

SLAP

Issue 12

FREE

Feb 2012

MAGAZINE



**Your FREE
monthly
entertainment
guide for
Worcestershire
& Beyond**

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers



TOWER STUDIOS

Home of **Drum Mechanics**

Chris Harvey

T: 01386 555 655

M: 07899 880 876

Recording Studios

**Fully Equipped Practice Rooms
all at reasonable rates**

Tuition in:

Drums • Guitar • Bass • Vocals

Rock School Test Centre

Drum repairs, Tuning & Service

Sales in Strings, Sticks n Picks etc.

Second hand Kits bought & sold

www.tower-studio.co.uk

E: chrisharve.drum1@btinternet.com

UNIT 31b • PERSHORE TRADING EST • STATION RD • PERSHORE • WORCS WR10 2DD

SLAP

Feb 2012 **MAGAZINE**

Happy belated New Year from all here at team Slap! This, our first issue of 2012, also marks our first anniversary.

As we go to press we raise a glass to more good news: our facebook page has now reached over a thousand 'likes', another milestone for Slap. From next month plans are taking shape for a forage into Herefordshire as we team up with the web based 'Circuit Sweet' who are keen to have Slap available and supporting our neighbouring County and their efforts to revitalise the dormant live scene there.

Thanks once again to all our contributors who kindly give up their time to help promote the Art and Music scene around the County. Apologies to all the bands and artists who email and send in demos, promos etc. Despite our best efforts, time and copy space are sometimes against us but please keep us informed and we will endeavour to cover as much as possible in the coming months.

Keep visiting our Slap facebook and feel free to post your events and news on our wall and get involved!

The Eds

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 Chris Bennion Toni Charles Katie Foulkes Sarah Ganderton Stefan Agopsowicz Nick Taylor Adam Montgommery Richard Clarke Little Charley Ralph Tittle Peter Blandamer Baz Blacket Naomi Preece Graham Sweet Jill Tromans Bob Jones Barri Scott Burly Bearing Mark Hogan Richard Clarke
Design	Paul Robinson
Sales	Paul Robinson
Web & Ebook	Dave Marston

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Reproduction in whole or part prohibited without permission. Colour transparencies, prints or any pictorial media for this publication are sent at owners risk and whilst every care is taken, neither Slap Magazine or its agents accept liability for loss or damage. No editorial submissions will be returned unless accompanied by a Self Addressed Envelope.

DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that adverts and articles appear correctly, Slap Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by the contents of this publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.



Also on ebook!



slapmag



Slap News

February 2012

Kidderminster Rocks - A Tribute To John Combe was a great success and has encouraged promoters to continue organising live shows in Kidderminster @ The Town Hall. The Show in October last year, raised over 4.5K for charity. The plan now is to bring the best in live music to Kidderminster with support from local bands at a price that will not break the bank!

The next event is **Sat March 24th** featuring **Dirty Dc** the UK's best tribute to AC/DC with support from **Naked Remedy** and **Night Blade**. Tickets are £7.00 and £8.00 and are available from: The Town Hall, The Swan, The Boars Head, The King & Castle (in Kidderminster) Strings & Things Music Shop (Stourport) and The George Hotel (Bewdley). Tickets are also available online at: www.wegotickets.com

The Funky Junky Monkeys are no more. The legendary Malvern band performed their last ever gig at the Pyramid Party in September. Singer and guitarist, **Ray Toland**, said that after 13 years and more than 170 gigs the band had run its course and that it was time to do something new. He, along with **Monkeys Jet Bipod** and **Ronnie Rocket**, have formed **Freaky Trigger** who performed their first gig on New Year's Eve at the Mount Pleasant hotel in Malvern. **Chris Preston**, formerly of **Last Exit** has joined the band as drummer while **Jim Smith** is on loan from **Ronda** on the bass guitar. **Freaky trigger** are rehearsing and writing new songs and shall be ready to gig soon.

Threshing Ground recently shot a video for their single 'I'm in Love with a Girl Called Vinyl'. The video was shot in the basement bar at the great Malvern hotel which stood in for the notorious Courthouse bar in Australia. The video tells the story of singer **Gary Marsden's** unrequited love for a skating lesbian from Sydney. The video can be found on YouTube and at **Reverb Nation**. The band are shortly releasing their new three track EP featuring 'Last Beer in Bondi', 'Will She Care' and 'Tyranny of Blues' released on **Blue Pie records**.



Threshing Ground

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th - **The Artrix** have an **Acoustic Blues Weekend**, with **Workshops**, **Jam Sessions** and a **Blues House Party** on the Saturday night. It is increasing in popularity year on year - details are on the website - www.artrix.co.uk.

The Olympics is being blamed by organisers **Festival Republic** as the reason for cancelling this year's **Big Chill Festival** at **Eastnor** with boss **Melvin Benn** saying that many artists were declaring themselves unavailable for the event. However **Ledbury mayor Allen Conway** expressed disappointment at the decision - querying whether festival goers would also have gone to the Olympics - it's likely that the event will return in 2013 - we reckon it'll be the sunniest week on record in early August this year then...

Sadly **Ross-on-Wye indie trio Dandelion Killers** have decided to call it a day 'after seven years and much dead horse flogging' - playing their last-ever gig at this year's **Boozestock** at the **Marrs Bar** on 27th December - they've released a third album 'Safe In Sound' plus an album of B-sides and demos called 'We Found These In The Archives'. All the best to **Adam**, **St John** and **Paul** from everyone here at **SLAP Towers** in their new projects - reunion gig about Christmas maybe?

Ash frontman Tim Wheeler popped into **Rise Records** in the **Crowngate, Worcester** just before Xmas to perform a couple of acoustic seasonal numbers with fellow muso **Emmy The Great** - Tim was of course last here with **Ash** a couple of years ago when they picked **Worcester University** as the W-entry on their 'alphabetical' tour - very wise...



Tim Wheeler

A trio of youngsters from **Bishop Perowne School** in **Worcester** provided the musical entertainment at a global summit of education ministers in **London - Granny's Attic (Cohen Kilcoyne, George Sansome and Lewis Wood)** were picked following a performance of their folksome own and traditional tunes at a conference at the **ICC** in **Birmingham** last year - and they also supported folk legend **John Kirkpatrick** at the **Huntingdon Hall** last month.

News reaches us of a new music venue in one of **Worcester** oldest pubs - **The Eagle Vaults** with a refurb taking place throughout February. We're looking forward to its opening with landlord **Kristen 'Chaz' Barone**.

Task In Hand Promotions (Barney Harker, James Willis, Richard Clarke, Sam Knight) back on the scene after a break in 2011 for work and family commitments, put on a gig at the **Firefly** on 23 December with the likes of **Broken Oak Duet, Howard James Kenny, Das Sexy Clap, Cape Of Good Hope** and **Theo**.

Here at **Slap HQ** we are saddened to learn of the passing away of veteran **Rock'n'Roller** and all-round good bloke **Big John Spicer**, whilst also wishing a speedy recovery to his great mate and veteran **Bluesman Perry Foster** following his recent hip replacement - **Hip Shakin' Daddy** anyone ?

Worcester Music Festival

More 'home-grown' talent wanted for city's music festival. More than 250 bands and artists from across the UK and Europe have already applied to play at Worcester Music Festival 2012, set to take place this August Bank Holiday weekend.

Organisers, however, are keen to hear from more original musicians from Worcester and the wider county in keeping with the festival's ethos of showcasing home-grown talent.

Festival committee co-chairperson Helen King said receiving so much interest from bands and artists in just six weeks since applications opened was fantastic – and unprecedented.

"We have big plans for the festival this year and the sheer number of awesome musicians of all different styles we have attracted from as far as Sweden and Italy is a real coup," she said.

"We do, however, want to hear from more bands from the city and county, with only around a quarter of the applicants so far classed as 'local', which is what we are essentially about. It doesn't matter what type of music you play, you just have to be original and a great, live act."

With an extra day and even more venues on the bill, this year's free celebration of live, original music is the golden opportunity for local bands to showcase their unique brand of music.

In terms of potential audiences, last year's festival attracted 11,000 music fans to pubs, clubs and cafes as well as impressive historic buildings such as the Guildhall over the three-day event.

Local rising stars who played at the festival included signed Worcester band **Robinson**, whose new album *Beneath the Ballroom* is currently receiving rave reviews, with Tom Waits-inspired frontman **Andy Robinson** featuring on Janice Long's Radio 2 programme earlier last month.



Andy Robinson

Other festival favourites making names for themselves include Worcester's Howard James Kenny, who is about to embark on a European tour, and Kidderminster's Vault of Eagles.



Howard James Kenny

To apply to play at Worcester Music Festival 2012 (August 24–27) or to check out some of the artists who played at the 2011 event, visit the Meet the Musicians section and Soundcloud at:

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk. Alternatively, sign up to follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

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.

PROMOTE YOURSELF
Live Music Equipment
PA Hire and Artist Bookings
for all events
www.pylme.co.uk
07725909080

Review

17th January
Cellar Bar, Worcester

Poor Bob's Blues Night 6th Anniversary

MIKE HOPKINS, opened. He's a once-local finger-picker who made his bones at Dylan Night, Marris Bar, the previous Sunday. He's an accomplished musician with a deep knowledge of the elegant side of the blues.

DAVE BRISTOW's style is a mix of impeccable finger-picking and soft vocals, which can suddenly become harrowing as he dips into his personal history which includes rough-sleeping and tipping. He cheered up with his bravura version of 'Need Your Love So bad'.



JUKE JOINT JOHN is a powerful, percussive player and singer. On steel guitar, slide and finger picked, his repertoire includes trad. blues, and original songs describing busking in Australia, and his idiosyncratic take on the bliss of marital concupiscence.

BLACK CAT BONE, Stuart on guitar and Barrie on harp/vocals, shook the walls. Barrie has a grating voice like a piece of coke caught under the coalhouse door, and plays a blistering Chicago-style harmonica. Stuart is every

singer's dream partner ; seemingly effortlessly creative. If he isn't now the best guitarist in the county please send whoever is to me!

ARC, are a power-rock trio led by Geoff Whitbread. They played a selection of rock and blues, some self-written, from Jerry lee Lewis to Led Zep with great skill, and a lead guitar who leaves the usual axe-banger riffs at home and invents new ones, still high voltage but also creative.



MARTIN THORNE played in his signature modal Mississippi Delta crossed with Mumbai style. His version of Like A rolling Stone would have given Bobbie D. a heart-murmur but we all loved it.

STRIPPED DOWN BLUES, with guest-singer, CHARLOTTE KESSLER, performed songs from Hughie Piano Smith to Leadbelly, finishing with a Memphis Minnie tune I



completely forgot and left in her good hands.



the Old Rec

Dining & Lounge Bar

**Relaxed fine dining restaurant
with separate Lounge Bar**

We are a privately owned restaurant and bar with the emphasis on providing the highest quality food and drink in the most relaxed and professional environment!

The First Floor bar regularly hosts acoustic music events, comedy nights and will often have DJs playing sets on weekend nights

Opening Hours:
 Tuesday – Thursday Midday – 11pm
 Friday Midday – 12.30am, Saturday
 Midday – 12.30am,
 Sunday Midday – 11pm.

www.theoldrec.co.uk
 Tel. 01905 619622

The Old Rectifying House, North Parade,
 Worcester, WR1 3NN








Mumbo Jumbo

Album Launch

Marr's Bar, December 4th 2011

Basically a semi acoustic 3 piece combo, Mumbo Jumbo are one of the many fruits of the talented and prolific musicloins of one Oliver Carpenter.

