

SLAP

Issue 6

FREE

MAGAZINE

July 2011

Your **FREE** monthly entertainment guide for **Worcestershire**



Bridge Bash

Cape of Good Hope, Vault of Eagles, Richard Clarke & The Rafterers & Das Sexy Clap
Skambomambo, Seely's Jazz'Ole, Mr Shankly & Imprint Zero
Jake Abbott, Black Cat Bone, Arcadian Kicks, The Misers
Bridge Bash Preview with Dodgy & Ocean Colour Scene
Our Mutual Friend, Robinson, Jasper,
Cantaloop, Ronda, Spoonfedz, Jon Gomm
Arcadian Kicks, The Pargeters, Sunrise Over Europe
Mapfest Review, Wychwood Festival review, Arleyfest Review



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SLAP

July 2011 **MAGAZINE**

Issue 6 has landed and we have another action packed issue for you to get into. With plenty of local festivals to read about, some coming up and some for us to recover from!

We are not short of things to do around these parts nowadays. We have most things musical, arty and cultural covered so no longer are we scratching our heads wondering what to do on any night of the week. We have had some cracking comedy nights in the area which are also in this issue so dig in, relax and enjoy your half year edition of Slap.

A few more venues have advertised with us this month which is brilliant, in fact most of the towns around here are now in and are enjoying the success of busy nights and enjoyable entertainment for all.

In this issue we look forward to the many festivals on offer in the coming weeks including Bridge Bash who's headliners this year need no introduction, especially being local boys. With many other local acts performing there on three stages over three days. We look back with reviews from Wychwood Festival, Arley Festival, B3, Pyramid @ Godzillas and Map Fest. With other local Festivals springing up around the County such as Nutfest and Colwall Family Festival theres plenty to look forward to. As we prepare to go press we took an afternoon off to attend the Youthcom Radio Mini Fest on a scorching day in Cripplegate Park. Look out for a full review next month. Andy O Hare is also giving us the run down on pretty much everything else.

We continue with our theme 'A Free Bit of Culture at the Cathedral' with Sarah Ganderton as well as looking forward to more Art Exhibitions and Events at the Arts Workshop, including Illustrator Nicholas Stevenson.

We were busy venue hopping to review many local acts as well as some international performers. Glastonbury Favourites and Global Trotting local boys Cantaloop caught our eye in Malvern, whilst Polish touring Skambomambo set Keystones alight with their own brand of Pol-Ska, courtesy of a collaboration between Section 6 promotions, Slap and Chris Bennion.

Enjoy the read and keep in touch...

The Ed

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Slap Magazine

Unit 3E, Shrub Hill Industrial Estate,
Worcester WR4 9EL
Telephone: 01905 26660
editorial@slapmag.co.uk

For advertising enquiries, please contact:
Paul Robinson on 07852 247970
advert@slapmag.co.uk

Editorial Team	Mark Hogan Paul Robinson
Contributors	Chris Bennion Andy O'Hare Kate Cox Stephen Glazzard Marc Hache Sarah Ganderton Ant Robbins Toni Charles Thea Baddiley Karl Turner Imogen Buller Dan Wall King Dave Andy Maynard Ralph Tittley Mike Woods Louis Webb Isabel Infantes Shani Stocker
Design	Mark Hogan Richard Clarke
Sales Manager	Paul Robinson
Web & Ebook	Dave Marston

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Slap News

July 2011

SPOONFEDZ and **RONIN** are both releasing EPs and having parties to celebrate at the Marris Bar on July 22nd & 29th respectively. These are going to be absolute belters, and you'd be a complete fool to miss out. Support your local music scene, and it will deliver back to you tenfold!



'Oh Hey Wow' is a new shop with gallery in the Hopmarket, run by sisters Emjay and Bethany. You can find a variety of locally handcrafted items on sale, including, cards, stationery, jewellery and homeware, as well as artwork - original works and prints - by Worcestershire's artists. Open from 10am Tuesday 'til Friday, and from 9.30am on Saturday, you're very welcome to come in and browse, and can be confident that any purchases you make will be supporting local artists and crafters. For more details visit: www.ohheywow.co.uk



Kidderminster Rock God **Robert Plant** scooped an additional £2300 for the recent Arleyfest by donating a signed guitar which was auctioned on eBay. The three-day event to raise funds to refurbish Arley village hall was supported by the likes of award-winning folkster **Seth Lakeman** with top-rated performances from local acts **Naked Remedy** and **Shaking Trees**.

Becky of the Trees used the guitar during their set and rated it the best she's ever played - catch Mr Plant and the reborn **Band Of Joy** (the precursors to **Led Zeppelin**) at this year's Big Chill on the Sunday night...

Last year it was **Phil Jupitus** playing with **The Blockheads** - one of the headliners at Nozstock this time round is **Adrian Edmondson** and **The Bad Shepherds** - gotta be worth checking out at the end of July...

Loads of local acts at the inaugural **Colwall Family Festival** including **This Wicked Tongue** and **Careful Jepson** - it's at the picturesque Colwall Cricket Club on **Sunday 10 July** and is the brainchild of **Neil Collins** who's the man behind the weekly open mic nights at the Great Malvern Hotel.

Threshing Ground, having recruited a new bass player and guitarist, have been recording their new EP in Malvern. The session went very well and rumours abound that an album is soon to follow. The laconic purveyors of bucolic rock will soon be shooting a video for their single *A Girl Called Vinyl*. Apparently it will feature lesbians and snogging... the mind boggles!

Cardiff based (with Malvern connections) **Hullabaloo** who kicked off this year's Pyramid Party, have just recorded their first single. The track, *Landslide*, will shortly be available for download. The seven-piece band, fronted by **Joy of Teenage Sex** star **Benji Lamb** are planning to record an EP in the autumn. They are also riding high (currently eighth) in an online poll that could see them opening at the Green Man Festival in August. See <http://www.greenman.net/> for details on how to vote. Go on you know you want to.

And speaking of online voting competitions, the **Zebedy Rays** are neck and neck as we speak with **Elephantgun** in a contest that could see them gigging in Nashville, USA. Voting will be over by the time you see this magazine but we at Slap can't help but feel there is some under hand tactics being employed which will result in The Zebs being edged out at the last minute. I hope not but the cynic in me has thinks that.



James Evans

Hodge, drummer with **The Tights**, **Dogs of Santorini** and **Troy** was kind enough to loan his drumkit for use as the house kit on the **Pyramid Stage** - a special thank you is in order. Hodge has acquired a cymbal stand which isn't his and doesn't match his kit. He is also missing his own cymbal stand which he would be very pleased to get back. So could all you drummers please check your hardware and let us know if you've inadvertently switched stands.

Whist on the subject of Pyramid parties... the organisers are tentatively planning the next one for May 2012 and hope that all of you will be there, this year they

Hodge
Gods of
Santorini



teamed up with **Godzillas** but were limited by the license to only 499 people on site (including performers and crew) which meant that although it was a sell-out, they couldn't have as many people as they wanted through the gate. They plan to fix this next time around with a bigger license.

Malvern's growliest canine based band **Dogs of Santorini**, have sorted out their personnel issues and are ready to rock. Expect to see them giggering soon. Grrrr!

The Blue Dragon Beer and Cider Festival which takes place at St. Georges Lane, home of Worcester City FC on the 8th & 9th of July is building up to be a major musical event as well as a chance for the community to get involved and support their local community football club. Not to mention ofcourse some very reasonably priced ales & ciders and all at only £2.50 for the weekend. Slap now have our very own local ale thanks to Cannon Royall Brewery near Ombersley. It's a 4.3% golden lemon & grapefruit citra combining English and Slovenian hops which we have chosen ourselves. It will be available within the next week so call us or Cannon Royall for more information. The first tasters will be available at the Blue Dragon Beers & Cider Festival on the 8th & 9th and also the Firefly in Lowesmoor.

SLAP brings more good news for all you open mic fans... As we go to press The Red Lion at St. Anne's Road in Malvern have recently started an open mic night every Thursday, they have a regular House Band called **Lion Heart** who play in a folk rock style and will normally open the music at around 9.30pm and all musicians are invited to join in and do a set.



Praise Jah!

In the Malvern gift shops and tourist offices, it's normally all Elgar this and GBS that, Not a single black face in the famous people of Malvern section. But at last, a landmark blue plaque has gone up in honour of Malvern's onetime dignitary and king of rasta, Emperor Haile Selassie who lived in the Abbey Hotel in the 1930s. The bizarre unveiling ceremony featured rastafarians, a brass band, nayabinghi drumming, and the blue-blazered gentlemen from the Malvern Civic Society who helped to fund the display and furrowed their eyebrows alot when they said the word 'rastafarian'.

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Festivals Time Under Way!! -

Andy O'Hare

Lots of people have accused me of being a bit of a wuss ('You're a WUSS!!') for my fair-weather attitude to festival going - have to admit that I do like my creature comforts - but this summer I've decided to take the plunge and for at least one weekend I plan to spend it under canvas. As it's years since I've experienced the 'joy' of outdoor living - I've invested in a two-person tent - no I won't be sharing it with anyone - rule of thumb is minimum one-tent-per-person in my experience... I've tried putting it up on my living room floor and it seems straightforward enough - what it'll be like in a Force 8 gale I don't know and have no intention of trying...

I've done a bit of shopping and rootling about in the back of wardrobes for sleeping bag, camp stove and other arcane bits that were probably never going to see the light of day again - I've also dug out a sack truck to transport the whole heap of clutter from the car park to the camp site - sadly it won't support a four-poster bed, but should be enough for my pipe and slippers...

Ok - you've probably guessed - I'm only going to risk camping if the weather forecast is perfect for the whole weekend, I'm still finding remnants of mud from Nozstock a couple of years ago in my car - when it was like the Somme and I had to get towed out of the boggy morass of a carpark by tractor - and I was lucky!! And that's the problem - when the weather's fine, events like Nozstock are a sheer delight, a bit drizzly maybe is uncomfortable but bearable - but I just don't go with the 'mud is all part of the experience' geezers - otherwise you'd find me every Sunday morning having a wallow in the Claines mudflats...

Not great weather so far - but I've already dropped in on some cracking early-season festivals - the newly-relocated Pyramid Party was a real showcase for just about all the best local talent - a couple of minor tweaks here and there maybe but it'll be great if they can put on another in the autumn like last year and cement their uniqueness in both opening and closing the packed local festival season.

We've also had the Wychood Festival - which gave acts like Carly and Tallulah the opportunity to appear on the same billing as The Charlatans, Waterboys and Ian Anderson - I popped in twice to Arleyfest near Bewdley for quality sets from Shaking Trees on the Friday and Naked Remedy on the Saturday - and last weekend we OB'd from the Linton Festival near Ross-on-Wye featuring the likes of Wishbone Ash and the Manfreds on the bill - it's not often that I feel I'm just about the youngest person in the audience!!

You know my passion is reserved for local bands and acts - and the upcoming Bridgebash near Tenbury should be one of the picks of the summer. Surprising I'm still a bit lukewarm about our largest local event - Big Chill of course - purely because of their reluctance to showcase local acts, though we're still hoping for change soon on that front.

