

# SLAP

Issue 44

Feb 2015

MAGAZINE

FREE



**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**

# COMEDY

Coming Soon at Malvern Theatres



**STEWART FRANCIS**  
**PUN GENT**  
Saturday 25 April



**RICH HALL**  
**3:10 TO HUMOUR**  
Friday 22nd May



[malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://malvern-theatres.co.uk)

Box Office: 01684 892277





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## Hello and a belated Happy New Year to you all!

As we go headlong into our 5th term we are hopeful of a great year ahead for the local music and arts scenes. Other notable anniversaries include a 10th birthday for **Artrix** in Bromsgrove, so look out for the celebrations there in April. **The Marrs Bar** now in its 15 year and **The Swan Theatre** which first opened its doors to the public a staggering 50 years ago!

We also have many new initiatives to celebrate this year, such as the brand new **Breaking Bands Festival** at Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove which will sit nicely along side other major local festivals such as **Nozstock**, **Lakefest**, **Wychwood** and **2000 Trees** to name but a few.

Despite many venues up and down the country sadly having to finally close their doors, we are seeing more and more local promoters such as **Never Mind the Bullocks**, **Surprise Attacks**, **Hereford Live**, **CFS Presents & Embrace the Chaos** putting on great shows at different venues. Bringing us quality acts the like of **God Damn** - our front cover image taken by our own **Brendan Stephens**. In fact it's this kind of initiative that keeps us excited about the future of music around the counties. Perhaps this is why many local acts are getting played more regularly on **6music** and bands like **Das Sexy Clap** and **Stiff Joints** even played on **Radio 1**.

Our local urban festivals including the **Worcester Music Festival** and **Malvern Rocks** begin to gather pace and there's even talk of gigs at **Worcester Cathedral** (watch this space)!

Our many art centres mainly run by volunteers are busy organising their programmes of events, classes, exhibitions and theatre to give us all something to get our teeth into. So have a great February and we'll see you in the Spring!

*Excite-Ed*



**BBC**  
introducing...



## Happy Birthday Artrix!



It seems hard to believe that **Artrix** is celebrating its 10th birthday this year. For a small venue it really punches above its weight in terms of the quality and range of the acts they have on with the likes of **John Bishop**, **Cara Dillon**, **Black** and **Lee Evans** amongst the folks darkening its doors. You (and us) are invited to their 10th birthday party which will include an outdoor theatre performance, lantern procession and fireworks. Put **25th April** in your diaries now, more details to follow.

## Woo Fest Woos the Students

**Worcester Music Festival** has moved to a later date in a bid to involve more students in the local music scene. This year's event will run from Friday September 18 to Sunday September 20 to coincide with Freshers' Week at the University Of Worcester. Chairman **Ant Robbins** said "There are many local festivals in August this year which got us thinking about other dates that might work well". WMF was launched in 2008 and raises money for different charities each year - last year benefitting **Worcestershire Young Carers** to the tune of £4600 - great work guys!

## Il est Tom Forbes

Inkberrow singer-songwriter **Tom Forbes** was inspired by recent events in France to pen a song **Je Suis Charlie** - about the worldwide wave of solidarity in support of free speech following the Paris attacks. The video has already attracted many Youtube hits and has been well-received in France as well - good work from a fine young talent!

## Search for a Star

**Worcestershire County Cricket Club** are hoping to stage a concert featuring a 'megastar' at New Road in mid-July as part of their 150th anniversary year celebrations. Commercial director **Jon Graham** said that as they needed to sell 16,000 tickets - they were looking to attract a massive star of the order of Elton John - who sold out the ground with his memorable show in 2006.

## Don't Panic - It's Nozstock

The theme for the 2015 **Nozstock Festival**, now in its 17th year, will be 'Nozstocker's Guide To The Galaxy' - first artists for the event which runs from July 24 to 26 to be announced shortly! More than 5000 people flocked to Bromyard last year to see **Fun Lovin' Criminals**, **Roots Manuva** and many other local, national and international acts...

## Opportunity for Young Acts

Worcestershire County Council's youth music service in partnership with **Worcester Music Festival** has been looking for a young act to represent the county at OMG Live at the LG Arena on Birmingham on Sunday 19 April. **Brian Hoggard**, head of contemporary music at **Worcestershire Youth Music** said "This was a great chance to showcase our best young acts and give them a chance to play a decent sized gig".

## UB at Wychwood

**Wychwood Festival** have announced that a reunited UB40 will be headliners on the Saturday night of the event at Cheltenham Racecourse from Friday 29 May to Sunday 31 - also on the billing for the 11th year of the event are **The Proclaimers**, **Dreadzone** and many more...

## Kings & Folk's Angel Gabriel

Worcester family foursome **Kings And Folk** have released their second album **Branching Out** which was recorded at Peter Gabriel's Real World Studio in Wiltshire. Violinist **Claire King** from Claines said "We recorded it live in the Wood Room - a fantastic space with great acoustics and bandmate Ian had the chance to use the piano Peter Gabriel used on his European tour which had just finished the day before". K&F were winners of the **Bath Folk Festival New Shoots** Competition in 2013 - and the album features guest vocals from **Colette Todd** who's previously toured the world with **Rivdance** and **Lord Of The Dance**.

## Hillbilies Holland Hoedown

Foot-tapping bluegrass/country outfit **Woo Town Hillbillies** are the latest local act to venture abroad to great acclaim, completing a ten-day tour of the Netherlands at the end of last year. Frontman **Luke Wurmli**, who plays banjo, guitar and harmonica alongside bandmates **Emmy Lou Quan**, **Simon Othen**, **Goose Goldberg** and **Paul Smith** said "We played to some packed-out venues but the gig at Den Helder was most memorable". Must ask them why...?

## Do Not Read if Eating!

**Otto Schimmelpenninck**, bassist for Dutch symphonic metal band has spoken out about a recent incident where he ruptured his left testicle on stage, but continued on to finish the gig. The band were playing in Birmingham when he was hit in the groin by a streamer cannon - he said "In my enthusiasm I did not pay attention, and happened to be VERY close when the streamer fired. During the next song, the pain got worse to the point where I could barely stay conscious anymore, but I did manage to finish the show." Schimmelpenninck then went on to describe how he was taken to hospital following the gig and how his "scrotum was the size of a grapefruit". He's hoping to be well enough to rejoin the band's forthcoming European tour.

## New studio in Malvern

A new rehearsal room and recording studio is opening in West Malvern. **The Funky Bunker** will have a fully equipped rehearsal space with all the mics, amps and drums you might need alongside a bespoke multitrack recording facility with more channels than you could shake a drumstick at! The Funky Bunker is holding a launch event on March 7th with nibbles, wine and a beer or two. See [funky-bunker.com](http://funky-bunker.com) for details.



# Breaking Bands Festival

With just nineteen weeks to go until the start of the inaugural 3 day **Breaking Bands Festival** it's all getting very busy behind the scenes with 30% of the tickets already sold. The festival takes place at the centrally located **Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club** in Bromsgrove, on the bank holiday weekend of 22-24th May 2015. The day splits have already been announced with day tickets now on sale, as well as weekend tickets that include the VIP Friday night and camping.

Special guests for Friday night are **Voodoo Vegas**, a rock band from Brighton, who have recently shared the stage with Status Quo on their European tour. The other acts are local punk band **Thirteen Shots**, Midlands based **Martyr De Mona** and sub headliners **The Heretic Order**. Saturday and Sunday sees a whole host of rock, punk and metal acts on The Session Studio's Main Stage as well as the *Get Your Rock Out Acoustic Stage*. NWOBHM act **Monument** will see Saturday night out in style with their warm up act being London based rock band **Death Valley Knights**. On Sunday it gets heavier with **Morgue Orgy** confirmed as the sub-headline band warming up for the final act of the weekend **Breed 77**, who have already announced that this is their only gig of 2015 as they are locked in the studio working on a new album.

We can also announce that there will be comedy from **Badaxe** and **Ross Lee** and the fantastic **Moomin Merchandise** will be supplying us with some very amazing laser artwork for sale over the weekend. On site there are brick toilets and showers, trade stalls and real ales with top quality hot and cold food all weekend including breakfasts!

Tickets via the website [www.breakingbandsfestival.com](http://www.breakingbandsfestival.com) with day tickets for Sat & Sun priced at £12.50 each and weekend tickets that include camping and the VIP Friday night priced at just £25. All under 14's get in all weekend free with paying adults.



**breaking bands festival**  
22nd 23rd 24th  
may 2015

comedy slots and acoustic stage acts  
trade stalls, proper toilets and showers, real ales

friday	saturday	sunday
<b>VOODOO VEGAS</b> <b>HERETIC ORDER</b>	<b>MONUMENT</b> <b>Death Valley Knights</b>	<b>breed 77</b> <b>MORGUE ORGY</b>
martyr de mona thirteen shots	black state highway death ape disco headstone horrors mage the midnight dogs obzidian quiet the thief robin the senton bombs thela wildside riot	a tower of crows autumn ghost broken jaw electric cake salad fury the goddamn electric idlehour the loved and lost the self titled skarphia texas flood

**stoke prior**  
sports and country club

weekend camping tickets £25  
day tickets £12.50  
under 14s free with adult

NOT JUST SANGE  
GET YOUR ROCK OUT.COM  
SLAP

**MOOMIN MERCHANDISE**  
**thesession**  
**TRFM**  
**ROCK BRIDGEMOUNT**  
**CLASH**

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



**BLUE LOTUS**

**Tattoo Studio**



**Christian**

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

5-7 The Hopmarket  
Worcester WR1 1DL  
01905 731884

**Clik Clik** is loving taking life a little easier at the moment! Festive fun and games ending with a big New Year's Eve fairground style photo booth at the **Swingamajig** bash at the **Custard Factory** in Birmingham. Earlier in December, Clik was kept busy with creative entertainment for Christmas parties



Stiff Joints

as well as promoting the fabulous **Stiff Joints** gig at the **Cube** in Malvern on the 13th; a great evening with a great atmosphere and of course the Stiff Joints boys never fail to impress! Malvern loved them; the whole room was on their feet moving and grooving to their upbeat ska sounds. They really just get better and better! With support from the equally awesome **White Feather Collective**, this was a top night! Here are a few fabulous photographs taken by **Andy Burton**.



With new projects on the horizon, Clik Clik is back in action soon! [www.clikclikcollective.com](http://www.clikclikcollective.com)

## Dancefest workshops for young people!

Based at their **Angel Centre** home, Dancefest have two new workshops on Tuesday 17th February led by **Mickael**



**Marso Riviere** the founder of **Company Decalage** and a **DanceXchange** associate artist.

**Contemporary and hip hop fusion** (14-21yrs); a fast paced workshop, teaching some of Company Decalage's repertoire,

with moves that incorporate breaking and contemporary fusion. Participants will be encouraged to explore their own improvisation skills as well as learning specific choreography, including connecting with the floor, lifts, kicks, spins and bends. (10am-12pm, £9).

This is followed by **Contemporary/Urban Mix** (21+); A workshop for dance practitioners using Mickael's signature and unique style of breaking, capoeira, martial arts and contemporary. This workshop will focus on highly physical and fast paced floor work, and repertoire from past and present Company Decalage productions. The workshop will be followed by a chance to network and chat with other dancers. (1.30-3.30pm, £12.50/£8 concs)

The Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN  
[www.dancefest.co.uk](http://www.dancefest.co.uk)

## Confab moves to the Mount Pleasant

**Fab Confab Cabaret** has moved to a new home at the **Mount Pleasant Hotel** in Malvern. Returning this month with two guests and the usual Confab treats, they present **Thommie Gillow**, star of festivals, slams and radio shows; a performance poet published by **Burning Eye Books**, she helps run **Hammer and Tongue Bristol**. Also appearing are **The Trench Choir**, formed last Summer re-connecting with the experience of the ordinary soldiers by learning and singing the songs of the First World War. Confab is free and starts at 8pm on 24th. Check out Confab on facebook.

## If Wet Radio

As always, we want to big up If Wet for its unique contribution to the arts in Worcestershire! **Sam** and **David** started **If Wet Radio** in December, highlighting individual instruments in the usual slot of last Sunday of the month at 2pm. It began with Tuba, then Theremin in Jan with the next show due on Feb 22nd focusing on the Cello. Tune in!

<http://radio.ifwet.org.uk/>

## Jump Start theatre showcase - call for submissions!

**Worcestershire Arts Partnership** is pleased to announce its second Jump Start Theatre Night. Following the great success of the November event, **Jump Start Theatre** will be happening once more at **Malvern Cube** on Sunday 19th April.

They are now looking for submissions for performance work to present on 19th April. The work can be text-based, devised or any other performance format, but should not have been performed anywhere else previously. Work should ideally be 10-15 minutes long, but they're pretty flexible.

If you have something to submit, please contact **Lee Farley** - [lee@perfectcircletheatre.com](mailto:lee@perfectcircletheatre.com) - for more details or to ask any questions.

If you're an actor, director or designer, or would be interested in helping out in any other capacity, please contact Lee at the above address.

Deadline for submissions is Friday 13th February. There will then be an initial meeting to discuss submissions, technical requirements etc.





# Reaction Action

Tiffany Hosking and Michelle Pogmore of Reaction Theatre Makers (RTM) are delighted to announce that they are now programming theatre-related events for *Weekend Cube* at **Malvern Cube**.



Their first event is on 6th March will be **Playlands** "In the heart of rural South Africa a travelling amusement park has opened its gates. With the country in the grips of a brutal apartheid regime the park promises an evening of thrills and laughter"

Check the website [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com) for more details and announcements. Call The Cube for tickets 01684 565363

Get in touch on [info@reactiontheatremakers.com](mailto:info@reactiontheatremakers.com) if you want to stage an event.

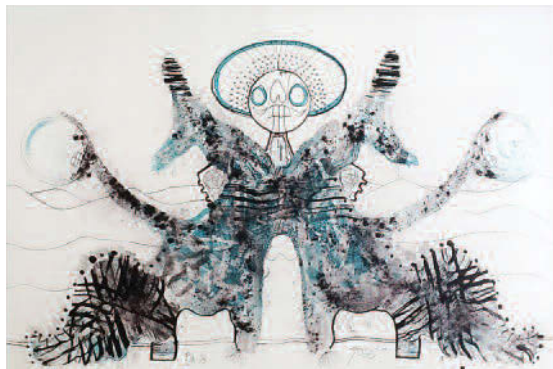
## Greetings from Mexico! by Jose Santos

"A modern thought is permeated by the idea of thinking the unthinkable" - Michael Foucault.

Last end of September I arrived back to my beloved country after been away for 18 years. I came with a view to finding new challenges, new materials, a new reason, or perhaps to find a meaning/ balance to my art practice. At one point, even when I got my ticket in hand I was already thinking, how am I going to translate this big chunk of my life into my new project?



But as soon I landed in the big metropolis of Mexico City I knew it was no time to fear, doubt or contemplate failure, there is so much history, energy and surrealism everywhere you step that I was automatically taken by it! The food and



sun, and of course, the Mexican Contemporary Art scene! So different from European art; their fearless colour approach, endless use of mix materials, mystical theories and some art work in a gigantic scale. So, I thought "OMFG, if I was asking for a challenge, here we go, let's do it!"

Today, I'm producing a new portfolio of work at 'La Huella Grafica Studios' (in Oaxaca); oil on canvas, printing and soon ceramics, all of this in a large scale. Also I have a solo exhibition end of this month and another one beginning of the next here in Mexico. Part of this new work to be shown in London this Easter along side artist and friend **Lucio Santiago**, watch the space!

Worcester, miss you and love you, see you soon! Jose Santos

[www.jsantos.co.uk](http://www.jsantos.co.uk) [josesantosfineart@gmail.com](mailto:josesantosfineart@gmail.com)

# 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](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)



[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

We're a charity. It's the public's kind donations that keep our helpline open. To donate go to: [mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworcesterbranch](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/samaritansworcesterbranch)

**SAMARITANS**  
WORCESTER

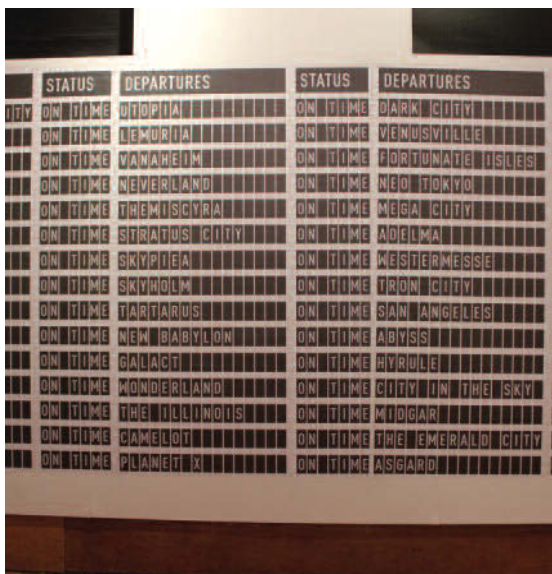
\*See our website for latest call charges.

## MOVEMENT

### Alicia Framis: Departures until 21st February 2015

**MOVEMENT** are delighted to present *Departures* by **Alicia Framis**, an artwork which allows the gallery visitor to travel from the station to made-up or imaginary cities from the worlds of philosophy, literature, architecture and science fiction.

The departure boards with fanciful journeys to literary and fictional destinations including Neverland and Utopia, evoke the tense, nervous and escapist energy of a busy departure hall; except here all journeys are seen as either boarding or on time. Framis lays bare how everyday practicalities both fuel and inhibit our longing to lose ourselves in alternate worlds.



**Alicia Framis'** (1967 Barcelona, ES) multi-disciplinary artwork blends together architecture, design and performance while incorporating different aspects of human existence within contemporary urban society thus provoking the mainstream. Her work has been showed in numerous leading museums and galleries: **Centre Contemporary Art Brugge** (2014), **MUSAC, Castilla y León** (2014), **Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem** (2013), **MIGROS Museum für Gestaltung Zurich** (2013), **Royal Academy of the Arts London** (2011), **Museu Picasso Barcelona** (2010), **Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem** (2010), **Institute Cervantes Beijing** (2009), **Museum of Modern Art Shanghai** (2006), **Palais de Tokyo, Paris** (2002), **MACBA, Barcelona** (2000), **Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam** (1997).



She represented the Netherlands in the Dutch Pavillon at **50th Venice Biennial** (2003).

Her work is part of the collection of a.o.: **Rabobank** (Netherlands), **Museum Boijmans van Beuningen** (Netherlands), **Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst** (Switzerland), **MUSAC Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León** (Spain), as well as various private collections.

**MOVEMENT** gallery is a departure, a change, a stopover, or an arrival – it's a point along a journey and a geographically democratic site for the production and presentation of contemporary art. Due to our location on a rail transport system we aim to conceptually take the passenger on many different journeys through time and space, commissioning work by international contemporary artists to be shown at the station. Alongside its physical base, **MOVEMENT** also commissions offsite projects, utilising trains and the rail network as a site for networking art practice across the UK, into Europe and beyond.

**MOVEMENT** is a not for profit company limited by guarantee, initiated by **Nina Coulson** and **Alexander Johnson** from artist-led family **Yoke and Zoom**. It is a micro-gallery, located in what was once a redundant gentleman's toilet that fronts directly onto **Platform 2 of Worcester Foregate Street Railway Station**. To find us from street level, to platform 2, turn left onto the platform and **MOVEMENT** is the last door on the. [info@movementtimetable.com](mailto:info@movementtimetable.com)



**mouth music**  
acoustic spoken word & music night  
Tuesday 10th February 7.30pm  
In the intimate Boars Head Gallery  
Candid hilarity & mellow introspection  
poet  
**Lorna Meehan**  
Haunting vocals & quirky lyrics  
singer/songwriter  
**Kate Wragg**  
MC  
**Heather Wastie**  
open mic sign-up from 7.00  
Admission £3 (free to performers)

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

**The Boars Head**  
39 Worcester Street,  
Kidderminster. DY10 1EW  
[www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk)  
Tel: 01562 861870

In association with  
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SUPPORTING LOCAL CREATIVITY

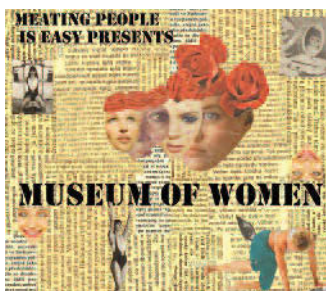


# THE BHG

**Hello All and welcome back from your annual hibernation!**

We are very much back here in the Gallery (maybe not let go of our long johns and hot water bottles yet though!) The end of the year was seen of in great fashion with a great winter market and lively celebrations of course.

By the time this edition lands on your lap, hopefully we will already have launched our new exhibition, '*Meating People is Easy Presents, the Museum of Women*'. The exhibition by our lovely **Emily Haf** will be launched with performance by '**Lewis Spelt Backwards**' and **Phullopium Dude**. Please take a sneaky peak on our facebook page for pictures.



Following from the success of '*Meating People is Easy*', which enjoyed exhibitions in the UK, France, Czech Republic and Germany, Emily Haf presents her latest cut up offering '*Museum of Women*'.

Imagine if meat could talk and tell you its observations on women through the ages. Well now you don't have to imagine

## MOUTH & MUSIC

For a love-themed special, **Mouth and Music** spoken word and music night will take place in the intimate Boars Head Gallery, upstairs in the **Boars Head** pub in Worcester Street, Kidderminster. Surrounded by an exhibition called "*Museum*



Kate Wragg

*of Women*", two outstanding women will entertain, along with open mic performers who sign up on the night. Poet **Lorna Meehan** brings her unique brand of candid hilarity and singer

**Kate Wragg** will woo with her haunting vocals & quirky lyrics. Heather Wastie is MC and the date is **Tuesday 10th February 7.30**. Admission £3 See [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk).



Lorna Meehan

anymore. Because by using her special blend of both telepathy and wisdom, Haf has spoken with her delegated meat committee and has created hand cut artisan collages using the back of lucky strike card as their canvas. The exhibition will run until the end of the month.

On Thursday 5th February, we will also be celebrating Valentines day in true naked style with a **Life Drawing** session where we have a wonderful couple coming to model for us! As always the session is open to anyone over the age of 18, no matter what their experience in art is. Materials are provided and the session is non-judgemental with participants invited to bring up a pint and listen to some tunes while we draw too. Who could ask for a more unique first date! The session is charged and £4 per person and starts at 7.30pm in the gallery.

Talking outside of the gallery, **Melo** has been very busy with preparations for this years '*Above Boards*'. The first line-up and poster has now been released and is continuing to grow! Artists, musicians or volunteers are asked to get in touch via the facebook page or email: [aboveboards2015@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aboveboards2015@yahoo.co.uk)

Last year Above Boards was a great event which featured bands on stage as part of the Boars Head Fringe Festivals and artists going paint crazy as the surrounding area has been totally covered in artwork. The atmosphere was great and we hope this year to be bigger and better!

Please get in touch to discuss joining any of the classes or events. Thank you all as always and see you all soon!

Coz & Melo

## SAT 22nd SUN 23rd AUGUST ABOVE BOARDS LIVE OUTDOOR PAINT JAM

LIVE MUSIC // DJs // STREET FOOD // ART MARKET //  
STREET ART WORKSHOPS // DOODLE BOMBING // STREET PERFORMERS

### THE BOARSHEAD KIDDERMINSTER DY10 1EW

PISTOL // DEEDS // ANATOMIX  
LEEK // DIN DIN // MELO // ARTISTA  
MR MIND CONTROL // SHAB // V LONG  
FLIT BOMB // SPACE HOP // SEMOS  
TANK PETROL // MISS C // MR DRAWS  
COZ // DAVE SIMPSON // MAT BEAHAN  
CONUKE // MANY MORE TBC  
STARTS 10AM - LATE



ARTWORK BY DEEDS



# worcester arts workshop



Hi again and a happy new year from all at 21 Sansome Street, although it's one twelfth over now – gulp...

So far, we've been enjoying our January exhibition in the **Café Gallery** by students – past and present – of the University of Worcester. Called '*Narrative amongst art*' it showcases drawing, painting, illustration and sculpture by **Emma Starkey, Sarah Potter, Jack Devereaux, Sarah Potter** and **Jade Blackstock**, and has been augmented by performance and time based work – thought-provoking and moving – in the **Cellar Gallery** on many an afternoon. It continues to run until Saturday 7th February.

Our next exhibition is the lovely work of Indian artist **Lina Patel**. Her motifs from nature through the seasons are beautifully worked, and her Open View is on Friday 13th February from 6-9pm. All welcome, and there will be delicious Indian sweetmeats to sample, also made by Lina's fair hand!



Our Spring Term of courses (some brand new!) is underway, and there are still chances to enrol on some, for this first half-term. The second one starts on week commencing Monday 23rd February – so book now! All details are on our website.

Our friends **The Fetch Theatre Company** will be performing '*The Cloth of the World*' (the story of the Mappa Mundi) on Saturday 28th February, at 2.30pm in the theatre, preceded by a fascinating puppet workshop for all. These Bunraku (almost life-size) puppets are cast of the company – and not to be missed! (See advert...)

Next month we are looking forward to the return of **Melting Pot Theatre Company**, and their performance of Yasmina Reza's '*God of Carnage*' – taking place on March 12th, 13th and 14th at 7.30pm.

We are still fondly remembering last November's **Worcestershire Film Festival** held here, and anticipating the return of **Splendid Cinema** and their films from around the world. Sign their petition, linked to our website, and view the lovely short video (vimeo actually) made by WFF here last year.

Hope to see you here for some or all of the above! Please call in, phone us on 01905 25053, or visit: [worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)



## What's On?

at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall



**The Only Way Is Downton**  
30th Jan - £16



**Carrivick Sisters**  
6th Feb - £12.50



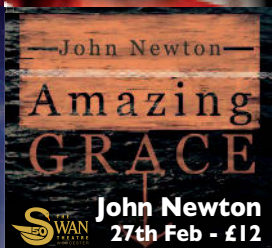
**Women on Top**  
20th-21st Feb - £12.50



**Martin Simpson**  
26th Feb - £15



**Patrick Monahan - Adventures In Monahan Land**  
27th Feb - £12



**John Newton**  
27th Feb - £12

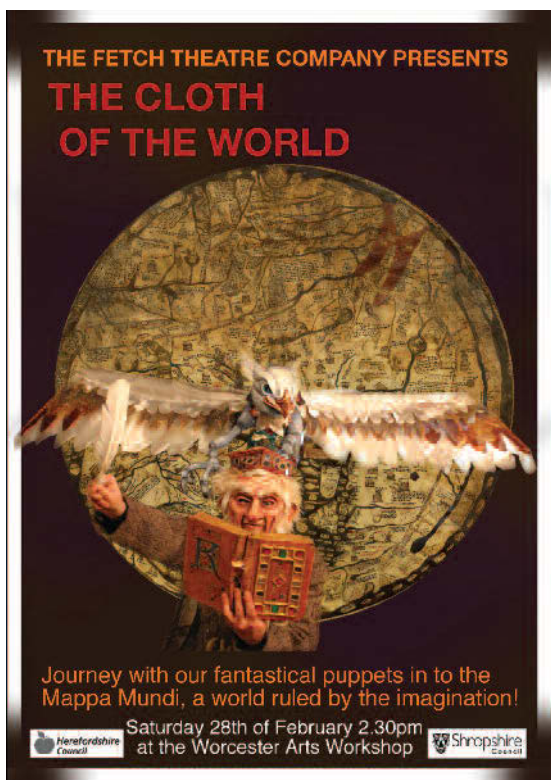


**Swing's the Thing - Digby Fairweather**  
28th Feb - £16

**Worcester live**

**BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427**  
[www.worcesterlive.co.uk](http://www.worcesterlive.co.uk)



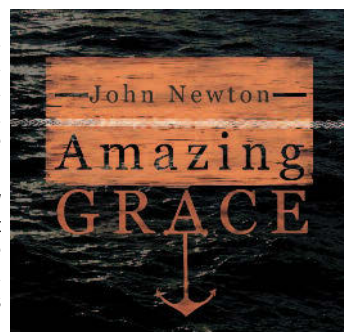


## Saltmine Theatre Company presents **John Newton Amazing Grace** Swan Theatre, Worcester | Fri 27th Feb

Throughout history humanity has always loved a story and here the ever inventive and innovative **Saltmine Theatre Company** bring their latest, powerful and poignant touring production to the Swan Theatre.

**John Newton - Amazing Grace** is a moving story of slavery, freedom and the remarkable power of love and grace to transform a life. Press-ganged into the navy at nineteen, flogged for desertion because of love, John Newton has nothing to live for but makes his way into the harsh world of eighteenth century slave trade, a man without hope who makes enemies with everyone he meets. Then one stormy night, with his ship sinking, he faces certain death... nothing is the same again.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind but now I see.



## **Kathryn Tickell and The Side** | Swan Theatre | Thurs 19th Feb



Northumbrian piper **Kathryn Tickell** channels classical and folk in her new quartet The Side, featuring pipes, cello, harp, and clog dancing. Staying true to the spirit of Kathryn's own Northumbrian heritage, the creativity of this all-female ensemble delivers a powerful new sound. Between them, The Side's virtuosity has been courted by the BBC Proms, Sting, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Goldfrapp and Joanna MacGregor, among many others. In her 25 year career, Kathryn was the recipient of the Queen's Medal for Music, and was also BBC Folk Awards' Musician of the Year 2004 and 2013.

Channeling their diverse musical experiences into a powerful new sound The Side stay true to the spirit and essence of Kathryn's own Northumbrian folk tradition whilst unleashing the talent and creativity of each individual musician. Evocative slow airs that could break your heart move seamlessly into life-affirming jigs and reels; Amy storms into a clog dance; Kathryn's dizzying rapid-

fire piping contrasts with the richness of the cello and Ruth's sparkling harp playing melds it all together – a very special evening is in store in the company of Kathryn and The Side. Slap Mag 'Highly Recommended' Stamp!

## **Martin Simpson** | Swan Theatre | Thurs 26th Feb

Widely acknowledged as one of the finest acoustic and slide guitar players in the world, **Martin Simpson's** interpretations of traditional songs are masterpieces of storytelling. And after 35 as a professional musician Martin's solo shows are as intense, eclectic, spellbinding and deeply moving as ever. There is no-one who has more successfully combined the diverse elements of British, Afro-American and old-time music than Simpson. Wonderfully individual and unpredictable Martin is an unparalleled performer and a guitarist of immense subtlety.

His career collaborations list is an immense one and can boast such luminaries as Richard Thompson, June Tabor, Kelly Joe Phelps, Jackson Browne, Danny Thompson, Danu, Martin Carthy, Cara Dillon, David Lindley, Roy Bailey, Martin Taylor, David Hidalgo, Steve Miller, Dick Gaughan and many more. Martin has been nominated an astounding 26 times in the twelve years of the **BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards** - more than any other performer - with 9 consecutive years as nominee for **Musician of The Year**, which he has won twice. We shall be out in force to report on proceedings and hope to see you all there also!



## Featured Artist Marcia Pheysey-Wilton

**Marcia Pheysey-Wilton** is best known for her colourful textiles and felt work seen at craft fairs and in exhibitions across the county. Always drawing as a child, she went on to art college after GCSEs, following it with a BA(Hons) in 3D Design: Metalwork & Jewellery at Sheffield, then a PGCE in Further Education. She wanted to teach; going on to do for around 10 years and finding her calling as a textile artist during this time.

*"This is where I started to get into textiles, starting to develop my own work; teaching was brilliant for keeping you inspired, I loved the creative environment & being surrounded by like - minded people. Starting a family slowed things down a bit, as I went part-time but this also gave me an opportunity to develop my work more."*



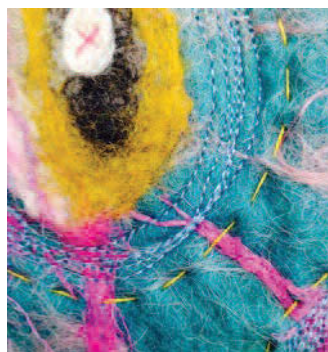
*"Inspirations are vast; I love a lot of 1950's print particularly Lucienne Day and I guess some of my work tends to have quite a retro style (50's-70's), if I'm working in print or applique. I take inspiration from nature (I spent quite some time slightly obsessed with trees!) my purses featuring this quite heavily, and I loved to layer fabrics & stitch - I think some of this work had quite a naive feel to it. Contemporary textiles motivate me too- the kind of work that challenges our concept of what textiles is - particularly work featuring text, such as Tilleke Schwarz."*

*"I work quite differently between textiles and felt-making. I don't work with felt as much these days, as I find the process quite time-consuming. I tend to work in an abstract style - I layer my fibres up like a painter does with paint. That's how it works for me - I add hand or machine stitch on top, or even some small areas of appliqué. A lot of the work is based on image's from under a microscope - often viruses, for example. They're amazing images to look at, with shapes & forms that I can translate using felt."*

*"My textiles work is very much about items to sell - clasp purses, toiletry bags, clutch bags. I started developing a range back in 2010, working with tweed fabrics or other quite heavy fabrics & coloured clasps. I had my work accepted by madebyhandonline.com. I took a break from it all when I had*

*my second daughter in 2011 and have been slowly getting back in to it again over the past year."*

*"Colour is massively important in my work - both with felt & my textiles. I love trying out combinations together, and it's part of my work that I feel confident in - I suppose I'd say that I have a good eye for it."*



*"I'm challenging myself by developing work that is more print-based. I've had to find ways & methods that I can do with very little specialist equipment, but which still looks professional. I've pushed this as I think I can produce work that might have a wider appeal, and is quicker to produce. I still love layering appliqué & stitch, but I'm loving the scope for developing the print based work."*

*"Current projects are a real mixed bag for me at the moment. I've got work in an exhibition at Worcester County Hall, I'm starting some after school craft clubs, there is some adult education teaching work in the pipeline & I'm building up stock/developing work to sell online & at craft fairs. My main struggle is marketing myself, but that's something that I'm hoping I can get better at this year, as I'm able to focus on it more. There are plans to get work online with Folksy & Etsy, and I've recently set up a Facebook page - Made by Marcia - so small steps & pushing myself to network more. My motivation these days is to hopefully work towards getting a good balance of teaching work & selling my own work for the future."*

Check out Marcia's Facebook page - Made By Marcia.





# Don't want any more revolutions... by Andy O'Hare

A warm welcome back after our little midwinter siesta to what I'm feeling deep in my bones will be a stunning year for the great musical acts from our fair region! I hope and trust that you all had a pleasant Yuletide break and are suitably refreshed for the festivities to come - because it's going to be a busy one! It's the time of year when musos should be firing off applications to play at each and every one of the incredible number of local and national festivals - and if you're a punter of a musical bent (I certainly am) you'll already be pencilling-in a rough draft of the bashes you'll be aiming to pop along to! 2014 was a phenomenal year for local festivals - but a few more have also managed to shoe-horn their way into the packed summer schedule - let's just hope for a weather-friendly few months to make all those wonderful event-organisers' efforts totally worth while!!

Fair to say that it's a relatively quiet time of the year right now compared to the frantic gig-going schedule of a few months back - yes there's a whole lot of uncertainty with venues like **The Jailhouse** in Hereford and **Re-Con** in Malvern (among others) shutting their doors - but these places weren't even on the scene when the great H&W revival kicked off 10 years ago. However venues like the **Marrs Bar** in Worcester and **The Black Lion** in Hereford have quietly (ok maybe sometimes not-so-quietly) carried on hosting and featuring

the very best in local and further-afield musical talent - and for me the exciting news is the emergence in the last six months or so of a whole bunch of new promoters like **Surprise Attacks**, **Hereford Live** and **Faithful City** - because I'm firmly of the opinion that these are the people who make a music scene happen - we've no shortage of bands or venues - but it ain't nothing without the dedicated folk who put the two together...

My great hope for the coming year is that we'll also finally see the end of the rip-off culture of those seedy 'unsigned' or 'open-mic' talent contests that promise wannabe musos the chance of a record deal - after they've spent a personal fortune dragging their family and friends along to the endless 'regional semi-finals' and publicising these pointless events via press releases to the media - it's part of the agreement that they sign up to and sadly there's always a sub-editor desperate for column space to fill who'll just copy and paste - well it beats actually paying to advertise... In the pursuit of truth and beauty this SLAPster actually checked out the talent of a couple of poor saps who'd been taken in by the 'jam tomorrow' promises of these serial shysters - but sadly only managed about 30 seconds' listening to an 11-year old 'rapper' before my normally dormant gag reflex kicked in - just don't go there folks...

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

## Give us your money!

Students from the **Mike Smith Guitar Academy** in Kidderminster took part in a special Christmas Show on 18th December with over 80 students aged from 6 to 67 years old performing a collection of classic Christmas pop songs in front of a capacity audience at **Stourport Civic Centre**. Songs included 'Fairytale of New York', 'I Wish it Could Be Christmas Every Day', 'Last Christmas' & 'Merry Christmas Everybody' - there was even a surprise appearance from a Womble during their take on the popular 'Wombing Merry Christmas'.

the harrowing media footage of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, which inspired the re-release and reworking of the classic Band Aid track 'Do They Know It's Christmas?', I felt so passionately about the plight that I decided I wanted my guitar academy to help in some way or another". Mike and his students decided to join in the fight, "The idea was to re-record the track and get the students involved in the recording, with tutors playing the role of the lead vocalists and many of the students helping with backing vocals. The younger students recorded traditional carols which were then inserted into the middle section of the song, just prior the song's main chorus and it worked beautifully".



The concert also featured a special fund raising event in aid of the **Band Aid30 Ebola** campaign. Academy owner, **Mike Smith**, said "The event was a triumph and I was extremely proud of all the students, their performances and all those that worked relentlessly behind the scenes. Having watched

**Sir Bob Geldof** on behalf of the Band Aid trustees said, "This is amazing! Absolutely mega!! Well done everyone and thank you so very much. What a great crowd of people you are. If everyone was as cool or thoughtful or kind as you guys we'd all be so much better off. It's a lot of money and I want you to know that the effect of your efforts will be that many, many children will now have the possibility of a life with greater expectation and dignity. You should be very proud of yourselves. Well done and thanks again. Bob x"

Mike and his students are now planning to recreate the **Live Aid** event, which will be held on 11th July 2015 to mark the 30th Anniversary of Live Aid. Once again the plan will be to raise funds and a general awareness in respect of the growing Ebola Crisis. For more information please contact Mike Smith on 07749 836641 or email [mike608@btinternet.com](mailto:mike608@btinternet.com).

## Sons Of The Delta

### The Marris Bar | Fri 23 Jan '15

Friday evening and, sadly, only a few people ventured out after a cold day and a post Christmas bank balance. They missed something rather special wrapped within the Marris Bar.

First up was Gloucester (né New York) blues man **Damon T.** He may have been raised in the Big Apple but his music is from the deep south, rooted firmly in the Mississippi Delta. Damon's set is short but very memorable.

Damon T. He



**Sons Of The Delta** are a four-piece band playing blues but melted down and remodelled to their own form. That form brings a bit of sparkle and fun to the set with **Mark Cole** back on stage accompanied by **Rick Edwards** on an eclectic selection of guitars, **Lyndon Webb** playing bass and **Martin Fitzgibbons** on drums.



Apart from the recycled blues with extra spring in its tail, there is an eclectic mix of stringed implements - a fine bass guitar is partnered with a splendid stick bass, which resembles a folded down parasol; various odd Japanese vintage guitars like the white sensuously curved Supro (sounding glorious with a slide); a neat violin shaped Teiso; and Rick's black and white Silverstone (aside from the generic Fenders and a Mandolin). The resulting tonal variations, whether chords or slide, added a touch of magic to the performance.

For all those snuggled down in front of their fires deriding the miserable TV offering, shame on you - you missed a brilliant evening in the company of a talented **Damon T** and a wonderful, musically entertaining, passionate blues band **Sons Of The Delta**.

Graham Munn

# The Lamb & Flag

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# Video of the Month Brassick - Same Sound



totally cool black and white by **Oi! Kaboom Productions**, and clearly demonstrates the four piece punk outfit at their tight, snarling (yet melodic) best. There's also a playfulness to their image and, no wonder - support slots with the likes of UK Subs, GBH, Subhumans and playing to huge acclaim at **Rebellion Festival** is enough to put a smile on any purveyor of agitation propaganda.



Coming in at a little over two minutes of raw power, Brassick's latest video showcases the band in their natural, live performance environment.

*Same Sound* is filmed on location in Birmingham at the **Wagon and Horses**, **O2 Academy** and **Scruffy Murphy's** in

Here at SLAP HQ we're looking forward to their debut album when it drops in spring on STP and Mass Prod records and we are hoping to catch an interview with the band amongst their heavy touring schedule.

Glazz

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8mHt\\_LFLqo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8mHt_LFLqo)

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# Want To Help Bring Worcester Music Festival To Life?

**As the number of band applications for Worcester Music Festival 2015 nears the 500 mark, organisers are on the hunt for volunteers to bring the event from 18-20 September to life.**

In particular, the free entry festival of live, original music urgently wants to hear from anyone who could take on the fundraising co-ordinator role, a highly rewarding position and the chance to play an instrumental part in raising money for a local charity, set to be named at the start of February.

**Key responsibilities will include:**

- Liaising with our charity of the year to build a fundraising plan of action together
- Creating a fundraising strategy to be implemented in the run-up to and during the festival
- Leading a charity team on the weekend of the festival itself

Festival organisers are also keen to hear from anyone who could take on the main funding role, co-ordinating the generation of vital funds needed to run the festival, a non-profit organisation.

Finding sponsors, applying for grants and other sources of income are key responsibilities.

If either role sounds of interest, please email:

[info@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@worcestermusicfestival.co.uk) by February 28th. It is the opportunity to be part of something great in the city and invaluable experience. Get in touch!



Charity Girls

## Local musicians - is your application in?

A cool 440 bands and artists have applied to perform at the festival so far, which is great news all round. However, chair Ant Robbins said not enough homegrown talent had come forward as yet.

"Our festival, which takes place in over 30 venues, invites musicians from across the UK to apply, but we would like to see more regional bands and artists put themselves forward as we are already picking acts and the applications close at the end of March. To have the highest chance of securing a spot, you need to officially apply, giving us time to put together the best line-up."



Econo - The Firefly

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.

Recently, a number of bands who have played at the festival have been featured on BBC national radio, including The Stiff Joints, The Humdrum Express, No Cars, God Damn and Das Sexy Clap.

To apply to perform in 2015, visit:

[www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply) before the closing date of Tuesday, March 31. You can also visit [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk) and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.

Mel Hall Photography by Andy Burton



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# Claude Bourbon

The Fleece, Bretforton | Sun 30 Nov '14

Claude Bourbon is an enigma; he is a classically trained musician, who fuses every conceivable genre of acoustic guitar music into a master-class of a stage performance. There are Latin, Spanish, Gypsy, jazz and delta blues influences throughout and often within one seamless stream of perfection.

He started with a long, distinctly Spanish sound of water babbling over a rocky shallow bed, before opening to lush rolling hills. Somewhere along the way it slipped into 'If You Go Away' from Flemish writer Jaques Brel and lyricist Rod McKuen - an appropriately cross-channel success. Also rather



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fitting given the extensive European and US tour of 170 gigs is an exceptional song from his repertoire, 'The Road Is Long'.

What came next I find hard to describe - an almost endless amalgam of different influences melting into each other as we moved from classical openings, across a whole continent of cultural roots, from the Balearics to the Balkans and then across to the Mississippi Delta. Shoe-horned into all that was music that would not have been amiss in the courts of emperors and kings. In all of that I must give mention to a beautiful rendition of Gershwin's 'Summertime' - there are of course many interpretations out there but this is up with there with the best. It's not easy to begin to describe the breadth or mastery of the music you will hear, if fortunate to catch one of Claude's gigs.

Graham Munn



## Coming soon to The Fleece Inn, Bretforton:

Join us for a fantastic selection of bands and events in our medieval Barn

**Valentine's by Candlelight. Saturday 14th February from 7pm**

Enjoy a stunning three course menu, real ales and quality wines in the romantic setting of the Fleece Inn.

Book a table in either the Pewter Room with its open fire or in the medieval Barn, with live music from flamenco guitarist Matt Hernandez. Limited availability, booking essential - call 01386 831173.

**Fleecey Folk: Patsy Reid. Sunday 15th Feb, 8pm. Tickets £10**

One of the most admired fiddlers in the UK brings us tunes and songs from her highly acclaimed new album, The Brightest Path.

**Fleecey Folk: Breabach. Sunday 22 Feb, 8pm. Tickets £12**

The haunting strains of twin bagpipes have become a defining signature of Breabach - a chiming herald of Scottish folk being embraced by a new generation. They are often described as the new faces of Scottish Traditional music.

**Fleecey Folk: Jim Moray. Sunday 15th March 2015, 8pm. Tickets £12**

You think you know folk music and then someone like Jim Moray comes along...

Book tickets at [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk) or call 01386 831173

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# Roving Crows

## New Year Bacchanalia

**Park Hotel Golf & Country Club | 31st Dec '14**

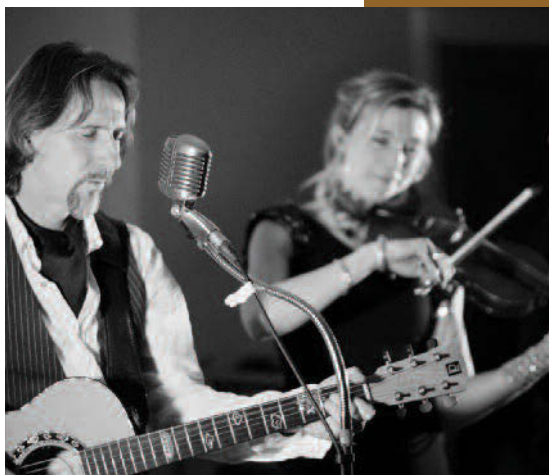
This year's celebration was again destined for Tewkesbury, spiritual home of the band, at the **Park Hotel Golf and Country Club**. At the start, the 'murder' of fans gathered for a buffet in one of the restaurants. We were urged to move to the main function room and join guests, who were enjoying a full dinner to be followed by disco dance. Much to their surprise it was now going to become a bit more crowded and the music was to be live!

I had been fortunate enough to see Cheltenham band **Hawthornes** support 3 Daft Monkeys only a few weeks ago and they left an impression. Here they performed a much more expansive set, with a mix of self penned and 'borrowed' songs. It has to be said **Louisa** is a delightful vocalist and is ably assisted by **Jesse** on cajon and **Gordy** on bass. Their genre is alternative folk/punk, which comfortably sits with the Crows. With songs from Elvis, Marley, The Monkees ('*I'm A Believer*!') and even an enthusiastic take from Outkast ('*Hey Ya*'), it was a great little set.



There was not much delay before **The Roving Crows** kicked the evening up a gear. The floor space soon choked, as any area found between tables became tributaries of bubbling rapids, feeding the wild waters of the dance floor. Trumpeter **Greg**, bassist **Loz** and **Tim** on drums, were very much in the shadows - definitely heard if not seen - as **Paul** and **Caitlin** lead the celebrations.

It is New Year's Eve and the band are in their element as the catalogue of songs pour out to the revellers surrounding them. '*You're a Long-time Dead*', so get up and party the band implore us, '*White Petticoats*' scorches the ground with its



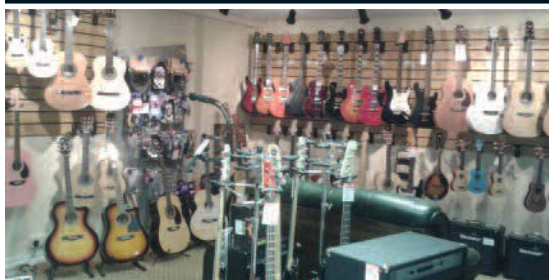
blistering pace, as feet struggle to keep up. This may be the zenith of the winter but '*Days In The Sun*' are not so far away so why not bring in a little sunshine.

The clock's nearing midnight - we hear the toll of the bell - and *Auld Lang Syne* links us all together with our memories of last year and expectations for the new one. The show rolls on, glasses emptied and refilled - '*Nancy Valentine*' keeps us all moving but we're nearing the end. Everyone calls for more - it has to be '*Devil Went Down To Georgia*' and Caitlin obliges in style as Paul calls the lines. Superb. Not original Crow music but, what the hell, it's superb and plunges us into the New Year with a style that Bacchus would have been proud of.

*Words & Images: Graham Munn*

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# Larry Miller

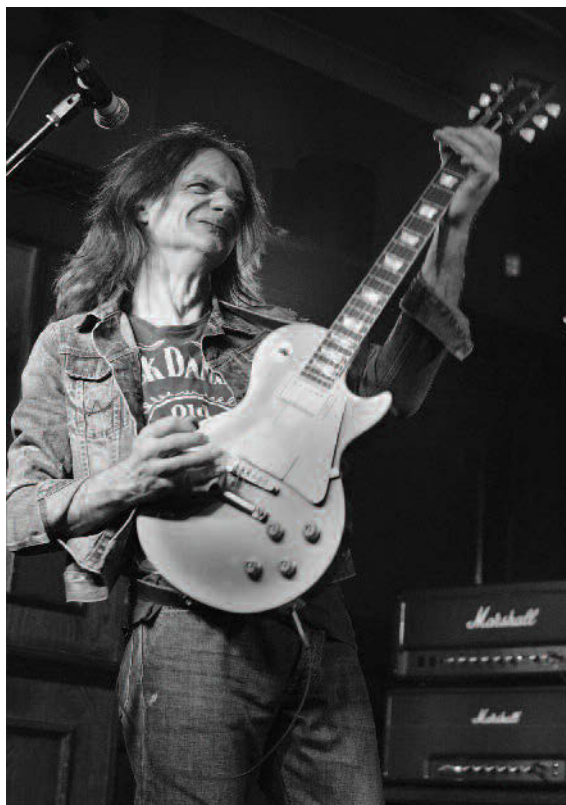
The Iron Road, Evesham | Wed 21 Jan '15

The Iron Road has been very busy lately laying a new track and it's going straight into the heartlands of the blues. The buffers were blown aside by the explosive guitar in the hands of **Larry Miller**, stalwart electric blues man, with a highly rated new album *'Soldier On The Line'*. He finds his inspiration in great rock blues guitarists like Hendrix, Gallagher (that's Rory not Noel!) and Johnny Winter but he stands in his own right as a truly talented writer and guitarist extraordinaire.

I had last seen Larry at **Upton Blues Festival** but in this atmospheric 'station' he seemed more at home with plenty of cheeky comments and Del Boy attitude. Taken from the *'Soldiers of the Line'* album (which is drawn from images of the first world war) *'One Fine Day'* is a truly beautiful, soulful ballad - here played in its stripped down form it seemed even more poignant.

This is the first time I've ventured over the threshold of this born-again roadhouse and I have to say, for me, there is a mouth-watering selection on the forthcoming musical menu - the fabulous **Davina and The Vagabonds** (just go); **Mud Morganfield** (son of Muddy Waters) and **Mike Zito** to name but few. What's more, it's one of the few venues where you can actually catch a train to, have time to see the whole set and travel that track along **The Iron Road**.

Graham Munn



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# Allstars Dub Band

## The Chestnut | Sat 20th Dec '14

Saturday night and I found myself headed off to the Chestnut as I often do to take in some live music. On this particular evening back in late December it was the **Allstars Dub Band** who I'd first seen about nine months previously at the very same venue and really wanted to see again.

As usual for the regular live music slot on Saturday the Chestnut was busy with a mix of regulars and people who'd come along especially to see the band. The set included a mix of roots reggae, dub re-workings of a couple of classic songs and a sound in which the influences cited by the band of Adrian Sherwood and Lee 'Scratch' Perry were evident.

A number of their own compositions were also included and introduced elements of ska which provided a refreshing change of tempo. The band who come from Malvern have been around since 2010 with a number of personnel changes along the way. The current line up is underpinned by the rhythms of **Steve Price** on bass and **Martin Parry** (once of the Fine Young Cannibals) on drums. Over this are the fine keyboards of **Rachel Poloni**, the soaring saxophone and percussion sounds of **Mr Phil 'Aytch' Howard** and the guitar, vocals and mixing skills of **Phil Linell**. Highlights for this punter included covers of *Man Next Door* and *Hard Times* alongside dub re-workings of the Bill Withers classic *Ain't No Sunshine* (Dubshine!) and T Rex's *Children of the Revolution*. Of their own numbers, *I am the Law*, a ska number stood out and got people dancing, while the dub number *Frustration*



was also excellent. Along with the music the steady supply of the four real ales always available at the Chestnut kept this writer happy and the crowd despite demanding and getting two encores was still left wanting more. Sadly a check of Facebook reveals that 'Aytch's dodgy old gnashers' have suffered from years of playing the sax and he has been told by no less than his dentist to stop playing so there's only a few more encores left for this line up of the band. So catch them while you can.

Robin Jackson



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## The Lion and the Wolf Jimmy Broomfield / Swampye Heroes, Worcester | Wed 10th Dec

It was argued by some that the mainstream success of Frank Turner and all that would inevitably take the energy out of the alternative singer-songwriter genre, and signal its doom as a vehicle for edgy and original storytelling. As soon as a style gets big, it becomes uncool. So the argument went. As with all simplistic readings of the ways and tides of the artistic underground, this is of course utter bollocks. This intimate little show in the cellar-like back bar at Heroes being a case in point. And here's some words about who played.

**Swampye** (real name Sandy MacPherson). A loose-stringed, moody set of US country and folk covers and original material. The Neil Young number in particular was sweetly done, but it was this lad's own stuff, obviously coming right from the heart, that projected clear above the bar noise and sucked in the audience to silence. Opening this bill in this venue was a big ask. And a quiet room is the hard-won mark of success in the acoustic game.

**Jimmy Broomfield**. A clubbable fellow from way away down there in the New Forest. Told his artfully self-deprecating stories of being really crap with girls and generally being really fucking sad with a genuine charisma and a smile. This juxtaposition of positive and easily-projected humanity with deep, deep melancholy was a potent combination.



**The Lion and the Wolf**. Now. This chap – Thomas George – is a grafter. Almost permanently on tour for the last year. And one of the brightest exponents of the modern-day troubadour...thing. This was a stripped down recital of his intricately arranged and multi-instrumental long player (Symptoms) – so stripped down in fact that he didn't even bother to use the microphone for a couple of tracks, singing his intensely human, sometimes warm, sometimes tragedian stories of everyday poetry and joy completely raw. Watch for this fellow on the crest of the second wave of the alternative singer-songwriter. He deserves to be there.

*Photography: Lewis Bloor Words: Ed Ling*

## Hattie Briggs Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | Thurs 11th dec '14

The last couple of months have been hectic around these parts, obviously I've had to endure another Christmas in the wonderful world of retail and then on top of that I've been (and now completed) moving house, so there has been little time for live music, but the one exception to that has been the Slap nights over at **The Gardeners Arms** in Droitwich, a once a month session, featuring the best live music has to offer. To date the pub has held host to a number of up and comers as well as a few established names from around the local scene.



December saw the turn of a bona-fide star in the making, sensational singer-songwriter and Radio 2 Young Folk Musician nominee, **Hattie Briggs**, a performer who's already released a couple of critically acclaimed singles, performed across the UK and in recent times has been recording her debut album, which should see the light in the near future.

Gardeners had a smattering of people dotted round the bar, but as soon as Hattie opened her mouth with that stunning, soulful croon, everyone immediately focused their attention. At times during Hattie's set you could hear a pin drop as she captured one and all with her bewitching set.

Whether Hattie was using a sparse, strummed acoustic or accompanied herself with piano tinkering, every song was filled with heart and passion, delivered beautifully by Hattie's warm and tender voice. Originals such as *Pull Me Down*, *Tilly's Song* and *Old Eyes* were lapped up with relish, whilst the hand picked renditions of *Kathy's Song* (Paul Simon) and *Fields Of Gold* (Sting/Eva Cassidy) mesmerised, bettering the originals (in this scribes humble opinion) as Hattie breathed new life into weathered old material.

Hattie delivered a gorgeous, understated yet thoroughly engaging set, leaving the Gardeners regulars longing for more and once again proving that the regular Slap nights very much a

monthly must see attracting only the very best in live music.

Since performing at The Gardeners Arms Hattie has been as announced as the main support act for folk royalty **Kathryn Roberts** and **Sean Lakanan's** forthcoming UK tour take a look at hattie's site for all the details [www.hattiebriggs.co.uk](http://www.hattiebriggs.co.uk)

*Words: Will Munn Photo: Graham Munn*





## Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### What's on Entertainment February

- Sun 1st **REMI HARRIS** Live Gypsy Jazz Entertainment 1.30pm
- Thurs 5th Local Musicians Jammin Night Hosted **BEN VICKERS** 7.30pm
- Sat 7th **RICKIE LAVAL** Ultimate 60's Live Entertainment 7.30pm
- Sun 8th Gardeners Jazz Club Hosted by **JAZZ ALCHEMY** Band + Guest performer 1.30pm
- Tues 10th **BB KING** Lunch DVD 1 course **£9.50** 12.30pm
- Thurs 12th **SLAP MAGAZINE** Band of The Month **IAN LUTHER** Singer 8.00pm
- Fri 13th **ROD STEWART** in Concert DVD 7.30pm
- Sun 15th **DEBORAH ROSE** Live Folk Music 1.30pm
- Thurs 19th **SARAH WARREN & NICK LYNDON (Haunted Souls)** Open Mic Night 8.00pm
- Sat 21st **TONY** 60's Special Night of the Circus Fancy Dress Disco 7.30pm
- Thurs 26th **COMEDY** Night 5 Top Midlands Comedian 8.30pm
- Fri 27th **BURT BACHARACH** Concert DVD 8.30pm
- Sat 28th **SALLY HAINES** as seen on BBC Live Music 7.30pm



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# I, The Lion



Cheltenham's post-punk / progressive alt-rock trio I, The Lion work up some of the most stylish LOUD and towering guitar music you'll experience. They're also searing live and are steadily building a solid following. In an age where a new wave of rock may be back on the ascendant and with an upcoming release (*Run*) about to drop, SLAP Mag caught up with them to talk influences, perfectionism and future plans.

**SLAP** - I, The Lion – hello. How's it going?

**Elliot:** Things are pretty swell in camp Lion. How are you?

**We're good gents, thank you. Now. For readers that may be new to you, can you tell us a little more about yourselves?**

**Elliot:** I'm Elliot and I play guitar and sometime sing, Chris mainly sings and bongs a bass, and Nath hits things. We're a three piece post-punk band from Cheltenham, been going about 4 years now.

**SLAP** - I see you have a new EP (*Run*) on the blocks – how would you describe it?

**Chris:** It's heavy and melodic with lots of timing changes throughout.

**Elliot:** It's pretty much a blend of all our influences. We were listening to a lot of Biffy Clyro, Arcane Roots, and Finch at the time.

**Elliot:** And early Twin Atlantic. Big fan of the Vivarium album. Have also been told we're for fans of At The Drive In?

**Nath:** And Three Trapped Tigers, definitely influenced the drums.

**SLAP** - You've paid your DIY dues but recorded the new one with a professional producer **Jason Wilson** (*You Me At Six*, *We Are The Ocean*) down in that London. What's the story there?

**Elliot:** Every release we've done has been self-recorded since we did music at college. But we were offered to work with Jason, and with the representation he has it felt like the right time to do it.

**Nath:** It was good to have that extra perspective on the record to make it the best it can be.

**Elliot:** Yeah he really worked us the right way, we definitely made the right choice going with him and we'll be back.

**SLAP** -You seem to be perfectionists – is this fair?

**Nath:** Very much so!

**Elliot:** *Tides and Tales* [released 2013] took a long time to get out because we spent so much time trying to get it perfect.

**Chris:** And releasing *Hold Strong* [lead track on the *Run* EP] took a while to release because we wanted to make sure it was spot on.

**Elliot:** We even went back to record extra bits 6 months after recording. But its probably true of us as song writers as well, recording the same riff over and over until its perfect.

**SLAP** - Some – including the venerable Steve Albini – argue we are living in a golden age of DIY, and the prospects for non-signed artists have never been better. What's your take on this?

**Chris:** You can self promote yourself pretty easily these days as well as record to a high standard but its not the same as working with people with the experience.

**Elliot:** Its a double edged sword really. Its great being able to do these things, but when anyone with a laptop can do it the competition is fierce between some seriously talented artists.

**Nath:** And because its less exclusive people are less willing to buy the product since there's so much available.

**SLAP** - Yeah. There is that. Are labels in the traditional sense still relevant do you think?

**Chris:** For me, if I want to hear music that I like, I'll go to labels I know like BSM or Alcopop. So having these labels producing good releases means signing to them opens you up to their fan base and clientele.

**Nath:** Genre-specific labels are more relevant than general labels because they offer that sort of service where you can check out their bands and find something you like straight away. Unless its a huge established label whose contacts are able to help you.

**SLAP** - Like some other local DIY heroes – *Stillbust*, *Guerilla Monsoon*, *Fights and Fires* – you tour hard. You seemed to go down pretty well at last year's **2000 Trees Fest** from what I am told. How was all that for you?

**Elliot:** Yeah *2000 Trees* was a pretty ace point in recent memory.

**Chris:** It's a great festival we love, so to play it was really good.

**Elliot:** And to get the response we got as well was incredible. First on and the tent was full which made our whole weekend. We gave away our CD after and all 200 copies were gone in less than a minute!





**SLAP** - There are those that would compare you to Young Guns and that whole Zane Lowe band continuum - which is no bad thing - but while your sound is undeniably ripe for newly rock-friendly commercial radio, there seems to be a lot of layering, depth and reflection in what you do. What do you think?

**Elliot:** *Its nice someone noticed the layering and depth!*

**Chris:** *People normally don't notice that, they tend to say 'that's heavy', or 'that's aggressive, you're sweaty'.*

[SLAP!: Hey. I'm a... professional. It's my job to notice]

**Chris:** *Once Run is released hopefully people will be able to hear the smaller details below the loud exterior. And this the also first time we've been called commercial!*

**Elliot:** *But like you said its not a bad thing, hopefully it means people will like the record. Last year rock album sales were the highest they had been in something like 20 years which is promising!*

**Chris:** *I think if you listen to any band you'll hear the depth and layers in the record, but we do make an effort to do something different that challenges ourselves as well as challenging the listeners.*

**Chris:** *like to make my hands and feet confused.*

**SLAP** - There appears to be a lot happening musically - particularly punk in all its varieties - down in Cheltenham (and Gloucester) at the moment: **Stillbust** already mentioned, **Lanterns**, **Oui Legionnaires** and a few more, the **Two Pigs** and the **Guildhall** putting on great shows recently. How does it look from down there?

**Chris:** *The Guildhall just got Dan Charles who's booking some really decent bands, and with the commercialising of rock music more people are coming to shows.*

**Elliot:** *And at the moment in the area there are some really great promoters like Shoot Your Hoops and EPA Promotions who are putting on great shows.*

**Chris:** *As well as putting on bands people really want to see, they're giving way to new bands as well.*

**SLAP** - And is there anyone from your local scene that you want to give a shout out to?

**Chris:** **Empire**, *they're going to be big this year with their new album coming out. They also have a new single out the same day as our new EP, so lots of new music for people.*

**Elliot:** *Oui Legionnaires, they're always ace at every show.*

**Chris:** *Solemn Sun too. We just listened to their new vinyl which is good. They took a risk changing their style but its really worked well for them.*

**SLAP** - And who are you listening to in the van at the moment?

**Elliot:** *Physics House Band is on repeat for me, as well as Three Trapped Tigers.*

**Chris:** *We had the new Mastodon CD on the other day.*

**Elliot:** *It melted my brain.*

**Chris:** *Arcane Roots too, they're been on there for about a year. And Reuben, they're always coming back out.*

**SLAP** - Beyond the new EP, what's on the agenda for 2015?

**Chris:** *Festivals! Tour!*

**Elliot:** *We've got our new single 'Icarus' coming very soon, and then a double music video coming near the summer. But we're already writing loads of material for our debut album which we're recording on the back half of the year.*

**SLAP** - Busy times in camp Lion then.

D B Schenker



Check I, The Lion out online at:

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

<http://www.ithelion.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/ithelionuk>

Photocredit (C) 2014

## I, The Lion - Run EP

It's always kind of life-affirming when something as technically accomplished and vital as this pings into the musical bucket. This four track EP - professionally produced, but wholly creatively owned and released by the band themselves - takes just about everything that is soaring, shredding and soulful from the past quarter of a century of post-hardcore punk and intelligent guitar music and moulds it into something new and interesting. The twisting time changes and dischords are progressive as hell,

but they serve as a compliment to the millisecond-perfect lyrical hooks and harmonies that cut through all four tracks here. This is quietly but extremely polished stuff. And it could easily slip down on that polished surface into the fey, one-dimensional territory of Twin Atlantic or the "emo" pop-punk of All Time Low and You Me At Six - and lose its guts and soul in the process. The fact it doesn't, and that underneath all the intricate structure and craftsmanship you find a rock solid heart and a keen brain - makes for something exciting and inspirational that you have to basically stand back from and salute. Recommended. And do actually buy this. Because then they will have the cash make more like it. Which would be a very good thing.

Egon Coalsack

[www.ithelion.bandcamp.com](http://www.ithelion.bandcamp.com)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy7Q-cJDl6A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy7Q-cJDl6A)

# PREVIEW

## Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection Evesham Arts Centre | Sat 21st Feb '15

Directed by Godfather of Grunge Folk **Wild Willy Barrett**, this dynamic quartet will be importing a touch of "ooh-la-la" to Evesham Arts Centre this February:- featuring new French singer **Aurora Colson**, cellist **Mary Holland** and Irish musician **John Devine**.

The show will feature selections from their new album 'Cat in a Circus' which is an original melange of French, Irish and English acoustic arrangements, using everything from a guitar and cello, to Irish pipes and banjo.

The group was born during a chance encounter in 2002, when Willy approached an enchanting cellist he saw performing with a belly-dancing troupe.

*"Willy was living on the Grand Union canal near Tring, Herts. He saw and heard me playing and dancing in the garden of a pub close to where his boat was moored and came rushing over with the immortal words 'would you like to join my band?'"*

*"I knew who he was, but I must confess to being a bit suspicious as to whether it was the cello playing or me he was interested in, so it took several phone calls and lots of persuading for me to audition for the band. Turns out, he was interested in both – we are now married."*

Something of a musical prodigy, having learnt to play the ukulele at the age of four, Willy describes himself as "an experimental multi-instrumentalist." Best known for his outlandish partnership with **John Otway**, it is the gentler side of Wild that has emerged during his collaboration with this acoustic quartet. For John Devine, a master of the Uilleann



pipes, this has been an interesting year, having also played at Buckingham Palace in the presence of the Queen as part of the Irish State visit. Speaking on Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection, he says: *"It is unlike anything you will ever see or hear with the range of music and musicianship. Willy holds it all together. He's one of the most overlooked musicians in the country."*

New singer Aurora is now on board fitting in perfectly with the quirkiness of the other musicians, ensuring the band go from strength to strength, wowing audiences both French and English alike with her beautiful vocals, taking in styles from Gypsy jazz to traditional Celtic, with hints of Bluegrass and Piaf thrown into the mix.

Innovative arrangements beautifully performed on instruments including the guitar, cello, fiddle, banjo and uilleann pipes, all overlaid with a large dose of wry humour, make this show something special both to listen to and to watch: a unique and unforgettable evening.

Tickets are £10 or £12 on the door, visit:  
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# The Albion Christmas Band

## Huntington Hall | Thurs 18th Dec '14

Ho ho hold on.....weren't this lot here this time last year.... and the year before. Indeed they were. This has been an annual event at the Hall for some years now and manages a good crowd each year. **The Christmas Band** being 'The Guv'nor', **Ashley Hutchings** (Fairport Convention, Steeleye Span, Albion Band) on Bass, **Simon Nicol** (Fairport Convention) on Guitar, **Simon Care** (Edward II) on Melodeon and **Kellie While** on Vocals, Guitar and Percussion. It is a simple but effective sound.

Now, as you would imagine, the evening is all things festive from traditional Carols and contemporary seasonal songs through to festive poems, humorous readings and Jigs, Polkas and Hornpipes with something Wintery in the title.

The evening starts with a *Sussex Carol, On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*, but fear not Atheists and Agnostics, there is plenty for us too, let's face it, you don't have to believe in Wizards to enjoy Prog Rock so you don't have to believe in God to enjoy a few Christmas songs and Carols. Next up is *The King*, a song in praise of the Wren. This is followed by a set of tunes by Melodeon Maestro Simon Care called *Snowchains/The Obvious Jig*. Then Kellie While sings a beautiful version of the 1980's Tears For Fears hit *Mad World*. I think this one sneaks in because it made Christmas number one for Gary Jules in 2003. The Guv'nors turn next with the self penned song *Mr Trill* which drifts neatly into The Gloucester Hornpipe. A satirical reading of the *Nativity* from Simon Nicol, another song from Kellie While, *December in New York*, written by Thea Gilmore and a further reading from Simon Care on why men can't remember followed by a set of



'Box' driven tunes, *A Calling on Song/The Hogmanay*, takes us to the break.

The second set is much the same and starts with an Edward Thomas poem read by Ashley Hutchings. Numerous other traditional Carols are offered up along the way, with the Band swapping vocals, these include *Silent Night*, *The Holly Bears a Berry*, a beautiful version of *In the Bleak Midwinter*, once again sung by Kellie While, *We Three Kings* and *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. Other festive songs include a James Taylor number with Simon Nicol taking lead vocals, *The January Man* sung by Kellie While and *Christmas 1914*, a song written by Mike Harding which is a poignant and moving commemoration of the famous Christmas truce in the Trenches told from the perspective of an ordinary British and ordinary German Soldier. We then get another poetry reading, this time Ashley Hutchings reads John Clare's *Snow Storm*. There is also time for a humorous reading from Simon Care on the price of the twelve days of Christmas. I think it worked out at £1,891.00. This revelation brings us to the encore, a set of Jigs and a final song, *The Seven Joys of Mary*.

This is the 16th year the Band have toured to near sell out venues, there is clearly a continuing appetite for festive wit, banter, good music and a touch of eccentricity.

Tom R Wettsack



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## Hereford Live Presents: Red Room Therapy Jake of Diamonds | Glue Foot at The Jailhouse The Jailhouse, Hereford | 21st Dec '14

About three years ago, I was in The Barrels in Hereford and my mate handed me a CD. "You'll like that," he said. It didn't leave my stereo for quite some time, despite there only being 3 tracks on it. Truth be told, it was one track in particular, 'Runaway', that ended up being on repeat, and I became a **Red Room Therapy** fan. I've seen them play many times since and their recent show at **The Jailhouse** was quite possibly their best yet.

Glue Foot

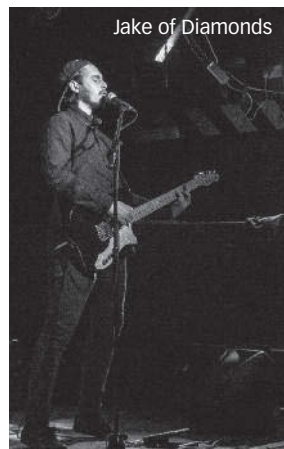


When they heard The Jailhouse was set to close, their planned gig as part of their debut album tour was brought forward by a few months. Bristol/Cardiff trio **Glue Foot's** pop punk set was a perfect opener, followed by a storming set from **Jake of Diamonds**, who have enjoyed airplay from BBC Introducing.

RRT took to the stage; **Osh** (singer, guitars) and **Jordon** (drums) were joined by **Liam Bevan** (Bringing Back Tomorrow) on bass, opening with *All in the Mind*, the title track from the new album, which merged seamlessly into fan favourite *Skin & Bone*. It's hard to pigeon hole **Red Room Therapy** into a genre, and perhaps we shouldn't; their grungy rock with a heavy flavour of funk makes for intelligent yet catchy music that is incredibly tight when played live. Despite album tracks

such as 'Society Says' and 'Hiros' being heard by much of the audience for the first time, the energy in the room was electric with fans chanting the band's name in between songs. The pressure was on as those who had heard the album requested 'Leave Me Alone', and - despite the band having not played it together before - it didn't disappoint.

Frontman Osh received massive cheers for an impassioned speech about the need for communities and authorities to look after



Jake of Diamonds



Red Room Therapy

their local venues before dedicating their brilliant cover of *Relax* by Frankie Goes to Hollywood to Jailhouse legend **Murf**.

Jen Walters

## Kings & Folk & a festive album launch St. Stephen's church hall, Worcester | 6th Dec '14

The concert for the album launch of Kings & Folk's second album, *Branching Out*, was held at St Stephen's church hall and was a sell out long before the event. Along with a complementary wine (the band - **Ian, David and Claire King** and **Helen Izod** - were very hospitable!) the audience settled down to enjoy the show.



**Kings & Folk** set the agenda for a night of excellent music - opening, like the album, with the exquisite 'Country Rounds' followed by 'Winter's Frozen Droplets'. Special guest of the

evening was **Colette Todd** who, as you would imagine from a former singer in world tours of **Riverdance/Lord of the Dance**, had a wonderful voice. With accompaniment she sang 'Some Folks', a tune based on an old Herefordshire folk song, and 'I Count the Days'.

More instrumentals followed, most notably 'Balkan Dance', which evokes Eastern European Romany Gypsy influences with excellently executed time changes. Instruments were put aside as Ian and Claire were joined on stage by Colette again and **Martin Haworth**. This quartet performed a small set of Carols - 'The Holly and the Ivy', 'A Cornish Carol' and 'Sans Day Carol'. A return to instruments closed the first half of the set with a high tempo jig medley of 'Kate Dalrymple/Bag of Praties'.

After an interval that included more wine (!) **Kings & Folk's** set consisted of more reels and jigs with another a cappella mini-set of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' and 'Past 3 o'Clock'. A highlight on their new album, 'Grace', was sublimely performed as the instruments introduced themselves subtly into the composition as Claire quoted her grandfather, "It brings a tear to a glass eye". The evening was finished off with the audience participating with the performers singing the Christmas carol 'Deck the Halls' and an encore of 'Irish Polka'.

The show was a great success with fantastic performances by those involved - terrific singing, musicianship of the highest quality, performed with a joyful festive feel, lovely warm anecdotal introductions to the tunes and an intimacy between performers and audience.

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



# Spirit Kreek Moonshine Man

**Spirit Kreek** are a Herefordshire based three-piece rock outfit, who formed just over a year ago, since the band's creation they've been hard at work honing their sound, performing live with the likes of Worhol, Hangfire and No Glory among others.

The band have also found time to record a four track EP (not counting brief atmospheric intro track) with producer **Josh Watkins** in **Cobnash Studios** in an attempt to harness the band's live sound.

Hitting play the first thing you hear is the aforementioned short and eerie introduction before frontman **Scott Morris** lets out a mighty bellow signaling the EP's title track, a barrage of hard hitting riffs and a bombardment of beats as the band issue their statement of intent. Frontman, Scott has a powerful holler and he's no slouch on the six-string either, churning out a number of addictive riffs and solo's throughout the EP's duration, whilst the rhythm section (**Stoo McEwan** on bass and **Ryan Randolph** drums) more than hold their own complimenting Scott's flourishes with relish.

The band obviously take their influences from modern rockers such as Alter Bridge and Black Stone Cherry among others, as like the aforementioned band's Spirit Kreek may hit hard but they also have that melodic bluesy edge, particularly evident on the five-minute plus *All Gone Away*, where the band build the track up with an acoustic guitar, before



cranking up the electric as the track unravels into a fine melodic rocker. Whilst *Alone In The Dark* proves the bands chops as the track breaks down for an impressive instrumental middle section before returning to the hard hitting groove previously laid down.

*Moonshine Man* is an impressive opening salvo from Spirit Kreek, it's powerful and ballsy whilst never losing sight of that all important melody, if the band can continue to develop and evolve at the rate they're going, we could be in for something very special indeed, definitely one's to watch in the future.

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

Will Munn

# Kings & Folk Branching Out

The album itself is full of wonderful elements of traditional: English, Irish, Scottish and Eastern European folk music with high tempo jigs and reels: *Country Rounds*, *Balkan Dance*, *Cooley's Reel*, *Kate Dalrymple/Bag of Praties* and *Kerry Polka/Terry Teahan's*. More deeply thoughtful melodic tunes: *The Dark Island* (a former BBC theme tune from the early 60's related to the Isle of South Uist written by Iain MacLachlan), *Portencross*, *Paddy McCarthy* and *Grace*.

*Some Folks*, *Tree of Life* and *The Dark Traveller* included the superb vocal talents of Colette Todd (who toured the world with Riverdance/Lord of the Dance) added a more earth traditional English folk feel to this album.

*Portencross* (a beach on the coast of Ayrshire Scotland and a favorite place of the Kings), and *Grace* (a beautifully interwoven piece and a stand out track on the album) were

recorded at **Peter Gabriel's Real World Studios**. This was a result of **Kings & Folk** winning the **Bath Folk Festival** in 2013. With *Portencross* and *Grace* there is a more modern feel in the compositional writing of **Ian King** (who writes and arranges the majority of tunes on the album). However these two tracks fit in comfortably with the other compositions and the albums overall feel.



*Branching Out* belongs very much to the folk genre and for fans of that genre they will be hard pressed to find a modern folk album as well played and produced and offering an eclectic mix within the folk genre. For the music listener who wants an introduction to folk played of the highest quality, then there's no need to look further than *Branching Out* by Kings & Folk.

To obtain information about Kings & Folk and acquiring their albums, from *Root to Sky* and *Branching Out*, their web site is [www.kingsandfolk.com](http://www.kingsandfolk.com) and it is also worth checking out Ian Kings at:

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

Words by Rich Morgan

## God Damn / Plane Crasher / Weathered Hands / Cassandra / Chew Jailhouse | Hereford | Sat 29 Nov '14

This was one of the very last gigs of its kind to be played at Hereford's valiant and quirky **Jailhouse** before the doors closed there for good. Which they did this NYE just passed. And to be fair, if you're going to go out - go out with a fucking great fat bang or two. Like this bill. You might as well, yeah?



Chew

Openers **Chew** were very much on the grunge revival end of the punk spectrum (somewhere to thrashier-sounding right of Eugenius and Teenage Fanclub), and nonetheless still bright and tight. Local boys **Cassandra** had small town claustrophobia and mania fizzing out of their pores - and delivered their bushy-tailed garage with both vigour and buckets of spunk. And brought a smile to the face.



Cassandra



Weathered Hands

**Weathered Hands** were a surprise package. With more intelligence and depth than your usual alt-rock beat combo this five piece safely emoted and projected their way out of *We Are The Ocean* territory and into something more interesting - and akin to the livelier offerings of the US second wave of original emo - Tiny Engines label bands like Signals Midwest and Dikembe - and stand comparison to the mighty (and now departed) Plaids. Interesting. And touched with a bit of... yeah. Class.

**Plane Crasher.** Plane. Crasher. Did what they do. Kyuss meets Black Flag meets Chicago noise rock. Only that's a lame description but I've wholly run out of new adjectives and epithets for this band. Whilst there was talk of them double-amping their bass to generate a sound so deep it would blow out a few major retaining walls and make this building unusable for future occupiers, this wasn't to be - although this was still plenty LOUD, and plenty filthy. And the kids loved



Plane Crasher

them too. There was even a modest but enthusiastic pit. Seemingly comprised mainly of members of the two opening bands. It's always a thing of joy to see the youth violently cavorting. Gives one hope for the human race.

Fresh from their support of the tumescent Slaves on their UK tour, Wolverhampton's two piece stoner-grunge decibel experimentalists **God Damn** are one of the few bands that can live with our Plane Crasher in the sonic assault and battery game. The professional kit these boys brought obviously kind of helped - but it takes some effort and no little skill to create this much shock and awe with just two instruments. Drummer **Ash Weaver** is perhaps the most watchable and brutally effective man with the sticks that you will see anywhere right now, all flailing mane of curls, sweat and Bonham style flourishes. But guitarist **Thomas Edward** is continuing to grow as a frontman, his personality coming out from behind the three foot thick wall of hair, guitar fuzz and reverb and adding an extra dimension to this two piece's arsenal. A band that needs to be heard to be believed.



God Damn



# Ben Crosland's Threeway

## Red Lion, Warstone Lane, Birmingham

### Friday 16th January '15

This was a very rare opportunity to see this group live in Birmingham. Threeway have been in existence as a Trio for ten years. For this gig, vibraphone player **Lewis Wright** was added to the mix, thus allowing the group to reprise their latest album 'Looking Forward, Looking Back'.

Threeway consist of keyboard player **Steve Lodder**, bass guitarist **Ben Crosland** and **Steve Waterman** on trumpet and flugelhorn. The music for the evening was largely drawn from the band's last album, with a couple of choice classics from the *Great American Songbook* included for good measure. The venue is a comparatively small upstairs pub room and it was pleasing to see an almost full house. For me, it was an added pleasure to see, up close and personal, three musicians whom I had long admired via their recordings.

These are virtuoso musicians who are so comfortable with each other that their gentle music seems to fall naturally upon the ears. Deceptively effortless playing – the keynote here is melody. There is no showboating and the musicians' natural modesty seemed to complement the music perfectly. At the same time the music demanded attention and the attentive audience sat enthralled throughout the evening. Steve Waterman's circular breathing closed one particular tune in a quietly dramatic fashion. Compositions were provided by all three of the core band members and it is testament to their



wonderful melodies that their interpretation of a song always associated with Doris Day, 'Secret Love,' could almost have been one of their own compositions.

All credit to the guys at Birmingham Jazz for bringing Threeway to town.

Find out more about Threeway at [www.jazz-cat.com](http://www.jazz-cat.com) and to find out about future Birmingham Jazz events go to [www.birminghamjazz.co.uk](http://www.birminghamjazz.co.uk)

Words and photography: Alan Musson

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**OPENING MARCH 2015**

## Low Derive / Joe McMahon Question the Mark / The Insomniacs Death or Glory Records, Redditch | Tues 2nd Dec '14

Whilst Redditch town centre on a damp Tuesday night may feel like Silent Hill surrounded by a one-way system so impenetrable and incomprehensible it feels surreal and somehow aggressive, it hides a secret. A wholly DIY secret. A live music venue that hosts a record store. Seriously. Just go to this place. **Death or Glory Records**. You can take my car. Your life will be better for it.

For this was a night of handsomely gruff melodic punk and acoustic. Featuring acts from Italy and the USA. In Redditch. On a schoolnight.

Openers **The Insomniacs** kept things grounded, though. With the shorts, spiked hair and anecdotes about tapping off with drunk girls in the bogs this band largely took their stylistic cues from that bouncy American Pie pop punk thing - Sum 41, New Found Glory, Green Day. And the Macc Lads. But didn't quite have as much penetration or textured emotional depth as those bands. But hey. They had fun.

**Question the Mark** were a step up. Crisply delivered, pacy, hooky - this was a gravelly and quietly vinegary Welsh valleys take on the ever popular and oft-recycled melodic hardcore style. Think HDQ or Leatherface fronted by Chuck Ragan (he of Hot Water Music). The melodies and the vocal harmonics were simply and powerfully done, and if I am not mistaken there may have been the occasional social comment in there too. Naughty.



Speaking of social comment and consciousness, discovery of the evening was **Joe McMahon** - frontman of US East Coast political melodic punkers **Smoke or Fire**, doing a solo short acoustic set. For various reasons the current crop of singer songwriters carefully steer clear of orthodox protest or politics. These, in contrast, were songs that gave a shit about more than just the state of the human heart - much more. Inequality. Hope not Hate. In all, not unlike an unplugged Propagandi. This man is also long-time collaborator with the wonderful Billy the Kid (google her. She is ace). And we need more like this to make the protest song credible again.



Proceedings were closed by the Milanese gruff neo-emo whirls **Low Derive**. This lot were good-looking lads, with the devilishly stylish edge common to the current crop of touring European punk and post-hardcore outfits like Astpai and Ash Is A Robot. Having recently played the Fest in Florida (along with our own Guerrilla Monsoon), this was sweetly executed stuff that knew it's hardcore punk history. But that was also not afraid of the odd rock flourish. Sexy and accomplished.

DB Schenker

Indie Images Photography - Rob Hadley

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## Fights and Fires | Lanterns | Mistaken Act Marrs Bar, Worcester | Sat 10th Jan '15

So. New year. New danger. Punk up the Marrs Bar. And why not.

First on - Worcester's own - and brand new - **Mistaken Act**. A pop-punk quartet so fresh-faced and winsome that you almost want to keep them and take them home as house elves. Only you wouldn't really want to do that. They're noisy little critters. And would likely be cut to shreds on your booze and setting fire to the curtains as soon as your back was turned. But anyway. This was bounce along Southern Californian-style angsty punk with plenty of vim and a spring in its step. And it's hard not to love that.



Lanterns

There's a wave of high-end guitar bands coming out of Cheltenham and that Gloucester right now. I, The Lion, Stillbust, Darko - and these fellows, **Lanterns**. Warm and emotional modern melodic punk, with a conspicuous and flinty soul, this was a gutsy performance that tugged at the strings with intent. Stand out was definitely the the set closer - "*Safe with me*" - which was as sincere and hair-standing-up-on



Fights and Fires

the-back-of-the-neck an affair as you will find. Genuinely impressive.

And then we had Euro road warriors and punk and roll merchants **Fights and Fires**. This whole show being the (hometown) launch party for their split 7" with deutscher punks Idle Class. This uber-nerd crew are older and wiser, but still chock full of the passionate full-throttle intensity that has propelled them twenty plus times round the DIY venues of Europe already. And this

experience shows: the well-honed geek-arama banter, widgets-tight performance generally and millimetre accurate delivery of more guitar and lyrical hooks than you could easily shake a sweaty little stick at. This is also a band obviously in it for the long haul. With a few new tracks, which take things into more melodic territory but keep the heavy slamming sound unique to this band, and a new bassist (who has an air of an older and physically upscaled Justin Beiber) this outfit's ambition to be the party hardcore band of choice within the DIY punk scene just may not be unfounded.

Photography: B @ Gippa Words: Ed Ling



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# 3 Daft Monkeys

## Oobleck, Birmingham | Sat 19 Dec

A first visit to **Alfred Birds** and the **Oobleck** venue on a cool winter's evening but all was not quite to plan. The venue is moderate in size, with a small stage and some very deep blue lighting, which added to the rather cold air - comfortable it wasn't but with a good turn out and plenty of energy it could only improve. The first news we had was that **3DM** had broken down in Leeds and

were now travelling in 2 cars to reach the venue. Meanwhile, also a little late, **The Hawthornes**, a folk band from Cheltenham, were going to attempt to lift the temperature. The band appeared as a trio with **Louisa Gaylard** on acoustic guitar and vocals, **Jesse Benns** on Cajon, with **Gordy Partridge** on bass and second vocals. They entertained us well with their own material that is lively and full of interesting lyrics.

As **The Hawthornes** finished **Tim, Athene, Lukas** and **Richie** turned up, looking rather cold but in good spirits. I have never seen a quicker turn round, they could not bring all their gear - it wouldn't fit in to the 2 hired minis! **Richie** quickly assembled a very reduced, already shrunken drum kit. **Lukas** sorted connections, **Tim** and **Athene** worked on the tuning of the 12 string and violin, both suffering the cold atmosphere along with the band.



Hats off to them - many bands would not have strived so hard in unpleasant conditions to arrive and crack on, thus deserving our respect. As a cool draft wafted through the auditorium, the band encouraged '*Civilised Debauchery*', a raw edged, punchy song to warm things up and the floor had filled out as they moved on to '*Agnes The Giant Killer*'. For the

uninitiated, 3 Daft Monkeys' songs are based heavily on Cornish folk tales (many quite dark) love, death, and tales of the sea - often leading to some fine jigs.

The music is a mix of Gypsy, Latin and Gaelic influences, and is absolutely hypnotic - I defy anyone not to be drawn in to the frenetic urgency of the songs. **Tim** takes the lead with the vocals; **Lukas** and **Athene** explore the extent of the stage, as **Richie**, hands encased in 'golf' gloves, slapped up a storm on cymbals and toms. **Tim**, ever the Perfect Stranger, tells me he's been drunk a thousand

times but it does not deter from '*Days of the Dance*', as **Athene** takes us back to the Austrian royal court for a waltz, before exploding into dancing mania. Brilliant! Nobody is still and the **Custard** is getting nicely warm as the band turn '*The World on its Head*'.

I can only implore you all to seek out a gig - 3DM do not disappoint. Albums '*Of Stone and Bone*' and '*The Antiquated and Arcane*' give a clue to the sinister stories contained. **Athene** on fiddle is a joy to hear and they all bring that bit of magic to the stage. As we near the close, we wind the clock back to one of their earlier songs '*Hubbadillia*', it's a jig but not as you know it - fabulous fun - even the temperature has risen to applaud them. With luck I will not have to wait another year to see them perform again.

Words & photography by *Graham Munn*

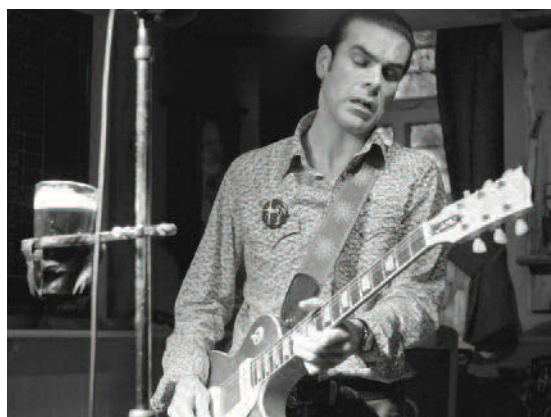
# Notorious Melvin Hancox Goes It Alone

## Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | Thurs 8 Jan '15

I really did not know what to expect when **Melvin** accepted this gig and I arrived to find he had brought a few close friends... by the name of **Gibson**. I have seen and heard him perform with both **The Notorious Brothers** and **Vincent Flatts** and always in the company of his **Les Pauls** - one black, one gold, both immaculate.

Here in **Droitwich** they were present as was an acoustic **Gibson** and a magnificent **Gretsch** 12 string electro-acoustic that sounded wonderful. **Melvin's** set was truly varied and the musicianship and showmanship was there to enjoy. '*Showbiz Blues*' and '*Oh Well*' from **Peter Green's** **Fleetwood Mac** days through to **Dylan** and **Hendrix** via the deep delta '*Preachin Blues*' of **Son House** were made to measure for a guitarist of **Melvin's** quality.

**The Gardeners** had never shaken like this before - an absolutely fabulous '*Sabre Dance*' and a wild foot stomping '*Cherokee Dance*' (dragged up from the mid 50s), **Melvin** is a joy to behold and the whole house is mesmerised enjoying every chord, every bend and strike.



It had been an absorbing evening. **Melvin Hancox** had pretty well ticked every box - there were a lot of smiles on faces and calls for a return visit. For those who have yet to see him perform in one of his guises, I suggest you seek that opportunity - you will be seeing a master craftsman working with cherished 'tools' of his trade.

by *Graham Munn*





# MUSIC AT ARTRIX



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**EDDI READER - 22 MARCH**

**PURPLE ZEPPELIN - 28 MARCH**

**ROVING CROWS - 4 APRIL**

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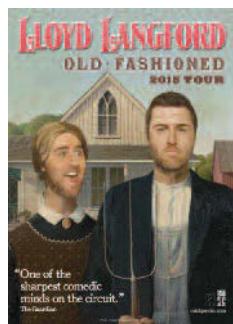


## Andrew O'Neill - Heavy Metal: A History Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat 14th Feb

With customised Flying V Guitar slung over his shoulder **Andrew O'Neill** lands at the Artrix to answer the burning questions you were afraid to ask. What is Heavy Metal? What does it taste like? Does it hurt?

Whether you're a committed head banger with a complete Ozzy back catalogue and own air guitar, or the kind of person who wouldn't know Napalm Death if they were squatting in your garden shed, this show is hugely funny and massively entertaining.

Combining stand-up comedy with live music Andrew O'Neill paints a picture of an enduring subculture that has rocked the world! Tickets £10    [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



## Lloyd Langford - Old Fashioned Artrix | Wed 25th Feb '15

If you are exasperated by e-cigs, CGI and even plugs then Lloyd Langford's new show is the one for you!

As an old soul trapped in a 30-year-old's body, there's something endearing about Lloyd Langford and his struggle with the modern world.

And so when wave after wave of funny and clever anecdotes on the vagaries of 21st Century life spill out of Lloyd, it is easy to see why The Guardian called him an 'undiscovered genius'.

In the last year, Lloyd has won a Radio Academy Award for his work on Here Be Dragons, had a sell-out show at the Edinburgh Festival and achieved the joint highest score on The Unbelievable Truth (Radio 4). Tickets £12 - [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

## The Acoustic Blues House Party | Artrix, Sat 28th Feb '15

The Acoustic Blues House Party is now firmly established as one of THE dates in the Blues Calendar. Consisting of Eddie Martin playing guitar and harmonica, Ashley Dow on slide guitar and Michael Roach's husky vocals, collectively these boys will transport you in an instant to the heyday of Delta Blues in Mississippi.

It's the highlight of the annual Blues Weekend at Artrix during which everyone from the complete novice upwards can take part in the classes and jamming sessions and learn from the experts. So if you fancy yourself as the next Muddy Waters or Robert Johnson then come along and give it a go! Tickets £10    [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



## West Mercia Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre Christmas Special Charity Show

Comedy: Roger Swift | Mike Crump | Kris Hall | Joe Thomlinson

Music: Arbor Lights | Holy | Transmissions | Rusty Knives

Firefly, Worcester, Friday 12th Dec '14

The late great Bill Hicks, when US audiences would drift off during the long parts of his set dedicated to Republicans or zen philosophy, would reassure the punters that it was OK. There were dick jokes coming. And that after the editorial shit, they would skip off, hand in hand, to a place of timeless humour called Dick Joke Island. The headliner to this bill of stand up comedy at the Firefly - **Roger Swift** - was an addled shitstorm of homemade prop-driven visual puns so offensive and crass, and delivered with such force and unhinged intent that it was - and I use this term carefully - bordering on genius.

The extreme vulgarity and profanity of many of these puns can't be easily described in a mainstream (ish) publication. But suffice to say, if ever Bill Hicks' audiences wondered what Dick Joke Island looked like, then this wet, ten minute fart of violated stuffed toys and dildos sellotaped to household objects, screamed at by a bald middle aged man in a slithery full-length raincoat, probably comes very close.

The other acts on this bill each we're more... cerebral, but each nonetheless had their own voice. **Mike Crump** - a Dudley Alan Carr with a dirty mind and a touch of the wistful that you wanted to hug. **Kris Hall** a teller of laconic stories of incompetent parenting and pedagogic dysfunction. Slacker misanthropy raised to a bargain bin art form; and opener and local hero **Joe Thomlinson**, whose dark Emo Phillips style knowing meander of jagged visual gags and observational vignettes of small town knuckleheadishness and the surreal sparked matters off to a suitably leftfield start.

This was a hybrid show of spoken word and live music - something rarely done, but really should be done more often. There were four bands on top of the gag-throwers so I'll be brief.

The **Rusty Knives**: scratchy and sincere neo-garage punk, with far more ideas than they give themselves credit for, and who are way better than they think they are. **Transmissions**: still new boys as a unit (this only being their second ever show) but no strangers as practitioners to high-end guitar music - grooved and twisted with a sonic complexity and emotional intensity reminiscent of a ballsier The National; **Holy**: handsome boys, alright. All brass neck, poses,



Transmissions

psychedelic pop hooks, scarves and fur coats... but could maybe benefit from a little more edge; and closing proceedings, **Arbor Lights**: Symphonic heavy guitar wonder children. Think Mogwai doing the soundtrack to an enlightened and arty remake of the 70s sci-fi classic *Silent Running*. Or the score to a Hollywood update of *War of the Worlds* that actually worked. And you'd be about there. The



Arbor Lights

spontaneous donation of proceeds from the online sales of their album *Hatherton Lake* to the night's charitable beneficiary - **West Mercia Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centre** - was also a nice gesture.

For let it be known this was a charity benefit show. And if you missed the raffle with its unusual haul of quality prizes then... you missed out.

Words: Veronica Bloodsausage Photography: Mark Hoy



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## King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat 3rd Jan '15

For many of you out there is no need for me to introduce this remarkable band. They've been delivering their signature swing to audiences all over the UK & Europe for nearly 30 years. They are an institution forged in and around Birmingham, when 'Made in Birmingham' still meant something.

**King Pleasure** himself, along with '**Big John**', are the powerhouse horn blowers of the outfit. **John Battrum** is the uncrowned king on sax. KP adds to the 'hot' air but his 'lounge lizard' crooning, energy, and enthusiasm are the driving forces behind their unique style. Add **Bullmoose 'K' Shirley** on his lovely country style Gibson, **Matt Foundling** on the ivories, **Gary Barber** tucked behind on skins, and the unmissable clown prince of Bass **Shark Van Schtoop** and you have swing with touches of jazz, blues and rock & roll, for good measure.

'*This Is It*' leads to abandoned seats and the undeniable urge to get up and move - we just '*Can't Get Enough Of Your Stuff*'. Artrix has the ability to 'flatten' half the floor precisely for times like this. For '*Shake Rattle & Roll*' KP is down in the audience weaving through the movers and groovers, the band 'jams' on and Matt strikes up some serious boogie-woogie on the keys. The King is back up for '*I Got A Gal That Lives Upon The Hill*' and old favourite '*Barracuda*', vocalised in his own lounge style. Jackie Wilson is shaken out, a bit more rock & roll. '*I Ain't Mad At You, Don't You Be Mad At Me*' because it's blues time with BB King's '*You Upsets Me baby*'. Slip in a bit



of Ray Charles (why not?) before getting back to full on swing.

**The Shark** is hiding behind his double bass, fingers still bending those heavy strings, deep in the shadows. Gary may not be seen too well but he is certainly heard and the two push along that rhythm. Another boogie solo off Matt keeps the momentum going. KP has disappeared for a breather so the band play an extended '*Tequila*' all taking a turn to lead and the audience is provoked into responding to the calls - it's Tequila all round (doubles probably, with ice!) as the King returns to close it off.

'*Bona Serra*', gives hint to nearing the close - a relaxed swing with the pendulum easing down but the fans are having none of that and demand more.

Dean Martin would be hard pressed to 'Sway' better than this, '*Party Time*' is over but not before a boastful '*I'm the King Of The Swingers*' - who are we to argue. **King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys** have royally entertained us at what is becoming an annual date at Artrix. Roll on next year.

Words & photography by Graham Munn

## Socio Suki, Glowpeople, Babal Boar's Head, Kidderminster | Sat, Dec 13th

**Psych Night** at the **Boars Head** promised to be a welcome escape from the hurly-burly of Christmas shopping.

First on stage came **Babal**. These Malvern based psychedelic rockers are more than just a band, they are theatre. With a set list that showcased their forthcoming new album, **Karen Langley** drew us in with her rich vocals, while **Alice the Worker** kept us all transfixed with her engaging mime. Cleverly sculpted guitar and rhythm had the entire band playing different times but in time, building up tension, before morphing together for a unified crescendo.



If you put rock, dub, jazz and funk in a blender you would come out with the smoothie that is **Glowpeople**. **Nick Raybould** on percussion and **Robot** on bass provide the heartbeat with their loops and curves; **Chris Hill** on guitar and trumpet, and **Chris Cordwell** on keyboard provide the soul with their grooves and their swerves. Not even a maraca malfunction could stop them animating the audience with their unique improvisational fluid style as everyone succumbed to their trance-inducing rhythms. It's not hard to see why Glowpeople are becoming so popular on the festival circuit.



Last but not least came Kidderminster's **Socio Suki** - psychedelic techno-rock with a seasonal twist, played out under a kaleidoscope of projected patterns. **Natalie** charmed us all with her enthusiasm; **Jim** and **Rob**, on guitar and bass respectively, strutted their stuff along with **Gary** on drums and



**Slippers** on synth. Christmas numbers twisted in their own unique style, brought reality back to us all and sent us home with a smile on our faces.

Words & Pics: Duncan Graves



# Mike Peters Presents The Alarm - Strength - 30th Anniversary Tour Marrs Bar | Thurs 26th February

Following on from the hugely popular 'Declaration Tour 2014', Mike Peters one man band 'Alarm' concept will present 'Strength' in a similar contemporary style featuring performance, stories and images to honour the legacy the album left on the decade it helped define and the continuing significance it holds for listeners who can still relate to it's timeless themes of love, hope and strength.

Packed with powerful yet personal songs like the autobiographical 'Spirit Of '76' and 'Walk Forever By My Side', 'Strength' went on to become The Alarm's best selling album of the 1980's.

Two times cancer survivor Mike Peters is fast emerging



as one of the most visible advocates and activists for those living with and beating cancer around the world. Over the last four years, his Love Hope Strength Foundation has found over 1100 potentially life saving bone marrow donor matches; built the first ever children's cancer centre in Tanzania; supported the Bhaktapur Cancer Centre in Nepal with life saving equipment and registered over 70,000 donors through it's 'Get On the List' program. By turning rock concerts into lifesaving events, more than 10,000 international recording artists including Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin, Frank Turner and The Levellers now support the charity by allowing bone marrow registries at their concerts.

Although Peters, is constantly fighting the illness himself (he may ultimately need a bone marrow transplant), he refuses to stop performing. Continually mixing his role as cancer advocate and musician by leading fundraising treks around the Globe and addressing delegates at the World Cancer Congress in Melbourne, Australia in December.

30 years on from the original release of 'Strength', Mike Peters still has so much to live for, After twenty years living with cancer his songs of love hope and strength have taken on greater meaning and the defiance of his words from the 'Spirit Of '76' ring truer than ever. "I will never give in until the day that I die.

I'll get myself some independence, carve out a future with my two bare hands".

# The Trevor Burton Band Marrs Bar | Fri 27th Feb

**Trevor Burton** is a Solid Gold Brummie Legend and as such his CV reads like a royal history of rock: **The Move, Steve Winwood, Denny Laine, Steve Gibbons, Robert Plant, Jimi Hendrix, Noel Redding, Dexy's Midnight Runners...**

Playing in bands since 1963 Trevor is as enthusiastic about music as he ever was and has got together a crack team of musicians for this current band. They are; the much in demand **Bill Jefferson** on drums, the genre-spanning **Pez Connor** playing bass and singing backing vocals and the versatile **Abby Brant** on keyboards. Finally Trevor feels he has found the right recipe, chemistry and telepathy he has been looking for and which makes **The Trevor Burton Band** unstoppable.



So be prepared for an explosion of Rock Blues and good old fashioned Rock'n'Roll from one of the best live acts in the UK.

# Steve Cradock Band Marrs Bar | Friday 6th Feb

Yet another much anticipated gig for us at Slap Manor as mag fave **Steve Cradock** returns to Worcester to woo the masses once again. Steve of course is best known for **Ocean Colour Scene** but continues to distinguish himself by releasing solid gold solo albums and working with the esteemed like of **Paul Weller** and **The Specials**.

With the introduction of bassist **Andy Flynn** back in 2012 the final jigsaw piece was in place for the classic Cradock Band line-up which includes **Tony Coote** on drums, **Sally Cradock** playing the marvellous memotron (look it up!) and providing backing vox to hubby, **Jake Fletcher** on electric geetar and The Maestro himself singing-and-a-strumming.



Steve's third solo album '*Travel Wide Travel Free*' was released in 2013, extensively toured in 2014 and will feature prominently at the Marrs Bar gig, together with quality selections from his 1st album '*Kundalini Target*' and sophomore outing '*Peace City West*'.

## The Remi Harris Project

### Ledbury Market Theatre | Sat 21st Feb 8pm £12

A meteorically rising star (mixed metaphor? Ed) in the gypsy jazz world, guitarist **Remi Harris** plays a home county gig at Ledbury's Market Theatre on Saturday, 21 February. The gifted 26-year-old performer has been wowing audiences across the land recently, including prestigious performances at Brecon Jazz Festival and The Royal Albert Hall.

Fresh from a set and interview with Suzy Klein on BBC Radio 3's In Tune, Herefordshire-born Remi has a packed calendar in 2015 with performances planned at the Django Festival in Oslo, two nights in Florence and Brum's fine Hare & Hounds venue, before landing in Ledbury for what is sure to be a stunning night out. The Market Theatre concert will see him play as part of **The Remi Harris Project** with **Mike Green** on double bass, **AC Wood** on guitar and **John Hirst** on drums. Remi is also planning a Gloucestershire tour with numerous dates to be announced soon.

Remi's unique style blends traditional gypsy jazz and swing elements with blues, bebop, rock, world music, popular melodies and contemporary jazz. The Remi Harris Project's mesmerisingly different sound has caught the attention of music magazines, label bosses and jazz broadcasters, with legendary Birmingham jazz label Big Bear Records signing Remi in 2012.

His debut album, *Ninick*, received overwhelmingly good reviews from critics and jazz lovers alike. Jazz writer and broadcaster Digby Fairweather commented that Remi was 'Probably Britain's greatest jazz guitarist to emerge since



*Martin Taylor... a recorded debut which places Remi Harris securely in the front line of the world's finest jazz guitarists'.*

Guitar Techniques, the international guitar magazine, recently rated Remi's talent as 5/5, commenting 'this is true jazz, yet it has a delightfully refreshing approach that brings a smile to the face while the ears are amazed at what they are receiving.'

Tickets are available at Ledbury's Market Theatre website: [themarkettheatre.com](http://themarkettheatre.com)

The fourth Malvern Rocks is to be held on 24th to 26th July. Last year, the festival raised £2000 for Acorns and St Richards Hospices and will be supporting these charities again this year. With multiple venues to fill, the organisers are looking for around a hundred and twenty bands and performers to play during the three days of non-stop music. If you would like to play at Malvern's biggest Musical festival go to [malvernrocks.com](http://malvernrocks.com) and fill in the performer's applications form.

The organisers would also like to hear from sound techs, PA operators and anyone willing to lend a hand. Festival committee meetings begin in February.

## July 24-26 2015

# malvern rocks

[malvernrocks.com](http://malvernrocks.com)



## The Johnny Cash Roadshow Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury | Thur 5th Feb

Thursday 5th Feb and *The Man In Black Is Back Is Back In Town*. **Clive Johns** is an accomplished singer/songwriter based in Malvern who has been touring his **Johnny Cash Roadshow** to great acclaim for many a year and all over Europe.

This show is undertaken with impeccable taste and as such is the only tribute show endorsed by Johnny Cash's family. Thus we get to hear all of the Great Man's big hits such as *Ring of Fire*, *Walk the Line* and *Long legged Guitar Pickin' Man*, plus quality duets with the best June Carter in the business.

Undoubtedly the best JC tribute act around, Clive's set is further enhanced by an amazing video backdrop with evocative shots from Cash's life.



## A Wee Ken To Remember Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury | Fri 6th Feb



A personal long-time favourite I am excited to see that singer and organist **John Shuttleworth** once again graces the Roses stage to thrill us with such domestic dilemma classics as *Two Margarines*, *Disaffected Youth* and *I Can't Go Back To Savoury Now*, in addition to new songs such as *Whatever Happened To Vince Hill?*, *Midweek* and *Relatives In Rotherham*.

For those of you not in the know, Shuttleworth is a middle-aged character played by actor **John Fellow** who first came to prominence as '**Jilted John**' in the eponymous chart-topping single. John S lives with his wife Mary, a local dinner lady, and their two children Darren and Karen. Fellows brings his character vividly to life with signature polo neck, car coat, northern accent and portable Yamaha keyboard, ensuring a delightful night of warmly wry and witty works of life in a northern town.

## Teechers by John Godber Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury | Mon 9th Feb

Fast moving, inventive, and highly entertaining, *Teechers* is **John Godber's** brilliant take on life at a modern comprehensive. This amusing play with an important message about education provokes reactions and invites discussion on the topic without being too po-faced. Indeed the power of Godber's writing is in using ofttimes coruscating humour to underline and highlight the seriousness of any underlying messages.

Through their hilarious end of term play, three year 11s exuberantly sketch the new drama teacher's progress through two terms of unruly classes, cynical colleagues, and obstructive caretakers. Disillusioned, he departs for the safe waters of a private school and leaves behind his students whose youthful irreverence gives way to despair.

**Blackeyed Theatre Company** were established in 2004 to create exciting opportunities for artists and audiences alike. Their first new writing project resulted in a three week London run of **The Beekeeper** in 2012, which was nominated for three **Off West End Theatre** awards including Best New Play. They have embarked on 12 national UK tours and in 2009 became an associate company of **South Hill Park Arts Centre**.

With breathtaking ensemble performances, *Teechers* is a modern classic.



## Steve Tilston Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury | Tue 24th Feb



Another old time fave of mine and a man who is sometimes overlooked and underrated by the uninitiated, **Steve Tilston** is nevertheless one of the most celebrated songsmiths in the English acoustic scene. Perhaps best known for his song-writing prowess, Steve is also a blinding, dazzling guitarist with a style echoing the elaborate rhythmic folk baroque of Bert Jansch and Davy Graham, but also drawing from classical, roots and the tradition to create a sound that has been called quintessentially Tilston. Steve's career was marked by the release of *Reaching Back*, a 5-CD boxed-set retrospective, but as he's not one to stand still Steve has a new album *The Reckoning* out now, and he's also published a novel. Celebrating 40 years in the business, there are no signs of him slowing down just yet and Steve just keeps on getting better with each passing year. Superb stuff!

For information, times & ticket prices visit: [www.rosestheatre.org](http://www.rosestheatre.org)

# Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Welcome back SLAP mag after a great 2014! As we went to press back in December we had the pleasure of attending the second Never Mind The Bullocks.

(NMTB) show at **The Jailhouse** (now sadly defunct). The insane line up consisted of **CHEW, Cassandra, Weathered Hands, Plane Crasher** and the mighty **God Damn** headlining - the abrasive, heavy, ear-melting duo. The pair are working incredibly hard and hitting all the right notes with fans and the industry alike. Here they showcased the best of their live abilities by creating a flawless and fierce set, crushing Hereford with their intense wall of sound, their fuzzy dirty riffs, those delectable vocals and bounteous beats.



God Damn

The array of local support bought in a respectable crowd with **Plane Crasher** battling for loudest band of the evening with their renowned rambunctious ways and engaging set. Mixing their punk core with empowering grungy heaviness and the filthiest bass hooks we know. Not only did NMTB create the ideal line up, they hosted another exceptional night of live music and talent on our doorstep. With the demise of the most suited venue for their nights, we hope we hear more from the excellent Herefordian promoters.

Mid December we were back over in Worcester at the special **Surprise Attacks** charity night in aid of **West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre**. Having missed the stand up comedy that kick started the gig, we did manage to witness the mesmerising **Transmissions**, an act about to explode. Uniting the crowd with their energetic and raw performance, you find yourself unable to look away. With hints of 90s post-punk, this quintet are creating their own genre and are a talent we urge you to see. They were followed by



Plane Crasher

the loveable sounds from those talented men in **Holy**. The four piece are one of the tightest experimental psychedelic rock bands around and their live sets are simply hypnotic. Following a charity raffle, where gig goers raised a fantastic amount, Birmingham's **Arbor Lights** closed the night on an epic post rock high.

Throughout the run up to xmas and through to New Year, we held our annual Rad Releases 14 where we ask favourites of the site to tell us their most loved records of the year, the best gig played/attended and why. We had an array of local talent participate including **Josh Lamdin** of **Aulos**, **Maks Szymanski** of **A Last Salute To Byss**, Hereford's instrumental talent **Talons**, **Surprise Attacks** (and more) all took over the site - see [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk) under 'features'. Our end of year list included local duo **A Werewolf's** debut EP as one of our most loved records of the year and both **Broken Oak Duet** and **Holy** as acts to watch for 2015.

Hereford has kick-started the year into full swing with Hereford Live having a first gig at Play 54 in January. Just announced for February 21st at The Victory is a not to be missed show featuring **RICHA, Bad News** and **Dwellers**.

Keep an eye out for some big plans from us this year including a new look website.





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### Sunday 1 February 2015

**BBC H&H Introducing live session** - 2-6pm

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**GroovyHead**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Tom Davies**

The Pheasant, Worcester

**Remi Harris** 1.30 pm

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Dave King**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Easy Sunday with Mumbo Jumbo**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Marcus Bonfanti**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### Tuesday 3 February 2015

**Hogwash (France), Guerrilla Monsoon, Clobber**

Death or Glory Records, Redditch

**John Shuttleworth**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Wednesday 4 February 2015

**The Placebo Effect (Placebo Tribute) Special Preview Performance**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

**Guildhall Sessions feat JP Cooper**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### Thursday 5 February 2015

**Dave Onions**

Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

**The Johnny Cash Roadshow**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**The Bonneville (From Ireland) + The Smokin Durrys**

Iron Rd Rock Bar

**Ray and Pauls Sessions**

The GMH, Malvern

**Hayseed Dixie**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Pro-Muscia String Trio**

Evesham Arts Centre

**Forever Jackson**

The Courtyard, Hereford

**Haunted Souls**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Friday 6 February 2015

**The Steve Cradock Band**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Rubies**

The Hunters Inn, Buckbury, Longdon

**Connor Pianoman**

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

**Mike Parker**

The GMH, Malvern

**The Delray Rockets**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**John Shuttleworth**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Davey Rocks**

The Pheasant, Worcester

**Newrising**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**The Fixated with support from Halfway To Nowhere**

Subtone, Cheltenham

**Paul Snook Blues Band**

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Bad Cats**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**When It Rains**

Millers Arms, Pershore

**Winstons Big Brother, Calvert Stephens**

Moochers, Stourbridge

**Band Slam 2015 - Kill For Trophies vs Black Russian**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

**Badge**

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

**Piaf The Songs**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Salopian Dudes**

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

### **Carrivick Sisters**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **The Bon Jovi Experience**

Palace Theatre, Redditch

### **Jo Harman**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **The Straight Aces**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Saturday 7 February 2015**

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Harriers Arms, Kidderminster

### **Nigel 'Dodgy' Clark & Luke Warm**

The Chestnut

### **Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra**

St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester, WR5 2ED

### **Nightshift**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **The Zygoma Disposal (Belgium), Coloured By Numbers,**

**Miasanthropic Existence**

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

### **Parkin Lot**

Seven Stars, Birchfield Rd, Redditch

### **Junction 7**

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

### **Think Floyd**

Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Avenue, Evesham

### **Paul Haidon and Dan Butler**

The Anchor Inn, Cotheridge Lane, Eckington

### **Hitchhiker, Chevy Chase Stole My Wife,**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Rickie Laval**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Jouneyman**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

### **Soul Mania**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **The Lewis Boulton Band**

The GMH, Malvern

### **The Manic Shine + Ash Is A Robot (From Portugal)**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **Open mic night**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Midland Sinfonia**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Frontrunner**

Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Pure Instinct**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Faintest Idea, Lobster**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Think Floyd**

Evesham Arts Centre

### **G2 Definitive Genesis**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **The Supersonic 70's Show**

Palace Theatre, Redditch

### **Virtuosi GUS Band**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **The Delray Rockets**

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

### **Lewis & Leigh**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## **Sunday 8 February 2015**

### **Stillbust, Constructor, Salvatore Leone**

Death or Glory Records, Redditch

### **The Manic Shine perform a Stripped Back Jam**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **A Month Of Sundays**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Young Musicians' Showcase**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Matt Woosey**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### **Gary Hall**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **Ga Ga - A Tribute To Queen**

The Courtyard, Hereford

### **Gardeners Jazz Club with Jazz Alchemy 1.30pm**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Easy Sunday with Maddi Stimson**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Monday 9 February 2015**

### **Alcester Rock Academy Acoustic**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **Palma Violets**

Guildhall, Gloucester

## **Wednesday 11 February 2015**

### **Gloucester Acoustic Showcase**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## **Thursday 12 February 2015**

### **Ash Is A Robot (Portugal) / Plane Crasher / Cassels /**

**Olanza - Hosted By Surprise Attacks**

Firefly, Worcester

### **SLAP Mag presents Ian Luther**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Scout Killers + Area 53**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **Lounge Toad**

The GMH, Malvern

### **The Nightstealers**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Music Lab: The Guildhall Open Mic Night**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Journeyman, Alex Vann and Danni G**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Friday 13 February 2015**

### **Band Slam 2015**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **The Cureheads, Lizzie and the Banshees**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **The Rubies**

The Blue Bell, Ryall

### **Love Street**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Executives**

Millers Arms, Pershore

### **The Worried Men**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Eli & Jay**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **Forever Jackson**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### **Madi Stimpson Trio**

The GMH, Malvern

### **Rocky Road To Ruin**

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### **The Quik Beats**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Reduced Shakespeare Company**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Texas Fraud**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Ricky Cool, Dove Heart**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Hitchhiker**

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

### **100 years of jazz/blues/soul ft. Young Cuginis plus guests**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Mark Leedham (band gig)**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **Karpet Kickers**

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

### **Trevor Burton Band**

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

### **Mariachi El Bronx**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Andy Cutting/Sam Sweeney/Rob Harbron - Leveret**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **Elles Bailey**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos



## Saturday 14 February 2015

### Mister Wolf

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### Woo Town Hillbillies

Beauchamp Arms Malvern

### Knebakeye Alley

Subtone, Cheltenham

### VINYL DJs

Dysons Got Soul, Yates Hay Rd, Malvern

### Parkin Lot

Redditch Rugby Club, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch

### A not so romantic evening - Thatcher's Love Child, Youth Within

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

### Zombie Valentines Day Ball with Neck

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Valentines Night with Connor The Piano man

The GMH, Malvern

### The Undercovers

Cross Keys, Malvern

### Steve Maitland - Buble Tribute

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

### Fozzie Bear's Love Shack

Moochers, Stourbridge

### Andrew O'Neill

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Hump De Bump

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Definitely Britpop

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Everly Brothers & Friends

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Speakeasy - Valentine's Day Special

Guildhall, Gloucester

### The Loveless

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Sunday 15 February 2015

### Paul White & Ray Mitton

The Chestnut, Worcester

### James Cotttriall

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Woo Town Hillbillies

White Bear, Tewkesbury

### Heed The Thunder, Tyler Massey, Vaginapocalypse

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Deborah Rose 1.30pm

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Gary Hall

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

## Wednesday 18 February 2015

### River Jumpers, Holy, Guerrilla Monsoon

Drummonds, New Street, Worcester

### TR Clemmett

Cafe Rene

## Thursday 19 February 2015

### Juhana Livonen, Tim Holehouse, PTR Williams

Scarycanary the Venue, Stourbridge

### Lucas D and the Groove

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Kathryn Tickle and The Side

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Sarah Warren & Nick Lyndon (Haunted Souls)

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Jackson

Swan Theatre, Worcester

### The Selecter

Guildhall, Gloucester

### Steve Clayton

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Friday 20 February 2015

### Band Slam 2015

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### Ben Vickers

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### Tom Davies

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

### Who 2

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### The Delray Rockets

The Red Man, Kidderminster

### The Ray Mynton Band

The GMH, Malvern

### The Rollers, Mitchell Jink

Moochers, Stourbridge

### Solid Gone

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### Scott Howland - "Dumb & Drummer"

The Pheasant, Worcester

### Ardvaark Stew

Millers Arms, Pershore

### Dave Onions

The Wine Bar, Ludlow

### Ricky Cool and the In Crowd

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Stuart Woolfenden

Talk Bar, The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham

### Journeyman

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

### James Rhodes

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Still Crazy

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

### Freewater

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### Winter Mountain

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### Keith Thompson

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Saturday 21 February 2015

### Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Royal British Legion, Church Street, Ledbury

### Come Together

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

### Satan's Barber Shop

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### Tom Forbes

Millers Arms, Pershore

### The Delray Rockets

The Rose and Crown, Wordsley, Stourbridge

### Mods N Sods

Cross Keys, Malvern

### The Cuginis

Subtone, Cheltenham

### Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection

Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Avenue, Evesham

### Sax Appeal

The GMH, Malvern

### The Band from County Hell

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Starving Rascals

Moochers, Stourbridge

### Rattlesnake Jake

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Barnstormers Comedy

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Richa, Bad News, Dwellers

The Victory, Hereford

### Wet Desert, Tripwire, James Baker Acoustic

The Boathouse, Riverside, Dunley Road, Stourport-on-Severn

### Skewwhiff

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

### Hitchhiker

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

### The Enid

Guildhall, Gloucester

### Clarksville Mountain Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

### The Chris King Robinson Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds

The Red Lion, Stifford's Bridge, Cradley, Malvern

### The Black Hounds + Stone Broken

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

## Sunday 22 February 2015

### **Pete Hyde & Friends**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Astaria String Quartet**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Willie & The Bandits**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### **Stourbridge Foundation4 Music**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Monday 23 February 2015

### **King Charles**

Guildhall, Gloucester

## Tuesday 24 February 2015

### **ConFab Cabaret XII, The Trench Choir, Thommie Gillow,**

### **Amy Rainbow & FoxPops**

The Mount Pleasant, Malvern

### **Steve Tilston**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### **Beneath the Reef & Guests**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Folk Night**

Millers Arms, Pershore

## Wednesday 25 February 2015

### **Lloyd Langford: Old Fashioned**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Jessica Rhodes**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## Thursday 26 February 2015

### **Slow Club**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Mike Peters**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Hope For Return**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **Lounge Toad**

The GMH, Malvern

### **Zoe Green Band**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Martin Simpson**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **The Simon and Garfunkel Story**

Swan Theatre, Worcester

### **Comedy Night 5 top comedians**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Stourbridge Folk Club presents Kieran Halpin**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## Friday 27 February 2015

### **Ushti Baba**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Babal**

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

### **Tone Tanner**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Band Slam 2015 - Sour Scarlet vs Horror on the High Seas**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Queen's Head, Wolverley Village, Nr Kidderminster

### **Gunn Runner**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Protocol**

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

### **Trevor Burton Band (Ex The Move) 8-12**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **House & Bass - Aaron Jackson DJ (USA) + Deadfriend,**

### **Sane Ominous 12-4**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Juhana Iivonen / Tim Holehouse / Richard Clarke /**

### **Busker Du - Hosted By Surprise Attacks**

Heroes, Worcester

### **Tone Tanner**

The GMH, Malvern

### **4ft Fingers, Mr Zippy, The Splash**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Mizizi**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Gravy Train**

Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Pleasure House**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Snakeoil**

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### **The Stirs & Guests**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Whole Lotta DC**

Moochers, Stourbridge

### **Bromsgrove Concerts: Fidelio Piano Trio**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Missing Lynx**

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

### **Tasha Kuiper**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **Beki Brindle Scala**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Lady Maisery**

Church Lench Village Hall, Worcs

### **Mambo Jambo**

Heightington Village Hall, Worcs

### **Chris Helme**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Saturday 28 February 2015

### **The Players**

The Northwick Arms, Worcester

### **The Marrs Bar 15th Birthday Bash**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **The Delray Rockets**

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

### **Brazilian Carnival Night feat. Olá Samba**

Subtone, Cheltenham

### **Mark Leedham**

The GMH, Malvern

### **The Sequel - An exhibition of Urban Arts & Music**

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

### **The Ferrets**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Claire Boswell**

Wheatsheaf, Worcester

### **Ronin + Duveaux**

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

### **The Reflections**

Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Glamba**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Sally Haines**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Journeyman**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **Mister Wolf**

The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

### **Nite Train**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Mark Leedham (duo gig)**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Satellite Down**

The Ambassador, Evesham

### **Let's Go Disco**

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **The Dansette Days feat Rob Dee**

Swan Theatre, Worcester

### **Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Hope Murphy**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Trip**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

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



## 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 - Olá Samba Drumming**  
All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

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

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

## Arts & Exhibitions

**7th 'Two Old Instruments' (music & dance collaboration)**  
The Hive Worcester 7.30pm

**10th - Mouth and Music**, spoken word at the Boards  
Head, Kidderminster

**24th - Confab Cabaret** - Mount Pleasant, Hotel Malvern  
**until 3rd March Rita Thorn Expressions of the natural world** - Evesham Arts Centre.

**until 1st march Joshua Matheson - Creative interpretation through beauty** - Artrix, Bromsgrove

**until 21st feb - Alicia Framis**  
Movement Gallery Platform 2, Foregate St Station, Worcester.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Every Thursday Ben Vickers Open Mic Night**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

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

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

**3rd Thur - Comedy Night**  
The Bridge, Worcester

**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**

**until 11th April - Birmingham Show various artists.**  
Eastside projects Birmingham

**until 13th Feb - Collective Representation - The Smile And Chat Policy** - ARTicle Gallery, Birmingham

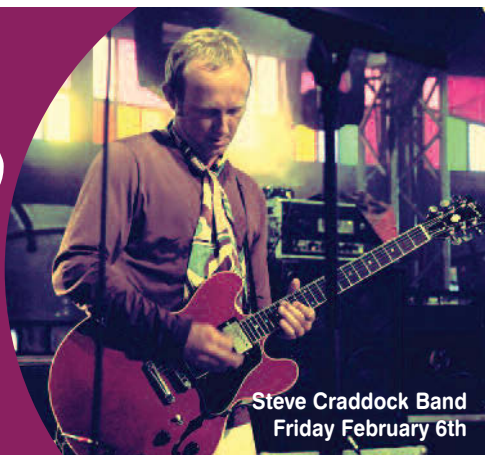
**until end Feb - Meating people is easy - Museum of women** - Boars Head gallery Kidderminster

**Sat 28th Feb 2.30 The Fetch Theatre Compant Presents The Cloth World** - Worcester Arts Workshop

**Creative events via mail to editorial@slapmag.co.uk with 'ARTS' in the subject.**

# THE MARR'S BAR

FEB - MAR 2015



Steve Craddock Band  
Friday February 6th

**Sunday 1st February (2-6pm)**  
**BBC Hereford and Worcester**  
**Introducing live session - Free Entry**

**Friday 6th February**  
**Steve Craddock Band**  
**(Ocean Colour Scene / Paul Weller)**  
**£15.00 in advance**

**Saturday 7th February**  
**3 bands for £3 featuring Hitchhiker,**  
**Chevy Chase Stole My Wife & TBC**  
**£3 on the door**

**Friday 13th February**  
**The Cureheads + Lizzie & the Banshees**  
**£8 tickets £10 on the door**

**Sunday 15th FebFebruary**  
**Heed The Thunder, Tyler Massey,**  
**Vaginapocalypse**  
**£4 a ticket £5 on the doo**

**Saturday 21st February**  
**Rattlesnake Jake**  
**£5 a ticket £6 on the door**

**Thursday 26th February**  
**Mike Peters: The Alarm - Strength**  
**30th Anniversary Tour 2015**  
**£15 a ticket £18 on the door**

**Friday 27th February (8pm - Midnight)**  
**Trevor Burton Band (Ex The Move)**  
**£6 early bird tickets £10 on the door**

**Midnight-4am Oh The Humanity**  
**House & Bass - Aaron Jackson DJ (USA)**  
**+ Deadfriend, Sane Ominous**  
**£5/£3 Students**

**Saturday 28th February**  
**The Marrs Bar 15th Birthday Bash**

**Monday 2nd March**  
**Jon Gomm**  
**£10 a ticket £12 on the door**

**Friday 6th March**  
**Fred Zeppelin**  
**£8 tickets £10 on the door**

**Saturday 7th March**  
**Rust For Glory (Neil Young Tribute)**  
**£5 a ticket £7 on the door**

**Sunday 8th March**  
**Ethan Ash**  
**£4 a ticket £5 on the door**

**Thursday 12th March**  
**Undercover Hippy**  
**£5 a ticket £7 on the door**

**Friday 13th March**  
**Guns Or Roses**  
**£8 in advance £10 on the door**

**Saturday 14th March**  
**Rhombus**

**Friday 20th March**  
**Matt Woosey**  
**£8 a ticket £10 on the door**

**Sunday 22nd March**  
**Esperi**  
**£3 a ticket £5 on the door**

**Sunday 29th March**  
**Chris Stringer and Anthony James**  
**(Acoustic / Folk)**  
**Free Entry**

**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

**Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue**  
**Available for private hire**