

# SLAP

Issue 43

Dec/Jan

MAGAZINE

FREE



**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**

THEATRE ROYAL BATH PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROBERT STIGWOOD  
PRESENT

# SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

'SHEER ORCHESTRATED MAGIC'  
DAILY MAIL

'UNFORGETTABLE SONGS AND BIG  
CHOREOGRAPHIC SET PIECES'  
DAILY TELEGRAPH

Starring **Danny Bayne**,  
winner of ITV's 'Grease is the Word'



BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT/RSO FILM & THE STORY BY **NIK COHN**  
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY **ROBERT STIGWOOD** AND ASSISTED BY **BILL OAKES**



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# SLAP

Dec/Jan MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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**Hello and thanks for picking up your free copy of SLAP,  
the last one for another year, and what a year it's been!**

This is always the hardest edition of the year to put together  
as it's officially a double issue, incorporating as much of  
January events, listings and previews as we possibly can. But  
this year has been especially difficult due to the sheer amount  
of quality copy coming in now from our growing team of  
contributors and choosing what to leave out has proved  
particularly demanding! So due to the financial restraints of  
the printing costs versus the advertising income it can be  
difficult getting the balance right.

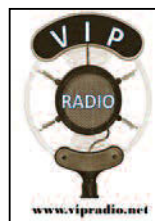
In this issue we have our usual variety of the Arts, Theatre,  
live music and exhibitions to keep you up to date with news,  
reviews and previews for both December and January. Our  
cover story is singer/songwriter and former **Bluetone Mark  
Morriss** who is appearing at **Malvern Cube** in the New Year,  
one not to be missed. Indeed, with more great events in store,  
the Cube has been one of the success stories of the year.  
When long standing venues such as **The Jailhouse** in Hereford  
are closing down we need all the positives we can get.

I can't believe this edition completes four years of SLAP, it's  
incredible where the time has gone. A big thanks must go out  
to all of those, and you know who you are, who have  
supported us and kept us going with your encouragement  
when thoughts of closing down ourselves creep in.

So with Christmas on the horizon (there, I've said the 'C'  
word - happy now?), we go full swing into party mode and  
hope the New Year brings some much needed relief to the  
severe austerity measures before more venues close their  
doors.

See you on the other side...

*Humbug Ed*



**BBC**  
introducing...



## Jailhouse Locked

Hereford premier live music venue The Jailhouse has sadly announced that it'll be closing at the end of this year - due to the club being 'either completely rammed or totally dead - which has happened more and more frequently' - the Jail's hosted many great acts like **Miss Dynamite** and **Pendulum** over the last few years and will be signing off with gigs from **Frank Turner** and **Mick Ralphs** - let's just hope that it's au-revoir and not goodbye...

## Will it be him?

Bizarre happenings at a Worcester nightclub as the promoters promised an appearance by an A-list celebrity who's starred in *I Am Legend*, *Men In Black* and *The Pursuit Of Happiness* (who could that be?) - but punters were left puzzled when an apparent lookalike turned up and performed despite '100% assurances' from the independent promoters who later claimed that the performer was actually a CLONED DOUBLE of the Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air - the club has since issued a statement that it has cut all ties with the promoter due to 'misleading advertising' - really?

## Euro-Stars

Good to see more local bands getting out on nationwide and European tours supporting well-known acts - anarchic rockers **Hey You Guys!** have been out on the road with Irish alt-metal outfit **Kerbdog** and successfully negotiated a ping-pong table in their rider - thus satisfying a lifelong ambition - while **Ronin** are currently gigging across Netherlands and Germany as main support to Birmingham heavy progsters **Magnum** - don't forget to send us a postcard lads...

## Green Gong for Noz?

Here's wishing **Nozstock** festival the best of luck as they pitch for a gong at this year's **Greener Festival Awards** - coordinator **Ella Nosworthy** said she was pleased that their efforts to make Nozstock - now in its 17th year - environmentally aware have been recognised!

## Babajack Becky Better

Big up to Babajack's frontgirl **Becky Tate** for overcoming a severe throat infection that left her earlier unable to talk - but apparently 'bucketfuls of hot honey and lemon tea' meant they played their **London Blues Festival** set at the **Royal Albert Hall** in London which was recorded by **Paul Jones** for his BBC Radio 2 show - Becky said afterwards that the performance was 'a bit more Janis Joplin than they'd expected'...

## Offbeat Nick a Dead Loss

Offbeat **Weak 13** frontman and rock guru **Nick J Townsend** has asked us to point out that while he famously auditioned for the part of a corpse in a TV series - he never actually got picked to 'play' the role in question... Nick's latest exploit sees him and the band stripping off for a 2015 nudie calendar that also features Justin Hawkins of The Darkness - that's my female relative seasonal shopping sorted then!

## Come Dine With Me

The Channel 4 hit show **Come Dine With Me** is back for a new daytime series and the Ch4 team are looking for contestants in Worcester and Redditch to take part.

So if you are over 18 years old with a passion for cooking and want to demonstrate your skills then please call or email asap and leave your name, address, age and contact details:- Email: [cdwm@itv.com](mailto:cdwm@itv.com) or Tel: 0871 244 4142 (callers from a BT landline will be charged a set-up fee of 14p per call plus 10p per minute. Calls from other networks may be higher and from mobiles will cost considerably more). You must be available for Shoot Dates 12th January - 16th January 2015. The lucky contestants will be following in the illustrious footsteps of local legend **Blooby Williams!**

## Call out for Playwrights

The **Courtyard** in Hereford is looking for writers and playwrights to submit entries for the **Write On Festival** which takes place on Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th July 2015. The deadline for entries is 5th January.

The four categories for submissions are: Scratch Night, 1 Act Play, Site Specific and 2 Act Play. This year The Courtyard is running an award scheme and the best play, voted for by audience members, will receive £50 worth of theatre tokens.

This exciting opportunity aims to give voice to up and coming artists and develop their creative skills. The selected playwrights will be offered the chance to attend skills based workshops and have feedback on their final draft by **Nick Lane**, former Associate Director of **Hull Truck Theatre Company** and currently a freelance playwright. Selected extracts of the work will then be recited or performed at The Courtyard during the festival.

Submissions should be sent to The Courtyard, Edgar Street, Hereford HR4 9JR. The deadline for submissions is 12noon on 5 January 2015. Work will be selected for its excellence and contemporary qualities, and successful candidates will be notified by 25 January 2015. For more information about making a submission, please contact David Durant, Associate Director at The Courtyard, by email:

[david.durant@courtyard.org.uk](mailto:david.durant@courtyard.org.uk) or telephone 01432 346532.

## Appeal: Help The Sexy Weirdos

Terrible news as 'Crystal', tour van of **Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos**, was inexplicably destroyed in an arson attack recently. Unfortunately as it was not in current use the van was uninsured and also had the band's PA and drums in it! In an attempt to re-coup some of their loss which is estimated at over £3,000 the band have set up a gofundme page at [www.gofundme.com/hu6jqs](http://www.gofundme.com/hu6jqs).

You can also visit their bandcamp site where you can hear everything they've ever done and support The Weirdos there: <http://sexyweirdos.bandcamp.com>. And last but not least you can join them at their Christmas Spectacular in a Secret Location in Birmingham: you can find the link to buy tickets at [www.theticketsellers.co.uk](http://www.theticketsellers.co.uk).

Please give generously as any excess funds will be invested back into the band including helping them complete the already booked 2015 European Tour and starting work on their 3rd album.



# TALK TO US

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



**08457 90 90 90\***  
**01905 21121**



**jo@samaritans.org**



**www.samaritans.org**

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To donate go to: [mydonate.bt.com/  
charities/samaritansworcesterbranch](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworcesterbranch)

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\*See our website for latest call charges.

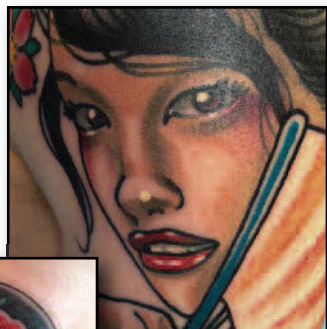
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**5-7 The Hopmarket  
Worcester WR1 1DL**

**01905 731884**

## Clik Clik Christmas

Clik Clik is getting festive! After the **Victorian Fayre Voodoo Procession** and street entertainment at **St Martin's Quarter** last month, you can come sing-a-long-a Christmas with various musicians at the **Hive** in Worcester on Sat 6th Dec from 1.45pm. We're at a Victorian themed event at **St Peter's**



**Garden Centre** on Wed 10th Dec from 6-8pm, when we'll be helping you to look the part and get snapped in action! You can visit a quirky Xmas character board there too in the run up! If you are going to the **Swingamajig NYE Party** in Digbeth, then come and confess your 2014 sins with the **Clik Clik Confessional Booth**, back from the **Big Chill** days of old, all revamped and modified! Comes with photo evidence for all sinners! [www.clikklikcollective.com](http://www.clikklikcollective.com)

## Mistletoe and dance

**Dancefest** is performing at **Tenbury Mistletoe Festival**, a day of dance, theatre, music, poetry and storytelling, on Saturday 6 December, in free outdoor dance performances inspired by the magnificent mistletoe plant. **Mistletoe Maidens** and **Spirit Keeper** based on a Norse myth about mistletoe's magical properties and **The Christmas Truce**, a WW1 performance inspired by the football game which took place on Christmas day when both sides stopped fighting. Performances at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm.

You can find out more about the day's events at [www.dancefest.co.uk](http://www.dancefest.co.uk) & [www.tenburymistletoe.org](http://www.tenburymistletoe.org)



## If Wet on the radio!

For those of you who haven't yet experienced **If Wet - Sam** and **David's** experimental sound events, then unfortunately (for you) you have missed out for this season. They will return next year but in the meantime, they are bringing us something new!

On the last Sunday of the month, from 2-4pm (the same date/time as the Callow End workshops) these "broadcasts" will focus on a different musical instrument intending to drive Sam and David's own research and development as instrument makers, as well as being entertaining for all! The shows will be pre-recorded with plans to make them live and then be on-hand via Twitter for any interaction and feedback.

The first show is focused on the Tuba and will provide some unique holiday listening, aired at 2pm on December the 28th via Mixcloud (embedded on the web site) and hopefully via Soundart Radio. [www.ifwet.org.uk](http://www.ifwet.org.uk)

## Arabian Nights!

'**Under the Stars**' is the Christmas show at **The Hive** and it promises to be a beautiful piece of children's theatre. Produced through the **Playhouse Birmingham** it is part of the **Arabian Nights** story telling tradition and will be a wonderful addition to the **Beeline** children's storytelling festival. It is being performed on Saturday 6th December at the Hive at 12 and 3pm with **Clik Clik** providing some musical magic in between! [www.thehiveworcester.org](http://www.thehiveworcester.org)

## W Factor

The **W Factor 2015** is back for another year. Its Wychavon's performing, digital and visual arts competition for 11-18 year olds who live in Wychavon. We are open to all art forms, music, singing, dance, visual arts, short film, drama and comedy. Auditions are Tues 20 January **Civic Centre**, Pershore Wed 21 January **Droitwich High School**, Thurs 22 January **Evesham Arts Centre**.

For an application form contact Hannah Peacop  
[Hannah.peacop@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.peacop@wychavon.gov.uk) 01386 565497  
[www.wychavon.gov.uk/communitydevelopment](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/communitydevelopment)

## Jump start Showcase - 16th Nov

After almost three years and many informal meetings over a beer, discussing performance, production and local artists & theatre makers, **Jump Start** finally got its Showcase well and truly off the ground last month at **Malvern Cube**! Jump Start is a group of performance based practitioners formed to share, develop and collaborate. '**Showcase**' is a platform to trial new work to an audience, receive feedback and interact with other like minded practitioners.

At this the first instalment, we were given five performances to chew on; **Stephen Wilson's** dark '**Lake District, Camden Town**' based loosely around his own experiences growing up in high rise North London; **Catherine Crosswell's** poetic '**Postcards**', hypnotic in its style, comes with origami tea towels!; **Lee Farley** and **The Perfect Circle** present '**Trespassing**', experiencing LSD for the first time; **Steve Burford** and '**Why Knot**' a tale of do they, don't they set on the sofa; finished off with **Collective Unconscious**' '**Selardi's Lament (Moonshine Mandala)**' stepping over personal boundaries and encouraging freedom.





Coordinated by **Lee Farley** and **Stephen Wilson**, with comparing from **Tiff Hoskins & Michelle Pogmore**, this was a diverse and expressive evening and I felt proud to see all these fabulous faces doing what they do best. All the performances were so different in style yet all having an element of humour, albeit sometimes a darker one! It's great to see this get off the ground and is a brilliantly positive thing for Worcestershire theatre makers and performers!

For more information on the group and future Showcase events, check out Jump Start on facebook.

## Worcestershire Arts Partnership

Fresh from our careers event 'Moving on Staying On' the WAP's next event concentrates on Arts and Health. Titled 'A New Prescription for Commissioning' the event will seek to bring artists and arts organisations with commissioners and to help both groups understand and learn from each other. The event is on at **St. Richard's Hospice** on the 4th of December and if you are interested in coming along please let me know.

By the time you are reading this we will have appointed our latest **Young Poet Laureate** for Worcestershire. This is a joint initiative between our arts service with colleagues in Library services. Past winners **Laura Dedicoat & Holly Ann Perrett** have gone on to become poets in their own right and if I say so myself this a wonderful project! I am always astounded by the poetry that we read from our young people. This year is no different and I can't wait to meet our finalists.

*Stephen Wilson*



## Each Slow Dusk | Pentabus Theatre The Hive | Friday 7th Nov 2014

Each Slow Dusk by Rory Mullarkey was the latest play to be performed at The Hive. It is doing the rural touring circuit at the moment and I can imagine how powerful the play would look at within a village hall setting.



It is a two act play. The first act is a monologue told by three soldiers describing going 'over the top'. The writing evokes both the horrors of certain death and carnage but also the language and poetry of the period. This is the world of Owen and Sassoon and it never ceases to both stir and disturb. The direction by Elizabeth Freestone is bold, the actors look at us directly and we are made to engage in the nature of war. In the second half we are in modern day and we meet a female 'war tourist'. She talks in disparaging terms about the war site before struggling to come to terms with what she has seen. We are told of a single explosion that killed over 6,000 men and the figure shocks you. The play ends in uncertain terms. Have we learnt the lessons of war and how do we move on when so many young men and women are not able to. Each Slow Dusk is not an easy piece of drama. You as an audience member are asked to confront the truth of war and the interaction is with you and the text rather than between the actors. It is a great piece of writing containing fine acting whether it's a great piece of theatre will depend on what you feel theatre is.

## Love Letters Straight From Your Heart by Uninvited Guests

### Malvern Theatres | Tuesday 18th Nov

The latest Fuelled by Theatre show was Love Letters Straight From Your Heart and what a wonderful shared experience it is. Only 30 people per show are allowed in and as audience members we are each given a glass of bubbly and shown to two long tables facing each other. This is a piece about love and for the next hour the two performers invite you to be part of a radio dedication show, part of a celebration and part of a voyeur. It feels wrong to call it a play and at times it is hard to pin down what it is. It doesn't always work and there are moments of filler but yet I found myself in tears listening to declarations of love. I went with Mrs Wilson and the pair of us danced at the end and talked about the show all the way home but we also talked about our own love affair and the songs that have accompanied our journey. It was a special night. The show is on tour and I would urge you all to try and catch it.



*Stephen Wilson*

## Make Believe and Movement through Storytelling and Paint

Kate Wrigglesworth | Artrix

Bewdley's **Kate Wrigglesworth** explores characters placed in surreal landscapes; characters which are abstract, mythical and wondrous; dancers taken from ballets such as *"The Nutcracker"* or with characters with historical and folk art inspirations.

*"I have developed over the years, an expressive form of painting, a poetic language with invented symbols and shapes developed from the environment in which I live. The source of my work is based upon dreams, invented stories and created myths."*

*My influences come from the French symbolists and German expressionists and Eastern European primitive folk art and myths. Music, such as Debussy, Chopin and Jazz also influences my work. I make a connection between the notes of music and colour through my compositions.*

*I love illustration, pattern and compositions; nostalgic, sometimes dark and mysterious in nature, they conjure up images from a life gone by, but still ever present, deep in the ancient woods and landscapes that surround our villages and towns, for example the Wyre forest, which has been there since 900AD."*

Kate's paintings have a delightfully whimsical air which lends itself to storytelling, using colour to create striking images which will appeal to both old and young. With the festive season fast approaching, family audiences coming to



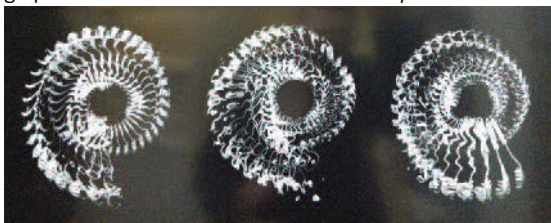
**Artrix** to take part in its varied Christmas and holiday programme are recommended to arrive early so they can enjoy this charming exhibition.

**Make Believe and Movement through Storytelling and Paint by Kate Wrigglesworth is exhibiting at Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove until Sunday 4th January.**

## Metamorphosis The Hive, Worcester

More artwork from the **University of Worcester** were on show to the public in November at **The Hive**. This is a great location for student art shows in a place where they work alongside Worcester residents, naturally intersecting in the shared space of the library building. **Metamorphosis** was an exhibition and film show created by students of the university attaining and MA in **Creative Digital Media**, who collected their graduation awards in **Worcester Cathedral** in the same month. Like the February exhibition in the same location, this one was named after a literary piece (by Franz Kafka) that meant a lot to the students as they themselves become something new in the course of their studies.

Artwork included **Andrew Robinson's** abstract prints of geometric shapes using kitchen utensils, showing these familiar objects in a unique new way that makes the viewer think again. **Kieran Lyman** meanwhile displayed a mass of material culminating from a year long study to produce a graphic novel entitled *'The Constant Sleepers desination:*



*Mars'*. This is particularly poignant given recent news events following a rover landing on an asteroid beyond Mars. I particularly enjoyed the relief prints by **Mark Daffin** recreating an historic look, and inspired by a poem from 1744 and engravings from 1863. The multimedia work of **Ann Griffiths** stood out from the majority monotone prints of the other artists, adding texture and depth and using new art techniques in her year long project.



The films shown as part of this exhibition were free for the public to view on 18th November midway through the exhibition, sharing the hard work of these students in a new and original way. Long may such exhibitions continue to bring the work of students to the attention and enjoyment of Worcester residents, and highlight the great work of the University within its home city.

