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Issue 34

Feb 2014

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Hello everyone and welcome to issue 34 of SLAP. We're already a 12th of the way through the year and with all those new year resolutions out the window, we turn our attention to what's coming up around these parts. There's certainly plenty to get your teeth into with something for everyone and Andy O'Hare at least thinks 2014 is going to be 'awesome'! Lets hope he's right.

Lots of good stuff happening in local arts including Clik Clik Collective, the re-branding of Kidderminster Creative, The Boars Head Gallery and of course the Worcester Arts Workshop. Do check out their websites for up to date information on Spring term courses and events.

We bring you news of C@tch, a brand new comedy festival in Stourport-on-Severn, which looks well worth a visit, more information on page 23.

Another good news story is the re-opening of the Railway Inn, Evesham which has been a great servant to the local live music scene over the years. Now to be The Iron Road Rock Bar its doors open in March and we at SLAP wish them every success.

Thanks for reading and please keep supporting live music and the arts in your area and if you feel compelled to write about anything you see or hear please send in your reviews.

- Ed Wood



Cover photography by Mark Hoy
Clik Clik Collective - Collective43 Procession

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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



Crows are flying high

Ledbury folk-fusion five-piece **Roving Crows** were voted Band Of The Year at the well-respected **Fatea Awards** - winning the judges' votes ahead of acts like **Bellowhead** and **Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin** - looks like a great year ahead for the outfit fronted-up by **Paul O'Neill** and **Caitlin Barrett** who are also catalysts behind the success of **Lakefest** near Tewkesbury from 8 to 10 August - who've already confirmed **Fun Lovin' Criminals**, **Snap** and **Lee 'Scratch' Perry** amongst this year's headline acts...



Tilly joins National Youth Orchestra

Congratulations to Malvern 16-year old **Tilly Chester** who's been selected to be principal viola player in the **National Youth Orchestra** - another stunning achievement by the youngster with a hearing impairment who was part of the **British Paraorchestra** who accompanied **Coldplay** at the closing ceremony of the **London 2012 Paralympics!!**

Wychwood names headliners

'Traditionally' now one of the first festivals of the summer - **Wychwood Festival** on Cheltenham Racecourse which runs from Friday 30 May to Sunday 1 June has announced its headlining acts which include **Boombtown Rats**, **The Real Thing** and **Polly & The Billets-Doux** - a selection of up-coming Hereford & Worcester acts will also invited to perform at Wychwood courtesy of BBC Introducing...



Noz goes Jurassic

There'll be a Neanderthal feel for this year's **Nozstock: The Hidden Valley Festival** at Rowden Paddocks near Bromyard from Friday 1 August to Sunday 3 August with the theme being '**Jurassic Farm**' - revellers are encouraged to go prehistoric for the weekend by dressing up like the **Flintstones** or 'following in the footsteps of dinosaurs' - sounds a hoot!!!

Wu Mu Fest gathers pace

Applications are now open for musicians to play at this year's **Worcester Music Festival** taking place at the end of August at venues across the city - last year over 900 bands and acts applied for the 250 available spots - closing date for applications is Monday 31 March - more information at www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk



Hendrix live in Worcester

A video's been posted online which claims to be footage of **Jimi Hendrix** performing **Purple Haze** at Worcester's **Gaumont Theatre** on Sunday 2 April 1967 -

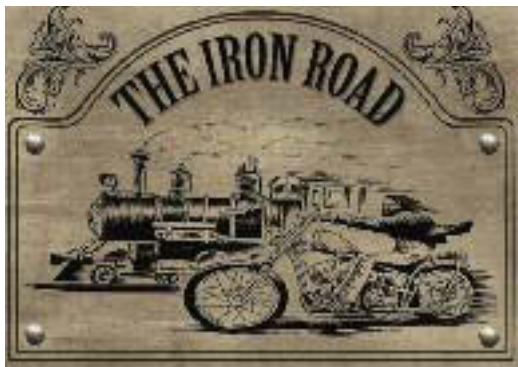
Hendrix was on tour with the **Walker Brothers** and **Cat Stevens** supporting headliner **Engelbert Humperdinck (!)** check it for yourself on:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDpHLiChw-



New Venue opens doors soon

"A new music venue is due to open in Evesham in March. The former Railway Hotel on Evesham High Street will re-open as The Iron Road Rock Bar on Saturday March 22nd to the sound of London-based rockers Four Wheel Drive who have just completed a successful UK co-headline tour with StoneWire.



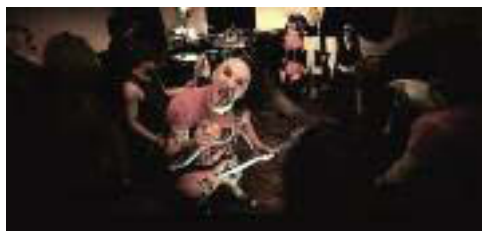
The new landlords of the Iron Road, Paul Watson & Tash Heritage, plan to host local, national and international bands of all genres at the venue and are currently looking for local bands to support the main acts. Check out The Iron Road Rock Bar page on Facebook for more information."

Wotta Week for WEAK13

West Mids 3 piece WEAK13 will be representing the UK after been nominated in the "Best Hard Rock Song" category at the 13th Independent Music Awards (IMA).

The band, consisting of drummer Neel Parmar, bassist Wesley Smith and vocalist/guitarist Nick J Townsend have been entered for their raucous but melodic anti-love epic "You Don't Love Me". They have unsurprisingly described their inclusion in the IMA as "exciting and impressive" and are optimistic about doing well.

This recognition from the IMA is not the first time that WEAK13 been involved with prestigious music award ceremonies as they recently won the "Best Music Video" category at the London Limelight Awards.



The band who have been together since 1999 are currently completing their first full, 13 track studio album which they hope to release this August.



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CLIK CLIK COLLECTIVE

Clik Clik Collective is a multi arts facilitator offering creative flair to events, festivals, weddings and more. Providing performance, live music, visual arts and installations, children's workshops/activities and outreach work, our mission is to encourage people to get creative and be inspired to do so! Bringing arts to the people!



Last November Clik Clik artists Amy Birch, Kate Cox and Sarah Edwards curated the **SOUNABOUT** project at the Worcester Arts Workshop. Presenting five nights of sound based experiences and explorations collaborating with Collective Unconscious (see Martin Wilkes review page 8) Spare Room Arts and Nick & Kelly Hersey (visual artists/film makers) from Derbyshire. On entering the Soundabout, through a giant tent structure with speakers positioned to move the sound around you, there were diverse experiences for each night; Clik Clik artists in a typing/drawing/word association frenzy; delving into our personal space and crossing social boundaries with *Collective Unconscious*; a beautiful and serene film from Derbyshire based on *Alice Through the Looking Glass* including reflections and sweets; plus nights of sewing umbrellas and music! This was a surreal and challenging installation and we intend to develop more sound based and immersive work this coming year.



In December Clik Clik Collective joined forces with Collective 43 for the Worcester Victorian Fayre bringing the streets to life with fat brass and beats, dancing and light! Our Victoriana/voodoo style may have unsettled some of the onlookers fearful of what was approaching as we marched, like a New Orleans funeral (think 'Live and Let Die' verses Sherlock Holmes) towards them. However once the slow, somber beats got faster, the umbrellas lit up the sky and the dancing erupted, the audience could not help but dance and smile in wonderment. As we weaved our way through the busy crowds, dropping from slow to fast and back again, we gathered followers; reaching the Guildhall for the finale with a good crowd in tow. Clik Clik Collective and Collective 43 would like to thank Mark Hoy

for the photography and Vladamir Toma & Rob Harley for the film making. Look out for our processions at a festival near you soon!

Also, last month I took part as a visiting artist to the Worcester Museum and Art Gallery with my typewriters to create an interactive visual installation, joining other Clik Clik team members who have been working there since October as part of the Joseph Beuys exhibition. I spoke to Amy Birch who had a few words to say about the project:



"Sian (Hughes) and I have been working as visual artists for the Joseph Beuys Artist Rooms exhibition down at the Art Gallery and Museum for the last 4 months. We have been working with groups of young people from Dancefest Worcester (Fusion) and Baxter College, Kidderminster engaging with Joseph Beuys' work and his ideas, being inspired to think about their own approach to their practice in a different way.

At the end of January, the young people showcased their responses from the project through a variety of media. Dancefest 'Fusion' created exciting live pop up dance performances in flash mob styles, while I worked alongside Amy and Sian as a visiting contemporary textile and typewriter artist with Baxter College, curating and staging a playful exhibition using a colourful wool, wire and text.



Working alongside the City Art Gallery and Museum, this project was a response to the Joseph Beuys Artist Rooms exhibition which finished on the 1st February.

For more info contact us on clikclikcollective@gmail.com or check out our website coming soon on www.clikclikcollective.com

OTHER ARTS NEWS

Collective 43 had another packed gig at the Chestnut on 14th December with people yet again left unable to get in....They have just been confirmed for this year's Swingamajig festival in Birmingham on May 4th for some pop up musical madness and grooves!

<http://www.facebook.com/theCollective43>

<http://swingamajig.co.uk/whats-on>

The WAW has new courses starting so drop them a line plus they have an exciting exhibition from the wonderful Fancy Features. See a selection of their giant collaborative artworks on display, which have been coloured-in by hundreds of members of the public at events around the UK over the last two years plus take part in the launch of our 'Keith the Seal Colouring-in Competition!' Opening 15th Feb from 6-9pm. FREE.



FANCY FEATURES

Giant Colouring-in Exhibition

At Worcester Arts Workshop

Open View - 15th February 6pm-9pm

Exhibition runs until 15th March 2014



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www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

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The fabulous Kidderminster arts group, KAF Creatives is re launching with a new brand, a website which offers retail opportunities for artists and a new format. From 31st January it will change from KAF Creatives to 'Kidderminster Creatives' celebrated by an exhibition at the Boars Head Gallery from 31st. Kidderminster Creatives is a voluntary group which promotes the arts and supports artists in the local area. To keep the group growing, inspiring people and making a positive contribution, it takes more than just artists. So they are on the lookout for volunteers with a range of skills to support their activities eg photographers & film makers, stewards and crew for events, people with media or financial skills. In fact they would welcome any help from people who value the arts as much as they do.

You can contact the Boars Head Gallery on gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk and KAF on kafcreatives@gmail.com

We look forward to a creative year from Kidderminster and say hoorah for all that they do to make the arts matter!!

Laura Yates is one of The Decadent Poetry Divas, a group of women whose performances are thought provoking, slightly risqué, but above all, humorous. Laura features at Mouth and Music along with Hitchhiker. Open mic performers are invited to sign up at the Boar's Head, Kidderminster from 7.30 and the The MC is local poet Sarah Tamar. Since Valentine's Day will be just days away, the theme this month is Love.



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Review - 5am Saint

An exploration of intimacy as part of Klik Klik Collective's interactive installation Soundabout.

Descending December-dark stairs to the cellar, I find two shadows. I feel the silk strip they hand to me. What is this for? Entering a tent scrawled-over with the words of others, I prepare to add my daub. A blindfolded figure expertly glides through the strobe light. My own personal Jesus. Some experiences have the ability to change the nature of every other to come. 5AM Saint is one of them. With it Mark Ellis/Collective Unconscious defies convention, expectation, maybe even gravity. I joined the creator for a beer.

I'm intrigued about the name, 5AM Saint. Is it a character or simply a title for the performance?

I'd call it a persona, not a character. I think a character (as in a play) is something that might reflect bits of an actor but it's not a real representation of them, whereas a persona is more about focusing and channeling a certain side of yourself as a performer. I'm exploring a side of myself. Not one I necessarily understand or fully know. I'd like to understand it more.

I've heard it described as "taking place in a nightclub at the end of the world". What gave you that idea? It seems like the last place people would want to go!

At 5AM when the nightclub is closing is when you're very open to lots of things that could happen. You're starting to sober up slightly and there's less stimulation to crowd your senses. That's the atmosphere I'm trying to manifest. The idea came after I'd performed it a few times. Every time I perform anything the whole piece gets reexamined both during and after the performance. You can't plan too much. There's always someone ready to come along and throw a spanner in the works, challenging you to rethink it.

Obviously music plays a huge part in creating that nightclub feeling. In the tent there was a song on loop. What influenced your choice of track?

That particular remix of the song just seems to fit in with the whole thing. If you look at depictions of the saints they always have a halo that's interpreted as a ball of light behind their head rather than a ring. I kind of reinterpreted that as a glitterball and the song has exactly the right aesthetic for that. It's caustic, it's really full-on but there's also a religious element to the song. It almost describes what the participant a way into the piece. It almost describes what's happening in a way.

Do you think this is the kind of thing that anyone can enjoy?

Part of me wants to say "yeah, nothing bad's gonna happen, it's all fine, I'll challenge you but it's fine". While you don't necessarily know this as a participant walking in, I'm really very focused on your experience. I take care of you. I read your body language. I'm totally led by the participant. I hope that they know the offer is there for them to have a sense of freedom in what they explore.

You mentioned challenging people's boundaries. Why do you think it's important to do that?

I'm really concerned about the level of disconnection in society. I'm really aware that that children are granted a lot of opportunity to explore, to play to challenge themselves and then as soon as you get to a particular age you're expected to know all about yourself yet most people I've ever met come out with a lack of experience. They're shy or they're afraid of intimacy or they don't know how to open up to people. Those things hang over their heads for years and sometimes people can get over them and improve their engagement with the world around them. For some people it's about getting so drunk that they lose all inhibitions and they are granted that fleeting opportunity when they're barely conscious. I think that's a problem.

So it's like a social service or a form of therapy?!

The performance space is a safe place. It's sufficiently fictionalised and heightened that when you step out of that space you can detach the experience from your everyday life. So even though you might have had quite an intimate encounter with somebody, maybe your first experience of same-sex intimacy, because it's framed and facilitated by a performer instead of it just being someone at a party, there's a safety to it. There are people who really want to engage but they just don't have the confidence to. Disappointment and regret are responses that I've really come to value. Walking away with that kind of disappointment is a really powerful emotion. It creates a huge amount of thinking in somebody. The point is to provoke thought.

I've heard that you have plans for more performances than ever this year. What can we expect locally?

One of my aims is to begin a regular performance art night in Worcester. It seems that there isn't anything like that at the moment apart from one-off things like Soundabout. We're always looking for new places to perform, new venues, new nights, parties. People who are looking for something unique. It gives us an opportunity to try out new ideas and meet new people. It's always great when people contact you and say 'are you up for this...' there's always a way to make our work fit with what people are doing. So yeah... drop us a line.

Martin Wilkes



ANDY O'HARE - 2014 - It's going to be awesome!!!



Well hope that you all had a very pleasant seasonal break and are all 'resolving' to make and listen to as much music as you can in the next twelve months! I'll certainly be doing my best to get to as many gigs as possible - and I don't think that I've ever been more confident that at least one act (but probably more) from our vibrant area will go cosmological in the coming year!!

One of my happy tasks over the New Year period was to select my favourite ten tunes from all the ones I've heard in 2013 - at the beginning of the year I created a folder and over the months dropped into it ditties that took my fancy - now these weren't necessarily the greatest bands or acts I've seen (there's certainly no shortage of those in the Two Counties at all) but just songs that stuck in my head because of their memorability and hummability - the ones that passed my own Old Grey Whistle Test!!

And what I still find remarkable is that I still find myself (a bit tunelessly maybe) humming or whistling these numbers in my head weeks later! For me that's really what music-making is all about - no matter what genre of music it's all about searching for the 'lost chord' or in other words that killer tune that stands the test of time... And that's what I think bands should be looking for - but so often I feel that they're not always the best judges themselves of what they produce - so do please keep asking your fans what they think of your songs - you might well be surprised!!

I've got another folder on my desktop of over 50 H&W songs that I've picked since 2005 - the plan (once I get the rest of the desktop cleared) will be to release my personal Top 40 - say one a week... Just wonder if anyone can guess my own #1 from the last nine years - drop me a line, if you get it (and I don't think many will) there's a swift half-of-mild in it for the winner!!

Guess I've always mentioned it at this time of the year - but now really is the time to get those festival applications off! If we didn't have any of you wonderful people creating music - well we wouldn't have a show - and it's the same with festivals, please don't underestimate the contribution

you can make and don't be shy and retiring about plugging yourself - and if we've given you a mention, a play or a session - definitely include that in your pitch!!

Talking of which - this is shaping up to be a bumper year for acts that we're going to be able to place at festivals - more details very soon - but please do keep up the contacts with us (without being too spammy please) and be sure that a whole bunch of you will be very much in the mix for some great opportunities this year!!!

The Intro scheme offers some great chances for local talent and there's virtually nothing on the local scene that we haven't checked out (we're very busy bunnies!) - but if neither Andrew or me

'agree' on an act - and we're poles apart in our musical taste - it's probably fair to say that there's some work still to be done to make it airworthy! A very good start is not to send in swear/offensive content (currently about a third of what we receive) because that falls at the first hurdle - thank you Auntie Beeb!!

No covers/tributes either please - we're only about live/local and original - but if you've done all that - you've promoted your music like there's no tomorrow but still the industry aren't raving about your toons then what? Well the chances are that they're not yet impressed enough - and this is where some problems happen...

Quite the worst thing that some outfits do at this point is to throw a hissy fit and complain vehemently that little Jimmy hasn't been selected to play Main Stage at Glastonbury - now this may seem utterly baffling as far as you're concerned - but great and good music is few and far between... From my point of view most of what I also hear on mainstream media is bland commercial pap - and I'm only interested in promoting the kick-ass numbers that I'm lucky enough to hear on a weekly basis round the Two Counties - and there sure are plenty of them!! But sadly the current music industry is happy to play it safe most of the time with already-recognised artists and/or bog-standard R&B/urban/dubstep/drum-and-bass 'fillers' - no pain but also no gain whatsoever...

So an idea maybe what we all have to do in the coming year - bands and acts keep creating great hummable tunes - then promote them using the vast array of media that's now available - and we'll also do our very best to ensure that the cream of these get to the 'people that matter' - and for sure I'll be very happy to chat more about this at a gig near you very soon!!

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



Worcester Music Festival

WANT TO PLAY AT WMF 2014? GET YOUR APPLICATION IN

MORE than 500 bands and artists have applied to play at Worcester Music Festival 2014, which takes place from Friday, August 29 – Sunday, August 31.

Organisers are also pleased to announce that **Child Care Bureau** foster care agency and **Insert Radio**, which provides WMF with PA systems, have once again pledged their support, while **Harrison Clark Rickerbys** solicitors have also come on board to provide legal help.

Charity applications are now closed, with the festival committee deciding on a worthy, local cause to benefit from fundraising at the August event in the coming weeks.

With plans ramping up for the 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, organisers are now also looking for volunteers to help out at the festival.

From sound technicians, stage managers, promoters, MCs, DJs, charity collectors and lighting technicians to venue stewards and general helpers, volunteers are vital to the festival's success - if you think you could help and gain some invaluable skills whilst enjoying being part of the experience, visit

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/generalapply

Plans are also underway for WMF events in the lead up to the festival. These include 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.

Charlie Boswell



Kings & Folk

The festival is also helping put on this year's Mayor's charity concert, 'Boswell, Kings and Harris at The Guildhall', which was set to take place in January, but is now on Saturday, May 31, headlined by the **Remi Harris Trio** with **Charlie Boswell** and **Kings & Folk**.



Remi Harris Trio

All fantastic musicians from the area, Remi has just begun a four week tour of Australia, and at the beginning of April, will be playing the Royal Albert Hall, home of the BBC Proms.

Tickets for this unmissable event 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.

To apply to perform at **Worcester Music Festival**, fill in an application form by Monday, March 31 at www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply/. For more on WMF 2014, visit www.wumufest.co.uk, join the festival on Facebook and follow on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.

Feature - Lock up your Tube Amps... It's PLANE CRASHER!!

Described by *Terrorizer Magazine* as "a Wild fusion of *The Jesus Lizard*, *The Ramones* and *Shellac*"... Hereford noise merchants **Plane Crasher** are keeping the spirit of playing REALLY LOUD alive and well. Unsigned and DIY, but with three releases under their belts, if you like your punk super-analogue and super-heavy, then these boys deserve your attention.



Ed Ling caught up with the band to talk about being too loud for Malvern, the abuse of bathroom fittings and big plans for the year ahead.

The Marches are not widely celebrated as a harsh spawning ground for heavy noise-rock... Though maybe with the exception of T'Pau. What's your experience plying your trade round these parts?



We get asked to turn down quite a lot. In a decent sized venue nobody bats an eyelid at a band all using tube amps through half-stacks, but by the reaction we get from some sound guys we meet, you'd think they'd never seen a 4x12 before. We had the power turned off on us half-way through the set at a gig for 'Malvern Rocks' festival last year. Evidently whoever booked us hadn't checked out the band at all, and put us on at 2pm

on a Sunday afternoon, opening for some acoustic jazz folk bands. You get the idea... All that said, the lack of similar bands can often be really rewarding. When you're playing shows with such varied lineups you get to see and make friends with great bands you'd never normally dream of checking out.

Speaking of bands, is there anyone that currently really excites you – or that you want to give a shout?

We're really enjoying the current offerings from Red Fang, Lamps and Pissed Jeans right now. Also, the latest Future of the Left album is a welcome return to form. As far as bands that we know/have played with, the following have the Plane Crasher seal of approval: Fetus Christ, New Cowboy Builders, Gag Reflex, Workin' Man Noise Unit, Mansize, Evolution of Man, Grant National, Torpor, and Mangle.

For a garage band you work up a well-produced sound – who's the sound geek? You seem to be using the microphone in the lav trick for the demos...

We're all the sound geek! All of us have plenty of sound engineering experience, we know what sounds good and how to get it and we're all massive control freaks, so DIY is for us the way to get the best results. It's much harder to keep your vision pure on a major label. Look at Elvis, he died on his toilet trying to perfect his vocal sound.



Beautiful. New material aside, what's next? Any plans to venture further afield to brutalise the bourgeoisie of the big cities here or abroad?

We've got an Ireland and Northern England tour booked for March 2014 and we're also putting together a UK tour with the Evolution of Man, plus we have some dates with US band The Bismarck on their UK tour. We've had various offers of gigs in Europe but they're all way too far apart to really justify a tour at this point. As far as England goes, we'll play anywhere for petrol money and free lasagne.

Thanks guys!

<https://www.facebook.com/planecrasher>
www.planecrasher.com

Also published in analogue ink and paper in Issue #25 of *Lights Go Out* – copies available at www.lightsgoout.co.uk and in digitally remastered form at www.twobeatsoff.co.uk

Words: Ed Ling Pics by Darren 'Block' Blocksige

THE BHG

Righty-ho, to start off where we left off! As many of you witnessed, the UV artshow by Dave Simpson in December was absolutely mind blowing and Dave had really discovered a new dimension with his geometrical shapes and optical illusions. The whole show kicked off with an almighty onslaught on the eyes from Dave and tunes from DocTea, Phullopium Dude and KeiClarke who worked some real magic together.



We thought January would be our quiet month, but not at all as Sid's solo show has brought in the crowds all queuing up to look at The landlord's show and even spot all the little symbols hidden in his pieces. That's kept some people



guessing for a long time but I think everyone got there in the end. I also must say big respect to Sid's partner Sandra. Up until the exhibition Sid was showing no sign of stopping drawing at all, and with all the patience in the world Sandra did a brilliant job of beautifully framing each one! So talented our landlord and landlady!

December also saw the event 'Dress to Impress and Upcycle your Vest'. This was a great event and everyone went away not only with bags full of new clothes but bags full of new ideas too! Such a successful event that we ran it again in January, and will be having another 'Swap & Sew' on Monday 24th February at 7pm. The event costs just £2 and you are welcome to bring along as many bits to swap and learn some great customising skills too!

Kidderminster CREATIVES SUPPORTING LOCAL CREATIVITY

The current exhibition running throughout February will be brought to you by Kidderminster Creatives and entitled 'Fall in Love with Creativity'. Having been a member of Kidderminster Creatives (formally KAF Creatives) personally for several years I have found it a great opportunity to work with other artists to boost our own profiles and set about having some great events and feedback. On February 17th we will be having an open meeting and any local artists or art supporters are welcome to come along with their work for information, socialising and feedback.

As always, Life Drawing will run on the first Thursday of the Month. Ooh and The Boars Head Documentary screening was a massive success and copies are available to buy behind the bar!



Many Many Thanks to you all and see you all soon.

Coz & Melo

Add Boars Head Gallery on facebook to see examples of my artwork and that of others involved as well as upcoming events:

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

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

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Feature - One of our artworks is missing!

In this period of austerity it is becoming increasingly difficult for all of us to make ends meet but for those trying to brighten our days with their art it is a truly trying time.

This article will take a closer look at how the economy has been affecting artists in Worcester as art shops are closing, and art works are going missing from their exhibition sites either destroyed or stolen.

Graffiti on the gym

Walking along Farrier Street Worcester residents used to pass a building festooned with street art before the building was smartened up to become a gym. These artworks produced in 2012 were in varied street art styles from lettering to cartoon characters. The brightly coloured artworks were full of comedy and contemporary comments; the nautical theme was especially fun, Captain Pugwash keeping an eye on the shark from Finding Nemo while other walls showed flying eyeballs, an unhappy looking manga style character and comic skateboards.



Stolen from the Cathedral

While it's understandable that street art might have a shelf life, art exhibited in the cathedral should surely be safe from disappearing? Unfortunately not, as art works have been disappearing from there too. The "Gift of Colour exhibition" featured in SLAP's August edition, had a couple of paintings stolen. The artworks were by amateur artists attending Origin Arts classes run by Rebecca Newell in Worcestershire. Maureen Wright and Diane Freeman, were very disappointed at the theft after weeks of hard work but on the bright side, Rebecca says, "they are beautiful paintings so whoever has taken them has obviously got

brilliant taste." Although an appeal was printed in local press to raise public awareness the paintings were still not returned. So where are the paintings now? Let's hope they are now adorning the walls of someone who loves them just as much as the artists.

Missing in Action

Oxfordshire artist Peter Logan produced a sculpture called "Nails" situated outside Homebase in St Johns, Worcester in 1987. The clever kinetic sculpture looked like enormous nails balancing on top of each other, and moved with the wind.



Peter Logan's work can be seen at Stansted Airport, Montgomery Castle in Powys, and worldwide so Worcester was lucky to be able to display a piece by such a prestigious international artist. Unfortunately today there is only a plaque to show where the sculpture once stood and the artist says he has no idea where his sculpture is. "I read of a huge Worcester river flood, so maybe it was dismantled during the emergency work." He says, "Nails" was intended to be a gift as a public sculpture for Worcester though I was unable to discover what had happened".

Have they simply been disassembled and disposed of? Or were they stolen for the scrap metal value?

Closed shops

After thirty-three years of trading, popular art gallery Birties of Worcester closed their gallery on Friar

Street this year. David Birtwhistle, popular with locals and tourists, is now exhibiting his paintings and prints in other art shops around the city. David's work has appeared in galleries up and down the land and has undertaken commissions for many distinguished clients.

It is sad when art goes missing, whether it is shops closing, sculptures disappearing, art projects painted over, or paintings stolen. Missing artwork leaves a gap in the lives of the artists and those who might otherwise have enjoyed them. So if anyone can help shed any light on what has happened to any of these missing local art pieces, get in touch and let us know. Answers on a post card please?



Sarah Ganderton

Preview - Eleanor McEvoy - Marrs Bar - 9th Feb

Eleanor McEvoy grew up and graduated in Music from Trinity Dublin in Dublin. Already writing her own songs, Eleanor spent 4 years in Ireland's National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), she also recorded studio sessions as a singer, fiddle and keyboard player and joined Irish diva Mary Black's touring band.

Mary and her record company manager/husband decided Eleanor's song "A Woman's Heart" would be a fitting title and lead song for the compilation they were putting together of contemporary Irish female performers. Simultaneously the legendary Tom Zutaut of Geffen Records, heard Eleanor in a pub, bought her demo cassette and on the spot decided he wanted to sign her to Geffen.

Everything changed and Eleanor was off to tour the world, while at the same time *A Woman's Heart* went into the Irish charts and still remains the biggest Irish selling record in the home market.

Following Zutaut's departure from Geffen, Eleanor signs to Columbia Records in New York. By this time she had a band and she cut the album "*What's Following Me?*" Columbia reinvested, but Eleanor let the band go and

recorded with producer Rupert Hine and engineer Ruadhri Cushnan. Events now took a lurch sideways, as Eleanor was attacked walking home from the studio in London. Traumatized and with a damaged hand, Eleanor had to recruit a new band to tour the album "*Snapshots*", but was later dropped by Columbia. "*Sophie*", a song from the album became a focus of hope and comfort for anorexics worldwide on YouTube with videos made with the song as the soundtrack.



The album "*Yola*" followed a far more tranquil and thoughtful album, which remains to this day a talisman in the worldwide Hi-Fi community.

Then, embarking on full time song-writing with Rodney Crowell, Lloyd Cole, Henry (The Christians) Priestman and Johnny Rivers. Her most recent and longest writing companion has been Dave Rotheray of the Beautiful South. This culminated in the recording and performance of Dave's "*Life Of Birds*" album. Eleanor co-wrote five of the songs, sang and played on several of the tracks and was a special guest on the album's tour earlier this year.

For a chance to win 2 free tickets simply email marrsbarcomp@gmail.com - subject Eleanor McEvoy
Check out - www.eleanormcevoy.com

Review - Matt Woosey - ReCon, Malvern - Dec 5th

Local blues man Matt was joined by Dave Small on cajon to reprise some of his past songs alongside those from his new EP *Hook Line & Sinker*.

Matt opened with the title track from that EP, a rattling good song well delivered in cut back form by a man renowned for his acoustic sets. Traditional style blues '*Woke Up This Morning*' came from *On The Wagon*, as did the splendidly delivered '*That's My Baby*' in typically raw Woosey style. So we bounced between the two discs, hitting the buffers full and hard with '*Cruel Disposition*', a bitingly sharp behemoth of a blues song. Matt says he does not like playing it, misinformation from Matt maybe, it's an absolute cracker as it stalls and soars, brilliant guitar and vocals. We drop away from Matt's recent releases to another favourite '*Walking The Blues*', which could just as easily have been penned by the likes of Hooker or Muddy, but it's all Matt's. Not so J. B. Hutto's, '*Too Much Alcohol*' a wonderful bit of Chicago Blues, and like all good blues, embellished by Wooz. No stopping him now, Howling Wolf's '*Li'l Red Rooster*' was laid on us Matt lays his guitar across his knees, dobro style, and slides his way through that farmyard.

Throughout the evening, Dave has provided pulse and rhythm sat astride his cajon, occasional adding to the vocals. There is the air of an easy, comfortable relationship between Matt and Dave, plenty of good



humour and audience response. The result is the bare bones blues Matt excels at, powerful heartfelt gritty vocals and masterful acoustic guitar, '*Black Smoke Risin*', signals we are nearing the end of an entertaining evening

Both *On The Wagon* and the new EP, *Hook Line And Sinker* are excellent recordings, the former particularly, retaining that raw, edgy, live feel throughout, but, that's the point, Matt Woosey is all about performance. He tours the UK, and Europe, extensively and has had more recent excursions into the Southern hemisphere, I highly recommend you see and hear him play, and then go home with your CD's, all the more eager to re-live the gig.

Words & Pics by Graham Munn

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REVIEW - Film Premiere - Dec 29th

'The Boars Head'

Everyone knows what magical and charming places public houses can be (you're more than likely sat in one whilst you read this!) but perhaps there is no 'pub' quite so full of spirit as the **Boars Head** in Kidderminster. Unique, amazing, wonderful, bizarre and full of character. Take a look at Kidderminster and what do you see...? Take a listen and you'll discover the best small live music venue around (official). With art and photography hanging from the walls, musicians from near and far, poets, punks, performers, artists, film makers the list goes on.

Rewind back to the start of 2013 and local film makers **Bazz Hancher** and **Michael Walcott** of **White Raven Films** decided to undertake the task of filming a feature length documentary. Observing the comings and goings at the best pub in town, the documentary follows landlord and lady **Sid** and **Sandra** and the array of local talent that passes through their doors. Baz and Mike with cameras in tow were a regular fixture at gigs, during poetry nights, propping up the bar... making a documentary in a pub can't be good for the budget! Gaining countless hours of footage along the way all leading to tonight's 'purple carpet' premiere. After teasing us with a trailer we've all been waiting in anticipation for tonight not quite being sure what to expect. What we got was a genuine life story, with equal measure of humour and heart full of live performances and interviews. I don't want to give too

much away because you should all experience it for yourselves. For me **The Boars Head** has been the place where i discovered bands like the **Stiff Joints** and the **Cracked actors**. I've had the pleasure to watch and photograph **The Beat**, **Cultureshock**, **Henry Cluney**, **OPM**, **[Spunge]** and many more all on their stage. It captured everything i love about the people and this place perfectly and they're all encapsulated in this amazing little true to life documentary forever. Baz, Mike and all the wonderfully outlandish people that feature in this documentary have opened the doorway to a tiny corner of our county. Hopefully inspiring others to the discovery of this unique venue and hub of artists right here in Kidderminster.

Grab your special edition copy of **The Boars Head** documentary for yourselves including limited edition poster and CD featuring 17 live recordings from the **Boars Head** or visit www.whiteravenfilms.co.uk

Toni Charles

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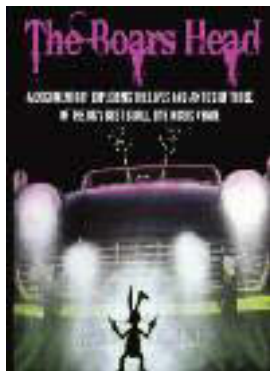
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Preview - del Amitri - Wolverhampton Civic Hall - Thursday 6th February

It's been a long time coming (since 2002 in fact) but after a long lay off and three Justin Currie solo albums, del Amitri are back in 2014 for a handful of dates including a Midlands show in Wolverhampton this month. Entitled The A-Z of Us, expect something for everyone, even fans of the eponymous 1985 debut album (one of THE finest 'lost' albums and one of my all time favourites). I caught up with main man Justin in January for an update on how rehearsals were going and an insight into why this year was chosen for the comeback.

BB: After your most successful solo year in 2013, why did you feel now was the right time for a dels reunion? Had it been mooted for a while?

JC: *None of my solo albums have been "successful" and 2013 was no more or less a failure than 2008 or 2010, the years I released the first two.*

I thought having three under my belt was enough to prove I have a small voice outside of dA. The reunion was in the air, the water and possibly the stars, although they're harder to interpret, living in the city as I do.

BB: Many musicians have been in the band over the years. Who are the other members for this tour apart from yourself, Iain Harvie & Andy Alston?

JC: *Ash Soan ('94-'97) and Kris Dollimore ('97-'02).*

BB: I never really read you'd split after 'Can You Do Me Good?', did you intend to or was it a kind of lay-off that got extended? Was the album promoted?

JC: *No, it was buried by company indifference and we were dropped. We did a great little video for 'Just Before You Leave' and a three week UK tour & that was it. Everything stopped. We licked our wounds and washed our hands of it. Iain and I started writing electronic stuff for a few years and I found myself drawn by the inexorable gravitational pull of a solo album.*

BB: Can we expect a run through of singles or will there be some other band/fan favourites included? I noticed 'Hammering Heart' from the first album is on the posters...

JC: *It's the A-Z of Us, so we'll do something from every album, including b-sides. No covers, we won't have time. We've been rehearsing a few things we've never performed before.*

BB: How are rehearsals going? Good vibes (maan)?

JC: *It's brilliant to be in a band again, especially one where everyone is capable of throwing in ideas. We are getting there gradually. I doubt we'll recover the tightness and energy we had developed by the mid nineties after years of touring but age has its advantages. It's not as frantic as of yore. There's a lot more breathing space. That's "maturity" for you.*



BB: Where are your favourite places to play? I presume Wolverhampton's one as your solo gigs are always really well attended & received there.

JC: *Yeah, always love the Midlands, I grew up in Leicestershire. Cambridge can be good too. Glasgow (obviously) and Liverpool.*

BB: Is it odd playing bass again?

JC: *No, it feels natural. Most of the repertoire is deeply ingrained from a decade of intense repetition. I was quite surprised how much I remembered. Muscle memory is not to be sniffed at. I was never much of a bass player - Iain is the best bass player in the band and when I was stuck in the studio I'd often ask him to play a better part instead of me.*

BB: Any plans for new material with del Amitri or will your next project be solo?

JC: *I need to get some more writing done before I decide anything. I've been too busy. But, I kind of doubt the dels will ever do another album. But, who knows?*

BB: Are you going to Europe with this reunion or is it just the UK?

JC: *It's just the UK. We need a lot of money to get this show on the road so it's tricky. We were never very big in Europe so it's unlikely to happen. We'd formerly have relied heavily on the label to underwrite tours outside the UK.*

BB: Finally, as you do used to do a Beatles cover every time you played in Liverpool, any chance of a Slade one for Wolverhampton?!

JC: *We did quite a good version of Guddy T' Jane at the Mean Fiddler in the mid-nineties. Fucking great song to play. "She's a queeeeen!!!!"*

Some tickets still remain for what promises to be a very special evening. Don't miss out, you'll regret it.

Baz Bojak.

REVIEW – Babajack Christmas party - Re-Con Malvern - 19th December

Where better to hold the annual party bash than just up the road in this excellent music venue. They could just meander home after the gig, without the trappings of transport. Becky had been suffering a virus for some days before, which would see her voice fail her late in the evening, but not before closing the set in style. The full band were here, giving both Becky and Trevor more freedom of expression, which Becky now uses to the full, moving around the floor, turning, flicking out those red tresses, before being drawn back to the microphone, cajon and drum. Trevor too is able to add to his playing, plucking, tapping and sliding on his wine box guitars. We are also able to hear more use of his Dannecker harp, no more so than in the lovely Babajack 'solo' *'Hammer and Tongs'*, where the band can take a break as Becky and Trevor give, what is for me, one of the finest songs off their *Running Man* album. It seems a little more extended, Trevor's harmonica more memorable, with every nuance eagerly awaited by a partisan audience. I will mention another particular favourite, and that is Son House's *'Death Letter Blues'*, I cannot think that anyone presents it with more passion,



in a stripped back, raw, definitive manner than Babajack does, beautiful blues bared for all to hear.

Running Man has been an undoubted success, and provides much of the evenings music, I have previously reviewed and extolled this CD, there is nothing to dislike, much to praise. Past glories are also reprised from *Rooster*, the bands previously acclaimed album, *'Money's All Gone'*, *'Rooster Blues'* and *'Gallows Pole'*, sit well in the company of the new songs like *'Rock 'n' Roll Star'* and *'Falling Hard'*. For all that, there is only one way that Babajack can close an evening, Becky digs deep into her reserves, finding the last elements of her voice to give all, as she beats her African drum into submission. Trevor attacks his strings as he slides towards exhaustion, there is not an ounce of energy left in reserve. Toshi Murase and Adam Bertenshaw have provided the depth and support throughout, *'Black Betty'* is the climatic finish with full audience participation, to a great night of roots at Re-Con.

Words & Photography: Graham Munn

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VAULT OF EAGLES / MANSIZE / FOX TAIL ROCKETS

In June 2012 two unsigned bands from Worcestershire undertook their debut DIY tour across Europe. After an unpromising start, Vault of Eagles and Mansize left the UK and headed for Slovakia. The two bands and their trusty driver 'Pete the Czech' endured a 25 hour van journey to make it to their first date at HRKOfest, Sklabina. They returned eight days later with five successful shows under their belts, having travelled thousands of miles across six countries and gathering many new fans along the way.

You can read all the intimate details in their joint blog:
www.man-eagle-tour2012.blogspot.co.uk

If you weren't there in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, don't fret. Vault of Eagles and Mansize have joined forces again for a February tour this year, along with Czech band Fox Tail Rockets.



20 FEB - KATIE FITZGERALDS (STOURBRIDGE)

21 FEB - THE BOARS HEAD (KIDDERMINSTER)

UNPLUGGED

23 FEB - THE BRIDGE INN (WORCESTER)

27 FEB - THE WARRS BAR (WORCESTER)

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MARI (Vault of Eagles) - "We had a great time when we met Fox-Tail-Rockets at Prague Rock Cafe. They had plans to come over to the UK this year so we thought we'd organise some local dates and give them a taste of our home turf! It's kind of a reunion tour!"

Artwork has been drawn up by VoE bassist Hetty Randle and there is new custom merch in the making, including Special Edition tees and a limited run of CD's featuring the three bands, available at every live show. Get along to one of the dates across the West Midlands, Worcestershire and Wales this month.

For more info & tickets visit www.vaultofeagles.com and www.facebook.com/mansize

FEBRUARY 2014

Review - Dirty Old Folkers - The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham - Dec 23rd

This was the final curtain for the DOF Panto 2013. The 3rd night and an audience of 200 awaited. The bands take on government, energy oligarchs and the long suffering public, but more of that later.

They opened with there usual show the generosity of Cameron's 'Big Society', the Blair war on terrorism. This was interspersed with seasonal spirituals like 'Rudolph', 'Santa Claus', 'All I Want For Xmas' and 'Deck The Halls' etc. taken from their rewritten song sheet, audience participation being compulsory, egged on by front man Stuart with additional vocals from Matt. The whole show is hilariously entertaining and anarchic as ever, *Pussy Cat*, ably performed by Hannah, dropping comfortably? Into the feline lead as she purred through the song, wonderfully risqué and funny. The DOF show comes with a public warning label, not suitable for children, as indeed the Panto was for an 18+ audience.



In summary it was the tale of a poor council tenant Mother Goose (Mike), hit by the Bedroom Tax, and the hike in energy prices by an all powerful oily baron. 'She' still takes pity on a scrawny goose (Ilias), who has an uncontrollable bowel, dropping evidence everywhere. This happens to be a 'golden' goose of course, as the deposits left make a super efficient, long burning, green? Fuel. Enough to supply the whole neighbourhood and seriously damage the Oilygarchs (Stuart) profits. The WWF is also well supported by Oily, insomuch as he shoots 3 pet pandas (Panda) a month during tantrums, hence generating the need for more panda mating. He loses his temper, the panda gets it. Death, (Death) the omnipresent skeletal companion, is appalled, but helpless in the face of such commercial power. The side stories are a 'gay' relationship with a foot in both 'camps' (Hannah), and ruthless extreme right wing journalist (Clive). All put together in the style of a politically incorrect 'Acorn Antiques'. Panda 3 takes revenge and the goose, you will be pleased to hear, does not suffer constipation, so provides for all; a nice happy Christmas ending. The band found time to change and return to stage for a final set.



A brilliantly entertaining, unmissable evening of chaotic fun, Oh no it wasn't, Oh yes it was! No doubt it will sell out for 2014.

Graham Munn

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Preview - C@tch Festival

The Civic Hall Festival 2014, Wed 26th Feb - Sat 1st Mar, Stourport-on-Severn

2014 sees the birth of a new Comedy Festival in God's own county of Worcestershire! Independently run and organised by the volunteers of **The Civic Group**, in association with Comedy Hut, this new four day festival takes place in the historic Town of Stourport-on-Severn from February 26th to the 1st March 2014.

C@TCH '14 will feature a cracking mix of big names and fast-rising talent, mixed in with child friendly events so all the family can enjoy the festival.

The line-up is as follows:-

Wednesday 26th February

8pm - The Gong Show

In time-honoured Open Mic tradition this is comedy at the raw and unforgiven end...

"It's sometimes cruel, it can be ruthless, and it's hilarious. The audience decides who goes and who stays, as a great line up of up and coming comics put their material to the test and try and stay on stage for the full five minutes."

Tuesday 27th February

7.30pm - Nightmare Live

The immortal words of Treguard the Dungeon Master ring out for the first time in 20 years as he opens the doors to the world of adventure, but do you dare to enter??

Nightmare Live is on stage for the very first time, and presents an opportunity to travel the paths of the Castle of Confusion whilst wearing the Helmet of Justice, solving riddles, casting spells, battling monsters and dodging death dealing obstacles. The Dungeoneer will be guided by two top comedians and advised by Lord Treguard in how best to defeat Lord Fear and his minions.



The show has begun a national tour and sold out The Bloomsbury Theatre in London on the day of release, resulting in a second show being added.

Friday 28th February

8pm - Tom Stade and guests

Star of BBC 1's **Live At The Apollo** and **Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow**, Tom is an original and exciting talent whose irrepressible charm and magnetic stage presence is bound to thrill and delight.

His other TV appearances include **Mock The Week**, **Comedy Cuts** and **Dave's One Night Stand**.

Saturday 1st March -

12noon-1pm - Kids Comedy

An hour of riotous family fun...be sure to come!

12noon-6pm - "How To Be A Stand Up" with James Cook.

From turning ideas into material, to performance skills, to building the self-confidence to stand in front of an audience, our one day workshop is interesting, challenging and fun.



Birmingham based comedian **James Cook** is an NTL Award-winning commercial radio presenter. His own stand up act mixes jokes and sarcasm with a quick wit and excellent improvisation skills that also make him an accomplished compère.

He performs for **The Glee Clubs**, **Highlight**, **Off The Kerb**, **Kill For A Seat**, **The Last Laugh** and **The Comedy Company** among many others and was one third of the **News With Jokes** podcast that was named one of the Top Ten funniest in *The Guardian*.

James runs comedy courses at the **MAC** centre in Birmingham and other festivals.

8pm (doors open 7pm) - Lee Nelson

Lee Nelson (star of his own BBC3 hit show) says "I've hosted **Live at the Apollo**, sold out my three-times extended **Lee Nelson Live** tour, had over two million people watching **BBC Three's Lee Nelson's Well Good Show** and **Lee Nelson's Well Funny People**, and now the time's now right... for me to come to Stourport !? Not to be missed!

C@tch Comedy Festival is shaping up to be an exciting new, annual Worcestershire event which will be well worth supporting, so for more information and to buy tickets please visit www.thecivicstourport.co.uk



Preview - David Campbell/Chris Cleverley/Mellow Peaches. Prince of Wales, Moseley. Sunday 2nd March

Three musical treats are in store here at the Prince of Wales next month, a real indulgence for folk & blues lovers!

If you haven't seen Mellow Peaches before, you need to. Think rootsy stomps and playful guitar work, the unassuming Peaches have long immersed themselves into traditional, organic and freshly sourced American blues and roots. They mix it up with their own special style which, along with sharp and whimsical lyrics, leaves you feeling aurally and visually satisfied. A great way to begin this fine evening! www.mellowpeaches.co.uk



Chris Cleverley is a new name on the Birmingham folk scene playing traditional and original songs on the guitar and banjo, in a style faithful to those who came before. Think Nic Jones, or Martin Simpson perhaps, he is



well known now for his complex guitar style and intense vocals shown through humbling performances.

www.facebook.com/chriscleverleymusic

The finale sees David Campbell take to the stage; a member of Birmingham's most celebrated singing family (son of Ian) and the only one still active in the traditional music for which previous generations were known. Singing mostly unaccompanied and playing traditional songs as well as some of his fathers, he will also be playing the five string banjo and ukulele.



As if this isn't good enough, this takes place at the Prince of Wales in Moseley, a real ale and cigar specialist with strong links to Moseley Folk Festival. The gig will be in a fairy lit marquee inside the delightful heated garden with pop up stalls selling cake (yay) and art.

From 6pm. £4 Tickets can be purchased in advance from www.wegottickets.com/event/256757

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Review - Punk/Ska Showcase at the Roadhouse, Birmingham. January 9th 2014

The showcases at the Roadhouse allow bands to tout their wares through 30 minute sets and tonight it was the punk/ska showcase involving Ocean Avenue, Dolls Eye Weaver, Needle Poppets and Sundown. This wasn't a night for the die-hard punk fan looking for the rawness of the Sex Pistols or the Damned, this was pop punk.

First up was Ocean Avenue, a three-piece outfit from Shropshire. So 30 minutes, 9 songs, three of which featured on their 2013 EP *'Slack Haddock'*, two covers and four of the bands' own material. These were all a bit rocky, a bit punky, but all well played songs. The similarity to modern bands like the Subways and vintage bands like the Vibrators is quite clear. Given time and exposure this band could develop into something very good indeed.



Next up was Dolls Eye Weaver a four piece band from the Birmingham area. This pop punk outfit cite their influences as Social Distortion and Rancid, amongst others, but I heard a rocked up hybrid reminiscent of the Pogues and the Boomtown Rats with a few bits of Green Day thrown in for good measure. The band played nine



original songs, all pretty lively, bantered with the small audience and showed that they are capable of good things. On the album front the band have been a little quiet since the release of the last of their 3 self-funded EP's in 2011 but hopefully the new material will be put out there soon.

Third band on the agenda was Needle Poppets, a distinctive two-piece band from Shrewsbury edging towards steampunk. One of the bands in their favourites list is the Dresden Dolls and the influence the American duo has on Needle Poppets is often very clear. The drum and keyboard pairing has a unique sound to it and it's difficult to say whether the addition of guitar and bass



would benefit their performance; that's not to say that the current set up isn't entertaining, it is, very much so. This was another nine track set taken mostly from their 2013 album *'Fame to the Nation'*. The music is accomplished and clever and their outward appearance has developed and moved from smoky bar- room/saloon to burlesque/steampunk. While there's still a little way to go this duo has an awful lot to offer.

So, where is the ska in this punk/ska showcase....oh, here it is, in the form of Sundown, the final band of the night. This is a five piece band from Cheltenham fronted by the man with the beard, James Dalby. Now ska isn't my favourite genre of music but the effort, enthusiasm and energy put into this performance was commendable and despite the drum-kit malfunction Sundown were almost able to create a big band ska sound. Vocals aside much of the music reminded me of long dead UK afro prog band, Zebra and the influence of the late 1970's '2 Tone' era was there too.



Highly entertaining and a very good end to an eclectic (or perhaps that should be eccentric) night of music.

All four bands gave a very account of themselves and I wouldn't hesitate to go and see any of them again.

Words & Pics: Reg Richardson

Feature - Fights & Fires - Interview and European Tour

With a relentless touring ethic and a DIY ethos Fights and Fires are one of the UK's leading punk exports to Europe – and Worcester homeboys all. With two albums under their belts, they're about to hit Europe for a remarkable 20th and 21st time since forming in 2008 – and show no sign of easing up. SLAPs Ed Ling caught up with frontman Phillip Cox to talk Katy Perry, hardcore and the scene.



So... New year, new opportunities! What's 2014 got in store for Fights and Fires, Phil?

We are heading to Europe, a couple of times, to wrap up the touring for our second album "We Could All Be Dead Tomorrow". Then we'll be working on a few new songs and hoping to head into the studio before the spring... Maybe to do a 7"... It's all still in the planning stages.

You're huge on the continent, but less well known in the UK. Some wags might even call you the David Hasselhoff of Hardcore. Is this fair... and where in Europe do you get the best response?

We have definitely made more headway in places like Germany, Belgium, France and Switzerland than we have back home. For now I think the Hoff is safe, but it's just nice knowing that a solid percentage of the audience are turning up to shows to see us, and not just the support bands!

We had the pleasure of playing Groezrock [Europe's largest Punk Festival] last year and it was easily the highlight of our careers so far. I think the audience contained just about every friend we have made in the last 5 years of touring. A few other stand-out cities are Nuremberg, Mons, Regensburg, Hamburg and Geneva.

I have always been a great believer that it doesn't matter how someone describes your band. We get lots of strange comparisons but, I always ask people if they like the band they're comparing us to and if the answer is yes, it's a compliment. We normally just go with rock 'n' roll hardcore, but that's just because it's more snappy than classic rock and punk... with a melodic modern hardcore twist, haha!

By the sounds of it you probably get an air conditioned bus once you hit the Eurozone. Who or what do you listen to, as you cruise along those oh so well-maintained European toll roads?

Our trusty steed of a van died on our last tour, after many years of service, so it's rental vans for us for the foreseeable future. But music-wise we all have very different tastes, so we often take it in turn to do 10-song-long DJ sets. (You gotta pass the 6 hour drives somehow!) Mine feature the likes of Alkaline Trio, Mewithoutyou, The Menzingers... and Katy Perry to break up the noise.

Nothing wrong with a bit of Katy Perry. And finally, are there any bands that really excite you right now – locally, in the good city of Worcester or further afield – and that you want to give a shout out to?

I am really liking Modern Baseball and Restorations at the moment... and excited for both bands' up and coming UK tours. Friend wise, Sons Of Budda, Giants and Tall Ships are all getting some spins. Locally, I was always a fan of Tribute To Nothing, who are getting back together for a tour soon. – Thanks Phil!

by Ed Ling

20th Mainland European Tour:

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- 11.02.2014 - TBA (GER)
- 12.02.2014 - Bonn (GER) @ Bla
- 13.02.2014 - Nürnberg (GER) @ Zentralcafe / K4
- 14.02.2014 - Augsburg (GER) @ Ballonfabrik
- 15.02.2014 - Essen (GER) @ XI Eleven
- 28.02.2014 - Leytonstone, London (UK)
@ Luna Lounge w/ Black Shapes
- 01.03.2014 - TBA (UK) w/ Black Shapes

21st Mainland European Tour:

- 13.03.2014 - Hesselt (BEL) @ Carpe Diem
- 14.03.2014 - TBA (GER)
- 15.03.2014 - Ecaussinnes (BEL)
@ Festival Arc-en-Musique w/ Guerilla Poubelle



Genres time. You've been described as (variously) punk n' roll and geekcore – neither of which are bad monikers to have, as these things go. How do you describe your sound?

CD Review - Blue Touch Paper - Drawing Breath

It's not that often here at Slap HQ that we receive a cd for reviewing with such provenance.

The Blue Touch Paper fellas appear to have played with most of the great and the good of the jazz world - how's this for a list? :-

Randy Brecker - Billy Cobham - Polar Bear - Kruder & Dorfmeister - Kit Downes - Loose Tubes - Troyka - and that's just for starters!

So unsurprisingly as the band launch effortlessly into album opener 'Attention Seeker', their all-round class shines like an expertly cut diamond.

This piece and all others are at once dynamic, exciting yet lyrical and plaintive in parts: never a dull moment indeed. This is multi-faceted music par excellence with their sound seamlessly incorporating elements of jazz, rock, funk, cinematic soundtracks and classical.

Even theatre enters the realm here with the track 'Fair Is Foul' based on the witches from Macbeth, incorporating spoken word and accompanied by an animated film no less.

This really is an endlessly adventurous and original album covering a head-spinning array of styles: serious and accomplished but playful and joyous also, I even hear Dadaesque touches of the The Residents.

So it is that the track 'Isadora' begin in smouldering noir cinema style and end in a riotous Balkan-Klezmer clash; 'Juggling With Strangers' is an Egyptian bolero, 'The Joke' somehow manages to convey the explosion of laughter in non-contrived fashion and the title track marches on in marvellous Mahavishnu style.

Also who wouldn't be intrigued by the splendidly titled 48 Prefabs and Forks No: 60??

Treat your ears to this album and educate yourself in the wonderful ways of Blue Touch Paper and if you need any further recommendation then 'Drawing Breath' was listed in The Guardian's Top 5 Jazz Albums Of The Year at Christmas.

Then once entranced indulge yourself further and go see Blue Touch Paper at Bromsgrove's irreproachable Artrix on Wednesday 26 February.

For more information on all the above please visit www.bluetouchpaper.com

Chuck Career



BLUE TOUCH PAPER **DRAWING BREATH TOUR**

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REVIEW - Ash Is A Robot / Eagles Born Vultures / Thirty Six Strategies - Bridge Inn, Worcester - 15th Jan

A school night at the Bridge Inn, courtesy of Mickey Raison's Embrace The Chaos. Been curious what lies at the far end of Lowesmoor. And now I know.

Thirty Six Strategies are a band with provenance – featuring wily ex-members of Shutdown and Stampin' Ground. And they play honest, emotional "melodic hardcore" – in the classic, pre-emo Dischord Records sense of the word. Vocalist Kirsty's soaring voice is a winning counterpoint to the increasingly raucous guitars that characterise this band's growing sound – as showcased by a couple of brand new songs. This band tour heavily and have big plans. Ones to watch.

Eagles Born Vultures are were a different proposition entirely. Muscular and passionate hardcore from the metallic end of the spectrum, you got a veteran screamer up front, backed by four bright boys behind – with something of the nu-metal revival cutting through



matters. Think Korn and System of a Down at their punk-est. They basically owned the whole bottom half of this venue: all five going off to their music, and the charmingly unhinged vocalist Andi howling and emoting like a maths teacher having an unusually violent nervous breakdown... which is smack bang on the money for this sort of thing.

And then there was Ash Is A Robot. Looking like a group of unassuming foreign exchange students milling about the place before taking the stage, impressions have never been more deceptive. This lot were a staggering blast of energy and ideas – fronted by one rangy, sexy beast on vocals. Few people can carry off a Three Musketeers mustache and goatee. He



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Folk Session-10th & 24th February



made that shit look cool. Musically, they took every rock, metal, proto-, peri- and post-hardcore trick in the great book of loud music – and made it dance like a bleeding pixie. Sometimes Shellac-esque noise-rock; sometimes proto-punk a la MC5; sometimes ultra-modern Hardcore like The Hell or Architects. You got the lot. And more. They were also tight – medically so. You had to see them deploy a false ending. It was physical poetry.

People – including myself – have raved about Baby Godzilla. These hot Iberians have all the feted intensity and projection of that band. I'm serious. But, unlike Baby Godzilla, they also play great tunes while swinging off the light fittings. Which really is quite something.

The good news is they will be back in town in April. I strongly advise you catch them. Raging.

Ed Ling

Review - Steve Ajao And The Blues Giants - Marrs Bar, Worcester - 18th January

A first visit to play in Worcester, Blues and Jazz artist Steve arrived with Mike Hatton on his custom built 6 string bass battle axe and Pete Hammond, drummer and percussionist. Giants by name and by nature, they launch into 'Hot Little Momma', signalling the bands intent for the evening. A bit of Hendrix, with 'Red House', is an



opening for Mike to demonstrate his talent on his beautifully veneered but still brutish looking bass, taking over the lead from Steve. Steve's deep, gruff, vocals work well with John Lee Hooker's 'Dimples', before going for his 'walkabout' around the Marrs Bar, whilst throwing us some Elmore James with 'It Hurts Me Too'. An opportunity in the dimmed lighting to see Steve work his Fender guitar, as we ease our way to a beer break, but not before Pete strikes up his drums to take the lead-in to the Surfaris

'Wipe out', a thunderous piece of music to put us on hold as we await a second session.

The Giants return to the stage with 'Money's Getting Cheaper', a Jimmy Witherspoon song, which features on the bands album 'Pure Evil'. 'Evil', is what we get soon enough, but its not all bad, as it precedes a virtuoso performance on the washboard by nimble thimble ace, Pete Hammond. This time it's Pete and Steve doing the rounds, but its the ripping riposte of Pete's galvanised grid that puts a smile on everyone's face. Back to Steve and a bit of hard core rock with Hendrix's 'Stonefree', and a step towards a guitar change for the grand finale. A Delta blues opening and a fabulous finish with the great John Lee Hooker's 'Boogie Chill'. A superb demonstration of Steve's guitar and slide skills, the



Giants version is stretched out to fit in some lovely base notes off Mike before Steve brings the evening to a close. It was an absolute pleasure to hear real blues, played with skill and passion, overlaid with the gritty vocals that are so perfect for such music. The band's first visit, but let's hope there is more to come, they are certainly not given the recognition they deserve.

Meanwhile, they are regular visitors to the Hare & Hounds in Birmingham, and the Hop Pole Inn in Bromsgrove, also look out for them through the summer. They said they are playing a gig at Upton during the blues festival in July.

Graham Munn

Review - Talisman - The Canteen - Bristol - 16th January

Talisman are a Bristol based reggae band who reformed after 20 plus years. I first saw them in the early eighties and thought they were one of the best around. The line up consists of Dehvan Othieno (Guitar and Vocals) Dennison Joseph (Bass and Vocals) Stephen Russell (Keyboards) Pete Fletcher (Guitar) and Marqus Fiyah Sticks Lynk (Drums).

To get things going they played *Nitty Gritty* and continued on with a mixture of their old songs and new. *Free Speech* was banned by the BBC from airplay which is enough to recommend it. *Dole Age* was their anti Thatcher anthem and *Hey Yout* and *Things Ah Get Tough* from the new album *I-Surrection* available from Sugar Shack Records.

I am a little biased but they were superb and went down well with a good crowd finishing with a brilliant version of *The Harder They Come* and an old single *Wicked Dem*.



Talisman are playing as support on the large proportion of The Selector gigs - nearest is Gloucester Guildhall on 27th February. Highly recommended to any fans of the reggae genre, they are returning to The Canteen with free entry on 7th February and yes I will be there.

Lumpamundo

PENCIL CASE - Cheek by Joel

Witty Worcestershire illustrations in ink and coffee.

The latest exhibition at Evesham Arts Centre, *Pencil Case* from the drawing desk of Cheek by Joel will provide a laugh to anyone suffering from the January blues. This rib-tickling series of illustrations drawn with ink and coffee are a humorous – if not fantastical – exploration of Worcestershire.

The artist, who prefers to work under the pseudonym Cheek by Joel, has carefully crafted detailed scenes from Worcestershire life, with subjects ranging from 'Worcester Fashion Week' to (my particular favourite!) 'Dubstep comes to Colwell'.

'Pencil Case' runs from the 7th January- 25th February and is open to the public during performances. FREE.

It's not too late for submissions for the 2014 exhibitions schedule. They are currently being considered up until the 14th Feb if you are a local artist or group.



www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk/exhibitions

or contact exhibitions@eveshamartscentre.co.uk.

Full listings for our exhibitions for 2014 will be announced at the end of February.

Sculptures at Ragley Hall

While doing a sponsored walk around the grounds of Ragley Hall in nearby Warwickshire our intrepid reporter Sarah Ganderton had the opportunity to follow a little-used path passing some unusual sculptures. The walk in aid of MacMillan Cancer Trust raised money for the appeal and in addition to the important fund raising and the healthy countryside air, it provided some artistic stimulation. The sculptures on the 3 mile walking route included Brian Kneale's 1965 sculpture entitled 'Q + A' and Peter Hayes' simply named 'Bench' from 2002.



'Q + A' by Brian Kneale stands out quite jarringly from its natural woodland surroundings. The vivid red painted metal in odd shapes raises more 'Qs' than 'As' so to speak, but Peter Hayes' 'Bench' was far more accessible. Affectionately referred to by fellow teenaged walkers as 'the booby bench' (for fairly obvious reasons) it is carved



from wood and at this time of year has collected fallen leaves in its woodland setting, which further enhance its natural feel as it emerges much more subtly from between the trees than 'Q+A'. Yet in its own way it is quite different from anything a walker would expect to find in the forest. The faces and (a-hem) other parts of the characters on the bench are smooth and simply cut yet in its plainness and perhaps in its revealing vulnerability the bench is quite inviting. Although it sits at the top of a fairly steep hill, it's still difficult for walkers to decide whether it is right to sit on this 'Bench' or whether it is best treated as a work of art.

Ragley Hall, the family home of the 9th Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford and their children is open from 22nd March when visitors can pay to walk round just the gardens and youngsters can enjoy the brilliant adventure playground or the whole family can also enjoy the house and café. And until March there are regular art classes running at Ragley Hall, details of which can be found on their website: www.ragley.co.uk

Sarah Ganderton

CD Review - Nepenthine

2013 saw a new beginning for three local musicians. They changed their band's name, but more importantly late last year saw the release of their first CD.

Nepenthine is the new band name, an intriguing name it shares with its debut CD. It's a self produced set of songs written by the band as a unit. They claim that all the music is played by humans, so no machines were harmed in its creation.

All three played in The Failed and The Dudes of Neptune before that, so these guys will be known to many local music lovers.

Most tracks clock in at a respectable four to five minutes although *"I Look Away"* is over nine minutes, and doesn't ever feel as if it's over staying its welcome. Next up is a lovely tune that starts with acoustic guitars to the fore, but halfway through its keyboards that dominate. *"The Whole World Changed"* has the most up front rock sound to it. The last but one track is a thing of beauty - it's an instrumental coda to the earlier track *"Found"*. After these two tracks the final title track had a difficult act to follow, but it's one of the best, and sounds like it would work well live.

Carl Neale's drumming drives the songs along; bass and some of the guitars are added by Steve Sanchez, while Andy Lee puts his slinky, swirling guitar and keyboards into the mix. The guitar playing is almost worth the price of admission on its own. Their website says that they are technically not great musicians, but I think I think they might be being a bit modest. While the overall sound is a whirlpool of instruments layered on top of each other, it hardly ever sounds cluttered, and the lyrics (written and sung by Carl) come through well.

It's not always easy to spot influences in a band, and I'm sure they wouldn't want to be pigeonholed. But I did find out that all have a liking for the Australian psychedelic band The Church, and cite Nick Drake as an influence. I can hear early 1970s English band (i.e. Traffic) and the Mellotron sound of King Crimson in there.

Radio Hereford and Worcester have been playing tracks from this album, and live work is in the pipeline as well. I found their website quite helpful, indeed it's where I got to hear them and bought the CD.

By the way the name Nepenthine doesn't appear to mean anything. The closest the web came up with was nepenthe which was a potion designed to induce selective amnesia or to drown your sorrows. Whichever meaning takes your fancy, this CD won't send you to sleep and it might just drown your sorrows.

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Review - Haim / Saint Raymond - Birmingham HMV Institute - December 5th

With the year that Haim have had and the increase of their ever growing fanbase, it only seemed fitting for them to reach out to their UK fans with a European tour.

The tour progressed, reaching Birmingham, The UK's second city and recent star of musical acclaim. So second largest crowd of music lovers in the country right? Correct, the attendance for Birmingham's HMV Institute gig certainly reflected this with Haim themselves and support from rising star Callum Burrows, better known as Saint Raymond playing to a packed out venue of adoring fans.

Showtime came, with Saint Raymond taking to the stage. Nottingham's Callum Burrows has been recently tipped for big things in 2014 by download giants iTunes, which was easily foreseeable from his consistent delivery on the Haim tour of summery feel good indie, not a million miles away from that familiar Two Door Cinema Club sound. Its clear to see Callum and his band are once again on form tonight, as they deliver their feel good sound and Callum's vocal delivery pushed by the crowds clear enjoyment, it was clear by the smile on young Callums face that Birmingham were a great crowd tonight and he well and truly had warmed them up. As Saint Raymond ploughed through their set with great ease, the greatest cheer went to his first ever track release, *Bonfires*. By merely starting out with an acoustic demo, the band had certainly breathed a new life into

the somewhat already signature track. Callum delivered like a Saint, that Raymond is meant to be. Proving his worth and that 2014 is surely set for bigger things.

As Saint Raymond left the stage to roaring cheers, suspense began to grow for tonights creme de la creme if you wish, Haim.

The pinnacle moment of the evening came, the stage in darkness and the band walking on to nothing but that all too familiar explosion like drum sample from high flying track 'Falling'. And so Haim started the track to the roar of the Birmingham crowd. Bass player Este already in her element within minutes pulling her signature 'Bass Face' whilst delivering



a confident vocal performance, her stage presence cemented within the band. As the end of the track drew near, Danielle delivered her rip roaring guitar solo, a sheer confirmation of the talent that Haim behold.



As the headline slot went on, Haim played through fresh *Days Are Gone* album tracks. With lighter summery moments such as 'Honey and I', their classic American country roots evident throughout the track opposed to near dub step experiences in the track 'My Song 5' Haim have proven themselves to be far from a one trick pony. Midway through the set saw anthem 'Don't save me' that familiar opening drum fill sending the crowd into their element. Not only is the crowd in their element tonight but so is guitarist/keyboardist and youngest sister Alana, taking a more forward role in Haim proving she has all those valuable front woman elements throughout *Don't Save Me*.

As the band end the set with 'Go Slow' and an almost violent three pronged drum attack by all four members, time to reflect begins to seep in. There was something fresh about Haim tonight whether that be the addition of an extra keyboard player to add to the live *Days Are Gone* experience or the rising confidence of these three talented triplets. Long live Haim.

Words: James Attwood Pics: Ian Dunn

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Feature - The Delray Rockets - Soaring to success...

Since SLAP's inception, there has been no harder working gigging band who have not been featured than The Delray Rockets. Anybody who has met double bassist and singer Gaz Le Bass knows that he needs no assistance in public relations and advertising but two things have occurred over our winter break that meant we had to afford the band their very own feature article.

At the Delray's New Year's Eve party at the Queen's Head Wolverley, the band - drummer Duke Delite, Oz on guitar and Gaz - were joined on stage by none other than Robert Plant of the mighty Led Zeppelin. What a buzz!



The debut long player, 'Strictly Not Fluffy' was released late last year and includes another three original numbers and has one of the best covers I have ever seen - it completely sums up what you can expect. Ultimately, live music is where it is at for me and I can give no greater compliment than to say if anyone's arranging my surprise birthday party, please book this band but be quick, they're already taking bookings for 2015!

Photography by Cath Middleton



More importantly, they have been receiving extensive airplay on the BBC and zoomed into the Introducing in Hereford and Worcester's top ten at a very respectable number six. This is significant because the song in question, *Beer O'Clock Boogie*, was penned by Gaz himself.

The Delray's are well known for excellent cover versions done in their own modern, high-octane, rockabilly style but this shows that they can write their own songs that sit perfectly alongside classics like 'Brand New Cadillac' and surprises such as 'Teenage Kicks'. Gaz had previously tried the song with many different ensembles but it must have needed the chemistry of the Rockets to truly crystallise the tune. No surprises really because Oz is a wonderful and versatile guitarist and Duke's experience in keeping crazy bass players in line is invaluable.



Photography by Kal Ahmed

To buy the album and check out the extensive gig list go to www.thedelrayrockets.com

Words by Glazz



Review - Crows Christmas CAWker - Watson Hall Tewkesbury - Dec 21st

This was the annual gathering of our feathered friends, **The Roving Crows**, holding their Bacchanalia for the converted. A crowded hall of accolades were introduced to some new musical talents by Paul to open the evening.

First up for a clutch of songs was local 15 year old Caiara O'Neil, accompanied by her dad on guitar, Martin. Opening with Mary Black's '*Only A Woman's Heart*', onto Ceelo Green's '*Forget You*', and ending with, appropriately, '*Perfect*' by Fairground Attraction. Caiara has an extraordinary voice for such tender years, will she be a name of the future?



Paul came back to the microphone to welcome Tewkesbury band Future Set to the stage, a 4 piece band of 2 guitars, double bass and cajon. They moved up the pace from gentle folk to an altogether rockier close with '*Wild Eyed Ambition*'.

The Crow's arrival on stage was loudly greeted as they fired up into '*President Garfield's Night Out*'. '*When I Was Young*' and the delightful '*Nancy Valentine*', set us on course for the glorious reel that is '*White Petticoat*', Caitlin fiddling all into a dance frenzy for this maelstrom of musical magic. The atmosphere was conjured up by drummer Tim Tolhurst as the storming performance rolled into '*The Weather*', the wonderfully paganistic views of



dark clouds blown aside by the fantastical thrash of '*Guns*'. The Roving Crows have a devoted following, some of whom have gathered for this show in the gracious surroundings of Watson Hall, Tewkesbury. Caitlin, Paul, Greg, Tim and bassist Loz Shaw provide all with a memorable performance.



With Christmas upon us, what finer present could they offer us than The Pogues '*Fairytale Of New York*', this has to be the finest piece of seasonal populist music created, accepting the sad demise of Kirsty MacColl it could not have been bettered, than here tonight.

The Roving Crows do not need to stray from their own fantastic library of songs, but following up from their happy go lucky '*Long Time Dead*' with the lovely sounds blown up by Greg Wilson-Copp on his trumpet is the '*stolen*' set closure. The fabulous '*Devil Goes Down to Georgia*', is made to measure for this band, and they play it with all the drive and enthusiasm this Charlie Daniels song deserves. This Bacchanalia has been an excellent way of reviving the soul ready for the spirit of Christmas to take over, a warm welcoming experience, that I can look forward to repeating in 2014.

Graham Munn

Review - Rodney Brannigan - The Bedwardine - Dec 11th

Where do I start with this talent from Texas, a sort of one man band only better. Rod has an exceptional, seemingly easy and relaxed style to his excellent acoustic guitar play. Added to that he 'fingers' a Conga snare drum, occasionally adding a uke slung over his back, for a bit of infill, underneath his right boot is a tambourine. An interesting timbre is added to the little drum, by the addition of two small mint tins, suitably loaded with mints, and perhaps a few nuts? Now you would think that would all come at the expense of his guitar fingering, but no, busy hands indeed, because he plays beautifully, everything from some superb blues to guitar solos with more 'Hispanic' roots. Though Rod plays a fair slice of his gig acoustically, he does switch on the vocals, no problem there, delivering some very good strong lyrics. He sort of reminds me of Wille Edwards from Wille And The Bandits, a similar expressive voice, giving us songs questioning our modern world.

I picked up 2 albums, a 2012 'Sketches' and 2013 release 'Nothing Better To Do'. Both turn out to be fine albums, 'Sketches' is dipped into extensively for his gig, and is a broad range of music that is hard to fault. The later 2013 album is decidedly more blues in its content, though Rod seemed slightly apologetic about this, I found it very easy to play through and like. He played 'Champagne And Reefer', a Muddy Waters song, which features in the later album. Putting his empty beer glass to the fret, he gave his self penned 'Brady Bunch', great fun. A nice version of Beastie Boys 'Sabotage' was slotted in to some more of his own work.

Throughout the session, we were kept entertained with his humour and comfortable rapport with a moderate audience, in what is a new music venue. Moderate but very appreciative that Mr. Brannigan had come to our city to astound us with his abilities. On to the party piece closure, where Rod takes up two guitars, for his 'flip trick', and plays them simultaneously. At first stood up with the two acoustics almost double decked, and then the flip to a seated position with one slung across his knee and the other sat vertically to his left; working the fret on the left side as he fingered the guitar across his knee. An amazing sight and sound as 'Slot Machine' merged into 'The Clean Up', both from 'Sketches'. A brilliant acoustic finish to an extraordinary evening of exceptional musicianship. A first class US import! Stop press: Rod is returning for all you who missed the opportunity to see his extraordinary performance, he is back at the Bedwardine on Feb 22nd, I will be there, don't miss out.

Graham Munn



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Review- Deacon Blue - Birmingham Symphony Hall - 9th December

December seems like an age ago now with the festering season (Season of Joy surely?! Ed) and a new Dr Who behind us and another couple of inches on my waist line it's back to the front line of rock journalism.

Scottish 80's legends Deacon Blue return for a sell-out night on their Christmas Tour. Deacon Blue had a busy 2013 as in addition to this tour they played T In The Park and released a EP with the new festive offering "You'll Know It's Christmas".

Formed in 1985 Deacon Blue alongside fellow Glasgow bands Wet Wet and Hue and Cry, went on to become Top Ten multi million single & album selling artists. In 1987 they released the critically acclaimed album, "Rain Town", but it was the release of their second album, "When the World Knows Your Name", that saw them gain real commercial success, with a number one album and five hit singles from it - "Real Gone Kid" being the most notable one.

In 1994 drummer Dougie Vipond decided to leave and pursue a career in television and the band split up. But in 1999 they got back together and made the album, "Walking Back Home". The line up has since then been pretty constant, with Ricky Ross and wife Lorraine McIntosh on vocals, Dougie Vipond on drums, James Prime on keyboards, Lewis Gordon on bass who replaced Ewen Vernal and Gregor Philp who replaced Graeme Kelling who sadly died of pancreatic cancer in 2004.

Their ever loyal following thoroughly enjoyed the 2 hour set of material from their 27 years of working together. With old favourites "Dignity", "Real Gone Kid", and "Fergus Sings the Blues", "When Jackie Jumped Jail" and "The Hipsters" all getting an airing, this confirmed that The Deacons can still really put on a show for their fans.

I had seen them before a couple of years ago at the Cornbury Festival, playing to a general audience and they still gave a great performance that was well received. They finished their Brum set off with a rendition of Bobby Dylan's "Forever Young" with Ricky Ross telling one of his legendary stories talking us through the no expense spared Christmas stage set of two inflatable reindeers, a Christmas tree and fairy lights that cost the princely sum of £35 Scottish pounds!

Starting the New Year in style Deacon Blue put in a appearance on Johnny Walker's Radio 2 show chatting and playing "Rain Town" and "When the World Knows Your Name". Long may they continue.

Words by Bad Dave Matley



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Review- The Stiff Joints - 'Circus On Repeat' EP

On Christmas Eve there drops another parcel of chequered super charged two tone fun from the distant lights of Kiddy carpet land; indeed here they are the chirpy chappies of the hour dressed in assorted regalia like muppets on a gatefold sleeve. Just what we need when the only grim gifts this year seem perpetual pestilence, bleak austerity, ludicrous legislation, ecentric energy prices and a lingering sense of Severn Valley Inertia ... Ahem.

Title track 'Circus On Repeat' opens with a melody that later evolves from simple horn motif to a rousing chorus, taking a surprise detour with a ratty ragtime knees up break down!

In its two & half minutes The Stiff Joints seamlessly reinvent their own refined sound, streamlining their lengthy live work outs to concise songcraft.

'Pineapple Sundae' meanwhile, is a jauntier skank with a pungent air of Blur meets The Specials. What is striking here is the use of polychords; affording every instrument the space it desires in conjunction with the slick production, they are onto a winner! Indeed two tracks in and this devilishly dynamic ditty unfolds from Hawaiian infused guitar opening, to a horn speckled concoction celebrating life's bitter roots with a twangy zest!

The Stiff Joints sound is always one of groove leaden bass dub, choppy guitars, leslie soaked keyboards & eclectic celebratory horns, all of which are happily intact here!

'Dubshire' (the longest track here) is full of tenacious tempo changes and cheeky quasi court jester refrains. I'm not sure which principality (shire) the cheeky muppets are referring to here, but I'm sure anywhere in the three counties we can relate to the inner city lining of ambiguity interwoven in the hustle and bustle of urban life!

'CAM' is more like third wave skacore of Mighty Boss Tones or Goldfinger but retains their melodious magpie eye!

Closer 'Wish You Were Mine' is so jaunty it reminds me of the seaside for some reason! Maybe that's the point? I would say it's like chirpy Chas & Dave ska but who the hell would believe me?

Elsewhere there's comedic breathers 'Swinging Yer Sack' and the driven unhinged 'Bosh Bosh' offering a bit of a laugh after a sneaky biff!



So in conclusion; bands of this caliber are deserving of laudation, adoration and support: Buy this! Allow these lads a chance of slapping a fair few people out of their collective Severn Valley Inertia!!

The message of The Stiff Joints is one of living in the moment and enjoying what we have in the now, this ethos is serving them well as on 15th March the Stiffies support Bad Manners at The Robin 2!

Grab yourself a copy of Circus On Repeat here and spread the word! thestiffjoints.bandcamp.com

Review by Word. E. Gob\$hitE of Dubshire

<http://swallowthemind.tumblr.com>

Photography: Toni Charles



CIRCUIT SWEET – Hereford scene with Naomi Preece

It's February 2014 and we've missed SLAP mag! We hope you all had a great Xmas and New Year. Over the Xmas period we had our annual shop sale at circuitsweet.bigcartel.com which was a huge success and we can only thank you all for your continued support.

The past month has already kicked us into a promising new year and we are busily booking up our schedule for the forthcoming months, including local, national & international gigs & festivals together with media appointments covering the photography and videography services we offer to all.

We are also very busy planning our special 5th birthday in March, so get ready for our biggest surprise yet- we are so excited to showcase what we've got planned, and waiting another month is far too long so perhaps just keep an eye on our social media outlets in case we let slip the secret "wink".

Our Facebook page and website also features our annual Top 10 Rad Releases, honouring our 2013 faces as picked by us and our 'takeover' talent. A massive thanks to all the fine folk who helped us in this task and their names all appear on the website. The results were as follows:-

1. Vasudeva – *Life In Cycles*, 2. North End – *Cognoscere*, 3. Quadrupède – *Self Titled EP*, 4. Man Man – *On Oni Pond*, 5. Los Campesinos – *No Blues*, 6. Appleseed Cast – *Illumination Ritual*, 7. Volcano Choir – *Repave*, 8. Signal Hill – *Chase The Ghost*, 9. Mylets- Retcon and 10. Tera Melos – *X'ed out*.

Other notable releases and mentions:

George Ezra – *Did You Hear The Rain EP*, local musician A Last Salute To Byss, US trio Crisis Arm and three acts that so nearly made our Top 10 list: A Great Big Pile of Leaves, Enemies and We Used To Have Horses.

Other News:-

We recently re-launched our online store at circuitsweet.bigcartel.com – the store now has more products, available on all mobile devices and ready to ship with extra gifts on day of purchase. We are working hard on optimising our store presence the best it can be and look forward to introducing many more releases on our 'shelves'.



HEREFORD
Live

PUTTING HEREFORD ON THE LIVE MUSIC MAP

Following the triumphant return of Hereford Live with their New Year Showcase in January which saw over 10 acts perform at The Jailhouse, we would love you all to 'follow' them, 'like' them and keep an eye on what events they've planned for the city as they are working incredibly hard to unite our live scene.

As for us this year our main goal is the hopefully continual improvement & evolution of our shop and of course to continue promoting amazing music.

If you are based in Herefordshire and would like to stock SLAP mag each month, add your release to our monline shop, submit a review, request an interview, want us to cover your live gig, then please email naomi@circuitsweet.co.uk, and/or if you want a band photoshoot, budget gig photography etc please email oli@circuitsweet.co.uk



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www.facebook.com/TheChestnutInn

Review - Mike Sanchez & The Potions at Robin 2 - Dec 18th

Mike Sanchez is an R&B institution, he has been everywhere, and played with numerous top bands, in addition to his own line up. He was also responsible for introducing the wonderful Imelda May, who sang with Mike Sanchez's band for many years. Now here at The Robin, Bilston, playing in his personable style, bringing us the the boogie woogie sounds he has championed. He tells us about his forthcoming biography, *Mike Sanchez' Big Town Playboy*, to be published soon, and being written by Mike Madden. There is no doubt he has led an interesting life, it should make fascinating reading.

Opening in his usual flamboyant style, with '*Ramblin Boogie*', he mesmerises his audience with his piano and bustling vocals. For this set he was accompanied by Nick Whitfield on double bass, Mark Morgan, drums, and a Buddy Holly styled Tom Bull on guitar, who played with distinction. Mike rattles out the songs, with barely more break than it took to wipe his brow. He blasts out '*I Get So Hungry*', old favourites like '*Sapphire*' and '*Red Hot Mama*', spill easily onto the fans. They are here to be entertained, and Mike puts them to the test, bulging eyes, and wagging fingers, berate the crowd, its show-time start to finish. In amongst all this, Mike introduced his now wife, Sarah

Wynne, who took on the vocals for '*Don't Freeze On Me*' and bit of R&B by Lil' Ester Phillips '*If Its News For You Baby*' very enjoyable. Mike's music flows seamlessly from his very soul, a medley of wonderful old blues and boogie. '*Highway 60*', '*Come Back Baby*', '*Hurting Inside*' roll forward like endless breakers on the beach. Fats '*I'm ready*', bits of Slim Harpo, Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry are presented from the 50's and early 60's. Instructed to '*Shake your Hips*', we did, and wanted more.



A break from the 'hot' keys of the piano, saw Mike pick up his acoustic guitar, and a request from a devotee for '*Blue Boy*', was granted, a gentler more country style in the mould of Jim Reeves resulted, easing us gently back down from the frenzy that is boogie

Mike Sanchez has entertained us start to finish, the option was here at the Robin or at seated Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, the following night. Why would anyone want to listen to Mike Sanchez and his band, restricted by the constraints of the pews and chairs that populate that lovely old church? The Robin rocked and thats the way it should be.



Words & Photography: Graham Munn



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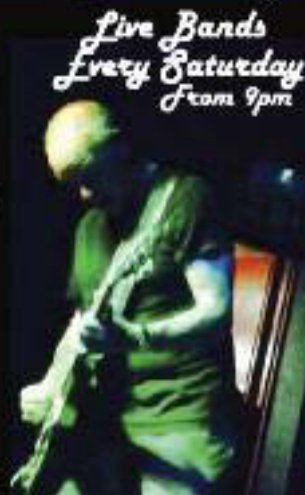
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Saturday



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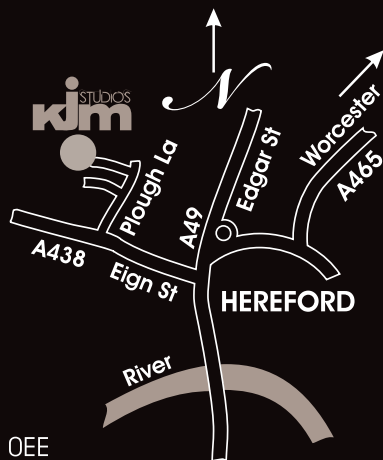
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Saturday 1 February 2014

Phatty Mango
Chestnut, Worcester

Ital Sounds
Unicorn, Malvern

Nostalgia
Moochers, Stourbridge

Junction 7
Green Dragon, Malvern

Stayin Alive – Bee Gees Tribute
Evesham Arts Centre

Answerback
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

Nigel's Open Mic
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Ska Night with The Splitters & Lobster
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Foo Fighters Tribute
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Retrophonics
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Delray Rockets
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Eastwood
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Electric Swing Circus
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Kinver Edge
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Heartbreak Hitlist Dj's
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

The Crazy 88s
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

T Rextasy
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 2 February 2014

Deborah Rose
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Reggae Sunday
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jazz with Chase Jazzmen Quartet (4-6pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Lounge Toad
Unicorn, Malvern

Jam Night
Oast House, Redditch

Maddy Stimpson Trio
Chestnut, Worcester

The Voodoo Kings, The Electric Shite Orchestra
No Where City Riot, Fear Insight, The Recurring Nightmare
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Monday 3 February 2014

Dan James Open Mic
Chestnut, Worcester

Keith Slater & Tony Arris + Guests
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Stu & Ben Green
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 4 February 2014

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with Dodgy Nigel
Millers Arms, Pershore

Wednesday 5 February 2014

Tim Cranmore, Heather Striplin, Peter Wyton, Fox Pops,
Amy Rainbow and Catherine Crosswell, ConFab Cabaret
Re-Con, Great Malvern

Music at The Morgan
The Morgan, Malvern

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Embrace the Chaos – Stallone + Employed to Serve
+ Razoreater
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Thursday 6 February 2014

Open Mic with Vault of Eagles
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Lucas D And The Groove Ghetto
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Louise Distras, The Boggingtons, Die Wrecked
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

del Amitri
Wolverhampton Civic

GMH Sessions
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Talon Music Ltd presents – Talon – Acoustic Collection
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Friday 7 February 2014

Rubicava, The Project
Moochers, Stourbridge

Roscoe P Coltrane
The New Chequers, Worcester

Kevin Underwood
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

The Festivals Experience
Drummonds, Worcester

PsychNight: Socio Suki, Phullopium Dude, The Retinal
Circus and Unknown First – with psychedelic art from
Dave Simpson!
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Bryn of Sax n Axe (Solo)
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Ray Stroud
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Christain Pattermore, Phil Andrews
Bistro Mondo, Ross-on-Way

Cracker & The Woodpeckers
Queens Head, Wolverley

Kings Of Lyon
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Kevin Underwood
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

CoverJunkies
Bushwackers, Worcester

Delray Rockets
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Soul Strutters
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Harriet Amos and Friends
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Saturday 8 February 2014

The Reflections
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

The John Steeds
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Barry Cooder & The Sharks
Chestnut, Worcester

Soultown
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

Danny And The Swampmen
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Discharge, Terror Groove, Total Bloody Chaos
Fight Back, UK Skunk, The Vile
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Hayriders
Unicorn, Malvern

Rattlesnake Jake
Moochers, Stourbridge

Everly Brothers Tribute Show (Hirer)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Punk Night
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dave Onions
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dolomite Minor & Lyger
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Matt Woosey
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

The Straight Aces
Wolverley Sports & Social Club, Wolverley

Laszlo
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sunday 9 February 2014

GlassBullet, Morningstar, Fat Alice, Music Like Lemons,
Empty Hands, Adamantium
The Slade Rooms, Broad St, Wolverhampton

Jam Night
Oast House, Redditch

Sunday Shenenigans- Open Mic Night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Steve Banner DJ
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Sunday Sessions with Kev Nicholson
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Jazz with The Markham Island Quartet
Queens Head, Wolverley

Eleanor McEvoy
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sunday Shenenigans- Open Mic Night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Monday 10 February 2014

Open Mic
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Open Mic with Dave Onions
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Folk Sessions
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Tuesday 11 February 2014

The Baggage Handlers
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Mouth and Music
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wednesday 12 February 2014

Andy Broad
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music at The Morgan
The Morgan, Malvern

Basement Noise
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Thursday 13 February 2014

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

HoneyBoy Hickling
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

John Kirkpatrick
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Love Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 14 February 2014

Slowburner

Queens Head, Wolverley

Madi Stimpson Trio

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

East Of Eden, The Rainbreakers, The Dark Eyes

Moochers, Stourbridge

Spunk Volcano & The Eruption,

Dick Venom & The Terror Tones

Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Marzy's Valentine Burlesque Special

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Ex Presidents

The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Murmur

Ye Olde Seven Stars, Kidderminster

The Worried Men

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Keith James plays Leonard Cohen

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Steak & Lounge Toad Valentines Special

Chestnut, Worcester

Dave Onions

The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton

Ricky Cool Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Saturday 15 February 2014

The Naked Beatles

The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Protocol

Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Freewater

The Northwick Arms, Worcester

Malpractice

Callow End Social Club, Callow End

Gerry Cross The Mersey

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Vault of Eagles

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Hump De Bump

Chestnut, Worcester

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Muse INC

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Stephen K Amos is The Spokesman

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Eternity 90's Night

Moochers, Stourbridge

Big Man Clayton & The 44's

Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Adamantium + more tbc

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Matthew Ford's Swing Legends

Number 8, Pershore

Junction 7

Chelmsley Wood Cons Club, Bosworth Drive, Birmingham

Mr. Ben

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Matthew Fords Swing Legends

Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

Sunday 16 February 2014

Don Giovanni

Number 8, Pershore

Afternoon Jazz with Castle Quartet

Lichfield Vaults, Hereford

Sunday Shenenigans- Open Mic Night

Moochers, Stourbridge

Miln & James

Chestnut, Worcester

Jazz (4-6pm)

Queens Head, Wolverley

Jam Night

Oast House, Redditch

Steve Banner DJ

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Monday 17 February 2014

Arms and Hearts

Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Broom Bezzums

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Open Mic with Stu & Ben Green

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 18 February 2014

Answer Back

Tramps Nightclub, Worcester

Dave Onions

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Open Mic with Pete Kelly

Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 19 February 2014

Red Shoes, Support: Eve & the Garden

The Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham

Marzy's Jamming Night

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Live @ Glos Acoustic Showcase

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Music at The Morgan

The Morgan, Malvern

Thursday 20 February 2014

Bad Sam, Real Life Version, A Werewolf
The Firefly, Worcester

Ian Lockyer
Bistro Mondo, Ross-on-Wye

Dan James Open Mic
Chestnut, Worcester

Vault of Eagles + Mansize + Foxtail Rockets
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Embrace the Chaos – Rise After Defeat
+ Discomfort + Slab + tbc
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

House of Legends – Courtney Pine
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Blues Movement
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Rise After The Defeat (Italy) Rich Gulag
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

GMH Sessions
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 21 February 2014

Junction 7
Bluebell Inn, Ryall, Upton on Severn

Eastwood
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Peter Jagger
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hitmen
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Wot You Call It
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Still Crazy
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Official Receivers
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Come Up & See Me
Drummonds, Worcester

CoverJunkies
Bushwackers, Worcester

Vault of Eagles + Mansize + Foxtail Rockets
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Noise Agents, Chinese Burn
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Drifter, Soultown – Bewdley Festival Music In The Hall
Georges Hall, Bewdley

Dave Onions
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Guns or Roses
Moochers, Stourbridge

Saturday 22 February 2014

Hotwyred
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

The Executives
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Sam Eden
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Missing Lynx
Callow End Social Club, Callow End

The Hipshakes + Fruit Tones + The Red Cords
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Chestnut, Worcester

Rawk Music
Marris Bar, Worcester

Zeppelin 3
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Secret Caberet
Unicorn, Malvern

The GT's
Wolverley Sports & Social Club, Wolverley

Rodney Branigan
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Warren James & His Skiffle Sessions Band
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Rattlesnake Jake
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Blackballed, Disco Tramps, Stevie Jones & The Wildfires
The Humdrum Express
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic Night
The Victoria Works, Studley

Sunday 23 February 2014

Jam Night
Oast House, Redditch

Dj Steve Banner
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Vault of Eagles + Mansize + Foxtail Rockets
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Sunday Xpress Open Mic
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Worcester Concert Club presents – Clare Hammond (Hirer)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jazz (4–6pm)
Queens Head, Wolverley

Sunday Shenenigans– Open Mic Night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Monday 24 February 2014

Dave Onions Open Mic
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Folk Sessions
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Tuesday 25 February 2014

Folk Night
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 26 February 2014

Orchestra of the Swan: Classical Masterpieces
Number 8, Pershore

Franc Cinelli
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Blue Touchpaper
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Music at The Morgan
The Morgan, Malvern

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Thursday 27 February 2014

Phoenix J
Bistro Mondo, Ross-on-Wye

The Selector, Talisman
Gloucester Townhall, Gloucester

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Keith Thompson Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Blue Radio Records Presents: Vault Of Eagles
Mansize, Ass Pasty, Fox Tail Rockets
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 28 February 2014

Eclectro DJ Sets
Cap n Gown, Worcester

Classic Clapton
Number 8, Pershore

Sax Appeal
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Sounds and Soul (Maxine Et Gabriel)
Cock Et Magpie, Bewdley

The Straight Aces
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Underdogs
Drummonds, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Queens Head, Wolverley

TBC
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Spandex Bellend
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Detective
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham

Paranoid Visions, Brassick, Check Point (Ireland) Angry Itch
Adam and Eve, Birmingham

Notorious Brothers
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

MyDesign
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Jones Family Mini-Fest
Danny Whybrow (7.30) Skewwhiff (9.30)
Lamb Et Flag, Worcester

Classic Clapton
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

Saturday 1 March 2014

The Jones Family Mini-Fest
Paul Snow (2pm) The Barflys (8.30)
Lamb Et Flag, Worcester

Skewwhiff plus support
Re-Con, Malvern

The Delray Rockets
Upton Upon Severn Social Club, Upton

The Vibrators
The Marris Bar, Worcester

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Friday 7th

Kings Of Lyon

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 8th

Laszlo

£5 a ticket £6 on the door

Sunday 9th

Eleanor McEvoy

£15 a ticket £18 on the door

Saturday 15th

**Hot Red Chili Peppers
and Muse INC**

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Monday 17th

Broom Bezzums

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Friday 21st

Official Receivers

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 22nd

Rawk Music

Price TBC

Sunday 23rd

Space Films Presents

Four Lions

Price TBC

Thursday 27th

Blue Radio Records Presents:

Vault Of Eagles, Mansize,

Ass Pasty, Fox Tail Rockets

£3 on the door

Friday 28th

Spandex Bellend

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

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