

# SLAP

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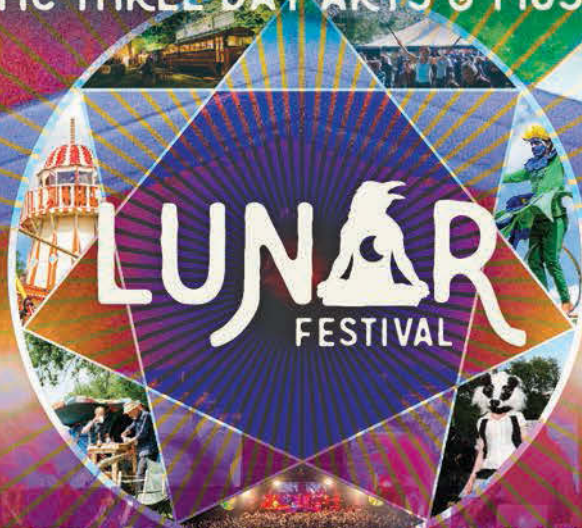
FREE



**SLAP** Supporting Local Arts & Performers



AN ECLECTIC THREE DAY ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL



# SUPER FURRY ANIMALS MERCURY REV • TELEVISION

THE ZOMBIES • BADLY DRAWN BOY  
MATT BERRY & THE MAYPOLES • OS MUTANTES  
BENTLEY RHYTHM ACE • IBIBIO SOUND MACHINE  
MARTIN CARTHY • BILL RYDER JONES • THE MARIACHIS • STEALING SHEEP  
BANGKOK PARADISE MOLAM INTERNATIONAL BAND • ALESSI'S ARK

JOSEFIN OHRN & THE LIBERATION • VICTORIES AT SEA  
ASHLEY HUTCHINGS • STICK IN THE WHEEL • THE GOOD WATER  
FLAMINGODS • SEELAND • AMBER ARCADES • ANDY WICKETT  
DUKE ST WORKSHOP & LAURENCE R HARVEY: TALES OF HP LOVECRAFT  
..  
PLUS MANY MANY MORE...

## LATE NIGHT SOUNDS

PSYCHEMAGIK'S MAGIK FOREST • MAGIC DOOR • HORSE MEAT DISCO  
SWINGAMAJIG • LEFTFOOT • THIS IS TMRW • DUTCH UNCLES (DJ SET) • SENSATERIA  
RICHARD NORRIS • MODULATE • HIGHER INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## FAMILY CAMPING ON THE CHILDREN'S FARM

CIRCUS RAJ • LATE NIGHT SOUNDS  
IMMERSIVE THEATRE • THE PINK MOON MEADOW  
CINEMA PROGRAMME • PSYCHEDELIC LIGHTSHOWS  
AWARD WINNING LOCAL ALES & GOURMET STREETFOOD  
POETRY • TIPIS, BELL TENTS & LIVE IN VEHICLES  
10FT LASER ROBOT • DAILY YOGA SESSIONS  
CAPOEIRA • LUNAR OLYMPICS KIDS CLUB  
NICK DRAKE RECORD PLAYER • CLUB UNLIKELY POP QUIZ  
GREEN CRAFTS • THE BIMBLE INN • THE CROW BAR

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# SLAP

APR 2016 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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OK where did March go eh?! One minute we were like 'looking forward to Spring' and then 'Woah - clocks forward - April's here!'

As the sun peeps out ever more (hopefully) thoughts turn to the outside and FESTIVALS! Our very own and dear Andy O'Hare has kindly outlined all the upcoming events in our region in his marvellous column - yes we and he know that happily there'll be more to add - but a) It's a handy little list - thanks Andy and b) It once again underlines what a flourishing scene we have around our 3 Counties and beyond and this is something we should give thanks for!

Another imminent event on Saturday 16th April which is close to my cohort-in-crime's (Sub Ed) heart is Record Store Day. This event continues to grow apace and whilst the major labels are doing their devilish damndest to spoil all the fun, it is still important to support your local independent record stores. In the Slap region the shops who have contacted us and we know about are:- Rise Records in Worcester, Carnival Records in Malvern and Badlands in Cheltenham: all these fine emporiums will be showcasing bands, acts and DJs throughout the day. Please check their respective websites and social media pages and make sure you get on down!

The whole thread of this editorial is about events, which brings me to our Listings at the back of the magazine. Previously you could add your own events on the gig listings website (Not Just Sauce); this feature has now been wholly transferred to the Slap Magazine website. We'd like to thank Chris Bennion who ran NJS for over ten years for his efforts and wish him luck in his future endeavours.

Every month we do our best to compile a comprehensive list of regional musical events of all kinds which we think you'll be interested in, but occasionally as a very small though dedicated team, we make mistakes and/or omit events. To this end we are working hard to streamline the listings system which will hopefully make it easier and foolproof for the future. Once again we reach out to yourselves to inform us of any such suitable musical happenings by uploading your listings at:

[www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed](http://www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed)

*Ed-da-ball*



Front Cover image - Blanck Mass  
by Mihaela Bodlovic  
shot for The Skinny magazine, Scotland

## Football's Coming Home

The campaign to end Worcester City FC's 'exiled hell' has been given a musical boost with local outfit **City Punk's** bellow-along number *Bring City Home* raising publicity and getting airplay as part of WCFC Supporters' Trust mission of excellence - available to download from [citypunk.bandcamp.com](http://citypunk.bandcamp.com)!!

## Fancy a Laugh?

Worcester lad **Alex Redmond** is hoping to start up a new regular stand-up comedy open mic night and is looking for willing comedians and audience members to come forward and take part - if you're up for a chuckle contact him on:

[alexredmond92@hotmail.com](mailto:alexredmond92@hotmail.com)

## An Example for Funky Craig

Former University of Worcester music producer and DJ **Mason Atkinson AKA Funky Craig** has released his first single *Weapons* featuring vocals from chart-topper **Example** which he also co-produced - he's been a regular on the city DJ circuit but has now set off on his first tour of the USA - best of luck chap!

## Eurovision Near Miss

Sadly country/pop duo **Darline** featuring Droitwich's **Abby Inez** - despite being the bookies' and pundits' favourite - just missed out on the chance to represent the UK in this year's Eurovision Song Contest with their number *Until Tomorrow* - which one critic described as 'the only song I'd listen to again' - with the great British public choosing to vote instead for a sure-fire 'nul-point' tuneless offering from a couple of BBC's *The Voice* failures - not that we're bitter or resentful of course...

## The Wonder of Nozstock

This year's 18th **Nozstock Festival** at Rowden Paddocks near Bromyard will have the theme **Wonders Of The Ancient World** and promises to be a 'playground for all with an inspirational line-up' including **Jurassic 5**, **Gentleman's Dub Club** and **The Lovely Eggs**. Expect the unexpected with wild fancy dress and off-beat themes at the family-run festival running from **Friday 22 July** to **Sunday 24 July**!

## Lakefest takes a Chill Pill

All looking good for the fifth family-friendly **Lakefest** at its new home on the former Big Chill site at Eastnor from **11 to 14 August** - organisers are promising a 'legendary' weekend with confirmed headliners including **Starsailor**, **Primal Scream**, **Big Country**, **We Are Scientists** and **The Coral** - with more still to be announced!

## Upton gets the Council Blues

As we've previously reported - the various **Upton Festivals**, especially **Upton Blues**, have had spectacular results in recent years in bringing oodles of tourist cash to the riverside town - but this appears to have been totally forgotten by Upton Town Council who are considering imposing swingeing charges on festivals for 'use of its fields' despite them being registered charities and also contributing major funds towards the town's infrastructure - the aim being to cut the Old Street playing fields 'maintenance expenditure' - short-sighted or what...

## Marshalling the Euro Hustings

Genial meinhost **Ted Marshall** of Worcester's **Cap'n'n'Gown** has announced plans to hold another series of hustings at the Tything watering hole in the lead-up to June's EU referendum debate - last year's debates before the General Election led to national coverage on BBC's *Five Live* radio and *The One Show* - and the first insults will be thrown on Tuesday 10 May...

## Woo Moo Fest for Acorns

Applications to take part in this year's **Worcester Music Festival** close at the end of April. If you would like to apply to play at this year's festival which takes place from 16-18 September register at [worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply/](http://worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply/).

This year the charity is raising funds for **Acorns Childrens' Hospice** to help fund a new music therapy scheme. We at SLAP are looking forward to running a stage again this year.

## Malvern Punk Rock Past

Something a little bit different in the way of museum exhibitions at Abbey Road in Malvern with a celebration of the 40th anniversary of punk rock and the famous **Cherry Red Promotions** gigs at the **Winter Gardens** featuring acts such as **The Damned**, **Dr Feelgood**, **Buzzcocks**, **The Stranglers** and **Siouxsie And The Banshees** - open daily 10.30am - 5pm - 'proper' history at last...

## Mods v Rockers

...and going even further back in time - there's a chance to experience a 'evening of music that divided a decade' as **The Quik Beats** take on **The Delray Rockets** in a Mods vs Rockers musical battle at **Artrix Theatre** in Bromsgrove on **Friday 8 April** - interesting!!

## Dave Morris

### - A Remembrance by Nigel Clark

Redditch was a lucky town from the early 80's onwards because aspiring musicians had a recording studio to go to: this was Workshop Studio owned and run by Dave Morris.

I first became aware of Workshop in about 1984 as did so many bands around that time and Dave became the 'go-to' producer for us (Dodgy) and a whole host of others.

In fact Dodgy got our first bit of interest from the music industry with a demo we recorded with Dave and thus are deeply indebted to him.

I have such fond memories of those days as Dave knew his gear inside out and would always be sensitive to and endeavour to get whatever specific sound it was you were looking for?

Personally the whole recording studio experience with Dave sent me on my own recording journey, as inspired by him I bought a 4 Track Recorder and began my 'demos in the bedroom' period.

I spoke to Dave a few times in later years and was more than pleased that he remembered us and absolutely amazed that he had followed our career: a humbling moment indeed.

He breathed life into something that we had only dreamed of and helped realise and release our music. For this us and all the other musicians who worked with Dave we owe him and say a massive Thank You.

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

# THE FIREFLY

BEER BAR & KITCHEN

THE FIREFLY | 54 LOWESMOOR WORCESTER | 01905 616966

## PRIVATE BARS AVAILABLE TO HIRE!

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

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

A dimly lit interior of a bar. The space features dark wood paneling, a large mirror on the wall, and a bookshelf filled with books. A sign above the bar reads 'THE HAND IN GLOVE' in a stylized font, with 'COLLEGE STREET | WORCESTER | 01905 612154' written below it in a curved banner.

# THE HAND IN GLOVE

COLLEGE STREET | WORCESTER | 01905 612154



Clik Clik will be starting a project with **Pershore Youth Centre** working on the Carnival float for the 3rd year running. The theme for this year is 'Circus' so April will see those ideas flowing from the young people ready for the carnival itself on **May 30th**.

For a bespoke weird and wonderful event, workshop, pop-up experience or photo-booth, please drop me a line!

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



Kathy says: *"One Thousand Birds brings people together through the collective act of making Origami birds, based on the crane, using the traditional Japanese art form of folding paper. An ancient Japanese legend states that anyone folding 1000 cranes is rewarded with a wish. On World Peace day, many people from all over the world make and send origami birds to Japan as a wish for world peace. By taking part in the project, participants will learn the art of Origami and become part of a unique celebration happening here in the Wye Valley."*



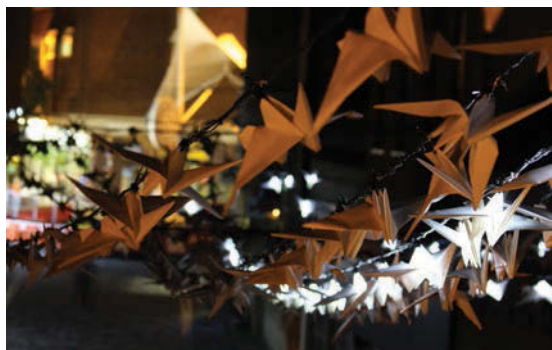
To take part all you need is A4 paper, preferably recycled, and Kathy's tutorial on Vimeo (search Kathy Hinde origami bird instructions) or you can print and follow PDF instructions available from the Wye Valley River Festival website. Once you've made your birds, post them or take them to one of the drop-off points or, if you're making lots of birds, the team may be able to organise collection from you.

Drop off points are The Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth, NP25 3DY; Chepstow

Library, Manor Way, Chepstow, NP16 5HZ and Wye Valley AONB Office, Hadnock Road, Monmouth, NP25 3NG.

## Flying to the Wye Valley

Internationally renowned artist, **Kathy Hinde's** *Luminous Birds*, first commissioned by **Kidderminster Arts Festival 2015**, wings its way to **Tintern Old Station** as part of this year's **Wye Valley River Festival** (April 29-May 15) whilst riverside communities are invited to make hundreds of birds to help another astounding installation take flight.



*Luminous Birds* recreates one of nature's most amazing phenomena, the ultimate act of co-operation – birds flocking together as they fly. The spectacular installation runs at Tintern Old Station from 6th-15th May. As night falls during the festival, hundreds of origami-style birds will come alive with synchronised lighting sequences creating the effect of birds in flight.

The festival team is now inviting people living along the valley to get involved in another avian experience by helping to make Origami paper birds, which will create Kathy's second sculptural video installation, '*One Thousand Birds*'. This will be accompanied by immersive sound composed by **Matthew Fairclough** and will be staged at **Tintern Old Station** at the same time as *Luminous Birds*. Free, drop-in **Origami workshops** will be held in the foyer of **The Shire Hall, Monmouth** on April 4th and 5th, 11am to 3pm each day or people can make the birds and send them to the festival organisers.

## Dancefest

It's going to be another busy term with opportunities for all ages to get involved in special performance projects in some very interesting places, as well as regular weekly dance classes in **Contemporary, Urban Dance, Choreography** and **Dancefit**, for Parents and their Wobblers, children, young people and dancers aged 55 and over.



**Dancefest** is working in partnership with the **National Trust** at **Croome Court** to produce Vista, an exploration of the landscape created by **Capability Brown**. Performances will take place in Croome Park on 16th and 17th July.

Visit [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk) or ring 01090 611199 to find out how you can be part of this extraordinary event.

To submit your arts news & events email Kate at [arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)

# Fools Ball VII

The line-up for **Collective Unconscious' Fools Ball VII** has now been announced. Bringing nationally acclaimed performance art an extremely special and currently undisclosed location in Malvern, the line-up looks amazing with Worcester's very own **Rosebud** and **Death Disco** laying down a suitably



perverse soundtrack for the night. The event runs from 1pm – Midnight and feature works by a range of established UK artists including **GAL Collective** (Nottingham); **Natalie Raven** (Plymouth); **Sarah Sehra** (Worcester); **Collective Unconscious** (Worcester / Manchester); **Jack Bateman** and **Ant Lightfoot** (Cambridge/ Buckinghamshire); **Georgie Bull** (Cheltenham) and **Paula Davy** (Stroud). Expect an entire day of surprising, challenging and thought-provoking work. You really don't want to miss it.

Tickets and info, go to: [www.tinyurl.com/foolsballvii](http://www.tinyurl.com/foolsballvii)

## Flatpack Film Festival present Sound + Vision Millennium Point, Birmingham | 20th April

Occasionally the term 'live AV' can conjure images of someone dancing slightly too aggressively behind a laptop while underwhelming screensaver visuals project behind them. Fortunately, this triple-bill of AV performances as part of Birmingham's **Flatpack Film Festival**, (now in its 10th year), will be far removed from that. Amsterdam-based duo **Optical Machines** (**Rikkert Brok** and **Maarten Halmans**) perform their experiments with lamps, lenses, modified record players, and analogue synthesizers form the basis for their mesmerising light show with interfering patterns and abstract animation. Sound artist **Graham Dunning** will use his mindblowing mechanical techno method for a one-of-a-kind half hour performance, in which he sets off a number of looping records spinning on just one axle and does his darnedest to make sure they stay in time with one another. Berlin-based artist collective **Transforma** (**Luke Bennett**, **Baris Hasselbach** and **Simon Krah**) and musician/



composer **PC NACKT** (**Warren Suicide**) bring proceedings to a close with their **GRAETE** show. Using a special AV apparatus, **Transforma** explore prototypes of simple human tools and their application. The visual instrument magnifies and recalibrates found objects so that a stick or stone becomes recognisable as a tool, as does a camera or a spotlight. A dazzling combination of electronic sounds and unusual sights, this is exhilarating live cinema at its best. For more info: [www.flatpackfestival.org.uk](http://www.flatpackfestival.org.uk)

## Mouth and Music Shakespeare Soapbox

The **Worcestershire Poet Laureate**, **Heather Wastie**, would love the English to celebrate Shakespeare as the Scots celebrate Burns. On **Tuesday 26th April**, she is teaming up with poet **Sarah Tamar** for 'Mouth and Music Shakespeare Soapbox', 7.30pm at the Boars Head, Worcester Street, Kidderminster. Poets, singers and Shakespeare enthusiasts are invited to come along and perform their own work or read some of the Bard's sonnets or extracts from his plays, sing Shakespeare's words set to music or just enjoy listening to others.



Featuring Tudor musicians **A Merrie Noyse!** The evening will be informal, with no charge for admission, and everyone will have chance to get on the virtual soapbox and have their say.

This will also be the final **Mouth and Music** as, after four years, the organisers have, sadly, decided to call it a day. For more info see: [www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk).



DON'T FORGET A BARD FOR WORCESTERSHIRE FINAL • 10th JUNE 2016

**The Boars Head**  
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**Shakespeare Soapbox**  
Let's celebrate Shakespeare as the Scots celebrate Burns!

**Please join  
The Worcestershire Poet Laureate  
Heather Wastie  
& Poet Sarah Tamar  
on Tuesday 26th April  
@7.30pm**

Share Shakespeare sonnets, songs and extracts from his plays, bring your own poems and songs or just enjoy listening.

**Informal • FREE admission**

For more info please go to:  
[www.worcslitfest.co.uk](http://www.worcslitfest.co.uk)  
[www.mouthandmusic.co.uk](http://www.mouthandmusic.co.uk)

**WORCESTERSHIRE  
Litfest  
& FRINGE**

The Worcestershire Litfest & Fringe: **Fri 10th - Sun 19th June 2016**



## Kate Wrigglesworth | Artist feature

Worcestershire artist **Kate** creates bright colourful images including characters through different themes such as dancers and imaginative creatures. Combining watercolour, gouache and oils on canvas she is particularly influenced by expressionist painting and uses colour emotionally while drawing inspiration from music, dance and narrative.



*"I try to include a lyrical quality into my paintings. I like to play around with perspective and work from my imagination, which gives my painting a primitive, and naïve quality moving between abstraction and figurative elements."*

The Worcestershire landscape is a rich source of inspiration to me, together with the Cornish coast, where I spent many happy childhood summer holidays.

My design background is an on-going influence, qualifying with a degree in Theatre Design, (3D design) from Birmingham City University, especially when working on commissions; it has helped with the planning, layout and decision making and I love to work on a variety of themes."

Kate has undertaken several 'Artist in Residence' projects in the West Midlands culminating in large pieces of work such as large canvas paintings and design of three-dimensional sculptures including a story chair for **Baxter Gardens** in Kidderminster and an Islamic garden in Small Heath.

She is currently working on several private commissions including landscapes of Malvern and Austria, has designed published for a commercial greeting cards outlet and frequently exhibits at Art Markets and galleries around the country.

*"Ballet, modern dance and movement play an important role in my personal creativity, whilst improvisation in dance translates itself to experimental work in art. Sometimes I will work on similar themes when choreographing dances and developing ideas for painting. Both disciplines influence each other."*



*Looking forward, I want to keep creating new work, experimenting with different subject matters. I am currently working on a series of paintings based on Cornwall, which I hope to exhibit in Cornish galleries over the summer. I also like to take photographs of interesting landscapes and interiors as inspiration. So watch this space to see my new work!"*

[www.katewrigglesworth.co.uk](http://www.katewrigglesworth.co.uk)

## The Royal Photographic Society International Print Exhibition

The Hive, Worcester | Tue 16 Feb - Wed 23 Mar

The Royal Photographic Society's International Print Exhibition is the longest standing exhibition of its kind in the world, held almost every year since 1854. The 158th Exhibition has come to Worcester. Here, a unique selection of 100 photographs, curated by a panel of renowned photographers and photographic professionals was on display for 5 weeks, attracting audiences from far and wide.

The photographs in the exhibitions include a range of genres,





# This Green Earth

## Worcester Museum and Art Gallery

### Saturday 13th February – Saturday 25th June

This exhibition, currently on at Worcester's Museum and Art Gallery on Foregate Street, is described as "a visual feast" on the museum's website. Including the work of contemporary artist **Bridget Macdonald**, alongside beautiful works from the **Ashmolean Museum** by the old master painters... it really appeals to a wide audience.



The landscapes on display are mainly those by Bridget Macdonald, a Worcestershire artist of national reputation. These draw inspiration from the Baroque and Romanticist

paintings loaned from Oxford, in a beautiful synergy, whereby the viewer can travel around the gallery as if around the artists mind, seeing where her inspiration originated from and the landscapes that result from her work. Many of the landscapes include sheep or cows and one delicious favourite shows Worcester's Carrington Bridge in the rain, a view many a Worcester driver will be familiar with. Yet in taking the familiar subjects, Macdonald's idyllic landscapes merge her own observation and memory, and appeal to that of the viewer.

The beautifully imagined pieces and the artwork that inspired Macdonald's art are on display together at the art gallery until 25th June, giving everyone plenty of time to enjoy them.



Bite-sized talks will also be taking place across the exhibition, costing £2. The 23rd April from 11.30am to 1pm, which will feature the woman herself **Bridget Macdonald** introducing her art. A talk on Classical and Romantic Landscape painting will take place at 1pm on the 10th May and a third and final talk will be hosted on the 14th June, again at 1pm, entitled 'Picturing Worcestershire'. Keep these dates in mind as you have plenty of time to book them, even up to the same day!



**Macdonald** introducing her art. A talk on Classical and Romantic Landscape painting will take place at 1pm on the 10th May and a third and final talk will be hosted on the 14th June, again at 1pm, entitled 'Picturing Worcestershire'. Keep these dates in mind as you have plenty of time to book them, even up to the same day!

**This Green Earth** is a free exhibition that will be open six days a week, Monday – Saturday, 10.30am – 4.30pm. For more information contact the Art Gallery and Museum on 01905 25371, visit their website [www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk) or follow them on Twitter @worcestermuseum.

Sarah Ganderton

styles and techniques by photographers across the world who have produced images rich in meaning and message to challenge your ideas and capture your imagination. Simon Roberts HonFRPS, one of the selectors says "I believe we have selected an exemplary range of work, reflecting different age groups, nationalities and the varying interests, methodology and vibrant aesthetics of the photographic medium today." And wandering around the exhibition that is certainly the case, as I giggled, cringed, frowned and nodded interestedly, reacting to each photograph whether through pleasure or anguish.

Some images made me cringe while others mystified me. I felt uncomfortable looking at the picture of a foetus skeleton (Foetus. From the series, 'Mortal' Gavin Maxwell) or portraits where the sitter looks directly with an accusatory look at the camera (Mateusz and Henryk, March 2012 Jan Klos). But I was equally mystified by a carefully shot splashing drop of water (Splash. From the series, 'Splash Art', Howard Ashton-Jones), or the aurora borealis over a desolate radar station (Lonely Planet. Radar Station, Chukchi Seacoast Tama Baldwin). And I giggled quietly at the natural history shots of ants glaring from a leaf (Is She Local? Carolyne Barber) and the SILVER AWARD winning rhinoceros guiltily scratching his behind on a tree (Tierwald #70 Frank Machalowski).

Some of my favourite shots looked like geometrical patterns until I came up close such as the Apartments photographed by Adrian Brown or Towers by Richard Lloyd Lewis. Yet there are also portraits in the collection, both challenging and fun. Owen Harvey's Ralph and Billy. English Skinheads, 2014 pictures a pair you wouldn't like to meet down a dark alley, while the sunbathing ladies look to be enjoying their retirement in the BRONZE AWARD winning Comfort Zone #1. From the series, 'Comfort Zone' by Tadao Cern).



There are disasters in the form of floods (**The Overwhelming Qiantang River Wave**. August, 2013 Liming Zhong) and fire (House on Fire. From the series, 'A Woman with Two Names' Vittoria Mentasti), but best of all there are celebrations from the identically dressed crowd at the Purim Celebrations in Jerusalem (by Gili Yaari) to the explosive Night Plays by **Vinci Weng**.

The exhibition is stirring and intriguing and leaves you feeling like you have truly journeyed around the world in 100 photographs.

If you missed it, the exhibition can also be seen here:

2 April - 30 April Warrington Museum & Art Gallery

11 May - 22 June Municipal Gallery, Library and Cultural Centre, Co.Dublin

30 June - 19 August University of Derby

And the website <http://www.rps.org/> contains images from the exhibition in the Exhibitions and Competitions tab.



# worcester arts workshop

The clocks have sprung forward, the daffodils are out and everyone is emerging from their winter hibernation...it is official...spring is here.

Life at **Worcester Arts Workshop** is as busy as ever, and April is no different. We are all excited about welcoming Worcester's very own **Granny's Attic** to the Arts Workshop on **Saturday 23 April**. If you have not heard of this young trio of talented folk musicians then you are in for a treat. Nominated for BBC Young Folk Awards, **Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne** (Melodeon, Concertina, Vocals), **George Sansome** (Guitar, Vocals) and **Lewis Wood** (Fiddle, Mandolin, Vocals) play a variety of traditional folk music from the British Isles and further afield, complemented by original compositions. Jon Boden of Bellowhead has been heard to say the following about Granny's Attic 'Great tunes, great arrangements, great energy, great stuff!'

**Splendid Cinema** continue to 'wow' us with daring and interesting independent films. This month on the **10 April** (6pm) we have got *The Tribe*. A masterpiece from **Miroslav Slaboshpitsky** in which a deaf mute boy joins a boarding school for similar children. Confronted by the violent and criminal antics of some of the other boys and girls, he struggles to conform and join the 'tribe'. Told entirely with sign language with no subtitles The Guardian describes it as 'one of the most disturbing films of 2014.' On **24 April** (6pm) we will be screening *Girlhood*. Directed by **Céline Sciamma**, this is a beautiful told story of young black girls growing up - and messing up - in the suburbs of Paris that will ring true wherever you're from.

Our courses are going from strength to strength, with many selling out within hours of going on sale. We have got the usual offerings of **Life Drawing, Pottery, Creative Arts** courses with our experience team of artists and practitioner; but, as of the **18 April**, there will be new courses available in **Fused Glass, Portrait Drawing and Painting with Coloured Pencils** as well as **Pilates and Salsa**. We have also teamed up with the inspirational **Dancefest**, who will be running a one off workshop for all the family on **Saturday 30 April**. Come and leap, twirl and creatively explore the different spaces of Worcester Arts Workshop.

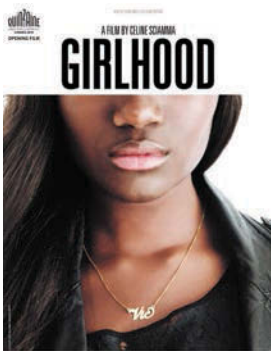
**Café Bliss** is getting ready for the first **Lazy Sunday** of the year on the **10 April**. Join us for one of the most chilled out afternoons in Worcester. From 12pm -6pm you are promised good food and drink to feast on, great music to chill to and excellent company to



relish in. **Café Bliss** is also welcoming a new exhibition **Worcester Canal Stories** from **Jack Webster**. This series of Reportage Illustrations look at diverse contexts surrounding the local canal from Worcester to Birmingham. In Jack's words "Sometimes the mundane will appear as beautiful, or the eccentric will feel familiar...but hopefully these pictures will lift your perception about the natural and manmade working together harmoniously." Come and enjoy them from the 12 April onwards and sample some of **Café Bliss'** new coffee range...it's to die for!

So, there are lots of dates to scribble or tap into the diary, do it now so you don't forget. For booking and more information on all our events and courses please visit:

[www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk) or give us a call on 01905 25053 (please leave a message as the office is staffed part-time) and we look forward to seeing you at Worcester Arts Workshop very soon.



**Lazy Sunday**  
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**worcester arts workshop**



# Jump Start Four

## Worcester Arts Workshop | Saturday 5th March

Five new plays were performed at The Worcester Arts Workshop as part of the latest Jump Start initiative to showcase and premier new work. This was our fourth event and the project goes from strength to strength.

First up was *'The Cycle of the White Rose'* by **Caroline Summerfield**, starring **Phil Hemming** and **Catherine Crosswell**. This was a clever piece of writing, pastiche language and classical form and placing it in a Worcestershire setting! Nice and subtle performances too from Phil and Catherine.

*'Crossing The Line'* by **Michael Sheath** was a devastating one person play about a woman whose husband is arrested for looking at indecent images of children. Played by **Susan Doran**, this piece was beautifully written and performed and left a lasting mark on all who would have seen it.

*'Adored Once Too'* by **Rob Joiner** was a brilliantly funny piece about a father and son and a secret they are about to share. It reminded me of Pinter, Stoppard and other great working class comedy dramas. It's a play of great potential. **Lee Farley** and **Jordan Smith** were excellent too!

*'Submission'* by **Geoff Mills** was a dark comedy of menace set in a waiting room. Well written and performed by **Lawrence Toye**, **Claire Sullivan** and **Geoff Mills** it managed to be both original and familiar too!

*'Not Fast Enough'* written and performed by **Gemima Hull** and **Naomi Rule** was a hilarious, provocative and dynamic sprint through contemporary gender politics and imaginative theatre structures. This show was premiered here before going to the **Brighton Fringe** in May this year. Great performances from both Gemima and Naomi.

It was great to see a packed audience and a special thanks to all at **Worcester Arts Workshop** for making this happen and to all the performers for making it happen. A special evening! Thanks too for **Lee Farley** for organising.

Steve Wilson

## Call-out for emerging Fashion designers

The ninth annual **Midlands Fashion Show and Awards** has announced its deadline for designer applications 2016.

The **MFA** (Midlands Fashion Awards), which was launched in 2008 by Birmingham-based **Jenny Eason**, recognises and celebrates the exceptional and emerging talent in the fields of fashion design, fashion styling and make-up artistry in the Midlands. The annual competition provides an outlet for new, emerging and independent designers and creative talents to present their work, providing a platform to launch their collections to the industry.

Founder Jenny Eason, comments; *"We are looking forward to the 2016 show being our biggest and best yet. Each year, the standard of entrants gets stronger and the fact that some of our previous winners have gone on to such incredible success is testament to the need for a showcase such as Midlands Fashion Awards. This year, we look forward to applications from across the region. All applicants should be prepared to wow us!"*

Previous winners and finalists have gone on to showcase at both **London & New York Fashion Week**. 2015's **Young Designer of the Year** was Worcester based **Georgia Richardson**.

*"Since winning Young Designer of the Year, I have had a great response from the media resulting in interviews and features in magazines, and on BBC Hereford and Worcester. Since MFA, I have*



garazi photography

*launched my own company called Fourth Generation selling handmade, made to measure dress range. The website goes live very soon at [www.fourthgeneration.uk.com](http://www.fourthgeneration.uk.com)".*

The high profile competition and catwalk event plays host to high-end retailers, fashion influencers, fashion editors, bloggers and journalists. Attended by an audience of 300 visitors from across the UK and beyond, it takes place on **Friday 7th October** at the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, CBSO Centre**, Berkley St, Birmingham.

Deadline for submissions is 31st May 2016.

For more details, sponsorship and submission info please contact [www.midlandsfashionawards.co.uk](http://www.midlandsfashionawards.co.uk)

## Volley of Voices along the Valley

This year, **Wye Valley River Festival** is giving choirs across Monmouthshire, Herefordshire and the Forest of Dean are being given the chance to showcase their skills during the event. Taking place from **April 29th to May 15th** between Hereford and Chepstow, the event brings together talents ranging from local actors, musicians and dancers all the way to internationally renowned artists. The event will provide choirs with complete creative freedom in the material they chose to perform, although they state that they would *"love as many watery themed songs as you can muster"*, in sets ranging from 15 minutes, all the way to 45 minutes.

The dates during the event that choirs will be welcomed consist of: **May 1st** at **Ross-on-Wye**, **May 6th** and **7th** in **Monmouth**, **May 14th** at **Llandogo** and finally at the finale on **May 15th** at **Chepstow Racecourse**.



Meanwhile, singers of all abilities over the age of 16, have been invited to sing-along with the massed **Wye Valley Festival Choir** during free sessions in Ross-on-Wye, Llandogo and Monmouth. These will be lead by **Singplicity's Helen Vincent** and will consist of lots of water-focussed songs.

Choirs: for more information please visit - [wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](http://wyevalleyaonb.org.uk)

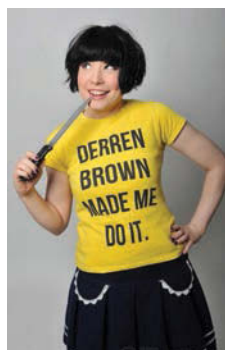
# WEEKEND CUBE

April is a fantastic month here at **Malvern Cube**, with a huge variety of events. This month we've got a quintuplet of comedians performing at Cube Comedy Club and local legends the Ric Sanders Trio. We're also launching our Saturday Food Market on 16th April.

Kicking off this month, as usual, is **White Wall Film Club** on **Friday 1st April** at 7.30pm. This month's film will be *Cold in July* a 2014 American independent crime drama film directed by Jim Mickle, and starring Michael C. Hall, Sam Shepard and Don Johnson. The film takes place in 1980s Texas and is based on the novel of the same name by author Joe R. Lansdale. Hall plays a man who kills a burglar, whose father (Shepard) subsequently seeks revenge. The plot is further complicated when a private investigator (Johnson) shows up. (IMDB 6.8/10 Rotten Tomatoes 86%). **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 or £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!



We have teamed up with the fantastic duo who bring you **Cheltenham Comedy Festival** and have a fantastic **Cube Comedy Club** night lined up for you this month on **Friday 15th April** at 8pm. The show will feature **Lou Conran** just back from supporting **Sarah Millican** on tour, who describes her as 'Naturally funny'. She has been delighting audiences up and down the country with her naughty but nice delivery, friendly presence and instinctive wit. She's also written for BBC Radio 4's *The Show What You Wrote*, CBBC, and *Standard Issue Magazine*. On top of that, she was an abattoir worker on *Emmerdale*, a midwife in *Hollyoaks*, and a Teddybear on *CITV*.



Her one-liners were featured in FIVE different "best jokes of the Edinburgh Fringe" articles in 2014.

**Tiernan Douieb**, one of the UK's most sought after comedy hosts, is on the bill. Tiernan's fun and friendly, political style of comedy has seen him perform all over the UK and internationally. *'For sheer energy, commitment and funny you would need to look hard to find a man as joyous as Tiernan.'* Mark Thomas.



Comedian and Scientist **Jack Heal** will also be joining the line-up. He has been sporadically performing comedy for five years telling sinister stories laden with jokes, mathematics and death.

Finally on the line up is **Jeremy Flynn**, a naturally funny comic who is quickly establishing himself on the comedy circuit. He reached the semi-finals of *So You Think You're Funny* at the Edinburgh Festival in 2015 after only a handful of gigs. His mix of anecdotes, observations and quips have been leaving audiences in stitches and always wanting more. *'Terrifyingly accomplished'* Bristol Post.



Tickets for all these great comedians in one great evening **Cube Comedy Club** show are £10 adv £12 on the door for Friday 15th April at 8pm. There's also Early Bird tickets available for £8, so grab them quickly at: [malverncube.com](http://malverncube.com)!



We have two theatre shows lined up for you this month. The first is *Not Fast Enough* by **Ovary Acting** on **Saturday 2nd April** at 7.30pm. It is a unique theatre experience using a sketch like format; that actors and creators **Naomi Rule** and **Gemima Hull** created to discuss issues that make them angry, passionate and excited. They invite the audience to join them on a journey that explores relationships, prejudice, gender and abuses to name a few; but also they invite the audience to join the ever moving conversation surrounding feminism and gender, to not stay passive and to engage with what is put in front of you. Tickets £3 Under 18's £5 adults (including students) available in advance or on the door.

Our second theatre offering comes from is a work in progress called *'Think of England'* showing on **Friday 29th April** at 7pm. The show will be a semi-immersive site specific production which will blur the lines between impulsive un-rehearsed interaction with the audience and fully-rehearsed, scripted, high quality drama.

In the Summer of 1943, Bett and Vera travel the country hosting tea dances for RAF fighter pilots stationed nearby. What the locals don't know is that the dance is a cover for the girls' real purpose: to send the men off to fight and die having experienced all of





life's pleasures. The audience will have the opportunity to dress up, dance, eat cake, drink tea, win at the tombola and interact with the performers while simultaneously watching the fascinating true story of two women driven by their patriotic duty to adopt an unconventional lifestyle. The show is free entry, with donations appreciated.



Our musical offering this month comes in the form of the fantastic **Ric Sanders Trio** on **Saturday 9th April**. The band, made up of **Ric Sanders**, **Michael Gregory** and **Vo Fletcher** have had fantastic musical journeys individually and as their paths crossed and friendships grew, it was inevitable that these three pals would play together. Over the last decade they've been involved in many projects, from recording Miles Davis classics live in Lincoln Cathedral to improvising an album with the inspirational **Anjali Dance Company**. Over the last couple of years though, they've taken a different direction, reconnecting with the music closest to their hearts. It's music firmly rooted in the blues.

Fantastic events continue in May with **White Wall Film Club** showing **MUD**, music from **Hoopy Frood**, and the **Cube Comedy Club** featuring **Sally-Anne Hayward**, **George Rigden**, **Bob**

**Wildlife**, **Tim Goodings** and winner of ITV's Show Me the **Funny Patrick Monahan**! As always tickets for all our events are available from [www.malvernucube.com](http://www.malvernucube.com) and Malvern Tourist Information Centre.

## Carnival Records Quiz

The **Carnival Records Pop Quiz** is back, returning to **Malvern Cube** on Friday April 22. Come along and support worthwhile charitable causes by testing your knowledge on everything from classic rock to '80s pop to indie & punk to vintage soul.

There will be cash prizes for the winners plus something money can't buy - the esteemed **Carnival Records Trophy**! 7.30pm for 8pm start and finishing at approximately 11pm. and there will be a bar, light supper and vinyl DJs.

All this and more for £10 per team of four - don't miss out - book now to avoid disappointment!

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## Angel Snow + Matthew Perryman Jones St. George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 4th March

If great songs are currency then **Angel Snow** and **Matthew Perryman Jones** are well and truly in the millionaire set. Add in the capacity to present their compositions in such an engaging and enthralling style leaves you pondering with the thought that many more people should be hooked into their music. Folks in Bewdley this evening were not guilty of missing out as these pair of finely tuned singer-songwriters meandered their way from Nashville, Tennessee to a sleepy town in North Worcestershire. The local promoters continue to spearhead an impassioned project to raise awareness of highly crafted music and they successfully unearthed a couple of gems for this month's show.

**Angel Snow** had arranged to play the opening set on this short tour and thus get first bite at freezing an audience's attention with a paradoxical warm glow. Midway through her set, the stunning *'Lie Awake'* gets its inevitable airing showering deep thoughts of where on earth this spine tingling song got its inspiration from. The flow, mood and elegance of this song profusely captured the moment with Angel herself giving a glimpse into its inspiration. Angel's

writing can turn the heads of the big stars and we were brought up to date with *'Secret'* from her latest EP and a song called *'Disguises'* slated to be on her new album which is likely to emerge later this year.

Older songs such as *'Coals and Water'* and *'Holiday'* also made welcome appearances during Angel's time in the spotlight, but these were probably eclipsed by a newer tune in the sublime *'I Need You'*. There has been plenty of indication that Angel is going to delve a little more into an indie rock sound with new material, but this evening was all about the acoustic presentation.

We were briefly introduced to **Matthew Perryman Jones** when Angel invited him to join her on *'Secret'* and after the break he commandeered the spotlight himself to reveal the heart and soul of a songwriter. We learnt that Matthew was more aligned with the true grit of Music City rather than superficial presentations, thus positioning himself in the ever growing camp of those writers avoiding the scramble for that compromised Music Row cut.



Also revealed was a songwriter forever searching the ultimate inspiration of that perfect song with the background to *'Waking the Dead'*, *'Table for Two'* and *'O Theo'* spawning deep origins. Whether seeking retreat in Illinois, linking the twin subjects of love and gambling or peering into the artistic world of Vincent Van Gogh, Matthew dismisses the song writing boundaries. One of the framed moments from his almost hour-long set was a rendition of an older song *'Save You'*, with Angel getting the reciprocated invitation to share the vocals.

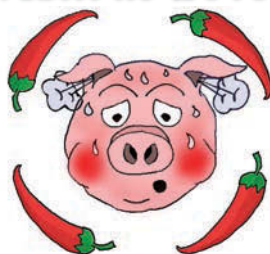
On an evening of a split bill intrinsically linked by moments of entwined authenticity, Angel did remain on stage to join Matthew for the two finale numbers which saw these two esteemed singer-songwriters ease into the world of their fellow luminaries. A gorgeous version of the Tom Wait's song *'Take it With Me'*, a previously covered piece from both artists, sprinkled some gold dust on an already hefty collection of songs, before a fun singalong of Springsteen's *'Hungry Heart'* ensured the audience could add a light hearted conclusion to a seriously impressive evening.

The excellent turnout highlighted the momentum the shows are gathering. It also helps when you acquire the services of artists the calibre of **Angel Snow** and **Matthew Perryman Jones** for the evening. It was a case of the better artists of Nashville being transported to the better listening audiences of the UK with all the factors of a gig to savour flourishing to the maximum extent.

Trevor Price



## The Ginger Pig Annual Chilli Festival 2016



**Saturday 30th April**  
**12pm until Late**

*Chilli Eating Contest at 5pm*

*Live music all day and evening with*

**Skewwhiff**  
**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
**The Speedgums**





# Amy LaVere & Will Sexton Wyldwood, Swallows

St George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 8th April

Once again on Friday April 8th the doors of that venerable venue, **St George's Hall** in beautiful Bewdley, will open again to welcome **Amy LaVere** from Memphis together with husband **Will Sexton**.



Amy LaVere & Will Sexton.

Amy is a top class singer-songwriter who also plays the upright double bass and her sound could be described as a blend of classic country with an Americana twist mixed with gypsy jazz and southern soul stylings.

Her 2014 critically acclaimed album *"Runaway's Diary"* was a collection of 12 songs unwrapping LaVere's adolescence in a stunning narrative, wrought with colour, emotion, catharsis and innocence, as she recalls running away from home as a child. This ambitious work was produced by Luther Dickinson (North Mississippi Allstars), recorded in Memphis and mixed in Nashville.

Just nine months later Amy had a sweet surprise for her fans as she released another album - *'Hallelujah I'm A Dreamer'* recorded with husband and noted guitarist Will Sexton. Described as a 'sonic portrait' the 11 tracks therein capture the immediacy of the live show they've developed on the road together, revelling in a more stripped-down sound plus celebrating the freedoms and limitations that come with this, all in stunning form.

St George's in Bewdley feel honoured that Amy and Will have chosen their venue to promote this striking and masterful work. Early booking is advised as interest is naturally very high and a special early booking price of £5.00 (standard price £8.00) can be obtained online at [www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk](http://www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk).

Support on the night comes from two excellent local acts namely **Wyldwood**, featuring Hannah and a special experimental, electronica set from **Swallows**. A very special night in prospect then at St George's Hall and as ever, definitely one not to be missed!



Wyldwood



Swallows

## Pat McManus

The Marris Bar, Worcester | Saturday 16th April

There is a long and venerable tradition of hard working and royally talented virtuoso guitarists from The Emerald Isle and **Pat McManus** is firmly in this historic mould. Growing up steeped in the Irish music tradition Pat's first instrument at the age of 4 was the violin but by the time he was the ripe old age of 7 Pat was also playing acoustic guitar and appearing with the family band, live and on national tv! By 14 he had won the All Ireland in the fiddle category and then at 18 he was seduced by rock & roll and Pat picked up an electric guitar.

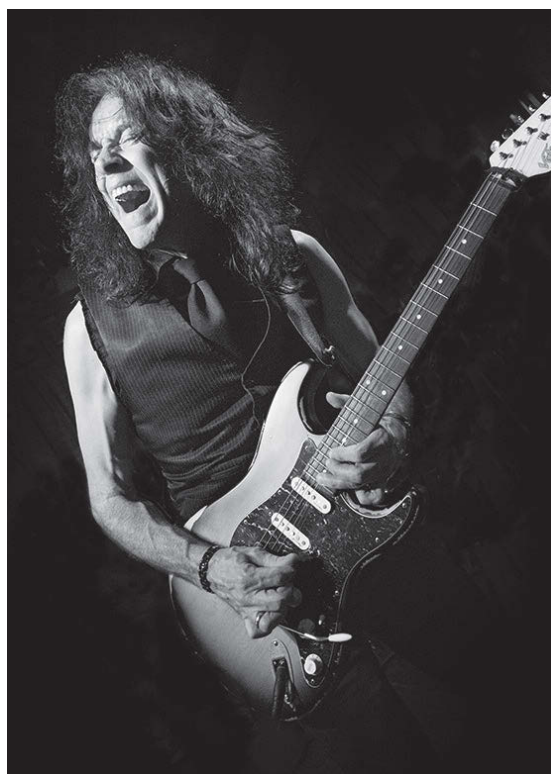
Since then his rise has been meteoric firstly with his two brothers in the band **Mama's Boys** until the untimely demise of brother Tommy and then award winning group **Celtus**. Now going out as **The Pat McManus Band** with drummer **Paul Faloon** and bassist **Marty McDermott** firmly in tow, they are bringing their 'Blues Train To Irish Town' tour to Marris Bar in conjunction with the release of their 5th studio album of the same name.

Affectionately known as 'The Professor' because of his mentoring attitude towards young players, Pat is now worthy of Legend status because he has now been named in the top five Irish guitarists of all time.

A musician definitely worthy of such an accolade you would do well to get down the Marris Bar on **16th April** and see a legend live!

Tickets: <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/351824>

Website: [www.patmcmanus.co.uk](http://www.patmcmanus.co.uk)



## Gary O'Dea | Fly

West Midlands based troubadour, **Gary O'Dea** is not a name I'd stumbled on before but reading the accompanying press release I'd say it's something of an oversight. Gary has been a recording artist and musician for a number of years, touring the UK as a working musician back in the eighties, before breaking out in his own right a decade later, performing both in a stripped down solo acoustic setting and as part of a band.

His recording CV is impressive too; studio sessions have seen collaborations with the likes of Martin Stephenson, Steve Gibbons and PJ Wright among others, whilst his albums to date have all received critical acclaim from the likes of **Rock N Reel (Now R2)**, **Louder Than War** and **Janice Long** among a host of media outlets.

*Fly*, Gary's latest album came out last year and showcases a real diversity and myriad of influences to create a unique and instantly infectious ten track affair. Taking his acoustic guitar and an initial folk pop influence, Gary hints at blues, soul, cajun, jazz and even bhangra during the disc's duration, ably supported by a host of the West Midlands musical talent and produced by the renowned singer/songwriter (and The Bushburys head honcho) Eddy Morton (at Katie Fitzgeralds in Stourbridge).

The album opens with *Angel*, a gorgeous, stripped down acoustic lament, showcasing Gary's heartfelt, soulful croon and his ability to pen a simplistic yet effective melody. *Take The Money And Run* follows and again opens with that faithful six string, only this time Gary weaves the pattered percussion of Raj Sahota's Dohl and Tabla with Eddy Morton's subtle slide guitar and sitar effects, to create an evocative mix of Eastern magic and Western roots to dazzling effect.

O'Dea like all good singer-songwriters has plenty to say about the state of the world and life in general, but whilst the majority of performers have one mode to deliver their sermons, Gary mixes it up with ease from the beautiful soul of *Build It Like A Rock (The Birmingham Clarion Singers Socialist Choir* on backing harmonies) to the harmonica fueled meeting point of Dylan and Springsteen on the rousing acoustic strum of *Interlude*, whilst *In A Zone* proves that Gary is equally adept at matters of the heart as he opens his heart over a slice of Morton assisted Americana.

No write up of *Fly* would be complete without a mention of the gospel tinged *Things Are Gonna Change* (with a reprised appearance from the Clarion Singers Socialist Choir) and its Joy Division quoting finale or the wonderful late night jazz of *You, Me And Al Green* with its tinkering of piano and double bass. Plus mention must be made of the contagious Cajun flavourings *All Down The Days*.

I may be a latecomer to the music of *Gary O'Dea* but after a number of spins of *Fly* (each revealing a new favourite track) I'll certainly be making a concerted effort to play catch up.

[www.gojo-music.co.uk](http://www.gojo-music.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/GaryODeaGojoMusic](https://www.facebook.com/GaryODeaGojoMusic)

Will Munn

## Gary O'Dea

**Ginger Pig, Worcester | Friday 15th April**  
**Pre-Gig Instore - Rise Records | Sat 9th April**

**Gary O'Dea** is a singer-songwriter of some renown from downtown Tipton, who describes his music as 'Gojo': a magical mix informed and influenced by blues, country, funk, soul, reggae, folk, cajun, jazz, bhangra plus a healthy dollop of rock'n'roll (Phew! Ed).

Gary brings his catchy, compelling music to wow Worcester this April in support of his latest album '*Fly*', which amply shows his wide ranging influences and considerable talent. The album has been critically acclaimed across a wide publishing spectrum from tabloids to radical, independent rock mags and beyond, so our appetites at Slap are well and truly whetted for Gary's Woo-Town appearances.



For more info please visit [www.gojo-music.co.uk](http://www.gojo-music.co.uk) and we'll see you'll all at **Rise Records** and **The Ginger Pig!**



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### Upcoming Events

- 15th Apr **Gary O'Dea**
- 30th Apr **The Ginger Pig Annual Chilli Festival**
- 6th May **Fallen Branches**
- 13th May **Chuck Harriet Band**
- 28th May **Andrew Riverstone**
- 10th Jun **Open Secrets**

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**Lucy Ward - Sat 9 Apr, 8pm, £10**

**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.

### St Georges Day - Saturday 23rd Apr, from 7pm

Following the launch of the British Asparagus Festival in the morning, celebrate our Saints Day here at the Fleece with traditional morris dancing, English beers & foods.

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

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## Teddy's Leg A Hundred Suns, Pablo Alto The Booth Hall, Hereford | Thurs March 17

The Underground Revolution Gig @ The Booth Hall; Space Cats, Human Pyramids And Sober Moshing...

Hereford City Centric put on quite a night last night by means of their music promotion entity **The Underground Revolution**. **The Booth Hall** is steadily becoming a key venue for seeing live alternative music. There was some concern around rumours that **Dave Savager**, the drummer from arty Ledbury post-punk/psyche band **Pablo Alto** as in the grip of a fortnight long fever and



wouldn't be playing, but the three of them took to the stage and performed a set of melodious and atmospheric music led by **John Rose's** spacey effects-laden guitar and supported by **Tessa Frith's** reliable bass backing. Dave clearly had his strength back as he nimbly banged the drums. As a three-piece band they seem to have enlisted a couple of invisible members; the sound is more than the sum of their parts and they really meld to make a delicious and intoxicating sonic soup. Joy Division are clearly a big influence; the cover of 'Insight' was at once faithful, but somehow less alienating than the original, focusing more on the otherworldliness. The influence extended into some of their original material, particularly 'Space Cats', which got a whoop from the crowd for the title alone. But the psychedelic influences are equally important in the mix.

**A Hundred Suns** are not a band for wallflowers. On the way to the gig my friend asked me if the music in the car was Belle and Sebastian and I have a tendency to enjoy things you can stand back and get lost in rather than mosh to. They describe their sound as either Hard Rock or Heavy Rock. And I don't know enough about these genres to really distinguish the difference, but it involves



grinding riffs, catchy melodies and impassioned singing. Even while inhibited they were clearly a band that knew what they were doing; the charismatically performed and adept vocal stylings of frontwoman **Claire Perkins** were supported effortlessly by **Richard Gardner** on guitar, **Stephen Bennet** on drums and **James Whitehurst** on bass. The song 'Bread' stood out as reminiscent of something off Crass' *Penis Envy*. These guys really know their instruments and as the loud set progressed, Richard let out some impressive shredding. I was talking to Dave from Pablo Alto about the downside of not drinking when listening to this kind of music. There was a crowd of people head-banging at the front and having a whale of a time. He said we didn't need to drink to be disinhibited, and we went and joined in the mosh pit. Once you let go you can really appreciate the band's energy and dynamism. At some point something I'd never seen before happened: a human pyramid formed on the dance floor.

**Teddy's Leg** took the headline slot, and played unrelenting bursts of brattish hardcore to energizing effect. **Robin Scott-Wilson** led the band of angry merry men with his shoes off, wailing confidently alongside thrashed chords, and simple but catchy and effective riffs that got people moving and acted as a conduit for their at times political message. Someone let out an amiable heckle of "why are the gaps longer than the songs", and it amused



me for such abrasive and aggressive music that when talking to each other onstage they were unexpectedly polite. Nice guys get angry too it seems. It was a great set, and if my appraisal is a little short it's because I was having too much fun in the moshpit. That I was carried away in this music should be more recommendation than any flurry of enthusiastic adjectives that describe and try and define this chaotic and brilliant music. When the gig ended we sat outside with the energy and thrill of the evening still buoying us up, and a conversation began about what a "frozen teddy's leg" is. It's best not to ask.

Words: Omar Majeed Photos: Nick Vidal-Hall

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# Wes Dance & Richard Clarke

## The Plough, Worcester 25th February

The **Plough** is not one of Worcester's most natural music venues. Its cosy rooms are not big enough to fit in a band, but they are full of atmosphere, which makes them ideal to squeeze a singer-songwriter into a corner and let them spin their musical spells. How about two of the finest voices in the city then? **Wes Dance**, with his heartfelt songs populated by strange characters, and his voice lying somewhere between Neil Young and Don Henley. **Richard Clarke** with his personal songs of emotion and his sweet indie soul singing. Unsurprisingly with two such well-established singers, it was standing room only in The Plough's small right hand room, with the audience packed in at the tables and stood around the edges.

The bar area in the next room served as an overspill, as people stood 3 deep in the doorway to try and get a view. The musicians did not disappoint, each of them using their distinct voices and guitar playing styles to excellent effect. Wes Dance sang first, the beautifully atmospheric melody of *"Time Flows Like a River"* curling around us like smoke slowly entering into the room. The skilful, skipping, picking of his guitar on *"Harder Road to Come"* offset by the slow melody, followed by the beautiful regret of *"Paper Helmet"*. Wes then spins a twisted story with *"Fiesta"* - a psychotic prisoner watches the local festival each year, as it passes by the bars of his cell on the street outside,



which enables him to feel empathy for one day of the year. You can almost sense the Spanish fireworks as each chorus lifts and explodes.

An interval. Like Wes, Richard is an old hand at building a musical atmosphere to envelope a room like this. As his songs unfold the audience steadily grows more and more quiet and attentive, until even the quietly murmured orders at the bar start to seem intrusive. Richard starts with a few well chosen covers, *"This Town"* by The Bees and Sam Cooke's *"A Change is Gonna Come"*, which he invests with a heartfelt sincerity that feels like a flickering flame of hope in these troubled days.

He moves on to some of his own songs *"Arboretum"* and *"The Plains"*. The notes I hastily scribbled at the time about these songs simply say: *"So beautiful, it's hard to find adjectives to do it justice"*, which I think says it all. He then starts to lift the room with a jolly version of *"Only Us"*, but the set's highlight was a cover of Alice Russell's *"Tired Little One"*, which Richard sang with a wonderful soulful bluesyness. What the audience wanted to finish the show, was to hear these two great singers wind their voices together and harmonise on a song, which would have seen us all home in perfectly. Richard and Wes promised they would after a short break, only to sneak off when no-one was looking! It would be such a treat to hear them sing together, that surely sooner or later it's going to happen. Surely...Come on chaps - give the people what they want.

Dan Bramhall



# Nigel Clark, Standard Lamps

## The Cube, Malvern | 5th march

Is there any better way to spend a Saturday night than to have a good old sing-a-long whilst drinking a local pint in one of the best live music venues in the area?

The **Cube** in Malvern played host to Mr **Nigel Clark**, yes the frontman of legends **Dodgy**, performing a solo set (bar a couple of friends) covering The Dodgy back catalogue, a couple of newbies and a number of choice covers showcasing Nigel's love of both performing and music in general.

Prior to the main event, three-piece **The Standard Lamps** fresh from a whirlwind 18 months that's seen them share a stage with the likes of The Who and The Bluetones, whilst receiving national airplay on the likes of 6 Music and Radio 2, graced the stage for a ballsy set mixing elements of indie, rock and blues to create an instantly infectious sound full of memorable hooks and heartfelt melodies. The band performed a mix of new tracks from their forthcoming album, *Long Lost Love* and it's predecessor, *Sell Everything You Own*, with the likes of the aptly named *The Harmonica Song* (featuring an impressive turn by frontman **Mike Wilton** on harp duties), *A Little Bit Scared Of You* and *You Don't Play Your Records Anymore* all striking a chord with the assembled, polite, yet appreciative audience.

The 'Lamps warmed the room nicely for the main event, but it was obvious from the moment that **Nigel Clark** took to the stage

who everyone had some to see. Opening with *Big Brown Moon* and *I'm Just Grooving On My Baby's Love*, Nigel's warm and soulful lead, stood tall, over his faithful acoustic guitar as he eased us into set. Next up the evening's first genuine sing-a-long, the effervescent *Staying Out For Summer* as the room joined Nige harmonising as one; an anthem that despite the weather outside; hollers that festival season is just around the corner. Following on, Nigel offers a glance at Dodgy's forthcoming new album, with a track entitled *Amended Heart*, the track has a glorious rootsy feel.

As Nigel's set continues he throws in a few interesting covers from the likes of Blaze Foley, again showcasing that roots influence, whilst also serving firm fan favourites such as *In A Room*. In recent years Nigel has relished being back in the area, supporting local musicians and hosting an open mic night (at **The Millers** in Pershore) thus highlighting his affinity for local music and collaborations, he invited local singer-songwriter **Jenny Ludlow** to provide pretty backing harmonies on a couple of tracks, whilst **Luke Warm of The Woo Town Hillbillies** blew a mean harmonica on a number of choice cuts.

Further sing-a-longs (led by a certain magazine editor, seen somewhere near the front), further choice cuts, further inspired covers, a glorious *Homegrown*, a punchy *Good Enough*, the effortless banter between songs, before a finale of *Shadows* and *'Making The Most Of'* brought the evening to a fitting close, leaving the audience, as all performers should, baying for more and this a mental note to drop into the Millers in the near future for another dose of Nige (and grab a copy of the new **Dodgy** album when it's finally dropped).

## REVIEW

# Fay Hield & The Hurricane Party The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos Saturday 19th March

**Fay Hield** is an English folk singer partner of **John Boden** of **Bellowhead** fame. Now I have probably said many times in these pages, I'm not really 'into' folk as I have said before but was persuaded by the lovely, lilting voice and distinctive rhythm of '*Green Gravel*' from her latest album '*Old Adam*'. Persuaded also by the location of the excellent, singular and quirky **Convent** in Cotswold Country.

**The Convent** dates back to mid 17th century, its heavily dark curtained walls, creating an instantly moody atmosphere. The maze of vaulted corridors lead to the reception, a rather nice restaurant, cocktail bar and stairs to the chapel where performances take place. That chapel is unique, sympathetically illuminated, with wall pews, seating in the naive and a rather gothic 'stage' studio area where you expect to find an altar. Significantly three broadcast cameras sit to the fore, triangulating the stage and ready to beam live shows to The Convent's subscribing viewers: needless to say the sound quality of this auditorium is superb.

'*Willow Glen*' opens proceedings as **Sam Sweeney** stands shadowed with fiddle in hand, joined by **Rob Harbron** gently coaxing his squeeze-box and to the rear **Tom Kearney**, sat dwarfed by the huge old kick drum. **Roger Wilson** stood next to Fay bathed in a glaring spotlight and to his right, completing the line up is double bassist **Ben Nicholls**. The gentle opening gave way to '*Green Gravel*', with its rumbling, thunderous drums; a gloriously atmospheric piece. It has a distinct pagan feel which I would put this down to Tom and his low frequency, pulsating drums, that big side mounted kick, sitting behind another elevated half kick drum and the big hammers used. It is a truly wonderful sound that for me, lifts the whole evening to a different level. Songs were plucked from '*Old Adam*' and previous album '*The Full English*': watch those calories though as it's bound to be too tempting to leave aside. Fay's vibrato vocals are ideal for this dark tale of the first man of creation and the contrast of Ben's double bass pushes through strongly. Accapela then for '*Awake Awake*' bringing an an interesting change of pace before we embarked on the fast rolling '*Jack Orion*'; a man destined for a stretched neck on one of those willows.



It's an odd thing maybe, but the common thread through much of roots music is drinking, debauchery and death; not necessarily in that order, but probably and usually!

It's also worthy of note that **The Hurricane Party** are multi instrumentalist; there are fiddles aplenty racked in front of all except Tom, but he has plenty of toys to play with in banjo, guitar



and mandolin. '*Queen Eleanor's Confession*', reminded me much of '*Tamlin*' of Fairport Convention fame and that's quite an accolade on my reckoning. It is a quite lovely but deliciously devious medieval tale.

'*Go From My Widow*' takes a bow or in the case of Mr Kearney again, a bow, to run across the edge of the big cymbal, sending an almost electric shrill through the chapel which is fascinating to witness. The evening is drawing on and an encore is demanded and indeed important, as this is being broadcast to the Convent's many converts: it's left to Fay to come forward and solo, unaccompanied '*A Long Time Ago*'.

It has been a remarkable evening with the finest quality folk music performed in simply fabulous setting. My thanks go to Fay and The Hurricane Party, for helping convince me to take the folk conversion and Matt for his hospitality and guidance on my first of hopefully many visits to **The Convent**.

Graham Munn





# Paul Lamb

## Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 6th March

Now there are undoubtedly many worthy contenders for the harmonica players' crown; Will Wilde, Johnny Hewitt and local lad Trevor Steger, to name but a few, can certainly blow a pretty mean harp. However, the London based Geordie ex-pat **Paul Lamb**, for me has this 24 carat accolade firmly fixed on his head and as a consistent title holder of the British Blues Award, he can be considered to be the best damned reed bender in the UK. It's true that Johnny and Will can blast a hurricane of noise through there minuscule instruments of choice, but where Paul is outstanding is in the subtly and purity of his harmonica playing. This is why I happily sat spellbound on this Sunday session at one of my favourite pubs, the glorious little **Prince Of Wales** in the cobbled lanes of Ledbury. As ever Paul was accompanied by Chad Strenz who takes most of the vocal leads and acoustic guitar duties.

Chad is drinking fine in '*Wine Spody Ody*' with his warm honeyed voice driving the song hard as Paul begins his masterclass on a Dannecker harp. It's not long before Chad steps aside and Paul pitches in with '*Ya Ya Blues*', mixing his Geordie tones with his harp hooting, foot tapping, engaging style. A bit of gospel finds the duo ready for an appealing '*Baby Please Don't Go*'. This first session is an exemplary lesson in cut back acoustic blues - less can definitely be more - as we break with '*Underdog*' a track from Mat's imminent new album.

There is a reverential hush throughout the bar as Paul and Chad settle in for the second sesh and go straight in to '*I've Got A Woman*' with '*Folsom Prison*' following seamlessly, suiting their style brilliantly. BB King provides '*Guess Who*' with Paul up and into the fans, playing and whooping his blues to the captivated crowd.



A Lamb can lead from the front where sheep only follow, as Paul pitches up the octaves to give us a superlative '*Crow Jane*' followed swiftly with another bar room tour and Paul is '*Hooting and Tooting*' in style. Back beside Chad the wheels are still turning as we roll into a medley, driven along by the ubiquitous 'Midnight Special'.

This had been a wonderful Sunday evening with Lamb firmly on the Sunday menu for the faithful at this church of blues. The man is a true maestro of what may appear to be a simple pocket instrument, but if any were in doubt before Paul's stunning performance, we all know better now!

Graham Munn

# Howlin' Mat

## The Ginger Pig, Worcester | 11th March

It's a Friday night and yet another opportunity to go down to Worcester's excellent **Ginger Pig**. This time was the entertainment was in the form of **Howlin' Mat**, journeyman blues acoustic artist, often to be found tucked away in similar bars, venues and festivals across the country. This night he was playing in front of a select audience, in a much cosier environment than his more regular haunts.

Mat plays a variety of classic blues but in his own style; a slide is never far from hand and his Fender is put aside for songs on his home built 'stick' - a 4 string cigar box guitar, which has a lovely tone.

No better way to start the evening than taking on a bit of Cash and a spell in *Folsom Prison*, sharing the cell with Muddy Waters. Treated then to Mat's own '*Down To The River*' complete with tale of how Georgie Fame nicked it! Next the 4 string 'stick' is produced as we travel back into the '20s for Bessie Smith's '*Nobody Wants Me*', with Mat sliding along the skinny fret. We go '*Rollin' & Tumblin'*' into more anecdotes from a recent trip to a remote frozen island and a festival, where Mr Howlin' produced 5 star treatment as a 'rock god'. More fishing courtesy of Taj Mahal and then Howling Wolf's '*Trouble Knocking*'; the tale of an early marriage split asunder with the help of an axe to cut a favoured sideboard in half! Arguably the stories tell much more about Mat's lifestyle than the music he promotes.



John Lee Hooker's '*This Is Hip*' slides away as we then find ourselves at the great Robert Johnson '*Crossroads*'. The session rolls along nicely enough in this lovely café, whilst outside the streets teem with Friday night revellers, moving between whatever bars are in vogue, alcohol and whatever giving them the impression of warmth in the still, cold city centre. I'd rather the tactile comfort and atmosphere of this comfy venue; this maybe an age thing but it's also this very (a)live music, which gets under the collective skin of the Pig punters. Mat measures out the '*Cocaine*', then its back to the water for '*Catfish*' - no shortage of material to weave around his laid back style and anecdotal tales. It nearing time to pull the shutters down on the bar and tables are being cleared, time for me to pack up and trying some '*Walking Blues*' as I step into a cool night - but I'll be back.

Graham Munn

## The Madi Stimpson Trio Ginger Pig, Worcester | 26th February

The lovely little **Ginger Pig** Café, nestling down the side of Worcester Guildhall, hosted **Madi Stimpson & co** for its Friday night menu of fine food, drink and music. The Ginger Pig was fully stuffed, comfortably warmed and friendly as ever on a cold February night. Madi with bassist **Marc Miletitch** and fellow guitarist **Alan Mason**, settled in for what was in the main, a gypsy jazz evening, with an occasional diversion on the way.

Jazz instrumentals opened the evening's entertainment to the captivated diners, as Django breezed through the air; must have been *'Witchcraft'* as Madi crooned into his microphone. The '30's allowed us to *'Dream A Little Dream'*, but no Ella, so Madi adopted a Satchmo delivery.



The evening moved gently on to the sounds of a gypsy waltz before a *'Freight Train'* came rattling through, accompanied by the chink of glasses and cutlery as we all grazed on the excellent foods on offer at this spiced pig. Triple cooked chips accompanied by a first class trio: the former not healthy maybe, but both superb!

Familiar sounds of duelling guitars, no banjo's here, and the jocular theme of Pugwash, brought to mind the cardboard characters, immortalised by a fictitious crew. Madi, Alan and Marc, played on regardless, cosy in the warm friendly atmosphere. *'Moondance'* seemed appropriate, though the you would have to lie on your back, looking up through the window and be fortunate to spot the lunar orb between the buildings. A distinctly more passionate *'Darling'* from Madi and then again another theme bringing back memories to many of us; the opening strains of *'Maigret'* beautifully reproduced here with a touch of slide across the acoustic guitar, with nicely dovetailed rhythm and bass. The clock moves on, a few have drifted home as others are glued to their tables, hypnotised by the musicianship of the Madi Stimpson Trio. It has to come to an end though - the hard working girls at the counter had homes to go to and I was looking forward to a long walk back. Solo leads from Alan on an electric rhythm guitar and Marc on his double bass, led to the final sounds of gypsy jazz; *'Django's Waltz'*, a short consultation and flourishing finish with Mozart's *'Rondo Alla Turca'*, usually heard on piano but sounding more akin to *'Deliverance'* all over again under Madi's fast guitar fingers of Madi. Perhaps Wolfgang saw the film as well and was inspired?!



Another wonderful evening at this delightful venue, helped along with a spoonful of Madi and his fellow musicians. Look out for **Howling Mat** on March 11th, **Gary O'Dea** on Friday 15th and the fabulous *'We Steal Flyers'* on the 19th: none to be missed!

Graham Munn

## Humm The Firefly, Worcester | Friday 4th March

So I scanned the SLAP listings for some live, aural excitement... **Humm**, that looks interesting..at a venue that I have rarely entered and reputed to have er, interestingly low lighting which would be a good test for my photographic gear.

Decision made, I arrived at a heaving **Firefly** and weaved my way upstairs past the alcohol fuelled, heated fans. Found a tiny chunk of space to stand my ground, against the jostling enthusiastic mass, recognising the band - **Sam** sorting his drums, **Jack** (ex Virgil) on bass, Andy formerly of the excellent Rattlin' Doors stands ready with slicked back hair and suitably braced, leaving just **Ebony**; as mysterious to me as that exotic super-hard wood. This was going to be loud, hard, and involving and so it proved as the impressive rhythm section kicks and up steps the maniacal Andy, all but swallowing the microphone, as he cavorts about the 'stage' demoniacally. He joins in the tub-thumping before kicking it aside; is that why they're called floor toms?! Sam is still hammering away over in the shadows, as the dark destroyer Ebony works her strings, hair flying and follicle curtain showing only the dark shape of her lips below. *'Savannah'*, *'Rolling On Concrete'*, through to *'Big Green Joe'*; the whole melds in to one like an explosive percussion grenade, with a pin pulled by the ghost of Led Zeppelin.

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As a band they are only in their infancy with a line-up change already under their belt, but this is an outfit with an unstoppable energy - a can of treacle dark, fizzy liquor bursting its seams. The short set was a great, tight concentrated effort, but I think they need to look for those more subtle and intriguing songs to expand their base and preserve the power for the decisive strikes. It's early days though - a steel clad Virgin balloon or an iron clad Titanic? - we will have to wait and see. Humm certainly impress and there's much to come I'm sure: I'll be back for more and suggest you join the doubtless growing throng.

Graham Munn



# Arcadia Roots

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley | Thursday 10th March

Tucked along Bewdley's riverside, **The Cock & Magpie** bar filled out quickly as **Arcadia Roots** fired up and what an incendiary spark that turned out to be. 'Where You Going To Run To' exploded into life with the phenomenal bass rhythm vibe, as the guitars chime in from **Tom** and **Danny**, whilst **Dave** takes lead vocals, hammering away on the deep, conical cajon and djembe - who needs a drum kit?! Thundering underneath is the bass in the hands of **Josh** as **Maddi** brings vocal backing and a touch of glamour to the stage. A great start with a wonderfully funky, dark 'Preacher' following, an infectious beat driving it along causing bodies to move and sway; it's impossible to stay still. A distinctly bluesy 'Ammunition' fired off with powerful vocals and Danny in the shadows changing to a cigar box guitar, then a modern day protest song in 'Dig A Little Deeper', dealing with the perils of the fracking industry; at least I'm fairly sure he said fracking!

'Make A Move' is another cracking song as the crowd groove about filling what little floor space was left: some of the music brings to mind the 'Rumours' era of Fleetwood Mac, probably their post blues zenith.

Now Maddi had already duetted a little and backed up Dave's vocals, but she was at last given her freedom with 'Searching', revealing her deep, warm and honeyed voice also displaying that she has much to offer in this department. A 'Siren' called, taking a while to grow, but then building rapidly to a crescendo as the band pushed it into orbit. A guitar driven instrumental up next as Tom takes the lead and Danny opens that box of cigars again, followed by a short break.



The second half starts with 'Primal Rhythm', urging the whole room to move as one: it does exactly as the label says and these African roots cannot be denied. Strong stuff indeed as Africa also provides the inspiration for 'Yele', where Dave and Maddi swap leads in this tribal chant, pushed along by the percussive strikes.

I would really like to hear more from Maddi, but am happy as **Arcadia Roots** as a whole really are bringing a new dimension to our local music scene; it is proving to be a great evening out. Maddi is to the fore with 'I Need A Miracle' as my witching hour approaches and I have to hit the road - just time to find that driving pulse with 'Keep The Fire Burning'. The fuse is lit with cajon and djembe working well with a bit of percussive clapping to build the momentum superbly. The guitars take over feeding into 'Dream On' with the lovely soft rhythms bringing the crowd back down, as I slip past and reluctantly leave. If at all possible I will be at **The Roots' Marris Bar** gig at the end of the month, as this has indeed been an excellent and worthwhile excursion to beautiful Bewdley.

Graham Munn

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# Sunjay

Bromsgrove Folk Club, Catshill | Thursday 14th April

Ever since his **BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award** nomination back in 2012 **Sunjay's** star has been ever rising and this confident yet relaxed blues-folk singer/guitarist has clocked up the miles and plaudits sharing the bill and treading the boards with the esteemed likes of Fairport Convention, Steeleye Span, Martin Simpson, Passenger, and Terry Reid.

Drawing from a rich, musical and cultural background it is hardly surprising that Sunjay has quickly become recognised as one of the UK's rising stars. His performances have been described as "mature & confident", while his guitar playing has been hailed as "superb, brilliant, experienced, intricate & faultless".



Playing in support of his new album "Black & Blues" this is bound to be a treat for the **Bromsgrove Folk Club** faithful. We at Slap Mag shall also certainly be swelling their ranks that very night and we strongly suggest you do the same, as in the words of Living Tradition magazine, "Sunjay is very much the man of the moment. Not so much the flavour of the month as the flavour of the year."

For more information on **Sunjay** please visit [www.sunjay.tv](http://www.sunjay.tv) and tickets for this Bromsgrove Folk Club gig are available from the Box Office on 07828 71684, costing £8/£6 members.

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# Babal

## The Marr's Bar | Friday 4th March

Three or four times a year, I indulge in the musical equivalent of what race goers would identify as a pin sticker's guide. I go to see a band about which I know nothing, and have never heard. Risky? Not really, with the amount of fine, independent music around at the moment - I've never seen a poor band yet using this method and occasionally, like this time, it pays off in spectacular fashion.

Malvern outfit **Babal** are playing at the Marr's Bar and I've been drawn in by a photo in SLAP magazine which suggests a somewhat theatrical evening is in store. What unfolds over the next couple of hours though is one of the most complete stage presentations I've ever seen. A head-on collision of art, theatre and music with the best stage show I've seen in years - wonderful back projections, dazzling lighting effects (particularly during 'Lockstep') and some absolutely barking props.



Tired of seeing ripped-knee jeans and shapeless pullovers on stage? Go and see Babal - these people dress for the occasion... It's like being parachuted onto the set of a Kate Bush video shoot but my word, the music comes from a very, very different place.

I've never heard anything quite like the sound this band makes - an extraordinary mash-up of Psych, Goth, Jazz, Far Eastern and Funk - huge dollops of Funk - not Level 42 Funk either, heavy-as-f\*\*k Funk. There are passing references to other bands, particularly Primus, Limbomaniacs and Pere Ubu but they are only snatches of memory in the overall uniqueness of the sound.

The set, which heavily features music from their highly recommended CD/DVD *'Singular Adventures In Post-Modern Capitalist Society'*, is anchored beautifully by **Jon Sharp** on drums and **James Alexander Dart** on bass, laying down a thunderous beat throughout. And it needs to be anchored as well, because of the complexity of some of the music, and the wide range of anarchic goings-on taking place at the front of the stage. Even though this was a truly ensemble effort, I should mention that

**Karen Langley** is one of the best singers I've seen in a very long time, although how she managed to breathe in that highly elaborate corset is a complete mystery. **Rob Williams**, doing a very passable impression of Mephistopheles, solos fluently and effortlessly - the amazingly beautiful solo at the end of *'The Lorelei'* was breathtaking - his bidextral work was unbelievably wild and thrillingly close to undisciplined. Aren't you supposed to hunch over your guitar deep in concentration to play like that? Apparently not.



The fifth member of the band is **Alice the Worker**, she's a mime artist and dancer and responsible for the majority of the evening's wackier moments. This woman has a huge bag of props you wouldn't believe - giant scissors, inflatable hammers, bricks, a couple of skulls, military uniforms, car steering wheels - used during the frantic *'Speed'* - and toffees, huge toffees which are thrown into the audience during the relentlessly brilliant *'Toffetime'*. She's even got a toffee shaped hat...



There were no gaps in this performance, nothing you'd change, nothing you could think of that would have improved it - how many sets have you seen that you can say that about? I head home buzzing like a Rampant Rabbit loaded with a new set of Duracells.

Brilliant band and an evening that will stay in the memory for a very long time.

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



Images & Words: Geoffrey Head



## Thrill Collins | Led Zeppelin IV

Some bands seem handmade for the big festival stage, despite their lack of stature, sales and popularity in the mainstream musical world. A band that can make you smile, sing and bop around the first time you ever clap eyes on them. Now most festivals manage to dig out a band or two of this nature each year and **Wychwood Festival** in Cheltenham seem to have uncovered the perfect home town house band in **Thrill Collins**.

The three-piece festival mainstays (I've caught them a couple of years on the trot at Wychwood) take well known songs and give them a unique and infectious skiffle-pop twist: an upbeat sound created with double bass, guitar, cajon and pure pop harmonies, perfect for those hazy summer months when we all decamp to the nearest field, drink warm beer and dance like our very existence depended on having a good time (Thrill Collins have also graced the likes of Glastonbury, Bestival and Cheltenham Jazz).

Each time I've seen Thrill Collins I've always wondered whether their sound would transfer to CD and could you recreate the party atmosphere in your own front room (be it with a few friends and a case of cold cider), so when the band's new EP, the strangely named *Led Zeppelin IV* dropped through the letter box I chilled a few bottle in anticipation.

Naturally Thrill Collins open proceedings with a twang of double bass and those aforementioned group harmonies and I'm there, back in that field as they delivered their pattered and strummed rendition of *C'est Le Vie* - yes the Bewitched number - and yes it makes for a fun skiffle-pop cover with it's shuffling cajon and the hook-laden group chorus that's impossible not to sing along to. From pure pop to a hip/hop funk mash-up medley appropriately entitled *Funk* that takes in *Rappers Delight*, *Le Freak*, *Thriller* and a groove laden *Don't Stop Moving*, over a glorious six and half

minutes of elastic double bass, pattered percussion, funk strums and theatrical Wacko Jacko impressions.

Thrill Collins don't stop at raiding the pop and funk history books they also dip into the rock annals for a fantastic upbeat reinvention of Rage Against The Machine's *Killing*

*In The Name Of* complete with driving stop-start acoustic guitar and all out cajon abuse. The trio prove that anything is fair game by rounding things off with Drum & Bass, which begins with a jazz bass slap, before developing into a contagious, frenzied take on Shy FX's *Original Nuttah*, not only proving the band's diversity but also their obvious love of music no matter the genre.

*Led Zeppelin IV* is a fantastic showcase of what Thrill Collins are all about and that's taking a well known song, playing around with the original arrangement and above all having fun, which is something a great deal of bands seem to forget along the road. So whether it's at your local festival (Thrill Collins have already lined-up twenty festival performances across the summer) or in the comfort of your own home, I urge you to cast aside your inhibitions and be prepared for a good old fashioned sing-a-long. **Thrill Collins** have come to party and I've got a feeling you'll be joining in real soon. [www.thrillcollins.co.uk](http://www.thrillcollins.co.uk)

Photo by Dom Meason Words by Will Munn



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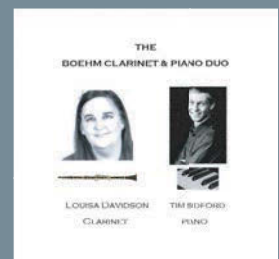
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# Blanck Mass

## Rosebud, Ferric Lux

### Marrs Bar, Worcester | Friday 8th April

**Blanck Mass** is the solo project of **Benjamin John Power**. The Worcester native - and one half of the internationally successful **Fuck Buttons** - has been making soaring electronic music under the Blanck Mass moniker since 2010. With his second album *Dumb Flesh* released last May to critical acclaim, and following a string of dates in the US and Ireland, Ben will be bringing his vast



and euphoric soundscapes to the **Marrs Bar**, Worcester for a rare home town show - and only midlands date - on **Friday 8th April**.

In 2012, *Sundowner*, the second track from Ben's self-titled debut album soundtracked key points of the London Olympics Opening Ceremony. The song was chosen by Underworld's Rick Smith and performed by London's Symphony Orchestra to 900 million people worldwide. Beyond his personal work, Ben has taken his collaborations cross media, supporting Sigur Ros on their colossal 2013 world tour, working with the legendary electronica pioneer Jean-Michel Jarre on his 2015 album *Electronica 1 - Time Machine*, worked with visual artist Alex Turvey, provided remixes for Mogwai - and contributed to the haunting and award-winning soundtrack to Ben Wheatley's 2013 film *A Field in England*. To name but a few.



This is a rare opportunity to catch one of the regions' finest musical sons and one of the leading international exponents of electronic music in a relatively small venue. With **Blanck Mass'** trademark and spectacular live visuals, this will be a uniquely immersive live experience unlike any other.

Support will come from Worcester's own dark electronica beasts **Rosebud** - whose pitiless beats and chaotic live performances are quickly becoming the stuff of fevered rumour. Call it loosely structured heavyweight dark electronica. Call it a rosebud flowering on a tree of woe, its roots fed on industrial, dub and punk. Call it what you will. There will be no pity for the herd.

Openers **Ferric Lux** create an audio visual feast of ritualistic blackened techno with tribal, hallucinogenic visuals and orchestrations. Both hypnotic and mesmerising, this is not one to be missed.

*Raymond St Jacques*

## Daniel Kemish with James Weston

### The Marrs Bar | Sunday, April 17th

Daniel Kemish is an Outlaw/Americana artist who claims he was "*born on the wrong continent*" (musically). Although British born, Daniel prides himself on showcasing tones from his American influences. His warm, gruff voice and style portray a sound that is not often found in people of his age. His lyrics and songwriting style are more commonly associated with the early country singers during the outlaw movement of the 70's.

Daniel's Debut album was recorded at the world renowned *Ocean Way Studio A* in Nashville and has just been released on the 25th March. The album was incredibly recorded in a single day and delivers a sound that is true of the proper country outlaw music and songs, which is so hard to find in today's world of polished c & w music. 2015 saw Daniel share the stage with Bands like Kodaline, Bears Den, Róisín Murphy and James Blake to name



a few, in addition to performing on various stages across Europe and the USA. Now into 2016 Daniel hits the road with his brand new band and a new sound, so as it's shaping up to be a great year for him, now is the time to catch Daniel Kemish live!

Tickets: <http://www.wegottickets.com/event/348396>



## Matt Woosey-'Desiderata' | Album Launch 229 Club, London Wednesday 2nd March

OK, hands on heart, I found listening to and subsequently reviewing this album difficult; Matt's last work *Wildest Dreams*, jumped up and grabbed you by the throat from the off and was an exceptional piece of work. *Desiderata* finds Matt in a different place, married and with a baby son, an emotional roller coaster that has opened a new pathway of music to be explored. It may prove to be a cul-de-sac, we must wait and see. I played the album over and over before I could find my way in, it was certainly not what I had come to expect from Matt, not even in my er wildest dreams! Launch night approached however and as I've long followed Matt's career, definitely felt a need to go. He is, after all, absolutely a live performer and I had little doubt that it would be an engaging evening at the very least.

It was to be a complete band performance complete with, so it transpired, some mystery guests. First came the excellent support act **Malory Torr** who with her band gave a fine performance, herself excellent on acoustic guitar and lead vocals. The band sit more in the country-folk scene, but I expect to see much more of Malory Torr in the future, as she writes engaging lyrics combined with a very good stage show.

The stage then was reset, dominated by a large screen and the poem *Desiderata* which inspired the album, scrolled down accompanied by narration. Matt has had the opportunity to become very familiar with this verse over the years, as a framed copy hung over the WC in the family home! (privy to his privy eh? Ed) As Matt matured, the words began to take meaning. On a high forbidding stage, the screen lifted to find Matt sat centre, **Dave Small** to his right, pianist **Martin Riley** to the left and just to the rear, the double bass of **John Parker**. Both Martin and John had only met up with Matt for the first time that previous weekend. Dave sat astride his cajon and djembe to hand, to complete the percussion.

Straight from the album, '*Who Do You Love*', reached out to partner Lisa, who was in a quiet area with their 8 week old Marley, definitely a mini Matt! The gentle start was a smokescreen as we soon saw '*Black Smoke Rising*' with Matt at his grittiest best. The early evening became a selective dip into his past work as '*Hook Line & Sinker*' dredged in '*The Same Old Blues*'. Matt alongside Dave was in his element as the piano and bass pushed through the sound filling the air, together with a sometimes over enthusiastic smoke machine! '*Wildest Dreams*' could not be overlooked and Dave did the business on his djembe, as Matt's voice reverberated around the room, sublimely hypnotic.

Time to do '*Exactly As We Please*', as Matt changed gear to take us into his reading of *Desiderata* and the introduction of a guest guitarist, perfectly suited to this perhaps jazz rooted approach. **Joe Gibson** from the Dave Migden band stepped forward

for '*Always be The One*', the album's country styled opener. Martin's piano found its place, but it was the double bass that stepped through for '*One Love*' and a second guest in the form of **Dave Migden** himself.

A switch back to *Wildest Dreams* for the deliciously dark '*Don't Tell Nobody*', perfect for Dave Migden to provide the vocal lead, with his slightly warmer and rounded American characteristics. Matt enjoyed channelling his energy into his guitar; this song was unsurprisingly the most voted for addition to the evening by Matt's many followers. Spanish guitar notes cut through the smoke blown stage as we listened to the lovely opening bars of '*Mystified*', one of the stand out tracks on *Desiderata*. '*Lighthouse*', a rather disjointed, tricky song was given the live treatment, with its offbeat piano and bass jazz notes; it remains a testing song, but was always going to feel different on stage.

Oddly enough '*Million Miles*' brought us all back together with Dave Migden taking on vocals again. Now nearing the end of what has been an excellent evening, we came to a superb piano lead-in and lyrics that many of us may identify with, '*Lovin Me Ain't Easy*': it's a beautiful closing to the *Desiderata* album and to the show - well almost. A lull and from the darkened stage, Matt and Dave Small step forward to bury themselves in a gritty, tub thumping n string bending bit of Willie Dixon and plenty of audience howling for the '*Lil' Red Rooster*'.

This had been a well organised, exceptional evening of live music, with Matt and his friends at their best, in a great venue. If live shows sell albums and these days they do, you can't ask for a better salesman than **Matt Woosey**.

Graham Munn



# PREVIEW

## Punk by Nature's New Nightmare The Boars Head, Kidderminster | Sat 30th April

After a successful first gig in Kidderminster, **Punk by Nature** is set to return with another cracking slice of punk rock! **Saturday 30th April** will see Punk by Nature's second punk half-day *The New Nightmare at The Boars Head*.

The line-up this time kicks off with Birmingham melodic hardcore band **Healer of Bastards**. The band formed in late 2014 and play angry catchy songs about social injustice and the struggle for a better future.

Next up is the garage punk rock'n'roll beast that is **Vincent and the Onepotts**. Featuring members of **Spirit Bomb**, **Arch Rivals** and **Pigfish**, **VATO** turn the guitars up loud, play like their lives depend upon it, and deliver rocking songs full of hooks, power and passion.

Third band up are young Staffordshire punk band **Leech Bleeders**. This band serves up fast melodic tuneage at a blistering pace, with a healthy serving of fun in the side. Throw in the odd Ska number for good measure and this band are sure to get the party started.



Next up on the line-up are Worcestershire skate punk faves **Erection Police**. The band plays catchy snotty punk rock tunes that mixes a healthy dose of vitriol with a hefty slice of humour. Erection Police are firm favourites with Boars Head regulars and are sure to entertain the crowd.



Making a welcome return to the **Boars Head** is Irish punk ska band **The Dubtones**. Hailing from Dublin and over in the UK for just a few days it is a real treat to have this three piece back. These boys deliver a sound that sits well alongside the likes of The Clash, The Ruts and Stiff Little Fingers. Playing big catchy tunes that mix punk, dub and ska, this band are definitely one not to be missed.

Also making a welcome return to the Boars Head is Bolton hardcore band **Billyclub**. Billyclub play fast, edgy, no-nonsense

**28 SLAP APRIL**



hardcore punk which packs a punch yet still retains melodic overtones. These lads are one of the finest live bands on the circuit and if you've not seen them live before you're in for a treat!

Headlining the New Nightmare are a band that need little introduction, Brum punk legends **Drongos For Europe**. Having formed in Birmingham in 1979 and with their DIY ethic they went on to be part of the UK82 scene. Drongos for Europe are one of the hardest working punk bands in the UK and through constantly touring have built up quite a following. DFE are no strangers to the Boars Head and have supported this great little venue for a number of years now. In fact I can't think of a more fitting band to headline what is going to be an epic day of live punk tuneage!

With tickets from £5 in adv. and £6 on the door this gig is excellent value for money. Advance tickets are also available through See Tickets at:

[seetickets.com/tour/punk-by-nature-presents-the-new-nightmare](http://seetickets.com/tour/punk-by-nature-presents-the-new-nightmare)

Jason K



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# Alan Barnes

## with the Remi Harris Project

### Clows Top Victory Hall | 23rd February

It is always a delight to report the opening of a new venue for Jazz and Victory Hall has the hallmarks of a great venue. A bright, large room and a bar, what more could your average Jazz-lover wish for?

**Yardbird Arts** is the organisation behind what is hoped will be a series of regular events at the Hall under the banner of the 'Teme Valley Sessions'.

Guitarist **Remi Harris** is a man to watch on the Midlands Jazz scene and beyond. Still only in his twenties, he's been steadily building up a reputation as a consummate professional playing acoustic guitar in the style of Gypsy Jazz so beloved of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli.

With the award-winning 'Remi Harris Project' generous helpings of Charlie Parker-inspired Bebop are added to the mix. With his roots in the music of Parker and Art Pepper, **Alan Barnes** was the ideal front-line partner. The two men have worked together before and Barnes appears on Remi's last album and so have built a comfortable rapport which was evident from the first notes that they played together tonight. The audience was treated to a wonderfully varied mix of Gypsy Jazz, Swing and Bebop classics with Alan Barnes

displaying his mastery of alto and baritone saxophones and clarinet. Accompanying Remi and Alan were regular 'Project' members, **Caley Groves** (rhythm guitar) and, another familiar face on the Midlands Jazz circuit, **Mike Green** (bass).

An appreciative near-capacity audience enjoyed a great evening of music making. Alan Barnes repartee between numbers was a bonus.

Remi has a new album in the pipe-line which he says will show a different side of his musical persona. To keep up-to-date with what Remi is doing and where you can see him, check out his web site <http://www.remiharris.com/>

*Words and photo: Alan Musson*





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# Jez Lowe

St Swithun's Hall, Worcester | Sunday 17th April

"Hard Working" is an epithet oft bandied about when it comes to musicians, but in the case of **Jez Lowe** it could be tattooed on his knuckles.

Jez is a veritable music machine who has touted his terrific wares around the far-flung corners of these fair isles for some two-score years and more. Happily he arrives in Worcester on Sunday 17th April via the estimable Shindig organisation to play at **St Swithun's Hall** for the latest in local luminary **Barry Walmsley's Worcester Acoustic Music Sessions (WAMS)**.

Jez, born and raised in County Durham, grew up witnessing the decline of the local coal-mining industry and together with the general economic downturn of the North East, this has always informed his firebrand style of folk writing. Indeed the social injustices of the day continue to be a staple subject for his heartfelt outpourings.

Together with band **The Bad Pennies**, as the name suggests, they continue to perform returning again and again to thrill and entertain the masses with their patented brand of social statement laced with a seam of trenchant humour.

Loved by young and old (and those inbetween! Ed) Jez was a double nominee for the 2015 BBC Folk Awards - for Best Singer and Best New Song - serving as a timely reminder of his standing in the UK folk and acoustic music scene.



This will be a hot ticket in town so be sure to secure yours from Barry himself on 01299 250569 or at [barry@ate.org.uk](mailto:barry@ate.org.uk)

For all your other Jez Lowe needs head on over to [www.jezlowe.com](http://www.jezlowe.com) : for details of future WAMS events please keep on eye on Barry Walmsley's facebook page and for all Shindig event take a look at [www.shindig.org.uk](http://www.shindig.org.uk)

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# Circuit Sweet by Naomi Preece

Well we've just passed our 7th birthday, a milestone which is incredible. Through SLAP we just wanted to shout a big thank you for all the continued and ongoing support we've had over the years. We've been sporting our fresh new look website online and on mobile for the last 12 months and we've expanded even more, adding new talented local and national writers to the site. You will always find us at a show somewhere be it locally, nationally or internationally and our work is to promote the talents from artists worldwide through their creativity. If this is of interest to you and you'd like us to come to a show or check out your release then find us on facebook/twitter etc and drop us a message.

To coincide with the birthday celebrations, we've been working hard on re-filling our shop shelves and the artists available and we are thrilled to announce the arrival of Worcester math rock steady duo **A Werewolf**: you can find their new 7" release in our shop alongside soon to be Bristol based act **Chiyoda Ku** and Nottingham's **Alright The Captain**. We will be working on more acts and announcements soon!



March 11 saw the release of the remarkable new single from Redditch based collective **Shrinking Violets**, which we enthusiastically featured and reviewed. This band are pushing boundaries and will doubtless relish the endless opportunities which will no doubt come their way. Find the full feature on our website and discover this soon to be well known act.

Shrinking Violets



Also a big feature for us last month was the debut album release from **The Broken Oak Duet**. Three years ago we walked into a venue in the heart of Worcester to see **Mike Watt** and new band **Il Sogno de Marinaio**; we were expecting a great night of music but what we didn't count on was the incredible sound from the support act who blew us away then and continue to do so. 3 years later that talented duo are now regulars of Circuit Sweet, a band we've now seen live more than any other act and we can proudly say the pair have just unveiled our personal favourite album of the year 2016. **The Broken Oak Duet**, consisting of **Howard** on drums and **Tom** on baritone guitar create intellectual instrumentation and have an energy like no other outfit. Both live

The Broken Oak Duet



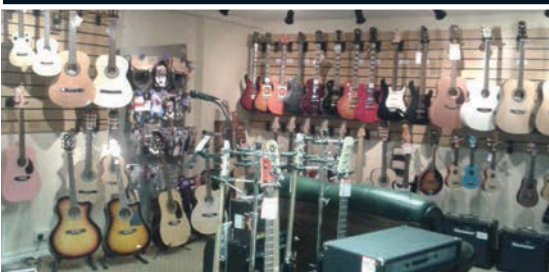
Photography: Neil Collins

and on record the pair provide a ferocious and enigmatic performance, which you never tire and this year will prove a momentous turning point for the duo as they celebrate the long awaited release of their debut album *'Terrain'*. This powerful release will open more doors for the musicians as they are about to rightfully receive the break they deserve: band who are on the edge of stealing Don Cab's fanbase. On February 26th, this flawless and fun debut was unleashed to the world: to find out more about their thoughts on their album and its inspirations, their tour life and an incredible crowdfunding campaign to support the album head to [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk).

As for April - with news of **Firefly Hereford** opening soon, the return of **Shackoustic Sundays** at **The Shack Revolution, Hereford** and an absolutely must see **Surprise Attacks** show at Worcester's Marris Bar featuring the superb **Blanck Mass** together with excellent support from the ever-burgeoning **Rosebud** and audio-visual feast that is **Ferric Lux**, "excited anticipation" is an understatement to how we feel right now.

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## Boat To Row

The Prince Albert, Stroud | Friday 18th March

It's not very often that I visit a band's merch stall to buy a CD before the gig, but ever since I saw **Boat To Row** play the Louisiana last year, I've been eagerly awaiting their debut album *'I Found You Here'*, which they're touring at the moment.



They're playing as a six-piece tonight with the addition of **Lizze Chan-Foxley** on viola and a lush hand pumped harmonium and the stage area at The Albert is a little on the snug side.

We're in for a treat tonight. As they're playing without support, they play two, eight song sets, including the entire album and end up playing not far short of two hours.

If you wanted to put a musical label on them, I suppose you'd class them as alt-folk, but there are rock, ambient and semi-classical elements that recur throughout the night. The vocals are huge, not only the lead voices, primarily supplied by acoustic guitarist **Mike King** and bass player **Ben Gilchrist** but also the spectacular harmonies, from keys player **Hannah Fathers** and electric violinist **Emma Bennett**.



And if musical labels don't really stick, ascribing a particular instrument to a band member doesn't either. The versatility of **Fathers** and **Gilchrist** is astonishing, constantly swapping bass, banjo and lead guitar duties - this leads to an ever-shifting musical tapestry, precluding repetition and familiarity, behind which **Lydia Glanville** gives an atmospheric percussion performance, with particularly good brush and mallet work.



In a set which displayed such high quality throughout, it's difficult to pick a standout track, instead there are individual high points within songs that startle and delight - the jarring guitar dischords in *'Whistle And I'll Come To You'*, perhaps reflecting the ghostly origins of the phrase; the abrupt acapella finish to *'Time And Time Again'*; a delightful bridge of plucked strings; a chiming guitar solo from **Gilchrist** and best of all, the rampaging, string-fuelled ending of *'Truth And Silence'*, with both **Bennett** and **Chan-Foxley** at full tilt, as the song gallops towards its gentle conclusion.

And yes, the album did live up to my expectations - and more. Certainly one of the very best I've heard this year.

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by Geoffrey Head

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# Fun Lovin' Criminals Cantaloop

The Institute, Birmingham | 25th Feb

It always amazes me when you see an email or an advert of a band celebrating a 20th Anniversary since their formation or indeed a classic album, can it possibly be that long? Where did the years go? It only seems like yesterday, can I possibly be that old? Because I remember when it/they first came out.

This year a number of acts are out and about cashing in....no sorry celebrating a lifetime in music, treading the boards and delivering the classics to us the devoted (and a few newcomers to the cause). One such band is **The Fun Lovin' Criminals**, who twenty years ago delivered their debut album *Come Find Yourself*, at the time of release I was fast approaching eighteen and their combination of smooth hip-hop, rock guitar and funk rhythms straight out of New York instantly appealed as something a little different and fun compared to my (then) usual rock and metal playlists. The big single, *Scooby Snacks* seemed to unite the various factions, Huey's infectious half rap, half drawl, the rhythmic bounce, the opening sample, it didn't matter what you normally listened to, it just hit and you couldn't help hollering along. I picked up the debut album (and a couple of subsequent albums) and embraced the funk-laden anthems such as *The Fun Lovin' Criminal*, *Smoke 'Em* and *King Of New York*.

Years pass and the odd occasional blast of *Scooby Snacks* still manages to incite that initial rush of excitement, but how does the rest of the album hold up today? Having announced a re-release of the album and subsequent live dates, I delved back into the band's debut and I have to say I'm impressed how the disc has stood the test of time. The 'Criminals unique mash-up of styles still retains a certain fresh quality and still has the ability to make you smile and hum along with the hooks the same as twenty years ago. By the time bonus track *Coney Island Girl* finishes I knew I had to see Huey, Fast and Frank perform the album in the flesh.

Hitting The Institute and it would seem that whether it's a nostalgia thing or a genuine love for the FLC, fans past and present were out in force. Charged with warming up the masses were **Cantaloop**, a band I've seen on numerous occasions, but never on such a big stage. It was fantastic to see the audience respond to the group's funk infused hip-hop, groovy horns and elastic rhythms, even managing some crowd participation at one point. The band only played half a dozen tracks but the likes of *Weird Scene* and *Blessed* showcased the band in full flight, with the effortless vocal flow and jazzy brass fills in full effect.



A short lag, *Star Wars* intro music and then the FLC are there on the stage to an eruption of whoops and hollers from their audience. A greeting from Huey and they're off straight into the opening track of *Come Find Yourself* and the band's statement of intent *The Fun Lovin' Criminal*; Huey throwing guitar shapes, Frank supplying the infectious bouncing rhythm, Fast the keyboard fills with the audience hollering away lost in the music. *Passive/Aggressive* follows and it's amazing to see how many people are mouthing the words in the audience, Huey hooking them in with his contagious flow whilst delivering another impressive solo. A bit of banter between the band and then fourth song in, 'That Song', the sampled intro and bang, the crowd become one singing along, feet shuffling, heads nodding, everyone in the room in the palm of Huey's hand, the party has started in earnest. *Smoke Em* follows and more vocal chanting from the crowd, the band a tight funk unit with Fast moving between bass, keys and trumpet, whilst Frank holds down the beat with undeniable cool. Few bands could pull off a move from the adrenaline laced, funky up stew of *King Of New York* to a stripped back rendition of *We Have All The Time In The World* complete with jazz trumpet breaks - but this is the FLC we're talking about.



**Fun Lovin' Criminals** deliver the debut start to finish with latter tracks such as the *Bear Hug* and *Methadonia* proving as popular as the singles. The crowd lap up every solo and every hook as if the album only came out a couple of weeks ago, perhaps proving either the durability of the disc or an absolute devotion to the band; either way the trio seemed to be having as much fun as the audience. Huey promises a quick break and then a second set lifted from across the band's arsenal of albums and sure enough the band return with the likes of *Loco* and *Up On The Hill* are welcomed with the same adulation as before; perhaps the FLC will have to celebrate all their albums in this manner.

So you could call a band celebrating a twentieth anniversary of their debut album nostalgic or a cash in. If you're feeling cynical, but when it comes to *Come Find Yourself* and the *Fun Lovin' Criminals* I call it a damn good night out.

Words by Will Munn, Photography by Graham Munn



# Andy O'Hare

Well as festival season pretty much kicks off for our fair region at the end of this month - probably a good time to round up what's in store for us over the many sweltering weekends that lie ahead for us - the eternal optimist still lives within me! Worth bearing in mind though that only a handful of these actually meet our own slightly picky definition of a 'proper' music festival - requiring multiple stages or venues over a number of days - I prefer to use the terms mini- and micro-festival to describe the smaller one-stage or one-day events - and it's fair to say also that the music is pretty much a side serving when it comes to beer and food-themed festivals - even of the green spikey variety!

So here's your handy cut-out-and-keep (does anyone ever do that?) guide to what to expect - and there's an early start at the end April/start of May at **Upton Folk Festival** with plenty of trad variety on offer. Strangely there's a bit of a rare bottleneck of events on Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May with a choice to be made between **How The Light Gets In** at Hay, **Breaking Bands** at Stoke Prior, the new **Mello Festival** at Throckmorton, **Beat It** in Malvern and **Dubs In The Middle** at Evesham - that's going to be a difficult one to call!

June kicks off with **Wychwood** weekend at Cheltenham - including, ahem, our own BBC Hereford & Worcester stage again - there's also **Asparafest** near Evesham with the emphasis mostly on culinary matters with local music as an added relish and **Severn Sounds** on Cripplegate Park. Plenty more musical fun towards the end of the month with **Hopfest** in Bewdley, **Tenbury Festival**, **Mappfest** in Malvern, **Upton Jazz** and **Linton Blues** - should be something to appeal to everyone's tastebuds...

High season in July and there's something spectacular happening every weekend kicking off with **West Fest** in Malvern and the new **Eldorado** in Ledbury - it's thick and fast for the rest of the month with **Bromsgrove Folk**, **Upton Blues**, the new **BretFest** in Bretforton, **Wizzafest** in Stoke Prior, **Nozstock** in Bromyard and **Livestock** in Longdon - it's also the time for the **Three Choirs Festival** which rotates this year to Gloucester - but don't forget your dickie...

Shouldn't have too many difficult choices to make in August as the events are well-spaced out - fine planning there chaps! Expect a cracking start with the fifth **Malvern Rocks**, followed by **Down On The Farm** in the Golden Valley and the eagerly awaited new-look **Lakefest** at the former Big Chill site at Eastnor! Towards the month-end we've got **Pershore Jazz** and the seventh **Upton International Festival** with many 'familiar-named' acts - with something a bit different on offer at **Beermageddon** at Stoke Prior for the slightly more musically adventurous...

I've always enjoyed the final couple of events of an action-packed and hopefully by now not-too-footsore summer with **Bromyard Folk Festival** and of course **Worcester Music Festival** on successive weekends in September bringing what'll be a wonderful summer of local sounds to a fine finale! We're still awaiting confirmation from other events like **Colwall Family**, **Cripplegate Minifest & Sounds Of The Shires** Hereford (July) - and as well as **Malvern Rocks** there's **Morton Stanley & Kidderminster Fringe** (August) - all also worth checking out if they happen again!

Many of these events are free to enter but if you're a bit cash-strapped it's probably just about the last chance to apply to perform in case of a last-minute cancellation - and many events are still looking for volunteers and assistance to help run the events - always needed - and after a great weekend you can say that you were a part of it!

Of course you've probably noticed that besides Wychwood I haven't mentioned festivals 'further afield' - well as you probably know by now myself and this fine organ that you're holding are mainly about local music and performers - and there'll be a fine selection of the pick of our home-grown talent at pretty much all the above events!! But best wishes to all the local acts who've landed spots at the bigger national festivals and of course after a few years it'd be nice to shout loud and proud if one, two or more of 'our lot' lands a major festival placing - of course if it was my choice... There's plenty more info, full dates, details and links to all the above events on our Festivals page [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p001j1x3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p001j1x3) - plus of course all you'll ever need to know about our great H&W music scene - hope to see as many as possible of all you wonderful performers and punters over the coming summer months - and I'm sure that it's going to be an absolute belter - once again of course!!

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



## Worcester City F.C.



### 2015-2016 Season

### April Fixtures

<b>Sat 02</b>	<b>North Ferriby United</b>	<b>Away</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Tue 05</b>	<b>Bradford Park Avenue</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>19.45</b>
<b>Sat 09</b>	<b>Stockport County</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Sat 16</b>	<b>Bradford Park Avenue</b>	<b>Away</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Tue 19</b>	<b>Lowestoft Town</b>	<b>Away</b>	<b>19.45</b>
<b>Sat 23</b>	<b>AFC Telford United</b>	<b>Away</b>	<b>15.00</b>
<b>Sat 30</b>	<b>AFC Fylde</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>15.00</b>

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)

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# Guitar Noise Problems

Pretty much every electric guitar player has experienced problems with hum and buzz at some time or another but the causes are not always obvious. Carrying a mains tester plug with LEDs to show you that the socket you are using is correctly wired is a good idea but assuming the power source is OK, where else do you look?

Perhaps the best understood situation is where guitars with single coil pickups, such as Strats, Teles or Gibson guitars fitted with P90s, pick up hum from the transformers in nearby amplifiers or buzz from lighting dimmers and it's not uncommon to have to move around to find a place where the hum is at a minimum. Some small improvement can be made by screening the inside of the guitar with self-adhesive copper foil, which is then connected to the guitar's ground wire, but it will never provide a complete cure as most of the hum gets in via the coils of the pickups themselves. Replacing the pickups with 'stacked' humbuckers can solve the problem but there are very few brands that nail the tone of the single coil originals. The best noiseless Strat and P90 replacements I've tried to date are from Australian company Kinman — they're not cheap but they sound fabulous. I've not yet had chance to try Fender's own 'latest and greatest' noiseless pickups but I understand they are much improved over the earlier ones. An alternative is to fit a Suhr noise-cancelling back-plate (with a humbucking coil hidden inside). Again not cheap but very effective.



Even if your guitar is fitted with humbuckers, noise can still be an issue and of course it gets worse if you use a lot of overdrive as all overdrive pedals add lots of gain. I recently rebuilt my pedalboard as I was experiencing some background noise, even when using guitars with humbuckers and it turned out that the choice of power supply made the biggest difference. Cheap ones are essentially based on a single supply with multiple outputs or even a daisy chain power cable. The worst case is where the power supply is unregulated, which means the output voltage falls as you add more load to it. However, even properly regulated supplies can introduce noise, especially when you start mixing analogue and digital pedals.

Now the regulated power supply I had originally wasn't particularly cheap but to get rid of the noise I needed to upgrade to a supply with separate, isolated outputs — each power output is fed from its own transformer winding and has its own electronic regulator so the outputs are truly independent. As you can imagine, this isn't a cheap solution but the improvement was so dramatic in my case that it was well worth it. You can find true isolated supplies from companies such as Nemphysis and T Rex but don't be fooled by the cheaper ones advertised on eBay as it turns out they don't have isolated outputs at all, even though they claim to have.



To finish off, there's another source of noise that has caught me out in the past and that is simply a poor ground connection. Sometimes this is as simple as a worn power distribution board with loose or dirty contacts, but often it can be traced to the guitar's output jack. And in rare cases the ground wire inside the guitar that connects the bridge to the output jack may be broken.

Poor contacts can be caused by corrosion, which adds resistance to the ground path and reduces immunity to noise. In most cases you can fix the problem by spraying DeOxit D5 into the socket and then twisting a jack plug around in it. You can also spray this stuff onto a tissue to clean your jack plugs. In the US every music store carries it but in the UK you'll probably need to find it on line. One can will last you for years and it fixes crackly switches, noisy pots (even though it isn't designed for that purpose) and dodgy jack connections. It may be one of the best investments you'll make.

*Paul White (Editor in Chief, Sound On Sound)*

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# What's On?

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4th May - £15



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5th May - £16



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## The Lamb & Flag The Tything, Worcester

**Saturday April 23rd**

**A Song for a Hero**

**Rides Again! - 8pm**

**Every Monday**

**The FOLK SESSIONS - 8.30pm**

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# Lunar Festival - Late Night Sounds

## Umberslade Estate, Tanworth-in-Arden, Works

### Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th June

In last month's Slap we listed and summarised the exciting headliners due at the upcoming 3rd Lunar Festival. With the esteemed likes of Television, Super Furry Animals and Mercury Rev on the bill, Lunar is once again pulling rabbits out of hats thus enhancing their reputation as one of the best fests in a very crowded calendar.

As always though the devil is in the detail and at decent festivals, the multifarious happenings away from the main stage are what truly makes the event. At Lunar this means mutating from the guitar-heavy site by day and evening, into a late night soundscape of heavy beats and bass that will continue on into the early hours.

Teaming up with some of the best UK club nights and DJs around, including Craig Charles, Leftfoot, Horsemeat Disco, Magic Door plus a bit hit from last year's event, Psychemagik's Magik Forest, there will be a healthy supply of house, disco, funk, soul and pretty much everything imaginable to fill your party-going needs.



Lunar have worked extremely hard again to bring us a holistic happening of the highest order and the sheer diversity of the festival is astounding, meaning that when they say there's something for the whole family this is no idle boast.

As always we at Slap will do our utmost to keep you abreast of further Lunar developments, but for full information and tickets please visit their website: [www.lunarfestival.co.uk](http://www.lunarfestival.co.uk)

# John Taylor (JT) Memorial Night

## Somers Folk Club | Alma Tavern, Worcester | Friday 15th April

A very special night in prospect as **Somers Folk Club** pay homage and evoke the memory of **John Taylor** - known to most of us as **JT**.

John, who died suddenly on 6th September 2015, was passionate about raising the profile of folk and acoustic music in general and did so by leading, supporting and encouraging sessions of all styles in pubs and venues across a wide area.

JT compiled his invaluable twice-monthly emails, organised 3 monthly pub sessions and wrote a column for **Folklife Quarterly**. Of course though John was primarily an excellent musician and was well known as a third of the popular folk trio **Foxtail Soup**, in addition to him being a prominent presence at numerous local sessions.

In more recent times JT promoted many acts on a wider and more professional basis, especially for **Worcester Music Festival** and **Earth Fest** at **The Fold** in Bransford.

John of course continues to be missed by many but his spirit remains well and truly alive throughout the folk and acoustic music community.

The memorial night at the **Alma Tavern** takes place on **Friday 15th April** and in order to organise the event a website has been set up where amongst other information you will find a list of songs which John played, sang, admired etc which musicians can choose one from to perform on the night: if time/numbers permit, maybe two! The website address is [www.jt-evening.weebly.com](http://www.jt-evening.weebly.com).

Everyone is welcome though whether or not you intend to sing or play! Let's just enjoy ourselves in a manner that JT would be proud of.

More information on the club can be found at [www.somers-folk-club.org.uk](http://www.somers-folk-club.org.uk)



# 'A Song For A Hero' Rides Again

## The Lamb & Flag, Worcester | Sat 23rd April

September 2015 saw the launch of what was 4 years hard work for two local Worcester veterans. It had been a demanding, emotional, sometimes frustrating but thoroughly rewarding project since its conception in 2011. The result was simply spectacular culminating in one night production at the **Sketchley Bar** in Worcester which left not a dry eye in the house such was the intensity and power of the show. That performance raised almost £1,000 for the Veterans Charity, **Care After Combat** and since then it has performed in London supporting Jim Davidson OBE. A long and deserved Christmas break followed but now all involved having re-energised, the show is set to make its return. *A Song For A Hero* is currently a smaller show which will be played



in local venues with the cast singing the songs minus the band. However the show has evolved and with new songs added it is set to stun audiences yet again.

The first outing for the new look show will be at **The Lamb & Flag** in Worcester and will be performed in aid of **Worcester Veterans**

**Breakfast Club**. Further shows are planned including a major performance in Manchester later this year, so be sure to watch this space.

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# Zoe Green Band

## Hop Pole, Bromsgrove | Thurs 24th March

It would seem to me that Birmingham has found a rich seam of talented performers that are working their way through to the surface. Tonight I headed up the A38 to Bromsgrove's **Hop Pole**, where **Zoe Green** and her band were setting up. With Andy Bunn and **Steve Woodley** on guitars, **David Power** on bass and **Steve Cumberland** on drums, Zoe has a fine band and all she needs is her mic to ensure turn that faces turn from the bar to her direction.

She does that with ease as her powerful vocals full of soulful energy and real presence grasp the attention. Kicking off with *'Rollin & Tumblin'* the band are straight into their casually confident stride in the confines of the Hop Pole. A good crowd has turned up knowing they will find some great music here and the band don't disappoint. Zoe moves about the stage seductively drawing the attention, but it's her voice that nails it with just enough grit to throw down, as she lays out the soulful surface for the road ahead.

Andy cradles his Strat trading riffs with Steve on his ageing Danelectro, as the strong rhythm section of Steve and Dave laying down the hardcore base (bass!). The soul finds its way to some *'Steamy Windows'* which are beautifully and passionately wiped

clear, ready for a song written for her 11 year old son *'Rise Up'*. Another couple of years and he probably won't be so keen to rise up; we've all been there! A fabulous *'Need Your Love So Bad'* brings out the lovely mellow sound of the Danelectro, as we head toward a break and Andy's chance to take us *'All Along The Watchtower'*.



It was with great reluctance that I had to slip away early, knowing I was missing out on an excellent set that would mix great blues like *'Messing Around'*, with soul from Stevie Wonder plus a storming version of Prince's *'Purple Rain'*. I will doubtless catch up with **The Zoe Green Band** again though and hopefully before

their next gig here at The Hop Pole on 1st December! Kudos though to both venue and band for booking so far ahead and I'm certain this is a reflection of how good this outfit are. I would definitely suggest you all look out for **Zoe Green** also as she and cohorts are a multi-talented bunch for sure. Good on Bromsgrove's Hop Pole also for continuing on their mission to bring us a varied array of regular live music. Until the next time...

Graham Munn

**August 5th-7th 2016**

# malvern rocks

Bands and performers who want to play at Malvern Rocks this year have until May 16<sup>th</sup> to get their applications filed. The multi-venue festival is now in its fifth year and the organisers have big plans to mark their first half decade of showcasing both local and national musical talent. The festival is also broadening its remit to include performing and visual arts with spoken word and photography exhibitions in the pipeline. This year will also see some well known acts performing in 'pop-up' venues around Malvern and there are a few surprises waiting to be revealed. It's going to be a big one, so make sure you're involved. Bands and performers are invited to apply at [malvernrocks.com](http://malvernrocks.com). The full line up will be announced on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Mumbo Jumbo

The Steps, Bridgnorth | Saturday 5th March

The **Steps Theatre** in Bridgnorth hosted the inaugural tour night for Mumbo Jumbo's new album 'Sonic Gumbo'. This converted old chapel, sits on the steep escarpment between Low and High towns, and you have to make an effort to get there. Fortunately many did, slithering their way down the worn old steps on a cold, damp night. Luckily inside all was warmth and light and the stage set for the trio of Chris, Oliver and Phil.

A few old favourites to settle everyone, maybe even the band as 'The Letter' eased Oliver's gravel voice in and now with the luxury of two albums to pick from, there is plenty to fill out this evening's set. The band were having the 'Life Of Riley', too late to 'Regret It' as they aired 'Back To The Wheel' from latest album 'Sonic Gumbo'. Chris led with guitar with Phil bringing in the accordion as Oliver's voice dropped through to the pit below: time then to 'Sail That Ship' but the crew are falling out, so perhaps best 'Send me to The Electric Chair'! Bessie Smith's deep South blues is reprised by Phil before Mumbo poke fun at our social care failures with 'Hosedown'. It must be an age thing but Oliver loses the lyrics, a senior moment or two to search the memory vaults and move on. We are all of an age so nobody noticed!! Quite fitting really and in keeping with the humour of the evening, where the band is just as happy exchanging quips and comments to each other, as they are about how the songs evolved. 'Those Frail Few' brought the trumpet out to touching effect, whilst both the band and myself were intrigued as how 'Hold On' would work on stage: it's an 11 minute track that's really out there in its own orbit, but somehow they shrank it down and brought it to earth with no crash landing! Superb stuff as it powered down onto a 'Bald Spot' and a beer break.



Chris's 'Second Hand Guitar Dealer' was sold beautifully then Oliver searched the depths of darkness for a soulful 'No Devil At The Crossroads'. Somewhere down that highway we found ourselves partying with the cartoon character of Ally Sloper, to a tooting trumpet and absurd, cocky lyrics. 'The Final Encore' closes the new album but not the evening; they can't escape that easily and there's only one way out! Working through a few stalwarts brought us to 'Mary Don't You Weep', which of course is received with enthusiasm by this partisan audience. A great finish then? No as even more is demanded and to be honest this could have gone on all night, except that many of us had lengthy journeys home and those ancient steps to negotiate.

Plenty of banter, entertainment and excellent musicianship then, as you would expect, and now plenty of good home grown music to select for their shows, **Mumbo Jumbo** have produced a delightfully diverse disc, which can't fail to bring a smile to your face. I had wondered how some of the new material would translate to a live performance, but needn't have worried, as it was a brilliant evening, with the Mumbo Jumbo boys in fine form.

Graham Munn

## Chevy Chase Stole My Wife

The Chestnut, Worcester | Saturday 12th March

Thanks to **Chevy Chase Stole My Wife**, my proposed Sat afternoon, rugby-tinged drink extended into a highly enjoyable evening. I'd headed pubwards to watch England grind Wales into the ground and was celebrating with relief but intending to head home, when Chevy & Co began setting up and sound-checking. Intrigued I decided to stay for "a tune or two" and subsequently got hooked by this quality local band. Whether or not the combination of (too much?) beer and post-match euphoria heightened my enjoyment of Chevy I can't truly say, but what I do know is that they had some great own-penned songs and their obvious enjoyment at playing them was contagious.

I'm not quite sure how describe CCSMW but the secret of their success lies in four talented musicians led by an excellent singer-songwriter/guitarist in **Emma Howlett**. The songs are catchy, melodic and driven along by a fine rhythm section comprising **Neil Burton** on drums and **Saffron Box** on bass. Saffron is indeed one of the best bass guitarists I have seen in quite a while and also adds backing vocals, creating some great harmonies with Emma. Their lead guitarist is **Stu Silcock** who perfectly complements the vocals and rhythm section and threw in the only non-original of their set, merging Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain' effortlessly into a selection entitled 'Harry Hill'.

Before finally heading off home after a thoroughly satisfying and enjoyable day, I took up the band's special merch offer and bought two cupcakes for £5 which conveniently came with two band CDs!

Now this is where how good this band are comes in as the studio versions work just as well as they did live, which is so often not the case.



I will finish by urging you, if you have not done so already, to discover **Chevy Chase Stole My Wife** for yourselves - either live, on disc or preferably both. You won't regret it I assure you!

Words by Robin Jackson photography: Geoffrey Head





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## April Antics at Artrix, Bromsgrove

Get ready to rev up your bike and don your leather jacket or, if you prefer, put on your shades and suit - the Mods v Rockers are coming to Artrix on **Friday 8th April**! The two bands, **The Quik Beats** and **The Delray Rockets** will battle it out on stage to trade the best in 50s and 60s tunes ranging from Elvis and Eddie Cochran to The Animals and The Zombies.



**Kathryn Roberts** and **Sean Lakeman** would be best of breed if not champions if there was a Crufts in the acoustic folk world. Their eclectic repertoire and unique sound have earned them many accolades including a third time nomination for Best Duo at this year's Radio 2 Folk Awards.

As the eldest of the 3 Lakeman brothers, Sean has played the guitar since the age of six. Having travelled the world for a decade with Equation, he then famously went on to produce his little brother Seth's album which became a top ten hit. Following a successful duo career with fellow Barnsley-ite Kate Rusby, Kathryn joined Equation and she and Sean have been together ever since. At their Artrix gig on **20th April** they'll be playing tracks from their recent album *Tomorrow Will Follow Today* and their brand new EP *Saved for a Rainy Day*. With **Kitty McFarlane** in support, this should be an evening of fantastic folk music.

It's not often you get the chance to hear some of the silliest comedians around for less than £20. Every month **Barnstormers Comedy** puts together a selection of three of the top stand-ups on the London comedy club circuit and lets



Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman

them loose in the Artrix Studio. This month's crazy bunch are at Artrix on **16th April**.

Starting out as a duo, long-time friends Jimmy Hunter and Will Irvine ended up at Newcastle University writing songs before heading down to the Big Smoke in 2012 in pursuit of gigs. Now a quartet, **Hunter and the Bear** has recently finished its first headline tour. Their love of classic rock bands such as Lynyrd Skynyrd shines through in their performances - a powerful blend of folk, rock and country. Catch them at Artrix on **22nd April**.

For further details and tickets call the box office on 01527 577330 or visit [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



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# The Wonder Stuff

## 30 Goes Around The Sun

It's something of a big year for **The Wonder Stuff**; firstly they're celebrating thirty years together and secondly they have a brand new album, recorded back in their old stomping ground of Stourbridge produced by **Simon Efemey** (born and bred in Stourbridge and renowned producer of such acts as Napalm Death, Paradise Lost and The Wildhearts among others) and thirdly frontman **Miles Hunt** hits the big 50.

Whilst the line-up may have changed over the years, the band's creativity and biting lyrics have never dipped and *30 Goes Around The Sun* is up there with The Wonder Stuff's best (*Hup*, *Never Loved Elvis*, etc). The album opens with a lovely short instrumental before kicking off in earnest with a crashing electric guitar riff and the intoxicating violin of **Erika Nockalls**, before Miles makes his presence felt, leading up to a rousing vocal hook, that you can already imagine being hollered back by a packed hall full of 'Stuff fanatics.

*In Clover* is better yet: an acoustic strum and the aforementioned violin lead proceedings before a crash of drums, a pumping bass line and striking electric riff join the mix as the band deliver a prime time slab of Stuffies gold. Violins weave in and out of a bank of guitars with Nockalls effortlessly providing harmony for Hunt's thrilling lead. *For The Broken Hearted* continues the party, with a playful combination of folkie violin, acoustic guitar and driving drums, as the band deliver a delightful, hook-laden rustic romp.



Elsewhere, *Affirmation* wraps near classical violin around striking, crunchy rock riffs as the band flex their muscles on a hard hitting anthem lead by an invigorated Hunt. *The Kids From The Green* sees a wistful Hunt reminiscing about growing up in the black country and the early foundations of The Wonder Stuff over a hazy slice of melodic indie pop, with Erika's delightful harmonies shining through on the glorious summery hook. Whilst stabbing shards of guitar punch through on the intoxicating and bullish *Weakened* bringing to find the former glories of the aforementioned *Never Loved Elvis*.

**The Wonder Stuff** rarely fail to deliver, but *30 Goes Around The Sun* has to be ranked up there with the band's very best. An invigorating twelve track affair that engages from the off and doesn't let go until the dying seconds of the album's closing, title track. [www.thewonderstuff.com](http://www.thewonderstuff.com)

photo by Nick Sayers Words by Will Munn

## Dan Greenaway

### Pigeon Holes & Boxes

**Dan Greenaway** is one of those singer-songwriters, whose name has appeared numerous time in the local gig guides and yet has somehow alluded me, although he regular appears around the county and beyond (touring in USA, Asia, Norway etc), whilst also performing at weddings, parties and beyond.

*Pigeon Holes & Boxes* is Dan's third album of originals to date, teaming up with renowned producer **Gavin Monaghan** (The Editors, Twang, Ocean Colour Scene, Robert Plant) to create his most experimental release to date, taking in elements of folk, pop, reggae and more, in addition to the more obvious influences of Ben Howard, Ed Sheeran and Newton Faulkner.

The album opens with '*Lucky Humpty*', introducing Dan's infectious finger-picking style and his delicate half-whispered croon, whilst the harmonies further enhance the instantly memorable hook-laden two and half minute lead track. Although the track brings to mind the aforementioned Ben Howard, it's an impressive opening gambit hooking the listener in from the off.

'*Boomerang Kid*' highlights that aforementioned reggae influence as pattered percussion, elastic bass and choppy guitars replace the previous intimacy of '*Lucky Humpty*', but despite the change of direction Greenaway's effortlessly pulls it off with an effortless laidback drawl and another first time hook that's

impossible to ignore. '*Unbreakable*' opens well with Greenaway's expressive guitar and a heartfelt vocal duet with Laura Broad before developing into an electronic enhanced tilt towards the pop charts; Laura's vocals still shine through on this number.

And the genre hopping continues with '*Take What You Can, Give Nothing Back*' heading down a more rustic, rootsy road, violin and strummed acoustic accompanying Greenaway's clever turn of phrase and a welcome weathered lead, before closing with a frenzy of strums and hollers.



Dan continues to splice genres and influences, creating an intriguing is occasionally slightly disjointed affair, that's on the whole definitely more hit than miss. Definite highlights for me include indie ballad '*Sleeptalker*', the breezy reggae tinged '*Bare Feet*', the infectious, acoustic indie strum of '*The Ballad Of Pete*' and the brooding '*So Low Solo*' with its wailing harmonica and Cave like menace.

There is alot to get your teeth into and your ears around over the sixteen tracks of '*Pigeon Holes & Boxes*', much that will impress and entertain many and well worth seeking out.

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

Will Munn

## Surprise Attacks #40.

### Tim Holehouse, Soden, Hoggs Bison, Tempus Firefly, Worcester | Thurs 17th March

Some 90s grunge kids, Chicago noise rock types, doom stoner freakbastards and a gnomic delta blues demigod walk into a bar. And what do you get? An eclectic beast of a bill. That's what.

**Tempus.** This was their first ever gig, apparently. No nerves though, but plenty of slack. Slack as in "slacker". The spirit of the Seattle scene - the spirit that started a queer, low-energy cultural tidal wave that effectively drowned the gaudy materialist nightmare that was the 1980s - lives on proud and vital in this classic power three piece. More in the vein of Green River than (the all too familiar) Nirvana, this had plenty tonal diversity and contrast, with moments of fragility - but knew how to fuzz down hard like Mark Arm at his fuzziest when the moment required. For such a new outfit this was impressively accomplished stuff.



The high end post rock/ noise rock factory that is Bristol is obviously still working at full steaming whack on the evidence of **Hoggs Bison**. Angular, taut, percussive and with some joyously dense and compelling patterns playing out in amongst Wire esque soundscapes, this could easily have taken itself rather seriously. Which much of today's "math rock" fare, with all its finger tappy-tap-tap guitar playing, smart-arse time changes

and pursed facial expressions is unfortunately rather inclined to do. The warmth and charm that rose freely from this particular instrumental three piece was however rooted in the fact that it didn't take itself too seriously. Despite the real skills on show.

And then like a blart of pure fucking doom evil: **Soden**. Well known around these parts, these unsettlingly youthful skatepark stonerchildren make a rumbling, bass-heavy metallic devil-noise that stands comfortable comparison to the sainted Buzzov\*en and Eyehategod, to name but two. All thrashing dreadlocks, punishing yet fucking irresistible grooves - and evoking something like the sound of tectonic plates gleefully bumping and grinding in hell - this was an aural assault to bring a big sloppy grin to the face. And no mistake.



No less demonic but utterly unplugged and somehow even more doom-laden for it - the one man slide-guitar blues force that is **Tim Holehouse** closed proceedings. This nomadic, full-time latterday troubadour, one part Tom Waits, one part Mississippi river god, one part the man Frank Turner could never be - was a blaze of whisky-soaked anecdotes and simple yet unutterably heavy takes on crossroads-blues classics, acoustic grindcore covers and primal, boot stomping originals. All delivered with a voice so thick with experience and grit that it evoked the swirling of crows around the shotgun shack where Johnny Cash himself was born. And I for one do not make that comparison lightly. For there are few left like this man. For real.

Words: Chertsey Bulowski Images: Duncan Graves

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## Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

### Every Monday - Folk Session

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

### Every Monday - Open Mic

Royal Oak, Ledbury

### 1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

### 4th Mon - Singaround

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

### Fortnightly Mon Open Mic

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

### Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

### First Tues - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

### First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### 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 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

### 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

### Last Sun - Open Mic

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

### 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

20th – Sound + Vision, Millennium Point, Birmingham, 7.30pm

23th - Performing Arts Festival Gala Concert 7pm Courtyard Hereford

24th - Girlhood, Splendid Cinema, Worcester Arts Workshop

26th – Mouth and Music Finale, Boars Head Kidderminster, 7.30pm.

29th - Think of England, Malvern Cube, 7pm

30th – Hereford River Carnival

30th – Fools Ball VII, Malvern (location to be announced)

Until 5th June Georgie Meadows: Stitched Drawings, Courtyard Hereford

12th Worcester Canal Stories Jack Webster, Worcester Arts workshop

13th until 26th June – Dan Flavin, Ikona Gallery, Birmingham

22nd until 1st May Window, Artist Workhouse, Studley

29th April-15th May Wye Valley River Festival

## Arts & Exhibitions

2nd Not Fast Enough by Ovary Acting, Malvern Cube, 7.30pm

4/5th Origami workshop for One Thousand Birds, Shire Hall

Monmouth 11am-3pm

5th Garage Open Lecture Series featuring Alison Wilding, Lecture

Room (TG008) at the University's Garage Studios, Worcester. 5pm

7th Life Drawing, Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster, 7.30pm

10th The Tribe, Splendid Cinema, Worcester Arts Workshop, 6pm

12th Garage Open Lecture Series featuring Mike Cooter (TBC).

Lecture Room (TG008) at the University's Garage Studios, Worcester 5pm.

13th - Transitions Dance Company: The 2016 Triple Bill,

Courtyard Hereford 7.30pm

19th-24th – Flatpack Film Festival Birmingham

## Friday 1 April 2016

**Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Waiting For Kate**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Warren James**  
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**The Modfathers**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Junction 7**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Jay & Eli**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Amy Speace, Mark Leedham Band**  
Saint Georges Hall, Bewdley

**Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra , Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra , Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra**  
Droitwich Legion Inn, Droitwich

**Melvin Hancox One Man Show**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Bourbon Alley, Ray Mytton, Phil Bond**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Arcadia Roots, General Nuisance and the Infekted Headz**  
Eleven (formerly Moochers), Stourbridge

**Galleon**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Lounge Toad**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Blues man Mike Francis**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Village

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Frankie's Guys - Frankie Valli Tribute**  
Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Vehicle**  
The Bluebell, Ryall, Upton

**Mark Watson**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**The Doors Alive**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Ignition Presents Massive Head Trauma + Anger Rising & Pilla**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

## Saturday 2 April 2016

**General Nuisance & The Infekted Headz**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Hekety - Stroud Ceilidh**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**The Choosy Pickers**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Lesley Woods (Au Pairs), The Cravats, Department S**  
The Flapper, Birmingham

**Ange Hardy**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**April Wychway**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Powerslaves (Iron Maiden tribute), Fury**  
Frog & Fiddle (downstairs), Cheltenham

**Junior Bill, Sneak Easies**  
Frog & Fiddle (upstairs), Cheltenham

**Kick Up The 80's**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Amanda Stone**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Slam Cartel, The Stone Angels**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Sax Appeal**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Aquarius**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Black Cat Bone**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**GunnRunner**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Screamin' Miss Jackson & Slap Ya' Mama Big Band, Desert Boots, Collective 43**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Guns Or Roses**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Edward Penfold**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Poorboys of Worcester**  
The Northwick Arms, Worcester

**Luke Daniels**  
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Vegan Vampires**  
Guildhall, Worcester

**Sax Appeal**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Chicago Bytes**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Wychway Folk**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**The Stirs**  
O2 Academy3, Birmingham

**The Delray Rockets**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Quill, Dave Onions**  
Roses Theatre, Kidderminster

**Sarah Warren Unplugged**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Trevor Burton Band**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**The Cuginis**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**The MTS**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**The Worried Men**  
Hereford Blues Club, Hereford

**Desperado: Heart of The Eagles**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Nightshift**  
Cross Keys, Malvern

**Ukulele for Beginners 2pm**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Blind Light**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Luke Daniels**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Duran**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Sunday 3 April 2016

**Virtuosi GUS Band**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Raymond Froggatt**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Luke Daniels**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Steve Ajao's Blues giants**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Let's Talk Daggers, Broken Jaw, We Come From Ashes, SaltWound**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Vo Fletcher 6-8pm**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Perry Foster 5.30pm**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Vo Fletcher**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Barbara Dickson**  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham

**Mark Steel**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove



## Tuesday 5 April 2016

**JW Jones, Sugarman Sam, The Voodoo Men,**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Sam Brookes (Full Band)**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Remi Harris Duo**  
The Cock and Magpie, Bewdley

**The Three Keepers**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Wednesday 6 April 2016

**Bella Hardy**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Doozer McDooze**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Papa George**  
Vonnies Blues Club, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Wylldwood**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Emma Johnson plays Finzi**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Thursday 7 April 2016

**Kris Drever**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Will Killeen**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Nashville Pussy, Master Charger, Worry Blast, Stone Broken**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Lo Promo Presents - Soden**  
Pig and Drum, Worcester

**The Humdrum Express**  
Piccolo's, Bewdley

**Broken Oak Duet Album Launch**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**S'Wonderful! - I Got Gershwin!**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**David Hamilton's Rock'n'Roll Back The Years**  
Swan Theatre, Worcester

## Friday 8 April 2016

**A Celebration of John Denver**  
Courtyard, Hereford

**Ghost Trail**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Sean Taylor**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**The Disfavoured Party**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Simon & Garfunkel - The Ultimate Revue**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Woahnows, Bangers, Austeros, Hot Mass**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Bon Jovi Experience**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Gunnrunner**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Bryan Adams Experience**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Wu Ting Promotions Night - Drum & Bass**  
Pig and Drum, Worcester

**Sing In The Spring Weekend (see [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk))**  
The Fleece, Bretforton

**Ray Mytton Band**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Amy LaVere, Hannah Law Band**  
Saint Georges Hall, Bewdley

**Blanck Mass (F\*ck Buttons solo project), Rosebud, Ferric Lux**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Tasha**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Mister Wolf**  
The Bridge Inn, Tibberton

**ArkFest Spring Ball**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Ray Mytton Band**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Tom Walker Trio**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Village

**Tequila Mockingbird**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Daddy's Girl**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**The Underdogs**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Soul DJ Ray Evans, The Soul Patrol**  
Cross Keys, Malvern

**The Simon & Garfunkel Story**  
Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Vehicle**  
Lampighter, Stratford

**Mumbo Jumbo**  
Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Mods & Rockers**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Saturday 9 April 2016

**Hazel O'Connor**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Beyond the Barricade**  
Courtyard, Hereford

**The Leylines**  
Callow End Club, Worcester

**Fred's House**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Matt Peplow**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**A Big Sing**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Bare Knuckle Parade, Red Light Rebels, Diamond Days, Rivers, Sioux Falls**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Commandments**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Soul Stripper**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Red Hot Chilli Peppers Tribute, HUMM**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Embrace The Chaos Presents - Blackboxes, Soden, Derange, Electric Soup, Servant Sun, Maniac Vision Quest, A Werewolf, Flatline**  
Pig and Drum, Worcester

**Sing In The Spring Weekend (see [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk))**  
The Fleece, Bretforton

**Jazz**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Zapoppin, Ben Calvert and The Swifts, The Smokin' Pilchards,**  
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

**Bonfire Radicals**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Mister Wolf**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton upon Severn

**Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Stuart Woolfenden**  
Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Aquarius**  
The swan, Studley

**Paarthurnax**  
The Unicorn, Malvern

**Black Boxes, Electric Soup, Soden, Servant Sun, Flatline, Derange, Maniac SS**  
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

**Underground Ocean, The Rooz**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Fabulous Bordellos**  
Worley's at The Swan, Stourport

**Nightshift**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Jazz Night**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Wilfs Carnival Band acoustic ukelele band**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Village

**Gary O'Dea (4pm)**  
Rise Records, Worcester

**The Strangers**  
Pillar of Salt, Droitwich

**Paul Snooks Band**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Alabamaman**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Robert Lane**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Rising Stars with Stuart Woolfenden, Emily Shakels, Thomas Bennett,**  
Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Sunday 10 April 2016

**Roseanna Ball**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Lol Goodman Band**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**The Solid Silver 60's Show**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**The Rod Stewart Experience**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Sing In The Spring Weekend (see [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk))**  
The Fleece, Bretforton

**Red Foot Crow**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Ray Mytton 5.30pm**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Aquarius**  
White bear, Tewkesbury

**Arcadia Roots, Mahalia, Ian Luther**  
Café Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester

**Passion**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Martin Turner ex-Wishbone Ash**  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve, Chetenham

## Tuesday 12 April 2016

**Feast of Fiddles**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Wednesday 13 April 2016

**Feast of Fiddles**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Maybelleen, Lucy**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Arrival - The Hits of Abba**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Bellowhead, The Roving Crows**  
Colston Hall, Bristol

**Jez Lowe**  
The Fleece, Bretforton

**Kelly Oliver**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Thursday 14 April 2016

**Sunjay**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Catshill

**Will Pound and Eddy Jay**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Tamsin Waley-Cohen & Huw Watkins**  
Pittville Pump Rooms, Cheltenham

**Gourmet Night, Accompanied by 'Matahari'**  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

**University Of Gloucestershire / 2000 Trees Festival showcase**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Bristol Invades Stourbridge, The Brackish, The Evil Usses,**  
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

**Sam Green & The Midnight Heist**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Connor Maher Quartet Album Launch**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**48 SLAP APRIL**

**Pig Daze**  
Worley's at The Swan, Stourport

**Sounds Of Simon**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Jez Lowe**  
Ombersley Memorial Hall, Ombersley, Worcester

**The Devil's Violin Company**  
Bishops Wood Centre, Crossways Gn, Stouport

**Tom Stade**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Friday 15 April 2016

**Skank A Mania presents Stiff Joints, Popes of Chillitown, Broken 3 Ways & Millie Manders**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Jake Thackray's Last Will & Testament**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Show Of Hands**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Solana**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Wes Finch**  
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Daniel Kemish, James Weston**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Festivals Experience**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Official Receivers**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Nice 'n' Sleazy**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Roving Crows**  
Welland Church, Welland

**Stone Broken, 58 Shots**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Warren James**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Wilfs Carnival Band**  
Working Mens Club, Catshill, Bromsgrove

**Ray Mynton**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Paul Pry, Worcester

**Nice N Sleazy**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Gary O'Dea**  
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**TV Smith, Flying Ant Day, The Humdrum Express**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**The Official Receivers**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Keith Boulton**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Ray Myton Band**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Midnight City**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Village

**Gary O'Dea**  
Ginger Pig, Worcester

**The Hills Angels**  
Mount Pleasant Hotel, Malvern

**Built For Comfort**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**The Ron Jeremy Band**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Rattlesnake Jake**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**The Core**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Ashley Hutchings**  
Hartlebury Parish Hall, Hartlebury

**Dr John Cooper Clarke**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Genesis Connected**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove



## Saturday 16 April 2016

### Barnstormers Comedy

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Unknown Era

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Cregan & Co - Rod Stewart Songbook

Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### Record Store Day - Skewwhiff + more TBC

Carnival records, Malvern

### Bye Bye Baby

Courtyard, Hereford

### Jim Reynolds

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### Edd Donovan and The Wandering Moles

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

### Paul Snook

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### Abby Inez

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Record Store Day! Danny & The Champions Of The World,

DJ Mention The Bear, plus guests

Frog & Fiddle (downstairs), Cheltenham

### Prose & Bombs! KA Poetry, Sam Hurley, Brown Torpedo,

JDPL, Andy Oliveri, Luke Thomas

Frog & Fiddle (upstairs), Cheltenham

### The Roving Crows

Rous Lench Village Hall, Rous Lench, Evesham

### Rob Tognoni

Iron Road, Evesham

### Worcester Record Fair

St Andrews Methodist Hall Pump St, Worcester 10-4pm

### Record Store Day - All Day Bands & DJs (see facebook page)

Rise Records, Worcester

### All Stars Dub Band

Pig and Drum, Worcester

### Out Late

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### XL5

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Jibbafish

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### Kitchen Island Band

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### Pat McManus Band

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Protocol

The Castle, Droitwich

### Out Late

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### The Underdogs

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### Preditah

Subtone, Cheltenham

### The Upbeat Beatles

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### The Reflections

Cross Keys, Malvern

### The ELO Experience

Swan Theatre, Worcester

### Skabucks

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### Ashley Hutchings

The Fold, Bransford, Bransford-upon-Teme

### Surf's Up

Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Sunday 17 April 2016

### Treacherous Orchestra

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

### Warren James

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

### Grimethorpe Colliery Band

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra

Pittville Pump Rooms, Cheltenham

### The Adele Experience

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### The Roy Orbison Story

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

### Jez Lowe

St Swithun's Hall, Worcester

### Carol Lee Sampson 5.30pm

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Daniel Kemish

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Will Killeen

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### Megan Arnold, Kate Brazier, Sharon Curtis, Julie Fountain,

Georgina Fowler, Benedict Homer, Ken Hurd, Kay Morgan,

Viki Pearce and more!

Elmslie House, Malvern

### Loz Rabone

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Mari Wilson

Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham

## Monday 18 April 2016

### Jazz In The Studio Theatre

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

### Baroque Evening with Dave Ayre & Friends

The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Tuesday 19 April 2016

### Acoustic Jam with Ian Fuller

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## Wednesday 20 April 2016

### Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Half Deaf Clatch

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Karen Tweed

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

### 7SideSouth

The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

## Thursday 21 April 2016

### Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers

Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### Delicate Holly, Glass Giants, Sahara Breeze, Ten Tombs,

Callum Middleton

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Wizz Jones

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

### Mike Peters Spirit of '86

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Skinhorse, Terminal Rage, The Youth Within

Booth Hall, Hereford

### Phil King

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### Scallywags Comedy with Jon Wagstaffe

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### Perry Foster

The Plough, Deansway, Worcester

## Friday 22 April 2016

### Hunter and the Bear

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Stevie Jones and the Wildfires

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Rusty Shackle

The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

### Flowerpot

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Corvus Band

Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Connor Maher**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**We'll gather Lilacs - The Music of Ivor Novello**  
Pittville Pump Rooms, Cheltenham

**Slow Falling Sun, Ocean Breed, Boy On A Bicycle, Sophronie**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**A Foreigners Journey**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Luke Doherty Band**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Chris Jones**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Tony Sands**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Lizzie and the Banshees**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Aquarius**  
The plough Inn, Upton Upon Severn

**Nice N Sleazy**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Ash Mandrake**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Trevor Burton Band**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Village

**Mel & Him**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**The Haunted Souls**  
The Boathouse, Upton Upon Severn

**Overboard**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Festivals Experience**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Astaria String Quartet**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**ColourSix**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

## Saturday 23 April 2016

**I Got Gershwin!**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Ed Byrne**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Herefordshire Performing Arts Festival Gala Concert**  
Courtyard, Hereford

**The Bad Dads**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Apple Rabbits, Dave Randall (Slovo/Fathless)**  
Kilburn Tin Tabernacle, Kilburn/London

**Kathryn Williams and Astrid Williamson**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Chalkie**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Oasis v Stone Roses Tribute + High Flying Birds Tribute**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Hybrid**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**American Hitmen, Dobermann**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**St George's Day Event**  
The Fleece, Bretforton

**Tantz**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Mark Leedham**  
West Malvern Social Club, West Malvern

**St. Georges Day - Taylor & Co.**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Ruzz Guitar, Æs Blues Revue**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**St Georges Night with The Megatrons**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Granny's Attic**  
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

**50 SLAP APRIL**

**Mister Wolf**  
The Bull Hotel, Ludlow

**Junction 7**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**JLRWF**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**St Georges Day - Song for a Hero**  
The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

**Felici - A Charity Gala Opera Night**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton upon Severn

**The Mob**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**The Straight Aces**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Jerry Lee Rocks with Fury**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Undercovers**  
Cross Keys, Malvern

**Burlesque Show**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**The Remi Harris Project**  
Heightington Village Hall, Heightington, Worcs

**Graffiti Classics**  
Ashton under Hill Village Hall, Ashton, Worcs

## Sunday 24 April 2016

**Elaine Feinstein**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Keith James - Solid Air Concert**  
Stroud Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Dave Jackson Band**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**American Hitmen Unplugged**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Tom West**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Speedy Gums 5.30pm**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Ray & Paul**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**BBC Introducing - Bands tbc**  
Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Delray Rockets (afternoon)**  
The Actress and Bishop, Birmingham

## Monday 25 April 2016

**Faithful City Shows presents:, Max Raptor, Fights & Fires, The St Pierre Snake Invasion, After Eden**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

## Tuesday 26 April 2016

**Roger Davis**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Herefordshire Youth Music presents Senior, Intermediate and Youth Concert Band and Brass Band**  
Courtyard, Hereford

**Skywalker, Bar Fight, All At Sea, Wretched World**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

## Wednesday 27 April 2016

**Herefordshire Youth Music presents Starter Strings Junior and Intermediate Concert Band Ukelele Ensemble**  
Courtyard, Hereford

**Rich O'Brien Project**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Cheltenham Jazz Festival (see [cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz](http://cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz))**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Blues Caravan 2016 - Blues Sisters**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Elisha Green**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley



## Thursday 28 April 2016

**That'll be the Day**  
Courtyard, Hereford

**Philippa Hanna**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Jason & The Astronauts**  
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

**Cheltenham Jazz Festival** (see [cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz](http://cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz))  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**F.A.U.X., Rory Indiana, All Ears Avow, Ten Tombs**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Terry Brock (ex Giant, Strangeways)**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Outlast Bookings presents Back Down**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Sally - 60's Night**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**ArkFest**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Back Down, Strike Back, Amongst Giants, Eyes&Nynes**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Johnny Coppin - Folk In The Foyer**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Music Lab - Open Mic Night**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

## Friday 29 April 2016

**Sunshine Band**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**U2UK**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**ELO Again: A Night of ELO**  
Courtyard, Hereford

**Voodoo Stone**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Blue Aeroplanes**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**Bewelian**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Matt Bowen**  
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Cheltenham Jazz Festival** (see [cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz](http://cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz))  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Reign Of Fury, Forgotten Remains, Retribution**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Decades Band**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Executives**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Big Jim's Boogie Band**  
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Black Lion, Hereford

**Jasper & The Company Of Others, Alex Rainsford**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Future Set**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**ArkFest**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Wolfren Riverstick**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Still Crazy**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Village

**The Delray Rockets (afternoon)**  
The Swan, Bristol

**Quill, Dave Onions**  
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton upon Severn

**The Tones**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Lizzie and The Banshees**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Stone Farm**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Suggs: My Life Story in Words & Music**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Martin Black & Friends**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Montparnasse**  
Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Saturday 30 April 2016

**Punk by Nature Presents Drongos For Europe, Billy Club, Erection Police, Dubtones, Leech Bleeders, Vincent & The Onepotts, Healer of Bastards**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Jive Talkin'**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Tony Sings The 60's**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Dead Dog Cider**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Blue Rose Code**  
The Convent, South Woodchester, Glos

**The Barrel House Blues Band**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Cheltenham Jazz Festival** (see [cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz](http://cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz))  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra**  
Pittville Pump Rooms, Cheltenham

**Arcadia Roots**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**TRC, Create To Inspire, I Cried Wolf, A Werewolf**  
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Permageddon - 80's Pop v 80's Rock**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**ArkFest**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Worcester CD Fair**  
St Andrews Methodist Hall Pump St, Worcester 10-4pm

**The Boss - UK Springsteen Tribute**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Ginger Pig, Worcester

**The Fireballs UK**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Andy Margrett**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Local Musicians Acoustic Night**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**ArkFest**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
The Black Star, Stourport on Severn

**Mister Wolf**  
The Swan Inn, Evesham

**Aquarius**  
The Crown, Martley

**Chilli Fest - Skewwhiff, Woo Town Hillbillies, The Speedgums, & More 12pm - Late**  
The Ginger Pig, Worcester

**Voodoo Blue**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**John McCusker band**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Super-Onit (Oasis Tribute)**  
Cross Keys, Malvern

**Vehicle**  
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

**The Night Watch - From Bard To Verse**  
Palace Theatre, Redditch

**GET LISTED at:**

**[www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/](http://www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/)**

# THE MARR'S BAR

APR  
MAY 2016



Pat McManus Band  
Saturday 16th April

**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

**Thursday 7th April**

The Broken Oak Duet album launch  
£3 in advance £5 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

**Thursday 14th April**

The Connor Maher Quartet album launch  
£3 in advance £5 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 with James Weston  
£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Thursday 21st April**

Mike Peters Spirit of '86  
£16 in advance

**Saturday 23rd April**

The straight aces  
£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Monday 25th April**

FCS: Max Raptor, Fights & Fires, The  
St Pierre Snake Invasion, After Eden  
£6 in advance

**Thursday 28th April**

Outlast Bookings presents Back Down  
£5 on the door

**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

**Sunday 1st May**

TNT Radio Launch Event  
£5 on the door

**Friday 6th May**

Michael Knowles and the STD's  
£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Thursday 12th May**

Lo-Promo presents Sativa & Soden Pilla  
£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Friday 13th May**

John Otway  
£10 in advance £12 on the door

**Saturday 14th May**

Without Flight, The Rogues, Danger Trains  
£4 in advance £6 on the door

**Thursday 19th May**

Limehouse Lizzy  
£12 in advance

**Friday 20th May**

The Fezz  
£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Thursday 26th May**

Tia McGraff, Demi Marriner  
£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 28th May**

Moretallica  
£7 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  
01905 613336

**Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue**  
Available for private hire