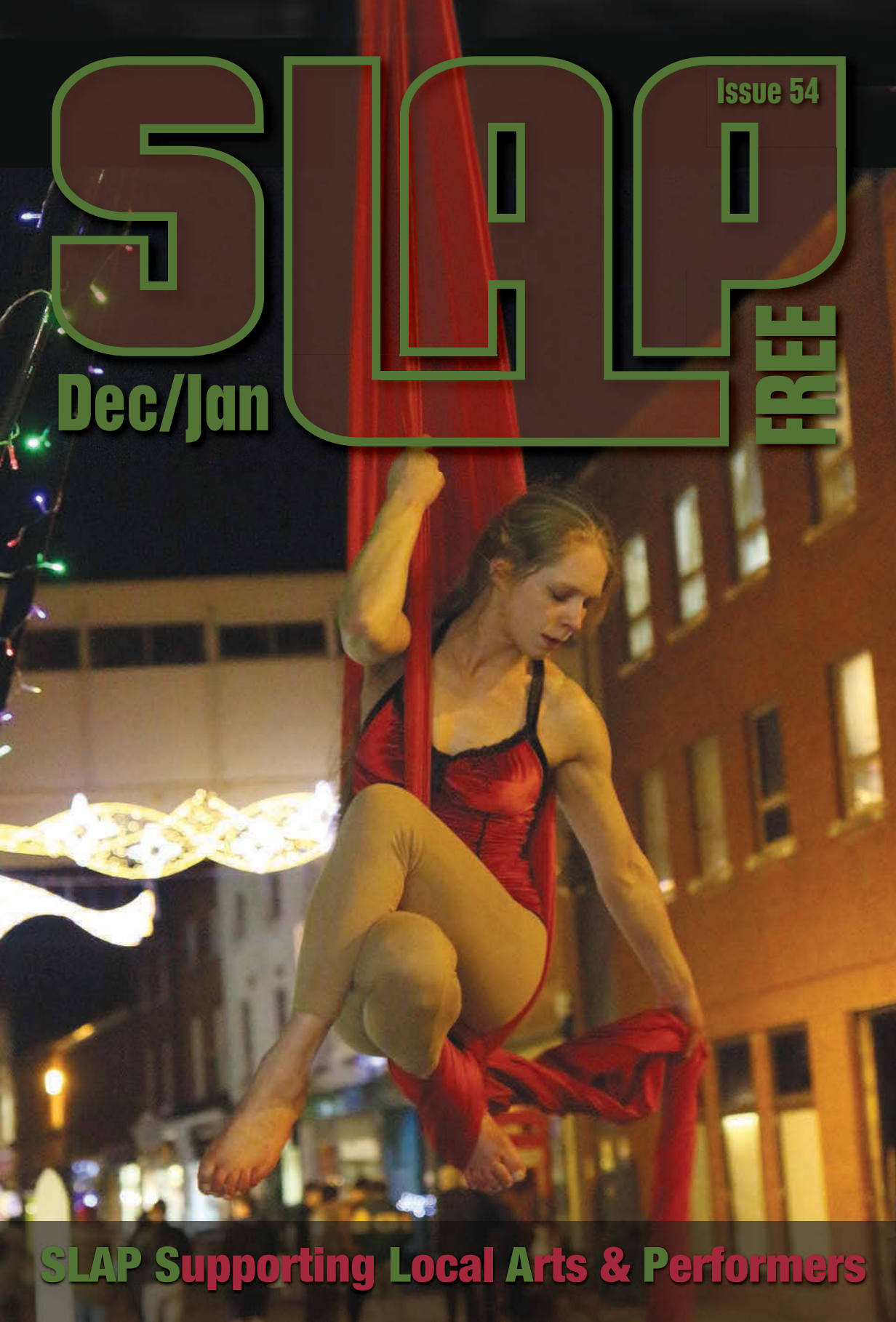


SLAP

Issue 54

Dec/Jan

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Front Cover image Orly Phillips taken by Duncan Graves performing for 'Clik Clik' at 'Gin Alley' as part of the Worcester Victorian Fayre

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OK elephant/room time: the Feast of Conspicuous Consumption is nigh and everyone who is even vaguely of my acquaintance will be well aware that my C*****s contemptuousness knows no bounds.

Yes I do bang on about it more than is healthy for myself or anyone in audible vicinity: indeed my esteemed sub-editor reminds me of a joke he is fond of paraphrasing - Q: *How do you know there's a vegan in the room?* A: *Don't worry they'll let you know!..*

I admit that is me regards tinsel and turkey. I can only say that there are many, many lovely and lively events across the SLAP region over Yuletide for you to enjoy and over-indulge in your favourite libation should it be sherry, snowball or Baileys (other sickly, girly drinks are available).

I have managed to miss the whole of the Victorian Fayre taking place in Worcester this weekend whilst deadlining on this double issue of Slap. It looked a great event judging by the photographs I've seen of the many performances around the City. Especially the street entertainment in 'Gin Lane' by Clik Clik. We chose one such image of Orly Phillips taken by our own Duncan Graves for our front cover. If you look closely you will see some C*****s lights. I do at least try...

There is I feel a serious message about socialising at gigs, plays, exhibitions etc where we can and do show our unity as people - arenas where there are no boundaries to our love for art from all around our world. All peoples of all persuasions are welcome and this is our message to the cynical warmongering control freaks out there.

When perhaps we are all searching for meaning in these chaotic, darkened times I'll leave you with the pertinent title of a wonderful Nick Lowe song: *What's So Funny 'Bout Peace, Love and Understanding?*

Welf-Ed



BBC
introducing...



If you've Got it Flaunt it!

Worcester DJ **Shaun Williams** who runs the regular **Flaunt Promotions** at the Marr's Bar in Worcester has started his own record label **Flaunt Recordings** to release his own music and to give a platform for other artists - concentrating mainly on hard house music which according to Shaun is making a massive comeback after being 'until recently almost dead' - he's been DJ-ing and making music for over 10 years since going to Ibiza and wants to attract back the original clubbers plus new recruits to the house music genre...

Musical Return to Emslie

After a couple of years music has returned to **Emslie House** in Avenue Road Malvern - with the first concert featuring cellist **Julia Palmer-Price** who used to live there when it was known as The Grove. New owners **Barnard** and **Anna Taylor** are determined to keep it going as a performance venue after spending the last two years restoring the picturesque venue with its large music room - more details at elmsliehouse.co.uk

Charlie in Crooning Clover

Young Droitwich singer **Charlie Green** is celebrating after appearing in a five-week run of shows at the **Andy Williams Moon River Theatre** in Missouri alongside 'superstar' **Jimmy Osmond**. Charlie competed in the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent in 2008 but said that as he grew up listening to the music of Frank Sinatra and Andy Williams this was a 'dream come true'...

Big 'Breaking Bands' Boost

After only its first year **Breaking Bands Festival** which is held at Stoke Prior near Bromsgrove has been nominated in four separate categories at the prestigious **UK Festival Awards** including **Best New Festival** and **Best Small Festival**. Organiser **Jason McGuire** said that they were already planning to make 2016's rock and metal bash over the May Bank Holiday even better - drawing from their own 20 years experience of attending festivals to come up with an event 'they would pay to go to themselves'...



Roughed up Rosebud

Local 'men of mystery' **Rosebud** are attracting attention with their heavy 'roughed-up' blend of electronica with elements of dub and tribal rhythms thrown in. The trio of **DRKMT**, **Crowlee Regis** and **Gorille Hurlant** are well known on the Worcester DIY punk scene but have decided on a foray into electronica to find 'their musical path by learning and doing' - their next local gig is the **Surprise Attacks Xmas Show** at the Firefly on Dec 17th.

New Concert Venue for Worcester

The developers of the new-look 'Cathedral Plaza' in Worcester have announced plans for a new 144-seat concert venue to be called the **Henry Sandon Hall** at the **Royal Worcester Porcelain** site in Severn Street. A spokesman for **Salmon Harvester** said the venue will be named in honour of the porcelain expert - and the joint venture with **Bransford Trust** and **Worcester Live** will host a wide range of events including concerts, displays and exhibitions - and is hoped to open in autumn of 2016.

Tears are Streaming

The songwriter behind Meghan Trainor's hit single '*All About That Bass*' claims to have received only \$5,679 (£3,700) in royalties from streams of the song, despite the track being played over 178 million times. **Kevin Kadish** co-wrote the 2014 single with **Trainor** which was the first to enter the UK Singles Chart based on streams alone and spent four weeks at number one. Earlier the London singer **La Roux** announced that she only got paid £100 by a streaming service for the previous three months - tweeting them saying "thanks for the £100 for this quarter - one more month and I might be able to afford your premium service. Lucky me!"

Quozza Quandry

Manager of the **Boars Head Gallery** in Kidderminster **Quozza** has revealed that after almost four years of running the BHG one 'kind gentleman' is now threatening to sue them for infringement of copyright - saying that he will be contacting '**Manga**', **Stephen Spielberg**, '*the rabbit character*' and **Jim Henson** to inform them of suspected breaches. And after that, he would like to exhibit his own work...



Goulding v Gallagher

Singer **Ellie Goulding** suspects **Noel Gallagher's** recent insult against her is some type of publicity stunt. The 48-year-old Oasis rocker laid into a bunch of musicians recently saying "*Does anybody give a f**k about what any of these current pop stars are up to? Who gives a s**t what f**king One Direction do? C**ksuckers, all of them - in rehab by the time they're 30. Who gives a s**t what Ellie Goulding is up to? Really? Adele, what? Blows my f**king mind. Nobody cares! Fame's wasted on them.*" However Ellie says she had a personal interaction with Noel that seems to discount pretty much everything he said about her. "*Noel came up to me at the Brit Awards two years ago and said, 'I love your music but don't f**king tell anyone'*" - the mystery deepens...

A photograph of the interior of The Firefly pub. The room is dimly lit with warm, ambient lighting. In the background, a bar area is visible with a sign that reads "The Firefly". The foreground shows several tables and chairs, some of which are occupied by patrons. A large, ornate mirror is mounted on the wall, reflecting the interior. A red tufted chair is visible on the right side of the frame.

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A photograph of the interior of The Hand In Glove pub. The room is dimly lit with warm, ambient lighting. In the foreground, a bar area is visible with a sign that reads "The Hand In Glove". The bar is stocked with bottles and glasses. Several tables and chairs are arranged throughout the room. A large, ornate mirror is mounted on the wall, reflecting the interior. A bookshelf filled with books is visible in the background.

THE HAND IN GLOVE

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As highlighted in last month's edition, **Clik Clik** was shortlisted for an **AIF** award for the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets** at the wonderfully eclectic **Nozstock** - the Hidden Valley in Bromyard, so a couple of weeks ago I booked my ticket and (nervously) ventured along to the awards ceremony at Cardiff University. The ceremony was part of the **AIF's Festival Congress 2015**, which took place at the Millennium Centre, supporting and celebrating Independent festivals nationally, including the likes of **2000 Trees**, **Larmer Tree**, **Wilderness**, **Shambala**, **Bestival** and many more established and emerging festivals. Thankfully I met up with some of the **Nozstock** family and crew, with their humour and 'always down to earth' approach to keep me sane at such an evening, with **Rob Da Bank** sat on the next table and other faces and teams being recognized for their work at some of the best festivals about.



The **Cabinet of Lost Secrets** didn't win the award for **Most Unique Arena**, it went to **Blissfields' Hidden Hedge** with some local links too (but it was exciting to see the name up in lights on the stage screen) though as **Papa Noz** said, we should be proud that the Cabinet was recognized at these awards in its first year!

Of the winners, I was pleased to see that **Boomtown** won their award for **The Bang Hai Palace** as **Best Spectacle of 2015**, as this was a truly fantastic sight! And The Cabinet returns to Nozstock for 2016 with bigger and better weirdness!

So overall a big whoop all round!

Remember Me This Way

Clik Clik, Collective Unconscious, Spare Room Arts and Phil Wilkins, have just won a joint commission from 'Kidderminster Creatives' for a new project, a Glitter Playground, to be based at the 2016 KAF. More details to follow.....



Rogue Play

From the 7th December **Rogue Play**, Birmingham's physical theatre company, are hosting an intensive aerial training programme aimed at performers and semi-professional aerialists, dancers and physical theatre practitioners. The course is aimed at intermediate to advanced level practitioners and designed to develop aerial technique, improve and revive existing technique and acts, and create the beginnings of new aerial theatre work. The course is hosted by professional performers and tutors of **Rogue Play**, international visiting artists and includes an additional weekend option with **Frantic Assembly**. During the creation week, participants will choose to undertake specialist training in



fabric, rope, static trapeze and handstands & acrobalance; as well as sessions in aerial theatre, creative aerial practice and of course physical theatre with **Frantic**, providing you with a plethora of material, creative ideas and technique. There will be additional lunchtime talks on selling your act/show, working as an artist and Q&A's with **Kim Charnock**, **RoguePlay's** Artistic Director.

Monday 7th to Friday 11th December 10-5pm daily, with the option of additional training with **Frantic Assembly** Master classes running Dec 12th and 13th. For more information go to www.rogueplay.co.uk

Smethwick Galton Bridge / Portrait of a Station

In 2013, over the course of a year, Kidderminster based **Alex**



Droz photographed the landscape surrounding **Smethwick Galton Bridge** railway station as it changed from season to season. Through the rectangular plastic windows that border the upper platform, the resulting photographs are a record of the views that are framed by the station's architecture. At the same time, these scratched and weathered panes help to obscure rather than reveal the natural environment beyond, creating an abstracted image that has a beauty of its own.

MAC Birmingham Until Sun 24 Jan 2016
macbirmingham.co.uk

Kidderminster Christmas

Kidderminster's Town Hall will be breathing bubbles and snow and the town will be hosting street entertainers on Saturdays 12th and 19th of December. The 12th see's **Ronnie and Kenny's Christmas Market Demonstration**, not so perfect gifts 12.45 - 3.15; **Clik Clik** Collective's character board, an ideal photo opportunity - create your own digital Christmas Cards, between 12.00 & 3pm & **Roller Skates Reindeers and Christmas Puddings** 11am - 1.30pm. On the 19th **Jelly Roller's fantastic music machine** 12-3pm and **Slightly un-angelic Angles** will be gliding around between 11.30-3.30



Open door to art

Worcestershire Open Studios is to take place again in 2016 and their aim this time is to have even more studios open and artists taking part from across Worcestershire. The Open will take place on four days across the August Bank Holiday weekend: Friday 26th - Monday 29th inclusive. Registration will open during the last week in January when full details, including price, will be announced on www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk Any



queries in the meantime, please use the contact page on the website.

Contemporary Printmakers

A new group has been recently formed called the **Worcestershire Contemporary Printmakers**, the concept of a body of printmakers working as a group within the Worcestershire area was initiated by **Pat King** who has her studio at **The Fold**, at Bransford. The group consists of Jumpstart members **Pat King, Sally Morgan, Jeannie Brown**, also **Andrew Judd, Tony Muckle** and **Frans Wessleman**. The printers involved have individual disciplines ranging from linocut, etching, woodcut and photogravure printing techniques. The groups first exhibition will be with IMPRESS 2016, a major collaboration showing in the Stroud and Cheltenham area so keep your eyes out!



Frans Wessleman

Winter at Dancefest

This term **DFA, Dancefest's** performance group for experienced dancers with a sense of adventure, **Fusion and Tenbury Dancemakers** youth dance groups, and **Rock Creative Chance** to Dance have created a performance for Tenbury Mistletoe Festival on Saturday 5th December. Over 50 dancers tell the story of **The Mistletoe Hunt**, a battle between light and dark which begins at the annual winter ball of The White Queen.

For more information about the festival visit:
tenburymistletoe.org/festival

Some of the dancers will also be performing The Mistletoe Hunt as part of the Winter Solstice events at **Fort Royal Park** in Worcester, between 3-5pm on 22 December. There will be lots of other lovely things happening throughout the park, including watching the sunset on the shortest day of the year and a lantern parade to bring some light to the darkness.



Running dance classes for all ages across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Dancefest's Spring term starts on Friday 8 January providing a friendly and open place for people who are new to dance to have fun and learn new skills, as well as offering advanced classes and three youth dance companies for experienced dancers. Classes include Contemporary Technique for adults aged 18+ and for youth dancers from age 13. Parents and Wobblers for children aged 18 months – 4 years and Chance to Dance classes for people aged 55+ amongst lots of other things.

Dancefest is an organisation which also leads many projects each year. These vary from small one-off workshops to site specific performances, as well as projects and collaborations with other artists and organisations.

For more information visit dancefest.co.uk, email:

info@dancefest.co.uk , call 01905 611199 or look out for a brochure in a café or venue near you.

Worcester Online gallery

Origin Arts Ltd, a Worcester based company which provides art classes to budding creatives locally, is now branching out to launch a new website to promote the work of professional Worcester artists.

The website, which sells limited edition prints, cards and accessories launched on 20th November, with a student gallery also on its way. Origin Arts Ltd is already well established for its busy community of local amateur artists that attend the classes.

Becky Newell, artist and Director of **Origin Arts** said *"There's access to creativity for everyone, from ordering a print, appreciating art or coming to a class and painting. There is so much talent around me in Worcester."*

www.originartsgallery.co.uk

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HOGAN'S

Kay Bainbridge

"I find oil painting really alchemistic and incredibly flexible as a medium. It has a way of communicating what I want to say or a feeling of something that can't be expressed in words. There are so many ways in which you can use oil paint to visually represent or express something. The expressive qualities and the great depth of colour of oil paint are really the only true way I can find to visually communicate something. I don't think I will ever stop learning about ways in which to use it and that is very appealing to me".



Kay Bainbridge is a painter and illustrator with a degree in Fine Art and an MA in Children's book Illustration.

"I wanted to be an artist from a very young age and have always loved the medium of paint; it's very difficult to make a career from painting so I teach too, but saying that I do enjoy teaching."

"My inspiration comes from many things; for instance traveling, internet searches, photography, childhood memories, music, post-war postcards, architecture and certain aspects of society. It may be just a glimpse of something or a particular shape or pattern that resonates and I feel the need to explore it further."

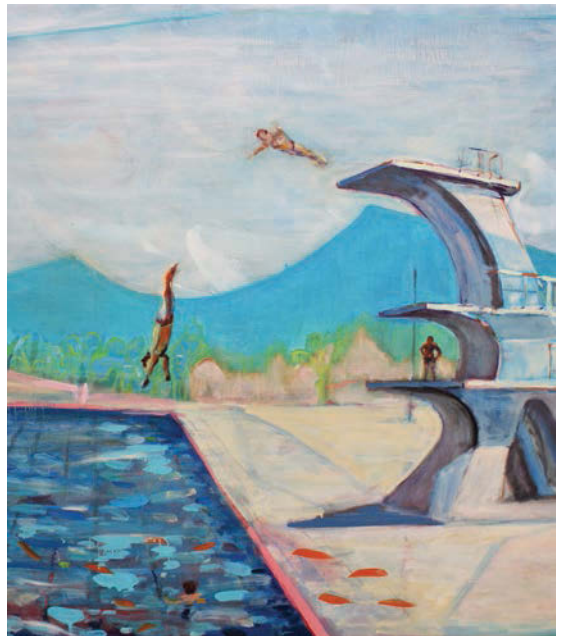
"And you can't beat going to see a painting in the flesh to really appreciate the power and emotion it has. I have many artists whose work I admire but I guess the long-standing ones are Peter Doig, Frank Auerbach, Picasso, Patrick Heron, Frieda Kahlo and Howard Hodgkin"

Just over four years ago Kay set up **No.4a** in Malvern. It is a collection of 4 studios and a pop up gallery space. It was set up mainly due to the frustration of years of looking for a studio space and never finding one. She runs Art classes from the space and next year are showcasing a run of exhibitions that are the result of being sent a number of proposal ideas from artists from the UK and Europe.



"I think there are going to be very exciting shows and a great opportunity to see some contemporary art in the Malvern Area."

Kay has work on show currently at the **Nesta Gallery** in London after just finishing a group show selected by the **London Group** with work on show along side **Paula Rego** and **Albert Irvin**. She will be focusing the next couple of months or so in the studio to produce a whole new body of work.



You can visit Kay in her studio by appointment (07941 521487) or visit the Nesta Gallery in London. You can also see her work online at www.kaybainbridge.co.uk www.no4a.com

WEEKEND CUBE

I think it's safe to say - Christmas is nearly here! We have a lovely bunch of festive (and non-festive - for all you scrooges out there) events this December along with a whole host of goodies to banish the New Year Blues!

December shows kick off with a devised performance by **Perfect Circle Youth Theatre**. Their piece **Behind Closed Doors**, showing Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December at 7pm, portrays a strange, grotesque, badly behaved cast of characters who live in a small town somewhere in the midlands. They're all going to the same party on New Years Eve 2016. Relationships unravel, friendships are formed and secrets are revealed as **Perfect Circle Youth Theatre** examine life behind open doors with an equal mix of comedy & savagery.

This month's film is **Whiplash** showing on Friday 11th December at 7.30pm, starring **Miles Teller** and **J.K Simmons**. This fantastic story shows a promising young drummer who enrolls at a cut-throat music conservatory where his dreams of greatness are mentored by an instructor who will stop at nothing to realise a student's potential.



To become a member of **White Wall Film Club** all you need to do is turn up on the night. Tickets are £5 in advance, £5.50 on the door. The bar will be open from 7pm for refreshments, so there's even more excuse for a pre/post film discussion!

We're delighted with our next theatre offering - the new **Open Sky** family friendly production of **The Mighty Prince & Other Fabulous Fables**. Open Sky are a great Herefordshire-based company who have created an engaging children's show drawing on fables told two thousand years ago by the Buddha.



Five stories are performed by two enthusiastic team members bringing vibrant characters to life using a happy mix of rhyme, movement, live music, song and puppetry to conjure up a host of bugs, birds, animals and magical creatures. Monkey tries to wind

up Buffalo Pigeon saves Ant from disaster. Tortoise's big mouth leads to a smelly fate. Little Hare scares Deer, Ox, Tiger and Elephant until Lion steps in. And the Prince is indeed mighty but is he mightier than the Giant? An enchanting family show for ages 3+. Tickets £5 Children £7 Adults.

This next event is already has a large following so we recommend grabbing your tickets soon for **The GREATEST MALVERN Charity Gig Ever!** on Saturday 18th December. This charity concert is being organised to raise money for the Calais and Dunkirk refugee crisis. A large selection of Malvern musicians and bands will be involved plus very special guests. Check our facebook for updates on who will be performing on the nite!

People in Motion will be receiving all monies raised at the show. They are a new local charity providing essential aid and support to displaced people. They find and coordinate volunteers to help meet the emotional well-being and physical needs of vulnerable people. There are currently over 3000 people living in 'the jungle' camp in Calais and conditions are not good. The charities on the ground need our support.

With tickets for the price of a pint there really is no excuse to support this fantastic event! Tickets are available from www.malverncube.com.

New Year, New Cube! January brings some renovations to the centre which mean starting off the year with **White Wall Film Club** in the newly refurbished **Cube Lounge**. January's film **Foxcatcher** has received fantastic ratings all round including 7.1/10 **IMDB** and 88% **Rotten Tomatoes!**

Foxcatcher, showing on Friday 8th January 2016 tells the story of the greatest Olympic Wrestling Champion brother team joining Team Foxcatcher led by multimillionaire sponsor John E. du Pont as they train for the 1988 games in Seoul - a union that leads to unlikely circumstances, starring Steve Carell, Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo.



Fantastic events continue well into the New Year which holds some new and exciting projects for Malvern Cube. We'll be hosting a fantastic mini comedy season Feb-April, supporting **Malvern Rugby Club** with a fundraising gig, bringing you fantastic music from **Ric Sanders**, **Babajack** and **Dave Arcari** to name a few, and theatre festival **FEAST** and music festival **CUBE SHUFFLE** will be hosted here!

As always tickets for all our events are available from www.malverncube.com and **Malvern Tourist Information Centre!**

Thanks for all your support this year, it's been a blast! For now I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at **Malvern Cube!**

Sophie Austwick



worcester arts workshop



Well it's that time of year again and with the Victorian Christmas Fayre been and gone throughout Worcester city centre it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

To really get you in the festive mood **Shindig** is bringing **Farnham Maltings' *It's a Wonderful Life*** on **Saturday 5th**

December. This magical and heart-warming adaptation of Frank Capra's 1946 Christmas classic promises to warm the coldest of long winter nights. Tickets are available in person from Worcester Arts Workshop Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 3pm or by email at info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk.

Before we bid goodbye to 2015 Worcester Arts Workshop reflects a great year and looks forward to an exciting 2016.

In 2015 we have welcomed two of the Arts Workshop's founders **Jane Hytch** and **Richard Heyhow** onto the Board of Trustees, couple this with new artistic programming from **Rachael Savage** of **Vamos Theatre** and **Emma Jane Benning** of **Strike a Light Festival** and WAW is really re-establishing itself as a vibrant hub in the centre of Worcester city.

We have seen **Shindig** return to Worcester Arts Workshop as well as welcoming theatre and dance from two of the country's most exciting emerging company's **Spitz and Co** and **Hannah Sullivan**. Our courses programme is going from strength to strength and we have become the home of **Vamos Young People's Theatre's** new group for 9-13 year olds, who are set to produce some very exciting work for 2016.

The Workshop also played host to the **Worcester Music Festival** in September and saw some amazing local talent throughout the city. **Splendid Cinema** made a welcome return to the Workshop, screening independent films you wouldn't usually see at the cinema. The Workshop also hosted the **Worcestershire Film Festival** in November, celebrating local filmmakers and attracting new audiences.

Café Bliss have been open all year round, displaying various art exhibitions from local artists and serving delicious food. Amanda and Eloina, the ladies behind **Café Bliss** and their amazing menu, had the opportunity to represent **Belize** at the **Latina American Festival** in London this year and raise money for the children of Central/South America. **Anglo-Latin American Foundation (ALAF)**. **Café Bliss** also brought back **Lazy Sundays** throughout the summer, putting on an amazing show of talented musicians from all over the country in a chilled out atmosphere with great food and company. If you are missing these laid back Sunday events, look out for their return in March 2016 when **Baby People's Say It Loud** tour will be coming to the Workshop. This tour is a celebration of **UK LGBT black music** and features some of the most exciting new talent in UK black music including, **Elektric**, **Rob Green**, **Namiwa Jazz** and the platinum selling **Floacist of Floetry**. Watch this space for more info about the return of **Lazy Sundays** – it's definitely worth the wait!

Splendid Cinema is coming to an end with **Wild Tales** (Argentina, Damian Szifron, 2014) on Sunday 6th December at 6pm, tickets £5. **Wild Tales** are six unrelated short stories, which are funny, romantic, tragic and completely unpredictable. Nominated for the Oscar – Best Film Not in the English Language, Palme D'or at Cannes and for Spain's Goya awards, this film is not to be missed! So come along and finish this season of **Splendid Cinema** with this splendid film!

10 SLAP DEC/JAN



So, what's on offer for 2016...in a nut shell...A LOT! Our courses will be starting again on 12th January, and they are accompanied by our new **Saturday Specials** family workshops, which are being run by some of the West Midlands leading practitioners and range from carnival to dance.

Our live events include: music from **Heads South**, a seriously talented five-piece brimming with infectious high-energy grooves and folk trio **Granny's Attic**, who will come to us before starting their national festival season. Don't forget to look out for **Pentabus Theatre's *This Land*** in March.

Worcester Arts Workshop will be closed from the 15th December 2015 – 4th January 2016. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and looking forward to seeing you in the New Year.

For more info: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk
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The Nightmare after Christmas

The Boars Head, Kidderminster | 23rd January 2016

What better way to blow away the New Year blues than with a slice of punk rock! On the 23rd of January 2016 **Punk by Nature** is putting on a one off punk-fest at **The Boars Head** in Kidderminster entitled *The Nightmare after Christmas*. Six bands have been confirmed with the possibility of one or two more being added to the lineup.

The line-up features 80's anarcho punk band **Indecent Assault**. Hailing from the **Black Country** the band released the acclaimed *Dawn of the Android Workers* EP in 1986 followed by a split single with fellow local band **Anorexia** before splitting up. The band then reformed in 2005 and has been regulars on the Midlands punk gig scene since.

Also on the line-up are young Birmingham grunge punks **Angry Itch**. Having recently released their excellent debut CD *Champanzee*, this trio's star is definitely in the ascendancy. They deliver fun melodic hardcore tuneage with a hint of grunge. Imagine a mix of Descendents, (early) Green Day and Nirvana and you are then in the right ball park.



a day in 1980. Roll forward a few years to 2010 and **Vomit** returned, gigging frequently and releasing two albums, with a third entitled *Punk Generation* to be released in the near future. **Vomit** are a lively band that delivers a classic 70's punk sound and always worth seeing live.

Also making their Boars Head debut is Birmingham punk band **Spirit Bomb**. Formed in 2013 **Spirit Bomb** features members of **Drongos For Europe**, **The Liabilitys** and **Vincent & The Onepotts**. Their music is quite simply rock 'n' roll with a punk rock soul delivered with power, passion and spirit. These guys really do rock and have recently released the superb debut album *Bridge on Fire*. Becoming increasingly popular on the live scene **Spirit Bomb** are definitely one not to be missed.

Last up on the line-up but no means least are Boars Head favorites **Alcohol Licks**. Fronted by Brummie punk legend **Samuendo** (of **Contempt & Balsall Heathens**) and complimented by Spud & Scott their sound is a mix of punk, ska, dub, blues and Rock 'n' roll. A variety of subject matter is covered in their songs from lecherous men not taking no for an answer to the problem of racism in modern society. Throw into that mix a light-hearted cover or two and it makes for an enjoyable and entertaining live experience.

With tickets from £5 in adv. and £6 on the door the gig is excellent value for money. Advance tickets are available at the **Boars Head** bar and also through PayPal for £5.50 + postage to Boarshead@outlook.com (please state which gig)

Jason K



Third band up are Brummie street punks **Rotunda**. They deliver a big loud punch with a melodic edge highlighted on such songs as *Neutron Bomb* and *Punk Rock Casualty*. Approaching their 20th year, **Rotunda** have become stalwarts of the Midlands gig scene and have toured the UK with bands such as **Drongos for Europe**, **English Dogs** and **Brassick**.

Playing the Boars Head for their first time are Cheshire punks **Vomit**. Having formed in 1977 **Vomit** played a number of gigs around their local stomping ground of Congleton before calling it

Gwyn Ashton

The MARRS Bar | Sunday 20th Dec

UK-based, Australian multi-instrumentalist **Gwyn Ashton** is performing at The MARRS Bar this December 20th. He is an eclectic live performer blending hardcore, alternative blues with ethnic influences. Ashton fuses his rare sounds together with assorted alternate-tuned electric and acoustic instruments such as the lap slide, national resonator, 12 string electric guitar, kick drum and blues harp. Along with all of this he uses loopers and fuzz boxes to complete his sonic palette.

A master of the slide guitar with an armoury of instruments at his fingertips that all create the unique and mammoth-sound of this one man show - that is delivering Blues to the 21st Century. Ashton grew up playing the Australian circuit and relocated to the UK in 1996. He now records, tours and plays festivals and venues all across the world from his Euro base; he has also had two albums simultaneously listed on the Amazon 'Top 100 Albums' chart and has many 'Album of the Month' credits to his name.

Ashton hasn't gone unnoticed and has toured with the likes of BB King, Ray Charles, Buddy Guy, Mick Taylor, Rory Gallagher, Canned Heat, Jeff Healey, Status Quo and many others. Additionally, he has recorded with musical pioneers such as Kim Wilson, Robbie Blunt, Don Airey (Deep Purple, Whitesnake, Rainbow, Black Sabbath), Gerry McAvoy and Brendan O'neill. Ashton also replaced Thin Lizzy and Moorhead guitarist Brian Robertson whilst fronting Band of Friends - a memorial to Rory Gallagher featuring Gerry, Brandan, Lou Martin and Mark Feltham.



Tickets are available for £6 in advance and £8 on the door.

King King + Ben Poole

Artrix, Bromsgrove | 12th November

Anyone who has a passing interest in modern day blues will have no doubt stumbled upon a review or a preview of the hardest working band in the UK scene and multi-award winners **King King**. For the past few years the Glasgow based four-piece have been charging up and down the country (and beyond) delivering their high octane set of blues rock whether as a support (the band are back out on tour early next year supporting Thunder) or indeed as the main event. So when the blues juggernauts rolled in a few miles up the road, I decided it was high time I caught up with **Alan Nimmo** and the boys.

Before **King King** could take a packed out Artrix by storm **Ben Poole** was charged with warming the audience up with his soul infused blues and anyone who's caught Ben before will know that he (along with **Craig Bacon** on drums and **Mat Beable** on bass) was more than up for the challenge. Poole himself is fast becoming a must see on the circuit and with his fluid solos and emotive vocals it's easy to hear why he's one of the UK's great blues hopes. Ben opened with a glorious rendition of 'Let's Go Upstairs', grabbing the audience by the lapels as his guitar swooped and soared and the rhythm section drove the song forwards. The likes of 'Win You Over' and the slow blues of 'Time Might Never Come' (dedicated to Gary Moore) highlighted Poole's more soulful side, whilst 'Somebody Is Lying' proves that Ben has teeth and can crank it up for a muscular rocker when the mood takes.



successful battle with cancer). Alan may have been up front and cracking jokes but the rhythm section of **Wayne Proctor** and **Lindsay Coulson** provided the foundation for Alan's guitar to sing, whilst to his left, providing further embellishment and in the case of 'Lay With Me', the lead, **Bob Fridezma** on keyboards and Hammond organ.

The band drew from each of their three albums to date with the likes of 'Jealousy', originally by Frankie Miller but given the King King treatment on 2nd album 'Standing In The Shadows', and 'Feels Like Rain' both proving to be set highlights. However it was perhaps 'Stranger To Love', lifted from new album 'Reaching For The Light' that stood head and shoulders above, as the band gradually dropped the volume to the point when the only audible sound was Alan soloing on his now unplugged electric, with the sound of bare strings reverberating around the venue to the obvious delight of the audience, before resuming with a glorious electrifying crescendo as the band crashed back in.

By the time Ben Poole and his cohorts had left the stage they had the entire audience firmly in the palm of their hands, resulting in some much deserved brisk sales of his glorious 'Live At The Albert Hall' album during the interval.

Most bands would struggle to follow Ben, but **King King** are not most bands. Here are a group who have honed their craft to perfection on the road, whilst throwing out a handful of well received, hard rocking discs that blend the crunch of rock and the soul of the blues to create an infectious and muscular sound, that has seen the band win every blues award going whilst also becoming a firm staple of the Classic Rock Radio playlists.

Alan Nimmo took to the stage in his typical kilt and hobnail boots get up, had a wee bit of banter with the audience before letting loose with an instantly contagious riff as the band delivered a frantic 'Lose Control' to a rapt and invigorated audience. From that point on the band could do no wrong whether it was the muscular duo of 'Hurricane' and 'Rush Hour' or the heartfelt slow blues of 'You Stopped The Rain' (dedicated to his brother, Stevie's



By the time **King King** had left the stage and returned for an encore, a number of seats had been abandoned as the audience could no longer contain their enthusiasm, with the band unleashing a stunning 'Let Your Love Shine' accompanied by the joyful hollering of the entire auditorium leaving the crowd satisfied yet still baying for more. The queue to press palms with the band afterwards spoke volumes, as the masses stood patiently longing to offer their devotion to the kings of blues rock; a band so good, they named them twice!!

Words: Will Munn Photography: Graham Munn

Mouth & Music

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

12th January 2106

On Tuesday 8th December **Mouth and Music**, Kidderminster will have a seasonally-inspired theme: **Principal Boys and Dames**. **Hilda Sheehan** and **Myfanwy Fox** are billed as Men (Poets) for a Day after exploring what it might be like to be men in a project run by **Swindon Poetry Festival**. Stourbridge based beat combo, **Flying Ant Day** will complete the line-up. Fancy



dress is optional! Kicking off the new year, on January 12th Mouth and Music celebrates its 4th birthday with a tribute to its award-winning venue, the **Boars Head**, Worcester Street. Featuring will be **Sarah Tamar**, poet with 'great presence and a persuasive perspicacity' and the biting, observational acoustic wit of singer songwriter **The Humdrum Express**. For both of these nights, open mic slots can be booked from 7.00pm for a 7.30 start. Admission is £3 (free to performers). See more at www.mouthandmusic.co.uk

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 7.30PM
SPOKEN WORD & ACOUSTIC MUSIC OPEN MIC

MEN (POETS) FOR A DAY
HILDA SHEEHAN & MYFANWY FOX
STOURBRIDGE-BASED BEAT COMBO
FLYING ANT DAY
Theme: Principal Boys & Dames

MC: Sarah Tamar Admission: £3. Free to performers.
Sign up from 7.00pm

The Boars Head, 39 Worcester St, Kidderminster, DY10 1GW
Tel: 01562 861870

www.mouthandmusic.co.uk www.facebook.com/mouthandmusic

New Venue for Royal Porcelain Works Site

The **Royal Porcelain Works** site is to have a brand new venue, to be called '**The Henry Sandon Hall**', named after the illustrious Worcester Porcelain expert **Henry Sandon MBE**.

As part of an exciting new partnership between the **Bransford Trust** and the City's premier arts company, **Worcester Live**, the new venue is expected to open in the Autumn of 2016. The new hall, seating up to 144 people, will be fully equipped to enable a wide range of activities to take place, from concerts and lectures to displays and exhibitions. The area in front of the **Museum of Royal Worcester**, the iconic listed showroom building, and the Severn Street entrance to the works, will also be developed and landscaped as part of the scheme to produce an attractive public area in this historic location, supported by a new cafe/bar. Planning permission is now under consideration for this exciting new scheme.



Chris Jaeger, Chief Executive of Worcester Live, said "I am delighted to have the chance to expand our activities into this historic part of Worcester, and the new Hall will give us the opportunity to stage different types of events than at the Swan Theatre and Huntington Hall. I anticipate that there are many people who will want to hire the space, and it will be ideal for meetings, product launches, talks and displays. Worcester Live is already planning an exciting programme of talks, acoustic music,

art-house film, exhibitions, and antique fairs. Outside on Summer weekends, we will be staging some live music and entertainment. The Henry Sandon Hall is great news for the Arts scene in Worcester".

Colin Kinnear, Chairman of the Bransford Trust, said "It's been a long journey but we have come up with the right scheme and the right partners to further the

development of one of Worcester's most historic areas, the Royal Porcelain Works, and start to turn it into a cultural centre. We have supported Worcester Live for many years, and believe they are ideally suited to making a real success of this exciting new venue".

The Whole Earth?

The Hive | 12th to 30th October

A recent exhibition outside the Hive really created a talking point and inspired some new thinking about some serious issues including poverty, climate change, refugees and overpopulation.



'The Whole Earth' displayed work in a really new and exciting way, to reach out to an audience who might not usually stop to look, by printing photographs from all over the world and by acclaimed photographers on plastic banners displayed on scaffolding outside the Hive. Simultaneously the exhibition was shown at universities across Europe.

The images really were striking and printed facts about the issues really made the onlooker think about the subjects in the beautifully taken and often cleverly arranged photographs.

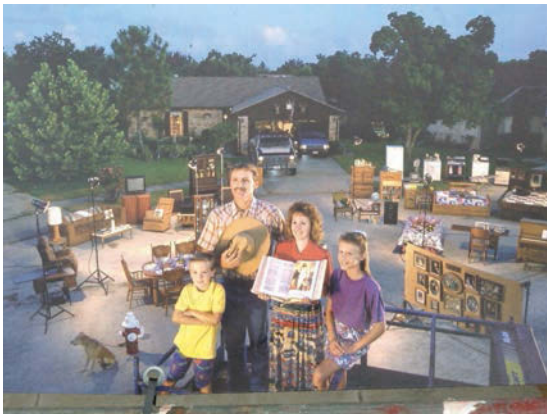
This is something run in partnership with the **National Union of Students (NUS)**, calling upon students and universities to consider some of the world's biggest problems, but in its unique position in the



Some of the hardest hitting issues that stood out for me were those about poverty: A family in America stood outside their house with all that they own (that takes over the whole street) while a family from somewhere developing does the same and takes up no more than the space of their table. This was a powerful image for me, about the materialistic world we live in. And in other images, a first world family lay in all the garbage they had produced within a week, while a group of African girls pick their way through a rubbish tip to reach their school, the photographer describing them as butterflies because their yellow dresses are highlighted against their disgusting background.



Katy Boom, Director of Sustainability for the **University of Worcester**, who led the project in Worcester, said: *"It's a fantastic opportunity for Worcester to host this acclaimed and stunning exhibition. We are working with both City and County Council colleagues to use this opportunity to also look at local solutions. And while the art itself presented a stimulating display, the Hive also hosted activities for local schools including a plastics challenge and tours by students, while a display of books within the library on related themes encouraged visitors to find out more.*



centre of Worcester, with access to members of the public as well as the university population, the display in Worcester was able to reach a much wider audience with its messages about poverty, global warming, refugees and overpopulation. I did notice a lot of people stopping to take a look as they passed by, so it really worked.



For more information about the exhibition devised by photographers Mark Edwards and Lloyd Timberlake go to <http://www.hardrainproject.com/>

Sarah Ganderton

Worcestershire Landscapes

The Hive | 2nd - 8th November 2015

For a painfully brief time, the wonderful work of Worcestershire artist **David Birtwhistle** was displayed in the Hive in November. The original pieces for sale in aid of the **Headway** charity depict buildings and scenes from around the county known and loved by many. And the artist himself was present each day of the exhibition to chat to the public and answer questions. Since the closure of **Birties** in Worcester's Friar Street, this was a great opportunity for **David Birtwhistle** to bring his art to the public and equally for the public to see many of his pieces all under one roof and to meet the man himself. My particular favourites of all the beautiful pieces were those of The old infirmary Building on



Castle Street, Worcester, Pitchcroft under the floods and a lovely view of the Malvern Hills.

David has been involved with the charity for many years and this public event was also an opportunity for volunteers from the charity to explain their work with people with acquired brain injuries. Hopefully the charity raised some much needed funds during this silver anniversary exhibition, and some awareness of who they are and the great work they achieve.



For more information about **Headway** see their website: headwayworcestershire.org.uk

Sarah Ganderton



The Hive

What's On at The Hive



GET SANTA (U)
Family film with Jim Broadbent as Santa.
Sunday 20 December, 6pm. £3.50



LEARNED FRIENDS
Gripping robing room drama by Ginny Davis.
Friday 5 February, 7.30pm. £10



MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
A family adaptation.
Tuesday 16 February, 2pm. £5, £3

Book tickets... www.thehiveworcester.org
hiveadmin@worcestershire.gov.uk
 01905 765576

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a partnership between
 University of Worcester
 worcestershire county council

FEATURE

Hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year. As ever it's been a busy time.

The **Worcestershire Arts Partnership (WAP)** has run a number of events over the autumn period. First up was our third **Jump Start** Performance evening which took place at The University on Sunday 4th October. There were four short plays, all new and all in some form of development. These were by erm me, **Catherine Crosswell, Ovary Acting and Labyrinth Theatre Company**. There was an interesting question and answer session at the end of the evening and a good and interesting time was had by all. Our next evening will be at the **Worcester Arts Workshop** in March 2016. More details to follow.

A few days later WAP ran its second careers event entitled 'Moving on Staying on' which took place at The University on Tuesday 6th October. This event was aimed at students who have either just recently graduated or who are in their final year. We had two excellent guest speakers, **Rob Watt** from **The National Theatre Connections Project** and **Debbie Kermode** from the **Ikon Gallery**. Both had great tips about beginning and sustaining a career. I then spoke about the opportunities that exist within the county as well as signposting to venues and of course to Slap to find about more about what is happening locally. We then had a panel of ex students who have all gone on to develop their own practice. An excellent event and thanks to the University and to **Lee Farley** and **Diane Thomson** for making it happen.

On the 10th November 2015 **The Courtyard** in Hereford became a hub for innovation as some of the most creative minds from the local arts and cultural sectors joined forces with commissioners and decision makers from the public sector to explore how arts and culture can play a more meaningful role in public service outcomes. The event was the brainchild of **The Elmley Foundation**. As well as awarding grants, the Elmley Foundation believes strongly in taking initiatives to fill gaps and generally develop the arts scene in the two counties. Working with WAP were independent think-tank the **New Economics Foundation (NEF)**, the event saw around 100 delegates from across Herefordshire and Worcestershire representing professions as diverse as theatre, filmmaking, visual arts and museums alongside those from police, probation, health and social care. Speakers included **Barrie Sheldon**, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner West Mercia Police, who sponsored the event, and **Jules Ford**, Cultural Commissioning Project Manager for Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. A special thanks to **Debbie Birch** for all her hard work for making it a great success. I especially enjoyed the workshop led by **Spoz** on developing poetry for young people.



As well as the above I have enjoyed a number of arts events and shows over the last few weeks. I loved going to the **World Dulcimer Congress** at Malvern and to the specially arranged schools concert. I also loved *Gloriator* by **Spitz and Company** at **Worcester Arts Workshop**. One of the funniest shows I have seen for a long time. I then went to see **Forthright Productions** 'Gary and Robert get the Blues', a new play by **Andy Higgitt** which came out of the **Jump Start** scratch night performance evenings. Expertly performed by **Stephan Bessant** this one man show was at times a hard to watch portrayal of mental health issues in men and how they deal with it. After the show there was an interesting conversation led through **Fuel's Theatre In Your Neighbourhood** where the play was discussed in detail. It will be interesting to see how the play is developed further.

I am looking forward to Christmas and wish you all a peaceful and safe 2016.

Steve Wilson (County Arts Officer)



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Bombshell Babies | Bombshell Babies

I would imagine that **Bombshell Babies** will be yet another new name to most of you, unless of course you caught their recent set at the **Pig & Drum** for **Tomato Promotions**. The band (well on this disc) are a three-piece featuring **Rich Levins** on guitar & vocals, **Andy Cole** on bass and the recently featured **Danny Donato** on drums (although Rich and Danny performed as a duo at the aforementioned gig with the bass player currently in South America), they blend an obvious love of grunge, rock and garage punk to create a dirty, yet infectious sound, full of instant vocal hooks and fuzzy riffs.

The seven track affair kicks off with *Plantery Blackout* and one of those aforementioned grungy riffs, before Rich reveals an attitude fueled rock drawl, whilst the rhythm section drive the track home assaulting their instruments like their life's depend on it. It's an inspired choice of opener, it's brash, raw and wonderfully addictive, Rich's sneered refrain lurches for the attention, whilst Mr Donato proves he's a bit of an all-rounder, equally at home behind the kit as he fronting his own solo project.

From such an impressive opening salvo the band continue to bash out a combination of striking lead vocals, down-tuned grunge riffs and pounded rhythms laying down seven tracks in all over twenty seven minutes.

The band prove the opening track was no mere one-off as both *One Thousand Rooms* and *King Of The Hill* are both driving rockers powered by that busy, pounding rhythm section, all topped off with Rich's punchy riffs and rock holler. In contrast *Making Of Me* shows a more melodic side with Danny laying down a funkier bass line, whilst Rich attempts a more heartfelt croon, it makes for an interesting diversion proving the band are capable of stripping the



sound sound back from the rock bluster when the mood takes.

Bombshell Babies save the best for last, *Lights Off* has a menacing riff that could have been lifted straight from the Sabbath songbook, whilst *Hat's Off* is a bullish finale full of swagger and attitude.

The seven-track affair is a fantastic inclination to what the band are all about, it's brash, catchy and full of energy, the only criticism is personally I feel the production lacks a bit of bite, I'd have liked a bit more power but quibbles aside it's a pretty damn good starting point, which hopefully will secure them a few more gigs along the way.

Will Munn

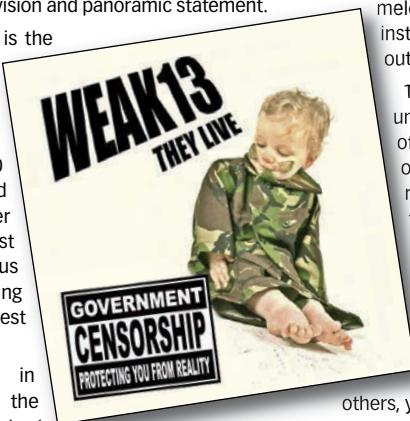
WEAK13 | They Live

When a new album alights on the hot desk at Slap Towers you immediately get an idea of a band/artist's intentions and ambitions, so straight off from the quality and visual impact of this **WEAK13's** full length debut, you know these guys mean business.

There has been a serious amount of hours spent lovingly on the album's packaging and design and so it translates to the music with the same breadth of vision and panoramic statement.

Nick J Townsend who is the perennial mainstay of **WEAK13** has been honing his craft with this outfit since 1999 and after a fair few line-ups, in 2010 the current trio solidified into Nick plus drummer **Neel Parmar** and bassist **Wesley Smith**, thus becoming a fully functioning RAWK machine of the highest calibre.

They Live begins in incendiary fashion with the spitting, snarling 'My Last Summer With You' and ends exhaustedly and exhaustively some 11 trax later with the trenchant warning-cum-call to peaceful arms 'Obey The Slave'. This latter title gives the listener some clue as to WEAK13's pedigree and influences and indeed the peerless Nirvana are never too far away from the soundscape, but believe me this Kidderminster power trio make a noise all of their own.



Nick J Townsend has always ploughed his own furrow and walked a sometimes lonesome path because of his (tunnel) vision; but we need artists like this to lead us towards the light and away from the evil forces of control and rampant capitalism. There are plenty of incisive insights on *They Live* which inform, but never forget the entertain part of the equation.

This album is a breathtaking ride from start to finish and demands repeated listening to get yer lug'oles and head around it fully - it is so jam packed full of interesting ideas - rhythmically, melodically and of course lyrically and the threesome's instrumental interplay is always exciting and often outstanding.

The music is a mash-up inspired by 80's video nasties, underground music, comic books, grunge, the 90's and turn of the millennium metal music scenes and all aspects of our daily and often far too real lives. True there is not much room for comfort here but this is brave and honest music for those who want to hear the truth.

The 11 songs herein were picked from some 40 recorded during the sessions and after being brought to fruition by the top quality team of engineer **John Stewart**, from Coventry progressive metal band Eight Great Fears and mastered by **Henry Smithson** who has worked with Stereophonics and Foo Fighters amongst others, you get the idea why this is such a top drawer album.

I'll leave you with the words of **Nick J Townsend**: "We know we have a good album; that's why it was important we didn't rush it...and created the WEAK13 album we have wanted to show people for years. *They Live* reflects what the band's original sound was meant to be and will be forever more. We're not playing a game!" Believe the man!

Words by Judith Priest

Fred M Presents The Hoosiers

Huntington Hall, Worcester | Saturday 14th November

Before I begin documenting the evening, I have to be honest and point out that up until the night in question, bar a couple of songs, **The Hoosiers** had pretty much passed me by. Perhaps wrongly I'd lumped them in the same category as The Script and Scouting For Girls, filing them as pleasant pop rockers for the masses. I like to challenge my own perceptions though, so when a friend asked if I fancied catching the band on the doorstep in a stripped down acoustic setting, I felt compelled to give them a chance.

Hitting the **Huntington Hall** bar for a quick pre-gig drink and a word with the event promoter **Fred M**, revealed an enthusiastic music lover aiming to offer a chance for local up and comers to support well-known acts across a number of venues: an admirable task I'm sure you'll agree.

Taking the chance to shine, Stourbridge duo **Chosen Again** took to the boards charged with the task to warm an expectant crowd. **Poppy Aston** (lead vocals) and **James Simpson** (guitar and backing vocals) quickly grabbed the attention with a series of well written originals and carefully chosen covers, highlighting Poppy's wonderful powerful and emotive vocals, as well as tasteful guitar work from James. Highlights included the likes of their own 'Imperfect' and the heart wrenching 'Sit With Me' as well as a fantastic rendition of Hozier's (not to be confused with the headline act) 'Cherry Wine', which also highlighted Simpson's own impressive, deep croon.

During the intermission it was nice to see the audience rightfully show their appreciation for **Chosen Again**, digging deep to purchase the duo's debut album, in addition to offering words of support. Following half an hour gathered in the bar it was back down for the main event.

As soon as **The Hoosiers** hit the stage, the crowd erupted in unison as the trio took their collective positions, led by frontman **Irwin Sparkes**: it took the band around thirty seconds to encourage the masses to clap along and perhaps a minute or two to excite the first sing-a-long. By the time the band delivered smash hit 'Worried About Ray', they even had this sceptical scribe caught in the palm of their hands, singing along like some long lost fan. Tinkered piano melodies, acoustic strums, pattered percussion and the impressive pipes of Sparkes became impossible to dislike as the band ran through tracks lifted from across their four discs of upbeat pop.

Obvious highlights during The Hoosiers set included the likes of former hits such as 'Cops & Robbers', but also songs lifted from the band's new album such as 'Up To No Good' also struck a chord, whilst on one number Irwin unplugged his guitar and perched on the edge of the stage, delivering a wonderful stripped down lament to a rapt audience.

Maybe it was the acoustic setting, allowing the songs to shine and the vocals to soar or perhaps it was the ambience of Huntington Hall, but I have to admit I walked away with a new found respect for The Hoosiers and in particular Irwin Sparkes, who lead from the front and delivered everything with a grin on his face.

I've got to hand it to Fred M for delivering an enjoyable night's 0 never know I might even catch **The Hoosiers** again, somewhere down the line.

Words by Will Munn



Worcester City F.C.



2015-2016 Season Fixtures

December

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|------|-------|
| Sat 5th | Tamworth | Away | 15.00 |
| Tue 8th | Bradford Park Avenue | Home | 19.45 |
| Sat 19th | Gainsborough Trinity | Home | 15.00 |
| Sat 26th | Gloucester City | Away | 15.00 |
| Mon 28th | Brackley Town | Home | 15.00 |

January

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|------|-------|
| Sat 2th | Gloucester City | Home | 15.00 |
| Sat 9th | Lowestoft | Away | 15.00 |
| Sat 16th | Corby Town | Home | 15.00 |
| Sat 23rd | AFC Fylde | Away | 15.00 |
| Sat 30th | North Ferriby United | Home | 15.00 |

Adults: £13 Concession: £9 (over 60 & unemployed - with current ID)
Young Adult: £6 (16 years to under 21 - with current ID) Junior: £3 (Under 16's)

Rail travel from Foregate Street to Kidderminster – regular timetable
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The current off peak day return fare is £5.70

Aggborough Stadium, Hoo Road
Kidderminster DY10 1NB



Mike Sanchez

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester Thursday 10th Dec

British singer, pianist and guitarist **Mike Sanchez** is one of the most exciting and charismatic performers of Rhythm and Blues and Rock 'n' Roll in the world today. His indelible image as a frenetic front man, pumping powerful boogie-woogie from the piano in a soaking suit, has won him fans from all over the world and attracted a following from many famous rock and blues legends who have lined up to work with him.

Mike Sanchez was born **Jesus Miguel Sanchez** in London's East End to Spanish parents Jesus and Manola in 1964. At the age of eleven, his family moved to Worcestershire where Mike took up the piano, developing a strong love for 1950s American roots music through his high school years. As a teenager he taught himself guitar and formed **The Rockets**, a rockabilly trio.



Mike spent four years as a full-time member of **Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings**, fronting the band alongside **Georgie Fame**, **Beverly Skeete**, **Albert Lee**, **Andy Fairweather-Low** and **Eddie Floyd** on their annual world tours. **The Rhythm Kings** released their album *'Just for a Thrill'* and a fabulous DVD *'Let The Good Times Roll'*, both featuring Mike's extensive role as a member of the ex-Rolling Stones bassist's touring band. Mike was introduced

to former Chicken Shack, Savoy Brown and Steve Gibbons' multi-instrumentalist **Andy Silvester**, which led to the founding of the **Big Town Playboys** in 1984, specialising in authentic post-war Rhythm and Blues. With a string of great albums including his most recent releases *'Almost Grown'* featuring Imelda May and *'So Many Routes'* featuring Albert Lee, plus a 2014 authorised biography **'Mike Sanchez - Big Town Playboy'**: this is an artist not to be missed.

Mike's aim is to make every live show his best yet as he continuously enjoys growing acclaim and admiration for his electrifying stage performances from new and old fans of all age groups across the world.

What's On?

at Huntingdon Hall



T. Rextasy
5th December - £16.50

Mike Sanchez
10th December
- £17.50

The Big Chris Barber Band
18th December - £20

Jamie Knight & the Manuka Band
19th December - £16

Stephen K Adams
15th January - £17

Bobbie Williams
30th January
- £13.50

Worcester live

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

The Big Chris Barber Band Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | Friday 18th Dec

Chris Barber OBE is one of the last British jazz legends and an icon of traditional jazz in the UK. Together with his 10-piece band, **The Big Chris Barber Band** stands out as one of the finest, if not the finest, of its kind anywhere in the world. Featuring everything from New Orleans style to blues to late 20s Ellington, played with extraordinary panache and skill, you can expect songs like 'Bourbon Street Parade', 'Jubilee Stomp', 'When the Saints...', 'Ice Cream' and many more.

Chris Barber is seen as the initiator of Jazz and Blues music in the 1950s and 60s. He introduced American musicians like Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, and Big Bill Broonzy to the UK and Europe, musicians who together with himself, later inspired The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, John Mayall, Mark Knopfler, Eric Burdon and many others.

Last year Chris celebrated his 65th anniversary as leader of his band and his 60th anniversary on a full-time professional basis.



For this milestone and his contributions to jazz music, he received the Special APPJAG Jazz Award at the Parliamentary Jazz Awards in the House of Commons in London. In Stuttgart (Germany) he was awarded with a similar prize: the German Jazz Trophy.

You can count on an exciting evening of high quality jazz and blues which will appeal in equal measure to the aficionado and the newcomer.

Jamie Knight & the Manuka Band Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | Saturday 19th Dec

Renowned local musician and perennial Slap fave **Jamie Knight** makes a welcome return to Huntingdon Hall this year with the **Manuka Band**, performing another evening of Christmas hits. With the best of swingin' swing and slinky soul, lashings of classic pop and plenty of lively rock'n'roll, this terrifically tight band knows how to make music really come alive ensuring a truly memorable night. Jamie Knight's superb, wide-ranging vocals will be well known to followers, while the seven superb musicians of the Manuka Band include saxophonists **Casey Green**, who has accompanied the legendary Ray Charles and **Charlie Wright** who has worked with The Temptations.

A fantastic festive night out, this show is sure to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.



'PRS UK Unsigned Award'. He is headlining the **Marrs Bar** with support from the superb **Connor Maher** this December where tickets can be bought in advance for just £3 (on the door for £4). So don't miss out on this truly devoted and raw performance from Tensheds.

Tensheds

The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 8th Dec

Tuesday December 8th **Tensheds** is heading to the Marrs Bar. The once described "Tom Waits & Jerry Lee Lewis love child" has honed in his craft on the road - having toured for a whopping two years, totalling up to 300 dates across both the UK and Europe. During this time he has supported legends such as John Mayall, Mick Taylor and The Blockheads. As well as touring the UK five times as Hazel O'Connor's special guest.

Now four years after creating the critically acclaimed album 'Crazy Beautiful', Tensheds has returned with his third album 'The Dandy Punk Prince' - released October 30th. Distilled with a fresh new line-up of piano and drums, **Tensheds** consciously departs from his previous work to deliver what he has coined as '21st Century Blues'. Generating a grittier, heavier and edgier Blues Punk Rock tone.

'The Dandy Punk Prince' has already gained critical praise with Classic Rock deeming it as "A refreshing whiff of anarchy", MOJO "Exceptional", Blues Matters "Stunning" - as well as extensive BBC Radio play. **Tensheds** is a rising star and a 'totally unique artist', winning the 'Blues Track Of The Year' from **Indie Awards** and the



Dutch Lewis and his Select Trio

The Trumpet, Bilston | 19th November

For lovers of jazz in the West Midlands, the aptly named **Trumpet** on Bilston High Street is the place to be. It is small but perfectly formed with countless photographs, ticket stubs and musical instruments adorning the walls of this tiny venue.

Jazz has been the mainstay of this hostelry for more years than I can remember and music is presented all year round, seven nights a week and on Sunday lunchtimes too! Best of all it's free entry, but please remember to give generously when the plate comes round.

Dutch Lewis and **The Trumpet** would seem to be the perfect partners, as Dutch too has been active on the West Midlands jazz scene and beyond for more years than he might care to admit. Dutch is an expert performer on most, if not all, of the saxophone family and also plays flute and clarinet. To see his many instruments lined up at his feet on the band stand, is a joy. In addition, he invariably throws in a few vocals during the night.

Over his years in the music business, Dutch has built up an astounding repertoire of material and can always be counted upon to play many of the less familiar jazz themes and standards from what is known in the business as the 'Great American Song-book'.

Above all else however is Dutch's clear love and enthusiasm for the music and his seemingly boundless energy. My companion for



the night, who had never experienced 'live' jazz before enjoyed the evening greatly. From the start he had a smile on his face which stayed until the end of the night.

Dutch's master stroke is his ability to surround himself with like-minded and equally enthusiastic colleagues with **David Etheridge** on bass guitar, **Geoff Skillings** on keyboard and the mighty Keith York at the drums.

The guys have become regulars at **The Trumpet** and you can catch them there next on 17th December. To find out more about the happenings at The Trumpet go here:

www.trumpetjazz.org.uk/gigs.asp

Words and photograph: Alan Musson

them, then I would urge you to hunt them down and do so. I'm sure you will love them as much as The Bush Inn did on this blustery, Friday night.

Robbo

The Woo Town Hillbillies

The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester | Friday 6th Nov

The Woo Town Hillbillies made the long journey from Worcester to Wales (Okay, just a two minute donkey ride to St Johns over the river!) on a brisk, Friday evening. **The Bush Inn** opened its doors under new ownership back in August and the place was packed with at least eighty people dancing and drinking.

Luke was blasting out slow country and a laid back, melodic song called 'Titty Bar On a Friday', which humoured me. The band use a variety of instruments ranging from a five string banjo, harmonica, cow bells, tambourine, ukulele, horns and even shakers. Their sound is intoxicating and it was a challenge to keep myself from jiggging away. There were many band members like frontman **Worzel Luke**, **Mr Meaner**, **Goose Goldberg**, **Bert Bassarach**, **Barefoot Sam** and **Emmy Lou Quan**.



Another of my favourites from the evening was the wonderful '4am Girl', who's lyrics may resonate with some. Even a few of the older locals were popping in for a foot tap and a few pints of excellent local ciders and Cannon Royall beers. The Bush are providing incredible live music every other Friday, so keep your eyes peeled for further interesting nights here. **Woo Town** have also recently produced an album called 'Hay Fever' which is definitely not to be sniffed at; so if you haven't already listened to

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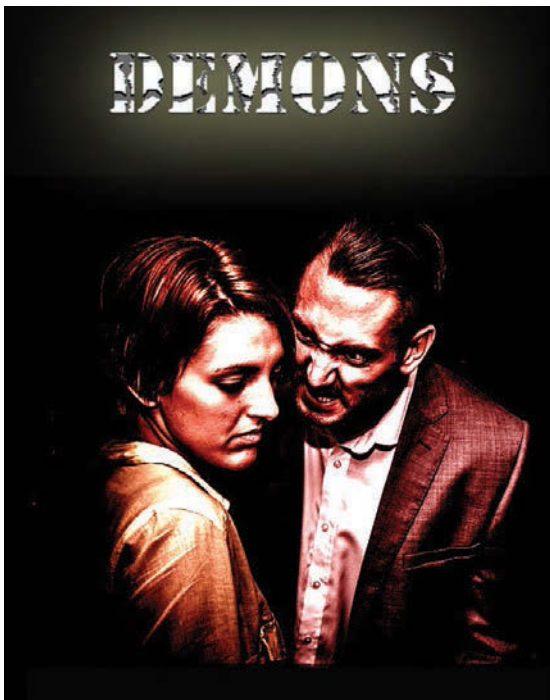
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Demons Film Premiere Ronin + The Haunted Souls

Marrs Bar, Worcester | Thursday 19th November

Demons is a locally produced short film directed by **Mark-Anthony Games (Human Voices Productions)**: a harrowing sequel to **Silent War**, it follows the effect and fall out of domestic abuse in the home.



Both **Demons** and **Silent War** were put together by volunteers and actors who gave up their time to help produce two hard hitting twenty minute (plus) films that hope to challenge the acceptance of domestic abuse in a relationship. As you'd imagine both films are quite dark and not for the faint of heart and some of the scenes had the audience noticeably flinching in their chairs.

Silent War was shown first and focused on the emotional rollercoaster of abuse victims. The film featured startling lead roles by both **Melanie White** (as the victim) and the somewhat sinister **Nathan Lowe** (abuser) as it played out their turbulent relationship, as the Ben character (Nathan) controls and dominates the relationship in every aspect. If you've not seen the film yet (and I urge you not only to watch it but share as well) I'll try not to give too much away but I will say that a series of harrowing scenes Ben eventually receives his comeuppance.

Following directly **where Silent War** finishes we see a broken Ben as he's haunted by his **Demons** in the sequel, almost challenging the viewer to question whether we can feel sympathy for the abuser. **Demons** explores how Ben became the monster he is, viewing his own childhood torment through the eyes of his younger self (played brilliantly by **Gorgi Makazliev**). Again there are numerous scenes of a distressing nature as Mark-Anthony Games delves deep into Ben's psyche. The acting again is first rate throughout with both the supporting cast and Nathan Lowe delivering a punchy piece that left a rapt **Marrs Bar** audience squirming in their seats whilst glued to the screen.

Demons will follow **Silent War** onto Youtube in December and as I've already said please take the chance to watch and share the films and help deliver the message that no one has to put up with an abusive relationship.

Following on from the films there was a short Q&A with both the cast and director, which revealed how the filming affected each person in the production and also a little about Mark-Anthony's next project, before two band's featured on the **Demons** soundtrack endeavored to lighten the mood with a couple of short sets.

Ronin opened musical proceedings with a short acoustic burst, showcasing a welcome stripped down approach featuring four part harmonies, impressive guitar work and pattered percussion allowing their own material to breathe away from the more typical electric affair, whilst also giving "Chains" by Fleetwood Mac a nice original twist. Prior to the band's acoustic performance I've never really seen the appeal of the band, but hearing the band in the intimate, stripped down setting was something of a revelation, so perhaps it's time I took another look at **Ronin** in the near future.

Since last time I caught **The Haunted Souls** they've added **Zoe Devenish** on fiddle and percussion to their ranks adding another dimension to their already impressive rustic sound. Once again both **Sarah Warren** and **Hannah Dallas** delivered ballsy, soulful lead vocals, whilst **Nick Lyndon**, **Richie Yeates** and the aforementioned **Zoe Devenish** kicked up a storm behind. Obvious highlights included the bawdy opener 'When I Get The Drink In Me', the heartfelt 'Borderline' and a Nick led 'California Dreaming' complete with wonderful four-part harmonies, as the band proved again why they're the best country/folk/roots band this side of the county line.

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Will Munn

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The GREATest MALVERN charity Christmas concert EVER

Saturday 19th December | Malvern Cube



The GREATest MALVERN charity Christmas concert EVER is being organised to raise money for the Calais and Dunkirk refugee crisis. A large selection of Malvern musicians and local bands will perform on **Saturday 19th December at Malvern Cube**, plus some very special guests.

Profits from all tickets and bar proceeds will go to the charity People in Motion. Doors will open at 7pm ready for music at 7.30pm, so there will be time to grab a drink from the plentiful bar including Friday Beer and Stowford Press before the festivities begin and throughout the night!

People in Motion is a recently formed non-profit organisation whose aims are to providing essential aid and support to displaced people. They find and coordinate volunteers to help meet the emotional well-being and physical needs of vulnerable people. There are currently over 3000 people living in 'the jungle' camp in Calais and conditions are not good. The charities on the ground need our support!

Performing on the night are **Calm Like a Riot**, **Black Heart Angels**, **Skewwhiff**, **Humdrum Express** (**Ian Passey**), **Restless Kings**, **Lounge Toad** and **Carnival Records** plus various special guests. With tickets for the price of a pint there really is no excuse to support this fantastic event! Tickets are available from www.malverncube.com and Malvern Tourist Information Office.



Calm Like a Riot create spontaneous musical projects like cosmic particles, popping into existence as quick as a turtles wink and often disappearing again before you have had a chance to admire their beauty. Some linger, and during their spell in our world might themselves create melodies and lyrics that affect other beings like ripples stretching across the surface of a soap bubble. Others achieve greatness, creating magnificent soaring beauties that inspire their fellow creatures into leading more complete and fulfilling lives.

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And then there are those so called artistes that fall betwixt the cracks, and eek out a pointless existence amongst the collections of fluff and insect corpses beneath the floorboards. We'll leave you to decide where these guys fall!

Skewwhiff have played festivals and gigs extensively, honing the songs and the set in preparation for their debut long player, *Nice Little Upper*, which was released in 2014. With such a varied sound, pinning one genre on this band would be a crime. **Skewwhiff** have not been out of place supporting bass legend Mike Watt's brand of jazz/punk and Brit-pop pioneers **Dodgy**, and **Mark Morriss** demonstrating the difficulty in pinning a pithy label to this bunch of misfits.



Humdrum Express is the musical vehicle for kidderminster based musician **Ian Passey**. *"Biting, observational acoustic wit, poetically lamenting everyday life in a somewhat unique and infectious manner"* - *Rhythm & Booze* 2015. Ian's recent singles, *Festival At Home*, *Cryptic Self Pity* and *Double Edged Swords* have all been championed by **Steve Lamacq** on his *BB6 6music* show.



Restless Kings are a three piece local teen Rock/Blues band who really know how to play. They recently performed at Malvern Cube based festival **Cube Shuffle** so we know to expect spectacular renditions of **Cream** & **Hendrix**!



Lounge Toad, we all know this lovable-crooner with a metal edge! His big heart match his huge voice - expect the unexpected!

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SLAP DEC/JAN 25

Artrix Highlights December & January

The comprehensive and diverse vocals of **Jamie Knight** are well known to **Wooden Horse** fans, especially following their recent tour supporting Joan Armatrading. Jamie shows his scintillating side as his 11 piece **Manuka Band** return to Artrix on 21st December to perform the best festive swing, classic pop and rock 'n' roll numbers in town.



Jamie Knight and his Manuka Band are at Artrix on Monday 21st December at 7.30 pm Ticket prices £13 (£11 over 60s, students and under 16s)

Considering the outrageous prices most places charge on New Year's Eve, Artrix' first ever end of year bash is pretty good value. **Soul Trader** will be playing some 60s and 70s soul, Motown, rock and funk tunes; the



dance floor will be down and the champagne will be flowing at the late bar which is open until 1.00 am.

Soul Trader are performing at Artrix New Year's Eve Party on Thursday 31st December at 8.30 pm. Tickets are £28 per person or £25 for groups of 6 or more.

The spirit of *The Man in Black* is alive and kicking in the outstanding **Johnny Cash Roadshow**. Endorsed by the Carter/Cash families this is a guaranteed treat for all Cash fans as this talented group of musicians deliver an inspired interpretation of Cash's catalogue of hits.

The Johnny Cash Roadshow is at Artrix on Friday 8th January at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £20



The unstoppable comedy juggernaut **Noise Next Door** has taken the comedy world by storm. Five-time sell out veterans at



Edinburgh, they're renowned for their quick fire wit and originality. Taking audience suggestions, the cheeky quintet create crazy scenarios and a perfect blend of ludicrous characters with hilarious results.

The Noise Next Door are at Artrix on Friday 29th January at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £15

All tickets are available from the box office on 01527 577330 or on:

www.artrix.co.uk

MC Devvo | A National Treasure? Marrs Bar, Worcester | Friday 15th January

Satirical pseudonym **Devvo** has got himself a bus ticket to the Marrs Bar for **Friday 15th of January**. Doncaster born **Darren Devonshire** has taken the Yorkshire rap scene by storm, and has become a worldwide legend since emerging out of Southern Yorkshire and onto the internet in 2006.

It's now been a colossal nine years since his chav persona first appeared on Youtube, filmed and posted by partner in crime **DJ "Shady Piez" (David Firth)** an animator who also established the spine tinglingly creepy *'Salad Fingers'*. The youtube sensation is currently touring the UK and gracing venues with his set of hilarious, 'alreet' songs and stories; such as the hit *'Donny Soldier'* that's gained over 4 million views.

MC Devvo's comical youtube videos usually entail a lot of burberry caps, the same polo shirt and occasionally Devvo kicking a pigeon. **Darren Devonshire** has also been busy recording his new album *'From Yorkshire to New York'* which has made its way to Spotify and iTunes - complete with acapella and instrumental versions of *'Crystal Meffin'*.

Devvo has a wealth of creative drive and has even written a book called *'That Book You Never Did Need'* which has been christened a *"perfect toilet read"* by Kicktraq. He's succeeded in doing stand-up at the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival** with his *'Deal or*



No Deal Gaymeshow' which "enthralled fans" The List. Backseat Mafia also quoted one of Devvo's live performances to be *"Sharp, witty and in tune with his crowd"*.

A quotable and almost loveable character; **MC Devvo** has secured himself a strong cult following. This guy definitely isn't worth missin'. So get on down and see him mates!

MC Devvo will be at the Marrs Bar from 7:30 until 11:30 on Friday 15th. Tickets will be £6 when bought in advance from <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/338000> otherwise they're £8 on the door.

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Jamie Smith's Mabon Huntington Hall, Worcester | 5th November

I've never been to rest on my laurels and have always maintained that I'll pretty much go out and see any live act (within reason I don't want a deluge of One Direction invites) and so whilst perusing the most recent issue of Slap, I stumbled upon an advert for Jamie Smith's Mabon and their performance at Huntington Hall, now prior to catching the said gig my only exposure to the band were mentions in the likes of R2 and instead of researching the band further I thought I'd go in somewhat blind.

Mabon are a five-piece folk band that weld heady instrumental reels with songs sung in both English and Welsh, led by the accordian wielding **Jamie Smith** and **Oliver Wilson-Dickson's** fiddle.

The band opened with a heartfelt instrumental jig with fiddle and accordian interweaving over a combination of bouzouki, double bass and drums, the spell binding opening number gave way for the more upbeat *Nicolai The Dancing Bear*, which soon had the small yet appreciative crowd clapping along gleefully.



From there the band continued to deliver inspired instrumental flights of fancy, with the likes of *The Accodianists Despair* and the Celtic jig *Galician Stylee* both grabbing the attention, whilst the first vocal of the night of *Lady Of The Woods*, showed Jamie to possess a soft yet soulful vocal, whilst the track also had the audience providing simple wordless backing vocals on the hook laden chorus.

Further highlights included Jamie picking up an acoustic guitar, whilst Oliver took to the Mandolin for *Returning To The Never Been* and the upbeat finale of *Super Mega Bonus Reel*, which saw the band stretch out instrumentally and deliver a rousing encore to a highly engaging set.

A night out with in the company of Jamie Smith's Mabon is a fun, invigorating affair showcasing the best of Celtic inspired folk, Welsh roots and inspired instrumental journeys, which I look forward to investigating further on disc in the near future.

Will Munn

Faithful City Shows Presents... The Peacocks, Straight Aces Rail Means Rail, Red Light Rebels The MARRS Bar, Worcester | 9th Nov

Personally I'd say that as regular Worcester promoters the guys behind the **Faithful City Shows** would take some beating. This year they've managed to entice the likes of **Heart of A Coward** and **Funeral For A Friend** to our fair city, whilst the supporting cast has featured a number of the best up and comers in punk and hardcore, encouraging bands to tread the boards in Worcester for the first time.

So having watched from afar with great interested (gigs have often fallen on days where I'm double booked, working, etc), I felt it was about time to hit a Faithful City Show and where better to start than a last minute show for Swiss rockabilly punk legends **The Peacocks**.

The gig was announced late in the day, had a numerous line-up changes with support bands having to pull out last minute, with replacements secured days beforehand and yet despite all that and the fact that it was a Monday night Faithful City kept plugging away and the night was a roaring success with the audience swelling as the band's played on, by the time the headliners took the stage by storm the place was heaving with revellers.

Cheltenham based **Red Light Rebels** were charged with opening the proceedings, following a stint performing with *Sponge*, the four-piece hit the stage running, with a super charged set of hook-laden supercharged punk fueled rock 'n' roll. Guitars worn low and set to stun the dual frontmen took turns in lobbing massive choruses and cranked up riffs to the assembled early birds with the likes of *Sick And Tired*, *Carlifornia Avenue* and bouncy set closer *Harrison* grabbing me by the lapel and forcing me to hum along.

Rail Means Rail followed, upping the ante with a dose of grungy hardcore, complete with throat shredding, razor sharp riffs and a drum kit battered into submission. Apparently the lead singer was feeling severely under the weather battling a lovely dose of flu, however bar the pale demeanor you would have hard pressed to tell as he threw himself across the stage and hollered with the best of them as the band delivered an intense yet engaging set.



Photo: Duncan Clark

rendition of *Folsom Prison Blues* and a rockabilly reinvention of *House Of The Rising Sun*. The **Straight Aces** are one of those bands that never fail to raise a smile or indeed the audience's voices and the **MARRS Bar** was no exception as punk rockers and rock n roll fans united as one hollering a heartfelt *Hey Joe* in tribute to former Heroes DJ and rockabilly supporter **Chris Lynch** as a fitting finale to the band's performance.

The Peacocks were tasked with bringing a varied evening's entertainment with a blast of rockabilly punk and the Swiss three-piece did just that and then some. Lead by charismatic frontman **Hasu Langart** the band delivered an infectious set full of buzzing riffs, contagious hooks and killer choruses as the band proved just why they're so highly regarded. Looking round the venue I could see folk hollering along to the likes of *After All*, *Long Way Home* and *Next Time We're Gonna Do it Right* within a few bars, The Peacocks make you want to dance, sing or the very least tap your feet wildly whilst trying to keep your cool.

What a way to kick off a week, a brilliant night of thrills and spills, a four band bill that satisfied from start to finish, if you weren't there, you seriously missed out.

Faithful City have apparently got loads of exciting things in the pipeline for next year, so I suggest you clear your diaries and wait with baited breath to see just who they can draw to the city next!!!

Words: Will Munn



Photo: Andy O'Hare

Following on from the hardcore onslaught, local rockabilly band the **Straight Aces** (above) took over for an entertaining sing-along and a dose of good time rock 'n' roll opening with *C'mon Everybody* before delivering a spot of Buddy Holly, a rollicking

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Steve 'Big Man' Clayton

Steps Bar, Redditch | Sunday 15th Nov

Birmingham born Steve is a resident in Germany and visits his old UK home very little these days. With only a few nights before returning to Germany he was performing his barrelhouse boogie at the **Sunday Blues Club** in **Steps Bar**. Couldn't miss this opportunity and just after returning from Tenby Blues I took a much shorter trip to the delightfully named Headless Cross. I found Steve at the bar when I arrived (where else?) which is an important component of this high energy and ivory bending style. He limbered up with trickling out some notes on piano, with able support from drummer Howard Smith who also takes up the mic.



'I Like It Like That' loosens up the Big Man's vocal chords and Steve finds some 'Old Time Religion'. Nothing slows those fingers

for long, mixed of course with plenty of humour that is shared with his audience. A mischievously entwined set of lyrics are added to 'Sweet Home Chicago' before Steve turns to gospel for one of his own songs 'Real Fine Day'. Club organiser **Adrian Stone** also takes up the mic asking 'Where Did You Stay Last Night'. Steve has to find 'Blueberry Hill' including some previously undiscovered, risqué verses that have been long overlooked and then 'Whole Lotta Love' like never was played before in true, lounge lizard style.

Beers arrive before Steve embarked on what was perhaps 'Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1' which slid into some piano rocking, key stomping and ivory thrashing mayhem. Rasping rims, rustic griddle runs and everyone's having a great time. It continues as Steve finds time to down ale, whilst simultaneously keeping everything flowing. You can't follow that and I'm not sure the Old Joanna would survive another



assault. So a fine evening of fabulous Boogie piano comes to a close. This little gathering at **Redditch Steps Bar** is a good way to end your weekend as any in this area. It would be great to see continued support for Club Organiser Adrian and his efforts in keeping music live here, on the doorsteps of Birmingham.

Graham Munn

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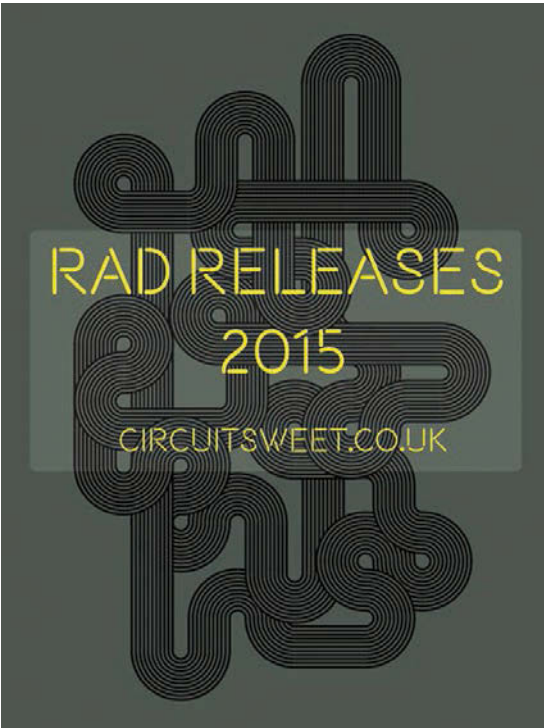
Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

With 2015 very quickly coming to a close it's time for music lovers and critics to look back - reviewing the year's releases and choosing your favourite, most played and most cherished album of the year. It also means looking back on the best gigs you've been to; the most inspiring acts you've seen; talent that's brought you to recognise their efforts, to fall in love with new acts; bands exploding on the scene out of nowhere; seeing an act at a local venue which you never thought possible, more recently **VANT** hitting the stage at **The Venue, Surprise Attacks** letting us all enjoy **Sly and The Family Drone** at **The Firefly** and **Embrace the Chaos** hosting **Quadrupede** at **The Pig and Drum, Broken Oak Duet** performing at a **Coffee warehouse** in **Ross on Wye, Deaf Havana** at Gloucestershire's **2000 Trees** or how about **De La Soul** headlining **Nozstock** festival.



We love reviewing the year in music - local, international, signed and unsigned. We love going back through the archive and seeing just how many great acts we've encountered over the past 12 months. We love to share our thoughts on the year so much that



we make it into a large end of year special which is now renowned by our regulars - **Rad Releases**. We've spent a few days at the end of November contacting all those previously featured acts on **Circuit Sweet** to get their involvement with our site. This year it's bigger and better than ever. We've got bands, magazines, venues, artists, labels and more involved to debate their top 5 releases of the year and what their favourite gig of the year was and why. We then share all of that information with you in our takeover which you can see only at circuitsweet.co.uk throughout the week prior to Xmas and leading up to New Year. This year we've also teamed up with **Skye Portman** for a great poster. Will your favourite album review/release make a reappearance? Be sure to keep an eye out for this special as we've got plenty of local acts taking part.

Alongside the hive of activity on the website and on our facebook and twitter, we want to say a big thank you to our loyal supporters. This year you've seen us grow as we celebrated our 6th Birthday back in March and relaunch with a new look website. You've seen lots of new releases in our online store and seen us on screen not just behind a microphone. You've seen us reach



out and our team gain some great new writers, always plugging incredible artists hard. And as a thank you for all your support, all items in our online shop (circuitsweet.bigcartel.com) have a mega 15% off throughout December - the best releases as the greatest gifts this Xmas: our way of you providing someone special with great music and something unique. Over December and January we will be spending as much time at gigs as possible and find more ways to get great music heard. Our 2016 plans are all out there as we plan to get bigger and better and to provide more in many ways. More reviews, more interviews and interactions, more competitions, more products in our shop, more shows, more contributors and more movement across the county. We are also waiting patiently for both **Broken Oak Duet** and **A Werewolf** releases on vinyl!

For now though we simply wish you, lovely readers of Slap Mag, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year .

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Ian Siegal

The Countess Of Huntingdon Church

Worcester Saturday 31st October



'Oh Mary Don't You Weep': its time for a confession. Here I am a born again blues fan and I had never seen a full gig from Ian. Now he was in my hometown, the Ben Nevis of British Blues; and waiting for me to scale that summit. 'Silver Spurs' kick in as we ride into the evening with **Mr Siegal**. Much of the set derives from folk and country songs, or so he would have us believe. However this man, who has more awards than Manchester United's trophy cabinet, delivers blues - and that's the label I'm sticking with!

Ian is something of a storyteller between songs and tuning, the fingers ever moving across those strings. A story of an evening in a wooded cabin shared with Alvin Hart where he quickly wrote 'Overseas Pirate Blues' for a short shared-microphone recorded session on a US tour. Jimbo Mathus also provided a heartfelt Leadbelly song, mimicking Keith Richards' almost indecipherable drawl, prompted by Keith's recent interview 'Goodnight Irene'.

Despite espousing his esteem for Dino's 'Live From The Sands', Ian instead turned to an old American song from the civil war years; Steven Foster's 'Hard Times Come No More' - a truly soulful lament. Throughout the evening Ian's polished cowboy boots kept

the tempo tapping out, accompanied by some occasional slide on his Resonator.

At this point, the evening was drawing ever nearer to the witching hour on this Halloween. Finally there was a quick prayer at the Taj Mahal with 'Ain't Nobody's Business But My Own' and some 'Bare Necessities' before Ian took his bow. Now it may have only been a moderate audience in this old church, but they were devoted Ian Siegal fans. Applause accompanied by encores filled the air, with Ian returning for the superb 'Falling On Down'; a closure of a great evening. At last I could appreciate why he has the international status that follows in his wake.

He is the rightly crowned Prince of British Blues and we had been royally entertained. I had yet to trudge my way home through green-faced ghouls littering the foggy streets of the city. Fortunately, I had my sensible coat to protect me and 'John The Revelator' in my head to keep me company. Thanks for that Mr Siegal.

Graham Munn



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Enjoy a festive evening of seasonal songs from our resident Aussie! Marilla Homes has a unique voice and incredible ability to perform across genres – folk, blues, jazz, opera, and more.

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Ben Vickers | Keep It Real Funky MeMe Detroit | A Point Of You

From first impressions I'd have assumed that the five tracks worth of acoustic melodies were influenced by a kind of Jack Johnson-Jason Mraz hybrid, but once you peel back the catchy lyrics you are hugged by funky tones of synth and guitar that harmonise well with Vickers' vocals throughout.

Strong reggae inflections inform the overall sound from the opener 'Just' with its classic songwriter's credentials, through 2nd song 'Justice Is Forever' wherein Ben gets his funk on fully, to penultimate track 'Unwind'. There is though variety throughout the EP, in melody, playing and voice as Ben's admirable range is tested and displayed to its full extent.

The playing is consistently exemplary especially on 3rd song '60 Bucks' which has some lovely piano and guitar interplay together with subtle strings around a gorgeous minor chord melody and last track - a cover of 'Uptown Funk', which maintains a gritty, vulnerable essence that rounds off the entire nineteen minutes worth of acoustic funk pop in fine style.

Not only are Ben's songs upbeat and toe-tappingly catchy, but his artwork is what my grandma's vocabulary would christen 'hip'. The black and white beard that Vickers' EP sports is minimal, but is also bound to resonate with a younger audience.

Overall the EP is of its time and admits various endearing qualities that can only be appreciated once listened to repeatedly - which I would certainly urge you to do.

Paige Lewis

MeMe Detroit originally hails from Stratford-Upon-Avon but now resides in Birmingham, she started playing music at the tender age of 6, when her Mum first dragged her to piano lessons and since those formative years not only has she graduated to songwriting and guitar, but her musical horizons have expanded taking in influences from grunge, rock and Brit-pop helping MeMe to craft a sound of her own.

Having tirelessly gigged under various guises her fanbase has grown to include members of The Stereophonics and Dillinger Escape Plan among others, with a number of high profile musicians joining MeMe on the recording of her debut album, which is set to be unveiled in the new year.



A Point Of You is the second single to be lifted from the said album, *Live To Love You'll Love To Live*, following on from *Stand Up Your Living*. Whilst the previous single was an infectious slice of pop rock, *A Point Of You* is a stunning slab of grungy rock that opens with a howl of feedback before a tapped out rhythm joins the mix and **MeMe** delivers a melodic yet biting croon over a dirty low slung riff, before becoming an attitude fueled holler on the rousing chorus, bringing to mind the likes of a young PJ Harvey or perhaps even Courtney Love at her best (think *Live Through This* as opposed to *Nobody's Daughter*!!) as MeMe thrashes her guitar into surrender.

If **MeMe Detroit** can deliver an album with the same ballsy vigor as *A Point Of You*, you can expect fireworks in the new year as she takes the Midlands by storm.
www.memedetroit.com

Will Munn

Kris Dollimore

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 25th Oct



Many of you who may have read any of my previous reviews will know that the **Prince of Wales** in old Ledbury town is one of my favourite haunts on a Sunday evening. A lovely, historic pub that puts on live music of the highest standard, which is precisely where I would place Kris whom I had recently seen in nearby Worcester. He starts his set with 'Poor Boy' before the soulful Blind Willie Johnson song 'Soul Of A Man'. There are a few select covers such as Leadbelly and John Lee Hooker in these acoustic settings, but much of the evening is taken with songs from Kris's own set of albums. Suffice to say I have written about Kris and a gig in Worcester's Ginger Pig only a couple of issues ago and my opinion has not changed. A faultless guitarist, excellent blues vocalist and a producer of some fine work. I can only urge you all to go and see him. This gig being in one of my favourite haunts, was a real bonus. Meanwhile try any of his albums, they are well worth finding and all offer much to enjoy.

Graham Munn

Andy O'Hare

Well it's been a bit of year for milestones - chief of which of course has to be the fine organ that you're now holding reaching 50 issues - and it's been a privilege to be associated with SLAP from the start - many thanks to Mark for providing a forum for my inconsequential ramblings - much appreciated!! We also marked the tenth anniversary of what started out as the Friday Session - which has since moved to a Saturday - and yes we still find it a bit strange that it goes out at a time when its primary target audience of giggers and gig-goers are mostly out er... gigging! But it's also now part of the greater BBC Introducing Scheme which means wherever you are in the country - between 8 and 10pm you'll hear unsigned and under-the-radar music from your own region in that timespot!

We had a special show to mark a decade on air with the return of original co-presenter **Dan Johnson** and special guests who've been friends of the show since day one - kicked off naturally with the first record ever played - *L'Amour Violent* by **And What Will Be Left Of Them?** - still one of my all-time faves! Ten years ago it's fair to say I was mostly occupied with then-thriving Hereford music scene - which has been strangely subdued in recent years - but I'm totally convinced that it's not been due to the lack of musicians or venues - but the absence of organisers to bring them together - something that Worcester has in bucketloads at the moment with great new promoters like **Surprise Attacks**, **Faithful City Shows**, **Embrace The Chaos** etc - putting on fabulous gigs and making a great fist of it!!

Luckily there seem to be some signs of recovery with **Hereford Live** and **Hereford Rocks** putting on regular gigs - and the Jaily - woops sorry The Venue seems to have a new spark of life alongside other 'venues' like **The Barrels** and **The Victory** - and it was a pleasure to pop along a couple of weeks ago to a gig at the **Herdsmen** where I used to check out wonderful acts like **Bitchpups**, **Tastyhead**, **Dandelion Killers**, **Toasted Egg Sandwich** and many others - it's still a cracking location that's sadly very much underused - but a breeze to get to and back from via an evening super-saver return - a fraction of the cost of petrol and you can have a pint or five as well...

Strangely we've not missed a single week in all that time - with Andrew himself only taking a break for a couple of weeks to get married! Most other Intro shows get one of their acts each week into their studio to play what has to be a semi-unplugged mini-set due to the lack of space - but for the last four years we've taken the show 'out on the road' once a month - recording four or five acts in a live environment at just about every venue in the two counties!

This format really works well during the extended summer season and we've been lucky enough to land spots to showcase acts at a fine selection of local festivals - only stepping out of area once-yearly to host a stage at **Wychwood Festival** on Cheltenham Racecourse. It was a great coup a while back to land a spot for local acts at **Big Chill** - but that was the last year before the organisers pulled the plug on what had been one of our area's great annual events - still a crying shame! Luckily though there's great hope for next year as the brilliant **Lakefest** will be moving to the Eastnor site - and touch wood, we'll still be hosting a stage there next year featuring quality local acts for the duration!

Myself I'll still be trying to get to as many gigs as possible in my continuing quest to find out not just great new bands but awesome new killer and original songs!! I'm looking for acts with cracking ditties that can actually perform them live - not as straightforward as you might think with the boom in home

recording - but I still reckon that on average I hear at least one number per week from a local act that by all rights should be in the UK singles Top Ten - but of course it's not a great state of affairs at the moment - and hasn't been for a long while now as the market is still for the most part tightly controlled by companies with an eye on the commerciality and profit-line rather than the quality of music - and I feel this now entrenched attitude is going to take another earthquake of punk or BritPop proportions to even slightly change...

It was partly in tribute to the great **John Peel** and his **'Festive Fifty'** that ten years ago I suggested to Andrew that each year we compile Top Tens of the best songs (not necessarily the best acts!) that we've ourselves heard during the past 12 months and we feel are worthy of chart-topping status (!) - and broadcast them on the first show after the New Year. It's completely irrespective of musical genre and we pick a mixture of the crackiest ditties to have tickled our earlobes - the only difficulty being how to reduce it to the best ten - because that's all we can fit in the two-hour show!!

Please be assured that we'll continue to do our very best to support the great H&W music scene as long as we're able - my own hopes for the New Year are to fight for a whole lot more recognition of the fine music coming out of the 'twilight zone' of the Black Country area (historically and still spiritually part of Worcestershire) and to hopefully after far too long see a genuine H&W act at one of the major summer festivals - very overdue indeed!!

So in the meantime on behalf of Andrew, Danni and the rest of the Intro team can we wish you all a very pleasant Midwinter Public Holiday - as you take the opportunity to plan out your own personal festival timetables for next year of course!!!

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

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Christmas at The Courtyard

Throughout this December 2015 **The Courtyard** in Hereford are hosting a bulk of **Comedy Clubs** and **Pantomimes** that'll guarantee to entertain everyone. Come along with a group of friends or an office party for a lively atmosphere or for an evening of sharp wit.

The Beauty and The Beast is on from Friday 27th of November until Saturday 9th of January and is perfect for some festive family fun. Tickets start off at £10 and family tickets start off at £59.

As well as that beast of a pantomime, **Hansel and Gretel** is being performed from Thursday 10th of December until Thursday 31st of December. Perfect for the little ones, and tickets are only £8.

As for Comedy Clubs, Friday 4th of December, Scottish comedian **Iain Stirling**, **Hayley Ellis** and **Jack Barry** take to the stage to deliver some stellar stand-up.

Julian Deane and **Alex Smith** headline a double-bill of comedy on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th of December, joined by **Patrick Morris** on Friday 11th and Alex Perry on Saturday 12th.

There's another double bill of laughs on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th of December with funny trio **Mark Cooper-Jones** (pictured), Courtyard regular **Steve Bugeja** and **So You Think You're Funny?** semi-finalist **Kieran Boyd**.

Iain Stirling



To tantalise the tastebuds, **The Courtyard Café Bar's Festive Fork** menu returns alongside Comedy Clubs, offering a tasty Christmas themed buffet that is perfect for an office party or family gathering.

David Durant, Associate Director at The Courtyard, said, "We've got your evening sorted with the Festive Fork menu and some fantastic comedy. With discounts available for group bookings, grab your tickets now for a hilarious night!"

Tickets for the Comedy Club are only £12.50 and it will be in the Studio Theatre starting at 8:30pm. A belly tickling line-up to Christmas - be sure to grab tickets before they sell out soon!

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www.courtyard.org.uk



Julian Deane



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Ardyn, Andy Oliveri, Dollhouse

Lansdown Hall, Stroud | Friday 20th November

A lively opening to proceedings at The Lansdown Hall in Stroud from local band **Dollhouse** who serve up an interesting mix of Alt-rock, garage and dance, even though there isn't a keyboard in sight! There's also a healthy dollop of psych in there, courtesy of **Will Ainsley's** chiming guitar patterns and heavily altered backing vocals.

The rhythm section of **Tom Stevens** on drums and **Nick Browning** on bass is rock-solid and unflashy, allowing much freedom for the other members of the band to stretch out.

Singer **Zak Thomas-Akoo** though is the undoubted focal point of the band, hyperactive and gurning for England, he delivers a rasping display of vocal power. However he really needs to crank up the volume on his mic and monitor, or else he's going to have no voice left in a couple of years. A memorable performance from a fine band with a notably different sound - well worth checking them out.

It's a seriously good move by **Ardyn** to have **Andy Oliveri** as main support for this their EP launch gig. I've seen Andy play four or five times now, in a variety of settings and this performance topped the lot.



It may have been planned, or it may have been a reaction to the size of this impressive hall and the increasing hubbub from the large crowd assembling, but he goes electric from the off, and my word, what a sound...

This is actually the first time I've seen him play anything other than acoustic, and it's not just a question of him playing the same notes with a few amps thrown in, the songs are transformed.

The bulk of the set is made up by songs from his excellent debut album *'Pay Your Respect To The Rose'* but the highlight for me, as I suspect it will always be, is the exquisite single *'A Heart That Sings Can Never Bleed'*. Tonight though this classic is run close by a track I don't recognize and whose name I miss, featuring a heavily reverbed and quite astonishing solo.

The voice, as ever, is rich and silky smooth and a young woman standing next to me, highly impressed, compares him to David Gray. See him live as soon as you can - you won't be disappointed.

Rob and Katy Pearson, formerly **Kitten and Bear**, have added **Reid Sproston** on drums, **Josh Day-Jones** on bass and **Emlyn Bainbridge**, doubling up on keyboards and guitar. The new element, apart from the extra depth that these very good additional musicians add, is the style, which has moved from folk-based wistfulness to muscular power Pop (I'm of an age to still call it AOR) but what's not changed is the glorious melodies running through the entire repertoire.

Let's put one thing to bed right now - the sound, immaculate up to this point, was really not good but you know what? It didn't matter. Why? Because the place was jam-packed with people thoroughly enjoying themselves - I'd estimate the crowd at around 200, which is astonishing - and the music is just so damned good that it transcends any transient glitches.

Tracks from the EP have already been attracting steady airplay - significantly on Radio 1, not exactly a natural home for brand new bands and they're well represented tonight. *'Call Up'* and the title track are particularly strong, as is the opening track, the as yet unrecorded *'Killer Knowledge'*.

Katy's voice, stronger and more nuanced than I've ever heard it, is the undoubted focal point of the band's sound and it's no coincidence that the killer track of the night is *'The Garden'* - simple, clear, and breathtakingly beautiful with subtle underlying guitar fills from Rob.

There's no encore, which is a shame, but it's been a great night, and I think there's so much more to come.

Outstanding.

Words & Pics: Geoffrey Head

Honeyboy Hickling

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Day; the 11th hour had long past and people had made their way home from many memorial gatherings. Now they were slowly gathering and filling out the Prince Of Wales. **Simon Honeyboy Hickling** was ready with harmonica in hand and a twinkle in his eye. Behind him was a well oiled blues band and



Simon was there to blow us away with some great Chicago sounds. *'Hey Maddie'* began with appropriately Little Walter's *'Ain't Crazy, I'm Just Your Fool'* hard on its heels. The band had a chance to jam and played some lovely honeyed guitar tones and funky bass rhythms.

The band upped the pace by performing *'Going Up Country'* and then *'I Believe I'm In Love With You'*, with the crowd filling whatever vestige of space there was left in front of the band. Simon gave us *'Miss You'*; a Stones song I love which harbours

memories and coincidentally the need for a whiff of fresh air. Chuck Berry could be heard coming through the door and a lovely harp led instrumental found its way back to me.

'Bright Lights, Big City' lifted the tempo, ready for Simon to whistle up *'Big Train'* putting us on track for the end of the night. An iconic bit of Chuck and the Prince Of Wales is rocking on its very foundations. The old timbers were creaking to the sound of **Simon Honeyboy Hickling's** band and the energetic music lovers that filled the **Prince Of Wales** were even worn out. Now I ask, where were you?

Graham Munn

9 Below Zero

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | Friday 6th November

The bell tolled as the fans settled in the hall and the hum of conversation dimmed. The stage door opened to a blast from the past and **9 Below Zero** took to the stage. The band's first recording *'Live From The Marquee'* hit the stores during the 1980's and now they were fully reformed to play to fans who had watched their live performances in the past.

The band had been firmly held in its blues history but the set was fairly sprinkled with rock & roll plus a little sugary pop. *'Tore Down'* started the show but soon after sweetened by *'Sugar Pie Honey'*. Just along the track a train was coming with pistons driven hard by drummer *'Stix'* Burkey, whilst the harp invited us all on board for a fabulous ride.



A quick drink and back in. That's when *'Mechanic Man'* took over with more of the 80's London sound. Further on *'Never Too Late'* closed with a fantastic harmonica solo from **Mark Feltham**. Frontman **Dennis Greaves** resplendent in a bright red stiletto blended nicely

with his cherry red Gibson. He voiced his thoughts on the music markets of today, or rather the lack of them and on *'Keeping Music Live'*.

A metronomic tick of the drum carried us forward asking *'Why Don't You Try Me'* and then the finale consisting of the full on belter *'Woolly Bully'*. I had seen **9 Below Zero** in a larger venue last year but felt the more

intimate Huntingdon Hall better suited this band, thus ensuring an excellent evening of rock & roll blues for all.

Graham Munn

Highlights from Purple Fest for Pancreatic Cancer Charities

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham 13th - 14th Nov

This was entertainingly billed as a veritable feast of hard rock, acoustic, world, jazz, folk, comedy and spoken word: like Glastonbury but without the risk of dysentery and Kanye West!

The whole event was in aid of **Pancreatic Cancer Charity** and kicking off the whole shebang were local band **Monkeyface** who played a highly energetic set of very well received originals and covers. T'was a fine, rocking start to the night and weekend's shenanigans from a thoroughly bloody nice bunch of blokes.



Before continuing with more tales of musical marvellousness I would like to say that pancreatic cancer kills one person an hour in the UK and due to the asymptomatic nature of the early stages of the illness, late diagnosis is such a feature that the survival rate is under 20%. Much assistance is needed then and details of the charity's website is given at the end of this piece.

Despite the seriousness of the weekend's raison d'être much fun was had and **Hard Stairs** certainly provided that in copious amounts as duo **Horsten Longsail** and **Martin Julier** impressed with a tight and powerful display of blues, garage and gritty, edgy rock and roll.



I had seen Horsten play an excellent solo acoustic set at **The Frog and Fiddle** earlier in the year, but was scarcely prepared for tonight's extraordinary onslaught. Horsten's wonderful guitar playing spanned all genres, with driving riffs and some sizzling solo passages, occasionally slipping into 70's and psych mode, whilst Martin's powerhouse performance played perfect foil with precision and passion.

Set highlights for me were a thunderous version of Lennon's '*Come Together*' and a slow, elegant blues '*Tell Me That You Love Me*'. Adding in Longsail's huge blues-tinged and rasping vocal delivery into this heady mix and thus was a set that I will not forget in a hurry.

The good vibrations continued with a brilliant performance from **The Flux Capacitors** (do they do any other kind?). Their's is a singular and corrosive mixture of post-punk attack with singer-guitarist Hazel's inspired audio-blogging much in evidence.

Highlights of this cracking set were their single '*Melt*' and '*You Don't F*cking Love Me*', the power of which would have flattened anyone within six feet of the stage. Most fascinating though was their upcoming single, '*Chaos*' which was slower and more melodic than anything I've seen them do - a truly outstanding song from a top act.

This short review-ette if you will is but the tip of the big, icy lump and honourable mentions must go to **Clay Gods**, **Joy-Amy Wigman**, **Barnaby Eaton-Jones**, **Sarah Snell-Pym**, **Nick Burr** & **Jade-Olivia Patrick**, **Klezmerpolitan**, **Chris Cundy** and **Edd Donovan** (have I missed anybody?!) for all supporting and performing amazingly for a great cause which you can all still donate to buy purchasing seasonal products etc from www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk

Creator of Purple Fest '15 is called **Nick Mazonowicz** and almost £1100 was raised over the two days.

Words & Pics: Geoffrey Head



Soden, Skinhorse, Pilla

The Pig and Drum | Friday 13th November

The **Pig and Drum** is quickly becoming my favourite venue in Worcestershire. This ferocious Friday 13th night of metal was a satisfying opportunity for the metal revellers of Worcester to come together and appreciate one of the most exciting and mystifying scenes in our area, and enjoy three immensely talented local bands with anticipation.



First up was **Pilla** who only unleashed their evil progressive metal weeks ago. Considering this was only their second ever gig, they exceeded all expectations. Fronted by the shocking showman **Luke Osborne**, inflicting hauntingly dark and vicious thundering vocals, Pilla didn't fail to satisfy those after the most dark and chunky sounds, with guitars and drums rampaging towards perfectly timed crescendos. On stage, Osborne is transformed into a disturbed alien creature of the night, drawing you in with imp-like blackened shining eyes and rupturing your soul with raw anger. **Pilla** have more gigs coming up in December and the New Year.

The atmosphere was nicely stirred up as the Hereford hailing drum and bass two-piece, **Skinhorse** took to the stage. Their throttling in - your - face fuzz rock with huge sound and fast intricate musicianship enticed the crowd into a pleasurable haze. Their use of the groove makes their fuzz-sound raw, volatile and trance inducing whilst still being crisp and sturdy.



Finally, fronted by guitarists in the most chilling, distressing masks imaginable, headliners **Soden** also created an appropriately macabre feeling to this hair raising Friday 13th. Not only do they have the guts to delve into the murky, thundering depths of doom metal, Soden have the power and tight skill to take fierce command of a venue, and of course without the need of a vocalist. Slow, intense, and then rapidly changing and consistently compelling, they hold the audience in the palm of a tight fist and don't let go, making for a genuinely enjoyable set. This is a band to keep both eyes on, provided they haven't been brutally gauged out by the sheer velocity of their grooves.

I highly recommend you check out these bands on their Facebook pages and other sites.

By Jessica Charles Photography: Jack Green

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Tuesday 1 December 2015

Divided Heaven, Sammy Battle, Lanterns, Ryan Price
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 2 December 2015

Dan James Griffin, Elliot Sturman, QVINN, Louie Marlow, RosA©, Ellie Anna May, Savannah Roberts
Kidderminster College, Market Street, Kidderminster

Ben Ottewell
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Babajack
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Roving Crows
Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, B'ham

Thursday 3 December 2015

John Snocken, Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, The Jazz Crawlers, The Chuck Harriet Band
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Worcester Concert Brass, Blue Dive, Short Stuff, The Fidgets, Betel UK Carol Singing, Shulah Oliver, Savannah Roberts
Worcester City Centre

Ten Tombs, Jack Cooper, Callum Middleton, Sahara Breeze
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Haunted Souls
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The John Langan Band
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Vo Fletcher & Tyler Messey
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Tori Lamour
Iron Road, Evesham

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

The Mayor Rocks! with E of E + Avalon UK + Black Country Rock + Burn Down Rydell
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Friday 4 December 2015

Mister Wolf
The Swan Inn, Evesham

Mr Ben
Drummonds, Worcester

Bon Jovi tribute
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Duo Montparnasse
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Keith Thompson Band
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Beneath Broken Lies, The Aura
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Malcolm Powder's Dancing Monkey Band
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Searchers 8th Annual Christmas Special
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Assist
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Tim Holehouse + Tim Loud - A Night Of Delta Blues
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

UK Subs + Criminal Minds + Red Light Rebels
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Total Recall
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Bonnie Lou
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Panic Brothers & John Moloney
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Ben Vickers
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

High Mileage
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Keith Thompson Band
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

40 SLAP DEC/JAN

Victoria Klewin and The Truetones (Main Room)
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Delray Rockets
The Bluebell Inn, Ryall nr Upton

101% Pantera - Dimebag Memorial Tour + Ozzy OzzSpawn
Iron Road, Evesham

Still Crazy
Queens Head, Wolverley

Ignition Presents: Electric Soup + Hammerborn + Master Charger + Acid Ghost
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Poor Boys of Worcester
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

The Barflys
Great Malvern Hotel

The Blues-Eyed Beggars
Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Junction 7
Millers Arms, Pershore

The Soul Survivors
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 5 December 2015

Michael Jackson tribute
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Village, Wednesbury

Arcadia Roots, Shuddervision SoundSystem, Drum Love
Kidderminster Town Hall

Embrace The Chaos presents A Night In The Abyss
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Fez, Fallen Branches
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Stuart Woolfenden
Kingfisher Centre, Walford House, Redditch

Alter Ego
New inn, Pershore

Nice N Sleazy
Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Bleeding Hearts + Sam Draisley + Owen Brown
Boars Head, Kidderminster

T.Rexmas with T.Rextasy!
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sax Appeal
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Massive Head Trauma, Stranger In Death, Electric Cake Salad
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jodie Howland, Savannah Roberts, Blue Dive, Betel UK, Short Stuff, Shulah Oliver, The Fidgets
Worcester City Centre

Jay & Eli
The Wheatsheaf Inn, Worcester

Drifted, A Night In The Abyss, Archetype, A Werewolf, Sexwolf!, Brocken Spectre, Hammerborn
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Voodoo Blue
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Pool Room - Counting Days + High Hopes + Strike Back + This Concept + Lesser Animal + Virtue In Vain
Main Room - Wizards of Oz (Ozzy tribute) + Moretallica
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Cuginis
Subtone, Cheltenham

Teresa
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Alabamaman
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Limehouse Lizzy
Guildhall, Gloucester

Gav and Nat
Stroud Brewery

Ben Maggs
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Matt Bowen
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

The Delray Rockets
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Nice 'n' Sleazy
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern Link

Skint
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Hagglebag
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**New Generation Superstars + The Senton Bombs
+ The Idol Dead**
Iron Road, Evesham

Mike Skilbeck
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Perry Foster
Paul Pry, Worcester

Black Heart Angels
The Unicorn, Malvern

The Fez + Fallen Branches
West Malvern Social Club

UB40 - Labour of Love
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Bright Eyes
Eleven, Stourbridge

Sunday 6 December 2015

Wreckless Eric
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Bonny Lou Band
Steps Bar, Redditch

The Steve Gifford Band
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

St Agnes Fountain
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Corinne Frost (cello) and Janine Smith (piano)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Magic Numbers
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Clive John Trio
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Greg The Axeman Writers
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Woo Town Hillbillies
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Sari & The Engine Room
Iron Road, Evesham

Monday 7 December 2015

David Newton & Craig Milverton
Fownes Hotel, Worcester

Tuesday 8 December 2015

Tensheds, Connor Maher
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Maxine and The Sound of Soul
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Wednesday 9 December 2015

Late Life Crisis
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Jessica Rhodes
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Linerunners + The Lonesome Stampede
The Barrels, Hereford

Thursday 10 December 2015

Half Man Half Biscuit, The Humdrum Express
The Robin 2, Bilston

Steve Tilston, Appleby Kinsey
The Ale House, Colwall

Mike Sanchez
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sœur, Vault of Eagles, Theo, Downard (Sold out!)
The Firefly, Worcester

The Pre New, Disco Tramps
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

**Worcester Ukulele Club, Clarion Folk Group, Worcester
Concert Brass, Betel UK, The Fidgets, Shulah Oliver, Dan
Greenway**
Worcester City Centre

**Mind Power - MIND Mental Health Charity Fundraiser
with Liberto Wolf, The Lodgers, Kingsley Salmon (King
Solomon Band), Satta (Top Ranking) + others**
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Trevor Burton Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Shine
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Left For Red + Valous + One For Sorrow
Iron Road, Evesham

Lounge Toad Xmas Special
Great Malvern Hotel

Friday 11 December 2015

Killerstream
Drummonds, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Quill with special guest Bev Bevan + support
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Phil Bates
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Carnage Club Xmas Party, Opium Lord, Vicious Bastard,
Unhinged**
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

Poppadom!
The Red Lion, Evesham

Roy Orbison & Friends
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Karpet Kickers
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Retinal Circus, Wes Dance, Jenny Hallam, Colin Baggs
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Midnight City
Queens Head, Wolverley

London Calling (Clash tribute)
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Delray Rockets
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Reflections
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Canary Swing
Guildhall, Gloucester

Embrace The Chaos presents Weird 1
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

Stark
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Ben Stancombe
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Out Late
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

The Connor Maher Quartet
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Missin' Rosie
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Barry Cooder and The Sharks
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

The Della Grants + Ross Connor
Iron Road, Evesham

Gordon Hendricks as Elvis
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Vehicle
Bluebell Inn, Ryall, Nr Upton

Bourbon Alley Blues Band
Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Chicago Bytes
Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 12 December 2015

80's Rewind Show
Amber Cafe, Evesham

5.15
The New Inn, Pershore

Vault of Eagles, Søur, Downard, Theo
The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Enzo & Kim Ryder
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Church Of Elvis, Scum, Andy Wickett, DJ Velvetone
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

Malvern Hills District Brass Band - December Delights
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jack of All, Elgar School of Music, Clarion Folk Group, Betel UK, Salvation Army Brass Band, Shulah Oliver, Ami Woodyatt
Worcester City Centre

Tewkesbury Town Band
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

RDF + Danntabeatz
Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Underdogs
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

WinterFest - 2 stages, 16 band, no clashes, 1 ticket - see website for full line-ups
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Satan's Barber Shop
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Whole Lotta Led
Guildhall, Gloucester

Ethemia
Stroud Brewery

The Albion Christmas Band
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Crazy 88s Christmas Party
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Xmas Party w/ Hodera + College + Broken Oak Duet
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Barber Town, Worcester

Jungle Bells, Jungle, Drum and Bass, Bass Line
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Works
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Men In General
St Peter's Church, Cowleigh Bank, Nth Malvern

The Jaguars
Cross Keys, Malvern

Hybrid
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern Link

Red Line
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Young Lust + Rebel Lust
Iron Road, Evesham

Starmaker International
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Will Killeen
Paul Pry, Worcester

Roving Crows Christmas Bash
Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

The Mark Leedam Band
Great Malvern Hotel

100% Proof
Eleven, Stourbridge

Sunday 13 December 2015

BBC Intruding
Steps Bar, Redditch

Electric Soup & Guests
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Band of Rogues, Stompin' on Spiders, The Players, Jack of All
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

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Astaria String Quartet - Family Christmas Concert
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Tewkesbury Town Band
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Northsyde
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Barflys
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Chris Harvey's Birthday Bash w/ Sam's Town
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Thunder Road
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Jenny Hallam
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

The Sex Pissed Dolls
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Monday 14 December 2015

Kristopher Roe of The Ataris
Guildhall, Gloucester

Tuesday 15 December 2015

Sally Rae Morris
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Wednesday 16 December 2015

Bryn Teeling aka River Thieves
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Gypsies of Bohemia
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 17 December 2015

Dexter Henry Millest, Natalie Holman, Clarion Folk Group, Worcester Concert Brass, Jodie Hughes, Ewan Pollock
Worcester City Centre

Population: 7 + Rosebud + Desert Boots + Abel Gray
The Firefly, Worcester

Dan Greenaway
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Piano Man - The Music of Billy Joel
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Buddy Holly & The Cricketers
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Ronin + Fahran + Raptor
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Missing Sparrows + supports
Iron Road, Evesham

Jack Of All (5.30pm Pre-Theatre Evening for Seth Lakeman)
Great Malvern Hotel

Joe Carnall Jr + supports
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Friday 18 December 2015

Bridget & The Big Girls Blues Band
Red Lion, Evesham

Tom Forbes
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Nice N Sleazy
Anchor Inn, Eckington

Dale Von Minaker, Swallows
Saint Georges Hall, Bewdley

The Official Receivers
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Big Chris Barber Band
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Skewwhiff
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Chuck Harriet Band
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Paul Rose Partnership
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Prestige + Artemis + Svalbard + Wicked Snakes + Wretched World
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Sultana Brothers
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Doreen Doreen
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Space
Guildhall, Gloucester

The Relaxos
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

A Convent Christmas with Cara Dillon & friends
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Soul Strutters
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Delray Rockets
Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

Open Mic Night
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
Cross Keys, Malvern

Sally Haines
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

King Rocker (Elvis sings Classic Rock)
Iron Road, Evesham

Voodoo Blue
Queens Head, Wolverley

Clarkesville Mountain Band
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Howlin' Mat
Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Ian Luther
Great Malvern Hotel

Black Knight
Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 19 December 2015

The John Steeds
The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

Journeyman
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Rod Stewart tribute
Amber Cafe, Evesham

**The GREATest MALVERN charity Christmas concert EVER
Calm Like a Riot, Black Heart Angels, Skewwhiff, Humdrum
Express (Ian Passey), Restless Kings, Lounge Toad**
Malvern Cube

Jamie Knight and The Manuka Band Christmas Show
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Skrood
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Blues Brothers
The New Inn, Pershore

Nightshift
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Get Bag, Pack Bag, Go, MALAR, Worcester Ukulele, Salvation
Army Brass Band, The Fidgets, Molly Ann Ganderton**
Worcester City Centre

Jay & Eli
The Maple Leaf, Worcester

Riff Raff, Powerslaves
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Izzy The Push
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

XL5
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Stiff Joints
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**All On A Winter's Night with Johnny Coppin, Karen
Tweed, Paul Burgess, Dik Cadbury & Geoff March**
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Bob Porter Project
Stroud Brewery

Jack Of All
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Final Warning
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

The Delray Rockets
Callow End Social Club

Short Stuff Xmas Party Night
Great Malvern Hotel

DNA
Cross Keys, Malvern

Knock Out Kaine
Iron Road, Evesham

The Animators
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Sally Haines Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Voodoo Kings, Kings of Hong Kong, Bravo Boys, Straight Aces
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Roving Crows
Colwall Village Hall

The White Feather Collective
West Malvern Social Club

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
Malvern Town Football Club

Vehicle
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Cheesy Dick
Millers Arms, Pershore

Eastwood
Eleven, Stourbridge

Sunday 20 December 2015

Gwyn Ashton
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Remi Harris
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Belshazzar's Feast
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Bitterroots
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Jay & Eli
The Ambassador Snooker Club, Evesham

The Dylan Project
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Sons of The Delta
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

The Delray Rockets
Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

Woo Town Hillbillies
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Arkfest Xmas Party (6pm-9.30) Five bands Tbc
Great Malvern Hotel

Duran Duran-Duran
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Monday 21 December 2015

Jamie Knight and the Manuka Band
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Gin Annie + White Tyger
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Tuesday 22 December 2015

Blast From The Past presents A Brief History of Christmas
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Fury
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Slade UK
Iron Road, Evesham

Labour Party Benefit Concert
West Malvern Social Club

Kai McKenzie - Michael Buble tribute
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Wednesday 23 December 2015

Sgt Pepper's Only Dart Board Band Christmas Show
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Lady & The Sax
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Alex Taylor
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Bon Jovi Experience
Iron Road, Evesham

Thursday 24 December 2015

The Notorious Brothers
The New Inn, Pershore

The Stiff Joints
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Saint Nick and the Snowman
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Core
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Delray Rockets
Queens Head, Wolverley

Aquarius
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

The Ferrets
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Simon Wallace (4-6pm)
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Amanda Stone and Neil Collins
Great Malvern Hotel

Saturday 26 December 2015

The Pontiacs
Cross Keys, Malvern

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Guns Or Roses
Iron Road, Evesham

Chalky
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

80's Night With Mel and Him
Great Malvern Hotel

Richard James
Eleven, Stourbridge

Sunday 27 December 2015

Mister Wolf
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Nice N Sleazy
Brewery Inn, Ledbury

Zoe Devenish & Friends
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Lounge Toad
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Take The Fifth, Skewwhiff
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

The Dilemma Council
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Haunted Souls
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Sax Appeal + Sax & Axe
White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Rock Bottoms (afternoon)
Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Gordon Hendricks as Elvis
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Monday 28 December 2015

Heavy Oil
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Solid Gone
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Supreme Queen - tribute
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

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Tuesday 29 December 2015

The Crybabies (formerly The Radio Nasties)
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Wednesday 30 December 2015

Miss Fusion
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 31 December 2015

The Delray Rockets
The Fellows, Dudley

Time Of The Mouth
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

Dave Onions
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Barnet Green Social Club

Tom Forbes
The Dog & Partridge, Alcester

Chris Hutchinson £7.50 (Buffet Included)
Great Malvern Hotel

The Disciples
Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Bluesocks
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

The Quik Beats
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Maxine and The Sound of Soul
Hop Pole, Bewdley

Seth Lakeman
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

TNT
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Chuck Harriet
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Soul Trader
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Still Crazy - ticket only
Queens Head, Wolverley

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
The Marlbank, Welland nr Malvern

Friday 1 January 2016

Hair Of The Dog
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Saturday 2 January 2016

Tom Forbes
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Stroud Ceilidhs - Steamchicken with The Glowworms
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Outcasts
Cross Keys, Malvern

Groovyhead
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

King Pleasure and The Biscuit Boys
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wychway Folk and Country
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Paul Cody
Great Malvern Hotel

The Rod Stewart Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunday 3 January 2016

Aquarius
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Vo Fletcher
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Thursday 7 January 2016

Stomping On Spiders, The Paul Rose Trio, Marc Miletitch, Mark Leedham, James Randle
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

Friday 8 January 2016

Tom Forbes
The Talbot, Pershore

Quarter Stone
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Jay & Eli
The Pheasant, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
The Wheelhouse, Upton

Sons Of Liberty + Stone Broken
Iron Road, Evesham

The Johnny Cash Roadshow
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley

Black Cat Bone
Great Malvern Hotel

Gunrunner
Millers Arms, Pershore

Kings Ov Leon
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 9 January 2016

Tom Forbes
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Aelfgythe Morris
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Jon Brindley
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

The Straight Aces w/ The Deadshots
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

The Usual Suspects
Cross Keys, Malvern

Riff Raff
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern Link

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Gary Delaney
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Matt Peplow
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Tom Forbes
Great Malvern Hotel

Jack the Biscuit
Millers Arms, Pershore

Born In The 80s
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunday 10 January 2016

The Paul Rose Dictatorship
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Jazz Singers
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Medicine Spoon
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Tuesday 12 January 2016

John Wheeler (Hayseed Dixie)
Iron Road, Evesham

Wednesday 13 January 2016

The Saddos
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 13 January 2016

One Night of Elvis
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Friday 15 January 2016

The Haunted Souls
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

MC Devvo
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

Skrood
Millers Arms, Pershore

The Worried Men
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Tippett String Quartet
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions
The Blackboy, Bridgnorth

Hennesea
Great Malvern Hotel

Legends of Rock
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Roy Hemmings - Hits of Motown
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Saturday 16 January 2016

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Fireballs UK
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Jay & Eli
Rainbow Hill & District Ex-Servicemen's & Social Club, Worcester

Facestealers
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

The Leylines + Jack Of All
The MARRS Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
New Inn, Claines, Worcester

Regal Scissors
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

King & the Family , The Bakers Dozen (Play)
St Swithuns Hall, Worcester

Nightshift
Cross Keys, Malvern

The Greasy Sticks + support
Iron Road, Evesham

Supreme Queen
Artrix, Bromsgrove

David Rattenbury
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Thomas Hinks Jazz Collective
Great Malvern Hotel

Club Berlin
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

London Swing Orchestra
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Sunday 17 January 2016

Alex Cornish
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Mel & Him
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Mark Leedham Band
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Vo Fletcher
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern Link

The Rat Pack
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 20 January 2016

Adam Sweet
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 21 January 2016

Limehouse Lizzy
Iron Road, Evesham

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

Friday 22 January 2016

The Members, DeadFlowers, The Humdrum Express
Wagon & Horses, Birmingham

The Elvis Years
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Thom Kirkpatrick
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Fred Zeppelin
The Marris Bar, Worcester

When It Rains
Millers Arms, Pershore

The Soul Strutters
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Counterfeit Stones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ant Cox
Great Malvern Hotel

Steve Brookes
Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Definitely Mightbe + Adored
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 23 January 2016

Mister Wolf
The Swan Inn, Evesham

Will Killeen Band
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

The Story of The Beatles starring Beatlemania
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Paul Rose Dictatorship
The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Tower Studios Presents...
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Hybrid
Cross Keys, Malvern

Alcohol Licks, Spirit Bomb, Vomit, Angry Itch, Rotunda + more
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Stone Cold Killers + support
Iron Road, Evesham

The Counterfeit Stones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mark Leedham Un-Plugged
Great Malvern Hotel

The Starving Rascals
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunday 24 January 2016

The Carducci Quartet
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jazz Express (Burns Night Celebrations)
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Boundless Brothers
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Steve Brookes (afternoon)
Old Bush Inn, Callow End

Tuesday 26 January 2016

Steve Turner
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 27 January 2016

Ben Cipolla
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 28 January 2016

Fairport Convention
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Emily Barker
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Some Skeletons + Shrinking Violets + Navajo Ace + more
The Firefly, Worcester

Billy Stone
Great Malvern Hotel

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Friday 29 January 2016

Raw Comedy
Evesham Arts Centre

Gloucester Cajun & Zydeco Festival - website for details
Guildhall, Gloucester

Sammy Jo
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Midnight City
Queens Head, Wolverley

Kim Ryder
Great Malvern Hotel

The Worried Men
Millers Arms, Pershore

The Smyths
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Alive and Brel
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Saturday 30 January 2016

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Black Star, Milton Street, Stourport on Severn

The Kitchen Island Band
Great Malvern Hotel

Big Fat Shorty
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Blobbie Williams
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Gloucester Cajun & Zydeco Festival - website for details
Guildhall, Gloucester

Son Yambu
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Frontrunner
Cross Keys, Malvern

The Executives
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Western Sand + support
Iron Road, Evesham

Buster Yarranton
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Alive and Brel
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Sunday 31 January 2016

The Zodiac Club
Steps Bar, Redditch

Maddie Stimpson
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Jack Blackman
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Gloucester Cajun & Zydeco Festival - website for details
Guildhall, Gloucester

European Union Chamber Orchestra
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Marc Drew
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Nya King - Whitney Houston tribute
Artrix, Bromsgrove



Listings were correct at time of going to press.
Please check with artist and venue websites for
updates and further information

Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

Every Monday - Folk Session
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session
The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround
Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon Open Mic
Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

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

First Tues - Open Mic
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

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

Third Tues - Acoustic Jam Night
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night
The Millers Arms, Pershore

First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles
Rose and Crown, Feckenham

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band
The Fox & Hounds, Lulshley

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly
The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every other Tues - Acoustic Session
Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Tue - Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country)
The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tues - Folk Evening
The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris
The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy
The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround
The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every other Wednesday - Acoustic Sessions
The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions
The Crown, Colwall

Every Wednesday - Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic
The Queen's Head, Redditch

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

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session
The Plough & Harrow, Gualford

First Wed - Open Mic
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session
The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming
All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

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

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night
Marrs Bar, Worcester

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

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

1st Thurs - Folk Session
Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath, HR8

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club
The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

Arts & Exhibitions

2nd Dec Confab Cabaret Mount Pleasant Hotel Malvern 8pm

3rd Dec Jump start visual arts meeting Boars Head Kidderminster

3rd-13th Dec Courage from Chaos exhibition Art
360 Bridge st Hereford

3rd-30th Dec Cat Calter Smith- Capturing Light.
Persnore Number 8

5th Dec Tenbury Mistletoe Festival (Dancefest performance)

7th-13th Dec Rogue Play Theatre Ariel courses, Birmingham

8th Dec Mouth and Music Boars Head Kidderminster

Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

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

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

Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions
The Pheasant, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club
Catsfill Club, Bromsgrove

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

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

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday Ben Vickers Open Mic Night
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

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

Every Thur - Folk Session run by Bob Chance
Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

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

Every 4th Thurs - Open mic night with Blue Street
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session
The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton
The Unicorn, Malvern

Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club run by Sam & Eleanor
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

1st Fri - Acoustic Session
The Camp, Grimley

3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop
The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session
The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session
St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session
Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson
Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

1st Sat - Acoustic session
The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club
Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm
The Morgan, Malvern

2nd Sun - Singaround Session
The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

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

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

Every Sunday - Open Mic 7.30
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session
The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00
Lichfield Vaults

Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions
The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session
The Galton Arms, Hibleton, Worcs

1st & 3rd Sun - 'Baa Chords' Open mic Session
The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish
Pickled Plum, Pershore

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

Listings in conjunction with NotJustSauce.com

11th Dec Whiplash film club Malvern cube

12th Dec Street Entertainment Kidderminster

19th Dec Street entertainment Kidderminster

6th -31st Jan Shaun Morris Recent works, Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 3rd Jan Lynne sawyer & Katherine Watson

Contemporary Art/Natural Landscapes Artrix Bomsgrove

Until 10th Jan Shannon Donovan and Andrew Eastwood
exhibition using clay as a medium. Hereford Courtyard.

Until 24th Jan Smethwick Galton Bridge

Portrait of a Station, MAC Birmingham

THE MARR'S BAR

DEC 2015-2106
JAN



The Leylines
Saturday 16th January

Tuesday 1st December
Divided Heaven, Sammy Battle,
Lanterns and Ryan Price
£4 on the door

Friday 4th December
Keith Thompson Band
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 5th December
Massive Head Trauma, Stranger In
Death and Electric Cake Salad
£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Sunday 6th December
Wreckless Eric
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Tuesday 8th December
Tensheds
£3 a ticket £4 on the door

Friday 11th December
The Connor Maher Quartet
£3 on the door

Saturday 12th December
Hodera, College, Broken Oak Duet
£1 on the door

Sunday 13th December
Chris Harvey's Birthday Sam's Town
Free Entry

Thursday 17th December
Ronin, Fahran and Raptor
£4 a ticket £5 on the door

• **Friday 18th December**
• The Official Receivers
• £8 a ticket £10 on the door
• **Saturday 19th December**
• Riff Raff (AC/DC) & Powerslaves
• £8 a ticket £10 on the door
• **Sunday 20th December**
• Gwyn Ashton
• £6 a ticket £8 on the door
• **Tuesday 22nd December**
• Fury
• £5 a ticket £6 on the door
• **Sunday 27th December**
• Take The Fifth & Skewwhiff
• £3 a ticket £5 on the door
• **Saturday 9th**
• The Straight Aces, The Deadshots
• £5 a ticket
• **Friday 15th**
• MC Devvo
• £6 a ticket £8 on the door
• **Saturday 16th**
• The Leylines, Jack Of All
• £6 a ticket £7 on the door
• **Friday 22nd**
• Fred Zeppelin
• £8 a ticket £10 on the door
• **Saturday 23rd**
• Tower Studios Presents...
• £6 on the door

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

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

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