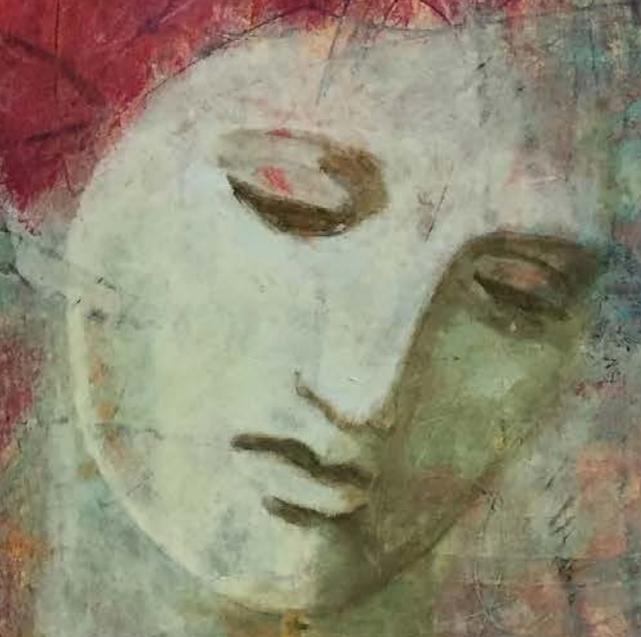


# SLAP

Issue 61

Aug 2016

FREE



**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**

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# SLAP

Aug 2016 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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Well July was fun, from what I can remember anyway!

We certainly got around... There was the Upton Blues Festival followed closely by Nozstock followed very closely by a certain magazine deadline. We cover these two very contrasting experiences and much more in this issue, such as Barn on the Farm Festival and of course just a fraction of the many music and arts events happening around these parts.

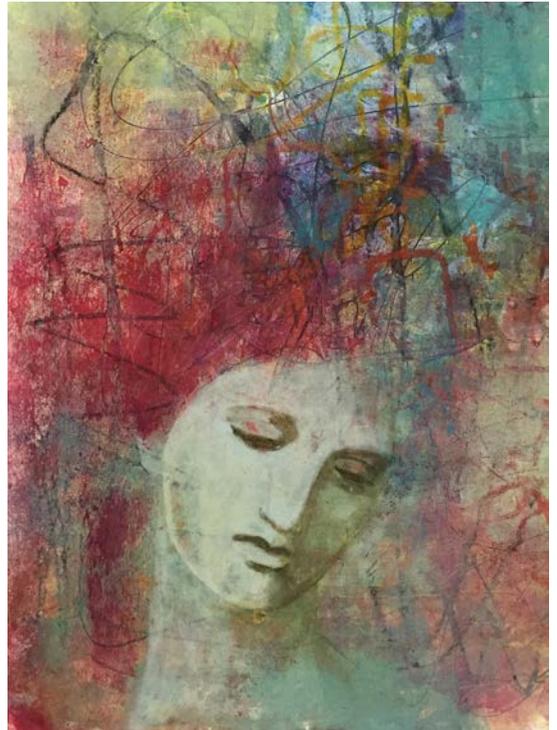
This brings us to the small matter of August! As the theatre's slow down for the summer holidays we have plenty of local music festivals to look forward to, such as: Jinney Ring Blues; Down on the Farm at Abbeydore, Hereford; Summerfest in Cheltenham; The Morton Stanley in Redditch; The Drunken Monkey near Upton & The Old Bush Blues at Callow End to name but a few. Then of course there's one or two bigger festivals such Lakefest at the new site at Eastnor and Sportbeat in Gloucester.

And for something a little different there's the Kidderminster Arts Festival which runs throughout the month of August as well as Worcester Open Studio's offering a series of pop up exhibitions both of which highlight the high standard and sheer diversity of arts in the Shires...

In the meantime, we'll carry on bringing you all the news of other happenings locally, which is where you come in... Please keep us informed of events in your area or why not have a go at writing a review of something that excited you on your travels. Remember we are nothing without your input and support. So thanks as always for picking up your copy of Slap. And thanks too for all the kind words we get on a regular basis, they really do keep us going when all we seem to get through other media is doom and gloom.

On a brighter note, our competition winners have received their prized Cravats albums (one of Redditch's finest bands). We picked 3 winners from the huge response we received. They are Paul Rabjohn & Kenny Gibson both of Droitwich and Jason Gubnuf Doody of Redditch.

*Ed Able*



Front Cover Image: Painting by Dora Williams on display at Worcester Open Studios - Friday 26 to Monday 29 August

## New Installation for Suz

New **Worcestershire Poet Laureate Suz Winspear** has also been installed as **Poet-in-Residence** at the **Museum Of Royal Worcester Porcelain** with a brief to attract new audiences. Suz said that the museum offers her a 'wealth of inspiration' and she intends her year in residence to be 'a celebration of the skill and creativity of the ordinary working-class people of Worcester who created the most beautiful porcelain in the world' - follow her poems and performances at [www.museumofroyalworcester.org](http://www.museumofroyalworcester.org)



## Charges Now Apply

In a bizarre move **Upton Town Council** has voted to charge festivals like **Upton Blues** and **Upton Jazz** £150 a day for use of the playing fields to cover the costs of cleaning and grass-cutting - despite the events bringing in hundreds of thousands of visitors to the town over the years and making considerable financial donations themselves to town projects and infrastructure - £40,000 last year from the Blues Festival. Opposing councillors said that this move would 'kill the golden goose' and that 'we have cut off our noses to spite our faces' - the price of everything and the value of nothing eh?

## Cher gets Activated

A new-look **Cher Lloyd** has released her new single *Activated* - six years after the Malvern singer found fame on X Factor and hit the number one chart spot with *Swagger Jagger* - Cher's apparently now 'cracked the USA' and currently lives in Los Angeles - a long way from her last gig in Malvern at the Three Counties Show!



## Cast join the Lakfest Party

**Cast** have been announced as the final big headline act for **Lakfest** - taking place at the old Big Chill site at **Eastnor Castle** from 11-14 August - joining **Primal Scream** and **We Are Scientists** on top billing. Other leading acts already announced include **Starsailor**, **The Coral** and **Newton Faulkner** with main stage spots also allocated to local outfits **The Roving Crows**, **Jasper in The Company Of Others** and **Erica!**

## Sabbath Coming Home to Rest

The end has been announced for 'the greatest metal band of all time' as **Ozzy Osbourne**, **Tony Iommi** and **Geezer Butler** reunite **Black Sabbath** once more for their final tour - which finishes with two gigs at Birmingham's Genting Arena on February 2 & 4 next year - a spokesman saying 'for them to play their final shows back where it all began in Birmingham will be emotional, historic and momentous' - oh and probably quite loud as well...

## Matt Heads to the Hills

Despite now living in Germany, **Matt Woosey** will return as promised to Malvern for his third annual birthday bash at the **Coach House Theatre** on 12 August. His recent album *Desiderata* is described as his most daring and progressive to date, darting between folk, roots, ambient and electronica...

## Local Acts get to the Big Stage



Congratulations to Hereford acts **George Barnett** (AKA George) and **Cherry Shoes** who were successfully nominated by BBC Hereford & Worcester to play on the BBC Introducing stages at Glastonbury and T In The Park respectively this summer - in addition Bromyard's **Remi Harris** was also trotted over to demonstrate his gypsy jazz guitar skills at Montreal Jazz Festival which was broadcast on BBC Radio 2 and 3.

## Robinson Cider Barge

The more eagle-eyed of you might have noticed local lad **Andy Robinson** playing his guitar on a canal boat in the opening shots of an advert for a well-known brand of cider - which aired often on ITV during the Euro Football Championships - Andy's posted a link to the full performance on his social media page!



## Blues Fest to Smash the Record

Besides drawing in record numbers of visitors (estimated 20,000) and 3,500 campers over the weekend **Upton Blues Festival** are also awaiting ratification from the Guinness Book Of Records for the most number of people (353) playing *Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life* using swanee whistles (!) Festival chairman **Oliver Carpenter** said 'we whistled along to it for some five minutes - before we started we were wondering what it would be like - but everyone was astonished at how half-reasonable it sounded...'

STOP PRESS: Keep an eye out for a pro Corbyn rally coming up in Worcester in the next month...



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The **Cabinet of Lost Secrets** team is just recovering from its second year at **Nozstock**, with another crazy design coupled with fantastic sets from all the live bands, DJ's and performers (and included a secret gig from **Jurassic 5's** legendary **MC Akil** which filled the Cabinet as word spread fast around site!)

**Click Klik** is producing several new installations this month! Firstly I'm collaborating with **Spare Room Arts, Capas Music & Collective Unconscious** to deliver the **Glitter Playground** to St Georges Park, Kidderminster as part of **KAF**; then a new street micro venue in **Boomtown's Wild West District**, '**Pie n' Tash**' Barber shop for a usual helping of Click mischief! Followed by the **Green Man** then **Shambala** for the brand new '**Cabinet of Strange Reflections**', an interactive installation for thoughts and play! [www.clickklikcollective.com](http://www.clickklikcollective.com)



**Ordinary, Zeb and Authur Shark** contributing this is serious business with no fillers.

The quality of art work being left on the streets is gallery quality which shrewd **FAFW** fans are lapping up.

Melo said "I have been leaving free art on the streets for years but never had a name for it, this gives it a name a banner. This is not an original idea however it gives it a purpose. I once found some free art stuffed in a fence at a very well known urban paint festival and that feeling is hard to explain, the feeling of leaving your Art for someone you will never meet but could connect with on a daily basis and possibly influence is also a feeling hard to describe".



## Strong Rooms

**Strong Rooms** is a new project by **Mohammed Ali MBE** and **Soul City Arts**, developed by **Archives West Midlands** and **Arts Connect**, the Bridge organisation for the **West Midlands Arts Council England**.

The project is engaging new audiences and young people in Rugby, Coventry, Dudley and Worcester with the aim of leaving a strong, lasting impression of what archives are, how they can be used and why they are relevant.

Anybody can get involved, the guidelines are simple: do something artistic weather a piece of art, a poem, a scribble on paper; leave it on the streets with a little note saying 'Free Free Free' and ask kindly that the finder will post a pic of their find to [www.facebook.com/freeartfridayworcestershire](http://www.facebook.com/freeartfridayworcestershire). Coming to a Friday near you... Goodluck.



Mohammed is working with visual artist **Rob Hewitt** (Redhawk Logistica), film-makers **Matt Parker & Chris Mogridge**, sculptor **Melanie Tomlinson**, spoken word artists **Shaun (Evoke) Welch & Kokumo**, photographer **Anand Chhabra**, calligrapher **Shaheen Ahmed** and producer **Steve McLean**. You can see the Worcester element at the **Worcester Show** at **Gheluvelt Park** on **Saturday 14th August**.

## Free Art Friday makes it to the shire!

Worcestershire that is, for the past 5 months a small group of artists brought together by the artist **Melo** have been leaving artwork all across Worcestershire. Over 85 pieces of original art have been left on the streets with clues posted on Facebook and Instagram for lucky members of the public to find, take home and treasure. '**Freeartfridayworcestershire**' (FAFW) has created a hard-core following with some followers travelling miles to bag some free art, with artists like **Melo, Project Eleven, Deeds, Mr**

## Worcester Canal Group Mural

The new painting underneath Lansdowne Road bridge mentioned last month is now complete. It was a real community effort; this time as well as **Worcester Canal Group** members it involved **St Pauls Creative Group** and children from **St Barnabas**, all taken over to the far side of the canal in a boat belonging to the **Canal and River Trust**, wearing lifejackets supplied by **Worcester Marina**.



Lots of different painting styles are on display with the theme of local wildlife. Worcester Canal Group is about improving the canal for the benefit of the local community and visitors.

**Graham Fowler** from the group said "We want to promote conservation and our canal is an important wildlife corridor. A habitat for many species in its own right, it is also a route for migration and the spread of new species. What is important is to recognise the habitats, recognise their value to wildlife and by taking small actions over a long period enhance them."

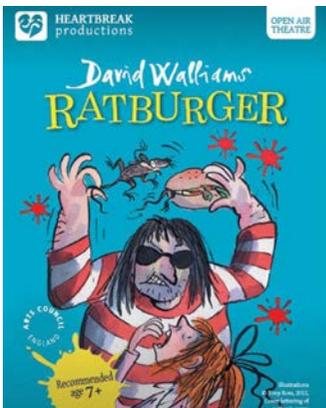
So the mural is just the beginning. The next step is to encourage as many people as possible to take part in the **Worcester Canal Wildlife Week** in mid September. It is not difficult to join in, just get a simple recording form, spot as much wildlife as you can in the week and let us know. You can find out more on our website at [www.worcestercanalgroup.org.uk](http://www.worcestercanalgroup.org.uk)

# David Walliams' Ratburger

## Hartlebury Castle | Friday 5 August

David Walliams' background as a comedian is more apparent than ever in his award winning children's story **Ratburger** which promises to delight families. Brought to the stage by Heartbreak Productions this hilarious modern children's thriller will be at Hartlebury Castle on Friday 5 August.

Settle down to a picnic in the **Carriage Circle** and follow the adventures of Zoe as she battles through a life filled with grizzly characters, including the menacing Burt, of Burt's Burgers, who's after her and her pet rat! Starting at 6.30pm, with a BBQ serving Really Awfully Tasty (RAT) Burgers from 5pm, it's a perfect way to spend a summer evening with the family.



**David Walliams** is fast becoming one of Britain's best loved children's story tellers, with *Ratburger* voted the best children's book of 2012. *Ratburger* follows the much loved tradition in children's books of combining absurdity and grossness with humour and heart, creating an unforgettable children's thriller that will have you rooting for Zoe.



**Jacqui Watson**, Trustee for Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust, said: "Last year's production of *Mr Stink* went down a storm and we're excited that Heartbreak are back this year with a new Walliams story to thrill young and old alike. Bring a blanket and a picnic, or grab a Really Awfully Tasty (RAT) burger from the BBQ, and settle down for a great evening with the family."

Tickets for *Ratburger* on 5 August are £14 for adults and £7.50 for children (if booked in advance), and £15.50 for adults and £8.50 for children on the door.

The performance is suitable for children aged seven and older. Doors open at 5pm with the performance starting at 6.30pm.

To book your tickets call 01299 250416 or visit the County Museum shop.

# TALK TO US

If things are getting to you

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## Discover art made in Worcestershire Worcestershire Open Studios Friday 26 to Monday 29 August

People will discover a wide range of art and craft created in our county this August bank holiday weekend when artists open their doors for the second **Worcestershire Open Studios**.

Over four days, from **26th to 29th August**, the public are invited into artists' studios, homes and shared spaces at 45 different locations across the county. Entry to all venues is free.

A diverse range of work by over 100 local artists will be on show ranging from painting, printmaking and photography to glasswork, jewellery and textiles. Visitors will have a chance to talk to artists about the inspiration behind their creations and watch some of them at work.

Abstract painter, **Cherrie Mansfield**, who is one of the event organisers, said, "Worcestershire Open Studios is a great opportunity to meet local artists and see a wide range of the fantastic artistic talent right here in our county – from Badsey to Pershore and Colwall to Upton. Whether you're new to art or a seasoned gallery visitor, you'll receive a warm welcome."

Amongst the artists taking part in Worcester are **Karen** and **Nigel Stone** whose work includes drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Internationally recognised artists **Sara Haywood** and **Paul Powis** are also participating. Their work includes Sara's seascapes and portraits and Paul's vibrant representational paintings, which lean towards abstraction.



Nigel Stone

Also in the city, **Jain McKay** and **Paul Johnson** come together to show works on paper and canvas, books and prints. And at **The Boston Tea Party**, the **Arts in Mind Foundation** is putting on an exhibition. The group supports adults with lived experience of mental ill health to express themselves creatively.

Over in Leigh Sinton, self-taught artist, **Steve Letchford** will share paintings and drawings of buildings and landscapes observed during his travels across the UK. **Silver Tree Studio** will showcase sterling silver, copper and gemstone jewellery at **The Fold** in Bransford. Colourful abstracts will feature at **Sue Firmin's** Lower Broadheath home. Sue says, "I am looking forward to sharing my work with visitors and hearing their opinions. They can expect a warm welcome and a cuppa!"

**Dora Williams** is opening one of 12 venues in Malvern. Much of her current work is based on the human form. She says, "I like the



Worcestershire  
**Open Studios**

## See over 100 artists' work in 45 locations over 4 days

Free entry to artist studios, galleries and  
exhibitions around Worcestershire

# 26–29 August 2016

[www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk)



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close interaction with people who are interested in art, visitors can ask questions about the artwork - my methods, influences and inspirations." (See Front Cover)

Also in Malvern are figurative painter **Alison Chambers**, whose recent work focuses on cityscapes, and **Trudi Foggo** who works in a range of media including acrylic, oils, inks and collage.

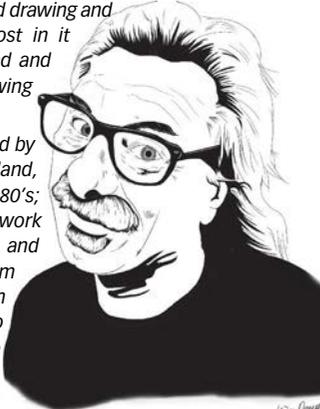
Established art spaces including **The Kestrel Gallery** and **The Kings** and **Mangojuice Galleries** in Worcester are also taking part along with **Origin Arts Limited**, which sells professional work and accessories from its online gallery and offers classes for budding artists. A full list of participating artists and galleries can be found at [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk).

## Wes Dance

Worcester's own **Wes Dance** is best known as a singer-songwriter; for the musical delights he offers us. However, he is also a grand illustrator, a lesser-known talent that we fancied featuring, so you can all see his extra curriculum creativity!

"I started sketching drawing at a young age, about 4 or 5, I wanted to creatively replicate the things I saw, like birds etc, moving onto comics such as the Beano, then later on the dark violence of 2000AD, where I was introduced to the ink-work of Brian Bolland. When I was 15 years of age, after playing guitar for a few years, I forgot about drawing and got heavily into music. I tried to continue the visual arts side by doing an art A-level, completing the odd pencil sketch/watercolour now and then, but music was everything at that point. Around 15 years later I bought some Indian ink and started drawing and suddenly found myself lost in it again. I then bought a pad and stylus and started drawing with photoshop.

I'm still heavily influenced by the ink work of Brian Bolland, particularly from the early 80's; the accuracy of his line work and the use of light and shadow. Additionally, I'm influenced by anything in pop culture from music to politics. I think anyone who saw my work would think I was heavily into comics,



## Dotty the Dragon lands at Hartlebury Castle

**Blunderbus Theatre** are bringing their acclaimed family theatre production of **Dotty the Dragon to Hartlebury Castle** on Thursday 25th August. Using songs and puppetry to delight and enchant, Dotty the Dragon is the perfect way to introduce children to the magic of theatre. The performance starts at 3.30pm and promises plenty of surprises along the way, so pack a picnic and get ready to follow the adventures of **Dotty the baby Fire Dragon** as she goes on a journey to make friends. **Claire Whitbread**, Projects and Partnership Officer, said: "This is such a wonderful performance for young families to engage in the magic of live theatre and storytelling. It's a really fun and laid back performance that will really entertain young and old alike, and what better place to meet Dotty the Dragon than a castle!"



Tickets £8.50 adults and £7.50 for children, with a family saver ticket of £30 for up to four people. Ages 3+. 3.30pm. The County Museum has a packed programme of children activities over the summer. To book your tickets call 01299 250416 or visit the County Museum shop. For more info: [www.hartleburycastletrust.org/](http://www.hartleburycastletrust.org/)

but I have probably read 3 graphic novels in the last 5 years.

At the moment I draw completely with digital tools, as it's a great help to draw in layers, and you can paint, sketch, cell-shade, I don't smudge the ink as much. Whilst there are a few similarities between my music and visual artwork, like anyone who enjoys being creative would agree it's simply about getting something out of your head and into a different medium/form, with the sense of achievement that comes from it.

Recently, I've been commissioned for several cartoon-style illustrations, and experimenting with all the various mediums I wish I could've played around with when I was a kid, such as cell shading, and animation. There is a definitely a nostalgic arc to the things I have been doing at the minute. I have a tattoo design for a friend on the go, which I really should be getting on with!"

You can see Wes' work at 'Wes Dance Illustrations' on Facebook. For commissions please contact [wes\\_dance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wes_dance@hotmail.co.uk)





# worcester arts workshop

We have a busy month here at **Worcester Arts Workshop** full of different activities and events for everyone. For two weeks we have our summer activities running, culminate in our exciting open day on the 27th August.

To kick off the activities, we have the **CAGED Arts** summer take over running from the **15th – 17th August** here at the Arts Workshop. Children 11-16 have the opportunity to attend a 3-day academy in August, building a show that will be part of this year's **Worcester Festival**. The **Youth Takeover** is a project by **CAGED Arts** and **Worcester Arts Workshop** and aims to bring children together who are interested in all different forms of art – from

painting to ballroom dancing. The event is open to all young people of any skill level, all that's needed is a passion for creativity. Children will work for three days, developing their skills and making new friends to create a something that is all their own work and share this with the public at the Arts Workshop as part of the Worcester Festival. *'It's about putting children at the centre of the creative process'* says **Rory McGhie**, Arts Engagement Officer at CAGED Arts, *'allowing them to make art that's about the things that they care about. What's so exciting about this project, is that we don't know what's going to happen. It depends who walks into that room.'*

Tickets cost £30 for all three days, including tickets for parents and friends to view the final product, and are available from the **Huntington Hall** (01905 611427).

On Friday the 19th and 26th August we have our **Gargoyle and Grotesque workshop** running from 10am – 4pm where you can make your own ceramic grotesque. This one-day practical workshop with artist **Chris Russell** will introduce the techniques so that you can make your own grotesque, inspired by medieval carvings, including those from **Worcester Cathedral**. The day will be based at the Worcester Arts Workshop following a visit to Worcester Cathedral to see the carvings and get some inspiration. The workshop is suitable for beginners and those with some ceramic experience. Completed grotesques will be fired for collection later. Please meet at Worcester Cathedral main entrance for 10am. Tickets cost £55 and include all materials, firing and a yummy lunch at **Café Bliss**.



On Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th August, **Worcester Arts Workshop** and **Dancefest** will joined forces to bring children and young people three days of creative

workshops in visual arts and dance based on the theme 'Wonders of the Ocean'.

Resident Worcester Arts Workshop tutor **Kay Mullet** will be running visual arts workshop for children and young people where you will be able to use your creative eye and imagination to create art exploring different elements of the theme of '**Wonders of the Ocean**' each day through media such as drawing, painting or ceramics. 11.15am - 12.30pm (age 5 – 12) £7, 1pm - 2.30pm (age 12+) £7, additional siblings charged at £5.

**Dancefest** will be running interactive and fun dance classes for a variety of ages where you can explore movement sequences and make up your own dance exploring a different idea each day.

10am - 11am (aged 5 - 7) £5, 11.15am - 12.30pm (age 12+) £6.25 and 1.30pm - 2.30pm (aged 8-11) £5. Additional siblings receive a discount of £1.50.

**LAZY SUNDAY**  
14th Aug' £3 Entry 12 - 6pm

**Kezia Soul**

**Lara Conley**

**Bekki Cameron**

**Magik River**

**Open Mic**  
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07821733246

**CAFÉ BLISS**

**worcester arts workshop**

On Thursday 24th August between 10am and 3pm, resident tutor **Andrew Clacher**, will be sharing his knowledge and expertise with young people aged 11-16 in a one off oil painting workshop. Learn how to Paint an amazing portrait with oil paints, prepare a stretched canvas and have fun painting a full head and shoulders self-portrait in oils. This workshop is £25 and includes all materials.

And finally, we are getting really excited about the Worcester Arts Workshop open day running on Saturday the 27th August between 10am and 4pm. For one day only, we will be opening our doors and inviting you to come and see what is going on at this independent and vibrant arts hub in the heart of Worcester city centre. We will have youth workshops from **Vamos Theatre** and **Caged Arts** as well as a chance to try out some of our new and exciting courses starting in the Autumn term such as **Signing for Health and The Rhythms of life**. Come along to this free event and try something new and maybe event sign up for the new term of courses we have on offer, from Salsa to watercolour painting, there is something for everyone no matter what age or interest. Who could resist escaping the world for an hour or two to enjoy some art, music and great food from **Café Bliss**. Details of this event can be found here: So if you are still looking for something to do this summer, why not give us a call on 01905 25053, drop us an email on [info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](mailto:info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk) or have a look on our website at [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk) to book onto this exciting array of workshops.

# Lazy Sunday presents: Summer, We Salute You! - Café Bliss, Worcester

Ladies and gentlemen! Next month - **Sunday 4th September - Café Bliss** at the **Worcester Arts Workshop** is being hijacked by CHILD.org to bring you the very best in local DJs, bands and open mic as we wave goodbye to yet another summer and raise a bit of money for charity.

**DJs Rob Williams, Si Bullock** and **Dan Wall** will be there, cracking out some great records at this special Lazy Sunday event. Our bands are still to be confirmed but we wanted to give you a heads up because knowing Amanda, she'll pull something delicious out of her bag of musical treats and put on a day you really won't want to miss!

## CHILD.ORG

In helping communities to implement their own solutions to inequality and the barriers they face to good health and education, CHILD.org help empower people to work towards a better quality of life with more opportunities.

Representing them in Worcester since January, I have thoroughly enjoyed organising things to raise a bit of cash and I'm chuffed

that so many people have come through and shown their support.

We're all just trying to help make a bit of difference in a world that still experiences unimaginable and unnecessary poverty.

So far we have raised over £1900 this year and we're looking to tip the scale by putting something together that everyone can come along to and enjoy.

## COME JOIN US

What better way to spend a Sunday with your friends and family, chilling out in the courtyard with a coffee or a beer, nibbling on a piece of homemade cake or a quesadilla and lapping up the incomparable vibes of outdoor live music?

Tickets available at £3 a head prior to the event, but will also be available on the door and little tinkers under 14 get in for free!

Doors open 12 – 6pm, and all ticket proceeds go straight to the charity.

The lovely Eloina will be making up some of her tasty, homemade Belizean grub, and as always, there will be booze!

Contact Café Bliss via their Facebook page, or give them a call on 07821 733246 for tickets and for more information about the day or how you can get involved. Open mic-ers welcome!

Let's make this one to remember.

To enter: Please send up to 3 images of your work (200dpi) detailing medium, dimensions and up to 500 words describing your practice and what you would like to exhibit. Open to all Art forms. Deadline 30th September 2016 to exhibit in November or 30th December to exhibit in February.

Entries that are not accepted will be considered for future exhibitions, to allow for a comprehensive and cohesive show.

Please send entries to: sarahsehra@yahoo.co.uk

## Call for Artists

Jumpstart Visual Arts and Worcester Arts Workshop collaborate to create an exciting new exhibition. This is an open call to all artists, young or old, emerging or submerging offering an exciting opportunity to exhibit some of your work in Worcester Arts Workshop's Cellar space. Entry is free in exchange for some of your time to invigilate and promote the exhibition.

## Suz Winspear

The excitement of the 2016 **Worcestershire LitFest** is over, and I am now the new **Worcestershire Poet Laureate**. I expect some of you will have seen me performing at spoken word events in Worcester and around the county (and even if you don't remember my name, you'll probably remember my hairstyle). I've set myself a remit for this year of celebrating and showcasing the



real, living creative culture of the county, and I hope to make connections between our spoken word scene and practitioners of other art-forms and performance-types. Worcester is known for its heritage, and celebrates this magnificently, but in the process, its living culture tends to be overlooked or marginalised. People don't appreciate just what a rich community of writers, artists, musicians, designers, performers, photographers, film-makers etc we have living and working in the county – but without us, there won't be a heritage for future generations to promote!

Anyway, that is my remit. I can't predict exactly how this year is going to turn out, or what is going to happen – in these peculiar disjointed times, I don't think it's possible to predict anything at all – but I hope to see, speak and perform to (or maybe with) lots of you at events throughout the year . . . and you might just see poetry (and poets) appearing in some unexpected places!

Meanwhile, here are a few spoken word dates for your August diary –

**Thursday 11th – SpeakEasy** at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop. Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Open Mic slots available. The featured poet for August is **Mike Alma**, with support from guitarist **Pip Barlow**. £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

**Sunday 14th** – Book-launch for **Kieran Davis'** new poetry collection 'Lacuna' at Drummonds. Poetry by Kieran and selected other poets. Free entry. 4pm. Free cake!

**Monday 15th – Poetry night** at the Swan Theatre. Details from Worcester Live leaflets and website.

**Saturday 20th – Story Jams Storytelling Family Workshop** at St Johns Library. Family day for ages 8+ Free workshop, writing and telling stories. 2pm – 4.30pm. To book a place, e-mail Sarah Mitton at storyjams@outlook.com

**Wednesday 31st – 42 at Drummonds**. Life, the Universe and Everything – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name. You never know what you might see and hear at 42! Free entry. 7.30pm.

*Suz Winspear*

# Hitman Blues Band The New York City Brass Iron Road, Evesham | 29th June

I was initially unsure on whether to go this one. Youtube footage didn't exactly sell the band to me but I went along anyway and was glad I did. Hitman at one point said "we ain't Mississippi blues, we ain't Chicago blues, we are modern blues". Whatever they described themselves as, they were good.

They are an octet, which might have presented a problem for a lesser soundman. They were lead by **Russell "Hitman" Alexander** on guitar, including some tasty slide work & lead vocals. He was ably supported by Ian Salisbury on keyboards; **Guy LaFontaine** on drums; and **Mike Porter** on bass & back-up vocals. Occasional back-up vocals were provided by **Joanne Alexander & Nancy Hampton**. The **New York City Brass** consisted of **Nick Clifford** and **Michael Snyder** on baritone and tenor saxophones respectively.

First set opened with "Bad Bad Boy" with some excellent slide guitar work. A highlight of the first set included a song that would have been an updated version of Ralph McTell's "Streets Of London" but, since the publisher / record company refused all suggested alterations, the song "Streets of Downtown" is inspired by Ralphs song but is totally different! The set finished with Muddy Waters "Hoochie Coochie Man".

There was a short break and the band was back at it. This time, the highlights include a song called "Two Trains" which bore no relation to the much older song of the same name; a trip to New



Orleans featuring the two horn players. A brilliant rendition of "Raining up in Harlem" which featured an imagined conversation between Hitman and his wife, the words being interpreted by the sounds of his guitar. There was also a version of Aretha Franklin's "I Love You" with one of the ladies taking lead vocals before finally there was a tribute to Sam Taylor called "Sam the Bluesman". And then it was over.

The original songs were great and the covers were interesting as they weren't carbon copies. The performers were very good and seemed to enjoy themselves. One of the sax players was heard to say "It's a good room to play", and they were quite prepared to chat afterwards. As a friend said during the gig (the band were) "Class". And I learned that you can't always be influenced by what you see on Youtube.

John Reeves

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# Shakespeare's Hamlet

Swan Theatre, Worcester | Tuesday 23rd August

Acclaimed Festival Players Theatre Company tours the country this summer with a dynamic all-male production of Shakespeare's famous tragedy – *Hamlet*.

This year is the 400th anniversary of the death of the nation's (arguably the world's) greatest playwright, William Shakespeare, and The Festival Players Theatre Company from Gloucestershire, have been touring professional outdoor Shakespeare productions for over 30 years, is bringing the play to Worcester's **Swan Theatre** on August 23rd.



Rocket Cottage Photography

Rocket Cottage Photography



Presented in full costume, an all-male company brings the excitement of this great thriller: intrigue, ghostly visitations, passion, a play-within-a-play, a gripping duel, and humour, in a crystal-clear and fast-paced 2-hour production.

A small cast of six play multiple roles demanding quick costume changes, as well as performing as singers and musicians. This gives an exciting opportunity for the actors to show their energy and versatility. It will be directed by Worcestershire based **Dyer**, former director of Cornwall's Minack Open Air Theatre.

This will be Dyer's 12th all-male production in a row for the Players. "It is of course totally authentic - we are following in the footsteps of Shakespeare's own Globe Theatre when all roles were taken by men. The Players have built a reputation for strong, all-male shows over the past eleven years."

Music will be specially written for *Hamlet* by folk star **Johnny Coppin** (front man of the cult Seventies folk-rock group Decameron). Gloucestershire-based Coppin, who regularly tours the folk and acoustic circuit, adds a special ingredient with his original songs and instrumentals involving all the cast.

Tickets for some performances are now available online at [www.thefestivalplayers.co.uk/tour](http://www.thefestivalplayers.co.uk/tour)



# What's On?

at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall



**Poetry Open Mic Night**  
15th August - £2

Worcester Festival

**THE BIG BAND**  
Five Star Swing  
16th August - £18

**Jesus My Boy**  
19th August  
- £19.50

**Elkie Brooks**  
29th August  
- £27.50

**Fotheringay**  
19th August - £20

**Vesta**  
20th August  
- £12.50

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## Sophie Lynch and the Special Friends The News/Sinead's Skin

**Sophie Lynch And The Special Friends** are a five-piece hailing from Dudley, formed by singer-songwriter Sophie to bring her songs to life both on stage and in studio. Sophie has been busy gigging since 2013 around Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge and beyond, making new friends with a unique brand of energetic and instantly infectious indie pop punk.

In recent times Sophie has been hard at work in the studio, recording her debut EP (set to be released towards the end of the year) with Lynch handling the recording, writing and producing herself. As a taster for the forthcoming EP, Sophie has unleashed a couple of tracks via Bandcamp to wet the appetite.

*The News* opens with simplistic electric guitar riff before a bouncy elastic bassline and funky Hammond like keys join the mix to create a glorious slice of reggae-tinged, laid back new wave, complete with a contagious melody and an effortless lead vocal drawl that sucks the listener in. *Sinead's Skin* is perhaps even

better, again there's that slight reggae-tinged groove but this time there's also a naggingly brilliant melody that says 'I dare you to try and stay still to this one' whilst Sophie delivers another addictive lead (think The Slits, Au Pairs and even our very own Skewwhiff and you're in the right kind of direction).

From the two tracks on offer here I get the impression we maybe hearing a great deal more from Sophie and her Special Friends - they're fun, energetic and have the hooks to hold. Here's hoping that they hit Worcester in the near future!

Will Munn



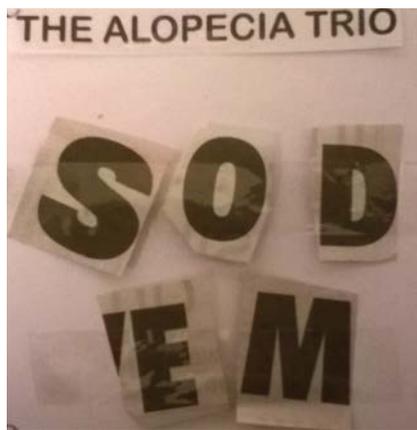
## The Alopecia Trio | Sod 'Em

It seems barely a month since I last sat down with the unholy joys of Bewdley based noisemakers **The Alopecia Trio**, blasting from the speakers as I scrawled out something of a review of their album *'The Old Testament'* and yet here I am again, confronted by another thirteen track affair from the world's most prolific

racketeers. The 'Trio' (actually a duo here) once again return to garage for another round of brutally under-produced punk rock buffoonery, reporting from the front line on such important issues as politics, religion, Donald Trump and erm... excessive cake eating.

The album opens with that now familiar sound of fuzzy, muddy, driven guitar and rudimentary pounded drums as **Elliott Fishwarmer** and **Rongo Star** set about on an all assault on their instruments - proving that anyone can indeed make a record. *Crazy Pix* sees Eliot half drawling, half speaking over the aforementioned cacophony of rudimentary riffs and post bashing, coming over like the Ramones slightly less evolved brothers and sounding all the better for it. It's brash, a wee bit silly and punk as hell.

Like New York's favourite sons, why change a perfect formula? *Invisible Me* is more of the same - guitars in the red, rattling pots and pans, that melodic, lazy lead vocal, submerged somewhere deep in the mix and zero production technique. Sod all these analogue studios, the Trio sound like they're recording straight to a C-60 via a battered Hitachi cassette player. *Star Spangled Wanker* is the biographical tale of the alarming rise of Mr Trump and how the egotistical maniac could soon be the most powerful man in the world, despite never having to raise more than a finger. As the rather fetching (and instantly memorable) chorus states, he really is a *Star Spangled Wanker* of the highest order. Perhaps he could adopt this song as his campaigning anthem (Queen are apparently pissed about using We Are The Champions), I'm sure the Trio won't mind!



Elsewhere, *Lemon Cream Sponge* celebrates all things cake and quite frankly makes me want to hit the local Tesco for a decent sized slab (or maybe I'm like the band and can't resist the urge) with a nice cup of tea. *My Old Man* is a glorious three minute pop-punk thrash complete with a big hook-laden vocal refrain that's nigh on impossible not to holler back. Following that, *I Think I'd Much Rather Burn You*, is a raw and feral tale of honour killing, full of bludgeoning beats and riffs and the occasional chilling scream

whilst *Summertime Today* could be The Alopecia Trio's warped take on a 50's pop anthem where the band grab a well known pop melody bathe and marinate it in a lovely punk sludge before re-releasing it with Elliott Fishwarmer replacing the lead vocal with his own dulcet tones. The pretty melody is still there but it's fighting to be heard amongst the normal Trio clatter.

Once again I'm left admiring the rough and ready techniques of the 'Trio. They're raw, perhaps even feral, instruments are thumped and pounded, lyrics are sometimes biting, often tongue-in-cheek and the music has never evolved from the Sniffin' Glue glory years, DIY is alive and well, residing in Bewdley.

If you want some cheap and nasty punk rock noise in your life, I recommend you track down the

Alopecia Trio via Facebook or Soundcloud and await the band's next bombardment (which will probably be as you finish reading this review!)

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## Rhino and the Ranters | Half Quixote

**Rhino And The Ranters** are a five-piece band originally hailing from London and, having first formed back in 2009, the band quickly formed a reputation for their high-octane performances and their unique brand of energetic blues, country, gospel and rock 'n' roll. The band released their debut album a year after their formation and have been busy tearing up venues ever since, sharing stages with everyone from the likes of Hans Chew and Tom Hickox to The Urban Voodoo Machine and Roddy Radiation's Skabilly Rebels.

In recent times, the band have settled in Birmingham, continuing their hard work ethic with a heavy live schedule (Including this year's Lunar Festival) as well as writing and recording in preparation for the release of the band's second album. Somehow, during the group's busy schedule, they've found time to hit Base Studios in Stourbridge to record a new four track EP, *Half Quixote*, which serves as a fantastic introduction to newcomers whilst providing long term fans a meaty stop-gap until the band manage to release that aforementioned second full length disc.

The EP opens with the instantly spellbinding *I Can't Stop These Tears From Falling*, a track that unites an evocative mix of mandolin, chiming guitar, melancholic keys, a waltz like rhythm section and a touch of theremin to help create a striking full bodied piece of retro, country gospel that's topped with Ryan Webb's heart wrenching, passionate lead. As opening salvos go, *I Can't Stop..* is simply faultless. It grips the listener with it's clever

use of instrumentation (the layers of mandolin and theremin are sublime genius) and full bodied sound whilst Ryan's range both startles and bewitches - one minute he's a crooner, the next a soul man racked with emotion, laying out the Ranters statement of intent from the off.

*What's Cooking Mama* sees the band change direction for a delicious slice of rumbling rock 'n' roll. With Link Wray styled guitar rumbles that are teamed with group chants, contagious hand claps, driving bass and thunderous drums for a three minute garage thriller, the track will have you on the edge of your seat gesticulating wildly whilst joining in for the simplistic yet ever so addictive vocal refrain. *Dead Live Man* is different again. This time opening with an unexpected burst of 50's ragtime jazz (for want of a better description) before developing with a thumping beat and Webb's wailing harmonica into a punchy slab of sinister blues, complete with a suitably menacing growled lead and a brief yet inspired percussion breakdown from **Pete Hammond** (formerly of the Au Pairs).

The EP is brought to a close in the same rich and varied fashion with *King Of The Undertakers*. Showcasing a brooding, noir take on roots rock where guitars twang loudly with menace, drums roll like thunder and the lead vocals are full of desperation as **Rhino And The Ranters** bring *Half Quixote* to a quite mesmeric conclusion of twangs and intricate guitar abuse.

So there you have it, **Rhino And The Ranters** have delivered a four track disc that's unique, varied and bloody impressive to boot. And, if this is some way a pointer towards the new album, we may just have a classic on our hands. In the meantime, I highly recommend you either grab a copy of this EP, catch the Ranters live or better yet both - you won't be disappointed.

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

Will Munn

## Sons Of The Delta, Acoustic Duo At Peppers'

As the title implies, this was recorded live at **Peppers Café** in Gloucester, with the blues acoustic pairing of Mark and Rick. There is a mix of classic blues, Americana, roots rock and country.

What better way to open the session than with a blues milestone, planted in the mid '50's by Howling Wolf - *'Smokestack lightning'*, with bass line and rhythm laid by Rick as Mark takes care of harp and his usual 'easy' approach to the vocals. Just enough grit in a smoked shell. A bit of Americana is slipped in courtesy of Steve Earl's *'Hardcore Troubadour'*, before the blues core is unlocked with the *'Key To The Highway'*, fingerpicking its way across country.

This delightful 'pick 'n mix', is a long way from being purist blues and one of my favourite 'quirky' songs slips in, Tom Waits' *'Chocolate Jesus'*, arguably laid plain to the blues world by Beth Hart.



Twin guitars bring out the distinctive sounds of *'Boogie Chillun'*, Rick remains silent, letting his fingers do the talking. Mark infills with additional promo material for *Peppers* and the pulsating boogie continues. Six minutes of the Hooker groove lead us into the high ground of hillbilly territory and *'Tom Ames Prayer'*, which gallops along quite nicely with plenty of fast finger work.

A hefty but tightly bound parcel of *'The Weight'* is beautifully packaged and put aside for Chuck Berry, who presented us with his *'Thirteen Question Method'*, not sure how that worked out for Chuck but Rick on slide makes fine work of decorating the song as Mark called the questions.

The fast moving ragtime of *'Skinnybone'*, encourages getting up to hit the dance floor. Mark dropping the lyrics to breath into his harp, before the song pushes on over the labyrinth of Ricks finger work.

The whole of this album on Rawtone Records is nicely recorded, the sound is clean but still contains elements of the audience presence. As you would expect, fine musicianship is here in abundance, with Rick's guitar work throughout, layered over with Mark's harp, guitar and vocals. Mark has that distinctive, crunchy peanut butter and marmite voice. Don't fret, it's a great pairing in this little gem, maybe add some red hot peppers. Next best thing to a live performance.

Graham Munn

# Barn on the Farm Festival

## 1st-3rd July | Gloucester

There's a reason that **Barn on the Farm** call their crowds the 'Barn Family'. Wherever you look on the site there is a friendly face – whether it's from the audience, the volunteers, the artists or even the ostriches in the paddocks next to the outdoor stage, you can be sure to feel welcomed. But it would be impossible to pin down why this festival holds such a warming atmosphere. It could be because of the authentic feel to the location and the kooky decor. It could be because of the passion that is exuded from both the artists and the organizers. Or it could just be because of the intimacy of the performances. Whatever it is though, you can't deny that **Barn on the Farm** is a festival like no other and you'd be an idiot to not want to return year after year – I know I will be.

Saturday couldn't have kicked off better than with a set from **The Academic**. The four-piece make the sort of indie-rock anthems that epitomize the whole festival ideology, leaving their large audience with a smile on their faces as they rocked off the stage. A bit later on, it was Vant who were dominating the **Main Stage** – they effortlessly pelted out their die-hard sound as they formed what was arguably one of the best sets of the day. It was easy to see that the audience were under the band's command as they batted out their staple raucous spirit. On the **Outdoor Stage**, **Flyte** delivered one hell of a set, despite admitting that they never prepare for shows as much as they should. The whole set was as



On Sunday, you couldn't have woken up to a better sound than the dulcet tones of **Ardyn**. With their harmonious vocals that felt softer than silk, their set on the main stage was both a welcome and gentle wake up call – getting festival-goers slowly but surely into the festival spirit. Once you were awake though, it was **Pleasure Beach** who took it upon themselves to shake away any groggy feelings as they got the blood moving with their carefree sound. It was easy to lose yourself in the rise and falls of their lively and upbeat melodies. Later on though, the **Outdoor Stage** was home to one of the most unruly sets of the weekend courtesy of **The Hunna**. It was no surprise that a pit formed in the latter half of the set as these guys are undoubtedly one of the most addictive entities in the music industry at the moment – it's impossible to hear just one note and not get sucked into the careless, free spirit they boast so proudly.



The Hunna

At 19:10, the most anticipated moments of the weekend was about to commence over at **The Wooden Barn**. After being teased relentlessly over who would be playing The Wooden Barn Stage, a large crowd began to assemble, taking up much more room than the barn offered. The curious members of the Barn Family were not disappointed as **Hudson Taylor** took to the elevated stage like the angels that they are. Albeit one man down, their set was unforgettable as they introduced even more surprises in the form **Gabrielle Aplin** and **Hannah Grace** to help them increase the magic. Barn on the Farm is a place like no other – it was a home away from home, a spiritual birthplace for music lovers alike.

by Emily Branson

seamless as it was energetic, their final track 'Light Me Up' provoking one of the strongest sing-a-longs of the weekend. But it was Saturday's headliners who left most of their audience starry-eyed. **Oh Wonder's** set surpassed everyone's anticipation as the heralded duo failed to put a foot wrong, creating the sort of ambiance you could only dream of.

Photography: Top right by Dan Harris  
Above & Below by Caitlin Modridge



# Hope for the Best but: Prepare for the Worst

Even the smallest band ends up with a lot of kit and even more cables, so it's no surprise that things occasionally go wrong. Rather than simply hoping it won't happen, there are a few simple things you can do to prepare for problems and that starts with checking your cables from time to time to make sure some are not intermittent or just plain dead. Checking the connections in any non-moulded mains plugs is also something you should do between gigs and if you don't feel confident doing that, pay to have your cables PAT tested. Some venues insist on that anyway.



Once at the gig, having a basic spares kit and a few very simple tools can get you out of trouble. The more obvious things are spare guitar strings, kick and snare drum heads, cables, batteries for pedals and maybe one or two more mains distribution blocks than you think you might ideally need.



(It's amazing how many buildings have badly wired mains with either the live and neutral reversed or the earth missing), some spare fuses and of course loads of Gaffa tape.

In my own kit I like to include a mains socket tester plug



Add to that a couple of spare mic stand clips (they do break at the worst times), a spare vocal mic and a mini tool kit comprising screwdrivers, snips and pliers and you're well on the way to being prepared. Going only slightly further, a cheap cable tester also makes sense as in the event that something goes intermittent, you can quickly check whether cables are the cause or not. You can also use it home for your routine cable checks. A spray-can of **DeOxit D5** can get you out of trouble if you encounter crackly guitar jack sockets or pots. Few UK stores have it but you'll find it on line and one can will last you most of your career.

That takes care of the bits and pieces but what happens if a guitar amp dies on you or one of your PA speakers shuts down? I've had all of the above happen to me at one time or another and the trick is to have enough spare kit to cover without actually having to double up on everything.

If your guitar amp quits, a small modelling pre-amp such as a **Line 6 POD** can go directly into the PA and give you a half decent sound to carry on with. The early models sell very cheaply yet can sound surprisingly good through a PA system. Just take the time to create a few presets that sound similar to the way your amp is normally set up and you can still use your overdrive pedal or pedalboard in front of it if you don't like the on-board effects. I have one of the cheap battery powered PODs in my kit bag.



Pedalboards are also prone to failure due to the number of connecting cables involved so having a spare overdrive pedal in your bag could be a life-saver. Most pedals you can live without

but an overdrive is not usually one of them, so if your board dies, you can bypass the whole thing and instead go via your spare pedal — which will of course be fitted with a good battery.

If a bass amp dies, then plugging into the PA may be the only option but you may have to turn down and EQ out some of the low end to prevent straining the speakers if your system doesn't have a sub.

Better low bass than no bass.



When it comes to PA, many of us use active speakers and if one of those fails there's very little you can do other than check the fuse — which is rarely the problem. But, if you have two or more monitor speakers, you can take one of those and use it to replace one side of the PA at a pinch. Even mixers can fail but many active PA speakers can accept a mic plugged directly into them so you can at least keep your vocals running though the PA that way. In this situation the second PA speaker would need to be connected to the Thru socket of the first so that the mic feeds both speakers.

Finally, as I've found to my cost when working on outdoor gigs running from generators, using a distribution board with a built-in surge suppressor can protect your kit from expensive damage if there's a generator glitch. I had four **Mackie 350s** fail at the same time at **West Fest** after a generator tripped. Two were just fuses but the other two had to be sent away for repair. I won't get caught by that one again!

*Paul White  
Editor In Chief, Sound On Sound*

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# Quill

## Abbi K and the Roadsters

### Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat 13th Aug

Returning to **Artrix** in Bromsgrove following the success of their last show are Quill. The six piece produce a mix of country, folk, celtic and rock, leading them to perform at sell out shows and receive glittering reviews. Their set will mix old favorites with new classics from their album 'Brush With The Moon', confirming that it'll be a night to remember.



"Joy Strachan-Brain is the best female singer to come out of the Midlands" - Bev Bevan

"Quill have continued to perform their outstanding brand of folk rock over the last four decades." - Tony Collins, ( Birmingham Evening Mail )



Supporting are **Abi K & The Roadsters**, a four piece who deliver a sassy, bluesy, jazz vibe. Their repertoire includes both originals and covers that use a good dollop of old jazz funk plus a dash of soul. Having only moved back to England from Madrid in December to record her first EP, the band are just new kids on the block.

Tickets are £17 and available at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

# GREASE

## ...at Artrix

If you had to pick your ideal Drive-In movie then **Grease** would have to be in the top ten. The slicked back hair, Travolta's gyrating, THAT skin tight outfit (Olivia had to be sewn into it) and, of course, the pink ladies. On **Friday 19th** and **Saturday 20th August** at 9.00 pm **Artrix** will be hosting two drive-in screenings of this iconic movie. Car spaces cost £20 and there's food and drink available.

Or, if you prefer, you can bring the kids and join the **BBC Hereford and Worcester** presenters to **Sing-A-Long Grease** in the Artrix theatre at 3.00 pm on Saturday 20th August. Tickets cost £10.00 and proceeds go to **Children In Need**. Dressing up as a T-Bird or Pink Lady is encouraged!



For further details [www.artrix.co.uk/grease](http://www.artrix.co.uk/grease) or call 01527 577330

# Open Mic UK Auditions 2016

**Open Mic UK** has announced its audition dates and is coming to Birmingham 2016 in search of some of the UK's best singers, singer songwriters, rappers and vocal groups. The competition entries are more than ten thousand people a year and it is a fantastic chance to get your music heard.

Aspiring singers and musicians will have the opportunity to perform to music industry judges who are at every stage of the competition, from the auditions to the grand final. Some judges include those who work at various record labels (Universal, Warner and Sony), as well as there being national DJs, regional press and BBC Introducing, with the judges become more prestigious as the competition progresses.

**Open Mic UK** has seen the likes of Birdy, Lucy Spraggan, Union J's Jaymi Hensley and Luke Friend, and the competition auditions are being hosted in 15 locations around the UK. The Open Mic UK music competition auditions are allocated on a first come, first served basis, so audition places are already filling fast – get your audition booked now to avoid disappointment!

Auditions in Birmingham are being held on **Saturday 13th August** at the **National Exhibition Centre (NEC)**, B40 1NT. For more information and to book your Birmingham audition go to the **Open Mic UK 2016** website [www.openmicuk.co.uk](http://www.openmicuk.co.uk).



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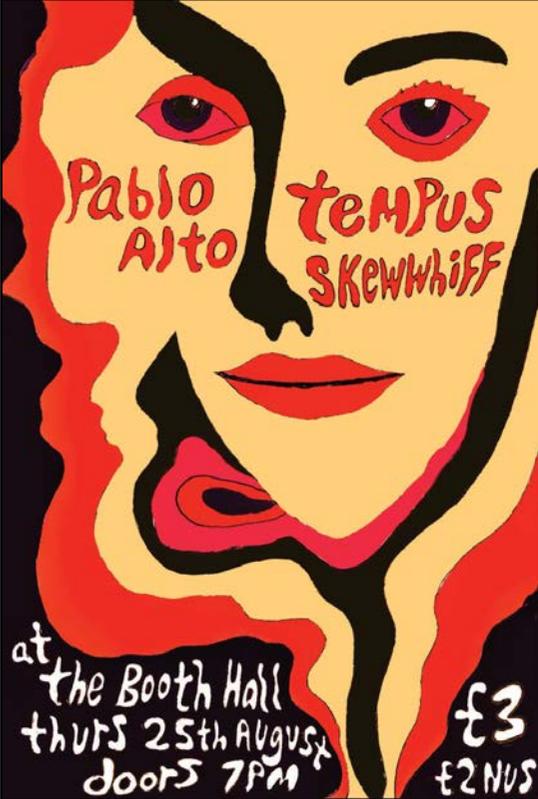


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# FCS presents: Clowns

## Golden Deathmask, Trivial Dispute, Bathtub The Marris Bar | Sunday, August 7

Faithful City Shows love meeting and listening to new bands from all over the world. **Clowns**, an Australian four-piece, are no exception. Clowns are a hardcore-punk ensemble who formed in 2010, making a name for themselves in the Australian punk scene by making lots of noise. Drawing influence from genres such as thrash, doom, punk and power-pop, **Clowns** have toured all over a number of continents.

Their next stretch of tour sees them head to **The Marris Bar** on 7th August. With a capacity of just over 200 and no barrier, this show is sure to be one to remember. We know that Worcester likes to dance, so make sure you're there for one that's sure to be hectic. With two albums under their belts, Clowns will definitely have Worcester moving. A particular favourite is 'These Veins'.



# Zen Archeray

## The Ginger Pig Café | 26th August

Eclectic Worcester based band **Zen Archeray** are raising funds for the **Alzheimer's Society** at the **Ginger Pig Café**. The Alzheimer's Society provide the much needed support that sufferers need – from advise for carers on where and how to receive the necessary help, to providing legal and financial advice, and offering community and long stay care arrangements. Further information will also be available on the night.

Zen Archeray play a mixture of their own material as well as covers drawing on a variety of musical styles. The band consists of

acoustic guitar and vocals by **Ray Mytton**, **Mark Archer** on guitar and vocals, **Graham Thatcher** on bass guitar, **Keith Box** on cajón and percussion, and **Becky Littlechild** on vocals.

So in support of Alzheimer's Society and Worcester's **Zen Archeray** make your way down to the **Ginger Pig Café** on August 26th.



With his trusty slide guitar in both hands, Williams has picked alongside the likes of John Hammond, Paul Jones, Little Feat, Maria Muldaur and many others. All in all, Williams "really rocks, stirring up soulful Americana, full-on blues and tasty rootsy grooves" fRoots.

# Brooks Williams

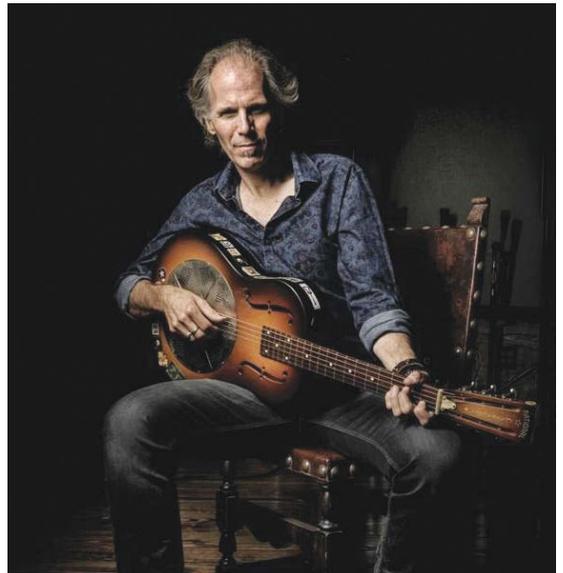
## The Ginger Pig Café | 2nd September

**Brooks Williams**, from Georgia USA, takes on Worcester with his blues and old country tones at the **Ginger Pig Café** this September. Williams' music has been labelled as an electrifying blend of blues and Americana, with a "beautiful voice that you just melt into," says AmericanUK.

Williams' nostalgic rhythms have been heard from all corners of the globe as he's toured various festivals and venues. He started out in bars around Boston and New York, but now tours around Scotland, the Netherlands, USA, Canada, France and many more. As well as recording with countless different record labels over the span of his twenty-eight year career.

This year Williams has launched his acclaimed album *My Turn Now* which consists of 11 songs that have been described as 'timeless' and his most fascinating song *Year Began* is an example of this – a song which is set on the New Years Eve of 1967 as Evil Knieval jumped over the fountains of Caesar's Palace.

Williams' soulful songs have gained him a reputation as "not only an excellent story teller, he's not afraid of using a melody." *Rocking Magpie*. Williams also been named one of the "Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists" according to **Digital Dream Door**, as well as **San Antonio Light** stating that he's "a fret monster who has to be seen to be believed!".



# Crystal Balloon - Hurricane

The first few times I heard **Jack Stanton** play guitar, he was adding beautiful electric shapes to the primarily acoustic sounds of *Light Falls Forward*, embellishing their lovely music from his place in the background with skill and delicacy.



When I first saw his band **Crystal Balloon**, the contrast could scarcely have been greater, as he transformed into a song writing front man who not only sang beautifully but also played powerful and fluent guitar.

*"The Wheel"*, opening Crystal Balloon's debut EP, *"Hurricane"*, sets the tone for the entire work - it's as smooth a piece of Americana as you could hope to hear. It also confirms right from the start that the other two sides of the Crystal Balloon triangle, **Eric Karvik** on drums on drums and **Rory Geisow** on bass are an essential part of the overall sound, providing a tight and faultless backdrop over which Stanton lays his guitars and vocals.

*"Whilst Setting The Alarm"* ups the pace considerably, a solid slab of sound, all jangling guitars and a beautiful vocal delivery. The musical spirit of Neil Young is definitely in the background here, along with several others in the genre, but the band never allows their own music to be swamped by their influences, only informed, a path that other bands might do well to follow.

This very nicely sets up the highlight of the album, *"Burning The Evidence"*. All the best elements of the band come together on this one, aided by **George Shilling's** immaculate production, which reaches its peak on this track. There's lovely understated use of an organ here as well, and for the first time Stanton begins to cut loose with an elegant, chiming solo. Great track.

The EP closes with *"Another Chapter In The Dream"*, a lovely chord progression in this one, a beautiful melody and a descending central guitar shape that stays with you long after the track has finished.

And that, unfortunately, is it. A fifth track would have been nice, as the band has much excellent material at its disposal but what's on offer here gives a very clear indication indeed of what the band is capable of and where it might be going for its next release.

This is a very fine debut indeed and promises much for the future. "Hurricane" was released on July 18th. *Geoffrey Head*

[www.facebook.com/crystalballoon](http://www.facebook.com/crystalballoon)



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## Upcoming Events

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Raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society

2nd September  
**Brooks Williams**

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## Kyle Parsons The Naughty Corner/Sam Gwinnell Crowngate Summer Sessions | 7th July

Last summer **The Crowngate** and **Free Radio** joined forces in a bid to showcase local musical talent (and entertain the weekend shoppers) on a stage outside **Huntington Hall**, on the whole these summer sessions proved to be a rousing success, so this year the two parties have brought the stage back not only showcasing artists over the weekend, but also putting together a program on every Thursday evening throughout the summer months, entertaining the diners and passers by.

Whether the opening session was effected by the somewhat unseasonal weather or the lack of advertising is somewhat up for debate but what can't be denied was the quality of artist on show or indeed each of the artists commitment, despite at times playing to a couple of pigeons and this humble scribe.

Opening the proceedings was Worcester based singer-songwriter **Sam Gwinnell**. Armed with trusted guitar and his soulful voice, Sam proceeded to entertain with a host of well chosen covers from a slowed down, relaxed version of *Billy Jean* to a funky *No Diggity*. Gwinnell managed to add his own twists and personality into every rendition, whilst the handful of originals, such as *Counting Butterflies*, prove that Sam is more than capable of penning a decent hook of his own, making him one to look out for in the future.



**The Naughty Corner** are a trio armed with Ukuleles, making three part harmonies with massive smiles welded firmly across their faces. From the get go you get the impression it doesn't matter if this band are performing in front of five or a hundred people,



they're going to enjoy themselves and anyone in ear shot will have great difficulty not smiling or singing along in unison (which was proved later during their set, when a few passers by were caught in the moment watching and singing along as they made their journey home). The band opened their set with a lovely version of *Mrs Robinson* before proceeding to play a selection from across the musical spectrum, everything from *Bad Moon Rising* to *Save Your Kisses For Me* whilst the band's own foot tapping (Uke punk?) Ukulele Fundamentalists had this one man fan club grinning like a Cheshire cat who'd just got the last of the cream. Keep an eye out for their soon to be released debut album and their next performance on a street corner near you.

Birmingham based singer-songwriter (and indie band Rubio frontman) **Kyle Parsons** was charged with wrapping things up and he did in style with stunning set that took in covers by the likes of Dylan's *Time's Are A Changing* and *Masters Of War* and an interesting choice of Pearl Jam song *Elderly Woman Behind The Counter In A Small Town*, whilst also dropping a few originals including the particularly impressive *Jellybean*. Kyle's guitar work was impressive enough but what really helped him stand out from all the other singer-songwriters out there was his voice and use of near falsetto at times, helping to add another layer to his sound that left me with a desire to checkout Rubio at the first available opportunity.



Sure it was disappointing not to see more (or should that be some) people lapping up the live free entertainment, but hopefully word of mouth and a bit more advertisement and a heap of social media prodding will hopefully see the Thursday night Crowngate Summer Sessions blossom and thrive into a regular early evening hangout for anyone with a passing interest in music.

*Will Munn*

You can find out more about the **Crowngate Summer Sessions** by checking out the official Crowngate Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/crowngateshoppingcentre](http://www.facebook.com/crowngateshoppingcentre) or directly at [www.crowngate-worcester.co.uk/summersessions](http://www.crowngate-worcester.co.uk/summersessions)

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# Drunken Monkey Rock Fest

5th - 7th August | Nr Upton Upon Severn

The first weekend in August will see the UK's premier charity rock festival and it is here in Worcestershire! Over three days bands will give their time for free to raise much needed funds for **The Midlands Air Ambulance**. The **Drunken Monkey Rock Festival**, is now in its third year under that name but has been raising funds for twelve years.

The event will take place on the Welland Road just outside of Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0SW.

55 bands from around the world, two stages, free camping and car parking, fair ground attractions, all for the weekend price of

£35. A price that is only realisable due to the tremendous number of organisations giving their time and facilities for a reduced price or for free. That includes **Forest Traffic Management, County Building Supplies, Severn Trent Water, Tower Studios, LEAP Audio, Rowan Medical** and of course the site owners.

**Krusher Joule** will be the special guest compère on the Saturday. Krusher first came to the public's attention in 1982 when he became Art Director of the then Bible of Heavy Metal magazine **Kerrang!**

Before that he was known as **Steve Joule** who had worked as a freelance designer in the music industry since 1976 producing work for the likes of **Motorhead, Sammy Hagar, Uriah Heep, Gamma, Girlschool, Blondie** and **The Sex Pistols**.

For further information look to the web-site at [www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk](http://www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk) or look on-line for tickets at [WeGotTickets.com](http://WeGotTickets.com).

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

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**The Drunken Monkey**  
**Rock Festival**  
 5th - 7th August 2016



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 5th - 7th August 2016



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# Nozstock | The Hidden Valley

## 22nd - 24th July

Jurassic 5



Nozstock The Hidden Valley celebrated its 18th anniversary in spectacular style across a sun-kissed balmy weekend, with mesmerising performances across three glorious days and nights set across the idyllic working farm in the heart of Herefordshire, peopled by a blissed-out audience of 5,000 from across the UK and beyond.

Imelda May



Lobster



Skints, Hot 8 Brass Band, Buster Shuffle, Professor Elemental, Split Prophets, Dr Syntax + Pete Cannon, and entrancing stars like **Eva Lazarus** and **Harleighblu**, to an on-point range of drum and bass, hip-hop, psy-trance, acid, house, breaks, bass music and more from **Foreign Beggars**, **Goldie**, **Jaguar Skills**, **My Nu Leng**, **DJ Marky**,

Gentleman's Dub Club



Buster Shuffle



Taking its inspiration from the Wonders of the World, the festival once more embraced its wonderfully eclectic vision, with 9 stages taking in a kaleidoscopic of magic, all filtered through a distinctly Nozstock lens, with magic, wonder and enchantment and every turn. From epic headline sets from **Jurassic 5**, **Imelda May** and **Gentleman's Dub Club** on the **Orchard Stage**, from scintillating hot-footing reggae, ska, folk, pop, indie and more from **Slamboree**, **The**

**Dimension**, **Rene LaVice + Stapleton**, **Randall**, **Tribe of Frog** and more, Nozstock was filled to the rafters with magic at every turn.



Orly Philips



The Skints



An intimate odyssey of music, dance, theatre, film, spoken word, performance, mystique, burlesque, art, design, creation, fun, discovery and enlightenment, Nozstock wove together a beautiful tapestry for all the ages over the weekend. From the Children's Area which features everything

from kite making to learning hieroglyphics to creating Mayan masks to mind-bending performance artists and so much more, families had a safe environment where their kids could let their imaginations run wild.

The weekend really got going when, **Lobster**, a young, fresh ska punk band from Birmingham took to the stage on Saturday afternoon. I have already seen these guys before at Out To Grass festival (tiny in comparison to Noz) and I discovered that they could get a crowd hyped up no matter the size. **The Lounge Kittens** closely followed which consisted of YouTube star **Jenny**



Desert Boots

**Deacon**. They are a trio vocal group from Southampton who lounge-up every song pop song you could think of. Richard Cheese eat your heart out.

**The Garden Stage** had possibly the greatest mix of acts such as **Shanty**, **Desert Boots** and **Seas of Mirth** but the act of the weekend for me had to be **Foreign Beggars**. I haven't seen them



Foreign Beggars



Shanty

since 2011 at Outlook Festival and the atmosphere at Nozstock equalled a beach in Croatia. They played us a brand new song for the first time in the UK and they completely blew the crowd away. I am looking for tickets to see these guys again ASAP.



Calm Like a Riot

There were some amazing bands on at the **Cabinet of the Lost Secrets** including **Cantaloop**, **Calm Like a Riot** and also the legendary **Akil** from **Jurassic 5** played a secret gig there. This stage is quite new in the making but has already made it's mark on the **Nozstock** festival and the people love it!

Words by Tandem Damo & Little Charley

Photography by: Duncan Graves

# WMF Workshop Preview

While the **Worcester Music Festival** team are currently busy confirming their final line-up of musicians for their antic-packed weekend later this year, it's worth remembering that the weekend's events offer much more than just live music. A key feature of the festival is the wide range of music-themed workshops that are on offer over the course of the three days. So if you're looking to broaden your musical horizons, then it is likely that Worcester Music Festival will have just the thing for you somewhere in their packed workshop roster.

The workshops can cater to a wide age range – and a wide range of musical abilities – so there really is no excuse to not get involved. The listings cover everything from an **Express Yourself Choir** session – a group that is friendly for all age groups that will introduce you to some well-known pop songs like you've never heard them before, with no previous experience necessary – to a **Ukelele Workshop** – a workshop that is geared towards beginners, so again no prior experience is necessary, and you can even bring your little ones along to this providing they are accompanied by an adult throughout the session.

Speaking of your little ones, the festival is also hosting workshops that cater to children specifically so if you have some miniature music types in the family then it is certainly worth bringing them along for the weekend as well. **Our Sing Along With Eve** session is a workshop designed with 7 – 15 year olds in mind that sees smash hit pop tracks – *Someone Like You*, *Let It Go*, and many more – projected on to a large screen so attendees can arrange the songs into various sections. If, however, you fancy something with a little less pop and a little more edge then the **Little Monsters That Rock** will be just the workshop for you and

your little ones. This caters to little ones (if they can crawl in time to an power ballad, they are more than welcome here) all the way up to 8 years of age and the workshop as a whole will see your youngsters dance along with a classic rock disco – so this is a perfect event for burning off some of that extra energy.

One of the key objectives for the Worcester Music Festival is, of course, to bring a range of genres to a range of venues in and around the city centre. However, with the workshops available this year, the weekend has the potential to offer so much more to its attendees. There are great opportunities here to not only have fun but also to develop new skills and perhaps even sharpen some of your existing ones, which is something the festival team are keen to promote now more than ever.



For further information about the workshops we have on offer this year, including their times and venues, you can head over to the **WMF** website and check out our Workshops section: [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/workshops/](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/workshops/)

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# Seas of Mirth Hark! The Headland Approacheth

Once upon a time, around five years ago, a nine strong crew from Nottingham took up arms and decided to battle the steady tide of boring, sound-a-like bands and land lovers the world over.

The band took sail and wherever they laid their anchor they stormed stages and festivals alike with a mighty musical ruckus, battling monsters along the way the way with their unique brand of folk, prog and why of course, the odd sea shanty, the **Seas Of Mirth** soon stood tall upon an otherwise sad and stale landscape. The band soon had hordes flooding to their cause and so they unleashed a debut album entitled *Septopus!* which saw the crew reach all new lands and mythical places such as Glastonbury and Boomtown. Further EP's were delivered until the nine strong crew lay their anchor once more to record a follow up disc documenting their recent travels on the Seas Of Mirth.



and those aforementioned widescreen strings. As opening gambits go, the track grabs and captivates with it's various twists and turns, intricate instrumentation and addictive vocal hook.

The title track follows and is just as adventurous - tapped and pattered percussion, flutes, waves of guitar and violin, Doors like keyboards, vocal chants and more. It's eccentric with delicious flights of fancy as the band seem to stop and head off in a new direction every minute or so and yet, somehow, it combines to create a stunning cohesive whole. **Esmerelda** opens with a delightful woozy keyboard intro, followed by galloping percussion, surf like electric twangs, bursts of spirited fiddle and a reverbed soaked deep lead vocal. Here, the band again merge a rum salty tale with an eclectic blend of instrumentation to create an intoxicating and unique experience.

Seas Of Mirth continue to throw caution to the wind with intriguing spoken word passages and inspired percussion workouts (checkout the inspired beat work on the near instrumental *The Curse Of The Dreaded Devil's Triangle*) via deranged high speed jigs (*Salt Man*) and even a weary lament dedicated to the humble Plankton.

Hark! is a crazed, yet fascinating and contagious romp from start to finish from a wildly unique and inventive bunch. In fact, if the writers of the Pirates Of Caribbean series happen to be reading this, I highly recommend you give **Seas Of Mirth** a call to soundtrack your next yarn. As for me, I'm going to try and stow away on the good ship Mirth for more music and merriment.

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

Will Munn

Seas Of Mirth Land at The Marrs Bar on October 22nd

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# Upton Blues Festival

## 15-17th July 2016

In the middle of July scores of music fans from every walk of life, both young and old, packed their bags and headed to the small riverside town of **Upton-On-Severn**, home to the **Upton Blues Festival**. One of the UK's most popular blues festivals had attracted crowds of groove fans, that thrived in Upton's country pubs and out on its scenic streets. Festival goers arrived early on Friday and by midday Upton-On-Severn was alive.

The festival kicked off early on the field with the **Fran McGillivray Band** who played a set of stripped back blues. Later on at **The Plough**, firm Upton Blues favourite **Sicknote Steve** was also busy entertaining fans with a typical set of foot stomping, gutsy blues. Local schools were involved in the festival and opened up **The Riverside stage** with a selection of blues standards that were performed with a passion. The young pupils of **Upton Primary** delivered an inspired *'Wade in The Water'* and **Ipsley RSA Academy** belted out an exuberant *'Hail Hail Rock 'N' Roll'*. Whilst **Arrow Vale** had the crowd singing along to Cee-Lo Green's *'Forget You'*, before **Hanley Castle High School** completed the showcase with a delicious jazzy instrumental.

Hanley Castle High School



By early evening we welcomed **British Blues Award Nominees Dove & BoWeevil** to the stage for a set of gospel blues and roots, with singer **Lauren Dove** leading from the front with her mesmerising range. The country blues of *'Firework'* and the gospel *'East Coast Blues'* were highlights and the band proved why they're so highly regarded. **Slowburner** stormed in with a set of ballsy blues that was almost rock 'n' roll and **Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band** drew a huge crowd. They delivered a raw sermon

Slowburner



Reverend Peyton

of country punk blues, grabbing at the lapels of each and every spectator. They began with a crazed rendition of *'I Shall Not Be Moved'* and carried on in that vein before serving up *'Pot Roast And Kisses'*, a foot stomping *'Devils Look Like Angels'*, and newbie *'We Deserve A Happy Ending'*, to a rapturous applause, before rounding off by setting the washboard on fire, kicking over a cymbal or two and tearing through *'Two Bottles Of Wine'*.

On Saturday the eleven-piece experts **Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band** delivered a funky *'Shake A Tale Feather'*, and a brief look in the **Acoustic Stage** revealed the grizzly **Jon Walsh** covering Muddy Waters alongside his own *'Two Trains'* and the brilliant tongue in cheek *'Shit On Your Shoes'*. **LR Phoenix** performed at Upton Blues in the past, and I was fascinated by their deep vocals and dexterous finger picking. This time I sat back and watched the crowd's reaction as LR Phoenix hypnotized fans with *'Death Letter'* and finished with a unique rendition of *'John The Revelator'*. After that Blind Pilgrim played *'Baby Please Don't Go'* and *'Sunshine of My Love'*, then out on the Severn **Tommy Allen** and **Emil Engstrom** were stripped back, with a fully acoustic set of blues roots.

LR Phoenix



**Red Butler** performed and the four-piece shook the field with the likes of *'Blues Is My Business'*, *'Jaywalker'* and *'Big Bad Wolf'*. The acoustic stage presented us **Andy 'Pot Noodle' Twyman** and **Adam Nosworthy**, who combined filthy stand-up comedy with

Adam Nosworthy



rudimentary blues on the likes of 'You Ain't Fat', 'Getting Older' and 'Viagra for Pandas'. Adam delivered a compelling set full of impressive finger picking, soulful blues and Americana, with many songs from his recent solo album.

Sunday at Upton involved fans either enjoying some gospel on the **Riverside stage** or at **The Swan** for Leamington Spa's finest blues rock heroes **The Wap Waps**, a band that blends electric guitar and harmonies with dazzling blasts of blues. They played originals such as 'Walking Blue's' and 'Success' and **Beth Brooks** fronted a version of 'I Put a Spell On You'. **The Luke Doherty Band** were on the Riverside with a show full of blues rock, from their own 'Caught Up in The Lights' to a Hendrix medley. **The Upton Social club** became a venue for local rockabilly favourites **The Delray Rockets** as they ran through their debut album along with a number of covers – to the delight of their hardened fan base.

A while after, the contrasting London based **Masai Blues** delivered a soulful set whilst fronted by **Jude Blue**. They performed a funky 'Dirty Low Down & Bad' and left a lasting



Masai Blues

impression. The funky, alternative rock of **Wille and The Bandits** was the finale to my Upton experience as they sang 'Miles Away' whilst the field was bustling with bodies, all on their feet. The Bandits showed us their liquid groove and intoxicating rhythms with 'Living Free' and 'Bad News'. **Wille and The Bandits** got me lost in a world where the only important thing is having a good time.



Wille and The Bandits



Wow, **Upton Blues Festival 2016**, what a year. A big shout to the organisers, the acts and anyone else involved with putting on such an incredible event and here's to next year – I can't wait to see what you have in store.

Will Munn - See full review on <http://rhythmbooze.tumblr.com/>

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# A Feast of Song & Verse

## Ledbury Poetry Festival | July 2016

**Featured Events:**

- **An Evening of Poetry and Music – Sunday 3rd July (Part One: Gerda Stevenson and Kyrre Slind; Part Two: Jackself - Jacob Polley and John Alder):**
- **An Evening of Poetry, Music and Spoken Word - Friday 8th July (Part One: Kathryn Williams: Hypoxia; Part Two: Hollie McNish, Harry Baker and Clayton Blizzard)**
- **Gala Evening of Poetry and Music: Carol Ann Duffy and Friends! - Saturday 9th July**

**Ledbury Festival** followed the growing trend of blending music and poetry in several events this year. As poetry readings draw larger audiences in bigger venues, variety is necessary to hold a crowd for a whole evening. Poets and musicians need to entertain as well as perform, much in the tradition of the wandering bards of old. Ledbury did not disappoint.

These three events illustrated the scope of this hybrid format with some eclectic and experimental combinations. Dividing the evenings into two parts gave maximum opportunities for audiences to hear a striking diversity of talent. In the stunning setting of **Hellens Manor** barn bathed in soft July sundown, **Gerda Stevenson's** lilt and lyrics conjured up images of the Isle of Skye, the Scottish Borders, strong women of age, and cassocked priests. Her work showed that well-written song lyrics can work as strongly as poetry, as with a particularly haunting chorus:

A curlew's call,  
a feather's fall,  
is all the prayer I need

Sang like a holy litany in a song which had the last line of this chorus as its title. The second part of this honey-lit evening offered a complete contrast in a new piece by **Jacob Polley** based on his forthcoming book, **Jackself**, in collaboration with musician **John Alder**, in which the story of the eponymous Jack was told in Polley's stark spoken poetry set to Alder's visceral soundtrack. The result was a raw, unsettling, performance full of fabulously strange images, 'spiders' lyres' and 'dragons' ribs', conjuring thoughts of *The Doors*, Jack Kerouac and Beowulf all rolled into one.



Jacob Polley

The second weekend of the Festival provided a further cornucopia of delights with a Friday night offering from **Kathryn Williams** performing all nine songs from her album, *Hypoxia*, inspired by **Sylvia Plath** and *The Bell Jar*, another illustration of the strength of poetic lyrics in song with memorable language such as 'escalator waterfall', and song titles like 'Tango with Marco'.

Youth and the current appeal of spoken word performance led the next session with the frank and energetic work of **Hollie McNish** on pregnancy and motherhood from her book *Nobody Told Me*, followed by the humour and honesty of champion slam poet, **Harry Baker**, topped by the rap-to-guitar phenomenon, **Clayton Blizzard**.



Carol Ann Duffy and John Sampson

To this overdose of riches was added on Saturday night, **Carol Ann Duffy** and friends, musician **John Sampson** who played, inter alia, crumhorn, recorders and trumpet, and the brilliant poetry band, **LITTLE MACHiNe**. The Poet Laureate gave us 'classic Carol Ann' with renderings of her poems laced with wry humour and raw emotional honesty including *Liverpool* and *Premonitions*



LITTLE MACHiNe

accompanied gently by John Sampson. **LITTLE MACHiNe** gave us Herbert, Shelley, Edward Thomas, Yeats and other greats set to music, and a storming, visual performance complete with pictorial accompaniments, somehow strangely reminiscent of Adam and the Ants.



After all of this creativity and stimulation, crowds were left musing on the thrill of collaboration, the merits or otherwise of genre-mixing, and the possible responses of purists but, most of all, they were left needing a very long lie-down.

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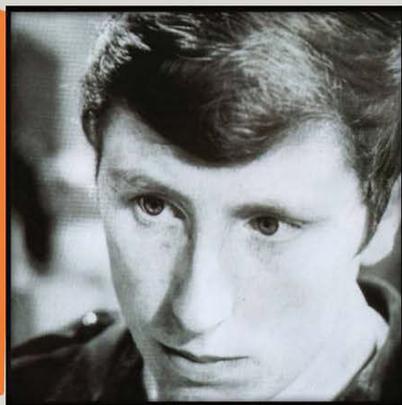
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# Elles Bailey

Thrill On The Hill, Shelsey | 23rd July

I've been a fan of **Elles Bailey** ever since taking a gamble on a Bristol gig to see a locally renowned artist. It was not difficult to recognise what the fuss was about, the girl knows how to perform and has an excellent band to help her deliver her striking songs. You should expect an album release later this year but, in the meantime, Elles was playing the **Morgan** event at **Shelsey Hill Climb**.

With thunder in the ears and a whiff of Castrol R on the air, I made my way through the field of parked cars, to find the stage set in an open barn. George Montague had just finished and Elles was setting up with her band. To the front was a courtyard of picnic tables and shades and to the open rear was the starting point of the test run up the famous hill. Morgans were queued up through the paddock, ready to burn rubber on an already hot strip of tarmac.

Away from the line, the only smoke is in Elles voice. **Joe Wilkens** puts slide to his guitar as Ed sets up a pulsating beat on the drums alongside the bass. *'Wild Fires'* fill the air, turning heads and grabbing the attention of the many petrol heads listening. In this rarefied atmosphere of ozone depleting fuels, a *'Perfect Storm'* was inevitable. This starts slowly and builds up to a country-styled sound. A soulful *'The Girl That Owned The Blues'* is a heartfelt homage to Janis Joplin. With a strong piano lead, it's beautifully served up by Elles voice. These songs sit with the distinctly blues throb of *'Barrel Of Your Gun'* on a very limited issue EP resulting from the Elberton Sessions. There is little doubt that much of Elles music has been influenced by past blues masters courtesy of her Dad. The cutting edge of a razor takes us on a measured journey



to the legendary *'Spoonful'* and Elles poisons our minds with her tribute. The spirit of her sound turns heads as she holds court on the stage, its absolutely her realm to do as she pleases. We all take her medicine, an addictive spoonful that leaves all wanting more.

**George Montague**, who was supporting Elles for this gig, takes over the piano for a co-written song named *'What If I'*. It builds up to a wave of cymbals from Ed into a powerful ballad before Elles implores us all to *'Let Me Hear You Scream'*. The crowd respond and how couldn't they? Elles is not to be ignored. We are building up to first set close and George is taking the stage in time for Elles' own tribute to the blues. It's the superb *'Howling Wolf'*, a real attention grabbing, blockbuster of a song that transcends the cacophony of cackling exhausts, the screech of tyres and blistering heat. Elles wears the wolf with pride on her T shirt, it's a song that Chester Burnett himself could respect. Lift your eyes to the moon and howl out loud.

We have just enjoyed a fabulous weekend at Upton, one of the greatest free blues festival out there. Come on you committee members, get out and see **Elles Bailey** and her excellent band - lets see her on stage next year.

Graham Munn

# Sons Of The Delta

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 3rd July

**Sons of Delta** returned to the busy Prince with the full four piece band, transcending the more acoustic sets from the past from just Mark and Rick. **Lyndon Webb** appeared on bass with **Martin Fitzgibbon** on percussion, bringing a powerful rhythm section into the stream of blues washing through the aged timbers of this lovely old pub. With plenty of their own material to play mixed with some classic blues and rock 'n' roll songs, this Sunday session was a choice spot for many, despite the tempting sunshine beckoning beyond the narrow cobbled street.

From their *Made In Mississippi* album, Mark proclaimed *'It's Me'*. With the harp selected and bullet mic in hand, Mark closes his eyes and sings from his heart, though I'm sure he has a full script etched on the back of his eyelids. Their more recent album, *'Tasty Nuggets'*, is always destined to provide much of the material as the band *'Just Want To Make A Living'*. Chuck Berry lends his *'13 Question Method'* during which Mark's fingers count them off, (and no, he doesn't have 13 fingers) before *'Key To The Door'* finds its way in from the earlier album, *One For The Road*. It unlocked the way through to a fabulous guitar driven *'Scared Of Love'*, a stand-out song lifted from those *'Tasty Nuggets'*. Jump jiving *'Skinnybone'* took us to the break and opened doors to cool the air inside.

The band are about to release a new album, with delivery expected any day, but in the meantime we continued with the back catalogue of classics. *'The Weight'* saw Mark pick up the Mandolin before reverting to a harp for rhythms reminiscent of

Fleetwood Macs greatest years. Tampa Red's *'It Hurts Me Too'* played across two slide driven guitars as Rick and Mark made the most of this great standard. The seductively hypnotic beat of *'Never Had Nothing When Times Were Good'* seems distinctly pertinent in these troubled times. *'Red Hot At Peppers'* was recorded in July this year at Gloucester Blues and the penultimate song is lifted from that session. It may be Sunday but hopefully *'Out On A Saturday Night'* isn't a faded memory. Mark has his harp in hand as Lyndon and Martin strike up a rhythm that transports us back to the '60's before Rick slides down the neck of his old Silvertone. *'People Get Ready'* closes a warm, sultry evening in the blues church that is the Prince Of Wales.

Graham Munn



# Swampcandy

## The Chestnut, Worcester | 26th June

In a week of political turmoil, the US sent over Ruben and Joey to blaze a trail of havoc across the UK. Having landed at Heathrow on Monday, **Swampcandy** had gig'd their way across to this small corner of Worcester where the Chestnut colonel 'Mad Pierre' welcomed their return. Stage set, the boys were ready to blast off and I had my tally card ready for a string count. My last visit saw 5 strings shredded from the steel resonator but this year proved to be a disappointing single.

Ruben, in dog eared cap, growled out, 'Aberdeen' in true gritty fashion as Joey beat up his bass, giving the drum a good kicking in the process. With 'If You See My Baby', that string surrendered after the opening bars. But it was no problem Ruben had brought an electro acoustic National with him. Joey is hard at it, hair flying, as the tub thumping 'Future Blues' tests the National which withstands Ruben's assault. The gentle opening belies the tempo as it heats up along with the thick atmosphere as Ruben concedes 'Bastard That I Am'. Hitting the brakes, he



implores all to 'Drink Whiskey With Me'. Joey obliges, but, as the temperature rises, we're sticking with the ale.

A couple of new songs are road tested in The Chestnut, destined maybe for the next album. 'Lonely Rope' is not for lynching but more for tying the knot and is followed by a heavily beaten 'Sack Of Bones', a phrase I can distinctly recognise. Ruben growls his way into 'Tore My Heart Like A Tiger' with acoustic guitar in hand.

His instrument takes a slapping and Joey follows as the fat bodied bass bellows in response.

Back home, Donald's planned invasion of Mexico with golf clubs gets Trump'ed by a frenzied attack with 'Baseball Bats And Bear Traps'. The boys are burnt out as Joey breaks his bass in two but Ruben bows to demand and goes it alone, climbing onto the bar. It just about sums up a mad few days, they just didn't give a f...

This was Swampcandy's 3rd pilgrimage to the Chestnut and they will, no doubt, return with their bad-assed music, dredged from the primeval silt and mud of the Mississippi delta. Meanwhile, you can catch them at The Prince Of Wales in Ledbury on July 24th and at Gloucester Blues on the 30th, their last gig before flying out.

Graham Munn

# Icefire

## Route 44, Stirchley | Friday 15th July

Even though it's wonderful watching the ever increasing crop of young musicians making great sounds, there's also an undeniable pleasure watching a seasoned group of artists 'd'un certain age' expertly strutting their stuff onstage.

This is my first time watching **Icefire** and they really are impressive. They may have one foot firmly planted in traditional Metal but their gaze takes them equally firmly into the future. The mix of time signatures and the dynamics of some of the songs preclude familiarity or boredom - the pattern is constantly shifting.

It's drummer **Steve Riley's** last gig with the band tonight and suffice it



Over this rock solid backdrop **Dave Parrish** gives an object lesson in Rock guitar - memorable riffs, crunching rhythm work and fluent soloing both conventionally and with a lovely, economical bidextral technique.

**Deborah Woodward** is a primary school teacher in real life and if we'd had teachers with her charisma when I was a litt'l'un, I might have paid a bit more attention in lessons. She's an impressive frontwoman, with a flexible and sometimes jaw-dropping delivery. Her breathing, seemingly unimpaired by her basque, allows for some extraordinary sustain in several passages - one note in particular, held for two or three long bars leaves me shaking my head in disbelief. A very fine voice indeed.

She, and the band, are at their best during "Drink Me In" from their hugely enjoyable CD, 'The Nature of Evil'. For me, it's the undoubted highlight of the set, dark and foreboding passages combine with a relentless, chugging rhythm and sudden snaps of energy - great track - but really the standard is so high, you could pick any one of half a dozen songs as your favourite.

Go and see this band as soon as you can - they're a top quality band and exceptionally entertaining.

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

Geoffrey Head

# PREVIEW

## The Boars Head | Fringe Festival Sat 20th & Sun 21st August

Since the **Fringe Festival** last year which nearly wiped us out, Physically, Mentally and Financially, We were going to close.. We didn't... We got Married and for some bizarre reason we are holding the Boars Head Fringe Festival again this year..

This year we have an addition opening day on 18th August where we see the welcome return of **Justin Sullivan** supported by **Jess Silk**.



This year the Outside Festival is on Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st of August, held in conjunction with the **KAF festival** and **Skankin Dub Beats**, we will have over 20 live acts on our outside stage. There is an outside bar, food stalls, circus skills and market stalls, and hopefully NO RAIN...

The music kicks off at 1pm on both days, Saturday will see **Lown Lizards**, **Teddy Matthews**, **Ptr Williams**, **Electric Soup**, **Crows and Crosses**, **Flat Stanley**, who really hope they can stop on the outside stage this year... (If you we here last year, they had just set up and sound checked when the amazing clouds came over and the heavens opened), **Millie Manders and her Band**, **The Bullfrogs**, **Alcohol Licks**, **DantannaBeatz** and obviously our local ska lads **The Stiff Joints** will be closing Saturday night. Sunday again kicks off at 1pm, again not in any particular order we have **Dharma Bums**, **Bitter Falls**, **Jiggery Spokery**, **Seventh Era**, **Disco Tramps**, **Karpets Kickers**, **Time of the Mouth**, **Black Market Beat**, **Lobster** (with an Acoustic Set), **Skewwhiff** and **The Humdrum Express**.

**Kidderminster Paint Jam** runs alongside the Fringe, where you can see a superb mixture of artistic talents, making the streets of Kidderminster a more much interesting place to wonder around.



With Free Entry come along and support local music, and seeing that line-up no one can say that we don't have a wonderful selection of local talent, covering a wide range of musical tastes. for more information please see our Facebook Page . I would also like to say a big thanks to everyone that has helped us in previous years and again this year...

**THE BOARS HEAD**  
**FRINGE FESTIVAL**  
**SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> & SUN 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST**

**SKWUWHIFF** | **Stiff Joints**

the humdrum express **DANTANNA**

**Flat Stanley** | **ALCOHOL LICKS** | **THE BULLFROGS**

**BLACK** | **MILLIE MANDERS**

**MARKET BEAT** | **LOBSTER**  
ACOUSTIC

**KARPET KICKERS** | **SEVENTH ERA** | **Electric Soup**

**TIME OF THE MOUTH** | **CROWS & CROSSES** | **PTR WILLIAMS**

**Disco Tramps** | **the lown lizards** | **TERRY MATTHEWS**

**Jiggery Spokery** | **Bitter Falls** | **DHARMA BUMS**

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**BY**  
**SID PALMER**

*"There's a new place in town!"*

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Sat 6th TBC

Thu 11th Torque

Fri 12th Vehicle

Sat 13th TBC

Thu 18th TBC

Fri 19th The Texas  
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Sat 20th Arcadia Roots

Thu 25th Underground Ocean  
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Fri 26th Pigdaze

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## Lynne Hanson & The Good Intentions St George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 1 July

The latest show in the **Music In The Hall** series saw **Lynne Hanson** and her band **The Good Intentions** as the next example offering 'porch music with a little red dirt' as the genre of the night.



The show's opening numbers were taken from Lynne's 2014 album *'River of Sand'*, introducing the audience to a life of 'Whiskey & Tears', relationships described with flecks of gold in a *'River of Sand'* and a reflection of the past that she tried to leave behind in *'Heaven & Hell'*, introduced with a short story of walking by the River Severn in the rain earlier in the day. Then, *'This Too Will Pass'* described events *'when god didn't even want to know her name'* and again dug deep within her mine of emotions and indicated how skilful and deep her writing had become. She certainly does speak from the soul.

To say **Lynne Hanson** has a 'thing' about murder would generally raise an eyebrow. Her latest offering is a short seven track album of murder ballads, titled *'7 Deadly Spins'*. When questioned earlier about whether this was written using even more personal experience it prompted a raucous laugh followed along with a reply of *'...that would be telling...but if I did tell .... I'd have to kill you afterwards....'*



Introducing her band to the audience gave her the opportunity to infer that the name was inspired by another murder ballad *'Good Intentions'* and during this number the band certainly took centre stage, showing the old rockers in the audience that Fender made more than just a Stratocaster, with **Nick Gauthier** wringing out some mighty country blues riffs on his Telecaster. All that was missing was a set of stage monitors to give him something to balance his leg on.

*'Trading In My Lonesome'* and some warm audience participation closed the set, but if she thought that the fans were going to let her go without an extra song or two she was mistaken. Encores seem to be pre planned by the artist, with a reward for the connection not earned but expected by the crowd, but what closed the evening turned this on its head.

Miss Hanson unplugged her acoustic, jumped down into the audience without a mic, stood up on a chair and played a new song that was only finished that day in the tour van. *'One Grain At A Time'* was evidence of intimacy of the highest order and was fully recognised with a standing ovation by the ever appreciative crowd.

Here's to the next album loaded with classic tales and a longer tour of these shores.....come back soon Lynne Hanson.

Words: Richard Parish Photography: Colin Hill  
See the full review at: [camomiletowhiskey.com](http://camomiletowhiskey.com)

## Arcadia Roots

### Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 21st July

The **Prince of Wales** is crowded with locals, regulars and Landlord Les's family. With plenty of food to nibble on and the beer

being easily absorbed, all that's left is the entertainment. The band of choice for this occasion? The excellent **Arcadia Roots**. Arcadia Roots have certainly made their mark on the local music scene over the last year with their intoxicating rhythms and mix of Afro Caribbean and dub roots. They create songs powered by the percussive enthusiasm of **Dave Small**, twin guitars of **Danny Gauden** and **Tom Callinswood**, a deep rumbling bass from **Josh Terry** that's all topped with a liberal coating of vocal dexterity from **Maddie Abbotts**, carpeting the treads on a stairway to heavenly music. Opening with *'Where You Gonna Run To'*, the answer is definitely nowhere quickly on this warm sticky evening - better to hold a cool beer and get drunk on the music.



Despite the temperature and steamy conditions, Dave decided to warm things up with *'Keep The Fire Burning'*. The Djembe was taking a good slapping as Tom was smoking his cigar box guitar, making superbly hypnotic rhythms that kept their audience under their spell, Maddie adding her magical wistful voice. *'Got To Make A Move Now'* had Dave's throbbing percussion mixing with the bass from Josh as the guitars of Danny and Tom echo through the thick air, slipping us into a *Whole Lotta Love* with reggae overtones.

The band are working their way through to a finale and another blend of songs. *'Save Me'* might have the devil in the detail but it's the *'Soul Of A Man'* that comes through. It's a stunning and memorable closing to a fabulous evening of tribal roots music from a band that grows from strength to strength. Do not hesitate to see Arcadia Roots when opportunity arises, expect to stay entranced - I'm not sure if it's voodoo or black magic but it's certainly spellbinding stuff!

Graham Munn

# Katey Brooks

**Café Rene, Gloucester | Wednesday 6th July**

Well, I suppose it had to happen some time.

You know when you get a "Suggested Post" on Facebook for something that would either never interest you in a million years or is borderline illegal? I got a video 'suggested' to me, it was of a young woman sitting in a deserted church in Weston-super-Mare singing a song so beautiful, I immediately searched out website, Facebook page and nearby gigs.



The song is 'Call Out' and the artist in question was Bristol based **Katey Brooks** and here we are at **Café Rene** in Gloucester where she's putting on a solo show.

Now **Café Rene**, for all its great support for music can be a difficult place for an acoustic artist to play – it's a fine eatery but the ambient noise level, primarily from the drinkers rather than the eaters, can be formidable. But before overcoming that, there's another small problem for her to address - there's no reverb on the mixer – we are going to get a 'naked voice' performance.

And what a performance that turns out to be.

**Katey Brooks** was brought up between London, Bristol and Arizona and the American influence is clear in much of what she plays. The songs are simple in construct, elegantly delivered with an assured, deft guitar technique and this wonderful, wonderful voice. It's rich and elegant, with a gentle vibrato, perfect pitch and a disconcertingly seamless transition from soft to loud - you don't see or feel the change coming.

The material tonight is drawn from her much feted debut album "Proof of Life" and its stunning sequel, the "I Fought Lovers" EP, from which the title track and 'State of Mine' are exceptionally beautiful. But there's also tasters on show from her upcoming second album, "We The People". It's always a good indication of an artist's progress when new material is up to, or exceeds the quality of what's gone before and it's clear that the wonderful 'Call Out' isn't to be a flash in the pan.

The steady rise in background noise is countered by some subtle adjustments in volume on the deck, the upping of the tempo from time to time, and is clearly of more concern to the audience (particularly this member of the audience) than it is to the artist.

As brilliant as the performance has been, what's gone before scarcely prepares us for the finale to the evening. About half way through the performance, she hints that she has a newly completed song, which she's uncertain about playing in its raw form. There's a few of us here from our Band Buddies music Meetup group and we set about a little gentle persuasion and reinforcement that it would be a really good idea to try it out on us.

What follows is one of the most extraordinary and intimate deliveries of a song that I've seen in all my years watching music.

She unplugs completely and calls us in close. She then suggests that might not be close enough and we shuffle forward - some of us can only be two feet away - there's a tense feeling of expectation in the air but that's dispelled when she finds she's in the wrong tuning! Cue laughter and a retune and she gives us the song 'The Sweetest Things Are Meant To Pass You By'. It is exquisite. Sung in barely a whisper, with a light country influenced beat, it's a song of loss and of missed opportunity, deeply moving but delivered without bitterness or regret. The first line of the chorus runs round my head for days after.

Soft sod that I am, at the end of the song I'm so choked I have to excuse myself for a couple of minutes. This music that we love so much - what an immense power it has

This has been a performance I won't forget in quite a while - or perhaps ever.

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

*Geoffrey Head*



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# Circuit Sweet by Naomi Preece

Another month has flown by, with **2000 Trees** behind us and (at the time of going to press) circuit sweet and our writers were deep in the Bromyard countryside enjoying the best of another **Nozstock** festival, we do enjoy summer and the festivities it brings. Be sure to keep an eye out on the site for a special Noz review to follow once we've all recovered once more.

July has been a very busy month for local band **Silverfield**, we've had the pleasure in chatting to the Hereford 4 piece, a special interview and feature surrounding their latest accomplishments can be found on the site too, visit: [www.circuitsweet.co.uk](http://www.circuitsweet.co.uk). Herefordshire noise punks Silverfield consist of **Ellie Jean Bramhall**, **Chris Holloway**, **Dan Palmer** and **Joe Rogers**. The four celebrated the release of their debut EP *Flower* on 16th July via **Homebird Records**. For such a young act it's remarkable that they've created such an honest and raw passionate release, flirting with grunge and punk attributes- Silverfield sound like a band twice their size and double their age. The four sling together a colourful indie demeanour and a fierce punk sensibility all warmed up over a cooker of 21st-century grunge, stuck on full whack. Be sure to read their interview in full to find out more about their recording process, teaming up with Homebird Records, their recent spate of live shows and more.



With the run up to **ArctanGent** coming our way this month, we've been busy announcing a few awesome tours surrounding the festival - one being Chicago based theatrical math rock duo **Space Blood**, we had the pleasure in revealing their forthcoming 'Brentrance to the UK' tour, the pair have teamed up with the loveable and extremely talented trio **Chiyoda Ku** to create utter chaos with whilst they're both on the road. Head to the site to find out more about that tour! And if Chiyoda Ku rings any bells we are thrilled to see they will be joining **Surprise Attacks** for a post-arc unmissable night at **The Firefly** with **Alright The Captain** and **The Broken Oak Duet** towards the end of August.

As for the month ahead, September welcomes the lovely return of **Worcester Music Festival**, we are so pleased to announce our duo **Aulos** are heading to a **Faithful City Shows** special evening during the event- keep your eyes peeled for more info with that in due course.

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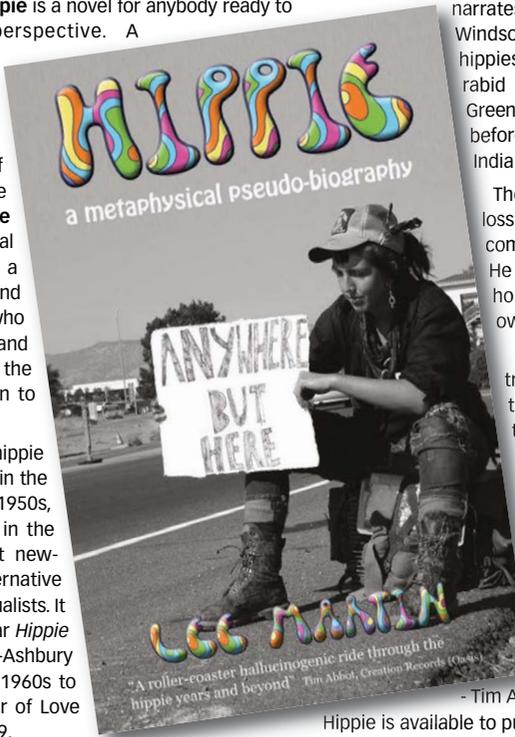
**DISCOVER TRADITIONAL FOLK**

## Hippie | A metaphysical pseudo-biography

Now on general release, **Hippie** is a novel for anybody ready to see life from a fresh perspective. A metaphysical pseudo-biography that address the big questions and a must-read for festival-goers.

Half documentary and half novel about the Hippie phenomenon, the author, **Lee Martin**, is the founder of annual music festival, **Lakefest**. It's a dynamic read, full of humour and anarchy. It's a story for those who lived through the unique era and those who want to discover the roots of the music they listen to now.

This book is a history of the hippie phenomenon, from its origins in the Beat Generation of the 1950s, through to its survival today in the form of new-agers and post new-agers, environmentalists, alternative lifestyle enthusiasts and spiritualists. It traces the life of one particular *Hippie* on a journey from the Haight-Ashbury area of San Francisco in the 1960s to New York during the Summer of Love and then to Woodstock in 1969.



The biography comes back to England at the end of that decade and the story resumes in the UK of the 1970s and 1980s. It narrates the history of the free festivals like Windsor and Stonehenge and the brutality hippies faced from the establishment and a rabid tabloid press. The book touches on Greenham Common and the Peace Movement, before taking the Hippie Trail and trekking to India and Nepal.

The pseudo-biographer suffers personal loss on the way back and experiments with a commune as a way to deal with this trauma. He eventually goes back on the road in a horse-drawn vardo before organising his own music festival in Gloucestershire.

Lee Martin's outlook on life is to buck the trend and get away from the norm. With the spread of family-orientated festivals in the new millennium, Lee was one of the founders of Lakefest first happening in Gloucestershire in 2012... with a cider festival launching the idea for this in 2011 at **Croft Farm Waterpark**. Now in its fifth year, **Lakefest** is relocating to the grounds of **Eastnor Castle** from August 11-14th.

*"A roller-coaster hallucinogenic ride through the hippie years and beyond"*

- Tim Abbot, Creation Records.

Hippie is available to purchase from <http://thehippiebook.com>

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# Justin Sullivan

## The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Thursday 18th August 2016

On Thursday 18th August **New Model Army** front man **Justin Sullivan** returns to the Boars Head in Kidderminster for a rare solo gig. His previous sell out show at the venue in 2014 was such a memorable night that it is still talked about in local gig folklore.



Now into their thirty-sixth year, legendary underground band **New Model Army** shows no sign of slowing down. Their most recent twin albums *Between Dog And Wolf* (2013) and *Between Wine And Blood* (2014) have been their most critically acclaimed and commercially successful for 20 years, and this August sees

the release of their much-awaited 15th album, *'Winter'* to be followed by several months of touring, the band's astonishing live shows continuing to thrill audiences across the World.

Meanwhile founder and main songwriter Justin Sullivan continues to do the occasional solo concert in every setting possible – from tiny clubs to huge festival stages, from prisons to palaces. His material is drawn from NMA's vast catalogue of albums and also from his (so far only) solo album – *'Navigating By The Stars'* – a unique, contemplative work released in 2003, featuring orchestral arrangements and famous guest musicians and based around the themes of ocean and love of Nature. For more information about **New Model Army** and Justin Sullivan go to [www.newmodelarmy.org](http://www.newmodelarmy.org) Supporting Justin Sullivan on what is sure to be an unforgettable evening is talented young local singer-songwriter **Jess Silk**.

Jason K

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# Remi Harris Project

## Deborah Rose & Mari Randle

### St Georges Hall, Bewdley | Friday 5th August



Young gypsy jazz guitarist **Remi Harris** has returned to the UK after his appearance at the **Montreal Jazz Festival** and is rolling into **Music in the Hall** at Bewdley's **St Georges Hall**, along with enchanting duo **Deborah Rose & Mari Randle**.

**Remi Harris** has toured around the globe from Australia to Canada and is described as "astonishing" by the likes of Digby Fairweather, as well as having been aired on BBC Radio 2, 6Music and Planet Rock Radio.

Remi's music has been influenced by many significant artists such as The Beatles, Django Reinhardt, Chet Baker and even Rage Against the Machine. In 2015 The Culture Trip named Harris in the *"Top Young British Jazz Musicians You Should Know"* and he's been nominated for various titles at the British Jazz Awards. Besides his recognition, Bromyard born Remi still feels that he has a lot to learn and his advice to other musicians (amateur or pro) is to *"learn what excites you"*.

**Deborah Rose & Mari Randle's** music is described to be "haunting", their songs tell stories and are accompanied by magical, acoustic melodies. They collaborated in 2015 and have since been touring extensively – whilst simultaneously unearthing inspiration in their contrasting musical prowess and in their mutual interest in nature. Their music is timeless and original, performed with an energy that exceeds the boundaries of genres.



Remi Harris Project and Deborah Rose & Mari Randle will be performing in Bewdley on Friday August the 5th – remember to buy your tickets early at <http://thehall-bewdley.org.uk> as it could be another sell out.

# Punky Reggae Party

The Ramonas, The Irascibles & Reggae Pie DJs  
The Booth Hall, Hereford | Friday 9th Sept

Hereford's **Wild Hare Club** and **The Underground Revolution** bring you a 'Punky Reggae Party' at The Booth Hall on the 9th of September as part of a series of celebrations taking place around the United Kingdom marking the 40th anniversary of the original Punk Rock explosion.



**The Booth Hall** located on East Street in Hereford, has the energy and atmosphere of the early punk venues. This gig will be oozing punk rock attitude and energy.

Headliners the **Ramonas** are a full on Ramones female tribute band that play their heroes' tunes with a ferocity reminiscent of CBGB's in 1976.

**The Irascibles** are a 3 piece Bluesabilly combo from Cardiff mixing blues, rockabilly and township jive in a tendon-taught post-punk mash-up. Featuring Drew and Phil Moxham (Young Marble Giants) and singer/songwriter/ guitarist Nick Lewis.



To make our '**Punky Reggae Party**' as authentic as possible Reggae Pie, the well-loved Hereford DJ collective will be spinning a special set of roots-rock-reggae until late to anybody who will move their DMs!

We expect this gig to sell out. Potential punters are therefore kindly asked to make sure they pick up their tickets in advance from the **Music Glue** website [www.musicglue.com/herefords-underground-revolution](http://www.musicglue.com/herefords-underground-revolution)

8pm-late. Tickets £10 or £8 with NUS card. For more information please see: <http://www.wildhareclub.com/events-performers-collaborators/60-punky-reggae-party>  
email Michelle [Herefordcitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:Herefordcitycenter@gmail.com)  
or Richard [info@wildhareclub.com](mailto:info@wildhareclub.com)

**THE UNDERGROUND REVOLUTION PRESENTS...**  
**THURSDAY AUGUST 4TH @ THE BOOTH HALL, HEREFORD**  
**HUCKWORM**

**WITH SPECIAL GUESTS...**  
**JOHN MASON & SHANNON WALKER**

Doors Open 6.30  
Music Starts 8.30  
£3 entry/£2 NUS

HEREFORD CITY CENTRIC PRESENTS  
★ THE ★  
**UNDERGROUND REVOLUTION**

**Pablo Aito** **Tempus Skewwhiff**

at the Booth Hall  
thurs 25th August  
doors 7pm

£3  
£2 NUS

# Music Sessions/Open Mics

## **Every Monday - Folk Session**

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

## **Every Monday - Open Mic**

Royal Oak, Ledbury

## **Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night**

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

## **Every Monday - Folk Night**

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

## **1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session**

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **4th Mon - Singaround**

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

## **Fortnightly Mon Open Mic**

Cafe Mambo @ No.5, Redditch

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

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Every Tues - Jazz Night**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

## **First Tues - Open Mic**

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

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

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **Last Tues - Folk Night**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles**

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

## **First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night**

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

## **Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band**

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

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

Pershore Library

## **Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly**

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

## **Every Tue - Open Mic**

The Firefly, Worcester

## **3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **Every Tue - Open Mic**

The Firefly, Hereford

## **Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic**

Great Malvern Hotel

## **Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country)**

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

## **2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session**

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

## **3rd Tues - Folk Evening**

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

## **3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris**

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

## **1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy**

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

## **1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround**

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

## **Every Wed - Electric Jam Night**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

## **Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session**

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

## **Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions**

The Crown, Colwall

## **Every Wednesday - Irish Session**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Fortnightly Wed Open Mic**

The Queens Head, Redditch

## **Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session**

The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

## **Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session**

The Plough & Harrow, Guarford

## **First Wed - Open Mic**

The Jailhouse, Hereford

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

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

## **Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming**

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

## **Every Wed - Folk Jam Session**

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

## **Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night**

Marrs Bar, Worcester

## **3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session**

The Admiral Rodney, Berrrow Gn

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

The Chestnut, Worcester

## **1st Thurs - Folk Session**

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

## **1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club**

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

## **Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio**

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

## **Thursday - Monthly Open Mic Night**

The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

## **Every other Thursday, Paul And Rays Sessions**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club**

Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

## **Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session**

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## **Every 1st & 3rd Thursday Ben Vickers Open Mic Night**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## **Every Thursday - Acoustic Session**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

## **Every Thursday - Local Artists**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance**

Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

## **3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session**

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

## **Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **Third Thursday - Malvern Storytellers**

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

## **Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session**

The Morgan, Malvern

## **Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton**

The Unicorn, Malvern

## **Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club run by Sam & Eleanor**

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

## **1st Fri - Acoustic Session**

The Camp, Grimley

## **3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop**

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

## **Last Fri - Acoustic Session**

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

## **Every Fri - Irish Session**

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

## **Every Friday - Abby Road Coffee Open Mic**

Abbey Road Coffee, Malvern

## **Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session**

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

## **Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson**

Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

## **Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **1st Sat - Acoustic session**

The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

## **2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club**

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

## **First Sun - Open Mic with Simon Wallace**

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

## **Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm**

The Morgan, Malvern

## **2nd Sun - Singaround Session**

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

## **Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session**

Social Club, West Malvern

## **Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm**

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

## **Every Sunday - Open Mic 7.30**

ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

## **2nd Sun - Acoustic Session**

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

## **Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00**

Lichfield Vaults

## **Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions**

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

## **1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session**

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

## **1st & 3rd Sun - 'Baa Chords' Open mic Session**

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

## **Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish**

Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club**

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

## Tuesday 02 August 2016

**Honky and Desert Storm**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Last Edition, The Skatells**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

## Wednesday 03 August 2016

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

**Kinny Molly + Sons Of Liberty**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Jessica Rhodes**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

## Thursday 04 August 2016

**Taylor & Co**  
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Huckworm, John Mason & Shannon Walker**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Troublesome Trio**  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**Zoe Green Band**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Chantel Mcgregor**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Duncan Disorderly And The Scallywags**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Friday 05 August 2016

**Hump De Bump**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Rupert Stroud Band**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Roger Roberts**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Ignitions Presents XVII, Siderian And A Born Disaster**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Freeborn Rising**  
The Saracens Head, Hereford

**The Bourbon Alley Blues Band**  
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Sonia Sabri Salaam**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Pete Harrington**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**The Delray Rockets**  
Three Pears Scooter Rally, Brookside Farm, Broughton Hackett

**Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, James Matthey**  
The Cap N Gown, Worcester

**The Remi Harris Project, Deborah Rose & Mari Randle**  
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

**Ben Vickers**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival**  
Upton, See [drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk](http://drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk)

**Will Killeen**  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

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

**Summerfest 2016 See**  
[Facebook.Com/Frogandfiddlecheltenham/Events](https://www.facebook.com/frogandfiddlecheltenham/events)  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Ross Angeles, Vh-Yes, Time Of The Mouth,**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Chicago Bytes**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

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

**T Clemente Band (San Francisco U.S.A)**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Executives**  
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Hide Your Eyes, The Caspiens, Harlequins**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Tom Forbes**  
Lamplighter, Stratford-Upon-Avon

**Jay & Eli**  
The Bell, Worcester

**Little Dave**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**The Eagles - The West Coast Eagles, God's Country**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, River Rooms

**Humm**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Basement 83**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Maybelleen**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Come Together**  
Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 06 August 2016

**Plastic Scene**  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**Last Tree Squad + DJ's**  
The Pig N Drum, Worcester

**Art Launch "Faces Of Music"**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Tbc**  
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**  
Out To Grass Campsite, Cradley

**Ruzz Guitar Blues Review**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Bitterroots**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival**  
Upton, See [www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk](http://www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk)

**The After Dark Band**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Summerfest 2016 See**  
[Facebook.com/frogandfiddlecheltenham/events](https://www.facebook.com/frogandfiddlecheltenham/events)  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**5.15**  
New Inn, Pershore

**The Worried Men**  
Black Lion, Hereford

**U2-2 The Original Achtung Baby**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Paarthurnax**  
The Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Meharis**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Got 2 Sing**  
Outside The Hub- Vicar Street, Kidderminster

**The Underdogs**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Hip Route**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Bright Eyes**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Kukumo**  
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

## Sunday 07 August 2016

**Clowns, Golden Deathmask, Trivial Dispute, Bathtub**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Marc Drew**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Jason Manford**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Westrock**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**The Exiles**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Woo Town Hillbillies 5.30pm**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival**  
Upton, See [drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk](http://drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk)



### **Down On The Farm Cider Fest**

Gwatkin Cider Moorhampton Park Farm Abbeydore Hereford,  
See [www.downtonthefarmfestival.gwatkincider.co.uk](http://www.downtonthefarmfestival.gwatkincider.co.uk)

### **The Blues Anoraks**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **Remi Harris Project 5.30Pm**

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### **Lakefest**

Eastnor Castle, Ledbury, See [Lakefest.Co.Uk](http://Lakefest.Co.Uk)

### **Malc Evans - 12:30Pm**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

### **Lazy Sunday, Bekki Cameron, Magik River, Lara Conley & The Alchemist's Wardrobe, Kezia Soul**

Café Bliss, Worcester

### **Kevin Brown Trio**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### **Vo Fletcher**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

### **Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **Kezza Belle Sunday Afternoon**

The Wharf, Stourport

### **Ginanni Rock Band**

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

## **Monday 15 August 2016**

### **Guy Davis**

Caryford Community Hall, Castle Cary

## **Tuesday 16 August 2016**

### **Edgarville, Third Time Lucky, Conor O'rouke, White Crosses**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Voodoo Room - A Night Of Hendrix And Cream**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **Wednesday 17 August 2016**

### **Mercury**

Huntingdon Hall, Swan Theatre

### **The Kut, Nth Cave**

The Pig N Drum, Worcester

### **Tyler & Friends**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **The Damned**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Muddy Summers And The Dfws**

Café Rene, Gloucester

### **The Queens Of Country Show**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **Thursday 18 August 2016**

### **Justin Sullivan Solo With Jess Silk**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Tbc**

Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Troublesome Trio**

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### **Mnhm, Oui Legionnaires, White Noise Radio, Grownuplife**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Annabella's Bow Wow Wow**

The Iron Road, Evesham

### **Hand in The Flowers**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Friday 19 August 2016**

### **Jagged Hands**

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### **Missing Sparrows, Natural Emotions**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Mister Wolf**

The 6Th Worcester Rally, Coney Green, Stourport On Severn

### **Tom Davies**

The Pheasant, Worcester

### **The Texas Fraud Blues Band**

Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Ray Mytton Band**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Risky Galaore**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### **Sarah Warren**

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

### **The Peas**

The Pheasant Inn, Toddington

### **Old Bush Blues Festival**

Callow End, Worcs, See [Old-Bush.Com/Old-Bush-Blues](http://Old-Bush.Com/Old-Bush-Blues)

### **Chasing Yesterday**

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### **Dilema Council**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Muchos Tequilas Lateres, Chambers, Delicate Holly, Towers, Norra**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Skrood**

Millers Arms, Pershore

### **Zoe Green Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **The Kut**

The Iron Road, Evesham

### **Shenanigans Showcase Viii, Unpleasant Terrace, Linda Marita, Grande Valise**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### **Brocken Spectre, Replicated Youth, Hate.System**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### **Tom Forbes**

Montys Bar And Brasserie, Cheltenham

### **The Kev And Ben Experience**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **Empty Can**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **One Tree Canon**

The Wharf, Stourport

### **Samsara Collective**

Café Rene, Gloucester

### **Come Up And See Me**

Drummonds, Worcester

## **Saturday 20 August 2016**

### **Fringe Festival Featuring Stiff Joints, Dantannabeatz, Alcohol**

Licks, Millie Manders And Her Band, The Bullfrogs, Flat

Stanley, Electric Soup, Crows And Crosses, Teddy Matthews,

Peter Williams And Lown Lizards

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Arcadia Roots**

Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Adam Giles**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Kill The Romantic, Thousand Mountain, Sin Eso**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### **Morton Stanley Festival**

See [Http://www.Redditchbc.Gov.Uk/Events](http://www.Redditchbc.Gov.Uk/Events), Redditch

### **Brin Thomas**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### **The Delray Rockets**

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

### **Journeyman**

Green Dragon, Malvern

### **The Swing Rioters**

Bretforton Social Club, Bretforton Nr Evesham

### **Skewwhiff**

The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

### **Old Bush Blues Festival**

Callow End, Worcs, See [Old-Bush.Com/Old-Bush-Blues](http://Old-Bush.Com/Old-Bush-Blues)

### **Blues Charity Festival**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Prime Mustard**

New Inn, Pershore

### **Secret Rule**

The Iron Road, Evesham

### **The Strangers**

Ruby Jacks, Evesham

### **Paul And Ray**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Sean Jeffery**  
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**Mister Wolf**  
The Swan Inn, Evesham

**Straight Aces**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Trevor Burton**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Sportbeat Festival 2016**  
Oxstalls Sports Park, Gloucester, See [www.sportbeatfest.com](http://www.sportbeatfest.com)

**Dear Robot**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Reloaded**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

## Sunday 21 August 2016

**Orchestra Of The Swan Presents – Baroque And Beyond**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Fringe Festival Featuring The Humdrum Express, Skewwhiff, Black Market Beat, Lobster, Karpel Kickers, Time Of The Mouth, Disco Tramps, Seventh Era, Jiggery Spokery, Bitter Falls And Dharma Bums**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Last Man Standing 4-7pm**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Morton Stanley Festival**  
See [www.Redditchbc.gov.uk/Events](http://www.Redditchbc.gov.uk/Events), Redditch

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Robin Hood Inn, Drayton Nr Belbroughton

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

**Maddi Stimpson Trio 5.30pm**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**Old Bush Blues Festival**  
Callow End, Worcs, See [Old-Bush.Com/Old-Bush-Blues](http://Old-Bush.Com/Old-Bush-Blues)

**Beth Harris And Charlie Marshall - 6pm**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

**Tom Walker Trio**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Johny Allen**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Sportbeat Festival 2016**  
Oxstalls Sports Park, Gloucester, See [www.sportbeatfest.com](http://www.sportbeatfest.com)

**Jon Hicks, Cornelia Keating**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Monday 22 August 2016

**Rura**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Tuesday 23 August 2016

**Absolute Blondie**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Wednesday 24 August 2016

**Voice Of The Heart – Karen Carpenter**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

**Peter Knight's Gigspanner**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Gaz Brookfield**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

## Thursday 25 August 2016

**Pablo Alto, Tempus, Skewwhiff**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Underground Ocean & The River Thieves**  
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Alright The Captain, The Broken Oak Duet, Chiyoda Ku**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Troublesome Trio**  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**Mike Silver**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

**Nick Perri, Jameson Burt Of Mount Holly (Usa)**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Esther**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Eddy Morton & Co**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Chinese Burn, Screaming Dead**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Bush Gothic**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Will Killeen**  
The Plough, Worcester

## Friday 26 August 2016

**Zen Archery, Charity Evening For Alzheimer's Society**  
The Ginger Pig, Worcester

**Protea Skies, A Hundred Suns**  
The Pig N Drum, Worcester

**The Woo Town Hillbillies, 8.00pm**  
The Fold, Bursford

**Dr Feelgood**  
The Barrels, Hereford

**Ben Vicker**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Pigdaze**  
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Future Set (House Band)**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Fred Zeppelin**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Chewie**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Jessica Rhodes & Band**  
The Pheasant Inn, Toddington

**Vehicle**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Foes, We Never Learned To Live**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Executives**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**A Foreigners Journey**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Rolly's Syndicate**  
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Tom Forbes**  
The Merryfellow Inn, Cheltenham

**Mister Wolf**  
The Bell, Worcester

**The Strangers**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**The Replicas**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, River Rooms

**Notorious Brothers**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Beth Harris & Charlie Marshall For Guide Dogs For The Blind**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Festivals Experience**  
Drummonds, Worcester

## Saturday 27 August 2016

**Facestealer's**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Lynched**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Ska Night Featuring Urang Matang & Guests 7pm**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Zeppelin 5**  
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**  
Out To Grass Campsite, Cradley

**Dave Onions**  
Ye Olde Seven Stars, Kidderminster

**The Doonies**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Dave Onions**  
Severn Stars, Kidderminster

**Black Cat Bone**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**Vehicle**  
Pershore Working Mens Club, Pershore

**The Outcasts**  
New Inn, Pershore

**Metaprism**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Cystic Fibrosis Trust And Multiple Sclerosis Charity Show,  
The Fidgets, Frin & Dave, The Questions**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Tom Forbes**  
Montys Bar And Brasserie, Cheltenham

**Tom Forbes**  
Kings Head, Bishops Cleeve

**Mister Wolf**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**The Commandments**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, River Rooms

**The Coverjunkies**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Ex Presidents**  
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

## Sunday 28 August 2016

**She Makes War**  
The Convent, 5th Woodchester, Glos

**Bank Holiday Sunday Sessions**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Film Night Showing The "Boars Head Documentary"**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Tasha 4-7Pm**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**The Delray Rockets 3Pm**  
The Actress And Bishop, Birmingham

**1st Birthday Party - Music All Day**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Will Killeen**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Pete Hyde & The Villiards 5.30Pm**  
The Chestnut Inn, Worcester

**Tempers Fray, Restrict, + More Tba**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Legend - A Tribute To Bob Marley**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Strays**  
Ruby Jacks, Evesham

**Tom Forbes**  
Kings Head, Bishops Cleeve  
**Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic)**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Oasis V The Stone Roses**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, River Rooms

**Bryn Teeling**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Nice & Sleazy**  
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

## Monday 29 August 2016

**All Day Open Mic With Pete Kelly**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**The Test Pilots**  
The Wharf, Stourport

## Tuesday 30 August 2016

**Graffiti Classics**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Wednesday 31 August 2016

**Ten Strings & A Goat Skin (Canada)**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

**Tom Forbes**  
O2 Academy Oxford, Oxford

**Jen Charlton**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Remember to  
upload your listings at  
[www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/](http://www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/)  
it's quick & simple  
and guarantees inclusion  
or email [editorial@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:editorial@slapmag.co.uk)

## Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

**5th Ratburger** Hartlebury Castle

**6th-27th Kidderminster Arts Festival**

**10th - Special Effects Latex Gore Workshop**  
Boars Head Pub Gallery

**7th - Bands in the Park**, Brintons park Band Stand

**13th Music in the Valley**, Habberley Valley Nature Reserve

**6th - The Legendary Unlikely Pop Quiz 2003**  
Kidderminster Town Hall

**6th - The Fastest One Man Band in the World**,  
Kidderminster Town Hall

**6th - 20th The Glitter Playground**, St. Georges Park,  
Kidderminster

**11th -The Robinson Stone Brothers**, Kidderminster Town Hal

**13th - Young Talent Showcase**, Kidderminster Town Hal

**13th - The World's First Human Sized Jukebox**,  
Kidderminster Town Hall

**6th - Planetary**, Outside the Town Hall

**13th - The Musical Express**, Severn Valley Railway

**13th - Crafts & Makers Fair**  
St George's, Rashford Avenue, Kidderminster

**7th Cheltenham Gin Festival**, Cheltenham Town Hall

**11-27th The Secret life of Dads** Gloucester Guildhall

**13-14th Family fun-day**, Mary Stephens Park, Strourbridge

**13th Worcester Duck Race**, Worcester Bridge 2pm

**14th Worcester show**, Gheluvelt Park Worcester

**Until 14th Summer Exhibition**, Artrix , Bromsgrove

**Until 11th Sept Grayson Perry Vanity of small Differences**,  
Croome National Trust

**20th & 21st Fringe Festival**, Boars Head, Kidderminster

**21st Worcester Comic Con**, University Arena

**25th Dotty the Dragon**, Hartlebury Castle

**26th-29th Local artists and craft makers**  
see: [www.worcesteropenstudios.org.uk](http://www.worcesteropenstudios.org.uk)

# THE MARR'S BAR

AUG SEPT 2016

Fred Zeppelin  
Friday 26th August



Friday 5th August

**VH-YES**

£3 on the door

Sunday 7th August

**FCS presents: Clowns, Golden Deathmask, Trivial Dispute, Bathtub**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday 12th August

**The Boss UK**

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday 13th August

**3 bands £3, Michael Knowles & the STDs  
Toenail & the Bedsores + The fidgets**

Friday 19th August

**Missing Sparrows, Natural Emotions**

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 20th August

**3 bands £3 with Kill The Romantic,  
Thousand Mountain + Sin Eso**

Friday 26th August

**Fred Zeppelin**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 27th August

**In aid Cystic Fibrosis & Multiple Sclerosis  
The Fidgets, Frin & Dave + The Questions**

£5 in advance

Sunday 28th August

**OLB: Tempers Fray, Restrict**

£5 in advance £8 on the door

Sunday 28th August 11:30pm - 4:00am

**TNT Radio: Cosplay Clubnight**

£4 Advance £6 on the door

Friday 2nd September

**Tower Studios presents: Freebase**

£5 on the door

Saturday 3rd September

**Kinship Carers fund raiser**

£5 in advance

Friday 9th September

**Low Promo Presents**

TBC

Saturday 10th September

**Fury**

TBC

Friday - Sunday

**16th-18th September 6-12pm**

**Worcester Music Festival**

Free Entry

Thursday 22nd September

**Outlast Bookings**

TBC

Friday 23rd September

**Tower Studios presents**

**Jupitronz + James Matthey**

£5 on the door

Saturday 24th September

**Guns Or Roses**

TBC

Thursday 29th September

**The Eskies**

£7 in advance £9 on the door

Friday 30th September

**Babal, Black Light Secret**

£4 in advance £5 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

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

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