

SLAP

Issue 46

Apr 2015

MAGAZINE

FREE



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In a mad media world where there is intense Zayn pain (sorry 1D fans) and mass outrage because an odious oaf get's sacked for punching a colleague, we at Slap like to think we bring a touch more artistic substance to your lives.

Reading through the copy before going to press just brought home the overwhelming variety and sheer quality of local talent that we have in our Three Counties and beyond, in whatever artistic discipline you care to mention. Also in these supposed dark days of austerity to see the variety of venues throughout the region which work tirelessly with heart and soul to bring you beautiful people the best on offer, gladdens my stony old heart.

We know pubs, clubs etc unfortunately fall prey to these farcical fiscal times, including sadly the long-standing, Slap fave, Digbeth institution **The Adam and Eve** - but witness the burgeoning new venues which seem and have to be more modern in outlook and approach, full of energy and new ideas.

So out of the ashes of **The Jailhouse** comes **The Venue** Hereford, in an old McDonalds building thankfully rises the much more nutritional **Scarycanary The Venue** on Stourbridge High Street and **The Unicorn** has trotted back into town in Malvern to name but a few.

These venues and loads of others are run by folk passionate about music and it shows. Mention must also go to the ever inventive promoters out there who we have given praise to by name in previous editorials.

I'm sure that this has been said before by me but without all these people - YOU people - there wouldn't be such a vibrant scene throughout the region...and this magazine would look a wee bit silly!

The clocks have sprung forward so come let us all leap into the leafy loveliness that awaits...

Sleepy - Ed



introducing...



Cowell Cleric Calamity

Local vicar and Elvis Presley impersonator **Andy Kelso** said he felt 'bullied' when he auditioned for one of the country's most popular TV talent shows. The 67-year-old said that Britain's Got Talent judges **Amanda Holden** and **Simon Cowell** (who he? - Ed) just 'took the mickey' out of him after keeping him waiting for ten hours - only to be informed that 'God says No' after only a few moments of performing. Andy says that it has opened his eyes to the shallowness of TV talent competitions...

You are Soul!

A recent national TV advert for a high-fibre breakfast cereal was filmed at Worcester University's weekly Northern Soul music night at the Pear Tree student bar - featuring a fan of the fast-tempo soul sound who enjoys a 'healthy lifestyle' to keep him moving and grooving all night long...

Folk Fundraiser Fest

Some of the big names in contemporary English folk music will play a mini-festival at **Evesham Arts Centre** and the Almonry museum over the weekend of April 18-19 to raise funds for essential repairs to the Avonside heritage centre - acts include Radio 2 Folk Award nominee **Ange Hardy** and Hereford's **Lisbee Stainton** - more info at almonryfolk.com

Noz Headliner Coups

Festival organiser **Ella Nosworthy** says that the 2015 **Nozstock** is shaping up to be the best yet with confirmation of hip hop giants **Wu-Tang Clan** and Motown legends **Martha Reeves and The Vandellas** as headliners - this year's bash at the family-run festival near Bromyard features nine stages of live music and DJs with arts, comedy, poetry, workshops and cinema thrown into the mix - www.nozstock.com

Fest back on Mapp

Andy Mapp - organiser of last year's successful Malvern music festival Mappfest - has said he's lucky to be alive after surviving a recent heart attack by ignoring paramedics' advice when the emergency services were recently 'under extreme pressure'. Andy's making a fine recovery and is finalising plans for what'll this year be a two-day event on Malvern Link Common - with all the power and lighting coming from 'green natural sources'

Bassman Burger Boss

Carl Sampson has taken a break from playing bass and drums with Worcester punksters **11:11** - to be being featured in The Times as the owner of the UK's premier fast food van after he trained with Michelin-starred cooks for Channel 4 reality series **Burger Bar To Gourmet Star** - his signature dish is now a steak burger with herbs, spices, pepper, shallots and garlic - and of course Worcestershire sauce!

Got the Uni Blues

American blues musician **Michael Roach** who has been living in Cheltenham for the past 20 years is bringing his Blues Week residential workshop to Worcester. He started the program in 2000 at Exeter University where it stayed for 5 years before moving it to the University of Northampton for a further 9 years.

The University of Worcester (St. John's Campus) plays host to **Blues Week 2015** which starts on **Sunday the 2nd August** and will run to **Friday the 7th**. They have a line-up of teachers (all Americans) who are internationally recognized in this genre. For full details and contact information see the ad on page 16.

Bromsgrove Bands Bonanza

Breaking Bands Festival is set to sell out in its first year. After a successful social media campaign at the end of March, over 300,000 people have seen the status update thanks to the app **Thunderclap** Tickets have soared and the organisers are confident of being full at capacity in advance of the festival which takes place in Bromsgrove on **22-24th May 2015**. Tickets can still be purchased from the website www.breakingbandsfestival.com with prices starting at £12.50 and kids get in free.

Severn Sunflower Stage

Upton upon Severn's annual **Sunshine Festival** have introduced a new stage in 2015 for rising national and local talent. **The Sunflower Stage** will be a spacious yet intimate undercover area consisting of two stages showcasing original music from all genres.



The promoters are hoping to field a strong representation of home grown talent and are currently looking to book bands and acoustic acts from the Worcestershire area. If you would like to play to a potential crowd of 5000 alongside the likes of UB40 & ABC, contact **Tony Gibbon** on 07771 900971 for details.

Faithful Free Fest Request

Applications are now closed to perform at **Worcester Music Festival** which runs from Friday 18th September - Sunday 20th September with almost 1,000 bands and artists from across the UK putting themselves forward for a slot at the annual celebration of live and original music.

As our trusty committee of music-lovers prepare to get their heads down and put together a final festival line-up, a quick reminder that we do still need volunteers to make it the best event ever and raise as much as possible for our charity of the year, **Worcestershire Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC)**.

For all those looking forward to this year's three day event, keep your eyes peeled for updates on what promises to be another fab line-up at Worcestermusicfestival on Facebook and [@worcsmusicfest](https://twitter.com/worcsmusicfest) on Twitter.

Artrix Arts Invites

Submissions are now being invited from artists and photographers working in a contemporary style for exhibition at **Artrix Arts Centre** in Bromsgrove between 15th July – 18th August 2015. This is the second year of the Summer Exhibition which saw over 100 submissions last year and exhibited over 40 artists' work. The exhibition will be curated by a team of Young Curators from local schools and colleges. Three dimensional work and crafts will be considered according to the limitations of display space at the venue.

Artrix Exhibitions Co-Ordinator **TC Peppercorn** commented *"We were thrilled that last year's Summer Exhibition was such a success and delighted that we can once again offer an opportunity to the many artists who produce more unusual work that may not find an audience in more traditional galleries in the district."*

To have your work considered, please email a photo of your work/s along with the entry form (available from Artrix) to the

address below. If you would prefer, you can arrange to bring original works in to show the Exhibitions Co-Ordinator.



All submissions must be seen before May 8th. Please note that no submission will be considered without the signed entry form.

Final decisions will be made by May 22nd and works are to be delivered to Artrix during the week beginning 6th July. Hanging will take place on 13th July and the exhibition will open on Wednesday 15th July with a launch event.

Image: Tokyo Shide by **Brenda Henderson**. Exhibiting at Artrix June 17th-July 12th

For more details and for an entry form please email: outreach@artrix.co.uk

Facebook: Artrix Arts Centre and Artrix Theatre

Twitter: @ArtrixArts

YouTube: Artrix2010 and Artrix Arts Centre

TC Peppercorn, Exhibition Co-Ordinator

Artrix Arts Centre 01527 572707 or 07792069668

The Chestnut Tree
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Member of The Arboretum Residents Association

Saturday 18th April - Residents Association Fun Day
Supporting Worcester Water Festival - June 12-14
+ Plus All The Usual Music & Mayhem +

Mon-Thurs - 3pm-11pm - Fri & Sat- Midday - Midnight - Sun - Midday - 11pm
17 Lansdowne Road, Worcester, WR1 1SS t: 07598393109 e: Dannrush@hotmail.co.uk

Clik Clik are preparing for the outdoors with exiting new work with the fabulous Nozstock Festival as well as plans for Croome Park Summer Reading challenge well under way. There are still some dates available so if you are having a party, festival, fair or event and need a little quirky creative entertainment, please do drop a line to kate@clikclikcollective.com

www.clikclikcollective.com



Worcester goes to Art Brussels



Division of Labour will be representing Worcester at **Art Brussels**, one of the world's most significant art fair events this month. Local West Midland artists **Sam Curtis** and **Andrew Lacon** will be exhibiting new works between 24-27th April and with complimentary VIP fair tickets available to all Slap readers, why not jump on the Eurostar!

For info contact:

nat@divisionoflabour.co.uk

Wasters

Malvern based writer **Nick Wilkes** will be bringing his new production **Wasters** to the stage; **Wasters** is a dark comedy of food waste, life decisions and toilet rolls, telling the story of a homeless man who lives quite happily in an alley at the back of a supermarket. Mostly warm and mostly dry, his existence is one of cardboard, coffee and chatting to his friend the bin. He is King of his road! That is until David arrives...

Sat 25th. Pershore Number 8.

Tickets £12. Box Office on 01386 555488 or online at www.number8.org



MOVEMENT

This month, up at their gallery up on Worcester's Foregate St station platform 2, Movement will be hosting artist talks and film. The series in the Waiting Room curated by **Louisa Harper Charles**, will feature **Sarah Boulton** & **Maaïke Stutterheim** on 15th and **Catriona Gallagher & Alex Hackett** on the 22nd.

Then come along to *Manual Labours: The Complaining Body*, a film screening by **Ivor Southwood** running from 20th-25th along with a discussion by **Sarah Browne** on the 25th at 7pm.

www.movementtimetable.com



A time to write...

Worcester Literary Festival is offering a young writer competition as part of the festival this year. The competition is for short pieces of 300 words or less aimed at young people, in three age groups between 7 and 17. Closing date 24th April for more info email: secretary@worcslitfest.co.uk



Worcestershire Women - your country needs you!

The Great War brought about a quiet social revolution as many women came out of domestic service to take on the traditional working roles of men - in factories, on the land and in skilled trades.

Join **Dancefest** for a *Quiet Revolution* - 13 hours of creative dance rehearsals over 6 weeks with a performance at the **Pershore Carnival** in May. Book now on 01386 555488 £40

www.dancefest.co.uk



A New Way of Seeing

'Exhibition on screen' at the Courtyard will be showing this surprising new film from the **Van Gogh Museum**, Amsterdam, about one of the world's favourite artists marking both a major re-showing of the gallery's collection and a celebration of the 125th anniversary of Van Gogh's death.

Tues 14 April, 8pm The Courtyard Hereford:

www.courtyard.org.uk

Made by Hand

This colourful exhibition introduces audiences to the book making process of the award-winning **TARA** books, an independent publisher of picture books for adults and children based in Chennai, India with **TARA** writer **Gita Wolf**.

This exhibition has been organised by **Piet Grobler** and **Tobias Hickey**, Course Leaders for Illustration at the University of Worcester, and forms part of the work of the University's International Centre for the Picture Book in Society. The Hive, Worcester until 26th April. For more info visit:

www.thehiveworcester.org



Cube news

'Reaction Theatre Makers' are now programming theatre at **Weekend Cube, Malvern Cube**, which opened with 'PlayLand' earlier this month to a great audience, with art work on the walls from a university student; bringing positive remarks on the atmosphere and the relaxed and friendly nature of the space. **Michelle Pogmore** from Reaction filled us in on all the exciting new performances coming up this month.

WEEKEND
CUBE



"We want to bring you inspiring, accessible and new works over the next year, and this month we have an exciting and eclectic programme beginning with **The Fetch Theatre Company's** magical family piece 'Cloth of the World' on Saturday 18th April at 6pm, tickets £7 to include after show puppetry session. Come with children from ages 6 + and enjoy a fantastical afternoon immersed in another world of puppetry and wonder underscored with original music. After the show all are invited to explore the puppets and sit in the cafe lounge, share your thoughts and eat cake.

On Sunday 19th at 7.30pm we have the second 'Jump Start' scratch night which offers audiences the opportunity to see 5 new works in progress from new writers and performers. This event is entry with donation so it is a great chance to experience new theatre that is accessible to all.

At the end of the month on the 24th April at 8pm we welcome 'The Whispering Road' by **SeriousKitchen**, a trio leaping between song, music and spoken word to bring you



an innovative and vibrant approach to storytelling and folk. This is going to be a fabulous night brought to life Scandinavian music including keyed fiddle, cow-horn, accordion, guitar and three-part close harmony singing. Tickets £9 (£7 conc).

We hope you can join us and if you have art work, sculpture, photography or short films that you want to exhibit then please get in touch".

And finally this month the Cube also presents **OvaryActing** a Malvern-based theatre company. Their debut show 'Not Fast Enough' on Sunday 26th April at 6pm, is aimed to invite the audience into a conversation of what it means to be a feminist in today's society.



For more info on all of the shows at Weekend Cube find Malvern Cube on FaceBook or go to: www.malverncube.com Advance tickets can be brought online from:

www.cubebookings.ticketsource.co.uk. Spare tickets will also be available on the door or contact Michelle on 07881 376 721 or Tiffany on 07964 458 637.

Maddy Prior, Hannah James & Giles Lewin Malvern Cube | 20th April

Maddy Prior, Hannah James and Giles Lewin are in concert on Monday 20th April 7.30pm Tickets £15 advance from www.cubebookings.ticketsource.co.uk or £17 on the door (cash only). After several successful years touring they are on the road again as of this April. Since emerging onto the folk circuit in the late sixties, Maddy has established herself as one of the most enduring, influential and respected artists in British music. Known for both her work as vocalist of Steeleye Span and numerous solo endeavours Maddy's career can only be described as memorable and prolific, and she remains every bit as engaging and artist today!

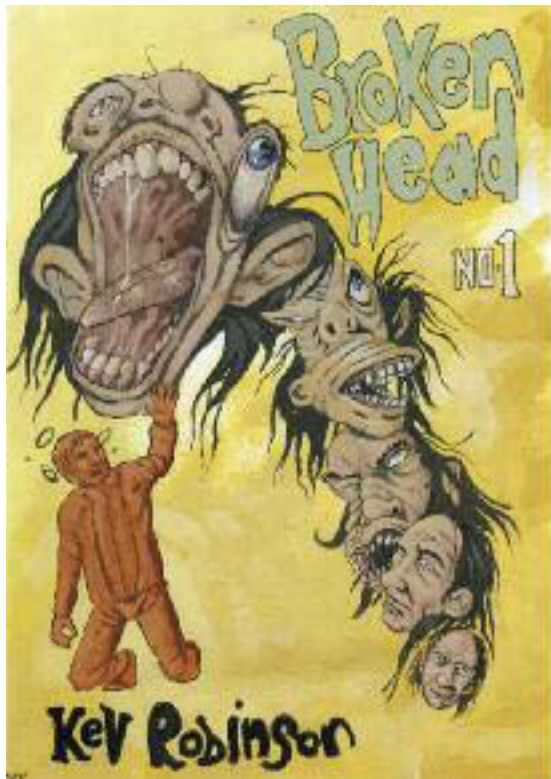


Hannah is known for her work with Sam Sweeney, Lady Maisery and with the accordion trio Hell Said The Duchess. Previously she has been in the Demon Barber Roadshow and Kerfuffle. Also guesting occasionally with The Levellers. Hannah brings a multitude of talents to the show including singing, accordion, clog dancing and youth!

Giles is a multi-talented instrumentalist and singer with a classical background diluted by some years in the band After Hours and the early years with Bellowhead. He is a stalwart of the Carnival Band, another long-time collaboration of Maddy's.

Keven Robinson Illustrator

Currently working on the third and final part of an illustrated anthology called *'Broken Head'*, **Keven Robinson** toyed with the idea of producing his own comics for years, but a lack of confidence prevented him until he finally decided to take a risk and go for it.



"It was a slow and difficult process at first but I got better and quicker as I stopped worrying about the work. Now I hardly ever make corrections, let it be."

Keven is an illustrator based in the West Midlands, who has studied many facets of art including ceramics, screen-printing, drawing and painting before attending Wolverhampton University to study Fine Art. Whilst he loved exploring the techniques available, he wanted to focus solely on drawing and painting so switched to an illustration degree.

"This felt more natural to me. It enabled me to hone skills such as drawing

anatomy and working on landscape projects including architecture. Both of these are important, especially for drawing horror/fantasy, providing grounding in the real world first. Being able to draw monsters is not everything."

"I have always read a lot and my early discoveries have stayed with me. 2000AD and Judge Dredd were really cutting edge artwork for their time, really punk with Brendan McCarthy's colours, B. Bolland's precise inking and the scratchy anarchic quality of Mike McMahon's work inspired me"

His influences go beyond the graphic novel world, with artists, musicians and filmmakers all playing a part in the process of Keven's work.

"Francis Bacon and Otto Dix works are dingy, exposed and raw, and Pieter Bruegel's vast horrific landscapes made me want to learn to paint. Cinematography in films helped me realise the potential of illustration, if you haven't got a camera, use a pencil!"

"Music is also very important to me; I can't work without it in the background, be it punk, psychedelia or rock; the stranger the better! It can really set the mood & tone for what I want to achieve"

Keven's work also extends to large canvas work using acrylic paints, usually horror/fantasy themes. Recently he has painted large carnival boards, which are much lighter in subject. He has also produced artwork for a number of CD covers for independent record labels and is about to work on a music video for a Birmingham band called **Felicity** using stop motion techniques.

"I try to keep it varied and explore many aspects of illustration. I need to keep it interesting and fresh. Working on the final part of 'Broken Head' has been a great learning experience, both in terms of learning to write short stories and also translating that into sequential imagery. After the third comic is printed I am looking to create a one-off graphic novel in black and white"

You can buy *'Broken Head'* at **Nostalgia and Comics**, Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham or for enquiries or commissions, drop him a line on:

kevenrobinson@blueyonder.co.uk



THE BHG

March @ **The BHG** has been an outstanding month of art, The Exhibition featured the amazing **Chilly** (aka **Paul Hill**)



Chilly

drummer for **And Also The Trees**, **Annatomix** (aka **Anna Stus**) fresh from her recent exhibitions in Shoreditch London and international street artist **Din Din** (aka **Vera Din**) three very different styles which complemented each other perfectly. If you missed it then



Annatomix

you really did miss out but do not worry we hope to exhibit these artists again in the future and **Annatomix** will be painting at this years **Above Boards** this August, watch this space. April we have an exhibition from **Ed Cartwright** which features weird and wonderful sculptures created out of old cutlery starting 27th March and running till the end of April free entry unless otherwise stated.

The BHG is always looking for new artists to exhibit or feature in our gift shop If you are looking exhibit or to sell your art please contact us for more details. Usual Gallery opening times Thursday / Friday / Saturday 12 till Late all other bookings by appointment. Bookings please call 07982123339 or check www.facebook.com/TheBHG

MOUTH & MUSIC



Tom Crossland

Mouth and Music on Tuesday 14th April is sponsored by **Pangaea Poetry** and will showcase winners of their recent poetry slam, **Tom Crossland** and **Joe Whitehead**. Expect some dynamic performances full of wit and humour.



Joe Whitehead

Featured musician is local singer/songwriter **Calvert Stephens** who wowed the organisers as an open mic performer and was invited back to do a longer set. Anyone can sign up for open mic on the night from 7.00 for a 7.30 start at the **Boars Head**.



Calvert Stephens

Poet/musician **Heather Wastie** is MC and entrance is £3 (free to performers). See www.mouthandmusic.co.uk

SPONSOR MOUTH & MUSIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
TUESDAY 14th APRIL 7:30PM
THEME: MEMORY

FEATURING: Pangaea Poetry Slam Winners 	TOM CROSSLAND Complex imagery blended with an evocative style of delivery that raises complex ideas (immediately noticeable and powerful)
JOE WHITEHEAD Poetry blending with sharp wit and sensibilities, sure personality and inspiring humor	PLUS: CALVERT STEPHENS Singer songwriter who can't escape from writing, tender sounding music He came to our open mic and he loved his first

OPEN MIC SIGN UP FROM 7pm, MC HEATHER WASTIE £5 (FREE TO PERFORMERS)
 The Boars Head, 30 Worcester St, Edinborough, OX16 1ED
 Tel: 01845 612700
www.mouthandmusic.co.uk www.facebook.com/mouthandmusic

worcester arts workshop



Spring has finally sprung and here at the Workshop we're looking forward to our first **Lazy Sunday** of the year on **12th April** – with some fantastic bands lined up. **Café Bliss** will be serving delicious food and drink as usual. Doors open at mid-day, with the music starting at 1pm.

First up is **Sally Haines**, a dynamic, soulful singer, followed by **Call Me Unique**; a singer/songwriter heavily influenced by jazz, soul and the forgotten art of jazz scat-singing. **Antelope** – an eight-piece! – are playing a 3pm, fusing jazz, hip hop, soul and reggae together, with **Lumi HD** (sublime stuff – see her rendition of 'Simple' on YouTube) completing our totally soulful afternoon at 4pm.

Because many of the musicians will travel from afar to play for the folk of Worcester, we're charging a small entry fee of £3 to help cover costs and keep those who are entertaining you happy. Come along, say hello and chill out in our courtyard all afternoon – it's the perfect way to spend a lazy Sunday!

We've loved having the WAW artists' '**Colour**' exhibition in our gallery throughout March, and our next show is by members of **Art in Minds**, whose **Open View** will be held in the Café Gallery on **Wed April 1st**, from 6pm-9pm. Their **Monday Art Group** presents "**Decay**" – an exhibition of original creations, which will run until **Sat April 25th** (open Tues – Sat 10am - 3pm). It celebrates their first anniversary as a self-supportive group and features work by **Aeileish Watts**, **Ursula Nash** and **Richard Bray**.

This coincides with an evening of acoustic folk music in the theatre, featuring local talent **Alex Rainsford**, along with **Charlie Bath** from London and **Lesley Roley** of Newcastle Upon Tyne (who has toured with the likes of Don Mclean). This is a one-off, intimate gig not to be missed! It starts at 7:30 and tickets are £3.

Yet more music! On **Friday April 24th**, our lovely friend **Paul**

Jeffery will be performing in Café Bliss to launch his album '**Don Quixote**'. It's a fundraiser for WAW, and he'll be supported by **Paul Rose** and **Jennifer Ludlow**! 8pm start – entry by donation – don't miss what promises to be one of those special nights.

On Sunday 3rd May we are welcoming the **Buffalo Gals** to the Workshop. They are fast becoming the country's

favourite old-time country string band. Firmly rooted in traditional American music, with an authentic sound driven by fiddle, banjo, percussive step dance, and soaring harmonies, they produce an irresistible show packed with all the excitement, passion and fun of Appalachian, Bluegrass, Blues and Cajun tunes and songs. This fantastic show starts at 7:30pm and tickets are £10 for adults and £8 for children, available at Café Bliss, or can be reserved at:

events@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

We are also excited about another brilliant theatre company, **Spaniel in the Works**, performing "**Nothing Changes – Ragged Trousered Philantropists of 2015**" at the Workshop on **Friday 1st May**. For more information visit their website:

www.spanielworks.co.uk

Sat 2nd May in the Café Gallery and Courtyard – the art of **Tonia Whitebeam**, with music from her family and friends!



Pictured – **Fetch Theatre's** magical puppet performance of '**The Cloth of the World**' which delighted us last month...

Our courses will recommence after Easter, with some children's activities in the holidays – please visit our website or

phone 01905 25053 for details. Tickets for events are available at **Café Bliss**. Any enquiries please email:

events@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk



Lazy Sunday
12th April
12- 6pm
£3 Entry
Sally Haines
Call Me Unique
Antelope
Lumi HD
worcester arts workshop
07821733246
21 sansome st, WRI 104



22nd - 24th May 2015

www.lechladefestival.co.uk

Lechlade MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015

**Kids go
FREE!***

* 16 & under

WITH
THE LEGENDARY

Status Quo

DOCTOR & THE
MEDICS



**60+ Bands
3 Stages!**

Whole Lotta Led - Louise Latham
John Adams - Mia Klose - Bon Giovi
Emi McDade - Twister - Silver Story
Nina Baker - Dealer - Foreign Affairs
The Sweetchunks Band - Preacher - Voodoo Vegas
The Epstein - Alex Rainsford - Gilmore n Jaz
The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band
& many, many more! *

Supporting



FREE Family Workshops & Kids' Area! Real Ales & Fab Food!



/LechladeFestival



@LechladeFest

Riverside Park, A361 Highworth Road, Lechlade on Thames, Gloucestershire GL7 3AG

Status Quo will perform on Sunday 24th May only

* Subject to alteration without notice.

Boarding The Blue Train Destination, Iron Road To Evesham

Time for a large intake of breath for all you music lovers in April and dive into the blue at Evesham's Iron Road.

First off is **Laurence Jones** as the UK representative on the 4th European Blues Challenge 2015. Influenced by the likes of Walter Trout, Gary Moore, Clapton and Gallagher, this Young Artist Of The Year 2014 is not to be missed.



Next prepare for the divine **Davina And The Vagabonds** on April 15th. From Fats Domino through to Tom Waits their performances fizz with energy. Davina is an amazing artist, a mesmerising boogie piano playing vocalist, with a sparkle in her eyes and fast fingers. The brass weighted Vagabonds joust with her throughout their set. Blues there are, but they are heavily skewed towards 50's jazz, with the Orleans horns evident. An evening of absolute pleasure that will leave you with a big smile on your face.



On the 21st a rapidly rising, raw edged UK blues man **Ben Poole**, draws into the station. I have waited for this moment to be able to see Ben play live as he is earning plaudits everywhere. A master of his guitar, he plays it hard, extracting every nuance of sound. Labelled the new Bonamassa, if you like your blues dirty and gritty, Ben and his band will deliver.

Just a few days later on the 24th this particular one is full of girls with guitars. From Italy, **Eliana Cargnelutti** and from the US, **Sadie Johnson** with **Heather Crosse**. The air will be electric with the sound and energy from these three guitar goddesses.

In all, a mouthwatering line up for April, rest assured there's more to follow in May. The train is in the station, 'All Aboard!'

Don't forget, you can leave the wheels behind, and go by rail, Evesham is one of the few places accessible that has late trains returning toward Worcester in the evenings, if that's your home.

Graham Munn

Neil Ivison

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | 12th March

The Gardeners Arms is fast becoming the place to be over in Droitwich, with regular nights of musical merriment being the order of the day. In recent months we've seen the likes of **Hattie Briggs**, **Sunjay** and **Melvin Hancox** and continuing the rich pickings, tonight's entertainment was provided by **Neil Ivison** (of the **Misers**).

The pub was moderately populated, but those that did attend were treated to an infectious set lifted from across the hallowed songbooks of rock n roll and beyond, as Neil delivered a set littered with timeless classics, requests and a handful of originals thrown in for good measure.

From the opening rendition of Tom Petty's *Won't Back Down*, the sheer enjoyment of just performing was etched on Neil's face, his gravelly vocals rang out, as he fingered the chords masterfully. The first request came in and *Ring Of Fire* by Johnny Cash was expertly despatched, Neil's vocals mirroring those of the country legend perfectly, whilst the patrons around the bar mouthed along contently.

Neil's set continued with takes on U2 (*Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*, *With or Without You*), The Beatles (*Ticket To Ride*), The Boss (*Dancing In The Dark*), The Eagles and beyond.

As the set continued I found myself humming along to near enough each and every song, a passionate take on *Heard it Through The Grapevine* and a mass sing-a-long to *Don't Look*



Back In Anger provided early second set highlights. Before the audience requested a few originals, *Bantam Weight*, *Get Up For Love* and a fantastic stripped down (and personal favourite) *Lord, Shuffle My Feet* were delivered, each of the songs sitting comfortably alongside the well known covers and appreciated in equal measure, proving Neil's songwriting and delivery credentials.

Neil finished up his second set with a slice of Queen, leaving the audience with a collective grin on their faces and a song in their hearts, having seen a performer at very much the top of his game, whether playing his own or other folks material.

The numerous occasions I've seen Neil (and the Misers) I've never failed to enjoy the night, if you want a fantastic, fun night out and a good old sing-a-long, I highly recommend catching Mr Ivison when he hits your local.

Will Munn

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Paul Jeffery

Cuttings From Don Quixote's Neglected Garden

Paul Jeffery, a singer-songwriter who has been performing in and around Worcester for a number of years, either as the frontman of **The Players**, **Gandhi's Walrus**, as a solo performer, or guesting in various ceilidh outfits. In each of those guises Paul welds a number of different influences and styles to create a unique and at times off-kilter sound. His guitar tuning often suggests a love of jazz and folk, whilst his distinctive vocals emphasise an affinity to the eccentric, maverick ends of the musical spectrum.

The opening number, '*Placing An Imaginary Hat Upon The Invisible Statue Of John Fahey*', is as you'd imagine (if you know anything about John Fahey) a short yet impressive instrumental piece, showcasing Paul's deft fingerpicking. It is a lulling acoustic jazz-folk number that sets a gentle, calming mood. This feel carries onto the equally relaxed '*Believe*', here Paul's unique croon is added to the mix whilst his fingers nimbly wander over his acoustics strings, creating a rather nice lament.

'*Hymn Number Thirty Three and a Third*' continues in similar vein and there's more nifty finger-picking, followed by '*Broken Boat*', which is a plaintive ode to a now depleted vessel.

The album's second instrumental number, '*The Town At Twilight*', once again proves Paul's worth on the guitar and the sudden time change to an almost bluesy feel adds something of a different dimension to the album's sound. '*Zimmermania*' follows and is a strong, folky number with

Holly Daffurn's mournful cello adding to the mood, whilst Paul's voice sounds even better the further he moves through the gears.

Constructive criticism time: there are some tracks here that have promising moments, but for me are never fully realised and I did find myself sometimes craving for that all elusive hook. '*Kerfuffle*' has a tasty piece of blues slide guitar but instead of concentrating on this element the music disappears off on another tangent, perhaps over egging the pudding, whilst '*Golden Flower*' only really takes off towards the end when Paul's harmonica kicks in.

The enjoyment of '*Cuttings From Don Quixote's Neglected Garden*' could hinder on what you're looking for: if you want a big sing-a-long. I suggest you look elsewhere, however if you're partial to something a little more maverick then there's a great deal to admire, the guitar work is outstanding throughout and there are genuine standout moments such as the aforementioned *Zimmermania*.

Paul Jeffery will be launching this album live at the Worcester Arts Workshop on April 24th with support from **Paul J Rose** and **Jenny Ludlow**. This worthwhile event will also be a fundraiser for the Arts Workshop.

Will Munn



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Vanhulle Dance Theatre present Angles in Life The Courtyard, Hereford | Sat 18 April

Worcestershire-based dance company **Vanhulle Dance Theatre** present a fusion of dance and film at **The Courtyard**.

Angles in Life is a gritty and slick production with international influences that questions the concept of reality in our world. We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are.

This dance and film project is inspired by Birmingham's industrial landscape and led by Belgian born **Laura Vanhulle**.

Transporting the audience to a cinematic, dream-like world, this dance production is emotional, gestural and human. Audiences are drawn into a battle between two people, set against a foreboding original sound score, which combines music and human sounds such as breath.



David Durant, Associate Director at **The Courtyard**, said *"This production is at once anxious and playful, beautiful and rough. It will test your emotion as it draws you in – don't miss it!"*

Tickets are £11 & Young people aged 14 – 25 can get 10% off this show with The Courtyard Card! To find out more, visit courtyard.org.uk/courtyardcard or ask at the Box Office.

For all info, call the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk.

TV Smith, Skewwhiff + The Humdrum Express The Boars Head, Kidderminster | Fri 24th April

TV Smith's musical career has spanned almost 40 years. As former front man with **The Adverts**, one of the UK's original punk bands, he enjoyed chart success in the late 1970s with hits such as *Gary Gilmore's Eyes*, *Bored Teenagers*, *One Chord Wonders* and *No Time To Be 21*.



But that's just a small part of his story.... Following their split in 1979, he went on to front two other bands - **TV Smith's Explorers** and **Cheap** - before establishing himself as a solo artist.

One of punk's greatest lyricists, TV has since released sixteen studio albums – a hugely impressive feat for a man renowned for his relentless touring schedule.

His high energy live shows feature a mix of old songs, new songs, requests and surprises. Recent release, *I Delete* contains some his most incisive work, which is no great surprise from a man who never coasts or trades on past glories.



Support comes from angular post-punk heroes **Skewwhiff**. With a string of summer festival appearances in the pipeline, the Worcester four piece will be warming up for their open air dates, performing tracks from last year's highly acclaimed debut album *Nice Little Upper*.

Kicking off the evening will be tongue-in-cheek social commentator **Ian Passey** - better known, of course, as **The Humdrum Express**. With new material set for release later in the year, this may be an early opportunity to hear the follow up to last year's 6music aired singles *Festival At Home* and *Cryptic Self Pity*.



Admission, at Kidderminster's finest venue and artistic hub, is £6 on the door.8:30pm start.

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He's off on one again...

Well for what's usually a pretty quiet time of the year - when most acts are locked away in studios honing their numbers to perfection - and punters like me are frantically trying to plan for the forthcoming summer festival season - there's been a whole bunch of comings and goings! A real shame that **Death**

Or Glory Records in Redditch has decided to call it a day on the retail front with owner Steve Hadley citing high rent increases and lack of footfall as factors - but he's still hoping to carry on the label and promotions side of DoG. Now with great local acts like **Byron Hare** and **Lost At Home** there's no shortage of quality talent in North Worcestershire - they just need to be aired at the many available venues - it's all about bringing them together!

There's been plenty of downs and ups across the border as well it seems - yes a big disappointment to lose Hereford's premier music spot **The Jailhouse** at the end of last year - which has since been followed by the closure of other venues like **Fusion** and Watercress Harry's - but hopefully good news for the future of live **Marches** music as the Gaol Street site has been refurbished and re-opens as we speak with national acts like **The Streets**, **Wilkinson** and **Craig Charles** lined up. I'm sure that these nights will be rammed just like it was with the Jaily when they featured stars like **Miss Dynamite** and **Frank Turner** - but if they can also attract customers consistently on other nights then there's a future - and promoters like **Hereford Live**, **The Black Lion** and **The Victory** have shown clearly that there's plenty of space for live music...

Now I'm a great fan of the sparkling tunes that I hear created each week across our wonderful region - which as you know I ascribe to the magical properties of the waters of the Wye, the Severn and the Malvern Hills - but what I'm looking for (and happily find) on a weekly basis isn't bands or acts or a performance that's different from the usual (yes that'll give me great copy) - it's that killer song that stands out as something special because it's like nothing I've ever heard before! Now this isn't something that's easy to define - the airwaves and charts are full of numbers that follow a formula that's hardly changed in the last fifty or sixty years - and sadly there's a lot of acts who while being technically extremely capable have still to come up with a number that passes what was called the 'old grey whistle test' for originality and memorability...

Like most music obsessives - I compile lists and charts of my favourite tunes both locally and wider afield - and songs by H&W artists feature highly in both (you know by now who they are!) - so why haven't these kicking tunes got the sales and recognition of the multi-nationals? Again this isn't easy to explain - if you've written and performed the greatest song ever it's no good if it's not been listened to! So the challenge is to get it out there to the widest audience possible - and I'm totally convinced the successful acts aren't those who just make use of social media - but they're the ones who actually go out gigging and touring - and touch wood they'll catch the ear of a record company 'mover-and-shaker' somewhere along the line - they're out there and always looking for new acts - so no reason why it shouldn't be you...

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



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FOOLS BALL VI (by Collective Unconscious)

May 2nd marks the return of the now notorious **Fools Ball**, an event unique not only for Worcester but also for most of the UK. It's another wonderful Worcester eccentricity. A night of live music, DJs and interactive performance that aims to transport audiences to another world. Think Glastonbury's Shangri La but on a smaller scale and basically right on your doorstep. We caught up with **Mark Ellis**, the artistic director of **Collective Unconscious** to find out a bit more about what we should expect.

I've heard that the Fools Ball is basically a massive sex party. How would you respond to that?

(Laughs) Really? That's hilarious. I mean, I can see why people might get that impression, there's definitely a sexualised element to it and it's definitely a party but... no. I mean, not that I want to discourage people from thinking of it like that. Maybe one day. But at the moment it's about freedom; freedom for people to express sides of themselves that they don't normally let out. For a lot of people that's sexualised because British society is so confused about it's relationship with sex but really we just want people to come and explore, let themselves go a little, be more open. I mean isn't going clubbing basically all about music and sex? Maybe we're just being more honest.

So if it's not a sex party then what is it?

We basically pick really good bands, play really good music and curate a programme of exciting performance artists so that there's so much going on nobody can possibly experience everything. People seem to come away feeling, for a short time at least, more connected, more open, more secure in themselves. If that happens we've succeeded. It's why we consider the event to be an artwork in itself rather than just, you know, another gig or club night.



Those are quite big aspirations. I mean, how exactly do even go about achieving that?

Firstly, the feedback we tend to get reflects that effect. We didn't set out with that intention, it's something we realised that was happening and wanted to explore further. In my mind it works like this - we all have these fears, these trepidations, these things that make us nervous or shy about ourselves or the way we interact with other people. We bottle these minor anxieties up and they gradually grow in significance because people aren't given the situation and opportunity to explore them safely. What we try to do is give people that opportunity without any sense of judgement or criticism. The real world can be hard on people. We're not at all interested in reflecting that in our work. You should come. It's going to be amazing.

The **Fools Ball** is part of an entire weekend of music and workshops (mostly free and family friendly) at **Out to Grass** and will take place from 9pm – 2am on the 2nd May at **Out to Grass**, Bromyard Road, Cradley, WR13 5JW. Tickets £11 (which includes camping for the Saturday evening) are available via the Facebook Event Page: <http://tinyurl.com/foolsballVI>.

Duncan Graves

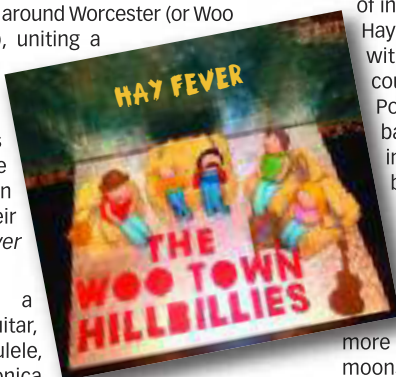
CD REVIEW

Woo Town Hillbillies - Hay Fever

The **Woo Town Hillbillies** are a ramshackle musical collective residing in and around Worcester (or Woo Town, if you're a local), uniting a combination of bluegrass, country and acoustic blues in a bid to become the counties (and beyond) ultimate roots party band and on the evidence of their debut album, *Hay Fever* they can't be too far off.

The band use a combination of guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, double bass, harmonica, various percussion instruments and Kazoo to create an infectious, tongue in cheek, rustic riot, that'll have even the most hardened cynic smiling like a cheshire cat, whilst trying in vein to stop their foot tapping along.

Hay Fever opens with *On The Road Again*, a glorious collision of country blues and rock n roll, complete with twanging strings, rolling double bass, kazoo, washboard and a delightfully weathered yet infectious lead vocal that hooks you in from the off.



As the album continues the band showcase a varied array of influences, *Dartmoor Girl* could be the illegitimate son of Hayseed Dixie and The Beach Boys uniting frolicking banjo with sun-kissed harmonies, *Do You, Do I?* sounds like it could have been lifted from Blue Hawaii or from the Doc Pomus (Teenager In Love Fame) songbook as a lovely laid-back 50's pastiche, *Oval Room* showcases the band's instrumental skills with a brilliant slice of deep country blues noir, whilst both *4 A.M Girl* and (the album's lone cover) *Salty Dog* are both lusty, swaggering anthems perfect for a bar full of jubilant half cut punters in search for a good old sing-song.

Hay Fever is a fun fueled album full of bawdy country, good time roots, heartfelt sing-a-longs and more hooks than the Spanish Armada. Glug a beaker of moonshine, kick off them shoes and join the hillbillies. It's party time in Woo Town. Catch The Woo Town Hillbillies Live...

Will Munn

10th April - Cap & Gown, Worcester
 18th April - Worcester Cathedral Chaos
 with The Delray Rockets, Nigel Clark and Skewwhiff
 25th April - Rise Records CD Launch
 25th April - Unicorn, Malvern
 26th April - The Chesnut
www.facebook.com/WooTownHillbillies

DJ Yoda presents Breakfast of Champions

Friday 10th April | Gloucester Guildhall

DJ Yoda is no ordinary scratch DJ; while other DJ's were demanding high fees being sucked into their ego, **Duncan Beiny** (aka DJ Yoda) was doing it for fun!

One of the first DJs to turn his hand to rescoring classic films with the esteemed '*DJ Yoda Goes to the Movies*' (you may remember him often doing this at the **Big Chill** late at night), a decade later he is seen as one of the most innovative and ground-breaking DJ's of our time. His '*How To Cut & Paste*' series showcase a mixing style that prompted Q Magazine to declare him "*one of the ten DJs to see before you die*".

Over the years Yoda has evolved from his hip-hop beginnings, using his world renowned turntable skills and eclectic influences as diverse as funk, pop, reggae, drum 'n' bass, and even big band swing and country & western, to make barefaced party music. His AV shows are audio-visual anarchy; cutting the best Sci-Fi movie moments with 80s electro, and his residency on BBC Radio 6 Music sits him alongside the likes of DJ masters Andrew Weatherall and Rob Da Bank.

Yoda has just released his new venture in the shape of a live hip-hop band, **Breakfast of Champions**. Rousing the golden age of hip-hop, the band features up-and-coming wordsmith Rex Domino, Mouse Outfit MCs Sparks and Truthos Mufasa, plus a host of musicians chosen in partnership with Manchester arts project, Band on the Wall, where they made



their live debut to a sell out show. The band's second date at London's Jazz Café also sold out with weeks to spare.

Finally realising Yoda's long-held vision for a live hip-hop band, Breakfast of Champions' debut album, was released on March 9th.

Constantly generating a diverse array of styles and innovative audiovisual endeavours, Yoda continues to push the boundaries of his art even further into the unknown.

www.djyoda.co.uk Tickets £16 Box Office 01452 503050



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Sunday 17 May, 8pm: Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman. £12

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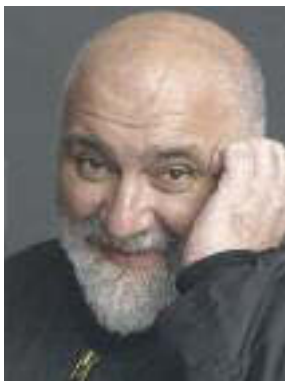
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Alexei Sayle - Listen With Alexei Huntington Hall | Thur 16th April



A true legend, icon and we love him at Slap Central, **Alexei Sayle** lands at Huntingdon Hall to thrill and entertain with excerpts from his two volumes of autobiography, together with some of his short stories.

Alexei of course is famous for his acerbic 80's stand-up routines which positively pulsed with passion and bile. Stand-Up however was not his only skill; he has had

many credits as TV writer and performer including **The Young Ones**, **Alexei Sayle's Stuff** and **The all New Alexei Sayle show**. As an actor Alexei has appeared in a number of films from Indiana Jones and **The Last Crusade** to **Gorky Park**.

This show will showcase his talents as a writer; a writer who has been a Daily Telegraph(!) columnist since 2012, in addition to having regularly written for The Observer, Independent, Time Out and many more quality organs.

At Huntingdon Hall the lucky audience will be treated to a preview of the 2nd volume of Alexei's hilarious and thought-provoking memoirs, "*Thatcher Stole My Trousers*", as well as reading from his hugely acclaimed 1st volume, "*Stalin Ate My Homework*" and some of the aforementioned short stories.

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Attendees will even have the chance to ask Mr Sayle questions - and how often do you get the chance to quiz someone so treasured in the industry??

Mike Hurst & the Springfields Huntington Hall | Fri 17th April

Back in '62, wayyy before I was born (ahem! Ed) **The Springfields**, comprising **Mike Hurst** plus brother and sister **Tom** and **Dusty Springfield**, was the first ever British vocal group to have a top 20 American chart hit.

Dusty of course became a huge international star and Tom chose a more behind-the-scenes path, going on to co-write and produce twelve hits for Australian group The Seekers including 'I'll Never Find Another You' and 'The carnival Is Over'.



Mike Hurst, after a brief spell with his own band, flourished into one of the most successful British independent record producers of the 20th century, producing hits for the likes of Cat Stevens, Cilla Black, Manfred Mann and Showaddywaddy plus many other top industry names.

Now **Mike Hurst** has teamed up with **Alice Pitt-Carter** and **Andy Marlow** to bring **The Springfields** back to life. The hits are as authentic as ever, so come and see them perform the wonderful songs you remember so fondly.

4 Parts Guitar - Guitarmageddon Huntington Hall | Tue 28th April

Neatly completing our quartet of previews from the exciting Huntingdon Hall legends line-up for April comes... **Guitarmageddon**! Following on from their successful 2014 tour, **4 Parts Guitar** return to Huntingdon Hall to wow the crowds once again.

Gordon Giltrap, **John Etheridge**, **Clive Carroll** and **Raymond Burley** are, individually, four of the most influential and talented guitarists in Britain; combine those talents and you have the guitar artistry tour de force that is **4 Parts Guitar**, and a show is sure to live up to its thrilling title – **Guitarmageddon**.



The quartet's music is spontaneous, exciting, and technically brilliant, with Gordon, Ray, John and Clive all bringing their individual styles to the mix, in a show that combines solo, duo, and quartet pieces, and which will showcase new material from their new album.

For ticket information for all shows visit:
www.worcesterlive.co.uk or call 01905 611427

The Outrider Exhibition | The Hive

What more apt place to host an exhibition inspired by an archive about bees and bee keeping but the **Hive** in Worcester. Outrider is a series of artworks by 9 different visual artists exploring the **Alfred Watkins** archive from Hereford Library, curated by **Dr Sally Payen**.

Alfred Watkins was a passionate beekeeper and innovator in beekeeping circles and bequeathed his collection to Hereford Library on his death in 1935. A conservation project on the collection in 2013 led to the re interpretation of the collection by artists.

The display included prints, drawings, a quilt, and even a video with hexagonal shaped moving images. There were also stories, poetry and prose inspired by the original archive



photographs and historic bee keeping books and drawings displayed in a bee hive, where the visitor could lift out each section to reveal the picture.

Having already toured the exhibition to The Commandery Worcester, Leominster Library and Ross Library the exhibition looked great in the Hive

The Outrider Exhibition was on display on level 1 of the Hive until 25th March but more details can be found online at:

outriderblog.wordpress.com

Sarah Ganderton





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4 Parts Guitar
28th Apr - £16

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Festival Launch Night The Fold | Sat 7th March

An evening not to be overlooked with some excellent food to sample, fine wines and the prospect of being drawn in to the raw Chicago underbelly with **The Blues Duo**. What made the evening even more inviting was the option to buy 'early-bird' tickets for the July 4th event at only £10!

So we were off as Johnny breathed deeply into his harmonica, bullet microphone cupped in his hand and a rich sound of thick honey complete with bees legs filled the air. 'Had My Fun' - no this was just the start of a roller-coaster evening and in the words of Sonny Boy Williamson we were not going to 'Keep It To Yourself'. Johnny's deep, warm voice vied with the harp notes for Robert Johnson's 'Steady Rollin Man' - superb - a charged atmosphere and expectation is high



from an audience of music lovers. Tommy thumps out the beat on his kick drum whilst the Fender looks after the rhythm for Jimmy Reed's 'You Don't have To Go' - that's OK we had no intention of going anywhere! Tommy then takes up the acoustic for his own-



penned 'It Doesn't Take Much Time' and after a short booze re-stock break they're back and you just know the tempo is going to ratchet up even higher in the second half. And so after 'I think I'm Better Off With The Blues', Tommy's own hard hitting 'Don't You Cry For Me' blasts out, followed by some serious harp and vocal stylings from Johnny for a stunning '9 Below Zero'.

If that had been it I would have gone home happy but it's The Blues Duo and you know there's plenty more to come. After Howling Wolf took us all 'Riding In The Moonlight', Tommy called out 'The Pleasures All Mine' before casting out some 'Date Bait', then TWANG a string goes and Johnny has to fill in with Hewitt harp, whilst Tommy unhurriedly repairs and retunes. Tommy decides to pull out his electro acoustic Gretsch, a lovely looking beast of a guitar, bright orange with a deeper timbre than his Fender and it's time for some rock and roll. The drum driven tempo hits off with 'Reet Petit' and the girls are up and dancing in the tight corners of an already full floor. There's a 'Whole Lot Of Shakin Going On' - a real buzz as the evening accelerates toward its inevitable close. The beat slows, for a grand old blues song but 'That's Alright'. The drum smacks in like a pistol crack and it's back to full on R&R with Johnny is blowing himself out into exhaustion, as Tommy cranks up the pace to end this stunning show.

The Fold is a lovely and very convenient location and their Blues Festival has firmly established itself in the summer calendar.

Another worthy line up is planned for this year which will enhance its reputation further, including the harp-driven tones of **Will 'Harmonica' Wilde** who wowed the Upton crowd last year and has received many plaudits from the blues community for his singular talents.

I advise you to get your tickets sharpish for what is always a very popular and excellent event.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn

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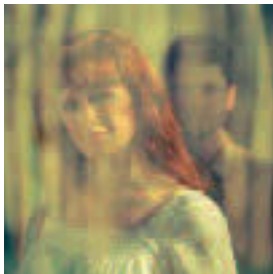
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Roses Round-Up

The estimable Tewkesbury venue **Roses Theatre** is celebrating its 40th year in 2015 and their Live Acoustic Music programme goes from strength to strength.

First up in April on **Thur 9th** is **Feast of Fiddles** which began as a daft idea for a folk club and has now grown into a much loved institution. Featuring twelve(!) players this is most certainly feast by name and nature, which even your most fiddlephobic of friends will enjoy!

On **Sat 11th** **Roses** welcomes a familiar folk'n'roll friend, namely **Phil Beer** and his band. Familiar partly because the ever busy Mr Beer is also one member of **Feast of Fiddles** (see above), one half of iconic duo **Show of Hands** and also tours with **Paul Downes** in addition to solo shows. Phew indeed! Here at **Roses Theatre** Phil is joined by five other top flight musicians who have careers in their own right, creating a joyous sound featuring the traditional tunes and American country rock much beloved of Phil.

Next to grace the **Roses** stage on **April 24th** is totally



original outfit **Spiro** who for more than 20 years and with the same line-up have enchanted and challenged folk audiences with their unique blend of trad Northumbrian tunes and systems music. With cinematic presence **Spiro** have as much to do with minimalist classical and dance music as they do with folk and definitely operate at their own pace and within their own distinct sphere.

In a busy schedule **Tue 28th April** brings rising young star **Sunjay** to **Tewkesbury**. A master guitar picker who belies his youthful countenance and blessed with vocal chords described as "great" by *Blues matters* magazine, **Sunjay** has been one to watch for a few years now. His relaxed, confident and natural approach always puts an audience at ease as they become beguiled by his magical music.

Finally on **Wed April 29th** two of the British folk scene's most accomplished performers, **Kathryn Roberts** and **Sean Lakeman** appear at **Roses**. Please see elsewhere on this page for more details as we are lucky enough to have them playing at a few venues in the region.

This otherworldly avant pop harkens back to the quirky minute instrumental sections of early *Blur* albums, with a new wave-inner-vortex glaze. Laidler's shoe gaze tinged work shimmers throughout, with liberal use of glissando slides and carving an intricate sound sculpture of harmonic feedback, with the curious device, the *Ebow*.

Overall it ebbs and flows along rather nicely, sounding reminiscent of a moderately more content *Dead Can Dance*, the later part of *'Nighty Night'*, having a rising sense of occasion! It's pomp syrupy organs and Burroughs-esque cut-up lyrics delivered by a foreboding baritone.

On the other hand; my fellow **Shambollix**, **Mordor Moroney**, turned his keen critical ear towards the track, and decided; *"It sounds like Conor Oberst sitting in a wet cave"*, therefore lightly damning it with praise. Decide for yourself...

Craigus Barry

www.deathlypaleparty.bandcamp.com

Deathly Pale Party - Nighty Night



A floating n' undulating, concise slice of cinematic lo-fi waltz from local duo, **Deathly Pale Party**.

Comprising of **Key Pandemon** on synth and vocals & **Emma Laidler**, on guitar and devices. The pair have been a part of the Worcester scene since their days as indie outfit **Cobweb Dilemmas**, who morphed into the more progressive *Motion Figures*, and latterly, the cinematic tilt of **Trap Floors**.

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Juan Martin

Great Barn, Hellens Manor, Much Marcle | Mon 11th May

Juan Martin, returns to the Great Barn, Hellens Manor on Mon 11th May following his sell out performance two years ago. Juan is performing as a duo with **Chaparro de Málaga** producing sounds that are both Melodic and explosive, theirs is the visceral power of authentic flamenco improvisation; a musical dialogue between two masters of this great and esoteric art of flamenco. You will be transported to the Classic Spain of Málaga, Granada, Córdoba and Jerez on a journey through the diverse cultures of Andalucía.

The duo incorporate a myriad of influences, from the gypsy culture of Rajasthan in Northern India, to the Byzantine chants plus the Hebraic and Moorish laments of Spain's colonization of South America - the sounds of Argentina and Cuba also evident in the rumba, guajiras and milonga.

A native of Andalucía, Juan Martin has recorded 20 albums mostly as a composer and has played with the Royal Philharmonic and greats like Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock. Juan has twice been voted one of the world's top three



exponents by 'Guitar Player' magazine, and extraordinarily, actually performed for Picasso on his 90th birthday.

'A giant of the flamenco guitar tradition' The Times

Doors open at 7.30 with the performance beginning at 8.00pm. Tickets are priced £16.00 and are available from Malvern Theatres box office 01684 892277. Also from Premier stores Much Marcle, Ice Bytes Ledbury, Ross Music Box, The Outback Hereford, Carnival records Malvern. The Great Barn is at Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, HR8 2LY call Versatile Arts 07854 918783

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History Network Conference in Worcester to delegates from across the globe, the company are bringing their show to premier in the West Midlands as part of the **Imperial War Museums Centenary Partnership**.

Anonymous Is a Woman Theatre Company are dedicated to bringing audiences high quality, engaging, theatrical experiences that tell the unheard stories of women

throughout history and across the world. The company was set up by two graduates of the **Drama Centre London** as a reaction against the lack of female roles in the industry. Armed with aspirations of gender equality the company wish to tell her-story from history. One half of the founding pair grew up in Malvern and the company are dedicated to bringing their brand high-quality, innovative theatre to the region. The West Midlands doesn't have the reputation for fostering emerging talent in theatre that other areas of the country do and AIAWTC are at the forefront of challenging that by proving there is an audience.

www.aiawtc.com @AIAWTheatreCo

The production will tour to 10 venues in the region over the course of three weeks in April with possibly more to be added.

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- 15th Old Joint Stock, Birmingham
- 16th Netherton Arts Centre, Dudley
- 17th Bantock House, Wolverhampton
- 18th Artrix Studio, Bromsgrove
- 21st-25th Coach House Studio, Malvern
- 28th-29th The Attic, Stratford
- 1st May Palace Theatre Studio, Redditch
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Thirty Six Strategies, Ragweed Officer Down, Black Tie & The Romance Firefly, Worcester, Friday 13th March

It wasn't known at the time, but this was the last show ever for Evesham skate-punkers **Officer Down**. It was also the launch party for the debut full length album from Worcester's own **Thirty Six Strategies**. And incidentally their last warm up show before striking out as main support to Therapy? On their imminent UK tour. So this was a bit of an event.



First off though, **Black Tie & The Romance** may have been knocked sideways a tad by the loss of their sizeable but largely under 18 crowd immediately before they went on (the Firefly being a pub has a strict age policy. No ID, you can't stay peeps, sorry), but they cracked on gamely and brightly. The guitar section in this extremely youthful unit in particular had real grunt – and heart. And that is a thing that it is hard not to love.



Officer Down are well known on the UK and European punk circuit, having supported the likes of Masked Intruder, The Flatliners and Morning Glory over the past decade. They rarely play locally though, and this was a tight and pokey display of their pure-spirited and breakneck Pennywise-for-the-masses, catchy as hell hardcore. With a new drummer (Zack Esposito of A Werewolf!) and with an extra guitar up front, this was an even faster and fatter sound than previous outings. So fast in fact that they more or less played their entire repertoire in their allotted slot with time to spare. But speed is good. So game on.

Ragweed – all the way from that Brighton – were as affable and clubbable a trio of neo-fuzz grunge merchants as you could hope to see. They were also about seven feet tall. This was very Bleach-era Nirvana fare, heavy on the howls, bludgeoning drums and feedback. It was a wonderful thing to see such lovely fellows dropping such a screamingly dirty,

distorted Melvins-esque sonic bomb with a spring in the step and a smile on their face. You can come again, gents.

And then the headliners: **Thirty Six Strategies**. This classy melodic hardcore crew have experienced multiple line up changes since formation in 2013: a new drummer, two new guitarists, and a new vocalist over the last year. Only the talismanic punk veteran **Ian Glasper**, adroitly pulling the strings on bass remaining the constant factor.



For lesser bands this churn would have been fatal. TSS have only continued to mature and develop into the genuine contenders they now are. **Marie Vockin's** gutsy vocals and lyrics, and the swing and seismic power of **Crag Sharpe** on



drums in particular drive this band's Dischord Records-rooted brand of guitar music deep into new and exciting territory. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Ones to watch.

Words: D B Schenker Photography: B @ Gippa

Wille & The Bandits The Prince Of Wales | Sun 22nd Feb

Another Sunday and we're held to ransom with the intoxicating wall of sound of **Wille And The Bandits**. Unable to resist, we are prisoners to the band as their first track 'Keep Moving On' is ordered. Wille & Co. write and perform music with a message for today's world, however, found space to slip in a John Martyn song, 'Bless The Weather', before further plundering their own horde of songs.

Wille, Matt and Andy very much use their own interpretation within the music; Wille on slide, lap guitar across his knees, distinctive bass notes from Matt, percussive strikes orchestrated from Andy. We are in the groove, sliding down into the depths of the sound as Wille loses an E string, a natural break, time for a beer. A minor disaster with no spares left in the kit, it's up to Russ to ride to the rescue. Disappearing up to his room, he returns carrying his graffiti riddled trophy guitar, strewn with the autographs of previous performers of The Prince. It will never be played. The string is stripped an ffit to Wille's acoustic guitar, time to carry on.

'Virgin Eyes' brings buckets of grit from the vocal chords of Wille with the slide working hard as he paddles and dances on his pedals. Matt's fingers work the six thick base strings like they were rubber bands, the room is humming. 'Chill Out', is the order of the day, turn your back on the drugs, the gangs and the violence; Andy takes to the wooden blocks, tapping away with his mallets; Wille is on full power (he doesn't sound chilled out!) Something special is looming in the air as Matt cuts beautiful heavy base tones as he saws his bow across the five stringed stick base.



Mind numbing stuff in the tight confines of this little pub. We are nearing the end but we're captivated and want more. It is our turn to kidnap the band, we are not letting them out without more, they have to oblige, or it's dire straits, what's left? 'Money For Nothing?', no, they play up and we release them. An outstanding session, I can't help feeling there was something very special about this, in the crowded confines of the royal chambers, please return.

Words & Pics: Graham Munn

Kill The Romantic Fight or Flight

Worcestershire based, three-piece alternative rock behemoths **Kill The Romantic** follow up their debut album with a brand new four track EP (once again produced by Dave Draper), that sees them retain their combination of hard hitting beats and infectious riffs, whilst adding a new found urgency, to create a punchier more immediate sound.

Each of the tracks have those impressive time changes and sudden twists and turns that compelled on the band's debut, *Collapsed Under Our Creation*, but now the structures are condensed and instant, with the band moving effortlessly through the gears from melodic to raucous in the blink of an eye.

Bipolaroid Picture kicks proceedings off with a barrage of drums and an orgy of riffs before twisting into a glorious, melodic post hardcore/alternative rock monster, complete with intricate guitar twists, crooned and belloved vocals, thrilling stop-starts and an all important killer hook, compelling the listener from the off.

A *Great Day To Die* is a fantastic showcase of the band's vision, uniting crunchy riffs and battered drums with an almost sedate, melodic middle section that sees frontman **Dale Tomkins** unveil a delicate croon before the song twists again before its conclusion. The contrast of light and shade is stunning with the heavier elements seemingly hitting even harder after the more melodic passage.



The two remaining tracks, the intriguingly named *How Tall Can A Midget Stand* and the title track, *Fight Or Flight* add harmonies and oft kilter hooks to an already potent sound giving the band an almost commercial sound (in the same way that Biffy Clyro are radio friendly these days!!) yet still retaining their own unique identity and vision.

Kill The Romantic's debut album was impressive but the new EP sees the band progress to another level entirely. Essential for anyone with even a passing interest in textured alternative rock or melodic post hardcore.

Will Munn

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Tim Holehouse, Luhana Iivonen Rich Clarke, B  sker D   Heroes, Worcester | Friday 27th Feb

A low key little number this. Sneaked into the back bar at Heroes. A busy room on a Friday after payday is perhaps not the first place that would spring to mind for three and a half straight hours of sometimes intricate, high-end alternative folk and howling leftfield delta blues. But sometimes these kind of shindigs just generate their own alternative reality.

Opener **B  sker D  ** was a locally-sourced tribute act to Bob Mould – he of H  sker D  , Sugar et al. This short set of unplugged and strangely Billy Bragg-esque interpretations of the works of the first true masters of alternative rock was both sincere and faintly surreal. In particular, the little touches made to graft local character onto these works of classic US College rock – the changing of “the girl who lives on Heaven Hill” to “the girl who lives on Rainbow Hill” – were either a little misguided or wet genius. Maybe even a bit of both.

There was however nothing misguided about Worcester’s own **Rich Clarke**. An utterly unassuming presence off stage, and self-effacing and humble on it, there was a spark in every chord this chap played. There are artists whose words and



soundscapes are so clear and resonant that you have no option but to stop, listen and feel the hairs steadily rise on the back of your neck. This collection of emotional vignettes, perfectly drawn with just strings and the human voice, was a clear example of exactly this. Painfully good stuff.



And, on the theme of beauty and pain. Quiet, poetic anguish and melancholy are the stock in trade of the Baltic troubadour **Juhana Iivonen**. Comparisons with the lost boy Nick Drake are a not lightly

made. Or at least they shouldn’t be. But the complex layering and technical sophistication of this burly chap from Helsinki’s songs, with their boreal, naturalistic imagery sincerely warrants one of the rare comparisons. Also recalling the reports of Nick Drake’s few live performances, the exquisite depth of this stuff was possibly lost on some of the rowdier punters here – Friday night is for partying, not crying. But who cares what Friday night is for. This was a thing of rare beauty.

By contrast, even **Tim Holehouse’s** own mother couldn’t call him beautiful. But after enough booze you’d be hard pressed to resist this man’s addled mutant appeal. This twisting, sinewy, stomping set was somewhere between an ultra-gruff Tom Waits and a demented Muddy Waters – gritty as hell, and twice as infectious. Shot through with whisky-soaked anecdotes about getting hammered with the Hound out of Game of Thrones and encounters with friendly tattooed ladies in High Plains biker bars, this was ecstatic, godless stuff propelled along by the filthiest of slide guitars and ultra-low tech percussion. This man’s stomp box, or “Mississippi drum



machine” – basically a pad gaffer taped to the floor and stamped on with a heavily booted foot with rhythmic gusto – was a thing to behold. Or rather feel in the base of your pelvis. Things even got a bit rowdy, inspiring a “moshpit jig”, with full contact and broken pint glasses. Everything. This was traditional acoustic music at its most primal. And feral.

Ed Sheeran? Eat yer fuckin ginger balls off.... As they say.

Words: Veronica Bloodsausage Images: J Beppe Tirelli

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Matt Woosey & The Funksters

White Feather Collective

The Marris Bar, Worcester | Friday 20th March

A good crowd assembled at Worcester's own Marris Bar for the launch of **Matt Woosey's** latest album *'While The Cats Away'*, including a bus full from his native Malvern, ensuring there was a real buzz in the air.

Supporting Matt, in full plumage, were another Malvern outfit **White Feather Collective**, who had a definitely brought their own youthful following, thus halving the average age of the punters present!

The Collective plays a fascinating form of rock which seems embedded in an early 70's groove, but has their own unique slant. Having said that they started with the distinctly Merseybeat sounding *'Fireball'*: an instrumental with thumping drums and bass from Chris and bearded Roo. *'Crosstown'* takes on a Doors feel with Josh's voice 'nicked' from Morrison and I'm not talking supermarkets. The lyrics seem to fit the bill too as we slip back to the Mersey for *'Yearning'* with William's Strat leading strongly, underpinned with that insistent drum and bass undertow. Back into Doors mode for *'Writing A Novel'* and Josh in fine voice, before a more frenetic *'Shake It Up'* complete with harp - superb! When I saw this band 6 months ago at Malvern's The Cube I was impressed, especially given their recent formation and I remain impressed as they produce an excellent sound, with fine instrumentation and lyrics. There are WFC tracks on Bandcamp but me being a bit of a dinosaur, I'll wait for the recording sessions and something to take home, switch on - volume up - walls shaking and relive some great rock years.



Exactly As We Please', brought in some nice organ licks as Matt looked toward Simon for a filling. *'Hook Line And Sinker'* rocks with effortless and effective guitar chords from Alex as Ryan tinkers on the high hats and Matt casts out the lines. *'Same Old Blues'*, which Matt terms as a collection of mutterings, was turned into a full on thrash with a lovely heavily fruited jam from the band. The evening was rolling along nicely so Matt threw the dice again and played *'I've Seen The Bottom'*; this is normally a solo number but tonight The Funksters are with Matt and the bottom was not so lonely.

Now a real first for me as Matt stood and put aside his guitar, adjusted the microphone then gave us a soulful old American gospel song *'Wayfaring Stranger'*: this was real spiritual blues laid out in fine style. *'Wade In The Water'* then took us to the edge as the evening was closing in. It had been outstanding and as the air filled to the sound of applause and calls for more - more came. Matt now re-united with his guitar called for the **White Feather** boys and a new *Collective* was born as they joined **The Funksters** and **Mr Woosey** led them into *'Bad Moon Rising'* joined by Josh at the mic. With 2 drum kits, 2 leads, a Hammond, bass and 2 acoustic guitars what could go wrong?? Answer - absolutely nothing! The crowd gyrated wildly as the superb band(s) played out the night.

This had been a fabulously entertaining evening and Matt's excellent album *'When The Cats Away'* was well and truly launched rocket style.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn



Time for Matt seated centre stage trusty guitar in hand, starting solo with some reverb and a long instrumental feed into *'Love Is The Strangest Thing'*. Matt now looking fully warmed up - it was time for a bit of fun with the influential Rory Gallagher tune *'Too Much Alcohol'*, Matt seems to squeeze one more drop out of the bottle every time he performs this song. The slide comes out for *'Little Red Rooster'* then taking *'99 and One Half Days'* before Matt is joined on stage by **The Funksters: Alex, Ryan and Simon** with electric guitar, drum and the unmistakable presence of a Hammond Organ. Slotting seamlessly into the Woosey groove they play subtle but with tangible presence. *'We Do*

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NME Awards Tour: Palma Violets, Fat White Family Slaves, The Wytches The Institute, Birmingham | 28th Feb

So the annual carnival of indie music press darlings du jour rolls into Birmingham. And despite a last minute change to the bill, there's still there's an air of expectancy.

The Wytches, game replacements for the seemingly defunct Snakeheads, are styled by some as "surf-psych". Live, at least, the Wytches are hairy, Bleach-era Nirvana or early Melvins, with a spacier, shoegazey touch - all dry ice, shambling low-profile stage presence. And wave upon wave of feedback. The grunge revival is a congested market. But judging by the faith the old NME has put in this trio, it may have legs yet.

And then: **Slaves**. Bringing the expected two-piece shock and awe, with a ripped-tight, clenched set mainly comprising new material, this initially threatens to sacrifice simple charm for brute force. That is all up until the opening bars of the recent single, "*The Hunter*". Which is a blast of irresistible energy that sparks a primal release pent-up generational tension amongst the kids in the pit - and that figuratively rips the night a new one. Keep watching these boys. They may just be onto something.



Fat White Family come with a reputation for public nudity and anti-rockstar larks. Superficially though, this is a chip off the old jangling indie block, with the influence of the Libertines clear to see and hear. And, maybe under pressure to keep things relatively radio-friendly or underwhelmed by the occasion, frontman Lias Saudi goes no further than poking his finger out of his flies and slithering wetly on the audience a bit. For all the heroin-chic, swagger and Iggy and the



Stooges-isms, you do wonder how long this band will remain in the public eye when Pete Doherty starts releasing material again. And the stylishly grimy niche they are happily squatting in gets filled.

Headliners **Palma Violets** close things on a more wholesome note. Crowd-pleasing tracks like "*Best of Friends*" and "*Rattlesnake Highway*" don't rip a hole in anything. They are just honest works of synth-infused indie rock and roll that say the things that the kids need to hear. If Slaves scream "EVERYTHING IS FUCKED!!!", then Palma Violets say, sweetly: "it will all be OK". And the punters love them for it, if the crowd participation antics (such as the James-style mass floor sitting) are anything to go by. Packing the guitar-pop power to move of The Charlatans or the long-forgotten Wonder Stuff, Palma Violets supply the life-affirming and warm, personal moment-defining sound track that every generation wants - but doesn't always get.



And on the evidence of all this, with **Palma Violets** and **Slaves** this generation have got both what they want - and what they need.

Words: Egon Coalsack Images: Daisy Blecker

Ethan Ash, Alex Rainsford

The Marris Bar | Sunday 8th March

Since Worcester's finest music venue opened all those years back, I've witnessed countless bands and numerous singer-songwriters pass through the hallowed doors, from the good, the bad and the ugly, there have been packed out gigs and there's been the woefully unattended, the forgettable and the never forgot, the Marris Bar has seen it all (and so have I).

On an unassuming Sunday evening The Marris Bar welcomed a young singer-songwriter for the first time by the name of **Ethan Ash** and in front of an audience of around about twelve people (don't get me started about the apathy of the so-called Worcester gig-goer) he proceeded to deliver what has to go down in history as one of the most impressive debuts (if not gigs) at the venue since the grand opening.

From the opening number, *Would You Mind*, Ethan, with just his guitar for company, grabbed the attention of the few in attendance and bewitched them with his stunning, mesmeric voice, his instantly likable stage mannerisms and those all important hook-laden songs. Tales of love and loss were delivered with such emotion, such passion that every note hit by Ethan yanked at the heart strings, it was almost difficult to comprehend how a guy, short in stature could reach such impressive heights, his voice swooped and soared whilst his guitar (both acoustic and electric) rang out.

On the sole cover, *As Long As I can See The Light* (originally Creedence Clearwater Revival) you could almost imagine a gospel choir joining in as Ethan made the song his own with a stunning soul makeover, whilst originals such as *Seems Like Love Has Died*, *Face To Face* and *Boy Like Me* all equally



impressed, whilst the encore of *Chasing Your Love* has hit written all over, with it's compelling folky melody and infectious vocal hook.

Sure there may not have been many people in attendance, but there wasn't a single person in the building not moved by Ethan's jaw-dropping set, soul has a new name and that name is Ethan Ash.

Before I run off into the sunset proclaiming Ethan as the new messiah, I must also mention **Alex Rainsford**, who offered support on the night, he delivered an interesting set that combined an indie sensibility to the standard singer-songwriter fare, time changes and anthemic vocals, creating stirring anthemic like songs such as *Better Man* and brand new track *Left Behind*, both standouts of an impressive slot, proving Alex to be a more than capable writing and performer, who's well worth keeping an eye out for in the future.

Will Munn

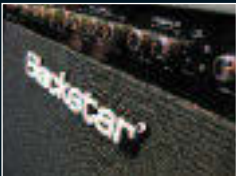
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Deborah Rose featuring The O'Farrell Frolicks & Grey Wolf Artrix, Bromsgrove | Thu 5th March

It's a year now since Welsh songstress **Deborah Rose** launched her last album, *Song Be My Soul*, at **Artrix**. It was an unforgettable evening which highlighted her considerable ability to evoke images through the purity of her voice and some brilliantly crafted lyrics. So we were delighted when she announced her plans to launch her next album, *Wilde Wood*, at Artrix on 5 March.

The last year or so seems to have been great in terms of musical experimentation for Deborah. A chance meeting with the **O'Farrells Frolicks** in a cafe in Bewdley has worked out really well for her. The girls, who consist of **Hetty, Mari** and **Lucy Randle** and **Lindsay Farrell** are talented vocalists and multi-instrumentalists (Mari and Hetty both play with SLAP favourites **Vault of Eagles**) and having sung a few songs with them, Deborah decided to work with them on an album of Celtic songs. More serendipity followed when she met **Grey Wolf**, who are based in Ludlow, through Eva Cassidy's brother Dan and her decided to work with them as well. Although Deborah reckons the musical sessions with the boys were accompanied by bottles of wine as opposed to cups of tea with the girls!

Deborah began her set alongside **Matt Worley** with *Taigh Alaiinn* and *Lady of Shalott*, both favourites from her previous album, before the girls joined her on stage for the evocative *Skye Boat Song* which tells the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape to the Isle of Skye. It was great to see how much Deborah has evolved musically as a result of her new collaboration. Her voice dipped and soared like a bird in flight in the stunning *Foggy Dew* against a backdrop of Mari's gorgeous vocals and Lindsay Farrell's whistle and bodhran. *Dance of the Rabbits*, a French jig, soon had the audience tapping their toes and clapping along, as did a lively interpretation of *Rocky Road to Dublin*. A haunting version of Bob Dylan's *One More Cup Of Coffee* contrasted brilliantly with a catchy number called *Little Beggar Man* which the audience loved. The first half closed with Matt returning to accompany Deborah for a beautiful version of *Autumn Leaves* in tribute to Eva Cassidy, a major source of inspiration to her.

The second set kicked off with Ludlows **Grey Wolf**, an Americana trio consisting of **Ben Walsh, Banjo Jim (Allen)** and **Martin Thomas** on stage. They began with the fast-paced *Orange Blossom Special* before Deborah joined them for a lovely version of *Bright Morning Star*. Jim Allen's outstanding



banjo playing didn't fail to disappoint, particularly in *Cuckoo*, and the band played a brilliant version of *Raleigh and Spencer* before Deborah rejoined them for the sweet but sinister murder ballad *Banks of the Ohio*.

The set ended with the fabulous Little Maggie showcasing both Deborah's vocal skills and Grey Wolf's wonderful instrumentation.

The audience, naturally, demanded an encore at which point I had a quiet chuckle to myself because I guessed what might be coming when Deborah announced she had a special guest. I'd spotted a certain **Robert Plant** earlier, always a welcome visitor to Artrix, and we'd been hoping he might make an appearance. A great night got even better as he stepped out on stage, the audience went mad, and he sang *Love Hurts* with Deborah. Rolling his eyes ironically when he sang the line '*I'm Young, I Know*', he had the crowd in stitches. More group encores, with Plant playing guitar at the back, followed and were greeted with rapturous applause. It was a brilliant night and all credit goes to Deborah for managing to organise the gig and perform so well.

Words: Rosie Hamilton Photography: Ross Woodhall



Deborah Rose

Wilde Wood

Deborah Rose is an established presence on the UK folk scene, an ethereal vocal talent owing more in spirit to the late, great Sandy Denny than the commercial sound of Laura Marling or her stadium folk peers. And it's the voice of this Welsh-born but Severn Valley resident songstress that rings clear and transcendent, unifying these ten trad-folk, country, bluegrass and Celtic folk ballads into a coherent whole. A whole which breathes new, searching green life into the deep roots of standards like *Cuckoo*, *Little Maggie* – and the Merle Haggard signature *If Only I could Fly*.

This whole release has an unhurried, effortless but verdant beauty, which perhaps also reflects the vast experience and technical skill of the collaborators here. Including as they do the **The O'Farrells Frolicks** (better



known to most of you as sisters **Hetti & Mari Randle** of **Vault of Eagles** plus mum **Lindsey** and sister **Lucy**, Ludlow's **Greywolf**, and one Mr **Robert Plant**. The presence of the man from Shatterford is subtle, and vocally unrecognisable. But is unmistakable in the quietly trans-Atlantic feeling and flawless arrangement of the first five tracks (on which he is listed simply as backing vocalist), such as the exquisite opener *Bright Morning Star*.

The second half of this album takes matters deep into the mists Gaelic folk territory. Ballads like *Danny Boy*, *Little Beggar Man* and *The Sky Boat Song* being given bright, fresh-sounding treatments. Again Deborah Rose's singular voice weaves into the crisp instrumentation with precision, the traditional pipes and flutes being deployed with consideration and never being overstated as they sometimes can. There is also little of the fey or the whimsical about these interpretations. Indeed, perhaps the stand out of the entire album is the crystalline-sharp take on the luminous W B Yeats-esque imagery and dark folk memory of *Foggy Dew*, a spiritual giant of a song that exemplifies the timeless emotional power of folk at its very best.

D B Schenker

Thirty Six Strategies

Strategy Three

The chiming opening bars of this third (and first full length) release from Worcester's **Thirty Six Strategies** show this band's roots in the melodic hardcore guitars of Dag Nasty et al clear as a bell. It also marks this out as right on the money fare for fans of Strike Anywhere, Kid Dynamite, Rise Against and all that malarkey. From start to finish this is one of the most accomplished and polished melodic guitar propositions of recent years, every hook perfectly formed and razor sharp. This on its own would mark this out as a quality offering – the ringing guitars and deftly interweaving bass patterns making for an organic punk carillon reminiscent of HDQ or Leatherface at the peak of their powers.

And then there are **Marie Vockins'** gutsy vocals that hug and launch clear of the twisting guitars, and take this somewhere new and different entirely. There's a grit and gravitas in the lyrics, an assertive and fully empowered emotional edge, and a warm steel in the eye that melodic female fronted hardcore rarely possesses. This is a different prospect to Marmozets, Tilt or Paramore whose proto feminist vignettes are vital enough, but tend towards the insubstantial. In all, Strategy Three has a maturity of sound and a blazing assurance that bears comparison, in spirit and power, with Skunk Anansie of yore. And, like Skunk Anansie's breakthrough *Stoosh*, this is a stand-up commercial standard release, with production values (and artwork) that belies the DIY production.



With a support slot for the venerable **Therapy?** On their imminent national tour lined up, it's possible that this band may even get the attention of the commercial music world. If so, it will also be one of the rare examples when that attention is well deserved.

D B Schenker

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Scarycanary The Venue

A most welcome boost and exciting new-ish (Sept '14) addition to Stourbridge nightlife, Scarycanary is determined to set the pace whether in their musical forays or be it film, poetry, painting and any other artistic endeavour in-between.

Witness these two previews and you know these friendly folk mean business:

Vena Cava, Repo Man The Brackish, DeeJ Dhariwal Friday 10th April

Friday 10th May brings a Bristolian invasion of epic



proportions with VENA CAVA and their Slowdive meets My Bloody Valentine sludge-grunge fest. Repo Man succinctly sum themselves up as 'volume slinging axe blasts and free sax slurries meet verbal scatology.'

The Brackish are a thrillingly

unique instrumental band featuring members of Zun Zun Egui and This is the Kit. Late addition to this stellar bill is DeeJ Dhariwal from Thought Forms who will doubtlessly dazzle with singular guitar abuse, genre-hopping from scuzzy garage to ethereal psych doom, taking in brutal noise construction along the way. I'm spent just writing about it!

Clinic + Miss Halliwell

Friday 24th April

Friday 24th April and a coup as veteran purveyors of compact collage rock Clinic come to town. Post punk-noise rock band doesn't begin to adequately describe these Liverpoolian legends who have been doggedly and ever-inventively producing original sounds for some 18 years now. Their name and patented stage wear of surgeons' masks points to their meticulous approach of taking a scalpel to 60's/70's outsider music, then stitching fave bits into new, mutant forms. Clinic's love of vintage keyboards and off-scale chord progressions is certain to seduce you...if you just give it a chance! Support comes from the lovely Miss Halliwell who are a notorious group/catastrophe which has miraculously survived in some form since 2007.



Two special nights then which deserve your patronage as does the marvellous Scarycanary in all its guises. Check them on Facebook and look out for the three day **4 Billion Souls Festival** over the weekend 1st-3rd May.

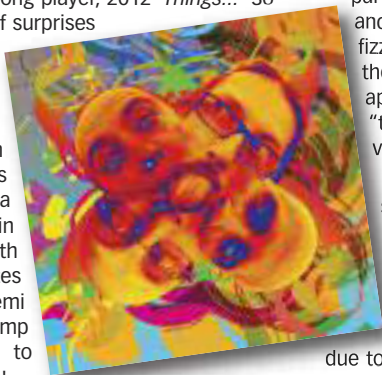
Glowpeople

Happen (Cosmic Primitive Records)

The instrumental outfit, **Glowpeople** is an amalgamation of Trip Hop, samples/loops, funky scratching guitar, dub bass, jazzy drums, occasional out there psychedelia and dare I say it, "chill out"! Part live band, part mechanical machination!

Their new offering '*Happen..*', is every bit as diverse and free flowing as their previous long player, 2012 '*Things...*' So as not to spoil the trove of surprises

on offer here, perhaps we should just take a glimpse inside the lid. Kicking off with '*Gap The Mind*', a light warble of oscillation progressively becomes more syrupy, before a rhythmical groove sets us in for the ride. It's a smooth slow burner at five minutes but it eases you into the semi improvisational world of jump off points, typical to Glowpeople arrangements!



Title track is a zero gravity dub affair that introduces trumpet (played by guitarist Chris) and strange orgasmic ethereal samples, that inch towards a wah wah climax! A fond live favourite '*Tie Dye Sky*', follows this up, book-ended by Miles Davis'esq trumpet motif and a simple guitar arpeggio, each providing the jump off points for a maelstrom of psychedelic peaks and troughs! Rhythmically meticulous, here both bass (Robot) and drums (Nik) showcase that elusive hard to pin down, home-brew sound that Glowpeople flaunt so well!

Other highlights include; The Sun Rah meets (the subtler parts) of Funkadelic, '*Trod*', where gentle motifs are anchored to a strong tribal pulse and the concisely woven fizzing, '*Medusa*', which in parts brings to mind some of the earlier Ozrics Tentacles with it's own paisley appendages worming through the ether! After this, "things..." become perhaps a little too abstract to vocalise!

Overall, there is flow and nuance but scarcely are they self indulgent. Glowpeople are all about rhythm and texture. In a scene full of wishy washy psychedelia with little to no substance, they possess a dynamic restraint rarely matched. A vast array of musical ideas all painting sound palettes of their own in a microcosm void where everything is afforded space. However, due to the density and ambiguity here, it may require many more listens to fully digest.

Craigus Barry

Lunar Festival

Tanworth-in-Arden Works | 5th -7th May

Last month in our "Looking Forward To The Summer...?" feature we rounded up a few of our local fests and promised a follow up on the sophomore year of the lovely **Lunar Festival**.

There have been constant additions to the line-up and here we will concentrate on a few of the perhaps less known headliners, highlighting some of the hard-working, oft overlooked and undervalued DJ's that'll be keeping the joint jumping all weekend, together with highlighting some of the abundance of daytime happenings at Lunar to keep y'all truly entertained.

Hardly unknown but well worth a mention and a most welcome headliner...**Wilko** is still with us! Having recovered from pancreatic cancer after his 'farewell' tour in 2013 bona fide National Treasure (he'll hate that! Ed) Wilko has in his own words "*Been sort of parachuting back to reality from the twilight zone.*" Pay homage, give praise and generally jump around alot on Saturday Night to Mr J's unique R'n'B noise.



Wilko Johnson

Perhaps more exotic but just as earthy in its own way the glorious sounds of **Orlando Julius & The Heliocentrics** are gracing the Lunar stage this year. Orlando is a hero of Nigerian music and has been fusing African influences with US R'n'B and soul since the 60's. A master of the sax and massive influence on Fela Kuti and Afrobeat, Orlando and his band hammer home their hypnotic beats overlaid with keyboards, singular sax and chanting.

In contrast the **Allah-Las** bring their breezy and carefree Californian pop sensibilities to wonderful, wooded Warwickshire. At once joyful and melancholy their sound is steeped in the melodies of Love, Zombies and The Kinks, fused with soul'n'funk tinges.



Allah-Las

Our final (for now) pick of the Lunar headliners is another US outfit, acclaimed North Carolina quirky electropop duo **Sylvan Esso** are due to enchant the crowd as they branch out from their traditional Appalachian musical roots.



The Higher Intelligence Agency

Meanwhile like a thread of mysterious origin weaving its magical way throughout Lunar's nooks and crannies will be a stellar line-up of DJ's plying their trade. Making his anticipated debut at Lunar is **Andrew Weatherall** purveying his eclectic mix of dub, proto-house, post punk, krautrock, disco, R'n'B and assorted electronic oddities. **The Higher Intelligence Agency** - pioneers of mixing live electronica with vinyl are bound to thrill and inspire, whilst in **Psychmagik's Magik Forest Arabian Tent** you will find the eponymous remixers creating their usual sensational edits and transcendental mixtape journeys. Also in The Magik tent you will discover the delights of Mexico City's **Lokier** mixing post punk, rock, techno and disco, plus globe-trotting sonic master **Marcel Vogel's** bugged out soul and many others.

Away from the plethora of artists performing at Lunar is a whole host of other activities designed to keep everyone entertained from the families with little ones in tow, through to the adults looking for some late night clubs.

In the daytime you will be able to try your hand at everything from **Bush crafts** to **African Drumming**, **Guerilla Archaeology** to **Headdress Making**, **Yoga** to **Northern Soul Dance** classes plus many more! For the families in attendance there will be the **Pink Meadow**, which will host the children's weekend club to keep the little ones entertained whilst they can also visit the children's farm over the weekend.

On Saturday night there will be a special airing of local hero **Nick Drake's** album 'Bryter Layter' for 40 festivalgoers in a secret location. Nick Drake's estate have kindly offered to bring his personal copy of the album and his own record player for fans to pay their respects to one of England's finest musicians. For me this would be worth the ticket price alone...as long as I found it and was one of the lucky four score!

Well that's our Slap Lunar Picks for now but in our May issue we will have the **Public Service Broadcasting** Q&A special promised for this month, but delayed due to the dynamic duo being busy breaking The States!

As ever head on over to www.lunarfestival.co.uk for full up to the minute news and ticket information on what is shaping up to be one of THE summer happenings.

Orlando Julius & The Heliocentrics



John Cooper Clarke

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Thursday 9th April

Britain's best loved and most important performance poet, **John Cooper Clarke** is as popular now as he was in the 70s.



His biting, satirical, political and very funny verse, delivered in a unique rapid-fire performance style, resonated with the punk movement. JCC toured with all the seminal bands; The Sex Pistols, The Clash & Buzzcocks, and in the USA with Elvis Costello. Joy Division were proud to frequently support JCC and New Order later opened for him on their first Australian tour. The unique fusions of JCC's poems and **The Invisible Girls'** highly original music, created influential records and he's still name-checked by people as diverse as Alex Turner, Plan B, Jarvis Cocker and Steve Coogan.

His influence needs only to be heard in the satirical and keen social observations of the songs of the Arctic Monkeys. Alex Turner cites JCC as a huge inspiration and John's work appears on the sleeve of one of their singles as well as Turner having a JCC tattoo. JCC regularly features on BBCTV and radio, as a presenter, performer and a socio-cultural commentator.

John Cooper Clarke is performing at Artrix on Thursday 9th April at 8.00 pm. Tickets cost £22.00.

Rita Payne

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sun 12th April

Self-proclaimed acoustic toot-Stompers **Rita Payne** (**Rhiannon Scutt** and **Pete Sowerby**) are one of the UK's fastest rising acts. From supporting some of the country's leading artists to appearing on BBC One's *The Voice UK*, this unstoppable duo's voyage to superstardom is unquestionable.

Drawing from eclectic mix of musical tastes, from Fleetwood Mac to Beirut, this award winning duo use breathtaking vocal harmony and mesmerising guitar riffs to create their own unique brand of acoustic music.



Even though they rub shoulders with the likes of Jon McClure, John Otway and Wilko Johnson on a regular basis, this small town duo still have their feet firmly on the ground and are always eager to promote their hometown of Doncaster. So far they've released two albums to critical acclaim and appeared on the same bills as The Beautiful South, Big Country and at the Great British Folk Festival along with the likes of Bellowhead. Catch them while you still can.

Rita Payne are performing at Artrix Studio on Sunday 12th April at 8.00 pm. Tickets cost £10.00. Tickets are available from the box office on 01527 577330 or on www.artrix.co.uk

Cracked Actors

Pig & Drum, Worcester | Sat 11th April

Perennial SLAP favourites **Cracked Actors** return to Worcester for an intimate gig at the **Pig and Drum**, which is fast becoming the most progressive live music venue in the city. How we're going to squeeze the band and the throng of eager punters in is going to be a logistical challenge but there's more musical members in The Stiff Joints and they managed to fit. If you sense a ska theme, think again as Cracked Actors are more than just another ska band (as are The Stiff Joints – *ed!*).

Anyone engaging in the band's Facebook page will know that there is homage to Crass among their images, much to the annoyance of one particular fake anarchist troll. When and where did the sense of humour bypass in the anarchist movement come from? If freedom of thought and a sense of fun has no place in anarchy then what's the point? Copyright? Try telling that to the profiteers who have employed Dave King's inspirational artwork for vulgar capitalism.

For Cracked Actors are essentially a PUNK band. PUNKTAFARI to be more accurate but there is no tight-fisted



manifesto on their sleeves - there's philosophy and levels in the music that allows listeners to discover for themselves. Free thinking indeed.

Playing songs from their new long player, *Writ in Stone*, and the previous four albums, this is serious Joy De Vivre and it is going to be rammed.

Glazz'tafari

Artrix 10th birthday bash

Saturday 25th April

During its 10 year history Artrix in Bromsgrove has welcomed a stellar cast of celebrities through its doors including **John Bishop**, **Julian Lloyd Webber** and **Michael Portillo** and plans to mark the occasion with a spectacular free outdoor event on 25th April.

At 2.15 and 3.40 pm there will be dance performances by students from **Heart of Worcestershire College** in partnership with **Bromsgrove District Council** and **Dancefest** on Bromsgrove High Street.

Then at 8.00 pm local schools and community groups will gather for a 10th birthday lantern procession which will leave the High Street for Artrix at 8.30 pm. This will be followed by a spectacular outdoor performance of **Spellbound** on the Artrix Terrace at 9.00 pm.

Suitable for all ages, **Spellbound**, created by outdoor experts **Walk The Plank**, takes place at dusk and uses shadow theatre with real performers in place of traditional puppetry. An original soundtrack, live narration, and sumptuous special effects will add to the exhilarating performance.

Expect dazzling pyrotechnics, captivating performances and a spectacular fiery finale. **Spellbound** is supported through **Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Programme**, the **Elmley Foundation** and the **Saintbury Trust**.



Fired Oak Album Launch

The Chestnut, Worcester

The open mic at the Chestnut in Worcester, hosted by **Dan James** on alternate Thursdays, is proud to be one of only two venues to hold the **Fired Oak Album** launch.

Drummer **Billy Weir** (Nest/Petrichor Quintet) brings his new band **Fired Oak** to launch their debut album. **Fired Oak** blends jazz and folk music into a set of strikingly beautiful songs written especially for this septet. They will be



performing a one hour set in addition to the usual local musicians performing.

The open mic will run until 11.30pm instead of the usual 11pm. **Fired Oak's** music features beautiful songs, exciting rhythms and driving instrumental numbers. The album draws influence from folk, jazz and soul music and features a stellar line up of musicians from all over the country.

The band features **Paddy Benedict** + **Lizze Chan Foxley** on vocals as well as award winning pianist **Mark Pringle**. Also featured will be **Vittorio Muira** - Tenor Sax, **Douglas Mcmillan** - Guitar, **Mark Pringle** - Piano, **James Banner** - Bass.

This is a rare live date for the band so this is not one to be missed.

Christina Kulukundis Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Thurs 5th March

Christina is a highly rated alternative Country & Western singer songwriter, who despite the exotic sounding name emanates from the depths of Worcestershire. Christina performs with a band consisting of **Ben Church** (Wooden Horse) on guitar and banjo, **Pete Dryden** on bass and drummer **Adam Jones**.

Christina stayed in 'hiding' as Ben entertained us with a bit of blues, assisted by Pete and Adam in perhaps unusual guise? Lightnin' Hopkins' and Muddy's 'Long Gone' and 'Trouble In Mind' with a lovely bit of blues slide, before Ben enticed Christina to her microphone. A change of rhythm as Christina took us out West, with a song taken from her 'Bitterest Lies' album, 'Bloom' - there is no disputing that Christina has a beautiful voice. This song sits somewhere between American and our own traditional folk, no surprise given the roots of American folk music, being carried there by the early European invasion of the Americas. 'When Did My Baby Grow Up Into You' with lyrics from 'Big Baby Blues', brings accord to many of us gathered this evening: a decidedly Southern country riff that swings along nicely. Ben drops his guitar for the banjo for 'Too Long In The Country' and the fingerpicking style gives a distinct flavour to this song. 'Sweet Fruit' is more a homegrown folk song, short but very sweet with the banjo complimenting it beautifully and the feel of an early Fairport Convention memory.

The title song of Christina's current album is 'Stars Behind Stars Behind Stars' - no I haven't pressed a repeat button - this song among others has found airplay on BBC radio and rightly so. The song has a funky laid back rhythm with Alan on drums who has pretty much brushed his way throughout the evening and this song was made to measure for that



treatment. The percussive backing makes good use of the cymbals as Ben overlays his guitar and Pete lays out that mellow bass riff. Needless to say Christina's gentle but fulsome voice makes the lyrics swing along superbly.

I make no claims on being able to describe adequately this form of music; a mix of traditional rooted folk and country and western southern fried songs, but it has been an enjoyable evening in the company of such a songstress and songwriter as Christine. Ben I have had the pleasure of hearing before, he is a fine musician who seems almost at home with the banjo as on his guitar. I confess to enjoying the all too few blue tinted songs that opened this gig, but the evening undoubtedly belonged to the lovely tones of **Christina Kulukundis**.

As ever The Prince Of Wales has hosted a well attended evening: the Thursday evenings have taken on their own identity with a broader mix of genres perhaps than the Blues steeped Sunday sessions. Keeping music live and well as ever.

Graham Munn

CD REVIEW

The Fidgets | I'm Alright

This youthful duo hail from Brum/Bromsgrove area and have been performing around the region since early 2013, in addition to successfully auditioning on **Britain's Got Talent** in 2014.

Now 12th April sees the release of their first EP which has four tracks bristling with accomplishment and promise.

The Fidgets who are **Max Stockin** (vocals, guitar and tambourine) and **Ryan McPhilomey** (guitar & vocals) have obviously been quietly honing their sound for the last couple of years and the hard work has come to fruition on this classy release.

The title track kicks us off in fine 60's beat group style with a riff Keef would be proud of. **The Fidgets** are steeped in classic rock pop songwriting and this is underlined as we move onto 'The Girl With Diamond Eyes'.

The other two songs 'I See You' and 'Tonight' confirm these chaps as talented instrumentalists, with some great guitar work, but it is the harmony vocals that are the killer element here. The tunes have echoes of The Coral, The La's and going back to Creedence even The Everlies, as the melodious vocals meld marvellously into a holistic sonic palette.



This EP has really whetted this jaded hack's appetite but unfortunately **The Fidgets** don't appear to have any gigs on the horizon to back this release up.

Come on prove me wrong lads and don't miss the moment. Anyway they're on the list of Worcester Music Festival entrants so I'm off to snap them up now!

Words by Gregg Spies

Michael McGoldrick John McCusker & John Doyle Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | Tues 10 March

A rare treat indeed to catch these three superb musicians spreading their Celtic passion. All are members of the BBC acclaimed Transatlantic Sessions.

Michael McGoldrick (Flutes, Whistles, Uilleann Pipes) is a founding member of **Flook** and **Lunasa** and is a current member of **Capercaillie**. **John McCusker** (Fiddle, Whistle, Indian Harmonium) joined the **Battlefield Band** at just 17, spending 11 years touring the world with the now legendary folk outfit. **John Doyle** (Vocals, Guitar) is one-half of duo **Liz Carroll and John Doyle**, he is also a founding member of the internationally acclaimed Irish group Solas.

The evening starts with a set of tunes on pipes, guitar and Indian harmonium, a slow air which seamlessly blends into a jig with McCusker taking to the fiddle. More tunes to follow with a breathtaking set of reels, McGoldrick having now taken

to the flute. The audience are quick to show their appreciation with exclamations of disbelief at the mastery of the band's chosen weapons. A song from John Doyle next, the child ballad *'What Put The Blood'*, a somewhat dark murder ballad with McCusker moving on to the cittern.

Another set of reels follows, namely *Margaret Anne's Silver Wedding Anniversary/The Shetland Molecule/Billy's Reel*; these were written by John McCusker for a radio show in Scotland and he informs us that the right to name the first tune was won in an auction! John Doyle on his electric Taylor T5 guitar for *'Liberty's Sweet Shore'* next; an emigration song he performed on the Transatlantic Sessions.

The first half winds to a close with *'Leaving South Uist'*, a beautiful low whistle duet from McGoldrick and McCusker, leading into the *'Lochaber Badger'*, both tunes aided by more superb Doyle guitar accompaniment, who then proceeds to

belt out *'Billy O'Shea'*, that **Bitterroots** (who - Ed?) standard!!: a top sail shanty warning of the perils awaiting hungover sailors working high aloft.

The second half starts with a buoyant set of tunes McCusker calls *'The Big Set'*. Firstly an old time American tune called *'The Elk'* which then tears into *'Rip the Calico'*, *'Coming of Age'*, a Dick Gaughan Reel (didn't catch the name) and ending with *'Tribute to Larry Reynolds'*. The players are inventive and in harmony with each other....oh and have I mentioned what a superb accompanist John Doyle is?! His turn next with *'Wicked Belfast Man'*, a song collected in Vermont. Then it's more tunes, the first one seems to adopt the name of the town they are playing in ie last night it was called

'Cockermouth', tonight it's called *'Worcester'*. This leads into *'Boys of the Puddle'* followed by another song of love and parting *'Bonny Light Horseman'*; a lament from the Napoleonic Wars.

Now we know these guys can turn up the steam and the three of them can be as powerful as a locomotive, but they can also do delicate when required as the next piece reveals. A

tune called *'Leaving Friday Harbour'*, written by John McCusker whilst in the Battlefield Band, slowed the pace to a more reflective mood and then to finish - another storming set of Jigs and Reels.

Not surprisingly, the trio are cheered back on for an encore and we are treated to *'The Banks of the Bann'*, another lament for lost love.

This was night 36 of a 40 gig tour and each musician genuinely seemed to enjoy the others playing and company and this was reflected in a nice line of laid back chat and banter on the stage.

I, for one, couldn't get enough of the collective sound of these three excellent musicians and there was rarely a point during the evening when my foot wasn't tapping of its own accord.

Stew K MacTrot



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Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Hi Slap Readers, we've just celebrated our 6th Birthday we cannot thank you all enough for your continued support. We've had the pleasure in meeting and working with the best musicians, bands, labels, promoters, photographers and like minded musical lovers who we can now call our friends and we look forward to the next 6 years.



Red Room Therapy

B @ Gippa

It's been an incredible time so far, but in the past year alone we've had the pleasure in sponsoring a micro-festival in Cardiff, the first **Noise Against Cancer** charity show in Worcester, we've released the debut ep from local duo **A Parliament Of Wolves**, we've welcomed artists worldwide to our online record store - one of which - French electronic math rock duo **Quadrupede** will be playing live in Worcester at the Pig and Drum on 29th April along with Worcester's very own **Deathly Pale Party** thanks to ace promoters **Embrace the Chaos**. We are also thrilled to announce several new writers who are all contributing to the website: **Fergus Coates** and **Sean McMahon** from Leeds based **Chud Records** have joined the team alongside local lovelies **Josh Lamdin**, **Simon Gore** and our newest Herefordian recruit **Gavin Brown**. **William Henry Price**, **Gareth Burke** and **Naomi Clark** are

also part of ever growing family and we can't wait to publish more content.

To coincide with our birthday, alongside our special 20% off shop sale, we had our first ever week off before re-launching our brand new website. As SlapMag went to press the very new, very different Circuit Sweet was launched for all to see. It's a new challenge for us and we hope you love what we've done, so head to www.circuitsweet.co.uk and let us know what you think. From this month onwards we will be even busier providing music news, reviews and features and we have a special monthly label take over planned alongside several interviews including one from local band **Red Room Therapy** - the trio have just released their debut album and celebrated with an album launch.

The other Big News has to be the opening of **The Venue, Hereford**. Following the closure of **The Jailhouse**, Hereford felt a little empty, but local pubs have united together to make sure they can provide a musical hub for local musicians to play and they've been doing an excellent job and local nightclub **Play** have been home to a few live nights too, but a dedicated venue has been noticeably lacking. At the end of February **The Venue Hereford** confirmed its doors were set to open. The bespoke highly designed venue based at the former **Jailhouse** location kicked off its live nights as Slap went to press, March 27th and **The Venue** was opened by the man behind musical phenomenon **The Streets** - yes **Mike Skinner** himself was in town.

The establishment have also announced appearances from **Tim Westwood**, **Four Owls**, **Wilkinson**, **Craig Charles** and a special Hereford Live night which will showcase 6 talented Herefordshire bands. Find **The Venue Hereford** on Facebook to find out more and we will be chatting to them soon to discover what else they will be offering our city - be sure to check the site to get those answers.

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Wednesday 1 April 2015

Café René's 12th Birthday Party

Café René, Gloucester

Richard Jones

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Feast of Fiddles

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Alex Rainsford, Lesley Roley & Charlie Bath

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Thursday 2 April 2015

The Humdrum Express

Piccolo's, 48 Load Street, Bewdley

Maz Mitrenko

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dead City Ruins (Australia), Whipping Princess (Sweden),

The Bad Flowers

Iron Road, Evesham

Little Comets

Guildhall, Gloucester

Friday 3 April 2015

The Pink Diamond Revue

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Riffs, Eccles Breed

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Players

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Delray Rockets

The Actress & Bishop, Birminghamham

3 Bands £3 featuring Wave + 2 more TBC

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jay & Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

Mr Ben

Drummonds, Worcester

The Works

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Outcasts

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Soul Strutters

Café René, Gloucester

Luke Doherty Band

The Old Bush, Callow End

Reign of Fury, Fury, Fortress

Iron Road, Evesham

Steve Ajao Blues Giants

Queens Head, Wolverley

Time Of The Mouth

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Jazz Festival - Triple Sec Trio

Great Malvern Hotel

Mel and Him

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Celeon French Night

The Chestnut, Worcester

Rattlesnake Jake

Moochers, Stourbridge

The Animators

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Saturday 4 April 2015

"Skank a Mania 2" Featuring Stiff Joints, Counting Coins,

Tree House Fire, Broken 3 Ways

Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Rubies

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Tom Forbes

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Bridge, Stanford Bridge, Worcestershire

The Executives

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Policed

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Come Together

Cross Keys, Malvern

The Doonicans

Berkeley Arms, 8 Church street, Tewkesbury

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Keith and the Alchemists,

Harlem Dandy

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

The Players

The Unicorn, Malvern

The Jazz Singers

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Rhino and the Ranters

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Reload

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Roving Crows

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Policed (Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Laurence Jones Band

Iron Road, Evesham

Jazz Festival - Dutch Lewis

Great Malvern Hotel

Jasper in the Company of Others

The Chestnut, Worcester

Otis Mack and the Tubby Bluesters

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Straight Aces

Callow End Club, Worcester

Danadra

Stroud Brewery

Sunday 5 April 2015

"Rockabilly Riot 2" Ten Bob Millionaire, Big Bloaters One Man

Band, The Bravo Boys, The Kings of Hong Kong

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dave C

4 until 7
White Bear, Tewkesbury

A Double Dose of Blues With Brothers Groove and V

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Wet Desert

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Bon Jovi Experience

Iron Road, Evesham

Vo Fletcher & Tyler Massey - 5.30

The Chestnut, Worcester

Birds In Row, Bastion, Artemis, A Werewolf

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Jazz Alchemy + Guest

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Tommy Allen & Johnny Hewitt

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 6 April 2015

Benefit Blues Bash - Brothers Groove, Big Wolfe Band, Thirsty

Work, Steve Ajaos Blues Giants, Paul, Steadman Band, Hijack,

Tom Martin, Tom Walker Trio (3 until late)

The Swan Inn, Upton Warren, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 8 April 2015

Mary Spender

Café René, Gloucester

Murmur

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Thursday 9 April 2015

John Cooper Clarke

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Limehouse Lizzy

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Spoken Word and Performance Poetry

The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Feast of Fiddles

The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Keith Thompson Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Faithful City Presents - The Lion And The Wolf,

Ian McIntosh, Ben Sir, Tina V, Scott Howland

Drummonds, Worcester

Joe Lynn Turner

Iron Road, Evesham

Limehouse Lizzy

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel

Slap Mag presents Melvin Hancox

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Ian Luther

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 10 April 2015

Neck, Flat Stanley

Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Chuck Harriet Trio

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

The Bridge, Bridge Street, Stourport on Severn

The Magoos

Drummonds, Worcester

Woo Town Hillbillies

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Remi Harris Project

Soudley Village Hall, Gloucestershire

Tasha Kuiper

The Pheasant, Worcester

Faunt: Tidy Boys, Shaun William, Chris Harris, Russell Priest

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chuck Harriet Band
Ginger Pig Cafe, Worcester

The Core
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

All Or Nothing
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Bad Cats
Millers Arms, Pershore

ELO Experience
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Regime
Café René, Gloucester

Callback
The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Vena Cava, Repo Man, The Brackish, DeeJ Dhariwal
Scarycanary The Venue, Stourbridge

Sarah Warren
The Old Bush, Callow End

Band Slam - Erica Band vs Hell's Addiction/Bitter Divide
Iron Road, Evesham

Suzi & The Backbeats
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Wrens
Great Malvern Hotel

Red Line Ratio, Mallen, Victory Lane
Moochers, Stourbridge

Brooke Sharkey & Adam Beattie, Emi McDade, Ben Cipolla
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Troy Redfern
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Andy Fairweather Low and The Lowriders
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

DJ Yoda presents Breakfast of Champions
Guildhall, Gloucester

Saturday 11 April 2015

The Cracked Actors
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Rubies
Charlton Kings Social Club, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

Black Treacle
Cross Keys, Malvern

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Howl, Beardmore, Spirit Kreek
Scruffy Murphys, Newton Street, Dale End, Birmingham

TNT All-Nighter
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Thunder Road
Berkeley Arms, 8 Church street, Tewkesbury

The Starving Rascals
The Talbot, Bromyard Road, Knightwick

The Jack Hammer Blues Band
The Unicorn, malvern

The Phil Beer Band
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Slowburner
Callow End Club, Worcetser

The Executives
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

David Rattenbury
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

2 Dollar Salad
The Plough, Upton

Zeppelin 3
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Hi Jack
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Jo Enright
Artrix Studio, Bromsgrove

The Upbeat Beatles
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Skam, New Babylon, No Glory
Iron Road, Evesham

True Colours with Jayne & Andre
Queens Head, Wolverley

Mel and Him 80s Night
Great Malvern Hotel

Reload
Cross Keys, Malvern

Pewke Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Rhino & The Ranters
Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Got The T-Shirt
Moochers, Stourbridge

Voodoo Blue
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Screaming Dead
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Complete Madness
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

44 SLAP APRIL

Luke Spooner
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

A Celebration of English Music
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Ghost Trail
Stroud Brewery

Sunday 12 April 2015

Paul Keys 4 untill 7
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Loz Rabone
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Rita Payne
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Lazy Sunday 12-5pm Lumi HD, Antelope, Call Me Unique, Sally Haines
Café Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester

The Richard Clarke Band
The Old Bush, Callow End

James Hickman - 5.30
The Chestnut, Worcester

Bretforton Silver Band
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Slowburner
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 14 April 2015

Toyah and The Humans
Guildhall, Gloucester

Wednesday 15 April 2015

Boundless Brothers
Café René, Gloucester

Davina & The Vagabonds
Iron Road, Evesham

"Chatson" Craig Boston
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Duke Special
Guildhall, Gloucester

Thursday 16 April 2015

Steelyard Blues
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Last Great Dreamers
Iron Road, Evesham

2000 Trees/UoG Showcase
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Friday 17 April 2015

Tiger Provence
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

Tom Forbes
The Pheasant, Worcester

The Official Receivers
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Cantaloop, Dale Von Minaker
St George's Hall, Load St, Bewdley

Quarter Stone
The Venue, Gaol Street, Hereford

An Evening With Bob ft Vo & Tyler, Connie Gordon
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Official Receivers
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Protocol
The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Core
Drummonds, Worcester

Max Boyce
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Remi Harris Project
Red Marley Village Hall, The Causeway, Gloucester

Zoe Green (Blues Band)
The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

The Notorious Bros
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dilemma Council
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Classic Clapton
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Muchos Tequilas Later + support
Café René, Gloucester

Stripped Down Blues
The Old Bush, Callow End

Band Slam 2nd SF - Black Russian vs White Pigeon
Iron Road, Evesham

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Steve Nash
Great Malvern Hotel

The Grimaldi Band
The Barn Owl, Worcester

D-Ran D-Ran
Moochers, Stourbridge

Captain Accident & The Disasters, Waiting For Kate, Frazer Lepford
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Steelyard Blues Band
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Mike Hurst and The Springfields
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Blondie & Bowie
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Saturday 18 April 2015

The Delray Rockets, Skewwhiff, Nigel Clark, Woo Town Hillbillies
Worcester Cathedral, College Hall, Worcester

Mister Wolf
The Swan Inn, 76-78 Port Street, Evesham

Sax Appeal
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Dan Browne
Berkeley Arms, 8 Church street, Tewkesbury

Charity Soul & Motown Night - Dancefloor Deluxe + Les Wright
Cross Keys, Malvern

Colin Baggs
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Tower Studios presents: 3Sixty, Stone Cold Killers, Blackoutsun
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Only By Design, No Strings Attached, Two Faced Tom & The Bootleg Boys
The Civic, St Martins Way, Stourport-on-Severn

Otis Mack and the Tubby Busters
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Abbie Fairley's debut night
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Mia and the Blackhawks
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Blue Eyed Beggars
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Treorchy Male Choir
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Nightshift
Callow End, Club, Worcester

Shynne
Iron Road, Evesham

Penny White
Great Malvern Hotel

Fizzi
The Unicorn, Malvern

Dan Browne
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Culture Shock, The Sporadics, Alcohol Licks
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dancefloor Deluxe, DJ Lofty Wright
Cross Keys, Malvern

Arboretum Residents Association Funday
The Chestnut, Worcester

Barry Cooder & The Sharks
The Chestnut, Worcester

Blind Lemon
Moochers, Stourbridge

Sly and The Family Drone, Cuddle Squad, Yespleaseyep, Black Savile

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Almonry Folk Weekend
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Cloudbursting
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Moscow Drug Club
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Gav and Nat
Stroud Brewery

Sunday 19 April 2015

Curved Air, Glowpeople
Robin2, Bilston

Bryn 4 to 7
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Matt Bowen
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Delray Rockets (afternoon)
The Actress & Bishop, B'ham

Faithful City presents - Creeper, Vault Of Eagles, Lanterns, Chase The Deer
Marrs Bar, Worcester

Will Killeen - 5.30
The Chestnut, Worcester

Maddy Prior
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

Sons of The Delta
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 20 April 2015

Maddy Prior, Hannah James and Giles Lewin
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 21 April 2015

The Ben Poole Band
Iron Road, Evesham

Wednesday 22 April 2015

Mary & Browne
Café René, Gloucester

Grumpy Old Guitarists
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Thursday 23 April 2015

Paddy Steer, Nat Gavin, Shambolix, I Am Legendary Robot (Belgium), Museum Of Women, Ghosts In The Photographs, Shah Abbas & Richard Scott

The Roadhouse Birmingham, Lifford Lane, Stirchley

Sly & The Family Drone, Pink Violence, Hipflask Virgins, The Rusty Knives
The Firefly, Worcester

Elliot Morris
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gerry and the Pacemakers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Los Bastardos Finlandeses, 3Sixty
Iron Road, Evesham

The Delray Rockets
New Inn, Claines

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

Lady and The Sax
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

4 Parts Guitar
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Friday 24 April 2015

Mister Wolf
The Bell, Worcester

The Capital
Copcut, Worcester Road, Droitwich

TV Smith, Skewwhiff, The Humdrum Express
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Future Set
Berkeley Arms, 8 Church street, Tewkesbury

Terminal Rage
Crown & Septre, Market Place, Ross-on-Wye

The After Dark Band
Event House, Worcester

The Underdogs
Drummonds, Worcester

Tyler Massey
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Davey Rocks
The Pheasant, Worcester

Paul Jeffery Album Launch with Paul Rose, Jenny Ludlow
Sofa Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester

Spiro
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Remi Harris Project
Quenington Village Hall, The Green, Quenington, Cirencester

Dan Greenaway
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Retroreflector
Millers Arms, Pershore

The Manic Shine
Café René, Gloucester

Clinic, Miss Halliwell
Scarycanary The Venue, Stourbridge

Lenny James and the Gator Squad
The Old Bush, Callow End

Achilles Last Stand (Led Zeppelin Tribute)
The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Ruf Records Blues Caravan 2015 - Girls With Guitars
Iron Road, Evesham

Delray Rockets
Queens Head, Wolverley

Tyler Massey
Great Malvern Hotel

The Future Set
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Mr George's Famous Last Words + support
Moochers, Stourbridge

XL5
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Danny Vincent
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Astaria String Quartet - Inspired by Folk
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Dom Pipkin
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Saturday 25 April 2015

Seventh Era & guests
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mister Wolf
The New Inn, 75 High Street, Pershore

Stripped Down Blues
Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcester

Flatworld, Tyler Massey, Connie Gordon
Saint Peters Church, Malvern

Chuck Harriet Quintett
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

I Am Legendary Robot (Belgium), More TBC
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

DNA
Cross Keys, Malvern

Woo Town Hillbillies - Album Launch
Rise Records, Malvern

Woo Town Hillbillies
The Unicorn, Malvern

Aquarius
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

The Red Line Blues
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Worcester Record Fair and CD Fairs
Guildhall High Street, Worcester

The Pleasuredome
The Ambassador, Evesham

Riff Raff, Dizzy Lizzy
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Citizen X
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Planet Rock UK, Dan Greenaway
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Stewart Francis
Forum Theatre, Malvern

Artrix 10th Birthday Celebration (see page 39)
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Back:N:Black The Girls Who Play AC/DC + Western Sand
Iron Road, Evesham

The Trench Choir Evening Singalong
Great Malvern Hotel

XL5
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Works
The Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Still Crazy
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Rock Anthems
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Albert Hammond
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project
Heightington Village Hall, Heightington

Mumbo Jumbo
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Anon Amos
Stroud Brewery

Sunday 26 April 2015

Woo Town Hillbillies - Album Launch
The Chestnut, Worcester

Marc Drew 4 to 7
White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Wondering Road
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Perry Foster
The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

Swingtime Guitars
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Flowers Brass Band
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Warren James
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 28 April 2015

Sunjay
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Polar, Blood Youth, Black Art, Headcase
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

4 Parts Guitar - Guitarmageddon
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wednesday 29 April 2015

Quadrupede (France), Deathly Pale Party
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Black, Jake Morley
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Luke Philbrick + Damon T
Café René, Gloucester

The Ambivalent (USA), Super Bee (USA)
Iron Road, Evesham

Daniel Seth
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Thursday 30 April 2015

The Madi Stimpson Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Seann Walsh
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Synergy Protocol
Iron Road, Evesham

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

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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

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, Guarlford

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

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marr's Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

Every Thurs - Open Mic with Dave Onions

Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

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

Catsfill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Every 1st & 3rd 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

Every 4th Thurs - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

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

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

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

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

Arts & Exhibitions

2nd Creative life drawing, Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster

4th NT live Hamlet (via satellite,) The Courtyard, Hereford

5th Vintage Wedding Fair, Guildhall, Worcester 11am

9th & 15th Trash, (Brazil's Slumdog Millionaire), Pershore No 8

14th Mouth & Music, Boars Head Kidderminster 7.30pm

14th Exhibition on Screen, Van Gogh, Courtyard Hereford

15th Artist talk Movement Gallery, Plt 2, Foregate St Station, Worcs

16th NT live The Hard Problem (via satellite) Pershore No 8

17th European Arts Theatre Company presents The Picture of

Dorian Gray The Courtyard Hereford 7.30pm

18th Cloth of the World, Fetch Theatre, Malvern Cube 6pm

19th Jump Start Theatre Showcase Malvern Cube 7.30pm

21st Jump Start arts social The Old Rectifying House 7.30pm

22nd Artist talk, Movement Gallery, Plt 2, Foregate St Station, Worcs

23rd Hamlet (via satellite) Pershore No 8 7pm

24th/25th Fissiparous Theatre Company present The Strange Case

of Jekyll and Hyde The Courtyard, Hereford 7.30pm

25th Wasters Pershore No 8.

26th If Wet Radio Pipe Organs Sound At Radio 2-4pm

26th Ovary Acting present Not Fast Enough Malvern Cube 6pm

27th Rutherford Dance Company (RDC), Never Going Home Again

Artrix, Bromsgrove FREE

28th The Whispering Road (song, music, spoken word) Malvern Cube

Exhibitions this month

Made in Metal, Ed Cartwright Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

Disrupted, various artists, MAC Birmingham

Cut it Out, Street Art, Gloucester City museum

Until 26th Made By Hand, Indian book-making, The Hive Worcester

17th-24th Test Space, 3D installations by Chris Fordwoh, Spike

Island, Bristol

From 24th Artists for Ikon, 50 years of the Ikon Gallery Birmingham

THE MARR'S BAR

APR
MAY 2015

Laurence Jones
Saturday 2nd May



Friday 3rd April
3 Bands £3 featuring Wave + 2 more

Saturday 4th April
Policed (Police tribute)
£7 a ticket £9 on the door

Thursday 9th
Limehouse Lizzy (Thin Lizzy tribute)
£11 in advance

Friday 10th April
Flaunt DJs - Tidy Boys plus Shaun Williams, Chris Harris & Russell Priest
£10 a ticket

Saturday 11th April
TNT All Nighter
£5 on the door

Friday 17th April
The Official Receivers
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 18th April
Tower Studios presents: 3Sixty, Stone Cold Killers, Blackoutsun
£5 on the door

Sunday 19th April
Faithful City Shows #4: Creeper, Vault of Eagles, Lanterns, Chase The Deer
£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Friday 24th April
Hanging Tree
£4 on the door
Oh the Humanity House & Bass 12 - 4am
Pelikann + Support
£5 on the door

• **Saturday 25th April**
• **Riff Raff + Dizzy Lizzy**
• £7 a ticket £10 on the door

• **Friday 1st May**
• **Cougar**

• **Saturday 2nd May**
• **Laurence Jones, The Rainbreakers**
• £8 a ticket £10 on the door

• **Saturday 9th May**
• **Jasper In The Company Of Others, Alex Rainsford, Andy Oliveri & The Mountaineers**
• **Richard Clarke & The Rafters**
• £5 a ticket £7 on the door

• **Sunday 10th May**
• **Whetherman, Rita Payne**
• £5 a ticket £7 on the door

• **Saturday 16th May**
• **Massive Head Trauma, Doctor Wolfe**
• TBC

• **Thursday 21st May**
• **Gaz Brookfield, Connor Maher, Ethan Ash**
• £6 a ticket £8 on the door

• **Saturday 23rd May**
• **Sam's Town (Killers tribute)**

• **Sunday 24th May**
• **Machine Breakers, Pete Watkins Originals**
• £6 on the door

• **Friday 29th May**
• **On The House 2nd Birthday**

• **Sunday 31st May**
• **Faithful City Shows #6: Lock And Key, Boxkite, Carving A Giant, Fractures**
• £4 a ticket £6 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night
Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

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