But of course - the best is to come in the 'festival the weather just can't spoil' - talking of course about our own

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Worcester Music Festival kicking off on 19 August - if it hasn't happened by then I'll pitch up the tent on the living-room floor and enjoy my own version of the 'festival experience'...

Just a few more little thoughts that've been nagging me again... Bands - please think twice when you ask 'Have we got time for one more number?' at the end of your set - if you're able to ask this it probably means that you haven't been told your timings - and 'one more' for you will usually mean 'one less' for someone else. Promoters should make sure that their event is stage managed and give bands the 'one or two more songs please' before the end every time. Your big finish might fizzle out a bit if you're told 'No - we ain't got time for another one - eff off the stage right now...'

I've been asked to do a lot of CD reviews recently - until about a year or so ago this was the province of local legend Toxic Pete who's now sadly retired from this game - and I used to direct bands his way if they wanted comments about their recorded stuff - as my bag is really live music. If there's someone out there who wants to pick up the baton and take over Pete's work then I'm sure you'll be much appreciated!

And just another reminder for promoters, bands and venues - please make sure your event appears on our Gig Guide, NotJustSauce and Worcester News's listings at least - and SLAP of course (!) - and ALWAYS do a Facebook event! Catch you round...



worcester arts workshop

Clik-Clik and Worcester Arts Workshop are calling for artists this month to participate in an Open exhibition which will be held in September from 15th - 29th. Open to locals, the county and just beyond, we want your creative talents in all mediums from different ages and walks of life, so that we can fill all corners of the workshop with vibrancy and flair. For more information mail:

clikclikcollective@gmail.com or visit:
www.clik-clik.blogspot.com

Also this month we see a one day photography competition, the prize being a solo show housed in the Cafe Bliss Gallery. Taking place on the 24th July this one day photography event will include stalls and an exhibition of photography. For more information mail: worcesterstreetphotographyfest@gmail.com. or visit: worcesterstreetphotographyfestival.blogspot.com/

Also this month, The Cafe Bliss gallery gets a visit from **Daniel Worth**, an Australian born artist up from London. 'Little Places' is a collection of paintings with an animated perspective of buildings and everyday life as seen through the fresh eyes of a traveller. The exhibition runs from 3rd till 29th July.

Last month's fabulous Robinson gig was a rare treat for us all! **Andy Robinson** gave us a unique performance in the downstairs theatre space. Support for the evening was provided by the whimsical and folksy **Russell Marshall** (Bella In The Wych Elm) and the exuberant hyper-energetic acoustic joy of **Jasper in The Company of Others**. The evening was rather special and helped to raise valuable funds towards our survival. Thanks guys and to everyone that came to support!



Robinson

Thanks also to all the lovelies who made their efforts to face the heavy rain, wellies and all, to come out and support Cafe Bliss' Lazy Sunday on June 12th. We were blessed by the splendidly talented **Becky Rose**, **Babble**,



Julie by Nev

Julie and Dean Elliott to name just a few... Get yourselves down on Sunday 10th July for another corker featuring **Flat Stanley**, **Skewwhiff**, **Smoke Farm** and more.....



Dean Elliott by
Isabel Infantes

Saturday 9th July is the arts workshop's very own art, craft and junk fair featuring artists prints, original works, craft items and flea market style junk all for sale! If you'd like to sell your wares, it's £10 per table, bookable in advance, or just come and mooch about and buy things!

Splendid Cinema films this month are:

Lawrence Kasdan's 80's classic, 'Body Heat' on Sunday 3rd July and the 1975 Spielberg masterpiece 'Jaws', 17th July. Look out for summer holiday activities including a week of circus skills and art for kids Monday 25th til Friday 29th, plus a day of fun filled activities on the 12th August including graffiti, capoeira and other exciting feats.

Worcester Arts Workshop,
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Nicholas Stevenson Exhibition

"My recent paintings are visited frequently by an elongated tiger-like beast, a beast which is just as frequently obscured by the dream like landscapes it inhabits. In these works I am attempting to recreate one of my favourite sensations. The unnamed feeling you get from spotting a distant object on a beach, looking more bewildering and terrifying as you stroll towards it.

Old boat?...Driftwood?...Giant Squid?...Body?... Or maybe the sensation of looking in to an empty cage at the zoo; the sign with the creature's Latin name is present, so something must be in there somewhere..... but where???"

The 'Tiger's Face' is an exhibition of paintings, sketchbook pages, prints and surprises from Illustrator Nicholas Stevenson, who makes pictures that are fun, lively, mysterious and occasionally a bit unsettling.

He dreams of chalky gouache paintings, mystical colours and secretive meetings. When Nicholas is awake he's in Cambridgeshire, but he once lived in the Seychelles spending most days dressed up as Peter Pan, making tin foil swords and getting inspired by fish identification cards and sea life. Since graduating from Hereford College of Arts last year, he's made illustrations for Anorak Magazine, had a poster on the London Underground and released an album.

There is a grand opening on Sunday 3rd July at 2.00 pm when, in conjunction with Hilldrop records, we will have live musical performances from Richard Clarke, Oliver Wilde, Bella in the Wych Elm and Nicholas Stevenson.

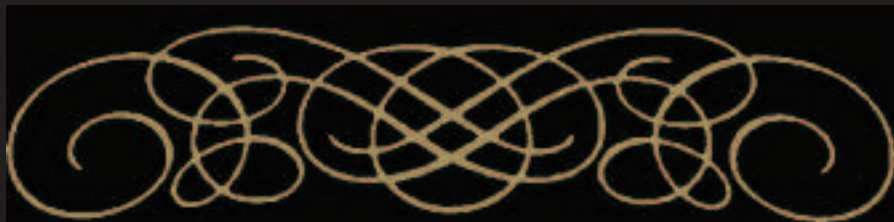
The exhibition runs until the 29th July, and who knows.... maybe you'll glimpse the tiger's face!





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Arleyfest

10TH – 12TH June 2011



For a small festival that's only in its second or third year the organisers had managed to put together impressive sets on the main stage for Friday and Saturday nights. We missed the **Shaking Trees**, who were supporting **Seth Lakeman**, the poster boy of the current folk/acoustic scene. Seth Lakeman's set was one of the strongest of the weekend and his climactic fiddle solo was impressive to watch. Then there were some unexpected delights in the acoustic tent, happily next to the bar selling a select choice of local ale and cider for a very reasonable £3 a pint. **The Good Ole Boys** were great, fronted by a talented banjo player who looked uncannily like Jim Royle, and serving up some upbeat but laid back folk.

The next day I woke up in my usual festival world of pain but managed to make it into the festival grounds to have a mooch about. There was a couple of stalls selling t-shirts and tie-dye, a big inflatable slide thing for kids and a couple of catering vans selling the usual, all reasonably priced. The first act of the day were the worst of the weekend by a mile. If you like insipid country covers, badly done gospel and a bit of God bothering pretentiousness then **Jen Robins** is the act for you. Comparing having your Israeli work visa revoked to the biblical exodus anyone? A stupid thing to bring up anyway considering that Jews and missionaries have not exactly been the only ones forced from there homes in the Middle East. Rubbish, absolute rubbish.



Scott Matthews was next and is an up and coming name in the acoustic scene. He played well and sang well, despite some problems with the sound (this was unfortunately to be a recurrent problem), but it was a bit too Radioheady for me in the early afternoon with a hangover.

Blues Boy Dan was more energizing. He looked like he wasn't old enough to shave but some how when he sang he came out with this big, deep rasping old blues voice. Their set of blues and country rock covers was good, if in need of a little tightening here and there, but what a voice!

A desperate need to eat and sleep meant I missed **Naked Remedy** but was back in time for **Cowbell** who



are a brilliant guitar and drums duo playing short, rocking numbers with catchy choruses. They bring to mind The White Stripes and it was amazing to see how they could get such a big sound from drums, guitar and vocals, and their front man put a lot of energy in to working the still disparate crowd. If you like upbeat indie go and see them if you have chance.

6 Day Right are a fun, quirky six piece and the first time I've seen a double-bass played alongside a ukulele! An eclectic mix of brass, harmonica, ukulele, guitar and double bass produced an equally eclectic sound and they were big on audience participation. They had the one truly hippy festival goer, who had been dancing since the dawn chorus, up on stage with them and when the sound cut out for about ten minutes they jumped off stage and over the barrier for an improvised acoustic number up close with the audience. Nice, melodious up tempo songs with jazz, blues, folk and rock influences producing a unique sound, they finally galvanized the audience into massing together at the front, with the help of dancing king.

Cantaloop, featuring Frankie from the Fun Loving Criminals, were ace. A funky mix of hip-hop, rap and soul, similar to Black Grape but with a better, funkier brass section, and they properly worked the audience and got everybody dancing and grooving. A really good, fun live band which finished the night off brilliantly.

All in all Arleyfest was well worth the £20 ticket plus £5 camping fee, was well organised and provided for, and managed to appeal to a broad spectrum, from middle-class mums and dads with kids, to folkies and festival mash heads. I hope they have even more success next year and the attendance increases, and that the occasional problems with the sound – that and bloody awful weather which prematurely wrapped things up on the Sunday, unfortunately for the bands still playing in the acoustic tent. Well worth checking out next year.

Karl Turner

Review

Cantaloop

Photography by Shani Stocker

28th May 2011 - Great Malvern Hotel

I turned up at the Great Malvern Hotel thinking I was attending a gig of a band that were on their way down, how wrong I was.

It had been a few years since I last saw Cantaloop and to my shame I can't remember where I was at the time, but I do remember thinking this band are one of the best live acts I had seen from around these parts so I knew I was in for a good night. Not just because they are the real deal when it comes to musicianship but their songs are real too. Take 'Brotherhood' with its message of being yourself, with lyrics that stick in the mind even longer than the catchy trumpet riff which bounces along with it.



With occasional line-up changes that would see most bands off, Cantaloop just get better. The comparatively new rhythm section effortlessly glide through their set complimented by the perfectly understated guitar riffs. They move on to 'Blessed' from their new EP 'Chocolate', The shuffling drums, the sliding basslines and incessant trumpet get the crowd moving in this most intimate of venues.

An oldy but goody follows, 'Honey I Funked the Kids', I love the bass line in this tune, spot on delivery by Paulo De Wooten whilst guitarist Justin Metti gives his box of tricks the full work out. It was at this point I noticed drummer Dave King Popeye Mason used no toms whatsoever and still produced a full exciting drum sound. Moving up a notch with 'Sad' and the Pigbag style trumpet and yet another banging soloing bass line. The audience was bouncing by this point as front man Danny Dee works the crowd. You didn't need to be brave to move, you just couldn't help yourself!



Another oldy - 'Fatman', with trumpet replaced by harmonica before the inevitable crowd participation bit, maximum hip hop which to be honest, even I didn't mind. They left us with 'Weird Science', another banging ditty after which I ordered another pint and followed the band outside to talk their ears off, they



didn't seem to mind too much, they even gave me a CD, genuinely chuffed I had bothered to approach, or perhaps just to get rid of me. Either way its still being played on my itunes.

This was a gig I talked about for days. Cantaloop, catch them whenever you get chance.

Drummonds B3 Festival

Sunday 19th June 2011

Local Artists, Musicians, Face Painters and Chefs gathered in Drummonds to hold an all day mini festival, with the aim of raising money in the name of charity. The event was a fundraiser for St. Richard's Hospice, a fine organisation and very worthwhile cause. Starting at 3pm the audience were wowed with music from the likes Jon Mapp (B3 organiser), Christine Hopgood, Autumn Lilly, The Annas, Hitchhiker, Sarah Oreggio, Carly Dee and Gazza Tee.



Artist Les Ames with WMFs Nikki Boraston



Carly Dee and James Cooper

After a small interlude we saw Smoke Farm, Evilwitch and The Oohz. The mini festival was headlined by **The Fabulous Bordellos**, a power packed mix

of mod classics, some old, some new, all action. A bbq was organised on the Drummonds patio to keep the crowd well fed with a percentage of money from bbq sales also going into the charity pot. The generous folk who attended managed to raise a grand total of



The Fabulous Bordellos

£514.37. All the acts played for free in order to help out St. Richard's Hospice. The festival was the brain child of Jon Mapp who runs Thunder Promotions, and he is grateful to those involved in making the event a success. Jon is planning his next venture as we go to press.



Organiser Jon Mapp aka Tripod

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Friday 1st July - 'Blues' Evening

Water Festival Vines Park, Saltway, Droitwich Spa

19.00 Tina V - Singer/Songwriter
19.45 Mickey Mann Duo
20.30 The Cohen Brothers
Blues and Soul to Rock, Jazz and Americana

Saturday 2nd July - Music Sessions

St. Andrews Shopping Centre	High Street	Water Festival Vines Park
12.00 Carol Sampson	11.00 Mickey & Griff	12.00 Rainbow Road
13.00 Tina V - Plus Friends	12.00 Laura Cowley	13.00 The Breakfast Club
14.00 Laura Cowley	Stompin on Spiders	14.00 Rainbow Road
Ben Vickers	13.00 Ashby Davies	15.00 Mickey Mann Band
Kiki O'Connell	Ben Vickers	16.00 BabaJack
15.00 Laura B Road	Kiki O'Connell	19.30 Sam Holmes
16.00 Stompin on Spiders	14.00 Sam Holmes	Vintage Song Writer
Becky Rose	15.00 SJS	20.30 Maer on the Ledge
	16.00 This Wicked Tongue	Folk / Rock

Sunday 3rd July - Jazz / Blues / Folk / Rock

Water Festival Vines Park

12.00 Tom Hill's Straitjackets 2011 - Luncheon Jazz Session
14.00 Poor Rob James and Stompin on Spiders - Blues Session
16.00 Tina V and Friends - Acoustic Session / Jazz
19.00 Becky Rose - Singer/Songwriter
19.30 Babble - Contemporary Roots / Folk
20.30 The Rowing Crews - Innovative, Funky & Energetic Irish Folk / Rock

In The Lido Park

14.30 The Worcester Youth Jazz Orchestra

Saturday 9th July

St Andrews Shopping Centre

12.00 - 17.00 Music Showcase - Natalie Parks, Dan Greenaway, Abby Dawes, Carlo Dee, Chris Jones, Rebecca-Rate Leach

For complete details of the weekend see the full Water Festival programme and the Music and Arts Festival programme at www.droitwichspa.com

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Promotions

The Summer of Doom has begun. By this we're not implying it's the end of the world, or anything like that... however we've started our new concert series **JOHNNY DOOM PRESENTS** – featuring local and out-of-town bands sharing the stage at the Gallery above the Velvet Lounge and being presented by the Kerrang! Radio legend. This inaugural concert featured Stourbridge's up-and-coming spazzcore disco band **DIAMONDS**, alongside local stalwarts **GOD SAVE THE KING** and **CALM LIKE A RIOT**. It was well attended for a first show, and all bands were very well received.

We also had the opportunity to host a show at Birmingham's Wagon and Horses featuring Swedish doom metal outfit **PYRAMIDO**. This featured amongst others Pershore's **RIGOR MORTAL**, who were fresh off of a successful run in the Bloodstock Metal to the Masses competition. In addition to these were Birmingham's **GRIMPEN MIRE** and **CRASH NIGHT**, Blackburn's **BASTARD OF THE SKIES**, and Bangor's **WHALES**. Despite a few technical issues that caused irreparable delays on the schedule, a great night of incredibly heavy music was well received by the Birmingham audience. We'll have more in store for Birmingham in the future.



Rigor Mortal



Pyramido

Diamonds threw down the gauntlet by ripping through a set of songs from their new album *Crystal Ravens* (on Allegiance Records) and providing great banter about the Dudley nightlife. The singer's antics involved roaming the entire room, nearly disconnecting his microphone, and jumping on tables to serenade members of the audience. Needless to say, this was a great way to kick off proceedings.

We're now busily putting together 4 nights of entertainment for the up-coming Worcester Music Festival. **Yes – FOUR**. We will be organising 2 shows on Friday August 19th – one Metal night at the Marris Bar and an Indie night at the Worcester Arts Workshop. On Saturday the 20th, we are taking over the Worcester Arts Workshop for the entire day with indoor and outdoor entertainment through to the evening which will feature a number of local bands. And finally, on the Sunday, we'll be organising a show at the Cellar Bar that can only be described as 'adventurous'. We will reveal full details of these shows in the next issue of **SLAP**.



Rigor Mortal



Pyramido

With the wind in their sails, God Save the King gave the audience some great riffs in an incredibly energetic set that sounded a bit like a mix between the Hives and the Strokes. Finally, Calm Like a Riot took the stage to give us some laid back grooves peppered with machine-gun rap vocals that got the audience dancing along. In short, it was a fantastic night.

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Wychwood festival

3rd-5th July 2011

Friday 3rd June 2011

It was a lovely hot day, the sun was out and I was on the train to Cheltenham for the Wychwood festival. I was working this event and after reporting in I was put on the artists gate, which sounds cool but really meant that I had to help carry the equipment of most of the visiting bands for the BBC Introducing Stage. A couple of hours into my shift Andy O'Hare turned up and as he wasn't an artist he wasn't allowed through, I felt like the security guard from Wayne's World that says "Hey, there's a lot of people's girlfriends in there." But seeing as it was Andy and he was the only BBC representative there and I was large in charge, I opened the security gates and whisked him inside while no-one was looking. He later said that if it hadn't have been for me, there would have been no show. I met and carried the heavy equipment of a bunch of cool local bands, such as Milly Winter whom I'd recommend. I also stopped Cornershop and held them at the security checkpoint for 20 minutes thinking that they were traders. After checking various lists, I went back and said "Sorry mate, you're not on the list." to which Tjinder Singh replied 'Are you having a laugh? We're on the main stage in 30 minutes!' Opps! I let them through, finished my shift, went to get a pint and sure enough there they were playing to thousands of people. I watched them for a couple of songs but left early to catch the wonderful *Midnight Mile* on The Pom Stage, which despite being the smallest of the four stages, it suited the intimacy of their music and Romy's soulful vocals were well received by a respective audience. Next up was Shaun Buswell in The Big Top, who had a massive 13 strong line-up. The orchestration of violins, cello, trumpet, flute and xylophone amongst others produced a huge sound and warmth to songs such as 'Good for the Family' and 'Lebanon'. After this, I had just enough time to get another pint before The Charlatans



took to the main stage. As I stood there filming them, I thought about how mad it was to be at a festival where The Charlatans and The Bluetones were playing and how standing in a field with thousands of drunk party people took me back to the BritPop days of the 90's. Of course they played their classics, how could they not. 'North Country Boy', 'One to Another' and 'Smash the System' had the attendees of Cheltenham racecourse waving their arms in the air like they just didn't care. It was a shame to have

missed my favourite Birmingham based band The Arcadian Kicks but the sheer amount of bands that I got to see and film over the weekend made up for it.

Saturday 4th June 2011

It was an 8am start for me and as I've been known to say, the only mornings in rock n' roll are the mornings after. I got a coffee and got busy helping the Pilates instructors and the Dorset cereal girls set up. I saw The Roving Crows turn up so went down to the artists checkpoint to greet them and walked their van in. Whilst talking to their manager about how great it is to have all these great BritPop bands back and gigging again, he told me he's heard that The Verve have reformed, for the fourth time.

After standing around talking about Echobelly and Sleeper for ages, I got back to work and helped a super fun group called Alphabet Backwards from Oxford who's infectious indie pop had everyone present at the BBC Introducing Stage bouncing around and epitomised the phrase 'fun in the sun'. I used the opportunity of a tea-break to nip over to see Jessie Grace from Oxford who I would love to see share a stage with Das Sexy Clap, musically I think they'd get on so well. She went from laidback keyboard arrangements to strapping on a guitar and belting out big sounding rock numbers like 'My World Is Cold' and 'Indifference'. A massive star in the making, you mark my words.

After my shift, I headed straight to The Big Top for The Roving Crows bumping in to Paul from SLAP magazine and it was nice to see the space continually fill with people who were drawn in by Caitlin's furious fiddling and the sound of a good time being had. Lots of jiggling later, I ducked out early to catch Eliza Carthy on the main stage. I'd seen her years ago at the BBC Folk Awards in London so



The Roving Crows

knew she wouldn't disappoint live, which of course she didn't. Sarah Savoy & The Francadians were up next, Their

Cajun music went down well with the predominantly family crowd. I popped over to the Intro stage to catch The Method and Cuba Cuba who I've seen This Wicked Tongue sharing stage bills with, but went back to watch Neville Staple from The Specials who had the entire racecourse skanking to 'Enjoy Yourself (It's Later than You Think)' which was a beautiful thing to see.



The highlight of the BBC Introducing Stage for me was a young singer/songwriter from Devon called Alice Jemima



Alice Jemima

who had such a lovely voice, it was like honey in your ears; but not in an icky way. Though just turned 18, she's got a wealth of gigging experience and wonderful song arrangements. Her performance reminded me of seeing Alessi's Ark, which if you don't

already know, is a very good thing indeed. I had a good chat with her at the side of the stage and she's on the lookout for paid gigs, so if you can cover her petrol costs from Devon, get on it!

After this I caught the last few songs by Robyn Hitchcock who was playing the hits of Captain Beefheart to a slightly bemused crowd but next up were The Bluetones, who were doing their final tour. Lots of self apologetic stage banter

The Bluetones



and classics such as 'Solomon Bites The Worm' and 'Bluetonic' had a slightly chilly crowd bopping about and warming up nicely. I followed this by heading back to the Introducing Stage to cover as many acts for Andy O'Hare as I could and watched Tom Robinson favourite singer/songwriter Lonely Tourist who was shortly followed by fellow Bristolians Dub Mafia which was a nice change of pace for the beer tent on a Saturday night.

Sunday 5th June 2011

Another 8am start for me, directing bands and traders alike onto the site. Once I was done though, it was time for beer and The Wurzels, who I wouldn't usually listen to at home, but in the middle of a field with a pint in one hand and my camera in the other, plus thousands of other revellers it seemed perfectly acceptable to sing along to their farmers anthem of The Kaiser Chiefs' Ruby, with the chorus 'Ruby Ruby Ruby! Ooh-aah Ooh-aah Ooh-ahh!' Ah, festival times. It was around this time that I met up with Mark from SLAP who got me a pint and recommended The Christians so we went down the front to check them out. Garry

Christian had the crowd eating out of the palm of his hand, even though his sing-along requests did just go on for far too long. I knew that I recognised them but couldn't place where from until they played their 1988 classic 'Harvest for the World'. It's the mark of a really good live band if they can play in the rain and make you forget that you're standing there getting drenched, and fair play to these guys, they managed it. I popped off to see Moussu T e lei Jovents in The Big Top and Mark and I returned to the main stage to see Eddie Reader, who I've seen at many festivals over the years and it turns out



Eddie Reader

that she was joined onstage by Mark's hero Boo Hewerdine, who delivered a flawless set the highlight for me being 'It's Perfect', though I'm sure Mark has his own. Then it was time for Worcester to represent at the BBC Introducing stage in the form of Carly Dee and Tallulah Fix. Carly was on first which was her first time playing with a full band, including Dan Lloyd on guitar and Sarah Oreggio on backing vocal duties, and any nerves she might of had certainly didn't show as she delivered a solid performance to the packed marquee. Next was Malvern favourites Tallulah Fix who changed up the pace of the evening and were, as always, a great headline band before the comedians took over. Songs like 'Awol' and 'Serotonin Sickness' had a bunch of people up and dancing including SLAP's Mark Hogan who kept insisting that they play his favourite song, eventually they did and he was a happy chappie, as was everyone else who attended. After all this my batteries were depleted and there was nothing left for it but to head back to the main stage and rave around to Transglobal Underground who's World fusion beats had the thousand or so party people that remained raving around in the dark waving their glow-sticks and loving every minute of it. Once the curfew had been reached and the crowd had given up chanting for more, I headed off to get some chilli and chips and check out the comedy on offer, including Izzi Lawrence, Christian Steel, Wil Hodgson and the amazing Ray Peacock who took to the stage and announced that since he was the last act of the last night, that was the headline act of the entire festival. He was absolutely brilliant and if you ever see his name on a line up, make sure you check him out, I promise you won't be disappointed. By this point it was nearly 2am and there was nothing left to do but get another pint and head to the silent disco.

by King Dave

Preview... Riding the Unicorn

Jon Gomm Friday – July 29th
The Unicorn Inn – Malvern

The Unicorn Inn, one of the oldest buildings in Malvern, has no doubt seen plenty of musical shenanigans since it was built in 1659 but it has never really featured as a venue. Until now. The old coaching inn sees the return to Malvern of guitar-meister Jon Gomm on Friday July 29th. Gomm has been described as a virtuoso guitarist but that is perhaps a little too grand. What he actually does is play cracking tunes in a way that no one else possibly could. His modified acoustic guitar acts as a percussion instrument even as he plays separate parts with either hand while dynamically retuning individual strings to give a full, almost multi-tracked sound. And he sings as well. It's difficult to describe in words – you really have to see him play to get the full effect. Jon tours the UK and Europe, playing gigs and festivals and is regarded by many as a uniquely talented and innovative guitar player. His home recorded debut CD *Hypertension* has sold over ten thousand copies and his YouTube videos score thousands of views within days of being posted. If you ever wanted to see a truly original performance, this is the gig for you.



The Unicorn is also planning on holding regular open mic nights from mid July, joining other town centre bars and hotels in the realisation that a little bit of music pulls in the punters. Who knew? So if you fancy playing a spot in a truly historic venue, go and see Chancey or Sue, and say Slap sent you !

RT

Review Music at Huntingdon Hall

by Sarah Ganderton

The 28th May saw The Conservatoire Folk Ensemble take over Huntingdon Hall. Don't be fooled by the name, this is not a quiet uptight gathering of musicians, it is a lively exhausting performance by more musicians than can comfortably fit on a stage, and it is impossible not to beam from ear to ear at the whole experience.



I had seen them perform last year so was not so surprised at the power and energy of this vast group, but it was humorous to see my companion as taken aback as I had originally been as Fifty musicians file on to the stage until it appeared to be full.

Joe Broughton leads the group through traditional folk tunes, as they swing and bop and shake their crazy coloured wigs, taking the audience with them on a whistle stop tour of the world's folk music.



A brief interlude from the whole group brings us smaller groups of exceptional quality, a trio of girls sing haunting songs in spine-tingling harmonies, the bass and cello players play their own little ditty, and a group of musicians hurry to the stage with their hands full of bottles to blow our minds. Humour, chaos and frivolity are dished out in equal measure to sombre spine tingling melodies, and the most amazing musical talent from every section of the orchestra – and some home-made instruments that are nothing to do with any orchestra. This was definitely an evening to enjoy and I can't wait to the next exhilarating show.

CD Review Spoonfedz Hard to Swallow

Now I have to admit that I've probably heard and seen far too many Ska/Punk bands than is healthy and my favourites have something unique about them - Citizen Fish's tight fistful dogma, King Prawn's incendiary energy and the Inner Terrestrials' revolutionary spirit.

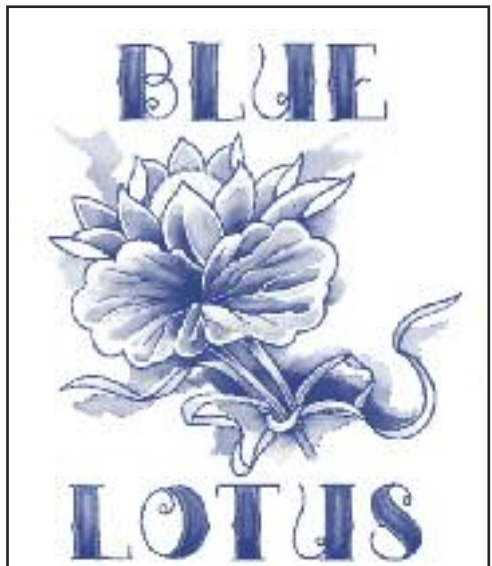


So when Spoonfedz's forthcoming EP, "Hard To Swallow", landed in iTunes I was looking for something different. Well, I quickly realised that I had pigeonholed the Fedz unfairly. They have been reworking their sound with a slightly different line up and become a much more muscular proposition - there is an element of Ska there but the new direction is more of a modern take on the Punk attitude that runs through most of the music I love.

When the bass line of "Radio Don't" kicks in, I'm instantly reminded of Klaus Flouride so the guitar has a lot to live up to! Not to worry as East Bay Ray would be proud of the haunting riff that follows, providing a platform for the lyrical critique of consumer culture. I'm not sure they've read Noam Chomsky but the sentiment is straight out of "Manufacturing Consent". Not to say the band sound American but comparisons to the Dead Kennedy's in their prime is praise indeed from this critic.

Spoonfedz launch their new EP, "Hard To Swallow", on Friday 22 July at the Marris Bar.

- Glazz



Tattoo Studio



Christian



Dave



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ROCK 'N' SHOP WITH RONDA!

Following March's successful excursion to London, Worcestershire's rock band Ronda couldn't resist the invitation to play live music venue, London's 229 Club last Friday. The event proved a fantastic experience for everyone. Transport and tickets included, the fabulous folks who came along to support the band grabbed a few hours sight-seeing Regents Park before heading off to a packed venue of top notch bands with some fantastic sounds. The Ronda boys proved to be the hit of the night with rave reviews. The band are looking forward to playing some local gigs with the Bridge Bash nearly upon us. Ronda will be back to play the Purple Turtle in Camden on Saturday 3rd of September and it's looking like it'll be two coaches this time with the ever growing support of our local music lovers making the most of the opportunity to Rock 'n' Shop! For more info email the band on bookings@rondaband.com



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Putting Malvern on the Mappfest



With the fantastic Pyramid Party @ GodZilaZ kicking off the Festival Season in triumphant style it seems that every weekend from now 'til September has some sort of music fest on, from the Big Chill to the tiny Packhorse. With Nozstock, the Bridge Bash, Colwall Music festival and sundry other multi-act music and art events, there will be something for everyone this summer. Let's just hope that the global warming they promised finally makes an appearance. Last Saturday, the 18th June, saw the second Mappfest take place in Malvern. A day long party with fourteen or so acts playing on a makeshift stage in a pleasant little courtyard, hosted by the genial Andy Mapp. (Oh now I get it!). In any other town that could be a recipe for amateur disaster but this is Malvern where musical talent simply oozes out of the granite. The day kicked off with *Filtered by Design*, an acoustic duo with some mightily impressive self-penned gems that are assured in their complexity yet tenaciously simple. Next up was *Mansize*, a four piece rock combo with lead singer Anya giving a confident rock-chick performance on guitar and vocals worthy of any west coast grunge outfit. The drummer looked familiar too - wasn't he playing guitar in that last act? Then it was the turn of *Electro Stealth* aka *Funky Junky Monkeys* lite and their familiar songs played in an unfamiliar fashion. With the mighty Simias Howler driving the bass *FJM* are able to induce a tap in anyone's toes . . . now, that last minute stand in drummer . . . where have we seen him before? Of course, this being England, it was inevitable that the English weather would be a feature too. When the sun was shining it was beautifully warm, when it was raining it was on a Biblical scale and in between it was just a little bit damp. But on went the day as *Ghandi's Walrus* took to the stage with some of the finest psychedelic rock since Syd and the Floyd. Then from the sublime to the awesome as *Sam Eden* followed with his solo acoustic guitar and soulful vocals. Then, more rain and sunshine and *Jenny Hallam* at the keyboards singing happy songs that kept the sun smiling down and the audience cheerful if damp. As the day dwindled towards that long mid-summer twilight, *This Wicked Tongue* in all their elfen glory played through the transition into night. Lead singer Tina V proved to be simply too hot as the cut outs in the PA left her temporarily silent until insulating tarpaulins were hastily removed from speaker cabs . . . and I know we've seen that guitar player before somewhere - he sure gets around. *Tongue* are a fantastic band; inventive, original and talented. A little bit of thermal shutdown is never going to stop them. Once the elves had finished it was time for Gandalf, Strider, Gimli and Legolas to pick up their Middle Earthen in-



Photos by Paul Boyce / Shant Spooner



struments and perform to the gathered host: *Slack Granny* are of course legendary round these parts. Toad's full on vocals with Rock Adonis' frets on fire guitar playing would shame any metal band into early retirement. With perennial classics like *Itchy Eye* and *Thora Hurd* you can feel the influences of Slayer and Spinal Tap. Superb. Long live rock and roll. Mappfest is undoubtedly a local festival for local people but with the range and talent of the performers it feels like something much grander. Unfortunately, with many close neighbours, the live music had to finish by the witching hour but the party continued on through the night with acoustic jamming and lively singing accompanied by the birdsong of the morning chorus. Nicely done Andy. Same time next year then?



Thou shalt not pass !

RT

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Bridge Bash

2011

15TH - 17TH JULY 2011

Following on from years of growing success the Bridge Bash Music Festival is happening again! This year's event takes place over the weekend of July 15th - 17th and it promises to be a great one with three days of live music on three stages highlighting the best of local talent, established acts and newcomers.

Opening night sees Simon Fowler & Oscar Harrison from Ocean Colour Scene performing an acoustic set with all their hits on the main stage.

Saturday night's headline are Dodgy who had hits with 'Staying Out For The Summer', 'If It's Good Enough For You' and many others - guaranteed to give the festival a happy upbeat vibe. Dodgy will also be performing songs from their new album which according to Chris Hawkins, of BBC 6Music, "It's the best stuff they've ever done"

The new album has been a long time coming, but it's worth it. Deeper and more mature but with bigger choruses and stronger melodies, recorded mainly over the month of May in an old farmhouse in Malvern, the original members, Nigel Clark, Andy Miller and Mathew Priest have recorded their best work to date.



Dodgy

host of others appearing on the 'BOOM' stage where up and coming acts are given the opportunity to get themselves on a large platform. Registration for the BOOM stage is available via the web site plus further information on all the acts and events over the weekend.

The Bash is not just about music, it is combined with a beer and cider festival with over 60 real ales,

perrys and ciders. Running throughout the weekend are fun and games for all the family including music workshops, circus schools plus crafting displays and inflatable games.

Camping is provided in the cost of the ticket and there are numerous food outlets ranging from the standard burger and breakfast bars to tea tents and exotic food stalls. If you fancy a bit of luxury then we will also be having a cocktail bar situated on the Deckerdance bus along with an acoustic stage where you can sit in comfort with a nice glass of something.



oscar from ocean colour scene



simon from ocean colour scene

Mathew from the band says, "This new album is really very important to us, it feels like it's our first album and we're so confident that people will like

Bridge Bash is a must for any festival lover. It's the local highlight of the summer, small enough to be intimate and large enough to bring in the acts that make this weekend one not to be missed.

Ticket prices range from Friday night £30, Sat £35 and Sunday £10 or you can buy a weekend ticket now for £65 or pay £75 on the gate! Children under 14 are free. Certainly value for money!!!

Further information is available from the site:

www.bridgebashfestival.co.uk

or search for our Facebook group/event :

Bridge Bash Music Festival

it that we've decided to go out and play it in it's entirety before it's even released. That's how sure we are. Other acts performing at Bridge Bash will include Rise, The Establishment, The Crooked Empire, The Jellybean Rebellion, This Wicked Tongue, Nomad 67, Naked Remedy, Skewwhiff, Ronda plus a

REVIEW Skambomambo

Seeley's Jazz'Ole, Mr Shankly & Imprint Zero

The Bunker, Keystones - Friday 17th June

It's called The Bunker downstairs at Keystones on Fridays but I think of it more of a beacon of emerging talent. Without financial worries and parental responsibilities (no, they are not linked) I would like to go every week and would urge any musically minded people of the Shire to do the same.

Seeley's Jazz 'Ole



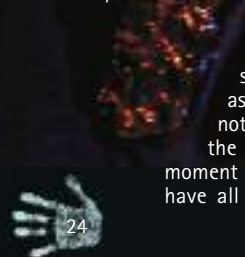
So, on another nondescript 'summers' day in June we headed down early to check if the 'colourful cavern' had really turned black and white, for it was Ska night at the Bunker. There was such a buzz about the event that even the well known local tabloid had got wind and done a feature!

First up was Seeley's Jazz'Ole from Cuddlymonster, sorry Kidderminster, who had maturity beyond their age mixing covers like the Clash's "White Riot" with original songs. Next up were Birmingham's Mr Shankly - less punk and more ska, with a Sax player who was

not averse to rolling round on the floor! Imprint Zero were sandwiched between two much more experienced acts and coped admirably.

But as is often the case, the buzz was about the headliners - not because anyone had heard of them but because they had come over from Poland for their first tour of the UK. Skambomambo's brand of 'Pol-Ska' is an eclectic interpretation of a midlands scene - returning to the source as it were. Lead singer, Mario, is not Polish but Maltese and he had the audience gripped from the moment he graced the stage. The band have all the attributes of Coventry's

Mr Shankly



Imprint Zero

finest Two-Tone - tight rhythm section, understated yet insistent guitar and marvelous brass section.

There's a much more original 60's Jamaican Ska feel than the more punky local acts but with tracks like "Accident", Skambomambo has the Bunker rocking. The audience is literally eating out of the palm of Mario's hand as those that don't invade the stage are dancing furiously in genuine 'hands in the air' style.

Another great night at the Bunker and let's hope Skambomambo come back soon.

Skambomambo



Words by Glazz Pics by Katie Foulkes

Jake Abbott...

Coach and Horses, Worcester

Sunday 28th May 2011

I had the pleasure up seeing the debut of a rather awesome physical specimen on the Worcester music scene. OK, Jake Abbott has recently become a regular musician at This Wicked Tongue's open mic held twice a month at The Angel, but it's the Coach and Horses on Worcester's Tything that now ranks with both Sixways and Twickenham as a scene of triumph for one of Worcester Warriors' toughest competitors.

Yes, some people have it all don't they? As if it's not enough to be one of the country's best up and coming rugby players, young Mr Abbott is now setting the place alight with his guitar playing, singing and songwriting. There were plenty of people there to hear him this night, spilling over in large numbers onto the street, the place absolutely jam packed. It was a treat indeed, with Jake performing for a good 2 1/2 hours, pausing only for a 20 minute interval when the redoubtable Tina V played a handful of numbers.

Considering Jake has only been playing guitar for 18 months, it's no wonder he is earning the respect of so

many died-in-the-wool Worcester musicians; and it's not only his guitar work that attracts attention. He has one of those high pitched, earnest, almost plaintive voices that soar, taking you to unfamiliar places; extraordinary tone and power without a single hint of shrillness.



A regular now at open mic nights at The Copcut in Droitwich and The Kings Head in Upton, as well as The Angel, catch up with Jake when you can, and wish him well for the next season as his Warriors team make a welcome return to premiership rugby.

Words by Andy Maynard

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Preview

**Tewkesbury
23rd July**

Fresh from their UK tour supporting The Proclaimers, The Misers are flying the flag for Worcestershire bands at this month's Mockfest. They are performing on the mainstage, as guest original artists at the festival in Tewkesbury. The travelling festival which was also held in Droitwich in May, this time features tribute acts from around the country as well as providing a platform for



local original artists. The Misers are looking forward to performing alongside other top bands in this up and coming festival, following on from recent performances at the 23rd Off The Tracks festival at Castle Donnington.



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Comedy -Reviews

Rhod Gilbert The Marris Bar 31st May 2011

He's Welsh and he's angry but I somehow feel it would be unjust to describe Rhod Gilbert as simply an angry Welshman. The 42 year old Camarthen-born stand-up is arguably one of the best comedians on the circuit. Since being nominated for the Edinburgh Fringe *Perrier*



Newcomer award in 2005, he has gone on to win numerous comedy awards, make several appearances on *Mock The Week*, *Nevermind The Buzzcocks*, and recently as guest host on *Have I Got News For You*. Oh, and in 2010 he was voted winner of Wales' Sexiest male, not that he likes to talk about it ...much.

Following on from his 2010 sell out UK tour '*Rhod Gilbert and the Cat that Looked Like Nicholas Lyndhurst*' and in anticipation of another UK tour sometime in 2012, Rhod is currently on the road testing out new material with a number of 'Work in progress' nights at select venues around the country and our very own Marris Bar was one of them.

After warming up the audience to a couple of well rehearsed, award winning rants from previous material, such as the utter injustice of not being able to buy a single Jacket Potato, and why anyone could possibly need a one million candle-power torch?, Rhod was clearly keen to test out some new ideas on a discerning audience.

Occasionally glancing at notes on a clip board and occasionally reading directly from them, he entertained the room for nearly two hours with his bemused infuriation at life's unfairness and absurdity. It makes a big difference if you can tell that a Comedian is really enjoying a venue and as Rhod unashamedly read from his notes, it was a joy to see the ideas growing in his head, and improvisations fleshing out the clever concepts on the page. Thanks to Rhod's rapier wit, dynamic delivery and the bubbles in my reasonably priced Kronenberg, I held off going to the toilet until I couldn't hold it any longer and had to suggest he made it a suitable time to take a break. He shot me down of course but kindly obliged.

What material he will keep for next year's tour and what he will throw away, who knows. I for one look forward to finding out.

by Dan Wall



REVIEW ROB ROUSE - THE GREAT ESCAPE Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thursday 2nd June

Rob Rouse is a geography teacher turned stand-up comic, and I certainly don't recall my geography lessons ever being this much fun. I arrive a little flustered, having been told mere moments before that Rob Rouse (8 Out of 10 Cats, Grown Ups, Friday Night Project) is in the house, oh yes, and this time he's got a dog, a girlfriend, a toddler, and he's just moved to The Countryside. There aren't many comedians I've seen who open their show with home videos of their dog getting "friendly" with a floor cushion, and whilst at first I admit to thinking it a little crude, few could deny that it was nonetheless hilarious. As well as embarrassing events involving the aforementioned dog, Rob delights us with many amusing – if a little grizzly- tales of country life including stories about dancing geriatrics, vomit, dogging, potty-training, road-kill, and of course the occasional geography fact. Whilst some of this subject matter did leave us feeling a little green around the gills, he was quick to remind us that there really is no dignity in life, and that none of it compares to the utter horror of waking up to find yourself dressed from head to toe entirely in corduroy (an occurrence that forced him out of teaching and into comedy). He's energetic, physically funny (darting about in a Michael-McIntyre-esque fashion) and observantly witty without being unnecessarily cruel. A face-achingly funny story involving a rotting sheep and a motorway layby finishes the gig on a giggling high note- despite leaving me feeling a little queasy- and he bounds off stage to sounds of applause. His "Great Escape" tour continues throughout the UK until the end of June and he's well worth a watch. check out Rob's website here: www.robrouse.com

by Imogen Buller

- and Coming Up

Raw Comedy at Evesham Arts Centre - 14th July 2011

Fresh comedy in the foyer bar with Sally-Anne Hayward. She combines the things you shouldn't like about your best friend's mum with the sensibilities of Jack the Ripper. She grew up to reject dizzy incompetence and feminine wiles for a disarming mix of ingratiating charm and unsettling pugnacity that gets more laughs than a hyaena's dawn rally. (That's an anagram by the way. Check it out).

An accomplished radio presenter with stage and TV acting credentials ('Absolutely Fabulous' BBC, 'Why the Long Faces' Square Donkey Productions, and various TV warm-ups including 'Deal or No Deal' Channel 4), Sally-Anne's confident persona and quick wit have rapidly made her a much sought-after compere. She's a regular compere on one of the stages at Glastonbury Festival, and a keenly anticipated turn on the UK comedy circuit.

Also on the bill are Jay Handley, Claire Stroud, Tony Tinman, Manos Kanellos (AKA Manos the Greek), Wayne the Weird and MC Ashley Freize. Have a good laugh & spot some future stars.



Tickets £5 (£4 adv, £3 students/members/groups 8+)

Mark Watson Request Stops at Huntingdon Hall

Friday 15th July 2011

"Why aren't you coming to Berwick?" "Why do you never visit Shropshire?" "Is there a specific reason for your endless neglect of Chorley?"

Most people aren't troubled by questions of this sort in their everyday lives, but Mark Watson is. Every time he announces a set of tour dates, there are disappointed tweets from all corners of the UK not covered by his travels. And this is in spite of Mark's reputation as one of the hardest-working and most-constantly-travelling comics around. It almost seems as if the only way to ensure happy gig-goers is to allow fans to dictate his entire schedule. Can you guess where this is going?

Last year, via his daily blog - loved by everyone except Frankie Boyle - Mark invited fans to suggest destinations for his 2011 shows. Over the past few months he's been sifting these suggestions. From now until Christmas he will traverse the country to perform at over 50 specially requested towns around the nation like some sort of remote-controlled car being driven by a lunatic.



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The Arcadian Kicks

The Pargeters & Sunrise Over Europe @ Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Words Et Pics by Toni Charles



The Arcadian Kicks

With The Pargeters being Stourbridge lads, and by the response of the crowd, I guessed the four piece indie band were no strangers to Katie's. They got the now busy downstairs venue singing along and waving bottles clenched in fists to 'Its Not You Its Me' and in the song 'Are You A Patriot' , an Arctic Monkeys-esque number, the crowd were in full swing for the next band.

The Arcadian Kicks were back at Katie's to play their pre-ise of white festival gig for the busy welcoming Stourbridge venue. I wasn't sure what to expect from this band comprising of two girls and three guys, but I wasn't disappointed. I'm all for a girl dominated stage and

Yet another lame night on telly, and with no Bill Oddie on springwatch anymore, it was decided to go watch The Arcadian Kicks accompanied by Sunrise Over Europe, The Pargeters and cider.....not 'wrongbow' - take note guys at SLAP! At Katie Fitzgerald's in Stourbridge. If you haven't been to Katie's before....why not? It's a cracking pub venue which hosts local bands of all kinds most nights. There is a bar upstairs and downstairs is a stage setup, which is where I'm at tonight.

First up Sunrise Over Europe, the sharply dressed five piece were great to watch with some eerie haunting songs, I guess you could call them experimental with some violin bow guitar playing and breaking out the hornet during a couple of songs. They delivered a set which culminated in some chest clinching and throwing down of guitars on the floor to conclude their set.



The Arcadian Kicks

The Pargeters



these girls bought it, with the lead singer ripping out vocals on 'I Can't Sleep' reminiscent of Karen O and some mean sax playing thrown in to give The Arcadian Kicks a unique twist on their style of guitar/indie sound and the Stourbridge masses seem to agree. Dancing girl, drink in hand in close proximity to stage..... Check! Smiley singing people....check! Risk of getting an elbow in the ribs and 'wrongbow' on my head? about 80% so all in all a good night!

So if like me you're tired of Kate Humble and Chris Packham talking tits, then check out Katie Fitzgerald's Stourbridge.

P.S bring back Bill Oddie



Sunrise Over Europe

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Review

Black Cat Bone
Friday 27th May

MountPleasant Hotel, Malvern

The bar of a Basil Fawlty style hotel isn't the most auspicious of venues for Black Cat Bone's energetic rhythm and blues, and those of us who had come to see them were having to hike to the smoking garden, conveniently placed up the stairs and then a small hill from the bar. There were a few bemused patrons finishing their meals when BCB started their set but they were soon won over by the bands tight and inspired set of rhythm and blues covers, which mixed old blues numbers and traditional such as 'Dimples' and 'Georgia On My Mind' with the odd newer number such as an excellent cover of 'Can't Always Get What You Want' by The Stones. Their rhythm section never missed a beat but the showmanship came from the interplay between guitarist Stuart Silcox's amazing guitar and front man Barrie Scott's excellent blues harmonica – in fact, I've never seen a band where the mouth organ is used as a lead instrument and it has opened my eyes to the possibilities of the humble harmonica and what a great instrument it is in the right hands. The interplay between the harp and the guitar in the solos sounded brilliant, neither competing with each other but just coming together to make a great sound, and the mix was spot on, with the bass and drums clear but never threatening to drown out the vocals and lead instruments. Some how Barrie

retained enough breath to sing between his solos and his voice is suited to blues – smoky, lived in but hitting the notes and with good, clear delivery. If you like blues at all you'll love this fun, entertaining live band.



Earlier sarcasm aside I think it's great that the hotel put on a band like Black Cat Bone and over the course of the evening the bar did fill up, and the bar itself was good with a range of beer, wine and spirits all at normal pub prices. It certainly beats the insipid tinkling often found in hotels and I hope they carry on putting on acts and get a bit of a name for themselves as a venue, all that was really lacking was a few more punters. And the view from the smoking garden was lovely.

Karl Turner



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A Free Bit of Culture at the Cathedral

Worcester Cathedral had an art show running through most of June with the most amazing multimedia pieces by up-and-coming artists. The colours were amazing, the designs to die for and the mixture of ideas are incredible. I loved the pieces that looked good enough to touch – clay



tiles with succulent vines and budding flowers, carefully drawn hands reaching out of the picture with glittering jewels, material pieces



bursting with leaves and bugs, fruit and vegetables, and even a free standing triceratops called Trevor. Look around this generous selection of pieces and you would be proud to see these artists are all local, but frustrated that nothing is for sale, because amazingly all of the art on show here are the work of Worcestershire school children. I couldn't believe the standard of such work, and I highly recommend a look.



The "Voices and Visions" art exhibition is an annual celebration of visual arts in local authority schools throughout



Worcestershire. Children aged from 3 to 18 years have the opportunity to display their art and design projects and this year children from 140 county schools contributed to the show. It was not only a fabulous opportunity for children to display their work to the wider public, but also a great chance for us to enjoy their work.

The Worcester Male Voice Choir

hosted the English Association of Male Voice Choirs, a total of 250 choristers, creating an incredible sound as it filled every corner of Worcester's beautiful Cathedral. Worcester Male Voice Choir as the hosts took the opportunity to sing some songs on their own, and occasionally the singers all took a break so that the audience could enjoy the incredible soprano voice of guest soloist Claire Bessent, or the humorous whimsy of Holborne Brass ensemble.



The choirs together sang a combination of tunes from around the world, from those we know well such as the theme from Titanic and Rod Stewart's Sailing to those in African or Latin which the audience equally enjoyed. They even sang "You'll never walk alone" introduced amusingly by our compere for the night, BBC's James Lansdale, as the "only time we will ever hear it sung by so many men – in tune."

The choirs mostly rested as Claire sang Gershwin's "Summertime" and Puccini's "O Mio Babbino Caro" – two of my particular favourites. And the Holborne Brass Ensemble brought us some hilarious delights, in the shape of the fastest ever rendition of the well known "William Tell Overture", and an interesting lesser-known arrangement combining "All The Saints Go Marching In" and "The Hallelujah Chorus."

The whole night was a complete joy, and the 250 men, 5 brass players an organist a pianist and the guest soprano entertained us wonderfully in aid of Acorns and St Richard's Hospice.

Sarah Ganderton

Friday 8th July

Sunday 17th July

Saturday 23rd July

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While the unwatched clock cut him some slack
he smoked, talked and joked as he topped up black,
patient porter. Liffey water, some would say.

Don knew better, ignored their ignorance
of the Wicklow mountain source. What is true
doesn't always go down well. Circumstance
dictates that knowledge benefits the few.

He set his clock – ten minutes ahead. Dead
on eleven he'd call time. Enough said.

Words by Mike Woods

Painting reproduced with kind permission of artist
Christopher Hughes



Christopher Hughes

Review

The Cape Of Good Hope,
Vault of Eagles, Richard Clarke & The Rafters with Das Sexy Clap
June 11th 2011 The Marr's Bar



Relative calm was to be found on arrival at the Marr's Bar for a sensory delight of our cochlea's. Blowing out the cobwebs and anything else in their paths was Das Sexy Clap. Now sexy doesn't really come into their sound they lend themselves more to the clap because they sound down right dirty. With a smidgen of comedy from drummer turned front man, Chris Wemyss, and some 'do not mess with me' beats from Katy Birch, they make a lot of sound for just two people. So much so it led me to believe they had a couple of extra members hid behind the stage curtains. Winner.



Then as if it was known our ears would need a massage up stepped Richard Clarke & The Rafters, providing unashamedly acoustic songs. What they provide is perfect writing skills with much thought evident and inwardly thinking lyrics. At one point Richard Clarke used his mouth to provide some extra trumpet, which is always, a bonus and mixed perfectly into their song.



Vault of Eagles were the surprise package for many tonight unleashing their loud



and outstanding drumming from Scott Ewin. Big sound, Tiny Humans.



As audience members vied for a vantage point The Cape Of Good Hope take to the stage. These very musically adept fellows have pulled off the not always so easy trick of mixing up different time signatures while still writing hooks that are like musical treacle. Howard James Kenny drums and provides lead vocals and is almost like a ring master. They have also pulled another rabbit out the hat by



adding a second drummer Joseph Singh, this not only creates a visual point of interest to the live show but hammers home the tracks even more. A quality set throughout and a definite 'watch this space' kind of band.

Words Louie Webb
Pics Andy O'Hare

Our Mutual Friend

The Artrix in Bromsgrove – 31st July

It's a sunny afternoon and I'm having tea with **Our Mutual Friend** – a five-piece Bromsgrove band who've been on my radar for a few years now – and they're quite something... a strange mix of drama, politics, Bowie, bowler hats and intricate musicianship, **Our Mutual Friend** have taken time out of their busy schedule for a quick brew and chat with Slap Magazine.



Hello **Our Mutual Friend**, how's the tea?

Jack: Very pleasant, thank you.

Thom: I like my tea lukewarm, so I'll just let mine cool down first...

Joe: Lovely.

It's a curious band name – where did that come from?

Jack: It comes from a Divine Comedy song we covered, an orchestral ballad about a short-lived though potentially beautiful affair. It's also a Dickens novel that I'm reading at the moment.

Thom: (The Divine Comedy song) it's a tale of melancholic nostalgia and sentimental pretensions, and probably sums up our outlooks pretty well....

Sarah: ... I like to think of it as a nod to our digital generation of social networking

We talk a little bit about some of their shows I've seen, where their sound ranges from very loud and indie, to quite folksy and delicate. I want to know a bit about how they achieve this:

Who are your main musical influences?

Sarah: Jack would probably say Bowie. I'd say Franz Ferdinand I think.

Jack: Well definitely David Bowie. I thought I was him at one point but that was an awkward stage. TV On The Radio are certainly an influence with my guitar playing though not Ste's.

Stephen: yeah, I'm more Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Rolling Stones, a bit of jazz, funk, blues, soul. Anything aggressive, passionate, and groove filled.

Thom: Personally, probably Radiohead, just because I find their transition from standard nineties guitar-rock band, to avant-garde experimental outfit simply fascinating.

Joe: As a band...Bowie, Arcade Fire, The Kinks, Clapton, Neil Young, Lou Reed... Mine are pretty similar I guess, just slightly more Clapton/Winwood and slightly less Neil Young.

It's at this point I realise that interviewing a 5-piece band is no easy thing. Each of them have a lot to say, and I think it is this constant creativity and bubbling enthusiasm that makes them so likeable. It does however make for a tricky interview, and as conversation flits from Aztecs and chimney sweeps to Eferklang, Lady Gaga, harmonicas and dinosaurs, it's clear that finding out what they're all about will take more time than a cup of tea and a packet of biscuits will allow. They love music- anything from pop to avant-garde jazz; and their vast and varied influences are what makes their music that little bit different. They're also ambitious and have fun with what they do (when asked to impart some final words of wisdom, they replied: "It is wiser for a cat to wade through a sea of gravy than for a dog to traverse the river of salt...") And on that note, my time is up; the tea is drunk, and the biscuits long eaten.

Our Mutual Friend – with their eclectic indie-rock sound, harmonious vocals and clever guitars- are playing **The Artrix** in Bromsgrove on the 31st July, and are definitely worth checking out.

by Imogen Buller



Review Arts Workshop, Worcester

Robinson, Jasper, Richard Clarke & The Rafterers – Friday 27th May 2011

Tonight was the night for raising funds it seems. The Arts Workshop got the nod for me at least, although I hear tales of a top evening at Keystones where the Worcester Music Festival were holding their first of the year shin dig.

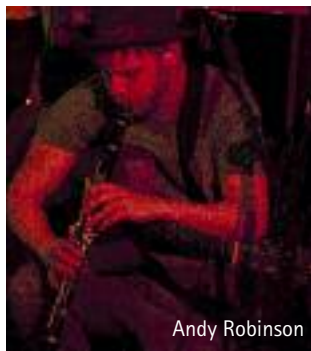
Whilst I dithered about which fund raiser to attend, I miss the amazing Richard Clarke and the Rafterers, although disappointed, I put it behind me and focused on what was to come...

I grab a drink (more about that later) and wonder down stairs to the coolest venue in Worcester. Shane 'Jasper' Husbands, having started as a solo performer doing a mix of covers and self penned material, now fronts his own band. A collected bunch of musicians gathered along the way, resulting a beautiful and dare I say it unique blend of sounds, enhanced by the rhythmic strumming of Jak Hayward on Ukulele. The set developed as the attendees grew in numbers, I'm sure I remember calls for more but I was by that time a little anxious to quench my thirst on the newly available cider on offer upstairs at Cafe Bliss.

So that was Jasper... A bit loss for Worcester it turns out as rumour has it he's leaving Worcester and buzzing off to Derby in the not so distant future.

Ok, back to my seat, well near to it at least; the crowd had begun to swell and I was now sitting back a row or two. No matter I thought, I know what the band Robinson look like, hang on, isn't that the bass player from Jasper, yep, Will Hughes is till on stage playing yet another genre of music. A far cry from the 'big' rocky sounding Scarlet Carmina.

After a short rest from their American tour and with Richard Clarke switching to guitar, Robinson are playing



Andy Robinson

their new set to an enthusiastic audience of which there were plenty, much to the apparent surprise of Andy Robinson himself, who seemed genuinely humbled by the crowd. It was only the 2nd gig they had done as the full band playing their newer songs.

This is great for Worcester I thought as I eagerly listen to the new tunes, thinking what a cool venue this is. Shame on the powers that be for not fully supporting 'our' Arts Workshop.



Richards Clarke

The band then launched into their recent release 'England's Bleeding Now' which hit the spot, not only for the audience but also for me. The energy and anger comes through despite the calm homely feel of the venue, the mainly seated audience feeling every emotion and who by now are well into the vibe. After needlessly apologising for not having more songs released, Robinson leave the stage.

Next stop for them is playing the Cambridge Folk festival where they get to share the likes of Newton Faulkner and Frank Turner. Along with the small matter of guesting on BBC Radio 2 for the Janice Long session, all the hard work should pay off.



We all rushed off down to Keystones to catch Smoke Stack play out the Worcester Music Festival Fundraiser, by which time the cider had taken hold and I was simply happy... I will need to see this band again before I put pen to paper, not before I pass judgement, but because they were amazing, fronted by the very agreeable sisters Clay!

Venue Guide

Adam & Eve (Pub)

201 Bradford Street, Birmingham B12 0JD
0121 6931500

The Anchor Inn (Pub)

Cotheridge Lane, Eckington, WR10 3BA
01386 750 356

The Angel (Pub)

14 Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN
01905 723 229

The Art House Cafe (Cafe)

Crowngate Shopping Centre, Chapel Walk,
Worcester, WR1 3LD
01905 617 161

Artrix (Theatre)

Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ
01527 577 330

Barley Mow (Pub)

3 Hanbury Street, Droitwich, WR9 8PL
01905 773 248

The Bell (Pub)

35 St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5AG
01905 424 570

The Black Cross (Pub)

70 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AG
01527 876 052

The Blackpole Inn (Pub)

Blackpole Road, Worcester,
01905 451 180

The Blue Bell Inn (Pub)

Ryall, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0PP
01684 594 624

The Boston Tea Party (Cafe)

18 Broad Street, Worcester, WR1 3NF
01905 26472

The Bull Hotel

14 Bullring, Ludlow, SW8 1AD
01584 877227

The Bridge Inn (Pub)

Plough Road, Tibberton, Droitwich WR9 7NQ
01905 345874

The Bridge Hotel

87 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells,
Worcestershire, WR15 8AE
01584 810434

Callow End Social Club (Club)

8 Upton Road, Callow End, Worcester, WR2
4TE
01905 640 909

Cap 'n' Gown (Pub)

45 Upper Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JZ

01905 28914

The Cock & Magpie (Pub)

1 Severnside North, Bewdley, DY12 2EE
01299 405 842

The Cross Keys (Pub)

79 Belmont Road, Malvern, WR14 1PN
01684 572 945

The Crown Inn (Pub)

Peopleton WR10 2EE
01905 840222

Drummonds (Pub)

28 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DP
01905 28190

Evesham Arts Centre

Victoria Avenue, Evesham, WR11 4QH
01386 488 83

The Fleece Inn (Pub)

The Cross, Bredfordton, Nr Evesham WR11 7JE
01386 831173

The Firefly (Pub)

54 Lowesmoor, Worcester, WR1 2SE
01905 616 996

The Garibaldi (Pub)

Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester, WR2
5DJ
01905 780 464

The Great Malvern Hotel

Graham Road, Malvern, WR14 2HN
01684 563 411

The Green Dragon (Pub)

126 Quarford Road, Malvern, WR14 3QT
01684 572 350

The Hand In Glove (Pub)

25 College Street, Worcester, WR1 2LS
01905 612 154

Hare & Hounds (Pub)

106 High St, Kings Heath, Birmingham
B14 7JZ
0121 4442081

The Hop Pole (Pub)

Hop Pole Lane, Cleobury Road, Bewdley,
DY12 2QH
01299 401 295

The Hop Pole (Pub)

78 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, B61
0DF
01527 870 100

Huntington Hall (Theatre)

Crowngate, Worcester, WR1 3LD
01905 611 427

Katie Fitzgerald's (Pub)

187 Envilge Street, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB
01384 374 410

Keystones Cafe Bar (Pub)

1 Copenhagen St, Worcester, WR1 2HB
01905 731 437

The Kings Head (Pub)

Riverside, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0HF
01684 592 621

Lanes Bar

Unit 1, Everoak Industrial Estate,
Bromyard Road,
St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5HN
07770 650 849

The Little Packhorse (Pub)

31 High Street, Bewdley, DY12 2DH
01299 403 762

The Marris Bar (Club)

12 Pierpoint St, Worcester, WR1 1TA
01905 613 336

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01886 889064

The Mount Pleasant (Pub)

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01684 561 837

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29 Vine Street, Worcester, WR3 7DY
01905 452 244

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WR10 2NZ
01386 860 380

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01905 619 622

Queens Head (Pub)

Wolverley Village, Kidminster, DY11 5XB
01562 850 433

The Royal Oak (Pub)

5 The Southend, Ledbury, HR8 2EY
01531 632 110

The Red Line

St Annes Road, Malvern WR14 4RG
01684 564787

The River Rooms (Venue)

Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN
01384 397177

The Stagborough Arms (Pub)

Lickhill Road, Stourport, DY13 8UQ
01299 823 899

The Swan Inn

76-78 Port St. Bengeworth,
Evesham
01386 49587

The Star Inn + Hotel (Pub)

High St, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0HQ
01684 493 432

The Swan (Pub)

Vicar Street, Kidderminster, DY10 1DE
01562 823 008

The Swan Hotel (Pub)

Waterside, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0JD
01684 594 948

The Swan Theatre (Theatre)

The Moors, Worcester, WR1 3ED
01905 611 427

The Swan With Two Nicks (Pub)

28 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DP
01905 28190

The Talbot (Pub)

52 Newlands, Pershore, WR10 1BW
01386 553 575

Tramps Nightclub (Club)

Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN
01905 20218

Worcester Arts Workshop (Cafe)

21 Sansome St, Worcester, WR1 1UH
01905 21095

Wagon & Horses (Pub)

28 Adderley St, Birmingham B9 4ED
0121 7721403

Ye Olde Black Cross (Pub)

70 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7AG
01527 873 401

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blues
festival

15-17 July
2011



Over 90 Free Performances

Featuring The Stumble, Paul Lamb & the Kingsnakes, Hokie Joint, Rattlin' Bone, Simon 'Honeyboy' Hickling, Steve 'Big Man' Clayton, The Toy Hearts, Tipitina, Outwoods County Riders, The Big Blues Tribe Unplugged, The Fabulous Boogie Boys, The Official Receivers, Gwyn Ashton, Babajack, Bare Bones Boogie Band, Bluesical Youth, Sunday Morning Gospel Choir ... and that's just on two of our three main stages!

Fantastic Riverside Town

Some of the Best British Blues

Excellent Camping Facilities

Outstanding Weekend's Entertainment!

www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk

Friday 1 July 2011

Los Endos

The Shirehall, St Peters Square, Hereford, HR12HX

FreewaterR

The Olde Queen's Head, Birmingham Street, Halesowen

Ronda

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Hotfoot

Golden Lion, Bromsgrove

Clive John

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Slowburner

The Queens Head, Wolverley

The Pull

The Talbot, Pershore

Umphff, Ronda, Physics

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Voodoo

The Kings Head, Upton

Clive John

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Notorious Brothers

The Garibaldi Worcester

Saturday 2 July 2011

The ExPresidents

The Cross Keys, Belmont Rd, Malvern

Devoted To Rock

The Bridge Hotel, Tenbury Wells

FreewaterR

The Queen Vic, Gloucester Street, Stroud

The AdamsJovi Experience

Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Avenue, Evesham

SJS Band

The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Carnival Night with Contraband

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Hotfoot

The Old Beams, Stourport

Vo & Tyler (Day)

The Morgan, Malvern

Vo & Tyler

The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Fabulous Bordellos

Ludlow Rugby Club

This Wicked Tongue

The Railway Hotel, Evesham

The Crush Band

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

This Wicked Tongue, Laura Broad, Babajack, Tina V,

Mickey Mann Duo, The Cohen Brothers, The Breakfast Club, Sam Holmes, Meet on the Ledge
3 Staged Areas - High St; Shopping Centre; Vines Park, Droitwich Town Centre, Droitwich Spa.

Sub Kon All Nighter

The Arthouse, Worcester

Matt Peplow

The Garibaldi Worcester

Sunday 3 July 2011

Tom Hill's Straitjackets 2011, Bob Jones Stripped Down, Becky Rose, Babble, The Roving Crows Blues, Stomping on Spiders, Tina V + Friends - Jam session
Marquee Vines Park, Saltway, Droitwich

Jazzenco (1pm-4pm)

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Umphff

White Bear, Tewkesbury

Monday 4 July 2011

Open Mic Night

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Agata Azzolina

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vo & Tyler

The Gloster Arms, Malvern

Agata's Piano Evening

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tuesday 5 July 2011

Open Mic Night

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Guest Host Simon

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Spoken Word & Acoustic Music Night

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Wednesday 6 July 2011

Rhythm n Blues with Dave Small & Friends

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Marzy's Jamming Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester

This Wicked Tongue

Unplug, Digbeth, Birmingham

Music Night

The Morgan, Malvern

Thursday 7 July 2011

Becky Rose
Jamhouse, Birmingham

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester
Babble
The Prom, Bristol

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Umphff
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Open Mic Night
West Malvern Social Club

Gibberfish
The Star Hotel, Upton

Keefie & The Bees
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night with Lion Heart
The Red Lion, St Ann's Road, Malvern

State of Indie-Pendence
Velvet Night Club Worcester

Friday 8 July 2011

Carly Dee
Croft Farm, Bredons Hardwicke, Tewkesbury

Crooked Empire, Skewwhiff
The Firefly, Worcester

The Naked Flames
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Chronographs, Dakota Ruins, The Orchard, Shallow Tides
The Queens Head, Redditch

The Crooked Empire, Skewwhiff
The Firefly, Worcester

The Mood Elevators
The Village Inn, Beoley, Redditch

Woody & The Stuntcocks
The Kings Head, Upton

Jean Genie – Bowie Tribute
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ghandi's Walrus
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Vault of Eagles
Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Emma Skip Band
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Stealth
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Pink Traffic Band
The Bridge Hotel, Tenbury Wells

Burlesque
The Arthouse Cafe, Worcester

Sax n Axe
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Absolute Ataxia, Aulos, The Retinal Circus, Ash Mandrake
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester
Worcester City FC Beer & Cider Festival
See page 32 for full listings

Saturday 9 July 2011

Becky Rose, Freewater, Stomping On Spiders
Gardeners Arms, Vines Lane, Droitwich

Kevin Underwood
The Packhorse, Bewdley

All 4 One
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Hoden Lane
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Umphff
The Antelope Inn, Warwickshire

Naked Remedy
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Funky Navigation (Dj Set)
Heroes Bar, Worcester

Barnbopper Presents The Splitters, Sister Sandwich & Shuddervision Dj's. More TBC!
The Wagon & Horses, Birmingham

FreewaterR, Stompin' On Spiders, Becky Rose
The Gardeners Arms - Droitwich Music Festival, Vines Lane, Droitwich

Naked Remedy
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Flatworld
West Fest, Playing Field, West Malvern

Aquarius
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Lakota Sioux, Autumn Lily
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

Natalie Parkes, Chris Jones, Dan Greenaway, Abby Davies, Carly Dee, Time of the Mouth
St Andrews Shopping Centre, Droitwich Town Centre, Droitwich Spa

The ExPresidents
The Bell, Worcester

Sue Holmes
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Worcester City FC Beer & Cider Festival
See page 32 for full listings

ASA
The Garibaldi Worcester

Sunday 10 July 2011

One Sixth Of Tommy
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham

Colwall Family Music Festival (See website)
Colwall Cricket Club, Stowe Lane, Colwall

Open Mic Night
The Copcut Elm , Worcester Road, Droitwich

Jazz Toones (1pm – 2pm)
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Lazy Lunch with Flat Stanley, Skewwhiff, Smokefarm
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Monday 11 July 2011

Open Mic Night
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Agata's Piano Evening
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tuesday 12 July 2011

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Guest Host Pete
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 13 July 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Kevin Underwood
The Masons Arms, Wichenford

Worcestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Music Night
The Morgan, Malvern

Grumpy Old Guitarists
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Thursday 14 July 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Pull
The Hand in Glove

Rue Royale
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night with Lion Heart
The Red Lion, St Ann's Road, Malvern

The Big Blues Tribe
The Swan, Kidderminster

State of Indie-Pendence
Velvet Night Club Worcester

Friday 15 July 2011

Bridge Bash

Upton Blues Festival

Carly Dee, James Cooper, Dan Lloyd
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Delta Ladies
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Matt Woosey
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Autumn Lily, Nowhere But Here, Mudball
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Upton Blues Festival

Voodoo Blue
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 16 July 2011

Bridge Bash

Upton Blues Festival

FreewaterR
The Miners Welfare Hall, Wesley Road, Cinderford,

Journeymen
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

SJS Band, Bullet of Steel
The Sketchley Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
The Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Bang Bang Billie
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Time Of The Mouth
The Bridge Hotel, Tenbury Wells

The May-Sampson Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

NutFest 2011
Skewwhiff, Spoonfedz, Vo & Tyler, Ruby & Edd, Bob King, The inevitables, The Velvetines
The Old Chestnut Tree, Lower Moor, Pershore

Upton Blues Festival

Warren
The Garibaldi Worcester

Sunday 17 July 2011

Bridge Bash

Upton Blues Festival

Big B Jazz Band (1pm - 4pm)
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Reggae Reggae Sunday
The Arthouse Cafe, Worcester

Monday 18 July 2011

Open Mic Night
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Agata's Piano Evening
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tuesday 19 July 2011

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Guest Host Keith
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Wednesday 20 July 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music Night
The Morgan, Malvern

Thursday 21 July 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Nice n Sleazy
The Star Hotel, Upton

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Naked Remedy
Vudu, Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham

Open Mic Night
West Malvern Social Club

Giles Robson & The Dirty Aces
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night with Lion Heart
The Red Lion, St Ann's Road, Malvern

State of Indie-Pendence
Velvet Night Club Worcester

Friday 22 July 2011

GreenHead Man
The River Rooms, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge

The Bones
The Kings Head, Upton

Hotfoot
Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Eckington Smoothies
The Anchor Inn, Eckington

The Mood Elevators
The Royal Oak, Studley

Matt Woosey
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Pete Zimmer Band
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Ronin
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Black Russian, All The Kings Friends, Becky Rose
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Greenheadman
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Kev n Dave Soul Duo
The Star Hotel, Upton

Example
Lanes Bar, Worcester

Saturday 23 July 2011

FreewaterR
The Virgin Tavern, Worcester,

Kevin Underwood
The Swan, Upton

Independant
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Mr Wolf
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Vo & Tyler
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Archives, Redbook, Evilwitch, This Wicked Tongue &
Becky Rose
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Worcester Auto Club, Perdiswell, Worcester

Hotfoot
Studley Conservatory Club, Studley

Toyah
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Skynt
The Bridge Hotel, Tenbury Wells

Reprized
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Sam Eden
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern
Not For Squares (DJs)
The Arthouse Cafe, Worcester

Mike Prince
The Garibaldi Worcester



Sunday 24 July 2011

Remy Harris Trio (1pm - 4pm)
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Monday 25 July 2011

Open Mic Night
The Little Pack Horse, Bewdley

Agata's Piano Evening
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tuesday 26 July 2011

Open Mic Night
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hotfoot
The Roadhouse, Birmingham

Open Mic Night with Guest Host Jim
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Jake Flowers
The Cock & Magpic, Bewdley

Wednesday 27 July 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Thursday 28 July 2011

The Undercover Aces
The Star Hotel, Upton

Jules Benjamin & Friends
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Lakota Sioux, Poetry in Numbers, No Americana,
APX, PNW
O2 Academy 3, Birmingham

Mike Mann & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Music Night
The Morgan, Malvern

Naked Remedy
Robin 2, Bilston

Kevin Underwood
The Hand In Glove, Worcester

Open Mic Night
West Malvern Social Club

Open Mic Night with Lion Heart
The Red Lion, St Ann's Road, Malvern

Jester
The Swan, Kidderminster

State of Indie-Pendence
Velvet Night Club Worcester

Friday 29 July 2011

Nozstock

Freewater
The Gate Inn, 34 Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield

Otis Mack & The Tubby Bluesters
The Queens Head, Wolverley

The Official Receivers and Guests
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Junction 7
The Bluebell Inn, Ryall, Upton

The Mood Elevators
The Mount Pleasant Hotel, Malvern

Dandelion Killers, Ronin
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Naked Flames, Babelfish, Koda
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Hotfoot
The Swan, Blakedown

The Barrel House Blues Band
The Kings Head, Upton

Funky Navigation (Dj Set)
Heroes Bar, Worcester

Undercover
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Saturday 30 July 2011

Nozstock

The Fabulous Bordellos
The Hollybush, Hay-on-Wye

Will Killeen
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Charity Night with Jay Rivers Band (In Garden)
The Queens Head, Wolverley

The Sultana Brothers
The Bridge Hotel, Tenbury Wells

Beth Harris
The Swan Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Sunday 31 July 2011

Nozstock

Justin Magnum & The Lusty Pirates, Smokestack,
SuperKaine, Crank
The Bell, Worcester

GreenHead Man
The Stagborough Arms, Stourport-on-Severn

The Cowley Cowboys
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Will Kileen
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Kevin Underwood
The Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

Our Mutual Friend, Lakota Sioux, John Macleod
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Strumpit
The Queens Head, Wolverley

THE Teme Valley Festival

Bridge Bash 2011



15th-17th
July

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50+ BANDS
3 STAGES

Over 60 Real Ales, Ciders & Perrys



Simon Fowler & Oscar Morrison
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Saturday £35
Sunday £10
Weekend £65*

*Tickets bought in advance.
Prices revert to £75
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camping included

FREE Parking & Camping

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THE MARR'S BAR

JULY 2011

Casino
Friday 15th



Rory McLeod (Singer / Songwriter and a lot more)

Friday 1st - Tickets £8 or £10 on the door

Ian Gibson's Memorial Gig (with The Barflys)

Saturday 2nd - Tickets £7

Declan Bennett (Singer / Songwriter)

Sunday 3rd - Tickets £5 or £6 on the door

Comedy Zone Presents: Alun Cochrane and Little Howard's Big Show

Thursday 7th - Tickets £10

Riff Raff (AC/DC Tribute)

Friday 8th - Tickets £4 or £5 on the door

The Modern (Indie)

Saturday 9th - Tickets £4

Comedy Zone Special - Josh Widdicombe and Henry Paker

Thursday 14th - Tickets £10

Casino (Stereophonics guitarist's own band)

Friday 15th - Tickets £10

Inca Hoots Album Launch Party

Saturday 16th - Tickets £5

Spoonfedz EP Launch

Friday 22nd - Tickets £4 or £5 on the door

This Wicked Tongue, Evilwitch, Archives, Redbook and Becky Rose (Rock)

Saturday 23rd - Tickets £3 or £5 on the door

Ronin EP release party! (Rock)

Friday 29th - Tickets £4 or £5 on the door

Jasper in the company of others (Leaving Party)

Saturday 30th - Tickets £3 or £5 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night
Dates available for private hire

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
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