

# SLAP

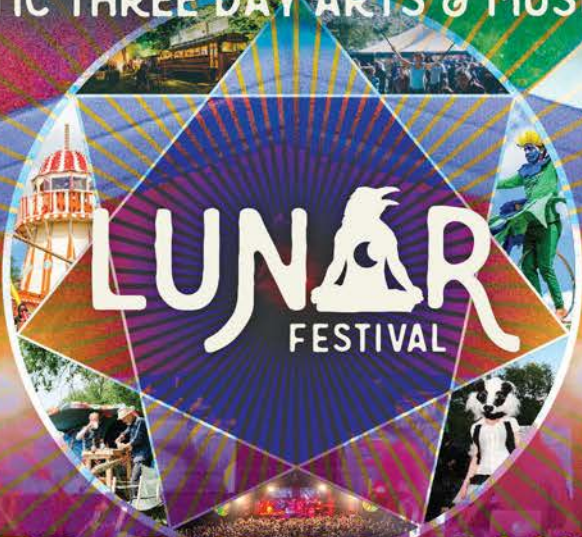
Issue 56

Mar 2016

FREE



**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**



## THE ZOMBIES • BADLY DRAWN BOY

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Unit 3a, Lowesmoor Wharf,  
Worcester WR1 2RS  
Telephone: 01905 26660  
editorial@slapmag.co.uk

For advertising enquiries, please contact:  
adverts@slapmag.co.uk

### EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan - Editor  
Kate Cox - Arts editor  
Stephan Work - Sub Editor  
Glazz & Boris - Proof Readers

### CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare  
Chris Bennion  
Will Munn  
Graham Munn  
Alan Ferguson  
Naomi Preece  
Rosie Hamilton  
Sarah Ganderton  
Justin Hughes  
Pearl Jackson-Payen  
Sophie Austwick  
Fergus Allinson  
Mike Woods  
Ed Ling  
Steve Wilson  
Honer Hoskins  
Geoffrey Head  
Joanna Lucas  
Chris Murphy  
Kate Cox  
Jessica Charles



@slapmagofficial

### Design

Mark Hogan

### Web & Social Media

Ant Robbins

### Front Cover image

And Also The Trees

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As we gingerly edge out of hibernation and march into spring (geddit??), thoughts turn to venturing out as the gigging and events calendars fill out.

We are a small but dedicated team at Slap and do our utmost best to keep you informed of all the 3 counties artistic happenings via news, previews and listings.

However we really do need YOUR help in order not to leave anything out. If you organising, presenting or going to any artistic event which you feel may be newsworthy or at least list-worthy please contact us at editorial@slapmag.co.uk.

Similarly if you feel that your event should be reviewed in Slap we publish what is sent to us by voluntary, enthusiastic contributors to whom we are eternally grateful, so please write or get someone to send us their outpouring again to the above email address.

Please note that contributions do not have to Pulitzer Prize worthy and we are always happy to help and edit.

We are all here - reading, writing, photographing etc for Slap for the same reason - because we are passionate about our local arts scene, which brings me to my next point - one of solidarity.

It really doesn't matter where your political persuasion lies, it is a fact that The Arts as a whole are suffering across the region (and whole country) from swingeing cuts. We are a rightly diverse, dynamic community and all feeling the effects of the denuded funding.

It is therefore, critically and fundamentally important in these dark days for us to join together and assist one another in our multifarious but unified aims: enriching and furthering the creative arts scene.

Waste - ed



BBC  
introducing...



## Ellie Ice Horror

Herefordshire superstar **Ellie Goulding** has spoken about the accident that left her fighting for her life while on vacation in Norway last month - revealing she was told it was safe to drive over an icy lake before the all-terrain vehicle she was travelling in with a group of friends plunged into the water and them being forced to scramble out of the sun roof. The incident was made public by her photographer friend Conor McDonnell, who shared a snap of the semi-submerged van, and Ellie has now recounted the experience during a UK radio interview, calling the accident "scary"...

## Wychavon Musicians Help

Help is at hand for young musicians and performers from **Wychavon Youth Music** - a project aimed at providing support, skills and mentoring to try and help local musicians succeed in the music industry. Since September the project - supported by **Wychavon District Council** has helped nine acts and solo artists develop their quality and performances - including **Tokyo Marching Band**, **Abby Inez**, **Priori** and others from the district - and they'll be hosting a gig at the **Iron Road** in Evesham soon to further promote the work - good news!

## Buffin RIP

Yet more sad news on the rock legends casualty list with the loss of original **Mott The Hoople** drummer **Dale 'Buffin' Griffin** who formed the Herefordshire-based core of the band in the late 60s alongside **Mick Ralphs**, **Pete 'Overend' Watts** and **Verden Allen** - he later worked with John Peel, producing over 2000 sessions between 1981 and 1994 - including acts like Pulp, Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins and OMD...

## Dynamite Wychwood Addition

**Wychwood Festival** has announced **Ms Dynamite** as another headliner for the three-day family-friendly event from June 3-5 - appearing alongside acts like **The Waterboys**, **Kate Rusby**, **Idlewild** and **Peter Hook**.

## Pershore Mello's Out

Another new festival 'coming to town' with the announcement of the **Mello Festival** to be held at **Throckmorton Airfield** near Pershore from May 27-29 with confirmed acts already including **The Levellers**, **N-Trance**, **Lemar**, **Pentangle** and **The Blockheads** - early bird tickets still available from their website...

## Upton Blues Boost

More good news about **Upton Blues Festival** - last month we reported that they'd pledged £40,000 to refurbish the town's tennis courts - but new research by **Malvern Hills District Council** estimates that the festival contributed more than £800,000 to the town's economy - more than 120 acts are expected to feature at this year's event which runs from July 15-17 - and it's still free to attend with every performer paid!!

## Lulu's Golden Gig

She had a hit in 1974 with Bowie's '*Man Who Sold The World*' (among others) and to celebrate 50 years performing the legendary Lulu will be appearing at the **Forum Theatre Malvern** on Friday 22 April...

## Pershore Library Open Mic

A new open mic night aimed at youngsters has been launched at **Pershore Library** on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm - providing an opportunity for budding poets, rappers, singers and songwriters to perform in front of an audience.

There'll also be a masterclass run by local poet/musician **Spoz** at the same venue from 5pm - no booking required!!

## Matt Woo's Malvern

Malvern blues maestro **Matt Woosey** will be including his town home on a tour to promote his eighth studio album when he appears at **West Malvern Social Club** on Saturday 5 March - Matt's promising that the new album called *Desiderata* will reflect changes in his own life such as getting married, having a baby and turning 30 - with a mix of music styles and feelings to 'keep pushing forward'..

## Allo Allo Allo!

More help for young local musicians aged 14-22 with applications invited for the annual £1000 award scheme run by **Hereford Police Male Choir** to young talented individuals looking for a career in music - contact their musical director at

alisonhoulbrooke@btinternet.com

## Derulo Derailed

Another 'after-gig party' disappointment for punters as US R&B artist **Jason Derulo** mistook Worcester for Wolverhampton when he appeared for a grand total of 15 minutes at a packed local nightclub - dancing on the VIP balcony to a J\*\*\*in B\*\*\*ber record - sounds like one hell of a night...

## Mappfest Latest

Taking place on Sat 18th to Sun 19th June this year, the annual fabulous fun feast that is the redoubtable **Andy Mapp's Mappfest** returns for its 7th year.

Held on Malvern Link's Top Common, this year sees the erection of a mahoosive 140 seater tepee meaning they can get a 4th acoustic stage inside! Other improvements to this ever forward-looking fest include a new modular flat roof for the main stage, which will be much better than the previously used tarps and a big, better PA thanks to **Charlie Elcock**.

In addition to the promised 2 special guest stars Mappfest will welcome a flypast on both days from The Battle Of Britain Memorial Flight team: this is subject to Civil Aviation Authority approval.

Thanks to many more donations and sponsorship from various local lovely philanthropic types, this year's Mappfest is bound to prove bigger, better and more beautiful than ever! Watch this space for more info...

## Abby Euro Hope

At the time of going to press, country/pop duo Darline - featuring **Cara Beth Beard** and Droitwich's **Abby Inez** - are the bookies' favourite to represent the UK at this year's Eurovision Song Contest in Stockholm, Sweden - their catchy up-beat number *Until Tomorrow* also appears to be the music pundits' favourite with some of the other entries being described as 'dross' and 'what you'd expect from someone who was in a Greek Beatles tribute act' - some stiff competition then...



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## THE HAND IN GLOVE

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Clik Clik is excited to announce the first leg line-up for its interactive venue 'Cabinet of Lost Secrets' at Nozstock – the Hidden Valley in July. Expect the unexpected in the weird underground lair, bringing you the best funky beats alongside cutting edge performances and pop up freak-shows! With artists including highly respected funk and soul re-mixer and **DJ Sam Redmore**, **Cantalloop**, **Steve Strong**, **Desert Boots**, **Collective Unconscious** and more, check out the full Cabinet line up, (as well as the brilliant main line up) on the Nozstock website. Get your tickets!!

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



## Got to Be Gaudi

Following a recent trip to Barcelona, **Dancefest** choreographer **Marie Oldaker** draws inspiration from the incredible Modernista architecture of **Antonio Gaudi** to inform this practical and creative workshop.

**Dancefest Creatives** is for anyone interested in contemporary dance, theatre, art and music, exploring how choreographers take inspiration from the everyday things around them. Suitable for both experienced dancers and for people who have never danced before, a sense of adventure and imagination is encouraged! Ages 18+. £15/£12 concessions. To book 01905 611199.

The Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN

**Sunday 13 March 10am-1pm**

[dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk)



## Garage Open Lecture Series

An enlightening series of talks by contemporary artists at University of Worcester's **Garage Studios**, in partnership with **Meadow Arts**, continues this month following entertaining lectures by acclaimed artists **Bedwyr Williams**, **Simon & Tom Bloor** and **Alice Channer**.

The next artists will be **The Boat Studio** on **8th** who have renovated a working narrow boat that hosts arts residencies, exhibitions, performances and events, travelling by canal to different communities. **Keith Wilson** follows on **15th**; his sculpture *Roma*, commissioned by **Meadow Arts**, can currently be seen at **Worcester Woods Country**.



**March 8th & 15th** at 5pm in lecture room **TG008** at the University's **Garage Studios**, Worcester.

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

For more information visit: [uwgaragestudios.tumblr.com](http://uwgaragestudios.tumblr.com) or [www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org)

## Fools Ball VII

If you long for something unique from your night out then you won't want to miss the **Fools Ball VII**, a day of live music and performance art produced by **Collective Unconscious** on **Sat April 30th** in Malvern.

For more info: [www.facebook.com/collectiveunconsciousuk](http://www.facebook.com/collectiveunconsciousuk)

Photography: Toni Charles



## Glitter Playground

A collaboration between four Worcester based artists has been selected to receive funding from both 'Kidderminster Creatives' and the Wyre Forest District Council initiative 'Xpressions Fund'. The **Glitter Playground** (Remember me this way) will be an installation at this summer's **KAF**, between **Collective Unconscious**, **Clik Clik**, **Spare Room Arts** and **Capas**.



## Worcester open studios weekend

Artists, photographers, crafts people, art groups and galleries across the county are being invited to take part in the **2016 Worcestershire Open Studios**.



The event takes place from **26th to 29th August** and is set to build on the success of last year's inaugural open studios weekend, which saw the work of over 70 artists on show at 27

locations across Worcestershire. These comprised a mix of artists' studios and homes, shared spaces and several established galleries. Artist and event organiser, **Sally Morgan**, said "Open studios are a great way for artists to raise their profile, sell their work and build a following. They don't even need to have a studio. For local residents and visitors, they are a fantastic chance to sample a wide range of local art work for free." For more info and to register go to [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk).

# Arts Quarter update

Amended plans were confirmed this week for the new (and long anticipated) **"Arts Quarter"** at the **Worcester Porcelain Works** site. Hopes for what could have been a potential contemporary opportunity for our city's diverse arts scene have been scuppered, with the go-ahead for another venue for an already well-represented mainstream market.

As quoted on the BBC in November 2012, the Arts Quarter was planned to be an opportunity for Worcester to *"match the cultural cities of Europe with a thriving cosmopolitan centre for the arts"*. The new (heavily diluted) plans will see some of the original earmarked buildings being demolished to create housing.

In the planning committee report submitted to the hearing last week, it stated: **"Arts in Worcester needs such a venue"**

The 'actual' arts scene of Worcestershire is vastly dynamic and varied with a huge amount of musicians, performers, visual artists, writers and all forms of creativity, striving to make Worcester a more cultural place.



We do indeed need a venue, but we need something new that supports our city's artists, when there is a desperate need for studio resources and in these times of greatly reduced arts funding.

Despite the likes of the **Worcester Arts Partnership**, **Worcester Arts Workshop** and Worcester Live doing a great job to promote and support our rich cultural scene, we still end up losing many of our artists to more vibrant cities such as Bristol and with plans like this at the Porcelain Works going ahead, it's easy to see why!

## Hereford College Of Arts Music Week

The first week in March sees the ever innovative **Hereford College of Arts** hosting an excellent and comprehensive programme of events designed to offer a range of opportunities to help shape your musical careers.

Basically **HCA** are running a fantastic week of workshops, talks and performances from industry professionals, who will be sharing their expertise with students and guests.

Full details can be found on the sites detailed below but among the highlights of the week are undoubtedly **Kasabian** drummer **Ian Matthews**, musician **Charlie Dore**, **Simon Goulding Music** and many dignitaries ranging from academics to industry insiders.

This worthy event by their own admittance came together very quickly, hence the short notice in Slap, but the organisers are hoping to make this an annual event.

# Artrix summer show | call for artists

Local artists and photographers are being invited to submit work for an annual exhibition to be held in Bromsgrove this summer. Submissions, which should be in a contemporary style, will be considered for the **Summer Exhibition** at **Artrix** taking place between **11th July –15th August**. In its third year, the Summer Exhibition, saw over 100 submissions last year and exhibited over 40 artists' work; with a team of young people from local schools and colleges curating it for 2016.

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



To have your work considered, please email a photo of your work/s along with the entry form (available from Artrix) to the address below. (Please note that no submission will be considered without the signed entry form). Three dimensional work and crafts will be considered according to the limitations of display space at the venue.

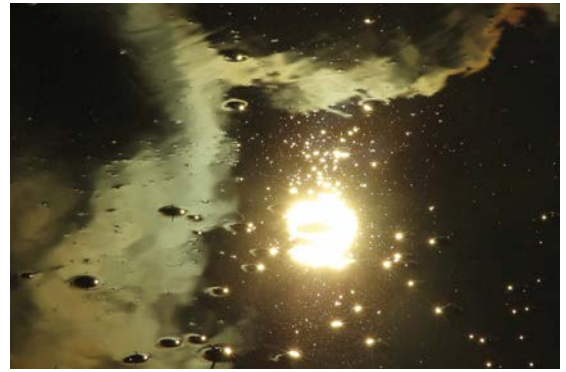
Final decisions will be made by Friday 6th May. For more details and for an entry form please email: **TC Peppercorn** at [outreach@artrix.co.uk](mailto:outreach@artrix.co.uk) [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



Taking place from **Tues 1st to Fri 4th March**, head on over to: [www.hca.ac.uk/About/Events/February-2016/HCA-Music-Week](http://www.hca.ac.uk/About/Events/February-2016/HCA-Music-Week) or [www.facebook.com/events/1057428844277261/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1057428844277261/) for ticket and all other information.

## Jaime Jackson

**"On the front line of all the cutbacks made in the arts, I am more determined than ever to make political art and to find more effective ways of doing it. Artists shouldn't be silenced. This is a more important time than ever to create art and to challenge what we are told."**



**Video Art and Super 8 Film Festival** in Brussels. Transmission hosted the international festival of plagiarism in 1990 with **Malcolm MacLaren**. This was a time for political, issue driven artists, and there was a professional and dedicated atmosphere there. I moved back to Brighton in 1991 and set up **Eye Level** (later **Phoenix**) with eleven other artists, and took the arts management course at Sussex University. This has led to the development of

my own projects, not only creatively, but also in terms of funding and partnerships. I am currently in an artist partnership called **Salt Road** with **Sally Payen**, through which we commission artists to do work on the environment and social history. I am predominately a moving image and digital artist, but beyond this, a relational one, for I work with communities often.

My work relates to nature and natural heritage archives, how they can throw light on current ecological issues and challenges. I work on relational (community engaged) practice on human social structures about the community, individual and organisations. A recent **ACE Libraries** funded project revolved around the Watkins archive of bee keeping publications and Victorian/early 20thC photographs at Hereford library.

I am inspired by people who try to change mindsets with their work, particularly in regard to climate change. I am currently working with an environmental organisation called **New Leaf** to create artworks on this. As well as creating work in response to environmental issues, I am motivated by biodiversity and cultural diversity, societies, and, overall, the human relationship to nature.

As a moving image artist, my works are moving paintings, loops, with no linear narrative or story. I want to encourage people to think differently about film. I am also interested in projecting video art onto buildings, for moving image can move beyond screen and into the real life, and this transition, I feel, is integral.

Recent times see me working in collaboration through artist networks; I am working on a project called **Treelines**, which examines biodiversity and biomimicry, climate change adaption, natural heritage and climate research imagery. I am also working with **Sally Payen**, on the community engagement aspect of the project in response to **Greenham Common**, the women's peace camp.

**Treelines** is due to show at the **Hay Literary Festival** in May and **Green Man Festival** in August.

[jaimejackson.org](http://jaimejackson.org) and [saltroad.org.uk](http://saltroad.org.uk)

*By Pearl Jackson-Payen*

I began my practice in Banbury by studying a Foundation, followed by the Fine Art Painting degree at Coventry where I did



my thesis on Artist's Initiatives. I was particularly interested in the creative spaces born out of post-industrial warehouses in 1980s Birmingham. After my degree, I moved to Brighton and was based in two seafront studios, but soon migrated north to Glasgow in 1989, just in time for 1990, the 'Year of Culture'. I wanted to be in a gritty and issue based city, so got a flat in the East End, and worked as an artist volunteer for **Transmission Gallery**. This was a very exciting time – I took part in several events, including a



## 'Platform' has arrived at Pershore Library

Open mic nights for 12 – 19 year olds are being held in **Pershore Library** on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Budding poets, rappers, aspiring singers and songwriters are all invited to come along to the new Platform open mic nights set up specifically for young people keen to perform and experiment in front of an audience.

Each month performers will respond to a theme connecting with **National Trust Croome** through their poetry, lyrics and music. And new talent will share centre stage with established and up and coming Midlands based poets and performers.

There's also the opportunity to join a free master class with **Spoz**, top poet and musician, on the same day at 5pm in the library.

No booking is needed. Anyone wanting to take part can turn up on the night and sign up to one of the open mic slots, and it's completely free! Not everyone has to perform to take part. All ages are welcome to support.

**Councillor Lucy Hodgson**, cabinet member for localism and communities said: *"It's great to be working in partnership with National Trust Croome on another really valuable project. Platform open mic nights are a great opportunity for enthusiastic young people to not only showcase their talent but also to be inspired by other experienced and up and coming artists. I am sure everyone involved will have a lot of fun!"*

**Rachel Sharpe**, Local Partnerships Officer National Trust Croome said: *"Platform is a wonderful way to share Croome with a new audience. As a National Trust inspired project, funded by Trust New Art, we will be inviting performers to learn about areas of our work and history to create poems, stories and music*

*inspired by Croome. This is a unique way to share our work and find out what interests people in our stories. Working with young artists is central to our work here at Croome being the site of Capability Brown and Robert Adams first commission, it feels fitting that we are working with young poets, musicians and storytellers to continue this tradition".*

Launch night, on 2nd February, featured **Chloe Clarke**, Worcestershire's 2015 Young Poet Laureate alongside Birmingham based poet **Polarbear**. On Tuesday 1 March **Jasmine Gardosi** joins our new Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate, **Ellie Courtman**, and on 5th April **Leon Priestnall** and **Lauren Williams** are booked to perform.

Platform is a new project organised by **Worcestershire County Council's Libraries, Learning and Arts Service** in partnership with **National Trust Croome**. **Nigel Clark** from **Dodgy** is the patron. The project is supported by **Arts Council England** through **Trust New Art**, the National Trust's contemporary arts programme.

Contact **Natalie McVey** [nmcvey@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:nmcvey@worcestershire.gov.uk) for more information.



Taken on launch night shows, from left to right; Polarbear, Rachel Sharpe, Natalie McVey, Chloe Clarke, Spoz and Emma Powell)

## EDWARD LEAR: Travels and Nonsense Exhibition at Ashmolean Museum Broadway 13 Feb 2016 - 8 May 2016

The **Ashmolean Museum Broadway** plays host to an exhibition focusing on the extensive travels of **Edward Lear** (1812-1888). Many people will know of Lear as the writer of *'the Owl and the Pussy Cat'* and nonsense rhymes; but he was also one of the most versatile and prolific artists of the nineteenth century.



Indeed, his restless travelling and enormous productivity served in part to compensate for his depression.

Lear left England for the sake of his health in 1837, then after ten years in Rome, he travelled for more than twenty years around the eastern Mediterranean, Italy, Greece and the Near East. He also finally fulfilled his ambition to

explore the Holy Land, and made a lengthy tour of India in 1873-4; he always recorded the landscape in his sketches.

The **Ashmolean Museum** is the home of the largest and most comprehensive collection of Lear's work in the UK, and many of these works have rarely been on public display. From extraordinary sketches of landscapes and nature, to the nonsense drawings and verses for which Lear is so well known, the exhibition presents over 20 framed works alongside letters, manuscripts and books. Visitors to Ashmolean Museum Broadway, who are UK tax payers, can now make a one-off donation of £5 on entry to then gain free entrance to the museum for 12 months. For more information please contact Louise Carson on 01386 859047 or [housemanager@ashmoleanbroadway.org](mailto:housemanager@ashmoleanbroadway.org)

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



He began his career as a supremely gifted illustrator of natural history, from 1837 he travelled more extensively than any other artist, recording the landscape in a vast series of sketches which he worked into finished paintings in his studio. This ran alongside his enormous popularity as the author of nonsense verses and stories. Yet behind this indefatigable activity, Lear was often deeply unhappy, suffering from epilepsy, insecurity, and loneliness.



# worcester arts workshop



March is here already and with the days getting slightly longer and the evenings gradually lighter, hopefully it will start to warm up a bit! But let's not talk about the weather, let's talk about what we have coming up at the Worcester Arts Workshop this month!

**Shindig** return this March, bringing *"This Land"* presented by **Pentabus Theatre Company** and **Salisbury Playhouse**. This is an adventurous and thought provoking piece of theatre that asks the question: *"Fracking. How far down do you own the land beneath your feet?"* For young couple Bea and Joseph this is a story of fracture: of fractured hearts, lives and lands. This Land digs down through the history (and future) of a patch of earth and everything that has and will happen there. Be taken on a theatrical journey exploring the impact of climate change solutions on rural areas and an ever-changing landscape. Coming to the Workshop on **Sat 19th March at 7:30pm**, for more information or to book tickets visit: [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk/event/this-land](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk/event/this-land)

**Splendid Cinema** continues this month with two more films you won't see anywhere else. On **Sunday 6th March** we have 5 STAR (Guardian) *"The Look of Silence"* (Oppenheimer, 2014, Cert.



15) a stunning companion piece to that extraordinary 2012 documentary *"The Act of Killing"* and follows the surviving family of the Indonesian genocide as they confront the men who murdered one of their brothers. Oppenheimer is one of the most significant documentary filmmakers of today – this film is not to be missed! *"The New Girlfriend"* (Ozon, 2014, Cert. 15) is showing on **Sunday 20th March**. This new film by **Splendid Cinema** favourite, **Ozon**, follows a young woman as she makes a surprising discovery about the husband of her late best friend. Films start at 6pm and tickets cost just £5. We'd love to discuss the film with all you film buffs and hear your opinions so we invite you to have a drink at the bar with us afterwards!



Our new series of **Saturday Special workshops** will continue on **12th March 10:30am-4pm**. We are welcoming the Imagineers Productions who will be running a workshop on **Carnival**. **Kathi Leahy** and **Jane Hytch** will discuss their work over the past 20 years and talk about their trips to Trinidad and how this has influences projects like the award-winning *Godiva Awakes*. You will design and make carnival headdresses together and look at how extreme carnival and 'wearable' costumes are made. The cost of this workshop is £15 which includes material costs. For more information please visit:

[worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk/courses-workshops/saturday-specials](http://worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk/courses-workshops/saturday-specials)

The Workshop is hosting a **Jump Start** event on **Sat 5th March** at 7-10pm. Jump Start is an initiative led by **Worcestershire Arts Partnership** which provides local theatre-makers with a performance platform for new work. Previously unperformed, this event presents five short performances created by local writers looking for feedback to develop their productions. This is the fourth Jump Start event and provides local writers, practitioners, performer, designers and directors with the opportunity to showcase a diverse range of material. We are very excited to be bringing this successful project to the Workshop. For details and booking for this FREE event please contact Steve Wilson: [swilson@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:swilson@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Our friends at **Vamos Theatre** are hosting a FREE artist networking event, *'A Meeting of Creative Minds'* on **Friday 4th March**, 10am-4pm (arrivals from 9:30am). This is an open space event for arts professionals in the West Midlands to get together and explore ways of working together to develop more exciting projects. To book your free place go to: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e-a-meeting-of-creative-minds-tickets-19441177084](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e-a-meeting-of-creative-minds-tickets-19441177084).

Our fantastic courses are continuing throughout March. Our **Creative Arts** course with **Anthony Blakemore** is ever popular. Through this course you will explore your creative potential through a series of art workshops including drawing, colour and painting. We welcome all abilities and this course is now on a Monday evening. Our Saturday morning classes for children and young people also continue throughout March, so if you know a little someone with a passion for arts and crafts send them in our direction! For more information on all of our courses please visit: <http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk/courses-workshops/>.

Finally, a sign that Spring is nearly here.. we welcome the return of **Lazy Sundays at Café Bliss** on the second Sunday in **April 12-6pm**. Come and join us for a relaxed afternoon of live music, food and drinks in our sunny courtyard (or cozy café – weather depending).

The WAW has its first exhibition of 2016. *'The Wall'* newly named in the freshly decorated exhibition space of **Café Bliss**.

**After Hour Authors** presents a collaborative **Illustrative Arts Exhibition** together with **Marsha Perkins** and **Keira Brady**. Join **Cujo Cussler & Co** on the **12th March** from 7pm to 9pm for an open night of art, music and good company.

We are looking forward to another exciting jam-packed month here at the Workshop and we hope to see your smiley faces at one, if not all of our events! For more information on our events and courses please call us on 01905 25053 or visit our website: [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk).





# WAP News

As some of you know The Worcestershire Arts Partnership has been busy with a wide range of events and we are now planning not just for the next few months but also for the next three years. In other words it is strategy time.

I know that for some of you the word 'strategy' doesn't exactly set the heart racing and this is why we want our next one to be about how the arts will change the lives of people and communities. Think about yourself and ask a question, 'What piece of art has changed my life?' It could be a song, going to a gig, maybe a film or going to the theatre.

I can think of hearing the Rolling Stones 'Satisfaction' as a kid and realising the excitement and power of a 3 minute song. I remember seeing Hitchcock's 'Psycho' as a 12 year old and realising that a man could dig his dead mother up, dress the corpse and then murder in her name! Of course these were passive activities so we will be focussing on participation projects, possibly health and well-being ones or possibly with kids who find traditional learning difficult. It could also be about people who volunteer in the arts or maybe activities in your local pub. We are calling this strategy '1000 days' which is roughly the length of the strategy and we want to hear your views on what we think the priorities should be.

## **Our draft document has five priorities. These are:**

### **Priority One**

To build a stronger, confident and more resilient arts sector that is able to deliver a thriving and sustainable high quality arts offer for Worcestershire

### **Priority Two**

To build relationships with organisations promoting economic growth and develop ways in which the arts can contribute to Worcestershire being a vibrant and appealing place to live, work and visit.

### **Priority Three**

To broaden opportunities for as many young people as possible to access high quality arts and to enable young people to play a lead role in shaping the arts in Worcestershire, contributing to improving the lives of children, young people and families.

### **Priority Four**

To develop opportunities for the arts to be a player in enabling the health outcomes of individuals to be met, contributing to providing life-affirming health and wellbeing choices for all.

### **WAP NEWS**

To raise the profile of the arts across the County, championing what the arts can offer We would love your views on these and whether you think these are the right ones and whether you feel you can suggest others. They are obviously very broad and a full version on the strategy and the accompanying action plan can be found alongside an on-line survey on our arts pages. [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/arts)

I want to get as many views as possible. It is an important document.

Many thanks for this, as ever if you have any questions regarding this please feel free to contact me on:

[artsenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:artsenquiries@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Steve Wilson

# TALK TO US

If things are getting to you

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



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Worcester WR1 1UA

## SAMARITANS

\*Local call charges apply. A registered charity.

## The Best Thing – Vamos: A new mask theatre performance

John Moore Theatre, Worcester | Friday 6th February

**Vamos Theatre** is a Worcestershire-based full mask theatre company which tours nationally and internationally, taking a unique style of innovative and engaging theatre to small and large communities. Vamos is currently engaged in a 70-date tour with its latest story concerning the life of a family from the 1960s who, like many at the time, put children of unmarried mothers up for adoption.



The players performed the 'Best Thing' locally at the **John Moore Theatre** in Worcester to a full audience which was rapt by the story of Susan, Lisa, Bill and Dennis. Their lives unfold without words but with an evocative soundtrack of 60s pop music and



opera. The emotional impact of their relationships is fully conveyed, deeply and touchingly, by the movement and gesture of the actors.

The pathos of the piece is in no way diminished by very funny sequences which hark back to the positive, but contrasting social mores of the time which, for young people is often deemed to be a period when, perhaps for the first time, they were able to feel free to express their desires and aspirations both in the present and for the future.

This darker theme of lives affected adversely by the so-called permissive society of 50 years ago is a story which needs to be told and Vamos approaches it with subtlety and warmth.

For details of the tour venues go to:

[www.vamostheatre.co.uk/shows/the-best-thing](http://www.vamostheatre.co.uk/shows/the-best-thing)

Words by Justin Hughes

Photography by Graeme Braidwood

## Worcester Music Festival Set to Support **acorns**

Acorns is a charity organisation devoted to improving the lives of children with life limiting or life threatening conditions. The **Acorns Children's Hospice** – which has opened hospices in Birmingham (Selly Oak), the Black Country (Walsall), and Three Counties (Worcester) – strives to help both children and their families, providing everything from nursing care to general support.



The charity, which was established in 1983, to date has helped over 2,470 children and their families, including those who are faced with bereavement. This organisation works tirelessly throughout the year to help babies, children, and young people up to the age of 18, offering day care and emergencies breaks, with the hope that they may soon be able to branch out into the area of music therapy in their Worcester Hospice.

The team at **Worcester Music Festival** are therefore pleased to announce they will be working alongside **Acorns** this year, with the money raised by the festival going towards Acorns' music therapy scheme.

**Mandie Fitzgerald**, the Community Fundraising Manager for **Acorns' Three Counties' hospice**, was contacted for a comment on this decision. She stated:

*Worcester Music Festival, which was originally launched in 2008, has raised a staggering amount of money for charity since its inception. With original and live music displayed throughout the city, hosted over a total of 30 venues, for absolutely no cost at all, the festival team is now once again working towards putting on a memorable display for the city to enjoy and for local charities to benefit from also.*

When discussing the chosen charity for this year's festival, Director **Nikki Boraston** commented: *'We are delighted to support Acorns Children's Hospice as the chosen charity for Worcester Music Festival 2016. The festival organisers are very aware of the integral work that Acorns do to support children and their families. We are firm believers in the use of music therapy as a way to facilitate positive changes in emotional well being and hope that our fundraising will enable Acorns to increase the use of music therapists in their work.'*

For all press releases and media assets, visit:

[www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/press](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/press)

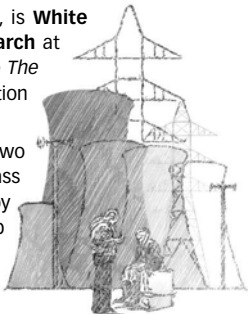
# WEEKEND CUBE

We're marching forward into Spring here at **Malvern Cube**, the centre is busy as ever! February saw the launch of the **Cube Comedy Club** and the new **Cube Cafe**, March brings a merry dance of music to our door which will

have you nostalgic for 90's summers and dancing your socks off!

Kicking off this month, as usual, is **White Wall Film Club** on **Friday 4th March** at 7.30pm. This month's film will be *The Selfish Giant*, a modern-day adaptation of the Oscar Wilde story.

A contemporary fable about two scrappy 13-year-old working-class friends in the UK who seek fortune by getting involved with a local scrap dealer and criminal, leading to tragic consequences. (IMDB 7.3/10 Rotten Tomatoes 92%)



**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!

Warming you up ready for summer we have **Nigel Clark** singer/songwriter/frontman from the hit 90's band **Dodgy**, on **Saturday 5th March**. Nigel continues to enjoy a successful career

as lead-singer of the band Dodgy, with six Top 20 hits under their belts. Big slices of Britpop guaranteed to take you back to your happy place in the nineties! Known for his intimate rapport with audiences; enjoy an inspiring evening of acoustic treats with hits such as 'Good Enough' and 'Staying Out For The Summer'.



Supporting Nigel will be **The Standard Lamps** who have recently played alongside The Who on their Who Hits 50 arena tour in 2014. They then appeared alongside The Who, Paul Weller, Johnny Marr and The Kaiser Chiefs at Hyde Park in June 2015, most recently (September 2015) they have supported The Bluetones on their 20th anniversary tour. Mojo Magazine acclaimed The Standard Lamps as "Tight and bluesy", adding that they, "At times look and sound uncannily like The Who of 40 years ago". Doors and bar open at 7pm, tickets £10 adv £13 on the door (cash).



**Sheelanagig** are back! This time bringing us the brand NEW album "Beard Town". Join us on **Saturday 12th March** from 8pm to see a band who have become something of a West Country institution for the past decade. A quintet with a well-stocked armoury of stringed instruments – banjo, fiddle, double bass etc – and a bagful of joint-jumping tunes, these boys sure know how to get a party started. Putting both stomp and skank into gypsy-flavoured tunes from the Balkans and beyond, it's difficult – nay, impossible – for your limbs to remain stationary when you're within earshot of them in full flight. Five showmen with a touch of the circus about them, the fact that they've often played with a knowing wink shouldn't obscure their impeccable technique, virtuoso-standard ability that raises the roof in everywhere they play! Tickets £12.50 adv £15 on the door.

**Friday 18th & Saturday 19th March** we have *Citizenship* by **Mark Ravenhill** performed by **Perfect Circle Theatre**. Tom dreams of being kissed, but he's not sure whether by a man or by a woman, and he feels he should choose pretty quickly. His friends' homophobic teasing and interrogations about what he did with his friend Amy the other night leave Tom no space to make up his mind, and he's got no one to ask for advice, except maybe people on the internet. Tickets on the door £5, £3 under 18s, show starts at 7pm.



Fantastic events continue in April with film showing *The Cold* in July, **Cube Comedy Club** featuring Australian paper-puppetry from **Bec Hill**, wordsmith and science nerd **Jack Heal**, off-kilter motor mouth mirth from **Lou Conran**, very charming and funny comedy newbie **Jeremy Flynn** and fun gag filled hilarity from one of the loveliest people in the comedy business **Tiernan Douieb**, **Theatre** showing work in Progress 'Think of England' and music from **Ric Sanders Trio**.

As always tickets for all our events are available from [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com) and Malvern Tourist Information Centre.

# PREVIEW

## Marvellous March At The Courtyard Hereford

It is both exhilarating and exhausting just writing about the first of the Slap Picks from this month's Courtyard programme, as the world famous **Moscow State Circus** extravaganza comes rolling into town.

On **Wednesday 9th March** you can witness this stupendous show which features - takes deep breath - wire walking, rollerskating, juggling, back flipping, flying, aerial acrobats and contortionists in floating globes! This is in addition to classic clown tomfoolery and much more.



The Circus encapsulate all this in a story of a girl called Zhenya who is given a seven petalled & coloured flower and told to pull off a petal every time she makes a wish. Based on a folkloric Russian tale, Wizard Wako and his crazy sidekick Natalia will invite the audience into a wondrous and mysterious garden where all the aforementioned magnificent feats take place, the like of which have never been seen in Britain before.

Another world class performer of a totally different but nonetheless amazing in his own field, treads the Courtyard boards on **Thursday 17th March: Richard Durrant** describes himself as "The UK's only stand-up, barefoot, un-classical guitarist".

Intrigued? We certainly are Richard makes a welcome return to Hereford for his latest show *'The Guitar Whisperer'*, which will include (highly) original material in addition to breathtaking versions of works by JS Bach, Debussy, Django Reinhardt and even Mike Oldfield.



Eclectic indeed and Richard's maverick approach sees him utilise animated films, projected artwork and his own very special connection with the audience. A performer combining natural virtuosity, passion and breadth, this is certainly not a show to be missed.

Our 3rd Slap Selection again shows the marvellous mix of events at The Courtyard as they welcome another returning act, that of one of the UK's finest period instrument orchestras, **The Hanover Band**.

Undoubtedly a first rate evening of classical music will be directed by distinguished harpsichordist and conductor Andrew Arthur and will include music by Handel, JS and CPE Bach and CF Abel. The orchestra numbers many specialist musicians whose aim is to enable audiences to gain a better feeling for how Early Music sounded originally in 'favourable circumstances'. This is a magical musical evening in prospect and takes place on **Sunday 20th March**.



As always, for ticket and much more information on all these and other events, please see [www.courtyard.org.uk](http://www.courtyard.org.uk) or contact the Box Office on 01432 340555

## Bourbon Alley & Ray Mitten Band Charity Gig For Cancer Marrs Bar, Worcester Friday 1st April



**Charlie Lyons**, the **Bourbon Alley Band** drummer was diagnosed with throat cancer over a year ago and although lucky to be diagnosed early and successfully treated, Charlie still suffers from the residual effects of the treatment and will be monitored for at least the next five years.

All this made Charlie fully aware of the trials and traumas many go through with the disease and he was energised to arrange this gig in order to raise funds for this very worthy cause.



**Bourbon Alley Band** has been together in some form for over seven years and in that time have gradually built up the percentage of original material so much that these days their sets comprise mainly of their own compositions. Although traditional in line-up with bass, drums and guitar, their music spans the genres encompassing rock, jazz, funk and more. Self sufficient with their own sound and lighting people, **Bourbon Alley Band** are very much the total quality package. Support on the night comes from **The Ray Mitten Band** and the acts of course would warmly welcome your support also.

Tickets are available from **Music City**, **Rise Records** Via Band Facebook or contact through website, band members or the marks bar Digital ticket link

**14 SLAP MARCH**

# Steve Brookes

**The Old Bush, Callow End | Sunday 24th January**

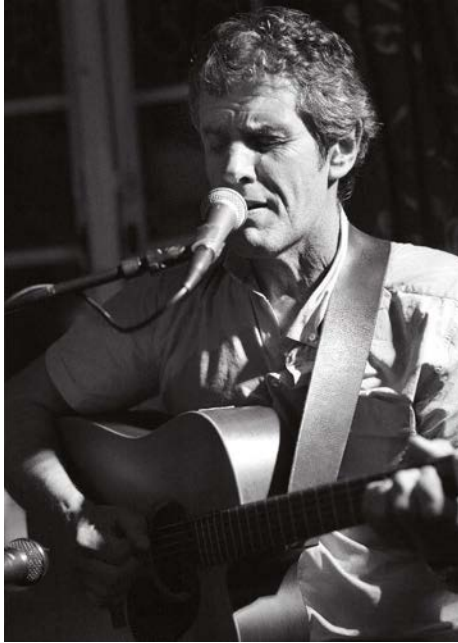
**Steve Brookes**, a founder member of **The Jam** with Paul Weller, made the long journey up to **The Old Bush** for a Sunday evening acoustic session. The bar was full with expectant listeners, many of whom would have been teenagers back in the early '70's and the mod/punk era that spawned The Jam. Steve, looking as clean cut as those early images, settled in with *'Mack The Knife'*, before moving through a selection of 'golden oldies'; a mix of songs cherry picked from throughout the last 50 years of popular music. The mix came from diverse sources including Bob Marley, Otis Reading, Tom Waits and John Martyn, plus notably a few from Loving Spoonful's John Sebastian. Not a day for a daydream, Bill Withers came looking for someone to lean on. Another of Steve's inspiration is Ray Charles and he took us back in time with *'I Got A Woman'*, picking up the tempo and the spirit of this great song. A short

break was reached with *'Work Song'* which started life as a Nat Adderley jazz instrumental, later given soulful lyrics by Oscar Brown and performed here with real passion by Steve.

Now you may be starting to think that this is just a session, filled with some great songs drawn from the past and a pleasant way to spend an early evening, but needing an identity. Steve soon turned though to his own work with some selections lifted from his most recent album *'Vintage Troubadour'*, but not before an excellent touch of Sonny Boy Williamson to ease us back in after the break, leading to a bit of country blues with *'Fast Women And Slow Horses'*. Then the original material kicked in firstly with the simple love song *'Pine Just For You'* followed by the blues tinged *'Vintage Troubadour'*, deserving its title track accolade and the wistful *'Moments Washed Away'*.

Back then to the musical raffle; more Bob Marley, a midnight mix of JJ Cale and The Allman Brothers plus some Ike & Tina. The busy bar crowd at **The Old Bush** was undoubtedly enjoying the music, delivered in easy style by such a sterling musician as **Steve Brookes**. He had certainly covered a wide range of music plus proved his own pedigree with his self penned songs. It was however time to wind up for the long journey home and Robert Parker Jr had the last word as we left *'Barefootin'*.

Graham Munn





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## Bitterroots, Granny's Attic & Quorum St. George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 5th February

It's not long since **St. George's Hall** in Bewdley had a large sum spent on refurbishing the building. A reasonable chunk of this money has been used to fit a good house PA, install decent stage lighting and ensure that the acoustics are good. This "build it and they will come" philosophy has paid dividends as the organisers have embarked on an ambitious programme of bringing quality acts to The Hall. The good people of Bewdley (and beyond) are supporting this venture and turning up to events not always knowing what they're going to see but confident that they're unlikely to be disappointed.

But this isn't a review of The Hall! The first event of the new season brought together three bands for an evening of folk and roots music - and a full house had a great night out. The first act was **Quorum**, four young girls from Bewdley School who were making their debut. After a slightly hesitant start, their first number was rewarded by long and loud applause that left them looking delighted. During their short set they just blossomed and it was over sooner than the audience and the group would have wanted. The organisers at The Hall have a commitment to showcasing young talent and they keep coming up trumps.



Those in the know were aware that **Granny's Attic** have a growing reputation that has been enhanced by a nomination for a BBC Young Folk Musician award. Those not in the know were gathered around the bar chatting as their set began, but within 32 bars of the first number all attention was focused on the band. This frankly brilliant band presented us with a great mix of traditional and original music, including ballads and airs (including a fair smattering of murders and ghosts) plus some rollicking tunes. They interact with each other in a great way and engaged the audience with some amusing banter. They left many of us thinking that Granny's Attic could go a long way and you know what, many of us would like to go with them.



**Bitterroots** didn't need much introduction as they were making a return to The Hall after appearing here last year with Poet Laureate **Carol Ann Duffy**. This five-piece band served up a healthy mix of Irish tunes, Americana music and their own material. With two good vocalists and top notch musicians comprising the group, we were treated to a set that included both familiar numbers and songs that will get us exploring online for more of the same. Some of the dance tunes brought people out onto the floor and included an embarrassingly inept display from your reviewer (no comment! Sub Ed).

Not only did the packed hall appreciate the enthusiasm and quality of all three bands, everyone was grateful to the excellent organisers for putting on an evening of high quality music. We look forward to discovering new singers and groups in the upcoming St George's programme, the details of which you can find elsewhere in this issue of Slap.

*Fergus Allinson*

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### Bands Wanted

### Contact 07854 498018

## Gordie MacKeeman & His Rhythm Boys The Fleece Inn, Bretforton | Sunday 14th February

No I'd never heard of them either, but apparently they played **Bromyard folk** festival last year and will this year too. From Canada, this band looked fascinating and proved to be very entertaining.

Their current album carries the label, *Laugh Dance & Sing*, and that would appear to sum up the manner in which the evening ensues. Now Gordie himself plays a fine fiddle, befitting any such band, but is also known as crazy legs and for good reason. The evening literally kicks off with a jig thus giving Gordie his chance to loosen up, with a tripudary of tap, heels and toe click clacking on the wooden decked, barn stage. Not, I suspect, the first 'barn' dance these ancient timbers have seen. Meanwhile the boys play on - **Mark Geddes** on single snare and cymbal, **Thomas Webb** swinging a double bass and a lovely Rickenbacker in the hands of guitarist **Peter Cann**. Not that any of this is written in stone as there is alot of instrument swapping as the evening continues, plus banjo and acoustic guitar entering the mix, with total disregard to 'ownership' of any.



swing. Some interesting double handed, double bass playing sees Mark and Thomas attacking the strings from both sides, whilst all throughout Gordie never keeps still. The crowd is both amazed and appreciative by the spectacle and 80 people have crammed into the aged barn of **The Fleece**. A tight crowd meant it was a very cosy evening to be found wrapped in this winter Fleece, as it was the coldest evening this winter thus far. Buried in the non stop itinerary of *'Crazy Legs Gordie'* was an outright bit of surf rock with slight bluegrass overtones in *'Hot Vacation'* - fitting for this evening's show. The band are used to steamy temperatures having recently taken their music to India, before spending more time in Europe. They are labelled a roots band but those roots are certainly quite diverse and certainly well spread. I can only suggest you seek them at Bromyard in September as you will not come away disappointed and just maybe the beer and food will challenge the first class fare of the wonderful **Fleece Inn**.

Graham Munn



Song titles reflect much of the pathos and humour of the band, like *'Working Title'*, *'Rubber Dolly'*, *'Pickle King'* and *'Turkey'*. There is a mix of jigs, country, plenty of bluegrass and even a bit of



## Coming soon to The Fleece Inn, Bretforton.

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



### Andy Cutting - Sun 27 Mar, 8pm, £10

"Hearing Andy Cutting play is like going through the wardrobe and finding Narnia. His music is glorious, joyful, moving, subtle, emotionally charged, a totally spell-binding experience that is never long enough".  
June Tabor

### Sing in the Spring - 8 to 10 April. Tickets from £10-£35

A fabulous weekend of singing, workshops and Ale!

Guests include The Teacups, Lucy Ward, Graeme Knights, Paul & Liz Davenport, Ninebarrow, Debra Hannis & Daisybell. Come and camp amongst the blossom in our beautiful orchard and enjoy a relaxed weekend of song. Camping tickets include a full English breakfast on Sat & Sun morning.

### Jez Lowe - Wed 13 Apr, 8pm, £10

This is a very special intimate gig from a much praised songwriter with great stage presence and a winning dynamic style. Jez will be accompanying himself on guitar, cittern, harmonicas and mandolin.

Visit [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk) to book

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# CityPunk | Bring City Home

Back in 2013 **Worcester City** moved out of their home ground of **St George's Lane**, relocating 14 miles up the road in Kidderminster, sharing Aggborough with the Harriers. Whilst the local Councillors argue over the proposed site for the club the supporters club grow restless awaiting for their team to return. Currently the council are "looking at other locations" despite the fact thousands of hours and pounds have been spent formulating planning permission at a site at **Perdiswell**.

With City's return to their rightful place the supporters club have joined forces to vent their frustration in the form of a punk rock song, directly addressing the council and urging them to "*Bring City Home*".

The track is a rousing three minute, call to arms, based on Ewan MacColl's *Dirty Old Town*, here the supporters crank the guitars loud and holler like their lives depend on it, delivering an instantly infectious punk anthem, full of spirit and bite. You can almost hear the lyrics defiantly echoing around Aggborough on match day, demanding the council to sit up as the City supporters roar the vocal refrain of "*we'll build our own ground*".

Last year Worcester backed it's team during an impressive FA Cup run, now we need the city to join forces again and urge our council to bring football home. So download the song, learn the words (you can find them on Bandcamp) and let your voices be heard, whether it's on the stands of Aggborough or outside City Council HQ "*This is our club belongs to you and me, we are City, Worcester City FC*".

'CityPunk' is available to stream and download through BandCamp, with proceeds going towards the "Fighting Fund": <https://citypunk.bandcamp.com/>



# Howard Jones, Elise Yuill Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | Sat 13th Feb

After 33 years of his prolific career, **Howard Jones** still has endless zeal, energy and inspiration. "*I'll keep going till I drop*." He jokes to his intrigued audience.



He found fame in the 80s with his string of hits and synth mastery, but treated us at the grand, yet intimate Huntingdon Hall, to a much more personal and relaxed show, with just a keyboard, (which he showed impressive skills on) and equally enjoyable voice. Howard's unpretentious lyrics and approachable subjects were able to shine through.

As quite clearly the youngest person there, I was unsure of what to expect, but Howard's new music captured the crowd just as profoundly as his juicy plethora of hits. These included the very clever *No One is to Blame*, whose meaning is open to your interpretation, *Pearl in the Shell*, *Hide and Seek*, *What is Love*, *I'd*



# Worcester City F.C.



## 2015-2016 Season

### March Fixtures

Tue 1st	Lowestoft Town	Away	19.45
Sat 5th	FC United of Manchester	Home	15.00
Tue 8th	Alfreton Town	Home	19.45
Sat 12th	Curzon Ashton	Away	15.00
Sat 19th	Harrogate Town	Home	15.00
Sat 26th	Solihull Moors	Home	15.00
Mon 28th	Hednesford Town	Away	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  
Season ticket holders Adults Worcester to Kidderminster  
Just £3.60 return Children Aged 5-15 £2.95 return  
The current off peak day return fare is £5.70

Aggborough Stadium, Hoo Road  
Kidderminster DY10 1NB



*Like To Get To Know You Well* and *New Song*. We also heard the uplifting track *Straight Ahead*, a song about optimism and getting through dark times and some newer tunes like *Joy*, and *Human Touch*. *City Song* details the feeling of loneliness one can have when living in a huge City, despite being surrounded by hundreds of people. It is remarkable how Howard can connect with people so naturally with music. The songs were played with every morsel of understanding that were present when first written, yet also with a fresh breath of reflection.

**Elise Yuill**, who met Howard through the Buddhist community of Somerset, left us enchanted with her crystal clear voice, and mind expanding song writing. She played 5 original and beautiful folk tunes off her new E.P, including the pensive tune, *The 5 Regrets*, which will surely make you reevaluate life. It meanders through 5 regrets held by people on their death bed and teaches valuable lessons. It was a captivating yet understated performance, with only an acoustic guitar and a sublime voice; she delivers songs that will stay with you for a long time. Elise's debut album is being crowd funded, to donate or pre-order the album go to [www.indiegogo.com/projects/elise-yuill-debut-album](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/elise-yuill-debut-album). I strongly recommend getting involved.



At 22, I might be an unlikely HJ fan, but I can't deny that since the show I've many times found myself singing ... "*I'd like to get to know you weeeell!*" ...

By Jessica Charles.

# Gaz Brookfield

## Marrs Bar | Sunday 7th Feb

For the uninitiated **Gaz Brookfield** is a singer songwriter, a moderately leftwing, fiercely independent, twenty something, hailing from from the west country, with an axe to grind, an acoustic axe that is.... He sits somewhere on the fence between Frank Turner and The Levellers, the girls may view him as eye candy and their accompanied other halves may see him as a threat, but take nothing away from him, this guy is talented. He has an ear for a great tune and a voice strong enough to carry hook filled melodies so catchy, the Zika virus should worry.

There's never normally much to do on a Sunday evening in any town, so a trip to the **Marrs Bar** in Worcester should be viewed as a treat. As I walked through the door, I walked into a crowd of people. How does an unknown artist achieve this with nearly no press coverage? The answer lies in relentless touring and summers playing any festival that will accept his presence... the support act, **Nick Parker** was reaching the end of his set, unfortunately I missed the majority, not through lazy journalism, but through a wanton desire to drink one more Guinness in the Lamb and Flag, what can I say? You pay peanuts, you get alcoholics.



After the briefest of respites, **Gaz Brookfield** storms onto the stage demanding the audience join in with him in paying tribute to his missing fiddle player, via the medium of cheap insults, we all duly oblige and the show proceeds. Playing songs from his most recent album, *'True and Fast'*, covering subjects from having to give up cider due to a failing pancreas and the pitfalls of being a solo artist on tour. He played a plethora of older material, *Black Dog Day*, *Land Pirates Life* and ended on his would be hit, *Be The Bigger Man*. All the songs are delivered with a wit and charm that could easily be thrown on to a larger stage, so I feel lucky to have witnessed him at this intimate setting, as do the lively crowd.

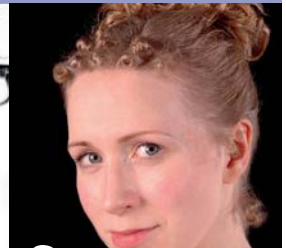
**Gaz Brookfield's** career to date should be the blueprint to any aspiring musician in this day and age where record deals are rarer than unicorn steaks. Go out and play, play for free, play for money, busk, hone your talent. Write some songs. You'll learn from the reaction of your audience as to whether you're getting it right or not. You don't need expensive studios anymore, record what you need, put it on Bandcamp, Spotify and iTunes. Put your fingers in as many pies as you can, being a musician isn't the best paid job in the world, but it beats working for a living, as **Gaz Brookfield** will testify.

Chris Murphy



# What's On?

at The Swan Theatre  
and Huntingdon Hall



Worcester  
live

BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427  
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## Surprise Attacks & The Task in Hand Present Soeur, Vault Of Eagles Correct Arc, Downard Marrs Bar, Worcester | Friday 12th Feb

The great Worcester/Bristol guitar band gene pool continues to spawn varied and interesting musical lifeforms. New girls and boy on the block Soeur not least. This show, curated by the headliners and delivered by a collaboration of two local DIY promoters, showcased just what the neighbourhood could do.



**Correct Arc** - representing for down south, but featuring ex Worcester face **Sam Knight**, aka **Theo**, on drums - were for their part a work of near-perfect post-hardcore. Think of the late 90s



Washington DC scene bands like Regulator Watts or Faraquet and you'd be about there. Or for the less geeky, think Fugazi only way more personable and relevant. There's a lot of this kind of thing about right now, but this was joyously shitnuts tight guitar music, honed to the sharpness of a scream. Alternately rich and dense or deftly minimalist, this was also shot through with a wry, self-effacing intelligence that was both utterly fucking charming - and tight as a bowstring.

**Vault of Eagles** don't really need any introduction. In this publication at any rate. Hard-grafting and ultra-accomplished, this essentially simple power three-piece twist and combust the alt-rock genre into something altogether more stratospheric. With moments of terrible harmonic beauty (and others of just plain beauty), the fuzzed-up riffs and seismic beats that lurched and surged up to the edge of space and down to the molten core of the earth itself. Figuratively speaking. And their new material

played at this show gave absolutely no sign of diminished ambition or execution.

Powered along by the same rhythm section as the **Vault of Eagles** (i.e. both bands have the same drummer) Soeur are towering neo-grunge, yet built on an accessible human scale. As you would perhaps expect as this is a supergroup featuring ex-members of local note-worthies **Mansize** and **This Wicked Tongue**. And with deceptively intricate structures and textures in amongst the wall of sound - some of it very heavy sound indeed - this was blocky and powerful fare that clearly wasn't shy of playing with unconventional time signatures, or intricate and ambitious



songwriting ideas. With plenty of high-end guitar squeal and the LOUD quiet LOUD formula employed with intent throughout, there was also more than a touch of the Breeders or the Kim Deal led songs by the Pixies about this. The PJ Harvey comparisons were also so obvious I won't patronise you by making them. But make no mistake. Soeur make a very, very big fucking sound. A sound that is both sweet and savage all at the same time. That bites down very hard with sharp, sweetly smiling teeth. And given the sweat and blood spilt in the melee down the front, what they do clearly taps into something that the kids want to hear, right now. Ones to watch indeed.

Words: Alfie Noakes  
Photography: Duncan Graves



## Musical March Madness at Artrix, Bromsgrove

There's so much music on at Artrix this month that we're leaping around like March hares in anticipation!

First up is **Caravan** who are considered by many to be the undisputed kings of British prog rock. Formed in Canterbury back in '68, Caravan's debut album was a big hit with **John Peel** amongst many others and they became immediate darlings of the progressive music fraternity. The line-up at **Artrix** on **17th March** includes founder member **Pye Hastings** and **Geoffrey Richardson**.



**Cara Dillon's** roots lie in County Derry where she grew up in a close musical family. Having won the All Ireland Traditional Singing Trophy at the tender age of 14, she sang in a number of bands until she joined **Equation** where she met her husband and collaborator **Sam Lakeman**. Their original material sits happily alongside Clara's beautiful renditions of traditional songs and you'd be hard pressed to find a more emotive and captivating singer. Catch her at **Artrix** on **20th March**.



Renowned for his prowess as a slide guitarist, **Martin Harley** is a supremely talented musician. This roots and blues singer songwriter is beginning to establish a global reputation and a fan base to go with it. His eagerly anticipated album *Live at Southern Ground* was recorded in Nashville and listening to it is like a boat ride along the Mississippi on a warm afternoon. Martin will be



joined at **Artrix** in **22nd March** by his upright bass sidekick **Daniel Kimbro**.

Fans of local legend **Clifford T Ward** may have been lucky enough to hear the **Robinson-Stone** brothers play their outstanding tribute to him. Now Danny and Dean are back, this time accompanied by their sister **Leyla**, for a night of live music from their well-received album *Home*. Join them for the first night of their tour at **Artrix** - **25th March**.



Rounding off the month on the **26th** are local fun'n'funky, folkie faves - the unmissable **Roving Crows**. In addition to almost constant touring, the band have released a few albums and their latest, *Deliberate Distractions* was well-received by critics and punters alike. Renowned for their high energy Celtic brand of folk, there's never a dull moment with this lot live: highly recommended!

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# The Broken Oak Duet

Like a lithe, snapping post-rock fox Worcester's two-piece instrumental outfit **The Broken Oak Duet** - comprising **Howard James Kenny** on drums and **Tom Morgan** on baritone guitar - have been prowling around discerning audiences for a while now. Having played with the likes of God Damn and That Fucking Tank - and latterly bothered shoppers on a Saturday afternoon with a street performance as part of the **Worcester Music Festival** - their live act is honed and downright infectious. As lead local exponents of everything that is great about the Do It Yourself music scene, they have also recently raised the funds to record and self-release a quality slab of vinyl in the form of their debut album *Terrain*. We caught up with their man on the stool Howard James Kenny to talk influences, plans - and keeping it progressive.

SLAP: The Broken Oak Duet (or rather Howard). Good evening. How is it hanging?

*It hangs very well thank you. Is that the correct response to such a question?*

It is. Now, you two have something of a pedigree around the greater Worcestershire music scene, and its various parts. What sparked you into getting together to form the taught, pulsing beast that is BOD?

*Do we?! I didn't realise that, but thank you. Whilst Tom and I were still in a band called Ché, he stumbled upon his lovely baritone guitar on eBay. We decided to get together to see what we could do with it, and were pleased with the noise we could make as a duo, so we dedicated more time to it. It was all pretty organic, even though neither of us had ever written for a solely instrumental project before, and we both enjoyed how simple it was just being the two of us, so it just developed from there.*

And what have been the high points so far?

*For me, probably ArcTanGent festival. No one knew who we were and the response was pretty special. Supporting Mike Watt was also a memorable one. That was probably one of the most enjoyable gigs I've ever played at the Marris Bar actually. Oh, and the Norman Watt-Roy support! I think we raised a few eyebrows there. The high street performances are also pretty memorable for me too. People don't expect our sort of music outside M&S.*

And for readers that may not be familiar with your material, what could they expect from your first album (*Terrain*)?

*Well, it's simply instrumental rock music. Some people call it 'math', suggesting it's bursting with complex time signatures, etc., but we actually try to ensure there's a constant pulse, so it's not obviously complex. We try to make it something anybody can nod their head to whilst keeping it interesting and progressive. It's probably a much safer bet if people buy the album and decide for themselves (nudge nudge).*

You've shared a stage with a few luminaries - Mike Watt, to name one - and you've done your fair share of festivals and shows nationwide. Where has been the most fun to play - and who has been the most fun to play with?

*Tramlines in Sheffield was a blast. We played to the general public right outside City Hall, with fair rides swooping right over our heads. That wasn't your average gig. Playing pop up shows in high streets are probably the most exciting ones because the reaction is equally hilarious and mind-blowing. Body Hound were probably the most fun to play with - lovely chaps.*

There's an obvious musical literacy that literally erupts from your material - who would you say your influences are, and how would you describe your sound?

*It depends; influences on the project are the likes of That Fucking Tank, Refused, Oxes and, yes, Shellac. I realised the other day that there are actually similarities to early Foo Fighters in some of the ideas. Outside of the project, I wouldn't know where to start. As for how to describe it, I tend to go with simply 'instrumental rock'. I might throw 'angular' in there if I'm feeling fruity.*

It's a bleeding obvious statement, but there's only two of you. And there are quite a few power duo bands around of late, locally Aulos, A Werewolf! and others, Slaves (et al) nationally. Why is the two-piece such a popular (and effective) set up these days?

*It's cheaper to run as a unit and there are less personalities to clash. As to why they're popular, to most of the public it's still an exciting new thing. Look at Royal Blood; if they had been a trio, I doubt anywhere near as many people would know who they were. Being a duo was a marketable gimmick and it sold. They're not actually doing anything new from a songwriting perspective. However, duos like Lightning Bolt and Death From Above 1979 were actually doing something refreshing. That, added to the fact that there were only two of them, makes it even more grabbing.*

And what's next for you guys? Anything else we ought to know about you before we go?

*To support the album release, we have a Marris Bar show on Thursday 7th April with The Cape of Good Hope and Navajo Ace. Apart from that we're just continuing to play live as much as we can. That's what we live for. If there's anything people need to know, it's that we want gigs. Get in touch and we'll most likely play for you - the more obscure the location, the better.*

Sounds like a challenge. Thanks - and all the best with the album!

[thebrokenoakduet.bandcamp.com](http://thebrokenoakduet.bandcamp.com)

Words: Philomena Bratwurst

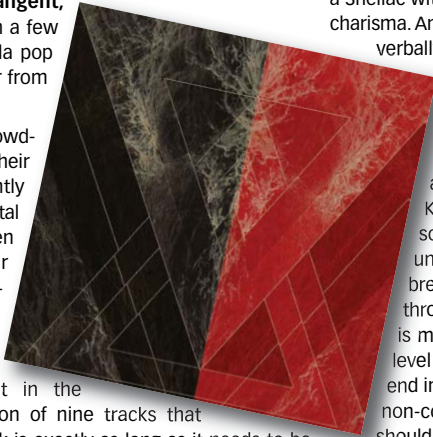
Photography: Neil Collins



## The Broken Oak Duet | Terrain

Worcester's post-rock drums and baritone guitar duo **The Broken Oak Duet** have carved out a reputation for themselves as a tasty live act over recent years, playing the niche and quality DIY festivals (**Arc Tangent, Tramlines**), and more than a few in-store shows and guerrilla pop up stages both near and far from home.

Following a successful crowd-funding venture last year, their lean and ever so-slightly cheeky, muscular instrumental sound has now been committed to vinyl in their debut - and totally self-released - album *Terrain*. And not one beat, not one drop of sweat nor spark of inspiration has been lost in the process. This is a collection of nine tracks that pulsate with life. Every track is exactly as long as it needs to be. Every bar and every instrumental flourish has a decisive and



thoroughly satisfying point. Taking their stylistic cues from right across the more interesting and fertile reaches of the analogue rock spectrum, and never staying in any one groove a split second longer than they should - this earns easy comparisons with Refused, Death From Above 1979 and Shellac to name a few. But a Shellac with a glint in the eye and a febrile, devilishly infectious charisma. And with no need to use words or otherwise pontificate verbally in any way.

Dig a little deeper or listen a little harder, and you can hear the pulsing and vital dance metal of early Therapy? circa Pleasure Death, the subversive and utterly accomplished bass guitar work of Rob Wright and No Means No, and even the sexier end of the Kraut rock spectrum a la Neu! - often all in the same song. And even better than that, you also get the odd unapologetic-ally joyous Brazilian batucada drums breakdown (Take your Hands off my tropical) and a sense throughout that for all the intelligence and structure - this is meant to be very good fucking fun. And on whatever level you want to take that, be you a connoisseur of high-end instrumental guitar music or just a consumer of fresh, non-commercial quality musical produce, fun it is. You should try it. [www.thebrokenoakduet.bandcamp.com](http://www.thebrokenoakduet.bandcamp.com)

Timothy Bloodsauseage

## Elles Bailey | Who Am I To Me

Many of you who are hopefully about to read this may well wonder who **Elles Bailey** is. I stumbled on her by accident, listened to her online and decided to take a trip down Bristol way to see her perform. More of that later as this is about her studio recording; an EP with 4 quite varied tracks.

It opens with '*Who Am I To Be*' which comes to life with a funky beat and accelerates from rock to a very upbeat rhythm that would fit comfortably on any DJ's list. It is quite a commercial sound, played with energy and genuine musicianship. We stick with that easy, almost 'pop' with class feel, for '*Heart Go Oooh*', which has some wonderful touches of trumpet, blown by the marvellously named **Spencer Ludwig**, which really lift this song up to a different level.

An altogether more soulful number follows, flavoured with a country twang beneath and Elles' warm voice dominating. The final track '*Howling Wolf*' though is the absolute gem, with its

obviously intended blues inspiration. It's at this point that you really start to hear the smoky element to Elle's vocals, perfectly in tune with the superb guitar flourishes and excellent drums. It is an absolute cracker with very good production, though the end is rather abrupt and I would have liked to hear maybe the guitar taking this terrific tune to a close.

As a sample of Elles' capabilities, this is a very nicely presented EP, displaying her quite wide spectrum of material, but it does not reflect the sheer energy and fire that Elles projects on stage. She is also fortunate in having a superb band of musicians around her, who play in their own almost unique manner, with overtones of jazz, and perhaps other influences.

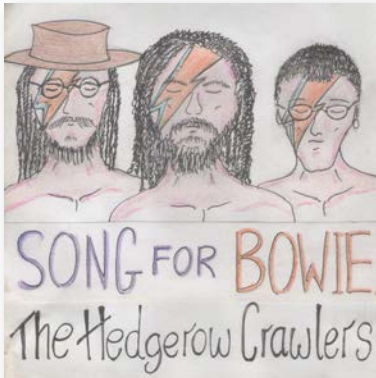
Elles herself has a stunning voice with a great range combined with superb delivery: a star in the making then, just waiting to be recognised. Elles and her band have "festival" written all over them, so if anyone out there knows of slots available, I would heartily recommend this act. I would also happily put her on par with Jo Harman and I do not say that lightly.

Graham Munn

## The Hedgerow Crawlers Song For Bowie

Inspired as legions have been and continue to be by one **David Jones**, travelling troubadours **The Hedgerow Crawlers** come to entertain us with their own heartfelt tribute to the undoubtedly Great Starman.

*Song For Bowie* - the title itself a crib from Bowie's own *Song For Bob Dylan* from the *Hunky Dory* album - is a roustabout number which speeds along nicely, as (I'm guessing here) mandolin,



guitar and harmonica collide happily to good effect. The tune is somewhat in the vein of *Whiskey In The Jar* and contains references to many Bowie tunes and characters: especially poignant is the line "...*Lady Stardust could have warned us you were human too*", which I think sums up the way many of us felt upon hearing the sad news of Mr B's demise.

It is obvious from the lyrics that Bowie had a profound impact on the group as young, impressionable folk and he was a major factor in them pursuing their alternative lifestyles. The Crawlers are instrumental in staging **The Horsedrawn Festivals** such as **The Beltane Bash** and their commitment in bringing together all creative types of horse and music lovers alike in a rich & cultural countryside setting is legendary.

It is especially good to see The Crawlers back in action after a particularly nasty accident last year left band member **Dave** without the tops of two fingers eek!! This terrific track is but a taster from their upcoming new album and can be bought for only one pound from [thehedgerowcrawlers.bandcamp.com](http://thehedgerowcrawlers.bandcamp.com)

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# Folk in the Foyer Evesham Arts Centre

Evesham Arts Centre is to host a regular folk music night, featuring well-known acts from both the long-established & contemporary scenes. "Folk in the Foyer" will launch in March 2016 as part of the Arts Centre's new season.

The first Folk in the Foyer night is booked for Thursday 24th March and will feature the award-winning singer-songwriter **Kelly Oliver**, who has already had airplay on national & local radio, performed with a host of folk music names and recorded both an album & live sessions for the BBC.

The exciting upcoming programme also includes such folk luminaries as **Johnny Coppin**, **Green Diesel**, **Steve Tilston**, **Kirsty Bromley** and **Steve Ashley**.



Steve Tilston



Kelly Oliver by Jolyon Holroyd

**Folk in the Foyer** - as the name suggests - will happen in the Arts Centre's comfortable foyer bar. The event is normally scheduled to take place on the fourth Thursday of the month (there will be some exceptions - a full list of dates will appear in the Arts Centre's printed programme & website) with tickets priced at £10 & available soon.

Folk in the Foyer is run by **Evesham Arts Association** in association with local musician **Mike Weaver** - who also arranged several folk music events in aid of **The Great Big Almonry Project\***.

"We're very pleased to have Mike Weaver's help with this - and to be adding a regular folk music session to Evesham's already-vibrant live music scene." said arts centre organiser **Neal Cartwright**.

## Charlie Dore with Julian Littman The Fold, Bransford | Friday 18th March

**Charlie Dore** met **Julian Littman** when she was 16 years old at drama school, but music was never far behind and they started playing in folk clubs and pubs whenever they could.

Several decades later, it's easy to see why Charlie calls Julian her honorary brother as the vibe onstage has a natural, sparky, off-the-cuff energy to it. With eight albums' worth of songs to mine, no two nights are the same and the array of instruments - guitars, piano, mandolin, harmonium, autoharp & ukulele is constantly swapped as they dip into last year's *Milk Roulette* album, followed perhaps by a couple from 2011's award-winning *Cheapskate Lullabies*, their version of Charlie's first ever single, *Fear of Flying* (covered by George Harrison) and maybe even a new take on *Pilot of the Airwaves* - still a Radio 2 favourite.



Contemporary folk is a nearly-accurate description - Julian, who's 'other' band is **Steeleye Span** & Charlie, a multi-award winning songwriter are always up for an improvised solo or two.

For ticket information contact The Fold. [www.thefold.org.uk](http://www.thefold.org.uk)

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## Gretchen Peters The Artrix, Bromsgrove | 19th Feb

Nashville based singer-songwriter **Gretchen Peters** first made her name as a songwriter for the likes of Martina McBride, Trisha Yearwood, Bryan Adams and Etta James among others before releasing her debut album *The Secret Of Life* back twenty years ago largely to a great indifference in the US. Here in the UK we instantly took Gretchen into our hearts, embracing her vivid stories and emotive delivery (partially thanks to the patronage of the likes of Bob Harris and Terry Wogan) as well as her hard work ethic. From there Gretchen's stock begun to rise with subsequent albums continuing to find favour here in the UK, with her home country eventually succumbing to her charms with Grammy nominations and an induction into Nashville's **Songwriters Hall Of Fame** in 2014.

The past couple of studio albums *Hello Cruel World* and last years, *Blackbirds* has seen Gretchen at the height of her powers receiving much deserved universal acclaim, hitting a number of end of year, best of polls and only a matter of days ago receiving two awards from **UK Americana** for **Best International Album** and **Song Of The Year**.

**Gretchen** has decided that now is the perfect time to release an essential (double CD) collection covering material from across her twenty years as a recording artist and with the release of the album, Gretchen announced a string of live performances across the UK including, the half an hour hour up the road venue **Artrix**, having fallen for her last few albums and indeed the retrospective Essential collection attending was an absolute no-brainer, but despite devouring Gretchen's recorded output nothing had prepared me for such a mesmeric performance.

Gretchen took to the stage ably backed by **Barry Walsh** (keyboards, accordion, husband), **Conor McCreanor** (bass) and **Colm McClean** (guitar/pedal steel) and launched into an evocative rendition of *The Secret Of Life*, instantly demanding full attention from the full to capacity auditorium as she unveiled that expressive vocal and masterly use of language that she's become renowned for. From there the thought provoking *Matador*, with it's Latin tinged accordion laced introduction, then onto to *Guadalupe*, co-written with Tom Russell but delivered here with Barry Walsh providing backing vocals and McClean's aching pedal steel, whilst Gretchen delivers a stunning, slightly weathered lead.

Further highlights of the first set included a powerful *Hello Cruel World* and the dark, brooding title track of the aforementioned *Blackbirds*, a sinister tale of incest and murder delivered with the same kind of conviction Cave mustered for Murder Ballads, only



with a more Americana noir twist, providing a direct contrast to the tender set closer of *Ring Around The Moon* (originally by late Ben Bullington).

Gretchen opened the second sat alone at the piano for a gorgeous rendition of *Independence Day* before delivering a well received heartfelt tribute to the previously mentioned Wogan in the shape of *When You Are Old*. McCreanor alternating between double and electric bass laying down infectious rhythms whilst Walsh and McClean embellished each number with deft piano and licks culminating with a sensational duel on *Idlewild*, whilst the audience hung off every word delivered by Gretchen as she continued her journey through her extensive songbook, whilst introducing each number with an ease and light humour, that was understandably lapped up by the masses.

Moving effortlessly between Folk, Americana and pop infused roots Gretchen delivered a masterclass in delivery as old favourites such as the laidback *Sunday Morning* (*Up And Down Our Street*) and effervescent *On A Bus To St Cloud* mingled with current single and soulful duet (husband Barry ably deputising for Bryan Adams), *When You Love Someone* before the band closed on a flourish with a scintillating take on *I Ain't Living Long Like This* with Peters channelling her inner Jagger and Walsh and McClean ending with a thrilling piano/guitar call and response duel leaving the audience exhilarated and on their feet for a greatly deserved standing ovation.

Twenty years ago the UK first embraced the music of **Gretchen Peters** and since then that love affair has blossomed, a two way thing, with new converts at every gig seduced by the captivating and passionate performance by an artist who's never forgot that early support and relishes her trips across the Atlantic almost as much as we do.

Will Munn



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## The Black Feathers | Soaked To The Bone

I first encountered **The Black Feathers** a few years back in the acoustic tent (actually the Memorial Hall) at the annual **Upton Blues Festival**, even then the Gloucestershire based duo of **Ray Hughes** and **Sian Chandler** stood out, instead of the typical acoustic 4/4 blues here was a band that blended folk and country, as well their own stunning harmonies to create an instantly captivating rootsy sound.

Since then the band have been hard at work, performing across the country (including the likes of Colstan Hall) and further honing their sound, before releasing their acclaimed debut EP, *Strangers We Meet*, back in 2014. Both the national media (in the shape of The Times and The Telegraph Online) and BBC Radio (Bob Harris on Radio 2 and Tom Robinson of 6Music) fell for the duo's evocative sound among others.

This year The Black Feathers follow up that initial success with another lengthy bout of touring and the release of their debut full length recording, *Soaked To The Bone*.

Now it's been a whilst since I saw the duo live but from opening few minutes of *Take Me Back*, I fell back under the band's spell, the country tinged lament yanks at the heart strings as the vocals of Ray and Sian mesh beautifully, over a simplistic yet affecting melody, drawing you further into the song. From there The Black

Feathers mesmerise with the stunning Arclight, opening with a delicate plucked folky acoustic and Sian's aching lead vocal, before developing with Ray's harmonies and a sweep of subtle strings producing a genuine jaw dropping moment. *Blind* is a moody blues laced slice of Americana with Chandler and Hughes hollering over a tasty combination of electric riffs and a primal rhythms as the duo bare their teeth.



Further highlights include the bewitching, *When Winter Moves In*, with it's delicious combination of strummed guitar and swelling strings as the duel vocalists take turns to deliver lead and compliment one another on harmony duty. Down By The River changes direction as **The Black Feathers** let loose to deliver a contagious country hoedown complete with a blazing fiddle solo, perfect for festivals and barn dances alike, whilst *Spider And The Fly* is almost worth the price of admission alone, as Sian delivers a stunning bluesy lead complimented brilliantly with striking guitars, waltzing strings and Ray's harmonies weaving a dark seductive spell reminiscent of fellow duo Bitter Ruin at their best.

*Soaked To The Bone* is an impressive and diverse debut by The Black Feathers that grabs the attention from the off and doesn't let go until the dying seconds of the Clear Blue Sky, the duo's harmonies are second to none, whilst their

songwriting and delivery capture the listeners imagination as the band take you on a journey of rustic roots at it's best. Hopefully the band will come to nest in these parts again soon. [www.theblackfeathers.com](http://www.theblackfeathers.com)

Will Munn

## Mumbo Jumbo | Sonic Gumbo

**Mumbo Jumbo** are a trio of musicians who sit on the fringe of folk-blues meets easy listening acoustic music and who take their show around a wide variety of venues and festivals. The well established line up consists of **Oliver Carpenter**, who not only has a long history with bluesy bands of all kinds, but also as a promoter of festivals such as **The Fold**, **Jinney Ring** and **Broom Hill**. His is also a significant presence in the **Upton Blues** organisation.

**Chris Lomas**, a long time associate of Oliver's, in addition to playing bass for many other bands and artists, is a founder member of **Mumbo Jumbo**. The more recent addition of **Phil Bond**, pianist, accordion player and like Chris, sometime vocalist, also featured in **Stomp And Holler** with Oliver and the gang.

The first track is typically Lomas: *'The Second Hand Guitarist'* played possibly on a used instrument with lyrics conjuring up an **Arthur Daley** like figure, gallops along very nicely, trailing off with some lovely trumpet and piano.

We switch to the lonesome trail with *'Sail That Ship'* replete with what can only be described as deep, Cohen-esque vocals; dark as raw chocolate and dipped in chilli sauce. The song stalls and restarts with a delightfully Gallic feel, telling of a cool relationship that is going nowhere.

We turn then to silly season for the subtitled *'Absurd Song'* containing cockney cartoon character Ally Sloper! Different definitely as trumpet vies with piano and sinister lyrics. As daft as any pop song could manage, in search of a music hall to showcase it.

Next a more sombre note is struck with *'Those Frail Few'*, a serious message of war remembrance and as the trumpet plays *'Johnny Comes Marching Home'* this is poignancy personified. A complete change of mood follows with the *'don't worry be happy'* pop of *'Rejoice'* and this happy go lucky vibe continues with the rather irreverent, straw chewing ho-down of *'Hosedown'*, as a washboard enters the fray and rasps'n'rattles away.

There is a right old mix on *Sonic Gumbo* befitting such a title: hence we get *'No Devil At The Crossroads'*, a dark, dirgy blues and possibly my favourite; the jazzy feeling of *'Later, Somehow'*, plus rock steady, C&W, ragtime, honky tonk and more!

*Sonic Gumbo* is selection box of goodies and no mistake. It is musically, lyrically and vocally diverse - a veritable multi-faceted collection of material.

Well recorded and packaged, I'm definitely looking forward to the album launch on March 5th which takes place at **Theatre On The Steps** in Bridgnorth. **Mumbo Jumbo** have pulled off the trick of combining the serious, comic and plain absurd with talented aplomb and it is served just as I like it...spicy!

Graham Munn

SLAP MARCH 27



# Nigel Clark

## The Standard Lamps

### The Cube, Malvern | Saturday 5th March

For fan's of guitar music the early 90's was an exciting time to be around; the airwaves were full of infectious melodies and sing-a-long hooks, Oasis and Blur were battling at the top of the charts for supremacy and the NME actually wrote about music as opposed to fashion and celebrities. But prior to this, **Nigel Clark** and **Mathew Priest** had decided to relocate from Worcestershire to London in an attempt to forge a career in music and in the process formed **Dodgy**. The band released their debut album in 1993 and soon began to gain momentum and column inches for their instant sing-a-long hooks and keen melodies. Singles such as 'Staying Out For The Summer', 'In A Room' and 'Good Enough' became firm staples on the national airwaves, whilst their anthems could be heard sung around festivals the land over.

1998 Nigel left the band and began to write, record and perform as a solo artist, before returning to the fold in 2007. Since then Dodgy have continued to write and record, whilst Nigel has also continued to perform solo slots and host a regular open mic session at **The Millers Arms, Pershore**.

Ahead of Nigel's forthcoming performance at **The Cube** in Malvern, I thought I'd catch up with for a chat about his initial forays in the music scene, performing with Dodgy and the future.

**Nigel Clark Performs Live at The Cube Malvern Saturday 5th March with The Standard Lamps**

.....

Hi Nige, can I take you back in time and ask when and who sparked your original interest in music? Was there a particular band that first made you sit up and take notice?

*I guess I owe that to my older siblings, playing Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath loudly when my parents were out. Then punk came along and I was the right age at the right time - the Sex Pistols, The Clash, SLF, The Damned - punk had a profound affect on me. I actually believed you could be anything you wanted to be, dress however and really not care what people thought.*

Can you tell us how **Dodgy** first came together? Were you involved in any groups prior to the band?

*I was in an Anarcho-Punk band when I was at school (we never gigged because we couldn't agree on anything, even the name...), then I answered an ad in the Redditch Advertiser of all places and that's how I met Mathew. We gigged around Redditch & Bromsgrove, got a good local following but we just wanted MORE...a lot more! So we quit and split for the city (London) in '88.*

What was it like being a young band starting out in London, having moved from Bromsgrove and Redditch? Was the relocation essential to the band's success?

*The move was absolutely essential as it was impossible in the Midlands for bands at the time; we wouldn't have got noticed playing at the Washford Mill in Redditch you know? London was all pay to play gigs at the time, it was all very cynical and a load of bollocks if I remember?*

*Dodgy decided the only thing to do was start our own night in Kingston upon Thames, not exactly central London but we had control - it was called "The Dodgy Club".*

Dodgy got lumped under the Britpop banner do you think this was a help or a hinderance at the time? Did you feel any affinity with the other bands of time?



*We just happened to be there at that time, we gigged with lots of bands and helped alot along the way: Dodgy have their own way of doing things...still do!*

Your first, self-titled album was produced by **Ian Broudie** of **The Lightning Seeds**. How did this come about and was Ian something of a hero of yours?

*Ian is a safe pair of hands, he knows how to get the best out of you. It was a good lesson to work with him. We recorded our 1st album in Liverpool and adopted L'pool as our surrogate home. We made lots of friends with Mathew playing drums for Ian McNabb and the Icicle Works.*

Were you surprised by the successes of 'Homegrown', 'Free Peace Sweet' and the associated singles? How did it feel to hear a field full of people sing back your anthems?

*I would say that nothing can prepare you to having a field full of people sing your songs back at you - nothing - I loved it and still do!*

You've also performed as a solo artist for a number of years, so how did this first come about and was it as case of wanting to exploring a different sound? Also how do you decide if it's a Dodgy song or a Nigel Clark solo number?

*Back in 1998 when I left the band I really didn't know what to do but I was still writing songs. I moved to Birmingham put a studio together and recorded 'Make Believe Love' with a band I had seen play a couple of times. We did a few gigs but I soon realised that to do what I wanted to do was going to take money and I didn't have any! 'Make Believe Love' remains unreleased...*

The last Dodgy album, 'Stand Upright In A Cool Place' received a number of impressive reviews: were you pleased with the reaction after your time apart? And how were you received on the road?

*'Stand Upright' was more for us really: we had got back together and our relationship is built on creativity. If we didn't record a new album what were we?...Doing it for the money?!*

I've always been impressed with the number of benefit/charity events you perform at, whether it's for projects such as 'Crisis' or our own 'Worcester Music Festival', is this your way of giving back?

*Raising awareness - it's good to support people who do worthy things. It's also part of who Dodgy are.... people.*

You've been back in the area for a good while now and you always seem to be happy to lend support to the local scene (running the **Millers Arms** open mic session, etc). Are you impressed with the talent the county has to offer? Is there any underlying advice you can give to a musician just starting out?

*There's talent everywhere and Worcestershire has its fair share. Unfortunately though there are less & less people going out to live gigs regularly enough to sustain a good live music scene. It will come back, it always does - as soon as people start getting bored with social media (right about now).*

What can we expect from your forthcoming date at **The Cube**? Will it be a mix of solo and Dodgy material? Are we going to hear any new Dodgy material during your set?

*The set will consist of songs and artists that have influenced me, Dodgy songs new and old, 21st century man songs, new songs..*

Can we expect to see a new Dodgy or solo album in the near future?

*Dodgy release a new album 'What Are We Fighting For?' in June 2016 (woo hoo! Eds)*

And how about festival appearances during the summer?

*TBA...soon!*

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# NIGEL CLARK

from

## dodgy

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## Matt Woosey | Desiderata

*Desiderata* is defined as something needed and desirable - a verse ascribed to sometime poet, Max Ehrmann - it is really about being at peace with the world. This is suspect exactly where Matt finds himself today; married recently and now a father, bringing new meaning to his being.

The album takes an entirely different direction to his last and previous releases. That last studio album '*Wildest Dreams*' saw Matt in previously uncharted waters, as it was a tidal wave of avant-garde songs that grabbed you by the throat and hauled you straight in: anyone who has not found this album, is missing something in life! With that album, Matt had thrown a curve ball and the curve continues with *Desiderata*, reflecting an entirely different **Matt Woosey** yet again. Here he is at peace, riding the gentle ebb and flow of emotion that washes over him: Matt is deeply in love and this album tells you so. Do not expect the grit and fire of his blues, the mystery and dark corners of his *Wildest Dreams*, this is from start to finish, a collection of love songs.

The musicians he has with him are top draw in pianist **Bruce O'Neil**, legendary bassist **Danny Thompson** and drummer **Clive Deamer** with **Tony Hobden** on production duties.

'*Always Be the One*' opens the album, with a style that is instantly recognisable **Matt Woosey**. The heel of his hand strikes the face of the guitar as a pronouncement of total dedication, performed with a light country seasoning.



Needless to say, the guitar work from Mr W is exemplary throughout with '*Who Do You Love*' typical of that quality; a gentle folk song with Matt questioning the bond with his life's love Lisa.

Arguably '*Million Miles*' stands out as being the song that has a hint of the fire and passion reminiscent of Matt's blues background and it is probably the most 'commercial' track on the album. With '*Mystified*' we travel across the Spanish borders as it opens with some simply lovely guitar work, slipping into a hint of gypsy magic with jazz overtones.

We then come to '*Lighthouse*', which sits squarely in a jazzy trip-hop world and probably the most difficult song to break into. Lines from a poem mix with Matt's thoughts as you are drawn in by the hypnotic percussion and the effect is intoxicating.

*Desiderata* will not necessarily please all Matt's fans immediately, but they will come round and it will find him many new ones. Matt will sit comfortably knowing he can take his scintillating live performances to both a blues and folk environment.

His catalogue of work is expansive and now reflects his start in life as a devoted family man: his world has changed and his music with it. You may even consider this a little self indulgent, but it certainly reflects where Matt finds himself today.

If like me you find *Desiderata* difficult to 'crack', do persevere. It may not have the impact of the eclectic '*Wildest Dreams*', but go back - play it again - another door opens. It is lovingly written, performed and produced, with lyrics that will find accord everywhere plus musicianship of the finest quality. I think I will just have another listen.

The album cover was created by South African artist **Gretha Quenlin**, who had impressed Matt with her artwork during his tour there. *Desiderata* is due for release on March 2nd and available at quality outlets both online and physical.

Graham Munn

## Humm | Pummelling A Monk

A whilst back I was lucky to be charged with reviewing the debut single by Worcester based four-piece (then three) **Humm**, *Savannah* was a gloriously raucous combination of feral blues,

serrated broody rock and a knowing lustful that grabbed you by the scruff of neck and demanded the listener to sit up and take notice. As debut singles go it was the perfect statement of intent, dark, dangerous, muscular and full of attitude, Humm had arrived in style.

Since the release, Humm have added to their number, with singer-songwriter, **Ebony Clay** joining the band on guitar somehow adding further bite and attitude to the ensemble. Live outings have left audiences in raptures and venues shaken as the band have set about laying waste to the local scene.

Following on from treading the boards and a bout of recording, **Humm** unveil their second single, *Pummelling A Monk*, a five minute blast that's introduced by a wave of howling feedback and a stomping beat, before frontman **Andy Teece** unleashes his half

spoken, half drawled lead. Whilst the rhythm section of Sam Jenkins (drums) and Jack Thomas (bass) create a deliciously menacing dark groove, whilst Ebony lays down a flurry of chunky, down tuned riffs leading to a taunt, infectious chorus, delivered by an intense and troubled Teece.



*Pummelling A Monk* is an edgy, thrilling single that teeters on the edge of collapse, that's somehow grounded by the thunderous rhythm section, as an anguished Teece attempts to exorcise a demon or two. **Humm** again deliver a dark, primal, raw and essential slab of alternative rock fury.

Catch them live at **The Firefly** on **Friday 4th March**. Join them in celebrating the launch of their new single "*Pummelling A Monk*". Support comes from Tom Forbes & Underground Ocean.

Tickets will go fast so snap them up by sending the band or any band member a message. £5 a ticket, with a free digital copy of "*Pummelling A Monk*" available on the night.

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Will Munn

# Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

As Slap was put to bed last month we had the pleasure attending another incredible **Surprise Attacks** show at **The Firefly**. The lineup for the evening was another flawless bill of acts with local roots and those further afield; we have to credit the guys at SA for uniting so many various acts from all genres and putting on a show that works for all the artists. That evening was kicked off by the debut performance from new act **Navajo Ace**, a Worcester based quartet with many familiar faces from various other acts, but together here they've created something very special and very unique. **Navajo Ace** from the get go emitted



nostalgia as they create the perfect blend of sentimental melodic, emo/indie orchestrations. The band effortlessly evoke that special moment of adolescent youth, standing at the front of the audience with a huge grin as a band performing in front of our eyes for the first time: powerful emotions indeed!



Redditch based explosive quintet **Shrinking Violets** were up next and immediately dominated the room, captivating this fervent Worcester crowd with their power and talent. In **Jodie** they have a forceful front person who commands all your attention with her impressive and extensive vocal range: mix this with prominent beats, a delectable guitar tone and riffs, all pulled together by keys/synth and these five musicians certainly conjure up a potent brew of rock and roll, blues, prog, psych and pop. To complete an excellent top quality bill, the unruly and hard-hitting sounds from Worcester based **Institutes** and the harmonious hardcore direction stylings of Nottingham's **Some Skeletons** all helped make this SA event yet another one to remember.

As Slap is sent to press this month, we were back with **Surprise Attacks** for a night with our buddies **Alright The Captain**, **Steve Strong** and those lovable guys **A Werewolf!** Be sure to check the site and next month's Slap for a live review!

Returning to February though I have to say - what a momentous month for live music in Hereford! With the launch of the new **Hereford Blues Club**, **The Booth Hall** welcoming a wide array of live entertainment each week, it's lovely to see such a strong new live force. It's also been a month of announcements including the one that promoters **Hereford Live** have now re-branded and can be found under the new name of **Sounds of The Shire**. Be sure to keep an eye on their social media now you are aware of the change and SotS too have been hosting shows at **The Barrels** pub in Hereford.

Throughout the past few weeks we've also been featuring some special local interviews on our site with a few key individuals and collectives who have worked incredibly hard over time to shape, mould and adjust the presently and pleasantly thriving Herefordshire live scene. Head over to [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk) and see what we mean!

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## Aramantus Route 44, Acocks Green | 5th February

Have you got a 'must see bands' gig list? Adding **Aramantus** to it could be one of the best moves you make all year. After about 18 months of watching them regularly, my latest trip was to the truly excellent **Route 44 venue** in Acocks Green, Birmingham.

It's not just the technical excellence and variety of the music that sets this very young bunch of progressive metallers apart from so many of their contemporaries, but the sheer enthusiasm, energy and fun with which their show is presented. Your attention is held completely, both by the constant movement going on onstage – a hilarious knees up even breaks out at one stage – and what's none too gently smacking you round the head from the PA.

They've had a significant change in line up since I last saw them, with vocalist and founder member, **Lou Walker** departing late last year. New singer **Nyah Ifill**, sporting the biggest 'natural' since Marsha Hunt in the 1970s is settling well into the space. She's a statuesque woman, holding the centre of the stage and occasionally teetering dangerously over the edge of it while balancing on the monitors. The nervousness she occasionally displays and the odd top note that's not quite there will disappear with familiarity and increased confidence – hard to believe that this is her first regular band. Her performance on the evening's closer, a precise and respectful cover of Dio's "*Holy Diver*", is one of the night's standouts.



The complexity of much of the music demands a skilful and adaptable rhythm section and that's exactly what this band's got. Drummer **Alice Bates**, flails furiously and to great purpose on her very swaggy and extremely crisp sounding new set of drums, regularly lifting herself off her seat to add power and impetus. **Cici Powell-Melkonian's** ultra-smooth and extra funky basslines – most prominent on my favourite track, "*Phase (Funked Up)*" – adds subtle and sometimes not so subtle, jazz and funk influences to the overall Metal framework. This woman hits, plucks, taps and slaps a bass with an elegance and craft that leaves you astonished that she's still only sixteen.



This leaves the twin guitar attack of **Jake Elwell** and **Elijah Storer** to riff and solo fluently and powerfully over the top. When you're playing in front of such an accomplished rhythm section, the leeway this gives must be enormous. A subtle change in their playing has happened since I last saw them as well – the pair have thankfully stopped hiding their considerable light under a bushel and are beginning to solo more imaginatively and at greater length than I've ever heard them before. It's always been a source of frustration to me that the frequent and jaw-dropping clips of their dexterity on social media have never been translated into their stage performance. This is remedied repeatedly throughout the set, with their breaks on the one brand new song on show "*Enamira*", being particularly fine examples.



As far as displaying new material is concerned, this band has always been somewhat tardy – their song writing process must be excruciating – although some of the current tracks are showing significant signs of having been updated. But there are never any throwaway tracks in an Aramantus performance, the quality is high, the pace is pretty relentless, no prisoners are taken and at the finish, nothing is left on stage. This band does not do ballads.

Recorded material is a bit thin on the ground too but a much awaited EP with video backup is currently under construction.

In the meantime, just get out and see this band and let them seriously rock you. [www.aramantus.com](http://www.aramantus.com)

Geoffrey Head

# And Also The Trees Born Into The Waves

For the uninitiated and that includes this 'umble scribe, **And Also The Trees** (henceforth to be known as AATT: the curse of all such band names) has been in existence since '79 and this is their thirteenth studio album. Formed in the Worcestershire village of Inkberrow and originally comprising two sets of brothers names of **Jones** and **Havas**, their collective bucolic upbringing has always informed their work, continues to do so and sets AATT apart from their more urban/industrial leaning contemporaries.

It took less than half a min of listening for this Johannie-cum-lately to hang his head in shame and commit to exploring the vast and doubtless rich back catalogue of this seeming endlessly interesting outfit. Those less ignorant than I will surely know of the early days supporting **The Cure** and indeed, **Robert Smith**, an enduring admirer, co-producer and re-mixer of theirs, recently re-engaged **AATT** to join The Cure as special guests on their three Hammersmith Apollo dates.

There is a deep, abiding theme of a liebestraum travelogue to this sumptuous work, born out of guitarist **Justin Jones'** compositional quartet and brother/singer **Simon Huw Jones'** lovelorn, wanderlust lyricism, as the band's recent performances in previously unvisited terrain form the inspirational basis for both music and lyrics.

Hence threaded throughout are subtle melodic flavours and song structures from Ukraine, Romania, Lithuania and Japan, which add more layers to this densely delightful album. It is a carefully crafted piece of work; indeed on the track 'Naito - Shinjuku' drummer **Paul Hill** even fashioned percussion constructed from pressured cylinders which proved murderously difficult to tune. Such is the depth of the intent of passion inherent in this band and contained within 'Born Into The Waves'.

It is not a cop-out to say I find it difficult to pick out single tracks because the work was conceived as a whole and plays as such. It is also the kind of collection where faves change from listen to listen. This is a moving album in the mould of Kraftwerk's *Trans Europe Express*: nakedly romantic *Mittel-Europa* in the grand tradition.

Europe Express: nakedly romantic *Mittel-Europa* in the grand tradition.

Unsurprisingly then **AATT** have a fervent following in Europe and beyond and their upcoming March and April dates take in Hamburg, Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt, Bochum and Leipzig, but not before more importantly they appear in our own Great Second City, Birmingham on **Sunday 27th March** at the **Flapper** where I most definitely hope to report to you from. I strongly suggest you join me though as this musical manifestation is sure to prove one of the year's highlights.

In an effort to place **AATT** in the musical scheme, names are bandied about such as Scott Walker, Tindersticks and Nick Cave, all of whom are helpful to a point, but be in no doubt that AATT inhabit their own unique sonic niche.

Now in their 35th year **And Also the Trees** continue to evolve and break new creative ground, including working with such diverse artists as Marc Almond, German multimedia artist John Bock and French composer Olivier Mellano.

In summary, *Born Into The Waves* is boldly beautiful, haunting, melancholic for sure but always hopeful with daylight peering into the gloom from a metaphoric chink in the curtains or gap under the door. An album then born out of true inspiration, helping one feel that maybe after all, this life of ours is worthwhile.

Words by J. des Esseintes



# Andy O'Hare

Well it's the time of year when I start having thoughts about the festivals I'd like to pop along to over the summer - and as there's just about one every week from May to September I guess that whatever your taste you'll be well catered for - and again I'm only planning on popping out of Hereford/Worcester just the once for the **Wychwood** bash at Cheltenham Racecourse - where we'll be hosting a stage along with other regions over the weekend - because as you already know my musical hunger and drive to hear new great tunes is pretty much satisfied each week within our county boundaries!!

Of course it's also the time of year when bands/acts should be firing off their applications to play at festivals - plenty to choose from plus some new ones arriving this summer - do check out their websites carefully as there's usually an application page somewhere - but don't rush to apply for say **Upton Jazz** if you're in a thrash metal outfit... Please do bear in mind that every festival will have last-minute cancellations - so if you can make yourselves available at short notice to fill a vacancy let them know - that's how KT Tunstall's career took off!

I was lucky enough to recently attend a workshop featuring a couple of BBC R1 and R6 'names' and they were quite willing to hand out advice - such as 'remember that people who listen to your tunes will usually give it between 30-90 seconds before moving on to the next one' and 'most radio shows will nowadays go for 3-minute numbers over a 15-minute magnum opus every time' - well worth bearing in mind!

You can get plenty more tips and advice every time you play a gig just by staying around and talking with the other bands - even with the audience sometime! You ain't going to earn much kudos by turning up, playing your set and bugging off straight away! There's always advice available out there for new and up-coming musos if you ask and search - and I'd recommend a very good start is to check out **Emma Scott's** books '*Break My Band*' and '*If It Was My Band*' for bucketloads of indispensable hints and pointers...

I can well understand the many on-line gripes about bands being paid or not - if you're in a band that's out to make a load of noise and have a good time with your mates and haven't really considered global domination then this probably won't apply to you - but if you're slightly more ambitious then I have to say myself that those acts I see who are organised and have a professional attitude towards their music output (most important of course!), gigs, touring etc seem to mostly do fine!!

But of course the record companies and radio stations aren't really interested with cover/tribute acts - other than those delivered on a plate to them by the TV 'talent' shows who'll keep the tills ticking over for a while - but they're always on the lookout for new acts and sounds - and if your own music is catchy with a great hook and you can offer a performance that's 'a little bit different' then you're streets ahead right from the start!

So if your ambition is global conquest - it's probably also a good time of the year to be thinking about where you want your music project to be heading - and in the first place it's really important that your act secures a home-town following and packs a full-house every time they play your own patch - this probably shouldn't be more than 3 to 4 times a year - but it'll provide a really vital statistic!! The next step is probably the most difficult of all - you've got great tunes so why on earth would you then want to give them away for virtually nothing? But it seems at the moment that the traditional path of writing, gigging and touring isn't the way to progress - there's only pennies to be earned any more playing local live shows, or flogging your CDs and merch at gigs so why should you earn even less by making your music available online?

So you've had 100,000 streams of your kicking new single and barely covered the subscription fee? But that's not the point! It's the numbers that matter and that's what'll count when you apply for management and representation, national radio play or a spot at the major festivals - the agents and 'selectors' will choose an act with thousands of (genuine) 'likes' who can pack a venue every time over an outfit with just a handful of passionate and dedicated followers - but who well might have great tunes to die for!!

So please don't shoot the messenger - I'm not planning myself to stop going to small and intimate local gigs where I know that on a weekly basis I'll hear a number that by all rights should be #1 in the charts - but it's all about getting that kicking tune 'out there' - times have changed and a loss-leading but massive internet presence seems to be the main path nowadays towards success - and no you won't be paid - well not straightaway at any rate...

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

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# Marine

## The Prince Albert, Stroud | 18 February

There's something distinctly magical about the music of **Marine**.

It's not just the current thread of their subject matter, creatures and events drawn from myths and legends, it's the extraordinarily atmospheric nature of the sound this talented group of women produce. The songs' content may be drawn from bygone days but the musical delivery is as modern as you can get.

On their Facebook page they describe themselves as 'lo-fi, indie-pop' but what comes off stage is altogether more sumptuous. If you can imagine The Cadbury Sisters jamming with Warpaint and The Cocteau Twins, you're part of the way there, but only part.

The twin vocalists/guitarists, **Ruby Jack** and **Cara Sebastian** are a contrast in styles. Whilst both are excellent vocalists in their own right, the sum of their parts lifts the vocals onto an altogether different plain. Jack's voice borders on the operatic, hovering between mezzo and soprano, whereas Sebastian's is of a more contemporary sound – the key, though is that they swap lead duties to provide a range of completely distinct sounds, depending on the needs of the song. At its quietest and most melodic, it's a mesmerising Siren call drifting towards the ceiling like smoke, but when they both let loose together, the sound crashes over you like a wave, taking your breath away.

Underpinning this is one of the most subtle and effective rhythm sections I've seen in a long time. Even though I tend to think of the band as 'Londoners' I was forgetting that drummer **Kaja Magsam** is actually from Germany, from where, modern legend has it, she was so impressed at the band's music that she wrote offering her services as percussionist – I'd say she's pretty much a perfect fit, her work with the mallets being particularly fine. She is complemented beautifully by the fluency of **Beth Dariti's** bass lines, there's also backing vocals of high quality from the bass player, particularly important when both lead vocalists are firing in tandem.



The music is drawn from their two current EPs ("1&2" for easy reference) and of this canon of seven songs, it's still the jaw-dropping 'Selkie' that's the highlight. This is a huge, huge, track – powerful and elegiac, with Jack's chorus vocals in particular spiralling upwards and blanketing the audience, while Sebastian's brittle, chiming guitar shapes give a haunted feel to the quieter parts of the song.

There's a restless fragility about some of the work on 'EP1', but just as you're drifting on the beauty of it all, the sound crashes powerfully into life, jerking you out of your reverie with an almighty thump. But EP2 is an altogether less ethereal offering – there's an underlying urgency that drives the tracks relentlessly on, with Magsam and Dariti flexing their muscles and propelling the tracks forward – this is particularly noticeable in the thunderous conclusion to 'Sirens' which kicks off about a minute before the end of the track when the guitars start to be hit with real power and purpose.

But there's new material on show tonight as well, and even though mystical themes still abound, the band has been working with The Strokes and Regina Spektor producer **Gordon Raphael** and there's a distinct edge to this stuff, and a move into uncharted territory, with the aggressive and effortlessly brilliant 'Big Dog' pretty much taking the honours for best track of the night.

How wonderful it would be if this were the year **Marine** were to break through and this glorious blend of melody, harmony and power were to reach a much wider audience. Take a listen and let the Sirens enchant you...

Breathtaking. [wearemarinemarine.wordpress.com](http://wearemarinemarine.wordpress.com)

Geoffrey Head

## Attila The Stockbroker Lamb and Flag, Worcester | Sat 20th Feb

The **Lamb and Flag** once more played host to another memorable night of poetry on Saturday 20th February 2016 when **Attila the Stockbroker**, invited by **Slap Magazine**, unleashed a fusillade of left wing invective, a veritable onslaught of post-punk polemic to a deliriously receptive audience. Among the subjects broached by this beefy, belligerent bard were the miners' strike of 1983/4, the bankers' breach from 2008 onwards, and the rippling legacy of Margaret Thatcher.

Sporting a T-Shirt bearing an oft-cited quotation from the lovely left wing poet (and sadly deceased) Adrian Mitchell: *"Most people ignore most poetry because most poetry ignores, most people"*, Attila oscillated between poems and extracts from his autobiography to universal delight (aside, perhaps, from a scatological Swiftian offering about an acquaintance's rancid sleeping bag).

The poems and songs ranged widely. There was a moving poetic tribute to the poet's mother, a subject memorably rendered by the current Poet Laureate in the same bar and a piece aiming a blunderbuss at UKIP. The great thing about the performance was that it allowed everyone to either agree or disagree because there was no fence sitting involved. Poetry and politics have never been separable and, thankfully, this remains the case.

It would be disingenuous to suggest that all the regulars would subscribe to Attila's views, and they would not knowingly have bought a ticket for this refreshingly unapologetic apologia for what would certainly offer seismic tremors along the spine of the odd copy of the Daily Mail, that occasionally inveigles itself past the hallowed portals of The Tything hostelry.



Photo: Nikki Boraston

However, the overriding view would surely be that what was articulated chimed harmoniously with the humane and inclusive community that has characterized this pub for nearly fifty years. It has long been a crucible of debate as well as a refuge for so many, who are welcome within its well-worn walls. The impulse shared was one of recognition – a need to protest but also an impulse of gratitude for the chance to be entertained, to laugh, to think.

**Attila the Stockbroker**, Garry Jones the Landlord and Mark Hogan from Slap worked the old Flag alchemy again. They brought the community together in an amalgam fused in the alembic of brotherly and sisterly love. Most people like most poetry in this pub because what is offered at **The Lamb and Flag** *does not ignore them*.

by Mike Woods

# The Lamb & Flag

## The Tything, Worcester

**Saturday March 5th**

**The Poor Boys  
of Worcester - 8pm**

**Every Monday**

**The FOLK SESSIONS - 8.30pm**

**Every 1st & 3rd Sunday**

**Bah Chords Open Mic - 8.00pm**

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# Sheelanagig & Skewwhiff

## The Cube, Malvern | Saturday 12th March

Having become somewhat of a West Country institution for the past decade, high-octane quintet Sheelanagig continue their mission to thrill and entertain those further afield with a return gig at **The Cube** in Malvern on Saturday 12th March.

This gig is part of the **Sheelanagig** tour to promote their imminent 5th album 'Beard Town' which was recorded at the legendary Real World Studios. Early previews confirm that The S-Boys continue to refine their virtuoso-standard, Balkans & beyond folk-jazz stylings.



Photo: Graham Munn

Live their show is a rumbustious combo of musical mayhem, thrills'n'spills licks and lotsa laffs! **Sheelanagig** are a riotous mix of Madness meets Taraf de Hadouks at The Cave du Hot Club de France.



Photo: Nikki Boraston

The band of course are no strangers to hawking their wares in far-off places as they have travelled extensively throughout Europe, since their formation at Dartington College of Arts 10 years ago.

Veterans also of festivals such as Womad, Glastonbury and Beautiful Days this fun-filled fivesome arrive in Malvern with a top class pedigree and promising much with their music & mirth mash-up. Those of you who were there the last time will doubtless return and **Sheelanagig** virgins will be sure to enjoy their defloration!

Support comes from local post punk misfits **Skewwhiff**.

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WOULD LIVE UP ANY PARTY  
AND KEEP THE FLOOR FULL."  
- FROOTS

# SHEELANAGIG

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For tickets and gig info please visit [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com) - for all your Sheelanagig needs - [www.sheelanagig.co.uk](http://www.sheelanagig.co.uk)

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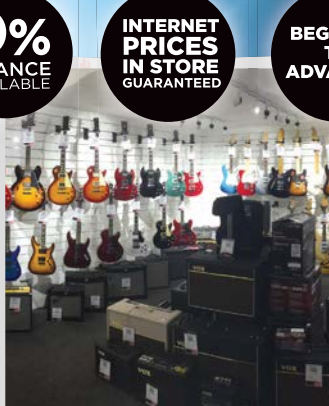
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# Deborah Rose & Mari Randle

## The Ginger Pig | Friday 5th February

An unmissable evening of harmonic acoustic folk music awaited a sell-out crowd at the tasty **Ginger Pig**. It was interesting to see **Mari** in a duo with **Deborah**, having only seen and heard her with **Vault Of Eagles**.

The fine lilted vocals of **Deborah Rose** breathed into the cosy atmosphere as the traditional 'Skye Boat Song' told the tale of Bonnie Prince Charlie's escapade. A little more history followed with the early days of the Irish Uprising and musical imagery conjured up by 'The Foggy Dew'. It is worth mentioning at this point that there is an excellent studio video version of this tune with Mari's clan on Deborah's website. The duo then turned the page to their own script, with a song inspired by a Tennyson poem, whilst staying at his cottage on the Isle Of White. **Mari Randle** was given the opportunity to demonstrate her acoustic guitar skills, strumming out chords with a nod towards her electric offerings.

An interesting song next up; 'Night With her Train Of Stars' is currently playing as a loop accompaniment to the ethereal, Pre-Raphaelite artwork of **E.R. Hughes** at **Birmingham Art Gallery**. Taking us then to a break comes the uplifting and involving Irish Jig from Mari, 'The Rocky Road To Dublin': an excellent high note to adjourn for further refreshment.



'Scarborough Fair', is one of those traditional English folk songs we have all grown up with and it's impossible not to enjoy it: we did just that before 'The Joy Of Love' drifted through the air, beautifully floated out by Deborah. A duet followed, taken from their new album 'Birdrock', with hints of Celtic seasoning and the sea locked rock sanctuary that drove this song.



Mari then worked her strings with a passion for the superb 'One More Cup Of Coffee' - not a bad idea as it's the Ginger Pig's own blend and highly recommended! An enthusiastic gasp emits from the spellbound audience, as Christine McVie's 'Songbird' is announced, though the nod of approval probably brought images of Eva Cassidy to mind.

The evening presses on and lo, local legend Simon Othen has entered the room, strangely with mandolin under his arm. 'Truth Of The Matter' plays out with that mandolin adding a lovely bit of sparkle to the end of proceedings not least with Mari's brilliant acoustic and vocal lead on showstopper 'House Of The Rising Sun'. 'Little Beggar Man' closes what has been an exceptional evening at The crack(l)ing **Ginger Pig**. A lovely way then of spending a Friday evening in a wonderful little café with top quality performers.

Graham Munn

# Chilli Festival

## Ginger Pig, Worcester | Sat 30th April

One of Worcester's premier cafe bars is holding its inaugural, one -day Chilli Festival right at the end of April.

The day will include a spicy selection of music and munching culminating with the crowning of Worcester's first Chilli Eating Champion.

To this end the venue are looking for about 10 brave contestants who can cut the mustard (hmm?! Ed) and chomp some chillies (better! Ed).

The whole event will last from 12 noon til 12 midnight with the contest taking place at 5pm for 45 minutes.

There will be busking spots outside the cafe from noon until about 5pm and the **Ginger Pig** are also looking for acts who want to take a spot outside.

At 6pm the fun and music will move inside with confirmed bands so far being **Speed Gums**, **Woo Town Hillbillies**, **Zodiac Club** and **Skewwhiff**.

There will be chilli based and band merch a-plenty available and any aspiring contestants and buskers should contact the venue at [gingerpigsteve@gmail.com](mailto:gingerpigsteve@gmail.com).

It's gonna be a hot time in the old time that night!



## The Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro

**01905 338913**

9 Copenhagen Street, Worcester WR1 2HB

### Upcoming Events

- 26th Feb Madi Stimpson Trio
- 11th Mar Howlin' Mat
- 19th Mar We Steal Flyers
- 25th Mar Coates
- 15th Apr Gary O'Dea
- 30th Apr The Ginger Pig Annual Chilli Festival
- 6th May Fallen Branches

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# Angel Snow, Matthew Perryman-Jones Ellisha Green

St George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 4th March

Having recently hosted the likes of Poet Laureate **Carole Ann Duffy**, **Granny's Attic** and **Bitterroots** (twice!), the quite stunning, top quality programme of 'Music In The Hall' events, **St George's Hall** in Bewdley continues by welcoming two of Nashville, TN's finest to the wilds of Worcestershire.

It's no exaggeration to say that **Angel Snow** astonished audiences when she toured the UK last March. Her voice is utterly



unforgettable and her songs, a couple of which have been recorded by Alison Krauss, are dynamite. The highest calibre of artistry is often intertwined with the deepest sincerity and such is the case with Angel who plays out reflections of her life in a stunning set of self-penned material. This is

indeed a coup for St George's and Bewdley as is the other part of this dream package **Matthew Perryman-Jones**, whose songs have appeared in dozens of films and TV shows including Vampire Diaries, Hollyoaks and Greys Anatomy. Matthew is one of the most sought-after songwriters in Nashville and it will be an honour to see both him and Angel perform at the Hall.



There is also a pledge at the St George's events to include young, local and upcoming acts and to this end 16 year old **Ellisha Green** from Kidderminster graces the bill with her tremendous talent.

Multi-Winner of the recent **Wyre Forest Young Musician Of The Year Awards**, Ellisha not only walked away with the top gong but also those for Solo Singer and Best Composition. A fine haul indeed then; Ellisha is sure to wow the crowd with her original, acoustic songs.



This is destined to be yet another sell-out night so get your tickets asap either online at [www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk](http://www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk) or in person from **St George's Hall cafe**.

Next up on Friday 8th April is **Amy LaVere** in an exclusive one-off performance. Yet another coup from Tennessee, this time Memphis, Amy is a singer, songwriter, upright bass player and actress! Amy's music has been described as a blend of classic country, gypsy jazz, and southern soul, plus she has toured extensively with Seasick Steve. Support will be from the Hannah Law Band, featuring the haunting harmonies of **Hannah** and **Chloe Mogg**.

More of this and future St George's events will be covered in **Slap Mag** so be sure to keep 'em peeled!

## Babal + Metropolis

The Marrs Bar, Worcester | Friday 4th March

Dystopian psych-art-rock darlings **Babal** re-emerge in Worcester to bring their patented blend of dark new wave stylings to the **Marrs Bar** on Friday 4th March.



No strangers to the universal groove **Babal** mesh and meld this with blistering rhythms, stunning guitar work and powerfully fluid vocals. Add to this potent mix their flair for an enigmatic lyric plus powerful live visuals courtesy of **Zenjen Lighting** and you would be wise to sample their wayward wares in Worcester.

Support comes in the fine form of top UK steampunk band **Metropolis**, who hail from Bury St Edmunds and bring with them a worldwide reputation for impressive stagecraft and professionalism. Keen also on cultivating a space rock following they have appeared on bills with the likes of The Enid, Omnia Opera and Krankschaft: Metropolis are bound to prove the perfect accompaniment to the Babal main course. Come join the feast!

Tickets are available at £4 with £5 on the door  
[www.facebook.com/babalband](http://www.facebook.com/babalband)

As Babble they released albums *Shape Of The Flux* (2012) and *Bread and Circuses* (2013) to some acclaim and now in their current incarnation they come to amaze and astound not only with tracks from their 2015 ep *Hanging In The Balance* but selections from their imminent new and yet to be titled album.

## Stevie Nimmo | The Sky Won't Fall

*The Sky Won't Fall*, that's for sure, as this is **Stevie Nimmo** were talking about and he may have gone 'solo' for this release, but the front man of **King King** is riding the crest of a wave with arguably, The No1 UK blues band. This is Stevie's second solo album, the first one being *'The Wynds Of Life'* back in 2010. The album opens with an amp hum, Stevie plugging in, white noise and a stonking out & out rock riff as *'Chains Of Hope'* kicks in. Some real head banging stuff here, before moving onto *'Roll The Dice'*; a more subtle Texan blues-rock sound.

*'Change'*, brings a change of pace and a softer approach, but still the remorseless drum beat stands out, under the hands of **Craig Bacon**. Its a track that could sit quite comfortably in any chart as a single release. Some nice bursts of guitar from Stevie add to the quality feel of this piece.



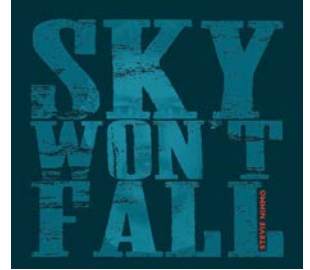
Track 4 brings a great, solid, blues thumper *'Running On Back To You'*; its a slow, powerful anthem of a song and again we hear the guitar crying to us. Probably the outstanding track on the album, certainly for my old ears.

Another twist then with *'Walk The Thin Line'* which could easily be performed by Shania Twain as it's out and out classic modern country. *'I'll Pray For You'* takes us back into Blues territory with the distinct pulsing bass of **Mat Beable**, underlying the metronomic drum beat. *'Still Hungry'* is a storming rock blast in the style of Led Zep and then we spin the dice for, *'Gamblers Roll'*, another slow pulsating track with lovely understated guitar riffs. The soulful *'Loving Might Do Us Good'* follows displaying the sheer breadth and diversity of this album. We finish of with Stevie in Americana mode with the tender, poetic and acoustic *'Love You More Tonight'*; it's a beautiful closer to this excellent album.

Any **Stevie Nimmo** fan would be happily part with their hard earned for *'The Sky Won't Fall'* and I'm hoping to catch Stevie perform these tunes live, which is where his character really comes through.

Luckily then Stevie is now on tour with support from the great **Ben Poole**, which anyone with a love of raw electric guitar will find unmissable. In the Slap region you can catch the show at the excellent **Vonnies Blues Club** at Charlton Kings in Cheltenham on Thursday 12th May. See you there you'd be mad to miss them!

Graham Munn



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## Lunar Festival Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th June

As many of you know the same team responsible for the **Moseley Folk** and **Jazz, Funk & Soul Festivals** curate and organise **Lunar**, which is the reason why in its 3th year of existence, there is another stellar line-up in prospect.

Another idyllic festival setting on the **Umberslade Estate** in deepest Warwickshire and what they like to call Nick Drake country, **Lunar** are rightly chuffed to be able to welcome the following artists starting with my own fave in New York, new wave legends **Television**, performing the whole of their stone solid classic album '*Marquee Moon*'.



Television

The other acts are certainly no less exciting or monumental with **Super Furry Animal**, **Mercury Rev** and **Badly Drawn Boy** amongst the er draws (ouch! Ed). Add to this other personal faves of mine including **Bill Ryder-Jones**, **The Zombies** plus folk royalty **Martin Carthy** and **Ashley Hutchings** and Lunar is a mouth-watering prospect indeedy-do!



Mercury Rev

More top notch artists appearing include **Oz Mutantes**, **Bentley Rhythm Ace** and the ever marvellous **Matt Berry** - can you tell I'm excited?!

Much more can be found including all ticketing, camping etc

info at their lovely website: [www.lunarfestival.co.uk](http://www.lunarfestival.co.uk). There you will also find links to all social media outlets plus again be assured that **Slap Mag** will keep you informed on all things **Lunar**.



Bentley Rhythm Ace

See the add on Inside Front page and visit [lunarfestival.co.uk](http://lunarfestival.co.uk) for updates and ticket information.

42 SLAP MARCH

## Nozstock Bromyard, Herefordshire Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th July

Reaching its 18th year in summer '16, **Nozstock** is a much-loved institution like a mini old skool Glastonbury nestled in the rolling hills of Herefordshire.

Due to the event being curated by the legendary father/daughter duo of **Noz** and **Ella** and their huge extended family who work tirelessly across the festival, **Nozstock** has a unique charm and energy unlike other happenings.



Jurassic 5

This reassuringly welcoming and independent festival has evolved over the last near two decades from 50 friends gathered for the inaugural gathering into the fully fledged but intimate musical odyssey we know and love today.

The big name headliners to be confirmed for this year's event is undoubtedly the magnificent **Jurassic 5**, closely followed by other exciting acts such as **Gentleman's Dub Club** (below), **Foreign Beggars**, **Slamboree**, **Hot 8 Brass band**, **Professor Elemental** and **Split Prophets**.



Famous also for its DJ line-ups Noz has secured the services of **Friction ft. Linguistics**, **Dub Phizix + Strategy**, **DJ Marky & MC GC**, **Dimension**, **Rene LaVice + Stapleton** and that's just for starters! Exciting, daring and eclectic as ever, **Nozstock** joins the musical dots tween pop, ska, punk, folk, funk, soul, indie, drum & bass, psytrance, house and so much more. Noz is for



Slamboree

kids of all ages and sizes and promises to be a playground for everyone. You can relax in the knowledge that **Slap Mag** will keep you up to date on all the latest Noz announcements and of course there is their website at [www.nozstock.com](http://www.nozstock.com) for tickets and full information.



# NozStock the Hidden Valley



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www.nozstock.com



## Wille & The Bandits

### Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat 13th Feb

This not the first time I have seen this phenomenal band, over the years I have probably caught there show a dozen times and still come back for more. Put quite simply, this band produces intoxicating music that pulls you in, effusing the air with electric energy as you become drunk on the sound.

That sound for those who have not been fortunate to hear the band, has developed over those years with new songs, more elaborate presentation and new influences in **Wille and the Bandits'** lives. Wille a new age father, leads with his mesmerising acoustic strings, guitar and dobro played extensively with slide plus an array of pedal power that would not disgrace a church organ. Matt, I would argue, the best damned bass player anywhere in the UK, hefts a mighty 6 string affair, which he finger picks like a virtuoso guitarist. He also has this wonderful, proudly Cornwall produced stick bass, that produces notes low enough to rattle windows 10 miles away. Andy, I would deem the hawk, sits usually with a slightly menacing stare watching the other two, picking up the nuances and driving the rhythm on an assortment of percussion: an essential, sorcerer in this triangle of wizardry.

The band open on the big stage of **Artrix** - they do seem '*Miles Away*' but no matter as the sound lifts and you know they've just '*Got To Do Better*'. Wille dedicates a song to his 6 month old daughter, '*Watch You Grow*' whilst in contrast '*Gimme Some*' is all about the craving for a smoke! A superb reworking Bandit-style of '*Crossroads*' follows with '*Bad News*' explosively closing the first set.



The truly beautiful '*Mammon*', one of my favourites, opens the second set then Andy returns to his blocks and it's time to '*Chill Out*': this is powerful stuff though with Wille in full voice. We are all then seduced by the '*Gypsy Woman*', the band in full swing, then another contrast as the sublime '*Angel*' is performed, written in memory of Willi's mother. Fabulous, moving stuff indeed. We demand more and are treated to a return and a 'new cover'. Then they are sadly gone.

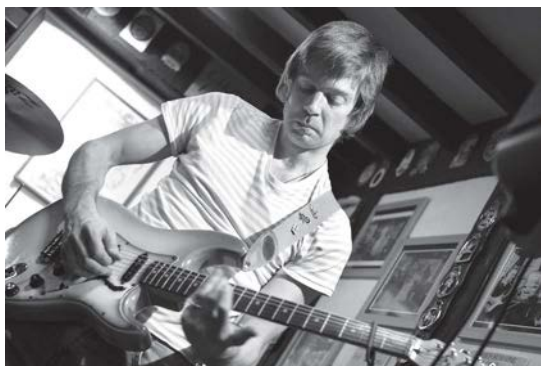
What more can I say: despite Wille newly shorn of dreadlocks this year and lacking signature stove pipe hat, these Bandit boys seems to grow in stature and following relentlessly. I am very pleased to see they're returning to **Upton Blues** this year, so come rain or shine I will be on that field.

The risks are high though if the flood walls are up, of Matt cracking the glass screens when his bow crosses the heavy strings of that awesome 'double' bass!

## Built For Comfort

### Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sun 7th Feb

I decided to make my Sunday visit to the lovely **Prince Of Wales** in old Ledbury town, even though nothing was listed on their site or facebook page. I found a bunch of more 'senior' musicians setting up and being a five piece it was an even tighter squeeze in there than normal.



They were ready to roll and roll they certainly did, as this very capable band from Swindon, grabbed everyone's attention from the off. Excellent smoky blues vocals from Alec up front, supplemented by the excellent back-up from the boys in the band.

The music is of course blues but it hails from diverse sources and so we get selections from the catalogues of such luminaries as Buddy Whittington, Freddie King, Walter Trout and John Mayall to name but a few. To end the first half we are even treated to a bit of Canned Heat and Bonnie Raitt, great selections all!



The break doesn't last long and soon we're driving into Taj Mahal, Coco Montoya and Robben Ford territory; an excellent whirlwind tour for sure. The band doubtlessly a bit cramped in the tight space at the Prince, but it didn't seem to stem the flow and '*Castin' My Spell On You*' summed up the flavour of **Built For Comfort**.

They will return to this venerable venue I'm sure as a bit of an unknown factor had turned out to be a surprise package, resulting in another music filled evening here in ledbury. A superb rendition of Bo Diddley's '*Road Runner*' pointed toward my early and unfortunate exit to catch my homeward train and I reluctantly left to the notes of Savoy Brown.

I have happily since found out that **Built For Comfort** are playing at **The Chestnut** in Worcester on **Saturday 26th March**, so I will certainly be there and suggest you join me at this excellent, well supported venue, which they are bound to rock.

Graham Munn

# Living it up on a Worcester Sunday **Madi Stimpson at The Chestnut Inn** **Jack Blackman at Cap'n Gown**

The last time I heard Madi he was sat in The Shambles on a Saturday afternoon, dazzling shoppers with some Gypsy jazz. An early evening with good ales at **The Chestnut** offered a few more comforts as Madi was joined by **Alan Mason, Simon Smith and Geoff Walker**. The '*Django Waltz*' done and despatched, '*Iko Iko*' brought us the vibes of New Orleans jazz, before being whisked away on Eliza Cotton's '*Freight Train*'. I guess John Martyn is never going to be far away from any acoustic guitar stylings and so it proved as '*May You Never*' finds Madi in fine form, complemented



by **Geoff Walker's** subtle soprano sax notes. We were rattling through the set, with a flash back for you older readers to Rupert Davies, striking up his pipe full of St Bruno, adding to the city smog: '*Maigret*', was in the smokeless room tonight. Sticking with redundant TV themes, just over the horizon bobbed Capt Pugwash and '*The Trumpet Hornpipe*' - we won't mention his 'legendary' crew. The break came with everyone's favourite, '*Mr Grumpy*' and then '*Moonlight*'. I was never going to stay for the full session, but it had been a very pleasant early Sunday evening, in the presence of the undeniably gifted Madi and Co. Good beer and some friendly heckling from mine host '*Mad Pierre*', though I noted the trombone had not yet been raised! Time to make an exit then although I would be catching up with Madi at **The Ginger Pig** later in February, so now off to collect **Cap N' Gown** and another acoustic guitarist.

I was a little perturbed to find an almost deserted Cap with **Jack Blackman** just setting up: he was not starting for a while, so maybe it would fill out - in the meantime then a pint of Hooky. Jack is another of those hard working, talented musicians, who like Madi, earn their living performing nightly in small pubs and venues around the area, with bigger gigs just around the corner in the festival season. The crowd had not turned up with just a slow trickle of customers as Jack started, opening with a breezy bit of ragtime, before telling us '*She Don't Know*', taken from his current EP '*The Strawhouse Sessions*'. '*Patch Up That House*', also written by Jack - perhaps 'pack out that house' would have been more appropriate - shame that a talented, roots musician had such a small though appreciative audience. A mix of poor weather, alternative venues, and perhaps not enough local promotion, conspired against the gig. All I can say is that those absent missed the excellent '*Ballad Of Charles Walton*'; a dark tale of a Valentines Day Massacre, by pitchfork! Way back in another century, an old



blues man name of Blind Blake, wrote a grand finger-picking'n' licking story of dusty Tennessee roads and the lament of a good woman: '*Police Dog Blues*' is made to measure for Jack and his acoustic country blues style.

I'd say should you have missed either artist then make an effort to seek them, as they are both very accomplished guitarists and though the styles differ, you will find fine musicianship with both.

If we want to be entertained by live music in our local venues and I sincerely hope we do, then we must all make the effort to support both venue and artist. Both would be a sad loss to the community and it will be to our regret in the future. Original artists enrichen our lives and venues that are prepared to give them a living, depend on our footfall through the door and buying a beer or two. Help keep music live.

Graham Munn

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## Tuesday 1 March 2016

### Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year 2016

Pitville Pump Room, Cheltenham

#### Eric Bell (original Thin Lizzy guitarist)

Iron Road, Evesham

#### Lunchtime Recital - pianist An-Ting Chang

Cheltenham Town Hall

## Wednesday 2 March 2016

#### The Remi Harris Duo Project

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

#### Maxine & The Sound of Soul Duo

Hop Pole, Bewdley

#### Alexander Soares

Evesham Arts Centre

#### Andy Bennett Acoustic (Ocean Colour Scene)

Iron Road, Evesham

#### Martin Roscoe plays Mozart

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

#### Tyler and Friends

Great Malvern Hotel

#### The Schmoozenbergs

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

#### Lucy Spraggan

Guildhall, Gloucester

## Thursday 3 March 2016

#### Dan Greenaway

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

#### Gigspanner

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

#### Wells Virtuosi

Pitville Pump Room, Cheltenham

#### Local Musicians Jamming Night hosted by Ben Vickers

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

#### Missing Lynx

Worleys, Stourbrige

#### Kent Du Chaine

The Prince Albert, Stroud

#### Adam Wedd

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Friday 4 March 2016

#### Babal, Metropolis

The Marris Bar, Worcester

#### Showaddywaddy 2016

Cheltenham Town Hall

#### Osukaru + Vanity Boulevard

Iron Road, Evesham

#### Ignition presents Valous, Kill For Trophies, Guts For Glory

Boars Head, Kidderminster

#### Mister Wolf

Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Nr Pershore

#### Angel Snow, Matthew Perryman Jones

Saint Georges Hall, Bewdley

#### Rock and Roll Rodeo

The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

#### Jenkinson Frith Duo

Artrix, Bromsgrove

#### Retroreflector

Millers Arms, Pershore

#### Clyde Spencer Show (ex Drifters)

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

#### Another Band, Drown

The Booth Hall, East Street, Hereford

#### Mr Ben

Drummonds, Worcester

#### The John Steeds

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport

#### Keston Cobblers Club

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

#### Ella and the Blisters

The Prince Albert, Stroud

#### Mister Wolf

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

#### UK Guns n' Roses

River Rooms, Stourbridge

#### Fights & Fires, Vera Grace, Headcase, Ways Across

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

#### Taylor & Co

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

#### Flying Ant Day

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

#### Locust Honey String Band

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

#### Mke Skilbeck

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

#### Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel

#### Flying Ant Day, Je Suis Jesus

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

#### John Steeds

Worleys, Stourbrige

#### Trevor Burton Band

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

#### Bridget And The Big Girls Blues

The Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

## Saturday 5 March 2016

#### Mister Wolf

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

#### Sax Appeal

The Green Dragon, Malvern

#### UB40 - Labour of Love

River Rooms, Stourbridge

#### David Rattenbury

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

#### DJ Ed

Boars Head, Kidderminster

#### XSLF (Stiff Little Fingers), Borrowed Time, 50 Shades Of Punk

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

#### Captain Accident

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

#### The Poor Boys Of Worcester

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

#### Weapon UK + Avenford

Iron Road, Evesham

#### Peter Jagger

Great Malvern Hotel

#### Ezio

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

#### Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos + Flat Stanley

Eleven, Stourbridge

#### Big Jim & Black Cat Bone

The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

#### Paul Sinha

Artrix, Bromsgrove

#### Aquarius

The Farmers Boy, Tollydene Road, Worcester

#### Music for Youth Regional Festival

Cheltenham Town Hall

#### James Cheseldine

Stroud Subscription Rooms

#### The Facestealers

Cross Keys, Malvern

#### Brackish, Port Erin

The Prince Albert, Stroud

#### Vinny Peculiar

The Marris Bar, Worcester

#### Nigel Clark (Dodgy), The Standard Lamps

Malvern Cube, Malvern

#### The Whole Caboodle Ceilidh Band

St. Swithun's Institute Halls , Worcester

#### Tubby Bluesters

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

#### The Smiths Indeed

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

#### The Mighty Boing

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**The Cuginis**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**The Bad Cats**  
New Inn, Pershore  
**Sister Sandwich, Billy Whizz**  
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

**Nice N Sleazy**  
The Plough, 86 Whitecross Road, Hereford

**Matt Woosey**  
West Malvern Social Club

**Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds**  
Royal Oak, Ledbury

**TBC**  
Worleys, Stourbrisse

**The John Steeds**  
The Trumpet Inn, Evesham

**The Remi Harris Project**  
North Nibley Village Hall, Innocks Estate, North Nibley

## Sunday 6 March 2016

**The Lew Thomas Band, Lydia Scarlett, Jack Blackman**  
**The Tuery Sessions**  
The Cross Keys, Stratford Road, Alcester

**Leveret**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Music for Youth Regional Festival**  
Cheltenham Town Hall

**Paul Lamb & Chad Strentz**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Tyler Massy & Vo Fletcher**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Bryn Thomas**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Gordon Giltrap**  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

## Monday 7 March 2016

**Ten Tombs + support**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

## Tuesday 8th March

**Better Than Never, Coast To Coast, Sioux Falls, Vidorra,**  
**Layover**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Lunchtime Recital - Megumi Rolfe & Belinda Jones**  
Cheltenham Town Hall

**Atea Wind Quintet**  
Pitville Pump Room, Cheltenham

**Babajack Duo**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Wednesday 9 March 2016

**Tom Callinswood with Mari Randle**  
Hop Pole, Bewdley

**The Vogwells**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Ferryman + Hell's Gazelles**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Tyler and Friends**  
Great Malvern Hotel

**John Spiers**  
Cheltenham Town Hall

**The Eskies**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Thursday 10 March 2016

**Arcadia Roots**  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**St Edward's School Concert**  
Pitville Pump Room, Cheltenham

**Vincent Flats Final Drive**  
Worleys, Stourbrisse

**Haunted Souls**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Pixel Fix**  
River Rooms Stourbridge

**One Replaces The Other, Wretched World, Buying Lies, My Mother Lie, Oui Legionnaires**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Gill Sandell**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Kettle of Fish**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Will Johns + Malaya Blue**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Breabach**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Bromsgrove Young Musicians 2016 Finalists Concert**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Friday 11 March 2016

**Howlin' Mat**  
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**Jay & Eli**  
Amber Cafe, Evesham

**The Dead Sea Skulls**  
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Barbarellas Big Bang**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Sowden and Friends**  
Pig and Drum, Worcester

**Bleeding Hearts + Support**  
Worleys, Stourbrisse

**Chewie**  
Great Malvern Hotel

**Arcadia Roots**  
The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

**Brendan O'Brien**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Sarah Warren Band, Paul Balmer**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Chewie**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Graham Road, Great Malvern

**Martha Tilston, The Rowan**  
The Ale House, Mill Lane, Colwall

**Out Late**  
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**GlosToneBeret Festival: George Montague, All Ears Avow, Spoils, Courson, Dan Walton Band, Katie Collins, Clay Gods, The Twitchers, Demi Marriner**  
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Stewart Francis**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Gravy Train**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Jake Morley**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Nice N Sleazy**  
The Bridge Inn, Bridge Street, Stourport On Severn

**Andy Fairweather Low**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**The Remi Harris Project**  
St Peter's Centre, Church Road, Peterchurch

**Effigy For Sleep, Lee Endres, Rob Simmons**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Mike Silbeck**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Richard Digance**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**CAt In The HAt Band**  
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Texan Peacocks**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Hells Bells (AC/DC)**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms

**The Poozies**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Relaxos**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**The Furtive**  
The Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

## Saturday 12 March 2016

### **The Executives**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **Paul & Ray**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

### **Tom Davies**

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

### **Jazz Evening**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Abba Arrival**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **The Manfreds**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Keep It Cash - tribute**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Peoples String Foundation**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Trevor Burton Band**

The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

### **Jasper in the Company of Others, Alex Rainsford, Desert Boots**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Last Tree Squad**

Pig and Drum, Worcester

### **The Underdogs**

Worleys, Stourbrisse

### **Findlay Napier**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **2 Tone Revue**

Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Brother & Wolf + James Attwood**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### **BBC National Orchestra Of Wales 2016**

Cheltenham Town Hall

### **GlosToneBeret Festival: Bad News, Ten Tombs, Forefathers, Rain, Harry + Lucy, Chris Smee, Photo Finish, Sahara Breeze, Jack Cooper**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Mumbo Jumbo**

Rous Lench Village Hall

### **Paarthurnax**

The Hollybush, Mitton Street, Stourport On Severn

### **Rattlesnake Jake**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **Tom Stade: You're Welcome**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **The Reflections**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Steve Page**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **Nice N Sleazy**

The Black Bear, High Street, Tewkesbury

### **Sheelanagig + Skewwhiff**

Malvern Cube, Malvern

### **The John Steeds**

Detroit's, Castle Street, Worcester

## Sunday 13 March 2016

### **The Urban Folk Quartet**

Cookley Village Hall, Worcs

### **TBA**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Barrels, Hereford

### **Greg the Axeman Winters**

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

### **Arlet**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **The Producers**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Astrid Williamson**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Wednesday 16th March

### **Stroud Film Festival - Ziggy Stardust & the Spiders from Mars**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Lanterns**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **Babajack**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Tyler and Friends**

Great Malvern Hotel

## Thursday 17 March 2016

### **Tim Holehouse, Soden, Hoggs Bison, Tempus**

The Firefly, Worcester

### **Tom Walker Trio**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Caravan**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Volunteer, Chipping Campden

### **Matt Woosey**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Sunjay - Black & Blues**

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### **Heck Rakettkanon, Black Art**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Deborah Rose & The O'Farrell's Frolics**

The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

### **Surreal Panther (Steel Panther tribute)**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Tim Holehouse, Soden, Hoggs Bison, Tempus**

The Firefly, Worcester

### **Ed Byrne - Outside, Looking In**

Cheltenham Town Hall

### **MAIA**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Craobh Rua - St Patrick's Night Concert**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Friday 18 March 2016

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Coverjunkies**

The Bell, Worcester

### **The Regulars - Charity memorial gig - more details tba**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **The Haunted Souls**

The Old Bush, Worcester

### **Daniel Promotions DJ Night**

Pig and Drum, Worcester

### **Mad Mick Disco**

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

### **One Tree Canyon**

Worleys, Stourbrisse

### **The Barflys**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Drum Love**

The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

### **Slack Alice**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Chicago Bytes**

Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Slowburner**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Marcus Malone**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Benyounes String Quartet**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Melissa Grace, Demi Marriner, Spoils, Little Brother Eli, Abel Grey**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Boat to Row**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Ruzz Guitars Blues Revue**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

### **One 2 Many**

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### **Charlie Dore with Julian Littman**

The Fold, Bransford

### **Hunter and The Bear**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Megson**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Mark Watson**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **The Grimaldi Band**

The Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

## **Saturday 19 March 2016**

### **The Vibrators**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Carol & Ben's Country Blues**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **Bang On - Irish Rock Night**

Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Bourbon Alley Blues Band**

The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

### **Jay and Eli**

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

### **Punk Night feat Brassick, Borrowed Time, Drunk In Charge,**

### **Complete Disfunction**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Welcome Back Delta, Muchos Tequilas Later, Fausto, Beverly Shrills**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **We Steal Flyers World Tour**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **Los Bastardos Finlandeses + Brockley Forest**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Chewie**

The Anchor, Kemsey

### **Reflections**

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### **The Interpreters**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **We Steal Flyers**

The Ginger Pig, Worcester

### **T'Pau - Songs and Stories**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Meatloaf - Meatloaf**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **TBC**

Worleys, Stourbrisse

### **Some Other Beings**

The Red Man, Kidderminster

### **Taylormade**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

### **Starving Rascals**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **Fay Hield & The Hurricane Party**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **The Mighty Boing**

The Rocklands Social Club, Headless Cross, Redditch

### **Dan Hartland + Fallen Branches**

West Malvern Social Club

### **The Hill Angels**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Parkin' Lot**

New Inn, Pershore

### **Roving Crows + Gaz Brookfield**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

### **Terry Lee And The Black Webb**

The Wild Side, Holt Fleet Road, Ormsersley

### **Dj Clive Jones Motown Night**

Pavilion Bar (Droitwich Hockey Club)

Salwarpe Valley Pavilion Westlands Way , Droiwich Spa

## **Sunday 20 March 2016**

### **Roberto Ruisi & Jo Seeley**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Maz Mitrenko**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### **Cara Dillon**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **The Woo Town Hillbillies**

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

### **The Bowie Experience**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Liane Carroll**

Tithe barn, Bishops Cleeve

### **Burning Down Alaska, Acres, Casey, An Elegy, Brass Tongue,**

### **Royal Ascent**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **TBA**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **Philharmonia Brass**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

## **Monday 21st March**

### **Rory Indiana, Fairview, Go Primitive, My Mother Lie**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

## **Tuesday 22nd March**

### **Bootleg Beatles 2016**

Cheltenham Town Hall

### **Martin Harley**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

## **Wednesday 23 March 2016**

### **Maggie Bell & Dave Kelly**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Tyler and Friends**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Ben Jordan**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## **Thursday 24 March 2016**

### **The Urban Folk Quartet**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Red Butler**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Sister Sandwich**

The Talbot Inn, Bewdley

### **Gigspanner**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Delicate Holly, Muchos Tequilas Later, Glass Giants**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Zoe Green Band**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Kate G Band**

Worleys, Stourbrisse

### **Martin James Bartlett**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### **Kelly Oliver**

Evesham Arts Centre

## **Friday 25 March 2016**

### **Coates**

Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

### **Matt Woosey**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **The Delray Rockets**

Cradley Heath Liberal Club

### **Horror Punk feat Dead United + Lupen Tooth**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Jazz Festival**

Great Malvern Hotel

### **Back 'n' Black (all female AC/DC tribute)**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **The Stiff Joints**

Worleys, Stourbrisse

### **The Clarksville Mountain Band**

The Old Bush, Worcester

### **Daniel Promotions DJ Night**

Pig and Drum, Worcester

**Hump De Bump**

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Black Knight**

Millers Arms, Pershore

**Souled Out 2 Funk**

Drummonds, Worcester

**The Tequila and Guns Show**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Mr Tea and The Minions**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Satans Barber Shop**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Thunder Daze**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Kelly Oliver**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Phil Bates**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Andy Oliveri EP launch, Forefathers**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Jon Brindley & Pete Twin**

Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Coates**

The Ginger Pig, Worcester

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton On Severn

**Sultana Brothers**

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Nice N Sleazy**

The Brewery Inn, Bye Street, Ledbury

**Kev 'spitz' Spittle**

The Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

## Saturday 26 March 2016

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Trumpet, Merstow Green, Evesham

**Journeyman**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Big Wolf Band**

Worleys, Stourbridge

**Mel and Him**

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**Desert Storm + Doomsday Outlaw**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Jazz Festival**

Great Malvern Hotel

**Chewie**

West Malvern Social Club

**Over The Hill**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Worcester Record and CD Fair 10am - 4pm**

St Andrews Methodist Hall, Pump St, Worcester

**Cantaloop**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Dub Pistols**

Guildhall, Gloucester

**Sham 69 + support**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Roving Crows**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Aquarius**

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

**Steve Febrach**

Stroud Subscription Rooms

**Greg Russell & Ciaran Algar**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Easter Soul Night with Dancefloor Deluxe + DJ Lofty**

Cross Keys, Malvern

**Mimosa**

New Inn, Pershore

**Before The Dawn**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Rose, Keith & The Alchemist + support**

Pig and Drum, Worcester

**Still Crazy**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Jay & Eli**

The Queens Arms, Bromyard

**Paarthurnax**

The Fox Inn, Hanley Broadheath, Tenbury Wells

**The Festivals Experience**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Parkin Lot**

The Swan Inn, Evesham

## Sunday 27 March 2016

**Aquarius**

The Swan Inn, Worcester

**The Notorious Brothers**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Rockabilly Bash feat The Wiftones, The Bravo's, The Dead Shots**

Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Bank Holiday with Sally**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Andy Cutting**

The Old Bush, Worcester

**Sax Appeal**

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Not The Rolling Stones**

Iron Road, Evesham

**King Solomon album launch + support**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Screamn' Miss Jackson and the Slap Ya Mama Big Band**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**AC/DC UK**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Dave Beale**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Revolution - DJ All Dayer**

The Firefly, Worcester

**JW-Jones**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**And Also The Trees**

The Flapper, Birmingham

**Nice N Sleazy**

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

**Mappfest Fundraiser feat Mappie'8, TheSmegatrons, MHT,**

**Massive Head trauma, Michael Knowles and the STD**

Priors Croft, Malvern

## Tuesday 29 March 2016

**The Remi Harris Project Featuring Ben Holder**

Clows Top Victory Hall, Clows Top, Worcestershire

**Hannah Sanders**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Lunchtime Recital - Marianna & Stephanie Kapsetaki**

Cheltenham Town Hall

## Wednesday 30 March 2016

**Swallows**

Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Christy Moore**

Cheltenham Town Hall

**Limehouse Lizzy**

Iron Road, Evesham

**Franc Cinelli**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

**Soul Legends**

Cheltenham Town Hall

## Thursday 31 March 2016

**Maddy Prior with Giles Lewin & Hannah James**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**From Sorrow To Serenity, In Depths + support**

Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Mark Watson**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Martin Carthy**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Vo Fletcher**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

## 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 Mamba @ 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

### First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

### 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 Wednesday - Ukulele Session

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### 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, Guarford

### First Wed - Open Mic

The Jailhouse, Hereford

### Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

### Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

### Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

### 3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

### Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

### 1st Thurs - Folk Session

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

### 1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

### 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

Catshill 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](http://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

### 7th 'A Series of Unfortunate Exhibitions' private views at

The Hopmarket & Green Self Storage, Worcester. 5pm.

### 8th Garage Lecture Series The Boat Studio University of Worcs. 5pm

### 9th Moscow State Circus, Courtyard Hereford, 5pm & 8pm

### 12th After Hour Authors, WAW Illustrative Arts Exhibition 7-9pm

### 13th Dancefest 'Got to be Gaudi' workshop, Angel Centre, Worcester. 10am

### 15th Garage Lecture Series Keith Wilson University of Worcester. 5pm

### 18th/19th Citizenship by The Perfect Circle, Malvern Cube. 7pm

### 19th Earth Hour, St Johns Library, Worcester. 7pm

### 22nd Jump Start meeting, Old Rectifying House, Worcester. 7.30pm

### 24th-13th April, Out of The Blue, contemporary textiles, Number 8, Pershore.

### Until 10th April New Art West Midlands, MAC and various venues

## Arts & Exhibitions

### 1-4th Hereford College of Arts Music week

### 2nd-27th Take 13, A Women's Collective, Artrix Bromsgrove

### 3rd Life Drawing Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster

### 4th Shadow of a Feral State - Opening Night, Globe, Hay on Wye, 6-8pm.

### 4th The Selfish Giant, White Wall Club, Malvern Cube, 7.30pm

### 4th Vamos Theatre, A Meeting of Creative Minds - Worcester Arts

Workshop - Networking event, 'A Meeting of Creative Minds' 10am-4pm

### 5th Jump Start Worcester Arts Workshop at 7-10pm

### 6th Contemporary Craft market, MAC Birmingham

# THE MARR'S BAR

MAR | APR 2016

Blanck Mass  
Friday 8th April



**Friday 4th March**

**Babal & Metropolis**

£4 in advance £5 on the door

**Saturday 5th March**

**Vinny Peculiar**

£6.50 in advance £8 on the door

**Thursday 10th March**

**FCS: Lock & Key & Vera Grace**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday 11th March**

**The Sarah Warren Band & Paul Balmer**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Saturday 12th March**

**Jasper In The Company Of Others**

**Alex Rainsford & Desert Boots**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday 18th March**

**Marcus Malone**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 19th March**

**The Vibrators**

£7 in advance £9 on the door

**Sunday 20th March**

**FCS: Burning Down Alaska, Acres,**

**Casey**

£7 in advance

**Friday 25th March**

**Matt Woosey**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 26th March**

**Before The Dawn (Kate Bush Tribute)**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Friday 1st April**

**Charity gig for Macmillan Nurses**

**Bourbon Alley Band, Ray Mitten Band**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Saturday 2nd April**

**Guns Or Roses**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 8th April**

**Surprise Attacks No.42**

**Blanck Mass, Rosebud, Ferric Lux**

£10 in advance

**Saturday 9th April**

**Underground Ocean, The Rooz**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday 15th April**

**The Official Receivers**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 16th April**

**Pat McManus Band**

£10 in advance £12 on the door

**Sunday 17th April**

**Daniel Kemish**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Thursday 21st April**

**Mike Peters Spirit of '86**

£16 in advance

**Saturday 23rd April**

**The straight aces**

£tbc

**Friday 29th April**

**Lizzie And The Banshees**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 30th April**

**Arcadia Roots**

£8 in advance £10 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](http://www.marrsbar.co.uk)

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