Sarah Ganderton



# THE BHG

Hello All from us at **The BHG**, now officially three years old! Not old enough to vote yet, but old enough to chew our own food and have a nice big voice!



In November **The BHG** (Boars Head Gallery) is proud to say we celebrated 3 years since the opening of the gallery. This wouldn't have been possible with so much support from artists and friends (same thing really!) In particular wanted celebrate all the artists, workshop participants, exhibitors, visitors and general smarty lovely types. Here's to you!

Also **'Above Boards' Paint Jam** that has seen the transformation of Worcester Street and Coronation Gardens into a work of Art. Next year we have plans for it to be even bigger and better and we are already looking for artists to get in touch as well as volunteers to help on the ground.



December will also see **Kidderminster Creatives Christmas Market** which will occur on Thursday 18th December at 6pm in the **Boars Head** pub, downstairs from the gallery. The gallery itself is also bursting with Christmas gifts throughout the month with artwork and gifts from a range of artists.

Also coming up, we will continue our regular **Life Drawing Class** that runs on the first Thursday of every month (except New Years Day). The class is open to all abilities and is £4 per person for the informal class.

There is a full plan of exhibitions coming up for the new year and even a return from everyone's favourite landlord turned artist, Sid!



As a Christmas gift to you all, I would love to leave you with a beautiful bit of wisdom from the man himself, apparently, 'Its really tough to teach a worm how to snorkel in the sea on a stick because the fish keep eating him. Its no easier to teach a maggot how to swim on a hook in a river either...'



To book a Stall or find out more infoplease add The BHG on facebook, contact [gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](mailto:gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk) or 01562 8861870

Coz and Melo

*Photographs include Tree Ornaments by Kate Wragg*

*Life Drawing (Photography by Saffron Toms)*

*Street Artwork by SpaceHop*

*Coz & Sid with the Mayor & Mayoress three years ago*

## MOUTH & MUSIC



The Mouth and Music audience on Tuesday December 9th will be entertained by storyteller **Jane Champion Hoye** with "Slum Songs in the Sun", a 15 minute piece which was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 earlier this year. Also featured will be popular Kidderminster band **Karpets Kickers** with an acoustic set mixing soul, funk, blues, and rock & roll. The evening, with a Christmas flavour, is at the Boars Head, Worcester Street, Kidderminster from 7.30 to 10.00pm.



Spoken word and music open mic sign-up is from 7.00 and poet/musician Heather Wastie is MC. See [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk) for further details Spoken word and music open mic sign-up is from 7.00pm. The entertainment begins at 7.30 and ends around 10.00pm.

See [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk) for further details.

# worcester arts workshop

Brrr – there is frost on the rooftops and the search for emergency bobble-hats has begun – it's that time of year – it's **PANTO SEASON – OH YES IT IS!!** So we're looking forward to our first in a while – **AllSorts of Performing Arts' 'Aladdin – the Panto!'** We've heard much merriment from the children in the theatre whilst rehearsals have been underway, so can't wait to see what Wishy-Washy and Widow Twankey are up to this time around! Performances are at 7pm Friday 5th December, 2pm and 7pm on Saturday 6th, and 3pm on Sunday (SOLD OUT). Tickets are available from [allsorts.pa@gmail.com](mailto:allsorts.pa@gmail.com) or Stuart on 07768 485533.



Someone else we love is **James Shead**, who came up from Cornwall to play a benefit gig on Wednesday 12th November and who – alongside **Café Bliss** and their gratis curry and rice (delicious as ever and included in the entry price) – raised over £300 for WAW's coffers. A lovely evening, and thank you to everyone who helped and came to support – a great time was



had by us all. Watch James's *'Into The Warmth'* tour video on YouTube – there's a link from WAW's and Café Bliss's Facebook page – featuring footage from here!

It was a pleasure to play host to **Worcestershire Film Festival** over the weekend of Nov 14th-16th, and good to see the cinema screen down again, with the excellent work of local filmmakers playing upon it. A variety of genres, from documentaries to zombies to Titanic fantasists in the shorts section - and local hero **Lounge Toad** in the feature length *'Drinking Class'*. Plans are afoot to make the Workshop a hub of filmmaking activity, but watch this space, and WFF's own website. **Splendid Cinema** will also be up and running here again early next year – wooop!

We also greatly enjoyed the Dragon paintings of **Marsha Parkins**, the story-telling of **Suz Winspear** and the magical creation of a living dragon by students of the **University of Worcester's Drama Dept** led by **Daniel Somerville**, to celebrate Halloween. Dan has written a piece called *'Gilded Remains'* (at the Uni on the 4th and 5th Dec) and this was an excerpt. We shall be going there to see the full performance – fantastic stuff!


The current exhibition of photography, *'Schizophrenic City'*, by **Katie Foulkes**, was celebrated by a party on 22nd November, featuring the excellent **Stompin' on Spiders** -

another lovely intimate gig in our theatre space. Next up in the **Café Gallery**, for the whole of December, are the jolly and grotesque creations of **Katie Francis** – just back from Nepal and a holiday to remember. Come along and meet her on Friday 5th December at 6 – 9pm, for the launch of her exhibition – it will be lovely – and you'll be able to buy some novel gifts from her collection – great timing for Christmas...

The Workshop itself is growing in stature! A new gallery space, doubling as a seminar room/ dry craft space (ok, that's trebling) is almost complete on the first floor, and should be a showpiece in itself! Our **Adult Courses** next year are expanding to include short courses in **Unique Handmade Books** (Jan/Feb) and **Creative Craft Projects** (March) – both of 4 sessions. Contact Anna (tutor) at [anna@anna-art.co.uk](mailto:anna@anna-art.co.uk) for more information. Also in the pipeline are a Beginner's Course in Computer

Art – designing cards, posters etc - from our own IT buff **Jamie Randall** ([jamie@friendlynerd.co.uk](mailto:jamie@friendlynerd.co.uk) or 01905 317173 for details) planned for Monday evenings, and both a new look at painting and life drawing (separate classes – different day time sessions) from **Toby Dickinson** ([nairobiboby@gmail.com](mailto:nairobiboby@gmail.com) or 07786 077864). These and our other excellent classes will start in the week commencing Monday 12th January. Children's classes will recommence on Saturday 10th Jan. Full details should be on our website very soon, or call 01905 25053.

So what a year it's been, and a big thanks to all our talented tutors and fantastic friends for their hard work and support – and not least to Café Bliss for keeping us going with top-notch food, drink and music. Our other esteemed tenants **Vamos Theatre Company** will be using the theatre for rehearsals during January, but watch this space for subsequent events in early 2015. Have a Merry Christmas everyone!




There's a GREAT exhibition on!!

**Katie Francis**  
Colourful Collages  
and Grotesques!

December 1 –31, 2014  
at Café Bliss  
Worcester Arts Workshop  
21 Sansome Street  
Worcester WR1 1UH

Come and have a browse while you enjoy  
the delightful food and drink in Café Bliss.



[www.decoration-by-design.co.uk](http://www.decoration-by-design.co.uk)



# The Carpet Forest

by Jo & Kate Deburgh

A magical environment to explore

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## Featured Artist Anna Mitchell

Malvern's **Anna Mitchell** is a ceramic artist, who immersed herself in this tactile and earthy form; currently working as a creative-in-residence at Croome Court for the National Trust, just another reason to visit this rather unexpected stately home full of surprises!

Having worked creatively in the background as an art technician and then ceramics technician for many years, Anna decided to study for a degree and develop her own art practice, once her son was at school. She captures moments in time through her environment and the outdoors.



*"I graduated in Fine Art Practice from the University of Worcester in 2012. During my time there I found myself gravitating towards working with ceramics wherever possible. My love of clay can be traced back to childhood; days spent digging clay from the stream at the bottom of the garden and firing creations on an open fire! It's a very spontaneous and forgiving medium. I also love the element of surprise involved- you never quite know what you're going to get when you open the kiln."*



*"My work has always been inspired by nature and walking in the landscape, and I think using clay reflects this. It is a very primal way of working – of the earth itself!"*



*"When walking I often write haiku (a three line Japanese poetic format) as a way of recording what I see around me. These are then imprinted into the clay in my pieces. I like how these fleeting ephemeral moments that could pass by unnoticed are captured in the clay. Some of my work also includes ceramic transfers, made from my own photographs taken whilst walking and of found objects in nature."*

As mentioned earlier, Anna is presently a creative-in-residence at **Croome Court** for the **National Trust**, as part of the Soul to Sole Project. As a participating artist, she was asked to encapsulate a character from Croome, exploring the themes of 'loss and survival' within a pair of shoes.

*"Croome still holds the echoes of everyone who has ever lived there; I found it an inspiring place steeped in history".*

Her most recent work uses local vintage maps made into ceramic transfers to decorate porcelain paperclay vases and wall panels. These can be commissioned to where you live- so drop her email if you would like to commission one!



You can see Anna's work at some of the **Boffy Arts Markets** – as well as on display alongside a number of other artists throughout 2015 at Croome Court. Anna has also recently begun to deliver clay workshops in schools and community settings alongside another local artist **Kay Mullett**.

Please do get in touch if you are interested in finding out more. [anna@creativeclay.co.uk](mailto:anna@creativeclay.co.uk) [www.creativeclay.co.uk](http://www.creativeclay.co.uk)



# Roundup & look forward to 2015!!

by Andy O'Hare

Well I think that it's once again been a sparkling year of positives on our wonderful music scene - with great original and toe-tapping ditties, probably more great new artists coming onto the local circuit than I can remember for a long time - and without doubt the most wonderful summer festival season for years with an awesome event to go to somewhere in our region just about every weekend! Probably also helped I guess by a rare 'user-friendly' British summer - when it's a non-soggy Nozstock that's always a good sign!

But - it's not been all plain sailing - there's venues like **Re-Con** in Malvern where the future is very uncertain - and the news that Hereford's premier venue **The Jailhouse** is to shut is very sad indeed - but there's also been new locations picking up that live music actually pulls in the crowds like **The Pheasant** in Worcester and the **Red Lion & The Unicorn** in Malvern - and there's still a whole bunch of pubs and clubs in our region who regularly and very happily host weekly gigs - I'm an eternal optimist and it's wonderful to see new ventures like **Hereford Live** promoting away like there's no tomorrow - with great results I'm happy to say!

As you know by now - new tunes are what I'm always looking for and I'll reveal my pick of 2014 on our New Year show - but my preferred music format isn't either vinyl or mp3 but a live gig where you can enjoy not just the artist's talents but also the individuality of the venue and the always-enthusiastic attenders! So it's been very difficult as always to select my best live event of the year - but the performances of **Stiff Joints** and **Dave Onions** at Wychwood were jaw-

dropping and the obscenely talented **Granny's Attic** played a stunning return set at Bishop's Perowne - but probably my highlight of the year was the one-off reunion gig by the fabulous **Bitchpups** at **Monmouth Festival** - the out-of-area act who did more than they might ever know to ignite the great H&W happening!

It's also been a cracking year for local acts on the wider national and international scene - **Peace** release their second album in January after an awesome year of touring and festival spots, Hereford's **Ellie Goulding** continues her march towards megastar status - and Bewdley's **Becky Hill** reached #1 position in the charts with *Gecko (Overdrive)* - but there's also been great success for bubbling-under acts like **Virgil & The Accelerators**, **Babajack**, **Matt Woosey**, **Jasper ITCOO** and those **Roving Crows** - who've all scooped up bucketloads of awards!

Please be assured we'll be doing our very best to support as much of the great H&W talent as we can shoe-horn into our available hours over the next twelve months - I'll be trotting along to all those amazing live gigs (more if someone comes up with a solution for time-travel) - and the totally dedicated team of Andrew, Danni & Mike will carry on playing and plugging the best music in the known universe - because we're on a mission!!

So please have yourselves a very happy Midwinter Public Holiday - and if at all possible do roll out in 2015 to support and applaud even more of the great acts and wonderful music that we're so very lucky to have right here on our own doorstep!!

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



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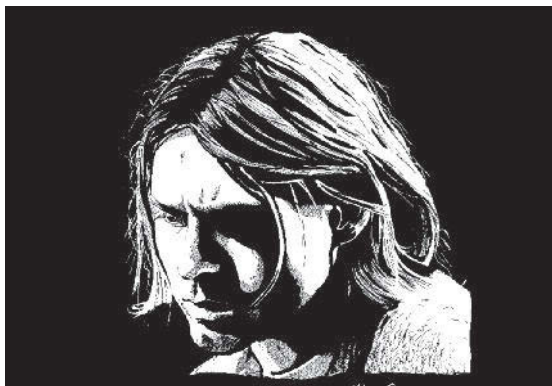
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## Wes Dance 'the Artist'

Not content with one of his busiest years as a solo singer-songwriter and a new album in the pipeline, **Wes Dance** has recently been concentrating his creative juices on art of a more visual nature. In many ways the black and white ink sketches he has been producing in prolific volume of late contrast highly with the gentle lyrical style of his music. Yet the end result, giving an impression of the delicate, sensitive and perfectionist qualities of the man behind the work, is the same.



Wes's love of music, film, literature, mystery and fantasy are well reflected in his choice of subject matter. Stylish sketches of Kurt Cobain, The Godfather, William Burroughs and Han Solo with Chewbacca are among the many pieces in his rapidly growing portfolio, which includes privately commissioned portraits.



High quality prints can be purchased in Worcester from **Hide 'n Geek**, Reindeer Court. Alternatively you can contact Wes directly by emailing [wes\\_dance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wes_dance@hotmail.co.uk). He will be happy to discuss your particular requirements.

*Martin Wilkes*



## The Lamb & Flag

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14th Dec - **Christmas Quiz**

31st Dec - **The Jazz Singers**

31st Jan - **Bitterroots**

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# What's On

## Gardeners Arms, Droitwich What's on Entertainment Dec - Jan

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- Every 1st 3rd Thurs Local Talent Night 7.30pm Ben Vickers Open Mic Night
- Sat 6th Tom Forbes Entertainment 7.30pm
- Sun 7th Wychway Trio Country Band Live Music 1.30pm
- Tue 9th Tribute Lunch to the great Tony Bennett 2 courses £11.95 BOOK 12.30pm
- Thurs 11th SLAP MAGAZINE Band of The Month HATTIE BRIGGS Folk Singer 7.30pm
- Sat 13th Belgium Choco-laté Festival 12.00pm 4.00pm
- Sun 14th Larry Golding Jazz DVD Concert Sunday Lunch £8.99 BOOK 1.30pm
- Thurs 18th Comedy Night 5 Comedians 8.30pm
- Sun 21st Meet Santa Claus Lunch 1.00pm Meet Santa 3.00pm
- Sun 21st 4 SHIRES Performer of the Month REMI HARRIS Live Entertainment 1.30pm
- Weds 24th BAMBA ROCK LEE PRICE Christmas Eve Live Entertainment 8.30pm
- Thurs 25th Christmas Day open all Day
- Fri 26th Boxing Day Football Live Buffet Lunch £6.00
- Sun 28th Abbey Inze Live Music Sunday Lunch 1.00pm
- Mon 29th Open Mic Comedy Night Christmas Party Santa sings Christmas Songs 8.00pm
- Tues 30th Christmas Quiz Night 8.30pm
- Weds 31st New Years Eve Live Music Stewart Entertains us 8.00pm
- Thurs 8th SLAP MAGAZINE Band of The Month SURPRISE GUEST Singer 7.30pm



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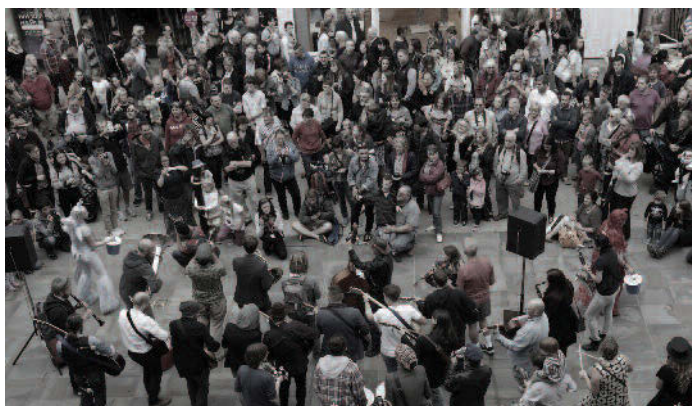
## WANT TO PLAY AT WMF 2015?

Band and artist applications are now officially open for Worcester Music Festival 2015, which organisers have confirmed will take place at the later date of 18-21 September.

A few weeks on from the usual date at the end of August, chair **Ant Robbins** said next year's annual, free festival would coincide with Fresher's Week at the **University of Worcester**.

*"There are many local festivals in August next year, which got us thinking about other dates which might work well," he said. "With so many students in the city in September, there will hopefully be a great buzz, while it also gives our live music fans an excuse to extend their festival season."*

*"As for our fantastic, original bands and artists, who all generously play for nothing to help us keep it free for music lovers and raise money for local charities, it's that time of year again to get your application in and be part of one of the fastest growing, urban festivals in the UK."*



*"It is the chance to reach new audiences, sell CDs and meet hundreds of fellow musicians, while organisers, who are all volunteers, work hard to promote bands who take part. Musicians also benefit from the opportunity to meet venue owners and gig at places they would not normally play and secure paid gigs. We look forward to bringing even more talent to the fore in 2015."*

For those who are unfamiliar with the festival, which was launched in 2008, the festival is an annual, three-day celebration of live, original music, primarily that of Worcester and county-based musicians, but also that of under-the-radar talent from across the UK.

Around 1,200 acts applied to play in 2014, with 250 acts being picked to perform at festival venues, from pubs, clubs and cafes to historic buildings, record shops and on the streets.

In the past few months, a number of bands who have played at Worcester Music Festival have been featured on **BBC Radio 6 Music**, including **The Stiff Joints**, **The Humdrum Express** and **No Cars**, while Ant and the festival's co-chair, **Nikki Boraston**, were recently interviewed for BBC Radio 1, which also played a track by Worcester's own alternative rock band, **Das Sexy Clap**.

[www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply) before the closing date of Tuesday, March 31. To hear the BBC Radio 1 interview, visit [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04n21vd](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04n21vd).

For more on WMF, visit [www.wumufest.co.uk](http://www.wumufest.co.uk) and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.

*Photography:*

*Top: Klik Klik Collective at the Guild Hall by Duncan Graves*

*Left: The Stiff Joints by Kelly Black*



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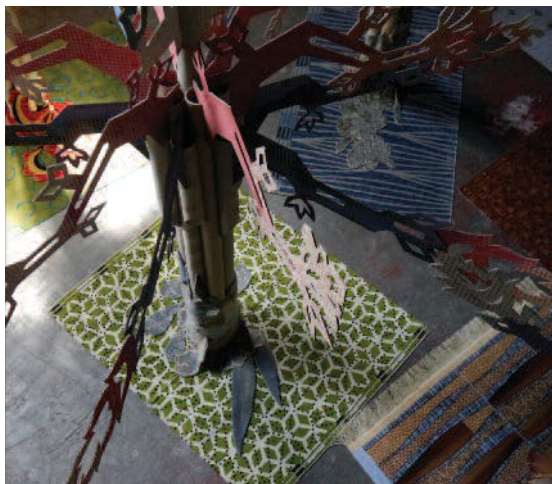


# PREVIEW

## The Carpet Forest

On December the 20th Malvern Cube will welcome a special wintry version of the **Carpet Forest**. If you haven't seen the Carpet Forest, where have you been? Not Bristol or Kidderminster, so you're in for a treat. December will present the last chance to see this amazing spectacle!

Over 2000 people have visited the Forest and enjoyed the magical atmosphere. With two books full of comments from people of all ages saying things like *'Enchanting, a great space to play & relax'*; *'Amazing, I really love it!'*; *'Excellent for interaction of all ages'*; and so it goes on....



If you want to escape the weather, shopping, relatives or want to spend some quality time this Christmas in a truly magical place come in and relax, find your inner child and explore the Forest. The Carpet Forest was created by local artists **Jo and Kate Deburgh** and produced by **Loz Samuels** with music by **Andy Edwards** and additional sound by **Heather Wastie**. It is made from Carpet waste supplied by **Brintons Carpets** and funded by **Arts Council England**.

Come and play, relax, meditate and wonder, bring a picnic but don't miss it!

Opening from the 20th to 23rd of December between 11am and 4pm closed for Christmas and open again from the 27th to the 30th of December between 12 and 4pm.

Entry is free; children must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be a program of events running throughout the duration see the website for details. [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com)



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# Attila The Stockbroker plus The Humdrum Express

Friday 5th Dec | Boars Head, Kidderminster

Attila The Stockbroker has played over 3000 gigs spanning 34 years in 24 different countries...



But amazingly, until now, the legendary punk poet has never performed in Kidderminster! Fear not, for on Friday 5th December he'll take to the stage at **The Boars Head** (Worcester Street) to make his debut in the town.

Since playing his first gig in 1980, Attila has gone on to publish seven books and release over 30 recordings (both solo and with his band **Barnstormer**). Armed with his trusty mandola, expect a lively mix of Clash inspired songs, hard-hitting topical poetry, razor sharp wit and radical politics.

The Humdrum Express



He's also famously known in these parts for his love of Worcester heroes **Skewwhiff**, citing their album *A Nice Little Upper*, as one of his favourites of the year.

Support on the night, comes from Kidderminster's own social observer, **The Humdrum Express** (aka Ian Passey).

With four full albums and several EPs released over the past nine years, he's previously gigged with the likes of John Cooper Clarke, Half Man Half Biscuit, Bob Mould, Hugh Cornwell, The Wedding Present and Chas 'n' Dave. Expect high tempo acerbic pop, interspersed with short poetic put-downs and surreal musings.

His last two singles, *Festival At Home* and *Cryptic Self Pity*, have both been championed by **Steve Lamacq** on his BBC **6music** drive time show.

Admission is £6, with an 8:30pm start.

Terence Stomp

## Video Of The Month Kubrick Squares | The Retinal Circus

From the slightly foetid depths of two ever creative, imaginative and inventive minds comes this collaborative synthanimation meisterwerk. **Craigus Barry's** swirling stylophone stylings tinged with foreboding and dread expectation inspires **Charlie Mounsey** to create Kubrickian nightmares of whirling axes, spinning doll-headed tarantulas and 9000 dystopian Hal-lucinations, all seen through a friendly pharma-shower.



Working with a mixture of stock and original own footage Charlie's magikal mix morphs with Craigus' music magnificently: plus the noises Mr B wrings from that shoddy piece of plastic is nothing less than astounding and is a tribute to his skewed genius. Hopefully we will see and hear more of this very promising partnership soon. Kubrick Squares is from the Avida Dollars album and can be found at:-

[www.the.retinalcircus.bandcamp.com/album/avida-dollars-e-t-c](http://www.the.retinalcircus.bandcamp.com/album/avida-dollars-e-t-c)

Charlie Mounsey and his exciting work can be discovered at [www.facebook.com/UnwelcomeHuman](http://www.facebook.com/UnwelcomeHuman)

words by Alice Aforethought

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## Increase The Peace with Dreadzone (Soundsystem) Dynamic, and Empire Rising

**Tuesday 23rd Dec | Priors Croft, Malvern**

Slap Mag often reminisces about losing the beloved Lamb in West Malvern as an important local venue, but one particular gig in its twilight era will keep the pub alive in people's hearts for many years to come. Surprisingly that night, it wasn't rock, punk, or folk music that blew us away, but a bonifide dance act that brought big bass, uplifting spirit, and an up-for-it crowd.

A month or two before the Lamb finally closed, the former top 20 dub-dance act **Dreadzone** preformed as a favour to a local promoter. It felt like a full on club with sticky floors and sweaty walls. The band probably wondered what they were doing in a tiny pub, up a bendy narrow hill, in weirdest Worcestershire.

The MC and DJ took West Malvern to a different place that night as part of their legendary sound system sets. It was great to see a Malvern crowd showing so much love for something not normally seen round these parts.

Enthusied by this, a local collective hosting some bass-heavy nights in Malvern of their own are bringing Dreadzone in as special guests in December. **Increase The Peace** is a combined effort from a group of Malvern music lovers, DJs. Producers and artists inspired by reggae and dub, but drawing upon hip-hop, ska, dubstep, d n b, and other eclectic flavours to a regular crowd at Prior's Croft.



With their links to **Big Audio Dynamite** and **Don Letts** it would be easy to classify Dreadzone as a heritage 90s dance act. However, with the release their second single from their groundbreaking 7th studio album '*Escapades*' taking place in the new year, it is clear that are still a major player and influencer in the realms of innovative bass music.

Blending roots and classic riddims with a modern twist and working with cutting edge dubstep and drum and bass artists and remixers, they are still causing a riot across dancefloors and with their live touring band.

10pm until 4am at just £7 let's hope we'll see another epic night in Malvern, and one that will lay foundations for an emerging scene in the town.

*DJ Boris*

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# In Another Light

## Contemporary art lights up the dark hours Croft Castle & Parkland, Herefordshire

Saturday 1 November saw the opening of **In Another Light**, an art exhibition unlike any other, held in the atmospheric grounds of Croft Castle & Parkland in Herefordshire.

**Meadow Arts** has worked with **National Trust** to commission four new artworks by upcoming young artist **David Ogle**, who uses light as a sculptural material and the work is on display every Saturday evening from 4-7pm until 21 March.

Contrasting with the dramatic historic setting, David Ogle's immersive, sculptural artworks glow vividly under ultra-violet lighting, creating an unearthly spectacle outside the castle. A disc of light rises over the lake in the distance, mist and light slowly unwinds from within the gatehouse turret and the stables are filled with glowing forms.

The exhibition also features a digital projection onto the old stonework in the grounds by 2010 Meadow Arts Prize winner **Rebecca Farkas**. The projected images explore the beauty of Croft Castle's carefully maintained interior, and were made as part of the artist's residency at Croft in 2013.



The ongoing show features lots of extra activities including artist's talks, curator's tours, interactive art events, glow-in-the dark drawing workshops, performances, a bonfire and storytelling. Check [www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org) for the full events list.

Offering a rare chance to experience Croft after hours, visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croftcastle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croftcastle) for castle & grounds opening times and prices.

For more information or images please contact

Rebecca Farkas [rebecca@meadowarts.org](mailto:rebecca@meadowarts.org) / 01584 891659

# Miles Hunt

## The Wonder Stuff Diaries 86-89

When the hefty **Wonder Stuff Diaries** dropped through my letterbox I felt Christmas had come early. I'm an avid reader, if I'm not on here (or at the day job) my nose is stuck in a book or music magazine, but not only that I'm a fan of a musical era and indeed scene that has perhaps been glossed over in recent times and certainly deserves something of a reassessment. I find it a little bizarre that the likes of **Pop Will Eat Itself** (Miles lived with Clint Mansell for a good while and PWEI make regular appearances throughout the book), **The Mighty Lemon Drops** and indeed the **Wonder Stuff** are at best half remembered when the music was innovative, fun and at the time hugely popular.

It's a long time since I've attempted to review or comment on a book (back in the days of a paper version of *Rhythm & Booze*) but I shall try to convey what a fascinating and thought provoking memoir of the early years of The Wonder Stuff written by their commander in chief **Miles Hunt**.

As you've probably realised by the title, Miles, kept a diary of events, gigs and anything else that he thought to be important at the time. These entries make for the backbone of the book and if it's an important entry either musically or personally he then embellishes the entry with a well constructed passage about that particular time. Before the diary entries Miles discusses his tender steps into the world of music as a drummer, the formation of The Wonder Stuff and his subsequent life in-front of the microphone, home life, moving out, friendship and the alike to create an intriguing introduction to his and the band's development.

The diary entries themselves make for compelling reading, from the short to the funny, to up and downs of life on the road or in the studio, one of the other intriguing things is the names of the bands that have fallen by the wayside whilst the Stuffies moved from strength to strength: can anyone remember the likes of Rain Devils, Lean Steel or the Hollow Men to name but three?



Throughout the book we're treated to paper cuttings of reviews, flyers, albums covers, photos, etc and it's almost like being transported back in time, a time where fashion didn't matter as long as you were making cool tunes and The Wonder Stuff always had them in spades.

With any memoir of this kind there are high's and lows, strained relationships (both musically and romantically) and pinnacle life changing moments and Miles always manages to convey them with the respect and honesty they deserve, creating a brilliant tale of one man's love of the rock n roll lifestyle and his quest to live it no matter the pressures or pitfalls. A poignant entry talks about how Miles has never worked in a nine to five and almost certainly never will.

The book finishes aptly with the departure of bass player **Bob "The Bass Thing" Jones** and the band on the cusp of greatness, bringing the first chapter of *The Wonder Stuff* to a close, before the successes of *Size of A Cow* and *Dizzy*, etc.

If, you, like me love the era, the band or indeed music in general you'll find a great deal to like about the early years of The Wonder Stuff and Miles Hunt, whilst anyone who's ever been in a band will find affinity with the passages on display here. *The Wonder Stuff, the Diaries 86-89* is a must have this year, I suggest you scrawl it on the top of your Christmas list or indeed get ordering now.

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

Will Munn

## Justin Sullivan + Ellen Cox

**The Boars Head, Kidderminster | 24th Oct**

Tonight's gig was a real coup for **The Boars Head** one that will be talked about for years to come. Why? you may ask. Well, **Justin Sullivan** the frontman of cult alternative rock band New Model Army played his first solo acoustic gig in nearly 20 years to an intimate crowd of just over a 100 people.

The evening begin with an excellent support slot from Welsh female singer songwriter **Ellen Cox**. Ellen had been asked by Justin to do a set at really short notice (that same day) after the original support act pulled out. So Ellen travelled up from London, borrowed Justin's guitar and performed an excellent impromptu set of acoustic folk-punk songs. Ellen's self-penned songs were emotive and uplifting were delivered with genuine warmth and passion. Stand out songs such as *Wolves* and *Rainbows* really do stay with you. Thanks Ellen, what a great start to this intimate acoustic evening.



After a short break **Justin Sullivan** took to the stage armed only with a microphone and his trusty Lowden guitar. He played a really interesting set mixing New Model Army songs with some of his solo tracks interspersed with some really interesting anecdotes. The set started with *One Bullet* which sounded incredible in this stripped down acoustic form and was followed by *Headlights*. The crowd were then treated to a yet unreleased song called *Hold On*. A beautiful rendition of *Ghosts* and a stripped down *Tomorrow Came* from New Model Army's recent critically acclaimed album *Between Dog & Wolf*. Justin then launched into a passionate rendition of *All Consuming Fire* followed by the crowd pleasing sing along of *Family Life*.

It was then time for a complete change of pace as Justin performed a mesmerising spoken word vocal only version of *One of the Chosen*. The mellow vibe continued with a couple of Justin's solo compositions *Sun on the Water* and the excellent *Sentry*. This was followed by a moving passionate spoken vocal rendition of *Another Imperial Day*. This song has never been more apt than now with certain political parties and the media constantly blaming immigration for the nation's woes.



The tempo was then picked up with into *The Wind* and live favourite *Changing of The Light*. The crowd then listened as Justin recounted the tale of a strange tribal rite of passage he witnessed on a beach called La Push followed by the song it inspired. The crowd were the invited to sing along *Autumn*, a song that celebrates the beauty of autumnal death and decay in the turning of the seasons. A mellow version of the gentle solo ballad *Home* followed.

The set was drawing to it's conclusion and Justin rounded off the night with cracking renditions of live favourite *Stoned*, *Fired and Full of Grace* and New Model Army classic *Fate*. It had been a magical night shared with one of the greatest songwriters this country has ever produced and one which will not be forgotten by the lucky few who were there in a long long time!

Jason K

## PREVIEW **Stiff Joints**

**Malvern Cube | Dec 13th**

If you haven't seen the **Stiff Joints** (or even if you have), and you like dancing, ska beats and generally awesome music then you need to get over to **Malvern Cube** on Sat 13th Dec.



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# REVIEW

## Babajack + The White Feather Collective The Cube, Malvern | 22nd Nov

This was to have been an evening with **Babajack** and special guests **Lloyd Grossman's New Forbidden**, however Lloyd was taken ill so local new boys **The White Feather Collective** were duly called up for duty: a band with only 6 months behind them - the big stage awaited. The line up was **Josh Lambe** on an acoustic guitar and vocals, **Will Turner**, electric guitar, **Roo Macphee** on bass, and **Chris Reynolds** on drums.



Their style is really planted well and truly in the early raw rock/blues era of the 60's and that is reflected in the sound which is raw and edgy, helped by the use of valve amps and analogue equipment. A nice blues riff going on with 'Writing A Novel', with Josh changing his guitar for a harp, before finishing with a restructured and renamed song 'Keith', played in the manner of some bloke who apparently is in a band called The Rolling Stones?!

An excellent start and I'm not sure Lloyd was missed too much, though he may have been peaking through the keyhole to see how they managed. One thing is certain, we will be hearing more from this Collective.

**Babajack** have certainly evolved over the years I have been watching them. A duo sometime trio with their own brand of roots music and now an established 'main stage' band gaining drums and bass, not to mention a very strong following. They have collected numerous awards on this journey, but retained that unique touch to their form of blues. **Tosh Murase's** right fist smashed down on his floor tom booming out the start of



'Running Man' and away they went, Becky in full flow, freed from the roll of sole percussion, with Trevor, as ever testing his wine box guitars to the limit. Slipping in to the group for the evening came **Julia Palmer-Price**, bringing her cello to the stage as she did in the recording studio for the album. Bassist **Adam Bertenshaw** along with Tosh lay the foundations for **Becky and Trevor** to weave their web through to the fabulous 'Falling Hard', before the boys take a break. Trevor's slide and harp are kept busy as Becky writes her 'Death Letter'; their take on a song they have made their own but crafted by Son House. They continued into one of (for me) the choice songs from their 'Running Man' album with Trevor on harp accompanying Becky as she sings the lovely 'Hammer And Tongs': superb stuff, it does not get any better than this!

The band return and the music rolls on, examining Babajack's catalogue of songs also slipping in the yet to be recorded 'Back Door'.

Julia gives everything on her Cello obviously enjoying the evening and teasing Trevor as he works his strings. Tosh is hitting those big drums like never before and Becky is on fire her auburn hair flying as the evening reaches its crescendo. *Gallows Pole*, a well used old folk song, is a portent to the musical explosion that is 'Skin and Bone' - Trevor resonating like a tuning fork, teetering on the edge of his seat and Becky slapping her cajon with abandon. BUT - there is only one way to finish a Babajack gig - the false end - the audience participation - it is of course 'Black Betty'. Nuff said!

Graham Munn

## PREVIEW Kings & Folk

### 6th Dec Album Launch Concert St Stephen's church hall, Worcester

An evening of exquisite English, Scottish, Irish and Eastern European folk music will be performed by the highly accomplished **Kings & Folk**; with the special guest appearance of **Colette Todd**. Colette has toured the world as a vocalist for Riverdance and Lord of the Dance as well as being guest vocalist on the Kings & Folk's new album "Branching Out".

The concert at St Stephen's church hall will see the band perform their own unique original compositions and innovative arrangement's of traditional folk music and see the launch of their first album as a full band.

24 SLAP DECEMBER/JANUARY



This concert is a must for all fans of the genre as you would have to travel far to hear music of this quality played to such a high standard. Tickets & more info: [www.kingsandfolk.com](http://www.kingsandfolk.com).

Richard Morgan



## The Poor Boys Of Worcester The Lamb & Flag | 8th Nov

The Poor Boys Of Worcester are a six-piece band featuring the unlikely line-up of four Ukekele's, double bass, banjo (actually a banjolele apparently), harmonica and vocals (shared between the various members of the group). The band were making their live debut and as you might imagine with any group making their first bow, there were mistakes, forgotten vocals and at times indecision, to the point of being ramshackle.....but.....didn't they entertain. Despite the stop-starts, the band's set was a varied collection of covers done in a unique style that was both infectious and a barrel of fun.

The band ran through a number of songs from the songbooks of Hank Williams and Johnny Cash (including a wonderfully ragged Folsom Prison Blues), a rustic Way Back When by Ronnie Lane, a handful of genuine rock classics in the shape of Fade Way by The Stones, Hotel Yorba by The White Stripes and a brilliant Bad Moon Rising (it really shouldn't work on uke's but the some of the finger picking by Tom Doc Watson was sublime) and a folk blues classic by Leadbelly all re-imagined with strummed and plucked uke's and banjo often complimented by parping blues harmonica and thumping bass.

Talking of bass. I really should mention here ,the rather tasty Shane MacGowan cover drawled and delivered delightfully by double bassist **Mick 'The Hat' Morris** as another set highlight, again proving the band's diversity and ability to straddle genres.



Like I alluded to at the beginning of this write-up, The Poor Boys aren't the tightest of bands out there (and it's early days), but they know how to deliver a fun-filled set, both the packed out back room of the Lamb & Flag and the band themselves were left with a collective Cheshire cat like smile welded on their faces and a song in their hearts. I can forgive and overlook any missed lyrics or musical indiscretions when a band know how to entertain and those "boys" sure know how to entertain.

If your idea of live music is faithful, tight renditions of your favourite songs, I suggest you look elsewhere, but if you want some fun The Poor Boys are the band for you. Their next outing is at the Paul Pry in Worcester on 6th Dec.

Words: Graham Munn Photos: Bev Kittle

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## Ben Vickers

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | 13th Nov

We originally set out to the Gardeners expecting to see the compelling and unique singer-songwriter **Rod Branigan** but due to unforeseen circumstances (or something that effect) Rod was unable to make it down to Droitwich but luckily regular Gardeners Arms open mic head honcho **Ben Vickers** was not only in attendance but also happened to have all is gear with and heroically stepped into the breach, making a number of friends along the way.

Prior to watching Ben take to the boards I had done a little research to discover that the singer-songwriter performed in a number of different bands including Nestah, who won a competition by ice cream supremos Ben And Jerry's with a compelling and contagious Bob Marley cover. So with that in mind it wasn't too unexpected when Ben opened his set with a brilliant *Three Little Birds* followed shortly by a cover of *I Shot The Sheriff*, both showcased Ben's effortless ability to strum and pick his guitar with the best of them, whilst vocally, Ben's soulful croon instantly seduced those that were listening with intent.

Ben continued his set with a mixture of further Marley covers (*Redemption Song*, *One Love*, etc), a ska/reggae inspired take on The Beatles and nice homage of *Sweet Home Chicago* before delivering the only original of his two sets, a catchy ode to Black Cherry (Strip club in Lowesmoor) entitled *Sixty Bucks*, which sat proudly alongside the covers without sounding out of place, as well as proving that Ben is more than capable of penning a contagious melody or two of his own.



After a well deserved break Ben returned to the stage area to send us off into the night with a glorious interruption of disco classic, *Staying Alive*, a funk fueled *Superstition* and a song lifted apparently from both Matilda and Ice Age, leaving the assembled more than content with their fun night out.

We may have originally come to see a guy play two guitars at the same time, but we left with a smile and a song in our hearts, whilst vowing to catch Ben again real soon.

Words: Will Munn Photography: Graham Munn

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# mark morriss

(<sup>the</sup>bluetones)

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In recent years, Mark released his debut solo album Memory Muscle and this year, the latest album A Flash Of Darkness. Getting his hands dirty with his own set of songs has been an inspiring experience for Morriss, don't miss this unique opportunity to see him LIVE IN MALVERN.

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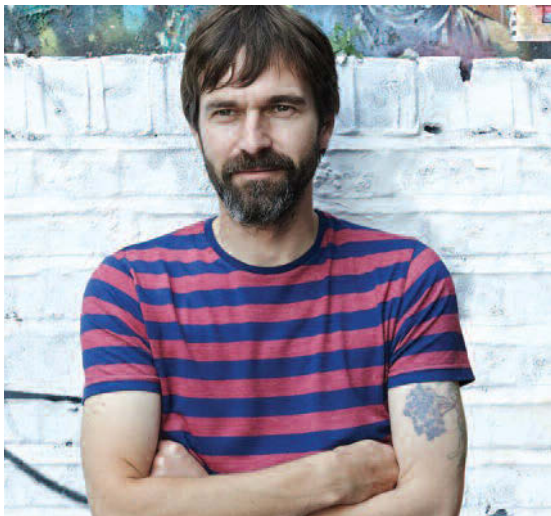
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# Mark Morriss

## Skewwhiff + Luke Leighfield

### The Cube Malvern | Fri Jan 16th

What an excellent venue The Cube is proving to be: friendly, helpful people running it, excellent facilities and a knack for booking interesting, choice acts.



And so we have the mouth-watering prospect of the ever lovely ex- **Bluetones** frontman **Mark Morriss** (The New Hardest Working Man In Showbiz. tm) appearing and singing in front of our very eyes, in deepest, darkest January just when we all need cheering up.

Good timing then and in a quality bill Mr Morriss will be joined by Worcester's loveable post-punk-pop-ska-scamps **Skewwhiff** and the almost scarily talented local lad **Luke Leighfield**.

As we said Mark Morriss is most famous for having thirteen Top 40 hit singles, including a number 2 with the evergreen *Slight Return* and three Top 10 albums including a number 1 with *Expecting To Fly*. After over 15 years and a farewell The Bluetones decided called it a day and Mark has since gone from strength to strength with his solo career, this gig being one of many in support of his latest excellent album *A Flash of Darkness*. Mark is also currently a member of **Matt Berry's** live band **The Maypoles**.



Skewwhiff

Photography: Mark Hoy

Joining **Mark Morriss** at **The Cube** as we said are sexy, skating stalwarts **Skewwhiff** who are playing to give anyone a chance who hasn't caught up with their debut album *Nice Little Upper* to give it a nice little listen live, as they return to tread the boards after an extremely busy and successful festival summer and gear up for their next slew of 2015 outdoor events.

Luke Leighfield



Completing this exciting line-up is Upton born **Luke Leighfield** who in nine years has played over 700 shows worldwide and is about to release his 5th studio album "V" in early '15. The multi-talented/instrumentalist Luke has been playing piano since he was four and violin since he was eight and with his well-honed, deep but optimistic pop with an indie twist approach, is bound to cheer the winter Malvern crowd.

Unsurprisingly tickets for yet another quality Cube gig are selling fast so buy yours soon at [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com). Tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. The perfect Christmas present!

#### Q&A with Mark Morriss (ex-Bluetones)

**SLAP:** What is the inspiration and story behind the current solo album 'A Flash of Darkness'?

**Mark Morriss:** *The title track to the album was actually inspired by a documentary I saw on the BBC in about 2010 called 'Madness In The Fast Lane' (do check it out, it's online somewhere) about 2 Swedish sisters who develop this short term psychosis and embark on a 48 hr spree of carnage and insanity. It's a hoot.*

**S:** The artwork on the latest album is also very distinctive, what led to you choosing that?

**MM:** *The lady who designed all the artwork is someone I've known for a number of years, Kim Onyskiw. She's a brilliant painter of these strange seemingly innocent looking wildlife characters. I'd admired her work for a long time and was keen to exploit her. I thought the cutesy nature of her painting would contrast nicely with some of the themes of the album. A juxtaposition as opposed to a harmonious accompaniment.*

**S:** What is your favourite track from 'A Flash of Darkness' and why?

**MM:** *Ooh that's a tricky one... It's like choosing a favourite child, it just feels all wrong.*



**S:** Do you enjoy the solo music making process and having full control or do you miss the guys from the band and communal writing/recording?

**MM:** *I like both to be honest. There is something very satisfying about being completely in charge and everything resting on my shoulders, but at the same time I do often miss the spontaneity of the band environment. Plus, there's no-one to play pool with when the going REALLY gets tough.*

**S:** What is on the M Morriss turntable at the moment?

**MM:** *'The Breaks' by Martin Carr is getting some heavy rotation at the moment.*

**S:** I saw you play a lovely little acoustic set a few years ago at the BIG CHILL. I loved it! Do you enjoy doing the festival circuit when you can?

**MM:** *A-ha... you were probably there because John Shuttleworth was on immediately after me, right? Right? (never heard of him! Ed) I love playing the festivals. Apart from anything else there is usually pretty good catering backstage so I go armed with a shed-load of Tupperware. Also, it's a good chance to play to a new audience and BLAH BLAH BLAH... (it's the catering, mainly).*

**S:** What is your favourite Bluetones song and why?

**MM:** *It changes... not that I spend a lot of my time listening to those old songs anymore, or even thinking about them too much, but today it is 'Never Goin' Nowhere'.*

**S:** Do you feel the band had the relevant and fair coverage during the Britpop era? With the battle between Oasis and Blur etc do you feel you got the credit you deserved?

**MM:** *Hey man, we had a number one album and a fistful of Top 10 hits, so for me to gripe would be more than a little churlish. Who's to say whether we were perhaps misjudged because of our association with a very insular music scene at the time? Not me that's for sure.*

**S:** What's your all time favourite film and why?

**MM:** *Ooh that's a toughie an' all... Again, these things change depending on mood, but in terms of sheer consistency, and because I watched it again recently and it blew my mind all over again I'm gonna say 'Apocalypse Now'.*

**S:** You must be the New Official "Hardest Working Man in Showbiz" since the demise of James Brown; is there any let-up in your exhaustive touring schedule coming any time soon?? Also what else does the future hold for the musical Mark Morriss?

**MM:** *Yeah, I tour constantly. But hey, I'm a musician. It's like being an athlete and complaining that you've got to go for a run. I love it out there. Next on the horizon for me though is an album of cover versions for Acid Jazz Records which comes out in April/May of next year and then the proper follow up to 'A Flash Of Darkness' which I'll start on in about 9 months time. How apt.*

**S:** Have you got a message for your legion of fans out there and maybe a little philosophical dictum which you live by and may help them? (I say 'them' but mean 'me' obviously!)

**MM:** *Never ever, bloody, anything ever.*

**S:** Finally Mark, it's my round! What you having??

**MM:** *Ooh a Sauvignon Blanc please. I would ask for something a little classier but I don't think this bar serves it.*

Thanks to Mark for indulging us and to **Lee Morris** (different spelling/no relation) for the questions. See you at The Cube - be there or be er...um square!




## **Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band** **Huntingdon Hall | Sat 20th Dec** **Artrix | Tue 23rd Dec**

This December you have not just one but two chances to see local maestro and Slap regular Jamie Knight who will doubtlessly be wowling the crowds with The Manuka Band at Worcester's Huntingdon Hall on 20th and Bromsgrove's Artrix on 23rd of December.





For those who don't know and have never seen Jamie, you are in for a treat as he effortlessly and classily fronts this stunning Big Band to bring the very best in American Swing to wintry Worcestershire. In addition to the Swing classics Jamie and Co perform a wide range of tunes from 60's rock'n'roll through to 70's and 80's Pop Hits and up to the present day.

They will of course also be treating us to their interpretations of favourite festive songs both old and new, to warm our collective cockles! Jamie has had a very busy year performing with his ever popular Manuka Band but these Christmas Shows are special to him and are his favourites, so be sure to join them at one if not both venues for some sophisticated seasonal entertainment.

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# Skalloween

## Wagon & Horses, Digbeth | 1st Nov

Tucked away in the seemingly endless back streets of Digbeth lives the **Wagon and Horses**, which on November 1st opened its courtyard doors to the ghosts and goblins of the world to celebrate **Skalloween**. Hosted by **Barnboppers**, the night boasted a ghoulishly groovy line up of four live bands, and the Shuddervision DJs were on hand to spin some terrifying toe-tapping tunes. Fuelling the nights spooky skankin' was a delicious home-made spiced pumpkin soup, free to all creepy characters.

Opening the night with their reggae and hip-hop influenced punk sound was **Lobster**, a 6 piece band from Birmingham. Since their formation in 2009 the boys have gigged up and



down the country, playing with The Beat and Inner Terrestrials, as well as recently opening up the sold out Big Vibes night at PST in Digbeth. They successfully set the mood for the rest of the evening with their infectious and upbeat tunes getting everybody in the mood to dance. They are set to play at the Clifton Road Youth Centre in Sutton Coldfield on the 20th of December.

Second up were the **Cracked Actors**, locally famous in their own right since their formation in 1999. Being their final gig of the year, they were eager to go out of the year with a bang, and that they did, serving up a blend of reggae and ska which soon got the crowd tapping and twisting away.



Continuing with the upbeat energy was the third band of the evening, the **Stiff Joints**, a 10 piece ska band hailing from Kidderminster. Formed in 2009 and brought together by a shared love of punk, reggae and ska, the boys have since released two EP's and played at various festivals including this years Boomtown Fair. Known for their lively energetic



performances and ridiculously catchy songs, they immediately got the entire courtyard bouncing, playing songs from both 'Rowdy and Stoned' and 'Circus on Repeat'. Ranking Roger from The Beat was also on hand to appear alongside them for 'Mirror in the Bathroom', and they finished up their set with their rendition of 'Junglist Massive'. You can listen to their music at [www.thestiffjoints.bandcamp.com](http://www.thestiffjoints.bandcamp.com)

Drawing the live music to a close was the final band of the evening, **Counting Coins**, a ska-punk-hiphop band from Hull. They played a fast paced and energetic set, ending the night on a huge high. Drummer **Sam Burnham** agreed that it was 'a belter of a night' with a great vibe and great crowd. They plan on recording for their EP this winter.



Overall it was a brilliant night of toe tapping, boot stomping ska with an atmosphere difficult to capture in a few mere paragraphs. You can check out upcoming Barnboppers bank holiday shuffle event on Facebook - not one to be missed!



Words: Sadie Penson

Photography © Stalingrad O'Neill (Сталинград О'Нил)

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## Matt Woosey - Album Launch

### Coach House Theatre Malvern | 1st Nov

The gathering at this excellent, intimate venue in Malvern eagerly awaited the evening's programme with anticipation. Firstly we were invited to watch a 'road movie'; a daily video diary of Matt's 2013 tour into Europe beginning with its very early hours start to the ferry crossing, complete with 2 dogs, Lisa and his 'luxury' tour bus - a Volkswagen van. This was a tale of long journeys, snatched meals, varied venues plus a very understanding girlfriend/wife-to-be. No dogs were harmed in this movie and it was a fascinating insight into a working musicians world, with cancellations and new gigs slotted in almost on the hour plus old friends reunited and new friendships made. Those travels and travails have been reflected in some of the music on Matt's *'Wildest Dreams'* album. We had a fly on the wall, or maybe in the van view, of how those songs were inspired - his 'Nowhere is Home' comes straight to mind.

Then a break to mingle and chat with a glass of wine and some tasty hot food, whilst the theatre was made ready for the second part of the evening. This was my kind of launch!

We were invited to take our seats where we awaited Matt together with **Dave Small** on cajon and occasional vocals. Matt presented the full album plus a few bonus extras taken from his past repertoire. There is nothing quite the same as a live performance; yes the recording has a 'full' band and it's a superb package, but watching Matt live thus witnessing the power and passion of his performance just takes you to a different level. I have to say that simplistic as a wooden box being slapped and tapped may seem, Dave added that extra special dimension in addition to some welcome banter and humour to the set.



The beautiful and ethereal *'Wildest Dreams'* filled the air, but for me the highlight has to be the full version of 'Don't Tell Nobody' - a wickedly dark song that somehow did not get fully recorded for the album - rumour has it that slight inebriation had something to do with that!? For dessert Matt threw in 'Little Red Rooster' and 'Black Smoke Rising' so in all a most enjoyable evening and a privilege to be there at the starting line.

Naturally you will already have read the many reviews for *'Wildest Dreams'* but don't take their word for it, go and find yourself a copy of this album as it is definitely worth the effort and will soon become a firm favourite. Then just maybe it will bring Matt Woosey the recognition he deserves. Before you ask, yes I did buy a couple of copies and Matt was on hand to sign them: my good lady will not let me have my original copy back and the extra has already found a home.

Graham Munn

## Notorious Brothers

### Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 9th Nov

Yes I'm here again, back at my favourite Sunday afternoon haunt, this time to see the outrageous **Notorious Brothers** perform and watch his facial contortions as the glorious tones issue forth from **Melvyn Hancox's** Gibson guitars. We were taken to the psychedelic home of Melvyn's imagination with a bit of peace and love, before finding the path to a fabulous *'Whiskey In The Jar'* and a cuttlingly gritty *'Bad To The Bone'*. Melvyn had brought along an 'apprentice', in the form of **Greg Blackburn**, who was invited to take the mic along with his Strat and perform an excellent *'Pride & Joy'*. Greg may have appeared a little quiet and shy, (Melvyn makes up for any shortfall!) but he can certainly play that Fender highlighted later by a duelling guitar session that left us all spellbound. Some tub thumping and cymbal smashing beats emanating from **Richard Rivett**, sat behind his monstrous set, smile firmly on face also adding to the vocals when required. **Mark Harris** on bass seems equally amused as Melvyn continues in his court jester role, whilst somehow playing sublime, weeping guitar notes. A brilliant bit of Zep follows soon enough: *'Whole Lotta Love'* seems to fit the bands ethos like a sharp suit - what more do you need?! Mark's bass then starts an instantly recognisable pulsating rhythm, joined by Rich on the cymbals: it's Albatross and Melvyn is in his element, wings spread - riding the thermals. A partly consumed glass of ale also comes into play for some slide but would you expect anything else?



Mark plays on into the evening despite a broken E string and no replacement, forcing a quick retune down to a 3 string, but I (and the assembled throng) have long ceased to note what is being played. The atmosphere is euphoric, the 'girls' are filling every inch of floor space and we have to guard against beer spillage. The clock seems to race on but nobody cares or leaves. It has been an excellent evening of entertainment from the Notbros boys who just love to play. Adding the bonus of a youthful Greg Blackburn it was a guitarfest not to be missed.

Graham Munn

## Virgil And The Accelerators

Robin2, Bilston | 12th Nov

Emanating from the Bromsgrove area, **Virgil And The Accelerators** have certainly hit the road running. A young **Virgil** followed by an even younger **Gabriel**, infiltrated their Dad's band, The Accelerators bringing in another local boy **Jack Timmis** on bass. The transformation complete - Virgil And The Accelerators were ready for the high road to rock. Already highly acclaimed and feted, for me they have shifted their position from an electric guitar driven bluesy rock band to hard core rock, with US and European tours now part of everyday life.

This Robin gig though late into the album tour displayed energy levels still there for all to see and hear: Virgil squeezes every conceivable note out of his guitar, which screams and cries in his hands and Gabriel appropriately has the Muppet Animal strapped to his kick drum - I seem to recall likening his style to that character back when they took Upton main stage by storm a few years back. He has not changed but grown even more in stature, his explosive style distinctive as ever though unfortunately barely visible from floor level. I have yet to be in a position to capture him in camera from a reasonable viewpoint and that's a shame. Jack keeps that bass throb going holding the timing and controlling the flow from the two brothers. It all opened with 'Take Me Higher',

Gabriel working high on the cymbals as Virgil winds up, followed by a Led Zep like 'Blow To The Head'. A true blue riff finds its way into '88' - a small respite for my tormented ears (nb must carry plugs!) as distinctive notes pick their way through the lyrics for a nice touch of Chicago. Virgil's long, curly locks held in restraint until now by a band, fall forward as he closes down over the guitar, remaining there lost in his world of chords and frets and getting plain 'Low Down And Dirty'. Time has stopped as every emotion is extracted from



those strings, before breaking out into 'Free' like waves lapping on the beach. The final word was appropriately a slab of Hendrix with 'Are You Experienced?' - yes they absolutely are!

Graham Munn

## Mike Burney R.I.P



It is with sadness that we note the death on 13th November of Midlands saxophonist Mike Burney at the age of 76. Mike had fought a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer.

Mike never became a household name, due largely to his reluctance to leave the Midlands, an area for which he had a great love, and his home town of Walsall. However, he garnered a worldwide reputation amongst his peers and it is a mark of the great esteem in which he was held by his fellow musicians that two Benefit nights were held for him, the most recent being a Benefit Blues Jam on 28th October at The Asylum in Birmingham. Just prior to that event, hopes were high that Mike would be able to be present, as news regarding his treatment was encouraging, but sadly, on the eve of the concert he was again hospitalized. This did not prevent 14 of Mike's band mates performing in his honour.

As his longtime friend and colleague, Jim Simpson says, "Mike was probably the finest jazz musician the region has produced.....he was self-effacing regarding his talent, generous with his time, advice and support and with a monumental never-dimmed enthusiasm and love for music



and for life. He put no store on financial gain, which he disdained; music and friendship and family were his priorities."

The list of leading names with whom Mike worked over the years is impressive and includes The Beach Boys, Sammy Davis Jnr., Billy Eckstine, Mel Torme, Cliff Richard and even Bob Hope. He was also a regular member of the Syd Lawrence Orchestra for many years as well as working with the rhythm and blues band King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys.

He had a brush with fame as a member of Roy Wood's 'Wizzard' and even if you don't think that you have ever seen Mike you will know him from the video to 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day' - he's the one with the shock of black hair and beard. So, when you are tucking into your Christmas dinner this year with that very video playing on the TV, raise your glass and toast the memory of this world-class jazz/blues/rock saxophonist.

Words and Photo of Benefit Blues Jam: Alan Musson

Photo of Mike Burney: Andy Peate



## Neville Staples + Talisman Guildhall Gloucester | 7th Nov

The rude boys were out in force to watch this legend from the Ska revival years of the late seventies and eighties. The Guildhall is a good venue for any band that gets the crowd dancing, with a floor like a trampoline you have little choice but to bounce around.

Playing a set that was full of Specials and classic Ska hits the expectant crowd were up for it from the start. I did have the pleasure of having a chat with Mr Staples himself whilst having a quick ciggy before the gig and what a really nice guy he is.



Among their repertoire were classics like *"Rudy"*, *"Monkey Man"*, *"Guns of Navarone"* and *"Lunatics"*. Interspersed with these we were treated to Specials' songs *"Gangsters"* and *"Ghost Town"*. Needless to say these went down very well with the throbbing throng although I sensed that Mr S was getting a little annoyed at someone complaining he wasn't bouncing around the stage. But after operations on both knees (as he explained) in recent years he could no longer do this but they were no less enjoyable because of it. The line up included tremendous trombone in the hands of **Warren Middleton**, **Jesse Bud** hopping around like a demented flea as he tore at the strings of his guitar, **Roddy Radiation** also guesting on guitar and bringing a bit of punk rock attitude to the stage. Also present were **Joe Atkinson** tinkling the ivories, **Matt Bane** on drums and a menacing looking bass player in the form of **Steve Armstrong**, himself a regular with many Ska bands, complete with dark specs and trilby, he could have been drafted straight from a scene of the Blues Brothers. To chants of "Rude Boy, Rude Boy" Neville was in his element charismatic as ever and imploring all to *'Enjoy Yourself'* - that they certainly did.

Able supported by the excellent **Talisman** who are a very good reggae band from Bristol I have seen a number of times and they often open with *"Free Speech"* but have recently added as their final number a cover of *"The Harder They Fall"*. It's the only cover they do but I am not going to argue with the choice of song. Led by guitarist and vocalist **Dehvan** with some mean, thumping bass notes added by **Dennison Joseph**, keys by **Dennis 'Chunks' Hutchinson**, **Peter Fletcher** also on guitar and deep in the shadows but ever present, the beating reggae rhythms from **Marqus Sticks Lynk**, with dreadlocks flying as he hit those skins.

An excellent evening of reggae and ska in a venue that comes alive as the floor moves in response.

Words: Lumpamundo & Co Photography by Graham Munn



## Marrs Bar | Larry Miller + Mike Francis

The 19th December sees this Blues/Rock double bill brings together two of the hardest working and well thought of musicians on the scene today. Larry Miller explodes on stage full of intense passion and power with his exciting and expressive guitar playing, effortlessly encompassing material from out and out rockers to sensitive ballads.

Larry's is a show that is both polished and professional in the best sense, but fun and knockabout at the same time. He has a charismatic stage presence that will engage and entrance you, so if the esteemed likes of Rory Gallagher, Joe Bonamassa and Gary Moore are your flavour then Larry Miller is The Man for you.

Supporting Larry on this Top Quality bill is Mike Francis whose lengthy career touring the world both in a solo capacity and accompanying nearly every big name - Blues and beyond, showcases his superb self-penned material together with the Soul and Blues classics which he has been associated with over the years.

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## Chris Difford/Glenn Tilbrook The Odd Couple

Town Hall Birmingham | 11th Nov

It's a little unusual to take your seat for a concert (or gig if you prefer) and feel like you're peering into someone's one bedroom flat, a bed, cabinets, table and chairs all took prominent place on the boards of the **Birmingham Town Hall** for what would turn out to be an intimate evening with songwriting duo and **Squeeze** heroes, **Chris Difford** and **Glenn Tilbrook**.

The lights dropped low and the odd couple took their places in the assembled double bed, before being rudely "awakened" by their morning call, leaping out of bed in their PJ's (not the usual attire for living legends) they set about tidying up, making the bed before eventually picking up their usual tools of the trades to deliver a compelling set of majestic songs and humorous banter all interspersed by taking questions and batting back answers from the well-mannered audience.

The songcraft of Difford and Tilbrook has in the past (and indeed on the night) been compared to that of Lennon and McCartney but to my mind there's more of a Ray Davies/Kinks kind of charm, there's that knowing nod and tongue in cheek wink as Tilbrook delivers one of Difford's contagious tall tales.

The twosome take it turns to deliver solo endeavors whilst the other changes into more suitable stage garb, with Tilbrook offering up a brilliant *Black Coffee In Bed* first, then Difford offered up an equally compelling, folky lament before the two unite for the likes of *Half Way* and *Electric Trains* to rapturous appreciation, Tilbrook's intricate finger-picking and soulful croon bringing life to Difford's engaging lyrics.



Happily fielding questions on everything from songwriting methods to performing in-front of twenty-five people in a tent in Hay-On-Wye, the twosome showed their ease with each other and indeed with the audience, helping create a wonderful small club atmosphere, whilst the intimate twin guitars (with occasional keyboards) and vocals set-up created a wonderful warm buzz around the auditorium, as firm favourites were delivered in such a relaxed manner.

Difford and Tilbrook as you would imagine, delivered all the fan favourites from *Up The Junction* and *Pulling Mussels (From A Shell)* to a sing-a-long, *Cool For Cats* as well brand new tracks such as *Beautiful Game* and *Cradle To The Grave* (taken from a forthcoming album and Danny Baker fronted BBC Show), proving that the duo have lost any of that songcraft magic that they mined effortlessly in yesteryear.

The odd couple parted with a well deserved standing ovation and a sensational *Goodbye Girl*, bowing gracefully as the crowd filed out with smiles on our collective faces and a song or two in our hearts, having witnessed a masterclass of melodies, a rich tapestry of words and a couple of musicians very much at the top of their game

Will Munn

## Doesn't Rhyme With King The Chestnut | Fri 14th Nov

The Chestnut once again surprised audiences with something a little different from its usual musical fare - another rare and international Friday evening gig.



This time the room was graced with the alternative grunge of German two-piece **Doesn't Rhyme With King**. This duo create an amazing sound much like The Black Keys and Royal Blood, by filling the room with a wall of beautiful QOTSA-esque distortion and droning riffs. Drummer **Henning März** provided a solid backbone, rolling out some complicated drum



patterns with expert precision, allowing lead vocalist and guitarist **Inken März** to build up some great discordant grunge guitar licks whilst simultaneously soothing the audience with her powerful, ethereal vocal delivery, somewhat reminiscent of Florence Welch.

Their songs ran the gamut from heavier rock tunes *I Shouldn't Mind*, to more pop-tinged tracks, *Watering Dead Plants*, with even a newer track *Never Run* giving a nod to early Portishead. They even found time to fit in a wonderful tribute to the great Led Zeppelin with a rendition of 'Rock 'n' Roll' which showed Inken's vocal range wonderfully.

Overall a great surprise of a night, and we can only hope for more Friday one-offs at **The Chestnut**, showcasing quality, interesting music from far and wide.

Bishop Davy Jones



## Christmas Selection Box at Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

There'll be plenty of tinsel'n'turkey in Tewksbury as Roses Theatre rev up for Christmas with an exciting Festive line-up.

**The Pasadena Roof Orchestra** kick off the fun on Thur 4th Dec and with more than 40 albums under their belt it's easy to see why they have become one of the UK's finest dance bands.

With material plucked from The Golden Age of the 20's & 30's and always impeccably arranged, The Pasadena's are bound to wow with many festive classics including White Christmas and a swinging Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, plus favourite selections from their vast back catalogue.

On Fri 12th Dec renowned folk singer and **Steeleye Span** mainstay **Maddy Prior** returns to The Roses with her **Carnival Band** for the hit show Carols and Capers 2014. As the name suggests this is marvellous mix of renaissance, modern and ethnic music/instruments which combine to create an extremely unique and original sound. The whole shebang is performed with a cavalier attitude and plenty of humour ensuring much merriment for all!

The talented and local **Tewksbury Town Band** arrive for two nights n Sat 13th & Sun 14th Dec to finish off their 40th Anniversary year in hometown style. These are shows for all the family and there will be plenty of opportunity for festive fun and sing-a-longs as the band perform an array of Christmas Classics old and new.

Mon 15th Dec brings the Legendary **Frank Sinatra**, **Sammy Davis Jr** and **Dean Martin** together in the guise of **David Alacey** (Lovejoy), **Des Coleman** (Eastenders & The One Show) and **Paul Drakeley** (Inside Out).

Yes The **Rat Pack** are back in its record breaking 15th swinging year magically recreating this classic trio in a



dazzling Christmas tribute show. With a star-studded band and the stunning Silverbell Showgirls, The Rat Pack will take us through all the expected and much-loved classics including Mr Bojangles and New York New York, together with many Festive faves full of seasonal cheer.

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## Sharon Shannon and Alan Connor Artrix, Bromsgrove | 11 Nov

It was 1991 when Sharon Shannon's first album came out. Tonight was an opportunity for the Button Accordeon player from County Clare, but now based in Galway, to draw on a richly varied back catalogue.

She was accompanied, and at times overshadowed, by the brilliant **Alan Connor** on Keyboards and Electric Guitar. He also sang a couple of songs.

Their set started with Alan Connor wandering on and dishing up a few chords before Sharon tottered on wearing a pair of red platform heels that could have come straight from Dave Hill's shoe rack. Good job she sits down when she plays.

First tune up was Bungee Jumpers, a set of 3 reels from her second Album 'Out the Gap'. This was followed by more reels, jigs and waltzes including *Sandy River Belle*, *Cordinio*, *Cavan Potholes* and *The Blackbird*, to name but a few, all delivered with her trademark grin. It was not long before the Castignari Box was swapped for the Whistle as she rattled out the *Reels Rathlin Island* and *Sporting Paddy*, all with superb accompaniment from Connor's groovy piano. Alan Connor's Boogie-Woogie style Roland Keyboard may seem to be an odd accompaniment to the Button Accordeon, but it certainly works, loops and all.

It was his turn to take centre stage next as he sang the Leadbelly classic *Midnight Special*, accompanying himself on Electric Guitar while Sharon provided a bit of backing on the Box. The man can sing too!

A few more tunes to follow, including a couple of gems, *The Jewels of the Ocean* and *Lizzie in the Low Ground* from the 2005 Album 'Tunes', the latter written by Chicago Fiddle player Liz Carroll.



After a brief tete-a-tete the performers decided that Connor would play a solo set next. He chose a rocking blues number on his Roland Piano, taking his energetic style to new levels, all nodding head and lightning fast fingers like a man possessed; he just needed a cape to round the performance off. This was one of the highlights of the evening.

But not to be outdone Sharon was soon to provide the next one, though not before she treated us to a Fiddle tune, *The Woodchoppers* taken from her first Album. Then she really let rip wading into *The Mouth of the Tobique* - another set of reels from her third Album 'Each Little Thing'.

Encore time and another song from Alan Connor, what else but the Steve Earle classic *The Galway Girl*. Earle says of this song "Who is the Galway Girl? I'll never tell. I'm a gentleman after all". I'm pretty sure who he is referring to.

These two have forged a truly great partnership and they produced what they set out to do: "To beat real iron out, to work the bellows".

Sharon & Alan were more than ably supported by local lass and Big Slap Fave **Lisbee Stainton**. Slinging her trademark handmade, 8 string guitar Lisbee entranced the audience for 30 minutes or so with her lovely voice and always interesting original songs. She undoubtedly added new fans this night as she continues on her deservedly upward musical trajectory.

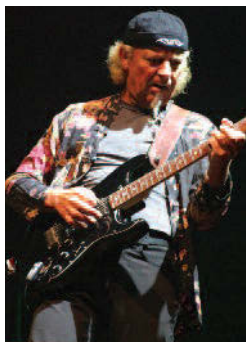
Tom R Wettsack

## PREVIEW Martin Barre Artrix | Fri 30th Jan

From Swing to Soul to (Prog) Rock - you can't accuse us or the Artrix of having anything less than catholic taste.

And so a solid gold guitar legend arrives in Bromsgrove in the form of **Jethro Tull** mainstay **Martin Barre**. His playing has earned him a high level of respect from both peers and fans alike and as Jethro Tull themselves are taking a long break from touring, Martin has put together a band to play some classics from the Tull back catalogue.

However Martin has much more than one string to his guitar (I saw what you did there. Ed) and has worked with many artists including Paul McCartney, Phil Collins, Gary Moore and Joe Bonamassa, plus shared a stage with such legends as Hendrix, Fleetwood Mac, Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.



Martin and band display total commitment to the Tull faithful by playing songs not performed for many years: this is truly a night for fans and converts alike.

## Northern Soul Night Artrix | Fri 2nd Jan

Forget New Years Eve and nursing a hangover on New Years Day- we're saving ourselves for this the Artrix Northern Soul Night! Now whilst us Slappers were obviously too young to remember the scene first time round and were much too busy bouncing around on our Space Hoppers and beating up our sisters to notice.

Now this formerly neglected corner of music has been recaptured in an excellent, genre-defining film by photographer-turned-director **Elaine Constantine**. The film imaginatively titled *er.Northern Soul* successfully captures the 1970's northern club scene in all its wonderfully intense, sweaty, chemically fuelled glory.



After the film you can get yer talc out and take a spin on the dance floor with Northern Soul DJ Glyn Preece. We'll be there in force - ooh me back - Keep The Faith!



## Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos plus Shambolix Marrs Bar Friday | 21st November

I was a bit worried when I arrived in the Marrs Bar on Friday 21st November for the gig by **Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos**. The Marrs Bar's low, dim space seemed rather chilly and unsettlingly empty. There were only about a dozen people huddled around the tables, and that included the band members. Had Worcester already forgotten about one of its best bands, I wondered? It'd been quite a while since the Sexy Weirdos had camped their ramshackle Romany Punk Ska caravan on the Faithful City's riverbank. I'd heard stories of riotous Birmingham shows, new recordings produced by a legendary dub reggae producer, a European busking tour which had been so successful that they'd followed it up with a return tour to the same cities but now in legitimate venues due to the amount of contacts made when busking... Had time in other places pursuing adventure, their own creativity, and fresh audiences, faded them from Worcester's collective memory? Surely they weren't going to play to a cold, empty Marrs Bar? Were they?

Five minutes before opening band **Shambolix** were due to go on, an audience began to trickle in from the damp uninviting autumn night. Shambolix pre-empted the need to get the audience's attention by handing out small placards to everyone watching before they began playing. These were funny slogans that reflected British society's current apathy and confusion with the current state of: politics / religion / society as a whole / name your own; ranging from the wittily self-fulfilling *"Death to Extremists"* to the coruscatingly cutting *"Why Bother?"*. Immediately we were all invested in their show, wondering how we and our placards would fit in. What followed was a superb and funny critique of the current unstable global socio-political climate. I know when reading that last sentence it sounds hard to believe, but honestly – a comedy punk duo managed it in only half an hour! They started by promising they would provide answers to the sweeping global problems that the placards posed. They did this through side-splittingly funny re-arranged cover versions of songs, ranging from Michael Jackson's *"Heal the World"*, to Tracy Chapman's *"Talking about a Revolution"* (sample lyric: *"Talkin' About a Revolution / It starts with a whisper / But someone will still come and empty my bins though, right?"*). And amid all this they managed, as promised, to sneakily slip in a suggested solution to these problems which actually might work. But you'll have to go to one of their shows to find out what it is...



Fortunately, throughout **Shambolix** set the audience had continued to filter inside slowly but steadily, ensuring they had a good size audience by about halfway through their set. Now all the Marrs Bar's tables were occupied and strangers were chatting after being obliged to share tables and squeeze together, and there was an expectant hum as **Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos** took their places. This hum immediately translated into movement the second they started playing, as people got up and moved in front of the



stage to dance as The Weirdos' irresistibly infectious gypsy ska punk hybrid roared through the room. All that time away playing all over the place had really tightened the Weirdos – they looked and sounded gig-fit. Their sound was taut but still rolled like a drunk walking home, and as Johnny turns round to roar at the drummer or as violinist **John-Joe Murray** leapt from the stage to goad the audience, they still retained that element of edge that makes you feel anything could happen. To cheers from the audience, Johnny told us that *"Tequila Song"* (taken from new album *"Kill the Beast"*) was about a real incident that took place at the Marrs Bar. It was probably best that he didn't elaborate any further given what the song's lyrics reveal. Johnny makes a charismatic frontman, taking off his shirt to reveal his lime-green vest underneath as the band start to work up into a sweat. This went for the audience too, who found the rousing gypsy jig rhythms of The Weirdos increasingly hard to resist, and the crowd of dancers down the front grew with each song. The traditional folk tune *"Raggle-Taggle Gypsy"* was a natural choice for the band to cover, and as they revitalised the song with their energetic delivery the audience willingly responded in kind. The Sexy Weirdos use of brass has always allowed them to effectively colour their songs with dub accents and ska rhythms and they laid out their reggae chops by playing Peter Tosh's *"Legalise It"* before blending it into another new song *"The Good Shark"*, a song about walking through the unforgiving city night with the courage that only being the eternal outsider can bring. The theme of walking through the city and reflecting on the state of the world / your own life was also represented on *"That's The One"*, about a rainy walk home after a night out and wondering if it's all worth it. As their scorching set approached the end *"Klezmer Prayer"*, a familiar favourite from first album *"Victory For The Monsters"*, invited audience participation with its call and response structure. Its lyrics still acting as something of a summing up of Johnny Kowalski and The Sexy Weirdos' attitude: *"I am righteous in my dealings, no matter how much you disagree."* Indeed. Don't leave it so long until we meet up again, Sexy Weirdos everywhere.

Words: Dan Bramhall Pics: Beppe Tirrelli

## Surprise Attacks Christmas Charity Show

**In Support of West Mercia Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre**  
**Arbor Lights | Holy | Transmissions | Rusty Knives**  
**Stand Up Comedy From Roger Swift | Mike**  
**Crump | Kris Hall | Josh Pugh | Joe Thomlinson**  
**This Is Funny. Rape Jokes Aren't.**

Stand up comedy and the alternative music scene have been good mates over the years. Comedy has been called the new rock and roll more than once. And rock and roll is, well, still rock and roll.

Worcester DIY promoters **Surprise Attacks** are pleased as punch to bring a tinselly Christmas mash up to the Firefly in Worcester on **Friday 12th Dec.** Featuring four of the best from the local music scene and five of the best stand up comedians from the Midlands open mic circuit, you will be spoilt for both tunes and good cheer in equal measure. And all the more so as this will also be a very special charity event in support of a very important local cause.

Unless you've been living in a cave you will have noticed that attitudes towards sexual assault - already taking a dive back into dark Benny Hill territory in an age of Robin Thicke - have been in the news recently for all the wrong reasons. Dapper Laughs. Julien. Blanc.



The fact that one of these has had his career ended and the other denied access to the UK is perhaps a sign that not everyone thinks rape jokes are funny.

**West Mercia Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre** (registered charity no 1136677) is a voluntary service that has been providing free, confidential and non-judgemental support, since 1986, for survivors who have experienced any form of sexual violence or abuse, either recent or historic. Between last April and March this year 853 new clients accessed the centre for face to face support. The numbers continue to rise year on year.

This festive extravaganza will be in support of WMRSASC - and all money raised will go directly to supporting survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

Surprise Attacks co-founder **Chris Burton** explained further "we are very proud to put this show on in support of a local service that we believe is vital, and that remains underfunded. All four bands are excellent - and we're really excited to work with some of the brightest lights of the underground comedy scene. The local business community has already provided some awesome prizes to be raffled on the night - and further support or donations are very welcome. Most of all though, come down to the Firefly and have a good old dance and a laugh with us on the 12th December. This will be special"

After all. It's... CHRISTTMAAAAAS!!!!

For more info about the event please visit [facebook.com/surpriseattacks](https://facebook.com/surpriseattacks) or twitter @surpriseattacks

For more information about WMRSASC please contact Sian Patterson, Policy & Sustainability Officer, email: [sian.patterson@wmrsasc.org.uk](mailto:sian.patterson@wmrsasc.org.uk) or call 01905 611655

Words: Ed Ling Photography: B at Gippa  
[www.wmrsasc.org.uk](http://www.wmrsasc.org.uk) / Helpline: 01905 724514

## The Albion Christmas Band One for the Road Huntingdon Hall | Thur 18th Dec

As Worcester's supermarket shelves exchanged their back to school banners for Christmas crackers and the last of the summer barbecues were replaced by tinsel, baubles and wrapping paper, so the Albion Christmas Band began preparations for its annual foray into the musical joys of the festive season. The band returns to Worcester as part of its One for the Road tour and the Huntingdon Hall audience will have the opportunity to unwind and escape from all the hustle and bustle of the seasonal preparations and enjoy a packed evening of seasonal carols, spoken word, humorous readings and dance.

This year's tour coincides with the release of the band's live album of the same name, featuring a selection from this special two-hour show and boasts the top quality line-up of Simon Nichol (founder member of airport Convention) on guitar & vocals, Kellie While (Albion Band) on guitar, percussion and vocals, Simon Care (Edward II) playing melodeons and The

Guv'nor himself, Ashley Hutchings (founder member of Airport, Albion Band and Steeleye Span) on bass guitar and vocals.

The show is bound to be a welcome antithesis to TV Xmas Specials, reminding the audience of simpler pleasures and values of a traditional Christmas. A cockle-warming experience for all I am sure!





# Photographer Jim Simpson

Havill & Travis, Birmingham | until 27th Dec

The Sixties and Seventies were an inspired era for musical photography, you had it all the hippies, punk rockers, rock 'n' roll, blues and glam. You also had genuine rock stars, nowadays you struggle to name one iconic rock star (unless it's someone from the 60/70's heyday), but back then you had The Stones, The Who, Cream, Hendrix, Bowie, Chuck Berry, Little Richard and so on, those characters that today still capture the imagination.



Musician, music mogul and photographer **Jim Simpson** seemed to often be in the right place at the right time. Birmingham was alive with the sound of music, the Second City drew ever big names (or indeed those bands on the up) in the music industry and avid gig-goer Jim was there with his camera managing to capture those iconic stars either backstage or indeed treading the boards.

Brand new gallery owners **Havill and Travis** are both music and art lovers (plus promoters of music events across the city), as well as being fans of Jim's incredible photography. The three of them got together and decided it was high time the public got to see these images of yesteryear collected in a wonderful retrospective. Hours were spent deciding which photos to use, it was decided each of the twenty-one photos on display should come from the early to mid sixties and should capture a moment or an event.

The results are simply spellbinding, each of the photos captures a stunning image of the artist whether it's on stage, backstage or on the streets of Birmingham. The photos are all natural, nothing seems posed or fake, the live shots capture the energy, whilst the backstage images showcase an artist at ease with Jim and his camera.

I could sit here and describe each and every image for you but instead I'll note just a few favourites and urge you to visit the exhibition yourselves. For live work, I have to mention the incredible shot of **Ginger Baker** (of **Cream**) battering his drums in a pub in Yardley (The Swan); there's a raw beauty to the shot, capturing a man in full flow, whilst he's surrounded by his audience all sporting the regimental bowl mop-tops of the era and you can see the skins of each drum have received the pounding that Ginger is renowned for. Another interesting live shot featured is that of **The Moody Blues**, taken at the **Carlton Club** in Erdington. Now they're not a band that interest me musically but the photo captures the band and more importantly the matching outfits that became something of an identity around the time.



As for the backstage shots I could mention a lovely photo of **Jagger** stretched across a sofa at the **ATV studios** or a vivid image of **Nina Simone** looking over her shoulder with that strong "*don't mess with me*" that seemed to be very much part of her personality, but for me the photo that captures perhaps an era is a breathtaking image of **Marianne Faithful**, comb in hair; a stunning shot that showcases the glamour, sexuality and perhaps even innocence of Faithful before her fall from grace.

Jim's work and eye for detail is wonderfully captivating and not only are you left in awe but you're also left wondering what else he has in his archives, with photos of both **Ginger Baker** and **Jack Bruce** you wonder if there's an iconic photo of **Clapton** in there or more of **Sabbath** in their early days and can we expect retrospectives from any other era from Jim?

Like I mentioned early on in the feature, if you're a fan of music, photography or both you deserve to treat yourself by at the very least viewing the retrospective, if not treating yourself to a print or two (if you're buying I'll take one of each please, after all it's Christmas). You have until the 27th of December to visit the gallery. [www.havillandtravis.co.uk](http://www.havillandtravis.co.uk)

Words Will Munn

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# Q & A with Digital DJ Music

The DJ is the new rock star! With the dance scene bigger and more eclectic than ever, the people playing the music are arguably more important than ever (you would say that cuz you're a DJ also! Ed).

So Adam Sinclair and Adam Flintham set up a shop in Lowesmoor to serve the needs of all mixologists, turntablists and the like both experienced and aspiring.

Being so close to Slap HQ and with me in desperate need of a technological updating it was a no-brainer to take the chance to ask the Digital DJ boiz a few questions about what they are up to...



Could you please tell us a bit about your background in the music business & what led to you opening up your own shop?

Adam F - We have both been into DJ'ing since school, and between us have now played clubs and festival around the UK and Europe. Adam Sinclair, as Adjected Deleted, has had many releases and appeared on Radio 1 on several different occasions. I (Adam Flintham) had also been DJ'ing in addition to being manager at Music47, but my passion was for electronic music so I wanted to bring DJ Equipment and music technology to Worcester. Hence I decided to set up Digital DJ Music along with my long time friend Adam Sinclair.

S - Being old I am a vinyl head and can barely operate 2 decks and a basic mixer. So how would you go about updating and enlightening me to the digital domain of DJing?

AF - The world of DJ'ing has changed much like everything else in the world. Most DJ's no longer carry bags of vinyl, not even CD's now, they carry USB sticks or SD cards to use, or they use DJ Controllers which manipulate software. Some traditionalists would try and argue the skill of DJ'ing has diminished, but the game has changed! It's no longer about just blending 2 tunes together or scratching, it's more about live performance and creation on the fly. Take the new Native Instruments Kontrol S8 DJ controller...The first to have no jog wheels! They believe it's the future of live performance DJ's and it has been the most talked about product we have had in the store.

S - Also please expand any products which you feel are the key/core items which should be both aspiring and any self-respecting DJ's Christmas stocking this year?

AF - Any DJ Needs to have good quality Headphones and any producer needs to have good quality studio monitors. These are essential to what we do! - DJ'ing and music production has become really accessible to all and most people who visit the store are surprised at how affordable the products are.

S - Tell us more about your DJing, what music you favour and your favourite DJ's.

AF - We both have different tastes but are mainly house orientated! Adam Sinclair (as Adjected Deleted) has played at loads of venues and handed the decks over to several big



names such as Gorgon City, Annie Mac and Calvin Harris to name a few. I'm known as Skinny and I've had a shorter DJ career but have still played at clubs including the Ministry of Sound and have played on the same nights as the likes of Afrojack and Hannah Wants the Plump DJ's. Have a listen to us here:- <https://soundcloud.com/adamskinnyflintham> <https://soundcloud.com/adjecteddeleted>. If I had to pick one DJ that stands out for me it would be Sasha or Paul Van Dyk and for Adam S it would be DJ EZ - he loves a busy DJ who is constantly doing things whilst I like music to flow much more and be a journey. Although all three of these DJ's can rock any crowd anywhere!

S - What do you think of the DJ scene in Worcester and surrounding areas and which nights and clubs do you go to?

AF - The music scene in Worcester is good and with the Dance Scene as big as it is at the moment, nights are popping up everywhere. We really like what Pro-ject are doing at the minute - bringing huge names to Worcester is a great achievement and something they should be proud of. We definitely recommend going to their parties. We just hope that the people of Worcester appreciate what they are doing and realise how lucky they are to have some of the DJ's play there!

S - What does the future hold for DJing i.e. what are the trends and innovations to look out for and forward to?

AF - The future is certainly more about the digital age and crossing the boundary between DJ'ing and live performance. Pioneer have just launched the first turntable specifically designed for USB sticks with an in built touchscreen to activate things such as loops or hot cues! - DJ controllers are becoming more accepted as well - Just as CDs were back in the day. Based on that I think DJ'ing will become more popular and more accessible with the boundaries between live performance and DJ'ing continuing to be broken. Even the avid rock fans are starting to appreciate live performance DJ's and nights like RAWK in Worcester are bridging the gap between rock and dance music crowds. On a wider scale take Disclosure for example, onstage they don't use what you would call a "real instrument", yet from what we have read had the biggest crowd of the week at Glastonbury this year! Most bands now have some sort of electronic music influence or instrument on stage and loads of them even have a DJ!!

S - Finally what do you think of Snoop coming to Worcester?

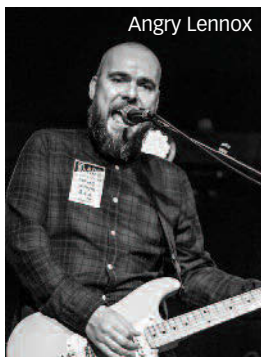
AF - Ha, one of my personal Idols from my college years!! I spent most my youth listening to Doggystyle!! Most of the people going to see him would probably not know him as "The Doggfather" which is a shame but I'm sure he puts on a massive party and it will be a sell out for sure. Again, it shows how popular and easy DJ'ing is when you have superstars like Snoop doing a 2 hour set! - I just hope Tramps turns their smoke alarms off, if you know what I mean!!

Thank you Adam and Adam for your time and Good Luck with the shop and your future DJing exploits!

## Slaves | God Damn | Angry Lennox Wolverhampton Slade Rooms | Sun 16th Nov

Thanks to Jools Holland **Slaves** are getting a mainstream buzz. But could they bring it on a wet Sunday evening? Yes. Yes they could.

First though, openers **Angry Lennox** had a lot going on: intelligent 90s proto-emo (think Dinosaur Junior at their catchiest) with the odd hardcore punk flourish, all driven along by a Mayan warrior priest on drums. For



real.

**God Damn** are getting some serious industry sniffing, apparently – they're the non-pop, ultra-heavy Royal Blood, to paraphrase the old NME. And this hairy experiment with decibels alternately grooved, fuzzed and loosened your bowels: the shockwave these two human beings produce has

to be experienced first-hand. Central to this musical equivalent of aerial carpet bombing is drummer **Ash Weaver**, a cross between Animal out the muppets and a bricklayer's apprentice circa 1971, who basically channels the spirit of John Bonham, combining ear-shattering brute force with an unpretentious sense of swing.

And then: **Slaves**.

The set-up is pretty unique – not least the way frontman **Isaac Holman** stands at his drums, rockabilly style - but the true genius of **Slaves** is their simplicity. A bare minimum of instrumental fuss enables the blazing personalities of this pair of Maidstone wideboys to take centre stage. There's as much storytelling and space in what they do as there is nuts-tight visceral garage-punk fury. And there is plenty of that. There's nothing fancy about stuff like "*Beauty Quest*" or "*Girl Fight*", though. It's just a little fellow hammering his kit and telling you about the often surreal things that either fascinate or annoy him, while his mate cuts in with perfectly-timed riffs. But the result is anti-pop gold.



Words: Ed Ling Pictures: B at Gippa Photography

## Stuart Woolfenden

### Are You Vulnerable or Just Insane?

**Stuart Woolfenden** in a sixteen year old singer-songwriter hailing from Redditch, who to date has played in and around Worcestershire, taking in a number of venues, whilst honing his sound.

*Are You Vulnerable or Just Insane?* is Stuart's debut EP, a four track affair that combines a love of rock, indie, pop and beyond forming an instantly likeable and at times unique sound that belies Stuart's tender years, he also showcases an impressive ability to craft a catchy melody and an infectious chorus or two.

The EP open's with *The Union Jack*, a short yet memorable tune, that should find favour with both fans of edgy pop and breezy rock. The song opens with a crunchy stomping riff, before the vocals join the mix with Stuart delivering a bright melodic croon, whilst the

chorus up the ante further with some tasty harmonies and an instantly addictive chorus, as Stuart delivers the perfect introduction to his brand of power-pop.

Both *Latex*, *Glitter & Flesh* and *Blood On Your Hands* both straddle that rock/pop divide effortlessly, with each track featuring the obligatory hook-laden chorus, the former is a more melodic affair, with Stuart weaving acoustic strums into an already potent mix, whilst *Blood On Your Hands* is a more bombastic affair with its use of pounding drums and buzzing riffs, each of the two tracks have their individual charm, whilst both contain that all important allure that urges repeat spins.

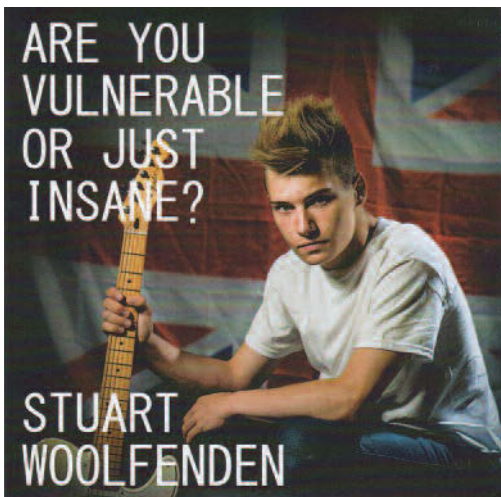
*No-One Ever Has Ambition Anymore* is somewhat aptly named as Stuart pulls out all the stops with a stunning take on near chamber pop, beginning with a solo piano and an aching vocal combination before developing into a sweeping, majestic number complete with strings and chiming guitars, whilst Stuart's lyrics are both stirring and compelling proving himself to already be a writer of depth and passion on his first tender steps in the world of music.

This EP genuinely took me by surprise, its well crafted, it shows ambition and Stuart already knows how to pen a

memorable hook, this is a seriously impressive debut from start to finish.

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

Will Munn

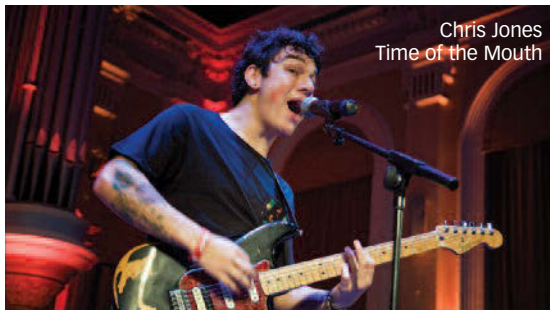




# Vault Of Eagles & Time Of The Mouth

Kidderminster Town Hall | Thurs 6th November

Well, the summers finally faded, as the sun dives behind a fresh acetate of suburban gray cracking that hope of an absurd trilogy of heat waves, the cold of late autumn seems to be seizing the streets. One short train ride and a stomp later, I arrive to see **Time Of The Mouth** take the stage; I've followed this outfit throughout their short tenure and they seem to develop and grow with every outing. Influences seem to be **Biffy Clyro**, **Artic Monkeys** and the third wave of alt rock.



Chris Jones  
Time of the Mouth

Energetically charged and immediate, if slightly emotive. They showcase interesting breakdowns that show front man Chris could ply his trade as a shoegazer if he so wished, with his liberal use of reverb and general pedaltronics. At times I hear inflections of early **At The Drive-In**, sans the word salad verbiage; they have plenty of off beat, left-field moments tho. Interesting rhythmic interplay from the drums and bass, the bassist is daring and confident enough to fret tap. This trio have energy and panache to pull off a confidently honed, well oiled set.

**Vault Of Eagles** soon take the stage to rousing applause, opening with offbeat tribal pairings of '*Inside*' and '*Peace For Free*', the latter with its truncated sixes provides a confident assault on the senses. Both songs showcase the dual vocals of **Hetty** and **Mari Randle** (bass and guitar respectively), however this band channel their energies as a trio, with drummer **Scott Ewins** bringing up the rear with an unfussy, impeccable feel and groove.

Following up with a **PJ Harvey** cover which bridged the gap nicely, Polly complements the jarred rhythmic qualities of **Vault Of Eagles** and the cracked melancholy of **Mari's** songs.

Next, a new song about the welfare state, ticks a few anarcho punk boxes: "*You have to pay for your way just give me a home/ just give me hope*" and "*You have to pay for your way same as me*". A fitting undercurrent of social



commentary in light of of the Anonymous movements recent 'Culture Jamming' paired with **Guy Fawkes** night. Surprisingly we are treated to a glimpse of the folksy side of the **Randle** sisters, with a short interlude of acoustic offerings.

Appropriately beginning with **Queens Of The Stone Age** cover '*Burn The Witch*' (with **Tom** from **Naked Remedy** on acoustic guitar & cojon plus **Deborah Rose** on guest vocals), giving us a trio of feminine harmonies. Followed by **Dylan's** '*One More Cup Of Coffee*' during which I saw a chap named **Plant** nodding in approval; nice to see him show his support.

The third set is songs plucked from the newer release, starting with vinyl single flipside "*Living Without Love*"; a personal favourite of mine with it's L7 pulse in compound time, a real dirty swagger that builds from watery/Leslie soaked intro to final climatic, dual harmonypeak.

The centrepiece tonight though was '*Spoonfed Dead*': I was surprised by the meticulous build of this song (having heard it many times before), tonight I noticed the harmonic development and dynamic restraint meticulously packaged into such a simple, short ditty about consumerism and conformity. In a way this song sums up the appeal of **Vault Of Eagles**: there are rough hewn edges in this multi faceted jewel.

It has been noted before that it is difficult to pinpoint what equates to success in music these days. To which I would say - having a back catalogue as strong as theirs, having a former member of **Led Zeppelin** in attendance (dodging girls selfies - amongst other things these rock Gods do these days,) and showcasing a drummer as distinctive as (the Marshall award winning) **Scott Ewins**, V.O.E have nothing to fear there. They have a well deserved following and a DIY ethic which stretches both from the art of **Hetty**, to the screenprinted merch, to their approach to making the music they love, all of which, is to be cherished, admired and revered.

Words: Craigus Barry Photography: Toni Charles

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# Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Another busy month for us here at **Circuit Sweet** with plenty of gigs to attend and hundreds of new articles on the site. But unfortunately the big Hereford news and a real blow to the live music scene is the sad announcement that **The Jailhouse** will close its doors after New Year's Eve. Unfortunately, although Hereford's prime venue offers a

diverse range of events most nights, the footfall has become unreliable and so the team striving to entertain Hereford don't want to jeopardise events with a potentially bigger draw for the sake of minor ones, but it's a bitter pill to swallow! The closure of the venue will be the biggest loss to the city, but in true Jailhouse fashion the venue is saying its goodbyes with a few more weeks of unmissable shows.

It's safe to say that without this venue in Hereford - a place we could call our own, we wouldn't be where we are today - we owe the Jailhouse and all their staff a lot. This venue has nurtured our own love of live music and we have seen some incredible acts on our doorstep (**GZA**). The hard-working owners and promoters of the Jailhouse plus of course the crowds have helped nurture so much local talent, thus

creating a home for alternative entertainment, inspiring and entertaining so many.

At the time of **SLAP** going to press, **The Jailhouse** will have hosted 3 amazing nights. One being the second **Never Mind The Bullocks** show with **God Damn**, **Plane Crasher**, **Weathered Hands**, **Cassandra** and **Chew**. The other two shows - something a little special for Hereford - **Frank Turner**. Frank has confirmed two nights/show which both sold out within minutes showing that live nights in our hometown can be supported. Frank first played the venue back in 2007 and after the announcement of the doors closing and Frank sending his regards, days later those trusty Herefordian promoters revealed these send off shows.

Where does this leave Hereford? - Hereford is full of creative, passionate and talented individuals who work hard to bring something monumental to the county and beyond, so this knock will just push their determination further. Local community group **Hereford Live** have assured the public they will be sticking around and that's something we can be grateful for, but it does mean that the music community needs to stick together now more than ever. We will continue to promote local live events through our social network and attend as many shows as possible. If you are a local act and have a show booked or a release ready please get in touch with us - we would love to hear from you.

As for December, we have our annual **Circuit Sweet** shop sale and the return of our **Rad Releases**.

During the run up to Christmas and New Year favourite artists of **Circuit Sweet** will be taking over the site to tell us all their personal favourite releases of the year and why. This will include local, UK & International bands, press and promotion, worldwide labels, festivals and more. So be sure to stick with us over the festive period for plenty of reading.

As for 2014, we've had the best year yet and we want to thank you for continuing to support what we do. See you next year **Slap!!**

GZA - by Oli Montez



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# Officer Down / Thirty Six Strategies / A Werewolf!

Charity Show In Support Of You Turn! Youth Centre  
**Iron Road Rock Bar,**  
**Evesham | Friday 19th Dec**

All-age shows were the foundation of the punk and DIY movement: the "X" on the back of the hand, the emblem of "hardcore" punk, was originally how venues identified who not to serve alcohol. "The kids" are the eternal lifeblood of any music scene – and a primary source of its energy and creative edge. All-age shows are a rarity these days. And in the age of... austerity, positive, creative opportunities of any kind for the young and disaffected equally so.

For the past 18 months the **You Turn Youth Centre** in Evesham has been providing services and outreach to local young adults - including life skills and vocational training - entirely through volunteer time and independent fund raising. In a previous issue we promoted You Turn's appeal for donations of equipment and instruments for their new rehearsal and performance space project. This is an important part of the project's future plans, and something hopefully close to the hearts of anyone that reads this mag.



On Friday 19th December the good people at the **Iron Road Rock Bar**, at The Railway, Evesham will be hosting an all-age show to raise funds for the You Turn Youth Centre's music project. Headlined by the midlands' premier skate-punk export, Evesham's **Officer Down** - and supported by local melodic hardcore heroes **Thirty Six Strategies** and the wonder of experimental noise that is **A Werewolf!** this will be a both a blast of life-affirming punk - and a chance to support something truly worthwhile.

Over the past twelve months **Officer Down** have toured both America and Europe, and played with Masked Intruder, The Flatliners, Strike Anywhere and the venerable Subhumans to name a few. This will be a rare hometown show - and one not to be missed.

Ed Ling

[facebook.com/officerdownuk](https://facebook.com/officerdownuk)

[facebook.com/Thirty-Six-Strategies](https://facebook.com/Thirty-Six-Strategies)

[facebook.com/awerewolfawerewolf](https://facebook.com/awerewolfawerewolf)

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Fri 19th - Delray Rockets

Wed 24th - Christmas Eve

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Sun 28th - Casino Night - *dress up, spend some cash and gamble the night away !!*

Wed 31st - New Years Eve - (tickets only)  
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See listings pages for January Events

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## Night of the Living Shred #2

**Dead Ramones / Nothing Clean / Fetus Christ**  
**Plane Crasher / Skinhorse / Brain Wreck**  
**Jailhouse, Hereford | Friday 31st Oct**

There are some nasty things lurking in the musical woodshed out in Hereford. And this was pretty much a Halloween showcase of that fierce scene with its proudly antisocial attitude to volume. It was also a theme night: every band doing a Danzig-era Misfits cover (what says spooky punk more than Danzig, baby?) and a headline by a specially-formed anti-tribute band. It was also a benefit for the city's high-flying Roller Derby Team: a marriage made in punk Hades.

Openers **Brain Wreck** were a clattering homage to US hardcore greats like Black Flag, DOA and other such nonsense. With some very recent and fundamental line-up changes it was also remarkable that this band managed to complete their set without electrocuting themselves. They didn't. So game on.

**Skinhorse** – a noise-jazz drums-and-bass instrumental two piece – played it tight and dirty. Some people wonder what these wordless binary musical units would sound like with vocals. And on this rare occasion they found out, as this lot borrowed the frontman of both Brain Wreck and Fetus Christ for a searing cover of the singularly irreverent and incorrect *"Bullet"*. Google *"misfits+bullet+lyrics"* and you'll see what I mean.

**Plane Crasher** played their first track dressed as spooky ghosts. This was a long bill so they customarily rattled through their set, with the standout being their greatest pop hit *"Mouth Full of Lips"*, which was so cataclysmically bass-heavy it freely loosened both the plaster on the walls and the bowels.



**Fetus Christ.** Yes. **Fetus Christ.** Termed by some as *"Powerviolence"*, this EyeHateGod meets Infest meets Iron Monkey grindcore shittery was and is far more compelling and entertaining than that term - and those band names - may lead the uninitiated to expect. Fronted by what can only be described as a glistening, tattooed and heavily veined human phallus this was a pulsing and flexing wall of hot noise - that didn't really care if you were watching or not. But you couldn't not. Watch.



Leicester's **Nothing Clean** continued in the same vein. With few songs lasting more than a minute this was shittails-fast old school UK hardcore. With intent. Glorious, if you go for this type of thing. But perhaps a tad extreme for some in the good-sized crowd that were here in support of the Roller Derby crew. However, what followed was something rather special: **The Dead Ramones**.



If you're going to do a tribute band: do it right. Pay attention to the detail. But give old material new life. The set here was only from the first Ramones albums, which featured the original line-up. Who are all now, as the name implies, dead. The pitch-perfect banter was taken faithfully from actual Ramones live albums and bootlegs. The energy and naked chutzpah of the performance did the rest. Be it black magic, cottage voodoo or whatever: this was indeed a night of the living dead.

Words: Egon Coalsack Photography: B at Gippa



## Increase the Peace Too Priors Croft, Malvern | Thurs 13th Nov

If you think **Priors Croft** in Malvern is all about teenagers, cheesy tunes and the wristband of shame, think again. Thursday nights are fast becoming the town's only alternative option and the catalyst for this positive change is Increase the Peace, organised by Malvern DJ duo **Boris & Morris**.



The launch night on 2nd October was somewhat subdued but the addition of a live band for **Increase the Peace Too**

proved a masterstroke, making the difference in terms of feet on the floor. After warming up the small but up-for-it crowd with some reggae beats from the impressively-dreadlocked DJ Morris, the **Allstars Dub band** took the stage around 10pm and didn't take long to get all on board with their chilled-out dub vibe with the opening number, Ken Gear's favourite *"The Road is Foggy"*.

Originally formed by frontman **Phil Linnell** and keyboard player **Rachel Poloni** in 2010, the Allstars sound is really driven by the astonishing drumming of former **Fine Young Cannibal Martin Parry** allied to the rock steady bass from **Steve Price**. Superb Sax from **Phil Howard** provide both the bells and the whistles and the whole ensemble really succeed in sucking you in to their dubbed out sphere.

The vast majority of punters gave up trying to keep still and danced along with the Allstars for well over an hour whilst **Silly Joel** fuked out in the back room with some fine tunes and visuals.

Malvern's **Mike Ellis** (aka **Dyna Mic**) beatboxed his malleable mouth to virtual oblivion in an attempt to prevent the crowd following the Allstars out of the door after their set, providing a fitting finale to a well-organised and well-attended Thursday night bonanza. No wristbands, no worries, here's hoping **Increase the Peace** Three continues this upward trend. **Boris, Morris, Allstars, Dyna Mic** and **Silly Joel**, Malvern salutes you!

*Words: Dan Johnson Photography: Jem Pond*

## FEATURE

## Chase The Deer

Worcestershire Indie Rock band **Chase the Deer** take their first steps on the road to success as **Feutral Records** sign them to their label.

Worcestershire has been the home to many quality music artists and it is always a delight to see the county's young talent rising up through the ranks on their way to stardom. Chase the Deer are the latest success story following their signing to Feutral Records, the 'Indie Rock Label' situated in Birmingham. Pershore based fivesome formed only in May and since then everything has taken off.

2014 has been an extremely busy year for the band who have been spending hard days at the studio and performing at Worcestershire festival Snodfest but perhaps their most exciting event this year has been an official meeting with Feutral Records to whom they are now signed. The meeting consisted of lots of discussion about their new contract with the label and ended with a very smiley congratulatory photo! They work closely with their sound engineer **Dave Draper** who according to **Briony Watkins** (lead vocalist) is *"very talented and has lots of incredible knowledge about music."*



Theo Wright



Beth Hoskins

At present the band are preparing to record a second song in December after *'Think'*, their refreshingly unique debut single which was released in early September. Watkins claimed that once this is complete, they are hoping to begin work on an EP and set up as many gigs as possible to get their name out there.

Although there are no upcoming gigs confirmed just yet, the band are definitely worth keeping an eye on. The future is certainly looking bright for **Chase the Deer** and it was always just a matter of time before someone snapped them up!

To find out more about the band like them on Facebook at [www.facebook/chasethedeer.com](http://www.facebook/chasethedeer.com) and listen to *'Think'* on their SoundCloud page [www.soundcloud.com/chasethedeer](http://www.soundcloud.com/chasethedeer)

*Laura Hunt*



Produced by

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**Saturday 27th December**

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## Monday 1 December 2014

**Floorboards/Monarks/Go Primitive/Amateur Drive By**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

## Tuesday 2 December 2014

**Low Derive, Question The Mark, Joe McMahon, The Insomniacs**  
Death or Glory Records, Redditch

## Wednesday 3 December 2014

**Mark Steel**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Paul Carrack**  
Malvern Theatre

**Funke And The Two Tone Baby**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## Thursday 4 December 2014

**Rich Goble**  
The Talbot Inn, Bewdley

**Lounge Toad**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Journeyman**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Vice Squad + Thatcher's Love Child + Spoils of War**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Tom Walker Trio**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Acoustic Session with Adam Barnes and Russ Poole**  
Gloucester Guildhall

**Low Derive, Question The Mark, Joe McMahon, Laughing In The Face Of**  
Wagon & Horses, Birmingham

**Pasadena Roof Orchestra**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Bojangles presents On The Box**  
REDI Centre, Redditch

**The Sensational 60's Experience**  
Malvern Theatre

**13 Shots, Lupen Tooth, Stunx Gun**  
Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## Friday 5 December 2014

**Mister Wolf**  
The Gardeners Arms, Evesham

**Missin Rosie** (Upstairs) **The Sunken Foal** (Cellar Bar)  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Steve Lindforth**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Flatworld**  
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Will Killeen**  
Unicorn, Malvern

**Soular**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

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

**Attila The Stockbroker, The Humdrum Express**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Reflections**  
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

**Spirit Kreek**  
Two Rivers Studios, Cheltenham

**Jamie Beau**  
The Bedwardine, Worcester

**Delray Rockets**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The Barrelhouse Blues Band**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Peckham Cowboys**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Cracker & The Woodpeckers**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**UK Subs**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Should**  
Golden Cross, Hereford

**Of Kings and Captains Xmas Party plus Demi Marriner and The Oldest House**  
Moochers, Stourbridge

**Are You Experienced** - Jimi Hendrix Tribute  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**Quo Motion**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Beat**  
Gloucester Guildhall

**Kim Richey & Gareth Dunlop**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**The Q** - Mod Music  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**T\*Rextasy**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Andy Brumby**  
The Ambassador, Evesham

**English Dogs, The Black Widows, Out of Order, Sick Pig, Mutiny**  
Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## Saturday 6 December 2014

**The Barflys**  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**Tom Forbes**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Embrace the Chaos presents: Virtues, When Giants Collide, Taken By The Tide, Slab, Overture**  
Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester

**Housebound** (Cellar Bar)  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**The John Steeds**  
The New Inn, Pershore

**Aquarius**  
The Westcroft, Droitwich

**Kings & Folk**  
St. Stephen's Church Hall, Worcester

**Oye Santana**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Chris Lewin**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Poor Boys of Worcester**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

**Enzo**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Luke Daniels**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Bleeding Hearts, Owen Brown, Unknown First**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Lewis Boulton Trio**  
Unicorn Inn, Great Malvern

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The White Feather Collective, Tyler Massey, Connie Gordon**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Flat Stanley**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Matthew & Me**  
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

**Still Crazy**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Solemn Sun + Youth Man/Big Sixes & Natasha North**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Seventh Era + The Amorettes**  
Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

**The Fabulous Bordenlos**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**An Evening with Des O'Connor**  
Evesham Arts Centre

**Northern Soul Night**  
Gloucester Guildhall

**Stroud Ceilidhs - Bedlam**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Dub Pistols**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**Seth Bye and Katie Griffin**  
Stroud Brewery

**St Agnes Fountain**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **Academia Musica Orchestra**

Malvern Theatre

## **Where's Martin?**

Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **Sunday 7 December 2014**

### **Hot Club**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Gastric Band**

White Bear, Tewkesbury

### **Ranagri**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **3 Daft Monkeys**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Christmas Music by Candlelight**

Malvern Theatre

### **Avon Bank Brass Band**

Evesham Arts Centre

### **Beverley Craven**

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Wychway Trio Country Band (1.30pm)**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Orchestra of St John's - Messiah**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies presents Cauld Feet Again, Pet!**

Castlemorton Parish Hall

### **Bojangles presents On The Box**

Feckenham Village Hall

### **Lisa Simone**

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

### **Paul Lamb & Chad Strentz**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Katona Twins + Guitar Workshop**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **Wednesday 10 December 2014**

### **Sharron Kraus, Heed The Thunder**

Canon Frome Court, Ledbury

### **Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band - Carols & Capers**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Lewis Creaven**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## **Thursday 11 December 2014**

### **Born Bred Believes Xmas special Ben Smith & Zoe Spencer**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Hattie Briggs**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Trench Singers choir carol evening**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Brothers Groove**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **From The Jam with Bruce Foxton**

Gloucester Guildhall

## **Friday 12 December 2014**

### **Smokin' Ashes, Straina, Girl Friday, Clem Dallaway**

The Queens Head, Redditch

### **Ash Mandrake**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Surprise Attacks Xmas charity show: Arbor Lights, Holy, Transmissions, Rusty Knives**

The Firefly, Worcester

### **Massive Head Trauma, Stone Cold Killers**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Milestone Road, Star Screen, Primer & Last of the Dogs**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Will Edmunds Trio (Upstairs) Bounce (Cellar Bar)**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Strum Presents Smokin Ashes, Straina, Girl Friday, Clem Dallaway**

Queens Head, Redditch

### **Tyler Massey, Vo Fletcher, Mary Pitchford, Dave Young**

Saint Peters Church, Malvern

### **Devil Red**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Sax 'n' Axe**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Life**

Golden Cross, Hereford

### **Funky Jets**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Blue Bell Inn, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

### **Woo Town Hillbillies**

Ye Olde Talbot, Worcester

### **Hopwood Junction + Support**

Alvechurch Village Hall

### **Iron Road's 1st Xmas Party with King Rocker**

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

### **The Notorious Bros**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **The Funky Jets Xmas Party**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Miss Pearl and the Rough Diamonds**

Fleece Inn, Bretforton

### **Maddy Prior - Carols & Capers**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### **Concertos for Christmas**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Trevor Burton Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **The Reflections**

Toby Carvery, Sheldon, Birmingham

### **Jam Tidy, Dantanna**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## **Saturday 13 December 2014**

### **Miss Pearl and The Rough Diamonds**

New inn, Pershore

### **Sucio Suki, Babel & Glow People**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Crown, Kempsey

### **Woo Town Hillbillies**

Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester

### **Riff Raff, Moretallica**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **The Stiff Joints, The White Feather Collective**

The Cube, Malvern

### **Junction 7**

Dodford Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Hump De Bump**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Riff Raff**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Steve Ajao**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Mike Mann and Friends**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

### **Starving Rascals**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **JD Blues Band**

Pickled Plum, Pershore

### **Hell's Addition + support**

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

### **Talon - Eagles Tribute**

Malvern Theatre

### **Zeppelin 3**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Dizzy Lizzy**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Limehouse Lizzy**

Gloucester Guildhall

### **Johnny Coppin - All on a Winters Night**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **Danadra**

Stroud Brewery

### **Music for Christmas Tewkesbury Town Band**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury



**Acoustic Night**

Subtone, Cheltenham

**Zipheads, Kings of Hong Kong, Broker, Teddy Ties, Semi Bascot**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

**Sunday 14 December 2014****Jazz Express**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Gastric Band**

The Grape Vaults, Leominster

**White House Cancer Support Presents A Day Of Music**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Dave King**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Bretforton Silver Band**

Evesham Arts Centre

**Tommy Allen Band**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Tewkesbury Town Band**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**The Delray Rockets**

The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

**Monday 15 December 2014****The Rat Pack**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Tuesday 16 December 2014****Stripped Down Blues' Blues Night**

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

**Convent Ladies Choir Christmas Concert**

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Mike Sanchez**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Prism + Friends**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

**Wednesday 17 December 2014****Sir Randolph Fiennes in conversation****Convent Ladies Choir Christmas Concert**

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Mary Spender**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Thursday 18 December 2014****Katie's by Candlelight presents Danni G (Upstairs)****The Stubble Brothers (Downstairs)**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Voodoo**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Comedy Night**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Lounge Toad**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Hanging Tree plus Arbour and a magician, Alakadan**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Kate Rusby at Christmas**

Malvern Theatre

**Jazz on a Christmas Evening**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**The Albion Christmas Band**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Pink Diamond Revue**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

**Friday 19 December 2014****The Searchers**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Sequel**

Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester

**The Soul Strutters (Upstairs)**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**The John Steeds**

The Cross Keys Inn, Tewkesbury

**Vix and her Mischiefs with support from King Rich**

Moochers, Stourbridge

**Valous, XV11, Electric Soup**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Aquarius**

The Gun Tavern, Worcester

**Junction 7**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Dan Greenaway**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**The Reflections**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**White Feather Collective**

Unicorn Inn, Great Malvern

**Larry Miller with support from Bluesman Mike Francis**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Gt's**

Woobar, Worcester

**Vault of Eagles, Swallows**

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

**Fires That Divide**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Born In Chicago**

Golden Cross, Hereford

**The Reflections**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Doreen Doreen Christmas Bash**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Knebakeye Alley**

Subtone, Cheltenham

**Ian Luther**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Badcats**

The Ambassador, Evesham

**The Delray Rockets**

Queens Head, Wolverley

**Saturday 20 December 2014****Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Hollybush, Stourport on Severn

**The Barflys**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Aquarius**

The Bakery, Malvern

**The Capital**

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

**Skewwhiff**

Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester

**Allstars Dub Band**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Liquor and Poker**

Moochers, Stourbridge

**Barbershop Sound (Cellar Bar)**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Xmas blowout with live music**

The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Journeyman**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Jay & Eli**

The Swan Inn, Worcester

**Miss Pearl and The Rough Diamonds**

Unicorn Inn, Great Malvern

**The Delray Rockets**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

**The Starvin' Rascals**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Voodoo Blue**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Rocky Road To Ruin**

Golden Cross, Hereford

**Rodney Brannigan**

The Bedwardine, Worcester

**The Ron Jeremy Band**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Sheelanagig**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Riff Raff - Xmas Rock Out!**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Xmas Jazz Special - Dutch Lewis**

Pickled Plum, Pershore

### **Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Miss Pearl and the Rough Diamonds**

New Morgan, Barnards Green, Malvern

### **Ronin Christmas Party**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

## **Sunday 21 December 2014**

### **Paul White & Ray Mitton**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Empty Can Xmas Party with special guests (Downstairs)**

### **Acoustic Brew Xmas Party (Upstairs)**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Brothers Groove**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Vincent Flatts**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Tyler Massey & Vo Fletcher (3pm)**

The Morgan, Malvern

### **Judie Tzuke**

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Whole Lotta Led**

Gloucester Guildhall

### **Astaria String Quartet**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Remi Harris (1.30pm)**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Fans of Faye 10th anniversary gig with support from Victory Lane, Breeze and Georgia Szygowska**

Moochers, Stourbridge

## **Monday 22 December 2014**

### **Fury**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

## **Tuesday 23 December 2014**

### **Junction 7**

The Talbot, Belbroughton

### **Dreadzone Soundsystem feat MC Spee**

Priors Croft, Malvern

### **Xmas with Enzo and Friend**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Christmas Unplugged**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Blast From The Past presents - A Medieval Christmas**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **Wednesday 24 December 2014**

### **Aquarius**

The Crown, Martley

### **The Stiff Joints, 10.94**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **The Ferrets**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Xmas Eve with Neil Collins and Amanda Stone**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Xmas Eve Special with Straight Aces**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Eastwood**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Lee Price**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **2Nds Out with James Toft**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Jess Silk, Dan Evans**

Moochers, Stourbridge

## **Friday 26 December 2014**

### **Boxing Day with Voodoo**

Katie Fitzgeralds Stourbridge

### **Skaville**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Boozestock**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Xmas with Lounge Toad**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **The Jam DRC**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## **Saturday 27 December 2014**

### **Protocol**

The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

### **The Capital**

Bull Inn, Fernhill Heath

### **Gastric Band**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Tyler Massey & Vo Fletcher**

The Barrels, Hereford

### **Boozestock**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Collective 43**

The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

### **Xmas with The Dublin Jacks**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Liquor and Poker**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Hotfoot**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **Black Slate Highway + Support**

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

### **The Stiff Joints**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Hired Guns (Upstairs) Dance Conspiracy (Cellar Bar)**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## **Sunday 28 December 2014**

### **Pete Hyde & Friends**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Abbey Inze (1.30pm)**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **The Delray Rockets (4pm)**

New Inn, Worcester

### **Rattlesnake Jake**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Take The Fifth**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Funk Realm**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## **Tuesday 30 December 2014**

### **Bad Manners**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **Dirt Box Disco, Born to Destruct, Rotunda, JDFDCS, Angry Itch**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## **Wednesday 31 December 2014**

### **The Jazz Singers**

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

### **Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Aquarius**

Leedons Residential Park, Broadway

### **Journeyman**

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

### **Allstars Dub Band**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### **The Delray Rockets Plus Burlesque & Djs Danny and Bones**

The Roadhouse, Birmingham

### **Time of the Mouth**

Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Holly Bush, Stourport On Severn

### **Stomp and Holler**

Canon Frome Court, Ledbury

### **Krescendo**

Unicorn, Malvern

### **Skabucks (ticket only)**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Malarky, Dick Venom & The Terrortones, DJ Em Jay**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham



### **Slide Boy Roy and Viv's Vinyl Jukebox**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **NYE party feat - XL5**

Golden Cross, Hereford

### **Stewart Entertains**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Maraboooboo Allstars + Guns or Roses**

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

### **The Quik**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **NYE Party - 5 Bars 5 Vibes**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Forty Blue Toes**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **The Pewke Band**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **TNT**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

## **Thursday 1 January 2015**

### **Unplugged New Years Day with Guns or Roses**

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

### **Hair of The Dog Party**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

## **Friday 2 January 2015**

### **Ewan - Finalist "Britain's Open Mic Championship"**

Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester

### **Manalishi**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Northern Soul** (Film and DJ night)

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Babajack**

Golden Cross, Hereford

### **Gracie May, Alex Mansfield, Grace Palmer**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Hennesea**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Saturday 3 January 2015**

### **Last Tree Squad**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **James Matthey**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Black Russian**

Pig 'n' Drum, Worcester

### **King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Stroud Ceilidhs - Tickled Pink**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **Sam Eden**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

## **Sunday 4 January 2015**

### **Paul White & Ray Mitton**

The Chestnut, Worcester

## **Thursday 8 January 2015**

### **Sessions with Paul and Ray**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Surprise Guest**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## **Friday 9 January 2015**

### **The Players**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Freight**

Canon Frome Court, Ledbury

### **Protocol**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Acoustic Showcase**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Paul Jones & Dave Kelly**

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Duo Montparnasse**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **Undercover Police**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **S.F.U., Vomit, Voodoo Club**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## **Saturday 10 January 2015**

### **Kintsugi, Floorboards, Ceilings**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Barry Cooder & The Sharks**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Decedent Prophet**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **The Paul Steadman Band**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **The Johnny Cash Roadshow**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Stroud Wassail**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **Mojohooker**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Sunday 11 January 2015**

### **Jazz Express**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **The Delray Rockets** (4.30pm)

The Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Tyler Massey & Vo Fletcher**

The Three Kings, Hanley Swan

### **Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Free Love Club all-dayer**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## **Thursday 15 January 2015**

### **London Philharmonic Skiffle Orchestra**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Lounge Toad**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Friday 16 January 2015**

### **Mark Morriss (The Bluetones), Skewwhiff, Luke Leighfield**

Malvern Cube, Malvern

### **The Counterfeit Stones**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **My Compass**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **The Badcats**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Blue Bell Inn, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

### **Tyler Massey & Connie Gordon**

The Old Nags Head, Monmouth

### **Happy Mondaze**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Tina V**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **The Elvis Years**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Hotfoot**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Ricky Cool and the Incrowd**

Queens Head, Wolverley

## **Saturday 17 January 2015**

### **The Delray Rockets**

New Inn, Worcester

### **Pewke Band**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Henry Bateman**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Phil Whitehead**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Skewwhiff**

Unicorn, Malvern

### **Whole Lotta DC**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **The Devils Well, Black Russian, Stone Cold Killers**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Crisis Blues Band**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Wassail and Dead Dog Cider**

Stroud Brewery

### **Gordon Giltrap**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **The Counterfeit Stones**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

## **Sunday 18 January 2015**

### **Toad Pack**

The Chestnut, Worcester

## **Thursday 22 January 2015**

### **Roderick Williams**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Talon - The Acoustic Collection**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Sessions with Paul and Ray**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Friday 23 January 2015**

### **Petrol Girls, Gay Demons, Fight Rosa Fight**

The Firefly, Worcester

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Trevor Burton Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Done By Sunrise**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **Soul Junction**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **The Amanda Stone Band**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Gloucester Cajun and Zydeco Festival**

Gloucester Guildhall

### **Forever In Blue Jeans**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Kevin Dempsey & Rosie Carson**

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

### **Them Spitfires**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Skabucks**

Moochers, Stourbridge

## **Saturday 24 January 2015**

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **The Will Killeen Band**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **The Mob**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Soular**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Shakatak**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Gloucester Cajun and Zydeco Festival**

Gloucester Guildhall

### **Tower Studio presents Das Sexy Clap**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Supreme Queen**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Rattlesnake Jake**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Cracked Actors + Friends**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

## **Sunday 25 January 2015**

### **Woo Town Hillbillies**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Chantel McGregor**

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Syd Lawrence Orchestra**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Unplugged Sunday with Darren Duran & Spandau Barry**

aka The Uke-Men League

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

### **Gloucester Cajun and Zydeco Festival**

Gloucester Guildhall

### **Burns Night**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **The Coull String Quartet**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **Tuesday 27 January 2015**

### **Skinny Molly + Heavy Oil**

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

## **Thursday 29 January 2015**

### **Let's Hang On**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Lounge Toad**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Friday 30 January 2015**

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Woodman Inn, Dudley

### **Martin Barre (Jethro Tull)**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Suzi & The Backbeats**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Katie's Winter Blues & Beer Fest Virgil and The Accelerators**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Tyler Massey & Vo Fletcher**

The Wellington, Colwall

### **Fiona Patterson and Glyn**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Sax 'n' Axe**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **'A Curious Life' & Levellers Acoustic 2015 Tour**

Malvern Theatre

### **The Greys reunion gig support from Gas, Food, Lodging**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **The Pete Boddis Country Band**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Galloping Cows**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Protocol**

The Droitwich legion, Droitwich

### **Songbird: The Music of Eva Cassidy**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

## **Saturday 31 January 2015**

### **Rattlesnake Jake**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Andy Thomas**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **Bitterroots**

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Lyppard Grange, Worcester

### **Mood Elevators**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **West My Friend**

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

### **Masterplan, Last Orders**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **T\*Restasy**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Trevor Burton**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **The Haunted Souls**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

### **Vo Fletcher**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Decades**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Sinatra - The Movie Years**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Blobbie Williams**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Peter & The Test Tube Babies, Mutiny, UK Skunk, Mangled, T and the Mugs, Destination Venus**

Adam + Eve, Birmingham

**The above listings are correct at time of deadline but please check band and venue websites for further updates**



## Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

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

**Every other Monday - Folk Session (see Ad)**  
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 from 8.30pm**  
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 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

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

## Arts & Exhibitions

**4th Dec Life Drawing** Boars Head Kidderminster

**6th Dec Dancefest** Tenbury Mistletoe Festival

**6th Dec Klik Klik Sing-a-long** The Hive Worcester 1.45

**6th Romeo & Juliet** by The Perfect Circle Malvern cube 7pm

**6th Dec Lou Lou's Vintage Christmas Fair**  
Birmingham Town Hall 12-5pm

**7th Peoples Orchestra present The Snowman**  
live score to film screening Malvern Theatres 1.30pm

**19th Dec 'The Sequel' Street Artists**  
illustrators and sounds Pig & Drum

**28th Dec 'If Wet' Radio showcase** 2-4pm

**1-31st Dec Katie Francis Colouful Collages & Grotesques**  
Café Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop

**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**  
Catskill 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](http://NotJustSauce.com)

**Every Sat in Dec/Jan 'In Another Light'**, Croft Castle 5-8pm

**20-23rd & 27-30th Dec 'The Carpet Forest'** 11-4pm Malvern Cube

**Until 4th Jan 'Kate Wrigglesworth'**, Artrix Bromsgrove

**Until 14th January 'Desmond Rosser-Smith'**  
'Home & Away' Pershore no 8

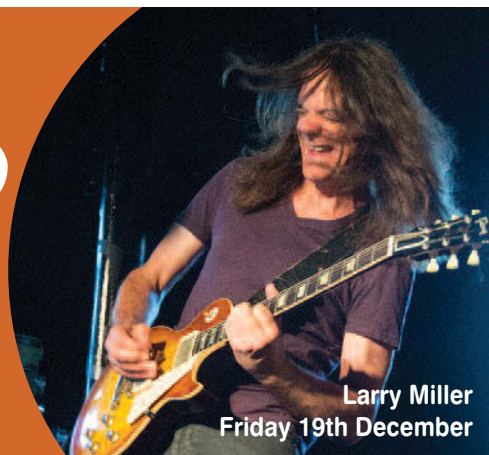
**Until Dec 15th Tim Parsons exhibition - The Golden Years**  
A Promoters Career in Rock 'N' Roll at Alvechurch Library

**Until 4th February Pershore High School students**  
'Pop goes the Easel' Pershore no8

**Until 15th March Jack Boskett photography**  
Exhibition The Roses Theatre Tewksbury

# THE MARR'S BAR

DEC & JAN 2014



Larry Miller  
Friday 19th December

**Friday 5th**

**Soular (Funk / Soul / Covers)**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door.

**Saturday 6th**

**Oye Santana (Santana tribute)**

Early bird £9 ticket £11 Door £13

**Friday 12th**

**Massive Head Trauma, Stone Cold Killers**

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

**Saturday 13th**

**Riff Raff (AC/DC tribute)**

Early bird £5 ticket £7 Door £10

**Thursday 18th**

**Hanging Tree plus Arbour and a magician, Alakadan**

£3 a ticket £4 on the door

**Friday 19th**

**Larry Miller with support from Bluesman Mike Francis**

£10 a ticket £12 on the door

**Saturday 20th**

**Ronin Christmas Party**

£4 a ticket £6 on the door

**Monday 22nd**

**Fury**

£5 a ticket £6 on the door

**Friday 26th & Saturday 27th**

**Boozestock**

£3 on the door

**Sunday 28th**

**Take The Fifth**

£TBC

**New Years Eve**

**TNT**

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

## **JANUARY**

**New Years Day**

**Hair of The Dog Party**

**Friday 16th**

**Happy Mondaze**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 17th**

**The Devils Well, Black Russian, Stone Cold Killers**

£TBC

**Saturday 24th**

**Tower Studio presents Das Sexy Clap**

£5 on the door

**Saturday 31st**

**Rattlesnake Jake**

£TBC

**Wednesdays - Jamming night**

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

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

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

01905 613336

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