

MOSELEY FOLK FESTIVAL

29TH-31ST AUGUST MOSELEY PARK BIRMINGHAM

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SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hello Folks, did you miss us?

If we had a rest last month we certainly had to make up for it with this issue, but we are pleased to return with a brand new look to our humble magazine.

With so much happening this month it was difficult to know where to begin. I write this article between frequent trips to Malvern for **Malvern Rocks III**, trying not to get too messy in the process! We only really scratch the surface when it comes to the amount of music festivals taking place around the shires but Andy O'Hare does a good job with his 'half time' round up. Kate Cox takes us through the ever increasing amount of art events, exhibitions and festivals which in these times of funding cuts shows the strength and diversity of local creativity.

We are also pleased to announce SLAP is venturing South into Gloucestershire with our feature on the Gloucester & Cheltenham band scene as we increase our circulation across the three counties, exciting times!

More locally we have the **Worcester Festival** which takes place throughout most of August with many events too extensive to list in the pages of SLAP, so do pick up a guide or check out the website for the full compliment of delights on offer. Then of course we have the **Worcester Music Festival** to look forward to at the end of August where SLAP are promoting our own exciting evening at the Marr's Bar. But again, please pick up the WMF guide for the full listings.

Now to our wonderful cover image by **Harry Collinson** of the kaleidoscopic **Paddy Steer**, July's special guest of the innovative '**If Wet**', of which the full review by our very own Craigus is well worth a read.

So there you have it, we're back! Enjoy the sunshine at any of the outdoor events of your choice this month but don't forget to *SLAP* on the sun cream and be careful not to get too mashed or crushed...

Hot Ed









NEWS

Top Ten Abby

It's been a great last couple of months for 18-year-old Droitwich lass Abby Inez when her debut EP Say What You Think reached the Top Ten on the iTunes singer-songwriter charts just behind acts like Ed Sheeran. Abby's also played the LG Arena - warming up the crowd ahead of Katy Perry's recent gig - and selling out of all the CDs she'd brought along on the night! She's also made a trip to Nashville to perform her country/folk numbers at the famous Bluebird Cafe - and squeezed in a recording session for BBC Introducing - busy times

Babajack Bonanza

The good times continue for Malvern folk/blues outfit Babajack with a support slot to Status Quo at Clumber Park Nottingham on August 15th - plus a a concert at the Royal



Albert Hall on October 30th as part of Blues Fest 2014. They'll also be hoping for more success in the British Blues Awards final at the end of August with shortlistings in the harmonica and instrumentalist categories - as well as a nomination for best acoustic band where they're also up against Worcester's Wooden Horse!

Wooden Horse Grows!



Speaking of which - Wooden Horse have now expanded to a trio with Jamie Knight and Ben Church's guitars being joined by Stuart McIlroy on keyboards - and this autumn they'll be again supporting Joan Armatrading on three gigs of her 'final major tour' - they'll be warming up with an Festival come what may." Dave Collins, Bewdley Festival appearance at Huntingdon Hall in Worcester on August 15th. Press and Marketing Officer.

Upton Jazz Jollity

The 29th Upton Jazz Festival somehow avoided a drenching as thunderstorms raged across the region over the weekend - but all missing the riverside town which hosted 60+ acts from all over the world as well as local talent like the Remi Harris Trio and the popular Best Of Young Jazz event closing of course with the now-traditional carnival procession through the town on the Sunday lunchtime!

Granny's Go Back To School

Talented young Worcester folk outfit Granny's Attic went 'back to schooldays' as they played a year-end concert at Bishop Perowne CE College where the trio of George, Cohen and Lewis started playing music five years ago. It's been a good year for the prodigious threesome with an appearance at the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk final, a BBC recording session, releasing their first album Better Weather and a string of summer festival appearances with of course a headline spot at Worcester Music Festival at the end of August!

Nozstock Evolution

Nozstock organiser Ella Nosworthy has spoken about how the eclectic eccentric rural festival evolved from a community barbecue with 100 visitors 16 years ago to an annual event with 5000 visitors, eight stages and 200+ acts over four days - describing her favourite memory was when The Anomalies from Hereford played the main stage in 2008. This year's theme will be The Land That Noz Forgot - so expect many pix over the next few weeks of dinosaurs and cavemen!!

Café Carnival

On the 24th of August Café Rene are holding what many of our regulars have dubbed as 'the party of the year'. It's our Nott The Notting Hill Party. A whole day of DJ's, Caribbean Food, Rene BBO, a Shebeen Bar serving Red Stripe cans, all types of Rum and a special Black Beard Rum Punch! This year there will also be a live Samba band! No fuss, no stress just a massive party!

Severn Sounds Success

Ben Russell, co-organiser of the second Severn Sounds Beer & Music Festival held at Pavilion in Cripplegate Park, Worcester, proclaimed this year's event 'a great success' with acts like Jasper In The Company Of Others. Come Up And See Me and Time Of The Mouth entertaining the Bank Holiday crowds, while raising over £1000 for St Richards Hospice and the New Hope charities.

Bewdley Festival 2014 Update

Friday (July 18th) evening's Festival Launch at the Mercure Hotel was once again very well attended. A packed house of Festival Members enthusiastically welcomed this year's Festival line-up and gueued to buy tickets there and then.



"It was a delight to hear audience reactions to the announcements of this vear's Festival line-up and to see ticket sales on a par with those at last year's Launch event, despite these

austere times. Members are obviously determined to enjoy

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LOOK WHO'S COMING TO TOWN!

cool 234 bands and artists have now been booked for Worcester Music Festival 2014, and in the final SLAP article before the three-day explosion of live music across the city centre hits this month, we look at some of the highlights from outta town. You ready, Worcester?

Possibly the next biggest thing is indie pop band Ponv and Trap from London, who were described by BBC radio's Edith Bowman ลร "amazing" when they were hailed 2013 winners of the Marshall Award for best



live music performance at the **National Music Student Awards** at the O2 in Birmingham. This band have supported the likes of **Peace** and **Brother & Bones**, appeared at **Latitude Festival** and had airtime on BBC Introducing, and now are set for WMF 2014. Hooray!

Barnaby Carter from Bristol, meanwhile, writes blissful electronica from chopped up piano and field recordings in the vein of Four Tet, Jon Hopkins and Bonobo. Drift out and enjoy.

Luke Wylde & The Japes from Wolverhampton may well, nonchalantly, describe their music as nice, easy going, well performed pop, but there's nothing insipid about this band. The five-piece use acoustic guitar undertones, delicate ukulele highlights, full-bodied bass, energetic percussion and intricate guitar riffs to flirt with Californian surf pop riffs, experiment with gypsy jazz and bounce with indie pop guitars. If you want the full range of emotions, get to this gig.

If you love 90s grunge, **The Kut** from London are rockers inspired by the Deftones, L7, Hole, Placebo and Faith No More



who achieved a winning spot in MTV UK's Unsigned competition. Their latest single, *No Trace*, was produced by **James LeRock Loughrey**, the man behind hits from Skindred, Manic Street Preachers, Bjork and Def Leppard. They also played at London 2012 Olympics and the Paralympics after being selected by the Teenage Rampage Foundation.

The Pink Diamond Revue from Reading is for those that like music that blends darkwave washes with 1950s, reverb guitar twangs and psychedelic sound effects. Plus they have a mannequin on stage with them.



With instrumental rockers **Arbour Lights** from Birmingham, meanwhile, you might need another drink from the bar, but you'll find it very hard to pull yourself away. Expansive, washed out guitars colliding with pounding drums and dubinfused basslines. Nice.



Then there's indie folk artist **Jess McAllister** from Exeter, whose voice is, literally, whoa. With the intonation of Julia Stone from Angus, Jess intertwines the rambling joy of a folk collective with an unusual production style, layering and lacing acoustic roots, haunting harmonies and energetic drums to create adventurous and genuinely individual sounds.



Another top pick from further afield at this year's WMF is **Complete Radio Silence** from London, who describe their music as an oscillating wave of melodic noise, moving through punchy shoegaze rock tunes into a slow rolling melee of haunting post-rock informed dirges. Whatever it is, it's bloomin' good and if you like Can or Neu, these are for you.

To be honest, we're spoilt for choice this year, both from the county and further afield – to check out the full line-up of who's on and where, visit www.wumufest.co.uk, Facebook and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest. You can also sign up to the e-newsletter at the website.

Half-time Festival Time! The story so far... with Andy O'Hare

Well is this the best-ever local festival season? We're only just about half-way through and there's already been some totally awesome events that we've had the absolute privilege of attending - with a shedload more to come in pretty rapid succession over the next few weeks beginning with the fabulous Nozstock and Lakefest and ending with the seventh Worcester Music Festival - wow I sure hope that all my 'winter training' pays off ...

But as promised I really have to say a few words about another fabulous Wychwood Festival on Cheltenham Racecourse. Despite the slightly damp start it once again proved to be the place to kick off the summer's festival frolics with cracking main stage sets from Newton Faulkner, Reef, The Stranglers, Boomtown Rats and the Levellers - but we had an absolute ball with our own stage on the Friday night with stunning performances from The Misers, Jasper in the Company of Others and Dave Onions among others - with an absolutely epic set to finish from The Stiff Joints who set the benchmark for a great weekend!!

A great weekend to follow as I checked out the Vee-Wee-ers at the Dubs In The Middle Festival just outside of Evesham with acts like Miss Pearl and Drifter - loved the WW2 army camp on-site!

H&W music scene either popping-in or playing the wonderful Mappfest on Link Common - a stunning day against the picture-perfect backdrop of the Malvern Hills for acts like Da Vinci, Jenny Hallam, Answer Back, Hump De Bump (thanks

for the tip-off Mr C!), Ronin, Black Russian, Dogs Of Santorini, This Wicked Tongue, Time Of The Mouth, Massive Head Trauma and Slack Granny - and I reckon in a few years' time this lineup will stand alongside those West Coast 60s festival posters featuring 'up-and-comers' like the Doors. Grateful Dead and Hendrix!!

I wasn't sure last issue how the Upton Jazz and FAB (Food and Beer) festivals would sit alongside each other on the same weekend - in hindsight I guess not totally smoothly as the 29th JazzFest seemed to pull most of the riverside punters. - but great sets over the whole weekend from both events with Remi Harris, Indigo Kings, Roving Crows, Babaiack and my pick Radio Banska from this guite interesting experiment in festival planning - well I thoroughly enjoyed it but sadly I can't see it being repeated again in a hurry !!

As you'll know we've had a 'different' last couple of weeks on the show as Danni's been fronting-up proceedings while Andrew's been pledging his vows here and across the pond but I loved how Danni roped in our regular snapper Mike Davis into interview mode!!

No let-up though for this particular festival-goer I'm afraid as I once again took the Old Hills/Hanley Castle back road route (because it's just so scenic!) down to Upton for the jampacked Blues Festival - what a stunning weekend with great original local acts like Gwvn Ashton, Dave Onions and Stripped Down Blues among the stars on show as this

incredible town was once again rammed to the rafters and Pretty sure I saw 'everyone-who-was-anyone' on our great rocked for the whole weekend - and they've still got their Folk and Sunshine festivals to come!! Someone (pretty sure it was Will Munn!) asked me why other towns can't do exactly the same - so answers on a postcard please folks!!

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



REVIEW

A LOOK BACK AT WYCHWOOD FESTIVAL

From top left: Jasper, Stiff Joints, Gabby Young, Bob Geldof, Virgil & the Accelerators, Bakara, Reef, Newton Faulkner, Craig Charles and Clik- Clik Collective.

hardly need me to tell you about the various delights on offer, the organisers always manage to piece together a must see line-up on the festival calender and this year's and tenth anniversary event was no different.

Time and space doesn't allow me to really mention all the highlights (there is a full write up over on www.rhythm-andbooze.co.uk) but I will tell vou about Hereford And Worcester taking over the BBC Introducing tent, where they curated a line-up that included the hard edged, blues rock of Virgil & The Accelerators, roots rockers The Misers, indie folk pop, uke friendly kings Jasper in the Company Of Others and tent closers, pogo inducing, ska punk favourites Stiff Joints among others filling the tent with music hungry fans, whilst Clik-Clik Collective marched the festival goers in with a hefty dose of New Orleans jazz.

Across the other stages over the weekend we witnessed everything from children's favourite Justin Fletcher, a resurgent Bob Geldof (and his Boomtown Rats); a rampant

hose of you who have ever been to Wychwood will Stranglers; a bawdy Levellers set and a host of incredible up and comers including electronic fused pop in the shape of Bipolar Sunrise and Kyla La Grange. Rustic roots, blues and folk from Railroad Bill. Merry Hell and Polly And The Billet Doux, glorious shimmering indie from Racing Glaciers and King Charles, Glitches, world music from Las Chiva Gantiva, Baraka, etc something called Chap-Hop (the must be heard to be believed Mr B the Gentleman Rhythmer) and colourful circus swing in the form of the divine Gabby Young And Other Animals. And that's not to mention the likes of Graham Gouldman (10cc), Reef, Lee Thompson (Madness), Newton Faulkner, Craig Charles, etc... As you can see more highlights than space (I could keep going). Then of course there's the spa, the children's workshops, stalls, holistic therapy tent and so much more, pretty much something for everyone even if you're not bothered by the music (and how could you not be!!!!!). This year's Wychwood line-up once again proved the organisers' impeccable taste and just why the festival should be the first you scribble on your calender each and every year!!!!

> Words by Will Munn Photos by Graham Munn SLAP AUGUST 7



August is bursting at the seams with exciting creative stuff and colour! With some of the county's festivals showing gorgeous walkabouts. off workshops and decor: the fabulous Kidderminster Arts

Festival (KAF) including the colour smashing Above Boards paint iam and of course the Worcester Music Festival to bring together a jam packed month to super-stimulate your eves (and ears)!

Clik Clik Collective

at The Worcester Music Festival (and other outdoor spaces!)

Taking all manner of creative fun to the great outdoors. Clik Clik is particularly

excited and proud to be part of the WMF this year, coordinating a day of street entertainment in Worcester on Sat 30th August, including interactive and accessible musical installations and a fun festival feel to the street!



Clik Clik will be facilitating a range of unusual and engaging installations including 'Play Me' Pianos, 'be a musical instrument' Character Board, a percussion workshop, a procession, walkabout by Heather Wastie and some very exciting installations including Sam Underwood and also the '3pm Surprise'. With street music throughout the day come down to see what's going on from 11am! (Before heading down to SLAP night at the Marrs Bar later of course!)

Clik Clik is everywhere this month busy taking fun, performance and creative entertainment to Nozstock, Lakefest, Green Man as well as Snodfest & Cube Shuffle in September.

Clik Clik is also very proud to be one of the artists selected for one of the 'small scale arts commissions' at KAF this year with a WW1 themed Character Board specially designed for the festival.

www.clikclikcollective.com

Circle in the Cube

A brilliant night was had by all at the fabulous double bill from Perfect Circle youth theatre. On a humid Friday night, we crammed into the theatre at Malvern Cube to watch the two performances, 'Shooting Truth' by Molly Davies and 'Toon in' by our very own Stephen Wilson. These two productions were totally different, one eerie and mysterious the other in a 60's kitsch sitcom style, both steeped with a



West Country twang. The excellent performances came from young people ages 13-19; my special favourite being Farmer Giles' hilarious West County bawl! Super stuff!

Wet Wet Wet!

A fine and mind (ear) bending time was had by all who attended the If Wet session at at the end of last month (see review page 28), Sam Underwood and David Morton bringing us a truly unique helping of musical interaction! If you are interested in the unusual and/or music experimentation then you really must experience these events, held at Callow End Village Hall the last Sunday of every month!

www.ifwet.org.uk/



Photography: George Benson

Spare Room at Lakefest

Staying with festivals, I spoke to Sarah Edwards from Spare Room Arts who runs the arts area at Lakefest in Tewksbury. Spare Room Arts specialise in outdoor events, festivals and children's projects, run by Sarah who is based in Worcester, with this being her second year coordinating the arty activities on site for all ages.



"I'm really looking forward to the festival again and we are lucky enough to have creative people join us from far flung corners of the British Isles!"

With many vibrant activities to take part in including circus workshops, glamba drumming, face painting, photo-booth style fun and fabulous arts activities for all, festivals are not just about music so get involved and get creative!

www.spareroomarts.co.uk www.lakefest.co.uk

Ouiet Revolution: Gentle heroism on the home front

Quiet Revolution is a free, promenade performance inspired by the role women played in the the First World War and whose lives were changed forever. Women were fighting the Great War on their own doorstep and they discovered a new sense of purpose and dignity despite their loss and hardship. Ouite Revolution is performed by DFA. Dancefest's performance company, and community dancers.

Sat 23rd 11.30am - TK Maxx, Weaver's Wharf, Kidderminster at 1.30pm - top of the market, High Street, Kidderminster.

and don't forget Kidderminster Arts Festival

...will be happening throughout August, showcasing some wonderful creations from large scale roaming installations, walkabout and street theatre to exhibitions, kids workshops, spoken word, live painting, music and dance! It's going to be a truly vibrant time! kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

Family fun!

The Cake Tin Cafe at Malvern Cube have lots of fun and fantastical things to do for your children this month! With Cake themed workshops and kids movies, as well as delicious food and drinks, what are you waiting for?

www.thecaketinmalvern.com

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All things Arty at Nozstock!

I spoke to Nozstock's theatrical team about this year's arty activities and they had a few words to say about what to expect from this fine festival in Bromyard with a 'Land that Time Forgot' theme!



There is lots of excitement in store for the lovely folks of Nozstock this year. From the roaming filthy street urchins who push around a ramshackle rag and bone cart flogging wares, assailing festi-goers with choral melodies, accordion accompaniment and some god-awful squawking to the weird to begin and see these amazing acts do what they do best. and wonderful worm-hole babies brought to us by the Weird The festival can't begin quickly enough!!" Kid Collective.

Fools Ball

When you think of the Coppertops pub in St. John's, the first thing to spring to mind would probably not be "sumptuous masquerade ball". But such is the transformative power of art, as was proved on May 24th that the Fool's Ball, an otherworldly evening of music and performance organised by the



immersive theatre company Collective Unconscious.

Details of the location were tantalisingly drip-fed through the Facebook event over a number of days, so by the time the night itself had rolled around most were bursting with curiosity, amply teased and ready to step into the unknown.

In the upstairs room, Worcester's Ed Steelefox seamlessly blending the familiar and the strange on the decks and inspiring some truly inimitable dance routines. The set was occasionally punctuated by spoken word performances; unusual, irreverent and gut-wrenchingly honest; showcasing some real fresh talent.

The downstairs room played host to an entirely different kind of experience passing through a Twin Peaks-esque blackwalled, red-lit corridor into the performance art space. Two areas had been curtained off into private booths for one-onone performance pieces: to describe them seems almost improper, but they were each such intense and intimate pockets of experience. You left each time feeling something completely different - usually something introspective. It's not often that a night out leaves you thinking in that way.

Look out for the Festival of Fools near Harrogate, August 23rd www.facebook.com/collectiveunconsciousuk

Lauren O'Donoghue

Performances from Puppetual Motion will wow us all with their giant colourful puppets towering above the crowd while they dancing around the festival. The Hummadruz will unleash their wonder with UV spectacular performances around the festival site. We also have a welcome return for a couple of the amazing people who help make the festival a memorable experience for everyone - Clik Clik Collective with their Character Boards 'head in hole' experiences. Then there's the eerie Voodoo Procession featuring musicians from Collective 43. Also Jess Farmer and his team of creative folks offering an array of activities for both adults and children, including a dino dance off in their very own dance off ring where the returning popular sock wrestling will also take place. For the children there will be a dino-themed mask making workshop followed by a procession and the ever exciting lava assult course!

Not only are we welcoming plenty of creative walkabout theatre to add pizzazz to the site this year but there will also be plenty of activities for everyone to take part in. From hula hoop and belly dance workshops to extreme activities for the boys such as archery, free running and mountain biking.

Christine Dent, Walkabout & interactive theatre coordinator said "Hats off to these creative groups of people who help create amazing activities for the festival each year and it is a pleasure to have them all. I am so excited for it all

31st July - 3rd August www.nozstock.com

Kidderminster Arts Festival ¥

Bringing Kidderminster Town Centre to life with Music, Dance, Workshops, Shows, Exhibitions and more

KAF is a 16 day festival bringing you some of the best of local and national talent, mostly free, or under \$5.

Visit our website for more details, www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk or find us at facebook.com/kaf.arts or twitter.com/kaf_arts



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9th-24th AUGUST

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FEATURE



KAF (Kidderminster Arts Festival) is commemorating WWI this year, but it isn't all doom and gloom. The War was catalyst for some amazing feats of resourcefulness, innovation and art which is what we will focus on. Vicar Street will be transformed with a team of inflatable white dogs floating above your head, commemorating over 20,000 dogs that served in the war. Volunteers and residents of local care homes have knitted 3000 poppies led by **Eira Walters** from **Waste2want**, which will turn the towns bollards into a flowery memorial to all animals and people that were involved in the war.

Each Saturday will see some of the country's best street performers filling the town with shows from the sublime to the ridiculous and throughout the week there are workshops, exhibitions and events, so watch, join in and experience KAF in all its facets. Everything is free or around £5.

We kick off with a packed day, the 9th of August sees the return of **KidsFest** in St. Georges Park, with award winning **Kazzum Theatre** bringing **Nana's Jumble**, a range of workshops and an opportunity to bring a picnic and spend the day in the park. Then visit the **Contemporary Craft & Makers** fair in the Town Hall and see **The Chapel of Victories** celebrating the achievements of local people by **PicaPica**, resident throughout the festival from the 9th to the 23rd. **Wet**



Hi, it has been a great couple of months in the arts in the county.

As a reminder the **Worcestershire Arts Partnership (WAP)** applied for some development funding from the Arts Council and were delighted to have been awarded two year funding. This will be primarily to do three things:

- To look at operating models of the Partnership.
- To give the sub groups funding for events and projects
- To write a new business plan/strategy for the Partnership.

We have appointed **Ros Robins**, formerly of the **Arts Council** to look at the operating models of the partnership. We are doing this because we need to have a more flexible operating model of how it could work. With public funding for areas such as culture and arts being reduced we need to be able to react to the different way in which the arts can now be funded. We also don't want to be a threat or a competitor to all the groups that are working in the county too. It's important that we get this right and Ros will help us.



Picnic Street Theatre invite you to a very special tea party and you'll find a metal whale with a surprise inside. **The Desperate Men Theatre Company** will recklessly attempt to give you a potted history of how art reacted to war in *Slapstick and Slaughter*.

The Boars Head bring Worcester Street to life with the **Fringe Festival & Above Boards**, great music, beer and art for two days on 16th & 17th of August while the town is filled with more of the same but a little less beer! **Blunderbus Theatre** is back with *Dotty the Dragon* for 3 – 7 year olds, and there will be magicians and musicians in front of the Town Hall to entertain you.

The last week will be filled with music and dance, with performances at **Kidderminster College** and workshops in the Town Hall and Boars Head. We've even got **Isla Sinclair** appearing at the **Unitarian Church** exploring songs and archive film footage in *Eyes Front*.

The final weekend is heaving with performances of all kinds on the move throughout the town all day. You can find out more and book tickets on the website:

www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

Commissioning

Jan Higgitt from Jestaminute and I attended an event in Camden on the 6th June which was being hosted by the Arts Council and an organisation called The NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations). The event was about Commissioning for Cultural Organisations and we saw several case studies in how arts organisations can begin to be part of the commissioning programmes that are taking place across the country. You may have seen newspaper articles about how Worcestershire County Council is going to become a commissioning authority, in other words what this means is that as the local authority shrinks, its operations will begin to increasingly be commissioned out to external groups. For example where a local authority may have run a care home it may seek to commission groups to run alternative day care services. Arts and cultural organisations could become part of that solution and at the very least be aware of the changes that are taking place. In the first instance please look up

www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/public-services/culturalcommissioning-programme

Funding

On the funding side if you are part of an arts organisation that may need funding please look up **The Elmley Foundation** which is a foundation that funds arts activities and equipment bids in both Worcestershire and Herefordshire. They are looking for new applications from not for profit organisations. Please refer to http://www.elmley.org.uk/

I hope that you all have a really busy creative time over the next month. Visit one of our many festivals or go to a gallery space. There is a lot to see and do!

Be creative

Steve Wilson
SLAP AUGUST 11



Tatty hoooo there!

This year Above Boards is smashing splatters into its third year of live painting and music in Kidderminster Town Centre. Last year saw not only the free standing boards get painted but also the artists crept onto the walls of the old market building and even into the subways again. Now that time has come round again and it's about time the artwork was all spruced up nice and new again. Above Boards will be taking place on the 16th and 17th of August in conjunction with the much anticipated Boars Head Fringe Festival. Worcester Street outside the Boars will be closed throughout the weekend and bands, musicians and artists descend upon the stage and surrounding walls. Some great local bands have been confirmed as well as performers, poets, stallholders and the odd dive bombing seagull. Many of the artists who painted last year are returning as well as some new ones with chance for everyone to get involved with workshops happening throughout the weekend.



The Festival is part of KAF (Kidderminster Arts Festival) that runs from the 9th until the 24th of August. It's not too late to join in either as there are still plenty of spaces for artists to paint. There is even a certain very prominent wall that is also looking forward to its first make over in many years, but I can say no more! The whole event is free to come along to and suitable for all ages with art and music kicking off at midday and tootling through to the early hours. If you or anyone you know would like to paint a wall, we would love to hear from you so please email gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

There will also be exhibitions in the gallery from **Picapica**, which features artwork from the 'Chapel of Victories', a project led by artist Tracey Picapica who creates shrines from recycled materials. She is also creating an installation of shrines 'The Chapel of Victories' inspired by the people of Kidderminster which will feature at the town hall from August 9th-23rd. The exhibition at The BHG will run from July 25th until 13th August.

After Kidderminster Creatives dramatic re-launch earlier this year, they will be holding two exhibitions during KAF. One

Kidderminster Library Gallery. The title of the show was inspired by the fact that there was a campaign to keep the library's third floor gallery open but this campaign was unfortunately lost and hence the size of the space is limited and the artwork. Concentrated. Kidderminster Creatives and the Above Boards Artists will also be showcasing their latest talent at The BHG from August 13th until the end of the month



SUPPORTING LOCAL CREATIVITY

Other dates for your diary include:

Thursday 7th August: Outdoor Life Draw

Saturday 9th and 23rd August & Wednesday 13th August: Stencil Workshops

Mon 18th August: Swap & Sew

Tuesday 19th August: MC/Rap recording Class Weds 20th August: Mash up a Masterpiece



Hopefully as you read this I will be toasting you all with a warm plastic cup of cider and a dance in my feet as I find myself in the beautiful fields of Nozstock and will see you soon! Coz

Boxer Poet, Scandinavian folk and a clog dancer at



Who better to headline at Mouth and Music's "War and Peace" evening than boxer poet Matt Windle? Matt is a former Birmingham Young Poet Laureate and four times Birmingham & Midland Boxing Champion. In 2012 he was an Olympic Torchbearer. Headline music act for this Kidderminster Arts Festival special is Scandinavian influenced folk duo. Sirkel who play sax, flute, violin, accordion, guitar & mandola. They will also be bringing a special guest, clog dancer Ayliffe Edwards. Local poets, storytellers and musicians can join in by signing up for a short spot at 7.30 on the night, Tuesday 12th August. It starts at 8.00pm at the Boars Head, Worcester entitled 'Concentrated' which will run throughout August at Street. See www.mouthandmusic.co.uk for more information



What a busy couple of months we've had at the Workshop, since we last reported!

June saw the final performance of a 120 date national tour of *'Finding Joy'*, by our residents - the wonderful **Vamos Theatre Company**. This took place at the **Swan Theatre** and was celebrated by a reception at WAW to launch *'The Projectionist'* exhibition in the Workshop's cellar space, which had been magically transformed into a retro cinema experience recognisable by those of us (un)lucky enough to be of a certain age,,, it was utterly brilliant!

In the courtyard we hosted one of Worcester LitFest's events – the terrific **Beatfreeks** (www.beatfreeks.com) from Birmingham, a collective of five young performers of word and music – rappers, singers and players - and part of a larger

Social Enterprise to encourage creativity and personal growth through art in performance!

On the first Saturday in July we hosted an Open Day for the public to come and explore the building, meet the tutors, watch them work and maybe try a taster session or two in one of the art classes on offer. The children's activities went down a storm, as did the live music in the courtyard and the fare on



offer from **Café Bliss**. The following weekend we enjoyed **Lazy Sunday** – plus **Craft Fayre**. It was a great event and the stall organisers, **Sarah** and **Chris Bennion**, kindly donated the proceeds to the Workshop's coffers – hooray and thank you again! Great music all afternoon too...



Our July exhibition in the **Café Gallery** has been the wonderful and varied work of fine artist and printmaker **Jose Santos**. Jose has exhibited locally in many venues including County Hall, the hospital galleries and the Royal Porcelain Museum, where he has been restoring historic copper engraved plates, and making beautiful prints from them as a result. He made the bold decision to auction some of his work - at a very entertaining Friday evening at WAW with the Café and live music in full flow – and is still willing to do deals! View his work at www.jsantos.co.uk and contact him at josesantosfineart@gmail.com.

So – what's happening this month? Friday August !st sees the launch of our next exhibition – **Life Drawings** (and Paintings) by students from the Wednesday and Thursday classes here at WAW. Please come along and join us that evening between 6-9pm to admire their work, see what a talented crew they are and maybe enjoy a drink or two...

Café Bliss will be showing off their wares at the **Worcester Foodie Festival** the following day – that is Saturday August 2nd – find them in the High Street and sample their delicious Belizean fare and say hello.

That Sunday – yes, the 3rd! – it's **Worcester Wargames Boardgames Day** in the WAW courtyard, from 11am until 6pm. The Guys Say: 'Call it a Geek Meet, call it a Summer Fete – it's that and more... Come on down for a day of games, BBQ, drinks and fun for everyone. Entry is FREE with refreshments available to purchase from Café Bliss. Boardgames will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there!' Check out worcesterwargames@aol.co.uk.

Next up - 10th August and MUSIC! It's **Lazy Sunday** – come along from 1 – 6pm and see what's in store. The September one (14th) will be another **Craft Fayre Extravaganza**...

Meanwhile, Worcester Music Festival looms on the horizon (in a very good way) and our weekend kicks off with 'Embrace The Chaos' (like we don't already!) in the theatre on the Friday night. We're especially looking forward to the Café Bliss promoted 'Not So Lazy Saturday' which, among others, features the hugely talented and soulful Christof Jennings, and our own treasured friend Martin Thorne maestro of both the shimmering desert-style blues guitar AND the beautiful ivy sculptures still on display in the courtyard and gallery. Incidentally – inspired by Jose's auction – Martin would be pleased to hear from prospective buyers and is always open to commissions for his artwork. Renaissance men eh? You can visit him on martinthorne.bandcamp.com or even phone him on 07944 136 762. Meanwhile check out all the WMF fixtures on their website, and please come along to ours...

Coinciding with the WMF weekend will be the start of the exhibition in the **Café Gallery** by **Steve Hewson** who creates 2 and 3D artwork, experimenting with mixed media and transfer techniques. Looking very colourful and textural – it's not to be missed. www.stephenhewson.webeden.co.uk

September will see the start of our autumn courses, which as well as the visual arts will include **Buddhist meditation techniques** on Monday evenings and Ukulele with the Band o'Fleas on Thursdays – both in the café. Of our courses 'for the younger student', both the Saturday morning **Teenage Art Club** and all sorts of performing arts are proving very popular indeed. All Sorts will be running a week of summer classes from Monday to Friday 18-22 August – see our website for details or contact them directly on allsorts.pa@gmail.com. They will be starting new classes for 3 -12 years in September, and will also be working towards TV talent show auditions and the WAW Christmas panto production of **Aladdin in** early December. We saw their snippet from Matilda on the Open Day – really, REALLY, good!

So please keep an eye on what's happening at WAW. We're hoping to be on super-fast fibre-optic broadband and wi-fi soon (with a new website), which may provide an all-time solution to the phone line and internet sporadically disappearing. Meanwhile keep trying us on 01905 25053 and www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk... and have a great summer. Clare Harker

DAVINA AND THE VAGABONDS LIVE AT THE ROBIN 16TH JULY



avina returned to The Robin after 11 months, despite a moderate turn out last year, the delicious Davina left a powerful imprint. She fronts a big, bold and brassy, 5 piece band, who are determined to give everyone a good time. Dan Eikmeier, on trumpet,

Ben Link, trombone, Andrew Burns, double bass, and Connor Mcrae Hammergren, beating out the drums. All joust and tease as they try to constrain the gregarious Davina Sowers as she expressively caresses and punishes her piano with a passion.

Songs were pulled from her 'Black Cloud' album, and many that featured on her glorious 'Live @ The Times 2009'. The **Vagabonds** are very much a performance band, and the live album reflects that - its a cracker. Whether originals or not, the band put their take on everything. 'Daydream', Honey Pie', and 'Back To Memphis', are superb but then you have to deal with the wonderfully wicked, 'St. Michael VS The Devil', Davina toying with Dan's trumpet in a vocal duel that highlights the fun element of this bands stage presence. The new album, 'Sunshine' was sampled. Again its a mix of Davina's work and some selected songs, like Eddie Miller's 'I'd Rather Drink Muddy Water', standing alongside Davina's own 'I Try To Be Good'.

Etta James' classic, 'I'd Rather Go Blind', is given the Davina Sowers treatment - she has that empathy this truly great song deserves. It would be impossible to overlook the closing **Joe Primrose** song There are many wonderful versions - this was no exception as Ben Link took to lead vocals for '*St James Infirmary Blues*' with a roll of drums, the sad lament is retailed to a chorus of 'got no pants on', New Orleans blues, typically heavily accented with jazz and finished in **Cab Calloway** style. Fabulous is not too strong a word. The session has been full of humour, superlative musicianship, and pure entertainment. More fun than a lock in with **Girls Aloud** and a magnum of Bolly......probably. A cocktail of 3 parts Orleans, 3 parts Blues, 3 parts Jazz 1 part Vaudeville, stirred and mixed to be taken whenever you need a lift, they will be back, don't miss out next time.

Words & Picture by Graham Munn







<u>Opening Hours</u> Mon - Fri-10am-6pm Sat-9.30am-5.00pm



16 Queen Street Worcester 01905 26600 www.musiccityworcester.co.uk

The Humdrum Express-Festival At Home

Kidderminster based singer-songwriter **Ian Passey** has been writing wry observational songs for a number of years now, spread over four albums and numerous singles, Ian has become renowned for his dry wit and his instantly hummable melodies. Along the way the aptly named **The Humdrum Express** (songs documenting everyday humdrum) has supported everyone from **The Wedding Present** and **Miles Hunt** to fellow life observers **Half Man-Half Biscuit**.

Ian's latest single will resonate with every music fan and

would be festival goer out there, as he waxes lyrical about missing out on that elusive ticket and deciding that you can still enjoy the festivities in the comfort of your own home. The wry ditty takes in all the highs and lows of festival life both in the comfort of your own home



(having to put up with shoddy coverage and the over exposure of mediocre acts as opposed the bands you actually want to see) and at the festival itself weather, low batteries, etc.

Festival At Home is a wonderful tongue in cheek acoustic blustery number complete with a delicious upbeat punk inspired guitar strum and a massive sing-a-long vocal hook that, somewhat ironically would sound great being hollered across a field by a few thousand bawdy revellers.

With **The Humdrum Express** you know exactly what to expect, a fun, upbeat and ultimately contagious slab of social commentary, that you can't help liking or singing!!!

Will Munn

The Lamb & FlagThe Tything, WorcesterFolk SessionMonday 11thFolk SessionMonday 25thWith an eclectic mix of Musicians, Poets, Artists and Drinkers...

...you either get it, or you don't!

REVIEW Slap Magazine Night - Band of the month **BITTERROOTS** The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich - 10th July

Back in the lovely garden setting of this Droitwich pub, a warm bright evening, and local band Bitterroots on offer with the excellent food and beers. The band is, as many will know, firmly rooted in the folk genre, but has flavours of Americana and Gaelic stirred in. A mix of instrumentation that includes, dobro, bouzouki, fiddle, double bass, guitars, harp and a button squeeze box, making for an interesting variety of sound to spur along the songs.

Now I am not a folk aficionado, and make my excuses for my ignorance of this antiquated (in the real meaning of the word) form of roots music. I do know that 'Hangman', had the feel of the great years of early Fairport Convention, no bad thing for me. A tale of life, 'Sun's Work', soon followed by the quick stepping, foot tapping reel that is 'Angeline the Baker'. Keeping the pace up and the rhythm flowing, 'st

" Ideal for the crescendo of any party, a good Irish drinking song."

Anne's Reel' slipped seamlessly into 'Reel St Jean', distinctly demanding a reluctant audience to get up and move. My excuse, can't strut on carpet, yes, the marquee is fully carpeted, damn my luck. A short break, I was quite enjoying this, though cannot betray my love of blues, to admit it to anyone.

The following set, went up a gear, and the session really started to move; the excellent '*Pig's Foot*', featuring Mark's squeeze box, hiding in the shadows, and Helen on violin, trotted happily on, as the much darker '*Caleb Meyer*' took over, an enjoyable traditional tale of demon drink and death, you can't better that. '*Go Mauve*', reminded me much of the Roving Crows and '*White Petticoats*', its a rattling good tune with timely hesitations that add to the whole piece. I should give mention to the other members of the band, the towering figure of Rupert on vocals, harp and guitar, the 'baby' of the band Anthony, on a double bass, which resembled a polished, tapered, floor joist with strings, and last but far from least, Ali. Ali seems to play pretty well anything and everything, a lovely dobro, bouzouki, and electric guitar.

We reach the witching hour, which is 22.00 at The Gardeners, in the open sided marquee, in respect of the nearby neighbours. *Billy O Shea* is called for, by those that know about such things, I don't, so it would be fine for me. Well '*Billy O'Shea*', is indeed ideal for the crescendo of any party, a good Irish drinking song if ever there was one, time for a Guinness.

Overall it had been a splendid evening, in a lovely location, though lacking a little in numbers, the band received a warm, enthusiastic applause. Next up for **The Gardeners Slap Night** in this summer season of acoustic is the talented, award nominated blues artist, **Sanjay Brayne**, August 14th, be there.

Words and Photography by Graham Munn



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Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

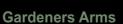
Presents August

What's Going on @ Gardeners Arms

- . Every Weds Curry Club plus Quiz Night 8.30pm.
- . Every Thurs Live Local Talent Musicians 7.30pm plus Open Mic Night.
- . Sat 2nd Malpractice Band Entertainment 5.30pm
- . Sun 3rd Commonwealth Games Dinner £14.50pp.
- . Thurs 7th West Midlands Petting Zoo Petting Activity Tent Photos 1.00pm 4.00pm
- Sat 9th Live Music Natasha Rock Chic 7.30pm.
- . Sun 10th Sun Strawberries Prosecco Garden Party Festival Music 12.30pm 6.30pm
- . Tues 12th Tribute Lunch to the great Fats Domino 12.30pm 2 courses $\pounds 11.96pp$
- . Thurs 14th Slap Magazine Night Band of The Month Sunjay Brayne 7.30pm.
- Fri 15th Warran James Live Music Night 7.30pm
- . Sat 16th Chicago Bytes as seen @ Upton Festival Entertainment 7.30pm
- . Thurs 21st Rolling Stones Tribute Billy Shears Live 7.30pm
- Fri 22nd Summer Bank Holiday 1940's Menu Ben Vickers Live Music 7.30pm
- Sat 23rd Summer Bank Holiday Gavin Baxter Bomba Rock Live Music 7.30pm
- . Mon 24th Summer Bank Holiday FREE Chocolate Fountain Day Real ales $\pounds 2.50$
- Sat 30th Rickie Laval Entertainment 7.30pm
- Sun 31st World Famous Remi Harris Live Entertainment 1.30pm



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e Fold - 5th July

ine ales, good food and some excellent wines were handlebars of an iconic (British) motorbike. A few power bugs available to accompany the usual high quality line up at the 6th gathering at The Fold near Worcester. for this great and now well established one day festival. Steve Morrison had the honour of entertaining a crowd that reached 550. On this warm afternoon, he raised the temperature with some Canned Heat, 'Lets Work Together' and 'Going Up Country', worked his way through 'Summertime', with a sprinkling of engaging banter and good humour. A bit of JJ Kale, and Sonny Boy Williamson, with 'Bring It On Home To You', complete

with train sounds that Ringo Starr would have been proud of. A brilliant start to proceedings from an engaging Steve Morrison.

Organiser Oliver Carpenter took to the stage with Mumbo Jumbo, an award nominated, easy listening, country band. With Chris Lomas, bass & uke, and Fred Skidmore on keys, they took us gently through the afternoon, with Oliver looking rather green, flipping between trumpet, cahon and kazoo. 'Riverboat Song', 'Three Cool Cats' and an excellent 'Cockeresque', 'The

Letter', a class rasp guaranteed to produce gravel rash to all in hearing distance. 'Nice work If You Can Get It'.

A sultry afternoon was about to get warmer as **The Blues** Duo, Tommy and Johnny were welcomed to the stage, a few seconds later, the floor space was scattered with welly clad dancers, along with people old enough to know better! The songs rattle out like a long passing goods train, 'Had My Fun', 'Steady Rollin Man', 'Must Be Jelly', and those wagons are still passing through. Tommy put his feet up as Johnny took the scenic line with his blues harp, superb as ever. These boys never short change the audience, a full on, flat out, brilliant. blues blast.

A 'Jack Daniels' fuelled Vincent Flatts Final Drive took over with a dynamic duo - an easy riding, 'Bertie' and the marvellous Melvin - fronting a band named after the

in the system did not dull the performance. Bertie knows how to deliver a blues, and a 'flexy faced' Melvin, loves to demo his Gibson in true 'guitar hero' style. 'Boogie Man' and 'No More Whiskey' seemed particularly apt.

Wily Bo & The Mescal Canyon Troubadours, brought plenty of funk, blues rock and a solid, tight band to the stage. A good guitar section of Geoff Slater, with Tommy 'Le' Rhodes on bass join Max Saidi on percussion and deliciously dark Karena K on backing vocals and kevs. Wilv Bo is 'ringmaster' and vocalist, and takes on 'Rattlin Bone' form

complete with top hat and skull cane to finish on the glorious 'St. James Infirmary Blues'. The band having The grooved their way through 'Chattahooche Cooochee Official Man', maybe some lost moments with 'Did I Receivers

Forget', to decide it is, 'Time To Forget', completely unphased by the troublesome power glitches. Maybe they had forgotten to switch on the lights!

9.45 in a cooling evening and an enthusiastic crowd were up for closing the day in style, they closed around the stage ready to dance away the night to The Official Receivers. Blues? No. but they know how to push everyone's button when it comes to some fabulous soul classics. The glow of the stage

lights point to the fire at the heart of the gyrating bodies, with a big horn section, driving drum, nice guitar and warm vocals we were enticed with songs from Wilson Pickett, Otis Reading, Edwin Starr and James Brown.

'Be Young Be Foolish Be Happy' was about the right sentiment, as they tried to 'Hold Back the Night'. Nobody was going to leave this consistently grand little festival without a swing to their step and a smile on their face.

The Fold is an exceptional setting, almost unaffected by weather conditions, a welcoming Café host, where if you really need to, you can go for a few quite moments, and enjoy some of the tasty temptations on offer. On a warm dry day we were able to spread out at our leisure, enjoy the open air refreshments and the fabulous music.

> Visit www.bluesatthefold.co.uk for info on next year. Words & Photography by Graham Munn

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REVIEW laire Boswell

I've seen singer-songwriter, Claire Boswell performing in and around Worcester on a number of occasions, generally in support or at the various local music festivals, she's always come across as someone who is either born in the wrong age or perhaps the wrong location.

Claire possesses a lovely pure folk voice that seems to be have been lifted straight from the Laurel Canvon or perhaps Woodstock, a voice that demands quiet attention, which of course is not always possible in a live setting and so I

was more than a little intrigued to listen to her self-titled debut album, without distraction and interference.

The first thing to note about the album is the stunning yet sublime production courtesy of renowned local producer, Dave Draper, he's helped flesh out Claire's sound whilst framing that delicate and aching vocal. From the opening track, Willin', Claire's lonesome acoustic guitar is joined by a delicious country slide that instantly draws the listener in. From there on in subtle brushed drums, understated harmonies, strings, occasional bursts of electric guitar and on the stunning Four Days, piano join the mix, peppering Claire's vision.

The vocals and storytelling throughout are simply breathtaking, Claire's airy voice shine's drawing the listener

close for the likes of the folky. fiddle enhanced lament. Do You Love An Apple, telling a story with true conviction and a passion that's second to none. Claire offers up a few surprises on the album, including a glorious take on the blues on the upbeat Loverman Blues, whilst influenced ballad All I Want, with its gorgeous string led introduction deserves a special mention, not only for the mesmeric

instrumentation but also the heart and soul that simply oozes from Claire's voice. Whilst the likes of The Creeper is given a lovely rustic feel with the use of pattered percussion alongside expressive flights of fancy on the violin and omnipresent strummed acoustic. And no album review would be complete without a mention of the jaw-dropping final number, The Flower Of Magherally, a spine-tingling, intoxicating acapella track that has to be heard to be truly believed

The album as a whole is a majestic, captivating affair, perfect for those quiet, intimate nights in, an album to truly immerse yourself in. Claire Boswell has released a quite magical debut that deserves wide recognition in the folk and roots community the world over.

www.claireboswell.com

bv Will Munn

the

celtic

lovelorn



20 SLAP AUGUST

REVIEW

The Projectionist A mask performance by VAMOS Young People's Theatre Tuesday 15th July 2014

'Vamos' Theatre is a Worcestershire based full mask theatre company which tours nationally and internationally, taking a unique style of innovative and engaging theatre to small and large communities. Vamos Young People's Theatre has recently produced an interactive exhibition at Worcester Arts Workshop called 'From History to Theatre' which explored personal memories of Cinema. In July the young players also produced and performed a theatre piece, 'The Projectionist', to an audience of 300 at Bishop Perowne Academy, comprising pupils from the Academy, and from St Barnabas and St George's C of E Primary Schools.

The story follows the life and career of **Norman Holly** who worked as a Projectionist for the Evesham Cinema from the 1950s, with an interlude serving in the army during the Korean conflict.

The mask (and puppet) show was a delightful mixture of tender interchange between Norman and an usherette, Margaret, and dance routines performed by 14 youngsters playing the parts of usherettes, soldiers and children attending cinema 'chums' club!

To complete the first rate production, short sequences from 1950s romantic films, were projected onto a cinema screen across the rear stage, accompanied by an atmospheric original musical score.

I think it's fair to say that the children were amused and puzzled in equal measure and I came away feeling uplifted



and happy that I was able to help with some of the research for the project. by Justin Hughes



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Friends

Just one more date on Mike's tour calender this summer? Not so, Kidderminster Town Hall is his home town gig, a place where the many life long friends and fans were gathered to watch and hear the smorgasbord of songs presented to them. Three different line ups that have been significant in the career of Mike Sanchez gathered on the stage over the course of the evening to take those fans back to the early years.

The Rockets were the first band, a collection of school pals, with Mike on guitar. Ian Jennings on double bass and Mark Morgan on drums. The band were listening and watching the music scene of their era, and decided to step back to earlier vears for their inspiration. Songs from the likes of Carl Perkins. Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis and a version of Jim Reeves, 'Please Release Me' on speed, and a quick snatch from '81 for 'Tainted Love', a song rooted in the early 60's. A mix of R&B and good solid blues, were reprised from those early Rocket vears.

A break and a shuffle of the deck, and we stepped forward into the foundling Big Town Playboys, which brought to stage Ricky Cool, and Andy Sylvester. Mike moved onto the keyboards. Sanchez swings and Ricky rocks, as the band blasted through some great, rhythm & blues and rock & roll songs. Ricky moving from sax to harp for some good old

Chicago Blues, with both Mike and Ricky swapping vocal leads. Out of nowhere, comes Guitar Junior's, 'The Crawl', followed by some lovely harmonica, as Ricky takes on Billy Boy Arnold's, 'I Wish You Would', superb. A bit of Ike Turner, and some nice Jimmy Rogers, 'Walking By Myself', definitely not alone this evening.

'Hip Shake Baby', preceded another shuffle and the final mix, bringing Mike's current band to the stage, Tom Ford, on guitar, Nick Whitfield, taking double bass, Pete Cook and Nick Payne, swing their saxophones, with Mike Morgan still sat behind the drums. We're all having a ball, the music swings on, 'Hurting Inside' no, but as Fat's sang 'I'm ready', the band was willing, and certainly able. The music rattles out non stop. whatever comes to Mike's mind to play, there is no plan but to see all have a good time. A few suggestions are thrown to the stage. The band oblige. Mike Sanchez is a walking library of R&B. Sarah Wynne, takes up the vocal lead, for some Jesse Mae and Lil Ester Phillips songs, with 'Don't Freeze On Me', and 'If Its News For You Baby', followed by the excellent, 'Each Day'.



Joining for a last jam session, Andy Sylvester and Ricky Cool add to the band - a superb evening in this lovely setting of the Town Hall, a venue with a history of hosting so many great bands of yesteryears. From the beginings of The Rockets, playing in the back room of pubs in the area, Mike Sanchez who has made music his life, laid out for all to read in the 'Big Town Playboy' biography. I'm sure there will be a few more chapters to add in the future.

Graham Munn

YOUTUBE VIDEO OF THE MONTH DAS SEXY CLAP - EVERYONE'S A GHOST

Well. I'd heard on the grapevine that this lot had taken a new direction. Expanded their line up. Gone down something of a newer, darker path. But I have to confess. I was not expecting THAT. This is a clammy, sweaty-bearded primal scream of feedback and chugging - deployed with the intent of Pulled Apart by Horses spliced with Baby Godzilla at their most demonically melodic. The video itself is a deadly simple, harshminded vignette of existential savagery that wheels around something this complete and assured to be produced and the pulsing black heart of this track with a visual deftness and precision that is, well, a credit to 21st century DIY. For eye. And deserves to be shouted about. LOUD.



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riginating from Belgium, Claudia Wiegand is now a Pershore based designer maker specialising in glass.

Oddly she studied linguistics and philology in her home town of Brussels but had always been 'hands on arty' since childhood, creating drawings inspired by many trips to museums and exhibitions, as well as taking inspiration from trees and intricate abstract designs.



"When my daughter started school in England, I went on a number of craft courses and got hooked by mosaics. I did a number of commissions for people and designed a range of abstract mosaics on toughened glass using small iridescent glass tiles."

It was after a glass fusing course, that Claudia found her calling and instantly fell in love with this art form, acquiring a kiln and working from her garage; what started as a hobby turned into a small business pretty soon after.

"Glass is a fascinating medium to work with. It has an aura of magic about it....the way it transforms from solid to liquid and back to solid, its brilliance, translucence, gorgeous colours and endless effects and possibilities it offers to the designer maker. Glass is a challenging medium too because of its complex physical and technical properties, its limitations and fragility. I love mixing glass with other materials, experimenting and trying to combine different techniques and using the fantastic range of accessories available."

Claudia's husband joined her in the business three years ago and they now have a gallery in Pershore and studio/workshop nearby where they make and run courses.

"I have always been driven by my wish to make a business

out of my art. British people love and invest in their homes, they are keen to find something unique, different and bespoke. They also love personalised giftware and this has shaped a lot of the work I make."

"Juggling between a retail outlet as well as a studio /workshop is a constant challenge though local events such as the Pershore Plum Festival this August are a great opportunity to market my work and the courses we run. My husband has just set up our online shop and we hope this will further develop our presence over the internet."

You can see Claudia's work at: www.claudiawiegand.co.uk

At the shop: Creative Glass, 5 The Royal Arcade, Pershore, Worcs WR10 1AG, 01386 244677 www.creativeglass.org.uk

At the studio: **Oh My Glass! Ltd**, Unit 17 Highgrove Farm, Pinvin, Nr Pershore, Worcs WR10 2LF, 01905 841234 www.ohmyglass.biz



REVIEWS

Voices and Visions

Voices and Visions is the annual showcase of visual and performing arts of young people across the county. Now in its 15th year the project had continued to develop and over the last couple of years and now includes arts organisations as well as schools.

Centered around a visual arts exhibition at the cathedral. 79 schools produced a wonderful display of work all based around the theme of Heroes and Inspiration. with two memorable performance evenings running alongside and based on the same theme. Lit by Ade Holbrooke the cathedral looked stunning as over



200 young performers presented a mixture of music, dance and drama. Special mention to Chadsgrove School whose version of Katy Perry's Roar was especially memorable.

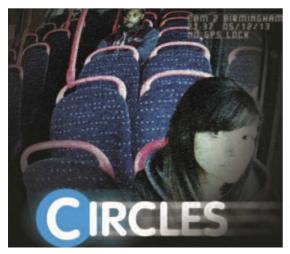
Voices and Visions also went into libraries including a wonderful performance morning at The Hive which saw two brilliant videos as well as some Indian dance. Over 90 schools took part and huge credit to the teachers, schools, pupils, arts team at County Hall and project co-ordinator Marie Oldaker for making it happen.

Steve Wilson



Circles at The Hive

Circles by Rebecca De-lahay and directed by Tessa Walker was the latest new writing play at The Hive. Produced by **The Birmingham Rep** the play concerns two stories linked by The Number 11 bus that circles Birmingham. Demi is a young girl who takes the bus to escape her family violence. Here she meets the cocky Malachi. At home are her mother and grandmother who have both been in abusive





relationships and who continue to resent and despise their individual and joint failings. The cast are great especially Danusia Samal as Demi, a mix of vulnerable and streetwise and she lit up the stage; and Toyin Kinch as Malachi, flash and smart but ultimately his bravado masks secrets and an inability to break out of his circle. The play worked best when it stayed with these two characters and De-lahay's writing seemed happiest when it was on the bus rather than at home. The end didn't quite ring true for me but it was a moving play which at times was not easy for the soul to watch.

By Steve Wilson

FEATURE SLAPmeets Still BUS

Signature of the most established 'core bands on the greater midlands roster – and like Worcester's Fights and Fires, have burned a trail across the Euro Punk scene for some years. They also happened to play the Macbeth Stage at the Groezrock festival earlier this year, and show no sign whatsoever of slowing down. SLAP! Caught up with the band after their recent show for Circuit Sweet at the Firefly to find out some more.



Stillbust – hello. Tell us a little about yourselves... I see you've had a line-up change!

Well hello there. We're Still Bust. We're a gabble of fools jumping about onstage playing an 'off-kilter' hardcore punk. Yes earlier this year our drummer of 10 odd years left Still Bust. Since then we recorded with the help of Nath from I, The Lion who learnt the songs to a recording standard in just four practices. Toured with Nate Davenport, who used to drum for Fighting Fiction, and then accosted Niall from Officer Down who has been with us since April. It's been a bit of a weird one as we've been together for so long, but these things happen and it's pretty good to be on a bit of a steady footing once again.

And you've been at this for a while. What have been the high points so far?

Haven't we just?!? If you said to me we'd be doing this 10 years on when at school I wouldn't have believed you. Not actually murdering each other is pretty high on the list of high points I would imagine! Groezrock must be the highest point so far in terms of our career as a band. To just see our name up there with some of the best bands in the world is an incredible feeling.

Like Worcester homeboys Fights and Fires, you've toured Europe more than a few times – how was that for you?

Let's brown nose for a second. Fights and Fires are the boys! They have a great mentality to touring, have absolute bangers of tunes and are generally lovely fellows.

Mainland Europe is awesome. Seeing new places is awesome. Generally there's just a really good attitude to live music. People come out most nights of the week for a couple of beers and to catch some new music.

Where was best to play?

There are so many good places. One of the best would have to be Cross Club in Prague. That place is incredible. All of the furniture and decorations are made out of scrap vehicle parts. There are neon lights everywhere and everything moves! It's one of those places you need to see to believe.

In particular tell us more about Groezrock... You got there on the basis of fan support I understand!

Yes, via Macbeth Footwear. We really appreciated the help that people gave us to get there. We weren't actually part of the final 30 bands when they were announced, but one of the bands decided they weren't able to commit to being able to play so dropped out. Fortunately for us we were first reserve! Groezrock is an incredible festival and to be part of it was something special. We were on early on the first day so really didn't expect a massive turn out, but we couldn't have been more wrong! It was amazing to see so many faces watching us, both friends and strangers. It's just one massive punk rock party that we were so grateful to be involved with. Upon returning home we found out our set was reviewed in an online magazine who rated it higher than some of the bands we really enjoyed watching so were pretty blown away!

Speaking of scenes, tell us more about what's going on in Cheltenham and Gloucs these days. There certainly used to be a vibrant DIY scene down there, back in the day...

We kind of have fits and starts of great things going on, then it dies, then it picks up again and so forth. Venues open, then venues close. But it's the same everywhere really. There are still some great venues open such as 2 Pigs and Frog and Fiddle in Cheltenham. In Gloucester we have the Guildhall which is a cracking venue to play and are really coming up trumps in putting on some great bands. About two years ago we started up some shows in a friends rehearsal room. Just to help out bands that in turn had helped us out on the road previously. People would pay a small fee to get in and this would go to the bands. There was no bar, so everyone would bring their own beer, and we would all have a cracking time. Soon word spread and everyone was asking to come and play these shows. Unfortunately, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end, and we had to stop doing these shows. But for those 18 months we had the best time ever.



Moving onto your actual music for a second. You've got a very literate, technical take on hardcore going on – how would you describe your sound?

Maybe you've just done that job for us! Literate Technical Hardcore. It's got a good ring to it! Yes, let's go with that.

Do you think genres and labels are even relevant anymore?

For the ease of looking for music you're interested in I guess they have to be. Either that or we just start hashtagging everything... that's probably a thing already isn't it?





Who are your influences? There's everyone from Rise Against to Rolo Tomassi in there...

Did you just say we sound like Rise Against? Influence wise. Blakfish, those guys were the cats pyjamas. Everything about them was perfect. Their demise was such as sad loss to the UK scene.

Baby Godzilla. They're going from strength to strength and demonstrating how good you can make a live show by generally not giving a fuck. Definitely a band that make you look at your own live performance! The Dillinger Escape Plan. Those guys are fucking nuts. In everything they do!

Speaking of the scene, Are there any bands in particular you think our readers should check out?

As mentioned above, Blakfish and Baby Godzilla are well worth your time. Especially check out BG live. I may be accused of bias here but seriously go check out everything on Lockjaw Records. It's such a good roster. You shan't regret it. In Gloucestershire, I The Lion have a new EP out soon and have an

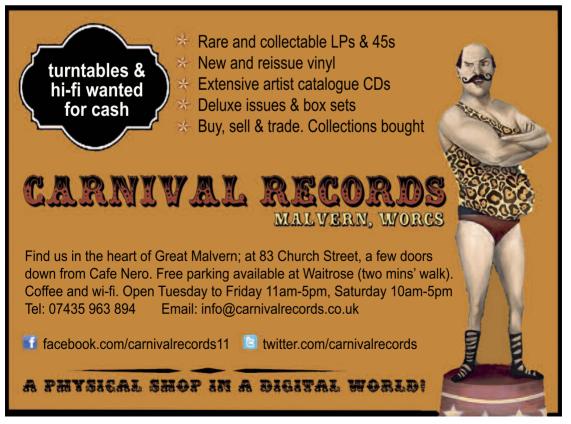


excellent touring attitude, and if you fancy 15 second fart in your face punk songs check out Fausto.

And is there anything else we need to know about you, your scene before we go?

Our album 'A Few Things We Might Agree On (A Few Things We Might Not)' is available for streaming at our bandcamp. And come and see us live, that's where the party happens. Keep an eye on the Gloucester/Cheltenham scene, there are some wicked shows coming up...

by Ed Ling www.facebook.com/stillbust stillbust.bandcamp.com T: @stillbust



REVIEW

'IF WET' | CALLOW END VILLAGE HALL 29TH OF JUNE **PROFILE ON MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST & COMPOSER**

"Paddy, like

strive for the

next level of

exploration."

n Callow End Village Hall, Paddy Steer presides over his audience, seated in his lab of sonic chemistry wearing "Ming The Merciless meets Egyptian" attire. regalia he quickly dismisses as.." sheets from an attic... sewn this together meself for a group I'm in who play Sun Ra compositions".

This is typical of the modest manner of Paddy: an innovative composer and gifted multi instrumentalist from Manchester: "Started playing bass at 17, got to drums at 43. Here I am today at 47". Paddy Steer was once a key member of the band 'Homelife', playing with large ensembles & in turn huge aural palettes and seeing as he describes it - "colours and texture" in the resulting sounds. After Homelife, Paddy set about retaining this level of orchestration, slowly developing a set up of his own from home constructed synth banks, modulations, Vocoders, LFOs. In addition to these -

glockenspiel (with three guitar pickups sending the signal thru this chain of charms,) is utilised flanked by a cluster of keys. At the nexus lies a drum kit, "I If Wet, shows us wear these wrist bead/shakers so I can get 16ths" he explains .. "So that as artists we that's about it, should I play a piece to show you how it all works?".

Influenced by jazz innovators Moondog, Sun Ra and Kelan Philip Cohran, Paddy plays everything simultaneously - adjusting flourishesand undulations accordingly. He is a little hard to pin-point :- 8 Bit, cartoony jazz meets Jean Jacques Perry's

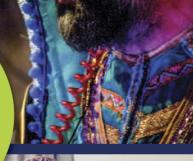
moog collection, I've seen him a fair few times before and he hasn't once repeated a previous set!

If this wasn't enough Paddy is also a virtuoso on slide guitar and bass pedals! Almost zen like he'll reel off self made tunes like "Badger Of The North" or standards like "Moon River" with much aplomb.

"When they asked me to do this," he informs the audience wryly "I joked I would say 'this knob does this and this one does this". A short while before all of this our If Wet hosts, avant garde duo David Morton and Sam Underwood, have just finished showing the enthralled hall their Giant Feedback Organ: two microphone feedback points positioned in a length of air conduit. A reserved bearded gentleman sits in the audience enthused in the resulting sound art, awaiting his turn. Paddy, like "If Wet", shows us that as artists we strive for the next level of exploration.

If Wet normally takes place at Callow End Village Hall on the last Sunday of the month but for one month only, If Wet will venture out of the village and into town, for a special event as part of Worcester Music Festival. Keep your eyes peeled for details.

paddysteer.bandcamp.com www.ifwet.org.uk Words by Craigus Barry







Pints, Poems & Pork Pies: Carol Ann Duffy, Poet Laureate The Lamb & Flag | Tue 8th July

s if having none other than the Poet Laureate performing in your pub once was not accolade enough, the estimable Garry Jones, landlord of The Lamb & Flag, Worcester together with redoubtable regular Mike Woods, pulled off yet another coup d'art by staging the return of Carol Ann Duffy to once again thrill the sell-out crowd.

And so we were fully entertained by no less than four poets with Ms Duffy of course as headliner!

First poet to take to the new and excellently constructed stage in the pub garden was **Martin Lytton**, who also works at Meadow Cheese Co in Ledbury, one of the evening's worthy sponsors.

Martin read mainly from his published collection **"The Grave of Whispered Things"** with subjects ranging from Schrodinger's Cat, The Banks Crash and Quantum Theory. There was a section of biblically inspired verse together with 'On Crickley Hill', celebrating the Gloucestershire countryside, all written mostly in the last 2 years since his return to England after living in the Middle East and latterly Sweden for many years. Indeed two of his witty, trenchant poems 'I Dance' and 'Wept Pearls' were written in Swedish, further indicating a life well lived whose wide ranging experiences inform Martin's poetry.

Next we were treated to a most welcome surprise as our esteemed co host (and next performer) **Mike Woods** introduced **Holly Perrett**, Worcestershire's very own **Young Poet Laureate** who captivated the ensembled throng with a couple of pieces ably displaying both her current prowess and future potential: her scathing poem about Valentine's Day was especially well received.

The aforementioned **Mike Woods** was our next eagerly awaited performer. Certainly no stranger to **The Lamb & Flag** faithful Mike treated us once more to his six sonnets for the pub, remembering and celebrating more than 40 years of the **Jones Family** at The Lamb & Flag. Reading these poems from specially printed beermats (available to buy as a charitable souvenir) for this auspicious occasion, Mike rattled hilariously and touchingly through '*Early Doors*', '*Stow Pies*', '*Till*', '*Opening Time*', '*Optics*' and '*The Man In Space*' - Beermat's Last Theorem indeed.





Of course these works merely scratch the surface of Mike's poetic panoply as he further regaled us with (di)verse subjects ranging from erotic Worcester poem '*Sabrina'* to the comical '*To The Darts Players*' and the deeply moving biographical '*Jammy Dodgers'*.

Space here does not permit quotations so I urge you to visit:

www.templarpoetry.com and seek out Mike's work.

It is at this point I should mention that permeating the whole event and indeed the artistic adhesive throughout was splendid music performed by local folk faves **Bitterroots**. Their beautiful music proved to be the perfect counterpoint to the poetry performances and the best was yet to come.

So after various awards to sponsors without whom... and a beer break, **Carol Ann Duffy** took to the stage amidst a rapturous reception and by way as introduction informed us that she was half way through her tenure as **Poet Laureate**, was absolutely honoured to perform once more in the Lamb and Flag, pronouncing it "The Best Pub in England"! (That's one for

the Slap ad Garry - ed.

Carol Ann's first selection came from "*The World's Wife*", a collection of poems subverting our cultural past by writing about Famous Men from their female partner's viewpoint. Thus we get '*Mrs Midas*', '*Mrs Tiresias*' and '*Mrs Darwin*', tales at once jocular, moving and sad.

Like all great art Duffy's poems are a scary fairground ride of intense, deep emotions, so whilst we laughed heartily at "*The World's Wife*" selection, collective tears flowed during her gut and heart-wrenching (2nd half) Hillsborough poem '*Liverpool*' and, as at funerals, that dry throat gulp moment peaked as **Rupert Brakspear's** accompanying harmonica played "*You'll Never Walk Alone*".

Duffy is a poet of the people and in her own phrase she uses simple words in a complicated way, this is part of the reason her poetry is so accessible. The opposite word so often levelled at poetry by those who don't give it any time, attention or concentration. Duffy also often writes in sonnets making her poems short and memorable, almost like prayers as she says, which helps them to be easy to recite. This of course has helped her work become popular with school syllabi.

Carol Ann's mesmerising performance continued with works discussing such subject matter as The Post Office's decision to omit counties from future addressing: '*The Counties*', the ongoing devastation of our bee population: '*The Human Bee*' and her stunning finale '*Premonitions*' which deals with the passing of her mother by treating their relationship in reverse. A profoundly moving work again enhanced by the strains of '*Danny Boy*' welling up from **Bitterroots** in the background.

We even got another football poem about our dear Wayne Rooney no less: '*The Shirt*'. Appropriate indeed given that this performance took place on the night of the historic Brazil v Germany World Cup Quarter Final thrashing and given Duffy's obvious fondness for The Game, perhaps a strange date to choose as she implored the crowd not to tell her the score!

I certainly feel that I made the right decision as the match was there for us later on catch-up telly and this was a unique and magical night which was an absolute honour to witness.

Words: John Bitumen

REVIEW

Upion Blues Festival July 18th-20th Over night the heavens opened, the rathis fair county was lashed with a tasty stored

ast year Upton Blues Festival became officially the largest completely free blues festival in the UK The event was heavily supported by bands and punters alike, the nearby fields were near full of campers; the various stages and pubs were rammed with revellers; the sun beat down throughout and from every corner of the town musicians plied their wares, showcasing the rich variety of the blues genre.



Surely with the threat of storms, 2014 wouldn't be able to compete with the previous year's event. Surely people would stay at home, the atmosphere would suffer, etc.... well not so, the drive in on the Friday soon relieved any fears. 2000 plus people camping out supporting the festival, a figure that topped even last year's figure and as we hit the riverside of Upton you could feel that air of excitement and expectation in the air, as the crowds gathered in their masses.

Of course you need a band that can channel that energy from the off, a band that would grab the crowd by the scruff of their collective necks and set the mood for the weekend. That band would be **The Laurence Jones Band**, a group that, in the space of a year have gone from playing the pubs of Upton (last year they played the festival in the courtyard of The Plough) to performing across the world with some of the biggest names in blues. Laurence and his band delivered a stunning opening set of blues rock at its best, drawing from the recent *Temptation* album as well as a few choice covers (the likes of *All Along The Watchtower, Bullfrog Blues*) to rapturous applause as Laurence proved again why he's one of the most talked about young blues guitarists (and vocalists for that matter) out there.

Soon Upton was ablaze with the sounds of blues of every variety as the various pubs began their weekend's festivities. We stuck to the Riverside stage for American rootsy blues man **Charlie Morris and his Blues Group**, as he delivered a glorious set of laidback blues that took in all the important blues subject matters of drinking, women and gambling, as he channeled the ghosts of the likes of **Jimmy Reed** and the like during his infectious set, inciting an outbreak of dancing down towards the front, bringing the first evening's entertainment to a frenzied close.

Over night the heavens opened, the rain came down and this fair county was lashed with a tasty storm, threatening the festivals schedule and indeed the attendance. The organisers quickly leapt into action as the rains continued to fall, decided to move the main stage from the rain battered riverside to the Memorial Hall (normally the home of the acoustic stage, which in turn was moved across to one of the accommodating pubs), enabling the show to go on. We took to a rather full and sweaty hall to catch a few numbers by **Souled Out To Funk**, the hall was awash with flailing limbs as the crowd lapped up a set of soul (and disco) classics, including the likes of *Car Wash*, *Disco Inferno* and oddly enough *Get Lucky* (**Daft Punk**).

Over on the newly relocated acoustic stage nineteen year Jack Blackman mesmerised a large gathering with a stunning set of originals, ragtime blues and the odd **Robert Johnson** cover. A quick return to the Memorial Hall in time for the New



Orleans's inspired, local heroes, **Stomp & Holler**, who blended sax, keys, guitar, occasional accordion and a grooveladen rhythm section creating a contagious mix of jazzy horn breaks, Latin bursts and a foot tapping, hip shaking take on the blues. The masses welcomed fan favourite renditions of *St James Infirmary Blues* and *Web Top Checker* and as the band raised the halls temperature, the weather responded accordingly as the sun made its presence felt.

With the return of the sun the festival returned to it's scheduled line-up with the various stages returning to their original locations. I took to investigating a few of the pub stages, taking in the likes of **Two Dollar Salad** and **Nice & Sleazy** dishing out well received rock covers to over crowded rooms before wandering down to the Sports Field for a little of skiffle from **Warren James**, followed by a couple of impressive tracks by hot up and comer **Mitch Laddie**, back on the Riverside, as he nodded to his heroes **Johnny Winters**, **Walter Trout** and **Stevie Ray Vaughan** among others. By now the festivities and drinks were in full flow with every lick of guitar being lapped up by the hungry crowd.

David Midgen & The Twisted Roots delivered a thrilling genre blending set taking in catchy twisted blues, a touch of a jazz, a thimble of rootsy avant-garde folk and a trumpet assisted take on something resembling Mexican borderline Latin rock, their set was enthralling from start to finish with the slide guitar of *Desert Inside* and the blackened lament *Rev. Jack Crow* proving to be set highlights among others. The evening's entertainment included inspiring sets by new harmonica king Will Wilde and band (including a glorious rendition of Johnny "Guitar" Watsons's 3 Hours Past Midnight), a deft solo acoustic set by Adam Sweet (his solo album is a must buy for fans of rootsy blues), the Gambian blues fusion of Baku Dan and the upfront, sultry Bradley's Circus, a Dutch combo that provoked dancing, hollering and bra throwing (after a plea for panties by lead singer Lidewij Veenhuis) with a set of raw and lusty blues rock, bringing the second day to a mesmeric close.



The third and final day of Upton Blues Festival began basked in sunshine, music poured from every corner with The **Hereford Soul Choir** opening proceedings on the riverside whilst I headed down to the sports field to take in a somewhat surreal yet vastly entertaining set by **Stompin' Dave**, a one man, tap dancing, banjo wielding, piano bashing, guitar strumming maverick who blended bluegrass, country blues, boogie woogie and good time rock n roll to a captivated packed early afternoon crowd. **Stompin' Dave** is pure entertainment, a comedic yet musically able frontman that provided tap dancing rhythms to the likes of *House Of The Rising Sun* and *Minnie The Moocher*, he juggled a violin on *Keep My Skillet Good & Greasy* and attacked a banjo on a **BB King** number to provide one of the most entertaining sets of the entire weekend.



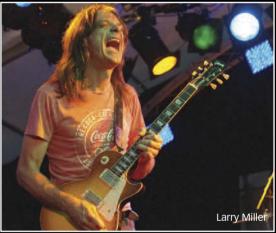
A quick cider on the way back to the riverside and perhaps the most impressive band of the festival, the raw, powerful, garage blues two-piece, **Henry's Funeral Shoe**, a feral combo that combined a ton of attitude, primal drums and downtuned, low and dirty blues riffs. The brothers bashed out three-minute infectious blasts to two thousand plus, bewitched blues aficionados all embracing the storm the duo

The evening's entertainment included inspiring sets by new created on the likes of *Gimme back My Morphine, Dog* armonica king **Will Wilde and band** (including a glorious *Scratched Ear* and the edgy *Janis The Stripper*.

The Spikedrivers, back over on the sports field mixed a rootsy folk feel with stripped down acoustic blues, kitchen instruments collided with the more standard guitars, bass and drums set up, offering the festival something a little different, at times almost tribal and often haunting as the band proved why they're one of the must see acoustic blues bands on the circuit right now.

In the memorial hall the likes of **The Real Raj**, **Louise Latham** and The **Terry White Band** plied their trade to a more than appreciative audience and whilst in the various pubs the music and beer kept flowing with the likes of **Forty Blues Toes, Gwyn Ashton** and **Groovy Head** provided the soundtrack.

To finish the weekend off, **Zoe Schwarz Blues Commotion** offered up a light and airy take on the blues, that ranged from jazzy ballads to a fuller blues rock sound, whilst over on the riverside the wiry **Larry Miller** pulled no punches as he wrestled with his guitar delivering a mesmeric masterclass of blues rock (in the style of Trout, Hendrix, Bonamassa and Moore) whilst his band ably backing him by forming a tight groove-laden platform.



As always Upton Blues Festival delivered, the organisers somehow managed to top the previous year's line-up and the rising attendance levels attest to just how popular both the festival and the various formats of the blues is right now. I'll be booking time off work around next year's event; I highly recommend that you do the same!!!

Written By Will Munn Photography Graham Munn

PREVIEW

The Work of Bletchley Park An illustrated talk by Dr Mark Baldwin Sat 23rd August at 8pm - Huntingdon Hall

Although its role in WW2 remained secret for years, it is now common knowledge that Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes was home to the code-breakers, by whose skill, dedication and team-work the German Enigma ciphers were broken, producing invaluable intelligence for the Allies. **Dr Mark Baldwin** provides an insight into some of the achievements of the **Bletchley codebreakers**, and explains what may be seen by visitors to this historic site today. He will also explore the life and legacy of Bletchley's most famous code-breaker, **Alan Turing**, whom Winston Churchill said made the single biggest contribution to Allied victory over Nazi Germany.



It is a sad reflection of the times that despite Turing's heroics in 1952 he was prosecuted for homosexuality and his death from cyanide poisoning followed shortly in 1954. An inquest determined his death a suicide, but his mother and others believed it was accidental. In September 2009, following an Internet campaign, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown made an official public apology on behalf of the British government for "the appalling way he was treated" and The Queen granted him a posthumous pardon on 24 Dec 2013.

Find out more about his story and the history of Bletchley Park in a fascinating evening of historical insight.

.....

Support the Arts Charity Shop Fashion Show

The Swan Theatre Foyer Sunday 17th August | Tickets £7

Join **Support the Arts Shop** staff and friends for afternoon tea and a fashion show of modern and vintage clothing. This fun and relaxing afternoon includes an exclusive silent auction, a vintage stall and raffle, as well as the show itself –

featuring the very best of the stylish clothes and accessories which have been donated to the shop over the past year or so.

The Support the Arts shop is located in The Shambles, and raises funds for the Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall. It is a friendly, lively shop packed full of preloved bargains and vintage finds. Shop staff are always on the lookout for unwanted items. and for volunteers to help keep the shop running



.....

smoothly – if you are interested to be involved why not drop into the shop for a chat with Maria or Paul?

Tickets are available from both the Box Office at Huntingdon Hall and from Support the Arts shop on The Shambles in Worcester. All proceeds will go to supporting Worcester Live and keeping the arts alive in Worcester. Doors open at 2.30pm for refreshments and browsing, and the fashion show starts at 3.30pm.

Other August highlights include Worcester Festival Table Top Sale, Sat 9th - Wooden Horse, Fri 15th - Swan Theatre Summer Fete, Sun 24th & Elkie Brooks, Mon 25th Aug.

For full details, tickets prices and full programme visit: www.huntingdonhall.co.uk & www.swantheatre.co.uk or telephone the box office 01905 611427

Talbot House - A Home from Home Friday 15th August at 7.30pm - Swan Theatre

Wartime 'Haven in Hell' brings inspiration to a recession hit country.

During the Great War, **Talbot House** in Poperinge, Belgium, a few short miles behind the front line, became a haven for thousands of allied troops - a 'home from home' where they enjoyed some home comforts and remembered the men that they really were.

The house was named after **Gilbert Talbot**, brother of senior army chaplain **Neville Talbot**, who was killed in Belgium in July 1915.





Run by a diminutive chaplain named **Tubby Clayton, Talbot House** became known by its army signaller's code of Toc H and ultimately would be the inspiration for the association with that name.

Telling the story of this inspiring man and house and recreating the atmosphere that was felt within is the wonderful play with music **Talbot House** is at the Swan Theatre for one night only.



A Midsummer Night's Dream Worcester Repertory Company The Commandery Gardens, Worcester - July

As summer rom-coms go, they don't get much rommier and commier than **Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream**, **Chris Jaegar's** latest outing at the Commandery, his eighth season of Shakespeare outdoors. Co-directed by **Ben Humphrey**, the Artistic Director of Worcester's **Swan Theatre**, the show promises "mystery, romance and romping", and delivers in spades.

The well-known tale of four young lovers who "mistakenly" do a bit of bed-hopping one midsummer night in the wood has been brought to life by an excellent cast of seasoned professionals and local talent. Worcester's own **Paul Blower**, a (hopefully) former hairdresser in the city gives a great bewildered performance as the father of one of the lovers, who never seems to quite catch what's been going on. Another local lad, **Eddy Westbury**,

gave a stunning performance as Demitrius – from roaring with anger at Helena's following him into the wood, to dripping with romance once he's been hit with "cupid's arrow" and fallen head over heels for her, he never failed to have the audience spell-bound. Remember the name folks, you saw him here first!

> Amidst the Elizabethan language of Shakespeare's text came leaping out some vivid ad-libs which had the crowd hooting with laughter. Most notably from **John-Robert Partridge**, as Puck, who interrupts Oberon's famous speeches with cries of *"he said love shaft!"*, and *"he said it again!"*, although he does later berate Oberon, reminding him *"it's a matinee, there're children present!"* when things get a little steamy on-stage.

> All in all, my only query was quite why this interpretation of Helena found Demitrius' spurning of her so adorable. She answers his cries of *"I am sick when I do look on thee"* with flirty jokes and simpering smiles. It begged the question, why did Oberon think she was *"all fancysick"* and *"pale of cheer"* when she seemed to be enjoying herself so much?

> Still, if a spectacular thunder-storm couldn't dampen the spirits, one scene out of a whole afternoon or evening's worth of fun wasn't going to either!

Helen Russell



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August...

1st - Deep & Dirty project 2nd - submission (D&B) 4th - Re-con open mic 8th - Deep & Dirty project 9th - djmasterpeace, genghis & guests (D&B) 11th - Re-Con open mic 15th - Deep & Dirty project 16th - Submission (D&B) 18th - Re-Con open mic 22nd - Deep & Dirty project 23rd - Zion Train Soundsysten 25th - Re-con open mic 29th - Deep & Dirty Project 30th - Submission (D&B)





REVIEW

Red Ladies - Clod Ensemble Malvern Theatre | Sat 19th July

I take real pleasure from knowing no plot, narrative nor having any expectation when I go to watch a performance.

I like not knowing, because it lets your mind and body absorb the raw emotion felt from the whole experience; it lets you embrace a personal memory or recapture something from deep within your subconscious which you hold in a dark place.

I could have attended an after show Q&A session, to gain more of an insight about what **Red Ladies** really meant, but I wanted to write blind, focusing on the feelings that **Clod Ensemble** manage to arouse in ones soul, as was the case in their last production, **Zero**.

Slick & stylish; 18 women in black overcoats, dark glasses, red headscarves, suitcases and slim stiletto heels appear slowly one by one. They appear around the theatre foyer before they collect us, and like a pack of faithful dogs we are ready. We are led outside, yielding any resistance; we follow down paths and through the gardens until we reach the backstage door, now encouraged to take our seats.



"An undisclosed number of identically dressed women infiltrate the city with a series of mysterious, visually arresting interventions before rendezvousing in a theatre to perform their 'theatrical demonstration' in five movements. Performed to an original score, featuring live drums and violin, Red Ladies is about connectivity, identity, community, complexity,



transformation and love. A poetic investigation into the ways human beings and other animals behave when in groups."

Produced by Fuel, and coming fresh from Southbank, Clod Ensemble is led by choreographer/director **Suzy Willson** and composer **Paul Clark**, coming together to produce a piece of work with abstract visceral fluidity. With stunning stage lighting, everyday occurrences mingled with world events were delivered like broken radio broadcasts from decades old with a musical score to match; costumes, abstracted episodes and emotions all inter weaving perfectly.

My personal interpretations saw strong reference to WW1; the trials of war and the strength of women at this time; matched with deceit and/or solidarity, through an obvious communist red tinge. I had this overwhelming and stark moment when I thought that this performance was actually all about mental health, the *"I remember"* scene portraying long lost memories and sadness which actually brought a tear to my eye for reasons unknown.

I left **Malvern Theatre** that night still not really knowing what or why but having loved it nonetheless, and feeling a real sense of fulfillment.

Red Ladies is a stunning visual masterpiece embedded with movement, tone, light and sound which produce raw emotions in the viewer. Playful yet poignant, the sensestimulating Clod Ensemble produces a different kind of theatrical experience, one which I am very glad I had interaction with.

"WE ARE NOT WHAT YOU THINK NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK, WE ARE NOT THAT"

www.clodemsemble.com

Find out more about the fabulous Fuel shows at Malvern Theatres this autumn by visiting: www.fueltheatre.com

Kate Cox



FEATURE

⁻hoto by NK FARR photography 20007

ereford is doing rather well for deep underground bands at the moment. One Man Sun are one of them. They are also an infectious and highly unusual musical proposition. Picture Nick Drake meets Swans. And you'd be about a third of the way there. They also do some remarkable artwork. So we asked some questions. And this is how it went.

Tell us a bit more about yourselves, gentlemen. Who are you - and just what are you up to?

Nick Denny - guitar and vocals, Julian Lilley - bass, James Rueben Stephens - Drums. Nick works for a fostering agency and develops a nosebleed when leaving the county of Herefordshire; Joolz is currently living a strange, nocturnal existence having just been made redundant from the Museum he managed for the last 5

years; James is away making sculptures out of rubbish and performing his fucked-up solo thing, Footdragger, at the Latitude Festival.

You're a bit... heavy, aren't you. This appears to be a common feature of the noise coming out of Hereford Is there something in the water out your way right now?

We are definitely, unambiguously, heavy - like being buried alive under

frozen clay. We think it's more likely to be due to an airborne pathogen from the chicken factory waste rather than Thallium poisoning the River Wye though. Hereford does have quite a fierce little scene at the moment, but it's debatable guite why: Some of it is a chance convergence of a bunch of musicians who are pretty much embedded here and that provides a spine around which the scene can coalesce. We've got some excellent promoters such as Shred Perry and Hereford Dead with a strong hardcore ethic which provides a supportive environment to just fuck it and get up and have a go. Despite the stolid conservatism, and partially in reaction to it, Hereford has always had a small but annoying alternative culture and our scene is just the current manifestation of this.

Who are your influences? An observer might try and use words like stoner, sludge, drone, post-metal to describe you - but your sound is way more melodic than this implies. And you have some devilish tunes. Tell us more

Godflesh are probably the only influence all three of us would agree on. We all have quite different influences which weirdly combine when we write together and the tunes bafflingly drop out of this- we never really imagined we'd have tunes as such but somehow the buggers are there. We're as surprised as everyone else ... Nick would cite influences as being Nick Drake, Jethro Tull, Discharge, through to Portishead and John Coltrane. The tunes are mostly Nick's fault. Joolz's background is old grumbly bass stuff like **Swans**. Big Black, Cop Shoot Cop and Oil Seed Rape with a blob of Neurosis and a dollop of Lemmy-era Hawkwind on top. This in some way accounts for the prodigious length of our songs. James's only influence is Dio.

> You seem like you've been doing this for a while. Any previous projects we ought to know about?

One Man Sun only formed last autumn. James and Nick were previously in Negative Mindset and before that Section 20. People may remember Ladybird, James's band of seven years ago... One Man Sun is Joolz's first proper band.

You appear to have something a conceptual package forming - not just noise but some powerful artwork as well. Who's the artist?

Both James and Joolz have art degrees and Nick is a photographer/Photoshop artist so we all have a hand in it. James is nearly professional and his stuff is splatted over social media as 'Slave to the Grave'. He does a lot of artwork within the scene. Joolz is largely retired but does occasional watercolours.

A little bird told me that you have some acoustic material in the pipeline - which sounds more than slightly insane, given your extreme volume live. Tell us more!

It probably is insane...our hold on sanity is sometimes a little tenuous. The album will be released as a double with the loud

"We think it's more likely to be due to an airborne pathogen from the chicken factorv"

versions on one CD and the same songs recorded acoustically on the other. It's quite natural to us because we write by building the skeletons of the songs acoustically then they get fleshed out at the studio. We initially started meeting for acoustic practices in Joolz's study as a way of thrashing ideas out without all the muck of extreme volume getting in the way, but then something weird happened and they started to coalesce into these frail, sad, spindly things... like the ghosts of the loud versions, and we all really liked them and felt they should be given a home. It's nice because it pulls James out from behind the kit and we can have him on third guitar. It's interesting as a band who are becoming known for being really quite loud to do the exact opposite and go all campfire. We'll do it live one day when we get brave enough to stop hiding behind the fortress of noise.

Any other bands like you out there – or that you think our readers should check out?

We've not yet come across a band like us. That sounds really arrogant but it's because even we're not sure what we're like. Your readers should definitely check out some of the other Hereford bands: Fetus Christ, Planecrasher, Skinhorse, Brainwreck, Nhor, Godhi, and Hooker Piss come highly recommended. We've got some links to the Leicester scene so Meatpacker, Mangle and Toecutter will make your life better if you look them up, and obviously Worcester's Thirty Six Strategies deserve a nod.

Green Man by drummer Rueben James

Ed Ling www.facebook.com/One-Man-Sun

HEREFORD SCENE REPORT JULY-AUGUST

As you cross the 500 year old bridge and gaze down over the winding river surrounded by sumptuous green fields and their dreaming spires a certain music seems to enter the soul. Several of Hereford's bands have been lucky enough to capture the stirring beauty and emotion that fills the hearts of Hereford's young folk.

Shred Perry present a number of these bands at The Black Lion on 27th July. The Hereford contingent are represented by Skinhorse (pummeling instrumental psych-rock), Fetus Christ (face-melting carnage that defines the word 'grind'), Brain Wreck (sexy hardcore specialists), Footdragger (who may or may not be The Pope's secret side-project) and Cassandra (no idea – this will be my first time seeing them). And as if you needed more for your meagre cash layout there's Swindon's own Boss Cloth (chunky bass heavy riffery





with awesome vocals). **Shred Perry** also have a vinyl distro at gigs where you can pick up some truly excellent independent releases and merch from many other grind and punk bands. Not to be missed.

Then on 28th August the same venue will host Hereford Dead 3. This show will see local bands **Plane Crasher** (heavy noise punk arseholes) and **Skinhorse** (the world's worst Monkees cover band) joined by **Das Sexy Clap** (filthy nihilistic grooves from Worcester) and **Workin' Man Noise Unit** (seriously awesome noise-rock from Reading). As far as punk/noise/alternative/grind/hardcore/garden waste goes that's about it in Hereford for this month. Hopefully I'll see you there. We can go drink good cider and sink kayaks together.

Alfred Carroll



Andy Williams

SLAP AUGUST 37

PRINCE OF WALES, LEDBURY JULY 13th

t's another Sunday, the sun is shining, and I cannot Nothing wrong with the next bit of U.S. though, a 'Red Hot' little pub hidden in the narrow streets of Ledbury. Not only purveyors of fine beer, but also bloody good blues.

Today was no exception, Cherry Lee Mewis was here with 3 of her band, there's certainly a lot of chatter around the blues circuit about this Welsh siren. The band consisted of Nick Slater on resonator guitar, Robbie Mathews on bass and double bass, and Max Milligan, (described as having a Duracell in every finger? by Cherry) on acoustic guitar. Cherry taking occasionally to a 3/4 size acoustic, along with harp from Robbie. An excellent start with a BB King classic. 'Early In The Morning', from funky blues to country, 'Its Cool', taken from her new album Catch My Drift. A few country rooted songs precede the rail-road rhythm of 'Just Can't Live Without You'. A bit more grit with the resonator sliding in, for the excellent 'I'm Going Down To Memphis'. 'Good Lovin', featured in EP Cherry Pickin, and perhaps deserved floating as a single, 'Good Lovin' is good enough. The first set is closed with Max picking up his fancy looking mandolin for a fast stepping, hillbilly hop of a song, 'Feels Like Heaven To Me'.

One thing that stands out is Cherry's connection with her audience. She has an enthusiastic but light manner that is infectious, her warm Welsh tones relating the tales and folk law that the band have gathered on their travels. Her personality sits well in such an intimate venue.

'He Wants More', restarts the session, reputedly dedicated to Robbie, who has taken to double bass, a simple, delightfully, tongue in cheek song. The marvellous 'Midnight In Memphis'. a song made famous by Bette Middler in 'Rose', was given the full treatment by Cherry and the band.

Another fine track from her new album, 'Hey, Hey, Hey', has plenty of grit and funk, Cherry is in her element, throwing in a 'Proud Mary', before swinging across for, 'Man Overboard'. Everything is hotting up, passers by and tourists are poking their heads round the entrance for a quick listen, unable to resist the magnetic sounds drifting from this lovely venue.

Time to slip into a bit of gypsy jazz, the engaging 'Long Distance Lover', from the Heard It Here First album, is a very worthy scenic diversion from the U.S. rooted songs on offer.

think of anything better to do than go to this glorious Robert Johnson song, as we near the end of the session. Cherry, throws in the kitchen sink, the fabulous, Joplin, 'Mercedes Benz', before the demand for more pours out, 'Cherrywine' and a thumping good, guitar sliding, 'Southbound Train' to close what has been a cracking evening. I had listened to some samples from The new album, prior to driving over, it seemed a little too country for my taste, but, this is about live music, and Cherry Lee Mewis live has given me a completely different perspective. The first half was extremely enjoyable, but as the whole session developed, the flames started licking around, and the place was on fire, sparked off and fanned by Cherry and her band.

Words & Pictures by Graham Munn



REVEREND PEYTON & THE BIG DAMN BAND AT THE ROBIN II 2ND OF JULY

Friends, there's a lot of them! The Robin stage apron was full to bursting with 10 performers squeezed into the space left by the good Rev's gear, which sat waiting. The really big band did not disappoint, a collection of fine blues, ranging from country to Chicago were put to the test before a full floor of fans awaiting the **Big Damn Band**. Nobody was complaining and the response was genuine, an excellent performance, after a good dosage of **Kenny Wayne Shepherd**, **Walter Trout**, and a touch of **Robert Johnson**, they finished with the body moving 'Party Right Here'.

Enter the Rev, Breezy, and Ben to a roar from the awaiting mass - the air was electric, we were in for a great night of *'hillbilly blues'*. An array of aged and worn but cherished guitars stood ready. Breezy adorned with her washboard necklace and gloved, thimbled fingers stood menacingly like an extra out of a vampire movie, only her Cheshire cat smile revealing her true spirit. Ben took

"One thing is certain, this evening had been unmissable."

his place behind the drums, inclusive of an upturned 10 gallon plastic bucket, all set to fire up with '*Train Song*', trains, a favourite subject of all good blues men. '*Lets Jump A Train*' and '*Front Porch Training*'? awaited, but not before one of the bands signature songs the wonderful '*Easy Come Easy Go*'. The Reverend's smoke laden, honeyed, whine of a voice, accompanied some fabulous slide work on his minuscule 3 string cigar box guitar. The band ploughed a different groove, as they uncovered the earthy '*Dirt*', lovely, a mean old foot stomping sod of a blues song. After a bit of audience participation training, '*Clap Your Hands*', brought a finger picking start, with a rasping washboard and train (again) rhythm drumming. We all clapped and stomped to the commands screaming out loud on cue, completely drawn in to the circus that is **The Big Damn Band**.

More screaming with 'Scream At The Night' preceded Charley Patton's classic, 'Some Of These Days', performed with a real passion by the good Reverend. A complete change of gear for the manical, frenetic, 'Mad fried Potatoes', I'm not certain if this was the moment, but Breezy's chattering rumble strips burst into flame. One thing is certain, had any one hit the alarm, nobody would have budged, a good decision given that the irreverent 'Devils Look Like Angels', was hard on the tail of the chip pan fire. A good stomp, underpinning the guitar, as Breezy's fingers zipped down that domestic millstone of a washboard. We were nearing the end, a bit of Willie Dixon leading out the finale, glory glory, 'Since I Lay My Burden Down', in true hoe-down, hillbilly, blues belting fashion. One thing is certain, this evening had been unmissable, a wonderfully entertaining session, rewarding the band with a crush of people wanting CD's posters and T shirts. Their next tour will be eagerly awaited.

Words & Pictures by Graham Munn









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Friday 29th - Sunday 31st August

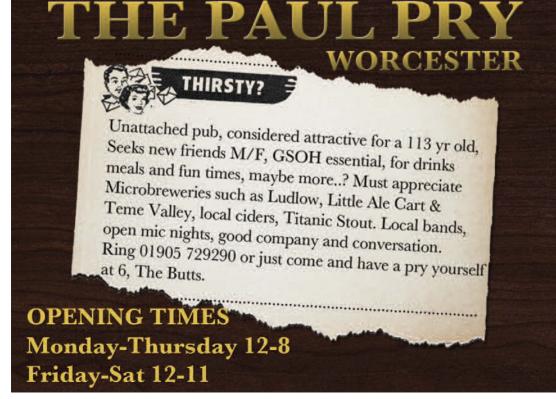
Our end-of-summer Beer Festival with lashings of live blues music!

Friday Night - with Kent DuChaine: One of the best blues slide guitarists accompanied by his legendary 1934 National steel guitar; Ledbessie. Saturday - with David Bristow and Jack Blackman. Sunday - with The Delta Blues Band and David Bristow. Many more artists - and beers! - to be confirmed. Free Entry.

Fleecey Folk Autumn Season.

Join us in the barn for more top folk names this Autumn including Nancy Kerr and James Fagan (19th October) and Martin Carthy (16th November). 'Arguably the greatest English folk song performer of them all' Q Magazine.

The quintessential English pub



Task in Hand PromotionsBody HoundSalvatore Leone & The Broken Oak DuetFirefly | Lowesmoor | Monday 11th July

The Broken Oak Duet did what the Broken Oak Duet do: a pulsing post-rock sound, with just two pieces of kit (drums and baritone guitar) making for a hot, knotted noise. No vocals nor nothing. Just a tightly wrought, swaggering instrumental-only animal that prowled around the room. Biting playfully. That sounds florid. But it pretty much nails it.

Salvatore Leone were a more straightforward kettle of metallic fish. A bouncing kettle of metalcore fish, to be precise. Bursts of nu-metal à la yer Slipknot and blasts of Converge crunching along with triple geetar attack – it all made for a decidedly ambitious sound. Their front lad didn't lack for self- confidence either. They also brought their home crowd, and it was a truly wonderful thing to see this room basically packed out on Monday night, windows steamed up and the place smelling sweaty - while it was still broad daylight outside. Local metalcore bands have a very high turnover and it's a congested little market, but I salute you boys for your verve. And I wish you well.

Headliners **Body Hound** have a pedigree. The lead guitarist and bassist spent many years in **Rolo Tomassi** - toasts of the metal press around the time of the London Olympics - and



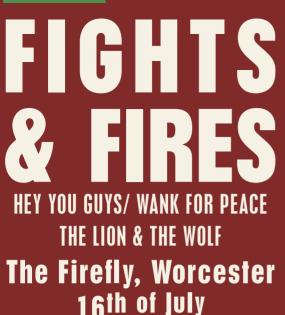
were obviously in a class of their own. The stretching routine before their set showed they meant BUSINESS. And more than any other math-core band I've yet come across, these chaps did the "calculating pi to the n to the power of x decimal places in sonic form" thing with real assurance and style.

You could visualise the peaks and troughs in the three dimensional graphs, the non-Euclidian vectors and all that jazzeroo in the precise and inorganic geometry of the neoprog rock sound they made. There wasn't much projection in the orthodox sense here. This wasn't meant to be accessible any more than any grown up art is, I suppose - and fans of Rolo Tomassi may have been disappointed. This was not music to crowd surf and push your friends over to. But the band all went off to their music anyway - I loved the Wilko Johnson turn, guitarist stage left - and in all this was a sharp example of the art. Or rather science. But that makes this sound sterile. And sterile is expressly what this particular and forward-looking strain of heavy music – mathcore - is not.

Image: Joe Singh www.snaprockandpop.co.uk Words: Ed Ling



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A lone, rangy hipster with a guitar, a pedalboard and some natty looping. Add a few post-modern touches like a spontaneous Whitney Houston bridge and some Racoons references and you have a sparse and way more believable Frank Turner. True.

Wank For Peace – stalwarts of the French hardcore scene, and the name is kind of cool when you get your head round it – are an accomplished and well-drilled act. Tight, sweaty and abrasive, this is yet another Euro punk band that so deserves way more recognition over here. It's not just the fact that they speak and sing in perfect idiomatic English – and I do





mean perfect – but their alternately melodic / raucous sound, evocative of a gruff HDQ or Pennywise at their freshest was genuinely spunky stuff. No pun intended. Because that would be puerile. And cheapen the assertion of just how good these boys from Angers actually were.

Hey You Guys! did their eccentric, addled guitar-pop turn. The silly and surreal material cranked out tonight rarely sells in volume, but always wins hearts. And this four-piece were very good at their specialist subject – all original songs, mostly about off-kilter fantasy worlds and politely destroying Worcester with bombs. Only thing to maybe say is that this was exactly the same set I saw them do a couple of months ago – same sweeties distributed free to the audience half way through the set, same ad-libs and use of cunning homemade disguises. It's still funny, but maybe a new costume or two – maybe introduce a gingham print dresses and a little house on the prairie theme, a top hat and cane, the free distribution of party hats or bombay mix instead would maybe keep the quirk growing. But what do I know.

And finally, headliners (and promoters for the night) local luminaries Fights and Fires. With showmanship honed over thousands of miles of touring across the DIY and commune venues of Europe (and a slot at last year's Groezrock festival) this band has a huge back catalogue, uber-Geek credentials and are a vigorous live prospect. The whole unit riffed winningly off each other - in particular off the colourful and odd guitarist Ryan, whose off-stage antics embodied the pentup small town boy schtick which floats this band - and their punk 'n' roll, Rise Against-meets-All-meets-Trash Talk sound was dynamic and crackled with honest energy. What was also fairly wonderful was that this show was pure DIY, supported by the wider local promoter community, and naysayers or no, the turnout showed that there continues to be a healthy market for punked-up -schoolnight shenanigans like this in this town. Punk is dead. Long live the punx.

42 SLAP AUGUST

Circuit Sweet by Naomi Preece

Slap Mag - we've missed you and welcome back! Another fun-filled & packed Circuit Sweet month with the highlight at Worcester's Firefly on Thur 26th June for Noise Against Cancer's first show.

This was a night of incredible noise with 3 bands doing their thang and we had the pleasure in sponsoring the gig. The aim of the evening was to raise money for Cancer Research UK and Aulos, Stillbust and Officer Down played incredible sets. Officer Down kicked the night into action, having just returned from their US tour: the trio's live antics showcased the best of their abilities- a local band with the world at their feet. Stillbust were up next and stormed the stage for a captivating performance full of energy. Next, before Aulos closed the evening, the charity raffle was drawn. The generous punters parroted with their hard earned for a very worthy cause and for the chance to win Cinema Vouchers. clothes vouchers for Four Leaf Clothing and CDs from the Circuit Sweet shop. The raffle was a fantastic success as were the cupcakes available for the gig attendees. Following this the mighty Aulos provided an eminently hard hitting finale to a brilliant show. The atmosphere throughout the evening was electric. Maks Szymanski is the man behind the new operation 'Noise Against Cancer' and what a fantastic job he did. We are looking forward to the next show!

Back to Hereford now and we welcome local promoters **Never Mind The Bullocks** back to the live local scene, after a few years on hiatus. One of our favourite and much loved promoters returns with a powerful line up of **Empire, Richa**, **Thousand Fingers** and **Aulos** live at **The Jailhouse** September 6th. We've been extremely lucky to chat to **Brendan Stephens**, the man behind NMTB to find out more about their return and forthcoming Hereford show.

Hi Brendan when and where did NMTB originate from and what's behind the name

I was doing a lot of local gig photography, about 10 years ago and this helped me to meet a lot of local bands, and gigs began through that. The name - was a quick Hereford pun to call the first event and it seems to have stuck.

You've always heavily supported local bands, giving acts the opportunity to feature on the bill for an unmissable line-up, given acts their first ever live show and somewhat bettering their career. Why is local so important to you?

It's never really occurred to me that local shouldn't be important. Whether a local scene thrives or struggles depends on the musical community that lives there. If there's an abundance of local talent and a decent amount of gigs going on for them to play at then it encourages audiences and inspires other bands to form and join in. If local acts aren't encouraged however, and young acts especially aren't given opportunities to play to their peers then I think the scene suffers, instruments are put down, forgotten about and talent is wasted.

Following your 3 year hiatus, your return show is at The Jailhouse on September 6th- what made you kick NMTB back into action & please tell us what to expect from this return gig ?

Lots of reasons, mainly because I just plain missed it. Work and family life are at a point where I can afford to spend some free time time putting on the odd show here and there, just

need to be sensible about it. I get to be out and about doing something I love to do and Hereford gets a couple of extra gigs, hopefully everyone's a winner. The 6th September will feature 4 top notch, local (of course!) acts, namely Empire, Richa, Aulos and Thousand Fingers.. you will not be disappointed!

Is there anything new from NMTB that you are excited to promote/ or anything that makes the well overdue return stand out?

There's a 2nd open mic acoustic stage at the return. Five x 15-20 minute slots up for grabs. As only 5 slots anyone interested should apply in advance by 16 August via nevermindthebullocks.co.uk or facebook.com/nmtbullocks should be a good place for acts to come and have a go. Oh and there might be a few giveaways for folks getting in early on the night. Nothing too fancy just something nice, simple and personal to NMTB.

If artists wanted to get involved for forthcoming shows whats the best way to go about contacting yourself and getting heard?

Via the nevemindthebullocks.co.uk website. Email, FB and twitter links on there. Bio is cool, but be honest with it. Have some music we can link to in your message. I will listen and give as many local acts as possible who want to play a chance to.

What else can we look forward to from NMTB?

More shows, not as regular as before but every couple months there'll be a NMTB gig you might like to stick in your diary.

Sat Nov 29, Jailhouse - have just confirmed headliner already and am stoked with the booking too, one of my favourite new bands have found this year and one I hope will go down a storm here in Hereford. Can't say who for now, but will be shouting about it come September time.

The full unedited interview is on circuitsweet.co.uk

So Herefordshire, with plenty of live music on your doorstep throughout August and into September we will see you at a show. A show to save the date for- 16th August The Jailhouse in association with **Transmission Music Group** Presents: **DZ Deathrays, Red Room Therapy** and **Quarter Stone** - this is another show not to miss. Don't forget to leave us your event details on our facebook page so we are in the know!



FEATURE

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER SCENE REPORT

he south of the SLAP! mag region is busy. Hosting as it does the basically wonderful 2000 Trees Festival. Cheltenham and Gloucester is seething with DIY band action. Matt Ravbould of Gloucester math/hardcore luminaries Still Bust picked up five of the brightest prospects for us.



KING SOLOMON BAND

Who the hell are you? What do you do, and where are vou from?

I'm Kingsley from King Solomon Band, a Gloucestershire /Bristol Reggae collective!

Hypothetically speaking, you've just played your music to a group of 6 year olds. What happened?

They started skanking and shouting 'Burn down Babylon!'.

You're a band, you've toured, how does the Gloucestershire scene fair compared to others you have witnessed?

It's 'happenin' and 'with it', But people should dance more!

It's Summer. Festivals are happening all over the place. What are your top three festival tips?

First of all take a raincoat, second take some rum and third, put your head in the bass bins as often as you can.

Finally, where can we see you guys soon?

We're playing One Love Festival, Concrete Jungle Festival in Gloucester and Witcombe Cider Festival!

> www.kingsolomonband.com www.soundcloud.com/kingsolomonuk

WELCOME BACK DELTA

Who the hell are you? What do you do, and where are vou from?

We are Welcome Back Delta. We play bluesy rock and are from the idyllic spa town of Cheltenham.

Hypothetically speaking, you've just played your music to a group of 6 year olds. What happened?-

like lunatics because we put red bull into the juice and then we kick over their dolls house before disappearing down the road to play a gig at a hypothetical benefit concert for piles.

As Welcome Back Delta you're relatively new to the scene. What's your 'band highlight' so far?

Supporting Nick Oliveri at the Fleece in Bristol.

Where can you find the best pint in Cheltenham?

The Jolly Brew. No contest.

Finally, where can we see you guys soon?

You can see us at Summerfest at The Frog & Fiddle on the 2nd of August.



www.facebook.com/welcomebackdelta

CITY UNDER SKY

Who the hell are you? What do you do, and where are you from?

Ha straight to the point! We are **City Under Sky** and we are a Gloucester-based Melodic Hardcore band (if you don't know what that is, it's pretty much heavy as fuck music with emotional shouting and pretty guitar parts haha!) We're just starting out in our local scene and trying to branch out and cram in gigs as far and wide as possible!

Hypothetically speaking, you've just played your music to a group of 6 year olds. What happened?

Well, hypothetically, a few of them (all of them) got really scared when Sam (vocals) made angry scary noises, but that one quiet kid just ran in and melted the preschool pit with a few fly kicks! One kid even grabbed the mic! (I'd hope!)

You guys are a fairly new band. How do you see the scene we have in Gloucestershire? What's important to you? Where can we see you guys soon?

Well since I [Izaak - guitars] was a lot younger I always went to gigs in Gloucestershire to see all the local bands with a few friends and it just opened my mind to live music and the vibes First, we eye-banged the mums welcoming us into the party. you get from seeing amazing people play live! I still remember We got dad to throw beers down our throat and ensured that watching bands like Crooks when I was about 13 and being we received our party bag BEFORE performing. The kids dance excitedly inspired to get it done myself! I'm 100% sure I speak

for all the other boys too for having similar experiences. The urge to play live to people is pretty much what drives us, along What are your top three festival tips? with our passion and love of the genre. We've got a gig on Saturday the 26th of this month (July) at the 2Pigs in Cheltenham and our next booking is on the 8th of September at The Fleece in Bristol, although by then we hope to have booked in a lot lot more! For more deets just check our social media! Got our E.P dropping in the next couple of weeks!



www.facebook.com/City-Under-Sky soundcloud.com/citv-under-skv

I, THE LION

Who the hell are you? What do you do, and where are you from?

We're I, The Lion, a three piece post-punk trio from Gloucestershire that's kinda Biffy Clyro ish.

Hypothetically speaking, you've just played your music to a group of 6 year olds. What happened?

If it's a 6 year olds birthday party, all the candles on the cake would blow out from one note, the balloons will explode. every child goes deaf and the parents start moshing on the bouncy castle.

You're a band, you've toured, how does the Gloucestershire scene fair compared to others you have witnessed?

I guess it's bias being on the outside of other scenes looking in, but there's such a friendly vibe between artists here that I'd like to think is in other scenes. But every area has its pros, like up north we always find people want to go to more unsigned shows which is great!



It's Summer. Festivals are happening all over the place.

Watch a band you've never heard of before, bring a tent that fits at least twice the number of people sleeping in it, eat Pieminister.

You guys performed at 2000 Trees Festival last month. What makes this festival so special?

You know how at Reading festival you expect to see a tent explode over the weekend? At 2000 Trees you expect to discover an amazing new band. For me this year it was Gnarwolves and Baby Godzilla, but thats only the start of what makes it great.

Finally, where can we see you guys soon?

We're doing a few shows as part of a launch for our new single Hold Strong, (Bridgend, Cardiff, Stroud, Atherstone) but the best way to head to a show is to check the latest ones our website: www.ithelion.com

SCSI

Who the hell are you? What do you do, and where are vou from?

My name is Tim Hills, I'm frontman/guitarist for SCSI a rock band from Cheltenham.



Hypothetically speaking, you've just played your music to a group of 6 year olds. What happened?

I can only gauge that from my 5 year old daughters reaction which is generally arms in the air jumping around and when the music stops, can you play it again!!

You guys have been going a fair while now. How has the Gloucestershire scene changed from when you first started?

I would love to say that we have progressed, but in Gloucestershire it is still a struggle for bands to get paid for what they do and there are very limited venues. We have seen new festivals come and go, venues rise and fall. Still got the main three venues in Gloucestershire in Cheltenham 2 Pigs, Gloucester The Brunswick and Cirencester The Vaults.

It's Summer. Festivals are happening all over the place. What are your top three festival tips?

Don't get too drunk before you go on stage. Get on a stage. Check out someone you've never seen before!

Finally, where can we see you guys soon?

Sat 2nd Aug - Tunnel House Beer Festival 2hr Headline Set Fri 15th Aug - SCSI & The Wurzels - Tunnel House Coates Sat 30th Aug - Phoenix Festival - Cirencester

> www.worldofscsi.com www.facebook.com/behindthesceneglos http://issuu.com/gloszine

SLAP AUGUST 45

REVIEW LAURENCE JONES AT THE ROBIN, WOLVERHAMPTON 16TH OF JULY

"Laurence Jones, is the complete electric blues guitarist."

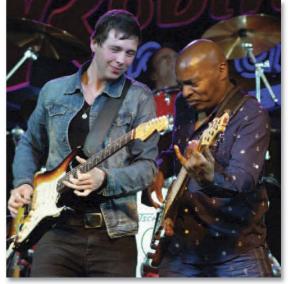
aurence Jones, guitar phenomenon? No, I do not follow, but not before a stunningly good, 'All Along The believe in the term, what he is, is an exceptionally talented electric blues guitarist, who also has a good solid voice in keeping with the genre. Not always the case; he is the complete package, and given the enlightenment of hindsight, in conjunction with good support, he can and no doubt will become a world renowned guitarist. Over the last few years of his rise, I have not had the good fortune to be able to hear him play, The Robin gig presented that opportunity.

What struck me straight away, was his ease of manner with the gathered fans, and his obvious pleasure in performing there on the stage. Squeezing every nuance of sound from his gold coloured, impeccable, Les Paul, the spanking Telecaster, and the war weary Strat, his face distorted in concentration, but always reverting to a cheshire cat grin as he played. His take on BB King's, 'Thrill Has Gone', was excellent, a stonking good blues riff which was followed up by one of Laurence's own composition, reputedly inspired by the visit of a river rat during his recent US tour! Whatever, 'Soul Swamp River', was a fine piece of work, a thumping drum and bass line accompanying a dirty sounding Telecaster. So a decent songwriter too, to be added to his talent tally. Joining Laurence on stage were drummer. Toby Wilson, and, with his fearsome looking 6 string bass, Roger Innis, another with a grin transfixed across his face, hell we were all enjoying the show.

Following on was a tribute to a man Laurence has shared a stage with, Walter Trout. A collective moment to wish him a full recovery, preceded, 'Foolin Me' and the much rockier, 'Temptation'. A fine 'Move On', preceded the title track from Laurence's début album, 'Thunder In The Sky', plain bloody beautiful, a soulful blues, opening into soaring chords, the guitar talking and weeping. A 'Fall from The Sky' was yet to

Watchtower', before the evening neared the end. Most of what I had heard was true, in Laurence Jones is the complete electric blues guitarist, with all the skills to carry him onto greater achievements. To add to that, I am pleased that he appears very well grounded, with a genuine appreciation and connection with his supporters. I know I sound like an old man here, and maybe I am one by many standards, but if can retain all that during his undoubted ascendency, then indeed he will be a truly great guitarist.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn



DOG STATE Supported by Stone Cold Killers IRON ROAD ROCK BAR, EVESHAM JUNE 14TH

The Iron Road Rock Bar at the Railway Hotel, Evesham, has been open now for almost three months and is already starting to make a name for itself in music circles. With bands such as Valve Rider, Western Sand and Black Acid Souls having appeared already at the venue it will soon be gearing up for overseas bands as well as the fabulous Diamond Head who will be appearing there later this year; more on that later.

Tonight it was the turn of **Dog State**, a bunch of Londonbased rockers made up of the Garcia brothers, Rich & Paul, on vocals and bass respectively, alongside Rich Groom on guitar and Wayne Casserly on drums. Before **Dog State** we had the debut gig of the newly assembled **Stone Cold Killers**.

Stone Cold Killers is made up by local icons Phil Vokins on guitar, Eddie Starr on drums, Stu Evans on vocals & Baz Pedlingham on bass and they play hard and heavy rock!

Their debut gig consisted of a heady mix of good original material with a sprinkling of imaginative covers including **Alex Harvey's** '*Faith-Healer*' and '*What You're Doin*'' by **Rush**. The songs were lively, well executed and well received. This is very much a 'work in progress' but I'm looking forward to hearing them again and seeing how far they can go.

https://www.facebook.com/stonecoldkillers

Dog State next. This was a chance for the band to strut their stuff and showcase their November 2013 album 'Let it Loose', available through Cargo Records. This band also play heavy rock but with more than a hint of grunge thrown in for good measure. All nine songs in the main set came from the album and they kicked off with 'Never Enough' quickly followed by 'Tide'. Plenty of influences were evident here including Pearl Jam, Black Stone Cherry & Velvet Revolver to name a few, but the overall sound was definitely all their own. It was difficult to pick a favourite song but one that stood out for me was 'Southern Song' which, as the name suggests, had that sleazy southern style about it, great stuff. The set was polished and full of energy all led by the fantastic vocals of Rich Garcia. This is a 'need to see' band if you haven't already...and even if you have seen them, go and see them again!

https://www.facebook.com/DogState

So, take a look at the events pages to see what's coming up at the **Iron Road Rock Bar** during August, there's something for everyone including a great selection of rock bands along with metal and punk nights as well as the weekly Band Slam and once-monthly open mic night. Later in the year the brilliant **Diamond Head** will be appearing here as a warm up to their appearance at HRH Helloween in November. Stick this one in your diary, it's one not to miss!

Words & Photography by Reg Richardson





PREVIEW Abdoujaparov plus Skewwhiff Marrs Bar - 22nd August

Right, the elephant in the room. We're not going to shoot it (that'd be cruel) or give it any cider (for fear of a drunken rampage) but we are going to lead it to London for its final comedown later in the year.



What am I going on about? I'm talking about **Les Carter's** white previous band to **Abdoujaparov**. None the wiser? What if I **Bus** told you he's better known by his nickname (although his day.



surname's a bigger clue). No? **Fruitbat** mean anything? Aha - the doyens of 80s/90s indie rock, **Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine**.

Carter USM had a string of top 40 Singles, a number 1 album among others and huge critical acclaim until they split in 98. There have been subsequent sold out reunions but the Last Tango in Brixton on 22 November means that a very good thing will come to an end.

Formed on October 19th 1998 and running in tandem with the reunion shenanigans, Abdoujaparov's musical foundations are the joyous and shambolic influences of 1977 punk rock. The music is raucous, fast and sometimes a bit country. The lyrics are rude, tender, funny and frequently a little unwell. They've also kept the sense of humour. Naming themselves after a difficult to pronounce, crazy, drugged up cyclist is either risible or genius - it's a fine line!

This year's 'Seaside Arcade Bingo Patrol' produced by **Micky Strickson** was released in May to fabulous reaction and joins eight EPs, and two albums 'Air Odeon Disco Pub' & 'Cycle Riot History Gang' released on Spinach Records. A compilation CD, Djamolidine, featuring tracks from the first 3 EPs was released by Pop Gun in Australia. The band has toured the UK, Germany, Australia and America.

They've played the Marrs Bar a fair few times - let's show Les this time that there's life after being an unstoppable sex machine.

Ps - support comes from local post-punk misfits, **Skewwhiff**, which is rather fitting given that the bass player was in a band, **Bus**, that supported Carter at the Arts Workshop back in the day.

The Mods Artrix, Bromsgrove - Friday 8th August

When a group of professional session music, the decided to form a band to 'keep their hands in' between tours, it was an easy choice for them to re-create this exciting and vibrant style of rock.

The Mods have toured all over the UK and Europe playing to packed crowds & ecstatic audiences at theatres, clubs and festivals. They have headlined The Harley Davidson Euro Festival & played several Harley events in Austria, St Tropez & Silverstone.

The members are Tim Huggins, vocals, Steve Barnacle, bass, Mickey Simmonds, keyboards, John Kennard, guitar, and Johnny Marter drums. Between them, they base parformed with p



have performed with many world-leading artists, including Queen, Pete Townsend, Roger Daltrey, Elton John and Rod Stewart.

Audiences at Artrix can look forward to an evening of outstanding musicianship served up with plenty of good banter.

Tickets cost £17.50 and are available from the box office on 01527 577330 or www.artrix.co.uk

Geoff Simpkins Quartet Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham 23 June

Ito saxophonist **Geoff Simpkins** has been an integral part of the British jazz scene for many years now and might best be described as a musician's musician – more revered by his musical colleagues than by the jazz public. This may account for the star quality of the other members of the Quartet. Gareth Williams on piano, Simon Wolf on double bass and Martin France (last seen in Cheltenham in May with Loose Tubes) at the drums.

Geoff mentioned that when he was starting out in jazz, someone who he was working with at the time cautioned him against playing the 'cool' jazz that he so enjoyed, saying that the audience will think that you are playing wrong notes. Thankfully, this did not deter Geoff from pursuing his chosen path in iazz. As Gareth Williams noted, this is an improvising band who take chances. It was interesting that Geoff referred to his group as 'improvisers'.



Geoff takes his inspiration from the 'cool school' of jazz, particularly fellow saxophonist **Lee Konitz**, but with a harder edge to his tone. The group's repertoire was drawn from the less well trodden byways of the music and included several Kontiz lines together with music from pianist Lennie Tristano, Charlie Parker, Steve Swallow and Bill Evans.

Throughout, the emphasis was on melody, even if Simpkins' serpentine saxophone improvisations did not always follow a familiar pattern.

Williams' piano magic and almost unbounded enthusiasm proved to be an ideal foil for Simpkins' more cerebral approach to improvisation.

Martin France was a supportive drummer but was perhaps a little too busy in music often of great delicacy.

The revelation of the evening was bassist **Simon Wolf** - a very thoughtful musician who never seemed to put a foot wrong. Deft and delicate or hard swinging in accompaniment or playing solo, whatever was required of him, he always came up with the goods.

It was good to see and hear these master musicians up close and personal in the intimate surroundings of the Studio Theatre.

This event was staged by **Cheltenham Jazz**. Find out more at www.cheltenhamjazz.co.uk

Alan Musson

Jon Dalton Trio, Stratford Jazz No1, Stratford June 2014

uitarist Jon Dalton is rarely seen in the UK these days, so the chance to catch him in Stratford was something not to be missed.



Jon, originally from Bristol, now lives in Los Angeles making a living in the very competitive jazz scene there. For this gig, part of a British tour, Jon brought with him two friends from his days in Bristol, **John Paul Gard** on Hammond Organ and drummer **Toby Perret**.

The guitarist made mention of his admiration for Joe Pass and this could be seen in the slower numbers, but on the more up-tempo pieces Wes Montgomery came to mind as well as the lesser known Pat Martino, whom Jon acknowledged to be an influence. Jon has found his perfect partner in John Paul Gard, hard swinging but also very sensitive when appropriate. Perret was supportive throughout.

The group's repertoire was a nice mix of familiar songs from the 'great American song book, together with jazz standards and original compositions from both Jon and John. The Organ Trio has been an enduring presence in jazz since the 1950's and on this showing, is still as popular today as it has always been.

Stratford Jazz meets fortnightly on Wednesday evenings. Currently on a Sumer break the music resumes on 10th September when saxophonist **Gilad Atzmon** will open the Autumn/Winter season. Some of the guests lined up for the rest of the year include **Bryan Corbett, Alan Barnes, John Etheridge** and **Simon Spillett**.

Find out more at www.stratfordjazz.org.uk Alan Musson

Pershore Jazz Festival

his wonderful event takes place over the weekend of 15th to 17th August at four venues around Pershore College, Avonbank.

The fun starts at 7pm on Friday night and doesn't stop until 11pm on the Sunday. Some highlights include **Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra** with guest trumpeter **Bruce Adams, Craig Milverton's Organ trio, Pete Allen, Alan Barne**s and, from the USA, Jeff Barnhart.

More information at www.pershorejazz.org.uk/festival

Friday 1 August 2014

Dan Hartland and Mark Miletitch Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Heroes of Hanoi The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band The Bridge at Stanford Bridge, Nr Great Witley, Worcester

The Ron Jeremy Band Drummonds, Worcester

No Exit Millers Arms, Pershore

Soul Strutters Café Rene, Gloucester

Woo Town Hillbillies The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Got the T-Shirt + Far Forest Moochers, Stourbridge

Sweet Fanny Adams The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Quo Motion Quo All The Way Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dogs of War. Buzzard & Complete Dysfunction Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sounds presents Strange Things frighten Subtone, Cheltenham

Will Killeen The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Saturday 2 August 2014

Reload The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester Quill

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Subtone, Cheltenham

Under A Banner Boars Head, Kidderminster

5:15 Callow End Club, Worcester

Hotfoot Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Anya Caroline & Doctor Wolfe The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Phil Whitehead Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Delray Rockets The Fabulous Brookestock, Lower Lode Inn Forthampton

Aquarius Chelmsley wood conservitive club, Birmingham

Voodoo Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Solid Gold Country Legends The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Doomsday Outlaw + Blown Stovebolt Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Journeyman The Green Dragon, Malvern

Bekka & The Renegades Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Summerfest - 1 day, 2 venues, 3 stages Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Reflections The White Hart, Redditch

Deborah Bonham for the John Bonham Memorial Fund St Stephens Church, Church Green Redditch

I Love 80'S Moochers, Stourbridge

Malpractice The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Protocol The Coppertops, St johns, Worcester

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Spirit Kreek The Hop Pole Hotel, Market Square, Bromyard

Sean Hitchhiker The Bedwardine, Worcester

Sunday 3 August 2014

Stuart Woolfenden Redditch Bandstand, Church Green, Redditch

Cougar Attack Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Chase Jazzmen The Imperial, Widemarsh St, Hereford

Manalishi Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Dave King And Daz Batt Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Trio Rosbifs The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Monday 4 August 2014

The Maension + Ambivalent Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Alan Barnes, Zoltan Sagi, Paul Sawtell and Bill Coleman Bank House Hotel, Worcester

Tuesday 5 August 2014

Perdido street jazz band Fox & Hounds in Lulsley

The Traders, Guerrilla Monsoon, The real Quaid, Dynamite Subside Bar, Birmingham

Wednesday 6 August 2014

Paul Adams The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Aug Tom Browning Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 7 August 2014

Pete Kelly Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Kim Ryder Introducing Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Goats Don't Shave + Disco Tramps Moochers, Stourbridge

Tom Walker Trio Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Friday 8 August 2014

CoverJunkies Bushwackers, Worcester

Liquor & Poker The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Aquarius The Farmers boy, Worcester

Nightspel Music Night Fruiterers Arms, Uphampton

Mike Mann Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tina V Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Arankas Cackle Café Rene, Gloucester

I'm The Envy, Man Make Fire Subtone, Cheltenham

Ska Night Urang Matang + Fighting Evil is Cool Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mother Popcorn Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

DJ Sy / Cally & Juice The Jailhouse, Hereford

Ital Sounds The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Lakefest Croft Farm Waterpark, Bredens Hardwick, Glos

Delicate Holly, Standing To Fall, LOIC, Jay Mansfield 2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Sherry Babys The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Luke Doherty Band Millers Arms, Pershore

Waiting For Kate, King Solomon Fish & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Mods Artrix, Bromsgrove

Marie Lister Trio Monty's, Cheltenham

You Know The Drill, The Wychbury Cartel, Just Last Week Base Studios, Stourbridge

Stuntdog, Les Trunkwell The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sultana Bros The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Blind Lemon Drummonds, Worcester

Saturday 9 August 2014

The Executives The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Natasha Rock Chick The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

The Chris Capoldi Band Callow End Club, Worcester

Hump De Bump The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Horror on the High Sea's and Support Boars Head, Kidderminster

Lakefest Croft Farm Waterpark, Bredens Hardwick, Glos

Stuart Woolfenden Blakes at the Custard House, Bordesley Green, Birmingham,

The Reflections Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Parc Royale, The Penny Black, Spark Subtone, Cheltenham

The Fabulous Bordellos Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Cheyenne Pear Tree, Campus Bar, Worcester University

Hotfoot Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Squeaky Pete's Liquor & Poker Band Moochers, Stourbridge

Jam Fest Kings Head, Cross Street, Tenbury Wells

Big Wolf Band Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ash Is A Robot, Alright The Captain, The Broken Oak Duet The Firefly, Worcester

The Grease Slicks + The Black Hounds Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Dexys Bootleg Runners (Dexys midnight runners tribute) The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Spirit Kreek The Royal Oak Hotel, South Street, Leominster

Standing To Fall, Another Band, Bren Haze Hereford Jailhouse, Gaol Street, Hereford

Sunday 10 August 2014

Jamie Knight Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Matt Woosey Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Lakefest Croft Farm Waterpark, Bredens Hardwick, Glos

Terry Walls The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Tuesday 12 August 2014

Perdido street jazz band Fox & Hounds in Lulsley

John Beckingham Jazz and Blues Band Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Hadzor

Mouth & Music Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wednesday 13 August 2014

Tale Lights The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Gypsies Of Bohemia Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 14 August 2014

Bromsgrove Folk Club Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Silent Voices (Finland) + Support + Zack Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Slap Mag Presents - Sunjay Brayne The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Lounge Toad Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Madi Stimpson Band Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Rory McLeod (Cellar Bar) Dave Onions (Upstairs) Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 15 August 2014

Madi Simpson Trio Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Festivals Experience Drummonds, Worcester

Ital Sounds The Pig & Drum, Worcester

The Smokey Mountain Boys, Parc Royale Subtone, Cheltenham

Fiona Bevan, Kal Lavelle Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Mercy House, Prism The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Trevor Burton Band Queens Head, Wolverley

When it Rains Millers Arms, Pershore

Keri Hoffman The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Hot Red Chilli Peppers Moochers, Stourbridge

Song Sisters - Fiona Bevan & Kal Lavelle Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Nightspel Red Lion, Market Square Evesham

Fringe Festival, Erection Police + Support Boars Head, Kidderminster

Ten Bob Millionaires Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Wooden Horse Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Kickin Radios Café Rene, Gloucester

Warran James The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Bukky Leo + Black Egypt The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Delray Rockets, Woo Town Hillbillies The Camp Inn, Grimley, Grimley Worcestershire

Saturday 16 August 2014

Chicago.Bytes Blues Band The Gardeners Arms, Vines Lane, Droitwich Stuart Woolfenden Morton Stanley Park, Callow Hill, Redditch

The Dilemma Council Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Kitchen Island Band The Green Dragon, Malvern

Nice N Sleazy Callow End Club, Worcester

DZ Deathrays, Red Room Therapy and Quarter Stone The Jailhouse, Hereford

The Doors Alive Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Barry Cooder & The Sharks The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Chicago Bytes The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Voodoo Blue Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Five Miles North of Nowhere, Eden In Progress, Floorboards Subtone, Cheltenham

Saturday Anthems with Reload band + DJ till 2am Moochers, Stourbridge

Trevor Burton Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tom Forbes Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Fringe Festival : Stiff Joints, 10:94, Rustlung, Humdrum, Rubicava,We are Fenton, Bo Pilar & The Mountain Valley Boys, Teddy Matthew, Miss Halliwell, Tristy & Mike Boars Head, Kidderminster

Morton Stanley Festival Morton Stanley Park

Protocol The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Quarter Stone The Jailhouse, Gaol Street, Hereford

Sunday 17 August 2014

Got Wood Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Chris Elliot Band, Worcester Ukelele Club, The Loved and Lost Band Gheluvelt Park, Waterworks Road, Worcester

Barry Cuda & The Sharks Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Fringe Festival : Karpet Kickers, Vault of Eagles, Seventh Era, Time of the Mouth, Alex Round, G&T, White Noise, Squatocracy, Sober and Chris Ryder Boars Head, Kidderminster

Morton Stanley Festival Morton Stanley Park

Monday 18 August 2014

Vena Portae (2pm) Rise Records, Cheltenham

Tuesday 19 August 2014

Stripped Down Blues' Blues Night Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Perdido street jazz band Fox & Hounds in Lulsley

Wednesday 20 August 2014

Gloucester Acoustic Showcase Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 21 August 2014

Cut The Funk The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Billy Shears: Rolling Stones Tribute The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Al Jolsons Dog Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

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Kim Ryder Introducing Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Eddy Morton Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 22 August 2014

Black Russian Moochers, Stourbridge, Stourbridge

Mister Wolf The Gardeners Arms (The Dugout), Evesham

Kast Off Kinks The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Ital Sounds The Pig & Drum, Worcester

KSH and the Going Goods Subtone, Cheltenham

Alex Petrie Monty's, Cheltenham

Black Tartan Clan Boars Head, Kidderminster

Aquarius The royal oak, Kinnersley, Severn stoke

Harriet Amos Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Ben Vickers + 1940's Menu The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Essie + Fingertrap Family Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Steve Linforth Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Stiff Joints Café Rene, Gloucester

Journeyman Millers Arms, Pershore

Liquor & Poker Band Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Woo Town Hillbillies Piesse En Piddle, Wyre Piddle main st, Wyre piddle

Black Russian + Romans + TBC Moochers, Stourbridge

Rootz & Bootz The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Button Down Souls Drummonds, Worcester

The Sunshine Festival Upton upon Severn

Rebecca Downes & The Renegades The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Abdoujaparov, Skewwhiff The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Skabucks Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Saturday 23 August 2014

Da Vinci , Partying in the Park Blossom Farm, Ullenhall lane , B'ham, B98 9EP

Thyme Bandits The Vine, Ombersley Rd, Worcester

Lewis Boulton Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Three Blind Mice Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Sunshine Festival Upton upon Severn

Huw Edward Thomas, Because Subtone, Cheltenham

DJ Night Boars Head, Kidderminster

Zion Train Soundsysten ReCon, Malvern

Stretch Bentlys Callow End Club, Worcester

Aquarius The Gun Tavern, Worcester

The Peckham Cowboys + Gypsy Pistoleros + Erica Band Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Hannah Bailey and Friends Kings Head, Cross Street, Tenbury Wells

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Abba Reunion The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Prism, Zynia G Maylyn Angel Inn Hotel, 9 High Street, Pershore

Gavin Baxter Bomba Rock The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

The Gastric Band The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunday 24 August 2014

Da Vinci , Partying in the Park Blossom Farm, Ullenhall lane , B'ham

Woo Town Hillbillies The White Bear, Bredon road, Tewksbury

Stuart Woolfenden Highfields Social Club, Barnes Road, Stafford

Quarter Stone Burghill & Tillington Cricket Club, Tillington, Hereford

Guns Or Roses Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham **The Sunshine Festival**

Upton upon Severn

Zoe Devenish The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Prism The Fairfield Pub. Battleton Road, Evesham

Monday 25 August 2014

Aquaruis Pershore town football club, King George's way, Pershore, Prism, Taekwondo Demonstration, Folklaw, Crimzon Bluez, Ooja Abbey Park, Abbey Grounds, Pershore

Wednesday 27 August 2014

Mike Parker Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 28 August 2014

Bromsgrove Folk Club Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Esther Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Brothers Groove Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Hereford Dead presents Plane Crasher, Das Sexy Clap, Workin' Man Noise Unit, Skinhorse The Black Lion, Hereford

Lounge Toad Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Friday 29 August 2014

Worcester Music Festival For details www.Worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

Heroes Of Hanoi The Talbot, Worcester

Beer & Music Festival The Fleece, Bretforton

Absolute Blondie Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ska Night - Too Spicy & Smack Joint Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Reflections The Hanbury Turn, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove

Chicago Bytes Blues Band The Millers Arms, Pershore

Classic Clapton, After Midnight Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour

Mystic Royals Café Rene, Gloucester

The Vans The Golden Cross Inn. Hereford

The Remedy + Support Moochers, Stourbridge

Jacob Truman, Eve Pitt & Claire Listhrop, Indv Fire, Rock Dog Project, War Kites Base Studios, Stourbridge

Salopian Dudes The Oueen's Head, Wolverley

Edd Donovan and The Wandering Moles The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Satan's Barbershop Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Beer & Music Festival The Fleece, Bretforton

Woo Town Hillbillies Antelope, Warwick, Warwick

Saturday 30 August 2014

Worcester Music Festival For details www.Worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

Junction 7 The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Knebakeye Alley Subtone, Cheltenham

Paul White and Ray Mynton Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mister Wolf Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Memory Tones Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Emily Mew Bayshill, Cheltenham

CoverJunkies The Castle, Droitwich

Rickie Laval The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Beer & Music Festival The Fleece, Bretforton

Eternity: 90's Club Night Moochers, Stourbridge

Stuart Woolfenden Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Quarter Stone The Comet Inn, Madley, Hereford

Dave Onions The Marches, Ludlow

The Cavern Beatles The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Steve Ajao Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Festival Experience Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Krafty Kuts The Queens Head, Redditch

Woo Town Hillbillies Beauchamp arms, Worcester road, Malvern Link

Colin Baggs The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Colin Baggs The Paul Pry, Worcester

Sunday 31 August 2014

Stuart Woolfenden The Adam & Eve, Birmingham

Worcester Music Festival For details www.Worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

Remi Harris The Gardener's Arms, Droitwich

Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

Every Monday - Open Mic Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every other Monday (see ad for details) - Folk Session Lamb & Flag, Worcester

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session The Pickled Plum. Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Every Mon - Open Mic with Dave Onions Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

First Tues - Open Mic The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every other Tues - Acoustic Session Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Tues - Open Mic Great Malvern Hotel

Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country) The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

First Tuesday of Month Open Mic with Dodgy Nigel The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tuesday of Month - Folk Session The Millers Arms, Pershore

1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wednesday - Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session The Plough & Harrow, Guarlford

If your event is wrongly listed or not listed at all, please let us know - email adverts@slapmag.co.uk First Wed - Open Mic The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night Marrs Bar, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James The Chestnut, Worcester

Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions The Pheasant, Worcester

Thur 21st - Open Mic Night Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Every Thur - Acoustic Session The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session The Morgan, Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session The Camp, Grimley

3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

1st Sat - Acoustic session The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

Every Fri (excerpt last) - Band Slam 2014 Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session Social Club, West Malvern

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session The Hop Pole, Droitwich

2nd & Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

3rd Sun - Singaround format Session The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

Every Sunday - Sunday Shenanigans: Open Mic Night Moochers, Stourbridge

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Sunday weekly Jam night Oast House, Redditch

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Arts festivals & summer programmes

6th Aug- 5th Sept Kidderminster Creative's, Exhibition Kidderminster Library

9th-24th August Kidderminster Arts Festival kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th Above Boards & Boars Head Fringe festival, Kidderminster

Saturday 16th Aug KAF Attention Seekers Stage Kidderminster Town Hall 11-5pm (Heather Wastie2.30-2.45)

Thursday 21st Spoken Word Night, Boars Head, Kidderminster 7-10pm

Saturday 23rd Walkabout and Street performances Kidderminster town centre

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th West Malvern Arts Festival Various venues in West Malvern www.westmalvernarts.org

Sunday 10th, 17th & 24th Riverside Arts Market, South Quay, Worcester

9th-25th Worcester Festival – events all over the city! www.worcesterfestival.co.uk

Saturday 30th Severn Festival South Quay, Worcester

All month- summer activities for children (and adults!) at many venues in the county including the Kidderminster Arts Festival, Pershore Number 8, Worcester Museum & Art Gallery, The Cake Tin at Malvern Cube, The Courtyard Hereford, Artrix Bromsgrove and loads more!

Other Arts Events

Friday 8th Weekend Cube film club matinee, Malvern Cube

Sunday 10th George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl Outdoor theatre production at Eastnor Castle

Saturday 30th Clik Clik daytime Street Entertainment as part of the Worcester Music Festival

Sunday 31st 'If Wet' at the Worcester Music Festival Exhibitions

Until 17th Aug Summer Open Exhibition, Artrix, Bromsgrove

14th-27th Aug Children's Craft Showcase, Number 8 Pershore

14th- 3rd Sept Worcester Camera Club Showcase Number 8 Pershore

August 2nd - August 25th Pershore Plum Festival Full details www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk

Until Sept 24th Art At County Hall Spetchley Road Worcester

Upload your listings at www.slapmag.co.uk

Door to door transport in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Community Transport



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info@thirdsectorservices.org.uk www.thirdsectorservices.org.uk

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Friday 1st Heroes of Hanoi £3 a ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 2nd TBC

Friday 8th Stuntdog with Les Trunkwell £4 a ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 9th Dexys Bootleg Runners (Dexys Midnight Runners tribute) £6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 15th The Mercy House and Prism £6 a ticket £7 on the door

Saturday 16th TBC

Friday 22nd Abdoujaparov and Skewwhiff £6 a ticket £7 on the door Saturday 23rd TBC

Friday 29th - Slap ye in di fayce Saturday 30th - SLAP Night Sunday 31st - Task in Hand Worcester Music Festival Free Entry

COMING SOON...

Friday 5th September Roxy Magic £8 a ticket £10 on the door

Sunday 7th September Gaz Brookfield £5 a ticket £7 on the door

Friday 12th September Ozzbest (Ozzy Tribute) £5 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 13th September Jasper in the Company of Others £5 a ticket £7 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk 01905 613336 Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue Available for private hire