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DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that adverts and articles appear correctly, Slap Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by the contents of this publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor. Hello and Happy New Year to you all. Thanks for reading this, our 23rd issue which marks our 2nd anniversary of Slap Magazine. Time sure does fly, it only seems a few short months ago when we were sat in the Lamb and Flag garden discussing the idea of a local music and arts magazine. We are just short of the 1500 likes milestone for followers on Facebook so 'Alles Klar'.

Talking of pub gardens it won't be too long before we're able to sit in one with an ice cold pint of cider. If like me you get clinically fed up between November and March then you have something to look forward to!



In this issue we look back at some of the amazing gigs we were lucky enough to get to over the Christmas period, including our own Slap Night which was the best yet!

We also look tentatively forward to the summer season with Worcester Music Festival who are beginning to recruit performers, volunteers and this years charity. We will of course keep you updated on all local festivals including Lakefest who have already announced their headliners, check their website - see Slap Snippets. Sadly though, no Big Chill again this year but there are plenty of others to get excited about... watch this space!

There are also new venues providing live and original music such as DNA in Worcester, Moochers Jailhouse in Stourbridge and the Star in Pershore amongst others. If you are new to the mag and wish to get involved we are always looking for new contributers to write reviews, take photographs and keep us informed of whats going on in your corner of the Shires and beyond.

In the meantime keep Supporting Local Arts and Performers and we'll be back with the March issue in a few short weeks

- Slap Eds









SLAP SNIPPETS FEB 2013

A right royal fiddler...

It's been a right Royal December for two of our local music talents! As a member of the British Paraorchestra, Malvern's Tilly Chester featured in the opening sequence of the Queen's Christmas Message – she started playing the violin aged 4 before switching to the richer sound of the viola. Tilly joined the National Youth Orchestra in January 2012 and hopes to go to the Royal College of Music after her A levels.

...and a royal quartet

Bromyard's Remi Harris is considered by many top commentators to be one of the finest Jazz guitarists in the country and played at the Buckingham Palace Christmas Party hosted by The Queen. There were 2000 invited guests including other members of the Royal Family. The quartet appearing at the party were Remi Harris (lead guitar), Ben Salmon (rhythm guitar) Tom More (double bass) and Matt Holborn (violin).

More acolades for Peace

Peace seem to go from strength to strength – featuring in the shortlist for the BBC Sound Of 2013 as well as NME's New Band of the year, playing the New Year's Eve NME show at London's Koko and touring extensively round Europe and USA over the holiday period. Looks like an interesting year ahead!!

Tower drumming up funds

Credit to Chris Harvey and all the other drummers who joined him at Tower Studios, Pershore for a 36-hour bashing marathon at the end of December to raise more than £500 for Midlands Air Ambulance - hope the blisters have healed up now guys...

Malvern Amnesty Group

A Joint Event organised by Amnesty International Malvern Hills Group and The Chase High 6th Form Students on Friday 8th March at 7.30 at the Chase High Schools the main hall, Geraldine Road, Malvern WR14 3NZ

Speaker lan Cobain, is a Guardian journalist and a recently published author of a book "Cruel Britannia" which reveals Britain's true record of torture. He will talk about his book and answer questions

Tickets available from Books for Amnesty, 3 Edith Walk Great Malvern WR14 4QH Telephone 01684 563507 \pounds 5 Students and unwaged Free

For more info Contact Sue Wolfendale 01684 562804

Top draw acts for Lakefest

Ocean Colour Scene, one of the leading acts from the 1990s Brit Pop movement, have just signed up to headline at this year's Lakefest. Last year's event, held at Croft Farm, Bredon's Hardwick, was a great success, and this year the organisers Lee Martin, Steve Daff and Martin Newell have raised the bar even higher. Already lined up toplay at the 2013 cider and music festival are The Levellers and Chas and Dave.



The addition of an internationally renowned super band like Ocean Colour Scene will provide an even greater draw. Lee Martin said: "We are proud to bring a World-famous band to Tewkesbury, and hope local people snap up the cheaper earlybird tickets and join in with the festival spirit. "We are keen to encourage everyone to come and enjoy, listen, party and drink in all that is good about our lovely part of the world. "He added that the Lakefest website has seen a massive increase in traffic, with over 200 unique visitors a day from all over the World. "We were stunned by the level of interest considering, up to now, we hadn't even announced a headline act or advertised!"

Also announced to play at this great local festival are The Levellers, The Beat & Chas and Dave and many more.

For details and ticket information visit lake-fest.co.uk. The event runs 9th-11th August.





PLUS SUPPORT FROM CO-PILGRIM & RICHARD CLARKE & THE RAFTERS

At The Firefly, Lowesmoor Worcester. Friday, 22nd February 8:00pm f3 tickets f5 on the door and

Owen Tromans grew up in the Black Country, fronting John Peel favourites San Lorenzo before embarking on a solo career that has seen him tour with the likes of Best Coast, Mumford & Sons, Idlewild and Plush, whilst releasing numerous acclaimed albums and appearing

on collections alongside **Devendra Banhart**, Mercury Rev and also members of Sonic Youth and REM. Following 2011's Eternal Western Youthdream - a collection of a decade's worth of songs - comes For Haden. The EP, combining some of his most charming pop songs mixed with

PREVIEW THE TASK IN HAND PRESENTS ... OWEN TROMANS

his trademark stark acoustics, was described as a collection of "uncluttered and intensley beautiful ballads" by Time Out.

Rich Clarke is one of Worcester's most well known singer-songwriters. If you've seen him already then you know



what to expect: swooping, soulful harmonies and vocals framed with pretty melodies. If not, where have you been?

Co-Pilgrim is the brainchild of Mike Gale. Former frontman of Black Nielson, his ethereal vocals on lofi anthems won global acclaim. With Co-Pilgrim his love of Smog and Sparklehorse is tempered by a love for the joyous harmonies of the Beach Boys. Their latest release, A Fairer Sea (produced by Mark Gardener of Ride) is full of harmony drenched pop anthems. For more information visit. www.thetaskinhand.co.uk: www.facebook.com/thetaskinhand; follow the task on Twitter: @thetaskinhand: J. Willis: willis@thetaskinhand.co.uk: 07749326517: N. d'Arcy: 07413529400.



Families and non members welcome

ARTS NEWS



Well hello 2013! Despite all the craziness, the world didn't end and here we are for a new and exciting year Mother. cert 15 ahead!

With more music, visual arts, performances, independent cinema, classes and opportunities for voluntary experience The Worcester Arts Workshop is a vibrant hub to check out!

This year we will be starting some cutting edge theatre nights at low prices showcasing new writing from our talented county and beyond so keep your ears open and do get in touch if you are interested in developing new work and networking with practitioners.

We ended last year with a triumphant big bang with the Xmas SLAP special, featuring brilliantly stomping Balkan sounds courtesy of Johnny Kowalski and the Sexv Weirdos with special quest Ed Steelefox: split your sides comedy from Captain Hotknives, as well as **Retinal Circus** all showing us that we have true talents in our fair shire. We will be starting SLAP nights again in March so listen out for what our next musical delights will be.



February events include:

Equality in Action presents Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home. A must-see documentary showing the connection between all animals, whether human or non-human. The documentary follows the journeys of seven people (five animal farmers, an animal rescuer & a humane police officer), providing a powerful insight into their change in attitudes towards other animals and the emotional lives of the animals they once exploited. There will be an opportunity to discuss the issues brought to light in the documentary at the end of the screening.

Sunday 10th Feb 2-430pm. £2 suggested donation.

Splendid Cinema presents:

The mother of а developmentally challenged young man accused of murder will stop at nothing to prove her son's innocence. Sunday 17th. 6.30pm £5.



** (please note new time).



In the galleries this month we have an exhibition of work by local artist Jayne Gaze (see feature) and a diverse selection of creative talents in 'Made in Worcester' an exhibition featuring work by students from our creative courses here at the Workshop, including painting, oils and photography. Both shows run Feb 1st to 16th.

Then from Feb 20th we have graduate Kate Moon and watercolours from Peter Rooke, check out details on our website.

Look out for Saturday children's activities and half term fun including The Recycled Beats drumming workshop and plenty of colourful events for those voung people.

And remember, if you are interested in anything creative, check out our website for all courses, exhibitions, opportunities and performances! Join our mailing list and come see us!

Kate Cox



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



FEATURED ARTIST

Worcestershire Artist Jayne Gaze showcases recent work based on her experiences; directly influenced by the play of light and colour on the movement of water and by being completely exposed to the elements in all weather conditions. Contrasting calm and tranquillity as well as a visual 'eclection' of objects, colours and memories from around this spectacular coastline, she presents a diverse and beautiful body of work which is highly recommended.

"After sailing in the Western Isles of Scotland in the summer of 2012 I saw my world through fresh eyes and I could feel the colour seeping back into my soul"

Jayne is founder member of AIMs (www.artinminds.org.uk). She is Resident Artist for Worcester Health & Care NHS Trust and has been artist

Jayne Gaze



in residence at Worcester Museum & Art Gallery, Worcester University and Worcester Cathedral, for which she won an Arts Council England Award.

'Seeing in Colour' will be at The Worcester Arts Workshop from 1st to 16th February. www.jaynegaze.com



REVIEW

Subhumans & Screamin Abdabz - 12th December 2012

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

It only seems like yesterday I was giddy with drink and watching the amazing Citizen Fish, alas it is already 12-12-12, as they say time moves fast, and tonight looks set to be a memorable one. After a tour throughout December playing Lancaster, Dublin, Belfast and Manchester the Subhumans take to the stage at no other place to be on the map, Kidderminster town! and I'm sure they will find no warmer welcome than from The Boars Head. Despite it being bloody well freezing and a school night.





Supporting are Birmingham band lure the half thawed fire and cranked up radiators... thanks Sid!! Punk rock and roll with a set mostly of amped up covers from the likes of The Sex Pistols, Gene Vincent, Little Richard and a few of their own

songs thrown in. But despite playing a good gig and a rendition of Tiger Feet! I felt the crowd were saving their feet and energy for the Subhumans.

tonight and powerful lyrics being expressed by the bounding energy of front man Dick Lucas as he stomps across the Screamin Abdabz, the stage to a fast paced set, leaving no room to catch who do their best to his breath between songs 'Parasites', 'So Much Money' 'Zyklon B Movie' and 'Killing' to start us off. With Bruce crowd away from the Treasure on guitar, Phil on bass and Trotsky's fast and heavy drums Subhumans build up a frenzy. Between song banter from Dick expressing the pressure from society to look like and idolize a certain image in the song 'Too Fat, Too Thin'...."Over stressed and underweight or overweight and underrated in the struggle to be average!". Showing no signs of slowing down Dick sweats it out to 'Society' 'Fade Away' 'Mickey Mouse Is Dead' 'Black & White' and 'Subvert City'. A great mix of humor, anger and passion goes into making Subhumans such a great band to watch perform and listen to. Sadly it's all over too soon. 13-12-12 is another day and all that's left is a call for one last song from the crowd, to which Dick points the microphone towards the crowded room "give me a

Words & Pics by Toni Charles.



We've all heard our fair share of non political pop music being advertised as punk, but if it's real punk rock and a release of emotional frustration then look no further than the Subhumans, it's what they've been doing since they formed in 1980 and tonight I get to witness the madness for myself. The inventive







Band applications open and search for festival charity begins...

BAND and artist applications are now officially open for this year's Worcester Music Festival from August 30th – September 1st, with hundreds of acts already putting themselves forward for a slot.

As plans get underway for the three-day explosion of live, original music in pubs, clubs, cafes, restaurants and historic buildings and on outdoor stages across the city, organisers are inviting city and county-based good causes to apply to become the festival's charity for 2013.

Worcester Music Festival is particularly keen to hear from charities which use music as a form of therapy or are keen to introduce or improve music facilities as part of their overall approach.



Embracing diversity will also be important in the festival committee's decision-making process.

Last year's festival of music over the August Bank Holiday weekend, which attracted thousands of music fans of all ages to 400 performances and 30 free workshops at more than 30 city venues, raised £6,000 for **New Hope** children's respite centre in Ronkswood.

Jean Wilson, who runs the centre for children with disabilities and complex healthcare needs, said being Worcester Music Festival's charity not only helped financially, but inspired her enormously.

"When I applied, I was very stressed as I had no idea how I would pay the summer staff salaries, and when we found out we'd been chosen, I felt quite excited as it really affirmed our work and gave us some credibility," she said. "It wasn't just about raising money



for us, either. The festival committee supported us throughout the year, attended our Queen's Jubilee party and summer barbecue, while one of the committee members, **Sian Davis**, painted us a fabulous mural."

The experience also brought rewards for the children, said Jean, who set up the centre after finding a lack of support in helping her to bring up her own autistic daughter, Emily.

"Music is the one medium that all our children enjoy without exception, as even the most disabled children can pluck a guitar string and achieve something," said Jean, whose son William Hughes is the bass guitarist in Worcester's funky folk band Jasper In The Company Of Others.

"We took the children to see Worcester Snoezelen's 'Snoozy Rock Band' as part of the music festival's event to launch The Hive last April, and I was worried that it would be too loud. But, no, some of our children were up dancing, others were watching intently. Without exception, all of them enjoyed the experience and my staff had tears in their eyes watching them together, united in their love and fascination for music. Music reaches out to them and they love it."

The total raised by the annual festival through donations, raffles, collections at performance venues and merchandising sales since its first outing six years ago is almost $\pounds 25,000$.

To nominate a city or county-based charity for Worcester Music Festival 2013, visit:

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/info/charities/ or for more info, email lisa-marie@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk.

The closing date for nominations is Thursday, February 28. For more information, visit:

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk, or stay up to date with plans by liking the festival on Facebook and following the festival on Twitter. Mell Hall



REVIEW John J Presley/Vault Of Eagles/Naked Remedy.

Moochers Jailhouse, Stourbridge 24th November 2012

A rainy Saturday afternoon and I'm off to new live music venue **Moochers Jailhouse** located in Stourbridge, and quite lovely it is too! By the end of the night I've heard Moochers being compared to other big well known live music venues, which isn't bad for a venue who only opened their doors to the public at the end of last year. Turning from rock bar to live music venue and late night indie/alternative club it also has a great range of local ales to sup on, and even has its own whiskey bar!



On the live music side of things this venue is pretty neat. Its large yet intimate space makes Moochers Jailhouse more than capable of becoming a popular destination for bigger bands, up and coming local bands, even down to your acoustic open mic nights, one of these would seem out of place here. These guys obviously didn't scrimp on the technical stuff either. Housing a professional recording studio upstairs, which not only allows recording from the room downstairs for live performances, it is kitted out with top of the range equipment, instruments and post production facilities.



Offering a professional service to performers wanting to record anything they wish.

Having opened their doors in early October Moochers has seen performances from Isolated Atoms, The Guns. Dive Bella Dive and The One Twos. Good feedback from social network sites and word of mouth are bringing people down to check it out for themselves. On this night in particular



I've been temped down to watch the 3 piece band John J Presley. Described as black folk noir, I'm intrigued and excited to see what the dirty distorted style of their music sounds and looks like live.

Local two piece outfit Naked Remedy with their dirty rock sound are first on tonight and Vault of Eagles up next, with their own twisted grooves, surely any person here to see the growling fuzz and dirty beats of their set can't be disappointing when John J Presley sullenly take to the stage. Visually captivating they bring a dark and atmospheric vibe to their performance. The gravelly vocals of Presley growled along to the drowning sound of Miss Perry's loud and sombre keys. Drawing us into a set of ambient and eerie songs 'Rise To My Confession' 'Sweet Sister' and 'Dead From Inside'. Moody and interesting in a Tom Waits style they leave the stage as sullen as they arrived to the song 'III At Ease' with thrown down guitar and some loud instrumental feedback. Maybe not to everyone's taste tonight, but for me an engaging first gig at a new venue. So get down to Moochers Jailhouse yourself and check it out, if only to have a drink in their whiskey bar!



See www.moochers.co.uk for listings and studio inquires. Words & Pics by Toni Charles

february

FRI 01	MISS UNDERSTOOD PINK Tribute	Live
SAT 02	THE LEGENDARY WET DREAM Feat. Phil Gifford (Wobble)	
THU 07	CLIQUE- R&B/ Soul - DJ Nash	8.4
FRI 08	THE MAGOOS Rock, Pop & Indie Classics	Live
SAT 09	ROARING LION Dub, Dancehall, Ska	
MON 11	GENETICS Underground House - For the Educated	Student
THU 14	CLIQUE R&B/ Soul - DJ Nash	
FRI 15	CASE CLOSED Acoustic Hip Hop	Live
SAT 16	IBIZA ESSENTIALS International DJs, Club Classics, House	~
SUN 17	EMBRACE THE CHAOS Ultrazook, Barberos, Masiro, Massive Head	Live Trauma
MON 18	GENETICS Underground House - For the Educated	Student
THU 21	CLIQUE R&B/ Soul - D.J Nash	
FRI 22	GREED Abercion, Avantine, Hollow Sails, Weathered Hands, Sirens, Seall CIRCUS Feat. Al Mackenzie (D-Ream)	Live
SAT 23	ALL LUV'D UP Daft Jack, Adgected Deleted	
MON 25	GENETICS Underground House - For the Educated	Student
THU 28	CLIQUE R&B/ Soul - D.J Nash	

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The Magoos



Miss Understood



Case Closed

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COMEDY by Adam Montgommery - The Noise Next Door - Marrs Ba

Happy new year and thanks for your continued support for the Comedy Zone. Another great year of comedy ahead of us in Worcester with some old favourites, new faces, some soon-to-be-stars and some surprises too.

We kick off the new year with a special treat for comedy fans on Thursday 7th February at The Marrs Bar, Worcester.

The Noise Next Door are one of U.K's leading comedy troupes and in the last three years, they have taken the comedy world by storm, leaving audiences everywhere in awe of their lightning fast wit and totally original comedic talents.

With no rehearsal or script, between them they have an uncanny knack of transforming audience suggestions into fantastically funny scenes and songs in the blink of an eye with a perfect blend of ludicrous characters, witty one-liners, epic stories, and explosive physicality. The Noise Next Door are embarking on their first UK tour having headlined comedy clubs throughout the world and sold out shows at the Edinburgh festival. The Noise Next Door have appeared alongside some of the biggest names in contemporary comedy including Harry Hill, Ed Byrne, Rufus Hound, and Alistair McGowen and were the first international group to have performed at FRACAS improvisation festival in Los Angeles.

Unstoppably funny and uniquely talented, they are, without a doubt, one of the most exciting acts in comedy today. Hailed by the press as "world class",

"genius" and "beyond the capability of mortals", this may be your last chance to catch the boys before they are packing out stadiums.

Noise Next Door are supported by **Susan Murray**, a witty comic who performs internationally, has delighted crowds at Glastonbury Festival, Download and The Big Chill and has written for Radio 4's News Quiz, It's That Jo Caulfield and Laura Solon. She has also toured with Puppetry of the Penis!

Future shows include Loretta Maine (Pippa Evans) in March with many more exciting acts lined up including several Mock the Week regulars to come

Tickets are available www.ticketweb.co.uk or from The Marrs Bar and Music City priced at £10 each or on the door at £12.





PREVIEW Mumbo Jumbo

The Market Theatre, Ledbury Friday 1st March

Mumbo-Jumbo brings together three top Midlands acoustic musicians/vocalists, Oliver Carpenter, Abby Brant and Chris Lomas to produce a piano-led 'Eclectic Acoustic' sound that is all their own, playing festivals, blues, acoustic and folk clubs, theatres, weekenders and pubs across the country.



The band's new CD 'Life of Riley' is already getting rave reviews for its musicianship and its songwriting, plenty of radio airplay and gained the band a nomination in the British Blues Awards 2012 for Best Original Song/Songwriter.

Tickets are available online or from the box office direct from The Market Theatre, Ledbury at www.themarkettheatre.com .

For more information on Mumbo-Jumbo check out WWW.MUMBO-JUMBO.BIZ

PREVIEW PITT Projects

PITT projects and Division of Labour are proud to present Est1690. a new annual platform for art coming free to everyone in Worcester on Thursday 28th February, art delivered to your doorstep! Nathaniel Pitt has curated a special collectors edition / 41000 copies / of the world's oldest newspaper. The Worcester Berrows Journal will feature artwork by the most respected American artist of his generation; Robert Barry (NY) Elizabeth Rowe (Birmingham) and Candice Jacobs (Nottingham) Chris Hughes (Brighton) and Ned James (Worcester). The art works will also be on display and sale at PITT project space during March and April in an exhibition of works responding to the press and newspapers.



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REVIEW Ian Parker @ The Robin 2, Bilston

Sunday 16th December 2012

Slap Magazine made the drive up the M5 to the **Robin** 2 for a special Sunday lunchtime treat. **Ian Parker** was back in town playing with his full band to mark over 20 years of playing guality blues.



lan made his debut at the original Robin Hood R&B Club in Brierley Hill with his band **Strange Brew** 20 years ago when he was 15.

He has played Germany and Holland numerous times as well as all over the Midlands including the Marr's Bar in Worcester over the years, with **Parker's Alibi** and also a few solo gigs.



Early influences were Hendrix and Cream and it is evident in the way he plays. He is without doubt one of the finest guitarists we have seen over the years. With **Morg Morgan** on keys, **Dave Jenkins** on bass and **Chris** Finn on drums these boys blew the roof off the Robin 2. We were treated to over 2 hours of outstanding tracks from the band including a few of my favourites *Love So Cold, Misfits & Fools, Almost Cut My Hair* and even played his own take on Hendrix's version of *All Along the Watchtower* which was sublime. A few die hard fans even made the trip by car from Holland to see the gig, driving through the night!



After blowing his new amp up a few days earlier in rehearsals they were buzzing playing some of the old tunes, lan saying "it was the most fantastic fun", and "it's been a real pleasure for me to play these old songs again!" I have to say they were genuinely loving every second playing together again.

It was Slap's first visit to this cracking venue, the sound was absolutely spot on and the crowd lapped up the performance. Ian will be playing a mini tour in February as a 3 piece with Chris and Dave then Morg will be joining them in the month as a four piece. If you get chance please go and see them play live., you will not be disappointed. Mick "The Dog" Allen filmed the whole gig and it is on You Tube. Search for Ian Parker



and Friends and see for yourself the 20th Anniversary show. Awesome.

Catch lan at one of the newest local venue's Moochers Jailhouse in Stourbridge on February 16th.

PREVIEW February at Artrix

Three fine blues gigs grace Artrix in February and the beginning of March.

On Saturday, February 2nd, "Wooden Horse", featuring local musicians Jamie Knight and Ben Church, visit "The Studio" to play its particular style of Americana and Country Blues, laced with harmonies, slide guitar, stomp box, banjo and harmonica.



Then on Friday, February 22nd, the dance floor's down in "The Auditorium" for the first visit of local musicians (again) Oliver Carpenter and Abby Branch "Stomp and Holler", rising from the embers of "The Big Blues Tribe" and featuring four British Blues Award Nominees.



The legendary accordionist, Sharon Shannon, who plays on Wednesday 20th, has achieved legendary status all over the world and has made the much maligned instrument "cool", playing with Bono, The Chieftains, The Waterboys, Jackson Browne and many more.



And finally, on the weekend of Friday / Saturday / Sunday 1st – 3rd of March, it is the increasingly popular "Euroblues Acoustic Blues Weekend" – workshops, jam sessions and the "Acoustic Blues Houseparty" on the Saturday night, featuring Keith Dunn, Homesick Mac and Michael Roach.

Log onto the website – www.artrix.co.uk – or ring the Box Office on 01527-577330 for more details on all three gigs

THE ANCHOR INN SRESTAURANT



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The Year Ahead? - Andy O'Hare

Well hope you all had a great seasonal break and are already planning for what should be a cracking year ahead on the music front!! I'm really optimistic that we're going to have a major breakthrough act from our region in the next 12 months – and I've got a gut feeling that although it might be one of the already fast-risers like Robinson / Roving Crows / Babajack /

Jasper - there's a good chance that we'll see a real star emerge very suddenly (I've got a few ideas already!) Of course we're taking it as read that Peace are going to have a meteoric 2013.

It's not all such great news though in a worryingly brief statement the Bia Chill organisers Festival Republic said that they had no plans to proceed with the festival this year. Of it course was cancelled in 2012 as 'like Glastonbury conflicted with the Olympics' - so what's the excuse this year then? Of course there doesn't appear to be one - it's just easier to cancel after a year's absence - 'no one missed it last year, so

we'll leave it out again'. However for many people Big Chill wasn't just another festival - it was their summer holiday and an experience like no other on the calendar - it was also one of our region's main tourist attractions and was a vital part of Ledbury's summer industry. But this doesn't seemed to have mattered to the suits and bean-counters who've either discontinued it because it wasn't making enough money (not anybody's fault but theirs if they couldn't get their costings right) to suggestions that FR only bought the rights to Big Chill so that they could cancel it to concentrate on their other events like Latitude - something that we couldn't possibly contemplate as having any element of truth...

I've got a lot of wishes for musos and bands for the coming year - and the first is while mostly ok - it ain't half difficult at times to contact some acts at short notice!! The trouble of course is that in the music trade - last-minute is usually the norm - but there's been innumerable times over the past few years when we've tried to contact an act - but the phone is either switched off or even worse unobtainable and emails are never



answered (another reminder of course that your own email on FB has been overridden by FB's own and you need to return it manually to the original – have a look if you don't believe me!!)

I know I mentioned it in SLAP #1 (pristine examples of which are fetching many hundreds of times the cover price now on eBay) but it's probably worth reiterating my view bands. venues that and promoters should all play a part in publicising a gig there's still been so many instances in the last year where I've only heard about a gig after it's happened. We'd rather hear about a gig two or three times from different sources than not at all - but NOT hundreds of times from one source that's something very different indeed... Another appeal also to please remember to have some promotional material to hand at your gigs - at the very least table slips or cards with vour act/band's website - and if you've gone to the trouble of producing a CD-EP/LP please don't leave them all at home!!!

Well what do you think of the new Saturday slot for the Intro show? We'd appreciate your thoughts - but please note that "it's complete shit" isn't really the sort of constructive comment we're after... It's fair to say that there's been mixed feelings - yes 8 to 10pm is a prime spot for all the Introducing shows across the country (it was very patchy and haphazard before) but the structure has been strengthened and there's now a firm commitment each week to forward local acts up to the National Intro show - but of course it's a time when most musicians are either gigging or gig-going!! First reactions are that the live audiences are reasonable but the listen-again and online response has far exceeded expectations - swings and roundabouts then at the moment...

AOH (your comments please to:

so-sue-me@live.co.uk)



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BOARS HEAD GALLERY

Hello all and welcome back from the winter snooze, hope you all had wonderful time and we are looking forward to getting back on track! Before I get onto what is coming up just a quick nod to what has been and gone since we last spoke. There has been two fantastic 'Mouth and Music' events, including

January's that featured the amazing Anti-Poet who made me laugh so hard I nearly fell off my stool! December saw the exhibition of the the circus inspired artwork by Orly Philips, to the music of The Retinal Circus and Ed Steelefox. A great launch for a beautiful show. So good that even our local MP, Mark Garnier popped in to say hello!



Artists from The BHG and beyond also came together last minute to collaborate for an exhibition entitled 'Filling the Void' which saw a diverse range of over twenty artists come together to fill the threatened Kidderminster Library Gallery for the month. The Council are still planning to turn the gallery into office space, but the Friends of the Gallery still hope to overthrow these plans.

> We are very excited to launch our new show on February 2nd, brought to you by 'Meating People is Easy'. A very tasty collection of collages created by photographer, Emily Haf. Downstairs in The Boars from 9pm there will be tunes from the equally tasty 'Lewis Spelt Backwards' and more visuals from the Emily. This is a free event and open to all. The show will continue to run until the end of the month.

> > Other events coming up i n c l u d e : Life Drawing on Thursday 7th Feb at 7.30pm

'Mouth and Music' on Tuesday 12th Feb at 8pm.

We won't be running the art market this month as i'ts a little chilly and we know

everyone is a little short on cash, but towards the end of the month we will be starting our 'Pencil & Pint' evenings where our guests can enjoy a nice beverage and practice some art too. Keep an eye out for details to follow on our facebook page.

It may seem like a distant sunny light away, but we have already started booking artists for 'Above Boards' in August this year and I must say the line-up is looking stunning! Plenty of exhibitions to come too! If anyone would like any more information about any of the events don't forget to add us on facebook or email gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

Many Thanks Coz

For info about The BHG and The Boars Head please visit our website:

www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

For Gallery information please email Coz at gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk





CD REVIEW Vault of Eagles - Plastic Culture Human Vulture

LASTIC CULTURE

Chains really sets this E.P. up. In the very best way it reveals what Vault of Eagles are all about whilst holding real stunner here is Ruin. Mari's vocals dominate this, enough back to promise great things throughout your listening experience. The soulful vocals from Mari and Hettie mixed with guitar lines that carry a strong melody without losing that scuzzy grunge line.

Things get dirty for In Sanity. The distortion comina and going as the bass and drums rumble out a head nodding beat. With a slowed down guitar over the top it's moody rock at its best, never stepping over the mark. never pretending to be something it's not. It's a track that builds, following the similar patterns throughout but getting heavier, with more dynamics as it goes.

Following a similar pattern is Breathe for Free: but the

slipping some inflections in there as she shows her range; the whole E.P. seems to stop for her as she delivers the most heartfelt vocal performance on the whole release. Musically it barely matters on this track, even though they give it their all once again; offering more jam-style instrumentation as Scott attacks the drums and the girls let their guitars create something that lovingly swirls around the vocals.

> Me and Myself can't hope to live up to this, and while it's by no means a bad track it should have been placed before Ruin for more continuity. It breaks the atmosphere built by *Ruin*, leaving it in an unenviable position of disjointment. It's a minor issue in a

brilliant E.P., however, one that shows a band really showing what they can do without ever giving the game away. There's much more to Vault of Eagles and it's going to be great fun to see what comes next.

Matthew Tilt



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Heidi Talbot@Artrix Bromsgrove 25th Feb + New Album - Angels Without Wings

This talented singer from Co Kildare, Eire comes to Artrix on Monday 25th February as part of a 23 date UK Tour, to perform her classy new album Angels Without Wings.

To give the unitiated some idea of where Ms Talbot belongs in the musical firmament, after several years as a member of Irish-American supergroup Cherish The Ladies, this is her 3rd album since the 2008 breakthrough & raved about album In Love and Light. Featuring contributions from none other than the master of the Strat, Mark Knopfler, resonator/lap steel royalty Jerry Douglas & King Creosote (Kenny Anderson) among other such luminaries, you can start to understand the scale & intent of Heidi's operation.

Add to this the likes of Boo Hewerdine in her touring band together with flute'n'pipe legend Michael McGoldrick Et husband John McCusker (also her producer Et manager) and this further underlines this top quality enterprise.

I myself am a neophyte as I'm sure you can detect from these biographical fumblings but fans tell me that the new album takes her songwriting and arrangements to another level.

This undoubtedly is enhanced by the stellar guest contributors but somehow the excellent production manages to maintain a live and uncontrived feel to proceedings.

No mean feat for sure and thus Angels Without Wings is a consistently excellent and varied album well worth investigating for newbies..fans won't need telling.

Angels Without Wings is released on 18th February, just in time for to digest before getting along to Artrix on the 25th to what promises to be a real winter warmer of a concert.

by Victoria Values



Worcester Arts Workshop Johnny Kowalski & the Sexy Weirdos, Captain Hotknives & The Retinal Circus

All the memes in the run up to the final SLAP night of 2012 were that, according to an obscure Mayan calendar, the world was to have ended the previous night. It didn't halt ticket sales though and, surprise surprise, we woke up on Saturday with rather sore heads but the world intact and looking forward to a sell out show at the Arts Workshop.



Kicking off proceedings upstairs in Cafe Bliss were The Retinal Circus fronted by our very own Craigus Barry. 2012 was a good year for Craigus – not only is he making his name as SLAP's version of Lester Bangs he's also managed to keep his shop, Retinal Comics, ticking over and (most importantly) found more avenues to purvey his outlandish music. Tonight he is joined by David Headon, Shane Moroney, of reformed Shambollix ("the best / worst band ever"), and Sexy Weirdo John-Joe Murray. It's busy in the cafe, the set is well appreciated and the Circus get a thumbs up from Captain Hotknives, "yous waz friggin brilliant. comedy mate".



So, downstairs to the Captain. We first came across him in a field in Warwickshire at **The Horsedrawn Camp** and he had us in stitches. He was told about our distinguished publication and that he would be booked for an event, so it was great to deliver on that promise (only took about 18 months!).

Hotknives is a proper northern lad, AKA the **Bard of Bradford**, whose songs are a witty dissection of modern life. Tonight his charisma fills the entire stage (even the lighting looks good!) and he launches into *I Skanked Me Nana* – a paean to a dodgy dope deal gone wrong, set to the tune of I Shot the Sheriff – swiftly followed by *I Hate Babies* ("They're just thieving bastards in a romper suit"!). Other classics like *The Pigeons Told Me (to shoplift), Shabby Muffin* (all he could afford to eat when peckish on a train, Shabba Ranks stylee) and my current favourite, *I'm in an Anarchist Squat Punk Band* (cliche crustie types releasing beagles from experimentation only to find they were addicted to fags hence the lyric "the beagles needed Regals") cement the quality entertainment.



Headlining tonight are Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos, making a welcome return to the Workshop after their jubilant set on Super SLAP

Sunday as part of Worcester Music Festival. If 2012 was a good year for Craigus, it was a magnificent one for the Sexy Weirdos. Prestigious festival appearances, European tour and releasing their debut long player, Victory for the Monsters (see issue 22) tonight is a little bit different because they are missing





drummer Matthew who is stuck on the wrong side of the Irish Sea. Never fear because into the breach steps polymath and all round top geezer Ed Steelefox. It is testament to the high regard the band are held in and, of



course, Ed's musical talent that he doesn't just fill in but gets the frills in there too after a modicum of rehearsal. An added bonus is having trombonist. **Ross**, and his snake hips back on board.

The frenzy of carnival punk is an excellent closure to an imaginative bill that hangs together nicely, but the music doesn't end there. The aforementioned Steelefox jumps from drum stool back to the decks, despite feeling only about 80%. When he hits that other fifth, look out!

http://www.sexyweirdos.co.uk/

http://www.facebook.com/captainhotknives?fref=ts http://www.facebook.com/theretinalcircus/info



Words by Glazz Photography by Toni Charles

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PREVIEW PST Club, Digbeth

22nd February 2013 8pm

Shuddervision and Barnpoppers are proud to present The Zen Hussies.

Since their formation in 2001, this fine collection of UK based Bristolian musicians have established themselves as a formidable live act with their original brand of swinging stomp and song.

And now they venture Birmingham bound to deliver a taste of their fine musical wares for the first time at PST Digbeth, offering the perfect location for the best Zen Hussies all inclusive all sounding best party of the Bread Line tour. This forthcoming swing based spectacle includes the ever crowd pleasing Balkan-gypsy sound of quests Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos bringing a support act worthy of equal billing. In addition, the night will include some the most popular swing, ska, punk to funk DJ's on the Birmingham Music scene.



Their mighty brass and reed section blow hot and heavy to the roots rhythm section of guitars, double bass and drums, and their well crafted and often surprising musical as they take the UK live music scene by storm to arrangements are the perfect sonic vehicle for the and melodies of front-man, infectious lvrics instrumentalist and lead vocalist Jules Landau (AKA Jonah Flatfoot). - The Zen Hussies have shown themselves to be more than capable of capturing the effervescence of their live performances on record, and prove popular with DJs and fans across Europe and beyond. With their three critically acclaimed, full length LPs - 'Flatfoot Sharpsuit' (2005), 'Continental Adaptor' (2008), and 'Troubled Feet' (2010), the band are also currently at work on a fourth LP due for release in summer 2013.

Their large repertoire of chiefly original songs encompass a broad array of stylings made uniquely their own - Jump Jive, Swing and Dixieland Jazz, Ska, Rhythm and Blues and Gypsy Klezmer to name but a few are all delivered with a feisty dose of punk attitude that makes their live gigs memorable. Made even stronger with their current six piece line-up, they're tighter and stronger than ever!

The Zen Hussies Breadline Tour is packed full of their legendary high energy and effervescent performances, celebrate the launch of their exciting new single release 'Breadline' & 'Double Shift'.

Expect high octane vintage jazzyness with a neo twist as they bring the place alive with the dance floor thronging and good times rolling! This gig at PST with the Zen Hussies and their quests is one NOT to be missed!

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ARTS FEATURE By Sarah Ganderton

Held at Worcester City's Art Gallery, in the old library building on Foregate Street, this exhibition involved many artists from across the Midlands, each working in a different medium to produce beautiful handmade items. As well as being on show to the public these were also available to purchase at affordable prices. The many exhibitors displayed items of jewellery, glass, pottery, embroidery and woodwork.



contemporary The fused glass by Claudia Wiegand, who has been working in glass for 15 years, was beautiful. Her vibrantly coloured work included Christmas decorations and candle holders but also delicately crafted dishes.

Michael Carroll who graduated in 3D design at Plymouth University in 2011, had created unusual woodwork based on an interest of inventing and engineering, these included boxes, mirrors and a chair all crafted from wood with metal trimmings for an unusual look.



Vernon is described by

the artist as 'robust and

with natural themes such as fish, lizards, plants and landscapes, and they can be used as every-day items,

purchased as a beautiful

decorated

or

practical'.

gift.



Ineke Stevenson's hand thrown and hand built pottery is inspired the changing by landscapes climates and cultures experienced on her travels in the east. Her bisque fired pots with a copper based glaze come out in a



beautiful range of shades of blue purple and green, and as the glazes are difficult to control the pots are all unique.

Stevie Walker had produced beautiful textiles with natural materials such as linen, silk, wool and fleece with machine and hand stitching to create an abstracted twist on landscapes inspired by the Shropshire hills of his home.



The handmade jewellery by Jo Dewar and Gemma Farr displayed in glass cases were the most delicate

items in the exhibition. Jo's work is inspired by Arte Povera of 1960s Italy. items when were recycled from wax. fabric, wire and



newspaper. Her jewellery is knitted from vibrantly coloured copper wire to create an interesting look. Meanwhile, Gemma who teaches jewellery making at Warwickshire College, and Worcester College of Technology and pottery making at Eastnor pottery still had time to produce wonderful items of iewellery and Christmas decorations for this exhibition. Her work is created from copper and silver, shaped into spirals and fronds inspired by many things from the natural world to street art.



The exhibition started amidst Worcester's Victorian Fayre so that visitors could admire and purchase items in time for Christmas and it continued until late January taking advantage of customers of the city's January sales. Hopefully this incredible exhibition will return to the city's art gallery again next year for all to enjoy.





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At The Marr's Bar, Worcester. Thursday, 28th February | 8:00pm £7 advanced tickets and £9 on the door

Mike Watt is a living legend. To start with, he was the bassist in seminal LA post-punks The Minutemen. After they met a quite tragic end (Google it - this is neither the time nor place) he's gone on to appear with some major names. He's the incumbent bassist in The Stooges, he formed Firehose, he's worked with Porno For Pyros, J Mascis & The Fog, The No Age and Cedric Bixler to name a few. He's also gone on to form some too...

In 1995 - a year after Kurt Cobain did what he did and ended up dead - he formed The Mike Watt Band. He took bass and vocal duties whilst Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) and Pat Smear were on guitar and a certain Dave Grohl was on drums. It was during this tour that Smear and Grohl formed the Foo Fighters, ending it as a support act. The rest, as they say, is history...

That's a good example of what Watt does - he travels and meets musicians, forming acts and recording as he tours. It was in 2005 that Watt was first introduced to guitarist **Stefano Pilia**, a renowned musician at the forefront of the Italian avant-garde music scene, while he was touring Italy. Pilia has created some of the most sonically experimental and intriguing music that has led him to work with artists as diverse as **David Grubbs** and **Phill Niblock**. The two remained friends and in 2009, together with drummer **Andrea Belfi** – a multitalented drummer who gained international interest from his 2006 project **Between Neck & Stomach** - the trio set out to make music that was both organic and original.

Il Sogno Del Marinaio tour in support of their album La Busta Giallo.

Virals are a rock and roll band started by Worcester resident Shaun Hencher (Lovvers, The Murder Of Rosa Luxemburg) featuring Matt Pugh on guitar with Danny and Josh formerly of Zebedy Rays. Sun drenched, hook heavy and scuzzed up. Everyday seems to bring yet another play from Radio One and 6 music. Virals' New EP "Strange Fruit" is out now.

Influenced by the Post-Punk of Talking Heads, The Fall and Pixies, **Skewwhiff** have been writing, rehearsing and performing since the summer of 2009. *Their earthly disguise is (un)canny taking on an almost plebeian aspect/countenance; these are 'people' who will steal your lunch money, cadge fags and ponce beers off you all night long. Yes they doubtlessly indulge in anthropomorphic sex squelchings but don't let that fool you, this is immaculate music.*

For more information.. www.thetaskinhand.co.uk; www.wegottickets.com/TheTaskInHand www.facebook.com/thetaskinhand; follow the task on Twitter: @thetaskinhand; J. Willis: willis@thetaskinhand.co.uk; 07749326517; N. d'Arcy: 07413529400





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ART FEATURE Rachel Green



What medium did you decide to use?

I could imagine myself painting this tree and I eventually gave in using acrylic paints and liked the result.

So when did you start to do portraits?

A. I painted my first portrait in December 2011. I didn't know if I would be successful but I was very pleased how it turned out.

How long have you been painting?

I began painting about two years ago when I was out of work. I didn't know I could before then, having nothing but an art O level from school.

So how did it all begin?

I have always taken lots of photographs especially when out walking in the mountains and it was one photo in particular of a tree in the Black Mountains that inspired me to start painting.







Do you still paint trees or anything else?

Since then I have only wanted to paint portraits. I am always amazed by the different colours and shapes that make up a face.

Do you get your subjects to sit for you?

I prefer to work from my own photographs and getting the right quality of image is very important to me.

Do you take commisions?

I am available for portrait commissions. To contact me and view my previous work visit my website: www.rachelgreenportraits.co.uk

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Riding the wave with Robinson

Robinson has been an integral part of the Worcester music scene for many a year now, going on to receive national and international acclaim for his storytelling style of songwriting and passion for creating new sounds. Following the release of his 2011 album Beneath the Ballroom, however, he went a bit quiet. Or were we just not listening properly?

Here, we catch up with Andy Robinson, who has spent the past year living in Los Angeles, seeking musical inspiration everywhere from the boardwalk of Venice Beach, stamping ground of the early beat poets, to the home of the producer behind Leonard Cohen's latest album.

So, Andy, what have you been up to in LA?

"I've been putting together a new band, auditioning tons

of musicians, and been busking all around LA and on Venice Beach boardwalk with my double bassist, Benjamin Borland.

"We actually got invited to stay with Patrick Leonard, who wrote 15 of Madonna's number one hits and just produced Leonard Cohen's latest album, and there is work in the pipeline with him. We also got spotted playing at "the house of blues" on sunset strip by William Morris, the biggest talent agency in the world, who want to come and see more shows. So, I'm going back to LA in late

February to rehearse my band ready for the big stage.

"Probably my biggest bit of news, though, is that I'm definitely going to be recording some tunes in New York with David Kahne, who produced Lana Del Ray, which I'm very excited about."

How has your music evolved in the past year and have you changed as a person?

"My songwriting has matured greatly. I'm trying to make things more simple and be more honest with myself, stop second guessing what radio wants, which is very dangerous to creativity. I'm not caring for what is cool or fashionable, daring or clever and want to like what I like. Hopefully, that'll be enough. I'm playing a lot more of my clarinet, getting better at gypsy jazz, New Orleans and Klezmer styles, as well as other instruments I'm yet to reveal.

"I've also made big changes to my lifestyle. I don't drink or smoke anymore, which has improved my focus and I can concentrate on my music much more. It also makes touring a lot cheaper and less exhausting! My band is now accordion/trombone, electric guitar, clarinet/acoustic guitar, double bass and vocals, and closer than ever to how I want it to sound."

You are a huge fan of the likes of Tom Waits and Dylan. Any new influences?

"I have no idea what music has influenced me, or is influencing me, it's impossible to say. There is so much music I listen to that contrast and contradict each other. I find it difficult to harbour any loyalty to anything. People I'm listening to at the moment, however, include First Aid Kit, Benny Goodman Quartet, Django Reinhardt, Billy Holiday, The Bulgarian State Radio Choir, Fleet Foxes, Louis Armstrong, The Jungle Book soundtrack and The Dubliners.

What plans do you have for the coming year and any longer term ambitions?

"I'll be going back into the studio late March with my new band to record my third album and we'll do that over two studios, one in Portland and one in LA. Then, we'll play some showcase gigs around LA before leaving to go to Australia to tour Melbourne for a month. After



that. we'll return to LA. where we continue will touring for the three next months. For part of the tour, we have got a great opportunity where we will be supporting Jerry Naylor and the Crickets as part of the Rockabilly Leaends tour across the west

coast, which will be really exciting and inspiring. My long term ambition is to continue enjoying making music and sharing it with as many people as possible. And being grateful every step along the way.

Does Worcester still have a place in your heart and will we be treated to a live Robinson gig anytime soon?

"I love Worcester! A famous blonde BBC Radio Two DJ once tried to belittle our town when she interviewed me by saying "why do you stay in Worcester? I mean, who has ever become famous from Worcester?" To which I pulled out a twenty pound note and said, "that's who!", pointing at Edward Elgar. I also referred her to Robert Smith from the Cure, Traffic (Stevie Winwood), Jim Capaldi, to name just a few. I'm very proud of this beautiful city, Worcester means family to me and I will always come back because I've been shown such great support that I'm hugely grateful for. But, for now, I just don't know when I'll next be in town."

For more on Robinson, visit:

www.facebook.com/#!/Robinsonsmusic?fref=ts by Melanie Hall





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ARTS FEATURE A Video of a Painting of a Song



"Hey Andy... have a look at my new youtube channel". Until then, I had no idea that Dave Yarnell, drummer with Redditch punk-pop band A Poetic Yesterday, is also such a talented artist. Perhaps I should have, mind, since he seems to carry his tattoo gun everywhere he goes – quite appropriate in its own way, when you think of it.

So, log in I did, to www.youtube.com/davidyarnellart, where I was met with Dave's motto "art rules everything around me". And it does. You see one side of Dave when he's behind the drums, heavily tattooed, frequently barechested, a powerful, open-handed drummer. As you watch him you glean that maybe he's not quite the monster he looks, the first clue being the banter and humour that runs through APY's sets. The thoughtful themes that pervade their songs lead you further along that path....

Dave had just set up his youtube channel a few days previously, and had just the one video on it. It was a timelapse video Dave had put together featuring him creating an acrylic painting called *"Mental Release"*, and set to *"Final Farewell"* by the Puerto Rican hip hop artist **Beast 1333**. A day's work or more, cleverly and dynamically captured and set to music in a 3 ½ minute video.

Well, being closely associated with good pals of APY, **This Wicked Tongue**, my mind immediately jumped to a discussion I'd had just 3 or 4 days earlier with the band where they'd told me that their next video needed to be a little different, maybe not even featuring any of the band members at all. Within a week, This Wicked Tongue had commissioned a painting by Dave based on their song "*Cape Pelorum*". Cape Pelorum, for those not in the know, is one of the fabled places where the sirens of legend would lure passing mariners onto the rocks and a watery death, and the lyrics echo those old tales.

A few pounds later and Dave had acquired the necessary supplies, and within the week he had produced a magnificent painting of a mariner lost at sea, about to be drawn to the deep, plaintively reaching across the waves to his siren. Dave knows his photography, and he knows how to integrate his art forms. Clever lighting and positioning lets him produce compelling video footage of the creation of his work. The final piece in the jigsaw is the editing, and within another week he had produced an absolutely brilliant video of a painting of a song; a time-lapse masterpiece. The original acrylic now hangs in pride of place on a wall in a house just outside Worcester, and the video can be viewed in all its glory on Dave's channel, and also on TWT's channel.

And as for **A Poetic Yesterday**, one of Worcestershire's finest, well keep your eyes and ears peeled for gigs round your way because they really are one of the most creative and engaging, not to say LOUD, and most definitely FUN bands around.

Check out Dave's work at davidyarnellart.com

Words: Andy Maynard



CD REVIEW Dogs Of Santorini - Dirty Protest EP

It's fair to assume that an artefact called Dirty Protest including songs titled *Doggie Style* & *Stalker*, plus the disappointingly tame-named *We've Got Something Now* (maybe it's

about STDs?), ain't gonna be no wimpy "Nu-Folk" or emo related moanathon.

And so it goes, as this strictly nononsense trio comprising Hodge on drums, Ralph the bass & Chewy da sixstring razor, launch into their anthem Doggie Style. All 3 of em contribute vocals which helps underline their tough trash/punk aesthetic and this number like all 3 on the ep pounds along in perfectly priapic style.

Stalker has a great snotty NY Dolls meets Stooges riff and thus they thrust testosteronely (no such word! Ed) through the trio of tunes.

I've not seen The Dogs live but have heard fine feedback from others including the estimable A. O'Hare no less.

These boiz don't mess about and appear to eschew any hint of biog on their minimal fbook page, only managing to muster a mention of fave beverages and employ the pithy "More rock than punk.. but more punk than rock" epithet.

> This sums up their whole raison d'etre perfectly so what more can I add but get yer fingers clickin' along to itunes/Amazon/Spotify to download this incendiary

3-tracker to juice up yer Jan & thaw ya frosty Feb. Also available on limited edition 7" Courtesy Johnny Vinyl.

Words by Kane Daley



CIRCUIT SWEET

We can't believe it's February 2013 already! We've missed SLAP mag! But since we wished everyone a merry Xmas and a happy new year- a lot has once again, happened. We've celebrated finally moving into the circuit sweet cottage office, after several long and hard months of renovations, we are finally settled back into our normal routine of all things Circuit Sweet. Providing you plenty of music news, reviews, interviews, live photography and much more. We are so excited to be back in the swing of things. This year we plan to be bigger and better than ever.

During the run up to Christmas we also had our own shop sale- with all items 15% off. This year we are restocking our shop which can be found at www.circuitsweet.bigcartel.com. We are currently looking for more acts to replenish our shop shelves. As the sale exceeded expectations we would like to thank all who bought their Xmas presents from us and supported talent. With Xmas out the way the next countdown was for the end of year. The time where - for music lovers and critics everywhere it means just 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 inspiring acts you've seen. Talent that's bought you to recognise their efforts, to fall in love with a new acts. Bands exploding on the scene out of nowhere. Seeing an act at a local venue which you never thought possible. We asked local bands, international bands, labels and friends to get involved. You can find new releases you missed out on and find out what your favourite bands/labels recommended as their favourite releases all on our website. With more articles looking back at last year still to be published.

It's also so fantastic to see Hereford's live scene be reignited over the past few months. With local promoters Cider City Shows taking residency at The Victory for live local nights but still bringing in touring acts from further afield. Make sure you find them on facebook to be in the know of what they've got booked and scheduled for Hereford. AJ's above Mamma Jammas have also been busy with their plethora of live acts and finally it was great to see local band Rupert and the Robbers return to The Jailhouse.

Another thing we have to report on is the return of vinyls in Hereford. With the tragic news of HMV going into administration it's more important now than ever to support local independent shops. One thing we've missed in the heart of the city centre is a place you can go to where you can browse through copious amounts of vinyls and find that record you've been looking for; the record that will complete the collection. Based in the Buttermarket, in Hereford's high town is Vinyl Heaven. If



Artwork by Alex Amici

we aren't working chances we are spending our money there. We urge you to go and check this new business out.

As for this year- we ourselves were introduced to a remarkable band which have thrilled us for what's instore with releases over the next few months. Already we've found ourselves in love with a new act that we couldn't wait to feature on our site. We introduced our fans to such promising talent found in Quadrupède. Joseph & Damien are the powerful force behind the captivating Quadrupède. They are a two-piece Instrumental rock band that flirt with electronics to create their enchanting compositions. Hailing from Le Mans, West-side of France- it won't be long until their energy explodes further. This refreshing act have only been together a short year and have already achieved more than most. Their talents and passion combined have produced a simply flawless debut record- you can listen to this release and find out more on the duo at www.circuitsweet.co.uk.

At the time of going to press we were busy covering a few gigs nationwide including the return of the incredible Pennsylvanian duo 1994(!), which will be featured in due course. We are also back booking bands including our own Aulos. Join us next month as we get back into reviewing all these fantastic gigs going on and be sure to find us at the end of February at what could be one of the most legendary gigs to date as we join Mike Watt and the incredible Virals at The Marrs Bar Thursday 28th February.

Naomi Preece



WHAT'S ON AT THE SWAN THEATRE



Thursday 21st–Saturday 23rd February 8pm–£15

Following a busy year of filming, touring, festivals and honing their famous dance routines, Take Fat return to the Swan Theatre for a 3 night spectacular, and present a brand new show to kick off their national 'XXL Tour' of UK theatres. The ever-popular outfit continue their rise beyond mere tribute act with a show that incorporates energy, outrageous choreography, deft musicianship, and a truly original brand of comedy.

Tuesday 19th February | 7.30pm

£12 (Concessions £10, £40 family of 4)

Championship wrestling, full of sparkly costumes and audience participation, is coming for an evening of suplexs and bodyslams. See the highest quality, fastest paced, non-stop wrestling action ever seen on these shores. A fantastic action packed wrestling family night out!





Friday 1 February 2013

GA GA The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Aeonian Dog, Massive Head Trauma, Bras Sick The Pig & Drum, Worcester

The Ex Presidents – Charity Night for Facial Palsy Keystones, Worcester

Buddy Holly & The Crickets – Rock and Roll Jukebox Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Junction 7 The Bluebell Inn, A38 at Ryall, Upton on Severn

Blemished Drummonds, Worcester

Bar Flys The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Come Up And See Me Cap n Gown, Worcester

The Bbobbs Queens Head, Wolverley

The Bad Boys The Cider Mill, Hampton

Pillars Of The Community X Hosted by Case Closed The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Stiff Joints The Boars Head, Kidderminster

15 English Pounds, Stuntroxx Marrs Bar, Worcester

Will Killeen Band Millers Arms, Pershore

Family Affair Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Fifteen English Pounds Marrs Bar, Worcester

Skaville Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

4 Flights Up Moochers Jailhouse

Saturday 2 February 2013

The Charleston Chasers Number 8, Pershore

Wooden Horse The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Bosh – Jerome Hill, Edit, Neil Landstrum + more PST Club, Birmingham

The Reflections The Cross Keys, Malvern

Lewis Spelt Backwards + Art Exhibition The Boars Head, Kidderminster Twisted Species Unicorn, Malvern

Rick Lavell Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Laurence Jones Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Mickey n Griff Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Black Cat Bone, Stompin' on Spiders The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Mood Elevators The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

Rosco P Coltrane Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Pussycat and the Dirty Johnsons Moochers Jailhouse

Hot Feat Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Marches Court Talbot, Bewdley

Nearly Dan Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sugar Mama The Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Riff Raff The Star Inn, Pershore

BabaJack DD's Bar, Tewkesbury

The Fabulous Boogie Boys featuring Sarah Warren The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Trevor Burton Band Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sunday 3 February 2013

Upbeat Beatles The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Open Mic & Jam Night The Mount Pleasant, Malvern

Open Mic and Jam The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

The Sunday Session Re-Con, Great Malvern

The DelRay Rockets Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jazzenco Queens Head, Wolverley

Songwriters Circle David Murphys, Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Viv's Vinyl Jukebox Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Monday 4 February 2013

Tap Jam The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Open Mic Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 5 February 2013

Re-Con Blues Sessions Re-Con, Great Malvern

Open Mic Night The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Open Mic with Pete Kelly Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Nigel Clarke Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic Night The Retreat, Ledbury

Stourbridge Folk Club Singers Night Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Wednesday 6 February 2013

Marzys Jamming Night The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Umphff, Heinz-Sight, Open Mic The Crown Inn St. Johns, Worcester

Reggae Wednesday Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ramon Goose Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

Music @ The Morgan The Morgan, Great Malvern

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Pack Horse, Bewdley

Justin Moorhouse Artrix, Bromsgrove

Thursday 7 February 2013

Vue Bar Open Mic Severn View Hotel, Worcester

The Reflections The Conservatory Cafe Bar, Worcester

Comedy Zone Presents Noise Next Door, Susan Murray Marrs Bar, Worcester

Erection Police + Romans Talbot, Bewdley

Steve Knightly Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Mike Mann & Friends The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Red Divide Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester Acoustic Brew Showcase Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Snooty Bobs Band Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Kim Lowling David Murphys, Stourbridge

Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 8 February 2013

Classic Clapton The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Magoos DNA, Worcester

Mardi Gras with Steve Clayton David Murphys, Stourbridge

Sarah Warren Band Queens Head, Wolverley

Mini Mapp Fest Re-Con, Great Malvern

Dave Onions Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

The Temple Brothers Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Tommy Gun Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Funkinsteins Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

Sax 'n' Axe Millers Arms, Pershore

Stereosonics The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Heneasea The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hotwyred The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Mother Popcorn Drummonds, Worcester

Music @ The Legion Royal British Legion, Bosbury Rd , Malvern

Steel Box Theories The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 9 February 2013

Delray Rockets Brockmoor House, Brierley Hill

Ronin Eddies, 31 Gough Street, Birmingham

The Notorious Brothers Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

T.Rextasy The Artrix, Bromsgrove The John Steeds The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Dirt Box Disco, The Obnoxious, The Angry Bombs The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Cider City Show's presents Mattox Yard & Goddard The Victory, Hereford

Mott The Hoople's Allen (Soft Ground Album Launch) Hereford Lads Club, Hereford

Rattlesnake Jake Stagborough, Stourport on Severn

The Journeymen Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The Ex Presidents The Star Inn, Pershore

True Colours Queens Head, Wolverley

Mappfest Re-Con, Great Malvern

Stone Farm Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Sadie And The Hotheads, The Open Road Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Stripped Down Blues Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Crooked Empire Album Party The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Becca & The Sound Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Asa Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Flatwood The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Umphff Malvern Town Football Club, Malvern

Time of The Mouth EP Launch Moochers Jailhouse

Sunday 10 February 2013

Mappfest Re-Con, Great Malvern

The Machine Breakers The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Remy Harris Trio Queens Head, Wolverley

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

Dan Greenaway Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Monday 11 February 2013

Tap Jam The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Dave Onions Cock n Magpie, Bewdley Folk Sessions Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Mic Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 12 February 2013

Open Mic Night The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Open Mic with Pete Kelly Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night The Retreat, Ledbury

Stourbridge Folk Club presents John Richards Band Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Wednesday 13 February 2013

Acoustic Music Session The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Acoustic Brew Sessions Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sam Eden Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

Steves Jukebox Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Pack Horse, Bewdley

Marzys Jamming Night The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan The Morgan, Great Malvern

Kevin Underwood Masons Arms, Wichenford

Thursday 14 February 2013

Vue Bar Open Mic Severn View Hotel, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The May Dolls The Gloster Arms, Malvern

Electro-Swing Burlesque Ball Re-Con, Great Malvern

Ant-Valentines Night Moochers Jailhouse

Love Toad The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dave Onions David Murphys, Stourbridge

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Mic with Carol Lee Sampson The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Brothers Groove Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 15 February 2013

The Reflections Bar 12, Worcester

Gigspanner Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Umphff White Bear, Tewkesbury

The DelRay Rockets The Anchor, Tewkesbury

Sunshine Band with Sally Haines Queens Head, Wolverley

Bromsgrove Concerts present Young Musicians Showcase Artrix, Bromsgrove

Cream People The Boars Head, Kidderminster

She Will Rock You –Reign Of Fury, 44 Fires, Paralus The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Skint Drummonds, Worcester

Dave Onions Millers Arms, Pershore

Honeyboy Hickling Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Flat Stanley The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Dave Onions The Millers, Pershore

Cocksure, Lobster Re-Con, Great Malvern

Live Hip Hop Feat Case Closed DNA, Worcester

Malpractice The Anchor Inn, Eckington, Pershore

The Cohen Brothers The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

We're No Heroes Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

Saturday 16 February 2013

Ibiza Sessions DNA, Worcester

Pigbag, Cantaloop, The Bluebeat Arkestra Moseley Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival Launch Party Hare & Hounds, Kings Heth, Birmingham

The John Steeds Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove Delray Rockets Unicorn, Malvern

lan Parker Band Moochers, Stourbridge

Mark Drew Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Highroller Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Straight Aces Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Beverley Craven Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Project, Hyper Reality The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Nice and Sleazy The Star Inn, Pershore

Sugar Mama Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Rio Carnival Re-Con, Great Malvern

Chuck Harriet Trio, English Tapas Night The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Schemers Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Cider City Show presents Polar, Palm Reader, Catharsis The Victory, Hereford

Live Music Black Lion, Hereford

Trevor Burton Band Stagborough, Stourport on Severn

Sunday 17 February 2013

Ultra Zook (France), Barberos (Liverpool) Masiro (Oxford), Massive Head Trauma DNA, Worcester

Open Mic & Jam Night The Mount Pleasant, Malvern

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

Fordante Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Sunday Session Re-Con, Great Malvern

Jazz Sunday Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 18 February 2013

Tap Jam The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Open Mic Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 19 February 2013

Stripped Down Blues Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Open Mic Night The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Open Mic Night The Retreat, Ledbury

Stourbridge Folk Club presents Brook Williams Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Wednesday 20 February 2013

Sharon Shannon The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Marzys Jamming Night The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan The Morgan, Great Malvern

Quill Queens Head, Wolverley

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Pack Horse, Bewdley

The DelRay Rockets The Masons Arms, Tewkesbury

Steves Jukebox Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Chicago Blues Kings Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

Acoustic Brew Showcase Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thursday 21 February 2013

Vue Bar Open Mic Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Dj Night with Dave King Keystones, Worcester

Take Fat The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Dave & James King, Ed Steelefox, & others Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

TwoManTing Re-Con, Great Malvern

Trevor Burton Band Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

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Mike Mann & Friends The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern Sadie Owen Talbot, Bewdley

Saints & Singers, Case Closed, Inca Hoots, BaseBeta Slug & Lettuce, Worcester

Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 22 February 2013

The Executives, David Young The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Ronin Re-Con, Great Malvern

Stomp & Holler The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Regin of Fury, 44 Fires & Paralus Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Reflections The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Kevin Underwood Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Shuddervision and Barnpoppers present The Zen Hussies., Johnny Kowalski & the Sexy Wierdos PST Club, Birmingham

The Hitmen Millers Arms, Pershore

Hitchhiker, Sue Bell, Ronin Re-Con, Great Malvern

Take Fat The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Four New Poofs And A Piano Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

SugarMama Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Owen Tromans, Richard Clarke & The Rafters, Co-Pilgrim The Firefly, Worcester

The Moonshakers Drummonds, Worcester

The Pull The Gate Inn, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham

The Wrens The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dj Night The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Taffy Was A Thief Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

The DelRay Rockets Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 23 February 2013

Men In Shorts Rainbow Hill Club, Mayfield Road, Worcester

Ginger Baker The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Pewke Band The Chestnut Inn, Worcester Bare Bones Boogie Band Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Outland Slickers Speed The Plough. Tibberton

Pete Zimmer Band Stagborough, Stourport on Severn

Dodgy The Star Inn, Pershore

Matt Peplow Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Bull Vs Bear, Burden Of The Noose & Fragments The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Hump De Bump Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Take Fat The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Who's Next Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Radio Clash The Marrs Bar, Worcester

A Night of Hip Hop The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Big Que, Case Closed, Lost Fam, Dj Billy Whizz, + Guests The Crown Inn St. Johns, Worcester

Dublin Jacks The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Alex Rainsford Unicorn, Malvern

Riff Raff Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sunday 24 February 2013

Justin Currie The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The King Clarinet Trio Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra – The Big Bands Are Back! The Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

The Sunday Session Re-Con, Great Malvern

Dave Onions The Wheatsheaf, Shrewsbury

Strumpet Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 25 February 2013

Tap Jam The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Heidi Talbot The Artrix, Bromsgrove Dave Onions Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

W Factor Final Number 8, Pershore

Folk Sessions Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Mic Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 26 February 2013

Jim Lockey & The Solemn Sun, David Young Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham

Open Mic Night The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Pete Kelly Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night The Retreat, Ledbury

Folk Night Millers Arms, Pershore

Wednesday 27 February 2013

Marzys Jamming Night The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan The Morgan, Great Malvern

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Pack Horse, Bewdley

Terry Clemmett Cafe Rene, Cheltenham

Acoustic Brew Showcase Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thursday 28 February 2013

Vue Bar Open Mic Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Mercury The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Open Mic The Star Inn, Pershore

Mike Watt, Virals, Skewwhiff The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Open Mic with Carol Lee Sampson The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Players Re-Con, Great Malvern

Mike Mann & Friends The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern



Mike Watt Thursday 28th February

Friday 1st Fifteen English Pounds and stuntroxx £5 ticket £6 on the door

Saturday 2nd Black Cat Bone and Stomping on spiders £4 ticket £5 on the door

Thursday 7th Comedy Zone Presents: Noise Next Door & Susan Murray £10 ticket £12 on the door

Saturday 9th The Crooked Empire Album Party £4.50 ticket £6 on the door Sunday 10th The Machine Breakers £5 ticket £7 on the door

Friday 15th She will Rock You (Queen tribute) £5 ticket £7 on the door

Friday 22nd Reign of Fury, 44 Fires & Paralus £3 ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 23rd Radio Clash (Clash Tribute) £5 ticket £7 on the door

Thursday 28th Mike Watt (Minutemen, Firehose, The Stooges) Virals & Skewwhiff £7 ticket £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk 01905 613336

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