

# SLAP

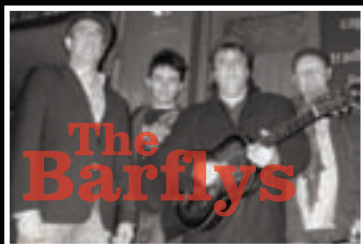
Issue 3

Apr 2011

FREE

## MAGAZINE

**This months  
features:**



Your **FREE** monthly entertainment  
guide for Worcestershire

### **Reviewed:**

**The Barflys**  
**Zebedy Rays**  
**Tallulah Fix**  
**Ronin**  
**Alex Callaghan**  
**Vault of Eagles**  
**The Call Out**  
**Zim Zim**  
**Nomad 67**  
**Naked Remedy**  
**Stompin on Spiders**  
**Gundogs**  
**Dandelion Killers**  
**SubKon All Stars**  
**Shuddervision**  
**Julie Felix**  
**Deborah Hodgson**  
**Transcendence**

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# SLAP

Apr 2011 **MAGAZINE**

## Slap Magazine

Unit 3E, Shrub Hill Industrial Estate,  
Worcester WR4 9EL

Telephone: 01905 26660

[editorial@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:editorial@slapmag.co.uk)

**For advertising enquiries, please contact:**

**Paul Robinson on 07852 247970**

[adverts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:adverts@slapmag.co.uk)

**Editorial Team** Mark Hogan  
Paul Robinson

**Contributors** Chris Bennion  
Ralph Tittley  
Andy O'Hare  
Sam Griffin  
Dave Marston  
Dicky Fisk  
Kate Cox  
Stephen Glazzard  
Peter Adams  
Marc Hache  
Will Munn  
**Design** Mark Hogan  
**Sales Manager** Paul Robinson

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Welcome once again to your FREE issue of SLAP Magazine, looking forward to yet another great month of local arts and performances. With another jam packed issue of your news, your bands, your art, reviews and previews.

Not only have we increased our size again for the 3rd issue running, this time to 48 pages, but we've managed to reach further out into the county to bring you news of what's going on besides what's right on our doorsteps. It's been a busy old March for SLAP, we've been out and about most nights, covering more and more local artists and performers than the last 2 issues put together! We are excited to see more venues providing quality entertainment such as the rapid increase of open mic nights, spreading to all corners of the county.

The co-operation we have received from the artists, the venues, promoters and bands has been encouraging. We apologise for not including everything we have had sent in, but I think we've managed to cram in most of what's been happening, hence the further eight pages. So a big thank you to all contributors. For those wishing to advertise and couldn't get your ads together in time we again apologise, we have to keep a balance between editorial and adverts which fund the whole thing as our philosophy remains 'content is king' whilst ads pay the bills!

We've also made this April issue more colourful and informative such as the new venue guide we have compiled for your easy reference, which we hope will help performers, promoters and the audience connect together.

Our featured bands include the Cracked Actors, our Birmingham cousins, who are returning to the Marris Bar where they enjoy playing to a packed house along with support from locals Skewwhiff and the amazing Shuddervision Sound System... Not to be missed. The Barflys are back playing those intimate gigs we've been missing out on too long. Marko Antonio provides our featured artist slot with his amazing work. Look out too for a rare performance by local boy and Dodgy frontman Nigel Clark just to prove that the Bunker Fridays nights at keystones are attracting much deserved attention.

Looking forward to next month when we are hoping to catch up with Kidderminster's Vault of Eagles who are raising eyebrows for all the right reasons and Droitwich's Crooked Empire, that's if we can track them down during their busy schedules.

*The Editors*

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# Slap News

April 2011

Worcester Music Festival was awarded its entire requested grant of £1500 from Worcestershire County Council towards staging and promoting this year's event in late August - good to see that the politicians are switched onto an event that generates tourism and income - you gotta speculate etc...

Worcester songbird Lexie Stobie's just made her fifth appearance on the BBC's Songs Of Praise programme with her own rendition of Amazing Grace. Good times ahead for Lexie with a recording contract with Decca under her belt and a debut album out shortly featuring the Harlem Gospel Choir and Blind Boys Of Alabama on backing vocals - who says the devil has all the best tunes?



Well not really as the indie-rockers have just returned from headlining a Friday night at the legendary 100 Club in Oxford Street, Their second album 'High Street Of Life' out shortly - and they'll be promoting it with a nationwide tour.

Another local success with Malvern country singer Clive John hitting the #1 spot in the Hotdisc charts with his own number 'The Spirit' beating the likes of the Bellamy Brothers aside - who are they anyway? You may have also caught Clive in his alter persona as the Johnny Cash Roadshow - either way you're in for treat.

The Railway Hotel Evesham is to be running a Battle of the Bands, with the first heats starting on Friday 22nd April 2011. Three bands will play each week, with the winning band each week going through to the next round. Music must be original, but one cover song must be played, and no more than two. The competition is in aid of St Richard's Hospice. First prize is £1250, and the three other finalists will all receive £250. All finalists will also get a gig at The Marris Bar in Worcester. Entry forms can be e-mailed to [railwayhotel@live.co.uk](mailto:railwayhotel@live.co.uk) or returned direct to Stewart at The Railway. Good luck to all who enter...

World renowned artist Gordon Giltrap will play at the Fleece Inn, Bretforton, near Evesham on Saturday and Sunday April 23/24 to raise money for the Tracy Solлис Leukemia Trust. Tickets



cost £10 and are available from the Fleece Inn or by calling 01386 831173 as well as the Tracy Solлис shop in Evesham on 01386 421424.



Worcester band This Wicked Tongue will celebrate a year since its formation with a special gig at the Marris Bar on Pierpoint Street Worcester on Friday 29th April, the Royal Wedding Day. The band has invited the Birmingham band "The Arcadian Kicks" to headline, with additional support from well known bands Nomad 67 from Worcester and I Am Ryan from Evesham, to be followed by dj sets into the early hours of Saturday morning. The Arcadian Kicks have a distribution arrangement with EMI through their record label One Beat Records, and will be playing at the Isle of Wight Festival later this year, following extensive national airplay on BBC and independent radio. This Wicked Tongue's lead singer Tina V says "It's a year since we formed, and since then we've gigged in so many different towns and cities. We came across The Arcadian Kicks at a festival we played with them last summer, and it seemed such a great idea to



invite them along for our 1st anniversary gig. They've got a really sexy, fresh, indie sound, and we just know our fans will love them."

Full Company played to a full house at the Marris Barr following the postponement due to the weather in December, the covers band who are fronted by Sam Giddings and Ali Ike were supported by Worcester originals band 'The Form' who are attracting a lot of interest with their brand of Indie Rock.



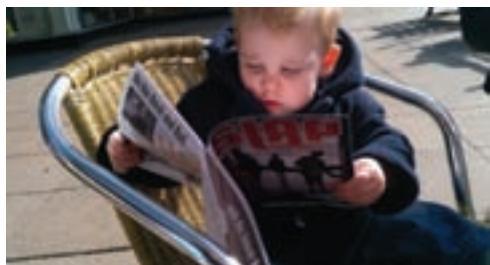
Dates have been announced for this year's **Pyramid Party**. This will be the fourth time the three day music festival has been held and will take place over the weekend of 13th-15th May. The location, rumoured to be a field near Castlemorton, is being kept a closely guarded secret as the invite only tickets are strictly limited and are extremely hard to come by. For more information see [www.pyramid-party.co.uk](http://www.pyramid-party.co.uk).

The Fringe hold their annual day of mayhem and music in Malvern's Priory Park on the 30th April. The day has become a bit of a Malvern tradition with bands, performances, stalls, food & drink and the ever popular pagan parade, led by the constantly enthusiastic samba troupe - will those drums never cease!

In the run up to the May Day event the Fringe are taking back the streets one more time. On the 2nd April musicians, dancers and performers will be doing their thing throughout the day at any one of the many Busk Stops that the Fringe have set up around the town.

The Great Malvern Hotel is holding a weekend of Rock on the 23rd and 24th of April. The Easter Bunny's Ball will see the Dogs of Santorini, Tallulah Fix, Vault of Eagles, Slack Granny, Black Russian and Naked Remedy crumbling the building to dust.

And now for SLAP's youngest reader, Henry aged 15 months, he says he enjoyed the editorial but spotted a few typo's which angered the little man to tears. We have promised to try harder in the next issues. He also insisted there should be more pushchair friendly venues and suggested Keystones inserts a lift.



A fundraising music event at the Marrs Bar is to take place over two weekends in April live at the Marrs bar has been announced: Sunday 10th April at 12pm is the WSRP showcase, 2pm Caroline Fitzgerald, 2:45pm OPEN, 3:30pm Highway 5, 4:25pm The Oohz, 5:20pm The Roving Crows, 6:15pm None Of These Are You, 7:10 Chris Wallbank & The Cowards, 8:05pm Vermilion Skies, 9pm Mudball, 10pm Russian Gun Dogs.

The following Sunday 17th April at 12pm sees One Foot On Jupiter, The Rubber Nuns, Lachlan Werner, 2pm Craigus Barry and The Retinal Circus, 2:45pm Stompin' On Spiders, 3:30pm The SJS Band, 4:25pm The Harpers, 5:20pm Skew Whiff, 6:15pm Tallulah Fix, 7:10pm Calm Like A Riot, 8:05pm Absolute Ataxia, 9pm Wise Blood, 10pm Stuntdog.

There will be a minimum donation on the door of £4, all of which goes towards the charity Project 3580.

Local music promotion **Worcester Rock City** is teaming up with Independent record label VoxStar Records to release a compilation album, celebrating some of the best Two great Sundays of bands Solo acts currently wowing the local music scene. The promotional CD will have a limited run of 1000 copies and be available for FREE to members of the public early this summer. The next Worcester Rock City showcase is on Friday 15th April at the Cellar Bar, Foregate Street, Worcester featuring the delights of Jasper in the Company of Others, Nomad 67 and The Fiction. **FREE ENTRY.**



Finally, late news has just hit SLAP HQ of a special performance on the Royal Wedding day at the Bunker, Keystones 29th April by none other than local boy turned 'bigger than most' Nigel Clark from 90's sensations **Dodgy** who are in the process of finishing a uk tour and a new album. Nigel has taken time out of the tour to play solo with local faves Skewwhiff who have just completed the recording of a new EP which should be available throughout their April/ May programme. They are joined at the Bunker by Wolverhamptons **Trap Floors**.

The Cap n Gown are to celebrate being in this wonderful pub for a full three months and are planning a 'Big Easter Music Weekend' featuring two nights of fantastic live music and a night where we hand over the jukebox to our customers to pick their own banging tunes on freeplay (with permission from the neighbours!).

Malvern Youth Centre, used as a venue for gigs, comedy and cabaret, is facing closure as Worcester County Council want to sell off the land around it for housing development. They also plan to demolish part of the building. With the estimated £1 million raised from the sale of the land, half will be given to Malvern Hills College who propose that the main hall at the Centre becomes a refectory for the college. They also plan to build a few buildings and workshops around the refectory for the use of the college. This of course will leave little or no space for provision of Youth Services in Malvern while groups such as Malvern Fringe and Smoke & Mirrors will lose a valuable performance space. Meanwhile, a group known as the Malvern Community Collective want to take on the existing building and, in the spirit of David Cameron's Big Society, run it with volunteers as a community based operation. The Collective are running a campaign to save the Youth Centre, holding gigs and events to highlight the issue and garner public support. For more info see [www.mccollective.info](http://www.mccollective.info).



# worcester arts workshop

Our continuous thanks for supporting Worcester arts workshop at this time of re growth!

Some have said we have been a phoenix from the flames these last few months though are still critically in need of your help.

We desperately need volunteers who have particular skills in IT, admin and marketing, and other skilled workers. As a charity, we are also asking for donations for many things, including flooring/wood, plant pots/plants/things to house art work.

It has been a rollercoaster of a ride keeping the arts workshop from sinking but we feel that our continued and relentless passion has done us proud so far!

To keep us alive, and for all your creative needs, come check out all of our up and coming activities:

## 27th March:

Efterklang presents "An Island", an exceptional piece of film-making by legendary French director Vincent Moon. 40 mins. Cafe Bliss open from 5pm for pre show drinks/food and also included, the preview of our new exhibitions...all for a £2 minimum donation!



## Lazy Sunday 10th April

Our regular easy Sunday vibe with local talents performing acoustically for your ears whilst enjoying our popular Mexican breakfast as well as other scrumptious delights! 12 – 4pm.

## Keep a look out for this month's performers.

### Friday April 1st:

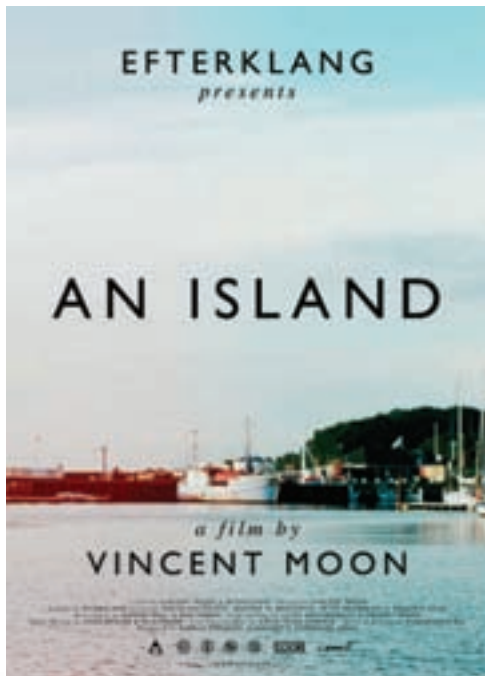
Splendid cinema presents "1984", the George Orwell classic, screened at the Arts Workshop. 7.30pm.

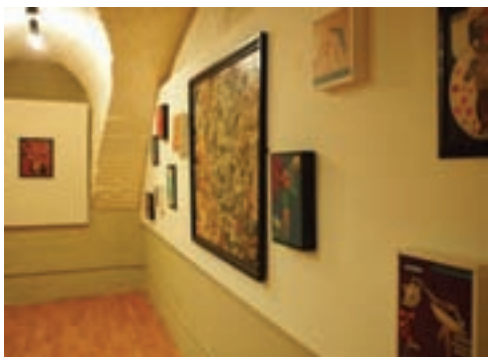
GEORGE ORWELL 1984



### Friday 15th April: Calling all Zombies!

The splendid cinema is proud to present, George A Romero's horror classic, "Dawn of the Dead". All zombies welcome for pre film dead snacks and bloody drinks, open from 5.30pm, film starts 7.30pm. Worcester Arts Workshop.





## Plus two new exhibitions from the Klik Klik Collective:

27th March–22th April:

'Caroline Hartley, Ink in my Carnation'. Based in Carmarthenshire, Caroline's paintings reflecting the interdependence between man and nature and their comparability.

'Heavier than Lead'. An exhibition of drawing based on figure, form and pattern. Showing works from Becky Kellitt, Justin Humphreys, Hazel Castle, Ismay Ozga-Lawn, Richard Clarke and Jordan Duddy and Chris Mason.

## The end of April houses our next 2 shows:

25th April–May 20th:

'Diana Scott' A retrospective! Watercolour and acrylic paintings in a tribute to the late Worcester Arts Workshop artist, Diana Scott.

'Nathaniel Kara'. Inspired by 60's Hockney, Nathaniel creates with simple imagery, urban landscapes displaying scenes that don't make obvious subjects: empty streets, industrial settings and other forgotten corners of towns and cities: places we often pass by and take for granted.

## Come down and support the Arts Workshop!

If you are interested and would like more information about courses, exhibitions or events at The Worcester Arts Workshop, please come visit at:

The Worcester Arts Workshop

21 Sansome Street,  
Worcester, WR1 1UH

Telephone: 01905 21095

Email: [info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](mailto:info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)

Website: [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)



**Also this month, keep your eyes peeled for we have Easter workshops!**

**18th, 19th 20th April**

Age 8–11 Morning workshop 9.30 – 11.30am

– 3 Days £24

Age 12–14 Afternoon workshop 12.30 – 2.30pm

– 3 Days £24

## RedDress Theatre and Planetmaz present

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Booking at [www.planetmaz.com/workshops](http://www.planetmaz.com/workshops) or via the Worcester Arts Workshop.

And also come and get involved in our:

**Easter family play sessions! 13th April**

**Easter mask making family fun.**

5 to 8 yrs. Morning workshop 10–11.30.

£18 (2 adults/2 children).

**Easter themed accordion book making 20th April**

8–11yrs. Morning workshop 10–11.30.

£18 (2 adults/2 children).

Parents are free to go drink coffee in Café Bliss while their children play!

Bookable from Worcester Arts workshop, 01905 21095

## Royal Wedding Celebrations!

29th April All day starting 10.30. 50p entrance.

You are invited to come and join in the street celebrations at the WAW street party with Royal Tea, serving cakes and party food. Reddress theatre company present "A Right Royal Performance", craft workshops, raffle, facepainting, tombola and much more.

**James Hickman and Dan Cassidy Friday 20th May**

A newly formed transatlantic folk and roots duo, Cassidy presenting an exciting array of fiddling renditions and harmony singing and Hickman brings his driving guitar playing and wonderful unique interpretations of songs to their mixture of old and new and old roots music.

Tickets £10 (£9concs)

# Reviews

## **The Barflys Cap 'n' Gown, Tything, Worcester Sunday 6th March 2011**



Local favourites The Barflys delighted a packed house with a polished set that fused an eclectic mix of rock, jazz, blues and country blues. Andy Hiseman (rhythm guitar/ lead vocals) and Pat Allen (lead guitarist/ vocals) have been the powerhouse behind the band's unique sound for nearly twenty years now and although they

still play acoustically as a duo, tonight was a full performance with new band members Ian Palmer on drums and Spike Barker on double bass.

The strength and depth of Andy and Pat's long musical partnership is evident from the off as their vocals and guitars blend seamlessly to bring an instant freshness to classic tracks from numerous different genres including Hendrix's haunting *The Wind Cries Mary*, J.J. Cale's *Hold On* and Hoagy Carmichael's seminal standard *Georgia On My Mind*. Ian's slick drumming and Spike's smooth bass stylings really adds an extra dimension to The Barflys' sound, and you certainly wouldn't guess from their flawless and flair-laden performances that they'd only been with the band for a matter of months. If anyone was wondering why Spike looks familiar, he also finds time to play with Bebe Tromans, the Alternative Dubstep Orchestra & Simon Harris's Manouche.



Along with the diverse selection of radically re-worked covers, there is also a good dose of The Barflys' own home-grown music. Highlights from the Fly's back pocket include the delightfully whimsical *Greenwich Village*, the up-tempo hand-clapper *Goodnight Misses* and the brilliant *Take You By The Hand*; a track which never fails to send lead guitarist Pat into some kind of crazy finger-picking trance. The gig finishes with superb reinterpretations of the jazz standard *Mack the Knife* and Lowell George's *Willin'* and as is the usual form with Barflys' gigs, the audience is a sea of smiling faces and tapping toes from start to finish.

The Barflys are regular fixtures around the county's music circuit; for information on the band check out their website [www.barflys.co.uk](http://www.barflys.co.uk). The Cap and Gown is a cracking little venue on the Tything in Worcester with good beers and genial hosts, and they have thrown their weight behind supporting live music in the city. Keep an eye on SLAP magazine or drop in for a pint to find out about forthcoming gigs.

*Dicky Fisk*

## **Ronin with Alex Callaghan Cap 'n' Gown, Tything, Worcester Sunday 6th March 2011**

The Cap 'n Gown was in for a surprise. Worcester's live event upstarts Kranked Promotions talked the kind landlady, Sue, into staging two of the city's bright talents at her pub. While some of the pub regulars were skeptical of the event, and indeed some went home, those that stayed were in for a musical treat.

Local singer/songwriter Alex Callaghan kicked off proceedings with a series of solo acoustic songs. Alex was



previously a member of Birmingham soul-indie group 'Liner', and has since been working towards his solo career and studio production. His delivery on the night, despite the initial technical niggles from the sound desk, showed the passion and emotion that he has for his music. I'm without doubt that we'll be hearing more from Mr Callaghan in the very near future.

It was local debutantes Ronin's turn to take the stage and try and win over this crowd. Their opening number featured the singer Kit Kinrade appearing to try and murder a small box that was wailing in terror amidst the backdrop of a thumping bassline and drum section! In fact, Kinrade was hitting a 1960s vintage synthesizer that emits noises upon hitting it. Bass, drums, vintage synths. And then a build-up into a rock monster! What other surprises could Ronin hold?





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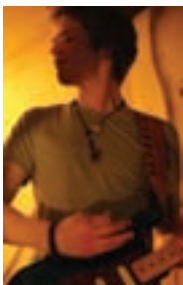


They worked through their repertoire of self-penned songs that demonstrated their full range of vocal and instrumental talents to the audience. The rhythm team of Josh Taylor on bass and Jake Howarth on drums kept driving the machine forward as budding local guitar genius Loz Crame wailed forward with intense riffing and soaring solos.



Kit's vocal delivery was every bit as energetic and passionate as the music, with some very soulful lyrics about life, loss, and moving on. As each song built up, the pub locals and music fans were all cheering the band along, clapping above their heads in support. Perhaps the only downside was that the band ran out of songs!!!

Kitrade's lookout for vintage synthesizers (he's looking for a Theremin, we hear) and Crame's penchant for putting together some serious riffs

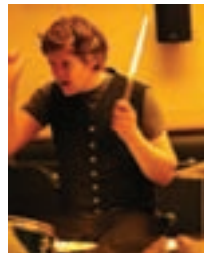


through serious amplifiers demonstrate this band's originality in reinventing a blues rock sound that goes a few steps further than your usual pub covers band. It's like an up-tempo Stevie Ray Vaughn jamming with the likes of Josh Homme and Nick Cave, with Dave Grohl pounding on drums for good measure. We're looking forward to hearing much, much more from Ronin in the future. They have not only thrown down a gauntlet to the local music scene, but have clearly given it a good old fashioned kick in the backside.

The Cap 'n Gown's message to the promoters says it all: "A more polite and worthy group of chaps I have yet to meet and as for their musical talent - exceptional. We have had some amazing feedback from our customers and look forward to their next visit. Sue."

It's safe to say, then, that Sue's been Kranked!

Join Ronin at [www.reverbnation.com/roninmusicuk](http://www.reverbnation.com/roninmusicuk)  
[www.krankedpromotions.co.uk](http://www.krankedpromotions.co.uk)



## Vault Of Eagles, The Callout, Zim Zim The Bunker (Keystones, Worcester) Friday 11th March

In recent times I've not really been to too many gigs locally or otherwise, I guess the primary reason for this is the arrival of my son (ok so he's fourteen months old now, but hey I like being at home with him), but secondly and I'm talking locally here, there's not been much happening.

So, there are the usual pub gigs dotted around and sure I've missed loads of interesting bands in Worcester's various music institutes but I've been waiting for an alternative, you know a regular night at a nice small venue featuring out of town bands as well as the usual local suspects. Well it would seem like my prayers have been answered, Keystones in the heart of Worcester is a small yet spacious venue that's just perfect for such gigs and in recent weeks have been putting on a Friday night event entitled The Bunker (again perfect for this underground bar) that features the best local acts and new up and coming out of town acts

I thought it was about time I checked out what Worcester's new alternative night was all about. Descending the steps into the recently refurbished Keystones, I instantly felt a twinge of excitement, the bar now looks like my idea of a venue, the DJ was busy spinning the best in indie rock, alternative pop and stomping art-punk and in addition they had San Miguel on tap



The opening act were angular indie racketeers and oddly named, Birmingham three-piece Zim Zim, a band that weld jagged art rock riffs, glorious vocal yelps, the occasional spoken word murmurs and a whole heap of punk funk groove. The trio threw themselves into their infectious set creating an exhilarating wall of noise that had me nodding my head gleefully and leading my feet on a merry dance. Tracks such as The Sushi Blues and Eye's Open Cars Parked are contagious little beasts that should hold this young energetic group in good stead for the future whilst I can hardly recommend their adrenaline fuelled live performance enough, if Zim Zim can capture their youthful exuberance on disc they could be onto huge things in the future.

Next up to walk the boards at The Bunker were Redditch based punk rock n roll merchants The Callout and somehow they managed to follow up the excitement created by Zim Zim with a fine frenzy of their own. The Callout deal in catchy punk riffs, loads of stop-starts, big melodic sing along choruses and loads of swagger creating an infectious sound that sticks in your head for aeons. The Callout may not be the most original sounding band on the planet, but they have plenty of hooks and more than enough contagious sing-a-long choruses to please even the most cynical of rock fans and any band that pen a track wonderfully entitled If I Wanted A Cuddle I Would Have Bought A Teddy Bear is onto a winner as far as I'm concerned.



My first visit to the Bunker was completed by yet another three-piece, Vault Of Eagles, a Midlands based rock band, who have already performed at the Academy in Birmingham among other places and are beginning to make a real name for themselves. The trio, two girls, one boy, play heavy moody stoner rock with angst-ridden female vocals, imagine Kyuss with PJ Harvey, Fu Manchu with Inger Lorre (former Nymphs lead singer) or a sludgy down tuned Led Zeppelin with Nicole Atkins on singing duty. Vaults Of Eagles create a dense down-trodden groove that hooks the listener in, whilst the vocals and overall performance captivate an eager crowd.



So to sum up a brand new night, three different yet equally compelling bands and a couple of DJs spinning tunes that are actually worth hearing. The only downside to the entire evening was the lack of audience, but hopefully as the night grows so will the crowd. You can find The Bunker every Friday night at Keystones; drop in, tune in and rock out.

Words -Will Munn ([rhythm-and-booze.co.uk](http://rhythm-and-booze.co.uk))

Pics - Chris Bennion ([notjustsausage.com](http://notjustsausage.com))

## Nomad 67 + Naked Remedy The Pheasant, March 17th

On a drizzly St Patricks evening in Worcester, a crowd was assembled at the back room of the Pheasant. Liverpool was playing Braga in the Europa League (and losing 0-1 on aggregate, apparently) on the flat screen TV. All the while, at the very back, a group of guys were quietly putting together a rig that would turn the drizzle into a hailstorm of rock and roll. These guys were Naked Remedy and Nomad 67, getting ready to perform for another Kranked party!



Naked Remedy kicked off proceedings with a series of blistering sleazy rock monsters with a fantastic swirling psychedelic light show in the background. The football watching audience took notice

and started bobbing along to the songs, tapping fingers, and enthusiastically clapping the band on after each song. Their sound has a mixture of the Detroit psychedelic bands of the late '60s (ie - MC5) and early '70's English glam, a truly groovy combination. As well, they have a full-time vocalist drummer (goes by the name of Dave) moving the machine forward - very rare these days!



As the band played on with an epic set, the crowd nearly filled the room to standing capacity. They received a huge cheer from the crowd - certainly more cheers than the football received! Naked Remedy had certainly set the bar.

Nomad 67 therefore had a challenge to keep this crowd entertained. Playing together since they were teenagers, they already had an established reputation on the Worcester scene as a power-punk trio. Did they disappoint? I think not!

As always, Nomad 67's ability to wake up the tamest audience was demonstrated once again as they performed song after song of dirty punk and grunge originals. They captured the crowd with their opening gambit of Misirlou (you know, that song from Pulp

Fiction) and rolled through a set of instantly catchy numbers that kept people on their feet dancing. In the end, there was even a sweaty mosh pit as the band closed their set with their genius reworking of Spandau Ballet's 'Gold'.



The Pheasant was another of the local pubs to get Kranked. Who won the football that night is anyone's guess?

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## Zebedy Rays, Tallulah Fix The Marr's Bar, Worcester 5th March 2011

Rich Monk and his band of merry men take to the stage to a good natured and antipathetic audience. Its not long before they get into their stride with a thunderingly tight bass line from Louis who is close to becoming Slaps favourite bass player in a band rapidly becoming SLAPS



favourite band, Tallulah Fix prove just how close they are to the real deal. A lot has been said about the quality of the guitars and rhythm section, more has been said about Rich's vocals which I for one have noticed have got grimmer, dirtier and much more soulful with maturity as well as a hair cut.

Coming at the end of the 'War & Whiskey' Tour, the Zebedy Rays' first proper UK jaunt (which included a well-received support slot with Terrorvision in Camden), this show was billed as a 'return' to Worcester but plays more like a homecoming celebration for a cup-winning squad. A musical party at which all



are invited to join the Rays' excitement, the night is marked by a consistent blur between where the stage ends and the audience starts.

It's not just because singer/guitarist Hickman kicks off the set deep in the bowels of the audience smashing seven shades out of a snare, or that bassist Meigh takes every available opportunity to hang over the audience to excitedly scream: "Come on" at the sweating, pulsating



mass of bodies. It's because over the course of their raucous 45 minute set half the audience find themselves on the stage providing extra vocals, lead guitars, synths or harmonicas to the mix. With the Rays at the top of their game musically, it's unlikely these extra parts are truly necessary but it certainly goes a long way to bolster the feeling of family and community that has been with them since day one.

It goes without saying of course, but the audience loves it. What are considered old songs around these parts have been given a new burst of energy due to their 'away' performances on tour. Newer tunes such as 'Digging A Hole' are welcomed by a crowd pleased to see the band move into stage two of their career.

A job well done, lads.

*Pete Adams*



photography: James Evans

The new single 'War And Whiskey' – Is available on FREE download from [www.zebedyrays.com](http://www.zebedyrays.com)





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# Preview

## This Ain't No Culture Shock...

### ... It's Cracked Actors!

Marrs Bar Friday 22nd April 2011

This month sees the welcome return of Black Brumtree (a compound of Birmingham / Black Country) festival favourites, Cracked Actors, to the Marrs Bar. Purveyors of the Ska / Reggae 'ting' for over ten years, the band have recently finished recording their fourth long player, "This Ain't No Culture Shock", at Magic Garden Studios – a studio renowned for it's vintage valve recording console used on Bowie's "Space Oddity". Appropriate really considering the band are named after one of the Thin White Duke's songs ("Cracked Actor" is the last track on side one of "Aladdin Sane" for those of you that remember vinyl!).

As with any band having longevity, their line-up has changed over the years (their keyboard player ran away last year to join the circus!) but a solid core remains from the first ever gig they performed – Malaki on saxophone, 2Bad on guitar and front man Fudge. Tim Bali joined on drums not long after, but when SLAP tentatively asked about the Bowie reference in their moniker it nearly started a scrap between Tim and Fudge, chiefly due to the latter's faltering memory. Apparently, when a former member phoned to suggest the name, Fudge was listening to that aforementioned album so it just had to be. (The banter arose as the

drummer has evidence on DVD from a Kerrang studio appearance that he was actually listening to THAT track – something Fudge was a little circumspect about until challenged and then the language got a little too 'robust' for a family magazine.)

Joined by Paddy Youth on bass and Richie Capone on guitar to make up a dynamic six piece, Cracked Actors are



completely at home on the stage and a great laugh to experience live. In fact, there is a big fun element that flows through their music, which can be a challenge for bands that deal with difficult, contentious issues. One cause is very dear to the band, and immortalised in the song "Captive", Justice for Gary Critchley. Gary, a punk, was sentenced in 1981 for a murder he couldn't have committed and has been at "Her Majesty's Pleasure" pretty much ever since (despite the original tariff being 8-9 years he has had further punishment for protesting his innocence).

Too many festival acts trying to make a statement end up sounding tight fisted, preachy and it feels like a



manifesto is being rammed down the audience's throat. Not so with Cracked Actors. Even when voicing their opposition to the current political climate on tracks such as BNP (from the forthcoming album) they get the message across with positive vibrations.

The drummer suggested that the good humour derives from a liking for Nitrous Oxide (drummers, hey!) but we at SLAP think it goes much deeper and that the democratic nature of the band is more than partly





responsible. They all sing and contribute to the writing and this leads to a confidence in being part of something bigger than the individuals involved. Even though Fudge is a very enigmatic front man (and "Front Man" sums him up superbly), he's self-deprecating enough to take a step back and encourage the others to take on vocal duties (while he hits wood blocks with a massive grin or provides backing vocals).

Inevitably, given the geography and style of music, comparisons can be drawn with early UB40 and Two Tone (not to mention collaborating with Ranking Roger from The Beat) but there are so many more influences



– from their cheeky cover of Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb", through traditional Irish music influences ("Ceilidh Dubh"), to their storming rendition of the Jerry Lordon classic, "Apache" (cunningly retitled "Skapache"!)

The band is steeped in music of all sorts – for example Richie promotes "Broken Amp", which is an acoustic night at the Adam & Eve in Birmingham and has played host to local artists Retinal Circus and Becky Rose (so any acoustic acts out there who fancy a trip to Brum for a gig, tell SLAP and we'll pass on your details).

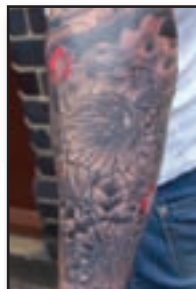
For those that have seen Cracked Actors before we KNOW you'll do everything possible to see them again. For those who are yet to see them, round up a bunch of mates, get your collective dancing shoes on, leave your troubles at the door and enjoy a Great Friday of partying (with a little bit of protest thrown in for good measure).

Cracked Actors play the Marris Bar 22 April.

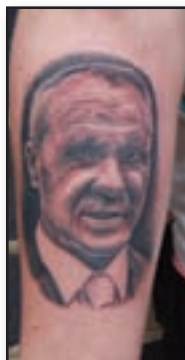
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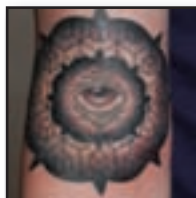
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# The Barflys

## Back on the road again...

WORCESTER band The Barflys have returned to their roots and are back on the road. Andy Hiseman and Pat Allen, well known for their acoustic sound, have spent six months rehearsing after making the decision to return to their jazz and country blues beginnings.



Now a Quartet, with the awesome Spike Barker on double bass and well seasoned drummer Ian Palmer, The Barflys are back on the road with their new rhythm section. Andy said: "After playing with a rock band formation for a number of years, both Pat and I decided we wanted to dig out our acoustic guitars and go back to where The Barflys first began, which was very much jazz and country blues influenced. "We now have a superb new rhythm section with Spike and Ian and it keeps the acoustic feel. "We are all very inspired and looking forward to getting out playing again. We are also around half way through writing a new album and hope to start recording later in the year."

The Barflys, one of the midlands best known and most respected acoustic bands, are back with a new rhythm section after deciding to go back to their roots of acoustic jazz and country blues. Both Andy and Pat are now joined by the well travelled and respected Spike Barker on double bass and the seasoned drummer Ian Palmer who keep the whole feel acoustic.

We are all very inspired at present and looking forward to getting out playing again. We are also around half way through writing a brand new album and hope to start recording later in the year."



After rehearsing for the last six months and writing new material The Barflys are finally taking their music back out on the road with some small shows in and around Worcestershire and Gloucestershire to get themselves back "match fit" in preparation for festivals next year.

With local shows coming up at The Bridge at Tibberton on the 15th before heading back to the Cap n Gown on 22nd April. You can always catch them every last Saturday of the month at The Lamb and Flag, The Tything, Worcester For more information and details of other shows visit their recently updated website: [www.barflys.co.uk](http://www.barflys.co.uk). or contact Andy Hiseman on 07812 014580 [info@barflys.co.uk](mailto:info@barflys.co.uk)

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# Featured Artist

## Marko Antonio

On a very rare warm sunny March lunchtime SLAP magazine hooked up with Marko Antonio, a Worcester based artist that has been "Putting paint where it ain't" since 1982. Influenced by the first wave of Hip Hop when it came over from America he has seen it evolve over the last three decades into the strong movement it is today. In the last 15 years or so he has run workshops, community projects and taken on many commissions working alongside the likes of Yamaha, The Cartoon Network and even painting the backdrop for the Ali G show! Marko also works with local councils, charities and youth services helping young people to engage and express themselves in an articulate manner which builds confidence and self esteem, this gives them a sense of pride in the work they've achieved in the local community.



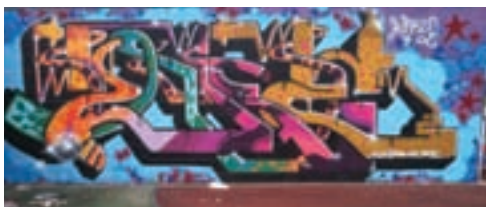
*Dines Green community project*



*Diversity project - Star National College, Cheltenham  
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Some of Marko's work is also available on canvas, he exhibits all over the UK so keep your eyes peeled as he will be coming to a gallery near you very soon!!

Contact him at [zeeizm@hotmail.com](mailto:zeeizm@hotmail.com)  
or to see more of his work find him on his facebook link:  
<http://www.facebook.com/MarkoAntonio72>



*above & below Warndon projects*



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# GILDED FRIDAYS Music for the soul

American country soul star, Rachel Harrington is to play at Worcester's Guildhall on April 15th as part of her UK wide tour it has been announced.

Harrington will play Worcester's newest music venue as part of the Gilded Friday's season.

Championed by Bob Harris of BBC Radio 2, her two acclaimed Americana albums both hit the top spot of the Euro-Americana Chart with her latest album Celilo Falls debuting at number 3.

Drawing from a rich array of influences including an upbringing in the Pentecostal pines of Oregon and a dad with a secret stash of Motown and Stax albums, glimpses of Otis Redding, Loretta Lynn, Sam Cooke, Hank Williams, Ray Charles and Emmylou Harris can all be spotted prowling the edges of Harrington's work.

Organiser of the Gilded Friday season, Deborah Hodgson

comments, "We are so privileged to welcome one of American music's rising stars. My good friend Craig Letourneau, a painter from the Kestrel gallery heard that Rachel was looking for a venue to end her UK tour and so we seized the opportunity to host her in Worcester. This will be a rare treat for local music fans."



Harrington will be supported by local Wolverhampton singer/songwriter Ben Drummond who himself has been hailed as a star of the future after being championed by one of the USA's most renowned record producers, Ryan Tedder. [www.rachelharrington.net](http://www.rachelharrington.net)

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## Stompin' on Spiders... ...the new tradition

Much of what we see around us today takes the best elements of traditional styles and blends them into something thoroughly modern, relevant and exciting.

So it is with Stompin' on Spiders, a "musical collective" from Malvern in Worcestershire that successfully combines the traditions of blues, rock and folk to produce their own very distinctive style and sound.

Stompin' on Spiders was formed in April 2009 by core members Noor Ali and Gazza Tee, with the simple goal of performing a short set at a local blues festival. However, the reception was so good and the chemistry between the two so obvious that Stompin' on Spiders soon became an established name on the Midlands music scene – not just at blues events either, as the fusion of styles meant that Stompin' on Spiders would be seen frequently at rock festivals and acoustic evenings, including sets at the prestigious Worcester Music Festival and the Upton-upon-Severn Blues Festival.

In November 2010, Stompin' on Spiders released their first CD album called "Follow My Thread". The nine track album features the songs that reflect the diversity of genres seen in the band's live show. The album has proved popular with the public – winning the band fans as far afield as Australia, America, Canada and Japan – but also gaining considerable critical acclaim. Respected music journalist Andy O'Hare commented, "Quality stuff, as you'd expect from two of the finest musos on the Worcestershire circuit" for a review for BBC Hereford & Worcester "Introducing....." radio programme at the time of the album's release.

As well as air-play on the BBC, Stompin' on Spiders have enjoyed air-time on a number of other radio stations too. A full live worldwide broadcast of their 2010 Worcester Music Festival show at The Old Rectifying House was made by Firebrand Radio and UK residents in Lanzarote and Fuerteventura enjoyed extensive plays of "Follow My Thread" in December 2010 on UKAwayFM, the local English radio station serving the Canary Islands. In January 2011, Radio Port Douglas in Far North Queensland (Australia) played tracks from "Follow My Thread" and reports have been received that the album has also been given air-time on a radio station in Arizona, USA.

Locally, the band have taken an alternative approach of marketing themselves, by distributing their material free and heavily using social networking media to build a loyal fan-base. To date, over four hundred CD copies of "Follow My Thread" have been given away as freebies and tracks can be played on the band's Facebook, Myspace and ReverbNation pages as well as their own dedicated Stompin' on Spiders website.

Three months into 2011 and Stompin' on Spiders are already cementing their live reputation with gigs in the Midlands and beyond and making "Follow My Thread" available via all the major internet download providers.

A recent "Live Session" for BBC Hereford & Worcester "Introducing..." programme has coincided with the release of a new E.P. from Stompin' on Spiders featuring four tracks recorded in late-January 2011. Called "On The Trail Of Budaadji", the E.P. has already caused considerable interest in Australia and in the West Midlands. Indeed the principle track of the E.P. "Kuranda Brake (The Railway Song)" may be used to raise funds for community projects in Kuranda pending the blessing of the elders of the Djabugay people, the indigenous inhabitants of Kuranda and the surrounding rain forest region. (<http://www.djabugay.org.au/>).



You can find more about the E.P. "On The Trail Of Budaadji" and what else Stompin' on Spiders are getting up to from the band's own website [www.stompinonspiders.co.uk](http://www.stompinonspiders.co.uk)

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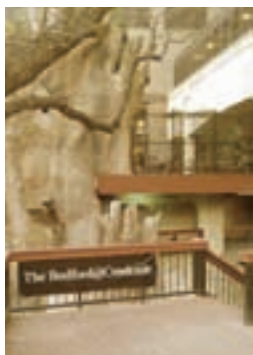


# Chronicles of Robinson

Excerpts from the full blog on  
<http://chroniclesofrobinson.tumblr.com/>

Robinson had the absolute pleasure of playing at SXSW festival last week. After a long run of gigs at 'The Bedford', one of our favourite venues in London, we were invited to perform on their Creekside Showcase at the Hilton in Austin alongside the likes of 'The Travelling Band' and 'Gudrid Handsdottir'. We had a fantastic time and would like to thank Tony Moore especially for being such a hero!

We were fortunate enough to play twice at SXSW, our second gig was at the Holiday Inn on St Patricks Day! The



odds were certainly against us as the small stage we were playing on could barely accomodate all of our instruments. Mr Campbell showed off his expert soundman skills and we all played a corker of a show! We went on to celebrate Paddy's day in style with an impromptu fiddle knees up, a bit of a drunken brawl and plenty of ridiculous shouting.

The morning after...

...A Two hour drive, a few arguments and plenty of window gazing later led us to 'Brian', a historic small town in the heart of Texas. Here we met up with Dj Steve-o at Keos 89.41 Community Radio where we played a blistering acoustic session in the heat of the studio to a small handful of extremely pleasant locals. We thoroughly enjoyed a long on-air conversation to Steve-o about the making of England's Bleeding and the joys of being English Gents in the States. On the way back to the decadent 'Econolodge' where we were staying just outside of Austin, we stopped off for well earned burgers, sodas and a delicious cream cake donut called a 'long john'.



Andy took the liberty of persuading us to stop for some photos by the side of a wrecked caravan with broken televisions and pitchforks, we were all on the look out for shot gun wielding red-necks and coppers! I can assure you Texas really is as big and as weird as everybody says it is!

Tada for now! -Rich

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## Good People

Anyone involved in running a good business will tell you how important good people are. We are very fortunate at Midland Audio that we are able to call on some of the best in the business. All of our crew are freelance which means they benefit from a wide variety of experience.



**Christian Finn** has recently joined us and brings with him a wealth of touring know-how. As well the work he undertakes for us he also engineers for artists such as Elkie Brookes and Barbara Dickson.

He is possibly one of the most cheerful people you will ever meet so

if you need to be grumpy for any reason you may need to go somewhere else when he's about! Chris is currently engineering on two of our national tours and has very quickly gained the trust and friendship of our clients.

Another Chris who has been a real asset to Midland Audio is **Chris Hewitt**. We often have to send a search party out for 'Chewitt' as not only does he study at the world renowned LIPA but he also has a habit of jetting off on tour in his 'spare' time, both as a musician and an engineer.

Chris has been a constant source of support and has helped design systems for some of our longest running shows.



*Thank you guys. Your knowledge and hard work are greatly appreciated. I am very proud to work with you. Neil.*





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# Kraked Presents Gundogs + Dandelion Killers + Zebedy Rays Hare & Hounds Birmingham March 24th



We couldn't have picked found a better day to go to Birmingham. Sun shining, birds singing, doom on the horizon... Johnny Doom, that is. Another Kraked evening, this time at the legendary Hare and Hounds venue in Kings Heath, Birmingham.

An eager crowd was greeted by the ominous presence of Kerrang! Radio's longest serving presenter who presented the Kraked brand and the first band, Malvern's Zebedy Rays. The Rays greeted their audience with a wall of



noise and their singer Adam banging a drum like a madman in the middle of the crowd. Great way to open a show!!!! They then ripped into a series of intense, uncompromising rock numbers. As they were winding up their 'War and Whiskey' UK tour with this show, the delivery on each song was excellent, and the crowd was certainly warmed up!

The audience grew larger as the evening progressed, and they were luckily treated to Mr Doom's arrival on stage with Luca, a representative of Birmingham's Burlesque Salon, who were at the show to advertise their wares. This led the way to introducing Ross on Wye's Dandelion Killers, veterans on the Herefordshire and Worcestershire scenes.



While they looked fairly unassuming on the stage, they launched an aggressive, yet melodic, barrage of songs that showed the depth of their song-writing abilities. The audience cheered enthusiastically after each number and was now prepared for the main event! We're looking forward to hearing much more from the Zebedy Rays and the Dandelion Killers!

Gundogs have been working towards their UK tour supporting their new album 'Little Deaths' and will be playing a number of dates throughout the country. They kicked off their set with the leading single 'The Fire and the Flood', which worked the crowd into frenzy. They peppered their set with a number of great catchy rock numbers, and the two front ladies, Leila and Maria, drove the tunes home with some great interplay and harmonized



vocals. They also knew how to work the crowd, even playfully dedicating their song 'Ode to C'nt' to Adam of the Zebedy Rays. We're sure they didn't mean it, really!

Overall, it was a great night with great music and great company with Mr Doom overseeing the proceedings with his inimitable radio presence translating seamlessly to the big stage! We hope to collaborate more with all bands from the event in the future!

Krank it up – there's more to come...!



## Julie Felix & Deborah Hodgson 18th March 2011

A fantastic new venue has been added to the City's music scene. Well, not quite new because it's been there since 1788 and is one of the most prominent and beautiful buildings in Worcester. Beginning this month the Guildhall is hosting concerts in the magnificent Assembly rooms.

The organisers of "Gilded Fridays" have a clear objective - "to encourage emerging talent by offering new artists the chance to support more recognised acts."

In a building designed and built well before electric amplification the venue is a perfect, natural environment for more "unplugged" musicians. The acoustics are so amazing it makes it arguably the best venue in Worcester for this kind of music.



This was demonstrated clearly in March when "Gilded Fridays" presented their first show with local folk singer songwriter Deborah Hodgson supporting sixties folk luminary Julie Felix. A beautiful blend of musicianship, poetry and sixties idealism.

Welsh born come local girl, Deborah Hodgson is already an accomplished singer - she opened the big top stage of The Isle of Wight festival in 2009, performing alongside Neil Young, Judy Collins, and the Stereophonics. She supported Dan Cassidy on his UK tour

and is recording her debut album ready for release in September on which Dan (brother of Eva Cassidy) assisted with production.

Supported on her first song by cello and piano we knew from the opening bars that we were on for something above the ordinary and as the set unfolded that was more than confirmed. Her influences range from Joni Mitchell and Eva Cassidy back to Lord Tennyson. Deborah's voice, lyricism and musical skill are a flawless reflection of that. (You can listen to some of Deborah's songs on [www.debhodgson.com](http://www.debhodgson.com)).

Maybe it's because of the awful news that's dominating the headlines at the moment but to hear someone stand up and speak against war with such conviction and genuine passion was timely. Julie Felix has been singing against war and greed since the 60's but it was a breath of fresh air. Maybe that's because we don't hear enough protest and resistance songs these days?

Where Julie could have talked more about Dylan and Cohen and her other famous cohorts from the heady sixties, she didn't, she spoke more about the bombs that are being dropped today. By doing that she conveyed the real meaning of such folk classics as Universal Soldier and Blowin' in the Wind and the spirit of the 60's.

Julie's performance was inspiring, not only because after a career as long as hers she still sings with great energy and conviction, but also because the values and ideas she expresses are as relevant now as they have ever been.

"Gilded Fridays" will be running once a month in the Assembly Room at the Guildhall. Coming up they have some outstanding transatlantic acts lined up - including Dan Cassidy and New-York singer/ songwriter Kenny White.

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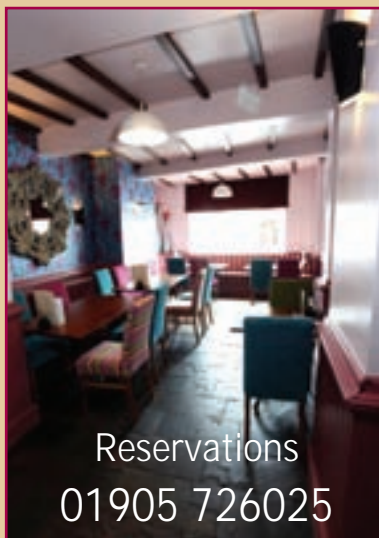
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# Comedy - coming up

## The Marris Bar, Worcester

Elis James, Isy Suttie

Cardiff-based stand-up comedian. A versatile comic actor whose character creation 'Rex' is a regular feature on Rhod Gilbert's BBC Radio Wales show, Elis' profile has been boosted with frequent appearances on BBC Radio One Wales, two critically acclaimed Edinburgh solo shows (The Most Cautious Little Boy in Wales – 2009, and Daytripper – 2010) plus numerous appearances on the UK comedy circuit including tour support for Rhod Gilbert.



The mainstream success of Gavin And Stacey, Rhod Gilbert and Rob Brydon has done much to change the fortunes of Welsh comedy, Elis is rather grateful for their pioneering work. Not that anti-Welsh sentiment is dead and buried.

"You can be really middle-class, but if you have a Welsh accent then people assume that you bathe in front of the fire and have your back scrubbed by your wife after a 12-hour shift at the coal face". Isy is best known for playing IT geek Dobby in Peep Show, for which she was nominated for the Best Female Newcomer at the 2008 British Comedy Awards. Recent TV appearances include Whites (BBC Two), The Incredible Will and Greg (Channel 4), Comedy Cuts (ITV2), Love Soup (BBC One) and Cornershop (BBC North). Her BBC radio credits include Laurence & Gus: Hearts & Minds, Out to Lunch, Danny Robins Music Therapy, The Milk Run, The Now Show, The Mitch Benn Music Show, 28 Acts in 28 Minutes and The Dom Joly Show. Isy is also a talented writer, currently working as a comedy consultant for the hit Channel 4 show Skins.

Isy is an established live performer with two sell out Edinburgh runs to her name. Her acclaimed debut solo show, Love Lost in the British Retail Industry highlighted her talent for songs and character comedy which was developed in her second solo show, The Suttie Show which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2008. Following her success in Edinburgh Isy joined the Paramount Comedy Edinburgh & Beyond Tour, appearing in theatres throughout the country.



Thursday 7th April – £10

## Huntingdon Hall Worcester

Dan Clark

Star of BBC's hit sitcom How Not to Live Your Life Best known as lovable rogue Don Danbury in the BBC3 and Johnny Two Hats in The Mighty Boosh – Dan Clark finally takes his unique brand of comedy on the road. The show combines his brilliant observational stand-up routines with the occasional hysterical song. Book early!



'A delightful balance of confident swagger, self-deprecation, the bizarre and the brilliant. Uninterrupted comic ecstasy' 'Observational comedy at it's best' "A quirky, talented act with a deft tongue-in-cheek style."

"Clark is that rare combination – a great gagsmith and actor, and the result is a stand-up set that is both strong on jokes and drama".

Wednesday 13th April 2011 – £15

*The Guardian*

## The Artrix, Bromsgrove Mark Thomas

Comedian, presenter, political activist and reporter Mark Thomas first became known as a comic on BBC Radio 1's The Mary Whitehouse Experience; having won the Time Out comedy award he went on to present BBC Radio 1's Loose Talk, is a founder member of the London Comedy Store's hard-hitting Cutting Edge show and later gained much praise (and notoriety with some) for his direct-challenge political stunts on his ground-breaking Channel 4 show, The Mark Thomas Comedy Product .

Extreme Rambling (Walking The Wall)

Following his sell-out nationwide show 'The Manifesto', award-winning comedian and activist Mark Thomas returns with his brand new show: THE WALL.

Never one to take the easy option, Mark decided to go rambling in the Middle East and walked the entire length

of the Israeli Separation Barrier crossing between the Israeli and the Palestinian side.

This is the story of 300 000 settlers; a 750 km wall; six arrests, one stoning; too much hummus and a simple question...

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Mon 18th April £15 or £10 (cons)



A few months ago I was working at Artrix one evening when a lady came out of the audience after the show, came up to me and said " This is the first time that I've been here – its really nice. I thought that it was a Sports Hall with a few folding chairs !!!"

So what is Artrix? We are a purpose built multi purpose Arts Centre in Bromsgrove, open daytime and evening 363 days a year.

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So what shows are we staging in April ?

For live music, we have Julian Smith, a.k.a Jools Gianni, "Ga Ga" (a "Queen" Tribute), The Manfreds (with Paul Jones), Thea Gilmore, John Renbourn and Robin Williamson, (who you may remember from "Pentangle" and "The Incredible String Band") and "Jilted Generation" ("The Prodigy" Tribute).

For Comedy, we have Mark Thomas, "Pappy's All Business", our monthly Barnstormers Comedy Night and our Stand Up Comedy Workshop Show.



And I haven't even mentioned our Drama and Dance Programme and our new Art Exhibition by Worcester artist Humph Hack !!

So go online – [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk) – for our full programme or e-mail ([artrixboxoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:artrixboxoffice@btconnect.com)) or phone (01527-577330) our Box Office for our brochure.

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# Club Night

At the Angel, Worcester

SubKon All Stars  
Vs Shuddervision Soundsystem

Friday 8th April sees some of the most respected Djs in the area coming to The Angel in Worcester city centre. Currently hosting Ital Sounds nights every other Thursday and occasional open mic nights on a Tuesday, this will be the venue's first weekend music night. Whether this becomes a regular event depends on how successful the night is.

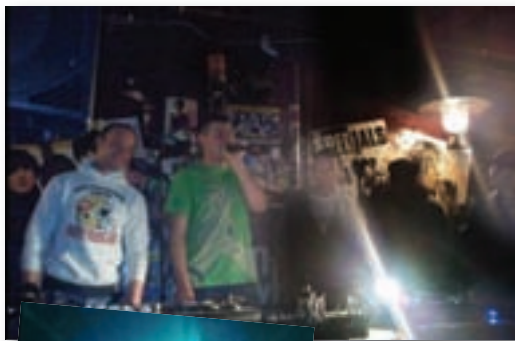


The Ital nights have been attracting a good crowd for some months now, playing a mixture of reggae, hiphop, dub and dubstep. While the overlap between

SubKon and Ital meant that the Allstars appearance at the Angel was not a great surprise. This is, to the best of my knowledge, the first time Shuddervision have gone up against our homegrown hiphop heroes.

Evolving out of the free party scene, Shuddervision Soundsystem have grown somewhat over the last few years. A collective of Djs of various styles, from dub to electro and breakbeat, Shuddervision recently supported Dreadzone at the Marrs Bar but have also performed with the likes of Eat Static, The Beat and Nic Turner. Currently hosting regular nights in Birmingham at the Wagon and Horses and the Hare and Hounds, over the summer they are as likely to be found playing in a field in Herefordshire as in a pub in Digbeth.

Not much needs to be said about SubKon. Pioneers of hiphop in Worcester since the late 1980s, anyone involved in the local music scene would know them.



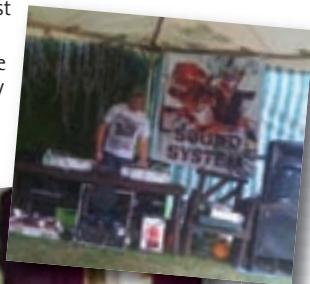
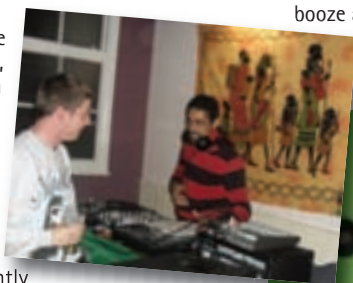
Although they've all been busy having children for a while, they never quite went away and are now back, all grown up, as the Allstars. SubKon are as

likely to be found playing at a local community event or at the fantastic Taphouse in Kidderminster, but either way they'll be encouraging a new generation of musicians, drummers or dancers to get on stage.

Both SubKon and Shuddervision are masters of their genres. Two completely different genres at that. Until now. Now we have dubstep. And suddenly the possibility of a SubKon/Shuddervision night starts to make musical sense. I'm a big fan of a general mash-up but given the quality of the Djs, I'm sure this will be a night to remember. Ah, Digits McPhee and K Lapse perhaps, up against the mighty Djedi and Zeerock.

It's not a school night, it's free in and there's some quality booze available till 1am.

Words: Sammy Griffin



Jago Performers

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## Worcestershire's first county arts trail gets underway...

Worcestershire Guild of Design Craftsmen is delighted to have received applications from over 50 artists and craftspeople wishing to take part in the county's first Worcestershire Arts Trail. There will be 25 locations to visit on 27th – 30th May 2011, including several prestigious galleries across the county.

"We were overwhelmed with the quality and variety of applicants and are confident that the Trail will be an exciting experience for those involved. This work will no longer be hidden, but out in the open." (Alison Dupernex, guild chairperson and Arts Trail selection committee).

Many artists will take part in the 'Artists at Work' part of the trail, where they will demonstrate their skills and processes and talk with visitors, from galleries, their workshops and open studios.

Planning of the Arts trail is well under way. Guild members and local businesses have got together to share their talents in order to make this work. We are very grateful to all those offering support. Regular planning meetings have been held at Blue-Ginger gallery Cradley and support from local business Nick Joyce Architects, Worcester is much appreciated.

Brochures are being put together and will be available at the end of March. In the meantime, look out for the big orange Art Trail signs and put the date in your diary for the May bank holiday weekend.



For further info please contact Becca Williams at worcestershireartstrail@live.com or telephone 07845 579 377 or visit [www.worcsartstrail.org.uk](http://www.worcsartstrail.org.uk)

Pictured: Alison Dupernex, Sharon Mc Swinny and Mary Marsh getting ready for the Trail outside Worcs Arts Trail 2011 timber building.

Contact Details: [worcestershireartstrail@live.com](mailto:worcestershireartstrail@live.com)

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# Angela Lanyon

## - The Swordsmans reel

**SLAP** takes a look at local author on the launch of her latest publication **THE SWORDSMANS REEL**.

'Far away is close at hand in images of elsewhere'. This graffiti from outside Paddington Station has haunted me for years. Every time the train pulled in or out of the station it was there, prodding me to take notice. Photographs, maps, travel books all kept niggling me. I didn't set out to write a trilogy, just the story of a boy, ejected from his home and going off in search of an unknown father. Slowly it grew; things I had read, objects in museums, with somehow Central Asia predominating. Perhaps because of my love of China. The book took ten years to write and was finished just short of my 70th birthday. Made redundant, I had felt



exiled - and needed to reinvent myself. My hero, Perr is forced to use his skills and self reliance, as I was, and not expect a magic wand to solve his problems. He also has to look within himself for answers and learn how to control himself if he is to save others and achieve his quest. When I read it now I am surprised by what I wrote. Attempts at main stream publication failed. 'Lovely' 'Neat ideas' but always: 'not for us'. In the end, like Perr, I had to go it alone (with a little help from my friends) And now, at eighty, this is the right time. There are plenty of young boys who don't know their fathers, we all need to look within to find self mastery and we all need a good story that comes to a satisfactory conclusion as a result of the hero's own effort. Not 'One bound and he was out' but achievement as a result of perseverance, ingenuity and courage. I have drawn on many philosophies and belief systems as Perr uses his skills as a smith and a ropemaker to fulfil his quest. Book 2 and 3 **THE ROPEMAN'S WALK** and **THE WEAVER'S CLEW** complete the story in which he learns the unity of all things and realises that this is the thread which has run through all his experiences and that 'In his end in his beginning': Angela Lanyon.

'A fascinating narrative' *Lionel Fanthorpe*

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# Last Night at the Lamb (again)

## Transcendence bid farewell to Malvern's best loved venue

Transcendence are one of those bands that I really shouldn't like. They sing of love and peace and unity in a way that only the dippiest of hippies really appreciates. But this old punk loves them. Maybe it's the sheer energy that front man Madhava exudes as they groove their way through their set. Maybe it's



the harmonium. A much underused and underrated instrument that gives the songs a slightly weird acidic edge like a Hammond organ on peyote. Maybe it's the tightness of the rhythm section, the way the bass and drums flow effortlessly together in a repetitive yet ever evolving stream accentuated by the extra percussion of Naro's mridangam. Maybe it's the light floaty guitar that reminds me both of Can and Syd Barrett at the same time. Maybe it's the fiddle that sweeps and climbs and delves and skewers just when you least expect it. Whatever it is, there was a lot of it that Saturday night. The Saturday night that was supposed to be the last night at the venue. Now I've been to four or five last nights at the Lamb, played at three of them myself, and yet it's still going. The latest news is that it has been sold and will change hands in April. The buyer remains a mystery as does whether or not it will still be a music venue. So we hang on and hope, meanwhile enjoying yet another excuse for a wild party to see the place off. The venue has been an inspiration to many, not least to novelist and performance poet



Amy Rainbow. In a touching farewell to the pub she read the following:

*All good things have end, so let's not cry,  
Let's celebrate, not weep or wail or moan,  
For in our hearts The Lamb will never die,  
Our legendary local second home  
Where Mark looks tough, keeps order in the place  
And Chauncey chats and smiles behind the bar  
While Dan sneaks up on stage to play his bass  
And everyone's accepted as they are,  
Where boffins mix with hippies old and young  
And random freaks and loons become good friends,  
As rock and folk and Krishna chants are sung,  
Last orders doesn't mean that drinking ends,  
Where great musicians come from far and wide  
(Although the local ones are always best)  
Where Pyramids and DJs are supplied  
And volunteers chip in and do the rest.  
So let's rejoice, not wallow in regret,  
Let's drink and dance and party while we can,  
Let's make tonight a night we shan't forget,  
Let's make tonight the best night at The Lamb!*



These words were taken to heart as the night went on with an energetic, festival-like atmosphere that despite the poignant occasion was filled with happiness. Then I realised why I like Transcendence. They're just so damned happy you can't help but smile and move you feet.

RT.

(Amy Rainbow can be contacted at [amyrainbow@talktalk.net](mailto:amyrainbow@talktalk.net))



# A Gig-goer's Guide to Gig-going



**So you wanna be a rock 'n' roll star? Well so did I - hell I still do - but have a problem in that I've never been able to find the time to knuckle down and practice those chords, riffs and breaks that come in so handy on stage. The great golfer Gary Player said 'the more I practice the luckier I get' - and it's the same with the music biz folks!!**

So instead I go to a lot of gigs instead - it's the next best thing I suppose to being actually 'up there' - but hey it's not so bad - as the main lesson I've learnt in the last few years is that here in Hereford and Worcester-land we have some of the finest musicians I've ever heard in my life. Yes I do occasionally see 'out-of-area' outfits but almost universally they just come over as well... just average really, though of course there's exceptions like Betty And The Id and Arcadian Kicks. What's convinced me that there's something a little bit special about this neck of the woods is bands like The Roving Crows and Babajack actually moving here as they also realise that this is one of the great scenes in the UK for creative and original music... and lookhow they've taken off recently!

So this is a bunch of my thoughts on gig-going - not a load of dos-and-don'ts this time - because it simply ain't that cut and dried. A couple of years ago I'd be catching an evening saver over to Hereford two or three times a week - but the live music scene dive-bombed spectacularly, mostly due to the antics of a handful of idiots, but there's signs of recent recovery though... But it's more than compensated for by the incredible number of acts of total quality doing the Worcestershire rounds at the moment.

What I'm always looking for is that act with something a little bit special - it could be a single catchy riff, their presence and performance on stage or just that

indefinable 'something' that makes you feel that you're seeing and hearing something a little different from the norm. As Tom Robinson mentioned in his BBC Masterclass, the key to writing a good number is sheer quantity - for every 10 numbers you churn out there'll likely be one worth recording - and I reckon that's the key to finding great live musicians, just get to as many gigs as possible.

Now I've got to say that I don't include covers outfits generally in my schedule - as they don't really bring anything new to the table (which is what I'm always on the lookout for) - I don't mind the occasional cover thrown into a set to show to an audience where a band's coming from - like Naked Remedy's 'Somebody To Love' or Nomad 67's 'Last Night' for example...

But don't get me started on tribute acts - I just read an article today about a punter who felt 'there was something missing' when they went to an 'Australian Pink Floyd' gig - I wonder what that could be.

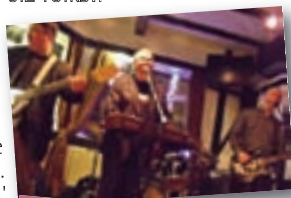
So where to go? Surprisingly maybe I say for a start why not try some of the open mic nights doing the rounds - like the Imperial on Sundays, Lanes on Mondays, the Angel and Great Malvern Hotel on Tuesdays, the Marris Bar and Morgan on Wednesdays, Flo Rowland's Get The Pluck Up on Thursdays and the Black Lion on Fridays for example - I'm on a mission at the moment as I reckon these evenings are the essential first stepping-stone for a whole lot of the amazing selection of talent that's doing the rounds...

I don't reckon either that you're going to find that act that ticks all the boxes if you restrict yourself to a handful of venues - try somewhere different! Possibly the unlikely venue in Worcester is the Cellar Bar in Foregate Street - cramped, L-shaped and underground - but the scene of some of the greatest gigs this old ligger has had the privilege of attending in the last few years!!

So check out NotJustSauce, the BBC Intro Gig Guide and the Worcester News listings for all the other fine acts available most nights for your listening pleasure - you simply have to check 'em all as there's often very little overlap between them and (yes - I know bands hate it) I always Maybe' any Facebook events as well - and of course check before you set off to avoid the 'Sorry mate - that's on next/last week' moments of blinding frustration and feelings of crass stupidity...

Now - where's that tab sheet? Right... first it's F, then C-sharp, G-sharp and D-sharp - hang on a moment, I've nearly got it...

Andy O'Hare



*Pics: Betty & the ID, Arcadian Kick, Roving Crows, Babajack*

# Funeral for a friend



I went to a funeral service on Saturday. A funeral service that could only have taken place in Malvern. The Interfaith minister conducted proceedings in an exemplary fashion from the stage of the hall at The Grove. She began by saying that all were welcome, whatever one's religion or credo, before letting the choir begin the first of several songs that ranged from good old fashioned Christian hymns to esoteric Buddhist chanting. I was half expecting Phil to raise up from his bamboo coffin to encourage the spiritual harmony. Phil Price was a good man who died suddenly last week. An architect, he moved

name a few as The Grove became one of the main venues for Fringe events over the next few years. Uniquely Northern poet, Ian MacMillan played The Grove as did Kroke with their enthralling mix of gypsy folk and Klezmer. Hazel O'Connor performed songs from her Hidden Heart album and Michael Ormiston played his Mongolian flute. The Grove was always a special place for festivity and it was therefore fitting that Phil met his wife Julia there at a fabulously spooky All Hallow's Eve party. For the Millennium, The Grove was the place to be in Malvern, with the New Year's Eve party having acquired a legendary status. Julia, and her cello, had been touring with Nigel Kennedy, accompanying him on some spectacular arrangements of Jimi Hendrix numbers. On the first day of the new century, she moved in to The Grove and married Phil shortly afterwards. Two children were not far behind. The Grove has become a specialised, boutique venue, with a charm and ambience that cannot be anything but the product of the happy, creative family within its walls. The artistic community of Malvern, from painter to poet, sculptor to musician, will as one, miss Phil's contagious enthusiasm and verve. It is said that a man's wealth can be measured by the number of true friends he has. On Saturday, the hundred seat hall was full to overflowing, with latecomers filling up the adjoining hallway. Friends and relatives played songs and read poems in a happy, bittersweet atmosphere. Julia sat with their children, smiling at the retold stories of their father. The youngsters finally succumbing to tears as those gathered in the hall queued to dip evergreen sprigs in water, to cast upon the bamboo casket in a poignant, and very Malvern, blessing.

Julia Palmer Price has set up The Philip Price Foundation, in her husband's memory, to further and nurture Phil's vision of the performing arts at The Grove.

[thegrovemalvern.co.uk](http://thegrovemalvern.co.uk)

RT.



Philip Alfred Price  
1/7/1952-17/2/2011



Hazel O'Connor performing at the Grove in Oct 2005

into The Grove fifteen years ago, taken by its gothic beauty and the simple grandeur of its sandstone and granite. The building came complete with a small but lovingly crafted assembly hall with a raised wooden stage. Being a lover of the arts, Phil was keen to have The Grove used as a performance space. That was when I first met him as we set up a comedy night for the Fringe Festival in 1999. The venue was perfect for the intimately surreal comedy of Noel James and Noel Britten who, not for the last time, filled The Grove with laughter. Phil loved being the host, enjoying the fact that all this was going on, essentially, in his living room. There were many nights that followed. More comedy, musical performances, poetry, recitals and art previews to

# Venue Guide

## **Adam & Eve (Pub)**

201 Bradford Street, Birmingham B12 0JD  
0121 6931500

## **Air (Café Bar)**

36 Broad Street, Worcester, WR1 3NH  
01905 780 108

## **The Anchor Inn (Pub)**

Cotheridge Lane, Eckington, WR10 3BA  
01386 750 356

## **The Angel (Pub)**

14 Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN  
01905 723 229

## **The Art House Cafe (Cafe)**

Crowngate Shopping Centre, Chapel Walk,  
Worcester, WR1 3LD  
01905 617 161

## **Artrix (Theatre)**

Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ  
01527 577 330

## **Barley Mow (Pub)**

3 Hanbury Street, Droitwich, WR9 8PL  
01905 773 248

## **Base Studios (Venue)**

Rufford Road Trading Estate, Stourbridge, DY9 7ND  
07976 843 718

## **The Bedwardine (Pub)**

128 Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5DJ  
01905 421 461

## **The Bell (Pub)**

Etnam Street, Leominster, HR6 8AE  
01568 612 818

## **The Bell (Pub)**

35 St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5AG  
01905 424 570

## **The Bell (pub)**

39 Etnam St, Leominster HR8 8AE  
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## **The Black Cross (Pub)**

70 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AG  
01527 876 052

## **The Blackpole Inn (Pub)**

Blackpole Road, Worcester,  
01905 451 180

## **The Blue Bell Inn (Pub)**

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01684 594 624

## **The Boston Tea Party (Cafe)**

18 Broad Street, Worcester, WR1 3NF  
01905 26472

## **The Bull Hotel**

14 Bullring, Ludlow, SW8 1AD  
01584 877227

## **The Bridge Inn (Pub)**

Plough Road, Tibberton, Droitwich WR9 7NQ  
01905 345874

## **Callow End Social Club (Club)**

8 Upton Road, Callow End, Worcester, WR2 4TE  
01905 830 460

## **Cap 'n' Gown (Pub)**

45 Upper Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JZ  
01905 28914

## **The Cock & Maggie (Pub)**

1 Severnside North, Bewdley, DY12 2EE  
01299 405 842

## **The Cricketers (Pub)**

6 Angel St, Worcester, WR1 3QT  
01905 23583

## **The Cross Keys (Pub)**

79 Belmont Road, Malvern, WR14 1PN  
01684 572 945

## **The Crown Inn (Pub)**

Peopleton WR10 2EE  
01905 840222

## **Drummonds (Pub)**

28 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DP  
01905 28190

## **Evesham Arts Centre**

Victoria Avenue, Evesham, WR11 4QH  
01386 488 83

## **The Fleece Inn (pub)**

The Cross, Bretforton, Nr Evesham WR11 7JE  
01386 831173

## **The Firefly (Pub)**

54 Lowesmoor, Worcester, WR1 2SE  
01905 616 996

## **The Garibaldi (Pub)**

Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5DJ  
01905 426 486

## **The Great Malvern Hotel**

Graham Road, Malvern, WR14 2HN  
01684 563 411

## **The Green Dragon (Pub)**

126 Guarlford Road, Malvern, WR14 3QT  
01684 572 350

## **The Hand In Glove (Pub)**

25 College Street, Worcester, WR1 2LS  
01905 612 154



**Hare & Hounds (Pub)**

106 High St, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7JZ  
0121 4442081

**The Hop Pole (Pub)**

Hop Pole Lane, Cleobury Road, Bewdley, DY12 2QH  
01299 401 295

**The Hop Pole (Pub)**

78 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0DF  
01527 870 100

**Huntington Hall (Theatre)**

Crowngate, Worcester, WR1 3LD  
01905 611 427

**The Imperial (Pub)**

31 Widemarsh St, Hereford, HR49EA  
01432 360 931

**Katie Fitzgerald's (Pub)**

187 Envile Street, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB  
01384 374 410

**Keystones Cafe Bar (Pub)**

1 Copenhagen Street, Worcester, WR1 2HB  
01905 731 437

**The Kings Head (Pub)**

Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU  
01905 726 025

**The Kings Head (Pub)**

Riverside, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0HF  
01684 592 621

**The Lamb & Flag (Pub)**

The Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JL  
01905 26894

**The Lamb Inn (Pub)**

West Malvern Road, West Malvern, WR14 4NG

**Lanes Bar**

Unit 1, Everoak Industrial Estate, Bromyard Road,  
St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5HN  
07770 650 849

**The Little Packhorse (Pub)**

31 High Street, Bewdley, DY12 2DH  
01299 403 762

**Little Venice**

3-5 St Nicholas Street, Worcester, WR1 1UW  
01905 726 126

**The Marrs Bar (Club)**

12 Pierpoint Street, Worcester, WR1 1TA  
01905 613 336

**The Masons Arms**

Wichenford, Worcester, WR6 6YA  
01886 889064

**The Mount Pleasant (Pub)**

50 Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern, WR14 4PZ  
01684 561 837

**The Northwick Arms (Pub)**

29 Vine Street, Worcester, WR3 7DY  
01905 452 244

**The Old Chesnut Tree Inn (Pub)**

Manor Road, Lower Moor, Pershore, WR10 2NZ  
01386 860 380

**The Old Rectifying House (Pub)**

North Parade, Worcester, WR1 3NN  
01905 619 622

**Queens Head (Pub)**

Wolverley Village, Kidderminster, DY11 5XB  
01562 850 433

**The Royal Oak (Pub)**

5 The Southend, Ledbury, HR8 2EY  
01531 632 110

**The Stagborough Arms (Pub)**

Lickhill Road, Stourport, DY13 8UQ  
01299 823 899

**The Star Inn + Hotel (Pub)**

High Street, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0HQ  
01684 493 432

**The Swan (Pub)**

Vicar Street, Kidderminster, DY10 1DE  
01562 823 008

**The Swan Hotel (Pub)**

Waterside, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0JD  
01684 594 948

**The Swan Theatre (Theatre)**

The Moors, Worcester, WR1 3ED  
01905 611 427

**The Swan With Two Nicks (Pub)**

28 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DP  
01905 28190

**The Talbot (Pub)**

52 Newlands, Pershore, WR10 1BW  
01386 553 575

**Tramps Nightclub (Club)**

Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN  
01905 20218

**The Virgin Tavern (Pub)**

Tolladine Road, Worcester, WR4 9BJ  
01905 863 002

**Worcester Arts Workshop (Cafe)**

21 Sansome St, Worcester, WR1 1UH  
01905 21095

**Wagon & Horses (Pub)**

28 Adderley St, Birmingham B9 4ED  
0121 7721403

**Ye Olde Black Cross (Pub)**

70 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AG  
01527 873 401

# April Gig Guide

## Friday 1 April 2011

### **Contraband**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Mojohooker**

Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

### **Matt Woosey**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Mark Drew**

The Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

### **Open Jam Session**

The Royal Oak, Ledbury

### **Greenhead Man**

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

### **Sic Gramsci, Imprint Zero, Flicking The Bean, At the Helm**

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

### **Sax n Axe**

The Talbot, Pershore

### **That's Another Fine Metal Night**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Texan Peacocks**

Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 2 April 2011

### **Radio Clash**

The Roadhouse, Birmingham

### **FreewaterR**

The Gate Inn, Sutton Coldfield

### **Goldray**

### **Naked Remedy**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **The Roving Crows**

### **Jakebox**

The Boston Tea Party, Worcester

### **Johnny Wilson**

The Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

### **GreenHead Man**

The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-on-Severn

### **Rob N Ray**

Green Dragon, Malvern

### **Wooden Horse**

The Crown Inn, Peopleton

### **The Upbeat Beatles**

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

### **The Happy Accidents**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

## Sunday 3 April 2011

### **Julian Smith, aka Jules Giovanni**

Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

### **Jazz Sunday with Jazzenco**

Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 4 April 2011

### **Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions**

Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Tuesday 5 April 2011

### **Jamming / Open Mic**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Open Mic with hosts Vo & Tyler**

The Talbot, Pershore

### **Open Mic with Big Rich & Big Jim**

Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 6 April 2011

### **Marzy's Jamming Night**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Stompin' on Spiders**

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

### **Wooden Horse**

The Masons Arms, Wichenford, Worcester

**Dave Onions**

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

**T.K.O.N., Colin Baggs, Sean Jeffrery, Sarah Oreggio,  
Jakebox, Pink Ukulele Guy, Christine Hopgood**  
Drummonds, Worcester

## Thursday 7 April 2011

**Naked Remedy (Unplugged Acoustic)**

The Little Pack Horse, Bewdley

**Ronda**

The Imperial, Hereford

**Big Bluestrade**

The Swan, Kidderminster

**Mikey Mann & Friends**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Roy McFarlane, Amanda Bonnick, Laura Dedicoat**

Little Venice ,Worcester

**Turning Point**

Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

**The Undercover Aces**

The Star Inn Hotel, Upton upon Severn

**Vault Of Eagles**

The Firefly, Worcester

**Indie-Pendence**

Velvet Night Club, Worcester

## Friday 8 April 2011

**Open Jam Session**

The Royal Oak, Ledbury

**Pink Traffic Band**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Voodoo**

Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

**FreewaterR**

The Anchor Inn, Eckington

**Ga Ga (Queen Tribute)**

Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

**Heroes Of Hanoi , Psyflyer, Fallback Theory****The Retinal Circus**

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

**Rachel Stone**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**SubKon Allstars Vs Shuddervision Soundsystem**

The Angel, Worcester

**Honey Boy Hicklig**

Queens Head, Wolverley

**Jack The Biscuit**

The Talbot, Pershore

**The Pink Traffic Band**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Souled Out 2 Funk**

Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 9 April 2011

**Colin Mann**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**FreewaterR**

Cross Keys Inn, Malvern Link

**Mudball**

Base Studios, Stourbridge

**The Notorious Brothers**

The Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

**The Rockits**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Tony McPhee & The Groundhogs**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Fabulous Bordellos**

The Bull Hotel, Ludlow

**The Manfreds (with Paul Jones)**

Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

## Sunday 10 April 2011

**The Oohz**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Tina V**

& more tbc

Lazy Sunday

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester





### **Jazz Sunday with Remy Harris Trio**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **WSRP Showcase 2pm – 11pm 12 Bands playing**

Marrs Bar, Worcester £4 on the door

See news section for full listings

## **Monday 11 April 2011**

### **Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions**

The Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## **Tuesday 12 April 2011**

### **Jamming / Open Mic**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Open Mic with hosts Mickey & Griff**

The Talbot, Pershore

### **Open Mic with Big Rich & Simon**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Rob N Ray**

The Bell, Leominster

### **Thea Gilmore plus support**

Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

## **Wednesday 13 April 2011**

### **Marzy's Jamming Night**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Nothing Like a Whale**

The Masons Arms, Wichenford, Worcester

### **Eddie Norton**

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

## **Thursday 14 April 2011**

### **Tallulah Fix**

The Imperial, Hereford

### **Kevin Underwood**

Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

### **Mikey Mann & Friends**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Hundrum Express**

The Swan, Kidderminster

### **The Luke Doherty Band**

The Star Inn Hotel, Upton upon Severn

### **Wooden Horse**

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

### **Indie-Pendence**

Velvet Night Club, Worcester

## **Friday 15 April 2011**

### **Zebedy Rays, Skewwhiff**

Adam and Eve, Digbeth, Birmingham

### **Open Jam Session**

The Royal Oak, Ledbury

### **High Roller**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **The Notorious Brothers**

The Bell, St Johns, Worcester

### **Lakota Sioux**

Keystones, Worcester

### **Leslie Wilson of FreewaterR**

The Crown & Anchor, Worcester

### **Greenhead Man**

The Anchor, Eckington, Nr Pershore (TBC)

### **Pink Traffic Band**

Kings Head, Upton upon Severn

### **The Pull**

The Talbot, Pershore

### **Inca Hoots, Baltic Sirens, Hades The Cate, Lakota Sioux**

Keystones, Worcester

### **Voodoo Blue Rock & Blues**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **The Boneyard Renegades**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **The Fabulous Bordellos**

The Wheatsheaf, Shifnal

### **The Felix Leiter Band**

Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 16 April 2011

### **Leslie Wilson of FreewaterR**

The Northwick Arms, Worcester,

### **Karl Kirsten**

The Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

### **Blind Lemon**

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

### **Ray Minton & Paul White**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Vo & Tyler**

The Old Chesnut Tree, Lower Moor, Nr Pershore

### **Silver Angel**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

### **Barflys**

The Bridge, Tibberton, Worcester

## Sunday 17 April 2011

### **Mudball**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Charity Project 3580 12pm - 11pm (13 Bands playing)**

The Marris Bar, Worcester, £4 on the door.

See news section for full listings

### **Jazz Sunday with C-Jazz**

Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 18 April 2011

### **Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions**

The Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Tuesday 19 April 2011

### **Jamming / Open Mic**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Open Mic with Big Rich & Keith**

Queens Heads, Wolverley

### **John Renbourn & Robin Williamson**

Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

## Wednesday 20 April 2011

### **Kevin Underwood**

The Masons Arms, Wichenford, Worcester

### **Marzy's Jamming Night**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Ken Swannell Celebrating St Georges Day**

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

## Thursday 21 April 2011

### **Romans**

The Swan, Kidderminster

### **Ronin**

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

### **Easter Beer Festival**

The Old Chesnut Tree, Lower Moor, Nr Pershore

### **March is Court**

Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

### **Mikey Mann & Friends**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Sarah Warren Band**

The Gloster Arms, Malvern

### **The Cape Of Good Hope, This Wicked Tongue**

The Night Shift, Filtered By Design

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Indie-Pendence**

Velvet Night Club, Worcester

## Friday 22 April 2011

### **Open Jam Session**

The Royal Oak, Ledbury

### **FreewaterR**

The Blackpole Inn, Worcester

### **The Barflys**

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

### **Devlin**

Lanes Bar, St Johns, Worcester

### **Doctors Orders**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **The Inevitables**

The Old Chesnut Tree, Lower Moor, Nr Pershore

### **Pot Kettle Black (DJs)**

The Firefly, Worcester



**Ronin**  
Railway Inn, Evesham

**Sarah Warren Band**  
The Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn  
**The Delray Rockets**  
Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

**Matt Woosey**  
The Talbot, Pershore

**Stuntdog, Loungetree, Pbat**  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

**Cracked Actors, Skewwhiff, Suddervision**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Sugar Mama**  
Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 23 April 2011

**Dogs Of Santorini, Vault of Eagles, Tallulah Fix**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**FreewaterR**  
The Virgin Tavern,

**Gordan Giltrap**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Matt Peplow**  
The Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

**Open Jukebox Night**  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Becky**  
Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

**GreenHead Man**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Nobby's Nuts**  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Evilwitch, Dandelion Killers, Calm Like A Riot**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Sunday 24 April 2011

**Naked Remedy, Slack Granny, Black Russian**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Babajack**  
The Old Chesnut Tree, Lower Moor, Nr Pershore

**Sarah Warren Band**  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Gordan Giltrap**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Not For Squares (DJs)**  
The ArtHouse Cafe, Worcester + After party Bar12

**Jazz Sunday with Strumpit**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 25 April 2011

**Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions**  
The Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

## Tuesday 26 April 2011

**Open Mic**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Open Mic with Big Rich & Pete Zimmer**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 27 April 2011

**Aelred Down (Poetry)**  
Lamb & Flag

**Dan Greenaway**  
The Masons Arms, Wichenford, Worcester

**Marzy's Jamming Night**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**GreenHead Man**  
The Robin 2, Bilston, Wolverhampton

**Mike Prince**  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

## Thursday 28 April 2011

**The Ferrets**  
The Swan, Kidderminster

**Hot Foot**  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

**Mikey Mann & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern



**Indie-Pendence**  
Velvet Night Club, Worcester

## Friday 29 April 2011

**Emma Skip Band**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Jilted Generation (The Prodigy Tribute)**  
Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

**Open Jam Session**  
The Royal Oak, Ledbury

**FreewaterR**  
The White Hart, Cinderford

**Open Mic with Mickey & Griff**  
The Talbot, Pershore

**Rob N Ray**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Skewwhiff, Nigel Clark, Trap Floors**  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

**The Arcadian Kicks, This Wicked Tongue  
I Am Ryan, Never Says The Storm**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**AKA**  
Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 30 April 2011

**Barflys**  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**Acoustic Who**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Dave Beale**  
The Garibaldi, St Johns, Worcester

**The Famous Class, Farewell Vera, Souldoubt**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Jane & Anna**  
The Great Malver Hotel, Malvern

**FreewaterR**  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Micky & Griff (Acoustic Duo)**  
The Old Chesnut Tree, Lower Moor, Nr Pershore

## In Association with



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A Band or Solo Performer?

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So next time...

...let us know at:

**listings@slapmag.co.uk**

# Comedy

**Saturday 2nd April 2011**

Lenny Henry  
Malvern Theatre

**Monday 4th – 9th April 2011**

Yes Prime Minister  
Malvern Theatre

**Thursday 7 April 2011**

Elis James, Isy Suttie  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Wednesday 13th April 2011**

Dan Clark  
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Big Howard & Little Howard  
Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

**Friday 15th April 2011**

Stand-Up Comedy Paul Cersa, Jo Neary  
Evesham Arts Centre

**Monday 18th April 2011**

Mark Thomas  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

# Exhibitions

**All April 2011**

Chris Bourke  
Arts Workshop, Worcester

**27th March–22th April:**

'Ink in my Carnation'. Caroline Hartley  
'Heavier than Lead'. Becky Kellitt, Justin Humphreys, Hazel Castle, Ismay Ozga– Lawn, Richard Clarke and Jordan Duddy and Chris Mason.

**13th April – 1st May** Humph Hack  
The Artrix Bromsgrove

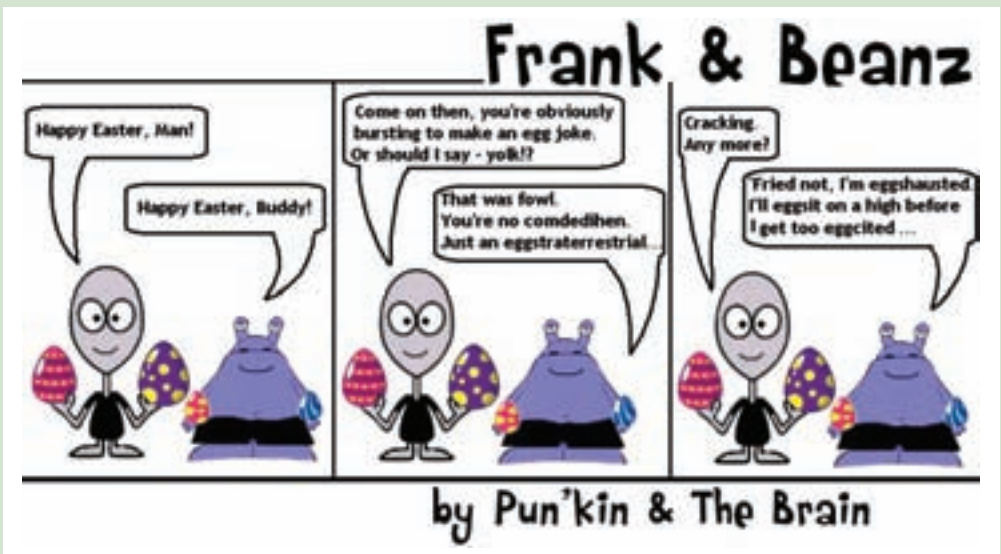
**25th April–May 20th**  
'Clik Klik' Arts Workshop, Worcester

'Diana Scott' A retrospective'. Watercolour and acrylic paintings in a tribute to the late Worcester Arts Workshop artist, Diana Scott.

'Nathaniel Kara'. Inspired by 60's Hockney, Nathaniel creates with simple imagery, urban landscapes displaying scenes that don't make obvious subjects: empty streets, industrial settings and other forgotten corners of towns and cities: places we often pass by and take for granted.

**On Tracks of Iron and Salt: Roman Worcestershire**  
City Art Gallery, Worcester

Marcus Coates  
The Movement,  
Platform 2, Foregate Street Station, Worcester





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# THE MARR'S BAR

APRIL 2011

Cracked Actors  
Friday 22nd April



## Another Fine Metal Night (Metal)

Friday 1st - £3.00 ticket & £5.00 door

## Goldray

(ex members of Reef and Kula Shaker)  
plus support from Naked Remedy

Saturday 2nd - £5.00 ticket & £7.00 door

## Comedy Zone Presents:-

Ellis James & Isy Suttie

Thursday 7th - £10 ticket

## Pink Traffic Band

(Original band)

Friday 8th - £2.00 a ticket £3.00 door

## Tony McPhee and The Groundhogs

(Experimental Blues)

Saturday 9th - £10 a ticket & £12.00 door

## The Boneyard Renegades

(Local Covers Band)

Friday 15th - £4.00 ticket & £5.00 door

## Shire Straits (Dire Straits Tribute)

Saturday 16th - £4.00 ticket & £5.00 door

## Mansize Promotions Presents

(Local Bands Extravaganza)

Thursday 21st - £4.00 ticket & £4.00 door

## Cracked Actors & Skewwhiff

Friday 22nd - £4.00 ticket & £5.00 door

## Evilwitch, Dandelion Killers & Calm Like A

Riot (St Georges Day Celebrations)

Saturday 23rd - £3.00 ticket & £5.00 door

## Northern Soul All Nighter

(Pete Robinsons Memorial All Nighter)

Sunday 24th - £10 Admission

## You Lucky People Presents:-

(Local and not so local original bands)

Friday 29th - £4.00 admission

## Farewell Vera, The Famous Class &

Souldoubt (Punk)

Saturday 30th £4.00 ticket & £5.00 door

Wednesdays - Jamming night  
Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk  
01905 613336

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