

SLAP

Issue 26

May 2013

MAGAZINE



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May 2013 MAGAZINE

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12" Art Amnesty

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Hello folks, its spring at last, or at least it felt like it for an hour or two the other day... It did, however, put me in the mood for the upcoming festival season. Starting with The Blue Dragon Beer and Music Festival, which marks the 'end of the lane' (see page 9). A sad occasion in many respects, but with live music and even livelier cider (trust me, I was there last year), its a chance for the Worcester City FC Supporters Trust to raise a glass, awareness and cash in their quest for a swift return for our local football club to a new stadium in the City. So get yourselves down to St. Georges Lane one last time.

Other local festivals in the merry month of May include The Lechlade Music Festival and Wychwood Festival (pages 29 & 35), so plenty to look forward to!

On the Arts scene it's great to see even more local collaboration with Kidderminster's Boars Head Gallery handing over the 12" baton of the Art Amnesty exhibition to Worcester. Inspired, as we were, we used their official poster for our Slap front cover this month. Go see it in the flesh throughout May at the Arts Workshop.

Looking back on April we had our first Slap Night of the year, hosting East Midlands Hallouminati and local folk pirates The Whipjacks. Another storming success, whetting our appetites for the months ahead.

Don't forget to keep us informed about what's going on in your area - reviews, previews, promotions or advertising - we're here to help!

- Bed Eds



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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH



City Music Venue threat?

There's a lot of concern that a Worcester housing development could result in the city's premier music venue having to shut due to 'noise' issues. Planning permission has been provisionally granted for a 14-bedroom development opposite the Marrs Bar in Pierpoint Street - but only providing environmental health find volume levels at the gigs that've been held there for more than 13 years don't go over 'acceptable' limits - so crank it up guys!!!



Cher still competing for votes

Malvern's Cher Lloyd is up against the likes of Taylor Swift and Katy Perry as her massive stateside single 'Want U Back' competes for teen fans votes in the Best Song and Best Break-up Song categories at the Radio Disney Music Awards. The song has sold over two million copies and she's also been nominated for Best Female Artist. Cher has more than four million followers on Twitter - making her more popular than her X-Factor mentor Cheryl Cole - you rock girl!!!



Euro Weirdos



Carnival punksters Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos set off on their second European tour - saying farewell to Blighty with a storming gig at their 'spiritual home' of the Marrs Bar alongside The Nutters and Leeds' China Shop Bull - should be a cracking summer ahead for the Weirdos following a main stage appearance at Nozstock last year and a totally unplanned acoustic session with BBC Introducing!!!

High Praise for Lexie

Not really on your SLAP team's regular music listening agenda - but fair dues to Worcester's Lexie Stobie for her sixth appearance on BBC's Songs Of Praise - singing 'The Lord Is My Shepherd' on Palm Sunday at Canterbury Cathedral following the new Archbishop's consecration - with an encore of her own death-metal version of 'Rocks Off' - just joking of course...



Lauren on R1 play list

Tenbury teenager Lauren Wright's debut single 'Kiss Me' playlisted on Radio One end March/start April



Malvern Rock warms up!

Malvern Rocks is gearing up for the summer. For each of the three months leading up to the festival in August, town centre venue Re-con is hosting a series of warm up gigs starting with a trio of talent on the 11th of May.

Time of the Mouth, Dogs of Santorini and Skewwhiff are the first performers while on the 8th of June it's the turn of Ancient Addicts, Calm Like a Riot and Artstar before the grand finale on July 13th when Becky Rose, Atoms and Threshing Ground get to support voice of the Inspirial Carpets, Tom Hingley.

This prescient feast of music is a foretaste of the second Malvern Rocks festival which kicks off on Friday the 2nd of August. With more venues and more bands, the festival is set to be one of the highlights of the musical calendar. Malvern Rocks organisers have also been talking with folks from the Worcester Music Festival and the two groups have agreed to host a stage at each other's event. See malvernrocks.com for more info.

Manc Mouthpiece comes to Kiddi

A poet is travelling all the way from Manchester to Kidderminster to appear at Mouth and Music at the Boar's Head on Tuesday May 14th. Dominic Berry, "exuberant, lively and totally nuts" will appear alongside local musician Johnny Gash, described as a cross between Jarvis Cocker and Morrissey. MC Heather Wastie will also welcome any poet, storyteller or musician who would like a 5 minute performance slot on the night. The evening starts at 8pm and open floor slots can be booked from 7.30pm. Newcomers are always welcome.

Barking up a Bonsai...

With sales of their first EP going very well, the Dogs of Santorini were recently asked to record an intro for their song 'Doggie Style' to be played on Tokyo FM radio. The canine crew reportedly managed not to make a dogs breakfast of their Japanese but have yet to put the thirty second spot on general release. Is a Japanese tour looming? Maybe, but not before they complete their five date May Mini Tour of Malvern and Worcester which culminates at Wychwood Festival in Cheltenham on the 31st May. *Conichi wa Dogs of Santorini des!*



The Pyramid People are holding a mini Pyramid Party at Re-con in Malvern on May 25th. The Saturday night will see Atoms, Phatti Mango and a one-off reunion gig by the Funky Junky Monkeys. The Pyramid People say they are waiting for a proper summer before their next three day festival when they will no doubt, see you in the sunshine!

Race Night for Theo

A Race Night is being held in Hereford, organised by a fundraising group called Theo's Friends. It will raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital and Ronald MacDonald House in Birmingham. This group is working in memory of a brave little boy called Theo Rachel who sadly passed away in February only three months of age, after being born with left heart syndrome. The group, started by Theo's parents, friends, family and colleagues wanted to thank both these services for their support when Theo was in Hospital, and to help other children with similar conditions.



The race night is on 7th June at the Railway Club in Hereford. There will be nine races, a raffle, auction and disco with the first race at 7.30pm - so visitors are asked to arrive for 7.00pm. Tickets are only £5.00. Each race has been sponsored by a different company and there is still the opportunity to sponsor a horse, jockey or owner. This costs only £5 each - much cheaper than owning a real race horse, and winning sponsors will win a bottle of wine (Three bottles of wine for wining horse, jockey and owner). As well as the opportunity to win lots of prizes and gamble on the races, there will also be a bar, buffet and band, so it will be a very entertaining evening. All profits from the event will go to the charities.

For any other details and to book tickets please contact Dave Rachel, Theo's father, on 07860 630957.

News HASH Naked band calendar line-up exposed!

YES, you heard it right, bands and artists who perform at Worcester Music Festival have been roped in to get their kit off for a naked band calendar with only their instruments to protect their modesty (some of them are super shy, you know. Honest, guv).

And, exclusively for SLAP, we can finally reveal the line-up.

With our naughty hats on, you couldn't write it, with our gorgeous goblet of brazen exhibitionists including The Whipjacks, The Stiff Joints and John Noblet from Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos (regrettably, no Phil Wilkins with his great big tuba).

Buy a calendar - as mentioned by Tom Robinson on his BBC 6 Music show last week - and you'll also get to see Ronin frontman Kit Kinrade and the full band line-up of 11:11, Jasper In The Company Of Others and Calm Like A Riot in their full glory (well, almost).

And, doing it for the girls, violinist Susan Bell, drummer Joby Hill AKA Ladystix from BSN [4:20], singer guitarist Sophia Liana from Psyflyer, bassist Tonina Westgate from SpaceBetween & Hitchiker and singer songwriter Sally Haines will also be modelling their birthday suits.

The calendar goes on sale in July and will run from September 2013 - August 2014.

Crucially, all proceeds from the calendar will be shared between our 2013 chosen charities - Sight Concern Worcestershire and Worcester Deaf Children's Society - and Worcester Music Festival, which is run completely by volunteers and relies on donations and fundraising to survive.



Organiser and chief of promoters for Worcester Music Festival, Siani Price said: *"We got the idea from the whole Calendar Girls thing, but, with such an eclectic and eccentric line-up of amazing musicians involved, this is going to be something else. Get ready, SLAP readers."*

"Got a business and want more exposure? Or just fancy supporting a 'rear-ly' good cause? To sponsor one of the naked band calendar months for just £50, email sianidriver@gmail.com or call her on 07917 701257. Other calendar sponsorship opportunities are also available from just £20.

With 722 acts to choose from, our festival promoters are like kids in a toyshop as they start to put together a final line-up for this year's showcase of original music from August 30 - September 1.

There are 300 performance slots available at the festival, which takes place at over 30 venues including pubs, clubs, cafes and historic buildings - as well as outdoor stages - across the city.



Hello you all!

It's mostly an art related month this time round with three fabulous shows offering a diverse range of imagery to feast your eyes on, taking inspirations from around the world.



"Vermillion, Orange, Scarlet Circles and Truths" by Sarah Jones is an exploration of the beauty of colour and Buddhist philosophy through the medium of batik.

Sarah has been playing with batik for the past decade and produces vibrant contemporary images. This exhibition, her first one-female show, combines her love of colour and pattern with her Buddhist meditation practice. Her batiks are intoxicating, full of colour; intricate patterns flow with Indian inspirations, warm and opulent. She currently has work exhibited at the RBSA.

In contrast, in the Klik Klik Cellar space, local photographer Emily Haf showcases new work with **'Meating People Is Easy'** (note the meat) - a sentence: 'Making the familiar strange'. Meating People is Easy shows collage work from photographer and artist Emily Haf. Influenced by living in the Czech Republic, the work exhibits elements of how we face images in modern life. Found amongst meat, female models, babiĉkas and Soviet landscapes the familiar is made strange and a subtle story starts to appear.

And using the corridor space for some pop up shows "spinning on to our next track, (or show even)" on tour from the Boars Head Gallery the 12" Art Amnesty, an exhibition created using old vinyl records curated by Corina Harper. Some of you may have heard about or even contributed to, as the BHG has been inviting artists, musicians, film-makers and general creative folk to respond to the challenge of creating

one piece of art using one 12" record. After being displayed at The BHG throughout April, the records have now moved to the Workshop where you can come take a look, do one yourself and get yourself down to the opening night for Melo DJ, spinning and scratching his own vinyl.

The big opener for all three (yes three) or these fine exhibitions of amazing creations is Fri 3rd May from 6pm til 8pm. It's free so you have no excuse! All shows run until 3rd June.

So we are all starting to think about festivals, but the problem is that it's still so bloomin' chilly so how about get yourself down to an indoor festival on sat 4th May with Embrace the Chaos. live music, independent film and stalls selling local arts. The festival goes on from 3pm until 9pm. £5 entry.

Lazy Sunday 12th May brings R&B Soul Call Me Unique as well as Jenna Varndell (plus her band) jennavarndellmusic.com plus Local hip hop artist Anj Avraam and Worcester based singer/songwriter Natalie West. 1pm til 6pm.

Most of our courses have begun for the term though there are still chances to come get creative with creative textile six week course starting 5th June and contemporary Watercolour 6 weeks starting 7th June. Life drawing may still have places available too...



Family gallery workshops for children and their families are on the second Saturday of every month so come along on May 11th to take part in creative fun for all! Two age groups, younger (5-8) are 11am to 12.30pm, older kids group (8-12) starts at 1pm til 2.30pm. It's fine to cross over ages if you have different aged children as it's really informal but just as a guide. Price per family £1.

We are recruiting now for new volunteers so if you are interested in getting involved with Worcester city's independent arts hub, go on the website where you will find a form or please contact:

info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP

21 Sansome Street, Worcester

WR1 1UH Tel: 01905 25053



REVIEW Lake District, Camden Town by Stephen Wilson

Worcestershire's fab county arts officer Stephen Wilson came up trumps last weekend when he showcased a snippet of his new piece of writing (yes he is a writer as well as supporting the rest of us in our artistic endeavours).

Entitled *"Lake District, Camden Town"* read by professional actors Stephan Bessant, Jessica Franklin and Elena Coggins, with a short performance by Stephen himself, this is an awkward yet hilarious look into 1970's life underpinned with the social conscience of the rise and death of council estates. Based loosely on Stephen's own experiences growing up in London social housing, it is a story about life, adultery, flashbacks to a past long gone and ladies underwear!

We got a good crowd in downstairs for this thirty minute piece of contemporary theatre, in which time

many laughs were heard and with the front row coming down from drinking cider at the Lazy Sunday event in the cafe, heckling could have ensued... thankfully the room was full of much laughter plus some after show discussions about the politics and stigma attached to council living.

"I hope that the play will encourage other Worcester writers to get something written and performed" said Stephen.

We hope so too and say a big 'Well done Mr Wilson'. We look forward to the whole play when it's finished and hope you will bring it to the Workshop!

If you are interested in performing a piece of short theatre, do get in touch as we will be running some more similar events again soon!

Kate Cox



ConFabulous

Those minxes of muse are at it again. Catherine Crosswell and Amy Rainbow are hosting their second ConFab Cabaret night at Re-con in Malvern on Tuesday May 21st from 8pm. With poetry, music, dance, song and cabaret acts of the type that may well keep you awake at night.

Once again, the public are asked to be prepared to share. Two minutes are to be given over to anyone who wants the opportunity to try out their troubadour skills. The line up so far includes Gloucestershire Poet Laureate Brenda Read-Brown, Walsall Poetry King (with keyboard) Al Barz and Herefordshire hairy hero Rapunzel Wizard with more acts clamouring to be added to the bill. Alongside the silliest raffle, the Disco Ball and the resident Beardy Bar Bard will be a new feature; Myfanwy's Fox Pops where the audience get to have their say, on what I have no idea, but I'm sure it will be spectacular. Doors open at 7:30 and close late with entrance by donation. A gem of an evening, heartily recommended!



RT

I eagerly awaited Lisbee Stainton's return to the Marrs Bar, especially as this time it would be with her band. I had to wait a little longer than anticipated due to her cancelling several shows due to illness. Woman-monia no doubt... Fortunately my disappointment was short lived as she re-scheduled this gig for Monday April 1st.



Bank holiday gigs are rarely well attended but with our very own Richard Clarke in support, I knew this was to be a special night of acoustic, blissful tunes, for those who ventured out. Undeterred, a relaxed and full of confidence Clarke began his set to just a handful of people, playing songs from the acclaimed Richard Clarke and the Rafter's album *'Hidden In Between The Trees'* - available from Rise Records. Stand out tracks for me were *Where I Reside*, *Only Us* and *Arboretum*. So engrossed I was that I didn't even notice the audience numbers increase until the practically thunderous applause!

Lisbee's band took to the stage, Andy Chapman on drums (not one kit but two!) and Charlie Wilkinson on strings. Lisbee started the set from the dance floor, distributing percussion instruments amongst the crowd. Nice touch - something different, engaging the audience from the outset.

I've seen Lisbee perform on her own several times before but despite this, something was different: yes she had her band, but it was more than that; she looked different, older, sexier and, dare I say it, more rock chick.

Playing songs from her latest album *'Go'* (see review in BackSlap Issue 24) like *'We Don't Believe in Monsters'* and *'Wrench'*, she kept me and most of the audience mesmerised throughout. Old favourites like *'Rainbow'* and *'Never Quite an Angel'* sounded new and fresh with the fuller sound of the band behind her.

Having lost all her percussion instruments at a recent gig in London, she politely asked for her new ones back. I, on the other hand, had my eye on Charlie's Telecaster!

Embarking on her first headline tour, this was a chance for Lisbee Stainton to shine and really showing her audience what a great singer/songwriter she has become. Amongst others, Tom Robinson recognised her talent and she has become one of the hardest working performers on the circuit.



Lisbee is taking time out to record another album after which she'll be back with her World Games Tour in November when takes in Artrix, Bromsgrove and The Courtyard in Hereford. But before that, rumour has it she'll be making an appearance at Malvern Rocks in August. So no excuses, go and see her, but in the meantime visit <http://www.lisbeestainton.com>



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**A local festival for the community
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Saturday night at this Malvern music magnet, and its local band, Blues Award winners Babajack, but that's not all; close friend from the cold North, Dave Arcari is sharing the bill. What more could you want, good ale? Well that's on tap as well.



The show is a sell out, and the room is full with an eclectic mix of enthusiastic music lovers. Becs and Trevor have greeted the throng and Dave Arcari, along with an assortment of guitars and banjo, vocal chords lubricated, is ready to roll. This bearded man in black has a gruff, raw blues style, that is delivered in punk style, right in your face!

Dave starts off 'gentle' but raw with '*Cotton on my Back*' and '*Cherry Wine*', moving swiftly and constantly through the first 20 minutes of stage.

A change of guitar to his beautiful polished steel resonator, twang, and immediately breaks a string. No time to stop, he switches to his electric hard body guitar and this dark irreverent apparition plays on; through to '*Homesick Blues*', and a change of direction. Trevor (Babajack) steps up harmonica drawn, ready to duel with Dave who has '*Trouble In Mind*'.

Brilliant, its an opportunity to appreciate Trev's harp skills without dividing his albeit wide talent, with the wine box guitars.

Dave steps up a gear, no more pussy footing as he reaches for his matt black National Resonator. The first chords splattered the crowd, dirty, saw toothed, demanding our attention, the atmosphere is electric, so is Dave, he hops around the stage, never still, assaulting our ears with this grunge laden, punk styled guitar. There's all sorts of Blues, Hangmans, red Letter, Good friend, and Blue Train, he Can't be Satisfied.

The Finale of this non stop set is '*Walkin Blues*', accompanied by Becky on African drum and Trevor on the harp. Along with Johnny Cash's '*Blue Train*' its a riveting finish, Dave crashes through the onlookers, circling his victims before closing the noose and hauling us all into his musical mayhem. Unmissable those who were not here on the night are at a loss, we that were, had been truly Arcari'd, and will be scarred for life!!!!

A short break as the stage is reset, and Babajack resume their normal format; plus bass player Alan Birkenshaw, new to the band this year and introducing a new dimension to this award winning band. Did I already say, award winning local band, possibly one of the best live bands in the country. Am I a fan? Too bloody true I am. Yes I have heard their songs before, and watched them perform in many places. I have enjoyed every one. If you have yet to see/hear them, its about time you sought out a gig, they are becoming increasingly more mobile and popular around the UK and Europe, so when they are so close to home why wouldn't you join them?

Opening with the '*Money's All Gone*', they draw heavily on the recent '*Rooster*' album, delivering the music in their unique style. Son House's '*Death Letter Blues*', is delivered first class with their tribute to that great delta blues man. I love the way it is sung with such passion along with Trevor's brilliant slide play.

The eagerly awaited new album, '*Running Man*' is also aired in part, many devotees listening will have already pre-ordered their copy in support of the band. Again Trevor lowers his guitar and accompanies Becky with his harp as she forms us with '*Hammer and Tongs*', wonderful stuff.

I have probably said it all before, but this band delivers, consistently, 120%. Their style is their own, as is the music, the few tributes are heartfelt and given a Babajack make over. They are few and indeed with their own material so good, they do not need to perform songs written by other musicians. That is why those few that deserve performing, can be done with real respect and feeling.

A round of 'happy birthday' shakes the walls and rattles the glasses behind the bar. Its nearing midnight and Trev will hit the 50 mark.

So we find their grand finale, a real Babajack crowd pleaser, and one of those songs rooted in history, revived by Lead Belly (arguably), '*Black Betty*'. All join in, the atmosphere is intoxicating, Trevor is playing his guitar as a man possessed; Becky holds the crowd in her hands as she stretches this old song to a full 10 minutes; nobody would have wavered had she pulled us on for another 10.

Fantastic night at an excellent venue. Dave Arcari and Babajack, a heady mix, yes a partisan audience, but that was the loss of all who have not experienced such music. THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE!



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Live/Local/Original - how to get started? - Andy O'Hare



It doesn't seem like that long ago when going to a live gig meant hearing *'All Right Now'* for the ten-thousandth time - then about 8-9 years ago my eyes and ears were given a refreshing treat by what I call the 'Hereford Revolution' - with bands like *Dandelion Killers*, *Tastyhead* and *Bitchpups* headlining great gigs at venues like *The Herdsman* and *Imperial* with their classy original and so-hummable numbers. This seemed to act like a catalyst to visiting outfits and opened the doors to new Worcestershire acts - chiefly of course the still-legendary *And What Will Be Left Of Them?* - still going in one form or another to this day!

Perhaps there was an original music scene before 'Hereford' - yeah sure there were outfits like *Sons Of Spock* and *Wrathchild* playing regularly but for me that time seemed to feel once again like the other musical 'awakenings' I'd experienced before - punk in the mid-70s and Britpop in the 90s - least said about the 80s the better from my point of view...

There was a recent study by Canadian scientists claiming that listening to new music can boost the brain and improve neural connections - by stimulating and testing the parts of the brain involved in pattern recognition, prediction and the creation of expectations - and I've got to say that I'll broadly agree with this. Don't think a week goes by when I don't hear at least one new original song from a local act or band and think 'Wow - that's great!!' - and this is as likely to happen at an open mic night as well as at a pre-arranged gig - which is why I'm a big fan of that format!

This is why I try to get to as many gigs and musical events as possible - it simply maximises my chances of hearing something new, fresh and usually uplifting. It's not always the case though - I went an open mic one the other week (not one on my usual 'round') that seemed to consist almost entirely of rendition of Bob Dylan and Oasis numbers - and while I applaud anyone who's brave enough to step on stage and 'give it a go' - that's not what I'm after - and there's a twinge of disappointment when you realise that the performer has played it safe with a well-worn standard - though this touch of ennui is usually replaced by blind fury when the opening bars of 'Wonderwall' are strummed...

When I do discover a cracking new song - and it's a real bonus if it's immediately or quickly available to have another listen via CD or mp3 - please note that I don't count vinyl as being a 'convenient format' (!) - then it'll probably top my own personal playlist for a while (reminded when John Peel played *'Teenage Kicks'* twice in a row on his Radio One show - awarding it 28 stars out of a possible five) - before it moves to the back-burner,

replaced by a newer model and ending up in one of my Greatest Hits compilations - a bloke's got to have a hobby in life...

Now while I'm a fan of live, local and original music - I try not to lose sight of the fact that all acts start out by playing covers in some form or another - many are happy to carry on doing that until the cows come home - but I'd like to make a little request - if this is what you prefer, then why not make a choice to cover something that's a little bit more obscure and that's been not performed to death - like the above-named musical horrors and about a half-dozen other culprits (an exercise for the interested reader...)

Quite often at open mic nights I've heard performers say that they've only got time for one more number and would the crowd like to hear a cover or one of their own? Ok - ask the question by all means but choose one of your own every time - that's what these events are all about - people (like me) go to open mics precisely to hear new talent and new songs - we're not expecting perfection by any stretch of the imagination and audiences are usually very forgiving and understanding if something doesn't quite go 100% right!!

I'm no songwriter myself but at times a tune or riff will come into my head - the trouble I have is that I've usually forgotten it by the time I get a chance to jot it down, play it on a guitar/keyboard or hum it into a recorder - think that this is probably common to a lot of musos out there. The alternative to waiting for these serendipitous moments is to put time aside purely for the purpose of writing lyrics and music - and I think it's well worth checking Tom Robinson's views in his BBC Introducing Masterclass on this!!



Essentially Tom's own view is that songwriting is akin to an industrial process - set yourself down with the aim of writing something and then repeat the process again and again - with quantity being more important than quality - his idea being that for every ten songs you write like - maybe only one or two are likely to be any good - but you'll have produced them!! Ok maybe this is a bit simplistic and isn't going to work for everyone - and pointless for those blessed with the gift of producing great numbers at the drop of a hat!! But if the muse doesn't come that easily to you maybe it's a technique worth considering - love to know what you think about this!!

AOH

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

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Well, the 12" Art Amnesty has absolutely taken us by storm and now its time to see the collection of decorated 12" records move on to our good friends at Worcester Arts Workshop. We managed to whittle down the entries into a shortlist with categories including Prettiness, Technical Skill, Originality and Personality. On International Record Store Day, we invited the lovely band 'Lobster' to come and judge their favorite. After

Saturday 4th May is Market day and we have put in a special request for sunshine. We are having an outdoor mini paint jam to promote 'Above Boards' and there should be plenty of new stalls too. What could top the day off better than Omnia Opera playing in the evening. The market will run on the first Saturday if every month as usual.



May is the month that we see's Mental Health Awareness week. We are aware

that mental health issues do touch a lot of people that visit the gallery and art can often be the way for people to express themselves and confront issues. Later in the year we will be planning to show the results of some projects we are working on at the moment along this theme, but in the meantime we are holding group show featuring work from KAF Creatives and Friends, entitled, 'Heres my mind...'

On Sunday 26th May we have having an extra special visit from the band OPM who wrote the smash song, 'Heaven is a half pipe' who will be performing Live in the Boars Head Pub below. In the gallery we have been inspired to create a skate inspired mini-exhibition and that sir is how we Roll!

See you soon, Coz & Melo

For more information add out facebook page or email gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

Add The BHG, Boars Head Gallery on facebook to see examples of my artwork, artwork of the others involved and upcoming events:

www.facebook.com/pages/The-BHG-Boars-Head-Gallery-Kidderminster/236156199742477

For information about The BHG and The Boars Head please visit our website:<http://www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk/>

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

much deliberation and 'do we all have to write the same answer?' they eventually decided on the very popular hand-painted 'Cyclops' by Sam Manley. So Congratulations Sam! We shall see you soon to collect your prize. For those who are not familiar with his work, Sam is a freelance graphic artist based in Ludlow and I am sure it is not the last we will be seeing of Sam. Other contenders that have proved popular on our facebook page included works by John Harding, White Raven Films (who are currently making a documentary about the Boars Head, although I promise you there is no bias there), Sarah Tamar and even some of the in house residents made some great entries. All of the finalists will receive a free poster.

April also saw a really popular 'Knit & Natter' night. I hoped it would be first time we would see at least one boy turn up, but in fact we had two! The night was a lot of fun and much knitting was done as well a little bit of nattering and giggling too. We will always run this on the third Thursday of each month, with the next one on Thursday 16th May. Do join us, its free!

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CD REVIEW

Cowley Cowboys - Sons of Rest

"Sons of Rest" is the follow up album to 2009's debut by the Cowley Cowboys. Their style is described by lead-singer Pete Unwin as 'Briticana' - alt-country Brit-style.

The title track celebrates a Birmingham-based organisation providing leisure for retired factory workers. It has a Nashville / dustbowl feel, with some southern revivalist drumming from Becky Davis and churchy backing vocals from Becky and her sister, Lizzie Pearman.

'Murphy City' is Pete's bleakest vocal to date, being about a city just south of Duluth, Minnesota in Dylan country where Pete's heart lies and whence his style originates.

'Hey Warden' is a Nashville strut, good bvs, and guitar. 'Cheap Shirt' - as in 'She cast me off like a - is rueful, slightly accusing, more gnashville than Nashville. Tbone Burnett would approve.

Writing is shared by Pete and guitarist Clive Kennard (Groovy head). Bass is by Marc Miletitch (ex Babajack). Paul Atterbury, another Groovy headster, is also on bass, with Harvey Wyatt on Hammond. Nick Davis completes the lineup on guitar.

This is a belter of a cd by one of our best composers and most accomplished and genial performers. Official launch is at the Malvern Re-con Club Fri May31st.

by Bob Jones



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REVIEW

China Shop Bull, Johnny Kowalski & the Sexy Weirdos and The Nutters - Marrs Bar, Worcester - Friday 29th March

It was an unusually late start at the Marrs Bar for Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos' first gig in the City since their triumphant winter solstice SLAP night.

First up were The Nutters, performing only their fourth gig, and comprising three techno DJs from Birmingham / Wolverhampton and a local lad on the drums. The techno reference belies the standard four piece line up and the choice of covers ranging from 60's garage nuggets, such as the Sonics' *"The Witch"*, to soul/R&B classics like Ray Charles' *"I Don't Need No Doctor"*. Judging by the amount of amplification - the stack's taller than the bass player! - and the huge bus ensconced outside, this band is planning a few more gigs.



By the time the Sexy Weirdos smash the stage, the Marrs Bar is eagerly populated with an expectant crowd of, well, weirdos! What can we say about JKSW that hasn't been said in our august publication before? The first thing I notice is that the tuba player is limping and should probably be on crutches or a chair and there's no trombone. But this doesn't dampen spirits as the band whip the audience into a frenzy by way of a flailing bow, parping brass, pounding rhythms and Kowalski's teasing and goading.

At the time of writing, the band are hot-footing round Europe making a name for themselves in foreign climes, to crowds that are surely at least as appreciative as tonight's on home turf - some new songs were introduced to the set tonight and they lapped it up!



Time for a roll up (and a moan). The Marrs Bar is one of the few venues that has suffered from the smoking ban - it has no discernible smoking area therefore we're banished to the other side of the street, creating a headache for 'The Management'. With the proposals for new flats across the party wall, there will be further unnecessary challenges to the model of modern urban life. Music venues of longer standing are closing down all over the country, so we must not be complacent about what a resource the Marrs Bar is but more of that later.

Not enough people followed back in to the explosion of talent that is China Shop Bull and that was a real shame. It was noted by 'The Management'! Part Specials, part Prodigy, their unique blend of hard-hitting dance music, with guitars and brass, got the hard core to trip the light fantastic. Stand out tunes from the debut LP *"Rave to the Grave"* were *"Brain in a Jar"* and *"9 Lives"*, which has a brilliant video by (slightly twisted!) local film makers, Carnie Films.



China Shop Bull are regulars at the Boar's Head in Kiddy and at the Wagon and Horses in Brum, so hopefully we can make them part of the Worcester scene too - it would give those that left early a chance to rectify the error of their ways.

Here's why the Marrs Bar matters:

The following night I travelled to Leicester to see CSBs gig with label-mates, Sicknote and what a difference a venue makes! CSB had nowhere near the incendiary fervour due to an incompetent soundman and shoddy monitoring. At the Marrs Bar you get the full package and bands are given every chance to get their sound right. Nothing seems to phase the engineer, Willis, who knows the excellent sound system inside out. I can remember Worcester before the Marrs Bar so I urge you to do everything you can to support one of the best intimate music venues in the UK.

Words: Philth Collins Pics: Andy O'Hare

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

<http://www.youtube.com/ChinaShopBullBand>

ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHT. WHEELHOUSE MARINA BAR, UPTON Hosted by Mark Stevenson

The last Friday in every month is acoustic night run by seasoned session tsar Mark Stevenson. The Wheelhouse has the only live music in Upton right now. You might expect, being in the marina, creased white trousers and captains' hats but on the contrary it's an easygoing friendly boozer that likes live music. The March evening was most jolly, superb fiddlers, songsters and the craic was afoot.

Mark is known for having MCed the session at the Prince of Wales, Ledbury for several years welcoming anyone with any kind of song with a raise of the glass and no formality. Previously he ran Brewers Arms folk gathering in West Malvern. Talented musicians from miles around are always drawn to the worthy nonsense and fine music his sessions generate.

One of the finest whistle players around, he's known for bands The Tree Frogs, Company of Strangers and more. Anyone who knows Mark will remember this song – check it out - myspace.com/manofbritishweather. It includes "Lament for a Dead Goat" – about the skin on his bodhran. He's written many songs and the amount of traditional material he knows and can belt out like he means it seems endless; that barrel has never been scraped – might be a bit murky down there mind!



There was much table thumping and appreciation from the Wheelhouse regulars. On fiddles doing jigs, reels and beyond were Angie Webb, adept fiddler, mandolo player and keyboardist with the Ffylth, and Ben Lewis whose other interests include the Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra. Ben has the rare talent to play such exacting

stuff and switch to jamming in pub sessions on fiddle, ukulele and a few other strings – musical ducking and weaving. Bit of embellishment here bit of keeping the rhythm there. That's what these evenings are about – if you have an instrument just show up and if you like a number you're welcome to join in.

Lively contribution came from Ray Hadden and Paul Caswell of the Dublin Jacks. "don't want to be taking the music too seriously" says Ray.

Can't argue with that. Anything goes at this session. Later, with hand drums around the room going a bit jungle, Mark launched into Captain Beefheart's 'Grow Fins' and a drunken harmonica player grabbed the mike and made those honking noises even shamelessly working in the harmonica cliché of the Old Grey Whistle Test theme. Compared to such distinguished company – this man barely knows a semitone from a semi-breve – but he was the one that got bought a pint by one of the audience for his efforts. I felt bad about it, but not really!

Barrie Scott



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ALBUM REVIEW

JASPER IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS DENS + DIARIES

Jasper in the Company of Others pretty much sums up the band as vocalist Jasper takes the forefront, dominating the album with his emotive pop vocals and acoustic guitar. *Dens and Diaries* is, as the title would suggest, predominantly a reflective body of smashing tunes that delve deep into memories and life experiences, both regretful and enjoyable. From the opening notes this is an enjoyable record, it remains listenable from start to finish; mixing things up between tracks and showing influences from everything from pop punk and folk to straight up pop and balladry.

A stand out track is, the excellent 'I Remember' which builds from a simple melody and drum beat to something that is just that little bit noisier; all pounding galloping drums and stop-start tempos. On the other side 'Water Me Down' is a plucky pop beauty that catches you off guard with it's intricacies and soaring vocal outro.

The rest of album rolls along with melody and pace; always remaining entertaining and engaging. Jasper Malone (as he likes to call himself) has matured as a songwriter and this album really demonstrates his ability as a crafter of song. The band are a talented driving force that elevates them away from a lot of generic folky pop out at the moment.

With a real atmosphere and people singing along this could be lifted far above this decent. It's chilled out enough to act as a soundtrack to whatever you're doing this summer and also has an energy that's difficult to ignore. It's hard to find a truly negative thing to say about this record or the band for that matter as Jasper In The Company of Others are genuine diamond geezers and they are surely set for great things!

Matthew Tilt



*The best way to hear Jasper... would be to head over to the Marr's bar to see them live at their album launch gig on **Saturday 18th May**. Tickets available from the *jasper in the company of others* shop (see website below) or you can scan the QR code on the right with your fancy smarty phone ...*



Tickets from here: www.jasperinthecompanyofothers.bigcartel.com

'Dens + Diaries' is available on the 20th May 2013 from iTunes, Amazon, Play.com and other good online retailers. CD copies available at www.sound-hub.com

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REVIEW

Boars Head, Kiddy
Friday 20th April

Karpet Kickers

Soul, Funk, Blues, Rock & Roll chuck it in the musical melting pot, sprinkle some fat bass, stir it up and you get the Karpet Kickers a six piece band from the carpet town of Kidderminster. Fronted by Kookie an enigmatic platinum haired conductor of funk who wouldn't look out of place fronting the Rolling Stones, with an on stage presence rarely seen since the days of Jim Morrison and the Doors.



The Karpet Kickers played an hour long set of all original songs which felt like a music history tour across five generations of rock & roll and funk combining modern riffs and basslines to take your head off, laced with soulful bluesy vocals. The third song played was a personal favourite of mine and as the audience started to feed off the bands infectious sound, it seemed the band started to feed off the audience with Kookie strutting across the stage like a funk soul father showing the younger one's in the crowd how it's done, building the punters into a frenzy. The Karpet Kickers were then

joined on stage by Bunter from Bunter and the Vibes adding more funk to the mix this officially brought the house down.

All in all a great night and if you were not there I advise you to apologise to your eye's and ear's because they and you missed out.

The Karpet Kickers are a must see for live music fans.



For more info and gig dates:
www.facebook.com/thekarpetkickers
Words: Melo Pics: Coz

REVIEW

Blue Radio Presents - This Wicked Tongue, God Damn, Mansize & Vault of Eagles - Marris Bar - Saturday 20th April

www.facebook.com/blueradiorecords

Blue Radio Records was back at The Marris Bar for 2013's Birthday Bash with 4 top acts; each plucked from the underground scene currently erupting across the midlands area. With strong intent to fuel the aspirations of dedicated musicians, Blue Radio Records plans to ignite from the heart of its origin, and home to many great bands - Worcester.

Here's what writer, Amy J Smith, had to say about the show...



Vault of Eagles are a unique 3 piece who had the whole audience captured from start to finish. Female fronted by Mari Randle who straight away reminded me of PJ Harvey. Dark and sexy vocals backed up by Hetty Randles delightful bass riffs and spot on harmonies. Very



D'arcy Wretzky with lots of variation. Keeping the band tight, on drums, Scott Ewins delivers power and precision through the whole set. Favourite song which stood out was 'Chains'. Brilliant. E.P Plastic Culture Human Vulture E.P out now.



Mansize are an erratic, dirty, 3 piece band who have very good dynamics in their songs. Immediately the crowd went mad jumping around and getting into the vibe of their energetic set. On stage vocalist Anya has everyone wondering 'what's she gonna do next?' Jumping into the crowd, onto the drum kit, this girl definitely has balls! Rob King (bass/vocals) has an interaction with Anya like no other giving powerful vocals and harmonies with awesome solid bass lines. Drummer Joe Shellam was on top form tonight ripping the kit to shreds. Best drumming I've seen in a while, whilst keeping a good interaction with other band members.



Hair. Lots of hair. First thing which I was blown away by was the drummer (Ash) at sound check, everybody was really excited and pumped to see what God Damn were about to do. Similar to Melvins, God Damn were GOD DAMN blowing the stage up with so much power and brilliant duo vocals from Thom and Dave. Lots of hard rocking, catchy riffs. Check them out.

One of my favourite bands and having been to many of their shows, I am always keen to see what This Wicked Tongue have to bring. I was blown away by their opener cover of 'White Rabbit'. Really cool idea and it went down well with the audience. Having recently had a drummer change to the lineup very close to the gig, what would usually be a challenge to most bands, This Wicked Tongue delivered punchy, energetic and addictive songs making the audience go wild! Guest rapper Sam Ruane on song 'Sail' really got the crowd going, mixing rock with rap.

www.facebook.com/thiswickedtongue

www.facebook.com/goddamtheband

www.facebook.com/mansize

www.facebook.com/vaultofeagles

Words: Amy J Smith Photography: Katie Foulkes

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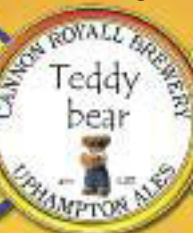
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REVIEW

SIMPLE MINDS GREATEST HITS TOUR - Sat 6th April
WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC HALL MARCH 2013



I know it's deeply unfashionable to say/admit but the Simple Minds were, at one point, one of my favourite bands. The first 5 albums (especially 'Empires And Dance' and the 'Sons And Fascination' / 'Sister Feelings Call' double) were pretty faultless and most of 'Sparkle In The Rain' was great too. Then – stadiums beckoned after '(Don't You) Forget About Me' (which they didn't write) became a worldwide hit, and along came 'Alive & Kicking', 'Sanctify Yourself', 'Belfast Child' etc. (all of which they most certainly did write) which were, frankly, dreadful. The band I loved so much was over.

Last year's '5x5' tour (five tracks from each of the first five albums ONLY) gave me the opportunity to see them live for the first time since 1984, and they played a blinder. Truly one of the best gigs I saw in 2012, which is something I never thought I'd be able to say again about the Simple Minds. So, it's with that still strong in my mind that I decided to take the plunge and go to the Civic on the 'Greatest Hits' tour, knowing that their biggest singles leave me cold and expecting a large part of the set to be dull as dishwater.



Entering the stage to a huge ovation, it's clear that there's a lot of love in the room. It was a similar stage set to the 2012 tour, but with the addition centre stage of a female backing singer, which didn't bode well for yours truly. Opening with new track 'Broken Glass Park' (they've

obviously been listening to The Horrors ...), it was into 'Waterfront', the turning point from the ethereal, partially uncommercial past into the stadium filling future that I still have a soft spot for & sounding huge. Album track 'Once Upon A Time' was next before a stirring 'Up On The Catwalk', drummer Mel Gaynor seemingly utilising every part of his (very) expansive kit. 'Let There Be Love' followed (still nondescript to my ears) before 'All The Things She Said', a great track from a poor album (the aforementioned 'Once Upon A Time'), dipping again with 'War Babies' before a storming double of 'Colours Fly And Catherine Wheel' from 'New Gold Dream' and the majestic 'I Travel' from 'Empires And Dance' bringing the first set to a fine finish.



So far, so mixed and the second set started very oddly too, with guitarist Charlie Burchill taking centre stage to solo his way through 'Book Of Brilliant Things' instrumentally, before the band (minus Jim Kerr) returned to cover Kraftwerk's seminal 'Neon Lights' with vocals from the backing singer. Weird. The next track was sublime, 'Someone, Somewhere In Summertime' before a triple whammy of mediocrity in 'She's A River', 'This Is Your Land' and the new & very forgettable 'Blood Diamonds'. But, relief was at hand with 'The American' and 'Love Song' before another dip, 'See The Lights' then a quartet of crowd pleasers, '(Don't You) ...', first hit proper 'Promised You A Miracle', 'Glittering Prize' and 'New Gold Dream' itself bringing it to a fantastic finale. I then caught a sneaky look at the set list to find out to my horror that the encore would be 'Sanctify Yourself' & 'Alive & Kicking', so I left it there rather than endure two songs that killed my relationship with the Simple Minds in the first place.

Confused? I certainly was, and in places ('This Is Your Land' particularly) it seemed so was everyone else. No matter how much Jim attempted to rouse the crowd, they just didn't buy it for some of the late 80's/early 90's stuff. It wasn't strictly a 'Greatest Hits' tour either, with two album tracks, two new tracks, and (thankfully) ignoring their biggest actual hit, 'Belfast Child' a number one, lest we forget (I'd rather, and it appears the band would too). Maybe the set will be tweaked for the second leg of the Hits tour, coming to an 'enormodome' near you just in time for Christmas. And as for whether I'll see them again ... roll on the 'New Gold Dream' tour and I'll think about it.

Words by: Baz Bojak

REVIEW Matt Woosey - GMH Sat 6th April

It's Saturday evening, cool but dry, & Matt Woosey is playing in Malvern, all for the sake of a short journey; no earthly reason not to go!

I saw Matt at the Fold last year in solo mode, so knew it was worth getting off my backside, and go and listen to an excellent traditional blues artist at a free venue.



Matt was setting up in the corner of the bar when we arrived, at what is a pleasant unspoilt period Inn, with decent ales and food available, but also a regular live music night.

Matt has just recorded his latest album, *'On The Waggon'*; not too appropriate for the surroundings, but I don't think he takes it too literally.

The gig opened with *'Jealous Man'*, which features on the album, and written by Matt, a good driving song, hood down, cruising along route 66.

'Woke Up This morning', a fast paced blues song complete with slide, the rhythm reminiscent of a boxcar rattling across the plains. Slow the train down somewhat, then you *'Don't Need Money'* as you settle back to listen to this easy paced song. The first set finishing with another slow paced song, *'One Of The Three'*; time for a beer!

Next set starts with a frothy love song, *'Elsie May'*. A *'Cruel Disposition'* returns to a traditional blues dirge, with some nice breaks, very enjoyable. *'Black Smoke Rising'*, signalled the end of a very satisfying night out, Matt is a first class guitarist, gifted with excellent blues voice and certainly delivers.

Ablly supported by his band, Adjii Shuib, bassist, and Dave Small, on cajon, Matt is currently touring and promoting his album, not to be missed, seek out and find.

Words & Photography - Graham Munn

REVIEW Matt Woosey and band, Daman T & Jake Watson Café Rene, Gloucester - Wednesday 17th April 2013

Can you get too much of a good thing? Possibly; but what the hell 12 days later and we are cruising down to Gloucester, and Café Rene, a lovely, atmospheric, if somewhat dark hostelry, why? Well, ever prepared to listen to a good bluesman, Matt's playing, and we were desperately searching for a note for our head, finding *'Noah'* maturely featured in *'On The Waggon'*.

Close my eyes and I cannot but help hearing the rhythm of the train steaming down the track, through prairies and rattling through the foothills, slow climbs and fast descents. See Matt Woosey live, hear his guitar and soaring vocals, great lyrics, an unmissable bluesman, then buy his CD and play it on the way home.

Supporting Matt at Gloucester was Damon T and Jake Watson. They would have to go some to warm us up for Mr Woosey, and they kicked off in typical blues style, perhaps a little nervous, but the first few songs seemed a bit restrained. *'Aint That A Miracle'*, lifted things a



Not on this album, but non the worse for that, *'Evil Woman'* as penned by Matt, is excellent, were there shades of Canned Heat in there? Don't know, but venue apart, we had a line up change with drummer James Williams thumping those skins.

James and Adjii feature as Matt's band in his CD, they have collaborated with Matt over past years. As for *'On The Waggon'*, This is a 12 track album, and I have to say I like it start to finish, but I particularly like *'Cruel Disposition'*, *'Jealous man'* and *'Black Smoke Risin'*. All good stuff and well worthy of any blues collection.

little, a gentle interpretation of *'The Number Of The Beast'*, Iron Maiden it wasn't, but Damon T and Jake seemed to be getting stronger each song. They finished with a Blind Willie Johnson gospel blues song, *'Soul of a Man'*, which was good to hear. I'm sure we will find Damon & Jake at some future gig, I cannot find any clues on the web, but they are worth another listen.

Words & Photography - Graham Munn

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Worcester Arts Workshop Saturday 20th April

Just recovering from first Slap night of 2013, we can all say a big 'hoorah' for yet another fantastic evening from the Slap/Arts Workshop combo night. This time it was courtesy of 'Hallouminati', a seven piece high octane Gypsy/ Punk/ Ska/ Greek/ Klezma mash-up from Derby supported by The Whipjacks with a good old dose of pirate punk!

People slowly arrived and took it easy outside in the yard on a sunny Saturday evening for the first Slap night of the year when it started to become apparent that despite thinking that it would be quiet due to us having a band that are not on the usual Worcester circuit (we all know how hard it is to get people out in this town sometimes!), that this was going to be a busy night! I'm glad to see that so many made the effort to come and support Slap nights at the Workshop as we strive to offer something different into our fine musical city.

At about 9.15 The Whipjacks came on, fronted by Worcester born Dean Miles as well as three Tim's: Stamps, Wright and Pearson plus Dan Oliver. They have been about since 2010 in this guise, taking inspiration from traditional Celtic and English folk roots and more modern influences such as The Dropkick Murphy's, Flogging Molly and The Levellers. These guys are fun; 'pirate punk' suits them, with fast beats and humour. There was a rendition of Tetris (thoughts of tuba came to mind) which got the crowd going and everyone seemed to be enjoying hanging out in the newly painted venue, folk chilling on the sofas, dance floor and spilling out into the cellar bar area.

Then Hallouminati appeared; Al, Emillios, Mitzzy, Mikey, Bigs, Dan and Ruth, mixing some crazy gypsy beats together now for a couple years, this deranged bunch is lively and I have been waiting to see them for ages now. It was nice to catch up with Al who originates from our fair city as he told me tales of their recent tour in the Netherlands, going down a storm at an awesome venue in Amsterdam as well as having a full festival calendar ahead including Boomtown once again; these shanty town guys and gals are to keep an eye on..... The room was moving and shaking as they threw out their ska/greek mix of super fast beats (too fast for Pops!) and dance moves. The night ended with a grand finale of up tempo encore madness and knee bending ska beats at double speed!! We like them a lot!!

Thanks to everyone who came along particularly those who volunteered their time to lend a hand. We will be offering up some more doses of Slap soon so keep your ears open....

Words: Kate Cox Pics: Richard Clarke

www.whipjacks.com

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ALBUM REVIEW

Kinver - The Stone House

As an overly hirsute Brummie boy, the name the place Kinver conjured up bucolic, teenage wanderings over the hills and far away from the urban miasma in search of hobbit holes and hopes of Led Zeppelin singer sightings.

So - a place of mystery & imagination and this album certainly carries the wistful enigma of the place. A youthful wish to hide away in the rock houses of the area remains and this bundle of songs sound like they were conceived there, cerebrally if not physically.

Apart from the consistently excellent writing and instrumentation the first thing that hits me about The Stone House is the brilliant production.

I shan't name names as is the artists' wish but if as a musician you are ever in doubt that splashing out on a producer is a possible budget saver, really listen to this album and don't bother. False economy for sure and this Kinver debut would be the poorer without such excellent desk work & knob twiddling.

It's what brings these songs alive, so much that you feel you're sitting in a comfortable cottage living room, surrounded by the group and a crackling log fire, with a large glass of red for company.

It's that kind of music; unashamedly considered, mature, reserved even and all the better for it. This is the sound of an accomplished writer who always seems to have something extra in the, I was going to say in the locker, but perhaps larder would be more appropriate.

Herein you will witness whimsy as well as contemplative reverie and reflection. This Kinver debut album is no miserabilists' charter though, muscular anger at injustice is present also and it's a mix that works well throughout. Truly quiet class seeps out of every brick in the cottage here.

There is plenty of cello on these songs and whilst it is an instrument in danger of becoming a modern music cliché, here it is used to maximum emotional effect and further enhances the overall quality on offer. Having said that a touch more variety in the soundscape would be welcome and certainly when the Hammond organ arrives on standout track Turning To Night, it's a welcome arrival to the party.

This is a collection of songs at the edge (sorry I couldn't resist it), of spring into summer & autumn into winter. Not of extremes but possibilities, maybes, longings and regrets.

Yes there's a whiff of Willie Mason here and a touch of Ryan Adams there, with a soupçon of Laura Marling inbetween maybe, but only as useful influences and touchstones. Individuality and originality abound on The Stone House and I urge you to seek this album out at www.kinvermusic.com

Words by Jake Umbridge



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REVIEW New Disorder Music Festival - March 30th 2013 @ The Roadhouse, Birmingham

This event was held in support of Rock Against Child Pornography and Abuse (RACPA - see www.racpauk.org) a very worthwhile not-for-profit organisation who do lots to support vulnerable youngsters.

This event featured nine main stage bands supported by two acoustic sets at Birmingham's Roadhouse venue.



The first half of the festival comprised four main bands and one acoustic set. First up were local hardcore metal band 'Malandra' giving up 30 minutes of seriously heavy metal. Next up were 'Steel Threads' giving a half hour or so of acoustic material ending with their rendition of 'Ace of Spades'!

Back to the main stage then with 'Line of Fire' from Nottingham/Derby. Their set consisted of a heavy rock sound not unlike US metalheads Metallica or Down and were immediately followed by 'Motherload' a bunch of hairy rockers from High Wycombe giving the small but appreciative crowd a set of classic rock music with the emphasis on big riffs and anthem-style songs. We approached half way with 30 minutes of high speed and high intensity Death Metal from 'Kataleptic', another local band before the audience were allowed to rest and be entertained by the acoustic talent of 'Disguise the Limit'.



The second half of the event would see five exceptional bands on the main stage culminating with the very excellent 'Evil Scarecrow'. This part got underway with 'Captain

Horizon', a band I always like watching not just because of the music but also in the way that they engage with the audience. The 30 minute set was over all too quickly as 'Mordecai' hit the stage. I'd seen Mordecai just a couple of weeks earlier supporting 'My Great Affliction' and 'The Whiskey Syndicate' at the O2 Academy 3 and this time around they were just as good, delivering hard hitting US-influenced rock.



'A Thousand Enemies' took us past the second set half way mark with their brand of classic rock mulched together with modern metal. Front man, Bane Holland, delivered crisp vocals in this block of, what was at times, quite melodic metal. As we approached the end we were introduced to colourful band 'Dakesis' - and I mean colourful literally. Gemma Lawler and Amie Chatterley brought some much needed colour to the stage alongside the flowing locks and screaming guitar of Wayne Dorman during their half hour delivery of extremely good power metal.



The day was all but over and just before 'Evil Scarecrow', who I'd not seen before, hit the stage a friend in the crowd predicted exactly how the set was going to end....with everyone dancing like robots and then doing the can-can! So, enter Evil Scarecrow one of the looniest bunch of musicians you're likely to see and hear. How many



metal bands do you know that sing about crabs, kittens and robots? A veritable feast of high quality metal, mirth and mayhem followed which included the band, and audience, dancing to 'Crabulon' and, as predicted, the final two songs, complete with full audience participation, were the ever popular 'Robototron' and 'The Final Countdown' - though perhaps that should have been 'The Final Can-Can'! Front man Matt Burton, aka Dr. Hell, summed this band up perfectly when he instructed the crowd to "stop laughing, we're a serious band"! Serious? Definitely not. Seriously funny? Absolutely!

A fantastic end to the days' proceedings in which over £700 was raised for the cause. Well done to everyone involved in organising or playing at the event, it was a brilliant day.

Words & Photography - Reg Richardson

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BBC Introducing - an Evolution!

"BBC Introducing" is something many musicians in the region are familiar with by virtue of BBC H&W's weekly shows on local radio. But how many of those musicians, and how many of the broader public are familiar with the national concept of BBC Introducing, how it has grown, where it is going, and how it draws together budding musicians from all over country, giving them a platform to get their music out to a national audience?

As a result of some correspondence I'd had with him last year I was fortunate enough earlier this week to be given an opportunity to meet Jason Carter, who is the head of BBC Introducing and also head of all outside events for BBC Radio. (As an aside, what a fantastic advert for the whole of the BBC that they take their mission seriously enough to respond in such a way to feedback I'd given and questions I'd asked as a listener.) Jason and his assistant Lyndsey Boggis are the pivotal contact points between all of the various local radio "Introducing" shows and the music broadcasting teams of Radio 1, 1Xtra and 6 Music. From uncertain and modest beginnings around 7 years ago, and through the funding crisis of 2009 when the very future of 6 Music and Introducing were at risk, the whole concept of Introducing has developed into something which is a massive and powerful boon to aspiring musicians.

Like anything useful though, to get the full benefit, you have to understand it and know how to use it. Seven years ago, when the concept of "Introducing" first arose, there was nothing of substance within the BBC to help unsigned and under-the-radar musicians to get their music heard. The pioneering work done by John Peel had been largely the result of his own inspiration and energy. His legacy was one of passion and a clear knowledge that there was a huge mine of undiscovered musical talent just waiting to reach the right ears throughout the country. Yet radio coverage of unsigned acts was patchy if present at all; there was no foolproof way of acts submitting their music to the BBC for evaluation, and there were no places on stages at the big festivals where those unsigned talents could be released on an enthusiastic public.

Fast-forward seven years, and all of those are in place, and evolving apace too. I've heard Andrew Marston and Andy O'Hare telling people so many times "get your music onto the Uploader". I've heard them tell many out-of-area acts about it too "I can't help you but your local BBC is XYZ – get your music

uploaded – that's how you get local radio play!" That facility has only been in place for 4 years and it really is both powerful and easy to use. Create an account on the BBC website and upload your music. Once a member of the local team has listened to the music you'll receive an email. Likewise you'll be informed when someone elsewhere in the BBC listens, and as and when it gets broadcast, either locally or, say on Radio One.

We've long been lucky in our region to have such as excellent Introducing programme, broadcasting regularly each weekend. Not just plenty of excellent local music, but also the gig guide, interviews, news snippets, gig reviews, roving reporter (AKA Mr O'Hare) and live sessions, and all in a two hour show. Not everywhere in the country had that but since the beginning of this year that has been the case, and all at the same time across the whole network. I'm often in the car on a Saturday evening, and it's cool that all of the various regions now have their own Introducing show, showcasing the best of the local music, and all broadcasting at the same time.

And, those Introducing stages at the big festivals. How do the various unsigned and under-the-radar bands get on those stages? You guessed it – the Uploader and the local Introducing show. Create a buzz in your local area, get your music uploaded, prove your mettle locally and you'll have Andrew Marston and Andy O'Hare badgering New Broadcasting House with news of the new Ellie Goulding or the new Peace; two fine examples of major stars to have emerged from our region in the past three years. Acts recommended for specific stages by the regional Introducing shows are listened to by a wide range of people such as Tom Robinson, Huw Stephens and Steve Lamacq, based on their uploaded recordings. And gradually a shortlist emerges which is then listened to personally by Jason and Lyndsey. They will also look further afield in places like youtube and various blogs and music press for evidence that the act they've just heard does indeed have more than one song and sounds as good live as they do recorded. They whittle the numbers down, and it's a simple as that.

A thorny question which has come up more than once, so I'm told, is the definition of "unsigned and under-the-radar". Well, with the distinction between signed and unsigned so blurred nowadays, Jason explained that it really boils down to whether an act has yet received any significant major network exposure – Radio 1, 1Xtra, Kerrang!, Absolute etc – that's the acid test and it seems a fair one; reinforcing still further the importance of getting your music onto that uploader.

Jason has been at the helm of BBC Introducing since the outset and it's clear that the whole concept is a big passion for him and his team – all underpinned by the desire to be instrumental in the discovery and promulgation of new talent. Like any new enterprise, at first he had to almost make it up as he went along, testing the water as he went; overcoming obstacles he never expected yet sailing unharmed through what he

thought might have been dire straits. Jason's seen that with foreign bands slipping through the net in the past; pressures from labels and agencies to select their acts and a lack of consistency from the various local stations. But that was all to have been expected in such an ambitious project. As of now, the uploader receives over 1,000 new tracks per week and contains details of 100,000 acts! Introducing is a fantastic service for a whole range of different genres of popular music, and that looks like broadening even further with opportunities for unsigned music to feature on Radio 2 as well as the better established 1, 1X and 6 channels.

There is more, much much more. Several musicians from this region over the past two years have taken part in the BBC's Musicians' Masterclass, a series of workshops for talented and aspiring musicians from across the country; others have taken part in live sessions recorded at the BBC's Maida Vale studios. Even if your act is perhaps not yet ready for radio play then there is a huge wealth of advice available on the BBC's website ranging from video footage of the Musicians' Masterclass to special videos on various subjects from people such as Huw Stephens. Even if you're an act in its very infancy, Introducing definitely has something for you.



Greg James says hi!

So, that message again... get your music uploaded on the BBC site. Oh - and make sure you create a strongly visible profile on the internet - get as many people as possible to publish reviews of your recordings and live shows; get good quality videos up there and do all that stuff that Andy O'Hare and Andrew Marston are always banging on about on their show!



Andrew Marston

Listen to BBC H&W Introducing with Andrew Marston every Saturday at 8-00pm on 104FM and 94.7FM, or catch up online at any time within 7 days of broadcast.

Words: Andy Maynard

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CIRCUIT SWEET with NAOMI PREECE

No sooner do we pick up and distribute SLAP across Herefordshire, we are back submitting the next month's article! Time really does fly but April was a month of celebrating. In last month's magazine we spoke about celebrating our fourth anniversary - now we talk about April 21st. Where we celebrated our first anniversary with a revamped look to our online store thanks to the guys at Oogly Ltd, who assisted us with the re-launch. Online we partied hard - offering a 25% off flash sale on our online store which is home to pure talent.

The online store delivers more talent in a physical form worldwide - from Circuit Sweet's own releases to notable DIY labels; a boutique of one off releases, EP's, singles, albums, merchandise, art and more - another venture to promote great ingenuity. The shop is run with good old fashioned DIY mentality, specialising in independent music and merchandise (all of which found on the site). We also ran a competition to win a special goodie bag from ourselves to which the winner, chosen at random was.... During the weekend we also visited our article archives and reposted our favorite and most meaningful features we've published in the past 12 months. Not only was it an anniversary for ourselves but let's not forget the main date in April that all musicians, music lovers and vinyl fanatics camped out for - it was of course **Record Store Day**. Record Store Day was conceived in 2007 at a gathering of independent record store owners and employees as a way to celebrate and spread the word about the unique culture surrounding over 700 independently owned record stores in the US and thousands of similar stores internationally. Each year RSD gets bigger and better - with more people aware of the date and with more people and stores celebrating. Locally of course, Rise Records in Worcester and Carnival Records in Malvern all put on a long-lasting show- with RSD releases, live performers (such as The Misers) and a community spirit uniting all music fans. In Hereford, The Imperial was home to the annual Record Fair which provided RSD releases amongst a collectors dream. Another great year and we are already excited for RSD2014!

Last month we also mentioned a great local charity The Music Pool. The Music Pool is an established Community

music charity for Herefordshire (and its borders) that passionately dedicates time to providing chances for people of all ages and abilities to make music together- during the Easter half term half of Circuit Sweet joined the Music Pool team during a Livewire campaign. Livewire is the moniker of The Music Pool, Livewire promotes gigs, workshops, training opportunities and music development weeks for young people in and around Herefordshire. Our Very own Oli Montez who is also of Hereford/Bristol due Aulos spent the Easter



working on band development for Livewire. He explains his role and the event they worked hard towards - "My job for the week was to work with a band to develop their sound and highlight the core of what they wanted to achieve as a basis for them to expand on and create original material; also to share knowledge on industry, equipment, dynamics and performance. Through the course of the week I also documented the process through photography and film. The goal of the week was to put on a spectacular live performance at The Jailhouse, Hereford for the public, family and friends - and that's exactly what we did. Around 100 people attended to see original material from ukulele covers to hip hop trios, acoustic performances to full on rock bands. It was amazing to see up and coming local talent first hand, we have a lot to look forward to."

- Music Pool also put on a regular live night at The Courtyard in Hereford. Based in Hereford's finest centre of arts, The Courtyard in Edgar Street. Nicky Jaques of The Music Pool runs The Courtyard Open Mic Night's with assistance from loyal Courtyard employees and musical helpers. The night is set to run every first Tuesday of the month in their Café Bar from a new and improved time of 7.30pm. Opening its doors to an array of talented Herefordians. Be it from poets, musicians and comedians. You are all welcome to show your talent, or appreciate talent on your doorstep. Tell your friends for next time and make sure you put a date in your diary (THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH). We will be at as many of these open mic nights as we can- rooting for our hometown!

Don't forget we've now joined forces and honored to be a part of The M J Price Moment on the airwaves. Matt



Price is the mastermind behind his fortnightly radio show The M J Price Moment which showcases the best music and conversation live on Purple Radio. You can tune in Sunday May 5th and 19th on www.www.purple-radio.co.uk between 9pm and 11pm to hear our new outing as Matt hands over a few minutes of his great show to us- where we talk about what's been going on all things Circuit Sweet in the past fortnight, what gig we've been too and who we're listening too.

Be sure to keep an eye on our facebook page and twitter @circuitsweet for up to date news, reviews, interviews, gig photography and more. If you are based in Herefordshire and we've missed you out receiving SLAP and you'd like to stock SLAP mag each month, put your release in our online shop, submit a review, request an interview, want us to cover your live gig- then email naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk OR if you want a band photo-shoot either live or on location, for budget gig photography and music shoots email oli@circuitsweet.co.uk

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REVIEW BOO HEWERDINE | HUNTINGDON HALL 10.4.13

Boo Hewerdine was on top form this evening. With years of musical experience under his belt with his 80's-90's group 'The Bible', an enviable back catalogue of solo and collaborative albums and genius song crafting abilities, this was a gig I didn't want to skip.

Boo began the evening by mentioning briefly that he had appeared on Janis Long's BBC 2 radio show the night before and enquired about whether anyone had heard it. One older lady responded by informing him that his session had put her to sleep, this kind of banter was a continuing theme throughout the evening and Boo met it with humour and humility. The first part of his set was comprised of older songs with a handful that he'd written for Eddie Reader.

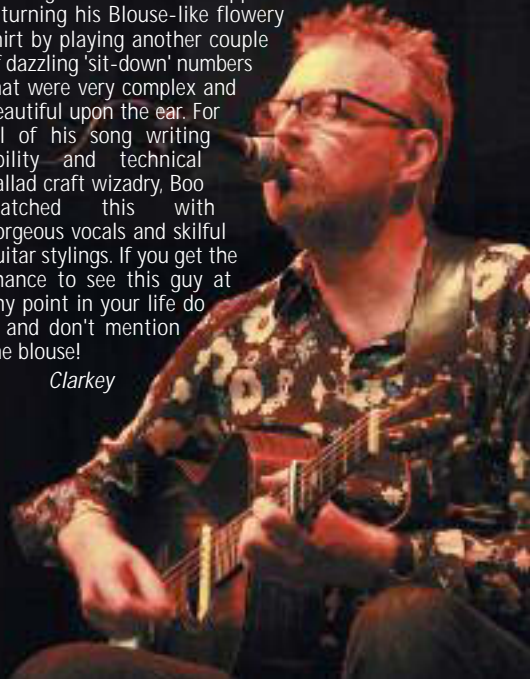
We were also treated to a couple of 'State Of The Union' tunes, which is one Boo's collaborative projects with Brooks Williams and Gustaf Ljunggren, including Rags & Bones and Georgia

The 2nd half of Boo's set included 'Geography', the first track from his new album 'God Bless The Pretty Things'. This was an intricate affair with plenty of thought provoking hammering-ons and delicious pull-offs. He also played 'Skywriting' from The Bible's 'Eureka' and the wondrous 'Bell Book and Candle' which he wrote for Eddie Reader.

A more upbeat number prompted Hewerdine to encourage a bit of stage dancing with the promise of a free album as a reward. As half of the audience were certainly arthritic I did think he was taking the piss but his

request was met by an unlikely couple who were extremely enthusiastic with their dance moves. Exciting stuff. Boo sidestepped some banter about returning his Blouse-like flowery shirt by playing another couple of dazzling 'sit-down' numbers that were very complex and beautiful upon the ear. For all of his song writing ability and technical ballad craft wizardry, Boo matched this with gorgeous vocals and skilful guitar stylings. If you get the chance to see this guy at any point in your life do it and don't mention the blouse!

Clarkey



PREVIEW CLUTCHING AT STRAWS

SATURDAY 4th MAY | ARTRIX

Midlands alternative folk quartet, Clutching At Straws, are making their debut performance at The Artrix in Bromsgrove on 4th May and are hoping their melodic, acoustic sound will entice an audience to what is set to be a brilliant night.

Writing and performing songs from the heart with an energy and passion from deep within, Clutching At Straws sing about what they see, retelling stories from their lives and questioning the world around them.

The band are in the process of recording a six track EP which they hope to have ready for release mid 2013. "The EP is a collection of some of our favorite songs, but we already have plans for a second one sometime soon. Track two, 'Look At You Now,' is about politicians, many of whom seem to set out with great intentions and somehow lose them along the way." People who have seen Clutching At Straws perform will know this as the song with the dance and the moves

should fairly obvious to anyone listening: *'one step forward, a step off track, another step forward and two steps back.'* So now you have plenty of time to practice it!

A full set often incorporates 12 instruments (or more!) including mandolin, guitar, cello, and accordion as well as two and three part vocal harmony. So there is never a dull moment, especially if you're their sound man!

You can find out more about the band, their up and coming gigs and even take a sneaky listen to a pre-release from the EP on the band's website and facebook page: www.strawsmusic.com

For tickets and more info visit: www.artrix.co.uk



Katie Fitzgeralds

187 Envile Street Stourbridge 01384 374410

David Murphy's

31 Worcester Street Stourbridge 01384 376152

Friday May 3rd @David Murphy's Mambo Jambo

Saturday May 4th @David Murphys Acoustic Brew Festival (all day)

Saturday May 4th @Katie Fitzgeralds Notorious Brothers

Sunday May 5th @David Murphy's Acoustic Brew Festival (All day)

Sunday May 5th @Katie Fitzgeralds Acoustic Brew Festival

Monday May 6th @Katie Fitzgeralds Acoustic Brew Festival (All day)

Thursday May 9th @ David Murphy's Pete Boddice

Friday May 10th @David Murphy's Sue and Devon (Jazz)

Friday May 10th @Katie Fitzgeralds Medusa Rising (Rock)

Saturday May 11th @Katie Fitzgeralds Trevor Burton

Thursday 16th May @David Murphy's Dave Onions

Friday May 17th @David Murphy's Flatworld (world music)

Friday May 17th @ Katie Fitzgeralds Clutching at Straws (Folk)

Saturday May 18th @David Murphy's Esther (Singer / songwriter)

Saturday May 18th @Katie Fitzgeralds Ian The Goat

Goats Dont Shave 30th Anniversary plus Dodgy Boilers

Tuesday May 21st @ Katie Fitzgerald's Martin Simpson tickets £12

Thursday May 23rd @ David Murphy's Eddy Morton

Friday May 24th @David Murphy's Chuck Harriet Trio (Jazz)

Friday May 24th @Katie Fitzgeralds The Moonshine Runners £3

Saturday May 25th @Katie Fitzgerald's Katiesfest 2013

Sunday May 26th @Katie Fitzgerald's Katiesfest 2013

Thursday May 30th @David Murphy's Live Music

Friday 31st May @David Murphy's Remi Harris (Jazz)

Friday 31st May @Katie Fitzgeralds Rockabilly Night

Saturday June 1st @Katie Fitzgerald's Straight Aces (Rockabilly)

www.katiefitzgeralds.co.uk

Probably The Best Live Music Venue in Stourbridge

Wednesday 1 May 2013

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Gaz Brookfield
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Trapped In Time
The Talbot, Barbourne

Bikers Meeting feat Skewwhiff
The Star Inn, Pershore

Thursday 2 May 2013

Open Mic
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Comedy Zone - Rob Rouse & Lloyd Langford
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Home Service
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Open Mic
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Blat Idea & Compulsary Disorder
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Worcester Vaudeville
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Martin Simpson
The Courtyard, Hereford

Open Mic
Pig n Drum, Worcester

Re-Comedy Night
Re-Con, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Jam Night hosted by Jonny Gracie
Royal Oak, Studley

Open Mic with Dave Onions
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Black Hill, Filtered By Design, Ancient Addicts
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 3 May 2013

Retroflector
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Junction 7
Cross Keys, Tewkesbury

Highway 5 Album Launch, Aeonian Dog
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Trum
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Nr Pershore

The Worried Men
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Voodoo Blue
Queens Head, Wolverley

Woo Town presents Richard Clarke
The Farriers, Worcester

Bobbie Williams, Baldy Murs
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Magnificatz
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Fylthe
The Millers, Pershore

The Collective Soul Band
Drummonds, Worcester

Mambo Jambo
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

The May Dolls
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Nine Below Zero
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Kylie M Show
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Mods & Sods
The Bell, Worcester

Mill Promotions Presents..Big Que, Calm Like A Riot
The Re Con, Malvern

Matt Peplow
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Jack O Bones, And Sixes Out, Angry Itch & Emperors
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Pub Tropicana (10.30pm +)
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Disorder & Thirteen Shots
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Saturday 4 May 2013

The Wizards Of Oz
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Mansize, Glow People, The Retinal Circus Inc,
Jonny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos,
Jimi Loveridge, Bhima Dub Ragga & More tbc
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The John Steeds
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester
Acoustic Brew Festival
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

Clurttching At Straws - Folk
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Will Kileen Band
The Star Inn, Pershore

Retrophonics
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Mid-Land Regulators
Callow End Social Club

Richard Clarke
The Antelope, Warwick

Massive Head Trauma, Cyberstan, Psyflyer
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

The Loved and Lost, Chuck Harriet Trio,
Michael Knowles, Emma Ross
The Talbot, Worcester

Torch, Fury, The Mercy House
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Way
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Bid, Citizen X
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Vo & Tyler
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Warren
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Woo Town @ Upton Folk Festival
The Boat House, Upton

The Jam D.R.C.
Hope Pole, Bromsgrove

Pete Hyde & Friends
Chestnut, Worcester

Delray Rockets
Unicorn, Malvern

May The Forth Be With You - The Loved & Lost
The Chuck harriet Trio, Michael Knowles, Emma Ross
The Talbot, Barbourne

Omnia Opera & Earthling Society
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Notorious Brothers
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sunday 5 May 2013

Sax n Axe
The Reindeer, Ombersley

Trum, Mark Hepworth, Members of Fog
Tiddesley Wood, Nr Pershore

The Sunday Session
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Jam Night hosted by Clive Fokes
Oast House, Redditch

Woo Town
Nottinghamshire Arms, Tewkesbury

Paul Brady
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Delray Rockets
VE Festival, Evesham

Hop Pole Cider Festival
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Slowburner
The Wheelhouse, Upton

Jazz Sunday with Remi Harris Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

Richard Clarke
The Bell & Talbot, Bridgenorth

Acoustic Brew Festival
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Monday 6 May 2013

Jenny Ludlow, Tom & Lucy, Gastric Band, Rufus
Ass Pasty's, !Dunnomate!
The Star Inn, Pershore

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

The Gastric Band
The Star Festival, Pershore

Acoustic Brew Festival
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Dave Onions
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Free Love Club presents Broken Amp
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Tuesday 7 May 2013

Open Mic with Nigel Clark (Dodgy)
The Millers, Pershore

Open Mic
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Muddy Waters Special
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Wednesday 8 May 2013

Acoustic Music Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Nostalgia
Moochers, Stourbridge

Kevin Underwood
Masons Arms, Wichenford, Nr Martley

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

The Blues Band
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Xbox Night Round II
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hannah Faulkner
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Nya King - Soul
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Thursday 9 May 2013

Limehouse Lizzy
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Open Mic
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Jam Night hosted by Jonny Gracie
Royal Oak, Studley

Pete Boddice
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

The Dolly Parton Story
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Tom Walker Trio
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Perry Foster's Open Mic
Chestnut, Worcester

Dick Venom & The Terrortones
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Friday 10 May 2013

Captain Hotknives ,The Age Concerns, Dj Feva
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Suzie & The Backbeats
Queens Head, Wolverley

Bridget & Big Girls Blues
Bidford Legion, Bidford

Cure For The Mourning
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Executives
Droitwich Legion, Droitwich

Medusa Rising
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ronin
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mother Popcorn
Drummonds, Worcester

Rikshaw Brothers
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Heed The Thunder, The May Dolls
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Indian Takeaway with Hardeep Sing Kohli
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Cloudbusting - A Tribute to Kate Bush
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sue & Devon
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

Ex Presidents
The Millers, Pershore

Skewwhiff
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Sax n Axe
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Grader, Tdon, Midnight Souls, Weathered Hands
Brothers Bar, Worcester

Saturday 11 May 2013

The John Steeds
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Hats Off to Led Zeppelin
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

King Mantis, Rocky Road to Ruin
AJ's, Hereford

Come Up and See Me
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Sick Of Society, P.O.A. Fear Insight, Social Schism
Waste Of Organs
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Jet Black Cadillac, Thirteen Shots
The Railway Inn, Redditch

Vo & Tyler
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mal Practice
Callow End Social Club

Undercover
The Star Inn, Pershore

Variety Show for Macmillan Cancer Support
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Gandhi's Walrus
The Unicorn, Malvern

The Zombies
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Vo & Tyler
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

ASA
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

House Party
Moochers, Stourbridge

Skabucks meets The Beatles, Barcelona Bangers
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Time Of The Mouth, Dogs Of Santorini, Skewwhiff
Malvern Rocks Warm Up, Re-Con, Malvern

Skinhorse
Black Lion, Hereford

Trevor Burton
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Bromsgrove Festival Orchestral Concert
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 12 May 2013

RattleSnake Jake
The Junction, Moseley, Birmingham

Lazy Sunday
Cafe Bliss at Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Dan Sealey & Adam Barry
The Reindeer, Ombersley

Woo Town
Grape Vaults, Leominster

The Sunday Session
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Jam Night hosted by Clive Fokes
Oast House, Redditch

Jazz Sunday with Jazzenco
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Hamilton Loomis Band
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Monday 13 May 2013

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Tuesday 14 May 2013

Open Mic
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Comedy - Alistair McGowan
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 15 May 2013

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Quiz Night
Chestnut, Worcester

The Richard O'Brien Project
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Show Of Hands
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Thursday 16 May 2013

Open Mic
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Jam Night hosted by Jonny Gracie
Royal Oak, Studley

C-Jam
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions
David Murphys, Stourbridge

Roo Mason
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Aytch & Co
Re-Con, Great Malvern

David Rees-Williams Trio
The Courtyard, Hereford

Friday 17 May 2013

Jenny Hallam, The Bedroom Hour, Marmalade Sky
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Hitchhiker
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Cracker & The Woodpeckers
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Will Killeen Band
The Millers, Pershore

Blue Dragon III Beer & Cider Festival
The Miffs, Hump De Bump, Spandex Bellend, Dj Bod
Worcester City Football Ground, Worcester

Black Hill, Dogs of Santorini.
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters
Queens Head, Wolverley

Demob & Criminal Minds
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Killerstream
Drummonds, Worcester

The Remedy
Moochers, Stourbridge

Kinver Edge
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Versatile Arts, Shoo Glenifty
The Cube, Malvern

Hellbound Hearts
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jet Black Cadillac, Miss Pearl & The Rough
Diamonds
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Tom Stade Totally Rocks (comedy)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Allstars Dub Band
Sound Music Venue, Cheltenham

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

God Damn, Arrows Of Love
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Flatworld
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

Clutching At Straws
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Saturday 18 May 2013

Blue Dragon III Beer & Cider Festival
Skewwhiff, Dogs Of Santorni, Parking Lot, The
Onionheads, Fearless, DJ Bod, Coalatión (tbc)
Stompin on Spiders, The Fallen
Worcester City Football Ground, Worcester

Retroreflector
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Miles Hunt & Erica Nockalls (The Wonderstuff)
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Reflections
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Alcester Victoria Silver Band Fave Hits from stage
& screen
Number 8, Pershore

Barnstormers Comedy Night
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Executives
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Ian The Goat, Goats Don't Shave with Dodgy Boilers
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Journeymen
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Rick Lavel
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Hot Feat
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Allstars Dub Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Vault of Eagles, Mansize
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Jasper In The Company Of Others
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jet Black Cadillac
The Ambassador Club, Evesham

Only Fools And ... Boycie An intimate evening with
actor John Challis
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Anesis
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Flat Stanley
The Unicorn, Malvern

Dave Onions
The Wheelhouse, Upton

Cracked Actors, Code 46, Samunnedo
Screaming Abdabz, Loan Shark, DJ Em J
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Terry Clarke Band
The Star Inn, Pershore

Sunday 19 May 2013

Brooke Sharkey Trio
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Big Joe Bone
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Sarah Warren
The Reindeer, Ombersley

The Sunday Session
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Jam Night hosted by Clive Fokes
Oast House, Redditch

Jazz Sunday with The Mark B Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

Comedy - Robin Ince
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions
Wheatsheaf, Shrewsbury

Midsummer Nights Dream
Number 8, Pershore

The Reverends
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Delray Rockets
The Roadhouse, Birmingham

Monday 20 May 2013

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Dave Onions
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 21 May 2013

ConFab Cabaret, Johnny Gash & The Bleeding Cat Faces,
Brenda Read-Brown, Al Barz, Rapunzel Wizard, Amy
Rainbow, Surprises of Loveliness
Re-con, Malvern

Open Mic
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wasted Youth, Sixs Out, Gun Powder Plot
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

ConFab Cabaret II
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Wednesday 22 May 2013

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Funke & The Two Tone Baby
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 23 May 2013

Half Man Half Biscuit, The Humdrum Express
The Robin 2, 20-28 Mount Pleasant, Bilston

Open Mic
The Pig & Drum, Worcester
Dennis Locorriere - The Point Zero Tour
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jam Night hosted by Jonny Gracie
Royal Oak, Studley

The Executives
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Eddy Morton
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

Comedy Festival - Raw
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Perry Foster's Open Mic
Chestnut, Worcester

Ruben Seabright Album Launch
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 24 May 2013

The Badgers
Drummonds, Worcester

Notorious Brothers
The Millers, Pershore

Joseph Cartwright Memorial Gig
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Delray Rockets
Queens Head, Wolverley

Rubicava & Guests
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Intimate Letters - Timothy West & the Pavao Quartet
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Juicebox Night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Lechlade Music Festival
see page 29 for more info

Voodoo
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Chuck Harriet Trio
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

The Moonshine Runners
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Lisa
Bidford Legion, Bidford

Dakota Beats
Moochers, Stourbridge

Open Music Session
British Legion, Bosbury Road, Cradley

Phill Jupitus Presents - You're Probably Wondering Why I've Asked You Here...
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sugar Mama, The Artois
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Lady Maisery - Shindig Performance
The Fold, Bransford

Hennesea Unplugged
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Missin Rosie
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Comedy Festival - Tough Luwie
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Saturday 25 May 2013

Lechlade Music Festival
see page 29 for more info

Junction 7
The Talbot, Worcester

The Underdogs
Pavillion In The Park, Worcester

Flipron
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Vault of Eagles
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Comedy Festival - Sean Collins & Mike Gunn
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

The Missing Lynx
Callow End Social Club

Katiesfest 2013
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Wizards Of Oz
The Star Inn, Pershore

Perry Foster
White Horse, Clun

Stereosonics
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Pyramid Party with Atoms, Phatti Mango, Funky Junky Monkeys
Rec-Con, Great Malvern

Adrian Marx
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Sugar Mama
The Queens Arms, Bromyard

It's an Cock Comedy Club Knockout Final 2013
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Marty
Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

Youth Man, Dj's Cassie Philomena & Joey Birmingham
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

The Reporters
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Schemers
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dogs Of Santorini
Unicorn, Malvern

Allstars Dub Band
Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

The Bungalow
Moochers, Stourbridge

Sunday 26 May 2013

Lechlade Music Festival
see page 29 for more info

BSN [4:20]
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Hannah Dallas
The Reindeer, Ombersley

The Fireballs UK, The Delray Rockets, And more
Drummonds, Worcester

Jet Black Cadillac, Delray Rockets, The Fireballs UK
Drummonds, Worcester

The Sunday Session
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Wooden Horse
The Kitchen, Garden Cafe, Birmingham

Slowburner
Lichfield Vaults, Hereford

Laid
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Katiesfest 2013
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Jazz Sunday
Queens Head, Wolverley

OPM & Stiff Joints
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Monday 27 May 2013

Tap Jam
The Brewery Tap, Worcester

Woo Town
Pershore Festival

Free Love presents Broken Amp Acoustic Club
Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Tuesday 28 May 2013

Folk Night
The Millers, Pershore

Rhythmic Unity African Drum Workshop
Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

Fiona Paterson & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 29 May 2013

Retroflector
The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley Castle, Pershore

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Open Mic with Dodgy Nigel & Mr Umphf
The Farriers, Worcester

Musicians & Songwriters Acoustic Jam Night
Pack Horse, Bewdley

Dan Hartland
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 30 May 2013

Laughing In The Face Of, Skimmer, End Credit & More For Me
The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Open Mic
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Voices Unlimited - The Way We Were
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

An Intimate Evening With Anita Harris and Jazz Trio
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jam Night hosted by Jonny Gracie
Royal Oak, Studley

The Johnny Caswell Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Friday 31 May 2013

BSN [4:20]
The Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Wychwood Festival, Cheltenham - See page 35

The Reflections
The White Hart, Redditch

Hannah Dallas and The Button Down Souls
Bar 12, Worcester

Skabucks
Drummonds, Worcester

Rockabilly Night
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Dave Onions
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Remi Harris
David Murphy's, Stourbridge

Mudball
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Voices Unlimited - The Way We Were
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Barrel House Blues Band
The Millers, Pershore

Bonnie Lou
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

House Night DJ Set
Firefly, Worcester

Cowley Cowboys
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Cantaloop
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Delray Rockets
The Black Lion, Hereford

ELO Experience
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 1 June 2013

Wychwood Festival, Cheltenham - See page 35

Nightshift
Callow End Social Club

Voices Unlimited - The Way We Were
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Re-Con Round Up
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Knoxville Highway
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Straight Aces
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Are you a Venue owner?
A Promoter? A Band or Solo
Performer?

Is your gig listed above?

If not, its because we
didn't know about it!

So next time...

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Listings in conjunction with www.notjustsauce.com

THE MARR'S BAR

MAY 2013



Rob Rouse
2nd May 2013

Thursday 2nd

Comedy Zone Presents:-

Rob Rouse & Lloyd Langford

£10.00 ticket £12.00 on the door

Friday 3rd

Blobbie Williams & Baldy Murrs

Robbie Williams & Olli Murs Tribute

£6.00 ticket £8.00 on the door

Saturday 4th

Tower Studios and Rock Horn

Events Launch Party!

The Mercy House, Fortress,

Adamantium, Touch

£3 on the door

Thursday 9th

Limehouse Lizzy

(Thin Lizzy Tribute)

£10.00 ticket £12.00 on the door

Saturday 11th

Private Party

Friday 17th

Hellbound Hearts

£4.00 ticket £5.00 on the door

Saturday 18th

Jasper in the Company of Others

Album Launch

£5.00 ticket £7.00 on the door

Sunday 19th

Brooke Sharkey Trio

£5.00 ticket £7.00 on the door

Saturday 25th

Stereosonics

(Stereophonic Tribute)

£8.00 tickets £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Dates available for private hire

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