

SLAP

Issue 4

FREE

May 2011

MAGAZINE

Your **FREE** monthly entertainment
guide for Worcestershire

Features: **Vault of Eagles**

Evilwitch

Crooked Empire

Ian Parker

Robinson

Day of the Crow

Zebedy Rays

Apple Cannon

Soilent Green

Andy Tyler

Reviews: **Mark Thomas**

Pyramid Party

Malvern Mayday

Worcs Arts Trail

Billy Elliot

Chameleon Arts Orchestra

Not For Squares

The sickness
coming to Worcester



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May 2011 **MAGAZINE**

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At last, We have finally put to bed the 4th edition of Slap. We have done the unthinkable and crammed in an action packed 56 pages!! We have been working not only on Good Friday but the Bank Holiday Monday as well.

Once again a massive thank you to our contributors and supporters. This month we caught up with The Crooked Empire, The Vault Of Eagles & Evilwitch. We enjoyed a right good rock n roll party at the Adam & Eve in Brum with the Zebedy Rays at the Worcester Takeover. We are writing this editorial with nose against the grindstone, nursing sore heads after a fantastic two day Easter Ball at the Great Malvern Hotel.

This months featured artist is Andrew Tyler who not only produces colourful artwork but fronts his own band called The Oohz. Worcester's first County Arts Trail gets on track in May, and the County is springing into bloom with numerous music & beer festivals. The weather has been superb to compliment an amazing growing music and Arts scene within the County.

We at SLAP are in the business of raising the profile of Worcestershire as a Music and Arts destination and when we found that underground dance sensations Sicknote, were coming to town, we had to have a word with our West Bristol cousins. See the full low down on the centre spread. They are finally coming to the Marr's Bar on the 3rd June. This is not to be missed.

We cover the ever increasing Exhibitions, Art, Music and activities at the Arts Workshop supporting all the wonderful volunteers who work there. Talking of volunteers, we have a new column from Youthcom radio presenter Richard Merriman.

We cover the amazing Pyramid Party see page 40 & 41 which has found a new venue running from 13th -15th May. Numbers are limited so visit the website and check out what's going on.

Keep picking up our magazine, join our facebook group and keep in touch with us via email. We still want to hear you news, views and opinions as well as ideas. We apologise if your article or feature has not made the cut this month but please be patient with us.

We still need to reach further into the County so if you're interested in helping us out, particular in North Worcestershire please get in touch...

The Ed



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slapmag

Slap News

May 2011

Day of the Crow - an up and coming Metal band from Evesham has been successful in getting through the 1st round of the Bloodstock Metal to the Masses competition. They are on the 'Kranked' bill to play at Eddies's Rock Club in Birmingham on 15th May and are currently in the studio to put the finishing touches on their album.



Tallulah Fix are featured on a compilation album in aid of the Japan Tsunami Relief with all money going to the Japanese Red Cross. There are 36 tracks which you can download for a £5 donation. Featuring a plethora of amazing music by amazing people. All proceeds will go to help Japan in their time of dire need. Bands included are Tall Ships, Bastions, Gallops, Three Traped Tigers, Minaars, Teej, I am Austin and of course Tallulah Fix!

Tallulah said 'We are thrilled to be a part of this because when we saw the terrifing images we wanted to do something for the aid fund. It's only a fiver and you get tracks from all kinds of different bands and different genres. Special thanks has to go to Gallops who helped put this together.'

<http://tasuketehelpjapantsunamirelief.bandcamp.com/>

So get on there and show your support!



Louie - Tallulah Fix

The 15th and 16th of July is the turn of the Glevum Farm Trust Music Festival. Perfect for all the family 2 nights camping with access to see the bands - adults £20, children up to the age of 14 go free, whilst 14 and overs cost £10. Food available and many local bands.

Saturday nights headlining act is **The Chip Hawkes Band** from The Tremelo's, the acts are on from 12 noon on Saturday. if you are a local band and are interested in helping raise money for our charity please check out our Web site at www.myspace.com/glevumfarmtrust. There will be a bar and food available on site and other

attractions on the day. Tickets available on the gate, hope to see you there.



Team Glevum Farm Trust is a care farm founded on the belief that nature, teamwork and the development of

social and professional skills can be of enormous benefit to those who are lacking in opportunities in our society. Glevum Farm Trust is a project based in the heart of the countryside, where the counties of Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire meet. The small but vibrant holding offers horticultural and agricultural produce. Working here provides a therapeutic experience in a breathtaking natural setting for the wide variety of service users involed. Clients with learning disabilities find a range of social and work based opportunities in a professionally supervised setting the chance to grow their own produce bring its own rewards. They also work with offenders, ex offenders and those at risk of offending, to enable them to gain new confidence, set themselves new challenges and develop work skills.

For Family tickets to camp over the weekend please call 01452 840654

On the grapevine this month, we hear Neil Ivson of The Misers has just got married, congratulations to him.

Craigus Barry proudly opened 'Retinal Comics' store recently upstairs in the Market Hall selling a fine selection of comics and graphic novels and science fiction ephemera, a shop definitely worth checking out for sure.

The Marr's Bar hosted a charity fundraiser for 'Project 3580' and raised over £3000 to help provide mosquito nets in Sierra Leone. Ronda and November And The Criminal (sorry - Peace) had the good fortune of playing gigs in London.

The Zebedy Rays have had some fantastic news and will be featured on the same billing as 'The Guillemots' and 'You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead' in Bristol on 28th May. Lets hope Adam can keep his head in the same room as the rest of his body whilst doing his solo's!

Tina V of 'This Wicked Tongue' moves from Worcester's Got Talent runner-up to be a judge on Worcester Text Factor.

The 'Northwick Cinema', with it's beautiful art-deco interior, will be used as a setting for a video shoot by jazz superstar 'Aimua Eghobamien'.

Take Fat's Blobbie Williams has been featured on C4's Come Dine With Me, he scooped the £1000 prize money which he totally deserved after the abuse fellow



Worcester contender Nick Spartacus gave him during the show. Though why anyone would keep making fattist remarks to a guy who calls himself Blobby is a mystery known only to Nick. Some nicely 'thumbed' in publicity by the Take Fat boys didn't go a miss.

The Pink Traffic Band have been booked for this year's Edinburgh Festival. This Energetic pop/rock band with a funky, vintage r&b style are from the Cider City and are certainly one to look out for.



Colwall Family Music Festival A brand new one day music festival set in the beautiful surroundings of



Colwall Cricket Club. Lots of information to follow so just pencil it in your diary for now, 10th July 2011.

Local music, food, drink and family friendly activities for kids of all ages! Organised and hosted by Colwall Cricket Club and Midland Audio. Search for 'Colwall Family Music Festival' on Facebook to join the group.

Upton Folk Festival is in its 22nd year and continues to provide a great mixture of concerts, dances, workshops, Morris and other dance displays on the beautiful riverside of Upton Upon Severn. You can catch the last 2 days of the festival on Sunday 1st May and Monday 2nd May. Check out <http://www.uptonfolk.org> for more information.

Looks like the BOBOW Music festival on Saturday 28th May and Sunday 29th May is going to be a corker at the Hare & Hounds in Shenstone just outside Droitwich and Worcester near Kidderminster. They have a great selection of bands Slap readers should be familiar with including The Crooked Empire, Sugar Mama and Naked Remedy. Check out the advert on page 10 for more information as over 20 bands are confirmed as well as 38 comedians!!

Big coup for the Bunker at Keystones, they have managed to secure the services of 'Dodgy' front man Nigel Clark who when not touring with the band or writing, he'll be recording other artists or playing select solo acoustic sets both here and abroad. 29th April at the Bunker, not to be missed!



SUPPORT WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

19th-21st AUGUST

Friday 27 May sees the WMF fundraiser at the Bunker (Keystones). Be prepared to experience a tantalising preview of some of the festival's featured bands. With only £2 entry and a raffle / tombola, all proceeds go towards the running of WMF. For more details...

www.wumufest.co.uk



The Worcestershire stage production of the classic film Billy Elliot which ran for three nights at Malvern Theatres, has been selected to represent the Midlands Youth Theatre. 'Jago Performers' go on to perform at Milton Keynes and from there a panel will select the best two performances to perform in the West End. Slap went to see the production and were mightily impressed. See our review on page 42.

The Star Hotel in Upton upon Severn is looking for someone to promote and book bands for its excellent upstairs function room. If you're a budding Harvey Goldsmith or an existing promoter looking to expand your portfolio call Andy or Warwick on 01684 593 432.

The Bunker in May

A month on rather fine live local and live music can be once again be found at keystones. Friday nights in Worcester have never be this good. Acts including Ronin, Dirty Oyster Caberet, SJS Band, Sarah Warren Band, Chris Whiting Band, Absolute Ataxia, The Pull, Rich Clarke & The Rafter, Koda, String Theory and many many more will be taking to the stage at the weekly Bunker Night. Check listings or www.notjustsauc.com/thebunker for info.

We are also hosting the Worcester Music Festival fundraiser on Friday 27th May. It looks like it's going to be a great month of live original music.

A new Worcester venue has sprung up so hang on to your shallots, music while you dine at th Glasshouse in Sidbury. Every Wednesday night, a night of mellow, lounge style music to help the digestion of the superb menu available. These nights picks at the end of the evening. The venue are looking for suitable bands, Heavy Rock bands need not apply!!!

If you're interested please contact Luke on: 07923 650475



Review

Worcester Festival Choral Society Chameleon Arts Orchestra (Conductor: Adrian Lucas) Worcester Cathedral Saturday 2nd April 2011

This was a blazing evening of British music. Stanford's 1910 setting of poems on nautical themes, Songs of the Fleet, are bursting with melodic treasures. The well-schooled choir responded to the unashamedly robust verse and the lyrical baritone of William Clements, heart-stoppingly moving in the final song of farewell, persuaded the audience of the piece's place along the more illustrious composers on the programme.



Belshazzar's Feast, William Walton's 1929 dramatic setting of Biblical texts depicting the Babylonian king's sacrilege in praising heathen gods, is stirring stuff. There are also Worcester connections. The work was to have been performed in the Three Choirs Festival in 1932 but Establishment voices thought it unsuitable for Cathedral performances. It was not until 1957 that it was allowed in! The large forces required did it justice here, catching the piece's dangerous and subversive nature. Wailing saxophones (Walton was a jazz enthusiast) combined with syncopated brass, woodwind and percussion. The latter group caught the contrasts of gold, silver, wood and stone in the passage about the various "Gods". The choir was exemplary in its enunciation in the dramatic opening pages and chanted appropriately as the outcast Jews. Sopranos found a last bit of energy for the poignant closing passages where "the light of a candle shall shine no more". Mr. Clements (again) sang beautifully, better at lyrical beauty than declamatory heft, but consistently sensitive in his word colouring.

The city's premiere choir is in robust health. They sail next season into their 150th anniversary year (Elgar's Dream of Gerontius is their next challenge for 19th November) and they proved here that, like Stanford's ships, they "lead the line today".

Colin Mills



Performances of Elgar in his home town can have a routine feel – but the setting of five poems grouped as Sea Pictures got an imaginative reading. Lucas got his sensitive orchestra to bring out the nuances of each text. Mezzo-soprano, Catherine King, negotiated the contrasts required for both the quietly contemplative music of the Sabbath Morning at Sea and the operatic dash needed for the final song. Elgar's patriotic passion was evident in the March 5 of Pomp and Circumstance, no mere "filler", but a well-measured account in which the Chameleon's string section sounded especially confident. Though echoes of Empire are strong in this music, images of the composers' beloved Malvern Hills are never far away.



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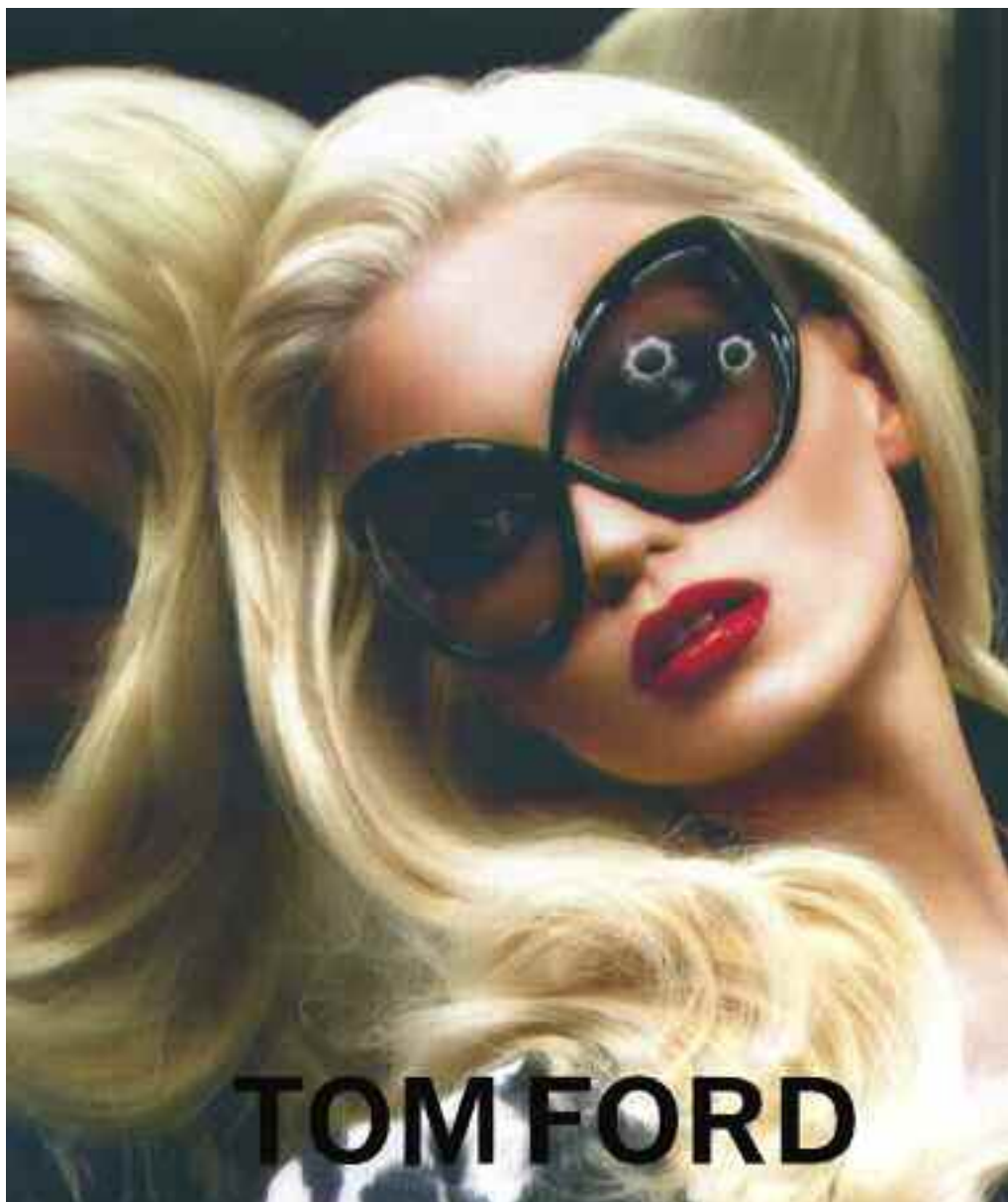
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worcester arts workshop

The 27th of March saw the opening of two new Klik Klik shows, *Heavier than Lead*, a stunning drawing exhibition of local talents, and Caroline Hartley's overwhelmingly beautiful canvasses in the Cellar. This co-in sided with our rare treat, the showing of *An Island*, Vincent Moon's feature length music video for Danish band Efterklang. The theatre was full with bodies from all ages and walks of life to watch this spectacular piece of film making.

This month the Arts Workshop also witnessed a Zombie classic, George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead" in the Splendid Cinema, dragging in the dead from all over Worcestershire. The local 'Zombie Walk' team came on board to make sure we had zombies watching zombies!



Keep your eyes peeled for regular film delights!



We had a brief taste of summer just in time for Worcester chocolate weekend, when Cafe Bliss' amazing 'Eloina Bliss' spent one and a half days creating 'Chicken Mole Pablano', a chocolate inspired Mexican dish with more than 25 ingredients! The

Cafe Bliss team were visited by young chocolate entrepreneur and conservationist Louis Barnett who promised to bring Eloina some special ingredients back from Mexico. His delicious chocolate and the amazing 'mole' can both be purchased in Cafe Bliss.



As always we still need freebies, anyone got any garden furniture they would like to donate? Tables, chairs, deck chairs, garden umbrellas? As well as paint/flooring/plants etc.?



The same weekend, we hosted our first BBQ of the year to go alongside Lazy Sunday. This was a huge success; the front yard was packed with musical delicacies, BBQ smells, drinking and laughter. We were very pleased to welcome *Smoke Farm* who got us all jiggling our toes, as well as treats such as *Rose Hannant*, *Tina V*, *Kevin Jenkins* and a surprise appearance, just back from LA, from our very own *Mr Richard Clarke*!

We hope to offer you regular BBQ's so long as the rain stays away, on Fridays throughout the summer months, from 5pm til 7pm. We have realised that our yard is a fantastic sun trap, a rarity in Worcester city, so come on down and soak up the rays (fingers crossed).



And of course, reliable and dedicated volunteers always needed. We still have a long way to go.

The Worcester Arts Workshop

21 Sansome Street,

Worcester, WR1 1UH

Telephone: 01905 21095

Email: info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

Website: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk



Events this month include:

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May.

Breakfast with Tiffany
with Hen and Fox

Written and directed by Paul Merrell and David Wake.

A double bill of comedies. Tickets £6

He's Spartacus presents...


Breakfast With Tiffany

by Paul Merrell
and directed by David Wake

Hen and Fox

by David Wake
and directed by Paul Merrell

A double bill of comedies



Deborah McEwen
Helen Sarggy
Matt Vaughan Wilson

Lucy Merrell
Teresa James
Paul Merrell
Paul Page

Blue Orange Theatre: Thu 28th, Fri 29th and Sat 30th April
Box office: 0121 212 2643

Worcester Arts Workshop
Fri 6th and Sat 7th May
Box office: 01905 21095

Oldbury Rip
Fri 10th and Sat 11th June
Box office: 0121 552 2761

Lazy Sunday. 8th May

Artists to be confirmed

Learn. Eat. Perform. 13th May

James Hickman and Dan Cassidy

Friday 20th May

James Hickman and Dan Cassidy are a newly formed transatlantic folk and roots duo. Dan Cassidy (USA) a virtuoso musician, provides an exciting array of fiddling renditions and harmony singing, while James Nathan Hickman (UK) brings his driving guitar playing and wonderfully unique interpretations of songs to their mixture of new and old roots music.

James and Dan have recently released their debut CD - "Severn Street"

Tickets £10 (£9 cons).



Clik Clik visual arts on display this month:

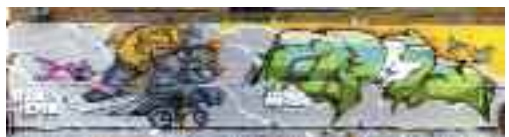
25th April – May 20th.

'Nathaniel Kara'. Inspired by 60's Hockney, Nathaniel creates with simple imagery, urban landscapes displaying scenes that don't make obvious subjects: empty streets, industrial settings and other forgotten corners of towns and cities: places we often pass by and take for granted.

'Diana Scott, A retrospective'. Watercolour and acrylic paintings in a tribute to the late Worcester Arts Workshop artist, Diana Scott.

23rd May–16th June:

'SEPR', one of the finest names in Bristol street art producing an indoor creation as an exhibit, supported by a showcase of prints.



Clik Clik presents 'Conversations in Clay', an collection of works from the arts workshop resident ceramic artists, featuring works from Anna Mitchell, Tamara Carse, Claire Watson, Sarah Jacobson and Jenny Thilman.



James Hickman and Dan Cassidy



THE HARE & HOUNDS

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The BOBOW Festival

Sat 28th May and Sun 29th May 2011

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empire, plus many more...

- 38 comedians playing over the day including,
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Evilwitch

a day in an EP Release!

Hello we're Rich (bass) and Pete (guitar) from Evilwitch and this is our Photo Diary from the launch of our debut record "Les Bisous Tristes EP" at Keystones on March 25th. This is a lovely picture of our most photogenic member doing some pointing.



RICH: As it turns out, when armed with a simple microphone, you can make people do pretty much anything by saying their name and

pointing at them. In this case, getting a room full of people to cough up £90 for charity.

PETE: James Perry, keyboard player and pictured here with an uncharacteristic pint of Absinthe. Jim is our band leader and once upon a time had a small keyboard.



Then he got a bigger one. Now he has two. In 6 months I expect him to get a silver cape – the full Eno!

RICH: Cool your jets, ladies. He's a married man.

PETE: Chris Wemyss, drummer and singer extraordinaire! Also, surprisingly good at impressions.

RICH: They say a band is only as good as it's drummer. In our case, we should be world class. Chris Wemyss is a machine. Fact.



PETE: The best thing about this gig was the turn out. I was surprised at how packed it was. I think we all were. It shows on my stupid face here. It's just so enjoyable

to stand on stage and play to a full room who sing along.

RICH: It's that difference between an audience and a crowd. A crowd get up, have a dance, sing along and go a little nuts. That's what Evilwitch are into. Well, that and a nice cup of tea and an early night....

PETE: Yes... well... erm the least said the better. Let's just say that Evilwitch may dress like we work in Staples, but we can get surprisingly homoerotic.

RICH: Sometimes, when you're in a rock and roll band, surrounded by chicks, you feel the need to give the man to your left a little smooch.



PETE: The end of the gig!!

Rich and I in the audience, Christina Maynard has bust onto stage to add extra keys... damn good end. We couldn't be bothered to do an encore. That was the best end to the set we could have had. My friend Jon, who was in my first ever band years ago said: "That was proper rock and roll."

RICH: On occasion, when you walk off stage, you feel that you've just done something spectacular. That was one of those nights. We're off to London in May. Hopefully, we can pull another one of these out of the bag.

PETE: Beppe took this photo, but Jim Collier who took all the others can be seen at the back!



RICH: It would be rude if we didn't thank Jim Collier for taking pictures and making us look so handsome. It's witchcraft I tells ya.... Cheers, Jim! We love you lots.

Photography: James Collier

Backstage Promotions & Not Just Sauce-present **THE BUNKER**

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FRIDAY MAY 20

The Pull

Richard Clarke & The Rafter's

and more tbc

FRIDAY MAY 13

Sarah Warren Band

Chris Whiting Band

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Passionate guitar blues rock (**Birmingham / Worcester**)

FRIDAY MAY 27

Worcester Music Festival Fundraiser

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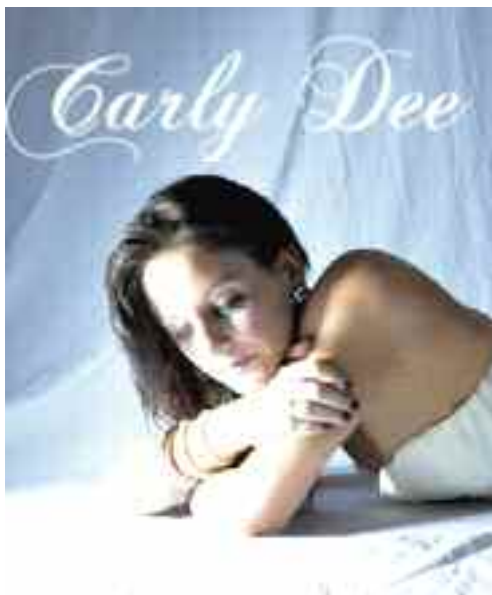
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THE SOUND OF WORCESTER'S
NEW GENERATION - 106.7 FM

Hi, I'm Richard Merriman and I host **The Not Just Sauce Show** on **Youthcomm Radio 106.7 fm**, Worcestershire's Community Station. The **NJS Show** is a show dedicated to and plays 100% Worcestershire Music every Thursday Night 9-10 pm and then is repeated on Saturdays Noon -1pm and finally Sundays 10-11pm



Last month **Mark and Paul** came in on the show to tell me all about **Slap Mag** and asked me if I would like to contribute on what is going on at Youthcomm! So I have jumped at this opportunity to tell you all the wonderfully exciting things that are going on.

Let me start by telling you about having **Dan Lloyd** and **Carly Dee** in on the show. Dan Has started up his own label called **DPL Records** to help bands and artists to promote themselves. As of 1st June he will be hosting a new night at **Keystones** every Wednesday with some fantastic artists already lined up with the opening night featuring **Autumn Lily**, **The Night Shift** and **Carly Dee**! His other news really is that he has started performing with the ever-outstanding **Carly Dee**! I took great delight in talking to her about now being signed with **Expat records** and getting a lot of publicity now across in the good old **US of A**! The day was topped off with a lengthy recording session where I was fortunate enough to get an exclusive recording of a new **Carly Dee's** new track "**Sweet Illusion**". Absolutely superb track and will certainly be getting a generous amount of airplay by myself.

Another highlight of my month was having the phenomenal **Tina V** in on the show. I was fortunate enough to speak to her a week before the one year anniversary of **This Wicked Tongue** getting together, who she is the **Front woman** for. We decided that is the proper term, where the name front man is usually rather prominent amongst bands, was a refreshing thing to say and front lady didn't seem quite right. It is safe to say **TWT** Have made phenomenal progress over the year and have defiantly made themselves heard! With a constantly growing fan base due to their enormous sound, it will be very interesting to see where they are another year on!

Tina then commenced to demonstrate her diversity in talent, providing an captivating contrast to the loud intense sound of **TWT**, by performing a few beautiful piano driven tracks for session recordings including my favourite track of hers "**Twelve Questions**"

The main thing, which is well on its wheels here at **Youthcomm**, is planning for **Minifest 2011**. The event will be held at **Cripplegate Park** on the **25th June**. **TWT** and **Dan Lloyd** are a couple of the names which have already expressed their interest to play at this years **Minifest Festival** but we are looking to get as many people to apply for the event, so if you are local band and are under 25 years of age, then we would love to hear what you have offer. Send any links or MP3's to minifest@live.co.uk and you could have a chance of performing at this year's festival. Just make sure you get your interest registered by the **12th May**

Richard Merriman



Aug 19 - 21

BREAKING NEWS

We are holding a **Fundraising Gig** as part of
The Bunker at Keystones on **Fri 27 May**

We are still actively looking for contributors to assist us in making the fourth festival the best yet. We especially require:
Gig Promoters / Stage Managers
Sound Engineers / PA / Artists / Film Makers
Fundraisers / raffle prizes

If you can help with any of the above or just want to get involved in any way please contact us at:

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk

Better still, come and join in the fundraising fun!

The Movement - Platform 2

Although currently taking a backseat as they concentrate their energies on displaying the works of other artists at their gallery 'Movement' at Worcester's Foregate Street station, Yoke and Zoom have an impressive portfolio of their own work too. Alex and Nina are a Malvern-based couple with a diverse range of interests from gardening to travelling and the range of their work reflects this. Inspired by the free festival/squat/commune scene and the post-Castlemorton clampdown of the Criminal Justice Act, Yoke and Zoom create contemporary art with a message, from the interactive, hydroponically grown four-leaf clovers that have been distributed internationally, to the distribution of real ale from their Tudor cottage caravan.

Yoke and Zoom's practice involves instigating collaborations, and making interventions in public spaces both in the urban and rural context, encouraging communication between people and questioning the politics of art production in the public and private realms. Often context specific, artworks involve distribution, re-appropriation of everyday objects, problem solving and distribution/sharing.



Around the time of their first installation art, the 'Grit and Determination' bins, Alex had teamed up with Worcester Animal Rights group to raise awareness of animal testing by subverting some iconic company logos and chalking them on Worcester High Street, while handing out leaflets explaining the connections.

This high level of social awareness is combined with concern about the 'corporatisation of culture', the bland sculptures seen outside all new buildings and the increase in large, expensive music festivals. Attempting to counteract this trend by bringing their work into local communities, utilising abandoned public spaces and combining old/modern and rural/urban themes, the pair hope to create art for the people.

Having previously created installation art in Japan and currently selling a range of art by Japanese artists from the 'condom' machine in their gallery, the couple have decided that all money raised from selling this art is to go to the Japanese tsunami appeal.

The logistical problems of planning exhibitions and curating the gallery are an obvious distraction from their main aim of creating artworks but they manage to combine both, with raising an artistic family and plan to display their own work between the forthcoming exhibitions.

On-going projects include:-



The Micro-Cottage is a flexible bike pulled micro-project space that has multiple uses. Its last incarnation was shown as part of Conjunction at Airspace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent in 2010. For conjunction the micro-cottage became a Micro-Alehouse, referencing the micro-brewery, and escape through alcoholism, where Yoke and Zoom travelled the Streets of Stoke on Trent giving out free ale to passers by. (The ale was donated by Malvern Hills Brewery, a micro-brewery just a mile from our home.)

CLOVERFIELD, 2005, was a live project out of which stemmed an exhibition that ran in the Cell project space, London, for five weeks. The purpose of the exhibition was to grow three and four leaf clovers in the gallery, enabling the public to find and pick a lucky clover.



Danish/Norwegian artist group N55 were asked by Yoke+Zoom to produce a water feeding growing system for the clovers to grow in. The CLOVERFIELD was equipped with multifunctional units providing light, water, sound, and space for clovers and people.



The system also provided a place for visitors to archive their experiences of looking for four leaf clovers, a general archive of four leaf clover information and an honesty box distribution of four leaf clover clone multiples.

So, free beer from a thatched caravan, free good luck or just making rural roads safer and more entertaining, if you discover a randomly dressed well in Malvern this year, or any other random piece of public art, the chances are, if it's not a Banksy, it's the work of these two...

The March issue of Slap contained a preview of this year's exhibitions but, briefly, Marcus Coates has an exhibition on currently and the gallery is open from 11 till 5, Wednesday to Saturday and is located on platform 2.

Wychwood Festival

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th June 2011
Cheltenham Racecourse

www.wychwoodfestival.com



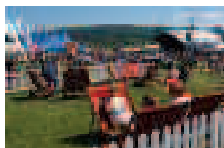
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- Cheltenham Racecourse
- Indie, World, Pop, Family-Friendly
- Audience No. 8000

Widely regarded as **the UK's most family friendly festival**, Wychwood has been nominated for the '**Best Family Festival**' award at the UK Festival Awards every year since it launched. Acts include:

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
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| • Cornershop | • Roddy Wooble |
| • The Waterboys | • The Travelling Band |
| • 3 Daft Monkeys | • The Wuzels |
| • Robyn Hitchcock | • Delta Maid |
| • Ian Anderson Plays Jethro Tull | • Eddi Reader |
| • The Bluetones | • Eliza Carthy |
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| • Robin Ince | • Robert Cooper Clarke |

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- Weekend adult tickets without camping £115
- Weekend 5-9 yr old tickets £15



Worcestershire's inaugural Literary Festival is coming this June; encompassing:

Spoken word & performance
Seminars & workshops
Open mic sessions & poetry 'slams'
Book signings & talks by local and well known authors
Children's events
Music & storytelling activities
& much, much more...

For more information call us on:

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or email: info@worcslitfest.com



Full events programme now online at: www.worcslitfest.com



Vault of Eagles have only been together for around 12 months, but already they come with a reputation for delivering solid, edgy, hard hitting rock, drawing you in closer after each song, the urge to watch and listen increases every time you see them perform.



The threesome consists of sisters Mari vocals/guitar. Hetti on Bass and Scott on drums. They hail from Kidderminster and their influences include Queens of the the Stone Age, Clutch and Black Sabbath. I first caught up with them at the Bunker back in early March having missed them at several Worcester and Malvern gigs over the last year. I was told I had to see them and finally I did. Since then, I've seen them three times and will do again soon...



I met up with them at one of their recent shows at the Firefly soon after that for a chat. Off stage, the growling, scowling Mari is quiet, polite and engaging from under that big hair. While Hetti comes across the shy of the two, deep in thought or perhaps just happy to let the others relay the details of their last amazing year.

They've been playing in and around Birmingham at The O2 Academy 3, The Adam and Eve, the Flapper and the Victoria even managing to squeeze in a gig at the legendary Dudley JBs before its demise and picking up their share of plaudits on the way. With more gigs coming up in Birmingham, The Rainbow in June and then the Sunflower Lounge in July their popularity can only increase. Recent gigs too in London (the Gaff) and Bristol (No. 51) show some initiative for a young, self managed band. 'Gigs just seem to come to us these days' explained Hetti, so the band are starting to pick and choose their shows, whilst finding more time to write new material.



A recent live recording session for capturemusic.com should be available on-line soon, with the next plan being to record an EP after offers of free studio time landed in their laps! The band are also really excited about progressing to the second round of the 'Surface Festival' festival. The next round is at the Flapper in Birmingham on Sat 7th May at 9.30. Vist www.surfacefestival.com for information and details on how to vote by text.

If you haven't already, you must see this band before they become too cool to play at your local...



Photography: Steven Turner



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AND REAL ALES.

THE HAND IN GLOVE



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"When the music of a society changes the whole society will change."

So said Plato (well it was probably the most excellent Socrates but he didn't write anything down). Since before the birth of civilisation in ancient Greece, the power of music has been universally recognised.

Everyone's favourite Existentialist, Nietzsche, said: "Without music, life would be a mistake.....I would only believe in a God who knew how to dance." For Nietzsche and his pessimistic influence Schopenhauer, Art was THE ultimate expression of existence and Music was the greatest of art. After all, music does not necessarily make demands on the listener - no need to follow a plot, watch for physically acted references or interpret what a painting portrays. But it CAN do all those things and more. From the obsessive geek to Muzak in a lift or shopping centre, music can be interpreted on so many different levels.



Nietzsche was a contemporary (and huge fan) of Richard Wagner. Although strictly speaking nihilists (more of which later...), both have been accused of fascism and were appropriated by Hitler's National Socialists. Whether it was fair to align these artists with Nazi propaganda is debatable but the Nazis were not known for their fairness!

What is certain is that World War Two was epoch-making and music in the post war settlement has both driven and reflected the increasing pace of change in society through technology. Mass global media,



specifically the popularisation of radio, film and television, gave birth to the star and Elvis Presley was the iconic trail blazer. In another development, music became capable of being AMPLIFIED. In 1945 Muddy Waters got his first electric guitar and could be credited with inventing electricity!

The thrift and stoicism of the war was finally banished in Britain with the arrival of The Beatles. The 'band' was spawned and the die was cast for at least the next half century - their importance is reflected in continued sales (now by downloads) and world renown, still today. The 'never had it so good' generation meant young people had disposable income like never before and were able to express their preferences through fashion, culture and, of course, music.



A plethora of sub-cultures appeared in a seemingly dialectical way - Teddy Boys and Greasers; Mods and Rockers; Hippies and Skinheads. They all had their own livery, codes of conduct and musical tastes. These urban tribes provided a sense of belonging or an escape from social class or an act of rebellion - it was



new and now, exciting and subversive. The establishment didn't know how to respond (unlike business who could 'sniff' an opportunity and were all too keen to jump on

any band wagon). Reliably, the newspapers exaggerated a 'threat' of 'deviancy' and ironically amplified the relevance of mods and rockers fighting or hippies 'tuning in, turning on and dropping out', enabling the whole country's youth to join the metropolitan elites in whatever new craze took their fancy.



Some bands were able to escape the shackles of a genre, straddle different tribes and become pop - leading to huge commercial riches - whilst others remained in their niche preaching to the converted. As the post war consensus ran its course, the tribes became more extreme - longer hair, brighter clothes, extended solos and androgyny.



There was, however, trouble on the horizon. 1977 was supposed to be a celebration, a jubilee, but not everyone shared the deference to the old order...

(to be continued)

Glazz

CD Review

Das Sexy Clap – So So Sick

Das Sexy Clap are a duo hailing from my hometown of Worcester, comprising of Chris Wemyss and musical partner Katy Birch.

Now If you're from around these parts you will have no doubt seen powerhouse Chris bashing the living daylight out of his drum kit for the likes of local faves And What Will Be Left Of Them, EvilWitch and Joe Patroni to name but three, however his latest project, Das Sexy Clap sees Chris storm the stage, throttle the singer and take over as the frontman and guitarist, whilst Katy takes up the vacant drum stool helping create one of the most potent sound in the Midlands right now.

Massive raw rock riffs collide with pummeled beats as Das Sexy Clap create a gigantic wall of filthy primal rock, a feral yet infectious sound that'll have the weak minded scamper for cover whilst the creatures of the night take to the dance floor and twist new shapes to the duo's frantic garage rock.

The EP opens with the nigh on three minute statement of intent, *Push It In Break It Off*, a delicious slab of molten rock that begins with a wall of feedback adds a nasty surf like riff before twisting into a huge holler along chorus and barrage of beats, that'll have you rutting along before the end of the very first spin. *Put It Out Yeah* follows and proves that Das Sexy Clap are no one trick pony as Chris howls and growls as Das Sexy Clap deliver a groove-laden monster anthem complete with a sudden stop-start, a killer vocal hook and more attitude than most bands can muster in a life time.

The three-track EP closes with the meaty and metallic 12 Year Itch and with it the band manage to deliver their rawest and dirtiest cut to date with Chris and Katy whipping up a storm with a flood of pulsating beats and an orgy of riffs, whilst the vocals are delivered with an intensity that would shame the entire hardcore scene.

So So Sick is more than just a debut, it's a call to arms, we will no longer be satisfied with wishy washy landfill indie, we demand cranked up amps, battered beats and howling primal vocals, we demand contagious rock, we demand Das Sexy Clap.

Will Munn – Rhythm Et Booze Rating 9/10



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Christian



Dougie

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www.krankedpromotions.co.uk

KRANKED HAS A HOME!! We're also preparing to put on a regular Worcester "Klub Kranked" night kicking off this May. May 12th and May 19th will see us hosting sets at the Velvet Lounge – on the 19th we'll have the Dandelion Killers, and on the 12th, it will be a surprise! We will then have a full Kranked night at the Gallery (above Velvet Lounge) on May 26th. The events will be presented by Velvet mainstay Johnny Doom, and will feature a mix of up and coming local talent as well as guest performances from outside of Worcestershire. Updates will be on Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter – so why not join us and get informed of news as it happens!

Where can we go from here??? Well, we could always go back to Birmingham, for one.

Our event showcase at the Hare and Hounds on March 24th featuring local heroes Zebedy Rays alongside Ross on Wye's Dandelion Killers and local rising stars Gundogs was a resounding success for getting Kranked 'out there'. As this event was part of a college project assessment, we hope that the course tutor in attendance was good enough to give us all first-class honours for the efforts!

Continuing with our ethos of promoting Worcestershire bands onto bigger stages, we are pleased to announce that we are hosting Louisiana sludge metal supergroup Soilent Green at Birmingham's legendary Eddies Rock Club and will have Evesham's Day of the Crow lined up to support! You may remember Day of the Crow from a previous Kranked gig way back in February. They showed us the way to work the crowd (none of us will forget the 'crawl of death') and impressed us with their tight delivery of complex groove metal numbers. We thought that we owed them a beer for their performance, and now it's our round!

Soilent Green formed in 1988 and have led one of the most fraught paths in rock history. In 2005, their former singer Glenn Rambo was killed by Hurricane Katrina. In 2004, their bassist Scott Williams was murdered in a murder-suicide committed by his flat mate. Their last attempt to tour the UK was marred by a certain Icelandic volcano spouting ash all over the place (remember that one?). Bad times, indeed.

Their music, however, is still as uncompromising as it ever was. Rolling Stone magazine lists them as one of the top 25 most influential metal bands in the world today, and one listen will convince you of why that is. Their 2008 album "Inevitable Collapse in the Presence of Reason" released on Metal Blade marries Cajun bayou influences to sludge and grindcore in a jagged ever-changing and intensely complex barrage of riffs. Each song has enough riffs to fill an entire album. Literally. We're extremely fortunate to have Soilent Green let us host the last performance of their UK tour! Let's give them a send-off worthy of the birthplace of Heavy Metal!!



SOILENT GREEN

Kranked Promotions presents Soilent Green + Dripback + Day of the Crow. May 15th Eddies Rock Club, Gough St, Birmingham, B1 1HN. Adv tickets £10 at ticketweb.com or eddirocks.com. Doors 7pm, Ages 14 +

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Featured Artist

Andrew Tyler

'Andrew Tyler's prints and paintings are highly attractive symbolic tales describing sexual and emotional dynamics utilising imagery from a kaleidoscope of sources. Depictions of spent missiles, Egyptian goddesses and a range of nautical objects take their places in finely crafted scenes containing multiple layers of meaning which can be simultaneously serious, amusing, touching and daring to unravel.'

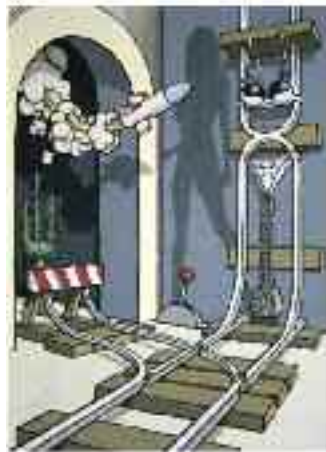


Bath of Psyche

'There is a quirkiness, perhaps a naivety, in Andrew's work. Underpinned with abstract expressive elements, his work progressed into a far more complex and technically sophisticated format, creating a topsy-turvy, surreal world, like the images in your head, after waking up from a bizarre dream.'



Kate Asleep



Heavy Freight

Born in Pershore, Andy Tyler attended Cheltenham (B.A.) and then Chelsea Art Colleges (M.A.). He won the Silver Prize for print at the Royal Academy 1982 and in 2004, the Cheltenham Art Prize. His work has been bought by celebrities such as the Rolling Stones' Bill Wyman.

Andrew has financed his artistic endeavours over the years by doing many and various jobs such as Illustrations for Channel 4, Van-Driving, Graphic Design and is currently looking for further opportunities. If you are lucky, you might catch him fronting his band 'The Oohz'.



Escapeologist

<http://www.facebook.com/rttylerworchester>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Oohz/203909891968?ref=ts>

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Poets, Artists and
Drinkers...*



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GUILDHALL FRIDAY'S Music for the soul

The Guildhall, Worcester

Ian Parker with support from Emma Tricca

Friday 20th May 2011 – Tickets £10.00

When somebody of Ian Parker's ability and stature comes to town, it would be foolish to miss.



Expressed through a distinctive bitter-sweet vocal delivery, Ian's songs hold nothing back. His ability and willingness to share with his audience, naked honesty and genuine emotion, is what sets him apart.

He has also developed a distinctively expressive guitar style, which perhaps explains his ever-growing popularity in the blues world, but the truth is he isn't strictly a blues artist. Roots music continues to form the foundation of his sound, but there are no boundaries in place at this point in Ian's artistic journey, and the emphasis lies firmly on entertaining everyone present, not just the guitar fans.

His latest album is entitled 'The Bare Bones' and consists of 11 songs including 4 previously unrecorded tracks. He's been flirting with acoustic music for years going back to the Sunday lunch time shows he used to do with Parker's Alibi at the original Robin Hood Club in Dudley over a decade ago as well as playing at the Marr's bar in Worcester which was always a popular night.

Italian born, London-based singer-songwriter Emma Tricca has had her life shaped by two key encounters with folk legends. While still only an apprentice songwriter just out of school she met John Renbourn when he played a solo show in Rome. After the gig Emma got the opportunity to play John one of her own songs – his approval gave her the confidence to start writing and gigging properly and they remain firm friends. Very shortly after her first encounter with John, Emma met Odetta, the mysterious and legendary singer who turned Bob Dylan onto acoustic music in the late '50s.

"A pure seductive voice" – *Time Out, London*

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THE CROOKED EMPIRE



Slap magazine hooked up with The Crooked Empire on one of the warmest days of the year so far in April. Guinness going down well for myself, with drummer Matthew opting for Fosters whilst lead singer and guitarist Sean is on the wrongbow!! Our first impressions are great band, no taste in beer! absentee bassist Chris is on holiday in Australia.

The Crooked Empire are a local band who have been playing

together for 3 years. Sean is originally from Birmingham, Matthew is from Essex and Chris is born Inbred in Droitwich...

Influenced by the Beatles, Kings of Leon, The Strokes, Sean & Matt met at a pointless college course that was held at the YMCA. Chris, we are told is a massive Billy Joel fan, while reserving judgement on his taste in beer his musical tastes are now in question!

They played at Bridge bash last year which was one of their best gigs, alongside Athlete, a lawnmower race, a great cider tent and a bouncy castle. More recently the O2 academy 3 arena as well as a couple of storming shows at the Bunker at Keystones.

Sean & Matt write the majority of songs themselves, mainly separately and then bring them to the table and jam it out. After trying out several bass players the Empire have found possibly the biggest, meanest bassist player know to man or beast. Larger than life, Mickey bublé as he is affectionately known to the other two members who fall about laughing uncontrollably.



Whilst Chris is away and Matt busy working, Sean is whisked off to Camarthen, Wales to put down guitars and vocals on the new album. The band are working with the legendary Tim Lewis formally from Spiritualized and have been blown away by his input.

'Run Run' and 'Baby Bye' are all possible candidates for single release as to is opening song 'The War' which is available to listen to on www.thecrookedempire.com. Many of their songs don't involve long boring guitar solos,

no frills, just rock n roll pure and simple. Sean says he writes "mainly about 'birds' cos' it's easy..."

The album should be finished by July hopefully after which the band will be back on the road playing new and old haunts around Birmingham, Cheltenham, Evesham, and of course Worcester. They bemoan the fact that sadly Droitwich is lacking for venues, however, they are playing a 'home town' festival this month in the shape of Mockfest.

They are looked after by Mad Music Management and are serious about what they do and where they want to



be heading, as Sean explained they don't want to be doing the day jobs next year. Instead, "selling records and making money, driving a brand new Range Rover and living in big houses", he quips.

They did talk seriously though, "We are in it because there is no better feeling than

writing a tune, then seeing the audience get off on it as much as we did when we wrote it in the first place".

The Bass player is a blue nose, myself and Sean are Villa fans. Matt follows Spurs. The Crooked empire will never play St Andrews, "That's a promise" says Sean.

Bring that big bloke out on the session next time...
...oh hold on, will he fit in a car?

Sean who is in a rush to get to Tescos prefers to



talk about women than the band, and he's got a bag for life to see him through the experience (not a ten bag) as he's quick to point out. "I didn't know Chris was into Billy Joel when we met him, that I can handle, but if I'd of known he was a blue nose, he would never had got the job"

Many thanks to the Empire faithful who follow them all over the place, they know who they are!! A special thanks to Mad Music Management & John Jones who have been inspirational to the development of the growing Empire.



MAYDAY

Much Ado Around Malvern

It's that time of year again when the mad folk of Malvern congregate in Priory Park to celebrate the coming of Spring. In a deliciously hedonistic fashion the local earth goddesses and Gaian princes will parade their pagan wares around the town in the annual procession that has more

the revellers around the town, literally stopping traffic as they go. It's quite a sight to behold. Of course it's not all hippies and earth children. Mayday brings out all sorts of people from all over Malvern and is the most popular event held in the Town. An event that is always good



than a hint of the Wicker Man about it. Oh, and there will be some music too. Organised by Malvern Fringe, the Mayday event has grown over the years. This year you can expect to see around three thousand people spending the day in the Park. Music from local bands will be performed in the bandstand while various other spaces and performance areas will see acoustic and spoken word acts. There will be stalls, street theatre, circus skills, playthings for the kids and the fabulous Deckerdence double-decker cocktail bus. Every year the Mayday event takes on a theme; Alice in Wonderland, Aliens and Space, Medieval Mayhem and Forest Fantasy have all had their turn. This year it's Shakespeare, apparently all the park's a stage, so expect plenty of mischief and activities. Including Malvern's very own Bard, Jai Hill, who will be giving the now traditional

natured and family friendly. A rare event that brings together all ages and social groups. Long may it continue.

The Fringe has been a central part of the music and arts scene in Malvern since it was founded in 1977. Mayday in the Park and the Mayday Parade are their largest events but throughout the year music, poetry, cabaret and comedy gigs are promoted and organised by the small group of volunteers who run the Fringe. Providing creative, financial, physical and emotional support for groups and individuals wanting to put on events, the Fringe likes to help out where it can. If you feel you could get involved or just want



Bardic Address from the bandstand. Also somewhat of a tradition is the rowdy vanguard of the procession. The Baixa Beat Samba Band leads

more information, get in touch via the Malvern Fringe website:
www.malvernfringe.co.uk

Chronicles of Robinson

Robinson finally got the opportunity to play at south by south west, the gig was pretty good, I mean I know that we have played better and our sound has been better but it was ok. We were all very grateful for the opportunity. Unfortunately about an hour before going on stage I started to get a cold, then I started coughing my lungs up, my nose was blocked and I'd lost my voice, the gods were against me on this one! The next gig we did was in a hotel lobby and yes it is exactly how you can imagine! Folks sitting around eating food, drinking beer, with a tiny little stage with a tiny little P.A and the sound engineer was the hotel manager! So we thought "lets make the best of a bad situation and just have some fun!"

We blasted through the first song and we couldn't believe it, everyone was clapping along, beaming with

Next thing we know we were walking through what looked like a residential area, loads of peoples houses and tons of people dancing in the street, on the gardens, even on the roofs! The people who lived here had opened up their houses to the public as bars selling booze, some even had live bands playing in them! We found this one bar where it had a massive wrap around wooden porch, with everyone on the porch, there must have been about 50 people there.

John-joe (the fiddle player of Robinson) religiously carries his fiddle around with him everywhere, so it was no surprise to me when he pulled out the fiddle at this bar. He started playing Irish jigs and the whole bar surrounded him clapping their hands... everyone was stomping so hard I thought the floor would break! John-joe was a hero that night, loads of people bought him drinks and that just fuelled him to play all night! Now unfortunately this story

doesn't end with me or anyone getting the girl, I was too far gone and the rest of the band had girlfriends but she still gave us a lift back to our hotel. She dropped us off at "The Econolodge", where we were staying, home to pimps, prostitutes, drug addicts and us. Just as we were climbing into our room, the door next to us opens and smoke pours out onto the balcony. The room was full of about 15 people smoking away, playing guitars, drinking beers. It must have been about 3 am.

"How's it goin'!" I said "Hey man, come on in, bring your friends if you want!", he opens up the '50's fridge

and its packed full of ice cold beer.

smiles, shots of whisky were being placed at my feet as I played. The place erupted with applause and the super fine waitress even gave me a wink as she walked pass.

"I'm moving to America!" I thought. We finished the set and they wanted more, so we gave them more, they loved it and we loved it. Sometimes you really need a gig like that to remind yourself that you're not drowning.

After picking up the cash for playing I headed straight over to the waitress. She had this big frizzy dark long hair with dark skin and eyes you want to swim in. "What time do you finish here?" I asked, "in about 10 minutes" she said. "Fancy coming out for drinks with me and the band?". "I'd love to!

"I loved you guys, I thought you were awesome! But I want to show you the real Austin!"



"Help yourself man!" he says to us "God bless you!" I say as I grab a beer and go and sit down. We sang songs till the sun came up, they played us their tunes, we played them ours, we all sang some tunes we all know. It must have been about 5 am and I was sat against the wall with a massive smile on my face.

I started muttering to myself "dustbowl cadillac, dustbowl cadillac, dustbowl cadillac....." I got louder, people joined in with me until the whole room was screaming as loud as they could "DUSTBOWL CADILLAC! DUSTBOWL CADILLAC!....."

It had been my birthday all that week, so it was no surprise that when I woke up the next morning it was my birthday again!

The rest of that day is all a bit of a blur, I really don't remember what happened after that...

Zebedy Rays, Skewwhiff, DJ Hodge
The Adam & Eve, Digbeth, Birmingham
15th April 2011

WORCESTER TAKEOVER

Worcester IS a city but we all know that it's not in the 'big league'. Thirty miles up the M5, however, is England's second city (don't let Mancs tell you different) and when SLAP found out there was a 'Worcester Take Over' going on in Brum, we could not resist. The Adam & Eve in the industrial heartland of Birmingham, Digbeth, has live music on most nights, is open very very late and have rooms available (danger, danger!).



Due to unforeseen circumstances, DJ Stef was unable to make his debut so first up was Skewwhiff. They've been a bit quiet of late (no wonder as one amp didn't work) so benefitted from going through the headliner's back line.



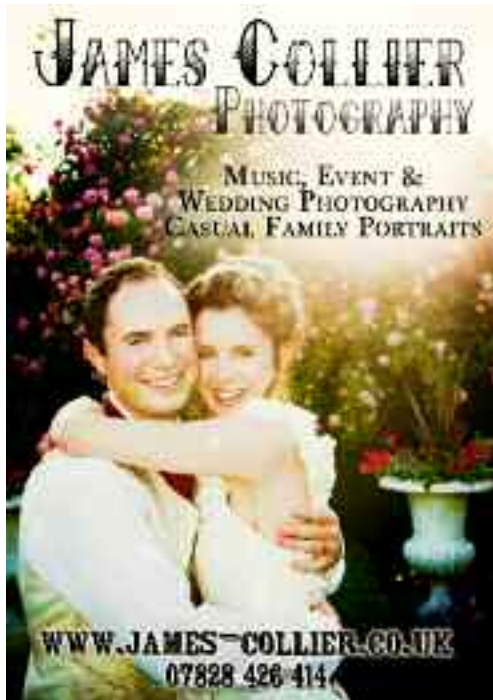
From the very moment Zebedy Rays arrived (with said back line packed neatly in flight cases in the back of the van), they

ooze a band that's shifting through the gears and delivered another high energy show.

It then got messy. The next thing SLAP knew was a call from 'A Zeb' the following morning - apparently a 'PR' guy had gatecrashed their room in the unearthly hours, ranted & raved and nicked a pair of jeans! Luckily it just took a couple of calls to save 'A Zeb' the ignominy of public transport in just boxers!!

Brum - you have been Rock & Rolled, Worcester style.

(Some names have been changed to 'protect' identities.)



AT LAST! The sickness... ...is spread to Worcester



Making their long awaited debut at The Marr's Bar, Sicknote are a groundbreaking electro-punk band from Cardiff and have been smashing dance floors and festivals both here and abroad.



"Best act on our stage all weekend!..... they killed it and then drank the Scratch Perverts rider! Bloody legendary!" (Ben Peer - Nozstock). They're not playing at Nozstock this year so this is the most local that you'll see these merry pranksters before festival season really kicks into gear.



And seen they must be - a fantastic live show fronted by vocalist Doghouse and spiritual guru Dr Conker, and backed by the multi-talented Flap sandwich (more of whom later), sticksman The Filth and Johnny NoCash providing mind-blowing visuals.

To label Sicknote as a cult would not do justice to their crossover appeal but there is certainly more than an element of fanaticism amongst the Sicknote 'family'. To get anywhere near the front at one of their gigs you find yourself battling an army of photographers eagerly documenting the shenanigans on stage. That is, of course, if you've already negotiated the (literally) placard carrying entourage, encouraging you with situationist slogans such as "Death Before Employment", "Benefit Cheat" and, the reason we're all there, "Celebrate Your Wrong Bits". Then there's the onstage dancers led by the enigmatic Dr Conker and including 'nasty' Nick Spartacus (of Come Dine With Me infamy). There's videographer Rev Phil Dread, merchandise lady Flakey



As, artist in residence Norris Nuvo and numerous others who contribute to Sicknote being an 'event'.

SLAP first came across the band (by accident, which is always the best way) back in 2007 when they did a boat party to 'mourn' the passing of Tony Blair with their song "Taxi for Mr Blair", replete with prosthetic Pinocchio noses. Very Sex Pistols. Very interesting. Made the BBC news don't you know! (Check it out on Youtube.) In conversation with Flapsandwich, it transpires that this was early Sicknote successfully breaking out of the 'Diff'.

Flapsandwich is a fascinating character and fulltime media mogul. Band (check); record label - Tantrum (check); re-mixer, or re-rubs as he calls them (check); radio programme - The Sandwich Show (check). Appropriately, he met Doghouse at Whitechurch Hospital (formerly Cardiff



City Asylum) where they hatched their master plan. Originally called Vitreous Humour, they took the unprecedented decision to change their name live on stage (even the band members couldn't remember it!) and Sicknote was born.

Their unique 'in the moment' ethos means they don't rehearse. "We tried a practice room once, it went against everything we're about. We like to capture something honest and in the moment without letting too many thoughts get in the way, like trying to capture that drop of



genius - and bottle it up - before you over think things. It's bigger than us, it's not physical, it's creativity from the source, we are tapping into something else...."

Flapsandwich triggers loops "live and loose, feeding off the audience and Doghouse's stream of consciousness lyrics... he channels them from a Mississippi Delta Blues Man. No song is ever played the same twice and many songs are made up on the spot on the night". This stream of consciousness is sometimes delivered via loud hailer - the archetypal tool of peaceful protest. The Filth beefs up the beats and makes a splash with his cymbals.

cranked up the car stereo system and just busted out this anthem all crystal like and simple but powerful... I was bouncing in the car on the roundabout for about an hour or so and just laid out my new loop into a 5 min track when the pick up truck come.....". On getting home, he Dropboxed it to Doghouse and, hey presto, it was back in his Dropbox the very next morning! Doghouse had been up all night in conversation with the Mississippi Delta Blues Man again.

But it's not just soundcloud that gets treated. O no! Hot off the press is a treble Tantrum release on lovely slabs of 12" vinyl for all you DJs out there - "Death Before Employment", "Holy Trinity EP" and latest single, "Benefit Cheat", which is a paean to the underclass bearing the brunt of these austere times.

Sicknote are an extraordinary and enigmatic happening, so come on people of Worcester, come along and celebrate your wrong bits.

Words: Glazz

Images: Rev Phil Dread Et Norris Nuvo
Marr's Bar on Friday June 3rd.

Tickets at Music City & The Marr's Bar
All things Sicknote: www.sicknote.tv



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Preview

MOCKFEST 2011

Droitwich 28th May

MOCKFEST is a touring music festival featuring the finest tribute bands along with excellent local original artists.

Each one day festival is held under a festival marquee making it perfect for the British weather! The stage inside the marquee is equipped with a fantastic sound system and full on light show.

The licensed bar is reasonably priced to make it one of the best value festivals in the land! You will be asked for ID if you look under 21 so be prepared!

Adjacent to the marquee is a fenced, outside food court with various food outlets ready to keep you well fed all day. There's also some fun entertainment making Mockfest a great day out for music loving families.

Doors open at 12.30pm and the bar and music finish at 11.00pm. Each event is fully insured and has security staff, first aid, toilets and seating areas. The tribute acts, Kings Ov Leon, The Killerz and U2 – Unforgettable Fire need no introduction and provide the entertainment in the evening.

As for the local 'original' acts, those of you no stranger to SLAP mag will know a little bit about them already.

The Crooked Empire from Droitwich who feature in this issue are busy putting the finishing touches to their new album as we deadline. Playing a festy in your home town must be every bands dream!



Sugar Mama are quite simply amazing to listen to and watch, these boys will get everyone anywhere near the marquee dancing, let alone those in it! Young, talented and musically mature, we featured them in our very first issue of SLAP!

The Modern are a tight Worcester based indie band who are setting their sights high, having already worked with producer Gavin Monaghan (The Editors, The Twang, Ocean Colour Scene) amongst others. Definately worth getting to the festival promptly for.

This Wicked Tongue have been tagged in the mag more times than I care to remember. Tina V's vocal prowess is well documented, but this band can play, trust me, they're are comfortable on any stage.

Other MOCKFEST 2011 Tour Dates

MOCKFEST BRIDGNORTH 11th June – Has three of the UK's leading tributes Hot Red Chili Peppers, The Secret Police and Kazabian. Plus live music from SheBangg, Booyaka, The Yipes and The Jolly Boys.

MOCKFEST SOLIHULL 9th July – Has three of the UK's leading tributes Definitely Might Be – Oasis, Adored – The Stone Roses and The Killerz. Plus live music from Sugar Mama, Bella Diem, The Modern and Snooty Bobs.

MOCKFEST TEWKESBURY 23rd July – has three of the UK's leading tributes Definitely Might Be – Oasis, Adored – The Stone Roses and Kazabian. Plus live music from The Misers, Life of Bryan, Effects of Alcohol and Bella Diem.

MOCKFEST INKBERROW 6th August – Has three of the UK's leading tributes Kings Ov Leon, The Secret Police and U2 – Unforgettable Fire. Plus live music from Naked Remedy, Turn Off The Sun, The Misers and The Cohen Brothers.



2011 tickets are limited, so buy yours online now from www.mockfest.co.uk to avoid disappointment.

Look forward to seeing you at a Mockfest near you!

Comedy - Coming up

Dom Joly at the Artrix, Bromsgrove

A truly hilarious evening with one of the UK's most innovative comedians. For the last ten years, since his multi-award winning international TV hit, Trigger Happy TV, Dom Joly has lead the most extraordinary of lives.

Dom made a name for himself with the hugely successful early-Noughties series Trigger Happy TV, a Candid Camera for the e-generation. The premise? Mess with people's minds in a variety of ways - ranging from subtly straight-faced to outlandish and surreal - while committing their palpable bewilderment to tape via hidden cameras. Favourite sketches include men in giant squirrel costumes fighting over nuts and that giant mobile phone.



Dom talks us through the perils of travelling the world drinking, skiing down volcanoes, holidaying in Chernobyl and North Korea, becoming a paparazzo, trying to fly across the Grand Canyon strapped to an eight foot rocket, turning into Tintin, being arrested in Switzerland while dressed as a yeti, discovering that he was at school with Osama Bin Laden (This stunning revelation cropped up back in 2007 on the very first episode of BBC comedy panel show Would I Lie to You?, in which contestants offer a nugget of hitherto unknown information about themselves and their opponents have to decide whether it is true or not.

Joly's typically equivocal nature means that the truth was never entirely ascertained; he recently gave an interview on Loose Women which reiterated that he and Bin Laden were at the same school when Joly was 6 and Bin Laden was 18) and more recently eating from Gillian McKeith's pants while imprisoned in the Australian jungle.

In this highly original and funny show, Dom attempts to make sense of it all with the aid of some very peculiar holiday snaps.

Monday 16th May at 8.00pm - £19.50

Raw Comedy Evesham Arts Centre

The best value laugh in town!

Six more sparkly new comedians from all over the country hit the foyer bar to try out their acts. The comedians are Billy Hill, Freddie Farrell, Tom Toal, Sam Brady, Chris Norton Walker & Nayar Kishore (the Comic Lawyer!). So why not come along, get a drink & do some comedy talent-spotting?

This month the MC will be **Matt Richardson**, finalist in both the So You Think You're Funny 2010 & The Chortle Student



Comedy Awards 2010 at just 19. Also the Winner of the 2010 Newbury Comedy Festival's "You Must Be Joking" Competition, and then Runner-up in the Reading Comedy Festival's New Act competition in the same year.

Thursday 19th May 2011 - £5 at the door, £4 adv, £3

Magners Comedy Funhouse Drummonds, Worcester

Gary Delaney is a razor sharp one-liner comedian, who is widely regarded as being the most quotable comic on the circuit. The high quantity of stand out gags leaves the audience struggling to remember them all. Gary is at home in venues from arts centres and theatres to rowdy pubs and clubs and has played corporate gigs including the Labour Party Conference. Gary regularly plays all the big clubs including The Comedy Store, Jongleurs, Komedia, Glee, Rawhide, The Frog and Bucket, Hyena, Baby Blue, The Stand, Comedy



Café, Lee Hurst's Backyard, Banana Cabaret and at clubs throughout the UK. Gary has appeared on Comedy Central's 'Comedy Blue', and Radio 4's Loose Ends. Gary has written for Ivan Brackenbury's Hospital Radio Roadshow (nominated for the Perrier Award in 2007), Russell Howard's Good News, Jason Manfred's Comedy Rocks, and Radio 4's The

News Quiz. Gary also received two Sonys for his work for Kerrang! Radio.

Sunday 8th May 2011 - £5.00

Mark Thomas - Extreme Rambling The Artrix, Bromsgrove 18th April 2011 - Review

Slap had the pleasure of being invited by the Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove to see Mark Thomas performing his Extreme Rambling show on a pleasant Monday evening in April. We had excellent seats on the first floor overlooking the crowd below, with a great view of the stage in the impressive 300+ auditorium.

As Mark tells his story of his walk along the 723 kilometre Israeli separation barrier which is basically a wall deviding the Palestinians from the Israelis in the West Bank, it seems one of the hardest parts of the journey was having to listen to a Monty Python obsessed guide shouting, "We are the knights who say Ni!!" it's also rather fitting as the journey revealed a Pythonesque surrealist tone. On the more serious side of the show he explained about the daily humiliations heaped on the Palestinians by the occupying Israeli army.

He walked on both sides of the wall, meeting both Palestinians and Israelis. He met Israelis living in the Occupied Territories who lived there because it was cheaper and Palestinians who just wanted their land back with tales of people from both sides uniting to campaign for peace.

We never knew an onion could be used to ease the pain suffered by tear gas, which he found out to his cost as all of the Palestinians were carrying them, a kind lady gave him half of her onion as the tear gas rained down.

The show was in 2 parts so Slap enjoyed a decent ale during the interval with the most laugh out loud moment coming near the end when he was describing a character as a "See You Next Tuesday!!" to which one lady near the front took offence and called him a sexist. He apologised at first but after a second attack he took no prisoners and let rip at her full force. He was simply explaining that in comedic terms, when someone is referred to as a 'character' it basically means they are a c**t.

Overall we had a great evening at the Artrix and Mark Thomas was a superb, informative, extreme rambler who portrayed the harsh realities of a difficult subject to an engaged audience whilst keeping an ironic sense of humour to the proceedings.



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Interview

60 Seconds with...Day Of The Crow

Where are you from?

Evesham, Worcestershire

What is it famous for?

Alistair McGowan, Asparagus and Inbreeding

Where's the band name from?

In the early days of the band we toyed with the name "Murder of Crows" but as you can imagine that name was taken so we worked on it from there

Star Wars or Lord of the Rings?

Star Wars, hands down.

What was your first job?

Al: Plasterer

James: Electrician

Matt: Waiter

Dan: Pet Shop Boy

Who's your biggest influence?

If it has to be narrowed down to one it'd be Pantera, but there are plenty more.

Who's your favorite superhero?

Dan: Does Arnie count? No? Ok Super Ted then.

Matt: Spiderman

James: Wolverine

Al: Charlie Sheen. No, really.

If you could perform with anyone, who would it be?

Al: Dimebag

Matt: Dimebag

James: 'Arny (Iron Maiden's Steve Harris)

Dan: Probably Nick Cave

What's your favorite stage?

Puberty was pretty sweet

Festivals: Indoor or Outdoor? What's your favorite festival?

Outdoor. Sun, Sounds and Spirits, what's not to love?

Sonisphere: Download style bands + Bloodstock atmosphere = best of both worlds

3 albums you would take to a desert island?

Lateralus – Tool

Vulgar Display of Power – Pantera

Blast Tyrant – Clutch

Do you use subliminal messages in your music?

If we did then telling people would mean it's not subliminal. How's that?

If you could, what would you make sure was taken away from the world to make it a better place?

Anti-Cannabis Laws. If anyone needs this explaining then do yourself a favour and check out Bill Hicks.

What do you think is the sexiest guitar?

Either a Dean from Hell or a Jackson Kelly...or a Hetfield ESP Explorer...or an Icedman, take your pick.

When did you write your first song?

Around April/May 2008

Where would you like to be in 5 years?

As cliché or dumb as it sounds the answer will have to be out on the road

Where would you not like to be in 5 years?

Strung out on crack / Jail / Evesham

If you could describe your music as food or drink, what food or drink would it be?

Imagine finding a dead deer on the side of the road. You pick it up and throw it in your Chevy pickup and take it home to cook. Pour yourself a glass of stagnant water, or maybe some moonshine from your granddaddy's bathtub. You tuck in and are surprised to find it tastes like the finest gourmet meal and yet it hasn't cost you a penny. Something like that!



Day of the Crow will be appearing supporting Soilent Green at Eddies Rock Club, Sunday May 15th, 7pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketweb.com or www.eddiesrocks.com. They will also be appearing in round 2 of the Bloodstock Metal to the Masses competition May 21st, Queens Hall, Nuneaton, 3pm.

Day of the Crows - Dan Pickering



The Firefly, Lowesmoor Friday, 22nd April 2011

Nestled deep within the realms of Lowesmoor sits the infamous FireFly.

Small in size but large when it comes to style. This establishment was designed for those who want to relax, have a few and groove the night away. Anything from disco to house to rockabilly to the odd live gig. This venue is one of the not so many in Worcester not doing the same old thing week in week out and for this reason POT KETTLE BLACK the bastard child of Nathaniel and now adopted by Roy felt holding parties at the fly could work, and how right they are because there monthly knees up's are going from strength to strength - RAMMED AGAIN!!



Nathaniel opened the night with his deep techy grooves (118 bpm) setting the mood & groove for the night ahead, dropping anything from jimpster 'Alsace and Lorraine' (Josh Wink Interpretation) on freerange to James Jones & Lee Foss (both good friend's of his) 'the key to my garage' on hot natured to name a few with in his two hour selection.

Keeping it deep while filling the floor with weekend revellers only taking it up a peg just before the end with 'Circuit breaker' Arno Gonzalez remix Nice!! loved it!

Following Nathaniel, Brumi lad Steve Smith a regular at their sister party NOT FOR SQUARES took over and played a progressively harder, deeper



set slamming down records after record by the likes of Dennis Ferrer, Shonky and the new stomper by Phil Weeks & Dan Ghenacia out on Robsoul.

The word best used to describe his selections would be bostin!!! (is that even a word??) anyway BOSTIN!!

Steve continued to lay down the beats, taking it up a notch with each track, just when it seemed he was going to bring things down a level, boooom!! The next heavy weight bassline would drop and everyone would be glued to the dance floor wanting more..

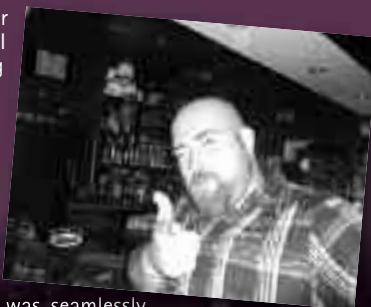


So the standard had been set for our guest DJ Amor to grace the D.E.X, Amor who has had regular slots at the custard factory for nights such as stupid underground, ULTRA and guest spots at the Rainbow warehouse for LAVITA (busy gal).

So from her previous form I had a feeling this was going to be a good night.. And judging by the reaction she got I'm not the only one thinking this, Her

style tonight was seamlessly good as always, her selection top notch, taking everyone on a journey of tecy electronic beats turning the fly in to a sweat box! its always plusher to watch this rising star do her thing!! .. she had the place boomin right up until it was time to head to there new after party SHIFT what a session that was with Djs Holloway, Woody and Lee Lancett !!

So Overall the night was a success, pot kettle black continues to bring in new talent that may be lesser know compared to the guests booked for the Pot kettle black parties in London but all future stars with the ability and knowledge of making an impact where ever it is they lay down their beats while smashing it in down in the underground!!



Words by la jaga huntin..

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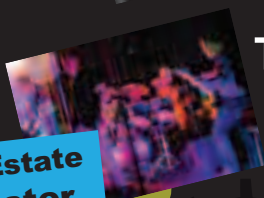
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Ronda



SATURDAY MAY 14

Crooked Empire



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Apple Cannon & Vault of Eagles The Firefly, Worcester 10th April 2011

So, we miss our flight, and don't get in to the country until the afternoon of the gig, luckily I have organised this sort of thing before, and have a brilliant friend who steps in until I can get there (thanks Dave of King Dave Records). The show goes on...

More panic... It turns out main band Apple Cannon don't use a bass player, No one had told Hetty from the Vault of Eagles who wasn't prepared for this. Luckily a passing Skewwhiff guitarist was on hand to take it upon himself to borrow his bass players amp and wheel it over from the Arbo!

Slightly more panic as Mari's amp blows a gasket! Ah well, Apple Cannon guitarist came to rescue with a rig that looked like a block of flats next to the noisy sisters from Kiddy!

Because of the travel arrangements I'm afraid Phullopium Dude's set is cut to a short DJ set between bands, but he keeps the pace and the atmosphere rockin. He deserves a medal for getting out of Japan, not having much rest and still doing the gig!

He's on Facebook and can also be found here:

<http://phullopiumdude.bandcamp.com>

<http://www.myspace.com/phullopium>



Apple Cannon are Richard Birkenhead and Paul Barrow, hailing from Liverpool, this band really have put some effort in - just two of them but they give it everything and turn the place into a frenzy of hair and dancing! They have all the rock of any classic band but with tons of youth and energy brimming out of them. The audience loved them, they can be found on Facebook and merchandise is available from:



First on we are serenaded with the dirty heavy grooves of vault of eagles, a local band who are no doubt about to make it big. Consisting of Hetty on bass, Mari on guitar and vocals and Scott the drummer. This is one of those bands that you can tell they have found their sound and perfected it over time, it's a real pleasure to see them in such an intimate venue. They get the crowd in the mood and fill the room with energy. If you haven't seen them, then you must. They can be found on facebook and at:



www.applecannon.bigcartel.com

Thanks to everyone involved.

Photos Copyright of Vik Young

<http://www.myspace.com/weallknowthissucks>

<http://vikyoung.deviantart.com/gallery>

www.vaultofeagles.com

Project 3580

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

10th & 17th April 2011

Project 3580 was a huge success over Sunday 10th and Sunday 17th April. We kicked off on the 10th with a 2 hour showcase organised by Jez Cole by the Worcester School of Rock and Performance that was stunning to watch, a perfectly organised set list featuring about 50 children of 13-17 who practice at the Tech College on a Saturday. This was really well supported by an army of proud parents and the kids did them full credit by taking to the stage and really enjoying themselves. Caroline Fitzgerald and Tyler Massey then followed, Caroline's haunting vocals behind her keyboard are stunning and Tyler was joined by Vo Fletcher, one of the finest guitarists in the area.

We then moved onto the full band set ups, and were lucky enough to see the huge energy and talent of Highway 5, Andy Tyler and The Oohz followed to demonstrate Andy's great songwriting talent (and a drummer exhausted by organising the day!) and we were lucky enough to then see The Roving Crows. Next were None Of These Are You led by Phil Whitehead, another originals act that showcase a songwriting talent that is rare to see in a lad of Phil's 17 years of age.

As we moved through into the evening we saw local favourites Vermilion Skies and Mudball. I've been lucky enough to gig with both before - Vermilion Skies' beautifully haunting tunes entranced the room shortly before Mudball grabbed everyone's attention by force - a great instrumental talent driven by massive Dave Pritchard bass lines. Finally we saw Russian Gun Dogs, another act from out of town.

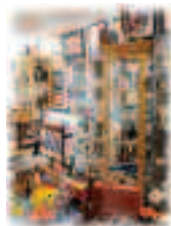
By the time Sunday 17th came round, all involved with organising the day were much more relaxed after seeing how the previous gig had gone. Supported by not only a crew of Great Barr sixth formers but a band of them as well, we saw One Foot On Jupiter have their first go on a big stage, and subsequently, The Rubber Nuns do the same. Lachlan Werner was our surprise of the day, a justifiably confident 11 year old from Blessed Edwards who brought his hilarious singing Ventriloquist performance to the Marrs Bar, ably supported by Alfie and Charlie the (very cheeky) chimp!

Like None Of These Are You the week before we were then treated to the SJS band, another group of teenagers who defy their ages with their supreme talent. The Harpers then brought along the mix of popular covers they do, it was great to see people dancing along to both a drummer in a much better mood from the week before, and Sam Grew's cheeky and inventive impromptu guitar solos! After a hastily arranged encore, the animation really ramped up as we began six hours of the truly established Worcester heavyweights. Skewwhiff and Tallulah Fix provided a great reminder of their popularity with snappy and lively performances involving great talent, semi -nudity, one of the best rock voices this side of AC/DC and tales of a riot in Wales the night previous!!

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By the early evening it was time for Calm like a Riot, fronted by the manic and potty-mouthed rapper John who proceeded to entertain everyone with both his never ending punch, and by falling through a monitor and right off the stage! Ben Williams and Absolute Ataxia then took to the stage. Absolute Ataxia tour relentlessly around the West Midlands and make an unbelievable sound for a three piece.

As the evening was drawing to a close we had two bands remaining. Wise Blood are from Birmingham, a huge outfit that have recently reached the semi finals of the Surface Unsigned festival and their songs resonated the bar as they grabbed everyone by the neck and showed how tight and inventive they are. Finally, as our evening headliners, we were blessed enough to have the massive Stuntdog. Led by the charisma bomb that is Steve Wattison, you never know what to expect with Stuntdog..

A massive thank you to everyone who made the two weekends happen. We raised around £3000 in the end in sponsorship and donations on the door, all of which is going to Laurie and Sue Read of Waterloo Schools charity in Pershore, to be spent on mosquito nets to help end malaria in Sierra Leone. To Ellie Crooks, Andrew Marston at BBC Hereford & Worcester and Flora Drury at the Worcester News, to the sixth form and staff at Great Barr School, To all our sponsors who helped us up to £1800 before the first band took to the stage. To all who attended and gave their donations; and to all the bands who played over the two days.

Heroes, everyone!! Thanks Matt



Worcestershire Arts Trail May 27th - 30th

Worcestershire's First County
Arts Trail gets underway in May.



Worcestershire is a county rich in artistic talent that has long been hidden away from sight in closed workshops and studios. Well, this spring the Worcestershire Arts Trail sets out to shed some light on the county's hidden artists and craftspeople and introduce them to the public.

Stuart Fletcher - Glassmaker

Across the 27th - 30th of May over 50 artists will throw open their workshop doors in over 20 venues within Worcestershire. From high profile galleries to small weaving workshops a trail of creativity will let visitors explore what the county has to offer.

The Trail has been organised entirely by volunteers and will also benefit from the backing of Arts Council England funding. Brochures, including a trail map will be available from venues in mid April and a website will also be in place soon.

In the meantime, put the date in your diary for the May bank holiday weekend and look out for the round orange signs across the county and refer to site map opposite.

For further info please contact Becca Williams at worcestershireartstrail@live.com, Tel. 07845 579 377 or visit www.worcsartstrail.org

Becca Williams - Jeweller



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Brian Maiden - Furniture
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2 Sneads Green

Peggy Brown - Wood
Harry Brown - Metalwork

3 Shelsley Beauchamp

Maëlle Williams - Fine Art

4 Lower Broadheath

Jo Dewar - Mixed Media
Lorna Prudden - Glass

5 The Fold, Bransford

Sharon McSwiney - Jewellery and Silver; Metalwork
Tony Muckle - Fine Art
Re-Fashion - Textiles and Leather
The Art Studio - Picture Framing
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WORCESTER

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Paula Drakeford - Textiles and Leather
Ettore Consorte - Jewellery and Silver

7 Claire Harrison

Illustration

8 Sara Hayward

Fine Art

9 Birries of Worcester

Fine Art Gallery

MALVERN

10 Mary Marsh

Furniture

11 Gavin Davidge

Furniture

Betsy Clarke

Ceramics

Jacob Rock

Sculpture

12 Sarah Jones

Bank

13 Samantha Henning

Jewellery and Silver

14 Iapetus Gallery

Worcestershire EAST

HANBURY

18 Jinney Ring Craft Centre

Gallery and Café
Stuart Fletcher - Glass
Diane Hill - Glass
William Piper - Violin Maker
Michael Salt - Fine Art
Philip Baldwin - Wood
The Pottery Workshop - Ceramics
Nancy Frost - Ceramics
Bailinda Terry - Jewellery and Silver
Ian Ridley - Fine Art

STOKE PRIOR

Eric Watson - Fine Art

20 Kate Modern Gallery

Stoke Heath

Christine Harmer - Jewellery and Silver

22 Light House Works, Astwood Bank

Stirling George - Mixed Media
Garry Jones - Sculpture

23 Pershore

Claudia Wiegand - Glass

24 Bretonston

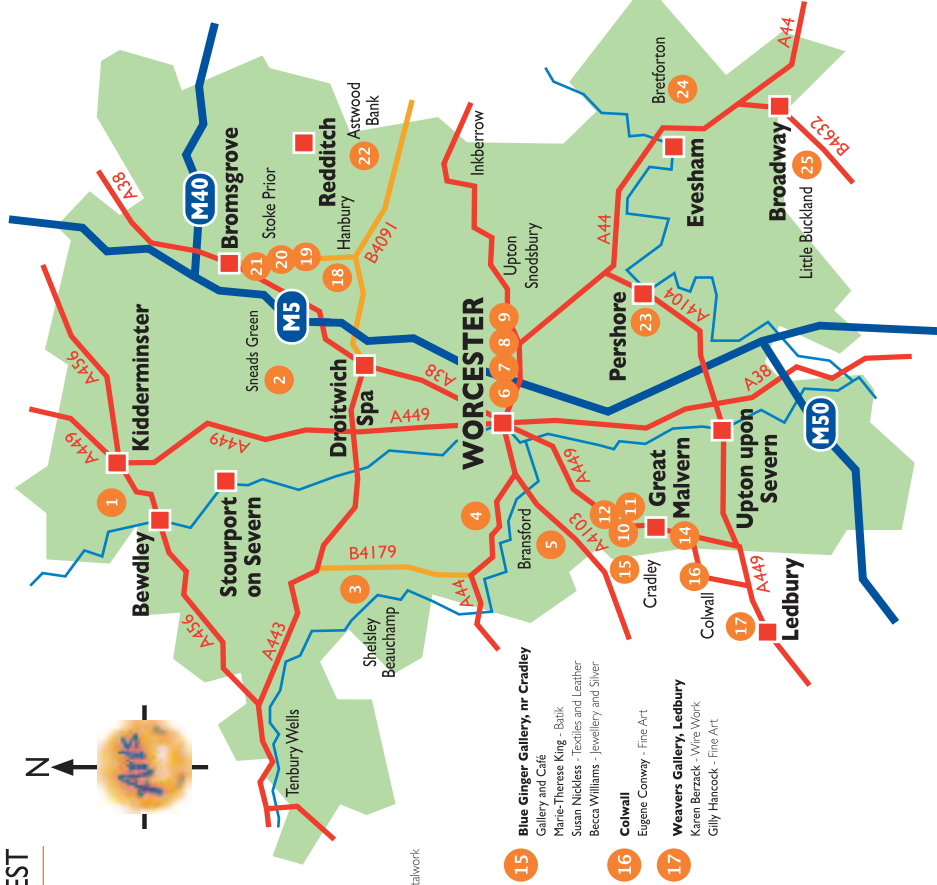
Ray Key - Wood

25 Little Buckland

Little Buckland Gallery



Please use this map as a guide to locations.
For exact locations refer to artists' details
and post codes.
All locations will display the ARTS TRAIL
logo outside their studios / workshops.



Sunshine, Gardens and Pyramids

Sometime in May, at an undisclosed location in Worcestershire, a music festival known as the Pyramid Party is being held. The popularity of the event, with tickets in short supply, means that the organisers dare not publicise it for fear of being overrun. With three stages; main, acoustic and cabaret, and upwards of forty bands and performers on the bill, the small, boutique festival is one of the most eagerly anticipated music events of the year. But if you haven't been asked to attend this invite only party, it's unlikely you'd even know it was on.

Tracing back the history of the Pyramid Party leads to a party held in a North Malvern garden during the Summer of 1991. A small group of twenty-somethings, inspired by fantastic experiences at Glastonbury and the Cornish Tree and Elephant Fayres, put together a party the likes of which had never been seen in the town. The party started with a video countdown displayed on tv screens suspended in trees followed by pyrotechnics as flash bombs were set off to cue the DJs to begin playing. There was dry ice around peoples ankles and decorations above their heads. An artificial sun, actually a light from a film set, shone down while others illuminated trees with greens and reds. All around the garden ultra violet reactive fabrics, paints and objects glowed with psychedelic intensity as two hundred and fifty revellers danced through to the early hours. At one point a couple of police officers turned up in response to a multitude of noise complaints. They walked in to the garden, looked around in amazement at the décor and the contentment on the faces of the dancing throng, nodded in approval and left with a 'Obviously a well run party. Carry on, and try to keep it down'. This was one year before the infamous free festival on Castlemorton Common in May 1992 so the attitude of the law enforcement service towards lots of people gathering to listen to loud music was a little bit more relaxed than in subsequent times. Over the next fifteen years some seven parties were held in that little garden in North Malvern. Each one bigger and better than the one before. The organisers took to

naming the events so what was originally just called 'the garden party' first became

'The Sun Machine' then, the next year 'Effervescing Elephants' then 'Eon'. When it looked like it might be the last time the garden could be used the party was named 'Omega' to signify both an end and a beginning. DJs and decks always featured heavily in the garden with the likes of AdLib and Alien and JuJu Man but soon a small stage gave performance space for musicians. At first just a few people with guitars and a djembe would sing a few songs but before long the party was hosting full-on bands. One year Nigel Kennedy turned up with a crate of Champagne and his fiddle, jamming the night away with anyone who could tease a note from whatever old acoustic guitar was to hand. The music became more and more of a feature at the parties and the stage grew bigger and bigger. Malvern's Avant Bards played one year as did Flatworld and all the way from Brighton came Jason Webley, but it was the Funky Junky Monkeys who became inextricably linked with the party, coming together in 2005 just to play at the event. In 2004, two of the party organisers stood and admired their creation; an ultra violet fantasy land, awesome art installations, lighting and pyrotechnics, a stage with fantastically talented musicians playing to a thrilled and appreciative audience and a log fire to sit around 'til dawn. One said to the other 'Next year we should build a Pyramid Stage' and so they did. Now, of all the shapes available perhaps the worst for a stage is a pyramid. To be wide enough for a reasonably sized band requires immense height as the slanting sides soon encroach upon available headroom. And the construction is a constant headache with the sides retreating away from you as you climb scaffolds to attach coverings. The first Pyramid Stage was about four metres across and around five high. Covered with a white camouflage net and bedecked with ultra violet reactive



The Tipi Stage



Photos by Stefano Bianco

drapes the stage was large enough, just, for a five piece band provided they were close. The party that year was called 'Omega' and was thought to be the last one in the garden but the following year the new tenant of the garden flat agreed to hold it one more time. A bigger, six metre wide Pyramid Stage was built complete with its own backstage lounge and the organisers simply called the party 'Pyramid'. By now, the amount of work that went into organising the Pyramid Party was immense. A team of 'Pyramid People' spent weeks and weeks mowing, chopping, building, painting, installing, meeting, blagging and drinking to make the party happen. A party that was all over in a matter of hours. It was therefore logical to take the next step and make it a multi-day event. The garden was no longer available to the Pyramid People so they looked around for an alternative venue and in May 2009 the first three-day Pyramid



El Punko !

Party was held in the garden of a farmhouse in Herefordshire. Everyone you speak to who was at that party all say the same thing. It was simply the best party ever. Two Pyramid Stages were built for bands while the 'kitchen' was used to house the DJs. The garden was transformed as more than forty five bands and performers along with over twenty DJs played from 6pm on Friday until midnight on

Sunday. The wonderful Deckerdenance cocktail lounge double-decker bus served drinks to hundreds of guests and everyone had a fantastic time. The smaller 'tipi' stage saw a cracking set from the Zebedy Rays, a mesmerising rhythmic Moroccan feast from Gnawa UK and countless other rich performances while the main stage saw headline



slots that simply rocked from Omnia Opera and Transcendence. Sunday afternoon was Punk Rock heaven with the Tights and Troy as people sat and soaked up the sun. Good weather is a feature of Pyramid Parties. By pure chance or by mystic prescience, at least four parties have been held on the hottest night of the year. In 2005 it was 34°C at midnight and every three day event has been bathed in sunshine. Last May, the Party couldn't be held at the farm so it moved to West Malvern. To the Lamb Inn to be precise. With an acoustic stage in the garden, a pyramid stage inside and a room for DJs, the pub proved to be a suitable venue. So much so that a second Pyramid Weekend was held there in Sep-

The Pyramid Stage



tember. The two weekends saw the pub at its busiest ever with around one thousand people buying tickets over the three days of the party. Again, a seemingly impossibly long list of bands played inside and out and again the sun shone for the duration. With the Lamb currently closed, the Pyramid People needed to find another venue for this year's Pyramid Party. They wanted a place in the country with

enough space for camping, and they found it. The Pyramid People have joined forces with another party crew called GodZilaZ and together they are holding the invite-only gathering this month. No one is sure where the party will be held, no one is sure how to secure an invite but with the Pyramid People's uncanny ability with the weather you just might be lucky enough to see them in the sunshine.



An appreciative Pyramid audience

Theatre Review

Malvern Theatres

Billy Elliot: The Musical

The very individual Billy Elliot

The musical opens with a scene that is reminiscent of Les Miserables. The striking miners are protesting the cuts and deriding the 'scabs' on what is a barricade. The cast, with their backs to us are behind a gauze curtain, as the curtain is taken away the scene comes into complete focus drawing us into the action of shouting protestors. They turn and their banners have the phrases like, 'No to cuts', 'Down with scabs'. For a moment it seemed like a scene from recent protests. A powerful performance of "The Stars Look Down" brings the life and pride of the community into sharp focus.



The set and staging of the musical is brilliant. The life and energy of the cast draws you in. These young people have obviously worked hard to create this Youth Production of Billy Elliot. The 'electricity' of the performers helps the audience feel the frustration of the miners as they fight for their livelihoods whilst trying to do the best by their families.

A sparkling performance by all involved. While about the strength of the individual shining through, the story tells us that the inner strength of even a battered and hopeless community can work together to help their stars shine, so to with the players in this musical.

Tobias Dadge as Billy was extremely convincing as a young Northern boy unsure of what was happening to him as the insecurities of age and background, held back and frustrated his newly found talent of dance and his dream to pursue it. Lachlan Werner as Billy's friend Michael had the audience eating out of his hand, delivering his lines like a true professional. He had that something special that just made him stand out. Kate Elizabeth Hanks as the dance teacher was a dream. It is quite a wonderful role and she played it well. Everyone in the cast played their parts well bringing to the audience a great evening's entertainment. I laughed, I cried, I sympathized and reflected. What seems like a 'nice' story has a lot in it to reflect upon. If you get the chance to see this production of Billy Elliot, you will not be disappointed.



I cannot finish this without a word about the Malvern Theatres. I am ashamed to say this was my first visit since the days of Malvern Winter Gardens. It is a great venue with some very warm and welcoming staff. If you haven't been, find a reason to go. I will be finding an excuse to go again soon.

The Landlord



Worcester City Football Club are holding a Beer and Cider Festival on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th July at St. Georges Lane. 'The Blue Dragon Beer and Cider Festival', as it will be known, will stock a range of a local real ales and ciders and the bars will be open from 12.00 midday to 11.00 pm.

There will be more information in next month's issue but in the meantime the organisers are looking for bands to play in the bar on Friday evening and from midday on the Saturday. If any bands wish to get involved they should email Bingo at wcfctrust@btinternet.com with information about themselves ie. Genre, covers/tribute or Original

The festival has been organised to raise money for the cash strapped club and its hoped the club can at least break even this season. So try and support this great cause and make it 'A local festival for the community by the local club in our community'.

Festivals Time - Let's Go!

Well I reckon there'll be a festival somewhere in our fair region just about every weekend over the summer - so here's a brief run-down of the ones I popped along to and mostly enjoyed last year - touch wood most of them will be still going and around the same time - though there'll definitely be a couple of omissions!! Now I've included in my list both metropolitan/urban events (mostly one-dayers) and the type where you can turn up for the day (like I do) or pitch a tent for the weekend - so why not try a bit of both??



The four-month-long party season kicked off in June with the first of two Pyramid Parties held at the Lamb Inn, West Malvern - but as this up-and-down venue has finally shut its doors the organisers are hoping to relocate to pastures new. A

cracking selection of prime local acts and a terrific atmosphere made this one of my highlights of 2010 - let's hope for the same again! If you're over 40 and like your blues with a touch of Americana thrown in then the Linton Festival near Ross-on-Wye will be up your street - less senior citizens might prefer either the Youthcomm Mini-Fest in Cripplegate Park (two stages this year) or the Evesham Youth Music Festival held in the town square.



July really sees the first flurry of major events - it'd be a sin to miss out on the wonderful Nozstock near Bromyard - one of our local gems with an always sparkling selection of local and national-named acts.

Please let it be fine again this year - as this is the festival that's probably most dependent on the weather - when it's sunny it's magnificent, but in 2009 it was like the Somme! Tremendously impressed with Upton Blues last year as well - I set up camp in the Boathouse but had a great wander



round the various pubs and street stages putting on bands - and I can recommend this even if you're not a hardened blues-merchant, plenty of variety!! Droitwich Music Festival runs over two weekends

in July also with acts performing on street stages around the spa town centre - completely different to anything else going and well worth popping along to.

Possibly my highlight from last July (and maybe the whole summer) was the small but perfectly formed BridgeBash near Clifton-on-Teme. A stunning picture-postcard location and a really tastefully selected mix of both local and regional acts - if you're looking to get away from it all for a weekend this could be the one for you... One that I might possibly check out again - but find



really difficult to recommend is the one-day WestFest in Malvern, which had the most over-the-top and utterly unnecessary police presence I have ever seen considering the mostly-mature

audience - can cucumber sandwiches be used as an offensive weapon? Evidently the boys in blue thought so...

The prime-time season in August kicks off with Big Chill - now the biggest of our local bashes isn't completely to my taste, probably due to the almost complete lack of local acts invited! This might change this year though - but expect a selection of international talent together with a bewildering variety of dance, dub, hip-hop, fusion, r'n'b - you get the drift... For many across the country - this'll be their main holiday this year - my highlight a couple of years ago was seeing Gong for the first time in the forty years they've been going - but even a rare appearance by Robert Plant this year hasn't really ticked my boxes yet...

No Wyese festival in Hereford this year - hardly surprising really as they've lost colossal amounts of money - a shame as this used to be one of the sparkliest events doing the rounds. There won't be another Jamstand in Ross-on-Wye either after the utter fiasco of last year's twice-postponed crash-and-burn event - but I'll make do with the overwhelmingly metal Plumstock in Pershore to kick out my personal jams - and I'll be sure to call in at Worcester Beer Festival for a stick or five of fine ale with some quality local music thrown into the mix!

But of course the highlight of August will be the 'festival the weather just can't spoil'... Talking of course about Worcester Music Festival - now in its third year - and all I'll need for a great weekend is a jar of bunion cream as I clock up the mileage trying to get to as many of the 250+ acts playing round the city centre over the weekend - not to be missed!!

Sure I'll find somewhere to check out over the August Bank Holiday (watch this space) - and hopefully there'll still be room in September for another Pyramid Party before the delightful Snodfest closes off another magical summer of music! Of course there are other festivals in places like Somerset, Berkshire, Yorkshire etc but I'm really not sure I'm going to be able to fit them in...

Arleyfest

10TH – 12TH June 2011

Arley pulls off a musical coup...

With a population of just a few hundred it's amazing that major artists such as Seth Lakeman, Scott Matthews and Frank from the Fun Lovin' Criminals have been attracted to play at this year's Arleyfest in the beautiful Severn side village.

Andy Brown festival promoter says, "I thought we were pushing our luck when I approached major bands agents, but everybody said 'yes', 'To get two artists who've had recent Top 10 albums like Seth and Scott is a major coup for such a small village.'"

This is a not for profit event, any surplus will be used to grow the festival and invest in the local community. This means ticket prices have been kept low: 3 days of music for just £25 and £5 for camping. Similar festivals with lesser line ups are charging four times this.



Paul Smith, Head of Marketing says, "We will be presenting value for money, exciting quality festival in one of Worcestershire's most beautiful locations; you can even arrive by the Severn Valley Steam Railway. We would like to invite music lovers from all over to come and join our little community for a great fun weekend."

Amongst the amazing line-up this year is Scott Matthews (above) and Seth Lakeman (Right). Both incredibly talented and renowned artists in their own right.

Look out also for the amazing Cantaloop at this Arley festival.



Arley Community Sports Field, Arley Lane, Arley. DY12 1XJ
Gates open 6.30pm Friday, camping from 4pm.
For further information follow links below.

www.arleyfest.co.uk

www.sethlakeman.co.uk

www.scottmatthewsmusic.co.uk/

www.cantaloop.net

www.6dayriot.co.uk/

Contact: Paul Smith 07969 573133 arleyfest@gmail.com

Rachel Harrington The Guildhall 15th April 2011

The success of Gilded Friday's continued with American singer/song writer Rachel Harrington's appearance at the Guild Hall.

Rachel's music is described as country soul and if you're a fan of the kind of American gutsy folk that's been explored and reinvigorated by people like Robert Plant, Bruce Springsteen and Johnny Cash in their more recent work, then you would have loved this gig.

Her last album, Celilo Falls, got 4 star reviews in Mojo and Q Magazine but here at Slapmag we're giving it a 5!

Even Jools Holland has expressed interest in getting her to perform on his show - and here she was performing in one of the nicest venues you'll probably ever go to right here on our door step.

Her ability to captivate with songs like "Here in my bed" was amazing. She had us spellbound and I'm sure it's going to be one of those gigs that you look back on, after she reaches the heights of popularity that is surely coming her way, and think - I saw her just before it all took off for her.

The buzz amongst the audience afterwards was so nice - we'd just experienced something amazing. It makes you look forward to the coming Gilded Fridays.

Dave Marston



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Local Projects...

As well as a comprehensive schedule of national touring we also run many local events. Why not join us every Tuesday night from 8.30pm at The Great Malvern Hotel for our Open Mic Night. It does exactly what it says on the tin!! Send us a text or just turn up and play.



NEW!

Colwall Family Music Festival...

10th July 2011 DETAILS IN JUNE SLAP!!

Venue Guide

Adam & Eve (Pub)

201 Bradford Street, Birmingham B12 0JD
0121 6931500

Air (Café Bar)

36 Broad Street, Worcester, WR1 3NH
01905 780 108

The Anchor Inn (Pub)

Cotherigde Lane, Eckington, WR10 3BA
01386 750 356

The Angel (Pub)

14 Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN
01905 723 229

The Art House Cafe (Cafe)

Crowngate Shopping Centre, Chapel Walk,
Worcester, WR1 3LD
01905 617 161

Artrix (Theatre)

Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ
01527 577 330

Barley Mow (Pub)

3 Hanbury Street, Droitwich, WR9 8PL
01905 773 248

Base Studios (Venue)

Rufford Road Trading Estate, Stourbridge, DY9 7ND
07976 843 718

The Bedwardine (Pub)

128 Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5DJ
01905 421 461

The Bell (Pub)

Etnam Street, Leominster, HR6 8AE
01568 612 818

The Bell (Pub)

35 St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5AG
01905 424 570

The Black Cross (Pub)

70 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AG
01527 876 052

The Blackpole Inn (Pub)

Blackpole Road, Worcester,
01905 451 180

The Blue Bell Inn (Pub)

Ryall, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0PP
01684 594 624

The Boston Tea Party (Cafe)

18 Broad Street, Worcester, WR1 3NF
01905 26472

The Bull Hotel

14 Bullring, Ludlow, SW8 1AD
01584 877227

The Bridge Inn (Pub)

Plough Road, Tibberton, Droitwich WR9 7NQ
01905 345874

The Bridge Hotel

87 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, WR15 8AE
0871 951 1000

Callow End Social Club (Club)

8 Upton Road, Callow End, Worcester, WR2 4TE
01905 640 909

Cap 'n' Gown (Pub)

45 Upper Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JZ
01905 28914

The Cock & Magpie (Pub)

1 Severnside North, Bewdley, DY12 2EE
01299 405 842

The Cricketers (Pub)

6 Angel St, Worcester, WR1 3QT
01905 23583

The Cross Keys (Pub)

79 Belmont Road, Malvern, WR14 1PN
01684 572 945

The Crown Inn (Pub)

Peopleton WR10 2EE
01905 840222

Drummonds (Pub)

28 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DP
01905 28190

Evesham Arts Centre

Victoria Avenue, Evesham, WR11 4QH
01386 488 83

The Fleece Inn (pub)

The Cross, Bretforton, Nr Evesham WR11 7JE
01386 831173

The Firefly (Pub)

54 Lowesmoor, Worcester, WR1 2SE
01905 616 996

The Garibaldi (Pub)

Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5DJ
01905 780 464

The Gardeners Arms

Vines Lane, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 8LU
01905 772936

The Great Malvern Hotel

Graham Road, Malvern, WR14 2HN
01684 563 411

The Green Dragon (Pub)

126 Guarlford Road, Malvern, WR14 3QT
01684 572 350

The Hand In Glove (Pub)

25 College Street, Worcester, WR1 2LS
01905 612 154

Hare & Hounds (Pub)

106 High St, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7JZ
0121 4442081

The Hop Pole (Pub)

Hop Pole Lane, Cleobury Road, Bewdley, DY12 2QH
01299 401 295

The Hop Pole (Pub)

78 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61 0DF
01527 870 100

Heroes Bar

26-32 Friar street, Worcester, WR1 2LZ

Huntington Hall (Theatre)

Crowngate, Worcester, WR1 3LD
01905 611 427

The Imperial (Pub)

31 Widemarsh St, Hereford, HR49EA
01432 360 931

Katie Fitzgerald's (Pub)

187 Envile Street, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB
01384 374 410

Keystones Cafe Bar (Pub)

1 Copenhagen Street, Worcester, WR1 2HB
01905 731 437

The Kings Head (Pub)

Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU
01905 726 025

The Kings Head (Pub)

Riverside, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0HF
01684 592 621

The Lamb Inn (Pub)

West Malvern Road, West Malvern, WR14 4NG

Lanes Bar

Unit 1, Everoak Industrial Estate, Bromyard Road,
St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5HN
07770 650 849

The Little Packhorse (Pub)

31 High Street, Bewdley, DY12 2DH
01299 403 762

Little Venice

3-5 St Nicholas Street, Worcester, WR1 1UW
01905 726 126

The Marrs Bar (Club)

12 Pierpoint Street, Worcester, WR1 1TA
01905 613 336

The Masons Arms

Wichenford, Worcester, WR6 6YA
01886 889064

The Mount Pleasant (Pub)

50 Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern, WR14 4PZ
01684 561 837

The Northwick Arms (Pub)

29 Vine Street, Worcester, WR3 7DY
01905 452 244

The Old Chesnut Tree Inn (Pub)

Manor Road, Lower Moor, Pershore, WR10 2NZ
01386 860 380

The Old Rectifying House (Pub)

North Parade, Worcester, WR1 3NN
01905 619 622

Queens Head (Pub)

Wolverley Village, Kidderminster, DY11 5XB
01562 850 433

The Royal Oak (Pub)

5 The Southend, Ledbury, HR8 2EY
01531 632 110

The Stagborough Arms (Pub)

Lickhill Road, Stourport, DY13 8UQ
01299 823 899

The Star Inn + Hotel (Pub)

High Street, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0HQ
01684 493 432

The Swan (Pub)

Vicar Street, Kidderminster, DY10 1DE
01562 823 008

The Swan Hotel (Pub)

Waterside, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0JD
01684 594 948

The Swan Theatre (Theatre)

The Moors, Worcester, WR1 3ED
01905 611 427

The Swan With Two Nicks (Pub)

28 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DP
01905 28190

The Talbot (Pub)

52 Newlands, Pershore, WR10 1BW
01386 553 575

Tramps Nightclub (Club)

Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN
01905 20218

The Virgin Tavern (Pub)

Tolladine Road, Worcester, WR4 9BJ
01905 863 002

Worcester Arts Workshop (Cafe)

21 Sansome St, Worcester, WR1 1UH
01905 21095

Wagon & Horses (Pub)

28 Adderley St, Birmingham B9 4ED
0121 7721403

May Gig Guide

Sunday 1 May 2011

Acoustic Lunch – Tyler Massey, Babble & friends + support
The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Cover Junkies
Drummonds, Worcester

Jazzenco
Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 2 May 2011

Agata's Piano Evening
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 3 May 2011

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night, Guest Host Big Jim
Queens Head, Wolverley

Stackridge
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Wednesday 4 May 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Rhythm & Blues with Dave Small (Naked Remedy) & Friends
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Lesley Garrett
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Thursday 5 May 2011

Dave Onions
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

James Hickman & Dan Cassidy
The Granary, Leominster

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Sunshines Blues
The Swan, Kidderminster

Indie-Pendence
Velvet Night Club, Worcester

Ital Sounds Pure reggae & Old School Dub (Club Night)
The Angel, Worcester

Farewell Vera
Velvet Lounge, Worcester

Friday 6 May 2011

The Murmur
Seven Stars, Kidderminster

C-Jam
Queens Head, Wolverley

James Hickman & Dan Cassidy
Stoulton Village Hall, Worcester

Guilty Pleasure
The Bluebell Inn, Ryall, Nr Upton

Poetry In Numbers, Nomad 67, The Crooked Empire
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Skimmer, 12th Wreck, The Nerks, Disconnected
The Queens Head, Redditch

FreewaterR
The Brook Inn, Redditch

Ronin, Dirty Oyster Cabaret, SJS Band
The Bunker @ Keystones, Worcester

The Naked Flames
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Vault of Eagles
Moseley Arms, Birmingham

The Delray Rockets
The Village Inn, Boely, Redditch

Saturday 7 May 2011

Carly Dee

Lanes Bar, Worcester

James Hickman & Dan Cassidy (Shindig Organised)

Sytchampton Village Hall, Nr Stourport

Dubstep

The Queens Head, Redditch

Ronda

The Bridge, Tenbury Wells

Gunslinger

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Mike Prince

The Garibaldi, Worcester

Fingers

Callow End Social Club, Worester

Vault Of Eagles

Surface Festival @ The Flapper, Birmingham
To Vote go to www.surfacefestival.com

The Murmur

Astley Cross, Stourport

Sunday 8 May 2011

Remy Harris Trio

Queens Head, Wolverley

James Hickman & Dan Cassidy (Shindig Organised)

Areley Kings Village Hall, Stourport

Sarah Oreggio

The Worcester Arts Workshop

Stompin On Spiders

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro

Monday 9 May 2011

Agata's Piano Evening

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 10 May 2011

Open Mic Night

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night, Guest Host Simon

Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 11 May 2011

Kevin Underwood

Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Marzy's Jamming Night

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Wooden Horse

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Music Night

The Morgan, Malvern

Thursday 12 May 2011

Becky Rose

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mike Mann & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Lord Bishop Rocks

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Indie-Pendence

Velvet Night Club, Worcester

LED Munkee

The Swan, Kidderminster

Nice n Sleazy

The Star Hotel, Upton Upon Severn

Kevin Underwood

The Hand In Glove, Worcester

Lucy And The Ramblers

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Jules Benjamin & Friends

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vo & Tyler

The Prince Of Wales, Malvern

Friday 13 May 2011

Babble

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Horror Themed Hip Hop with Subkon Allstars

The Angel, Worcester

Nomad 67

The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Ottis Mac & The Tubby Bluesters

Queens Head, Wolverley

Black Russian

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

FreewaterR

The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Julian Smith

Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Navigators

The Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

Sarah Warren Band, Chris Whiting Band, Absolute Ataxia

The Bunker @ Keystones, Worcester

Hitchhiker

The Talbot, Pershore

Umphff

Garibaldi, Worcester

Saturday 14 May 2011

Warren

The Garibaldi, Worcester

Leslie Wilson of FreewaterR

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Sensations

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Roy Orbison & Friends 75 Special

The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Guilty Pleasure

Cross Keys, Malvern

Fleetwood Bac

Huntington Hall, Worcester

The Cowley Cowboys + Suppor

The Boston Tea Party, Worcester

Voodoo Blue, Black Country Jammers

Queens Head, Wolverley

Funky Navigation DJ's

Heroes Bar, Worcester

Will Killeen

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Murmur, Ben Green & more

Hopfest, Hopley's Farm, Bewdley

Sunday 15 May 2011

Grumpy Old Guitarists

Queens Head, Wolverley

In The Mood (Five Star Swing)

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Monday 16 May 2011

Agata's Piano Evening

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 17 May 2011

Open Mic Night

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night, Guest Host Keith

Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 18 May 2011

Grumpy Old Guitarists

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Irish Music With The O'Farrells

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Marzy's Jamming Night

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Music Night

The Morgan, Malvern

Shooglenifty

Huntington Hall, Worcester

Thursday 19 May 2011

Babajack

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley



Fights & Fires

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Jules Benjamin & Friends

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Indie-Pendence

Velvet Night Club, Worcester

Mood Elevators

The Star Hotel, Upton Upon Severn

Trower Power (Robin Trower Tribute band)

The Swan, Kidderminster

Mike Mann & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ital Sounds Reggae Dancehall & Ragga Night

The Angel, Worcester

Wooden Horse

The Hand In Glove, Worcester

Friday 20 May 2011

Carly Dee

The Talbot, Pershore

Cohen Brothers

Queens Head, Wolverley

Poetry In Numbers

The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Meet On The Ledge, Greenman Rising

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

The Fingers

The Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

Naked Remedy

Route 44, Birmingham

Pot Kettle Black (Club Night)

The Firefly

After Party Bar 12

The Pull, Richard Clarke & The Rafters

The Bunker @ Keystones, Worcester

James Hickman & Dan Cassidy (Shindig Organised)

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Saturday 21 May 2011

Stompin on Spiders, Rose Hannet & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Barflys

The Bridge, Tibberton

GaGa – The Ultimate Queen Tribute

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Vo & Tyler

The Chase Inn, Upper Colwall

Ronda

Lanes Bar, Worcester

Eureka Machines

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

High Roller

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The Fabulous Bordellos

The Bull, Ludlow

Umphff

The Bridge Inn, Tenbury Wells

ASA

The Garibaldi, Worcester

Sunday 22 May 2011

Des Horsfall's Kuschty Rye

The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Umphff

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Murmur

Arches, Bewdley

Monday 23 May 2011

Agata's Piano Evening

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions

The Cock n Maggie, Bewdley

Tuesday 24 May 2011

Open Mic Night + Chewie's Birthday!

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 25 May 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Music Night
The Morgan, Malvern

Soul Diva Maxine
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Thursday 26 May 2011

The Undercover Aces
The Star Inn, Upton Upon Severn

The Irony, I Am Ryan
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Indie-Pendence
Velvet Night Club, Worcester

March Is Court
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Rubi Cava
The Swan, Kidderminster

The Fabulous Bordellos
The Bell, Leominster

Babba Jack
The Hand In Glove, Worcester

Undercover Aces
The Star Hotel, Upton Upon Severn

Friday 27 May 2011

Carly Dee
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Dance Night with Bhima No Skin
The Angel, Worcester

Naked Remedy
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Funky Navigation DJ's
Heroes Bar, Worcester

Partners In Crime
The Kings Head, Upton Upon Severn

Ronda
The Hop Pole, Bromyard

Poetry In Numbers, Carousel Circus
Blacklight Pioneer, The Town
Island Bar, Birmingham

Riff/Raff (AC/DC Tribute)
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Worcester Music Festival Fundraiser
The Bunker @ Keystones, Worcester

Wooden Horse
The Hob Nails Inn, Tewkesbury

Saturday 28 May 2011

BowBow Festival (2 Days)
The Hare & Hounds, Shenstone, Nr Kidderminster
See advert on Page 10

Funky Navigation DJ's with Funk & Soul
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Stompin on Spiders, Stripped Down Blues
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Cantalloop Album Launch
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Gwyn Ashton
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Vo & Tyler
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Brian Jones
The Garibaldi, Worcester

Murmur
The Bridge, Tenbury

Sunday 29 May 2011

BowBow Festival (2 Days)
The Hare & Hounds, Shenstone, Nr Kidderminster
See advert on Page 10



Christopher Rees, Wes Dance
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Naseby Crossing, Wes Dance, Skewwhiff
Acoustic Lunch @The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Monday 30 May 2011

Nomad 67
The Birmingham Mayors Show, Birmingham

Open Mic with Dave Small & Dave Onions
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Comedy

Thursday 5 May 2011

Comedy Zone Presents Stephen Carlin
Matt Welcome plus guest
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

Firing Cheeseballs At A Dog
Huntington Hall, Worcester

Sunday 8 May 2011

Magners Comedy Funhouse
Drummonds, Worcester

Monday 16 May 2011

Dom Joly
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Russell Howard
The Marr's Bar, Worcester **SOLD OUT!**

Thursday 19 May 2011

Raw Comedy
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Tuesday 24 May 2011

Comedy Night
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Exhibitions

Wednesday 4 May–11 June 2011

Worcestershire Contemporary Art Show
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Until Tuesday 17 May 2011

Marcus Coates
The Movement,
Platform 2, Foregate Street Station, Worcester

Until Friday 20 May 2011

Nathaniel Kara
Diana Scott
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Monday 23 May–16 June 2011

SEPR – Bristol Street Art
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Friday 27 May–31 May 2011

Worcestershire Arts Trail
See Pages 38 & 39

listings@slapmag.co.uk

In Association with



THE MARR'S BAR

MAY 2011

Alan Davey's Gunslinger
Saturday 7th



Comedy Zone Presents...

Stephen Carlin, Matt Welcome plus guest

Thursday 5th - Tickets £10

**Poetry In Numbers, Nomad 67 and
Crooked Empire (Punk, New Wave)**

Friday 6th - Tickets £4 or

£5 on the door

Alan Davey's Gunslinger (Rock)

(ex Hawkwind)

Saturday 7th - Tickets £5

Lord Bishop Rocks ("Sex Rock")

Thursday 12th - Tickets £5 or

£6 on the door

Black Russian (Rock n Roll)

Friday 13th - Tickets £4 or

£5 on the door

The Sensations (Soul)

Saturday 14th - Tickets £4 or

£5 on the door

Comedy Zone Special Presents...

RUSSELL HOWARD

Monday 16th - Tickets £15 - SOLD OUT

Fights And Fires Album Launch

(Punk Rock)

Thursday 19th - Tickets £4

Meet On The Ledge plus Greenman

Rising (Folk/Rock)

Friday 20th - Tickets £8 or

£10 on the door

Eureka Machines (Power Pop)

Saturday 21st - Tickets £6

Des Horsfall's Kuschty Rye (Blues)

Sunday 22nd - Tickets £7.50 or

£10 on the door

Evesham Rocks Worcester -

The Irony + I am Ryan + Special Guests

Thursday 26th - Tickets £4 or

£5 on the door

Riff/Raff (AC/DC Tribute)

Friday 27th - Tickets £4 ticket or

£5 on the door

Gwyn Ashton (Blues)

Saturday 28th - Tickets £5 or

£8 on the door

Christopher Rees (Singer songwriter)

with support from Wes Dance

Sunday 29th - Tickets £6 or

£7 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue