapers) feel free to come up and share your opinions with me - or better still get some cards/flyers printed and some CD's burnt over the festive season and make sure I get a copy...

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Preview Artrix Bromsgrove

Tim Richmond Exhibition – “Portmeirion Out of Hours”

This brand new exhibition by Tim Richmond, hung in the Gallery at Artrix from Wednesday, December 7th to Sunday, January 8th, explores the village of Portmeirion in North Wales.

Portmeirion, designed by Clough Williams-Ellis, is famous as the setting for the original “The Prisoner” television series and is a favourite port of call for many visitors to the area. Clough built Portmeirion to show how you could develop a naturally beautiful setting without spoiling it and that with sufficient skill and care, good architecture can actually enhance the natural environment.

Much of the exhibition was created, as the name suggests, “out of hours”. When the day visitors have gone home and the sun begins



to set, the village takes on a whole new life of rich colours and deep shadows. Early winter mornings reveal the brilliance of Clough’s work as the sun reaches across the estuary, illuminating the brightly coloured buildings. The perfect light can last for only a few seconds and repeated trips to the same spot are often needed to capture the magical look. Many of Tim’s shots are taken from viewpoints not accessible from public areas, bringing a new perspective to the viewer.



Tim is a freelance photographer based in Rowney Green, North Worcestershire, and specialises in theatrical and event photography, portraiture, architecture and landscapes.

The Gallery at Artrix is open at all times when Artrix is open and admission is free. Tim’s work can be purchased via the Box Office – 01527-577330 – and you can visit his website at www.timrichmondphotography.co.uk

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SLAP Night III

Sicknote, Das Sexy Clap

Worcester Arts Workshop 19th Nov

On Saturday 19th November SLAP magazine hosted the latest instalment of live music as part of their residency at The Worcester Arts Workshop. It was only their 3rd joint promotion but, in amongst the organised chaos, there is already a sense of harmony and chemistry between these two up and coming institutions. This is no great surprise as these nights marry together a venue and a publication that share the same ethos of open, honest artistic expression with an emphasis on local talent. And it was with local



talent that the evening swung into action. First to plug in were Das Sexy Clap. Not only do the Worcester two piece have the coolest name on the local music scene, they also have a wit and self awareness that sets them apart from many of their contemporaries. More importantly, though, DSC can really play. Front man Chris Wemyss is an unlikely hero, but he fearlessly leads us into battle with an impassioned war cry and a relentless, rasping, distorted guitar that is as loud as gunfire and twice as dangerous. The heavy artillery behind him is provided by Katie Birch who, though petit in stature, hits the kit with the weight and wherewithal of Bonham in a bad mood. This really is 'helmets at the ready' stuff. Perhaps most impressively though, the two manage to weave in and out of the debris of their onslaught, enticing us with catchy hooks that are so big you could hang your trench coat on them. The end result, then, is 30 minutes of loud, loveable, dirty, rock'n'roll that really kicks the evening into action.

If the support act was a Panzer movement of rock warfare, then headline act, Sicknote, are a nuclear explosion. From the outset, they offer an angular punchy noise riot underpinned by layered techno beats and a scything vocal. In deed, lead singer Doghouse, highlights early on his incredible ability to be both confrontational and accessible at the same time. Adorned in safety pins, pegs and bright military tunics (Dr Conker is not a shy man), the boys from South Wales are the epitome of an electro punk aesthetic. They clearly enjoy the visual side of their art (on screen projections are a staple of



their live shows), a sentiment that is echoed by their sizeable and colourful following. Boiler suits, bowler hats, basques and masques were all on display in a rolling sea of admiration in front of the stage. The enthusiasm was infectious as it wasn't long before the entire venue was hit by the wave. Even the biggest sceptics (myself included) felt the urge to move their feet and make it count. Sicknote have made a name for themselves on a wider festival circuit and, on tonight's showing, it is easy to see why. They are totally committed to giving you a great time - and they'll bring everything they've got in order to do it.



Throughout the night the 200 strong crowd was looked after by the ever omnipresent Shuddervision DJs. These guys know how to sense the mood and set the tone. Before and after each act, their considered selection of energetic vinyl seamlessly segue and effortlessly entertain. They take us all through to the early hours and ensure that the newly acquired late licence at the Workshop is justified, and fully taken advantage of. If this night is anything to go by, there is a good time coming for live music in Worcester and SLAP and the Workshop will be at the forefront of it.

- Jim Dale

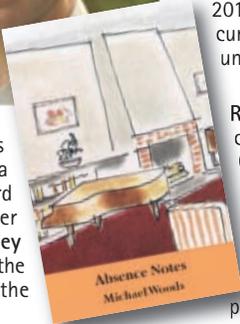


Preview

Templar Knights at The Lamb and Flag Wednesday 7th Dec & 4th Jan

INN Verse is the evolution of the already popular poetry and cheese evenings at the Lamb and Flag. A new collaboration between Templar Poetry and the pub, starts on December 7th with the launch of the Lamb and Flag's own resident poet's new book, *Absence Notes*.

Michael Woods is a poet who teaches English and Drama at Malvern, Worcestershire. *Absence Notes* is his first collection and is published by Templar Poetry. The Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy describes his poetry as 'concerned with texture, tenderness and the toughness of experience, with a fresh eye for the passions and eccentricities concealed behind our front doors.' Michael is married with three children and has a lifelong passion for the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. He is an annual lecturer and participant at the Gerard Manley Hopkins Conference in Ireland. He edits the poetry magazine *Tandem*, encouraging the work of new young writers.



In January we have two Oxford Poets, Pat Winslow and Susanne Ehrhardt coming to read from their work for us.

Pat Winslow worked for twelve years as an actor and left the theatre in 1987 to take up writing. She writes fiction and poetry and was a winner of the Templar Poetry Pamphlet Awards in 2007 with *Dreaming of Walls Repeating Themselves* followed in 2008 with her collection, *Unpredictable Geometry*. Pat is currently writer in residence at a local prison and has worked extensively with Templar Poetry in building up the Oxfam Bookshop readings as well as judging the 2010 Pamphlet and Collection Awards. She is currently working on her new collection and an unusual change in her career path...



Susanne Ehrhardt's first collection is *Rumpelstiltskin's Price*, and one theme in the collection reflects aspects of her growing up in Germany before coming to Britain as a young adult. She took a degree in Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London before qualifying as a medical doctor from Cambridge. She worked with non-governmental and government health programmes in Bangladesh, and subsequently

as a health adviser with Oxfam's long-term health projects, as well as humanitarian emergencies. She had been living with English for twenty years before the first poem arrived



So pop down to the Lamb and Flag and join in INN Verse with a variety of poetic styles and two book launches from Templar Poetry on the evenings of Wednesday the 7th of December and the 4th of January. Signed copies of poets' works will be available on the night.



The Landlord



At this first INN verse event, Mike will be joined by Jane Weir who is an Anglo Italian poet. She is a professional textile designer whose work is widely acclaimed. *Walking the Block*, her innovative poetic biography on the modernist handblock printers, Phyllis Barron and Dorothy Larcher and the companion volume, *Spine*, explore through poetry and prose passages the experiences of both women's lives, works and practices often found in surface print, pattern and natural dye. Carol Ann Duffy describes Jane Weir as 'quite simply the most exciting new poet I have read since Alice Oswald.' Her war poem, 'Poppies', is part of the GCSE English Literature syllabus.



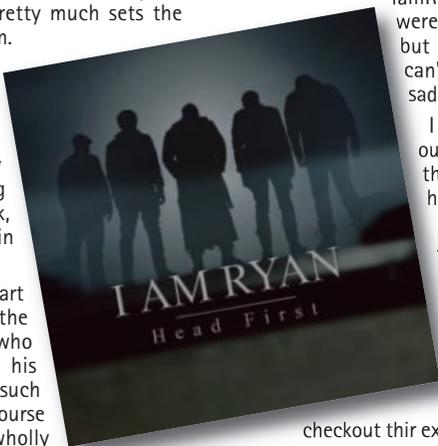
Album Review

IAMRYAN – Head First

We're off with the bright and breezy title track; a hooky, melodic, dynamic and dare I say it, stadium friendly rocker which pretty much sets the tone for this debut album.

There's a wealth of tasty tunes throughout and whilst you can tell they admire the like of U2, Snow Patrol (they have covered Chasing Cars live) and their ilk, they manage to maintain an identity all their own.

This is due in no small part to the vocal talents of the eponymous Mr Corbett, who especially shines when his register soars on tracks such as Torn and Angels. Of course it would be unfair to wholly credit Ryan and this is a band of sterling musicians.



In addition to the opener and the aforementioned Torn, numbers like Stray and live fave Hit Reset will have you jumpin and-a-hollerin or whatever is your bag with their infectious vibes.

I was pleased when some piano and strings entered the fray on Lost as these added further breadth to the iamRyan soundscape and felt that these were underused. Indeed apart from a nice but small touch of moog on Hit Reset I can't remember any other keyboards sadly.

I also enjoyed it when the band rock out more on songs like Work, but overall there's good variety on the 12 tunes herein.

The album is further enhanced by the decent production work of Dave Draper and band, making this a debut of considerable promise which augurs well for their future endeavours.

Head First is available from Rapture, Evesham and iTunes plus checkout thir excellent website at www.iamryan.co.uk

Words by Tori de Mise

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Justine Miskimmin - Remembered

One day I had a bright idea to start a girl band. I was living in Birmingham at the time. I contacted my mate Kim who I'd known for ten years and who I knew was amazing on guitar. Kim was game, so I put an advert on Facebook for a female guitarist and a female drummer, as I was on bass.

Shortly after Brian Hoggard emailed me about an amazing female drummer by the name of Justine Miskimmin. I looked this girl up on Facebook, emailed her and she got right back. This was the start of the Rubber Nuns.

We met at Tower Studios in Pershore run by Chris Harvey. Kim, Justine and I gelled straight away. Kim and I have always been buddies but very few people have been able to fit into our history and it felt like we had been missing Justine in our lives since we left school. All that love for the girl before she even hit the drums! Then she did hit the drums. I remember it so clearly. Kim looked at me and I looked at Kim, she was our missing piece. Justine had made me believe that this could actually work! She would have annihilated a lot of the male drummers in Worcester, she only had to listen to a drum track once to get it straight away.

The loss of Justine has been a massive hit on Worcester, not just for her talents but also for her beautiful personality and smile. I am just over the moon that I got to meet her and play music with her. I know though, she will be making a double bass pedal racket from where ever she is. Miss you dude.

- Little Charley xx

I first of all have to thank Charley for finding Justine; if it wasn't for her I would never have known her, a new buddy for life. Those times we had on stage were awesome, I'd look back at her big gleaming face with that cheeky grin and think - hell yes, we are onto a winner. She was the best girl drummer I knew, she played with her heart and soul and helped me produce some good songs with not only drums but her amazing talents for lyrics which would always just roll off the tongue!



There were differences with band members, and sadly the Rubber Nuns split up in early July 2011. Evie was to continue with us and brilliantly sing Justine's lyrics with all the heart and passion that they were written for. Justine and I formed 'Bad Amber' and were getting ready to blow everyone away with new songs and heaps of passion. Our first supporting slot was booked for 12th Nov. Justine was so excited to get back on that stage doing what she loves.

Dude, you have taken a part of me with you and the band was my world. I loved every minute of it, all the fun and laughter and the times we would just sit and talk. You've been there with me from the start. I feel I'm nothing without you! But one thing I will do is keep Bad Amber going and make sure everyone hears those songs that you were so passionate about, I never want them to be forgotten but its going to be hard without you. I'll always be on your right side buddy, I will miss and love you always, can't wait for us to jam again!

- Kim xx



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Review

Howard James Kenny, Sam Edan The MARRS Bar – 13th November 2011

I've never seen the crowd at The MARRS Bar seated in rows as though at a classical music concert, but they were on Sunday 13th November for Howard James Kenny. Somehow it felt appropriate for Howard's music to be given the attention and focus normally reserved for "fine art". I've always thought Howard is like some kind of modern-day musical alchemist; using science to magically weave diverse, individual elements into gold. With his blonde head bent forward in concentration over his electronic cauldron of foot pedals, he creates individual musical elements on his acoustic guitar or by singing. He then feeds these through his pedals, looping and layering them until a shimmering, multi-textured golden music emerges, woven from the individual musical threads. His sound occupies an ethereal place somewhere between Portishead and Kate Bush. For me, part of the magic of Howard's music comes from the live element in each performance.

Howard James Kenny



Photography: Brian Ellison

By playing and singing everything himself and then electronically copying it, there is a tangible element of risk and jeopardy at each gig. There is very little margin for error; if Howard's timing or tuning isn't absolutely accurate, or he accidentally uses the wrong pedal, the electronic loop reveals the mistake again and again. So tension infuses each gig, as the audience hold their breathe to see if Howard can manage the split second timing and concentration needed to alchemise his beautiful music.

So I wasn't sure what to expect when I heard Howard was playing his excellent first album, *"Shelter Songs"* with a band at The MARRS Bar. Would that element of risk and the sense of something unique being created in the moment, still be tangible? I needn't have worried. Howard took the main elements of his singing and guitar playing and looped them into his delicate song structures. The musicians around him then added musical parts from *"Shelter Songs"*, but the sounds of their instruments gave

the songs new depth. The musicians almost became like loops of music themselves; dipping in and out of the sound, injecting fresh texture and drama as the music unfolded. They all deserve special praise for the sensitivity and care with which they enhanced Howard's songs. Each of them are established local talents in their own right, whose names will be familiar to SLAP readers: drummer and percussionist Joe Singh; bassist Luke Elliott; Holly Jeffreys played cello, violin and percussion; Rich Clarke added beautiful falsetto harmonies to the song *"Digits Point"*; and Sam Edan deserves an extra mention, as he played piano and percussion for Howard and also opened the gig with a set of his own heartfelt, widescreen melodic songs.

Howard started with his trademark version of *"Teardrop"*, by Massive Attack. He sang this alone, before introducing his musical collaborators to play *"My Wrongs"* - the opening song of *"Shelter Songs"*. As Howard stayed sat in the centre of the stage surrounded by the blinking lights of his pedals, the other musicians subtly shifted around him. They changed places, melted away and returned to the stage, both physically and musically. This added drama to the gig as they orbited around Howard's still centre. As *"Shelter Songs"* unfolded the intricate multiple guitar parts ebbed and flowed, the piano and drums adding drive and the cello playing rich melodies. However, the most memorable moments for me were created by the distinct, pure tone of Howard's voice: the end of *"Insects"* when he harmonised with himself until the falsettos built up into an otherworldly choir; the final a cappella vocal on *"This Old Ship"* that sounded like an ancient radio broadcast from a lost civilisation.

Sam Edan opened up
and also accompanied
Howard



Photography: Joe Singh

After the show I bumped into a friend from out of town. Wide-eyed she told me, "I was just visiting friends, and they insisted at the last minute that we all had to come down and watch this guy play. It was mesmerising, totally mesmerising!". Standing room only in The MARRS Bar, and the mob of those wanting to congratulate Howard and buy *"Shelter Songs"* from him afterwards were a testament to the beauty of the music we'd just heard, and its ability to carry the listener away.

Words: Dan Bramhall

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THE GRIND

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Following the success from our recent shows at our new home the VELVET LOUNGE nightclub in Angel Place, we were keen to keep up our momentum and start something new. Whilst promoting our free cd, the WORCESTER ROCK CITY COMPILATION ALBUM, we encountered some disappointment from our younger followers who, although loved the CD, were unable to attend any of the showcase evenings due to the 18+ age restriction we have on our nights (for safety and legislation reasons).

We went back to our office and had a ponder; there is a strong youth following of local music in Worcester but unfortunately it appears to be limited to teenagers rocking out in their bedrooms playing some pretty awesome air guitar to their favourite local bands online.

Take for instance, Worcester's metal heroes FURY who have a 10,500+ following online. They tell me that about 31% of this impressive fan base is between the ages 13-24, which mean a decent proportion of that figure is unable to legally buy a pint or attend the majority of their shows.

There is no other under 18s night, exclusively for LIVE music in this town. The Grind Monkeys here at Worcester Rock City decided that this would not do and that it was time to bring some quality rock 'n' roll entertainment to the Young Bloods. Worcester Rock City is excited to announce launch of a monthly alternative/rock night for under 18s called THE GRIND.

THE GRIND is a fun-fuelled Friday night for teenagers to be held once a month at the Velvet Lounge nightclub in Angel Place. The Grind will play host to the coolest young bands on the scene with our very own resident DJ filling in the evening with the best alt/rock/emo tracks on the airwaves right now.

It is also an opportunity for the younger, inexperienced musicians to receive a little bit of guidance and play to a decent sized crowd at a well promoted gig. We're inviting bands of all ages to apply to play at these gigs, but with the under 18s taking priority.

The inaugural GRIND will take place on Friday 9th December with The SJS Band, Morning Glory and two bands from the Worcester School of Rock & Performance taking to the stage. PLEASE NOTE: THE GRIND is a 13+ event, aimed at teenagers but old fogies (18+) are welcome too.

Tickets are £4 in advance or £5 on the night. They are available from local retailers Music City along the Tything, Worcester and Four-Leaf Clothing on New Street, Worcester. You can also order tickets from our website:

www.worcester-rock-city.co.uk/thegrind.

We're limited to 150 tickets and are strongly recommending people get their tickets before the event as, from the interest already received, we anticipate a sell-out. See you there!!!

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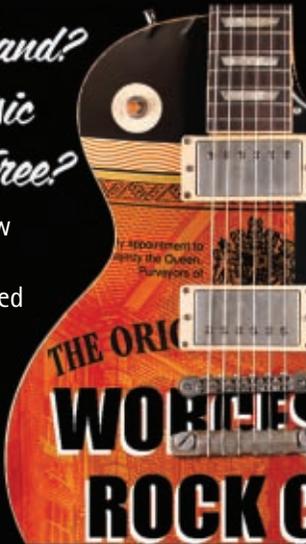
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Review **Skewwhiff & Jak Raven**

5th November/11th November

Skewwhiff and Jack Raven. GMH Gt Malvern and The Railway Hotel Evesham.



Bonfire night and with the blue touch paper lit, Jak Raven kicked off the night's entertainment in his own unique style with James Burnham providing excellent accompaniment by means of electric fiddle in this vastly improved basement venue.

Both the bar and the main room were busy with people, creating a warm atmosphere on a chilly November evening.

Skewwhiff took to the stage performing their brilliant blend of indie/new wave punk in a well rehearsed tight and naturally unpolished set from Sam The Hat on bass, Hogey on guitar and a wide mouthed Glazz keeping time. With vocals superbly delivered by Beanie and at one point through a loud hailer, all of which elevate this band above the merely mundane.

Just under a week later both Jak Raven and Skewwhiff were to play again at the Railway Hotel in Evesham. This is a good size "old pub" venue with some locals not knowing what to make of Jak but enjoying his musical mayhem and banter all the same.

Has to be said that the turnout could have been better in Evesham, this I think was down to very

wet weather conditions. This however did not seem to dampen the spirits of the crowd that did make the journey and once again a good night was had by all..

Another Faultless set of "Agricultural CiderCore" from Skewwhiff, stopping only to promote their new C.D. from a Tesco bag.

There is nothing profound about Skewwhiff; this shows as they are not trying for anything beyond their grasp. Distinctive and first-rate.



Words & Pics - Graham Sweet

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with Adam Montgomery

How to heckle

It is often said that, unlike many of the performing arts, stand up comedy breaks down the fourth wall – the fourth wall being an imaginary wall between the audience and the comedian, which of course in film, theatre etc, remains intact. In slightly less pretentious language this means that comedians chat and interact with members of the audience. This is one of the many unique aspects of stand up and one of the primary reasons why live comedy is such an enthralling experience – you, the audience are part of the show and you are allowed to join in too! The absence of any fourth wall is a primary cause of heckling, the subject of my ramblings this month.

The problem with heckling is many fold. Much heckling is banal, it's often unintelligible, rarely amusing and seldom worth the effort. It simply interrupts and spoils the show. But there are exceptions. So when is heckling justified and what makes for a good heckle? I have laid out some rules to follow below. Firstly here are two of my favourite ever heckles

Eric Douglas, the less famous son of Hollywood actor Kirk, entered British comedy folklore when during a stand-up performance at The Comedy Store he found that much to his annoyance he was losing his audience's attention. In response he shouted "Do you know who I am? I'm Kirk Douglas' son". To which a member of the audience stood up and shouted 'No, I'm Kirk Douglas' son.' One by one various other members of the audience stood up and repeated the line, much like Kirk Douglas' iconic scene in the film Spartacus. Eric stormed off of the stage.

Here's another classic:

Bono is on stage at a famine relief concert. Between songs he starts clicking his fingers every three seconds and then he starts his sermon: "Every time I click my fingers someone in Africa will die of starvation". He continues to slowly click his fingers to the silent crowd.

Cue heckler: "Well stop clicking your bloody fingers then!"

Most comedians will tell you about their favourite heckles. But if you want to heckle with effect, remember the following:

- No one has paid to listen to you
- If you are drunk, the thought you have in your head will never sound as good to others when you say it as it does to you now in your head.
- If you must heckle, join in. Build on what is being said. The two examples of great heckles above are funny because they relate to what is happening on stage at that moment. They are not random statements about your favourite football team or thoughtless abuse.

• And finally beware! If you're having a go at the comedian and you're not sharper than him / her, be prepared to be humiliated. I have seen comedians spend ten minutes of their act berating a hapless heckler, much to the delight of the rest of the audience of course, who were probably all silently wishing that you'd been quiet in the first place and are now revelling in the fact it's not them who is the centre of attention.



Adam Montgomery is resident compere at The Comedy Zone which runs monthly at The Marris Bar. After a break for Christmas and New Year, the Comedy Zone returns with tours from Steve Hughes and Seann Walsh in January. Check facebook/thecomedyzoneuk for details.

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ep Review

Skewwhiff – Nice One

Let me begin by categorically stating that our inestimable Editor and erstwhile Skewwhiff axe-slinger is mortified at the very thought of this review.

The merest ahem whiff of nepotism turns him deepest crimson and as he reads (but dare not edit!) this I will feel the heat from his face and hear his almighty cringes from afar.

But by Thor they deserve a review as despite being an industrious bunch they've had scant few lines in 10 issues of Slap Mag, even last month's Festival Review managed to end up edited Whiff-free!

Plus the band know me well enough to expect an honest review and honestly these 3 tracks are grinningly great.

As a whole Skewwhiff are charmingly understated and this is a huge part of their appeal. No mega-egos or pointless soloing here, just prime cuts of pop-punk-ska.

They may hate that soubriquet but 2nd song and longtime live favourite *Gizmo* channels The Housemartins



Happy Hour ie classic indie pop-rock. Also the beautiful Beanie's voice melds various sirens of song from Claire Grogan to Sarah Cracknell via Poly Styrene. You gettin the idea??

Skewwhiff create a joyous noise and it's no wonder they play so many festivals as their gregarious, effusive sound is tailor-made for dancing drunkenly in a damp & distant dale.

This ep (extended play for you young'uns) is well produced by Nigel "Dodgy" Clark and his own band's blend of joie de vivre and bonhomie is much in evidence here and all the better for it.

Yes this is winter sunshine but it's not bland and/or toothless: the rousing combination of Sammy's grumbling bass, Glazz's der-um-der-ums and Hoag's ever historic lix are capable of bitin' yer on the bum...but lovingly.

And it's an EP!! My favourite physical music format. If only it were a limited edition 7inch vinyl release, then I would take it to bed and not get up for a week.

Nice One: the perfect stocking filler!

Words by Russell Sprout

Review Room 13 December 10th

Dakota Ruins, Carving Giants, Steady Pedro

Like Marmite, heavy metal music is one of those things you either love or hate. Personally I love it (heavy metal I mean – I can't stand that weird brown sandwich paste), which is fortunate because it's being played so loud my chest is resonating. I'm at Room 13's second ever gig: the launch party for Dakota Ruins' EP *Respawn*.



Dakota Ruins

If the amount of energy in the mosh-pit is anything to go by, I'm not the only fan of heavy music in the room. As the night goes on, each band encourage more people off their seats and into the melee in front of the stage. We're treated to five bands: Legions Burn, Enter the Abyss, Steady Pedro, Carving Giants, and Dakota Ruins. By the time the headliners take the stage, the moshers are involved in a full-contact display of athletic ability. Meanwhile, the more sensible (or should that be timid?) members of the audience, such as myself, appreciate the tunes from outside this battleground.



Steady Pedro



Carving Giants

If heavy metal isn't your thing, then Room 13 still has plenty to offer. Other events range from Christmas card workshops to warehouse parties.

by Ben Everard

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Review Sounds of Silence & Dean Elliott

Marrs Bar, 6th November

The mood was set at the Marrs Bar, lit only by candles, for an evening with Dean Elliott and his band (Danny Meigh – Bass, Andy Clarke – Drums and Percussion) followed by a fantastic Simon and Garfunkel tribute act, The Sounds of Silence.



Dean Elliott

The Dean Elliott Band clearly touched the audience as they sat silently in amazement wondering why this Acoustic/Folk Band haven't been snatched up. I heard one lady saying, "why doesn't Dean go on the X-Factor?" F**k that! Keep writing your own individual material whilst you're sat by the riverside.



Danny Meigh

The pace of the bass and the tranquil beats accompanied the picks and strums of the Acoustic Guitar – with the singer/song-writer also playing Harmonica on selected songs.

Dean Elliott's song-writing is truly visionary. My personal favourite was "The Riverside", a song written about the Severn and Worcester locals, which is on the "Tales from Whittington Tump" album. A great listen, but I think the most appreciated was the Buddy Holly cover on Ukulele, who Dean actually played as in London West End Musical, "Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story."

The set definitely wasn't prolonged and you could see that Deans band mates appreciated his music even as they sat watching him perform his first-rate solo tracks.

A brilliant set and cracking band, with the new E.P," When the Dust Settles Down," I suggest you get out, go see them and pick up a copy of their C.D for a relaxed, mellow evening.

You could see that Dean Elliott had an influence of Simon and Garfunkel, and what a tribute band to be followed on with.



The Sounds of Silence

The Sounds of Silence, taken from the 1965 album, Dan Haynes and Pete Richards from Stourbridge are an impressively precise duo, musically that is, they make no apologies for not being lookalikes. What else to say but if you love Simon and Garfunkel, you will love The Sounds of Silence.

What an impressive Sunday night.

Words: Jamie Savage

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Kiddy Culture

For some time Kidderminster seems to have been in the shadows but it wasn't always this way. Readers of a certain age will fondly remember the Market Tavern in Comberton Place as a venue firmly on 'the circuit' - even challenging Worcester for prestigious acts. Radiohead played there, post 'Creep', on the tour to support debut album 'Pablo Honey'.

Now, while I'm sure that there has been loads of stuff going on 'under the radar', Kiddy once more has a venue to provide focus for a cultural renaissance.

The Boars Head has always been a good place to play and watch bands but now it has something extra special - it has become a creative 'hub' with an ambience to match.

SLAP turned up in various guises on 19 November to witness not only the opening of Coronation Gardens (a revamped community space directly opposite the pub) but also the official unveiling of the Boars Head Gallery (BHG).



As with any auspicious project involving the council, it was an opportunity for the politicians to turn up in their 'bling' for a photo-op. Quite what the Mayor thought of psychedelic rockers Socio Suki (who had set up on an outdoor stage straddling Worcester Rd) is anyone's guess but their set appropriately echoed the 60's influenced theme of the gardens. Luckily it was only a hop, skip and jump for the local dignitaries to go to sample the mulled wine and canapes at the BHG.



A former coaching house can be a difficult space in modern times so it is a nice touch to have so much art in the entrance, looking down on where weary horse and travellers would have first spied refreshment. Through the gig room (where the stage has been moved and extended) and up the stairs is the gallery.

Although artworks permeate the whole of the pub, the opening of a dedicated arts space gives a unique 'home' for the burgeoning creative talent in Kiddy. Somewhere to have workshops, exhibitions and events can only build on the success of Kidderminster Arts Festival.

BHG wants to hear from artists, curators, film makers and anyone who thinks they have the skills to help - just get in touch with Coz.



Talking of film makers, it was great to see Tom from Carnie Films documenting the day - I'm sure the chap dancing to the aforementioned Socio Suki made great footage! Carnie Films has grown out the music festival scene to incorporate a love of clowns, freaks, carnivals, horror fantasies, psychedelia and surreal humour to produce short films and music videos. A feature film is in the offing and, again, collaboration is the name of the game so get involved.

With the stewardship of Sid and Sand, the Boars Head is beginning to get a reputation that could well exceed that of the Market Tavern. Last month saw festival favourites RDF, P.A.I.N and China Shop Bull - this month sees the legendary Beat gracing the stage for a winter solstice ska special (tickets like gold dust!). What's more the building has a much richer history and the art / music reflections give the place a real edge.

<http://www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk/>

<http://carniefilms.blogspot.com/>

Photography: Toni Charles Words: Steven Glazzard

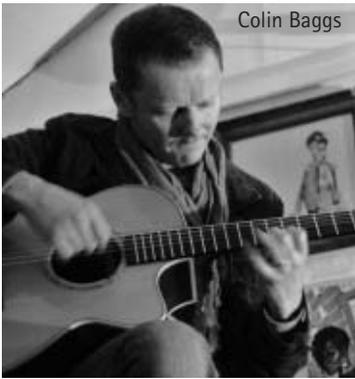


ROOM 13



by Siân Davis

Room 13 had a Grand Opening last month, with a mass of graffiti artists from all around the country, brightening up the outside space and a wide selection of musicians and singers brightening up the inside, along with a varied of collection of artists from Worcester and afar showing work



Colin Baggs

in "The Gallery". The Halloween Warehouse Ball in the evening was also a treat to see with ghosts, ghouls and goblins in every corner and witches and zombie brides on the dance floor! Fingers crossed this is a sign of good things to come.

At the beginning of December Room 13 will be hosting the Exhibition, **Body of Work**, a partnership commission between Hereford Photography festival and Dancefest to create works that celebrate the achievements of Dancefest and mark its 21st anniversary through creative portraits of their professional dancers. They have commissioned two artists for the exhibition, a photographer **Gigi Gianella** from London and Worcester based mixed media artist and photographer, **Kate Brookes**. Please keep your eyes peeled for the opening show which will feature a grand dance performance.

Sunday 4th December, from 11am till 3pm, Room 13 brings back the good old fashioned **Jumble Sale**. With all the tables already booked out this is sure to be a corker for some snazzy Christmas pressies, pre-loved and new. All in the main hall therefore rain will not be a deterrent.

Thursday 8th December, from 4pm - 7pm, Room 13 are holding a **City Centre Youth Forum** to establish the desires

of the young people that live in or near the city and to consider starting a youth space at the venue. Anyone is welcome, children, parents, grandparents, youth workers, activity workers etc....

Saturday 17th December will see the **Room 13 Christmas Mash Up**, hosting a night of musical goodness. Reggae,



Soul, Funk, Hip Hop, House & Dubstep will be the order of the evening with a 4am finish

And finally on **Sunday 18th December** from 2pm till 5pm, all you crazy folk are invited down for an afternoon of **Collaborative Creative Chaos**. Come and make something.... music, art, a mess! We'll supply the creativity, you supply the chaos!



Momentum is growing with the space and there has been lots of interest in its use and other potential uses. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact Siân and Marko via room13.worcs@yahoo.co.uk.

Stay up to date with what's happening, through their Facebook page - Room13.worcs and Twitter - room13worcs.





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Review Acoustic Lunch Sunday Oct 30th

The Old Rectifying House

A flying visit with Henry in hand after my own Sunday lunch saw Slap venture into one of Worcester's comfortable and pleasant venues that is the Old Rec.

Opening the show was "Poor" Bob Jones and Dave "The Book" who gave us a fantastic set of Blues/Jazz numbers. This was a different direction for our loveable Bob Jones, but it went down an absolute storm!

Also on the bill was Dale Perry. Dale is the mastermind behind Acoustic Brew and has helped so many Worcester muso's break into the Birmingham and Black Country music scene, including Katie Fitzgerald's. Dale is an accomplished singer songwriter and on this rare appearance, Dale gave us a perfect set of covers, which went down very well with the Acoustic lunch faithful. Dale now lives in Droitwich and should play more in Worcester.



Next on were Noor Ali and Gazza Tee who are the brilliant Stompin On Spiders from Malvern showcasing some self penned material. *Night on the Tiles* is about how Noor found his way to drinking beer. Sneaking Breakers around the back of the garden shed when he was 14 years old and how things went on from then

on... A story all of us recognised. *C21st Depression Blues* is about today's recession and how it mirrors the hard times of the 1930's and how the bankers and MP's are out-of-touch with life of the working man/woman.



LHR Blues is a newbie. Noor travels a great deal from airport to airport and this song tells of the monotony of business air travel in the modern age. *Battle Cry* tells the story of what happens in the wee small hours when the clubs and pubs close and the creatures of the night stalk our streets. Thank God Gazz is tucked up in bed. *Brasshouse Lane* is the story of the Birmid foundry in Smethwick that used to tower over Noor's home and school. It was the biggest foundry in the Midlands and employed 10000 before the 1982 recession.

Walkin' in Memphis was the only cover in the set. The Marc Coln classic is a favourite and is the perfect antidote to their usual closer - Voodoo Chile.

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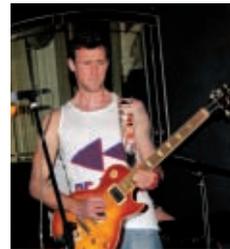


Jeeves were on after the Spiders had finished Stompin and is the creation of Malvern's very own Mikey Mann. As well as Mikey, it features the mighty Phil Whitehouse on Gazza's Walden acoustic and vocals, the awesome Alex Albrow on electric Guitar and Andy Hurrall on a noisy Les Paul who was really impressive. Jeeves are regulars at the Tuesday night sessions at the Great Malvern Hotel and of



course Mikey Mann is one of Malvern's most popular muso's who should be breaking into the Worcester scene more than he does. We like him anyway! We are looking forward to seeing them again.

The only missing component on the afternoon was Ryan "The PA Meister" on the desk. We were hoping Ryan would have been back from his tour of duty on the Cunard Queen Victoria, but he was given an extension. That meant his old chap had to run the PA, a job that Gazza really struggled with... oh dear!



I did manage to grab a few snaps in between chasing my 2 year old around the place as well as stuffing my face with the left over roast potatoes Matt kindly left on the tables, we are looking forward to the next Acoustic Lunch.

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Review

This Wicked Tongue Presents:-
Mansize, Age and Vault of Eagles
The Marr's Bar, 25th November



Anya
Mansize

Arriving just after the doors open, we watch the Marr's Bar fill up nicely before Mansize take to the stage at 9pm. Opening their set with a sound akin to Zero 7, we're awoken suddenly by a sharp turn to heavy, fuzz-drenched riffing and a very unusual version of Alanis Morissette's 'Jagged Little Pill' that piques my interest nicely.

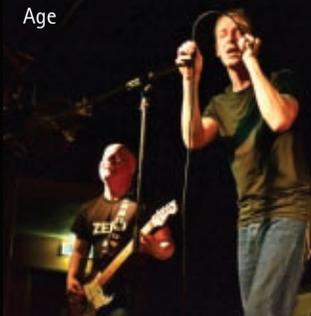
Next up are Kidderminster's Vault of Eagles who open their set with an airing of the impressive video for the track 'Taken From Love Inside'. Then, carrying us through a dynamic set of twisted, seventies inspired grooves, VoE create a vast sonic spectrum that surely is the envy of many 3-piece bands far and wide. The last time I'd seen them was back in January and whilst they were enjoyable then, they are fantastic now. Sadly, they narrowly missed out on the top prize at Marshall Amplification's recent 'Ultimate Band Contest' however Scott Ewins did scoop the 'Best Drummer' award and from tonight's performance, we can see why.

Vault of Eagles



Up next are a band I had not heard of before and I am now questioning myself as to why?! Age take to the stage and utterly destroy it! Great vocal harmonies, a fun but driven stage presence and a huge sound completely win me over. Their weighty but melodic pop-rock translates even better on the stage than it does on their splendid album (only £3 – pick one up!) with the particularly energetic highlight of 'Reload' sticking in my head whilst typing today.

Age



This Wicked Tongue's set opens with the premiere of the new video for song 'Creature' which was filmed, edited and directed by local digital media student Warren Gee. Perhaps a less serious affair than the VoE video, it is nonetheless entertaining and shows a sense of humour oft repressed by many bands.

Tina V



When This Wicked Tongue kick into the set proper, the audience, who have been more than responsive to every act this evening, proceed to let fly as the room becomes a seething mass of jumping bodies and pumping fists. TWT's take on alternative rock carries vast power as an unfeasibly tight rhythm section packs a punch beneath exciting vocal interplay between Tina

V (vocals, keys) and Haydn (guitar, vocals).

In all, a superb evening with a well matched bill and four different bands that I will be sure to look out for again in future. A fiver well spent.

Haydn
This Wicked
Tongue



Words: Baz
Blackett
Photography:
Katie Foulkes

Album review

REBEL CITY RADIO

HELLO HYPOCRITE HYPOCRITE HELLO

Feedback - a siren - then whack we're into "No Guts No Glory" the first of 11 incendiary, in yer face, punk trax.

Yes it's raw and uncompromising and you'll have to look elsewhere for your ballad fix, but this is an album of memorable melodies played with mucho gusto.



Here we have a band who are steeped in punk history and proudly display their influences: I hear touches of Dead Kennedys, Clash, Nirvana, New York Dolls, Goldblade and even Alex Harvey and a punked-up Virgin Prunes.

But the trick is to mutate your influences into your own original mix and Rebel City Radio do this with aplomb!

I say band cuz proper band they are and it's always good to read songwriting credited to all four members.

Proper band cuz they play as one fused unit of excellent musicians and I particularly enjoyed Joey Biggs' drumming and some tasty Johnny Thunderish work from the lead guitarist Robbie Sparks.

Standouts songs for me were:-

the Bleach-era Nirvana flavoured "Hide Et Seek": I think Kur(d)t would be proud...honestly!

"Refection" with it's hook-laden melody, great backing vox and handclaps: I LOVE handclaps,

"I Am An Atom Bomb" which must be a live fave and is all the better for it's interesting structure which pushes the punk template and anthemic closer "Human Soundtrack" which I think would have made a cracking album title.

All this good work is almost undone with the unforgivable misogyny of "Rapunzal", the all too obvious target here being the plague of Paris Hilton wannabees who populate their own vacuous planet within our own.

You're much better than this lads and they're simply not worth the effort.

However in an era of X-Factor fluff and Westlifian waffle it's good to hear the better directed spleen and no-nonsense of words like "Dyslexic politics, life-long empty promises" and "Pound signs...in soulless eyes".



I haven't seen Rebel City Radio live but intend to remedy this asap and you can do also locally at The Swan in Kidderminster, Dec 16th or The End in Brum on Jan 19th.

For other dates and info go to their website at www.rebelcityradio.co.uk or their myspace page.

They describe themselves as "No bullshit 4 chord punk rock n roll" but this almost undersells them as they have ambitions beyond the obvious and this is what keeps you hooked.

Have a listen Hypocrite (who me?! Ed)

Words by Perry Guzzler



Preview

Dan Evans – Dulcimer and Guitar

The Studio at Bromsgrove's "Artrix" is building up rapidly its reputation for fine acoustic music and on Saturday, January 28th, Dan Evans, the U.K.'s leading Dulcimer player and a hugely stylish and innovative guitarist, visits the Arts Centre to play a concert.



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FOOD SERVED

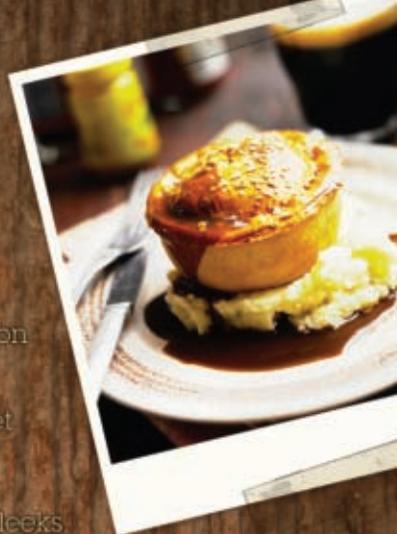
Wednesday - 5pm till 9pm

Thursday - 5pm till 9pm

Friday - 3pm till 9pm

Saturday - 1pm till 9pm

Sunday - 3pm - 7pm



Review - Kiddy Subway Art



The Subway Deluxe project began last spring as a throw away comment ...to the right person.

As you enter Kidderminster from the railway station you pass under a roundabout which has four underpasses and an open central area. I flippantly said to Loz Samuels, Arts and Play development officer at Wyre Forest Council that I'd like to hold a mini paint festival in those subways, and to my complete surprise she said yes!

The subways were at the time in a state of total neglect, felt extremely intimidating and were a place no-one in their right mind would spend more time than necessary.



For this reason I wanted to give the subways a warmer, more welcoming feel and them somewhere people didn't mind having to walk through on a daily basis....and, at a push, a place they might actually like!

I decided to turn the subways into a walkthrough gallery, with numerous artists having a space or two

each, therefore ensuring variety and different styles, and hopefully something for everyone. The walls were given a mock 'flock' wallpaper feel, to give a bit of luxury to the whole affair.

After an unpromising start due to flooding, as well as a fair share of negative comments, 'waste of time, they'll only ruin it', 'waste of taxpayers money', etc the base coats were painted and the wallpaper sprayed on, ready for the artists.



The artists. Well, I'm of the thinking, that if you're going to do something, you might as well do it well. In this case doing it well would involve getting hold of some highly skilled artists, and, through the magic of social networking I had started to get to know a couple of such artists, based around the Bristol area, so I thought I'd stick my neck out & ask if they fancied a trip up the M5 to Kiddy, and to my amazement they did. And others did too, from other parts of the country!! And they were all more than happy to come and paint our little subways! With some local talent added to the mix we had a fantastic line-up of artists on the bill.



The day of the painting revealed to me what the project was really about. This may sound a bit naff, but it became about the people, the community, as well as the artwork. The subways were buzzing with life, and passers by of all ages were stopping, interacting with the artists, hanging around or returning several times throughout the day to see the artwork progress. The result at the end of the day was two of our underpasses looking fantastic with fresh, brilliant artwork adorning their walls.



The other two subways were painted 6 months later, this February, and right from the very start the feedback from passers by was very positive. The community have become extremely proud and protective of their local gallery, woe betide anyone who tries to ruin it!

The Rewyre initiative, Wyre Forest community safety partnership and Worcestershire County Council, with help provided by the community payback scheme, and the air cadets.

And of course the artists, who travelled from near and far giving up their time & skills for a limited amount of expenses in return: Abe Honest, Andrew Vaughn May, Army Lion, Bungle, Corina Harper, Dan Spivey, DinDin, Elms, Ian Walker, Ian Phenna, Jack Moreton, James Hall, JK47, Kone, Melo, Matt Beahan, Mike Flight, Miss*C, Nathanael Draws, Pistol-Plonk, Sophia Burge & Tom Rutter.

Words: Dom Dunlea



The second instalment included graffiti workshops with Miss*C & Ian Walker, from Exeter and Weston respectively, held in the nearby Boars Head pub, teaching youngsters the techniques of street art and stencilling. We also went international with the addition of Belgian artist

DinDin to the already impressive line-up of artists!

This August we freshened up the first two tunnels with new wallpapering and artwork. Despite a small amount of vandalism during the last instalment, the work has been largely untouched, and respected for what it is, a vast improvement to the oppressive walkways that used to face visitors coming to our town.

All this could never have happened without all the hard work behind the scenes, and encouragement of the aforementioned Loz Samuels, the endless hours of work by a small army of volunteers at all stages of the projects, and the funding bodies:



The Subway Deluxe project is a fine example of a council integrating art into the community. Regeneration projects in communities can occasionally be extremely corporate, generic and discouraging.

Opportunities for artists to brighten up and reinvigorate unattractive areas is extremely positive and can often change attitudes.

Whilst cuts are being made in public services and funding in the arts is declining, projects like this subway art scheme involve young creative talent, community members and enthusiasts alike, essentially to sustain a positive cultural Britain.

Could projects like this bring life to the area where you live?

Send your thoughts and comments about this to...
editorial@slapmag.co.uk



Review

Charley Boorman – Artrix

17 November 2012

Well known TV adventurer Charley Boorman appeared before a sold-out Artrix audience telling stories of his life, interspersed with video clips from his film career and TV programmes. The show was hosted by his friend and producer Billy Ward ("Billy Bikertruck!"). This worked well mostly since it kept the pace of the show although some of the spontaneous ad-libs felt that they had been done a hundred times before.



The show was in two halves – the first focused on Charley's childhood. This was not an ordinary childhood – his father was legendary film producer John Boorman ("Deliverance", "Excalibur", "Hope and Glory " etc) and a significant part was spent in Hollywood, with Mick Jagger, Lee Marvin (who was his godfather) and Burt Reynolds regular guests at the house. The stories of these characters were very interesting and sympathetic – Marvin clearly spent a lot of his life drunk and yet there was no judgment on this; just some good stories. My favourites were the ones about Deliverance (in which Boorman junior appeared fleetingly as Jon Voight's son). Apparently they couldn't use real hillbillies because they were just too weird and the boy playing the banjo looked fantastic for the part but couldn't play a note and if you look very closely at the film it is another person's hands. Fantastic stuff and the time flew past

The second half was devoted to his recent TV career – 'Long Way Round', 'Long Way Down', 'Race to Dakar' and 'By Any Means'. I found this less interesting. The clips from the shows were fun and the story of the Dakar rally showed what a challenge it is. However I came away feeling that whilst those shows must have been great fun to do there weren't that many enduring good stories, and those that did would be better shared in a pub with those who had actually been there, rather than with a bigger audience.

He did talk very passionately about men's health and having recently come through testicular cancer urged the male members of the audience to take their health seriously. He spoke of his support for Movember*, who run the moustache growing campaign to raise awareness of men's health issues, and he certainly had a good one on the go that night. Sensible advice delivered in a very unpatronising way

This was a genuinely nice guy delivering some interesting and occasionally fascinating stories in a relaxed friendly way. He engages with his audience really well and you can come away feeling that he was a good friend; A good night out.

by Peter Blandamer

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The Delteurs

Name change or game change?

Taking a new original direction, Sam Anderson, Scott Dolphin and Rob Smith have decided to perform and write their music under a new alias: The Delteurs.

I was first alerted to this band a little over a year ago. Suitably impressed, I began following their progress, which wasn't easy given as they have performed the best part of 100 gigs during that period. I do know however, this is no ordinary band. People talk about the arrogance of youth in a favourable way, with an 'out with the old - in with the new' sentiment. No need with this band, arrogance isn't a word one could associate with The Delteurs. There are bands I could mention that would love the repertoire of Sam, Scott and Rob, not to mention the enthused audiences young and old they attract when performing as their alter ego's Sugar Mama.

So what of Sugar Mama? This for now is unclear, they still have commitments to fulfil to the legions who crave the old favs played with the dexterity of seasoned pro's and the energy this young trio. The agenda for now is a

fresh start and they seem totally prepared for a back to square one approach, changing audience expectations. The Delteurs don't seem interested in reviving a psychedelic rock movement or anything, just comfortable using those influences being themselves. Their first EP, 'stroll On', was recorded at the Tape Rooms in Bristol and is taster to what this band are capable of. The single 'Sun Is Shining' is a gem by the way.

I pressed them on their influences given their obvious lean towards the sixties ie. Hendrix, Faces, Beatles, Stones and The Who to name but a few, expecting parental influence to be the catalyst. The answer was less clear. They talk instead of working backwards, finding like likes of The Kinks, The Beatles, The Stones etc. before discovering earlier blues - Muddy Waters, Elmore James for example. 'One artist leads to another and it all opens up, searching back in order to look forward', enthuses frontman Sam. They grew up together and are a close knit unit, no ego's, all characters, certainly good friends and collectively really appreciate the 'apprenticeship' they've had and are now ready to show what they can achieve.

Time to bring in manager Tony Gibbon who has found a band he truly believes in, 'They have the potential to go all the way, they have worked so hard over the last couple of years'. The hard work is just starting it seems with dates secured at a number of high profile Festivals in the new year, as well as extensive touring which will take in places such as Ireland, Belgium, France and Norway.

It was truly a pleasure to spend time talking to the band, maybe one day i'll dine out on the anecdotes but for now, I for one am looking forward to what The Delteurs have in store for us.



Book Review

Lost In Time by Paula McElearney

When I was a young child not so long ago I wanted to be an archaeologist (or a bacteriologist but that's another story), so the fact that this debut novel begins with the two protagonist sisters making mischief at their uncle's archaeological dig, resonated and had me hooked immediately.

As always with book reviews one doesn't wish to plot spoil but with such an thrill-packed and breathless read as Lost In Time it is difficult not to give anything away.

Suffice to say Daisy and Holly our heroines end up accidentally back in time in darkest, dankest and dangerous Victorian Worcester.

Here amongst other adventures they are conscripted as chimney sweep, crooked accountant to a wealthy criminal factory owner and have to help solve the international booze smuggling ring that is rife in Worcester.

And all this before having to crack the code which is their only chance of returning to the present.

This is a right rollicking rip-snorter of a read and although aimed at 9-12 year olds, I defy 'children' of all ages not to be captivated by it's sheer chutzpah.

The vivid descriptions of the decrepit and disease ridden Victorian version of our Faithful City will have you holding your nose and reaching for the snuff, whilst being helplessly hurtled along by the irresistible vim and vigour of it's pulsatingly paced plot.

Lost In Time pays homage to and is firmly in the tradition of such classics as Alice In Wonderland, Oliver and even the best of Blyton (without the racism, sexism etc!), whilst being resolutely modern in tone so the yoof will identify with the argot employed.

To say that Ms McElearney is the new J K Rowling may seem gaspingly outrageous but honestly it would be doing her a disservice as she is the superior scribe in nearly every department.



There is a fine and potent imagination at work here and one squeals unreservedly with joy upon learning that this book is the first of an intended series which will whisk us away to other periods in history and the further adventures of Daisy and Holly, our finest proponents of true Girl Power.

The cover by Laura Templeton is also excellent and in keeping with the contents within 'says' much in a small space.

Indeed I would love to have an illustrated copy where such characters as Hatchet Face and Grubby Grubshaw are brought leeringly to life. Maybe a thought for the future??

Now all I want for Christmas is a bottle of Dr Sibly's Reanimating Solar Tincture, a quarter-a-pound of Occult Lozenges and some True Daffy's Elixir and I'll be a happy boy.

And you fair folk will have to purchase a copy of this exciting new, young author's book to discover what I speak of.

Lost In Time is available from www.aspect-design.net Tel No: 01684 561567

Words by Victor Ian Scrapes & Paige Turner

PROJECT 3580
An ALL-DAY music event
@ The MARRS BAR on SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th 2011
- from 12pm to 11pm

- 12:00 - 1:50 - WORCESTER SCHOOL OF ROCK AND PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE
- 2:00 - 2:30 - STOMPIN' ON SPIDERS
- 2:40 - 3:15 - NONE OF THESE ARE YOU
- 3:25 - 4:05 - THE HARIPPERS
- 4:15 - 5:00 - KEATIN FISH
- 5:10 - 5:50 - THE SJS BAND
- 6:00 - 6:30 - POETRY IN NUMBERS
- 6:40 - 7:20 - HIGHWAY 5
- 7:30 - 8:10 - BLACK FLOWER
- 8:20 - 9:00 - ABSOLUTE ATAKIA
- 9:10 - 10:10 - STUNTDOG WITH MARIE-CLAIRE BERBEEN
- 10:20 - 11:00 - LONG DAY GONE

ENTRANCE: minimum donation **£4** on the door, all of which goes towards the charity
- THE MARRS BAR, 12 PIERPOINT ST, WORCESTER WR1 1TA -

Designed & Produced by Andy J. Tyler © 2011

Thursday 1 December 2011

Jules Benjamin Et Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann Et Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Naked Remedy
The Roadhouse, Storchley

Junction 7
Star Hotel, Upton

Jack Hayward
The Hand In Glove, Worcester

DJ Skanking Sid's Reggae Ska Punk Night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Friday 2 December 2011

Electro presents Kenny Kat - Sly-Sy, Bhima, Topkat, 4Skin
360 Degrees, Worcester

The ExPresidents
The Anchor, Tewkesbury

Barflys
Queens Head, Wolverley

DJ's Idle Hands Drum & Bass
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Hoden Lane
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

The Murmur
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Sugar Mama
Drummonds, Worcester

Come Up And See Me
Canp and Gown, Worcester

Clive John
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Pershore

Woody & The Stuntcocks
Kings Head, Upton

Star-Fest - Undercover Aces, Foreign Quarter
The Star, Upton

Karako
The Railway, Evesham

Bromsgrove Concerts present The Carnival Band
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Whiskey Headed Buddies
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Umpfff
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Enzo followed by DJ Daniel
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Saturday 3 December 2011

Dark Side Of The Wall
Lanes Bar, Worcester

The Upbeat Beatles
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Koda
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Raw Deal
The Railway, Evesham

Kevin Underwood
The Squirrel, Alverley

The May Dolls
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Star-Fest - Delray Rockets, No Exit, Sugar Mama
The Star, Upton

Skint
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Ron Jeremy
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Tree Frogs
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Bad Rabble
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The Ocean Between Us, Our People Versus Yours, Fights
And Fires, Kailin, Forever Grace
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Murmur
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Tallulah Fix
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Umpfff
Charlestons, Worcester

Sunshine Band
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Mike Blisset
The Garibaldi, Worcester

Charity Band Night
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Sunday 4 December 2011

Hitchhiker
360 Degrees, Worcester

Mumbo Jumbo
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Delray Rockets
Brewery Tap, Worcester

Jazzenco (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 5 December 2011

Open Mic night with Dave Small & Dave Onions
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 6 December 2011

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 7 December 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Kevin Underwood
The Masons Arms, Wichenford

Thursday 8 December 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Foreign Quarter
The Star, Upton

Sam Eden
The Hand In Glove, Worcester

Jeff Toy
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Chris Difford
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Skewwhiff
Lamb & Flag

DJ The Famous & Fab Mr Ed
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Friday 9 December 2011

Official Receivers
Drummonds, Worcester

Broken Edge
Kings Head, Upton

Rock Horror - Thirteen Shots + support
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Crazy 88's
The Railway, Evesham

Julian Smith
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Brewery Sessions
Fruiterers Arms, Uphampton

All For One
Barley Mow, Droitwich

Cohen Brothers
Queens Head, Wolverley

Guilty Pleasure
The Bluebell, Ryall, Nr Upton

Sax n Axe
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Hells Bells
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Irony
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Cohen Brothers
Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 10 December 2011

Hanncoxx
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Steve Linforth
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Stan Terry's Rod Stewart Show
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Dave Onions
Presse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Pershore

The Zoids
The Railway, Evesham

Tommy Marr
The Garibaldi, Worcester

The Cracked Actors, The Social Ignition
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

All For One
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Dire Straights
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Emma Skip
Queens Head, Wolverley

Totum
Studley Con Club, Studley

Toney T
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Sunday 11 December 2011

East of the Sun, Stompin' On Spiders,
Laszlo's Diary, Lea Haworth
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Delray Rockets
The Fox & Hounds, Cheltenham

Project 3580 Fund Raiser (All Day)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Grumpy Old Guitarists (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Lazy Sunday
Worcester Arts Workshop

Monday 12 December 2011

Open Mic/Jam Night
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 13 December 2011

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 14 December 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Grumpy Old Guitarists
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Thursday 15 December 2011

Trio Rosbifs
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mood Elevators
The Star, Upton

Drum n Bass with Kenny Ken + more
Priors Croft, Grange Road, Malvern

Will Kleen
The Hand In Glove, Worcester

Wooden Horse, Richard Clarke,
Andy Oliveri, Marvin Elson Jnr
The Firefly, Worcester

Esther
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Eligh Toadd
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Friday 16 December 2011

The Reflections
Drummonds, Worcester

Journeyman
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Pershore

Blue Anoraks
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Festivals Experience
Drummonds, Worcester

The Stuntroxx
Kings Head, Upton

Mood Elevators
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

New Chapter
The Railway, Evesham

Babajack
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Sub Kon Allstars v Shuddervision Soundsystem
The Angel, Worcester

Full Company
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Doctors Orders
Queens Head, Wolverley

Babajack and friends
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Saturday 17 December 2011

Inspirational Carpets Tom Hingley, Ronda, Hoden Lane
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sugar Mama
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Two Man Ting
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Nightshift
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Alex Round
Queens Head, Wolverley

Night Watch - Winter Warmer
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Slap Night 4 - Cracked Actors + Support
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Xmas Mash Up
Room 13, Worcester

Sleezee Top
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Bang Bang Billy
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Judgement Day
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Rick Lavell
The Garibaldi, Worcester

Open Mic Night
Studley Con Club, Studley

Sunday 18 December 2011

Umphff
The Yew Tree, Conderton

Ian Parker, Jake Aprea Price
The Marris Bar, Worcester



C-Jazz (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 19 December 2011

Open Mic/Jam Night
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 20 December 2011

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The English Symphony Orchestra Xmas Concert
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 21 December 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos, Lobster,
Robinson, Sick Boys Club
o2 Academy, Birmingham

Slack Granny, Special Guests
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hillybilly Xmas with Them Good Old Boys
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 22 December 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Guests
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Jennifer T
The Star, Upton

The Beat, The Bordellos
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Rich Clarke
The Hand In Glove, Worcester

Wooden Horse
Horse & Hound, Broadway

Friday 23 December 2011

The Reflections
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Freewater
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Mr Wolf
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Slowburner
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Bones
Kings Head, Upton

Mood Elevators
Cap n Gown, Worcester

Dave Onions
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Magoos
Drummonds, Worcester

Christmas Party, Swamp Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Soultown
Tribe, Kidderminster

Take Fat
The Marris Bar, Worcester

DJ Bunter Clark & his funk night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 24 December 2011

The Matchless, Heroes Of Hanoi
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Pewke Band
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Pershore

Kelly Main
The Garibaldi, Worcester

Acoustic Carol Night
Studley Con Club, Studley

Stiff Joints, The Eccles Breed
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Fingers
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Into The Fire, Fifteen English Pounds
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Xmas Party with live music
Queens Head, Wolverley

Dan Greenway
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Monday 26 December 2011

Open Mic/Jam Night
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Boozestock
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Tuesday 27 December 2011

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Stowford Press Battle Of The Bands
The Railway, Evesham

Troublesome Trio
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Boozestock
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 28 December 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Silent Disco – 10 live DJs, DJ Sam Morris
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Silent Disco Charity Event
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Sam Eden
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Thursday 29 December 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Slideboy Roy
The Star, Upton

Rockit Fuel
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Friday 30 December 2011

Stone Farm
Drummonds, Worcester

Jeaves Almighty
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Journeyman
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Delray Rockets
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Slackgranny
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

10 O'Clock Horses
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 31 December 2011

Busker Dave, Contraband
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Pershore

Woody & The Stuntcocks
Kings Head, Upton

Naked Remedy, Punked
Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Notorious Brothers
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Beth Harris
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Sister Sandwich
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Matt Peplow
The Garibaldi, Worcester

Monday 2 January 2012

Open Mic/Jam Night
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 3 January 2012

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Thursday 5 January 2012

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

No Exit
The Star, Upton

Friday 6 January 2012

Shell Shock
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Vo & Tyler
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

DJ - Skankster Sid
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 7 January 2012

Howlers
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Junction 7
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Sicknote, China Shop Bulls, Stiff Joints + DJ's
The Wagon & Horses, Digbeth, Birmingham

Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Adrenaline
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 8 January 2012

Remy Harris Trio (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Tuesday 10 January 2012

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 12 January 2012

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Foreign Quarter
The Star, Upton

Dodgy, Skewwhiff
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Friday 13 January 2012

I Am Ryan
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Trio Rosbifs & Mathias Srenisson
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern



Manalishi
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Voodoo Blue
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wooden Horse
The Three Horse Shoes, Malvern

DJ - Skankster Sid
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 14 January 2012

Guilty Pleasure
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

The Wrens
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wooden Horse
The Barrels, Hereford

Blues with Micheal Miser
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rubicava
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 15 January 2012

Becky Rose
The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

The Matchless
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

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

Tuesday 17 January 2012

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Poor Bob's Blues Night
Cellar Bar, Worcester

Thursday 19 January 2012

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wooden Horse
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Undercover Aces
The Star, Upton

Dj The Fabulous Mr Ed
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Friday 20 January 2012

Sam Eden
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

New Killer Shoes
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 21 January 2012

The May Dolls
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Mood Elevators
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Vo & Tyler
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Rouen, Beaver, Dead Ringer Clones & Dale Von Minaker
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 22 January 2012

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

Tuesday 24 January 2012

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 26 January 2012

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Junction 7
The Star, Upton

Nightblade
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Friday 27 January 2012

Passengers
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Dean Elliot Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Barflys
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

The Delray Rockets
Kings Head, Upton

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluester
Queens Head, Wolverley

Stuntdog
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 28 January 2012

The Matchless
The Garibaldi, Worcester

The Barrel O'Baddies
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Barflys
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Junction 7
The Swan, Bengeworth, Evesham

Ronda
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Delray Rockets
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sunday 29 January 2012

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

Tuesday 31 January 2012

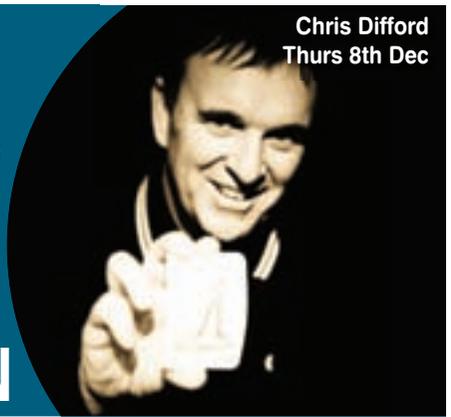
Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

THE MARR'S BAR

DEC 2011 | 2012 | JAN

Chris Difford
Thurs 8th Dec



Saturday 3rd

The Ocean Between Us, Our People vs Yours, Fights and Fires, Kailin & Forever Grace
£5 a ticket, £6 on the door

Sunday 4th

Mumbo Jumbo Album Launch
£6 a ticket

Thursday 8th

Chris Difford (Squeeze Songwriter)
£12 a ticket, £15 on the door

Friday 9th

Hells Bells (AC/DC Tribute)
£8 a ticket, £10 on the door

Friday 16th

Full Company
£5 a ticket, £7 on the door

Saturday 17th

Tom Hingley (Ex Inspiral Carpets)
Support from Ronda & Hoden Lane
£6 a ticket

Sunday 18th

Ian Parker, Jake Aprea Price
£8 a ticket, £10 on the door

Saturday 24th - Christmas Eve

Matchless, Support from Heroes of Hanoi
£5 a ticket

Friday 30th

Slack Granny's Christmas Dooooo...
£5 a ticket

Sunday 31st New Years Eve

Notorious Brothers
£10 a ticket

• **Friday 6th**
• **Born In Chicago (Blues Brothers Tribute)**
• £5 a ticket

• **Saturday 7th**
• **Battle Of The Bands Winners**
• £4 a ticket and £5 on the door

• **Friday 13th**
• **Fifteen English Pounds**
• £5 a ticket

• **Saturday 14th**
• **The Jay Tamkin Band (Blues)**
• £5 a ticket

• **Sunday 15th**
• **Bob Dylan Night (10th Anniversary)**
• £5 admission

• **Friday 20th**
• **The Roving Crows (Irish folk/rock)**
• £5 a ticket

• **Saturday 21st**
• **Vixx From Fuzzbox**
• £5 a ticket

• **Thursday 26th**
• **Comedy Zone Special with Sean Walsh**
• £10 a ticket

• **Friday 27th**
• **Blue Radio Records Presents:-**
• £2 a ticket £4 on the door

• **Saturday 28th**
• **Fred Zeppelin**
• £8 a ticket

Wednesdays - Jamming night
Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue