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Issue 22

Dec/Jan

MAGAZINE

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Hello Slap readers, thanks once again for picking
up your free cop of Slap Magazine. We have
officially and proudly reached our 2nd Anniversary.

As its our last Slap until February 2013 we would
like to take the opportunity of thanking everyone
who is or has been involved in Slap - the writers,
photographers, performers, artists, venues,
advertisers, stockists and distributors over the last
two years. We couldn't do this without you!

There is one more Slap event left to look forward
to before we sit back and take our winter break -
Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdo's and Captain
Hotknives on December 22nd at Worcester Arts
Workshop. Tickets are selling fast so don't delay if
you don't want to miss out on this mouth watering
double bill. If the quality is as high as our last event
with Cantaloop and Jasper in the Company of
Others, this could just prove to be 'the event' of the
year.

We look forward to next year, that's if the world
doesn't end of course, and hope you'll keep
supporting us. We don't always get it right but we
do value your comments and ideas so please get
involved where possible.

That just leaves us to say Happy Winter Solstice to
one and all, have a great Christmas and New Year
and we'll no doubt see you at a party, gig or
exhibition somewhere over the festive period.

- Slap Eds



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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



SLAP SNIPPETS DEC 2012

Plans are being drawn up for a £10 Million 'Arts and Cultural Centre' based on the old Royal Worcester Porcelain buildings behind Severn Street. Colin Kinnear of the Bransford Trust - who've been a major supporter of Worcester Music Festival - said that the aim was to create a major new hub for the arts which would complement the city's existing facilities such as the Swan Theatre.

Piling up the prizes



Two of our local folk and blues acts continue to pile up the prizes - Ledbury's **Roving Crows** have added the Exposure Music best folk act to the two gongs they

collected at the Irish Music Awards earlier this year - while Babajack will be representing the UK at the 3rd European Blues Challenge next March in Toulouse after picking up the best band and best instrumentalist titles at this year's British Blues Awards.

Paul takes the plaudits

West Malvern composer Paul Farrer says that 'he is embarrassed to be mentioned in the same sentence as Sir Edward Elgar' after being asked to compose the music for this year's Royal Variety Performance. But while Paul himself might not be quite as famous - he's probably had just as many listens as he came up with the music for *Dancing On Ice*, *Gladiators* and *The Weakest Link*...



Upton Blues up for awards

Upton Blues Festival has been shortlisted in the UK Festival Awards for going ahead despite flooded stages and campsites during the wettest summer for 100 years - attracting over 5000 visitors during July to see 100+ gigs from all over the country. Full story on page 13.

REVIEW Keith Thompson Blues Band Marrs Bar - Friday 9th Nov

It was a small but wiry crowd at The Marrs Bar. Keith Thompson stratocasted (is there such a verb?) straight in with an assured raunch, no preamble. Chattering ceased, heads nodded, shoulders started to move and the old blues medicine kicked in, appropriate for this tight professional outfit. This was the "Power Trio" - they often feature Patsy Gamble on sax.

Next up "*Preachin' the Blues*", a signature number, an award winner, up-tempo blues-rock with a minor feel, not to be confused with Robert Johnson's version, or Son House's or indeed that of Bessie Smith, which bizarrely are all completely different songs. Title up for grabs, but they talk of a spiritual element in blues, gospel roots an' all, so why not!

It's a powerhouse style, not blasted against the wall stuff, subtle and foot tapping - the crowd were enjoying it also the band, which does liven up a gig. Guitar style is compared to Bonanmassa, Trout, Gallagher, Larry Miller and more so I brought in consultant Stuart Silcock who added Fleetwood Mac and Larry Carlin! Anyway you get the gist. Vocals - you could say Larry Coltman of the Hoax, gutsy with the right emotional mix

Drummer Roy Adams looked delighted at the job with a creative touch, full of surprises on, it was remarked, a striking scarlet kit. He and bassist Neil Simpson are both veterans of the Climax Blues Band. It's a quality outfit.



They're a travelling band. Keith spoke of a festival in Clarksdale. Taking white blues to Mississippi? Tough call but they pulled it off. They are popular in Eastern Europe, particularly Croatia where apparently they can't get their mouths around the "eeth" in Keith - so he had to settle for being Kate on that tour.

They began to wind up with Hendrix's *Little Wing*, followed

by a lick medley of *Layla*, *Purple Haze* and a bit of Sabbath. People had been rocking in their stools up till then, but a pair of Leopard-skin tights hit the floor and the joint began jumping to a conclusion with a flying version of Freddie King's *Tore down*.

Marrzy does get some blues-rock treats in off the circuit. Shame there weren't many there to appreciate it but do not despair; Keith Thompson is back March 15th supported by, I'm sure they won't mind me saying, local blues outfit **Black Cat Bone**!

by Barrie Scott

SLAP

PROMOTIONS

Live at
Worcester Arts
Workshop

PRESENTS

Johnny Kowalski
and the
Sexy Weirdos



CAPTAIN
HOTKNIVES

and
Ed Steelfox

Saturday 22nd December 2012

Tickets £6

8.00pm - Late

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Oh my God Xmas really???? Well then, there is no excuse, time you all got out for some festive fun down to Worcester's very own original and alternative arts venue, come help keep us alive!!

We have so much stuff on offer from theatre, live music, visual arts, courses, and film as well as studio and room space to hire plus opportunities to explore and develop your own creative side. We really need your support if we are going to continue to grow into 2013, otherwise the community may lose us forever! Let's not let that happen!



It's time to escape the Victorian Fayre so December 1st has the last Sat kids club of the year with Xmas fun and games. Then on the 2nd we have StrangeFace theatre company with their production of 'Pinocchio' with full masks and puppetry, this has been described as 'more Roald Dahl than Disney!' I'm really looking

forward to this show; it looks amazing...For all ages 5+ £8 adult/£6 child. 3pm.

Looking for an unusual and unique Xmas gift, come see the new exhibitions for inspiration! In the cellar we have a fabulously eclectic mix from all our wonderfully creative volunteers, from textiles to abstract canvasses... then in the Cafe we are very excited to showcase a collection of work from Worcester born Leigh Charman, whose street style nature imagery never fails to impress. (See page 9). Leigh's beautiful bird studies leave an impression on us all with their unique majesty. Both shows run from 5th



Saturday 8th Dec sees our fundraising event, the Xmas Bazaar with stalls selling all sorts of stuff including gifts, cakes, crafts and art, live music, mulled cider, face painting and maybe even Santa! We want your kids to make their



own decorations for our tree which will be lit up at 4.30pm! With a 'santa and snowflake' theme, either make at home and bring on the day or make here. We will be auctioning off all the fabulous postcards from our recent exhibition so if you fancy some unusual arty Xmas gifts at reasonable prices then come get yourselves along. 1pm til 7pm. FREE.

Splendid Cinema on the 9th is showing a dark film, Silent Night, Bloody Night: The Home-coming. A man's inheritance is not what it seems! The director will be in attendance for this showing! 7pm. £5.

Cake cake cake, come and join in on our 'Cupcake decorating workshop' on Sat 15th. It's £25 and runs from 10am to 12pm.

Then the Xmas party we have all been waiting for! Slap magazine join forces with the Arts Workshop again for another special shindig, presenting a truly awesome evening. Starting with a



performance by Retinal Circus in Cafe Bliss at 8pm, we then go downstairs for a hilarious acoustic spectacle from Captain Hotknives, followed by feet stomping Balkan sounds from the utterly vibrant 'Johnny Kowalski and The Sexy Weirdo's'. We also have our very own Ed Steelefox



Captain Hotknives

We are quietening down for January with a little refurbishment on the gallery in the cellar and mending and fixing. We will be taking private bookings as usual and begin a new term of courses for you all to learn and inspire! Come take a look at what we have on offer!

www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk



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Joe Singh

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16th - *Inn Verse* - Poets TBC
14th & 28th - **Folk Session**

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ARTS FEATURE Leigh Charman



Worcester born Leigh Charman has been painting for 20 years using a progressive technique blending spray paint and acrylics. Many may know Leigh's work from graffiti days of old, some from his more recent and beautifully unique studies of birds. Either way, Leigh's work is appealing and accessible; elements of urban style seep from his elegant canvas work to provide imagery that we can all observe with affection.



Over the years Leigh has married his love for street art with his interest in nature to create exhibitions from Scotland to Cornwall. In 2002 Leigh opened the 3012 store in Brighton selling his wares alongside fellow artists including Matt Sewell, D face, The London Police and Galo.



Today Leigh is the proud owner of The Lilac Gallery on the Overbury Estate in the Cotswolds where, supported by his website he sells original work and prints.

Leigh will be painting live at the Worcester Arts Workshop Xmas Bazaar on the 8th Dec between 1pm and 7pm where you can come and buy some of his work as well as checking out this inspiring exhibition which runs from 5th Dec until the New Year.

LILAC GALLERY MAIN ST, CONDERTON, GL20 7PP
www.lilacgallery.co.uk

REVIEW Rockit Fuel @ Keystones, October 24th 2012

It had been a while since I last saw Rockit Fuel so I was keen to see if they had continued to develop and improve. Each time I'd seen them, since their first appearance nearly a year ago, they consistently got better and better - as it turned out this gig was no different.

Before Rockit Fuel came on stage we had a set from Welsh rockers *Hangfire*, winners of the TBFM Factor 2012 run by TBFM Online Radio. I'd seen these only once before in Evesham where they were very good but on the bigger stage in a bigger venue they were far better with a much richer sound. A total of twelve tracks taken from their 2012 album, *Shoot the Crow*, and their 2010 EP, *Confessions*, made up a very entertaining and raucous playlist.



Time to burn some Rockit Fuel, and they set off straight into 'Have mercy on me' which I take as a benchmark for the rest of the set. I've heard this at every Rockit Fuel gig I've been to so this gives me a good idea of how the band are sounding - and on the night they were sounding fabulous, better than I'd heard them before. So did they carry on and give a better performance than the last time I saw them? Yes they did! The music was tighter and the vocals had more punch and aggression.



The main part of the set consisted of ten original songs, written by front man Lance Perkins, interspersed with well executed covers of 'Communication Breakdown' and 'Sunshine of your Love'; the set was rounded off with the bands' anthem, 'Rockit Fuel'. A cracking hour or so of solid, original and very well executed rock.



Time for just one more song then. The band were joined on stage by well known local guitarist Nick Singleton, making his first live appearance on stage for around 17 years. In the 1990's Nick was a well known face on the music circuit with bands such as the Firebyrds, Crywolf and Tattooed Love Boys, the last of which also had Chris Danby in its line-up. So this was something of a reunion for Nick and Chris. The final song was a cover, 'Crossroads', which rocked as it should do and left everyone well satisfied with the evening's proceedings. A smashing performance from the Fuellers and a welcome return of Nick Singleton, of whom I'm hoping to see more once he gets back on the road, made for a great night out in Worcester.

Words & Pics: Reg Richardson



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PREVIEW Comedy Zone Marrs Barr 6th Dec

What a great show last month! **Clever Peter** were my highlight and judging by the applause, yours too.

I am delighted and privileged to announce our next show. A man selling out 3000 seater venues in London and a personal friend of Ricky Gervais and Professor Brian Cox:

On Thursday 6th December **Robin Ince** brings his latest show – *Happiness Through Science to The Comedy Zone* at The Marrs Bar.

Robin Ince, best known for presenting the BBC radio show *The Infinite Monkey Cage* with physicist **Brian Cox** continues his comic exploration of the human condition, and asks can you be happy and rational at the same time.

Multi-talented stand up comedian, actor and writer, Robin began his stand up career in 1990, when he first appeared as part of the Edinburgh Fringe show '*Rubbernecker*', alongside Stephen Merchant, Jimmy Carr and Ricky Gervais in 2001.



As a close friend of Ricky Gervais, he opened as a support act for his *Politics* tour in 2004 and his *Fame* tour in 2007. He also appears on the DVD and often appears in Ricky's video podcasts, mainly being bullied, annoyed and attacked by Gervais.

In 2006 he won the *Time Out Award for Outstanding Achievement in Comedy*. In 2010, he published a book entitled Robin Ince's *Bad Book Club* about his favourite books that he has used for his shows.

Robin Ince started his career as a comedy writer, working on *The 11 O'Clock Show*, for which he also performed as an impressionist. He also appeared in *The Office* as failed interviewee Stuart Foot.

Ince and the physicist Brian Cox present the science series *The Infinite Monkey Cage* on BBC Radio 4. The programme won a Gold Award in the Best Speech Programme category at the 2011 Sony Radio Awards. He is also a regular contributor on Steve Lamacq's BBC Radio 6 Music show.

Join Robin in a world of Schrodinger cats, multiverses and evolutionary conundrums. Spend an entertaining evening in Robin's company as he orients through the craggy landscape of evolution whilst plumbing the depths of his own murky consciousness, all without the aid of a safety net.

Tickets are available from Marrs Bar, Music City and www.ticketweb.co.uk for £10 in advance.

Adam Montgomery

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The advertisement features a large, detailed image of a microphone on the right side. The background is dark with some bokeh light effects.

Upton Blues Festival Shortlisted in the UK Festival Awards 2012

The Organising Committee of the Upton Blues Festival has been shortlisted in the Best Promoters Category of the UK Festival Awards 2012 following their remarkable performance to put on the 2012 festival in the face of flooded stages and campsites with only five days to go.

Upton Blues Festival – www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk – is a remarkable festival which takes over the lovely Worcestershire riverside town of Upton upon Severn with over 1000 people camping 5000 visitors, 100 gigs, three main stages and all the performances free to watch. Run by a committee of eight volunteers and now a Registered Charity, the festival costs £50,000 to put on, achieved without major sponsors or public funding.

"The Upton Blues Festival is a real jewel, and a credit to the organising team. It has grown from a handful of enthusiasts over 10 years ago putting on a few bands in local pubs to now attracting 1000's of people from all over the country and providing the best weekend of the year for many Upton businesses," said Robin Staite, a Trustee of the charity and a member of the Committee. *"Upton as a town benefits so much from the Blues Festival and hopefully this recognition will help the Committee and the town to continue to take the festival forward together."*

The UK Festivals Awards is the country's premier event for the festivals industry with other nominees reading like a Who's Who of all the major festivals. Upton Blues Festival is the only blues festival to have been shortlisted in 2012. The winners of this year's awards will be announced at the UK Festival Awards dinner at the Roundhouse, London, on Monday December 3

The Upton Blues Festival volunteer committee consists of Robin Staite, Ruth Etheridge, Grahame Bunn, Rowan Thomas, Annie Steggle, Martin Haines, Sue Braithwaite Oliver Carpenter and original committee member Clifford 'Nobby' Dawe.



"We are currently planning the 2013 festival which we want to continue the steady improvement that we have achieved over the last few years," continued Robin. "I'm sure we'll raise a glass at the next Committee meeting to toast the nomination!"

Councillor Phil Grove, Malvern Hills District Council Portfolio Holder For Economic Development said: "The award nomination is great news. The organisers, who put in so much time and effort to make the festival a major attraction, thoroughly deserve this recognition. The council has supported the festival for the past few years and knows just how much enthusiasm, commitment and hard work is involved. Let's hope there is more good news when the winners are announced."

Upton Blues Festival 2013 will be over the weekend of the 19-21 July.

For more information please contact;
Oliver Carpenter – 01886-812888



REVIEW

It is safe to say that the first month at Worcester's newest music venue DNA has kicked off with a real bang. The old walls have been elegantly adorned with "venue black" and music is rattling the plaster from beneath once again.

Proceedings kicked off with a fantastic opening night party with both rooms presenting some real musical treats. In the Sidebar there was a great set from Dee Acoustic which built up to the resident DJs breaking in the mammoth sound system in the main room with some expertly crafted funky house and dance floor fillers.

The eclecticism of the venue is its real asset. To be able to play Northern Soul, Metal, Drum and Bass, Funk, Rock, Pop, Indie and find the right moment to host your first live acoustic set isn't bad going for your first month's business. The ethos of the venue is exactly that, to be music oriented. To provide a platform for local musicians to begin their journeys into the industry, be they jazz musicians, rock singers or even budding DJs, this venue will provide an opportunity.

MUSIC - IT'S IN YOUR

dna

This was followed a day later by the home coming party for Worcester's Legendary **Wet Dream**. Party goers from all over the country were seen happily jumping around to some of the best DJs Worcester has ever seen. (Wet Dream celebrates its 20th birthday on the 1st of Dec)

Days Later another Worcester born phenomenon was reintroduced to the sound waves, the legendary club night that is **Passion and Pain**. **Andy King** and his crew unleashed a fantastic selection of stomping indie anthems, northern soul and classic rock onto the adoring crowd and they, undoubtedly, proved themselves to be the ultimate alternative club night once again.

The DNA club scene has been an evident kick start for the venue and it seems that this will continue with an obvious eye for quality when DJs like Cream's **Brandon Block** and Mixmag's DJ of the year, **Hannah Wants** are in the December listing. But it is only a matter of time until the DNArocks string to the bow begins playing just as loudly.

Bands such as **Carcer City**, **The Charm**, **The Fury**, **Sirens**, **Gurt**, **Evolution of Man**, **Psyflyer**, **Cronograph**, **Bast**, **Hammers**, **Seall** to name just some, are all already in line to tear it up in the inaugural live sessions at DNA.

A truly exciting space with a great history and an even more exciting future.

by Antonio Magro



REVIEW East Of The Sun – Cap n Gown Friday 23rd November 2012

Slap dropped in to the hugely popular and cosy venue that is the Cap n Gown on a chilly Friday Evening. There was nothing cold in the venue though as East Of The Sun were heating the place up with a powerful and energizing performance.



The 4 lads were loud and bouncing powerful riffs and ear bleeding bass off the walls in to the crowd. Even Sue the landlady had to cover the pubs dogs ears at the back of the bar! East Of The Sun are a quality act showing off not only their talents as musicians but displaying a rock n roll aura glowing with energy and animation to boot. Russ on vocals and lead guitar has a brilliant vocal range

from a throaty blues to a high octane heavy metal scream whilst easily hitting the softer notes with ease.

Matt played the guitar with raw passion whilst Alec was thumping away a growling bass guitar performance. Jamie who also plays drums with Come Up And See Me was thrashing away like Animal from the Muppet show! I think we see the resemblance. He is a fantastic drummer and showman who gives 110%. We were treated to a good solid performance with over an hour's worth of original material including a couple of new tracks. *Runaway* is a cracking new one created in June this year at the Panic Room with Dave Draper. It's about being free, and the situations and types of people we need to avoid in order to feel or be so. The crowd loved it.

As always the Cap is a great venue for hosting gigs with a great selection of drinks and is always spotless. We look forward to seeing the boys here again soon in the new year.



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Covers and Tributes Bands - The Verdict?



Well - I've often been accused of having a bit of a downer on covers and tribute acts - and to some extent there's some truth in this! When you've heard *All Right Now* for the 10,000th time the novelty tends to wear off a little... Seemed there was a time when just about every pub and club gig I went to was covers in some form or another - but when the great local originals scene picked up about 7-8 years ago with bands like **Dandelion Killers**, **And What Will Be Left Of Them?**, **Bitchpups**, **Tastyhead** etc - it was like a repeat of my mid-70's *Road To Damascus*-like conversion (much thanks still to Dr Feelgood and Eddie And The Hot Rods...)

Yeah sure - there's a whole bunch of bands who'll start out playing covers - at open mic nights and the like - and when it's really quiet and/or the host is too drunk to care anymore - you'll occasionally find me joining in making dull farting noises in the background or with some predictable strumming - I'm not proud!!

