

# SLAP

Issue 38

June 2014

MAGAZINE

FREE



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Friday 13th

Band Slam 2014

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Entry £3 On Door

Thursday 19th

Open Mic Night

Free Entry

Friday 20th

Band Slam 2014

Kill The Romantic vs Motherlode

Free Entry

Saturday 21st

Hells Addiction & The Bourgeoise

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Thursday 26th

Metal Night

Gehtika & Elysium

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Friday 27th

Band Slam 2014

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Free Entry

Saturday 28th

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Hells Addiction - June 21st

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# SLAP

June 2014 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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Another crazy month has passed us by in what seems like no time at all. In this issue we catch up with local faves **Cantalloop** on the music scene and our featured artist Kidderminster's **Dom Dunlea**.

Also featured are reviews of two very different urban festivals; **Cheltenham Jazz Festival** and **Digbeth's Swingamajig**. With so many local festivals cropping up its difficult to keep track at times so we look forward to a great couple of months of festival mayhem with **Andy O Hare**. It's great to see how diverse the local scene has become, there is something for everyone.

On a festival theme check the latest offering from **SLAP TV** on YouTube or via the slap web site. Its a look back over last years **Nozstock** festival which brings back great memories for me.

We also have an important announcement concerning our new found partnership with **ViP Radio**. New to the internet based station is the **SLAP Magazine** show featuring well known Presenter **King Dave** playing the best of local music on Sundays from 9pm.

So enjoy the read and hopefully the sunshine and we'll see you at a festy somewhere along the way...

See you soon!  
*Ed Cold*



## ViP Radio Net

Where Worcester music lives..

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## Tasty Treats at Upton Fest

There's some tasteful musical accompaniment to the fare on offer at the first Upton Food & Beer Festival from June 27 to 29 – yet another weekend of entertainment for the festival-packed riverside venue! Ledbury's Roving Crows will be the main course on the Friday night stage with Doggy top of the menu on the Saturday – bon appetit!



## World Cup Balls Up

A quartet of local musicians plus friends are backing the Three Lions in Brazil with their patriotic number Big Balls which they hope will inspire the England football team to



World Cup success and also hit the number 1 spot in the charts. God Save The King included more than 20 other local acts on the

recording such as Das Sexy Clap, The Capital, Weathered Hands and Hey You Guys!

## Sunrise Highlight

Indie-pop three-piece Done By Sunrise played their biggest gig so far when they supported Little Mix on the Forum Stage at Birmingham's LG Arena. The sibling trio of Loren, Scott and Jodie Howland from Lower Wick were



asked back to perform at the venue after previously playing slots before bands including One Direction, Girls Aloud and JLS – and will be playing

Droitwich Music Festival in June and Sunshine Festival in August before jetting off to perform on the sands of Ibiza-busy guys!!

## Whole Lotta Riff/Raff

Hats off to Bon Scott-era AC/DC cover band Riff/Raff who've landed a headline spot on the music stage of the Isle Of Man TT Races Festival on Tuesday 3 June. Founding member Al Lewis said the band's motto of 'no costumes, no look-a-likes, it's all about the music' had been the key to gaining them a massive following.

## Lakefest Acorns Legacy

The organisers of Lakefest have planted eight oak trees and a time capsule at the festival site in support of Acorns Children's Hospice – the chosen charity this year for the three day event which happens at Croft Farm Waterpark near Tewkesbury on August 8-10.

## Charity Tractor Pull

A team of pub regulars 'went out on the pull' for a good cause as they hauled a 5.5 tonne tractor more than 12 miles from the Rifleman's Arms in Droitwich to the Station Inn in Kidderminster on Sunday 4 May. The team which included Ian Passey AKA The Humdrum Express (also known as the Bard Of Kidderminster among others) raised over £10,000 for Acorns and Macmillans Nurses – well done chaps!!



## Massive Minifest

Youthcomm Radio's annual Minifest returns 22nd June to Cripplegate Park. This year, Minifest 2014 is set to be the chart-topper of them all, with possibly one of the best musical line-ups ever assembled in Worcester.



TV talent stars Beth McCarthy and Tom Barnwell from this year's 'The Voice' are just one of the highlights on the card. They'll be joined by local legends Jasper in the Company of Others and internet sensations The Secrets. Recent iTunes UK top 40 artist Abby Inez, along with Kings and Captains, who supported music icons Bon Jovi on their recent UK tour; These are just some of the names on the Minifest 2014 line-up, that are certain of making the event, Worcester's Biggest Party of the Summer.

To keep up to date with all the latest announcements and updates for Minifest 2014 keep listening to Youthcomm Radio 106.7Fm.

Website: [youthcommradio.co.uk](http://youthcommradio.co.uk)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/youthcommradio>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ycradio>

## Swanfest Request

Due to take place at The Swan pub in Kidderminster on Sunday 24th August, the annual shindig that is Swanfest is appealing for bands/artists who can donate their time to help raise some money for this year's worthy chosen charity which is Birmingham Children's Hospital.

In return for any act which performs they will be plied with plentiful food'n'drink throughout, which promises to be another excellent day! There will also be the return of the popular Man v Food challenge and new for this year the Jagermeister Comedy Stage.

Interested parties contact The Swan on 01562 823008

## Bromsgrove Festival Guide out Now!

The Bromsgrove Festival officially opens with a Launch Reception and Gala at Artrix on June 14th featuring a drinks and canape reception, a stage presentation from a number of local performers followed by dancing to a live band.

Most of the events are being staged by local societies and individuals, as well as Bromsgrove District Council, and feature not only local performers but also nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.

The free, 40 page, full colour, brochure detailing some 80 events which will take place between 14th June and 20th July as part of the newly invigorated Bromsgrove Festival is now available at local libraries, Artrix, the Council Offices in Burcot Lane, other public buildings and numerous shops and cafes. Exhibitions, concerts featuring a wide range of musical genres from folk to classical, stage productions, bandstand and free entertainment events are all featured.

The Festival Committee acknowledges in the brochure, not only the generous support given via donations from Patrons, Friends and Donors to the Festival, but also from the main commercial sponsors, Gallagher Estates & Westland Toyota.

Visit [www.bromsgrovetfestival.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrovetfestival.co.uk) or email: [info@bromsgrovetfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@bromsgrovetfestival.co.uk) for more details

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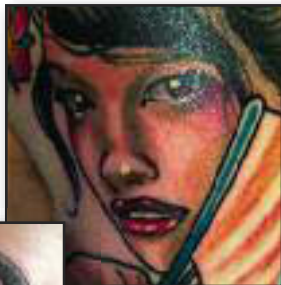
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## ARTS Round-Up with Kate Cox

Worcestershire has seen some exciting visual and performance based work going on recently with the end of year exhibitions at the University, **Voices and Visions** at Worcester Cathedral and several cutting edge shows at the Hive! Here is a roundup of some of the bits and bobs coming up this month! Special thanks go to **Stephen Wilson** and **Marie Oldaker** for their creative contributions.

Clik Clik is just recovering from a colourful month; firstly after **Swingamajig** festival working the 'Swingin' Flea' photo booth into a feline frenzy!; developing a project for the **Pershore Carnival Youth Centre** float with some fine young people Super-Hero style and then roaming about at **Wychwood festival** with their dark and mystical funeral march procession featuring **Collective 43** and trying to entice fellow musicians to join in including local faves **Jasper** and the **Company of Others**, **Stiff Joints** and **Craig Charles**!!



## Cube

At the Cube this month it's a little quite, getting ready for July with the **Our Big Jam** event on July 12th plus **Malvern Rocks** at the end, so they are taking some down time with the ever popular **Carnival Records Quiz** on the 6th at 7pm, new film club matinee on Friday 13th June 1.30pm as well as **Film Club** on 27th June at 7pm. Come see what's happening! The Cube has rehearsal space available; please contact them for more details on [cubebookings@icloud.com](http://cubebookings@icloud.com)

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

## Pub Theatre

Coming to a hostelry near you, 'Pint Dreams' is a charming, witty performance travelling from pub to pub around the country. Accompanied by a musician and his acoustic guitar, Maggie re-tells the stories she's collected on her travels, brought to life by the puppet in her rucksack!



These short performances by **Tinbox Theatre** are totally free; so you can buy your pint, sit back, relax and enjoy on

Friday 6th June: The Firefly - 4pm / The King Charles - 5.30pm / The Cardinal's Hat - 7.00pm;

Sunday 8th June: The Plough - 2.30pm / The Farrier's Arms - 4.00pm;

Friday 13th June: The Wheatsheaf, St John's - 4.00pm / The Crown Inn, St John's - 6.00pm / The Paul Pry - 7.45pm.

## Artist Rooms

The American artist **Robert Therrien** is internationally renowned for his monumental sculptures that transform everyday objects into fantastical installations. His giant artworks provoke extraordinary and unforgettable experiences and bring presence to domestic objects usually overlooked. These playful allusions evoke childhood memories and invite audiences to bring their own narratives to animate the artist's conjured world. 21st June til 7th Sept FREE. [www.macbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.macbirmingham.co.uk)



## Art at County Hall

With other summer festival times on the doorstep, Clik Clik found time to take part in a new exhibition up at **County Hall** working with the lovely **Mr Stephen Wilson**.

Art at County Hall, the first of many exhibitions showcasing some of the best of visual arts in the County, features **Pershore based glass artist Claudia Wiegand** with her wonderful creations, and **Clik Clik Collective** representing a mixed media handful of local artists including **Amy Birch**, **Sarah Melville**, **Marcia Phesey-Wilton**, **Kate Cox**, **Jose Santos** and **Zara Hilton**.



The exhibition runs until the end of Sept and is open weekdays 9am til 5.30pm outside the **Council Chamber**.

## Circles at the Hive

**Rachel's Delahay's** vivid and powerful new play, entitled 'Circles' boldly explores cycles of violence and what it takes to break them. Circling the outskirts of Birmingham

on the Number 11 bus, two teenagers develop an unlikely friendship, while a mother observes her daughters attempt to leave a violent relationship. Against the backdrop of a changing city everyone involved is forced to re-examine all they thought they knew about love, trust, family and friendship. 18th June at 7pm The Hive - tickets £6

## Bee Hive!

The Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy shows her wares to a sellout audience on Thursday 5th June. Those lucky enough to have tickets can expect an intimate evening of poetry and music. An extraordinary poet and a mesmerising performer, she will read from recent collections including aptly *The Bees*. Remember to check out upcoming events at this ever developing city space including theatre (see review below), exhibitions and the Hive Film Society!



## Review

Every Brilliant Thing – Pentabus Theatre and Paines Plough– The Hive 20th May

It was great to see Pentabus and Paines Plough at The Hive with a new piece of theatre. Every Brilliant Thing by Duncan Macmillan is one of those cunningly simple plays. Performed by Jonny



Donahoe it's about one mans and boys journey on dealing with his mothers extreme depression. Performed in the round the play uses constant audience interaction to tell an ultimately uplifting story involving music, puppets and confessional story telling. It was moving and at times uncomfortable material, as someone who has had firsthand experience on the subject matter it did bring a tear to the eye but the lighter moments were always close at hand and the intimate surroundings made it all totally unique. It felt a privilege to be there.

It was great to see such exciting work at The Hive and let's hope we can see more work of this nature there.

Steve Wilson

# TALK TO US

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



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\*See our website for latest call charges.



# THE BHG

I might say this everytime, but the exhibition launch that we have just seen by Deeds (Dom Dunlea age unknown) and Mr Mind Control (age 13) has got to be the most successful yet. In my experience of working at the gallery, this is the first time I have had to shout through to the gallery at just gone 7 O'clock, 'Gentlemen, You have a Queue' and sure enough there was a line of people eagerly waiting at the bottom of the stairs, keen to come up. With the DJ hitting the decks we called down for the guest to enter as one by one they excitedly accepted their free print and soaked their eyes into the displays on the walls!

Immediately as you stepped in the first face to greet you was a huge piece by Deeds of Johnny Rotten insanely snarling at you from the centre of the room. Deeds display of elegantly framed pieces spanned from then chart his journey through art from of his familiar stencil based to some of his new style abstract figures and several previously unseen pieces. All coming together perfectly as if the room had not been a scene of chin scratching and tape measure stretching only hours before.

Moving round to the young master of the stencil, Mr Mind Control saw a brilliant collection of his hard work over the previous year where he has clearly come to master the art of the stencil with skills years beyond his age. With influences from comic books and his favourite shows and inspiration from those he looked up to, most of all his mother, the result was also outstanding.



For all those who made purchases over the month, you will be notified so you can come and collect as soon as possible!

And rolling into this month have an exhibiton from David Yarnell. Here is what he has to say, 'I am David Yarnell. I draw and create strange and wonderful images that my mind explodes onto canvas or anything i can get my hands on. As well as drawing and painting I play drums

in the band A Poetic Yesterday. I snowboard and skateboard and enjoy partying. I enjoy traveling and getting tattooed and find conspiracy theories fascinating Thus brings me to me to why my art is the way it is. Expect a exciting colourful mind explosion of madness with a few flowers'. The launch will be followed by live music from Faintest Idea, downstairs (door charge applies). The show will run throughout the month with opening hours Thursday-Saturday 2pm-6pm (with at least one late night).



As a follow up to the show, David will also be taking part in an Art Battle on Saturday 19th July as part of a fundraiser for Above Boards. To take part or find out more please contact our facebook page or email [gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](mailto:gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk).

As usual we will have Life Drawing, Swapping and Sewing aswell as Stencil Workshops too.

See you soon Coz

Pictures include Artwork by David Yarnell and Photograph of Deeds and Mr Mind Control.

.....

On Sunday June 1st at 7.30 Kidderminster Creatives present *Settle Down* by stand-up poet Angie Belcher, an Edinburgh preview in the intimate surroundings of the Boars Head Gallery surrounded by the latest art exhibition.

*Settle Down* is a poetic romp of dirty stanzas and awkward observations about approaching 40 via agnosticism, angry computers and puppies vs boys. Angie Belcher is a Bristol based stand-up poet whose live work is fruity and not for the feint-hearted. An accomplished comedy actor and writer, she has performed and written for screen and radio with her energetic style. "Funny, crude and incredibly charming" Word of Mouth "Like Pam Ayres with attitude and an adult audience" Bristol Evening Post.

There will also be a 20 minute support slot by poet/musician Heather Wastie

Tickets are £3.00 on the door - Boars Head, 39 Worcester Street, Kidderminster DY10 1EW. Unfortunately the venue is not wheelchair accessible.





