

SLAP

Issue 42

Nov 2014

MAGAZINE

FREE



SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

PITCAIRN

By Richard Bean

*"A map of the world that does not include
Utopia is not worth even glancing at"*

Oscar Wilde

A gripping island story.

It's 1789. Ideas of revolution and democracy are in the air. In France, an aristocracy falls. And in the South Pacific, Fletcher Christian overthrows Captain Bligh in the famous mutiny on *The Bounty*.

With the ship's crew and their Tahitian lovers and followers, Christian drops anchor at the idyllic, fertile and remote island of Pitcairn. But his dream of creating a society of equals in paradise is blown off course: by the greed and suspicions of the sailors, and by their Tahitian followers who adhere to their own hierarchy and traditions.

With salty humour and growing horror, and inspired by little-known events, Richard Bean charts the colony's descent from a new Eden to brutal dystopia.

"It is as if we find ourselves at the beginning of time..."

Imagine you are a member of a new utopia...

How far would you go to maintain your ideal society?

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SLAP

Nov 2014 MAGAZINE

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Welcome to the November issue of SLAP Magazine and another packed issue it is too. If you thought for one minute things might start to go quiet around these parts then think again!

We've spent some time burning the midnight oil to bring you all the latest goings on from the local arts community including our feature on long established local artist **Chris Bourke**, as well as amongst others, our very own **Katie Foulkes** and her debut photography exhibition.

With loads of Theatre news, CD and gig reviews, interviews and previews to the many exciting shows coming up in your area, there's something within these pages for everyone.

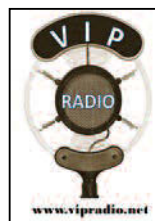
We also meet local singer/song writer **Tom Forbes**, strongly tipped for greater things, who also provides our colourful front cover imagery ahead of his latest release 'Wallflower'.

I have to mention two sad losses to the music world which certainly took the shine off deadlining on another issue of SLAP this October. Former Cream bass player and solo artist **Jack Bruce** who was a big influence to many died from Liver Failure at the age of 71. And **Alvin Stardust** who lost his fight against Prostrate Cancer at the age of 72. Only last week Alvin was entertaining fans at the Regal Cinema in Evesham.

On a more positive note **Wilko Johnson** declared himself cured of pancreatic cancer at the Q Awards following surgery earlier this year. Only last year we saw him perform at **Cornbury** festival and a guest appearance at the **Marrs Bar** with **Norman Wat-Roy**. I think we could be seeing a fair bit more of him next year.

In the meantime, enjoy your Halloween shenanigans but please, no mention of the 'C' word, it's far too early in the year for that nonsense!

Block Ed



BBC
introducing...



A Weak in Hollywood

Kidderminster grungsters **Weak 13** frontman **Nick J Townsend** has been tasting the high life of late with a leading film role shot in Hollywood and attention from the national press! Nick's had a few cameo TV appearances this side of the pond over the past couple of years - famously playing a corpse in an episode of *Doctors* - but you can also checkout the **Weak 13** vids online where he appears variously as an assassinated US President, a WW1 Tommy or a sex-toy-wielding cage-fighter - honestly we're not making this up!

Jasper & Sophie

Congrats to **Jasper In The Company Of Others** for playing a blinder supporting **Sophie Ellis-Bextor** at The Junction in Cambridge a couple of weeks ago - great to see yet another one of our own amazing acts having a taste of the big-time - you go guys!!

Local lad Dean hits West End

Local lad **Dean Elliot** who plays the part of Paul Simon in the big-hitting tribute act **The Simon & Garfunkel Story** which featured at Malvern Theatres last month said that it was growing up in Worcestershire that fuelled his appreciation of folk music - the box-office smash 'experience' with **Jonny Smart** as Art Garfunkel has now moved to the West End to rave reviews...

Walsh in Welsh Mix-up

Comedian **Seann Walsh** tweeted an embarrassed apology to the fans who were expecting to see him perform a gig in Hertford as he'd travelled over to Hereford by mistake - it's 'somewhere near Wales' apparently...

Well done to **Mr Gippa** and **Never Mind The Bullocks** supremo **Brendan Stephens** for winning this year's **Worcester Music Festival** photo competition with his atmospheric snap of **Arbor Lights** at the Firefly - and of course also to the WMF volunteers, bands and staff for raising £3500 for Worcestershire Young Carers and putting together a great weekend of the best of local music - big love!!

Help Run A Theatre!

If you've ever wondered how stage shows are put together and are keen to learn skills and help on a volunteer basis, then get on down to **Evesham Arts Centre** on Sat 8th Nov 2-5pm.



Since 1977 the Centre has been presenting an exceptional variety of entertainment. And the secret? It's all down to their enthusiastic band of volunteers - the whole place is staffed by people aged 16 - 80 who give their time freely in return for a great deal of enjoyment, satisfaction and comradeship.

However they are always in need of new blood to help continue expanding and improving their shows, so are holding an open day for anyone interested in looking behind the scenes with a view to joining the team. On the day the team will also be preparing the lighting and sound for the upcoming **Marcus Brigstocke** gig, so visitors can find out how it's all put together.

No previous experience is necessary although if you have that would also be good! So don't be shy, head on down to Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Ave, WR11 4QH (next to Prince Henry's School). Also those interested who cannot be there are invited to leave a message on 01386 48883 or email tech@eveshamartscentre.co.uk

Bromsgrove Fest Future

Albeit that **Bromsgrove Festival 2014** was acknowledged a success by organisers, audiences and the general public, the **Festival Council**, who are always mindful that there is room for improvement and/or expansion, held an open meeting at the **Bromsgrove Methodist Centre** on Wed 22nd October.

A post festival questionnaire was completed by the majority of event organisers and some suggestions made were adopted for the future. It was hoped that new thoughts and ideas would be offered for consideration at the Bromsgrove meeting. The Festival Council particularly welcome ideas from young people and promoters of genres which were not included in the 2014 programme.



It's Up and Down in the Hills

With the closure (again) of **Re-con** and the opening (again) of **The Unicorn**, Malvern's music scene is going through what can only be described as a state of flux. The reliable **Great Malvern Hotel** still manages to deliver a regular harmonic hit for the musical junkies but the new place to play is The Beauchamp. With a large function room the venue is one of the few places where a good crowd of punters can gather and the regular gigs on Saturday nights there are proving to be very popular. Last week saw a multi band line up with **Rich Morgan**, **Devil's Well**, **Adamantium**, **Dogs of Santorini** and **House of Kane** who made the trip from Exeter. Landlord Steve promises more so check it out when you're next in town.

The Unicorn plays host to Malvern's **Freaky Trigger** on the 1st and bands are encouraged to get in touch in order to fill up the winter schedule.

Malvern's glitterati's social calendar is abuzz with folks clamouring for hard to obtain invites to **Ralph Tittley's** 50th birthday party. A great line-up at the **Malvern Rocks** organiser's celebration is rumoured, including **Hullabaloo**, **Dr Stanley**, a bit of **Blessed Ethel** and some punk rock shenanigans from **Troy**. With the venue remaining a mystery and some suggesting that the party may range over two nights, it's looking to be the must-attend event of the year! If your name's not on the list . . .

Schizophrenic City Worcester Arts Workshop 17th Nov - 1st Dec 22nd Nov | Stompin on Spiders

SLAP meets local photographer Katie Foulkes prior to her debut exhibition...



How did you get into photography?

I took some film cameras to the States a few years back. I spent a few months out there capturing images of California and I showed the images to a friend who suggested I take it more seriously so when I got back and bought myself a digital SLR I started to do just that.

Who inspired you?

Not one person inspired me necessarily but in June this year I saw a talk by renowned landscape photographer Charlie Waite which led me to view potential subjects in a different way, despite not being a landscape photographer myself.

What are your preferred subjects?

I've done many subjects mainly live music, portraits and events at the moment but I want to move into new areas. I have a degree background in architectural design and it would be great for that to feature more in my work.

Where did the idea for the exhibit come from?

Local blues band Stompin' On Spiders needed some shots of Amsterdam earlier this year. This coincided with my trip there and so I got these shots for their music video of the song Schizophrenic City. Noor Ali (of SOS) wrote the song as he's been there several times and it's about the different aspects of the city. The song appears on their latest album Blacklisted.

What other exhibits have you done?

This is my debut exhibition! I really appreciate the enthusiasm of the WAW staff who have been really up for the idea since the start and the huge support from Stompin' On Spiders.

Have you had anything published?

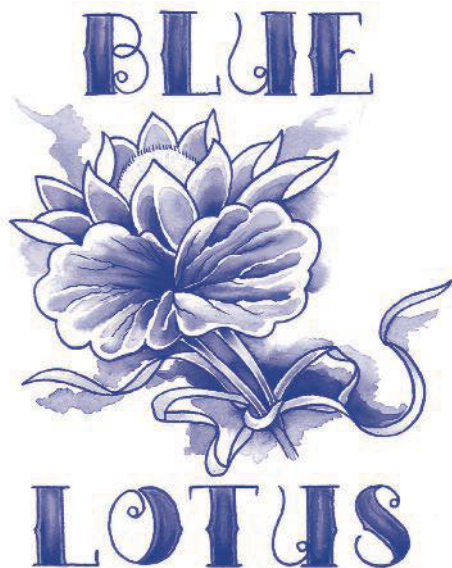
SLAP mag were one of the first to give me the opportunity to shoot live music and as a result I gained online publishing in a couple of Birmingham music sites shooting bands like Alter Bridge and Halestorm at the NIA and Birmingham O2.

What can we expect from this exhibit - any surprises?

The exhibit itself is relatively small but I'm really excited to have Stompin' On Spiders playing who will be selling their latest single Schizophrenic City.

Katie's prints will also be available to purchase on the night and throughout her tenure at the Arts Workshop.

www.kfdphotography.co.uk



Tattoo Studio

Loz



Christian

www.bluelotustattoo.co.uk

5-7 The Hopmarket

Worcester WR1 1DL

01905 731884

Clik Clik-ery

Clik Clik will be out and about on the streets of Worcester this month at the Worcester Christmas Fair from Thurs 27th until Sunday 30th Nov! Come along to **St Martin's Quarter** to feel the history of the **Old Vinegar Works** with performers and music from Thursday til Sunday daytimes (12-4 Thurs/Fri, Sat 11-1/3-5 & Sun 12-2) with the grand Victorian/Voodoo Procession on Saturday to charm and spook you! (Leaves Costa at 5pm heading for the High Street). With Old style New Orleans brass, dancing and theatrics, follow us and get involved!



Art at County Hall opens with some new work this month too with **Clik Clik Collective** representing **Amy Birch, Richard Fox & Marcia Pheysey Wilton** working alongside glass creations from **Claudia Wiegand**. Opens 14th Nov at 5.30pm outside the **Council Chambers** and then during opening hours til April 2015.

www.clikklikcollective.com

Eek batik

There will be some creative opportunities to get your hands into some batik workshops this winter with **Eek Batik** artists **Sarah** and **Marie Therese**! Escape to the magical world of colour and pattern making Batik cards, gift boxes and tree decorations! No previous experience needed.



Nov 1st & 2nd 10-3.30pm £40 including refreshments (bring your own lunch) at their studio in Malvern

Look out for whole day workshops on 31st Jan and 1st Feb too! For more info contact them on info@eekbatik.com or call 01684 561068

6 SLAP NOVEMBER

Last stop WET



It's your last chance this year to get along to the most fantastical, unique and experimental experience you are going to get round these parts! **Rosanne Robertson** is this month's guest, often working with action, sound and found objects. Seriously, **'If Wet'** needs more support so that it can continue to deliver amazing sound science so don't sit at home on Sunday 30th November, get yourself over to **Callow End Village Hall** for 2pm.

www.ifwet.org.uk

Each Slow Dusk

Pentabus Theatre returns to the Hive with **Each Slow Dusk**, a story about war. The Private misses the farm. The Captain dreams of painting. The Corporal relishes the fight. And a hundred years later, The Woman seeks to understand. **Each Slow Dusk** charts the experiences of three young men serving on the western front, linking their stories to a woman today, just home to her village after a tour of the battlefields. You'll never walk past a war memorial in the same way again.

The Hive, Worcester Friday 7th 7pm. £8/6 concs



www.pentabus.co.uk

Mistletoe Festival

Dancefest and **Beingfrank Physical Theatre** are creating special performances for **Tenbury Mistletoe Festival** on Saturday 6 December, involving over 60 local performers. There will be a piece based on the Christmas Truce during the Great War, and **Mistletoe Maidens by DFA**, Dancefest's performance group. Events will take place throughout Tenbury from 11am to 5pm.

www.dancefest.co.uk

Jump Start Showcase

Preview 16th Nov

Worcestershire's theatre makers are proud to present an evening of new work. Five short performances, all being shared for the very first time, written, performed and developed here in Worcestershire.



This event is an opportunity for writers, actors and practitioners to try out some new work and get feedback from an audience. The Showcase is FREE but donations are welcome - all contributions will go to creating more Showcase events in the future. Come along and show your support for local theatre makers!

Why Knot? by Steve Burford.

First they couldn't, now they can. But do they want to? Vince and Dave confront their happily unmarried status the Friday night Tony comes to stay.

Postcards by Catherine Crosswell.

Roy and Joan, Audrey and Norman are stamping out kisses with the heavy burden of weather. They wish you were here..... always.

Selardi's Lament (Moonshine Mandala) by Collective Unconscious

Continuing their exploration of secular ritualistic encounters, Collective Unconscious will show a new addition to their series of mandala pieces. Drawing from Asian and Middle-Eastern mystical symbolism the piece will draw the entire audience into a collective prayer for the dead god Sin.

Lake District Camden Town by Steve Wilson.

Can Eric stop his onetime mistress Rose from jumping from a high rise flat?

Trespassing by Lee Farley.

A tender comedy about friendship, authority and LSD.

There will be a bar and the fabulous **The Cake Tin Cafe** will be serving food. Look up **Jump Start Showcase** on facebook for more info! **Malvern Cube** Sunday 16th November. 7pm

Hot stuff! Infrared imagery at the Malvern Science Exhibition

Back at the end of September **Malvern Library** hosted a day of science workshops talks and experiments called **Beyond the Rainbow - Wonders of the Electromagnetic Spectrum**. This was a free day open to the public and supposedly designed for those with little scientific knowledge to come along and learn a little. Top scientists from the Institute of Physics, **Malvern Festival of Innovation**, the **University of Worcester** and **Worcester Astronomical Society** gave some wonderful talks. There were also some surprising artworks on display.



The talks packed full of scientific discoveries were given in one of Malvern library's conference rooms downstairs, while science experiments and scientific equipment were on display upstairs in the library. It was a brilliant opportunity to take in some science, and through the day we learnt about radar technology, thermal imaging and remote sensing. According to Worcester News over a thousand visitors popped in throughout the day so it was a remarkable success.

Also on display during the weekend was an exhibit about the history of **QinetiQ** and its inventions, and the amazing



infrared photographs of **Peter Jenner**, shown here. The photographs show life almost in negative, as the white areas show the areas of the highest heat which are therefore emitting infrared radiation. These beautiful pictures allow the viewer to see the world from a whole new perspective, while also sneakily learning a little science.

Sarah Ganderton

Advertise in this space for as little as £30 per month

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ARTIST FEATURE CHRIS BOURKE



Stunning lino cuts with striking imagery, skate boards and 'Spine', the old skate shop in the Hopmarket; these are things you think of when you hear Worcester's Chris Bourke's name mentioned. He's a bit of a household name creatively, and is highly regarded as both an artist and as a "thoroughly decent guy"!

Despite knowing of him for years, I personally only met him when he exhibited for the Klik Klik Collective cellar gallery launch at WAW in 2011, with 'Gimme Shelter' and was overwhelmed by the cross section of people who wanted to own one of his incredible prints, and by just how humble he truly is.

Slap was lucky to grab just a few words from him recently about his work and what he is up to.

"After attending Art College for a few years, doing basic arts foundation course I then trained as a silversmith but to be honest I don't think that's got all that much to do with what I'm doing now. It was valuable for sure but a lot of what I do now is completely self taught. Books are a wonderful thing."



Since 2005, Chris has worked almost solely in the medium of lino printing; an art form he calls the "ideal poor man's medium", creating prints which are iconic; bold simple imagery which shows Chris' distinctive style. No two prints are the exactly same, cutting and printing each design by hand, a very labour intensive process; the prints are then sometimes hand coloured using acrylic or watercolour paint.



"You need a minimum of space and kit and I really like the way it looks so just did more and more of it and I guess in the end it stuck! I just did what I did for a really long time and never gave up, that's it. Also I don't spend too much time worrying about what other people are doing. -Get on with your own shit!"

"My influences are fairly obvious from the work: tattoo imagery, religion/religious art, music, nature and politics. There are so many people that inspire me; I couldn't possibly list them all but broadly anybody doing their own thing for the love of doing it."

With commercial work including unique designs for skateboard magazines **Kingpin** and **Document** and board and t-shirt graphics for **A Third Foot**, **Death Skateboards**, and **Consolidated Skateboards** in the US, Chris has also produced work for **Volcom**, **Howies & Nokia** and designed the 'Poetry of The Deed' album cover for **Frank Turner**.

"I ran a skate shop (Spine) for a long time and was making my art while running the store so it was really a natural progression to do board and t shirt graphics for a few companies, I still do the occasional board graphic here and there but my art is really my main focus these days."

Chris has exhibited in many group and solo shows both nationally and internationally. If you happen to be in the north east of England, you can visit '**Heart and Craft**', a shop and gallery dedicated to selling his work in Whitley Bay which opened in 2013, as well as finding a selection of his work at galleries in London and Brighton.

"I am always working on new ideas. At the moment I'm creating a wordless story made as a book which is about thirty images that have a narrative. Hopefully that will be wrapped up soon; the desire to eat and live in a warm house over winter is motivating me greatly at present!"

I asked Chris if there was anything else he wanted to talk about and his reply was simple

"Nah, that's probably why I make pictures."
chrisbourkeart.com
by Kate Cox

THE BHG

We have seen a lot of exhibition launches throughout the years, but 'Surviving the Systems' has been a particularly special one.



Firstly, because the exhibition itself really enabled people to express their innermost fears, issues and emotions. The gallery became quite a touching place to be. One of my personal favourite features had to be the wall that invited people to write little tags that encouraged guests to write down how they felt judged either by themselves or others. The evening also saw some emotive performances by **Sarah Tamar** and **Peter Williams**. The exhibition will continue to run until mid-November. Secondly, because the launch also saw the celebration of the commitment that **Heather Wastie** has made to **Kidderminster Creatives** over the past three years. Heather has been incredibly dedicated to the arts in Kidderminster and has stood down as Chair to pursue her solo projects. Good luck Heather from us and thank you so much for everything you have done!



Kidderminster Creatives will continue to meet monthly and actively will be promoting arts and enabling artists to fulfil and pursue their ideas. The next meeting is set for Tues 18th November with a **Creativity Jam** at 7.30pm. At the last couple of jams, the group have joined together to participate in some funny creative games as well as connecting minds and skills in order to realise projects. Anyone is welcome to come along.

In November (date tbc) we will also be launching our new show, '**Floor to Ceiling**'. The show is to be a wall busting, full exhibition of artwork by the in house artists at **The Boars**, showing off just in time for Easter. The atmosphere created will be on par with a market place with reckless bartering all around. Gallery opening hours may vary, so pop in and I am sure someone will let you in!

Kidderminster Creatives and The Boars will also be hosting a market on December (yes, December) 18th and we are looking for stall holders to join us in the evening.

As well as the Creativity jam, there will also be **Life Drawing** on Thursday 6th November and the **Stencil Workshop** with **Twisted Melon Art** on Sat 29th November.

To book on to any classes or for more information please email gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk, find our facebook page or call 01562 86187



MOUTH & MUSIC



Love in the time of Revolutions At **Mouth and Music** on Tuesday 11th November, former Birmingham Poet Laureate **Roy McFarlane** will take the audience on a journey from the



80s to the present day, infused with love. In a set called "*Love in the time of Revolutions*" Roy will be joined by pianist Steve Tromans bringing to life the works of John Coltrane, Gil Scott Heron and Nina Simone. As usual, local poets, storytellers and musicians can sign up for open mic spots on the night from 7.00pm. The event, at the Boars Head, Kidderminster, starts at 7.30pm. See www.mouthandmusic.co.uk for more details.

Firstly...**MUSIC**...and plenty of it this month! Two of our acts are returnees from September's Lazy Sunday – the first being the talented **James Shead**, coming all the way from Cornwall to do a benefit gig on **Wednesday November 12th**, because he likes us! Café Bliss will provide curry and rice, and the whole wonderful evening (doors open 6.30pm) is only **£6!** All proceeds will go to **WAW**. (See ad on Facebook page)

On **Saturday 22nd November**, prepare to boogie to our good friends **Stompin' on Spiders** (8pm in the theatre, £5 on the door). They will be launching their album here, and **Katie Foulkes** (cover art) will be showing her exhibition of recent photography in the Café Gallery – info elsewhere in Slap.

On **Friday 28th November** – more good rockin' to be had at another album launch gig – **Howard Sinclair** and his band (from Cheltenham) – 8pm in the theatre. Again, more info elsewhere in this magazine...

Saturday 29th November sees the return of the amazing **Espai**, who wowed us that Lazy Sunday in September. Hailing from Bristol (via Barcelona) and creating a fantastic soundscape from instruments and electronics, they are not to be missed, and likely to be big any time soon. Trip-hop with wonderful vocals. (Check them out on youtube etc...) The evening also features our own **DJ Kay**. 8pm in the theatre, £5 on the door.

FILM ... We are delighted to be hosting **Worcester Film Festival** over the weekend of **Friday 14th – Sunday 16th November**. Visit their website for details of showings – it's going to be awesome...

EXHIBITIONS ... Marsha returns – this time with her wonderful, colourful '**Sundora and the Story Teller – the Dragon Art of Marsha Parkins**', up in the Café Gallery until **Sunday 16th November**, with a special **Halloween** launch (**Friday 31st October, from 6pm**) featuring the poetry of **Suz Winspear**, and hopefully lots more entertainment in the theatre. See Marsha's Facebook page for details.



We then look forward to seeing the (previously mentioned) exhibition of photographs of Amsterdam by **Katie Foulkes**, from **Tuesday 18th until Saturday 29th November**. We're so lucky to be sharing all this talent...

A new venture – on **Thursday 20th November at 7pm** in **Café Bliss** 'philosophy in the café' – **Feministas of Worcester** – will be holding the first of what we hope will be many discussion evenings, this one entitled '**More Than Just My Body Parts**'. It will debate the type of image of the female body used by the media, and how this affects attitudes to – and of – women themselves. Feministas are a group of women who share an interest in feminism and women's interests, and like talking about it, acting on it and encouraging others to do the same. We are a friendly, diverse bunch who welcome friendly, diverse opinions and points of view.' For more details go to www.tinyurl.com/feministacafe, or contact Leisa on munachik@gmail.com or on 07748 737 999. NB **Café Bliss** will be open for refreshments!

Our courses recommence after half term, from **Monday 3rd November**, including **Digital Photography for Beginners** with **Mark Hoy**, and a new **Open Ceramics Workshop** (a drop in session) on **Tuesdays from 10am – 12 noon** with **Kay Mullett**. Visit the website for availability of places on our other pottery, painting and drawing classes (not forgetting the popular Saturday children's activities) and get signed up!

There are some special pre-Christmas creative workshops this month. **Christine Baker of Perpetual Fabrics** will be holding two **Thursday afternoon** workshops, making **Felt Advent Calendars** on **November 13th from 1.30 – 4pm**, and **Appliqué Christmas Trees** at the same time on **November 20th**. Costing **£10 per session**, they will get you into the seasonal swing, and you can proudly festoon your homes with your own fabric art! You can also join her In **Crafts in the Café**, in Café Bliss each **Tuesday morning from 10.30am** – free of charge. Contact Christine for more details on 01905 763723 or 07843 379 550.

On **Saturday 8th November from 12.30 – 3.30pm**, **Elizabeth Fynes-McGovern** from **Rox Folly** (the beautiful furniture store at 37, The Tything, WR1 1JL) will be holding an **Authentico Vintage Chalk Paint course**, to up-cycle your furniture. Bring a piece along, and transform it – the results are stunning. Please contact Elizabeth on 07925 749 583, in the shop Tues – Sat on 01905 428844, or via the Rox Folly Facebook page, to book your place.

October has been lovely and leafy, and we really enjoyed seeing the lovely **Fancy Features** at our last **Lazy Sunday** of the season, to bring even more colour to the proceedings! They've been fantastic friends, as have **Art in Minds**, whose exhibition here (along with one at The Hive) to celebrate **World Mental Health month** has been much admired. Our Saturday event on **11th October** was terrific, with art and crafts, literature, a fascinating talk on Food and Mood, relaxation therapies...and Café Bliss keeping us fed and watered – great stuff all round.

Tickets are still available for **All Sorts of Performing Arts** production of **Aladdin**, on **Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December**. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Please visit our website, and both Worcester Arts Workshop's and Café Bliss's Facebook pages for more of What's On. Call us on **01905 25053**, call in for a visit...



In Another Light

The Big Draw Glows in the Dark

& Kathak Dance Lights Up Croft Castle

1 Nov 2014, 1-4pm Glow Drawings with David Ogle
& 5-8pm Opening Night featuring Sonia Sabri Company
Croft Castle & Parkland, Herefordshire



Visitors to the dramatic setting of **Croft Castle & Parkland** in Herefordshire can create their own glow in the dark drawings with upcoming artist **David Ogle**, as part of brand new contemporary art exhibition, **In Another Light**.

Drop in sessions to try the light drawing take place between 1pm and 4pm on Saturday 1st Nov, as part of international drawing festival, **The Big Draw**, and visitors can return in the evening from 5-8pm for the opening night of contemporary art exhibition, **In Another Light**.



The opening event features exciting and dynamic Kathak dancing from one of the leading contemporary South Asian dance companies in the UK, **Sonia Sabri Company**. Following on from October's **Diwali** celebrations, colourful imagery will unfold a world of storytelling through music, movement, light and shadows in front of the castle.

Featuring new light sculptures made by **David Ogle** especially for the Croft Castle exhibition and a light projection by Herefordshire based artist **Rebecca Farkas**, **In Another Light** is a new kind of contemporary art exhibition, curated by **National Trust** and **Meadow Arts**, that takes place exclusively in the dark evenings this autumn and winter.

The National Trust owned castle is normally closed once it gets dark, but artists and performers will be on hand to 'shine a light' on Croft's hidden depths, revealing its dense and age-old history as you have never seen it before.

Visitors can expect some surprises from a series of light-artworks and live events on Saturday evenings over the autumn and winter months. Visit www.meadowarts.org for more details about the artists and go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croft-castle for times and prices.

WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP



8PM-12AM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CAFE BLISS
£5 ENTRY



DJ KAY



29-11-14

21 SANSOME ST. WR1 1UH
07821 733 246

FUSCHIA LOFT ART



You know those folk who are irritatingly talented? They can turn their hand to anything and make it seem deceptively simple? Meet Ela Rogers, local artist and photographer.

Living within easy view of the Malverns and amidst rolling countryside, Ela has plenty to inspire her. From her daily walks with the three family Jack Russells and frequent family trips to the Cornish coast, along with a love of dogs, Ela taps into a deep seam of life and English traditions for her inspiration, and the results are striking. With a love of texture and colour,

and a keen eye for light and shade, shape and form, Ela's creative instincts find expression with a variety of materials and tools such as wool, felt, hand-made paper and an amazing range of recycled odds and ends.

Particularly engaging are Ela's pet portraits and seascapes, reflecting as they do two of her great loves. The warmth she is able to infuse into her work from a humble photograph shows the soul of a person who knows how to smile and laugh. Usually working with acrylics, more often than not on board or canvass, Ela captures the very essence of a much loved family pet or a favourite cove, bestowing a kind of permanence on the ephemeral.

Ela describes her art as spontaneous and adventurous, which sum up very nicely what this lovely lady is all about. Ela's art can be found at Mangojuice Gallery, 10 New St, Worcester. To find out more and to see some of Ela's art online, visit www.artfinder.com/artist/ela-rogers/about/ and www.etsy.com/shop/FuchsiaLoftArt.

Andy Maynard



AIMS exhibition

AIMS – the **Art in Minds** foundation – is an established project running at the **Shrub Hill Workshop** in Worcester for the past ten years. It helps people struggling with mental illness to take part in art therapy sessions, creating beautiful pieces of work. The project involves 150 artists, all of which are current or past mental health service users and others affected by mental health issues including carers and family members, as therapy to help them recover.



But the workshop not only helps those involved, but also produces artwork to share with the public. The finished result of the artists' months of hard work is the artwork on display in the **Hive** and the **Worcester Arts Workshop** through October. Some of the pieces are bright and cheery, some full of powerful emotions. They often depict

scenes and sometimes abstract. But all amazing. There is no clue in the paintings themselves of the troubles afflicting these artists, they are all so brilliantly produced.

Elizabeth Ann Jones is an art therapist working on the project, originally working as an illustrator and book designer. Her own piece entitled *'the magical forest'* shows a deer in a beautiful starlit forest, alive with daisies and almost sparkling.

While *'Faraway Trees'* reminds me very much of an actual landscape from Australia, and makes me feel just as happy looking at it as it made the artist feel creating it. **Sue Shambrook** testifies that AIMS brings her joy, to help her struggle with the depression she suffers.



Joe Walton's piece catches my eye every time I walk past it. It is a beautiful picture of Worcester's High Street, with trees full of blossom, and people chatting and busily passing by, making Worcester look really appealing.

While many pieces are for sale, **Kathleen Grace Mattsson's** *'Viaduct-Worcester'* is not. It is quite an angry looking abstract piece, used, according to Kathleen, as a source of renewal and healing in response to nature around her.

The exhibition in the Hive and the Arts Workshop was part of **World Mental Health Day** on October 10th and ran until late in October, giving the artists a chance to display their beautiful art works, and thus reach out to the local community to help develop tolerance and acceptance of mental health issues that touch an increasing number of people.

These pieces were on display in the Hive in October as well as in the Art Workshop, for all to enjoy. For more details about the project and to enquire about purchasing any of the pieces AIMS can be contacted via their website:

www.artinminds.org.uk/contact/ or Call 07442 496046.

Sarah Ganderton

Summer Round-up & Promo Pointers!!

by Andy O'Hare

Well I closed off what has to be the best summer of local music festivals with a stop-off at **Bromyard Folk** - heartwarming after many years to finally catch the award-winning **Oysterband** who are of course registered with us as a H&W act as frontman **John Jones** is from Kington! Good also to see the lads (George/Lewis/Cohen) from **Granny's Attic** contributing to the end-of-season pleaser and sending a few jaws dropping floorwards with their skills!

Very pleasant indeed to see the return of **Snodfest** after a year's sabbatical - for the last few years it's been our own festival of choice to close off the summer's festivities - I think probably because showcasing a great selection of local acts like **Becky Rose** and **Chevy Chase Stole My Wife** - it's also still got that 'village fete' atmosphere - with the local sweet shop running a stand!

Yes it's been a fantastically enjoyable few months since we kicked off proceedings at **Wychwood** back at the end of May - yeah maybe a bit tiring at times on the legs and feet but more than made up for with great music, wonderful people and some record-breaking fine weather which doesn't half help! But I have to say that it'd be wonderful if we again had a major national festival such as back on our doorsteps! We've got a central UK location, great motorway access and green fields in abundance - would seem a pretty ideal combination - maybe another day very soon I hope...

.....

Well evidenced by the gig I went to yesterday - the nights are definitely drawing in as punters tighten their belts for the anticipated costs of the 'festive season' - think I've still got a couple more life policies I can cash in to get through another year... But this makes it even more important if you're playing, putting on or hosting a gig that you reach as many potential music fans as possible to let them know about it - and it's never been easier (or cheaper!) to publicise your event - after all you've put a lot of effort into organising it - so why have so few showed up?

This happened to me a couple of weeks ago - after checking through all the gig guides on a Friday and finding nothing that really floated my boat - I spent the evening in, eventually switching off the TV after ten minutes of teeth-grinding viewing of 'Later' - only to find out the next day that I'd

.....

missed a really cracking gig!! So what went wrong? Well in an ideal world I reckon every local gig guide should be absolutely identical - you shouldn't have to check the half-dozen or so to find an event you fancy - because the artists, promoters and venues will have done their job...

And that's half the problem - the artists leave it to the venues and promoters to publicise the gig, the promoter's put the gig together and assumes the artist and venue (and so on)... As I've mentioned before we'd rather be told two or three times about a gig than not at all (or at the very last minute) - and by far the easiest way to get this done (for Worcestershire) is to get it listed on the very excellent **NotJustSauce** website - because we'll automatically pick it up and include it on our own Gig Guide (on-air and on-line) and if you get it in before the copy deadline (about a week before the end of each month) it'll also appear in this fine organ that you're holding in your hand - that's three-for-one!!

If you're over in Hereford - our own preferred supplier of gaggage material is **Broad Sheep** - get your event listed there and we'll also pick it up - but don't stop there! Create a Facebook event - invite all your friends and also send us the link and we'll publicise it yet again! Not quite finished yet though - don't forget your local press who also do daily/weekly printed and on-line listings - let them know! All of the above will cost you precisely nothing apart from a few minutes of time...

If you've done all the above - and still have a few pennies going spare - maybe now it's time to go back to your roots and design and print some posters to further publicise your event - venues love these to cover damp patches on the walls!! While you're in the mood why not run off a couple of hundred table-slips as well - I'm the sort of punter who collects these by the bucket-load and actually uses them to plan my gig-going schedule!

You make great music - and believe it or not there's geezers like me who really like to track it down and listen to it - but we've got to be told about it!! It's never been so true that advertising actually works - and it's now so easily available and affordable - please do make the most of these great opportunities!!

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

.....

Stomp & Holler

Marrs Bar | Sat 15th Nov

sassy sax, triumphant trumpet, ace accordion, with six singers(!) and much more.

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Another Marrs Bar cracker in prospect as storming the stage will be the big, bold, brassy and bluesy Midlands 6 piece tour de force that is Stomp & Holler.

Bringing their singular, swinging, street'n'swamp sound from The Big Easy to The Faithful City, S&H are sure to explode live in a phantasmagoria of muscular musicality of quality straight outta da top drawer.

This is a band containing no less than three British Blues Award nominees blasting out

Jennifer Ludlow & Paul J Rose

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester | Sat 11th October

Fresh from her well received and reported Worc Music Fest appearance at this venerable venue, **Jennifer Ludlow** once again entranced us with her intimate mixture of skewed but sympathetic covers and promising own-penned material.

In the covers corner we get an upbeat reading of the lovely Labi S classic 'It Must Be Love'; a plaintive, pleading Smiths' 'Please, Please, Please'; a bouncy tribute to Dodgy mate & mentor Nigel Clarke with 'Staying Out For The Summer'; a naughty, nudie 'Nightswimming' (REM) and best of all an excellent rendition of the Jam's 'English Rose'.



In the originals corner Jennifer regales us with tales and tunes of bittersweet love, camping bliss, mythical Elephants and so it says in my notes - mish, mash, mosh??! (Help me Jennifer please). All of these keep the audience engaged as Jennifer effortlessly combines quality tunes with intelligent lyrics, all transmitted via her honeyed voice.

Influenced by the like of The Beatles, Floyd, Yes and the very wonderful Kate Bush, together with her idol being self-styled

badass Pete Doherty, Jennifer's songs blend well and hold their own in such exalted company.

It was a lovely, laid-back evening - even if some of Ms Ludlow's faithful friends were a bit over-exuberant in such a compact space - Jennifer invited anyone to take the stage or the stool as it was and luckily **Paul J Rose** took the bait.



A self-effacing chap, his original material complimented his excellent, emotive vocals and accomplished guitar playing. Paul has been performing for 15+ years including a tenure in **The George Cowley Experience** and with 3 solo albums under his belt, his wealth of experience shone through with such well-observed songs as 'In The Blink of an Eye', 'Still Wind' and the pithy 'Sit Tight' - his own 'How Soon Is Now' if you will.

Paul has an eclectic range of influences, all the way from Gilbert & Sullivan to Therapy? via Richard Thompson plus local artists such as Machine Breakers and Dave Onions and is well worth catching.

And so yet another night of musical marvellousness at the L&F - look out for the like of **The Poor Boys of Worcester**, **Skewwhiff**, **Danny Whybrow** and **The Barflys** before the year's end.

Words by Les Miserable Pics by Andy O'Hare

The Lamb & Flag

The Tything, Worcester

Sat Nov 1st - The Machine Breakers

Sat Nov 8th - The Poor Boys of Worcester

Fri Nov 21st - Skewwhiff

Sat Nov 29th - Danny Whybrow

Sat 6th Dec - Barflys

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- Wed 5th The Best World Firework Displays DVD Show in the garden 6.30pm 9.30pm
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- Tues 11th Tribute Lunch to the great Tommy Dorsey 2 courses **£11.95** **BOOK** 12.30pm
- Thurs 13th **SLAP MAGAZINE** Band of The Month **RODNEY BRANIGAN** 7.30pm
- Fri 14th - 15th Guess Ale **£1.50pp** Win 1 FREE year Membership for CAMRA
- Sat 15th Rickie Laval Live Entertainment 7.30pm
- Tues 18th England v Scotland 8.00pm
- Sat 22nd Pizza Wine Festival 12.30pm 9.30pm
- Thurs 27th Comedy Night 5 Comedians 8.30pm
- Fri 28th **4 SHIRES** Performer of the Month **WARREN JAMES** Live Entertainment 7.30pm
- Sat 29th Gavin Baxter Bomba Rock Entertainment 7.30pm



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UNCOVERED ON RADIO 1

In October, **Worcester Music Festival** organisers not only got to hand over a cheque for thousands of pounds to this year's charity of the year, but were invited to wax lyrical about one of the fast-growing annual celebrations of live, original music by **BBC Radio 1**.

Chair **Ant Robbins** and vice-chair **Nikki Boraston's** interview with BBC Introducing presenter **Andrew Marston** is set to be aired on **Huw Stephen's** show during the week starting November 10.

Even better, Radio 1 listeners will get to hear an original song by one of our very own county bands - tune in to find out who it is! We'll also keep you posted on Facebook and Twitter.

Ant said the interview with Andrew - whose passion is discovering and championing new music - was the chance to promote the free festival, but also draw attention to the talent on our doorstep.

"I'm not sure people are aware just how vibrant the music scene in Worcester is and how much first class work is being created," he said. "Radio 1 has 10.8 million daily listeners and it was a golden opportunity to get the message out there, also encouraging listeners who'd like to see hundreds of emerging UK bands without paying a penny to get down to the festival next year."



The **Worcester Music Festival** attracts artists from all over the country such as The Kut pictured here from London who played at the Pig and Drum.

Photography by Andy Burton



Young carers go wild

Handing over a cheque to **Worcestershire Young Carers** was also a highlight for the festival, with carers as young as six years going wild at the news that **£3,527** had been raised through the generosity of the thousands of music fans at this year's event in August.

This figure was boosted by a donation of **£1,074** from **HSBC** employees from the county, who completed a nine-mile sponsored walk to do their bit.

Mary Lewis, team manager for **Worcestershire Young Carers (YSS)**, which supports seven to 25-year-olds who help to look after a parent, guardian or sibling within their home said: *"I think it is absolutely fantastic and the money will go a long way in helping us to provide a range of activities for our 200 or so young carers."*

Fundraising co-ordinator needed

Raising more than **£35,000** for charities since 2008, Worcester Music Festival is now urgently seeking a volunteer to run its charity fundraising in 2015. Responsibilities include organising the selection of this year's chosen charity, liaison with the charity in the run up to and during the festival, finding more ways to raise money and co-ordinating the fundraising team.

If this sounds of interest, please email by November 30th to info@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk. It is the opportunity to part of something great in the city and invaluable experience. Get in touch!

For more information on Worcester Music Festival, visit www.wumufest.co.uk and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.



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Swamp Delta

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Friday 28th November

There was a time in the 1980s, after post-punk and before everyone went raving, when the heart of the alternative music scene was L.A. - that's Leicester Area as opposed to that sprawling megatropolis on America's Pacific coast.

Bomb Party, **The Janitors** and **Diesel Park West** were first out of the blocks, closely followed by **Gaye Bykers on Acid** and **Crazyhead**, and it is the latter two that form the basis of **South Wigston Anarchist Media Project** known as **Swamp Delta**. Originally conceived by **Pork Beast** (legendary handle-barred bass bombshell in CH) and **Robber Byker** (mutoid bass groove master of GBOA) after a demon session on home-made swamp juice, this wasn't nostalgia, it was something new.

With songs written, it was a simple matter to invite **Pork Beast**'s former band mates into the collective - **Anderson** on vocals and drummer **Rob Vomit** - the only problem being that **Anderson** lives in Indochina! Adding **Blink Cyclone** on Guitar and **Saxy Sue** on brass, **Swamp Delta** were ready to unleash their brand of urban bastard-blues for a handful of dates while the re-monikered '**Screaming Delta Anderson**' was in the country.

This year's **Bearded Theory** festival in Derbyshire was only their second gig but was this reviewer's musical highlight of the weekend. The mix of **Crazyhead** classics such as *Out on a Limb* and *What Gives You the Idea That You're So Amazing*



Baby?, legendary Byker's anthem *Everything's Groovy* and the new material such as *Hanging Man*, *Cut Loose* and *Sick Liver Blues* made it THE show to be at. The mini-tour was rounded off with a highly acclaimed debut at **Rebellion**.

Well, **Anderson**'s going to be back in blighty and **Swamp Delta**'s second run of live dates begins at the wonderful **Boar's Head**. They will be honing their new material that is being recorded for the debut album due out next year. There will also be some new 'covers' from the extensive back catalogue - remember these guys' pedigree: Virgin, EMI, European and US tours, making films, supporting some of the 'greats'. It's going to be a fantastic night - see you down the front.

Glazz

swampdelta45@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/SWAMPDELTA

swampdelta.bandcamp.com/

www.youtube.com/channel/UCGXOp48wZvfZkXmjr5GtA7g/



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MENTAL METAL MAYHEM IN MALVERN

18th OCTOBER BEAUCHAMP ARMS

Saturday 18th October saw the latest installment of Mental Metal Mayhem. An idea created by two musicians: Jon Charles and Chris Walker. What they want to achieve is a dedicated night once a month in which heavy rock/ metal bands would be able to perform in the Malvern area. Thus the Metal Mayhem was born.

The first of these inception was at the Beauchamp Arms in the Malvern Link in September. The night consisted of bands performing live interspersed with a DJ providing ample amounts of heavy rock/metal tunes.

As with the first gig Jon Charles and Chris Walker's band **The Devils Well** were the first band to start the evening's proceedings. A tight nit unit providing shared vocals in well constructed intricate compositions built around a concept which consist of slow parts that then build on to full on power metal riffs. The Devils Well are a newly formed band however consist of excellent well seasoned musicians who are growing in strength as a band with every performance. The Devils Well will play their next gig at **The Iron Road, Evesham** on Friday 7th November.



A fitting end to the first and well attended Mental Metal Mayhem were headliners **Stone Cold Killers** who are true masters of their metal art. Giving it large with top guitar soloing and hard rock riffing with gritty full on vocals provided by Stu Ev "riff raff" Evans. Stone Cold Killers are booked to play in Cheltenham at the **Hammerfest** at the (rear of) The United Services Club on the 29th November.

The latest Mayhem ensemble had the Exeter band, **House of Kane** headlining who provide the evening with their well executed classic rock with a modern feel. You can find the band here www.houseofkane.com Prior to House of Kane, local outfit, **Dogs of Santorini** blasted out their own brand of very catchy post punk alternative rock.

One of the many highlights across the two Mental Metal Mayhem events was the performance of **Adamantium**; Formed in 2010 the band has had slight line up changes with members also changing roles within the band. Over the last couple of years Adamantium have developed a good image to add to very well performed slick, tight original metal music



brimming with excellent vocals in **Damien Johnson** and superb well thought out guitar solos with **Chris Findlay**, backed by an awesome rhythm section with drummer **Peter Timmins** having the time keeping ability of a highly mechanized computer. Having recently supported **Ozzbest** (Ozzy Osborne tribute act) at the Marris Bar and **Mentallica** at **The Roadhouse** in Birmingham as well as an appearance at the **O2 arena** also in Brum: This five piece metal outfit are certainly an act to look out for in the future.

The Mental Metal Mayhem has proven to be an excellent outlet for Heavy Rock/Metal bands to perform in Malvern. Hopefully it will continue to be a regular occurrence and establish itself for the more heavy rock minded musician in the shire.

Pictures by Duncan Graves

Words by Rich Morgan

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INNER TERRESTRIALS BALSALL HEATHENS LOBSTER

THE BOARS HEAD, KIDDERMINSTER - 11TH OCTOBER

Now well into it's 3rd year of being run by Sid and Sand, the Boars Head has become a popular venue on the underground music scene hosting a mix of both established acts to local bands. Tonight's gig was billed as a joint birthday celebration for the hosts and featured 3 different bands.

First up were young Birmingham band **Lobster**. This six-piece have been performing since 2009 and play a fusion of 2-tone Ska, Reggae, Punk and Hip Hop. Their set consists of mainly their own compositions with just the odd cover thrown in. Songs such as *Positive Vibes* and *This Ain't A Riot* soon get the crowd moving and the band seem genuinely excited by how many folk are getting down to their tunes. When their set ends the crowd are all cheering for more so the band come out and play a top drawer cover of **The Specials** classic *Gangsters*. What a great start to the party!



Next on stage are Birmingham acoustic punk folk duo Balsall Heathens. The duo consists of Jock Blyth one of the original members of punk legends GBH on acoustic guitar and Sam (of **Contempt**, **Screamin' Abdabz & Alcohol Licks**) on vocals and fiddle. They open their set with an absolute belter of a self composed instrumental called *The River* before they head into a couple of cover versions with a twist...*The Devil went down to Kidderminster* and *Whisky in the Giro*. The set



continues with a mix of their own material and covers with the crowd lapping it up. At one point Sam is joined on vocal duties by her Contempt band mate Craig as they perform a cracking cover of **GBH's** *Moonshine Song*. The good vibes are definitely flowing in the venue tonight.

It was then time for the headline act, South London's **Inner Terrestrials**. The three piece band have been stalwarts of the underground music festival scene for over 2 decades and perform a danceable mix of dub, punk, ska, folk with a message. Their songs cover a number of topics that they are passionate about from mankind's mistreatment of the planet to squatters rights and much more between. The music these guys produce is superb with Jay Terrestrial's distinctive vocals, guitar and occasional tin whistle perfectly accompanied by the powerful bass rhythms of Fran. The longstanding third member of the trio, Paco (of Conflict) is currently on a long term hiatus due to ill health but his youthful stand in (Ben) is most certainly up to task!

Tonight's set really gets the crowd moving and before long the whole place is dancing. There are simply too many highlights from a charged set to name them all but songs such as *Noah's Farce*, *Boundaries*, *War*, *Law Dealers*, *Earth Must* and *Off with their Heads* are but a few. As their set continued the venue is a happy place and full of good vibes, if only **Inner Terrestrials** could play all night. It's been a great evening of great music at a great venue. Long may Sid and Sand continue putting the 'music back into Kidderminster'

Words: Jason K Photography: Zena



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GOODNIGHT LENIN IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME ALBUM

Opener 'You Were Always Waiting', ushers us into "In The Fullness Of Time" by Goodnight Lenin, reminiscent of Pink Floyd's *Breathe*, in it's restrained, two chord cadence, it serves to set the scene & establishes a tone. An album that explores unrequited love leading to existential leanings as a shoulder to cry on. From here, 'Weary', turns stones of intrigue over, it is much in the vain of *The Zombies & Zimmerman*, punctuated as it is by cathartic organ stabs, it leaves ununsated hunger for answers to the unknown. 'Another Day' follows, a piano lead ballad exploring faith and endeavor, dusty chords that teeter on the edge of resolve and redemption. These are familiar themes, yet walled within tried / tested structures. But with 'The Tell Tale Heart', the subtleties of the harmonies become almost shoe-gaze.



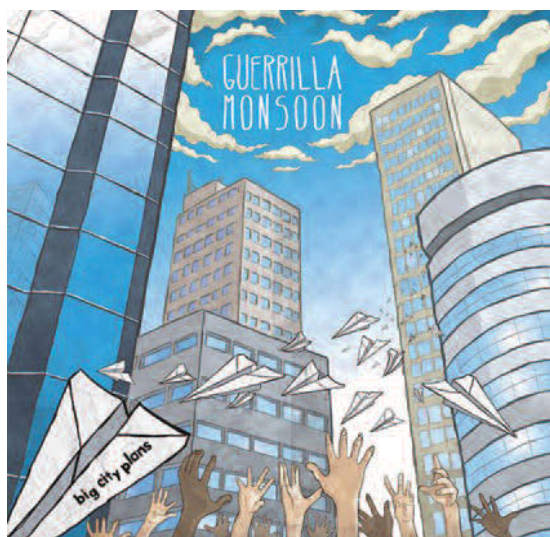
I'm a big fan of *Grateful Dead's American Beauty*, *Bob Dylan's Nashville* baked *Blond On Blond*, *George Harrison's "All Things Must Pass"* and of course *Crosby, Stills Nash & Young's* multi-texturecannon of material. Without a doubt, all are worthy way-points to orienteer the vast badlands of Americana, but should be taken as meditative fingers pointing the way to new horizons, rather than be repeated and served,

On 'Carry The Burden In Your Heart', for one instant of divine euphoria the band break this mold and forget what has come before. The album peaks with a gentle, swift ascent to segue into the thoughtful refrain of 'In The Fullness Of Time', this simple hushed instrumental speaks volumes; a reflection upon the themes, that words cannot, clocking in at a mere 29 seconds. By the closer, 'Electric Leaves', we are left with questions – Is love through the omnipotent or the unknown enough to sustain life's endeavors alone? Or should we take solace in what the weary world has to bestow?

Goodnight Lenin possess formidable technical ability, they write catchy, concise arrangements which linger long afterwards. I feel at times, they should not wear their influences so brazenly upon their sleeves. It is however worth noting, the playing & production is second to none, it unquestionably showcases an outfit with chart legs and great potential.

Review by Craigus Barry

GUERRILLA MONSOON BIG CITY PLANS EP IN ASSOCIATION WITH PAPER + PLASTICK & BEACH COMMUNITY



Emotional Hardcore – Emo - didn't begin and end with teenage boys in eye makeup and skinny black jeans. Actually, it never did. Back in the mists of the nineties a whole

movement of intelligent and reflective hardcore punk kids took the *Dischord Records* sound – *Fugazi* and all that malarkey – and did interesting, life-affirming things with it. *The Get Up Kids* and *Texas is the Reason* to name but two. And then for various reasons it all went Good Charlotte and it was kind of best forgotten. Over the past couple of years there's been a rediscovery of the nineties emo sound over on the other side of the Pond – US bands like *Signals Midwest*, *You Blew It!*, *Dikembe* and friends have been coming over the Atlantic thick and fast, with their guitars and winsome little musical vignettes. To be honest, though – whilst there's no doubting the sincerity and the warmth of this "new wave of emo" - few of these newer acts move the game on far enough to hold more than a passing interest. But here is where this smart-looking ten inch EP – which was launched at an instore at *Death or Glory Records* in Kevin Turvey's Redditch only last Saturday night - comes in. Representing for both Birmingham and our own North Worcestershire, *Guerrilla Monsoon* do that rarest of things: Take a long established style – emo – and transmute it into something fresh and distinct once again. And also into something utterly fucking charming. What you get in this little package are eight perfectly distilled and delivered stories of proudly provincial heart, mind and soul. Eight tracks that never even come close to overstaying their welcome - average track length being exactly two and a half minutes – and that still hang around, affirming your goddam life for a long time after. If there is any justice in this cold world, and if this term still has meaning - these boys deserve to make it. And make it big.

D B Schenker

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THE PEWKE BAND

The Prince of Wales, Ledbury | 5th Oct



The Pewke Band, as many will know, is a long established local band that essentially perform 'covers' from a variety of musical styles. The rockers who make up the band have interesting and diverse backgrounds, but they let whatever hair they have left down and have fun.

Paul - a sound journal editor plays lead with vocals; Alan - a BBC film editor is on bass and vocals; Uni professor Tony tickles the keyboard and plays guitar, whilst a retiring Keith beats the drum.

The band cover a lot of classic pop, rock and blues, stepping back to the '60's starting with **Spencer Davis**, *Gimme Some Lovin'*, and straight in to **Neil Young's** *Cinnamon Girl*. A bit of **Free** and **The Stones** from those early rock years before catapulting forward for a bit of *'Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll'*. Tony takes to the Strat with a bit of slide for some **Dr. Feelgood** and some grungy '70's blues.

Hovering in the final years of that era comes a nice bit of **Pink Floyd**, with Paul taking up a glass 'bottleneck' for the fabulous *'Comfortably Numb'*. *'Is there anybody out there?'* - well yes there were quite a number of us - basking in the ancient timber of the **Prince Of Wales**, with our memories and a glass of fine ale.

A short break before the band restart and Paul takes to his home made Gibson Les Paul Junior copy, fashioned from an old mahogany wardrobe, looking suitably stressed but with a rounded, warm sound. Plenty more from the Stones, maybe we all have a bit of *'Sympathy For The Devil'*, and painting everything black?! The good Dr. was not far away either, dispensing his *'Milk And Alcohol'*. It's a non stop rock and roll-over into the early evening.

The Pewke band certainly entertain with their repertoire wide enough to keep all happy, plus the band themselves in the process. If they had perhaps a full-on lead vocalist, they could be dangerous. All in all then an early evening with live music at a great pub: these ageless classics (and that's just the clientèle) beats the hell out of *'Flog It'*, *'Songs Of Praise'* and *'All Stars Family Fortunes'*!

THE MELLOW PEACHES

Slap Night | 9th October
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich



Mellow Peaches are a 2 piece band from the West Midlands, who practice the art of fusing blues and folk in a .. well pretty mellow way.

Rich tickles up his mandolin also occasionally breathing through a harmonica, whilst Amit picks his way through the string jungle of his guitar, stamping out a beat through his stomp box, vocalises quite a lot and has an odd toot on a kazoo. Sounds all fairly straightforward and to them it probably is, but they produce a fine mix of lively, self penned songs ranging from soft country blues, like the glowing embers of a log fire to the crackling spit of flame as the songs take on a hotter pace. Amit's guitar playing is exemplary, his long fingers making light work of the frets as he busily picks away.

'Aint No Grave' (to hold my body down) is a lovely spiritual blues with plenty for Amit to get his fingers around and Rich to mangle that mandolin! The pace is picked up for *'Canary'* - a fast moving instrumental with some extraordinary guitar work - as the bird flutters wildly riding the breeze, then bursting into frenzied activity.

A nautical twist is taken as more songs are extracted from the recent **Mellow Peaches** album, which was 'born' in an empty unit of Brum's **Custard Factory**.

The evening is a display of superb musicianship throughout, with Amit's voice being put to the test and coming up trumps. Rich plays some lovely mandolin, jousting with the well worked guitar of Amit, with his harp trumping the kazoo, though maybe not on the smile factor. With few exceptions the material was all original fully deserving the plaudits earned for their current album.

N.B. Make a note in your diary for next month's Slap Night at The Gardeners - Thursday November 13th with Rodney '2 guitars' Brannigan appearing. If you have yet to see him play it is well worth making the effort as he is a gifted musician with a difference. You will not be disappointed!

Words and Photography by Graham Munn

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Who rocks

A recipe of contrasts is being cooked up at the Cube in Malvern on 22 November as rootsy, bluesy Babajack and old-time punk-poppers The New Forbidden join forces to bring you a four course feast of music.

For starters there's Malvern's very own internationally renowned, award-winning Babajack. Over the last few years Babajack have quietly, steadily and surely become one of the most successful bands to emerge from the Worcestershire music scene. They have a unique sound based around

Trevor's wine box guitars given backbone by Becky's rhythmic gymnastics on the cajon. Their fourth album, *Running Man*, was received with critical acclaim and launched the band on a trajectory that culminated with a couple of British Blues awards, a management deal and extensive touring around the UK and Europe. From Carlisle to Luxembourg, Babajack have done the 'on the road' thing in a beaten up ford van; late finishes, extended night time journeys, bleary-eyed dashes for the Blighty-bound ferry and the inevitable roadside breakdown. Yet they manage to take it all in their stride and with good humour because they love what they do. And although they are far from being free of financial anxieties they do manage to scratch a living being musicians. There are plenty of guitarists, drummers and singers round these parts who would jump at the chance of that. But there is more to be enviable of. Babajack are good. Their songs grab you with a guttural intensity softened by a powerful yet subtle vocal. The rhythms lock into a groove as tight as Mark Wahlberg in Speedos. The harmonica rasps and squawks in a fashion that belies its name while the guitar draws you in, lulling you into thinking that this is how all guitars should sound; sliding, droning, rhythmic. You can hear George

Jones in there along with Ry Cooder but there's more; a punky rawness that gives it all some serious punch. This is offset by Becky's cajon that in turns delivers African beats or a reggae vibe or a funk groove. There's a whole lot of rhythm going on with Babajack. And this is before we introduce Tosh Murase and Adam Bertenshaw on drums and bass respectively. They add yet another layer to the cake making it all the sweeter. Recently they have played festival gigs in Germany, France, Spain and in the UK where they supported Status Quo. *Running Man* has appeared in top-ten albums of the year lists in Guitar & Bass, Classic Rock and Classic Rock Blues magazines adding some icing to that already flavoursome pudding and award nominations appear almost daily. But the cherry on the top has to be the upcoming gig at the Royal Albert Hall on October 30th where



in a place like this?

Babajack will play to thousands at Bluesfest London. The Babajack name comes from Zimbabwe. Trevor lived there along with his son for a while and was referred to as 'father of Jack' or Babajack. He liked the sound of it and when he met Becky and began playing, the name kinda stuck. They started on the local music scene playing at little festivals like the Pyramid Party and Mappfest and at countless pub and club gigs, always working hard, gradually getting gigs further afield, playing to bigger and bigger audiences who were keen to buy their CDs. *Running Man* is the fourth album in five years, a prodigious creative output that has just got better and better. Album number five is on the way as Trevor and Becky continue to show no signs of slowing down, and why would they? Who wouldn't continue doing something they love? Ask Loyd Grossman. Back in the day, the old Bostonian played guitar with Jet Bronx And The Forbidden who scored a 1977 top fifty chart position with *Ain't Doin' Nothin'*. The twenty five year old history undergraduate was a rock journalist for a while and after moving to London he began to frequent the Marquee and the 100 Club in that late seventies crunch point in history, when everything changed. Out went old and tired prog rock, ferociously supplanted by short-haired angry young men with an attitude. These young turks knew that music wasn't about how many chords you knew but was about passion and energy and a belief that it could change the world. Listen now to *Ain't Doin' Nothin'* and you will hear the rawness of idealism. Unfortunately for Grossman, the single didn't chart any higher and a second one bombed. He once said "*Jet Bronx and the Forbidden grazed the charts at number 49 but palpably failed. I was obviously never going to be a big deal in punk.*" Yet after an illustrious career as tv presenter, celebrity chef and cooking sauce producer, Grossman has dusted off his gold top Les Paul and is giving it another go. The ingredients for The New Forbidden are proto-punk, indie, garage band and rock with pop added to taste. They played at Malvern Rocks last year, headlining at Re-con on the Friday night. The venue was packed with people who perhaps had come for the novelty of seeing the *Through the Keyhole* and *Masterchef*

star in person but who went away enthusing about the surprisingly catchy new wave pop songs that Grossman and co presented. Front man Valentine Guinness, whose slight middle-age paunch perhaps suggests one or two sauce-based snacks too many, sings in an al dente fashion, well suited to the raw feel of the songs. Add a drizzle of backing vocals, fold in some keyboards, baste with heavy bass, beat in the drums and you have a tasty offering that's well worth a nibble.

RT.

Saturday 22 November
The Cube
£10 adv / £13 door
www.wegotickets.com



Tom Forbes

Wallflower | Single Review

Writing music reviews and listening to countless number of bands and artists, leaves me pondering how certain artists aren't bigger, why bands haven't received the exposure they so obviously deserve and how we as a nation seem more obsessed by the wannabes and never be's that populate reality shows and the media (obviously not the readers of this mag - ed!!!) as opposed to focusing on the talents that are right under our collective noses.

Every time I hear a new release by local singer-songwriter **Tom Forbes** I'm left scratching my head trying to fathom just why A) He hasn't been signed to a big record label B) why his tracks aren't dominating the airwaves and C) Just how it is that one guy can be that damn talented.

Tom follows up a couple of self-released EP's with *Wallflower*, a brand new single, which again showcases Tom's ability to pick up an instrument play it, loop it and layer until he comes up with a slice of pure pop perfection.



This time round Tom is aided and abetted by local production guru, **Dave Draper** and between them they craft another wonderful showcase of Forbes impressive songcraft and effortless ability to weld synths, beats and guitars to create a big hook-laden track that echoes the likes of recent chart blockbusters Bruno Mars or a more upbeat Jason Mraz, whilst weaving his own signature sound complete with an unexpected yet welcome burst of electric guitar that lifts the track further.

Wallflower is backed by a remix of the single by current Paul Weller bassist, **Damon Minchella**, who perhaps cleans off any raw edges and polishes the track with a pop sheen ready for radio playlists the world over, whilst retaining the contagious pop hook and infectious melodies that run throughout the sub three-minute duration.

As I opened my write-up, I don't understand how Tom hasn't been propelled towards the big leagues, he's a maverick pop producer that's just waiting for that one big push and more than he deserves every success, so catch him whilst you still can and pick this track up whilst you're at it, tell people you were there first when the inevitable success comes Tom's way. This is sound of pop perfection, this is the sound of Tom Forbes.

Will Munn

SLAP talks to Tom

SLAP (S) - What are your earliest memories of music and did you grow up with a musical family?

Tom (T) - My family loves music but isn't musical and I grew up listening to a lot of Oasis, Blur and 90s dance music. I also have this vivid memory of my dad when he bleached his hair blonde because he thought he was Slim Shady.

S - Who was the first artist that made you want to pick up an instrument yourself?

T - Well the artist that made me pick up the guitar was probably AC/DC guitarist Angus Young and I remember seeing them when I was about 10 at Wembley arena. It was insane - I even caught Angus's guitar pick at the end of the show! But it was Mr Cobain that inspired me to write my own tunes. I'm a big Nirvana fan.

S - Did you feature in any bands before taking the solo path and do you think you will ever be part of a group again?

T - Yeah I was in a band called 'BRANDED' before my solo project. It was really fun. Shout out to Alex George and Dan Straws though! they're my grunge babies. We did play some strange shows but I remember we played this one out in the countryside for the Outlaws. It was weird and scary but groovy at the same time. Apart from Branded I haven't been any other bands, but I did start an R&B group in first school if that counts. But I'm always up for collaborating with other musicians as I think it's a great way to explore and create new ideas.



S - When did you start to write songs and what kind of subject matters influence that early material?

T - It's funny actually because I've always kept journals ever since I was little and the other day I found one of them. It's was mainly about my hatred towards school and how I stood up to a bully one time. I was on a roll baby.

S - The first time I caught you performing live you were playing the guitar behind your back emulating Hendrix, showing an incredible amount of confidence for someone so young. Have you always had that degree of confidence and showmanship or is that something you've developed?

T - That's old news; I can play the guitar with my toes now! No I'm only joking. I've always been a shy kid and I guess getting up on stage was a release for me. The new single is about that actually. I wrote it about someone who feels different when they are performing as opposed to when



they're not. Hunt the track down on iTunes and check it out for yourself. It's out 3rd Nov. It will cost you less than a Big Mac but more than the price of a Freddo.

S - Your sound is somewhat unique, showcasing a real pop element. Does this emulate the kind of music you listen to at home and do you think your sound helps you stand out as a performer?

T - I have a wide range of influences so I guess that's a factor. I love pop music and I don't care what anyone says but I think Justin Bieber has some banging tunes, especially his new album. Whoever writes his songs is a great songwriter! But at the moment I'm really into Human League and Duran Duran and I've just bought a tasty synthesizer. I wanna incorporate a 80s vibe into my style. But I think with what I do with loops is pretty cool to do because not many people have seen it. So when I'm there building up all these layers, beats and harmonies live people are intrigued.

S - You seem to have a busy gig schedule, where has been your favourite place to perform to date?

T - I actually played at the LG Arena Forum the other night which was insane. It was for the 'Big Reunion Festival'. Blue and Five were playing which was pretty surreal. Playing in London is always groovy but I guess I love Birmingham. There's a real cool scene going down in Digbeth at the moment: I'm talking Swim Deep, Superfood and Peace. Seeing bands getting signed from there gives me confidence in my own musical journey!

S - You've just released a brand new single, how has that been received so far to date and what are your hopes for the release?

T - Yeah it's called Wallflower, I'm really excited and there seems a good buzz about it. I put out the video the other day which was inspired by Tame Impala: I'm loving that psychedelic vibe. The video is basically me playing all the instruments in front of these weird and wonderful colourful patterns. We used a green screen and I'm really happy with the way it turned out. When you watch it you feel like you're on acid.

S - How did the Damon Minchella (Paul Weller bassist) remix come about and I hear that Nigel Clark of Dodgy fame has been helping you out too? What is it like collaborating with such well known musicians?

T - Well I've known Nige ever since I was a kid because my dad used to go to school with him. I used to go round to his old studio in Redditch to record covers and ever since then we've just kept in touch. He's recently been mentoring me giving me loads of advice. He actually hung out in the studio while I recorded Wallflower with Dave Draper down at Tower Studios and it's always good to have a lot of opinions. I know Damon because he moved to my village a couple years back. I met him in a drunken moment at the local pub and just connected over music. He's been a real help with my songwriting and when I have songs at a really early stage, I meet up with Damon and he gives me some really good advice on how to develop them. He has worked 15 years at the top with Ocean Colour Scene, Paul Weller and Amy Winehouse! If you're not inspired by someone like that then you're in the wrong business.

S - How do you feel Wallflower compares to say the likes of Sleeping With The Stars and did you always plan to vary your sound with each release?

T - Sleeping With The Stars was definitely a high school crush song written from my soppy heart, whereas Wallflower is a song about the different ways I feel and am, when I'm offstage and performing. Both songs are true to me but I think that the music in Wallflower definitely moved on up into an indie pop feel which I'm hoping will connect with the sort of audience that follows me now.

S - What's next in store for Tom Forbes; is there a full length album in the works?

T - For the time being I think the best way for me to get my music out there is in the EP format. Who knows, in the future I'm sure there is an album in me. Maybe it will be a collection of all my best songs to date or even a bunch of completely new songs. I guess it will be when I've settled down and matured musically into the genre that suits me best. At the moment I'm experimenting.

S - Is there anything else you'd like to tell our readers?

T - Music is a source of happiness & sadness which inspires us and brings us up when we're down. It's so important that you enjoy listening to music of all types and if you listen to mine a bit more, that would make me very happy.

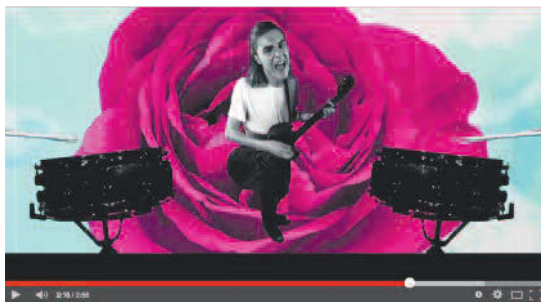
Good night and God bless - Tom

Video of the Month Tom Forbes - Wallflower

Local Artists new song and music video is Fresh, fun and cool.

One of Worcestershire's most hard working young singer song writers **Tom Forbes** has had a pretty exciting few weeks, and is showing real signs of potential pop success.

Tom has now released a psychedelic new music video for his infectious indie pop tune 'Wallflower,' which can be watched on his Facebook page and on YouTube. He has revealed that the song is about being shy, and being able to be let loose on stage. It shows him playing guitar, drums, and



synth, with a loop pedal, all morphing around summery, fluorescent, swirling backdrop.

Jessica Charles

EMILY EWING EP

Emily Ewing is a Birmingham based singer-songwriter who to date, has already performed with 70's star **Steve Gibbons** and up and coming Shropshire act **The Innocent** whilst honing her craft around the various local music venues. Her blend of passionate piano led pop has also found favour with the likes of BBC WM after only a few months of performing solo.

With the help of producer **Dave Draper**, Emily took to the studio to put down her debut five-track EP as something of an introduction to her songcraft and as opening gambits go, this is pretty damn flawless.

From the opening number, *Merry Go Round*, Emily captivates with a wonderful breezy vocal, infectious keyboard melody and instantly contagious pop harmonies that wouldn't sound out of place at the top of the pop parade. *Merry Go Round* is a bold statement of intent, a big pop number that ticks all the necessary boxes yet Emily still manages to retain her own identity with her expressive voice shining brightly.



As the EP continues Emily pulls at the heartstrings with her emotive and at times vulnerable voice oozing with passion on the likes of *Know This* and the beautiful ballad, *Fairytale*, whilst the layers of keyboards and strings further pepper an already mesmeric arrangement, drawing the listener deeper into Ewings evocative vision of pop perfection.

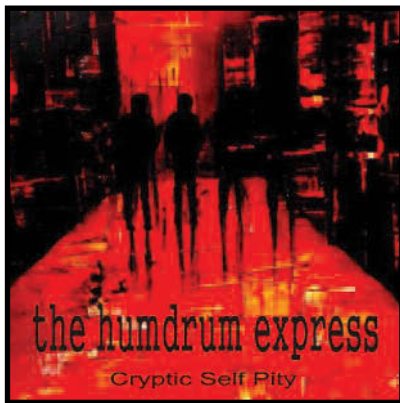
The disc concludes with another sweeping majestic pop masterpiece with *Playhouse*, strings and keyboards combine waltzing together effortlessly whilst Emily delivers yet another strong and heart wrenching vocal, showcasing a maturity and delivery that few performers can muster.-

Whether it's a big breezy hook-laden pop number such as *Merry Go Round* or an epic emotion fueled ballad, Emily seems to deliver with effortless ease and grace, impressive first release by a star in the making.

Will Munn

THE HUMDRUM EXPRESS CRYPTIC SELF PITY

Following on from the recent **Steve Lamacq (6 Music)** approved recent single, **Festival At Home**, Kidderminster based **Humdrum Express** return with a rather different follow up single, **Cryptic Self Pity**. Whereas **Festival At Home** showcased that acoustic punky style that **Ian Passey** (the man behind **The Humdrum Express**) has become renowned for, the new single showcases an electronic dance element.



But do not fear **Cryptic Self Pity** isn't some kind of mid-life crisis or vain attempt to snare a new audience, yes there are repetitive programmed beats, but there are few dance tracks that feature wry, observational spoken word humour and there's probably not another track in history that talks about last minute goals, my **Tony Pullis** managed teams and **Phil Collins** in the same song!!! If that wasn't impressive enough **Ian** lobs in a massive hook-laden yob friendly chanted chorus that you'll land up hollering along by the end of the first spin.

I love the candid observational lyrics of **The Humdrum Express**, they remind me of a dry **Arab Strap** (and that is a very high recommendation from me!!) Whether that's over a backdrop of acoustic guitars or indeed beats and glitchy electronics.

I urge you to track down sardonic wit of **Ian Passey** and embrace the everyday humdrum (pardon the pun) that he portrays so brilliantly. www.thehumdrumexpress.com

Will Munn

Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos

Marrs Bar | Fri 21st Nov

Having wowed audiences across the UK and European music scene we at Slap Mag are very pleased to announce the return of **Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos** back to their Worcester homestead and a bound-to-be special night.

With more than four years and thousands of miles under their belt JK plus his beautiful boys have honed a spectacular live show chock-a-block and brimful of upbeat anthems with influences direct injected from Eastern Europe to Jamaica and the last 50 years of rock'n'roll.

In addition to their stellar live reputation The Weirdos have also recorded with well respected producer **Gavin Monaghan**, who can name Robert Plant, Lee Perry and The Destroyers on his CV amongst many others, and in an fast evolving studio

career the chaps have garnered **BBC6 Music** airplay with Brum DJ **Sam Redmore's** superb remix of their 2nd album title track '*Kill The Beast*'.

So on Fri 21st Nov prepare yourselves for an onslaught of raucous vocals, wild forest fiddles, 5 ton drums, solid brassifications and deep-driving bass as you are helplessly drawn into the wondrous web of The Weirdos - there really is NO other place to be!



katie Doolan

Nizlopi

Marrs Bar | Fri 28th Nov

After a four year hiatus doing 'their own thing', underground folk/hip-hop duo **Nizlopi** triumphantly returned to recording and performing last year and are now back again to reinforce their reinvigoration.

Best known for their 2005 UK and Irish chart hit '*The JCB Song*', **Nizlopi** have a fierce reputation for the political passion of their material whilst still retaining an angular beauty and hook-laden harmonies.

Nizlopi are **John Parker** on double bass'n'beat box and **Luke Concannon** vocalist and guitarist who in their own words play joyful, honest, atavistic, heavenly folk stories.

Theirs is a live show like no other: intense, involving, inspiring, we could go on but you really need to head Marrs Bar-wards to experience the positive and full force that is Nizlopi.



Support is from the exhilarating **FolkLaw**: a New Wave 'Show of Hands' crossed with an acoustic 'New Model Army' if you will. Recommended so get there early!

Justin Currie

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Mon 17th Nov

Here's an exciting one for us at Slap Towers: **Justin Currie** is the renowned founder member of 90's Scottish pop-rock stalwarts **Del Amitri** who enjoyed success with such hits as '*Nothing Ever Happens*', '*Always the Last to Know*' and '*Roll to Me*'. Now firmly established as a solo reformer in his own right Justin released his third solo album '*Lower Reaches*' last year and whilst there are echoes of past glories in his music, the strong imagery and storytelling aspects together with his powerful yet understated vocals, ensures that his work translates beautifully into modern, urban ballads.



Justin's current music is influenced by the likes of Nick Cave, Crowded House and Mark Lanegan ensuring a soundscape that is at once deep, dark and haunting but also refreshingly uplifting. We'll be there and suggest that you join us!

Focus

Atrix, Bromsgrove | Wed 12th Nov

With their unique brand of progressive rock, **Focus** manifested themselves at the start of the '70s as the most successful and appreciated of all the Dutch pop-rock exports. Fronted by founding member and unique vocalist **Thijs Van Leer**, and best known for their hits '*Hocus Pocus*', '*House of The King*' and '*Sylvia*', as well as their well-received albums '*Moving Waves*', '*Focus 3*' and '*Hamburger Concerto*', the iconic Dutch music masters are back with their tenth album (*Focus X*), which is guaranteed to please their dedicated fans.

Together with Thijs on vocals, flute and keyboards, back on the drums is famed Focus drummer **Pierre van der Linden**, bassist **Bobby Jacobs**, who comes from an acclaimed Dutch musical family and guitarist **Menno Gootjes** who participated in Focus at an earlier stage. The band will be featuring tracks from the new album as well as some of their critically acclaimed classics.



INTERVIEW WITH BABATEK (Dave Headon)



Local musician and multi instrumentalist David Headon was born and raised in Canada and spent alot of that time in bands touring North America. Currently he goes under the name of **Baba-TEK** and is heavily influenced by the likes of **Aphex Twin** and **Venetian Snares**.

SLAP - So you make a lot of different types of music. What names are you going under these days?

Dave - Baba- TEK is my main 'nom de plume' nowadays. 'Baba for 'father' or 'monk', and 'TEK' to represent method or technique, also TEKNO ! It features 808-909 drum machine, ukulele, guitar, bass and some old analog synths.

SLAP - Who are your musical inspirations at the moment?

Dave -Oh lots of stuff, mostly not the charting radio: Coltrane, Monk, Mingus, SunRA. Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Mikey Dread & King Tubby, Trace , BTK&Optiv, Ed Rush & Optical, Rockwell, Lenzman, Venetian Snares is on a lot of peoples lips and turntables these days. I like IGORRR, Ruby My Dear, Stazma The Junglechrist, DJ Sailor Moon and Bong-RA! – Rotterdam's hardest breaks!!

SLAP - What process do you go through in making your music?

Dave - Since I was about 7 I've always messed about with tape, effects, echo units, and records etc... Lucky for me, my dad ran a production house where animation, film, tape and editing tables and tape machines were just lying around waiting to be played with. My creative process is always unfolding. I feel that music exists already, and that an artist is positioned to manifest it when they are sufficiently attuned.

SLAP - How has your music been received recently?

Dave - Mostly it hasn't! haha... seriously, there has been 'A Season Dissolved' (Retinal Circus orchestral electronic collaboration). The Baba-TEK full-album is on Youtube, and has been selling on bandcamp-- pay what you like with a nice trickle of buyers! People have made interesting and kind comments about the music..

SLAP - So you were a session musician and in bands in Canada, can you tell us a story from the road?

Dave - While on the road in the USA, met Jack White at Ghetto-Recorders Studios in Detroit. It was immediately apparent that we were unexpected, and that Jack was busy mixing songs for a compilation.

Jack had been at our show the night before... he (grudgingly) put aside his intended work, and played us a mix he'd just completed of 'I'm Through With White Girls' by The Dirtbombs... which ended up on this compilation. I remember thinking that Jack was unbelievably intense.

SLAP - Where can our readers find your music?

Dave - Baba-TEK 'TWAT73D' and various other things www.cartouche-pot-amun.bandcamp.com/

Interview by Tom Byron Photo by J.S. Film & Photography

Tom Forbes

at The Old Pheasant Inn, Worcester | 10th Oct

Well don't reckon I've seen him since the start of last year - and have to say that when I popped into the Old Pheasant in Worcester I was slightly disappointed for a minute or so as it appeared that the very talented Tom Forbes was playing to what seemed to be a backing tape - not so at all!! Every number that this prodigious youngster played tonight was built up from scratch there and then - he's improved immensely from just a guitar and a loop pedal - and now assembles tracks seamlessly on the spot with a cajon, claps, effects box and pedals - before adding guitar and vocals over the top - stunningly brilliant to watch and hear!!

I'm sure that Tom will be invited back again very soon to this venue - he did a great job keeping the Friday night crowd happy with his 2 x 45 minute sets - mixing crowd-pleaser covers with his own numbers like Another Story and new single Wallflower - he's come along in leaps and bounds over



the last 18 months and is a star very much worth keeping a close eye on for the future and strangely only reverted back to playing his guitar over the back of his head during the last of his three encores!!

AOH

WILLE & THE BANDITS

HARE & HOUNDS, KINGS HEATH | 22nd Oct

Underrated, unbelievably unsigned and undeniably unique, **Wille and The Bandits** returned triumphantly to Birmingham. 12 months ago they gave the Kings Heath venue a bloody good shaking down, in a venue packed with expectant but slightly unknowing music fans. This time those gathered here knew damn well what was about to be unleashed. The band has established a big solid footprint on UK festivals as well as successful ventures into Europe and I personally have seen lethargic, hungover Sunday morning troglodytes drawn into main stage arenas by their vibe that washes out and ebbs back, drawing in all before.

How could I not find my way to H&H for this show - the Bandits would be holding up the stage and there would be plenty of witnesses.

Firstly they were not alone as two solo performers were in support and both very worthy of mentioning. **Adam Sweet**, who had appeared at Upton Blues back in the summer, was delivering his self penned songs from his '*Small Town Thinking*' album. Appreciated by all, he stomped and sang his way through a short set, accompanied by his acoustic Gibson guitar. Check out his '*Santa Rosa Street*': excellent stuff.

Next came **Mark Black**, who blends blues and Celtic roots into gritty vocals that took a couple of songs to get fired up fully. But in a wholly original twist, Mark brought with him an extendible plastic downpipe, which turned out to be a variable pitch didgeridoo: a unique addition to his sonic palette for sure! The outstanding song for me was '*Rambling On My Mind*'; good gritty stuff.



Then Wille Time - as he settled with his lap and acoustic guitars, Matt slung his 6 string bass and Andy tightened his snare - we were in Bandit country. Not too far in before we reach a fave of mine '*Mammon*' which is a hauntingly beautiful song, Wille mumbling out the lyrics with a passion

that is reflected in his face. Mr *Robert Johnson* then takes us on that well driven path to the '*Crossroads*' - but which way do you turn? Down to the Delta with your trusty lap steel for '*Forgiveness*'. Andy sits watching like a hawk, his hammers building a cymbal storm, whilst Matt is picking his way across his strings like someone playing lead amongst the cry of Wille's slide we enter the final stage where we have '*Angel*'; near 12 minutes of a rising stairway to heaven. It is mesmerising as the pace picks up and Matt bounces around bending those fat strings. Wille's guitar is sobbing with empathy as Andy builds up the percussion; intoxicating.

If you have never seen or heard **Wille And The Bandits**, visit their web site at www.willeandthebandits.com, where amongst other things you can **download a free track**: the wonderful '*Gypsy Woman*'.

Mark your calendar and start 2015 with some fabulous music because they're in Bilston at Robin 2 on February 11th: I for one will be there and I won't be alone.

Words and Photos by Graham Munn

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MARK HARRISON

The Fleece, Brefforton | 28th Sept



The Fleece is an ancient Inn belonging to the National Trust and it has an equally aged barn in the courtyard, which is used to host a variety of music and arts. Sunday evening was designated **Blues In The Barn** with **Mark Harrison** performing with a '34 National resonator guitar and a 12 string guitar, ably assisted by percussionist **Ed Hopwood** plus **Charles Benfield** on

double bass. Mark started off the evening with the relaxed, country blues style '*Panic Attack*': a filmed performance of this song has been shown at Cannes Film festival no less! '*Mississippi*' is inspired by the '20's blues performed on dusty porches in the cotton fields of the deep South.

Mark's songs are written about life experiences, both his own and those from the past that have moved him to express his feelings in word and through his guitars. The old National itself has a bit of heritage, having belonged to Eric Bibb who Mark tells us, promises to drop by one day to reacquaint himself with the old 'woodie'. There are plenty of other asides and anecdotes, most of them creaking with a dry humour, all adding to the evening and linking the music nicely.

There's a nod to the likes of **Muddy Waters** with the song '*Next of Kin*': people with no paper trail or definitive origins, like many Afro-American descendants born in an indifferent America, '*Next Of Kin*'. Then time to lose your inhibitions by getting '*Reckless*', before waking up to a superb '*Crematorium Blues*'. Ed who is always empathetic to Mark's lead, stroked his stripped down drumset, mainly with brushes, but sticks, mallets and even a cowbell were never far from reach. Then more songs of temperance, the demise of workers and loss of livelihood to mechanisation. Here we are listening to a brief history of the blues roots before Chicago and electricity made its mark.

Mark's set ranges over his 3 recorded albums and all selections are well written and impeccably played and as we come to a close in this lovely old timbered barn of **The Fleece Inn**, there is time to give Ed and Charles some freedom as they let loose, grasping their moment to '*Shake The House*'.

Words and Photography by Graham Munn



MUSIC AT ARTRIX



 THINK FLOYD - 8 NOVEMBER SHARON SHANNON - 11 NOV FOCUS - 12 NOVEMBER JUSTIN CURRIE - 17 NOV LUKE DANIELS - 6 DECEMBER	 MANUKA BAND - 23 DECEMBER KING PLEASURE - 3 JANUARY JOHNNY CASH - 10 JANUARY COUNTERFEIT STONES - 16/17 JAN SUPREME QUEEN - 24 JANUARY	 MARTIN BARRE - 30 JAN T.REXTASY - 31 JANUARY JO HARMAN - 6 FEBRUARY PHIL BEER BAND - 13 MARCH GENESIS CONNECTED - 14 MARCH
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TEEE'S TEES

Silk screen printing is a creative mix of art, science and brawn, and is a popular method of producing specially designed tee shirts, hoodies and other merchandise items. Even the smallest of bands and festivals like to have attractive merchandise to supply their fans, and with which to mark special events such as album launches. The bright, bold colours and shapes that can be achieved with screen printing are always popular. With the festive season fast approaching, many local bands will be looking to produce souvenir items such as Christmas hoodies, tote bags or tee shirts.

That's where **Tina Maynard**, aka **Tina V** of **This Wicked Tongue** comes in. Along with her sister Anna, the pair have bought a carousel printing machine for screen printing of tee shirts, hoodies and other garments. The past year or more has seen them print merchandise for several festivals, bands and other entities. **Worcester Music Festival**, **Malvern Rocks** and **Mappfest** on the festival front. **This Wicked Tongue**, **A Poetic Yesterday**, **Mansize**, **Hey You Guys** and **Vault of Eagles**, among the bands. Plus regular orders from **CrossFit West Midlands**, **Awake Clothing** & **Dave Yarnell Art**.

The process itself is a mix of art and science. A design is prepared on computer and printed onto an acetate. Meanwhile a silk screen is given a light sensitive coating. The acetate is placed immediately above the screen and a powerful light shone through for a long enough time to bake

the coating onto the unprotected part of the screen. Being water soluble, the unhardened coating can now be removed with a water spray. Thus, a negative has been created. The screen can now be mounted onto the machine where it's placed on top of the carefully positioned garment. Water soluble dyes can be squeezed through the screen and onto the tee shirt, reproducing the pattern, which is then made colour-fast by being cured under a heater. For a pattern with several colours, several different screens would be used, the original image having been split into component colours first. The brawn comes in where lifting and carrying the stock and finished products come in. To say little of the elbow grease that's needed to manually squeeze the dye through the screens with sufficient force to create an even coverage. Being handy with a spanner and a screwdriver help as well.



What started with Tina preparing tees for the band has grown into a creative cottage industry in its own right, and anyone interested in learning more or speaking to Tina about merchandise for their band, event or organisation is welcome to contact her at tina@tinaveronica.com, or via her facebook page if you know her! Look also for facebook.com/teeestees for plenty of photographs. Christmas hoodies anyone?

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Fuel at Malvern Theatres

This Last Tempest | 4th & 5th Nov

Love Letters Straight From Your Heart | 18th & 19th Nov

As the nights draw in it's time to make the most of the dark autumnal changes. After all, we should be getting used to it by now after 'Going Dark' and 'Fiction' toured to Malvern theatres over the last few months. Darkness turns to celebrations and magic as International production company Fuel once again bring us more inspirational and progressive theatre this November.

The next piece that Fuel brings before winter arrives is 'This Last Tempest', beginning where Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' left off with Ariel and Caliban. And this Island, that is part gig will be found full of music, sounds and sweet airs that hopefully will delight all.

Love Letters by 'Uninvited Guests' has been touring for seven years now and invites you to somewhere between a wedding reception and a wake. I haven't seen this piece yet and with an audience capacity of only 34 you will have to book this second.



As always we would like to have your views on the shows. **Maddie Coster**, Guardian writer will again be joining us to lead an informal post show chat between the audience members. We hope you will join us for this after the performance of 'This Last Tempest' on the 5th November over a glass of wine. And because we really are passionate about this work look for our community page '**Fuelled by Theatre**' on Facebook for discount codes on shows.

Happy Winter. Black spaces can bring a lot of light. Come and see.

REVIEWS

Fiction - Fuel

14th October 2014 | Malvern Theatres

'Seeing' a show in complete darkness is always a bit unsettling and so it proved while attending the latest Fuel production 'Fiction' at Malvern Theatres. There was some trepidation as we entered the space. We were each given headphones and told to sit on a certain numbered chair. From there we followed directions on a screen and were informed that some of the audiences were actors and some were not. Then one of the audience members was asked to walk up and she read a piece of prose before slowly but surely we went into complete darkness.

A female voice told me to close my eyes and we entered the world of a dream, or was it for the next hour. Quite what was taking place within the dream was hard to say but it was always weirdly compelling and there was a sense of adventure and that we as an audience were going through some kind of collective experience.



Personally I would have liked a more sensory experience and I understand that there were a few technical hiccups but it was a genuine pleasure to be there and then to meet and talk really openly with fellow audience members after!

Fuel is bringing some really exciting work to the county, look out for their new work this month!

Stephen Wilson

Moving on Staying On

Worcestershire Arts Partnership Event

Tuesday 22nd October

This was a well attended event at the University aimed at those people who are close to graduating or who have graduated with an arts degree. It featured many guest speakers including yours truly who talked about their careers and how they moved on from graduating. Daniel Whitehouse from the Midland Arts Centre gave an inspiring talk with a

whole range of tips on how to have a career in the arts and then we split the group up into two with Wendy Law from Turning Point and Jo Gleave from Tin Box Theatre giving talks about how to survive and thrive in the visual arts and performance arts fields. Then we brought some of our many great arts practitioners in to talk about their own experiences in one to one sessions.

All in all a really positive event and thanks to Marie Oldaker and Jane George & Maureen Gamble from the University for making it happen.

Stephen Wilson

Cadbury Sisters

The 78 Project Movie

Roses Theatre | Tewkesbury | 13th Nov

An intriguing and unusual night in prospect at the excellent **Roses Theatre** as the great great granddaughters of the famous chocolate company founder William Cadbury bring their bewitching blend of contemporary infused traditional English folk music to the lucky Tewksbury residents.

As part of the **Roses' Songs From The Shed** season which combines live music and film in partnership with **The Curzon**, Clevedon and **The Courtyard** in Hereford together with songsfromtheshed.com, **The Cadbury Sisters** are bound to beguile the audience with their customary meld of harmony, discord, mindfulness and burning crescendos.

After their intimate set in the bar the audience can enjoy a screening of **The 78 Movie Project** (8pm), a film that



embarks upon a musical journey across America to recreate some of the earliest recordings of traditional songs using a 1930s Presto 78rpm to disc recorder.

I shall be there reporting for Slap Mag and I strongly suggest you join me... your round though!

Sarah McQuaid

Roses Theatre | Tewkesbury | 18th Nov

Born in Spain, raised in Chicago, living in rural England and holder of dual US and Irish citizenship, rising star **Sarah McQuaid** brings her genre-spanning and sumptuous sound to Tewksbury. Sarah's music refuses to be pigeonholed as she globe-trots around her eclectic musical influences and both her guitar playing and beautiful singing are quite stunning - indeed her voice has been likened to malt whiskey, melted chocolate and honey poured into wine: wow and yum I say! Sarah is truly a captivating performer who in addition to her unparalleled musicianship, regales and delights her audience with cheeky banter and tales from the road.



Another winner from the quality Roses events calendar.

Sharon Shannon with Alan Connor

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Thur 11th Nov

Hailing from Co Clare, Eire and widely regarded as one of the world's leading exponents on the accordion, it is a special treat to have **Sharon Shannon** back once more to perform in the Shire. Playing in bands since she was eight years old, including an eighteen month stint with **The Waterboys**, it's fair to say that Sharon has more than a wealth of experience, also performing and recording on the way with such luminaries as **U2's Adam Clayton**, **Hothouse Flowers** member **Liam O'Maonlai** and accompanying her at Artrix, renowned singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alan Connor**.

In addition to her masterly box playing Ms Shannon will also be sure to delight the Artrix audience with her fiddle and whistle wizardry, melding many traditions of music with her core Irish bedrock including dub, reggae, cajun, calypso and Portuguese amongst others. Truly an exceptional and eclectic night in prospect.



Gigspanner

Huntingdon Hall | Friday 21st Nov

Next up in our Huntingdon Highlights section is another absolutely eclectic event with Peter Knight's Gigspanner. Peter is of course most famous for being Steeleye Span's erstwhile legendary fiddle player, but with Gigspanner his music flirts audaciously with Eastern European, French, Cajun, African and even Aboriginal influences.

As a three piece Peter's musicianship is further enhanced by the flawless playing of guitarist Roger Flack - primarily a rock musician who shares Peter's love of trade material - and



Vincent Salzfass on congas and djembe, who studied his craft in Senegal and Cuba. All this is added to the marvellous melting pot which is the singular and spectacular Gigspanner.



What's On?

at Huntingdon Hall





King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys
8th Nov - £16.50



Celtic Guitar Trio
13th Nov - £15



Martyn Joseph
20th Nov - £16.50



Gigspanner
21st Nov - £16




Matt Schofield
26th Nov - £17.50

Hal Cruttenden – The Tough Luvvie Tour
14th Nov - £17

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OPENING TIMES

Monday - Saturday 12-11pm

Howard Sinclair Worcester Arts Workshop Theatre Friday November 28th

Worcester Arts Workshop Theatre will play host to an Album Launch Party in order to celebrate the official release of Howard Sinclair's new album *"The Light Broke In"*.

The album is a collection of 10 original songs with styles ranging from Blues to Soul, Rock to Folk and everything in between. Howard's influences are diverse and include Del Amitri, Indigo Girls, Marillion, Genesis and Nick Drake.

What is really intriguing about this album project is that despite being an acoustic singer-songwriter he has used a band comprised of heavy metal players - **Becky Baldwin, Patch Sanders and Paul Gibbons** - to help him record. The album gave the three a chance to show their versatility and true musical talent which really shines through in each song.

The full band are to perform together at the launch party and will be joined by a special guest or two. The set will be

opened by Bristol based singer-songwriter **York Gibson**, a long term friend and collaborator of Howard's.

In the run up to the gig, a Kickstarter campaign has been launched to help complete the final tasks in recording and manufacturing the album. *"The time is now right to bring in the fans and give them the chance to be a part of something really fun."* Howard said. *"We've got the tracks written, the right team of musicians in place and now we want to make sure that we turn this into a top notch album for everyone to enjoy and Kickstarter seems the obvious choice for making that happen."*

Tickets are £8 and are available from the Worcester Arts Workshop.



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Celtic Guitar Trio

Huntingdon Hall | Thur 13th Nov

The first of three previews from Huntingdon Hall's busy November schedule showcases the ever eclectic nature of this venue's booking policy. Here they have brought to Worcester three of Europe's finest guitarists in the Celtic tradition and it is sure to be a feast for the ears.

Soig Sibéiril is a self taught musician who has done more than most in bringing Breton music to the discerning masses, whilst Welshman **Dylan Fowler** has for many years toured internationally with great and respected musicians, including the great British folk singer **Julie Murphy** and for the last few years acclaimed and ground-breaking Eastern European group **Szapora**. Completing this stellar trio is Scotsman Ian Melrose who is probably most famous for being the lead guitarist in Clannad, and in addition to him being a world class fingerstyle guitarist, dobro and low whistle player, Ian is also



an arranger, producer and author of a book of guitar transcriptions of Scottish fiddle music.

Together these three amazing musicians will draw on their Celtic roots and vast world of musical experiences producing a sound which BBC online's Chris Jones said "...above all has a bullish determination to ignore recognised boundaries."

Matt Schofield

Huntingdon Hall | Wed 26th Nov

Our third Slap Pick of The Month from the Huntingdon Calendar is **Matt Schofield**, a man who has gained many accolades and awards, among them being - three time British Blues Guitarist of the Year, British Blues Album of the Year 2010, Mojo Mag Blues Album of the Year 2011 and the first guitarist to be inducted into the British Blues Awards Hall of Fame. Phew!

Of course if you know Matt's work then none of these gongs will surprise you and despite him winning awards for his recorded albums, it is live that Matt's inimitable and masterful playing together with his emotive vocals and improvisational brilliance shine brightest.

Matt Schofield has inspired legions of guitarists and constantly pushes the frontiers thus reshaping the boundaries of the British Blues tradition. I know we say it a lot but this really if not a gig to be missed.



Image: Sam Hare

The Julie July Band

West Malvern Social Club | Friday 28th Nov

Performing a selection of songs from 'The Sandy Denny Songbook' Including music from bands such as 'Fairport Convention', 'Fotheringay' and 'The Strawbs'. From Dreamy Acoustic melodies to driving progressive Folk Rock...Sandy Denny was considered to be one of the foremost Female singer-songwriters of the seventies. (Featuring: Julie July (Vocals), Bas Beakhouse (Acoustic Guitar), Steve Rezillo (Lead Guitar), Martin Emeny (Drums), Nick Smith (Bass).

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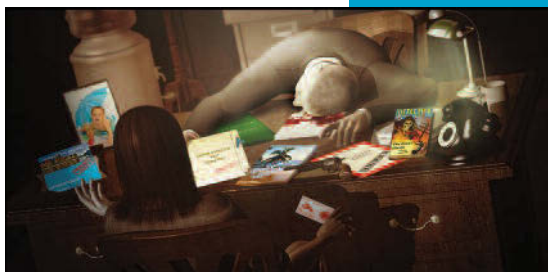
Stompin' on Spiders - Blacklisted

Stompin' On Spiders are a three-piece hailing from in and around the Malvern area, the foundations of the band first formed back in 2009 and since then the band have become main stays of the Worcester music scene as well as regularly venturing out of the counties boundaries, during the band's life span they've previously released a couple of well received albums, whilst individual members of the band have also been seen treading the boards with the likes of **Highway 5**, **Stripped Down Blues** and **The Cowley Cowboys** among others.

Blacklisted, the band's third album sees the band expand their number and indeed, with the addition of **Mark Miletech** on double bass and **Debbie Robinson**, who adds some celtic harp on a bluesy mellow track during the album.

The release itself found it's way to me as a wonderfully presented credit card like USB that features the album, a video and a promo pic, all complimented by a nice looking booklet that features an introduction to the band, lyrics and song explanations, etc. It's really nice to see a band push the boundaries with presentation of an album and it actively encourages interest, as opposed to the standard CD format (or worse the dreaded MP3), so for that alone Stompin' On Spiders should be commended.

The album itself is a little hit and miss to be honest, it opens with the mellow folky blues of *Schizophrenic City*, which is a decent enough opener without really grabbing you by the lapels, the combination of strummed acoustics and bluesy electric riffs works nicely, but the song never really hooks you in, then from there the band kind of jump around a little from engaging blues to mellow and meandering 60's influenced hippy folk.



The album features a number of tracks that do make you sit up and take notice, *Blacklist Blues* is a prime example, a darker, brooding number, with stomping blues riffs and pattered percussion backing perhaps the most convincing vocal on the album, whilst the likes of *Cloud Seeding* and the energetic and restless blues of **Katie Shoot The Gun** also deserve merit, whilst the instrumental jam during *The Great Divide* proves the band to be more than able musicians.

However the more refrained numbers, such as *Angry Again* and *Charlie's Smile* lack a little bite, the vocals are a bit weak to carry the tune and don't really engage the listener, whilst musically they meander without ever reaching the desired destination and the vocal restraint on the otherwise impressive album closer, *Ten Thousand Miles* is completely unnecessary.

I think **Stompin' On Spiders** have got a decent blues album in their locker somewhere and I'd like to hear them perhaps pursue the sound of the aforementioned *Blacklist Blues* a little more but at the moment the band frustrate, I like roots and folk as much as the next man (actually probably more) however a stripped down sound does expose any weaknesses and unfortunately a few of the tracks on here do just that.

Will Munn



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THAT FUCKING TANK / IEPI / BROKEN OAK DUET / TRANSMISSIONS

THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER
FIREFLY, LOWESMOOR, WORCESTER

Transmissions

Leeds' That Fucking Tank have been setting the two-piece / drums and baritone guitar noise rock bar insanely high for over ten years now. And the undercard wasn't bad either. A packed out Firefly - on a Thursday, with three of the four bands being totally wordless - showed that a few people agreed.

Openers **Transmissions** are new kids on the local scene block. As a unit that is - various members having current and previous in **Shutdown**, **Tall Man** and **Cradle** to name a few. But this was their maiden gig, and emotions were high. For this was emotional stuff - a short set of five tightly-drawn and deeply groove-driven post-funk hardcore tracks, evoking both **At The Drive In** and **LCD Sound System**, fronted by a writhing baritone homunculus with a voice that alternated between an addled Frank Black and the one out the fucking Editors. That seethed with reflection, complexity, and, well - soul.

describe as electronic math-funk. There was a little flashing pod of circuitry stage front. I have absolutely no idea what it actually did - but it seemed central to proceedings, and clearly had a musical intelligence all of its own. Revolutionary stuff.



That Fucking Tank



Broken Oak Duet

Broken Oak Duet just get tighter and more muscular each time they play - which is a lot. Pulsating and mathematically perfect post-rock. Drums. Baritone guitar. End. Wholly devoid of filler. A wonder of twenty first century organic sonic engineering. And sexy. Hot. That too.

All the way from the foothills of the Pyrenees, **Iepi** took things deep into progressive territory. There was something heady, something of the dangerous romance of the Catalan anarchists of yore in this twisting blaze of what I can only

And finally: **That Fucking Tank**. Two master instrumentalists duelling face to face. A greasy bare metal baritone guitar vs a low slung power kit smashed with **Todd Trainer** like accuracy by a hairy boy in a **Napalm Death** tee shirt. Doesn't sound like much. But as a live prospect TFT are, simply, the most compelling and absorbing instrumental outfit you will ever see - at least in part because they are so very fucking matter of fact and unpretentious about making music that is both absurdly multi-dimensional and absurdly accomplished. The false ending - so hard to pull off as it requires total audience attention - was deployed by these boys frequently and effortlessly. Sometimes summery and ornate - other times bare-sinewed and punishing - this sucked you in and raised the hairs on the back the neck from start to finish. No lie.

And finally, a special shout should also go out for the promoters for this show - which was a joint effort between the city's own **Task in Hand** and **Surprise Attacks**, who teamed up for the event. Here's to you gentlemen. A good night at the office.

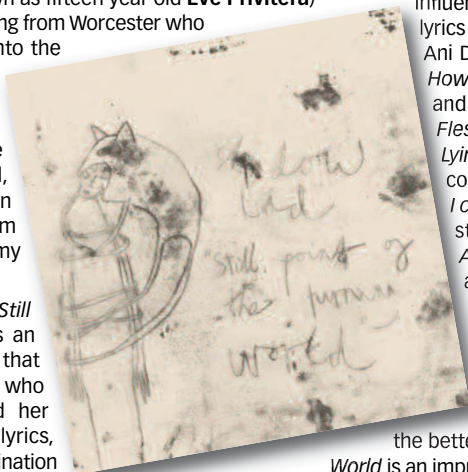
Words by Ed Ling Photography by Duncan Graves

Shadow Lad

Still Point Of The Turning World

Shadow Lad (also known as fifteen year old **Eve Privitera**) is a singer-songwriter hailing from Worcester who is taking her first steps into the world of music. I first encountered the project after reading a facebook message asking for advice on how to get started, having already written an eleven track debut album and so I offered to cast my ears over the album.

The album in question, *Still Point Of Turning World* is an intriguing debut that showcases a songwriter who pens lyrics way beyond her years, the self-reflective lyrics, instantly capture the imagination and will resonate with anyone looking for their place in life, the lyrics are often reflective and introspective yet at times almost bordering on quirky whilst musically, Eve has a stripped down almost primal sound, an acoustic guitar strummed, plucked and beaten into submission complimenting her already world weary voice.



The album opens with *Idiot*, a wonderful introduction to Eve's sound with a short yet infectious number complete with a simplistic yet affecting riff and a drawled vocal, whilst showcasing those introspective lyrics that Eve seems to pull out of the hat at ease.

The album continues in much the same vein, acoustic guitar, catchy melodies and biting lyrics, musically Eve, hints at a folk influence, whilst the barbed wire, close to the bone lyrics hint at the 90's grunge scene or perhaps even Ani DiFranco, Eve pulls no punches on the likes of *How Can I Be Worse* she wishes someone dead and talks about the cancer in their brain, whilst *Flesh* is an anguished tale of loss and despair, *Lying Is An Art* features the somewhat shocking couplet of "the angels say if I cut out my tongue, I could still get into heaven" over a machine gun strummed guitar, whilst *Loss, Grace And Acceptance* is a suitably mournful yet lament as one might imagine.

The eleven tracks on here are raw and demo like in quality and yet the unpolished production suits Eve's delivery, each of the songs on here are short and concise with not time for embellished thrills and sound all the better for it. As first forays go *Still Point Of Turning World* is an impressive debut full of promise, it'll be interesting to hear what she comes up with next, after some heavy giggling, **Shadow Lad** (or as I prefer Eve) is definitely one to watch for the future.

www.facebook.com/theshadowlad

Artwork: Oscar Doyle



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Julian Arguelles

The Spotted Dog, Birmingham
30th September

Birmingham born Saxophonist **Julian Arguelles** has recently returned from Scotland to live in London and it was a delight to see him back in his home town, after what seems to have been an extended absence.



The regular Tuesday night jazz sessions have grown to become very popular and provide a valuable platform for students of the jazz course at the nearby Conservatoire to showcase their skills. Typically, bands put together by the students perform two sets which are then followed by a jam session.

This session was somewhat different in that Julian was invited to play as the 'star' guest for the evening. Accompanying him was a first rate quartet under the leadership of trombonist **Jeremy Price**, who by day is Head of Jazz at the Conservatoire, **Gareth Fowler** played guitar and Price's fellow tutors **Percy Persglove** played double bass and **Andrew Bain** was behind the drum kit.

An enthusiastic capacity crowd were treated to a night of great jazz. These days it is unusual to see Arguelles performing in a 'soloist plus rhythm section' situation. He is normally to be found working in more structured situations, performing his own relatively complex compositions. It was a joy to hear him stretch out in a conventional blowing session working his own particular kind of magic on a selection of lesser known 'standards' and some unexpected jazz themes. There were many highlights, but I particularly enjoyed 'Everybody's Song but My Own' in tribute to the recently deceased trumpeter **Kenny Wheeler**, someone Julian had worked with many times over the years.

Julian's unique tone on tenor saxophone is at its most affecting on ballads and he treated us to a particularly moving interpretation of 'Dedicated to You'.

Although he was billed as the 'star' guest, Julian's companions were every bit as good as the big name from London. On this showing it's clear that jazz in Birmingham is in safe hands.

This was one of those jazz sessions guaranteed to send you home with a spring in your step. As you read this, Julian will have been in Birmingham again, working with **Percy Persglove**, but in a very different setting. The question on the lips of those lucky enough to be present at The Spotted Dog is "when will this wonderful group be returning". Let's hope that it will be soon.

Words and photograph: Alan Musson



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STUPIDS/36 STRATEGIES PLAIDS/GUERRILLA MONSOON

FIREFLY, LOWESMOOR, WORCESTER FRI 3RD OCTOBER 2014



The Stupids

For anyone who rode a skateboard back in the day – and for one late, great Mr John Peel – **The Stupids** were perhaps the single most important band of the UK hardcore (or, as it was then, simply “Thrash”) scene. Along with Heresy, Ripcord and Extreme Noise Terror, these bands have largely slipped from the cultural memory, but they left a deep impression. And so this was a pretty special show. With support from two of the brightest current UK post-hardcore prospects **Guerrilla Monsoon** and **Plaids**, and local heroes **Thirty Six Strategies**, this was also far more than just a sweaty battle re-enactment. It showed how vital this scene still is.

“This packed little room duly went beserk on command.”



Plaids



Guerrilla Monsoon

Openers **Guerrilla Monsoon** are straight up one of the hardest-working bands out there – clocking up as they will nearly a hundred gigs this year, including a slot at The Fest over in Gainesville in October. Musically, this was original 90s emo-revival but with a distinctive twin vocal and twin guitar attack – and both balls and backbone. Think Texas is the Reason or The Get Up Kids with waaay more grit and substance. “Emo” doesn’t have to be fey or whiny. Very fucking far from it. It can be vigorous and uplifting as hell, and pack some sharp hooks that bite deep. As these four lovely lads very capably demonstrated.

Nottingham’s **Plaids** could also be tagged as emo-revival, albeit more in the State Lines or Signals Midwest or Braided Veins mould. This was however nuts-tight and exalted stuff, full of ideas and spunk. Fronted by the charmingly unhinged **Joe C**, this lot also do wonderful things out of the peerless JT Soar DIY Space over in Nottingham (which they themselves run) as well as crank out accomplished stuff like this. Gentlemen, we salute you.

Thirty Six Strategies also work and tour hard – but this was probably the hardest they have yet played. Be it the fact that this was legendary journeyman drummer **Antony “Mobs” Mowbray’s** last ever local show (he’s retiring after 34 years on the stool) or simply be it the occasion, for whatever reason this performance visibly crackled with energy and intent. And, new drummer pending but with some major support slots on the horizon – there’s more, much more to come from this lot.

And finally – **The Stupids**. Only three of them, normal enough looking, trotting on without fanfare. Tommy Stupid controlled proceedings from behind the drums like the pro he basically is, lucid banter and anecdotes slipping in between the blasts of undimmed thrash. How anyone can play that fast and sing at the same time is a mystery to me. But play it fast he – and they – did. And this packed little room duly went beserk on command. There was an actual moshpit. There was a stage dive off the speaker stacks (well, the PA stand). And if this wasn’t testament to the enduring visceral power of this kind of music, well, there’s simply no pleasing you.

D B Schenker
Images: B at Gippa

INTERVIEW WITH DAS SEXY CLAP

Worcester's own **Das Sexy Clap** have been active on the local scene a while. With a (relatively) recent line-up change and now comprising: **Chris Wemyss** - guitar / vocals; **James Willis** - bass; and **Ben Pemberton** - drums - they also do a line in joyous sonic nihilism somewhere between **Shellac** and **The Pixies** at their jagged, early best. On the back of their EP *'A Bit Early for Kung Fu'* - and headline shows over the summer - we thought it would be rude not to catch up...

Gentlemen. What's happening in your world right now?

Willis: Third world famine, war, and global warming.

At least you haven't got pestilence. Please tell us a little bit more about yourselves...

Chris: We're **Das Sexy Clap**, I'm Chris and I play guitar and attempt to sing. I was a drummer in various bands in the local scene over the past 10 odd years and decided to have a crack at standing at the front instead. We've been doing this in its current line up for about a year now.

Ben: I'm Ben, I've been lurking around in various bands around here for a few years. Came up here from London for Uni and the music scene has kept me around.

Willis: I'm Willis and I just wanted to be noisy so started playing with these guys.

I see you've had something of a recent line-up change - and a change of sound?

Chris: DSC was a two piece for the first couple of years, with Kate on the drums - then we called it a day. After a few months hiatus it turned into a three piece the additions of Ben on drums and Willis on bass - bigger sounds. I don't have to concentrate so hard on filling the noise gaps. I never noticed much of a change in sound, people have said it sounds heavier / moodier these days.

Ben: I always said to Chris that I'd love to play with him one day in DSC the opportunity came along, I didn't think twice. The addition of Willis was like a beautiful bearded cherry on the cake.

Willis: I can only echo those points, loved watching these guys play in various bands, it was a bit of a no-brainer joining forces.

From your live shows and recorded content you actually seem quite... angry. Or is it all an act to look street?

Chris: I guess it's a good medium to get stuff off your chest... scream therapy is very satisfying.

Willis: Depends on where you saw us. May have just been angry because of poor beer or no toilet paper in the cubicles.

Your "new sound" is decidedly noise-rockesque. With stoner-ama chug. How do you describe yourselves?

Chris: I've always been pretty rubbish at describing DSC's sound, but from now on I'm going to go with 'decidedly noise-rockesque with some stoner-ama chug'

Willis: I don't really enjoy describing bands, I just play what comes out. But it's safe to say we are noisy.

You self-produced a dark and sweaty video for your single Everyone's a Ghost. What was the concept there?

Ben: the idea was to focus on a guy who was very low and down on his luck and that, our tune inspires him out of his sloth and apathy. But as he gets up, it's too late and he keels over. We didn't want to have it too cheery so we thought we'd give it a dark ending. Big thanks to Andy Maynard for growing a big beard and dressing up like a hobo for us.

Chris: Basically, you are going to die - so do stuff before it happens.

And who or what are you listening to at the moment?

Chris: I've been listening to a lot of Deftones recently, could explain the heavy shift from my part...

Ben: This week I have been totally rinsing the new **Death From Above** '1979' album. It's a dirty, riffy, dancy, poppy monster.

Willis: New **Shellac** album is glorious, love the **Royal Blood** album and on a softer note the new **War on Drugs** album.

Chris: got to 2nd the new **Shellac** album - fucking awesome.

Any local bands, artists etc any hue or persuasion that you want to give a shout out to?

Ben: **Plane Crasher** from Hereford, a lot of noisy fun.

Willis: Ditto to **Plane Crasher**, and I'll raise you a **Broken Oak Duet**.

Chris: Is that homeless busker guy with a stuffed dog that plays a drum with a spoon still about in Worcester..?

And finally - what's next for you?

Ben: Album? More vids? Dare I say it... shows outside of Worcester?

Willis: New songs has to be a priority, loving writing with these guys

Chris: yeah definitely looking forward to putting some new material together
Looking forward to it gents. Your scene appreciates you.

Ed Ling

www.dassexyclap.bandcamp.com

facebook.com/pages/Das-Sexy-Clapa

John Denton's Midnight Band The Marr's Bar | 19th October

After an extraordinarily long pregnancy, John Denton celebrated the birth of his debut album "*Jupiter & the Crescent Moon*" to a personally invited audience at the Marrs Bar in Worcester on Sunday. At mid-day, he and his Midnight Band played a selection of original tracks from the CD which were interspersed with other numbers, many with fine pedigrees from a classic blues lineage. His stage presence, vocal quality and range has to be heard: his acapella rendition of *The Mole* proved that the human voice can indeed be a fine solo instrument.

The band clearly revelled in the joy of making good music together. Alan Davies' thoughtfully crafted guitar riffs coloured in the lines and shapes drawn by Denton's intelligent lyrics and melodies, while the rhythms and scales from Colin



Warren's judiciously syncopated bass lines were anchored by some refreshingly understated, subtly accurate drumming from Matt Dulson, whose percussion extended what is on the recordings a studio trio into an engagingly alive foursome. Lead guitar roles swapped seamlessly between Denton and Davies: with my eyes deliberately closed I could instantly recognise and appreciate their clearly contrasting masterful signatures

There are a great many men of a certain age who can play blues tunes note-perfectly in the sanctuaries of their bedrooms. John Denton's Midnight Band are, happily for us, among the fairly few who can actually get up on stage and deliver real value-for-money, producing professionally polished taught sets with relaxed good humour. *Jupiter* may have arrived late in Denton's life but it has left me waiting for him to beget a sibling, so that his firstborn will not be an only child.

Photography: Graham Munn Words: Peter Bryenton

DYLAN HOWE'S SUBTERRANEANS WITH ANDY SHEPPARD NEW DESIGNS ON BOWIE'S BERLIN, WARWICK ARTS CENTRE



Photograph: Garry Corbett

I must be one of a very small number of people who had not heard the source material for this concert. Since booking my seat I assiduously avoided hearing the album that the concert was supporting. I wanted to come to the music with a clean palette. Indeed, the main attraction for me was the rare opportunity to hear saxophonist Andy Sheppard and keyboard player Steve Lodder. I was aware of Dylan Howe's credentials as the son of Steve and as a quite brilliant drummer, equally at home in the worlds of rock and jazz.

It is sometimes said that friendships are formed within the first five seconds. I formed an immediate friendship with this music within the first few bars of the first tune. It's not often that live music holds the attention throughout an evening, but it did on this occasion.

The first words that came to mind were 'cinematic' 'lyrical' 'spellbinding' and 'highly structured'. I often felt that the five musicians on stage were akin to a classical string quintet. The music was more than the sum of its parts. Take one part away and the piece would change completely.

This was the last date of a short tour in support of a new album and the group were clearly operating as a well-oiled machine, performing a radical new take on the instrumental tracks from David Bowie's 1977 Berlin-era albums '*Low*' and '*Heroes*'. The music was largely about texture, often supplied by Lodder's synthesizer and **Ross Stanley's** often delicate piano. There was plenty of space for all of the band to show their improvisation skills, which seemed to grow organically. **Sheppard** was his usual mellow self on tenor and soprano saxophones and **Steve Lodder** provided a couple of wonderful solos. The conventional feel of jazz swing was also in evidence with **Howe** propelling things along and **Dave Whitford** providing a compelling pulse on double bass both in support and as soloist.

Behind the performers, a screen showed Cold-War era documentary footage of West and East Berlin. The value of this would have divided the audience. Did it add to the experience or prove a distraction? Certainly, replaying the images, albeit in a different order, in the second half, detracted from the initial impact. This minor criticism apart, the capacity audience clearly enjoyed the two, hour-long sets and were generous in their enthusiastic appreciation.

The album, **Dylan Howe Subterranean New Designs on Bowie's Berlin** is available now via www.dylanhowe.com

Words: Alan Musson

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Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

October was thriving with local music and events on our doorstep, touring bands, local acts and upcoming acts all playing across Herefordshire in various venues, and another rewarding month for Hereford Live, hosting an array of live talent with more shows planned for the future. A busy month for us, as we celebrated reaching 5000 articles on the site, be it from news, reviews, interviews etc. We cannot thank you all enough for your continued support, here's to another 5000 articles.

As you re-call in the last slap we reviewed the live return of local Herefordian promoters **Never Mind The Bullocks** and their show at **The Jailhouse**, following on from that review we are delighted to tell you more about their forthcoming follow up show at the end of November featuring a fantastic line up including **God Damn** - double loud rock music, **Planecrasher** - Loud, dirty punk, **Weathered Hands**. Emotive Hardcore Punk rock, **Cassandra** - Garage Indie Rock and **Chew**- Alternative upcoming act.



NMTB are no strangers to Circuit Sweet, the hard working music promotions company have introduced us to some incredible bands on our Herefordshire doorstep, following a 3 year hiatus NMTB returned in September of this year and with an unmissable show. Now with the next show in tow, we speak to Brendan - promoter of NMTB to find out what's next for Hereford's live scene....

Firstly, thank you again for giving us some of your time. Last time we spoke, we discovered why you've returned and details surrounding the live return. On the 6th September you hosted your successful return show- how did you feel it went?

Thanks for your support for NMBullocks shows, much appreciated. The September return went fairly well, was a long old run up and was happy to be back to it. Was hoping for a bit of a better turnout for the bands playing and financially as lost a little bit on the night, but nothing really in scheme of things and realise have to work hard to build support back up again after such a long stretch away.

EMPIRE, Richa, Holy! and Aulos were among the bill- how did you discover each of these acts and why were they the right act for the night?

Aulos were one of my favourite local acts back when the shows were running before, that hasn't changed even though their line up has. It was really nice to a band like **Aulos** back for the return.

Holy were recommended to me by a few people after a band had to drop out of the night and went on that when asked to play but saw them live over Worcester way before the show and knew those recommendations were solid.

They may have moved down south but consider **Richa** a great local act and really liked the tunes and videos they have online. I caught them live a month or two before the show and impressed for sure.

When looking for a touring headline act - I stumbled across **EMPIRE** online, loved **Joe Green's** vocals and their eclectic mix of styles. The fact they were so different I hoped they'd appeal to a wide audience and could select a mix of different bands to support. It's more often than not difficult to convince touring acts with agents to stray off the beaten track and visit Hereford so was lucky to get them here. I hope those that saw them at **The Jailhouse** enjoyed their set as much as I did..



What was your highlight of the evening?

All the acts were great, just felt good being back promoting again.

You've just announced your next live night, November 29th at The Jailhouse- tell us more.

Very excited about bringing **God Damn** to Hereford. Genuinely one of my favourite finds this year and think they are on an upward trajectory for sure and chuffed to have been able to book them possibly at the right time.

One of the things have thought would change from the return for the future for alt / rock type shows is an earlier kick off and finish - May have gone on a bit late for a regular gig live audience and for the bands involved. So for the next doors are a little earlier and bands will be done by 11.30pm. Folks are then welcome to stay for regular Jailhouse club night afterwards till 3am.

How did and why were headliners God Damn ticking the boxes for you to bring to Hereford?

First I love their music. They are loud and great energy about them. They make awesome videos. They've toured with top acts like **Pulled Apart by Horses** and will be heading out on tour with **Turbowolf** just days after the Hereford show. They're based in Wolverhampton so not a million miles away which may have helped when booking.

And finally any last words?

Thanks to anyone who attended the return back in September, hopefully see you again on November 29th along with some new faces. Run NMBullocks for the love of it but it does need to be self sustaining and hopefully it will be. Any support, by spreading the word about shows and attending is very much appreciated. Am sure other promoters and venues feel the same, support live music in Hereford! Cheers

nevermindthebullocks.co.uk

Saturday 1 November 2014

Mister Wolf

The New Inn, Pershore

Chris Martin

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jack Of All, Tyler Massey, Sam Eden

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Chris Martin

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Matt Woosey

The Coach House Theatre, Grange Road, Malvern

Misanthropic Existence, Zebedy, Wicked Snakes

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

3 Blind Mice

Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

The Manic Shine + Ocean Breed + Vanity Box

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

The Rubies

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Showaddywaddy

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Freaky Trigger

The Unicorn, Malvern

Martha Tilston

St Laurence Church, Stroud

The Delray Rockets

Richmond Place, Edgar St. Hereford

The Old Dance School (folk)

The Courtyard, Hereford

The Machine Breakers

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Soul Mania

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jazz Monkey

Subtone, Cheltenham

Juke Box Heroes

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

November-Halloween Party with Where's Martin?

The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Halloween Pt2 - Sister Sandwich, Ichabad Streampunk

Band & Sister Savage
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Captain Swing

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Midnight City

Stagborough Arms Stourport

Johnny Cash Roadshow

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Dublin Jacks

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Face Stealers

The Northwick Arms, Vine Street, Worcester

Clarksville Mountain Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Rubies

The Pavilion, Cripplegate Park, Worcester

Sunday 2 November 2014

The Old Dance School

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Pro Musica String Trio - 3pm,

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Will Killeen

The Chestnut, Worcester

Old Dance School

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Unplugged with The Manic Shine + Ocean Breed

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Carrie Rodriguez (US Country)

Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve

Monday 3 November 2014

Hot Club of Cowtown

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 4 November 2014

Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Wednesday 5 November 2014

Stuart Woolfenden

Arrow Valley Lake, Arrow Valley Lake, Redditch

Sal Wyatt And The Funcoustics

Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 6 November 2014

Vault Of Eagles, Dissident Prophet

The Town Hall, Vicar Street, Kidderminster

Fitz of Laughter w Colin Manford/Jay Handley/Lee

Bennett/Alex Hylton (Cellar Bar)

Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Bob Dee with Petro(New Jersey U.S.A) + Erica Band

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Duran: The Tribute

Moochers Stourbridge

Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The M T S Gaz

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Death or Glory Records nights

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Friday 7 November 2014

Classic Clapton, After Midnight

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Alex Rainsford

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Ricky Cool And The In Crowd

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gillian Clarke

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Bren Haze

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Protocol

The Royal Oak, Kinnersley

Falling Red + Devil's Well

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

The Zombies

Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve

Classic Clapton

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants

Queens Head, Wolverley

Sounds presents... Halfway To Nowhere & supports

Subtone, Cheltenham

Rock Night - The Vectors, The Hoaxx, Cynical Renegade & Leftbehind

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Flatworld

Café Rene, Gloucester

Skrood

Millers Arms, Pershore

The Delray Rockets

Plough & Harrow. Worcester Rd, Drakes Broughton, Pershore

3 bands for £3 (7-10pm)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Flaunt Presents - LISA PIN UP, TBA, Shaun Williams, Chris

Harris, Russell Priest (11pm - 4am)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lisa Pin Up, Shaun Williams / Chris Harris, Russell Priest

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Aquarius

The Farmers Boy, Tollidine Road, Worcester

Hitchhiker

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Rattlesnake Jake

Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Dee Marie Dolly

Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

Fakin' the Funk

Moochers, Stourbridge

Appleby Kinsey

The Sliveter Horne Institute, High Street, Church Stretton

Allstars Dub Band

The Golden Cross, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford

The Neville Staple Band

Guildhall, Gloucester

Classic Clapton

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Saturday 8 November 2014**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Crown, Martley, Worcester

The Poor Boys of Worcester

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Carousel Vertigo (from France) + Support

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Matt Panesh: 300:1

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Think Floyd

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The John Steeds

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Aquarius

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Quarter Stone

The Jailhouse, Gaol Street, Hereford

Tasha

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

New hope charity event

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Underdogs

The Pavilion, Cripplegate Park, Worcester

Adam Holmes & The Embers

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos.

Parkin Lot

The Seven Stars, Redditch

The Festivals Experience

Stagborough Arms Stourport

Youth Within

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Quik Beats

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Orchestra of St John's

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Dave Onions

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Blueshounds - Unplugged

Stroud Brewery

The Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project

Clows Top Victory Hall

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Counterfeit Stones

Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

The Bronze Medal + Joe Summers + Picture This

Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham

Blind Lemon: Rhythm & Blues covers

Moochers Stourbridge

Stereosonics

Subtone, Cheltenham

Big Country

Guildhall, Gloucester

Mo Foster And Friends

The Ale House, Mill Lane, Colwall

Ian The Goat & Goats Don't Shave

Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Poor Boys Of Worcester

Lamb And Flag, Tything, Worcester

Bryn Thomas

The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

Allstars Dub Band

The Majors Arms, Halmonds Frome, Herefordshire

Aeonian Dog, Bringing Back Tomorrow, Quarter Stone

The Jailhouse, 1 Gaol Street, Hereford

Pewke Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunday 9 November 2014**Remi Harris**

The Chestnut, Worcester

Matt Hernandez from 1pm

Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Jason Byrne 3pm & 8pm

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Benjamin Schoos

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

John Etheridge (guitar virtuoso)

Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve

Monday 10 November 2014**Marcus Brigstocke**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 11 November 2014**Roy McFarlane, Steve Tromans**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Sharon Shannon

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 12 November 2014**James Shead**

Cafe Bliss At Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

James Kirby

Café Rene, Gloucester

Bite The Shark + Support

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Focus

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Thursday 13 November 2014**Allstars Dub Band, Dj's**

Priors Croft, Grange Rd, Gt Malvern

Born Bred Believes

Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Celtic Guitar Trio

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Cadbury Sisters & The 78 Movie Project

Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Rick Shea

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos.

Diamond Head + Support

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Music Sessions With Ray And Paul

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

C-Jam

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gervase Phinn

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rodney Brannigan

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

ABBA Arrival UK

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Friday 14 November 2014

Paul Cody

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mister Wolf

The Bell, Worcester

Junction 7

The Bluebell Inn, Ryall, Upton On Severn

Guitar Slingers + Thirteen Shots + Dolls Eye Weaver

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

The Rin Tins

Café Rene, Gloucester

Cwmbach Male Choir

Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Doesn't Rhyme With King

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Sarah Warren

Queens Head, Wolverley

The Works

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Calaita Flamenco Son

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tom Davies

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Worried Men

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project

The Fold Bransford

Gravy Train

Millers Arms, Pershore

Blues Guitar Summit

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos.

Locked And Loaded

Stourport Boat Club, The Boathouse, Riverside, Stourport

Elkie Brooks

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Ska Night - Esperanza & The Amphetameanies

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Kazabian

Moochers, Stourbridge

The Delray Rockets

Barbourne ex-servicemens club, The Moors, Worcester

Brendan Shine

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Kazabian

Moochers Stourbridge

Hush

Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

EofE

Subtone, Cheltenham

Quarter Stone

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Allstars Dub Band, Dj Scratch Parry

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Saturday 15 November 2014

Reload

The Crown And Anchor, Worcester

Contempt, Indecent Assault & Complete Disfunction

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Four Wheel Drive + Chase The Ace + 3Sixty

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

The Reflections

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Krescendo

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Mary Hinge Experience

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Stomp & Holler

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets

Moochers New Road Stourbridge West Midlands

Spitz & Co:Gloriator (Studio)

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rickie Laval

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Rory McGrath & Philip Pope

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Maz Mitrenko Band

Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

The John Steeds

Ymca Social Club, Church Street, Tewkesbury

Aquarius

The Crown, Martley, Worcestershire

Fleetwood Bac

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Stomp & Holler

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Dave Onions

Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Slowburner

Callow End Club, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Royal British Legion, Swan Street, Tenbury

Tim And The Small Town Country Band

The Berkeley Arms, t, Tewkesbury

John Power + Joe Summers + Joe Richardson

Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham

Allstars Dub Band

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Northern Soul - Film & Dance

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Desperado: Heart of the Eagles

Evesham Arts Centre

Paul Liddell

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos.

Appleby Kinsey

Stroud Brewery

Alter Ego

Stagborough Arms Stourport

Delray Rockets

Moochers Stourbridge

Boogie Street

The Pavilion, Cripplegate Park, Worcester

Taylor & Co.

The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunday 16 November 2014

Trio Rosbifs

The Chestnut, Worcester

Martin Carthy & Flook Street

Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Monday 17 November 2014

Justin Currie

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 18 November 2014

Stripped Down Blues' Blues Night

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Sarah McQuaid

Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

Bootleg 60s

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 19 November 2014

Beardyman

Guildhall, Gloucester

Franc Cinelli

Café Rene, Gloucester

The Fureys

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Buffalo Gals Old Time Country String Band

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Thursday 20 November 2014

Stourbridge Folk Club Presents: Blues Boy Dan Owen
Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Martyn Joseph
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Songs Of Simon
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Blues Night - Vargas Blues Band (from Spain)
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Sara Pascoe
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Friday 21 November 2014

The Rubies
The Hunter's Inn, Longdon, Tewkesbury

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton On Severn

Petter Jagger
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ex-Presidents
Millers Arms, Pershore

Bromsgrove Concerts: Royal String Quartet
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Delray Rockets
Northway Pub, Cedar Lodge, Tewkesbury

Thrill Collins
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Masterplan and Clay Gods
Subtone, Cheltenham

Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Ian Luther
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Journeyman
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Mother Popcorn
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ronin + Go Primitive
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Perfect Stranger
Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

Nirvana MTV Unplugged 20th Anniversary Show
Moochers Stourbridge

Subhumans, Noise Agents, Officer Down
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham

Ada (Blues Folk)
The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

Skewwhiff
The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Real Nirvana- MTV acoustic set
Moochers, Stourbridge

Blackballed & Brothers of the Head
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Midnight City
Queens Head, Wolverley

Gigspanner
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Surprise Attacks Presents: Wonk Unit, Stillbust, Nasty Little Lonely, Voodoo Binmen, Trigger McPoopshute
The Firefly, Worcester

The Firepit Collective
Café Rene, Gloucester

Confab Cabaret, Stephen Morrison-Burke, Suz Winspear, Postcards, Fox Pops & Amy Rainbow
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Peter Knight's Gigspanner
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Alter Ego
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Saturday 22 November 2014

Mister Wolf
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Barnt Green Social Club, Blackwell Road, Barnt Green

Barry Cuda & The Sharks
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Crisis Blues Band
Stagborough Arms Stourport

Barnstormers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Time of the Month
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

Radio Clash
Subtone, Cheltenham

China Shop Bull & Mickey9
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Vincent Flatts Final Drive, With Melvin Hancox
Callow End Club, Worcester

Aquarius
The Virgin Tavern, Tollidine Road, Worcester

The Wurzels
Guildhall, Gloucester

Jay and Elizabeth
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Haunted Souls
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Killer Stream
The Pavilion, Cripplegate Park, Worcester

Emily Barker & The Red Clay Halo
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Babajack and Lloyd Grossman and the New Forbidden
Malvern Cube

Talisman
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Magnificent AK47 ft A Fanfare of Strumpets (acapella)
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos.

Stompin' On Spiders, + Support
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Dead Dog Cider
Stroud Brewery

The Festivals Experience
Moochers, Stourbridge

Bren Thomas
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Delray Rockets
The Wheelhouse, Upton Marina, Upton Upon Severn

Trevor Burton
Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Stuart Woolfenden
Death Or Glory Records, Church Green, Redditch

Jane Kennaway
The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

Dave Pilla, Eleni Mylona
The Ale House, Mill Lane, Colwal

Sunday 23 November 2014

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
The Chestnut, Worcester

Perdido Street Jazz Band
The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Unplugged Sunday with Western Sand
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Wednesday 26 November 2014

Mario Mora - Piano: Chopin, Liszt & Albiniz
Evesham Arts Centre

Matt Schofield + special guest Ben Poole
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Matt Woosey
Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 27 November 2014

Katies By Candlelight presents Esther
Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Comedy Night 5 Comedians
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Music Sessions With Ray And Paul
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Talks & Counting Coins
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Honeyboy Hickling
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Brothers of the Head, Blackballed and Disco Tramps
Moochers, Stourbridge

La Strange Unplugged
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Friday 28 November 2014

Tom Forbes
The Pheasant, Worcester

The Reflections
The White Hart, Redditch

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Swan Inn, Swan Street, Alvechurch

Nizlopi & support from Folklaw
The Marris Bar, Worcester

OH THE HUMANITY - House & Bass DJ Club Night
AdjectedDeleted + Support £5 OTD 12-4am
The Marris bar, Worcester

White Coast Rebels
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Hybrid
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ralphs Tittleys 50th Birthday Bash Various Artists
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Big Jims Boogie Band
Moochers Stourbridge

Abba Reunion (tribute)
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Live Entertainment
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

'No Atlas' presents a night of live Indie bands
Subtone, Cheltenham

The Julie July Band
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Swamp Delta
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Sultana Bros
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Simmertones
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham

The Julie July Band
West Malvern Social Club

TBC
Millers Arms, Pershore

Ladies and Gentlemen Strip Evening tbc.
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

Bitterroots
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Julia Fordham
Tithe Barn Bishop's Cleeve

The Future Set
The Berkeley Arms, Church Street, Tewkesbury

Howard Sinclair with full Band, York Gibson
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Suzi & The Backbeats
Queens Head, Wolverley

Dee Marie Dolly (Singer/Karaoke)
Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

Charlie Dore
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos.

Saturday 29 November 2014

Espai, Dj Kay
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Gavin Baxter Bomba Rock
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Karpet Kickers
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Food Fighterz, Ellisha Green, Lopht, Identity Crisis
The Civic Centre, Martin's Way, Stourport-On-Severn

Danny Whybrow
The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Captain Accident
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Last Orders
Subtone, Cheltenham

Valve Rider + Tyrannosaurus Nebulous
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

Protocol
The Swan, Port Street, Evesham

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Talbot, Worcester

Redditch Orchestra
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rick Payne
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos.

Matt Peplow
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Hot Feat
The Pavilion, Cripplegate Park, Worcester

Boogie Street
Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

Sally Haines
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Delray Rockets
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove Worcestershire

Ushti Baba
Café Rene, Gloucester

Drongos fro Europe & Angry Itch
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

The Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project
Shrawley Village Hall

Still Crazy
Stagborough Arms Stourport

God Damn, Plane Crasher, Weathered Hands, Cassandra, Chew
The Jailhouse, Gaol Street, Hereford

TNT ALL-NIGHTER 8pm - 4am - Ultimate Alternative Party
Experience (DJs/Bands/Performers/SFX/Giveaways)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Notorious Brothers
Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

Reloaded
The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

Allstars Dub Band
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Phatti Mango
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunday 30 November 2014

Toad Pack
The Chestnut, Worcester

Blues in the Barn: Claude Bourbon
Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Vo Fletcher & Ric Sanders
Malvern Cube

Unplugged Sunday with Valve Rider
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

The Delray Rockets
The Rose and Crown, Boraston Lane Burford, Tenbury Wells

Upload your listings at
www.slapmag.co.uk

Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

Every Monday - Open Mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every other Monday 3rd, 17th Nov, 1st Dec - 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 Open Mic
Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

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

First Tues - Open Mic
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Tuesday weekly Jam night 9pm
Oast House, Redditch

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 - Enzo's 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

1st Tuesday 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 other Wednesday - Acoustic Sessions
The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic
The Queens Head, Redditch

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

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session
The Plough & Harrow, Guarford

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

The Arts & Exhibitions Nov 2014

Sat 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th In Another Light
Croft Castle 5pm - 8pm

4th/5th This Last Tempest- by Fuel , Malvern Theatres

6th-26th Hilary Davies, colourful abstract, Pershore Number 8

7th Each Slow Dusk- Pentabus theatre. The Hive Worcester

11th Mouth & Music Boars Head Kidderminster

16th Jump Start Showcase, Malvern Cube

1st - 16th Sundora and the Story Teller
The Dragon Art of Marsha Parkins Worcester Arts Workshop

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

Thursday - Monthly Open Mic Night
The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

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

Every Thursday from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Every Thursday Ben Vickers Open Mic Night
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

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

Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton
The Unicorn, 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 Sunday starting at 3:00pm
The Morgan, Malvern

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

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm
The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session
The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00
Lichfield Vaults

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

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish
Pickled Plum, Pershore

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

Listings compiled in conjunction with **NotJustSauce.com**

17th Nov - 1st Dec Schizophrenic City photography
Exhibition by Katie Foulkes, Worcester Arts Workshop

18th Creativity Jam, Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

18th/19th Love Letters Straight to your Heart
by Fuel, Malvern Theatres

21st Confab Cabaret, Malvern Cube

27th-30th Worcester Xmas Fair, stalls & street performance

29th Klik Klik Collective voodoo procession
High Street, Worcester Christmas Fair

30th If Wet - Rosanne Robertson Callow End Village Hall 2pm

THE MARR'S BAR

NOV 2014



Nizlopi

Friday 28th November

Thursday 6th

Death or Glory Records night

Free Entry

Friday 7th (7-10pm)

3 bands for £3

Friday 7th (11pm - 4am)

Flaunt Presents - LISA PIN UP,

TBA, Shaun Williams, Chris

Harris, Russell Priest

Early tickets £10 Standard £12

Saturday 8th

New hope charity event

£5 on the door

Saturday 15th

Stomp & Holler

£7 a ticket £9 on the door

Friday 21st

Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy

Weirdos

£7 a ticket £9 on the door

Saturday 22nd

Talisman

Price TBC

Friday 28th

Nizlopi & support from Folklaw

£17 a ticket

Friday 28th (Midnight till 4am)

OH THE HUMANITY - House &

Bass DJ Club Night

ADjectedDeleted + Support

£5 on the door

Saturday 29th (8pm - 4am)

"TNT ALL-NIGHTER" - The

Ultimate Alternative Party

Experience (DJs/Bands/

Performers/SFX/Giveaways)

£5 on the door

COMING UP...

Saturday 6th December

Oye Santana (Santana tribute)

Early tickets £9 Standard £11

£13 on the door

Friday 19th December

Larry Miller

Support from Mike Francis

£10 a ticket £12 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

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