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Issue 35

Mar 2014

MAGAZINE



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# SLAP

Mar 2104 MAGAZINE

Hello one and all and welcome to Spring. The flood waters have gone so lets hope its a dry summer with no festival wash outs! With some great local festivals just around the corner there's plenty to be cheerful about. We are pleased to announce that we are once again hosting a stage at this years Worcester Music Festival at the end of August and have pretty much bagged our headliners.

## SLAP MAGAZINE

Unit 3a, Lowesmoor Wharf,  
Worcester WR1 2RS

Telephone: 01905 26660  
editorial@slapmag.co.uk

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

### EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan

### CONTRIBUTORS

Kate Cox - Arts editor

Andy O'Hare

Steven Glazzard

Ant Robbins

Chris Bennion

Mel Hall

Katie Cherrell

Michelle Pogmore

Will Munn

Nikki Boraston

Corina Harper

Craigus Barry

Ralph Tittley

Mark Hoy

Rosie Hamilton

Mad Dave Bentley

Graham Munn

Ed Ling

Naomi Preece

Terry Ackey

### Design

Mark Hogan

### Sales

Paul Robinson

### Web & Social Media

Dave Marston

Cover photography by Mark Hoy  
Beddis from Bad Sam live at the Firefly

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It has been a pretty hectic month here at SLAP, no sooner had we finished delivering the February issue we had to start compiling this one. Thanks once again to our contibuters who have worked so quickly and tirelessly to get this issue out on time.

On a note so encouraging note, we have sadly lost yet another great local venue in Re Con at Malvern, I know nothing official and certainly don't wish to speculate, suffice to say it's a great loss for the local music scene. It seems everyone is feeling the pinch especially in the arts despite us being told how things are improving, for who I ask?

Well, enjoy March but don't forget we need more contributors, more advertisers and keeps supporting local venues and performers, they need you...

- Ed Ache



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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



## Tina's Wicked Canadian Trip

This Wicked Tongue's frontgirl Tina V has been invited to play this year's Canadian Music Week alongside the likes of Brit award-winning Ellie Goulding from May 6-10. This high-profile invitation comes as the Worcester musician is putting the finishing touches to her new album *Cut the Tent* with release scheduled for the end of May. This Wicked Tongue has also recently received national BBC radio air play on the 6Music digital station - more information at [tinaveronica.com](http://tinaveronica.com)



## Unlucky Attic

Excellent local folk trio *Granny's Attic* just missed out on the 2014 BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award title at the ceremony held at the Royal Albert Hall - the teenage threesome from Worcester, comprise members Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, George Sansome and Lewis Wood who play a variety of traditional and original numbers on a wide range of instruments and took their name from a stall at Claines Church fete!



## Back on the Mapp!

Malvern Hills Conservators have given permission to *Andy Mapp* to hold another of his Mappfests on Link Common on Saturday 21 June - the venture in aid of *Acorns Children's Hospice* will feature over 15 bands and acts on two stages - entry is free but donations encouraged!

## Lakefest Latest

New acts announced for *Lakefest* on August 8-10 in the last few weeks include ska legend *Neville Staple* and folk-punk act *Ade Edmondson And The Bad Shepherds* - more to be announced shortly with a 'plethora' of additional acts to be added in the coming months...



## O! Blue Eyes Sees Red!

A Frank Sinatra tribute act has been fined at Worcester Magistrates Court for causing criminal damage at a Tandoori restaurant in Cutnall Green after a dispute over fees for previous cancelled gigs spiralled out of control - with damage being caused by punching a table lamp, kicking a door and 'flashing out at a fluted water container' - both restaurant and the singer accepted that 'their previous good working relationship' had broken down.

## Theo opens Post-Rock Fest

By popular demand Worcester's *Sam Knight AKA Theo* has been picked to open the *ArcTanGent Festival* of post-rock in Bristol from August 28 to 30. It's the UK's only festival of math-, post- and noise-rock and instrumental one-man-band *Sam* was chosen as the act most fans wanted to see return to the event!!



## Local Radio Landmark

Congratulations to *BBC Hereford & Worcester* which has just celebrated its 25th birthday - for the 'record' the first song played on Valentine's Day 1989 was *Two Hearts* by *Phil Collins* (Hmmm! - Ed) - picked to mark that the station has two main studios - at *Hylton Road Worcester* and *Broad Street Hereford*...

## Grahame McGrath RIP

But sad news last month with the passing of *Grahame McGrath* - who's engineered and produced many local acts at his *BabyDragon Studio* in *St John's Worcester* - but was probably best known in recent years for organising the musical entertainments at *Worcester Beer & Cider Festival on Pitchcroft* - *Grahame* was a very pleasant and genial individual who's been a gentle force on the Worcester music scene for many years and will be much missed...

# SnodFest Opportunity

SnodFest is a small, family friendly music festival held in a stunning location in the village of Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire. It promotes, encourages and showcases musicians, artists and performers from our local area.

They are looking for great local bands and singers ideally including some of their own original material. Snodfest are also looking for Jazz and Folk music.

To apply, please email [snodfest@c2mc.com](mailto:snodfest@c2mc.com)



Browse:[www.snodfest.com](http://www.snodfest.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SnodFest](http://www.facebook.com/SnodFest)

Introduced by Andrew Marston, BBC Hereford Et Worcester and offering over 10 hours of continuous live music from two stages, real ale bar, hot food, entertainment and free workshops, this year it is being held on Saturday 13th September.

SnodFest may be small, but the stunning location and attention to detail make the festival very special.



Pictured: Becky Rose, Pete Adams Et John Jo Murray

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The advertisement features a purple circular logo with a white 'W' and 'S' intertwined. Below the logo is the text 'thesession music studios' and the address '77 WATERWORKS RD, BARBICURNE, WORCESTER, WR1 2Z'. The main services listed are 'Recording | Practice | CD Duplication | Sound & Light Hire'. There are five Polaroid-style photos showing different recording studio setups. At the bottom, there is a large black banner with white text: '10% OFF WEEKDAY RECORDINGS WITH THIS VOUCHER', followed by 'SEE WWW.THESESSIONROOMS.COM/OFFERS FOR DETAILS'. Below that, it says 'BOOK NOW: 01905 338971 www.thesessionrooms.com'. At the very bottom, there is a Facebook logo and the text 'thesession.worcester'.



# ARTS Round-Up with Kate Cox

## Clik Klik

Clik Klik Collective looks to be spending some time outdoors this summer bringing creative fun to the public! Already confirmed at this year's award winning Green Man Festival in the Brecons as well as several other fine artistic celebrations, Clik Klik ers will be delivering exciting projects and ideas to a space near you!



Outdoor events, occasions and weddings: Clik Klik is taking bookings now so please shout if you are looking for that extra special something or festival style activity to entertain your guests! Tailor making vibrant ideas just for your event.

Outreach: If you need a creative project delivering then shout! Teaming up with 'Spare Room Arts', 'Young Creatives' and more, we can provide fabulous & fantastic initiatives which are inclusive, educational and fun!

[www.clikklikcollective.com](http://www.clikklikcollective.com)  
[clikklikcollective@gmail.com](mailto:clikklikcollective@gmail.com)

## Worcester Arts Partnership

Around the county this month we can see that Worcestershire arts are developing into a very strong offer! The Worcester Arts Partnership was awarded funding from the Arts Council so big well done to Stephen Wilson and all those involved in getting essential arts funding for Worcestershire!



## Malvern Theatres

At Malvern theatres on 18th and 19th Sound and Fury present, fresh from the Old Vic in London, 'Going Dark' an interactive performance about the night sky and one man's vision. With cutting edge projections, lighting and sound technology this show will immerse you in the experience and is produced by Fuel, for anyone who saw the amazing Clod Ensemble last year! See ad and preview on pages 30 & 31 for tickets information.

## Collective 43

Collective 43 took the sounds of the merry tribe to Birmingham last month with a gig at The Station in Kings Heath, as part of a new radio show on Switch Radio, called Live!, an arts and culture show. We had a fine time showing our wares including brass, percussion, wind, typewriter and (often playful performance style) vocals to Birmingham as a pre show to Swingamajig Festival in Digbeth this May and are looking forward to playing out and about this summer.



## BHG Kidderminster

The BHG has loads going on, including up-cycling, life drawing, and have just taken down an exciting new



Kidderminster Creative's (KAF Creative's) exhibition as a launch for the new name. I popped in to see BHG creator Corina Harper recently and took a peek at the show with a diverse range of arts including painting, drawing, textiles and sculpture, by Bobby Parker, Dave Simpson,

Murray Vincent, Dom Dunlea, Melo, Sarah Tamar, Kate Wragg and knitting from Waste2Want. It's great to see the community getting involved and producing exciting work, supporting the BHG as the heart of Kidderminster's ever developing and vibrant arts scene!

## Cube News

Malvern CUBE has creative things going on this month with some live music and theatre plus, keep an eye out for regular exciting events starting up in the spring. Check out their website for all the listings and come and get involved in Malvern's community gem! The 'Folk at The Fold' production of The Merry Tiller a light-hearted 'potted' history of 'growing your own' veg on the 14th, Babajack with Dave Arcari on 15th and 'Finding Joy' from Vamos Theatre Company. [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com)



## Vintage Fairs

Vintage merriment is afoot with the **Vintage Wedding Fair** on the 2nd at the Guildhall and the **WAVE Vintage and Craft Fair** at the Worcester Museum on Sat 8th for vintage goodies and arts and crafts makers.

## If Wet - Southbank Takeover



Worcestershire's own explorative and experimental sound artist, **Sam Underwood** along with his creative partner **David Morton** host a one-off special at **Southbank Centre, London**. As well as the fabulous **If Wet** sonic exploration events in **Callow End Village Hall**, they have created **Wondrous Machines** at Southbank as part of the

**Pull Out All The Stops** festival. This is a chance to meet the makers in a one off special event on 30th. See the **Southbank** website for more details.



Dave Grubb

## Love Worcester Moth Parade

Worcester High Street came to life with a carnival atmosphere on Sat 22nd Feb, when **The Magnificent Moths Parade** showed off their winged creatures as part of the '**Love Worcester Heritage Festival**'. A collaborative project from **Worcester Museums and Imagineer Productions**, the **Moth Parade** aimed to bring the allure of local museums and their artefacts to the high street while attracting new visitors to the city.

## Mouth & Music



At the **Boars Head, Kidderminster** on **Tuesday 11th March**, **Mouth and Music** welcomes **The Very Grimm Brothers**, described as "**Gilbert & George**, almost **Morecambe & Wise**". Also appearing will be the brilliant **Gloucestershire Poet Laureate, Brenda Read-Brown**. Brenda has been behind bars on many occasions, as writer in residence for **HMP Shrewsbury**. **MC Heather Wastie** invites poets, storytellers and musicians up onto the stage for short open mic slots. The theme this month is **Current Affairs**. Slots are booked on the night from 7.30 and the entertainment starts at 8.00.

See [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk) for further details.

# Brand New Midlands Boutique Festival Launches Lunar Festival 2014

From the same lovely people who brought you the ever & increasingly popular Moseley Folk Festival and Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Fest, comes this exciting, eclectic new festival in stunning Warwickshire surroundings and the spiritual homeland of Nick Drake.

Lunar Festival makes its debut this summer on The Umberslade Estate ([www.umberslade.com](http://www.umberslade.com)), less than 10 miles from the bustling heart of Birmingham yet a whole world away in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The Umberslade Estate is an idyllic rural setting, with a full working farm, the stunning Umberslade Hall and a landscape perfect for a festival; rolling hills, tree-shaded meadows and parks create a magical environment for headliners including:- Donovan, British Sea Power, The Polyphonic Spree, Tim Burgess, Temples, The Magic Band and Toy (please see end of article for full line-up so far).



John Fell, one of the festival's organisers explains that, *"We are all very excited for our third festival launch with Lunar. It's taking us in a new direction in terms of bookings and concept, and we have found a truly beautiful home for the festival at Umberslade Estate which will appeal greatly to families, festival first-timers and everyone seeking a more boutique experience. We have a diverse lineup both with the live music and also the DJ shows, with more names to be added, too."*

In the day, the Lunar Festival offers a myriad of activities for all ages including the lunar olympics, green crafts, 360 cinema dome, yoga sessions, cigar box guitar lessons and sausage making workshops. As the night time falls and the warm summery days close, the Lunar Festival comes alive with some of the best Midlands club nights including Magic Door with The Jukes of Hazard & Deano Ferrino, Sensateria with Andy Votel & Richard Norris, Silver Dollar with Don Letts, Balkanic Eruption with The Destroyers and This Is Tmrw with DJ Food.

Lunar Festival will feature gourmet street food including Meat Shack, Vegetaria - falafels and meze, the Bhangra Bus - veggie vegan Indian cuisine, gastro bistro from The Bell on the Green (a fine local inn), Pimpernel's delights, Crepes et Mises in Bouche Francaises and Bournville Waffles, plus fully licenced bars. Quiet family camping is available and families will have free access to the children's farm over the weekend. There are several camping options including the Tipi Village, live-in vehicle area and bell tent hire.

So to confirm:-

Lunar Festival - Fri 6th - Sun 8th June 2014  
Umberslade Estate, Butts Lane, Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire B94 5AE

Tickets from £35 to £85 & the line up so far includes: Donovan, British Sea Power, The Polyphonic Spree, Tim Burgess, Temples, The Magic Band, Toy, Crazy World of Arthur Brown, Pram, Goodnight Lenin, Lanterns On The Lake, John Renbourn, Wizz Jones, Michael Chapman, Wide Eyed, Pram, Tir Na Nog, Victories At Sea, Golden Glass, Misty's Big Adventure, The Grafham Water Sailing Club, Seeland, Laura J Martin, Ryley Walker, Exploding Sound Machine, Wes Finch, Simon Fox, Lux Harmonium, Horse Feathers (UK), Tess of The Circle, Christian Pattermore, Batsch, Marshmallow Palace, Dirty Old Folkers, Jabba's Cartel Chris Tye, I Am Voyager 1, Josh Savage and more to be announced.

Please keep an eye on future issues of Slap Mag where we will announce all further developments regarding this delicious sounding festival... Count us in!!

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



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## ANDY O'HARE - A Gig-Goers's Guide To Going To Gigs - Part 97...



Yes I love going to gigs - as far as I'm concerned it's my preferred method of listening to music! But considering that so much is now so easily available in the comfort of your own home at the touch of a keyboard button or by the insertion of a CD - and it's now of such a high quality of recording that years ago we could only have dreamt about - why on earth should anyone drag themselves from their pipe and slippers in front of their roaring fireplace and venture out into the wind, rain, floods and god knows what else to a virtually unknown act playing in a corner of a pub in the back of beyond?

Well sheer bloody-mindedness would be a completely acceptable answer - but I like to feel it's a little bit more than that - for me nothing beats the pleasure of actually seeing musicians perform completely live - yes with all the hazards and risks of making a complete prat of yourself when everything goes wrong (not very often I'm happy to say) - but also the complete joy of hearing great talent (and there sure is plenty in our fair region) rocking their socks off and delivering a set that leaves your jaw flapping about your knees!

For me it's also being able to more closely check out the different techniques used by vocalists, guitarists, bassists, keyboards, drummers etc - the instruments, effects and amplification they use - and their own individual stage presence and delivery. And what I find gobsmacking nowadays is that acts seem to be getting further apart in their overall presentation! I had a classical musical education - playing in ensembles and orchestras which pretty much sounded the same as each other - it couldn't be much further from that nowadays - so a long time ago I abandoned the bog-standard music journo's habit of pigeon-holing acts with pap like 'think of the bastard offspring of Scritti Politti and Tangerine Dream with Iggy Pop and Slayer as the godparents' - though I note that technique hasn't quite died out yet...

As I've previously mentioned - what I'm looking for are those really heart-warming moments when I hear a great gig, a set or even just one incredible song - and maximising the number of events I get to just increases the chances of that happening - and for the last few years I'd say that I have a 'bloody hell that's good' moment at least once a week!

But it doesn't have to come at a tremendous cost! As I pen this I've just returned by train from Kidderminster via a £3.50 evening super-saver return - these are available throughout our whole region and for years have been my own key to gig-going on a budget all over the two Counties - with maybe the only snag being having to leave Hereford a little earlier than I'd maybe prefer - but after 10.30pm most 'Fordians are heading for the clubs anyway!! Most gigs will be no more than a couple or few quid entry - budget for your drinkie-poops and you've just had an incredibly economical and enjoyable night-out! A great result you might think - but turns out it's not quite as simple as that...

One of the biggest gripes I hear on a weekly basis is of acts not being paid for performing - now as far as I can see every gig should be a win for the venue (gets extra custom in), the act (should be paid by the promoter/venue or door sales) and the punters (get a great gig at very reasonable cost) - so if this isn't happening then something is going wrong...

And I have to say that in my own humble viewpoint it's down to the acts themselves to sort this out - as examples (and I'm sure they won't mind at all) both Babajack and The Roving Crows have taken the view that as great up-and-coming award-winning bands (after years of practice) they now deserve and insist on being treated as the great and professional musicians they now are!

But this simply won't happen from day one - if you're just starting out, play as many open mics as you can to tone up your stage skills (many will treat you to a drink for your efforts!) - and please do support the many events in aid of charity during the year - as these really can be your springboards to future success!! But be sure - if you want it enough, you're sufficiently organised and together, and most importantly have some great killer tunes under your belt - it'll happen!!

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

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# Worcester Music Festival

## COUNTY YOUNG CARERS TO BENEFIT FROM CITY MUSIC FEST

A charity which gives hundreds of young carers across the county respite from what can be an "incredibly stressful" role will benefit from fundraising at Worcester Music Festival 2014.

Worcestershire Young Carers, which supports 7-25-year-olds who might be looking after a physically disabled relative or helping to raise siblings in a home where a parent has mental health problems, has been named as the celebration of original music's charity of the year.

during the three-day Worcester Music Festival from August 29-31 will also help to realise a particular dream.

*"There is an annual national carers' festival in Southampton, which we couldn't afford to take our carers to last year, and we're hoping the festival donation will help to make this happen,"* said Neil. *"Money aside, several of our carers are talented musicians, including a gifted drummer and keyboardist, and we have access to the YSS training centre in Carden Street in Worcester, which has a very basic recording studio and 'well-loved' instruments."*

*"We hope the partnership with the festival will help support these talented, young people."*

Lisa-Marie Everall, Worcester Music Festival's charity co-ordinator, said the committee had been inspired by the charity's dedication to offering 1-2-1 support, mentoring, advocacy, information, advice and guidance, as well as running clubs, activities and residential trips to give young carers a break from caring and the opportunity to socialise.

*"At the last count, there were nearly 3,000 young people in Worcestershire providing some level of care to a parent, grandparent, sibling or other family members, a role which can be incredibly stressful,"* she said. *"We hope the community will get behind this brilliant cause."*

Worcestershire Young Carers, which holds a monthly club at Perdisswell Young People's Centre in Worcester, has also made a film to highlight the work that the young people do. Musicians interested in helping with music to accompany the film or who would like to support the young carers in their music-making should email Neil at [neil.phillips@yss.org.uk](mailto:neil.phillips@yss.org.uk).



Charity Team at work by Siani Price

Neil Phillips, key worker for the Droitwich-based good cause, said, as a former professional musician and music tutor himself, he was particularly excited about the news.

*"I was absolutely over the moon when I heard and jumped around the office,"* he said. *"According to research, there is the equivalent of one young carer in every classroom in the country and being the festival's charity will help to raise awareness of this overlooked issue."*

While the charity – a YSS service – receives funding from the local council to pay for a basic staff team, it has to fundraise for everything else. Money raised



For more information, visit [www.yss.org.uk](http://www.yss.org.uk).

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



# Review - Matt Woosey | The Bedwardine, Worcester | 8th Feb

Never one to miss the opportunity to see one of the UK's best blues artists, it was an evening impossible to ignore when only 5 miles away. Sad to say, weather may have contributed to a very moderate turn out. The venue is also relatively fresh, and there is a slow realisation that there are a string of good bands being booked here by an enthusiastic management, so I am sure the response will improve over the weeks.

Tonight however, it was the turn of **Matt Woosey**, a marvellous and fortunately local, acoustic blues singer par excellence. He dived straight in to his recently released EP, opening with *'Hook Line And Sinker'*, delivered in some style, followed quickly by *'Blues Don't Leave Me'*, before picking up that small chrome tube and giving an exemplary slide guitar demonstration with the superb *'Woke Up This Morning'* taken from his *On The Wagon* CD, (which I can highly recommend)

Acoustic blues does not come any better than this, one man (or woman), one guitar, maybe a harp, and the ability to put the elements together with a good strong set of lyrics, Matt seems to have all these elements and they are honed to perfection. *'That's My Baby'* is a great piece of gritty blues, featuring on both *Frame Of Mind* and *On The Wagon*, it deserves the double billing, not sure the *'milk & honey over his PC'* is in the original lyrics, but what the hell, that's the blues.

A break was beckoning but not before what Matt described as an acoustic Led Zep inspired song, *'Give Me All Your Love, Babe'*, yes I can see the possibility, but I would find it hard to consider that Robert Plant could quite match this.



A short break, and Matt dipped back into his impressive catalogue of music, as well as presenting us with a John Martyn song *'One Day Without You'*, perfectly suited to Matt's guitar style, overlaid with lyrics of devotion for the love in his life. No evening could be complete without the rattling good *'Elsie May'*, powerful vocals driven along by the rail track rhythms of that guitar.

It's probably 2 to 3 years since seeing Matt play solo; this has been an absolute pleasure. An evening of splendid entertainment, cut right back to basics, an excellent acoustic guitar and fine vocals. Fortunately, I have to hand both *'On The Wagon'* and *'Hook Line And Sinker'*, both are worthy additions to my sparse collection of CDs, and they both get aired regularly, if you do not have copies, I suggest you sample them on Matt's site and go get yourself some great music.

Check out [www.mattwoosey.co.uk](http://www.mattwoosey.co.uk) for all the latest news and upcoming shows.

*Words & photography by Graham Munn*



## worcester arts workshop

At Worcester Arts Workshop, the fabulous Fancy Features exhibition runs until Saturday 15th March. Its gloriously psychedelic colours and lines have been keeping our spirits up during the last few weeks of murky weather. Be certain to see it if you haven't already.

Our next exhibition is of work by our talented tutors (many, practitioners in their own right). Expect a display of top notch paintings, drawings, photography, textiles, prints and ceramics. There will be an evening launch party on Friday 21st March at 6pm.

If you're of a needlecrafty disposition, come to Café Bliss on Tuesday mornings from 10am. Christine Baker will be there to stitch alongside you - helping or inspiring with your work if necessary. Or just come to knit or sew with your friends - what could be a nicer way to be productive!

**Vamos Theatre Company** are taking bookings for their mask-making workshop at WAW on Saturday 12th April. Go to their website for details.

We've got lots of things planned for the coming weeks - so keep calling in to see what's happening...

Full Spring Term programme of courses is now available. For more details visit:

[www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)  
21 Sansome Street, Worcester  
WR1 1UH Tel: 01905 25053

# THE BHG



March is the month at The BHG and its all kicking off with some exciting events. February has seen a great month with the exhibition of 'Kidderminster Creatives' work filling the gallery with a diverse range of artworks and top the sound of a great launch with drumming galore. Now the gallery is being handed over Paul Hill aka Chilli. As soon as we first cast our eyes over Chilli's (also drummer from the band 'And Also the Trees') portfolio we knew he would be an artist for us. He describes his art as 'Quirky, Surreal and Dark Humoured' and the work deffinetly lives up to that description. Each painting see's a little story of characters that often tell ominous tales but also have a very intriguing sweetness to them too. The show will launch on Saturday 1st March from 7pm at The BHG. Chilli will be there and hand to meet and greet and the party will continue downstairs at the Boars Head to the ska-rave sounds of China Shop Bull and Lobster who



China Shop Bull

have both previously played at the Boars and raised the roof! The exhibition will then continue until the end of the month. Opening hours are Thursday-Saturday 2pm-6pm but do message or call ahead and we may be able to meet you there any other time.

Another great treat for the first week of March is a 'Swap & Sew' event hosted by our very own Waste2Want on Monday 3rd March from 7pm. Guests are invited to come along to the gallery with any clothes they no longer want for any reason. For the price of £2 they will be entitled to either swap these clothes for new things or find great ways to customise and upcycle the ones they already have. In times of little cash, this is a great way to boost your wardrobe and learn see fab new ideas.



On Thursday 6th March we will be hosting our usual Life Drawing but this time with a twist and we are having not one but two models who will be stripping bare for the class. This is a great opportunity to develop your drawing skills with a live model. The class is informal, there is nothing to fear and is open to all abilities.

Also look out for more stencil making, rag rugging and wellie painting workshops later in the month too!

For more information or to book for any of the classes please email [gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](mailto:gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk) or call 01562 861870

*Glass Pint Sculpture* by Kate Wragg Featured in the 'Kidderminster Creatives' Show.

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

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



Coz

# Featured Artist - Jose Santos Lopez

'At times you can see pain and disappointment in my work, I relate this to my frustrated mind, and to the pain and loneliness in the world today.'



Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, Jose Santos Lopez is a Worcester based artist specialising in printmaking, using dark and surreal imagery to portray the stark and sometimes brutal reality of life. I have known Jose for a couple of years now and find his work fascinating, absorbing, dark and far from what it seems on the surface. I recently asked him a few questions about his work and his thoughts.

**What and who inspires you?**

*"Personal events and situations; the present moments are my true and main source of 'inspiration' (I call it a reaction). Life at the moment seems to have lost its balance, justice and fairness and provides more attention to celebrating the ignorant masses."*

There are influences of (recent Worcester Museum and Art Gallery exhibited) Josph Beuys showing Jose's interest in Arte Povera (literally poor art), a modern art movement from the late 60's early 70's whose core values focussed on every

day simple objects, nature, messages; creating non-traditional and politically charged artwork, common practice in today's contemporary art world.

**Your subject matter.....**

*"...Might be a bit dark, you're right, but that for me it's part of reality...or 'my reality'? Who knows, all I can say is that any kind of injustice and ignorance (especially racism) is something that feeds my frustration and eventually it reflects at some point in my work. I can't ignore social issues because we are all part of it."*

In the past Jose studied to be a priest, gaining further depth and understanding of theology and while he immersed himself in a culturally rich environment, he fueled further his interest in art eventually taking a course in printing and etching, a practice that he continues to perfect and experiment with today.

**Why print making.....?**

*"It's a technique whereby the more you explore the more challenging it gets. Printing is a long process, it allows you to re-think and communicate with the image, with the message, which for me is very important, even though it can sometimes drain you, absorb you to the point of being too close to yourself and that can be a danger for an artist."*

Jose lived in Mexico and the USA, before moving to the UK in 1997. In 2011 he completed his BA in Fine art at the University of Worcester where he now resides and continues to work.

**Do you find your inspirations differ between Mexico and the UK?**

*"I think it's something I have really no control over; my work is influenced by the culture of the two countries no doubt. My years living in Mexico and in the UK are the same so I'm somehow in the middle and this balances my work and how I approach my techniques and theories. There is an admiration for nature and a commitment to*

*social responsibility that drive my art practice on."*

Recent developments and projects include his work at the museum of Royal Worcester.....

"The Museum of Royal Worcester has been an incredible inspirational source. We are working on the restoration of the original copper plates, some dated as early 18th century. As an artist and print maker, seeing these original and intricately crafted designs come alive again but this time as a fine art print is a real privilege. It's a lot of work, but you can only describe this as priceless! Details of our forthcoming exhibitions and events are on the website."







Where now and next?.....

*"At present doors are starting to open and in many directions, one of the projects that I have been developing for the last 3 years involves printing and chocolate! Some of my work has been used to illustrate "If I Can ...You Can" a book by Louis Barnett, a local chocolatier and a good friend of mine.*

*I also participated in the "Day of the Dead" live, painting a wall with chocolate as part of the main event last November in London."*

Here at the Cathedral recently, as part of the "Seeing and Mapping our World" exhibition, Jose displayed a chocolate print map of the world on 'Amate' (traditional Mexican) paper.

*"I continue to learn and experiment with other mediums and techniques and look forward to collaborating with other artists and growing with new theories."*

Currently you can see Jose's large dry point and 'chine colle' print relating to the horses of war on display at the George Marshall and Medical Museum in Worcester. (Free admission).

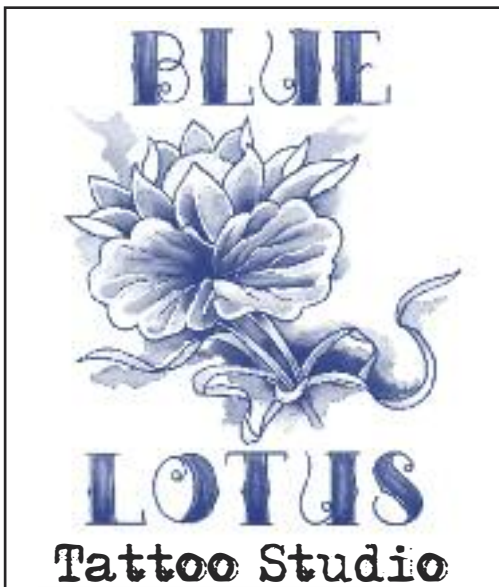
<http://www.medicalmuseum.org.uk>

You can also check him out at: [www.jsantos.co.uk](http://www.jsantos.co.uk)

or contact him on: [jose@jsantos.co.uk](mailto:jose@jsantos.co.uk)

*'I strongly believe that art is a powerful medium that can contribute to positive human consciousness and promote change.'*

Kate Cox.



Christian



Loz

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# REVIEW - The Fable of Blue Bell Nook



January saw the release of Evesham writer, singer songwriter and story teller Wolfren Riverstick's fifth self published work The Fable Of Blue Bell Nook.

It is an exciting fantasy adventure story which sees a peg legged squirrel named Silvertuft embark on a mission to save the eponymous nook from the ravages of human expansion and local planners.

The book has a strong underlying ecological message as Silvertuft gathers together a bunch of animal friends, all of whom have a limb or appendage missing caused by human carelessness and littering, to pit themselves against their human antagonists.

The author Wolfren aka Darryl Sandford has been writing for 12 years but he started out as a music composer then began writing articles for a magazine he worked for. Wolfren has worked in stage and professional theatre as stage crew and also wrote a cod pantomime which provided him with the initial inspiration to undertake his first novel.



He wrote intermittently but it wasn't until a family friend said anyone who starts a book should finish it that he got going with this piece of advice ringing in his ears. And so the first novel was completed. His other titles include A Cat Called Ian, While We Sleep The Dream Snatchers Cometh, The Incredible Adventures Of Amanda and Shelly and Amanda goes to Laktose.

As a self-published author this means that Wolfren writes, types, edits, designs, markets and makes the tea all by himself. His books have so far been aimed at the young person 9-12 age group market, but he has two new books in the pipeline at editorial stage which will be a total departure in style and much darker in tone: hence these will be aimed at the young adult market.

For those who want to find out more about Wolfren and his wonderful stories you can check out his Facebook page Wolfren Riverstick or go to his website wolfrenriverstick.co.uk or www.crazywolfbooks which is his self publishing site.

Words by Ravy Davy Batley



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## Review - Deborah Rose, Artrix Studio | Sunday 2nd February

It was no coincidence that Deborah Rose chose to launch her new album *'Song Be My Soul'* on what would have been Eva Cassidy's 51st birthday. The Welsh songstress has often cited Eva as a key inspiration and her emotive style, so redolent of Cassidy's, served to create a wonderfully intimate atmosphere in the Artrix Studio.



With her sister Louise Watkins providing some tuneful opening numbers, Deborah began her set with *'Taigh Allain'*, a mesmerising tribute to the Scottish loch near where she does much of her writing. Deborah has great storytelling ability and this was clearly evident throughout her set. The audience were captivated by her



musical interpretation of Tennyson's *'Lady of Shallot'* to the extent that I for one really believed I was on the shores of Camelot. Further poetical inspiration from William Blake resulted in *'Tyger, Tyger'* and the musical accompaniment by Kadialy Kayoute on Kora and Mendi Singh on tabla really added to the spiritual dimension of this song.

In between songs Deborah related how she had stayed with Eva's parents when she was appearing at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. The stand-out track of the evening for me was *'Springtime.'* This beautiful song, which Deborah composed with Ian King, is an evocative tribute to Eva's love of simple pleasures. The other highlight of the night was her soulful rendition of *'Song Be My Soul'* which is the title track of the album co-written with Martin Riley, who also performed stunning piano arrangements.

A number of the songs on the album are based on the work of the great poets of Ruskin's era, so it's easy to see why Deborah is often asked to perform in Victorian houses amongst Pre-Raphaelite paintings. She's a beautiful lady with a beautiful voice and I left feeling spiritually soothed by the warmth of the musical ambience she so ably creates.

Rosie Hamilton

## Preview - Robin Ince | Artrix, Bromsgrove | Wed 26th March

Sony gold award-winning comedian and science enthusiast Robin Ince returns to Artrix at the end of March with another in his line of unhinged stand-up lectures.

After dabbling in Darwin and Feynman and cleaning out Schrodinger's Cat, Robin now delves into his mind and possibly yours too to look at the last 100 years of psychiatry, psychology and brain dabbings. Freud might be turning in his grave but there are likely to be lots of laughs along the way with this thoughtful and provocative comedian.

Robin Ince is (In and Out) Of His Mind set on Wednesday

26th March at Artrix at 8.00 pm. Tickets cost £14 (£12) from the box office on 01527 577330 or online at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



# Review - Southport / Olanza / Fatty Cox | Firefly, Worcester | Friday 17th Jan

There's a school of thought that says you can grade the quality of a gig by the amount of heat it generates. The windows had already steamed up at this one by the time the opening act hit their first bar. So I leave you to draw your own conclusions.

It was also a night with surprises. The shimmering Bedford Falls having dropped out last minute due to food poisoning down in Cardiff, an unexpected solo act was born as Neil Cox (currently of Thirty Six Strategies and Worcester's long-lost Shutdown) stepped up with an impromptu electric one man show. Playing a short set of Shutdown songs that apparently hadn't been played in anger for over fifteen years (plus a cover of *Mirror in the Bathroom*) there was a raw, soulful honesty here that lifted matters above what could have been an indoor busking session – and into somewhere more unusual. The pretty much capacity crowd certainly helped, and this Billy Bragg-esque turn served to generate a lot of love in the room.

Second band Olanza have been plying their trade for some years down in Bristol, but this was their first out of town show. Instrumental hardcore, bass guitar-led and musically dense – I'm almost tempted to call this melodic-stoner-core. But that would be both lazy and clumsy. Because this was in fact an exercise in painting an edgy, post-industrial soundscape with darkly worked bass hooks and riffs. And, deployed in conjunction with the notable profusion of softly flashing LED e-cigarettes, this twisting, convulsing turn served to make this venue with its boutique décor feel somehow like the bar scene out of *Blade Runner*. Seething and dystopian.

Representing for that Brighton and the greater South East, headliners Southport are a wonder of melodic hardcore survival. Fronted by one Simon Wells, the original oddball driving force behind the legendary Snuff, and with the rhythm section from Midway Still – this was always going to be a class



act. It was also irreverent and slightly deranged – the vocalist's non sequiturs and gleefully nihilistic anecdotes in between tracks about fish finger packets, living the dream (as a painter and decorator), scooter appreciation and Calypso bands making for a set packed with pace, personality and life-affirming vigour. And the tunes weren't bad either.

Ed Ling

Photography by [facebook.com/PositiveCacophony21](https://www.facebook.com/PositiveCacophony21)



# REVIEW – An invitation to participate | Craigus Barry The Retinal Circus

ATTENTION ALL POTENTIAL REMIXERS REGARDLESS OF GENRE! GET IN TOUCH HERE TO GET INVOLVED

## AN INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED WITH A COMPLETELY OPEN ENDED REMIX PROJECT

As mentioned in Slap Dec/Jan, A Season Dissolved is a remix project built around an original composition by Craigus Barry, The Retinal Circus. Craigus & David Headon commenced work on it in late 2012, it has since reached it's final stages of production, the penultimate mix is available here:

<https://soundcloud.com/a-season-dissolved>

On soundcloud you can also hear various mixes that display the sheer dense layers of instrumentation.

It features a string section by Sexy Weirdos fiddler John-Joe Murray, a seven part choral section arranged and performed by singer songwriter Becky Rose (who also supplies piano) and various percussion & bass played by David Headon. In addition to various instrumentation such as omnichord & lute played by Craigus, the sound is gigantic! [swallowthemind@gmail.com](mailto:swallowthemind@gmail.com)



This is sure to be a very one of a kind project quite unlike anything else.

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## LOCAL CHURCH SETS THE STAGE FOR NEW MUSIC

It may seem like the last place you would expect to go to a gig, but the Bell Tower Appeal committee have found the perfect venue for their fundraising concerts-All Saints Church. After the success of last year's event with local musicians hanna\*h\*, a second evening of live music has been arranged for 28th March in order to raise money for the appeal.

Local performers Dean Bayliss, Qualia Acoustix (Emma Oakley-Hall and Thom Parry) and hanna\*h\* (Hanna Knight and Tim Haines) form the line up for the forthcoming event which has been branded 'LIVE & LOCAL' by the committee. With cabaret-style seating and a fully licensed bar provided by Josi Emms of Moo Moo's Cafe & Bar, the Church will be transformed into a music venue for the evening, with the focus being on relaxing with friends and enjoying the atmosphere and music. Committee Chairperson, Sue Ablett, says "We want to bring the appeal and the Church up to date and make both more accessible to the younger generation. The Bell Tower is part of our heritage and we hope that by involving all members of our community, young and old, we can raise awareness of its importance in our town. LIVE & LOCAL is a fantastic way of bringing everyone together and raising money for such an important cause."

Tickets for this event are available from Almonry Museum, Abbey Appliances, Moo Moo's Cafe & Bar, and the Church Office or enquire at: [sueablett1@btinternet.com](mailto:sueablett1@btinternet.com) £8/£5 under 16s. Doors open 7.30pm with music starting at 8pm. All proceeds from ticket sales go to the Bell Tower Appeal."





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*Do you like good music? Like sweet soul music? Do you like to party at the end of the week, draw the weekend in with a boogie round the dancefloor, shake those bits to those old soul hits? Well in that case the only ticket you need is one for the hip shaking groove machine that is The Official Receivers.*



There are few bands in the county (should that read country?) that can incite a breakout of dancing within the first few bars, most bands take a song or two to hit the right groove, but not so with The Official Receivers, the band launch into their opening number and within seconds the Marrs Bar floor is awash with revellers, by the follow-up number, *Be Young, Be Foolish, Be Happy* everyone was either strutting, dancing in their seats or singing along in glee.

Funky guitar riffs, sax solo's, keyboard tinkering and the frontman's glorious vocal tones, ensures the seven-piece band deliver a tight, highly energetic and above all, fun set, packed full of firm fan favourites, such as *Mr Pitiful* and *Hold Back The Night*. Whilst the likes of a wonderful

strutting, funk ridden *Too Hot To Handle* and a hollered rendition of *Geno* and the inevitable *Mustang Sally* (Who? -Ed), help create an electric party atmosphere. Slower numbers such as a beautiful, *Try A Little Tenderness* ooze passion, giving the audience a chance to catch their collective breaths and dance cheek to cheek, whilst showcasing the band at their restrained best.

The Official Receivers are the perfect party band, the soundtrack to your weekend and damn good night out, if I go back to my opening question do you like good music, like sweet soul music, on this evidence the answer is a resounding "Hell Yeah"!

Words: Will Munn Pics: Graham Munn

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# Preview - Surprise Attacks @ The Firefly | Worcester

Launching with a packed triple-bill show headlined by local punk and roll heroes **Fights and Fires** in May last year, and now 10 shows down in 10 months, the regular **Surprise Attacks** punk and hardcore night at the **Firefly (Lowesmoor, Worcester)** is growing in reputation – and appears to be digging in for the long haul. With gigs lined up all the way to the summer, and plans for a new local record label in the offing, if you like things underground then **Surprise Attacks** deserves your attention.

Photography: Mark Salmon



Baby Godzilla

The shows to date have featured a curated mix of both local punk and roll heroes (**Plane Crasher, New Alaska, Mansize, Thirty Six Strategies**) and established acts from across the UK (**Baby Godzilla, HDQ, Southport**) and from as far afield as Japan (**Crucial Section**). With all profits going back to the bands themselves, this is "Do It Yourself" writ large – with a sideways nod to the Redondo Beach and Washington DC scenes of old.

Incoming shows confirmed so far are as follows: March sees a show headlined by Liverpool's **BuzzOrHowl** (featuring ex members of **Jailcell Recipes**); April, both a garage punk special featuring the **Hip Priests** and the **Sick Livers** early in the month, and a return to Worcester by the post-hardcore fireball that is **Ash is A Robot** on Good Friday; May promises something heavier, headlined by the legendary **Violent Arrest**; June, July and August are in train – with some big names to be announced, including the line up for an all-dayer as part of the **Worcester Music Festival**.

SURPRISE ATTACKS PROUDLY PRESENT  
**BUZZOrHOWL**  
LIVERPOOL, FORMERLY THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
**NORWEB**  
BIRMINGHAM, FORMERLY THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
**The Broken Oak Duet**  
BIRMINGHAM, FORMERLY THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
**Those Amongst Us Are Wolves**  
BIRMINGHAM, FORMERLY THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE BROTHERHOOD

£4

8pm, Fri, MAR 14th at THE FIREFLY, WORCESTER  
Facebook.com/SurpriseAttacks Twitter: @surpriseattacks



Mark College - HDQ

Photography: Mark Hoy

**Surprise Attacks** co-founder **Chris Burton** explained further... *"The objective of **Surprise Attacks (SA)** is to create an environment that brings fine underground music to our town. There have always been a lot of people into punk & hardcore in the Shires, and we want to build a solid hub to bring those people together. The SA gigs so far have all had glimpses of a sense of passion and community, and it's slowly gaining a core following which is what we wanted from the off."*

*We want to create a solid gig night which does not compromise ethically or musically, and also a record label encompassing the same DIY blueprint. I guess anything more will come with time, but with these two things underway, the foundations are laid. DC wasn't built in a day!"*

Words by Ed Ling

Dates confirmed:

Friday, March 14: **BuzzOrHowl / Norweb / The Broken Oak Duet / Those Among Us Are Wolves**

Thursday 3rd April: **The Hip Priests / The Sick Livers / 10:94**

Friday 18th April: **Ash is a Robot (Portugal) / Hey! You Guys / POHL**

Facebook.com/Surpriseattacks

Twitter: @surpriseattacks





## Review - Bad Sam / Real Life Version / SeeHearSpeak / A Werewolf! | 20th Feb | Firefly

And so. Four bands on a Thursday night. But still the same Surprise Attacks formula of a quid a band. Bargain.

Evesham's instrumental two-piece A Werewolf! are simply guitar, drums, and four straight square feet of effects pedals. Despite being their first live show as a unit (although members also play in **Officer Down**) their mathcore / post rock sound was tight and spiky. Picture The Dillinger Escape Plan at their most listenable. Though wordless, the set was struck through with wry humour and likeable personality, exemplified by some winsomely nonsense song titles about Tom Cruise and waterfowl. More to come from these boys I think.

were the native English speakers that they genuinely sounded like, say from Oxford or Brighton - then the UK "alternative" music media would be all over them like an aggressive allergic rash. But they're from somewhere in the Balkans. So they are not. The UK alternative music media are fools.

A Werewolf



Real Life Version



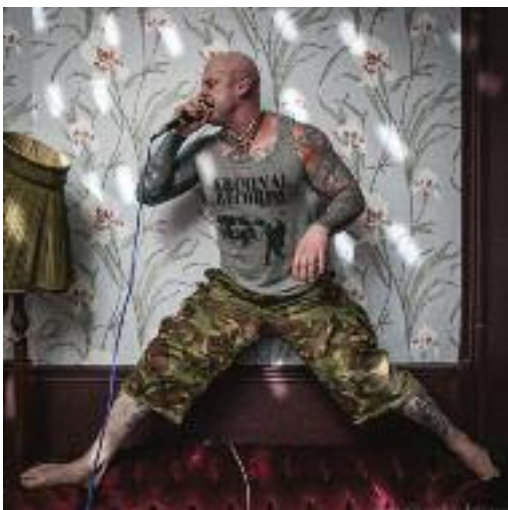
Real Life Version were (naturally) of a similar cut, albeit with more metallic guitars and soaring, clean vocals. By that token you could comfortably bracket this as emo-revival, bearing favourable comparison with the current wave of bands crashing in from America - You Blew It!, Braided Veins and the rest, and with more than a nod to The Get Up Kids

Seehearspeak, representing for Slovenia, comprised the rhythm section of their label mates Real Life Version and the vocalist / guitarist of another DIY band (Inxsane). And



Seehearspeak

this trio more than any other I've yet heard rammed home how vibrant the punk scene actually is in Europe. With a remarkably mature emo/post hardcore sound - like a pokier, better-looking Against Me! - if this band really



Bad Sam



of yore. And yet this band was way more interesting than any of them, as they have things to say about social issues and politics, one time mainstays of the punk movement. Whereas most of those American bands just seem to sing about the weather.

Speaking of politics... there was still **Bad Sam**. Playing to the sizeable crew of older-school crust-punkers in attendance (this show was also an exercise in bringing hardcore generations together) their pedigree in anarcho-punk and hardcore outfits like the great Cowboy Killers glistened forth like the sweat on vocalist **Beddis'** pinball smooth bald head. This singular specimen of a man, who (on stage) is both deranged and almost totally unintelligible barring frequent extreme profanity, had the most intense physical presence of any frontman I have encountered. Ever. Barefoot and densely tattooed, comparisons with Henry Rollins spring to mind. But this character made the great Henry look like Josh Homme. He gibbered. He ranted. He had a little sit down at the back of the room on a chair. He clambered the walls. He f\*cked off back to Wales. And life was suddenly a lot less terrifying and exciting. End.

*Photography: Mark Hoy Words: Ed Ling*

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# Review - Zeus / Skinhorse / Evolution of Man / Fetus Christ | The Bridge Inn Tues 28th Jan

And so. This soiree of grind, sludge, noise and who-cares-what 'core was a dazzlingly odd and fitting last show for the experimental music night that was **Embrace The Chaos**. I have no doubt that the promoter involved will resurface soon in a different guise. But, here's to you **Mickey Raison**. Keep the faith.

Opens **Fetus Christ** pulled off the beast in geek's clothing trick with style. One would never ever expect such funny looking little fellows to nonchalantly drop such a dense, shitnails-fast bomb of aural nastiness. But they did. There were shades of **Eyehategod** and **Iron Monkey** here. And a whole world of fun it was too.



Fetus Christ

And then we had **Evolution of Man**. If you're going to revive the early 90s, revive the best bits. And if you liked **Alice In Chains** and **Monster Magnet** back in the day - and latterly you go for the sludgy **Southern Lord** sound - then this was quids in. The Vocalist's face was totally obscured by a sweaty mass of hair, and the guitarists could have come out of the **House Band in Wayne's World 2** - but I loved those films. And the hairy boy had a great, gnarly yarl of a voice. If it was actually him singing, that is. I couldn't make out any facial movement under that hair. Radical.

Then.. **Skinhorse**. The two-piece, bass guitar and drums thing seems to be on the rise right now - **Broken Oak**



Skinhorse

**Duet**, **POHL** and of course **Zeus!**, and this pair... And this was a classy example of the genre, all told. Bit jazz, bit noise, it's amazing how much sound two instruments played tightly can generate in such a small space.

And finally with a swagger, a "vaffanculo" and a slipping on of a pair of wayfarer sunglasses at the far end of a dimly lit former bowling alley... representing for the dark north of Italy we had **Zeus!** Intense, muscular,



Zeus

more than slightly mad - these two hairy units worked up a complex artsy noise that slammed into the pelvis and mugged the higher brain with violence. There were micro-scale textures and complexities in the bass and the drum patterns that were likely lost on the untrained



ear - but the intensity and primal force of this was plain for even a houseplant to see. They came. They got sweaty. They screamed. They painted scary pictures with noise. They conquered. End.

by Ed Ling

Photography - [facebook.com/PositiveCacophony21](https://www.facebook.com/PositiveCacophony21)



## Review - Rodney Branigan | The Bedwardine | 22nd Feb

Back in December, I was fortunate to have been mesmerized by Rod Branigan's performance, culminating in his 'duel guitar flip trick', how could I not return for his Feb. date.

Once set up, he goes straight into 'Body Language', taken from his Sketches album, a very good bit of Americana/blues. A quick breath and an interpretation of Ian Moore's *Muddy Jesus*, performed with an 8 string uke across his back, acoustic 6 string to the front and the little conga drum, ready to hand. That sort of hints at what to expect, combinations of ever present guitar, uke, conga, and a

tambourine under his foot. Rod is not adverse to reworking good music to mix in with his self penned songs. A bit of rap from Kanye West, Outkast's, 'Hey ya', and a truly outstanding demonstration of 'slap' and fingering his acoustic feeding in to The Beatles' 'Come Together', simply, superb. Rod stopped for a well earned break, but not before a twin guitar bit of schizophrenic musicianship.

'Creep', borrowed from Radiohead, is the excellent restart to the evening, we are all spellbound, by Rod's skills, (two brains maybe?) and a liberal splash of banter and humour. Requests for guitar songs were invited, back



came the shout, Black Sabbath, we're almost launched full on into an acoustic 'War Pigs', but alas no, it looked promising, I think he should go for it.

There are the songs taken from *Sketches*, a mix of reworks and self written music, along with the more blues orientated set from his *Nothing Better To Do*, album. Notables from these tracks are Muddy Waters, 'Champagne and Reefer', and his own 'Buckets', not about bailing out the floods, though 'Stop The Rain', written at Glastonbury, probably is. You can feel the rivulets of water running down your neck! An excellent acoustic version of Beastie Boys 'Sabotage', far less explosive on the ears, was followed by a beer glass slide with tambourine accompaniment of Rod's take on the Brady Bunch, which compares very favourably with the rather cheesy 1960's opening theme from the TV series. A truly stunning evening at the Bedwardine could only be complete with Rod doing his 2 guitar flip trick, as previously demonstrated in December. For those new to a Branigan gig, it is indeed awesome to behold, as 'Slot Machine' and 'Clean Up', from *Sketches*, are combined into a phenomenal display of guitar playing. I can only say again, this man is unmissable, he returns once more on May 21st, for you to get another chance, this time he is bringing along fiddle player extraordinaire Tim Snider. I have already marked my place, I suggest you all mark your calendar.

Graham Munn

## Review - From The Jam Acoustic Tour | Artrix, Bromsgrove | Thurs 13th March

The legendary Bruce Foxton was the driving force behind The Jam's singer, guitarist, and songwriter Paul Weller. With their smartly-tailored suits the mod-revival group took the UK charts by storm in the late 70s and 80s with 18 consecutive top 40 singles.

After The Jam split in '82, Foxton pursued a solo career. Following his hit single 'Freak' he collaborated with other musicians until he got the call from Stiff Little Fingers' Jake Burns. He stayed with SLF for fifteen years, recording four albums, namely, 'Flags and Emblems', 'Get a Life', 'Tinderbox', and 'Guitar and Drum'.

Now Bruce is back performing with musician/vocalist Russell Hastings in From The Jam Acoustic Tour. The duo will play a selection of songs from The Jam's back catalogue and from Bruce's most recent album 'Back In

*The Room*. The audience will also get the chance to ask questions when they hand the microphone over for a question and answer session.

From The Jam Acoustic Tour is at Artrix on Thursday 13th March at 8.00 pm. Tickets are available at £20 from the box office on 01527 577330 or at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



# REVIEW - Local Talent Showcase | The Seven Stars, Redditch - Sat 15th Jan

The Seven Stars in Redditch opened its doors to a new music night which will run once a month showcasing local singer songwriters and groups from the surrounding area.

The inaugural evening opened with local singer songwriter Alan Mason. Alan is a busy boy these days and gets himself around the area on a more regular basis than Ernie the milkman! He plays several Open Mic nights locally and



also plays several venues from Birmingham through to Stratford. Alan's songs have had regular radio plays in the Birmingham area. His new song, "Today's The Day" has had a good response and is on Radio Fusion's regular play list at the moment.

Alan has an interesting finger picking style and writes story based and acute observational material commenting on world events. His song *Every Now And Then*, is about the marginalisation and harassment of disabled people by the government appointed ATOS group regarding their ability to work and their subsequent demonisation in the right wing press. Alan has several events coming up this year and will be playing at the Bromsgrove Festival once more and the Love 2 Give festival in Wolverhampton, which is a multi charity event.

The next act was Donna Wills and Rob Knight. Donna is one third of Crimzon Blue both her and Rob are from Redditch. They played a short set which included *Ain't No Sunshine*, *Billie Jean* and *Sleepy Little Town*. This is only the second time Rob has played live and he came across quite assured plus appeared to be enjoying himself.

The third singer songwriter to tread the boards was Stuart Wolfenden. At only 15(!) years old Stuart's amazingly accomplished & mature set consisted of mainly interesting, original material with two covers slipped in for good measure. It's always good to hear original material, but even better when it's coming from someone as young



as Stuart. What Stuart lacks in experience he more than makes up for with enthusiasm and his passion for writing and playing. It's also good to see Stuart taking this approach to music and not going down the X Factor or Britain's Got Idiots rubbish route that a lot of other young players go for.

Stuart played his new material for us with tracks such as *Flesh And Blood* and *No-one Has Ambition Anymore* underlining that he is certainly on the right path to creating a great set and catalogue of work. This talented youngster is also releasing a four track EP in April (his second release) and by the time you read this will have also played the Birmingham 02 on 31st of Jan as part of a showcase support for Mr Gorgeous!

Last up at this busy Showcase Night was Crimzon Blue playing as a duo consisting of Donna Wills and Kev Bryan.

They entertained us with a mixed set of originals and face covers such as *Nutbush City Limits*, *Proud Mary* and *River Deep Mountain High* (big Tina fans obviously). Playing for forty minutes they played a couple of notable original blues rock numbers, namely *Hard Headed Woman* and *The Real Man*.

Donna and Kev were kept very busy as they were our fine comperes and hosts for this splendid evening which they intend to hold on a monthly basis. Make sure they can by supporting this new night and take along your guitar or favoured instrument - you'll be made most welcome!

Words by Sad Bat Gravelly

# Preview - Of Kings And Captains/Munkinpure/The Rainbreakers | Moochers | 7th Mar

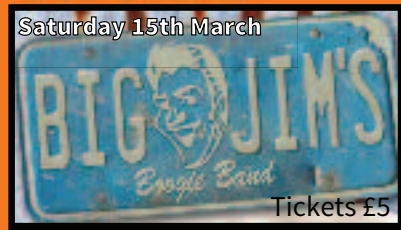
Rising Stourbridge stars **Of Kings And Captains** will be the latest high profile band to take to **Moochers** chequered stage. The pop / rock outfit are rapidly gaining a loyal following both locally and nationally and have received radio play on numerous stations including BBC Radio, Absolute Radio and Kerrang. The summer of 2013 saw them support **Bon Jovi** on the UK leg of the "Because We Can" tour, which saw them playing prestigious venues such as Birmingham's Villa Park, Manchester's Etihad Stadium, Cardiff City Stadium, Sunderland Stadium of light as well as Scotland's national stadium, Hampden Park.



Support acts on the 7th will be **Munkinpure** who had a loyal following in their native South Africa before relocating to the UK from Johannesburg to further their musical careers in 2010. Already veterans of the UK scene, they have gigs already under their belts at locations such as the O2 Academy 1 as well as various UK music festivals. Opening the night will be Shrewsbury band **The Rainbreakers**. Already well known around their home town, they are receiving radio play nationally and have recently been signed by TMC Management.

Sarah Evans, Director at **Moochers** stated "Each of these bands are a headline act on their own, so to have all three playing on the same bill is brilliant." She continued "Of Kings And Captains are a great band with a very bright future ahead of them and we're thrilled they are headlining this night".

The bands are the latest acts to take the stage at the venue which is located on Stourbridge ring road. Since a change of ownership in late 2013 the venue has used Friday shows to showcase original bands & artists, both established and up and coming.



MARCH		
Fri 7th	<b>Of Kings and Captains</b>	£5
	with support from <b>Munkinpure &amp; The Rainbreakers</b>	
Sat 8th	<b>Bunter &amp; the Vibes</b>	£5
	The funkiest 10 piece band around	
Fri 14th	<b>Bon Jovi</b>	£8 adv/ £10 door
	The worlds best Bon Jovi Tribute act	
Sat 15th	<b>Big Jims Boogie Band</b>	£5
	The best Rhythm & Blues act there is!	
Fri 21st	<b>Riff Raff</b>	£5
	A Musical tribute to AC DC the Bon Scott years	
Fri 28th	<b>Primer</b>	£5
	with support from <b>Your Best Enemy &amp; Dionysus Unbound</b>	
<b>and much much more</b>		
<b>Please check our website for details</b>		

Stourbridge Ring Road, opposite the Police Station  
 01384 671141  
[www.moochers.co.uk](http://www.moochers.co.uk)



# Going Dark

Written by Hattie Naylor in collaboration with Sound&Fury



How far can you see? A mile? A hundred miles? Or to the furthest shores of the universe to a faraway galaxy? It's Max's job to ask the cosmic questions.

Passionate about astronomy, he works as the narrator at the city's Planetarium where he challenges his audiences with the mysteries of stars and science. When his own life takes an unexpected turn, Max discovers that understanding the universe requires a different kind of vision...

**Sound&Fury** use their innovative theatre vocabulary of immersive surround sound design, total darkness and imaginative lighting in *Going Dark* to reawaken our wonder at the cosmos and reveal how one man's vision becomes illuminated by darkness.

Dates: From 18 March To 19 March 2014 Times: 7.45pm

Price: £16.24 Unreserved; Under 26s £8.96 (Including 12% Booking Fee)

Venue: Forum Theatre Genre: Drama

## CD Review | Bast | Spectres

Blending doom themes with strong black and trippy influences, Bast come across as the beautiful bastard son of Electric Wizard, EyeHateGod Et Dopethrone. Featuring Worcester-born Craig Bryan and Jon Lee plus Gavin Thomas, Bast's *Spectres* creates a continual changing atmosphere rather than a series of disconnected tracks. While only featuring five songs, with the shortest clocking in at 6:41, this feels far more of a monolithic release than a standard album.

'In the Beginning' is a masterclass in how to build a song – opening with a tangibly bleak, sparse arrangement, we're soon pushed into a rolling blackened landscape that continues to spiral with the addition of Bryan's raw vocals. As *Spectres* progresses, Bast's skilled way of blending genres becomes more and more apparent. While 'Denizens' has moments of old Sabbath-esque guitar work, it's soon set against a ragged landscape of stripped-back psychedelia, then into black territory, then back again.



While the title track of *Spectres* is more familiar black/doom fare, the clarity of the song is perfectly balanced. The production on this album is flawless. With so many bands choosing to present their music as though it'd been captured through floorboards on a child's tape recorder, being able to hear all elements blended perfectly is something of a breath of fresh air. However, not all tracks have been polished to within an inch of their lives; 'Psychonauts' is a fine example of that. 'Outside The Circles' closes the album with a far more chilled vibe than the rest. Indeed, it's the sort of song everyone needs to veg out to and try to take in the sheer enormity of Bast's undertaking.

To pin any track down as being of a particular genre or heading in one direction is as easy as fitting a moose in a phone box. As soon as the listener gets comfortable, Bast take a sudden turn and you're taken down another street. That isn't to say that too many cooks (or genres) have spoiled the broth; rather that every change seems effortless.

With bands like Bast, it's an unwritten rule that a review must close with some well-worn, garish hyperbole such as 'this album is like a thousand hammers smashing you in the jaw' or 'they make you want to kill your mother and play riffs atop the corpse.' Putting it plainly, Bast's debut album is stunning. *Spectres* is an utterly beautiful creation that will far eclipse the recent works of their peers. I want more.

by Kate Cherrell

## Preview - Going Dark 18-19th March | Malvern Theatre | Forum Theatre

Following a sold out national tour and two sold out runs at the Young Vic in London, **Sound&Fury** bring their innovative and immersive show **Going Dark** to **Malvern Theatre** this month, and by the time this edition of **Slap** finds you I'll have already seen it. **Sound and Fury** are produced by **Fuel**, a producing organisation working with contemporary theatre artists to develop, create and present new work for all. I'm part of a 'New Theatre in your neighbourhood' project to help engage new audiences with the work that **Fuel** tours. It's an easy gig, because the work is so inspiring that all I have to do is jump up and down about it.

**Sound&Fury** use their innovative theatre vocabulary of immersive surround sound design, total blackout and imaginative lighting to reawaken our wonder at the cosmos and reveal how one man's vision becomes illuminated by darkness. Using the latest software in projection, lighting and sound technology, **Sound&Fury** create a truly immersive environment for audiences, and awe inspiring



visuals that take audiences on Max's journey as his 'view' of the world begins to take on new meaning.

Join us upstairs in the circle bar after the show on Tuesday 18th for a post show chat. Tickets are limited and selling out fast, so book whilst you can. And for anyone who saw **Clod Ensemble** back in November, **Fuel** are bringing their new piece back to Malvern in June. So, let's keep theatre thriving in Worcestershire. I hope to see you there.

Michelle Pogmore

'A pulse-quickenning poem... a wonderful piece of theatre.' ★★★★★ Independent



# Review - Vault of Eagles | Millers Arms, Pershore | Friday Jan 31st

The end of January sadly saw the closure of one of the best music venues in the Evesham area, namely **The Star Inn, Pershore**. So not a great end to the month but a welcome return to the Millers in Pershore of **Vault of Eagles** helped to take the edge off it and cheer us all up. So to Pershore down the windy road from the 'Sham on a wet and windy Friday night I didst travel, that being the 31st of January in the Year of Our Lord 2014. To cometh to the door of the Millers inn Pershore and see and listen to the mighty Vault Of Eagles. It's always good to catch up with VOE but even better if it's on your doorstep.

For those who haven't seen them they are a three piece heavy psychedelic rock trio who can deliver a great set of songs that is well crafted and presented. They consist of sisters **Mari Randle** - guitar and lead vocals, **Hetty** - bass and backing vocals and **Scott Ewins** on drums.

As a three piece they are carving out quite a reputation as a hard working and dedicated band who are getting out there and playing to people.

Last year saw them doing a mini tour in Europe playing several festivals and venues and



the end of this February saw them off abroad again but this time to Crumlin, north Wales (ha bloody ha! Welsh Ed). Indeed the fine month of Feb was tres successful for the power trio as they embarked on a mini tour of the area with the **Fox Tail Rockets** and **Mansize**.

Not being content with that they also managed a coveted support slot with 70's punk icons **Sham 69** at Kidderminster Town hall!

In May they will be supporting the **Neon Hearts** before they go on tour in Japan. Not wanting to let the grass grow under their feet they have just finished a video shoot for **Spoon Feed Dead**.

May the 3rd will see the release of a double A side single with **Spoon Feed Dead** and **Living With Love** on it. Recorded by **Tom Gittins** and mastered by **David Mitson** who has worked with the likes of Pearl Jam Alice in Chains, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix! This should be a interesting production.

The 31st saw a well received set and a good turnout of support. VOE pack a lot into two 45 minute sets and really turned it up a notch in the second half. A gig of two halves with a great finish with a bit of Patti Smith thrown in. Can't be bad.

*Mad Bad Dave*

# Prview - Cosplay | TNT, Velvet Nightclub, Worcester | Thursday 6th March

After the immense success of the very first Cosplay night at Velvet last month it is back by poplar demand!

What is COSPLAY? Well, quite simply, it stands for 'costume play.' It involves people dressing up as character/ideas from a movie, TV show, comic book, video game or book. Pretty much anything goes.

Cosplay is a huge subculture across the world and some 'cosplayers' invest huge amounts of time, effort and money in their costumes. Whether you're a die-hard cosplayer, a cosplay virgin, someone who likes fancy dress or even someone who just wants to experience an awesome night of epic music, then this is the place for you.

Once again, they're running a competition giving all cosplayers a chance to win £50 cash for the best costume. This time round there will be a dedicated area of the club where people can go and have their photos taken (to make sure no one misses out). 5 finalists will be selected by online poll (the 5 photos with the most FB likes after a week) and the grand champion cosplayer will be decided by Team TNT. There may even be a crown..... we feel there really should be a crown involved.





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CD inc. colour print in jewel case 4pp booklet/rear tray, cellowrap	1.99	1.59	1.34	0.53	0.45
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# Review - Steve Ajao Jazz Quartet | Symphony Hall Jazz Lines | 14th Feb

Well, I'll be honest, I know nothing about jazz, no understanding about this improvised, seemingly unstructured, form of music. It's been around for about a century, coming from black American roots, as so much does.



solo from Miles Levin. Steve moved onto soprano sax for appropriately, *'My Funny Valentine'* as the Dudley double decker slipped through the rain outside.



Some fine finessed fingering, on piano, from Tim Amann, stood out alongside Steve's sax playing. One thing is very notable with this session and that is the undoubted passion with which the music is played. double bass was provided by Alan Gilchrist, who seemed most comfortable when accompanying Tim on the keys.

I had a train to catch, but not before an excellent *'You Don't Know What Lunch Is?'*. Have I learnt anything? Only to be open to listening to all sources of music. I still find



I enjoy some forms which are closely associated with the blues side of Jazz, who cannot enjoy Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone and so on, its the free form stuff I am lost with, Maybe that's the idea!

Anyway, I found my way here to see Steve Ajao, who happens to be a very good blues man, take to the saxophone and play some jazz.

The rush hour session at **Symphony Hall**, is a bit surreal, behind the glass backdrop, dark silhouettes, sheltering under umbrellas, bustle past. A crowded number 72 slowly, silently rolls bye, whilst inside a full foyer of music lovers, sip their beers and coffees as Steve plays *'Falling In Love With Love'*, he deftly substituted Lunch for all Love themed songs.

A swing along opener, followed by *'Tenderly'*, pretty laid back, cool jazz, best found in dark cellar bars in the early hours, with good company and a bottle of fine wine. *'We'* followed at a rip roaring pace, and an entertaining drum

difficulty in this freestyle form, but I can accept that it seems to produce superb musicianship, which feeds into, and influences so many other genres. If you have the time, and make the effort, sitting in the foyer of Symphony Hall, during 'rush hour' is free, you'll hear some good music, which changes from jazz to blues in the spring. It does fill up, so if you want to sit comfortably, be there no later than 4.30.

Graham Munn

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28th - LIVE MUSIC - Mary Hinge

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# Interview – 10 Minutes With... Thirty Six Strategies

Representing for Ledbury and Worcester, and with a mini album and an impressive number of shows across the nation under their belts – all in just a single year of existence, Thirty Six Strategies are a punk band with a pedigree and a work ethic. They also have a big fan in the form of Therapy?'s Andy Cairns, who named their MCD – *Strategy One* – as one of his favourites of 2013. Ed Ling caught up with bassist Ian Glasper to talk melodic hardcore, the importance of DIY and 100 years of punk.

You certainly appear to be a band on a mission... What's the plan, people? And I hear there's yet more material in the offing...

*There's no plan to speak of, other than to write some good honest punk tunes; everything else has been unfolding fairly naturally and organically. The new*



*tastes – anarcho punk, USHC, NYHC, thrash metal, rock, new wave, '80s European hardcore, SoCal punk... the list goes on and on! Blondie and Paramore figure highly in Kirsty's [vocals] influences... Mobs [drums] loves Type O Negative... Craig [rhythm guitar] loves Helmet – and The Police! Neil [lead guitar] is closet mad, I'm a closet metallor... s'all good.*



Photography: Paul Cussens

*material is sounding lovely: really driving, really melodic, really raw... we're not pushing in any direction deliberately, but we can sense that we're arriving at our own style a little now. We recorded the first MCD before we'd even done a gig together, and whilst I stand by that recording, the chemistry in the band has grown ten-fold since.*

Your material has clear echoes of the Dischord Records sound (I'm thinking Dag Nasty, Slant 6 here) but there's also a load of raucousness, harking back to the high days of British melodic hardcore like HDQ. Is this fair to say? Who would you say your influences are?

*Yes, all of the above for sure, plus a whole (dis)array of other influences, including – between us, because we are five different people with five very varied sets of musical*

Your Facebook page says you have over a hundred years of band experience between you – is this really true... and can you show me your workings out? And what have you learned from all those years of experience?

*Mobs and I have been playing in bands together since 1982 – so that's 64 years right there! Neil has been in bands, some of them touring with Mine and Mobs' bands, since 1988, so that's 26 years, which brings us up to 90 years experience... Craig has been in bands for at least 10 years too, so we've got 100 years between the four of us. TSS is Kirsty's first band, but what she lacks in experience, she makes up for with natural talent. As for what we've learned... If you want something doing right, do it yourself!*

What's next? Any festivals or overseas tours on the agenda?

*We have a new 7" out in May on Surprise Attacks, and we'll be plugging away with gigs to promote that the old-fashioned way. We're also writing material for our first LP, and we'd like to record and release that before the end of the year too. We're doing the Rebellion Fest in August, a few other independent festivals around the UK over the summer, and hopefully a decent UK tour support in September. We're also talking to a few people in Europe about getting over there, but there's no rush though.*

Busy times at the melodic punk mill then. Thanks Ian!

Facebook.com/Thirty Six Strategies  
T: @thirtysixstrats

Ed Ling



# CIRCUIT SWEET – Hereford scene with Naomi Preece

It's March and we celebrate our 5th Birthday!

That's 5 fantastic years of supporting, meeting and working with the best people and talented artists; local national and international. Time has flown by but we are thrilled to see how the company has evolved and we hope to be around for another 5 years to come.

In true Circuit Sweet style we plan on celebrating with everyone. Local Herefordshire/Bristol based artist **Rosanna Tasker** worked hard to create us a special poster to celebrate this auspicious event, which highlights a few of our celebratory plans. Also be sure to check **Rosanna Tasker Illustration** on all usual media sites for more of her fantastic work. On the day itself, a Saturday, we will be having a flash sale in our online store ([www.circuitsweet.bigcartel.com](http://www.circuitsweet.bigcartel.com)) - for 24 hours there will be 15% off ALL of our amazing artists and ALL their products in all formats!



Artwork by Rosanna Tasker

From local acts **Aulos**, **A Last Salute To Byss** and **We Used To Have Horses** - to national acts such as **Alright The Captain** and **Maybeshewill** to international talent from the likes of **Bearcubbin**, **North End** and **Quadrupede**, all will be included in this special sale so make sure you don't miss out and visit our shop on that day. If that wasn't enough another reason to

visit our site on that Saturday is that we will be announcing something incredibly special which we can't wait to share with you all. At present it's a total secret - but when revealed it will be our FREE present to all of our wonderful supporters and again will help promote talent close to home and talent further afield.

As for February, amongst all the terrible flooding, we did manage to make it to some incredible shows, such as **Jealous Lovers Club** presents **Tera Melos**, **Samoans** and **Tangled Hair** live at **Clwb Ifor Bach** - you can see a photography feature and another interview with **Nick of Tera Melos** featured on our site. On Saturday 8th February we had the pleasure of



Tera Melos

attending a new launch night at Hereford's finest venue **The Jailhouse** courtesy of new local promotions people **Porridge**. In connection with **Hereford Live** and **Transmission Music Group** this is a new indie/rock night which on opening night featured touring talent **Dolomite Minor** with support from **Lyger**.



Dolomite Minor

**Dolomite Minor** are a two piece creating the sounds of a band double it's size and making waves in the music industry. They are about to explode and we are so grateful we got to see this act at a local venue before it was too late! Their intense live show was nothing short of explosive. With a mixture of heavy riffs and gritty tone, ferocious drum beats and dynamic fills, they convey simple yet abrasive compositions full of energy. A rewarding evening and a thoroughly enjoyable event right on our doorstep.

**Porridge** have also announced their next live Hereford show at the **Jailhouse** - bringing the talented **Beautiful Boy** to the stage March 22nd - another gig to savour indeed. So Hereford's live scene is once again thriving and it's fantastic to see so many local supporters and gig-goers. **Hereford Live** are also hosting another live event also at **The Jailhouse** at the start of March, propelling the city into a month of memorable nights: on the 8th they host **GULP**, who are **Guto Pryce** from **Super Furry Animals** and **Lindsey Leven**, with **Gid Goundrey** on guitar and drummer **Gwion Llewelyn** of **Race Horses**.

In addition to all of our live adventures covering numerous shows across the UK, we also saw our Facebook page reach over 800 likes, which again was a cause for celebration so we teamed up with the awesome label **Little League Records** for a giveaway competition for our fans. We urge you to check out this incredible label and the wide array of releases they've put out. We also introduced you all to local charity **Close House** and their live under 18's nights in Hereford and we welcomed more talent to our online store... phew!

That was February but March is set to be the best, so please come celebrate with us at the end of the month! and keep up to date on our facebook, twitter and of course at [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk) .

*Photography by Oli Montez*



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**SATURDAY 19TH APRIL**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 7PM**

enquires: [malvernlive@gmail.com](mailto:malvernlive@gmail.com)

**THE GREAT MALVERN HOTEL**  
**CUBE**

**GIVE!**  
Thursday night  
music sessions  
Every other Thursday  
8.30 till 11.00

Everyone welcome - from beginners to the old favourites.  
This night will have nothing for you to play into it, all.  
Just come along and enjoy yourselves.

**GIVE!**  
**Lounge Toad**  
Every other Thursday  
8.30 till 11.00

**The Great Malvern Hotel**

## Review - Ego Honey | Seventeen

Born mainly out of the ashes of fave Midlands bands The One Twos and Kidgloves, Ego Honey formed last April, have gigged tirelessly since thus amassing a substantial following and just released their first single on iTunes.

Both *Seventeen* and *Summer* will get you in the mood for the much needed warmer months to come and despite having subject matter with real life grit the overriding feeling here is joyous and uplifting.

Matt, Ben, Dan, Jon and Ruddy are the boys that comprise Ego Honey and their happy sound in turns reminds me of the early Coral skiffle feel with Arctic Alex meets an acoustic Kings of Leon and a touch of The Magic Numbers thrown in.

They also fit into the young Bugg bracket and have rightly played Liam G's Brum *Pretty Green* store in addition to prestigious appearances at B'ham Institute and O2 Academy.

This is catchy, hooky stuff which will keep you bopping & smiling and I can't tell you what a tonic that is in flood-filled Feb!



Not only can you cheer yourself up by purchasing *Seventeen* from iTunes but you can see Ego Honey at Brum Sunflower Lounge on Friday 14 March where they'll be supporting Gramotones.

Words by Terry Ackey

## Review - King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys at Robin 2 | 7th Feb

Having not seen King Pleasure for some years, it seemed like a good idea to revisit this highly respected R&B band. I had seen various different line ups over the years, right back to the days of Al Gare on double bass and Danny McCormack on keys, but the core of the band has not really altered. The massive ego of the King himself along with 'big' John Battrum on sax and Bullmoose K Shirley on his Gibson guitar. The band is quite simply an R&B institution, with an enviable following.



The King conducts his band and his devotees in equal measure, plenty of humour with a touch of slapstick, provided by bassist Shark Van Schtoop. Each has the limelight for a solo lead, some good boogie woogie from the ivories of Matt Foundling, with 'Roll Em Pete' We heard some wonderful musical classics, like, 'Shake Rattle & Roll' 'Marie', & 'Can't Get Enough Of Your Stuff', all done in KP's wonderful lounge lizard style.

A refreshment break, and they're back opening with 'Barracuda' and some Jackie Wilson. A song made famous by BB King, 'You Upsets Me Baby', followed shortly by the great Ray Charles 'Roll With Me Baby'. 'Everyday I Have The Blues', not likely with this band to entertain you, what did slightly surprise me, was by this point, nobody was throwing caution to the wind and getting down to some serious jiving, which is so inviting with a band that swings like this. (I had my excuses I hasten to add, otherwise succumbing to temptation would have been inevitable)



The infectious 'Tequila' was poured, a fine aperitif before having to take to the road for a lengthy damp journey home. A re-acquaintance with the band well overdue.



Supporting KP&TBB, were a new band to me, The Grey Goose Blues Band, a 5 piece band from around the West Midlands, with 'Frankie' on guitar and vocals, 'Rufus T' on bass, Robin on keys, Nigel on sax and Hutch on drums. Their sound is, I think, influenced by



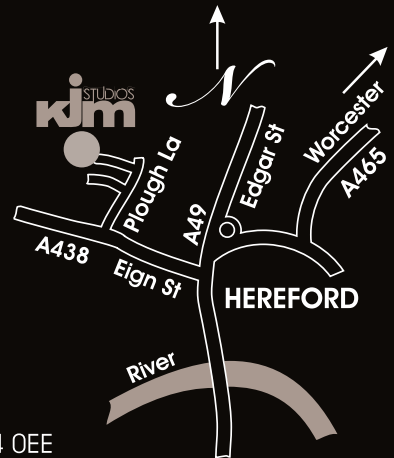
some jazz rhythms liberally stirred into their blues pool, along with perhaps a few drops of soul, the songs are self penned and original. 'Hunter', taken from the CD 'Hunted', is a good funky West Coast styled blues, the addition of the sax adding another dimension, as it does throughout the band's performance. 'Ramblin Like A Man' is more a 60's style, contrasting with the more jazz driven 'Be My Friend'. I particularly liked the soulful feel to 'No Money In My Pocket', we all know that feeling! The Grey Goose Blues Band kicked the evening off well, plenty of funk, jazz and full on blues, I can only look forward to seeing them again, perhaps as headline.

Graham Munn



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## Saturday 1 March 2014

### Journeyman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### The Capital

Masons Arms, Wichenford, Worcester

### China Shop Bull & Lobster

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Michael Roach, Michael Messer, Keith Dunn

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### The Vibrators

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### The Lazy Sundays

Callow End Club, Worcester

### Playground

Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

### John Denton and the midnight band

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Vault of Eagles

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### The Quik

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

### Acoustic Blues House Party

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### MS Fundraiser

Richard Web, Something by Friday, DJ Samo

Prince of Wales, Worcester

### Glambuster

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Jones Family Minifest

Paul Snow & Vince Ballard 2-4, The Barflys 8.30

Lamb n Flag, Worcester

### Midnight City

Wolverley social club

### Hitchhiker

Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

### Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Scott Howland

Oneills, Worcester

## Sunday 2 March 2014

### Jones Family Minifest

12-2 Lamb and Flag Folk Session, 8.00 Bitterroots

Lamb n Flag, Worcester

### Luke Warm & The Cold Fronts

The Chestnut, Worcester

### The Sultana Brothers

Lichfield Vaults Hereford

### David Campbell, Chris Cleverly, Mellow Peaches

Prince of Wales, Moseley

### Jam night

Oast house, Redditch



### Trevor Burton Band

he Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### Ital Sounds

Unicorn, Malvern

### Cara Dillon

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

## Monday 3 March 2014

### Keith Slater, Tony Arris & Friends

Queens Head, Wolverley

### Lounge Toad

Unicorn, Malvern

### Acoustic Night

The Black Lion Hereford

## Tuesday 4 March 2014

### Open mic with 'Dodgy' Nige

Millers Arms, Pershore

### Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley, Worcestershire

### Open Mic Night

The Retreat, Ledbury

## Wednesday 5 March 2014

### Marzy's Jam Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Rich O'Brien Project

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Open Mic with Pete Kelly

Queens Head, Wolverley

### G J's

Hop Pole, Bewdley

### SHINDIG - James Hickman and Dan Cassidy

Cookley Village Hall, Cookley

### Open Mic

Unicorn, Malvern

### Joe McElderry

Evesham Arts Centre

## Thursday 6 March 2014

### Dan James' Open Mic Night

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Open Mic with 10:94

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Chris Woods

Lyde Court Hereford

### GMH Music Sessions

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Cosplay

TNT, Velvet Nightclub, Worcester

### Alice Coley

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Rebecca's Renegades featuring Johnny Caswell  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## Friday 7 March 2014

The Moonshakers  
Drummonds, Worcester

CoverJunkies  
Bushwackers, Worcester

Worried Men  
The Golden Cross Hereford

KSH & The Going Concerns, Speaker Chicas  
Café Rene, Gloucester

Delray Rockets  
The Ambassador Club, Evesham

Carnage Club  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Tina V  
Firefly, Worcester

Dj Night  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters  
Queens Head Wolverley

Ronin  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Of Kings & Captains, Munkipure & The Rainbreakers  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Cracked Actors  
Queens Head, Redditch

Ash Mandrake  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Journeyman  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Blues 2 Go  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Sister Sandwich  
Pig n Drum, Worcester

## Saturday 8 March 2014

Answer Back  
Malvern Town FC, Langland Stadium, Malvern

The Retrophonics  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Gulp  
The Jailhouse Hereford

Higher on Maiden  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Lindisfarne Story  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

TBC  
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

Drongros for Europe, Brassick & Obnoxious UK  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dan Greenway  
O'Neills, Worcester

Weathered Hands/Black Dogs/Golden Tanks/Milk Teeth  
The Herdsman Hereford

The Wrens  
Unicorn, Malvern

Vincent Flatts Final Drive  
Callow End Club, Worcester

Vaginapocalypse, Baggage Hangers  
Beer In Hand, Hereford

Bunter and the Vibes  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Lexi Joe  
Wolverley social club

Drinking the Barrel (Enzo & Ian)  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tommy Gun  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Trevor Burton  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Izzy The Push  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Clarksville Mountain Band  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Sunday 9 March 2014

Jam night  
Oast house, Redditch

Peter Howarth (Hollies)  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

## Monday 10 March 2014

Jam night  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Peckham Cowboys  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Tuesday 11 March 2014

Open Mic with Pete Kelly  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic Night  
The Retreat, Ledbury

The Farriers Acoustic Monthly Music Session  
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Mouth & Music – Acoustic spoken word & Music  
with Brenda Ree–Brown, The Very Grimm Brothers  
The House Head, Kidderminster

Open Mic  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Perdido Street Jazz Band  
The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley, Worcestershire

## Wednesday 12 March 2014

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

**Jules (Michael Buble)**  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Open Mic**  
Unicorn, Malvern

## Thursday 13 March 2014

**From The Jam**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Mother Popcorn**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The GMH Irish Sessions**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**SHINDIG – Lady Maisey**  
Alfrick & Lulsey Village Hall

**SHINDIG – The Kel Elliott Band**  
Harvington Village Hall

## Friday 14 March 2014

**Killerstream**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Nice and Sleazy**  
The Anchor Inn, Eckington Music

**Bon Giovi**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Delray Rockets**  
Northway Pub, Tewkesbury

**Das Sexy Clap**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Hayriders + Rockabilly DJ**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**Macmillian Cancer Charity Gig**  
O'Neills, Worcester

**Journeyman**  
The Hunters Inn, Longdon, Gloucester

**Radnor Improvisers**  
The Globe, Hay On Wye

**Suprise Attacks present Buzzorhowl, Norweb, The Broken Oak Duet and Those Amongst Us Are Wolves**  
The Firefly Worcester

**Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdo's**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Dave Onions**  
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Teresa**  
The Golden Cross Hereford

**Irish Night with Claire Boswell**  
Swan Inn, Barbourne

**Cantaloop**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**MojoHooker**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Malvern Hillbillies**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Sarah Warren Band**  
Queens Head Wolverley

**Barrel House Blues Band**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

## Saturday 15 March 2014

**Skinhorse**  
The Black Lion Hereford

**The WestEnders: Hear the People Sing!**  
Number 8, Pershore

**Playground**  
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

**Kia**  
Callow End Club, Worcester

**DJ Night**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Hereford Soul Choir**  
The Globe, Hay On Wye

**Big Jims Boogie Band, The Blue Eyed Beggars**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**The John Steeds**  
The Oast House, Church Hill, Redditch

**Ron Jeremy Band**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Dizzy Lizzy**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**A Thousand Kisses Deep, Christine Tobin, Phil Robson & Dave Whitford**  
The Fold, Bransford

**Stuntdog**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Freaky Trigger**  
Unicorn, Malvern

**Stripped Down Blues**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Madi Stimpson & Paul Smith**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Babajack & Dave Arcari**  
The Cube, Malvern

**Skool's Out Comedy Show**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Keith Slater**  
O'Neills, Worcester

**Forty Blues Toes**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Journeyman**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Parkin Lot**  
Woodland Cottage, Redditch



## Sunday 16 March 2014

**Adamantium**  
The Slade Rooms, Broad Street, Wolverhampton

**Chuck Harriot**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Murphy's Law**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**Jam night**  
Oast house, Redditch

**Castle Street Quartet**  
Lichfield Vaults Hereford

**Lounge Toad**  
Unicorn, Malvern

## Monday 17 March 2014

**St Patricks Folk Jamboree**  
Lamb n Flag, Worcester

**Keith Slater, Bang on the Ear, The Ex Presidents**  
O'Neills, Worcester

**St Patrick's Day Special: Jim Fox**  
Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**St Patricks Night – Irish Band**  
Hop Pole Bewdley

**St Patrick's Day with The Jamesons**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

## Tuesday 18 March 2014

**Stripped Down Blues' Blues Night**  
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

**Open Mic with Enzo & Paddy**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Perdido Street Jazz Band**  
The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley, Worcestershire

**Brightside promotions presents Spiers & Boden**  
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

**Open Mic Night**  
The Retreat, Ledbury

## Wednesday 19 March 2014

**ConFab Cabaret, Men in General, Decadent Divas,**  
Amy Rainbow, Fox Pops  
Olivers, Malvern

**Lady and the Sax**  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Open Mic**  
Unicorn, Malvern

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

**Cafe Continental**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

## Thursday 20 March 2014

**Madi Stimpson Band**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Andrew Lawrence**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Candyrat Guitar Night**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Eddy Morton–Upstairs Stage**  
**Dan Walsh–Cellar Bar**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**Dan James' Open Mic Night**  
Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**Lounge Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Friday 21 March 2014

**Skabucks**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Daman & Solid Stone**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**The Heels**  
Pig n Drum, Worcester

**Rubicava**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Slide Boy Roy**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**Riff Raff**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**CoverJunkies**  
Bushwackers, Worcester

**Paul White & Ray Mynton**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Hey You Guys**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**SHINDIG – Good Folk Bad Folk**  
w. Isla St Claire & Patrick King  
Heightington Village Hall

**Dale Perry**  
O'Neills, Worcester

**Around the World With Gilbert & Sullivan**  
The Market Theatre, Market Street, Ledbury

**The Citroens**  
The Plough and Harrow, Malvern

**The Quik**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**SHINDIG – A Thousand Kisses Deep**  
w. Christine Tobin, Phil Robson & Dave Whitford  
Great Witley Village Hall

**Blake Plowman**  
The Golden Cross Hereford

**Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants**  
Queens Head Wolverley

**No Exit**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

## Saturday 22 March 2014

### Nightshift

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### The Fortunes

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Fabulous Boogie Boys

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Folk At The Fold, Grace Notes & Hector Gilchrist

The Fold, Bransford

### Cocksure

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Four Wheel Drive, ValveRider and Raptor

The Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham (Opening Night!)

### Born in Chicago

Wolverley social club

### Linerunners

The Victory Hereford

### Alex Rainsford

O'Neills, Worcester

### Eternity- 90's club night

Moochers, Stourbridge

### Gastric Band

Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### BJ Taylor Band

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### Liquor & Poker Band

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

### Beautiful Boy

The Jailhouse Hereford

### Mike Peters

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Around the World With Gilbert & Sullivan

The Market Theatre, Market Street, Ledbury

### Slowburner

The Wheel House, Upton on Severn

### The Straight Aces

Unicorn, Malvern

### Ian Luther

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Own Stephens

Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

### Cracker & The Woodpeckers

Callow End Club, Worcester

### Lonerunners

The Victory Pub and Hereford Brewery, Hereford

## Sunday 23 March 2014

### Jam night

Oast house, Redditch

### Remi Harris

Chestnut Inn, Worcester

## Monday 24 March 2014

### Jam night

Cock & Maggie, Bewdley

### Folk Session

Lamb n Flag, Worcester

## Tuesday 25 March 2014

### Lloyd Cole

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley, Worcestershire

### Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Open Mic with Pete Kelly

Queens Head, Wolverley

### Jam Session

Beer In Hand Hereford

### Watch This Space Film presents - Gravity

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Open Mic Night

The Retreat, Ledbury

## Wednesday 26 March 2014

### Marzy's Jam Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Glos Acoustic Showcase

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Robin Ince

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### SHINDIG - Hot Finger (Jazz)

Clows Top Victory Hall

### Matt Woosey

Hop Pole Bewdley

### SHINDIG - Richard Durrant

Christ Church, Lower Broadheath

## Thursday 27 March 2014

### Around the World With Gilbert & Sullivan

Norbury Theatre, Friar Street, Droitwich

### The Executives

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### The Bismark/Plane Crasher/New Cowboy Builders/One Man Sun

The Black Lion Hereford

### Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Limehouse Lizzy

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Esther

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

## Friday 28 March 2014

### Souled Out 2 Funk

Drummonds, Worcester

**Skrood**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Jessica Rhodes**  
Café Rene, Gloucester  
**The Move**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Mary Hinge**  
The Swan Inn, Worcester

**Upon Descent, Our World Below, Malandra & Rustlung**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Bang on the Ear**  
O'Neills, Worcester

**The Undercocks**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Electro Dj Night**  
Cap and Gown, Worcester

**The Barflys**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Around the World With Gilbert & Sullivan**  
Norbury Theatre, Friar Street, Droitwich

**Midnight City**  
Queens Head Wolverley

**SHINDIG – Kakatsitsi (Ghana)**  
Martley Village Hall

**Straight Aces**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**Primer, Your Best Enemy, Dionysus Unbound**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Rich Goble**  
The Leaking Well, Worcester Road, Dunhampton

**Dean Bayliss, Qualia Acoustix, and hanna\*h\***  
All Saints Church, Evesham

## Saturday 29 March 2014

**The Capital**  
New Inn, Pershore

**Perfect Stranger**  
The White Lion, Leominster

**Around the World With Gilbert & Sullivan**  
Number 8, Pershore

**The Silver Shadows**  
Callow End Club, Worcester

**Riff Raff (AC/DC) tribute band**  
Ambassador club, Evesham

**Boneyard Renegades**  
Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

**Moonshiners**  
Droitwich Legion

**The Strange Doors**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Flat Stanley & Dik Guru**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Tommy Allen**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Barnstormers Comedy**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**Skabucks**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Lisa's Birthday band and disco night**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Players**  
Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**True Colours**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Journeyman**  
The Unicorn, Malvern

## Sunday 30 March 2014

**Emily Smith**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Tommy Allen & Johnny Hewitt**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Lounge Toad**  
Unicorn, Malvern

**ChordRush**  
Lichfield Vaults Hereford

**Jimi Hendrix Are You Experienced**  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

**Ray Stroud**  
Chestnut Inn, Worcester



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# THE MARR'S BAR

MAR 2014

Mike Peters  
Sat 22nd March



**Saturday 1st**

**Vibrators**

£7 a ticket £9 on the door

**Friday 7th**

**Ronin**

£3 a ticket £4 on the door

**Saturday 8th**

**Higher On Maiden**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**Monday 10th**

**Peckham Cowboys**

£5 on the door

**Friday 14th**

**Das Sexy Clap**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

**Saturday 15th**

**Stuntdog**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

**Saturday 16th**

**St Patricks Night**

Price TBC

• **Thursday 20th**

• **Candyrat Guitar Night**

• £10 a ticket £12 on the door

• **Friday 21st**

• **Hey You Guys**

• £5 on the door

• **Saturday 22nd**

• **Mike Peters**

• £12.50 ticket £15 on the door

• **Tuesday 25th**

• **Watch This Space Films**

• **Presents - Gravity**

• £6 on the door

• **Thursday 27th**

• **Limehouse Lizzy**

• £11 a ticket £13 on the door

• **Friday 28th**

• **The Move**

• £12 a ticket £14 on the door

• **Saturday 29th**

• **The Strange Doors**

• £8 a ticket £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

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