

# SLAP

Issue 33

Dec/Jan

MAGAZINE

FREE



**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**



# MUSIC47

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

STOCKIST OF  
Martin/Fender/Gretsch/Tanglewood/Takamin  
AND MANY MORE.  
GIFT IDEAS AND STOCKING FILLERS  
WIDE RANGE OF UKULELES  
*BRASS AND WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS*  
*FOR ALL ABILITIES.*  
GUITAR PACKAGES FROM £99  
OFFERS AND DISCOUNTS CHRISTMAS AND  
NEW YEAR  
GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

**Open Mon-Sat 9.30 - 5.30**  
**Music47 31-33 Sidbury**  
**Worcester**  
**WR1 2HT**

**01905 22958**  
**[www.music47.co.uk](http://www.music47.co.uk)**



# SLAP

Dec/Jan MAGAZINE

It's the end of another crazy time here at SLAP. Having moved into new premises 'twice' this year I'm looking forward to our annual January break. Hence this being a double issue.

As we celebrate (I think that's the right word) the completion of our third full year in print we take a look back over 2013 and look forward to 2014 with Andy O'hare. We also take a peek at the progress of SLAP Tv and the great things coming up there.

As well as the gig previews and reviews, we have our usual news from Worcester Arts Workshop and the Boars Head Gallery who along with the pub celebrate the film premiere 'The Boars Head'! Exciting times! News too of another community project gathering momentum in Evesham called *Imagine*.

The one piece of sad news we had this month was the tragic passing of Sicknote dancer and loveable legend Doctor Conker. The band are big favourites here at SLAP and he will be sorely missed by us all.

That just leaves me to once again thank all our contributors and readers and wish you all a marvellous Winter Solstice and a happy new year

- Ed Reindeer

## SLAP MAGAZINE

Unit 3a, Lowesmoor Wharf,  
Worcester WR1 2RS

Telephone: 01905 26660  
editorial@slapmag.co.uk

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

### EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Hogan  
Andy O'Hare  
Kate Cox  
Steven Glazzard  
Ant Robbins  
Chris Bennion  
Mel Hall  
Sarah Ganderton  
Reg Richardson  
Will Munn  
Nikki Boraston  
Bongo Bryan  
Corina Harper  
Craigus Barry  
Richard Austin  
Edward Ling  
Ralph Titley  
Andy Maynard  
Baz Bojak  
Mark Hoy  
Mad Dave Bentley  
Graham Munn  
Rosie Hamilton  
Paul Snow  
Naomi Preece

### Design Sales Web & Social Media Cover Image

Mark Hogan  
Paul Robinson  
Dave Marston  
This Wicked Tongue  
Photography by Joe Singh  
www.snaprockandpop.co.uk

#### ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Reproduction in whole or part prohibited without permission. Artwork, prints or any pictorial media for this publication are sent at owners risk and whilst every care is taken, neither Slap Magazine or its agents accept liability for loss or damage.

#### DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that adverts and articles appear correctly, Slap Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by the contents of this publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.



**'LIKE' SLAP  
ON FACEBOOK**

LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



## Sunshine on Upton

Upton Music Festival is poised for an 2014 August Bank Holiday return to Fish Meadow with acts like Maizie Williams of Boney M, The Sweet, Marty Wilde, Snake Davis and Zoot Money already named on the billing. However from next year the weekend event will be known as Sunshine Festival - here's hoping...

## Moochers under new ownership

Moochers, the leading late night bar and venue have announced they are under new ownership. Following the opening of the bar and music venue in October 2012, Moochers quickly carved a niche for itself in the crowded Stourbridge nightlife scene, with a varied selection of events from original bands to pantomime.

New owners Sarah Evans & Paul Grosvenor who are both originally from Stourbridge intend to continue building on the reputation of providing quality entertainment in a relaxed atmosphere. Sarah commented *"the previous owners have done a fantastic job with the business and established it as the location in Stourbridge for people who are looking for a night out that's a little different from the bars found on the High Street."* She continued *"we intend to build on the success of the various nights we already hold such as the Nostalgia 80's night and Eternity 90's night, whilst continuing to work with local promoters to support up and coming bands."*

Sharing plans for the future of the venue Sarah stated that customers had suggested improvements they would like to see and many of these will be taken on board - including a refresh of the décor to include a cloakroom and the dropping of "Jailhouse" from the Moochers name. Additionally a regular night to showcase original local bands will be established. Louan Rutherford who was a familiar face to the regulars will return as Manager.

## Short list for Granny's Attic

Congratulations to young folk trio Granny's Attic for making the final shortlist of four at the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards after a weekend of musical sessions and workshops in Kendal, Cumbria. The eventual winners will be announced at the Royal Albert Hall in February and will get the opportunity to perform live on Radio 2's Folk Show and at various top festivals in 2014 - including Cambridge Folk Festival - best of luck lads!!

## The search begins...

Worcester Music Festival are looking for a local charity to be their partner and beneficiary of next year's monster musical fundraising bash - to be held Friday to Sunday, August 29 to 31. The festival has raised over £30,000 for local worth-while causes since it was launched in 2008. The charity co-ordinator has asked organisations to put themselves forward before the closing date of Monday 20 January - more information on the WMF website...

## Nominations for Nozstock



Nozstock is in the running to be named the best dance event at the prestigious UK Festival Awards - the annual slice of rural eccentricity, run by the Nosworthy family at Rowden Paddocks near Bromyard - with a converted cowshed called the *Cubicles* being used as the main dance area! They've also been nominated in the best small festival, grass roots festival and best toilets categories and are up against the likes of Bestival, Creamfields and Global Gathering at the 10th anniversary event at London's Roundhouse in early December.



# Shindig goes to Town

Communities in Worcester City and Redditch are being offered the chance to host professional music and drama performances in their own neighbourhood. Community groups and individuals are invited to take part in Shindig, Worcestershire's community touring scheme. The scheme is expanding from its traditional territory in rural villages to include venues and communities in urban areas of Redditch and Worcester City under the new banner **Shindig Goes to Town**.



Groups involved in the scheme can choose shows by professional musicians, dancers, storytellers and theatre companies from across the UK and further afield, that

will appeal to local tastes and different age groups. They will be supported throughout the process by staff from Live & Local which already manages the Shindig scheme. There are lots of ways for people to get involved including devising a marketing campaign, liaising with the performers, selling tickets and providing refreshments on the night. The performance scheme already works successfully in rural areas of the county with over 80 shows last year.



Project Officer, **Fiona Henderson** from Live & Local said: *"We want to see more people in Redditch and Worcester City enjoying professional live arts right on their doorstep. Although some people in towns and cities already go to larger professional venues, there could be many more people enjoying affordable, high quality shows in their own church hall, community centre or similar venue. Through Shindig Goes to Town local people can make this happen."*

Funding support for **Shindig Goes to Town** comes from Worcestershire County Council, Worcester City Council, Redditch Borough Council and Arts Council England.

Interested groups and individuals can find out more by going to [www.shindig.org.uk](http://www.shindig.org.uk) or by contacting Fiona on 01926 402173 or email: [fiona@liveandlocal.org.uk](mailto:fiona@liveandlocal.org.uk).



## THE CRICKETERS

A Traditional pub  
in the heart of the city centre  
5 real ales and 1 traditional cider

Food served 11am-5pm

Mon to Thurs and 10am-5pm Fri to Sat

Two meals for £10.00 on selected dishes

Breakfast served all day during food hours

BT Sport and Racing UK shown here

Disabled facilities

6 Angel Street, Worcester, WR1 3QT

Tel: 01905 21395

[www.thecricketersworcester.co.uk](http://www.thecricketersworcester.co.uk)



# ARTS NEWS



## worcester arts workshop

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

Ho ho ho Slappers! The end of another year and a big Christmas thank you to all of you who have supported the Worcester Arts Workshop in the last three years, learning, networking, taking part in varied arts activities and of course, coming along to excellent Slap nights! It's not been the easiest of rides and with arts funding hit hard again, who knows what's coming next year...but the amazing volunteer team who battle away with their heads down in that small first floor office on Sansome Street are eternally passionate about bringing the arts to you regardless of what the future throws our way! So go out and get creative in our city and show that the arts matter!

In the meantime, here's what's going on this Christmas:

### Performance

Murder mystery comes to the workshop with The Swan Theatre Amateur Company 11th Annual Christmas presentation, *Interview for Murder* by Angela Lanyon.



Garton Green is looking for a new Operations Manager. Why is someone trying to discourage the candidates, and why does the Chairman favour a casual worker? When an accident delays the start of the interviews, tempers boil over and disaster strikes.

Performances will be showing from Tuesday 3rd-Saturday 7th December 7.30pm-10.00pm with a matinee performance on Saturday 7th December at 2.30pm-5.00pm. Advance tickets £18 including glass of wine and buffet supper from Café Bliss, served during the interval.

Christmas for children with 'Voice on a Stick' presents *Iris White and the Kingdom of Curious Christmas Trees*.

Something curious happens when a strange and colourful visitor arrives with some rather odd advice for the King. With her brother stuck in bed with the Dreaded Lurgy, Iris White has to make a big decision.

Join in with a magical Christmas adventure especially for small children and their grown ups. Voice on a Stick blend music, games and drama to create a uniquely relaxed theatrical experience for early years and beyond.

11am til 11.50 and 2pm til 2.50pm Tickets £4

### Cinema

Hoorah and a massive well done to Simon, Mikel and all the volunteers who helped make the 2nd annual Worcestershire Film Festival a success. What a brilliant weekend and great to see so many young people engaging in the action. We still have Splendid Cinema left to enjoy so get yourselves down here.

*In The House* (FR, Francois Ozon, 2012) cert 15.

Potiche director Ozon returns to Splendid Cinema screens with his latest comedy-of-manners about a high school teacher who encourages one of his students to further ingratiate himself within the family of another boy and seduce the boy's mother.

Sunday 8th December  
6.30pm £5.



### Courses and workshops

Courses start again in January so take a look at the website for details. Ideal for a good Christmas present or to get stuck into some learning for the winter.

www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

Reception hours:

Wed 12pm til 6pm; Fri 12pm til 2pm; Sat 12pm til 2pm

Or by arrangement...please do call us and we will get back to you as soon as we can. 01905 25053

### Clik Clik Collective

Clik Clik Collective have been running and curating the galleries at the Arts Workshop since December 2010 in both the cafe and cellar spaces, hoping to encourage emerging artists to take part, show their work and collaborate with others.

Now they are spreading their creative wings curating projects and ideas out and about so, after their New Orleans style Victoriana voodoo madness at the Christmas Fair and the *Soundabout* project at the Workshop last month, December brings some singing fun and a nice calm art fair!

*'Christmas at the Hive'* Sunday 8th December; Whistle while you work to our alternative Christmas choir! Get your festive funk on and sing-a-long with Clik Clik and friends! **1pm and 3.30pm. FREE.**

*'Christmas Arty Fair'*; a place where you can purchase those original presents and affordable arts while supporting local talents, have a beer and a handmade sausage roll and appreciate the wonder of the fabulous Paul Pry on The Butts! All this in one! Super! **Sat 14th Dec 12pm til 4pm. FREE.**

www.facebook.com/clickklikcollective  
clik-clik.blogspot.com



## PREVIEW - Collective 43

### The Chestnut, Worcester - Sat 14th Dec

For those unlucky ones who missed out on (or had to stand outside because it was so full) the fabulous and unusual Collective 43 show at the Paul Pry last month, here is your second chance! This Christmas, come and spend an evening with them and *Mad Pierre* at The Chestnut.

The Paul Pry on 5th October was my first time performing with Collective 43, on my typewriter! The room was packed, with musicians dotted in and amongst the audience so it was hard to tell who was part of the Collective and who was the viewer. This added a surprise element and made the audience feel part of the experience



and comfortable enough to get involved singing along with *'When The Saints Go Marching In'* like some old fashioned foot stomping blues choir.

The Collective 43 is unique....I am biased I know, but that night at the Paul Pry I heard at least three people say that this was a different kind of music experience, one that Worcester has not seen for a while. This is true. In a city blessed with fine musical talents, The Collective 43 fills a gap which you might otherwise stumble upon randomly at a festival or in some fantastical Technicolour dream on the streets of New Orleans.

This "band" is different because it's more than just a 'gig'. It's theatrical; it's visual; it engages the audience and all of the participants have fun. There is no ego or pretence; the style and dynamic qualities of Collective 43 shines through big smiles and a huge array of instruments: tuba, sax, clarinet, guitar, banjo, trumpet, voice, drums, piano, percussion and typewriter, all coming together to create a magical experience which will leave you feeling high!

The Collective 43 project was founded by Philip Wilkins based on a dream he had once about a crazy orchestra, and after several jams with musicians from the West Midlands and Worcestershire the Collective played their debut at the Arts workshop during Slap Saturday at this year's Worc Music Fest. Bouncing through jazz classics, funk, pop and reggae with a good old dose of New Orleans style blues (including many surprises), and with festival bookings already knocking at their door, The Collective 43 is a merry gang all eager to make you throw some moves and definitely one to keep an eye on for 2014! Don't miss them!

Kate Cox

# TALK TO US

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way, and off the record – about whatever's getting to you.



08457 90 90 90\*  
01905 21121



jo@samaritans.org



www.samaritans.org

We're a charity. It's the public's kind donations that keep our helpline open. To donate go to: [mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworcesterbranch](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworcesterbranch)

## SAMARITANS

WORCESTER

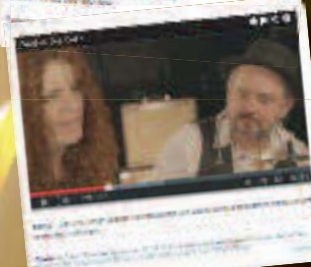
\*See our website for latest call charges.

# SLAP



## The future of television?

It's possible that you've seen various links and pointers to a new website. After a bumpy start Slap TV is finally 'on the air'. It's a music and arts internet TV channel that intends to present the best of the artistic talent we have in the Slap Magazine area. The idea is to eventually produce between ten and twenty minutes of interesting music and arts programming every month while building up an archive that will last forever. The subjects will range from poetry and painting, to music and theatre with an emphasis on the local arts scene, wherever that may be. Slap TV is the brainchild of TV producer Ralph Tittley. Having worked in television for many years both in London and in the Midlands, Ralph now runs a small media company based in Malvern. Often writing for Slap Magazine he realised that there were plenty of interesting stories to be told about artists and performers in the region and video was the perfect way to tell them. The way the technology of the TV industry and the internet has converged over the last decade has meant that it is now possible to create video content on practically any subject and effectively broadcast it to the world. Whereas in the past, to get a programme made for television you had to go through a commissioning editor, it is now feasible to just make a film and put it out there. Of course you won't get an audience if the quality is poor which is where Slap TV comes into its own. Using modern production techniques and up-to-date cameras, editing systems and finishing software the items on Slap TV are broadcast quality, made to exacting standards. The pieces are interesting, relevant and most of all watchable. So far the channel has produced short films about Nozstock, Babajack and their recent blues awards, a piece on Cardiff band Atoms and a poetic little ditty featuring Amy Rainbow and Catherine Crosswell who organise Confab Cabaret. There are several more films in the pipeline too including a full length documentary filmed at Nozstock and a review of Malvern Rocks. Of course the whole project is funded by love. With no appreciable budgets to work with the programmes, by necessity, will be made as and when they can be, fitting in around the day job although the long term plan is to secure either some sponsorship or advertising funding to keep the channel going. For that to work the channel needs viewers. So if you haven't been there already, follow the link from the Slap Mag website, take a look at the films and leave some feedback. Slap TV will also be looking for interesting stories to film over the next few months. So if you are a musician, artist, poet or an actor with a fascinating project coming up then why not get in touch via the website. And don't be surprised if you get a call inviting you to take part.





# PREVIEW - Evesham Arts Centre

## Chris Turner & Racing Minds - 8pm Jan 18th

Two comedy shows in one: cracking stand-up from Chris Turner plus high-speed improv from critically-acclaimed Racing Minds.

Since his first gig in 2009, Chris Turner's keen wit and intelligent wordplay have seen him rack up close to half a million views on YouTube; appear live on BBC Radio 2 and sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe - where last year he was awarded the 5th Best Joke of the Fringe.

Racing Minds are a long-form improv quartet formed in 2010 by Chris Turner & other members of the Oxford Imps. Their performances at comedy festivals and in London, Brighton & Oxford have earned them reviews like ~~~and "a rare treat: deliciously watchable, compulsively laughable and, above all, bloody good fun."



Tickets £8 - [www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk](http://www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk)

# REVIEW - Will Killeen - Star Inn, Pershore

Hard rocking blues with a splash of cajan thrown in for good measure were the order with Will Killeen and his band at the Star on 16th November. Will is a blues/folk guitarist who hails from the Hereford area and has been playing some 50 odd years! This seasoned veteran of the music scene still plays several gigs across the UK and Ireland every week and had recently returned from playing in Ireland and London for the Star Inn gig. Will says he plays wherever the music takes him, and plays solo or with an ensemble of musicians he knows across the country as a band. Tonight he was playing with St John on bass and Simon on drums who has played with the likes of Chaka Khan and Steve Winwood.

As a three piece they play a heavy blues style that is reminiscent of that late 60s early 70s sound of bands like Ten Years After and Canned Heat. They started off with the Stones versions of It's All Over Now, that had some great slide guitar licks. Then it was into a set of blues favourites played with a no nonsense keep it simple approach. Will says he likes to keep it simple and he did. No peddles or effects, just one man and his guitar and a solid rythm section behind him made for a great night. If you want to see Will he's at The Chestnut in Worcester on Sunday the 1st December and I recommend you take a trip down there and check him out.

*Mad Dave*



Worcester's most historic pub with over 400 years of history

Complete with a Dungeon in the Bar

TEL: 01905 726 100  
29 NEW ST. WR1 2DP

E: [info@thekingcharleshouse.com](mailto:info@thekingcharleshouse.com)  
[www.thekingcharleshouse.com](http://www.thekingcharleshouse.com)



10 Real Ales,  
local Cider and Perry

Belgian & American beers

Traditional Pies and  
bar snacks  
served all day

Open 11am - 11pm



THE NEW HOME  
OF SADLER'S ALES  
& CRADDOCK'S  
BREWERY  
IN WORCESTER



# REVIEW - The Magic Rooms - The Golden Cross, Redditch - Nov 9th

The Golden Cross pub, Redditch saw a selection of some of Redditch's top acoustic duos and solo performers in action. Six different acts with six different styles.

First on was **Connor Dalloway** who recently appeared at the Cafe Mambo Mini Festival in Redditch. He started his set with *Damita* by Blink182 and then went into a Sum 41 song called *Pieces*. That old favourite *Bad Moon*

*Rising* was next, but the highlight of this short set was a great original called *'Help Me'*, a punchy number that would sound good with a band behind it. He finished off with Zak Wylde's *In The River*.



**Joby Capper** was up next, a young singer song writer from Redditch who has done a fair bit of playing and had a good stage presence

and selection of material. A nice version of *Keep Your Head Up* by Ben Howard and a very interesting version of *Little Lady* by Ed Sheeran for which he was joined by **Scott Yoko Churchill** who did a great rap over the song while Joby played and sang. We had an original song which was called, *'No Regrets'*, an acoustic ballad style song.

The pace changed again with **Stu Tyler** who performed a mostly original set. Stu said his influences were band's like Neds Atomic Dustbin, Senseless Things and New Model Army, all of which shine through in his material. Of note were *Signs of Madness* and *Stay True*. Both with good driving riffs and poignant lyrics. Stu said he was in the process of putting together a three piece American punk style band so 'watch this space' as they say in smash hits. Change of pace and style again with *Lekka Vibe*, in the shape of **Loz and Jess**. We had a selection of songs from Mumford and Sons through to Girls Aloud, The Luminares and Savage Garden. These two work well as a duo and have a good set of songs compliment their abilities well.

**David Skidmore** was next up, David is one half of **Magic Room Productions**, a Redditch based music promotion company. David did a great version of the Johnny Cash/Nine Inch Nails *Hurt* and a well received rendition of *Mardy Bum*, by the Arctic Monkeys.

After David, **Black Tie Event**, took the stage. The duo consists of **Garth Kirkham** and **Parise Tasmine** and have a solid set of original material together now and treated us to a good half hour plus of original songs. They are in

the process of putting together an 11 track compilation of original material called, *'Lost in Amaze'*. **Black Tie Event** play a range of material that covers a lot of different styles and genres. Songs like *Rome* have a bit of a Cure feel to them, to nice punchy songs like *Rain Fool* that have a good driving riffs to it. *Chalk* had a funk feel and *Think*



a nice soulful number with some great harmonies. *Thorn and the Bubble* was a real popular song and went down well with its bluesy Stray Cat sound.

Last on were **Totem** in the shape of **Clem and Sam** who are a popular acoustic duo in the Redditch area. Well known for their musical talent these two play a selection of old rock standards with a twist. Songs like *Big Yellow Taxi* and *Whats Going On*, are interspersed with some



great acoustic guitar solo playing by Clem. If you get the chance check them out you won't be disappointed. **David Skidmore** and **Bradly Laventine**, organisers of **Magic Rooms** are planning to have some more events in the Redditch area soon and are looking for new bands to put on. They have an event at **The Sportsman**, so look them up on Facebook if you are interested. All in all a great night of acoustic music and good to see and hear some great acts coming out of Redditch.

*Mad Dave*

## PREVIEW - Comedy at Artrix

### Penguins and the meaning of life

Sean Hughes is back on tour following a critically acclaimed and audience packed run of his new show Penguins at The Edinburgh Fringe where he was awarded the Herald Angels Award for Best Comedy show.

This is a show so full of surprises, and hidden twists and recurring themes that you find yourself mapping it out hours later. Sean takes us back to his Dublin upbringing and the, at times, utter awkwardness of teenage life.

It's brilliant and multi-layered and it really is up there with his Perrier award winning show *A One Night Stand*. Why does society tell us how to behave and react? What does it have to do with Penguins? Buy a ticket and all will be revealed.

Sean Hughes presents Penguins at Artrix Arts Centre, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove on Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £15 and are available from the box office on 01527 577330 or online at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

### Australian comic doesn't beat about the bush

Having turned his back on his early career as a heavy-metal drummer, Steve Hughes has now fully established himself as one of the best stand-up comedians on the circuit. Steve, who now lives in Manchester and puts this down to his hatred for sport: 'Well, if you don't like sport in Australia you're basically screwed aren't you? I grew up despising sport so I had to move'. He stormed the UK last year with his sell-out debut tour, with extra dates added due to phenomenal demand. On TV, he's recently performed stellar sets on Live at the Apollo and Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow (BBC One), Stand Up For The Week (CH4) & One Night Stand (Dave).

While it's Still Legal features more outspoken social comedy delivered with effortless laid-back charm. Expect caustic anti-establishment humour from a truly unique performer.

Steve Hughes presents While it's Still Legal at Artrix Arts Centre, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove on Thursday 5th December 2013 at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £15 (£13) and are available from the box office on 01527 577330 or online at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



# MUSIC CITY



Run BY musicians FOR musicians

**RELOCATED**  
to Cornmarket

**the boys  
are back in  
town!**



- **Guitars**
- **Drums**
- **Amps**
- **PAs**

**Tel: 01905 26600**

16 QUEEN STREET  
WORCESTER WR1 2PL

[www.musiccityworcester.com](http://www.musiccityworcester.com)

# ANDY O'HARE - Roundup and look forward to 2014!!



Well it's that time of year when we like to look back at what's been a wonderful time on the great H&T music scene - and while the last few years have seen an meteoric increase in the musical output of this incredible 'engine room' of talent - I really think that the past 12 months have been completely outstanding with so many local acts really making their marks!! Let's tick a few of them off - yeah Hereford's **Ellie Goulding** was at #1 in the singles chart - but mildly disappointing that neither her nor the equally States-side successful **Cher Lloyd** have trumpeted their origins and stated publicly that 'there's plenty more great music where we came from by the way' - but their contracts probably forbid that sort of thing...

A great year also for Leominster's **George Barnett** - up to about 10 million hits on Youtube by now - Radio 1 playlists for **Lauren Wright** and **Frenchfire** - Radio 2 listings also for **Andy Robinson** and **George** (with a Hyde Park appearance thrown in) and 6 Music plays for **Becky Rose** and **Daniel & The Scandals** - and of course **Peace** delivered a stormer at Reading/Leeds - but it would have been nice to see maybe one or two more local acts make a major festival appearance - be sure that we'll be shouting loud once again next year!!

Bands like **Virgil & The Accelerators**, **Babajack** and those **Roving Crows** have had an amazing 12 months - winning shoeloads of awards - it looks like an brilliant 2014 ahead for these outfits - but what they have in common is that they've all put in tons of work in gigging, plugging and promoting themselves and their considerable talents - you've really got to shout out as loud as you can about your music - being a shrinking violet is not the way forward!! Not quite finished yet - I'm expecting great things in the year to come from the wonderful **Lisbee Stainton** - and great to see that **Granny's Attic** featuring the prodigious talent of the amazing **Cohen Kilcoyne** are among the final four of the Radio 2 Young Folk Act of the Year - if you've caught them at Worcester Music Festival and have by now picked your jaw up from the floor you'll know what I mean!!

As I don't tend to make much mention here of the 'day-job' - perhaps it's maybe time (after 33 issues!) to briefly recap what we actually do! Of course in the first place we'll be doing our best on the show to give all of you amazing musos some airplay - but please do bear in mind that Intro is still only a two-hour slot (we're pushing for more!) - and we get 2-300 Upload tracks each week - but don't stop sending them in - best if you use the Uploader via the website ([bbc.in/introhw](http://bbc.in/introhw) is an easy shortcut) as this then makes them accessible across the whole Beeb network!

For next year - of course we'll carry on bringing you the best of local music of all genres each Saturday night - but of course if you can't get to hear the show live because you're out gigging or gig-going - then of course it's available any time over the next 7 days via the iPlayer on the website - plus we'll be continuing our monthly recording session/roadshow at another selection of varied venues across the two counties - and each time we'll be inviting four or five acts to record a mini-session with us - to be broadcast one a week over the next month. We've got quite a backlog of acts to still record - so if you've sent your music

in to us and it's been airplayed (we let you know when that happens!) - then you're in the frame!! Just tonight dragged myself home after our latest at **Tower Studios Pershore** - exhausting but damn well worthwhile - as always some cracking acts - great pics from **Mike Davis** and vids from **Jim Lowe** - plus of course the usual selection of always off-beat vox-pops from anyone who turns up to watch us at work - they're always free-to-attend by the way!!

Early next year - the Beeb will be holding another series of Introducing Masterclasses - probably again at various venues round the country - and again we'll be inviting a selection of individuals who've gone that little bit further and made an extra contribution to the Two Counties music scene! It's one of the ways we can say 'thank you' to those who've gone beyond the 'call of duty'! This year's classes came from the likes of **Tom Robinson**, **Zane Lowe**, **Jo Whiley** and **Bob Harris** - but will also be available for everyone to check out some really useful tips relating to everything musical via the BBC Introducing website and the Red Button!!

We'll also be continuing to put local acts forward for spots on the Introducing Stages at the major festivals - Glasto, Reading/Leeds, T-in-Park and Radio1 Big Weekend - plus any other opportunities that we get notified of - now it's perhaps fair to say that 'hits' haven't been that great in recent years - with the majority of places seemingly filled by acts from the 'usual' locations - but we've done a lot of 'lobbying' in the last 12 months or so and we're again hoping that a local act will get a great opportunity really worth shouting about!!

Over the summer months - we'll continue our festival coverage - really is there anywhere else in the country where you could go to a local festival every weekend from early March to the middle of September and see such a stellar variety of local and imported music? I don't know how they do it - but there didn't seem to be a single clash of events all summer - wonderful work!! Plus of course we'll be inviting acts to play the stages we ourselves host - and we're keeping our fingers crossed for a lot more 'bonus spots' for local acts (that means you by the way!) next summer...

Personally I'll be carrying on trying to get to as many festivals/gigs/open mics/anything musical as I can possible manage! If you do spot me at a gig please do come up and say hi - but be warned my memory ain't as good as it once was (and it wasn't very good back then either) so do 'introduce' yourself! And if you just happen to be carrying a copy of your latest EP or a business card with a link to your online musical presence - even better! I've got great hopes that 2014 is going to be even better than this year - so here's hoping you all have very pleasant Midwinter and New Year Public Holidays - and see you at a gig again very soon!!

AOH (comment/message me at [so-sue-me@live.co.uk](mailto:so-sue-me@live.co.uk))

# Worcester Music Festival

## WANT TO PLAY AT WMF 2014? GET YOUR APPLICATION IN

BANDS and artist applications are now officially open for Worcester Music Festival 2014, which takes place from Friday, August 29 – Sunday, August 31.

For those who are unfamiliar with the festival, which was launched in 2008, 'WMF' is an annual, three-day celebration of live, original music, primarily that of Worcester and county-based musicians, but also that of under-the-radar talent from across the UK.

Over 900 acts applied to play in 2013, demonstrating the festival's great reputation, with around 250 slots available at festival venues, from pubs, clubs, cafes, restaurants and historic buildings to a leisure cruise boat, independent record shop and outdoor stages.

However, on the basis that every artist who performs at WMF does it for absolutely nothing to keep the event completely free for festival-goers, what is the attraction of performing?

Aside from the brilliant atmosphere, the festival is the chance to reach new audiences, sell CDs and meet hundreds of fellow musicians, while organisers, who are all volunteers, work hard to promote bands who take part. Musicians also benefit from the opportunity to meet venue owners and gig at places they would not normally play and secure paid gigs.

Feedback on WMF 2013 from audiences was "overwhelming", with many of the event's 36 venues full to capacity, while 500 people – from babies to grandparents – took part in a festival workshop, from a ukulele taster and scrap store noise making to gothic belly dance.



Great atmosphere at the Fire Fly

Applications to perform at WMF went live on December 1st – what are you waiting for? Visit [www.wumufest.co.uk](http://www.wumufest.co.uk) and get your name in, closing date is Monday, March 31.

Other events are also in the pipeline to build momentum for Worcester Music Festival 2014, including another **Big Busk**, a showcase of outdoor performances around the city centre in conjunction with Worcester BID, and fundraisers for the non-profit making festival.

Worcester Music Festival is also privileged to have been asked to help put on this year's Mayor's charity ball, 'Boswell, Kings and Harris at The Guildhall', on Friday, January 17, music provided by Claire Boswell, Kings & Folk and the Remi Harris Trio.

Tickets are £15, with proceeds going to the Mayor's chosen charities of the year, Maggs Day Centre, St Paul's Hostel and the ASHA Women's Centre. Kicking off at 7.30pm, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages from Barbourne Cider Company will be available, including real ale and craft ciders. Tickets from

[www.wegotickets.com/event/250800](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/250800).



Claire Boswell



Kings & Folk

Applications to become WMF's chosen charity for 2014, meanwhile, are also coming in, with city and county-based good causes invited to put themselves forward to benefit from fundraising at the festival, which has raised more than £30,000 for invaluable organisations. To nominate a charity, visit:

[www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/info/charities/](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/info/charities/)

or for more details, email:

[lisa-marie@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](mailto:lisa-marie@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk).

Closing date is Monday, January 20. To stay up-to-date with plans for WMF 2014, visit [www.wumufest.co.uk](http://www.wumufest.co.uk), join the festival on Facebook and follow on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.

Mel Hall

# REVIEW - Wes Dance & Friends - The MARRS bar - 10th Nov

After a long week of work and a day of running around, I want a night of calm acoustic goodness, intelligent lyrics and an infectious melody or two, now sure I could ransack my CD collection and come up with dozens of releases that fill the criteria but there's nothing like live music to calm the savage beast.



Once upon a time, seems like aeons now, Worcester's finest venue, The MARRS Bar, used to run acoustic sessions on a Sunday evening featuring local acts and the cream of out of town talents, it

was one of my favourite nights, stripped back acts giving it their all in front of (generally) an audience of music fans. During these sessions I managed to catch the likes of Jackie Levan (R.I.P.), Christopher Rees, The Songwriters Circle, Tim Rose, Machine Breakers, etc alongside the best of the locals, including regular performer and personal firm favourite Wes Dance among numerous others.

Wes being both a fan and regular performer of these "shhhhh.....Sundays" decided it was high time the format was resurrected to showcase, not only his own new material but also the wares of a few fellow acts that he's performed with during 2013.

The first performer of the night was recent Wes Dance collaborator and local singer-songwriter, Leanne Haworth, now I'm shamed to say it was the first time I've ever caught Leanne in a solo guise, but despite the announcement of a musical sabbatical, I hope not the last. Leanne littered her short set with covers (despite having a wealth of original material to draw from), opening with *Where Is My Mind* (Pixies), before running through *Ghosts* and leaving on a simply jaw dropping rendition of The Decemberists' *Revenge Of The Mariner*, that perhaps even bettered than the original.

Next to tread the boards were Birmingham based guitar/violin duo Che and Katharine, performing to a rapt Worcester for the first time, mesmerising the assembled attentive audience with their gorgeous blend of vocal harmonies, strummed acoustic and lifting strings. The duo performed a number of beautiful originals with Katharine's vocals harmonising wonderfully with the Dylan-esque delivery of Che, seducing everyone in the room with their folky laments and a gorgeous, sparse rendition of *You're So Beautiful* originally by Swedish sensations First Aid Kit.

