

# SLAP

Issue 13

**FREE**

MARCH 2012

MAGAZINE

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# SLAP

MAR 2012 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hello all and welcome to the March 2012 issue of Slap Magazine. It has been a hectic month so those of you who were expecting to see their article, submission, news etc. and can't, it's because I simply didn't have time or space due to the short month and so much going on after a quiet New Year. A big thankyou as always to those whose contributions made the final cut, we are nothing without you.

If you're not suffering from some 'Super Bug', there is plenty to get your teeth into this month around our fair County and beyond as we continue to go deeper into Herefordshire, thanks to our friends at Circuit Sweet and now Andrew Marsten.

No Slap Night again this month as we build up to another visit from our friends Skambomambo from Poland for April at the Arts Workshop. We are also excited to be asked to play our part in this years Worcester Music Festival. We are hosting a stage at the Arts Workshop and get to choose our favourite bands to play!

We are going to try and include classifieds and Directory page in future issues where you can advertise yourself, organisation and services so do get in touch.

In the meantime, Spring is in the air so get yourself out of the house and support local talent.... Ed



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**LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:  
NOTJUSTSAUCE.COM**

.....

Malvern Fringe Arts is holding its fourth busking fundraiser in Great Malvern town centre on March 31st, starting around 11am. The committee are hoping, and would be very happy for support from any musicians who would like to perform a slot at one of the 'Buskstops' around town. Buskers can play for around 15 mins. minimum, or more if they want to carry on. Previous Busking fundraisers have been good fun for both performers and audience alike. This year's buskers will be contributing to the costs involved in putting on the Annual May Day mini festival in Priory Park on May 5th. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact: [info@malvernfringe.co.uk](mailto:info@malvernfringe.co.uk) or Jem on 01684 893611



Worcester City Football Club Supporters Trust are proud to present **The Blue Dragon Real Ale and Cider Festival 2**. The now annual event will be held at St George's Lane - Home of the City - on Friday 06 and Saturday 07 July. Last year's inaugural event was very well received and many thanks go out to all the bands who gave up their time to support the event and the Club.

Special thanks go out to Slap Magazine and all the volunteers who got involved to help the launch of a new festival in the City. This year's event is promoted with the 20-20 vision campaign for the club and we plan to have an interesting range of real ales and ciders, hot food, live music including main stage and acoustic sessions for the sunny outdoors. If you are interested in getting involved and maybe playing at the event then please contact Bingo via e mail at [wcfctrust@btinternet.com](mailto:wcfctrust@btinternet.com). A local festival for the community by the local club in our community.

The community arts centre **Room 13** in Farrier Street, Worcester has been forced to close its door after complaints about noise levels from guests at the nearby Whitehouse Hotel. The space had been transformed from its previous use as a gym by a huge volunteer effort and there were plans to stage all kinds of activities - from art and dance to comedy, workshops and exhibitions. However owners Sian Davis and Marko Antonio said that gigs were necessary to fund these other activities and without them (eight have been held to date) the venue couldn't continue - shame...

Malvern Festival of Music is now **Malvern Rocks** and has niftily moved its spot to the first weekend in August to fill the void left by the postponement this year of Big Chill. Organiser Kevin 'Ronda' Tudge cites the Worcester Music Festival as the inspiration for this new event and said that the available spots are filling fast. Events will take place at a variety of venues across three days and the festival's first chosen charity is Acorns Children's Hospice - best of luck guys!!

Joint meeting to be held by Amnesty International, Malvern and the Chase AI group at The Chase School, Geraldine Road, Malvern on Wednesday, March 21st 2012 at 7.00pm. Tickets are £5 but it's free to school students. Subject of the meeting is Do we Need the Arms Trade? Speakers from 7.30pm. Speakers include Kate Allen- Director Amnesty International UK, John Hilary - Executive Director War on Want, Chris Rossdale - Campaign against the Arms Trade. Brian Johnson-Thomas, former UN Security Council weapons expert.

The **Roving Crows** won the Best Celtic Rock Band honour at the international Irish Music Association Awards and Caitlin Barrett was also named the Best Fiddle Player - beating nominated acts from Ireland, the USA, the UK and Europe - but of course we knew that all along...

An unknown Elgar music manuscript written for the opening of a bell tower in Loughborough has been discovered in a Leicestershire council building as staff were clearing out old files. Along with the manuscript were a number of letters by the Malvern maestro and an old film reel, believed to be footage of the opening. The find has been provisionally valued at £10,000.

**BabaJack**, an acoustic blues/ folk band from Malvern are fast becoming an established band on the Folk and Blues Festival circuits in the UK and into Europe: in the last year, they have played at Warwick, Bromyard, Bromsgrove and Shrewsbury Folk Festivals on main stages, Wychwood Festival (Big Top Stage), Blues in Wonderland, Upton, Skegness, Gloucester, Tenby, Buxton and Leamington Spa Blues Festivals. **Babajack** to play at British Blues Awards ceremony at Newark Blues Festival in September

Closure of **Funk** nightclub in the Butts - owner does a runner with cash, booze and DJs' equipment

**Toploader** to headline first **Wustock** on April 21st at **Christopher Whitehead** school - **Scarlet Carmina** and **Tallulah Fix** also on the billing.

This **Wicked Tongue** are back in the studio with **Dave Draper** soon and are sure to attract more vans after extensive touring and the prospect of playing at the **Noel Gallagher** after party along with **The Modern**.

# WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

## WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL TO CREATE A BUZZ AT HIVE LAUNCH

Worcester Music Festival has been chosen to put on a 'buzzing' entertainment programme at one of the launch events for The Hive, the city's distinctive, new library and history centre. Organisers of the annual festival, which takes place over the August Bank Holiday weekend this year, are putting the finishing touches to the line-up for the event on Saturday, April 28.

As with the festival itself, the live music acts taking part will be a mixture of genres, from folk to rock, while a host of inspirational workshops will cater for all skill levels and age groups. From 12noon until 7pm, acts will perform in the foyer of the much talked about, golden-roofed building, in a sound-proofed



lecture theatre and, weather permitting, in the landscaped gardens.

"We are still planning the final line-up of acts and workshops, which we will put up on the Worcester Music Festival website as soon as they are confirmed."

With its official opening scheduled for July, The Hive in Sawmill Walk, The Butts, will house a quarter of a million books and over 26,000 records of historic monuments and buildings. For more on Worcester Music Festival at The Hive, visit: [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk), where you can also find about this year's festival and browse our meet the musicians section and Soundcloud.

You can also sign up to follow the festival on Facebook and Twitter.

For more on The Hive, visit [www.wlhc.org.uk](http://www.wlhc.org.uk).

*"We are honoured to be invited by Worcestershire County Council to put on one of the Hive's launch events"*

Brian Hoggard, WMF

## LETTERS

### Nathan Pitt & the SAY NO TO THE ASHMOLEAN II – WE WANT A PEOPLES CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

<http://www.change.org/petitions/worcestershire-county-council-private-museum-gets-200k-redirect-for-a-peoples-contemporary-art-gallery>

I was at first pleased to see the news that the Ashmolean was coming to Worcestershire, a welcome addition to culture and the economy in the county.

And then I discovered that £200,000 pounds have been granted to the project. Again this in itself is also a welcome investment if it were not for the fact that this sum of money is a very strange exception where other more important funding is needed, being held back, being cut and lacking elsewhere in the visual arts in Worcestershire.

I have worked in this sector for the last five years in Worcester and each year the annual budget for ALL the arts across the WHOLE of Worcestershire has remained at 200k. This year I'm sure it has probably been cut by the recommended 20% so in real terms it's a much greater cut and a lack of investment has led to many artists and creatives simply leaving the region and taking their skills, investment and culture with them. I have decided to stay and foster opportunities within the visual arts for artists and audiences alike. Imagine my surprise when the un-princely but rare sum of 200k should pop up over tea and biscuits at ONE cabinet meeting and be awarded to an existing organisation in the Ashmolean and a benefactor.

I do not think the proposal is wrong, I understand that this generous benefactor should receive our support and our commitment. The County Council should offer support for Broadway and the Ashmolean to raise their own funds.

For my part, I will be pursuing the centralization of a Contemporary Art Museum agenda, I will be asking the residents of Worcestershire if they value culture in the hands of the many or reserved for the few by signing a petition which can be found on [change.org](http://change.org) search for: Private museum gets £200k! Redirect for a Peoples Contemporary Art Gallery - [www.pittstudio.com](http://www.pittstudio.com)



**JASPER IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS  
CALM LIKE A RIOT & THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**  
at The Marr's Bar, Worcester 03/02/2011



By the time The Cape of Good Hope hit the stage tonight for the debut Shameless Groupie Promotions gig, the Marr's Bar is packed and the healthily sized audience have no qualms about being a hair's breadth from the stage. This also means being as close as possible to the most sonic twists and turns this side of the spaghetti junction as we find out throughout 45 minutes of madness.

A lesser band with this many twists and turns would, perhaps, cloud their set with needless audio detritus and over indulgent instrumentation. Throughout their set, however, TCoGH always sound vital, razor-sharp and, most importantly, interesting.

Praise must be given simultaneously to the sound-engineer who brings a very clear and concise focus to what could easily turn into a disaster zone if mixed incorrectly. Throughout their set though, TCoGH simultaneously sound as though they are both a solid, booming weight yet also a multi-textured, angular serpentine weaving through the possibilities of music, certainly a band to catch again.

Sadly, for reasons unknown to us, The Whipjacks are nowhere to be seen tonight. Calm Like a Riot, on the other hand, are very much visible and vocalist John gives a particularly vigorous performance.



Unfortunately, the sound that was so crystal-cut during The Cape of Good Hope's tenure on stage becomes somewhat disjointed too. This sadly means that CLaR's hip-hop-based-rock sound, with it's scratch guitars and wandering basslines, at times sounds unanchored and lost in translation especially when compared to their tight and punchy studio output. This certainly didn't stop the Calm Like a Riot boys though, who put in an excellent performance that was both emphatic, exuberant and particularly engaged some exceptionally inebriated front-row crowd members (who shall remain nameless).

In answer to the (surprisingly unasked) question about whether it is possible to play sunny, upbeat, pop-slash-reggae tunes in minus-temperature, wintery middle-England, yes. It certainly is. Jasper in the Company of Others prove that it doesn't matter what time of year it is, a feel-good vibe, catchy songs and a great performance will translate to a good time with just about anybody, just about anywhere.



When the band comes onstage, tonight's audience are right behind the four-piece and the evening kicks back into a relaxed sing-along with a many a reveller contributing to the exceptionally loud audience participation.

Perhaps due to having a rhythm section (Jim – Drums & Will – Bass) that have both played in rock acts previously to their current band, JitCoO have a surprisingly full sound for a band who do not have any leading electric instruments to bulk out their sonic landscape. This is to their credit, however, as the chilled out vibe translates perfectly whilst not becoming lost and unanchored.

At the tail end of the set, it's very clear that Shameless Groupie... have put on a fantastic debut show and picked a bill that was well worth seeing. Hopefully we'll see more of this in future as months pass in 2012.

Words: Baz Blackett Pics: Katie Foulkes

## REVIEW LAURA THOMPSON



Another EP - great ! I love em cuz there's enough to get yer gnashers into without outstaying it's welcome.

Like a good house guest of which I am not one. Maybe it's my ADHD but 20 minutes is perfect for me.

And here we have a Worcester singer's debut '13 Months' and it's pretty perfectly formed. The four songs chosen have variety without straying too far from what is a classy acoustic, singer-songwriter template, but with enough good hooks to keep yer lug'oles pricked.

Having said "acoustic" the first track *I Don't Care* has a nice dirty fuzz guitar backing which adds greatly to the funky swing of the percussion. Add Laura belting it out blues style and you've got a pretty impressive opener.

