

SLAP

Issue 47

May 2015

MAGAZINE



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May 2015 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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One of the hardest things about running SLAP mag is what to 'leave out' on deadline day. The advertising keeps growing which enables us to get bigger and to keep this as a free and valid publication. We've gone back up to 56 pages this month and still there's not enough room between the covers to feature everything that goes on in this area.

I was going to highlight the many brilliant festivals we have on our doorstep but with so many to choose from it's impossible to cover everything. The major festivals like **Lunar, Lakefest, Nozstock & Wychwood** all have full page ads within but there are many more. Just to give you an example - this month we have **Out to Grass** at Malvern, The **Stourbridge Blues**. The **Breaking Bands** Nr Bromsgrove, **Lechlade, Severn Sounds, Jinney Ring Blues, Wychwood** at Cheltenham, **Hellens Music** at Much Marcle and a good few more besides. Certainly something for everyone there but I just know I'll be told off for leaving some out...

Our listings pages are getting ever more cramped due to the sheer volume of numbers which is a great problem to have, especially when reading glasses come at a reasonably low cost these days! A big thank you as usual to our ever growing army of contributors to these pages, and of course our distributors, all without whom this publication would be nothing.

Our cover features local legend **Miles Hunt** along with **Erica Nockles of The Wonder Stuff**. You can read what Miles had to say to SLAP ahead of their show at **The Cube** in Malvern which we are very excited about.

By the time you next read my editors notes we will have a new government hopefully, so we can see an end to austerity and the increasing financial divide then maybe we can enjoy this lovely spring weather we've been experiencing. That said, I'm off for a beer in the sunshine...

Abscond - Ed



BBC introducing...



Collective 43 out and about!

Worcester/West Midlands multi-instrumentalist New Orleans street influenced combo **Collective 43** can be seen getting up to their creative mischief this month, as they prepare for a summer of pop up gigs in the sunshine! First up, Digbeth's **Swingamajig Festival** on Sunday 3rd for the second year, bringing you a merry mix of funk up brass and beats with their unique style. Then look out for them at **How The Light Gets In Festival**, Hay on Wye on Saturday 30th; taking their playful performance to this quirky Philosophy and music festival.



If you miss them, then look out for June 14th in the park in Worcester's Arboretum at the **Canal Festival!**

Blind Man Sets Up Business To Help Community

Real Impact Music are a non-profit making Community Interest Company set up in January 2015. All profits go back into the community to help sustain the projects and the work that we do. The aim is to bring people of different backgrounds, communities and cultures together through music.

We utilise music in a fun, creative and accessible way, with the aim to empower, raise self esteem/confidence and break down feelings of isolation. We give participants the opportunity to reach their full potential whilst working along side organisations to help them achieve their objectives.



www.realimpactmusic.co.uk

www.facebook.com/realimpactmusic

www.twitter.com/realimpactmusic

www.linkedin.com/company/real-impact-music-cic

Market Opportunity

Chris Bates, Events co-ordinator for the new generation markets that are popping up all over the city, wants street performers, artists and musicians to get in touch.

With a number of events in production including the **Worcester Victorian fayre, Sunday upmarket, Bank holiday Quayside, Festival markets & Christmas switch-on.**

There is plenty of room for all styles, shapes and grooves to play, entertain and generally make a few bob. So email chris@lsdpromotions.com with your info & rates and become part of a new generation Worcester.

More info on the markets can be found at:

www.worcestercitymarkets.co.uk

The great Comberton Hill Paste-Up

Comberton Hill in Kidderminster has become a place of change over the last 5 years, with a range of subway art projects transforming it into a more welcoming space than it was previously. It has also inspired the **Above Boards** event outside the Boars Head



every August. As part of this year's **Kidderminster Arts Festival**, Comberton Hill Subway is getting a make-over!

Linking with the major reworking of the Town Centre and the **KAF** theme for 2015, 'Transformation', the subway will become a documentary of the architecture that will change, disappear or be revealed as part of this process. This will be achieved through the combined efforts of a large number of local photographers.



KAF are asking for photographers to produce black and white images of the elements of the town's architecture, looking for details that might normally be overlooked along with the obvious iconic images to create a striking montage. These images will be printed and pasted onto the Subway's wall.

This is your invitation to get involved and help transform Kidderminster together.

Photographers can email images which must be at least 75dpi (but 150dpi is preferred) and black and white only (use WeTransfer.com for larger) to loz.samuels@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or delivered on a c.d to Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster DY11 7 WF. Deadline close of business 03.06.15 early submissions will be prioritised.

The Big Print Shop has kindly agreed to support KAF through substantially reducing printing costs for this project.

...and they're off!!

Worcester Racecourse is holding a music evening featuring one of the biggest 90s bands to emerge from the Manchester scene - **James** - who had hits with *Sit Down, Laid* and *She's A Star* are celebrating 25 years of touring and are still fronted by original member **Tim Booth** - they'll be playing on the Centre Course after the race meeting on Wed 19th August.

It's 11:11 & time for a Burger!

Burger-van owner **Carl Sampson** says his appearance on Channel 4's **Burger Bar To Gourmet Star** has been 'life-changing and bonkers' - and the experience of working at Michelin-starred restaurants has brought burger fans from far and wide to sample his wares - he'll also be performing with his band **11:11** at **MappFest** on Saturday 20 June!

Faithful Sell Out

Worcester promoters **Faithful City Shows** say they are overwhelmed with how fast their latest venture to bring well-known bands to the city has sold out! Welsh emo-rockers **Funeral For A Friend** play the Marris Bar on Sunday 7 June for the seventh FCS event in recent months and organiser **Lee Jackson** hopes to help build the alternative music scene, make Worcester the go-to place for live music and inspire people to start up new bands - sounds good to us!

Cathedral Chaos Congrats...

There was a cracking turnout for the **Cathedral Chaos** gig in aid of local charities with the **Delray Rockets, Skewwhiff, Nigel Clark** and **Woo Town Hillbillies** playing to an audience of about 350 in College Hall next to the city's stately pile on 18 April - Hillbillies' frontman **Luke Wurml**i said that the idea

for the event came from a chance conversation with one of the Cathedral's canons who agreed that it would make a great change to reach out to a different audience! There's also the small matter of £7,000 raised for childrens' cancer charities via the **Daisychain Benevolent Fund**.

Motown Martha in the Mood



Motown legend **Martha Reeves** says she is looking forward to headlining at **Nozstock Festival** in Bromyard in July - because *'people are there to have a great time and you can hear them singing along with you'* - Martha said that she doesn't plan on stopping performing at the age of 73 as when *'she's not singing she gets bored'* - one not to be missed we think!!

Hooky Pub Hosts Hustings

Landlord of regular local music venue the **Cap 'n' Gown Ted Marshall** said that he was *'incredibly excited'* that the weekly election hustings were the subject of a special feature on BBC1's **The One Show** - with the local candidates managing

to behave themselves in front of the cameras in a relatively good-natured question-and-answer session...

Percy Pops Up!

Led Zeppelin frontman made an unexpected guest appearance at **Ledbury Rotary Club's** recent charity concert - joining Droitwich singer-songwriter **Deborah Rose** and guitarist **Matt Worley** for a rendition of Roy Orbison's *Love Hurts* - Club spokeswoman Jan Long said that they were 'all mesmerised by the rock star in little old Ledbury' - who helped raise over £1000 for Acorns Children's Hospice - whole lotta respect!

Remi Returns

Award-winning 'gypsy-jazz' guitarist **Remi Harris** says he is looking forward to playing a home-town gig at the **Conquest Theatre Bromyard** - fitting it into a packed performing schedule for 2015 that has already included a four-week tour of Australia and a sell-out tour in Devon and Cornwall - Remi's started work on his second album which will integrate *'different styles and different decades of music'* - interesting...

Raw Comedy Extra

More fresh comedy in the foyer with 70s-style cool cat **Masud Milas**, **Adam Partington** - who's performed at the Palace (in Redditch), comedy-club regular **Dave Tomlinson**, Stokes' self-starter **Danny Davies** and the return of **Mass Nokhas** (pronounced "no cash"). **Dave Chawner** is back as MC to open the show, with the refreshingly different **Chris Chopping** to close it. Tickets £4, £5 door - 8pm Fri 15th May www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk/raw-comedy-may-2015

The Queens Head

Wolverley Village | Kidderminster | DY11 5XB

Real Ales - Fine Wines - Traditional Food - Private parties

LIVE MUSIC in MAY

Fri 1st - Smokin Ade Wakelin

Mon 4th - All day open mic
with Pete Kelly 2pm start

Fri 8th - Midnight City

Fri 15th - Mainstream

Fri 22nd - Salopian Dudes

Fri 29th - Live Music to be confirmed

Every Tuesday - Open Mic with Pete Kelly

Sunday Night is Quiz Night 8.00pm

01562 850433 | www.queensheadwolverley.com

Cabinet of Lost Secrets

Clik Clik has some exciting news! A new interactive performance space is being created for the fabulous **Nozstock Festival** for 2015; **Clik Clik** presents 'The Cabinet of Lost Secrets'. It's



up to you to discover whats inside but be prepared for surprises, participation and time travel! Buy your ticket now and come and see what secrets are lurking!

You will also find some **Clik Clik** moustached photobooth shenanigans at **Swingamajig Festival** on Sun 3rd and **Out To Grass** Sat 16th, as well as on board the **Riverside Youth Centre** float once again as part of **Pershore Carnival** on May 25th.
www.clikklikcollective.com



Learn Lindy Hop with Dancefest

This summer, **Dancefest** is teaming up with the **Best of Young Jazz (BoYJ)** project to work with internationally acclaimed Swing dance company, **The Jiving Lindy Hoppers**. The project is open to dancers aged 14+ who have strong dance technique and are experienced at performing in a range of settings.



It begins with a workshop in Worcester on Saturday 2 May, and then over 6 weeks on Wednesday evenings, the group will use elements of contemporary, urban and Lindy Hop dance styles to create a pop up performance inspired by the life of young people during the 1920s and the era's dance crazes. It will be performed as part of the **BoYJ** programme at **Upton Jazz Festival** on 27 June.

The cost to take part in the project is £32. For more information or to book please contact Dancefest on 01905 611199 or at dancefest.co.uk

Number 8 Call for Gallery Submissions



Number 8 is calling for submissions from artists or groups of artists that would like to exhibit their work in the later part of 2015 or in 2016. **Number 8** programmes art exhibitions for blocks of three weeks. The deadline for submissions for 2015 is 12 June 2014, 5pm. If you are an artist or groups of artists interested in exhibiting at **Number 8** for further details and

a Submission Form please email: enquiries@number8.org or visit: www.number8.org/venue/exhibiting/

Images from an Underground Club scene (11 Years) Baracca presents: 'No is E'.



Curated by the Dutch artist and curator **Yvo Van der Vat**, this exhibition brings together for the first time in the UK, contemporary and recent posters and flyers from the Dutch underground music and club scene. This work is notable for its radical and vivid use of traditional printmaking techniques, including screen printing, and mixing these with digital techniques with work from various artists including **Strawdogs & Zeloot'**. The Courtyard, Hereford until Sunday 17th May

Division of Labour

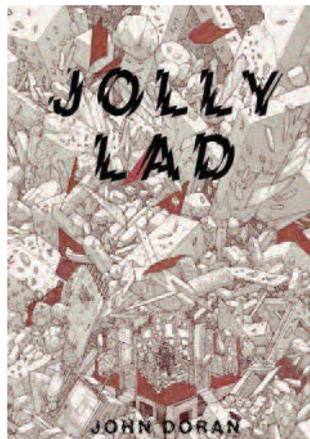
Division of Labour are pleased to announce their first solo presentation in London by West Midlands artist **Andrew Lacon** at **Edel Assanti** until Sat 16th May. For more information visit: www.edelassanti.com



If Wet special

This month **If Wet** is bringing their unique event back to

Callow End Village Hall, being part of **John Doran's (The Quietus)** tour, presenting his new book 'Jolly Lad' to an ambient musical accompaniment from Arabrot. This will be supported by **Sarah Angliss**, paying a visit to **If Wet** again, along with a warm welcome to the poet **Josephine Dickenson**. It's their biggest event to date and a little different to usual, being more performance focused but still with the fabulous home made cake & snacks and local ales.



Sunday 10th May 2pm-4pm. £6

Due to a heightened demand and limited capacity, tickets are available in advance via the website.

www.ifwet.org.uk

Motor Festival

You will be able to take a look at more than 70 historic vehicles in Worcester on Sat 16th with the 9th annual **Worcester Motor Festival**, along with themed stalls, activities, displays and special offers by local businesses. This family friendly event has fun things to see and do for all ages, plus roving street entertainment and live music all making for a colourful atmosphere on Worcester High Street. www.worcesterbid.com/motorfestival

Jump Start Review

On Sunday 19th April, **Malvern Cube** hosted the second **Jump Start Theatre Night**. Jump Start is a new, exciting project hosted by **Worcestershire Arts Partnership** with the aim of showcasing new theatre works by local writers & practitioners. On Sunday, five brand new diverse pieces of theatre were performed to a supportive and appreciative audience at Malvern's fantastic Cube venue. The Cube is currently running a remarkable programme of music & theatre events, many of which feature local artists & organisations - see www.malverncube.com for more details.



Performances were presented by Redditch's Forthright Productions, Birmingham-based writer **Jane Campion Hoye**, Worcester University student Veronique Viellet, performance poet **Lorna Meehan** and Malvern-based theatre company **Ovary Acting**. An evening packed with energy, theatrical innovation, contemporary ideas and passionate critical thinking.

Worcestershire Arts Partnership are planning another event in the Autumn plus summer writing workshops. If you'd like to get involved in the project as a writer, practitioner, performer, designer, technician or audience member please join Jump Start on Facebook. or email lee@perfectcircletheatre.com.

As part of this years Pershore Carnival on Monday 25th, a group of local women, **Dancefest Adults** and students led by choreographer **Marie Oldaker** will be dancing in the streets in a free performance inspired by the role women played in WWI.

Quiet Revolution will be the culmination of a six weeks course at Number 8 incorporating dance, choreography and an opportunity to learn more about women's role in the Great War.

In partnership with **Dancefest & Wychavon District Council**.

TALK TO US

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



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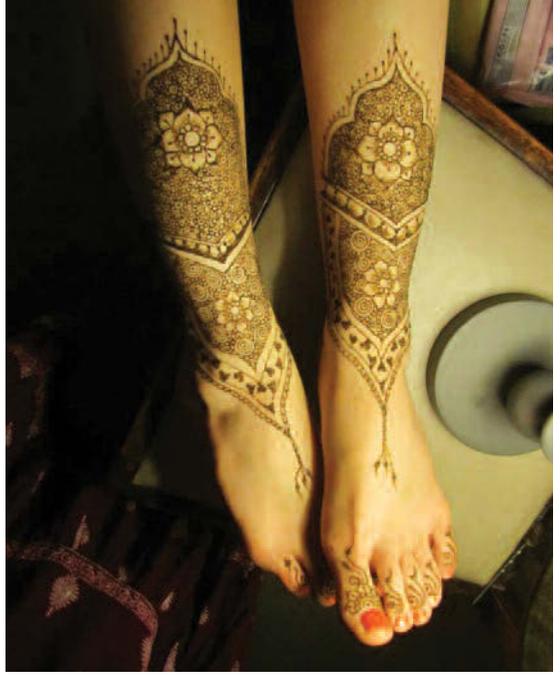
*See our website for latest call charges.

Jamuna Davies

Malvern based **Jamuna Davies** creates henna designs and body art through her company 'Art and Enchantment' whose goal is simple; to enchant the world through art.

As a teenager she loved painting and created art all the time. She got an A in her GCSE art but then decided to give it up because "I struggled to find the 'point' of my art. Yes it was amazing putting all the colours, shapes and ideas together, but what for?"

Then at 22 she started her family and had 2 sons. One day her boys asked her to buy face paints and paint them. So began the love affair with paint once more. She had found the 'reason' for her art. Transforming children and adults. Making magic. Creating smiles and memories. From her passion she also found her profession. Art and Enchantment was born. 5 years or so into this wonderful world of body decoration, Jamuna attended a Face painting conference and met her Henna teacher. Learning this ancient art of temporary body adornment has hugely expanded her art techniques, experiences and what she can offer her customers. Most of



Jamuna's events are on the weekend or evening so in the week she started exploring her art once again on paper, canvas and wood in her garden art shed/studio in Malvern.

"It has been amazing rediscovering my art. When working alone I get to chose what I want to create so that in itself has been interesting. When working for a client they usually lead the way, asking for floral,



geometric, a dragon etc. I have found that I am influenced greatly by my upbringing. I was brought up in the Hare Krishna movement and got to live in amazing places (like Croome Court) it was a colourful, vibrant and spiritual experience and I feel that really comes out in my pieces. We always had peacocks wandering the grounds and I am especially drawn to them, as well as lotus flowers, madalas and yantras.

I am exploring and expanding as an artist at the moment. I love colour and experimenting with oil paint but I also find the henna so exciting and interesting, working only in brown. Henna is all about positive and negative space and line weight; so different to other techniques. Some of my work is a mix of the two. It is so satisfying to create a piece and varnish it, knowing it will last, because so much of my work is ephemeral being on the body.

I have built up a small collection of works but at the moment it is only for sale through coming to my studio or if I attend a craft market. I plan to open a couple of on-line shops and start exhibiting in the next year or so. I have so many ideas in my head.

It is a wonderful journey. I am blessed to be able to share my art and joy with so many."

For more information on Jamuna, her work and bookings, check out her website on www.artandenchantment.co.uk or face book page www.facebook.com/ArtAndEnchantment

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

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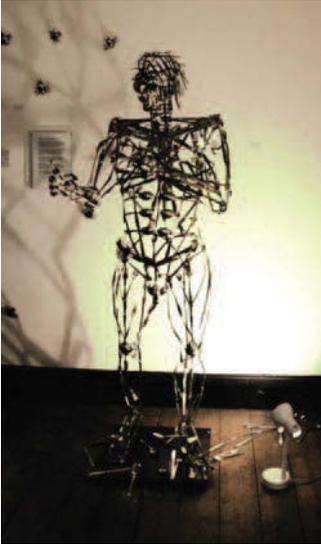
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THE BHG

April at **The Boarshead Gallery** featured an Exhibition from **Ed Cartwright** launching with Live music from Ed himself on saxophone accompanied by his brother John on acoustic and vocals, belting out original tracks like 'Who put Bella in the Elm' to a backdrop of Ed's weird and wonderful sculptures created using old cutlery. His sculptures cast menacing thought

provoking shadows across the gallery walls. The Exhibition featured a life size swan made from of knives, Birds and beetles made from spoons & forks and a life size man created entirely of old cutlery. Ed Cartwright's show



has raised the bar here at The BHG and we highly recommend you try to see this touring show if you get the chance.

Looking forward to May @ The BHG we have **Life Drawing** on the 7th starting at 7pm hosted by Coz. We have **TMA Stencil workshop** on 30th May from 2 till 6 at £5 pp. We also have other workshops through out May like **Chilli Con Carne Circus skills workshop** please check:



www.facebook.com/thebhg - for more details and bookings.

It's hotting up outside and we are looking forward to this years **Boarshead Fringe** festival and **Above Boards Paint Jam** - 3 days of live music, street party and open air painting. We have now confirmed the line up of artists painting at this years festival which is out of this world so watch this space for more details and keep an eye out for the official **Kidderminster Arts Festival** brochure with a jam packed schedule of Arts activities to see and get involved with this summer. Upcoming Shows at the **BHG** include, **Dave Simpson & Concrete Jungle of Dreams**.

Usual Gallery opening times Thurs 12 pm till Late. Fri 12 pm till Late, Sat 12 pm till Late all other viewings by appointment, For more information call 07982123339 or check out:

www.facebook.com/thebhg

www.facebook.com/theboarsheadkidderminster

Photos by Safron Toms

MOUTH & MUSIC

Love in the time of Revolutions



At Mouth and Music on Tuesday 12th May, former Birmingham Poet Laureate **Roy McFarlane** will take the audience on a journey from the 80s to the present day, infused with love. In a set called "Love in the time of Revolutions" Roy will be joined by pianist **Steve Tromans** bringing to life the works of John Coltrane, Gil Scott Heron and Nina Simone. As usual, local poets, storytellers and musicians can sign up for open mic spots on the night from

7.00pm. The event, at the **Boars Head**, Kidderminster, starts at 7.30pm. See www.mouthandmusic.co.uk for more details.

SPOKEN WORD & ACOUSTIC MUSIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
TUESDAY 12th MAY 7:30PM

REVOLUTION

Love In The Time Of Revolutions
a journey from the 80s to the present day infused with love

Poet Laureate Roy McFarlane
with Steve Tromans

OPEN MIC SIGN UP FROM 7pm

Theme: Revolution

MC SABAH TAMAR
£3 (FREE TO PERFORMERS)

The Boars Road, 39 Worcester St, Kidderminster, DY10 1EW
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www.mouthandmusic.co.uk www.facebook.com/mouthandmusic

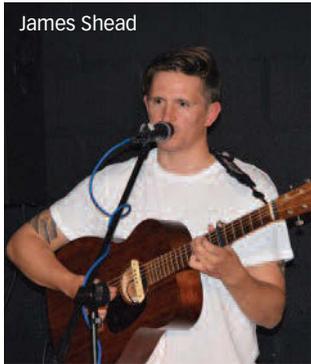


worcester arts workshop



The sun has got his hat on! And with the weather staying dry the first **Lazy Sunday** of the year was a huge success! We had a fantastic turn out and everyone enjoyed a chilled afternoon of good company, good food and drink and amazing music.

The £3 entry charge meant we could bring in some top quality music, so thank you Worcester folk, we really appreciate the support. **Café Bliss** is already planning the next **Lazy Sunday** for you lovely people, taking place on Sunday 10th May from 12-6pm. We can't wait for the return of **James Shead**, Cornish singer-songwriter, who uses percussive lap tapping, guitar and powerful story telling songs. We also have music from **Eeek**, an all-female acoustic group providing warm vocals and soulful harmonies. Also performing is **Elektric** and **Phephe**...



James Shead

Last month we welcomed the brilliant **Spotlight Theatre Society** from the University of Worcester, performing "Is He Dead" but we have more fantastic theatre in May from **Spaniel in the Works**, performing "Nothing Changes". This powerful socialist production offers debate around the need for living wage and questions a lack of understanding from those in power. Come along at 7:30pm on 1st May. Tickets £10 Adults/£7 Concessions, more information can be found at: www.spanielworks.co.uk

Shindig return to **WAW** with the **Buffalo Gals Stampede**, and we are very, very excited!! The Buffalo Gals showcase a stunning performance of percussive step-dance and virtuoso musicianship, blended together in perfect harmony. Performing music from the Southern Appalachian region of the United States, the Buffalo Gals bring the spirit and passion of American roots music to life in their exciting show. This performance is electrifying – fast, furious, foot-stomping, high-kicking, rubber-jointed, percussive entertainment at its most dynamic! As an extra treat they have agreed to do a workshop too, so get your clogs on and come on down! It all kicks off on



Sunday May 3rd with the workshop at 4.30pm-6pm and show at 7:30pm. Workshop is just £4 with the show at £10 Adults/£8 Children (under 16). For more information visit: www.buffalogals.co.uk

10 SLAP MAY

On Saturday 23rd May our friends at the internationally acclaimed **Vamos Theatre** are providing a mask making day, from 10am-5pm for just £40. This is a fantastically worthwhile day and you keep your finished mask. For more details contact Vamos Theatre on 01905 312921 or visit: www.vamostheatre.co.uk/

Also on 23rd May we have a rare opportunity for all you budding film-makers. **Random Acts** has a partnership between Channel 4 and Arts Council England; established in 2011 as Channel 4's platform for short art films. **The Rural Media Company** (based in Hereford) is the Random Acts Network Centre for the West Midlands and is offering 16-24 year olds an exciting package of activity. This includes education, training and production support to create high quality short films for the Channel 4 Random Acts online platform and television strand. Rural Media are looking for a wide range of young creative talent, with ideas drawn from diverse art forms; from music to animation, dance to poetry and anything in between! On this day you can meet experienced artists, talk about your ideas and find out more about how to apply. We are thrilled to be hosting the Worcester workshop and look forward to meeting all of you talented, creative film-makers! The workshop will run from 10am-4pm and is free to attend. For more information about **Random Acts in the Midlands** and for further details about the **Activate workshops**, contact: www.ruralmedia.co.uk 01432 344039 or email: juliec@ruralmedia.co.uk

All of our courses are now up and running and more information can be found on our website:

www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

For more details about events or courses please get in touch on 01905 25053

LAZY SUNDAY

Elektric
Eeek
Phephe
James Shead

10TH MAY '15

£3 ENTRY
DOORS OPEN 12PM

Live music starts at 1pm - 6pm

21 Sansome St, WR1 1UH

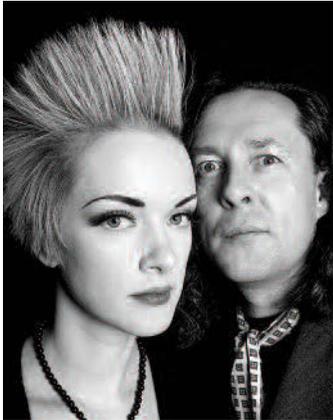
<http://www.cafebliss.moonfruit.co.uk/>




We have really hit the ground running with our new **Weekend Cube** event organisers here at **Malvern Cube** and we've got a rather eclectic line up of events for your this May thanks to **Becky** of **Baba Jack**, **Christian** of **CFSPresents**, **Michelle** and **Tiff** from **Reaction Theatre** and **Sophie** of **SoJoSounds**.



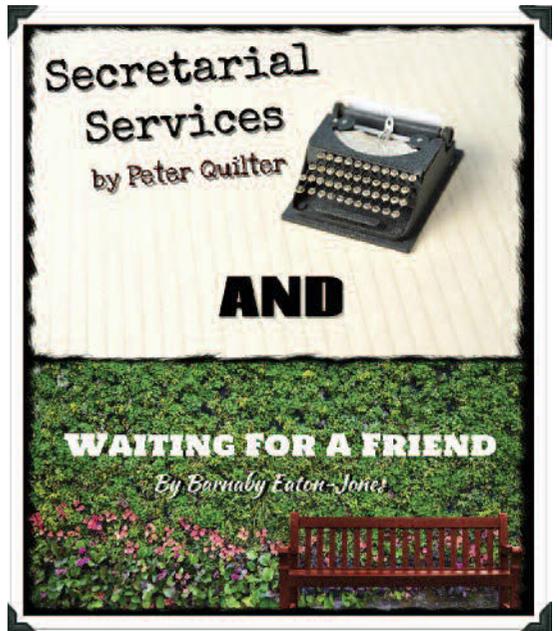
After the madness of April our **Trance Dance** event - **Intuitive Healing with Live Music** - is a great way to unwind on Friday 8th May. **Rishi Vlote** and **Tarisha Seligman** lead this **Trance Dance** and provide the live music. The music is full of rhythm, ethnic sounds and chants. It's a call of the wild, it's a journey inwards; a time of vision and healing. To complement this trance session we have the **Singing Medicine Circle** on Saturday 9th May at 9.30am where you will venture in the world of song and sound around the sacred altar of life, honouring the elements and all their qualities. It is healing, restorative and delightfully simple. Entry to each event is £20 (tickets available on the door).



Live music this month kicks off with The Wonder Stuff's **Miles Hunt and Erica Nockalls** on Friday 22nd May! **Miles Hunt**, the lead singer and songwriter from Stourbridge indie-rockers **The Wonder Stuff**, started his solo career after the band split in the mid 90's. The Stuffies re-formed in 2000, and Miles has continued to tour as both a solo artist as

well as with the band. Known for his dry wit as well as his songwriting talents, expect some banter, new songs and acoustic versions of a few Wonder Stuff favourites. **Erica Nockalls**: a graduate of Birmingham's Conservatoire of Music more recently became The Wonder Stuff's new fiddle player. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see Miles and Erica live, in Malvern, at the **Malvern Cube**.

We're supporting a charity theatre performance from **Off Stage Theatre** by **Peter Quilter** and **Barnaby Eaton Jones** who will be performing two one-act plays on Saturday 23rd May. *'Secretarial Services'* by **Peter Quilter** tells the story of Barrie and Janet his personal assistant. Discussing getting



older, marriage and love (or Janet's lack of it), it is clear that she would be quite content to settle down with Barrie. Unfortunately, Barrie is more interested in men, but that doesn't stop him from booking them both on a cruise as a birthday present to himself. This version is being directed by **Lloyd Morgans**. *'Waiting for a Friend'* by **Barnaby Eaton-Jones** tells us **Norman Fairbanks** story, a man who likes the outdoors. A creature of habit, he spends every lunchtime on the same park bench and eats his neatly-packed lunch. There's nothing Norman likes more than to talk and, within the course of this lunchtime, his unexpected companions on his favourite bench get a bit more than they bargained for when they briefly enter his domain. The second of these one-act plays features the original award-winning actors, **Bob Roberts** and **Kim Jones**, in the roles they originated.

Finishing off May with a **BANG** is **Sheelanagig!** Coming to **Malvern Cube** live on Friday 29th May, this really is one show not to be missed - *'A completely top night out'* (Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2). Sheelanagig deliver intricate, rhythmically complex arrangements of original and traditional works



drawing influences from the folk music of Europe and beyond. Formed in early 2005 the band had an instant chemistry, gained a considerable following and quickly earned a reputation for their exhilarating and intense live performances. This high octane group of incredible players force you to dance your socks off and have a great time.

Tickets and additional info available from: www.malverncube.com/

The Purple Shades

An exciting new local band **The Purple Shades** are in with a chance of winning a £100,000 recording agreement with **Negart Records Ltd**, as they have entered a national competition "A Brand New Artist for Christmas 2015". Previously won by Partisan and Ellie Butler, this competition aims to find an excellent recording artist with the ultimate goal of the Christmas Number 1 in The Official Singles Chart.

Three of this teenage group, **Dylan Boddy** (lead vocals/rhythm guitar), **Sam Hennerley** (drums) & **Charlie Brooks** (bass) met at Pershore High School, have been together since 2011 and were joined in 2014 by lead guitarist



George Bowles. Their style is alternative rock/indie/pop punk, they write and self produce original material whilst having an excellent repertoire of covers.

Their first album "*Wit of the Staircase*" was released in 2014, with the first single "*Addicted to You*" being recently launched at a self-promoted Pershore Town Football Club gig and by the time you read this they will have also played at O2 Academy in Brum.



With an extensive programme of gigs & festivals lined up for the rest of 2015, together with working on new original songs and entering the competition, these are indeed exciting times for **The Purple Shades**.

Important to their development has been the support from **M.A.S Records**, a programme founded by **Kevyn Gammond** (ex-Band of Joy) with **Robert Plant & Karl Hyde** (Underworld) as its patrons. M.A.S continues to provide the band and others like them with rehearsal and recording time, experience and advice.

To discover more about **The Purple Shades** and their music visit their website: www.thepurpleshades.com.

To find out more about the competition and how to vote for The Purple Shades go to: www.brand-new-artist.com

ep Review **Fires That Divide**

In less than a year **Fires That Divide** have made some serious inroads into the local music scene and it seems that a national breakthrough could be just around the corner now the band have issued their first e.p.

The duo of **Kirk Shuttleworth** on lead vocal & guitar and



Steve Norton on lead guitar were joined by **Marc Harris** on drums and **Steve Knight** on bass last July and following intense rehearsals, made their live debut shortly afterwards in September. Prior to this, all of them had pedigrees in former outfits with both Kirk and Steve Norton being drummers for **Martyr De Mona** and **Blood**

Moon Sirens respectively, Marc was drummer with **Regis** and **Steve Knight** played guitar for **And She Said**. As you can see by this, the band are all proficient on different instruments and **Fires That Divide's** initial early gigs prior to last July were as an acoustic duo. Since then the band have played at many venues such as Wolverhampton's **The Slade Rooms** and **Katie Fitzgerald's** in **Stourbridge**: they also sold out the **Birmingham Academy 3**.

With a combination of a **Led Zeppelin** influenced rhythm section and leaning towards an overall sound reminiscent of the harder end of early 90's grunge (think **Seether**, **Soundgarden**, **Alice In Chains**, **Stone Temple Pilots**), it's refreshing that the e.p. does not directly sound like any of the bands I've just mentioned. With all band members contributing to the song writing process, the individual



influences have combined to create something pretty unique. And whereas in a live situation they don't hesitate in going for the jugular, the e.p. is a different beast, using the studio as an instrument, best demonstrated on the slow burning opening track '*First Point Of Call*' which certainly justifies the six and a half minute running time. The pace is taken down with next track '*No Hidden Scars*' yet builds again with third track '*Sexy Chocolate*': a title suggested by a crowd member to the then un-named song which has (ahem) stuck. I hope a full album won't be too far away as the e.p. promises a varied and interesting long player.

You can download the e.p. from I-Tunes & Amazon and get in touch with the band on their Facebook page. The cd is also available at these forthcoming gigs:

- Sat 2nd May – **Katiesfest** at **Katie Fitzgerald**, **Stourbridge**
- Sun 3rd May – **Mayday Meltdown**, **Wilson Hall**, **Colley Gate**
- Sat 13th Jun – **The Rainbow**, **Digbeth**, **Birmingham** (headline)
- Sat 11th July – **The Haygate**, **Telford**

Baz Bojak

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Lunar Bar Worcester Re-launch

Musically the long established **Lunar Bar** in Worcester has always had its roots in funk, soul and hip hop. Now whilst certainly not abandoning its core sounds, the Lunar is broadening its horizons and has been sourcing fresh new DJ talent throughout the Midlands as part of an overhaul which will ensure Lunar Bar once again becomes a vital and central part of Worcester nightlife.

In addition to the revitalised music Lunar is now open until 1am Friday and Saturdays and as part of their new cocktail menu re-launch special drinks offers will be available.

The management are passionate about their music and are committed to bringing you the best in beats be it Motown, Northern, vintage rock'n'roll, swing, electro and beyond, in addition to their beloved funk, soul and hip hop.



So landing at Lunar every Saturday is resident **DJ Si** whose starting points are hip hop, 80's and funk, but this boy will play whoever/whatever/whenever to keep the groove movin'. Then every Friday there will be guest DJ's and the May list is special: on 1st is Brum based **Billy Chill Fingers** who was resident DJ at **The Yardbird** for 5 years and is creator/ co-runner of **The Wild Rumpus**. Having recently supported **Craig Charles** and due to appear at **Nozstock** this year, Billy will bring a heady mix of eclectic, slick-mixed tunes to Lunar. Expect

loungue, hip hop, funk 'n'soul, disco & swing.

The 8th sees an always welcome appearance from local legend **Ed Steelfox**. The much beloved Ed has been digging from his own faves boxes to create a unique mix for Lunar and is bound to entertain the crowd with a rare treat of electro-clash, space disco, car-boot, Detroit techno and art rock. The week after on 15th May will see the return of fresh-faced young'un **Dr Jive** for another soul surgery, after his promising debut at Lunar last month. Don't be fooled by this baby-faced boi, Jive has a phenomenal knowledge of funk and soul. One half of Brum regulars **Our Friends Are Eclectic**, **Steve Bignall**, arrives on 22nd to doubtlessly delight dancers with his magical mix of old skool hip hop, breaks, funk, soul, reggae, select edits, together with a twist of classic house plus a slice of rock'n'roll. On the last Friday 29th Brum hip hop legend **DJ Roc** hits Lunar with specialist hip hop, nu and neo soul, funk, jazz and club classics. The man has over 20 years of DJ and promoting experience and boasts a broad career incorporating human beatbox, record collector extraordinaire and now radio presenter.

This is just the start of their exciting schedule so check on Facebook for future events - www.facebook.com/LUNAR2003

Lunar Bar are always on the lookout for new exciting DJ's so if you fit the bill please email: sophie.theswananddrummonds@gmail.com



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Worcester

Weekley

Folk sessions

Every Monday

*With an eclectic mix of Musicians,
Poets, Artists and Drinkers...*



Virgil & The Accelerators

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham | Fri 8th May

Great news for blues-rock fans, live music lovers and aspiring musicians in and around Evesham as incendiary rockers **Virgil and The Accelerators** hit town for what is sure to be a breathtaking performance, further enhancing their ever-growing reputation as a top drawer live outfit.

With two critically acclaimed albums under their belts namely *'The Radium'* and *'Army of Three'* Virgil & co have honed their live set into something very special. Prime purveyors of high energy blues-rock these boys have relentlessly toured with the likes of Michael Schenker, Uriah Heep, Johnny Winter and Wilko in the past and are about to embark on a 20 date tour of the UK.



Photography: Andy Hibbs

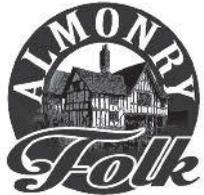
The band's onstage chemistry is nicely summed up in a review by Pete Feenstra from *Get Ready To Rock*, of their London Borderline performance last year:

"One minute guitarist Virgil dredges up a few Billy Gibbons licks, the next he's going back to Keith Richard for source classic rock riffs, before he memorably loses himself in the moment and drags the audience to another place. He's not on his own of course, as his brother Gabriel evokes the ghost of Keith Moon with furious excursions round his kit to launch the band on to another level. And standing stage right is the indomitable Jack Alexander Timmis, the veritable anchor of the band, who makes sure the wild musical excesses are kept in check with some essential root notes, while his back-up vocals bring extra depth to the hooks."

In summary then - don't miss Virgil and The Accelerators at The Iron Road on May 8th! The venue is at The Railway Hotel, 140 High St, Evesham and you'll find them on Facebook.

For more of your Virgil needs go to www.vataband.com

Photography: Martin Lewis



Is proud to present a true folk hero...

Steve Ashley Almonry Heritage Centre Evesham | Sun 10th May

Following on from the huge, soaring success of our Great **Big Almonry Folk festival** on 18th & 19th April, we are pleased to continue our series of Almonry folk concerts by welcoming one of folk music's finest singer-songwriters, **Steve Ashley**, on the 10th May.



Steve Ashley's 1974 debut album *Stroll On* is widely regarded as one of the most influential recordings of its genre. With new songs that blazed a trail uniting traditional influences with contemporary life, it was described in *Melody Maker* as *"The most sensational album since folk became contemporary"*.

Over thirty years on, his album, *Time and Tide* was described in *fROOTS* magazine as *'a modern day masterpiece.'* Since he started performing live again, there has been renewed interest in his material - classic songs which have been covered by the likes of Martin Simpson, Fairport Convention, Wizz Jones, Phil Beer, Grace Notes and St Agnes Fountain. This solo gig will feature old songs, new songs from his 2015 CD *This Little Game* and lots of banter in between.

"...an extraordinary gift for creating material of true folk quality." Daily Telegraph. Tickets are £10 each (unreserved seating). To book call the Almonry on 01386 446944.

Fired Oak Album Launch Open Mic Night | The Chestnut, Worcester

The Chestnut's fantastic fortnightly Open Mic, hosted by the fantastic Mr. **Dan James**, was even a bit more special on Thursday 16th April. In addition to the usual mix of brilliant and eclectic local talent, it hosted the album launch of the Jazz-Folk collective **'Fired Oak'**.

The band opened up the night with an hour long set featuring their own blend of ensemble Jazz and traditional folk storytelling. When the whole band jammed together it was reminiscent of The Cinematic Orchestra's own unique style, while the more folky stripped-down songs such as *'Autumn'* showcased Paddy Benedict's 'Bright Eyes'-esque vocal stylings. This band has an awful lot of potential and is certainly going to be one to watch in the future.

The Open Mic continued on with some excellent performances from many local artists, including NotJustSauce.com's own **Chris Bennion**, **Bryn** from **'Phatti Mango'** and the French stylings of **Ruth, Lol, and Andy**. The night culminated with a version of The Maverick's *'Dance the Night Away'* performed by **Dan James** and **Fired Oak**: twas a fitting and rousing finale to an excellent evening's entertainment. **Fired Oak's** debut album is available now via their website www.firedoak.wordpress.com. **Dan James** has Open Mic Nights at The Chestnut on 14th & 28th May.



Bishop Davy Jones

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JOIN US AFTER THE PERFORMANCE FOR THE LAUNCH OF FUELLED BY THEATRE - AN ONLINE HUB FOR CONTEMPORARY WORK IN THE REGION. **F** FUELLEDBYTHEATRE

Fuelled by Theatre Presents The Red Chair by Clod Ensemble Malvern Cube | Fri 19th June

Are you **FUELLED BY THEATRE**, music and words? If so then follow us on Facebook **FUELLEDBYTHEATRE** or lead us somewhere new!

Fuelled by Theatre is a new online hub for all contemporary work touring in the region. A place where theatre practitioners and promoters share innovative and original work that inspires them to tour our region. The original idea for the hub came from working alongside **Manda Graham** as a local engagement specialist within Malvern for national production company **Fuel** quoted by the Guardian as *'The maverick production company who are prepared to invest in adventurous artists'*. This adventurous role required us to promote, inspire and grow new audiences to see Fuel's work and engage with it in new ways. The project, **New Theatre in Your Neighbourhood**, has brought to Malvern some of the most innovative and exciting work we have seen and begins to put us on the map as a cultural centre for the arts.

The project has enabled us to create **Fuelled by Theatre** which with the help of other theatre enthusiasts will allow audiences for contemporary theatre in the rural West Midlands to keep in touch with what's coming up in the area such as **Collidoscope** at the **Market Theatre, Ledbury** in

July. People want to get involved, talk and be a part of something. They enjoy a place where they can hang out with a beer and chat in an informal atmosphere talking to other audience members and performers at post show talks or better still have a party with them at the end of the night!

New Theatre in Your Neighbourhood, funded by **Arts Council England** and the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**, is also supporting the new hub and its launch at what will be an amazing night with a new touring piece *'Red Chair'* at the new **Malvern Weekend Cube**. On Friday 19th June at 8pm the performance of *'Red Chair'* by the incredible **Clod Ensemble** will begin. This piece has come to us with the generous support of its co-producers **Fuel** and reinforces our ambition to provide this quality of innovative work to our neighbourhood in the future. This night will be an intimate and glorious feast of storytelling, movement and delicious words. It will be a night to get together, party and celebrate our artistic community.

But if June the 19th seems too long to wait then we have an idea. As part of the build up to the performance of *'Red Chair'* we invite you to take your part by coming and sharing your own stories and myths. We will be placing our very own *'Red Chair'* within locations around Worcestershire and Malvern over May and June. The first location is at the **Worcester Arts Workshop** as part of **Lazy Sunday** on May 10th. For further details 'like' **FUELLEDBYTHEATRE** where you will find out about all things related to the show and maybe win a free ticket.

So, get creative and get Fuelled. See you at the party. Tickets can be bought at **Malvern Tourist Information** or online through the **Malvern Cube** website or Facebook page.

What's New at The Hive, Worcester

The Hive strives to offer the people of Worcestershire something a bit different including fine films and rare gems, contemporary thrillers, comedy and story-telling. Coming up we have a season of intriguing exhibitions, led by individual artists, local organisations and University of Worcester students. Innovative live performances of theatre and poetry, and an extensive list of lectures, talks and workshops covering all sorts of topics for all tastes and ages. All taking place in our intimate studio space.

The programme at **The Hive** aims to be varied and inspiring, and goes out of its way to support the work of new and emerging artists.



We are sure you will find something of interest; not withstanding the 250,000 books to choose from in the library! It's certainly worth exploring, and there's plenty of time in which to do this with opening hours from 8.30 in the morning until 10pm at night, 7 days a week, all year round!

Below is a sample of what's to come in May. To find out more about our whole programme of events and regular activities in the months ahead pick up a What's On guide from The Hive or download it from the website www.thehiveworcester.org, join our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter.

LIVE MUSIC THIS MAY AT CAFÉ RENÉ...

Café René
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& Restaurant
Steak & Grillhouse

JOHNNY KOWALSKI + THE SEXY WEIRDOS - FRI 1ST
Euro, Gypsy, SKA, Punk, Brass + a dash of Reggae

GAZ BROOKFIELD - WED 6TH
Bristolian Journey Man

MARY SPENDER - FRI 8TH
Americana Singer Song-Writer

PHIL KING - WED 13TH
Acoustic Singer Song-Writer

MYDESIGN - FRI 15TH
Rocked up covers of Popular Songs

WILL EDMUNDS TRIO - WED 20TH
Blues ROCK

SEAS OF MIRTH - FRI 22ND
Sea Shanty Punks

MISCHA - WED 27TH
Acoustic Singer Song-Writer

SOLANA - FRI 29TH
Acoustic Gypsy Folk

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The Hive

What's On at The Hive in May

Workshops

Young at Art

Themed object, art and poetry sessions for the under 5's.
14 May, 4 & 18 June
10.30am – 12.00pm
£3 per child

Confidence Building Through Drama

Build confidence for interviews, public speaking and dealing with others.
16 May
10.00am – 1.00pm
£18.00

Film & Theatre

Pride (15)

Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton star in a heart-warming tale of friendship and solidarity in bleak and desperate times.
10 May, 6.30pm
Tickets £3.50

A World Beyond Man

Presented by Centric
Written by Stephanie Dale
Directed by Peter Cann
A True Story of ice, betrayal and determination.
14 May, 7.00pm
Tickets £6.00

Exhibitions

The Visual Statement

Intriguing, enchanting, enlightening (and occasionally downright frightening) work by University of Worcester illustration students.
8 – 12 May

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Whetherman + Rita Payne Marrs Bar Worcester | Sunday 10th May

Whetherman aka independent singer-songwriter **Nicholas Williams** comes to the **Marrs Bar** with six album's worth of quality, effervescent and melody-filled folk tales.

Whetherman's latest album '*Seeds for Harvest*' is replete with a deep awareness of nature informed by Nicholas' US Midwest upbringing, together with his trademark earnest, poetic vocals and easy-listening grooves.

Tinged with touches of Ray Lamontagne and early Van the Man, under his Whetherman banner, Nicholas has taken his show to continental Europe last year and so is hitting these shores for a month in May '15 with gigs all around this fair Isle. He has opened for such acclaimed acts such as The Wailers, The Woods Brothers, Howie Day and many others, as he played more than 150 shows in 40 states since 2011.

This is music that is sure to lift your spirits and feed your soul: you can find Whetherman on the official site, Bandcamp, Daytrotter, iTunes and his music can be streamed on Pandora Radio and Spotify.

Support comes from duo Rita Payne; self-styled "*Doncaster's Finest Songwriters*" who have released two albums to critical acclaim, whilst having shared the stage with



the esteemed likes of Bellowhead, Reverend and the Makers, The Beautiful South, Big Country and The Animals! Self proclaimed "acoustic footstompers", Rita Payne are sure to delight and thrill.

N.B. Competition Time:- For a chance to win two free tickets to this gig email marrsbarcomp@gmail.com with the subject "whetherman".

We Steal Flyers

The Ginger Pig, Worcester | Sat 30th May

We Steal Flyers are an international touring duo of songwriters from the heart of Northumberland.

Derek and Shaggy met in 2008 while they were supporting US Rocker, Adam Bomb, both were fronting different bands at the time. They both have a real love of music and songwriting and decided to combine their uniqueness, talents and skills to bring the best of what they had together to create the magic that is **We Steal Flyers**.

They released and toured with their debut album *Our World* and sold over 1000 hard copies in the first year by hand and touring through UK and Europe and playing an impressive 250 shows a year. With radio support across the world and with the success of their online status they have followers and friends in many places. Bringing together their knowledge of the music industry, which they both have been involved in separately for many years, is a huge key to their continuing success.



Between them they have written a multitude of songs, which have been recorded and released on over 10 albums, EPs and singles. They use their knowledge of the music industry to help new up and coming artists get on their feet, this help includes, promotional work, photography and video shoots, and booking gigs and also through their online radio show – **The All Acoustic Podcast Show**.

There is no venue is too big or too small, **We Steal Flyers** will perform anywhere and everywhere to have their music heard. Performing in baths, sheds, house gigs, pubs, venues, castles, festivals, and the list goes on. So far they have played with many famous names and artists on their adventure so far, including Roy Wood, The Quireboys, Hayseed Dixie, Miles Hunt of The Wonderstuff, Adam Bomb, Jawbone, Mark Morris of The Bluetones, Christ Helme of The Seahorses, Tom Hingley of Inspiral Carpets, Half Man Half Biscuit, Sons & Daughters, Rod Clements of Lindisfarne, Nigel Clark of Dodgy, Proud Mary and many more on their travels. They are already having major success even though they still remain unsigned. They put in the hard work of pushing and promoting their music themselves, and are taking their music wherever they can.

Homepage - www.westealflyers.co.uk

Youtube - www.youtube.com/westealflyers

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Coming up at the Courtyard



On Monday & Tuesday 11th & 12th see the **BalletBoyz** present the **Talent**. Performed by the incredible all male cast of ten dancers, the Talent promises an evening of style and precision under the direction of former **Royal Ballet** dancers **Michael Nunn OBE** and **William Trevitt OBE**.

Coming up on Friday 15th May Worcester-based **Vamos Theatre Company** return to **The Courtyard** with **Nursing Lives**, a heart-warming wartime tale of bravery and love from the UK's leading full mask theatre company. **Nursing Lives** is a love story set in the early 1980s of Thatcher's Britain.



There's magic in the air on May 16th with the **Conquest Senior Youth Theatre's** take on **The Wizard of Oz** at The Courtyard. **The Silver Slippers** is in the Studio at 2pm.

On Wednesday 20th & Friday 22nd May local theatre company **Exit Fool Productions** are back with Keith

Waterhouse's play, **Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell**. In two acts, Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell gives a taste of what life in Soho was like "when you could find yourself drunk, penniless and alone on less than a pound".

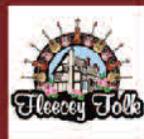


Herefordshire based band **Puma Creek** will play a fantastic blend of blues and groove at The Courtyard on Thursday 21st May. The band will be performing tracks from their debut album *Continental Circus* alongside new material in a relaxed evening not to be missed!

The critically acclaimed production of Sebastian Faulks's novel **Birdsong** will be coming to The Courtyard in June. **Peter Duncan**, **Edmund Wiseman** and **Emily Bowker** head the cast in this mesmerising story of love and courage, before and during the First World War.

visit www.courtyard.org.uk for more information about these shows and many others including film, comedy, theatre and live music and many other activities contact the Box Office on 01432 340555.

Young people aged 14 – 25 can get 10% off tickets to some shows with The Courtyard Card! Sign up now at Box Office for special discounts, £3 film & 20% off at The Courtyard Café Bar.



Coming soon to The Fleece Inn, Bretforton:

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

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Musical sunshine from a multi-instrumental duo.

Sunday 10th May 8pm: Gordon Giltrap £15

A brilliant folk artist with a timeless sound. All proceeds to the Tracy Sallis Trust

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

"Thoughtful ballads to stomping acoustic rock, an impressive and entertaining set" – *The Guardian* **** 4 Stars



Sat 30 & Sun 31 May: Asparafest Music & Food Festival

Worcestershire's Asparafest Food & Music Festival at Ashdown Farm, Evesham

With *The Wurzels*, *Moulettes*, *Blackbeards Tea Party*, *Cbeebies Katy Ashworth*, *Wat's Cooking*, *the Quack Pack*, *Crafts*, *Food*, *Real Ale Festival* and much more!

Earlybird Tickets from £6 - book today at www.asparafest.co.uk

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Revolution (aka Singles Club) The Firefly, Worcester | Sun 5th April

Some three years ago a man called **Russ Mather** had a dream - a dream that somewhere in Worcester there could be a safe meeting place for a disparate nay desperate bunch of (mainly) men who spent large chunks of their lives caressing, fondling, sniffing, kissing and yes sometimes playing records aka vinyl but please note, NEVER known as vinyls!!

And so it came to pass that **The Firefly** in lovely Lowesmoor became home to this wandering rag-taggle bunch of wretches and **Russ - The Pied Piper of Plastic Players(!)** - gathered us unto his bosom (uurghh! Ed) and **Singles Club**



Russ Mather

was born - an All Day event which has blossomed into a much loved and anticipated regular event on Bank Holiday Sundays. As the name suggested Singles Club was a way of returning to basics for DJ's who increasingly, and understandably after lugging boxes of records around for years, veered towards CDJ's, laptops and the like. And so you/we could rock up with a small selection of 7inchers as the motto

was "45mins of 45's". This of course meant that the sounds stayed fresh as revellers were treated to any and every style, including yes even the much vaunted and derided Dutch Glam Rock ('72-'75) played by a certain **Steffo!** of the parish.

Singles Club was always a contentious name to some and indeed some misguided (and again male) souls turned up, dressed to impress - looking for love - and disappointed to find a bunch of blokes hunched over a pair of turntables, banging out obscure Krautrock sevens! And so Singles Club has merged with/into Revolution, which is the sister, first Sat of the month event wherein DJ's have the luxury of being able to choose any vinyl format to play, thus widening even further the available aural excitement.

In another bid to keep things movin'-and-a-groovin' (see Funky Moped by J.Carrott) **Easter Sun Revolution** took place downstairs in the main bar at The Firefly and proved a success as the punters happily danced the night away to hip-hop, proper r'n'b, English 60's jazz, Northern Soul, Tamla, punk rock, post-rock, post-punk, proto-punk and every genre inbetween. From Biggie to Baggy, Bowie to Basie we played it all y'all.

A big shout then firstly to all the DJ's that played in order of appearance hopefully: **Russ 'Mainman' Mather, Stef 'Glam-Slam' Work, Russ 'The Enigma' Beagley-Brown, Neil 'The Jook' Cox, Dan 'Dan' Caldwell, Sam 'Eagle-Eye' Jones, Rob 'The Guvnor' Williams, Mike 'The Mod' Moore, Daren 'Delfonic' Wood, Scott 'Da Biscuit' Rawlings, Jon 'Righteous' Richings and Russ 'Him Again' Mather.**



Daren Wood

Big regular spinner **Lee 'Hitman' Morris** couldn't play unfortunately and won't be there for the next one either as he's with his Jazz buds in Cheltenham..pretentious I say! Regular playaz **Jake Oakley** and **Christian Burton** were also MIA and innumerable others have spun and will return to the fold at some stage I hope and am sure.



Dan Caldwell

Thanks also to anyone who came and supported and threw shapes, especially to those who repeatedly show up and dance themselves dizzy! Respect must go to the Firefly bar staff and security who always keep everything sweet and flowing.

Remember every Bank Hol Sunday we'll be there and that means there will be two **Revolutions** in May on 3rd and 24th and then 30th August: times are 1pm - 1am and there's guaranteed to be some sounds for every taste in the musiverse!

Future formats for the event may change and special events will be announced (eg Christmas), as Russ M keep things evolving as well as revolving, so keep an eye on the Facebook page.

See you on the flipside...

Words by The Double Denim Dinosaur Photos by Pinky Snuggles

Huntingdon Hall & Swan Theatre

May is shaping up to be marvellous at our premier Worcester venues **Swan Theatre** and **Huntingdon Hall**, so from their exciting and packed schedules we have plucked our own favourites for highlighting.

So without further ado the first of our Huntingdon Hall picks is **Altan** on Thur 14th May. This superb traditional Irish troupe have been peddling their wonderful wares for some 35 years now and wowing worldwide audiences with their heart-warming renditions of touching ancient ballads and energetic reels & jigs.

Now with their latest Nashville recorded album "*The Widening Gyre*", Altan have flexed their musical boundaries, both with new band member - accordionist **Martin Tourish** (good name for a gigging muso! Ed) on board and their many musician friends including **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, **Eddi Reader** and many others. So as you might imagine this new album fuses the Donegal fiddling and Gaelic singing traditions for which Altan are justly famous, with American roots music and particularly that of the Appalachian bluegrass fiddle. This concert is sure to captivate as the audience are reminded of the ancient bond between Irish and Appalachian traditions.

Next up at H.Hall on Fri 22nd May is another legend namely **Dick Gaughan**, who was brought up immersed in the musical traditions and culture of the Gaels, both Scots and Irish, which naturally has informed his music ever since becoming a professional musician in January 1970! Unsurprisingly with such a lengthy and distinguished career, the list of people he has worked with would fill a few pages!

Suffice to say Dick was an early member of Boys of the Lough, then Five Hand Reel and in the 90's the quite

extraordinary, but unfortunately short-lived Clan Alba. Guitarist, singer, songwriter, actor etc, he's been there - done it. He is a stunning singer with a wonderfully expressive voice allied to a dazzling guitar technique. Dick is well known for his forthright and oft-expressed political views and he gives voice to an uncompromising solidarity with the global disenfranchised.

Down the road from Hunt Hall, big sister **Swan Theatre** celebrates its 50th(!) Anniversary with a day of delights on Sat 30th May from 10am - 4pm. Call in to this venerable venue for a special **Golden Anniversary Open Day** and experience what the theatre is all about. There will be a whole host of activities to get involved in, including back stage tours, stage combat and circus skills workshops, exhibitions and displays. There will also be on-stage entertainment and refreshments available. Entry is free and all are welcome to find out more about what makes the Swan Theatre such a special place.

For two nights only at The Swan on Fri 21st and Sat 22nd May is the sure-to-be thrilling and hilarious live theatre performance of classic cult zombie rom-com film (or rom-zom-com as it dubs itself) "*Shaun of The Dead*". Stroud based theatre and film production collective company **Almost Legal Productions**, have secured the rights to this box office smash and are now touring it in earnest and with mucho gusto! Cherry on cake time as they received the ultimate seal of approval as the original Shaun - Simon Pegg himself - tweeted before a preview show last October, "*Good luck or should I say, lose a leg, to Almost Legal's production of Shaun of the Dead Live tonight in Stroud*".

Surely a blessing to turn a show into a mega-hit if ever there was one, plus a reason for us all to stagger to The Swan, zombie like and dressed up if you so wish (You mean you do! Ed)



What's On?



at The Swan Theatre
and Huntingdon Hall

 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;">Bella Hardy - With The Dawn Tour 2015 8th May - £13.50</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;">Altan 14th May - £21</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;">James Grant 15th May - £15</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;">Reduced Shakespeare Company in The Complete History of Comedy (abridged) 29th May - £16</p>
 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;">Dick Gaughan 22nd May - £12.50</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white; text-align: center;">Shean of the Dead Live 21st and 22nd May - £15</p>		

Worcester live

BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427
www.worcesterlive.co.uk

Brothers Groove

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester | 28th Mar

I first saw this band about a year ago at the Robin 2 supporting a tour and at the time did think they were the best thing on that evening, so I was keen to see them again for at The Chestnut for a second time.

Shaun Hill who writes the lyrics is a fine mean guitarist ably assisted by **Nigel Mellor** also on guitar (always been a sucker for twin guitars) **Deano** on Bass and **Jim Simpson** on Drums. They play a funky rhythm with some blues licks and are very accomplished musicians and the blend works really well.

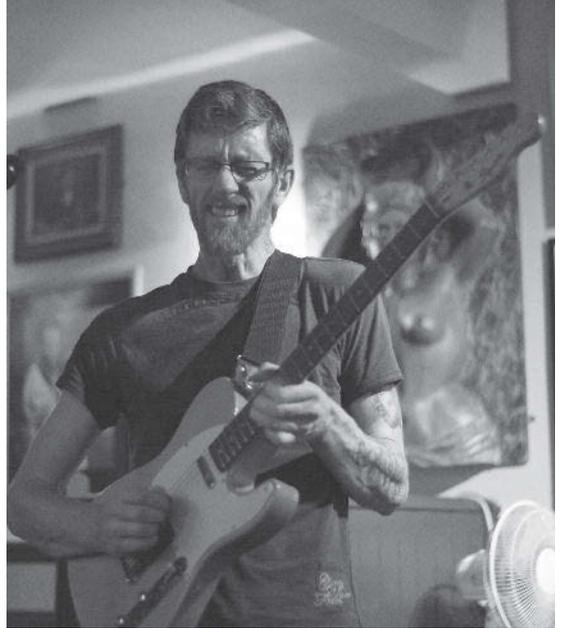
They opened with 'Cissy Strut', 'What's the Deal' and 'Duty Calls' all with really funky bass lines and excellent guitar work from Shaun and Nigel. I also love the slowburner blues they play like the superb 'Another Girl'. Shaun had been ill recently so it was good to see him back and feeling better. They finished off with a couple of covers which I admit was a first for me with 'Superstition' and 'Hound Dog'.

I asked Sean who his influences were to which he replied Crusaders, Average White band (and I have to show my ignorance a new name to me) Robben Ford (will be looking him up).

This a band who are worth a lot more recognition and they also have an album out called "Play the Game" which is well worth parting with your hard earned for and for which they have received critical acclaim by higher authorities than myself.

They play around Birmingham quite a bit so if you get the chance to catch them you won't be disappointed. It never ceases to amaze me what great bands and musicians you can see locally on a regular basis and Brothers Groove are well worth the effort. Thanks for a great gig guys!

Lumpamundo



Photography: Graham Munn

The Chestnut Tree
It Grows On You
 Member of The Arboretum Residents Association

Barbeques Are Back Every Weekend
 Supporting Worcester Water Festival - June 12-14
 + Plus All The Usual Music & Mayhem +

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Worcester Canal Festival

Lansdowne Park | Fri 12th - Sun 14th June

This June 12-14 will see the inaugural **Worcester Canal Festival**, celebrating 200 years of canal navigation in Worcester. The free festival will feature a wide range of activities and entertainment including craft stalls, traditional sideshow stalls, food and drink, and a Charity auction. There will also be a painting competition for local schools for the Elizabeth Parker Prize.

There will be live entertainment from local dance groups, brass bands, school choirs and live music from many local bands. Headlining one of the 3 days will be Worcester's own **Skewwhiff**, following on from the recent, sold out charity event at Worcester Cathedral, performing their own unique blend of post-punk-pop featuring tracks from their acclaimed debut long player *'Nice Little Upper'*. Also headlining with their own mix of blues rock and funk is **Hump De Bump**, playing a whole host of tracks from bands such as Red Hot Chili



Peppers, Queens of the Stone Age, The Police, Jimi Hendrix and many more. The third headliners will be **The Shady Band**, who with years of experience in a plethora of different bands, will bring their own mix of classic 60's and 70's tracks to the stage with that classic rock and roll spirit.

There will also be music from great acts like **Woo Town Hillbillies, Lounge Toad, Doctor Wolfe, Claire Boswell, Thyme Bandits, Stripped Down Blues, The Jazz Singers, Month of Sundays, The Ferrets and Collective 43.**

The event will be supported by **Worcester Canal Group** (worcestercanalgroup.org.uk), **The Arboretum Residents Association** (thearboretum.org.uk), & Worcester, Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society (www.wbdcs.org.uk), all with the aim of supporting local charities and community group.

The festival will run from 5pm til 11pm on Friday 12th, 11am til 11pm on Saturday 13th and 11am til 5pm on Sunday 14th. Come one come all!

Bishop Davy Jones



Gaz Brookfield

Ethan Ash, Connor Maher

The Marris Bar Worcester | Thur 21st May

This gig sees the much welcomed return to Marris for the ever exciting and inspirational Mr **Gaz Brookfield**. He is a firm fave of many of us in Slapland and since winning Acoustic magazine's 2010 Singer Song writer of the Year, has gone from strength to strength touring all over the UK and Europe, sharing stages with the likes of The Levellers, Frank Turner, New Model Army, Nick Harper, Newton Faulkner, Miles Hunt to name but a few!

Based in Bristol Gaz remains the only unsigned act to sell out the Fleece there, a feat he has achieved four times no less and the last two times 6 months in advance!

One of the hardest working (politicians must love him!) and best troubadours in the biz, Gaz often exceeds 200 gigs a year, proving the 'journeyman' soubriquet to be more than an idle descriptor.

His unique brand of agit-folk wows the crowds every time and I urge you to take a trip down Marris way especially if you haven't had the pleasure before.

For more of an insight into Gaz B's philosophical and musical soul take a look back at the Sept '14 issue of Slap for an insightful and in-depth Q&A with the man and then why not visit www.gazbrookfield.com.

In support of **Gaz Brookfield** is **Ethan Ash** - an exceptional acoustic/electric guitarist, fine vocalist and terrific live



performer. His soul-infused pop stylings and strong writing, have ensured his increasing reputation on the live circuit, whilst his many festival appearances have gained Ethan a solid and ever-growing fanbase. Having recently received airplay on national Radio 1 **Ethan Ash's** stature as an artist continues to grow. Also on the bill is local fellow **Connor Maher** with his original and individual acoustic stylings.

For a chance to win 2 free tickets email: marrisbarcomp@gmail.com - with subject "Gaz Brookfield"

Lunar Festival Headliners Public Service Broadcasting

A bespectacled duo with the surnames **Willgoose and Wrigglesworth** and the mission statement: *"Teaching The Lessons of the Past Through The Music of the Future"*. This gives you a fair idea of what **Public Service Broadcasting** are about and if you add more than a soupçon of corduroy then also a good idea what these chaps look like.

Combining electronics with guitar, banjo, mandole, banjolele and sax plus live drums, their show is a visual feast weaving samples of old public information films, propaganda material and newsreel/ documentary footage to maximum effect.

PSB's message is an optimistic one which at once harks back to Blighty's heroic past of explorers and courageous coves, whilst heralding in a positive and inclusive futuristic age. Maybe in these austere times their music is a tonic for the troops?

The whole concept is proving a big winner as their first album *'Inform Educate Entertain'* has sold 50,000 copies to date and their sophomore effort *'The Race For Space'* is rapidly set to do even better. This is even more impressive when you realise that these Cord Shop Boys do it all themselves in true independent style without the backing of a record label.

Messrs J Willgoose Esq and Wrigglesworth having been touring their spectacular stagemusings extensively and so it is after last year's festival triumphs that they are set to do it all again this year - landing in a field near you.

One of PSB's main summer dates will be at the lovely **Lunar Festival** in Warwickshire which debuted to great acclaim last year. They are one of the Saturday night headliners and the festival takes place over the weekend of 5th-7th June.

Slap Mag took a chance to catch up with the intrepid duo to eke out some pearls of wisdom and get the lowdown on their weltanschauung:-

SLAP (S) - Hello sirs, lovely to talk to you. You must be excited about taking 'The Race To Space' on tour and hitting the festivals again this year?

PSB - *Very much so, yes. I think it's a more thoughtful and restrained album than the first in some respects, so taking it to the festivals won't be without its challenges, but it's great to be playing new stuff.*

S - So 50,000 first album sales and the new disc due to exceed that, were you surprised with your success and how long was the gestation period for the first album?

PSB - *Due to exceed? I'll take your word for it! I am always surprised by our success, yes. We make odd music in an*



odd way, even if it does have a certain melodic appeal to it, so for it to have achieved anything like mainstream success is really something, I think. Bonkers-pop is something the UK does pretty well with though so maybe it's not totally without precedent! And the first album gradually formed over about 5 years I'd say, although that was while still working a full-time job and gigging wherever and whenever possible, so it's hard to say how long in real terms.

S - Presumably there must be pro's and cons about not being with an established record label; how has the workload and trajectory been and is being independent central to how you operate?

PSB - *The workload is very heavy on both me and our management duo and it's not without its stresses and worries - not at all. However, in retaining the amount of control over the material that we have done - and control is, sadly, quite important to a rampant control freak like me - I think we've kept our independence and our eccentricities fully intact and that is at least part of what has helped us along the way.*

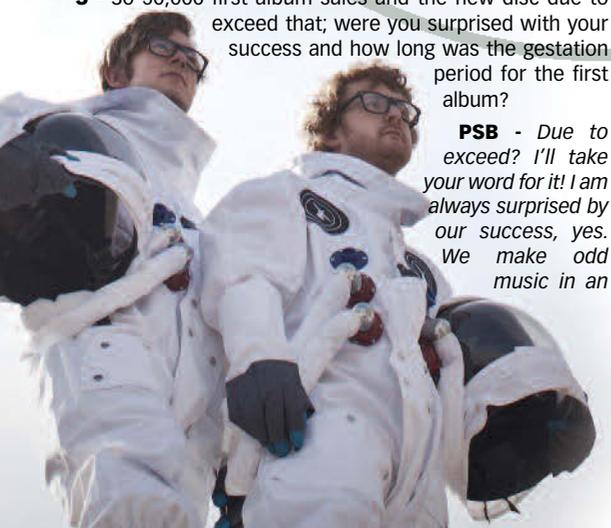
S - The audio and visual sampling is fundamental to who you are, but could you tell us about the artists that have inspired, influenced and informed your work?

PSB - *That would be about 5 pages of small-type font I'm afraid so I can't list too many, but the main ones would be Radiohead - a fiercely independent band - DJ Shadow for his early output and Massive Attack, plus the KLF and David Bowie. I like bands who don't chase the big time with nakedly transparent, commercially-aspirant singles. Some bands after one album, you can hear they've got the bug - they've worked out what festival crowds like and they just churn them out for the next few years. I never want to be like that - I want us to surprise people every time. And as I get older, the kinds of music I listen to, and the parts of the world that music comes from, just keep becoming more and more diverse. It's like the NASA saying, GIGO - garbage in, garbage out (referring to the importance of programming early on-board computers). If you put good music of all different genres in your ears, hopefully that'll be reflected in your own music.*

S - I hope it's not corny to say that your marriage of archive material and futuristic music has the elegiac feel of Kraftwerk, especially the likes of 'Europe Endless' and echoes of 'Trans Europe Express' in your excellent track 'Night Mail'. Does this resonate for you and are The Werk a touchstone at all?

PSB - *I think any electronic act owes an enormous debt to Kraftwerk, and I think it's impossible not to feel their influence. In terms of me, though, I'm still not 100% on board with them. I've tried many times in the past but there's something a little too cold and austere about them for me. I did just try again in the van though, before I was interrupted by a tea stop, and I was enjoying it more than I remembered.*

S - I have two good friends who work at the BFI (British Film Institute) and they wanted to ask a) How did you first approach BFI about using samples and footage? and b) Do you have any plans to incorporate fictional film samples in the future?



PSB - I phoned them up! The archive sales department to be precise, and spoke to a lovely lady called Sarah, who was rather baffled at first I believe but went on to give us the thumbs-up. Since then they've been very helpful, supportive and accommodating. We couldn't do what we do without them, that's for sure. As for b), I should probably point out that our biggest song to date (Spitfire) uses samples from a (very) fictional film, *The First Of The Few*. In terms of material we'd consider using, I don't really put any limits on it. I think, with the benefit of a lively imagination, there aren't any limits to where we can go with this.

S - The new album 'The Race For Space' seems more expansive than your debut, with names such as Neu and Mogwai being mentioned. With two 7 minutes + tracks 'Sputnik' and 'Tomorrow' and the full on, brass-heavy funkathon of superb lead single 'Gagarin', do you feel like you are moving in a definite different musical direction or is it more a case of constant experimenting bringing innovation?

PSB - I should probably point out that Tomorrow is really only about 4 minutes long - we haven't gone full prog yet, there's just a minute's silence and then a hidden track of sorts. With Sputnik though it's a pretty dance-y song and I felt we had earned the right to let things breathe a bit more on this album, hence its running time. I think there are a load of genres on the album and the really hard thing is keeping it all tied together thematically. Hopefully we managed it this time around. We'll continue to try our hand at all kinds of music in all kinds of different genres - I don't want us to become lazy and formulaic.

S - And this leads us on to The Future. What next after The Race For Space? Do you envisage growing the line-up of the group at all?



PSB - We've already expanded to a 3-4 piece at home, with the addition of a visual artist and a new touring bass / flugelhorn / keys / percussion player, so things continue to grow. The goal is always to make the show as good and as 'live' as possible without going bankrupt in the process.

S - And finally do you have any messages that you would like to share with your public, perhaps tenets and affirmations which you live your lives by?

PSB - I think in terms of a tenet that I've tried to let shape my life, you can't go far wrong with Bill & Ted's most excellent saying: 'Be excellent to each other'.

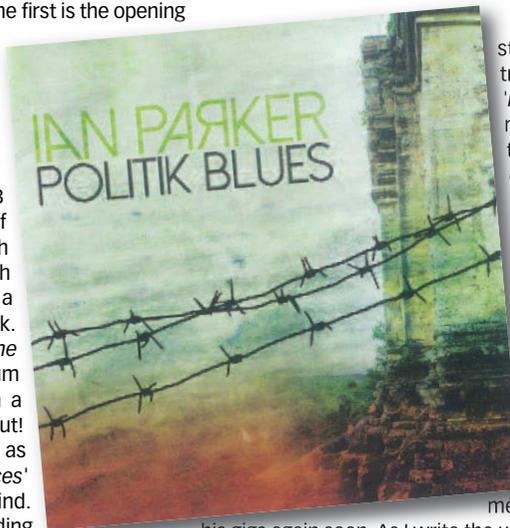
Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk to us folk in Slapland, we wish you well for the forthcoming festival season and all future endeavours.

Luner Festival 5-7th June see ad on inside front cover. For more info: <http://lunarfestival.co.uk/>

Ian Parker - Politik Blues

This album sees the coming together of Ian with old friends/band members **Chris Finn** and **Dave Jenkins** plus long time stalwart **Morg Morgan** adding keys to three tracks. Ian has included 2 covers in this album, the first is the opening African spirited 'Freedom', which started life as an improvisation at Woodstock by Richie Haven. An interesting background and Ian makes a fine job of bringing it to life on this album.

Straight back into an electric R&B groove for 'Money Back'; Ian's gruff vocals take us to the open jam of the rich centre, before his voice brings us through to the finish. Some lovely guitar and a good rhythm makes this a stand out track. A more tribal vibe follows in 'Long Done And Gone', driven on by the heavy drum beat: definitely a track to savour with a glass of whiskey to hand and the lights out! Though Ian quotes influences such as Cream and Hendrix, 'World Of Pretty Faces' seems to find a Zeppelin tilt in my mind. Either way the band seem to enjoy it ending it with a big whoop. 'Truth' takes a darker and deeper path with another strong but slow pulse, a beautiful mellow guitar overlay and ripples of cymbals running throughout.



I will cut through to the second cover on this album which is 'Politician' by the late great Jack Bruce for the band Cream. A strong bass line as you would expect, with Ian taking on the roll that would have been Clapton's, but doing it his own way and very well: it is a fabulous epitaph for Jack and a great addition to this album.

From first play I was drawn straight into the first 3 tracks and of course 'Politician', but didn't get much from the other tracks, but that was in the car after buying it. Once at home with volume cranked up the other tunes started to take hold and I'm sure it won't be long before the others follow. This is a well recorded album with plenty of variety herein and Ian's superb guitar work is well matched by his dextrous blues voice. It also reminds me that I must catch one of

his gigs again soon. As I write the upbeat rock of 'Kampuchea' with its babbling streams and ancient stones is kicking in. Kampuchea - where the jungle can overgrow you - as quickly as this album.

Graham Munn

Ben Poole

The Iron Road, Evesham | 21st April

The Blues certainly has a new home in the sunny Vale Of Evesham as **The Iron Road** once again leads the way. Having launched their Blues Night with Laurence Jones, they then continued their momentum with fellow Brit blues demigod **Mr Ben Poole**.

In recent times Ben Poole and his band have been busy tearing up venues across the UK, taking in the likes of The Albert Hall with his combination of fiery fretwork and emotive smooth vocal delivery, bedazzling audiences and critics alike. So when one of the hottest names in the business decides to drop in on our doorstep I had to be there.

The four-piece band (keyboard, bass, drums and of course Ben on Guitar and vocals) take to the stage and deliver a short muscular instrumental to set the mood, before kicking the set off with a trio of originals that simply ooze class and sophistication. Ben's vocals are light, passionate and soulful, whilst his guitar sings out proudly as squeezes out such depth and emotion through each solo. Meanwhile his band lay down a mesmeric groove, epically rising from the subtle to the bombastic effortlessly.

Following on from the opening salvo Ben and the boys stun the blues loving audience with his first cover of the night, a glorious take on Freddie King's 'Have You Ever Loved A Woman'. This even managed to top both the original and Derek & The Dominoes rendition for both style and substance, with keyboardist **Sam Mason** adding his own impressive flourish to proceedings, complimenting Ben's flair wonderfully.



Both original 'Starting All Over Again' and a spirited run through 'Mr Pitiful' showcased Ben's funk and soul credentials as he strutted and crooned, whilst a jaw-dropping reinvention of Hey Joe was a masterclass in guitar abuse as he bent and bashed his already battered fender, creating a stunning sound rivalling even Hendrix for creativity and style.

Ben left a shell shocked audience with a loving tribute to the late Gary Moore in the shape of the beautiful 'Time Might Never Come', before returning for one more flurry in the shape of 'Hanging In The Balance', leaving us hollering for more whilst trying to comprehend what we'd just witnessed.

The Iron Road has promised to deliver the best in blues and so far they've done just that and then some. If you missed Ben or indeed Laurence before then shame shall follow you the rest of your days! To escape eternal damnation check out **The Iron Road** on Facebook and see you down the front.

Words: Will Munn Images: Graham Munn
www.benpooleband.com

Get On Track For May

So, you missed out on **Davina And The Vagabonds**, then watched **Jools Holland**, doh! Tuesday evening, nobody has live music, wrong again, and you missed out on **Ben Poole**. Your not doing very well, not checking the listings, and not recognising the sheer quality of live music being staged at **Evesham's Iron Road** (Railway Hotel). You could change all that, and factor in a man who sweats heritage, as near to blues royalty as it gets, the eldest son of Muddy Waters, **Mud Morganfield**. He rolls in on May 24th, and his baggage



contains a first class band, top draw musicians who have become his crew when touring the UK and Europe. Mud will sit on stage, impeccably attired, spitting out Chicago Blues lyrics, as his band do the donkey work, is he the king of Blues? I don't know, but he certainly has a claim to the throne. Go, book your tickets for the chance to see **Mud Morganfield**, and support The Iron Road, a genuine, enthusiastic, live music venue. Decent beer too!

Neon Tricks-Home

Neon Tricks are something of a new name to the local scene, formed originally as a college project the three-piece have performed a handful of times in and around Stratford-Upon-Avon, honing their unique blend of indie, modern R&B and pop, whilst writing new material.

On the evidence of the couple of tracks I've heard to date **Home** and **Skeleton Trio**, the trio, **Becca, Tom (Forbes)** and **Rhona** have come up with something a little special, Home opens with a tough urban vocal and a throbbing beat, before Tom adds his soulful indie pop croon to proceedings, as the band add layers of instrumentation (guitars, both acoustic and electric, synths, etc) and complimentary male/female vocal harmonies, twisting the track into a fresh take on the indie pop theme designed for both the indie club and hottest dance floor.



Skeleton Key is different again, showcasing a definite love of throbbing electro and perhaps even dubstep, as the group weld a deep pulsating beat with the aforementioned vocal harmonies and squelchy synth, but whereas a great deal of acts lose sight of the song underneath a wall of electronica, **Skeleton Key** has an infectious vocal hook, a tasty guitar breakdown and enough rise and fall to demand the attention.

Will Munn

CFS Presents...

MILES HUNT & ERICA NOCKALLS

from

THE WONDER STUFF + special guests

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MALVERN CUBE

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Miles and Erica have toured the UK, Europe and the USA, performing acoustic shows including tracks from their albums in addition to The Wonder Stuff material, with the occasional cover version. All interspersed with Miles' trademark inter-song banter and insight into the background behind some of the tracks being performed. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see them **LIVE IN MALVERN!**

www.thewonderstuff.co.uk

www.malverncube.com

the **friday**
BEER



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WEEKEND
CUBE



Miles Hunt & Erika Nockles

Malvern Cube | May 22nd

With a much anticipated performance at Malvern's The Cube together with Erica Nockles happening on May 22nd (get yer tickets sharpish!), SLAP took the chance to catch up with West Midlands' musical maestro Miles Hunt to ask him about all things past, present and future.

For babies, hermits and those who have taken religious orders in isolated monasteries and therefore have an excuse as to why they might not have heard of Miles, he was head honcho with mighty band **The Wonder Stuff** from 1986-1994 and again from 2000 onwards, whilst in the meantime carving himself out a successful and fruitful solo career.

The Stuffies as they were/are affectionately known scored major chart hits with notably a No 5 with 'The Size Of A Cow' and the top slot No 1 with Vic Reeves for 'Dizzy'. Indeed they had another 11 UK Top 40 singles hits plus 4 Top 20 albums, which gives the uninitiated an idea of what they achieved during their 'golden' period.

Since then this has been one busy Black Country boy as you about to discover...

S (SLAP) - Hey Miles, hows things with you? I recently read your first diaries book and found it riveting. You seemed to get possessed by the music bug at an early age, so for those of our readers who haven't yet read the book, can you tell us your first memories of music and who really inspired your first steps into the music world?

M (Miles) - *That would be Glam Rock (woo-hoo! Sub Ed), I felt pretty close to it growing up because my uncle, Bill Hunt, was the keyboard and French horn player in the band Wizzard (OMG! Sub Ed). Also growing up in The Midlands gave pretty much every kid with access to a radio a great sense of pride in Slade (*Faints* Sub Ed) (Shut up! Ed).*

S - I was intrigued to read you started out as a drummer - why did you originally start with the drums, was the call to be a frontman too strong to ignore and do you have a bash around a kit these days?

M - *Drummers often seemed like the coolest guys in the band to me when I was a kid, just take a look at Slade's Don Powell! However, my Dad was a Jazz drummer in his youth and I think the need to be constantly tapping out rhythms on any and every surface was passed down directly from him. Dad gave me lessons from around the age of 13, I should've paid more attention to what he was trying to teach me, but I was a smart arse and preferred to learn from the drummers I was listening to on record, the aforementioned Don Powell, the Sex Pistols' Paul Cook, Joy Division's Stephen Morris and Echo and the Bunnymen's Peter De Freitas were my favourites. I gave up drumming because it was knackered and I figured the singer's job would be easier, little did I know.... I do have a knock around on a kit every now and then, but figure it's better left to more talented guys than me.*

S - You seemed to come from quite a fertile music scene when you first started out in Stourbridge, what with yourself appearing in a number of different bands before The Wonder Stuff, with Pop Will Eat Itself and Ned's Atomic Dustbin also forming around the same scene. Can you tell us more about the Stourbridge scene and what the area was like back in those days, were there many places to play and why you think there was such an explosion of music there?

M - *I think both The Wonder Stuff and Neds owe a huge debt of gratitude to Pop Will Eat Itself, they were daring and*

resourceful in ways that neither us or Neds were and consequently opened doors for us that we would never have found ourselves. There were lots of bands from the area that had been successful, Led Zeppelin and Diamond Head both had Stourbridge connections, so it didn't seem out of the realms of possibilities that guys like us could also reach the wider world with our noise. Stourbridge had an art college, The Mere, that put gigs on and we had JB's just up the road in Dudley. I also think there was a healthy competition from the Black Country bands with Birmingham bands that spurred us on. And lest we forget, right before PWEI achieved national success there had been The Mighty Lemon Drops from Wolverhampton and Balaam & The Angel from Cannock, both bands once again proving that it was worth putting in the effort, it was possible to break out of the local area.

S - For some strange reason you got lumped in with the back end of the baggy scene, but Wonder Stuff never sat comfortably in that scene - how would you describe your sound back in the early days and how has that sound evolved through it?

M - *Really? I never thought that. 'The Eight Legged Groove Machine' predates The Stone Roses debut album doesn't it?*

S - The Wonder Stuff fans seemed a very devoted bunch, so now that you are a long-standing and successful solo artist, do you still see the same faces at your gigs these days? (I know a few! Sub Ed)

M - *I sure do and I'm very grateful for their ongoing patronage too. Without the support of such people I would have achieved nothing.*

S - You seem to be constantly busy at the moment, what with acoustic gigs, full band gigs and writing - how do you fit it all in and is there much time left for writing new songs?

M - *At the time of writing this, April 2015, I have written half of the next album and demoed the tunes with the band too, I still have over six months to get the rest written and recorded. I'm also a good way into the second book of diaries. Lets face it, this stuff isn't exactly difficult, I should know what I'm doing by now. I should add that it is the creative side of what I do that I enjoy the most. So sitting down to write a song or work on the book is time I look forward to. I love playing live too, both with the band and the acoustic gigs with Erica, the only down side to that is the amount of time spent travelling which always feels like wasted time. Either way, it's all a damn sight easier and more fulfilling than holding down a job.*

S - How is the second instalment of the Diaries going? I'm really looking forward to reading the next volume, after the first one captured the ups and downs of a life in music so well; from the mundane to the humorous to the sombre pitfalls - what can we expect from Vol II?



M - I'm half way through transcribing the diaries presently, the next book will cover January '90 to summer '94, that's the plan at least. This batch of diaries are far more detailed than the last lot, I think I was writing much of it at the time with intention to publish it at a later date, so it's gonna have a different feel to the first book. This second book also details the decline of the band in '94, so it's not as bright and breezy as the first. We'll see... there are a few positive angles to this one that I didn't have a my disposal with the first book, for instance by 1993 I was regularly writing short stories, I have yet to cast my over them but hopefully they are good enough to include.

(SLAP) S - Obviously you're playing a much-anticipated gig at The Cube in Malvern with Erica Nockalls, so what can people expect from your set? Will any Vent 414 or Hairy On The Inside tracks slipped into the set?

M - You never know, there's a lot to get through these days, I've got quite the body of work behind me now. It's not unheard of for us to play songs from either of those albums, I guess you'll have to wait and see.

S - You've also released a handful of albums with Erica Nockalls, how does that material go down with the

typical Wonder Stuff fan? Do they embrace the folkier material and is the stripped down sound something you're more interested in now?

M - I don't actually think those two albums that Erica and I have done together are folkier or any less rocking than Wonder Stuff records. We play less and less of those songs these days, mostly because we played them so much when we first starting touring together and we now find ourselves looking further back into the Wonder Stuff's catalogue or indeed songs from the most recent TWS record, "Oh No...". They'll come back around again I'm sure.

S - You're also performing at one of our local festivals - Wychwood with The Wonder Stuff this year, is this part of a tour and have you a busy festival season with the Stuffies?

M - We're playing that acoustically, with Dan Donnelly, our new guitarist. It's a great festival Wychwood, we've always had a good time there. We're not doing too much with the band this year, other than recording, we're saving it up for an action packed 2016, the year of our 30th anniversary. There are full band gigs this year, but as I said, mostly we're saving it up for '16.

S - During your busy schedule do you get the time to checkout any other bands or new music and do you ever hear your influence?

M - I never hear our influence, other people tell me they do, but I never have. Perhaps because I'm too close to it and hear what we do differently to other people. I'm always in the market to hear new artists, but I have to say, as I get older it becomes ever more difficult to engage with younger people's music. I too often feel that newer artists wear their influences too loudly on the sleeves, that always equates as laziness and a lack of any actual character to me. It's hard to get past that.

S - Personally I think your diaries should become mandatory reading for anyone who wants to chase a career in music, can you leave us with one piece of advice for any budding musicians, bands or performers out there?

M - Yeah, easy in this climate... don't bother, the World has moved on. Rock'n'roll music needed to happen in the 50's, there was a new generation that didn't live under the cloud that the two world wars had battered previous generations with, they had privilege and a fuck pile of energy: rock'n'roll was the result. The same musical model was employed again when a future generation didn't feel so privileged, Punk Rock was born and reflected brilliantly how undermined a generation of kids felt. Since then thousands of people like me have been trading off those musical movements and to be honest, I'm amazed it's lasted this long. Now young people in the West have it easy, it seems to me that their biggest problem is not having enough hours in the day to pursue their leisure activities. Music is not central to youth culture anymore and likely as not, never will be again. Sure, everyone likes a tune to tap their toe to, but alongside everything else on offer to us in the digital age... music has been relegated to a side show, a side show to be plagiarised, trivialised and ultimately, monetised. I didn't get into music to make money, but making music has sustained me financially over the last 30 years and I'm very lucky to be able to say that. I fear with the coming of the digital age, the age of the internet, whatever you chose to call it, that isn't now, and will be less so in the future, the case for a lot of people like me. It's a damn shame is what it is, but I suspect the old idiom of 'don't give up your day job' is more prophetic now that it ever was.

Thank you Miles, we look forward to seeing you and and Erika in Malvern on the 22nd...

Photography: Brian Appio

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Skinny Lister @ Record Store Day
Rise Records, Worcester | 18th April



Skinny Lister are an effervescent punk-folk band that can fire up any party - a band that invites you to raise a glass or two and let your hair down. They originally set out with a mission just to make good music and have fun and this laudable aim is certainly continuing as they struck up at Crowngate for the **Rise Records Record Store Day** bash to lift the spirit of many a foot weary shopper. The day had seen excellent sets from the ever inventive **Vault Of Eagles** and an incendiary **Broken Oak Duet** together with many local bands who all deserve at least a mention before I eulogise about S. Lister further.

So plaudits indeed are due to **Andy Oliveri, Portia, Holy, Bad News, Boat to Row** and **Champion**, all who helped make RSD an all-round triumph for Rise and the rest of us.

Back to Skinny who had stepped off their busy tour bus to close the day, delighting the swelling and curious shopping crowd with selections from their great, just released new album *'Down On Deptford Broadway'*, together with songs

from their previous album *'Forge & Flagon'*. Their punk based sea shanties brought a tidal surge up the Severn and carried along on those seas was a cargo of mainly riotous drinking songs! However **Skinny Lister** are also capable of turning their hand to a ballad or two and so it is with the beautiful *'Bonny'*. Lorna throughout is a ball of energy bouncing off Dan on vocals and guitar, Michael on bass with Sam 'Mule' Brace wielding a squeeze box.



Here we are in the hub of Crowngate shopping centre, with a band that has toured on a narrow boat, giggered in a Land Rover, performed on restaurant tables, wowed Japan, stormed the USA and now given us 45 minutes of high energy, brash party music. Brilliant stuff and not a flagon of rum in sight!

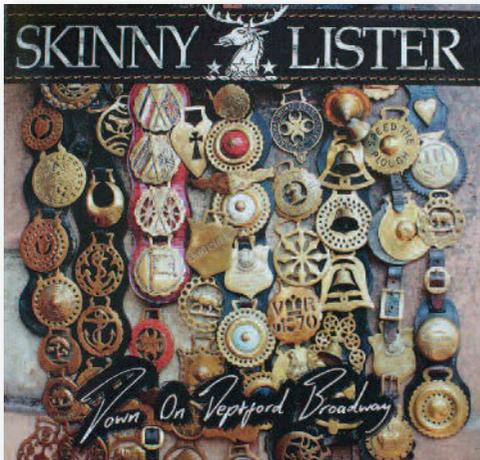
Graham Munn

Skinny Lister
Down On Deptford Broadway

If you like your music loud and brash, taken with preferably alcoholic beverages to quench your musical thirst, then **Skinny Lister** are the band for you. They will party the night away, whether on stage, on table tops or in the back of a Ford Transit.

The band have fun and their songs demand you join in.

The album is launched in conjunction with their spring tour and it starts off in true punk folk/sea shanty style, so open that rum now! *'Raise A Wreck'* weighs in with a steady thump which drives this song throughout and the band all seem to add to the lyrics - a great beer hall chant of a shanty. *'Trouble On Oxford Street'* is a manic tale of a fight breaking out on London's retail heart, where front man Dan managed apparently to loose a few teeth and spend a night with the NHS. It's yet more drinking as Lorna takes vocal lead for *'George's Glass'*; a view of the world through the bottom of a glass and the band are on fire as the song steamrollers along, with 'Mules' accordion in strong evidence.



The throttle is lifted a little as Lorna takes on a delightful little song *'What Can I Say'*, as near to a swing along folk song as you get on this album, and all the better for its inclusion. The mania is never far away though and *'Cathy'* leads through to *'Six Whiskies'*: arm in arm you can swing along to this lovely Irish lilt. Needless to say the lyrics live up to the title - another story of life in the capital.

Full speed ahead to the bar and *'This Is War'*, a flat out reel spinning us into the anthemic *'Ten Thousand Voices'* - then someone hits the brakes hard. Lorna takes on a traditional style folk song, whisking her *'Bonny'* away to Gretna Green; it's a little gem and gives us all a chance to regain our breath - but not for long. Irene's got another lover and she's as *'Bold As Brass'*: Mule's accordion accelerates us back to warp speed. The evening is closing in, the band nears exhaustion and an ode to *'This City'* steadies the ship before Lorna delivers *'The Dreich'* with violin and the beat of a bodhran characterising this truly beautiful song.

The album as a whole is full on party time but do not make be misled, Skinny have produced a cracking album in *'Down on Deptford Broadway'*. They know how to drive a song along and thankfully it has the raw edges you would expect, echoing their live and even more intoxicating incarnation. Tucked away in the 12 tracks are some fascinating lyrics: it's life but not necessarily as we know it...weekends aside. Go seek this album and tuck it away for Christmas and New Year plus maybe the odd wedding party - you can't go wrong..

Graham Munn



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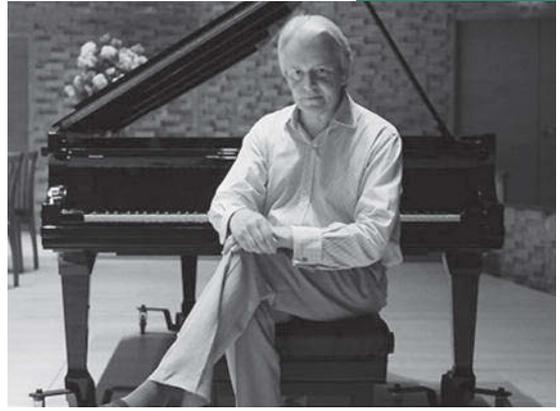
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HELLENSMUSIC Festival

Hellens Manor, Much Marcle | 7th - 10th May

HELLENSMUSIC Festival returns to **Hellens Manor** this month. The festival brings together exceptional musicians from the **Berlin Philharmonic**, the **Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra** and the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** for a series of concerts and master classes in the magical setting of Hellens, one of the oldest properties in England. They will be joined by celebrated pianist and HELLENSMUSIC's Artistic Director **Christian Blackshaw**, whose much-praised account of the last three Schubert sonatas can be heard on the festival's opening night. Friday evening's concert comprises of pieces by Mozart and Dvorak performed by a string Quartet of the above musicians. The Quartet are joined by Christian on Saturday to perform compositions by Dvorak and Frank. The festival ends on Sunday morning with a performance by the master class students.

The festival is committed to music education. Students from Purcell and Chetham's School of Music will have the opportunity to learn through master classes lead by festival's guest artists. ABF Music, Herefordshire, will be running music workshops for pupils from local primary and secondary schools.



Audiences are welcome to spend the day at Hellens, enjoying a picnic with views to the Malvern Hills in beautiful gardens and attending the student master classes, which are free and open to the general public. Hellens tea room will be open from 12:00.

Tickets cost £16.00 or £8.00 for the student master class concert. They are available from Orpheus Box office www.orpheus-events.com 01905 570979. Also from Ice Bytes Ledbury, Malvern TIC, Premier Shop Much Marcle, Outback Hereford, River Music Ross on Wye. Further info, www.hellensmusic.com

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Pictured: Máté Szücs Principal Viola Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (Left) & Christian Blackshaw

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Davina And The Vagabonds

The Iron Road, Evesham | 15th April

This was a gig that I had long awaited - a must see for me! **Davina And The Vagabonds** had appeared on **Jools Holland** the preceding evening, had it been the preceding week I doubt if I would have squeezed through the door. That's a shame because she is a fabulous artist worthy of any stage and I'm sure the media exposure and subsequent raising of her profile should mean a definite return to the UK soon hopefully.

As it was there were some who had travelled from London and South Wales purely on the evidence of one song on Jools and they loved every second of the Evesham gig. I count myself fortunate in having seen Davina on previous UK tours and I would have sold my soul to the devil to assure a ticket. (That devil did make an appearance on the night - more later) The band consists of Davina on keys plus a brief encounter with a uke, Connor on drums plus vocals, Dan trumpeting, Ben tromboning(!) and Greg on what is now a 'must have' for travelling bassists, a custom folding double bass. Both Dan and Ben, like Connor, have their own moments of vocal lead. That's the structure; the style is one of New Orleans, jazz fused with some swing from the roaring 20's, the soulful blues of the 50's and early 60's and the delivery of a circus showgirl. The overall effect is quite simply fabulous and no apologies for the repetition.

A song from the great 'King Of The Jukebox' Louis Jordan opened the show and we are plunged straight into that fusion of swing and blues, the songs plucked randomly from their two albums '*Black Cloud*' and '*Sunshine*'. '*Sunshine*' is exactly that, a bright and joyous 'pop' song that dances along like Davina's fingers over the ivories. A song that sadly Amy Winehouse could never find though her voice cried out for it. I mention Amy because of the many similarities in the vocal qualities of her and Davina, even though divided by the Atlantic. '*Louisiana Fairytale*' would not have been out of place in a Speakeasy lock-in, maybe why Bill Bailey won't come home. '*River*' from '*Black Cloud*' is one of those soulful blues songs that Davina sings with an empathy that is mesmerising and is truly beautiful. Next a bit of vaudeville fun came from the mutton chopped Connor; '*I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate*', helped along by the brass of Dan and Ben. Davina hits the keys and takes us into a cha-cha rhythm, chopped up with tango like strikes as she '*Tries To Be Good*'. Picking up her uke a '*Bee Sting*' is delivered in a relaxed country blues style - must have been honey filled & we were ready to be stung. We're nearing a well earned break as the band have been playing an hour and so it's time for a classic: 'St James Infirmary Blues' makes fine use of the twin horns and double bass, Ben taking lead vocals and the band chorusing "*Got no pants on*" as his lost love lies on the cold slab.

The show continues with Vagabond originals interspersed by a selection of fitting songs. '*Fizzle Out*' is played with an especially lovely, light touch - another choice cut from their '*Sunshine*' album. Another classic, this time from the Etta James stable with '*I'd Rather Go Blind*' packaged in Davina's own distinctive way but no less deeply passionate. Then the Lovin Spoonful and John Sebastian sourced '*Daydream*' heavily rubbed over with brass. St Michael now faces up to that Devil - a must for any Davina gig and we were not to be disappointed with the tale narrated by Davina, at her expressive best as she fences with the band in a voice versus



instrument joust - or should it be Faust? Greg pulled out his rosin soaked bow to get some low and dirty notes that only the Devil could make. Delicious!

I had pencilled in a couple of songs I really wanted to see the band perform and that was one crossed off the list. Back to '*Sunshine*' to find '*Red Shoes*' and a little jazzy swing and yes she "was rocking this house tonight". Then a slower, soulful '*Sugar Moon*' followed and I'm a step closer to the second cross off. Up next is the Fats Waller penned '*You Must Be Losing Your Mind*'; a heavily jazz tilted and in Davina's hands way out there number which proved a glorious showcase for the band's musicianship. The piano notes tinkle the opening as Connor brings in the brushes for that swinging rhythm. Davina is attacking notes in an apparent random fashion but with pinpoint and venomous accuracy. Ben's trombone fills the air and takes the lead with his sink plunger mute. Dan takes over with trumpet, the pitch high & played through a copper vase like mute and then it's time for Greg to bend and pick those heavy strings of the bass as he crouches into the instrument and attacks feverishly. That only leaves the big man with the whiskers to work those drums over and it's an absolute joy to hear him tease every nuance from those tight skins. The whole band strikes up to close this memorable piece as Davina calls it - for me this is the cherry on top of the icing on top of the cake!

Sadly the sands are rapidly passing through the timer as it turns 11.30 but there's a bit more to come and it's a real blast from the 20's the Ben led '*Louisiana Aye Yi*'; a manic roller coaster of swing closing the show in some style. It has been stupendous from start to finish and Davina is an incredible artist wearing her passion and humour on her face, performing with the precision of a concert pianist dropped onto a vaudeville stage. She is surrounded by a band that shares her sense of fun in delivering their music to our ears. The Iron Road has done us proud in bringing us **Davina And The Vagabonds**, straight from Jools' studio and given the noisy response from the assembled throng, I am confident this bunch of vagabonds will be coming back down Evesham way sometime.

Words & Photography by Graham Munn

Granny's Attic

The Mug House, Worcester | 15th April

It was a change from the norm for me to be dragged to the public house by my old folks. On this occasion we were on an ancestral quest to find one of our forbear's grave in Claines churchyard, where legend has it that the great Elgar himself sat upon said stone, gazing out to The Malvern Hills and inspired to compose big hit *The Enigma Variations*. It is said that during his musings he 'accidentally' vandalised our relative's resting place, so as you can see there is much more to investigate...

What's all this got to do with music and an arts magazine I hear you cry?

Well as most of you dear readers probably know, neighbouring this most beautifully bucolic of Churches is **The Mug House** pub: indeed I believe it to be the only hostelry in England residing on consecrated ground. Now not only was this a most welcoming place for us to rest our weary bones and find refreshment, but we were delighted to discover that the ever marvellous **Granny's Attic** had decided to pitch up and perform an impromptu gig, during their Uni break and as a distraction from essay writing!

Now I must hang my head in shame and admit that in my forty plus years of living in Worcester I had never frequented The Mug House so this day proved a double diamond discovery.

Granny's Attic are comprised of three school chums **Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, George Sansome** and **Lewis Wood**



and with an audience seemingly compiled mostly of friends and family, they eased their way through a triumphantly joyful set of well known old sing-alongs and previously unheard tracks.

Much applause and appreciation came from the full room - even a local canine - and dedications were delivered to ruddy faced fathers with "Grumbling Old Men" to which one such answered "Well we are all here!".

Other favourites included the ill-named 'Lazy House' wherein the dazzling interplay between the trio left me not knowing which of them to watch, and an old classic and for my patriarch, 'Star of the County Down'.

I would like to think that my ancestors would have enjoyed such an evening as this in days gone past - great company, great pub and great music.

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Notorious Melvin Hancox The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | Thurs 9th Apr

Melvin Hancox made a welcome return to this Droitwich home of live music (and fine food); inside a good number awaited Melvin's performance though a few more could have been squeezed in. Inside this small bar the general form has been solo acoustic settings, so naturally Melvin's take on that is 2 amps, a PA, pair of speakers, lights, pedal board and 4 guitars! Those guitars are naturally all immaculate: a 12 string Gretsch, 2 Gibson Les Paul's and a Gibson acoustic which all demonstrate their distinctive qualities in the hands of master guitarist Melvin.

We are treated to an opening with Melvin putting slide to the acoustic Gibson and straight off you realise that you are in the presence of a rather unsung maestro. Blues with slide - definitely a case of less is more - laced with 'Preachin Blues' some great Son House lyrics and the glorious sound of brass on steel strings. Those gathered responded warmly and this felt like the start of a great evening but maybe I am biased? Well of course I am - blues has become a passion. Melvin picked up his gold anniversary Les Paul next and played righteous tribute to one of his big influences with Peter Green's 'Oh Well!' and the air was electric the song suitably embellished by Melvin's rapidly dancing fingers, forcing the Gibson to weep with chords bent to extract that superb sound - magic.



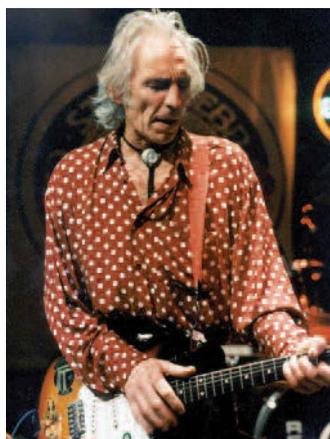
Another change of weapon and the polished black Custom took us 'All Along The Watchtower' with its rich mind stretching sound. We are all lost in Melvin's world of Karmic perfection; he is without doubt an exceptional guitarist but would probably be the first to admit that he is not quite up

there vocally. There is however plenty of passion and power and I've never heard any one complaining; we are here mainly to hear him play guitar and that is an absolute joy. This is his second visit to the Gardeners Arms and interestingly though he used more loops and effects on the previous visit, I think I prefer this 'straight' set as it showcases his qualities more and help enhance the subtleties of the different instruments. So onto the 4th change and it is of course the beautiful 12 string Gretsch: if the Sirens had been equipped with these then Odysseus would truly have been lost - what a sensuous and mesmerising sound. 'Tambourine Man' was the messenger then a wonderful 'Low Budget' nicked from The Kinks took us to the break.

Throughout the second set all those same, select guitars were exercised again, so I will give a flavour to the music played. Notables included The Stones' 'Factory Girl' and 'Streetfighting Man' then Melvin made the most of 'The Sabre Dance': a thrilling charge of the light brigade on a Golden Gibson. A foot stomping, tribal driven Cherokee Dance, led to a Canned Heat medley - yeah let's work together! The songs rolled out and Melvin is on fire and so it was time to pass round some 'Whiskey In The Jar'; a fabulous beverage indeed. We're all drunk on the sound and the end is nigh but there's an 'Albatross' on the horizon and some feathers have fallen out. You don't know what you missed - an excellent evening.

Will Munn

Steve Gibbons & Aalia Large The VIP Lounge, Steps Bar, Redditch | Sun 10th May



Following a complete sellout gig last year, the legendary **Steve Gibbons** is set to make a return to the town.

The promoter Adrian Stone, was thrilled when he had a call from Mr Gibbons saying that he enjoyed the atmosphere so much that he would like to do another gig here. How could we refuse him! So a date was set.

This year we are also blessed to have a hugely talented local performer **Ms Aalia Large** doing an opening set. For those that have not seen Aalia yet, don't miss this.

The gig is on Sunday 10th May, from 4:00pm - 7:00pm. Tickets are just £7.50, and very limited for this event and are available from Steps, Vintage Tracks Records, Cafe Mambo No5 or online at www.beerweek.co.uk

38 SLAP MAY

Quadrophenia Night Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat 16th May

Quadrophenia Night at Artrix is a unique event that encompasses two fabulous bands who together bring to life the classic sixties film. Headlining the event will be **The Who** with a set covering both music from The Who's classic album along with all their hits. Completing the bill will be the quintessential **The Quik** who will be playing the hits made famous by artists such as the Animals, Small Faces, Kinks and the Yardbirds. As with previous events, there's a chance to see the full movie, dress up as mods and rockers and showcase your scooters on the Artrix forecourt!

Tickets cost £16.00 (£14.00) and are available from the box office on 01527 577330 or online at



The original and best 'Quadrophenia Night' returns to Artrix giving fans of this British film and the music of the 1960s another opportunity to relive the culturally significant period in post-war British history which gave rise to an awakening in the psyche of teenagers and was responsible for much of the music that came to be known internationally as 'The British Invasion'.

Laurence Jones, Heavy Oil

The Iron Road, Evesham | 4th April

The Iron Road is quickly building a reputation as one of the best live music venues in Worcestershire, rising, phoenix like from the ashes of The Railway, the place has had a massive overhaul, a lick of paint, a new sound system and a manager with a mission to bring the best in live music to the area.

Now I've seen Laurence a number of times in the past, first stumbling in on a set taking place in an Upton pub courtyard and even back then he had star quality. In the few years since then he's ascended towards the top of the blues tree, performing and recording with friends and heroes alike (including Mike Zito and the Walter Trout among others), but I have to say his set at the hot, sticky Iron Road was jaw dropping. Watching Laurence give his all at such close quarters was akin to watching a master class in delivery and performance.

From the opening number (and new album title track) 'What It's Gonna Be' Laurence and his band - bassist **Roger Inniss** and drummer **Miri Miettinen** - had the audience eating out of their palms. With smiles permanently welded on their faces the three-piece proved exactly why they are so highly regarded; solos were peeled off with effortless ease, whilst the rhythm section delivered a tight, funky accompaniment.

The band's set continued with stunning, invigorating originals such as 'Thunder In The Sky', 'Temptation' and 'Soul Swamp River' as well as mesmeric renditions of Leadbelly's 'Good Morning Blues' and 'All Along The Watchtower' (which may have even surpassed the Hendrix version for both style and substance). One of the obvious highlights (and slight change of pace) of the set was the emotive slow blues of



'Whisper In The Wind', a song that begins tenderly with Laurence passionately crooning as his guitar rang out, before the band rejoin him to bring the song home. Laurence and the boys completed their contagious set with the frenzied one-two knockout combo of 'Stop Moving The House' and 'Bullfrog Blues', somehow mustering the energy (after such a high octane set) for a rousing and frantic finale leaving the audience baying for more.

Prior to the rip-roaring Laurence Jones set, local Evesham rockers **Heavy Oil** warmed up the audience with a tight set of originals, delivering a competent set, with the band making up for any lack of originality with their obvious desire to perform. With a few more hooks and a little more diversity the band could be ones to look out for in the future.

This was my first visit to the Iron Road but it sure won't be my last: I've pencilled in a number of must sees into the diary already, with more seemingly being confirmed by the day - if you like music you're going to love The Iron Road. As for Laurence, well his never ending tour is rumbling on to a town near you and if you've not caught him live yet, I highly recommend you rectify that in the very near future.

Words by Will Munn, Image by Graham Munn

The Last Great Dreamers

The Iron Road, Evesham | 16th April

The Last Great Dreamers (formerly the **Silver Hearts**) - maybe the greatest band you've never heard of - a four-piece that blend glam, stomping indie and punk to create an infectious, hook-laden racket full of swagger and balls: think supercharged Beatles or Big Star meeting The Ramones and The Quireboys head first in a glorious musical car crash (I like it! Ed). A band that were once on the cusp of greatness, before a change in the musical landscape and life conspired to ensure they never realised their full potential despite rave reviews at the time.

Well some twenty plus years later guitarist **Slyder** and frontman **Marc Valentine** have reunited to reignite the flame, tread the boards and promote a wealth of material previously unreleased first time around (now collected as 'Crash Landing In Teenage Heaven') aided by bassist **Ian Scruffykid** and drummer **Ginge**.

The band took to the stage dressed in sleazy seventies garb; jackets, hats and messy hair in place - the dual guitars set to stun and the band set off with 'Supernature Natural', instantly setting out their stall with a combination of buzzing riffs and battered percussion, before Marc unleashed a melodic yet attitude fueled snarl whilst throwing shapes around the stage.

By the time Slyder cranked up the guitar on 'No.1 Wonderboy' the band had not only won this critic over but had him humming along and looking around the rest of the



audience also seemed to be converted to the band's cause. Hooks and riffs were delivered in abundance with the likes of the instantaneous 'Superboy Disaster', 'Sci-Fi Louise' and 'Ashtray Eyes' all hitting home, as the band bashed out their set with more attitude than most bands can muster in a lifetime.

The band finished their high octane set with the chant-along, thrills'n'spills anthem 'Crash Landing In Teenage Heaven', leaving the crowd exhilarated, baying for more and knowing that they'd just witnessed the resurrection of one of the true bastions of rock 'n' roll.

The Last Great Dreamers have it all; the style, the substance, the swagger and a fistful of bona-fide sing-a-long anthems - what's not to like?

www.lastgreatdreamers.com

Will Munn

Faithful City #5

Welcome to the first **Faithful City** Shows monthly round up. For anyone who is not familiar with what we do, we are a new promotions company in the area trying to bring the best in established touring bands to Worcester and mix that up with fresh exciting new local and travelling acts... so with that said, let's get to the important part... The shows! We have two this month, and the first up is **20th May**, when we offer up a slice of Punk gold from Dutch D.I.Y heroes **Sweet Empire**. I managed to catch up with the guys for a quick chat:

So this is not your first trip over the channel to the UK what are you most excited about coming back for?

We really enjoy playing the UK. We can't wait to see some familiar faces and to make some new friends. Some typical UK things we look forward to enjoying again are Crabbies, an occasional English breakfast, Scotch Single Malt, and making mistakes driving on the left side of the road.

Keeping on the British theme any UK bands you're looking forward to playing with?

On this tour we're playing with Müg, Shatterhand, The Human Project, which are all great bands. We're also playing with a few bands we haven't heard of before, but we're sure there will be a few gems among those. We've heard good things about Holy, who are playing the Worcester show as well.



This time you're bringing **Irish Handcuffs** from Germany over with you! Have you met before?

We've played a few shows together in Holland and Germany. We're also on the same label in the Benelux; Shield Recordings. After meeting them a few times it felt natural to plan a tour together. So we did. They're lovely people.

You play a pretty unique blend of Modern and Classic Punk Rock where do draw influences from?

The four of us have a shared love for the 90's/00's Epitaph/Fat Wreck bands, but we all listen to a lot of different music. Guess it's a mixture of all the things we enjoy listening to. This could be 60's beat/mod music, hardcore/metal, 70's punk, 80's new wave, or whatever feels like good music. We just make music that we like to play.

Anything else you would like to plug/say?

Looking forward to being back in the UK! Please come down to the show and lets hang out and have a good one! Also check out Irish Handcuffs, they're a great band that deserve some attention.

If that tickles your fancy come along to **Drummonds** in Worcester on **Wed 20th May** 7.30pm £3 ADV. £5 Door. With supports **Holy, Irish Handcuffs & Horror On The High Seas.**

Faithful City #6

Next up we are at The Marris Bar on Sunday 31st May where we take it down a more hardcore route as we welcome riffings and masters of the mosh **Lock & Key** alongside hotly tipped Devon punk hardcore **Boxkite!** First off I speak with **Rich** from **Lock & Key**:

Lets get the obvious question out of the way first; describe your sound for anyone new to the band.



We are a fast energetic hardcore/metal band from Birmingham, Essex and Leeds. Kind of like FFO, Stick To Your Guns, Down To Nothing and so on...

You formed fairly recently in 2013 but have all had previous experience in bands, how did that help you this time around?

We formed towards the back end of 2013 and launched 'officially' on January 1st of 2014. We all learned a lot from being in bands before... like which things work and which things don't! It really helped when the time came to put our heads together and write and plan out our tours and other stuff.

Looking in your Bio you mention a near-death illness! That must have been tough, how did it effect you musically and is everything fine now?

I was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis May 2013 I believe it was, by late August I was in intensive care and doctors were unsure if I was going to make it through. My disease meant I had to be operated on and I suffered complications where I spent 3 months unable to work. During this time my previous band disbanded and my employer was unable to keep me on. Luckily, I seem to be fine now, I follow a fairly strict diet and avoid certain foods!

It's your first time in Worcester how are you feeling about the show? You already seem to have a strong following in the area.

We're all very excited for the show! Besides the music, Worcester is a very aesthetically appealing place to visit, so to get the opportunity to play here is great!

Anything else you would like to add ahead of the day?

We've got a 5 track EP out titled The Divide and are just putting the finishing touches to our album!

So if you fancy some riffs check out The Marris Bar on Sunday 31st May, £4 ADV. £6 Door -7pm

Look out for plenty more exciting shows lined up for June.

The All-England Theatre Festival presents
1-act Play Competition 2015
England Central Area Semi-Finals
Saturday 9th May | Tickets £10 / £15

Six of the best Midlands drama groups will be performing in Evesham on 9th May, each hoping to convince audiences & judges of the quality of their work - and providing audiences with a wide range of great drama.

This is the All-England Theatre Festival, which every year see dozens of theatrical groups from across the UK compete to perform the best one-act play - the best acting, production, presentation & dramatic achievement. This year the Central England semi-final will be held at **Evesham Arts Centre**, with the winning group & play going forward to the English national final in Harrogate.



Evesham audiences can expect to see some high-quality drama of all kinds. The six shows performed in Evesham will already have overcome stiff opposition to win previous two stages of the competition - 9 preliminary heats from Hereford to Leicester and 3 quarter-finals in Nottingham, Ledbury & Burton-on-Trent. The contending shows range from witty comedies to serious issues, from original work to old favourites - and each last 40-45 minutes.

The first two competitors to make it into these semi-finals are: *"The Teacher?"* performed by Birmingham-based **Tomorrow Productions**; and the **Hereford Players** with *"Melody"*.

"The Teacher?" is an original play by Michael Pickston in which a captured man is forced to consider his faith, performed by an company dedicated entirely to the production of new work. (Not suitable for children). *"Melody"* by Dublin-based Deirdre Kinahan is a funny & heartwarming piece about two middle age people who meet at lunchtime & end up sharing more than just sandwiches!

The remaining four plays winning a place in Evesham have yet to be announced. The contenders include groups from Stoke, Tamworth, Broseley, Wellington, Market Harborough, Nuneaton, Coventry & Leicester - and the dramas deal with job interviews, farcial singles nights, Chernobyl, a comedy duo...

Six plays will be staged on Saturday 9th May in two sessions starting at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets for each session of three plays are £10, with a ticket to both sessions costing just £15 - and available now from Evesham Almonry, 01386-446944 and www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk

The **All-England Theatre Festival** has a history dating back to 1919. Its annual competition now forms part of a UK-wide festival of amateur drama, encouraging & recognising excellence in performance & play-writing by a wide variety of groups & individuals.

www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk

Don Weller Quartet

The Victory Club, Cheltenham | Fri 17th April

The mighty **Don Weller** has been a major force on the British Jazz scene for many years. Now aged 74 and recovering from recent illness, we were treated to a more mellow and reflective Weller than perhaps we were accustomed to. His sound reminiscent of Ben Webster in places.

The evening featured more ballads than usual, standouts being the Mal Waldron tune *'Soul Eyes'* and *'Hey There'*, a song not often heard in a Jazz context.



Don's trademark humour was never far away, either with his dead-pan announcements or the sly way that he would approach a familiar melody.

Weller clearly enjoyed being reunited with his old sparring partner **David Newton** at the piano with Newton even including a quotation from *'Waltz for Debbie'* into his solo on *'Hey There'*.

The highlight of the evening was the tune that closed the second set, *'The Way You Look Tonight'*. Weller and Newton were well supported throughout by **Will Harris** on bass and **Simon Radford**, not only a driving force at the drums but also the force behind the volunteer at Cheltenham Jazz since 1984. Weller and Newton have a wonderful album available on Trio Recordings and David Newton himself will be at **The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham** on June 8th with his own Trio. This is certainly a date for your Diary.

Visit: www.cheltenhamjazz.co.uk for more information.

Alan Musson

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Jeremy Hardy

Evesham Arts Centre | Sat 23rd May

The BBC radio comedy institution that is **Jeremy Hardy** will be in Evesham on 23rd May with his 2015 one-man stand-up comedy show.

Jeremy Hardy begins his 4th decade as a stand-up this year. That's a more dramatic way of saying he started 31 years ago and - without a lottery win - is expecting to spend another 31 years making satirical comments and performing slightly surreal impressions.

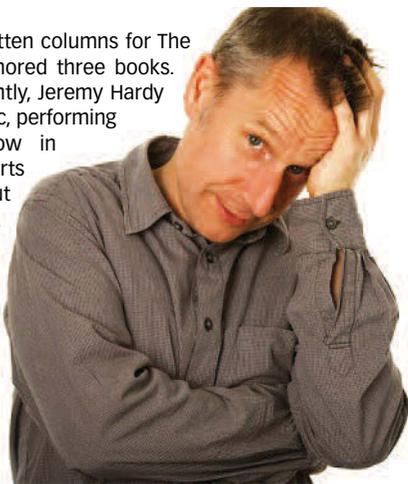
Jeremy can be heard most weeks on BBC Radio 4 in "The News Quiz", "Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation", "I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue" or "You'll Have Had Your Tea". He has also appeared on TV, most notably in "Now Something Else" with Rory Bremner, "Saturday Live", "Blackadder Goes Forth", "Loose Talk", "Jack & Jeremy's Real Lives" with Jack Dee and "If I Ruled the World" with Graeme Garden & Clive Anderson. While he can sing, this is not considered advisable.

He's been in three films, including the documentary "Jeremy Hardy v the Israeli Army" - which involved a degree of

personal risk - written columns for The Guardian and authored three books. But more importantly, Jeremy Hardy is a stand-up comic, performing his one-man show in theatres and arts centres throughout Britain and Ireland. He is also part of the live touring version of I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.

"In an ideal world, Jeremy Hardy would be extremely famous, but an ideal world would leave him without most of his best material." - The Guardian. *"A comic genius."* - Sandi Toksvig

Jeremy Hardy will begin speaking to Evesham at 8pm on Saturday May 23rd. Tickets are available now price £14 from Evesham Almonry, 01386-446944 and www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk



Number8 Round Up

Comedy

Number 8 is Pershore's thriving **Community Arts Centre** inspired and led by the local people, with their mission to provide arts activities and improve the social well being of the inhabitants of Pershore and surrounding areas. Here is a selection of upcoming events for May but please check out the website for more information.

They've skewered history, the Bible and the world's most celebrated playwright, now the **Reduced Shakespeare Company** tackles the subject it was born to reduce - comedy! Following a hugely successful season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014 the acclaimed trio will be bringing their side-splitting show **The Complete History of Comedy (abridged)** to Number 8 as part of their UK tour. The Reduced Shakespeare Company is a three-man comedy troupe that takes long, serious subjects and reduces them to short, sharp comedies. Tickets £16, 16 and under £10. Suitable for age 12+. Sat 16 May - 7.30pm



Comedy

As part of this years **Pershore Carnival** on Monday 25th, a group of local women, **Dancefest Adults** and students led by choreographer **Marie Oldaker** will be dancing in the streets in a free performance inspired by the role women played in WWI.

42 SLAP MAY

'**Quiet Revolution**' will be the culmination of a six weeks course at **Number 8** incorporating dance, choreography and an opportunity to learn more about women's role in the Great War. In partnership with **Dancefest & Wychavon District Council**.

Film

With regular film showings, here are two to set your eyes upon both starting at 7.30pm, tickets £7.50 (concs £7); **'71** (15) a BAFTA nominated British drama takes place over a single night in 1971 of a young British soldier (Jack O'Connell) is accidentally abandoned by his unit following a riot on the streets of Belfast Saturday 9 May



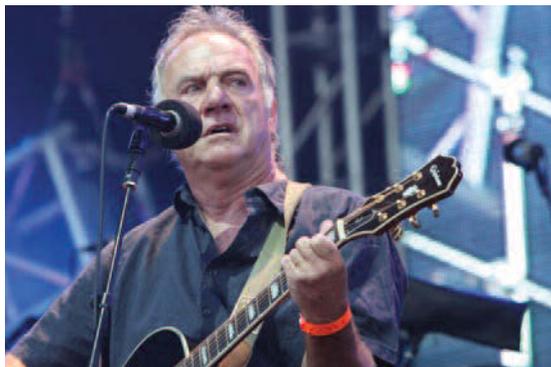
Mommy (15) Diane Després (Anne Dorval) a feisty widowed single mom is overwhelmed by the difficulty of raising her troubled, sometimes violent son single handed. Thur 21 May.



For information, please contact the Number 8 Box Office 01386 555488 or go to the website www.number8.or

Roses Round Up Tewkesbury

Our Slap picks for Roses Tewkesbury in May start with **The Demon Barbers XL: Disco at the Tavern Tour** on Friday 8th. **The Barbers** are renowned for their no holds barred approach to performance and this all new live show sees them returning to the stage with extra band members and new twists to their multi award-winning roadshow. Do not miss one of the most anticipated live folk and dance spectaculars of the year!



Sunday 17th brings a true legend of English folk to Tewkesbury, namely **Ralph McTell**. Though celebrating 50 years on the road I've always thought Ralph criminally

underrated though he maintains a staunchly loyal and still growing fan base. Go to this gig and you will witness Ralph creates a unique world where narrative songs are combined with dexterous, finger-picking guitar & evocative storytelling.



Next up on Wednesday 20th at The Roses is BBC Radio 2 Folk Singer Of The Year 2014 **Bella Hardy**. Hailing from The Peak District Bella is touring her seventh solo album '*With The Dawn*', which is a heartfelt, intimate and reflective account of one year in her life. This is sure to be a truly exceptional, involving and affecting concert.

Last of our Slap picks is unconventional songster **Rory McLeod** who brings his multifarious troubadour talents to The

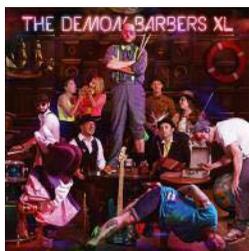


Roses on Tuesday 26th. Rory creates a wholly original and powerful style of music by fusing melodies and rhythms from traditions such as Celtic, Eastern European and Calypso, through to flamenco to blues. Rory is a one man soul band who weaves magical storytelling spells with intimate and revealing music.

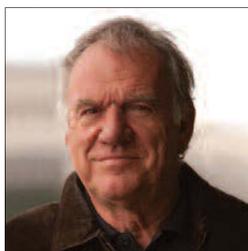
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Ralph McTell
Sun 17 May 7.30pm
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Bella Hardy
Wed 20 May 7.30pm
 £15.75 - £14.75



Rory McLeod
Tues 26 May 8.30pm
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See **Bella Hardy** for just £3.25 when you also buy tickets to see **Ralph McTell**



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SlowBurner

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sun 12th April

Paul Bridgewater brought his 4 piece rock blues band to the Sunday evening session at the POW, and raised the temperature of what was already a warm atmosphere. The band consists of Paul on vocal lead, Mike Bannister on guitar, Simon Neale on bass, and a very lively, 2nd vocalist/occasional drummer! Dave Small. Now I have to say, I have seen Dave many times with Matt Woosey, and he's usually just sat on an old orange box (do they still use wooden orange boxes?) tapping along to the rhythm. This time round, he has a real seat and a couple of chopsticks in his hands. Slowburner have been around for quite a time, and supported some big names over the years, not least because Paul has a phenomenal voice, reminiscent of the likes of Paul Rogers, and Mike plays a pretty mean guitar to boot, new boy Simon, made his presence felt too, laying down the foundations alongside Dave.

Having mentioned Dave, I will just say, he's shot up into my top 5 percussionist targets for my lens. To reach that status, you have to be expressive, energetic, and visibly 'live' that rhythm. He meets all those criteria with aplomb!

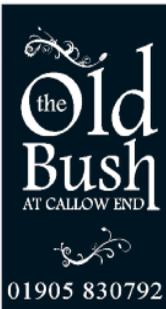
From the first few chords, you know this is going to rattle the walls, Mike's guitar is talking as Dave thumps down those sticks, then the unmistakable voice of Paul pitches in, first, for some weighty rock from the early 70's, and then their own take on Robert Johnson's 'Stop Breaking Down', all of which brought a bit of vibrancy to the early Sunday evening gathering at the Prince. Some full Cream followed, very apt at this time, though some possibly have other opinions, this



'Politician' gets my vote, it sits very comfortably into the bands repertoire. Slowburner may play some reworked 'covers', but they have plenty of home grown music too, an excellent 'Want You To Know', Paul's passionate, soulful voice at full power, proves the point. He took to his own 'Rockinchair', to close the first set.

We go back into the mid 50's to find a song, also recorded on the Stones first album, the superb 'King Bee', Paul at his best, with Dave joining vocals for a tub thumping 'Midnight Train'. That duet sang its way through an old Faces song, '3 Button Hand Me Down', a suite made to measure for Paul's style. The time was running away, we had heard some lovely subtle guitar, crashing drums, and strong bass, layered over by that soulful blues voice of Paul, the jammed bar demanded more, Les gave the nod. An encore to the encore was a stupendous 'Bullfrog Blues', stretched by solos from Mikes guitar and Dave's sticks, before Paul closed it out. Dave Crashed through the cymbals, struck the final beat of the drum, shot from the stool and into the gents, he was ready for the finish! An excellent local blues band that really rocks, had slowly burnt away, candle like, at this Sunday 'church' of live music.

Graham Munn



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SATURDAY 4 JULY 2015

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BRANSFORD, WORCESTER WR6 5JB 1PM - 11PM











LIVE MUSIC 2-11PM

TICKETS £15 FOR THE WHOLE DAY (£20 ON GATE) £3 FOR UNDER 12'S - UNDER 5'S FREE

CAMPING AVAILABLE FOR THE SATURDAY NIGHT AT £6PP

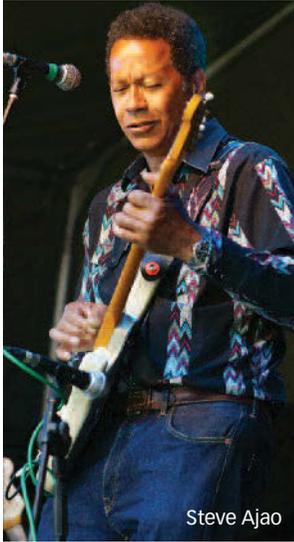
WWW.BLUESATTHEFOLD.CO.UK

PREVIEW

6th Jinney Ring Blues & Beer Festival The Jinney Ring Craft Centre | 29th-31st of May

Friday evening brings the 'Ten Ale' opening to the weekend, with craft ales and ciders available.

Saturday, from 13.00, six bands will fill the afternoon, into the evening, with the best of blues, from the Chicago style of **Steve Ajao and His Blues Giants**, through to **Dave Migden and His Twisted Roots**, who take the roots of blues, jazz and folk to form an eclectic unique sound, (a highly recommended band).



Steve Ajao

Everyone's favourites, **The Official Receivers** are also present, as well as **The JackHammer Blues band**, **The Setting Suns**, and the excellent **Steve Morrison**.

As always, a fine selection of food accompanies the ales, the restaurant is also available to take a quite time out to enjoy some excellent food.

The stage has a covered area, should it rain, but that will not put off the resident family of ducks. Jinney Ring owner *Amanda Sunter* said. "We are tremendously excited for this year's Blues Festival".



The Official Receivers

Advance tickets for Saturday are £16.00 (£20.00 on the gate), £7.00 for under 14s and under 5s go free. Camping is £7.00pp for one night or £12.50pp for two, including a £2.00 breakfast voucher for the Jinney Ring Farmhouse Restaurant. Tickets can be booked online at www.jinneyring.co.uk or by phone on 01527 821272.



Steve Morrison

A purple and yellow poster for the Jinney Ring Blues Festival. The text is arranged in a vertical layout. At the top right, it says 'SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2015'. Below that, it lists the featured acts: 'OFFICIAL RECEIVERS', 'DAVID MIGDEN & THE TWISTED ROOTS', 'STEVE AJAO BLUES GIANTS', 'THE SETTING SUNS', 'JACKHAMMER BLUES BAND', and 'STEVE MORRISON'. At the bottom right, it says 'TICKETS £16 FOR THE WHOLE DAY'. The website 'WWW.JINNEYRINGBLUES.CO.UK' is at the very bottom. The background features the festival name 'Jinney Ring BLUES FESTIVAL' in white and purple, with several white duck silhouettes flying across the top.

Jinney Ring BLUES FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2015

FEATURING OFFICIAL RECEIVERS DAVID MIGDEN & THE TWISTED ROOTS STEVE AJAO BLUES GIANTS THE SETTING SUNS JACKHAMMER BLUES BAND STEVE MORRISON

TICKETS £16 FOR THE WHOLE DAY

WWW.JINNEYRINGBLUES.CO.UK

Chris Stringer and Anthony James Richard Clarke and The Rafters The MARRS Bar, Worcester | 29th March

Chris Stringer and Anthony James were taking their "Radio Silence" tour across the British Isles: Two nights in London, and one apiece in Manchester, Dublin and Worcester. Worcester support was from familiar locals **Richard Clarke**

and **The Rafters**, who were a last minute change to the bill after the scheduled Alex Rainsford had to pull out. The Rafters ably stepped up and did their best to warm up the MARRS, with their trademark glitchy-folky melodies. There's a growing element of new songs in their sets now, which all contain subtle complimentary electronic blips and loops.



So who were these travelling troubadours Chris and Anthony, and what did they bring into town? Well, it would appear that something of a transatlantic musical love affair was being played out at the gig. Chris is from Swansea, and Anthony from Washington Village in Central Baltimore. They met some while ago on "The Unified Scene", a messageboard for **The Hold Steady**, and through their postings they realised that each was a fully-fledged singer-songwriter. As they communicated more frequently, the idea of a shared e.p. and joint tour began to crystallise in their minds. After transatlantically pulling together a six track e.p. they were taking their songs as far around Britain as their finances allowed. Hey! There was no point in Anthony flying all this way over here from the USA to just play in some London bar before getting the next plane home, right? Might as well try and make the most of the situation, get out and about and see something of the British Isles, right? So a tour taking in the traditional stops of the varied cultures of London – The Midlands - The North - Ireland was booked, and they were courageously relying on the public transport system to get them around for this five date tour. This all seemed part of the adventure for them, and a good job too as they nearly arrived late for The MARRS Bar show: cancelled trains due to Sunday afternoon track maintenance, misunderstandings and miscommunication with railway employees, interminable "Rail Replacement Bus Services" – we all know that story. And "story" is appropriate, as Chris and Anthony showed themselves to be accomplished weavers of a tale worth telling, and worth hearing.

Chris went first; his songs were in a modern finger picking style that left space for you to chew over the impressionistic emotional lyrics. The instrumental sections resonating with each song's feelings as much as the melodies and words. Mostly Chris's songs were of the personal open heart as he sang of relationships and events, and their impact on him. Lovers? Others? Both? His impressionistic lyrics kept you wondering. Like the washes of colour on a Monet water lily painting, whether you saw what you thought you saw and what you made of it all, was up to your interpretation. He sang with a rich, measured voice that he used with the skill of a singer who knew exactly how to get the best from it – sustaining notes with a sweet tone.



Now here's a funny thing – as Chris's set drew to a close a new crowd began to trickle into the MARRS. Suited, tipsy and talkative, the trickle became a stream until the bar area was full and noisily buzzing with dozens of people who all seemed to know each other. Sensibly, Chris closed with a driving version of Duran Duran's "Rio" that picked the song up by the scruff of its neck, shook it down, and gave it a spine that it never knew it had. Exit to cheers. By now the sound of talking filled-up the air and the PA struggled to push the acoustic music to a clearly audible level. I began to wonder if Anthony was going to be able to project his songs enough to be able to get them across to the noisy room.

However, I needed have worried. I don't know what the kind of environments the coffee houses / bars / music venues of the North Eastern US are like, but Anthony stepped up to the mike, adjusted his guitar strap, and began to belt out his songs with the confidence of a man who's stared down and won over drunker, rowdier crowds than THIS, thank you very much!

If Chris's songs embodied the personal, Anthony was the other side of the singer-songwriter coin. He occupied the role of the passionate observer; sitting at the back of the diner and noting down the lives of the everyday, desperate characters around him. His songs were strident, fervent, and emotionally invested in those lives. I won't kid you, all the meaningful comparisons are the ones you're already expecting: Springsteen, Johnny Cash, early Tom Waits – blah blah. But the simple fact is, this is a part of popular song that's as American as a pastrami on rye with extra pickles, and just as satisfying to enjoy when the singer is clearly relishing singing them with maximum conviction.



Now here's another funny thing – Anthony had the punch to actually start to connect with the tipsy, talkative suits. By the end of his set everyone was aware that a talented singer was giving his all on stage, and a large minority were finding him more entertaining and enjoyable than nattering with their mates. Exit to shouts for more.

You can catch more of Chris and his music at chrisstringermusic.co.nr, and you can catch Anthony at charmcitytroubadour.com, including footage of his excellent song "Leaving On The Train" from this very gig – complete with tipsy fan stage invasion! Well, thanks for coming over chaps. You're always welcome in Worcester. Perhaps it would've nicely rounded out the night to see you duet together, but maybe you can do that next time?

Dan Bramhall

Faithful City Shows Creeper, Vault of Eagles Lanterns and Chase The Deer Marris Bar, Worcester | Sun 19th April

The dark depths of the **Marris Bar** was the venue for the latest **Faithful City Show**. A chance to catch a line up of bands that are all growing in their popularity and reputations.

First on stage we had one of Worcester's youngest bands, **Chase The Deer**. All aged between sixteen and eighteen, these new wave indie pop teens are a delight to see. Blending their own high energy tunes, *Confession*, *Think*, *Jigsaw* and *Bad Date* with a few carefully selected and reworked covers. They performed with a boundless enthusiasm well beyond their years and experience would suggest. With a style that reminds you of Blondie and the Primitives, a quick trip to I Tunes has ensured that they will be entertaining me a lot on this years summer road trip.

Next on stage came Gloucester's punk favourites **Lanterns**. With a debut album *'This Is Not My Home'* to showcase. The band managed to compress all their thrashing songs into a tight set, in an onslaught that left the band if not the audience exhausted. It's great to see a band willing to give it everything and keep nothing in reserve.

Thirdly fresh from performing on record store day at Rise Records we had had one of Worcestershires favourite bands **Vault of Eagles**. With a new double A sided 7" single to promote the trio were at their best. *'Spoonfed Dead'* and *'Livin With Love'* are the latest additions to their ever growing repertoire. Performed in the their own grungy melodic loud



Vault of Eagles

style. Both tunes have an infectious, hypnotic and rhythmic quality that is hard to disobey.

Headlining on this Sunday evening we where treated to **Creeper**. With a hardcore attitude and gothic movie inspired looks. These southcoast punks are on their way to great things. With a set that encompassed everything from



Creeper

bouncing heavy gory numbers to more rock inspired slow ballads. Creeper managed to cover a lot of musical ground and certainly gave us our moneys worth. Can't wait to catch them again at this years Download Festival.

Duncan Graves

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Faithful City Shows
The Lion & The Wolf, Ian MacIntosh
Ben Sir, Tina V, Scott Howland
Drummonds, Worcester | Thursday 9th May

After a high octane start, **Faithful City Shows** were keen to show us that they had another 'softer' side as the audience gathered for their first acoustic show.

Scott Howland started the show with one of his own indie inspired tunes. With a debut EP 'Favourite Hello' now available. Scott was keen to show us why his songs about love and loving have earned him spots on many of this years local festivals.



Second on stage we had **Tina V**. Many people will know her as the lead singer of **This Wicked Tongue**. Now residing in Bristol. Tina returned back home to Worcester and back to her routes as a busker with her new solo acoustic set. A mixture of new original songs that have a dreamy quality about them blended with some old favourites from her **This Wicked Tongue** days to give a well balanced uplifting performance.



Next up we had American, Canadian **Ben Sir**. Ben is usually seen as the front-man of Canadian punk band **Worst Days Down**. For his solo act he has stripped his punk tunes back to

their melodic bones. Songs drawn from childhood memories punctuated by the occasional red neck hillbilly riffs gave Ben a sound all of his own.



Stomp along folk rock anthems were the order of the day for our fourth act **Ian MacIntosh**. Ian has gained great acclaim with his Canadian band 'Owls by Nature'. As a solo he showed seasoned confidence and lost little impact from his whole band performances. He isn't pretty but there is a raw honesty in his style that gives him a sparkle that shines through.

Last but not least we were treated to **The Lion and The Wolf**. Real name **Tom George** he had been the happiest and most smiley person in the room all night. Tom says he never sets out to write sad songs. He sings about seeing colours and people who care about each other. But when he sings, the songs just seem to come out sounding sad and melancholic. Abandoning the stage from the start. Tom invited the



audience in closer. It's at that moment that he dispenses with the microphone and allows you to be immersed in the purity of his perfectly pitched voice. Smile. Cry. It's hard to know how to respond to such an emotional display. The only thing I can say is that I hope he comes back very soon.

Words & Pics: Duncan Graves



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Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Another month has flown by and our first official month with our new look website, which we are still hearing some great things about so thank you! April was a month to celebrate all things music and we loved it- what with **Record Store Day** occupying a sunny weekend and some incredible live shows in Hereford and Worcester. Hereford's The Venue was home to a special **Hereford Live** night and Worcester's **Embrace The Chaos** hosted a night for those French lovelies in **Quadrupede** - who you can find in our online store! More details of this can be found at www.circuitsweet.co.uk

We also spent some time with local band **Red Room Therapy** to talk about their album release, **Nozstock + Down on the Farm** festival appearances and their support for **Hereford live**.

Red Room Therapy are an act we first discovered at a local Hereford fundraiser for West Mercia Women's Aid back in 2012. Since then we've grown to admire this unique band, who we've seen progress on their own journey leading up to their milestone debut album release at the tail end of last year.

The Pontypridd based act (with Herefordian ties) consist of **Osh Jones** - Guitars/Vocals and **Jordon Robinson** - Drums, live they are joined by bassist **Liam Bevan**. Together this passionate rock outfit will simply captivate you. Over the years, one thing Red Room Therapy can promise - with their live sets, their live capabilities, their workmanship and their charm - this band will always deliver. The band have also easily captured said talent so effortlessly on their aforementioned debut album '*All in The Mind*'.

Firstly We want to get to know more on you. Please introduce yourselves and your role within the band? **Osh**: My name's Osh and I'm the shouty singer man who likes to twang a few chords on the guitar.

Jordon: *Whereas I'm a gentleman who plays the drums. With my shirt off.*

How did you all form and where did the name come from?

Osh: *Jordon came to live in Wales for a while and we grew quite fond of him. Actually we stole him because he's so good on the drums so we created Red Room Therapy. The name's a bit of a secret though.*

What inspires you to get behind a drum kit, pick up your instrument and sing?

Jordon: *It sounds a bit dismissive towards non-musical people, but life is so much better when you play music.*

Osh: *What he said. I don't know how I'd cope without it.*

At the tail end of last year you released your debut album '*All In The Mind*' - We would love to know the ins and outs on this release. Describe your writing process together/recording process and how you've managed to get to the point of this standout release?

Osh: *To be totally honest, a lot of the writing process just involves jamming. Sometimes we'll jam something for a while, then take all the bits we like and put them into 4 minute bursts of song. I probably spend a lot more time thinking about lyrics because I try not to let them sound mundane.*

What do you feel the album captures?

Jordon: *We wanted our first album to capture most of the sounds that make us who we are, and we've worked pretty*

hard to make that happen. Hopefully anyone who listens to this will be sucked into hard, energetic rock'n'roll.

Where can we all find the release?

Jordon: *At the moment we're selling special limited edition copies of the album on our website until they're all gone, but if you want the quick and easy way you can download our album on iTunes.*

itunes.apple.com/gb/album/all-in-the-mind/id942901312

You've got strong ties to the Hereford live scene and you are a promising local act. You played and headlined the first ever Hereford Live launch night and have since supported many HL related shows but tell us personally why you love Hereford Live?

Jordon: *When I was living in Wales, every once in a while I'd come home to Hereford to ease the homesickness. After a while I invited Osh and the guys to come and hang out here and we actually ended up recording some of our first demos here, which was fun. At the end of the day, Hereford's my hometown and I'll always want live music to happen here. Headlining the Hereford Live launch night was a very humbling personal experience.*

Last year Red Room Therapy won a special competition to play at local renowned festival Nozstock, how did this come about and tell us about your festival appearance?

Osh: *If you spend some time in Hereford it doesn't take long to hear about Nozstock. I was curious about this festival I heard such great things about and decided to check it out. Last year they were calling out for artists to submit a song to be considered for a main stage slot. There were some great artists on the list so we were absolutely thrilled to be chosen, especially when we got there and discovered that the main stage was a giant dinosaur.*

Enlighten us to what can we look forward to from you in the future- many other plans set for the rest of this year, be it touring, recording, releasing etc?

Osh: *Believe it or not, this is actually just the beginning. Now that we've released our first album we've got all sorts of adventures to come. We're filming some music videos over the next few months before we get ready to rock a few festivals over the summer.*

Jordon: *I'm personally looking forward to playing the Saturday night at Down on the Farm this summer and not just because we get gallons of beautiful cider!*



Friday 1 May 2015

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

St Richard's Car & Boat Festival, Droitwich

Satellite Band

Event House, Worcester

Downtown Fusion

Drummonds, Worcester

Last Tree Squad

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

The Disciples

Drummonds, Worcester

Billy Chill Fingers

Lunar Bar, Worcester,

Dogs Of Santorini, Amorphica, Nuns Of The Tundra

The Cross Keys, Malvern

4Billion Souls Festival - Opium Lord, Three Thrones, Seal Clubber, Women

ScaryCanary the Venue, Stourbridge

The Delray Rockets

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Mother Popcorn

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Cara Dillon

Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve

James Atkin (Ex EMF) + Miles Hunt (Wonderstuff) & Erica Nockalls

Guildhall, Gloucester

O'Hooley & Tidow

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Legacy

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Graham Parker & Brinsley Schwarz

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Cougar Attack

The Marr's Bar

Manalishi

Millers Arms, Pershore

Peter Jagger

Great Malvern Hotel

Johnny Kowalski And The Sexy Weirdos

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Dan

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The John Steeds

The Pavilion in the Park, Worcester

The Great West Groove

The Old Bush, Callow End

DJ Night

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Ben Vickers

The Pheasant, Worcester

Medicine Spoon

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Bright Eyes

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Band Slam 2015 - Grand Final - Erica vs White Pigeon

The Iron Road, Evesham

Smokin Ade Wakelin

Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 2 May 2015

Mister Wolf

The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Royal British Legion, Ledbury

Black Cat Bone

The Paul Pry, Worcester

Jazz Gnome Assassins

Waitrose Pagoda, Gt Malvern

The John Steeds

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

4Billion Souls Festival - Steve Strong, Ultimate Grande Supreme, Of Kings and Captains, Deathly Pale Party, The Snapshots

ScaryCanary the Venue, Stourbridge

Busby Babes

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

King Solomon EP Launch, Subduction, SN Dubstation, Emmy Fearon

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Undercocks

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Young Kato

Guildhall, Gloucester

Seth Bye and Katie Griffin

Stroud Brewery

Sam Fearon

The Convent Sth Woodchester nr Stroud

Barefoot Serpents

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Kast Off Kinks

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Stevensons

Pieppe of Piddle

Ray Mytton

The Unicorn, Malvern

Delray Rockets

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

V E Day Festival

Evesham

Sax Appeal

Millers Arms, Pershore

Laurence Jones, The Rainbreakers

The Marr's Bar

40 Blues Toes

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Rewind

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Drongos for Europe, The Dubtones

Boars Head, Kidderminster

That Friday Feeling

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Ric Lavell

West Midlands Tavern, Worcester

Damo

The New Chequers, Worcester

XL5

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Gravy Train

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Smyths (tribute)

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Freaky Trigger

Pig and Drum, Worcester

Stoner Rock Night - Gringo + The 1969 Club (France) + Dogtown Dojo

The Iron Road, Evesham

Sunday 3 May 2015

Last Tree Squad, Ital Sounds

Drummonds, Worcester

4Billion Souls Festival - Ugly Duckling, Free School, Ricta & Warren of

Snares, Swoompheng

ScaryCanary the Venue, Stourbridge

Cider & Ska Day with The Interpreters, Skabucks & The Equators

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

One Tree Canyon, Dave Robinson

Hop Pole, Bewdley

Black (aka Colin Vearncombe)

Tithe Barn, Bishop's Cleeve

Kara Grainger

The Convent Sth Woodchester nr Stroud

The Notorious Brothers

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Revolution 12 hour spectacular DJ's 1pm - 1am

Firefly, Worcester

The Woo Town Hillbillies

Pieppe of Piddle

V E Day Festival

Evesham

Frigg

Courtyard, Hereford

Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mia And The Black Hawks

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

China Shop Bull, Fighting Evil is Cool & Gone and Lost It

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Ben Stancomb

The Pheasant, Worcester

Paul White & Ray Mitton

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Jackie Baker

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Collective 43 + many others

Swingamajig Festival, Birmingham

Dave Onions

The Wheelhouse, Upton on Severn

The ZZ Tops

The Iron Road, Evesham

All Dayer with DJ Collective - All Styles

Pig and Drum, Worcester

Monday 4 May 2015

Bryn Teeling

Hop Pole, Bewdley

Gastric Band

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Collective 43 + others

Bewdley Spring Fair

Wentley Flatts Final Drive (4pm) + Open Mic (8pm til late)

The Swan, Upton Warren

All Day Open Mic with Pete Kelly 2 pm start

Queens Head, Wolverley

Tuesday 5 May 2015

Chicago Bytes

The Millers Arms, Pershore

ConFab Cabaret 13, Matt Windle, The Retinal Circus, Kurly McGeachie

The Mount Pleasant, Malvern

The Pat McManus Band

The Iron Road, Evesham

Wednesday 6 May 2015

Gaz Brookfield

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 7 May 2015

Blood Sport & Giant Swan

ScaryCanary the Venue, Stourbridge

Sounds of Simon

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel

Filthy Palms

The Iron Road, Evesham

Friday 8 May 2015

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Bell & Talbot, Bridgnorth

Virgil & The Accelerators

The Iron Road, Evesham

Come Up & See Me

Drummonds, Worcester

Bella Hardy

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Electric (formerly Sugar Mama)

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Mark Grist and MC Dixy

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Therapy?

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Wurzels + Skimmity Hitchers

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Louise Jordan

The Convent Stn Woodchester nr Stroud

Executive

Millers Arms, Pershore

3 bands for £3 TBC

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Ben Stancombe

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Bella Hardy - With The Dawn Tour

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Roy Orbison & The Traveling Wilburys Roadshow

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sax and Axe

Great Malvern Hotel

The Undercovers

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Mary Spender

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Defiantly Brit Pop

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Chickenbone Blues

The Old Bush, Callow End

Punk Night with Eastfield, Brassick & Crashmats

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dumb and Drummer

The Pheasant, Worcester

Rishi Viot and Tarisha Selgman lead this Trance Dance

Cube, Malvern

Reload

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Midnight City

Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 9 May 2015

Mister Wolf

The Millfields Social Club, Bromsgrove

Skewwhiff

The Unicorn, Malvern

Graveyard Johnnys, Criminal Mind, Isaac

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

DJ Ed Steelefox

Lunar Bar, Worcester

The John Steeds

YMCA Club, Tewkesbury

Cheesy Dick

Millers Arms, Pershore

Jay & Eli

The Swan Inn, Worcester

Lets Go Disco

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Global Rhythms

Stroud Subscription Rooms

George Montague

The Convent Stn Woodchester nr Stroud

Perfect Alibi - Pink Floyd Tribute

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Talbot, Pershore

Viva Santana

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jasper In The Company Of Others, Alex Rainsford, Andy Oliveri &

The Mountaineers Richard Clarke & The Rafter's

The Marr's Bar

Vo Fletcher

Great Malvern Hotel

The Coalition

The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Manfreds

Courtyard, Hereford

Parkin Lot

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Mother Popcorn

The Pavilion in the Park, Worcester

Stevie Jones & The Wildfires, Monster Jaw, The Simpletones &

Peter Williams

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Chalky Martin

West Midlands Tavern, Worcester

Hagglebag

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Riff Raff

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

52 SLAP MAY

Sax Appeal

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Singing Medicine Circle

Cube, Malvern

The Mob

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Forty Blue Toes

The Wheelhouse, Upton on Severn

Trooper beer 2nd B'Day with Chase The Ace (Israel) + Eldorado (Spain)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Sunday 10 May 2015

Steve Ashley

Almonry Heritage Centre, Evesham

Tim Balnaves (Skabucks)

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gordon Giltrap

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Fairport Convention

The Convent Stn Woodchester nr Stroud

Will Killeen

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Steve Gibbons & Aalia Large

The VIP Lounge, Steps Bar, Redditch

If Wet - Experimental sound art 2-4pm

Callow End Village Hall

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Grape Vaults, Leominster

Whetherman, Rita Payne

The Marr's Bar

"Sunday Sessions" with Ben Vickers

The Pheasant, Worcester

So Sunday with Mambo Jambo 1-3pm Gordon Giltrap 7.30 for 8pm start

The Fleece, Bretforton

Clarksville Mountain Band

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Tasha

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Chris Hutchison 3-5pm

The Morgan, Malvern

Lazy Sunday with This is Electric, Eeek, Phephe & James Shead (12-6pm)

Cafe Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester

Monday 11 May 2015

Juan Martin and Chaperro De Malaga

The Great Barn, Hellens Manor, Much Marcle

Wednesday 13 May 2015

Phil King

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Shatter Effect

The Iron Road, Evesham

Thursday 14 May 2015

Smokin Ade Wakelin

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Songs of Nick Drake - Keith James

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Altan

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Harmony Belle, Rick Edwards

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Friday 15 May 2015

Come Together

Drummonds, Worcester

Suzi and The Backbeats

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Simon & Garfunkel: Throughout The Years

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Gilmore and Roberts

The Convent Stn Woodchester nr Stroud

Skrood

Millers Arms, Pershore

James Grant

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Dave Onions

Piesse of Piddle

Billy Shears

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Ernie Chattaway Memorial Gig

The Marr's Bar

Steve Lindforth

Great Malvern Hotel

Mydesign

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Sammy Jo

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Psychedelic Warlords & One Eyed God

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Neil Ivison

The Pheasant, Worcester

Paul White & Ray Mytton

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Hometown Tourists

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Jean Genie (Bowie Tribute)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Mainstream

Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 16 May 2015

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Black Star, Stourport on Severn

Massive Head Trauma, Stranger In Death, The Waters Edge

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Quarter Stone, Amorphica, Camilla Nuttley

The Bedwardine, Worcester

Lady Grey

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Off the Wall - The Music of Pink Floyd

Guildhall, Gloucester

Magnificent AK47 + The Croutons

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Dark Island

Stroud Brewery

Judie Tzuke + support

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Blue Tones Jazz

Piesse of Piddle

Quadrophonia Night with The Who + The Quikbeats

Artix, Bromsgrove

Aquarius

The Unicorn, Malvern

Malvern Rocks Warm Up Gig

Great Malvern Hotel

The Gt's

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Bourbon Blues Alley

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Joe McElderry with his live band

Courtyard, Hereford

Four Flights Up

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Reflections

The Pavilion in the Park, Worcester

Northsyde

The Old Bush, Callow End

DJ Night

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Mike Skilbeck

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

That Friday Feeling

West Midlands Tavern, Worcester

Matt Peplow

The New Chequers, Worcester

Hump De Bump

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Amanda Stone

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Colin Hartley

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Sons of Beaches

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Jagged Hands

The Wheelhouse, Upton on Severn

Sunday 17 May 2015

Stuart Woolfenden

Rushwick Cricket Club, Rushwick

Nizlopi

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

James Cottrill

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Luke Doherty Band

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman

The Fleece, Bretforton

Jazz Express

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Vo Fletcher

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Sax Appeal

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 20 May 2015

Faithful City Shows #5 - Sweet Empire, Irish Handcuffs,

Horror On The High Seas

Drummonds, Worcester

Will Edmunds Trio

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Kory Clarke (Warrior Soul) (U.S.A) + Enuff Z'nuff (U.S.A) + Estrella

The Iron Road, Evesham

Thursday 21 May 2015

Gaz Brookfield, Ethan Ash, Connor Maher

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Dave Jackson Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Matt Papa

Guildhall, Gloucester

Puma Creek

Courtyard, Hereford

Marcus Power Trio (Italy)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Folk Night with NightSpel

The Vernon, Hanbury

Friday 22 May 2015

Breaking Bands Festival

Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove

Lechlade Music Festival

Lechlade on Thames

Miles Hunt & Erica Nockalls, Dan Clews, The Misers (acoustic)

Malvern Cube, Malvern

Marris Bar House Band, Black Russian, Prism, Red Dawe, The Hills Angels

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Quarter Stone plus Supports

Pig and Drum, Worcester

Our Friends Are Eclectic

Lunar Bar, worcester

Mr Ben

Drummonds, Worcester

Chris T-T and The Hoodrats, Them Spitfires, Neil Morris

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

The All Star Dub Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dick Gaughan

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Woo Town Hillbillies

Ye Olde Talbot, Worcester

Sax 'n' Axe

Millers Arms, Pershore

Beat It Festival

Marris Bar, Worcester

Answerback

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

James Warren

Great Malvern Hotel

Seas Of Mirth

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Lightning

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Gary Hall

The Old Bush, Callow End

Roger Roberts

The Pheasant, Worcester

The Independents

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Salopian Dudes

Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 23 May 2015

Breaking Bands Festival

Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove

Lechlade Music Festival

Lechlade on Thames

Stuart Woolfenden

Stourport Civic Centre, Stourport

Vinyl DJs

Dyson Perrins, Malvern

Beat It Charity Event, Hannah Dryburgh, Red Dawe, The Lewis Boulton Trio

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Sam's Town (Killers' Tribute)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Skate Punk All-Dayer 3pm til Midnight, 12 Bands

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Quik Beats

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Stretch

Stroud Brewery

The Christians

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

CampFestival with Woo Town Hillbillies and Malvern Hillbillies

The Camp, Grimley

The All Star Dub Band

Pig and Drum, Worcester

Youth Within

The Unicorn, Malvern

Ocxy's Leaving Party with 80's Tribute Band The Pleasuredome

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Showaddywaddy Tour

Courtyard, Hereford

Licks'N'Trix

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Boogie Street

The Pavilion in the Park, Worcester

X Ray Junction

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Chalky Martin

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Gordon Dean

West Midlands Tavern, Worcester

That Friday Feeling

The New Chequers, Worcester

Pete Hyde & Friends

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Freewater

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Memphis

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Karpet Kickers

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Notorious Brothers

The Wheelhouse, Upton on Severn

Sunday 24 May 2015

Breaking Bands Festival

Stoke Prior Country Club, Bromsgrove, B60 4AL

Lechlade Music Festival

Lechlade on Thames

Ray Mytton Band, Lewis Boulton, Connie Gordon, Red Dawe, Jenny

Hallam, Dublin Jacks, Steve Nash

The Morgan, Great Malvern

The Disciples

Drummonds, Worcester

Imperial Leisure, Emmett Brown, Sundown

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Gloucester Shanty Festival Finale Concert

Guildhall, Gloucester

Blair Dunlop

The Convent 5th Woodchester nr Stroud

Howlin' Matt

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Revolution 12 hour spectacular DJ's 1pm - 1am

Firefly, Worcester

Warren James

Plesse of Piddle

Dymock Festival

Dymock Cricket Ground

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Bank House, Bransford

Delray Rockets (afternoon)

Actress and Bishop, Birmingham

Sally 5pm

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Machine Breakers, The Pete Watkins Originals

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Waiting For John

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Tom Davies

The Pheasant, Worcester

Lounge Toad

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Sean Saye

White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Works (3pm)

The Wheelhouse, Upton on Severn

The Mud Morganfield Band (Son of Muddy Waters)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Monday 25 May 2015**Freaky Trigger, Lounge Toad, Lady Birds 2, Open Mic & Jam Session**

The Cave, Malvern

Pershore Carnival**Delray Rockets**

The Barrels, Hereford

Tuesday 26 May 2015**The Young'uns**

The Convent 5th Woodchester nr Stroud

Wednesday 27 May 2015**Scallywags comedy night with Jon Wagstaffe**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Makoto Kawabata (Acid Mothers Temple), KK Null (Zeni Geva)**Duo, Voicing of City Ghosts, Continuous Play**

ScaryCanary the Venue, Stourbridge

Mischa

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Elm Street (Australia)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Thursday 28 May 2015**Surprise Attacks presents - The Hungry Ghosts, Armchair,****Barefoot In Baltimore, Oul Legionnaires**

Firefly, Worcester

C-Jam

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Livewire - The AC/DC Show

Guildhall, Gloucester

Joe McElderry

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Oil Slick Fire

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Houghton Weavers

Courtyard, Hereford

Friday 29 May 2015**Severn Sounds Festival 29-31st**

The Pavilion in the Park, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Jay & Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

Hans Chew, Drifter

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Motor Soul

Event House, Worcester

The Collective Soul Band

Drummonds, Worcester

Dave Onions

Ye Olde Seven Stars, Kidderminster

Natalie Holman

Saxty's Bar & Restaurant, Hereford

DJ Roc1

Lunar Bar, Worcester

White Feather Collective

Pig and Drum, Worcester

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Dom Pipkin

The Convent 5th Woodchester nr Stroud

The Temperance Seven

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wes Finch Trio

Plesse of Piddle

Woo Town Hillbillies

Red Lion, Evesham

Jive Talkin'

Artrix, Bromsgrove

On The House 2nd Birthday

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Neil Ivison

Great Malvern Hotel

54 SLAP MAY**Solana**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Chicago Bytes

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Dave Jackson

The Old Bush, Callow End

Underclass

Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Future Set

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Luke Doherty Band

Millers Arms, Pershore

Sheelanagig!

Cube, Malvern

Nite Train

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Bad Touch

The Iron Road, Evesham

Saturday 30 May 2015**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Woodman, Dudley

Official Receivers, David Migden & The Twisted Roots, Steve Ajao**Blues Giants, The Setting Suns, Jackhammer Blues Band, Steve Morrison**

Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove

Protocol

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

The John Steeds

The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

The Cadbury Sisters

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Uke Man League

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Goldie Lookin' Chain

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Absolute Blondie

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Delray Rockets

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Fortunes - Past & Present

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Natasha

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Bren Haze

Great Malvern Hotel

The Jaguars

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Ska Night With Suray Says & Jake & The Jellyfish

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Worcester Record and CD Fair 10am - 4pm

Guildhall, Worcester

Starmaker International

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Das Sexy Clap

Marris Bar, Worcester**Sally**

West Midlands Tavern, Worcester

Passion

The New Chequers, Worcester

Last Tree Squad

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Nice n Sleazy

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

The Foreman

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Connie Gordon, Red Dawe, Chris Hutchinson

Malvern Town Football Club

We Steal Flyers

Ginger Pig, Worcester

Collective 43 + others

How The Light Gets In Festival, Hay-on-Wye

After Dark Band

Secret Garden, Kidderminster

3 bands for £3 - Chevy Chase Stole my Wife, Quarter Stone + TBC

Marris Bar, Worcester**Sarah Warren, Haunted Souls**

The Wheelhouse, Upton on Severn

30 - 31 Asparafest Music & Food Festival with The Worzels, The

Moulettes, Blackbeards Tea Party, CBeebies Katy Ashworth...

Ashdown Farm, Evesham

Sunday 31 May 2015**Ichabod Steam & His Animatronic Band**

The Chestnut, Lansdowne, Worcester

Harry Lee Baldwin, Laurence Cook

The Chestnut, Worcester

Ricky Cool and The In Crowd

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dave Jackson Band

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Woo Town Hillbillies

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Remi Harris

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Bad Touch Acoustic

The Iron Road, Evesham

Faithful City Shows #6: Lock And Key, Boxkite, Carving A Giant, Fractures

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Dominic Kirwan and Mary Duff

Courtyard, Hereford

Jules Benjamin

The Pheasant, Worcester

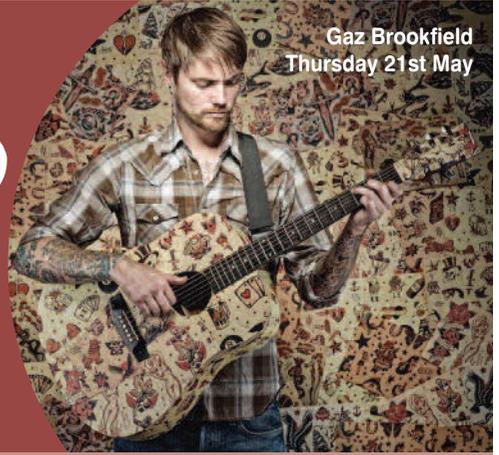
Lounge Toad

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

THE MARR'S BAR

MAY
JUNE 2015

Gaz Brookfield
Thursday 21st May



Friday 1st May

Cougar Attack
£4 on the door

Saturday 2nd May

Laurence Jones, The Rainbreakers
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Friday 8th May

3 bands for £3

Saturday 9th May

Jasper In The Company Of Others, Alex Rainsford, Andy Oliveri & The Mountaineers, Richard Clarke & The Rafterts
£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Sunday 10th May

Whetherman, Rita Payne
£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Friday 15th May

Ernie Chattaway Memorial Gig
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 16th May

Massive Head Trauma, Stranger in Death & The Waters Edge
£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Thursday 21st May

Gaz Brookfield, Connor Maher, Ethan Ash
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 22nd May

Beat It Festival
£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 23rd May

Sam's Town (Killers tribute)
£5 on the door

Sunday 24th May

The Machine Breakers, The Pete Watkins Originals
£5 a ticket £6 on the door

Friday 29th May

3 bands for £3 featuring Chevy Chase Stole my Wife, Quarter Stone + TBC

Saturday 30th May

Das Sexy Clap
£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Sunday 31st May

Faithful City Shows #6: Lock And Key, Boxkite, Carving A Giant, Fractures
£4 a ticket £6 on the door

Saturday 6th June

Smokestack
£5 in advance £6 on the door

Sunday 7th June

Funeral For A Friend
SOLD OUT

Saturday 13th June

Oas-is (Tribute)
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 19th June

"Groundhog Daze" - Keith Thompson and Ken Pustelnik, original drummer
£8a ticket £10 on the door

Sunday 28th June

Sarah Jane Scouten
TBC

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue
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