

SLAP

Issue 64

Nov 2016

FREE



SLAP Supporting **Local Arts & Performers**

 "There's a new place in town!" 

Worley's The Swan

...November

Thu 3 - The Texas Fraud
Blues Band

Fri 4 - Skewwhiff

Sat 5 - The Starving Rascals

Thu 10 - Hot Foot

Fri 11 - The Black Heart Angels

Sat 12 - C-jam

Thu 17 - Chicago Bytes

Fri 18 - Big Jim & the
Black Cat Bones

Sat 19 - The Festivals
Experience

Thu 24th - TBC

Fri 25 - Vehicle

Sat 26 - Rattle Snake Jake

Run by Music Lovers for Music Lovers



**MUSIC VENUE
& FREE HOUSE
WITH TOP NOTCH
FACILITIES**

**Folk/Jazz/Bands
Acoustic Nights**

**Well Stocked Bar
6 Real Ales
(Top Rated from CAMRA)**

22 bespoke Gins

10 Malt whiskies

7 types of Jack Daniels

Folk Night

Monday evenings

**special offers on 6 real ales
and some free grub !!**

All musicians & listeners welcome

**Tuesday Jazz Nights
Coming Soon!**

**Wednesdays Electric Jam Night
Is now in Full Swing...**

Coming Soon...

Mediterranean Bistro

Record Shop & Art Gallery

Back Room 300 Capacity Venue

**Guitar Shop & Music Bar
all under one roof!**

Tel: 01299 877832

www.facebook.com/worleysswan

www.theswanstourport.com

56 High Street, Stourport-on-Severn DY13 8BX

SLAP

Nov 2016 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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

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

EDITORIAL Mark Hogan - Editor
Kate Cox - Arts editor
Emily Branson - Sub Editor
Paige Lewis - Sub Editor

CONTRIBUTORS Andy O'Hare
Will Munn
Geoffrey Head
Graham Munn
Suzi Briggs
Jason K
Naomi Preece
Rosie Hamilton
Sarah Ganderton
Stephen Wilson
Charley Barnes
Paul White
Anna Taylor
Steve Glazzard
Sophie Austwick
Tiffany Hosking
Dai Morris
Rich Lovell
Sophie Davey-Over
Michelle Cuadra
Craigus Barry
Rich Deakin
Suz Winspear
Lauren Trim
Neil Hopwood
Kate Cox

Design Mark Hogan
Web & Social Media Ant Robbins @slapmagofficial



ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Reproduction in whole or part prohibited without permission.
Artwork, prints or any pictorial media for this publication are sent at owners risk and whilst every care is taken, neither Slap Magazine or its agents accept liability for loss or damage.

DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that adverts and articles appear correctly, Slap Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by the contents of this publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Hello and welcome to SLAP November '16 issue, in which we bring you news, reviews and previews from around the three counties and beyond. If you thought for one moment things were going to quieten down around these parts once the festival season had finished, you couldn't have been more wrong. As packed as these pages are, however, it's still only the tip of the iceberg with regards to the sheer amount of activity in local music and the arts.

I for one feel the tide of mood change in the local arts, where more people are working closely together and collaborating with like minded organisations and groups. This, I believe, is key to a successful and thriving DIY scene which thrives despite the lack of arts funding at grass roots level. With such little support locally and nationally, the arts has become a common cause for concern. What is even more worrying - is the attack that is taking place in the education system itself. Owing to a new obsession with league tables and exam results, the creative and collective nature of the arts has become to be seen as invalid, useless, and unbeneficial to children in education.

According to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the number of primary school-age children who had visited a theatre in the previous 12 months fell from almost half to less than a third in the last six years. Children and young people are systematically being cut off from a world of creativity; the opportunity to even begin to generate an interest in art subjects is no longer provided or valued and yet, for example, the cognitive benefits of art therapy, music and drama are indisputable. This is why local organisations providing these services play a vital role in the community.

We believe that art and culture can make life better for everyone and help to build diverse communities and improve our quality of life. Great art and culture can inspire our education system, boost our economy and give art an international stage. We need to support new ways of thinking about the arts and their potential to restore a sense of pride in our communities.

Rant -Ed



Front Cover image: **Dodgy** by Micheal Longlane
Gloucester Guildhall plays host to Dodgy on Friday 11th November

Carnival or Pantomime

The bungling organiser of this year's failed **Worcester Carnival** - cancelled at the last minute leaving scores of people who'd prepared for the event for months high and dry - has refused to stand aside despite a campaign against him. He has joined forces with a local councillor who has 'staked his reputation' on next year's planned event being a success - we'll see...

Glenn Squeeze's in local dates

Squeeze frontman **Glenn Tilbrook** has announced a stop-off in Worcester is included in his latest solo tour of the UK - with an appearance at **Huntingdon Hall** on Thursday 10th November and then at **Artrix** in Bromsgrove on Tuesday 15th November. Last year Squeeze released their first album for 18 years - entitled *Cradle To The Grave* - expect a couple of classics thrown into the mix!



A Royal Cuppa for Winner

Worcestershire Poet Laureate Suz Winspear who's also Poet-in-Residence at the **Museum Of Royal Worcester Porcelain** has launched a competition to find the best original poem in celebration of the world-famous crockery. The winner will be invited to perform their work at an awards ceremony in November and also receive a Royal Worcester cup and saucer - more info at www.museumofroyalworcester.org

Elgar has his Day

The organisers of next year's proposed '**Elgar Day**' have announced that world-renowned cellist **Julian Lloyd-Webber** is now their patron. Apparently the celebration of 'Worcester's own Shakespeare' will actually run for a week from June 2 to 11 - with concerts, walking tours and exhibitions of rare Elgar memorabilia in the pipeline...



Has Worcester Got Talent?

TV 'talent' show **Britain's Got Talent** held auditions in Worcester for prospective places for its 2017 series - which includes 'a chance to perform in front of the royal family' at the Royal Variety Performance - hmmm...

Charitable local Festivals

Congratulations to **Malvern's West Fest** - who raised over £3000 from this year's bash to distribute among local causes - and also **Worcester Music Festival** who's efforts totalled £4139 in aid of Acorn's Hospice - which will help to fund a therapeutic music facility - great work from all involved!!

A Fitting Tribute



A new show at the **Artrix** in Bromsgrove called '*The Life And Music Of Clifford T Ward*' by **Robinson-Stone** aims to celebrate just that with a debut performance on Saturday 19th November - the tribute to the Worcestershire singer-songwriter will feature numbers such as *Gaye* and *Home Thoughts From abroad* - also some rare unreleased material!

Hawklords to set Marrs Bar alight

Ring modulators at the ready as space-rockers **Hawklords** touch down at the **Marrs Bar** in Worcester on **Bonfire Night 5th November** - the outfit which includes former members of **Hawkwind** such as **Harvey Bainbridge** also promises a 'jaw-dropping lightshow' - woop!

Daylight Robbery says Ex- Police



Ex-Police frontman **Sting** has criticised the current music industry - stating that it's impossible for younger musicians to earn a living - with two of his own children who are musicians '*struggling to put bread on the table*'. He took aim at the decline in grassroots venues and clubs, also the pennies that streaming music services pay artists. The singer (who's himself worth £185m) made the comments at a royalties collection awards ceremony in London - where he said '*I'm fine (!) but it's very difficult for new songwriters to make a living*' - you don't say mate...

Worcester Music Festival Announces Money Raised in Aid of Acorns

The **Worcester Music Festival** team worked tirelessly over the year-long build-up to the 2016 festival, which ran from September 16 to 18. The festival hosted 200 bands across 20 different venues around Worcester City Centre, and this weekend-long event was organised by the Music Festival committee alongside an impressive amount of volunteers, all of whom donated their time and effort in order to raise money for this year's charity, **Acorns Children's Hospice**. Over the course of the weekend those involved – including the glamorous charity team who were devoted to collecting monies for the cause – managing to raise a staggering £4139.46 in aid of Acorns!

Festival Director **Nikki Boraston**, who has always been heavily involved with the fundraising team – and this year was certainly no exception – has spoken about the amount raised this year, commenting: 'Worcester Music Festival's team are overjoyed by the generosity of the bands and their audiences. It is wonderful to see so much money raised, and for such a deserving charity.'

'We're delighted that the money from this year's festival can now go towards helping Acorns' children, through the hospice's newest range of music therapy.'

Acorns Children's Hospice, who are constantly working towards providing support and comfort for children with life-limiting illnesses, have discussed their involvement with Worcester Music Festival this year, too. Fundraising officer, **Gemma Timmis**, stated: 'The festival was fantastic this year and created such a buzz in the city. It was so good to be a part of such a brilliant event and we're so grateful to the organisers for choosing to support Acorns.'

'We rely on the community to fund the majority of our work, so partnerships like this help us to continue to provide vital care.'



Throughout the course of the weekend many involved with the festival could be found rattling donation buckets that were strategically placed around the city, while Worcester Music Festival's charity team donned fancy dress – from pirates to land-girls – for the three days that the festival ran for. In their commendable efforts to raise money for a cause close to their hearts, the festival team have succeeded in raising a wonderful sum for a worthy cause, and the team heartily thanks those who were involved with the festival this year.



COMING SOON TO THE FLEECE INN, BRETFTORTON

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

Sat 5 Nov, 7pm, Free Entry - Bonfire Night

Wed 9 Nov, 8pm, £12 (includes tea & cake) - Think of England

A theatre show with a tea dance theme based on a surprising but little known story from the Second World War – with cake, wartime songs and a little dancing!

Sun 20 Nov, 8pm, £10 - Fleecey Folk: The Dovetail Trio

Rosie Hood, Matt Quinn & Jamie Roberts - presenting England's traditional songs with a bold and fresh approach.

Tues 29 Nov, 8pm, £10 - Ian McMillan & Luke Carver Goss

'The verbal gymnastics of a north country Spike Milligan coupled with the comic timing of Eric Morecambe.'

The Cross, Bretforton, Nr. Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 7JE Tel: 01386 831173 Email: info@thefleeceinn.co.uk

To Book: www.thefleeceinn.co.uk

The Quintessential English Pub

Real Ales and Ciders • Good Food • Apple Orchard • Morris Dancing • Music Sessions • Concerts

This month Clik Clik is settling back indoors developing new ideas and writing for 2017. I'll be doing the décor for the wonderful **FEAST** festival at Malvern Cube from 11-13th of this month, followed by 'Gin Lane' and various pop-ups at the **Worcester Victorian Christmas Fair** 24th-27th.



Gin Lane

'Step into the dark world of 'Gin Lane': a Victorian alleyway with its debauched inhabitants, cast out of society due to their unsavoury behavior!

With interactive performance, singsongs, and surprises, 'Gin Lane' is an alternative Victorian experience from **Clik Clik Collective**, taking you back in time!

Out of Gin Lane will spring Clik Clik's '**Victorian Voodoo Procession**', a weird and wonderful world of musical delights and dark creations. Watch as the Victorian lower classes etch their way back to life through slow rhythms and beats; faster and faster the beats grow, tick tock, heart pumping and joyous, erupting with dance and life. Allow them to encourage you to play, to dance with them, before the beats drop and they seep back to the cold dark place from which they came, stumbling and soulless.



Bringing together a diverse range of freelance artists and performers, come and join the procession 6pm Saturday!

Find **Gin Lane** in **The Shambles** Fri 25th 4-9pm & Sat 26th 3-8pm.

You might also find yourself bumping into a Victorian flower seller offering you a fake moustache and some photo booth style fun! Roaming '**Pie n Tash**' will be on the streets Thursday 24th and Sunday 27th.

www.clikclikcollective.com

Capoeira Opportunity

If you are between 16-25 years and fancy trying something different, **Oficina da Capoeira** invite you to join them for just £1 per class for 8 weeks from January 2016. Capoeira originated in



Brazil and is a mix of martial arts, dance and music. Capoeira is open to all, and all levels of fitness are welcome. Capoeira will help increase your fitness - especially flexibility, endurance and balance. Oficina da Capoeira holds classes for all skill levels on Thursdays from 7.45pm at **Studio B** in St John's, Worcester. Classes are £8 adults / £5 students for a 90 minute class.

To find out more visit: odacapoeira.com or email: mandagraham1@gmail.com

The Hop Project

The Hop Project is a contemporary art project that is touring Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Birmingham and the Black Country during 2016/17. Funded by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Programme, the project uses the historical migratory movements of hop-pickers as the conceptual basis for a touring exhibition. The Hop Project is conceived and produced by 'General Public' (artists Elizabeth Rowe and Chris Poolman).



Paul Ligas

The project's starting point is an exploration of the social and political implications of hop production in the West Midlands where the hop yards of Herefordshire and Worcestershire produce more than half of the hops grown in the UK. The project doesn't seek to present a factual, social history of hops; rather it offers an interpretation from a number of different angles and perspectives. The artworks within the exhibition attempt to present a range of different voices involved in the history of hops and agriculture – landowners, Romany Travellers, today's Central European economic migrants and Black Country hop pickers, specifically women.

The Hop Project will be at **The Hive** Worcester from 3rd Nov until 13th December then onto **The Countyard**, Hereford (13th January – 19 March 2017) and **Ross-on-Wye Library** (28 March – 29 April 2017).

Dancefest workshops

Workshop with Rachel Liggitt of Shropshire Inclusive Dance

A practical session for support workers, dance artists and anyone interested in developing skills in working with people with varying disabilities, led by **Rachel Liggitt** of Shropshire Inclusive Dance.

Part of the session will be working alongside Dancefest's **Jigsaw Integrated Performance Group**, a group for disabled and non-disabled dancers, who meet weekly, and regularly perform.

Rachel is a freelance dance artist with 20 years' experience of performing and teaching in inclusive dance. She was a member of **Blue Eyed Soul Dance Company** and has led workshops all over the country, alongside performing. 4.30pm-8pm

Aspire Community Hub, Hereford, HR1 2EA

Wednesday 23 November £15/£10 concessions

Visit dancefest.co.uk or ring 01905 611199 to book

Big Jigsaw Inclusive Arts Forum

Dancefest is hosting a network event bringing together people who work with a range of ages and abilities, to discuss ways they can work together and be more inclusive.



Tim Cross

This is open to all who take part in dance, drama, music and visual arts. The forum will talk about projects, performances, workshops and look at opportunities to work together with others, to find out what they do and where they do it.

Wednesday 30 November, 6.30-8pm - Free Event

Aspire Community Hub, Canal Road, Hereford, HR1 2EA

Please contact Michele Holder at michele@dancefest.co.uk or Call 01905 611199 to book your place or find out more.

**Arts submissions
& events email Kate at
arts@slapmag.co.uk**

1000 Days

We had a really good launch to the new Arts Strategy 1000 Days at the Cube on Saturday 15th October.

It was an event in three parts. The first was an Open Space event looking at collaboration and partnerships. This was attended by 20 practitioners and organisations and featured an opening talk by Rose Beeston from Dancefest on the importance of collaboration and also some of the challenges that presents. Listening to Rose I was reminded of the fantastic work of that organisation. We then went into groups and talked about arts and health collaborations, marketing and I led a discussion about working at The Hive.

After the Open Space event we went into the main theatre for the launch itself. Judith Elkin and myself went through the priorities of the strategy. As a reminder these are:

1. To ensure strong leadership and sustainable infrastructure for developing a vibrant, high quality arts scene and raising the profile of the arts across the county.
2. To build a confident, diverse and resilient arts sector that strives for excellence and is able to deliver a high quality arts offer for Worcestershire.
3. To build relationships with organisations promoting economic growth and develop ways in which the arts can contribute to Worcestershire being a vibrant and appealing place to live.



Honey | Reaction Theatre Makers

Honey, on tour summer 2016, is a thought provoking and imaginative piece about the everyday struggles of modern family life and the world from the perspective of an autistic child.

I was introduced to the concept of Honey long before it even became a play. Reaction Theatre makers visited the University of Worcester in my first year of studying Drama and Performance to do a workshop with us. I remember feeling inspired by many of their ideas. One that stood out to me in particular was the concept of talking to the bees and telling them your thoughts.

And then, almost 2 years later, I was sat in the **Malvern Cube** with a certain sense of nostalgia watching the beautifully portrayed characters of Anwen (Tiffany Hosking) and Celandine (Michelle Moore) telling the bees their problems.

Anwen is a beekeeper living in Wales with her son Caron (Alex Radu) who has autism. They wait anxiously day after day in the hope that Robert, Anwen's husband and Caron's father, will return from his tour with the army bomb disposal unit safely.

Whilst waiting, Anwen decides to make Caron a quilt, as she thinks this will fill the time. Celandine, a tattoo artist and Anwen's sister, joins the project. When Caron goes missing, the sisters join forces to retrieve him, only to be indebted to an unlikely person: their half sister (Jemma Lewis).

This beautiful story immersed the audience completely with wonderful visual moments, soulful folk music and clever staging. Some of my favourite moments included the marketplace, where jars of honey glowed like liquid gold; Anwen talking about the quilt; Caron and Celandine dancing like bees and the three sisters uniting to finish the quilt.

A truly creative, heart-warming and memorable piece. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sophie Davey-Over



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

5. To develop opportunities for the arts to be a player in improving the health of individuals old and young contributing to providing life-affirming health and wellbeing choices for all.

After the launch we then went to see the brilliant play *Magnetic Diaries* which launched *Feast*, a new theatre festival for Malvern.

It was a great day all round with so much positivity. Long may it continue.

Steve Wilson, Worcestershire County Council Arts Officer

Lost art by Sarah Ganderton

The beautiful mural in the Tything has sadly been lost to Worcester's residents. Created by students from **Tudor Grange Academy** in 2010 the artwork has brightened the roadside of Worcester for 6 years only to be torn down for a new shop front.

At times, since July, it had looked promisingly as though the mural might survive in parts but finally the wall has been neatly painted and the art is gone.

The artwork on what was once the United Footwear store in Upper Tything, was created in 2010 by year seven pupils along with graffiti artists **David Brown** and **Matt Reeves**.

It featured Worcester's most famous landmarks along with its civil war history, motto and symbol of the black pears. An enormous piece, it was always difficult to photograph all of it with the street lamps and such like in front of it, and the fantastic detail in each metre of the painted wall was incredible, so that any photograph of a small part of it was a delight.



The original mural was made possible by funding from Worcestershire county councillors **Andy Roberts** and **Simon Geraghty**, known as **The Positive Activities for Young People** grant which is allocated to all councillors. Yet there is a possibility the mural or something similar may yet be resurrected, albeit on the side of a building rather than the front, but perhaps in a safer position than the original. Let us hope this is possible, and Worcester's streets will be brightened once more.



Stroud Valleys Artspace (SVA)



With their **John Street** venue housing an event and cafe space, a street facing gallery space and studio space to 26 artists, a unique space for performances, exhibitions and film screenings at **The Goods Shed** and numerous temporary exhibition spaces in empty properties over the years, the **Stroud Valley Artspace** is an exciting Gloucestershire creative hub. SVA aims to raise the profile of artists and their role in the community by supporting the production and presentation of their work, thereby increasing opportunities for access to and active participation in the arts for a diverse range of people. SVA enable artists to work without undue financial pressure within a practical supportive framework through the provision of space, resources, training and support. By acting as a catalyst for experimentation and collaboration, they promote a programme of innovative projects to the general public.



Visit this month for several arty events hosted at the **Line Gallery, John Street**.

Water and Wood 3rd - 8th November 11-4pm - A collaborative exhibition from **SVA** textile designers held at the Line Gallery.

Holly English 10th -15th November 11-4pm - A mixed media exhibition reflecting social values

Absurd Labour 18th - 20th 11am-4pm - A three day performance piece, presenting the making, exhibiting and dissolution of a body of work.

Stroud Short Stories - Sunday 20th November 7.30pm for 8pm start - ten of Gloucestershire's finest authors read their specially selected stories at what the **Cheltenham Literature Festival** called "possibly the best short story event in the South West".

Tickets: £7 advance only

Sean Heather - 23rd - 29th November 11-4pm - A provocative mixed media exhibition using the unorthodox to question social norms.

SVA, 4 John Street, Stroud GL5 2HA. office@sva.org.uk

Suz Winspear Worcestershire Poet Laureate

Now that everyone at LitFest has recovered from the madness of October (always one of the busiest months on the Spoken Word scene), it's time to look ahead. November has a reputation as a dreary month, but there is plenty for us to look forward to.

If you are a writer below the age of 18, or know anyone who is, the **Rotary Young Writers'** competition is running now. It's free to enter, the closing date for entries is **November 30th**, and all you need to do is write a piece (poetry or prose, fiction or non-fiction) of up to 500 words, entitled '*Reflection*'. Winners of local heats will go on to District and National rounds. There are prizes to be won in three age-categories, and everyone gets a Certificate of Participation. For the rules, details and more information, go to www.ribi.org/youth/competitions, and then to enter contact pollystretton@gmail.com.

The younger writers might also enjoy WordPlay, a creative corner for writers aged 7 – 11 to explore poetry and stories. This is on at the **Droitwich Spa Library** from 4-5pm on alternate Tuesdays – **November 1st, 15th and 29th**. It's led by poets **Claire Walker** and **Charley Barnes**, and the cost is £5 per child per session. If I was eight years old, it's where I'd want to go!



Looking for the best young poet in Worcestershire

The search is on to find the sixth **Young Poet Laureate for Worcestershire 2017**.

'Word Up' the project which looks for the best young poet in Worcestershire officially launched on National Poetry Day, Thursday 6 October.

The competition is open to anyone aged between 13 and 19 who lives in, or goes to school, college, university or a youth club in Worcestershire. Local budding poets are asked to submit two poems, one on the subject of 'Messages' and another on a subject of their choice.

Current Young Poet Laureate, Ellie Courtman, is nearing the end of her reign but has enjoyed her experience, which has seen her writing, performing and enthusing young people across the county.

The 19 year old, from Earls Croome, said:

"The year has been really enjoyable. Being Young Poet Laureate, and the support and encouragement I have received in the role has really boosted my confidence in terms of writing and sharing my work"

By the time you read this, all the entries for the **Museum of Royal Worcester's Porcelain Poetry Challenge** will be in. The winners will be announced and will read their poetry at an event at the **Porcelain Museum** on the evening of **Wednesday November 16th**, where there will also be performances by the poets who are judging the competition.

Looking ahead, the competitions for next year's **Worcestershire Poet Laureate**, and the **LitFest Young Writers** and **Flash Fiction** awards will be opening earlier than usual, at the beginning of January. More about that nearer the date! The winners of this year's Flash Fiction contest will be performing at the launch of the anthology '*A Cache of Flashes*' on Sunday **20th November**, at 4pm at Drummonds in Worcester. Flash Fictions are ultra-short stories of fewer than 300 words – quite a challenge for a writer – so come and see how much can be achieved in a very few words! There are a lot of writers performing, so expect a diverse range of bite-sized stories!

Meanwhile, here are a few Spoken Word dates for your November diary –

Wednesday 9th – Worcester Writers' Group Meeting at 7.30 at the **Lunar Bar** above the **Swan with Two Nicks**. This new and informal group welcomes all those who love writing – everybody welcome!

Thursday 10th – SpeakEasy at **Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop**. Poetry from a wide range of local poets, with featured poet **Ben Parker**. Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis, so get there early! £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

Wednesday 16th – Porcelain Poetry Challenge – the awards! **Museum of Royal Worcester** 7.30pm

Sunday 20th – A Cache of Flashes book launch. Flash Fiction at **Drummonds Bar**, New Street, Worcester. 4pm. Free entry.

Wednesday 30th – 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.

In offering advice to this year's hopefuls she said: *"Don't doubt yourself. Believe that you can do it and just write what you know."* The deadline for entries is midnight on **Saturday 31 December 2016**.



For more information please visit the website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wordup contact Natalie McVey, from the County Council's Library and Learning Services, on 07876 144905 or Steve Wilson, Arts Officer on 01905 765754.



worcester arts workshop

November brings with it our first **Shindig** event of the Season. **Farnham Maltings** and **Bucket Club** present **Launch Party**; coming to the Worcester Arts Workshop on Friday 18th November at 7.30pm.

"When I look at my life on earth, it's brilliant, I love it, I love you, but... it's small. And this is a chance to make my life big."

Martha and Vi are twins. They grew up side by side, watching the stars. But recently they've drifted. While Martha has stayed in their home village, laying down roots, Vi has been across the globe training as an astronaut, preparing to launch herself into the unknown. Before Vi blasts off, Martha has arranged a party to send her off in style. She's laid out snacks, hired a DJ and invited the whole village. Will it be enough to reunite the sisters before Vi heads into the stars?

A co-production presented by Farnham Maltings and associate company, Bucket Club, **Launch Party** explores family, the final frontier and how we carry home with us wherever we go. With a story set within the framework of a party, complete with disco lights, cheesy pop and balloons, Bucket Club transform everyday objects to tell an epic story.

Live music is used throughout the show, drawing on influences as diverse as David Bowie, Georgian choral music and the Macarena. Using keyboard, electric guitar, computer software and choral singing, Bucket Club composer/performer **David Ridley** crafts original songs and beautiful textured soundscapes that the whole cast perform.

Launch Party is a hilarious, moving, musical feast by a multi award-winning company that will make you think about the meaning of home, and how, sometimes, we need to leave.

Ticket are available now online at:

www.wegotickets.com/event/375326

Or by popping into the office Tuesday – Friday between 11am and 2pm.

Tickets: £10 standard, £7 U16/ Student. IMAGE: CosmoBlues

Splendid Cinema continues this month with two more screenings; the first of which is *The Lobster* (GR, IE, NL, UK, FR, Yorgos Lanthimos, 2015 119 min. Cert.15) on Thursday 3rd November. Strange, surreal, and yet, somehow, quite romantic. In a dystopian near future, single people, according to the laws of *The City*, are taken to *The Hotel*, where they are obliged to find a romantic partner in forty-five days or are transformed into beasts and sent off into the woods.



The second screening is the cult classic *'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'* (IT, Sergio Leone, 1966, 180 min. Cert. 18) on Thursday 17th November. Part of our **"Cult Movie Thursdays"** programme come and see Leone's masterpiece on the big screen in HD. Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef and Eli Wallach race to find buried treasure during the American Civil War. This is one of the greatest Spaghetti Westerns ever made!



For both screenings doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Cafe Bliss will be open before the film for refreshments. Tickets are £5 on the door.

For further information or to book tickets please visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk, call us on 01905 25053 or email info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk. Please note that the office is open Tuesday – Friday between 11am and 2pm.

LAZY SUNDAY

13TH NOV'16

FOOD SERVED 1PM

12 - 6PM

£3 ENTRY

Wednesday's

Daniel J

Wolves

Poppy WS

Bryn Teeling

Open Mic

Carly Dee

12.30 - 1.30

CAFE BLISS

CAFE BLISS

CAFE BLISS: 07821733246

21 Sansome St'WR1 1UH

Framed in the Moment!

We're treated to two vivid images in one great-timed shot from the winner of this year's annual **Worcester Music Festival** photography competition, **Cindel Oranday**. Her shot of "The Hungry Ghosts playing at the Firefly" captures two of the band members immersed in their artistry.



Second prize went to **Roy Jenks** for his bewitchingly captured "Theo at the Marris Bar". His muted, almost sepia tones is a nice capture of the emotion of both the artist and the audience. Whilst third place winner, **Emily Harris'** shot of "V2A at the Arts Workshop" is a bold image that is praised for her use of flash in a tough venue to shoot.



Cindel was presented with a £100 camera store voucher courtesy of festival sponsor **Child Care Bureau**, which provides high quality foster care placements throughout Worcestershire and beyond, at a prize giving ceremony at **Worcester Arts Workshop** in Sansome Street last Friday night, with a £50 and £25 voucher for the runners up.

Judge, **Steve Johnston**, who was also joined by **Joseph Singh** and **James Watkins** on the judging panel said of the entries "Judging this year's competition was really difficult with a turnout of high quality entries. Our individual varied criteria led to differences in opinion throughout the process, but we're altogether very happy with the top three."

"This is my first year attending Worcester Music Festival, as always, I had my camera with me and took some photos of the bands playing, I am so grateful that one of my photos was selected as the winner, little did I know that this hopeful festival newbie had a chance. It has been an amazing experience to participate and to be welcomed into this wonderful community of fellow photographers and music lovers. Thank you so much Worcester Music Festival, for the great music and the opportunity."

Cindel appears to have arrived at the festival and captured part of its charisma on her first attempt!

Roy Jenks, one of the festival's prevalent photographers described his approach; "The shot came about almost by accident as a last minute decision to pop into the Marris Bar on my way home from seeing a couple of other bands. With the musician playing surrounded by the audience I saw the potential for including both in the shot, so it was just a case of finding the best position and waiting for the right moment. I was really pleased to see the number of new entrants to the competition and brilliant photos they were submitting, but the competition seemed to have a new lease of life this year."

Emily's strong monochrome image of the eerily fore-shortened singer said the prize has boosted her confidence as a photographer "I saw that the band was energetic and I wanted to capture some form of interaction between the singer and the camera. This image is one of my strongest music based photographs that I have taken. I feel that this image really sums up V2A and the atmosphere they create."



1. Cindel Oranday
2. Roy Jenks
3. Emily Harris

Entry to the competition was open to all amateur photographers, who could submit up to 10 photos. They just had to have been taken during the festival that took place in scores of diverse venues, on outdoor stages and in the streets, with around 200 of the best, new and emerging artists from across the UK taking part. For more information and to see the photo galleries from this year's festival, visit [Worcester Music Festival](https://www.worcestermusicfestival.com) on Facebook and [@worcsmusicfest](https://twitter.com/worcsmusicfest) on Twitter.

Andy Kershaw - The Adventures of... 2016 Bewdley Festival | Tuesday 12 October

Notorious for not knowing when to leave the stage, Ken Dodd has latterly become a bit of a pain in the arse for entertainment licence holders, hoteliers, local authorities and his audiences alike as his shows frequently and substantially overrun by hours as he tells gag after gag after gag, almost ad infinitum.

There was some uncomfortable shifting of seats and urgently whispered managerial words as **Andy Kershaw's** presence at the **2016 Bewdley Festival** stretched beyond 11.00pm, and showed little sign of drawing to a close as the broadcaster and DJ delved yet again into his elephantine memory to recount another pertinent tale from his singularly fascinating life.

Time-on-stage apart, it's not clear what Kershaw made of the Bewdley Festival, or what the Festival made of Kershaw.

The long-time acolyte of epoch-making Radio One DJs Johns Walters and Peel was probably more advanced in years than no more than a dozen of the 200-or-so supporters of the Bewdley Festival who rocked up to share his Tuesday evening.

Not that this presented any sort of impediment for Kershaw, his emotional intelligence making an immediate connection with this audience, even if that connection may have been lost during some of the detailed stories from his life spent bringing great music to anyone who has the open-mindedness to listen, and reporting for television from some of the world's most perplexing and challenging locations.

His early blunt affirmation of his religious atheism received a smattering of applause markedly louder than the seemingly three-person hand-clap appreciation of Kershaw's appeal for greater understanding of would-be immigrants and asylum seekers on the grounds that crushing poverty itself should be recognised by the affluent West as a form of oppression which merits acceptance of its victims.

But that's AK: never afraid to say what he wants to say, whoever might be his audience.

And the guy had a stinking, stinking cold, requiring him, mic'd up, to regularly pneumatically purge his nasal passages into a rapidly-diminishing roll of bog paper.

Wherein lies a Desert Island Discs story, a recording of which can be found on Kershaw's website, andykershaw.co.uk

Visit his website: there's so much material available, you'd think you'd not need to read his 2011-published autobiography '*No Off Switch*', much less shell out the thick-end of £20 to listen to him in person.

But you should do, both, as so full of mishap, enlightenment and incident has Kershaw's life been, and so compelling are the stories that he consequently has to tell, that after three-and-a-quarter hours in Bewdley he'd barely scratched the surface of half of the 32 photos around which he planned to weave his oratory.

Repeatedly contending how 'luck' has seen him in the right place at the right time - being offered unexpected opportunities, chancing upon and promoting exceptional unknown musicians, or emerging

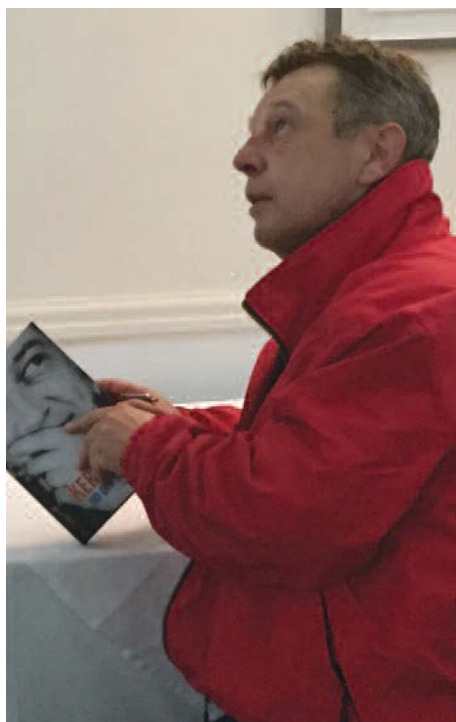
from life-threatening situations unscathed - Kershaw also spoke about how energy, enthusiasm and curiosity has served him so well throughout his 50-plus years.

Which suggests a re-write of the Gary Player aphorism: the more energetic, enthusiastic and curious I am, the luckier I get.

And if you are curious, musically, among the many, many references made by Andy during his beyond-three-hour but foreshortened spell in front of the loyal supporters of the Bewdley Festival, you might check out almost-forgotten and now-departed 1960s southern soul-singer James Carr, or perhaps re-visit The Bhundu Boys' 1986 'Shabini' album of Zimbabwean joy, or maybe stream Chuck Berry's 1964 minor hit 'Promised Land'.

You'll get a sense of Kershaw from these - but, as demonstrated at Bewdley on Tuesday, there's so so much more.

Dai Morris



Independent Financial Advice
www.malvernifa.co.uk

Business Development IFA of the year'
- AwardWinner- Highclere Castle - 2011!

Office: 01684 588188

Call us now for
quality advice and peace of mind!

2plan wealth management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is entered on the FCA register (www.fca.org.uk) under reference 461598.

Dodgy

Gloucester Guildhall | 11th November

With a moniker of **Bacchus Wine Bar**, it's difficult to suggest that **Dodgy** had humble beginnings but the Roman god of intoxication and fertility would have surely looked favourably on the **Dodgy Club** that emerged at this tiny Kingston venue in 1990. The £2 entrance fee (double if you worked for a record company!) is more indicative of the bands' modest first forays into the London music scene but who knew back then that **Nigel Clark**, **Mathew Priest** and **Andy Miller** would become such titans?

Six studio albums later - including one gold, one platinum and one without Nigel - and the band are out on tour to support the latest release, *What Are We Fighting For*, along with 'new boy' **Stu Thoy** on bass and harmonica. Since 2012's 'comeback' LP, *Stand Upright in a Cool Place*, gig and festival appearances have been flooding in, new fans have been reached and a reappraisal from the critics' section - to encompass the new influences of bands such as Midlake - point to a band in the form of its life.

The live **Dodgy** experience, crucial since the Bacchus days, is full of bonhomie, slick (but not too slick!) musicianship, great songs - the new material stands shoulder to shoulder with the hits, albeit less familiar - and their wonderful interpretation of *The Night* by Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons (if you clap loud enough for an encore).

Firm favourites of BBC Radio 2, this writer wants to know when Dodgy will get an invite to boogie-woogie piano-playing ex-member of Squeeze's TV show....



Dodgy play **Gloucester Guildhall** on Friday 11th November www.seetickets.com/event/dodgy/gloucester-guildhall/1005831. Support comes from Worcester's post punk / indie misfits **Skewwhiff**.

Words by Glazz Photography by Sam Holt

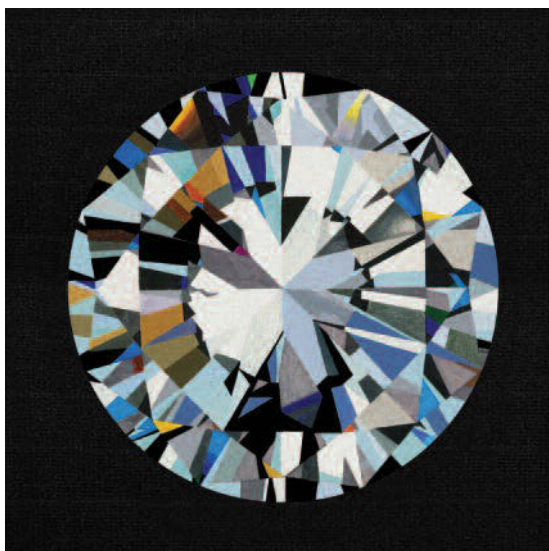
Dodgy

What Are We Fighting For?

With five releases behind them it's fair to assume that the news of a sixth Dodgy album left fans with high expectations. But, after listening to *'What Are We Fighting For'* even just once tells you that all that anticipation was worth it - the album ticks all of the boxes. From tracks hinting at country and Americana sounds such as *'Now Means Nothing'* and *'California God'* to more heartfelt, pour-your-heart-out ballads like *'The Hills'*, the band were undoubtedly on top form when they entered the studio to record this ten track wonder.

Starting the album off on exactly the right foot is *'You Give Drugs a Bad Name'*. Full of wild riffs, hints of The Wizard of Oz and an instrumental that will leave your hair standing on end, it's definitely the track that packs the most punch before the album takes on a more reflective face with the almost jovial *'Are You the One'* and *'Is This Goodbye'* - the latter tricking you into feeling subdued with the intro, before whacking up the speed for the verses. And, if that track doesn't keep you on your toes, *'Never Stop'* most definitely will. The impassioned line *"I'll never stop showing my love"* accompanied by the forceful gust of instrumentals makes way for both a dizzying climax and the promise of a sing-a-long at one of their upcoming gigs.

With *'A Mended Heart'* and the punctuating harmonica in *'Where Shall I Begin'* leading the way, **Dodgy** supply their best in the



album's title track. *'What Are We Fighting For'* is a slow-burning goliath that boasts the sort of build up that you know will reach an unbelievable peak. The climax itself is a whirlwind of heart-soaring guitar work and glorious vocals, leaving your ears more than happy.

Emily Branson
mytacismmusic.com

Pick up a limited edition of *What Are We Fighting For* and other goodies from www.dodgyology.com

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is a charity that



offers courses for any adult aged 19 or over and is the biggest provider of adult education. Yet still many people

have not heard of the organisation that is currently launching an exciting new scheme of courses in the Worcestershire area.

'We take education to local communities so our courses can be set up almost anywhere, from clubs, residential homes, community centres or pubs to schools or where people work.'



We have a team of tutors who understand adult needs and build courses that make the return to learning a success, helping people through transitions in their lives and treating them with respect. Our course programme is published termly, and courses run usually on weekdays, but we can run evening or weekend 'workshops' if required. The types of courses we offer are organised around 4 themes – Community Engagement, Health and Wellbeing, Employability and Culture. In Wyre Forest we are currently running, for example, Art for All, Fit can be Fun, Making Your Art Matter, Feel Good

Friday, First Steps to Confidence and Practising Mindfulness. All of our courses try to include an element of personal development, particularly for those taking a first step back into learning', Programme Area Manager, **Jan Hall**.

Tutor **Sarah Tamar**, is currently offering a range of courses including a drama class running in association with **Vamos**



Theatre company where students will not only plan and construct their own performance but will also be creating unique masks too (pictured). *'As I have worked with several years with The WEA, I have seen many adults join us who have been unable to attend full time work or education for a multitude of reasons. To be able to witness them grow in confidence, develop skills and uncover hidden talents has been an incredible experience for all of us. Many former students have now moved on to higher education, employment or become artists or practitioners in their own right'.*



Corina Harper is also launching a new course, *'Making Your Art Matter'*, where, *'whatever stage you are at, this course will invite you to take your art to the next level. Together we will ask questions, experiment, learn and try out new techniques, all leading you on your adventure as an artist'*. The course is running in both Worcester and Kidderminster, starting in the first week of November.

Please add our Facebook page WEA Arts Worcestershire

The WEA offers courses for FREE to those in receipt of income-related benefits or an unwaged dependent on someone else in receipt of income related benefits. For those not in receipt of benefits, the course fee is currently £3.50 per hour.

If you are interested in finding out more, please call Andrea on 01905 330123 or text 07582 896 615 or mailworcestercentre@wea.org.uk Website: www.wea.org.uk

Rhubarb Rhubarb present 'Under the Mistletoe' A digital storytelling extravaganza!

Tenbury Wells has a rich cultural heritage and as part of this year's famous **Mistletoe Festival** on Saturday 3rd December there are stories galore to be heard.

Rhubarb Rhubarb have been working with different community groups in Tenbury to unpick residents' personal stories about the town and its mistletoe. Working with digital media artist SDNA, these stories have been animated and will be projected onto the unique building, **The Pump Rooms** which sits at the heart of the town, just as the sun sets (4.10pm).

The Mistletoe Festival has a range of activities and events throughout the day all focused towards the Santa Parade on 4.30pm leading down Teme Street to **St. Mary's Church** where children can meet and chat with Santa.

Later in the evening at **The Kings Head, Rhubarb Rhubarb** will host one of its signature live Story Jams storytelling evenings headlined by **Chloë, The Midnight Storyteller**. With a pint in one hand and a packet of nuts in the other you can listen to local people tell their short, true stories about Tenbury and its mistletoe. It is a relaxed, engaging and fun evening in a pub – that perfect mix of people, stories and a pint.

For more information about the festival go to www.facebook.com/TenburyMistletoeAssociation

To find out more about Story Jams and Rhubarb Rhubarb head to www.facebook.com/rhubarbcreatives or @tworhubarb

Our Musical Roots Project

City of Colours, a Birmingham based urban arts company that hosts Birmingham's largest celebration of street art, unveiled two new murals during October and will be staging an exhibition highlighting the city's musical heritage created by young people.

Organisers worked alongside **Jez Collins** founder of the **Birmingham Music Archive** and Birmingham City University researcher, to run a ten-month project aimed at highlighting the city's rich musical history. The **Our Musical Roots Project**, funded by the **Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots** programme, involved children under 16 in underprivileged areas of Highgate, Digbeth and Lozells, and was designed to break down perceptions and increase awareness of Birmingham's musical heritage.

City of Colours spoke to a group of young people under 16 and discovered that 89% of those interviewed could not name a single musician from Birmingham! Through working with **Birmingham Music Archive** and three youth groups they produced street art murals that reflected their research into Birmingham's musical roots. These were unveiled in Lozells and Highgate with live music and appearances from musicians including **Steel Pulse**. There is a final exhibition at the renowned **Muthers Studio** in Digbeth displaying reimagined album artwork, vinyl collages, a lyrical installation and a timeline of Birmingham musical heritage this month.

Jez Collins, founder of Birmingham Music Archive, said: "Birmingham's impact on the global music industry is criminally overlooked in comparison to cities like Manchester and Liverpool, yet Birmingham has a rich, diverse and sustained history of music activity. The roots of reggae dig deep – four blokes from Aston



conquered the world and spawned heavy metal in the process and the city is home to the centre of England's Asian music industry. It's so important to keep this history alive and to celebrate, preserve and embrace it."

Becci Wright, director at **City of Colours**, said: "We're extremely proud of the work that the young people have produced through the **Our Musical Roots** programme. It's essential for Birmingham that its great musical history is kept alive and by instilling a sense of pride in our history, we stand a greater chance of preserving it."

Our Musical Roots Exhibition takes place on 17 November from 7pm at **Muthers Studio**, Digbeth, Birmingham.

For more info visit: cityofcolours.co.uk



Rhubarb Rhubarb

Presents

'Under the Mistletoe'

A storytelling extravaganza

Part of the Mistletoe Festival 2016, Tenbury Wells

Saturday 3rd December

4pm - Digital Storytelling - Outside Pump Rooms

8pm - Live Story Jams - The King's Head

www.facebook.com/rhubarbcreatives



Sponsored using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



WEEKEND CUBE

Christmas is coming and we have **FEAST Theatre Festival**, Santa and the Pirates (who don't want Christmas) and music from Peggy Seeger + Grace Petrie, to get you fully in the festive mood!

Legendary US folk musician **Peggy Seeger** is coming to Malvern on **4th November**. The 81-year-old singer and activist, who was friendly with such folk luminaries as Woody Guthrie and Lead Belly, is playing at The Malvern Cube in a Friday evening performance which is selling out fast.



Peggy, well-known for her banjo-playing, is the half-sister of the late Pete Seeger, the protest singer and Bob Dylan contemporary, and widow of Ewan MacColl, father of the late Kirsty MacColl. Alongside Ewan MacColl she was instrumental in the British folk revival of the early 1960s, establishing **The Singers Club** and allying the movement closely to political activism, supporting causes such as the earliest incarnation of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

In 1957 Ewan MacColl, a former Communist party member, wrote *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* for Peggy, a touching love song which was covered by artists from Elvis Presley to the Flaming Lips (and was a huge 1972 hit for Roberta Flack).

Peggy is supported by **Grace Petrie**; Folk singer, songwriter, and activist from Leicester. She first exploded on to the national protest scene in 2010 with the emotive anthem *Farewell to Welfare*, which captured perfectly the spirit of the new wave of dissent in austerity Britain. Since then, she has written, recorded and toured relentlessly. Her unique takes on life, love and politics, and the warmth and wit with which they are delivered have won over audiences everywhere, and she has quietly become one of the most respected and prolific songwriters working in the UK today.

White Wall Film Club will be showing a selection of **Coen Brothers** films on Saturday **19th November**. **White Wall Film Club** is an open entry club, all you need to do is turn up on the night. Tickets £4 bring your own drinks.



Coming up in December children's TV stars **Callum Donnelly** and **Robin Hatcher** stars of popular CBeebies TV show 'SPOTBOTS' - join **Justin Fletcher** this year in Justin's House! Now here they are in a brand new show for Christmas 2016: **SANTA AND THE PIRATES (that don't want Christmas!)**



Santa is having trouble this year - somebody has stolen his naughty list! When the pirates of the good ship 'Christmas Cheer' offer to help him find it, he must decide, with the help of the children, who has been good and who has been naughty! But can you ever really trust a pirate?? *Santa and the Pirates* (that don't want Christmas!) is ideal for families to get together during the festive season for some good traditional fun, songs and games with a modern feel... In the ticket price you get to post any 'Dear Santa...' letters, see the amazing show and then meet the big man himself after for a present! Tickets £7 or £10 with present.



Also in December we have a performance from local band **The White Feather Collective** who recently sold out **Elmslie House** at their 'Unplugged' Launch. They perform at **Malvern Cube** on 17th December. Support on the night will see the return of Malvern boy made good **Matt Woosey**. Tickets are selling fast for this one so grab them while you can! Tickets £8 adv.

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



Advertise in this space for as little as £30 per month

SLAP

MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

adverts@slapmag.co.uk



Malvern Cube-based theatre company **Reaction Theatre Makers** is to launch their new **Theatre Festival F.E.A.S.T** (Festival of Equality in Arts and Society through Theatre) on **11th - 13th November**. Get along this month and 'fill up' on the diverse range of opportunities, performance, film and workshops on offer!

Friday November 11th - Starter

Golden Thread Playback Theatre Company. 7.30pm

Playback is improvisational theatre, which honours personal story. The actors listen to the teller's tale, and then 'play back' what they hear as the essence of the story. Their enactment may be realistic or symbolic and although Playback Theatre is not primarily a therapeutic technique, practitioners can use it with groups with dementia, learning disabilities, those with mental health issues, those with attachment disorder and many others.

Limited tickets available £5. Please note that this performance is not solely for practitioners but who for all who may benefit.

Saturday Nov 12th - Main Course & side orders
10am till late

Psychodrama Workshop 10am-4.30pm. **Nancy Piercy** is a Psychodrama Psychotherapist and a Senior Trainer with the BPA (British Psychodrama Association). Psychodrama is an action-based therapy; it can be used in groups or individual work. The theme of this workshop is 'Water & Salt'.

Jump Start Writing Workshop 2.30-4.30pm.

Experienced playwright and County Arts Officer, **Steve Wilson**, will talk about Worcestershire's Jump Start programme and lead a workshop to get you all writing a short 20-minute play. Everyone welcome from beginners to experienced writers: bring a pen, paper and some ideas.

Meet the Producer - Informal chat with independent theatre producer **Pippa Frith** who will attempt to de-mystify the role of the producer over a cuppa!

Hijinx Theatre - Producers of inclusive theatre, featuring actors with and without learning disabilities, this company will bring one of their wonderful, uplifting performances pods.

Worcestershire Theatre Club - Never get stuck for a theatre buddy again... sign up to theatre club to see the best in contemporary theatre with like-minded individuals.

From Ibiza to the Norfolk Broads - 7pm

Powerful and touching, music and magic realism collide in this darkly funny and moving production featuring **Alex Walton** and the voice of writer and comedian **Rob Newman** as David Bowie. With a blistering soundtrack, the life of the pop fan is dissected in this tale of unnatural teenage wildlife. Tickets £12.

Feast with us - 8pm Audiences can enjoy a meal together whilst they discuss the show.

DJ Ed Steelfox - 9pm Creates a cool club vibe for people to chat and dance with impromptu performance to delight. £5 entry.

Sunday November 13th - Dessert 1pm till 5pm.

For those with a sweet tooth, come and spend the day gorging on theatre, individual shows and workshops, with mask making, puppetry, food and fun!! Day tickets £7.

Looking Through the Glass: Present "The Greatest Story Never Told" an interactive workshop for children aged 5-9.

Clapperbox: A curious, participative puppet event featuring small-scale theatre booths, a lot of random objects and wonderfully written quirky adaptations of classic movies. To be enjoyed by all ages!



East of the Sun: Funny, anarchic, moving and beautiful, the story transports audiences as they engage with the puppets and take an emotional journey with them. 3.30pm. Tickets £5.



The Secret Keeper: **Araceli Cabrera Caceres** presents a magical and understated fifteen-minute object theatre piece in which a series of beautiful and minimally worked pieces of driftwood become mythical creatures.

With contributions from practitioners both locally and nationally, support from **Arts Council England & WAP**, décor from Worcester's **Clik Clik** and beverages and snacks available from the cafe/bar throughout the weekend, what are you waiting for!

For more info: reactiontheatremakers.com or malverncube.com ('tickets and events')

Reaction Theatre Makers are committed to making theatre accessible for all, so if any of these prices are prohibitive or if you would like to make a group booking please email dee@reactiontheatremakers.com and she will be able to help.

EP Launch

Underground Ocean | Hide You The Marris Bar | November 26th

Worcester based four-piece **Underground Ocean** have only been together since 2014 but have already achieved so much, their debut single, *Get Me Out* received airplay, locally, nationally and abroad, picking up numerous fans for their instantly infectious blend of alternative indie rock. From there the band have



continued an upward trajectory with numerous live dates, a follow up single, *I See Through You* again saw the band receive airplay across a number of stations, whilst a self-titled, five track EP, released this year was supported at a sell out launch at **The Marris Bar**, whilst seeing the band perform a number of high profile gigs around the country, in fact as I write this the band have just supported **Johnny Foreigner** again at The Marris Bar for **Faithful City Shows**.

Following on from the aforementioned EP, Underground Ocean returned to the **Magic Garden Studios** with **Gavin Monaghan** (Editors, Enemy, etc) to record a brand new single and to talk about a debut album, which should see the light of day some time next year.

Hide You is perhaps the band's most abrasive and direct recording to date, a two and a half minute slice of edgy indie rock, introduced with a powerful, brief rumble of drums, before a sharp punchy riff and an urgent lead vocal join a driving rhythm section to create a track that's hard hitting, straight to the point and above all addictive, urging the listener to search for another fix.

Underground Ocean mastered the art of always leaving the listener wanting more, right from their debut release and their latest delivery emphasises the point, with a thrilling, short, sharp attention grabber destined to send their already impressive fanbase into a fevered frenzy, whilst seducing newcomers with their most direct release to date.

Underground Ocean launch their new single *Hide You Live @ The Marris Bar November 26th*. with supports TBC. Tickets are £5 and can be obtained through contacting the band through their Facebook page or £7 on the door. The ticket price will also include a free download of *Hide You* which will be available on arrival at the gig.

www.undergroundocean.com



Music City By musicians for musicians



Opening Hours

Mon - Fri-10am-5pm

Sat-9.30am-5.30pm



16 Queen Street Worcester
01905 26600

www.musiccityworcester.co.uk

Huntingdon Hall Round-Up

On Friday 4th November, **Huntingdon Hall** will be swinging to the sound of the legendary **King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys**. Their zany stage show has been described as the finest, most authentic rhythm and blues band ever to come from outside the USA. During their two decades of touring they have shared the stage with the likes of Ray Charles and BB King. With dazzling musicianship and riveting stage performances be sure to catch these Kings of Swing. Tickets £16.50.



Thursday 10th November sees the return of one of Britain's most cherished singers, guitarists and songwriters, **Glenn Tilbrook**. Glenn first came to fame as founding member and one-half of the songwriting team behind the veteran rock band Squeeze and is now on a 36-date solo UK tour. Armed with ready wit, raucous

vibes and a shed load of grin-inducing great songs, not only from his own plentiful back pages but from impromptu audience requests. Don't miss this chance to see this great song writer in action. Tickets £18.50.

Andy Fairweather Low & The Lowriders grace the stage on Thursday 17th November. Andy first came to prominence as the lead singer in Amen Corner. The 60s saw them clock up hit after pop hit. Songs such as *Bend Me Shape Me*, *Hello Suzy*, and *(If Paradise Is) Half As Nice* are remembered world wide to this day. Since the early days Andy has worked with hundreds of artists ranging from Dylan and Hendrix to Mary J. Blige and Sheryl Crow. A remarkable band, a remarkable front man! Tickets £20.

Tickets are available from Box Office: 01905 611427 www.huntingdonhall.co.uk



What's On?

at The Swan Theatre
and Huntingdon Hall



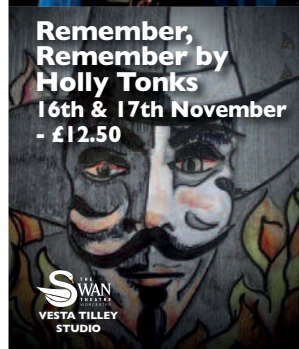

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys
4th November - £16.50



Glenn Tilbrook
10th November - £18.50



Omid Djalili
15th November - £24



Remember, Remember by Holly Tonks
16th & 17th November - £12.50



Andrew Lawrence
18th November - £15



Blazin' Fiddles
24th November - £18

Worcester
live

BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427
www.worcesterlive.co.uk

The Underground Revolution 2016 Herefordshire's Most Kick-Ass Frontman Award

Since the launch of **The Underground Revolution** we have had the opportunity to experience the Hereford music scene on a grassroots level and have been impressed by the talent that seems to be bursting from our county's seams. So we decided to come together and pay tribute to these musicians in our own special way.

We are celebrating the chosen few who bear the responsibility of translating lyrics into song and are the main focus of the audience; not an easy task when all eyes are on your every move and ears on your every note. This was a difficult decision since Hereford has so many charismatic performers and the 5 of us all had different favourites.



We hope that these awards will also inspire future frontmen/frontwomen to step out of their comfort zones and rock the show. We think the "character" we selected for this award is a thousand shades of awesome and should be proud of his killer stage presence.

The criteria for this award is as follows: stage presence which embodies energy, originality and engagement. We do understand that vocals should be a part of these awards but in the world of rock'n'roll a great frontman doesn't always have note perfect vocals...hence axing vocals from the agenda.

The first ever '*Herefordshire's Most Kick-Ass Frontman Award*' goes to **John Mason!!!!** Be proud!! John is the frontman of Punk/Rock band '**Another Band**' who have been on the local music circuit thanks to Hereford's music promoter **Kirsty Morris** who is the face of **Hey Little Monster Promotions**. She is no monster but she certainly is little. John has also performed his solo project for **The Underground Revolution**, and was most certainly on top form – but when **Another Band** takes the stage you can rest assured John will blow you away. I can safely say John is "Punk as – ck".

The second place spot ended up being a tie between two of my favourite frontmen for local Herefordshire bands that have an old skool punk vibe, **Robin Scott-Wilson** of **Teddy's Leg** and the



frontman duo for **The Youth Within**, **Steve John-Crewes** and **Benji Boughton**, who played Rebellion this year. All worth a good look.



This of course, does not discount the multitude of talented frontmen in Herefordshire you should be watching out for. Our other two runner ups included **Edd Tipton** of the ridiculously



talented noise-rock band **Black Boxes** (you can read about them in the September Slap issue), and the dreaded and saucy goddess **Claire Perkins**, frontwoman to a **A Hundred Suns**. Sadly, A Hundred Suns recently did their last show at Throwline Fest - no worries though, Claire has a new band in the works who will be coming to a local music venue near you shortly. Keep an eye out.



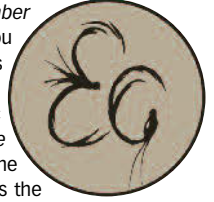
Ellisha Green | Platforms

Ellisha Green is a seventeen year old Bewdley based singer-songwriter, who to date, has already courted attention from the likes of **Hereford & Worcester's Introducing** program. As well as the **Bewdley Youth Music Festival**, who went to award her with Best Song and Best Act accolades at a recent event.

Platforms is Ellisha's debut EP and should see her stock continue to rise, showcasing a rare maturity for someone making their first tentative steps into the music industry. Ellisha welds a myriad of influences, to create a sound that combines earthy folk roots and a knowing pop sensibility. Her music draws the listener in, before unleashing an addictive hook that will have you coming back for more. Not only do the song's structures and Ellisha's apparent ease at writing a contagious chorus have you paying attention, but so does her versatile voice. From the fragile, folkly tones of the EP's opening number *Thunder* - to the punchy pop bluster of *Volcano*; Ellisha's lead is believable throughout, again suggesting maturity beyond her years.

Thunder opens proceedings with a delicate, warmly plucked acoustic, whilst Ellisha coos beautifully. The track gradually builds with the addition of pattered percussion, bass and subtle licks of electric, framing Green's soulful lead and the track's infectious hook, before slowly winding back down, stripping back to vocals and guitar. In contrast, *Volcano* opens with a pounded beat, before quickly developing into a funky pop rocker that sees Ellisha let

loose vocally over a bouncy, elastic rhythm. *Denial* is perhaps better yet, as it begins with the sound of Ellisha's fingers moving up and down her acoustic, whilst delivering another pop-tinged folkly lament full of heart and soul. Then, around the three minute mark a burst of electric adds further bite towards the end of the track. The five-track EP is brought to a close with the mesmeric and oddly haunting *Remember Me*, which I'm sure you will after listening to this EP. A beautifully sparse and timeless, rustic number, *Remember Me* had me scrambling for the repeat button as soon as the final embers of Ellisha's expressive tones eased from the speakers.



As debuts go, *Platforms* is everything you could ask for and much more, from the production and arrangements that allow Ellisha's star to shine, to her bewitching delivery and her way of creating that all important hook - we could very well be paying witness to an artist set for a meteoric rise in the not too distant future.

Ellisha Green celebrates the release of *Platforms* live at St George's Hall, Bewdley 26th November.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platforms-ep-release-party-tickets-27724951075?aff=ehomesaved

Please direct all press enquiries to James Delin – James@angel-recordings.com

soundcloud.com/ellisha-green/

twitter.com/Elihashaa_Grun

www.facebook.com/ellishagreenissnazzy



PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL RECORDING STUDIO - £30/HOUR

AMAZING REHEARSAL SPACE - £12/HOUR

INSTRUMENT TUITION - £15 P 1/2 HOUR

RECORDING TUITION - £30/HOUR

BOWDLEY - WORCESTERSHIRE

TO BOOK - CALL 01299 400 658 AND QUOTE "SLAPMAG"
FOR A 10% DISCOUNT



www.loadstreetstudios.com

Amy Goddard

The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden | 5th October

Sometimes I struggle to understand why there aren't more people in to watch an artist perform, but tonight, at the latest of the excellent series of gigs curated by Paul a/k/a Folkie Glos at **The Carpenter's Arms** in Miserden, I have a definite theory. The sleepy hamlet, once dubbed 'the worst connected spot in England' has just got a swaggy new mast, complete with 4G and my theory is that everyone's indoors getting to grips with the new technology.

They should have logged off and crossed the road, because tonight we are watching an exceptional artist.

Amy Goddard is from Wales and has just delivered her second solo album, "*Secret Garden*" and we are treated, over the next 90 minutes, to a simply lovely display of contemporary folk music.

She teaches guitar, and her expertise is quite clear right from the start – she's playing a gorgeous self-build, with paua shell inserts at the head and in the fretboard, but more importantly the tone is fabulous. As she's also playing in Open C and Drop D, she's got a second instrument ready tuned, so the transition between songs is smooth and quick – other artists please note.



Rather disconcertingly for an acoustic artist, she's channelling through a 100 watt Marshall, but it soon becomes clear that this isn't to silence the one bloke in the pub that's talking as if his dinner companion is in the next county, but for the exceptional clarity it affords.

She doesn't have a powerful voice, but my goodness she makes a wonderful sound, vibrant and clear as a bell. The songs are drawn both from her new album and her debut "*Burn & Glow*" and the quality of the material is outstanding, whether it's the serene beauty of '*Light Beyond the Clouds*' and '*New Day*' from her current album or the more upbeat '*Taking the Edge Off the Day*', about the perils of cheap supermarket cider (she insists that this isn't autobiographical) and '*Morning Train*', about conducting a long distance relationship.

There are two songs though, that define the set and her artistry. She was brought up in the same valley in which Aberfan is situated and has written the song '*Remembering Aberfan*' to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the disaster - it is both poignant and exquisitely beautiful – a fitting tribute, released as a single, with funds raised from its sale going to contribute to the upkeep of the memorial site. The second song is '*Gladdie*', written about a series of love letters from her great-grandmother's boyfriend, who was killed in the First World War which were discovered after her death. It's almost superfluous to say that this one

slowly breaks your heart as we approach the final letter. A truly outstanding and thought provoking song.

Greedy though it sounds, even as the long set draws to a close, I'm ready to hear more...

Geoffrey Head

King Size Slim

Ginger Pig, Worcester | 6th October

Toby Barelli aka **King Size Slim** returned to the **Ginger Pig** for an evening of evangelical, bruising blues.

King Size Slim plays loud, brash blues with a delivery that is raw and exposed. He had no PA, just his two guitars - an acoustic and a steel resonator that looked like it had been dipped in a bath of corrosive acid, shaken down and air dried. The resonator was warmed up as King Size went through his sound check. He was ready to go.

The smell of regret and '*Roast Beef*' filled the air, as the typical blues riff played out. A hand beaten '*Spoonful*' administers medicine, as the evening kicked into its stride. The King Size Slim roadshow was here, and it was a '*Long Lonely Sound*' as Toby spread his gospel. Etta James' '*I Just Want to Make Love to You*' infected a few of the girls with a bit of hip action. Chatter was drowned out as Toby turned up the volume whilst trying to find extra watts to power his voice.

I just couldn't get enough of the insistent rhythm during '*Milk Drunk*' and was content as **King Size Slim** continued to sneak a few more covers in. The acoustic came in and hands joined together for Buddy Holly's '*Not Fade Away*' which was also accompanied by a tambourine. King Size revisits his '*Dark Soul*'



whilst driving his strings hard and tearing out his spirit that hid within. The evening was heading towards a close and it was time for a bit of group therapy. King Size called the chorus line and voices lifted. '*May We Find*' fills the air of the Ginger Pig.

Naturally more was demanded from this menu of music. A move toward reggae is just right as he taps out Bob Marley's '*Redemption Song*'. Finally, an evening of fine food followed by the King Size selection of songs came to a close at the Ginger Pig.

Graham Munn

Insight into Inspiration

Elmslie House | October 5th

The idea for this event came about through a collaboration between local composer **Liz Johnson**, and Baroque violinist **Lucy Russell**. Liz's compositions are often inspired by images from art and serendipitously, this journey began with a painting, or rather three – *Triptych 1* by Malvern artist, **Dora Williams**.

With Dora exhibiting her work alongside a new Malvern-based Contemporary Artists Group at **Elmslie House**, this seemed the ideal opportunity to combine two different creative processes and show the work of these inspirational women together. 'Insights into Inspiration' was absolutely what the evening delivered. Beginning with the premiere of *'Triptych 1'* the evening then proceeded to open a rare and unique window into the creation of a new piece of music and the artwork that inspired it.

Lucy Russell, a distinguished and internationally renowned violinist, brought her flair and knowledge of the Baroque period to the score, incorporating snippets of Baroque dance evoking the form and movement between the figures. Lucy also coupled the *Triptych* with Bach and Telemann and both composer and artist were present to share their creative processes; **Dora Williams** spoke movingly about the paintings, and the emotions that they encapsulate. And so it was that when *'Triptych 1'* was played for the second time, it felt like a very different experience. Somehow, the audience had connected more deeply to the piece, knowing the context from which it had been created, and how.

Liz Johnson has quite literally translated the lines of the body of the female figures in the paintings to lines for the violin within the score and the physical marks and scratches on the canvas were



translated into free fall Baroque embellishments. It was a fascinating discussion, and our thanks go to local company Smartbox for their very generous sponsorship of the evening, together with **Sound & Music** who awarded Liz the **Francis Chagrin Award**.

At the close of the evening there was a retiring collection in aid of **Cancer Research** and Elmslie House would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended for their generous contributions. A donation of £183 has been made to Cancer Research.

Liz Johnson is now going on to lead a composition project to local school pupils studying music at GCSE who last week visited the 'Elements' exhibition. They are now to take their inspiration from visual artworks to compose for professional musicians.

by Anna Taylor with contributions from Marie-Louise Taylor LRAM GRSM



Elmslie is an elegant venue in the heart of Malvern, within a restored Grade II listed family home. We hold classes, markets and music. Why not subscribe to receive our newsletter and find out what else is going on?



GREN BARTLEY

Saturday 12th November

Doors 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Advance tickets: £10
On the Door: £12

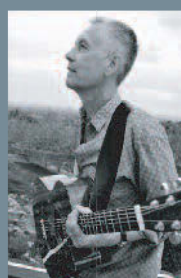


CRAFT MARKET

10.30 - 4.30

SUNDAY 20th NOV

Free Entry



JOHN DENTON

Saturday 3rd December

Doors 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Advance tickets: £8
On the Door: £10

Tickets available from www.elmsliehouse.co.uk or Carnival Records & Malvern TIC both on Church Street.

Think of England

Two women on a mission to show you a good time!

Based on real events *'Think of England'* is a rollicking new play about courage, bravery & swing dancing.

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

Just like the women on whom the show is based AIAWTC will be travelling the country boosting morale with this heart-warming knees up. The audience will be invited to drink, dance, and raise a glass to good King George whilst watching this captivating drama about two women in WWII.

Developed with **'Live & Local'** as part of their *'Developing Artists in Rural Touring'* Scheme, the play has been supported by Arts Council England.

Local company **'Anonymous Is a Woman Theatre Co'** are dedicated to bringing audiences high quality, engaging, theatrical experiences that tell the unheard stories of women throughout history and across the world. The company was set up by two graduates of the Drama Centre London as a reaction against the lack of female roles in the industry. Armed with aspirations of gender equality the company wish to tell her-story from history. One half of the founding pair, **Leila Sykes**, grew up in Malvern, where the company is based. The company are dedicated to



bringing their brand high-quality, innovative theatre to the region.

In Spring 2016 the company did a critically acclaimed run of *'First Aid Nursing Yeomanry'* at the Arts Theatre in London's West End after a midlands tour in 2015. Catch their new hit near you while you can!

www.aiawtc.com @AIAWTheatreCo info@aiawtc.com

The Worcestershire Tour Dates:

The Fleece Inn, Worcester, 8pm, Wednesday 9th Nov

Fairfield Village Hall, Worcestershire, 6:30pm, Sunday 13th Nov

Malvern Coach House, 7pm, Wednesday 16th Nov

St Michaels Village Hall, 7:30pm, Thursday 17th Nov

Rosco Levee & Friends, The Get-Go Gloucester Guildhall | Sat Nov 12th

Some men buy a red sports car or a motorbike. Some take off with the secretary or the girl from marketing. Some even go on a journey of "self-discovery" and experience unspeakable things in the name of "cleansing one's spirit" (Aloe-Vera enema anyone?). My mid-life (non) crisis? I decided to start promoting decent, 'real' music. (You don't have to be mad, they say, but it helps).

The thing with the so-called mid-life crisis, is that it's not a crisis at all. The realisation of one's own mortality focuses the attention on the things in life that are REALLY important. Family, friends, relationships and also in my case at least, quality original music. So like a lot of people I liked the idea of 'putting on a band', had a bit of a vague idea about what it might involve, had a great (my favourite even) venue in mind and a couple of bands that I thought Gloucester (see what I did there) deserved to experience. Why should London/the South East get all the best music as well as the lion's share of the nation's prosperity?

So how do you go about it? Well you agree a couple of dates with the band (not as easy as you might think, most of these guys have day jobs like the rest of us!!), check the venue and well, book it. (And she said I couldn't commit!)



Then you figure out how many tickets you need to sell to not lose your shirt. Actually the sensible people do this first, but hey, this is a crisis! Then you set about trying to sell some of the said tickets. This is where you realise you don't ACTUALLY know quite as many people as you thought you did. And also that the first rule of marketing is absolutely true, i.e. "only 50% of marketing actually has any effect, trouble is we don't know which 50%!".

And then you hold your nerve and hope for the best. But you also remember that even if only 10 people turn up, it will have been worth it. Because you've kept some incredible musicians going for another week or two and maybe, just maybe, they'll get the breaks they deserve and we'll get to see them again sometime, playing live, putting it all out there and giving us moments that we'll treasure until we really do come face to face with that mortality thing I mentioned earlier.

So about the gig? Two fantastic bands. First up, (think first course, not starter) **The Get-Go** a south-east London trio that play an exhilarating and high energy "soul inflected British blues". Check out their rollicking single *"Typically English"* on Youtube (complete with saucy retro video) and another cracker *"Two Time Loser"*.

And for the main course, **Rosco Levee & Friends** (aka the **Mike Ross Band**). Any of you that were at the Linton Festival in 2015 will remember Rosco's set. Hard to pigeon-hole maybe but "psychedelic blues drenched rock 'n' roll hammer" seems about right. And with his new 'friends', expect a high class, rocking blues smorgasbord. Come and join me.

Neil Hopwood

Gloucester Guildhall, Sat Nov 12th. Doors 7.30.

Box office 01452 503050

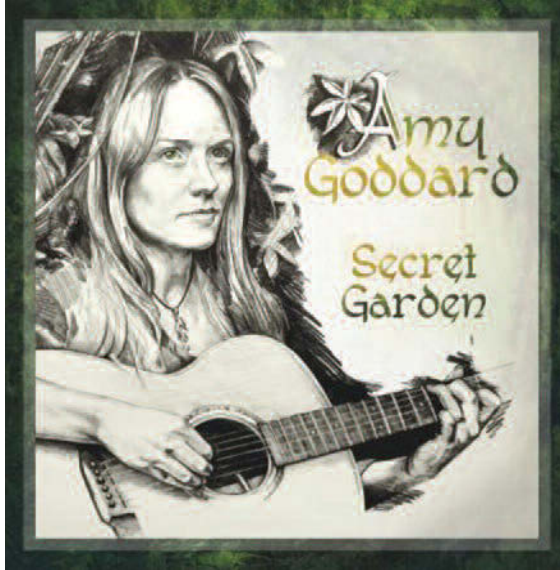
www.gloucesterguildhall.co.uk

Amy Goddard | Secret Garden

...and it just so happens that **Amy Goddard's** second album "*Secret Garden*" accompanies me home, and I'm very happy to say that the transition from live performance to recorded work is almost seamless.

This is such a fine album – she seems to have struck the same balance as Olivia Chaney on *'The Longest River'* and Kelly Oliver, on her first album *'This Land'* did of marrying traditional folk music constructions with contemporary lyrics, so the album sways between historical themes and contemporary subjects with infinite smoothness.

And my word, the production, by **Brian Kutscher** and **Goddard** herself, is immaculate – bright and crisp, with a perfect balance between her delicate and crystal



clear voice and her excellent and sometimes intricate guitar work – the solo on *'Rhythm Of The Road'* leaps out of the speakers at you. And when there are guest artists performing, they do so with precision and economy, not swamping the principal artist as I've heard so many times this year. **Naomi Hitchings'** glorious violin on the heartbreaking *'Gladdie'*, **Andy Adams'** rustic toned vocals on the outstanding *'The Maiden's Leap'* and Paul Fremantle's resonant whistle work on a stunning interpretation of Alfred Noyes' classic poem *'The Highwayman'*.

Many of the fourteen songs on this refreshingly lengthy album have a theme of personal struggle, both mental, as in *'Alright Again'* and physical, as in *'Miner's Lullaby'*, but Goddard's masterful voice control, keeping the vocal light and optimistic and her glorious grasp of melody and chord progression strike an ever-present note of hope.

This is certainly my folk album of the year so far – a melodic, thoughtful and brilliant piece of work.

www.amygoddardmusic.co.uk
Geoffrey Head

Jack Blackman | Nearly Man

Jack has been 'working the road' continuously since attaining his honours degree in music composition, which sort of points to why his work is so well crafted. *Nearly Man* follows on from his *Strawhouse Sessions*, released in 2015, and the simply titled Jack Blackman in 2013.

There is still the skilful finger work on his acoustic guitar and the stripped down, bare sound that you will find in his live performances with the proviso that Jack has multi-layers of several instruments on some tracks. His style remains roots blues/folk, but I feel there is more bias toward folk which is why you are probably more likely to hear Jack on Bob Harris's BBC2 show than Paul Jones' programme. Bob's view on Jack is summed up simply in this quote: "*exceptional guitarist, just great isn't he?*"

'Panther Burn' opens the album with a mandolin over the guitar and a decidedly Gallic feel that shifts to a country blues as the mandolin drops away. Nicely written and performed, it is, for me, one of the tracks that stands out as the devil makes an offer Jack can't refuse. Guitar and harp are combined for *'Cold On The Calls'*, a song that sticks with the downbeat lyrics typical of a wordsmith penning country blues. I've heard Jack play *'Bottle Tree Blues'* in his road gigs, a tale of abandonment and loss, losing his spirit to the bottle. Here, he takes the opportunity to add mandolin and harp to build on the

song. Travelling Man and the title track sit on the folk side of the broken down, indistinct fence.

Hognose Gin picks up the pace to a fast stepping country hoedown of blues, maybe the result of a drop too much of that uplifting, moonshine spirit. 24 hours later, you could easily fall *'Between the Cracks'*, a suitably dark forewarning of life on the



edge. A perfect subject for blues, this burns and fizzles slowly but is beautifully written and I instantly reach for the repeat button. Jack puts his slide to work on *'I Stay Blue'*, another moody slow burner that leads us to the final track and a surprise vocal shift. *'Take It From Me'* is where the heavily smoked voice of Slopey narrates the song as electric guitar is layered in.

In that last track lies the clue to my view of this album. Jack is, without question, a fine musician and he writes some beautiful songs, some of which are borderline blues with folk undertones. My

feeling is 20 Woodbines and a drop of that Hognose Gin everyday could strip away that veneer and add some grit (and I'm not seriously suggesting such an unhealthy lifestyle but Jack's voice is too soft and clinical to make the best of these songs). Jack is the boutique hotel room to Slopey's bunk house hostel.

Graham Munn

Punk by Nature presents

Fukdust 4, Born To Destruct, Indecent Assault & 5 Go Mad
The Boars Head, Kidderminster – Sat 12th November

On Saturday 12th November Punk by Nature is set to return for another evening of punk rock goodness at the Boars Head in Kidderminster.

The line-up this time kicks off with Portsmouth band **5 Go Mad**. The band has only been touring for a couple of years now and has supported some well known names on the UK punk scene. They mix a UK 82 style sound with bawdy humour and they odd lyrical vulgarity which makes for an entertaining mix.

Next on the line-up are Black Country anarcho punk stalwarts **Indecent Assault**. The band released the acclaimed *Dawn of the Android Workers* EP in 1986 followed by a split single with fellow local band Anorexia before sadly splitting up. The band reformed in 2005 and their passionate performances have become a regular fixture on the Midlands live punk scene.

Making their Boars Head debut are Cambridge punks **Born To Destruct**. The band play a loud, powerful, raucous punked up rock 'n' roll that they have aptly named "Destruction Rock N Roll". This 5 piece deliver big tunes that are complimented by the T-Rex roar of front man Woodstock. Prepare for the Boars Head's foundations to shake!

Headlining the night are favourites of the Midlands punk scene **Fukdust 4**. Comprising of ex members of UK Subs, Drongos For Europe and a current member of Wolfsbane, Fukdust 4 play a sing a long punk rock 'n' roll with a pinch of glam. Catchy songs with big hooks...this band really do rock. They are sure to round off in style what is going to be an epic evening of live music!

Jason K

Punk by Nature
Presents
FUKDUST4
INDECENT ASSAULT
5 Go Mad
Saturday 12th November 2016
The Boars Head in Kidderminster
Doors at 7pm - £5 on door

Robinson Stone

**The Life and Music
of Clifford T Ward**

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Sat 19th Nov

Following its very successful debut at Artrix last autumn, **Robinson Stone** – brothers Danny and Dean and sister Leyna - return to the Arts Centre in Bromsgrove on Saturday, November 19th with its tribute to the iconic Worcestershire musician, Clifford T Ward, one of England's greatest singer songwriters, whose timeless music lives on in peoples' memories, and is still played on radio stations, fifteen years after his very sad early death.

It will be a night of live music telling the story of Clifford's life through his timeless songs.

The brothers Danny and Dean, accompanied by sister Leyna, will be performing some of Cliff's most memorable tracks including *Home Thoughts From Abroad*, *Gaye* and *The Best is Yet To Come*, as well as some rare unreleased material.

Join them on this special evening to look back on Clifford's inspiring legacy

Many of Clifford's recordings included a string accompaniment and, in a new facet to the show, Worcester based **The King's Strings Quartet** will be augmenting Robinson Stone on several of the songs.

The show starts at 7.30.p.m and tickets, at £16, are available from the Artrix Box Office on 01527-577330 or at www.artrix.co.uk



**Advertise in this space for
as little as £30 per month**

SLAP
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

adverts@slapmag.co.uk

Hereford Blues Festival

Sat Nov. 19th, 3pm until midnight

Hereford Left Bank plays host to its first **Hereford Blues Festival** which will be on the 19th of Nov. The line up is incredibly inviting with various headliners, including **The Laurence Jones Band**. At only 23 years old, Laurence is a multiple award winner and has become well established on the blues scene. Also listed are local bedrock (with emphasis on the rock) blues band, **Slowburner**, which are fronted by the smoking vocals of **Paul Bridgewater** and emphatic drumming of **Dave Small** - who is also regularly seen in the band **Arcadia Roots**.



Add to that the outstanding harp playing of **Johnny Hewitt** with top guitarist **Tommy Allen**, who make up the unmissable **Blues Duo** with their Chicago street blues. Plus upcoming Herefordshire axe grinder **Troy Redfern**, sliding in with his indie tilted blues band. His bass player **Stjohn Milinczuk** can also be found playing alongside **Will Killeen**. Last but not least, slipping over the border from Wales are **J. Alexander** and **The Blue Devils** and they complete this fantastic line up of blues bands. **The Blues Devils** are a well establish harp driven blues band who have been on the road for 30 years and will be continuing their tour at the **Hereford Blues Fest!**

Tickets are going extremely quickly and unfortunately there will be no 'on door' availability. Tickets are available online for £12 - that's only £1.33p per hour - from www.herefordleftbank.com. It promises to be a great day full of diverse, live music.

I will be there, hopefully to bring you back a full report, from what promises to be a great day of live music.

Gren Bartley

Elmslie House, Malvern | Sat 12th of Nov

Well respected acoustic musician and lyricist, **Gren Bartley** and his band are play at the Elmslie House in Malvern this November. After recently releasing his third album *Magnificent Creatures* in September 2015 on Fellside Records, Gren has toured the album at venues in some major UK cities including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Sheffield & Bristol.

The band appeared as a four piece with full percussion at The English Folk Expo, Homegrown Festival in Bury, Manchester mid-way through the October 2015 tour, whilst opening for **The Unthanks**. They received a fantastic welcome from the sell-

out crowd and they have been touring again in 2016. They have now experienced a number of well-known events including Sark Folk Festival in the Channel Islands and The Big Session in Buxton.

Gren Bartley is a widely praised and accomplished musician. Through nonstop touring and recording over the past few years, and working with an array of talented musicians and producers, he has honed his musical craft. The result can be heard live and on



the truly magnificent *Magnificent Creatures*. The recording was produced by Gavin Monaghan (who's worked with Editors, Kings of Leon, Paulo Nutini, Young Graves) at Magic Garden Studio, Birmingham.

Magnificent Creatures is the follow-up to the successful *Winter Fires* album and features a beautiful, symphonic sound. His style and flair (he is an expert finger-style guitarist) has put him at the top of his game and he is constantly gathering more fans and supporters along the way.

Those who have reviewed his music often draw comparisons with Rufus Wainwright, Elliot Smith and Badly Drawn Boy, however Gren is talented and ambitious enough to make his own mark. Gren's current touring band line-up features cello and violin which adds that symphonic feel to the sound. Add into the mix some truly excellent vocal harmonies and you have a tasteful and quite unique sound.

Gren Bartley has been described as "a talented singer-songwriter, he blends both British and American folk influences and his beautiful finger picking guitar technique has been much praised" - Darren Johnson - Bright Young Folk review. Gren will be playing at Malvern's Elmslie House on Saturday 12th of November and tickets to see him for yourself are £10 in advance and on the door. For more information you can visit Gren's website at www.grenbartley.com or the Elmslie House website at elmsliehouse.co.uk.

Folk and frivolity at Artrix

The remarkably intimate solo performances given by **Martin Simpson** go from strength to strength. Travelling the length and breadth of the UK, he's equally at home playing English traditional folk as his own wonderful compositions and is renowned as one of the finest fingerstyle guitarists on the circuit. It's about 40 years since he recorded his first album *Golden Vanity* but he still has the capacity to perform with rare subtlety, intensity and honesty. Catch him live at **Artrix** on Friday 4th November.

The lush, mythical and magical sound of **Peacock Angell** is very much a reflection on the struggles of daily life, relationships and the beauty found in everyday pleasures. **Sid Peacock** and **Ruth Angell** have worked together for several years as a duo and their 2012 album *Love Forgiven* went down well with punters and critics. Now they've brought together a full band of wonderful musicians who will be strutting their stuff in the **Artrix Studio** on 12th November.

The folk fest continues on 17th November with **Lady Maisery**. With their unique approach to harmony singing and thoughtful, striking arrangements of both traditional and original



compositions, this band are well worth a listen. Each of the trio is an accomplished instrumentalist and they expertly switch from fiddle, banjo, harp, concertina, accordion and foot percussion. They also do a fine bout of 'diddling' (aka singing without words) which is a perfect showcase for their musicality.



Wishbone Ash were one of the most enduring and best loved British rock acts, synonymous with guitar-driven melodic rock as featured on albums such as *Argus* and *Live Dates*. On 22nd November, founding lead guitarist **Martin Turner** and his band will be performing tracks from their acclaimed new album *Written in the Stars* alongside stage favourites and classic cuts from the extensive **Wishbone Ash** repertoire.

Since his departure from **Steeleye Span**, **Peter Knight** has turned his full attention to his trio **Gigspanner**. One of the most innovative acts on the scene their ability to dismantle and reassemble traditional music in an imaginative way is earning them a burgeoning reputation



as folk/roots pioneers. On 23rd November, Peter is joined by **Roger Flack** on guitar and **Vincent Salzaas** on percussion both talented musicians in their own right.

For all information please see www.artrix.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01527 577330

Your local arts venue
EVESHAM ARTS CENTRE
www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk
 Victoria Avenue, Evesham, WR11 4QH

Steve Tilston



Folk in the Foyer
 8pm Thu 1st Dec. £10

Tickets: www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk
 & Evesham Almonry TIC 01386 446944

Evesham Arts & Armandaleg Music present: Folk in the Foyer with Steve Tilston Evesham Arts Centre | Thurs 1st December

Steve Tilston is one of the UK's most celebrated & recognisable songsmiths - his words, arrangements and subtle, superb guitar playing could be no one else. Since 1971 Steve has been turning out quality albums, winning accolades in Europe, Australia & the USA and having his songs recorded by **Fairport Convention**, **Dolores Keane** and other illustrious performers. In 2015 Steve's album *Truth To Tell* was rated one of the Telegraph's best folk albums of the year & he was voted Male Vocalist of the Year by **FATEA**. He even became the inspiration for the **Al Pacino** film *Danny Collins* after eventually receiving a letter from Beatle **John Lennon**.

This is the latest of **Evesham Arts Centre's Folk In The Foyer** nights, bringing a variety of both new and traditional folk music to Evesham - generally on the 4th Thursday of the month. Spring 2017 concerts are scheduled to feature the blues-folk of **Mark Harrison** and the entertaining duo **O'Hooley & Tidow**.

The music begins at 8pm on Thursday 1st December. Tickets priced £10 are on sale now from Evesham Almonry, Abbey Road WR11 4QG, 01386 446944, The Arts Centre website www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk - or at the door. Tickets £10

Stan Tracey Legacy Octet MAC, Birmingham | 26th September

This was a night for many to revel in nostalgia, being as it was the centre-piece of Birmingham Jazz celebrations of their 40th year continuously promoting jazz in the City. The late **Stan Tracey** was, for some years, honorary President of the Club and it was customary for him to bring one of his various groups to open each years' new season in September. Stan died in 2013 and his son Clark was responsible for bringing together this Octet to honour

his legacy revisiting many of the compositions that Stan wrote for the band over the years. Stan's place at the piano was taken by **Steve Melling**, who at times, sounded uncannily like Tracey. The music covered some of the earliest compositions for Octet including two pieces from *The Bracknell Connection* (1976), *Ballad For St Ed* from *The Salisbury Suite* (1978) together with more recent fare including *Sweet Lips* from *The Hong Kong Suite* which was commissioned by **Chris Patten**, at the behest of his jazz-loving wife, to mark the British handover of Hong Kong back to China in 1997. There were many other musical delights to enjoy throughout the evening and it is pleasing to note that much of the music played is still available to purchase on CD.



It was particularly appropriate that the Octet included **Art Themen** on tenor and soprano saxophones. Art's association with Stan goes back to 1974. Stan also championed the younger generation of musicians and it was therefore fitting to see **Simon Allen** alongside Art on alto saxophone and **Martin Shaw** on trumpet and flugelhorn.

2017 marks what would have been Stan Tracey's ninetieth birthday. **Clark Tracey** is planning a number of special events to mark the occasion. Expect to hear not only more from the Octet but also music from some of Tracey's other groups including his six piece band **Hexad**, his Quartet and, perhaps, even his Orchestra.

The Birmingham Jazz anniversary celebrations continue. Find out more at:

www.birminghamjazz.co.uk

Words and Photograph: Alan Musson

Aaron Keylock Huntingdon Hall | Monday 17th October

Aaron Keylock opened at Huntingdon Hall for the **Joanne Shaw Taylor** tour. He was fresh from his support slot with Wilko Johnson just up the road in Birmingham Town Hall.

Aaron is the talk of the rock circuit at present. An 18 year old long haired legend in the making. He was cast in the mold of a 70's guitar rock star, with many influences from Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Johnny Winter, Robert Johnson and Charlie Patton. Aaron has played since he was 8 years old and has performed in clubs since he was 12. He has quelled heavy metal head-bangers, and softened the hearts of Hells Angel bikers. Now his meteoric road to fame has found him supporting Blackberry Smoke, Wilko, Dan Patlansky and Joanne - where he is reprising songs that he has written for his album, *Cut Against The Grain*, which will be released in January.

Sat across from Aaron was **Sonny Greaves**, another fresh-faced teenager who knows how to beat a rattling rhythm, and bringing the rolling thunder of bass was **Jordan Maycock**. These boys make me feel older than I am. Aaron was looking every bit the 70's rockstar he emulates whilst hiding behind a mask of long straight hair and wielding a Gibson Firebird. He exploded on stage into blues rock - definitely more Led Zep than Charlie Patton.

Sonny was crashing through his cymbals with his hair flying, as Aaron rocked with *All The Right Moves*. They moved on to another song from his album and the tempo changed. From heavy rock to a softer blues riff with a slide for *Down*, a far more complex song which Aaron has described as *"I had this bluesy country vibe and never thought about doing it as an electric band song but, it has about 3 different time signatures which ended up sounding like a*



blend of a Mississippi John Hurt riff, a Jimi Hendrix riff and a Johnny Winter riff all in one song."

The Les Paul is out for the slow vibe of *Just One Question*, a much more soulful song that Aaron wrote at just 13 years old and makes claim to be the first he wrote. The all too short set had hit its zenith with the song that was released in September as a single, *Against The Grain*. It slid through blistering blues rock and was written 3 years ago when he was 15! It certainly deserves the single release status, and has elements of punk rock lyrics pushing through the superb slide work.

At eighteen Aaron already has 6 years of being on the road, as he plays with surprising maturity and a measure of confidence that belies his quiet nature off stage. The sky is the limit for this young man. He has the significant Mascot Label and a fresh, talented band behind him. I am more than pleased to have seen him play at this point in his career.

Graham Munn

The Underground Revolution Interviews Under A Banner

Under A Banner, whose nucleus is the West Midlands, and whose CV includes supporting New Model Army, have released a new highly-listenable album called *The Wild Places*. On the Under a Banner bill for 2017, is a tour supporting Headsticks. If you haven't heard of them, you need to check them out. UAB consist of: Adam Broadhurst – Vocals & Guitar; Jake Brooks - Backing Vocals & Guitar; Simon Hill – Bass Guitar; Tim Wilson – Drums, Percussion & Backing Vocals; Kat Davis - Keyboards. They have a following of almost 58,000 music lovin' humans on Twitter! Wow! Their ebullient sounds are a fusion of alternative and folk, mixed in with Adam's 'Big' vocals that feel like a wave gently rolling in from the sea that suddenly catches you by surprise and knocks you over. Don't worry no need for a sale on crutches..it is only a figure of speech.

I decided to dig deep into the matter that makes up Adam Broadhurst's mind and ride the Under a Banner wavelength.

Hello guys, it was an absolute pleasure having you perform for the Underground Revolution on October 7th at The Booth Hall. We hope you had a good night. The crowd loved you and it seems you had some fans who knew all the lyrics to your songs, do you have groupies who follow you around to all your shows?

Firstly, hello there and many thanks for the kind words.

Adam: Yes, we do have fans who travel to our shows. I often joke that certain people have been to more Under A Banner gigs than I have! This fan base is growing, but in the past we've had people travel over 150 miles to see us play, and have even flown in from other countries!

That is tremendous! You have connected with the fans. Where exactly is Under a Banner from? Do you have a local said watering hole where you all gather to map out the future, watch local bands and get jolly?

Adam: As we hail from three counties between five band members, most of our discussions etc are held either at our Birmingham based rehearsal studio or at the gigs themselves. Speaking personally, my local pub is a Wolverhampton micro pub where the band have performed an acoustic set and the occasional open mic night is held. It's all about the real ale, you see.

Well, next time you come to Hereford you must pop into **The Hereford Beer House**. They have a fantastic selection of real ales that rotate regularly, not to mention all the other local pubs serving up some amazing local and international ales and ciders...it's what Herefordshire does best. A story for another day.

You guys have a really tight and dynamic sound, it really fills the room musically and Adams voice is strong and rather epic...what style of music would you say you fall under? What are the musical roots of Under a Banner?

In terms of the band's sound, we have deliberately avoided being pigeon-holed into one defining musical genre. Admittedly, both fans and reviewers have picked up on the folk/hard elements



which are inescapably evident in our recordings, but we've encompassed a range of styles across our three albums and two EPs to date.

Our musical roots are very varied, the single unifying genre being metal, which often comes across in the work of the rhythm section. I've always been into melody and lyrics, wherever it's found, but our collective influences range from New Model Army, The Levellers, Joni Mitchell and Tori Amos to Rush, Iron Maiden and Slayer, with many artists in between.

Wow, Tori Amos, I haven't heard that name in a while. She is great. I can feel the New Model Army and Levellers vibe coming through. What promoter and venue booked your first show?

Under A Banner's first show was, I think, at the now sadly closed Varsity in Wolverhampton. I can't remember who promoted the gig but it went moderately well for a first tentative outing.

What is the most memorable gig you have played this year? Why? Any shows you are looking forward to in the future?

Of all the gigs and festivals we've played this year I'd say Down on the Farm Festival was our favourite. I'm not saying that because this interview will appear in a Hereford based publication; the festival was well organised, friendly and the crowd were very appreciative and enthusiastic. We look forward to our appearance there in 2017. We will be touring extensively with the band Headsticks next year too, as well as making as many festival appearances as possible.

I have to say you are on your merry way to a wonderful year. We are really looking forward to having Headsticks play for our November 5th show at **The Booth Hall** supporting the **Steve**

Ignorant (Crass) Slice of Life tour. It was my first time at **Down on the Farm** this year, and I just couldn't get over the friendly vibes. I highly recommend it for families as well.

You just released *The Wild Places* September 30th of this year, which I have been enjoying listening to, why did you call it *The Wild Places*? Is there a theme behind the songs as a whole? What message do you want your fans to take from this latest album?

Our new album *The Wild Places* takes its title from a book by Robert MacFarlane. It's about the search for wilderness, both externally and internally. I love being in remote places, climbing mountains and storm seeking. These themes tend to creep into the band's lyrics and have done so yet again on this current album. There's also a liberal helping of social commentary here too, some of it observational and some of it reactionary.



I have to admit most albums I listen to have at least one cringe worthy song on it, but I love every single song on *The Wild Places* and I found the lyrics engaging. I can't really pick a favourite song but I am quite prone to playing Sunburst frequently. Everything about it keeps me listening. Does Adam write the songs? They feel poetic and I also feel a political undertone in songs like Kill it All and World of Hope? Am I close?

The first single 'Nothing's Ever Really Gone' is plainly about the loss of a loved one. Listeners are free to take whatever personal messages they choose from the album's twelve songs. We can only hope that the lyrics mean something to people, however they're reflected upon. I write all of the band's lyrics and draw inspiration from just about any available source. Sometimes they're visceral responses to the news; abstract musings on passing thoughts or based on novels, works of art or conversations.

I sensed a diverse connection to the natural world in the songs, in a way, it is like being "on location" at times. Haha. If you could pick any human to become the new Prime Minister who would it be?

If I had to choose a living human to be Prime Minister (interesting question by the way) I'd opt for a left-leaning friend of my father's. A combination of humanism, social conscience and fiscal wherewithal is about as good as it gets.

Well your father's friend has my vote. Get him on the ballot. What advice would you give bands starting out regarding: surviving on the road? Creating a musical style and developing an image? Recording? Getting their name out there? Connecting with their fans

In terms of advice to young bands, I'd suggest they first broaden their musical horizons. This might seem patronising but the wider

a musician's spectrum of musical tastes, the more quirky and inventive their own musical output will be. It's galling that some young bands have their careers fast-tracked thanks to family money. Sadly, in the modern world, making music is an expensive business which involves a depressing level of speculation in order to accumulate.

Having said this, the current trend for DIY bands in the digital age of music means that there's been a partial erosion of record label control. Hence, the 'industry' - if one can still call it that- is no longer solely the province of the young. If musicians are prepared to stick at it and develop every aspect of their craft, it's possible to gradually build an audience willing to travel and pay to see you perform.

Studio recording is cheaper than it's ever been and, providing you have something palatable, clever use of social media will help to reach an audience you wouldn't have reached 15-20 years ago. In short, be prepared to take a lot of knocks but keep going!

That advice is absolutely worth its weight in gold! What is up and coming for Under a Banner for the rest of the year and 2017? Do you have a website and music page? Where can we purchase *The Wild Places*?

2017 sees Under a Banner touring properly for the first time. As already mentioned, many of these dates will be with our friends Headsticks. At the time of writing we already have dates planned in Wolverhampton, Worcester, Stoke, Manchester, Hereford and Nottingham. We will be adding many more. Folks can keep track of live dates as they're added via our website www.underabanner.co.uk, our Facebook page or Twitter @underabanner.

Thanks very much for this opportunity. It's been fun speaking to you.

THE PIG AND DRUM
Alternative Rock Bar
Traditional Public House

Live Music - DJ Nights - Juke Box
Craft Beer - Real Ales - 6 Draft Ciders
Coffee - Free Wifi
Skittle Alley - Pool Table
Beer Garden - Smoking Area
Friendly Staff

NEW EVENTS
Pig Jam - Open stage for musicians to get up and JAM

BYOV - Bring your own vinyl
open decks night for DJs and MC's

piganddrumworcs.co.uk
f thepiganddrumlowesmoor

Boulder Than You - 4/11
Micheal Knowles - 5/11
Answer Back 11/11
Pink Diamond revue 12/11
Dead Frequency 17/11
Isolation 18/11
Ben Vickers 20/11
Pig Jam 25/11
Bredrin Sounds 26/11

More TBC...

**53, Lowesmoor
Worcester, WR1 2RS**

Live Events List ings

Faithful City Shows Presents Sonic Boom Six, Population 7 You Know The Drill, Calm Like A Riot The Marris Bar, Worcester | Thurs 13th Oct

Faithful City Shows have a brilliant track record for enticing some of the best names in hardcore and punk in Worcester. **Funeral For A Friend**, **The Peacocks** and (by the time you read this) **Johnny Foreigner** have graced the Marris Bar, and no doubt plenty more treats are planned further down the line. I always try to keep an eye on who FCS have coming up and although my tastes have mellowed since my youthful flirtations with hardcore, every so often they book a band that really spike my interest. My case was proven with the confirmation and return to our fair city of **Sonic Boom Six**.

It seems like years since **Sonic Boom Six** last passed this way, but I remember being wowed by their frantic energy. Their cross pollination of genres, mixing ska, hip-hop and feral punk that was played with ease. Above all I remember the hooks, one minute making you want to dance and holler, the next it was urging you to bounce off of the walls. I was intrigued to see the band after a few years and many treks around the country, and had they managed to maintain that knockout punch mentality.

Before the main event FCS had put together (perhaps in tribute to their headliners mash-up of styles) one of their most eclectic local supporting casts to date. From hip-hop warriors **Calm Like A Riot** to the infectious pop-punk burst of **You Know The Drill** culminating into the intriguing jazzy hip-hop stylings of **P7**. **Calm Like A Riot** kicked off proceedings with a hand clapped intro



before launching into a suitably manic set of rapid fire vocals. Bouncy, elastic rhythms and dirty rock riffs were warming the audience along with a crazed display of MC posturing and hollered hooks. They performed the likes of *Shockadahiphop* leaving those in the know grinning from ear to ear. **You Know The Drill** followed with half an hour of contagious pop punk. They were full of instant hooks, big riffs and battered rhythms. They played their previous



single *No Ambition*, their EP *Losing Streak* and *Less Than You*. They were finding the mark with this pop punk loving scribe despite ongoing battles with backing vocal mics. In direct contrast to the instant kick you in the balls and run nature of the previous acts, nine-piece **Population 7** offered an intriguing mix of laid back, almost jazzy soul. Interspersed with funky blasts of sax, organic R&B and the aforementioned hip-hop vocals that were spread between three different (but equally effective) vocalists. Layers of guitar collided with shuffling rhythms, elastic bass work outs and sax thrills as the trio of MC's paced the floor. They dropped beats like the hook-laden *Is There Any Way?* and *Blind Spot* to a transfixed audience caught in the bands groove.

The headliners **Sonic Boom Six** took to the stage to whoops of delight as the packed venue seemed to take a collective step forward. **The Marris Bar** was embracing the Manchester based quintet as if they were returning heroes. From the opening riff the band had the audience in the palm of their hands. Recent single and equal rights anthem *No Man, No Right* was delivered early and the crowd were hollering back the vocal refrain. **Laila K** and **Barney Boom** traded lines over a deliciously energetic and potent ska bounce. From there the band continued to explore their recorded catalogue, from the choppy reggae tinged hip-hop of *Strange Transformation*, to a hyperactive *Bigger Than Punk Rock*. The laid back summery groove of *Train Leaves Tomorrow* had enthused the



crowd as they responded in dancing and skanking to the calmer reggae and ska numbers. They then hurled themselves into a punk fuelled pit as the band stepped on the power, needing Laila to step in to calm a fevered audience. Her cohorts tossed out another audio Molotov cocktail and at one point were delivering a glorious mash up of *Just Be Good To Me* and The Clash's *Gun Of Brixton* (show casing that fertile clash of styles in full effect). Before long they were rounding their set off with an exhilarated rush through an effervescent *Piggy In The Middle* to a charged and appreciative room.

It may have been a good few years since I last caught **Sonic Boom Six**, but I sure hope it won't be quite as long a wait for the next blast of Manchester's finest. For now I'll have to keep myself content with a few missing SB6 albums from my collection, as I wait to see who FCS chooses to bring our way next.

Words by Will Mun, Photography by Duncan Graves

The Leylines

Folk The System, Nick Parker

The Marris Bar, Worcester | 8th October

Following on from Dublin's finest, The Eskies, the Marris Bar offered up another bill of high octave folk punk in the shape of festival (and personal) favourites **The Leylines**. As their never ending tour rolled back into Worcester after a triumphant show at the same venue earlier in the year. They'd just finished their regular jaunt round the festival circuit. Last time around they had packed out the bar with the help of Jack Of All and Under A Banner, delivering a storming night of punchy riffs. Once again **The Leylines** helped piece together another line-up of like minded bedfellows, in the shape of sharp minded lyricist **Nick Parker** and fiery folk racketeers **Folk The System**.

Nick Parker takes to the stage armed with his trusty acoustic and his tongue firmly wedged in his cheek. He started to warm up the crowd with a set full of infectious melodies, catchy vocals and witty onstage banter. Regaling tales of feeling out of place, performing in the foyer of a John Cooper Clarke gig and co-writing with his pet dog. Along with instant foot-tapping classics such as *I've Never Been To Dublin*, *Terry And June*, *An Open Letter To My Human* and *Down With The Youth* (a tale of ill advised charity shop fashion). Nick leaves with the frantic strum of *Metaphor* reverberating around our collective noggins whilst I scribble the words "must hear more" across my pad. Parker's set comes to a close and the audience give him a well deserved applaud of appreciation - for his sharp wit and quick delivery.

From razor sharp penmanship to serrated social commentary, Banbury based **Folk The System** stormed the stage with their riotous blend of hard hitting, rough and ready folk punk. Fiddle blazing acoustics attacked and bodhran pounded, as frontman **Simon Hill** spews forth with a torrent of injustice and biting 'state of the nation' commentary. *Lamenting the Death Of a Nation*, *a Lost Land and Civilisation*, as flights of hard strums take over for a rudimentary yet effective rhythmic thump. The band's energy onstage and fiddle outbursts encouraged the audience to spill onto the dance floor. Whilst the band continue to hammer their message home over a suitably raucous frenzy of instrument abuse and vocal hooks. Culminating with a fevered run through *What You Know* (The Levellers) and their own *Vanity*. Much to the delight of the assembled.



It's no secret that **The Leylines** have become a firm favourite in this household. I've watched this band develop into one of the hottest live folk rock spectacles. The Leylines don't only possess an instantly infectious

sound, they also have the songs to match. They give their all each and every time they tread the boards. They never disappoint and always leave the audience baying for more. The band tear into *You've Changed* lead by the pounding rhythm section of Pete (bass) and Dave (drums), with Hannah weaving between the dual acoustic guitars of Matt and the frontman Steve. The crowd join in on the rousing vocals, and they all take to the floor. The room



becomes a mass of limbs as the band deliver all the favourites, from the slow burning *Save Your Soul* to the frantic dash of *Run For Cover* (provoking a handful of the more fleet footed audience members). They then delivered the likes of the punchy *Own Worst Enemy* and *Sorry My Friend*. The band finished their main set with an emotionally powerful *Queen And Country*, with frontman and former soldier Steve blasting the government for sending our forces out to war without the proper protection. The hard hitting track affected everyone in the audience, not least a fellow former soldier who was lifted in defiance by his fellow revellers. As the band delivered a poignant finale, it was yet another engaging set. Of course, the audience begged for one more to send them on their way and **The Leylines** performed the entirety of *Along The Old Straight Track* and a gloriously rowdy take of *Fifteen Years* by The Levellers. Bringing the curtain down on another memorable night at the **Marris Bar**, courtesy of The Leylines and friends.

The Leylines return to The Marris Bar as part of their Spring tour on April 28th.

Will Munn



worcester
musicstore

**WORCESTER'S ONLY AUTHORISED
FENDER & MARTIN DEALER**






0%
FINANCE
AVAILABLE

**INTERNET
PRICES
IN STORE
GUARANTEED**

**BEGINNER
TO
ADVANCED**

worcstermusicstore.com

find us: 31 Sidbury • Worcester • WR1 2HT
(near VUE cinema)

Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

Another month has flown by and what a huge one it's been for us. Firstly, we celebrated **International Cassette Store Day**, alongside our annual CSD shop sale we also welcomed Sonic Youth's **Thurston Moore** to the shelves. The cassette release *Chelsea Manning* features Moore and Brooklyn-based drummer **Ryan Sawyer** along with UK-based members of **Thurston Moore Group**: bass player **Deb Googe** (also of My Bloody Valentine) and guitarist **James Sedwards** (also of Nought). We are thrilled to say the release sold out within a day. Joining the CSD16 effort, we also welcomed Bristol's **Let's Kill Janice** which are a fast paced act reflecting some kind of melodic 90s throwback headbanger alt rock.

One of our biggest achievements not only last month but also of the year - following our previous articles on one of our new artists under the management roster of Circuit Sweet, we were thrilled to be attending the official album launch of **Simon Gore** and his debut *ÉN TI*. Mid October saw Simon take a week long photography exhibition/ residency at **Cardiff Made** followed by the official album and photobook launch of *ÉN TI* on Saturday 22nd October. This project is Simon's interpretation of Nordic landscapes, atmospheres and environments projected through obsolete and decaying technology, manifested in the form of a debut, full-length album and soft back pocket



photo book. The exhibition showcased a collection of unedited images from the book, taken on expired 110 film in Norway and the album launch featured live music from both Simon and local Herefordshire based multi-instrumentalist **MNTZ**. Keep an eye out for a live review and photography feature of the evening due to hit the site soon. Until then this special release has been welcomed to the shop shelves - have a look!

Elsewhere on **Circuit Sweet** our Hereford based writer **Gavin Brown** has been busy travelling the country reviewing anything and everything including the recent Birmingham show for God Damn, Torche and Red Fang show, visit www.circuitsweet.co.uk to read his thoughts in full. Gavin will be covering **Hereford Underground's** forthcoming **Steve Ignorant** show - Steve is now performing with his new band **Slice Of Life** and will be accompanied by **Headsticks** and local legends **Terminal Rage**. Wait until that review hits the website!

Anyway with November now here, all we can say is local musicians, promoters, bands, artists, Sap Mag itself- watch out it's almost time for this years **Rad Releases**.

Hank Wangford

Brad Breath, Anna 'the Spanner' Robinson
Colwall Village Hall, Malvern | Sat 19 Nov

Hey, pard'ner, heads up and smell the bison, hear the buffalo roar, have your heart broken in twain - **Hank Wangford's** coming to town...

Join Hank at the **Colwall Village Hall** in Malvern for illustrious country and western tales of love, harmony, small truths, lampshade confessions, whistling and prairie dust - it's one of the funniest rural touring shows on the planet. The solo artist has joined up with his old musical buddy and saddlelepal **Brad Breath** aka **Andy Roberts** and singer/double-bassist **Anna 'The Spanner' Robinson** for this Malvern Hills special on November 19th.

Hank, Brad and Anna look forward to guiding the folks into the darker recesses of country music and showing them the soul in

the music. Hank will pull them in with stories of country and life on the road, Spanner will entrance with her beautiful heartfelt singing & celestial harmonies and Brad will amaze with his baritone song stylings, yodelling and the occasional rope trick. There will be classic songs from the **Wangford Hall of Pain** and new tunes from **Rancho Wangford**.

This messianic derailment onto the path of country music came from befriending and playing with Gram Parsons, ex-Byrds and Flying Burrito Brothers, in the seventies. This was at a time when Hank - as Dr Sam Hutt - was a rock 'n roll doctor. Many of his patients were from the world of rock music and the hippie alternative world. The Grateful Dead, the Who and the Rolling Stones were some of his clients.

It was when Gram Parsons came over to hang out in London with Keith Richards that Keith sent Gram with his wife to see Doctor Sam. Since then Hank has fronted a series of hot country bands, aiming for country non-believers, proving it's not all misery. Some of his songs and stories are sad and some funny - his new album *Whistling in the Dark* has some recent pearls.

Tickets £12.50 from:
www.wegotickets.com/event/362253
Info 01684 540366



The Electric Banana Tour Rolls Into Brum! Gaye Bykers On Acid Wagon & Horses, Birmingham | 24th Sept

Organised by **Dysfunctional Bungle & The Barnboppers Collective** in conjunction with **Mute Elephant Promotions** this is the second night of a long-overdue **Gaye Bykers On Acid** reunion. Understandably enough there's a distinct psychedelic flavour to tonight's line-up.

First up are Kidderminster band **Socio Suki** and, although many of the punters are obviously here to see the Bykers, being a relatively local band there's a dedicated element of the audience



here for them too. It's apparent that **Socio Suki** aren't going to be content to just make up numbers though, and singer Natalie's vocals provide a nice counterpoint to the band's more out-there heavier space rock detours.



Despite a hiatus of a few years in the 1990s, **Poisoned Electrick Head** have been around since the '80s, and their inclusion on the bill was guaranteed to garner some extra interest in the event too. Ever theatrical in their trademark outlandish costumes and masks, they're influenced as much by prog rock and psychedelia as punk, and they don't fail to make an impression either visually or sonically.

The Bykers haven't played together on stage in nearly 26 years apart from the first date of the so-called Electric Banana tour the previous night in Nottingham, but you wouldn't guess it judging by their subsequent performance. From the moment they hit the stage and launch into their opening number, *'T.V. Cabbage'*, it's apparent that the passage of time hasn't dulled their passion or stolen their thunder. Against a synapse snapping video backdrop

and dazzling lightshow they proceed to tear through a back-catalogue spanning set, including many old favourites. *'Delirium'* follows hot on the heels of *'T.V. Cabbage'*, whilst the two singles – *'Git Down'* and *'All Hung Up'* from their much maligned debut album, go down particularly well.

The Bykers' second album, *Stewed To The Gills*, is often regarded as their best. So it's hardly surprising that it's most heavily represented in the set tonight. *'Hot Thing'*, the only single from the album is also played, as is its b-side, the thrashtastic *'Rad Dude'*. Three numbers from *Cancer Planet Mission* are aired – the highlight being *'Whatever Happened To Malcolm?'*

The inclusion of some less obvious choices also provides a pleasant surprise. The rarely ever played live *'After Suck There's Blow'* for example, and also *'S.P.A.C.E.'* the dance-oriented number that was ostensibly the Bykers' last ever single, even if it was released under the PFX pseudonym. Their last album *Pernicious Nonsense* is still underrated, and also underrepresented here, but a storming version of the *'Disinformation Rise And Shine'* more than makes up for this.



If anything, the Bykers are now tighter than ever and perform with an urgency and maturity they could never really hoped to have maintained nearly thirty years ago given the excesses of some of their recreational proclivities back then. *'Everything's Groovy'* reminds us how and where the Bykers' odyssey really began, and by the time the song ends the Bykers have been on for well over an hour. After deliberately wrong-footing everyone with *'God Sold Me Bad Acid'*, an opening drum salvo then signals the final song of the night proper. Arguably the band's finest five minutes, no Bykers' set would be complete without *'Nosedive Karma'*. It's an emotional but euphoric finale, and when you've just seen one of the favourite bands of your formative years for the first time in over 25 years, nights like this are to die for. And the band seemed to love it as much as we did. The Electric Banana tour was touted as a farewell reunion, but it's looking likely we'll be hearing more of the Bykers in the not-too-distant future.

The Wagon & Horses is the ideal venue for gigs like this. And unfortunately, in these days of ever increasing corporate greed and real estate avarice, genuine, salt of the earth pub music venues like this are becoming fewer and harder to find. So, all power to everyone concerned here, including all the bands, for making it such a memorable occasion. Long may the Barnboppers continue to bop!

Rich Deakin

Andy O'Hare

I read the music news today, oh boy, and in the local papers you'd be forgiven for assuming that the only events taking place in our fair region are an endless series of stopovers from various 'tribute bands' on tour - who promise to 'relive the experience' of long-dead rock legends - or more likely aged acts who can't be arsed to perform anymore, except in arenas or at festivals where you'll be lucky to be within 100 yards of the stage.

You'll also find the occasional mention of a visiting troupe of 'highly-rated' Appalachian clog-dancers or perhaps an Iberian Vivaldi string quartet - it's a rare moment indeed when a true local and original rock act seems to get even a mention - except of course in the fine organ you're currently holding!

The answer's of course fairly straightforward - most of the 'music news' that appears locally is the cut-and-pasted press releases of acts (and their management) who've been shrewd enough to track down the journos who actually get to publish this drivel - and who welcome the ready-made copy with open arms - sure is a lot easier than actually going out and finding-out and reporting on what's happening on their doorstep...

Trouble is that the situation seems to be getting worse and the vibrant and actual music scene that's happening in our area year-round scarcely warrants a mention - but it doesn't have to be that way!! There's usually three parties involved with a gig - the venue, the promoter and the band. In an ideal world they'd all be publicising the event - but in practice they usually leave it to one of the others - which often means that the gig doesn't even make any listings - the most comprehensive local one naturally being located in the last few pages of this stubborn publication...

Sure you're serious about your music - but it's equally important to take a fresh look at your promotion! If you've got a gig, record release, tour or festival appearance in the bag - be sure to tell everyone about it! And the surest way to make the local media is to do a little research to find out the emails of the hacks and then 'gift' them a press release with details, attached pictures and maybe a quirky tale or two about yourself in an easily copy-and-pastable format - they'll bloody love it!!

Ok - so I have few 'issues' with local music news coverage - but that's virtually nothing compared with what I'm showered with every day from the national 'music news' sites - most of which (as you've probably guessed) is concerned with reporting the most trivial and banal activities that a handful of global 'celebs' get up to - and seems like absolutely nothing is thought unworthy of bringing to our attention...

Now I'm a bit of an old hat (though I don't actually own one) but back in my day the national music news - which meant Sounds, Melody Maker and NME in actual printed format - seemed to tell you news of the UK and international music scene that actually informed you about the bands, music, singles and albums, tours and festivals - plus of course the inevitable bust-ups and collaborations - anyone remember the wonderful NME Rock Family Trees?

So sadly I've actually got a very regularly-added-to folder on my desktop called 'Crap Music News' and it doesn't make for pleasant reading! Nearly every entry includes the eye-catching name of a 'celeb' followed by a completely inconsequential and utterly pointless story - here's a few of them...

* Justin Bieber didn't accuse Selena Gomez of cheating on him with Zayn Malik...

* Miley Cyrus cuts down on partying for Liam Hemsworth...

* Ed Sheeran has fans guessing with wedding ring photo...

* Ellie Goulding's exhaustion is down to a severe bout of insomnia...

Yeah I know - but this is pretty much what passes for mainstream 'music news' nowadays - unfortunately a fair reflection I feel on the current industry as a whole! So while I think that maybe our local music reporting could maybe use a slight kickstart - ok more like a good arse-kicking - its slight shortcomings are nothing at all compared to the abject failure of the national media - which has substituted comprehensive reporting on musical matters for featherweight celebrity gossip - could it get even worse? Watch this space...

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

THE TASK IN HAND PRESENTS

PAPIER TIGRE!

+ THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
+ A WEREWOLF

November 14th 2016
Marr's Bar, Worcester
wegottickets.com/thetaskinhand
£4 adv - £6 otd
8pm



7Shades

'Bursting (Exploded)' | Various Artists

Punk infused progressive rockers, **7 Shades** were originally established by **Neil Spragg** (Sir Real of **Omni Opera & House Of God**) as a fund raiser recording project (but now giging whenever they can) for **Cardiacs** frontman, **Tim Smith** (also of **Spratley Japs**, **Sea Nymphs** and **Panixphere**, composer and all round national treasure), who suffered a stroke and heart attacks back in 2008, but due to phenomenal solidarity, love and support from his fans and friends, is recovering and back to finishing albums such as **Sea Nymphs**, 'On Dry Land' out this November.

7 Shades, has members scattered over the midlands (I admit I had a tenure in the band for a year and a bit myself, but am on none of the releases). This year see's the release of their second album 'Bursting' and, right this minute, they released a remix album of that, as a benefit for Timmy! This review focuses on the later remix opus, the former is also available at their bandcamp. **7 Shades** themselves, are off kilter psych, peppered with punk energy, space rock, instrumental prog, and a drizzle of chip tune dressing.

Some Highlights :

Start with the 3 reworks of the 7/8 hydra, 'Gout': Slunq, silvery guitars dripping with vibrato & tremolo, sit alongside a fizzing, slithering serpentine bass, punctuated by slabs of muscular grind, in the belly of a beastly chirping machine. Not the most 8bit here, though, as **Shades'** very own **Joshua Ryan**, AKA **Little Bit Boy**, turns in a spritely rendition of his own, replete with coin chimes, bashes, Yoshi mounting, shroom ingestions, delay soaked melodic flutes, it even has the loading sound of a Commodore 64 cartridge. A pocket symphony straight out of the arcade cabinet.

Next up, **David Minnick** of Detroit's **The Sursiks & 180Gs** (who previously turned his hand to making music out of speech patterns of answer phones, accapella renditions of **Residents**, **Negativland**, **Cardiacs**, **The Knack** and **SNOOP DOG!**) provides a rumba driven, exotic flavourful cocktail, fuelled by horns, salsa percussion, marimba, and steel drums, with his trademark smart arse, holy-as-F*** note-perfect choral vocals at the fore! -

Italy's **Sterbus and co** (featuring **Noel Storey** of **Small Gods**) offers reworkings of 'Hello Sailor' & 'Grasping At Straws', with plenty of bite, throwing 'Grasping' in as a middle section reproduced faithfully on clarinet by Mrs Sterbus. Lots of replay value in this cut, including a Gregorian chant section. Speaking of which, there is more medieval fayre and cadence to be found in **Brum's Nature Center**, here they deconstruct the 22-bar-before-it-even-repeats-rodonkulus 'Spirits Sordid Show', rendered with clarinet, flutes, light percussion, bookended with a slightly eastern

tinge, dare I say, this is psychedelic, in a 70s rock in opposition manner. Replete with a spellbinding choral line that will send shivers down the aeons as cobwebbed whispers.

Grand Master Gareth (of **Misty's Big Adventure** and once triumphed by **John Peel** for his **One Minute Melodies**, yeah alright) hands over a memorable catchy ear worm reworking of King Crimson'esq nodder, 'Nudey Prod Games', so twinkley, gentle, airy, childlike, I dare you not to crack a grin as it hits those tired, stubborn ear drums and imbeds its way in like a chewy worm.



'Exploded' is perhaps more accessible to normie ear lugs than the original album it draws intravenously from, but that is not to deprive **Mr Spragg** of his knack of melody and rhythmic experimentation. No more is this present than on the spoonertastic **Cursor Miner** remix of 'Marking Time' - 'Tarking Mime'. Here stripped of its narcissist sneer addressing first world privilege, the infectious melodic flare is at the fore, and charmingly astute it is. It fizzles, slops, pops and wonks along like it's intoxicated, wearing odd clown shoes on Clee Hill, in tuh' season.

Elsewhere, **Mark Cawthra** (**Redbus Noface** & former tub thumper at **Cardiacs**) adds subtle fairy dust to 'Cock Block & Barrel Roll' with some interestingly scintillating drum

treatments, **Hobopope & The Goldfish Cathedral** board the 'Milky Train' and promptly derail it with a seismic punch to the face. Brighton's **Crayola Lectern**, colours within the margins faithfully on 'Pigstar want grass', a nice anagram all the same.

Overall the results are, epic. I don't use that word often, there is no muse of "epic meal time", or "epic sandwich", but this is a pretty colossal effort and achievement. These musicians are at the top of their game! Buy it now, help Tim Smith's recovery by chucking dosh his way, here's the link

7shades.bandcamp.com/album/bursting-exploded

"All snowy in the pond"

Wordy Gobshite : Craigus Barry



the wine emporium

All you need for homebrewed beer, wine, spirits and cider

Free sameday delivery to many areas
Help, advice and samples always available

Tel. 01527 854198
www.thewineemporium.co.uk

4 High Street, Studley, Warks. B80 7HJ

Follow us on facebook [the wine emporium](#) 

The Underground Revolution Freeborn Rising

What is the inspiration behind the name Freeborn Rising? It sounds like a movement to me.

Thorin: I'd like it to be one! Something people can rally behind and support. A name that people feel akin to. A family. Something that inspires passion and action. A mouthpiece for a growing number of people who have grown disillusioned with society's current state of affairs. I wanted the name of the band to have some sort of meaning. To inspire.

The 'Freeborn' movement is something I am highly passionate about. Renouncing the false right of the state to govern you and undermine your common rights... Although I'll try to restrain myself from going full 'Ranter'.

Basically the idea is for people who listen to our songs and hear what we say to realise that you're not the only one who thinks that way. There is a lot going on in the world right now, our own back yards are being invaded.

Where are you both from and how did the band form? How long have you been going?

Thorin: As I've always said, it's not where I'm from that matters – it's where I'm going. I've lived all over this island, seen many sights and taken in many cultures... As well as accents.

As for us, we met via a band forming website called joinmyband.co.uk. I had recently moved to the area and wanted to get a band together so I placed an add on there and after a few months, a random accidental meeting relating to a lost dog and some luck - we eventually got together and started doing our thang. It's been roughly a year and a bit in the making now. We seemed to go from naught to 100 in a small space of time and hope to continue on that trend.

What type of music do you play? What are the main influences behind Freeborn Rising's music?

Thorin: I hate this question... It's too difficult to answer. Can I have a different one...?

My main influence growing up was punk and practically everything 70s/80s. It wasn't until I became a teenager however I actually started to take notice of what I was listening to. I became obsessed with bands like The Levellers and New Model Army. The politics and passion stirred some deep rooted emotion in me. I then discovered punk for myself... safe to say I never looked back. I can't just put it specifically down to such a small genre though. I'm a massive grunge fan. I love ska, reggae. I'm also a fervent secret lover of 80s electronica... (but don't tell anyone).

I think if I had to pigeonhole our sound it would be a mix between all of the above with added emphasis on political punk and grunge. Protest music. Folk/punk. I have no idea. Pungrunk... hahaha.

A question many bands fear. Ah well...Pungrunk works...let's roll with it. What band would be your ideal band to tour with?

Thorin: The Clash. Without hesitation. Unfortunately due to the oppressive nature of time I'm pretty certain they're not touring anymore. The obvious choice would be The Levellers. They are pretty much my all time favourite band. I've seen them live more times than I've lived in a house with hot water (cue sad fiddles). It would be a pretty flippin awesome experience! To say the very least.

Freeborn Rising seems to have broken into the Hereford music scene, and receiving plenty of appreciation and support from

Hereford locals and music promoters such as John Steven Hales. What is next for the band in 2017?

Thorin: Absolutely everything and anything that is thrown at us. Although we have made the executive decision to begin a unrelenting campaign of pestering in a broader area to expand our audience. There may also be some radical change to our line up in the near future so... watch this space. Or don't.. Personally, I recommend doing something more productive but it's completely your choice.

Matt: For me an ideal tour would be with Flogging Molly & Dropkick Murphys. Absolutely adore the music and you know there's gonna be a party.

We are most certainly on the look out for this radical change to your line up. Do you have an album out or in the works?

Thorin: We are currently in the process of gathering coin for an album. Unfortunately we don't really have much to fall back on so it's a slow process. We do have an offer on the table however so once we hit our target you can rest assured we'll be here and there subliminally demanding that you buy it. I take begging to a whole new level.

What would be the ultimate moment of success for the band?

Thorin: A signing...? A decent slot on a big festival stage. I'm not sure to be honest. I got emotional when our band page on Facebook reached 100 likes. Supporting Under A Banner was another up there moment for me. I think I've waited so long to get anywhere within a music arena that even the small stuff blows me away. Any support is fantastic and I thank all of you from the tip of my soul who have done so far. We can't get anywhere without you. Please keep it up.

Thorin poetry seems to come naturally to you, when did you discover you have this talent and do you think a background in poetry makes a good songwriter? I guess I am saying you have written some brilliant lyrics that put you in a thoughtful place.

Thorin: I started off writing songs. It began when I was 15 and some lads I knew where I lived asked me to write something for a demo. So I did. Unfortunately we all fell out soon after but I kept the lyrics. I guess it awoke something in me.

I carried on writing – mostly teenage boy stuff about girls and pain, and mostly bloody awful! It didn't go far after that. It wasn't until a few years later after a lot of hardship that I decided to revisit the first song I wrote for the demo – 'Cut My String'. Originally about a girl tormenting my emotionally distraught teenage brain.

Later on, I decided to completely deconstruct it. I changed the emphasis of an individual holding me back to a society. Its inability to admire something different. Its disdain for individuality. That was my first attempt at writing in that way. It felt more natural, more real. It helped me deal with life and the world around me.

'Blood' seems to be a popular song with the fans, such as myself, what is the song about?

Thorin: It's about blood. The blood of the innocent. The blood of the guilty. The blood of war. The inspiration for this song came from a single image. That of a small child lain face down, washed up on a Turkish beach. I remember crying at the sight. Not only for what was in front of me but also knowing the fact that, it wouldn't change anything.

The world will continue to be a hateful place where the rights of the ignorant outweigh the lives of the innocent. The song Blood was written to highlight that not only is blood being spilled for undeniably, unjustifiable reasons but, as long as you keep allowing it to happen, then the blood not only stains the shores of foreign lands but also your hands.



That song gets me every time. Matt do you contribute to the song writing? How long have you been playing the 12-string guitar? You are a pretty skilled guitarist, do you play any other instruments?

Matt: I contribute very little in the way of songwriting to be honest, Thor is a lyrical genius, I come in mainly on the musical side of it, working out chord progressions and guitar harmonies.

I bought my first 12 string last Christmas as a present to myself when I was going through a particularly rough patch and needed cheering up, but I've played guitar on and off for the best part of 16 years. I also played bass for a long period amidst that.

You are a harmonious team. Have either of you played in other bands?



Thorin: I've played around with other musicians. I have been trying to get a band together for as long as I can remember. The only band I can say I actually played with properly was while I was studying music technology. Part of the course was to form a band and perform at the end of the year. We were 'The Bad and the Ugly'. It was my first time on stage singing to people. One of the best moments of my life. Ever since then it's been a constant drive to do it again. Think it's safe to say I got what I wanted.

Matt: I played in a lot of different bands at school with friends, which all amounted to nothing despite our rock god dreams. Also, a few years ago I played in a Hereford based Glam Metal band

called Wet Cherry. It was basically Spinal Tap meets Steel Panther playing a lot of the old 80's glam rock cheese. It was such good fun though, even in the spandex.

Spandex...haha...Oh dear. You are both now promoting with the Underground Revolution, what are the bands you found most memorable at the shows so far?

Thorin: There's a few. The obvious would be Under a Banner. They are a fantastic band. I love their sound and I really hope they get to where they deserve, and a lot bigger. I know I'll support them all the way – and you should too...

Next I'd have to say Terminal Rage. I am a massive fan boy for these auld buggers. Watching them play always puts a smile on my face and stokes that fire in my heart. I highly recommend giving them a listen one day soon... either that or imagine something terrible might happen to your trousers...

Another band to mention has to be... well, Another Band! I love the passion of these guys. John Mason has to be one of the more enigmatic front men in town. They are well worth a trip out next time they hit the throttle.

There are many more brilliant bands this town and the surrounding areas has to offer. I'm happy to be involved in the Herefordshire music scene and I hope to watch it grow into something beautiful.

Matt: Like Thor said, Under A Banner are an obvious choice, we love you guys! Other than that it's really hard to pick. We've seen some amazing bands coming through.

Off the top of my head one of my favourites has got to be a Hundred Suns, really gutted that they've gone their separate ways but wish them all the best, they're a great bunch. The other obvious one is Terminal Rage, for all out punk that gets the fires burning they never let the side down

Thor how long have you had those extremely long dreads?

I dreaded my hair in the winter of 2010. I was squatting in York without heat, inches of ice on the inside of the windows, living in 2 sleeping bags and several thick blankets and eating porridge. Oh and I had a frozen toilet. So nearly 7 years... Haha

Well thank you thank you lads for a most curious interview. Actually, it is nice to hear people from your generation addressing issues putting a damper on humanity whether expressed through song or participating in activism. It is your world now...take care of it.

You can catch **Freeborn Rising** supporting **Mexicola**, November 4th at The Booth Hall.

Interview by Michelle Cuadra

Advertise in this space for as little as £30 per month

SLAP
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

adverts@slapmag.co.uk

REVIEW

The Eskies & The Humdrum Express

The Marris Bar, Worcester | 29th Sept

I have to admit that Dublin based five-piece band **The Eskies**, had piqued my interest before their name appeared on the Marris Bar live listings. Mysteriously around that same time a PR company sent me details of their forthcoming UK tour but reading such terms as 'rambunctious gypsy folk' more than enticed me into a quick spin of recent single *Jesus Don't Save Me* - here was a band I just had to go and see.

Prior to my first instalment of **The Eskies**, local barbed wired bard **Ian Passey**, better known as **The Humdrum Express**, took to the stage armed with his trusty acoustic, acidic wit and fertile mind, 'rewarding those who listen closely' by serenading the audience with life observations and poetic musings accompanied by a hard strummed six string. Opening his set with *Botox Lunchbreak*, Passey soon had the assembled tapping their feet, nodding their head in agreement and guffawing in all the right places. Alternating between tales of the festive bore (*Festival At Home*) to spoken word odes to the fallen pop star, Humdrum engages with his sharp lyrics, pondering quite rightly how we live in a world where 'Sam Smith sells more than TV Smith'. Pausing for a quick word from the night's sponsor, Ian brings his ever infectious set to a close with a run through firm (personal) favourites *Copy Cats* and *Double Edged Sword* to an appreciative audience and a handful of new friends.

Now, I maybe a new convert to **The Eskies** cause but it would seem in the midst of the Marris Bar, I was in the minority. The band took up their instruments to rapturous applause and from the opening strum of *Tear Along The Line*, the audience joined the on stage quintet, lending their collective voice to the bawdy chorus, whilst the band lurched from jaunty gypsy folk to a funeral like



wallow in a thrilling opening gambit. *Down By The River* followed, opening with a tapped rhythm and a deep croon, before layers of plucked guitar and mandolin provided the gypsy twist, before the band united for a rousing chorus. Ringmaster **Ian Birmingham** hollered from the front as if his life depended on him delivering his contagious sermon. Among the ramshackle, rousing, rootsy folk and gypsy trills, The Eskies throw in jazzy curveballs and strutting touches of Americana, peppering their potent sound further as they continued to weave an imaginative and above infectious clash of styles. Highlights came thick and fast, with the shanty-like *When The Storm Comes*, the aforementioned, *Jesus Don't Save Me*, *Fever* and the closing acoustic strum *Jailhouse Sun*.

Live, **The Eskies** are fun, energetic and damn addictive, if they happen to pass this way again, I highly recommend you grab a Guinness (other drinks are available) and join me down the front, you won't be disappointed. In the meantime track down a copy of their debut album, *After The Sherry Went Round*, it's a bit of a corker.

www.theeskies.com

Will Munn

26-32 FRIAR STREET, WORCESTER, WR1 2LZ

ECLECTIC, ALTERNATIVE BAR
POOL TABLE, TABLE FOOTBALL, VINTAGE ARCADE GAMES
LIVE DJS EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
SELECTED DRINKS OFFERS
FREE WIFI

f / HEROESWORCESTER t / i @ HEROESWORCESTER

Hey You Guys!

Time Of The Mouth & Erica

The Marris Bar | 11th October

It was a Tuesday night in Worcester (yes, a Tuesday). A night normally reserved for talk of the mid week rut or perhaps shouting at the Champions League, but it was a gig night. Surely there must've been some mistake - no one would usually go out midweek and especially not in Worcester... oh but **Hey You Guys!** were back from their sabbatical and they were off on tour with Kerbdog soon. But first, they needed to showcase some of that 'Difficult Second Album' on their home turf. In that case I grabbed my coat. I was not going to miss that.



Prior to the main course of Hey You Guys goodness we were served an enticing appetisers and starter in the shape of **Erica** and **Time Of The Mouth**. The former delivered a set of meaty rock riffs, battered drum bombardments and a number of genuine sing-a-long hooks. Along with their long standing fan club mouthing the words of the likes of *Hello Sunshine* and *Hollow Moon* back at the



classic rock friendly three-piece, whilst the band's frontman struck all the right moves. They were proving just why this combo are so highly regarded. **Time Of The Mouth** in comparison are all short, sharp pop punk anthems and they have them in abundance. From the glorious *My Disguise* to *Too Obvious* via *Thirty Seconds and Tears*. The band delivered more hooks than your average boxing world title match, during an addictive set of muscular sing-a-longs.

Hey You Guys! have spent the last twelve months in hiatus. They've been pursuing other projects from producing and performing, to parenthood. But now Worcester's finest have reunited (via London and Berlin) with a batch of new songs, a renewed energy and their unique brand of high octane alternative punk. It was to prepare before they set off on a whistle stop tour with Irish rockers Kerbdog. They touched down in the Marris Bar, fired up the burners and delivered yet another memorable, home town gig. All in front of a bar that was packed with long term supporters.

From the opening **Dave Draper** shaped riff and **Ben Pemberton** drum volley, frontman **Pete Adams** was in the audience. Dragging all of us forward whilst delivering the familiar half spoken and half hollered vocals. He began gesticulating as he launched into another hard hitting riff and Pemberton was a blur behind the kit. Whilst bassist **Oly Edkins** joined Pete in hollering duties, and simultaneously bounced and lay down that bottom end. Favourites from the band's debut album *Gasp! Shock Horror!* are lobbed out into the frenzied audience as Pete continued to involve himself down in the front. Leaping among the faithful before delivering their hit *Record Deal*. New songs such as *Supermarket* are welcomed, as the band didn't allow the energy levels to drop. Adams may claim he's not 'as young as he used to be' but he was born a frontman - shaming those younger whippersnappers with his boundless enthusiasm. The band finished with a flurry. *Three Ronnies* and the aforementioned *Difficult Second Album* left a collective audience with a big grin etched across their faces and a size ten hook echoing around their skulls. We had witnessed the most entertaining show this side of the West End... and yes, on a bloody Tuesday!

Words: Will Munn Photography: Duncan Graves

APHRODITE

20% Discount when you quote

'SLAP'

with our experienced hair stylist

Call **Jack 07572 436102**

13 Trinity Street, Worcester WR1 2PW

HOGAN'S

THE BERKELEY ARMS

HOME OF LIVE MUSIC IN TEWKESBURY

Great bands every Saturday

Last Friday in the month...

Open Mic with - The Future Set

Tythe Barn for private meetings/functions

Real Ales, Real Food in a Real Pub



Church St. Tewks 01684 290555
berkeleyarms01@hotmail.com



Ian Parker

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 16th October

Ian Parker returned to this blues temple, tucked down the cobbled Church Lane in Ledbury. It was going to be crowded and all were there to hear, if not see, Ian and his band. That band consisted of bassist Dave Jenkins and drummer Al Cormell, both outstanding musicians and perfect foils for Ian to weave his Fender around.

The heady atmosphere of a full **Prince Of Wales** awaited the band and they did not disappoint. Songs were drawn from past albums with the odd cover added, but what really makes Ian stand out is his emotional, heartfelt playing. His Stratocaster sings and cries under his touch making me think that there cannot be a better guitarist within our shores and to be present at his all too rare UK sessions is a privilege. His album *'Where I Belong'* provided the title track and the soulful *'Told My Girl To Go Away'*. Both are from the pen of Ian but Muddy was hiding in the dark recesses of The Prince, oozing out through Ian's fingers for a breath-taking *'She's Alright'* that was backed by the crashing drums and thundering bass of Al and Dave. Turning to his brilliant Politik album, we find the devil's in the detail, lurking within the depths of Ian's *'Humanity Blues'* - a beautifully hypnotic song. Ian's Strat talking to the packed bar as we headed for a short break.

Suitably refreshed, it was time for Dave Jenkins to step up to the mic. As the familiar opening bars of Cream's *'Brave Ulysses'* broke through the chatter, Al's cymbals were bringing in the thumping bass and Ian's guitar. It became obvious that if you could break Dave in two, you would find a deep seam of 'full cream' coursing through his veins. A Telecaster sat brooding in the shadows but



Ian was not ready for that yet and he took us from that cream on the surface to the reflective, soulful depths of *'Love So Cold'*, a slow burner that sears through to the surface.

Hendrix and Freddy King passed by before we turned back to Politik Blues and Dave, in his element, attacked his bass for Jack Bruce's wonderfully dark *'Politician'*, shaken down to its foundations by the carpet bombing bass. Ian took me on a mind trip with his Telecaster, seemingly into the steamy jungles as it reeked of the drug driven madness of *Apocalypse Now* as Ian implored all *'Don't Hold Back'*, matching the raw edge of the Telecaster with an equally raw attitude.

Though I was lost in time, the clock was moving on far too quickly. Ian turned back to Hendrix for a flight of fancy with *'Little Wing'*, his subtle play taking us high into the rarefied atmosphere as the sound dropped to pin-fall level. All listened, riding the thermals, before Ian brought the power slowly back in, soaring to a powerful finish. This was an outstanding Sunday session at what must be the finest pub venue that pledges to bringing us the finest blues. **The Prince Of Wales** in Ledbury, as always, keeping live music alive.

Graham Munn

The Luke Doherty Band

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 9th October

The magic potion on offer tonight was **The Luke Doherty Band**. Luke, an unquestionable child prodigy, is an accomplished and well matured guitar maestro at 24 years of age. His band, and arguably shield, are the irascible vocalist and harp playing **Paul Morgan**, drummer **Simon Parratt** and bassist **Ant Biggs** (with more than a passing resemblance to ZZ Top's Dusty Hill).

The POW, as ever, was filling out as the band warmed up with *'King Bee'* and the classic *'Long Grey Mare'* where Paul blew out the cobwebs from his harp before stepping back and letting Luke and the boys rip with a scintillating *'Hideaway'*.

Fully warmed up, the band turned to their own music. *'Solar Flares On The Sun'* is the striking opener from album *Six Strings And A Stetson*. That aforementioned Stetson is Luke's trademark but also another shield under which he can shelter, made to measure for the naturally 'shy' Luke (but a bit of a sod when trying to picture Luke on a roll with only ceiling lighting). *'Hope The Rain Will Come'* is next off the album, a heavier rock blues driven along by Simon and Ant with Paul's soulful vocals interspersed with superlative guitar runs from Luke.

With Luke you're never going to be too far from Hendrix and *'Watchtower'* is brilliantly exorcised as we near a break, but not before the tempo is ramped up to find Stevie Ray's *'House Is Rockin'*. The track is a real blast that gets feet tapping and hips moving, but with no space to let loose!

Paul has the perfect voice for the wonderful *'Bullfrog Blues'* to reboot the gig following the break (and an excellent ale from the Forest Of Dean). We dig back into the album to find a powerful, moody, rock infused *'Hey Man'* with Ant's throbbing bass, Simon's



thumping drum beats and Paul, once again, vocally opening the door for Luke's emotive guitar that sought a pathway into our mind. A brilliant stick of home spun rock to bite into.

Simon's sticks dance on the rims of his drum set as the band takes us for a joyride to find a *'Fantasy Girl'* with Paul's fanciful lyrics appealing to the senses of any red blooded male present. It rattled by like an express train, leaving us all stood at the platform with our dreams.

The evening has rattled past equally quickly and Luke is back in the Hendrix groove. It's hats off to *'Voodoo Chile'* and the shadows are lifted, along with his Fender that is suitably lay across his shoulders for this iconic song. It melds seamlessly into *'Purple Haze'* when the crowd move as one (no choice in this bar - it's a tight fit).

I have had the pleasure of seeing Luke and his band a number of times over the last few years and they seem to have grown in stature, musically if not literally. I came home clutching that *Six Strings And A Stetson* - it's a cracking album of rocking blues - all original and recommended.

Graham Munn

The Stiff Joints | Mona Lisa

When met with a band containing ten members it's to be expected that they'll be kicking up more than a little bit of fuss. But, when it comes to **The Stiff Joints**, their sound is more than just loud and proud, it's a raucous cry that'll leave their ska-sound bouncing around in your head for days to come.



Their latest single 'Mona Lisa' is no exception to this. Accompanied by a comic music video that should go down in history, the track delves into a wild ska soundtrack that will be hard to beat. If a high-energy, feel-good mood is what the Kidderminster-based band were after then they've definitely achieved everything they wanted. The vocals take on an inexplicably contagious form and the melodies are bright enough to challenge the loud Hawaiian shirt flaunted proudly in the video. So, even if you are as hard to please as *Mona Lisa*, you'll be falling hard for **The Stiff Joints'** efforts to please pretty quickly.

Mona Lisa is available on iTunes and Spotify or direct from thestiffjoints.bandcamp.com



The Stiff Joints are... Big Jorj - Lead Vocals; Mickie Picker - Vocals, Toasting; Jimlad -; Guitar, Backing Vocals; Will Payton 'Mr Redlock' - Bass; Burgs; Bigmore - Ukulele, Guitar, Backing Vocals; Matthew Hunt - Keys; Lil George - Trumpet, Backing Vocals; Sibone - Trumpet, Trombone; Phil the Phone - Sax; Seeley - Percussion; Kris Heal - Drums, Backing Vocals.

Friday 11th November is **S'punk In Your Eyes 2**, Featuring members of **The Stiff Joints** and **Sister Sandwich**, as your favourite Punk Bands other than that you may have to wait until **December 24th** at **The Boars Head**, Kidderminster (Stiffmas Special) Support from **Eccles Breed** + More...

Sophie Lynch and the Special Friends

It's a pretty typical thing for reviewers to say at least somewhere in a review that if you haven't listened to an artist, you're missing out. But I don't want you to see this as a typical line: if you haven't listened to **Sophie Lynch And The Special Friends** before, you're missing out. Why? Because Lynch and her special friends aren't just good musicians, they are interesting, they keep you on your toes and they don't slip into the same sound whenever they struggle to come up with something new. Lynch & Co. don't do music in a typical fashion so no review I could ever write could be a testament to this.

Their debut EP is a perfect way to whet your appetite as it opens with 'D is for Dickhead', a track that already goes against the grain. Despite a title that bites straight to the bone, the track is almost laid back. With melodies that only just reach their climatic potential and a plodding rhythm, it's only Lynch's raw and unmistakable vocals that would even suggest a level of anger near to what the title suggests. The second track on the EP opens the way for 'the special friends' to take centre stage. Alongside Lynch's haunting vocals is a more melodic accompaniment, a factor that makes 'Sinead's Skin' an undoubtedly high point on the EP as it goes out of its way to boast everyone's musical skill, including the performance of some shrieking keys.

And, just like the stuff we see on our TV's everyday, 'The News' is one to your hearts beating a little faster. But, unread of fear or anger, it's the riffs and ska tones that hint at an energetic high



point for Sophie Lynch and the Special Friends live sets. If Lynch's vocal prowess isn't enough reason to tune in to this EP, the hooks in the music should be enough to seal you, proving that this Dudley 5-piece are ready to break their way onto the scene.

Emily Branson
mytacismmusic.com

Recording Vocals

Last month I looked at the influence of the room on accurate monitoring and the room once again plays a large part in this month's feature on recording vocals. While many people agonise over the choice of microphone or even pre-amp, the reality is that you can make perfectly good vocal recordings with a fairly cheap Chinese studio capacitor mic or even with the dynamic mic you use on stage. The trick is knowing how best to do it in a domestic situation where you don't have the benefit of professional studio acoustics.

If you've tried recording vocals before and have ended up with a boxy sound, the chances are that you've recorded a lot of the room ambience along with the voice — all those reflective surface conspire to colour the sound in an unhelpful way. And trying to turn the cupboard under the stairs into a vocal booth just makes matters worse as those reflective surfaces are now even closer to the mic.

You may have seen curved screens that fit behind the mic to help clean up the sound and these can work well in conjunction with other precautions as they reduce the level of room reflections reaching the rear and sides of the mic. If you plan to record vocals on a regular basis then it's worth buying a decent one, such as the sE Reflexion Filter or the Aston Halo. However, you can improvise an effective screen using folded duvets hanging over mic stands — not so cool looking but they'll do the job. You could also use slabs of furniture foam to make something more permanent.

The other place that duvets come in really handy, whether using a proper screen behind the mic or not, is behind the singer. The most sensitive side of the mic is aimed at the singer's head so any reflections coming from the wall behind them will pass over their shoulders and get into the front of the mic. A duvet hung behind



the singer will make a significant improvement. What we've actually done using these improvised screens is provide an acoustically treated area around the microphone and performer — we don't have to treat the entire room.

With the acoustics sorted, you'll need a pop screen in front of the mic to prevent popping on P, B and M sounds, the best type being made from perforated metal rather than nylon mesh. These are usually fitted to a flexible arm that clips to your mic stand. Set up your pop screen a couple of inches from the mic and get the vocalist to sing around four to six inches from the pop screen.

When you come to do the actual recording, it's usually best to get the singer to wear closed-backed headphones for monitoring so the sound from the phones doesn't leak into the mic. Spend some time getting a headphone mix they are happy with and if they like to work with one phone off, make sure the unused one is pressed against the head to soak up some of the sound. You could even make up a cable that feeds only one side of the headphone if this is a regular issue. If they need a little reverb in the phones to keep them happy, add some in your computer recording system. Also, to avoid them hearing a short delay



(latency) in the headphones, make sure that the buffer size in your recording software is set as low as possible while still allowing it to run in a stable way and don't add any power-hungry plug-ins that might add further delays at this point.

Checked that the loudest sung note doesn't push your level meters (the ones in the computer software) too close to maximum. Digital recorders don't have any safety margin once you stray into the red in the way that old-school tape did so try to leave around 10dB or so of 'safety' headroom. You can always add more gain later if you need it but you can't fix an otherwise perfect take that has been ruined by clipping distortion.

Get the singer to record four or five complete takes and only resort to patching up a take if there's one section that they are having particular difficulty with. The usual process is to go through all the takes making notes of the best sung phrases, then compile or comp these into a single 'best of' take ready to mix. Next month I'll be looking at various techniques for mixing and processing your vocals.

Paul White

Editor in Chief, Sound on Sound



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 Andy Lindsey & Zoe Devenish

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 with Ian Fuller

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 - Open mic/Sessions

Green Dragon, Bishops Frome

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Fox & Hounds, Breden

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions

The Crown, Colwall

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

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

Marris Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

1st Thurs - Folk Session

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

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

1st Thursday Polly Edwards Open Mic Jam Night

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Every Thursday - Acoustic Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Every other Thursday, Open Mic

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Every Thursday - Open Mic

The Firefly, Hereford

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

Every 4th Thursday - Session

New Inn, Malvern

2nd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

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

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

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

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

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

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

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

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

2nd Sun - Singaround Session

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session

Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sun Lazy Acoustic Afternoon 4pm

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

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 01 November 2016

Calling Apollo, Seasons Hollow, Crows & Crosses
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Ellis Ensemble – Lunchtime Recitals
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Wednesday 02 November 2016

Gaz Brookfield
Café Rene, Gloucester

Subhumans, An Underground Revolution Promotion, Black Boxes, Teddy's Leg,
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Orchestra Of The Swan – A Scandinavian Serenade
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Basco
The Convent, Stroud

Adam Beattie
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Thursday 03 November 2016

The Shirley Bassey Story
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Will Killeen Band
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Troublesome Trio
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Knowing Smirk Improv Comedy
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Texas Fraud Blues Band
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Thursday Session With Mikey Fowler, Tone Tanner And The Kev And Ben Experience Followed By A Jam
Cap N Gown, Worcester

Hunter And The Bear, The Connor Maher Quartet
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc
The Convent, Stroud

Wildwood Jack
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Friday 04 November 2016

The Connor Maher Quartet in 2 Minds
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Vehicle
The Pheasant, Worcester

The Blue Anoraks
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Clarksville Mountain Band
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Matt Bowen
The Pheasant, Worcester

Tequila Mockingbird
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Delray Rockets
The Blue Bell Inn, Upton Upon Severn

The Fuel Girls
The Venue, Hereford

Journeyman
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Subtrax Presents Dub Pistols Vs Freestylers Live Pa
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Rob Tognoni (Tasmania) + 52North
The Iron Road, Evesham

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones
Queens Head, Wolverley

Katy Rose Bennett
St. George's Hall, Bewdley

Gravy Train
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Johnny Kowalski And The Sexy WeirDOS
Café Rene, Gloucester

Speaking in Italics, Calling Apollo, Plus Support
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Ignition Nights Presents Left For Red, Pelugion & Master Charger
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Boulder Than You
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Ben Vickers
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Peggy Seeger + Grace Petrie
Malvern Cube, Malvern

46 SLAP NOVEMBER

Three Disagrees
The Falcon, Bromyard

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Skewwhiff
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Freeborn Rising, Artstar, Turquoise Llama,
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Solid Gone
Cap N Gown, Worcester

An Evening With Glen Matlock (Sex Pistols)
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Autumn
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

This Wicked Tongue, Strange, Connor Maher Quartet
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Blue Rose Code
The Convent, Stroud

The Reflections
Drummonds, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Bell Inn, Coleshill Birmingham

Aranka's Cackle
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Buffos Wake
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Tim Holehouse & Tim Loud - A Night Of Delta Blues
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Mister Wolf
The Plough Inn, Upton Upon Severn

Brendon O'brian
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Strangers
The Red Lion, Evesham

Autumn
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Martin Simpson
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 05 November 2016

Bad Medicine (Bon Jovi Tribute Do)
The Malt Shovel, Highley

Blues Street
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar And Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

Brin Thomas
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Hedgerow Crawlers, Johnny Kowalski (Solo Set)
The Queens Head, Redditch

The Budapest Café Orchestra
The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Sam Gwinnell, Ewan Pollock
The Pheasant, Worcester

Steve Ignorant's Slice Of Life Plus Headsticks & Terminal Rage
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Delray Rockets
The Yew Tree, Cannock

Built For Comfort
The Chestnut, Worcester

Vo Fletcher
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Pilla (1st Anniversary Show) + Brocken Spectre And Genesis Arc
The Iron Road, Evesham

Reggae On The River Severn (DJs Plus E A Live Drumming Performance By Drumlove Including Other Guest Musicians And Artists), South Quay 7Pm, Depart At 8Pm
River Severn, Worcester

Hannah
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Xsif (Stiff Little Fingers), Blowouts, 50 Shades, My Mother Lie
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Leslie Wilson
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

China Shop Bull, Black Market Beat
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Red Seas Fire, Black Coast, Plus Support [In The Pool Room]
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Ska Night With 2 Tone Revue
The Astley Cross Inn, Stourport On Severn

Michael Knowles & The Std's, The Foreign Quarter
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Tom Davies
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

The Starving Rascals
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Ben Vickers
Saracens Head, Worcester

The Sons Of Pitches
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Soular
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Community And Family Drumming (2Pm)
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Bob Porter Project
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Erin Rae And The Meanwhiles
The Convent, Stroud

Joanovarc
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Nightshift
Green Dragon, Malvern

AC/DC - Dirty DC
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Hawklords
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Locked & Loaded
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Glen Miller Tribute
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Usual Suspects
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 06 November 2016

Masai Blues
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Delray Duo 'Gaz And Oz'
Red Lion, Powick

Remi Harris Project (5:30)
The Chestnut, Worcester

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

Ladies Of Swing Ft. The Honeybirds
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Tasha (5:30Pm)
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Vo Fletcher
Cap N Gown, Worcester

The Luke Jackson Trio
The Convent, Stroud

Ma Polaines Grand Decline
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Will Killeen
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Kev From Murmur
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 07 November 2016

The Riverside Sessions
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Tuesday 08 November 2016

Velvet Tardis
The Yorkshire House, Shrewsbury

Alisa Liubarskaya (Cello) & Harry Nowakowski-Fox (Piano) – Lunchtime Recitals
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

FCS Presents Tigercub Tempus
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Magic Lantern, Alabaster Deplume
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Wednesday 09 November 2016

The Schmoozenbergs
Café Rene, Gloucester

Seth Lakeman 2016
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Masterworks Concert 58 – Schubert And Chopin Series
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Funk-In Sessions
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

The Graham Bonnet Band
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Thursday 10 November 2016

The Sultana Brothers
The Vaults, Bishops Castle

Thunderpussy (Seattle U.S.A) + Support
The Iron Road, Evesham

Bavarian Night
The Guildhall, Worcester

Electric Eel Shock, Cupcake Diaz & The Felt Tip Pens, Four Dead Crows
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Troublesome Trio
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Glenn Tilbrook – The Best Of Times
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Hot Foot
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Gren Bartley Band
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Puppetry Of The Penis – The Vegas Show
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Limehouse Lizzy
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chris Wood
The Convent, Stroud

Stroud Jazz Sessions
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Keith Thompson
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Peter Knight's Gigspanner
The Church Of St Mary The Virgin, Ross On Wye

Friday 11 November 2016

Executives
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Shenanigans Showcase:, Cult Of Wedge, Ties Unbroken, Sleuth
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

The Woo Town Hillbillies
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Answer Back
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Rray Mytton Band
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Tom Forbes
The Pheasant, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Complete Madness
The Venue, Hereford

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Scopyons - Scorpions Tribute + Dornenkönig
The Iron Road, Evesham

Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants
Queens Head, Wolverley

Unknown Era
Café Rene, Gloucester

Fatal Move, Sanity Check, Bar Fight, Conspire
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

S'punk In You Eyes 2, Featuring Members Of Stiff Joints And Sister Sandwich, As Your Favourite Punk Bands
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Fatal Move, Sanity Check, Bar Fight, Conspire
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Remis Harris Project
The Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

Lady And The Sax
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Men Who Marched Away – Songs Of The Great War
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Black Heart Angels
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Haunted Souls
Cap N Gown, Worcester

Dodgy, Skewwhiff
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Raven Eye, Reigning Days
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Ian Siegal Band
The Convent, Stroud

Come Together
Drummonds, Worcester

The Narco Lounge Combo
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Mr Tea And The Minions
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Solomento Present John Street Social
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Mister Wolf
The Bell, Worcester

Protocol
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Oasis V The Stone Roses
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Danny Dakin, Gaz James, Ian H. Hughes
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Bad Names
The Red Lion, Evesham

Crush Band
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Folk in The Foyer: Tom Lewis
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Saturday 12 November 2016

Nice And Sleazy
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar And Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

The Gren Bartley Band
Elmslie House, Malvern

Sax Appeal
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Rosco Levee, Mike Ross Band, The Get-Go
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

A Guy Called Gerald, Rennie Pilgrem, Meeko, Da Music, Messy, Fr3 Spirit
The Queens Head, Redditch

Left Bank
The Market Theatre, Hereford

The Delray Rockets
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

Timeless Jazz
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hired Guns, Fly By Fire
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Last Vegas + 68-75
The Iron Road, Evesham

Jack The Biscuit
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Hybrid
The Express Inn, Malvern

City Soul
Café Rene, Gloucester

Discontinued
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Soul Stripper
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Punk By Nature Presents: Fukdust 4, Born To Destruct, Indecent Assault And 5 Go Mad
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Attack! Pro Wrestling, Plus Live Music From Junior [In The Barn]
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Boat To Row, Andy Oliveri & The Mountaineers, Demi Marriner Band [In The Pool Room]
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Mark Freeman Good Cause Charity Night With The Serpents
The Astley Cross Inn, Stourport On Severn

The Pink Diamond Revue, Deathly Pale Party
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

The Hill's Angels
The Anchor, Kempsey

The Elton John Story Starring Jimmy Love
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

C-Jam
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Sunjay
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Forever in Blue Jeans
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Ultimate Bowie
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

That'll Be The Day 2016
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Ironfist Wrestling - Rudos & Tecnicos
Bengeworth Club, Evesham

48 SLAP NOVEMBER

Worcester Acoustic Music Sessions's: Martin Barton, Victoria Crivell, Threefold, The Worcestershire Levellers, Wams.Band
St Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

Community And Family Drumming (2Pm)
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Whiteshillbillies
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Mused (Muse Tribute)
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sheelanagig
The Convent, Stroud

Crooked Stylus
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Abi Kelsey Band
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

B J Taylor Band
Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Rollers
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Peacock Angell
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Raymond Froggatt
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Stoned Love
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 13 November 2016

Two Tone Revue
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Dave Jackson Band
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Lazy Sunday: Wednesday's Wolves, Daniel J, Poppy Ws, Bryn Teeling, Carly Dee
Café Bliss, Worcester

Vo Fletcher (5:30)
The Chestnut, Worcester

OLB: Carbine, Fatal Move (Be) + More With Sanity Check + Conspire
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic) With Mike Simons
The Red Lion, Evesham

Jay & Eli
The Bell Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Marc Drew (5:30Pm)
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Gloucestershire Young Musician Of The Year Concerto Concert
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Julia Fordam
Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

Brooke Sharkey
The Convent, Stroud

Vo Fletcher
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Elisha Green
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Michael Jackson Tribute
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Monday 14 November 2016

Papier Tigre, Cape Of Good Hope, A Werewolf
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Luckless : "Melancholic Indie-Rock From New Zealand"
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Tuesday 15 November 2016

Omid Djalili – Schmuck For A Night
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Simon Callaghan (Piano) – Lunchtime Recitals
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Double Barrel Band
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Glenn Tilbrook
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 16 November 2016

Albert Cummings
The Iron Road, Evesham

Groovelator
Café Rene, Gloucester

Funk-In Sessions
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Thursday 17 November 2016

Think Floyd

The Roses, Tewkesbury

The Haunted Souls

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

I The Lion, All Ears Avow, Leader, Valensole

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Troublesome Trio

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Dead Frequency

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Andy Fairweather Low & The Lowriders

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Mark Thomas: The Red Shed

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Perry Foster

The Plough, Worcester

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Mishka Shubaly

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Van Kuijk Quartet

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

FCS Presents A Fat Wreck - The Punk-Umentary Screening

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Martyn Joseph

The Convent, Stroud

The Langan Band

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Lady Maisery

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Friday 18 November 2016

Red Butler, Zoe Green Band

The Iron Road, Evesham

Bright Eyes

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Smokin' Pilchards

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Sunjay

The Bush Inn, Worcester

Neil Iverson

The Pheasant, Worcester

Floyd Earl Band

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Super Hans

The Venue, Hereford

The Delray Rockets

Barbourne Ex Servicemens Club, Worcester

Terry Walls

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Desperados

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Red Butler + Zoe Green Band

The Iron Road, Evesham

Still Crazy

Queens Head, Wolverley

Gunrunner

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Lewis Creaven Band

Café Rene, Gloucester

Billy Walton Band, Harper's Ferry, Two Ways Home

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Blind River Scare

The Ginger Pig Café & Bistro, Worcester

Protocol

The Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton On Severn

Isolation, Stone Cutters

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Follicles

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Comedy in The Foyer Featuring Dotty Winters

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Andrew Lawrence: The Hate Speech Tour

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Parthanux

Cap N Gown, Worcester

Starman - David Bowie, A Musical Celebration

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Sinnerboy

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Fotheringay

The Convent, Stroud

Blind Lemon

Drummonds, Worcester

Big Joe Bone

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Martha Tilston

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

The Smiths Ltd

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Ben Smith

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Kev And Ben Experience

The Red Lion, Evesham

Lady & The Sax

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Saturday 19 November 2016

The Sultana Brothers

The Plough, Hereford

Rock & Roll Rodio

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar And Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

Vehicle

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Kevin Rhodes

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Gloucestershire Invasion With May Thrill And The Vogwells

The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Hereford Blues Festival

The Market Theatre, Hereford

Tom Davies

The Pheasant, Worcester

Bourbon Alley Blues Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Record Fair 10Am To 4Pm

St Andrews Methodist Church Hall, Worcester

Pat Mcmanus Band

The Iron Road, Evesham

Anarchy Punk Fest: 3Pm Start With On Trial Uk, Terminal Rage,

Skewwhiff, Purple Flavoured Death, The Delinquents, Line

Runners, Phil Black, Perk And Liam Lee-Heynes,

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Smokeroom

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Stevie Jones & The Wildfires, Teddy Matthews And Flying Ant Day

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Rock Night (Bands Tbc)

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Pete Harrington

The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

The Festivals Experience

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Antonio Vivaldi Choral Concert - Cheltenham Choral Society

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Community And Family Drumming (2Pm)

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Ghost Trail

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Without Flight, Kick The Clown + The Rogues

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Cam Penner And Jon Wood

The Convent, Stroud

The Forgetting Curve + Shoun Shoun

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Terry O'sullivan Sings Rat Pack Frank Sinatra Sammy Davis Jr

Dean Martin

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Mister Wolf

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Tubby Bluesters

Green Dragon, Malvern

Queen - Supreme Queen

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Underdogs

Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Big Fat Shorty

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Robinson Stone
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Reflections
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 20 November 2016

Cherry Darling
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Kent Duchaine & Leadbessie
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Jazz Express (5:30)
The Chestnut, Worcester

An Evening With Murray Lachlan Young
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic) With Tim McCormick
The Red Lion, Evesham

Wwe Survivor Series Live From 1AM
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Fleecey Folk: The Dovetail Trio
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Ben Vickers And Reagea Djs
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Aquarius (5:30Pm)
White Bear, Tewkesbury

Cheltenham Bach Choir 2016 – Mozart Requiem And Handel Dixit Dominus
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Sunday Showcase With Danny Donato And Friends
Cap N Gown, Worcester

Dave Pegg & Anthony John Clarke
The Convent, Stroud

Passion
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Jeff
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Tuesday 22 November 2016

Albert Lee & Peter Asher
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Clarissa Payne (Flute) & Adam Khan (Guitar) – Lunchtime Recitals
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Martin Turner
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 23 November 2016

The Roving Crows
Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

Kevin Brown
Café Rene, Gloucester

Savitri Grier
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Jez Hellard
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Funk-In Sessions
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Peter Knight's Gigspanner
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Thursday 24 November 2016

Surprise Attacks Presents: Firesuite / Poisonous Birds / Esteban
The Firefly, Worcester

Dave Onion
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Laurence Jones
The Iron Road, Evesham

Andy Nowak Trio
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Avenge The Heartache, Panic Switch, Plus Support
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Troublesome Trio
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Barronbrady
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Blazin' Fiddles
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Rodda'S Hairy Craic
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Sunjay
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

50 SLAP NOVEMBER

Friday 25 November 2016

Notorious Brothers
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Sarah Mcquaid
The Roses, Tewkesbury

The Future Set
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Jumping Jim
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Ben Vickers
The Pheasant, Worcester

Frank Cinelli
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Carol Lee Sampson Trio
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Maension + The Ambivalent
The Iron Road, Evesham

Junction 7
The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Hungary Ghosts, Pablo Alto
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Sounds Of Harlowe
Café Rene, Gloucester

Mike Simons
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Woottown Hillbillies
The Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

Bare Knuckle Parade, Penny Was Right, Plus Support
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Fred Zeppelin
Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

Vehicle
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Woo Town Hillbillies
Saracens Head, Worcester

Sunfire
Cap N Gown, Worcester

The Cuginis
Subtone, Cheltenham

Underground Ocean
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Red Dirt Skinners
The Convent, Stroud

Stone Farm
Drummonds, Worcester

Will Killeen
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Feelgood Experiment
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Jonny Flufflypunk Hosts The John St Social
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Brendon O'brian
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Beatles - The Naked Beatles
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Beyond The Bay
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Lawrie Jean
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Think Floyd
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Saturday 26 November 2016

The Sultana Brothers
The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon

Stone Cold Killers, Michael Knowles And The STDs
The Kings Arms, Bromyard

The Expresidents
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar And Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

Ruzz Guitar Blues Review
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Barry Steel And Friends The Roy Orbison Story
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Ellisha Green
St. George's Hall, Bewdley

The Delray Rockets
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

XL5
The Chestnut, Worcester

Amanda Stone
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Flamenco With Adrian Brenes
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Chronicles Of Zee
Queens Head, Wolverley

Hotter Than Hell (Tribute To Kiss)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Bandwidth
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The No Good Nancy's
Tewkesbury YMCA, Tewkesbury

Queen - A Celebration By Gaga
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Seventh Era And Guests
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Bredrin Sounds
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Ginny Lemon - Album Launch Show & Party
The Firefly, Worcester

Jay And Eli
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Rattle Snake Jake
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Cso - From The Seas To The Skies
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Mappy's 2016 Almanac: The Paul Rose Dictorship, G&T, Chewie, Carol Sampson, Cory's Angels
Newtown Club, Malvern

Whole Lotta Led
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Jibbafish
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Madi Stimpson Trio
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Community And Family Drumming (2Pm)
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Bourbon Alley
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Martin Harley
The Convent, Stroud

Leonie Evans
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Warren James
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Executives
Green Dragon, Malvern

The Festivals Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Straight Aces
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Starving Rascals
Stagborough Arms, Stourport-On-Severn

Reload Function
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Barnstormers Comedy
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Jaguars
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 7th No Regrets, (exhibition of tattoo photography)
The Courtyard Hereford

3rd Life Drawing Boars Head Gallery Kidderminster

3rd - 13th Dec The Hop Project Hive Worcester

3-8th Water and Wood, Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

10th-27th Stephen Snoddy Recent Work,
Artists Workhouse, Studley.

10-15th Holly English. SVA, Stroud

11-13th FEAST theatre festival Malvern Cube

12th Kidderminster Christmas Lights switch on and Lantern Parade, Kidderminster Town hall 1.45-5.30pm

17th Our Music Roots exhibition, Muthers Studio, Digbeth, Birmingham. 7pm.

Sunday 27 November 2016

Aquarius
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Big Wolf Band
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Maddie Stimpson (5:30)
The Chestnut, Worcester

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

Nickle & Dime (5:30Pm)
White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Raintrees
Cap N Gown, Worcester

Merry Hell
The Convent, Stroud

Dave Beale
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Mik Artistik
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Remi Harris
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Bryn Teeling
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Nya's House Of Soul
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 29 November 2016

Dead Men Walking
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Folk Night
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Ian Mcmillan & Luke Carver Goss - Words, Music, Glee & Delight
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Elaine Paige
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Emmy The Great
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Wednesday 30 November 2016

Howlin' Mat
Café Rene, Gloucester

Kasim Sulton
The Convent, Stroud

Yama Warashi, Dubi Dolkzec, Cloudshoes
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Funk-In Sessions
Stroud Valleys Artspace

**Remember to
upload your listings at
www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/**

17th - 29th Dec Birmingham German Christmas Market

17th Worcester Christmas Lights switch on

18th - 20th Absurd Labour SVA, Stroud

19th Blunderbus presents The Sorcerer's Apprentice
Kidderminster Town hall 1.30pm-2.20pm

20th Stroud short stories SVA, Stroud

23-29th Sean Heather SVA, Stroud

23rd Dancefest workshop, Aspire community hub, Hereford

24-27th Worcester Victorian Christmas Fair

25th Magic Lantern Festival, Birmingham Botanical Gardens 4pm

27th Balkan Gypsy Can-Can workshop Studio B, St Johns
Worcester

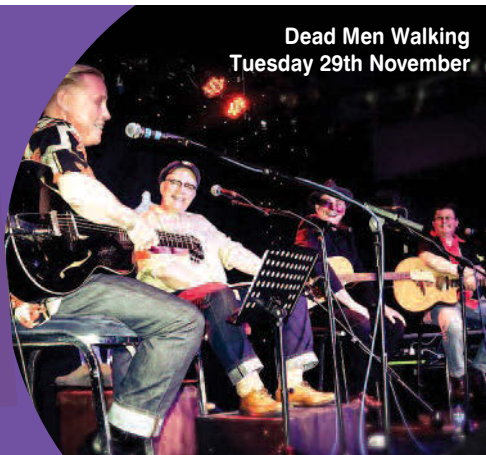
30th Dancefest arts forum, Aspire community hub, Hereford

30th- 7th Dec French Film Festival, The Courtyard Hereford

THE MARR'S BAR

NOV
DEC 2016

Dead Men Walking
Tuesday 29th November



Thursday 3rd November

Hunter & The Bear + The Connor Maher Quartet

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Friday 4th November

This Wicked Tongue, Strange, Connor Maher

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 5th November

Hawklords

£12 in advance £14 on the door

Tuesday 8th November

FCS presents Tigercub, Tempus

£7 in advance

Thursday 10th November

Limehouse Lizzy

£12 in advance

Friday 11th November

Raven Eye, Reigning Days

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 12th November

Mused (Muse tribute)

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 13th November

OLB: Carbine, Fatal Move (BE), Sanity Check + Conspire

Cost: £4 on the door

Monday 14th November

The Task in Hand presents - Papier Tigre, The Cape Of Good Hope + A Werewolf

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Thursday 17th November

FCS: A Fat Wreck - The Punk-umentary Screening

£6 in advance

Friday 18th November

Sinnerboy

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 19th November

Without Flight, Kick the Clown + The Rogues

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Friday 25th November

Underground Ocean

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 26th November

Bourbon Alley, The Calling Card

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Tuesday 29th November

Dead Men Walking

£18 in advance

Thursday 1st December

Michael Knowles & The STD's, Toenail and the Badsors, Jay & Eli + Tone Tanner

£5 in advance £6 on the door

Friday 2nd December

Fred Zeppelin

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 4th December

SaltWounds EP Release Show

MakeWar (US), Cory Call

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Thursday 8th December

The Whipjacks

£4 in advance £5 on the door

Friday 9th December

Massive Head Trauma, Stranger In Death + Grizzleroot

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 10th December

In2minds, Short Stuff

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 15th December

Kick The Clown

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Friday 16th December

The Official Receivers

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue
Available for private hire