*Make Things Better* is up next and has an excellent melody which stands it's own in what is the very crowded arena of solo(ish) acoustic performers.

The third number *See For Miles* again mixes up the material and even reminded me in part of Madonna, Ray of Light era. In my world this is a compliment and a phooey to those who disagree!

Laura's voice is a strong and distinctive tool throughout and there are some classy back-up touches from percussion, keys & cello, all gathered together in a package well produced by **Dave Draper**.

There is a surfeit of sensitive, singer-songwriter types out there, but enough on display here to suggest **Laura Thompson** won't just be one of the crowd. With experience will come I'm sure some more adventure in the writing and hence an even stronger identity.

The last number *More Than This* weaves a stately, melancholy mood enhanced by the cello part and enigmatic lyrics, suggesting a transcendence from the daily grind which I found appealing.

I'll finish by echoing the title and hoping that there'll be much more than this to come from an interesting new singer. 13 months is available as a free download from Soundcloud. Artwork on the EP is by **Flaming Silk**

*Words by Hope Springs*

## REVIEW STRAIGHT ACES

THE TALBOT, BEWDLEY 16th FEBRUARY

It was back before Christmas when I first heard of The Straight Aces - people where all praises for the three piece rockabilly band. They seemingly went down a blast when they recently played a gig in Kidderminster, which I sadly missed out on. So when i found out at the last minute they were playing The Talbot in Bewdley, a local venue for the band, how could I resist?



When we arrive double bass, drums and guitar are all squeezed into the cozy back room in close proximity to

the fire much to drummer **Jord's** disapproval who in true style plays standing up while he whacks out a train beat accompanied by **Jim** on ground shaking bass and **Steve** on guitar. Together making a sound that isn't as easy as people think it is! I'm guessing if you are a fan of rockabilly music or the scene then you might have already heard of The Straight Aces or seen **Jim, Steve** and **Jord** play a mix of the bands original songs and classic tunes, from **Jonny Cash, Carl Perkins** and the bands other influences from musical greats. I can't think of good reason not to like this music. The Straight Ace's

sound is fun, it makes you want to dance, even with no dance floor and little leg room, i can spot a few rock and roll moves being pulled! and it makes you want to hear more. If you get a chance to see these guys you cant go wrong.

*Words & Pics: Toni Charles*

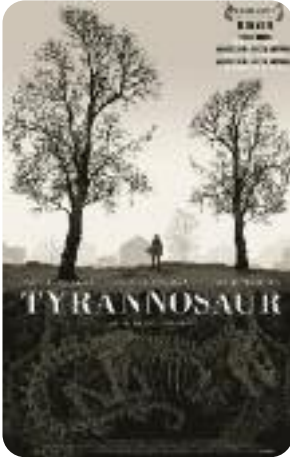


After a slow start to the year, we are getting giddy thinking that we are only a stone's throw away from getting back out into the yard for some long sunshiny afternoons with music and cider and frivolity .....but in the meantime....come and join in some fun in doors.

Saturdays throughout the term time we continue with our new exciting kid's club, jam packed with various activities including painting and making, theatre, pottery and many other fun things to do. Come and be creative with your child or leave them with us while you pop into town, either way we promise to entertain! Ages 3 to 12. £3 per child. Sat 3rd 10th, 17th and 24th March. 12pm til 2.30pm. Keep an eye out for things to do throughout Easter hols...

Splendid Cinema this month includes: *Potiche* (François Ozon, 2010, France) 15 cert. Marvellous French farce starring the radiant Catherine Deneuve as the 'trophy wife' who takes over the umbrella factory her family started when her husband is taken ill. Putting down a strike at the factory with common sense and decency, Deneuve starts to rekindle her old flame with the Assistant Mayor, played to comic perfection by Gérard Depardieu. In French with English subtitles. 11th March.

And the not to be missed, *Tyrannosaur* (Paddy Considine, 2011, UK) 18 cert. Staffordshire-born Paddy Considine's feature film debut is a powerful and violent tale of revenge and redemption that many are hailing as the best British film of 2011. Much like the films of Shane Meadows, whom Considine worked with on *Dead Man's Shoes*, *Tyrannosaur* is part of the New Midlands Brutality film movement. 25th March. Both £5, 7.30pm.



Then, continuing our links with the University of Worcester, we have *The Spotlight Theatre's* performance at the Workshop on Sat 10th 2pm and 7.30pm....and.... Time for the red carpet with an exciting new premiere from the film students with *Madame Bijoux* on Sat 17th March at 7pm. Get your bling out!

The regular literature event *Learn Eat Perform* is on Sunday 18th from 11am til 3pm.

On 31st March WXC Promotions present a rock and hardcore night intending to bring young people off the street and enjoyment for all, with 5 bands, Echos, *Death of an Artist*, Charon, others TBC. 7pm. Price TBC. Lazy Sunday will be back in April with surprise guests and happy days.....and....SLAP nights begin on the 21st April with Polish high energy Ska band 'Skambomambo'.

In the Cafe Bliss gallery this month the Worcestershire Street photography festival winner Alain Rolli shows a collection of his array of works 4th til 30th March.

## 'ROLLI'S MISCELLANY'



Alain Rolli

A curious collection of images from a Midlands based photographer, Alain Rolli. 4th until 30th March. Switzerland born photographer Alain Rolli has lived in the UK since the age of six. A biomedical scientist by profession he was last year's Worcester Street Festival winner.

"Photography is a means of self-expression for me. I make images for myself, to identify with hidden aspects of my character, and to express my interpretation of the world around me. I work with traditional 35mm, medium format and toy film cameras and digital cameras, often making use of software manipulation to complete my images."

His style can sometimes be left of field, quirky, humorous or a little odd. With a varied array of subject matter he particularly enjoys portraiture, "striving to find that fleeting moment when a person's character is perfectly mirrored by their expressions".

[www.flickr.com/photos/swissrolli](http://www.flickr.com/photos/swissrolli)

WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP

21 Sansome Street Worcester  
WR1 1UH Tel: 01905 25053

by Kate Cox





Madame BIJOUX (2012) is a short period drama following the myth behind the controversial photograph by Gyula Halsz, arguably one of the most brilliant photographers of all time. Leonardo DiCaprio's Character (Jack) played in Cameron's oscar winning feature film "Titanic" describes her as "the lady who used to sit at this bar (in Paris) wearing every single piece of jewelry she owned waiting for her long lost love ...called her Madame Bijoux". Legend has it that Halsz interviewed the woman and she told him the story of her love affair. After Halsz's death there hasn't been any trace of the story and ever since many have wondered what secrets lie behind the famous photograph.

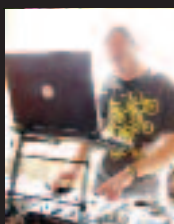
The film "Madame Bijoux" is set in 1917 and 1937 as the main character (Margarette) looks back at her love affair with a military comander, Dominic Despot (Nick Smith). The film exposes the journey of overcoming a great loss and reflects the bohemian ideals of truth, beauty, freedom and love.

Alix Paul, the Producer/Writer of Madame Bijoux stated "The film is a remarkable piece of art and reflects a great deal of hard work put in the production. My crew and I have managed to make this film with a budget of less than £100 and we never could have done it without the help of our wonderful partners. I hold a great deal of gratitude to everyone that supported the film and helped us bring it to life". Madame BIJOUX premieres on March 17 2012 at 7PM at the Worcester Arts Workshop. Subsequent Screenings are scheduled for Monday March 19 and Wednesday March 21 at 7PM at the University of Worcester. [www.alixpaul.com](http://www.alixpaul.com)



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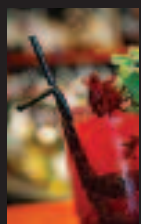
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## Doing It For The Kids

Micheal Rowland

Fuelled by a burning desire to raise some money for charity (because he's nice like that) and a passion for new music, Worcester based music blog editor Michael Rowland has announced the release of a compilation album 'This Is A Popscene #1'.



"Everyone around me seemed to be raising money for good causes, I wanted to do my bit, but without any running, swimming or physical exertion. I've been writing my blog ([www.thisisapopsce.co.uk](http://www.thisisapopsce.co.uk)) for nearly a year and have been blown away by just how many great undiscovered bands are out there. Hopefully the album will put them on the map a bit and at the same time raise some funds for WellChild."

The album features acts from around the globe and can be purchased from [thisisapopsce.bandcamp.com](http://thisisapopsce.bandcamp.com) via download or Ltd edition CD. All proceeds will be donated to the Cheltenham based WellChild charity, the national charity for sick children.

**S.U.F the  
Jubilee!**

**Punk Night**

@ Drummonds

With DJ BOD

Sunday 1st April

7.30

Tickets £4.00  
on the door



## PHIL COOL

The Swan Theatre

THURSDAY 8TH MARCH  
8PM TICKETS £15

The original Mr Rubber Face, Phil Cool will be appearing at the Swan Theatre this Thursday. Phil can metamorphose with ease from the Pope to Sylvester Stallone,

Tina Turner or Forrest Gump, Jack Nicholson to Bugs Bunny, David Attenborough to a seahorse. Star Trek, Mr. Bean, even Pulp Fiction.

Phil Cool shot to prominence in the late eighties when, after many hard years on the cabaret circuit, a producer from the BBC spotted him working as an audience warm up for the satirical television programme Spitting Image. This led to an appearance on daytime television's Pebble Mill, which was so successful that he was immediately snapped up to record a series for the BBC.

Phil received such a positive response from the public and press that the series - Cool It - was repeated on BBC1 within a matter of months, unheard of for a new

television artist. His second series won the Royal Television Society Award for Most Original Television Achievement, and a third series was screened the following year.

Unquestionably the world's only 'Stand Up Chameleon' Phil's body, too, seems to be able to defy the normal anatomical laws. With this unique weaponry, he can be anyone or anything instantaneously from international celebrity to intergalactic alien.

Phil's dexterous impressions and surreal comic sketches make him one of the country's finest and most original comedians and impressionists. He is legendary for his facial contortion expertise and punctuates his show with a wealth of hilarious anecdotes, observations and routines that make him as funny and unique today as he was during the 80s. Phil's 2-hour live show is constantly updated with new material, making him a truly contemporary satirical genius.

For more information please contact Marketing Manager Lorna Phillips on 01905 726969 or email [marketing@worchesterlive.co.uk](mailto:marketing@worchesterlive.co.uk)  
Box Office 01905 611427  
[www.theswantheatre.co.uk](http://www.theswantheatre.co.uk)



## NICK LOWE

Plus Support

FRIDAY 2ND MARCH  
8PM TICKETS £21.50

Huntingdon Hall will be receiving an honoured visit from legendary singer-songwriter, musician and producer Nick Lowe. A

pivotal figure in UK pub rock, punk rock and new wave, he has recorded a string of well-reviewed solo albums and along with vocals, plays guitar, bass guitar, piano and harmonica. Best known for his songs (What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding, a hit for Elvis Costello; Cruel to Be Kind, a US top 40 single; and I Love the Sound of Breaking Glass, and his production work with Costello - Lowe produced Elvis Costello's first five albums, including My Aim Is True, This Year's Model, and Armed Forces.

His early 'rough and ready' production style earned him the nickname Basher (as in 'bash it out now, tart it up later'). Other well-known songs include All Men Are Liars, and Cruel to Be Kind, co-written with Ian Gomm and originally recorded with Brinsley Schwarz. In 2001 he

released The Convincer, seen by many as one of the highlights of a long and illustrious recording career. After that all went quiet on the studio front until he got back with his steady team of band mates Bobby Irwin (drums), Geraint Watkins (keyboards) and Steve Donnelly (guitar).

In March 2009, he released a 49 track CD/DVD compilation of songs that spanned his entire career, Quiet Please... The New Best of Nick Lowe. In March 2011, Proper Records reissued Lowe's 1979 solo album Labour of Lust and in September his first new studio album in over four years, The Old Magic, was released to great critical acclaim.

Nick Lowe will be joined by a support act and will be playing some of his best-known tracks as well as sharing tales and anecdotes from his many years in the music industry.

For more information please contact Marketing Manager Lorna Phillips on 01905 726969 or email [marketing@worchesterlive.co.uk](mailto:marketing@worchesterlive.co.uk)  
Tickets £21.50

Box Office 01905 611427  
[www.huntingdonhall.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonhall.co.uk)

**CELTIC DREAM** FRIDAY 2ND MARCH  
8PM TICKETS £22.50  
At The Swan Theatre CONCESSIONS £20

classics of Sarah McLachlan's in the Arms of the Angels. All these heart-warming performances feature astoundingly choreographed dance routines and a more than a touch of the old Irish 'Craic'!

For more information please contact Marketing Manager Lorna Phillips on 01905 726969 or email [marketing@worcesterlive.co.uk](mailto:marketing@worcesterlive.co.uk) Box Office 01905 611427 [www.theswantheatre.co.uk](http://www.theswantheatre.co.uk)

Fresh from the shores of The Emerald isle, The Celtic Dream show has been created to bring audiences a selection of the finest dancers, award-winning choreographers, and top vocalists and musicians from around Ireland.

Among its cast is the magnificent Dream Tenors, a trio of young male vocalists with a very special sound, who were recently invited by Tourism Ireland to support music icon Van Morrison in a show stopping performance at St James' Palace especially for Irish ministers and members of The English Royal Family.

Show creator and producer said, "England has it's Jerusalem, Scotland has its Flower of Scotland and now thanks to the song writing skills of John Ward, Northern Ireland has it's anthemic 'Home', the lyrics of which sum of the hope and positive future for Ireland.

The Celtic Dream show is the perfect blend of traditional Irish music alongside modern songs. Audiences will enjoy time honoured tunes from Danny Boy and Carrickfergus to the haunting modern day



**REVIEW** Black Cat Bone Support from Poor Bob, Dave Ryles & Nick Gunnell

AT THE MARR'S BAR, FRIDAY 10 FEB, 2012



BLACK CAT BONE

We did a short opener of jazz standards. Then Bone unleashed a BB King, a Taj Mahal, and a Dylan, and neither flagged nor quit for the whole 2 hour session. The Dylans are a deft addition to their repertoire, not just lengthening it, which anyone can do ; but also broadening it, which is much harder.

This is a four-piece of stars. The rhythm section rode the rails with their usual implacable neatness : John (bass) & Phil (drums) would have continued laying down their inflexible beat even if Jove had thrown a thunder-bolt and smashed Marrs Bar's roof (and you wouldn't want to be in Jove's place when Marzy found out.)

Barrie is a fine player and singer, who can switch from raucous ('Tore Down', Freddie King) to mellow ('Georgia', Ray Charles) at will. Stuart is a fine guitarist with a deceptively uncluttered style, at times almost austere, always elegant. And the band, as a whole, are many miles ahead of their confreres within the genre.



POOR BOB



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"...Well, we're so new, we haven't even got a name yet." – Bob Jones

Supporting Black Cat Bone tonight are a new trio comprised of Poor Bob Jones (vocals), Nick Gunnell (saxophone) and Dave Ryles (electro-acoustic guitar), playing a set of six songs in a style that straddles blues and jazz. I believe this is their first outing, however they must have put the work in practicing as their set is polished and together; any first gig nerves haven't affected the quality of their playing. The set was composed of six covers of classic jazz/blues songs by Bessie Smith ('Nobody Wants You When You're Down And Out'), Ray Charles ('Come Rain Or Shine', 'Them That Got' and 'Hallelujah I Love Her So') and Billie Holiday ('Billie's Blues') and finished with a Poor Bob (of cellar bar blues night fame) original 'Redundancy Blues'.

Bob has a smooth and mellifluous voice that suits the material the trio are playing, Dave is an impressive finger picker whose delicate and considered fretwork is a joy to watch, and Nick Gunnell manages to match Dave's understated playing with gentle sax solos and melodic accompaniment. The band have a real feel of being huge music fans who are interpreting the music they love; they are understated to the point of being extremely modest, not for them any soloing competitions between lead instruments, just very mellow, relaxing, artfully played soulful sounds gently jazzing away the worries of a work weary week.

Karl Turner

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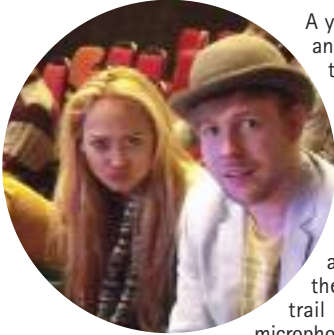


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# WHAT'S IT ABOUT WITH ANDY O'HARE



## BBC INTRODUCING MASTERCLASS ...A Grand Day Out!!



A year or so I was doing an outside broadcast for the BBC Intro show in Redditch and just before my link was due the band started playing so loud - great but I couldn't hear anything!! As I was at the back of the theatre I managed to trail my headphones and microphone through one of the doorways, and it was while I was on my knees on the floor linking back to Andrew in the Worcester studio (and expecting to be sent flying at any minute by the next person through the door) I started thinking that this show-business stuff ain't always quite as glamorous as it might first appear...

I felt a bit the same again last month when I learned what my job was for the BBC Introducing Masterclass in London - I had to act as a bus conductor for the morning on the shuttle service between the Abbey Road and Maida Vale studios!! Meh and whatever - I'd still get the chance along with five of our own up-and-comers (Andy Robinson, Christina Maynard, Small Morris, George of Muchuu and Matt 'Tripbuk' Freeman) to check out as



many of the famous names and faces gathered there for this one day as I could squeeze in between coach trips!

I'd arranged to travel down with Andy and Tina - and we rendezvoused at Northwick Service Station at the unearthly hour of 5.30am - not my best time of the day!! We arrived at Abbey Road at about 9.30 and checked in - I was issued with a badge that said 'BBC Intro - Ask Me

Anything' (!) but was reassured that all I had to really do was if in doubt - quote the website address which is of course [www.bbc.co.uk/introducing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/introducing) - phew!!

I was based at Abbey Road so in between journeys I managed to catch Mistajam with Ms Dynamite, Steve Lamacq talking with Friendly Fires (who played our own Big Chill in 2009) and 'Planning The Gig' - the highlight of which has to be Tina sat next to Tom Robinson both singing along to Frank Turner's closing number!!

Now I thought I'd have a 'free' afternoon - but my replacement for that shift did a bunk so I had to shoehorn more shuttle journeys between Masterclasses - no problem, I'd gotten used to it by then!! Biggest attended session of the day was Jamie Cullum being interviewed by Jo Whiley - spot Andy and Tina in the front row!! I also managed to catch snippets of Tom Robinson's Songwriting class, Rob Da Bank with Maverick Sabre and DJ Techniques with James Zabiela before finally loading up the bus for Maida Vale and setting off there for the day's closing sessions with Andy and Tina.



I think they'd been pre-booked into the Recording class - but I opted instead for the Guitar Workshop with Young Guns and Aziz Ibrahim and this was probably my highlight of the day - but in a really strange way!! I realised that I'd actually seen Aziz play when he activated the LED's on his fretboard - he is of course the guitarist with Ian Brown and I'm ashamed to say that we didn't half give him some stick when his band supported the Manics in Cardiff a few years ago - oohh I feel so bad about it now, but it was great fun at the time!!

Back to Abbey Road for the closing Q&A session hosted by Huw 'Valley Boy' Stephens - while Andrew recorded a few soundbites and interviews and a last chance for a bit more schmoozing with the celebs... So where's the picture of the zebra crossing? Well tbb - pretty much all day I'd seen tourists walking, crawling, leaping, mooning and risking life and limb to get their photo taken - and it'd all worn a bit thin by 5pm - next year maybe...

I only caught a handful of the Masterclasses on the day - as did every one of the 200 'delegates' from all the BBC Introducing regions - it was a treat (but bloody hard work!) to be there but you (yes you!!) can check every one we attended (and also missed out) again on the Intro website - and you don't have to get up at four in the morning either!!

AOH



It's that time of year again. The post Christmas lull through the dark days of January and February when everyone is recovering from their jingle hells and new year overindulgences. The pubs are half empty and the very thought of venturing out into the cold to see a gig fills you with dread. Waiting, waiting for the first glimpses of spring and lengthening days to shock you out of your torpor and re-inspire that enthusiasm for going out. So, it's good to have something to look forward to. If you come from around these parts and you're not in a coma you will know that Malvern has an abundance of musicians and for those who like the Malvern music scene there's something great to look forward to. Malvern Rocks. Well we knew that already but this is the name of a three day music festival being held in pubs and venues around Malvern from the 3rd to the 5th of August. Inspired by the success of Worcester's multi-venue festival format, the organisers thought they'd give it a go in Malvern. The festival will be raising money to benefit the Acorns kids charity through raffles and donations with prizes that include a day driving Land Rovers through mud, a VIP tour of the Morgan factory, recording time at The Session and

term at the Worcester School of Rock. So far more than ten venues have agreed to take part with another five or so likely to sign up soon. The festival will open simultaneously in various venues around the town on the Friday night with more on Saturday afternoon and evening as far afield as Malvern Link, Barnards Green and West Malvern. Sunday will see more afternoon acts with a big finale in Great Malvern that evening. Ex-Inspiral Carpets' front man Tom Hingley will headline on opening night at the Great Malvern Hotel while other named acts are being sought. There will also be a wealth of Malvern and Worcester regulars playing over the weekend. The organisers include the people behind Tenbury's B-Fest and the Pyramid People who will be running the now legendary Pyramid Stage at the Mount Pleasant Hotel. The Malvern Rocks website will be online in a matter of days so visit [malvernrocks.com](http://malvernrocks.com) for the latest information on line up and scheduling. You can also find the Malvern Rocks Facebook group. The organisers are still looking for acts to perform, pa operators, volunteers and helpers so if you want to get involved, get in touch. The deadline for band applications is May 1st.



# RETURN OF THE DREADZ!



## AHOY!

It has been over a year since the Dreadzone cover of the inaugural SLAP magazine, a year inevitably characterised by changes. Their gig last year threatened "to pop the Marris Bar like a sweaty balloon as the audience reaches almost transcendental peaks of dread-dance fever" according to issue two's review. (Dicky Fisk, where are you?)

Luckily for us on the thirteenth issue, the Dreadz are back and they've been through some changes too. Greg and Leo caught the reformation bug and have been 'moonlighting' in the hugely successful Big Audio Dynamite reunion. (One can only admire Mick Jones for his tireless contribution to a music scene, which enables him to traverse the diverse brilliance of bands like Dreadzone and Blur. Peely would be approving.)

And was it not Sir John of Peel who lionized Second Light as one of his all time favourites? The groundbreaking 1995 album was due for a remastering, which is going to be released 5 March along with 45 minutes of that year's Glastonbury set. Now I was at that gig and, from what I remember (I know!), it was the sound of a band hitting its

stride (not long after, I was taken 'ill' at the Dog & Vomit stage - I kid you not - and had to go and have a lie down in the Green Futures field!).

Captain Dread says, "it feels only right to revisit the album in a live context, if not the whole thing then at least a large chunk of it, played in the spirit of our early incarnation". With the release last year of an 'all killer, no filler' Best of, is there a danger of Dreadzone disappearing up their own back catalogue?

"It won't all be looking back..we will be trying out new material as we work on the next album, which is taking shape. The first real change in the zone is the departure after 4 years of laptoperator Chris Oldfield".

So a new line-up with a new set signaling yet another "phase of dread expression". They bounced Worcester last time out, so put on your iron shirt and let's help them elevate the vibe. Life, Love and Unity.

Words: glazz Photos: Christian Banfield (bottom) & Antonio Pagano (top)





# INTERVIEW

## NICK WELSH aka KING HAMMOND

*When did the band form?*

King Hammond is me (Nick Welsh) I started this project back in 1986 when I was the bassist in Bad manners. I recorded a couple of albums in the late 80's but the project was moved to the 'back burner' when I joined the selector for 16 years in 1991!

*Where did the musicians come from and who are the members?*

My Band, THE RUDE BOY MAFIA are a collection of musicians from the London area who also play in bands like THE SELECTER, BAD MANNERS, NEVILLE STAPLE BAND & THE SKANX they are a very high quality bunch of musicians who know how to put on a show and are great company.

*What collaborations / who have you worked with?*

Besides THE SELECTER & BAD MANNERS I have also recorded produced and worked live with PRINCE BUSTER, LAUREL AITKEN, RICO, DAVE BARKER, JUDGE DREAD, RHODA DAKAR and in 2002 I won a Grammy award for the best Reggae album with LEE 'SCRATCH' PERRY. Not bad eh!



*When was the last time you played in the Midlands?*

KING HAMMOND has never played in the Midlands I do most of my gigs in Europe & The USA. I think the last time I played in Birmingham was with THE SELECTER @ Ronnie Scotts about 10 years ago.

*The new album / previous releases*

Since returning as KING HAMMOND in 2010 I have released 4 official albums THE KING & I, JACUZZI, SHOWBIZ! & the new one (& the best) DANCING IN THE GARDEN OF EVIL. I also released an official bootleg REMIX-REWIND so in just under 2 years I have released 62 pieces of new Ska & Reggae on my own label N.1. Records.

I am really looking forward to playing in brum with KING HAMMOND I used to spend a lot of time up there being a WEST BROMWICH ALBION supporter which is very apt 'cos most old Ska & Reggae music is about pressure & suffering and I have certainly suffered over the last 40 years being a 'Baggie'. If anyone wants any more info on what I do go to [www.kinghammond.co.uk](http://www.kinghammond.co.uk) look forward to seeing some of you on April 14th at the Wagon & Horses.

*by Digits McFee*

# REVIEW 16th FEBRUARY 2012

## Great Malvern Hotel – Robert Adam Plant

Thursday evenings at the Great Malvern Hotel are another of their fine music nights, hosted by the Incredible Mr Mikey Mann who's guest artist was **Robert Adam Plant**, a 30 year old singer songwriter from Dudley.

Robert describes his music genre as being an acoustic blend of country, blues, swing, jazz, punk and new wave rock. We were not disappointed at all this young man really did a wonderful performance. He began with the usual setting up, sound checks etc. but for me what made a huge difference was that Robert also had brought with him a large number of printed cards. He then went around the audience giving 2 cards to each and explaining that from the one card you could obtain a free download of his song "When I was young" and the other card had a list of songs he would perform with tick boxes by the side. Robert explained that he wanted us to tick off 3 out of the list that we liked and that he would then take the 3 most popular to add to his next album. This I thought a great way to interact with the audience.

Robert began by singing "10,000 Words" a song I particularly liked and went down very well with all there judging by the applause, finishing off the set with "When I was young". He has a very good repertoire of songs that he has written and performs. He is constantly writing more. Robert has good stage presence and between songs interacts with the audience by giving information on how the next song was thought up and what it means, another fine touch I thought. He is definitely one to watch out for and should he be playing near you he is well worth going to see, you will not be disappointed.



*Words: Dave Purser*

# PREVIEW KIDDERMINSTER ROCKS

Kidderminster Rocks is the title given to a sequence of live music events, based within the heart of the Worcestershire County of the Wyre Forest. The first show occurred on Friday 21st October 2011 at Kidderminster Town Hall and resulted in a capacity filled multi genre show, which paid tribute to the work of Kidderminster based music promoter and author, John Combe. This first event was also designed to bring awareness to the importance of consistent live music within the local community, and to raise both awareness and monies in respect of the superb work that Kidderminster based registered charity, The Proton Effect, has attained.

The first show featured bands that had either appeared in John's second book or had featured musicians that had appeared in the book. The selected bands were Ballroom Glitz, Trower Power, Rouen, Dead Ringer & The Clones and Weak13. As a compliment to the show guest performers joined the line up and local DJ's Pig and Nigel Cooper joined forces to comere the event.

The first show was a complete success and rose over £4,000 for charity. As a direct result of this, the organiser of Kidderminster Rocks decided that he would continue to promote regular live music in Kidderminster, as long as the shows received suitable public support.

With the decision to promote further live music taken, Mike teamed up with Kidderminster vocalist Mark Crosby and Kidderminster Rocks continued forward. Their vision was to attract the best live acts around and place local bands as support to each show and with each event scheduled to occur at Kidderminster Town Hall. The organisers also agreed that a link to The Proton Effect should remain with donations from each show being passed onto the charity accordingly.

The first Kidderminster Rocks event for 2012 takes place on Sat 24th March @ Kidderminster Town Hall and features top class tribute act 'Dirty DC' billed by many as the UK's premier tribute to classic rock band AC DC. The band heralds an uncanny resemblance to the real thing in both sound and visual appearance. Dirty DC will be supported by local rock bands Naked Remedy & Nightblade.

The organisers of Kidderminster Rocks aims to price tickets for each show as keenly as they can with tickets being available from local outlets – The Town Hall, The Swan, The Boars Head, The King & Castle (Kidderminster) The George Hotel (Bewdley) and Strings & Thing Music Shop (Stourport). Tickets can also be purchased from Dave Donovans in Stourbridge and online from: [www.WeGotTickets.com](http://www.WeGotTickets.com) Tickets for the show are £7.00 or £9.00 for balcony seats. A dedicated website and Facebook group can also be found.

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

[KidderminsterRocks@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/KidderminsterRocks)



Andrew Marston, 30, is the presenter and producer for BBC Introducing in Hereford & Worcester. Every week he showcases the best new music from across the area on BBC Hereford & Worcester while passing the best tracks on to those who programme the stages at Nozstock, Big Chill, Glastonbury, Reading & Leeds. He also has a say on the BBC Radio 1 and 1Xtra playlist and regularly has sessions on BBC 6 Music and tracks featured on BBC Asian Network and soon-to-be BBC2 and Radio 2. Away from the airwaves, he also holds down an equally busy lifestyle as a pub & club DJ.



*The Day Job*

I genuinely love everything - nothing more so than variety. So I'd rather listen to dance, pop and rock than 15 R'n'B tracks back-to-back. But having listened to every style, DJ'd with every style and transmitted every style, I do have a few fine words that I'd like to share with you in my debut article. That is...keep it short.

Remember the first time you ever bought a song? Whether it was on vinyl, tape, minidisc or CD - we all did the same thing - stick it on loop play. Sometimes a couple of plays were enough. But it was always repeated. The amount of tracks I get sent to me that drone on for 6 or more minutes is mind-boggling. My boss once pulled me in the office and asked me why I was playing only 8 discs an hour - the same as our afternoon show. My response was "because the tracks are twice as long!". I get it. You're in a band - you find something great - and you stick with it! It doesn't matter how catchy a chorus is or how impressive the guitar solo can be, keep it short. There isn't a compliment greater than the listener feeling disappointed they didn't hear more - then going out to buy/download the single. Then sticking it on repeat play. If you satisfy - or over satisfy your audience - they don't need to hear that track again. Dance music can also be a killer when it comes to that. I get it that DJs want 42 seconds of drums - and nothing else - leading into the track then back out of it - but nowadays, CDJs, VirtualDJ and Traktor have loop facilities. We just need 4 beats. By keeping your tracks short mean people come back for more.



*Bringing in the New Year  
DJ set at Sixways*

Well, here goes, my debut article for Slap Magazine - in time for it to be launched in my home city of Hereford.

I've been presenting BBC Introducing in Hereford & Worcester now for 7 years - and in total, 12 years at the station and a further 4 years in hospital radio. So I started when I was 14 - which is also when I began DJing. The one thing, though, is it's really easy to get wrapped up in so much music. The danger is you risk not being very productive at all. As I'm writing this, I'm downloading some of the music sent to me in the last couple of weeks - 10 tracks per page and 19 pages of it - plus a load of albums in the door pocket of my car - then there's my DJing career to take care of too! It's really easy to gloss over everything - even though you are giving it the time of day - and just get lost amongst the volume.



*James Burham playing fiddle for Jak Raven at Hereford Royal College for BBC Introducing.*

Andrew will be offering monthly contributions to Slap Magazine - so if you've got a music or tech question you'd like to ask - email [introhw@bbc.co.uk](mailto:introhw@bbc.co.uk)

He doesn't promise to be able to answer everything - but it might be that he knows somebody who can...

# REVIEW CANTALOOP - CHOCOLATE EP

It's a purple patch here at the moment at Slap Towers for ep's and this ain't no exception.

Yeah firstly Cantaloop do sound like their name: sweet, juicy and refreshing, firm yet yielding and I'm getting carried away already in the second sentence!

But this is how Cantaloop get you, they're seasoned sonic seducers, they've got a groove that is hard to resist and you keep on wanting more: yep just like Chocolate.

This is a premier urban funk outfit who have "soul" written all they way through them but also think deeply about what they do and put ahelluva lotta of work into it.

The four tunes here (+ 2 worthy remixes) have been honed in rehearsal, studio and on stage and it shows. The thought carries through into song names, band members names, artwork etc: the C-Funk manifesto is ALL embracing.

Hence the first track *Chocolate* is perfectly titled and needs no further explanation. There's a dazzling mix of styles on display here and my notes say "dub-stepping-jazz-funk-hip-hop-trip" (I know, but it helps me!)

2nd song *Blessed* is just that. Starting off with a lovely lick reminding me of Bo Et Ruth's *If You Keep On Doing What You're Doing* and then those horns, oh those sublime horns, those horny horns (it's happening again! Ed). The brass coda especially wobbled my knobby knees.

Boy these Bewdley Brothers can play! From the velveteen, versatile vocals of **Dannie Dee** who knows that pain can be beautiful, to the luscious guitar licks of **100C**. From the (jazz) rock solid drums of **The Beef & King Popeye** underpinned by **Paulo De-Wootton's** superb, subsonic bass.



And all this gorgeously gilded by the Horns of Plenty, namely **Sugar Lips** and **Ni-co**. Excuse me boys if I'm off beam but I can hear Memphis to Philly via the LA Express and beyond.

The quality continues on through the hook-laden chorus of the harder edged *Feisty* and shifts into yet another groovy gear on *Flatline*.

Mention must also go to Gavin Monaghan for an all-round excellent production job. I know nothing but it must be easier and more fun when you've got this calibre of musicians to work with. Suffice to say the dynamics are perfect throughout and allow the band to shine.

The final 2 trax are excellent remixes and both prove that this much abused genre can be rekindled by invention and intelligence.

I'm especially hooked on the *Blessed lamTokyo Remix* which is trip-hop turntablism by an ambient Dalek named Eno (that's what it says here). The *FlatlineDefunktDialekt* remix also has a groove of it's own: like trying to dance your way out of a vat of chocolate. Not something I would ever knowingly do tho!

This ep comes unreservedly recommended and can be found at [www.cantaloop.net](http://www.cantaloop.net) along with lots of other goodies.

I've never seen them live and can't wait: we can all catch em next at The Yardbird in Brum on Fri 2 March or at The great Malvern Hotel on Fri 25 March.

There you have it boiz and gurls: Cantaloop - Contains A Glass and a Half in every bar!

*Words by Sonny R Climes*

## BABAJACK - ROOSTER *by Bob Jones*

Babajack arrived on the folk - blues scene around 4 years ago, and in 2009, they made the choice to go at it seriously and professionally. This (third) cd is a triumphant ratification of that decision.

Few need telling : they are Trev Steger, guitars, harmonica, vocals, and Bec Tate, vocals and a bewildering collection of percussion and stomp-boxes. Both wrote all 11 of these songs, 2 of which are re-arrangements of traditional Americana.

Marc Miletitch is now a permanent member on double bass/vocals, and also on this cd Alan Cooper plays violin and Becky Blockley sings.

Trev's guitar dominates, cascading through various styles from 20s ragtime, through Mississippi slide, to fuzz-box rocking.

Bec is a strident, often testifying but also teasing singer, reflecting a century-long tradition of female torch- and blues-singers from ma Rainey and Memphis Minnie through to Nashville; but with a unifying thread of purely English folk.

Indeed, this could be the cd that opens America for them, because I can see contemporary America rising to Babajack just as their forbears did to Jethro Tull and Richard Thompson, for the same reason : they have nothing like this ; nor does anyone else.

Babajack are a uniquely English band, combining excellent singing, playing, and writing, and that is what will eventually secure them the international fame many less-talented bands already enjoy.







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# PREVIEW Jenny Hallam – 25,000 Days

Rather than filling your living room with balloons and having some friends round on your birthday, Jenny Hallam is releasing her first album, putting on a gig, organising coach trips to London and back for a mega-party – and you're invited! But before we get ahead of ourselves, in case you're yet to discover her music for yourself, let's take a look at the lady herself.

At just 19 (at the time of print) Jenny has already played the likes of **Westfest**, **Mappfest**, the **Pyramid Party** and most recently **The Colwall Family Festival**. She moved to London to attend university and wasted no time in making music connections down there and becoming a regular at several open mic nights before being noticed and offered gigs around the area. She's even supported Placebo's drummer's band **PLANES**.

She still finds time to play in the shire when she comes back, appearing at **The Old Rectifying House**, **The Great Malvern Hotel** and **SLAP** favourite, the **Worcester Arts Workshop**. She even found the time in her busy schedule to come back and play my birthday party in November, something which I'll be eternally grateful for.

The idea behind her new album title, **25,000 Days**, is that's the average human lifespan and she got friends and fans to send in photos of themselves with their date of birth and she worked out how many days in they were and that makes up the album artwork. To find out mine you'll have to buy the album, I'm not writing the figure here, it was a bit of a scary number to be honest.

I caught up with Jenny in a nice warm cafe in Covent Garden and here's what she had to say for herself.

## *What can we expect from the new album?*

Expect the unexpected! **Chris Hewitt** has done a magnificent job with this album, and a few of the songs sound surprisingly different to how I perform them live! But I think that's a good thing, it's always great to be able to offer something which represents you and your music, but in a different way to how people can hear it usually! Especially as I have been concentrating on solo performances for the past year or so – I've started thinking of my songs as being quite melancholy, but with the help of **Chris and Alex Albrow**, this album has developed a great happy-go-lucky, uplifting sound which I think is brilliant!

## *So, who is Josh Connor?*

**Josh Connor** is a brilliant boy I met in Angel, London who's from Cambridge. He writes lovely slightly kooky songs about **Woody Allen**, fleeting romances and unrequited love which really get stuck in your head! I came back to the shire for Christmas and I was forever

singing a song of his called "*Daytime TV*" – to the extent that I thought it must have been on the radio, or in a shop somewhere, until I saw him play again in January and realised it was him!

## *Why 25,000 Days?*

My Dad came home from work one day and said to me: "Jen, I heard on the radio today that the average life-span of a human-being is 25,000 days. Can you believe that?!" And whoosh – the song was born! It was a great concept for a song and one which I couldn't believe more people hadn't explored! Of course, it's not set in stone, as the more in to the future we are moving, the longer people are living, so... now I've realised it's closer to 29,000 days, but I don't think it matters too much! The idea is there, and for me it was a brilliant way to connect people and make us realise that we've all got more in common than we think we may do!

## *What's life like in London and how is the city that never sleeps treating you?*

London life is difficult to get used to! But I love the creative atmosphere and the vibrant, brilliant people that you can surround yourself with here. I think that sometimes there is just so much to do that you don't really know where to start, but as long as you just refuse to get overwhelmed and just get stuck in, I think it's a brilliant place to be and it has so much on offer. You just have to remember that although the city never sleeps, sometimes you might have to!

## *What are your favourite venues (Worcester/Malvern/London/Paris)?*

Paris?! Haha. The **GMH**, **The Morgan**, **The Worcester Arts Workshop**, **The Old Rectifying House**... the list goes on and on!

I think the best venue I've played in London so far is **The Bush Hall** in **Shepherds Bush**, which is just a beautiful venue with high ceilings and red velvet curtains. I'd also seen **Simone Felice** play there a few months before, so to have been standing where he had been standing was another thing altogether! It's more than the venue which makes a gig though – that one was with a fantastic charity called '**Music Earth Rise**' and the entire experience was just phenomenal.

## *What are your hopes for the future?*

Wow, hopes for the future... I'm not really sure yet. I'm just looking forward to playing as much as possible and seeing where this goes! I don't know how far into the future I should be looking! Maybe my aim should be to fill the run up to my 8000th day with as many exciting, exhilarating and extraordinary things as possible!

Jenny Hallam's new album '**25,000 Days**' is released on 26th February at the launch and then worldwide online and in local retailers once our hangovers have worn off!

*by King Dave*





## DODGY – Stand Upright In A Cool Place

With the prevailing wind of reunions in the air, SLAP are able to claim a local angle on the 'let's all try and get on' fashion. Dodgy grew up in Worcestershire and their reunion album, *Stand Upright In A Cool Place*, is imbued with bucolic beauty that comes from living within the vista of the Malvern Hills. For the whole album was written and recorded in a rustic outhouse, come studio, somewhere betwixt Malvern and Pershore.

If this conveys dilettantism, then far from it as this record has grown out of yearning to have the space to be able get the music absolutely right. Once the ..... line up had buried any lingering hatchets, it was only a matter of time, effort and, I would imagine, a lot of fun before the chemical reactions sparked a belief that a masterpiece was in the making. No record company to stick their unwanted (and increasing marginalised) noses in and declare "it's not really 'Good Enough', is it?" No glitterati to water down the songs amid plush surroundings and expensive 'direction'.

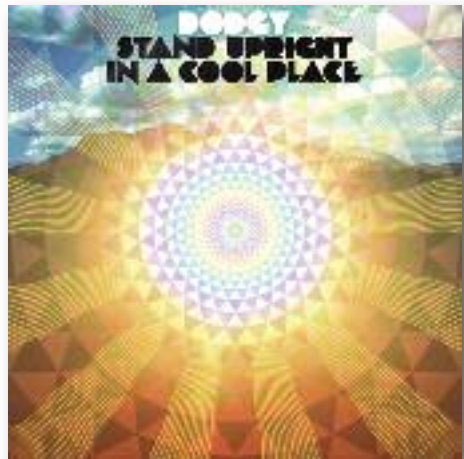
No, *Stand Upright* has been allowed to mature, like a splendid cheese or, indeed, as many commentators have opined, like the band itself. Only when it has been ready has it been taken to the next stage, the final one being to allow the outside world to get their hands on it – those hands being the knob twiddling variety belonging to Matt Pence, chosen for his deft mixing of Midlake.

Then there was the wisdom of embarking on a tour playing the unreleased album in its entirety (the idea has since been imitated by the Modfather himself, Paul Weller, for his new offering). While I did hear some say that the record should have been available to buy at the gigs, Dodgy had the confident prescience to realise that, on release, *Stand Upright* was that good it would take on a life of its own. In addition, a lower key introduction would give them time to become 'gig fit' again for the touring and festivals that will inevitably follow from (even) the critics standing up and taking note.

And what acclaim has been garnered! Comparisons to Fleet Foxes, although a welcome contemporary, misses the point that Dodgy have a deeper tradition of vocal harmonies, drawing influence from the Beach Boys and The Hollies. The Guardian's John Harris (a writer held in high esteem round these parts) suggests that you would have to possess "sepia-tinted memories of the 1990's and feel the onset of middle age" in order to like it. I disagree. Youngsters, untrammelled by the pre-Brit Pop era will hear the record for what it is without having to think about Dodgy in the context of These Animal Men, Shed Seven or Menswear. What Harris does get spot on is the description of the harmonies as "sun-kissed". The blend of Americana and quintessential 'Britishness' completes the transatlantic vibe.

*Tripped and Fell*, the opener, which along with *Raggedstone Hill* is the beautiful tale of an 11th century

monk who fell in love with a local Malvern girl and was punished for his desires. Its difficult to pick out favourites, inevitably you will but you won't be skipping tracks to find them. From the melodic *What Became of You* to the Beatlesque *Only a Heartbeat* you will soon be tapping, singing & humming along.



*Shadows* has the 'hook' of the album for me with its catchy chorus and *Waiting for the Sun* will elicit a melancholy smile. The album ends with a *Happy Ending* an anthemic balad which grows and keeps growing until the end... Rather like Mathew's beard!





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## PREVIEW LIVE AND UNSIGNED

Malvern musician Sam Eden will be performing in the regional finals of Live and Unsigned, the UK's biggest original music competition. Sam will be competing alongside the regions most talented artists to an industry judging panel from Radio 1, Kerrang, NME, BBC Introducing and hundreds of spectators.

The artists will be battling it out for the chance to play at the O2 Grand Final in London and be crowned the UK's best unsigned act. The competition also offers the chance to play at some of the UK's top festivals and it is being filmed for Sky TV.

Sam is an acoustic singer/songwriter drawing on many styles from folk rock to pop, but the competition is open to all genres including rap and heavy rock with a huge emphasis on originality.

Sam's regional final will take place at Birmingham NEC on March 24th, 8.30 pm. It's a 90 minute show featuring the regions best talent plus a special guest performance.

To listen to Sam's album 'Kill The Lights' and see his gig listings go to [www.samedenmusic.com](http://www.samedenmusic.com). Sam needs all the support he can get at the regional final.

Tickets are £8 and can be purchased online at the Live and Unsigned Website.

To book Sam for a gig email:

[samedenmusic@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:samedenmusic@hotmail.co.uk)



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to the website at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk) and on the home page click on *download our latest brochure*. As usual the programme is packed with an eclectic mix of theatre, cinema, live music of all genres, dance, comedy and workshops.

The Main Auditorium at Artrix, with its large stage, excellent acoustics and intimate atmosphere, is ideally suited for contemporary dance and drama and the programme in March include four plays, including a visit from the Birmingham Rep with its production of "Gravity", and the tender and visually beautiful award winning piece of contemporary dance, staged entirely in water, from Earthfall Dance Company, entitled " At Swim Two Boys. "

" For more details on all five productions, visit the website at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk), or ring the Box Office on 01527-577330 and ask for the " Contemporary Theatre and Dance " Broadsheet to be sent to you."

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## REVIEW 24th FEBRUARY 2012

### COME UP AND SEE ME Cap n Gown, Worcester

Having rushed away from a wedding to catch this highly regarded band I could hardly get through the door it was that busy. I suddenly had a pint of Guinness handed me as I put my bag down...Result! For those of you who have not been to the Cap n Gown yet (why not?) it is a cracking little pub with a great selection of Hook Norton ales as well as Stowford Press on draught. My fellow Slapper Mark smashed the camera lens days before so we borrowed a Patrick Moore Telescopic lens from Kate at the Arts Workshop so apologies for the extreme close ups lads. On tonight were Come Up And See Me, a covers band who played some quality songs from the 50's through to present day.

We at Slap generally as a rule only cover original talent but Sue at the Cap insisted we popped in and had a look. I thought they were excellent and enjoyed the set, what made me smile was the uncanny resemblance



of the lead singer Jem who is a spit of Alan Partridge – Ahhaaaa!! The other members were Rob on bass, Smiley Jamie on drums and Chris on lead guitar. They would go down a treat in Norwich!! I thought the sound was crisp and loud enough for the police to pull up over the road and have an excuse to listen (He pulled some poor lady

over) The picture I took remains in our archives for potential use in the future..Keep your eyes peeled for Come Up and See Me, they are have a great aura and vibe that kept everyone dancing for hours.

# ep heaven



Threshing Ground have just released their second EP on Blue Pie records. The release features three songs from the bands upcoming new album. *Last Beer in Bondi* is a rip-roaring instant classic that lurches between indie groove and abrasive punk. Threshing Ground were formed in 2010 by Gary Marsden, formerly Barry Island of the legendary punk rock band The Tights. After a gig at the Lamb in West Malvern The Tights argued and almost came to blows about a cancelled American tour. Deciding enough was enough, Gary left the UK and went backpacking around India and South-East Asia.

On a battered acoustic guitar he bought in a market in Kathmandu, Gary started to thrash out the bare bones of some new songs. Themes of love, loss and betrayal with a yearning for new experiences featured heavily in this new set of songs along with the feeling that 'this is not a rehearsal'. Creatively, everything came together in Ho Chi Min City. Inspired by tales of the "American War" and after chatting to an Australian veteran, Marsden penned *Saigon Honey*. A tale of a traveller in Saigon missing his tall Aussie girlfriend and the crazy times they had together. Continuing his odyssey on to Sydney, Marsden really found his groove with *I'm in Love with a girl called Vinyl*. A quirky punky pop song that describes an encounter with a skaterpunk who narrowly avoided crashing into him on King Street. Later, when he saw her kissing her girlfriend at the Courthouse pub, the theme was set. Threshing Ground released the first trio of Marsden's new songs as an EP last year with *Girl Called Vinyl*, *Saigon Honey* and *Circumcised Heart*. The new EP features *Last Beer in Bondi*, *Tyranny of Blues* and *Any Whole's a Goal*. All in all, a great selection of songs, rich in texture and detail yet possessing a wry 'pop' feel with a folky subtext that makes them eminently listenable. Both EPs are available on iTunes, ReverbNation and all good mp3 outlets!

Meanwhile, Malvern-rooted-Cardiff-based-big-band-new-soul outfit Hullabaloo are soon to release their first EP *Found A New Way*. The band have just beaten off competition from sixty other bands to make it through to the regional finals of Live and Unsigned. They will now be performing to big crowds at the Cardiff Bay event on March 18th. During the heats for the competition Hullabaloo were spotted by a rep from Boomtown Fair who has shortlisted them to play at the Southern England Festival in August. The EP features five songs; *Landslide*, *Found a New Way*, *Crazy*, *Leave This Town* and *Shapes & Sizes* and was mastered in the last week of February ready for release in March. Hullabaloo will also be commencing production on their first video in the next few weeks. A Brighton based production company is making the video the song *Landslide* which will see the band in pitched paint ball battle with a heavy metal crew. What's not to like?







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## FEATURE WINEBOX GUITARS BY TREVOR STEGER

Trevor Steger of BabaJack is known for his slide style and his homemade 'Winebox' guitars: unique instruments he has made out of old wooden wine boxes and literally anything else lying around, including bits of a wardrobe, the dog's bone, old piano keys... They provide part of the very distinctive and rootsie Babajack sound. But what drives a modern day slide player to make his own instruments?

The homemade guitar is nothing new to the blues: Carl Perkins grew up playing 'a box, a stick and baling wire' and famously wrote Blue Suede Shoes; Blind Willie Johnson, Charlie Christian and 'Beans' Hambone recorded with them; Son House, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters and Elmore James were heavily influenced by them, and BB King's dad made BB's first guitar out of a cigar box. More recently, Seasick Steve gets his grungy sound from playing one.

The history of these instruments goes back to the African 'banjars' - a gourd based stringed instrument - but their hay day was in the States from the 1870s right up to the 1930s depression years. In post-civil war America and onwards, there was widespread poverty and folk had no money to spend on musical instruments, so they improvised with whatever they could find. Cigar boxes were very commonly used for the body because cigar smoking was fashionable in the 19th century and the boxes were simply lying around, but they also used oil cans and anything else that was handy. They were often simple instruments which typically had no frets and were played with a coke bottle, a rum neck or a bow. And from this necessity and the playing style, the Delta Blues Slide was born!

But with Gibsons, Resonaphonics and Weissenborns available, what makes a modern day bluesman want make his own instrument? In Trevor's case, it was a combination of the quest as a musician and a slide player for a grittier, rootsier sound, and his ambition as a woodworker to make his own guitar. He made his first 'winebox' guitar a year or so ago: the four stringed 'Beast' (affectionately known as!). 6 strings puts about 30 pounds of pressure on the neck so to avoid having to insert a truss rod, Trevor decided that he should stick to a 4 string for his first attempt at guitar making. He used a piece of 1/4 sawn elm to fashion the neck and made the fret board and sound holes with a bit of walnut salvaged from an old

wardrobe. He pinched the dog's bone to make the nut and the markers, and stripped an old electric guitar for the pick up and tuning pegs. He bought fret wire and the socket from ebay and there you go: the great growling semi-acoustic vibrant sound of a 'winebox' guitar!

Buoyed by this success, Trevor decided to attempt the six string version. This time the body was made from the top of a wine box donated by a friend, fixed to an old wooden art box. He made the neck from an off cut of 1/4 sawn oak and a stainless steel rod was inserted into the neck to deal with the pressure. The headstock was made out of American black walnut and his son, Jack, inlaid the 'TS' in birds eye maple. As it happened, someone was dumping a broken piano, so the bridge and fret markers are made from piano keys. The dog lost her bone again to make the nut. The tuning pegs were salvaged, and the fret wire was left over from the Beast. His only indulgence was to buy a piece of ebony for the fret board this time and a second hand Gibson Epiphone Humbucker pick up. And so the sweeter, more complex, but equally gritty and powerful sound of 'Joanna' (cos she's made of bits of ole pianna!) was born.

There is no doubt that these are not the naïve instruments that Carl Perkins refers to: no 'stick, box and baling wire'. Being a furniture maker and joiner means that a great deal of craftsmanship went into the making of them and they are a great combination of the homespun cigar box tradition and a crafted and beautifully made instrument. Their unique quality comes from the combining of these two: drawing on the old, original cigar box guitars with their gritty roots and adding the finesse of a modern neck and electrics to create a unique instrument and a unique sound. And they do look and sound great!

Trevor is going into the recording studio with BabaJack to record their 3rd album starting this month, and of course the winebox guitars will be featuring in the new tracks. If you want to have a listen and I recommend that you do, go to [www.babajack.com](http://www.babajack.com). But most exciting of all, to help finance the new album, as part of the pre-sales, Trevor is offering to make two more guitars! Can you resist? If you're interested in finding out more about homemade guitars and how to make them go to:

[www.cigarboxnation.com](http://www.cigarboxnation.com) (UK)

[www.reddogguitars.com](http://www.reddogguitars.com) (US)

And about the Winebox Guitars from:

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





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# PREVIEW THE MAGIC BAND

## RETURN TO THE WEST MIDLANDS FOR AVANT-GARDE ROCK PIONEERS.

On Sunday, May 19th 1968, John Peel introduced Captain Beefheart and the Magic Band to Kidderminster. Frank Freeman introduced the Captain and his drummer, John 'Drumbo' French to cucumber sandwiches. Those who witnessed what happened on the cramped stage of Frank Freeman's Dance Club were lucky enough to have seen one of the most innovative and progressive bands ever to be recorded.

44 years have come and gone since then, but something about Captain Beefheart and the Magic Band's music lingers. Whether you hear its overtones in PJ Harvey's albums or in other avant-garde rock music like Sonic Youth, Beefheart's influence has transcended time and sometimes space! One listen to the *'Trout Mask Replica'* album will confound even the most adventurous of listeners...35 listens, and you might be lucky enough to 'get it'.

'Drumbo' had a vision to reforming the Magic Band in 2001 with a view of delivering a repertoire of Captain Beefheart's music by those best equipped to play it : the original Magic Band. There was some unfinished business to be taken care of, and serious music to be played to audiences around the world. Their reunions under the All Tomorrow's Parties festivals curated by Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth), Matt Groening, and John Parish have been played to critical acclaim.

Enlisting key original members Mark 'Rockette Morton' Boston, and Denny 'Feelers Rebo' Walley, and adding the trusted support of Erick Kerks and Craig Bunch (who both contributed to French's solo venture 'Drumbo'), this



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incarnation of the Magic Band is being touted as the 'best batch yet'. Drumbo takes on duties behind the mic, and delivers the late Captain's inimitable howls with ease. You might just see him play the drums as well if you ask nicely!

Playing songs from the classic Beefheart era, from *'Safe as Milk'*, *'Trout Face Replica'*, *'Lick My Decals Off, Baby'*, and celebrating the 40th anniversary of *'The Spotlight Kid / Clear Spot'* this is an opportunity to see some of the most innovative and talented musicians on the planet tackle some of its most challenging music. You will not want to miss this night of Magic!!!

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by Marc Hache

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**VIRGIL AND THE ACCELERATORS**

The immensely talented and critically acclaimed Virgil Et The Accelerators take to the stage of one of the area's finest live music venues.

Their critically acclaimed album 'The Radium' has been recognized in Classic Rocks 'Best Of 2011' and the coveted USA magazine Blues Rock Review in 'Best Albums of 2011'!

Based in Bromsgrove and fronted by the astonishing 19 year old guitar virtuoso Virgil McMahon with his powerhouse brother Gabriel (18) on drums and Jack Alexander (20) holding it together on bass.

These guys have been on the scene for just two years and have already played the main stage at major festivals around Europe, plus touring in their own right.

Virgil Et The Accelerators have toured with and won the recognition of big name bands such as Uriah Heep, Robin Trower, Blackfoot, Southside Johnny, Oli Brown, and Joanne Shaw Taylor. With Joanne they opened for the super group Black Country Communion at their two sold out shows at Wolverhampton Civic Hall and Shepherds Bush Empire.

So why should you see this band? Simple, the CD is awesome and the live shows are jaw dropping. They have an uncanny ability to get inside a song and turn it inside out. Virgil's playing will take you from anthemic rocking riffs through to sublime blues.

Noted by his peers as one of the best guitarists to emerge from the UK in many years.

However what makes this band so special is the almost telepathic connection they have on stage. You go to see 'a band' and not just a talented front man. These guys perform as one, a rarity these days. You can check out videos and tracks on their web site [www.vataband.com](http://www.vataband.com).

If you only see one band this year, make sure it is this one, especially for just £5!!

Check them out and find out more about them at [www.vataband.com](http://www.vataband.com)

Classic Rock Magazine "Backstabber' Best tracks of 2011"

Blues Rock Review USA "Best Albums of 2011. Second only to the Black Keys."

"If this band are in a small or medium sized venue near you, go see them, as they'll soon be filling even bigger spaces, effortlessly." Rock and Blues Box.

Words: Chris Bennion Photo: Carl DeAbrue

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# WORCESTER

## Artists in Residence

Worcester's artists do not often get the opportunity to display their work, within the city, because of the lack of facilities. However during 2011 five local artists had their artwork exhibited in the Barr Street Gallery in Birmingham. Three of the following artists exhibited in this exhibition.

### ROGER WHITMORE

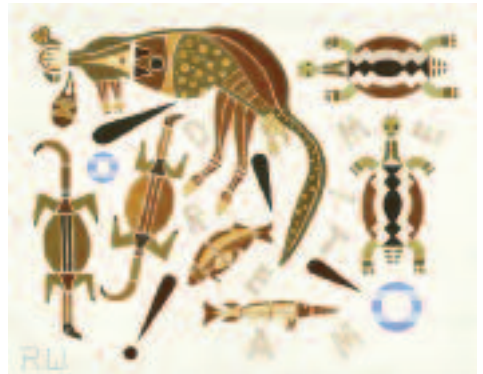
Roger Whitmore has been painting for nearly 50 years and each of his paintings tells a personal story.

All his images are structured within a tight framework with a limited colour composition. The subject matter can vary from space travel to the environment.

Roger would like to thank his friends who have encouraged him to exhibit his work to a wider audience.

### PICTURES

The Untroubled Sea  
The Hunter  
Aboriginal





## DAVE CONNAUGHTON

Dave Connaughton (Deacon) sold his first cartoon in 1955. Since then his work has been published worldwide.

He has won many awards in international competitions and is a member of the Professional Cartoonists Organisation (FECO UK).

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### PICTURES

Above: Todd below: Live Music

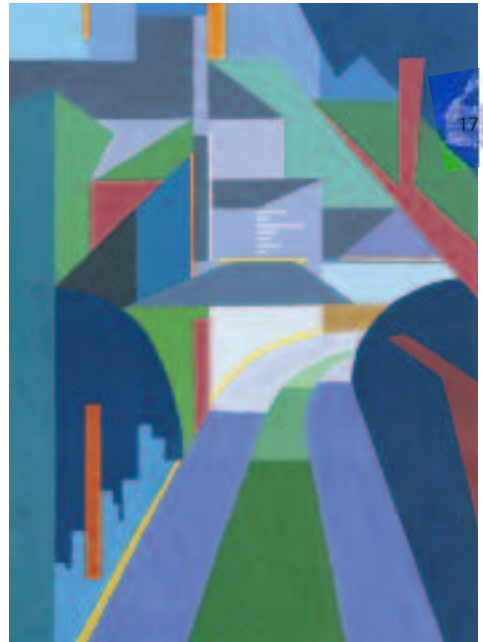


## PATRICK DUNN

Patrick Dunn trained at the Ruskin School of Drawing where he obtained Oxford University's Certificate in Fine Art. After qualifying as an art teacher he taught for 15 years.

He then transferred to adult education, teaching portrait and still-life painting to local classes in Somerset. As a tutor for the Field Studies Council and Holiday Fellowship (HF) he ran art courses around Britain. He also ran occasional courses at Missenden Abbey and Denman W.I. College near Oxford.

He now concentrates on his own work. This covers a wide range of art, from portraits to battles.



Further artwork by these artists, and other artists from Worcester can be seen online at

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



It's been another busy month for Circuit Sweet as we've branched out into more areas, worked hard on promoting the distribution of Slap across Herefordshire, gained more work alongside some reputable labels and acts and set ourselves several dates to cover more live events in March; these include The Cast of Cheers in Bristol and Three Trapped Tigers closer to home in Cheltenham. In our introducing article in last month's Slap Mag we mentioned that we manage bands - one of these being Hereford based duo Aulos- the band recently supported touring act Brontide at Bristol's The Croft where they are set to return with Worcester's own Tallulah Fix in April.



As well as a partnership between Slap Mag & Circuit Sweet, another partnership is forming with local Hereford music studio KJM, where Circuit Sweet will be based to film and record bands playing live. A new shop has been set up and ready to launch with the revamped website. This year Circuit Sweet Live Nights will be launched in Hereford which will be based at The Jailhouse. Plans for the live nights are well underway and with combined forces Circuit Sweet and Slap Mag aim to highlight all that Herefordshire's live scene has to offer including these proposed Live Nights.

A month after joining forces an extensive list of media outlets from Radio Stations to Local Newspapers have mentioned and supported the new magazine available now in Hereford and Ross-On-Wye. You can now pick up the mag in Ross-On-Wye at The Ross Gazette office and Rossiter books- who support all local acts. Or in Hereford at- The Jailhouse, Nilam Music, Oxfam, t-Reds, KJM Studios, Jingo, Hereford Bazaar, The Lichfield Vaults, The Spread Eagle, Diegos Cafe, The Black Lion, The Imperial, The Buttermarket at Benjamin's Fishmongers and Watercross Harry's. You can also get your gig listed and featured in the mag through Circuit Sweet.

If anyone has any forthcoming Herefordshire live date visit the facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/circuitsweet](http://www.facebook.com/circuitsweet) and leave your event details including date venue and bands name.

All Press Releases to be sent to:  
naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk

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**Finisher / Betrayal Within The Ranks / The Bleeding Process  
Operating From The Ditch / Dead Empire**  
Thursday 2nd February 2012

On a freezing night when welders are at a premium for brass monkeys, the metal fest served up by Worcester promo house Shot In The Dark Promotions proves a hot enough prospect to attract a more than respectable gathering of the city's hardcore zealots to the intimate 360 Degrees. Only time would tell if the bill of fare had enough metal "umph!" to make the sub-zero outing worthwhile.



**BETRAYAL WITHIN  
THE RANKS**

By and large the one thing that tests everybody's patience at this, or any event, is the acts taking their own sweet time before making an entrance. Rock 'n' Roll 101 states that if you are Metallica you can keep people waiting, but if you are 'Joe Local' taking your first steps on the musical game of snakes and ladders - you get your butts out there and play, PRONTO! Both the promoter and the bands they employ will need to learn this lesson in pretty quick fashion to succeed in the future.

When the likely lads from Operating From The Ditch finally hit the play button - the sleazy, doom laden guitars that shred the air do grab attention, along with vocals that are delivered with conviction. There is a confident energy in the whole performance, but in the long run the songs lack the necessary impetus to really move an audience. Despite their obvious self belief O.F.T.D. might need a crash course in expectation management. After twenty minutes or so of huffing and puffing the house stood, indifferent. Perhaps the best thing O.F.T.D can do is chalk this one up to experience.

Due to reported logistical nightmares Dead Empire are afforded just enough time to play a couple of numbers. This taster of their capabilities turns out to be an impressive short sharp shock and does more than enough to justify a chance to return with their full arsenal. That is definitely something to look forward to. Learning from the previous bands misfortunes, Gloucestershire death metal outfit The Bleeding Process



**THE BLEEDING  
PROCESS**



**OPERATOR FROM  
THE DITCH**

refuse to waste a single second. They crash in with an opening salvo of grinding, dirty guitars and punching kick drum that gives rise to the venomous vocals which singer J.J. spits out like an unreasonably belligerent cobra. This method of vocal assault goes hand in hand with his 'mad mountain man' appearance, a perfect fit for the T.B.P. jigsaw. Throughout their set, songs rise and fall like a tasered bronco, before they bring a remarkable performance to a crushing climax, giving everyone the chance to draw a welcome breath. Stoke-on-Trent based metalcore outfit Betrayal Within The Ranks are undoubtedly musicians of some quality, which is apparent from the moment they begin their set. The more complex nature of their music is notable and represented well in the live setting. However, it is clear these Potters are at their best with songs of a more frantic pace, and therein lies the problem. B.W.I.T.R.'s music seems, at times, to be at odds with itself, and unless they learn to fuse the complex with the uncompromising more efficiently, the band name could become somewhat prophetic. That said, tonight's performance definitely hits the spot, leaving me feeling like I haven't seen the last of this particular metal power pack.

Bands like Finisher are hard not to like. An adherence to the metal maxim "Everything Louder Than Everything Else", songs that lose nothing to an almost melodic undertow, hooked up to vocals that resonate with heartfelt torment, delivered with battering ram velocity - all add up to a show that was well worth sticking around for. The indomitable "Waste Of Space" stands out and could well become a standard, should these guys achieve their potential. The downside was that delays that dogged the whole event saw Finisher play to far fewer people than they deserved. So, I would urge anybody who missed this blistering set - to catch these full on, heads down metallers at their earliest opportunity. You won't be sorry.

Words by FISHEAD.



**FINISHER**



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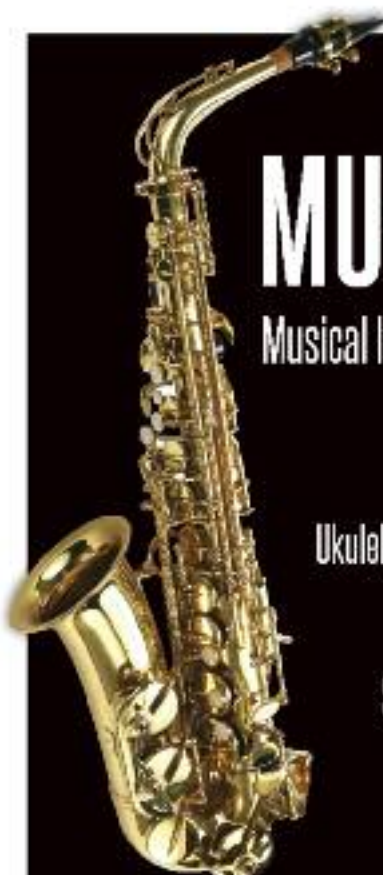
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# REVIEW WE USED TO HAVE HORSES

## We Used To Have Horses-The World Above Us EP

Right now if I was asked to recommend one band or artist from my local area, I'd be hard pressed to look beyond the stunning soundscapes of one man project We Used To Have Horses. Niall Jones (also of Rhythm Et Booze favourites Inca Hoots) creates stunning, inventive suites of music combining strings, innovative, chiming, blissful crescendoing guitars and subtle rhythms, weaving an intoxicating spell over the listener, who's drawn into a near trance like state.

Niall seems to be constantly working on a new EP, releasing four to date (in just five months!), with the latest, *The World Above Us* being perhaps the most ambitious to date. The latest release is a two part, thirty minute track, slow building epic that opens with soft, subtle instrumentation before gradually building with intricate guitars, lush strings and delicate melodies slowly making way around the eleven minute mark for a stunning bombardment of hard hitting beats and fuzzy stabbing riffs. The second part of *The World Above Us* is equally as thrilling as Niall lays down layers of intricate guitars and shuffling beats, before pausing to add some expressive yet sparse almost ghostly piano to the mix. As the soundtrack like suite continues guitars, strings and beats soar and dip forming glorious, mesmerising peaks, taking the listener on a stunning flights of discovery.



The We Used To Have Horses project has been described as ambient math-rock or post rock and sure there are elements of both in the sound that Niall creates but there's more than that,

his visionary music has a more widescreen cinematic feel than that, I could imagine his incredible instrumentals gracing soundtracks, in fact there's an almost Clint Mansell (soundtrack to *Requiem For A Dream*, etc) feel to parts of Niall's soundscapes. The music really takes hold and grabs at the attention until you find yourself fully submerged in the bewitching sounds of *We Used To Have Horses*.

Each of the *We Used To Have Horses* are available for free download via bandcamp and if you're a fan of instrumental music, post rock or you want a powerful, emotional thought provoking soundtrack I urge you to download each of these incredible, rewarding releases.

by Will Munn

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

**wyvern** Worcester County Cricket Club

# Comedy Nights at NEW ROAD

in the Graeme Hick Pavilion

**Friday 20th Jan**

- Gerry Kyel** "Wicked, observational and refreshingly honest"
- Eric Lampeert** "Top notch, Subtly amusing"
- Paul F Taylor** "A one of a kind comedian"
- MC - Duncan Logan**

**Friday 24th Feb**

- Sol Bernstein** "One of the funniest, bestest MJ Boobies and finest puns he's ever had you've ever heard"
- Brian & Krystal** "So damn funny as they are busy"
- Andy Watson** "An impressive selection of the best healthy audience reaction in the group"
- MC - Neil McFarlane**

**Friday 30th Mar**

- Sally-Anne Hayward** "A truly powerful comedy voice"
- Alfie Moore** "Aces in 1973 Show Me That Comedy"
- Bill Wooland** "You'll never comedians come down in the main again and breath of material"
- MC - Chris Stokes**

Doors open 7pm • Hot Walk-up buffet available until 8pm  
Comedy Acts on at 8.30pm • Candle Lit Tables

Tickets in advance £12  
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Call 01905 337933 for tickets • Or email [comedy@wccc.co.uk](mailto:comedy@wccc.co.uk) for more information  
Over 18's Advised • Acts are not guaranteed • Tickets are non-refundable

Barnboppers n Shuddervision presents  
(The Major 2 horses, Diggall)  
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# The Air Ambulance Experience

in the courtyard

10 hours of ska punk rock n reggae  
and a eclectic mix of DJs

the funkion room

the heels  
socio suk  
vault of eagles  
the cools breed  
seely jaz ole  
sister sandwich

disco the funkion room  
kappa  
dixie's nephew  
robbie byke  
ed connard  
christy  
dustin oppressive  
stew piggy  
ed jackson and the mole  
sh red jha

COMEDY NIGHTS  
ALL NIGHT LONG  
SATURDAY 10th FEB  
ALL NIGHT LONG  
COMEDY NIGHTS

the air ambulance will be making appearances on the Friday  
bringing you the hottest night in town at 8.30pm  
we have the new called day walk, punk rock and reggae  
starting late so will be live performance.

## Thursday 1 March 2012

Clive Carroll  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Jules Benjamin and Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Bluestack  
The Bell Inn, Leominster

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Poetry In Numbers, Open Mic Night  
The Crown Inn, Worcester

Clive Carroll  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

ELO Experience  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Robinson  
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Urban Folk Quartet  
Courtyard, Hereford

Troublesome Trio  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Rich Clarke  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

## Friday 2 March 2012

The Reflections  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Bluestack  
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Lewis Bolton  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The John Steeds  
Lanes Bar, Worcester

Soul Centrino (Dj set)  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Capital  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Quik  
The Black Lion, Hereford

Lopht -v- Fury  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Celtic Dream  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Nick Lowe  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Gringo, Evolution Of Man, Twisted Species  
The Tap House, , Kidderminster,

The Underdogs  
Drummonds, Worcester

Rouen  
Arts Workshop, Worcester

David Seth  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

The Delray Rockets  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Saturday 3 March 2012

The Ferrets  
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Peppermint Hunting Lodge  
Junction 13, Stroud

Classic Clapton  
Redditch Palace Theatre, Redditch

Junction 7  
Cross Keys, Malvern

Naked Remedy  
Gloucester Brewery, Gloucester

Spandex Bellend, Ronda, The Miffs  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Apart from Rod - The Original Rod Stewart Band  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Los Calamares, The Chuck Harriet Trio  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Tallulah Fix, Jets To Zurich, Poetry In Numbers, Ronin  
The Crown Inn, Worcester

Highway Five, None Of These Are You  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Midnight City  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

The Magoos  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Highway 5 with support from None Of These Are You  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Fleetwood Max  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Sultana Brothers  
The Plough, Hereford

Nice & Sleazy  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Fretless  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Freaky Trigger  
Unicorn, Malvern

## Sunday 4 March 2012

Smoke Feathers  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jazzenco  
Queens Head, Wolverley



## Monday 5 March 2012

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

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

## Tuesday 6 March 2012

Open Mic Night  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 7 March 2012

Marzys Jam Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

## Thursday 8 March 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Perfect Crime, Artemis, Son Of A Lumberjack  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

The Fury (Album Launch)  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Phil Cool  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Gringo  
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

This Wicked Tongue  
Firefly, Worcester

Troublesome Trio  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Cohen Brothers  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Friday 9 March 2012

Gwyn Ashton  
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Enzo  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Aquarius  
The White Hart, Worcester

The Validators  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

A 60s Night Out 2012  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Badgers  
Drummonds, Worcester

Hitch Hiker  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Inca Hoots & Captain Horizon  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Sam Eden  
The New Inn, Northgate, Gloucester

Fifteen English Pounds  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Skewwhiff, Into the Fir  
Amber Cafe

## Saturday 10 March 2012

Aquarius  
Barbourne Ex Servicemens Club, Worcester

The John Steeds  
The Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

The Best Of The Vale  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Clive John and The Spirit Band  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Notorious Brothers  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Paralus  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Tres Primos, Nick Willcocks, Tyler Massey, Colin Bentley  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Stone Farm  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

George Barnett and The Ninth Wave '17 days' Album Launch  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Tyler Massey  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Not For Squares Deep House Sessions  
360 Degrees, Worcester

The John Steeds Band  
Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Trio Rosbifs  
Unicorn, Malvern

Whiskey River  
The Plough, Hereford

All Stars Dub Band  
The Herdsman, Hereford

Not For Squares Deep House Session  
Bar 360, Worcester

Turn Off The Sun -v- Call Out  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Naked Remedy, Vault Of Eagles with Shuddervision  
Waggon & Horses, Digbeth, Birmingham

Black Heart Angels  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Wooden Horse  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Bare Bones Boogie Band  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Sunday 11 March 2012

Dreadzone  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

This Wicked Tongue  
The Globe, Cardiff

Remi Harris Trio  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 12 March 2012

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

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

## Tuesday 13 March 2012

Open Mic Night  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mouth & Music 3 - Laura Dedicoat & Red Shoes  
Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

## Wednesday 14 March 2012

Marzys Jam Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The O'Farrell's Frolicks  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Grumpy Old Guitarists  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Thursday 15 March 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Dr Stanley's Medicine Show  
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Friday 16 March 2012

The Ex Presidents  
The Talbot Inn, Newlands, Pershore

Crooked Empire  
360 Degrees, Worcester

Aquarius  
Old Rose & Crown, Worcester

BabaJack  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

ShellShocked  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Basement Music  
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Virgil & the Accelerators, Support TBA  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Seasons Of The Heart - A Tribute To John Denver  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Reflections  
Drummonds, Worcester

Ghandi's Walrus  
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

P K Band  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Stress Echoes & Inca Hoots Or Captain Horizon  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

The Peppermint Hunting Lodge, Medik, Echolounge  
Magnums, Coleford

Underdogs  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Saturday 17 March 2012

Crooked Empire -v- Plastic 45's  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

The Ex Presidents  
The Hop Pole, Bromyard

Alexander John  
The Plough, Hereford

Sweet Fanny Adams  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Bar Flys  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Naked Remedy  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Umpff  
Unicorn, Malvern

The Blitz Burlesque Party with The Correspondents  
The Jailhouse, Hereford

The Matchless  
The Express Inn, Malvern

Hells Bells  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Flat Stanley  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Four Poofs & A Piano  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Midnight Movers  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The May Dolls, Christina Kulukundis  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Badgers  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

BeatleJuice  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

The Delray Rockets  
The Blackpole Inn, Worcester

## Sunday 18 March 2012

The Pull  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

## Monday 19 March 2012

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

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

## Tuesday 20 March 2012

Open Mic Night  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Bob Jones' Blues Night  
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Performance, Poetry & Pizazz  
Brewers Troupe Performance Poetry Workshop  
Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

## Wednesday 21 March 2012

Marzys Jam Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Thursday 22 March 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Connie Francis Musical Memories  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Craobh Rua  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Nomad 67  
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Troublesome Trio  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Friday 23 March 2012

Allstar Dub Band  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Fine and Shandy  
The Talbot, Pershore

The Matchless  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Man Make Fire -v- Masterplan  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Bluestack  
Queens Head, Kidderminster

Aquarius  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Odessa, Giants, Fights&Fires, The Dawn Of Olympus,  
Sleepwalkers, Carving A Giant  
Bar 360, Worcester

Kast Off Kinks  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Piaf - The Songs  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Bluestack  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Blind Lemon  
Drummonds, Worcester

Mumbo Jumbo & Friends Blues Night  
The Fold, Bransford

Quo Motion  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Onionheads  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Saturday 24 March 2012

Kidderminster Rock with Naked Remedy, Dirty DC, Nightblade  
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Flat Stanley  
The Unicorn, Malvern

Delray Rockets  
Blackpole Inn, Worcester

Irony  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Aquarius  
The Royal Oak, Severn Stoke

Hybrid  
Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Junction 7  
Express Inn, Malvern

The Jon Amor Blues Group  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

My Generation  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Nice 'n' Sleazy  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

This Wicked Tongue, Black Russian, Ronin  
Lanes, Worcester

The Official Receivers  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Matt Woosey  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

This Wicked Tongue. Roadrunner Records SMT showcase  
Lanes Bar, Worcester





GrizzleRoot -v- I Am Ryan or Adamantium  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

RockitFuel  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## Sunday 25 March 2012

The Corelli Ensemble  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Vo Et Tyler  
The Three Kings, Church End, Hanley Castle

Carole Lee Sampson, Rich Clarke & The Rafters, David Young  
The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Beatle Deuce  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 26 March 2012

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

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

## Tuesday 27 March 2012

Open Mic Night  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 28 March 2012

Marzys Jam Night  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Blues Band  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

## Thursday 29 March 2012

Richard Clark  
Hand In Glove, Worcester

Jules Benjamin and Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Jasper In The Company Of Others  
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Juntion 7  
Star Hotel, Upton

## Friday 30 March 2012

The Reflections  
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Aquarius  
The Doverdale Arms, Droitwich

The Skynyrd Experience  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jacqui McShee's Pentangle  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Swift Manouever or The Vaudeville Tramp -v- Lopht or Fury  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Naked Remedy  
The Talbot, Pershore

Sugar Mama  
Drummonds, Worcester

Wooden Horse  
The Blue Bell Inn, Worcester

Cohen Brothers  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Slack Granny  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Mood Elevators  
The Mount Pleasant, Malvern

Hats Off To Led Zeppelin  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Acoustic Who  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Saturday 31 March 2012

The Reflections  
The Cross Keys, Belmont Road, Malvern

Jamie's Party with Crooked Empire & Skewwhiff  
Firefly, Worcester

Bluestack  
Treacle Mine, Hereford

BaronGreenback -v- Call Out or Turn Off The Sun  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Aquarius  
Sebright Arms, Worcester

Mike Harding  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Akahum - UV Party  
Unicorn, Malvern

The Sunshine Band  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Festivals Experience  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Echos, Death of an Artist, Charon, others TBC  
Worcester Arts Workshop

The Great Malvern Hotel  
Two Man Ting

All Stars Dub Band  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Naked Remedy  
The Crown, Wordsley

Rattlesnake  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Live Band TBC  
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Big Blues Tribe's Farewell Performance  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester



# THE MARR'S BAR

MAR 2012



Dreadzone  
Sun 11th Mar

## Friday 2nd

The Capital

£4 a ticket or £5 on the door

## Saturday 3rd

Spandex Bellend, Ronda, The Miffs

£4 a ticket or £5 on the door

## Sunday 4th

Smoke Feathers

£3 a ticket or £5 on the door

## Thursday 8th

Fury Album Launch

£4 a ticket or £5 on the door

## Friday 9th

The Validators

£6 a ticket or £8 on the door

## Saturday 10th

The Best Of The Vale

£4 a ticket or £5 on the door

## Sunday 11th

Dreadzone, Shuddervision DJs

£15 a ticket

## Friday 16th

Virgil And The Accelerators

£4 a ticket or £5 on the door

## Saturday 17th

Hells Bells (AC/DC Tribute)

£8 a ticket

## Friday 23rd

Onionheads

£4 a ticket or £5 on the door

## Saturday 24th

The Jon Amor Blues Group

£5 a ticket or £7 on the door

## Friday 30th

The Skynard Experience

£5 a ticket or £7 on the door

## Saturday 31st

Big Blues Tribe's Farewell Performance

£6.50 a ticket

Wednesdays - Jamming night  
Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk  
01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue