

Issue 55

SLAP

Feb 2016

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FEB 2016 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Liskbot on display at Millenium Point,
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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

As if the drizzle-mizzle, bug-ridden start to the usual
post-festive New Year blues wasn't bad enough, the Rock
Gods of Mt Olympus decided to claim a few more for their
own.

Afore year's end we had already lost **Scott Welland, John
Bradbury, Lemmy and Natalie Cole** and they were rapidly
followed in January by **Glenn Frey, Dale Griffin, Jimmy Bain**
and of course **David Bowie**.

Our esteemed Sub Editor wants to add another name to this
blackest of lists and one that in life as in death went largely
unnoticed. **Brett Smiley** might not mean much to many but
back in '74 he was ex-Stones' manager **Andrew Loog-
Oldham's** latest protege. One superb single (*Va Va Va Voom*),
one TV appearance (Russell Harty) and one shelved album
(*Breathlessly Brett*) later, it all fell apart and Brett struggled
with life and substance abuse until his untimely recent death
at age 60. Undoubtedly indebted to Bowie, as nearly everyone
else, Brett nevertheless had his own style, taking androgyny
to the extreme and indeed making our Starman look like
Lemmy at his grungiest! Witness 'that' TV appearance on the
Harty show and you'll see what I mean.

So the *Celestial Band* gets ever stronger and perhaps our
form of tribute to the joy they brought can be our continued
support and strengthening of our own musical community. It
is on this positive note that I will finish by also welcoming the
opening of new music venues to the region such as **Worley's
The Swan** in Stourport, **The Live Room @ The Cock Inn**,
Droitwich and the good news of a reprieve for **The Boar's
Head** in Kidderminster. You can read more about these happy
events elsewhere in this month's mag, which I have to say
myself and my cohorts are inordinately proud of as we enter
our 6th year. We hope you agree and thanks you as always
for reading.

Give Me Your Ed



BBC
introducing...



Beiber Beaten to No. 1

Congratulations to ex-Worcester Sixth Form student **Beth Hemming** who as part of the **NHS Choir** kept **Justin Beiber** from the UK Xmas #1 spot with their medley 'Bridge Over You' - a win/win as sales of the single raised dosh for charity **Minds And Carers UK** - and gave the talentless twerp a good kick in the 'nads into the bargain...

Charity Chestnut Stuffing

Fair play to genial mein-host **Colin 'Mad Pierre' Robinson** of the **Chestnut Tree** in Worcester for putting on a festive six-course dinner for fifteen elderly and needy people - regulars raised £400 for the occasion with the surplus being donated to **Maggs and St Paul's Hostel** - well done all!!

Eat, Drint Artily

This year's **Droitwich Summer Festival** will now comprise separate arts and food & drink events as the Arts organisers felt that they were a bit too much 'in the shadow' of their gastronomic partners of the last few years - plans are for both festivals to continue but under separate promotions...

Swan Song for Couple

Best wishes to **Linda & Colin Griffin** who've finally 'called time' and announced their retirement from running the **Swan With Two Nicks** in New Street, Worcester after more than 40 years. The Swan and the infamous **Green Room (now Drummonds)** have been regular venues for live music over the years and have hosted **Worcester Music Festival** events since its beginning. SLAP wishes them both a very happy retirement!!

V2A World Domination

They play to massive audiences over Europe and Germany in particular but are virtually unknown in this country - and in particular the village outside Worcester, their headquarters where they plan 'world domination' - and that's the way Drone/Mechanized of cyberpunk outfit **V2A** like it!! They've just released their fourth album '*Destroyer Of Worlds*' which is riding high in the Euro charts - and have a busy schedule of gigs up and coming featuring 'death strobes', snow cannon, body armour and loads of smoke - nice!!



Anyone for Tennis?

Upton Blues Festival has announced a donation of £40,000 to refurbish the town's tennis courts - committee member **Ruth Etheridge** said that the festival had nearly doubled in size in the last few years and its success enabled it to invest in blues education programmes in local schools and local projects. The 15th Blues Festival runs from 15-17 July this year!!

Busker Blues

Worcester City Council has announced that it intends to review the rules on busking after apparent concerns about 'nuisance' and 'aggressive busking' (!) - at the moment buskers don't have to make a formal application to appear on the streets like charity collectors have to - but 'mayor' **Roger Knight** said that

the current system was 'open to abuse and it certainly is being abused' - his view not ours by the way...

Local Fest Awards

It's gong season coming up and both **MappFest** in Malvern and **Worcester Music Festival** are shortlisted for February's **Event Production Awards** in London with MappFest also in contention for the Sustainable Event award - err is there a cash prize that goes with these? Ahh apparently not...

'New Hope' for Severn Sounds

Organisers of the **Severn Sounds** three-day festival to be held on **Cripplegate Park** from 3-5th June have nominated **New Hope** as their chosen charity for 2016 - the mini-fest especially supports local unsigned acts - more info on severnsoundsfestival.co.uk

Relocated Lakefest Looking Good

Looks like a cracking lineup when **Lakefest** relocates this year from **Croft Farm Waterpark** near Tewkesbury to the ex-Big Chill site at **Eastnor Castle Deerpark** - and yes they also have a lake!! Acts already confirmed include **Primal Scream**, **StarSailor** and **We Are Scientists** - organisers of the award-winning family friendly event are already recommending early booking!



Nozstock Opportunities

Want to get a taste of behind-the-scenes at **Nozstock HQ**? If you're interested in broadening your experience and getting to grips with festival management, production or administration, they are currently seeking: street-wise stalls assistants to help with trading booking and management; savvy admin interns to give guidance, help our managers with research and bookings and get the show on the road!; handy andy construction newbies, hard grafters and quick learners. If this is for you then find out more at www.nozstock.com/get-involved

Record Fair re-sited

Worcester Record and CD Fair will take place at St Andrews Church Hall Pump Street, Worcester on Saturday 27th February. Please note this is a new venue just around the corner from The Guildhall.

Calling all musicians...

Worcester Music Festival artists application process is now OPEN.

If you would like to take part in this year's festival which takes place from 16-18 September you can apply on-line at worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply. Since applications opened at the start of the year, there have been over 500 applications, covering a wide range of musical styles.

A warm, dimly lit interior of a bar and kitchen. The space features dark wood paneling, a large mirror on the wall, and a red tufted armchair. A sign above the bar reads "THE FIREFLY" in a stylized font, with "BEER BAR & KITCHEN" written below it in a curved banner.

THE FIREFLY

BEER BAR & KITCHEN

THE FIREFLY | 54 LOWESMOOR WORCESTER | 01905 616966

PRIVATE BARS AVAILABLE TO HIRE!

THE FIREFLY - CHOOSE A CASK BEER, KEG BEER & BOTTLED BEERS OF YOUR CHOICE WHEN BOOKING THE ROOM.

HAND IN GLOVE - COCKTAIL MENU MODIFIED TO YOUR PREFERENCE, BAR STOCKED WITH SPIRITS & BOTTLED BEERS OF YOUR CHOICE.

A dimly lit bar interior with a classic, cozy atmosphere. The bar is lined with dark wood and has several red tufted bar stools. A large bookshelf filled with books is visible in the background. The text "THE HAND IN GLOVE" is overlaid in a large, serif font.

THE HAND IN GLOVE

COLLEGE STREET | WORCESTER | 01905 612154

At the end of November, the new Klik Klik production '**Gin Lane**' took to the streets of the **Worcester Victorian Fayre**. An installation piece set in an alley-way, Gin Lane brought to life the vibrant, yet seedy side to lower class Victorian living and showcased artists, musicians and performers from Worcestershire. It was really well received with those who dared to enter enjoying a sneaky peek back in time!



Photography: Diana Willis



Photography: Dave Grubb

Klik Klik is busy writing at the moment and looking out for new opportunities to produce some fun and unique entertainment!

www.klikklikcollective.com

Artists Workhouse

A new contemporary arts space opens in the centre of Studley, Warwickshire, after several months of renovations converting a historical building from a needle making factory into an artist studio and exhibition/project space.

Launched with an opening evening on 29th January, the **Artists Workhouse** at **The Royal Victoria Works** is showcasing the diverse practices of its resident artists and includes open studios running until February 7th.

For more info: www.artistsworkhouse.com

Garage Open Lecture Series

Meadow Arts is delighted to be supporting a series of talks by contemporary artists at University of Worcester's **Garage Studios**. The series gets off to an excellent start on 2nd Feb with acclaimed Welsh born artist **Bedwyr Williams**.

The **Garage Open Lecture Series** is a collaboration between the **University of Worcester** and **Meadow Arts** in partnership



with **Worcestershire County Council**. It presents a series of talks around aspects of research, fabrication and display, with the visitors to include: **Bedwyr Williams, Alice Channer, Simon & Tom Bloor, Mike Cooter** and **Keith Wilson**.

The talks take place at 5pm on Tuesdays at the **University's Garage Studios** (behind Worcester News).

Meadow Arts is an exciting opportunity to see new and specially commissioned work by leading contemporary artists in public spaces and the scheme is independently funded by **Arts Council England** and with support from the **Elmley Foundation**.

The talks are free and open to all, though booking is recommended for the public via sean.edwards@worc.ac.uk

For more information visit:

uwgaragestudios.tumblr.com www.meadowarts.org

Earth Hour

LitFest fringe are hosting an event to celebrate **Earth Hour 2016**

on Saturday 19th March with an evening of poetry spoken word and music at **St Johns Community Library**, Worcester. For more info contact www.worsclitfest.co.uk

Grayson in Bath



The Vanity of Small Differences, a series of six large scale tapestries by **Grayson Perry**, were created alongside the award-winning Channel 4 series, *All in the Best Possible Taste*. The tapestries chart the 'class journey' made by young Tim Rakewell and include many of the characters, incidents and objects **Grayson Perry** encountered on journeys through Sunderland, Tunbridge Wells and the Cotswolds for the series. Grayson Perry's '*Map of Days*' will also be on display during the exhibition.

Runs until 10th April at the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath.

Coming Out Stories



Coming Out Stories is an 18-month project of creative research, heritage training and community collecting, based on the question that young many LGBT people (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender) asked: "What is your coming out story?"

Triggering a wide range of responses and memories and with support from the Heritage **Lottery Fund Birmingham**, **LGBT** sought to engage young people with LGBT heritage and enable them to understand the hard fought struggles for equality of previous generations of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender people. **Artrix Bromsgrove**, 3rd-28th February

Call for postcard art

Malvern School of Art are calling for artists to contribute to a postcard exhibition held at the College later in the year. The entries must be 6x4" original work in any medium and include contact details along with a £1 donation. All proceeds go to the **Art In Minds Foundation** and after the exhibition, all participants will receive a postcard from another of the artists involved. Entries to Caroline Park, Malvern School of Art, Albert Rd North, Malvern



WR142YH or email cpark@sworsc.ac.uk

The Robots are coming - Liskbot

'We Strike Tonight', the debut solo show by Birmingham artist **Liskbot** aka **Michael Aston** is currently on display at **Millennium Point**, and I popped in for a little peek! This giant mural, typifies Liskbots imagery; his robots can be seen dotted worldwide peeping round a corner somewhere, and alongside this robot ink-feast, he also has original artwork for sale complementing the showpiece itself.



The work is only up until early Feb so try and grab a look before then or get along to the closing party on the 5th, 18:00 – 20:30 where you can buy prints and a few pieces of classic work will be up for grabs for **'Free Art Friday'**!



Millennium Point Atrium (ground floor) in Birmingham.
Facebook: liskbot Instagram: @liskbot

Dancefest

New Chance to Dance Company (55+)

Do you have the time, commitment and, most importantly, the passion to perform? Dancefest is creating a new company for people aged 55+ who have previous dance experience and would like to take part in regular contemporary classes, work creatively and perform.

They'll be holding a meeting to discuss the company further, at a time to suit everyone, so if you would like to get involved or find out more, please contact

Elizabeth Crosswell at elizabeth@dancefest.co.uk or 01905 611199.



Working with young people with learning disabilities - Guest workshop

Dancefest is running a workshop by **Richard Hayhow** of **Open Theatre Company** for teachers and dance and theatre practitioners. **Open Theatre Company** creates tailor-made collaborative drama projects with young people with learning disabilities. This workshop explores the non-verbal, physical theatre methodology developed by Richard Hayhow with the company over 20 years, and its application within special schools. £20

Sunday 7 February 10am-1.00pm, Dancefest, The Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN

You can book and find out more at dancefest.co.uk or by ringing 01905 611199.



And don't forget, Dancefest has a range of weekly classes, guest workshops and projects for all ages across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. You can find out more at dancefest.co.uk

New Art West Midlands 2016

Birmingham City Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Worcester Universities, the exhibitions are spread across several venues including the **Herbert Art Gallery Coventry, MAC Birmingham, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and Wolverhampton Art Gallery**. Five of the originally selected artists are chosen to win £1000. With approximately 25 individuals in previous years, 2016 sees 43 selected from the very heart of the country.

You can expect to see all mediums at **New Art West Midlands**; paintings, sculpture, photography, video work, installations and more, with the exhibitions being a really important step-up for emerging contemporary artists. Organised by **Turning Point West Midlands**, a network that promotes cutting-edge art in the West Midlands, the chosen artists gain experience of working with professional curators, gallery staff, marketing and other industry professionals as well as raising their own creative profiles.

Previous **University of Worcester** graduates contributing to **New Art West Midlands** have included **Stuart Layton, Herdi Ali, Gregory Dunn, Sarah Sehra and Emma Starkey**. SLAP feature two of the University of Worcester 2016 selection here, **Jakki Carey and Amber Whittaker**.

New Art West Midlands runs from various dates depending on the individual galleries, between February and May 2016.

www.newartwestmidland.org

Jakki Carey

A computer nerd at heart, **Jakki Carey** began her creative career making websites in a 90's 'bright new (digital) world', before going on to work for Hereford's **The Rural Media Company** and the **BBC**, among others. It was during a stint teaching Digital Media at **Hereford College of Art** that her urge to study art first arose, but Jakki was too busy raising a family. She finally started a BA in Fine Art Practice at **University of Worcester** in 2010, at the age of 53 with her six kids having flown the coop!



"Nature, travel and art motivate me. I am an art junkie: even art that I dislike inspires me – if somebody has got off their behind and created something it gives me a kick. The last exhibition I saw was in **Berlin's Kulturforum**: they curated the contemporary South African artist **William Kentridge** alongside **Albrecht Durer** out of the 15th Century. When things mash together, it drives

New Art West Midlands takes place annually, highlighting contemporary artists who have graduated from five West Midlands' undergraduate and postgraduate fine art degree courses in the past three years. With works from **Coventry**,



renewable energy, I projected onto wind-blown plastic membranes."

"Currently I am planning a deep-mapping project around brooks and streams. I'm an awful magical thinker, so I'm not saying too much as I don't wish to hex it."

"How can we open up contemporary art to local audiences? It's astonishing how people still reference *Emin's bed* and *Hirst's cow* whenever you mention modern art. That stuff was 20 years ago! I blame the London-centeredness of the UK art world: many people just don't see contemporary art as relevant to their lives. There is a big move now to drive funds towards art production in the regions but we need to be careful that in decentralizing, we don't just create "mini Hoxtons" - London scenes for hip young urbanites. We hicks in the sticks have to remind the great art funding gods that the West Midlands includes Evesham and Leominster as well as Birmingham's Eastside, Coventry and Walsall.

We also need to look at how to make art schools accessible to people from low-income backgrounds especially now maintenance grants have been scrapped. Do we really want to see art becoming a pursuit purely for the middle and upper classes? Creative kids from council estates (*David Bowie, Alan Rickman, Grayson Perry*) simply will not have access to art courses that cost upwards of £30,000!"

Jakki's work is included in the **New Art West Midlands** show at the **Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**, 12th February - 15th May. www.jakkicarey.com

Amber Whittaker

"I never stopped drawing as a child, and after studying art at A-level and Foundation level, I first went to Art College in 1997. Depression meant that I didn't finish that course, and in 2007 I was referred to the **Shrub Hill Workshop** for art therapy. This led to graduation from **Worcester University** with a BA, followed by a part-time MA at **Birmingham City University**, graduating in September 2016.

I'm interested in the use of found images, arranged tableaux of models and costumes, and digital manipulation to create surreal fictional images that represent something or someone non-existent, or in the process of being invented.

synchronicity and that can power all sorts of new ideas. I am still riffing on *Berlin's* creative permissiveness. We need some of that in Worcester! "

Working within all forms, **Jakki** prides herself on video though due to a disability, she can't work at a computer for long. Her medium depends on the subject from sculpture to video mapping.

"Materials are a language, and I try not to limit my vocabulary; In looking at metamorphosis, I worked with silk. In looking at



Boars Head gets new lease of Life!

The fabulous **Boars Head, Kidderminster** was set to close its doors last month through exhaustion and struggles, which would have been a huge loss for the heart of the Kidderminster scene after all they have done to make things happen. But with tonnes of support and appreciation thrown at them, luckily **Sid and Sand** have gained a new lease of life and decided to continue! Yay!

We got a few words from Sandra recently:

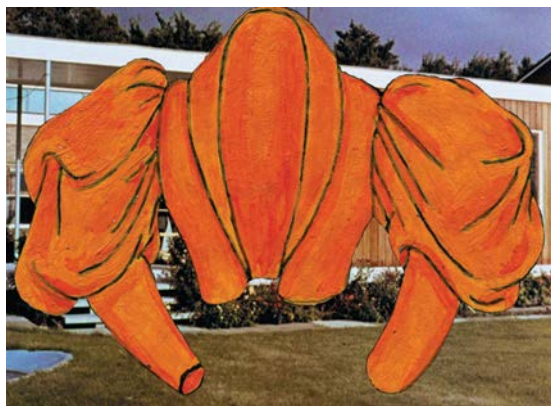
"About November time last year, Sid and I sat down and had a long sensible conversation (which if you know Sid can be quite hard at times); we were both exhausted, skint and fed up. Obviously we had good days, but generally since the 2015 August Fringe Festival everything had become harder and harder.

As the year progressed, we were unable to dig ourselves out of this hole and decided for our own sanity we would close the doors on January 31st, going out with a bang with our lovely Stiff Joints and Citizen Fish. Anyway to cut a long story short the rumours started (as they do) and the response was overwhelming with various offers coming forward. I had to announce something so on January 11th we announced that we would be running not a farewell gig, BUT a fundraiser, The Boars Head Benefit Gig!!

We have been totally and utterly humbled and overwhelmed by all of the support, kind messages and offers of help from bands, artists, friends and the general public. A lady from the life drawing class came in and said, "you can't close" and gave us £40.00; People can be so wonderful. My respect for the human soul has returned and most importantly all of this has brought back the 'oomph' we lost, giving us the drive to move forward, to keep the Boars Head going. And you lot found it for us!

I can't possibly thank everybody personally but you all know who you are & from the inmost of the Boars Head heart we thank you all SO much."

Sid & Sand



As a trans person I feel the need for representation especially, as my own body does not provide me with an existence that functions socially as a representation of my personality.



My work is a complex process involving the capture of image data from various media (scans of photographs, digital photography, painting), which is then mixed into a composite digital collage, and printed. My intention is to make use of the various potentials of the source media, combining them into a final artifact that goes beyond what is possible in any one of them. The finished piece always contains a tension between the originally existing sources and their absence in the finished print.

Being selected for **New Art West Midlands** represents the end of the first phase of my career, from therapy through education to my first participation in a major group exhibition.

I have also been active with the **Art in Minds Foundation**, a Worcester-based art therapy charity, helping to put in exhibitions and designing promotional materials and catalogues, whilst focusing on the graduation project for my MA show, at the **Birmingham Institute of Art & Design**, in September.

During the last year I have been progressively coming out as transgender, which has been quite a difficult thing to balance with art – one of the works selected for **New Art West Midlands** is a self-portrait, which for me represents a success in what has been at times a mortal struggle."

Amber's work is included in the **New Art West Midlands** show at **MAC Birmingham** from 13th February to 10th April.

www.amberwhittaker.co.uk



Cozza felt really passionate about saying a few words, after coming to an end as artistic director and nurturer of the **BHG (Boars Head Gallery)** due to her own creative journey moving onwards.

"Thanks to Sid, Sandra, Melo, Kidderminster Creatives and many more, we created a community art space that gave an opportunity for so many artists to have their very first exhibitions and enable them to realise their potential. I have met and worked with some of the most creative people I have ever known. 'Above Boards' continues to be an on-going artistic tattoo on the urban landscape of Kidderminster, again originating at The Boars; I am proud to be part of that.

Personally, it has enabled me to develop my confidence to take the next steps, expanding both my Life Drawing Class, which I hope to continue at the BHG and my own personal study.

The Boars and The BHG has achieved so many remarkable things, beyond any of our dreams. I owe no end of thanks to Sid and Sand and all those who have walked through the doors.

Let's hope it can continue!"

Cozza Harper



worcester arts workshop



Happy New Year from all of us here at **Worcester Arts Workshop!** We hope you enjoyed the festive season and sticking to your New Year's resolutions! It's been a cold start to 2016, but with a newly refurbished, sparkly new **Café Bliss** now re-open make sure you pop in for a hot drink to warm you up and check out what we've got to offer this year at the Workshop!

The fantastic **Splendid Cinema** is screening two intriguing films this February, kicking off with *"Timbuktu"* (FE, MR Abderrahmane Sissako, 2014, Cert 12) on Sunday 7th February. This is a highly acclaimed film from Mauritania which chronicles the encroachment of Jihadists on a peaceful farming family in the Malian city. On Sunday 21st February we have the tale of a lonesome vampire, *"A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night"* (USA, Ana Lily Amirpour, 2014, Cert 15). Set in the Iranian ghost-town Bad City, a place that reeks of death and loneliness, the townspeople are unaware they are being stalked by a lonely vampire. Both films start at 6pm and tickets are £5 on the door.

Our brilliant courses continue throughout February.



Beginning on Tuesday 23rd February 10am-12pm we have another 4-session ceramics workshop, led by **Kay Mullet**, costing just £40. Pottery is the new baking according to the BBC's "Great British Pottery Throw Down", so if you fancy getting stuck in and experimenting with clay this is the course for you! Kay also teaches you a variety of techniques, including decoration and glazing to make your ceramic creations look lovely.

If beautiful fabrics and textures are more your bag then come along to **Molly Rozier's** 5-session textiles course, starting on Wednesday 24th February 12:30-2:30pm. This workshop allows you to explore, develop and produce work through a variety of textile methods. All 5 sessions cost £45.

Our ever popular life drawing course ran by **Andrew Clacher** and **Toby Dickinson** begins on Wednesday 24th February, 7pm-9pm for 5 weekly sessions, costing £50 for all 5 sessions. Through this course you will learn basic observational skills, work with a variety of life models and develop your own drawing. Beginner and intermediate courses run simultaneously, we recommend you book in advance as this is an extremely popular course.

To book your place on any of our wonderful workshops call us on 01905 25053 or just pop in. The office is open Mon-Weds 10 – 3pm – we'd love to see you!

10 SLAP FEBRUARY



Is your New Year's resolution to lead a healthier lifestyle? If so make sure you come along to our special event by **Raw Happy** on Sunday 28th February, who will be hosting a one off beginner day course to raw food. This is a fun, hands on course which will teach you how to make plant based staples, such as red sauce, green pesto, green juices, nut and seed milk, sauerkraut, nut and seed cheese, chocolate and cake. The course is from 11am-5pm with lunch included and costs £70 (£35 for those unemployed). To book please email: tracy@happilyraw.co.uk Come along and learn about new foods to help kick start a healthier New Year!

Coming up in March we have the **Pentabus Theatre Company** presenting *"This Land"*, a **Shindig** event. This new play explores the impact of climate change solutions on rural areas. Infusing paths with dark humour, this is a really thought provoking performance.

March also welcomes the return of **Lazy Sundays** at **Café Bliss** kicking off on Sunday 13th March 12pm-6pm, just £3 on the door. Make sure you come along to enjoy a chilled afternoon of great live music and tasty food and drink in our (hopefully) sunny courtyard!



For more details on all of our events and workshops please call 01905 25053 or visit: www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

Capoeira

comes to new performing arts venue from the Beaches of Brazil



A new **Capoeira** group has been launched at Worcester's new performing arts venue, **Studio B** at Everoak Industrial Estate in the St John's area of Worcester.

Oficina da Capoeira's new Worcester group holds classes for beginners and young players on Tuesdays (7-8pm) and intermediate players on Thurs (7-8.30pm).

Classes cost between £6 -£8 per class and are open to anyone who is interested in learning this Afro-Brazilian art form which fuses dance, martial arts, music and culture.

When group leader, **Monitor Ace Ventura** heard about the opening of the new venue, **Studio B** he decided to take the

opportunity to move his class to this new, exciting venue. Ace Ventura is a skilled capoeirista who lives in Worcestershire with over 15 years' experience in capoeira. He is keen to ensure that his classes are suitable for all fitness levels, developing new skills for the less able but stretching those with a higher level of fitness.



Ace said, "*Capoeira combines the creativity of dance with fitness-building benefits of sport. It has so many benefits as it brings together people from all walks of life, builds self-confidence, develops new skills, improves health and fitness and develops friendships.*"

To find out more about the class visit Oficina da Capoeira's visit: www.odacapoeira.com or contact Ace Ventura on 07517 206376

This Green Earth

Worcester Museum & Art Gallery



This Green Earth is a new exhibition showcasing work from Malvern based artist **Bridget Macdonald** (who also curated the show) alongside the landscape traditions of master painters **Claude Lorrain**, **Samuel Palmer** and

Peter Paul Rubens; rare works on loan to Worcester from the prestigious **Ashmolean Museum** collection and **Manchester Art Gallery**. The unique combination of artworks offer new insight into the way artists interact with the landscape they live in and remember from their past, highlighting the timeless yearning for

the elusive peace and tranquility of rural life underpinning much landscape art.

Bridget Macdonald's work has appeared in collections worldwide and echoes the towers, herds & trees heavy with fruit seen in Baroque & Romanticist painting.



She said: "*It is a wonderful privilege to have this opportunity to exhibit my drawings and paintings in the company of exquisite works by Claude Lorrain and Samuel Palmer, those great masters of the relationship between nature and the ideal.*"

This Green Earth is a free exhibition running from 13th February until 25th June and look out for bite sized talks at the gallery in April, May and June!

For more information visit www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk or follow @worcestermuseum

'Sovinec'

Centrala presents the exhibition '**Sovinec**' by **Jindrich Streit**, one of the most important Czech Documentary Photographers.

For over 40 years, primary school teacher Jindrich Streit has been photographing the people of his home village Sovinec in the north of the Czech Republic.

Having always lived and worked among his subjects Streit is well known locally and is assumed to always be carrying his camera. His photographs strikingly reveal this intimate relationship with the villagers, but are often brutally frank about the hard life that was etched out by the people of Sovinec. These images were unsettling for the authorities, who in 1982 imprisoned him for, amongst the other things, photographing a party meeting where people were asleep. As a result, he lost his teaching job and had to join his friends who worked on the local collective farm. Despite this, Streit persevered with his photographic work, responding by



opening his house to the local community and building a gallery for contemporary art on the first floor. Today it is a remarkable cultural centre that attracts work from around the world.

This Exhibition is supported by **Arts Council England**, **Czech Centre London in London**, **Eric Franck Fine Art** and **The Side Gallery**. The Exhibition is part of the #CaptureBirmingham weekend 19- 20 March, **Centrala**, Unit 4 Minerva Works.

CFS Presents...

NIGEL CLARK

from



SAT 5TH MARCH MALVERN CUBE

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also available from Carnival Records & Malvern Tourist Information

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www.dodgyology.com www.malverncube.com www.thestandardlamps.com



thebestofmalvernhills



WEEKEND



CUBE

WEEKEND CUBE

sound and lighting upgrades in the theatre and we have a new cafe opening on 1st of February.

Kicking off the month is **White Wall Film Club** on Friday 5th February at 7.30pm. This month's film will be **Ex Machina**, winner of Best British Independent Film, starring **Alicia Vikander, Domhnall Gleeson & Oscar Isaac**. A young programmer is selected to participate in a groundbreaking experiment in artificial intelligence by evaluating the human qualities of a breathtaking female A.I.

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

Coming to Malvern Cube on **Friday 26th February, Rabbit Theatre presents DRACULA**. "Listen to them... the children of the night. What music they make!" The team that brought you the award-winning **Great Expectations** have got their teeth into Bram Stoker's classic tale of the vampire. Written by **Andrew McPherson** and directed by **Simon Harvey**, 'outrageously versatile' performer **David Mynne** brings you his one-man performance of...**DRACULA!** Be warned: this monstrous, disturbing (and completely batty) tale of dark deeds and the undead, will thrill and seduce you. Tickets are £10 or £9 for students.

We have joined up with the fantastic duo who bring you **Cheltenham Comedy Festival** and have a fantastic NEW Cube Comedy Club starting this month! **Saturday 27th February** is when it all kicks off with a 2pm **Comedy Club 4 Kids** show followed by **Cube Comedy Club** at 8pm.

Like the name says it's a **Comedy Club 4 Kids!** Cracking entertainment for everyone over six years old and under 400 years old (no vampires). We have the best comedians from the UK and world circuit doing what they do best... but without the rude bits! Since 2005, the **Comedy Club 4 Kids** has been getting the best stand-ups and



sketch acts from the international circuit. It's just like a normal comedy club, except it's daytime, kids are allowed in, and thus there is a higher than usual chance of heckles like "why is that your face!?"

Doing their thing for an audience of children and their families we have comedy song genius **Silky, CCBC** favourite **Howard Read** and magic fun, silly props, daft and funny jokes from **El Baldiniho!** Tickets £6.



For all you grown ups, get ready for some post-Christmas Comedy Fun with a mixed bill the finest, funniest and delightfully excellent comedians around. Featuring **Howard Read**, madcap magic mayhem from **El Baldiniho**, off-kilter musical mirth from **Silky**.

Silky 'a very, very funny fella.. just brilliant' (John Bishop), is runner up for just about every award going, including BBC New Comedy Award, and organiser of the legendary **Kill For A Seat** comedy nights.

Howard Read, 'Breaking boundaries in stand-up comedy' (Independent), is an award-winning stand-up and writer who's performed in front of the Queen, all around the world and headlines and MC's clubs throughout the UK. In recent years he's been distracted by a hugely successful career in children's television; he wrote, animated and starred in three series of his own (with Little Howard), and now writes for **Danger Mouse**, **Horrible Histories**, **Furcheater Hotel** among very many others.



El Baldiniho, 'Outstanding headline quality act...fascinating' (Funhouse Comedy), brings us comedy magic, prop gags and one-liners in his slightly surreal, very daft and occasionally amazing act for your pleasure and bemusement.

Fantastic events continue in March and April with more films showing **The Selfish Giant**, **Cube Comedy Club**, Theatre showing **Think of England**, Youth Theatre showing **Citizenship** and **Perfect Circle Play in a Week** and music from **Nigel Clark** of **Dodgy** plus **Sheelanagig**.

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

Raven Eye, Reigning Days The Marris Bar, Worcester | Saturday 6th Feb

RavenEye may not be the most recognisable name on the rock scene, but since their formation they've already racked up high profile support slots with the likes of **Slash** featuring **Myles Kennedy** and **The Conspirators** along with a couple of dates in France supporting the mighty **Deep Purple**.

The band's debut received acclaim from the likes of both Classic Rock and Kerrang! whilst the debut single, *Breaking Out* has already secured over 150,000 plays on Soundcloud (and rising).

The band formed by critically acclaimed blues sensation **Oli Brown**, along with drummer **Kev Hickman** and bassist **Aaron Spiers** are set to take 2016 by storm, beginning with a quick trek around the UK (with the equally impressive *Reigning Days* in support!!!) taking in Worcester's premier music venue **The Marris Bar** along the way, so I thought I'd have a quick chat with Kev from the band ahead of their whirlwind tour.

Slap: Before the formation of **Raveneye**, **Oli Brown** was receiving plaudits in the blues world as one of the best up and coming guitarists on the scene, I wondered how the swerve towards a heavier sound originally came from? What's the background of drummer Kev Hickman and bassist Aaron Spiers? And how did Raveneye originally form?

Yes he was, that foundation has meant that musically and mentally Oli started up the project with a very clear direction of how he wanted it to sound and where he wanted to take his career. His music had been making a natural progression into something heavier, he's a massive Chris Cornell and Soundgarden fan. He had spent a few years living in Canada, writing new material and assessing his next step, a chance viewing of one of my drum covers (a series of videos I had been releasing on YouTube) meant he approached me to form this new band with him.

Prior to RavenEye I had toured with another blues artist for a few years, I've actually bumped into Oli a few times at various blues festivals, aside from that I've played with a wide range of bands crossing a lot of different styles. Aaron is originally from Perth, Australia where he studied jazz and released a couple of jazz albums under his own name with his own band, he moved to the UK about 3 years ago and he and I met at a jam night and worked together in another band for a couple of years. When Oli asked me to recommend a bass player Aaron was the obvious choice, he's a fantastic musician, we all got together and it clicked straight away, musically and personally. RavenEye was born!

Slap: Who originally influenced the sound of **Raveneye**? I can still hear a blues influence but there's a rawer element in the mix as well is that from a love of classic rock (Zeppelin, Deep Purple, etc)?

We're all into bands like Queens of the Stone Age, Audioslave, Soundgarden, Foo Fighters and Rage Against The Machine and their influence has certainly shaped the sound of RavenEye, however we all have separate, older influences, like Hendrix, Zeppelin, Cream and more that comes through in our music. Oli and I both have a love and an influence from blues music and Aaron has a long history with jazz, that combined with a wide variety of rock influences there's a lot of depth to the music we create.

Slap: Since the formation of Raveneye you've already supported the likes of Slash (with Myles Kennedy) and Deep Purple, how did these shows come about? What's it like performing with such iconic rock acts? And how were you received on tour?



Someone sent Slash our single, *Breaking Out*, we heard that he really liked it and that he had invited us to come support him through Western Europe! This led to us being invited back two separate times to play North America and then finish their tour with them in Eastern Europe. It was an amazing experience to be on the road with a team of that calibre, and Slash and his band are probably some of the most down-to-earth, nicest rock stars around. They and the crew really looked after us on the road and I think we all made some life-long friends out there too.

Slap: You've released your debut EP, how was that received? and is there an album in the pipeline? *Breaking Out* received the honour of 'track of the week' by Classic Rock, were you expecting such plaudits at such an early stage in the life of Raveneye?

The funny thing is that the E.P was only ever intended to introduce people to the sound and get the band gigging. It's done better than we could have ever hoped or imagined for a first release from a band that no one knew! We have so many people regularly asking when the next release will be and the difficult thing until lately has been finding the time to write and record whilst constantly working. However, we have been able to get quite a few ideas together for the beginning of this year, I think we're leaning towards another E.P, we've learned a lot over the last year and been gigging hard, the band is evolving and an E.P would be a good way to show people what we've been working on.

Slap: Is Oli's blues career on a back burner at the moment or can we expect to see The Oli Brown Band out on tour later on in the year?

There will probably be a few shows scattered around throughout the year, it's never something that Oli plans on departing from as it's such a big part of who he is and there are Oli Brown fans that will always love his blues. Aaron and I join him on those shows and it's great for us as a band to play that music.

Slap: What else does 2016 have in store for you? Are you planning on any festival appearances and how about a Guns 'N' Roses support if they announce a tour, following on from that Slash tour?

We have a few American festivals lined up for the Spring and an appearance at Hellfest in France that we're really looking forward to. We'd really like to get out another E.P this year and tour it either at the end of this or the beginning of next year. A Guns 'N' Roses support would be absolutely incredible if it were to ever come up, time will tell!

Full Interview on NotJustSauce.com

Will Munn

Big Wolf Band

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 17th January

Crammed into the small room at the Prince, **The Big Wolf Band** settled. At the back on a minimal drumkit sat **Tim Jones** stretched out along the right bench, the 'piano' and **Richard Fedeski** in the same corner. Bassist **Mick Jeynes** squeezed to the left with guitarist, vocalist, songwriter **Jonathon Earp**, and right in my face (or maybe I was in his) **Gaz Barham**, adding to the vocals plus wielding a mean sax and harp complete with bullet mic. By my reckoning Gaz is a bit of a risk taker but even in a tight situation like this, beer spillage down the bell mouthed tenor sax was a distinct hazard. A tight situation requires a tight outfit and this band are definitely that. Cobwebs cleared in the first song, the evening blossomed into a blues heaven.



'Walking By Myself' was moved to a different dimension by the addition of the sax; Jon's vocals are just about right for gritty blues without being too abrasive. They were off down to those infamous 'Crossroads', before driving through for their own 'Done Wrong By You'. Another of Jon's compositions 'Rolling With Thunder', brought out that bullet mic and harp. It seems Gaz has many talents as well as a Brummie's sense of fun; this was a Texas style blues with the thunder being provided by Mick's thumping base and finely finished off with the rattling cymbals of Tim on percussion.

The pace dropped for a simply superb Freddie King's 'Have You Ever Had A Woman', featuring excellent solos from that sax and Richard's piano, as well as some mean guitar string bending by Jon himself. Exceptionally good. The pace then lifted back to full on rock blues as we moved to a break.

Big Wolf bared its teeth to restart with their own instrumental followed by a mixture of some great classics with plenty of self penned songs. These selections made full use of the sax and harp from Gaz whilst also allowing the spotlight to fall on the busy keys of Richard and Jon's guitar skills. Under all this, an impeccability timed bass was thumping in next to the driving drums. 'I Don't Live For Tomorrow' was full on rock with Jon pumping the 'wah wah' pedal and bending those strings Hendrix style.

Another superb self penned song 'Been Here Too Long' brought a powerful drum pulse with that ever present bass underpinning a really funky blues number, which brought smiles of appreciation from this crowd of blues lovers. There were songs from Clapton and of course Hendrix, with a very nice 'Hey Joe', but the bands own songs are a worthy addition to their set.

With an impending album release plus a number one slot with 'Depression Blues' in the Amazon blues chart, this band are on a



roll and we should be seeing a lot more of them in the future. No excuse really for me as they are only based up the road in Birmingham and thus plenty of reachable gigs available. The line up is fairly standard, albeit a high standard, but it's the extra width given by that sax that opens a chasm of separation.

The Big Wolf Band are a quality outfit, and I have little doubt the new 'Rolling and Thunder' album will do well: they will also be popping up throughout the UK over the festival season, so be sure to catch them. To date, the best bloody blues band I've had the pleasure of hearing this year!!!

Graham Munn



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Sœur, Vault of Eagles The Stag and Hounds, Bristol | 9th Dec 2015

To say that I was eagerly anticipating this gig is a gross understatement.

I'd been seriously primed for it ever since I saw **Anya Pulver** of **Sœur** play an extraordinary acoustic set at the **Worcester Music Festival** and a pared down **Vault of Eagles** play a dynamic unplugged set shortly after in Bewdley.

But, my goodness, this was something else entirely.

The makeup of the bands is similar, two women front each band while a male drummer anchors the beat but that's pretty much where the similarity ends.

Mari Randle's vocal attack thoroughly pins your ears back. The voice is powerful, rich and with a distinctly gritty, bluesy edge. Her guitar technique similarly doesn't lack vigour, and the music is shot through with blues and retro-rock references, bringing me to mind of the path that Cairo Son and Pre Sleep Monologue are treading at the moment and in what seems like the distant past, was explored by *Ten Years After*. There's even a few bars of *Djent* for the *Metalheads* and the retuning of the guitar for '*Chains*', a whisker away from being a dischord, is particularly bold.

The feature that makes the band highly distinctive, though is the lush harmonies, as **Hetty Randle's** voice kicks in at regular intervals, and occasionally takes the lead part – her voice is different, more conventional in style, and absolutely beautiful. She's one of the most petite musicians I've seen in a long time, dwarfed by her bass which consequently appears to have been constructed for a player the size of Hagrid. There's an effortless fluency to her bass playing, particularly in some of the sequences where she strays into the higher reaches of the instrument's range and the rapport with stand-in drummer **James Collins** (lately of MaybesheWill) is very solid - it may only be a temporary arrangement, but you'd never know it.

It's a frustratingly short set, drawn mainly from their EPs '*Unplugged*' and '*Plastic Culture Human Vulture*' and their current double-A side 7" single '*Living With Love/Spoon Fed Dead*'. The fine

new song '*Broken Bones*' that was debuted at Bewdley proves even stronger shot through with a few decibels, less wistful and carrying considerable punch.

But the highlight is the still-under-construction closer '*My New Road Bike*' - more complex in structure than any of the band's material to date and an absolute belter - always a good sign for a band when new material matches and surpasses what's gone before.

Very fine band.

As **Sœur** take the stage, blues steps down and Grunge and Psych collide head on and the shock wave when they do is mighty powerful.

In many ways, I'm even less prepared for this sound than for Vault of Eagles' set. It flows off stage in a continuous, undulating wave - a mixture of heavy riffing, pauses filled with menace and expectation, and passages of full-on Psych weirdness. **Tina**

Maynard's voice, which I'd only heard previously on gentle and highly melodic harmony vocals, rips out of the PA accompanied by her crunching power chords. Fierce.

Compared to the acoustic guitar pyrotechnics I saw in her set in Worcester, **Anya Pulver's** electric guitar work is almost conservative. Almost. She's putting an awful lot into this - a highly physical and very accomplished player with a keen sense of when to break from a trot into a gallop, chiming fills and shapes scything through the dense backdrop.

Unlike the dynamic but structured sound of Vault of Eagles, and despite drummer Tom's sterling efforts to keep things on the straight and narrow, there's an undisciplined side to this music which is both engaging and exciting, offering the possibility that it's going to descend into cacophony at any minute.

But when the breaking point does come, in the standout final track, '*Tough*', it's both exhilarating and hugely entertaining, with Maynard dumping her mic stand in the middle of the audience and finishing the song from there, facing the stage - it's good theatre, an excellent song and a great finale.

Both bands are back on the road in February, don't miss them. Highly recommended.

www.facebook.com/soeursoeursoeur/
www.vaultofeagles.com/

Geoffrey Head



The Delray Rockets Live 'n' Loud

First up this certainly lives up to its title and then some: the recording levels are er... more than adequate, even for the Dansette!

For the sake of the few who have not seen or heard **The Delray Rockets**, they are a Worcester based rockabilly trio comprising **Gaz Le Bass** on slap bass and vocals, playing a stunning Gretsch hollow bodied guitar **Oz Osborne** and sticking it to the skins is ex drummer **Duke Delight**. The pace is frenetic, the drive relentless, and all packaged in a very nice double disc case with pictures of the boys on the two CD's.

There is a heady mix of classic songs liberally sprinkled with self penned work. Disc 1 finds a 'Brand New Cadillac' with a 'Rockabilly Man' at the wheel; they're 'Red Hot' and in need of Gaz's 'Cool Radiator'. Just down the road Duke is beating up a whirlwind getting ready to 'Wipe Out', which slips seamlessly into the fabulous 'Johnny B Goode'. The big slap bass stands out being the relentless pulse pushed along by machine gun drumming: Gaz and Duke are the boiler room stokers for the lovely sounding Gretsch. Oz has his chance to play the superbly intoxicating 'Misirlou'; its Egyptian origins are uncertain but Dicky Dale picked this tune up back in '62 and it became a surf rock legend, eventually to be used and popularised on Tarantino's 'Pulp Fiction' soundtrack. **The Delray Rockets** make this instrumental come alive and Oz is peerless - just a moment as I hit the repeat button - and again!



With reluctance I lift off the 10 track disc but there are 9 more on disc 2. This one has more self penned songs, but also Johnny Kidd, Fats Domino, Johnny Cash, Pete Townsend and even some Golden Earring. Gaz can't resist a few bars of Elvis before launching into the Kidd's 'Please Don't Touch'. 'Deuces Wild' and the hedonistic 'Beer O'Clock Boogie' are pure Rockets; the former beautifully led in by Oz before it explodes into life at breakneck speed. Naturally the Cash classic is 'Folsom Prison Blues' and here it's sellotaped onto 'Pinball Wizard' and 'Mystery Train', all to the galloping prison riff, but oddly enough it works quite nicely.

Tripping over some Stray Cats, we strut our way into another triplet; this time it's an old blues standard that gets the makeover with 'Baby Please Don't Go' then a shot of 'Tequila', before tracking some 'Radar Love' all styled' by 'Van The Man'. Nearing exhaustion, 'Teenage Kicks' leaves its imprint - don't know about teenage but there are an aged pair of pins that cannot keep still when playing this album - its a hoot start to finish with absolutely no respite. That 'Beer O'Clock' is probably best taken when changing the discs or there's a serious risk of spillage.

Bottle the energy contained, remove those ugly solar panels, cut off the gas meter and stick your fingers up to another 250mm of roof insulation...this is hot! There is no real substitute for one of their live gigs but this goes an awful long way towards it. Great for that all night party and driving the neighbours mad! Just buy it and take some Rocket fuel home.

Graham Munn

Sister Sandwich | Mayo!! Let's Go!!

"Plenty aplomb" I've jotted down here - aplomb - ooh I do love that word aplomb! Quite like "jotted" as well but that's beside the point - and the point is **Sister Sandwich** and their 6 track EP 'Mayo!! Lets Go!!'.

Now the more of you may(o) have noticed that from these titles this loveable Wyre Forest quartet are no U2 or Manics or any other of the desperately serious, over earnest and turgid outfits out there. Indeed since 1992 in one form or another this lot have been delighting, astounding, dumbfounding and downright outraging audiences across the land. Their stock-in-trade is knockabout, food-based versions of mainly punk classics and so on Mayo!! Lets Go!! we get the like of *Blitzkreig Bap* (Ramones), *Egg 'n' Bacon Sarnie* (White Stripes) and 'Nice Fry Up' (The Clash), together with their own singular takes on Dead Kennedy's 'Too Drunk To Fuck' and Sham's 'Bankers Bailout'.

Never a dull moment of course and it is what it is, but with around 87 such similar covers under their belt, you can't help but marvel at the fun they must have at rehearsals. Look the singer dresses up in a foam sandwich costume - I don't know about you but I'm deffo in!! I love a band who make an effort and the gloriously ragged history of **Sister Sandwich** and its members is littered with wonderful Dada-esque performance art: Pin The Pig on David Cameron anybody?? Plus any band with a member named **Chris P Lettuce** is a man after my own heart.

Returning to aplomb though: these boyz can play and not for nothing have they trod the boards supporting the likes of The Beat, Bentley Rhythm Ace, Dreadzone and our very own (you can have 'em! Ed) Sponge. Go on take a big bite!

Words by Hayden Warr



CD REVIEW

The Humdrum Express | Copy Cats

Following on from a summer of festival appearances and recently, singles *Double Edged Swords* and *Festival At Home*, Kidderminster troubadour **The Humdrum Express** (Ian Passey) makes his bow in 2016



with another bout of social commentary and acidic wit, this time taking aim at the important issue of copy cats. As the accompanying video (directed by Nick Townsend of Weak 13 fame) suggests the streets seem to be littered with folk wearing Ramones shirts just to fit in (as the track laments, 'The Ramones are their favourite T-shirt Brand'), personally I own a number of the said garments but in contrast to those picking up a T-shirt just to be different to fit in, I own quite a portion of the said band's back catalogue (and I didn't get mine from River Island!!), in my humble opinion if you're buying the garment you should at least be able to name half a dozen songs by said band.

Anyway I've digressed a little, typically with Humdrum, he's armed with his trusted acoustic guitar, a pocket full of biting and contagious lyrics and a big hook chorus, that's already and rightfully found favour with the likes of **Steve Lamacq** and **Gideon Coe** of **6 Music**, whilst a nod and a wink to local shopping complex Merry Hill (or hell as I like to call it) will no doubt have the locals gleefully hollering along.

Ian has a certain way with words that tends to have you nodding in agreement whilst shouting along the refrain as he goes along documenting every day life with a knowing grin and a battered acoustic and *Copy Cat* is no different, another tongue in cheek classic from the pen of Passey. www.thehumdrumexpress.com

Will Munn



Worcester City F.C.



2015-2016 Season Fixtures

February

Sat 6th	Alfreton Town	Home	15.00
Sat 13th	Chorley	Away	15.00
Sat 20th	Nuneaton Town	Away	15.00
Tue 23rd	Stalybridge Celtic	Home	19.45
Sat 27th	Boston United	Away	15.00

March

Tue 1st	Lowestoft Town	Away	19.45
Sat 5th	FC United of Manchester	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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Howard Jones Solo, Elise Yule

Huntingdon Hall | Saturday 13th February

Synth pop legend **Howard Jones** is performing in Worcester at Huntingdon Hall in February.

It was in 1983 that Howard Jones first burst upon the music scene with his catchy songwriting, and pioneering synthesizers. His first two albums, *Humans Lib* and *Dream into Action*, brought Howard a host of hits including *Things Can Only Get Better*, *What is Love?*, *Pearl In The Shell*, *Hide And Seek*, and *No One Is To Blame*, which reached No.1 in the US. He broke America when his second Album *Dream Into Action* went top ten there. He played some big outdoor gigs and even played keyboard for **Ringo Starr** on his American tour.

Although many of his best known songs were composed on a piano, Howard's use of synthesizers and his work with music technology was influential to many electronic artists, at an exciting and ground breaking time in pop music. His musical style has developed and transformed over his career. His band now is a high tech electronic project with **Jonathon Atkinson** on electric drums and **Robbie Bronimann** on sequencing and additional key boards. He is a successful offspring of the early 'independent artist DIY' approach, which is dominating the modern vibrant electronic scene. He has worked with Contemporary electronic artists such as Eric Prydz and Cedric Gervais, who he collaborated with on a new version of '*Things Can Only Get Better*', that earned 14 weeks in the dance charts in 2013.

Howard has sold over 8 million albums across the globe. His intimate solo shows are a trip through Howard's 30-year music career.

By Jessica Charles



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Hang The Witch
12th February - £12.50

Howard Jones
13th February - £22.50

Gary Delaney
18th February - £15

Oye Santana
6th February - £15

Gigspanner
3rd March - £16.50

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King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys Artrix, Bromsgrove | 2nd January 2016

King Pleasure has made this early January slot an annual homage to blues, jazz, rock 'n' roll and even soul; but all in full on swing style. This is a band you want to get up and dance to: big tenor and baritone saxophones, hollow bodied Gibson, a double bass and keys, with the insistent drum rhythm driving it all along. KP croons into the microphone with a twinkle in his eye: Pleasure is the name - pleasure is the business - you will enjoy the evening. They showed us how to 'Swing The Blues' and alright OK they win - baby what can I say?!



There was an unexplained change to the line up with **Big John Battrum** missing and **BB Aldridge** standing in the big man's shoes. No problem though, he certainly knew how to blow that horn. Clown Prince of the Double Bass, **Shark Van Schtoop**, entertained the crowd as ever, playing hide & seek behind that big old bass: it doesn't seem to detract from his music and timing though and anyone who likes Brussels sprouts in his curry is fine by me! There was some lovely boogie piano from the fingers of **Matt Foundling** and as ever **Gary Barbour** thumps out that beat. Mustn't forget



'**Bullmoose**' **Shirley** on that lovely Gibson; he may be the smallest of the band, but he makes a big impact with deft finger picking.

'Talk To Me Baby' because I just 'Can't Get Enough Of Your Stuff'; KP takes a break as the band rip through some solo sessions and simply superb R&B. The first set closes on the fast paced blues rock 'Tube Snake Boogie' which was simply excellent.

The return to the stage found KP in full lounge croon mode, slick swing that fed into some Jackie Wilson and then back to the blues, plus an acknowledgement of BB King with 'You Upsets Me Baby'. Steeped in this band's history are tours with BB and the equally legendary Ray Charles. Ray's 'Roll With Me Baby' was next, before slipping into some jazzy swing. 'Tequila' all round as the King squeezed through into the side gallery and checked out his dancing fans, even managing a bit of jive himself: nifty moves from the big man. The pace was hotting up as the gig nearing the end - time to 'Shake Rattle & Roll' then easing their way down to a 'Sway'. Almost the final shot was a new track from the soon to be released album 'I'm Not The Man': a big thumping R&B workout from the band. We close to the rhythmic beat of jungle drums as the King of the swingers sings out 'I Wanna Be Like You' - I don't believe it. The band have a great time playing their brand of zoot suited 'n' swing driven rhythm & blues. **King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys** continue to bring an element of fun and frivolity into our lives: I look forward to this annual event and long may that be the case.

Graham Munn

 <h1>MUSIC AT ARTRIX</h1> 		
 <p>FAY HIELD 11 FEBRUARY</p> <p>WILLE & THE BANDITS 13 FEB</p> <p>PAUL EDWARDS 14 FEB</p> <p>ATOMIC BLONDIE & THE</p> <p>BOWIE EXPERIENCE 20 FEB</p>	 <p>CARAVAN 17 MARCH</p> <p>CARA DILLON 20 MARCH</p> <p>MARTIN HARLEY 22 MARCH</p> <p>ROBINSON-STONE 25 MARCH</p> <p>ROVING CROWS 26 MARCH</p>	 <p>LUKE DANIELS 2 APRIL</p> <p>DURAN 2 APRIL</p> <p>MODS vs ROCKERS 8 APRIL</p> <p>GENESIS CONNECTED 15 APR</p> <p>SURF'S UP 16 APRIL</p>
		
<p>01527 577330 www.artrix.co.uk</p> <p>Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ Free Car Parking</p> <p>    </p>		

February Frivolities at Artrix, Bromsgrove

Beginning our Fab Feb **Artrix** Round-Up, Fay Hield certainly seems to have been born knowing how to carry a tune. Her first two solo albums '*Looking Glass*' and '*Orfeo*' were released by the prestigious folk label Topic and she hasn't looked back since. Her love of traditional folk music led to a commission from the **English Folk Dance and Song Society** to create new arrangements from the archive. What began as a promise to perform a few numbers at the launch party turned into an album and tour by a collective of folk-world A-listers including **Martin Simpson** on guitar, **Seth Lakeman** on fiddle and **Bellowhead's Sam Sweeney** playing everything but the kitchen sink. Her upcoming gig at Artrix is her only appearance in this neck of the woods until July (Warwick Folk Festival) so don't miss the chance to see her. Fay Hield will be performing at Artrix on Thursday 11th February and all details of tickets, times and other information are of course on the Artrix website given below.

Essentially **Wille and the Bandits** is a classic blues-rock three piece, similar to the likes of Cream or The Jimi Hendrix Experience and as such they are never afraid to push boundaries and take their sound beyond the traditional line-up. This includes some unusual instrumentation as Wille's exquisite slide guitar playing and powerful vocals are given perfect momentum by Andy's innovative drumming, while virtuoso Matt's 6 string and double bass, adds a class and polish rarely seen in a rock act. Wille and the Bandits come to Artrix on Saturday 13th February.

The very next night is of course Valentine's and we can think of far worse ways to spend this most romantic of nights than in the gentle company of **Paul Edwards**. Drawing inspiration from personal experiences and musings over his 40-year career, Paul will be launching his new album '*Songs of No Fixed Abode*' at Artrix. He will be joined on stage by **John Barber**, **Jane Edwards** and other guest musicians for a fabulous night of music to warm even the coldest of hearts.

Since the release of '*Hello Cruel World*', Grammy-nominated **Gretchen Peter's** career has been in near-constant motion. Since 2012 she's appeared at Glastonbury, Isle of Wight and Cambridge Folk Festivals and in addition to her own sold-out tours has supported country and folk legends Guy Clark, Arlo Guthrie and John Prine. Her latest album '*Blackbirds*' is up for 2 awards at the **UK Americana Awards** which are being hosted in the Big Smoke by **Whispering Bob** on February 6th and we hear there's also another album in the pipeline. Gretchen Peters will be gracing us with her presence on Friday 19th February at 8.00 pm.



On Friday 26th February **Motionhouse** take dance and physical theatre to its very limits at and the effects are bound to prove awe-inspiring. Motionhouse aren't afraid of holding back and their exciting blend of dance, acrobatics and aerial work has to be seen to be believed. This Artrix show sees them performing '*Captive*' and '*Underground*', both stunningly physical pieces which explore captivity, intimacy and danger.



All tickets, times and information are available from Artrix Box Office on 01527 577330 or www.artrix.co.uk



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MC Devvo

The Callout, Underground Ocean, Purple Shades
The Marris Bar | Friday 15th January

Devvo aka **Darren Devonshire** a fictional chav from Doncaster made famous on youtube by his mate **David Firth**, owner of www.fat-pie.com or (double-une, double-une, double-une, dot, fat dAAash pie dot com). He is now predominantly doing DJ sets which involves some stand up comedy, but he originated from short youtube episodes which was based on this chav letting a guy who owned a website film his life.

I did manage to chat with **Devvo** for a while and I can confirm the man never comes out of character EVER – if he is a character. There's no doubt in my mind that he is a character – to wear the same outfit for 10 years, even for a chav, is a bit far! I have heard someone say that he is actually a solicitor in real life but I can find no record of that!

Devvo told me that him and David Firth (animator of Salad Fingers) are still friends and see each other but not as much as they used to. Devvo wouldn't give anything away about his personal life to me, I asked him about wife and kids now he's in his 30s and he just said *"look at me mate I avn't got a wife!"*. It did feel that even though he remained Devvo throughout our chat that he had somehow aged his character as he got older. He was talking about the business and how it's not what it used to be. He told me that back in the day his video's were around 7 minutes long and folk were pleased with that. But these days if a video doesn't start while you're scrolling down your news feed with a caption to it basically telling you what the video is about in three words, then no one is interested anymore. Devvo also hinted at the fact that he thought most people are so sucked into social media that they can't function without being tapped into some device anymore. In the same breath he told me that people shouldn't still be loving *Donny Soldier* and *Crystal Meffin'* and yet the gig at the **Marris Bar** was sold out. I know I'll be still putting *Crystal Meffin* on when I'm in my 60s!



I don't think anyone knew what to expect from a Devvo set, and he pleasantly surprised everyone! I was expecting to listen to some stuff I didn't really know and just sing along to his big tunes but it was actually great. It was partly stand up and partly tunes, and it was really funny. His come backs to every heckle were perfect and I realised during the set that although his character was fake, he is genuine. He is genuinely funny, genuinely talented and genuinely really intelligent.

The Callout



Everyone I have spoken to about the gig said it was the best gig they had been to in a really long time and we all had a real laugh. It was also a good opportunity for three local bands to play to a sell out crowd in Worcester, **The Callout**, **Underground Ocean** and **The Purple Shades** all ably supported on the night.

Underground Ocean



Thanks to **Faithful City Shows** for putting this on! Great night.

Words: Little Charley Photography: Duncan Graves



WYREWOOD | WYREWOOD:4 Track EP

Wyrewood is a newish three piece band of this parish. Purveyors of whimsical melancholy, which most would probably

slot into the folk-rock genre, they have a large and varied canon of instruments to call on and do so with extraordinary technical ability and earnest application.

Rob Powell sings, plays keyboards, guitar, ukulele and cajon and shares song writing duties with **Pete Hodge**. Rob was a former member of the now defunct Worcester band, Vermilion Skies whilst Pete Hodge had a close brush with fame in the early 70's with the group Dulcimer who recorded two 'well received' albums between '71-'75: Pete also sings, plays guitars, harmonica and mandolin. Rob and Pete met in 2014 at the Piesse of Piddle Hotel sessions in Wyre Piddle and before long had recruited **Lorna Joy Davies** who plays cello and flute; Lorna also plays with local Bands **Hagglebag** and **The Brickshed**.

The EP begins with 'Tell Me What I Need To Know', a plaintive yet catchy song right from the opening guitar riff and brooding cello through to some wonderful harmonies and keyboards. You suspect these are deeply personal lyrics with Rob asking "Don't tell me what I want to hear, tell me what I need to know".

The next song is 'Devils For The Day' and again you are struck by the sombre lyrics; witness "You're like the Marie Celeste, empty inside". Harmonica and guitar lead up to the icy wind of the flute which seems to represent whoever's been "living their life being holy" when our author would much prefer they were "devils for the day".

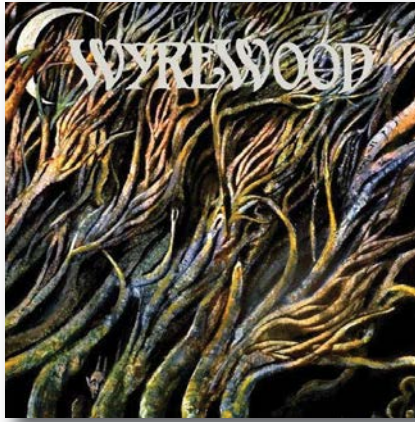
The penultimate track 'Are You Still In Love (With You)?' features Pete's Dylanesque sneer taking a swipe at some washed up ageing lothario; lyrics that may well resonate with a few! (Indeed author! *Sub Ed*) There's a short harp solo and some great retro sounding organ on this tune, together with a subtle bass part provided by a guesting **Lez Shed**.

The final song is 'Long Walk' and perhaps the darkest yet and most achingly beautiful of the collection. Vocals tinged with sadness and sounding a tad like Peter Gabriel at times (a good thing), offer up nothing but hopeless despondency: "It's a long walk to an empty stage. It's the loneliest place in the world if you can't engage". However, all is not lost as the keyboards and tinkling mandolin create a soothing groove throughout and then aah that cello!

At this point it's worth mentioning that the CD insert does state, "Wyrewood would like to point out that they do have a few happy songs – maybe when the time is right!"

This is a great debut CD/EP. It offers clever and thoughtful lyrics together with memorable, soulful melodies and three very talented Musicians who each bring their own particular strength to this most promising band. Check them out on Facebook. Apparently they don't have any forthcoming gigs at the moment, so come on landlords, promoters etc now would be a great time to book them: contact Rob Powell on 07800 572030 or email: robwilpow@aol.com.

words by KT Cometwarts





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Vinny Peculiar The Marr's Bar Saturday 5th March

For good and bad I am a nameist that is I get drawn in if a band/artist's nom de performance piques my interest. Such is the case with **Vinny Peculiar**; you can't help but wonder what lurks behind the moniker and in this instance you are richly and rightly rewarded.

"*Singer Songwriter Psychic Poet*" in his own words; "*Unsung national treasure*" (Uncut Mag), "*A warm-hearted Morrissey*" (Q Mag) and "*The missing link between Jarvis Cocker and Roger McGough*" (Irish Times) are among the other glowing epithets.

Certainly the man has an impressive CV having collaborated with Bill Drummond, shot videos with Tom Robinson and his various bands have included ex members of The Smiths, The Fall, Aztec Camera and Oasis. A former compere on the **Glastonbury Festival Acoustic Stage** he has toured extensively opening for British Sea Power, Edwyn Collins and Nils Lofgren to name a few. He is also the main songwriter in **Parlour Flames**, a musical collaboration with ex Oasis rhythm guitarist Bonehead and their acclaimed debut album was released on Cherry Red in 2013.



This tour and gig mainly concerns Vinny's new concept album '*Silver Meadows*' which is set in the twilight world of long stay psychiatric institutions. Its darkly tragi-comic reflections and astute socio-historical observations have already seen it dubbed as a British '*One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*' set to music: a stage play is currently in development.

Alan Wilkes is the name his mother knows him by but as **Vinny Peculiar** his live shows have drawn comparisons to a plaintive, gentler Eels and his songwriting to the pastoral storytelling style of The Kinks: High praise indeed so us Slap folk will be out in force and we heartily suggest you join us for a most peculiar night.

In the meantime have a butchers at www.vinnypeculiar.com

Comedy Time Evesham Arts Centre

The ever-excellent **Evesham Arts Centre** really does punch above its weight and this month Slap Mag have pulled out three not to be missed crackers from their packed and panoramic programme.



First up is, inappropriately, '*The Final Straw*' when on Saturday 13th musical anarchy will reign for one night only as the majestic and plain mad **John Otway** and **Wild Willy Barrett** crash land in Evesham.

Both together and apart they John and Willy have ploughed their distinctively idiosyncratic and wilfully eccentric furrows, to become in John's words "*rock & roll's greatest failures*".

This is subjective obviously and many would disagree, since they took **The Old Grey Whistle Test** by storm with their rip-roaring and painfully gymnastic performance of the classic '*Cor Baby, that's* *Reall Free*, back in '77.

Together they are yin & yang, alpha & omega, oil & water etc and as such opposite characters they can these days only put up with each other for the occasional tour, so catch them whilst you can, cuz this may really be their *Final Straw* (gulp)!

Next up on Friday 19th is another revitalised old stager (he'd forgive me for saying!) and a comic tour-de-force for some 35 years or more; namely the one the only **Rory McGrath**.



There is not enough room even if we dedicated the whole magazine to him, to name and note the multifarious exploits across the entertainment spectrum in which the estimable Mr McGrath has concerned himself with.

Amongst his many televisual career highlights which will be well known to many of you: BBC's '*Three Men In A Boat*' and '*They Think It's All Over*' in addition to '*Rory's Commercial Breakdown*' and appearing on '*Not The Nine O'Clock News*' and '*Alas Smith and Jones*'. This polymath has also appeared in print, with birdwatching book '*Bearded Tit*' having been serialised on radio plus his '*don't tell me mum*' memoir '*The Father, The Son and The Ghostly Hole*'(!).

His latest show '**Rory McGrath Remembers...or is it Forgets?**' takes a pithy and poignant look back on his life and career as recalls some bits and makes the rest up. Contains adult themes and traces of peanut oil.

Our third **Slap Pick Of The Month** comes in the cuddly but sometimes caustic comedic shape of hottie **Hal Cruttenden**.

Well known host of BBC's '*Live At The Apollo*' and star of his own and personal fave, mid-life crisis Radio 4 sitcom '*Career*', Hal brings or is repping if you'd prefer his latest show '*Straight Outta Cruttenden*'.

An obvious mix of his naturally camp, complaining style about uber-1st world probs and his rediscovered love of gangsta rap, makes this show as singular as you'd expect from a comic who gets funnier the more he complains.

Receiving the highly coveted Slap Stamp Of Approval, **Hal Cruttenden** arrives in Evesham on Friday 26th...**Evesham Arts Centre** is obviously the place to be this February!



The Room Upstairs

Palace Theatre Redditch | February Highlights

A feelgood mixture of quality music, theatre and comedy is usually the recipe for The Room Upstairs and so it proves for February '16.

Beginning with the venerable **Vo Fletcher** on Friday 5th, this is music to warm even the coldest of cockles. Vo is a masterly guitarist and heartwarming singer who has graced the stage in his time together with the esteemed likes of Fairport Convention, Nigel Kennedy, Catherine Howe and many others. This evening is bound to prove one of great music and friendly banter as Vo plucks selections from his long and varied career.



The very next night on Saturday 6th brings comedy with a serious message to **The Room Upstairs** as **Sheila's Mental Health Show (MHS)** hits town. As a qualified counsellor, comedian and author of *'The Power of Knowing You'*, Sheila shares her experiences and knowledge to highlight self-sabotaging behaviours and educate us on how we can be less hard on ourselves. This show will be a combination of humour and mental health advice, demonstrating amply how life is too serious to be taken seriously and as we know...no one gets out alive anyway!

Comedic theatre next as a three day run, from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th, of **All and Sundry's** *'Fifty Shades of Beige'* comes to **Palace Theatre**. Tom is ensconced in a private nursing home but determined to grow old disgracefully. His romantic intentions are focussed on fellow 'inmate' Norma but as ever the course of true love does not run smooth in this poignant and uplifting comedy.

Ship of Fools Comedy Night is a regular event which takes place at various venues throughout the Midlands and beyond; it arrives at **The Room Upstairs** on Friday 26th February where it will bound to prove a resounding hit with its mission to bring the best in rising comedy talent to the slathering masses. Comper **Alan Seaman** is an experienced hand at getting such events going, so expect a wide and varied night of fabulous, first class fun!

Sheila's Mental Health Show



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The Dirty Old Folkers Present Snow White Live The Iron Road, Evesham | Sat 2nd January

Where would you find Death and a Bear having a dance off, Prince singing Sexy Motherfucker to Snow White, highly charged folk songs and answers to such questions as "Would It Kill You To Put The Dishes In The Dishwasher" and "If You're Not Supposed To Touch It, Why Did They Give Us Hands?" - At a **Dirty Old Folkers** panto of course.

Birmingham's finest tongue in cheek, folk warriors have, for the past couple of years, embraced that time old festive tradition and delivered their very own take on panto, this year they hit the Iron Road with a funky up, risqué version of **Snow White**, which



involved a broken iPhone screen, the dastardly George Osborne, Prince (formerly known as the artist formerly known as Prince), a spot of time travel, Mr Ben and (of course) a touch of cross dressing. The tall tale went down a storm with the crowded bar, as the Folkers put the majority of panto productions to shame, with something that was a) funny and b) appealing to adults, with the revellers happy to join in with all the desired boo's and hisses, cheers and hollers of "he's behind you".

Obviously **The Dirty Old Folkers** are known as a band first and foremost so with that in mind they bookended **Snow White** with a couple of sets of their infectious brand of high energy social commentary, musical hi-jinx and anthemic sing-a-longs, whipping the crowd to a frenzy as they lambasted the government, merchant bankers and everyone from the 70's (well Jimmy Saville, Cyril Smith and Rolf Harris!!), whilst celebrating their native Birmingham and the day they had in Mordor (think I Will Survive meets Lord Of The Rings!!) all soundtracked with a delightful mix



of heavily accented harmonies, strummed and battered acoustics, violin and an occasional blast of trumpet, thrown in for good measure. To top off an already surreal, crazed and above all fun night, the band brought their own cheerleaders in the shape of Bear and Death who led from the front busting out moves and attempting not to faint in a hot and sticky bar full of music fans.

The Dirty Old Folkers kicked off the new year in style with a unique and infectious performance full of musical thrills and comedic spills leaving an exhausted bar grinning from ear to ear, humming a contagious harmony on the way out, shame we have to wait until next year for panto season, but at least we have those folkers treading the boards like only they know how in the meantime.

Will Munn

Hereford is set to Rock this March!

Mick Ralphs - ex Mott the Hoople & Bad Company guitarist will be making a welcome return visit to his hometown with his mighty **Blues Band**. The band will be headlining at a day long celebration of rock and blues on 5th March 2016 at Left Bank in Hereford.

Starting at 2pm and finishing around midnight, there will be an array of local talent supporting throughout the day including **The Troy Redfern Band**, **Willow Robinson**, **Raptor**, **Sultana Brothers**, **The Roadhouse Band**, **Rocky Road to Ruin** and **The Linerunners**.

The function has been brought together in a joint venture between **Porkbelly Promotions** and **Clear Cut Promotions**, both of which have been busy in 2015 making their mark in Hereford's live music scene.

"We are passionate about promoting live music within the local area, Hereford has so much raw talent and it's great to be able to help bands and performers get out there and build up their following. Hereford Rocks was born over a lunch to discuss other ventures and we thought it would be great to bring a big name back to town and showcase our local talent at the same time."

Carly Bauert - Clear Cut Promotions.

Weather permitting, there will be a chance to enjoy some local acoustic acts in the outside marquee where you will also be able to enjoy some top grade food provided by **The Beefy Boys**, as well as Hereford's own vegetarian café **Rocket**. With the added benefit of real ales and log fires in the adjoining coffee shop - what more could you ask for?

Tickets are available from www.herefordleftbank.com and at £15.00 for the whole day really offer value for money.

For more information you can call 07592839386 or visit www.facebook.com/herefordrocks or www.twitter.com/RockHereford



Whilst you quietly consider that, there is also a new Blues Club opening in Hereford. Its first date is Saturday 13th February at **Booth Hall**, East St and doors open at 8.00pm. The Herefordshire bred **Troy Redfern Band** will be headlining with local outfit **Sweet Things** in support. It's always good to see the seeds planted for the growth of live music, but it is up to all you out there to support and grow those seeds. Come on Hereford, get behind this club and watch it blossom!

Screaming Dead

Self Abuse, Borrowed Time

Marrs Bar, Worcester | 27th Feb

Before The Mission, Sex Gang Children, Sisters Of Mercy and The Cult there was Cheltenham's **Screaming Dead**. Referring to themselves as 'Horror Punk', they proved to be genre defining and light years ahead of their time. During their original career, vocalist **Sam Bignall**, guitarist **Tony McCormack**, bassist **Mal Page** and drummer **Mark Ogilvie** released two seven inch singles and three twelve inch EPs; and at a time when the charts counted for something, each bothered the Independent Gallop run down.

By February 1986 however, a combination of inter-band tensions - predominantly emanating from recently recruited keyboardist /saxophonist **Nick Upton** - ongoing record label woes and a number of lost publicity opportunities in the UK national music press resulted in the band imploding at the very moment when they should have been exploding onto the national music scene.

1993 saw the release of the excellent, career spanning compilation CD 'Bring Out Your Dead'. Alas there was no band activity to promote the disc. With only Tony still pursuing an active music career - with pagan rockers Inkubus Sukkubus - it seemed the chances of a Screaming Dead reunion were a remote proposition indeed.

That was until early 1997 when news arrived that Sam, Tony and Mal had reformed SD. Enthusiastically received shows took place in the UK and Germany and a number of new tunes along with re-workings of some old ones were recorded and issued as the 'Death Rides Out' CD. By 1999 however, the band had again split.

Fast-forward 15 years to late 2014 and Sam and Mal, along with the band's very first drummer **Hugh Fairlie** and The Crack's guitarist **Pete Mazlag**, resurfaced for round three. Slap magazine caught up with Sam and Mal at the band's hometown 2015 Christmas bash.

Slap: Why, after 15 years away have you decided to reform again at this particular moment?

Mal: A friend of Sam's was promoting a Sex Pistols Experience gig in Cheltenham about a year ago. He asked Sam if the Screaming Dead fancied playing at the show. Sam asked me and I thought 'Why not?' We had a couple of rehearsals, played about six songs and it went so great, and we had so much fun that we decided to keep going.

Sam: The Sex Pistols Experience show was mega. Suddenly we were having fun with it again. For me, it wasn't fun in '97. I hated playing with a drum machine.

Slap: You're very fired up and passionate about this particular line-up of the group. What makes it special for you this time round?



Screaming dead

Sam: To me it feels the same as when we started. It's very much got the essence of the Screaming Dead. I've known Maz even longer than I've known Mal and Hugh. So when, at the last minute, Tony decided he didn't want to be involved we rang Maz and he was more than happy to join.

Mal: It's like a really tight gang again. We're not trying to be famous. We're not trying to make money from it. It's just about having fun, having great nights playing music.

Slap: How have the initial round of shows been received?

Sam: The shows have gone brilliantly. Just like the good old days, better in fact! We've hit a level of consistency live - which has been commented on by many fans - that previously we hadn't reached for a long, long time.

Mal: They've gone really well. Better than ever.

Slap: At this juncture Screaming Dead seem to back for the long haul. What are your immediate and long term plans for the band?

Sam: Immediate plans are to release an EP of the five tracks we've just re-recorded.

Mal: We've got a single about to come out on vinyl in America as well. For some obscure reason we're really big on the west coast of America - Los Angeles, Mexico City. It's bizarre! We're considered the instigators of the Death Rock scene. There's even a night club in LA called Night Creatures after one of our songs.

Sam: We were booked to headline a festival in LA with a band called 45 Grave supporting us. They sold 5,000 tickets for it, but unfortunately we couldn't play because Maz had visa problems. The curse of the Dead strikes again!

As for long term plans we're gigging all over the UK starting in the New Year and we're also looking at playing some German dates. We're appearing on the main stage at the '40 Years Of Punk' festival in Tottenham and we're playing Rebellion in August. Can't wait!

Mal: We're back!

Roland Link

The Leylines

Under A Banner, Jack Of All

The Marris Bar, Worcester | 16th Jan

January is normally a little slow for live music, we're all feeling our way into the new year, nursing post year hangovers and still reflecting on the previous twelve months. Normally it takes a few weeks for the music industry to wake from it's Christmas slumber and few bands hit the road let alone perform in a previously untried city, but you see **The Leylines** aren't most bands. After another year of laying waste to festival stages across the UK and a heavy bout of touring, The Leylines are already quick out the block venturing to **The Marris Bar** after receiving rousing local receptions at both **Lakefest** and the **Jinny Ring** last summer.

Quite often when a band hits a new venue it takes awhile for word to get around, but over the past few months The Leylines have managed to gain a reputation as one of the hardest working, must see bands currently doing the rounds, so when the hard hitting folk rockers took to the stage, the venue was somewhere near to capacity with faces new and old.

But before I get to the main event we were treated to a couple of sets by fellow up and comers **Jack Of All** and **Under A Banner** both of which new names to me.

Jack Of All are a local, Malvern based two-piece uniting punky acoustic strums from frontman **Laurence Aldridge** and the folky flights of fancy of violinist **Anna Clifton**, who together, create punchy laments and biting songs of social commentary with often rousing hooks and infectious melodies, with the likes of *Definitions*, *All About The Money* and *The Others* all finding affinity with the assembled, winning over a number of new fans (this reviewer included!!).

Wolverhampton based **Under A Banner** scatter subtle folk melodies among hard hitting riffs and crushing drums, to create a unique and engaging take on the alternative rock genre topped off with real experiences and social commentary, poetically hollered by lead singer, **Adam Broadhurst**. The band lurch for attention from the off as bassist **Si Hill** thumbs his instrument into



After two impressive turns it was time for **The Leylines** to bring it all home with their rousing folk rock anthems and hook-laden sing-a-longs and the band did that and then some.



Since the first time I caught the Weston-Super-Mare based five-piece supporting 3 Daft Monkeys, the band have moved from strength to strength, from humble beginnings the group have found their home from home on some of the largest festival stages, seizing each opportunity and winning new friends along the way and now on the eve of the release of their debut album the band seem to be moving onto a new level, with a confidence at a high and set full of genuine sing-a-long anthems.

From the likes of *My Own Worst Enemy* and *Save Your Soul* to the infectious vocal refrain of *Runaway* to the hard hitting *For Queen And Country* and the Spanish guitar tinged *The Reasons*, the band were on impeccable form throughout as the bend of fiddle driven rockers and acoustic anthems saw the floor in front of the stage awash with revellers, a sight that is becoming common practice across the land, whilst **The Leylines** are on stage.

Steve, Hannah and the boys finished their set with the now firm festival favourite of *Sat In A Field* (probably the most uplifting and fitting tribute to festive fun known to man!!) and *Things I Know* before returning to the stage for a much deserved and frenzied encore of *Run For Cover*, assisted by pretty much everyone in the venue on backing vocals, leaving Worcester baying for more having witnessed one of the first spectacles of the new year.



The Leylines head back in our direction on Saturday 9th April @The Callow End Club.

Words: Will Photography: Graham Munn



submission whilst his rhythmic counterpart **Tim Wilson** sets about laying waste to his kit and the twin guitars of the aforementioned **Broadhurst** and **Jonathan Price** pile into the melee, but beneath the musical bombardment, **Kat Davis** on keys, lays down a series of subtle melodies providing a lighter shade to the rock onslaught. The audience seemed to lap up the likes of *The Wild Places*, *Summer Skies* and the anthemic set closer, *Victory Time* as the five-piece delivered an engaging and entertaining set, leaving a lasting impression on a now fevered Marris Bar.

Gary Hall

The Ginger Pig, Worcester 28th Nov

Before silly season kicked in, I thought it was about time I'd checked out the hospitality of **The Ginger Pig**, having heard loads of positive remarks for not only their day to day activities as one of the cities hidden secrets but also for their obvious love of music. So whilst the **Victorian Fayre** took over the high street, Cornmarket and beyond we left the streets hustle and bustle in search of a tasty snack and some live music. The hosts of Ginger Pig obliged willingly on both accounts with a damn fine pulled baguette and their now legendary chunky chips whilst roots man **Gary Hall** set up in the front.

With our stomachs satisfied, it was now time for a feast for the soul, as **Gary Hall** treated us to two glorious sets that took in country, folk and a touch of the blues, as he regaled tales of working both here in the UK and across the pond in the US as both a musician and a producer. Backing his often soulful vocals with either his faithful acoustic or his twanging electric.

He lifted material from across his back catalogue (his first album, *Garage Heart* came out back in 89, to a great deal of critical acclaim!!), particularly focusing on the more recent *Winning Ways* *On Losing Streaks* and *Warm Valve Glow*, with particular early set highlight, *Red Rose* being lifted from the former. Gary proved himself to be a fine interrupter as strapped on the electric for a glorious take on Springsteen's Johnny 99 before he offered up a rare feel good blues number (aptly entitled *Feel Good Factor Blues*).

By now the diners were suitably warmed up as Gary finished an engaging first set with a sterling rendition of *I Shall Be Released* (Dylan) before a cigarette and a quick natter with the natives, before returning with two of his own, *Small Price To Pay For Loving*



You and the rustic country roots of *A Country Mile From Shore* quickly settled the small yet appreciative audience. By now Gary was really having fun, delivering a fun rendition of country swing favourite *Rock Me Mama* (originally by Old Crow Medicine Show) much to my delight. Further originals such as *Road To God Know's* *Where* and the brilliantly title *Going Down Faster Than The Titanic Blues* both highlighted Hall's penmanship as his set flowed as smoothly as the beer.

Although **The Ginger Pig** could and should have been busier, Gary delivered a memorable set, which went down as well as the hospitality and the food. The Ginger Pig has a number of interesting acts coming up over the next few months (and inbetween live music nights why not pop in for a coffee and piece of cake, far better than that nameless chain up the road!!), whilst Shropshire troubadour Gary Hall continues his never ending tour (which you can find details on his website), both are well worthy of your time. www.garyhallmusic.com

Words: Will & Photography: Graham Munn



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Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands The Marris Bar, Worcester | Thurs 26th Nov

A couple of months back I had the great pleasure of reviewing **Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands** latest album, *Come Home*, a glorious widescreen folk affair that bewitched and dazzled in equal measure (and isn't too far from the stereo as I scribble this out), having been rather smitten with the disc I was only too eager to see if the band could recreate the magic live as they unleashed the disc into the world.

I had to do something of a double take when I walked into the **Marris Bar**, as usual the band's equipment was set up on stage, but opposite there was a layout that resembled someone's rather cluttered and quirky front room, complete with fireplace and various lamps. It turned out that the offbeat set up was all to do with support act/DJ **Les Trunkwell**, who provided the "entertainment" before and during the break in set of the main act.

The staging may have been somewhat distracting, but as soon as Marie-Claire and her band of husbands took to the stage they instantly commanded my attention from the off, captivating the audience within the first few bars of *Draw Breathe*, subtle yet affective drum patters, acoustic strums and tinkered keys compelled, whilst Marie-Claire's majestic and expressive vocals provided the a seductive topping to an already enticing treat.

From such an impressive opening, the band followed up with the quirky *Husbands* before unleashing the dramatic and



intoxicating *Fury Of The Storm*. By now the audience were in the palm of the Marie-Claire's hand as the band delved into their back catalogue, delivering *One Arm Bandit*, complete with rich vocal harmonies.

The first set continued in the same rich and varied vein, *Never Enough For Her* offered a tongue in cheek, hook-laden sing-a-long, whilst the likes of *Darkness Of The Day* showcased the inventive use of instrumentation and vocal framing, as the Husbands created a mesmeric launch pad for Marie-Claire to emote.

After a short break, the second set was no less impressive, as the band delivered further more choice cuts from the new album interspersed with a few older numbers, the likes of *The Owls Are Not As They Seem* (complete with owl backing noises from the audience) and a stunning and punchy *Busy People* see the band flex their musical muscles, whilst the title track of the new album and personal favourite *Come Home and Need Me*, with its acapella opening provide a fitting finale to a memorable night of cinematic roots.

Marie-Claire Berreen And Her Husbands, not to put it lightly, have delivered one of the most impressive folk albums of 2015 and they launched it majestically to a justly warm and appreciative Marris Bar crowd, leaving us glowing in the knowledge we've just witnessed something very special indeed.

Words: Will Munn Images: Andy O'Hare





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Temple Complex

At the tail end of last year in our previous article we spoke about our end of year special Rad Releases; we had 2 weeks of

Firstly Introduce yourselves and your role...

I enjoy going out, watching live music and I really enjoy researching new acts in the hope of booking them for future gigs. Herefordshire has an abundance of very talented musicians and I hope that I can help provide an additional platform for them to showcase their talents. The live scene in Hereford is thriving at the moment after being stagnant for many years. The live community

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Courtyard, Hereford | February Round-Up

An early highlight this month at **The Courtyard** is top-drawer and top draw man of much mirth **Mark Steel**. On Saturday 6th Mark brings his very personal and touching new show "*Who Do I Think I Am*" to Hereford.

Possibly one of the most travelled of comedians, his recent material concerns his criss-crossing journeys around these sceptic isles, as always studded with his pertinent and pithy left-leaning observations. Here as the title suggests, Mark sets out on a personal voyage à la the popular beeb series, to discover his family background and near ancestry.



Having been adopted in 1960 this is an ever intriguing and twisting tale: indeed without employing plot spoilers his is quite an amazing tale and what that is still unfolding as he writes and performs. Really not one to miss - really!



On Tuesday 16th brings a moving and intense one person play as Welsh rugby legend **Ray Gravell** is portrayed in all his complexity by **Gareth Bale**. No mere rugby player, Gravell was as fascinating off the

rugby field as he was on it. Actor, cultural icon, husband and father, this was a man who though cruelly taken from us at age 56 due to complications from contracting diabetes, lived a life packed full of stories that deserve to be told once more.

Another solo show takes to the Courtyard stage for the next two nights on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th as "**Fagin's Last Hour**" is portrayed before our very eager eyes in all its controversial griminess. This infamous Dickensian miser gets his chance for last reflections on his life with Sikes, Nancy and of course Oliver, amongst others, whilst he awaits his grisly fate - the hangman's noose! This is a critically acclaimed and stunning re-imagination of one of Victorian London's most unscrupulous criminal's last hours.

Our final Slap pick of the month at The Courtyard is yet one more one-person show as **Rebecca Vaughan** (Dalloway, I, Elizabeth,



Female Gothic) becomes thirteen of Jane Austen's heroines in "*Austen's Women*". In this much-loved Edinburgh sell-out hit, using only Austen's words, Vaughan portrays Emma Woodhouse, Lizzy Bennet, Mrs Norris, Miss Bates and nine other beautifully observed women in critical moments from Austen's major novels, including "*Pride and Prejudice*", "*Sense and Sensibility*" and "*Emma*", together with lesser known and unfinished works.

FILM PREVIEW

Lee Perry's Vision of Paradise Borderlines Film Festival

The Courtyard, Hereford | Friday 26th February

Borderlines Film Festival takes place over 17 days early in spring at 30 or so venues, from arts centres to small cinemas and village halls across Herefordshire, Shropshire and the Welsh Marches. Now in its fourteenth year, it is one of the largest film festivals in Britain - and certainly the biggest rural one - with attendances rivalling many of its metropolitan equivalents.



One of the coups for the yet to be finalised festival programme will undoubtedly prove to be "*Vision of Paradise*", a biopic of the ever-eccentric and some may say barking, pioneer of ska, reggae, dub and beyond; the man they call **Lee Perry**.

A true visionary (hence the title) in his field Perry has reigned supreme over Jamaican music for the vast majority of his now 80 years on this planet and this film has been lovingly made in honour of this landmark anniversary. Director **Volker Schaner** followed Perry around for 15(!) years, slowly but surely gaining the confidence of this notoriously suspicious and oftentimes paranoid dubmeister, until he gained a never-before-granted level of access and insight into Perry's fantastical, spiritual world.



This is no mere biopic though but a fairytale documentary and art piece of itself, taking in unique animated scenes which in turn make the film funny, poetic and frequently mind-blowing.

If you are not aware of Lee Perry's existence then I cannot urge you enough to discover for yourself some of the most, marvellously mad and inventive music ever made, which still continues to be immeasurably influential on the contemporary scene. Then and only then will you be ready for this film: be warned!

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Jack The Biscuit

The Millers Arms, Pershore | Sat 9th January

A 4 piece blues band up from South Wales, brought a bit of humour and an easy delivery of harmonica fronted blues to The Millers. They have appeared regularly over the years at various venues under the Upton Blues banner and indeed I had seen them deep in the bowels of a Tenby hotel but a few months ago.



The boys from Cardiff brought a bit of random choice into the proceedings as Colin decided to toss his carefully arranged box of harps onto the floor, which in the moderate lighting resulted inevitably in wrong selections and 12 bars in to find the wrong key! It was a bit like dipping into a box of Quality Street in the dark; you're not quite sure what you are going to get, but you'll probably like

it anyway. Jamie's fingerpicking fingers were warming up well as Nick on bass leaned nonchalantly below a Guinness Toucan and laid down that bass rhythm in front of the 'old man' Paul on drums. The band had opened with an instrumental 'Juke' to limber up, but the unmistakable 'Long Grey Mare' courtesy of Peter Green was trotting up behind. Some classic blues accompanied by a honeyed harmonica filled the evening as they took us all 'On The Road Again'. Some pure R&R with Chuck's 'Nadine' closed the first set, but not before we had listened to the sounds of 'High Heel Sneakers' tripping across the wooden planked floor.

The second set demanded all to 'Get Your Arse In Gear' as the bar had filled out a bit and the band were on a roll. Jamie worked those guitar strings hard, across the floor from the pulsating bass



from a relaxed Nick with Paul filling the air with solid drumming. Bobby Troup wrote 'Get Your Kicks On Route 66', during a journey to Hollywood; Nat King Cole recorded it and the rest is history - well they're not Nat or The Stones, Chuck or even Depeche Mode, but they performed it anyway and we/they enjoyed the drive. A bit more Canned Heat was applied before a dose from Dr. Feelgood, taking 'One More Shot'. All in all this was a most enjoyable evening in this popular Pershore drinking hole and no doubt I will find them again somewhere in a bar in Upton in July.

Postscript: As I write this, the airwaves are full with news of the loss of David Bowie, musical genius. My memories go back to Ziggy Stardust and an early visit to Worcester in 1973. He was to play the Gaumont (Zettlers) and I duly went into the town for a ticket. The queue started at the door, across to and down Pierpoint St, Sansome Walk, back to the Library and up Taylors Lane. I thought - no I'll catch him next time - but regrettably never did. I did however bombard my offspring with his songs over the years and hopefully some of it stuck! Bowie gave us some wonderful music and this is of course his lasting legacy to the world. Luckily I did get tickets later that year for Mott The Hoople, who were riding a new wave of success thanks to Bowie's gift of the song 'All The Young Dudes': Mott were supported that evening by a then little known band, name of Queen.

Graham Munn

Redline

The Chestnut | 12th Dec 2015

In the warm up to Christmas **The Chestnut** staged another great gig, with the hard rock and blues stylings of **Redline** (who have since changed their name to **Voodoo Stone**) taking to the stage. The quartet played an excellent set at The Chestnut for **Worcester Music Festival** back in September and earned themselves this Saturday night gig: Wow and didn't they prove their motto 'Keeping Blues Live 'n' Dirty' true! **Chris Clarke, Marc Innes-Davies, Andy Gibson and Liam Blakemore** are all masters



of their craft and showed impressive understanding of the blues-rock genres with a blend of interesting covers in addition to some brilliant original material. Tracks such as 'Push' and 'Time will Tell' blasted out intense rock rhythms and blues licks, pleasing the ears of



the captivated crowd, evoking such bands as The Black Crowes and Queens of the Stone Age, overlaid with slightly psychedelic Hendrix-esque guitar. The traditional blues was given an overhaul with heavier renditions of 'Crossroads' and 'Same Old Blues' and **Redline** showed their ingenuity and passion for their music with some rather interesting takes on 'Sunshine of Your Love' and my particular favourite, a deep and dirty blues cover of The Bee Gee's 'Staying Alive'! This band is going to be one to watch over the next year with their upcoming mini-album under their new moniker Voodoo Stone, so if you get a chance to see these boys make sure to, as they never disappoint.

Words by Bishop Davy Jones

Hereford | Scene Report

Autumn / Winter 2016

Like a colony of nightmare gastropods and crustaceans clustering around some counter-cultural hydrothermal vent deep beneath the unfashionable end of the musical sea, matters continue to seethe and mutate over in **Hereford**.

Far from the prying eyes of all but the most intrepid connoisseur of things heavy and slightly unwashed, the established roster of unusually noisy bands continues to interbreed and multiply. And even manage to stage occasional raids on better-lit and more civilised parts. With pleasingly messy results.

Paul Cussens/Positive Cacophony Photography



Fetus Christ

For example. **Fetus Christ** – semi-notorious but immensely fun grindcore – apparently dropped a right dirty speed bomb when they played the **Camden Chimpyfest** earlier in January. The result was, by all accounts both “fucking mental” and the standout of that thoroughly metropolitan event. **Skinhorse** – two-piece noise

Vagrant Night, The Globe: Emma Gardiner



Skinhorse

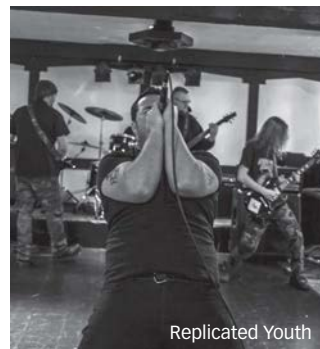
jazz cum fuzzy space rock combo – continue to tour and play away on the back of their critically acclaimed and imaginatively titled EP: “*Skinhorse*”. Their set at the **Vagrant Night** soiree of film and noise at the **Globe** in Hay on Wye on the 16th January was reportedly hot stuff. With another EP in the pipeline there’s plenty of life in the flayed equine. Sexy.

In other band news, **Maniac SS**, unashamed d-beat crust punk revivalists, are threatening to release a full album. Promises to be perfect bedtime listening. The teeth-loosening sonic boom of **Plane Crasher** has not been heard for many, many months. Presumed lost over the Indian Ocean, there are reports that the black box flight recorder may have been found. The rumour is that they are relaunching as a classic 90s style gangsta rap collective. But the mystery continues. **Vision Quest** – an experimental ambient mood flux between the unknown, the dark and the

broody – will be bringing their improvisational selves to the **Pig and Drum** in Worcester on Saturday 13th Feb. They have less idea what to expect than you do. So it should be essential viewing.

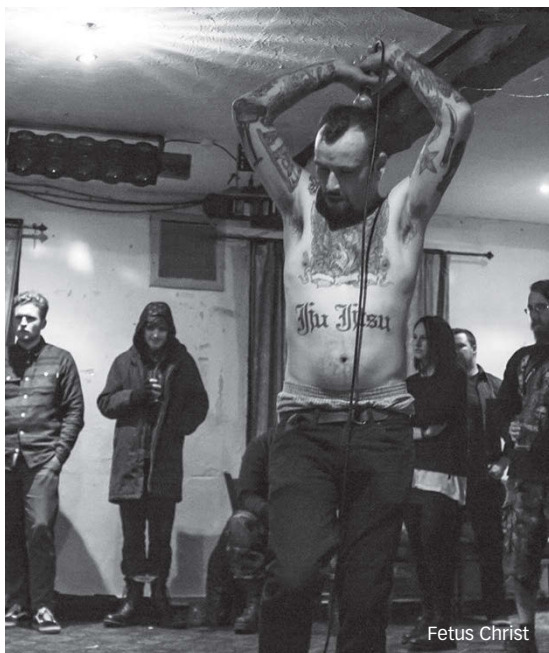
Hardcore exponents **Replicated Youth**, art-electronica crew **Supercaves**, no-nonsense punks **The Delinquents** and **Terminal Rage** all remain active. New and emerging noises are apparently also being made by the likes of the **Terminal Hippy** and cheeky skate brats **Mothership**. So look out for that.

Far more likely to actually get the attention of the proper music world though are **Nycosia**. This youthful techmetal four piece are attacking the national hardcore scene with intent – playing a string of national dates in January to promote their single “*Miscommunication*” (released 30th January). Slots are also apparently confirmed for the **Manchester Niallfest** and **Celtic Mosh** festivals in February to coincide with the release of their debut EP “*Pariah*”.



Replicated Youth

Photography: B at Gippa



Fetus Christ

Photography: B at Gippa

The local promoters and music nights that are the backbone of any scene are also having a slightly easier time of it, following difficult times last year with the loss of a number of venues. The twelfth **Shred Perry show** in November 2015 – a truly offbeat soundclash in its own right – showed that the **Imperial** is more than happy to accommodate the sonic carnage that others may not.

Keeping with the art / film / music mashup pioneered by **One Man Sun**, **Vision Quest** and **Supercaves**, a brand new music night – **Club Dead** – opens at the refurbished **Booth Hall** on Saturday 20th February. With a focus on the audio/visual and incorporating the weird, edgy, noisy, grinding, and experimental offshoots of rock music, this is not a rock/metal club, there will be no DJs, only **DJ DEAD**. You have been told.

Rupert M. Beelzebubbles

Alright The Captain, Steve Strong A Werewolf!, The Rusty Knives Surprise Attacks #39

Firefly, Worcester | Thursday 25th Feb 2016

A BLAZING paroxysm of white hot mathcore, pulsating post rock and pure garage punk is going to hit the Firefly on Thursday 25th February.

Derby's **Alright the Captain** are no strangers to Worcester, and you may already know that this trio's line in complex, jazzy instrumental math rock is a joyous thing to behold. And if you don't already know, this is your chance to be initiated into their progressive glory. Evolving rapidly, with a string of impressive shows last year - including an explosive headline set at the **ArcTanGent Festival** - and their awesome LP "*Contact Fix*" receiving acclaim in the informed parts of the music press, **ATC** are a ferocious and hyper-tight live force. Unarguably essential.



Main support **Steve Strong** is a one man instrumental math rock machine hailing from Plymouth - and one of the hardest working musicians around right now. Expect soundscapes that build, pulsate, break down and explode. The result is hypnotic - and treads expansive new ground in this most progressive and immersive of genres with definite nods to the likes of Four Tet & Caribou.

Prolific, hard-grafting, technically brilliant and mental, **A Werewolf!** gleefully wield time signatures previously unknown to science with a giddy and playful abandon. And play live with all the mania and frenzy of a pair of escaped hyper-intelligent chimpanzees. With their recent killer new E.P. "*Bigger Than The Beatles And Godzilla Combined*" turning heads and busy tour schedule in the UK and Mainland Europe, expect Hawaiian shirts, searing riffage and serious musicianship.

Opening proceedings will be Worcester's favourite fierce DIY punk 2 piece the **Rusty Knives**, who return with the release of their LP "*Bomb Threats and Other Coded Warnings*" on February 1st. A raucous hybrid of No Wave & Grunge with female agit - punk vocals, drum machine and tons of fun. Who just keep getting better and better. Not to be missed.

Words: Le Gorille Photography: B at Gippa

The Task In Hand & Surprise Attacks presents Sœur, Vault Of Eagles The Correct Arc, The Cape Of Good Hope Marrs Barr, Worcester | Friday, February 12th '16

Worcester DIY promoters **The Task In Hand & Surprise Attacks** have teamed up to bring a very special show to the Marrs Bar.

Headliners **Sœur** are a new dual-fronted three-piece making pop songs drenched in grunge and heavy noise, with math-rock seeping through the seams. Worcester raised, Bristol based, this outfit have a great pedigree of previous bands including **Mansize**, **This Wicked Tongue** and **Population 7** to name a few. With a recent sold out December show in Worcester and a successful Winter Tour, be sure not to miss out this time.

Worcester's **Vault of Eagles** should need little introduction. Having gained critical acclaim throughout the UK following since their formation in 2010, Vault of Eagles twist their influences beyond recognition, from their psychedelic, dirty riffs to the unbridled swagger and sway of the rhythm section. Visceral, angular and exposed, their music traverses the spectrum of blues, psychedelia, grunge, alternative and powerful alternative rock.

Featuring Worcester's own musical wunderkind **Sam Knight (AKA Theo)**, and luminaries of the London and south coast post-hardcore scene, **The Correct Arc** are a heady fusion of math, punk and melody, blending intricacy and subtlety with a raw and searing dynamic reminiscent of Dischord Records luminaries such as Hoover, Regulator Watts and Faraquet.



The show will also feature a very rare live appearance from these local favourites **Cape of Good Hope**, returning to the Marrs Bar after a long hiatus, broken by their triumphant set at last year's **Worcester Music Festival**. Featuring members of **Das Sexy Clap**, **The Broken Oak Duet**, and **Esteban** amongst others, The Cape Of Good Hope produce beautifully crafted Art Rock with an off-kilter Post Hardcore angle - and a definite skewed pop sensibility.

Doors 8:00pm, Advance tickets: £5, Admission on the door : £7

Bitterroots Granny's Attic & Quorum St George's Hall, Bewdley | Saturday 5th Feb

Having proved a tremendous hit with the Bewdley faithful last time out appearing with Poet Laureate **Carol Ann Duffy**, **Bitterroots** return to top the bill at what promises to be a stellar night of folk and roots music.

This Worcester based five piece band comprise top notch individual player who meld together to make the most marvellous music and mellifluous vocals. Their entrancing set sees Bitterroots perform traditional Irish tunes, first rate Americana selections and their ever growing catalogue of own penned classic material.



Second on the bill but not in quality come youthful folk trio **Granny's Attic** who have wowed all before them since their inception, culminating in a **BBC Young Folk Musician Award** nomination. With a hearty, rousing repertoire of mainly trad airs, tunes, ballads and shanties, plus excellent original fare, Granny's Attic are bound to enthrall and impress.

Making their debut at **St George's Hall** and opening the night are **Quorum**, which comprises of four young girls from Bewdley School who would most certainly welcome your support for their first time appearance.

Doors open at 7.30 for what promises to be a first class night of toe-tapping, thigh-slapping and any manner of body percussive sounds, so for tickets and more details please visit:

www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk or you can visit The Hall Cafe

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LIVE ROOM DROITWICH

Historic Friar Street in Droitwich is the location for an all new bespoke venue for live music and entertainment.

'Live Room Droitwich' is the

brainchild of landlords from the **Old Cock Inn**, **Graham Leonard** and **Stuart Wilcox** and indeed is attached to this venerable old hostelry. This is an exciting new venture for all manner of music acts, comedy and other entertainment including quality drag and karaoke nights. Already confirmed over the next few months for the Live Room are acts ranging from Ska, Jazz, Folk, Rock, Pop, Metal, Funk and even more genres.

Most weekends there is music at The Live Room and the majority of these events are free entry. The venue kickstarted 2016 with popular group **Skabucks**, opening on 9th January with an audience of over 400, thus starting as they mean to go on!

Here at Slap we heartily endorse any new live venues across our region and therefore wish Graham and Stuart all the very best for success with The Live Room.

For full Live Room listings visit www.liveroomdroitwich.com or join the Facebook page for up to date information. All gigs are also of course listed in this here Slap Mag.

If any bands are looking for an exciting new venue to perform at please contact info@liveroomdroitwich.com.



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Four Dead Crows | Money Beats Soul

This offering is not from one of my favoured genres and having to audition it on SoundCloud, through a rather limited PC sound system is far from ideal. With that in mind, I suspect the band both in live form and CD, without the constraints of encoding and sound compression, is a far more satisfying experience.

The first track 'Broken Bones' is out and out head banging rock; definitely more Deep Purple than Led Zeppelin with powerful drumming and soaring guitar solo, which trails off into an almost Doors like run out. There are undoubtedly some deft and honeyed guitar sequences, but the fuzz button is never too far away.

'Destitute Blues' has a distinctly more subtle lead in; steady drum undercurrent and cymbals ticking away, until the power kicks in with full on distorted guitar, that cuts back to vocal section. It's like riding the breakers on your board - you wait for the next big one to lift and carry you forward, before rolling off into a valley of apparent calmness. The story line is simple - lack of money, For me, the most interesting and engaging track on this EP.



Back to the heavy stuff with 'No Great Shakes' but don't try this one with headphones on, unless your medication is different to mine. Whilst lyrically rather limited, it's all about the drive and delivery with the band going full out and some.

This Gloucester based band consist of two Dans, namely Danny on vocals and lead axe and Dan 'Wolski' on bass, with Paul on rhythm guitar and Rob on drums. They are influenced by the blues based raw edged rock bands of the 60's early 70's. You can find them playing gigs mainly around the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Swindon areas and I would certainly like to see them: if opportunity arises you will doubtless read the results in a future Slap.

As for the EP, its certainly worth a listen and I'm sure it will find many fans amongst the followers of heavy rock. Lyrically the themes are perhaps a tad overfamiliar, but then that's not stopped some notable heavy bands of yore being rocketed into the stratosphere whilst offering similar fare. As I play it through again my conclusion is that the hidden gem herein is 'Destitute Blues': polish it up and it shines through. Available on Spotify and iTunes.

Graham Munn

www.facebook.com/FourDeadCrows
soundcloud.com/four-dead-crows

Mark Leedham | Realisation

Mark Leedham is one of those singer-songwriters that I've noticed advertised and around Worcester without managing to catch him live, although keep meaning to do so. Mark is a professional and trained guitarist who has been a regular around the local scene for a number of years now, taking in both festivals and open mic sessions alike. As well as performing in his own right Mark has racked up sessions with the likes of **Misha B** and **Becky Hill** as well as being part of **Gabby Young And Other Animals** touring band.

Realisation, Mark's new EP sees him joined by his regular band of drummer James Randle and double bassist Marc Miletitch to create a rich combination of emotive acoustic folk rock, uplifting hooks and nimble guitar work, all topped with Leedham's instantly likeable soulful tones.



The five-track affair opens with a brief, delicate, plucked guitar passage before drums and double bass join the mix to create a laid back pop tinged folk number, complete with those aforementioned soulful vocal tones, further enhanced with gentle, lulling female harmonies. As an opening number, *Fire* sets the mode wonderfully, it's (and pardon the pun) warm and full of emotion drawing the listener in.



November follows and proves that Mark Leedham and his band are no one trick ponies as the band lay down a jazzy, almost funk flavoured rhythm whilst Mark delivers an instantly infectious hook that bringing to mind to likes of Jason Mraz as he delivers a simplistic yet addictive track that you could imagine might become Mark's calling card in the future.

Elsewhere, *Wander This World* impresses with it's shuffling rhythm, subtle time changes, contagious guitar licks and Leedham's beautifully understated delivery, whilst *D.T.* changes direction again, opening with a delicate strum and a heartfelt croon before the rhythm section direct the number into an unexpected, yet believable country direction complete with twanging guitar outro.

Realisation is a diverse and engaging affair from a songwriter who delivers from the heart, complimented by a subtle yet affecting band that help elegantly frame both Mark's soulful croon and deft guitar work, whilst adding a clever twist on the typical singer-songwriter genre.

Will Munn

www.markleedham.com

Matt Woosey & Rebecca Downes

Vonnies Blues Club | Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

Vonnie's is a Blues Club that exists not only to bring great live music to its audience, but also importantly to raise funds for charity from the proceeds of shows. The club is run by **Dave Jones**, in memory of his dearly missed wife Yvonne, who died in 2001. The first event was in 2003 and to date, has raised nearly £90,000, benefiting many charities.

The list of great artists who have performed at Vonnies over the years is long, illustrious and includes **Zoot Money, Maggie Bell, Paul Jones, Chris Farlowe** and the legendary **Long John Baldry**. More recently many more have added their names to the roster and tonight it was the turn of **Matt Woosey** and **Rebecca Downes**.

Bar a-buzz and room rapidly filling, the stage was set and Matt soon settled in firing straight into the gritty '*Cruel Disposition*'. He held the attentive audience rapt for what was an excellent set: a mix from his recent albums, which have been happily popping up annually.



Matt recently returned from a South African tour sported a shirt and new earring to prove it. The deliciously dark '*Don't Tell Nobody*', with all its menace was delivered in typical Woosey style and all the songs, interspersed with anecdotes, were probably as perfect a set as you could wish for from Matt. And so we get '*Lil' Red Rooster*' of course, a little provoking, encouraged the crowd's barking and howling, the song stretched by the Taylor guitar, which is looking rather worn around the sound hole, as fingers thump in to the thinning ply. An outing for new song '*Only One Love*' which seems to have filled out and matured since my first hearing it, followed by '*Love Is The Strangest Thing*', which perfectly displays the marvellous sound tonight: we could have been sat below the soaring vaults of the finest cathedral, the sound reverberated around the room filling the air. '*Black Smoke Rising*' was another must, then Matt closes with Leadbelly's '*Out On The Western Plain*' - perfection.

Rebecca Downes band took the stage and fired up; he band are a good tight unit, most notably bass player Dan. Rebecca stepped up; I had seen her only a few weeks back performing an acoustic set with guitarist Steve, which was a complete contrast to the full on rock blues that now exploded into the air. Rebecca has burst into the spotlight of British Blues and is certainly and rightly gaining huge support. There was no doubt we all had a '*Fever In The Night*' ebbing into a soulful '*Another Piece Of My Heart*'. The band cuts easily between blues, soul and funk riffs and Rebecca, though small in stature, dominates the stage, Steve puts the slide to work on his Gibson for an edgy '*Long Long Time*' then taking us '*Back To The Start*' the title track of their album. Rocking up country, '*When I'm Bad I'm Better*' is convincingly gritted out,

but Rebecca is also capable of some fabulous soul and covers '*I'd Rather Go Blind*' in fine style. The evening is rapidly moving on and a bit of Ike and Tina slots nicely in, before a new song destined for her future album '*1000 Years*' brings a piano opening from Rick on keys: if this is a sample of things to come, order an advance copy now. Rebecca and the band finish on that



great soulful bit of blues that came from Lennon/McCartney and given heart by the late Joe Cocker: '*With A Little Help from My Friends*'. If you've not seen Rebecca and her band, seek out a gig and go.

The promise of a quality night's music at **Vonnies Blues Club** on a very mild December evening, had been richly delivered by Matt and Rebecca via a wide spectrum of great sounds. I have made a New Year's Resolution which I intend to keep, that is to find my way to Vonnie's more often and I heartily suggest that you join me! Many thanks Dave.

Graham Munn



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Is It A Man? Is It A Gorilla? Nah. It's A WEREWOLF!

Formed in 2013, Evesham's progressive instrumental two-piece **A Werewolf!** - comprising **Niall Jones** (guitars) and **Zack Esposito** (drums) - have quickly gained a reputation for a live show as unpredictable and wilfully deranged as their music. Their take on what can be done at speed with just guitars, drums and a pedalboard is at the extreme end of what's technically possible for a pair of mere humans. Math-core on Ritalin their output may be. But it's all rooted firmly in hardcore punk and a rock-solid DIY ethic that has seen them prolifically self-releasing both EPs and inspired merchandise, and busily scattering their hyperactive music locally, nationally and internationally. With a seemingly ever-increasing vigour. And there is nothing not to love about that.



SLAP: A Werewolf! Hello. Been a while. What's been going on in your world?

AW: Hello! I am sorry to break it to you but we all live in the same shitty world you do! Zack has bought a PS4 and Metal Gear Solid, so you could say things are getting pretty serious. And Niall teaches kids music! (Ladies if you are reading this, we both single and ready to go kill ourselves)

SLAP: Classy! And what were your highlights of 2015?

AW: Highlights include playing with loads of our favourite bands and great friends: 100 Onces, Steve Strong, Alright The Captain, A Wilhelm Scream to name a few. We released our second EP and then toured the UK along with a few shows on the mainland.

SLAP: I hear the release went pretty well. Can you tell us more about that?

AW: We released our second EP 'Bigger Than...' at the end of August last year to more success than we could have hoped for. We are currently getting ready to release our third EP 'Fun Times For Nice Guys' which will be out on 7" on Monday 15th Feb.

SLAP: Busy then. Any other plans for 2016?

AW: We have just gotten back from a very successful trip to the mainland with some great friends in FoxPunch. We will be touring the UK in support of our new EP with those scamps Steve Strong and Alright The Captain - where we stop at The Firefly in Worcester on Thursday 25th Feb. We will also have two more trips to the mainland planned with The Harry Macintosh Project and Boycott The Baptist. As well as a few more UK tours. Along with this we are hoping to have released our first full length by the end of the year.

SLAP: Well good luck with all that, chaps. I almost forgot. For readers who are not familiar with your brand of sonic battery, could you please describe just what it is you do?



Mark Hoy

AW: To put it very simply we make noises with guitars and drums. Loud noises not conducive to a relaxing time.

SLAP: Indeed. You're quite the frisky biscuits live. Last time I saw you play Zack spectacularly brained himself bouncing his skull off a vaulted brick ceiling. Before you'd even started your set (which you finished regardless of all the blood). Any other comedy injuries or incidents you want to share with us?

AW: The night after Zack cut his head open we played in Basingstoke and Niall hit himself in the head with his guitar and gave himself concussion and a massive lump. We are actually very surprised how little we hurt ourselves considering the amount of onstage antics.

SLAP: You also have an unusually prolific and cheeky line in tee shirts. Which one of the many are you most proud of?

AW: We have done a huge number of shirts in the past, much to the amusement of other bands who joke we are a clothing line rather than a band. Niall thinks the best shirt we have done is the Math Rock Steady shirt with a large pineapple. 'Math Rock Steady' being a play on words from one of his favourite bands Leftover Crack and their style of music 'Crack Rock Steady'. Zack's favourite featurea Bubbles as the Green Bastard from [the bizarre Canadian mockumentary] Trailer Park Boys. Kindly drawn by local hero Wes Dance.

SLAP: Yes. I saw that one. Now. Are there any local - or not so local - acts you would like to give a shout out to?

AW: Local bands in no particular order: SexWolf! - Super Sexy hardcore; Women - Stoner rock for the straight edge; Rosebud - Fellow Carl Sagan and Olaf Stapledon enthusiasts! Bands not local but deserve attention: Boycott the Baptist - Grindcore; Oh Captain - Post Hardcore; Chiyoda Ku - Pretty MathRock; FoxPunch - The world best shit band; Toy Mountains - Sexy Scottish Lads.

SLAP: Sexy indeed. And is there anything else we need to know about you?

AW: The less you know about us the better! But, you should perhaps know our new EP out Monday 15th Feb on orange 7" available from <http://awerewolf.bigcartel.com/products>, with all digital music available at <https://awerewolf.bandcamp.com/> as well as all good high street music retailers and of course iTunes/ Amazon/ Spotify.

SLAP: And finally. For all your time-change tomfoolery and onstage japes, I know you two also like your astrophysics. So: who would win in a game of slaps (the one where you face off, put your hands together like you are praying and take it in turns to try and smack the back of each other's hands really really hard until one of you starts crying) between Carl Sagan and that Brian Cox fella?

AW: Niall thinks it would be Carl Sagan because he has evolved onto a plane of existence higher than our own, where he can't feel pain and didn't die. Hence Carl Sagan is God, if there is such a thing. Zack reckons Brian Cox would win. Cuz he's alive.

SLAP: So there you go.

www.facebook.com/awerewolfawerewolf
awerewolf.bandcamp.com/releases

Words: Jerry H Satansnagger

Paul Menel & The Essentials | Let's Do It

A couple of months back I reviewed the debut single by Worcester based singer-songwriter, **Paul Menel & The Essentials**, *They Call Her Leaf*, now Paul and his merry men are back with a follow up single, *Let's Do It*, ahead of their new album *Spare Parts For Broken Hearts*.

Let's Do It has already received radio play from the likes of Radio Two, whilst the intriguing video has been doing nice business over on Youtube, proving that there's still a market out there for progressive rock.

I described the aforementioned previous single as a breezy melodic

rock number that for me lacked bite, well the follow up, proves that Paul can deliver a punch, as he cranks up the guitars and lays down a thick groove, whilst the addition on violin and accordion are both more than welcome, perhaps hinting at pardon the pun another string to Paul's bow. The vocals are still on the melodic side but this time come across as something of a mantra as Paul uses repetition to hook the listener in, whilst The Essentials serve up a meaty stew that's crunchy and full of flavour.

With two very different singles to date, it's difficult to know what to expect from the full length album, but following on from *Let's Do It*, the disc is becoming a far more interesting proposition.

www.paulmenelessentials.co.uk



Naked Sunday A Dozen Red Roses & A Bottle Of Jack

Look I get introduced to this fine fella by local legend **Nick J Townsend** and he's rocking a leopard skin coat and little else. Turns out he's the singer-axeslinger from **Naked Sunday** as he not only thrusts his serpentine hips at me but also his band's new, shiny ep thang: I'm all of a quiver and can't resist. What's a boy to do?!

Lookin' like he just stumbled outta the Whiskey a Go-Go, **Martin Stanyer** betta have the soundz to back up da lux: good news is he has - in spades and then some!

Coming on like GnR, The Crue and early Jovi, in a mad melange with your Seattle grunge faves, this thrilling 3 piece - with **Laura**

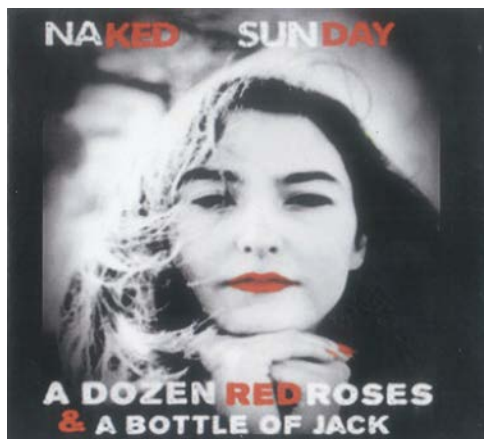
Stanyer on bass & backing vox plus drummer **Craig Stanley** - exploded onto the Midlands scene back in '12 and they've been gigging and partying hard since, clocking up the miles, plaudits and fans.

The five trax on this EP show their breadth of range; from the sweeping and majestic ballad of the title track to the classic anthem 'Rockstar' (my personal fave), as Martin strangles every note into submission from throat and strings. Somehow Naked Sunday have managed to soak up the history of rock and spew it out in their own fine fashion.

Not so much treading the hard worn path to rock nirvana as hurtling down it at maximum speed, leaving a trail of empty Jack bottles and worn out groupies in their wake. This is how Gun'n'Roses 'Chinese Democracy' album SHOULD have sounded.

Naked Sunday are gonna take rock fans to the promised land - believe the hype!

Words by Johnny Machine



VH YES | Reach

Local (ish) spunk rockers **Hey You Guys!** are taking a bit of a sabbatical at the moment as frontman **Pete Adams** becomes accustomed to parenthood, the other three members of **HYG** (**Dave Draper**, **Ben Pemberton** and **Oly Edkins**) have kidnapped **Christina Maynard** (**Tina V** if you prefer) of **Soeur** (and formerly **This Wicked Tongue**) and forced her to sing lead vocals for a brand new project entitled **VH YES**.

Now you maybe expecting some alternative rock supergroup with Tina hollering over a bombardment of drums and crunchy riffs, well think again, those barbaric Hey You Guys chaps have

forced Miss Maynard to breakout the synths and embrace her inner pop demons in a bid to take over the world by infecting the youth with their waves of pure pop nirvana.

The opening salvo by **VH YES** entitled *Reach* is a delicious slab of contagious indie synth-pop, with Tina delivering a delightful lead vocal over a winning combination of euphoric keyboard melodies, an infectious rhythm (still propelled by those Pemberton beats) and a wave of choppy guitars.

Few bands create a genuine earworm at first attempt, but be warned, VH YES have done just that, one spin is all it takes and that melody will possess your soul, leaving you hooked and humming.

VH YES are taking their subversive synth-pop on the road in February in support of CJ Wildheart, before you know it we'll all be dancing to the beat of their drum.

Will Munn



Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Since 2012 when respected musician and local legend **Matt Worley** opened his music shop, 'Worley's Strings and Things' in downtown Stourport, the business has gone from strength to strength.

However Matt has always harboured an ambition to create a music venue and so his dream has come to fruition with **The Swan**, fortuitously next door to his shop on the High Street.



The former pub/hotel had lain closed and falling into decline for years until Mr W rescued it from dilapidation on Christmas Eve '14. There wasn't a roof on the place he says and the floor was rotting.

Almost a full year later on 20th December last, Matt proudly opened the doors of his new kingdom just in time for the festive rush. It's been mad busy since says Matt whilst proudly showing us around his fine venue. You can see from our photos that The Swan is a legendary venue in the making; its walls are adorned with all manner of rock pics, vinyl, facsimile Marshall/Orange stacks and lit cabinets containing classic geetars. Also you really

need to see the toilets - usually an absolute disgrace in such places - but at The Swan we're talking lizard skin tiles, acrylic inset toilet seats and heated mirrors - The best in Stourport definitely and worth a visit alone!



At the moment throughout the week there's Folk Night each Monday, Jazz on Wednesdays, bands Thursdays to Saturdays and winding down for Acoustic Sundays. An Open Mic night is in the offing and boy does Mr Worley have Big Plans.

For starters although there is a stage in the lounge bar with a 3.5K rig set-up, the back room is being transformed into what will undoubtedly be an amazing 300 capacity room replete with a 7.5K PA. This is due to open in the next 3 months or so, but before this will see the opening of an onsite bistro Mimi's, where Matt promises a proper Mediterranean menu with many wood fired and charcoal grilled goodies on offer. This is on top of the well-stocked bar which features 6 Real Ales - receiving Top Marks from CAMRA - a Gin Bar with 10 bespoke distillations, 10 malt whiskies on offer and Jack Fridays featuring 7 types of JD.

And all this before the upstairs **Art Gallery plus Record & Memorabilia** Shop take shape. Phew indeed! You certainly can't accuse Matt of a lack of ambition and more power to the man. He's been waiting for this opportunity for a while and is now determined to grab it with both hands and do his damndest.

Worley's The Swan is a venue run by a musician and music lover expressly for other music mad folk and early visitors have returned with glowing reports of a great atmosphere with friendly staff and most importantly terrific music.

The Swan is determined to put its stamp on Stourport and definitely gets the Slap Stamp of Approval!

"There's a new place in town!"

Worley's

The Swan

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Tommy Allen & Trafficker

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Monday 14th December

We had to crowbar our way into an already crowded **Prince Of Wales**, as Tommy and his new band Trafficker were setting up. There was as ever a real buzz, boosted by the approaching Christmas spirit. **Tommy** was here without usual partner Jonny Hewitt but was joined by **Damon Clarridge** on drums and bassist **Emil Engstrom**. Whatever the configuration, Tommy was back to wake us all up and drive us into the night with blues-rock 'n' roll. The addition of a full drum set, beaten into submission by an energy infused Damon plus the pulsating and often funky bass of Emil, has allowed Tommy to concentrate on the sounds of his Strat and it was an absolute joy to hear. A Tommy Allen original was aired; the hard rock blues '*Be The Best*' - maybe that's a message for the Prince Of Wales - these are undoubted contenders. '*Better For The Blues*' took us to familiar territory and a rich vein for Tommy as he worked up to some '*Mean Old Walking Blues*' with Damon set loose on the drums. Damon may look on the small side locked in behind his skins and hats, but he was having a great thrashing time, joined in combat by Emil on bass. A brief check on a lovely looking Gretsch, before sticking with the Fender for '*Voodoo Chile*', before we move back into Trafficker alley and some recently penned songs put to the test with this appreciative audience. The first set closed with a rip roaring '*Johnny B Goode*'.

The super warm tone of the Gretsch was put to good use opening the second set as Tommy sang '*Baby Your Mine All Mine*'. By now what little floor space there was was filled with the gyrating bodies of femme fans; you could loose an eye out there as arms swept with abandon and hair lashing round. The boys jammed on proving that any gig involving **Tommy Allen** will include music that is involving, raw edged and intoxicating;



Trafficker is all that and more. The clock needless to say is advancing rapidly, Tommy breaks one of his new strings but the boys carry on into an extended funky mash. The crib team arrive but can't get through the door - shock written over their faces, 'their' space invaded. '*Reet Petite*' blasts out followed by a '*Whole Lot Of Shakin*' going on; this wind-up medley of rock & roll classics shook the Prince Of Wales - cards on the table? no chance! **Tommy Allen's Trafficker** had filled 3 glorious hours in style with a pub crammed with music lovers. There were hints of things to come with 3, as yet untitled songs, slotted in the mix. Unfinished work maybe, but it all sounded pretty damned good and augurs well for the future. A memorable evening then - now where did I leave those cards?

Graham Munn

Alan Barnes and Derek Nash

Stratford Jazz | 13th January 2016

To bop or not to bop? That was the question in Stratford, but on the night, with **Derek Nash** and **Alan Barnes** on stage the answer was clear - to bop. Nash and Barnes are both familiar names to modern jazz audiences, but it's not that often that they perform together. This gig was definitely one for fans of the saxophone, as both are acknowledged masters of the instrument. Between them, Nash and Barnes covered the range of instruments from soprano sax to baritone with Barnes also including some very tasty clarinet.

Both men are experienced band leaders and know how to play to an audience. Nash is probably best-known for his work as a member of **Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra** but also runs his own jazz-funk band **Protect the Beat** and also regularly works in the more conventional modern-mainstream setting that we are accustomed to seeing Barnes in.

The two saxophonists made for a wonderful partnership, with Nash's slightly harder-edged sound blending nicely with Barnes more subtle approach. Nash slightly reminiscent of David Sanborn and Barnes showing the influence of past masters, Art Pepper, Johnny Hodges and Charlie Parker. The repertoire included largely familiar standards from what has come to be known as '*The Great American Songbook*' together with some great jazz standards. A particular highlight was Duke Ellington's '*Mood Indigo*' with Nash on soprano saxophone and Barnes on clarinet.

What is clear is the enthusiasm that these musicians have for their art. Both are accomplished raconteurs and this certainly



helped to establish a rapport with the audience. With the Midlands premier rhythm section of **Paul Sawtell** (keyboard), **Tom Hill** (bass) and **Neil Bullock** (drums) from the first notes of the first tune, you knew that you were to be treated to a special evening of musical entertainment. Such is the pedigree of these musicians that the venue was packed to capacity. Thus making it all the more sad that this was to be the penultimate gig at the current **Stratford Jazz venue**. From 10th February gigs will take place at the nearby **Stratford Arts House**.

Please help to keep this valuable Jazz Society going by supporting the forthcoming events. Find out more at www.stratfordjazz.org.uk

Words and Photograph: Alan Musson

The Pre New

Scarycanary the Venue, Stourbridge | Dec 10th '15

Initially formed from the ashes of **Earl Brutus** as a tribute to late singer **Nick Sanderson**, **The Pre New** bought their special brand of glam rock and electronica to Stourbridge in December on an otherwise bleak 'Pre Christmas' evening - and it was one hell of an experience.

Earl Brutus released two albums during their short life, both gloriously out of place in the Britpop climate of the time. Critically acclaimed though they were, they didn't bother the charts even though second album *'Tonight You Are The Special One'* was released through **Island Records**. Live, they were unpredictably excellent. On the occasions I saw them, the set involved revolting garage forecourt signs (one with 'piss' and 'off', the other with 'music' and 'chips'), the destruction of what was then expensive computer monitors and the presence of **Shin-Ya Hayashida**, suited and booted stage right, head banging along to the set, pint in hand calling the audience 'Mother Fuchers'. A true experience.

The Pre New released the album **'Music For People Who Hate Themselves'** featuring the majestic *'Cathedral City Comedown'* (in which everything is sold off for a pound), followed by a remix album *'Music For Homeowners'* with mixes from such luminaries as **Mogwai**, **Saint Etienne** and **Public Service Broadcasting** - friends in pretty high places. The current album *'The Male Eunuch'* was released in May last year to great reviews (album of the week in *The Guardian*) and though sonically they are reminiscent of Earl Brutus, largely because of co-vocalist **Jim (brother of Martin) Fry**, the three piece also embrace synthpop, punk rock, acid house and social comment in a heady cocktail of noise.



Visually, vocalist Jim Fry is stage left with microphone and dry ice machine, his burly frame spitting lyrics about ageing, confusion and cynicism. The band hurtle through a first class selection of cuts, from the rush of noise that is *'Speed Queen'*, *'Flaccid Astronaut'* where the main character dreams of a glittering future, *'100% Beef'* in which the protagonist is beaten up by the recession back at his Dad's after his marriage failure through to *'Janet Vs. John'* including the lyric "all the emptiness the guy from Elbow never sings". Depressing stuff? Not at all when married to the riffing guitar of **Laurence Bray** and the programmed loops of **Stuart Wheldon** who also augments on second guitar. The reverse British Rail logo is always visible through the dry ice filled room, another reminder of the old Britain that was somehow better than the current model and when a man enters the room pacing around in front of the stage looking like some kind of deranged stalker or fan, instantly causing my attention to shift, he reveals a Pre New t-shirt, gets onto the stage and joins in. Turns out he's part of this too ..

After a short, relentless set, they are gone leaving a squall of white noise to return us all to humdrum normality. Only The Sleaford Mods have left me feeling as exhausted in recent years and there are definitely some similarities. The Mods have managed to achieve genuine chart success without any kind of compromise so maybe **The Pre New** will have their day with their next release - stranger things have occurred. Until then, you can invest in the albums via the **3 Loop Music** website, where you can also buy the two remastered **Earl Brutus** albums in a limited edition glitter splattered box. **Nick Sanderson** may be gone but his legacy is getting stronger.

Baz Bojak

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The Last Hurrah! - A Weekend at The Paul Pry Friday 11th - Sunday 13th December

Below we have compiled three reviewers' notes, thoughts and reflections on what was a wonderful weekend to say au revoir to young **Catherine Ottaway** and her much loved tenure at this estimable boozer. So without further ado...



Colin Baggs, Wes Dance, Jenny Hallam Retinal Circus, Shambolix

Friday 11 December 2015

In the time that I've known Worcester, some 15 years now, the city has been blessed with great pubs and publicans and none more so than **Catherine Ottaway**. Once patron of the famous, even infamous, Dragon and transformer of 'The Pry' into an elegant homage to Victoriana; a place to escape from the quickening pace of modern life. Just three years ago the beautifully ornate solid wood bar, itself like something out of a Dickens novel, was tragically adorned with Carling, Fosters and Strongbow taps. Through significant personal investment, Catherine and her team set to work on lovingly restoring the old boozer down to the last tiny detail and what a resounding success the enterprise proved and sad that it should end so.

We gathered on a cosy Friday night in December to celebrate her successes, to show our appreciation for her services to the community, and to commiserate over the loss of The Pry as we have come to know and love it. It was fitting to have a line-up packed with character, tenderness and humour. The kind of characters who, like Catherine, are timeless in their countenance, in their mannerisms and their values, equally at home in a Georgian gin parlour as a hipster coffee shop.

Without saying anything about the wonderful, original music we heard that night (I have raved in SLAP about the quality of these and other local artists before), a tribute to Catherine and to all those timeless folk that have made Worcester home. Alas, home no more.

Worcester

*We're creatures of the past.
We don't live in red brick houses
With block-paved driveways,*

*We gaze over open skies and grey-slate roofs
Of outhouses and extensions
At right angles from Victorian terraces.*

*The town has swelled around us,
Concentric rings hemming us in,
But we still know our partridge from our pheasant,
Our salmon from our trout,
And we don't talk about "going out"
Because we're hardly ever in.*

Things we like to do:

*Drinking in pubs without TVs or gambling machines;
Singing Songs of Old, making them our own;
The arts of the body, the canvas and the tongue.*

The Others scarcely know we exist

*Even though we penetrate their spaces
Like the fingers of an overstretched pianist
But that's just how we like it.*

by Martin Wilkes

Will Killeen and Perry Foster

Saturday 12th December

I was more than happy to witness the multi-talented **Mr Killeen** due to be solo this night, but when we arrived and saw the stately sight of **Mr Foster** sat aside, I knew I was in for a double treat.

And so it proved as for a good two plus hours this most dynamic of duos enthralled us with their bluesy wares. Emotive vocals and geetars plus electrifying harps are these guys stock-in-trade and soon once again we realise how very lucky we are to be in the presence of such top notch and truly legendary performers.

It's also a constant and pleasant surprise when some music breaks out in between Perry's many oft told but happy-to-hear-again tales of the great, the good and the downright bad. A total delight then from start to late finish: no-one complained!

by Sonny House

The Poor Boys of Worcester

Sunday 13 December

This was a double whammy for me as it heralded the beginning of Birthday Celebrations Week and what a marvellous way to start.

Though myself tediously teetotal these days I love to see an hostelry chocka with fine folk and a bewildering array of fine ales on offer in which to have their fill.

To perfectly compliment this menu came the main course: **The Poor Boys Of Worcester**. Now firmly established on the gig circuit, if you haven't caught these boys live you are missing one helluva treat.

Having been lucky enough to witness them a good few times myself now, this terrific troupe get better at each performance. The Poor Boys inject the Pry with their infectiousness and soon the joint is truly jumping. This is truly a band in every sense as they bounce off each other musically and the smiles say it all.



Big Dave is the laughter leader and ready to out-grin all-comers, whilst **Mick the Hat** holds it down and keeps 'em kinda grounded. With **J C Tonkinson**, **Banjo Bryant** and **Wilf the Wolf** all adding to this stupendous stew, it leaves **Doc Watson** to add the final piquancy with his tasty lead licks.

So a fine fine end to a wonderful weekend: what more can I say?

Reader we drank the place dry!

by Arnold Corn

Andy O'Hare

Fair play to **Eamonn Forde** of The Guardian with his recent article about the muscle wielded by record companies in placing and promoting their own signed acts - in this case with particular reference to the BBC-promoted 'Sound Of...' poll which has been won 11 out of the 14 years since it's been running by acts already signed to the world's biggest (and richest) record company - with even the other major labels struggling to get a look in due to the massive amount of dosh now required to plug their 'new' acts - and way beyond the budget of smaller independent labels of course!

Sadly it seems that this and other 'showcases for new talent' are now just an opportunity for the labels to further publicise their latest signings - a cost-effective product placement exercise where the main aim is promotion of their own newer acts to maximise sales - with actual musical talent and originality taking pretty much a back seat - a bland and unchallenging style, coupled with a TV-friendly image and perhaps a supporting story that despite being heavily plugged and placed in the year before the poll - this is really a 'humble, nice guy who started out busking' - this year's winner being a fine example...

The reality's a lot different of course - these are acts selected by the labels' A&R people purely on their probable ability to return a healthy dividend on the massive investment now required to promote them - and sadly the quality of their music is by no means the primary requirement - which is why punters like me are left wondering why the great new music I hear on a weekly basis that by all rights should be high in the charts just doesn't get a look-in!

Of course this isn't confined to the 'Sound Of...' poll - where this year's winner had already been rubber-stamped before last year's festival season - the same 'pounds for placement' system exists for other UK music awards which the record companies recognise as a key part of their marketing strategy - it's also extends to the major festivals which the labels also see as a 'shop window' for their latest signings - and to convince the pundits and public that the next new and exciting talent is one that's already been pre-determined by themselves...

Of course the record companies can exercise a far greater influence on the festivals than say the 'Sound Of...' poll where the winner(s) are selected by an 'independent panel of industry experts' (mostly journalists) who we're told don't profit themselves from their choice - but have been 'guided' by the PR agencies and pluggers towards the labels' own picks - after all it's a lot easier to sit back and read the promotion material than get up from your desk, go out and actually discover great new music!

It's not that any of this is new though - at the top level music is big business with big bucks - it's not completely predictable but the record companies know this and make allowances that not every act will pay back their investment - there've been chart-rigging scandals a-plenty over the years but the manipulation of listeners' music choices goes on - just in a far more subtle, professional and calculating manner...

Over the years it's been a mystery to me why the airways and charts are seemingly clogged up with bland soundalike outfits who wouldn't get to first base with me - originality, performing ability and the capacity to write a song with a half-decent and memorable riff have been optional extras for such a long time now that they've almost completely ceased to be a factor in the acts that the record companies want you to hear - and buy of course!! So the song's bland and instantly forgettable? No problem!! We'll replace it with a rehashed hit from 20 or 30 years back - in any case the million-pound video to accompany it will take care of the mind-numbing lack of musical adventure - 'each song sounds the same?' - yes spot on Mr M!!

There's a solution to this of course - stop buying crap! But this is going to take a seismic shift in the mentality of the listening and purchasing public - and the record companies know that just ain't going to happen soon - there've been minor tremors like punk and Brit-pop in the past which have been massive inconveniences for the major labels - as they threatened to take away the control and influence they wield over the music they've already decided we should be listening to - any small label with an enterprising and promising 'different' new act can expect a 'takeover offer they can't refuse' if there's any possible threat to their status as arbiters of our own music taste...

So what's the answer? Well I can't see the vast majority of music listeners/purchasers changing their ingrained habits very soon and collectively deciding to ignore what the labels have decided we should be hearing - great thanks to Mr Forde for saying what we already knew was the case - the record companies don't hide what they're doing and the evidence of their own 'product placement' is there if you look for it - but that takes a tiny bit of effort (!) - and of course a degree in scepticism and bloody-mindedness comes in very handy...

But you can make an effort - and yes I mean you out there with this fine independent organ in your hand!! Pop out every now and again to a gig or an open-mic and discover for yourself all the great new music that doesn't happen to have a million-pound marketing budget behind it - because I can assuredly promise you that it's out there - and a lot closer than you might think!!

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

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Monday 1 February

Paul Carrack

Cheltenham Town Hall

Wednesday 3 February 2016

Craig Ogden and an Italian Reverie with Swan Orchestra

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sam Dowden

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends

Great Malvern Hotel

Thursday 4 February 2016

Damon Thomas, Mike Hopkins, Tone Tanner, Colin Baggs

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Talon: The Acoustic Collection - In The Raw

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Polly Barrett

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Eliza and The Bear

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Notorious Brothers

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Richie Ramone + Klammer

Iron Road, Evesham

Knowing Smirk

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Friday 5 February 2016

Flatworld, Gazza Tee

Conquest Theatre, Tenbury Rd, Bromyard

The Delray Rockets

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Darko, The Twin Dracula, Sexwolf!

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Megson

Leintwardine Community Centre

Come Together

Drummonds, Worcester

Flatworld

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Devoted To Rock

Live Room @ The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Ignition Presents: Our World Below + Rustlung + Fueled

Hate + Parkhurst

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Rockology 2016

Cheltenham Town Hall

Craig Ogden - Bromsgrove Concerts

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tim O'Brien

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Saskia Griffiths-Moore + Adam Sweet

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Madi Stimpson

Great Malvern Hotel

Clare Teal

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham

Unravellings + Support

Iron Road, Evesham

Glas

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Bright Eyes

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Executives

Millers Arms, Pershore

Bryan Adams Experience

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Flatworld, Gazza Tee

Conquest Theatre, Tenbury Rd, Bromyard

Deborah Rose with Mari Randle

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

Clutching At Straws Single Launch

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Zoe Green Band

Queens Head, Wolverley

The Best Thing

John Moore Theatre, The King's School, Castle Place

Mother Lie, + Support

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Little Dave

The Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

Saturday 6 February 2016

Think Floyd

Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Avenue, Evesham

The After Hours Quintet

Clows Top Victory Hall

The Bowie Experience + Support

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Roving Crows + Mark Stevenson

Market Theatre, Ledbury

Mike Skilbeck - FUKT Xmas Do

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Illegal Eagles

Cheltenham Town Hall

Nancy Kerr and The Sweet Visitor Band

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Avenue 9

Cross Keys, Malvern

Gordon Dean

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Ells and The Southern Wild

Stroud Brewery

Stroud Ceilidhs - The Glowworms

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Blast From The Past present A Brief History Of Music

Clent Parish Hall

Oye Santana

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Executives

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Starving Rascals

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

The Cuginis

Subtone, Cheltenham

Raven Eye, Reigning Days

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets

Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Off The Cuff

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

The Tubby Bluesters

The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Bourbon Alley Blues Band

W.A.C. Worcester Auto Club, Perdiswell, Worcester

Parkin Lot

The Black Star, 1 Mitton Street, Stourport

Jeaga, Quarter Stone

The Booth Hall, East Street, Hereford

DJ Jimdog

Heroes, First Floor, 26-32 Friar Street, Worcester

WU-ting Launch Drum & Bass Party

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Dub Thieves

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Metaprim + Isolation

Iron Road, Evesham

Small Changes

The Sportsman, Wood St, Kidderminster

Nice N Sleazy

Albion Social Club, North Street, Cheltenham

Sunday 7 February 2016

Gaz Brookfield, Nick Parker

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Loz Rabone

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Changing Room

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Music From The Movies

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Thunder Road
White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Poor Boys of Worcester
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Tuesday 9 February 2016

Beatlemania
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Wednesday 10 February 2016

Take Two - Twitchett's live
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Damon T + Luke P
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends
Great Malvern Hotel

Thursday 11 February 2016

Fay Hield
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Lucas D and The Groove Ghetto
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Elles Bailey
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Ronnie Scott's Story
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Friday 12 February 2016

Nice N Sleazy
Bell Inn, St. John's, Worcester

Carnival Band
Live Room @ Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Magic Pillow Factory, Sunset Nebula, Vision Quest
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Birdcage, Spoils, Tonepot, Sioux Falls
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Black Peaks
Guildhall, Gloucester

Cyanide Later + Go Primitive + Long Fall Boots
Iron Road, Evesham

Woo Town Hillbillies
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Folk Three - Lau
Cheltenham Town Hall

Robin & Bina Williamson
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

The Magoos
Drummonds, Worcester

The Lewis Boulton Trio
Great Malvern Hotel

FaceStealers
Millers Arms, Pershore

TRADarr
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Vehicle
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Last Edition
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Brendan O'Brien
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Rocky Road To Ruin
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Sœur, Vault of Eagles, The Correct Arc, Cape of Good Hope
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Blues Anoraks
The Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

The Disciples
The Old Greyhound, New Street, Worcester

Saturday 13 February 2016

Otway/Barrett: The Final Straw
Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Avenue, Evesham

Johnny Cash Roadshow
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Mark Leedham & Band
Ginger Pig, Worcester

Claire Boswell
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

48 SLAP FEBRUARY

Starmaker International
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

The Terrorsaurs + Colorado Lounge
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Texas Fraud Blues Band
Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

Roving Crows + Leon Daye
The Barn, Cirencester, Glos

Eastwood
Live Room @ The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

The Tristan Watson Trio
Stroud Brewery

Sax Appeal
Millers Arms, Pershore

Kim Ryder Valentine Night
Great Malvern Hotel

3-Sixty + Jeaga + The Vim Dicta (USA)
Iron Road, Evesham

UK Guns N Roses
Guildhall, Gloucester

Folk Three - Edward II
Cheltenham Town Hall

Blues Hound
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Howard Jones (Solo)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Cross Keys, Malvern

Mother Popcorn
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Izzy The Push
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

The Lol Goodman Band
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Otis Mac & The Tubby Bluesters
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Cavalier, Tennyson Way, Kidderminster

The Rehydrated Turkeys[Unplugged]! aka.Gary Roberts Band!
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Vehicle
New Inn, Pershore

Blues Club - Troy Redfern Band + Sweet Things
Booth Hall, Hereford

Aquarius
The railway night club, Barton yard, Hereford

Soul Sessions
Heroes, First Floor, Worcester

Magic Pillow Factory, Sunset Nebula, Vision Quest
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Shootin' The Crow
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Wille and the Bandits
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 14 February 2016

Gordie MacKeeman & His Rhythm Boys (Canada)
The Fleece, Bretforton

Paul Edwards
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Folk Three - Martin Carty & John Kirkpatrick, Martin Simpson
Cheltenham Town Hall

Bobby G
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Steve Nieve's Sex and Love and Rock and Roll Valentines
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Lounge Toad Valentine's Day Special
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Wednesday 17 February 2016

Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Saddos
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends
Great Malvern Hotel

Thursday 18 February 2016

Danny Donato Acoustic Night

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Steve Ajao

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

4 Shires Festival Talent Night

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Dire Straits Experience

Cheltenham Town Hall

Devon Allman

Iron Road, Evesham

The Selecter

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Friday 19 February 2016

Mused

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Thunder Daze

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Subhumans, IDestroy, This System Kills

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Moscow Drug Club

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Lewis and Dav - George Room Session

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Jay and Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

Turin Brakes

Guildhall, Gloucester

Vo Fletcher

Great Malvern Hotel

Indie Hawkes Undercover

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Mike Hoddinott Blues Allstars

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Jay & Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

Manalishi

Millers Arms, Pershore

Come Up & See Me

Drummonds, Worcester

Nice N Sleazy

Farmer's Boy, Worcester

White Cherry with Abigail Kelsey

Queens Head, Wolverley

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Red Lion, Evesham

Scallywags Comedy with Jon Wagstaffe

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Gretchen Peters

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 20 February 2016

Mister Wolf

The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

The Everly Bros & Friends Tribute Show

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jon Eselle

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Ben Vickers

Ginger Pig, Worcester

Gregory S Davies

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Avon (ex-Kyuss/Queens Of The Stone Age), Baron

Greenback, Snog The Dog, Buying Lies

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Rattlesnake Jake

Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

Jack Of All

Great Malvern Hotel

Bryn Thomas

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Two Anchors

Stroud Brewery

Sounds of Divine India

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Maz O'Connor

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Denim

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Voodoo Blue

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Subhuman Race

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Gunnrunner

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Leslie Wilson

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Chewie

The Anchor Inn, Kempsey

Attila the Stockbroker

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Fabulous Bodellos

Cross Keys, Malvern

Death Disco

Heroes, Worcester

Whitesnake UK + The Bad Flowers

Iron Road, Evesham

O.C.D.

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Danny Denato Presents

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Set 'Em Up Joe

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Atomic Blondie and the Bowie Experience

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

DJ Dead

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Sunday 21 February 2016

Paul Liddell

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Danny Bryant

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham

Bendrix: Benji Kirkpatrick's Hendrix Project

The Fleece, Bretforton

Willie and The Bandits

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Remi Harris

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Jackie Baker

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Matt Bowen

Steps Bar, Evesham Rd, Redditch

Vo Fletcher

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Attila the Stockbroker

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Monday 22 February 2016

Talisco, Spice & The Readies, Vetches

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Tuesday 23 February 2016

Breabach

The Fleece, Bretforton

Steve Tilston

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 24 February 2016

Tyler & Friends

Great Malvern Hotel

Thursday 25 February 2016

The Humdrum Express, Jess Silk, PTR Williams

Scary Canary The Venue, Stourbridge

Trevor Burton Band

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Lauren Housley

Iron Road, Evesham

Gilbert O'Sullivan

Cheltenham Town Hall

John McCullagh & The Escorts
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Beat
Guildhall, Gloucester

Friday 26 February 2016

The Poor Boys Of Worcester
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Madi Stimpson Trio
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

The Mid-Land Regulators
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Glitoris Girls (Drag Act)
Live Room @ The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Festivals Experience
Drummonds, Worcester

Astroid Boys, Black Art, #cuddlesquad
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Blackballed & Disco Tramps
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Johnny Kowalski and The Sexy Weirdos
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Raevannan Husbands
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Future Set
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Forty Blues Toes
Queens Head, Wolverley

Jive Dance
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel

Frontrunner - Reggie's 50th Pt 1
Cross Keys, Malvern

Dreadzone
Guildhall, Gloucester

Obscure
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Sugarman Sam and the Voodoo Men
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Atomic Blondie
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Roxy Magic (tribute)
Iron Road, Evesham

Protocol
Millers Arms, Pershore

Dogs Of Santorini, Chewie
The Cross Keys, Belmont Road, Malvern

Nice N Sleazy
The Brewery Inn, Ledbury

Griff Collins
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Secret Cabaret
The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Saturday 27 February 2016

The Counterfeit Eagles
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Mama: An Evening of Genesis
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Tasha
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

The Incredibly Strange Film Band
Lyde Court, Hereford

Answer Back
Live Room @ The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Blaze Bailey
Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

Vehicle
Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Terry O'Sullivan sings The Rat Pack
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Rachel Stone
Great Malvern Hotel

The Ferrets
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

50 SLAP FEBRUARY

Devilskin (NZ) + Skarlett Riot
Iron Road, Evesham

5:15 - Reggie's 50th Pt 2
Cross Keys, Malvern

Boo Hewerdine
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

Raymond Froggatt
Palace theatre, Redditch

The Whiteshillbillies
Stroud Brewery

The Delray Rockets
Callow End Social Club, Worcs

Peter Knight's Gigspanner
Bridge Church, Headless Cross, Redditch

Vo and Fletcher
The Wellington, Malvern

Dirty Bangers
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

HollyFest 2016 presents The Magic Numbers + Rook and The Ravens + Tribe + Erica + Very Special Guests
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

No Retreat
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Kings Head, Main Street, Tenbury Wells

Remi Harris
West Malvern Social Club

Screaming Dead, Spoils of War, Self Abuse
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Kitchen Island Band
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Answer Back - Album Launch
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Stripped Down Blues
The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

The Disciples
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Funky Navigation
Heroes, Worcester

Worcester Record & CD Fair
St. Andrews Methodist Church, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Sunday 28 February 2016

Shot In The Dark All Dayer - No Second Chance, Pay No Respect, Tempers Fray, Murder Circuit
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Stuart Bishop
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Disco Mick
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Fired Up
Lichfield Vaults, Hereford

Mercury 2016
Cheltenham Town Hall

The James Brothers
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

The Delray Rockets - Rockabilly Sunday
The Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

Marc Drew
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Flowers Brass Band
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Will Killeen
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

Monday 29 February 2016

Creeper, Grader, Dearist
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Listings in conjunction with:

Get listed at
notjustsauc.com
or slapmag.co.uk/lintings



Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

Every Monday - Folk Session

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Every Monday - Open Mic

Royal Oak, Ledbury

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon Open Mic

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

First Tues - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel

The Millers Arms, Pershore

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, Lulsley

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

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 Queens Head, Redditch

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session

The Plough & Harrow, Guarlford

First Wed - Open Mic

The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marr's Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

1st Thurs - Folk Session

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath, HR8

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

Arts & Exhibitions

2nd Bedwyr Williams artist lecture Worcester University 5pm

3rd-28th Coming Out Stories, Artrix Bromsgrove

4th Life Drawing Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster

Until 5th We Strike Tonight, Liskbot, Millennium Point Birmingham

5th Learned Friends, The Hive Worcester 7.30pm

5th Confab Cabaret-the Auction, West Malvern Social Club 8.30pm

6th Vamos Theatre 'The Best Thing' Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 7th Artist Workhouse, The Royal Victoria Works, Studley

7th Dancefest guest workshop working with people with learning difficulties, Angle Centre, Worcester 10am

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

Catskill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night

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

Third Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See malvernstorytellers.co.uk

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, Himbleton, 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

Is your regular night listed? if not email: editorial@slapmag.co.uk

12th Feb-15th May Jakki Carey, New Art West Midlands,

Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

13th Feb - 25th June This Green Earth, Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

13th Feb - 10th April Amber Whittaker, New Art West Midlands, MAC

16th feb until 23rd March The Royal Photographic Society

International Print Exhibition, The Hive Worcester

23rd Exhibition on screen 'Renoir the unknown artist' Pershore No8, 7pm.

26th Motionhouse, Captive and Underground, Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 10th April Grayson Perry Vanity of Small Differences,

Victoria Art Gallery Bath

THE MARR'S BAR

FEB
MAR 2016



Vinny Peculiar
Saturday 5th March

Friday 5th February

Bryan Adams Experience
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 6th February

Raven Eye, Reigning Days
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Sunday 7th February

Gaz Brookfield, Nick Parker
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 12th February

The Task In Hand & Surprise Attacks
Presents Soeur, Vault Of Eagles, The
Correct Arc, The Cape Of Good Hope
£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Saturday 13th February

The Lol Goodman Band
£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Friday 19th February

Mused (Muse Tribute)
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 20th February

Subhuman Race (Skid Row Tribute)
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Sunday 21st February

Paul Liddell
£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Friday 26th February

Atomic Blondie
£10 a ticket £12 on the door

Saturday 27th, February

Screaming Dead, Self Abuse, Borrowed Time
£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Sunday 28th February

Shot In The Dark Promotions All-Dayer
No Second Chance, Pay No Respect,
Tempers Fray, Murder Circuit
£12 a ticket £10 on the door

Monday 29th, February

FCS: Creeper, Grader, Dearest
£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 4th March

Babal, Metropolis
£4 a ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 5th March

Vinny Peculiar
£6.50 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 12th March

Jasper In The Company Of Others
£tbc

Friday 18th March

Marcus Malone
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 19th March

The Vibrators
£7 a ticket £9 on the door

Sunday 20th March

FCS: Burning Down Alaska, Acres, Casey
£7 a ticket

Friday 25th March

Matt Woosey
£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 26th March

Before The Dawn (Kate Bush Tribute)
£6 a ticket £8 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

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue
Available for private hire