I guess every single muso out there will start out playing other people's music - it's pretty much the standard way to learn the basics - I'm not knocking this but when is it the right time to take the plunge? Well I guess it depends on how much personally you want to just play music for the sheer buzz of it - or also write your own songs and try them out on the unsuspecting public...

And this is the dilemma - there's local bands like say **The Crooked Empire** who've never played a cover as long as they've been going - but it's a pretty good bet that frontman Sean worked out the sequence to *Stairway To Heaven* many years ago and then vowed never to play it again... I'm very taken with outfits like **Vault Of Eagles** who until recently included one or two tastefully-chosen covers in their otherwise-original set (*In A Broken Dream* by Python Lee Jackson) as it gives a nice clue where a band's coming from and their influences!

For me (and I guess a few others) what's really hard to bear is that there seems to be an almost unbreakable trend of putting on the safe option of covers bands at venues (particularly at the prime-time weekend spots) because that's what Joe & Jane Public want to hear after their weekly dose of *BritainsGotAVoiceFactor* - I've been to a few festivals over the last couple of years where the original musos get the afternoon and early-evening slots but the prime-times are filled by cover and tribute acts playing oh-I-know-this-one numbers - and what do you know - when they play *Rocks Off* just before last orders the dance floor is full - but I'm at the back wondering why this hadn't happened earlier in the day...

But (maybe surprisingly) I've got time for those acts and bands who realise that in order to make a living -

they'll perform the bread-and-butter cover sets for 'dough' and still do the originals for 'show' - a great example of this is **Sugar Mama** who play their own original numbers under the **Delteurs** brandname - you know what you're going to get!!

Sugar Mama/Deltours



Ok I haven't really dwelt on tribute acts that much - but for the life of me I completely fail to see the point of these - but there's a venue uncomfortably close to our fair region that showcases nothing but these soundalikes and lookalikes. To my eternal shame a couple of years ago I went to one of these events - which convinced me for months after that humankind and going to hell in a handcart were inevitable bedfellows...

But maybe there's hope! There's bands like **Time Of The Mouth** who actually include covers of other local bands (**Pegasus Bridge**) in their set - and if someone was to start up a **Dandelion Killers** or **AWWBLOT** tribute outfit - well I'd probably be first in the queue...

Time of the Mouth



So a couple of heads-up as I wish you all a very pleasant Midwinter Public Holiday - please check your FB account details as they've replaced your own email addresses with ones that don't work - and... it's that time of year to start thinking about applying for next summer's festivals - it's just got to be a scorcher after what we've had this year!!

AOH

(your comments please to so-sue-me@live.co.uk)

Fundraiser in memory of the young talented musician Justine Miskimmin

Marrs bar, Friday 26th October

Last year some of you may remember we lost a very talented musician, this year it was decided to celebrate Justine Miskimmin's life in style by setting up a memorial gig featuring Bad Amber and This Wicked Tongue. The night was a roaring success - over 150 people joined together a year later to enjoy a brilliant night that she would be proud of. Justine is too popular and packed out the Marrs Bar!!!

The singer from Bad Amber, Evie, kicked the night off by doing an a capella track called 'Angel' which had the room in silence and in awe.

Next were Bad Amber, the band that Justine, Kim and Evie formed back in 2011. They played some new songs, but the tear jerkers really came when they played their old songs, most of which Justine co-wrote. Bad Amber wish to thank Tom Mayo, who played drums for them on 'Coming Home'.

Finally This Wicked Tongue smashed on stage with a very loud headline act!

The gig raised £735 on the night which Kim 'Shredding Queen' Evans and Anna Miskimmin have kindly donated to Headway Charity.

There aren't many opportunities when Justine's friends of all walks of life can get together for a knees up so we are already looking forward to next year.

Photo : Alan Purchon (Headway), Kim Evans (Bad Amber) and Brian 'Marzy' Maher (Marrs Bar).



Words and picture: Little Charley



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The Midlands has long been the hotbed of a slightly obscure genre of 60s Jamaican music - ska. The 2 Tone rebirth of the fast, offbeat forerunner of reggae was centred on

Coventry and one band in particular, The Specials, but the ripples reverberated around the country and can still be felt today.



Here in the Shire we have our very own purveyors of the style in Kidderminster's The Stiff Joints. What started out three years ago as an acoustic reggae four piece (consisting Jorj and Will Payton, 'Burgs" Bigmore and Matt Seeley) has blossomed into a full on ten piece ska army.

At SLAP we've been monitoring the band's development since we saw their first performance at Barnboppers in 2010 and they have rightly become firm favourites of that festival vibe. The sound has become tighter and more confident and the balance between covers and originals is tipping in favour of their own material.

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A PHYSICAL SHOP IN A DIGITAL WORLD!



So the time is right to find out if *The Stiffies* (oo-err!) can translate their live energy onto record - they've had a quiet (for them) few weeks while the finishing touches are put to their forthcoming release, '*Rowdy Et Stoned*'. Due for timely release on December 24, they will be having a right 'knees up' to launch the EP at their home venue, the wonderful Boar's Head.

Before then though, there is the matter of one of their biggest gigs to date - supporting the original rude boy of the aforementioned The Specials, Neville Staple, at 2 Tone central in Coventry on 8 December. The 2 Tone variant of ska comes full circle! *Glazz*

<http://krisheal.wix.com/thestiffjoints>

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CD REVIEW The Crooked Empire Too Pretty For The City

Now I don't know alot about this bunch of beauties & I feel that this helps keep my objectivity in tact. However my esteemed colleagues here at Slap Central were positively frothing with excitement when I announced that I was to review this meisterwerk.

So I hit "play" and soon enough a certain Editor was singing (crowing is more accurate) heartily along to what is a veritable cornucopia of absolutely quality tunes.

I too was swept along immediately with The Crooked Empire's infectious and energetic blend of indie-rock-pop. Yeah I hate labels too but what ya gonna do?!

From the storming opener *Baby Bye* to the enigmatic new single closer *Jagged Souls* these boys take us on marvellous and memorable melodic journey.

It's obvious from the outset that TCE have worked long & hard honing this set and billy-boy does it show. Their well-drilled, tight-as, no-nonsense approach is complemented perfectly by the crisp'n'clean production courtesy of Tim Lewis, ex-Spiritualised and provider of keys & synth on this estimable long player.

There is some great playing throughout from the Entwhistle meets Hooky bass of Chris Giles to the voluble drums courtesy of Matt Stafford. Together with the panoramic range of guitar moves on offer here and deadely, dynamic vocals courtesy of Sean Sheldon & Jamie Dudley, this makes

for a heady brew indeed-do.

This band really do have a melodic gift plus plenty of variety in the writing making for a powerful potion. Their loves and influences shine through such as in the classic Beatlesque pop of *The War* and even sneaking a touch of Strawberry Fields mellotron into the excellent, acoustic *Smooth Talking*.

Elsewhere singer Sean has a touch of the Kelly Jones here & there plus a little Alex Turner on the punky Artics like *Run Run*, which has some great lines such as the choice "*Where did you get that face from? Everybody wants one*".

This is a consistently strong album but some faves were the anthemic *Emily*, the great riff heavy *Lead The Way* and *Asking For It* which perfectly showcases this band's talent for a tasty tune.

Too Pretty For The City hits the streets on February 9th 2013 so look out for it at Virgin, All Price, Tower, Fopp and all those other High Street faves.

In the meantime I urge you to catch them live at the Flapper in Brum on 22nd December.

This Empire Strikes Back!!

Words by Brian Ono

Joe Singh : snaprockandpop.co.uk



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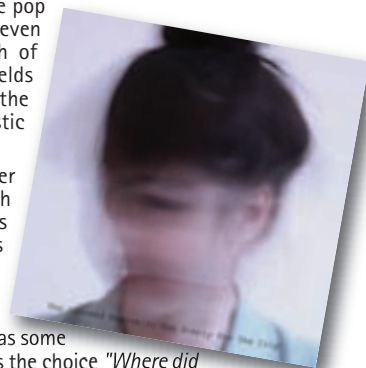
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"We are Motörhead and we play rock and roll"; and they weren't joking. They do play rock and roll and they play it very loudly indeed! It's nearly 40 years since I last saw Lemmy play a live gig, that was in 1974 at Liverpool Stadium with Hawkwind, not long after this the band sacked him and he decided to form his own band - Motörhead. As it happened on that last occasion I also had a camera with me, I always wondered what happened to those photo's of Stacia.... but I digress! I'd not seen Anthrax live but I'd seen good reviews and heard some decent stuff by them so I was keen to see, and photograph, these two bands together.

This was the first gig of a major European tour and the Civic was packed to the roof with metal fans of all ages - some of them might have been older than me!

Anthrax started their set with 'Caught in a Mosh' followed by 'Fight 'em til you can't' and then 'Antisocial' at which point the photo pit went off limits so I heard the remaining songs from the sidelines. The 8-song set ended with 'I am the law'. It was a good set, with guitarist Scott Ian jumping around the stage to entertain, but while it was good, better than good even, the set wasn't anything really special.



Tonight was really only about one band, Motörhead, and I was allowed back into the pit for the first three songs. The band started with 'Sacrifice', a song they hadn't played live for around 4 years and it was unusual to see Lemmy playing a Gibson SG instead of his trademark Rickenbacker bass. This was followed by 'Damage Case' and 'I know how to Die' before I was thrown out of the pit again! Which was just as well for an old man like me because standing next to the

speakers was like having someone hit you on the chest with a lump hammer.



We had seven more songs, including a decent guitar solo from Phil Campbell, then, quite surprisingly, they did 'Rock it', a song the band had apparently not played live for 29 years! Next came 'The one to sing the blues', with a long-ish drum solo from Mikkey Dee but the audience knew the end was approaching when the trio played 'Killed by death' and then 'Ace of Spades'. The crowd weren't ready to let them get off stage though so an encore comprising 'Orgasmatron' running into 'Overkill' finished the evening in fine style.



Words & Photography: Reg Richardson

HUNTINGDON HALL & THE SWAN THEATRE



Mike Sanchez Huntingdon Hall

Thursday 13th December at 8pm Tickets £16.50

One of the most exciting and charismatic performers of Rock 'n' Roll and Rhythm & Blues in the world today, Mike Sanchez, is coming to Huntingdon Hall this December with his latest instalment of powerful boogie-woogie, not forgetting his famous red suit!



Jamie Knight & The Big Swing Christmas Show

Huntingdon Hall | Saturday 15th December at 8pm £13.50

With Christmas soon upon us, there's no better way to start your festive celebrations than by seeing Jamie Knight's Christmas concert. Jamie is back singing all the usual Christmas favourites together with his own brand of swing standards, accompanied by his magical 11-piece band. Let's get the Christmas party started!



The Albion Band – An Albion Christmas

Huntingdon Hall | Thursday 20th December at 8pm £16.50

Now into its 14th year of sell-out Christmas performances, The Albion band are back with their sensational seasonal tour. Featuring the combined talents of Simon Nicol (Fairport Convention), Kellie While (Albion Band), Simon Care (Edward II) and the man himself, Ashley Hutchings, the show takes you on a guided tour through the Christmas customs of Britain. It's the perfect way to start the festivities!



Phil Beer

Huntingdon Hall | Saturday 12th January at 8pm Tickets £12.50

Award-winning multi-instrumentalist Phil Beer, one half of the highly acclaimed duo Show of Hands, is heading to Huntingdon Hall this January. His new solo tour takes inspiration from his many collaborations and musical influences to present an evening of eclectic tunes as well as some newer compositions.



John Kirkpatrick – The Victorian Farmer's Year in Song

Friday 18th January at 8pm Tickets £12 (Concessions £11)

This January the 2010 BBC Folk Musician of the Year and frequent contributor to the program Victorian Farm, John Kirkpatrick is coming to Huntingdon Hall. The Victorian Farmer's Year takes audiences through a year in the countryside, with musical commentaries on each season, bringing days gone by to the present. Expect an evening of charming folk entertainment at it's best.



Animal Farm The Swan Theatre

Wednesday 30th January at 7.30pm Tickets £12.50 (Children £8)

17 years since its World Premier, Guy Masterson's magnificent solo performance of Orwell's classic satire is on its final UK tour. Using nothing but a bale of hay, some amazing sound effects and brilliant physical and vocal dexterity, Masterson ignites this famous yarn, bringing a modern relevance to Orwell's master-work.

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FEATURE JAY CLARK

He's a familiar personality in local live music venues but I promise, you don't know the half of it!

From his humble beginnings as drummer and vocalist for 'Trooper' in the 80s, Jay has become a multi-instrumental force on Worcester's stages. While he's probably best known for his sterling work launching and running 'The Tap Jam', he earned his stripes the hard way over the past 25 years with solo projects such as 'Sittin' Pretty', numerous bands (who remembers 'Dead Et Laughing?'), DJing and more hours in a studio than I care to count!



So, if you see Jay out and about, buy the man a drink! His relentless talent, drive and passion is a fine example of the kind of person who keeps live music alive in our town. Without him (and folks like him) we'd all but stuck in front of X-Factor with nowhere to go. Jay, I salute you!



Following a severe head injury in 1998, Jay spent many years recuperating and music seemed to be the key to his recovery. Among countless hurdles, he re-taught himself to play guitar (!) and soon returned to DJing in Lowesmoor. Since the mid 2000s, he seems to have made it his personal mission to keep the live/rock scene alive in Worcester, and in particular, his efforts over the past couple of years have been staggering – and largely unpaid.

His current projects include The Tap Jam and Marr's Bar Jam House Bands, Threads, The CoverJunkies and The Blobbie Williams Band (with Elias Cameron), DJing work, promoting, engineering and generally supporting musicians in the Midlands. All that and he's still got time to record and produce my debut album! I've watched him work tirelessly for many years and thought it was about time he received a well-earned pat on the back.

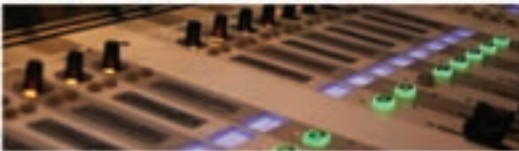


<http://soundcloud.com/jay-clark-music>

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Words: Cordelia 'Givvi' Lewis


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A close-up photograph of a light-colored acoustic guitar, likely a Taylor, featuring a black pickguard and a dark fretboard. The guitar is positioned vertically, with the body and neck visible. The background is dark and textured, possibly wood or stone.

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REVIEW Mansize At The Kasbah Coventry Friday 23rd Nov

The Kasbah located in Coventry is yet another bizarre venue: an amalgamation of intimate rock bar, several night club rooms/spaces and a huge covered smoking area with bbq + outside bars (no really!) so I was quite taken aback by the scale of this place and the ahum 'drink deals' - typically at a quid fifty a pop! The sole band for the night was Worcester's math grungey punk outfit Mansize. This evening saw the release of new single/download 'Pineapple Milkshake' - a fuzzy fizzing number based on a nokia ring tones start and stops. For the occasion a coach trip was arranged by Mansize to deliver the cities faithful to the gig plus the band & gear to boot! Stack amps included! Pretty punk DIY now I come to think about it!!



Mansize are fronted by Anya Pulva on guitar and vocals, sets are delivered with proficiency and nervous wailing intensity. She deploys a knowledge of catchy chunky hooks, melodic wirey calculated lead lines, with delicate deftly tapped guitar. As a result the band has an almost organic quality which is uniquely rooted in this style of playing/songwriting. The trio is built upon the solid rhythmic foundation of Rob King on overdriven bass/vocals and Joe Shelam on drums/vocals - former bassist for Nomad67 & prog indie band Meridan Point.

Highlights of THIS set (would be too numerous to mention but), opener "The Significance Of Simplicity" drew us in for a quite a restrained pointed start, verses

that dropped off into tapped harmonics, before boxing our ears with riffarama. 2 songs onwards "Great Uncle Christopher" (which deals with male attitudes towards feminine equality and artistic potential), concludes with the harmony mantra of "I have nothing left to give/I'm in a state of non existence" before Anya/Rob jointly declare "Don't tell me who you think I am/I can do more then you say I can" and as by example there follows a barrage of persistent mental stoner metal riffage. Rob's bass snarls away and Joe's drums bite into your temple folds. So the quiet, minnow demeanor of the trio is revealed to be a sly red herring. There follows several manic stints of out n' out frantic grunge but with dynamic shifting time signatures

and accents scattered throughout. Which is in parts a bit like L7 and the grittier era of PJ Harvey twined with the unsettled screeching skronk of Albini.

A fond highlight - 'Bellowhead' was so infectious it ensured a bout of moshing was on the cards, so I indulged in a few rounds. This tune has a joyously dynamic set of harmonies oohs and ahhs that lift the chorus promising plenty of body slamming.



Showcasing new tunes 'Anti Care' & 'Pineapple..' itself, rapper Sam Ruane (of The Night Shift) unexpectedly accompanies the band to spit semi improvised rhymes with linguistic dexterity, flow and good humor. Maybe a new avenue for Mansize to further widen their sound and accessibility?

Over time the trio have carved a personality and sound that is unique enough but echoes the heyday of grunge to exhibit such twisted wails of pulverising beats it could well be disconcerting to the unsuspecting listener. They are certainly catchy but faithfully experimental. Happily with current single "Pineapple Milkshake" and past effort "Tight Rope" they showcase enough confidence to carry it off coherently! Another experimental band clearly having a jubilant time being technical & moody but NOT stroking their beards in the process. Get your hands on a copy of their free download while you can here, if only to replace that cruddy Nokia ring tone you have! :o)

by Craigus Barry

<http://soundcloud.com/mansize/pineapple-milkshake>

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REVIEW THE EQUATORS & MR SHANKLY @ THE SWAN KIDDERMIN-SKA.

Tonight at the Swan in Kiddermin-ska, the fine guys and girls at Barnboppers bring us another cracking night of music. Surfice to say if you like your skanking ska, knees up melodies, moves and grooves, then you'd be made up. I certainly was when I arrived during The Equators sound check! It sounded great.



Joining the event tonight are Birmingham's Mr Shankly who are no strangers to SLAP and the Worcester music scene. The guys take to the stage with facial hair freshly painted at the hands of the talented ladies on the wheel of face! It's November after all, the month that brings



about the cultivation of many a fine handle bar moustache! All the donations tonight going to the charity. Mr Shankly's mix of reggae world music and pop set the atmosphere of tonight's laid back feel good vibe, with songs 'Little Things', 'Wrong Direction', 'Forbidden Town' and 'Villians'. The 5 piece band (sans

saxaphonist Peter Lewis tonight) consist of Benjy (vox/guitar) Tim (lead guitar/vox) Richard (bass) and Ilias Lintzos on drums.

The Equators take to the stage combining a laid back groove with their punk reggae energy. With original members, brothers Leo (drums) Donald (lead singer) Rocky B Bailey (keys) and Cleveland Black on bass. And new members Reuben (rhythm guitar) Fly (trumpet) and Joel Evans (sax). Their blend of music and



groove still brings with it the same energy and excitement as when the Equators formed back in 77. They waste no time in working kiddermin-ska up into a dancing, sing along during the song 'Baby Come Back', and they love it! 'Give Me Back What Is Mine', 'Mr Cooper', 'Age Of 5' and '96 Degrees' all songs sounding

fresh and it's a privilege to be able to see these great musicians at such an intimate well organised event. needless to say... The Equators, as expected, were brilliant!

Words:
Toni Charles
Photography:
Katie Doolan



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REVIEW

POOR BOB'S BLUES NIGHT – THE CELLAR BAR, TUES. 20th NOV

DAVID RYLES, THE CHUCK HARRIETT TRIO, MARTIN THORNE, TONE TANNER

Despite the footer, we got another fine audience at the final Blues Night of the year.

Tone Tanner, who took care of the acoustics, opened with an energetic and agile set of originals with a rocking backbeat, which was either MP3 or the tiniest rhythm section in Worcester.

Martin Thorne, finally made it through the rain and played some favourites, including a slightly up-tempo version of his 'Nobody Moves Like You', dedicated – I like to imagine – to Scarlett Johansson.

The **Chuck Harriett Trio** did a gloriously long, varied session, all on top form. Material from Basie, Brubeck and Santo & Johnny (who? Only a few of us know) was all served up with élan, brio, and deceptively casual brilliance.

David Ryles finally sang again, after 3+years. He was a blues and country-performer in the early days of **Blues Night**. Then he left, and returned as a jazz-picker. On Tuesday he unleashed a selection of blues, jazz, and whatever you feel 'Goodnight Irene' is. 'Georgia' (Ray Charles), and 'When You're a Viper' (Jelly Roll Morton) were both enhanced by **Darren (DJ) Mather's** deftly swirling harmonica, an epicurean contribution to Dave's

lapidary playing and soft singing. And the next time we get him here he might be revealing yet another facet of dexterity on a home-made cigar-box.



DJ also played with **Andy Dent** on Andy's take on Blind Boy Fuller's classic 'You Better Change Your Mind', **Stripped Down Blues** took 'em all down to the river with rootsy and rocking blues that'll have to keep you all happy until our next (Jan 15.)

Bob Jones

REVIEW

Notorious Brothers – Queen's Head, Wolverly. Friday 9th Nov.

The **Notorious Brothers** are relaxed tonight, having played this venue regularly in the past, and, due to this, the performance tonight is impressive but often interrupted by the at first funny, then eventually grating, interjections from frontmen **Melvin** and **Mikey**.



Looking past this, however, there is no doubt about the talent this band have honed; showing an encyclopaedic knowledge of music that allows them to slip from balls out rock to dreamy psychedelia via the sort of self-gratifying soloing that wouldn't have felt out of place during the heyday of excess.

Melvin brings a wild, glam rock brand of camp to the stage lifting the dreary and predictable covers tracks like *Whisky in the Jar* and *Dear Prudence* well above the usual standard while their original tracks camouflage themselves into the set, carrying with them a feel of familiarity.

Love Flow and *Psychedelic Road* are the sort of songs that stay with you for weeks, combining catchy hooks and lyrics with a sense of experimentation. **Melvin** is a master of his guitar making it sing and scream in equal measure while **Mikey** plucks his bass with skill, offering backing for the most part before breaking out into unwieldy jams that would fall apart in lesser hands.

Tobacco Road is one of many highlights, offering up a hardy dose of working class blues that owes a debt to early Stones, deconstructed by the band and slipping into a series of solos that end just before they annoy, and then slipping gently into their ballad *Angel Eyes*.

It all ends rather bluntly, and it would be interesting to see this band away from the regular faces but there's no doubt that whoever turned up tonight has left satisfied, and probably a damn sight more knowledgeable about the rich history of rock music.

by **Matthew Tilt**

Check out our listings for more events at the great local venue...

80'S MANIA

Perdiswell Leisure Centre
8th December 2012

80's Mania is Europe's Official 1980's Reunion Tribute Concert currently touring the UK, taking all 80's music fans by storm.

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Mike Read, Ex Top of the Pops and Radio 1 Presenter / DJ, officially endorses and appears in the show! Mike was that impressed that he wanted to be in 80's Mania. Due to his crazy and demanding work schedule Mike was unable to commit to all

the dates so with the magic of 2 giant projector screens, he stars as our very own comper / presenter, just like when he did it in the 80's.

80's Mania is developing a cult following and is Europe's only 1980's multi tribute concert show to go and see.



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Check out Facebook (Eighties Mania) and Twitter (80smaniashow).



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Worcester Music Festival

Worcester Music Festival 2013 to bring more diversity to mix REVERTING to its traditional three-day format, next year's Worcester Music Festival will take place from Friday, August 30 to Sunday, September 1, organisers have confirmed.

It will be the first year the explosion of live, original music in venues across the city will stand alone as a fully independent festival and not be part of the wider Worcester Festival.

Committee chairman Ant Robbins said the completely free festival was now well established and the main focus for its sixth outing next summer was bringing more diversity to the mix.

"In 2012, we saw 400 amazing performances from bands and artists from across the county and beyond take place in 31 venues across the city, and the feedback was phenomenal," he said. "This year, we want to build on that, exploring more genres and styles to appeal to as wide an audience as possible, and introduce more tools to help people navigate the festival and discover more about the acts involved, as well as the many free workshops we offer."

"This will be the first year we are not part of the wider Worcester Festival programme, and we'd like to take the opportunity to thank Worcester Live, which organises the main event, for all its invaluable support over the past five years and helping our festival evolve into what it is today."

A taste of the talent on offer at Worcester Music Festival 2013 can be sampled this Saturday, December 1st during Worcester's Christmas Victorian Fayre, with an eclectic mix of local bands and artists lined up to perform acoustically from 2-6pm in Cathedral Plaza.



The top 25 entries in the WMF 2012 photography competition are also being displayed at The Hive library and Learning Centre in Sawmill Walk, The Butts, until Monday, December 10th.

Other events are also in the pipeline to build momentum for Worcester Music Festival 2013, including another Big Busk, a showcase of outdoor performances around the city centre in conjunction with Worcester BID, and fundraisers for the non-profit making festival, which is run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers, with all acts performing free of charge.

There are also plans to link up with more venues following new partnerships in 2012 with Velvet Nightclub in Angel Place, the Brewery Tap in Lowesmoor, O' Neill's in St Nicholas Street, Cathedral Plaza, The Crown Inn in Bransford Road and Diglis House Hotel in Severn Street.

Raising money for local charities through raffles and donations is also close to the festival's heart, with the 2012 event raising £6,000 for New Hope children's respite centre in Ronkswood, taking the total amount raised for charity over five years to nearly £25,000.

If you are interested in performing at Worcester Music Festival 2013, application forms will be available in the New Year at:

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk with updates on Facebook and Twitter. If you are interested in the rewarding experience of becoming a volunteer for next year's event, please email:

ant@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk.

Mel Hall



Photography: Top: Fury by Reg Richardson Bottom: Christine Hopwood by Brenden E. Merald



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

THE HAND IN GLOVE



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BOARS HEAD GALLERY

Well, here it is, giving the The BHG the birthday bumps wasn't really going to be an option, so we celebrated with a little anniversary bash in the gallery. The night was a fantastic turn out (despite the dreaded flooding!). Visitors looked on at the portraits that adorned the walls featuring work from KAF Creative talents and other artists who has become associated with the gallery over the past year. The room quickly filled with a gathering of



photography by Toni Charles. The night ended with a crazily diverse and hilariously funny act from Shambollix, who are made up of Craigus Barry, Shane Moroney and occasionally joined on stage by co-founder Ed Steelefox.



familiar faces. After a short speech by myself, we were able to dish out some nominations and announce some awards. The awards included an award to *Peaceful Protesting on Behalf of the Arts aka 'The Swampy Award'* which went to Heather Waistie for her efforts in the Campaign to Save Kidderminster Library Gallery, an



award for *Physical Help* in the Gallery aka 'The Monkey-Man Award' which went to Elvis Palmer and a Special Achievement Award that went to our Local Arts Councillor, Loz Samuels for her commitment to Arts in the area. Dave Simpson also won a prize for Innovation.



His exhibition ended triumphantly with his work being show under UV light to the tunes of MeloDJ and Doctea shown here with



First year over and as the weather gets chilly we will be wrapping up in blankets and making plans for the next year. Plenty of fun stuff to come including Life Drawing on Weds 5th December, Mouth&Music with a Christmas 'Yule Off' on December 11th and our



Christmas Art market will be on December 15th. January's Mouth and Music will also see the much anticipated 'Anti-Poet' coming to the gallery. We will be finishing this year with a very exciting exhibition from Orly Philips. The exhibition has a circus theme and set to be very interesting indeed. Not to be missed!

Thank you to all for your support in our first year, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we shall hope to see you all soon! Coz. P.S. Since the start of our knitting group, the knitters are in full swing and its scarves for Christmas for everyone I am afraid!

Words: Coz Pics: Katie Doolan

Farewell to Music from the Gallery?

Friday, November 9, 2012

The final concert in the 2012 Music from the Gallery Series was given by the **Astoria String Quartet** and performed on Friday evening to a capacity audience. This fine ensemble comprising **Shulah Oliver** and **Kelly McCusker** on violins, **Alice Billen** on viola and **Sean Gilde** on cello, provided a superb evening's music making with outstanding performances of music by **Villa-Lobos**, **Borodin** and **Dvorak**, and a well-deserved encore by **Shostakovich**. Their style clearly demonstrated not only what the Gallery was designed for but also proved again that there is an enthusiastic demand for quality chamber music in Wyre Forest district.

The **Classical Music Society** has been promoting chamber music in the Gallery for nearly fifteen years and were well on their way to their 60th performance there. With **Worcestershire County Council** still "champing at the bit" to turn the Gallery space into offices, the **Astoria** recital may prove to have been the final formal recital in the Gallery. If that is so then there could not have been a better conclusion to a series that has provided the finest music in a venue that has been widely acclaimed by the internationally experienced artists performing there.

As it celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2013, the **Society** will continue to present regular themed music programmes, illustrated with the finest recorded music, at its home venue, **Holy Innocents Community Hall, Foley Park**. Details are available on its website www.classicalmusicidderminster.org.uk.



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PREVIEW The Artrix, Bromsgrove

On Saturday, December 15th, the Gloucestershire singer-songwriter Johnny Coppin, together with Paul Burgess and Mick Dolan, returns to Artrix with his ever popular seasonal show "All On A Winter's Night", which delights audiences with its music, tales, superstitions, folklore and stunning winter images by acclaimed photographer Martin Fry.

And on Thursday, January 31st, the iconic Colin Blunstone, lead singer with "The Zombies", who has "probably the most essentially English pop voice of his generation", visits the Arts Centre, singing the classic songs from his long career and material from his new album.

Looking ahead to February, there is a plethora of fine original music coming to Artrix – local band "Wooden Horse", featuring Jamie Knight and Ben Church, plays in The Studio on Saturday 2nd, Sharon Shannon visits on Wednesday 20th, another local band "Stomp and Holler", featuring Oliver Carpenter and Abby Brant, visits on Friday, 22nd, the legendary Ginger Baker's "Jazz Confusion" plays on Saturday 23rd, and the month is rounded off with shows from Justin Currie on Sunday 24th and Heidi Talbot on Monday 25th.



Johnny Coppin, Paul Burgess and Mick Dolan

Colin Blunstone



Jamie Knight and Ben Church
Wooden Horse

CD REVIEW

Johnny Kowalski and The Sexy Weirdos Victory For The Monsters

My regular readers, known as The Multitude, will know that I am a "nameist" when it comes to bands and thus was delighted when I was handed this album to review from probably my favourite named local band (neck & neck with Das Sexy Clap, hmm must be that word).

Luckily and happily the contents within more than live up to the moniker with this album being a righteous, raucous, riotous racket.

Elsewhere the plethora of Balkan gypsy punk jazz, for this is what it is essentially, is in danger of becoming close to cliché, but Johnny and the boys keep it thrillingly fresh with their endless, kaleidoscopic instrumental variety.

In amongst this East-Euro stew I hear touches of The Clash, Roxy & Gavin Friday, with Johnny himself sounding not unlike the dear departed Strummer in both delivery and range.

Amongst the many treats herein I especially loved the ska stylings of *The Morning After*, the buzzing, crackling near instrumental *Codisland* closing epic & live fave *Bubamaru* with it's beautiful & typically mournful trumpet motif.

From violin to tuba and trumpet to trombone these fine fellas thoroughly spoil us with their wondrous wares. Space forbids me from naming them all individually but believe me this supremely talented seven-piece deserve it!

This is of course quintessentially live music, as anyone who caught their storming set at **Worc Music Fest Slap Day** will attest to, but this self produced epic makes a good fist of the enormous task of capturing this music in all it's technicolour phantasmagoria within studio confines.

But of course you can't imprison such sounds and this is no mere album; it's a living, breathing, sweating, pumping heart of a beast. A heaving, throbbing organism, (blimey steady now: Ed) certainly sickly but screaming with life force: a pulsating pandemonium of prurient pleasures & peccadilloes.

So see them you must - next appearing at our very own **Slap Night @ Worcs Arts Workshop** on **Sat 22nd Dec** - for that is where you can purchase this awesome artefact, which without, your life is not worth a Romany's cuss.

It's Alive!!!

Words by: Gordy Borbles





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THE PIG & DRUM, LOWESMOOR WORCESTER




CIRCUIT SWEET

NAOMI PREECE

November was fantastic for live music in our hometown. We ended the month with a passionate DIY promoter putting on another successful live night in Hereford. The live scene is thriving at current and we wish for its continuing growth in the city. Ending the month at **The Victory** with **Let's Talk Daggers**, **Black Shapes**, **Forever Grace**, **Weathered Hands** and **Skinhorse**. Alongside this another promoter has set up regular nights at **The Jailhouse** to bring together music enthusiasts. Naming the nights respectfully 'Nothing Ever Happens In Hereford', the opening night was a major success thanks to the turnout of Herefordians who got to see rising talent **Red Room Therapy** who are sharing stages with **The Vaccines** amongst others' and the reformed **Fallback Theory**.

In our last article we reviewed local act **The Misers**, as we followed them throughout the exciting build up to their album release. Our in depth look at their new album '**A Weight Off The Mind (Is Still A Load On The Shoulders)**' can not only be found in last month's **SLAP** but online at our website too. On November 4th we started the month as we meant to go on. As we mentioned in the last edition on the lead up to the album launch, just days before, **Worcester's Rise Records** was home to a special intimate performance of the band previewing their forthcoming album material. What a performance- giving everyone a taste of their new release- available now!

We were privileged to see US act **The Reptilian** perform live at Newport's **Le Pub**. After announcing their UK tour with label mates **Empire Empire** we were thrilled to finally get a chance to see a band we've loved for several years. A band we never thought we would get the chance to see live. When those UK dates were announced and we featured them, we were gutted as there was nowhere remotely close to us that we could go and catch the trio. However as a date fell through promoter **Gavin Pryce** acted fast and booked the two touring acts to visit and play Wales. Something they too didn't think possible. **The Reptilian** are creative, passionate and engaging. They fiercely bolt through their set which so easily justifies their talent. Relentless. Speaking to a band on myspace back in 2005 and finally getting to see them live is something else. We can announce that we will be interviewing the trio in due course. Something to look forward to!!

So not only has the past month been busy and exciting but it's that time where we look at our future plans. The countdown till the end of the year! With 2013 just around the corner- for music lovers and critics everywhere it means one thing- reviewing the years releases and choosing your favourite, more played and most cherished of 2012. That and the most disappointing releases, but that's for the cynical something we are not. It also means looking back on the best gigs you've been to, the most aspiring acts you've seen. Talent that's bought you to recognize their efforts, to fall in love with a new acts. Bands exploding on the scene out of nowhere. Seeing an act a local venue which you

never thought possible, cough **This Town Needs Guns** and **GZA** cough!

We love reviewing the year in music-local, international, signed and unsigned. We love going back through the archive and seeing just how many great acts we've encountered over the past 12 months. New relationships and friendships and more coverage than ever before.

We love to share our thoughts on the year so much that we make it into a large end of year special which is now renowned by our regulars. We've spent a few days at the end of November contacting all those previously featured acts on **Circuit Sweet** to get their involvement with our site. This year it's bigger and better than before. We've got bands involved, magazines, venues, artists, labels and more. As many debate over what their top 5 releases of the year, what their favorite gig of the year was and why- we then share all of that information with you in our takeover which you can see only at circuitsweet.co.uk throughout the week prior to Xmas and leading up to New Year.

With this large feature set to captivate our website we also bring you more from the archives as mentioned earlier. We will be bringing up past reviews, interviews, articles and old news for what was the best of 2012. December through to January we will be bringing you the best from **Circuit Sweet** from the last few months as we raid our archives to bring back favorites. Will your album review/release make reappearance? We plan to pay tribute to a musical hero and a friend to us too.

Alongside the hive of activity on the website and on our Facebook and twitter- we want to say a big thank you to you- our loyal supporters. This year you've seen us grow, you've seen our website change, you've seen a rebranding, you've seen US on screen not just behind a microphone, you've seen us reach out, you've seen us try and connect and you've seen us move to our **Circuit Sweet Cottage**. And as a thank you for patience, for your kindness and just for being there we got our lovely resident Philadelphia based artist **Alex Amici** to get involved in a Christmas Campaign. She did good!- This December as a thank you we've unveiled that all items in our online shop (circuitsweet.bigcartel.com) has a mega 15% off. Our way of thanking you and providing someone special with great music and something unique.

Over December and January we will be spending as much time at gigs as possible and find more ways to get great music heard. Our 2013 plans are all out there as we plan to get bigger and better and to provide more in many ways. More reviews, more interviews and interactions, more competitions, more products in our shop and more movement across the county.

For now we wish you our fans and every lovely reader of **Slap Mag** a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year- We will see you at a live event shortly.



Circuit Sweet prides itself on the Professional Workmanship between the two founders. We provide:

-Relevant Music News -Reviews -Interviews -Features -Photography -Live Sessions -Live Events -Music Videos

Catering for acts needing and deserving more promotion, more coverage; both national and international. We also manage bands and develop artists.

Working within the music industry, Circuit Sweet has gained respectable relationships and work for well known bands, notorious labels, press and various music journalism based sources.

All Press Releases to be sent to naomi@circuitstweet.co.uk

Music Submissions to naomi@circuitstweet.co.uk or MAIL to Circuit Sweet @ Rosedene Cottage, Hereford, HR2 8JT

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ARTS FEATURE Shape Pop-up Galleries – by Sarah Ganderton

The 'pop up gallery' has been an exciting and vibrant use of empty shop space in many a High Street for several years now and despite various attempts from the authorities to clamp down on this creative recycling, The Arts Council England have tapped into this stream to showcase the art of the UK's most talented disabled artists.

Bringing a little colour and excitement to temporarily empty shop windows in Worcester that would otherwise just look empty and dull; I spotted one in Cathedral Plaza, and the next one beside the roundabout nearby, but keep your eyes peeled because as the poster explains, they could be popping up anywhere.

Shape was founded in 1976 in London, to make art more accessible to disabled people; art competitions and exhibitions have been held in London for many years. The Shape charity works with disabled people and organisations to find innovative ways to encourage their participation in the arts. They do this through organising trips to art galleries and cultural events, offering training to people and organisations to support disability as well as to disabled people already working in or interested in working in the arts. They even hold art competitions, and now provide these new galleries to show the art to the public. This article looks at only a selection of the pieces on display, but look out for the art popping up all over Worcester to see more.

Gus Cummins' 160 generated from an MRI scan of the artist's head to locate the cause of his epilepsy, which unfortunately it failed to do. Gus is based in Bristol and currently works in digital media print and paint. Like this one, many of his prints use his brain scans and data, and are concerned with surface, texture and geometry.



and has exhibited in solo shows in various galleries in London. She has even won as many as ten awards at various international film festivals. Her films and paintings, like *Deer Family* in the pop-up exhibition, explore what she calls "the freedom to roam endlessly."

Sally Booth is a visual artist specialising in drawing and painting, and has exhibited all over the UK from London to Liverpool, and internationally in Japan and Singapore, having taken a BA and MA in Fine Art at Bristol and Wimbledon School of art. She is visually impaired and says her work is "influenced by my own perspective of how I see the world". *Nets and Rain* was created with permanent pen and watercolour on canvas in 2010 at Hastings, while sitting on the beach where she was working as an artist in residence, in partnership with



an arts organisation. In the foreground there is a tangle of lobster pots and nets, all of which are useful and belong to a different fisherman, although many are in need of repair. The sea can be seen just behind the nets, and an ominous sky indicates it is about to rain.

Rachel Gadsden has been a visual artist for twenty years, exhibiting her vibrantly coloured dynamic work all over the world, including Russia and South America, Spain and Italy, and is currently working on a commission for Cape Town, South Africa and is engaged

with Paralympic art projects for London 2012. Her piece in this exhibition is called Celebrate



The Shape pop-up galleries were launched only last year and now appear all over the UK, in empty shops and industrial units, from Aldershot to Worcester, Crawley to Chester, and many places in between. If you spot one, take it in quickly as it could disappear just as quickly as it popped up.

For a chance to see more of the art and even to buy any of the limited edition prints displayed in the windows and individually signed by the artist, check out their website at www.shapearts.org.uk/popupgallery. Most prints cost £10 plus £3 postage and come in A1 size.

MOUTH MUSIC
acoustic spoken word & music night
Tuesday December 11th 8.00pm
YULE OFF!
A spoken word and music face off with poets
Maggie Doyle - Sarah Jurek - Gary Langdon - Fergus McConigal
& singer/songwriters John Langford & David Coughlin
To perform sign up from 7.30
Please dress appropriately!
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Saturday 1 December 2012

Maraboooboo Allstars
Keystones Bar, Worcester

The Hot Red Chili Peppers
The Railway, Evesham

The Matchless
Callow End Social Club, Callow End, Worcester

The Quik
Katie Fitzgeralds

Matt Woosey
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Sam and Luke O'Brien
Speed The Plough, Tibberton

Riff Raff (ACDC Tribute)
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Rich Globe
Blackpole Inn, Worcester

Eclectro Dj Night with Chris Summers, Sly-Sy,
Kenny Kat, Digits McPhee, Daniel JP & Host Leroy B
Arthouse Cafe, Worcester

Junction 7
Express Inn, Malvern

The Buble Tribute Show
Evesham Arts Centre, Worcester

Faintest Idea
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Spoz & Dave plus special guests
2nd Anniversary Party
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Legendary Wet Dream's 20th Birthday -
Brandon Block
DNA, Worcester

Guginis
Subtone, Cheltenham

Done By Sunrise, James Allin, Emma Ross, Ben
Vickers
The Pear Tree (Worcester University), Worcester

Ronin, Jet Black Cadillac, All For One
Olivers, Malvern

The Observers, Time Of The Mouth, Case Closed
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Hump
The Star, Pershore

Umphff
Xmas Fayre for WMF, Guildhall, Worcester

Flat Stanley
Unicorn, Malvern

Soultown
Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley

Sunday 2 December 2012

Performing Arts Festival Fundraiser Feat
John Keen
Subtone, Cheltenham

Jazzenco 2-4pm
Queens Head, Wolverley

Stuart Bishop
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Mark Crump
The Reindeer Inn, Ombersley

Monday 3 December 2012

Folk Night
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 4 December 2012

Open Mic with Tina V & Mikey Mann
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Kevin Jenkins
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Open Mic with Dodgy's Nigel Clark
The Millers, Pershore

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 5 December 2012

Sam Eden
Café Rene

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Toy Hearts
David Murphys, Stourbridge

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Reggae - Dub
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Thursday 6 December 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

SheBangg
The Conservatory, Worcester

Trevor Burton Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Crimson Ghosts,, Army Of Walking Corpses, Trioxin
Cherry, Massive Head Trauma
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Retinal Circus, Heinz-Sight, Richard Clarke and the
Rafters, James Gwynne
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

The Comedy Zone presents
Robin Ince – Happiness Through Science
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dave Onions
David Murphys, Stourbridge

Friday 7 December 2012

Laurence Jones Band
Café Rene

The Reflections
The Hanbury Turn, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove

Somers Traditional Folk Club
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Slow Burner
Queens Head, Wolverley

Undercocks
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Live music by Mill Promotions
Brothers Bar, Worcester

Delray Rockets
The New Inn, Bournheath, Bromsgrove

DNA Fridays – Dj's Alex, Elevation, Bam Bam, Funky
Craig, Shaun Lane
DNA, Worcester

The Phaze, Hereford Soul Choir, Eddie and the
Vagabonds, Brydie Tayklor
Starlite Rooms, Hereford

The Little Hellfire Club and Young Pop Things presents
A Christmas Special in Aid of Acorns
Das Sexy Clap, The Thyme Machine, Lost Boy Scout,
The Joy Of Sex
The Marrs Bar, Worcester
Free Admission Donations Welcome

Julia Smith
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Malpractice
Anchor Inn, Eckington

Two Man Ting
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Pillars of the Community part 9
Case Closed, Primeposition , Blatantlee Sly, MC Pye, DJ

Phe (Sub Kon)
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Pearl Necklace and Gabba Gabba
Pig n Drum

Umphff
Hop Pole, Bromyard

Supernaught & The Damage
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Souled out 2 Funk
Drummonds, Worcester

Dodgy
The Millers, Pershore

Saturday 8 December 2012

Sicknote, Flesh Eating Foundation
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Delray Rockets
Queens Head, Wolverley

The John Steeds
The Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Star of the Sea
Katie Fitzgeralds

Umphff
Malvern Football Club, Malvern

Answer Back
The Queb Bar, Evesham

English String Orchestra Christmas Concert
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Soultown
Little Lakes Holiday Park, Bewdley

Ronin
Fern And Fallow, Tafford Road, Cannock

DNA Rocks & WXC Promotions Present Carcer City, The
Charm, The Fury, The Sirens followed by Passion & Pain
DNA, Worcester

Mac & The Boys
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Aquarius
Eagle Vaults, Worcester

Flipron
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Floyd Earl Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gypsy Lee Pistolero
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Blind River Scare
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Phobils
The Star, Pershore

Little Mighty Creatures
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Los Chumbancheros
Kidderminster Town Centre, 11 – 4

Sunday 9 December 2012

Remi Harris Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

Gastric Band
Grapevaults, Leominster

Si Cook
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Los Chumbancheros
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Connor Mayer
The Reindeer Inn, Worcester

Monday 10 December 2012

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 11 December 2012

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Tina V & Mikey Mann
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Kevin Jenkins
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Mouth & Music
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wednesday 12 December 2012

Hannah Faulkner
Café Rene

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Sub Humans
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Acoustic Music Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Steves JHukebox
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Thursday 13 December 2012

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Massive Head Trauma, Indika, Cyberstan, Evolution
of Man, Tiger Province
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Ricky Cool & the Hoola Boola Boys
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 14 December 2012

Rikshaw Brides
Café Rene

Ronin Christmas Party in aid of New Hope with support
Nomad 67, George Barnett and Tammy Down
Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Wonderful Mr Ed
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Micky and Griff
Anchor Inn, Eckington

Somers Traditional Folk Club
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Blackbeards Saviour
Pig n Drum

Tammy Down, Ronin
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

BabaJack
The Millers, Pershore

Abba Forever at Christmas
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Four Tart Harmony
Number 8, Pershore

Los Chumbancheros
Black Country Museum, Dudley

Jet Black Cadillac
The Kings Head, Worcester

Flatworld
David Murphy's, Worcester St, Stourbridge

Doctors Orders
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Festivals Experience
Drummonds, Worcester

Conin Brothers
Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 15 December 2012

Vault Of Eagles
The Swan, Evesham

Hancoxx
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Manalishi
The Star, Pershore

Aycht and Trois Mangoes
Ice Bytes, The Homend, Ledbury

Los Chumbancheros
Black Country Museum, Dudley

Steve Mercy , Rhombus, Anne Marie Hurst,
Cruel Britannia
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Tommy Gun
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Bombay Bicycle Club
Subtone, Cheltenham

The Lights
Katie Fitzgeralds

Shellshock
The Plough and Harrow, Malvern

All Lov'd up v Weekend Offender – Mixmag Dj of the year Hannah Wants + guests
DNA, Worcester

True Colours
Queens Head, Wolverley

Delray Rockets
Callow End Club, Callow End, Worcester

Rebel City Radio
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Hancoxx
Keystones Bar, Worcester

A Goth Christmas Party presents
Ann Marie Hurst, Rhombus and Steve Mercy
Marrs Bar, Worcester

The John Steeds
The Castle, Droitwich

Madi Stimpson Trio
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Now That's What I Call Singles Club 3 (1pm–2am)
Firefly, Worcester

Ital Sounds
Unicorn, Malvern

Johnny Coppins's All On A Winter's Night
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 16 December 2012

La Bella – Acoustic 1–4pm
Queens Head, Wolverley

Dee – Acoustic
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Psyflyer,, Evolution Of Man, Gurt (London), Gast
DNA, Worcester

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Umphff
White Bear, Tewksbury

Monday 17 December 2012

Dr Stanleys Medicine Show
Olivers Wine Bar, Malvern

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 18 December 2012

Open Mic with Tina V & Mikey Mann
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Jet Black Cadillac, Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
Olivers Wine Bar, Malvern

XTAS Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Kevin Jenkins
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Open Mic
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 19 December 2012

Live at Gloucester Studio
Café Rene

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Ronin
Firebug, Millstone Lane, Leicester

Jenny Halem
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Innverse with Pat Winslow (book launch)
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Soultown
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Sarah Warren – Acoustic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 20 December 2012

The Tina V Band
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Saints & Singers part IV Apocalypso Special
Calm Like A Riot, Case Closed, The Loved and Lost
The Slug and Lettuce, Worcester

XTAS Mike Mann & his Merry Men
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Black Hearts, Eagle Vaults
Olivers Wine Bar, Malvern

Los Chumbancheros
Black Country Museum, Dudley

Friday 21 December 2012

Trip The Switch
Café Rene

Absolute Ataxia + support
Pig n Drum

Los Chumbancheros
Black Country Museum, Dudley

Skewwhiff Winter Solstice Party with guests
Nigel Clark, Richard Clarke
Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Ron Jeremy Band
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters
Queens Head, Wolverley

Dave Sharp (The Alarm), Time Of The Month
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Somers Traditional Folk Club
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Wasted Life & The Trap Doors
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Ray Mynton, Paul White
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Magoos Christmas Party
Drummonds, Worcester

Squatters
Subtone, Cheltenham

Saturday 22 December 2012

Slap Xmas Special – Jonny Kowalski & The Sexy
Weirdos, Captain Hotknives, Retinal Circus
& Ed Steelfox
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

CoverJunkies
The Cross Keys, 79 Belmont Road, Malvern

The John Steeds
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Babajack
Speed The Plough, Tibberton

We Survived the End of the World – All For One,
Answerback
The Black Lion, Hereford

Heroes of Hanoi
Eagle Vaults, Worcester

Los Chumbancheros
Black Country Museum, Dudley

Rich Goble
The New Inn, Malvern

Ferrets
Anchor Inn, Eckington

DNA's Xmas Feast – featuring Passion & Pain
DNA, Worcester

Cracked Actors
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Pure Instinct
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Answer Back, Time of the Mouth, Spandex Bellend,
The Cushy Lil Numbers
Oliver's Bar, 36 Bellevue Terrace, Malvern

The John Steeds
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Ital Sounds
Unicorn, Malvern

CoverJunkies, Jay & Eli
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Fury, Fortress, Adamantium, Steeltrooper
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Christmas Special, The Chuck Harriot Trio
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Umphff
Blackcross, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
The Bridge Inn, Tenbury

Sunday 23 December 2012

Ed Steelfox Xmas Mash Up
Pig n Drum

Take Fat
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Ray and Joe Fahy (All the way from Ireland)
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Strumpet 1–4pm
Queens Head, Wolverley

A Little Bit of Bubl 
The Reindeer Inn, Ombersley

Monday 24 December 2012

Jet Black Cadillac
The Unicorn, Malvern

Done By Sunrise , Laura Thompson
Drummonds, Worcester

Stiff Joints
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Vincent Flatts
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Straight Aces
Katie Fitzgeralds

Wednesday 26 December 2012

Skaville
Caf  Rene

Marzys Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Kei Night
Boars Head, Kidderminster

DNA Free night with Dj's
DNA, Worcester

Thursday 27 December 2012

Delray Rockets
Hop Pole Inn Bromsgrove

Jules Benjamin and Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Boozestock Day 1
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Friday 28 December 2012

Sarah Warren & the Faulous Boogie Boys
Queens Head, Wolverley

Boozestock Day 2
Marrs Bar, Worcester

C-Jam
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Delray Rockets
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Les Trio Rosbifs
Davaid Murphys, Stourbridge

Somers Traditional Folk Club
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Lost Highway (was New Jersey)
The Millers, Pershore

Sideways Theatre Presents The Snow Queen
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 29 December 2012

Delray Rockets
Unicorn, Malvern

The Task in Hand Presents –
Howard James Kenny, Das Sexy Clap, Theo
& Broken Oak Duet
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Gypsy Lee Pistelero
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sweat with Adam Stringer
DNA, Worcester

The Dilema Council
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Taylor Made
Davaid Murphys, Stourbridge

Sunday 30 December 2012

Mark Betis Trio 1–4pm
Queens Head, Wolverley

Hej
Unicorn, Malvern

Casino Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Starbucks
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Monday 31 December 2012

Delray Rockets
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Underdogs
Queens Head, Wolverley

Rich Goble
The Old Bush Inn, Upton Road, Callow End

The Onionheads
Glovers Needle, Worcester

CoverJunkies
The Royal Oak, Kinnersley

Vo and Tyler
Speed The Plough, Tibberton

Krazy Legz
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Voodoo
Katie Fitzgeralds

Rawk Music – Episode 2: Epic New Years Eve
Dirty Electro, Dubstep, Glitch-Hop, Breaks
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lounge Toad, Short Ass Bar Studs
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

New Years Party
DNA, Worcester

Live Music + Shuddervision DJs
Pig n Drum

Flat Stanley, Humdrum Express, Tristis Peace Breaker
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Undercovers
Olivers Wine Bar, Malvern

The Fabulous Boogie Boys + Sarah Watson
The Reindeer Inn, Ombersley

January 2013

Listings correct going to press - please check
notjustsauc.com, local press, venue & artist
websites for up to date information

Tuesday 1 January 2013

Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Wednesday 2 January 2013

Anthony Vukic
Café Rene

Marzys Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Thursday 3 January 2013

Dan Greenaway
The Conservatory, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 4 January 2013

Pillars of the Community part 10
Case Closed, more tbc
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Rare Breed
Queens Head, Wolverley

Richard Clarke
Hand in Glove, Worcester

Dj Night
Boars Head, Kidderminster

We Are Goose
Katie Fitzgeralds

Jack The Biscuit
The Millers, Pershore

Last Nights Victory
Café Rene

Saturday 5 January 2013

Rich Goble
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

Skewwhiff
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Clockwork Rifle
Unicorn, Malvern

King Pleasure and The Biscuit Boys
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 6 January 2013

Remy Harris Trio 1-4pm
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 7 January 2013

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 8 January 2013

Remy Harris Trio 1-4pm
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 9 January 2013

Acoustic Music Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Thursday 10 January 2013

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Friday 11 January 2013

Delray Rockets
Dog and Partridge Inn, Alcester

Think Floys
Artrix, Bromsgrove



Saturday 12 January 2013

Soultown
West One, Hagley

Mother Popcorn
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Hitchhiker
The Unicorn, Malvern

Ester Turner
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

May Dolls
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Aquarius
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Sunday 13 January 2013

The Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Monday 14 January 2013

Folk Session
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 15 January 2013

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Fenton
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 16 January 2013

Innverse Poetry- tba
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Bexelele
Café Rene

Vincent Flats Final Drive
Queens Head, Wolverley

Thursday 17 January 2013

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Saints & Singers part V - Case Closed, more tbc
The Slug and Lettuce, Worcester

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

The Magistrate - Live Relay from The National Theatre
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Friday 18 January 2013

Mike Parker
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Barflys
The Millers, Pershore

Thrill Collins
Café Rene

Cracker and the Woodpeckers
Queens Head, Wolverley

Bromsgrove Concerts present The Tippet Quartet
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 19 January 2013

Barnstormers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Laurence Jones Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Gunnrunner
Katie Fitzgeralds

Skewwhiff
The Star, Pershore

Umphff
Unicorn, Malvern

Ronin
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 20 January 2013

Mark Bettis Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 21 January 2013

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 22 January 2013

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 23 January 2013

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Ethemia
Café Rene

Thursday 24 January 2013

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vue Bar Open Mic
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Friday 25 January 2013

Voodoo Blue
Queens Head, Wolverley

Will Kileen
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Oxzide
Katie Fitzgeralds

Manalashi
The Millers, Pershore

My Design
Café Rene

Saturday 26 January 2013

Come Up and See Me.
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Jet Black Cadillac
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dunnndmate
The Star, Pershore

Ital Sounds
Unicorn, Malvern

Rubicava
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Straff Dance (Guitarist) – From Blues to Bach
The Studio, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 27 January 2013

The Gastric Band
Nottingham Arms, Tewksbury

Strumpet 1–4pm
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Counterfeit Stones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Monday 28 January 2013

Folk Session
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Tuesday 29 January 2013

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Queens Head, Wolverley

Focus
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 30 January 2013

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Packhorse, Bewdley

Babajack
Café Rene

Thursday 31 January 2013

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vue Bar Open Mic hosted by Case Closed
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Colin Blunstone
Artrix, Bromsgrove



Listings in conjunction with www.notjustsauce.com

THE MARR'S BAR

DEC 2012

Nigel Clark
Friday 21st December



Saturday 1st
Riff Raff (ACDC Tribute)
£5 admission

Thursday 6th
Comedy Zone Presents:-
Robin Ince - Happiness Through Science
£10 tickets or £12 door

Friday 7th
The Little Hellfire Club + Young Pop
Things present:-
A Christmas Special in aid of Acorns
Free Admission Donations Welcome

Sunday 9th
Bill Smith Memorial gig - Proceeds to
Macmillans Nurses & St. Richards Hospice
£4 Tickets

Thursday 13th
Massive Head Traumas Birthday Gig
with support from Indika, Cyberstan,
Evolution of Man and Tiger Province
£4 Tickets or £5 door

Friday 14th
Ronin Christmas Party in aid of New
Hope with support from Nomad 67,
George Barnett and Tammy Down
£6 tickets or £8 door

Saturday 15th
A Goth Christmas Party presents Ann
Marie Hurst, Rhombus and Steve Mercy
£6 tickets or £8 door

Friday 21st
Winter Solstice Party - The End is Nice!
Skewwhiff, Nigel Clark & Richard Clarke
£5 tickets or £6 door

Saturday 22nd
Fury's Christmas Party with support from
Fortress, Adamantium and Steeltrooper
£5 admission

Wednesday 26th
Marzy's Charity Jam Night
Free Admission

Thursday 27th & Friday 28th
Boozestock Day 1 & 2

Saturday 29th
Task In Hand Presents - Howard James Kenny,
Das Sexy Clap, Theo & Broken Oak Duet
£5 admission

Monday 31st
Rawk Music - Episode 2:
Epic New Years Eve
Dirty Electro, Dubstep, Glitch-Hop, Breaks
£6 Tickets or £8 Door

Wednesdays - Jamming night
Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue