

SLAP

Issue 18

AUG 2012

MAGAZINE

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Preview

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SLAP

Aug 2012 **MAGAZINE**

As we end July chasing our tales like demented Jack Russells, we look forward to an assiduous August, bookended by two local and free urban *all* weekend festivals, within anyones range familiar to this publication.

In this issue we preview both events. Our centre spread is dedicated to the first in the calendar, the inaugural **Malvern Rocks**, with a pull-out guide (mind the staples - *disclaimer*). It promises to be a bonanza of live and local talent not to be missed. This can only whet our appetites for the forthcoming **Worcester Music Festival** which is on course to be the best yet. Slap have been asked to host an event at each festival and for the first weekend of the month we are guests of The Wyche Inn, Malvern, just one of fifteen venues across town.

For the Bank Holiday weekend we play a small but exciting part in the Worcester Music Festival by hosting a full Sunday of live music at the Arts Workshop and Café Bliss. We have a mouth watering array of artists and bands brimming with festival credentials. There will be so much going on around the city for 'four' whole days we will all be spoilt for choice.

We also highlight this years **Loaded Music Festival** taking place on the second weekend of this month in Kidderminster. Eleven hours, two stages - another free feast of music to get your teeth in to. All three festivals are all about raising money for their chosen charities so please dig deep when you see the collection boxes. And remember that all the artists and performers, not to mention the organisers are giving up their time for free.

The fun doesn't stop there of course, in this issue you'll find details for Swanfest in Kidderminster, B-Fest at Tenbury, The Worcester Beer Festival, Freddy Just, and the Moseley Folk Festival - *Good times!*

So if I survive Nozstock, I'll no doubt see you at one of these great events. Here's to another hectic month!

- Slap Eds

SLAP MAGAZINE

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

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

EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan
Paul Robinson

CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare
Kate Cox
Steven Glazzard
Ant Robbins
Mel Hall
Bob Jones
Sarah Ganderton
Richard Clarke
Ralph Tittley
Sarah Ganderton
Craigus Barry
Carl Wilkes
Jem Vipond
Caroline Ferguson
Neville Thumbcatch
Ed Steelfox
Naomi Preece
Raven Brookes
Nikki Boreston
Nick Taylor
Cakeman

Design

Daron Billings
Mark Hogan
Richard Clarke

Sales

Paul Robinson

Web & Ebook

Dave Marston

Cover Photography

Toni Charles

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Green light for TWT

After a mammoth effort getting enough on-line support to make it through the 'public voting' stage - **This Wicked Tongue** just clinched the last place at the play-off final in Camden for the opportunity to open up on the main stage of the **Green Man** festival at Glanusk Park on August 17th - and then of course won it!! Managing Director Fiona Stewart said about their decision to choose **This Wicked Tongue** - 'Choosing passion isn't a safe direction to take but where would be



Photography: Katie Foulkes

the fun, the joy, the excitement and surprise of difference if we played safe? That wouldn't be in the spirit of **Green Man** as a supporter of emerging artists based on talent alone' - we couldn't agree more!!

Best yet for Upton Blues

Despite the horrible weather of the last few weeks - it held off for a couple of days for this year's 13th **Upton Blues Festival** to be declared the 'best ever' by Plough landlord **Rob Baker** - many local acts like **Slowburner**, **Dave Onions**, **Mumbo Jumbo**, **Will Killeen**, **Babajack**, **Vo**



Fletcher, Virgil & The Accelerators and **Bob Jones' Stripped Down Blues** were among a host of acts drawn from across the UK playing at the three main stages by the river and a host of other smaller venues - but amazing **Upton's** still got a couple more music festivals to go before summer's out...

Still waiting Leeds breakthrough

Sadly neither of the BBC H+W nominations **This Wicked Tongue** or Hereford/Worcester supergroup **God Save The King** made the final pick to play the Introducing stages at Reading/Leeds over the bank holiday - with Leeds-based outfits unaccountably dominating the listings at both venues. It's now been five years without a local act appearing on an Intro stage at Reading, Leeds, T-In-The-Park, Big Weekend or Glasto - and we're starting to wonder why...

New venue - new music

The new music venue **Pavilions** in Cripplegate Park seems to have their finger on the pulse with recent gigs featuring **Droitwich** rappers **Case Closed**, hip-hopping siblings **Done By Sunrise** and the upwardly-mobile **Jasper In The Company Of Others** - well worth checking out!!



Beer & Music!

Worcester City FC Supporters Trust held their 2nd **Beer, Cider & Music Festival** at St. George's Lane with acts like the **Delray Rockets**, **Bad Amber** and **S k e w h i f f** providing the sounds to go with the guzzling. This is the last year for **WCFC** at the Lane but the **Supporters** hope to shoe-horn in another festival of quality local music and 8% proof cider towards Christmas!



On a similar theme - this year's 13th **Worcester Beer Festival** on Pitchcroft is expected to attract more than 13,000 punters - with musical accompaniment from blues merchants **Stomp & Holler** - and the current line-up of the legendary **Move!!**

Halfway to New York

Luckily the plug wasn't pulled when the outfit that supported Bruce Springsteen and Macca at Hard Rock Calling dropped into Keystone's to headline a set featuring a prime selection of local acts. Halfway To New York were ably supported by the likes of Done By Sunrise, The Aesthetics and Time Of The Mouth at this packed Monday night FM promotion - great call Fred!



Custom Car show - line-up

Worcs 2nd Custom Car show 31st Aug - 2 Sept - £10 this is the second event after the great response they got from last year's show. All are welcome to attend, particularly those with custom cars, bikes, scooters, classic cars and military vehicles. People wishing to enter their vehicle in the show get free entry for the driver/rider and the vehicle and only need to make a donation to the air ambulance fund on site, (passengers will still need to pay entry to site). There is live music all weekend from Cause for Concern, First Offense, Noble Savage, Khaos Theory and Riff Raff with more acts to be confirmed.

SnodFest 2012

On Saturday 15th September, the fifth SnodFest will be happening. SnodFest may be small, but the stunning location and attention to detail make the festival very special. What other small festival has over 10 hours of continuous live music? With 18 bands performing there's something that will be to everyone's taste.

And if you want a break from all the fabulous music, there are free workshops, kids entertainment, food and of course, a real ale bar also serving local cider.

Introduced by Andrew Marston, BBC Hereford and Worcester it's the recipe for a perfect day.

This year the gates open at 11.45am and the line up is the best yet! Bands including Becky Rose, The Cohen Brothers, Skewwhiff, Macaroni Penguins, Inca Hoots, The Chris Whiting Band, Tom Forbes, Hornswaggle, Hitchhiker and many many more.

Set in Upton Snodsbury Park, the festival promotes, encourages and showcases musicians, artists, and performers from the local area.

New to SnodFest this year, they are offering you the chance to leave the car at home and help reduce our carbon footprint by catching the SnodBus - provided and run by Dudley's Coaches, the SnodBus will offer pick up from Worcester, Pershore and surrounding villages or why not camp on Friday Et Saturday to make a weekend of it?



As Andy O'Hare said: "A fantastic festival summer wound down with the wonderful SnodFest cornucopia of the best of local talent at Upton Snodsbury's playing fields - we've been closing off our summer program with this heartwarming event for a few years now and it's never rained once!"

For more information and ticket purchases please visit the website www.snodfest.com

B-Fest is back



B-Fest is back with a great line up for 11th August. Tom Hingley will be on stage at 2pm, Andy O'Hare will be introducing some of the bands, families are welcome.. and most importantly.. its FREE ... (the music that is.. not the beer!!) This year camping is available literally a stones throw from B-fest. If anyone wants to camp you can get the info at www.tenburywells.info/palmers-meadow/ and/or contact Tenbury Town council.. its just £3 per night!! Get all the up and coming info on facebook Bfest Tenbury Wells.

ART for AMNESTY 2012

Malvern Hills Amnesty International present the 12th annual exhibition and sale in support of Amnesty International at the Quaker meeting House, Orchard Road, Malvern WR14 3DA on Saturday 18th August to Monday 27th August 2012 10am to 5pm, Sundays 2 pm to 5 pm. Official Opening by Felicity Norman - Green Party on Saturday 18th August at 11.00am. General enquiries: Trevor Trueman : 01684 573722



This years Loaded Music Festival takes place on August 11th at The Royal Exchange in New Road, Kidderminster. This years benefiting local charities are Cords4Life and The Georgia Basson Appeal.



The Loaded music festival is now 5 years old and this year promises to blow all previous efforts out of the water. With a main stage and acoustic tent, live music will be playing constantly throughout the day from 12pm til 11pm. This years headliners are none other than Liberty Lies who have recently finished a European Tour supporting American Rock Giants Shinedown, and Halestorm.



Another coup for this years line up is the news that former Sons of Beaches singer Carl Wilkes & Guitarist Dan Holloway will be performing with their new band, Rogue. Other Kidderminster acts include: Time of the Mouth, Sister Shotgun, AKA Wyoming, The Dale Von Minaker Band, Charlie Davis, Gaz N Matt, James Matthey and The Damage. A total of 16 acts will be showcasing the very best material from around the midlands.



Other attractions include BBQ, Stalls, outdoor bar and raffle. Entry to the festival is completely free, all the organisers ask is that everybody in attendance makes a donation to the charities, whether its a pound or one hundred pounds, every little helps. They are also asking for donations for the raffle and for volunteers on the day.

Contact: carlwilkessob@hotmail.com

The Full line-up:

- Time Of The Mouth (Main Stage)
- Charlie Davies (Main Stage)
- Luke Huntley (Acoustic Stage)
- Khaos Theory (Main Stage)
- James Matthey (Acoustic Stage)
- The Damage (Main Stage)
- I Am A Scary Monster (Acoustic Stage)
- Vegas Assault (Main Stage)
- Stompin' on Spiders (Acoustic Stage)
- AKA Wyoming (Main Stage)
- Matt Sheehan (Acoustic Stage)
- Sister Shotgun (Main Stage)
- Gaz & Matt (Acoustic)
- Rogue (Main Stage)
- Dale Von Minaker Band (Main Stage)
- Liberty Lies (Headline)

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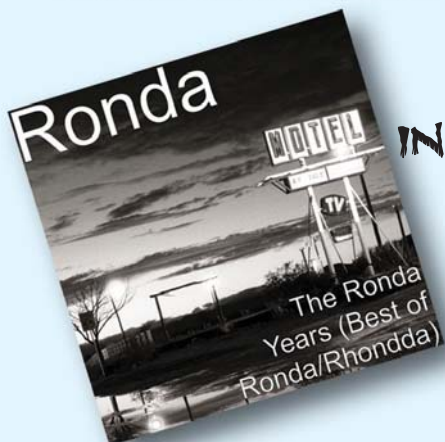
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COLTON HALLS, JEM ROBERTS,
HILL TOP MINI CLUB, DAVE DRAPER.

This Album is dedicated to the Memory of Colin Arrowsmith



A big month lies ahead in our fair old Worcester City!

The Worcester Music Festival is upon us with tonnes of fab events and live music in store in the run up to and during the August Bank Holiday weekend 24th til 27th August. The Workshop will be one of the many venues hosting the activities and we hope our yard will be full of sunny faces during the daytime, afternoon and evening. The run up begins on the 5th Aug with free gig photography workshop 1pm til 4pm at the Workshop. For details see the WMF website.

August's Lazy Sunday has been hijacked by the Worcester Music Festival on the 12th. With **Wes Dance**, **Mark and Beanie** (Skewwhiff), **Humdrum Express**, **Shaun Sheldon** (Crooked Empire), **Stompin' on Spiders**, **Black Cat Bone** and **The Brickshed**. Throw in the usual **Cafe Bliss** treats, delicious food and drinks and friends and this is an event not to be missed! 12 til 5.



We have stacks of children's activities for parents who are wondering what to get up to with the kids during the school hols... running every Wed and Sat and some Tuesdays until September 1st. Including *sketchbook making*, *drawing*, *upcycling*, *Indoor Olympics* and a *Mad Hatters Tea Party*, check out the full listings on our website or call in. Please pre book as spaces are limited and going fast!



Thinking of doing something new for the autumn? Then take a look at our exciting new courses for September. With digital photography, oil painting, ceramics, painting and drawing, lyengar yoga, zumba, belly dancing, guitar, creative writing, ceramics, children's classes and much, much more, the workshop welcomes you in for a fresh learning experience in your alternative, city centre arts hub.



There is still chance to see *A Fox's Tale*, Paul O'Leary's enchanted journey illustrated in the Cellar gallery and surreal and angular prints by Worcester's Roger Whitmore in Cafe Bliss, both on until 18th.



Then we are showing a collection of photographic prints by **Mark Hoy** focusing on band and gig photography to tie in with the Music Festival. This will be on show from 22nd August until 15th Sept. There will also be an exhibition of children's images with a musical theme!

Come and take part in '*Postcard Patchwork*', a huge postcard art exhibition in November. All postcards welcome! For details, see our website or call in.

To see what we are up to, please check out our new website on: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk
by *Kate Cox*



WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP
21 Sansome Street, Worcester
WR1 1UH Tel: 01905 25053
www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

EXHIBITION - Mark Hoy - Worcester in Music 22nd Aug - 15th Sept

A collection of music themed photographic prints are on display this month by Mark Hoy, a web developer and 'part time' photographer based in Worcester. His passion for photography began with an old school film SLR many years ago, becoming serious in the last few years kick started by taking photos at the 2009 Worcester Music Festival.

"I was persuaded to enter some of my photos into the WMF Photography Competition. I only attended the prize ceremony for the promise of a free beer and was amazed to win first prize."

"Music photography in the smaller venues is often a challenge as the lighting is poor and using flash tends to kill the atmosphere that I'm trying to show in my photos. I use a mixture of ambient lighting and bouncing flash into the faces of people stood behind me (sorry!) to create a photo that captures the energy, diversity and intimate nature of gigs in Worcester and I hope these photos reflect that feeling. Live music is thriving in Worcester and this is why I enjoy photography taken in our many venues within the City."

Mark takes photos at WMF each year and has expanded into band photo shoots and the occasional wedding. "My 'proper' job is a web developer so as you

might expect I haven't updated my website since 2009...Oops!"

He can also be found co-hosting a gig photography workshop as part of the Worcester Music Festival with two other local photographers Joe Singh and Steve Johnston. It's FREE and takes place on August 5th 1-4pm at Worcester Arts Workshop - please email photo@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk or find details on facebook.



Lewis Spelt Backwars by Mark Hoy



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Worcester Music Festival

WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL ON THE HORIZON 24-27th Aug

With just three weeks before Worcester Music Festival turns the city into one, almighty explosion of live, original music, organisers have confirmed that 200 acts have, so far, been booked to play.

While the idea behind the event is to stand up and shout, "Ere, look at what we've got" to the outside world, the city-wide festival is also a chance to invite other, well, darn good musicians, to our neck of the woods, from the mesmerising to the malevolent to those wielding sheer mayhem.

As every good vampire flick shows us, pure blood mixed with that of them there 'outsiders' can create something quite extraordinary and, at this year's WMF, there's plenty to get excited about. Four days, 30 venues, around 250 original bands and artists, a wealth of wonderful workshops - what a way to spend the August Bank Holiday weekend (24-27). And it's all FREE.

With the WMF festival guide being printed as we speak, all that's left to do is get Tigger-like and start planning your itinerary, which could mean listening to 12 hours of back to back, live music if you fancy it. Here are a few highlights of this year's line-up:

Small Engine Repair

Americana / alternative

Swan with Two Nicks - Friday, August 24

COUNTING Cerys Matthews of Catatonia and BBC 6



Music fame amongst their burgeoning bank of fans, Hereford's Small Engine Repair come fresh from playing the Louisiana in Bristol, the so-called place for discovering new international, national and local talent in the UK, following a gig for Princess Anne at St James's Palace. Think heart-rending blues of Lead Belly, shining guitars of Eels and the infectious sweep and groove of Tom Waits. With a debut album in the pipeline, the band's current EP *An Introduction to Small Engine Repair*, is motoring along nicely.

Visit www.myspace.com/smallenginerepairmusic



Jasper In The Company Of Others

Happy vibe funk

Marr's Bar - Saturday, August 25

'*GOT Soul, Got Vibe*', the first EP from Worcester's Jasper In The Company Of Others, pretty much sums up the band's music and the buzzing effect it has on audiences. Signed by Sound Hub Records in March, they are now working on their debut album following a series of gigs throughout the summer, including Barn On The Farm Festival, which they played last year alongside Ed Sheeran and Ben Howard. As SLAP went to print, they were competing in the Midlands semi-final of Surface Festival, one of the biggest European battle of the bands.

Visit www.reverbnation.com/jasperinthecompanyofothers

Flesh Eating Foundation

Electro-zombie punk

Worcester Arts Workshop -
Saturday, August 25

SIGNED to Glory and Honour Records (in fake blood and grease), this band from Stafford declare themselves 'chaotic and disturbingly entertaining electro-punks', with a live show that's nothing short of theatre. Made up of enigmatic, masked frontman The Juddaman, deaf-blind zombie John E. Smoke, uber-guitarist Mash and visual prankster Crooknose, the band has just released their debut single, *So Yeah*, which is already going down like a member of the decomposed at feeding time in nightclubs and on the airwaves, even with their speaker troubling sonics.

Visit www.flesheatingfoundation.co.uk

Jon Gomm

Solo acoustic guitar

Marr's Bar - Sunday, August 26

WMF is more than chuffed to welcome back Leeds' Jon Gomm, the virtuoso guitarist, who, wowing Stephen Fry this year, saw hits of one of his YouTube clips soar to two million within days. Jon, who first picked up a guitar at the age of two, uses his lovingly-battered instrument to simultaneously create drum sounds, basslines and melodies, and is influenced by everyone from Robert Johnson to Radiohead. Just home from touring Europe, he is not only gigging at WMF, he is also holding a free workshop for budding guitarists. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Visit www.jongomm.com/music



Lakota Sioux

Alternative rock

Keystones Café Bar
– Sunday, August 26

LAKOTA Sioux were signed to M.A.S Records immediately after their performance at WMF 2010, and, this year, they are back with a vengeance. Forged in the practice rooms of Worcester Sixth Form College, they played the main stage at this year's Nozstock Festival in July, as well as landing the small coup of headlining the O2's Academy 3 in Birmingham twice. Sick of one-note, auto-tuned pop about homework and the like, and with a new guitarist to show off, Lakota Sioux pledges to bring a whole new, raw sound to this year's WMF.

Visit www.myspace.com/lakotasiouxuk

The Manic Shine

Multi-influenced modern rock

The Firefly – Sunday, August 26



IMPRESSING the likes of Pink Floyd's Nick Mason, London's The Manic Shine were told about WMF by Worcester's Mansize, with this year's festival one of their stops on a second tour of the UK in 2012. In the business of breaking moulds, entwining futuristic, electronic sounds with a raucous blend of progressive rock, they are signed to independent label The Animal Farm of Ataris, Blink 182 and Enter Shikari fame, and are writing an album, which they plan to record this Autumn. With no less than 6,000 Twitter followers, there's a fair to middling possibility it'll be a hit.

Visit www.reverbnation.com/themanicshine

Columbus Giant

Acoustic folk-pop
Guildhall- August 27

COLUMBUS Giant sort of appeared out of nowhere at last year's WMF, but did the London-based band from New Zealand ever make an impact



with their infectious, acoustic folk-pop set. And, they're coming back this year. With guitarist and vocalist Darren Clark starting writing songs to 'entice the fairer sex into his evil clutches', the Giant's folky fare is certain to bring a foot-tapping, thigh-slapping, feel good factor to this year's WMF, the enthusiastic pluckings of a double bass, cajon, cello and mandolin bringing something quite unique to the proceedings.

Visit www.myspace.com/columbusgiant

For full line-up for Worcester Music Festival 2012

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

Follow the festival on Facebook and Twitter.

WMF workshops



WHATEVER your age or ability, if anything's going to inspire you to pick up a guitar, consider drum lessons or just start singing even more enthusiastically in

the shower, it's an awesome live gig. During WMF, why not seize the day and get along to one of the festival's 30 free workshops?

As well as a whole raft of workshops for families, from sing-alongs and concerts for little ones and a rock school and pop choir for older children and teenagers, this year's WMF includes a folk music workshop with flying fingered Scottish fiddler Claire King, a jazz jam, a piano accordion group workshop, a mixtape masterclass with DJ Ed Steelefox and The Four Elements of Hip-Hop.



There is also world drumming, junk and Indian vocal percussion, an acoustic guitar masterclass with the acclaimed Jon Gomm, a voice care for singers workshop and much, much more.

For more information and to book up in advance, visit www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/whatson/workshops/

*During WMF, volunteers will be selling raffle tickets in aid of the festival's charity of the year, New Hope, an invaluable centre in Worcester which provides a fun, safe environment for children with disabilities and complex healthcare needs, and a place which gives parents a much-needed break.



Worcester Music Festival

It's that special WMF time of the year and when SLAP was given the opportunity to host Sunday at the Arts Workshop/Cafe Bliss (our spiritual home) we simply had to pounce on it. SLAP's inaugural outing at the fest last year brought exposure and inspiration in equal measure, and the chance to negotiate our pick from the 800+ applications this time around was mouthwatering.

Our line up for Sunday 26th August is as follows:

Acoustic Afternoon at Cafe Bliss - WAW

Sophie Flynn

Sophie brings to her music a special blend of the bizarre mixed with the normality of every day life, with songs ranging from nursery rhyme fantasies mixed up in cleverly penned lyricism to up beat foot tapping fun.

Sean Sheldon

The Crooked Empire's main man plays solo and acoustic especially for SLAP @ WMF.



Gary Rolfe

North London based singer, songwriter and slide guitarist Gary Rolfe has established himself as a highly talented country blues performer on the London gig circuit, delivering raw, foot stomping, whisky soaked blues, inspired by American roots music.

Jak Raven

Gogol Bordello meets Flogging Molly with a bump of The Fylthe and a swig of Huggle-Bag, to whisk up a Tree-Frog soup and a Hedge Bumping ride through the jigs and reels of Peaceful Pogue Mahone attitude over ska-ragga influences.



Flat Stanley

Playing live is what life is all about for Flat Stanley, always passionate, and always a very lively footstompin affair whether in a cozy boozie or a festival stage. "Like Neil Diamond on crack".



Electric Evening at the Arts Workshop

The Miffs

A three piece garage rock band who play original upbeat tunes with passion & a slice of tongue firmly in cheek.

Rubicava

Kidderminster's Rubicava would like to let the music do the talking for them. Not because they have nothing to say, but because they have loose tongues and don't wish to incriminate themselves.

Stuntdog

WMF stalwarts who will steer you on a noise journey that will make you laugh, cry, jump, rock your pants off and shout really loud!



Sick Boys Club

Making their SLAP and WMF debut, SBC are a bunch of derranged, decrepit undead fools playing horrorcore/dub/ska/funk/swingjazz influenced crazy ass tunes.

Cracked Actors

SLAP favourites finally add WMF to their burgeoning roster of festivals (check them out on utube at Glastonbury 04 - funny as!) with yet another new line up (how many is that?), we welcome our Brummie / Yam-Yam cousins with open hearts!



Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos Headlining the SLAP Stage at WMF 2012

pic by: by Alex Avery



There really was only one local band we wanted to build the bill around and that band is Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos. After seeing them for the first time in Rise Records almost a year ago, even an almighty hangover, several hairs of the dog and a distrust of anything vaguely 'folky' could not dampen the infectious vibe that these guys radiate.

The intervening buzz that carried the Sexy Weirdos to the Hive back in April for the official WMF launch event has been tracked here at SLAP towers and we are big fans - as demonstrated by Craigus Barry's fervent review last month.

pic by: by Kirsty Fowler



Rumour has it that the band began as a result of a bust up in a music shop and you can sort of see why - they're mostly traditional in the sense of instrumentation in a Klezmer style but unique in the squat/punk, hi-octane delivery. At one 'eyes closed' moment at the Hive I found myself thinking "what amazing bass" only to open my eyes & be reminded - there is no bass - it's tuba! Adding trombone AND cornet, drums AND (idiosyncratic) percussion and vibrant violin produces a sound that is full and playful.

At the centre of it all is Kowalski. Sideburned, guitar slung and with microphone at hand, he's quirky, understated and charismatic - think Tom Waits crossed with the Great Gonzo himself, Hunter S Thompson. So it's no wonder other musicians have been keen to get on the Sexy Weirdos bus, "For some reason, musicians in particular seem to like the idea of being in the band and always want to join, which is quite useful when you think about it."

Where such great musicians lead, audiences (I mean big ones) are sure to follow. It'll hinge on Kowalski being able to translate the bonhomie garnered from



pic by: by Kirsty Fowler

fellow musos to the (fickle - can i say that?) lay listener. No doubt assisting in this happening is the long player 'Victory For The Monsters' recorded and released with the DIO (Do It Oneself!) ethic so beloved by roots musicians. High profile slots at influential festivals such as Boomtown, Nozstock and The Horsedrawn Camp can only help.



The biggest winner though is the way the Sexy Weirdos' music makes people feel. They could easily sit on the same bill as Gogol Bordello & Madness but we couldn't fit them in the Workshop!

Glazz



REVIEW STEVE CRADDOCK

FRIDAY 29TH JUNE @ THE MARRS BAR

After arriving a touch late per usual I was kindly greeted by the powerful melodic vocals of Connor Maher. It was nice to see some local talent supporting tonight and Connor was well up for it. With a mixture of covers and his own songs, which I must say are pretty intricate at times as well as being powerful, Connor nailed it!

The Marr's Bar by this point was full to the brim of sausage and mod-style neck scarves in honour of Craddock and Paul Wellar. Craddock was joined tonight by some splendid performers. Andy Bennett on Electric, Andy Flynn on a lefty acoustic and bass and Steve's lovely wife Sal on keys and vocals. Best known for his role in Ocean Colour Scene, Steve Craddock and his lovely band supplied us with a most potent form of acid-folk in *'It's Transcendental'*. A rose-tinted 60's-esque affair which romps you through strawberry fields via the mellotron sounds on the keys and the 12 string combo.

Craddock's songs sound wizened from all his years of performing and *'As It Was Before'* was a shining example of great song-craftsmanship. With a lovely riff

"A rose-tinted 60's-esque affair which romps you through strawberry fields!"

on the intro and a delicious array of 4 part harmonies it was clear these guys knew what they were doing and knew how to enjoy themselves as well.

We were treated to a couple of OCS classics. *'100 Mile High City'* was very well received. Seeing a classic stripped back to acoustic form really makes you marvel at the true quality of a song and the guitar work is impressive to say the least. The melody was repeated as a football chant even after the band stopped which was quite laddish but very enjoyable.

'On & On' took us off to some imagined spinny green pasture with very Roddy Frame style harmonies and rounds of a looping vocal hook... forever on it goes round again! I caught a brilliant line from this tune too which was *'Sharper than a tack my friend'*. Nice!

The band span off into a seamless mash-up cover mixing a Chuck Berry tune with *'That's Entertainment'* by The Jam which went down a storm. With some new recordings on the way and talk of more Ocean Colour Scene action Steve Craddock's really been busy. No rest for the wicked though. I think everyone had a brilliant night and Sal said the Marrs Bar was one of the nicest venues she'd ever played in! Let's hope they come back then!

- RC



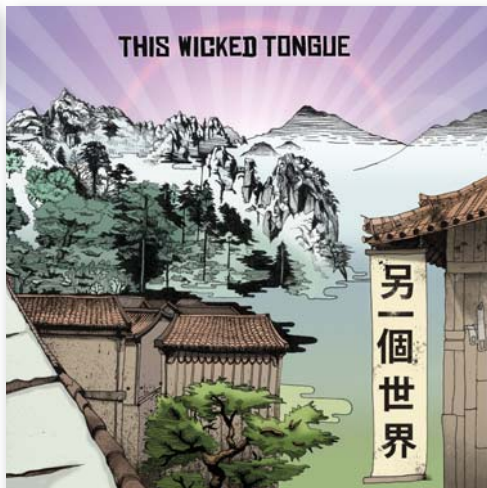
PREVIEW THIS WICKED TONGUE - PROVINCES E.P

This Wicked Tongue have a new EP in pre-release now. 'Provinces' available from the 20th August is inspired by themes of conflict, adventure, madness, love and hate. Drawing freely from the classic Chinese literature "The Water Margin", the EP is a five-track masterpiece of loud, manic, contemporary rock with hooks and balls that draw you in and tear you up. Leaving you struggling for breath as it careers between subtlety and drama; serenity and explosion; life and death – so said Juanita McGowen ("Beatlebabe") of This Wicked Tongue's debut EP, early 2011. "Wow" was Tom Robinson's comment after playing *Ray Mears versus Bear Grylls* from their follow-up EP early this year.

"If you like powerful, female fronted rock bands then totally get all over This Wicked Tongue"

The band will be gigging extensively until the end of this year, and have just been confirmed to play at Green Man Festival after rallying their way through the unsigned competition.

Due for release online, they've come up with something altogether more powerful and explosive than ever before, and are pushing the boat out to get the music to as many people as possible. We are asking you please to listen to the music and to review it in your journal, blog or website.



Check the band's websites and on-line presence and help us to spread the word!

Provinces will be available at gigs and through independent record stores plus there will be videos to accompany two singles from the EP available to view on youtube!

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Off The Beaten Track? - Andy O'Hare



You might just have noticed that I'm just a tiny bit parochial in my choice of music - but I do genuinely believe that the music produced here in Hereford and Worcester really is something a little bit special - and has been for some years now! And though I tend towards the indie/punk/metal formats - it's not really a matter of what genre a song takes (with the possible exception of stand-by-your-man country, woke-up-this-morning blues or any avant-garde jazz) - it's all about whether it passes that 'old grey whistle test' for hummability.

And that's what I feel is astonishing about this part of the UK - there's so many great songs over the past few years that have fallen into the category of not-just-good-but-great numbers that I think would be sure-fire chart successes if perhaps this region wasn't - well just a little bit off the beaten track!! Pete Adams of AWWBLOT and so many other great acts is firmly of the opinion that if H+W was only 25 miles from London - then this region would be the darling of the UK music scene - couldn't agree more with these wise words from the Sage of Evilwitch!!

But it's not just total jingoism for our area coupled with blind prejudice that leads me to think like this - yes I do listen to music from outside H+W (obviously not very often!) and it's almost always with the feeling that 'how on earth did this act ever make it' or occasionally 'yeah ok but not half as good as Dandelion Killers/ Robinson/This Wicked Tongue or <insert your own preferred band here> - this is reinforced even more over the summer when I check out bands from further afield at festivals - live and on the telly - and don't get me started again on the precious



Pete Adams



Andy Robinson

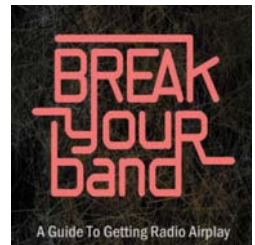
few emerging acts that make it to mainstream TV!! I often wonder what some A&R person saw or heard in many outfits that convinced them to give them that big break into the big-time...

Sad to say also that another usual source of disappointment is when what I rather patronisingly call 'out-of-area acts' play local gigs - with the odd exception it mostly seems to be of a tired out-of-date format with songs that just seem to lack that vital spark that's needed

for a classic number - which is what I'm always on the lookout for - aren't we all?

However - when I do come across these acts - no matter how good/indifferent/hopeless (in my opinion of course) I will always try to point them towards their own region's *BBC Introducing* programme - it always amazes me how many of them don't even know of probably the best opportunity going at the moment for emerging bands - yes I know what you're thinking - but don't just take my word for it!! I've mentioned it before - but the second best thing a new act can do is get a copy of Emma Scott's '*Break Your Band*' book - and getting hooked into the Intro scheme is her first tip!!

But despite all my little-Hereford-and-Worcester misgivings - it's these gigs featuring 'out-of-areas' that I actually think are one of the best ways forward for acts to promote themselves further and hopefully get spotted!! Local bands such as *This Wicked Tongue* and *Fights & Fires* who play and promote this sort of gig will then play 'exchange' gigs elsewhere in the UK - where they make further contacts and build up a network of like-minded musicians and venues across the country to play. And as I've mentioned a few times - sadly there ain't no A&R people round H+W - you've got to travel - and of course this means especially London - avoiding if possible the 'pay-to-plays' which the record companies know all about!!



This Wicked Tongue

shouldn't be too much of a problem - check out who's liking your music online and get your network up-and-running!!

- AOH

PS - should have mentioned it before now - but if you want to let me know what you think of the drivel the lovely SLAP folk allow me to spout each month - then please give me a shout on so-sue-me@live.co.uk (don't be put off by the e-addy!!)



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PREVIEW Mostly Jazz Festival

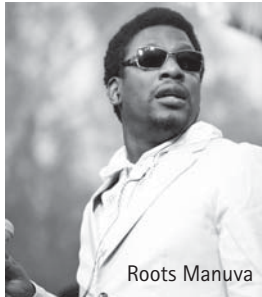
Day One - Friday June 29th

Day one dished up an eclectic line up with early birds being rewarded by Free School's Balaeric house meets Bladerunner soundtrack and Paper Tiger's chilled out inner city jazz hop before Introducing bought DJ Shadow's Endroducing to life for the very last time (thanks to Shadow's agent...boo!). Brum's Troumaca - fine purveyors of reggaecalia - prompted DJ Gilles Petersen



Gilles Petersen

to offer to sign 'em on the spot then as dusk fell and the cider flowed Roots Manuva's mix of hip hop, dancehall and ragga got the crowd bouncin' along to earthquake inducing levels.



Roots Manuva

Day Two - Saturday 30th June

With 6 Music's Craig Charles in charge things were about to get F U N K Y. Rotunda Of Wonder breathed new life into US funk legends Tower Of Power's back



Craig Charles

catalogue before The Bongolian made the festival feel like a particularly cool episode of Starsky & Hutch.



Odyssey

Native New Yoikers Odyssey got all disco on our ass with a booty shaking greatest hits set leaving Craig free to blow another funk shaped hole in the ozone layer. Boom! Suitably



The Family Stone

whipped up The Family Stone (sadly still lacking Sly) capped things off in fine style. *Everyday People, Stand, Family Affair, Dance To The Music*...each one a (Family) stone cold classic.

Day Three - Sunday 1st July

Following a moving tribute set to the late, great saxophonist Andy Hamilton by his band The Bluenotes Husk's experimental 30 minute death jazz opus left the

crowd shaken, stirred and taken roughly from behind. That's a good thing by the way. Fred Wesley and the New JB's proved they're still horny, 40 years after powering the Godfather's finest moments, before The Mothership delivered George Clinton and crew to take things to



Fred Wesley



George Clinton

another planet. *Free Your Mind and Your Ass Will Follow* sent the crowd wild before *One Nation Under a Groove* summed up what this whole funkily awesome weekend had felt like.

Words: Daron Billings

Photography: Richard Shakespeare



Does Humour Belong In Music?

Artist cross examination & EP review - Michael Knowles

Mikey Knowles is an English eccentric with an interesting mixed musical background of devout choir boy and metal head.

An eccentric with two sides to his coin: this man actually writes simple effective reflective ditties and I can relate because like myself (yes I have the audacity to name drop myself, whatyagonnado? Mirk me? You gonna take issue with my photo at the top too, my dear pedantic reader?!) Mikey finds himself often shelving these introspective, sincere arrangements in favour of light heartedly playing off an audience instead. (See what I did there? How post modern!)

It is with this in mind, worth pointing out as with my own "music", his social commentary comedy is not for everyone. And that's putting it mildly.



Photography: George Devereux

I recall a chap at one of Mikey's gigs, starring menacingly into a jukebox with eyes glowing angrily and looking rather at odds while Mikey reeled off a song about erm Auschwitz... I think that song's been laid to rest now, at least I hope so. I don't think Butlins has received such an unwanted juxtaposition with the S.S & mass genocide before, not even from Seth Mcfarlane, so we gotta give Knowles credit for the originality.

But this article will focus on how misunderstood Mikey can be to some or the casual gig going observer.

Zappa once frankly asked "Does Humour Belong In Music?"... I would argue I do not think there is enough of it in music. You need only look to the lofty heights of Shoreditch, aka Barley Viceland, to witness a legion of preening over pretentious haircuts, sheaved in monotone fashion... with instruments. Imagine if this article was about those cliché clones! You'd probably eat the page in disgust. I would!!

Canadian cult muzo David Headon (formally of Green Head Man), produces the proceedings here to offer evidence from both camps of serious & silly.

The album begins with *Sparrow* - first haunting drone notes lure you in, a simple acoustic guitar reminiscent of Nick Drake but with soundboard tapping thrown in for a beat and good measure. It sounds a bit like acid folk, this may be more to do with the open tuning. A story of heartfelt connection unfolds but before long, gentle harmonics bid this song a fond farewell subtly trailing off with the residual memory of a friend recounted.

So Sad has tuning beforehand, which brings a live feel but can be unsettling until the song begins proper. This sort of "breaking the forth wall" field recording can indeed produce an interesting effect, as I have heard previously on Syd Barrett's mighty opus the *Mad Cap Laughs*. However on *Mad Cap* it borders on harrowing when on *If its in You*, Barrett's mind unravels and is caught on tape, thankfully here the tuning opens a sarcastic cautious tale with a twist about a young man's unlucky string of lovers and a rather obvious solution. Choir boy phrasing & vibrato comes to the fore here at times, showing quite an eclectic range to the vocal. Mikey's wordplay is cutting and hilarious throughout this number. It is a dry dark pastiche on the sort of clichéd staring-into-the-middle-distance landfill folk that is often packaged into formulaic TV sit coms like *Scrubs*. Brrrrrr.. well observed none the less.

This is followed by the wistful *Green Fields* which takes us back to a more complacent, pastel side of life. Before track six, which is a song about masturbation and lack of sex sending the protagonist blind. Now I'm not about to say Michael's a perverted fidget, but these jarring jumps from serious to wry in the space of a song may cause similar disorientation to some. How ironic. But this is thus far an honest representation of this man's uncanny ability to ad lib live.

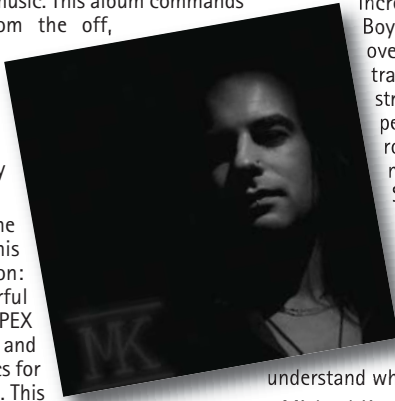


Next is a folksy tinged offering about the mortality of over thinking a moment when you should be living in it. Quite a contrast to what has come before. No pun intended.

"Its like I'm in my own universe" quips Michael at the start of a ballad about mulling over the limits of knowledge and a change of attitude with perspective. Perhaps this is an apt point to say the experiment of perspective is a success of sorts. In conclusion: as with the interpersonal world of *Madcap Laughs*, or any number of Bright Eyes albums this is not strictly a casual affair to put on

at a party or as background music. This album commands your utmost attention from the off, plunges you head first into an immersion of low-fi performance and then provides a fleeting warped glimpse into the multi faceted mind of this uniquely cracked artist.

Finally it is worth noting the considerate production on this album from David Headon: applying a basic yet masterful approach of utilising APEX variable-pattern condensers and Audio-Technica dynamic mics for enhanced ambient recording. This provides a wide stereo image to sound, the end result of this little bit of studio geekery (although essentially contemporary emulation of stereo suing figure-8 pattern mics), is reminiscent to that of Joe Boyd's producing with



Incredible String Band, basic tracking for Boyd would be purely live. There are no overdubs here and the whole affair is tracked down as it happens. So this isn't strictly note perfect, but it sounds uniquely personal and almost like Knowles' is in the room reciting his accounts, rants and musings with utmost confidence. Speaking of musings, elsewhere here there is even a song about sandwich fillings... no really, you know me by now, I just observe the surreal, I'm being serious here.

So "does humour belong in music"?

I would ask "Why so serious?" You'll understand why I did one day. Maybe! :0

Michael Knowles' debut EP will be out shortly and available both as a download and CD.

facebook.com/pages/Michael-Knowles-Music

REVIEW UPTON BLUES FESTIVAL 2012 JULY '12

On Tuesday 17th, it looked like being cancelled. Usual reason. Then, suddenly, it was back on.

My spies tell me SLOWBURNER took the laurels at the Swan, Friday 20 th. No surprise.

JACK BLACKMAN did a sterling acoustic session at the White Lion Saturday 21st. And I was particularly



impressed by his electric guitar-set with the CHICKEN BONE BLUES BAND, (Chicken-Bone John, Dave Smith, Ken Stratford superb on bass, and Freddie Perotti on keys) when

Jack did his Carl Perkins thang. A couple of Elvis's: 'Blue Moon Of Kentucky' & 'That's Alright Mama' were particularly fine, and nice to see this teenager doing the same stuff (if somewhat better) as I did at his age.

JOHN DENTON and his band took the crown of the festival, for me. Dave Smith seethed on harp, and JD was at his best, superb singing and anguished guitar (John is a much better guitarist than many 'official' leads you see, his solo on BBKing's 'How Blue Can You Get' was jaw-dropping). As was the harp-solo on 'Me and My Woman', where Dave showed a mastery of every note on the harp and one or two I swear mine don't got.



THE CHICAGO BITES opened the Hobson's acoustic stage at the King's Head Sunday 22nd. Followed by the majestic VO FLETCHER, who picks the way the rest of us dream.

CLARE FREE was the best of the day. Her percussive guitar style reminds me of Adrian Byron Burns and the Mississippi blueseuse Lisa Mills (who once told me I do too many slow ones : "3 jumpers, Bobbie, then a gusset-moistener every 4th toon.") As a singer, she harks back to early Bonnie Raitt, but she is unique. Her version of 'The Thrill Is Gone', was excellent, and her own songs even better : from the boogie-shuffle 'Small Miracles (about an unexpectedly successful pregnancy), and a recovery from a state given only a 10% chance ("I ain't religious ; but I sometimes pray for those I love.")

She finished with the harrowing 'Scars', and 'Funky Mama Kitchen Blues'.

SEASICK STEVE finished the afternoon with some heavy-hitting shithouse slide guitar boogie that I would have loved even without the 7% cider I'd been drinking all day.

Bob Jones





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On 11th July the Queen and Prince Philip came to Worcester to officially open the new Hive building. Containing books from both the public and university libraries, historical displays and artworks by various artists connected to the university, The Hive opened its doors.

The Queen admired the children's library where there were many youngsters being taught, performed to and read to in various areas. Meanwhile Prince Philip was taken to the third floor to see dancing and art by university students. He is reported to have commented on the advanced age of the students and asked when they were going to get a real job!

Following the official opening of the building, on 13th July there was a private view of the exhibition introducing selected guests to the student artists at the Hive as well as entertaining them with a fashion show at the Guildhall. Artists Battenberg-Cartwright presented an eco-fashion (right hand image) collection entitled 'When Kafka met Kahlo', based around the imaginary meeting of Franz Kafka and Frida Kahlo. This involved one-off pieces from recycled fabrics, more costumes than every-day wear, which the artists call "living art pieces" displayed by models made up in dark gothic colours pouting dramatically.

Guests were then guided to the Hive where they were joined by the twenty-six recent graduates of the university with an exhibition entitled "Flood Art. Be Prepared". Some of these artists the discerning SLAP

reader may spot from other articles: Dan Margetts (Centre image) featured last month in the *IAM* exhibition at the university has since won the Francis Lincoln Illustration Award, Rachel Blackwell was one of the exhibitors at the recent *Fourth Plinth Project* at the old Library while Battenberg-Cartwright (featured earlier) showed still photographs from their film *Tales From Prague*.

The tour of the exhibition in the Hive began with Brian Cook who produced five untitled monolithic sculptures in concrete, inspired by the twenty-four columns around the cloisters at Worcester Cathedral, displayed on the way toward the café.

In the business centre on level two, Holly Kuehn's paintings *Bridgewalker* and *Hutwere* incorporated her reflections on daily life including aspects of youth culture, conversations, relationships and family life, combining abstract and figurative imagery, along with Stuart Layton with two brightly coloured paintings and a film influenced by growing up in the Black Country.

Joanne Henderson's series of paintings seen on level three, depicted imagined rooms in a house with distorted angles inspired by horror and gothic literature, particularly that of Edgar Allan Poe; Marisa Lewis' *Dinner With the Bird's* (Left hand image) was awarded a Francis Lincoln publishing contract for her work in narrative illustration in 2011 and Ellie Petrova from Bulgaria exhibited her comic anthropomorphic piece entitled *My Dog* as part of the Illustration show.

This exhibition finished on 22nd July.

Words & Photos by Sarah Ganderton

ARTS FEATURE Fourth Plinth Project at Worcester's old Library

With Worcester's library moving to The Hive in The Butts, the old library building has been transformed into an exhibition space. To celebrate this new platform for local artistic talent, the first display called the **Fourth Plinth Project** ran from 25th June to 20th July 2012. Alongside three plinths holding the busts of famous historical Worcester figures, Charles Hastings Edward Evans and Richard Padmore, contemporary artists used the fourth plinth to display a wide range of artistic talents, public engagement workshops and political comments.

The art displayed on the fourth plinth involved a wide range of styles, involving a different artist in residence at the old library each day, with a different artist each hour on the opening day. This was open to the public and available to view online through live streamed video.

Some artists were inspired by the library itself such as **Digital Dialogues** creating a digital sculpture inspired by books; **Quilos** and the **Windmill** who created site-writing throughout their day to produce a guide to the space and **Alexandra G Gordon** and **Lynne Goodwin** using examples from the museum's hidden insect collection to inspire artwork which discussed themes of rebirth and renewal.

Other artists were inspired by the world around them such as **Andrew Robinson** drawing on the symbols sprayed on the roads by workmen, while **Jose Forrest-Tennant** used photographs from Croome Court and Park where she is artist in residence and **Lisa Gardner** due to be featured in the Christmas Edition of Worcester Life Magazine, displayed her brightly coloured retro style prints.



Some used the space to display information about existing projects in the local area, often involving the public. These included **Discover History** who produced a map of Worcester on which visitors were invited to add their own paper buildings and the **Worcester Rebel Knitters** who are creating a knitted tree to be displayed at the Commandery museum in a record breaking



attempt. Along a similar vein, the Kidderminster Museum of Carpet, the George Marshall Medical Museum and new Infirmary Museum, each displayed their current collections.

Meanwhile, some groups and artists produced day-long performances such as **KAFCreatives** who showed a "busy worker" singing away in a messy office to raise the profile of their campaign to save Kidderminster library, while **Simon Farid** produced a miniature theatre with cut-out characters for a performance and **Rachel Blackwell** painted three different ethereal watercolour paintings.

Although the fourth plinth exhibition is now over, the space is still being used until 22nd September by **Maud and the Dragon**, which is the display created on the last



day of the fourth plinth exhibition by **Kate Brookes** and visitors can pop along to Worcester's old library building to enjoy this new exhibition for free.

Words & Photos by Sarah Ganderton

REVIEW Decadence Raw @ The Arena - Stourbridge 7th July 2012

A top superclub has opened on our doorstep with world class DJs playing every Saturday. Decadence on Broad Street in Birmingham back in the early 90's was an amazing Wednesday night which was always packed with quality names such as Paul Oakenfold, Sasha, Pete Tong, Roger Sanchez and Graeme Park who I just happened to have a drink with and ask a few questions before his set kicked off on this opening night. The first thing that surprised me about The Arena was the size, it holds nearly 1300 people! It boasts a stomping 18k sound system, a big dance floor with bars surrounding it and 2 VIP areas. Slap Magazine is looking forward to some big nights ahead and we will be working closely with Decadence over the coming months, if you want a taster of the talent that will be appearing check out www.radiodecadence.com You can download some mixes from their own radio station for free.



residency at The Hacienda, he was one of the first British DJs to play places like Australia, South America, the USA, Asia and beyond as well as producing and remixing tracks. I quickly scribbled a few questions down:

What do you think of the new Decadence?

I think it's a great venue, a lot of clubs nowadays scale down the size so it's good to see this is going to be something big around here. It's quite a dark venue which I like.

Name some of your best places you have played.

Australia, Dublin, Dubai, but most recently the Stone Roses after party in Manchester at Sankeys Soap.

The 90's was a great time for clubbing around here, what were your favourite venues?

Decadence at Bakers in Birmingham Wednesday night, The Fan Club in Leicester Thursday, The Hacienda every Friday and The Garage in Nottingham on Saturdays.

What do you use nowadays to mix as vinyl seems to have been taken over by MP3?

I use Serato (This innovation makes it where 2 tracks can be mixed simultaneously using traditional DJ controls - scratch, nudge, pitch bend, EQ. Serato Sync locks tracks together for seamless grooves) A Laptop, I also digitalize my own 12" into Protools.

Biggest crowd you have played for?

I supported New Order back in 1989 at a 60,000 seater stadium in the US. The Americans just never got it back then. I played after Public Image and I played an acid house set for a load of Goths. This went on for 8 days!

What is the funniest thing you have seen whilst DJing?

Laughs after thinking for a minute, In 28 years of my playing, I have never been asked that question. Nice one.

What are your top 2 favourite tracks ever?

The Daou - Surrender Yourself. 1992 ish. It's an amazing 10 min track

The Brand New Heavies - Back to Love (Graeme Park Mix)



After a few beers in the main VIP area I decided to take a wander round and met up with Dave Rowland, the brains behind Decadence and someone I had not seen for over 12 years. He introduced me to Graeme Park and we swiftly moved to the upstairs VIP lounge. The story of DJ Graeme Park's 28 year career really mirrors the story of the evolution of dance music and club culture itself. Back then there was no such thing as house music, all the records were motown, disco, funk and early hip-hop and Graeme found himself working in a Nottingham record shop called Selectadisc. The very first house records began to filter through from Chicago, Detroit and New York. When the shop's owner also opened a nightclub, it was only natural he should turn to Graeme to select the discs. Determined to showcase this new style of music, his reputation as a house pioneer soon brought him to the attention of Mike Pickering at the Hacienda in Manchester, who asked him to cover for him whilst he went on holiday in 1988. Simply put, there was no-one else in the country who could do the job. The Summer of Love followed, and Graeme quickly became one of the biggest names on the emerging dance scene. Aside from his eight-year



The Hills will truly be alive when, with over one hundred performers, sixteen venues, and three days of music, Malvern's largest and most ambitious music festival, Malvern Rocks, begins on Friday 3rd August. Borrowing the format from Worcester's hugely successful urban music festival, Malvern Rocks is a multi venue contemporary music affair with dozens of bands and performers covering a broad spectrum of musical style and genre. From folk to punk, thrash metal to country, Americana to indie, there is guaranteed to be something for everyone. The festival opens with a host of great bands. Calm Like a Riot at the Unicorn, Vault

acts will be performing outside Carnival Records on Church Street and there will be various gigs going on including Vo Fletcher and Tyler Massey at the Morgan and Natalie PYT at Malvern Cube. In the evening the number of stages grows as more venues open their doors. Highlights include Bristol's Bravo Brave Bats, Old Hollow and the Pewke Band with FrenchdisKo, Clockwork Rifle, Spandex Bellend and Flat Stanley. Malvern is a large, spread out town. Most of the venues are in Great Malvern while the Link has four with two in Barnard's Green. The Wyche Inn, hosted by Slap Magazine and The Cross Keys are at either end of the town while The Green Dragon is on the Guarlford straight. To help people get around and to ensure that all the stages are visited, the Festival organisers have sorted out preferential rates for taxis and a minibus to take punters between venues. And, to make certain they enjoy their stay, local ale makers Malvern Hills Brewery have



of Eagles at Oliver's wine bar, Dogs of Santorini and Threshing Ground on the Pyramid Stage at the Mount Pleasant Hotel, Ancient Addicts and Shewwhiff at the Wyche Inn with Mudball and Tom Hingley at the Great Malvern Hotel. Tom Hingley successfully auditioned to become lead singer with the Inspiral Carpets beating one Noel Gallagher to the job. He will be performing an acoustic set in the cosy upstairs bar. Entry to all the festival venues will be free although the festival will be raising money for Acorns by selling prize draw tickets, Malvern Rocks wristbands and badges. There will also be collection boxes to drop your spare change in. On Saturday the festival continues with a family fun day at Malvern Cube, formerly the Youth Centre. The fun day will feature a showcase of fresh musical talent from the Worcester School of Rock and Performance. Meanwhile, in town, acoustic

cooked up a special festival brew specifically for Malvern Rocks which will be available in most of the pubs at a very reasonable price! Come Sunday, there will be more of the same; more family fun at the Cube, more acoustic acts in the afternoon and more bands in the evening. Highlights on Sunday include Tom Forbes, the young, looping, beat-boxing sensation, the unmissable Richard Clarke, the superlative Highway 5, the awesome Cohen Brothers and the breathtaking Babble. The festival will close some fifty four hours after it started with Oliver's Wine Bar being the last venue to close its doors. This being the first Malvern Rocks festival, the organisers are hoping for a good turnout at all venues with the expectation that the event will bring many extra visitors to Malvern, the town that is renowned for its musicians and its musical scene.

www.pink

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acorns
Care for the child,
support for the family
Registered charity no. 70059

malvern rocks

festival of music

SLAP
pull out
programme



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- WR14 1RN 01684 574777
- WR14 1SS 01684 576076
- WR14 1SS 01684 572216
- WR14 1ND 01684 568390
- WR14 3EQ 01684 578575
- WR14 3QT 01684 572350

August 3rd to 5th 2012

malvern rocks

Please visit malvernrocks.com for latest additions and programme

1 THE WYCHE INN

FRI
19:30pm Inca Hoots
20:45pm Reinforced
22:00pm Ancient Addicts
23:00pm Skewwhiff

SAT
19:00 Luscious Garden
20:05 Aesthetics
21:10 Absolute Ataxia
22:15 Black Russian

SLAP
MAGAZINE

2 MT PLEASANT HOTEL

FRI
19:30 Dogs Of Santorini
20:35 Threshing Ground
21:40 Freaky Trigger
22:55 Fabulous Bordellos

SAT
19:30 Stealth
20:35 Black Heart Angels
21:50 Troy
23:05 Spandex Bellend



3 OLIVER'S WINE BAR

FRI
19:30 The Dirty Harry Band
20:45 Becky Rose
22:00 Vault Of Eagles

SAT
20:30 Frenchdisko
21:30 Plane Crasher
22:00 East of the Sun
22:30 Flat Stanley

SUN
14:30 Richmond Express
16:00 Dr Stanley
18:30 Lawrence Taylor
19:15 Thousand Fingers
20:15 Keltik Fish
21:05 The Session
22:05 Freaky Trigger

Programme

8 GREAT MALVERN HOTEL

FRI
19:30 Answer Back
20:30 The Misers
21:15 Ronin
22:15 Mudball
23:00 Tom Hingley

SAT
19:00 Chuck Harriet Trio
19:30 Bravo Brave Bats
20:30 Fretless
21:15 Da Vinci
22:30 Breakfast at Charlie's
23:00 Enzo

SUN
17:30 Lounge Toad
18:30 Phil Whitehead
19:45 Hennesea
21:00 Cohen Brothers

9 MALVERN CUBE (YOUTH CENTRE) worcester school of

MAIN STAGE

SAT
13:00 WSRP Showcase
14:15 The Damage
15:00 Larkhall
16:00 Natalie PYT
16:30 Silver Kitsume
17:15 One Way

ACOUSTIC STAGE

14:00 Drum Love
14:45 Callum Weir
15:15 James Matthey
16:20 tbc
17:15 tbc

ART ROOM

14:00 Craft Activ
16:00 3 to 8's Dr
Shaker ma

SUN
13:00 WSRP Showcase
14:00 Zak Reynolds
14:15 James Matthey
15:15 The Miffs
16:15 The Brits
15:15 Answer Back

14:00 tbc
14:45 Marcus Rua
16:00 Tom Forbes
16:45 Becky Rose
17:15 Tom Forbes

14:15 3 to 8's Dr
Shaker ma
16:00 Craft Activ

12 THE BEAUCHAMP

SAT
19:30 Raptor
20:25 Breaking Steel
21:00 Steady Pedro
22:00 Against The Wheel

13 THE GLOSTER ARMS

SAT
19:30 Filtered By Design
20:35 Jenny Hallam
21:30 Matt Woosey
22:35 Vo & Tyler

14 THE MORGAN

SAT
12:15 Tres Primos
13:00 Vo & Tyler
13:55 Martin Thorne
14:50 Matt Woosey
15:45 Old Hollow

ROCKS

festival of music

In aid of
acorns
 Care for the child,
 support for the family
 Registered charity no. 700399

Event updates

4 THE UNICORN

SUN SAT FRI

21:00 Sally Haines
 22:00 Calm Like a Riot

14:00 Nancy Boys
 19:45 Old Hollow
 20:00 Rogue
 21:15 Clockwork Rifle
 22:00 Artstar

16:00 Nice & Sleazy
 19:30 Richard Clarke
 20:15 Stompin' on Spiders
 21:15 Ria
 22:30 Highway 5

5 THE RED LION

SUN SAT

20:00 Nothing Like A Whale
 21:00 The Pewke Band
 22:00 PhattiMango

19:00 Chuck Harriet Trio
 20:00 Stripped Down Blues
 21:00 Valeryan
 22:00 Babble

6 THE CROSS KEYS

SAT FRI

21:00 Blackmax & Pirates
 22:00 Dr Stanley

SAT 21:30 K'80s

7 CARNIVAL RECORDS

SAT

1400 John Harley
 15:00 Nancy Boys
 More acts to be confirmed
 for SAT and SUN

10 THE EXPRESS

SAT FRI

21:10 tbc
 21:30 Night Shift

20:30 Simon Le Blonde
 21:30 Back on Track

11 THE BAKERY

SAT

19:30 Kev Tudge
 20:00 Tim J Kirby
 21:00 Filtered By Design
 22:00 John Harley



Rock and performance

WORKSHOPS

14:00 WSRP Rockshop



14:00 Drum Workshop
 15:15 Vocal Workshop



15 THE GREEN DRAGON

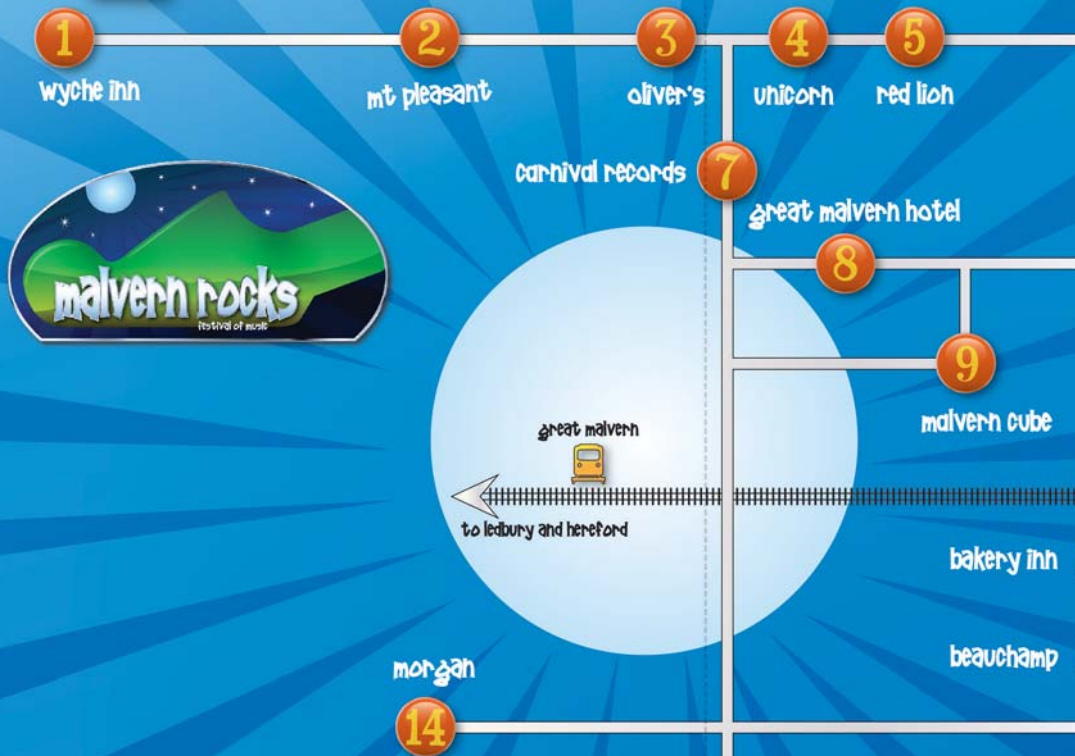
SAT

20:00 tbc
 21:00 Cloe & Barry Hunt
 22:00 The Brickshed



www.malvernrocks.com





- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Wyche Road, WR14 4EQ 01684 575396 2 Bellevue Terrace, WR14 4PZ 01684 561837 3 Bellevue Terrace, WR14 4PZ 01684 562272 4 Bellevue Terrace, WR14 4DZ 01684 574152 5 St Anns Rd, WR14 4RG 01684 564787 6 Belmont Rd Malvern WR14 1PN 01684 572945 7 Church Street, Malvern, WR14 1UJ 01684 899457 8 Graham Road, WR14 2HN 01684 563411 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Albert Road North 10 Quest Hills Road, 11 Worcester Road, 12 Worcester Road, 13 Merton Road, W 14 Clarence Road, W 15 Guarlford Road, W |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Saturday August 4th

"Whitney Houston"- A Tribute by Nya

Nya King, originally from Zimbabwe, but settled now in Redditch, has been singing on the U.K. Music Scene since 1998, performing with " Precious Wilson ", " Heatwave " " Odyssey " and many other well known names.

She was raised on a diverse musical diet of many of the world's greatest female vocal stars, but her biggest influence and inspiration from childhood was Whitney Houston.

In honour of the untimely death of the great diva, Nya, supported by a five piece band and two backing singers, has put together a tribute.



Autumn in "The Studio at Artrix"

Readers of SlapMag will know that we started programming shows for " The Studio at Artrix " last September and it has been a very successful venture.



So now we are hard at work on this autumn's programme. Broadly speaking, in every month we aim to have a Spoken Word or Theatrical Performance, an Acoustic or Small Group Folk/Blues/Roots Music Evening, a Comedian and a Film.

As part of our commitment to the community we are keen to continue to encourage local performers in the first two genres and people who would like to bring their show to Artrix should contact either Andy Woods, the Artrix Director, on artrixdir@ne-worcs.ac.uk or Nick Taylor, Artrix Publicity Officer, on nhtaylor44@gmail.com

Dance at 8

For more info, please call: 01386 556 665
or email us on: www.danceat8.com

'Dance at 8' has some Fun dance classes for people across Worcestershire & Gloucestershire wanting to get out and do something different.

Beginners dance classes include:

- Latin: Rumba, Samba
- Ballroom: Modern Waltz, Modern Tango
- Rock & Roll, Lindy Style Jive
- Argentine Milonga,

And also Workshops & Classes for Improvers for those who know the basics.

- Samba Variations
- Argentine 'Milonga' Variations

Latin: Modern Ballroom Tango for beginners 7pm -8pm.
Intermediate / Improvers Latin: Samba Variations class. 8pm til 9pm.

Christopher Whitehead High School, Worcester
Learn More at: www.danceat8.com/worcester
Starting Monday, September 3rd, 2012 ~ 6 weeks. £5.
Milonga Variations for those who know the basics.

7:30pm - 8:30pm

Latin Rumba for Beginners. 8:30pm - 9:30pm.
Gloucestershire dance classes with 'Dance at 8'
Bredon Village Hall

Learn More at: www.danceat8.com/tewkesbury
Starting Tuesday, August 21st, 2012 ~ 6 weeks

Samba Dance classes for Beginners. 7:30pm til 8:30pm.
Beginners Ballroom: Waltz. We do it 'Strictly Style'.
8:30pm til 9:30pm.

Grove Primary School, Malvern
Learn More at: www.danceat8.com/malvern
Starting Wednesday, August 15th 2012 ~ 6 weeks

Argentine Milonga for Beginners (The New Salsa!)
7:30pm til 8:30pm.

Beginners Jive (Lindy Style) 8:30pm til 9:30pm.
University of Worcester Riverside Complex, Worcester
Learn More at: www.danceat8.com/worcester
Starting Thursday September 6th, 2012 ~ 6 weeks

1950's Rock n Roll for Beginners. 7:30pm.
Wulstan Hall, Pershore

Learn More at: www.danceat8.com/pershore.html
Starting Friday, September 7th, 2012 ~ 6 weeks

FREDDY JUST

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KIDDERMINSTER TOWN HALL

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Thursday 16th August

DODGY

'Good Enough', 'Staying Out for the Summer'

LUKE CONCANNON

'No.1 Hit JCB Song with Nizlopi'

+ ANDY RICHARDS



Friday 17th August

ANIMALS & Friends

'House of the Rising Sun' - John Steel and Mickey Gallagher

+ BLUES BOY DAN



Saturday 18th August

GORDON GILTRAP

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+ KIM LOWINGS



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PREVIEW Kidderminster Town Hall

KIDDER' SET FOR SUMMER THREE NIGHTER!

Gordon Giltrap, Dodgy, Luke Concannon
and the House of the Rising Sun!

- August 16th, 17th & 18th

The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and the likes have all graced the stage at Kidderminster Town Hall. With a wealth of musical heritage, the ground is well ploughed for the latest acts due to appear this August, as part of Kidderminster Arts Festival.

Freddy Just presents on Thursday 16th August one of the most critically acclaimed bands formed in the 90's, DODGY, fresh from touring and the launch of their new album *'Stand Upright In A Cool Place'*, the band will recreate their anthemic hits, with the brilliance of where they are today. Supporting is a man whose song about a JCB touched our hearts and topped the charts. Luke Concannon, one half of Nizlopi, has written some of the most original and prolific material of his generation. Scratch beneath the JCB song and you will discover a

songwriter, credited with mentoring his friend, Ed Sheeran, and who recently supported Ed during his sell-out tour. Also supporting is Stourbridge artist Andy Richards, intense singer-songwriter with a future in waiting.

Friday 17th sees a band with a back catalogue recognised globally as including some of the most influential material to come out of the 60's. The Animals, forever synonymous with *'The House of the Rising Sun'* now present to you courtesy of original band members, John Steel & Mickey Gallagher 'Animals & Friends', with Peter Barton (Boomtown Rats, The Mindbenders). Supporting on Friday is a young man from Shrewsbury whose snowball is growing rapidly. Dan Owen, aka Blues Boy Dan has the audacity to shine the brilliance of a blues singer much, much older.

Freddy Just presents the final night on Saturday 18th August with an evening of acoustic royalty. Gordon Giltrap is world renowned, honoured by his contemporaries and has released 25 studio albums, plus numerous live compilations, most recently working with Rick Wakeman on the superb *'From Brush and Stone'*. This final evening will introduce you to Kim Lowings, supporting Gordon for the first time. Kim is a genuine folk princess, with songs and stories brought to life through her Dulcimer and her gentle humility.

Tickets for each evening are a very reasonable £11 in advance from www.wegotickets.com or from Kidderminster Box Office on 01562 732158



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The advertisement features a central image of a glass of beer with a white head. Surrounding the glass are several circular beer labels from Cannon Royall Brewery. The labels shown include: 'FRUITERER'S MILD UPHAMPTON ALES', 'BREWERY LTD UPHAMPTON ALES', 'ARROWHEAD BITER UPHAMPTON ALES', 'SLAP MAGAZINE Ale UPHAMPTON ALES', 'KING'S SHILLIN UPHAMPTON ALES', 'Teddy bear UPHAMPTON ALES', and 'ARROWHEAD EXTRA UPHAMPTON ALES'. Each label includes the brewery name and 'UPHAMPTON ALES'.

REVIEW Massive Head Trauma @ The Pig and Drum - 30th June

'Tickle tickle, jolly jolly' were the first words uttered by Rev Genghis Memphis (Gary Lewis) as he took to the stage fronting the band Massive Head Trauma with Philman on bass, Evil Dave on guitar and Ransom Dave on the drums. And so it began, the strangest show I've ever seen. To categorise this performance would seriously hinder ...my review, for this was a performance that encompassed everything all at once and then some. It was theatrical, dramatic, comedic, and satirical; it was political, sociological, and post-modern; it was insane and yet intelligent; it was awful and yet curiously brilliant.

Gary does not claim to be the world's best singer, and he is not, but the punkish delivery to the heavy metal soundtrack spun together with a strange neo-realism that the songs embodied and it didn't seem to matter. The songs were angry demanding revolution rather than cooperative social change. The songs were statements rather than questions, seemingly saying, 'I am right, this is the way the world is' and fair enough, I am a fan of black and white, a world without grey. The subjects



broached included the 2011 riots, the Vatican and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq ('this is not a song about peace, this is a song about war').

Each band member had their face painted, the Reverend's face was white with black lines painted vertically, this was, according to the Reverend, because he believed that all Reverends belonged behind bars, you see, even the make-up was a statement. I could not help but think, however, during the performance, that he looked like an angry Beetlejuice on acid. And the performance did not stop at a make up and a musical diatribe, there were also props; a Barbie doll nailed to a crucifix, a 'blood spattered' cricket bat and a club emblazoned with the words Massive Head TRAUMA, which he used to bonk the heads of the members of the audience.

All in all this was entertainment with substance, in your face, yes, but honest and forthright. It was not everybody's cup of tea but as the Rev said, to be into it you have to be out of it, and the audience were into it.

- Cakeman

@ velvet nightclub

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THE PIG & DRUM, LOWESMOOR WORCESTER

REVIEW 'Vaginellas' – The BHG (The Boars Head Gallery) Kidderminster

It came from a slip of the tongue at a 'Mouth and Music' event, distorting the poetic male ideal, yet surmounted the clichés such as an event promises and became something utterly enjoyable and, ultimately empowering.

With any event centred on poetry and the spoken word the evening, hosted by a quartet of established female poets, opened with complimentary material from other poets in attendance. A fittingly saucy and virgin performance from **Katy Wareham Morris** opened the show, popping her poetic cherry with a titillating metaphorical poem and concluding with a beat poem inspired by proto-feminist beat poets laced with sexual metaphor. **Jodie Lea Ford** followed with a saucy performance tangling food, sex and indulgence. Next up was **Amy Rainbow** who, using clever audience participation and the power of anticipation, hilariously dissected the stigma of the infamous 'C' word before offering a powerful and serious anecdotal poem regarding rape. The only man of the night, **Gary Longdon**—Amy Rainbow's poetic partner—bravely took the stage next with a rather long set mixing several themes. A commentary on celebrity culture, an amusing adaptation of a *John Cooper Clarke* engaging with the gaudiness of the British package holiday, a faux-tragic anecdotal tale of his visit to the pub-toilet condom machine, an Ode to *Rebecca Brookes*—a woman of power, a hilarious poem inspired by the column of a football manager and a poem about a woman's adulterous affair with poetry readings before introducing the Vaginellas quartet with finesse! Part two of the open mic section of the evening involved more material supporting the proto-feminist theme with **Myfanwy Fox** offering silly yet sexual poets engaging with age and sexuality. **Delphine Noir** followed with her own unique brand of dark, sensual and decidedly gothic pieces. **Sarah Tamar** concluded the open mic portion of the event with a complete change of pace. In her own hilarious, dry and at times ironic way, she ponders the relationship between the Queen and her Corgis and two cynical love poems regarding how dull relationships and sex can become. A conclusion came in the form of a poem dedicated to her Granddaughter, a powerful and moving piece which evoked a tear.

To describe the Vaginellas, who performed in two parts between the open mic sets, would be difficult from poem to poem as there would be too many to describe individually. So instead I bring you an essence of the Vaginellas! Consisting of **Jenny Hope**, **Jodie Lea Ford**, **Sarah Leavesley** and **Joanna Langton**, the Vaginellas are a series of poems, some funny, some serious and all centring around the somewhat taboo subject of feminine sexuality. There is mythology, metaphor and belly laughs galore, yet beneath the fun there is the serious undertone of oppression—of which exists to this day—and a rather

self conscious embarrassment that any frank discussion of the female sex seems to create. And to have it explored so publicly, sometimes bluntly, sometimes poetically and obscurely, but never deviating from the topic is something of an intense experience. Some border on the overly explicit, and there are times when the audience appear to writhe with discomfort, eventually becoming desensitised to the onslaught.



However, there is a purpose to this. The Vaginellas appear to be completely aware of the impact of this strange journey of tethered feminist commentary. Are we aware of the oppression women still suffer at the hands of the senseless embarrassment and outdated taboo? I certainly came away feeling ashamed of myself for being unwittingly ashamed of my sex. It is stark, ballsy and ultimately empowering and certainly worth holding on for the ride... but probably not suitable for children, however open-minded they happen to be! I was informed, whilst gathering my bearings at the end of the performance, that it was in fact a reading one of my villanelles, my preferred formal form, that led to the fabled 'slip of the tongue' that birthed the Vaginellas. I went away gushing with pride that I could be so serendipitously (and completely passively!) responsible for such a powerful and thought provoking evening. A tip of the cap to the Vaginellas, women unashamed, and rightly not.

by *Raven Brookes*



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

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Artwork by Alex Amici

Our own facebook page and the website has been frantically pushing all of these events. With one unmissable night in particular. Just a few short weeks ago when it was announced, this line-up gracing Hereford just didn't seem possible. However with a hardworking team surrounding the event, The Jailhouse was home to legendary icon The GZA of The Wu Tang Clan Fame. Wednesday 18th July - another miserable day being held down by the unpredictable weather seemed unimportant as the excitement prior to the evening possessed all attendees. A spectacular event, which pulled together the city who eagerly awaited the evening. Leading up to the night the positive praise proved this was going to be one hell of a night for Hereford. As crowds gathered to the venue, in one of the busiest evenings, buzzing with anticipation. The venue was bustling - awaiting for one of the greatest hip hop stars to take to the stage in one of the most rare and intimate performances. Alongside GZA a special guest, who was only announced earlier in the day, DJ PREMIER from Gang STARR accompanied the act. Being the first to take to the stage and battling his way through the energetic audience - DJ Premier quickly warmed up the room before introducing the icon to the stage. GZA's set spanned through his courageous back catalogue. Delivering both tracks from his own solo

In the last article we stated we were in for a quiet month - well we lied. July has been a fantastic month for local music and events in our hometown. In the past few weeks Hereford has provided more live events, more venues and showcased a wide array of talent. Exactly what our community needs.

Local venue **Mamma Jammias** - a new place to pick your copy of SLAP - has vowed to provide as much live music as possible. With weekly live nights bringing unsigned acts from afar and uniting local talent to their hometown scene. As the nights are weekly we insist you to keep on top of what they are offering by regularly checking their facebook page simply search Mamma Jammias Hereford.



repertoire and that of the Wu. The crowd participation was second to none as everybody chanted, jumped and held their fists high, all in awe of this figure. The entire night was a phenomenal achievement for the venue and the town especially when GZA declared he would return. "The Jailhouse, what can I say?" said GZA ending his set. "Believe the hype! I would love to come back again."! - A full photography feature and live film of the evening can now be found on the website to relive the momentous occasion.

Following Wednesdays' extraordinary event a few days later Hereford was home to **Crush Music + Tug of War**. Curated by the Crush project in collaboration with West Mercia Woman's Aid - This day was a brilliant free event which again featured some local musicians. The event had a range of activities for the community from Tug of War, to tractor rides, dancing and face painting to name a few. The afternoon focused on the live music as The CRUSH Project hosted CRUSH Music. Artists including

Red Room Therapy and Jake Gamble (who have both featured on BBC Introducing in Wales, Hereford & Worcester and on Radio 1), Paper Dreams and George

Barnett (who has enjoyed airplay on BBC 6 Music and Radio 1) among all of this- DJs from The Jailhouse were also present. George Barnett kicked off the live music proceedings with an upbeat set and set the bar high for the acts following.

With band after band making their mark into the late afternoon/evening, it was young solo artist Jake Gamble which really captivated our attention. The acoustic act held the penultimate spot in the line up- and despite being mellower than previous acts certainly still held his own. Jake Gamble is an act we urge you to watch now. Charismatic, charming and talented- he's about to go far. Following Jake and closing the evening was Wales/Hereford based 4 piece rock outfit Red Room Therapy. These four closed the night on a high; with hard hitting, impressive compositions. Delving through a range of covers and tracks of their own, these four boys kept the crowd entertained, moving and impressed. A great live act! The entire day was a fantastic success and can be found in more detail on our website alongside event photography. It was lovely to see so many Herefordians uniting to support a cause and enjoying themselves at the same time.

In other local news here at Circuit Sweet we'd like to congratulate Billy Kibble of Ross-On-Wye based band The Phaze. Billy, the guitarist for the four piece act, and at a tender age of just 12 - is certainly impressing musicians twice the age for the talent he conveys. Billy has just been endorsed by Beryl Guitars.

We've had a very productive month on the website- following on from featuring our live interview with Sargent House's Tera Melos - the response was so overwhelming it crashed our site! - The film streaming online received hundreds of views within minutes and we were inundated with fantastic comments regarding the film. Since then we've had a wave of new artists interested in the site. We've featured several new acts, featured written articles and interviews with international bands and featured plenty of upcoming events in the area. We welcomed our now resident

artist Alex Amici - Alex now has her own tab on the site where all of her fantastic artwork for us can be found. Alex won a competition we held last year searching for an artist to create us a poster for our 'Live Nights'. We had dozens of emails with people local and afar with their contributions, but it was Alex, who resides in Philadelphia, whose work won our heart. We are now delighted to have her join Circuit Sweet - since the amalgamation she's done a few more pieces of work which again you can find on our site.

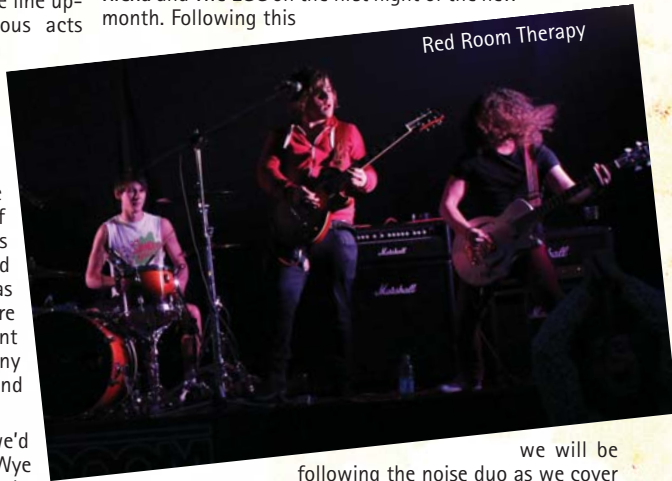
Over the last month we've also been booking several dates with local bands for photo-shoots. We offer kick starter services such as budget photo-shoots, artist development, music videos and video shoots. These services are on your doorstep. If you want a band photo-shoot either live or on location, for budget gig photography and music shoots please don't hesitate to get hold of us before we are fully booked.

As for August plans, when we aren't busy at KJM Studios, we will be back at The Jailhouse with our own Aulos headlining their first hometown show in over a year. Returning to Hereford for one night accompanied with Richa and The LGC on the first night of the new month. Following this



George Barnett

Photography: Joe Singh



Red Room Therapy

we will be following the noise duo as we cover their gig in Bristol with instrumental band You Slut! - Then it's back to Worcester to celebrate talent, hard work and all things local at Worcester Music Festival. As we will be at the event too - expect September's article to cover the success of WMF!

Finally we are calling out to you. We want you to be involved with us. If you have a label or a band with multiple flyers/posters/business cards and you would like us to give you free promotion and distribution then please get in touch. We would like to hand out your information within our shop orders and at events. If you would like to know more then email naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk or visit us at www.circuitsweet.co.uk or find us on facebook or twitter @circuitsweet.

Words: Naomi Preece - Images: Oli Montez.

A woman with dark hair is smiling and looking to her right in a nightclub setting. She is surrounded by other people, some of whom are partially visible in the background. The lighting is dim and colorful, typical of a club.

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NIGHT FULL
OF PROMISE...**

A woman is lying face down on a dark floor, appearing to be unconscious or passed out. She is wearing a patterned dress. The lighting is dim and colorful, consistent with the nightclub setting above.

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REVIEW Ledbury Poetry Festival, 6th July

Ledbury Choral Society at the Ledbury Community Centre The Bluebird – Poetry set to music

As Torrents in Summer was a piece whose title struck a chord with the audience at this year's Ledbury Poetry Festival.

They had come through torrential rain to attend a concert of poetry set to music, performed by Ledbury Choral Society. It was one of two pieces set to music by Elgar, the other one, Cloud, having just as suitable a title.

The concert began with Henry VIIIth's Pastime with good Company. Henry Tudor, a Renaissance king who combined martial prowess with artistic talent. He also had more success when wooing the ladies than John Dowland, whose Come

Again tells of a poet who is getting nowhere pestering an unenthusiastic damsel. Shakespeare's words cheerfully celebrating the nonsense of love and Morley's musical setting lightened the mood briefly before reflections on mortality returned with Campian's Never Weather Beaten Sail and Paxton's Breathe Soft ye Winds. Stanford's musical contribution started with an Irish tune for My Love's an Arbutus and continued with his beautiful setting of Mary Coleridge's The Bluebird, in which the soloist floats on high pure notes while the choir portrays the gorgeous stillness of the lake beneath and sky above.

The concert finished with conductor Malcolm Macleod's arrangement of The Lass of Richmond Hill - a jaunty piece that had the sections of the choir intertwining musically with obvious delight, and the audience smiling too.

by Caroline Ferguson

FEATURE

Blackwell Concert Band

Blackwell Concert Band are enjoying another successful year, performing at bandstands, local fetes and festivals across the West Midlands. August sees the band performing as part of the ever popular Bands in the Park series in Worcestershire, playing in Gheluvelt Park in Worcester on Sunday 5th August and Lido Park in Droitwich on 26th August.

The band was formed in 1998 and is open to all players of both wind and brass instruments who are keen and eager to learn. In recent years, under the keen eye of musical director Tom Martin, the village band has continued to swell in numbers at their rehearsal venue in Catshill Methodist church hall.

They play a very wide range of music, catering for as many musical tastes as possible, ensuring there will be something of interest for everyone who plays in the band and those that are listening!

Favourite pieces have recently been recorded on a CD entitled 'Take One' which is on sale at all live events.

Always keen to find new friends and musicians more information can be found at:

www.blackwellconcertband.co.uk

Alternatively contact Kevin Pearson:- 07776170827

or email: kevin@kpearson2.wanadoo.co.uk

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All For One



Worcester Cathedral's cloisters were once again transformed into an art gallery this year. Children of various ages from schools all over Worcestershire displayed artwork throughout the month of June for public viewing. The work was an amazing standard and included sculptures, mosaics, paintings and textiles by youngsters who will surely become great and famous artists in the future! Featured here is just a small selection of the delights on offer at this year's show.



Life Drawing Sessions at The Boars Head Gallery

At The BHG we offer a unique Life Drawing Experience. The sessions are open to adults of all age and ability. We pride our sessions on being informal and untutored where participants are welcome to enjoy a pint and listen to music whilst drawing together and offering critiques to one another.

We have regular models that pose for our class.

Although limited materials are available, we recommend you bring your own. The gallery does not charge for this class, but we ask that participants offer a minimum £3 donation to our model.

Thursday 2nd August

Thursday 6th September

Thursday 4th October

Thursday 1st November



The Boars Head Gallery
39 Worcester Street
Kidderminster
DY10 1EW
Tel: 01562 861870

THE BHG
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THE KAOS FROM ORDER
SHOW/EXHIBITION

Graffiti Art from the 23 year old crew

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The Boars Head Gallery,
39 Worcester Street, Kidderminster, DY10 1EW, 01562 861870

Private Viewing invite only 3rd August
Opening Party Friday 10th August
Music supplied & hosted by Sub Kim Allstars.

BHG

PREVIEW Pump House, Gheluvelt Park - Saturday 18th August

Three great bands are set to grace a specially built stage in front of the Pump House Environment Centre on the afternoon of Saturday, August the 18th at this year's Flower Show, a week before the town explodes with WMF festivities.



Remi Harris Trio by Joe Singh

Proceedings are kick-started with the incredible, invigorating and dizzy gypsy jazz guitars of the Remi Harris Trio, who will no doubt truly wake up all early-bird guests between

midday and 12.45pm. Later at 1.45pm, Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos take to the stage with their barn-storming, moonshine-fuelled gypsy punk and balkan ska sounds

John-Joe from Sexy Weirdos



by Tish Jarrett

which is bound to get heads bobbing and feet stomping until 2.30pm. Bringing the afternoon to a sweet, harmonious close is Richard Clarke and the Rafterers from 4.45pm to 5.30pm, whose beguiling and deeply lovable songcraft has been freshly laid down on their recent album, and which tells affectionate tales of life and love in the Faithful city. The local acts form part of a free



Rich Clarke and the Rafterers by Mark Hoy

programme of entertainment organised and delivered by the Friends of Gheluvelt Park between 12pm midday and 5.30pm, which also includes Zumba and

Line dancing alongside many other attractions and activities throughout the park.

The whole event is free and family-friendly so bring picnics as well as your dancing shoes and whatever the weather, it promises to be an exciting day in one of Worcester's most special of spaces.

- Ed Steelfox

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CD REVIEW East Of The Sun

Runaway - Single Review

Hit PLAY on East Of The Sun's new single "Runaway" and you're instantly transported back to the Golden Era of Classic Rock!



This choon blasts out like a mistakenly left-out track from Led Zep's Presence, such is the explosive playing on display here.

Drummer Jamie May does his best Bonham whereas singer Russ comes on like Bad Company era Paul Rodgers.

Add to this the excellent interplay of guitarist Matt Willis and bassman Alec Bond and you have one powerful motherlovin', rockin' outfit.

However "Runaway" is no mere facsimile of past rock glories, there is a definite contemporary vibe to this number and the modern world and all of it's ills are commented on with conviction.

This four-piece are all great individual players but their true strength lies in their cohesion as a whole.

On the evidence of this single EOTS are a band of quality with energy and panache a-plenty.

Talking to folk who have seen them live they're an exciting proposition and well worth a view or two.

Unfortunately by the time SlapMag hits the newsstands EOTC will have played their undoubtedly successful Single Promo Event at Rise Records in Worcester on 29th July, but you catch them at Malvern Rocks, B-Fest, Worcester Beer Festival and Worcester Music Festival.

Runaway is available now as a download from Indaba.com (via EOTS website) and in physical form as a CD Single at Rise Records and upcoming gigs.

Words: Neville Thumbcatch
Photography by: Katie Foulkes



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Wednesday 1 August 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Rich Goble
The Mason's Arms, Castle Hill, Wichenford

Signal 6, Reinforced
Mamma Jamma's, Hereford

Aulos, Richa, The Luscious Garden
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Accoustic Brew UK
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Mojohand
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Nick Toon DJ
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Thursday 2 August 2012

Steve Gibbons Band
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

River City Portrait
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Mudball, Electric Remedy
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

The Night Shift, Open Mic Night!
The Crown Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Friday 3 August 2012

Malvern Rocks, *see pull out guide for details*

The Delray Rockets
The Bluebell, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Babajack,
Millers Arms, Pershore

Exiles
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Task In Hand Presents - Age, Mansize,
The Broken Oak Door duet, Tokamak
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Boogie Street
Drummonds, Worcester

Notorious Brothers
Queens Head, Wolverly

Buster Shuffle
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Hawker
The Railway, Evesham

Tom Hingley, Ronin, Misers, Ancient Addicts, DoS
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Sam Eden
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Risky Bizness
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich



Saturday 4 August 2012

Malvern Rocks, *see pull out guide for details*

The Delray Rockets
The Kings Head, Brierley Hill

Nya King "Tribute to Whitney Houston"
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Grumpy Old Guitarists
Queens Head, Wolverly

The Quik
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Hancox + DJ Ed Steelefox
Keystones, Worcester

Karpet Kickers, Fearfullfingers,
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Quik
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions
The Anchor, Fladbury

3 Blind Mice
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Burlesque Night
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Live Wyre
Callow End Club, Worcester

Matt Bate
The Railway, Evesham

Stripped down blues and jazz
Holybush, Stourport

Sunday 5 August 2012

Malvern Rocks, *see pull out guide for details*

The Delray Rockets
The City Tavern, Birmingham

Jazzenco
Queens Head, Wolverly

Lounge Toad, Phil Whitehead, Hennessee, Cohen Brothers
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Steve Banner DJ and friends
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Monday 6 August 2012

Open Mic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Tap Jam Open Mic
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 7 August 2012

Drumming
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverly

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night
Millers Arms, Pershore

Wednesday 8 August 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

KAF Meeting
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Soultown
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Thursday 9 August 2012

Ben Smith
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Firebrand
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Whipjacks, tbc
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Friday 10 August 2012

Subcon
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverly

Planet Rock
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

KFO Launch
Boars Head, Kidderminster

In2Stella Overdrive
The Railway, Evesham

Punk'd
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Underdogs
Drummonds, Worcester

Gordon Wood and Phil Bird
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Observers
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Matt Woosy
Millers Arms, Pershore



Saturday 11 August 2012

Richard Clarke
Holybush, Stourport

Trevor Burton
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Loaded Music Festival - See page 6 for details
The Royal Exchange, Kidderminster

Mother Popcorn + DJ Ed Steelefox
Keystones, Worcester

Will Killeen
Calow End Club Worcester

Disorder Et Trap Door
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Slowburner
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Naked Remedy
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Black Max Et The Pirates
The Railway, Evesham

Tom Hingley (ex inspiral carpets), Skynt, Hoden Lane,
This Wicked Tongue, East of the sun, The Misers,
The kickstones, Answer back
B-fest, The Bridge Inn, Tenbury Wells

Tom Forbes
Unicorn, Malvern

The Wrens
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Sunday 12 August 2012

Jazz Sunday
Queens Head, Wolverly

Monday 13 August 2012

Open Mic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Tap Jam Open Mic
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Open mic with Dave Onions,
Cock Et Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 14 August 2012

Mouth Et Music,
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverly

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 15 August 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chicago Bytes
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Steves Jukebox
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Thursday 16 August 2012

Dodgy + Luke Concannon
Kidderminster Town Hall

The Bushbury Mountain Devils
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Dan Greenaway
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Dodgy + Luke Concannon
Kidderminster Town Hall

Kick Off
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Mary Hinge Experience
The Star, Upton Upon Severn

The Trevor Burton Band
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Mike Mann Et Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

East of The Sun, Host, Andre Et The J-Tones
Worcester Beerfest, Worcester Racecourse

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Friday 17 August 2012

Babajack
Old Cock Inn Droitwich

The Carnage Club
katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Dale Von Minaker Band,
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Ex-Presidents
The Anchor, Tewkesbury

Ron Jeremy
Drummonds, Worcester

Bluestack
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Fustercluck
The Railway, Evesham

The Mary Hinge Experience
The Talbot, Pershore

Sax 'n' Axe
Millers Arms, Pershore

Freewater
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Rich Goble
The Old Bushh Inn, Callow End, Worcester

Stealth
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Animals Et Friends
Kidderminster Town Hall

Doctors Orders
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Saturday 18 August 2012

Babajack
Alma Inn, Linton, Ross-On-Wye

Gordon Giltrap
Kidderminster Town Hall

Sugar Mama
Keystones, Worcester

The Rock Hobbits
Callow End Club, Worcester

Case Closed
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Barflys
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Above Boards-Market
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mods Et Sods
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Crooked Empire
The Railway, Evesham

Bluestack
Oak apple, Spetchley Road, Worcester

The Mary Hinge Experience
The Queens Arms, Bromyard
Aquarius
The Talbot, Barbourne Road, Worcester

Dave Onions
Millers Arms, Pershore

Flatworld
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Richard Clarke & The Rafters, Johnny Koalski &
The Sexy Weirdos, Remi Harris Trio
Pump House, Gheluvelt Park, Worcester

Straight Aces
Unicorn, Malvern

Sunday 19 August

Show Your Teeth, Charon, Forever Grace, Artemis, Seall
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jazz Sunday
Queens Head, Wolverly

Loz Rathbone
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Monday 20 August 2012

Open Mic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Film Addicts
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Tap Jam Open Mic
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 21 August 2012

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverly

Wednesday 22 August 2012

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Spiritual Dev
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Smile Et Burn, This is Our Youth, The Fear
The Firefly, Worcester

A little bit of Bubl e
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Aquarius
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Horizon Lights
Tudor House, Worcester

Thursday 23 August 2012

Drum Et Bass
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Mary Hinge Experience
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Time Enough
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Mike Mann Et Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Mary Hinge Experience, tbc
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Friday 24 August 2012

Worcester Music Festival
See festival guide or website for details

The Delray Rockets
The Kings Head, Upton

Northern Soul Night
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Dark Eyes
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Cracker Et The Woodpeckers
Queens Head, Wolverly

Certain Horizon
The Railway, Evesham

The Commandments
Drummonds, Worcester

Aquarius
Plough Et Harrow, Catshil

Barflys
Millers Arms, Pershore

Feird Wish, Heels, Ronin, Call Atlantis, Stillpoint,
Dressing for Pleasure, Rising Struggle
02 Academy 2, Birmingham

Saturday 25 August 2012

Worcester Music Festival
See festival guide or website for details

The Allstars Dub Band
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Crush Band
Callow End Club, Worcester

The Smegatrons
Unicorn, Malvern

The Cunts + Support
The Railway, Evesham

Meat Loaf Et A Legend To Rock
The Railway, Evesham

Aquarius
The Austin Club, Tessall Lane, Longbridge

The Matchless
The Bell, Worcester

The Capital
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Skewwhiff, Doctor Stanleys, Dogs of Santonrini
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Sunday 26 August 2012

Worcester Music Festival
See festival guide or website for detail

Umphff
The Plough, Pershore

Andy Thomas (acoustic)
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Wooden Horse
The Barrels, Hereford

The Delray Rockets
The Cross Keys, Alcester

Babkack
Lichfield Vaults, Hereford

CoverJunkies
The Bell, Broadheath

Remy Harris Trio
Queens Head, Wolverly

Hullaballo, tbc, freaky trigger
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Monday 27 August 2012

Worcester Music Festival
See festival guide or website for details

Open Mic with Gwyn Ashton
Boars Head, Kidderminster
'Jamaica Day' - Gabbidon Band and others
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Tap Jam Open Mic
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Dave Onions
Cock Et Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 28 August 2012

The Gastric Band
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Turandot
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverly

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 29 August 2012

Spiritual Dev
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Daniel Seth
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Thursday 30 August 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Bonnie Lou
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Naked Remedy
The Talbot, Bewdley

Ronin, DRAG, 11:11
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Mike Mann Et Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Reflections
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Aquarius
The Royal Oak, Kinnersley, Severn Stoke

Friday 31 August 2012

The Delray Rockets
The New Inn, Bourneheath, Bromsgrove

Miss Hilton Presents - 3rd Marris Bar Burlesque Night
Marris Bar, Worcester

Bordello's
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Midnight City
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Exiles
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Ex-Presidents
Millers Arms, Pershore

Hancoxx
Queens Head, Wolverly

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AUG 2012

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Sun 26th August



Wednesday 1st
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Free Entry

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Duet, Tokamak
£3 ticket £5 on the door

Wednesday 8th
Marzy's Jamming Night
Free Entry

Wednesday 15th
Marzy's Jamming Night
Free Entry

Sunday 19th
Show Your Teeth, Charon, Forever
Grace, Artemis, Seall
£7 ticket £5 on the door

Wednesday 22nd
Marzy's Jamming Night
Free Entry

Friday 24th
Worcester Music Festival
Fury, Fortress, Adamantium,
Age Of Anarchy
Free Entry

Saturday 25th
Worcester Music Festival
Jasper In The Company Of Others,
The Whipjacks, Inca Hoots,
Richard Clarke & The Rafterers
Free Entry

Sunday 26th
Worcester Music Festival
12.30 - WSRP Showcase
8.30 - Jon Gomm, Jon Sterckx
Free Entry

Wednesday 29th
Marzy's Jamming Night
Free Entry

Friday 31st
Miss Hilton Presents
3rd Marrs Bar Burlesque Night
£10 on the door

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