

# SLAP

Issue 40

Sept 2014

MAGAZINE

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# SLAP

Sept 2014 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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Caitlin Barrat of Roving Crows  
at Lakefest by Graham Munn



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publisher or editor.

Hello and welcome to the September issue of SLAP in which we look back on the August local festival scene with many fond memories.

Will Munn takes us back to Lakefest where the big hitters from the punk, ska and bit pop eras, some timeless funk and plenty of folk, kept the crowds entertained all weekend.

We are taken literally to the four corners of the slightly more deviant and alternative **Nozstock Festival** by our roving reporters. It amazes me how each festival has its own vibe and each person has their own experiences. We also look back at **B:Fest**, the **Blues at the Jinny Ring** and the **Billing Biker Bash** as well as a couple of urban festivals - the **4 Shires Festival** held in Droitwich and the **Gloucester Blues**.

Kate Cox, along with the **BHG** team, take us back to the hugely successful **Kidderminster Arts Festival**. And talking of urban Festivals, as I go to press, Worcester is bracing itself for its 5th **Worcester Music Festival**, highlights of which we'll bring you in next months issue. Also Catherine Milner invites us to the small but perfectly formed and faultlessly organised **Snodfest** in a couple of weeks.

So the festival season is coming to an end and the nights are drawing in, that doesn't mean we stop supporting the local arts and performers around the counties. We are blessed with some amazing local talent so get out there and find it, photograph it, talk about it, write about it and spread the word. Your local venues need your support too, so use them before you lose them to lack of interest or development. And do us all a favour, if you move next to a live music venue or theatre, remember you had a choice to go elsewhere before you start complaining about noise and parking and start spoiling it for those of us who appreciate it!

*Rant Ed!*



**BBC**  
introducing...



## 'Big Busk' Boost



Photography by Andy Burton

Worcester Music Festival chairman **Ant Robbins** hailed the **Worcester Big Busk** as a successful 'drum-roll' for the main event (and yes we'll be bringing you many reports of WMF in the next issue!) **Tom Forbes**, **Mike Knowles**, **Granny's Attic** and many others set the streets alive with the sound of music on three outdoor stages to drum up a little extra publicity for Worcester's biggest celebration of its amazing home-grown talent!!

## Claire Boswell Launch

There was a packed turnout at **Worcester Arts Workshop** for **Claire Boswell's** for the launch of her debut album. The singer/songwriter was accompanied by the pick of local musos such as **Dave Draper** on guitar, **Ben Pemberton** on drums and **Dec Sharma** on keyboards, plus **Maurice Hipkiss** on fiddle and pedal steel who's also sessioned with the likes of Don McLean (the good one!) and Glen Campbell. Class!!



## Toyah's Return

If you've got an arm and leg to spare - you can get up close and personal with 'punk princess' **Toyah Willcox** at the **Regal Cinema** in Evesham on November 9th - where she'll regale the affluent audience with an unplugged set and stories from her 35 year career...

## Cher

Malvern's X-Factor 'wild child' **Cher Lloyd** has said that she would not allow a daughter of hers to appear on the show - despite achieving chart success in both the UK and US - saying that *'she wasn't ready and it messed with my head'* - but she's also spoken about her recent marriage at the age of 20 to hairdresser Craig Monk saying that *'where I come from it's normal to get married at 16'* - right that's ok then...

## Bonzo Memorial

Led Zeppelin drummer **John Bonham's** sister **Deborah** has launched a campaign for a permanent memorial to Bonzo in his home town of Redditch with fundraising gigs and on-line appeals - more info on this well-worthy exercise we feel at [johnbonhammemorialcampaign.com](http://johnbonhammemorialcampaign.com)

## Naked Nizlopi

**Nizlopi** duo **Luke Concannon** and **John Parker** say that they may appear completely naked at their upcoming gig at the **Marrs Bar** in November - and hope the audience does too - the JCB pair will be showcasing some of their newer 'political and passionate' numbers to 'build the world they want to see' - could be interesting...



## ...Guys in Glasses

**Hey You Guys!** frontman **Pete Adams** has publicly defended their image of 'nerds with thick-rimmed glasses' as being down to three of the four-piece quirk-rockers actually having quite poor eyesight - seems to have done them no harm as they've recently toured with **[spunge]** and **Kerbdog** and are now working on their *'Difficult Second Album'* after the great feedback from their debut release *Gasp!Shock!Horror!* - but apparently it's not been that 'difficult' at all - now we're really confused...



## Bewdley Book Week 2014 features local food writer

On September 13th local food writer **Mary-Anne Boermans** will talk about her award-winning recipes as one of the events in **Bewdley Book Week**. Mary-Ann, who lives in Kidderminster, was one of 12 contestants in TV's *The Great British Bake Off* 2011.



Her book **Great British Bakes: Forgotten Treasures for Modern Bakers** is the result of Mary-Anne's extensive research into the UK's baking history and adapts recipes that have been honed and perfected over the centuries for the modern kitchen. The book won the Guild of Food Writers 2014 Award for Best First Book.





*Forgotten Treasures* reveals the stories behind the recipes with tales of escaped princes, hungry politicians and royal excursions to sample baking delicacies. Copies will be available after her talk which is in St George's Hall, Bewdley starting at 2.30pm.

Mary-Anne is one of a galaxy of speakers in Bewdley Book Week whose subjects include Rudyard Kipling's secret

sister, a Kidderminster-based detective, 50 years of British Rock guitar, a mad-cap balloonist and 100 films to see before you grow up. Internationally acclaimed motivator **Derek Mills** who has spoken to packed halls in the US is also part of the wide-ranging programme.

**Bewdley Book Week** events take place in St George's Hall, Bewdley and Bewdley Library from Monday September 8th. Tickets to all speaker events are available from the town's Tourist Information Centre and cost £4.00. Tel 0845 6077819. For the full programme visit: [bewdleybookweek.org.uk](http://bewdleybookweek.org.uk)



## Bromsgrove Planning Ahead

**Bob Bignell**, Deputy Chair of the **Bromsgrove Festival** told Slap that having received feedback from many of the organisers of events in this year's Festival, and with the sound of success still ringing in their ears, and those of the event organisers, the Bromsgrove Festival committee are already planning next year's event and, whereas there may be subtle changes, the main aim is still to demonstrate the wealth of talent in all genres that exists within the Bromsgrove area. This does not mean, of course, that national and international artists will not also feature.

This year's Festival represented a turning point and, with a new benchmark from which to work, the Festival Committee, as well as the event organisers are looking to make 2015 even better.

Event organisers are urged to apply now to have their dates for events, even though details may not be finalised, included in the programme, and ultimately the Festival Brochure, by submitting them to [info@bromsgrovesfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@bromsgrovesfestival.co.uk). It is hoped that by reference to the web site programme that some of the date duplication experienced at this year's Festival can be avoided.

It is anticipated that the on going 2015 programme will commence publication on the web site within the next couple of weeks. [www.bromsgrovesfestival.co.uk](http://www.bromsgrovesfestival.co.uk)

## THE PIG & DRUM

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# It's Festival Season! The trek continues...

with Andy O'Hare

Well probably the best-ever local festival season continued in fine style with a great couple of days at the third **Malvern Rocks** - so hard to choose which acts to see out of the 160+ who took part at 16 different venues across the hills - and I think that my own personal tour was decided by how many times I had to make the climb up and down Church Street! Caught a whole bunch of dazzling sets myself but good to see just about every Malvern act going - like **Freaky Trigger** (one of three **Ralph Tittley** outfits playing), a newly-reformed **Ronda** and **Hennesea** - but possibly my pick of the weekend was the debut gig of **Wrong Planet Syndrome** at the Beauchamp Arms in the Link - good to see ex-**Tallulahs Scott** and **Louie** back up and running!!

Well I mentioned them back in SLAP #1 as being one of my own kick-starters of the H&W music scene - and along with acts like **Dandelion Killers**, **Tastyhead** and **Common Orange** - the fabulous **Bitchpups** were probably the perkier band on the great Hereford scene about ten years ago - despite actually coming from over the border in Chepstow! The years were rolled back when they played a one-off reunion gig at the very impressive **Monmouth Festival** - and heartwarming to hear sparkly ditties like *Normal* and *Coffee* - just like being back in the Herdsman again!



A bit more nostalgia for me as those **Worcester Music Festival** bods successfully organised a p\*\*s-up at **Popes' Brewery** on the Blackpole Trading Estate - with musical accompaniment from **Wes Dance**, **The Humdrum Express** and **Calm Like A Riot** - amazed to see that the old Corinthians cricket ground just down the road seems to be in pretty good nick - had many happy weekends there 'back in the day' - particularly when the Quaker landowners allowed us to run a bar there two days a year - the sight of our opening bat Robbie Turner (of 36 Stone fame/notoriety) doing the 'wibbly-wobbly' haunts me still...

Well it may have been the 'land that Noz forgot' but what a thoroughly pleasant and memorable weekend at **Nozstock**



(**The Hidden Valley**) with this year's wonderful 'prehistoric' theme - think that the dinosaur that made those footprints would have been about 200ft tall! Wonderful to bump into so many of the great and good of the H&W scene having their annual busman's holiday at Rowden Paddocks (you know who you are!) - lovely to catch the delightful **Roxanne De Bastion** after a number of years - and a cracking set by **Chevy Chase Stole My Wife** on our Sunday stage - but act of the weekend for many (including me) was **Stiff Joints** doing what they did at **Wychwood** and stealing the crowd from the main stage - brilliant!!

A first for us this year as we ran a stage at **Lakefest** for the whole weekend - and to all the acts who played for us like **Tina V**, **Byron Hare**, **Tyler**, **Ria Parfitt** and **Skewwhiff** - hope that you had a great time - despite the threat posed by Hurricane Bertha! Plenty of cracking local acts on the other stages as well like **CCSMW**, **Whipjacks**, **Sarah Warren** and the **All-Star Dub Band** sharing the billing with main stage headliners **Buzzcocks** and **Fun Lovin' Criminals** - but credit for making Lakefest the breeziest new festival in our region has to go to Paul and Caitlin of those **Roving Crows** - brilliant work to bring all this together guys - and a dazzling set to close off the final day!!



Very impressed indeed when I popped into the Redditch's **Morton Stanley Festival** for the first time - it's actually organised and run by the Borough Council themselves in one of the many picturesque parks which are a feature of the area - the idea of having two main stages side-by-side kept the music flowing continuously with no need for the usual exodus of the audience after the end of each set - clever! Nice touch as well in that the acts were restricted to those with a local connection like **Stuart Woolfenden**, **Cathodes**, **Khaos Theory** and **A Poetic Yesterday** - and a classy last-minute addition with **Adam Barry** and **Dan Sealey** of **Merrymouth** filling at late notice with a few **Ocean Colour Scene** numbers thrown into their mix!

A cracking evening at the **Boars Head** in Kidderminster with a street party as their contribution to the town's **Arts Festival** - and those Stiff Joints once again playing a blinder! Another first for me this year as I checked out the very-metal **Beermageddon** at the surprisingly genteel setting of Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club - glad though to be a honorary 'town member' for the weekend... A great atmosphere at this smallish but sold-out-weeks-before event - which maybe could've used a couple more local acts on the billing - with just rockers **Fury** carrying the flag in fine style for our region!!

Of course as we go to press it's the wonderful weekend of **Worcester Music Festival** - so many great acts to choose from over the whole weekend and should imagine my feet will get a hammering as I scurry around to as many as possible - and sure that there'll be many great pics to admire in the next few weeks!!

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



# ENTER MUSIC FESTIVAL PHOTO COMPETITION!



With the sound of live, original music still ringing in our ears from the weekend's **Worcester Music Festival**, a quick reminder to pick out your best images and enter the annual photo competition.

Entry is free and open to amateur photographers, with each participant allowed to submit up to 25 photos, they just need to have been taken during the free festival, which took place in scores of venues, on outdoor stages and in the streets across the city centre from Aug 29th-31st.

Judging will take place at the end of September, with the owner of the winning photo receiving a £100 camera store

voucher courtesy of festival sponsor **Child Care Bureau**, which provides vital services to families county-wide, with prizes also lined up for the runners up.



Judge **Mark Hoy**, who will again be joined on the panel by accomplished music photographers **Joe Singh** and **Steve Johnston**, said the images could be of anything related to the festival.

*"Last year, we received everything from thrashing guitarists mid-action right through to children dancing at a workshop and artistic shots of set lists taped to the floor," he said. "We had more than 250 bands and artists from across the UK playing at the festival this year and the world is your oyster, whether your images are emotive, action-packed or inspirational. Happy snapping."*

Entrants can have used any type of camera to take their images and basic editing is allowed. Variations of the same photo, however, will not be accepted and entrants should only submit a maximum of one photo per band, plus one of a band member of the same band during a gig.

To enter the competition, simply upload your images at: [flickr.com/photos/worcestermusicfestival](https://www.flickr.com/photos/worcestermusicfestival) (login: worcestermusic festival@yahoo.co.uk password: wmf2012) ensuring each image is accompanied by a band name, location, date and your name.

The closing date for entries is Sunday, September 14, after which the top 25 images will be chosen and displayed at an exhibition, before a prize giving ceremony on Sunday, September 28.

Organisers of **Worcester Music Festival** would like to thank everyone that made the seventh annual event happen, from the musicians and volunteers that gave their time for free to the sponsors, **Child Care Bureau**, **Worcestershire County Council** and **Worcestershire Youth Music**.

Mel Hall

3 of the final 25 entries. Top left: Martin Thorne by Danny Brothwell. Top Right: Hey You Guys! by Kelly Black and bottom left: Jasper in the Company of Others by Lucy Heath

What an amazing Worcester Music Festival with stuff going on all over the city and brimming with arts, live music and performances! Well done to the totally voluntary team who make this happen!

Clik Clik promoted a day on the streets with the **Play me Pianos** used by the public, **Sam Underwood**, **Heather Wastie**, **Dan Hartland**, **Slap Ya Mamas Big Band**, **The Grimaldi Band**, **walkabouts**, **character board** and the 3pm surprise musical **Flash mob**, a mass Miserlou!

After a big festival season packed full of processions, character boards and the new walkabout created especially for **Green Man** festival ('The Disco Suitcase' & 'Sunday Lunge'), Clik Clik is looking forward to a slightly calmer autumn! With new photo-booth ideas on the way, please get in touch if you need creative entertainment for your event, wedding or organisation!



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

## Festival Arts!

It was smashing to see all the fabulous arts installations and walkabouts at local festivals this summer, showing that 'music' festivals are so much more than just the music! Extra special love goes to **'Nozstock'**, with a decor team including some of our Kidderminster lovelies led by **Cozza** from the **BHG**, and big thanks to **Christine & Oskar** and all the Nozstock team for walkabouts and workshops from a range of artists and practitioners from the county and beyond! This year's Noz is being heralded as the 'best yet' and I feel that some of this acclaim must come from the beautiful creative vibe and extra colourful entertainment and decoration on site.

## City of Colour!

Birmingham has its own street art festival on the 6th & 7th of this month as Digbeth is transformed into the UK's largest outdoor art gallery, **The City of Colours Festival**. With a partnership of over 20 expert organisations and featuring live work from some amazing artists both national and International including **Inkie**, **Phlegm**, **Tempo 33**, **Sepr**, **Alex Senna**, **Lisk Bot**, **Lucy-McLauchlan** and many more, this is not to be missed. Alongside the live painting will be live music, dj's, b-boy battles, beat boxers, street food, live illustration battles, affordable art sale, installations, cinema screenings, spoken word performances & other innovative and engaging visual art forms. FREE.

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



## Confab at Cube

This month sees the fabulous **Confab Cabaret** make their new home at **Malvern Cube** with almost monthly spoken word and poetry nights. The first event is on sat 6th with donation entry, followed by a **Poetry Slam** on 10th Oct. See **ConfabCabaret** on facebook or check out:

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

Plus don't forget the **Cube Shuffle**, a mini festival on Sunday 28th with loads of live music and arts on offer! FREE 12 til 6pm.

## Chapel of Victories at Kidderminster Arts Festival



'Pica Pica' are two artists, **Tracey 'Picapica' & Adam Varley**, who collect scrap and rubbish found objects, and transform them into beautiful installations all over Europe. With backgrounds in illustration, community art and metalwork, **Pica Pica** were commissioned by **KAF** to create a temporary chapel which took residency in **Kidderminster Town Hall Corn Exchange** throughout the Festival.



Made from found objects and inspired by local stories, the Chapel was a commemoration of human endeavor, with soundscapes composed by **Andy Edwards**, who created the sounds for the **Carpet Forest** at last year's festival. KAF excel themselves with their creative gifts to the public and this truly was an exceptional installation. You could easily lose yourself inside the hidden words, secret openings and surprise messages. All this inside the most colourful and vibrant 'chapel' filled with other peoples 'junk' which had been undoubtedly been made into 'treasure'!

Check out their work...

<http://picapicastuff.blogspot.co.uk/>



## Kiss me quick

**Auguste Rodin's** *The Kiss*, returns to Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum 80 years after its initial display. Its display in 2014 celebrates the centenary of Rodin's visit to Cheltenham in 1914. Running until September 14th.



What an amazing year for the **KAF** team who produced the most vibrant and eclectic arts festival to date! From installations, workshops, exhibitions, live events, music, poetry, and walkabouts & theatrics KAF turned Kidderminster town centre into a hub of colour and expression for all to enjoy. Well done to **Loz Samuels** and all the hard working and fabulous KAF gang and roll on next summer!

[www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk)



## Tattoo Studio

**Loz**



**Christian**

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

**5-7 The Hopmarket  
Worcester WRI 1DL  
01905 731884**

## 'Looking Out, Looking In' Art Exhibition at The Infirmary

For the past few months, **The Infirmary Museum** at the city's old infirmary building has hosted a workshop for people living with dementia led by artist **Sue Purser Hope**. Sue works with kiln formed, fused and sandblasted glass and has been exhibited all over Britain.

This workshop was funded by the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and supported by the **Association of Dementia Studies** at **University of Worcester**, so free for those who wished to join in. It allowed people with dementia and their carers along with volunteers to develop new skills and interests, creating artworks from glass rods and grains attached to glass plates which were then fired in a kiln to meld the images together.



Perhaps more importantly, it also helped participants to connect socially over a cup of tea and a slice of cake in the beautiful **Jenny Lind Chapel**.

The participants were able to experiment with fantastic new artworks, and express their feelings and memories about home. They fed back that they felt 'warm and cosy' for having been able to do something new with 'surprisingly' good results. The artists' confidence grew each week they took part and the participants' 'other halves' enjoyed watching them take part.



I certainly enjoyed the wonderful artworks and was especially impressed with the professional layout of the 'art gallery'. The exhibition was displayed in the **Jenny Lind Chapel** for the whole second week of the **Worcester Festival**, and will hopefully be touring to other sites around the county.

*by Sarah Ganderton*

## Worcester Festival

This year's **Worcester Festival** has been full of fun events and activities. With masonry workshops at the cathedral, a teddy bears picnic and children's activities in the city's many museums, there has been plenty to see and do. The World War One exhibits on *'Woodbine Willie'* and *Vesta Tilley* were really interesting, and the **Artillery Day** parade was a terrific opportunity to see some vintage military vehicles as well as many proud uniformed men and women. Meanwhile the Gugge band playing outside the Guildhall could be heard right around the city centre, and the fashion show at the **City Art Gallery and Museum** was full of terrific styles and fashions.



But by far my favourite event, as usual was the fireworks that ended the Worcester Festival on bank holiday Monday. Despite the autumnal weather, the fireworks were spectacular as usual and we all 'oohed' and 'ahed' together as we enjoyed the display.

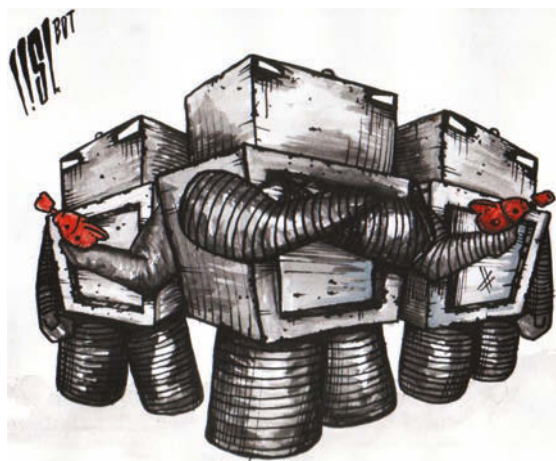
*by Sarah Ganderton*



# Artist feature - Lisk Bot

With the amazing 'City of Colours' street art festival coming up on Sept 6th & 7th in Digbeth this month, I took a moment to chat to one of the artists taking part, Birmingham's very own robot man, Michael Aston aka 'Lisk Bot'!

Your classic sci-fi nerd, Michael used to draw his idolized Star Wars and Transformer figures as a kid; before submerging himself into worlds consumed by machines. Futurama and Robot Wars triggered a fascination of robot world domination while classic sci-fi such as Metropolis and Forbidden Planet introduced Michael to cult 30's-60's sci-fi posters and fonts.



Michael always enjoyed drawing from an early age, following on through college before studying at Wolverhampton University where he truly discovered his calling for street art.

*"I soon figured out that art was my only natural talent, so for an overweight dyslexic child I thought it's best to continue with it through college, developing my skills and expand my knowledge. 7 years on and I'm still enjoying picking up a pencil."*

*"University made me aware of how heartless the whole gallery process was to display work; proposals and paperwork isn't my bag so for me street art was the natural path."*

He was amazed by the work of Banksy, Invader and Obey respecting the freedom of expression gained from such an art form.

*"I admired the ruthlessness of how they just got the balls and brought their work to the public by applying it to the streets, completely side stepped the whole gallery ordeal. So I thought that's the way to go and get my work seen!"*

And thus Lisk Bot was created and his iconic black and white robots started to appear around Birmingham city; peeping round corners, lurking in alleyways and looming on hidden walls.

*"Placing robot propaganda in a city that's brimming with different cultures and back grounds creates a natural contrast which I think blends in well. In the early days artists like TEMOP33 & Golden Boy were all working in black and white (as colour printing is so expensive); I liked it and kept the theme. I now use a little colour in my paste ups, not to draw too much attention but enough to turn a few more heads on the street."*



Michael is currently getting to grips with screen printing and trying to find the time to print some t-shirts and 3 colour prints without the aid of computers and pdfs. He is also kept busy with the usual live illustration battles and street art including of course 'City of Colours' Birmingham street art festival. As we speak **Lisk Bot** is preparing to paint a 32ft x 18ft mural for the festival in Digbeth this weekend!



Get yourselves up to Birmingham on the 6th & 7th to see Lisk-bot and a flurry of other sublime artists in action!

[www.facebook.co.uk/liskbot](http://www.facebook.co.uk/liskbot)

@liskbot on instagram

[liskbot.bigcartel.com/](http://liskbot.bigcartel.com/)

by Kate Cox

# THE BHG

Hi everybody it's, August 2014 and that means one thing **Kidderminster Arts Festival** with a jam packed schedule bursting at the seams this year's KAF has been hailed by many as the best yet. Kicking off the festival with a gorilla art tribute to the **Fallen Soldiers of WW1**, **Dom (Deeds) Dunlea**, **Loz Samuels**, myself and a group of volunteers painted 661 outlines of soldiers through Vicar Street to represent Kidderminster's fallen using chalk paint. People have been travelling from far and wide to see the tribute and it started the Arts Festival off with a bang. Here at The **BHG** we have



Tracy Picapica

had an Exhibition from the amazing **Tracy Picapica** to coincide with Tracy's **Chapel of Victory Exhibition** at the Town Hall. Tracy's weird and wonderful creations open a door into another world of inspiration, sometimes funny, sometimes dark and sometimes macabre, leaving you feeling you have spent a night out in a 1940's circus or freak show. Tracy's show is proving such a success we've extended it for an extra week.

August here @ **The BHG** also means something else; the **Boarshead Fringe Festival** and **Above Boards** our annual



Melo



Chilli

outdoor paint jam. This year we have more permanent boards which has attracted artists like **Spacehop & Seymor**, **Deeds**, **Flitbomb**, **Mr Draws**, **Conuke**, **Akuma**, **Mr Mind Control**, **Chilli** and many more local artists who



Ian Brown by Dom Deeds

have brightened up the walls of Kidderminster again in their own unique styles to a backdrop of the **Boarshead Fringe Fest**. With live music, banging beats and the smell of BBQ in the air, market stalls, street performers and shenanigans, the atmosphere was electric. Thanks to **Sid & Sandra** for their outstanding work in promoting live music and to their team of helpers and pub goers for pitching in to make this year's Festival a force to be reckoned with.

Coming up @ The **BHG** we have the return of **Paul Smith** and friends (radio presenter by day and Artist by night) We are expecting big things from this show running through out September. We have our usual **Stencil Workshop** on the last Saturday of every month 2pm till 6pm, **Mouth & Music** on the second Tuesday of the month, **Creativity Jam 2** on 17th September starts 8pm plus **Life Drawing** and the **Upcycling Workshop**. We have loads going on so checkout our facebook page for regular updates [www.facebook.com/thebhg](http://www.facebook.com/thebhg)

Usual gallery opening times Thursday 2 till Late, Friday 2 till late, Saturday 12 till late.

*Melo*

## MOUTH & MUSIC



The theme for Mouth and Music, Boars Head, Kidderminster, Tuesday 9th September is "**Crabbed Age and Youth**". It features the brilliant UK All-Stars Poetry Slam champion **Ben Norris** plus **Sarah Tamar** & **Heather Wastie** who will perform poems & songs about dementia. NB Earlier start time of 7.30pm. Open mic sign up from 7.00pm.



**Mouth & Music** - Tuesday 9th September 7.30pm NB earlier start time



# worcester arts workshop

Hi again all – in this summer of four seasons' weather, here's a review of what we've enjoyed so far...

**Claire Boswell** and her Band - played the most sublime gig in our theatre, to celebrate the launch of her debut album (accurately reviewed in last month's Slap as '*a majestic, captivating affair*'). Seems an age ago now, but an absolute delight to watch and listen, as was – August's **Lazy Sunday** – a lovely rootsy, folksy, harmony-driven afternoon, in the Café due to inclement weather. Featuring first-timers **Kim Lowing** and **Don't Touch The Walls** as well as locals **The Players** and **Paul Daffurn**, it hit the perfect note of both music being the food of love and vice versa.

**Worcester Music Festival** held their photography workshop with expert shot-meister **Mark Hoy**. Armed with knowledge from this top day's tuition, students will submit their work for judgment after the festival, when the top 25 photos will be displayed in an exhibition in the Café Gallery, with a prize-giving presentation on Sunday 28th September.

Before then in the Gallery, up this month is '**Gods, Dogs and Other Creatures**' – an exhibition of mixed media artwork by **Stephen Hewson** ([www.stephenhewson.webeden.co.uk](http://www.stephenhewson.webeden.co.uk)). A mix of precise imagery and organic materials - can't wait to see it! See the poster on our website.

Downstairs in the **Cellar Gallery** is '**The Incredible Ink Art of Marsha Parkins**' (which is not an exaggeration). Detailed drawings take you into the landscape of her imagination, and



her work is both intriguing and technically stunning. In the piece she has drawn for **Café Bliss**, there are references not just to it, but also her own travels to Belize and lots more knowing nods at WAW. She made the piece here, in the public gaze, over the last weekend – fascinating and awesome to watch!

As well as looking forward to our part in **Worcester Music Festival**, we're really getting excited about our next **Lazy Sunday** on 14th September. Bands have always been prepared to travel to this venue, but here we have **Espai** - a rising band from Barcelona - now based in Bristol – 'a four-piece electronic band, fusing dark, pounding beats, smooth and searing basslines, ethereal textures and general glitchiness with jazzy, soul influences and stunning vocals - their unique sound will take you on a journey through a plethora of landscapes'.

**Lazy Sunday**  
14th Sep' 12 - 6pm

**MARIE-CLAIRE ESPAI**

**LOUISE PETIT**

**JAMES SHEAD**

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1pm – **James Shead** [soundcloud.com/james-shead-music](https://soundcloud.com/james-shead-music)) - acoustic rock from Cornwall

2pm – **Louise Petit** [www.louisepetit.com](http://www.louisepetit.com)) - folk / acoustic rock from Staffordshire

3pm – **Espai** [youtube.com/espaiofficial](https://youtube.com/espaiofficial) - from Barcelona via Bristol, with big following!

4pm – **Marie-Claire (Box and a Ribbon)** - from Worcester and well-loved – a chance to hear their new material...

Our Autumn Term Courses mostly commence from mid-September, with the exception of **Meditation Technique** with **Buddhist Monk Kelsang Khechog**, which starts on Monday September 1st, from 7.15 – 8.45pm. This is a drop in for any and everyone - £6 waged, £3.50 unwaged (full-time students, retired, jobseekers etc) per session. Previous experience not needed! See our website for more details. Likewise for our weekly adult courses in **Digital Photography, Ceramics and Pottery, Painting and Drawing, Creative Arts Workshop** (through colour), **Life Drawing** and **Watercolour Painting**. Dates, times and prices on [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)

Also check the site for information of all our Children's Courses - All Sorts of **Performing Arts** classes on Mondays and Wednesdays after school, and Saturdays between 10am and 3pm. **Class Act** - a fun new confidence-building drama group starts on Tuesdays from 4.15 – 5.15pm (half-price for the first 2 weeks) and **After School Pottery Club** is on Wednesdays from 4 – 5.30pm. Saturday mornings also features the return of Art Club (10 – 11am), **Pottery Club** (11am – 12noon) and **Teenage Art Club** (10 – 11.30am).

Email, phone (01905 25053) or better still, call in to book.

We always welcome queries from potential volunteers, and creative thinkers with good ideas... Please get in touch.

Clare Harker

## The Crescent | A Dream Of Ease

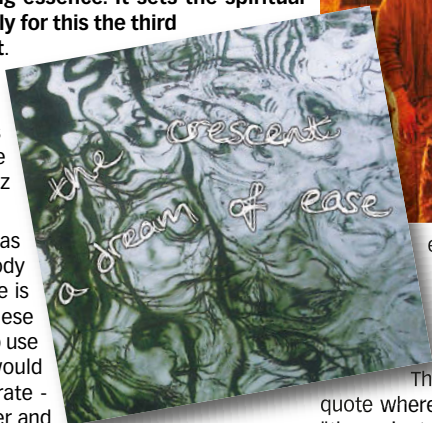
The first piece wafts from the speakers like a trail of incense smoke gently arousing your senses and attention with its calming essence. It sets the spiritual and serene scene perfectly for this the third album from The Crescent.

As its title 'Devotion' suggests there are subtle echoes of Alice Coltrane's work here and so the whisper of organic free jazz permeates the whole cd.

'A Dream Of Ease' was conceived as a holistic body of work and this coherence is apparent throughout. These tracks - though I hesitate to use the word, soundscapes would be better plus more accurate - build then meander, wander and spread in a meditative, sometimes ritualistic and semi-improvised fashion which grabs you in a loving way: this really is healing music in the finest sense.

Third piece 'Naked' was originally to be titled 'Light The Candles, Let's Get Naked' and this sums up the warm, intimate, embracing and sensual atmosphere throughout this wholly instrumental album. The seemingly effortless flow of this work confirms the sometimes lengthy gestation of these pieces and their improvisational origins.

The beautiful brass, woodwind and keyboard work here sometimes recalls early Island label feel of King Crimson, Eno/



early Roxy and end piece 'Horseback' takes me back to white-suited and devotional Santana. However there are many more touchstones within, which are yours to discover and delight in.

The track title 'The Variant Within' is central to The Crescent's philosophy and is a Bruce Chatwin quote where he talks about how artistically we often enjoy "the variant within the repetition". It is this interplay between repetition and variation which forms this album's beatifically beating heart.

This is a truly inspirational album, thoroughly recommended and can either be found at **Rise Records**, Worcester or [www.thecrescent.bandcamp.com](http://www.thecrescent.bandcamp.com) together with their other two releases 'Sirens' and 'Pictures of a Floating World'.

I shall finish with The Crescent's own words: "If our music soundtracked a film, it might have slow panning shots of a rural landscape and vast sky. It would begin at dawn and would end with the moon above a candlelit scene."

Words by Ornate Coalman

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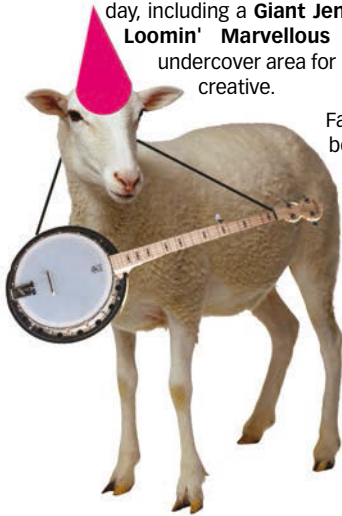
The advertisement displays several beer labels from Cannon Royall Brewery, including Arrowhead Extra, Arrowhead Bitter, SIAP Magazine Ale, Kings Shilling, Teddy Bear, and Sand Bomb. A large glass of beer is also featured in the background.



# Weekend Cube presents **CUBE SHUFFLE** Sunday afternoon, 28th September

A FREE, family friendly, Malvernesque Sunday afternoon event featuring a beautifully eclectic line up of musicians and DJs, local ale/cider/food, and arty crafty stalls.

There will be plenty of activities going on throughout the day, including a **Giant Jenga** for all you big kids, and **Loomin' Marvellous kids zone** - a chilled undercover area for kids to get together and get creative.



Fantastic local live music will be showcased all day with confirmed artists; **Jake Price, Tyler Massey, David Jenkins, Sam Eden, Martin Thorne Band, Richard Clarke, Ruben Seabright & Lewis Bolton**, plus charatcer board fun from **Clík Clík Collective**. And if that's not enough, there will be even more great music from DJs **Chris & Russ of Carnival Records**.

A lovely bunch of local crafters will be selling their goodies, such as: hand drawn cards by **Tabbitha Griffiths**; custom tattoos, prints and jewellery from **Octavia Vaughan**; and organic natural health and beauty products by **Beth** from **Neals Yard Remedies**.

**The Cake Tin**, the small independent cafe at the Cube will be serving up a special Cube Shuffle menu featuring a selection of hot and cold lunches. The Cake Tin specialise in creating homemade vegetarian and vegan-food inspired by the seasons and local growers.

Any donations kindly received will help Weekend Cube at Malvern Cube host more fabulous live music and develop the studio for use by local artists.

Check out our 'Cube Shuffle' event on Facebook, and come to the Malvern Cube, Albert Road, Malvern, WR14 2YA on Sunday 28th September 2014 from midday to 6pm!



Creative Director  
[www.clíkclíkcollective.com](http://www.clíkclíkcollective.com)

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**Folk Session**  
**Monday 22th**



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## Deborah Bonham

St. Stephen's Church, Redditch | August 2nd

Fans and supporters from all over the country descended on St Stephens Church in Redditch town centre on for a fundraising concert by Deborah Bonham, younger sister of legendary Led Zeppelin drummer, John Bonham.

The concert was in aid of the **John Bonham Memorial Fund**, set up by 3 local fans, **Clem** and **Sam Dallaway** of **Rocktave Music Tuition** and **Ros Sidaway** of **Vintage Trax Retro Record Specialists**, to raise £50,000 for a fitting permanent memorial to the late Redditch-born and raised rock star.



The church, which was also the venue for brother Mick and Linda's wedding, was filled with people who had travelled from Newcastle upon Tyne, Wigan, Doncaster, Stoke on Trent, Shrewsbury, Port Talbot, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Milton Keynes and Peterborough as well the Black Country, Solihull and Birmingham, Herefordshire and the wider Worcestershire area.

And they were rewarded with an emotionally charged acoustic set, including *Chains*, *I Need Love*, *Open Up Your Heart* and a particularly poignant rendition of her track *The Old Hyde* which was performed with a backdrop of cine film showing the young Bonham's at play and was incredibly moving to watch.

Two of her regular band members, **Pete Bullick** and **Gerard G Louis** provided the perfect back up on guitar and keyboards.

For Deborah, it was the first time that she had performed in her hometown where surviving members of the Bonham family still live, including 91 year old Aunty Bet and 87 year old Aunty Dot who both attended the gig with the family.



Also present were the family of John's wife Pat - although she still lives in the West Midlands. Sadly she couldn't attend as she is over in the US at present with daughter Zoe who lives there permanently. Both sent messages of support - an email from Pat which Deborah read out to the audience, and an emotional video message from Zoe which was relayed along with other video tributes from **Carmine Appice** (Drummer, **Vanilla Fudge**), **Lynyrd Skynyrd**, **Fun Lovin' Criminals**' **Frank Benbini**, and **Paul Rodgers**, **Lead Singer** with **Free** and **Bad Company**. Hereford born, **Mick Ralphs** (founding member of **Mott the Hoople** and **Bad Company**) sent a written message which was also read out by Deborah.

Sam and Clem Dallaway opened the evening as acoustic duo **Totem**, with their renditions of classic rock songs (Hotel California and Stairway to Heaven included), stripped back to the purest vocals of Sam, accompanied by Clem's sublime guitar playing.

Just shy of £2000 was raised from ticket and refreshment sales, and donations from those who couldn't make it have so far reached over £1500.

Further fundraising events are being planned by the Fund's founders who have been joined by **Linda Bonham**, the wife of late **Mick Bonham** in their efforts.

The group is also encouraging local people and **Led Zeppelin** fans worldwide to do their own fundraising in aid of the **John Bonham Memorial Fund**. Contact the group via the form on the website [www.johnbonhammemorialfund.com](http://www.johnbonhammemorialfund.com)

Words: Ros Sidaway Photography: Toni Charles

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# Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

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- Fri 5th Hollywood Hobo Band Live Music 7.30pm
- Tues 9th Lunch with to a Tribute to the great Benny Goodman 12.30pm **£11.95p**
- Thurs 11th **SLAP MAGAZINE** Band of The Month Matt Woosey 7.30pm
- Fri 12th Gavin Baxter Bamba Rock Live Entertainment 7.30pm
- Sat 13th Salt Day **4 SHIRES FESTIVALS** Surprise Band Live Entertainment 5.00pm
- Sun 14th Salt Day Festival Gardeners Arms Droitwich Running Club Canal Race 10.30pm
- Fri 19th Glam Rock Tribute Singers Night Fancy Dress Meal 7.30pm **£12.50pp** Book Only
- Sat 20th German Oktoberfest Bottled Beer German Food Music Festival 12.30 10.00pm
- Thurs 25th Comedy Night 5 Comedians book a seat 7.30pm
- Fri 26th Rod Stewart in Concert at The Royal Albert Hall 8.30pm
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## Worcester Music Festival Beer Launch at Pope's Brewing Company, Worcester | 1st August

A hearty crowd gathered at Pope's Brewery last month for the launch of the Worcester Music Festival beer. The 'Festival Pale Ale' recipe, created especially for the event, resulted in an easy-drinking, hoppy-moreish brew with an edge that said: *"Go on, I dare you. I dare you to do the robot backwards in front of all these people. I dare you to take a corner at full speed on that tricycle. I dare you to eat three pulled pork burgers in a row."*

The Pope family open their doors to beer monsters every Friday from 4pm and manage to conjure a special atmosphere amidst the barrels, brewing paraphernalia and hand crafted ales at wholesale prices. Live music provided by Worcester's unofficial poet laureate **Wes Dance**, **Humdrum Express** fresh from exposure on **6music**, and the rap madness of **Calm Like a Riot** helped make this particular Friday extra special.

Having started in March last year, the brewery has already had to double its production to keep up with demand from all quarters of the craft ale scene, and there's no sign of them slowing down. Master brewers Wendy and Alex love to talk beer lovers through their process, from designing a beer to



creating an attractive pump clip. This is a place where style and substance are held in equally high esteem, resulting in distinctive flavours and an image which is so en vogue. Recent recipes have included *'The Raj'*, laced with curry leaves, cardamom seeds and chillies, inspired by Wendy's trip to India, and *'Fort Royal'*, designed especially for the Battle Re-enactment Society.

Pope's are planning more live music for these cosy open-house Friday nights. Keep your eyes peeled for future dates.

*Martin Wilkes*

## Collective Unconscious in Yorkshire Airedale, Harrogate | Saturday 23rd August

Worcester-based performance art and immersive theatre group, **Collective Unconscious**, have been pimping themselves out all over Yorkshire in the last month, keen to build on a great sense of momentum after the hugely successful **Fools Ball** in April. Starting at **Beacons Festival**, they took the tent of Leeds' leading lights in live art, **Impossible Lecture** by storm with a series of one-to-one performances over two nights. The piece, *'Live Art Brothel'*, was characteristically challenging, dealing with issues of intimacy, playfulness, sexuality, secrecy and ritualism through the work of four artists and their participants. The work was so disinhibiting it left me feeling as if anything were possible among the young and beautiful creatures of the festival. With this type of act I always feel the soft gag of a silent pact with the performer, decreeing that the details will remain between the two of us. I think this makes participants feel safe and ensures that everyone has a unique experience. I'll say no more.

After brief sojourns in Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham, **Collective Unconscious** were on the road to Yorkshire again on August 23rd. This time with their own **Festival of Fools** in Harrogate. Far from the hustle and bustle of those burning cities, an intimate group holed themselves up in a farmhouse tucked



away in Airedale for 24 hours of Collective Unconscious's inimitable brand of live art; sometimes shocking, often challenging, always thought provoking. An opening ceremony set the scene from the start as Rah disrobed and began a foot washing ritual, breaking down personal barriers immediately and making the day all the more open and enjoyable for it. This was a festival for the faint-hearted and bloody minded.

Collective Unconscious are best known for one-to-one immersive experiences that lift the lid on conventional theatre. Punters were provided with a variety of intense offerings, including Holly Johnson's *'Scopophobia'* which uses light and reflective surfaces to explore the fear of being stared at. Expertly conceived to combine the bizarre with the mundane, Jack Bateman's *'You Had Me at Woof'* was a fetish-laden frenzy that felt like a walk in the park. Collective Unconscious's own *'Saving All My Love For You'* dealt with the rituals of pornography, and made excellent use of xanthan gum, mixed with water and applied liberally. Then, of course, there was the classic *'5AM Saint'*, an explosion of deep intimacy in a nightclub at the end of the galaxy.

The one-to-ones ran alongside a musical programme expertly curated by **Ed Steelefox**. **The Retinal Circus** kicked off mainstage proceedings with unforgettable melodies and gritty vocals through a swollen, bloody countenance. Next up, **Double Echo** gave us a lesson in time travel by trapping us in a web of sleek guitar tones and kicking our asses into next week. **AMERICANS** continued the hyperactive, e-number fuelled attack and **Phullopiumdude** finished us off with coarse yet creamy samples that left a sweet taste in your ears. Ed himself nursed the crowd back to lowlife with a marathon set of seamless, shamanistic sounds.

The next time you can experience **Collective Unconscious** locally will be **Fools Ball** at **Malvern Cube** on **Oct 25th**. Earlybird tickets are available now.

See [facebook.com/collectiveunconsciousuk](https://facebook.com/collectiveunconsciousuk) for details.

*Martin Wilkes*



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## September at Artrix, Bromsgrove Steve Howe - Sunday 14th



During a career spanning over 50 years, **Steve Howe** has established himself as one of the world's finest musicians, with his best-known role being that of guitarist and backing vocalist of Yes. Following a hugely successful return tour in 2013, this year sees him return to Artrix to play some of his more familiar pieces plus several new tunes like *Solitaire* from Yes's *Fly From Here* album, *The Golden Mean* and others from *Motif*, plus various arrangements of

Yes songs and other tunes he's picked up along the way. A few stories and songs thrown in for good measure should ensure a great evening.

## Blues Band - Saturday 20th

If music matures like fine wine, 1979 was a vintage year. That's when **Paul Jones** and **Tom McGuinness**, from the hugely successful **Manfred Mann**, returned to their first love, the Blues. They imagined their 'back to the roots' project, **The Blues Band**, would simply earn some beer money. How wrong they were - the public were ready and waiting.



Talent goes to talent. Into the ranks came slide guitar ace and superb vocalist **Dave Kelly**, legendary ex-John Mayall drummer **Hughie Flint**, (replaced in 1982 by the renowned **Rob Townsend** of **Family**), with solid bass provided by **Gary Fletcher**.

The Blues Band's new studio album, *Few Short Lines* amply demonstrates the veneration of their peers. Bob Dylan's keyboard accomplice **Al Kooper** plays on six tracks, Bruce Springsteen's comrade Southside Johnny provides harmonica and vocals, all lavishly topped off by **Paul Jones** raunchily duetting with **Linda Lewis**, plus **Dave Kelly's** pairing with Scotland's soul queen, **Maggie Bell**.

## It's the Roots that Make the Fruits - Sun 21st

Four of the West Midlands' most exciting and entertaining songwriters are performing in the **Artrix Studio** this month. The common strand is their shared inspiration from traditional folk, blues and roots music from both sides of the Atlantic - drawing from the past but very much rooted in the now.



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Purveyors of rootsy stomps and gutsy grooves, the unassuming **Mellow Peaches** have long immersed themselves in traditional, organic and freshly sourced American blues and roots, mixing it up with their own gumbo of exotic flavours to create a wholesome dish that aids digestion. Mellow Peaches play a whole host of folk styles with bluesy intensity, informed by pre-war country blues greats with some contemporary quirk thrown in for good measure.

**Gren Bartley** is a prolific and exceptional songwriter. He is constantly touring and forever writing. The critically acclaimed new album *"Winter Fires"* is yet another giant leap forward and is building further upon the success of 2012's critically acclaimed *"Songs To Scythe Back The Overgrown"*. Showcasing his "phenomenal" guitar playing and poetry driven lyrics, the album is being described as "spine tinglingly beautiful".

Songwriter, guitarist, time traveller, Beatlemaniac, Sister Rosetta devotee and self-confessed Country Blues anorak, **Abi Budgen** performs music that is honest, witty, sometimes surreal and always groovy.

Equal parts warm, funny, poignant and insightful, **Eleanor Rose** sings tales which touch on humanity, humility and honesty. With a gentle nod to the past, she sings songs with a casual grace that are sure to resonate.

## Raymond Froggatt - Sunday 28th

**Froggie**, as he is known by his army of fans, started his working days as a pipe lagger, then spending his nights off singing in pubs and secretly writing poetry in his spare time. Before long, the Brummie lad's songs were being recorded by artists all over the country and abroad including Cliff Richard and the Dave Clarke Five. He also toured with Jerry Lewis, Rod Stewart and ELO before turning his talents to the Country and Western scene and supporting stars such as Tammy Wynette. Tickets to see the ever-popular Froggie are bound to sell out quickly so get your tickets early for this not to be missed gig.



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# SUNJAY BRAYNE

## at the Gardeners Arms Droitwich

### 14th August

**N**ineteen year old Sunjay is staking his claim well and truly in the folk, country and country blues world, with a style not dissimilar to **Ralph McTell**. He is an exceptional finger picker of the acoustic guitar, watching him play at The Gardeners, I would say, faultless.



With a voice that is ideal for folk and country, it probably lacks the grit and fire demanded by many blues songs, but he is able to grab your attention and shake it a bit, which is exactly what he did when he kicked off with Chris Smithers, 'Love You Like A Man'. Close on its heels was a song made famous by John Lee Hooker, 'One Scotch One Bourbon One Beer', not sure Sunjay has tried that experience yet, John Lee's certainly has a bit more venom, but Sunjay gave it more of a country feel, probably nearer to Amos Milburn's version. A bit of Elmore James for 'Dust My Broom', in Sunjays own finger picking style, followed up with a true country blues favourite, 'Sitting On Top Of The World'.

A short break gave me time to visit the bar and to have a chat with **Sunjay** who was here with his father, mentor and chauffeur Roger. Sunjay played at **Worcester Music Festival** which precedes a string of bookings throughout September and October across the country at numerous folk clubs and festivals. Roger introduced Sunjay to the guitar at 4 years old, emulating his first love, **Buddy Holly**. He doesn't seem to be old enough to play with such maturity, but realising he has played from when he was big enough to hold a guitar and with the natural talent that he had been born with, it sort of makes sense.

Back to the 'stage' and a second session which included Sleepy John Estes's 'Drop Down Mama' and Bob Seger's 'Ain't Got No Money'. Not far behind was the excellent James Taylor 'Steamroller Blues', taylor made for Sunjay's style. Pretty well at the end of the evening and an encore is demanded for 'No Regrets', which he had reprised earlier in the evening, Sunjay obliged, but I doubt there are many regrets in his 19 years.

Words by Graham Munn

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# Bellowhead

The Robin2, Bilston | 19th Aug

We had planned to see the eclectic folk rock gang of eleven musicians that is **Bellowhead**, perform at the Robin. Various diversions conspired to make me a little later than planned. No problem, this was a Tuesday evening, and no doubt the band would draw in a good following of fans, but it would not be a problem to park and find space to grab some pictures and make a few notes. Perhaps a chance to see the band at the end and bring home a signed copy of *'Revival'* their current release. Wrong, wrong, wrong. In reality, the car park was packed, (a warning sign) we had to be shoe horned

*'Greenwood Side'* and *'Roll Alabama'* from *Revival*. How could they not play *'Lillibulero'* from *Broadside*. Dancing was compulsory, but no room for that, so all sang along for the chorus. A fine demonstration of an Irish jig from **Paul Sartin** and **Sam Sweeney**, as they found space on the apron of the stage for *'Sloe Gin Set'*. It was nearing the end of the evening,



the atmosphere at a peak, the crowd so close swaying together and a cheer for *'Roll the Woodpile Down'* arguably the best known of Bellowhead's extensive repertoire, having received much airplay on mainstream radio, with the release of *Broadside* in 2012.

I confess I am not a Bellowhead fan, not on disc anyway, but live, that's another story. They are one of the most entertaining, engaging bands around and this Robin had really rocked. If this all seems a bit manic and jumbled, that's because it was - it's a Bellowhead gig - what else would you expect? A fabulous evening.

Words & Pics by Graham Munn

through the doors, with **John Boden's** voice clearly audible and the stage lit and active, as the band had already started. **The Robin** was at capacity, with 700 devoted fans competing for space, oddly, no pirates in sight.

The lighting on stage was some of the best I have seen at The Robin, the sound was excellent and Bellowhead were as theatrical and entertaining as this moderate stage would allow. Plenty of dancing from the brass section, jigging from the strings, and **Benji** astride the speaker cabs at the back, all orchestrated by the ringmaster **Boden**. **John Spiers** squeezed every drop from his melodian as **Rachel** stepped up from Cello to fiddle and **Paul** from fiddle to Oboe. **Ed** coming into view occasionally with his head and shoulders firmly stuck in the deathly grip of the Helicon: perhaps biting its tail would release him. Massed strings fed into the glorious *'Haul Away'*, 4 fiddles and the accordion adding fuel to the inferno of sound. The songs literally come reeling out, *'Gosport Nancy'*,



# BILLING BIG BIKER BASH

BILLING AQUADROME, SATURDAY JULY 19TH

**T**he Billing Biker Bash returned to Billing Aquadrome in Northamptonshire as a 3-day event, I attended on the Saturday to see the events and bands on during the day and by way of a good omen the rain stayed away during the entire day.

The event is run by **Active Promotions** and has events, displays and stalls aimed at the biking community as a whole, this year me hearties it had a theme - pirates!

First up was **3Sixty**, a 5-piece rock band formed around long time songwriting partners Mark Grimmer and Nick Singleton. The band have been working hard writing new songs, most of which can be heard on *ReverbNation*, but seeing a band live shows just how well they work together and this outfit did. This despite the absence of guitarist Russell Simon who was replaced by Richie Yeates for the day. Mark Grimmer provided some very fine vocals supported by the rest of the band, for one of the bands first outings they performed extremely well.

Second on the bill was **The Irony** from Evesham. A little bit rock'n'roll, a little bit indie, but not entirely either of these. The band have been through changes and have settled into being a 3-piece outfit offering a fairly melodic, easy-going style of rock which got feet tapping and the heads nodding.

Next band up was another new band, **Stone Cold Killers**, formed from the remnants of **Wrathchild** but having nothing similar in the sound. This is a band that has nothing glam or sleazy about them, this is a rock band! Having seen them a few weeks earlier it was interesting to note that even in that short time the band had tightened their performance and changed the set-list slightly to suit the vocal style of frontman Stu Evans. This was a significantly better performance than the previous one and the band sounded much more 'together' with the vocals and music having a far better cohesion than last time. The set comprised mainly original material tinged with a couple of well known covers and proved most entertaining; the audience seemed to agree.

Half time was reached with Wildside Riot, a sleaze-band of the first order fronted by the self-confessed vocal vandal Rocky Shades. This is another band that has had its ups and downs but this version, complete with longstanding members Joss Riot, Jimmy Gunn and Gaz Wilde, hopefully has what it takes to use the success generated from the 2013 album 'No

*Second Take*' and continue to move forward. The present line-up was completed by former **Suicide Tuesday** bassman Jonny Ssuicide. Guest appearances by Gaz Harris (Gypsy Pistoleros) and Phil Vokins (Stone Cold Killers) made for a highly entertaining set.

As the crowd started to grow another new band, **Heavy Oil**, started the second half of the programme. Following the split of his former band, **Rockit Fuel**, guitarist Lance Perkins assembled a 3-piece band that plays some damn fine blues rock. Lance has brought together Rick Jones and Al Milward who produce a well refined sound with innovative songs. The set was a vibrant mix of old and new material which set the scene nicely for the remaining bands.

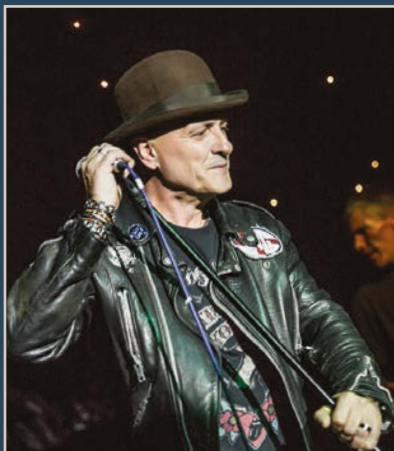
All aboard the crazy train....Ozzy Osborne tribute band **The Wizards of Oz** came next and this bunch of total nut jobs thoroughly entertained the crowd with a mix of **Ozzy Osborne** and **Black Sabbath** tunes. The band are the longest running Ozzy tribute band and their onstage antics would grace any Ozzy performance. Okay, so no bats were harmed during this performance but the band enjoy performing and messing about as much as the audience enjoy listening to them and joining in. The crowd were warming up nicely and the pirates had started to appear! Pirates?

The penultimate band was **Stop Stop!** maniacs imported from continental Europe who decided to make the UK their home....for now. I'd seen these just a week or so previously performing a short set while supporting **Rage of Angels**; this time they had time to display their lunacy to the full. This was a set of mostly original material taken from their two albums played while Jacob (bassist/vocalist) jumped around the stage like a firecracker. This display of outlandish behaviour doesn't appear to affect the quality of the music. The band had their fan club close to hand for this one to provide additional noise. As usual, the band close with their signature, self-titled, song; the crowd sang, the crowd danced, the pirates went oo-arr!

By now the show tent had filled quite well in anticipation of headliners, **Fifteen English Pounds**, who were due to play a 100 minute set. Much of the crowd showed up in pirate fancy dress and outnumbered the regular fans quite significantly. The band took to the stage performing a mix of covers and original material, old and new. The crowd listened to the original stuff attentively and sang to the covers enthusiastically as 'The Pounds' gave 100%, and more, to this performance which was ably supported by further guest appearances.

On the whole this was a brilliant day; being able to listen to bands old and new, all giving superb performances. The pirates came out in force though thankfully no-one mentioned Seaman Staines nor Roger the Cabin Boy. Here's to 2015's event.

*Words & Photography by Reg Richardson*





# BLUES AT THE JINNEY RING

## HANBURY AUGUST 2ND

It was the 6th year of this blues and beer festival held at the picturesque craft centre, The Jinney Ring near Bromsgrove. Visitors could camp or park up overnight in their VW 'splittie' and ex WD tents. Well not quite that any more, but there were plenty of pitches in use, as the day travellers rolled in, and 400+ gathered around the grounds. Plenty of good food, 21 beers and ciders, and 6 bands to entertain all over from early afternoon till late evening.

**Jack Blackman**, opened the stage, with his acoustic Mississippi Delta style blues, he is building a strong following for his accomplished finger picking and slide work along with vocals that show a real feel for blues. Performing country blues, like the frothy 'Patch Up That Hole', the lament 'Charley Walton Blues', through to fast fingering songs like 'Police Dog Blues', 19 year old Jack's talents were there for all to hear. Closing with a railroading, fast moving, demo of Delta slide for 'Hognose Gin', excellent.



Jack gave way for the light hearted, rootsy **Mumbo Jumbo**, with **Oliver, Chris** and on piano **Fred Skidmore**, who added some nice touches of boogie woogie to the set. 'Three Cool Cats' seems to sum up this comfortable, laid back, entertaining session. Bass gave way to uke in the hands of Chris, Oliver trumpeting his green credentials on washboard and cajon, with Fred providing the jam filling that glued it all together. A wooden kazoo is produced for 'Regret It', 'Nice Work', if you can get it!

**Retrovibe**, were up next, though mainly guitar based covers, this band performed well, with a personable and powerful vocalist in **Rea Lewis**. 'Pride & Joy', 'Bright Lights', and a nice side step as Rea sipped the beautiful jazz tinged, 'Black Coffee'. Some nice harp off **Jake Thomas** for 'I'm Ready', before Rae upped the tempo, for dancing fans, with, Jailhouse Rock, and 'Johnny Be Goode'. Rae and Retrovibe had certainly stirred up the action.

To follow we were treated to the funk and blues of guitar gurning band **Brothers Groove**. This Birmingham band, has not put a foot wrong since forming, rapidly moving from a support roll to headlining. Their strong following now producing national radio airplay and award nominations.

Guitarist Shaun Hill, is not only a joy to hear, but also to watch, he wears his musical emotion firmly on his expressive face. With Nige Mellor and Deano Bass, the guitar combination is pure class. 'What's The Deal' and 'Play the Game' came straight off their album of the same name released last year. The band finished to all round applause and a blues guitar take on Stevie Wonders 'Superstition', an exceptional faultless set, for us all to join in that groove. Following swiftly on, we



moved from the award nominated Brothers, to a European Blues award winning artist in **Franck Ash**. Franck has supported such legends as **Robert Cray** and **Taj Mahal** and now he brought his band to **Jinney Ring** for another faultless guitar led performance; not to diminish his vocal presence, he is a full on live performer, with plenty of that funk and soul guaranteed to please.

So how do we follow up this guitar genius that has cut its groove over the evening, well it was time for everyone to get up and move to **The Fabulous Boogie Boys** and **Sarah Warren**. Sarah returns from last year, we all know what to expect from this powerful singer. This is a fun session from those red coated Boogie Boys. Front man **Chris Dawe**, poses and struts alongside Sarah, they 'Shake Rattle and Roll', throughout the set. Everything is thrown in from 'Aint Nobody Here But Us Chickens', (plenty of ducks though) through to 'See You Later Alligator', giving all a great evening and send off to this established little festival in the beautiful setting of **The Jinney Ring**.

Words & Pictures by Graham Munn

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## Andrew Lawrence: Reasons to Kill Yourself

Thursday 25th September: 7.30pm | Tickets £15 / £13

Things have changed a bit at **Evesham Arts Centre**. After pulling in some of the biggest acts in its 35 year history last season, with names like **Lee Evans** and chatty man **Alan Carr** topping the bill, the new season is set to be just as exciting!

Stand-up comedy's foremost creepy-faced ginger man **Andrew Lawrence** gets things off to a start on Thursday 25th September with his show **Reasons To Kill Yourself**. Despite being a star of BBC1's *'Live at the Apollo'*, a regular on Channel 4's Stand-Up For The Week and star of three series of his own acclaimed show on BBC Radio 4 - none of it has brought him any joy. Come and laugh in his stupid face at his disappointing life and some amusing thoughts he's cobbled together about how awful the world is as he embarks on his fifth consecutive sell-out UK tour.



But that's not all... **Sean Hughes** appears in October with his show *Penguins* while November brings both the effortlessly funny **Shappi Khorsandi** and ex-podium dancer **Marcus Brigstocke** to the Arts Centre stage. Bringing the autumn comedy programme to a close in December is **Seann Walsh** with his new show 28. And if that's not enough for you, the ever-popular **RAW Comedy** nights continue to run throughout the season, showcasing the talents of fresh new stand-up comics!

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## SnodFest 2014

**OK cancel all your plans for Saturday 13th September! There's only ONE place to be that day and it's... SnodFest!**

SnodFest is a small but perfectly formed and family friendly music festival held in the stunning village location of Upton Snodsbury in wondrous Worcestershire.

It may be diminutive but somehow SnodFest packs in more music than many of the big ones – with 21 fabulous bands performing there'll be over 10 hours of live music.



Becky Rose

The festival, which will be opened by **Andrew Marston**, from "Introducing..." **BBC Hereford & Worcester** fame, will feature the aforementioned 10 hours of continuous live music, almost without pause from two stages. In addition to this there will be a real ale bar, quality hot food, entertainment and free workshops. The stunning location together with the attention to detail make SnodFest a very special event and well worthy of your precious time.

And so without further ado take a deep breath & here's the line-up of fab acts! :- **Shatter Effect, Ronin, Becky Rose, Collective 43, RemedySounds, Chase the Deer, UncleFundleMuncle, Nigel Smith, Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Adrian Styles & Friends, The Purple Shades, Stuart Woolfenden, Appleby Kinsey, Dutch Lewis, Skewwhiff, Josh Kemp, Crazy 88's**...phew..but hang on there's more..and on the BBC Hereford and Worcester Introducing

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Proceeds from this event will be used by the Charity USFRA (1112077) to help maintain Upton Snodsbury Parish Park

stage:- **Hannah\*H\*, LOSTatHOME, Steffan Knight, Jake of Diamonds**...OK and breath out! A right royal line-up and no mistake I'm sure you'll agree.

In addition to the wonderful array of aural treats on offer, **SnodFest** will be running **FREE** creative festival workshops for all including **Breakthru Theatre, Junk Fish & Crafty Jeweller**. There will also be a **Get Active Zone** provided by Wychavon District Council, **Arena Games** to play & watch plus much more.

They really do try hard to cover all bases at this fest so you can also travel green and safe to the fest on the **SnodBus** with Dudley's Coaches or camp out overnight, but hurry as the prebooked pitches are selling fast! For all your SnodFest related info and tickets hurry along to [www.snodfest.com](http://www.snodfest.com).

Be There... or They'll Come and Get You!

Catherine Milner

## Matt Woosey

### Slap at Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### September 11th

Described as, "*The Best British bluesman since Rory Gallagher*", he has been featured on **Paul Jones** BBC2 show and toured Europe, South Africa and Australia. Currently touring the UK, he will be in Droitwich with his raw edged, vocals and hard hitting acoustic guitar, to play some of his finely crafted songs. Recent acclaimed releases such as '*On The Wagon*' and '*Hook Line And Sink*', make this an unmissable gig.





# LAKEFEST 2014

Last year one of the major highlights of the local festival calendar, for me at least, was Lakefest over in at Croft Farm in Tewkesbury. The festival proved to be a wonderful family affair with an impressive music program (Ocean Colour Scene, The Levellers, Duke Special, Crazy World Of Arthur Brown, Roving Crows, etc) along with rides, face painting, zorbs and boat rides among many any other activities to keep the whole family entertained.

This years festival continued in the same rich vein with the aforementioned activities in place along as well as added silent disco and DJ lessons. Whilst the program of music reached further than ever before taking in a variety of genres as well as an intriguing combination of local and established acts, proving that the organisers have their fingers on the pulse.

The mainstage opened with the bouncy sunshine ska vibes of **Sons Of Navarone**, who provided the early revellers with collection of ska and reggae classics to get the feet moving. Following on, acoustic indie/folk act **Bad Cardigan** warmed up the crowd with a short yet infectious set before local favourites **Young Kato** (promoted from one of last years smaller stages) took to the stage like conquering heroes with their contagious set of high energy edgy indie rock, the six-piece welded hook-laden synths with serrated guitar and big sing-a-long choruses on the likes of *Help Yourself*, *Light It Up* and *Sunshine*. A diversion into the Floating Globe stage revealed the majestic harmony led **No Good Nancy's** who delivered a wonderful set of soaring vocals and passionate covers of the likes of *Natural Woman* and *You're So Vain* among others.

Back over in the main arena the crowds assembled for the high velocity ska punk sing-a-longs of **Spunge**. The band instantly took the festival by the scruff of the neck with a glorious bouncy set of long term favourites, the crowd responded to the likes of *Jump On Demand*, *Ego*, *No Woman No Cry*, *Roots* and of course *Kicking Pigeons* with high spirited dancing and hollering signaling the party had well and truly started. Over in the BBC Hereford Introducing tent Redditch

was showcased heavily with the female fronted Byron Hare and indie four-piece **Lost At Home** both giving a good account for themselves, whilst multi instrumentalist and loop manipulator **Ed Keane** showcased his wares with a stunning sax/guitar/flute assisted instrumental that I think was entitled *The Green Man*.

Whilst people were reverberating to the sounds of 90's dance act **Snap** and the legendary reggae/dub-man **Lee Scratch Perry**, I headed to a packed out Floating Globe stage for one of the highlights of the entire weekend in the shape of **The Leylines**, a violin/guitar wielding folk rock act that deliver hooks and contagious melodies aplenty during a thrilling set that even had the uninitiated singing along to the likes of **Runaway** and *Run For Cover*. The opening day was headlined by punk pioneers and festival mainstays **The Buzzcocks** who delivered an abrasive set of classics included, as you'd expect *Ever Fallen In Love (With Someone You Shouldn't Fall In Love With)* and *Orgasm Addict* among others.

The first act to really grab the attention was the somewhat new look line-up of **The Sarah Warren Band**, that saw the big lunged blues/soul singer backed ably by the stunning guitar work of **Melvin Hancox** (*Vincent Flatts Final Drive*, etc). The band quickly drew in a large crowd with dazzling renditions of the likes of *I'd Rather Go Blind*, with Melvin's guitar complimenting Sarah's soul filled, powerful vocals effortlessly. **The Jar Family** followed on the mainstage with an intriguing and invigorating take on the folk theme, before **Ade Edmondson & The Bad Shepherds** took over with a mesmeric set of punk classics played on traditional folk instrumentation, mandolin and pipes combined to offer a completely original take on classics such as *I fought The Law*, *Anarchy In The UK*, *Going Underground*, *Our House* and *Ace of Spades* among others. if you've ever wondered what a new age folk take on a Sex Pistols or Clash classic would sound like, I highly recommend check Ade and the boys out at the venue near you!!!

From there it was a quick dash down the field to the BBC tent where **Tyler Massey's** set of compelling folk was drawing to an end before Worcester's serrated indie new





## CROFT FARM, TEWKESBURY 8-10th AUGUST

wavers **Skewwhiff** delivered a jagged set lifted from their recent debut album, including such highlights as *Gizmo and It Girl*. Back across on the mainstage legendary ska man and original Rude Boy, **Neville Staple** and band produced a wonderful funky fun and lifting set drawing on his days with **The Specials** as well as his just released solo album, concluding with a mass crowd sing-a-long to *Ghost Town* following on from the likes of *Message To You Rudy* and *Enjoy Yourself*.

Saturday had the perfect one-two knockout punch with the final two bands on the mainstage. First up the **Lightning Seeds** weaved a magical set of pure Indie pop nirvana with something of a greatest hits set. Grown men were seen arm in arm as the band delivered classic after classic. The tent filled with voices unified (mine included), gleefully singing- a-long to the likes of *Never Change*, *Life Of Riley*, *Lucky You* and *Pure* as if their lives depended on providing harmony for Ian Broudie's mob. With the crowd already at fever pitch and the numerous Brit-Pop T-shirts seen dotted around the festival the scene was set for returning 90's heroes **Shed Seven**, the band could hardly disappoint drawing on their 94-99 heydays and top selling four albums the crowd rejoiced to the sounds of *Disco Down*, *Chasing Rainbows* and of course *Going For Gold*. Rick Witter seemed in good voice whilst every opening riff seemed to be welcomed with open arms, once again proving that Brit-pop thrills still speaks volumes to a generation of music lovers.

Sunday sadly brought the rain, the parking field became something of a hazardous bog during the morning and first part of the afternoon, but thanks to the staff and organisers the party raged against the elements and by the time acoustic troubadour **Gaz Brookfield** showcased his wares, the midday clouds began to lift. Whether that was down to Gaz's memorable set of hooks and guitar work can't be proven but I'm sure it helped. Sundays are generally a little mellower and time for reflection, only no one told **The Whipjacks** who still manage to rouse the weary early afternoon crowd with a fun packed set of celtic infused pirate punk shanties with thumping double bass, guitars battered and the odd bit of accordion thrown in for good measure.

By four o'clock the sun was beating down the crowd gained that all important second burst of energy and the fun filled, gloriously over the top **Dr And The Medics** took to the stage for a set of rock classics and pure entertainment. The only comparison you can make to a Dr And The Medics show is that of a high energy circus, with the good doctor as ringmaster and his fellow band members as the various different acts. Imagine a riotous blend of molten riffs, hollered vocals, big hair, gothic capes, cloaks and ice maiden backing vocalists thrown together to deliver the likes of *Love Shack*, *Kids In America* and the grand finale of *Spirit In The Sky* and *Whole Lotta Rosie* to a captivated and wonderfully receptive audience.

There are few bands that could follow the spectacle of Dr And The Medics, but one such band that can fill that criteria are Lakefest house band **The Roving Crows**, an outfit that are fast becoming the must see band on the folk/rock circuit with their unique blend of celtic fusion. The band open with the blazing violin introduction of *White Petticoats* before the band join in to deliver a glorious set including long term favourites *Long Time Dead*, *Love Is The Finest Thing* and *God On Demand* among others, with each song the audience responded with outbreaks of dancing, singing and rapturous applause as strummed acoustics, fiery violin and bursts of trumpet blended to provide a stunning Sunday soundtrack.

**The Fun Lovin' Criminals** were charged with bringing the festival to a close on a high and the funky hip-hop/blues/rock racketeers did just that with a collection of amped up classics. The band opened their set with *Up On The Hill* and from there on Huey and the boys had the crowd eating out of their hands, *Loco (Gotta Be Crazy)*, *King Of New York*, *Smoke Em* were all dispatched by a band on top form, eager to display their instrumental chops to the appreciative masses, with Huey's guitar-work and the harmonica of Fast particularly worthy of note. The FLC left the crowd baying for more by finishing up with the effervescent *Scooby Snacks* and the funk ridden ode to soul, *Barry White* bringing the end to another vintage year for Lakefest.

Words by Will Munn Photos by Graham Munn

# Gaz Brookfield

## Alex Rainsford, Haunted Souls

### The Marris Bar | Sunday 7th Sept

I first came across Gaz Brookfield a couple of years back at a festival and loved what I heard. I realised I wasn't alone in my opinion as I joined the large queue eager to buy his latest album after the show. Since then I've seen him at numerous gigs and festivals and never tire of his songs and the growing crowds still agree with me it seems. So do yourself a favour and come see Gaz at the Marris Bar...



Photography by Graham Munn

**Q.** Would it be fair to say you have an autobiographical style to your writing and is it something you've developed or have you always written that way?

**A.** I think it would be fair to say that, yes. It's the old adage isn't it, "Write about what you know", and I don't know a great deal, so I just write about whatever it is that I'm thinking about, or that's happening to me at that time. I think that's how I've always done it, but listening back to some old tunes (I released an album of old demos recently) it seems that I was proper emo back then, so all I wrote about was being miserable. So I guess it has developed, because I try not to write sad songs if I'm down. Instead I try to turn it into something positive. 'Be The Bigger Man' for instance, and more recently 'The Diabetes Blues'. Songs about pretty personal stuff, but I guess if there's someone out there that can relate to the subject matter, then it's worth writing.

**Q.** You have been compared to artists like Frank Turner and Newton Faulkner which is high praise indeed but who do you listen to and which artists have inspired you along the way?

**A.** I tend to obsess over a musician or a band when I find them, almost to the exclusion of all else. A few years ago someone played me a Loudon Wainwright III song, and since then I've been hooked. I own most of his albums now, and would say that his particular brand of very personal,

humorous, and sometimes heartbreaking song writing has become a huge influence and inspiration to me. I wrote him a song on my latest album, LW3, and sent it to him. He is yet to respond.

**Q.** You've toured with the Levellers and I saw you play at Beautiful Days Festival last year, tell us about your association with them and how influential they have been...

**A.** When I was about 13 my sister bought a copy of Levelling The Land home on cassette. We used to listen to it a Walkman, with one headphone each. We couldn't play it on the stereo because it had the odd rude word on it, and we'd get in trouble for listening to it. They were the first band I ever properly got into. When I heard that they were playing the O2 Academy in Bristol a few years back I cheekily emailed the promoter to ask if I could play a few songs at the start of the show, just so I could say that I'd supported the Levellers. I never expected a reply, but he said yes, and they let me do 20 mins just after the doors opened. The gig went better than I could have ever expected, and I came off stage thinking that I could retire now - I've supported my favourite band. Then as I came off stage their tour manager asked me what I was doing for the rest of that week, and would I like to play the rest of the tour. Needless to say, I accepted. Did the rest of that tour, and at the end I thought, well that's it, I've had my share of luck now. But then they asked me to do the Europe tour, plus a few more dates in the UK later that year. It's weird now, because Simon (Friend) has even starred in one of my music videos. If only I could high five the 13 year old me through the space time continuum. It's all been a bit mind blowing really.

**Q.** The song *Be The Bigger Man*, brings a lump to my throat, not that I was bullied so much but I wondered have you ever thought it should be an anthem for anti-bullying or have you maybe been approached with that in mind?

**A.** It nearly didn't make it onto the album. I didn't think it was a particularly strong song, but I started playing it live, and it fast became the most popular song in the set. No anti bullying charities or groups have ever contacted me about using it, but a lot of teachers approached me asking for a non swear version so they could use it in assemblies and youth clubs etc. So I did a radio friendly edit of the song and the video for them. The video became something a bit special too. I planned to have fans and friends send in clips of themselves holding up signs with short phrases about their bullying experiences, but then the band Dodgy (with whom I'd done a few gigs) sent in a clip. This got me thinking, I wondered how many other musician mates I could get to send in clips. So I started asking around and we ended up with dozens of fan clips, mixed in with a good number of clips sent in by fellow musicians. I think it's had over 20,000 views on Youtube now. Again, mind blowing!

**Q.** Lakefest this year was the first time I'd seen you playing with a band and although you always put everything in to your performance, you were more animated than usual. Do you enjoy it more than when solo and can we expect more full band shows in future?

**A.** I enjoy it equally as playing solo. The band are my best mates and I wouldn't like the band to made up of anyone else. The problem with that is that they all have day jobs, partners, kids etc, and so are not available to tour to the extent that I do. So one or two gigs a year is all I can ask of them really. We are playing a few more than that this year. Swindon on September 18th, Salisbury on September 27th, and my 1000th show at The Fleece, Bristol on December 19th, which has already sold out.





Q. How was your appearance at **Glastonbury** this year? Were you nervous despite almost 1000 gigs under your belt?

A. *They were great. I always get a bit nervous of gigs like that. I worry about whether or not anyone is going to come and watch me when there are so many other things going on. I was pleasantly surprised by the turn out at both shows at the Avalon Cafe stage.*

Q. Now that you're getting the critical acclaim you deserve does it feel odd still doing the song *Limelight* or do you see it as a message for other musicians or maybe just ironic...?

A. *I still play it. It tells a story of how it was when I wrote it. And it's got a catchy chorus.*

Q. The options these days are complicated but can you see yourself signing to a major label one day or can you be satisfied long term release stuff on your own label?

A. *I will never sign to a major label. I don't want fame or riches, just to make a living playing my guitar. I like releasing my music through my own label, I like being 100% in charge of everything I do.*

Q. Your 1000th gig is at the Fleece, Bristol in December, I guess this will be a special night for you, any surprises in store for your fans? (we won't say anything...)

A. *I'll be surprised if I don't make any mistakes! I am the weak link in the chain that is my band. They always play so well, and I forget words and play the wrong chords.*

Q. From your lyrics I gather you were brought up in a religious environment by your parents, what do they think of your career choice now?

A. *Just to clarify, I wasn't brought up in some sort of super strict sect or cult. My parents are both Christians, my Dad being a vicar, and they are the most important people in my life. I love them for who they are, and the beliefs that they hold. They brought me and my sister up amazingly well, and in the way that they saw fit, and I will never hold that against them.*

*My religious views, or rather lack of them, haven't caused any disagreements over the years. I respect them enormously for the way that they live their lives, and their commitment to the ideals for which they stand. They do a lot of good in their community, and I am proud of what they do. They tell me that they are proud of me and what I do too.*

*I have one song, 'Death Bed', which on the face of it could be misconstrued as me having a pop at all Christians. It's not. It's about a conversation I had with a rather mis-informed chap in a night club, who was attempting to convert me to Christianity while I was drunk. I emailed my Dad the lyrics before I recorded it. I told him that if he was offended by them then I wouldn't include it on the album. He loved it, so it got recorded. Vicar approved!*

# The Haunted Souls

## Done By Sunrise & Blossom Calderone

### The Marrs Bar | Sunday 28th Sept 2014

Best described as 'Foot Stomping, Folk and Country' The Haunted Souls are wowing audiences across the UK: It's hard to believe this band only formed in 2014! Be prepared for fun, frolics, heartfelt harmonies and of course, the obligatory drinking songs (and drinking).



The onstage chemistry and banter makes it obvious these musicians are long term friends. Band Members are - **Sarah Warren & Hannah Dallas** on Lead Vocals, **Nick Lyndon** (Guitar/Mandolin), **Richie Yeates** (Guitar) and **Zoe Devonish** (Fiddle/Percussion) 'One Lie One Tequila' title track of their new EP was recently featured on BBC Hereford and Worcester, Andy O'Hare said 'I was totally blown away by the quality of the kicking bluegrass sounds of The Haunted Souls - who've spent the last couple of years cutting their teeth with outfits like The Buttoned Down Souls and The Fabulous Boogie Boys - these are quality musicians'

Website - [www.thehauntedsouls.co.uk](http://www.thehauntedsouls.co.uk)

Bookings - [thehauntedsouls@gmail.com](mailto:thehauntedsouls@gmail.com)

Facebook.com/thehauntedsouls

**Done By Sunrise** are an acoustic indie-pop band from Worcester. The trio are comprised of **Loren Howland** (vocals, soprano ukulele), **Scott Howland** (guitar, backing vocals) and **Jodie Howland** (vocals, tenor ukulele and percussion). Fresh from a busy summer they have performed at some of the biggest festivals including Wireless, Lakefest and Sunshine, whilst also going international, recently returning from gigging on the white isle of Ibiza. 2014 has been a big year for the band, with lots of radio play, release of their debut EP and still lots more to come!

<http://www.donebysunrise.co.uk/>

[www.facebook.com/donebysunrise](http://www.facebook.com/donebysunrise)

[www.twitter.com/donebysunrise](http://www.twitter.com/donebysunrise)

**Blossom Calderone** is a young, singer, songwriter and musician. She accompanies herself on the piano performing a range of genres of music. Blossom has performed in different venues from the Royal Albert Hall performing classical music to festivals doing her own set of original and cover songs.

[www.facebook.com/blossomcaldarone](http://www.facebook.com/blossomcaldarone)

Doors 8pm, tickets available from The Marrs Bar & Music City

For a chance to win two free tickets email:

[marrsbarcomp@gmail.com](mailto:marrsbarcomp@gmail.com) with subject 'The Haunted Souls'

## Rory McGrath & Philip Pope

### Bridge Over Troubled Lager

The Swan Theatre | Thurs 18th Sept | Tickets £16

Join comedy stars **Rory McGrath** and **Philip Pope** for an evening of cheekily naughty songs, wit and on-stage camaraderie.

After their hit dad-rock album *Dark Side of the Moob*, Rory and Philip return to touring with an evening of sophisticated comedy and song. Expect wit, elegance and clever musical pastiche – but don't worry, there's also silliness and filth.

Last year **Rory McGrath** and long-time collaborator **Philip Pope** returned to the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival** for the first time in 23 years with this brand new show, *Bridge Over Troubled Lager*. Having last appeared together at the Fringe back in 1990, the 'dad-rock' duo were lured back by the buzz of the festival, and off the back of the success of their hit album *Dark Side of the Moob*, decided to put together a brand new show based around a collection of witty 'ditties' and tales, together writing 20 new songs especially for the show.



McGrath – star of TVs **Three Men in a Boat**, **Who Dares Wins** and many, many more – and Pope – the man who brought us Spitting Image's No.1 single *Chicken Song* amongst other things – first worked together in 1983, on the Channel 4 comedy *Chelmsford 123*. It was the first series from Hat Trick Productions, which McGrath co-founded, and which went on to make the likes of **Drop The Dead Monkey**, **The Kumars at No 42**, and **Whose Line Is It Anyway?**

With songs about tweeting, *Eurovision*, *The 'C word'* and *Cornish Shipping Disasters*, this show is taken as an opportunity by the two to set the world to rights and address all those niggles that have built up to overflow point by the time middle age has hit. The result is an engaging hour which feels almost like an evening spent in Rory's garage having a jam after a couple of beers. This is the show where music and comedy meet, have a few drinks, fight, then stagger home singing hits from the 60s. Something to offend everybody!

## Joe Brown

The Swan Theatre | Tue 30th Sept | Tickets £25

Brown back at the Swan! Rock 'n' roll legend **Joe Brown** returns to the Swan Theatre for another evening of sensational entertainment.

Recently described by BBC Radio 2 as 'The Epitome of Cool', Joe Brown is indeed one of the true greats of rock 'n' roll, and his extraordinary career only keeps going from strength to strength as his contemporary achievements continue to gather momentum.

His *Very Best Of* album, which was released in 2008 in celebration of his 50th year as a professional musician, achieved a Gold Record for a massive 125,000 sales and was in the UK charts for eight weeks, spending four weeks in the Top 20. Joe's new CD *The Ukulele Album* caused a similar stir, and due to its success a Deluxe version was released in October 2013.



One of the original rock 'n' roll stars to come out of the UK, and one of the very first UK session men, Joe Brown's early career highlights included playing guitar with Gene Vincent, Eddie Cochran, Johnny Cash and other US stars when they came over to Europe. He first rose to fame in the 1960s with a string of top ten hits including *A Picture Of You*, *It Only Took A Minute* and *That's What Love Will Do*. He went on to appear in films, pantomime and stage musicals, notably *Charlie Girl* in the West End, in addition to having his own TV show and presenting others.

Joe, together with his five piece band (including his son and record producer **Pete Brown**), will be on stage all evening in a show packed with timeless classics, rockabilly, gospel, country, folk and rock 'n' roll, all interwoven with Joe's effervescent delivery and humorous reminiscences. This is your chance to see one of the all-time great talents – a compelling and unique performer with a rare and singular track record – live at the Swan Theatre!

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**The Rhythm Club**  
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**The Trials of Oscar Wilde**  
Fri 3rd Oct 7.30pm - **£12.50**  
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**Steeleye Span 45th Anniversary Tour**  
Thurs 2nd Oct 8pm - **£21**  
Steeleye Span is a legendary name in British music and a link to the classic days of rock and folk.



**Tom Stadel**  
Thurs 11th Sept 8pm - **£16**  
The free-thinking philosopher returns to ponder timeless questions and reflect upon life's choices and decisions.

**Rory McGrath & Philip Pope**  
Thurs 18th Sept 8pm - **£16**  
Rory and Philip return to touring with an evening of sophisticated comedy and song.

**Mark Watson: Flaws**  
Fri 3rd Oct 8pm - **£17**  
"The highest achiever the Edinburgh Festival has seen this decade. A huge comic presence" - The Times  
"Simply exhilarating" - Daily Telegraph  
"Mark Watson is a prodigy" - The Guardian



**Box Office 01905 611427**

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## Blues Nights at The Cellar Bar, Worcester 10th Anniversary | Tuesday 16th Sep

These sessions sprang from the Cellar Bar Open Mic sessions called First Tuesday. Hosted by Ed and James, they were acoustic sessions attended by local players. After a couple of sessions from me and my then harmonica partner Rod Jones, James suggested we do a blues night, where I would arrange the players and he'd do the rest.

This was around July/August 2004. In September 04 James suggested I take it on, and with **Neil Collins** on PA that was the start of the monthly session that will be celebrating its

**10th anniversary** on Tuesday Sept 16th.

Changes happened: we lost Neil to the musical fleshpots of Malvern. Rod Jones retired and now lives in Bracknell. Players came, some stayed, others moved, some left the music.

Notable as regulars were **Black Cat Bone, Dave Ryles, Perry Foster, Babajack, Paul Jeffrey, John Denton, David Bristow** and **Martin Thorne**. Later



Photography by Graham Munn



Perry Foster

Photography by Mark Hoy

came **Juke Joint John**, and **Tone Tanner**. Most recently, we have already had two welcome visits by the trio comprising **Damon Thomas, Christy Rush**, and **Luke Philbrick**, whose first gig here earlier this year was the most dynamically impressive since the previous debuts of **Babajack, Sarah Warren & Lexie Stobie**.

I continued to run things until **Stripped Down Blues** was formed, around 4 years ago, whereupon it became a group presentation, vastly enhanced acoustically and musically by the addition of that cool spiders-stomper **Garrington T Jones**, who both plays at and stage manages each of our Blues Nights and other gigs.

Sept 16th will be celebrated by **Inter Alia, Babajack, John Denton, The Players, Perry Foster, Dave Bristow** and **Rod Jones**. Still free, 9pm start, earlier if sufficient people show up.

*Bob Jones*

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12th - Deep & Dirty project  
13th - Submission (D&B)  
19th - Deep & Dirty project  
20th - Submission (D&B)  
26th - Deep & Dirty project  
27th - Submission (D&B)



# Vena Portae | Live Instore

## Rise Records, Worcester 18th Aug

**Vena Portae** are a four-piece Anglo-Australian-Swedish group featuring acclaimed singer-songwriter, **Emily Barker** among their number who along with **Dom Coyote**, **Ruben Engzell** and **Jesper Johnsson** recorded their debut album two years ago over in Stockholm. The album has just been released (due to other commitments) and the with it the band are together playing a number of dates in the UK in support of the release.

The band opened their trek around England with a handful of stripped down instore performances across the three stores (Cheltenham, Bristol and Worcester) that make up the indendent music chain **Rise**.

As a fan of Emily's solo work it was something of a no-brainer to rush home from work to take advantage of an early Monday evening slot here in Worcester to investigate her latest project. **Vena Portae** took to the floor with a couple of acoustic guitars (or a guitar and banjo), a bass and gently brushed drums to create a stunning autumnal take on folk-laden pop, often featuring beautiful vocal harmonies with each of the members of the band complimenting the lead from either **Emily Barker** or **Dom Coyote**.

The band weaved a mesmeric spell with their short set, the majority of which was taken from their debut, self titled album. Tracks such as *Summer Kills* and *Flames & Fury* cast a majestic spell, pop hooks blended effortlessly with folk instrumentation to captivate the handful of rapt music fans, whilst animal murder ballad, *Foal Bewitched* with it's compelling and somewhat unusual subject matter.



With the vinyl edition of the album the band offer an exclusive remix album featuring mixes by a variety of names in the electronic world as well **Peter Moren** (of Peter, Bjorn And John fame), so it seemed apt that the band should repay the compliment by completing their set with a glorious hum-a-long cover of *Young Folks*, before taking the time to sign records, meet and greet.

The instore performance by Vena Portae served as a stunning introduction to an evocative and engaging band, with the majority of the crowd purchasing the beautiful debut album after the band's set (myself included!!!). Vena Portae have a wonderous, timeless sound that deserves further investigation whether that's live, on record or better yet both.

[www.venaportae.net](http://www.venaportae.net)

by Will Munn

# The GREAT MALVERN HOTEL



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## Four Shires Festival at Droitwich 15th-17th August

An ambitious inaugural weekend festival materialised in Droitwich with a 3 day schedule with 44 sessions featuring with 39 different artists and bands listed. Included in the planned sessions were some interesting pairings such as **Abby Inez** and **Tina V**. In fact Tina was popping up throughout the 3 days. I managed to catch most of Saturday's show, an impressive mix of local talent being showcased alongside the more experienced and full time musicians. The sound was excellent, the stages and facilities impressive, for the first of what is hoped to be a series of festivals over the 4 adjacent shires.

Up and coming artists came from Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Shropshire and of course Worcestershire. They performed in the acoustic stage, between sets of the established bands on the main stage. There were few delays, the entertainment being almost seamless across the day. I managed to hear **Aymee Weir**, **Alex Petrie**, and **Emi Mcdade** perform opposite **Chicago Bytes** from Kidderminster area, who gave us Springsteen, Stevie Ray and Rory Gallagher and the lovely roots blues of **Damon T** and **Luke Philbrick** from Gloucester. Plenty of slide, harp and Delta passion. **Hannah Dallas** and **Sarah Warren** fronted **Haunted Souls**, with such a powerful pair of vocalists how could you fail to enjoy the Americana country style of this superb band, complete with acoustic guitars, mandolin and fiddle.



Then a surprise package in **Missing Sparrows** in the acoustic stage, with their 'unique sound of London Town meets Billie The kid'. I'm not sure about the description, but they certainly had some interesting lyrics, perhaps

more Lilly Allen dates Gaz Brookfield. Either way, an impressive little set from 14 year old **Tallulah** and 16 year old **Niall** from Worcester. An acoustic session from **Damon T** preceded Kiddie's **Vault Of Eagles**, a grunge rock



band fronted by Mari on lead and Hetti on a bass that seemed far to big for her, with Scott sticking it to the drums. Some powerful stuff from this unusual line up, with a flavouring of Siouxsie & The Banshees.

With barely time to draw breath, let alone sample a bit more of the excellent ale on tap, there is a short set from **Abby Inez** with her country pop style of self penned songs, mixed with a few covers. It's a short set as **Jessica Rhodes** prepares on the main stage. I have to say the **Jessica Rhodes Band** was outstanding; formed in 2013 between cousins **Olly**, **Luke** and **Jessica**, they performed much of their own material, a lively cocktail of soul, pop, and a large dash of jazz, complete with ice, umbrella and cherry. They are the full package with real stage presence and Jessica's voice, with a slight Scots tinge, has a genuine quality. Certainly a band to see again.

A switch to the acoustic stage brought us to **Tina V**; this pop balladeer, present all weekend, has been instrumental in encouraging some of the new wannabes to play at the festival. Closing with '*Don't Worry Be Happy*', not a problem, the weather had held, the entertainment extensive, the bar was still open and **Babajack** were about to play the final set.

There is not much I can write about **Babajack** that I have not scribed before, the band is, for me superb. They have tweaked up their stage performance (if you thought that possible) and they play truly wonderful roots blues music. By the time this goes to print, they could have collected more awards at the annual gathering at Colne. If Becky collects a third award, she will enter the 'Hall Of Fame'. So suffice to say, if you have never seen or heard the band, find a CD or better, see them live.

Overall, the festival appeared to achieve everything it set out to do; a good set up, with twin stages, allowing virtually non stop music. Also a showcase for up and coming performers from the surrounding counties, mixed with fine, well seasoned, quality bands. Plenty of music for all tastes. This 'prototype' festival lacks only one thing, and that was footfall. The reasons are many, but the bottom line is that it was not possible to pre-advertise the event widely and early enough. A great shame, given the efforts and resource put into making this happen. I am sure that any future event will address that problem, all else was fine. There are always minor tweaks and changes that can be made, but the structure as a whole seemed to work well. People and ticket sales are the lifeblood to any festival. I am confident that the organisers will make this work and then they will then have a festival to be proud of.

Words & Pics: Graham Munn



# Jasper In The Company Of Others

## Kind Regards ep Launch

The Marrs Bar | Saturday 13th Sept

### Support from El Born and Amy & Lily

Worcester's finest purveyors of infectious folk-pop, Jasper In The Company Of Others return with a brand new EP, after the successful release of their debut album, back a year or so ago.

Since the release of the aforementioned album the band have been hard at work gigging, taking in festivals such as **Wychwood** along the way, as well as writing and recording the four tracks that make up Kind Regards.

For the uninitiated Jasper In The Company Of Others mix upbeat melodies, acoustic guitar, frantic ukulele and elastic rhythms to create a contagious and instantly memorable sound, so much so that if you don't find your toe tapping or head nodding, you might just want to check your vital signs. The band, whether it's live or on CD, never fail to raise a smile and Kind Regards continues the trend.

The EP opens with the high spirited *Between The Lines*, a glorious pop-laden indie folk number that contains more hooks than most bands muster in a life-time. It's a blustery

fun opening with frontman, "Jasper Malone" trading riffs with uke star **Jak Hayward**, whilst the rhythm section lay down an infectious groove and new addition, **Ed Roser** weaves in and out of the mix with a blur of fiddle, further enhancing the sound. *Passive Smoke* follows and in comparison is something of a reflective number that sees

Jasper initially deliver a wonderful heartfelt croon accompanied by a lonesome acoustic guitar before the rest of the band join in with a combination of expressive fiddle, driving bass and drums. *Passive Smoke* concludes with a lovely line of delicate vocal harmonies that showcases how well the band work as a unit as well as the warm production values of the EP.

*Something In Water* opens again, as a subtle reflective number, with understated drums underpinning that omnipresent combination of acoustic guitar and fiddle before slowly



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building up to a rousing chorus that's pre-meditated by an almost punk thrash of the acoustic guitar. The chorus itself is instantly contagious, whilst the middle section of oohs and aahs will have you singing along by the end of the first spin.

The band finish the EP with the glorious ode to going out and having a good time, *Wait For The Weekend*, a track that seems to unite the various different elements that make up the sound of Jasper In The Company Of Others in a glorious three and a quarter minutes. Folky verses make way for a pulsating (dare I say slightly Mystery Jets influenced) indie pop chorus, that's peppy, fun and ultimately unforgettable.

Jasper In The Company Of Others always deliver live and with the release of their debut album and indeed this brilliant four-track the band could well find themselves (and justly so) on the cusp of something very big indeed.

Will Munn

[www.facebook.com/jasperinthecompanyofothers](http://www.facebook.com/jasperinthecompanyofothers)

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## B:FEST 9th August The Bridge Inn Tenbury Wells



The tagline for B:Fest Tenbury Wells is 'Supporting Local Music and Keepin' it Live', well it certainly does what it says on the tin. Now in its fourth year, B:Fest kicked off with Ewan Pollock, a young solo performer from Worcester, originally from Glasgow, Ewan performed with the maturity of a seasoned musician, going down well with the earlybird crowd.

Next up was **Steve Roberts**, who has recently returned from living in Brighton for many years, Steve performed a strong set of original material, this was his first gig back in his hometown. **Buying Lies** were next, they turned in a solid set of alternative rock, despite the absence of their bass player.

**Jennifer Ludlow**, a songstress who hails from Pershore with a pure vocal tone took to the stage, during her set a brief rain shower did nothing to deter the crowd who gathered up close, finishing her set with a cover of **Dodgy's** 'Staying out for the Summer', a number of the audience could be heard singing along.

With a set of well crafted up-beat original songs, four piece indie band **Ronda** graced the B:Fest stage. By now the party was in full swing, the weekend, wake up your conscience and make a wish being particular highlights from their fresh sounding set.



The **Troy Redfern Band** were next up, with their roots blues rock, a top drawer 3 piece act from Kington Herefordshire, many of the audience were glued to Troy's guitar and performance skills, back up by solid bass and drums. Troy himself, a songwriter and guitarist of the highest ability, is also a producer, is there no end to his gifted talents. A rain

shower met with the end of their set, once again no-one was going anywhere.

The **Rainbreakers** (yes it did stop raining at this point) a young extremely talented act from Shrewsbury, who have shared the stage with, Razorlight, The Feeling and The Hoosiers, had a set full of strong original songs with a blend of covers. They were giving away their EP, which they left at the front on the stage during their set. A nice touch I thought and a good piece of self promotion.

I had to pinch myself at the level of talent on show at this years B:Fest and remind myself that it is a free event. Could things get any better than this? Well yes is the answer. From the moment **Ronin** graced the stage the atmosphere was what can only be described as electric, female members of the audience could be heard to shout "We Love You!" to the band in-between songs. Their high energy performance was a crowd pleaser without question, a set of back to back strong originals with a sprinkle of covers, one being, **Purple Rain** by **Prince**. Post performance **Ronin** could be seen signing autographs and the T-Shirts of adoring fans.

The night continued with party band, **Straight Torque** and came to a close with young cover act, **Tegu Fly**.

All in all a great day of 'Supporting Local Music and Keepin' it Live' was had by all.

Well done to organiser Mike McBride and the B:Fest crew, see you in 2015.

Words & Pictures by Kev Tudge

## Derek Nash Quartet Garden House, Edgbaston - 25th July

Saxophonist **Derek Nash** is probably best known for his work with the **Jools Holland Rhythm and Blues Orchestra**, a band with which he has been associated for some 10 years now. Here, however was the chance to see him in a small group setting.

Nash was accompanied by a fantastic Midlands rhythm section comprising **John Patrick** on keyboard, **Tom Hill** on double-bass and **Malcolm Garrett** at the drums.

Throughout the evening, Nash exhibited his mastery of the soprano, alto and tenor saxophones. He featured several of his own compositions taken from a recent excellent album along with a wonderful selection of well-known standards



taken from the pages of the 'Great American Songbook' and some familiar jazz themes for good measure. Nash's enthusiasm for the music was obvious and contagious.

This event formed part of the Birmingham International Jazz and Blues Festival, an event which this year celebrated its 30th year bringing high quality jazz to the streets and venues of Birmingham.

Words and Photo by Alan Musson



## Steve Lawson, Jem Godfrey & Andy Edwards Tower of Song, Cotteridge, Birmingham 10th August

Looping Bass guitarist **Steve Lawson** has been curating **Birmingham Bass Night** at the Tower of Song for some time now. His idea is to bring to Birmingham fellow bass guitarists to perform solo and in duo with him. These nights have previously featured Dudley's very own Russ Sargeant, Lorenzo Feliciati from Italy and, from the USA, Julie Slick to name just three. From these beginnings Steve has formed a new collaboration with Kidderminster based drummer **Andy Edwards**. Previously performing as a duo, this time they added a further ingredient to the mix in the form of music producer, song writer and keyboardist **Jem Godfrey**.



Jem may be little known to music fans but he was one of the people responsible for Atomic Kitten's *'Whole Again'* which earned him two Ivor Novello Award nominations. In 2004 he formed the progressive rock group Frost\*.

The good folk of Cotteridge may have noticed a dip in their electricity supply as these three master musicians took to the stage. Increased demand was reported at the National Grid as this band relied totally on the electricity supply. Even **Andy Edwards** was playing an electronically manipulated drum kit and Godfrey's keyboard set up was something never before seen in in the Birmingham suburbs.

**Steve Lawson** was his usual tasteful and thoughtful self, kicking off the first of three sets. Gradually Jem and Andy joined in adding their commentary to Steve's exquisite music making. Later, Andy and Jem took their chance to start separate sets solo before the others joined the throng. The music ranged from mellow, ambient loveliness to anthemic progressive rock.

There was no pre-arranged structure to the music. At one point, Jem asked Steve what key he would like to start in and Steve just laughed.

I asked Steve to describe the trio's music. Steve said that he felt that it was *'cinematic instrumental'* *"because its very evocative and pan-idiomatic and there is no fixed 'style' to any of it"*.

Steve has plans to release a recording of the session at some point but until then all that I can suggest is that you catch these three musical alchemists in person if you have the chance as my words cannot really convey the beauty of the music – you simply had to be there.

Check Steve Lawson's web site [www.stevelawson.net](http://www.stevelawson.net) to find out what he is up to, purchase his music and catch up with him at a gig sometime soon.

Words and Photo: Alan Musson

## The Badgers Big Band

St Patrick's Irish Club, Leamington Spa | 17th August

This was the inaugural performance by a new Midlands big band made up of some of the region's best musicians under the leadership of trombonist and keyboard player **Richard Nield**. The band boasts the cream of the Midlands scene including **Andy Derrick** on bass, rather than his more customary trombone, **John Bewick** on saxophone and **Clive Allsopp** on trombone.



The repertoire includes funk, swing and rock with music from Pat Metheny, Les Hooper, Doc Severinsen and Maynard Ferguson, Gordon Goodwin and The Tonight Show Band. This gig coincided with Pat Metheny's 60th Birthday and so plenty of his music was guaranteed.

With such a line up and together with the fact that the band had been in rehearsal for some 12 months, expectations were running high. Tickets for the event had sold out weeks before. The capacity audience was not to be disappointed and a thrilling evening of music making was enjoyed by all. The enthusiasm of the musicians was easily communicated to the audience who relished every note. This is clearly a band to watch. It is not easy to assemble sixteen musicians on a regular basis for rehearsals and to attend to all of the attendant administration too and **Richard Nield** and his merry band of men deserve this project to be a resounding and enduring success. It is wonderful that we have such a band in our region. Please support them by getting out to see them whenever you can. I did say that this is a band of sixteen musicians. However, I was wrong it is really a band of seventeen, as Richard's wife Michelle deserves credit for the vast amount of work that she puts in behind the scenes, helping to ensure that the band is able to strut its funky stuff.

If you missed this gig, the band will be back at the same venue on 26th Oct and there will be a Christmas special on 28th Dec – The 80% Non-Festive Gig. All events start at 7pm.

For more info email: [shellymack@badgersbigband.co.uk](mailto:shellymack@badgersbigband.co.uk)

Words: Alan Musson Photo: Krystle Kirby

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A PHYSICAL SHOP IN A DIGITAL WORLD





# Gloucester Blues Bytes

**S**ampling what is on offer during the last week of July and into August finds me at **Café Rene** for a **Mike Sanchez** solo. Waiting is his battered gig weary keyboard, more gaffer tape than body, but it seems to work for him. Mike is a travelling jukebox of Rhythm & Blues, Do Wop, Boogie, Blues, Ballads and Rock & roll taken from the world of wine women and song. A non-stop whirling dervish of a show, someone had loaded a fiver in a 5p slot Wurlitzer and Mike is the stylus. Café Rene was full, and song titles were tossed in the air to be caught and played: set list? Never heard of them! Mike demonstrated his inability to play **Louis Jordan's**, *'Ain't Nobody here But Us Chickens'*, and then proceeded to sing it 'a capella' style. A fun evening to end Mike's current UK visit, and the launch of his biography.

I returned to Gloucester for a Friday night double, **Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants** with **King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys**, following them on to the open stage in Eastgate. A damp evening with fine rain making for a reluctant gathering, venturing out from the covered areas. Though eventually, with no doubt a little fortification from the bar, KP managed to entice movement onto the green around the stage.

**Steve Ajao** had opened with some good solid blues, as you would expect from this top notch Birmingham band: *'Pride and Joy'*, *'Boogie Chillun'* and *'Travelling Man'* slip out easily, with bits of Hendrix, Whittaker and Clarence Carter thrown in. Sadly the vocal mic did not seem well set to relate anything Steve talked about between these classic songs, a shame as he does have a nice line in dry humour to bring to his gigs. **KP** and the lads drew in the reluctant, sheltering crowd with plenty of rhythm and blues, swing and even a bit of BB King for the occasion. *'Everyday I Have the Blues'* crooned out to the revellers in a full on blues style, reverting to lounge swing for such songs as *'Oh Marie'*. **KP** with **Big John** at his side and surrounded by one of the best R&B/swing bands around can't go wrong: a good way to unwind into the weekend.

Sunday comes and so does some nice delta blues from **Damon T**. Based in Gloucester, he is undoubtedly broadening his base with various festival spots throughout the summer. He ended on a Blind Willie Johnson song *'Soul Of A Man'*, played with soul by Damon T. A timing mix up meant a delayed start for **Steve Morrison**, so why not a bit more Damon to fill in; no one complained. The small hooded stage was reset for another, perhaps grittier

blues man, **Matt Woosey** and his band. Matt, all the way from the Heights of Malvern is a well established acoustic blues artist either solo or with his band.

He grabbed attention with *'Hook Line & Sinker'*, the lovely title track from his last album but he could not get away from his claimed nemesis *'Cruel Disposition'* a hard hitting Woosey favourite, fully fired up and certain to leave an impression.

**Steve Morrison** had found his way and was ready to go, a softer approach after Matt, but an excellent performance that was much appreciated by the now crowded green. His well worn Fender teased us with his superb finger picking and slide from the opening *'After Midnight'* in the style of EC through to *'Alberta'*.

**The Steve Thompson Band** introduced a bit more rock as they played their Chicago and Mid America style blues with the odd curved balls served up like *'Money'*, the only cover on their *Catch The Fire* album. A nice bit of Hendrix in *'Little Wing'* followed fast on the heels of Pink Floyd, offering a distinct change of style from the afternoon sessions.

**Spikedrivers** were to follow. They had won over many new fans at Upton a week before with their roots style of Americana and blues, played out on scullery instruments by Constance and Maurice alongside the age worn acoustic guitars of Ben. Unfortunately I was not able to see **Connie Lush** much as I would have loved to: she is an iconic blues singer with great presence and a killer voice. Overall, the week had been full of wonderful music in a variety of

venues around Gloucester City centre, culminating in the weekend extravaganza behind **Café Rene**, the nucleus of the festival. It has established a firm hold on the week following Upton Blues just 15 miles up the road, often attracting many of the artists that have featured there. There is room for improvement, the stage is small and limited. The sound, probably not the best, but its certainly worth the visit. You will get to see some great bands and be able to sample all that the Café Rene has on offer.

Words & Pictures by Graham Munn



Damon T



Matt Woosey



## Shred Perry Presents at The Black Lion, Hereford 27th July

Sadly Hereford's music venues aren't immune to the country wide plague of whining neighbours. You live next to a live music venue. If you don't like it there are many other places to live. Like next to a motorway. Then you can complain about that all day long until roads are finally banned.

But I digress...

This latest instalment in a long line of great shows put on by **Shred Perry** was no disappointment. This time we saw a slightly more varied line up than usual (**Cassandra, Brain Wreck, Footdragger, Fetus Christ Boss Cloth & Skinhorse**) all kicking out the jams in the own sexy ways.

Due to a decorating catastrophe (more on that story in my autobiography) I arrived late only to catch the last two songs of Cassandra's set, both of which were great. A little more indie than my usual tippie but with great hooks and energy (and certainly more impressive than their unflattering youtube videos). As they're still a fairly new band I look forward to seeing how they develop with great interest.

Then came Brain Wreck. Negative Approach-esque hardcore with a Flipper-like swagger (or stagger). If first generation hardcore punk is your thing see these guys yesterday. Great riffs, searing vocals, pummeling drums, nice shoes – these guys have it all.

Brain Wreck were then begat by Footdragger. This one man acoustic act has finally found the perfect presentation for his simple effecting songs. Gone are the novelty distractions witnessed at past shows which only served to distract from

the beautiful music and ever more impressive musicianship. Lovely stuff.

Next was a grind day out with Fetus Chirst. Grind has never been this memorable and fun. Incredible guitar and drum interplay coupled with one of the most entertaining frontmen I have ever had the pleasure to witness. Astonishing.

At which point Swindon's very own Boss Cloth kicked off. One suspects that the two-man band's set was slightly marred by a less than perfect guitar tone (it was a little thin to carry the riffs on its own). Despite this minor setback Boss Cloth's quirky mixture of garage, grunge and psych had the charisma and hooks to overcome it. I hope to see them again.

Skinhorse had the unenviable task of following this incredibly varied yet strong line up and somehow managed to pull it off perfectly. For those who have yet to see them Skinhorse are an instrumental drum and bass (guitar) duo. Yet you'd never guess by just listening to them. These riffs veer between noise, punk and cock rock will get stuck in your head for days. The perfect end to another great Shred Perry night.

Let's hope it's not too long until the next one.

*Alfred Carroll*



Skinhorse

All photography by B At Gippa

# PREVIEW

## NMTBullocks present EMP!RE, Holy, Aulos & Gameboys Saturday 6th September | The Jailhouse, Hereford

Founded in 2005, NMTBullocks gigs are making a comeback after a three year hiatus on Saturday 6th September with a killer main stage mix of alt rock acts at The Jailhouse. Plus second acoustic stage. Live music 8pm-12am. The Four Horsemen DJs from 12-3am

After a string of impressive 2014 festival appearances including Sonisphere, headliners **EMP!RE** visit Hereford bringing their killer melodies and virtuosic vocals to town. This sub genre defying band, hailing from the South West has been described by Kerrang! as 'The best new voice in Rock'. **EMP!RE** are supported on the main stage by 3 local acts – Richa are an alt rock 4 piece now residing in London and Brighton but who still call Hereford home, **Holy** epic psych rockers destined for big things from over Worcester way and **Aulos** an instrumental two piece with **Gameboys** from Hereford / Bristol.

A second open mic stage has been accepting submissions for over a month now and **NMTBullocks** are happy to announce that the following local acts will be playing the acoustic stage throughout the evening - **Footdragger, Rope**



**and Field, Bren Haze, Vaginapocalypse and Claire Perkins.**

Doors are at 8pm and to celebrate the return the first thirty folk through the door will receive a complimentary NMTBullocks glow in the dark plectrum!

After the live music is done around midnight the **Phobia** DJs, AKA **The Four Horsemen** bring you a post band alternative anthem apocalypse till 3am close.

More info and £3 advance tickets can be purchased via [facebook.com/nmtbullocks](https://facebook.com/nmtbullocks)

Or pay on the door: £4 before 9pm and £5 thereafter.



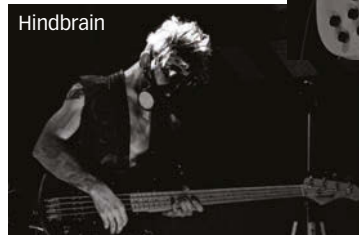
# Circuit Sweet by Naomi Preece

As the new look, bigger, better SLAP was going to print last month we were enjoying a weekend of mud, music, comedy, dinosaurs and all things **Nozstock**. Sticking to their rural and local roots, the 3 day festival fused the right balance of local and national talent, provided by the family run team behind this brilliant event. When you've experienced Noz you realise why this is such a cherished and unique community focussed festival. A full Noz Review will be on the site shortly (plus our own feature this issue - nice Noz Overload! Ed) but our highlights from the weekend included local talent **Jake of Diamonds**, legendary hip-hop headliner **Roots Manuva**, vibrant gypsy punks **Molotov Jukebox**, **Demob Happy** and **Vant** on the band stage plus **Red Room Therapy** kicking the last day of the festival into shape.



Molotov Jukebox

August also brought us some of the best local gigs we've had the privilege to witness for a long time! **Surprise Attacks** are one of Worcester's best live promoters right now, uniting their alternative music scene by providing venues for some of the finest acts around. We certainly can't fault the work ethics of SA and their line-ups are insane with some great gigs already and more unmissable shows lined up for the future. So on 8th August in Worcester The Firefly hosted a sweaty Surprise Attacks night of abrasive noise: the line up consisting of local lovelies, and current CS faces, the effortlessly talented **The Broken Oak Duet**, followed by our friends **Alright The Captain** - a rare UK date, the trio are regularly touring Europe and currently recording their new album - and headliners the powerful, slightly deafening but incredible duo **God Damn**. A few days later we caught **The Broken Oak Duet** again this time at The Jailhouse, their first Hereford show. Also on



Hindbrain



The Dead Cartel

the bill were **The Dead Cartel**, **Aulos** and **Hindbrain** so to was a night of unmissable, quality instrumental music.



DZ Deathrays

On Sat 16th Aug Aussie riff-rock machines **DZ Deathrays** headlined at Porridge promoted event which also featured local talent **Quarter Stone** kicking off the evening's proceedings followed by well supported, Wales/Hereford 3 piece **Red Room Therapy**, who warmed the stage up nicely



Red Room Therapy

for the headliners, keeping the crowd on a high with their hard hitting & impressive compositions: a great live act indeed. And so to the highly anticipated headline act **DZ Deathrays**, a two piece garage punk rock band from Brisbane consisting of guitarist and vocalist **Shane Parsons** and drummer **Simon Ridley**. Intentionally a maximal band, with few numbers making up the act, they make the sound of a five man outfit. The set and line-up was augmented at times by friend and musician **Mitchum Gregory** whose guitar work added that extra kick in certain compositions. This hard working energetic pair bask in their kaleidoscopic array of confining, resonating warm feedback and wall of sound; their glistening riffs, audacious deep beats and fills, captivating lyrics and aggressive showmanship highlight their abilities to maximum effect. DZ's set unsurprisingly showcased their flawless debut album '*Bloodstream*' including their notable sophomore release '*Black Rat*' which hit the UK just days after the gig. **DZ Deathrays** tick all the right boxes, are a force not to be messed with and left their maniacally grinning audience begging for more!

And so as Slap goes to print this month - we will be basking in all things **Worcester Music Festival** - just wait to see our coverage of the incredible sounding/looking events planned across Woo-Town on the last weekend of summer 2014!

As for September- do not miss out on the **NMTBullocks** live return at The Jailhouse, Sept 6th with **Empire**, **Richa**, **Aulos**, **Thousand Fingers** and a second stage full of incredible local artists. Don't forget to leave us your event listings on our facebook/twitter page so we are in the know!

ps. We are now 5 years old! Big Thanks to Everybody we have had the pleasure in working with and to celebrate we're offering a free Circuit Sweet retrospective download here- <http://circuitsweetrecords.bandcamp.com/releases>

All photography by B At Gippa

## On Dancers, Zebras & Drag Queens Velveteen Valley Cabaret

Nozstock The Hidden Valley 2014

My Nozstock by Craigus Barry

Noz was a compelling experience to say the least, my music & art highlights are a multitude, but that multi-faceted surface will be cracked elsewhere. Apart from the obvious unique vibe of Noz, what resonated most over the three days has to be an intriguing Burlesque/Cabaret show on the Friday night. Youngsters need not apply, I shan't be graphic, but consider this a disclaimer.

Created by feminists(!) & also by renowned drag queen, **Miss Cairo!** Cairo steps into the white lights with the poise of a show-tune songstress. People were instantly transfixed, the order of the day was laid out in stark terms:



*"Now when a woman reveals something to you, she's giving you a gift from herself, something beneath, be it a joke, a flower or a flash of skin. You can show your appreciation modestly by whooping and cheering, congratulating her upon her bravery, she may reveal more as a result".*

Instantly, a backlash of boos! Undeterred, Cairo struck back; *"Now don't give me that, I'm not part of this objectification of women bull, I don't swallow it & I'm certainly not endorsing it. I'm saying show some appreciation! It's 'consensuality'".* Our host gets as good as she gets.

On walks first act **Florence Fontaine**, she's dressed as a housewife. A surreal striptease to the jaunty tune *"If I Knew You Were Coming I'd Have Baked A Cake"*, suggestively adjusting her clothing as she Charltons around a cardboard cooker. It's a Robert Crumb psychosexual doodle come to life!



She "accidentally" catches fire (this is a piece of paper with fire drawn on), slowly loses her clothes as the 2D fire 'spreads'. You could compare this voyeurism with a porno & the *"I've just come to fix the cable"* routine, but many in the audience seem to get the humorous surrealism, at the very least. When this lady does her "reveal", she hides her modesty behind two paper plates.



Things get all the stranger, with **Ursula Dares** - dressed as Zebra. Perhaps I'm concentrating on subtext, but that doesn't seem like an atypical thing to see. She jogs on the spot, a wildlife voice-over informs us that the zebra breaks out of a zoo (all of which is mimed) & finds herself lost in London *"THE ONLY ZEBRA IN HACKNEY"*! She ends up in a rave and then canters into the night in search of water (cue frantic dancing); there it is at the front of the stage.

At this point I hear a friend suggest *"If the host has got a dick why can't we see that?"* her boyfriend agrees and as Ursula unleashes her bosoms upon the floor of the stage I think it's a fair point.

Cairo then performs *'The Look Of Love'*, with great passion and precision. This is a red herring of course, *"Bet you're all hard now"* she says as she suggestively runs a hand down the microphone stand. A brief respite in the form of **The Red Hot Frilly Knickers** dance troupe performing the Can-Can!

Up next an act that ticks all the conventional boxes, showgirl and ballet dancer, **Beulah Bell**. Granted, she is pretty, but she enters wearing nothing but a towel, somehow performing an entire routine with just this one item, spinning around, teasing this way and that with poise and grace of a truly gifted dancer. She goes all the way to a rousing thunderous applause, the largest so far. By contrast the next two girls perform a dance with flags, one representing fire & one ice, fluttering flags composed of tissue paper, nothing provocative here, it was acrobatic if anything.



A drunken rabble enter, this sadly breaks the surrealist spell cast by Cairo et-al, pearls thrown to swine, a colleague and I decide to leave & instead drum on his self made junk percussion in the kids area.

On Saturday (talking to the tent's stagehand) I find the question *"Is it fine for Miss Cairo to talk about 'consensually' & 'objectification of women' without showing us his whole & crown jewels?"*, was answered! I bore witness, from a photograph taken at a tasteful angle -

Apparently he did the biggest "reveal" of all!



## My Nozstock by Little Charley

It was a Caveman themed Noz - the main stage was a dinosaur and it was fancy dress! I even saw a group of guys that had made their own flintmobile. This sounds pretty funny but the novelty for them soon wore off after a while as it took hours to get anywhere and they had to park up when one needed a pee or a beer!

The whole weekend was fun start to finish, despite it taking literally 3 hours to put our tent up, which actually wasn't our fault - there was a man covered in neon paint from head to toe with massive hands who thought he was helping but really he kept knocking it down!



I don't need to say too much about the **Fun Loving Criminals** as we all know how great they are. After their set all I wanted to do was run around robbing banks all wacked off of Scooby Snacks. Weird?

Then at lunchtime on the Sunday the main stage was graced with the **Cadbury Sisters**. It was sunny, I had a beer, and I was watching the most chilled out act I have seen all weekend with the most perfect harmonies. Couldn't ask for any more!



Cadbury Sisters

You haven't heard of **Mr B: The Gentleman Rhymers**? Where the hell have you been? Perfectly political chap hop rap. It's eye-wateringly funny with no sacrifice to the music and if you are interested in learning about a Mr B's version of history check out- *Chap Hop History* on YouTube. The man is a genius!

**The Last Tree squad** were on the **Garden Stage** and were reggae heaven! Local brothers **Pat & Steve McCardle** lead the way.



Paper Tiger

Anyone who knows me will know my highlight of my Nozstock weekend came to me in the form of **Paper Tiger**. I will try to describe it but it doesn't fit anywhere perfectly! It's live, electronic, jazz, hip hop, drum and bass mash up and it's just so good. The drummer must be absolutely mind bent after he finishes a set, the timing changes were ridiculous but didn't compromise the flow. Each member was so individually talented and the tunes were head-noddingly sexy! Haven't stopped listening to them since!



Mr B: The Gentleman Rhymers

Thanks to Noz for having SLAP mag back and to **Damo** for being a general hero...



The Last Tree squad



## My Nozstock by Paige Shail

With a 20 month old feisty minion slung onto my back, a tent underarm and bags swinging at my hips, I waddled to my first post-pregnancy festival - **Nozstock**. As a first-time Nozster, I admit I was apprehensive. Festival experiences prior to this one had become a bit of a blur. I remember all-nighting, all-hugging and all-loving four day extravaganzas where the floor was all the bed I needed. Now I had a whirlwind toddler who needed, nay, demanded warmth, food and most of all entertainment. Suddenly, 'festival' took on a whole different meaning. I would have to get up in the day!



And it was just my luck that I did. Nozstock really went all out with the '**Land that Noz forgot**' theme combining the fantastic visuals of roaming hunters/huntresses that amused the little one whilst intensifying the mystical atmosphere of Nozstock itself. It really has a local and comfortable atmosphere, creating the balance of a 'humble' community of like-minded Noz-goers without the forced climate of consumerism associated with larger festivals. As a family, we really needed this. With a boogie-loving and explorative little person there was no time for '*you really shouldn't bring a child here*' accusations that many fellow-festy-mothers have experienced and warned me against. Instead we were met with the ease of Nozstock, where all the staff were accepting and non-judgemental, even when our girl decided to stay awake until midnight and wanted to boogie to the headline act!



I chose to return each night from the festival itself. This was not due to the festival, believe me I wanted to stay and really absorb the sensory overload of music, lighting and amazing company, but, alas, the weather stole us home. This meant that we needed to go through the ticket station a silly amount of times whilst parking in a multitude of different spaces. The staff were fantastic, even recognising our faces (and my daughter's), and that really emphasised the community feeling. Everyone catered for our daughter, from the addictive children's area that kept the girl occupied for hours and hours, to the food stalls that gave us milk for free! Nozstock is a festival serious about fun and kids are not left behind but included. A belly dance father-daughter lesson made my weekend and I'm sure our family shall be regular Nozsters from this year forward.

## My Nozstock by Kate Cox

My 5th Noz and the best by far, a festival like no other with real community vibe and a sharing of experience no matter what age or musical agenda. **Click Click** works at Noz, providing walkabout performances and photo-booth style fun for public playtime and this year was more engaging than ever; everyone here loves a big fat dose of laughter!

### The Stiff Joints



People I've met at Noz have become true friends, and again I met new friends & old, bumping into many gorgeous faces! The beautiful site was packed with creative goodness and the

### Disco Panther



festival coordinators / organisers are so marvellously welcoming that you really feel part of the magic. Musically, of course **The Stiff Joints** who never ever disappoint, rocked it massively on the **Garden Stage** to a massive audience, and the epic 12 piece funk-tastically delicious **Disco Panther** playing the **Orchard Stage** at last, brought much joy to my ears. **The Skints** and **Molotov Jukebox** also gave me feet a good wiggle as did our self made disco lunge down at the **Poppy & Daves 'Ciderfect Uncertified Organic' cider bar!** And fun was had roaming the fields with other walkabout acts & joining in the **Click Click** procession as a Sunday finale in the **Dingle!** Noz, we love you!



# Surprise Attacks Presents Deadcuts, The Hip Priests, Bleak Zero Friday Sept 12th | The Firefly, Worcester



**T**here will be something wicked this way coming to the Firefly in September when London indie-punk four piece The Deadcuts hit Worcester for one of their first shows outside of the sainted capital.

Fresh from their support to The Libertines in Hyde Park - and featuring Mark Keds, singer/songwriter in the seminal **Senseless Things** and co-writer with **Pete Doherty** of the 21st century's indie standard 'Can't Stand Me Now' up front - this show will also be a soon-to-be-rare opportunity to catch this band up close and personal in a small venue. Before the [ahem] organised music world cottons onto the devilish and compelling things they have been up to with guitars in their dingy East End garrets. And they go... a lot bigger.

Described by guitarist Jerome Alexandre (ex of the **Skuzzies** and a wholly esoteric spoken word project called **A Warning to the Curious**) as "Kenneth Anger, Jean Cocteau, David Lynch, William Burroughs, Lucifer, and Christ throw a party" -



The Deadcuts sound is part proto-gothic new wave, part Birthday Party style art-rock updated, and part Aleister Crowley in the fading blaze of the Golden Dawn. Their debut album *Dark is the Night*, released in June on Birmingham's own *Speedowax*, is a razor-sharp work of cruel and poetic beauty. If Arthur Rimbaud his bad libertine self was a punk, his band would probably sound a hell of lot like The Deadcuts.

Making a return visit to Worcester for a **Surprise Attacks** show, main supports will be Nottingham's wild-eyed preachers of infernal **Dead Boys**-style debauchery and sleaze the **Hip Priests**. These garage punk apostates promise to damn us all again with their reckless Turbonegro meets the Stooges orgy of grinding and blasphemous whoopery. With a brand new album of their own - *Black Denim Blitz* - garnering universally rave reviews in all but the remnant of the mainstream music press (yes, the NME still exists, remarkably) expect to be swept up in the unholy rapture. Praise be.

Openers from Stoke are a wall of heavy god damn sound. Not for the faint hearted, and with the promise of something beastly dark and infectious. Get down early and see what we mean.

Be good to see you there. Only don't expect to feel clean or virtuous by the end of the night.

Ed Ling

## Fights And Fires & Germany's Idle Class pair up for a very special split release

UK's Fights And Fires & Germany's Idle Class pair up for a very special split release. The new, 4 track split will be the final release of the bands Swedish label home, **Blackstar Foundation**. Pressed on limited edition 7inch vinyl with handmade packaging, posters, patches and sticker bundles, as well as digitally in the UK on 17th Oct.

So, you have two hard working bands on your label, both have toured intensely for their previous full length albums, and now have material for a couple of new songs. Before we even managed to mention, "split record", **Idle Class** and **Fights And Fires** had already played a couple of shows together, and brought up the idea themselves.

Playing in Punk Rock and Hardcore bands often leads to you building an impressive collection of vinyl records. With all members of the two bands having the vinyl addiction, it only seemed right that the new release would be pressed on an extra special 7inch. With good old fashioned D.I.Y. creativity and brain power, you are able to make the most amazing creations. That's why we brought in Josua Rieber, of **Homesick Design**. When it comes to creativity, thinking outside the box and imagination, Josua is the perfect person to make everything come to life.



The Fights And Fires / Idle Class Split 7inch is available on Digitally (Through all usual outlets) and on 7" Clear Vinyl With Red Wine Splatter (Handmade, Screenprinted Card Case with Poster, Patch and Stickers)

[www.blackstarfoundation.com](http://www.blackstarfoundation.com)  
[www.facebook.com/fightsandfires](http://www.facebook.com/fightsandfires)  
[www.facebook.com/idleclass](http://www.facebook.com/idleclass)

# FALLS / DAS SEXY CLAP THIRTY SIX STRATEGIES ANYA CAROLINE FIREFLY LOWESMOOR JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>

**A**n eclectic bill this. Three solid homegrown units and a clambering, sexed-up hairy beast from the dark North of Wales. The **Surprise Attacks** "curated line up" machine keeps rolling.

**Anya Caroline** – or **Anya Pulver** – is well known around these parts as a third of neo-grunge **PJ Harvey** homage revivalists **Mansize**. This was her debut solo show I believe – and hinted at way, way more to come. This was on the surface a very **Laura Marling** turn, but in actuality switching freely between the ethereal, the edgy and the downright odd this was actually a one-woman army fearlessly pushing the boundaries of what is possible with just a guitar, effects and looping. And stepping unblinking into places that remain largely unexplored. Not all of it quite came off, but this was a brave and darkly intelligent take on the singer songwriter thing. And we salute you.



*Surprise Attacks*

Local heroes **Thirty Six Strategies** have picked up a new vocalist. **Marie Vockins** – in only her second show – proved that she had the soaring vocal range of former singer Kirsty – but also has the charisma and stage presence to take the raucous melodic punk this band are increasingly perfecting right up to the next level. She is also a bit nails, given the fact that she had risen from her sick bed to do this show and it barely even showed. The chemistry between all five members of this band is beginning to visibly spark – and their next show, at the Rebellion Festival of all places – should be a belter.



*Andy O'Hare*

**"For there was the devil's sweet melody in the chaos"**

Now. **Das Sexy Clap**. Noise-rock is increasingly a thing these days. **Pulled Apart by Horses**. **Royal Blood**. All that malarkey. The rebooted Das Sexy Clap have a thick, black-blooded seam of noise running through their sound. And it works. But there was also something else going on here, something both technical – a la the venerable and virtuoso punks **NoMeansNo**, rather than latterday mathcore – and something of the gutter-level chugging of stoner at its filthiest, i.e. **Kyuss**. You could almost smell the hate and self-loathing coming of these three boys. They even got the kids at the front pushing each other about a bit and getting sweaty. Both of which are wonderful things to behold, in my book. More of this too, please.

And finally: **Falls**. A sassy, dapper chap up front with a penchant for interfering with the furniture. A convivial and charismatic Chewbacca on bass. A heavily tattooed walking hard-on in stonewashed denim and a vest on guitar. And something seismic behind on drums. Like **Baby Godzilla** (with whom they share a manager) this band spent the entire set clambering on tables and members of the audience whilst effortlessly cutting the kind of rockstar poses most people that pick up instruments may only nail once or twice in their entire career. Unlike Baby Godzilla, where the music is just an incidental backdrop to the carnage, this lot worked up some deep dirty hooks, and grooves that got into your pelvis. While the man with the microphone was standing on your head. For there was the devil's sweet melody in the chaos. Radical.

*DB Schenker*



# Virgil and the Accelerators

The Marris Bar | Sunday 5th October 2014

£8 tickets £10 on the door

Touring Europe with their much anticipated second album release 'Army Of Three'. Produced by the legend that is Chris Tsangarides (Thin Lizzy, Black Sabbath, Gary Moore, Judas Priest).

Having made a statement of intent in 2011 with their stunning all original debut album *The Radium*. Followed by a relentless touring schedule with legends such as Michael Schenker, Tracer, Uriah Heep, Johnny Winter and Wilko Johnson. VATA are now establishing themselves as one of the UK's premier exponents of high energy Blues Rock.



April 2013 saw the release of 'Live From Marshall' a spectacular DVD capture of their stunning live sold out show at the holy grail of sound 'Marshall Amplification'. Virgil McMahon - winner of 'Best Guitarist 2013' fronts the power trio with his incredible fret board skills and seasoned vocals. Brother **Gabriel** on drums a formidable presence and master of intricate fills, drives the band through it's incredibly tight set. Holding the reins on bass is **Jack Alexander Timmis**. Gabriel and Jack provide the platform for Virgil to shine.

Doors 8:00pm, tickets available from The Marris Bar, Music City and [www.marrisbar.co.uk](http://www.marrisbar.co.uk)

**DAS SEXY CLAP**  
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## Monday 1 September 2014

### **Arc Iris, Vo & Tyler**

Saint Peters Church, Malvern

### **Roy Williams Quartet**

Bank House Hotel, Worcester

## Tuesday 2 September 2014

### **Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel**

Millers Arms, Pershore

## Wednesday 3 September 2014

### **Lewis Creaven Band**

Café Rene, Gloucester

### **Punks Alive Present.....The Delray Rockets + Guests**

The Adam & Eve, Birmingham

## Thursday 4 September 2014

### **Ray Stroud**

Droitwich WM, 107 Friar St, Droitwich

### **IAASM**

Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

### **Punk Night - The Stiff Joints**

Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

### **Raw Comedy - 6 acts plus MC**

Evesham Arts Centre

### **Cracker And The Woodpeckers**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## Friday 5 September 2014

### **Black Russian, This Wicked Tongue**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **The Underdogs**

Drummonds, Worcester

### **Supersonic 70s**

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **The Paul Steadman Band**

Moochers Stourbridge

### **Manalishi**

Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Overboard**

Golden Cross Inn Hereford

### **Stop Stop**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrov

### **Hollywood Hobo Band**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Toyah: Up Close & Personal**

Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **All Stars Dub Band**

Pig and Drum, Worcester

### **Roy Orbison & Friends**

Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

### **The Richard Obrien Project**

Café Rene, Gloucester

### **Gareth Gates**

The Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Brothers Groove + Stone Foundation**

Palace Theatre, Redditch

### **Roxy Magic**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Delray Rockets**

Queens Head, Wolverly

### **Secret Affair**

Gloucester Guildhall

### **This Wicked Tongue, Curvature, Unknown First**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Merch Launch Night - No Band, Rock Club Style!**

Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

## Saturday 6 September 2014

### **Black Russian, This Wicked Tongue**

The Mitre, Stourbridge

### **King Mantis**

The Black Lion, Hereford

### **The Romans And The Authors**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **GaGa - Queen tribute**

Evesham Arts Centre

### **Lounge Toad**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

### **Headroom**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malver

### **Confab Cabaret**

Malvern Cube

### **Tommy Gun**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **NMTBullocks present EMP!RE, Holy, Aulos & Gameboys.**

**Plus 2nd acoustic stage Footdragger, Rope and Field,**

**Bren Haze, Vaginapocalypse and Claire Perkins**

**The Four Horsemen DJs from 12-3am**

The Jailhouse, Hereford

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Rock Tavern, Wilden Lane, Stourport on Severn

### **Hell's Addiction + Vault of Eagles**

Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

### **Magic of Motown**

Stroud Subscription Rooms ,Stroud

### **Dog Named Steve**

Stagborough Arms Stourport

### **The Bad Dads**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### **3 Bands for £3**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **ConFab Cabaret, Lindsey & Catherine, PTR Williams, Chrissy Velveteen, Amy Rainbow + Fox Pops, & 2 minute open mic**

Malvern Cube, Malvern

### **The Reflections**

The Castle, Droitwich

### **Green Man Rising**

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### **Stompin' on spiders**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **The Official Receivers**

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Acoustic 1 Radio presents Saturday Sessions**

Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

### **Straight Aces (Cellar Bar)**

Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

### **Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**

The Marlbank At Welland

## Sunday 7 September 2014

### **Gaz Brookfield with Alex Rainsford & Haunted Souls**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **White House Cancer Support present a day of music**

Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

### **Acoustic Sunday with Special Guests Hell's Addiction**

Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

### **Aleyce Simmonds**

The Convent Sth, Woodchester, Gloucs

### **Altan**

The Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Vo and Tyler**

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester



## Tuesday 9 September 2014

**An Evening with Mike Tramp + Jamie Taylor**  
Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

**The Black Feathers**  
Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**Mouth and Music** (See Page 12)  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Gloucester Acoustic Showcase**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Tribute to the Great Benny Goodman lunch 12pm**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## Thursday 11 September 2014

**Hardeep Singh Kohli**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Robb Johnson / Moonshine Runners**  
Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

**AUG**  
Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

**Slap Mag Presents Matt woosey**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Lounge Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Friday 12 September 2014

**CoverJunkies**  
Bushwackers, Worcester

**Aquarius**  
Barbourne ex service mans club, Barbourne, Worcester, Private

**Killerstream**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Tankus The Henge Plus Support**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Gavin Baxter Bamba Rock**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Erica support from Man Make Fire**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Deadcuts, The Hip Priests, Bleak Zero**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Café Continental**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**The Roving Crows**  
Malvern Cube

**Ray Stroud**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Protocol**  
The hunters inn, Longdon, Tewkesbury

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Clarence Park, Malvern Link

**The Buddy Presley Show**  
Palace Theatre, Redditch

**The Burning Glass, Jono & The Uke Dealers, jUnKiEs**  
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Horn & Trumpet, Dog Lane, Bewdley

**Rebecca Grace and J C Jazz Trio**  
Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

**Never Mind The Jukebox Featuring Emma Skipp**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Ex-presidents**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Kim Lowings, Malc Evans**  
Ort Cafe, Moseley Road, Birmingham

**Freewater**  
Golden Cross Inn Hereford

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Chateau Impney, Droitwich

**BC/DC Live & Loud**  
Moochers Stourbridge

**Lucas 'D' & The Groove**  
Queens Head, Wolverly

**Lawrence Jones**  
Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

**Ozzbest, Adamantium**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Saturday 13 September 2014

**Amnesty International Fundraising**  
**Ray Mytton And His Band Zenarcheray**  
Malvern Cube

**Cougar Attack**  
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

**4 Past Midnight And Angry Itch**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**4 Shires Festival Surprise Band 5pm**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Stomping On Spiders Album Launch**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Mister Wolf**  
The Fairfield Pub, Battleton Road, Evesham

**The John Steeds**  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Midnight City**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Cuginis**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Steve Maitland: Michael Bubl  Tribute**  
Swan Theatre Worcester

**Perfect Alibi - A Pink Floyd Tribute**  
Gloucester Guildhall

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**  
The New Inn Pershore

**TBC**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**George Montague.....**  
The Convent Sth, Woodchester, Gloucs

**SnodFest Music Festival - See page 27**  
Cowsden Lane, Upton Snodsbury

**Jasper In The Company Of Others plus El Born and Amy & Lily**  
Marris Bar, Worcester

**Aquarius**  
The virgin tavern, Tollidine road, Worcester

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Baron Greenback (Album Launch) + Black State Highway**  
Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Windmill End, Netherton, Dudley

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Newent Onion Fayre

**StillMarillion**  
Huntingdon Hall Worcester

**Suzi and The Backbeats**  
Stagborough Arms Stourport

**Cracker & The Woodpeckers**  
Moochers Stourbridge

**Notorious Brothers**  
Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

## Sunday 14 September 2014

### Steve Howe

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Lazy Sunday with Marie-Claire, Espai, Louise Petit, James Shed

Cafe Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester 12-5pm

### Billy The Kid Stage Show

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Billy the Kid: His Life in Music

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Perry Foster

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### Tyler Massey, Connie Gordon

The Morgan, Great Malvern

### Gastric Band

Grape Vaults, Leominster

## Tuesday 16 September 2014

**Blues Night, Cellar Bar 10th anniversary with Babajack, Perry Foster, the Players, John Denton, Rod Jones, Harvey Wyatt, Dave Bristow, Stripped Down Blues**  
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

## Wednesday 17 September 2014

### 20,000 Days on Earth (Nick Cave Live Relay)

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Thursday 18 September 2014

### Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

The Market Theatre, Market Street, Ledbury

### NT Live: A Streetcar Named Desire

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### The Searchers

Palace Theatre, Redditch

### The Ziggy Paul Band

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

## Friday 19 September 2014

### Mister Wolf

The Gardeners Arms (The Dugout), Littleworth Street, Evesham

### Mother Popcorn

Drummonds, Worcester

### The Bravo Boys

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### The Blues Band

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### The Toasters

Gloucester Guildhall

### Rocky Road To Ruin

Golden Cross Inn Hereford

### Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Sax 'n' Axe

Millers Arms, Pershore

### Glam Rock Tribute Singers Fancy Dress Meal

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Funky Jets

Subtone, Cheltenham

### Tbc

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Suzi & The Backbeats

Queens Head, Wolverly

### National Talk Likes Pirate Day - With Sea's Of Mirth

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Jazz Autumn Weekender

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Friday Night Live (in bar)

Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### The Delray Rockets

Upton-Upon Severn Social Club 57, Upton upon Severn

### Sarah Jane Morris & The African Project

The Convent Sth, Woodchester, Gloucs

### Voices of the Heart

Huntingdon Hall Worcester

### Three Blind Mice + Bo Pilar & The Mountain Boys

Moochers Stourbridge

## Saturday 20 September 2014

### Mister Wolf

The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

### Jazz Autumn Weekender

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### The Ex-Presidents

The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

### The Reflections

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

### Who's Next

Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### Cracker & The Woodpeckers

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

### Izzy The Push

Stagborough Arms Stourport

### Kei Clark Presents House Party 3

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### German Oktoberfest Beer, Food & Music

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### The Cowley Cowboys

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Legend

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Time of the Mouth

Pig and Drum, Worcester

### The Two Anchors

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### Voodoo Vegas + Blackout Sun + Million Empire

Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

### The Fabulous Boogie Boys feat Sarah Warren

Huntingdon Hall Worcester

### The Quik + support

Moochers Stourbridge

### Keith Thompson Band

Subtone, Cheltenham

### Larry Miller Band

Gloucester Guildhall

### Pewke Band

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### Fallingham Fair

The Convent Sth, Woodchester, Gloucs

### Delray Rockets

Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

## Sunday 21 September 2014

### It's the Roots that Make the Fruits

Mellow Peaches, Gren Bartley, Abi Budgen, Eleanor Rose  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Acoustic Sunday - Aiden

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Jazz Autumn Weekender

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Remi Harris

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester



**Acoustic Sunday with Special Guests Voodoo Vegas**  
Iron Road Rock Bar Evesham

**Talon: Eagles Tribute**  
Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

## Wednesday 24 September 2014

**Warren James**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Coull Quartet - Mozart, Beethoven & Smetana**  
Evesham Arts Centre

**Zoe Schwarz Blue Commotion**  
No 1 Shakespeare St, Stratford-on-Avon

## Thursday 25 September 2014

**Odi (Upstairs)**  
**Phil Beer plus support from Sunjay (Cellar Bar)**  
Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

**The South**  
Gloucester Guildhall

**The Cheshire Katz**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Chestnut Worcester

**Comedy Night, 5 Comedians**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Lounge Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Andrew Lawrence: Reasons to Kill Yourself -  
misanthropic comedy**  
Evesham Arts Centre

## Friday 26 September 2014

**Rich Goble**  
The Yew Tree Pub, Conderton, Tewkesbury

**Stone Farm**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Folk Festival**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury

**Slowburner**  
Queens Head, Wolverly

**The Everly Bros & Friends Tribute**  
Palace Theatre, Redditch

**The Marrs Bar Jam Band Special**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Notorious Bros**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Najma Akhtar**  
Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**Darren Eedens**  
The Convent Sth, Woodchester, Gloucs

**Mix It Up with Craig Pete, Olie's Band, Shannon  
Wheatley, Sam Shelton + others**  
Base Studios Stourbridge

**The Reflections**  
The White Hart, Redditch

**Ital Sounds**  
Pig and Drum, Worcester

**Barrelhouse Blues Band**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**King Solomon**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Jasper in The Company Of Others**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Your Musical Memories**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Total Recall**  
Golden Cross Inn Hereford

**Black Country Showcase: The Empty Can, Flat Stanley,  
Sam Parkes & Jess Silk**  
Moochers Stourbridge

**Danny and The Swampmen**  
Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

**Atomic Blondie**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Saturday 27 September 2014

**Mister Wolf**  
The Bull Hotel, Ludlow

**Jay & Eli**  
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Harriers Arms, Kidderminster

**The Mid-Land Regulators**  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**Underground Festival**  
Gloucester Guildhall

**The Party Singer**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Hotfoot**  
Stagborough Arms Stourport

**Hello Again: Neil Diamond Tribute**  
Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**Bitterroots**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**Folk Festival**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms Stroud

**Arkfest**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**A Design For Life**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Anya's Leaving Gig, Das Sexy Clap & Planecrasher**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Protocol**  
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

**Tea & Tenacity Theatre :First Do No Harm**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Brothers Groove**  
Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge

**Jo Caulfield**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Raptor, Cassandra, Atlas**  
The Jailhouse, Hereford

## Sunday 28 September 2014

**Raymond Froggatt**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Arkfest**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Underground Festival**  
Gloucester Guildhall

**The Haunted Souls  
with Done By Sunrise and Blossom Caldarone**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Cube SHUFFLE - Sam Eden, Richard Clarke, Tyler Massey,  
Jake Price, and more...a Chilled Sunday festival 12-6pm**  
Malvern Cube

## Monday 29 September 2014

**Michael Portillo**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Bobby Socks 50s Juke Box Night**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Trevor Gordon Hall & Craid D'Andrea**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Legendary Joe Brown**  
Swan Theatre Worcester

## Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

**Every Monday - Open Mic**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

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

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

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

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

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

**First Tues - Open Mic**  
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

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

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

**Every other Tues - Acoustic Session**  
Cap n Gown, Worcester

**Every Tue - Open Mic**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Every Tues - Open Mic**  
Great Malvern Hotel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Every Wednesday - Irish Session**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

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

**Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session**  
The Plough & Harrow, Guarlford

**First Wed - Open Mic**  
The Jailhouse, Hereford

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

**Every Wed - Folk Jam Session**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Every Wed - Music at The Red Lion**  
The Red Lion, Malvern

**Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

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

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

**Every other Thursday, Paul And Rays Sessions**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club**  
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

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

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

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

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

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

**1st Fri - Acoustic Session**  
The Camp, Grimley

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

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

**Every Fri - Irish Session**  
St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

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

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

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

**2nd Sun - Acoustic Session**  
The Hop Pole, Droitwich

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

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

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

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

**Sunday weekly Jam night**  
Oast House, Redditch



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## Arts festivals & summer programmes

**Confab cabaret** – Malvern Cube 6th Sept. 7pm.

### City of Colour Festival

Digbeth Birmingham. Street Art. 6th & 7th Sept. FREE.

### Snodfest – 13th Sept arts workshops

Installations and creative activity

### Pershore Number 8, Sat 13th. 2-30pm

**Crafty Kids Workshops** Fun arts workshops for children with special educational needs and their families.

### Mood Indigo (12A) by Michel Gondry

Pershore Number 8 Thu 18 Sep - 7.30pm

### Weekend Cube Members film club 26th Sept 7pm

Cube Shuffle, art stalls, activities and music.

Malvern Cube, Sunday 28th Sept 12pm. FREE.

## Exhibitions

**Rodin's The Kiss, Cheltenham Museum & Art Gallery**

until 14th Sept

**Jeremy Hutchison, 'Objectless Expansion' until 27th**

Sept. Division of Labour art space -Worcester Museum & Art Gallery (check website for opening times).

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

**Mark Hilsden - 'Home in the Country'**

**Pershore Number 8, 4th – 24th Sept**

**Richard Raby The Colour of Jazz**

**Evesham Arts Centre - All month**

**Number 8 Open Exhibition 2014**

**Pershore Number 8, 25th Sept – 15th Oct**

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# THE MARR'S BAR

SEPT 2014



Gaz Brookfield  
Sunday 7th September

**Friday 5th**

**Roxy Magic (Roxy Music Tribute)**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**Saturday 6th**

**3 Bands for £3**

**Sunday 7th**

**Gaz Brookfield with**

**Alex Rainsford & Haunted Souls**

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

**Friday 12th**

**Ozzbest (Ozzy & Sabbath Tribute)**

**plus Adamantium**

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

**Saturday 13th**

**Jasper In The Company Of Others**

**plus El Born and Amy & Lily**

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

**Friday 19th**

**Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**Saturday 20th**

**The Cowley Cowboys**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

**Friday 26th**

**The Marrs Bar Jam Band Special**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

**Saturday 27th**

**Anya's Leaving Gig, Das Sexy**

**Clap & Planecrasher, more TBC**

£5 on the door

**Sunday 28th**

**The Haunted Souls**

**with Done By Sunrise and**

**Blossom Caldarone**

£4 a ticket £5 on the door

**Tuesday 30th**

**Trevor Gordon Hall & Craid D'Andrea**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

**COMING SOON...**

**Thursday 2nd October**

**Laurence Jones**

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

**Friday 3rd October**

**Pink Fairies**

£17.50 a ticket

**Wednesdays - Jamming night**

**Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5**

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

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

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