

SLAP

Issue 16

JUNE 2012

MAGAZINE

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SLAP

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SLAP MAGAZINE

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Summer is finally here, for now at least... We are looking forward to some high jinx malarky and mayhem at the many local festivals cropping up our backyard. Its great to see so much local talent getting to play on some bigger stages in front of bigger crowds.

In this packed issue we get to review more of the brilliant album releases we receive off local artists. We really do live within a hotbed of amazing talent around these parts. Talking of which, its less than 100 days before the Worcester Music Festival begins a four day bonanza and Slap are honoured to have been asked to host what is shaping up to be a wonderful day of quality original music at the Arts Workshop. Comfirmed already are Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos, Sick Boys Club and the Cracked Actors to name but a few.

At this months Slap Night we play host to local boys made good - Dodgy who will be playing their hits as well as their critically acclaimed new album *Stand Upright in a Cool Place*. So if that sounds 'Good Enough' get your tickets soon to avoid dissapointment.

So we hope you enjoy your copy of Slap, thanks for reading, we'll be 'Staying out for the summer' while it lasts...

- Eds



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ON FACEBOOK**



**LISTINGS IN
CONJUNCTION WITH:**



Semi Final Exit for Becky

As we go to press **Becky Hill** having reached the semi-final stage of BBC1's *The Voice* was unlucky to not progress any further in the competition. Fair to say that it's been an up-and-down time recently for the **Bewdley** 18 year-old as she let slip the f-word as she started performing 'Seven Nation Army' on the live Saturday night show. Earlier in the week she'd rugby-tackled **Jessie** onto a couch during rehearsals - she certainly made an impact! We at *Slap* wish her all the best as she is now to go on tour with the other last eight acts.



As reported in last month's *SLAP* the **New Hope** charity in **Wells Road, Worcester** has been selected by **Worcester Music Festival** as this year's beneficiary. It was set up by **Jean Wilson** in 2010 to help children with disabilities and complex health needs - and relies totally on fundraising to keep running. There's also a nice connection to **WMF** as **Jean's son Will Hughes** is the bassist with festival regulars **Jasper In The Company Of Others** and **Robinson**.

Keep an eye on fast-rising hip-hop a capella siblings **Done By Sunrise** who've already secured a high-profile gig supporting **X-Factor** finalist **Misha B** at the **River Rooms** in **Stourbridge**. **DBS** only formed in late 2011 and cut their performing teeth at just about every open mic event doing the rounds - experimenting and refining their set at every opportunity. **Singer/guitarist Scott Howland** has hinted that more good news about the band is on the way very soon - definitely an outfit to keep an eye on!!



Congratulations to **Malvern's Sam Eden** for making it through to the final of **Live & Unsigned** at the **O2** in **London** in **July**. Just missing out on a shot at the **£10000** first prize were **Evesham's I Am Ryan** - who have already lined up appearances at **Wychwood Festival** at **Cheltenham Racecourse** and **Stamford Festival** in **Lincolnshire** over the summer.

Peace (ex **November And The Criminal**) have followed up their ground-breaking tours of recent weeks supporting **Manic Street Preachers** and **Mystery Jets** by getting signed to **Columbia Records** - home to not only the **Manics** but also the likes of **Bob Dylan**, **Leonard Cohen**, **Foo Fighters**, **Kings Of Leon** etc... The always edgy indie four-piece celebrated their signing by persuading **Columbia** to sponsor a billboard in **Digbeth, Birmingham** with the slogan '**What The F*** Birmingham**' in 2-foot-high letters. They've got spots at **Latitude Festival** and the **HMV Institute** (supporting **The Editors**) lined up in the couple of months and are looking to release their first album on their new label in 2013 - but still bafflingly every press release says they're from **Birmingham** - here at *SLAP* we feel they should be told...



The **Old Cock** in **Friar Street, Droitwich** along with support from **Droitwich Spa Area Partnership** & **Wychavon District Council** will be staging a celebratory festival to mark the pubs 300 year anniversary on **June 9th 2012**. This will be an inspired celebration of music, magic, street performance and merriment. The event will consist of a main stage showcasing live music ranging from brass, choir, acoustic, electro pop, rock, and theatre.

Street acts from **Monster Cirque** will bring the street alive with stilt walkers and fire breathing acts, magic, face painting, games. Food and drink will also be available between 12noon and 6pm.

The organisers of the event **Graham Leonard** & **Stuart Wilcox** who have had the lease for the **Old Cock Inn** since **September 2011** have transformed the pub into a community hub full of diversity, atmosphere and variety and have been planning the event since **December 2011**.

Into **The Fire**, **Passengers**, **Andy Brumby** (from **Hoden Lane**) and **Steff White** are appearing at an event organised by **Ash Cook** and **Gemma Moore** in aid of the **Sands** charity. Tickets are on sale from **Littleton Post Office**, **The Bait Box** in **Evesham** or from **The Fish and Anchor** pub itself. Free onsite camping is available with advance tickets selling at **£5** adults, children free. The evening opens at **7pm** with live music from **8pm**. Other entertainment is available in the form of fireworks and a bouncy castle with a **BBQ**..

British Blues Awards Nominees Babajack

While the music press and connoisseurs of bluesy rootsy vibes wax long and lyrical about just how damn good 'Rooster', the latest long player by Babajack is, the band are hard at it, out on the road doing what they do best: playing their particularly fine acoustic folk blues to appreciative audiences the length and breadth of the country. The tickets are going like the proverbial warmed up Mr Kiplings, gigs are selling out and new dates are being added to satisfy the demand to see the band variously described by Bluesmatters as 'One of the hottest and original acts on the circuit' and 'Refreshingly different.... Addictive... Take the time to catch this band live, you wont regret it.'

As if reviews like these aren't enough, the Malvern favourites have recently not only managed the pretty impressive feat of scooping up a British Blues Awards nomination in the acoustic category but also having their absolutely ace vocalist/cajon player, Bec, get nominated for an award all of her very own in the 'other' instrumentalist category. Way to go girl, top stuff indeed considering there are only four nominees. Facing stiff competition from the so called big boys at this years British Blues Awards Trev, Bec and Marc will no doubt show the judges and audience at the 2012 Newark Blues Festival why Blues in Britain (issue 114) stated that 'Babajack are fast becoming the acoustic blues act to see.' Whilst Baths Listomania stated 'They do groove like demons'.



With their third album *Rooster* garnering reviews such as '...mesmeric groove, they're seriously atmospheric' - *Classic Rock* and 'Impressive rhythms... impassioned... Terrific Blues, though not for the faint hearted' - *R2*, I'm pretty sure that it wont be long before Babajack are one of the big boys.

Slap Magazine would like to take this opportunity to wish Trev, Bec and Marc all the best for the upcoming awards and Slap Mag will be sure to catch up with the band in the near future. For more news, reviews, gig dates and the chance to purchase one of the last remaining copies of the limited edition vinyl release of *Rooster* check out www.babajack.com

The Magic Christian

SAVE KIDDERMINSTER LIBRARY GALLERY

The campaign to save Kidderminster library gallery is the coming together of the community to defend the only custom built gallery and performance space in the district. The 'powers that be' plan to move 139 social care staff into our library gallery. An asset which was funded by lottery money, making us believe their actions will benefit the culture of the area and save money by closing down a space they've labeled as 'empty'. Surley there are better solutions to be cost effective?

Today I attended an open meeting where people voiced their opinions on the proposed plan to close the 3rd floor gallery space and 'bump it off' down to the ground floor. A purpose built gallery environment, allowing it to house exhibitions from some great artists, who voiced tonight that 'there is no other space like it in the Wyre Forest with its large, versatile open planning and light'. We heard from KAF members and the BHG gallery who said that if we are to save the gallery we need show what it is capable of, it needs to evolve into something more than it stands at the moment, and to make sure it is seen as an accessible space for everyone's use.

The gallery was also acoustically engineered for the use of the grand piano, with temperature and humidity controls, and members of the classical music society who use the gallery as a performance space for weekly events and recitals, were here to say that the proposed plan to move the grand piano to the busy ground floor would be an absurd idea! It would mean disruption to people trying to use the library facilities and is just not the right environment for such an instrument.

As well as being used for movie screenings and community meetings, it is clear that its sole purpose is not just somewhere to come and look at art! With the closure of so many community spaces, the move of this space and everything it caters for will mean the town and surrounding areas will be losing out!

Maybe we are all a little guilty of shooting ourselves in the foot by not visiting and embracing our local facilities enough! And making these people think that some areas are unused money draining resources that can be taken away without a fuss. But these are YOUR spaces that need to be kept, we dont want it seen resigned to history like so many other places, once it is lost it will never be replaced!

To help... PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION, SIGN UP TO THE CAMPAIGN, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR AND MAKE YOUR FEELINGS KNOWN, ATTEND THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE 10TH JULY AT COUNTY HALL, WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER and spread the word SAVE THE GALLERY!

Toni Charles



Worcester Music Festival

LESS THAN 100 DAYS UNTIL WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

IT'S less than 100 days until this year's Worcester Music Festival hits the city, with 40 original bands and artists booked by promoters so far. Organisers are looking at around 300 to perform over the four days (August 24-27) total, so a busy few months ahead.

The next important date in the diary for SLAP readers is the big Worcester Music Festival fundraiser, which is, essentially, the festival hijacking June's Acoustic Lunch on Sunday; June 24th (1-6pm) at the Old Rectifying House. All money donated at the event will go towards making the festival as brilliant as possible, so all support welcome.

In charity news, festival organisers went up to New Hope, WMF charity of the year 2012, to meet Jean Wilson, who runs the Ronkswood respite centre for children with disabilities and complex healthcare needs and a place which gives families a much-needed break.

Unbeknown to the festival committee, Jean's son is the bassist in Worcester's Jasper In The Company Of Others, a fantastic link in the quest to support both local music and good causes.

Finally, a big thanks to the 1,700 people who came to see Worcester Music Festival at The Hive last month, a feast of live, original music and workshops, and the chance to have a sneaky peek inside the golden-roofed library and history centre before it opens next month.

For more on Worcester Music Festival, visit www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk. You can also sign up to follow the festival on Facebook and Twitter.



Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Wierdos at The Hive

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WR11 4QH *Box offices:*
www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk &
The Almonry, 01386-446944 10am-4.30pm

Raw in the Foyer: Thu 28th June 2012 20:00

Evesham's 2012 Comedy Festival kicks off with the best of RAW Comedy: Six of your favourite up and coming comics return to the Foyer: Dominic Elliott-Spencer, Billy Hill, Adam Henderson, Freddie Farrell, Ben Hutchinson and Frankie Peoples plus Richard Sandling as MC. A good laugh, a good atmosphere and good value! Minimum age 16.

Tickets: £5 door (£4 adv, £3 students/EAA/groups 8+)

Stand Up for Evesham! Fri 29th June 2012 20:00

Three great comics plus MC from the comedy circuit hit the Arts Centre stage for the 2nd day of Evesham's first comedy festival: Radio 1's Tom Deacon, the amazing Matt Richardson, the cuddly Chris Norton-Walker and Dan Wright (of Big Cook Little Cook fame) as MC. Minimum age 16.

Tickets: £10 door (£9 adv, £8 students/EAA/groups 8+)

Jon Richardson Sat 30th June 2012 20:00

The new host of Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week, team captain on 8 Out Of 10 Cats, Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee and best-selling author brings his show Funny Magnet to Evesham. Discussing the everyday items that have a profound effect on his outlook, Funny Magnet sees Jon working his pessimism with some hilarious consequences - and as always with his loveable vivacious delivery. Tickets: £13

Box Offices: www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk and Evesham Almonry (Abbey Rd, WR11 4BG, 01386-446944 Mon-Sat 10-16:30)



June already?...

Time flies by here at the Workshop.....so here is another month of fun filled activities to tempt you through our doors and spread the word about your vibrant city centre arts hub.....

The Worcestershire Arts Trail has artists and craftsmen showcasing work in 46 venues in and around the county for the Jubilee weekend 1st – 4th June. There is an opening exhibition including 20 of the Trail artists at the Workshop where we have booklets, maps and information supporting this fabulous event in its second year.

For school half term we are showing *The Selfish Giant*, an adaptation of a much-loved Victorian fairy story by Oscar Wilde revealing how one small act of kindness melts a Giant's heart. Using elements of pantomime, puppets and a cosy environment, this is a magical performance for children and their adults! Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th at 1pm. Adults £6/£5 Children £4/£3.

Also for children we have our ever popular Saturday kids activities with pottery and art courses (please ring to book) and the drop in Saturday Kids' Club. Paint, make, perform & play, a range of fun activities every week during term time. Please note, there is no club on the 2nd and 9th returning on the 16th. 5 to 12yrs. 12.30pm to 2.30pm £5/£3.

Another fine dose of Lazy Sunday on the 10th of the month welcomes *Stompin' on Spiders*, Sam Eden, Tim Kirby and Jenny Hallam. Fingers crossed for the sunshine as we know how it so likes to come along. Last month was such a brilliant day and all were merry! Thanks for making it magical.

SLAP night returns this month with some very special guests for you all.....we have the rather well known *Dodgy* on Saturday 16th plus our very own *Skewwhiff*.....£8 per ticket, book in advance as we expect to sell out. 8pm.

June also sees The Worcester Literature Festival, with various events around Worcester and we have sad news that *Splendid Cinema* is taking a break for the summer but don't panic, it is returning in September with a new and edgy programme to look forward to.....

At the end of the month, *Cafe Bliss* will be ditching their usual menu to offer global vegan dishes for the day as it hosts a *Vegan Fair*. With free samples, recipes, nutritional advice and music, come along and see what is on offer. Sat 30th, 10 til 5pm. Free.

In the galleries, we have mixed media work from several of the Workshop volunteers in a *Clik Clik Collective* show as well as the Arts Trail exhibition, both on until 16th June.

Following on from these will be the highly anticipated *Jose Santos'* printmaking exhibition in the Cellar gallery (see opposite) and an exhibition celebrating some of the history of the Arts Workshop with a *Retrospective Exhibition* by some of the original Founders including photography, printmaking and drawings. 22nd June until 21st July.

Keep your eye on us as we are planning to offer lots of educational stuff with a packed schedule for children over the summer holidays and exciting new courses and workshops for all ages in the autumn including oil painting classes, up-cycling, writing, film making and digital media. Watch this space.....

So that's it for now, come and see us and check out what we are up to. We always welcome new faces and need your help to continue to make the Workshop the buzzing art centre that is it rapidly becoming.

Presented by Worcester Arts Workshop in association with Worcester Theatre and Arts Centre

The SELFISH GIANT

A performance for children (6+ their adults) during half term

Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th June - 1pm

at Worcester Arts Workshop, 21 Sansome Street, Worcester, WR1 1UH

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21 Sansome Street, Worcester
WR1 1UH Tel: 01905 25053
www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk
by Kate Cox

FEATURED ARTIST JOSE SANTOS

Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, Jose Santos is an artist who specialises in printmaking. Encouraged by his mother at the age of 10 to pursue his interest in art, he took his first lessons in painting where exposure to art practices and a variety of cultural experiences found him developing a keen interest in the master painters.

After studying to be a priest, gaining further depth and understanding of theology and continuing to immerse himself in a culturally rich environment, he fuelled further his interest in art eventually taking a course in printing and etching, a practice that he continues to perfect and experiment with today.

"I strongly believe that art is a powerful medium that can contribute to positive human consciousness & promote change."

'My work explores the conceptual distinctions commonly made between nature and imagination.

I consider my compositions as a series of marks. Consciously or unconsciously this mark making will awaken the viewer to interact with the piece.'

After living in the USA, Jose moved to the UK in 1997 where he has remained since. Last summer he completed his BA in Fine art at the University of Worcester where he

now resides and continues to work. You can see his collection at the Cellar Gallery, Worcester Arts Workshop, 22nd June until 21st July.

'At times you can see pain and disappointment in my work, I relate this to my frustrated mind, and to the pain and loneliness in the world today. I strongly believe that art is a powerful medium that can contribute to positive human consciousness and promote change.'



Jose's show runs until 21st July. You can check out his work here:

www.jsantos.co.uk

FEATURE STAMFORD CAKERY

Stamford Cakery has been invited to several music festivals including the upcoming Mappfest 16th/17th June, The End Festival 7th July and Bfest 11th August. Stamford Cakery also has a stall at the Jubilee celebrations in Droitwich on June 2nd and will be taking part in blues festivals, historical festivals and arts and crafts fairs.

The most important element of all these events, as well as individual orders, is that people enjoy the cakes. Made with Fair Trade and organic produce all cakes are designed to look great and taste great from the first bite to the last. Don't just take my word for it, ask your local musicians, This Wicked Tongue, Riff Raff, Naked Remedy and Vault of Eagles as well as many others are all fans of Stamford Cakery Cupcakes; and now with my new cheesecake range things are even tastier at Stamford Cakery.

So if you want to find out for yourself then please join me on facebook [facebook.com/stamfordcakery](https://www.facebook.com/stamfordcakery) and visit the website www.stamfordcakery.webs.com

See you soon, Cake Man...





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Bishops Palace

Worcester's Bishop's Palace on Deansway in Worcester is not normally open to the public, so given an opportunity to see inside during a wedding I wanted to share its treasures with SLAP readers. Some parts of the building, especially the vaulted undercroft, date from as

long ago as 1250 although most of what is visible above ground was renovated in 1720. It is now a grade one listed building and nominated by English Heritage as a Scheduled Monument. It was first built as a residence for the Bishop of Worcester, and is now used as offices for the Church of England but through the years has hosted three royal visits to the city: Queen Elizabeth II, James II and George III. The wooden panelled great hall has a large window with beautiful stained detail, and the fireplace has delicately moulded plaster. There are various paintings of Worcester hung around the walls, and ancient furniture that looks like it has been here since the building was constructed, but best of all the walls of a room adjoining the great hall are completely covered with tapestries.

The beautiful building and gorgeous gardens of the Bishops Palace are now available for hire as a wedding venue, and makes a special day all the more amazing.



Regal Cinema, Evesham

What a delight it is to walk through the doors of Evesham's newly reopened Regal Cinema, and into another world. It's the 1920's where art deco is all the rage, and freshly painted. But it's also the year 2012 where there are pre-show drinks in the bar downstairs, post show drinks in the one on the balcony upstairs, and another bar downstairs in the stalls with drinks served to your table. Popcorn can be bought from the box office, and tickets collected because they are all prepaid. We had booked the week before because it is so busy at the moment you can't just turn up on speck and made our way upstairs to take our seats ready for the film. The building has remained intact as a one screen cinema, with the stalls down stairs converted to a bar area, complete with large plush arm chairs that pivot towards tables or towards the screen and sofas upstairs which we were curious following an open day at the end of last year, when there had been no seats, no floor, and no paintwork, only scaffolding and dreams.



The sofas are large and comfortable for couples, and there is so much leg room you can lounge in the sofa while a whole family walks past in front and not have to move for them. The volunteers showing us to our seats were incredibly enthusiastic, and ranged in age (at a guess) from 5 to 75, and all the other guests seemed equally enthralled by the revitalised cinema, so it was a lovely friendly atmosphere in this beautifully decorated gem. It's well worth the wait for seats and the drive to Evesham for such an experience, and it really was the best way to watch "The Artist" in its full glory, a terrific silent movie about the end of the silent movie, based around the same era as this cinema was first built.

Thank you to all the volunteers working hard to renovate and operate this cinema, it is an absolute joy to visit. And if you are tempted, don't forget to book tickets in advance on: 01386 421007



REVIEW BABBLE-SHAPE OF THE FLUX

Babble's music explores the spaces in between; they pause, reflect, laugh, yearn rage and return to share an enriched vision; open eyed; open mouthed, embracing a renewed and vibrant attitude to life. Babble are a shapeshifting group of rotating and moveable musicians put together by Rob Williams on guitars and synthesizers and Karen Langley on vocals. "Music is the conversation, the one we can have at a universal level - everyone can join in " says Karen

The band have just scored a worldwide promotion and distribution deal with Florida based label 'Musik and Film' and release their new album 'Shape of the flux' on 'out of the box' records. 'Shape of the flux' takes you upwards and sideways with rhythms and soundscapes, wild guitars and poetic lyrics. Babble, impress with ethereal vocal displays, haunting guitar and luscious synths, twisting around an array of tribal beats and electronic percussion. Babble's intentions for the album are based around searching for the divine and their psyched-out spacey soundscapes certainly take you towards that goal. The band's album is available from all major digital platforms from May 24th and you can get a copy from Rise, Worcester and Carnival, Records in Malvern.

You can catch Babble live at...

Hullabaloo Festival, Cheltenham and on 4th June @ 2pm, Brewery arts Centre, Cirencester on 13th July, Malvern Rocks Festival on the 5th August and at The Worcester Music Festival.



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REVIEW BOAT TO ROW / ANDY OLIVERI / RICHARD CLARKE @ THE HAND IN GLOVE 9th MAY

Local support came from Richard Clarke, who has been pumping his new album 'Hidden In Between The Trees' all about town. A nice little opener to an evening of folky delight.

Cheltenham based, Andy Oliveri was up next with backing from members of the headline band 'boat to row' on guitar and banjo. His recent release 'Sing Mercy' is causing a bit of a stir to say the least. His gorgeous Ryan Adam's-esque tone and americana stylings were on fine form tonight and he really struck the right chord with the crowd. Oliveri and Boat to Row are both artists on Cheltenham based label 'I started the fire' who's roster includes the magnificent Jim Lockey & The Solemn Sun.

Birmingham based 'Boat to Row' have been really pulling out the stops this year. Their blend of pop and folk has started to make an impression round the festivals and across the midlands. Having previously played with the likes of Noah & The Whale and Johnny Flynn, their distinctive British sound is a folk force to be reckoned with. Boat to Row are a true virtuoso multi-instrumentalist group with a strong songwriting backbone. Throughout their lively folky set, we saw glimpses of french horn, fiddle, banjo, piano, mandolin, not to mention a splendid array of acoustic, bass and drums! They play with a professional maturity that is rare in such young musicians and make it all look far too easy! It was a pleasure to have such talented souls performing at The Hand In Glove, which has established itself as an interesting place for small acoustic gigs and a great spot for classy booze! - JD

Photos - Ida Pettersson



Whatever it takes?

WITH ANDY O'HARE



At the time of writing this, Bewdley's Becky Hill has reached the semi-finals of The Voice on the Beeb and Malvern's Sam Eden is 'through' to the Final of the Live Et Unsigned competition - my view is that they both deserve congratulations for their efforts so far (whatever happens in the next few weeks) - but opinion is pretty harshly divided as to whether these sort of events are a 'good or bad thing'.



Becky Hill

Let's be fair - pop and rock music is pretty poorly served on mainstream TV at the moment - there's some retro flashbacks for the oldies on BBC4 - but of course just about the mainstay and only platform is Later With Jools Holland on BBC2 - live on Tuesdays, with an

extended recorded edition on Friday nights - but it seems I'm not the only one who thinks that Later is becoming the Last Of The Summer Wine of rock shows - Luke Lewis in the NME recently wrote:

"...You always know what you're going to get. Cult icon on the comeback trail? Check. Token indie band?

Check. Random gamelan-playing troupe who let's be honest no-one has heard of, or will ever hear of again? All present and correct - same time next week? And let's not even start on the choogly-woogly jam sessions. Oh, Lord, those jam sessions..."

And the obligatory new-CD promoting interview? We've learned ourselves the hard way that the main problem with live interviews isn't the risk of swearing - it's just that they're mostly so damn boring - and Jools' one-way 'chat' with a catatonic Damon Albarn a couple of weeks ago hit a new low - probably time to cut this bit completely?

Got to admit that I'd always thought the 'token indie band' came through via the BBC Introducing and its predecessors - apparently not - it's the pick of the show's own producers. There's usually a vacancy for an acoustic or semi-acoustic act - but once again the choice of these seems mostly baffling... But there's no doubt that clinching one of these 'spots' is still probably the best opportunity for an unknown act to 'break' on national TV - none more so than KT Tunstall's debut in 2004 which saw her achieve superstardom on the basis of her performance of 'Black Horse Et The Cherry Tree'...

Since January there's been a placement each week on mainstream TV courtesy of the BBC Intro scheme - if you can call the closing slot on the Friday night BBC2's Review Show 'prime-time' - well it's a start ... but it's

pretty obvious that things are really desperate for wannabe acts - it's a very long shot whether you'll get picked for Later - and anything bigger or louder than an acoustic solo or duo act can forget about the Review Show as well.

So can you blame people like Becky or Sam for taking their chances elsewhere? If either of them actually win their contest - will it somehow make it all right? As far as I can see The Voice has now degenerated into a bog-standard TV talent contest - at least the 'blind' auditions at the start of the series seemed to be a genuine examination of vocal talent - and for me the proof of that is Becky Hill being an instant pick by the two remaining judges. If they now just let her concentrate on those astounding vocals from now on - and forget about the stair-climbing routines that have left her knackered the last couple of times, she could be in with a shout of the prize of a record deal with Universal - but no doubt that she's already made her mark - though not always perhaps the way she was hoping for...

Then what about Sam's appearance at L&U in July? From what I can gather (and information ain't easy to come by) there'll be about 20 contestants at this 'final' - but there is still a place available for one of the 50-or-so acts who fell at the last hurdle - provided they can get enough text votes (at a quid a pop) they can fill a 'wild-card' spot with a shot at the £10,000 prize...



Sam Eden

And for me that's the difference - contests like L&U appear to be totally focussed on raking in the money - and there's no doubt that acts who can generate the extra cash and publicity (eg via the notorious 'exposure awards') are

going to have an advantage - and there's so many half-truths and misleading references (the judges for example) in their carefully-worded but limited publicity - so maybe it's the lesser of two sadly necessary evils, but give me The Voice every time - but of course I would say that wouldn't ...

AOH

The Lamb & Flag

The Tything,
Worcester

Inn Verse

Monthly Poetry Readings
3rd Wednesday of each month

NEXT EVENT:

20th June

Templar Poets

Christopher James & Michael Woods & open mic

The event will begin at 7.30 but it is a good idea to arrive early to have a drink and find a seat

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

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



GrandStand

It was one of those days. A bit cold, with a biting wind and a pale faint sun trying to impress through the grey clouded skies. A good day to stay at home. However, in Malvern, a simple thing like weather never stopped people from having a good time. The day was May Day. That traditional annual Malvern event when everybody meets in Priory Park for a day of music, fun and entertainment. With the usual assortment of face

painters, jugglers, artsy-craftsy folk and musicians, Malvern dived into its most cherished day in the sun. If only the sun would deem it appropriate to attend. The quaintly ornate Victorian bandstand served as the main stage where Vo Fletcher began the proceedings. Vo is an amazing creature, who's ample presence belies the beauty and skill of his finger plucking genius; anything with strings he can make sing. He

was billed to appear with Virginian Tyler Massey, who after a heavy night was one or two songs late. But once he arrived, the duo delivered some wonderful examples of their classy Americana mix of folk and country. The Vaudeville Tramp Band were a last-minute addition to the party.



Skewwhiff

Then Skewwhiff stepped up. With chilly fingers struggling to manipulate fretboards, they somehow managed to warm the crowd with their indie ska pop. A mix of sweetness and grunge with the lightest of touches. The mighty multi-piece brass sectioned new soul collective known as Hullabaloo were next in the bandstand. Everytime I see this band they get better. Their songs are catchy, dancey and full of the funk. Their singer, Benji, has an unassuming, even polite stage



Hullabaloo

manner that contrasts starkly with his full throttle attitude when playing. The rest of the band are tight and together, each contributing shape and colour to the accomplished arrangement of the songs. And they have some great songs. Their set was over too soon! The final act of the day was Threshing Ground. With quirky little songs of love, lust and Laos, these indie pin-ups redefine and repossess 'folk' music and deposit it in the twenty first century. It was one of those days.

RT



Threshing Ground

The Demon Barbers supported by Fairfield One Voice

The first of what I hope will be more Bromsgrove Folk Club sponsored productions at Artrix and a good evening it was. Continuing the sound, community approach of putting a local band on with the Headliners, Fairfield One Voice were first up. In truth I wasn't encouraged when 3 blokes wandered onto the stage as if they had got a bit lost looking for the bar, and the first song was a bit "sunday school" However it picked up with the support of the violin and genuinely good songs – Unblessed Hand and Old Man Overseas were delivered with real feeling and, in the later case real humour. You can catch these at the Bromsgrove Folk Festival (July 13th – 15th) and I would certainly recommend it. Despite a dodgy start and unnecessary self-depreciation throughout, they were good value.

The Demon Barbers were excellent. With an audience that seemed to me to be split 50/50 hardened "folkies" and people who were just curious, they appealed to both. Indeed this was a fantastic introduction to folk with a set that had clog dancing, morris dancing, sing-along's, traditional folk songs and a cover of a Grateful Dead song! Particular favourites of mine were Captain Ward, 3 Drunken Maidens and a stick dance which involved 5 of the men holding sticks in a circle and then



weaving between each other in such a way that they never got tangled but at the end the sticks held together. I know that sounds crap but it was baffling and brilliant.

Mike Harding from Radio 2 said that: The Demon Barbers are one of the best live bands I've ever seen. If you get a chance to see them – don't miss it – they are brilliant.

He is right. There was none of the arrogance you can sometimes get from bands who are good in a particular niche, but I felt a real desire to introduce people to the broad church that is folk music, even those things, like morris dancing, that can sometimes raise a sneer.

The only minor criticism I had was that there was too much rambling in between songs – perhaps that might work in a small sweaty folk club but not in a bigger venue. However this was a successful evening at Artrix and I hope Bromsgrove Folk Club are encouraged and repeat it.

by Peter Blandamer

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Great Malvern Hotel, Graham Road, Malvern 01684 563411

BAD AMBER AND HOT FUSS 18TH MAY 2012 RAILWAY, EVESHAM

Hot Fuss are a brand new tribute band from Worcestershire, and if you can't guess from the band name they cover tracks originally by The Killers. They had been practising as a four piece until the singer joined a month before this debut gig. Considering the singer had only been with the band for that short time he seemed at ease at hitting the higher notes!

I was impressed with these, although covers bands aren't usually my thing. Two wines later I was with the rest of the crowd singing my head off to epic hits like Mr Brightside and Smile Like You Mean It.

The drummer of this band, Chris Harvey of Tower Studios in Pershore had a tough time at this gig as he had a 5 minute break before he had to play his second set of the evening with Bad Amber, the headline act of the night.

This was also a debut gig for the, Bad Amber. The band is made up of Evie on vocals, Kim on guitar, Dan on bass and Chris on drums. This is a band I can't really stigmatise with a genre, they have influences from all over from Prince to Four Non Blondes to Zeppelin!

If you have ever been someone who's thought "girls can't play guitar", you seriously need to check this band out because Kim will teach you a good shredding lesson or two. Impressively strong vocals to match the technical guitar and that's just the girls in the band. My only criticism of the evening is that the PA system wasn't the best and this is usually a massive bug bear for me. The PA slightly annoyed Bad Amber, but their band ethos shone through – THIS IS ROCK N ROLL!

If anyone read SLAP issue 11 you may remember an article about an awesome local drummer, Justine Miskimmin, who sadly passed away in October 2011. This was Bad Amber's original drummer, and the loss is evident in some of the original songs the band have written, especially ones that Justine had co written. The Miskimmin crew were there in full support of the band and songs that Justine loved so much.

They ended the set with a song close to my heart, "Runaway". This tune is melodic but hits you with an unexpected heaviness for the chorus, which may give you a glimpse into Bad Amber's life as a band to date.

This band need to be on every local festival line up this year! Please keep checking the SLAP mag gig guide for upcoming gigs from Bad Amber, if I haven't told you first!

by Little Charley



WORCESTER FESTIVAL STREET THEATRE COMPETITION Your chance to win £750

How would you like to win £750 in cash? Well, the Worcester Festival is offering you the chance to do just that with the Worcester Street Theatre Competition that is being launched in this year's Festival in August.

The competition is being run by Worcester Festival and is open to any amateur groups or individuals who wish to take part. Performances must be staged at designated venues in front of live audiences on the streets of Worcester and can include music, drama, comedy, circus skills and general performance. Chris Jaeger (Festival Director) is thrilled at the idea of seeing more performance on the streets of Worcester.

"Street Theatre is one of the oldest forms of performing arts and cities and towns that embrace the art form benefit from improved visitor experiences and higher numbers of tourists. We want to support new and emerging talent and street theatre is a great way to do that"

Many high-profile artists have started 'on the streets'. Comedian Eddie Izzard, musician Bill Bailey and magicians Penn and Teller all carved out the early stages of their careers from street performance.

Street performer, actor, director and Worcester Festival Committee Member, Ben Humphrey will be one of the judges of the competition and thinks the prospect of more street theatre in Worcester is brilliant.

"Street Theatre is one of the hardest forms of performance. Your audience can just walk off at any point and they will if they don't like what they see. At least in a theatre the audience has bought in to what you're offering. On the street... if they don't like what's on offer they just move on."

So what's the draw for entering the competition? As well as the chance to win £750, you may also be looking at a professional booking with next year's festival which is great exposure for any performers looking to make their name.

Rules and application forms can be found online at www.worcesterstreettheatrefestival.co.uk and you can get support and advice on your performances from the festival by emailing

info@worcesterstreettheatrefestival.co.uk

For further information please contact Ben Humphrey on bthumphrey@me.com or phone 07905 915 098



THE
UNICORN

Vagabond Blues

It's not unusual to hear blues played in a pub. A passer by at the Unicorn would not have been unduly surprised by the music spilling out onto the streets of Malvern on that Saturday night. Had that passer-by actually put his head around the door it would have been nothing but surprises that he experienced all night long. The first surprise would be just how crowded the small venue was, with the band occupying at least half of the bar. The Unicorn has only recently become a regular music venue. Of course, being several hundred years old, there must have been more than a handful of musical performances at the old coaching inn, but nothing like we see there every Saturday night. The next surprise our lucky traveller would have experienced is the energy and exuberance coming from the five piece Vaudeville Tramp Band. With bass guitar, drums, keyboards, guitar and vocals the line up seems straightforward. The surprise is the quality of each and every musician there. The solid foundation of the bass and drums left space for the meandering keys and screaming guitar as the band gave us several blues standards with some soul classics all delivered with a gutsy power that made it hard to ignore. From the smoothly dirtied Les Paul guitar licks to the slightly overindulgent but thoroughly enjoyable five minute drum solo the band were effortless in their playing. But the biggest surprise of all would've been the singer. Phil Whitehead has a powerfully mature voice that belongs to a much older man. He can front up a band of seasoned musicians like these and carry it off with style. His presence is what stops the Vaudeville Tramp Band being just another blues band down the pub. That he can do it while being barely old enough to drink in that pub is the most surprising thing of all. RT



20th April 2012 The Morgan, Malvern

The Morgan does a lot to support local music in Malvern especially with the superb Wednesday night Open Mic nights run by Tyler Massey and Vo Fletcher. They also when they can have music at the weekends so it was with great interest that I popped along to see Journeyman who were playing on the Saturday evening at the end of April. For those who have not seen them yet they are Andy Lindsay (guitar, vocals, mandolin, whistle), Sue Bell (vocals, fiddle), Paul Beadle (guitar, vocals, flute, tambourine, bodhran) Paul Boyce (bass guitar).

They describe their music as folk and acoustic pop with celtic/irish influences. At the moment they only have one of their own songs that they played, this was written by Andy and is called "This World Ain't Free" a wonderful track and with this calibre of writing I hope that they get busy writing more material. They began the evening with a selection of covers that they do extremely well bringing their own influences into each song making it both a delight to listen to but also to watch.



"Sympathy for the Devil" went down extremely well as did "Brown Eyed Girl" which Sue sang brilliantly. The audience at the Morgan were soon fully behind the band, we had foot tapping, table drumming and dancing to songs such as "Copperhead Road" a great Steve Earle classic and a superb cover of The Band's "The Weight" they brought a raw edge to the sound which I really liked. For me the highlight of the evening was when they played Christy Moore's "Ride On" a track I love and yes they did this extremely well with Paul Beadle really at his finest.

The whole evening was a great one, it was full of vibrancy and energy not only from Journeyman but the audience who judging by the applause and feedback thoroughly enjoyed the night.

Words by Dave Purser pic: by Laura Todd



300 YEAR PUB TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY IN STYLE

THE OLD COCK INN DROITWICH SPA WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS 300 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ON SATURDAY JUNE 9TH BY HOSTING A LAVISH STREET FESTIVAL IN FRIAR STREET DROITWICH.

THE EVENT WILL SEE FRIAR STREET BECOMING THE VENUE FOR A MAIN STAGE WITH AROUND 10 ACTS COVERING MUSIC, DANCE, MAGIC AND CIRCUS PERFORMANCES.

MUSIC INCLUDES: DROITWICH COMMUNITY CHOIR, BRASS BAND, ACOUSTIC, ROCK, POP AND INDIE. HEADLINE ACT : CLOCKWORK ORANGE (SUPPORT TO SPANDAU BALLET & SOON TO LAUNCH OWN ALBUM & VIDEO)

STREET ACTS : MONSTER CIRQUE STREET PERFORMERS, STILT WALKING AND FIRE BREATHING ACTS. BBQ, FACE PAINTING, MERCHANDISE, GAMES, NORBURY THEATRE PERFORMANCE PLUS LOTS MORE.

JUNE 9TH 12NOON - 6PM IN FRIAR STREET
JUNE 9TH 7PM - 11:30PM INSIDE THE OLD COCK INN



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THE HAND IN GLOVE



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Comedy Zone

with Adam Montgomery

A Great Time of Year for Comedy

Every August the city of Edinburgh hosts what is without a doubt the greatest arts festival on earth.

My first visit to Edinburgh was in 1989 when along with a friend we spent a few days at the festival, taking in as much culture as we could during the day and drinking as much as we could during the night (it came as a great shock to us on the first night when we found ourselves still drinking in a bar at 5am due to the rather lax but extremely welcome Scottish drinking laws). I was to return to the festival some twelve years later as a performer but on this first occasion that was not even a dream and I had gone up to see my brother perform in a play. But the event that changed my life there was wholly unexpected. After a rough night's sleep in the car (we were young), I stumbled across an eccentric street performer in the city centre, performing what I can only describe as a bizarre and surreal, seemingly improvised comedy routine, the details of which remain hazy but if I recall correctly, it involved tea cosies. I thought it was hilarious so I bothered to find out the performer's name – it was Eddie Izzard. (Eddie's career started in Covent Garden with a unicycle)

I saw Eddie Izzard in many comedy clubs over the next few years in and around London where I lived at the time. I even once shared his birthday cake with him as he compered a small club in Kingston to a handful of committed audience members. I developed a love of live stand up and the rest as they say is history – some years later I started my own comedy clubs, first in Stratford-upon-Avon, then in Worcester, then eventually I started performing myself, and now I have reached the zenith of my career, writing for *Slap magazine!*

So what can we learn from this serendipitous encounter? Well, a few things:

The Edinburgh festival is simply a must at some point in your life. You can watch ten shows a day (theatre, comedy, live bands etc) and then drink into the early hours and all in one of the most dramatic cities in the world. I'd urge you to visit.

Secondly, all stand ups (and indeed all successful people) start somewhere. So next time you walk past a street performer, barely giving them a second glance, perhaps pause for a moment and give them a few

minutes of your precious time. You never know who they might turn out to be! All those stadium – selling comedians of the moment trawled the country for years, performing to often tiny audiences in bars and clubs. People often say to me "You never told me that Michael McIntyre played at your club" – I usually inform them that I did tell them, they just didn't know who he was at the time!

Now it may be that you can't get to Edinburgh this year. Well never fear because The Comedy Zone is bringing a bit of the Edinburgh festival to Worcester this July. In order to prepare for the festival, comedians "preview" their shows around the country in a bid to polish their new material. On 5th July The Marris Bar will host two brand new one hour Edinburgh 2012 shows from comedians Rob Deering and Abandoman. Both musical acts, Abandoman puts on a stunning display of improvised rapping and hip-hop, based on audience suggestions, and Rob Deering, famed for his musical talents presents his new ambitious show – The One – in which, with the help of numerous gadgets, effects pedals, a huge musical talent and a looping machine, he alone will become a full one man rock band!

The next Comedy Zone show is at the Marris Bar on 7th June and features the extraordinary talents of Tom Binns, appearing as both the slightly sick Hospital DJ *Ivan Brackenbury* and the remarkable spirit medium *Ian D Montford*. As if this wasn't enough, the delightfully whimsical *Addy Van Der Borgh* is also appearing. The show is hosted as ever by resident compere *Adam Montgomery*, who would like to assure regulars that he already has two new jokes this month.



Michael McIntyre



Eddie Izzard



Tom Binns in guise of D Montford

Adam is a stand up comedian and promoter who has been working in the comedy industry since 1996 when he put on his first show featuring (by complete fluke) the then unknown Ross Noble. He is resident compere at The Comedy Zone.

Worcester Rock City



WARNING! THIS PAGE CONTAINS EXCITEMENT!

Worcester Rock City has got nothing short of a stellar line-up this month with two (yes two!!!) HUGE shows round the corner. First up, we are thrilled to announce Welsh rockers REVOKER are set to storm the stage as the headline act for Friday 29th June 2012 at the Velvet Lounge in Angel Place, Worcester.

After being signed to Roadrunner Records in May 2011, the band released their debut album 'Revenge For The Ruthless', a nod to heavy metal's past, while fuelling the flame of its future.

Having shared the stage with heavy metal royalty (OZZY OSBOURNE, LAMB OF GOD and ANTHRAX to name a few), these seasoned metallers are quickly taking the music world by storm, and believe us, they are just getting started.

This head-banging juggernaut of a night will be rounded up with support from local metal heroes FURY, Malvern's rock phenomenon BLACK RUSSIAN and Birmingham's very own ACELDAMA. Doors open at 8pm, with the first band on stage at 9pm.

Tickets cost £5.00 and are available online now from www.worcester-rock-city.co.uk. As if we don't spoil you enough, our next door neighbours at MODE are offering all ticket holders to this gig 20% off food on the day of the gig as a little incentive to entice you in for some pre-show grub. We were invited down last week to try out their homemade burgers and they are (in our opinion) the best in Worcester, and we don't make sweeping statements like that lightly (even with the discount we had) - we take our burgers almost as seriously as our live music.

The 2nd BIG GIG is a Jubilee Bank Holiday Monday (4th June) special event. We are making the most of that extra day off work by teaming up with Velvet's club night 'State



Revoker

Of Independence' to bring you what we are being billed as a 'battle between two of the biggest alternative music nights in Worcester' INDEPENDENCE VS ROCK CITY. It will be a blend of live bands and Velvet's trademark club night entertainment with a few very special treats exclusive to this event. We don't want to give too much away...

The 6 band ALL-STAR line-up will consist of NOMAD 67, MANSIZE, EVOLUTION OF MAN, RONIN, FUSTERCLUK (formerly New Chapter) and introducing ELECTRIC REMEDY. The night will open its doors at 9:30pm, live music will kick off around 10pm and it will only cost you a ridiculously reasonable £3.00 on the door to attend AND we have sorted it so the next day is a bank holiday too so you can stay out as late as you want!!!

Please visit www.worcester-rock-city.co.uk for further details on these two nights and for more news and updates on all things Worcester Rock City.

by Alby Samuels

STATE OF INDEPENDENCE VS ROCK CITY

MON 4 JUNE

velvet nightclub

LIVE BANDS

A battle of the two biggest alternative music nights in Worcester live

W.C.F.C. Supporters' Trust



PRESENTS



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Beer & Cider Festival II
6th & 7th July 2012**

with Music all Weekend



Ronda

ONIONHEADS

DJ BOD

HITCHHIKER

HUMP DE BUMP

SKREWWHIFF

Ben Hall

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Price will be £5 entry for entire festival

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SLAP
MAGAZINE

REVIEW 'Smoke and Mirrors'

by Richard Austen

The recent renaissance in the music scene in Malvern was covered in the festive edition of SLAP, but perhaps less well-known but equally exciting is the rise of performance poetry alongside it. At the core of this is Versatile Arts Smoke and Mirrors gigs, which have been entertaining audiences at the Malvern Youth Centre and beyond since 2009.

Amidst an incredible array of local talent, Smoke and Mirrors have also managed to attract such nationally notable poets as Attila the Stockbroker, John Cooper Clarke and Ian McMillan. Hosted by the inimitable duo of Dee Davidson and Caitlin Belgard who combine spontaneity, humour and incredible warmth, the shows, regardless of scale, have a great intimacy. Their trademark standard lamp on stage imparts the feeling that Dee and Caitlin have invited you into their front room for a bit of a chat and yet we have witnessed some enormous performances from musicians and poets alike.

It is fitting therefore that Versatile Arts have chosen an image of the standard lamp to adorn their book and accompanying CD which has been compiled to celebrate the success of the gigs to date. Both the book and the CD are a fitting tribute to the nerves, hard work and grit of the musicians and poets, who range from seasoned performers to those who have formerly kept their talents under wraps, but who have been encouraged into the lime light by the friendly atmosphere at the shows.

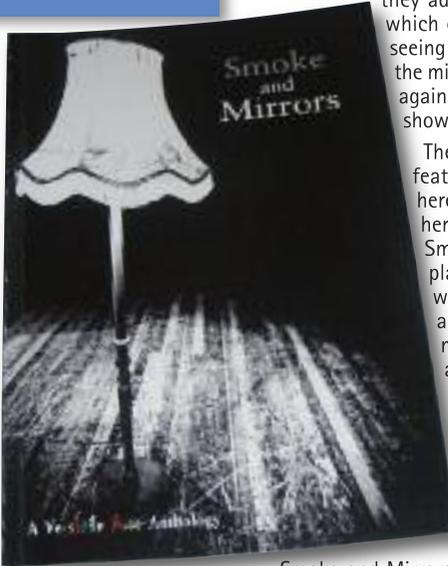
In what seems quite a coup, Versatile Arts have secured contributions to the book from all three of their big-name acts to go alongside the range of local talent. The material ranges from raging anti-establishment to heartfelt emotion, with a heavy dose of humour thrown in and ensures that the wide variety covered at the shows is well-represented. Each poet has the chance to share a little about themselves and one or two poems to showcase their talents. With over 20 poets contributing, there isn't the space here to go into highlights (of which there are many), suffice to say that there is something for everyone here.

The accompanying CD, which features performances largely recorded specifically for the book, offers some musical numbers and an opportunity for the poets to stamp their personalities on the written word and really

brings to life the poetry on the page; after all, this is 'performance' poetry and the poets do not simply read, they add a level of shade and nuance which can't always be discerned from seeing their words in print. Added into the mix are some musical numbers too, again reflecting the nature of the live shows.

The closing page of the book features the heading: 'your poem here.' And this really is the message here: Everyone can have a go, and Smoke and Mirrors provide a platform for you to share your work with a sympathetic audience and without the pub chatter that means that poetry is a rare event at a typical open-mic session. So, I've done it. I've written a poem. Perhaps I'll even perform it. But it's all down to the inspirational work in evidence here. Buy the book and see what I mean. And see you at the next Smoke and Mirrors gig.

Smoke and Mirrors is available to buy in Malvern from: Aspect Design Newtown Road, Greenlink health food shop and Lyttelton House Gallery. It's also available to borrow from County Libraries.



**Always
battered...
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REVIEW

RICHARD CLARKE & THE RAFTERS HIDDEN IN BETWEEN THE TREES

Richard Clarke and the Rafterers have crafted, a delicate and at times blissful piece of work that even the most grumpy of grumps would be hard pushed not to enjoy, even though they probably wouldn't admit it.

Simple harmonies mask intricate melodies that captivate you and leave you feeling almost cleansed. Listening to this album is like having a bit of a sit down with a cup of tea... at times there is even a biscuit thrown in. It doesn't reach the dizzying heights of a chocolate hobnob but it's not as plain and boring of a rich tea either.

The album takes you to a good place, somewhere better for a while at least, like a film soundtrack to ones own story. Opener 'The Plains' draws you in between the trees where you can hang around for a while and listen to rest of the album. 'Where I Reside'



and 'Efforts Lost', bring a knowing smile to your face before pulling you out of your comfy chair to dance to 'Only Us', a singalong love ditty that has you whistling the melody for the rest of your day.

Another favourite 'Arboretum' not because its where I happen to live but I can sit back down again with a cuppa in my castle. The upbeat 'Weary Legs' has texture, lots of it and brings out master Clarke's vocal range while personal favourite 'It happens Again' gets me to my feet once more. 'Film Song' brings the album to a close and you approach a clearing in the trees.

The other great thing about this album is the packaging, it comes in a beautiful handmade book bound cardboard pack with original artwork by Richard Clarke himself, its accompanied by a double sided tiled moon artwork that flips over to individual art cards. You could of course just buy the download in your chosen format but you would be missing out on part of the experience. The limited run is available now in Rise Records in the Crowngate and the Album launch is at the Old Rec 30th June

Time to put the kettle on and find the hobnobs, get back to In between the trees and listen to the ever more noticable array of instruments used to great effect throughout.

For your own experience find it on richardclarke/bandcamp.com

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REVIEW AMERICANS, MR MARCAILLE & ED STEELEFOX

24th May The Crown Inn, Worcester

by Craigus Barry



On the same day as town has been packed with marauding hoards of flag waving patriots, I waded my way to the Crown on Bransford Road St. Johns, a place that has in recent months become renowned for off the wall nights. This one was no exception with two unique groups – the avant garde noise/blast beat duo Americans from Liverpool/Worcester and Belgian cellist Mr Marcaille.. Don't worry though, it wasn't a Brahms concerto. Mr Marcaille drew devoted metal heads from as far as pershere and Malvern, for reasons that will become clear indeed.

Both acts were sandwiched between the kitchen sink DJ mashups of Ed 'Wheels Of' Steelefox that would make Mr Scruff glow with pride. Ed is a multi talented philanthropist loved by all.. nuff said.

So first up are Americans – comprising of Jonathan Matthew David Cording {also known as Trippy to Worcester folk member of variously; metalers Horse Bastard, the experimental Hammerfist, Dick Limerick Academy and Stig amongst others,} and Jake, also of Stig and founder of Don't Drop the Dumbbells social space & the Post Music label based in Liverpool .

The set up is interesting – just a single tiny charity shop keyboard, a mixer, a few delay pedals, circuit bent CB radio and a simple midget drum kit. This whole rig is chaotic {and prone to episodes of resonant feedback.} as everything then goes through a looper. All improvised completely on the spot so you never know what your going to get. Two songs in and they somehow manage to sound like a wiry chorus of chirping burglar alarms that rises in an ear piercing pitch. This then evolves into intermittent blast beats, someone jokes they should play dub step, they have a bloody good go at it! Then there's surprises aplenty with time stretched samples magically appearing to the fore, Perhaps not intentionally, Jake takes a step back from over powering the mix and we end up with an intelligent bout of cut and paste brutal beats, borderline drum and bass in places, whilst seamlessly merged between eirey warbling soundscapes and itchy glitchy pops. However, there is no beard stroking here, just two guys having fun creating chaos! The audience seem to be on the same bent wavelength.

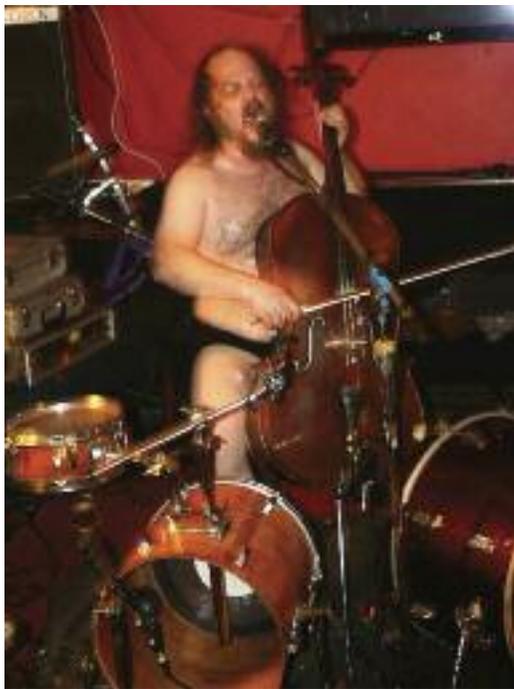
Not exactly easy to put into words tho, so check out there music here -

<http://amer1cans.bandcamp.com/album/americans-2>

So if that wasn't enough Mr Marcaille finally takes the stage! The idea of a one man band is taken to the extreme as this chap uses just a cello, TWO kick drums and belts out vocals at exactly the same time! His chosen genre – punk/metal. It may sound like a gimmick to some perhaps, but the cello is so diverse with a little wah wah it

becomes a lead guitar, with a few filter sweeps it feels like your listening to a psychedelic classic swamped with backwards production. He saws away throughout, galloping with a relentless dual pummelling beat. The dynamics and control are commendable, adding fuzz from time to time he nails sixths. Mr Marcaille is an humorous and humble chap in-spite of his formidable appearance of a topless giant gripping an axe. At one point he asks "Do you know a wall of death?" resulting in a slight uproar before softly adding "This is dedicated to a dear friend of mine.." Humorously Americans – both John and Jake - have to literally sit against each kick drum to hold them in place, such is the force of Marcaille's rhythm, they are literally supporting this man to the end!

He rounds off his set with a song in dedication to his uncle, Andre The Giant, I don't know if this is true but this is possibly the sludgiest with out right metal stabs! Sounding deliciously dark and twisted emanating from the knotted bowels of a cello! His sound takes a little adjustment, it's by no means immediate but the assembled metal mad audience were appreciative and in awe of this man's craft.



Pic: by Em Haff

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REVIEW LAKEFEST 18th & 19th May

Croft Park, Near Tewkesbury

I wasn't sure what to expect from a festival, in its first year, so near to home. Expanded from the annual cider festival, this years event was for the first time billed as a full blown music festival.

Although sceptical I remained hopeful and on my arrival was more than pleasantly surprised. A decent sized and spacious camping area, a well set up 'main arena', light drizzle, wellies, forgotten tent pegs, copious amounts of alcohol and grown men dressed only in nappies. Yep... I was at a bone fide music festival.

So... the music (or what I can remember of it thanks to the bring your own booze as long as it's discreet policy). Unbelievable EMF played with all the vibrancy of their former drug fuelled halcyon day highs although thankfully the mother fucking was left at the gate. They played their debut *Schubert Dip* album, released 21 years earlier, in its entirety.



Avert Francis

Avert Francis played a delightful acoustic set. He was unfortunate to begin his set to only a handful of audience members although, testament to the quality of his songs, ended his set to a packed tent. We were hoping to catch up properly with this local lad who has a good few festivals and performances to get though this year, so Slap will no doubt be featuring him soon.

London based Smoke Feathers were brilliant as always and really captured the vibe of Lakefest. Well crafted songs with a Jeff Buckley-esq feel can do no wrong.

The one and only (thank god) Chesney Hawkes kick started the party on Saturday, while some complained at the number of covers he played, I was



Smoke Feathers

personally thankful that we were only subjected to two of his own songs. It may have been the Carling (other largers are available) but I actually really enjoyed his set... weird.

Another pleasant surprise to the weekend were Missing Andy. This Essex based Mod influenced band have it all. Frontman Alex Greaves can go from spoken word (Mike Skinner stylee) to Suggs (Madness - for you young 'uns) to bring a varied but somehow distinctive sound. Their stage craft honed thanks no doubt to TV talent show success to a fine art.



Missing Andy

Highlight of the weekend, for me anyway, was The Roving Crows. A band that get better and better every time I see them, not particularly my favourite genre but their music is all about having a good time, which incidentally perfectly summed up Lakefest (again probably something to do with the beer), and who doesn't like to do that?



Roving Crows

There were other bands of course... Miles & Erica were Wonderful Stuff, we put are hands on Reef, we prayed for summer with Dodgy, danced in the moonlight to Toploader and Athlete... well we didn't see them, shame.



Miles & Erica

A superb first attempt at a music festival. See you next year.

by Michael Rowland

REVIEW RUBICAVA - GET WELL SOON

In early 2010 this inventive Kidderminster four piece arose from the glowing embers of acclaimed West Mids prog rock (not a dirty term in this household) combo Dead Letter Office.

Rubicava was conceived as an outlet for main songwriter Benjamin Hiorns' more melodic rock leanings and together with cohort Jevon Davies were to be accompanied by a shifting roster of sympathetic musicians.



However they soon settled with the fixed line-up of Kyle Gayne on bass plus drummer Karen Jones and so here they are in all their splendour.

It must be said that there is variety-a-plenty on this album and from a (lazy) reviewer's point of view Rubicava are hard to pin down and categorise. This is at once both a good & bad thing ie listeners are kept on their toes (wonderful mixed metaphor! Ed) plus interest levels remain high, but this may be to the detriment of a strong identity which could dilute the potential audience.

So we have the energetic, bouncy opener "Wastemaker": with it's big production values I hear shades of stadium friendly U2isms in the form of Edgish guitar and the right side of histrionic (just) Bonesque vox. It's an auspicious start and compliments this early summer sunshine nicely.

Next up "Crash" continues the album's strong melodic theme with a lovely strings ending: my mate mentions Lloyd Cole but I can't see it myself.

Then 3rd track "Table For One" slows it down in time-honoured fashion, which gives breathing space to the

band's (multiple) personality. The intriguing vocals shine through as does the lead guitarist's extensive range of sounds: I hear the ghost of Muse creeping in.

Looking at my notes the keywords are inventiveness, variety and tuneful and throughout Get Well Soon you can hear a helluvalotta thought gone into the arrangements, instrumentation and voices. This is especially evident on standouts such as "Comatose and Happy" and "Call Me When You're Lonely".

There's a nicely understated but perhaps underused keyboard presence on the album; mainly piano but occasional ear-pricking touches of synth and one dramatic, long church organ chord. But it's these aural surprises which keep the listener engaged.

Get Well Soon finishes with the elegiac, stately and panoramic "Leaving Last Vegas", which again shows the breadth of Rubicava's imagination. It's a melding of Arcade Fire with Darkness era Boss and Tim Booth on vocals. These are all good things and thus ends this consistently interesting album in strong vein.

This album, released on May 12, is well worth your time so visit www.rubicava.com to find out how to get yer mitts on a copy.

by Sid Delicious

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**NOT FOR SQUARES CLUBNIGHT
@ THE ARTHOUSE CAFE, WORCESTER**



On Saturday the 28th-April, something both brand new and well established was going down in Worcester!! The underground outfit Not For Squares, returned to the infamous Art House Cafe, I wanted a piece of that action. With a Line-up to write home about and an already large legion of fans, I knew it was going to be something special.

I was already excited about this party, partly because of it being at the Art House and this has to be one of my favourite venues in Worcester. It has in my opinion, always delivered when it comes to the Not For Squares parties in terms of door policy and sound, but more importantly, because I wanted to see first hand after more than a year away from the space, exactly what it was Not For Squares had to offer. They certainly did not disappoint!

I arrived just after 1am, with the party already in full swing and had been for the last two hours. The venue was filled with Worcester's faithful all partying hard, what a

perfect way to start the night. The Funktion One sound system was emitting a delicious deep and jazzy underground house, that was interspersed with moments of Dirty Disco. There were enough people throwing shapes on the dance floor for me to be certain that this was going to be a night to remember!!

A little murmur or buzz started to fill the place when international guest DJ Mark Jenkyns took to the decks, things definitely went up a few notches. The place really came alive and everyone wanted more from this talented DJ Producer, who was just back from a gig in Peru at rebel rave! So Worcester was very lucky to have him in attendance!

The crowd were friendly, good looking and certainly up for more of the same. Loved the residents as well, they really did understand the faithful by providing just what they wanted!! Something fresh, new and underground!! Loved it!!

I eventually headed outside to the terrace, to wind down and chill, I tell you this place will be the amazing in the summer!! Such a beautiful venue, great sound system, lighting and fabulous visuals..

All in all a very special night, excellent production and perfect music from all who played!!

One last thing, the whole night was promoted in order to raise money for the MSRC!! good to see Worcester getting involved and digging deep.

Thank you NFS and i will see you on the dance floor soon!!

by Ray Von

The Firefly

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REVIEW CITIZEN FISH & CALM LIKE A RIOT

@ The Boars Head, Kidderminster,



It may have been a while since Citizen Fish graced a stage in the land of carpets and all things Kidderminster, but tonight they're here to show us that the political driven punk of 'the fish' is as ever prevalent as it was back in the early 90s.

Skip forward to 2012 and its the first time back for the 'fish' since the market tavern days. This time round though, me and a pub full of people are at The Boars Head, waiting to witness some 'fish' madness. Still writing relevant lyrics about a generation of HD rioters and mental liberation. All rooted in their punk and ska driven style. With Matt on trombone, Alex-trumpet, Jasper-bass, Phil-guitar, Silas-drums and Dick who looks and sings like the ultimate punk you've got Citizen Fish.

First up tonight we welcome back Worcester band Calm Like A Riot, who played here back in Febuary, getting the night started with their unique style of hip hop and masses of energy.

Expecting this to be a late one I'm suprised when 'the fish' take to the

stage early. Kicking off the night with songs 'Working On The Inside', 'Social insecurity' and some newer songs from their recently released album 'Goods'. Front man Dick jolts and jumps about on stage to 'Free Speech'. With the band gradually easing us into a national anthem-esque beginning, then resuming normal mayhem levels, announcing "Lets have some mental liberation, until we do then no one's really free".

There's nothing aggressive about Citizen Fish, their songs may touch on strong social statements but its all about positive change and helping each other out. Front man Dick Lucas says before he belts out newly written song 'Can't Go On For Ever'. 'We wrote this 2 weeks ago and its about people getting together and sorting out their problems'. Im all for that statement! So it seems are a crowd of people who look like they've enjoyed themselves and why not, if all the right ingredients are set against some jerky dancable ska? Finishing off tonight with 'Marker Pen' and my favourites of the night 'Wake Up' and 'Habit', 'The Fish' leave showing that there is method to the fish madness, what a great gig.

Pics: Katie Doolan Words: Toni Charles





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CIRCUIT SWEET

Our regular look at the Herefordshire scene

Following on from our triumphant milestone at the end of April which saw our site finally being re-launched with a new look and our new online shop open – we've continued to work just as hard throughout May traveling afar to cover several live shows of which we will give you more info on throughout this article. But firstly we welcome two new businesses' where you pick up your copy of Slap Mag.

In Hereford notable points to pick your magazine up are- KJM Studios, The Jailhouse, tReds, Hereford Bazaar, Watercress Harry's, The Buttermarket- Benjamin's Fishmongers, The Imperial, The Lichfield Vaults, The Outback, Nilam Music, Oxfam, The Spread Eagle, Diegos Cafe, The Black Lion and now also available at Blacks. The magazine will be at hand at TGS bowling once it reopens. And of course in Ross-On-Wye at The Ross Gazette Offices in Broad Street, Rossiter Books, The Eagle Inn and now at the new music store Ross Music Box.

As more have grown to the site and as we've religiously kept you updated, we've received some fantastic feedback regarding the new look site and even more so on the new online shop. We've had a steady supply of orders during the first month and we have found ourselves already low on certain items. The online shop- which you can find at www.circuitsweet.co.uk under it's own tab- is our next step to promote, introduce and provide talent to more. A home for hardworking musicians' efforts. Here we have Hereford/Bristol based duo Aulos' last ever handful of their EP 'EP IC'. We are down to a such a small amount that we urge you to get yours now if you want to own a copy. They will not be reprinted. Also in the shop we have

Well Weapons' Dios trio debut. Dios Trio provide melodic math rock, mixing frantic guitar work with a pop sensibility and a nice twist of midwestern emo. Definitely up your street is you are a fan of Ghosts and Vodka, Tera Melos or Fang Island.

And if you like their debut you will

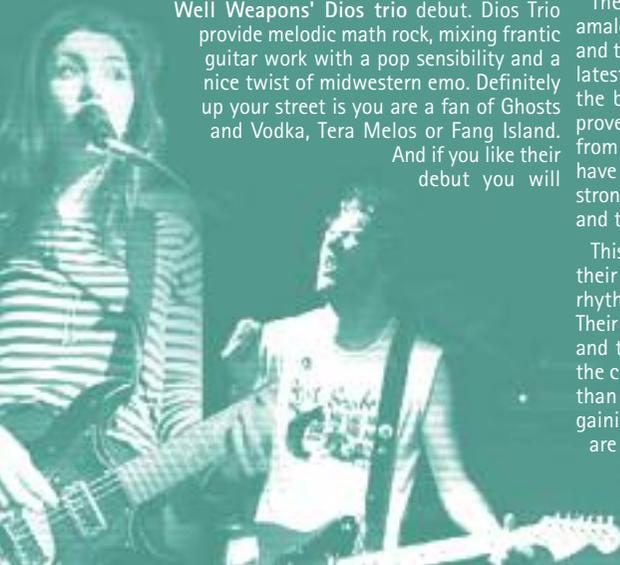
love Olde Pine's cassette tape we also have in stock. We are also the only UK stockists of The Jezebel Spirits' record 'Remember... Always Obey You Will Live Longer That Way'. Each copy is painstakingly hand crafted along with some very special clothing we also have available. Every copy is unique and has a slightly different feature. A future collectable we're sure. And again if you like that you will love Bearcubbin' which is The Smashing Pumpkins' drummer Mike Byrne's math rock band. So be sure to keep checking the shop as we plan to add lots more to it on a regular basis.

As previously mentioned May was a busy month for covering gigs nationwide. These include The Cast of Cheers and Blood Red Shoes. In the past few editions you may have noticed over the past few months we've been following Dublin based quartet The Cast of Cheers whilst they've been touring ahead of their album release. We've also recently unveiled an exclusive live interview with the four backstage at one of their gigs. On the first day of May we returned to Bristol to catch up with The Cast of Cheers who at that time were engrossed in their tour traveling nationwide as support for Blood Red Shoes. The Trinity Centre opened its doors to both accomplished acts for a night that united all live-music lovers and all fans of the musicians. As the only support of the night The Cast of Cheers quickly took to the stage as the venue filled out. Due to Blood Red Shoes' vast amount of supporting fans the crowd size was on a much larger scale to the quartet's previous Bristol performance. As well as that playing on a much larger PA system to a room with its own unique acoustics and to play a venue with a crowd capacity teeming. It was a privilege to hear and witness The Cast of Cheers perform on more of a capacious proportion. From the first note played – Conor, Neil, John and Kevin instantly mesmerize their audience. Each musicians' powerful energy is displayed on stage and the entire band thrive from one another and provide a compelling and thoroughly enjoyable set.

Their set list revamped from the last Bristol visit amalgamating older material from their debut 'Chariot' and tracks from their forthcoming album including their latest single release 'Animals'. The new material from the band taken from the forthcoming album release, prove a more mature and more experimental approach from the four. Together its noticeable that the band have become comfortable with their new ventures; with stronger track formations, deeper lyrics and more daring and tentative explorations within their orchestrations.

This is a band with so much potential both live and in their recorded endeavors. Maintaining their lively and rhythmic persona throughout their live performance. Their confidence within themselves, their unity as a band and their passion for connecting their compositions to the crowd makes each live performance more illustrious than the last. The Cast of Cheers are a band that are gaining the right attention, their hard working efforts are paying off and to have a support band that rivals the headline compliments such workmanship.

Following on from them was of course the



headline act Blood Red Shoes. The dynamic duo are an unstoppable force. The notable faces that make up the outfit found in Laura-Mary Carter and Steven Ansell creatively on record and projected live are simply powerful. From the start of their set opening with the eminent single 'It's Getting Boring By The Sea' and combining 8 Years of material into an hour and a half set- the band maintained that powerful intensity. Mixing material from their debut 'Box of Secrets', their 2010 follow up 'Fire like This' and their newest release the pair delved into a variety of compositions displaying their capabilities. Their set comprised of forceful chords, prevailing distortion and harmonious vocals from the pair. New tracks 'Cold', 'In Time To Voices' and 'Lost Kids' all displayed a more mature direction from the band. Comfortable with their aptitude and how they can develop Blood Red Shoes more. Whereas the more distinguished material such as 'Doesn't Matter Much', 'Heartsink', 'Light It Up', 'I Wish I was Someone Better' to name a few all oscillated in the musicians strength. Laura's alluring vocals and gritty tone accompanied by Stevens aggressive and forceful drum playing combined with his unique hardhitting melodic vocals provided an energetic and gripping set.- There is a full review you can read alongside more gig photography of the event over at our website under reviews' or simply search Blood Red Shoes.



Following that gig we were extremely lucky enough to be able to see Alabama Shakes at their sold out night in Birmingham's HMV Institute. On Friday 11th May on the first leg of their May UK tour, Alabama based 4 piece consisting of Brittany Howard- Lead vocals and guitar, Heath Fogg- guitar, Zac Cockrell- bass and Steven Johnson on drums; arrived at Birmingham's HMV institute joined with their touring member Ben Tanner on keys to play their opening headline show. Back in April the band made their first UK television debut on Later with Jools Holland. A few weeks later the band are back in the country playing to a sold out show. Alabama Shakes' success- has in a short space of time- rightfully become that of legend. Originally formed in 2009, this act for a while was one many had heard of through blogs, websites, word of mouth but desperately wished to see live. Now selling out their shows worldwide this is an act who WILL put all they have into their performances and capture all with such severity, such passion that this unity

can easily provide one of the best and most memorable performances you'll see. - A full review is streaming on the site so head over there to find out why we believe this made act has the world at their feet.

Amongst the gigs we had to cover the next featured article on the website is that of the live review of Polyvinyl Records' cherished Japandroids and Cadence Weapon at Clwb Ifor Bach.



The powerful Vancouver based band Japandroids are a two piece garage rock band from Canada consisting of Guitarist and vocalist Brian King and drummer and vocalist David Prowse. Intentionally a maximal band- with few numbers making up the act, together they make the sound of a five man band. The duo are currently touring to promote their sophomore album 'Celebration Rock' the long awaited follow up to their critically acclaimed 2009 debut 'Post Nothing' on Polyvinyl Records.

Beginning their fast paced frantic hour long set, Japandroids- who nowadays are playing stadium shows- admitted to the crowd during their intimate performance that this was the first floor show they've done in a long time. And then stated " We're the type of band that only plays as well as the audience in front of us". With that in mind they really did give it their all as they weaved between older more notorious releases to the fresh new releases from their forthcoming album. The hard working pair bask in their kaleidoscopic array of confining resonating warm feedback and wall of sound; their glistening riffs, audacious deep beats and fills, captivating lyrics and aggressive punchy shouts show the musicians abilities and its easy to see the pair simply bounce from one another. As they provide a relentless loud and daring set.- More photography and a full review can be found on the site.

June seems just as busy as the past few months as we head out on tour with Aulos and Sargent House's Tera Melos. We are also hoping to bring you a very special live session at KJM studios which we are keeping close to our chests for now. We are scheduled to cover a few more artists nationwide throughout the month but we are looking forward to attending some hometown live gigs which will be in the gig listings. The next month we will also be working on more Circuit Sweet Shop goodness.

by Naomi Preece

REVIEW DAS SEXY CLAP EAT FUCK DIE!

Worcester duo – Chris Wemyss and Katy Birch release a full length album that chews you up and spits you out with the raw and raucous sounding (and indeed titled) 'Eat Fuck Die'.

Anyone switched on enough to already be on the Das Sexy Clap bandwagon will undoubtedly already expect an album chock full of loud powerful scream rock. They won't be disappointed as DSC have duly delivered with gusto.

Familiar comparisons to the White Stripes may be misguided, DSC sound is an altogether angrier, rawer, more grungy sound with elements of metal and punk thrown in for good measure. The majority of the tracks on the album's eleven tracks clock in short of three minutes, grabbing your attention by the balls and ripping them clean off.

It's hard to pick out individual tracks from an album so rich in quality but on '12 Year Itch' we find DSC arguably at their best, Katy's pulsating drums leave you... well pulsating while Chris' vocals scream your ears clean off, and is certainly a good shout for the album's 'best song award'.



During 'Put It Out Yeah' we find the band at their most melodic contrasting heavily with the album's title track which is a moshers wet dream.

For those of you that live at home, Eat Fuck Die is an album to piss your parents off with... for everyone else it's an album to not so much piss your neighbours off with but those in the next street.

by Michael Rowland - www.thisisapopscene.co.uk

REVIEW THE DELTEURS @ THE UNICORN, MALVERN

SATURDAY 12TH MAY

Coming over to Malvern from Redditch The Delteurs who consist of Sam Anderson - Lead Vocals & Guitars, Scott Dolphin - Drums and Rob Smith - Vocals & Bass Guitar wowed a packed house at The Unicorn. The band is influenced by the likes of Taste, The Who, The Rolling Stones, Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac, John Lee Hooker, The Beatles, Humble Pie and Led Zeppelin. This really shows during their set even when playing their own material with superb drum beats, thumping bass lines and mind blowing electric guitar that from the opening track has the audience on their feet rocking. The first set consisted of a mix of covers and their own material, kicking off with "Boom Boom", followed by "Summertime Blues" and a personal favourite of mine "You Really Got Me". "Love, No Money" and "The Light" both written by Sam were also included and both these went down extremely well judging by the loud applause that the band got and thoroughly deserved. The second set continued in the same vein with the lads performing brilliantly, playing another favourite of mine "Oh Well" along with a medley of "Shake your Moneymaker"



"Preachin Blues" and "Death Letter". Again as with the first set they included some of their own material "Mean Hearted Woman" and "Bullfight Blues". The evening finished off with the audience screaming for more and The Delteurs did not disappoint and played a medley of songs to die for "Can't Explain" "Paint it Black" "My Propellor" "Gloria" "Voodoo Child" "Communication Breakdown". One of the very best endings to a gig I have seen in a good while. Really looking forward to seeing these guys again soon they really do give a brilliant evenings entertainment. If you want to know more then check out their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/thedelteurs?ref=ts>

Words: Dave Purser Photo: Joy Harrison

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Youthcomm Radio announce "incredible" line up for Minifest 2012

Youthcomm Radio are set to host their fourth Minifest Festival this year, and it promises to be the biggest one yet. Having previously been involved, there was a murmur amongst the team at the end of last year's success of "It can't be called "Mini" fest any more. It's getting too big!"

Last years attendance certainly exceeded 2000 visitors as the free wristbands that were handed out during the festival last year (2000 of them) had ran out by the festivals mid-point. That doesn't even include the number of listeners to the event. I am sure its Worcester's only festival broadcast live on Radio from start to finish. I'm not sure how many festivals even achieve that feat in the UK, but I doubt it is many at all. So it's a festival that is bigger than its boots suggest and this is why I feel Cripplegate Park will be bustling once again.

Mainly, at first glance, Minifest 2012 has a phenomenal line up. It seems that invites have gone out to the cream of Worcestershire talent and they have bitten the organizers hands off for the opportunity.

Anya Pulver makes her Third (technically fourth) appearance in her third different guise having appeared at the first Minifest in 2009 (twice; having played a set at the beginning and end) then with Last Weeks Fashion in 2010 and now this year with her latest project, Mansize.

This Wicked Tongue have been invited back once again after what can only be described as a Heroic performance at Minifest 2011 and what I could easily see being a more memorable performance another year on.

Lewis Spelt Backward also returns to the Minifest stage to make another inspired choice to appear, being one of



the most entertaining live performers around.

A festival hosted by Youthcomm is never without its host of young "up and coming" performers who I would expect to be making their WMF debut soon. The SJS Band who made a fine appearance last year are returning to Minifest, and quite the name to have on the bill being so well established at such a young age, already boasting a support for the Hoosiers.

It's pleasing to see that The Night Shift has reformed to bring back their unique sound. Difficult to describe but Soul, Pop, Hip Hop is the best (and most fun) way.

Fouad Symphonics is also returning bossing his way into the Worcester music scene with his unique rap and rhymes, which will also surely be a name on the WMF bill in the future.

New names to the line up include Steve Maitland who is a Michael Buble tribute, Lady and the Sax, Charm who were the winners of Worcester's Text factors and Abbie Davies who was a fellow Finalist.

Minifest 2012 will be on 23rd June at Cripplegate Park and will also be broadcast live across Worcester on 106.7fm. The full line up is:

- THIS WICKED TONGUE
- STEVE MAITLAND
- CHARM
- LADY AND THE SAX
- LEWIS SPELT BACKWARDS
- SJS BAND
- MANSIZE
- ABBY DAVIES
- THE NIGHT SHIFT
- FOUAD SYMPHONICS

by Richard Merriman
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www.droitwichspa.com



DOMINATED THE FAMILY FESTIVAL IN THE UK FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS! DEEPLY BANNED

wychwood festival



8-10 June Cheltenham Racecourse

A magical weekend of music across 4 stages, workshops for all ages, comedy, poetry, kids literature, Headbore Stage, real ales, great food, healing gardens, sculpture gardens and idyllic camping beneath the Frothy Hills.

"You can go to festivals all over the world, but none will be quite as exciting as Wychwood!"
The Independent

Friday 8th June:

**BELLOWHEAD
THE DAMNED
CUBAN BROTHERS
THE MAGIC
TOMBOLINOS
FAY HIELD &
THE HURRICANE PARTY
HOVING CROWS & MILA FELLS
HENNY BALLAN & CADMURY HINTER
ANDY OLIVERI & ELLIE DUSSEK
KSH & THE GOING GOODS
A TOUCH OF THE SUN**

Saturday 9th June:

**JAMES
HAWKWIND
MAHALA RAI BANDA
HOWARD MARKS
SHARON SHANNON
JUJU & DR & THE MEDICS
FRANCOIS & THE AVILES MOUNTAINS
GARY ARMSTRONG & THE DEER
ALPHABET BACKWARDS & DANNY SEEB
THE OUTCAST BAND & HARBOUR
HM WAIN & EMILY LYNN
TALLULAH RENDALL**

Sunday 10th June:

**THE SAW DOCTORS
SHOW OF HANDS
PORT ISAAC'S
FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS
DHOL FOUNDATION
SIMON FRIEND'S
SEISMIC SURVEY
DODGY & DUKE SPECIAL
ISRAELI AND THE SMALL GODS
HEAR LEARMAN & KATYBORN ROBERTS
CELFISH & THRILL COLLINS
THE IRA FAMILY & THE STRIBSCHEGEL
NEWTON COMBING CLIM & JAKE WELSH
DANNY & THE BACHELORS
FUNKY HORSE MILK**

PLUS MANY MORE BANDS AND THE BBC INTRODUCING STAGE & SPECTACULAR SCIENCE SHOWS WITH ROBIN INCE PERFORMANCE AND MEET & GREET WITH CHEEBIES FAVORITE! MATT ASHWORTH (I CAN COOK), SAY NINA & THE NEURONS (GUN) AND NICK IRI THE BOPPE

Kids & Family Theatre:

Especially Theatre's The Sea Show and SkyGarden, the Brewster Theatre's events, The Sleeping Giant, Mrs. Brown's Boys and Stone Island Theatre, Aunt Nancy Magazine Theatre.

Workshops for Everyone:

Flamenco, Tea, Zen, Tai Chi, Yoga, Ballroom, Ukulele and Zumba Aerobic Songs, Hip Hop, Drama, Poetry, Storytelling, Totipotology just for kids, Writing, Writing, Jam Session, Music, Dance and workshops for adults, Drum Circle, Archery, Yoga, Aikido for all ages. Plus seminars in The Science of Food and PVA and Pottery.

Get Messy:

Make Masks, Fashion Shows, Tattoos, Post-Card, Puppets, Giant Munks, Jam Jars and more. Plus Brainiacs, Pothole Games, Water Colours and Line Printing just for adults.

Get Active:

Outdoor activities including Circus Workshops, Taijutsu, Clay Sculpting, Willy Wagtail, Pigeonpiling, Bustin' Beavers and Goose Carrots, Dordwishes Play Day & Youth Day and the Family Festival.

Late Night Comedy:

With headline acts including Jemmy Christmas, Danny Ruskell, Tony Law, Siko, Joe Slaughter and many more. Comedied by Rick Page.

The Poetry Stage:

In association with Cheltenham Poetry Festival, Birmingham's Paul Laurence Dunbar, Alan, Edinburgh's Poet Alan Post, Dorcas Pastorek, Science Festival, Poetry, Jack Dear, Hymnic American Real Poet James, The Future of the One and Only Spot, David, Bart, Walter, James, James & Snow!

Children's Literature Festival:

In association with Waterstones. A host of authors and illustrators including Philip Ardagh, Tony de Kalton, K. J. Wilson, Ian Whybrow, Vera Wilson, John Dougherty, Elin Jackson, Susan Roper and James. There are also bookshops, storytelling and activities with the Field Day Museum and Mary Tennyson Centre.

Healing Gardens:

Time out to relax and indulge in a range of treatments including Reiki, Indian Head Massage, Wombology, Yoga, Swedish Massage and Thai Massage. Plus Tai Chi and Yoga on the main lawn.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS VISIT: WWW.WYCHWOODFESTIVAL.COM
OR CALL 01993 772360, 0844 576 2210, 01242 372573 OR 0870 44 44 400
DAY, WEEKEND & CONCESSION TICKETS AVAILABLE. U5s+ & PARKING FREE





STEAK & ALE HOUSE

For bookings ring
01905 621842

MAIN ROAD, OMBERSLEY, WR9 0JG
e-mail: thereindeeratombersley@gmail.com

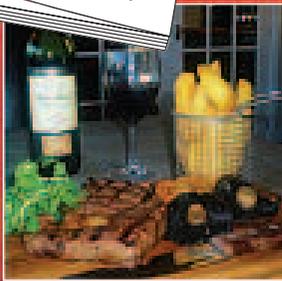
Rock Hobbits Sunday 17th June

Free Admission 7.30 - 10.30pm

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH,
DINNER AND
A LA CARTE MENU
AVAILABLE
ALL DAY EVERY DAY
9am - 11.30pm**

£8.95 Carvery

"Grill" Night every 1st Monday in the month
FREE bottle of house wine for a table of 4
Sunday Carvery 12 - 6 pm



Live Music Every Friday & Saturday

**The Quo AKA The Rossis
30th June - Tickets £5**

140 High Street, Evesham, WR11 4EJ

Tel: 07710522755

Opposite Evesham train station. Last train to Worcester 11:58pm.

Friday 1 June 2012

Desperado

The Artrix, Bromsgrove
Queens Head Wolverley,

Sarah Warren Band

Queens Head Wolverley

Aquarius

Glovers Needle, Worcester

Dan Greenaway

O'Neills, Worcester

Barflys

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Redlight

The Jailhouse, Hereford

The Ferrets

The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Adam Antium

The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Risky Business

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

East Of The Sun, Needle Poppets

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

60 years of Music Day 1, Bunter & the The Vibes,

Naked Remedy, Skewwhiff

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Retro Electro Burlesque Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Official Recievers

Drummonds, Worcester

The Modest

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Steve Linforth

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dos Gatos

Kings Head, Upton

Matt Peplow

Pig & Drum

Wooden Horse Album Launch

HMV Worcester 11.00am & 3.30pm

Saturday 2 June 2012

The Matchless

The Old Beams, Stourport On Severn

Sands Charity Event – Into The Fire, Passengers

Andy Brumby from Hoden Lane, Steff White

The Fish & Anchor, Offenham (see news section)

Bitterroots

The Welland Beer Festival, The Marlbank, Welland

Soultown

The Swan, Chaddesley Corbett

Becky

Kings Head, Upton

Aquarius

Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Junction 7

O'Neill's Moseley

Reggae Raggamuffin

The Jailhouse, Hereford

Tenbury Wells Jubilee Celebrations, The Burgage

The Vaudeville Tramp Band, Ronda, The Fabulous Bordenlos, Ronin

The Rose & Crown, Tenbury Wells

The Ex Presidents

O'Neills, Worcester

JukeBox Karaoke

The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Mother Popcorn

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

60 years of Music Day 2, Karpet Kickers, Sudio Suki ,

Rubicava, Flat Stanley, The Lights, Teddy Matthews

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Time Of The Mouth

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Cowley Cowboys

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The Malvern Hill Billies

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Delray Rockets

The Bear, Tewkesbury

Music all day from 11.00 See www.droitwichspa.com

Droitwich Summer Festival, Vines Park

Sunday 3 June 2012

Delray Rockets, The Heartbeats, Louie Cochran Trio,

Colin Paul

Stourport Riverside, Stourport-on-Severn

60 years of Music Day 3, Cracked Actors, Sister

Sandwich, Erection Police, Dale Von Minaker Band, Calm

Like a Riot, Case Closed

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Geoff Skillings Trio (1-4)

Queens Head Wolverley

The Anomalies present Kill Switch

The Jailhouse, Hereford

Maraboobo All Stars

The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Sam Brookes Acoustic

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jubilee Jamboree – Robinson, Das Sexy Clap, This Wicked

Tongue, Twinkle Echo, Richard Clarke & The Rafters, The

May Dolls, Wes Dance, The Retinal Circus, Hades The Cat

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Trio Rosbifs

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wooden Horse

Prince of Wales, Ledbury 4.00pm

Monday 4 June 2012

The John Steeds

The Brook Inn, Redditch



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

The Quik, The Dilemma Council, The Gabbidon Reggae Band
Music & Cider Festival - The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Freaky Trigger
Olivers, Great Malvern

60 years of Music Day 4, Stiff Joints, Adrenaline, Motorkill, Eccles Breed, Vault of Eagles, New Killer Shoes
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Ben Green
The George, Wetherspoons, Bewdley

Delray Rockets (2.30pm)
The Bush, Callow End, Worcester

Delray Rockets (Evening)
Kings Head, Upton

Wooden Horse
The Marlbank Inn Beer & Musice Festival

Tuesday 5 June 2012

Open Mic with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic
Queens Head Wolverley

Babajack
International Festival of Philosophy & Music -
HowtheLightgetsIn - Hay on Wye

Wednesday 6 June 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Gordon Wood's Acoustic Night
Bayshill Inn, Cheltenham

Richa, Signal 6, The LGC
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Thursday 7 June 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Manfreds
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Capital
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

The Retinal Circus, Ria, Open Mic Night
The Crown Inn, Worcester

Brothers Grove
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove
Loz Rabone
O'Neills, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Charlotte Carpenter
The Hand In Glove

Bitterroots
The Retreat, Ledbury

Friday 8 June 2012

Aquarius
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

The Relics
O'Neills, Worcester

First Offence
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Blue Radio Presents:-
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sugar Mama
Drummonds, Worcester
Subcons
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Navigators
Kings Head, Upton

New Jersey
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Broken Promise
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Cohen Brothers
Queens Head Wolverley

Saturday 9 June 2012

Ruby Turner
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Aquarius
The 4 Acres Club, Stourport on Severn

Journeyman
The Unicorn, Malvern

Naked Remedy
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Friar Street Festival, Live music- see page 20 for details
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Wooden Horse
How The Light Gets In Philosophy and Music Festival
The Globe at Hay

Wooden Horse
Setting the woods on fire. The Globe Bar, Ludlow

Junction 7
Cross Keys, Malvern

The Floyd Earl Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Hennesea
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Junction 7
Cross Keys, Malvern

No Exit
The Swan, Bengeworth Evesham



Festivals Experience
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Paul Cox, Charlie Fabert
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Nappatandy
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Sunday 10 June 2012

Strictly Marris Bar Auditions
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Lazy Sunday, Stompin' On Spiders, Jenny Hallam, Tim Kirby, Sam Eden
Cafe Bliss at Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The Nightingales
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Loz Rabone
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Remi Harris Trio (1-4)
Queens Head Wolverley

Babajack
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 11 June 2012

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

Tuesday 12 June 2012

Rhythmic Unity African drumming: all ages/levels everyone welcome ; drums provided) 7-9pm
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head Wolverley

Wednesday 13 June 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Glenn Miller Orchestra
The Courtyard, Hereford

Thursday 14 June 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

This Wicked Tongue, tbc
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Answer Back
Drummonds, Worcester

Ricky Cool & The Hula Bula Boys
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Keith Slater
O'Neills, Worcester

Backwash, This Is Our Youth
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern
The Hatchbox
Queens Head Wolverley

Friday 15 June 2012

Who's Next
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Magoos
Drummonds, Worcester

Danny Byrd
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Barracuda
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Fylthe
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Vo & Tyler
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Vandervall Tramp Band
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Fingers
Kings Head, Upton

7 Stone Mondays
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Black Head Saviour
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Partners in Crime
Queens Head Wolverley

Saturday 16 June 2012

Slap Night - Dodgy, Skewwiff
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Aquarius
The Castle, Droitwich

All Star Dub Band
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

The Very Grimm Brothers, Lindsey & Catherine, The Imperfect Pair, Tim Cranmore & Sorcha Cummins
The Malvern Youth Centre, Malvern

Breaking Steel, Time of the Mouth, Morning Glory
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

Mau 61
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
The Bridge, Tenbury

Jeremy Healey
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Five Man Fix
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Bang On The Ear
O'Neills, Worcester

Stone Farm
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester
High Roller
Callow End Social Club, Worcester



Will Killeen
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Sunday 17 June 2012

Easy Street – Jazz (1-4)
Queens Head Wolverley

Si Cook Acoustic
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Tir na nOg
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Monday 18 June 2012

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

Open Mic
Queens Head Wolverley

Tuesday 19 June 2012

Bob Jones Blues Night, Babajack, Chuck Harriet Trio,
The Chris Gibbons Band, Stripped Down Blues, Juke
Joint John
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Open Mic with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 20 June 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Tom Hingley, The Humdrum Express
The Robin, Bilston

Delray Rockets
The Masons Arms, Wichenford

Templar Poets
Christopher James, Michael Woods & Open mic
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Thursday 21 June 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

NIRVANAnow, Nomad67, Mansize
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Mike Hatton Detox Combo
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

John Turner
O'Neills, Worcester

Open Mic & Pencil & a Pint "Sew What"
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 22 June 2012

Upton Jazz Festival

Aquarius
The Corn Exchange, Kidderminster

Answer Back
Base Studios, Stourbridge

Laurence Jones
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Edd Rodgers
O'Neills, Worcester

Hanncoxx
Drummonds, Worcester

Naked Remedy
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Pure Instinct
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Underdogs
Queens Head Wolverley

Saturday 23 June 2012

Upton Jazz Festival

The ExPresidents
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Stiff Joints
Pig n Drum, Worcester

Knoxville Highway
Evesham Arts Centre

Aquarius
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Freaky Trigger
The Unicorn, Malvern

Skewwhiff, Tallula Fix, Fustercluck
The Crown, St. Johns, Worcester

The Antidotes
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

The Reflections
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Crooked Empire
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Junction 7
The Victory, Hereford

Aquarius
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Music all day from 10.30 See www.droitwichspa.com
Droitwich Summer Festival, Vines Park & High Street

Not For Squares (dj's)
Arthouse Cafe, Worcester

Boneyard Renegades
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Delray Rockets
The Star Hotel, Upton

Boneyard Renegades
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Charity Night
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Sunday 24 June 2012

Upton Jazz Festival

Strictly Marris Bar Auditions
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Stuart Bishop Acoustic
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Robert Plant
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Worcester Music Festival Fundraiser
Jasper In The Company Of Others, John Dentons
Midnight Band, Mash & Dan, Hitchhiker, Son Of
Stan, Claire Boswell, + open mic 1-6
The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

The Gastric Band
The Grape Vaults, Leominster

Strumpet - Jazz (1-4)
Queens Head Wolverley

Monday 25 June 2012

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

Tuesday 26 June 2012

Rhythmic Unity African drumming: all ages/levels
everyone welcome ; drums provided) 7-9pm
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic with Enzo
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head Wolverley

Wednesday 27 June 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Answer Back
The Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Black Country Jammers
Queens Head Wolverley

Thursday 28 June 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mansize, Das Sexy Clap
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 29 June 2012

The Reflections
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Fuss
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Bluestack
Thatched Tavern, Honeybourne

Hats Off To Led Zeppelin
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore,

Andy Thomas
O'Neills, Worcester

Nice n Sleazy
Pig & Drum, Worcester

Revoker, Fury, Black Russian, Aceldama
Velvet Lounge, Worcester

Ruben Seabrights Phallus In Wonderland
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester

Steve Craddock Acoustic Show
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Blind Lemon
Drummonds, Worcester

Skewwhiff
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Delray Rockets
Kings Head, Upton

Punk'd
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Soultown
Wharton Park Golf Club, Bewdley

Trefrogs
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Twinkling Echoes & Trap Floors More TBC
Keystones, Worcester

Saturday 30 June 2012

Richard Clarke and the Rafters - Album Launch
The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

The Matchless
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

The John Steeds
The Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

The Easy Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Quo AKA The Rossis
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Massive Head Trauma, Under The Rhym, + Support
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Music all day from 10.30 See www.droitwichspa.com
Droitwich Summer Festival, Shopping Precinct

Stone Farm
O'Neills, Worcester

Boogie Street
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Voodoo Room
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sunjay Brayne
The Great Malvern Hotel, Worcester



THE MARR'S BAR

JUNE 2012

Steve Cradock
Fri 29th June



Friday 1st

Miss Hilton Presents
Retro Electro Burlesque Night
£8 ticket £10 on door

Saturday 2nd

Time Of The Mouth EP Launch
£4 ticket £5 on the door

Sunday 3rd

Jubilee Jamboree
In Aid of Alzheimer's Society
£5 entry

Thursday 7th

Comedy Zone
Ivan Brackenbury, Ian D Montford,
Addy Van Der Borgh
£10 ticket £12 on the door

Friday 8th

Blue Radio Records Presents -
The Cape of Good Hope & More...
£2 ticket £3 on the door

Saturday 9th

Paul Cox and Charlie Fabert
£8 ticket £10 on the door

Thursday 14th

Backwash
£4 ticket £5 on the door

Friday 15th

Who's Next (The Who tribute band)
£8 ticket £10 on the door

Sunday 17th

Tir na nOg
£10 ticket £12 on the door

Saturday 23rd

The Crooked Empire
£4 ticket £5 on the door

Friday 29th

Steve Craddock Acoustic Show
(Guitarist from Ocean Colour Scene
& Paul Wellers Band)
£12 Ticket

Saturday 30th

Voodoo Room
£5 ticket £7 on the door

Every Sunday in June

Strictly Marrs Bar Auditions 2 - 5pm
£3 entry

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