Genre? Well the G-word is always dodgy ground, nearly as bad as 'fusion'. Er... blues soul funk, bit of swing. Jazz-rock-latino with a forties feel? Best see them for yourself when they're next around or have a listen to the new album "Life of Riley". They're all originals written variously by band members except for The Letter – the sixties hit for the Box Tops then Joe Cocker, which was delivered at the gig with suitable respect to a great song.

Oliver has a long pedigree around the Midlands as a gutsy blues vocalist and trumpet player; one sniffs major Ray Charles influences on his style, and Tom Waits gets a mention, to give you some idea. Recent produce was The Big Blues Tribe who for the past five years have had the punters dancing all around the region, a roadshow collection of gifted musicians with brass section, great blues guitarists, powerful backing singers, always goodtime music with tight imaginative arrangements and superb musicianship.

Their album Warning May Contain Blues gives a taste. They are about to shut up shop and move on to other ventures so grab a last listen on their final tour playing here at the Marrs Bar on 31st March.

Back to the now, Mumbo Jumbo is another collection of seasoned players. Accompanying Oliver are keyboard player, saxophonist, vocalist, lyricist Abby Brant and guitarist, writer, singer Chris Lomas. You can check their illustrious backgrounds on the band's website – it is not unimpressive. And it is good music.

They took turns with lead vocals, backing each other and harmonising. Chris Lomas produced an array of guitars, a ukelele, a small bodied acoustic bass. Oliver belted out some dirty trumpet using a mute that was either a sink plunger head or the

“tight imaginative arrangements and superb musicianship”

rubber connector for the downpipe of a WC? A characterful touch. Abby Brant has been a backing singer in Big Blues Tribe for the duration and lo and behold she can boogie on those keyboards and her singing? I will shamelessly steal a friend's phrase – an acrobatic singer, she can swing it high and swoop it low. Her version of the great Ray Charles song Lonely Avenue broke and mended hearts within a few bars.

Guests at this show included guitarist Remi Harris who also guests on the album and the superb sultry vocals of one Jeanie Vincent with a fine Billie Holliday cover.

Mumbo Jumbo – what does it mean? Management religious politico non-speak? Or one definition, a West African god character in masquerade habit. How this applies I dunno but Mumbo Jumbo is a great show.

Words: Barrie Scott
Photography: CJB Photographic





worcester arts workshop

Happy 2012! Here's hoping that we all survived the madness of Xmas and bounced through January with a spring in our tails.....or perhaps not....? Either way, we at the workshop will endeavour to entertain and delight you throughout the year ahead.



The end of last year saw a funky Ska-tastic pre Xmas SLAP night with the fabulous 'Cracked Actors' before we all shuffled off for a well deserved break. We arrived back in January with some new energy just in time for some colourful belly dancing workshops followed by Bob Dylan inspired treats throughout the popular Worcester Dylan weekend event.

We are building up for another corking year here at the Workshop with tonnes of activities for all ages as well as stacks of arts, music, education and film for you all to enjoy. Keep your eyes out for new activities plus the many courses and workshops on offer in the months ahead.

Stuck for fun things to do with your kids? We are going to be starting a drop in Saturday club in the spring for children and their adults, offering a range of activities from arts and crafts, pottery and a film club. Keep your eyes out for details but in the meantime, we will be offering a taster session during half term on Wed 15th Feb from 10am. Contact us for details.

We are also looking for dancers and for a performance platform we are hosting soon, details tbc, all styles welcome, five minute slots available, for enquiries please email: info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

So, the new Splendid Cinema season opened on the 29th Jan with the stunningly beautiful 'Patagonia'.. Our second helping of film pie is on the 12th February.



A SEPARATION

A Separation (Asgar Farhadi, 2011, Iran) PG. Awarded BBC Four's World Cinema Prize for best film of 2011, A Separation is a profoundly moving

story of a man and his estranged wife trying to take care of his Alzheimer's suffering father. Imagine a cross

between Ingmar Bergman's dissections of middle-class marriage with Ken Loach's social realism combined with an everyday insight into life in a country we only hear about in the news.

Then 26th February - **Outrage** (Takeshi Kitano, 2010, Japan) 18 cert.

Takeshi Kitano is possibly the greatest director living in Japan today. In **Outrage**, Kitano returns to the Yakuza genre in which he got his start with this stunning and violent story of intrigue, conspiracy and retribution amongst Japan's warring crime families.



After a great Dylan inspired exhibition and our first collaboration with the University of Worcester, showing the Illustration 2nd year degree students work in 'You are Here', the gallery walls stood naked briefly before redressing to present two innovative series' of work.

CONCRETE/CANVAS



EXHIBITION PUBLIC OPENING
SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2012
10am - 6pm
www.concretecanvas.com

"Concrete Canvas". Andrew Lucas is a Worcester born graphic designer/artist living and working in Bristol. "Andrew's work whether digitally produced or created in ink, stems from hand drawn imagery, taking inspiration from architecture, cities of the World, street art and graffiti."

"Natural Influences". Ursula Nash. Inspired by colour, texture and recycling, Irish born Ursula presents a collection of textile pieces based on and around nature.



Open to the public on the 5th Feb between 3pm and 6pm. Both shows run until the 2nd March.

Scenes of the silent movie come to Worcester when on 1st March Shindig presents 'The Lion Tamer' from the Cornish 'Basher Street Theatre'. Inspired by Chaplin, Keaton and the like, 'The Lion Tamer' combines circus skills, slapstick and live music bringing you a silent movie style show from the Golden Age of the silver screen. All ages welcome. 7.30pm. £9(£8 concs).



Then on the 2nd March, 80's pop rock band from the Midlands, 'Rouen' are going to be playing at the Workshop. Reformed after 24 years and playing for a limited period only, they will be supported by 'Dead Ringer and the Clones' and 'Dale Van Minaker'.

ROUEN



Our regular SLAP night is taking a break through the winter months but will be returning in the spring with some new and exciting nights....keep your eyes out for what's happening!

....And finally, Happy birthday to SLAP and the Workshop! 12 months down and still going strong.....Here's to another successful year!

If you are interested and would like more information about courses, exhibitions or events at The Worcester Arts Workshop, please come visit at:

The Worcester Arts Workshop
21 Sansome Street,
Worcester, WR1 1UH
Telephone: 01905 21095
E: info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk
W: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk



by Kate Cox

The Boars Head
39 Worcester St. Kidderminster. DY10 1EW

Bringing Live **MUSIC**
Back to
Kidderminster

Live Music Every Weekend.
Open Mic Thursday Fortnightly.
Regular Art Exhibitions &
Poetry Nights at **the BHG**
FREEDOM HEAD GALLERY

Spotlight Events

Sat 3rd March **SKA NIGHT**  **LAROO EMBARCO**  **BOB LIPSON** 7PM 9.30PM

Sat 31st March **(sponge)** £8.00 9.10.00 10PM 11.30PM

Please See Full Listings or visit:
www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

20% OFF **CLIP JOINT**
...at **CJ**

on the first visit
with new stylist **Jack**

27 New Street
Worcester WR1 2DP
Tel. 01905 27646
www.clip-joint.co.uk

Mention **SLAP** when booking!!!



COCKTAILS, FINE WINES, CONTINENTAL BEERS,
AND REAL ALES.

THE HAND IN GLOVE



25 COLLEGE STREET, SIDBURY, WORCESTER WR1 2LS
T 01905 612 154



dandelion killers

B O O Z E S T O C K 2 0 1 1

featuring Dandelion Killers, Redbook, Das Sexy Clap, Pete Mann, Evilwitch & New Chapter at The Marr's Bar, Worcester, 27/12/2011

Arriving just as **New Chapter** hit the stage, we're sadly too late to catch **Retinal Circus**, **Howard James Kenny** and **Lewis Spelt Backwards**. We are, however, treated to a catchy and melodic femme-fronted five-piece who play totally unfazed to an as yet unfilled venue.

As **Evilwitch** hit the stage though, the Marr's Bar is now at a healthy 1/2 capacity as we're presented with seamless vocal interplay over tight rhythms and a keyboard player who ably keeps his cool in the face of mid-song technical laptop gremlins.



new chapter

Next up, **Pete Mann** greets tonight's audience with the declaration that his band 'formed 45 minutes ago' although not many would notice as a set composed primarily of blues classics shows off a fiery soloing style and enviable ability to improvise in the face of adversity.

Das Sexy Clap follow with a sound that belies their diminutive size. A grinding, punky feel combined with caustic vocals and a good ear for dynamics ensure that this two-piece are definitely memorable and worth catching again.

After a quick changeover **Redbook** hit the stage with a Muse-esque combination of swirling pianos and thunderous basslines, nicely revving the audience with a rousing cover of the Foo Fighters 'The Pretender' and a brilliantly eccentric Christmas song that is utterly juxtaposed to the rest of their set!



evilwitch

Before tonight's headliners even play a note, the now capacity full Marr's Bar audience are stood a hair's breadth from the stage and the Dandelion Killers treat this with the grace it requires, 'Why didn't you ****ing do this when we weren't going to break up?!'. Opening the set with 'I Hope You're Happy', the Dandies are a four-piece for one song whilst bassist Saintjohn takes over mandolin duties. However, later in the set they become a much bigger band again when they're joined onstage by at least ten audience members for a rapturous sing-along.

Tonight, the band, also featuring Adam 'Admiral' Daffurn (vocals/guitar) and Paul Phillips (drums), have a sound packed with dynamics, hooks and energy. Songs such as 'God Help Us' and 'Sleepless' instantly suck the listener into the psychedelia of Herefordshire's premier indie-rock band and the frenetic nature of their performance. The bad part about tonight's performance, however, is that it is bittersweet.

Whilst, yes, the Marr's Bar is full-to-bursting and the audience are drinking in every note of this fantastic performance, this is last time anyone will get to do so as it's the last ever Dandelion Killers gig. Sadly, all good things must come to an end and I, for one, am just glad I was there to witness it. If these guys ever decided to reclaim their rightful place at the top of the local scene, I suggest you drop whatever plans you have and make sure you're there because if you weren't at the Marr's Bar tonight, you missed out.

*Words: Baz Blackett
Photography: Katie Foulkes*



Church of the Sacred Heart and St Catherine of Alexandria

This modern Catholic Church in Droitwich which opened in 1921, looks a little dull from the outside, but stepping through the door the visitor is transported to another world. The walls and ceilings are covered with exquisitely crafted mosaics in more colours than you knew existed, all highlighted with gold.

The images around the walls tell the story of Christ in separate pictures that link together. The more you look the more tiny details you notice, in the animals and fruit that appear in perfect clarity around and inside the pictures. These mosaics were designed by Gabriel Pippet from Solihull who is buried beside the church and were inspired by his travels in Ravenna and Rome.



But photographs of this art really cannot do it justice; it has to be seen to be believed. The church is open all year round, and for a few pennies the beautiful mosaic's can be lit so that it can be admired more clearly, with leaflets available to explain what you are looking at.

by Sarah Ganderton

Cannon Royall Brewery

Uphampton Ales
Your local award winning Brewery

Cannon Royall Brewery Ltd
Uphampton Lane
Ombersley
Nr Droitwich
Worcs WR9 0JW
Telephone: 01905 621161

Review

Doctor Stanley's Medicine Show The Beauchamp, Malvern. 17th Dec

As I entered the darkened back room of the Beauchamp Arms once more, I wondered whether Dr Stanley's Medicine Show would still have the same energy and



electricity about their performance that they had when they debuted there back in May last year. Perhaps time would have dulled their edge, or maybe their period apart would have loosened their tight sound, or weakened the almost psychic musical bond that seems to exist between them. But no, if anything, their break seemed to have invigorated them even further. This area has no shortage of talented musicians, but all too often the grind of regular gigging can take its toll, leaving the most accomplished musicians without that vital spark that comes with the excitement of being new to the scene. It is a rare treat, then, to see a band with both the competence and vitality that these lads have.

The evening's entertainment opened with a set from Lewis Boulton, playing original material with a few covers mixed in. With his powerful, soulful vocals and fluid, bluesy acoustic guitar chops with a folk sensibility, Lewis is a man who clearly knows his stuff. Engaging an audience with nothing but an acoustic guitar and your voice is a challenging task - Lewis makes it look easy.



After Lewis' set and a short break, it was time for Doctor Stanley's Medicine Show to bring on their heavy blues. The usual lineup was there for the reunion: James Elliot-Williams, a drummer talented, creative and versatile enough to hold the audience rapt on his own, as amply evidenced by his solo in Fleetwood Mac's *Oh Well*, where the rest of the band wandered off the stage to get a pint and go to the loo, leaving him to work the audience into a frenzy; Robert Scott, whose solid, guttural bass provided the backbone and glue of the whole sound; lead guitarist

Andy Hurrell with the perfect Blues Rock tone and spot-on timing and front-man Ruben Seabright, oozing cool with vocals that combine the goosebump-inducing depth of raw emotion heard in classic blues with a rock swagger. In addition to the classic lineup was newest member Phil Whitehead. Phil is no mere workaday rhythm guitarist - his imaginative use of inversions and natural feel for the rhythm really complement the original lineup and the addition of some lead vocals and lead guitar from Phil later in the set added another dimension to the show.

The band eased the audience in gently with some slow, dirty blues like Jeff Beck's *Blues Deluxe*, à la Joe Bonamassa, then gradually ratcheted it up through the evening to high energy numbers like Stevie Ray Vaughan's *The House Is Rockin*, until everybody had danced themselves into a sweaty mess. While blues is the core of the band's sound, they take influences from several other quarters, with gypsy sounds in the form of Phil's excellent rendition of Gogol Bordello's *Start Wearing Purple* and the band's spectacular own creation *Mad Pierre* (inspired by a legendary local publican), Paolo Nutini's *Pencil Full of Lead* and their own unique take on Michael Jackson's *Billie Jean*, slowed right down and fused with elements of Metallica's *Nothing Else Matters*.

As if all this were not enough, the audience were treated to a small army of guest performers. The first encore, Shake Your Money Maker, featured no fewer than three of these, with Steve Hurrell (Andy's Dad and lead guitarist of Miss Pearl and The Rough Diamonds) on lead guitar, Harry Fletcher on guest vocals and Stefan Agopsowicz on harmonica. Neil Collins, not content with



providing the clear, crisp sound engineering that really let the band shine, also chipped in on bongos, maracas and lead guitar. We had a superb rendition of *Hound Dog* from Georgia-Marie Francis



once she was finally coerced into singing and local musician Toby Wren even gave us an impromptu blast of his lead guitar skills.

All in all, superb musicianship and superb showmanship. Be sure to check them out next time they play - Doctor Stanley's Medicine Show are what live music is all about.

by Stefan Agopsowicz

What It's About

by Andy O' Hare

As many of you know I've been involved with the BBC Introducing show in Hereford & Worcester virtually since it started seven years ago - the brainchild of Andrew Marston and Dan Johnson who knew there were some great live, local and original acts and bands doing the rounds who just needed a 'little extra help' to get themselves heard. The original 'Friday Session' format was quickly picked up by other BBC regions and a couple of years later the Introducing Scheme brought all the various regional programmes together under one brand - but we're pretty sure that we were among the first - if not the VERY first - to try out this format. Andrew and Dan took a real big chance piloting the programme and I reckon they deserve a couple of knighthoods for surviving the brickbats slung in their general direction in the early years...

The local music coverage across the country at the moment still varies from region to region - BBC Gloucester's Intro show for example is only 5.30-6.00pm Saturday evening (poor Paul!) - that's when most people are tuning in for the soccer results!! Luckily the Intro scheme has been one of the few Beeb areas to survive the cuts - and it looks as if there'll be a little bit more investment and standardisation across the board in the next year or so. We're acutely aware that this is all achieved with license fee money but I know that the whole scheme will still be run on a shoestring budget (with us still cadging as many favours as we can) - but there can't be another aspect of the BBC that provides such a massive return back to the public - costing a few pennies each year per listener - oh come on!!

Unlike other regions we're really picky - we ONLY play H&W music despite getting submissions to the show from bands and pluggers all over the world - and a fair proportion of Andrew's time is spent checking submitted music for a genuine local connection in the first place and then (and only then) for airplay acceptability - more of this in a bit...

I'm a big fan of Emma Scott who runs the 'Break Your Band' website and seminars and has written a booklet of the same name which is an absolute MUST for every single musician out there (get a copy now!!!!) It's full of great tips for just about every genre of music and will help you avoid some of the most common cock-ups when trying to move up a gear with your new band - who are of course the no-brainer future of rock'n'roll!!

And just about the first thing that Emma recommends is that you get your music into your local BBC Introducing show (good!) - as this really is the best opportunity for 'unsigned and under-the-radar' bands to get noticed. We refer bands on to Radio 1, 6Music and make recommendations for the BBC Introducing Stages at Glastonbury, Reading, Leeds, Big Weekend and T In The

Park - as well as running our own stages at Big Chill (not this year though!) and Wychwood Festival. This year there's also a Review show proposed on BBC 2 and we'll be shouting the loudest for our bands at that as well!!

But the bread-and-butter is the weekly show (Friday night 7-9pm on 94.7 and 104FM incidentally...) where we play a selection (it HAS to be a selection as we get an average of 300 tracks submitted each week!) of local music. We'll also feature a 'live' session each week from a selected act - until the beginning of last year this was done on the fly in either the Hereford or Worcester studio - with all the problems and risks associated with live broadcasts - yeah you know what I mean... We've since moved to doing a monthly 'roadshow' at various venues round the two counties - now we can get a better sound, invite an audience along and record their reaction and comments (ALWAYS favourable!) and really get out to those places that others etc etc...

So if you're already vaguely interested in what we're up to but as yet haven't visited the website and/or listened to the show - this really is the first step!! If you contact us wanting some airplay and it's really obvious to us that you've done neither of these, then it's not the best of starts - it'll take no time at all - you can even Google my name to get there - but please ignore the Youtube clip from Nozstock (WHERE I WAS NOT DRUNK!!!) - or the one from the Cellar Bar (where I was...)

Down to the nitty-gritty - it's not called 'Auntie Beeb' for nothing - the ethos of a national radio station still dates back to the Cold War era - and there's protocols for coping with a national emergency (floods, earthquakes, epidemic, nuclear war and other cheerful scenarios...) There's also a procedure for when a senior member of the royal family kicks the bucket - and if you visit any BBC studio you'll be pointed to the light in every recording space that just there for that instance!

The Beeb motto is 'To Inform, Educate And Entertain' - this dates back its foundation in the mid-20th century - and that puritan quality is still with us - the radio network is still unique in that there is no 'watershed' for swearing - and that means that if you send a track into us with potty-mouth content, it just won't be played! This also applies to other forms of unacceptable content - which is precisely why bands have been producing 'Radio Edits' for decades - from the Kinks' 'Lola' and the Beautiful South's 'Don't Marry Her' through to 'Newton Farm' by Tastyhead!

For sure we'll continue to make cockups - and we're always amazed at how quickly they get picked up on... But we'll also do our damnest to carry on what Dan and Andrew started all those years ago - to champion the greatest local music scene on the planet!!

But it's a two-way thing!!! If we didn't have all you fabulous musicians out there, we simply wouldn't have a show...

AOH

THE IMPLODING PLASTIC INEVITABLE

I went to a party last week. It was one of those old school parties. You know, the type they had in the sixties and seventies (or so I'm told). It reminded me of Warhol's Factory or some kind of hip and swinging do, where you might come across Ken Kesey or Tim Leary or some other dignitary from the age before cynicism. The band playing at this happening little soirée was Malvern's own All Stars Dub Band. They played a fabulous collection of dub reggae fused with rock that was eminently danceable, as proven by the swaying and stomping of the long-haired, bearded and stripey-jumpered partygoers who moved around the room amid a haze of pungent smoke and psychedelic intensity. There were cross-dressers, transsexuals, and an incredibly well preserved Pan's People type dancer who, she assured me, even at the age of 58 was more bendy than someone half her age. The party was held in an old manor house, deep in the country. The house itself has an illustrious

and more. They were joined on stage by Phil and Julia Howard with their alto and tenor saxophones adding invigorating breadth and depth to an already full sound. A great gig in a great location.



history. Its previous owner was a renowned playwright who, along with his wife, wrote gritty, kitchen-sink drama scripts and screenplays that were truly groundbreaking in the black-and-white glory of the sixties. A family coat of arms sat above the large open fire in a room bedecked in oak panelling from floor to ceiling. The ceiling that was ornately decorated with moulded coving and intricate plasterwork. The products of a bygone era. The All Stars Dub band were perfectly suited for the venue. Phil Linnell's punctuating guitar the ideal counterpoint to Steve Price's deep bass that meshed precisely with the tight rhythm of the drums. The rest of the authentic reggae sound was provided by Rachel Green on the keyboards. The heavily reverb laden synthesiser providing an entire brass section



But . . . and there always is a but . . . I couldn't help notice the decay that was evident around me. The ornate decorations around the house were badly in need of repair. Electric cables were hanging on hooks and nails in the oak panelling. Basically, the place looked like a squat. Now, I've nothing against squats having lived in several and it must be tremendously expensive to maintain a building like this. Hundreds of years of history and craftsmanship have shaped this house while the various inhabitants over the years have also added a flavour to it. The current occupant is obviously doing what he can but it's also obvious that the idealism and naïveté of the sixties comes crashing down to earth with a bump in the harsh reality of the 21st century. Still, it was one hell of a party!

SLAP Night IV

Worcester Arts Workshop 17th Dec '11

CRACKED ACTORS & ALLSTARS DUB BAND



The Allstars Dub Band opened the night - my first chance to see these guys although everyone has been raving about them for the last few months. They star Phill Linell on guitar and vocals, Steve Price on bass, the lovely Rachel Green on keyboards and Jake Poloni on the drums.

Though they have been together little over a year this dub/reggae band is packed with experienced, talented musicians who have come together to create a sound which is rarely seen on the local scene at this level. They do not promote themselves, which adds to the excitement. They do not have a CD so the only way you will hear them is if you drag yourself down to one of their rare shows.

I genuinely can't wait to catch these guys again - they are playing on 11th February at the Boars Head in Kidderminster, on 24th March they will be gracing the Great Malvern Hotel with their presence, and The Cotswold in Cheltenham on 31st March.



A lovely band with lovely sounds, which warmed us all up nicely for the headline act.

Birmingham based Cracked Actors opened the set with their signature party anthem 'Captive' - I have since done some research and this tune is available on Spotify, so check it out (Bard for Life album, 2004)! 'Captive' is loved by the usual crowd and hooks in the newbies - this one will never grow old on me even though they have been playing it live for the best part of a decade!



The lads were asked what gigs were their favourites to date, these included the support slot for The Beat at their first reform gig in Birmingham at the Market Tavern, and Glastonbury Festival 2004.

I have been friends with this band for the last couple of years and they are all genuinely great people. The line up consists of Fudge (vocals), Johnny 2 Bad (guitar), Richie Capone (guitar), Paddy (bass), Timie Tempah (drums), my favourite Malcolm (sax) and joined tonight by Mozza (percussion). My fondest memory of this band is when they were sat on the wall outside mine and Richie's gaff while rocking the white trash look and drinking cans in the middle of the day. That's a proper band!

The song writing is split between the band and it works. Frontman Fudge isn't scared to take a step back for one or two of the songs in the set to let other members of the band take the lead vocals.

But this band aren't just all about partying - they air their political views in songs such as BNP (what does it stand for? It doesn't stand for me!) and they let the crowd have this mid-set in Worcester. This is closely followed by the renowned 'Flowers', which is my personal favourite and gives home flower-growers the big thumbs up.

As at every gig of theirs that I have ever been to, Cracked Actors were egged on to do an encore and they delight us with a rendition of 'Nobody Else' - one of the stand out tracks from the latest album, 'This Ain't No Culture Shock'. I am gagging to get hold of the new recordings and, as soon as I stop writing, will be on the phone to do this.

If you only go to see one band this year, make sure it is Cracked Actors - there is not one person I have met who has been disappointed. Catch them in the coming months on 10th March 2012 at the Adam and Eve, Digbeth or 7th April 2012 at the Boars Head in Kidderminster.



Words: Little Charley Photography: Raluca S.

Featured Artist

CONCRETE CANVAS – Andrew Lucas



Road and I'd peer out of the window to try and catch a glimpse of the Devas and Zare pieces on the walls of the old fruit market warehouse (RIP). I followed graff religiously from an early age, even though it was pretty much only KFO who were really doing big pieces in Worcester.

Holidays in France fed my passion, with their relaxed approach to buffing graffiti, with journeys along the motorways spent constantly checking out the different writers."

Andrew lives and works in Bristol where he has been based for several years now, currently working for a small creative agency called Omni, specializing in a graphic and web based design.

His fine lines and angular imagery are really something to behold. Beautiful, graceful even, showing such attention to detail, one would wonder how anyone could have that patience. It is easy to get lost inside his world.

Andrew Lucas is a Worcester born illustrator and graphic designer presenting his first solo show in his home town this month. Showcasing a large scale drawing supported by a series of innovative prints, his work is on display in the Cellar gallery space at Worcester Arts Workshop. Although his work does not take the form of graffiti, it

is inherently influenced by it and this motivation is supported by his love of architecture and cities.

"Buildings and geometric shapes are the main feature of my work, whether they appear in an abstract form or figuratively but the main driving force that got me into illustration and

design was graffiti. As a kid we'd be driving along the Hylton



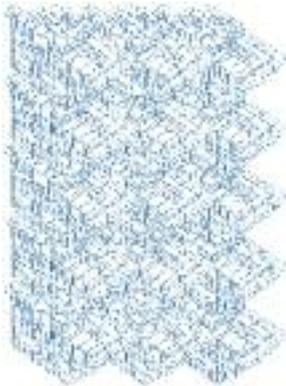
"I started writing graf at the age of about 15 and this angled my path through college and also got me into drawing. I took up creative subjects at Sixth Form and when it came to thinking about university, I decided to move to Bristol to study Graphic Design.

Over these years I remained very much into graffiti but I pretty much stopped writing at this point, instead focusing on design and illustration. The rich graffiti scene in Bristol is still a big influence to me, but if it wasn't for seeing writers such as Zare, Spar, Cask, Sore and Devas I might not do what I do today".

You can check out his work at www.cncrtnvs.com
CONCRETE CANVAS opens on Sunday 5th February, 3pm til 6pm.

Open Wed to Sat. 10am til 5pm or with prior arrangement until 2nd March.

by Kate Cox



Album Review

Heroes of Hanoi – House For Dolls

Heroes of Hanoi are Harry Baldwin, Ben Hampton & Pete Macbeth. They were formed in 2007 and have since recorded 3 studio Albums: 'The Temple of Literature' (2010) 'A Last Cry For Bohemia' (2011) & the soon to be released 'House For Dolls' (2012). They are planning a huge release gig at Worcester's Marris Bar on Friday 17th February. Support comes from The Passengers.

Heroes of Hanoi were born with the intention of creating pure British Rock n Roll influenced by the huge sound of Oasis, the songwriting and melody of The Beatles and the furious spirit of The Clash. Whilst the first two Heroes of Hanoi records were crafted to show the bands raw emotion and energy the new record takes on fresh influences and tries to cover more styles, showing off the bands talents. Since 2007 the band have evolved into a fantastic live act, playing numerous live gigs in Worcester as well as further afield in Birmingham with plans to tour in 2012. They pride themselves on the power and effort they put into their performances, truly understanding that in music it's not just what you say but how you say it. They write about all the things young people experience everyday: love, friendship and the longing to escape the environment they have been thrust into.



The band show no trace of slowing down and despite the fact that the new album has not yet been released, the group are already writing their 4th effort.

For more info on the band, find them on Facebook or visit www.myspace.com/heroesofhanoiofficial or

<http://heroesofhanoi.bandcamp.com/>

Words: Chris Bennion

The Pillar of Salt

Celvestone Way
Droitwich, WR9 8UA
01905 827192

ESPN
sky SPORTS

Food Served All Day Every Day
Carvery Served Every Sunday

Live Music
Cask Ales

Review

Boar's Head Gallery
Tuesday 10th Jan



Heather Wastie invited us to: 'Open your ears and come with me'... and we weren't disappointed.

'Mouth and Music' was launched in the Gallery at the Boar's Head, Kidderminster and was a resounding success. If this is a sample of KAF Creatives and the area's Open Mic scene, I eagerly await the second, on February 14th. If you don't get a better offer on Valentine's night, we'll see you there. If you do, bring them with you and you won't be sorry.

This popular pub provided the ideal setting for the eclectic and quirky mixture of Poetry, Music and Mirth. The performers, which included Heather herself and SPOZ, a former Birmingham Poet Laureate, were interlaced with

eleven 'Open Micers'. I particularly enjoyed Lisa Ventura's poem about New Year's Resolutions; Suz Winspear's *The Princess of Cardboard Pavillions*; while Roger Noons shared with us his concerns about anniversary presents.

Personally, I think Heather and Sarah Tamar are on to a winner and this monthly event will soon feature alongside the region's many other flourishing 'Open Mic' events.



Next Mouth and Music is Tuesday February 14th 8.00pm with writer/storyteller John Edgar.

by Jill Tromans

Preview

Richard Herring – What Is Love, Anyway?
Huntingdon Hall, Saturday 18th Feb
8pm Tickets £15
Box Office: 01905 611427
www.huntingdonhall.co.uk

Carrying on with the string of great comedians visiting Huntingdon Hall these past few months, Richard Herring is bringing his touring show *What is Love, Anyway?* Does anybody love anybody anyway? So asked insane, Welsh, poet philosopher Howard Jones in 1983. Finally someone dares to answer. Having sorted out religion (*Christ on a Bike*) and politics (*Hitler Moustache*), the star of the award winning podcast *As It Occurs To Me* and Radio 4's *Richard Herring's Objective* seeks to define and destroy love. Between love destroys him. Again does Richard's dry-cleaner genuinely love him? How could a romantic gesture involving Ferrero Rochers get dangerously out of control? Herring's twentieth Fringe.

Richard Herring is a British comedian and writer, whose early work includes his involvement in the double-act, Lee and Herring. He is described by the British Theatre Guide as

"one of the leading hidden masters of modern British comedy".

During the 2000s, Richard has toured with a new stand-up show almost every year. His 2009 show *Hitler Moustache* was the subject of much controversy, but also received critical approval and sold out for the entire Edinburgh Festival. His 2010 show *Christ on a Bike: The Second Coming* received several 4 and 5 star reviews and was taken on a 94 date tour of the UK in the Spring of 2011. It was the subject of protests from Christians in Glasgow and Lowestoft. Tickets have been on sale for a mere few months and are already selling fast.



AMBER SESSIONS LIVE

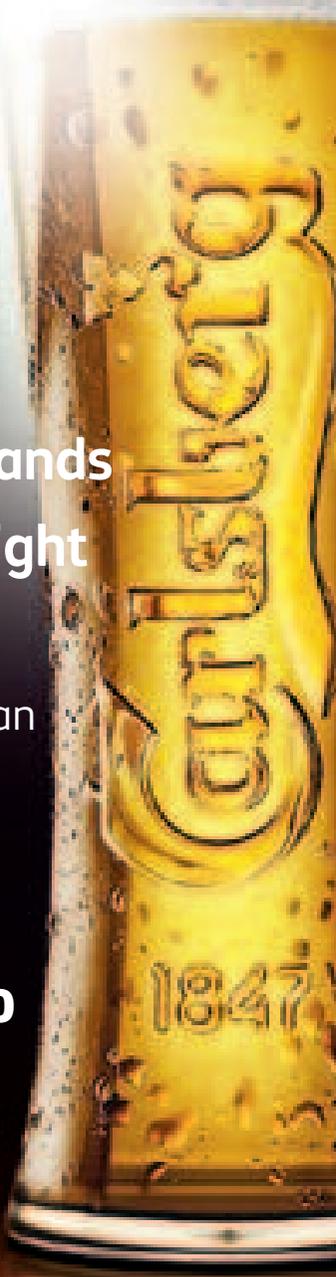


That calls for a



Amber launch
LIVE music from local bands
with a **FANTASTIC** launch night
on February 10th at 8pm

- FEBRUARY 10th** Featuring I Am Ryan
- FEBRUARY 17th** S.J.S
- FEBRUARY 24th** Sam Eden



Carlsberg £2.50

TUBORG £2.70
LIQUID SOUNDTRACK



£2.00



£1.99

Enjoy Responsibly | drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

Amber Cafe, 54 High Street, Evesham WR11 4HG Tel: 01386 442217

IT'S A WOO TOWN TING

I must confess to a bit of blind spot regarding hip hop – increasing respect of the old school; a grudging admiration of early gangsta rap; or an arms length admiration of the influence on other musicians and genres, does not make an aficionado. I'll even confess to once saying I didn't like hip hop. The fact that a lot of the stuff I was listening to at the time had cross-pollinated with the genre was lost on me for some reason that night. I put it down to the fact that the 'English Public Enemy', *Gunshot*, had recently scared the crap out of me at a gig (they were supporting *Senser* – I was ready for the clashing guitar and drums but not the fast, aggressive backing machine and 'in yer face' rhymes that *Gunshot* traded on).

Worcester has always had a small but dedicated 'scene' and the *Sub Kon* crew must take some credit for pioneering this. Here at SLAP we have covered events at the Arts Workshop and, more recently, Room 13 where graffiti artists have made their colourful, semi-permanent contributions to the Woo Town street-scape accompanied by the hip hop soundtrack of the *B-boys*. We even had South Worcester's fourth best indie hip hop outfit, *Calm Like a Riot*, gracing the cover of August's WMF special edition (who could forget the prescient strapline, "Keep Calm it's only a Riot?"). [check that punctuation lol – Grammar Ed]

The scene is healthy and from my extensive research on the social network (sorry girlfriend!) one of the busiest musician/producer of the nu-school is *Billy WhizZ*. I was obviously drawn by the double z but WhizZ's status updates sound like he's breathing beats and always on the look out for a hook.

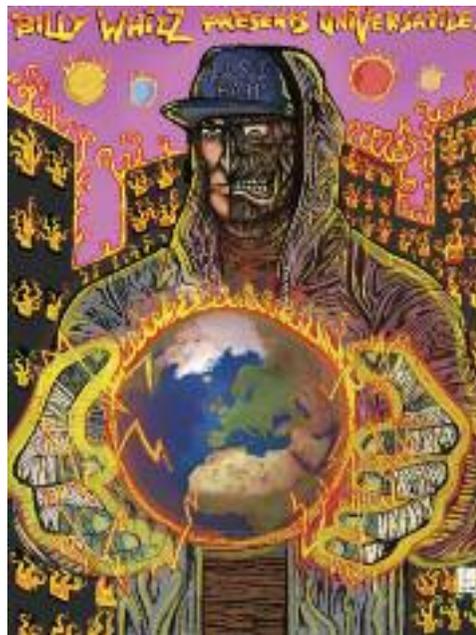
I ask Billy the cliché about the genre being specifically black, inner city American and male to which he laughs in recognition. He's right to laugh. We may associate certain genres with a geography – motown in Detroit; reggae in Jamaica; grunge in Seattle – but why is it hip hop that is confined to the ghetto? The truth is that it most certainly is not. Like any City and Town in England, the commercialisation of hip hop culture can be seen in abundance on Worcester's streets.



The devotees, due to 'four pillars' of MCing, DJing, B-boying and graffiti writing, have an intricate initiation ceremony that can seem a little daunting. The trick is not to feel intimidated to try

to fit in too much, too quickly and find out for yourself that tastes are more eclectic than you may have guessed. This

old post-punk was particularly impressed to find that *Public Image Limited* are one of WhizZ's main inspirations. I remember when their first single came out, the first four albums are great and at their best times, P.I.L. boasted the cracking rhythm section of *Jah Wobble* and *Martin Atkins* with *Keith Levene* on guitar (I can't believe it's not just *Lydon!*). *Billy WhizZ*: "they always experimented and pushed boundaries within their genre" – and beyond, evidently.



There are, of course, hip hop influences too but I can only admit to recognising *Necro* and *Blade*. Billy also pays tribute to local catalysts – *DJ Geenius*, who taught him turnablism and the aforementioned *Sub Kon Allstars*, who he's worked with at *Ill Skillz*. It was through this event he met *Iron Braydz*, just one of the collaborators on his first solo album, *Universatile*, alongside *Edd Bundy*, *Mark Deez*, *Capital R*, *Dr III*, *M.A.B.* and *District 6*. That's not all though – as part of the crew, *Lost Fam* with *Flowdacia* and *MC LT*, he has the spectrum of hip hop production covered.

Universatile will be with us in a matter of weeks but in the meantime you can catch *Billy WhizZ* live at the Jailhouse, Hereford on 15 February – also on the bill (and a home town gig) is another third of the *Lost Fam* crew, *Flowdacia*. Expect more live outings, including in Woo Town, to support the release.

<http://www.reverbnation.com/billywhizzlostfam>

Words: Glazz

Artwork: Paul Payne

REVIEW: JASPER IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS



This band are moving at pace. With an ever growing fan base in the midlands and up north, 'Jasper in the company of others' seem to be shaking up the local music scene. Their enthusiasm for diy promotion and making videos of their every move reflects the energy that they have on stage. These guys are like the bunny that never runs out of batteries. Jasper's infectious melodies and anthemic choruses are memorable without a doubt. With one ep under their belt already, recorded and released within the space of a month, with Dave

AT THE BREWERY TAP / SUNDAY 8TH JAN

Draper, they don't mess about. The boys were appearing at The Brewery Tap in Lowesmoor, a bar that has gained an excellent reputation for a cracking open mic night on a Monday. Jasper's band include Jak Hayward on uke, Will Hughes on bass and Jim Arnold on drums. Jasper's vocals and guitar as per usual were really on form. Knocking out their own rocking blend of driving acoustic tunes and dynamic emotional heart breakers, Jasper in the company of others had the small but very responsive crowd in the palm of their hands. It was nice to see a real mix of ages and faces at the Tap. Jasper's self-proclaimed 'everybody happy vibe' music really struck a chord.

There was an awesome guest appearance from Damien who is probably most recognizable from Marzy's Jam nights. Damien's impressive vocal acrobatics and range are enviable and really added to the Jasper show.

Jasper & Co not only have an infinite amount of energy and a real professional edge to their performances but they also ooze stage presence. If you haven't already sub-consciously absorbed one of their songs by the first ten minutes of a show, you'll be riddled with tunes to walk home with by the end of the night. This band are catchy as hell. Check them out and find out about future shows on facebook here:

www.facebook.com/jasperinthecompanyofothers

SEVERN VALLEY STUDIOS

Professional Recording, Mixing & Mastering

Award-Winning Mics, Preamps & Equipment

!! Special Student Offer : £150 For 8 hours !!

Phone Jared on (07977) 578468 to Book Now

Or Email: severnvalleystudios@hotmail.co.uk

More Info: facebook.com/severnvalleystudios

Review Dodgy & Skewwhiff

12th Jan 2012
Artrix, Bromsgrove

A fantastic night of live music at Artrix. Following on from the successful Toploader gig (with a headline band supported by a local band) Dodgy's triumphant homecoming (OK they are from Redditch but whatever) was supported by excellent Worcester band Skewwhiff.

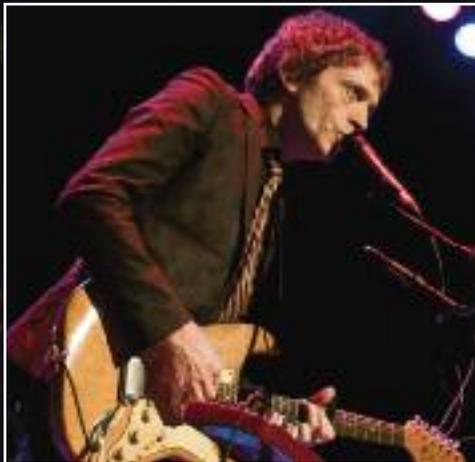


I am fully aware of the considerable link between this magazine and Skewwhiff but since no money is owed in either direction and this was the first time I have seen them then please take this as truly independent. They are really good and definitely worth checking out – catchy songs, which reminded me of the Housemartins and really well done – very relaxed. They did the three songs off the new CD (Nice One, Gizmo and Ska-whiff) which sounded great

but I preferred the two songs that followed, *Noah* and *Prince Harold* which I remember well, which is something to be said for songs that you have only heard once at a gig.



These guys are definitely worth seeing – maybe in a more intimate standing venue and I urge you to get hold of their 3 song ep 'Nice One' – not just because you will be supporting a local band, but mainly because it is very good indeed.



Dodgy were great. The set was split into 2; the first was songs from the new unreleased album (bad planning here and if it had been on sale it would have sold a truckload) – *Stand Upright in a Cool Place*. The second set was more of an old favourites set. It was probably easy for them; they seemed to know most of the 220 + audience and stories of their early days certainly work well when you are from the area. I'm glad the enthusiasm for a Redditch/Bromsgrove fight in the car park (recreating Tardibigge fights of old) was a joke but stories of the early gigs at the Golden Cross in Bromsgrove and the (fixed) Battle of the Bands at South Bromsgrove High School drew so much laughter that it was likely that most of the audience had been there.



The best songs from the first set (new album) were Only a Heartbeat, Find a Lace and my favourite, Raggedstone Hill - inspired by the punishment imposed on a local 11th century monk who made the mistake of falling in love. Memorable, strong melodies, strong lyrics and songs that didn't dawdle into long finishes or solos.

The second set was just fun from start to finish - old hits and good stories. Personal favourites were a great song about Willie Nelson's drug bust in Texas and, of course, Staying out for the Summer but I could have just listed all the songs. If you get the chance to catch them on this tour then you should - they know how to create a memorable, fun evening.

They finally left the stage, reluctantly, at about 11.30 and their friends - all 220 of them - old and new went home happy.

This was another great production at Artrix. The sound and lights were spot on. One minor criticism is that I think both bands would have preferred it standing. Artrix can do this whilst still having good seating for those who wish to and I think they should in future for this type of event. £15.00 for 3 and half hours of top quality live music has got to be good though.

The new album 'Stand Upright in a Cool Place' is to be released on February 20th 2012
For pre-orders and more information visit:
www.dodgyology.com



Words by Peter Blandamer
Photography by Toni Charles

THE SWAN INN

76/78 Port Street, Bengeworth, Evesham

Tel. 01386 49587

Live Music Every
Friday & Saturday

Open Mic
Every Wednesday

Bands Required



IX AUDIO

Unit 10F, Shrub Hill Ind. Est.
Worcester WR4 9EL

- PA System Hire, Lighting & Sound Engineering Services for Bands, Artists, Venues etc fully tailored to requirements
- Equipment Hire can be with or without an engineer/crew
- Good recording/rehearsal space for Soloists, Duo's etc requiring Demo's or EP's etc
- Band equipment storage facility (from single items to full band set ups such as Drum Kits and Cabs etc.
- Cables & Consumables can be purchased from us too, enquire for any specific's or just pop in.

Stu Hunt 07857 772 615
info@ixaudio.co.uk
www.ixaudio.co.uk



Rob Hunt
Multimedia

Film Photo Design

Studio Photography
Weddings
Events & Clis
Web Design & Management
Band & Musician Promotes



www.robhuntmultimedia.co.uk



"February is LGBT History Month and Artrix is screening four appropriate films - "Tomboy", "Weekend", "The Kids Are All Right" and "We Were Here" - as well as, from

February 6th to March 5th, mounting an Exhibition entitled "Gay Birmingham Remembered", which illustrates the political, social and cultural heritage of the LGBT community and the experiences of local people contributing to, and living through, times of great change."



"If you live in Bromsgrove, then you can pick up your free monthly copy of SlapMag by calling in at Artrix - it is open from early to late Monday to Saturday - and taking one from the stand on the Grand Piano by the Box Office "

WORCESTERSHIRE'S LEADING COMEDY VENUE
www.artrix.co.uk

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY
LEWIS SCHAFER
FREE UNTIL FAMOUS

THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
ROBIN INCE
HAPPINESS THROUGH SCIENCE

THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
THE COMEDY STORE PRESENTS
MIKE GUNN & SEAN COLLINS

THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
FROM BBC TV'S THE MAGICIANS
PETE FIRMAN
JIGGERY POKERY

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY
BARNSTORMERS
MONTHLY COMEDY NIGHT

For full details of our complete programme ring the Box Office on **01527 577330** or go to **www.artrix.co.uk**
Free Car Parking Gift Vouchers available
Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ

Preview **Take Fat!** Swan Theatre

24th and 25th February at 8pm
www.theswantheatre.co.uk
Box Office: 01905 611427



Following a string of sell-out dates across the country, and a handful of high profile TV appearances, Take Fat! - the self-proclaimed biggest band in the world - return with a two night special, in an attempt to satisfy the demands from their previous appearances at The Swan Theatre. This stage show is fast, energetic, at times outrageous, and proves a great vehicle for the band's singular brand of comedy, and their gravity-defying dance moves! Reviews have ranged from 'musically brilliant' to 'utterly hilarious' and 'borderline genius'.

brilliant' to 'utterly hilarious' and 'borderline genius'.

Take Fat comprise of five seasoned professionals who faithfully reproduce all the greatest hits of Take That with smooth vocals, slick dance routines, stunning projections and lots of comedy. Featuring: Gary Lardo, Jason Chocolate Orange, Howard McDonalds, Mark Growin and Blobbie Williams!

Tickets £15



Comedy Zone

with Adam Montgomery

Ask any arty, left-leaning comedy fan who their favourite comedian of all time is and chances are it won't be long before the name **Bill Hicks** passes their lips.



Bill Hicks achieved far-flung fame and notoriety before his untimely death from cancer in 1994, but like so many great artists, his fame since his death has grown exponentially and his legacy can still be seen in comedy clubs all over the world today. Super Furry Animals, Radiohead and Tom Waits have all recorded songs in his memory or included samples of his material on their albums. Two books have been published about his life and a documentary film was released last year celebrating his life.

Unsurprisingly, many comedians cite Bill Hicks as an influence including Russell Brand and Denis Leary (who Hicks accused of stealing his material shortly before his death, abruptly ending their long friendship).

Hicks was the opposite to so many of today's most famous comics. He avoided the Michael McIntyre-esque habit of finding humour in the mundane and minutia of every day life and instead dwelt on the big questions politics, religion, philosophy, consumerism, drugs and conspiracy theories. In an often dark act, he lurched between the charming and the self-righteously angry.

Many have tried to imitate Bill's style, his rage, his politics, his fascination with drugs and his cult-like status, but few have succeeded. What most Bill Hicks wannabes seem to lack is his effortless charm and ever-present love for humanity. But Bill did open the door for comedians who wanted to say something interesting about the world we live in.

One comedian who owes a lot to Bill Hicks is Steve Hughes. That's not to say he's a copy, far from it, but his quest for the truth, his obvious contempt for "the man" and his sense of self-righteousness all occupy the same territory. Before entering comedy, Steve was a drummer in a number of Australian thrash metal bands and this "outsider" attitude can still be seen from the moment that Steve walks onto stage. If you recently saw the edited version of Steve Hughes on BBC's Live at the Apollo and enjoyed it, you might want to catch the uncensored version live.

Having supported Reginald D Hunter on his 2011 UK tour, Steve is embarking on his first ever solo tour and can be seen at The Comedy Zone at The Marris Bar in Worcester on Feb 16th. Tickets are available from www.ticketweb.co.uk at £13 each



Steve Hughes



Stowford Press Battle of the Fans 2012 Every Friday & Saturday

Stowford Press £2.00 a pint all night during event.
FREE Admission

140 High Street, Evesham, WR11 4EJ **Tel: 07710522755**
Opposite Evesham train station. Last train to Worcester 11:58pm.

keystones

COPENHAGEN STREET, WORCESTER

**WORCESTER'S FAVOURITE
MUSIC VENUE**

**LIVE MUSIC EVERY...
THU FRI SAT**

FOOD SERVED DAILY

ALL EVENTS CATERED FOR

PRIVATE PARTIES

**FRIDAY NIGHTS AVAILABLE TO HIRE FOR GIGS
YOU TAKE THE DOOR!**

CALL US ON 01905 731437 WWW.KEYSTONESCAFEBAR.CO.UK





Review The Beat & The Fabulous Bordellos

The Boars Head, Kidderminster
Thursday 17th December '11

You'd be forgiven for thinking that A) not much happens around Kidderminster B) not much really happens in Kidderminster! C) not much..... well you catch my drift. But what if i said too you that after playing a sell out gig at Birmingham town hall just a month earlier, with the Selector and the Cracked Actors, **THE BEAT** yeah thats right!! **THE BEAT** played to a heaving mass of sweaty, grinning folk at The Boars Head. You missed that one didn't you? serves you right for thinking nothing exciting ever goes on in Kidderminster!

Leaving it to the last minute to secure my ticket and having to travel to Kidderminster by taxi, I arrive to a big smile and a hug of our host Sand, who along with her partner Sid, had pulled out all the stops to bring The Beat to The Boar's Head, a proper music venue...

Having shamefully missed some of the **Fabulous Bordellos** already, I quickly grabbed a pint and headed out back to hear the end of a truly rocking set. With memory jogging tunes from the likes of The Jam, The Undertones, Bowie and Radiohead. The band meant business with front man Big Roy in his element and soon winning the crowd over. Looking the part in mod suits the band were loving it as much as the audience. The rhythm section of the experienced Malc Wrag on drums and Nev Weaver on bass formed the back drop for the outstanding and versatile Dave North on guitar.



Not normally a fan of covers bands, I couldn't ignore this lot who relished the opportunity to open up for The Beat, and who wouldn't?

The Beat took to the recently extended stage as the crowd gathered with an air of real excitement. Ranking Roger ambles on to shouts of **RUDE B'HOY!** and the rest is pretty much a haze of smiling faces and sweaty arm pits. Having seen them several times in the last couple of years even I wasn't prepared for such a powerful sound in this most intimate of venues. With **Ranking Roger** in fine voice they soon had the crowd jumping and skanking wildly, backed up and often eclipsed by the talents of his son **Matthew Murphy** aka **Ranking Junior**.

With original drummer, the distinctive and legendary **Everett Morton**, the band powered





through a mixed set of newer numbers from RJ and old classics such as 'Hands Off She's Mine', 'Mirror In The Bathroom', 'Tears Of A Clown' and personal favourite 'Can't get used to losing you'. You can see why The Beat, who originally formed in 1978, are a must see live act. Ranking Roger's energy on stage is contagious. Fuelled by pints of guinness from the 'run ragged' Sid, and - from some body in the front, when he can't make it through the mass of people quick enough.

Sid and Sand have worked hard during 2011 to promote and bring back a live music scene to the area, and what better way to celebrate the festive season and the end of a year...

photography by Toni Charles



The GREAT MALVERN HOTEL

**NEIL COLLINS
TUESDAY NIGHT
OPEN MIC NIGHT
EXPERIENCE!**

Live
Music with
Sir Michael Mann
plus guests every Thursday
- ask for a loyalty card!

**plus LIVE MUSIC
FROM LOCAL ARTISTS
EVERY SATURDAY
FROM 9.30 TILL LATE**

EXCELLENT FOOD

DRINK and LIVE MUSIC

GRAHAM ROAD, GREAT MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE WR14 2HN
01684 563411 | sutton@great-malvern-hotel.co.uk | www.great-malvern-hotel.co.uk


 @ velvet nightclub

sponsored by
 
 Jagermeister

STATIC OF
INDEPENDENCE with added ROCK

LIVE BANDS

EVERY THURSDAY GENRE LIVE

with **KERRANG!** dj's
 OPEN 10PM

£2 ENTRY
 with this voucher b4 midnight.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission without notice for any reasons.



**Upper Tything
 Worcester**
01905 28914
 Open 1- 12
 Everyday!



LIVE MUSIC
 THROUGHOUT THE MONTH
FOOD NOW AVAILABLE
Great Beer
Charity Quiz Night
Every Sunday

HOOKNORTON BREWERY
 CASK MARQUE REAL ALES

paper & chain

We started Paper and Chain because we wanted to create pieces of jewellery that we felt weren't available to us at a price we could afford. We wanted interesting unique pieces that had simplicity, edginess and elegance along with a reasonable pricetag.

We have been friends for over twenty years, and have always wanted to create something special together. Now, we're bringing together our skills (Naomi studied Jewellery and Silversmithing and Ismay studied Fine Art) and our passion for design, craft and fashion to create Paper and Chain.

We design everything together, and then each piece is made and finished by hand in our workshop. We share a joint vision of making beautiful, simple and unique jewellery. It's delicate and feminine but at the same time not overly girly, and its simplicity and elegance mean it can be worn for all sorts of occasions.



We think jewellery is something to be treasured, coveted, and given in celebration which is why keeping our prices at a reasonable cost is important to us. We want to give people the opportunity to own a special piece of their own or get an interesting and unusual gift for a friend.

by Richard Clarke



For more information
visit www.paperandchain.com

The Lansdowne Road Park

by Sarah Ganderton



in 2000 at the age of ten and a half. It is a great piece of public art, painted with spray paints, onto the concrete of the bridge, and shows the cartoon scene from a jungle. It includes a friendly looking lion, elephant, and giraffe, and a couple of snakes. The mural really brightens up this little corner of Worcester, for all to enjoy.



This park, situated between Lansdowne Road and the Arboretum, is a fantastic area for kids and grownups to enjoy. It offers a choice of climbing frames and swings for tiny tots, as well as a basket ball court and a small sized football pitch for kids of all ages. There are lovely canal-side views along the towpath that leads from Worcester City Centre towards Blackpole. And best of all, along the side of the bridge next to the play area is a brightly coloured mural.

The mural was originally painted in memory of Stephen Russell a local child who sadly passed away



Review

Slack Granny, Captains of Industry Et The Dogs of Santorini

@ The MARRS Bar, Dec 30th 2011

With Christmas over, what better way to ease you into New Years Eve than with a night of live music at the MARRS bar in Worcester? At this time of year it has to be said that few of us wish to drive especially to a Slack Granny gig! £5 per person secured a return place on one of two coaches (first 33 seater fully booked!) leaving the Nags Head in Malvern! What could be easier? A very big thank you goes out from all on the coaches to Andy Mapp for organising this.

First off was relatively new band, **The Dogs of Santorini**. A three piece band from Malvern that really have their own unique sound. This is partly due to the drummer, Hodge having back in the day punk roots, Ralph Titley on bass from the very popular **Funky Junky Monkeys** and the very talented guitarist **Chewie!** The Motorhead shirt and black nail varnish says it all! An Excellent set finished off with the howling signature sound "We Are the Dogs of Santorini." Not to be missed if they ever play under a full moon!

Second up, in complete contrast, a melodic rock three piece from Worcester called **The Captains of Industry**, **Si Anthony**, **Dan Goodfellow** and **James Allin** took the stage at short notice due to **Black Russian** having to pull out due to Aiden having a hand injury (get well soon) **The Captains** seemed to go down well with a crowd that was maybe geared up for something a little heavier.

What do you get when you cross Thora Hird with Slayer? Yes! That's right! **Slack Granny!** For those of you that have not experienced a night with **Slack Granny** allow me to explain. **Slack Granny** are four guys from Malvern headed



up by front man **Toad** and his screaming energetic vocals and larger than life stage presence. A back line of **Shaun Grant** on guitar, nothing short of pure genius! **Gary Mc Madd** on bass, well centred and

rhythm minded and **Mark Simon** on Drums serving the band with perfect beats. They all come together to produce a very loud mix of musical brilliance, lyrical humour and proper combat boot head banging dance. It becomes apparent from the minute these guys start to play that you are in for a true performance with all band members enjoying every second of the set. The crowd responded favourably by jumping off their chairs and dancing non stop to masterpieces such as "I've got an itchy eye" and "The Legend that is David Hasslehoff" Superb!

Words: Graham Sweet

Pictures: Joy Harrison



The Kings Head

*Upton upon Severn's
Premier Riverside Venue*

**Great Food
Great Service
Great Location**

01684 592 621

www.kingsheadupton.co.uk
uptonkingshead@aol.com

BEAT THE CREDIT CRUNCH

£5.50 LUNCHTIME MENU

Available Mon to Sat Lunchtimes

OUR POPULAR JAZZ & STEAK NIGHT

Every Wednesday is LIVE JAZZ Night

"Buy One Steak - Second is Half Price"

& "25% off Double Chicken Fajitas"

(Steak Deal now available Monday - Wednesday night)

FREE LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY!

See our website for full listings

OPEN MIC NIGHT EVERY THURSDAY 8PM

Solo Artists / Duo's / Singer Songwriters / Stand Up's

BOOK A SPOT CALL 01684 592 621 OR JUST WALK IN

In House PA Available / Bands By Appointment

BATH ROAD CHIPPY



**Always
battered...
...Never
Bettered!**

270 Bath Road, Worcester
01905 767500

Learn to play at:

music city

Run **BY** musicians **FOR** musicians



Electric Guitar Packages

Drum Kits

Worcester's largest PA dealers
Solo artists our speciality

- **Guitars**
- **Drums**
- **Amps**

Stockists of:

- **PEARL DRUMS**
- **IBANEZ**

Tel: 01905 26600

52/53 Upper Tything, Worcester WR1 1JY

WWW.MUSIC-CITY.CO.UK

A Sweet Experience With...

The Bitteroots

I might regret saying this but one of Worcester's best kept musical 'secrets' is the fortnightly Monday Folk Jam session at The Lamb and Flag.

You never quite know what you're going to get there, as amongst the bedrock of Irish jigs and reels you will encounter bluegrass and cajun tunes, accapella trad English folk airs, radical adaptations of Radiohead Et Cab Calloway songs, modern Americana and original singer/songwriter fayre.

All these will be expertly and passionately played on instruments including bouzouki, Northumbrian pipes, guitar, fiddle, flute, whistle, bodhran, a variety of accordians, melodians and squeeze boxes plus not forgetting the spoons!

So it's no surprise that five of the Folk Jam regulars recently formed **The Bitteroots**, fuelled and inspired by these sessions to take this melding of styles and range of instrumentation further.

I was originally given a 4 track demo to review but upon realising that the group consisted of 5 long-time luminaries of the Worcester music scene, we thought it proper to give full reign to their present, future and past endeavours in order to whet your appetites and present a fully rounded portrait of this amazingly talented yet understated bunch.

So a jar or two we met for and this is what they told me. In alahabetical order please to meet **The Bitteroots**:

Rupert Brakspear:

Mercurial, enigmatic, bloody tall; these are just 4 words often used to describe the writer, singer, 12-string slinger and harmonica blower.

Rupert cut his teeth in the musically tough bars of Belfast and Fermanagh, progressing from open sessions which encourage newcomers and the less proficient, to the rarified air of more esoteric, closed meet-ups for the top-notch and priveleged.

He brings this wealth of experience to **The Bitteroots** and as such is a steady influence on the more tearaway elements of the group.

Rupert likes to roam free indulging his passion for aimless, countryside boxcar riding and thus is often late for rehearsals.

Ali Gittens:

Hubby of Helen and maestro of the bouzouki and guitar, you may well know this carefree youngster from early 90's Worcester ska-reggae-rockers **The Mingers** (great name). Ali had to leave due to not being minging enough.



Later in the 90's he was a founder member of seminal folk-rock outfit Journeyman, whose members included bass legend Paul Smith.

He also distinguished himself in a band led by All Ireland Fiddle Champion Carlene Anglim.

In his spare time Ali morphs into a medieval minstrel and can often be seen lurking around The Commandery, resplendent in his multi-coloured tights and codpiece combo.

Helen Gittens:

Wife of Ali surprisingly, Helen is the true enigma of this collective and is known to her musical cohorts only as The Sphinx.

Helen plays felicitous fiddle and provides stunning backing vocals for the band; it is therefore surely only a short matter of time before she takes stage centre at the mic.

Her main musical CV entries include a singin and a fiddlin folkie covers with Chow'd Mouse and Aliens. Curiouser and curiouser indeed.

Beth Holland

Yet another golden larynxed member of this almost embarrassingly talented quintet, we now have for your delectation double bass player Beth.

Her first Et last musical love is bluegrass and this was fostered at an early age in her banjo playing father's band sharing vocal duties with her identical sister.

If this wasn't familial enough her+sis later hooked up with another 2 sisters from Norfolk for late 90's festival veterans Acaysha.

She has been in countless, renowned bluegrass outfits since and her quality shines throughout, like morning sunlight, in her current musical home.

Beth is an ardent wig collector and often delights and astounds audiences with her eccentric, fake tonsorial confections.

Mark Westcott

Charismatic and hyper-hirsute (jealous moi?!), retired lothario Mark is The Bitterroots accordion botherer.

He has so much to offer that currently he also plays his trade with Hagglegab who amongst other achievements supported The Oyster Band at Stockton-on-Teme Fest.

Not content with this the musically promiscuous Mark flogs his box with long standing, well thought of ceilidh band The Organ Grinders.

Marks origins are in the English Morris tradition and the main musical landmark in his more than murky past was I've Just Seen Roger, who together with other members, the infamous Rob

Mills and Hagglegab double-bassist Micky Morris, were once accompanied by the never-anoying Nigel Kennedy at The Lamb in West Malvern.

Mark is one of Worcestershire's foremost newt fanciers and is rumoured to have trained a phalanx of the redoubtable reptiles to plait his overflowing locks.

Now I say I was given a demo but this is a definite misnomer as the results would satisfy the vast majority of bands out there as the finished article.

It begins with a Rupert fronted version of Gillian Welch's Caleb Meyer from her Hell Amongst The Yearlings set. Here the stunning instrumental interplay lets you know what to expect and boy do they deliver yes siree Bob!

Next up is a Tim O'Brien song displaying the ample vocal talents of Beth and this is followed with what I was convinced was an old trad bluegrass number. This goes to show the quality as Cherry Blossom Tree is a Rupert penned original.

Apparently there are other writers in the band but it's early days yet as they only formed a couple of months ago.

The final number is a mix of 2 reels namely St Ann's Reel and the French-Canadian Reel St-Jean, popularised by maestros of the oeuvre La Bottine Souriante.

These 4 tracks are a perfect primer in showing the rare breadth of this accomplished group.

Add to these tunes another couple of Brakspear originals, sea shanties, an early Beatles cover and a smattering (clogging?) of Irish jigs and reels and you begin to get an idea of what delights you're in for at their upcoming inaugural performance at The Lamb Et Flag on Thursday 9th February.

So haul ass down to The Flag and bear witness to the birth of a new Worcester musical legend: Ladies and Gentlemen I give you The Bitterroots!

Words by Burlly Bearing

CIRCUIT SWEET



AN EVER-GROWING MUSIC MEDIA OUTLET.

CIRCUIT SWEET BUILDS ITSELF ON THE PROFESSIONAL WORKMANSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO FOUNDERS.

WE PROMISE -

- IRRELEVANT MUSIC NEWS
- REVIEWS
- INTERVIEWS
- LOCAL SOUNDS
- PHOTOGRAPHY

AS WELL AS PROMOTING THEIR TALENTS UNDER THEIR OWN NAME THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS.

CATERING FOR ARTS NEEDS AND DESERVING MORE PROMOTION, MORE COVERAGE, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL, WE ALSO MANAGE BANDS AND DEVELOP ARTISTS.

WORKING WITHIN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY, CIRCUIT SWEET HAS BUILT RELIABLE RELATIONSHIPS AND WORKS FOR WELL KNOWN ARTISTS, PROMINENT LABELS, PRESS AND VARIOUS MUSIC INDUSTRY SOURCE SOURCES.

OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS SEE AS THE COUNTRY'S LIVE SCENE AND THROUGH WE CONNECT YOU WITH MORE TALENT.



WWW.CIRCUITSWEET.CO.UK
CIRCUITSWEET@GMAIL.CO.UK



Since then Circuit Sweet has come to manage multiple bands and others from as far as America; providing their services as UK artist liaison to international acts. Catering for artists seeking and deserving promotion locally, nationally and globally. The founders bring attention to talent; Providing up to date and relevant music news, interviews, reviews, features, live sessions, photography and video. Circuit Sweet are regularly sent off to gigs nationwide to cover events in-depth with live gig photography and exclusive recordings of performances that are later followed up with a live review. Their efforts working within the music industry has gained respectable relationships and response from well known bands, notorious labels and various music journalism based sources.

The media side to the company has grown substantially and a partnership is forming with a local studio to film and record bands playing live sets. A new shop has been set up ready to launch with a revamped website. Circuit Sweet Shop will be a boutique of one off releases, EP's, singles, albums, merch, posters, art and more. A home for hardworking musicians. In 2012 Circuit Sweet Live Nights will be launched in Hereford: Occupying a Venue - Delivering live music to our community. These nights are an attempt to light a spark in Hereford's music community with plans to continue on to bring recognised names back to Hereford.

Slap Magazine - accompanied with Circuit Sweet - will be branching out to cover Hereford's live music scene. Over the next few months Slap Mag will become more aware and feature the city's live events including gigs hosted by Circuit Sweet. With combined forces we aim to highlight all that Hereford's live music scene has to offer. The magazine itself will be available in certain venues, shops and studios throughout Hereford as together we reconnect both cities passion for live music.

www.circuitsweet.co.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/circuitsweet>
<https://twitter.com/#!/circuitsweet>
<http://vimeo.com/circuitsweetmedia>
<http://soundcloud.com/circuitsweet>

Circuit Sweet based in Hereford is a website that started out in 2008. The site was initially set up following the founders' personal involvements in band management, artist promotion and also being active members of their local music community. The site set out with the intention to promote/feature artists and also bands under the management of Naomi Preece and co-contributor Oli Montez. Circuit Sweet scale the country's live scenes to connect you with more talent.





PIE & PINT NIGHT

Every Wednesday

PIE, MASH & A PINT FOR £8

Featuring

MOO & BLUE
THAI CHOOK
PORKY PIE
CHICKEN OF ARAGON
HEIDI PIE
WILD MUSHROOM & ASPARAGUS
MATADOR PIE
MINTY LAMB

OUR PIES ARE SOURCED FROM PIEMINISTER IN BRISTOL
ALL PIES SERVED WITH MASH & RED ONION GRAVY
CHOOSE FROM ANY REAL ALE, CIDER OR FREEDOM LAGER FOR ONLY £3

Food Served - 5pm till 9pm

THE FIREFLY

54 LOWESMOOR, WORCESTER, WR1 2SE

Album Review

Mr Shankley – Forbidden Town

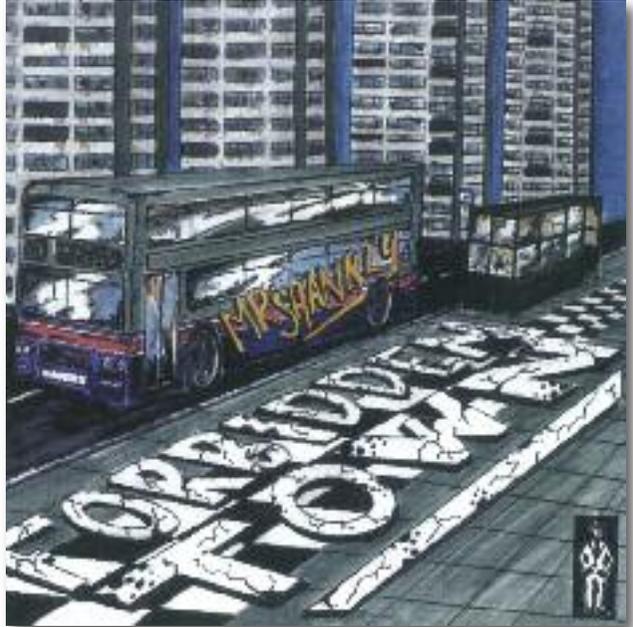
Hailing from Birmingham (where the ska still reverberates from its two-tone heyday) Mr Shankley are true to the revival roots by drawing inspiration from far wider than middle England – Greek drums and Jamaican sax for example.

With a plethora of ska bands in the area, band leader Benji Walsh is navigating the band to the 'poppier' end of the genre. There's still room for social commentary on tracks such as Villians and the typical good time skanking vibe permeates the whole of their recently released, long-playing debut.

There's enough here to suggest they could push on to find their niche but ultimately ska music translates into the performance arena much more readily than on record so it will be interesting to see how Forbidden Town sounds live. The launch party is at the Wagon and Horses, Digbeth, Brum on Friday 3 February.

www.mrshankley.com

- Glazz



The Mood Elevators

The Mood Elevators are an exciting four piece rock & blues band, playing a mixture of original material and rearranged classic rock and blues songs.

Friday Feb 3rd

Cap and Gown, Worcester

Saturday Feb 11th

Treacle Mine, Hereford

Saturday Feb 18th

The Royal Oak, Leominster

Thursday Feb 23rd

The Star, Upton on Severn

Friday March 30th

The Mount Pleasant, Malvern

For more info about the band visit:
www.themoodelevators.co.uk



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

MUSIC47

Musical Instruments | Sheet Music | Repairs

Musical Instruments: Guitars, Amplifiers, Effects, Ukelele, Brass, Woodwind, Violins, Percussion, Accessories

Sheet Music: Popular & Choral Music, Student & Teacher Books, Examination Board Material

Repairs: Repairs available for most instruments

New Product Ranges introduced! Discounts on Amplifiers!

MUSIC47.CO.UK | T: 01905 22958 | 31 Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HT

The Lamb & Flag

The Tything,
Worcester

Inn Verse

Monthly Poetry Readings
3rd Wednesday of each month

NEXT EVENT:
Aelred Down and guest
15th February 2012

*With an eclectic mix of
Musicians, Poets, Artists
and Drinkers...*

...you either get it, or you don't!



Wednesday 1 February 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Over The Rainbow, the Life Story of Eva Cassidy
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Thursday 2 February 2012

Over The Rainbow, The Life Story of Eva Cassidy
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Murmur
The Red Man, Kidderminster

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Relics
O'Neills, Worcester

Open Mic
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mike Mann
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

No Exit
Star Hotel, Upton upon Severn

Friday 3 February 2012

The Cape Of Good Hope, The Whipjacks, Calm Like A Riot,
Jasper In The Company Of Others
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Phil Beer
Huntington Hall, Worcester

How Sweet It Is - Motown's Greatest Hits
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Reflections
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Mood Elevators
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Hancoxx
Kings Head, Upton

The May Dolls
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Collective Soul
Drummonds, Worcester

Wizards Of Oss
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Sarah Warren Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Nice and Sleazy
The Bell, St Johns, Worcester

Bang on the Ear
O'Neills, Worcester

Skabucks
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mr Shankley - Album Launch
Wagon and Horses, Digbeth, Birmingham

Saturday 4 February 2012

Delray Rockets, Riff Raff
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Crush Band
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Taldera Way
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Mike Piggott's Hot Club Trio
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Aquarius
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Vo Et Tyler
The Wyche Inn, Malvern

Sam Eden
The Red Lion, Great Malvern

Sugar Mama
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Quik
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Fretless (acoustic duo)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Rattle Snake Jake
O'Neills, Worcester

Eccles Breed DJ
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dublin Jacks
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mumbo Jumbo
The Cock Et Magpie, Bewdley

Sunday 5 February 2012

Blind River Scare
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Chris Difford, Jess Allen
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Umphff
Sticky Wicket, Redditch

Jazzenco (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley



Monday 6 February 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

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

Tuesday 7 February 2012

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 8 February 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Thursday 9 February 2012

Mercury – The Legend Lives On
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Bitterroots
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Keith Slater
O'Neills, Worcester

Mike Mann
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Grumby Old Guitarists
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Friday 10 February 2012

I Am Ryan
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Case Closed
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Liane Carroll
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Black Cat Bone
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

My Design
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Aquarius
Plough & Harrow, Bromsgrove

Nick Helm
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Barrell House Blues Band
Kings Head, Upton

Stone Farm
Drummonds, Worcester

Umphff
Crosskeys, Tewkesbury

Notorious Brothers
Queens Head, Wolverley

John Turner
The Bell, St Johns, Worcester

The Black Jack Davey Show
O'Neills, Worcester

Neil Morgan
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Saturday 11 February 2012

U2 2
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Mood Elevators
The Treacle Mine, Hereford

Truck Stop Trixies
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Barnhoppers & Shuddervision Presents

P.A.I.N. SPANNER

Alcohol Licks

THE NERKS

DJs

Digits Mc Phee

K-Lapse

Robber Byker

11 feb

7 squids on door

8 till late..

wagon n horses, digbeth, brum

OH MY GOD!
WE'RE DOING
IT.... WE'RE
FERRIN' DOING
IT....!!

Sam Eden
The New County Hotel, Gloucestershire

The Cowley Cowboys
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The Underdogs
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Mixtures
Queens Head, Wolverley

Will Kileen
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Umphff
Beacon, Haresfield

All For One
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Kevin Underwood Rock n Roll
The Maverick, Amblecote, Stourbridge

Bravo Boys
The Cock Et Magpie, Bewdley

The All Star Dub Band
Boars Head, Kidderminster

High Roller
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Subsoucery and Ital sounds
The Unicorn, Malvern

Sunday 12 February 2012

Cole Stacey, Peter Katz, Connor Marr, Jess Allen
The Marris Bar, Worcester

SJS
Copcut Elm Pub, Droitwich

Umphff
Grapevaults, Leominster

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

Monday 13 February 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Folk Group Jam Session
Lamb Et Flag, Worcester

Our Time Down Here
The Firefly, Worcester

Tuesday 14 February 2012

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Mouth Et Music
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic Night
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 15 February 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Inn Verse
Lamb Et Flag, Worcester

Billy Whizz
Jailhouse, Hereford

Thursday 16 February 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Richard Clarke
Lamb Et Flag, Worcester

Mike Mann
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Revolver
O'Neills, Worcester

Open Mic
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Loz Rabone
O'Neills, Worcester

Jagged Hands
Star Hotel, Upton upon Severn

Friday 17 February 2012

Heroes Of Hanoi
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Steve Knightley, Phillip Henry , Hannah Martin
Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Ex Presidents
The Kings Head, Upton

Sugar Mama
Queens Head, Wolverley

SJS
Amber Cafe Bar, Evesham

The Magoos
Drummonds, Worcester

Mr Wolf
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Andy Thomas
O'Neills, Worcester

The Ex Presidents
Kings Head, Upton

Come Up And See Me
Cap n Gown, Worcester

The Players
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ben Green
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Saturday 18 February 2012

Vo & Tyler
The Brewers Arms, Malvern

Richard Herring : What Is Love Anyway?
Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
The Gun Tavern, Worcester

Jetz To Zurich
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Aquarius
The Castle, Droitwich

The Royal Oak, Leominster
The Star, Upton Upon Severn,

Sam Eden
The Bull Hotel, Ludlow

Reprized
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Miss Pearl and the Rough Diamonds
The Unicorn, Malvern

Mother Popcorn
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Continents, Save Your Grace, The Catharsis,
Foundations, Forever Grace
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Cooper & Davies (Duo)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Tubby Bluesters
O'Neills, Worcester

Jute Joint John
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Rouen
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Sunday 19 February 2012

Sam Eden
The Wolf's Castle, Cardiff

Umphff
White Bear, Tewksbury

Monday 20 February 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

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

Tuesday 21 February 2012

Bob Jones Blues Night with Paul Jeffrey, Chris Gibbons,
John Denton, Garrington T Jones, Stripped Down Blues
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 22 February 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

SJS
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Thursday 23 February 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Trio Rosbifs
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Blind River Scare
The Retreat, Ledbury

John Turner
O'Neills, Worcester

Mike Mann
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Mood Elevators
The Star, Upton

Friday 24 February 2012

Retro Electro
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Take Fat
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Ex Presidents
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

The Reflections
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester



Freewater
The Red Man, Kidderminster

M.O.B
Queens Head, Wolverley

East of the Sun
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Calm Like A Riot, The Humdrum Express + guests
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Sam Eden
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Festivals Experience
Drummonds, Worcester

All For One
The Barley Mow, Droitwich

Rich McMahon
O'Neills, Worcester

The Navigators
Kings Head, Upton

Babajack
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Saturday 25 February 2012

Take Fat
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Aquarius
The Talbot, Barbourne Rd, Worcester

Blind River Scared
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Bluestack
The Oak Apple, Worcester,

Naked Remedy, Vault of Eagles
02 Acadamy, Birmingham

Blind River Scare
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Fingers
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Boogie Street
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

No Exit
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

The Quik
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Mumbo Jumbo
Queens Head, Wolverley

Stone Farm
O'Neills, Worcester

Straight Aces
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Skint
Cock and Maggie, Bewdley

Subsoucery and Ital sounds
The Unicorn, Malvern

Sunday 26 February 2012

Charles Owen
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Strumpit (1-4pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wooden Horse
The Courtyard, Hereford

Monday 27 February 2012

The Tap Jam (Open Mic / Jam)
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Folk Group Jam Session
Lamb Et Flag, Worcester

Open Mic with Dave Small Et Dave Onions
The Cock n Maggie, Bewdley

Tuesday 28 February 2012

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 29 February 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Are you a Venue owner?

A Promoter?

A Band or Solo Performer?

Is your gig listed above?

**If not, its because we
didn't know about it!**

So next time...

...let us know at:

listings@slapmag.co.uk

Listings in conjunction with Not Just Sauce

THE MARR'S BAR

FEB 2012

Chris Difford
Sun 5th Feb



Friday 3rd

Shameless Promotions Presents:
Jasper in the Company of Others,
Calm Like a Riot, The Whipjacks,
The Cape of Good Hope
£3 a ticket, £5 on door

Saturday 4th

Delray Rockets & Riff Raff
£6 a ticket, £8 on the door

Sunday 5th

Chris Difford (Singer/Songwriter from
Squeeze)
with support from Jess Allen
£12 a ticket, £15 on the door

Friday 10th

Black Cat Bone
£4 a ticket, £5 on the door

Saturday 11th

U2 2
£5 a ticket, £6 on the door

Sunday 12th

Peter Katz, Coles Stacey, Connor Marr &
Jess Allen
£3 a ticket, £5 on the door

Thursday 16th

Comedy Zone Special with Steve Hughes
£13 a ticket, £15 on the door

Friday 17th

Heroes Of Hanoi Album Launch
£3 a ticket, £5 on the door

Saturday 18th

Continents - Save You Grace, The Catharisis
Foundations & Forever Grace
£5 a ticket, £6 on the door

Friday 24th

Retro Electro – A night of live music, burlesque
beauties and toe tapping electro swing
See website for further details

Saturday 25th

Private Party

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