Featured performers at Kidderminster's Mouth and Music on Tuesday 10th June are travelling from afar! "*Fearless and Funny*" poet Peter Wyton. has won many prizes, been published widely and is a brilliant entertainer from Gloucestershire. Young singer songwriter Bethany Weimers, based in Oxford, is bringing us her ethereal and enchanting music, fresh from a tour of Germany earlier this year. MC Sarah Tamar invites any spoken word performers or acoustic



musicians to come and share their talents as open mic performers. The event starts at 8.00pm at the Boars Head, Worcester Street. For more details see [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk).

## Meadow Arts Public Commissions Art in unusual public spaces across Worcestershire, Shropshire & Herefordshire

Did you know that you can visit artworks by leading contemporary artists in a public space near you? Meadow Arts Public Commissions are works that are created for exhibitions before going on to be exhibited across the West Midlands for between one and five years.

Usually you would expect to find works by this calibre of artist in prestigious galleries in big cities throughout the UK and abroad, but Meadow Arts believes that everyone should be able to see it close to where they live and, crucially, where the artwork can bring new meanings to familiar locations.



Witness Tree  
- Brass Art

Currently showing in the three counties are works by artists including Brass Art, Cornford & Cross, Susie MacMurray and Keith Wilson, all in Worcestershire; Ruth Claxton, Mariele Neudecker and John M Robinson in Herefordshire and a piece by Clare Woods in Shropshire. A sculpture by Herefordshire based Des Hughes will be installed at Diglis Basin in Worcester very soon.

Visit [www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org) for full details and sign up to our newsletter for updates and invitations to our exhibitions and events.

*Brass Art Witness Tree.* Commissioned by Meadow Arts. Image courtesy the artist and Meadow Arts.

*Witness Tree* can be seen at Pershore College, Worcestershire.



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# Featured Artist - Dom Dunlea

Dom Dunlea is a Kidderminster artist who has been making stencils since the mid 80's taking inspirations from the urban landscape, music, decay, deserted industrial buildings; more recently scenes of confrontation, drawing from frequent examples of public uprising filling the news, and from the miners' strike seemingly always on the news during his childhood. He did an art foundation course at Kidderminster College in the mid 90's where he was often told that doing stencil art wasn't really art, and it was discouraged by all but one of his lecturers.



*"That one lecturer has now retired and frequently paints alongside me at various street art events! I started by painting music icons onto friend's schoolbooks and bags. Art has always been in my blood, my mother and her mother were artists, so it's only right that one of us had a crack at it!"*

Dom has always been intrigued by Degas, not necessarily his subject matter, but his amazing portrayal of light in his paintings, also keeping one eye on the pop art scene, a favourite being Rosalyn Drexler. More recent inspirations taken from street artist Conor Harrington and New York based stencil artist Logan Hicks.

*"Having a fascination with the four colour process used in the printing industry, I have brought that into my art and developed a style using transparent spray-paint to produce full colour pieces using only four colours. More recently, following the arrival of a certain Banksy onto the scene, stencil art has exploded, and with that in mind I have been experimenting more, to stand out from the crowd, taking stencil pieces and deconstructing them with paint scrapers, and dabbling in other styles, making figures from simple brush strokes, which have proved very popular. From time to time I also do the odd acrylic painting."*



The UK street art scene is booming at the moment, with paint jams and street art events happening across the country. Dom has been one of the artists painting at the last three Upfest events in Bristol, and at the more local paint jam, Kidderminster's own 'Above Boards' which continues to bring great street art Kidderminster annually.

*"Bristol is the home of street art, there is such a buzz going down there, which really sets it apart! That being said, the art scene in my home town of Kidderminster, is thriving right now, largely thanks to the councils arts officer, **Loz Samuels**, who is very active in pushing and promoting art of*

*all disciplines in the local area. When we did the **Subway Deluxe** projects, turning four of the town's subways into walk-through galleries with artists from all over the country coming to paint, the public really took to street art in the town. With the **Boars Head** pub and gallery, as a great central hub, the art and music scene here is looking very healthy right now."*



Speaking of the Boars Head, during May Dom Dunlea's exhibition, 'Not Cut Out For This' had a fantastic opening night, far exceeding his expectations, and as it showed quite experimental work he was pleased that it seemed to go down well.

*"I gave a wall to local up & coming artist **Aidan Ryan, AKA Mr. Mind Control**, who is one to watch! Next up, I will be showing a few pieces at Plaza Coffee in Bromsgrove, and am also in talks with a London gallery, but I can't say too much about that at the moment!"*

by Kate Cox

Check out Dom on:  
facebook.com/deedstarc  
@deedstencils  
on Twitter and instagram





# Review - Surprise Attacks | Firefly, Worcester | 9th May

Channel 4 ran a short documentary series recently called **Music Nation** – each episode focussing on an underground UK Music Scene. They did one about UK Hardcore punk – **Heresy, Ripcord, Chaos UK, Extreme Noise Terror**. All that jazz. It's maybe of note that members of nearly every band (with the sole exception of the Stupids) and most of the talking heads featured in that documentary have played a **Surprise Attacks** show at the Firefly in the past 12 months, in some guise or other. This show was no exception. And, like how the Roman Empire never fell (it just turned into the Catholic Church), and how the dinosaurs never died out (they just turned into birds) – as this soiree ably demonstrated the UK Hardcore scene never actually went away. It's still with us now in rude heath. It just done evolved.

First up – Hereford's **Brainwreck**. As a musical proposition this was a casually drunk Black Flag – or D.O.A

after a bang on the head. As a live act, this was not unlike watching a dog let off the lead in a park look back at you nonchalantly while doing a large shit. And then trot off



casually, with the odd backwards glance, slightly proud of what he's just done. Messy and a bit antisocial, this was a short set that wasn't intended to please anyone in the conventional sense. But in doing so, there's many people it did.

Then – returning for another helping (having played here in September in support of Japan's **Crucial Section**) the Nottingham swing combo that is **King Of Pigs**. All



songs short and shredded, sparks of anarcho-politics, and hints of Poison Idea and a touch of the Stupids. This was also vocalist Andy's birthday – so the fairly relentless aural violence was interrupted with cake, candles and some affectionate bonhomie. This may seem like a scary, shouty old scene to the observer. But they all love each other really. It's true.

Next – Cardiff's **Grand Collapse**. That a band so fresh-faced and polite could summon up such an abrasive, three-dimensional neo-crust noise – and deliver it with such penetration and primal



sincerity – was a thing of genuine wonder and shitty joy. In these later days, when principled anger and righteous artistic rage is usually diluted to at best passing annoyance by the constant inane distraction of social media and

the easy access to anything, anytime – this was like a blast from a better, though probably post-apocalyptic future – when the kids can be bothered to be reflectively angry about stuff again. This band are also possibly the single most exciting punk band in the UK right now. Simply, nails.

The evening was subsequently closed by the veteran hardcore outfit **Violent Arrest**. All of the bands on this bill basically did what they said on the tin. The clue was



of course in the bandnames. This was never going to be pretty – and this was no exception. These four fellows have been going at it for donkeys years (featuring as they do ex-members of **Ripcord, Heresy** and others) – but time has not dimmed their anger or intensity one wee bit. This was a nuts-tight set delivered with vim, poke – and more than a sprinkling of good, honest grunt. And what, may I ask, is not to love about that.

*Words: Ed Ling Photography: Paul Cussens of Positive Cacophony*



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# WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

## WHAT A LINE-UP OF FREE WORKSHOPS!

From a drum clinic with demos, battles and jams to computer sound sequencing, Worcester Music Festival 2014 is gearing up to be a veritable playground of workshops for the budding musician.

This year's FREE workshop programme, an integral part of the annual festival – which takes place from 29–31 August in venues across Worcester city centre – hits a higher note than ever before when it comes to expanding the skills of musicians and taking them to the next level.



Festival workshops organiser Holly Wyatt said that one of the reasons for this was to give something back to the bands and artists who came from all over the UK to play at the three-day event for nothing, helping to keep all of the performances and workshops free for everyone.

*"We have many fantastic bands who give up their time to come down to Worcester in August to win new audiences, and we want to give them the opportunity to learn something for free from some of the talented people on the music scene in Worcester and the wider county,"* said Holly, who is organising the workshop programme with Gemma Rickson-Lloyd.



*"We are, however, also very much about opening up music to those who might never have even picked up an instrument and there are many, many workshops for everyone to enjoy for free. We also introduced dance workshops last year and have some hip-swaying ones lined up for 2014."*

Around 800 people took part in the festival's free workshops last year, from novices hankering after a new skill or technique to novices who just wanted to experience playing an instrument.



This year's FREE workshop programme so far includes:

- Claire King's folk workshop
- Helen Russell's Express Yourself workshop
- Gary Kelly's ukelele workshop
- Jez Cole's WSRP showcase
- Andrew Rother's accordion workshop
- Jim Arnold's drum clinic
- Drum Love's drumming workshop
- Tim Scarborough's drumming workshop
- John Nash's Back to Bands workshop – a invaluable, FREE insight into music contracts
- Max Alexander's Sound Sequencing workshop
- Liz Smith's Beginners to Belly Dance
- Angie Williams' Latin salsa workshop
- Allia Khan's Bollywood Experience workshop
- Jenny Jitterbugs – toddler dancing workshop
- Appalcian dancing workshop

\*Please note that under 16s will need a guardian with them in order to take part.

For more information on this year's workshops, visit [www.wumufest.co.uk](http://www.wumufest.co.uk), Facebook and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest. You can also sign up to the e-newsletter at the website.





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# ANDY O'HARE - The F Word - your cut out 'n' keep guide...



Well it's going to be an amazing summer 2014 for music in the two counties - with events taking place somewhere every single weekend - and amazingly with very few clashes! Credit to all the organisers for their great planning over the last few months - let's hope they have the weather they and the performers deserve!

One little poser that's been troubling us in recent years is what exactly is a 'music festival' though? If it's over more than one day and has multiple stages, then that warrants the full Festival treatment - only on one day or just one stage then we think the term 'mini-festival' is appropriate - and if just one day and on one stage then how about 'micro-festival' - what do you think?

As usual I'll be doing my level best to get to as many of the events that feature local acts as possible and bring my news and views to you via the Beeb and this amazing organ! As this issue hits the newstands - we'll be returning from **Wychwood** - the first 'biggie' of the summer - and I'll tell you all about it next month! Plenty more for the rest of June though beginning with the first **Dubs In The Middle** at Ashdown Farm Evesham (6-8 June) but you could also plump for the **Drunken Monkey** one-dayer in Upton (7 June) - if you're not going to Download the following weekend at Donington (13-15 June) then the **Bromsgrove Festival** kicks off on June 14 and runs until July 20!

The weekend of 20-22 June is probably the most packed of the summer with the start of the **Droitwich Food Music & Arts** (until 6 July) - there's also the **Linton Rock/Blues** near Newent (20-22 June) - plus **Mappfest** in Malvern (21 June) and **MiniFest** in Cripplegate Park Worcester (22 June) - tough call!! It's **Glasto** the following week (27-29 June) - but intriguingly two events are also scheduled in Upton that weekend - the **29th Jazz Festival** and a **Beer & Food** event as well - sounds an interesting combination...

Two events to flip a coin for on 5 July - heads is **Westfest** in Malvern and tails is **Blues At The Fold** in Bransford - tricky! A choice to make again the following week from either **Broadfest** in Broadway (12-13 July) or **Bromsgrove Folk** (11-13 July) with a midweek bonus perhaps at **Pershore Jazz** (15-17 July) - before **Upton Blues** (18-20 July) that weekend! Some tricky choices for the last weekend in July - with the start of the **Three Choirs** (in Worcester this year running until 2 August) - looks like an eeny-meeny weekend between **Wizzafest** in Stoke Prior (24-27 July), **Down On The Farm** (25-27 July) at Abbeydore Hereford or **Malvern Rocks** (25-27) - plus **Monmouth Festival** on Sunday 27 July - this is going to be a bit of a poser...

Luckily the first two weekends in August look like no-brainers - with the quite wonderful **Nozstock** running from 1-3 followed by **Lakefest** near Tewkesbury (8-10 August) - but you could also pop in for a guzzle at **Worcester Beer Cider & Perry** (plus music) on Pitchcroft

(7-9 August)! Looks like a clear run the following weekend for the **Kidderminster Fringe** at the **Boars Head** (16-17 August) which is part of **Kidderminster Arts Fortnight** - cool!

If you're not heading to **Reading/Leeds** (22-24 August) over the Bank Holiday weekend then should be a straightforward choice depending on your musical tastes between metal at **Beermageddon** (Stoke Prior) or the more eclectic **Sunshine Festival** at Upton (both 22-24 August) - but of course then it's all systems go for the seventh **Worcester Music Festival** (29-31 August) which should be an absolute cracker again!!

Whew - that's nearly it for what should be an amazing summer, well almost - you could take a 'break' from the local scene (good isn't it?) at **Bestival** on the Isle Of Wight (4-7 September) - and there's still a choice for the following week with **Bromyard Folk** (12-14 September) and either the **Onion Fair** at Newent or the return of **Snodfest** at Upton Snodbury (both 13 September)! My aim will be to try and pace myself over the following months and 'tick off' as many of these as possible - wish me luck...

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

## The Great Malvern Hotel

*Month of June*

### Seafood Menu

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**& Tomato Salsa £9.75**

**Cod Wrapped in Smoked Salmon with**

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**spicy beans and salad £8.75**

**Luxury Fish & King Prawn Pie served with**

**Green vegetables or Salad £10.75**

**Cajun Salmon Steak Salad £7.95**

# Re-Con - Re-invigorated

The newly re-opened Re-con is going flat out for great music this month with two exceptional gigs. On the 6th 'drunk folk singer' Beans on Toast is performing at the Malvern venue, then on the 21st the amazing Captain Hotknives brings his own unique blend of improvised stories and simple riffs.

Beans on Toast opened the 2007 Glastonbury Festival and has been a regular there ever since, usually performing perched on a chair. Hence his 2009 release 'Standing on a Chair', a



50 track offering produced by Ben Lovett from 'Mumford and Sons'. He has been (temporarily) a hip-hop artist, a country performer and a folk-singer. He is gigging extensively through Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK and his performance in Malvern is predicted to be... unpredictable... with a mix of blues, new folk, politics and poetry all set to foot-tapping festival refrains. Real name Jay McCallister, Beans jokes that all his songs use the same chords and that he sounds like Billy Bragg. He does, a little bit. Perhaps a tad more tuneful. Judge for yourself at this not-to-be-missed gig.

Captain Hotknives is altogether a different cauldron of fish. His punky, comedic songs tell of sex, anarchists, drugs, benefit living and life in general and will definitely



raise a smile. In fact, it's seldom that one man and a guitar has caused such hilarity. Untroubled by the hindrance of rhyme and vocal dexterity, Hotknives improvises lyrics while strumming his acoustic guitar. Lyrics about sniffing glue, hypnotising pigeons and skankin' your nana (whatever that entails). The good Captain is supported by the enigmatic Sex Cripples. Two Yorkshire lasses who produce more noise than you would expect with their punky, ska-ish songs of businessmen, aliens, insects and dildos. Promises to be an interesting night.

June 6th Beans on Toast, The Undercovers. £6

June 21st Captain Hotknives, The Sex Cripples £6.50

Also in June at Re-con: DJ Hej on the 7th - Deep & Dirty on the 13th - The Hayriders on the 20th - Basement Fridays on the 27th - Skewwhiff on the 28th and coming up in July: Audio Breakdown, Skabucks, Malvern Rocks and Zion Train. Find Re-con on Facebook for details and tickets.

RT

## What's on in June...

FRI 6th	BEANS ON TOAST
SAT 7th	HEJ
FRI 13th	DEEP AND DIRTY
SAT 14th	MALVERN ROCKS
	WARM UP PARTY
FRI 20th	HAYRIDERS
SAT 21st	CAPTAIN HOTKNIVES
FRI 27th	BASEMENT FRIDAYS
SAT 28th	SKEWWHIFF
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# Preview - Droitwich Spa Festival

So Spa's biggest Festival is on the horizon... Droitwich Spa Festival is a partnership again this year between Music & Art together with Food & Drink... What a brilliant combination. The Fest is from 20th June to 6th July '14. The Food & Drink have already sold over 100 stalls so the main day on 21st June will be a date for every ones diary if you enjoy good quality /specialist food from around the region. The day will also compliment the wonderful art displays and outstanding music that will resound around the Spa.

We are lucky to have performances by 'International' locals Tiva V performing as a soloist singer/songwriter after being invited to the Canada Music Week in Toronto



Tiva V

Andy O'Hare

and her Album Launch of 'Cut The Tent' and Spa singer/songwriter Abby Inez after her Nashville USA performances in May. Done By Sunrise, a trio of siblings with fun /pop harmonies and songs, soon to be performing again in Ibiza in the summer,



Done By Sunrise

Esther Turner the local energetic ninja singer/songwriter. All of the above have recently performed on the LG Arena entrance stage before the headline artists. Harper's Ferry are due to joint headline the main Marquee stage in Victoria Sq. with Damian Mathews & Terry Walls, Done By Sunrise and Four Tart Harmony on the Sat' evening from 6.00 till 10.30pm.



Abby Inez

David Grubb

# Review - Bare Bones Boogie band | Prince of Wales, Ledbury | 27th April

Squeezed into the entrance with a glass of the dark, satanic, Brains Reverend James, I settled to hear the, Bare Bones Boogie Band play to a crowded little rural pub. The charismatic Helen Turner fronted, Iain Black, award nominated bassist, Trev Turley and drummer Andy Jones. They fired up with 'Sister Sunshine', taken from their 'Red' album, dipping next into their latest release for 'Seven Miles To The Station'. Iain Black's distinctive Gibson Les Paul sound interplays with Helens smokey vocals, with the solid underpinning of Trev's bass and the measured percussion of Andy. The vocals are never overwhelmed by the instruments, all in balance for this great little venue. 'Passion And Pain', showcases that passion both of Helen's presentation and Iain's soulful guitar riff. Helen's voice is sublime and perfectly suited for their fabulous version of 'Black Coffee', poured out with bass notes, and Iain's solo inset, sweetening the mix.



'Mine', Zepplenesque blues rock. Andy's drum thrash, invites some nice guitar notes from Iain, as Helen gives breath to 'Sittin Here Sewin 2nd-Hand Hand me Down', an odd title by any standards. Well into the set now and the band are enjoying themselves, as are the attentive audience. Then, for me, the superlative, 'I'd rather

Go Blind', I cannot see how this could be bettered, Helen is made to measure. Passionate, expressive, and with a voice that seems to be a blend of Janis Joplin, Maggie Bell and Beth Hart. I've seen Beth perform this with Joe, its exceptional; but between Beth and Helen, I would find it a very difficult choice, it was a wonderful heartfelt delivery.

This early evening at The Prince Of Wales, with the brilliant Bare Bones Boogie Band has been a lovely way to while away a Sunday, good music, good beer, and great little venue. I took home 'Red' and 'Tattered & Torn', only an empty pocket prevented 'Blue' travelling back with me.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn



Local Food, Music & Arts

# Friday 20 June - Sunday 6 July

**Droitwich Spa Festival features a fantastic programme of local food and drink, music and arts events.**

It takes place in the town centre and pubs, clubs and venues around town and offers great entertainment for both local residents and visitors

## Friday 20 June

### Droitwich Spa German Twinning Association Classical Concert

Selina Bella Strings Duo (Shulah Oliver and Katie Sheldon); Bohemia Group; Droitwich Spa Community Choir. 7pm-9.30pm. Sacred Heart Church, Worcs Road.

## Saturday 21 June

### Live Music at the Food and Drink Festival

'Richard Leach's Clubhouse 5 Jazz Band', Abby Inez, Tina V, Esther Turner, Done by Sunrise, Haunted Souls, For Tart Harmony and Ben Vickers. 10am-4pm. Town Centre Locations

### Live Music on the Festival Stage

Done By Sunrise, For Tart Harmony, Harper's Ferry, Terry Walls, Damian Matthews. Real Ale Bar and hot food. 6pm-10.30pm. Victoria Square.

## Lido Pool

Enjoy an evening of live music by the poolside featuring Giles Potter. 7pm-9pm.

## Sunday 22 June

### BBC Introducing in Hereford & Worcester

with Andrew Marston. A 'Live' recording session / road show, at the Gardeners Arms. 2pm-6pm.

## Saturday 28 June

### Live Music

Abby Inez, Hitchhicker, Polly Edwards, Amyee Weir, Dale Perry, Stompin' on Spiders. 11am-4pm. St. Andrews Square Shopping Centre.

### Lit Live

A day of poetry and short readings by local poets and writers accompanied by music from festival artists. 10am-4pm & 6pm-9.30pm. Parks Café, Victoria Square.

## Lido Pool

Enjoy an evening of live music by the poolside featuring Abby Inez, Polly Edwards and Amyee Weir. 7pm-9pm.

## Sunday 29 June

### Friar Street Festival of Culture and Music.

Carnival style festival with 12 live dance and music acts, cultural food and outside bar. 12 noon-6pm. Old Cock Inn, Friar Street.

## Tuesday 1 July

### Jazz evening by Droitwich Jazz Club

(organised by Richard and Pattie Leach) featuring the Brownfield/Byrne Hot Six. Doors open 7pm with music 8pm-10.30pm. Admission £8, payable on the door. Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Hadzor near Droitwich.



Acts, musicians, performers may be subject to change

@Droitwichfest

Droitwich Spa Festivals

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

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## Feature - Erica | Sons Of The High Land

Three Glos boys Dalton Woodward (Vox), Jason Burger (Bass) and Will Hall (drums) collectively known as the unusually monikored Erica have presented us with a dozen-long quality set of songs here.

They tease us gently into proceedings with the smouldering start to opener *Lucky 7*, but suddenly the sound expands as Erica kick into fine modern rock gear.



And so this vibrant vein continues throughout the album especially with highlights such as *Faith* and the standout title track. Musically we're talking touches of U2, Pearl Jam and Radiohead, to these ailing ears anyway, but as always Dear Listener it's up to you to make your own mind up.

Throughout this album Erica consistently show that they have a talent for imaginative and thoughtful arrangements which they successfully transform into properly dynamic and soulful songs. Yes influences certainly abound but these boys work hard at maintaining originality in both structure and melody. It's fair to say that trios have to try harder to fill the musical space and Erica do so on *Sons Of The High Land* with aplomb aplenty.

If you read our accompanying Q&A with the band you'll get an excellent insight into their raison d'être and realise how serious-minded they are about their ambitions, whilst also maintaining a philosophy of FUN.

They've been variously described as "Quite simply the best unsigned band I've booked yet" (Fleece - Bristol) and "The only local unsigned band who will play my event whenever they want to: they are that good." (Lakefest)

Erica are sticking their collective necks out to attempt something different with a view to encompassing a holistic approach to their Weltanschauung and it's well worth supporting these fine fellows.

Find *Sons Of The High Land* at all the usual musical outlets and keep an eye out at [www.ericatheband.co.uk](http://www.ericatheband.co.uk) for upcoming gigs because as they say, last year was about turning tunes, this year is about 'live'.

**Slap (S)** - For those not in the know please tell us about the origins of Erica?

**Erica (E)** - Erica is an evolution of 'The Envy' we were a classic school band - playing Green Day rip off's as fast as we could...the songs changed when our manager turned us on to Zep, Floyd and other grown-ups - then challenged us to dig a little deeper to find a voice that was/is our own.

**S** - Now, out in the wilds of Gloucestershire something is stirring in an old corrugated iron shed - something very exciting - tell us more do!

**E** - We have a battered but waterproof shed/barn that sits on a forgotten hill - it is where we rehearse. Our manager, Robbo, decided that it felt like a Tennessee Juke Joint so we have turned it into one...we get the best and most disparate fresh talent that we can find and host our own happenings. Kind of 'If you build it, they will come' and they do from all over!

**S** - Who was involved and did you need much funding for The Funhouse?

**E** - The vision is Robbo's: Dalton's dad, Woody, actually owns the barn and has been solid in allowing this to happen: he also drives all the preparation. We fund it ourselves: extending credit cards until the door money comes in...we make sure all the bands get a full house to play to, and paid something - even if only beer. We don't do it to make money - we do it because it is right. The Funhouse vibe is: Yes..More..Louder!

**S** - You've hosted many band nights so name names, who's treaded the sacred boards?

**E** - Local youngsters 'Standing to Fall' 16 years old and sounding like Black Stone Cherry - astounding musicianship. 'Merry Hell' Steve Norman from Spandau came and blew Sax with us last time out. 'Rewild' from Italy - finished their support slot with Iggy and The Stooges and came to play. 'Art Hop' the legendary Renaissance Brixton hip-hopper has been up - we have Bonehead joining us in August with his new project 'Phoney's and Freaks' featuring 'Alex Lipinski' that will be one to watch and as previously advertised 'Tess Parks' has agreed to fly in from Canada...It's an eclectic mix of unsigned genius. The best and brightest. This is tomorrow calling.

**S** - Let's talk names: Erica? Also is Funhouse a Stooges reference??

**E** - Erica can also be traced through ancient Norse history to 'storyteller', Funhouse is indeed a Stooges reference and That's Robbo again! Old git! (Oi watch it! Old Ed)

**S** - We've reviewed your excellent album this month but give us the lowdown on your inspirations and how the music was 'born'.

**E** - Thank you for the kind words. The music has come from a group of very different people arriving in the same place at the same time. We work really hard at turning the songs - and we edit brutally. The heart of the sound can be found through listening to 'In The Light' from 'Physical Graffiti' - it demanded of us that we re-think time signature and opened a new box. Wait until you hear what's coming out of it next...

Words by Demi Monde



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## Review-Mike Sanchez | Symphony Hall

The last few dates as support for Jeff Beck, leads to Mike Sanchez's own tour and launch of his biography. Mike sat on stage at his tour battered keyboard, resplendent in his white tux, hair styled in true rockabilly style. Here as Jeff's support he was solo, his band awaiting the tour start. Mike dipped into his huge discography to bring a mix of swing, rockabilly, rock & roll and blues. *'One Scotch One Bourbon One Beer'*, was about right for this cocktail of frenetically fast moving songs. A Fats Domino style, *'I'm Ready I'm Willing And I'm Able'*, led to a selection of Boom Boom Blues, from the likes of Howling Wolf, Slim Harpo, and Muddy Waters, followed by a medley of Rock & Roll, Real Wild Child, She's My Baby and Red Hot Mama'. It was a jam packed set that blew a maelstrom through Symphony Hall. You just know that when Mike's tour hits the UK, its going to be an absolute blast, so polish off those sneakers and dust off those creepers, see if you can still squeeze into those threads, and get ready for a ball. Mike's big home town gig is in Kidderminster Town Hall, July 4th. This time he will have his band, and perhaps a little help from some friends from the Big Town Playboy days. Look out for his Michael Madden authored biography launch, *Mike Sanchez Big Town Playboy*.

Mike walked off stage with his keyboard under his arm, leaving the set ready for guitar maestro Jeff Beck and his band.

I will not pretend to know Jeff's music in any detail, but I can recognise how his stature and mastery has grown over the years. The sounds that he creates with his

pearlescent white Strat's range from floating gulls to soaring eagles, whale calls to dolphin chatter. Powerful emotional sounds, strings that cry and call out for attention. His band is a collection of internationally renowned musicians, bassist Rhonda Smith, drummer Jonathan Joseph (with kit the size of a small offshore tax haven), and guitarist Nicolas Meier. Nicolas was responsible for the beautiful Moorish influenced *'Yemin'*. Memorable. This was a set almost devoid of vocal input, few microphones adorned the stage, but Rhonda added some solid blues lyrics over her bass to a fine, almost Cream styled *'Rollin And Tumblin'*. A simply superb instrumental of the Beatles' *'A Day In The Life'*, brought the end of a show that fully deserved its standing, long drawn, ovation. An unforgettable opportunity to hear a master at work, Jeff is 70 this year, how have I missed so much? The sacrifices of family life! See you all at Kidderminster for another slice of Mike Sanchez.



Words & Photography by Graham Munn

## EP Review - Namesakes | The Base Wank ep

This is dope as hell and if you're from the countryside in the West Midlands this is an EP for you. Frankie Namesakes put this EP out a while ago but with these independent releases they seem to surface after being passed around and generally floating around the internet.

The EP opens with *"THROO THA VALLEY"* (All caps like) which is a great opening banger so we just about get the grip of who Namesake is... until we hear *"LILLY"*: this is pretty much a dark, backwoods fairytale about the casual art of stalking a female who doesn't even know you exist - we've all been there right?! Worcester City gets a shout out, and why shouldn't it? I'm sure most people sat around the Shire have had these brooding dark thoughts...unless it's just me...I'll go to the docs in the morning.



*"SO PHARR SO GUDD"* takes us back with a chilled 90s style boom bap beat but the EP quickly drops back into title track *"THA BASE WANK"* which is as dark and as sinister as the potentially disturbed mind it comes from.

Generally overall it's a mental EP full of sounds inspired by dark hip hop, and lyrics from an early Korn album. Namesakes half zombied half John Lydon rap style is complemented by the features of The Saxon Kid, Mistah Frantic and more!

For fans of High Focus with Esham, D12, Grave Diggaz, and maybe Tyler The Creator if you haven't heard of the others. Mainly good for all hip hop heads everywhere and general weirdos.

by B Saint

## Preview - John Cooper Clarke | Colwall Village Hall | Wed 18th June

Versatile Arts are promoting Britain's best loved and most important performance poet, John Cooper Clarke at a one off warm up show at Colwall village Hall on Weds 18th June.

John Cooper Clarke is as vital now as he was in the 70s. His acerbic, satirical, political and very funny verse, delivered in a unique rapid-fire performance style, resonated with the punk movement leading him to tour with all the seminal bands of time (The Sex Pistols, The Clash etc).

Fast forward to 2014, and JCC remains a key orator of British society, as relevant now as ever, with his mark indelibly made on today's pop culture. His influence can be heard for example in the satirical and keen social observations of the Arctic Monkeys. Alex Turner cites him as a huge inspiration, as recently highlighted by the band's cover of JCC's 'I Wanna Be Yours' on their critically acclaimed fifth studio album 'AM'

John has a regular show on BBC 6 music. He has also just made an appearance on the satirical TV show 'Have I got news for you'.

His current touring show takes in his best loved work alongside brand new material.

The performance begins at 7.30 with support. Tickets are available from the Courtyard theatre box office Tel 01432 340555. Tickets cost £14.50



## Feature - Volunteering for Mentor Link, Worcestershire



Could you spare an hour a week? Do you think you could motivate, support and encourage young people? If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, Worcestershire based charity Mentor Link would like to hear from you as they are currently recruiting volunteers to complement the work of Student Services and the pastoral team at Worcester Sixth Form College. No qualifications are necessary as Mentor Link, provide free initial and ongoing training. All you need to be is a good role model with a listening ear and desire to help.

Mentor Gary says: *"The comprehensive training I received when I became a mentor has enabled me to give my mentees clear and impartial advice in a safe and non-judgemental or authoritative environment."*

We like successful applicants to volunteer for a minimum of 6 months and all training and travel expenses are paid. A Disclosure and Barring Service check is required which we will arrange for you. Mentor Link is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. To find out more please contact Claire Quinn by telephone on 07973 572768 or via email [Claire.Quinn@mentorlink.org.uk](mailto:Claire.Quinn@mentorlink.org.uk) alternatively, have a look at the website [www.mentorlink.org.uk](http://www.mentorlink.org.uk). Go on, get in touch, imagine the difference you could make.



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Where Worcester music lives..

# Preview - Artrix in June

## Thea Gilmore Wed 4th June



The acclaimed songstress returns to play a number of Summer 2014 UK dates following the success of her acclaimed UK Top 40 new album *Regardless*, including gracing *Artrix* with her presence on June 4th.

*Regardless* is Thea Gilmore's 14th album and this deeply personal work grew out of an enforced hiatus brought about by serious natal/post-natal problems for both Thea and her newborn second

son. This meant an exhausting and often crippling battle back to physical and mental health, but with the supreme efforts and encouragement from family and friends she found the strength to write her first song in well over a year.

Bigger and glossier perhaps than previous efforts, but with the hallmarks of Gilmore's best work ie glass-sharp lyrics, dark humour, melodies that refuse to leave you and that haunting smoky voice that sets her work apart, *Regardless* is the most direct, personal collection of songs yet in Gilmore's already weighty catalogue.

A concert definitely not to be missed!

Tickets are priced at £19.50 and available from Artrix

## Voodoo Room Friday 6th June

*Disraeli Gears* and *Are You Experienced* have gone down in rock history as two of the greatest albums of all time. The million-selling creations of Cream and The Jimi Hendrix Experience, both albums reached the top 5 in the U.K. & U.S.A. They achieved universal acclaim and spawned seminal singles such as *Hey Joe*, *Sunshine Of Your Love*, *Purple Haze*, *Strange Brew* and *Fire*.



With *Voodoo Room*, who are playing both albums live at Artrix on 6 June, you get the opportunity to see them reproduced live, with the same energy and virtuosity that was at the heart of Hendrix and Cream's performances.

*Voodoo Room* tell us: 'We will be amalgamating both UK & US editions, so lots of bonus material will be included. Some of the album tracks were never performed

live, but by applying the live DNA template of Cream & Hendrix to these songs, we can create what might well be their first ever 'In Concert' performances!'

You may already know of *Voodoo Room's* reputation of delivering the real audio & visual deal when it comes to a live show. If you've seen them before you'll know they aren't a wig wearing tribute act, it's just great music played by world class musicians.

Tickets cost £14 (£12) and are available as above

## Wooden Horse Sat 21st June Artrix Studio

Founded 3 years ago by Worcester baritone singer Jamie Knight, *Wooden Horse* have been doing the rounds for a while now but are only just beginning to build a profile. Accompanied by Ben Church on slide guitar, harmonica and vocals, the duo honed their set into a tight and exuberant blues sound. Now they've been joined by



pianist Stuart McLroy, who has supported Carl Perkins and Bill Lee Riley and the result is a boogie style band that's guaranteed to get you up and moving.

Their new album *'This Kind of Trouble'* is an intoxicating blend of country blues, bluegrass and folk. Close your eyes while listening to it and in a flash you're transported to a warm summer's evening in Mississippi. Another experience not to be missed.

Tickets cost £8.00 and are available from the box office

## Blackadder Goes Forth (again!) Tue 24th-Sat 28th June Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm

In a timely reminder of the First World War centenary, *Blackadder*, Baldrick, Melchett, Darling and of course the hapless George are getting to ride again in a new theatrical version of the *Blackadder Goes Forth* series.

All and Sundry's production will bring three classic episodes to the stage, namely Corporal Punishment: B'adder eats messenger pigeon, faces firing squad, needs Baldrick to escape! - Private Plane: our intrepid trio join the Royal Flying Corps, crash & are captured by von Richthofen & co - and Goodbye: our anti-hero dreads "the final big push", feigning madness inc wearing underpants + nasal pencils in order to get invalidated back to Blighty. Tickets cost £14.00 (£12.00)



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# Reviews - Cheltenham Jazz Festival

## Jamie Cullum 30th April



Its Opening evening of this prestigious festival, in the **The Big Top**, which dominates **Montpellier Gardens**. The demand for JC had been enormous, such that a second show on the inaugural evening had been arranged, both full houses. The stage was no different, as it filled with Jamie's, specially assembled, big band. To the front were multi talented,

arranger **Tom Richards** with an equally gifted **Rory Simmons**. Enter the diminutive figure of Jamie, attacking the piano keys as the band blasts into action, big band, big sound. Jamie is electrifying, leaping up and around the stage, and back to the keys, small he may be, but he demands attention. '*Just One Of Those Things*' was crooned out to strings and soft percussion, before the band bursts out again, mixed with some stunningly good sax and trumpet solos. '*Trouble*' followed, Jamie is like a rubber ball, scuttling and bouncing about, the rapport with a mesmerized audience is established, like a small intimate gig, but its far from that. A hauntingly dark **Surfjan Stevens**, '*Seers Tower*', in the style of **Nina Simone**, was accompanied by just strings and a rhythmic drumming.

A cheeky 'bio' '*When I Get Famous*', started off big and brassy, and ended with Jamie standing on the Grand, lyrically bragging to the house; absolutely superb. A big swing number drops down to a thumping base and piano for a slow ballad, but not for long. Jamie leaps up with a megaphone and on into the stalls to sing a song made famous by **Hank Williams**, '*Love Sick Blues*'. This was probably the only failure of a fantastically entertaining evening. The megaphone was fine for the surrounding fans, but could not compete with the band in this cavernous arena. It was a bit of fun though, and emphasised that ability of **Jamie Cullum** to connect with his audience, no matter the size, bringing his contagious passion to the show.

## Laura Mvula 1st April

Artist In residence **Laura Mvula**, has just returned from another US tour, and brought to the stage a completely new image. Long curled locks down to her shoulders, an eye catching multicoloured dress in a rockabilly style with a wide flared hem, which sort of brought back memories of **Eric Morcambe's** hooped safari shorts! The mind plays strange tricks. **Laura** claimed the hair was the result of **Miracle Grow**, strange indeed. On stage she was joined by

her band, of strings and a mighty drum set. The harp, double bass, cello and violin (the later 2 being played by her brother and sister) made the sound distinctive, harmonising with **Laura's** higher notes.

Her Mercury Prize album '*Sing To The Moon*', was destined to provide most of the music, starting with '*Like The Morning Dew*', the driving percussion, I felt was overpowering **Laura's** voice. This was unfortunate, as I sat near the mixing desk, I thought adjustment would be quickly made, it wasn't, though the levels seemed to improve later into the set. Suffice to say, when the drums dropped back and the strings and harmonies kicked in, it was like being in a dream world, beautiful sounds with beautiful lyrics. The haunting soul searching, '*She*', was followed by '*Flying Without You*' and the more upbeat, superb '*Sing To The Moon*' opened with the dominant sound of the quartet of strings. The audience is silent, transfixed, hypnotized, but applaud warmly, enjoying the banter from **Laura**, as she moved between songs. '*Is There Any Body Out There*' she called, and again, we caught on and responded, as she launched into this cry for attention. A nice solo on piano accompanied **Laura's** vocals for '*Diamonds*', before the heartfelt, '*Father Father*', with perhaps the spirit of **Nina Simone**, looking on approvingly.

## Saturday with Robert Cray and Dan Owen

A sell out arena, welcomed **Robert Cray** and his band, **Richard Cousins** on bass, **Dover Weinberg** on Hammond and **Les Falconer** on drums. '*Blues In The Morning*', demonstrated an almost effortless handling of his Fender, as befits one of the truly great modern blues guitarists. A warm chocolate voice, drops of honey giving that slight ripple across the surface. '*Poor Johnny*', introduced a bit of funk and maybe the hint of an underlying reggae beat, either way it was pretty damned good. Not long before, arguably one of his best known songs, '*Right Next Door*', opened to an expectant applause, it was because of him! finishing quietly, reverentially, he 'swatted a fly' on the microphone to close it with a bang. Next an appreciated slow burner, in '*Sittin On Top Of The World*', the warmer notes of his silver grey Stratocaster, filling the air; excellent.

'*Don't You Even Care*', was simply superb, a wonderful soulful bit of blues, deserving the standing applause.



'*Hip Type Onions*', gives a nod to **Booker T**, its a fun piece, with stalled pause and some lovely Hammond organ coming through. Fittingly, '*Two Steps From The End*' a slow blues lament, played beautifully

by **Robert**, signalled a closing set. A standing ovation, richly deserved, for a fine performance.





Across in the Free Stage, **Dan Owen** was due to play to the crowded grounds of Montpellier Gardens, on a lovely spring evening. Many did not know what to expect, as they closed in around the open arena. Dan, perched on his stool, and ready to go, started with Robert Johnson's *'Walking*

*Blues'*. The thick smoke laden voice, soon directed attention as the crowd thickened. *'Forget me When I'm Gone'*, followed quickly, I doubt they would. Dan was at his best here, *'Hammer'*, and *'Beauty & Disaster'*, showcased his own songs, before his take on *'Lil Red Rooster'*, wonderfully gritty stuff, fusing into *'Stormy Monday'*, 10 minutes of superlative, raw, energy driven, blues.

Another of Dan's songs, *'Makes You Weep'* preceded Springsteen's *'Atlantic City'*, all wanted more! the excellent *'Ships'*, and *'Ballad Of Holice Brown'*, followed. A brilliant show, I have seen Dan perform a few times, for me, this was the best to date, he responded to a receptive audience, jazz it ain't, but nobody cared. Without doubt he won many new fans on this bright cooling evening.



## Jools Holland and His R&B Orchestra

With guests: Marc Almond, Gregory Porter and Ruby Turner on a Monday Eve.

The closing show of this years festival, and the Big Top is bursting, as Jools' R&B orchestra take to the stage, 15 strong plus Jools who goes straight to the piano and a bit of boogie woogie. Plenty more of that throughout the show, but only after we have a bit of Fats Waller, *'Ain't Misbehaving'*. Jools' extravaganza is much as you would expect, an exemplary performance by both magician, Jools, and the members of his band, all fine musicians in their own right. Conjuring up his first major guest vocalist, **Marc Almond** took to the stage to rapturous applause, and delivered what was wanted. *'Say Hello And Wave Goodbye'*, and naturally, *'Tainted Love'*, jazz no, blues no, but nobody is complaining. Back to some marvellous piano wizardry, then on to the imposing presence of **Gregory Porter**, a fabulous performance that brought us soul, blues and gospel. A seemingly giant of a

man, with personality to match. The stage emptied leaving Jools and his drummer **Gilson Lavis**, for an exceptionally fine boogie. First with the help of Hammond playing, brother, Chris, both attacking the piano, changing ends seamlessly. What next, well it could only be the powerful voice of **Ruby Turner**, and a standing audience, she filled the air with the sounds of blues and gospel, to tremendous applause. Jools had brought the full circus, appropriately to the big top, along with the finest vocalists who performed wonderfully with his iconic **Rhythm And Blues Orchestra**, a grand closing to a great week at Cheltenham Jazz Festival.

Words & Pics Graham Munn



## Loose Tubes

This was an exercise in nostalgia for me but clearly not for the near capacity audience in the Big Top, as when trombonist **Ashley Slater** asked how many of the assembled throng had been to a Loose Tubes concert before, only around a quarter of the audience raised their hands.

This was the return of Loose Tubes after an absence of twenty-four years and the band had chosen to make their reunion debut at Cheltenham, something of a coup, to be followed by a two week stint at London's renowned Ronnie Scotts Club. Of course, the repertoire included some tunes not heard since the band split in 1990, including their tribute to keyboard player **Joe Zawinul** - *'Mr Z'* and *'Sad Afrika'* - almost as relevant today as it was all those years ago.

Of the twenty-one strong aggregation, only two members, percussionist **Louise Petersen Matjeka** and tenor saxophonist **Julian Nicholas** were new to the band. There were a couple of local connections too, in that guitarist **John Parricelli** hails from Evesham and baritone saxophonist **Julian Arguelles** was born in Lichfield and raised in Birmingham.

A great sense of fun was always a hallmark of the band and none of the zest for life had been diminished by the passing years. One of the new pieces, keyboard player **Django Bates's** *'As I Was Saying'* cleverly included musical quotations from some of the band's early repertoire.

Those who missed the gig or would like a lasting memento of the day could do much worse than check out one of the bands two currently available recordings, *'Dancing on Frith Street'* (2010) and *'Sad Afrika'* (2012).

by Alan Musson

# Interview - Cantaloop | Single Launch, The Yardbird | Friday 13th June

As part of the build up to the Launch party for their new single **Avalanching**, we got hold of busy boys and longtime Slap faves Cantaloop for their thoughts on Life, Love and lotsa other L's: so here is their funky philosophy...

**Slap (S)** – Hi there Dannie and Justin lovely to catch up with ya: firstly can you tell us a bit about the genesis of Cantaloop and your musical inspirations?

**Justin** – *For me Cantaloop has always be able to move and evolve because we've had so many band members... not always by choice. But that has led us to playing with some of my heroes and monster players like **Ernie Mckone from Galliano, Atholl Ramson – Amy Winehouse/ Mark Ronson, Ian Reid – Ronny Jordon, Paulo De Wo'ton – Robert Plant** and of course I can't forget **Huey, Fast** and of course **Frank** from the everpowerful **Fun Lovin Criminals**.*

*As for inspiration its old skool Hip Hop, Punk and Funk but saying that i don't want us to sound retro I love that music but its just the spirit and attitude I take from them.*

**S** – You two fine fellas are obviously the fulcrum of Cantaloop, but are there any other full-time members at the moment or are you happier to work on collective guidelines with guest players and semi-permanent members?

**Justin & Danny** – *We have two drummers and two bass players that rotate so we can cover the gigs. **Captain Sabotage aka Sugar Lips aka Simon Holland** has been at the helm with us and **Frank jumps up** when he's not being a criminal (Fun Lovin). I wish we had a band that we could say here are the dates we doing..... rather than calling and checking whose available then going back to the promoter saying, have you got another date because we don't have a drummer or we don't have a bass player. Aaahhhhhhhhhhhh its frustrating!!*

**S** – Continuing this theme the choice of guest vocalist **Sam Rogers** on **Avalanching** is inspired and a stunning success; how did this collaboration come about?

**J** – *Thanks, it's getting a great reaction and picking up some cool radio play. The collaboration came about when a friend of ours was putting on a showcase in Brum and we just went along to show some support and drink the free bar! But Sam came on and did a couple of acoustic numbers and we knew if at any point we needed a female vocal we'd got our girl. And 6 months later we began work on "Avalanching" ... actually we just asked Sam to do just the chorus and then as things evolved we just wanted to hear more and more of her voice till she sang the whole song.*

**D** – *She's a special talent. Sam has a way of sucking you into the track 'til you believe wat she's telling you. In short.... When she sings...you listen!*

**S** – The wonderful new single **Avalanching** is a very touching piece, so could you please tell more about the inspiration and story behind the song?

**J** – *The song is about Bruce the original bass player and founder member of the band that died of cancer. I began writing this lament lullaby never thinking Dan would like it or think it was a future Cantaloop song. Then one day Dan said that lullaby song was kind of cool and I explain it was written for Bruce and so I coined the phrase "Death Lullaby" The phrase i think got kicked the curb when Dan wrote the lyrics which celebrates his life and his idiosyncrasies I believe they're some of Dan's best lyrics.*

**S** – There is a Launch Party in Brum for the single on Friday 13 June – what will be going down that night and have you been to the great Yardbird venue before, which is a fairly recent addition to the Birmingham Live scene?

**J** – *The Yardbird is our home town gig of choice when in Brum. The people are always up for it and know their funk! The launch will be us giving "Avalanching" its debut with Sam. We're gonna have limited amounts of the single available on the nite and some cool merch too!*

**D** – *The Yardbird is a real cool place. The crowd are true live music lovers and a lot our friends and followers have seen us there so it's kinda fitting that we should launch the single there. Gonna be a seriously fun night!*

**S** – Talking of cities and towns Cantaloop hail from Bewdley but do you think that coming from a small, semi-rural town has ever held you back in your ambitions or the way the Music Biz perceives you?

**J** – *Well I'm from Bewdley and its home for me but it's just a base. We have always travelled and toured so to go Newcastle then to London and back to Brum is a good weekend and the way the Music Biz perceives us.... we've never been flavour of the month which is maybe why we are still making music. Also the music industry is pretty much dying on its ass, so running Cantaloop as a cottage industry for as long as we have means we are in good shape to keep on keep on.*

**D** – *We like do what we do regardless. Long as we're satisfied with what we've done we're happy enough. Hopefully there's still enough people out there looking to chose what music they like for themselves. The web makes this possible. I think without it a lot of bands would be dead in the water by now!*

**S** – We believe you've been heavily involved with **M.A.S (Mighty Atom Smasher)** Record label; would you care to elaborate on this and fill us in on any future plans?



J – Yeah, myself and Dan do work for them. **MAS** is all about helping bands move forward. This coming year we will be looking for bands aged 16-19 offering development support i.e. free recording – free rehearsal space – free photo shoots – free marketing advise and bands keep all their rites and master recording. Easiest thing to do is check out the MAS records website and contact us through the site [www.mightyatatomsmasher.com](http://www.mightyatatomsmasher.com).

S – Time Honoured Question: – name that piece of music (song, album etc) which you would save from that theoretical house fire??

J – For me it's gonna be the song I'm listening to the most at the moment – **Avant Gardener** by **Courtney Barnett**.

D – Too many to name but I could see me jumping around to 'Happy' by **Pharrell** or **Sounds of Blackness** 'Optimistic' while my place went up in smoke!

S – And finally we like to ask our interviewees if there is any deep life philosophy that they

Would like to share with our readers?...

J – Things may come to those who wait, but the only things left are by those who hustle. So you'll know us by the cut of our jib.

D – Only way to definitely fail is to stop trying! It's NEVER over!

Photography Dominic Peter Hatton – [reeferboy.com](http://reeferboy.com)

## CANTALOOP

Single launch Friday 13th June at  
The Yardbird, Birmingham

New single *Avalanching*  
out 16th June available from itunes  
[www.cantalloop.net](http://www.cantalloop.net)





## Feature - M.A.S Records - Mighty Atom Smasher

For some time now bands have struggled to get to grips with the current evolution of the music industry. Success seems a million miles away and help getting there even further. With the decline of development deals bands now need to become the Record Label, PR Company, Promoter and Management in order to survive. But how do to this?..... Enter MAS RECORDS!

have helped key artists including Swim Deep, The Lines, Deluka, Octane OK and The Arcadian Kicks collectively secure professional management or recording contracts with major labels; and even showcased artists at SXSW over the last 5 years; setting up vital partnerships with industry organisations, including Kerrang! Radio, BBC Introducing, ITB, Plug And Play Promo, Ditto Music and Universal Distribution.



With nearly 10 years' experience under their belt, MAS has played a part in the success of many artists in the West Midlands. The development label, based in Kidderminster,

The award-winning programme was pioneered by Band Of Joy guitarist Kevyn Gammond. Former Led Zeppelin vocalist Robert Plant has been patron of the label since its conception, alongside Karl Hyde of Underworld. Now MAS are looking to spearhead a new youth music project for bands aged 16-18 in the Midlands for 2014-15.

Scott Garrett, project manager, said, "MAS is NOT a record label in the traditional sense. With the ever-changing Music Business, MAS adopts the role of Artist Development within a major record label; bringing together industry and education in a unique way. Our goal is to nurture the development of music in the UK and our experienced staff mentor and prepare emerging artists for the wider industry."

The programme lasts for one academic year and is free of charge. Funded by the government through the education system, there are no hidden loopholes or recording contracts and bands retain ALL rights to any material recorded.

Kevyn added, "MAS Records works in partnership with education authorities, rehearsal studios, promoters, and independent recording studios across the UK, including Leeds, Liverpool, and the Midlands. The success of our development programme has been recognised on a national level, receiving awards and honours from the Learning and Skills Council, RockschooL Ltd., Access To Music, and Kidderminster College."

Services offered on the MAS Records Development Programme include:

- Recording with industry producers
- Weekly rehearsal time in top studios
- Promotion and marketing
- Guidance with tour planning
- Exposure to the UK music industry
- Live demo recording
- Industry showcase gigs

From July 2014, MAS Records will be holding auditions for its award-winning development programme, commencing in September so if you're age 16 to 18 and are already part of a band, contact MAS Records:

on 01562 512120 or  
admin@mightyatomsmasher.com or visit:  
[www.mightyatatomsmasher.com](http://www.mightyatatomsmasher.com)



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## Review - Black Cat Bone | The Paul Pry, Worcester | Sat 26th April

They are one of the best quartets this town ever had. **Barrie Scott** leads on vocals and harmonica, the peerless **Stu Silcock** on guitar, **Phil**, drums, and **John Ellis** on the best no-shit 5string basses I ever heard.

With such a good singing and picking in the front line the band plays with great confidence and panache.



A couple of Dylans proved that this is a band with a wider repertoire than then your average pub-blues covers band: *'Positively 4th Street'* was rasped emotionally by Barrie, which he followed by the dramatic *'Streets of Angeline'*, a song revived yet again, as it is each time N'awleans floods take down another neighbourhood.

*'Girl From The North Country'* was – again – plaintive. *'Minnie the Moocher'* was appropriately leering, and *'Messing With The Kid'* boomed and stung 'til hell wouldn't have it.

Stu and Barrie have been gigging together for 10 years, and it shows. Lovely stuff.

Words: Bob Jones Photography: Mark Hoy



A deceptively plaintive *'Willing'* gave onto a searing blues, *'Move To The Outskirts of Town'* whose only begetter, Jimmy Rushing, would have loved the menacing, evil guitar Stu gave it, aided by the implacable rhythm section.

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**A PHYSICAL SHOP IN A DIGITAL WORLD!**



## Review - Perry Foster | The Paul Pry, Worcester | Sat 13th May

I've seen Perry when he was not at his best; hesitant, first gig with a new guitar whose purchase he was already regretting. Third song, he took a deep breath, grinned, and the spirit kicked in. Even in low spirits, he's the best there is.

Tonight, he was at his best: confident, witty, mischievous, in command of his audience and material. Blues benign 'Digging My Potatoes' and malign 'Judge Bouchet Blues' delighted an audience, most of whom seemed to know what to expect.

To many of his younger fans these are his songs. Names such as Leadbelly, Big Bill Broonzy, Robert Johnson, ring a distant bell; but Skip James, Blind Willie MacTell, Noah (and Furry) Lewis might not. I once played a short session at the Old Rectifying house. A youngster asked me if I knew any Perry Foster songs.

In a sense, these are Perry songs; he stamped his mark on them 50+ years ago, and is one of the most compelling reasons why generations of youngsters, from Robert Plant to Jack Blackman, decide to play the blues, freely acknowledging Perry's influence during their own fledgling development.

Spirituals, blues, skiffle, even an old English folk song, 'Scarlet Town' ("Written by 'enry the 8th last week") spoke trippingly from his array of 6 and 12-string guitars.

The regular Saturday night crowd got a rare treat; others of us attended a master-class from a folk-troubadour at his peak.

Words: Bob Jones Photography: Mark Hoy



## Review - Da Vinci & Claire Boswell | The Roadhouse, Birmingham 24th April

The evening started very well with sumptuous support from Claire Boswell with her sweet sultry voice (which was never more exemplified than on her rendition of the Bacharach and David tune, "The Look of Love"). Claire played songs from her impending album, which included "Under the Bridge" (no not that one! Her own composition!) and "Reason to Believe" which was performed with Da



Vinci frontman Declan Sharma, a favour Claire returned later that evening by performing a song with Da Vinci. Claire's warm and evocative set provided a nice contrast to the band and her talent and professionalism belie her years. You can find Claire at [www.claireboswell.com](http://www.claireboswell.com).

Da Vinci entered into their set in typical theatrical style performing incisive poignant compositions from their earlier repertoire then moved effortlessly to more recent material. All served up with high quality musicianship and panache.

The band these days are a considerably tighter and more disciplined outfit, their musical ability has never come into question. These are four very highly proficient musicians supporting the brilliant songwriting talent of the bands very charismatic focal point Declan Sharma.



Since the appointment of band manager, Andy Cave giving them positive direction, Da Vinci have been effectively more focused. These days you will find them playing gigs predominantly in the second city. Though they are playing a variety of music festivals throughout the midlands through the summer. You can find Da Vinci at [www.davinciuk.net](http://www.davinciuk.net)

Words: Rich Morgan Photography: Duncan Graves

## Single Review - Thirty Six Strategies — Strategy Two

So here we have the second offering from Thirty Six Strategies in the form of a three track EP, consisting of two new tracks and one cover. Released on boutique white vinyl as a 7" and available as a download – this is also the first pressing by Worcester's very own Surprise Attacks Recordings. First up is Swallowing Swords kicking in with a rousing whoa-o-oah refrain, this mid tempo track soars on the back of some excellent guitar driven melody ably topped off with Kirsty Harding's vocals, sounding on this track not unlike Hayley Williams.

Next we have Crisis? What Crisis?, featuring none other than Mr. Andy Cairns of Therapy? lending his not inconsiderable guitar to the mix. Starting with a little guitar strumming then bursting into action with Kirsty's vocals soaring, reminding this cloth eared geezer of Caithlin De Marrais from Rainer Maria. Throughout the original tunes on offer here, there is a tangible improvement in the chemistry and song writing, with the band boasting over one hundred years of collective experience in some notable UK bands all topped off with a new kid on the block on vocals adding some welcome youth and influence.

Last track is Ignite, originally recorded by The Damned and again featuring Mr. Cairns on guitar, this comes galloping off the blocks at a faster rate than the original,

think Suffer era Bad Religion with vocals a keeping it close enough to the original that fans won't be disappointed. I hear there's an album in the works. So Looking forward to Strategy Three.



[www.surpriseattacks.bigcartel.com](http://www.surpriseattacks.bigcartel.com)

*Captain Peanut*

## Preview - Upton-upon-Severn Jazz Festival | 27th-29th June

This year marks the 29th year of the Festival. Over the years, the Festival has gone from strength to strength and this year, with the appointment of a new Music Director, the event may just possibly be the best so far. Rachel Hayward's remit is to help shape the event, engage with the bands and maintain the long established traditions of the Festival, whilst also bringing in new ideas. Rachel has been active on the jazz scene for over 30 years and ran the Bude Jazz Festival for a number of years. She now brings her experience and organisational skills to Upton.

Rachel and her colleagues have arranged over 60 concerts covering the best of New Orleans, Classic Jazz, European/Gypsy/Hot Club, Dance and Street/Parades entertainment. Artists booked to appear include Laurie Chescoe, George Huxley, Alan Barnes, David Newton, Keith Nichols, Craig Milverton, Jamie Brownfield, John Shillito, Tad Newton and Remi Harris.

Up and coming local band the Indigo Kings play jazz complete with classy vocals in the style of Caro Emerald.

Great music together with a Jazz bar providing quality beers and ciders. New for 2014 is the addition of the first Upton Food and Beer Festival which takes



Remi Harris

place on the Jazz weekend and will be based in Fish Meadow. So why not combine excellent food and drink with equally excellent music? I can't think of anywhere better to be.

*by Alan Musson*

# Theatre Review – Fishhead | Malvern Cube | 10th May

Fishhead by Reaction Theatre Makers played to a packed audience at The Malvern Cube. It was very much a return to home for this new(ish) company who are presently touring the play around the country and who before this had just returned from Liverpool.

First of all Reaction have done amazingly well as a company. I keep being told there is no market for new writing so to see a full house to see original work was fantastic. It was also great to see Malvern Cube being used in this way. The county needs venues and companies who are willing to take risks and to get the county to be known as a place where new work can be developed and seen too.

The format of the play is a simple one. Told through a 'Desert Island Disc' format we see the story of Tom, an Oyster Fisherman, whose life is initially closing on him and his chance meeting with Lydia, a visitor to Tom's world who is seeking refuge and solitude.

The play's central set is a glass box which acts as a home, a boat and a caravan. Moved around the set the box acts a metaphor for these people's lives, both acting as shelter but also as a constraint.

The play works best when it embraces the strangeness of their situation. Lydia is learning to a ventriloquist which initially captures Tom's attention. He is a shy and lonely person whose life is changed by her and the play is at its best when its fairy tale style comes to the fore. It is also very funny at times. It would have been good to have drawn more of a comparison with the two characters; this could have been pushed further as both characters are in extreme places of their lives. The many theatrical forms could have been developed so they



become more of an integral part of the action and I felt the ending too was sudden needing more explanation and more awareness of the back story of Lydia's life.

Yet these are minor criticisms for Fishhead as it is always entertaining and both Michelle Pogmore and Trev Fleming are excellent. There is also a nice cameo by Sean Connell as the long lost son. The play always seeks to captivate and the soundtrack itself is worth the price of admission.

The next local show is at AEHarris in Birmingham on 10th June. For more info Reaction Theatre Makers website is [www.reactiontheatremakers.com](http://www.reactiontheatremakers.com) – please support them and our other theatre makers in the county. Always remember there is no substitute for seeing live performance too!

by Steve Wilson

By kind permission from Emma Images Photography

## Single Review - Geurrilla Monsoon

Redditch based punk band Geurrilla Monsoon have just announced the imminent release of their split vinyl EP single with New York band Games Day Regulars on the Paper and Plastick label.



Named after an old school US wrestling legend, the two Geurrilla Monsoon tracks on the EP *December* and *Rome* are

both stonking songs for all you lovers of guitar driven, no nonsense but tuneful punk. To support the release of the EP they will have played Brum Scruffy Murphy's by the time you read this but have a string of other dates booked, so catch up with them on facebook.

And live Geurrilla Monsoon really kick bottom and are a real power house band, but don't take my word for it, go and see em and if you can't/don't want the vinyl (mad fools) then pin back your lug'oles at their bandcamp download home.

The Paper and Plastick label is run by Vinnie Fiorello who is the co founder of independent label Fueled by Ramen, a subsidiary of Warner music and has released music by Fallout Boy and Panic At The Disco.

Catch Geurrilla Monsoon at the Fire Fly on June 13th for Surprise Attacks.

Words by Vlad Slave Flatley





# Review - Swingamajig Festival | Spotlight, Digbeth | 4th May

## SWINGAMAJIG

ELECTRO SWING • NEW ORLEANS JAZZ • GYPSY FOLK

Trying to capture the essence of Swingamajig Festival in words isn't going to be easy - you see Swingamajig is rather unique - sure there's live music but how many festivals do you know have dance performances, burlesque and circus performers among the off-kilter bands and DJ's. Then there's the audience; no baggy shorts and t-shirts here, oh no at Swingamajig people dress to impress, taking their influences from the 1930's swing era and then adding their own twist, which is also a way to describe some of the music on offer, updated versions of swing mixed with electro beats, gypsy folk, ska and funk are just some of the sounds on offer.

Collective 43, Worcester's New Orleans influenced jazz combo serenaded the festival revellers as they entered the site with the likes of a holler-a-long version of *When The Saint's Coming Marching In* and a megaphone assisted *Fever*. The collective transported the early birds to the second line of the Mardi Gras as they marched through the festival to take to the stage, encouraging an audience to join in and dance along. Whilst Collective 43 welcomed the masses to the festival, 3 Piece Playing Django opened the *Hot Club De Swing Stage* invoking the spirit of Django Reinhardt himself with a dazzling rendition of *Exactly Like You* among others.



As we enjoying our first musical treats of the day the Clik Clik Collective were busy playing dress up as they helped the festival goers capture those moments with a photo booth.

Lunatrix took to the aforementioned Hot Club De Swing stage and immediately kick started the party, this 6 piece combined jazz, electro swing and a touch of hip-hop to create an infectious sound. As I the wandered off to catch the first performance on The Swingamajig Stage, the other half popped in to capture some burlesque courtesy of Doe Demure in the Ragtime Records Stage.



Temple Funk Collective were well into their set as I hit the stage but as soon as I heard the seven-piece brass band unleash a funk driven rendition of the theme to *Stringray* followed quickly by a medley of the likes of *No Limits* and *Boom Boom Boom*, my feet took over and I joined the throng towards the front for a touch of booty shaking, the band continued a thrilling set of funkcd up covers taking in the likes of Stevie Wonder and James Brown along the way. As the festivities continued we took a look at some dancing as well catching an incredible, fun and quite frankly bonkers *"Headphone Dance"* by Corey Baker (courtesy of Birmingham Dance Festival) a performance that had to be seen to be believed.



Holy Moly And The Crackers were the next live band up and they added something a little different to the proceedings, the band played a contagious and edgy mix of gypsy folk, combining sawing violin to guitar strums and occasional blasts of trumpet to form an evocative yet darker base of songs taking in murder ballads, drugs and

wanton women into their stunning set of folk based laments. A pit stop for a delicious sourdough based pizza and another waltz around site to take in more dancers, performers and a couple of songs by the folky blues slide guitar genius of **Sam Green And The Midnight Heist** before the glittery Balkan electroswing/gypsy/ska/funk

Another quick break then to the live arena to catch some of the massive gypsy folk ensemble **The Destroyers**, who merge swinging horns, violins, accordians, hollered vocals, infectious rhythms and big hooks, transforming the area into an elegantly sweating & heaving mass. By now the DJ's had also kicked off their various sets and once again, much like the live music, the record mixers had the crowd throwing shapes and setting the dance floor ablaze with a variety of cool grooves, funky up floor fillers and throbbing electro classics.

We had time for one more band before heading home, **Ragtime Records** and Birmingham's very own **The Electric Swing Circus**, including **Swingamajig** organiser **Tom Hyland** among their number. Now as you'd expect for a local band, they seemed to draw in pretty much everyone to their performance and what a performance; the six piece welded throbbing electro beats and synths to a glorious retro swing sound to create the ultimate party atmosphere. Highlights came thick and fast whilst the crowd whooped and hollered for more and were rewarded an encore. A glorious jazzy yet unusually arranged *Minnie The Moocher* instantly hit a chord and was a personal highlight.

And so as **The Electric Swing Circus** brought the **Swingamajig** stage to a close the weary yet exhilarated **Rhythm & Booze** team decided to rest those aching feet and took our leave as the festivities raged on with the likes of **Molotov Jukebox** and **Bobby Friction**, **Madame Electrifie** and **The Fresh Dixie Project** heralding a new day.



infused heroes **Mr Tea And The Minions** took to stage with an infectious rendition of *Hit The Road Jack*, then pump up the crowd further with originals such as *Beware Of The Bear*, *Break The Barriers* and *No Sugar*, fusing their myriad of influences to the delight of the assembled masses, inciting universal dancing and applause aplenty.

A quick dash past a human statue and we're back at **Swingamajig** stage to take in a stunning set of electro swing courtesy of the glamorous and dashing **Little Violet**, a seven piece combo that added glitz, funky organ and even a flute to a stunning set delivering covers such as Disney classic, *Never Had A Friend Like Me* and delicious originals such as the foot tapping *Charleston Boogie* and *Don't Stop*. Back across the site **The Renegade Brass Band** were dazzling one and all with a combination of funky up brass, jazzy breaks and free flowing hip-hop lyrics making the the gathered crowd strut and throw there best gangster shapes whilst the band laid down the likes of *Take No Chances*, *Make No Changes* and *Just Business*. **Jenova Collective** continued the electro swing vibe over on the **Hot Club Da Swing Stage** with an added bit of ghetto dance, providing wonderful bass heavy set that opened with a stirring rendition of *Diamonds Are A Girl Best Friend* (reminiscent of the thobbing electro version in *Moulin Rouge*!!!) followed by the aptly titled *Get On Down* and a brilliant, instantly memorable original entitled *Beginning of Something New*.



**Swingamajig** is a blast from start to finish, like I said at the opening of this review and words don't really do justice how much fun we had during the duration of the event. The music was intoxicating, the atmosphere electric and the audience, well let's just say that the sharp dressed guys and gals helped create the most memorable festival that I've attended. So here's to the organisers and to the next one!!!

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

Words: Will Munn Photography: Graham Munn





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# Review - Swampcandy 15th-18th May

Following fast on from a rapid run of dates around North Wales, Swampcandy, Ruben Dobbs and Joey Mitchell, found their way to our area. The 15th led to The Gardeners Arms, and a pleasant warm spring evening in the grounds of this Droitwich pub. The welcome was just as warm from the customers and music lovers filling the garden area. Swampcandy's self penned *Mississippi Delta Blues* filled the air, Joey attacking his double bass with fingers, slaps and bow, as Ruben delivered his raw vocals over the resonator guitar. The audience applauded enthusiastically, but perhaps were a little too polite in demanding more; the set being broken down before they responded asking for another serving.

No great problem, all could retire to the bar for the open mike sessions continuing there. An all round lovely evening, in this excellent pub.

The 16th, brought them into Worcester and The Chestnut, a tight sauna of a venue, warm bodies and flowing beer brought with it a very responsive crowd having a great time. Ruben & Joey drove their raw delta style blues full on, with the added encouragement of a bit of heckling from 'Mad Pierre', who also had a toot on his trombone to add to the moment. Cream's *'Outside Woman Blues'*, was brilliantly packaged in Swampcandy style, their own *'Aberdeen'*, and the trickier, *'Devil In A Suitcase'*, had vociferous support. 'Mad Pierre's' Morris man's feather adorned bowler, competed with Ruben's finely tailored version for attention, a fantastic fun evening of musical mayhem in the thick cut atmosphere.

Another night, another town, Café Rene in Gloucester, was in for a late Saturday special. The early hours of Sunday saw the place full of dancing revellers, an unexpected treat to the raw music that demanded your body to move, they would not forget this visit. Joey, lost in his own world, hair flying as he pumps the drum, thick strings of the double bass distorting wildly under his fingers. Ruben's gritty voice breaking in over the distinctive sound of slide on resonator. *'Old Rosie'*, and *'Drink Whiskey With Me'*, seemed entirely apt. *'Insomnia'* faced the approaching dawn, *'Baseball Bats and Bear Traps'*, a frenzied energy laden closure.

What a contrast as The Prince Of Wales at Ledbury awaited. Hard to think of a better to spend a late Sunday afternoon at this great pub, good ale and an very appreciative clientèle. They know their blues, and listen respectfully, warmly acknowledging the many excellent bands who have performed here. Swampcandy gave them everything, *'South County'* to *'Highway 61'*, Son House to Robert Johnson. Willie Brown's, *'Future Blues'*, and Mississippi Fred McDowell's, *'I Asked For Whiskey She*

*Brought Me Gasoline'* all played in their energy driven Swampcandy style. A superb session at this lovely setting, to close there visit to the area, before moving North into Yorkshire.



Four contrasting venues, from the quietly appreciative Gardeners Arms through to the 'testing' aficionado's of The Prince Of Wales, via the more bar fuelled environs of The Chestnut, and the late night revellers of the Café Rene, Swampcandy have left a trail of converts all looking forward to the next tour.

By Graham Munn

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# Preview - Blues at The Fold Festival, Bransford | Saturday 5th July

Bands from across the country will converge on The Fold in Bransford in July for the sixth **Blues at The Fold Festival** with the line-up of nationally acclaimed performers providing the eclectic and broad range of blues music the event has a reputation for.

*"Last year's festival was a fantastic sell out event, attracting people from Worcestershire and beyond. We have already sold tickets for the 2014 one day family friendly festival to people from as far as Kent, Tyne & Wear and Pembrokeshire, so the event's fame is obviously spreading,"* said organiser, Oliver Carpenter.

*"The 2014 festival is going to be great with six terrific bands from all over the country, excellent food and drink supplied by The Fold, and its all held undercover whatever the weather so hopefully we will repeat last year's sellout event,"* continued Oliver.

Top of the bill is **Wily Bo Walker & the Mescal Canyon Troubadours**, an eclectic brew of roof liftin', funk'n' swampy blues from one of the UK's top live performers. Regularly appearing around the top of internet specialist charts Wily Bo comes to The Fold from two great performances at **Upton Blues Festival**.

We also have something very special as we bring the unpredictable **Vincent Flatts Final Drive**. Described by Time Out as *"Jack Daniels soaked, ZZ Top/Allman Brothers*



*influenced, Confederate rock, boogie & blues"*, Bertie and Melvin drive this remarkable enduring band. We also have **The Blues Duo** featuring **Tommy Allen** and **Johnny Hewitt**. Gritty street style music they are as close as you can get to the Chicago Maxwell Street sound from the 1940s/50s.



Kicking off the day will be **Steve Morrison** from London, a master of open-chord tunings and the slide guitar. Then we have Fold favourites **Mumbo-Jumbo** with their quirky songwriting and close harmonies.

And to round off this fabulous day we have the classic old soul specialists **The Official Receivers**. The festival always ends with something dancy and familiar to singalong with and the Official Receivers deliver that in spades.

**Blues at The Fold** takes place on Saturday 5th July and more information and tickets are available from [www.bluesatthefold.co.uk](http://www.bluesatthefold.co.uk) at £13 (advance price) for a whole day's entertainment from 2-11pm with children's discounts and camping available.

*Photography by Graham Munn*



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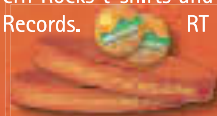
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# malvern rocks

The provisional line-up has been announced for this year's Malvern Rocks and is available to view on the website. With more than 140 performances in 17 locations around the hills, the festival is building on its first two successful years with hopes of record attendances across all the official venues. The organisers say that there are two types of venues; those suitable for small acoustic acts and those big enough for a drum kit. The balance this year is more towards the smaller venues so we will be seeing a lot of acoustic and solo performers at the festival. The publicity campaign has been a lot slicker this year with poster, flyers, wristbands, badges and t-shirts being produced much earlier than in previous years while



the second Malvern Rocks CD and the festival programme will be out in early June. The organisers want to distribute their publicity throughout the three counties in an effort to raise the profile of Malvern as a music destination and to tempt more visitors to the festival. Confirmed acts at Malvern Rocks 2014 include Ronin, Hullabaloo, Dogs of Santorini, Krescendo, Dr Stanley's Medicine Show, Lounge Toad, The Dead Seeds, Loophole, Poverty Corner, Hennessee, John Denton, The Dirty Harry Band, an acoustic Threshing Ground, a recently reformed Ronda and a Dodgy-less Nigel Clarke. The festival runs from Friday the 25th to Sunday the 27th of July and will close, as has become tradition, with Freaky Trigger and the Malvern Rocks All Stars wrap party on the Sunday night at the Great Malvern Hotel. Official festival venues range from the Plough & Harrow in Guarlford to the Chase Inn in Upper Colwall. The four major venues, big enough to accommodate full bands, are the Beauchamp Arms in the Link and the GMH, Ollie's and Re-con in Great Malvern. The other venues in town are the Red Lion and newly opened Malvern Lounge. Then there's the Morgan in Barnard's Green, the Prince of Wales in Newtown Road and the Gloster Arms in the Link along with two outside venues, Belle Vue Island and Carnival Records. Malvern Rocks t-shirts and other merchandise are available to buy from the Great Malvern Hotel and Carnival Records. RT



# Single Review - God Save The King & Friends | 'Big Balls'

The World Cup is kind of like Christmas, high expectations, massive disappointment and the obligatory novelty pop song that will nag your noggin' for the next couple of months.

In recent times we've been served up such "treats" as *World In Motion* by New Order (still worth a spin for the John Barnes Rap), *Vindaloo* by Fat Les and of course the evergreen *Three Lions*; now Worcester heroes God Save The King (along with friends, studio hangers on and producer go to guy Dave Draper among others) muscle in on the act to offer up a somewhat tongue in cheek take on the format.

Pete Adams and the boys have welded all the essential elements of a fun football pop anthem, added their own brand of punchy, punk like attitude, chucked in a massive and unforgettable chant friendly chorus, an infectious melody or two, lyrics about the size and shape of balls and stuttering, contagious riff, made a "must be seen" accompaniment video and managed to unleash what should be the official 2014 world cup anthem.

There's not a lot more I can write, if you like football (or even if you don't), upbeat indie punk and a good terrace sing-a-long you're going to love *Big Balls* by God Save The King, so grab that beer from your fridge, the Panini sticker album that you pretend is for your son and

holler along now "*big balls, big balls, big balls we got big balls!*"



'Big Balls' is available now on Amazon and the video is a must watch on YouTube.

by Will Munn

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# Review - The South | The Regal Cinema | Saturday May 17th

Somewhat of a coup for The Regal Cinema in lovely Evesham town, The South arrived to play a sell-out show on May 17. The South are indeed The Beautiful South minus Paul Heaton formed after the 2006 band split. Lead by Dave Hemingway and Ali Wheeler the band comprises of original members Gaz Birtles, Tony Robinson, Steve Nutter and Damon Butcher.

continued as the band delivered a further slew of classics.

The South have of course got an excellent back catalogue and so it is with hits such as *Old Red Eyes*, *Rotterdam*, *Don't Marry Her* and *Keep It All In*, they couldn't miss and finally had the rapt crowd in their sweaty palms.



This is the 2nd time I've seen The South and this was the better of the two gigs as they really responded well to their audience and the good time vibes bounced back and forth once they were allowed to get going by the frankly ludicrous Regal powers that be, who need to get their act together!

The new album, *'Sweet Refrains'*, has some great material on it, is in keeping with the old stuff and hopefully will be getting the air play it deserves. If you get a chance to catch The South do so, you won't be disappointed.

*Words by Sad Prat Daily*

It was a show very much of two halves which saw *The South* firstly going through the motions and then turning it around and showing what a great band they are.

The first half was very much the band playing to an appreciative but somewhat subdued audience, due mainly to the overbearing management insisting everyone was seated before the gig commenced. Once underway the band played a selection of their lesser known songs in addition to their new single *Pigeon Hole*, but the atmosphere was stilted.

After 40 minutes they were made to have a break for nearly a half hour(!): this plus the fact that the stage was about twelve foot high meant the band were almost eye level with the balcony didn't add to the ambience one iota.

At the end of the interlude the management once again got very indignant about people not talking their seats and wouldn't start the second half until they did. They then closed the bar and after every one was obeyed, the concert resumed.

The 2nd half saw all the hits emerge and The South finally came in to their own. After the 2nd song people abandoned their seats despite the surly security fellows and got up to shake their collective thangs. Once *Perfect 10* struck up the whole venue came alive as did The South. It was as if they had been waiting for permission to get going and this was it. No-one was returning to a seated position now and a real party atmosphere

# CIRCUIT SWEET - with Naomi Preece

May was simply fantastic and Hereford thrived musically throughout the month with plenty of local & live gigs. We had the pleasure in being in the company of **Prince, Melt Banana** and a plethora of incredible artists at the **Jealous Lovers Club + Juxtaposed Microfestival** which we sponsored and had a stage on May 5th: a film & photography special will be following shortly on our site. We also welcomed the very talented **Those Amongst Us Are Wolves** to our online shop - where you can grab their 2013 EP and their April Album release alongside some awesome **TAUAW** merch! - We will also be welcoming 5 further artists in due course.

A local promoter to keep our eye on is **Porridge** and we had the pleasure in attending one of the best local gigs we've been to yet at Hereford's **The Jailhouse**. **Porridge, Transmission Music Group, Hereford Live** and the venue themselves hosted another successful indie/rock night bringing in touring talent from across the UK, namely local bands **Survivors Of The Modern Age** and **Holy!** followed by **Violet Skies** from South Wales and Brighton headliners **Fickle Friends**.

Opening act Hereford trio **Survivors of The Modern Age** (a man down, performing as an acoustic duo) successfully



projected their flair in a performance of original songs fused with some classic covers. A local act with a lot to offer, we look forward to following their progress.

Next came **Holy!** (originally **Holy Casper** for those that grabbed our 21 track compilation). As soon as these musicians graced the stage, something magical happened. We were in the presence of one of the finest Worcester bands yet. Having only been together for a few short months it's safe to say that this quartet have conquered their own genre; they are one of the tightest experimental



psychedelic rock bands around. Their compositions featured traces of **Black Angels, Tame Impala, Stone Roses** and **Pixies**, so you get the idea. They are simply an act you need to see live in order to understand what they possess and without a doubt are one to watch!

Following **Holy!** was Welsh singer/songwriter **Violet Skies**, definitely a talent in her own right and augmented



by her two piece backing band, they shook **The Jailhouse** with their intellectually composed electronic soulful pop music. **Violet** writes delicate tracks then projects her powerful vocal abilities with a definite upbeat twist. For influences think **Banks** and **Lorde**.

And finally Brighton 5 piece **Fickle Friends** took to the stage in an explosive end to a brilliant night. The upbeat pop act filled the venue with the finest disco beats, illustrious vocals and delectable synth sounds. This tangible act bought an early festival feeling to Hereford; perfect summery experimental pop with some serious 80's grooves. Think **Passion Pit** mixed with **Los Campesinos**. A captivating band we can't wait to see live again.



So finally to reiterate we can't urge you enough to support promoters **Porridge**- they're bringing what was once lost, back to Hereford.- which brings us to say a huge welcome back to another local promoter **Never Mind The Bullocks**: a name which we hope is familiar to many- as **NMTB** have put on some of the greatest gigs to grace Herefordshire. **NMTB** return in September, find them on facebook for more info.

Keep in contact with us throughout June via facebook, twitter and on at [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk).

Photography by Oli Montez



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## REVIEW - Wes Dance | The Yardbird and The Sun at the Station | Birmingham, 25 May

After a six month sabbatical that saw him take in the sights and sounds of South Australia, **Wes Dance** is back with his judicious combination of catchy melodies and articulate lyrics, refreshed and ready to unveil new material. I spent a day with him in Birmingham where he had two shows separated by a mad taxi dash. Wes's influences, which include Émile Zola, Henry Miller, Ernest Hemingway and especially Jack Kerouac, are often more literary than musical and appropriately enough the day felt like a Kerouacian adventure, minus the sex, drugs and huge distances. The attentive audiences at **The Yardbird** and **The Sun at the Station** were treated to a rather special story-time on a sunny bank holiday Sunday in Brum. The sets included *Tristessa*, in which Wes captures the contradictions inherent in Kerouac's impressions of the drug-addled prostitute ("sweet *Tristessa* being sick on her knees...a diamond for the heavens with dry cracked limbs") and the Spanish flavoured *Fiesta*, that could easily be something straight out of Hemingway's *Pamploma* days.



Wes is clearly an avid reader but with *Harder Roads to Come*, where his experience of growing up in Worcester comes to the fore, he demonstrates songwriting skills that go far beyond the musical embodiment of his favourite books. Lines like "*The sewers that are run-outs for the old canal mixed with dirty old sewage and the carrion smell*" are clearly critical of the city that he knows and loves well. There was also a rare outing for *Panic Sparks*, a song about a nervous breakdown and one of the many standout tracks from Wes's first album, *Penance* (available on his bandcamp).

I asked him about his songwriting methods: "*For me the words always come first, it's about the poetry. The melody just has to fit in with that.*" New compositions, including the tender *If Time Flows Like a River*, gave a hint of what is to come from Wes: "*The new album is constantly in stasis. I've recorded some demo tracks that we'll be mastering soon but I'm getting into recording at home, which suits me in lots of ways. It's simple and instant and that's good for me because I get bored very quickly!*" Wes is back in Brum on 1st June at **The Sun on the Hill** or you can catch him at **Malvern Rocks Festival** and **The Paul Pry** in July. He is also curating an exhibition of like-minded songsmiths in **The Paul Pry** on Saturday 30th August as part of the Worcester Music Festival.

by Martin Wilkes



# Single Review - The Dale Von Minaker Band | Marie Marie Marie

The Dale Von Minaker Band return to the fray after a brief live performance hiatus with a brand new single in the shape of *Marie Marie Marie*, following a stint of writing and recording with acclaimed producer Gavin Monaghan. The new single is set to be released as a download from the usual likes of iTunes/Amazon/Spotify as well as been offered up for a limited time on bandcamp as the band attempt to follow the successes of their 2012 debut album and last years single, Romance.

*Marie Marie Marie*, proves the band are constantly moving forward and adding engaging, new elements to their already potent sound, whilst the aforementioned Romance was a saxophone enhanced pop rocker the new single combines

choppy guitars, ska rhythms and a classic rock n roll rumble to create an instantly infectious, punchy, upbeat rocker complete with a tasty short but sweet guitar solo and a lead vocal that manages to be both ballsy and soulful.

Dale and the boys have once again come up with another hook-laden, instantly memorable sing-a-long single, that ticks every box, strong chorus, catchy melody and shed loads of swagger, proving once again that The DVM Band are true contenders, if you're yet to have heard

Kidderminster's finest I highly recommend either picking up *Marie Marie Marie* or getting your arses along to a live performance in the very near future.

by Will Munn

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





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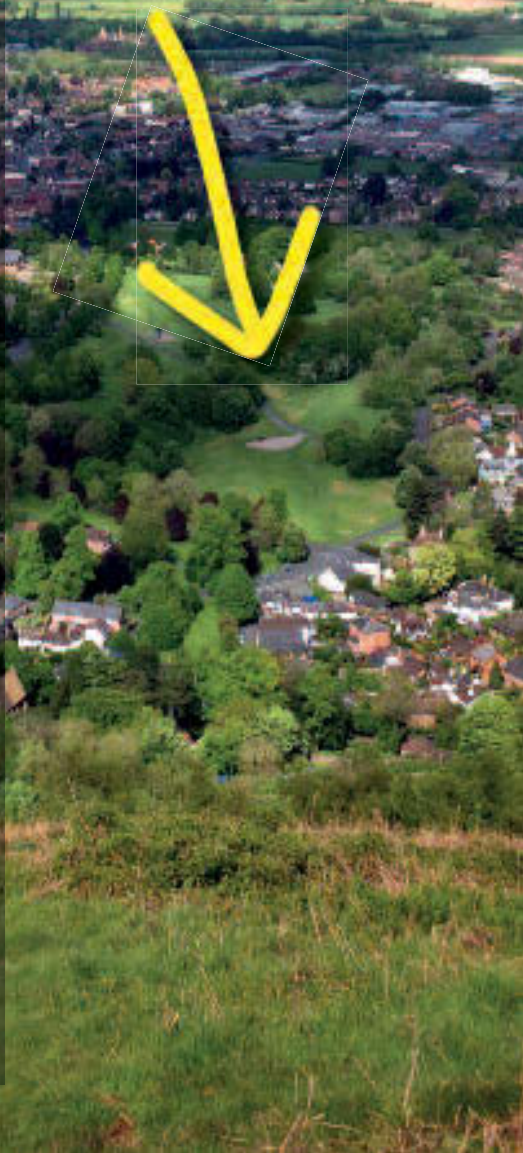


MIDSUMMER  
MAPPFEST  
2014

# Just add music

It's been about thirty years since there was last an open air concert on Malvern Link common. It was a ramshackle mid-eighties affair, a free festival with a several bands and a whip round for the diesel generator. On the 21st June the common is going to host the Midsummer Mappfest. A ten hour extravaganza of music with two stages, stalls, bouncy castles, raffles and a tombola, a barbeque and, most importantly, a licensed bar! Organised by serial fund-raiser and local music champion Andy Mapp, the Mappfest is another one of those garden parties that has grown into a festival. For the last few years Andy has held Mappfest at his house and at Re-con, inviting musicians from all around to play for free while raising several thousand pounds for Acorns. To be asked to play is considered a badge of pride amongst the Worcestershire musical fraternity and the line-up at previous events has been impressive. And so it is this time around. Rock deities Slack Granny will take their rightful place in the headline slot while demi-gods and lesser mortals will fill the two stages from midday: This Wicked Tongue, AnswerBack, Ronin, Black Russian, Massive Head Trauma, Samanai, 11:11, Jenny Hallam, Hump de Bump, Sam Eden, Dogs of Santorini, Da Vinci, Time of the Mouth, Dr Stanley's Medicine Show and Hitchhiker. Bands will alternate across the main stage and the acoustic stage which is being run by the Pyramid People, with amiable hosts Jai Hill, bard of Malvern and Andy O'Hare introducing the performers. The road across the common will be closed to traffic and there is a strict no parking policy so punters are being asked to walk to Mappfest. It's a minute from the Nags Head, five from Malvern Link station and, as it all wraps up at 10:30pm, you can catch that last train home!

RT







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## Sunday 1 June 2014

Vo & Tyler  
The Plough and Harrow, Malvern 3pm

Sunday Jam Night  
Oast House, Redditch

Lounge Toad  
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Delray Rockets  
The Lichfield Vaults, Church Street

Sunday Shenanigans – open mic night  
Moochers, Stourbridge

## Monday 2 June 2014

Open Mic with Dave Onions  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Folk session Monday  
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Open Mic Nighr  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Keith Slater & guests  
Queens Head, Wolverly

Maggie Reeday with Tom Hill Trio  
Bank House Hotel

## Tuesday 3 June 2014

Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel  
Millers Arms, Pershore

Perdido Street Jazz Band  
The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Open Mic  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic  
The Oddfellows, Astwood Bank

## Wednesday 4 June 2014

Phil King  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Irish Session  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thea Gilmore  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Marzy's Jam Night  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Open Mic  
The Jailhouse, Hereford

## Thursday 5 June 2014

Rockfield Country Music Festival  
Rockfield village, Rockfield, Rockfield nr Monmouth

West Malvern Open Mic  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Honeyboy Hickling  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Lounge Toad  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Noise Next Door  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Allunsondrugs, Fizzy Blood, Chew, Fairview, Skinhorse  
The Herdsman, Hereford

## Friday 6 June 2014

Voodoo Room  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mary Hinge  
The Swan Inn, Worcester

Still Crazy  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra  
Droitwich British Legion

Mojohooker  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Arankas Cackle  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thunderglaze  
Moochers, Stourbridge

Hot Red Chili Peppers and Muse INC  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Judgement plus support  
Subtone, Cheltenham

The Delray Rockets Gig. Upton  
The Blue Bell Inn, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn



**The Ziggie Paul Band**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Chicago Bytes**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Capital**  
Droitwich Working Mens Club, Friar St, Droitwich

**Lunarfest Donovan, Polyphonic Spree, British Sea Power, Tim Burgess, Linda Perhacs**  
Umberslade Estate, Umberslade Estate, Tanworth in Arden

**Adamantium**  
Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Tamworth

**Henry Priestman**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
The Millers Arms , Pershore

**Sunjay Brayne**  
Redditch Palace Theatre, Alcester Street, Redditch

**Cracker and the Woodpeckers & More**  
Flying Pig Beer Festival, The Talbot, Knightwick, Worcester

**Beans on Toast**  
Re-Con, Church Street, Malvern

**Ester Turner**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Open Deck / Vinyl Night**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Band Slam (Dolls Eye Weaver vs Kill for Trophies)**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Voodoo Room & Cream Set**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

## **Saturday 7 June 2014**

**ELO Experience**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Mister Wolf**  
The New Inn, High Street, Pershore

**Barefoot Reptiles**  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
The Button Oak , Button Oak , Kidderminster

**The Drum and Monkey Festival**  
The Drum & Monkey, Newbridge Green, Upton upon Severn

**Western Sand & Spyder Byte**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**The Pull**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**King Mantis**  
The Bridge Hotel, Teme Street, Tenbury Wells

**Honeyboy Hickling & More**  
Flying Pig Beer Festival, The Talbot, Knightwick, Worcester,

**HEJ**  
Re-Con, Church Street, Malvern

**Stourbridges best '80s night**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**The Undercovers**  
Callow End Club, Callow End, Worcester

**Taylor & Co.**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Steve and Nicks DJ battle**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Pull**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Open Mic Nighr**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Faintest Idea, Geistfight**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Jam Pack (the Jam tribute band)**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**The Quik**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**The Cuginis**  
Subtone, Cheltenham, Cocktail Bar - 1am

## **Sunday 8 June 2014**

**Sunday Jam Night**  
Oast House, Redditch

**The Lazy Sunday**  
Arts Workshop, Worcester

**Sister Stranger**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Sunday Shenanigans - open mic night**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

## **Monday 9 June 2014**

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

**Abby Inez, Scott Howland, Hitchhiker, Aymee Weir, Stuart Woolfenden**  
The Talbot, Worcester

## **Tuesday 10 June 2014**

**The Farriers Acoustic Monthly Music Session**  
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

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

**Open Mic**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Mouth & Music**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Open Mic**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Wednesday 11 June 2014**

**Orchestra of the Swan: The Four Seasons**  
Number 8, Pershore

**Irish Session**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

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

**Music @ The Morgan**  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

**Warren James**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Asia**  
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

## Thursday 12 June 2014

**Bromsgrove Folk Club**  
Cathill Club, Bromsgrove

**Doctorwoolfe, Redwood Splinters, Mansize**  
Sketchleys Bar, Worcester

**Adam Barry and Dan Seeley**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Judie Tzuke**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

**Born,Bred,Believes presents The Empty Can, Black Country Gaz, Ian Marray**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Dale Perry**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Karaoke and Curry Thursday**  
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

**Dan James' Open Mic**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Kryders Sessions**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Red Wood Splinters, Mansize, Doctor Wolfe**  
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

## Friday 13 June 2014

**Cantaloop**  
The Yardbird, Birmingham

**The Notorious Bros**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Anchor, Tewkesbury Gloucestershire

**Cocksure + Guests**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**NightSpel Music Night – Cliff, Tony & Friends**  
The Fox, Monkwood Green

**Deadcuts, Masts, Guerrilla Monsoon, Isaac**  
Firefly, Lowesmoor, Worcester

**Mister Wolf**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, 70 Worcester Rd, Bromsgrove

**Deep & Dirty**  
Re-Con, Great Malvern

**Soul Strutters**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**The Jazz Worriers with Dean Masser and Neil Yates**  
Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

**Foo Fighters The Tribute**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Sea plus support TBC**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Smithed**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Dave Onions**  
George & Dragon, Belper

**Band Slam (Primer vs Tyrannosaurus Nebulous)**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Open Mic Night**  
Royal British Legion, Bosbury Rd, Cradley, Malvern

**Music @ The Legion**  
The Royal British Legion, Bosbury road, Cradle

**Boys Make Noise**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Sax and Axe**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Danny and the Swampmen**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Barrelhouse Blues Band**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Cracker & the Woodpeckers**  
Queens Head, Wolverly

## Saturday 14 June 2014

**Mydesign**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Headroom**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Punk Night : Contempt & Support**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Starving Rascals**  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

**Borrowed Time and Heartless Hero**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**The Crush Band**  
Callow End Club, Callow End, Worcester

**King Mantis**  
The Bowling Green, ewell Street, Hereford

**Heymoonshaker**  
The Jailhouse, Gaol Street, Hereford

**Conservatoire Folk Ensemble**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Chuck Harriot**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The Delray Rockets 12:30pm**  
Three Counties Showground in Malvern, Worcestershire -

**Blake**  
The Courtyard Centre For The Arts, Hereford

**Thyme Bandits**  
The Plough and Harrow, Malvern

**Ricky Cool and the Crowd**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**The Delray Rockets Gig**  
he Wheelhouse Marina Bar and Restaurant, Marina, Upton upon Severn

**The Mosquitos**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Malvern Rocks Warm up**  
Re-Con, Great Malvern

**Dog State & Fools Glory**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Heymoonshaker**  
The Jailhouse, Hereford

**Rhombus with support from Red Sun Revival and The Glass House Museum With DJ Cruel Britannia**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Sunday 15 June 2014

**Sunday Jam Night**  
Oast House, Redditch

**Dave Onions**  
Wheatsheaf, Shrewsbury

**Sunday Shenanigans – open mic night**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**the Lady & The Sax**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Monday 16 June 2014

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

**Folk session Monday**  
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

**Open Mic Nighr**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Tuesday 17 June 2014

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

**Open Mic**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

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

**Open Mic**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Wednesday 18 June 2014

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

**Music @ The Morgan**  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

**ConFab Cabaret, Hollie McNish, Al Barz**  
Olivers, Malvern

**Irish Session**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Thursday 19 June 2014

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

**Lounge Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Open Mic Night**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Grainne Duffy Band**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Eddy Morton**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Friday 20 June 2014

**Mister Wolf**  
The Gardeners Arms (The Dugout), Evesham

**King Mantis**  
The Oxford Arms, Duke Street, Kingston

**Band Slam (Kill the Romantic vs Motherlode)**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Midnight City**  
Queens Head, Wolverly

**The Delray Rockets Gig**  
Moochers, Stourbridge West Midlands

**Grey Goose Band**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Stiff Joints**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Bleeding Hearts**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Hayriders**  
Re-Con, Great Malvern

**Linton Music Festival**  
Linton Music Festival, Ross-on-Wye

**Vegan Folk, Anarcopoppy, Mansize**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Time of the Mouth, Answer Back, Viva Revolution**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

## Saturday 21 June 2014

**Gwyn Ashton**  
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

**Marina Del Ray**  
Kineton Music Festival, The Sports Ground, Little Kineton

**The Talks**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Tommy Allen**  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

**Worbey and Farrell: Deviation on a Piano**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Hells Addiction & The Bourgeoisie**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Linton Music Festival**  
Linton Music Festival, Ross-on-Wye

**The Brothers Groove**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Missing Lynx**  
Callow End Club, Callow End, Worcester

**The Gabbidon Band**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Manalishi**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Riff/Raff**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Protocol**  
Pavilion in the Park – cripplegate Park, Worcester

**Mapfest 2014 Slack Granny, Ronin, The Dogs of Santorini, Time of the Mouth, Black Russian, This Wicked Tongue, Massive Head Trauma**  
Malvern Common, Link Top, Malvern

**King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Aquarius**  
Salt marshes leisure park, Stourport road Bromyard

**Captain Hotknives, Sex Cripples**  
Re-Con, Great Malvern

**Mark Ledham**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Wooden Horse**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Liquour and Poker Band**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge



**The Talks**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Cuginis**  
Subtone, Cheltenham, Cocktail Bar - 1am

**Motown Night**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

## Sunday 22 June 2014

**Sunday Jam Night**  
Oast House, Redditch

**Linton Music Festival**  
Linton Music Festival, Ross-on-Wye

**BBC Introducing - The 2 Andy's - 'Live Roadshow'!**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Folk Night**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Billy Fund Raiser**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Minifest 2014**  
Cripplegate Park, Worcester

**Jazz Express**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Sunday Shenanigans - open mic night**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

## Monday 23 June 2014

**Open Mic with Dave Onions**  
Cock & Maggie, Bewdley

**Open Mic Nighr**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Tuesday 24 June 2014

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

**Open Mic**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Open Mic**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Open Mic**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 25 June 2014

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

**Music @ The Morgan**  
The Morgan, Great Malvern

**Live @ Glos acoustic showcase**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Irish Session**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Thursday 26 June 2014

**Bromsgrove Folk Club**  
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

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

**The Delray Rockets, Support**  
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

**Metal Night (Gehtika & Elysium)**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Dan James' Open Mic**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The Fortunes**  
Kidderminster Town Hall

**Dan Greenaway**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Deep Purple/Rainbow by Purple Tree**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Danni G**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Stourbridge Folk club presents Msrtyrn Joseph**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**The Delray Rockets Gig**  
Recorded live for VIP Radio, Sketchleys Bar. Worcester

**Kryders Sessions**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Friday 27 June 2014

**Skewwhiff plus Support**  
Moochers, Ring Road, Stourbridge,

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

**Fabulous Bordellos**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Ricky Cool and the in Crowd**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Peter Jagger**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Upton Jazz Festival**  
Upton upon Severn

**Upton Food & Beer Festival**  
Upton upon Severn

**Grappelli Swing**  
Huntington Hall

**Basement Fridays**  
Re-Con, Great Malvern

**The Mumble Cores**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Band Slam (Polary Bear vs Welcome Back Delta)**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Ray Mytton Band**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Soular**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Vault of Eagles**  
Queens Head, Wolverly

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Golden Cross, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford

**Missin' Rosie**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## Saturday 28 June 2014

**John Steeds**  
Pavilion in the Park - cripplegate Park, Worcester

**Roving Crows**  
Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove

**Amy Purge and the Legwarmers**  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Upton Food & Beer Festival**  
Upton upon Severn

**Amy Purge & The Leg Warmers!**  
Callow End Club, Callow End, Worcester

**Danny Whybrow**  
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

**Journeyman**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Upton Jazz Festival**  
Upton upon Severn

**Tommy Gun**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Amy Purge and the Legwarmers**  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Fiona Patterson & Friends**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Skewwhiff plus support**  
Re-Con, Great Malvern

**Hat Fitz**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Curran + support**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Izzy the Push**  
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

**Eternity**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Zoot Monies Big Roll Band, Stan Webbs Chicken Shack, The Tribe**  
kidderminster town hall, vicar street, kidderminster

**Vo & Tyler**  
The Old Chesnut Tree, Pershore

**OAS-IS (Oasis tribute band)**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

## Sunday 29 June 2014

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Four Ashes, Station Drive, Wolverhampton

**Frankley Guitar Club**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Sunday Shenanigans – open mic night**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Upton Jazz Festival**  
Upton upon Severn

**Buskstop Imagine**  
Evesham town centre

**Ludlow Arts Festival Jazz and Blues Sunday**  
Ludlow Castle

**Dave Onions**  
Wheelhouse, Upton on Severn

**Upton Food & Beer Festival**  
Upton upon Severn

**Little Rumba, Someone at the Door, Soul Preachers, Time Enough, Eastwood, Dimension Industry, Ska Bucks**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Sunday Jam Night**  
Oast House, Redditch

## Monday 30 June 2014

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

**Folk session Monday**  
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

**Open Mic Nighr**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

\*Listings in conjunction with [www.notjustsauc.com](http://www.notjustsauc.com)

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# THE MARR'S BAR

JUNE 2014



Rhombus  
Saturday 14th June

**Friday 6th**

**Hot Red Chili Peppers  
and Muse INC**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**Saturday 7th**

**TBC (check website for updates)**

**Friday 13th**

**Foo Fighters The Tribute**

£6 a ticket £7 on the door

**Saturday 14th**

**Rhombus with support from  
Red Sun Revival and The Glass  
House Museum With DJ Cruel  
Britannia (During and then after)**  
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

**Sunday 15th**

**Sam Lewis**

£5 on the door

**Friday 20th**

**TBC (check website for updates)**

**Saturday 21st**

**Riff Raff**

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

**Friday 27th**

**Billy Johal Fund Raiser**

£10 a ticket

**Saturday 28th**

**TBC (check website for updates)**

***Coming soon....***

**Sunday 6th July**

**Tori Reed**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

**Friday 25th July**

**Broom Bezzums**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**Friday 1st August**

**Heroes of Hanoi**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

**Friday 5th September**

**Roxy Magic**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

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