Now I must have seen singer-songwriter Wes Dance more than most local acts, I've watched him perform solo, as part of Robinson and with his own band but never have I seen a more comfortable performance than the



one that he delivered to The MARRS Bar. Opening with *Tristesa*, Wes instantly settled, delivering a masterclass of song craft and penmanship, as his infatuating lyrics tumbled over the sparse acoustic guitar. From there Wes commanded the attention running through favourites such as *Thinking Way Too Much* and *A Fool Should Never Drink* whilst also showcasing new works such as *If Time Flows Like A River*. Leanne was invited back up to sing on a couple of songs, including a brilliant *Moonlight* before Wes is joined by violinist John-Joe Murray who backs him brilliantly with a flurry on a glorious rendition of *Silver Horse*, a previously unrehearsed new number and a stirring *Fiesta* drawing a fabulous evening's entertainment to a close.



Sundays were made for sessions such as Wes and friends, I hope someone takes up the challenge to regularly deliver a night of stripped down musical goodness here in Worcester.

Words: Will Munn Photos: Ben Sanders

# THE BHG

First of all, a massive thank you to **John Harding**, what a spectacular show and a fantastic launch that saw the room fill with all manner of monstrosities (and I don't just mean the visitors!)

Guess who's back at The BHG, I'll give you a clue, dig out your UV tutu!

That's right, we are very pleased to announce that **Dave Simpson** will be returning to the gallery for his second solo show. Just as we celebrate the second anniversary of the gallery itself, it felt only right that we have one of our favourites return. The artwork itself is bold, bright and fused with energetic colours and patterns that seem almost out of this world. For one night only on **December 7th** we will be lighting up the artwork under UV light which creates an entirely new set of masterpieces (unbeknown to Dave himself!). DJs will also be stationed in the gallery to compliment the visuals. It's free of charge and the show itself will run until the end of the month.



In January we have a face that some of you might find very familiar. After we have dusted off the New Years hangovers on January 10th our very **Landlord Sid** will be having his own solo show. I first met Sid through his artwork several years ago, and as the pub walls will tell, he hasn't stopped creating his original artwork since. His black and white drawings depict all kinds of creatures that have even featured in the pages of *White Dwarf* magazine. For the first time, he will be putting all of his pieces together and exhibiting them for the whole month. If you're lucky you might even get to chat to the man himself at the bar!



As well as our usual life drawing classes, Mouth & Music and Knitting we are having an extra couple of events including an **Upcycling Workshop** on Monday 9th December which will be hosted by **Waste2Want**. Take the chance to bring along any garments that maybe you have gone off or grown out of and get customising, swapping and transforming into something entirely new, just in time for Christmas! Speaking of Christmas (if we must), we are holding our annual Christmas market on Thursday 19th December from 7pm. So instead of dealing with all the daytime hustle and bustle we will be holding our market in the evening, so you can relax with a nice mulled wine and have a browse round our friendly mini market. To book a stall or for any more information on any of the events please email [gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](mailto:gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk) or shuffle onto our facebook page.

And to all readers a very Happy Christmas and Splendid new year. Thank you all and we best see you soon.

*Coz Et Melo*

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

[www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk)

For Gallery information please email Coz at: [gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](mailto:gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk)

The Boars Head | [www.facebook.com/boarsheadkidderminster](https://www.facebook.com/boarsheadkidderminster) | [www.boarsheadkidderminster.co.uk](http://www.boarsheadkidderminster.co.uk)  
 10 Worcester Street, Kidderminster, CV35 9JF  
 Tel: 01562 881832

In association with **kaf** CREATIVES

Worcestershire Poet Laureate and musician **Tim Cranmore** who will entertain us with poetry – and a carrot. Also featured is singer/songwriter **Humdrum Express** and The MC is poet **Sarah Tamar**.



# ART IS HERE

ARTIST ROOMS: Joseph Beuys  
Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

26 October 2013 – 1 February 2014

ARTIST ROOMS On Tour with Arts Council England  
and the Art Fund

Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT  
01905 25371 [www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)  
Open Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 4.30pm

MUSEUMS   
WORCESTERSHIRE



## Feature - ViP Radio

During the Worcester Music Festival, Paul Snow, a singer/ songwriter and Vince Ballard, musician and recording engineer, travelled around the town and very quickly realised the extent of the talent and indeed the talent that was going unnoticed. This alone inspired them to open ViP Radio, an internet based station, and give unsigned artists a place to get their music out to the masses. The moniker of ViP comes from the two founders names Vince and Paul, very simple really but it has proved very effective.

Within weeks ViP Radio proved to be an instant hit with listening targets being exceeded many times over. It very rapidly grew with presenters from around the town coming on board such as 'Poor' Bob Jones, Remi Harris, Polly Edwards, Mike 'Soulman' Skillbeck, Glenn Walker-Foster (Blackpool Tower's resident DJ), Holly Daffurn, Adrian 'Big Que' Williams and Vicky Brooks Cother. Together the team run regular shows covering genres such as rock, blues, rock 'n' roll,

soul, northern soul, jazz plus so much more. Paul 'Pablo' Snow also takes a mobile station around to various venues covering events and doing live broadcasts from the events. This has proved very popular with artists and venue managers alike adding a different dimension to their evening. As we speak the station has reached 10,000 listeners in just 10 weeks which is an amazing achievement and there are no signs of this dropping off.

The website which was opened at the same time has achieved over 25,000 hits which is incredible for such a small operation.

ViP Radio has plans to get right in the thick of the action next year with the Worcester Music Festival and has already started talking to the event organisers to offer assistance.

If you would like to contact ViP Radio or listen in to the shows you can get us at the following places

Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/vipradionet](http://www.facebook.com/vipradionet)

Website - [www.vipradio.net](http://www.vipradio.net)

Email - [vipradio@live.co.uk](mailto:vipradio@live.co.uk)

There are great things on the horizon with new shows, presenters and friends including teaming up every now and then with SLAP Magazine. A marriage made in heaven.

*Pablo*



# Door to door transport in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury

# Community Transport



# 0845 680 5029

[info@thirdsectorservices.org.uk](mailto:info@thirdsectorservices.org.uk)

[www.thirdsectorservices.org.uk](http://www.thirdsectorservices.org.uk)

Follow us on **Twitter@TSSGlos** Join us on **Facebook@ThirdSectorServices**

Third Sector Services, Sandford Park Offices, College Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7HX

## PREVIEW - Connie Lush - Great Barn, Hellens Manor, Much Marcle - 7th Dec

Versatile Arts are proud to present live Rhythm and Blues with **Connie Lush**, recognised as one of the finest blues singers in the UK - winning five times "Best Female Vocalist UK" earning this raunchy soul diva a deserved place in the gallery of greats.

Connie has toured with **BB King** throughout the UK, finishing at the **Royal Albert Hall, London**. BB said of Connie *'That woman makes my heart sing!'*

Twice voted "European Blues Vocalist of the Year" by the French Blues Trophie Awards" and nominated again "Best UK Blues Vocalist" 2012/13.

Connie performed at Glastonbury Festival 2011 and has wowed audiences across the world; she has also recorded in "The Cotton Row Studios" in Memphis and sung at BB Kings, Beale St.



Connie is a respected songwriter, writing for TV and featuring as a DJ at Jazz FM amongst other stations; she continues her love affair with audiences everywhere, bringing her enormous "gusto" for life and music wherever she goes.

Tickets are priced at £12.50 and are available from Carnival Records Malvern, Ice Bytes Ledbury, The Music Box Ross on Wye, Premier shop Much Marcle and on line from [www.opheus-events.com/versatilearts](http://www.opheus-events.com/versatilearts).

The performance starts at 8.00pm with support from Jack Rabbit Parole. Doors open at 7.30 pm. For more info call 07854 918783

## CD REVIEW - 3 Daft Monkeys - Of Stones & Bones

This impending release from the 3 Daft Monkeys, starts at a pace, with *'Agnes The Giant Killer'*, the dilemma of this folk tale, is she a saint or a sinner. A good rip roaring start from this band.

The album relates to tales of forbidden love, forgotten love, and sacrificial love. Stories of old Cornish folklore, piracy and mysterious monoliths. Dark lyrics abound, all delivered with panache and a wicked vein of humour. All this is presented through gentle Cornish folk riffs, occasional Caribbean undercurrents, a dash of dub, a splash of rock, a pinch of punk and a dose of salty sea shanties.

Lead vocalist and lyricist is Tim Ashton, who plays 12 string acoustic guitar. Fellow vocalist and lyricist Athene Roberts, is a dancing fairy of a violinist, an absolute joy to watch. Bass is provided by Lucas Drinkwater, with Richie Mulryn on a hand driven drum set, not a stick in sight.

Lucas's bass provides the distinctive reggae bass underpinning 'The Lovers Of Porthquarra Cove', an intoxicating rhythm, with a tale to tell, Athene's violin distinctive pushing through as the story unfolds. Indeed Athene takes vocals for the following track, 'Jenny And

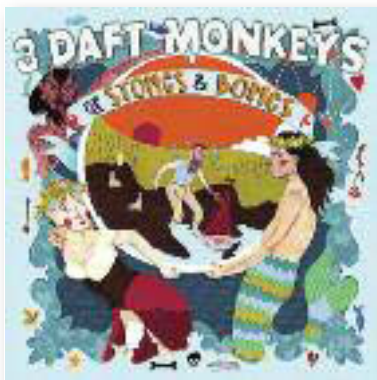
The Changeling', a more traditional arrangement. 'World On Its Head', races in, driven by Romanic rhythms, Athene's violin working hard, all spinning round at a frantic pace. I particularly like the to and fro ebb of 'The Tales Of The Laziest Pirate'. Tim's 12 string comes over distinctly throughout this album, along with the strings worked under Athene's bow. Richie and Lucas, providing the stitching that ties it all together.

I first listened to this album as a newcomer to the world of folk, (I am only in my senior years) If all folk music is like this, I'll become a zealous convert. Of course it's not, but this album rapidly grew on me, and I can play it through on a loop and not think of reaching for the off switch, it's infectious. I love the violin bursting through, the urgency of Tim's vocals, the fascinating mix of rhythms, I could swear I can hear elements reminiscent of Ian Anderson and Tull in 'One And All', it's a wonderfully varied album.

As I write this I am listening again, trying to decide on which is my favourite track, its no good, I want them all. On the basis of my ignorance of the world of folk roots music, I'm guessing all you adherents out there will want 'Of Stones And Bones' as well.

On a final note, What really makes this album for me, shine through, its raw edgy sound that simulates so well the magic of a live performance, it's a very well produced piece of work.

by Graham Munn



# REVIEW - 3 Daft Monkeys - Gloucester Guild Hall - 9th November

Having seen this band at Lakefest back in the summer festival season, I knew this was going to be good. There was no disappointment, in fact it would be in my top 5 gigs of the year, and that list is quite long. I would not break down the top 5 as different genres, venues and crowds, all have a bearing.

First, the supporting band, The Leylines, a 5 piece band unashamedly heavily influenced by The Levellers. This band is shiny and new, but extremely well polished. You would not believe they had played 4 times and this was their first gig they were pretty damn good. The band consists of violinist Hannah, the 3 guitars of, Steve Fowell - lead vocals and acoustic, Matt Wilkins - lead acoustic,



Pete Fealey - bass and James Dyer on drums. The band emanates from Weston Super Mare area, and play original music, but succumbed to their interpretation of 'Fifteen Years'. This band is definitely one to watch, they have good stage presence and sound fine.

The 3 Daft Monkeys have been together in essence for 12 years, with 8 albums behind them. The latest being 'Of Stones And Bones', released in October.

Their numbers are no longer 3, as an original member, Richie Mulryne, percussion, has rejoined Tim Ashton, 12 string acoustic, Athene Roberts, violin and Lukas Drinkwater on bass. Tim takes the lead in vocals.



So that's the background, the performance is an intoxicating whirl of frenetic folk law. There is a gypsy like

quality to the music, pebble dashed with tales of dark deeds, and mysterious legends anchored in their Cornish homeland. The band exploded into life with 'Perfect Strangers', 'Civilised Debauchery', and the wonderful 'Agnes The Giant Killer', taken from the new album. The attending troupe of acolytes were here for a party and it didn't take long before the barrel burst into life. Tales were plucked from their collection of releases, *Antiqued And Arcane*, *Social Vertigo*, *Huobadilla* providing a maelstrom of musical mayhem. 'Days Of The Dance', from A&A starts with Athene and Lukas waltzing around as her bow caresses the strings of the violin, Tim retells of a deadly dancing disease, before all hell breaks loose and the room goes mad with jumping whirring revellers. The whole floor was literally heaving, I could not hold a camera steady, instantly infectious, a plague of fleas would not induce such a reaction. I must mention Richie and his wonderful 'compact drum set, played almost throughout, by hand percussive strikes, with all the enthusiasm of a Keith Moon. 'Social Vertigo' momentarily closed the set, but there was no way the band could have escaped the building, 'Houbadillia' recharged the engines and away the floor bounced, finally ending on 'Antiquated And The Arcane' led by Athene on vocals.



The whole performance absolute magic, by the time you read this the tour may have slipped out of reach, I can only implore you to look for future dates and I am sure next years festivals will see their return; brilliant entertaining band, making memorable music. I highly recommend *Of Stones And Bones* and the previous release *Antiquated And The Arcane*.

Words & Photography: Graham Munn

# PREVIEW - Film Premiere - 'The Boars Head' - December 29th

Kidderminster based filmmaking duo **Bazz Hancher** and **Michael Walcott** of **White Raven Films** have crafted their first feature length film, which happens to be a documentary of all things; this being a massive move from the norm for these guys whose films are normally based in the horror genre.

Bazz who has directed films such as the controversial exploitation shocker, *Leon's Broken Mind* and more recent thriller called *Darkest Secrets*, decided he wanted to work on something unusual. Though neither of them are strangers to the documentaries – last year they showcased a humorous mockumentary called *The Rogue Filmmaker*; this has been one of the most ambitious projects they have worked on to date.

The film itself is a weird and wonderful look at how important a community run venue is to the community it serves. The award-winning **Boars Head** in Kidderminster is not only a public house, but also an art gallery and one

of the few music venues left in Kidderminster. It tells the story of **Sid & Sandra**, their slightly eccentric punters, plus a vibrant assortment of bands, poets and DJs that regularly perform there. The venue is also home to a unique **BHG** art gallery above the pub that exhibits the work of many up-and-coming and established artists. The film features live performances from **The Cracked Actors**, **Stiff Joints**, **OPM**, **Drongos For Europe** and many more. There is also an exclusive interview with **Ranking Roger** from **The Beat**. What Bazz and Mike have found most pleasing is the willingness of everyone who has been involved in this film and this itself proves that community venues do still exist and can still remain the heart of a community even when society is going through such difficult times. The film will have its premiere showing at the **Boars Head Kidderminster** on **29th December 2013**. There will be music from **Sister Sandwich** and other regular performers.



The DVD s are on sale from the **Boars Head** at £10 each which includes a live at the boars head CD a limited edition poster, postcard and £1 from every sale goes to a children's cancer charity. This is a ticket only event, the tickets are free but due to capacity and demand you will require a valid ticket. For further information please go to [www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk)



## Worcester Pubs, Then & Now *Civitas in beero et pubbi fidelis (City Faithful To Its Beer and Its Pubs)*

It was a Sunday 18th January 1948 and **Bob Blanford** was in **The Albion**, Bath Road, Worcester. He wasn't drinking. After all, he was less than a month old.

Sixty five years later he has returned to the pub (and many others) to put together a book, aptly titled **Worcester Pubs, Now and Then**, chronicling the 656 pubs that have graced our city in the past six hundred years.

Not only does it have loads of info (and personal opinions, some nice, some not so nice) on probably every single pub that is in the city, but also a comprehensive guide to the pubs of yesteryear, including past and present photos of many of them, maps and documents, giving an amazing insight to the topic.

There are also more than a few interesting tidbits on the characters that made Worcester great, including **Chicken George** (bad lad, a sewer mouth, an eccentric, a drunk, a nuisance and all round pain), **Peter Dowdeswell** (could drink a 2 pints of beer, upside down in just over 6.4 seconds), **Kipey Jones** (ate a bunch of flowers and lived in a shed) and many more.

Every pub entry has a description, a bit of history of the place and a list of previous licensees. Interesting to learn that the **Virgin Tavern** is named in memory of a group of nuns who frequented a previous tavern on the site and that **Rose** and **Fred West** were said to have drunk in the **New Chequers**. It is also worth noting that in 1826 there was one pub for every 82.6 people. There are also sections on pub crawls of the past and a history of drinking in Worcester.

The book also makes a case for Worcester to claim well-deserved alternative titles such as 'The City with the most pubs standing next door to each other' and 'The City with the most pub ghosts'.

This is a fantastic book with huge amounts of information, stories, recollections, trivia and archive photos. For your copy, for just £17.99, the full-colour book is available at **The Hive**, Worcester Tourist Information Centre, at **Waterstone's**, and at **Tudor House Museum**. Or go to:

[www.worcester-pubs.co.uk](http://www.worcester-pubs.co.uk)

*Chris Bennion*



## CD Release - Remi Harris - Ninick

This is the first solo album of virtuoso guitarist - Remi Harris who is represented by Big Bear Company. The album involves twelve magic pieces of music which allow the listener to discover the value of gypsy-jazz music played at the highest level.

A talented young artist who also won many hearts of the audience during the ceremony at Buckingham Palace hosted by Her Majesty The Queen. Currently, he is regarded as one of the brightest gypsy jazz guitarists in the UK. This album is perfect because of his approach to music and the huge amount of experience he's gained despite of his young age. His work characterises the profound respect and maturity that makes him such a great and highly respected guitar player.

It is proved that Remi is a sensational artist by the Jazz in the Foyer who wrote: *"One of the finest jazz guitarists in the UK and one to be admired greatly, he truly is a "Musician's musician".*

Moreover, the most knowledgeable of gypsy jazz enthusiasts - Jon Larsen from Norway said to Remi: *"I love your playing! Especially that you do things your own way - respect!... Bravo! Your guitar playing made my day, thank you very much!"*

Stuart Carter-Smith from the International Gypsy Guitar Festival and Gypsy Fire: *"His performance at the*



*IGGF 2012 was one of the finest I've seen since founding the festival 12 years ago. Remi has it all, including a great future!"*

Listen to the music on this album and find amazing valuable gypsy jazz pieces, then discover the various influences into the gypsy jazz style. Dave Gelly considers that no one else will be able to perform it better. Currently, audiences can see his virtuoso playing during his frequent concerts, solo appearances and with his trio and quartet.

A photograph of the interior of a pub. In the foreground, a sign for 'MARSTON'S' is visible, featuring a picture of a man and the text 'pillar of salt'. The background shows a bar area with various bottles and a person standing behind the bar. The lighting is warm and ambient.

# pillar of salt

**REAL ALES & CIDER**  
**FOOD SERVED ALLDAY**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**PUB GAMES**  
**LARGE GARDEN & CAR PARK**

**01905 863021**

**OPENING HOURS:**  
**12 -11pm Daily**  
**12 -12 Fri & Sat**

**Celvestune Way, Copcutt Hill, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 8UA**

## CD REVIEW – Hey You Guys! Do Not Resuscitate: Make Me Robocop

Before the age of mobile phones and tablets for children just out of nappies, we used to use our imagination, we pretended (well we boys anyway) to be He-Man, superheroes or indeed robotic cops, sure at that age we shouldn't have been watching Peter Weller starring as Robocop but goddamn it he was a cop and a robot what's not to like.

The same can be said about the glorious new single by Hey You Guys!

It's a rousing punky thrash lament to that silvery crime fighting machine, that binds humour and nostalgia with stops-starts, loud fuzzy guitars, bombastic drums, driving bass and the unique bellowed vocals of one Pete Adams, in short it's shouty, punky anthem for those lovers of all things rawwwkkkkk.



If the thought of jumping up and down and screaming the virtues of being a mechanical crime stopper isn't enough those HYG boys back it up with a scuzzy, feedback drenched, hard hitting, almost metallic cover of We Are Scientists Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt, which see's Mr Adams screaming his lungs out whilst Dave Draper, Oly Edkins and Ben Pemberton supply vocal harmonies and all things crunchy, personally I prefer this thrashy take over the indie pop original and I liked the original!!!!

So now this is a call to arms, I urge you to stop reading and get off your collective posteriors and buy this single, the nation needs a respite from the Xmas soundbites and wannabe pop star bullshit, we don't need another yesteryear hit reimagined clogging up the airwaves, we need a hero to free us from the shackles of pop oppression, we need a cop.....A Robocop!!!!

*Will Munn*

## PREVIEW - Matt Woosey - Hook, Line & Sinker - Re Con - Dec 5th

Matt is returning to Malvern for the local launch of Hook Line And Sinker, a 5 track EP. This builds on his full album success with 'On The Wagon' released June 2012, which received wide acclaim from the music press and radio alike. The New EP opens with the title track and an acoustic Matt at his best, warm but gritty vocals coming through strongly in this rattling good track, definitely a baited hook. The rhythm takes a slightly funkier turn, for 'Let It Flow', akin to blues emanating from Texas, before breaking down into a slower rawer lament, and back to Stevie Ray style. An excellent song, Matt at full flow, throwing out an irresistible line! 'Could You Be The One' takes a gentler road, before 'Give Me All Your Love, Babe', Matt reverting to a raw gritty voice, bursting out over the rail road blues rhythm underneath, breaking into bubbling rapids of finger picking acoustic guitar. The sinker? Not likely, time to reel in the catch.

Hook Line And Sinker ends on a radio edit of the same title. A concise package, nicely demonstrating Matt's blues



credentials, take a copy home when Matt plays Re Con on the 5th. He is an outstanding blues artist, returning from successful tours of Europe, South Africa, and Australia, back in his home town, an unmissable gig.

*Graham Munn*

# REVIEW - Suede - Birmingham O2 Academy - October 31st 2013

Truly one of the greatest bands of the 90's and the one that allegedly started 'Britpop' (not their fault ...), Suede's career had one hell of a start. From a front page cover before they'd released a single, a stunning Brit Awards performance when they weren't even nominated, a number one with their eponymous debut and number two with follow up *'Dog Man Star'* (during the recording of which, co-songwriter and guitarist extraordinaire Bernard Butler departed), it almost seemed their light had burned too bright and too brief. But, after recruiting 17 year old Richard Oakes as Butler's replacement, touring *'Dog Man Star'* and being derided by the press for doing so, they performed a remarkable comeback with single *'Trash'* and pop-tastic album *'Coming Up'*. The patchy but half brilliant *'Head Music'* followed, before another line-up shake up gave us the *'A New Morning'* album in 2002, a very mixed affair (albeit with one gem in *'When The Rain Falls'*) and a commercial failure, leading to the somewhat inevitable split.

Butler achieved short lived success in the meantime with David McAlmont (including the majestic 'Yes'



single), singer/lyricist Brett Anderson reunited with Butler after Suede's split for *The Tears* album and released several solo albums before the *'Coming Up'* line-up. Suede returned in 2010 for a charity performance, leading eventually to the fully fledged reunion we have now, and one of 2013's best albums in *'Bloodsports'*. I'd seen them live twice before and was slightly disappointed, but was intrigued enough by the new album being so bloody great to see them again. And boy, I am so pleased I gave them that chance.

Suede B-sides often rivalled their A-sides and album tracks, resulting in the *'Sci-Fi Lullabies'* double cd, easily ranking in their top three best albums. But it was still a complete shock for them to open on this night with *'High Rising'*, one of the greatest b-sides from the Butler period and immediately setting the agenda for the set – one full of favourites, new album highlights, and out & out surprises with never a dull moment.

Following with the opening three tracks from *'Bloodsports'* it was *'Trash'* next with Brett stuttering around the stage, all shaking hips & holding the mic above the heads of the faithful for a good old sing along on the chorus. *'Animal Nitrate'* followed, still sounding as rough and exciting as ever, and I'm pleased Oakes reneged on his original decision to not perform any Butler written tracks. Those songs are an essential part of what made Suede so great in the first place and it would be sad not to hear them again. We then get *'Filmstar'*, the two best from the new album *'Sabotage'* and *'Sometimes I Feel I'll Float Away'*, debut single *'The Drowners'*, *'Killing Of A Flashboy'*, *'Modern Boys'* (performed tonight for the first time ever during which I nearly lost my voice singing along), Brett's favourite *'The Wild Ones'* a stunning *'The Living Dead'* with just Anderson & Oakes, then *'For The Strangers'*, *'So Young'*, *'Metal Mickey'* and *'Beautiful Ones'* to end, the audience "shaking their tits to the hits". Just one encore with *'New Generation'* and it was over.

Looking at other set lists on this tour, Suede are full of surprises. They've performed *'We Are The Pigs'*, *'My Dark Star'*, *'By The Sea'*, even an acoustic *'She's In Fashion'* so they're keeping it interesting for themselves and fans alike & I genuinely can't wait for the next album and to see them live again. The strange career of Suede has just entered another chapter.

Words: Baz Bojak



Images courtesy of Suede/philipwilliamsdesign.com

## REVIEW - Lovebite, Gypsy Pistolero's & Midnight Dogs - Scruffy Murphy's - Nov 23rd

The very small, some might say intimate, basement venue at Scruffy Murphy's was pretty much full before the first band, **Midnight Dogs**, hit the stage. This was to be a night of hard rock morphing into sleaze of the highest order. The big hair, the spandex, the cowboy boots were all on show and the girls were dressed pretty well too.

We get under way with **Midnight Dogs**, a Midlands-raised 4-piece playing good ole British rock, very much in the style of the Quireboys. At the moment they're unsigned but if the music is anything to go by that situation shouldn't last too long. The Dogs let rip a great set of songs, the best of which (for me) were *'Bullet'* and *'Let's Go'*. This is a band with plenty of bite, go and see them, you won't be disappointed.



Next up was the **Gypsy Pistolero's**. Tonight was a special night because after some time away from live performances they were able to show off the new Pistolero on the block, **Gaz Harris** on vocals, for the first time. The set provided the opportunity to air some new material as well as a few old favourites such as *'Livin' Down with the Gypsies'* and *'Psycho Bitch'*. After the first couple of songs where the nerves were on show the band settled down nicely to do what they do best, pump out some lively rock & roll to liven up the already energetic fans.

Bass man **Kenny K Doll** had some of his fan base at the front chanting his name, **Gaz** settled down very well and his vocals were very good indeed. **Iggie Pistolero** just does what he does, great guitar work, great stage presence, a real entertainer while **Jeff Pistolero** on skins kept the beat going right through the short set.



Headliners for the night were Birmingham-based **Lovebite**, a sleaze band of potentially epic proportions. They provide a heady mix of hard rock, glam with more than a handful of sleaze thrown in for good measure. Plenty of clear influences in the music including Poison, Skid Row and even little bits of Faith No More. The set comprised mainly of songs from their 2012 album *'Lock 'N' Load'* delivered with shed loads of attitude, the title track being my favourite. **Jonny Sparks** is a great front man, he sings, plays guitar, jokes with the audience and wears overly tight jeans. **KC Valentine** could be a punk bassist the way he moves around the stage while **Tryx** reminded me of a young Mark Farner (if you're not old enough to remember him, look him up!). **Mikey Toye** on drums might have stuck in the dark at the back of the stage but his presence was very evident indeed.

All in all a great night of music in a venue that was really too small for bands such as these, it would be nice to see them in somewhere more spacious where they could really let themselves go.

Words & Photography Reg Richardson





# THE NORTHWICK ARMS



29 Vine Street Worcester  
01905 780390

**Free House**  
**Under new management**

Mon-Fri 4-12 Sat & Sun 12-12

**Live Music**  
**BT Sports**  
**Pool, Darts & Poker**  
**Real Ales**  
**Children Welcome**  
**Car Park**



**Local Bands Required**  
**GIVE YOUR LOCAL A GO!**

## CD REVIEW – Kill The Romantic

**collapsed under our creation**

Kill The Romantic hail from Evesham/ Redditch and comprise Dale Tomkins (guitars/vocals), Sean O'Gorman (bass/vocals) and Ad Baker (drums/vocals). Their recently released debut LP, collapsed under our creation, is produced by Tower's ubiquitous über-producer and all round hey you guy Dave Draper. The clarity of the production reveals a rock three piece on their mettle with a sound at the melodic end of Rock. If you think Biffy Clyro, you can't go too far wrong although there are many other influences pulled in to make the sound their own.

The album is available through their website and, as we go to press, they are recording a Christmas song (with Draper again at the helm) and are already planning a second LP. You can also see the guys live at the Marris Bar at This Wicked Tongue's Xmas party on Friday 13 December - get there early as they're on first. [www.killtheromantic.com](http://www.killtheromantic.com)



Glazz

## Wreckless Eric - Marris Bar - Sun 8th Dec

To celebrate the Fire Records reissue of the two albums he made in the eighties with The Len Bright Combo, Wreckless Eric will be performing solo selected shows. A songwriting and recording legend since the seventies, Eric has rarely performed solo in recent years. For the past six years and three albums he has worked in partnership with his wife, Amy Rigby. Now you can see him as you may never have seen him before, tight, loose and rocking on acoustic guitar, electric six string and gummed-up harmonica, performing songs from all phases of his long career with an emphasis on the songs he wrote for The Len Bright Combo. [www.wrecklesseric.com](http://www.wrecklesseric.com)



## Feature - Imagine, Evesham

Imagine is a community space in the centre of Evesham in the square by the entrance to the shopping centre. Formerly the old Real Deal shop, this community venture has been open since April this year and is a volunteer run enterprise. Imagine is part of **Transition Evesham Vale** and **Healthy Planet** and was set up as a platform for events and activities. It supplies free books through the national charity Healthy Planet to the public as part of the drive to reduce the amount of waste going to land fill. Transition Evesham Vale is a local environmental group that helps local people to live a more sustainable lifestyle. It gives help and advice to people who want to grow their own food and where to obtain locally grown food. The idea being, it will reduce energy consumption and the carbon footprint of the local area. It also gives advice on how to adopt a lower carbon means of transport and energy saving ideas. Much of the furniture is provided by **Roundabout**, a local furniture reuse charity based in Blackminster industrial estate just outside of town. Roundabout sells second hand furniture that it collects and refurbishes or recycles if it's too far gone. It also stocks books and kitchen ware for those who need it. Some of the current sessions being run at imagine are, **Repair Café** where you can bring along things that need fixing and bring them back to life. **Thinkers corner** which is described as a place where you can find a meeting of like minds and

enlightened conversation. There are art displays by local artists and starting soon **Buskstop** which will be an open Mike session on a Sunday afternoon.

Imagine is run by volunteers and its chairman, **Robin Walker** says that he hopes Buskstop will catch on and become a regular event every month. It will run between 2pm and 5pm and anyone is welcome to come along and play. The first one was on Sunday 24th and saw a good turnout by local players.

Present was Evesham favourite **Maggie Strong** who had every one rocking out and helped kick the event off. There were great sets from **Wolfren Riversticks**, **Tom Boycott**, **Ian Pennifold** and the vocal talents of **Lucy Whitaker**. **Kram Strong** supplied and ran the P.A. There will be a Xmas special on the 8th of December which will be a Christmas singalong special. Look out for Imagine on Facebook and future events that will be going on there.



## Bidford Legion

Award winning ales & cider | function room available  
snooker & pool table | families and non-members welcome



76 - 78 High Street | Bidford-on-Avon | B508AD | 01789 772389

# REVIEW - Arbour Lights, New Alaska, Mansize - Firefly, Worcester - Thursday 7th Nov

This was another Surprise Attacks triple bill Thursday, with some serious quality on display.

Local (Worcester) tri-hander Mansize kind of shambled on stage with minimal fanfare, and an almost apologetic wishing of the crowd a happy Thursday. Basically female-fronted and not lacking in brute sonic attack, this was periodically intricate 90's grunge revival - with a few jagged hooks stuck in for good measure. The vocalist has definitely got a PJ Harvey thing going on (guess the clue is in the bandname) and to me that's a thing to be loved. There was also a bit of cheeky crossover - the deployment of a rapper in the old school Gunshot vein on



one track - something which could easily have gone wrong. It basically didn't. Which is a hell of a thing to pull off. I guess this entire band - and the MC - were at best being potty-trained when the lost 90's gem the Judgement Night Soundtrack compilation was released; featuring as it did a collaboration between Mudhoney and Sir Mix-a-lot (and many others in the same vein... if in doubt, google). But this little number, played live above a pub in Worcester, could have sat as track six on this very album quite comfortably. Genuinely.

Representing for Stourbridge, New Alaska were a much simpler proposition. Clean, fresh, a touch of neo-pub rock, and medically impossible to dislike... these guys were tight. Very tight. They visibly love what they do, and the love was downright infectious. There's more subtlety and diversity on their studio material - shades of Post-Hardcore and even a bit of mathcore unless my ears deceive me - but live, this was just shitnails, joyous speed punk. More of the same please, gents. You really can come again.



And finally, boasting more effects pedals per square foot than I have ever seen in my life, and some seriously boutique kit... the symphonic majesty of Arbour Lights. Fronted by a Wunderkind reminiscent of a teenage Beck, only more laid back and less off his freaky nut, on Bass - this was instrumental noise right out of the top drawer. To be specific, out of the top drawer of a bespoke designed six-drawer cabinet, hand-made by a master craftsman in a workshop, probably somewhere in the Cotswolds. Said Wunderkind held his place centre stage, working his effortless craft without a single word, for the whole set.



This guy had so much neck and brass he even deployed a bow to his four string, Jimi-goddam-Page style (only Jimi Page was a guitarist, yeah I know) - while the big guy on rhythm guitar went right off to his music. The whole performance was completely wordless - but when you are this good at what you do with the equipment, vocals are pretty much superfluous. Unless, say, they were to summon up the spirit of Richard Burton to recite some Dylan Thomas poetry in an quiet patch, a la War of the Worlds, or something. That would have gone nicely. Awesome.

Words: Edward Ling Photography: Mark Hoy

## Preview - This Wicked Tonque Christmas Party - Marris bar - 13th Dec

With new drummer Ryan Jones well and truly bedded in and one of the team, This Wicked Tongue will host their first ever Christmas Party at the Marris Bar on Friday 13th December. Capping a frenetic couple of months which have seen them gigging regularly near and far, the band have assembled just about the best lineup they have ever appeared on, and all for the modest sum of just £3 advance, with an after party featuring DJ sets from Devlish to top it all off.

Opening, they have Kill The Romantic, a 3-piece alternative rock band from Evesham. The reviews website Subba-Cultcha wrote of their recent debut album 'the years of self-flagellation were really worth it', and when a band puts in those years of hard work and sacrifice, that's what they want to hear. Another Worcestershire band on the bill are good friends of This Wicked Tongue, Vault of Eagles. An immensely popular 3-piece with a grunge sound infused with the molten power of a Vesuvian lava flow, sweeping and destroying all before it, they are surely one of the very best bands on the local scene, and very much on the verge of breaking onto the national stage.

Main guest band for the evening though is none other than BABY GODZILLA. The Nottingham band made a huge impression on This Wicked Tongue 18 months ago when they shared the stage at The Shed in Leicester. The bands caught up again back in August with Tina in the audience to witness them opening main stage at

ArcTanGent. They really are the darlings of the nation's music press right now, regularly holding audiences across the country spellbound with their angular post-punk and their..... hmmm, well this is what The Independent had to say about them on 15th November: 'one of the most incendiary, exciting, raucous and frankly downright dangerous bands the UK currently has to offer'. Find their youtube video Powerboat Disaster, and make sure you learn the chorus. Enough said!

As for This Wicked Tongue, they have a host of new songs ready for unleashing as they emerge from the recording studio and prepare for what promises to be another event and excitement filled year. A band that never lets you down and always delivers. Watch out for a few Christmas surprises and don't forget the after party!

Finally though a word to the good - even before widespread promotion, well over 50 people have indicated they will be attending on the Facebook event page. With tickets just £3 each in advance or £5 on the door, this event is more than likely to sell out, so do get in touch with one of the bands now to avoid disappointment.

[www.babygodzilla.bandcamp.com](http://www.babygodzilla.bandcamp.com)

[www.vaultofeagles.com](http://www.vaultofeagles.com)

[www.killtheromantic.com](http://www.killtheromantic.com)

[www.marrisbar.com](http://www.marrisbar.com)

[www.thiswickedtonque.com](http://www.thiswickedtonque.com)



## REVIEW - Skinny Lister - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham - 13th Nov

First visit to this well established music scene venue in Kings Heath, it will not be my last, I love the original Victorian bar, tiled walls, and overall buzz this place exudes. Upstairs, things had already kicked off with support band Mile Wide Stride, from Coventry and Nuneaton areas. They played a mix of rock and a little blues very effectively with a range of influences from Bowie to The Stones. Joined on stage by a saxophonist for a couple of songs, they are certainly worth looking out for in the future.



Next up Dirty Old Folkers, what can I say about this renowned bunch of Brummies. Folkish, with a huge sense of comedy, political satire, and plain filth! None of that's a problem, they are an immensely entertaining band complete with their own dance troupe, a panda and death (this is one cloaked skeleton with some very nifty moves). Opening with a nod to our governing alliance, 'Big Society' makes a worthy comment on our brave new world. 'Bonus' brings a bit of bluegrass to liven up the poor bankers world. Fellow Brummies Sabbath decorate the background to 'Lord of The Rings' with *War Pigs*, ably orchestrated by Stuart. Mike, Clive, Matt, Llias and Hannah, make up the band. A definite revisit in the future.

So, Skinny Lister, a party on stage, floor and street. If you want a forget it all, bloody good night out, get along to one of their gigs. This band is one of the hardest working on the festival circuit, guaranteed to raise a crowd from its alcoholic infused slumber into a dancing frenzy. New addition to Dan, Lorna, Max, Sam and Dan (d/bass) is Dave with full drum set. Their sea and folk songs are delivered with full on punk energy, flagon to hand, rum on tap. *Forge Et Flagon* provides most of the songs, with a sprinkling from an impending new album to be released next spring. Mayhem takes over for jigs like 'If The Gaff Don't let Us Down' and 'Rollin' Over', as Lorna flirts with the whole room. Sam blasts out the



rousing 'John Kanaka', inviting the responses as all join in. Colours, is a simply beautiful song, narrated by Lorna and Dan, Lorna shows the true quality of her voice in 'Bonny Away', a lovely lament. A momentary quiet before bursting into the manic '40lb Wedding'. Interspersed with all that were new songs, a frenetic 'War' and 'City'. Skinny gigs are not ones where you sit quietly in the corner, to enjoy the music accompanied by a pie and a pint. You go to be intoxicated with music that demands your attention, pulling you onto the floor of heaving bodies. Let your hair down and enjoy the ride, no-one can see you in the dark!



Words Et Pics: Graham Munn

## REVIEW - Lisbee Stainton - Word Games - Artrix - Nov 7th

First a brief review of the new Lisbee album, *Word Games*. Before we proceed, I will admit to being very selective in my musical tastes, they would not normally cover Lisbee's style of 'acoustic pop', though I sometimes surprise myself with what these old ears are switching on to!

The opening track is '*Red Dog Running*', which is well written and could slip into the charts quite nicely, and is far better than much that masquerades as music playing on pop radio stations. Following on is for me another of the stand out tracks on the album, '*Navigating*', which has underlying military drum rolls and a good solid bass. '*Make Me Stay*', is jointly written with Eleanor McEvoy. This song about seduction opens nicely with plucked notes evoking the sound of rain drops in a puddle, before breaking in to a more pop like sound. '*Madron's Well*', is a lovely song co-written with Seth Lakeman, it tells of a Cornish wishing well, with mystical healing powers, where 'clouties' are left to rot as health returns.

'*Word Games*' closes the album, inspired by a supporting gig with Judy Collins at Worcester Cathedral, it's a beautiful haunting ballad of the travelling whispers within the high walls, in contrast to the inaudible storm blowing outside; peace and solitude found a mad world. A very nice song worthy of anyone's music collection.

Overall though not my choice of music, the album does grow as you listen, it very well produced, by Mikko Gordon. The songs listed from the album, were my selection of choice, I am sure many will take more from *Word Games*, it is a finely written and crafted set of songs that will stand out in its genre.

Supporting Lisbee on her tour is Eleanor McEvoy, from Dublin, an extremely talented singer songwriter, with an impressive catalogue of songs, and albums. Eleanor's lyrics tell fascinating stories of everyday life, she delivers them with a distinctive Irish brogue and a comfortable, humorous, rapport with the audience. Some of her songs remind me of Suzanne Vega. '*You'll Here Better Songs Than This*', begs the question, would you? And '*For The Avoidance Of Any Doubt*', no probably not!



I enjoyed her set, her vision of life, and stories of past times, a quality artist, who seems more comfortable as a support, rather than taking the spotlight, shame. I think she would be in her element, sat in the corner of some cosy intimate bar, retelling her tales, accompanied by her guitar. She finished on a bit of blues '*The Way You Wear Your Troubles*', bliss!

Lisbee Stainton is on tour with a full band, Simon Johnson, guitar, mandolin and uke, Pete Randall, double bass and guitar, Andy Chapman, in the shadows, on drums, plus a return to stage for Eleanor with violin.

Lisbee of course carries her trade mark 8 string acoustic.

She opened with '*Wrench*' from her previous Go album and '*Girl On An Unmade Bed*', from the album of that name, alluding to life as a student.

Also off that album, is the excellent '*Red*', that Lisbee played a little later.

'*Eloise*', she reprises '*Navigating*' and '*Red Dog Running*', both, for me, highlights of the album.

Eleanor is back on stage to accompany Lisbee for '*Make Me Stay*', plucking those violin strings for the opening bars, before bringing bow to play. This was all delivered beautifully by Lisbee, live on stage, indeed the stage performance, brings the album to life for me.

With songs taken from past albums, like *Go*, *Girl On An Unmade Bed* and now *Word Games*, Lisbee has a depth of original and distinctive music to select from from her tour. All seem to benefit from her live performance. Returning to *Word Games* as the set nears its end, the haunting title track, memorable, just close your eyes and imagine the magnificent isolation of Worcester cathedral, away from the bustle outside.

The closing song draws from *Go*, '*Find Me Here*', seems very appropriate, at the start of the tour. An excellent start at an equally excellent venue, for Lisbee Stainton.

*Words & Photography by Graham Munn*



# PREVIEW - Urban Voodoo Machine - Lyde Court, Hereford - 20th Dec

The Wild Hare Club and Gypsy Hotel proudly presents The Urban Voodoo Machine, Nick Marsh, Trixie Malicious and DJ Slim for a wild night of "bourbon-soaked, gypsy blues, bop 'n'stroll".

Back by popular demand The Urban Voodoo Machine return to to play their final gig of the year on Friday 20th December following a German tour and a special Halloween show at London's Jazz Cafe. Purveyors of what the band describe themselves as "*bourbon-soaked, gypsy blues, bop 'n'stroll*", the nine piece band have a raw energy and real edge that is all too absent from most of today's so-called rock and roll.

Their latest album *Rare Gumbo* collects various recordings from over the years that give an idea of what goes into their rich musical stew - from fired-up polkas to hair raising rockabilly rave-ups, from low-slung, lascivious Stonesy raunch to slower howls that would feel very much at home on a Tom Waits record. But really for this band it is all about the LIVE experience.



For one night only, Lyde Court will be transformed into the mysterious and transitory Gypsy Hotel, the band's notorious London club. Expect a carnivalesque atmosphere and some added glamour courtesy of Trixie Malicious, Canadian queen of burlesque bump 'n' grind, a gal who has danced and joked her way around the world!

Manning the decks will be DJ Slim, the band's accordion player, who will be playing everything from classic soul to klezmer and of course some cool Yule tunes to make the audience's tail feathers shake. Opening the show, will be Nick Marsh, once of '80s cult band *Flesh for Lulu*, who will play a short acoustic set featuring songs from his solo record '*A Universe Between Us*'.

Tickets, on sale now at [www.lydecourt.com](http://www.lydecourt.com) are £15. Doors open at 7.30, the UVM will hit the stage at 9.30 and there will be dancing until 2.00a.m.

Dress with burlesque glamour and pirate swagger and in the group colours of red and black.

Four years ago when the band last played The Wild Hare Club many people had to be turned away on the night, so to avoid disappointment early booking is advised.

For more information contact:

Richard Page (Wild Hare Club) 07801 212966  
[richardwymondpage@btinternet.com](mailto:richardwymondpage@btinternet.com)  
[www.wildhareclub.com](http://www.wildhareclub.com)

A selection of excellent photos from last time the UVM played the Wild Hare Club are available from Richard Shakespeare [zincalloy1@btinternet.com](mailto:zincalloy1@btinternet.com)



Trixie by Neil Kendall

## Feature - Tony's Art Sarah Ganderton

Worcester's streets come alive to the brightly coloured chalks of Tony the graffiti artist on a regular basis, so SLAP magazine took a closer look at who he is and the work he produces.



Tony is an ex-army man from Droitwich. Arriving early on weekdays and often on weekends, Tony marks out his chalk drawings on the paved area of Worcester's High Street. Taking inspiration from many places, his drawings are of anything from religious symbols, and



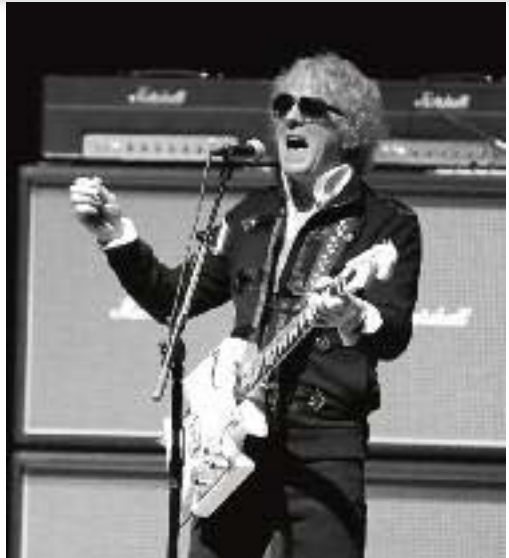
fantasy figures to animals: and always brightly coloured. Tony appeals to a wide audience with his many different drawings: adults stopping to chat to him and children having a go with his left-over chalks, and he always washes away his work at the end of the day so as not to disturb anyone. Tony's work has also attracted the attention of commercial enterprises: his art adorns the wall of Shakeys takeaway, in the form of a mural of Worcester's landscape.

Yet Tony's art work is not just to brighten Worcester for us all, but to raise much needed funds for himself, visiting his daughter with the proceeds from his drawings. So, if ever you see him on the streets of Worcester sharing his artworks, don't forget to leave a tip in his hat, as we have done while assembling this collection of photographs.

## REVIEW - Mott the Hoople - The Symphony Hall - Monday 11th Nov

Ian Hunter must have a particularly knackered looking painting of himself in an attic somewhere. Truly he is the Dorian Gray of rock n roll. He's how old? 74? He can't be. Thin as a whippet, with curly (albeit blonde/grey) hair and a rock star swagger, if you squint a bit he could pass for a man half his age. Remarkably his voice – a mix of Dylan, Bowie and Reed (not a bad combination) – is still intact too, ably demonstrated by tonight's opening number *Rock and Roll Queen*.

Sold out months ago tonight's capacity crowd rise as one (this is a seated venue) and stay on their feet for the next two hours as Hunter and co trawl through their back catalogue, plucking out the hits and misses, ballads and ballsy rock numbers that won them a fanatical following back in the 70s. Reserving the big guns for the encore *All The Young Dudes* and *Roll Away The Stone* were given rapturous receptions with the



crowd taking over vocal duties on Dudes for a good minute or two. After a night in their company it's easy to spot their influence on bands like Oasis and Def Leppard (was that lead singer Joe Elliot in the audience tonight?) but what's even more amazing is that some 40 years or so on from their heyday things really are still 'Mott' they used to be.

*Words & Pics: Reg Richardson*



# REVIEW - Willie & the Bandits - Hare & Hounds - Monday 21st Nov



Willie And The Bandits, produce a unique sound, mesmerizing, all pervading throughout the room and into everybody's very soul. They have an enviable list of songs from multiple albums to select from, at the Hare & Hounds, Breakfree and the new Grow, provided most of the material. 'Got To Do Better', my least favourite of the new album, proved much better in its raw performance mode. We were treated to the bands take on Peter Green's 'Black Magic Woman', Santana would weep with frustration if he heard WATB's reworking, superb. It could only get better as we listen to the beautiful 'Mammon' from Breakfree, gently delivered by Willie. 'Chillout' opens with Andy's tongue drum, as Willie's vocals sandpaper the mike, his slide is working its magic. Andy sits at the rear watching Matt and Willie like a hawk, controlling the tempo, as Matt uses his 6 string bass in ways that would embarrass many a lead guitarist. 'Under The Grove' starts with a nice acoustic opening from Willie, Matt comes in taking bow to the skeletal double bass, as Andy caresses the cymbals and drums with 'soft' sticks.

The whole room is full of moving, musically intoxicated believers, as we build up to a full 10+ minutes of the fabulous 'Angel', which showcases all of their artistry, wonderful bass rhythms, stunning drums and the hypnotic sounds conjured up by the Willie on his lap guitar, unforgettable. BUT there's more, they close to a version of Dire Straits, 'Money For Nothing', words fail me, I've heard it before, but I am still in awe of the sound from this band of sorcerers. Look out for them, they are festival favourites, with blues and roots particularly, once heard never forgotten; a word I hate but cannot avoid, awesome.



Supporting Willie And The Bandits at the Hare & Hounds, was local folksinger Chris Cleverley. With some self penned work and traditional songs, like, 'Oh Shenandoaha', and an acapella 'Polly Vaughan', very nicely done. I particularly liked his tale of the boy doomed forever to live in a church bell tower 'The Rafter's'. A fine voice and acoustic guitar are his hallmark, I'm sure I will see more of Chris in the future.

Words & Pics: Graham Munn

## Album Review - Grow

Grow, is the latest release from Willie & Co. It follows the bands philosophy of lyrics reflecting life today, our loves, failures, politics, mankind and self respect. But, as they say, its the way they tell 'em. My first listen through, left me with thinking 'Got To Do Better' had a slightly commercialised feel to it, before 'Gypsy Woman' kicks in, with the dangers of forbidden love. Then, into another gear for a full on Willie special, 'Try To Be Yourself', gritty edged vocals pour over the galvanising instrumentation. 'Under The Sun' starts slowly with heartfelt lyrics, before Willie's slide guitar takes it to another level as the voice fades away.

Unmistakable bass and percussion are provided by the mesmerizing 6 strings of Matt Brooks and spellbinding rhythms from Andy Naumanns. Willie Edwards, steel lap slide guitar worked to fabulous effect.



That slide, strongly evident in the weeping solo breaking into the mid part of 'Why D'you Do It' and 'Son Of The Gun', bracketed by dirty guitar and that gravel voice of Willie's. 'Keep Moving On' opens with Matt's double bass accenting the track, following on with his bow sawing through those heavy strings in the opening bars of 'Forgiveness', wonderful, I can see Matt eyes closed, lost in his dark rhythmic jungle. Willie opens 'Angel' with 'Spanish' flare before that heavy base and drum beat punches in, a superb instrumental that goes stratospheric 2 minutes in, soaring guitar, percussive outbreaks and that sticky thick base, before anchoring back into a beautiful groove and that slide into heaven, 10+ minutes of heaven.

I don't know of another band quite like W&TB, they produce stunning sounds, favourites of the blues and roots festival circuit and now at gigs playing previous signature songs like the lovely 'Mammon', alongside this new work. I'm still not fully sold on the opening, 'Got To Do Better', but they certainly do, the album is a superb collection of music, turn the sound up, the light down, lie on the floor and let it flow over.



# What's On in December

## SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER



**Aladdin!** Tues 3rd Dec - Sun 5th Jan - Various times, £10.75 - £15.75  
Make all your Christmas wishes come true with a sparkling professional production of Aladdin, a magical family adventure for the festive season.



**Jesus - My Boy - Vesta Tilley Studio** - £10 (Concs £8.50)  
Tues 10th - Tues 17th - 21st Dec (excl Sundays & Mondays), 7.30pm

A stunning one-man play; the story of Jesus seen through the eyes of Joseph, an ordinary and down-to-earth man. Jesus - My Boy is extremely humorous, incredibly moving, and beautifully and cleverly written by John Dowie, previously performed in the West End by Tom Conti.



## HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER

**Martyn Joseph**

Thursday 5th December | 8pm | £16.50

With a reputation for giving what thousands have described as the best live music experience of their lives Martyn Joseph is a unique talent driven by passion and love for his trade.



**T.Rextasy 2013** Friday 6th Dec | 8pm £16.50

T.Rextasy plays homage to Bolan's biggest hits, playing totally live and recreating the music, performance and excitement of those heady and outrageous glam rock times.

**St Agnes Fountain** Thursday 12th Dec | 8pm | £17.50

Christmas starts with St Agnes Fountain, bringing you sparkling musicianship, humour and hearty renditions of your favourite Christmas tunes both original and those you know so well.

**Jamie Knight & The Big Swing** Saturday 14th December | 8pm | £14

Supported by his own band, enjoy a wide range of traditional Christmas and swing standards delivered, as always, in Jamie's own powerful and unique style.

**Astaria String Quartet Christmas Family Concert - with guest Star Ben Humphrey**  
Sunday 15th December | 3pm | £9.50 (Children £5, Family of 4 £25)

The magical tale of The Nutcracker - featuring favourites such as The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Waltz of the Flowers.

**Ric Sanders and Friends** Tuesday 17th December | 8pm | £15

The fiddle player in Fairport Convention with drummer Michael Gregory and guitarist and vocalist Vo Fletcher, reconnect with the music closest to their hearts - firmly rooted in the blues.

**Mike Sanchez and his Band** Thursday 19th Dec | 8pm, £16.50

British singer and pianist Mike Sanchez is one of the most exciting and charismatic performers of Rhythm & Blues and Rock 'n' Roll in the world today.



**Blast from the Past presents - A Victorian Christmas**  
Saturday 21st December | 8pm | £12.50

A Victorian Christmas is a fun and festive celebration of the Yuletide our ancestors would have known, an evening of music, song, stories and drama from the time of Dickens and Hardy.

Box Office: 01905 611427 [www.huntingdonhall.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonhall.co.uk) [facebook.com/huntingdonhall](https://www.facebook.com/huntingdonhall)

# An Inn For All Seasons

## Malvern's oldest pub re-opens for music, food and fun

Since 1659 the Unicorn Inn has sat nestled beside the hills in Great Malvern, the oldest building in the town after the Priory and Abbey Arch. As a coaching inn, the old place has seen thousands of travellers and revellers step over the threshold to enjoy a warm fire and a hearty pint. Oh, what fun it would be to borrow the Doctor's Tardis and go back in time. We could spend an evening at the inn on a Dickensian Christmas Eve with snow on the ground, a wassail bowl to share. Maybe a violin and an accordion could play seasonal tunes; Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Fairy Tale of New York, Merry Christmas Everybody! Fantasy? Yes. But then the Unicorn is well acquainted with that genre. It was here that authors C S Lewis and J R R Tolkien would meet to discuss magical worlds and mysterious creatures. Legend has



it that after a couple of Yuletide ales one wintery December evening, the two writers were wandering home through the snow when they saw an old gas lantern shining through the falling flakes. Lewis remarked that it would make an interesting opening to a book, Tolkien agreed and the land of Narnia was born. Suddenly, last July, amid salacious rumour and small town gossip, the Unicorn closed. As a major venue for Malvern Rocks, the town's three day music festival, it came as a big surprise to all. The inn had gained a reputation as a small but perfectly formed music venue and had over the last few years become a regular haunt for musicians and music lovers alike. And now for the good news. The Unicorn Inn has reopened. New landlord, Mark, who used to run the Lamb in West Malvern has taken on the pub and music will once again spill down Church Street. Last night I popped in to see what was going on and was treated to the wonderful Ultimate Peaches. That's Artstar's Ria Parfitt on guitar with best friend Collette on drums doing a kind of White Stripesy sparse and rhythmic thing. Ria sings with feeling and energy while delivering gutsy rock guitar and while I've always been a fan of Artstar's well-crafted rock, this duo, with their inspired covers and deceptively simple arrangements provided a great evening's entertainment. Of course, the Unicorn and entertainment are now well and truly joined at the hip. Coming up in December the bijou venue can boast performances from Ital Sounds, Dogs of Santorini and Dodgy frontman Nigel Clark. Manageress Chauncey told me that the Inn will soon also be hosting a regular open mic night. And if you're not into music then perhaps she can tempt you into the pub with good food, pool, darts and a whole lot of fun. The Unicorn is back! Here's to another 350 years. RT.



# The Great Malvern Hotel

## NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

£6 Tickets

70's & 80's Disco

with live band

The Dublin Jacks

8 till Late

# The Queens Head

Wolverley Village | Kidderminster | DY11 5XB

Real Ales - Fine Wines

Traditional Food - Private parties

**LIVE MUSIC**

Tuesday - Open Mic

Friday - Live Bands

Sunday - Jazz

01562 850433 | [www.queensheadwolverley.com](http://www.queensheadwolverley.com)

# “Even doubts have shadows so let's step beyond that” - Music as art?

## An invitation to participate by Craigus Barry The Retinal Circus

To proclaim “music as art” probably immediately brings to mind the notion of lofty high concept albums such as *Sgt Peppers* or *Dark Side Of The Moon*, or numerous ‘Art Rock’ bands in silly costumes, but how about seeing the two things as clearly part of the same sphere for a moment?

How about we define the two firstly :

Music is obviously time based, it's open to the interpretation of the writer's imagination, the performer and how it is captured be it in a live setting or on a recording.

Art is often a set piece open to interpretation of the viewer/ or as the artist intends it, draped in subtlety! It's brush strokes on a canvas, dotwork on skin, scraps of paper reassembled or a chunk of marble chipped into a serpentine sculpture, for example. Music as art is such a ridiculous statement right? Akin to the myth of “lyrics as poetry”?

Well these are very reasonable assumptions, the two are fields apart, different disciplines, but what if we take these forms and experiment with them?

The Flaming Lips did just that in 1997 in America with a project called *The Parking Lot Experiments*. In brief; The Lips' decided to give the audience (in cars) boom boxes (tape players to you and I in England), and in each boom box was a fragment of one massive piece of music they had recorded on tape, band leader Wayne Coyne conducted each divided segment of the lot and they played the tapes as instructed producing one cohesive or dissonant piece of music. The concept was taken a step further with their eighth album “*Zaireeka*” a four CD release where the listener and three mates were encouraged to conduct their own version of the album, each CD you see had a fragment of the same track on it. The thing about CDs is they go out of sync and would produce a juxtaposed harmonic sound. You could even omit a given CD to mix it up a bit more. This was four way quadraphonic (four times stereo!) field mixing but the listener was in control! Participatory art as music!

Now not to sound haughty taughty but as a daring affirmation in print; I make art. I don't just make music. Let me clarify, I'm one of those oddballz who loves a particular Morriconi method of soundtracking a film, e.g 'Once Upon A Time In The West'; where the set pieces become part of the score, the water wheel, the wind, a crow, the desert. This is called Foley sound. The room ambiance is often captured in certain pieces of music, all built into track. The music can't exist without the elements there. It's literal.

Zappa called particular distinct flourishes in music, not hooks, but “*putting the eyebrows on the thing*” making a moment immortal. So a year ago David Headon and I inadvertently began to produce/create an enormous track of mine called '*A Season Dissolved*'. We threw everything at this thing, starting with just a stripped down live drum track and omnichord touch synth, we spent a night layering more omnichords, the bass, guitar, Casio digital midi guitar & scratch vocals. We then added glockenspiel and additional percussion. We sent a rough mix to a gifted multi octave

singer & pianist, Becky Rose. I instructed her to perform a choral section, a three part harmony essentially with certain reference points. In due course she actually sent a seven piece choral section, that was jaw droopingly gorgeous. Later we added sustained feedback (ebows), lute and John-Joe Murray on fiddle.

When we came to mix this thing we realized it was colossal. You couldn't just mix one version, there was enough information/music here to mix whatever version you wished and thus they all would sound strikingly different. We decided to add as little after affects and post production as possible, retaining the natural room acoustics in each track.

Which brings me to the point, I've asked a fair few people to not just remix this but “**MAKE YOUR OWN**” as in: you receive the files/components & make your own mix, then send it back. In due course, we'll put a site together of all of the versions collectively.

So now we are inviting all of you to be involved, anybody who happens to read this is welcome to email at: [swallowthemind@gmail.com](mailto:swallowthemind@gmail.com) with subject been “*A Season Dissolved*”, you will be added to a mail list and in due course, we'll be in touch, after a while we can make it happen! This whole project is not for profit and a means of an original exploration into music as an participatory artform not a formula. We are also looking for programmers and visual media artists.

As an after thought,when explaining this year long project to a musician friend Paddy Steer at length, he told me a story about spending a year intricately carving an owl out of wood and when he presented it to his parents “*I forgot to put the feet on the thing*”. Which I guess is essential here; please ensure you put the feet and the eyebrows on the thing! You can hear rough mixes of our track in progress here at: [soundcloud.com/a-season-dissolved](https://soundcloud.com/a-season-dissolved)



# REVIEW - Hazel O'Connor & Tinderbox - The Robin 2, Bilston 31st Oct

Hazel O'Connor is one of those few artists I never tire from seeing live, whether she's treading the boards as part of a stripped down acoustic trio (with harp and Irish drum) or amped up as part of a raucous five-piece (as she was here in Bilston), she always delivers a passionate and full-bodied show complete with fist-pumping, sing-a-long anthems and heart wrenching ballads.

But before I continue waxing lyrical over Hazel, I must digress and speak of the highly commendable support act, **Tinderbox**, a three-piece acoustic band featuring two guitarists delicately interweaving complimenting the gorgeous vocal tones of **Monique Houraghan**. The band (originally a two-piece) have been performing for 16 years and in that time they've taken numerous venues and festivals (home and abroad) as well as releasing four acclaimed albums, courting plaudits from the likes of R2 magazine and Tom Robinson of 6Music fame.



On the night's performance, it was easy to understand how **Tinderbox** have gained such recognition, their set was a delight from start to finish with breezy finger plucked folk guitar providing the perfect backdrop to Monique's honeyed vocal style, from the opening number, *Waiting For The Summer* the trio draw the listener in. The set ran through a number of moods from traveling lament of *Homeward Bound* to the driving politics of *State Of Play* via the playful 40's jazz inspired romance of *Valentino*. The band captivated the audience throughout their short set with deft instrumentation, warming hook-laden songs and beaming smiles, with the band's final number, the stunning acapella led *River To The Sea* deservedly receiving rapturous applause.

Now onto the main event, as I alluded to earlier I've seen **Hazel O'Connor** on numerous occasions and each time she's been delivering her material in a different set up; I've seen her perform acoustic, electric with a violin, as well at Rhythm Festival a couple years back with a fiery five-piece. Here at the Robin, Hazel was ably backed by a rousing five-piece including recent regular collaborators, **Claire Hirst** and **Sarah Fisher** (sax and

keyboards). The band were put together to promote Hazel's most well known work *Breaking Glass*, her most recent album *I Give You My Sunshine* and her just released autobiography, *Breaking Glass Barefoot*.



The band opened their set with the marching *Give Me An Inch* and right from the off, Hazel was on fine form gesticulating wildly whilst delivering her passionate punky lament, whilst the band behind blew up a storm - keyboards, pounding sax and guitar dueling and the rhythm section pumping instantly inciting a frenzied approval from the assembled crowd. From there on Hazel had the audience eating from her hand as she delivered long term favourites from the frantic *Monsters In Disguise* to the more refrained and soulful *If Only*.

With Hazel O'Connor it's hard to pick out individual highlights as every track delivered hits a home run, but as always the likes of the mass sing-a-long *Big Brother*, the strutting *Decadent Days* and the timeless stirring ballad *Will You* (complete with mesmeric instrumental break and sax solo) always strike a chord with me, but I also have to mention the stripped down vocal/keyboards and sax rendition of *Chasing Cars* and a stirring performance of *The Stranglers Hanging Around*.

Words & Pics By **Graham Munn**



---

# THE FIREFLY

---

★ Worcester's Craft Beer & Brew Pub ★

★ Six Hand Pulls ★

★ Ten Draught Taps ★

★ Real Ales & Real Ciders ★

★ 70+ Bottled Beers ★

★ Good Beer Guide 2011/2012/2013/2014 ★

★ CAMRA Pub Of The Year 2012 ★



The Firefly | 54 Lowesmoor | Worcester | WR1 2SE

# REVIEW - Of Kings And Captains - Marris bar - 23rd Novemeber

I was at the Marris Bar to enjoy the New Orleans rhythms and general entertainment delivered by Oliver Carpenter, fronting Stomp Et Holler. Suffice to say, I have visited these pages with the band in recent issues, extolled their virtues, and would still urge those not aware, to get out to a gig and enjoy yourselves. The band of Abby, Chris, Dave, John, Martin and Oliver applied the 'Groove Grease' liberally, straight from the tin, and we all had an excellent evening.



Supporting this fine band, were a band better known for their electric performances, but performing a stripped back acoustic set here. Of Kings And Captains, consisting of Luke Wassel, guitar and vocals, Josh Lomas, lead guitar, Kierran Lock, percussion, had 'lost' their bassist Dean Greatbach for the evening. Kierran was travelling light with a cahon, Luke & Josh, just acoustic guitars. This band come from the Stourbridge, Dudley area and were selected to support Bon Jovi at his recent Villa ground show. They have also received air play on various radio stations, earning good reviews in the music press. Opening with 'Don't Let Me Down', they seemed slightly nervous of their incursions into an acoustic world, but soon settled, playing a more subdued but arguably better version than that on YouTube of 'Maybe Just Ok'. Subdued, but I feel, a more

satisfying reworking for this more intimate venue. Rattling through their set, they seemed to warm to the task, and gave us very good versions of 'You Beat Me', 'All We Have', and 'Takes All Night'. They are obviously a band who are going to pick up a large following into the future. There is little I find of interest in pop charts in their current form, but these lads certainly can deliver a good acoustic set, and today you have to be able to perform live, Luke, Josh, Kierran and by default Dean, can certainly do this, we can only wish them well.

Graham Munn

**Cannon Royall Brewery**

**Uphampton Ales**  
Your local award winning Brewery

**Cannon Royall Brewery Ltd**  
Uphampton Lane  
Ombersley  
Nr Droitwich  
Worcs WR9 0JW  
Telephone: 01905 621161



# Review - "FishHead" by ReAction Theatre Makers - Midland Arts Centre - 24 Oct 2013

FishHead is the second in what is set to be a trilogy of productions from talented writer and director Tiffany Hosking. The trilogy began with *'The Slip'* which was one of my artistic highlights of the past few years and FishHead carries over many of the elements that made its predecessor such a compelling piece of theatre.

Tom, played by Trev Fleming, and Lydia, played by Michelle Pogmore, meet by the sea and we see their relationship in its formative stages whilst hearing a glimpse of what is to come from a radio broadcast overlay.

Tom is an Irish fisherman and Trev Fleming portrays him with a great warmth, exploring his emotional frailties to great effect. Lydia, a ventriloquist in training, is a complex character to bring to life, requiring a careful balance of mystery, comedy and practicality. The tricky combination allows the fabulously gifted Michelle Pogmore to display her versatility as a performer and she excels in a difficult role to portray. When Sean Connell who plays Alex appears it is almost shocking that another

character should appear, so immersed are we in the world of Lydia and Tom. But he drives the narrative along, although we perhaps don't get to explore his persona to the same extent.

Visually, the production is simple but striking, using a large Perspex cube to great effect and the scene transitions are a joy to watch on their own, handled as they are by a group of dancers who also get to demonstrate their wider abilities in some beautifully choreographed dance scenes.

As in *'The Slip'*, music plays a significant role in shaping the tone of the evening featuring some carefully selected tracks which serve to elevate the emotional intensity of key moments. The pace ebbs and flows like the waves and at times the audience is left to drink in the atmosphere which is in plentiful supply.

The overall effect is mesmerising. The combination of the atmosphere, an emotionally-charged script and fine performances from all concerned, deliver a powerful and moving experience. The production will be touring shortly in the West Midlands and I would urge you to see it. You'll laugh, you'll cry and, much like *'The Slip'*, you'll never forget it.

by Richard Austin



**thesession**  
music studios

77 WATERWORKS RD, BARBOURNE, WORCESTER, WR13EZ

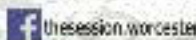
Recording | Practice | CD Duplication | Sound & Light Hire



**10% OFF WEEKDAY RECORDINGS WITH THIS VOUCHER**

SEE [WWW.THESSESSIONROOMS.COM](http://WWW.THESSESSIONROOMS.COM) UPDATES FOR DETAILS

BOOK NOW: 01905 338971 [www.thesessionrooms.com](http://www.thesessionrooms.com)



**ENJOY**  
THE MUSIC  
**DURING**  
THE SHOW  
**STOP**  
THE RINGING  
**AFTER**

Whatever music you like to listen to or play Worcester Hearing Centre custom make headphones for all MP3 players and smart phones. We also have a full range of Custom made musicians products including in ear monitors and filtered hearing protection, designed to stop you damaging your hearing.

**Stop the ringing. Enjoy the performance without the pain.**

For further details call **01905 617803**  
or visit our website **[www.worcesterhearingcentre.co.uk](http://www.worcesterhearingcentre.co.uk)**

Worcester Hearing Centre, 5, The Cornmarket, Worcester, WR1 2DR



- Family run independent business with 20 years experience
- Friendly impartial advice on all aspects of hearing health care
- Ear wax removal clinic & tinnitus counselling
- Latest hearing aid technology from all leading manufacturers
- Custom made specialist in ear products for musicians and hearing protection for shooting, industry, motorsport and swimming



There is something dark about Pre Sleep Monologue's new CD release. The packaging is black and minimalist as are the six tracks contained therein. With a deep and rhythmic back bone provided by the drums and bass that tethers the groove while allowing space for the sparse and imaginative guitar to punctuate and pierce the darkness. Out in front are the vocals, alternately delivered by bass player Katy Caldecott and guitarist Toby Carter while each backs up the other with impressive harmonies that add depth, colour and flashes of light. It's always tempting to liken a band to others and there are touches of Queens of the Stone Age, White Stripes, Patti Smith, Beefheart and the Doors that can be heard along with a surreal edge that reminds one of a David Lynch soundtrack. These songs grind along with a palpable energy whether it be the twisted guitar of 'My Bad', the upfront vocals of 'Mud' or the pounding rhythm of 'I Don't Want Your Wealth'. In fact that rhythm pounds throughout all the tracks on this CD. The third member of Pre Sleep Monologue sees to that, Tosh Murase is the man with the sticks and he uses them wisely. Pre Sleep Monologue have a folksy, grungy vibe going on that defies easy classification. The six tracks on their debut CD show a depth of musical talent and songwriting ability that impresses more on repeated listening while their live shows don't disappoint either. A great band and a great CD. Turn down the lights and embrace the darkness. RT.

## Pre Sleep Monologue

# PYRAMID

## Christmas Extravaganza

*Merriment, mince  
pies and music*

Re-con Church St Malvern Christmas Eve £3



# CIRCUIT SWEET – Hereford scene with Naomi Preece

November has been another crazy month and it is with mixed emotion that we wrap up our final article and contribution to Slap Mag for the year. Firstly Hereford Live, the recently formed community group, are busy planning and putting on live shows including a very special high profile gig on 18 December with Mick Ralphs Blues Band. Mick of Mott The Hoople and Bad Company fame will be playing The Jailhouse with support from The Misers. Tickets are still available and you can either buy them online (find Hereford Live on facebook) or if you are in town you can purchase them at Nilam Music or Music Plus.

In other news, we've teamed up with the lovely Jealous Lovers Club. For those unaware, they are promoters of regular nights in Cardiff, Newport and London who bring you a spectrum of music with math rock at one end and indie at the other. To date they've put on shows for the likes of El Ten Eleven, Gunning For Tamar, Delta Sleep, Rolo Tomassi, Johnny Foreigner, Physics House Band, Native, Dinosaur Pile Up, Talons and Let's Talk Daggers among others. We've teamed up to give some extra love and hype to their incredible work, bringing talent to an array of great venues - expect interviews with artists that are booked to play and special gig features on the events they've got planned.

Our site has been incredibly busy and we've had lots of reviews, photography features and news. We've seen Enemies live with support from We're No Heroes and Nanook Of The North and a lovely performance from Volcano Choir. One of Circuit Sweet's most loved duos, all the way from New Jersey, Dads (who we've featured and reviewed for the past few years), finally made their way over the pond and played Newport's Le Pub with Masts and the Modern Farewell. We've also secured an interview with Dads when they return to the UK.

With 2013 coming to a close it's time for music lovers and critics to look back - reviewing the year's releases and choosing your favourite, most played and most cherished album of the year. It also means looking back on the best gigs you've been to; the most inspiring acts you've seen; talent that's brought you to recognise their efforts, to fall in love with new acts; bands exploding on the scene out of nowhere; seeing an act at a local venue which you never thought possible - Mike Watt + Il Sogno De Marinaio, Virals, Skewwhiff + The Broken Oak Duet Live at The Marrs Bar or how about George Barnett at The Jailhouse.

We love reviewing the year in music - local, international, signed and unsigned. We love going back through the archive and seeing just how many great acts we've encountered over the past 12 months. We love to share our thoughts on the year so much that we make it into a large end of year special which is now renowned by our regulars. We've spent a few days at the end of November contacting all those previously featured acts on Circuit Sweet to get their involvement with our site. This year it's bigger and better than ever. We've got bands, magazines, venues, artists, labels and more involved to debate their top 5 releases of the year and what their favourite gig of the year was and why. We then share all of that information with you in our takeover which you can see only at [circuitsweet.co.uk](http://circuitsweet.co.uk) throughout the week prior to Xmas and leading up to New Year.

With this large feature set to capture and captivate our website we also bring you more from the archives - past reviews, interviews and articles. Will your favourite album review/release make a reappearance?

Alongside the hive of activity on the website and on our facebook and twitter, we want to say a big thank you to our loyal supporters. This year you've seen us grow, you've seen our website expand, you've seen new releases in our online store, you've seen US on screen not just behind a microphone, you've seen us reach out, you've seen us try and connect and you've seen us plugging incredible artists hard. And as a thank you for your support, for your kindness and just for being there we've unveiled that all items in our online shop ([circuitsweet.bigcartel.com](http://circuitsweet.bigcartel.com)) has a mega 15% off throughout December - the best releases as the greatest gifts this Xmas. Our way of thanking you and providing someone special with great music and something unique.

Over December and January we will be spending as much time at gigs as possible and find more ways to get great music heard. Our 2014 plans are all out there as we plan to get bigger and better and to provide more in many ways. More reviews, more interviews and interactions, more competitions, more products in our shop, a mobile circuit sweet shop stall and more movement across the county.

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



# BLUE



# LOTUS

## Tattoo Studio



Christian



Loz

[www.bluelotustattoo.co.uk](http://www.bluelotustattoo.co.uk)

5-7 The Hopmarket

Worcester WR1 1DL

01905 731884



### The Chestnut

17 Lansdowne Road, Worcs, WR1 1SS.

🎵 Chestnuts Roasted

On An Open Fire 🎵

By Mad Pierre! 🎵

Live Music

Dan James' Open Mic

Xmas Pub Quiz

Christmas Raffle

Bazaar & Table Top Sale

Santas Grotto

Saturday Breakfasts

Sunday Roasts

Mad Pierre & Dann


Wish You A Merry Christmas

And A Happy New Year!

And Remember A Pubs Not

Just For Christmas...

It's for Life!

 [www.facebook.com/TheChestnutInn](http://www.facebook.com/TheChestnutInn)

## REVIEW – [Spunge], Hey You Guys!, Fights & Fires - Marrs Bar - 12th Nov

Who would have thought it, a rammed to the rafters Marrs Bar on a Tuesday night all jumping on demand and hollering in unison, it could only mean one thing, the return of local ska legends Spunge!!!

It's been awhile, far too long in fact (bar an unannounced 15 minute set a year or so ago) since Spunge graced Worcester with their blend of infectious ska pop punk, but to celebrate a newly recorded best of and twenty years in the business they're back and sounding better than ever, but before I talk about conquering heroes there's a couple of support acts to mention.

First to take to the floor were local post hardcore/rock n rollers, Fights And Fires, since the last time I caught the band they've been busy pounding Europe with their contagious racket and the constant touring really showed, the band delivered a tight and energetic set complete with wandering guitarist and a singer who spent more time in the audience than on stage. The crowd down the front showed their appreciation by bellowing along whilst the band delivered wave after wave of melodic hardcore including a glorious run through set highlight Chase The Blues. The only one criticism I can level at the band was the off microphone shouted introductions, do it once fine, but throughout the whole set, marred an otherwise impressive performance.



If you read my previous appraisal of the debut album by Hey You Guys! or indeed their album launch party gig, you'll already know I'm something of a fan, well once again the band delivered a highly engaging, infectious set drawing from the aforementioned album, Gasp! Shock! Horror! and beyond, as

the band showcased a couple of brand new tracks. Within seconds of the opening number, frontman Pete careered into the audience as the rest of the band laid down their brash punky foundation, from then on in there was no stopping them as they unleashed their fluid blend of spiky riffs, galloping drums and half spoken/half shouted vocals. Individual highlights are always hard to pick out but once again Difficult Second Album and the 3 Ronnies deserve a special mention.

What can I say about the main event, they delivered a fan favourite set (with a couple of newbies chucked in for good measure) of pogo inducing, fun fuelled, catchier than the common cold, ska influenced pop punk, inciting mass bounce and sing-a-longs. It's impossible to argue with the likes of Jump On Demand, Ego, Kicking Pigeons, No Woman No Cry and Centrefold, it's impossible not to be carried away by the groups energy, banter and delivery or the crowds bouyant enthusiasm. Spunge are one of those bands that weld a massive grin on your face right from the opening chord. You don't go and see Spunge expecting indepth social commentary or mind blowing musicianship, you go expecting to have a good time and that's exactly what they deliver.

A sweaty audience depart with a smile on their collective faces and a vocal hook or two that takes days to fully exorcise (actually as I write this Kicking Pigeons is still reverberating around my noggin). Let's hope we don't have to wait so long for Spunge to return.

*Words Will Munn*



# Jon & Anouska Welcome you



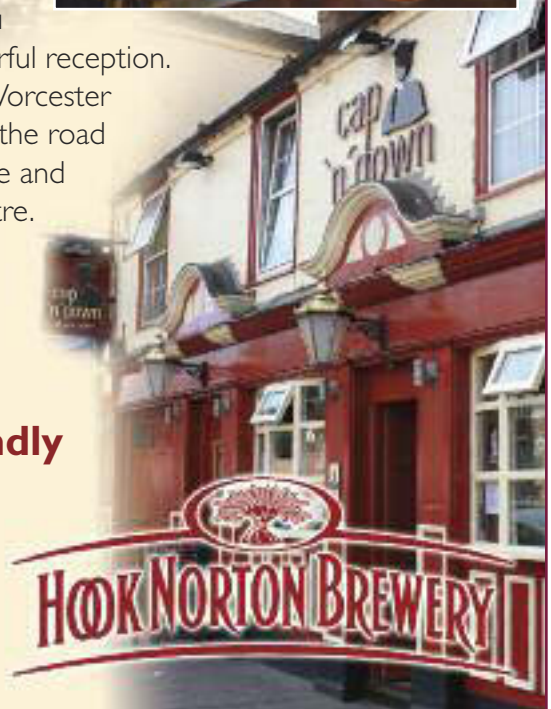
to the **cap 'n' gown**, Upper Tything, Worcester

The Cap 'n' Gown is an intimate, fun, offbeat and stylish venue stocking a range of Hook Norton Ales, premium lagers, cider, sprits and fine wine. Here you will find that there is something to offer everyone. A community pub with a classy and sophisticated feel, popular with all ages, the Cap welcomes families, children and dogs, somewhere you will always find a friendly and cheerful reception. Situated on the Tything and with Worcester Foregate Street Station just down the road the Cap n Gown is easily accessible and only a skip away from the city centre.



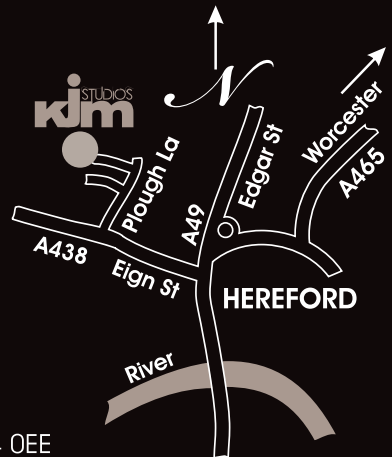
**Cask Marque**  
**Guinness Award 2013**  
**Live music and DJs**  
**Children and pet friendly**

Opening hours:  
2pm – 12am daily  
Tel: 01905 28914  
Email: [capngown@outlook.com](mailto:capngown@outlook.com)





Modern  
Professional  
Custom designed  
Recording  
& Rehearsal Studios



tel: 01432 344056 mob: 07976 380004  
www.kjmstudios.co.uk e: studio@kjmstudios.co.uk  
Unit 15, Sweetmans Yard, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0EE



## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday



# Deep AND Dirty

Jay Newman

## Re-con Every Friday

Starting 3008 9pm

100-1011 Malvern Facebook.com/MalvernRecon  
Malvern Daily Deep Base Tech House Dr & B Night

Live Bands  
Every Saturday  
From 9pm



### Sunday 1 December 2013

Philippines Fundraiser  
The Executives, Stunddog, Scarlett & Ebony, The Mary  
Hinge Experience, Ronin, Cougar Attack, Eligh Toadd  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Gwyn Aston & Friends Jam  
Talbot Inn, Bewdley

Free Spirit Duo  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Will Kileen  
Chestnut, Worcester

Hop Pole Birthday Party  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Chase Jazzmen Quartet (4pm)  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Jam Night  
The Oast House, Redditch

Sunday Shenanigans Open Mic  
Moochers, Stourbridge

### Monday 2 December 2013

Acoustic Open Mic  
Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

Folk Sessions  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Mic  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Open Mic with Dave Onions  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

### Tuesday 3 December 2013

True Colours  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Open Mic  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

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

### Wednesday 4 December 2013

Marzys' Jam Night  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Maxine Moxam & Gabby  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Irish Sessions  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Music at the Morgan  
The Morgan, Malvern

Soul Remedy  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Gastric Band  
The Masons Arms, Wichenford

### Thursday 5 December 2013

Open Mic  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Steve Hughes  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Drumlove Sessions (8-9.30pm)  
Angel Centre, Worcester

Comedy Night  
Keystones, Worcester

Adamantium  
Velvet Lounge, Worcester

Brothers Groove  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## **Journeyman**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Mike Mann Xmas Special**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Val Norman(Ireland), Alright The Captain**  
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

**John Otway, The Humdrum Express**  
The Robin 2, Bilston

**Clever Peter (comedy)**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## **Friday 6 December 2013**

### **Junction 7**

The Bluebell Inn, Ryall, Upton on Severn

**Sarah Warren Band**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Glam Sparrow**  
The Yew Tree, Preston on Wye, Hereford

**Wig Wam Sam - Glam Rock**  
Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

**Matt Woosey ep showcase**  
Re Con, Malvern

**Tom Walker Trio**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Karpet Kickers Et Rolling Thunder**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Adamantium, Boundary, Her Cursed Words, Road Trip,**  
**Swiss Water Method**  
Base Studios, Stourbridge

**Chevy Chase Stole My Wife**  
The Flapper, Birmingham

**Manalishi**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Capital**  
Riflemans Arms, Droitwich

**Funkadelica**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Skabucks**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**James Hickman**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Taylor and Co Band**  
The White Hart, Redditch

**Beat Route Foundation**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Delray Rockets**  
The Anchor, Tewkesbury

**The Undercocks**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## **Saturday 7 December 2013**

**Journeyman**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Delray Rockets**  
Chestnut, Worcester

**Allstars Dub Band**  
Crown Et Sceptre, Stroud

**Adrian Marx Glam Rock**  
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

**The Mood Elevators**  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**The Ex Presidents**  
Bedwardine, St John, Worcester

**The Notorious Brothers**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Reflections**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**The Coopers**  
Wolverley Sports Et Social Club, Wolverley

**The Fabulous Offcutz**  
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

**Nostalgia**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Trevor Burton**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**The Kitchen Island Band**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Nice n Sleazy**  
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

**Miss Pearl Et The Rough Diamonds**  
The Bakery, Malvern

**Chronographs, Now Voyager, Akheron**  
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

**Linerunners, Answer Back, Krescendo**  
Re Con, Great Malvern

**Roving Crows**  
Collwall Village Hall , Malvern

**Riff Raff**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Soultown**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Remi Harris Album Launch**  
The Hatch, Tenbury Wells

**Ric Sanders, Vo Et Tyler, Catherine Howe, Dave Young**  
St Peters, Malvern

**Moonshiners**  
Droitwich Legion, Droitwich

## **Sunday 8 December 2013**

**Wreckless Eric**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Sunday Shenanigans Open Mic**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Jam Night**  
The Oast House, Redditch

**Dave Beale**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Delray Rockets**  
The Rose Et Crown, Tenbury Wells

**Remi Harris Trio**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Unplugged**  
The Morgan, Malvern

**DJ Night**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## **Monday 9 December 2013**

**Enuff Z Nuff**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Maxine Moham Et Gabby**  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Open Mic**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Tuesday 10 December 2013

Deux Boules Vannille (France), Phullipion Dude, The Worrisome Anklel trout  
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Open Mic with Pete Kelly  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic Night  
The Anchor Inn, Fladbury, Worcestershire

True Colours  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Open Mic  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Wednesday 11 December 2013

Acoustic Music Session  
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Rodney Branigan  
Bedwardine, St John, Worcester

David Lawrence  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Marzys' Jam Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Gaz Brookfield  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Quill  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Music at the Morgan  
The Morgan, Malvern

Irish Session  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Thursday 12 December 2013

Ronin  
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

Dan James Open Mic Night  
Chestnut, Worcester

Ray & Paul  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Gastric Band  
The Grape Vaults, Leominster

Drumlove Sessions (8-9.30pm)  
Angel Centre, Worcester

The Laurence Jones Band  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Bryn (Sax 'n' Axe) solo  
Millers Arms, Pershore

Bitterroots  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Re Con, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## Friday 13 December 2013

Allstars Dub Band  
The Black Lion, Hereford

The Reflections  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Thunderdaze  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Dave Onions  
Cock n Maggie, Bewdley

Delray Rockets  
The Blue Bell Inn, Ryall, Upton

Brassick + Support  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Massive Head Trauma plus Support  
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

This Wicked Tongue, Baby Godzilla, Vault of Eagles,  
Kill The Romantic  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Folklaw  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Flat World  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dark Eyes  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Saturday 14 December 2013

Vue Bar Open Mic, Done By Sunrise  
Severn View Hotel, Worcester

Junction 7  
Star Hotel, Pershore

Delray Rockets  
The Towers Inn, Birmingham

Blues Boy Dan  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Skabucks  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

HouseJammers (Decadence)  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Dave Onions  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ronin  
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Ska Night  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Slowburner  
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

This Is Not An Open Mic  
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Aquarius  
The Sebright Arms, Worcester

Collective 43  
Chestnut, Worcester

Johnny Coppin  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Vault Of Eagles  
The Square, Birmingham

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds  
Dewdrop Inn, Lower Broadheath

Riff Raff, Tiger Province  
AJ's Hereford

## Sunday 15 December 2013

A.C.E, Reckless Heart  
The Roadhouse, Kings Norton, Birmingham

Slowburner  
Bridgnorth Blues Club, Bridgnorth

Mark Bettis Trio  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Sunday Shenanigans Open Mic**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Remi Harris**  
Chestnut, Worcester

**Dave Onions**  
The Wheatsheaf, Shrewsbury

**Jam Night**  
The Oast House, Redditch

**Unplugged**  
The Morgan, Malvern

## **Monday 16 December 2013**

**Folk Session**  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**Open Mic with Dave Onions**  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

**Open Mic**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Tuesday 17 December 2013**

**Open Mic**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann**  
Firefly, Worcester

**Open Mic**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Wednesday 18 December 2013**

**Marzys' Jam Night**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Maxine Moham, Gabby**  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Live @ Glouc. Studio - Best Of Glos Accoustic Night**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Kings & Captains**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Cracker & The Woodpeckers**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Music at the Morgan**  
The Morgan, Malvern

**Irish Session**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Colin Rickards**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

## **Thursday 19 December 2013**

**The Humdrum Express**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**Tom Forbes**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Drumlove Sessions (8-9.30pm)**  
Angel Centre, Worcester

**Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann**  
Re Con, Malvern

**Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**West Malvern Open Mic**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Humdrum Express, The Stuble Brothers**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Rase**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## **Friday 20 December 2013**

**The John Steeds**  
The Cross Keys, Bredons Hardwick, Tewkesbury

**ESO: A Yuletide Celebration**  
Number 8, Pershore

**The Reflections**  
The Hanbury Turn, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove

**Who's Next**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Nightspell**  
Droitwich Legion, Droitwich

**Mother Popcorn**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Vault Of Eagles, Tom Callinswood**  
The Queens Head, Wolverley

**Punk'd**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Allstars Dub Band**  
The Queens Head, Redditch

**Matt Woosey**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Straight Aces**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Will Killeen Band**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Delray Rockets, Hand & The Flowers**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Lisa**  
Wychbold Legion, Droitwich

## **Saturday 21 December 2013**

**Tony Jacobs - The Bing Crosby Years Christmas Special**  
Number 8, Pershore

**Kerri Worth**  
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

**The Starvin Rascals**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Tommy Gun**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Roving Crows, Future Set, Ciara O'**  
Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

**Perfect Strangers**  
Wolverley Sports & Social Club, Wolverley

**Liquor & Poker**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Trio**  
The Star Inn, Pershore

**Hump De Bump**  
Chestnut, Worcester

**Delray Rockets**  
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

**DJ Night**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Punch The Air**  
Bedwardine, St John, Worcester

**Aquarius**  
The Eagle Vaults, Worcester

**The Other Covers Trio**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Allstars Dub Band**  
St Pauls Tavern, Cheltenham

Enzo  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Sunday 22 December 2013

Marzy's Christmas Burlesque Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jim Fox  
Chestnut, Worcester

Ian Parker & Band  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Acoustic Brew Xmas Party  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Jam Night  
The Oast House, Redditch

DJ Night  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jazz Night (4pm)  
Queens Head, Worcester

Sunday Shenanigans Open Mic  
Moochers, Stourbridge

## Monday 23 December 2013

Fury, Pantheon, Secret Special Guests TBA  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Open Mic  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Tuesday 24 December 2013

Aquarius  
The Black Star, Stourport

Radio Nasties  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Wedding List  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Heaven & Hell Night  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Missing Linx  
Queens Head, Worcester

Gourmet Night - Hot Croq & Boogaloo Jazz Funk  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Stiff Joints, 10:94  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Delray Rockets  
Wheelhouse Marina, Upton

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

Murphy's Law  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Thursday 26 December 2013

Dan James Open Mic  
Chestnut, Worcester

Lewis Creaven Band  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Trio  
The Star Inn, Pershore

Straight Aces  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Drumlove Sessions (8-9.30pm)  
Angel Centre, Worcester

Ray & Paul  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Permission To Rock  
Moochers, Stourbridge

## Friday 27 December 2013

Born In Chicago  
Wolverley Sports & Social Club, Wolverley

Barflys  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Laurence Jones Band  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Eternity  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Barrel House Blues Band  
Millers Arms, Pershore

Freaky Trigger  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Gabbidon Band  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## Saturday 28 December 2013

The After Dark Band  
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

The Capital  
Bull Inn, Fernhill Heath

Mojohooker  
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Way  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Liquor & Poker Band  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Delray Rockets  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Journeyman  
Chestnut, Worcester

Blues Extra  
The Star Inn, Pershore

Ital Sounds Reggae & Dub  
Unicorn, Malvern

Casino Night  
Queens Head, Worcester

## Sunday 29 December 2013

Lounge Toad (afternoon)  
Chestnut, Worcester

Film Premier, Sister Sandwich & Friends  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Cover Up  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Will Killen  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

## Monday 30 December 2013

Folk Session  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Jam Night  
The Oast House, Redditch

Open Mic with Dave Onions  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Miss Fusion  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Open Mic  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Tuesday 31 December 2013

Aquarius  
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

New Years Eve with Rawk  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

3 Blind Mice  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

New Years Eve Party  
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

New Years Eve Extravaganza with Nostalgia  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Dave Onions, Kevin Underwood & Friends  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

DJ Collective – Dirty Lyle, Dj Pogo, Mr Yip,  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Pirate Masquerade Ball  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Delray Rockets  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Northern Soul Night  
Wolverley Social Club, Wolverley

The Dilemma Council  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

---

## Wednesday 1 January 2014

Spread The Love Funky House  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## Friday 3 January 2014

Hatters Tour – The Red Dirt Skinners  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Saturday 4 January 2014

The Straight Aces  
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

John Steeds  
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Pewke Band  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Pure Instinct  
The Star Inn, Pershore

## Sunday 5 January 2014

Open Mic  
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Richard Heath Duo  
Chestnut, Worcester

Jam Night  
The Oast House, Redditch

## Monday 6 January 2014

Keith Slater Jam Session  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Tuesday 7 January 2014

Open Mic  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

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

## Wednesday 8 January 2014

Music at the Morgan  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 9 January 2014

Dan James Open Mic  
Chestnut, Worcester

Drumlove Sessions (8–9.30pm)  
Angel Centre, Worcester

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Re Con, Malvern

GMH Music Sessions  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## Friday 10 January 2014

Trevor Burton Band  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Hennesea  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Saturday 11 January 2014

Boogie Street  
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Pete Hyde & Friends  
Chestnut, Worcester

Purple Zeppelin  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Marabooboo All Stars  
The Star Inn, Pershore

The Lewis Bolton Band  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dirt Box Disco & Obnoxious Uk  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Vo & Tyler  
The Star, Pershore

## Sunday 12 January 2014

Jam Night  
The Oast House, Redditch

Jazz Night  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Unplugged  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Monday 13 January 2014

Folk Session  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

## Tuesday 14 January 2014

Blues Night  
Cellar Bar, Worcester

Open Mic with Pete Kelly  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Wednesday 15 January 2014

Sean Hughes  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Music at the Morgan  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 16 January 2014

Drumlove Sessions (8-9.30pm)  
Angel Centre, Worcester

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Re Con, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Lounge Toad  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Friday 17 January 2014

Fred Zeppelin  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Suzy & The Backbeats  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Delray Rockets  
The Anchor, Tewkesbury

Music Night  
The Legion, Cradley, Malvern

Crescendo  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Bridget & The Big Girls Blues  
Droitwich Legion, Droitwich

## Saturday 18 January 2014

Skint  
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Counterfeit Stones  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Wrens  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ska Night  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Steve Ajao Blues Band  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

No Exit  
The Star Inn, Pershore

Retroreflector  
Bedwardine, St John, Worcester

## Sunday 19 January 2014

Jazz Express  
Chestnut, Worcester

Jam Night  
The Oast House, Redditch

Keith Slater Trio (4pm)  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Unplugged  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Tuesday 21 January 2014

Stripped Down Blues  
Cellar Bar, Worcester

Open Mic with Pete Kelly  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Wednesday 22 January 2014

Music at the Morgan  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 23 January 2014

Dan James Open Mic  
Chestnut, Worcester

GMH Music Sessions  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Drumlove Sessions (8-9.30pm)  
Angel Centre, Worcester

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Re Con, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## Friday 24 January 2014

Voodoo Blue  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Mark Ledham  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Saturday 25 January 2014

One Tru Fam  
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Junction 7  
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Are You Experienced?  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

All Star Dub Band  
Chestnut, Worcester

Notorious Brothers  
The Star Inn, Pershore

Trevor Burton Band  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

## Sunday 26 January 2014

Jam Night  
The Oast House, Redditch

Jazz Night (4pm)  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Unplugged  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Tuesday 28 January 2014

Open Mic with Pete Kelly  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Wednesday 29 January 2014

Music at the Morgan  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 30 January 2014

Open Mic with Tina V & Mike Mann  
Re Con, Malvern

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

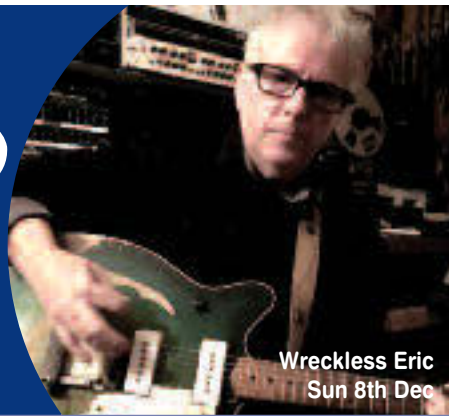
Lounge Toad  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Friday 31 January 2014

KAF Relaunch Party  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

# THE MARR'S BAR

DEC 2013



Wreckless Eric  
Sun 8th Dec

**Sunday 1st**

**Philippines Fundraiser**

**All Dayer**

£5 on the door open 3pm

**Thursday 5th**

**Clever Peter award-winning comedy**

£10 a ticket

**Friday 6th**

**Skabucks**

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

**Saturday 7th**

**Riff Raff**

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

**Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)**

£3 12-4

**Sunday 8th**

**Wreckless Eric**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**Monday 9th**

**Enuff Z Nuff**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**Friday 13th**

**This Wicked Tongue Xmas party**

**Baby Godzilla, This Wicked Tongue,**

**Vault of Eagles, Kill The Romantic**

£3 a ticket or £5 on the door

• **Saturday 14th**

• **Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)**

• £3 12-4

• **Thursday 19th**

• **Tom Forbes**

• £3 a ticket £5 on the door

• **Friday 20th**

• **Who's Next (The Who Tribute)**

• £8 a ticket £10 on the door

• **Saturday 21st**

• **The Other Covers Trio**

• £3 a ticket £5 on the door

• **Wreckless Club Night (Indie/Rock)**

• £3 12-4

• **Sunday 22nd**

• **Marzy's Christmas Burlesque night**

• £10 a ticket

• **Monday 23rd**

• **Fury Christmas Blow Out**

• **Secret Co Headline, Fury & Pantheon**

• £4 a ticket £5 on the door

• **Friday 27th & Saturday 28th**

• **Booze Stock**

• £3 on the door

• **Tuesday 31st**

• **New Years Eve with Rawk**

• £10 a ticket £15 on the door

**Wednesdays - Jamming night**

**Dates available for private hire**

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

[www.marrsbar.co.uk](http://www.marrsbar.co.uk)

01905 613336

**Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue**