

SLAP

Issue 65

Dec/Jan

FREE



SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

 "There's a new place in town!" 

Worley's The Swan

...December

Thu 1st - TBC

Fri 2nd - Time of the mouth

Sat 3rd - Steve Ajao's
Blues Giants

Sun 4th - Pete Boddis

Thu 8th - TBC

Fri 9th - Liquor & Poker band

Sat 10th - TBC

Thu 15th - Bourbon Alley
Blues Band

Fri 16th - Re-booted

Sat 17th & Sun 18th

1st year Anniversary surprise ????

Thu 22nd - TBC

Fri 23rd - The Sunshine band

Sat 24th - TBC

Thu 29th - TBC

Fri 30th - Ace Band

Sat 31st - TBC

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SLAP

Dec/Jan MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hello folks and thanks for picking up your copy of Slap magazine, the last one of the year, and what a year it has been! I had hoped to write my editorial on a positive note looking back over 2016 but it's not easy to be positive when the world just went crazy.

In fact if 2016 was a film it could have been directed by Quentin Tarantino, it's been so bizarre! The difference being that Tarantino movies usually have a good soundtrack but shockingly, the Grim Reaper lost his taste in music. He took so many of our musical and cultural icons from us, Leonard Cohen being the latest in a long list of sad losses which includes, Prince, Sir George Martin, the young British band Viola Beach and not forgetting David Bowie.

If like me you view Christmas as just 'something to get through' we should at least try and keep up beat and look forward to 2017 with optimism regarding the local scene if we can. We have more exciting promoters putting on great gigs around the counties such as Outlast Bookings and Hereford's Underground Revolution adding to the already vibrant local scene like Surprise Attacks, Task in Hand and Faithful City - all dedicated to bringing touring acts to our venues and giving local acts a platform to build on.

We ourselves are in association with a new Indie club night, 'Uncover', the brain child Sam Daly of Born Music Online. 'Uncover' launches during Independent Music Venue Week at the Marris Bar in late January. Look out on social media and the Marris Bar web site for updates.

This issue marks the completion of our sixth year of publishing Slap and we've come a long way in that time, but not so far that we have forgotten our core values of Supporting Local Arts and Performers. We are proud to keep that tradition going by bringing in more local writers and ideas to keep things as fresh as the day we began. We owe a huge thanks to them, our advertisers and of course never forgetting our wonderful readers.

Have a great winter solstice and I'll see you on the other side...
Grinch-Ed



Front cover Photography by Andy Burton
'Gin Lane' Worcester Victorian Fair

OMD & Levellers Confirmed

Wychwood have made their first line-up announcement for next year's festival that'll be descending onto Cheltenham Racecourse on **2nd-4th June 2017**. For Saturday's headliners, the organisers have lined up **Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark** whilst Sunday will be boasting the **Levellers** who are back after dominating the festival's survey on who Wychwooders would want to see playing next year. Other confirmed acts include **Katie Ashworth**, **Kanga Bongo Man** and the Canadian Celtic Folk outfit **The East Pointers**. **Thrill Collins** will also be joining the Sunday line-up alongside the vintage **Electric Swing Circus**.



If you're desperate to catch this line-up, the last of the early bird offers are now on sale with significant savings off of full price tickets. You can find them for a limited time here: www.wychwoodfestival.com/buy-tickets

Worcester's got Talent

The hopefuls and the hopeless queued - in some cases for more than three hours - to audition for the chance to swell Cowell's coffers - sorry, to appear on **Britain's Got Talent** as the show came to Crowngate in Worcester for a preliminary trawl of wannabe local superstars - best of luck chaps...

DJ Breaker

Young **DJ Jamie Macdonald** from Hallow near Worcester is celebrating after winning the **Future Breakers** competition on the Big Top 40 chart show - he'll now have the opportunity to record and produce his own mix with industry professionals and get airplay on the show, which goes out across 140 local stations and has an audience of some 2.5 million - fair play!

Get up for a Laugh!

A new open mic night has been started in Worcester for up-and-coming comedy acts - **Alex Redmond** is hoping that about ten acts will pop along last Thursday of each month to the **Firefly in Lowesmoor** - more details contact alexredmond92@hotmail.com

French Film in Malvern

A new venture in Malvern with a weekend of French films held at the **Coach House Theatre** in Grange Road in collaboration with **Institut Francais du Royaume-Uni** has been praised by the **French Consul in Birmingham**, **Malvern Hills District Council**, **Malvern Twinning Association** and **Malvern U3A** - the next event in the pipeline is scheduled for **January 15** with the next weekend of continental cinema on **March 18-19** - sacre bleu!

W Factor

Local 11 to 18-year-olds are welcome to audition for the popular **W Factor** competition run by **Wychavon District Council** with the showcase final taking place at the **Number 8 Arts Centre** in Pershore on March 6 - preliminary heats are held in Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore in January - for more details contact rahma.martin@wychavon.gov.uk

4 SLAP NOVEMBER

We're all goin on a Summer Tour

Eastnor Castle will next July play host to one leg of a summer tour from confirmed celibate rock star **Cliff Richard** who's timing it with the release of his 102nd album '*Fabulous Rock'n'Roll*' - tickets from www.livenation.co.uk

WMF Festival Charity Application

Worcester Music Festival is currently seeking a charity to raise funds for during the music festival in 2017. If you'd like to apply as a charity please the form at worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/charity. Closing date for applications is Saturday, 31 December 2016.

Carols for Carers

An open mic evening with a festive difference as genial mein-host **Colin Robinson** AKA **Mad Pierre** throws open the doors of **The Chestnut Tree** on Lansdowne Road Worcester for a Carols For Carers evening on Friday 9 December - gig-goers can sponsor a singer to belt out a seasonal ditty with proceeds going to the **Worcestershire Association of Carers...**

Light Intermission

Organisers of philosophy, music and arts **HowTheLightGetsIn** festival have decided that they're going to have a 'fallow year off' in 2017 so they can come back 'stronger and more improved' in 2018. Director **Hilary Lawson** said that the festival had grown at breakneck speed in the last seven years, attracting 30,000 people last year to Hay-on-Wye - and the year off will allow planning for the longer term...

Fiddler at the Regal



Ex-Malvern fiddler **Nigel Kennedy** returns to Worcestershire on **Friday/Saturday 2 and 3 December** with a couple of gigs at **Evesham's Regal Theatre** - these will be the only shows outside London on a summer tour promoting his new album '*My World*' which includes stop-offs in Germany, the Faroe Islands, Bulgaria and Switzerland - nice!

Birthday Squeeze

Belated birthday wishes to **Capital** and **Lost Boy Scout** stalwart **Martin Rooney** who celebrated his latest bash by joining **Squeeze** frontman **Glenn Tillbrook** on stage at the **Huntingdon Hall** in Worcester. Rooney was in the audience when Glenn asked if anyone wanted to accompany him, stuck his hand up and was promptly 'frogmarched' up to join in a rendition of '*Take Me I'm Yours*' - the Cool Cat said afterwards '*I've never seen a guitar played like that before*'...



A double headliner concert featuring **Quill & The Robbie Blunt Band** Stourport Civic Hall | Sat 10th December

Both bands have had a year of touring the festivals and selling out theatres all around the country and both have said that they really wanted to do something on home turf, joined by good friends and family for what's proving to be a festive knees up!

Experiencing **Quill** in concert will make anyone marvel at the magic of the performance! **Quill** have developed a unique musical style, capturing many varied influences playing Celtic folk hued Fleetwood Mac-ish rock. The artistry of guitar and violin harmonies is complimented by five vocal harmonies producing an exciting dynamic sound. The set will include Quills recently released Christmas single to get you in the mood for the festive period.

www.quilluk.com www.facebook.com/quilluk

The Robbie Blunt Band has everything to offer from Electrifying guitar work , screaming Hammond Organ, stunning 4 part vocal harmonies and a rhythm section, blending a mixture of funk, Psychedelia, blues and classic Rock 'n' Roll.

Robbie Blunt went from being a journeyman blues player to Robert Plants guitarist becoming an integral part of Plant's sound. Robbie has also contributed to and worked along side such artists as Tom Petty, Jeff Healey, Clannad, John Martin, Julian Lennon and Donovan to name but a few !!

www.facebook.com/robbiebluntband

Tickets £15 or £17.50 on the door from Worley's the Swan & Worleys Strings & Things in Stourport 01299 879151 / 07951782592
www.facebook.com/events/1662604880717256/



STOURPORT CIVIC
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Quill
THE ROBBIE BLUNT BAND

Saturday 10th December

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More events and Bands throughout the month...

Locked and Loaded, Hard Nosh, Audio Spectrum DJs & Guests, No Poetry Promotions, The Loved and Lost, Seasons Hollows, Hide Your Eyes, More TBA... listings available online.

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After another great year at the Worcester **Victorian Fayre** with immersive installation, Gin Lane, the **Voodoo Procession** and some pop-up flower seller photo-booth action, Clik Clik is settling down for winter!

You can find a **Christmas Character Board** in Kidderminster on Sat 10th Dec for some crazy xmas faces and fun, and there is still time to book a photo-booth, décor or an arty activity for the festive season and 2017! clikclikcollective.com

Life Drawing at the BHG

I asked **Coz** to give us a few words about her class at the **Boars Head Gallery**, as it's a really unique way to harbor drawing skills and be playful with it. They get some amazing results and by using props and décor bring the sessions to another dimension!

"Life Drawing at The BHG has been running for almost four years, after a lovely artist named Jim Bond introduced the idea to the gallery. After a few raised eyebrows and cheeky comments from the bar the classes became a hit with many naked folk dropping their robes and even more students discovering just what is to be really enjoyed about drawing from life. Some participants have come with no experience, others have had years of practice and some are rekindling the love they had for drawing at college and even meeting up with college friends."



On a personal level, taking on the life drawing class has given me the confidence to take the step into teaching that I have always wanted to do. Leading me to my role where I am now in teaching adults with The WEA and also taking the class to local festival, Nozstock in the Cabinet of Lost Secrets. Over the years I have had several favourite moments; one has to be when one of our brave models was asked to be drawn by a hen party. A little terrified of the giggly crowd, he emerged, struck a pose and the group soon transformed into a room full of artists busying away at their easels. We all enjoyed chatting to each other afterwards and sharing the images. Must admit this is the first time I have seen one of the drawings with glittery hair! Recently, we have been introducing the idea of props and costume into the session and playing with dramatic lighting. At the recent Halloween session, not only did our model blow our minds by balancing a sword on her head for a full ten minute pose, but she also made use of a donated wedding dress and struck some incredible poses that wouldn't have been out of place on the horror channel."

The next classes over winter will be Thursday 1st December, 5th January and 2nd February. All starting at 7.30pm. Participants have described the classes as 'Innovative, Unique and Uplifting'. All abilities are welcome and a range of materials is provided for just £5 per person. It might be chilly outside but its warm in the gallery and we have cold beer and groovy tunes too. Life Drawing is a great way to build upon your skills and have fun, do join us next time (arrive early to get a good seat)".

Dancefest

The spring term of weekly dance classes across Herefordshire and Worcestershire starts on 9 January with our wonderful Dancefest; wanting people to enjoy dancing as a way of getting fitter, meeting new people and having fun, and they aim to make their classes for all ages accessible and welcoming.

Nurturing children from their first dance steps at **Parents and Wobblers**, through **Dance Clubs** and **Dancemakers**, they support young people studying dance at secondary school and college with weekly technique and creative classes, developing expressive and strong dancers.



They also have open and advanced classes for adults, and two companies for experienced dancers - **DFA** for 18+ and **Chance to Dance Company** for 50+, and **Dancefest's Jigsaw Integrated Performance Group** which is for disabled and non-disabled dancers aged 16+ who regularly create and perform.

You can find out more on their website and social media pages – or why not go along and try a class for yourself?

dancefest.co.uk 01905 611199

Surprise Attacks AV treat

The University of Worcester & **Surprise Attacks** co-presents an exclusive experimental audiovisual event featuring three pieces of experimental work.



Multi-disciplinary artist **Matthew J Watkins** aka **MOTHWASP** creates a deconstructed and reassembled post rock/noise soundtrack to an immersive live video performance, utilising chaotic live drums, guitar & samples; **Ferric Lux** delivers an audio visual feast comprising of ritualistic blackened techno investigating the dark sacrificial and hallucinogenic history of dance music through hazy analogue tape blur and primitive hypnotic orchestrations and **Rosebud** will be complimenting the night with their delicious weirdness and electronica.

8th December, Firefly, Worcester £3 admission. Find **Surprise Attacks** on facebook for more info.

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

Gin Lane

Back for the second year, **Clik** **Clik's** interactive production **Gin Lane** hit the streets of Worcester at the end of November, for the **Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre**, the city's annual festive event, which has become more diverse and creative than ever.

Stepping you back in time, **Gin Lane** turns a usual alleyway into an old Victorian dodgy gin alley, with characters and décor to fit; washing lines, con-men, Tim Burton style eeriness, ladies of the night, oak barrels, gin addicts, hawkers and an old 'joanna' all layered by a soundtrack of Victorian noise.



Gin Lane is produced and directed by **Kate Cox**, bringing together artists and performers from Worcestershire, including soundscapes from **Capas (Phil Wilkins)**, lanterns from **Spare Room Arts (Sarah Edwards)**, ol' fashioned sing songs from **Play it again Dan (Dan Bramhall)** and scarily authentic urchins from **Worcester Theatre Makers!** The community get involved too with

fabulously convincing volunteers all dressing up and playing the part, creating the atmosphere and making this immersive installation come to life!



There was great public feedback and everyone had loads of fun, so hopefully **Gin Lane** will, return again next year.

A **Voodoo Procession** popped out of the alley on Saturday night too, a collaborative project between **Clik Clik** and **Capas**, with musicians from **Collective 43**, **The Stiff Joints**, **Desert Boots** and others, plus performers and dancers showing the Victorian dead coming to life through music and back again!



Gin Lane images by Andy Burton
Voodoo Procession by Dave Grubb

1000 Days

Hi, hope all is good and that you are looking forward to seeing so many of the Christmassy shows across the County. There are lots to choose from including the traditional pantos at our theatres as well as the many events and festivals taking place. **WAP** is especially excited by the work produced by **Clik Clik** featuring local artists and performers at **The Worcester Victorian Fayre** and **The Tenbury Mistletoe Festival** and we are always waiting to see how many poems will be submitted to us for the **Young Poet Laureate Project**.



We have seen some great arts projects this month. First up was **Feast** which took place at the **Malvern Cube**. This was a brilliant weekend of new theatre and **WAP** saw two great shows, *The Murderer* by a new company called **Clown Funeral** which was a highly original and smart play and then *From Ibiza to the Norfolk Broads* by **Adrian Berry** which was about a young man's battle with mental health problems and his love of David Bowie. 'Ibiza' was played to a packed house and it was great to see two such original plays at what is becoming a significant venue. Also there was **Worcestershire Theatre Club** which is an initiative to get audiences to go and see and talk about new theatre work in the county. It has been driven by **Manda Graham** and **Pam McCarthy** and supported by **WAP** and **Leila Sykes**. The Club is a great way to get theatre lovers together to see new plays and has a very social element attached to it as well. Check the facebook page **Worcestershire Theatre Club** for more details.

Another project **WAP** has been involved with has been **A Place Free of Judgement** which has taken place across the West Midlands region. This was a new project which saw 20 young people from between ages of 16-21 undertake a teenage takeover of libraries.

Led by **Blast Theory** artist **Ju Row Farr**, for 24 hours in October, **St John's Library** became the site for a live event. The event was streamed live to the Internet and then made into a short film. It was a great event and we were delighted to be part of it.

Last but not least some more details about our Young Poet Laureate project, **Word Up**. Led through the Children and



Young People's Group of **WAP** and driven by the wonderful **Natalie McVey** of **Worcestershire Library Services** and the **County Arts Service** we are after our latest **Young Poet Laureate**. Previous winners have become established poets and all have had a great experience in the role, writing and performing across the county and beyond. You need to be between 13-19 and live or go to school/college in the county. Check out:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20191/arts/1000/word_up for more details Its genuinely life changing! Have a great xmas!

Steve Wilson, County Arts Officer and all at **WAP**

Our new term of courses will start back the week beginning **9th January**. As well as our usual pottery, life drawing and watercolour painting courses (amongst many others) we have some new and exciting courses starting in the new year such as 'creative writing for self-expression'. These courses would make a great gift for Christmas or as a new hobby to take up in 2017. Come along and learn a new skill or improve existing ones. With such a board range of courses on offer; there really is something for everyone.

On **Saturday 28th January** we have our next **Shindig** event at WAW: **Sorry I haven't a Minute** is a delightfully bonkers cabaret radio show from the theatrical and artistic storytelling duo **Scary Little Girls**. You will be invited to join the team of a fictional radio magazine show and see the relationships between all members of the crew, from harassed producers to diva-ish stars who are heading for a break up live on air, to the hard-working general dogsbody who is expected to create all the sound effects from a farm yard full of animals to a barbershop quartet.



The show is location specific and while eavesdropping on all the juicy gossip going on behind the scenes you'll be involved in creating a show that you can even listen back too!

To book tickets please telephone 01905 25053, or email info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk or you can book online at www.wegotickets.com/location/11477

Splendid Cinema continues throughout December and January with multiple screening of world and cult cinema. Please note that all films start at 7.15pm and tickets are just £5 on the door.

8th December: Taxi Tehran (IR, Jafar Panahi, 2015, 89 min. Cert.12)- In this quasi-documentary, Jafar Panahi is banned from making movies by the Iranian government, so he poses as a taxi driver and makes a movie about social challenges in Iran.

15th December: Black Christmas (CA, Bob Clark, 1974, 93 min. Cert.18) - Just in time to spread that Yuletide feeling; we present Bob Clark's classic grand-daddy of slasher film. It's Christmas break, and a killer is stalking sorority girls with obscene phone calls and bloody murder.



12th January: Mustang (FR, DE, TR, QA, Deniz Gamze Ergüven, 2015, 15 cert. 97 min) - In a village in northern Turkey, Lale and her four sisters are walking home from school, playing innocently with some boys. The immorality of their play sets off a scandal that has unexpected consequences.

26th January: Greasy Strangler (US, GB, Jim Hosking, 2016, 18 cert. 93 min) - Ronnie and his son Brayden compete for the love of the voluptuous Janet; meanwhile a grease-covered serial killer is stalking the bizarre residents. Laugh-out-loud funny, this film is an honest-to-goodness "instant cult classic".

For further information or to book onto a WAW courses please visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk, call us on 01905 25053 or email info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

Lauren Trim

Lazy Sunday concludes its 2016 success

November's **Lazy Sunday** saw an intimate crowd of visitors and musical talents, taking them indoors for the first time this year to keep them safe from the unpredictability of the elements.

With acts including **Bryn Teeling**, **Poppy WS**, **Carly Dee**, **Daniel J** and **Wednesday's Wolves**, the longer you stayed throughout the day, the harder it was to drag yourself away.

Having been around for the majority of the Lazy Sundays this year, November's event brought a different, sombre yet snug, vibe to the café. Comforting each other in time for the upcoming cold and gloomy weather!

Stand out acts and ones to watch are cheeky Mancunian and soulful songwriter, **Daniel J**, and the headliners, **Wednesday's Wolves**, who enchanted the crowd for the ultimate Lazy Sunday finale. Check 'em out on Spotify or YouTube and take a look at some of the customer footage posted on the **Lazy Sunday Facebook** page for more.



Thank you to Amanda, Eloina and Chris for a fab year of live music and extraordinary talent.

'Til next year!

Anna Donaldson

Photos Thomas Reeves

Boar's Head Gallery & Paint Jam

Once upon a sunny (well sunny-ish) day in August, a group of artists hit the walls of Worcester Street in Kidderminster at the **Boar's Head Fringe Festival** and **Kidderminster Paint Jam**. The tunes were good, **Stiff Joints** filled the place as always and the artwork was of an incredible standard.



Flash forward a couple of weeks and a mysterious night visitor thought that what this artwork was really missing was a nice thick layer of black paint thrown all over it. Not to be deterred the artists have returned to these freshly blacked canvasses and yes we now have new artwork again. Well done to **Deeds, Mr Mind Control** and all of the artists for making this happen. We all know it's very frustrating, but as they say, 'the nature of the beast'. Whilst not all artwork could be saved, we managed to scrub some off the lovely polar bear by **Ian Boyd Walker**, took pictures of the others and those that survived the midnight black make-over have been coated with anti-vandal paint. As there is still space on the boards, it looks like plans are in action to go for a bit of a nippy **Paint Jam** on **Saturday 17th December**, where we will be looking to involve the local community too. For more information or to get involved do have a look on the **Kidderminster Paint Jam** page. On the same day, **The Boar's Head** will be hosting an '**Art, Craft and Daft**' Market from 1pm-6pm. Offering a range of unique gifts with that certain Boar's Head atmosphere that you just can't get anywhere else. Stalls are available to book by either emailing boarshead@outlook.com or calling 01562 861870.

Walk with Willie

As part of the Commemorations for the hundred year anniversary of the Great War, a special walking trail has been produced. World War 100 supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund** have released the first of what they hope to be a series of walks around Worcester. This one follows the life, works, and commemorations of The vicar known to many as **Woodbine Willie**, **Rev Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy**.

The trail includes points around the city centre as well as leading you around the immediate suburbs and out towards St John's. Along the way you are treated to snippets of information about the reverend, as you pass the building where he led protesting workers, and led his congregation. You pass streets and houses that sadly no longer exist but enjoy the art works which represent 'Willie' now on display near Worcester's heart.

The new **Woodbine Willie** statue on Mealcheapen Street featured alongside the



Meanwhile, in the gallery, our favourite landlord **Sid** is exhibiting his incredible collection of his own portraits, featuring famous and local musicians. This exhibition is complimented by Sandra's own creations, featuring Boar's Head clocks, coffee tables and lights, crafted from old vinyl and drums. Of course, all is available for purchase and well worth sticking on your Christmas list. Pop in



and ask at the bar anytime to see the artwork. **Life Drawing** is still running strong at The Gallery on the first Thursday of the month and the last session was no exception as our model enthralled the class by balancing a sword on her head and striking some dramatic poses. Hope to see you all on the dancefloor soon too as there are some great gigs coming up over the party season.

For more information please see the Boars Head and The BHG Facebook pages. Seasons Greetings to you all! All at The Boars Head and The BHG (Boars Head Gallery)

Coz



other statues in last months edition of SLAP, but this tour also took in his china representation on display inside the Guildhall (following a short search aided by the former mayor) and we were especially taken by the engraved window in the Cathedral. The window represents faith in Worcester and includes a lovely depiction of Woodbine Willie famously handing out the 'light of the lord' in the form of cigarettes to First World War troops to keep their spirits up.

The new walking tour leaflet is free and is available around the city at tourist sites including from the Hive and Worcester Tourist Information Centre, so why not pick up a copy and check it out yourself.

Sarah Ganderton

Music in the Hall Kat & Co

St. Georges Hall, Bewdley | Friday 2nd Dec

The final event of 2016, in the successful **Music in the Hall** series of events in St Georges Hall, is head-lining London's premier blues band - **Kat & Co** featuring awesome blues vocalist **Kat Pearson**. Kat has family traditions rooted in the cotton fields of rural Tennessee, **Kat Pearson** really is the real deal.



Kat & Co

Kat brings with her the heart of a musical style which originated in America and is loved by the world! Coming from a long history of gospel hymns, blues hummers and soul singers, Kat sings



Plastic Scene

through her heart and from the depths of her soul. She brings to the 5 piece band the true tradition of the blues song from her urban roots. Kat has shared the stage with Lulu, Mud Morganfield (Muddy Waters Jr), Jason Rubella, Tony Remy, Lil Jimmy Reed to name but a few. Her band similarly have worked with some of the top Blues names around and have a wealth of experience encompassing America, Italy and Festivals of Europe with artists such as The Editors and Jamie Cullum

Their support will be the highly rated local band **Plastic Scene**, whilst the monthly youth act is **Polar Opposites**. A lively night is in prospect!

Tickets available for £8.00 from **St Georges Hall Cafe** or on-line at www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk or www.musicinthehall.co.uk. It is recommended early purchase, this show is likely to be a sell-out. Doors Open at 7.30. www.katandco.co.uk.

Jüpitronz Bar 24, Evesham | Friday 9th December

A wail from the Vale

Jüpitronz are a very, very fresh five piece alt-rock band from Evesham about to release their debut EP on **Salamander records**. The EP will feature original artwork by acclaimed 2000AD artist,



Simon Davis, and lead track, *Time On My Side*, is due to appear in a short film about giant robots taking over Henley on Thames!

The guitarist in Jüpitronz is none other than **Steve Eagles**, best known for his work with **Bang Bang Machine** in the 90s - not many people can lay claim to having a number one in **John Peel's** festive 50 but Steve can with BBM's biggest hit, *Geek Love*. There's also youtube footage of their TV appearance



Joining Steve on drums is **Dean Phillips**, **Chris Danby** - Bass & Vocals, **Darren Clarke** on Keyboards and **Claire Hemmingway** on Vocals.

Comments about **Jüpitronz** live are a little bizarre ranging from "a spaceship landed and these guys came out" to "I've seen their hands... and they are the hands of Vikings!" so you will just have to go and see them for yourself to check if they're aliens or Vikings (or both!).



Advance copies of **Jüpitronz** E.P. will be on sale and support on the night will be **James Matthey** (above).

www.jupitronz.co.uk
Jupitonz Photography Phil Bann

Post-Brexit, Post-Trump, Post-Truth... Attila's on the Rampage!

Attila the Stockbroker

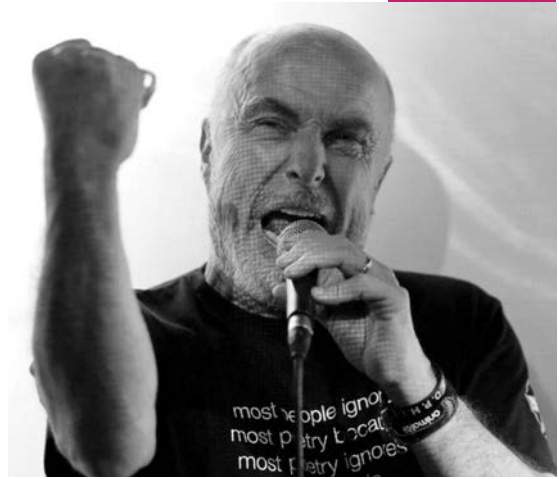
The Humdrum Express & Skewwhiff (unplugged)

Worcester Arts Workshop | Friday 16th December

"A lunatic misogynist billionaire with a nuclear hairdo is about to have a date with a nuclear button in the White House, having received about 2 million votes fewer than his opponent in an election he has been declared the 'winner' of. The UK hurtles towards Brexit after the most virulently xenophobic right wing press campaign in British history and a vote based on a bunch of 'promises' which were repudiated the day after the result".

The world is going nuts, **Attila the Stockbroker** is writing about it - and he is more fired up than he has ever been in 36 years as a performance poet.

He understands why all this is happening, and it's not because 'people are stupid'. If you come and listen to him you'll hear his humorous and hard-hitting take on the momentous events of the last few months - and a whole lot more besides, for Attila has developed a deeply personal side to his work alongside the political satire for which he is best known. He'll be performing poems from his soon to be published collection *'The Last Trump'* - the title says it all - as well as extracts from his recent autobiography *'Arguments Yard'* (Cherry Red Books). And there will be a few of his songs as well, accompanied by his trusty mandola, Nelson. Laugh, cry and get very very angry.



Launched into public consciousness by legendary Radio One DJ **John Peel** in 1982/83, **Attila the Stockbroker** has toured the world performing his sharp-tongued, radical social surrealist poetry and songs for 36 years, releasing over 40 CDs/LPs/singles, 7 books of poetry and, just over a year ago, his autobiography.

Support comes from **The Humdrum Express** and **Skewwhiff (unplugged)** Tickets: <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/382991>
www.attilathestockbroker.com
www.facebook.com/attilathestockbroker

Bowie and Beats at Artrix

Hailing from the wild and beautiful shores of North Cornwall, **Winter Mountain** were spotted by Cara Dillon in Donegal a few years ago and haven't looked back since. At their **Artrix Studio** gig on 10th December, the band will be showcasing their melodic songs and heartfelt lyrics with a sound that harks back to a simpler life.



After the resounding success of last year's New Year's Eve Party, even more celebrations are planned this year. **Beat Brothers** will be playing a mixture of funk, pop and soul to keep you dancing well into 2017 and the fizz will be flowing at the Prosecco bar until 1 am. There's even the chance to take a spin on the roulette table and play for fun. Tickets are a very reasonable £30 per person or only £28 if there's 6 or more of you.

After the sad demise of **Mr David Bowie** earlier this year, it's fitting to mark the anniversary of his death on 10th January with a screening of *David Bowie Is*. The documentary film focuses on the ground-breaking Bowie exhibition at the V & A and offers another chance to celebrate his extraordinary career.



Dates for your diary include **Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin** on 3rd February. Phillip is one of the UK's finest slide guitarist and harmonica players on the circuit and his partnership with fiddle-singer **Hannah Martin** has resulted in some sublime sounds. There's also a welcome return visit from **John Otway & The Big Band** on 4th February.

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



Mexicola

Interview by Michelle Cuadra

It was a total pleasure to sit down for an interview with such a lovely bunch of musicians performing live for the first time at **John Hales 'Hereford Rocks'** gig as the four-piece unit known as **Mexicola**. They were clearly excited and slightly distracted...who could blame them though, the crowd were heavily anticipating the performance. The pressure was on.

Hereford City Centric: Simon and Ria, you once were in a band known as **Artstar** who seemed to be doing pretty well playing around the counties, when and why did you bring Artstar to a halt?

Simon Bedford (Guitar) / Ria Parfitt (Guitar/Vocals): We finished with Artstar 2 1/2 years ago due to being overwhelmed in our personal lives. We really needed to take some time for ourselves. We planned to reform as Artstar but then Mexicola happened.

HCC: I have to admit that since I was never able to see Artstar perform I was hoping there would be a reunion. I came across some of your music and live performances; I was instantly a fan without ever being there. Are the songs you perform with **Mexicola** all originals or are you performing Artstar songs mostly?

Mexicola: We are doing originals, covers and two songs from Artstar called 'Icarus Is My King' and 'Make My Day'. We currently have 3 new tracks recorded but are trying to make time in our busy lives to write and record enough songs to make an album.

HCC: Well everyone should know that patience is a virtue, tell me a bit about the two new additions that came to form Mexicola.

Mexicola: Colette Nicholls is our new bassist who is a local and Jonah Webb who plays the drums is from Oxford but currently resides in Wales. Jonah has been playing in bands for years. Their talent brings a lot to our new sound.

HCC: Does the name Mexicola derive from the Queen's of the Stone Age song by the same name?

Mexicola: Yes it does.

HCC: Who is the songwriter and what is going on in these songs, what do you write about?

Ria: I write the lyrics but as the dynamic of the band gels we hope to have a collaboration going among us all. They were poems I wrote in my bedroom that turned into songs. I had no idea it was possible, then I realised I could really do this.

HCC: It is only fair and you could really create something amazing together with your diverse catalogue of music influences. As you know 2016 was the year Hereford came alive again, what is your opinion of the current music scene in the city?

Mexicola: The Booth Hall have been important in bringing the music community together. There are collaborations happening on all cultural levels. They are bringing everyone together. Having a venue like this available locally means that young bands just starting out don't have to worry about commuting in search of venues because The Booth Hall is in the centre of town. Also, the smoking ban really killed off the local music scene across the country and really has taken a while to recover.

HCC: Brilliant...and true! How do you identify Mexicola's sound? What are the musical influences that inspire this sound?

Mexicola: You could say we have an Indie Rock feel with elements of Blues and Jazz thrown in. Between the four of us our influences are pretty vast. They include Indie, Goth, Bowie, Kurt Cobain, Hendrix, Stevie Nicks and artists who are songwriters.

HCC: So what is a local Hereford band beside yourselves to look out for?

Mexicola: A unanimous Raptor! And Cherryshoes (Ria) I love them!

HCC: Good choice! Lastly, what was your first album, single, cd or cassette?

Simon: The Charlatans - Some Friendly on Cassette

Jonah: Black Sabbath - Paranoid on Vinyl

Ria: I can't remember that exact one but it was mostly like Kylie Minogue, Madonna or Erasure on CD (they we are ladies... it happens and Madonna was one of my top fashion inspo's)

Colette: Mine were singles on cassette of The Red Hot Chili Peppers - Under the Bridge and Soul Asylum - Runaway Train

Interview by Michelle Cuadra



Booth Hall Photography



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Troy Redfern | Love And War

There are a few basics to have in mind with Troy: string sawing slide, ground glass vocals and dirty rock ridden guitar licks are guaranteed. *'Outta Time and Luck'* opens the album and ticks the last two of those boxes of those boxes, whilst having the feel of Golden Earring grazing on gravel. That puts us into an early 70s era of rock, which is about right but this rock is covered in blue graffiti. We *'Hold That Line'* has all three of the essentials on record and a slightly less frenetic *'Lost In Paradise'* seems to be driven along by the sound of his Les Paul. All have the relentless rhythm powered along by the drum and bass rip tide undercurrent.

Then comes a little gem of a track, with an opening sharp crack *'The Whip'*. The slide has more subtlety as this blues painted bit of nicely layered rock conjures images in your imagination. Straight from first play the rhythm and vibe grips and you're under the lash; a track that certainly left its mark on me! A lovely honeyed guitar opens *'Strays'* before dropping into a more gentle rock groove, with slide filling in the spaces; Troy is in harmony with his weeping guitar and *'Strays'* has a more involving structure holding you through to the closing chord.

The title track *'Love And War'* with its implications of desertion and loss is the stuff of the blues and an experience many of us will recognise in our life. Troy's heartfelt lyrics give way to a rich, sweet guitar; **Alex Bridge** and **Stjohm Milinczuk** take care of those deep foundations. (Taking time out to) *'Pray'* rockets along with an intensity that showcases the guitar solo, having us down on our knees wondering what's happening to our world.



'Open Doors' brings the pace down - behind the door the guitar remains dirty, the intense vocals ground out and the open door invites you in. You stumble on a garage disco in full swing with an ascending guitar painted over the beats - intriguing work with all sorts of influences slipping in. I'll leave those doors ajar and have another look later, the party could still be going on. A spikey path of *'Thorns'* leads to closing track, *'Running Blind'*, throwing everything into the mixer; the grit impregnated vocals, bass and drum driven ballast, slide in the liquid, and switch on dirty guitar motor.

If you like your rock bluesy, dirty, loud with thumping bass and drum rhythms and a 70s vibe, then *'Love And War'* should be on your shopping list but there's also some very nice, inviting roads that lead to *'Whip'*, *'Strays'*, and *'Open Doors'* that demand exploration.

Chris on acoustic, and Peter on double bass. Add to that various percussive and stringed implements and the result is this pared back roots album; full of tasty sweetmeats and washed down with Hunter Valley's finest.

It kicks into life with *'I Can Feel That Mojo Working On Me'* and if you're not stomping away with this, you forgot to switch the speakers on. *Moravian Rhapsody*, with its spiritual rhythm shouts of a time of transcendental meditation, has you floating on a magic carpet. Mandolin fingerpicking leads a trail through the sand to an ethereal *'Duchov'*. How do you weave lyrics in about heart attacks and cancer? Listen to the superb, haunting *'Lonesome Road'* and all will be revealed. Hardly time to be *'Givin' Up The Church'* but the rhythm picks up a spirited pace.

The oddly titled *'Keep Your Oven Warm'*, in best blues tradition, alludes to anything but cooking, brings a smile to the face, and warm thoughts to mind. A grungy *'Who's That Knockin'* the door is thrown back to find a slide driven *'Zing It Up And Down'*, which has the feel of Tommy Tuckers wonderful *'High Heeled Sneakers'* - it's sure to get you up and moving, time to boogie. The album closes on an exotic note; in the background is the sitar like chumbush, with darbuka adding percussion, whilst the acoustic guitar rides the thermals of *'Migration'*.

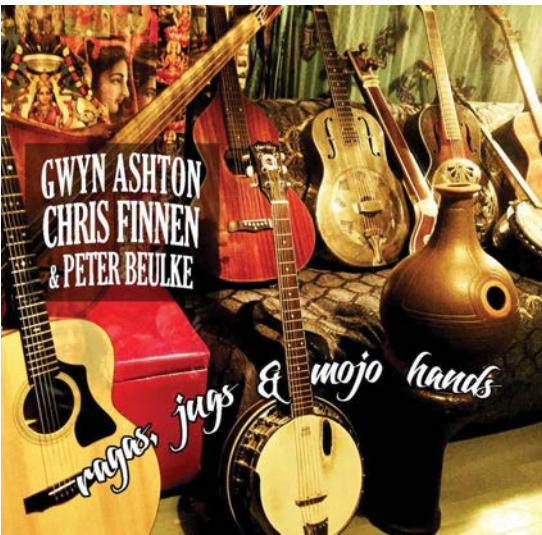
The whole album seeps quality from every pore. The hypnotic instrumentals of *Moravian Rhapsody*, *Duchov* and *Migration* punctuate the finger licking, foot tapping and thigh slapping rhythms of the songs. The musicianship is superb throughout, whilst retaining that live, 'in your kitchen' feel to the music. This is by far the best acoustic album I've reviewed this year. Gwyn and Chris, who have been lifelong friends, have conjured up a lovely fun-filled package with a pinch of exotic spice. We have imported the wool, drank the wines, tasted the Vegemite, and returned the boomerangs - this is another great product from Oz; import yours now, not to be returned because roots blues does not get better than this.

Graham Munn

SLAP NOVEMBER 13

Gwyn Ashton Ragas, Jugs And Mojo Hands

This lovely little Christmas parcel was unwrapped for **Blues In Britain**, revealing a treasure trove of temptation. Gwyn has been based in Bewdley whilst in the UK and I had bumped into him in the dark, damp gardens of the **Camp Inn** at Grimley so for me that brings this brilliant guitarist into the SLAP patch - here are my thoughts.



The album features Oz migrant yet Welsh born Gwyn, alongside two more from down under - **Chris Finnen** and **Peter Beulke**. It's recorded in Noarlunga, Australia with Gwyn on National resonator,

UK Hip Hop Legends Rodney P & Skitz Original Fever The Angel Centre, Worcester | 17th Dec

Rodney P is widely acknowledged as the Godfather of UK Rap.

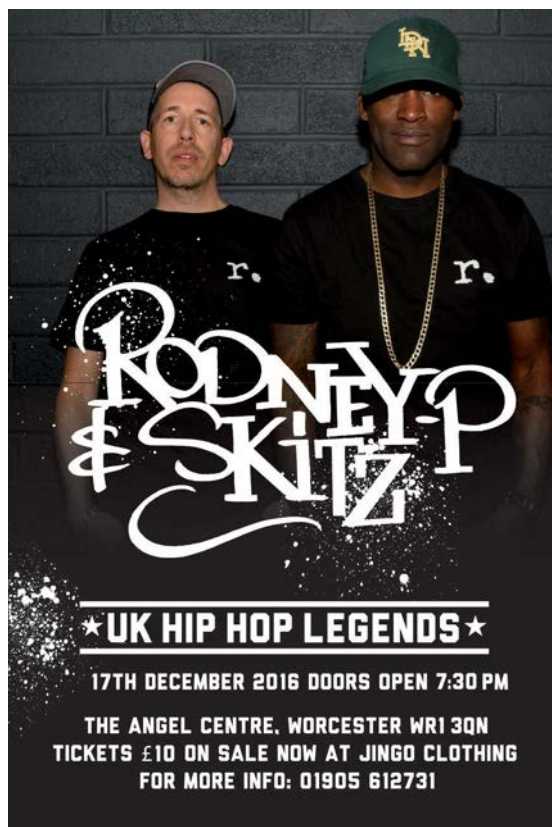
Inspiring a whole generation of British emcees and producers by being the first to rap in his authentic London accent and produce a home-grown Hip Hop reggae vibe that is distinctly rooted in the UK. Following the international success of London Posse, Rodney P has enjoyed one of the most esteemed and perpetual careers in UK hip hop to date. Recognised as Britain's most eligible candidate for Hip-Hop ambassador; indeed for many his name is synonymous with UK Hip-Hop.

Skitz gained recognition as a homegrown Hip Hop producer fusing the rawness of UK emcees with solid production and distinctively Jamaican influenced basslines. His first album *Countryman* won hip hop album of the year and catapulted rappers such as Est'elle, Roots Manuva and Skinnyman into the limelight.

Joining forces they championed the UK bass heavy rap scene, produced the first ever track played on BBC1Xtra and through their own

flagship rap show **Original Fever** spread the message worldwide. Both with deep discographies they have performed from Africa to Australia and everywhere inbetween. Supporting the likes of Jay-Z and Kanye West, performing on huge stages and reknown for smashing parties, clubs and festivals with their reggae tinged bass driven sets.

Never ones to follow fashion or bow to musical fads, genre boundaries are broken, templates and formula are pushed to the side. **Rodney and Skitz** carve out their own distinct pathway both as independent artists and as a team. One where quality music and passion shine through.



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Suz Winspear Worcestershire Poet Laureate

The year is coming to an end, and the so-called Festive Season is upon us. I'm not a big fan of Christmas; I find it a depressing and alienating time, and I have a particular loathing for the Christmas adverts on TV, with their relentless images of smugly happy middle class families eating lavish food in big comfortable houses, with the implication that if we cannot achieve this unrealistic ideal, then we are somehow inadequate as human beings. The truth is that nobody can achieve this perfect Christmas, and the adverts are intended to make us feel guilty. We are living in an age of unrelenting austerity and uncertainty, and families are complicated things, rarely as harmonious as those in the adverts. Most of us would simply be glad to get through Christmas without anything going seriously wrong, and then get to the end of this peculiar year without any more disasters.



There are, however, still **Spoken Word** events going on in Worcestershire to help us maintain our cheerfulness and sanity throughout December and January, and in the New Year, the competitions for next year's **Worcestershire Poet Laureate**, and the **LitFest Young Writers** and **Flash Fiction** awards will be opening, so there's something to look forward to!

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

Saturday 3rd December – Storyjams at the Mistletoe Festival. A storytelling event at The King's Head, Tenbury Wells, exploring the memories of local people and the town's mistletoe heritage, headlined by Chloe – The Midnight Storyteller. Starts 8pm

Sunday 4th December – Launch of 'Lucid', the Anthology of the 2016 Young Writers Competition. The winners were announced in June, and now they're being published in a book! I love the imagination of these young writers, some of them only 7 years old – spoken word champions of the future! ... At Titania Ltd, Security House, Barbourne Road, Worcester.

Thursday 8th December, and Thursday 12th January – SpeakEasy at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop. Poetry from a wide range of local poets, November's featured poet will be Nina Lewis. Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're popular, so so get there early! £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

Wednesday 14th December and Wednesday 11th January – 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!

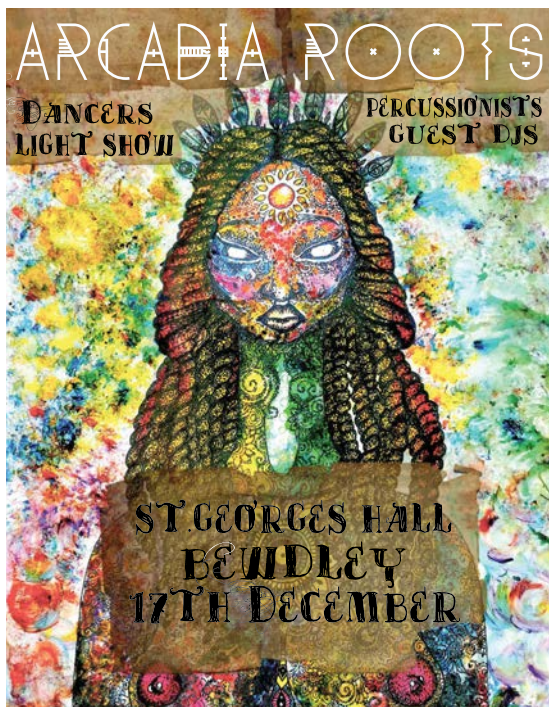
Wednesday 28th December, and Wednesday 25th January – 42 at Drummonds. Life, the Universe and Everything – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name ... You never know what you might see and hear at 42! Free entry. 7.30pm.

Friday 20th January – Kings and Queens of Comedy 7.30 at St Swithin's Institute in the Trinity. An evening of comedy and poetry to provide some cheer during the post-Christmas doldrums. £5 entry – includes a glass of wine and an hour and a half of merriment.

Suz Winspear

Arcadia Roots & Guests St Georges Hall, Bewdley | 17th Dec

6.00pm start, 11.00pm finish. After party to be announced on night. Light shows, guest dancers, dj's and performers throughout night. Support acts including acoustic legend **Dave Onions** and psychedelic indie band **Plastic Scene**. There will be a huge cinema screen behind stage displaying custom images and videos linked to the music. Going to be a big xmas party so see you there! Tickets are available online from www.arcadiaroots.com and on sale at the **Cock and Magpie**, St George's Hall Bewdley and **Worley's Strings & Things** stoutport. Limited number of tickets available so grab them in advance!



WEEKEND CUBE

The festive season is upon us, and we have a great line up to keep you entertained this December!

White Wall Film Club will be showing a selection of Wes Anderson films at 7.30pm on Friday 2nd

December. 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.

Saturday 3rd December we will be joined by **The Savage Prunes** from 8pm. English folk trio who scandalised the French last year by winning the small band competition at 'Le Son Continu' against the best that France could offer. **Callum Armstrong** takes Border pipes to places they never went before, and together with **George Pasca** on cello, and **John-Francis Goodacre** on fiddle, expect an intriguing evening of original, dance-based music. Tickets £10 adv.



The Savage Prunes

Coming up on **Sunday 11th December** children's TV stars **Callum Donnelly** and **Robin Hatcher** - stars of popular *CBeebies* TV show '*SPOTBOTS*' are here in a brand new show for Christmas 2016: **Santa And The Pirates** (that don't want Christmas!). The pair who join **Justin Fletcher** this year in '*Justin's House!*' will have you immersed in this festive tale from 3.30pm.

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.



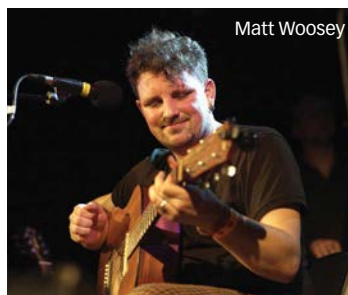
Also in December we have a performance from local band **The White Feather Collective** who recently sold out **Elmslie House** at their 'Unplugged' Launch. They perform at **Malvern Cube** on



White Feather Collective

17th December. Prepare yourself for a night of rip-roaring, bombastic surf-rock infused blues as **The White Feather Collective** take to the stage deliver an unforgettable show. With additional musicians supporting them on keys, vocals, and percussion, this will be the band's most electrifying performance yet.

Supporting the band is the highly acclaimed **Matt Woosey**. A trailblazer who drags the acoustic guitar kicking and screaming into relevance. His outstanding guitar playing and powerful vocals leave the best of musicians stunned.



Matt Woosey

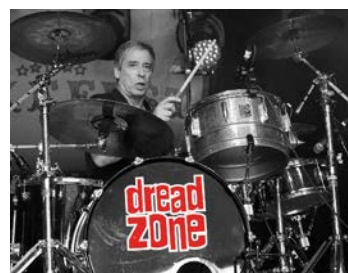
This heavyweight line-up is sure the rock the house. Tickets at £10 are selling fast for this one so grab them while you can!

We have a fantastic programme set for 2017 including the launch of monthly '**Cube Comedy Cafe**' and music from **Mumbo Jumbo**, **Nigel Clarke (Dodgy)** and **Mark Morris (Bluetones)**, **Jim Moray**, **Willie and the Bandits** and **Dreadzone!**



Nigel Clarke & Mark Morris

Our thanks to all those who give of their time to assist and support **Malvern Cube**, this is very much appreciated. The centre would not be the same without such enthusiastic followers, we wish you all a happy festive season.



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

Calling all aspiring writers!

As the nights draw in and garden barbecues are a lovely, but distant memory, why not curl up in front of the fire and try your hand at short story writing?

Evesham Festival of Words' short story competition is now open for entries. With two categories: junior and adult, Festival organisers have left the theme open this year, so that you can choose your own characters and plot line, giving you a fantastic opportunity to try your hand at writing fiction without the mammoth task of writing a full length novel!

If you're 8 – 15 years old, entry is free and for anyone older it's just £5 per story and you can enter as many times as you like. Winners will receive a trophy together with cash prizes for both categories.

The deadline is not until midnight 24th March, so you have plenty of time and it's a perfect project to while away those long winter evenings.

Sue Ablett, Chairman for Evesham Festival of Words, said: *"The 2016 Festival was a huge success and drew hundreds of readers and writers into Evesham to enjoy the many and varied events which were held over the summer. Plans for the 2017 Festival are well under way and the programme is shaping up nicely. The short story competition plays a big part in the Festival with the winners and anyone short-listed having their stories published in the Festival anthology. I do hope that local people will take up the challenge, a Festival win may even launch a writing career, who can tell where things might lead!"*

Sue Ablett



Copies of the 2016 anthology are available to buy from the Festival's brand new website, which also includes all you need to know about the short story competition and the wider programme of events for the Festival's three-day event. Evesham Festival of Words opens on 30th June 2017 and fringe events run throughout June and July.

Information available at www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org or contact Sue Ablett at info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org

Angela Fitch

Capoeira | a class of it's own...

Try something new, try Capoeira, beautiful yet powerful Brazilian martial art – Special Offer just £1 per class!



From January – April 2017 **Capoeira Worcester** are running a **Sportivate** programme by offering young adults the chance to try this unusual sport for just £1 a class for 8 weeks. Anyone who completes all 8 classes gets a free limited edition group T-Shirt.

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.

Capoeira Worcester holds classes for all skill levels every Thurs from 7.45pm at Studio B in the St John's area of Worcester. Classes are normally £8 adults / £5 students for a 90-minute class.

Group Leader Greg said, *"Capoeira combines the creativity of dance with fitness-building benefits of sport. It has so many benefits as it brings together people from all walks of life, builds self-confidence, develops new skills, improves health and fitness and develops friendships."*

If you are 16 – 25 and want to take advantage the Sportivate offer to try out the class for £1 each week for 8 weeks or email: mandagraham1@gmail.com to book your place.

To find out more about joining Capoeira Worcester find us on Facebook and Twitter or visit the Oficina da Capoeira UK website: www.odacapoeira.com

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The Fool at Yule

The Swan Theatre Vesta Tilley Studio
 Tuesday 6th – Saturday 10th & Tuesday 13th
 – Saturday 17th December at 7.45pm

'Yule' laugh your Christmas socks off!

So why do we feel compelled to buy a plastic tree, stand it indoors, and hang sparkly balls on it? Because it's Christmas of course!

Yet that's a very interesting question, for what do we consider Christmas these days? The Nativity Story? Santa Claus? Carol singing? Mince pies? Well, as a new comedy at the Swan Theatre explores, our modern Christmas started in some pretty diverse and peculiar places!

The Fool at Yule is a new comedy by **Worcester Rep** regular and **Malvern Theatre** *Writer in Residence* **Nick Wilkes** and is packed full of festive fun.

Set in Worcester itself, it follows an afternoon in the life of retired vicar Adam Weaver, who has renounced all things Christmas, and decided to celebrate the midwinter festival of Yule instead, much to the annoyance of his son, Robin.

Playwright **Nick Wilkes** explains more... *"It's been fascinating finding out why we hang baubles inside on a plastic tree, why we hang an evergreen wreath outside on the door, and why crackers are crackers whatever the weather."*

"It's a laugh out loud family comedy of Winter Solstice, fruit cake and slippers, and I can't wait to see it in front of an audience. I



loved writing it and the cast are just comedy gold! If you don't leave the theatre brimming with seasonal joy then I'll eat my Santa's hat!"

Starring two of Worcester Rep's most well-loved comic actors, **Jonathan Darby** and **Murray Andrews**, it is sure to be a seasonal comedic crowd-pleaser, with a twist...

Is it the most wonderful time of the year? Have they been naughty or nice? 'Yule' have to come along to find out! Tickets £12.50 Box Office: 01905 611427 www.theswantheatre.co.uk

What's On?

at Huntingdon Hall



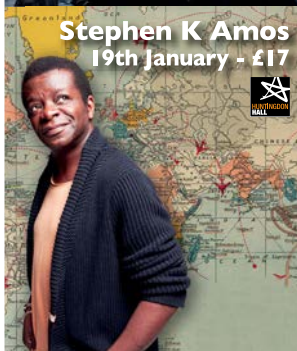
St Agnes Fountain
 7th December - £18



The Dylan Project
 8th December - £20



Jamie Knight
 22nd December
 - £16.50



Stephen K Amos
 19th January - £17



David Knopfler
 26th January
 - £19.50



Amy Wadge and Luke Jackson
 9th February - £14

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What's On Huntingdon Hall

December is set to be a busy month at Worcester's **Huntingdon Hall**. With a range of Christmas events such as **A Medieval Christmas** on December 23rd and a wide variety of other non-Christmas related gigs, there's something to tickle everyone's taste buds. Kicking off the month in style is **Martyn Joseph**. With a unique percussive style, powerful vocals and, most importantly, jaw dropping guitarmanSHIP, his show on December 1st is set to prove his title as 'The Welsh Springsteen' right. His music is of the undefinable sort, Joseph spanning across so many styles that there isn't just one genre that could hit the mark. And, following the release of his latest studio album 'Sanctuary', you'd be stupid to miss out on the opportunity to see the new material played in all of its glory. Support comes in the form of the spectacular **Antje Duvekot**.



The following week will see **St Agnes Fountain** descend upon the old church's stage. This year will be the band's 15th consecutive Christmas tour, meaning the setlist is bound to include the band's own take on a few Christmas carols. That's not forgetting the newest material from 'The Best of St Agnes Fountain Vol. 2', making December 7th one not to miss. The 21st is another night not to be absent for as **Mike Sanchez** will be bringing his impeccable Blues and Rock 'n' Roll stylings to Worcester. Having been a full-time member of Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings for four years and performing alongside soul legends such as Ben E King and Sam Moore, Sanchez will inevitably be bringing the house down on what is set to be anything but an innocent Wednesday night.



And, to get into the mood for Christmas, get yourself tickets for **Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band** on Thursday 22nd. The night promises to be a memorable one, comprised of a mix of Christmas hits and the best in swing, soul, pop and rock 'n' roll.



 Cafe Bliss 	
Thurs' 15th Dec'16 Salas Party Free Salsa Class 6 - 7pm Party, Food & Salsa Social	
From 6pm	
7.30pm	 Fri' 16th Dec'16 Woo Feminista The Sex Lives of English Women
7.30pm	Sat' 17th Dec'16 Ital Sounds Bliss Dub Drum Love + Special Guests Vegan food served by Cafe Bliss
7.30PM	 Fri' 13th Jan'17 Curry & Quize Night Fundraising in association with Worcestershire Pride
12 - 4pm	Sun' 22nd Jan'17 Stop Shopping & Get Swapping. Swapping Clothes, eating & drinking
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Fat Man Blues-an update!

Back in June 2016, Slap published a brief article introducing **Fat Man Blues**, the debut novel from Suckley writer, **Richard Wall**.

Fat Man Blues tells the story of Hobo John, an Englishman on a blues pilgrimage to Mississippi, who meets the mysterious Fat Man, who offers to show him the real blues of the 1930s. Hobo John is unable to refuse and after the obligatory deal at the crossroads, he embarks on a journey through the Mississippi Delta in the company of Travellin' Man, an old bluesman who shows him the reality of delta life.

Since then, *Fat Man Blues* has been attracting great reviews on blues websites and magazines in the UK and across the world, and is now a permanent exhibit as part of the **British Blues Exhibition**.

BBC 6Music presenter, **Cerys Matthews**, has mentioned the book a couple of times on her Sunday show, and when they met in September, Cerys told Richard personally that she is enjoying reading it.

Rita King – daughter of blues legend, **BB King** – also has a copy and has praised it widely on Facebook. Richard is especially proud that the **Delta Blues Museum** in Clarksdale, Mississippi currently sell the book from their gift shop.

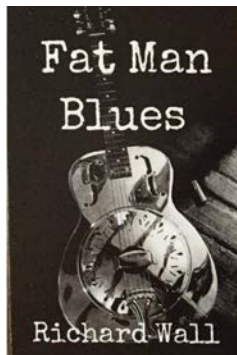
Whilst Richard and his agent, **Kizzy Thomson**, are still chasing the elusive book deal, the film industry has taken notice and *Fat Man Blues* is attracting interest from independent film makers in



NYC and Mississippi, and the screenplay adaptation (also written by Richard) currently sits with the agent of an A-List Hollywood actor in Los Angeles (fingers crossed for that one...!).

Richard is hopeful that 2017 will bring more good news for his novel.

Fat Man Blues is available online from Amazon, and in real life from The Malvern Book Cooperative, St Anns Rd, Malvern and Hunky Dorey, Priory Steps, Malvern.



Our Life Gloucester tribute to John Plane

When **Our Life Gloucester** asked for nominations for their next portrait, **John Plane** was so grateful that so many local musicians showed their appreciation for what he does to support live music by putting his name forward and to **Cafe Rene** for sponsoring his portrait.

John, who has been doing a free weekly live music list for Gloucestershire for past 4 years and going out several times a week taking photos and videos at events said, *"Over the years I have met lots of musicians of all ages playing all types of music and they are a very hard working and talented. Most have full time jobs and at weekends have to pack their equipment in car, drive to a venue, unload and set up, play for 2 or 3 hours, then pack everything up drive home and back to work Monday. They don't earn much for all their effort and it is all done for the love of music. It's not easy for those running venues to keep putting live music on week in week out they too do it largely out of their love for live music, there's hardly a week goes by without one venue or another putting on a charity event where musicians all come play for free raising 10's of thousands of pounds to benefit the community.*

The standard of local music is excellent and I've got a whole stack of local musicians' CD's at home which I've bought at their

gigs which are every bit as good as any of the music you hear on the radio. I was apprehensive about having an eight foot tall portrait of myself put on public view but Russell Haines is an excellent artist and since it was unveiled downstairs in The Eastgate Shopping Centre everyone has said what a fine job he did. I accepted the nomination to provide an opportunity to let

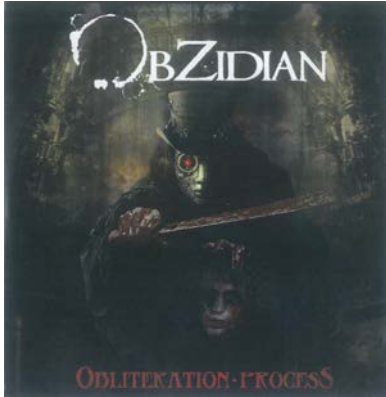


more people know about all the live music that goes on around them in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, the Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury way."

To find the weekly list live music people can type Local Music Events in search on Facebook or use this web link: www.tinyurl.com/localmusiceventsglos

Obzidian | Obliteration Process

Midlands based raging foursome Obzidian's foundations were first laid way back in 2001, when school friends **Barry Foster** (guitar), **Paul Hayward** (drums) and **Matthew Jeffs** (bass) first professed a love of all things heavy, strapped on their chosen weapons of mass destruction and set about forming a band based on a love of thrash. During their formative years the band added a couple of members but, by 2005, the original trio finally completed their line up with the addition of **Matthew Jenks** on vocals. A couple of years on the band inked a deal with **Casket Records** and released their self-titled debut album which, along with their 2012 release '*Damned Eternal*' and a heavy bout of touring helped gain the band a fearsome reputation earning the opportunity to share a stage with the likes of Sepultura, Crowbar and Arch Enemy among others.



Following on from the release of the band's equally successful third disc '*Concrete Psychosis*' and another heavy bout of gigging, the band have been hard at work in the studio, perfecting their fourth album '*The Obliteration Process*', an album that, with it's eye catching artwork (courtesy of the award winning Very Metal Art) and it's intense metallic grooves, should see **Obzidian** continue to help assert the band's position as one of the Midlands new breed, following in the footsteps of the likes of Sabbath and Napalm Death.

The album opens with recent single *Sins Here Are Purified* and from the off, the band set about creating a crunchy, doom ridden groove with increasingly pounded drums and a sludgy Sabbath like riff. The band suddenly step on the power with Jenks delivering a death metal like guttural growl whilst Foster, Hayward and Jeffs create a dense wall of sound akin to *Alice In Hell* era Annihilator meets Sabbath. As opening gambits, Purify instantly grabs you by the lapels and shakes you violently, demanding attention. *Perish The Thought* follows and proves that the opening was no mere one off. A hostile riff opens proceedings before that violent bass and kick drum thunder into view whilst a possessed Jenks tears and shreds his vocal chords.

They Led The Fall is a stunning three and a half minute, unrelenting thrash that sees **Obzidian** put their heads down and attempt to break the landspeed record with a unstoppable orgy of riffs and beats only weighed down by the thick bass throb of Jeffs. The album continues in much the same vein with the band pounding as hard and fast as humanly possible, whilst Jenks ferociously hollers, growls and screams, summoning the beast within. *Desolate Creed* is particularly worthy of note for the frenzied finale of guitar and sticks abuse. *Body Of Mass Production* has a glorious, almost chanted hook that should find favour with the headbanging masses, whilst *Mistress Of Deception* maybe slower but no less impressive as the rhythm section forge an intense foreboding groove before Foster layers on another crunchy riff as Hayward venomously explore his kit.

Obliteration Process sees Obzidian ignite a fuse under the corpse of thrash metal and reanimating, with an infectious energy and a hostile intent, that should find favour with fans of both modern day metal and the late eighties/early nineties thrash glory years. The Midlands metal legacy continues, safe in the clutches of Wolverhampton's finest.

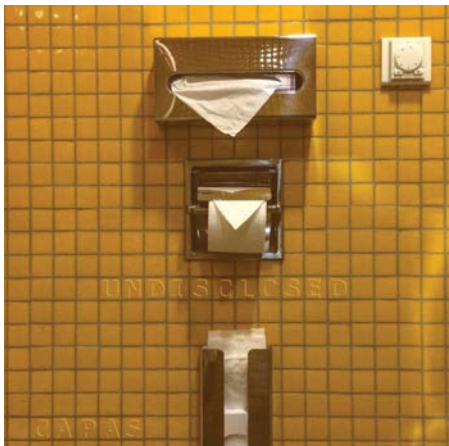
Will Munn

Capas | Undisclosed

Undisclosed is the new album from band leader, multi-instrumentalist, composer, mother of dragons, and all-round hard grafter **Phil Wilkins**. Trading here as **CAPAS**, Phil will be known to many as a member of Worcester's denizens of groove – **Desert Boots**, he is also founding member of **Collective 43** amongst other noteworthy pursuits.

In this, his debut solo album, he has created not only a competent, finely crafted piece of work but also provided a suitably innovative and thoughtful platform to showcase the talents of vocalists, **Richard Clark**, **Eva Trim**, **Lora Polizzi**, and **Eva Mackevic**.

In a marketplace where far too much attention is given to music production these days, CAPAS has managed to keep production quality high, whilst achieving to remind us of the value of solid arrangement and songwriting skills. The result is an LP that pulls from many influences yet manages to deliver an experience that is fresh, endearing, and distinctly his own.



The opening track '*That's Life*' sets the mood beautifully. It hints at the use of brass that will come to welcome dominate the rest of the album, whilst also giving the listener an assurance that all is not as it seems here. Richard Clark's vocals lie beautifully against exquisitely produced drums, pulsating chords and vibrant horn stabs.

The excellent drum production continues with the tribal dance of '*Kookaburra*', in which Marimba and Tubular Bells meld with organic percussion rhythms. Then the gear and tone shifts again with '*Love is Crazy*', a summertime feel good jam, laced with the velvety tones of Laura Polizzi.

I don't have space to write as much as I would like to about this LP, so I shall cut straight to the gushing artsy critique... When I first heard the distorted, time-lapse melancholy of '*Black Widow*' I thought it was one of the best gifts my ears had received this year. That was until I heard the follow up track '*Broken Soul*' - A tired, dusty, shell-shocked waltz through cobbled streets of loss and longing. The ageless vocals of the young Eva Trim duetting with CAPAS' Slavic horn section will have you in awe.

Undisclosed is an LP that delivers listen upon listen. This is just the beginning, I believe there are big things to come from the bearded one. Undisclosed is available for digital download from 14th December 2016 via his facebook page and website www.capasmusic.com.

facebook: ProjectCapas soundcloud: capasuk

Dan Wall

Hereford Blues

Left Bank, Right Landing | 19 Nov

It was not what you would consider the ideal time of year to launch a one day blues festival but with a bursting calendar and an inside location, it turned out to be a great way of spending a cold, blustery November night.

The 400 tickets had sold rapidly leaving me to slide under the door, ready to see a very solid line up of 5 bands.

First out the blocks with the task of 'loosening' up the **Left Bank** venue was **J. Alexander And The Blues Devils**. The core of this 'no frills, no bullshit' band has been together for 30 years so you would expect a sparkling set of classic blues and that is what you get from **Dave Dearnley**, **Paul Higgins** and **Ian Davis** in the engine room behind **Justin Holly** on harp and vocals.

Now I have to question why the sizzling rock out band **Slowburner** were on stage so early but fortunately the light rapidly faded from the windows as they burnt their way through



the Left Bank with all following in their scorched trail. **Paul Bridgewater** (the finest unrecognised vocalist in the UK?) is alive on stage in front of **Dave Small** (small by name but a giant on drums), an electrifying **Mike Bannister** on guitar and **Rob Newell** sending out the low throb of his bass. A stinging *King Bee* led the trail to Dave adding vocals to his percussive skills for a bit of *Freelance* work. Rob's bass underpinned the full rock of *Take Me Down* with Paul at his smoking best as Mike pushed his Fender to the limits. *Mother Earth Blues* dug a much deeper groove in the heavy marl of bedrock blues as *Slowburner's* fuse smouldered toward its inevitable conclusion. Paul delivered what all were calling for: a fat, bloated, '*Bullfrog Blues*'.

This band deserves a much higher status in the Zeppelenesque world of blues-rock they inhabit - superb guitar, funky bass, punishing percussion and a vocal lead that would not disgrace a world stage.

Tommy Allen and **Johnny Hewitt** have not been on the road as **The Blues Duo** for a little while but have no fear, their *Stanley Road Blues* is as good as ever. Johnny found time for his harp and vocals as he started the set - *Had My Fun* filled the air; his rich honeyed voice pours out the lyrics as Tommy thumps out a rhythm whilst tickling his battered Strat. The harder edged voice of Tommy carried us through to the rear exit for *Backdoor Boogie* before Johnny presented the superlative harmonica and voice for a

Steady Rollin' Man. The vocal lead was ping ponged back and forth as we lost ourselves in the sound of Johnny's reed bending harp. The spring was being slowly coiled tight to release with a smorgasbord of rock and roll and a floor full of grooving fans. As *Reet Petit* ripped open, *Chantilly Lace* guaranteed to *Rock This House* with a rebound to find Jackie Wilson waiting. That's Alright, no-ones complaining except that the clock has beaten us, and *A Change Is Gonna Come*!



And what a change - the stupendous Chicago blues of Tommy and Johnny, to the raw edged, rock infused, ear-bursting storm, whipped up by **Troy Redfern** and his band. Troy attacks his Silvertone with a heavy slide and **Stjohn Milinczuk** paces around the stage like an expectant father as he pumps up the bass. Percussion is rattled out by **Alex Bridge** as Troy throws every



ounce of energy into his performance. He draws from a song list that includes his own work and interpretations of some blues classics, like the electric storm that is *Spoonful*. His own anthemic rock busting *Salvation* follows on - the slide zips up and down the fret and Stjohn's bass punches out a heavy pulse. **Albert Collins** lends a *Black Cat Bone* as we are moved forward to a Texas gusher with *Double Trouble*. If you want your blues to be full on and delivered like a sledgehammer in your face, then Troy is your man. With bass and drum firing out their salvos, Troy closes on a fired up *Voodoo Chile*.

Phew, time to cool off a bit as **Laurence Jones** is presented with his multiplicity of UK Blues awards. The third year as Young Artist of the Year (is he Peter Pan?) sees him with the key to the door of *The Hall Of Fame* reserved for triple consecutive award winners. **Roger Innis** is recognised as a leading bass player and the band as a whole also gains an award placing. Laurence, eager to get started, quickly put the glassware aside as **Phil Wilson** kicked in on his drums. Laurence has four albums from which to draw on with the latest *Take Me High*, following on closely from the acclaimed *What's It Going To Be*. He has a substantial rhythm section behind him plus **Mike Vernon** looking after the recording end. His stock is indeed riding very high. For me he seems to have become far more rounded an artist since I last saw him in the summer of 2015 and he certainly has a devoted following. The funky percussion from Phil brought in *I Will* from that new release but there were also diversions: from a reggae fused confessional *I Shot The Sheriff*, to a superb dip into the bag for *Cocaine*.

Laurence's early days of writing gave us the soulful *Thunder In The Sky* complete with long pause as Laurence dropped to his knees, bowed, before breathing life back into the song. I left Laurence riffing his way through demands for more as he *Fell From The Sky* and I made my way home from a brilliant inaugural **Hereford Blues** looking forward to a return in 2017.

Graham Munn

Courtyard Hereford | I Heart CY campaign

The Courtyard has announced its latest fundraising campaign to raise £20,000 to support the arts centre since the loss of regular Council funding.

I Heart CY was unveiled to patrons last week, focussing on individual stories of the people who benefit from the vital community work that the arts centre does within the venue and across Herefordshire.

Four videos have been produced by the charity to highlight why residents love The Courtyard with a focus on different aspects of its community work including creative ageing with older people, outreach work with schools, Youth Theatre and volunteering. These videos will be shown before films in the Studio Theatre and are available to watch on The Courtyard's YouTube channel.



I Heart CY will be at the centre of fundraising activities for the next year with many activities taking place including a comedy fundraiser with honorary patron Jo Brand.

Melanie Denning, fundraising manager, said: "We wanted to be able to tell the story about the amazing community and education arts projects that The Courtyard delivers, day in day out. We really hope they will help our audiences understand why we need donations and motivate them to donate, in order to keep all of this great work going!"

While The Courtyard is not in danger of closing, the organisation must ask for additional support from the public, otherwise it will face a future in which its community work and the development of new projects supporting Herefordshire's residents may no longer be possible.

This news comes after The Courtyard celebrate a hugely successful space themed Herefordshire's Family Festival during October half term with over a thousand people attending the events and activities on offer.

Donations to the I Heart CY Appeal can be made at the Box Office, by phoning 01432 340555, online at www.courtyard.org.uk, by post (please send/hand in cheques to The Courtyard for attention of Melanie Denning)

Coming out this month:

Habitats, an exhibition by twelve members of Alloy Jewellers, a Herefordshire based group of independent jewellers and small metal workers founded in 1993 by Mike Gell, which takes influence from a poem by a local writer, Omar Majeed, describing the countryside and animal habitats within it.

The exhibition has been generously funded by the Elmley Foundation. The Courtyard Gallery until Sat 7th January.

For more information contact the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk.





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The Courtyard are giving a free pint of Butty Bach* to customers who purchase a pair of tickets for a folk show this season!

*One pint of Butty Bach per pair of full price tickets for the same show. Over 18's only, a voucher will be printed alongside your tickets which can be redeemed at The Courtyard Cafe Bar on the evening of the performance only

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UK Blues Challenge The Robin 2, Bilston | 12th Nov

The **UK Blues Challenge** is essentially the pick of this country's blues artists, competing for the opportunity to represent the country in the annual **European Blues Challenge**, (next years event is to be held in Horsens, Denmark in April). As well, for the first time, the chance to cross the pond to the USA to participate in the **International Blues Challenge (IBC)**. Previous participants in the **EBC** competition, have included **Laurence Jones**, **Babajack** and **Red Butler**, with members of the latter two invited along with PR supremo **Peter Noble**, representatives of **Upton Blues Festival** (this years UK Challenge sponsors) and a number of other movers and shakers in the world of blues to make up the evening's judging panel.

On paper the judges had their work cut out with almost all aspects of the blues genre represented by the chosen acts, from the roots rock warriors that are **Wille & The Bandits** to the upbeat rootsy sound of **Dove & The Boweevil** via the ballsy blues soul holler of **Kaz Hawkins** and the near home town hero and current female blues vocalist of the year, **Rebecca Downes**. Whilst the judges had to bang heads and decide upon one name to carry forward, we the punters were perhaps the true winners, being treated to the best blues line up this side of any festival.

Wille & The Bandits were gifted the 'opening' slot, opening with throbbing six string bass groove courtesy of **Matt Brooks** before being joined by the award winning drums of **Andy Naumann**, with the duo laying down an infectious launchpad for **Wille Edwards**



Mark Howe's expressive lead guitar work, before **Lauren Dove's** lead vocals swoop and soar, whilst the band's rhythm section, (**Paul Williams** and **Paul Weston**), drive the song on. '*Food For Love*' sees Howe don a slide, as the band lay out their blues credentials with a strong, stomping beat and Dove's soulful voice leading the line. The Hammond of Robinson was the star of the show on '*Red Eye Fly*', dueting with Howe's guitar, whilst the sheer joy of performance was etched across Lauren's face as she brought the band's set to a close with an energetic '*Fireworks*'.



Northern Ireland's blues belter **Kaz Hawkins** was up next and as soon as she let rip with her first vocal, jaws hit the floor, here was a singer that has it all, sass, soul, emotion and power whether stood in front of a mic stand with an acoustic guitar hung around neck, or leading her band with a swish of her dress, it was impossible not to focus your full attention as Kaz led from the front. If '*Don't Make Me Cry*' had the emotional pull, it was the addictive '*Drink With The Devil*', that really set the party, shooting from the hip. **Kaz's** vocals soared one minute and became a raw rasp the next as she showcased her incredible range, her band stomping out a taut rhythm, allowing guitarist **Nick McConkey** to embellish the sound further with a flurry of riffs and punchy solos. Kaz seemingly winning over new fans with every song, twirl and held note, fed off the audiences enthusiasm, delivering a stunning, soul stirring '*Because You Love Me*', safe in knowledge that no one was going to forget her set in a hurry.

Local favourite, **Rebecca Downes** brought the competition to a fitting close with a powerful set of blues rockers but it was the soulful rendition of '*Another Piece Of My Heart*' that really made me sit up and take notice, her weathered vocals bringing another dimension to the often covered number. From there, Rebecca and her band tore into their set, with the leading lady donning a leopard skin coloured guitar, trading licks with guitarist and co-writer **Steve Birkett**, as the band ran through a number of tracks lifted from this year's sterling '*Believe*' disc, with '*Long Long Time*', and a bewitching take on '*Sailing On A Pool of Tears*', showcasing



glorious slide and coffe grinder voice, as the band settle into a mesmeric rendition of, '*Bad News*', wowing fans and newcomers alike as the summon the power of Zeppelin or perhaps a rootsy take on Pearl Jam. '*Gypsy Woman*', followed with the rhythmic partners, again creating an instant, inventive and above all infectious, funk-ridden groove, whilst Wille strums and slides up and down his fretboard hollering the track's punchy and contagious hook, the crowd responding in kind, transfixed by the band's collision of power and depth. Picking highlights from a short **Wille & The Bandits** set is rather akin to picking your favourite child but I have to mention the added tongue drums of the mantra like '*Chill Out*' and the frenzied finale of '*Virgin Eyes*', leaving an audience chanting the band's name in appreciation.

After a riveting opening set **Dove & Boweevil** were charged with the unenviable task of following Wille & The Bandits, but the band made the most of their time treading the boards offering an impressive but very different take on the blues, weaving elements of soul, country and even pop into an upbeat, fun set. Kicking off with New Orleans inspired, '*Lady Lavo*', the five-piece band combined slabs of funky keyboard (**Andy 'Mojo' Robinson**) with



Rebecca's range and versatility, whilst the the guitar and keyboard interplay and the strident chorus of the album's title track had a now busy dance floor howling in delight as Downes exerted every last morsel of energy, bringing down the curtain on the UK Blues Challenge.

It was now over to the judges to deliberate and run rule over a brilliant night's entertainment, leaving **Ashwyn Smith** of The **UK Blues Federation** to announce the winner and the UK's representative in both the European and International Blues Challenge... **Kaz Hawkins**. After collecting the trophy and a few tears of joy, the stage was set for a triumphant lap of honour with Kaz and her band delivering a second set to an audience in the mood to party. Nina Simone's 'Feeling Good' was given a spellbinding Hawkins makeover before 'Shake Your Money' drew the night to a sensational close.

Words: Will Munn Photography: Graham Munn



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Vocal Mixing Part 1

Last month I looked at ways to record vocals free from undue influence from room acoustics, and as you start to process and mix your vocals, you'll realise how important that is. If you start with a vocal that sounds as though it was recorded in a boxy room, that boxy coloration will only get worse when you start to use compression on the vocal track (which lifts out low level detail) and no amount of adding artificial reverb will disguise it. Mixing vocals can get quite involved so I'm going to approach this subject in three parts.



Let's start with looking at what we're aiming to achieve when we mix a vocal. We need the vocal level to sit comfortably in the mix rather than some parts getting lost and others being too loud. We also need to add ambience to the vocal so that it sounds as though it exists in a real and acoustically sympathetic space. There may also be a need to correct minor pitching and timing problems, but unless these are fairly minor, it is inevitably easier to record the part again.

For fixing small timing issues, the easiest method is to cut the vocal track either side of the problem phrase or word and then slide the offending part forwards or backwards until it sounds right. This is a common practice to ensure that backing vocals or harmonies sit correctly behind the main vocal. When doing this don't neglect breath sounds. If you have multiple backing vocal parts where the breaths at the start of phrases come in different places, line them up and see how much more polished everything sounds. Also layered vocal parts that have harsh endings to the words (such as T sounds) can sound sloppy unless all of these are in time. An effective compromise fix is to fade the very ends of the problem phrases so that the main vocal defines where the word should end. In most cases you'll get away with this, though a more forensic approach is to use the time stretch capabilities of your DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) software to ensure the backing vocal phrases all end at the same time as the main vocal phrases.

While we're still on the subject of chopping things up and moving them around, it pays to spend some time separating out and muting sections where there is no singing to get rid of any background noise such as shuffling feet, creaking chairs or pages being turned. This part of the process is what I think of as housekeeping — work you need to do to prepare your vocal (and other parts) for mixing. If you get all that out of the way first, you won't need to interrupt the more creative process of actually mixing by having to go back and fix problems.

Pitching problems can be tightened up very easily using a real-time pitch correction plug-in such as Autotune or one of its many clones — but be aware that these will only work if you have a clean vocal part free from any significant spill from other instruments. It is unlikely to work on a live recording for that reason. The trick to keeping the sound natural is to activate only the scale notes that are in the melody and then adjust the tracking speed slider so that the pitch correction doesn't sound too

obvious. At its fastest setting you'll hear the familiar Autotune warble, but slow it down and things sound much more natural. You can also automate this slider in your software so that when no correction is needed, the slider is at its slowest setting. Then pull it to a faster position when a problem needs fixing. As long as the pitching problems are only minor, this type of plug-in will get you out of trouble.

Where the song includes a key change or where the chorus uses a very different set of notes from the verse, you can split the vocal putting the verses on one track and the choruses on another, then you can use separate instances of your pitch correction plug-in for each part, again activating only the required notes. Plug-ins such as Melodyne can do a more precise job but require rather more skill to use effectively. Next month I'll look at the more creative side of mixing vocals.

Paul White Editor in Chief, Sound on Sound

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The LT Show | Down To A T

I don't know too much about Worcester based hip-hop act **The LT Show**, bar the man behind the monicker has been part of hip-hop ensemble, **The N.A.C** (The New Age Classics, MC'd at numerous Drum N Bass and open mic nights and presented on Youthcomm Radio, whilst writing and producing his own material.

Already working on his second album, *Down To A T* is his first full length release, available as a free (or more) download via the LT Show bandcamp page. The twelve track affair showcases an obvious musicality, mixing infectious hooks with instantly funky beats and LT's compelling flow. The album opens with an intriguing introductory piece that weaves a number of sampled spoken word monologues layered over a simplistic piano motif, a warm crackle of vinyl and one of those aforementioned addictive beats. The track has a sort of DJ Shadow feel, grabbing the attention and urging the listener on, before eventually dying away to reveal LT's first foray in front of the mic. *Times Have Changed* opens with a slice of strings layered over a steady, bouncy beat, before LT delivers a reflective spiel about how the narrator has grown into the adult he's now become. The rise and full of the instrumental track adds drama to LT's flow, whilst the catchy choral refrain gives the listener something to latch upon, demanding subsequent spins.



How These People?! follows with Billy Whizz (fellow member of the N.A.C) on production duties. A laid back beat and an ethereal wordless and a strummed guitar loop provides the launchpad for LT to up the ante and deliver a fascinating boast and observational tirade that hits you square between the eyes, as it summons up visions of the sights and sounds of an average Saturday night in the heart of the city.

As the album continues, highlights come thick and fast; deep strings and tinkered piano-assisted *Broken Up With Life* with it's Streets like introduction and thought provoking lead, the laid back jazzy funk of *Cool, Groovy, Easy* via the full bodied, easy listening sax loop of *Lost Fam* Clashing with LT's rapid fire rapped vocal and smooth groove of *Stop! (Think About It!)* as he lays down more flavours than Ben & Jerrys.

With the likes of rap-rockers Calm Like A Riot and the widescreen hip-hop funk groove machine Population 7, infiltrating the local live music venues, it's seems the right time for **The LT Show** to make a splash on the wider local music

scene (and beyond). With the twelve tracks of *Down To A T* and another disc on the way, you certainly wouldn't bet against it. If you like hip-hop and want to see a local guy bring the sauce, I urge you to check 'in with **The LT Show**.

www.facebook.com/TheLTShow

theltshow.bandcamp.com sleeve artwork by Rob Dougherty

Will Munn

Goodnight Lenin | Desire

You know that feeling when you've had a bit too much to drink and you feel absolutely unstoppable and nothing at all could harm you or beat you? That is exactly what **Goodnight Lenin's** newest release '*Desire*' feels like.

Somewhere between a dream and reality, the band channel their best efforts into something that comes out feeling not to



dissimilar to a blissed out Killing Joke. As the chorus comes in, you can expect live audiences to be using all their breath to question "Where's your desire?" as they use all of their passion and will to keep up with the heavenly musical makers. The video is pretty impressive too with **Tom Peel** giving it his all as he tries to put into a visual demonstration what '*Desire*' will inevitably do to you. It's an impressive earworm of a song that'll be munching on your head for days.

Emily Branson

Goodnight Lenin return with their first single since the release of their debut album '*In The Fullness of Time*' back in December 2014. *Desire* is the first of four singles coming from the band over the next 12 months with their yet to be titled album set to follow in Winter 2017.

The heavily influenced West Coast Americana outfit have now left the West and are more suited amongst the Streets of Philadelphia drawing comparisons to Bruce Springsteen and more recently War On Drugs.



A Fistful of Spookies

The Fold, Bransford | Fri 16 Dec

Join A **Fistful of Spookies** at **The Fold, Bransford**, for the sensational stylings of Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, The Beach Boys, brand newbies by Spookmeister Stephen Taberner and thousand year old Georgian songs from Michael Carlyon, Adrian Mealing, Philip Read, Chris Samuel, James Sills & Dom Stitchbury that are guaranteed to woo, charm, cheer & delight.

A **Fistful of Spookies** (UK) were abandoned to their own appliances when festival hits The Spooky Men's Chorale retreated to Australia after last year's sell-out tour. Like a tide-mark in the enamel bath of song, this rambling, rambunctious collection of UK Spooks keep alive the flame of Spookiness in Britain by reprising classics from the Spooky canon



of testosterone-fuelled tunes and tomfoolery. Magnificent fun! A cappella but not as we know it. Tickets £12.50 01886 833112 <http://www.thefold.org.uk/events-and-festivals>

Nigel Clark from Dodgy

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 22nd Dec

Well what can we say about **Nigel Clark** that we haven't said before (including a couple of paragraphs away)? I'm sure we've mentioned he's from Worcestershire, lives in Worcestershire and works in Worcestershire (as a music teacher giving something

NIGEL CLARK

from
DODGY

Plus
Woo Town Hillbillies
Mark & Beanie

Thursday
22nd December

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12 Pierpoint Street Worcester WR1 1TA



Sam Holt

back to 'the kids') but he does not often get chance to perform locally (bar some unexpected guest appearances like at a recent Movement rally).

Well the chaps from **Dodgy** have let him out for a winter solstice event at the Marr's Bar - expect some **Dodgy** tunes, some of his solo work and a few covers all delivered with his trademark wit and bonhomie.

Support comes from **The Woo Town Hillbillies** - if you haven't seen this hardworking band you need to get out more! You can expect high-flying bluegrass with tumbling banjo, mandolin and harmonica breaks, and joyous reels and jigs, all mixed with a smattering of beautiful heartfelt tunes, accompanied by harmonies. Also on the bill will be **Mark** and **Beanie** from **Skewwhiff**.

Tickets are £5 with £7 on the door. The Marrs Bar, Worcester
www.marrsbar.co.uk 01905 613336

Thunderpussy & Tequila Mockingbyrd

The Iron Road, Evesham | 10th Nov

A Thursday evening and a need for a blast of live music, a scroll through the listings and a chance encounter with the attention grabbing monicker **Thunderpussy**, a quick bit of 'careful' online research reveals an all American, female quartet with a taste for loud guitars, rock 'n' roll theatrics and sexual innuendo, what's not to like? A couple of text messages later, a beer in town and an uneventful trip up the line and we're set.

The Iron Road seems like a somewhat apt venue for a band like **Thunderpussy**, a hot sticky bar with a cool jukebox, an always impeccable sound and the willingness to take a risk in the name of entertainment, now if only more people in Evesham and indeed the surrounding area would show more appreciation for the quality of artists that the **Muttley** and his crew are drawing week in, week out we wouldn't have walked into a sparsely attended venue, however those in attendance had come to party and party we did.

Opening the nights proceedings fellow, all female combo, **Tequila Mockingbyrd**, a Melbourne formed, now UK based trio that blend hard hitting rock 'n' roll with a grungy influence to create a high octane, infectious, swaggering sound that lurches for attention and doesn't loosen it's grip until the band have wrung out every last chord. From the opening salvo, drummer **Josie O'Toole** was a blur behind the kit, pounding it into submission, whilst **Jess Reily** held down the bottom end with a throbbing bass groove, up front, **Estelle Artois** tore at her guitar like a woman possessed whilst hollering the likes of the hard hitting 'Everyone Down' and a glorious, shout along take on The Ramones classic 'Somebody Put Something In My Drink' (a cover that helped the trio secure a support slot with Richie Ramone in the past). By the end, the T-Byrd's had the audience in the palm of their hands with the headliners joining the revellers at the front as the band brought their set to a close with a feisty call to arms in the shape of former Team Rock single of the week, 'I Smell Rock 'N' Roll' proving that Australia's loss is very much our gain.

Within mere moments of **Thunderpussy** taking to the stage, lead singer **Molly Sides** was whipping the crowd into a frenzy thrusting head first into her performance as she grips the mic, gyrating, and stirring the loins of every warm blooded male in the audience. Behind her **Whitney Petty** slashes at her guitar whilst **Leah Julius** and **Lena Simon** hammer their bass and drums respectively as they carve out a sound that's simultaneously both sultry and forceful, a collision of rock riffs, riotous drums and smouldering swagger. An AC/DC like riff punctures the air whilst Lena attacks her drums and there's Molly writhing on the floor arching upwards as if possessed by the rhythm responding to Whitney's guitar like some kind of performance art and we, the audience have a ringside view. *Speed Queen* showcases a raunchy blues influence, as Molly alternates between a soulful holler and a raw, dirty rasp, before a sudden change in tempo sees her twirling across the stage whilst the band bring the track to an impressive muscular crescendo, whilst a dynamic sprint through *Helter Skelter* highlights an obvious love of classic rock. The band bring their set to a heady conclusion with their self titled anthem with a hooked audience hollering back the vocals, before Molly takes a seductive walk across the bar, downing a shocked punters drink before returning to the stage to bring the band's set to a frenzied close, before returning for a highly demanded encore and one last chance to dance, with **Tequilla Mockingbyrd** leading the



way down the front as **Thunderpussy** cranked those guitars one final time.

A random trip and risk, resulted in one of those gloriously memorable nights that'll be spoken of in revered tones for years to come whilst we hope for the return of Thunderpussy to these shores and indeed **The Iron Road**.

Will Munn

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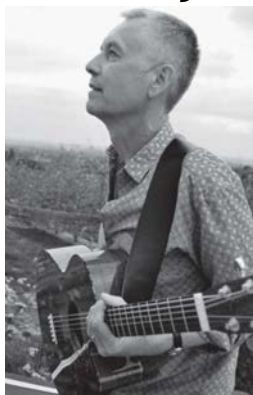
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PREVIEW

Elmslie House in Dec & Jan

Over the course of December and January, **Elmslie House** in Malvern is going to be hosting some musical events that are going to be mandatory additions to your calendars. **John Denton's Midnight Band** fronts the line-up on December 3rd when he is set to bring his renown soul-tinged vocals to the venue. Having been gigging constantly and working throughout his career to release his album *'Jupiter and the Crescent Moon'*, there will be no doubt that Denton will be on top form. The setlist promises to be full of both his own creations and material from the likes of legends Billie Holliday, John Martyn and Bill Withers.

January is set to see **Tuulikki Bartosik** and **Hannah James** bring their two accordions to Malvern. On the 13th the powerful duo and their joyful musical relationship will be delighting the Elmslie House audience as they share tracks off of new album *Chatterbox*. The night is bound to be



full of originality, boasting its fair share of boldness and versatility, leading to Martin Chilton from the Telegraph dubbing the women 'evocative' in his list of the Best Folk Albums of 2015.

And before January runs out of steam, **Timo Alakotila** will descend on the 27th with material from his first solo album, released in March. As one of the most in-demand musicians in Finland, he has worked in countless ensembles and left his mark on over two hundred albums, leaving his solo debut as something you have to catch live.



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JOHN DENTON

Saturday 3rd
December

TUULIKKI BARTOSIK & HANNAH JAMES

Friday 13th
January

TIMO ALAKOTILA

Friday 27th
January

STEPHEN FEARING

Sunday 19th
February



Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start
Advance Tickets £8, On the Door £10

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



Kris Dollimore

The Prince of Wales, Ledbury | 30th October

It was good to see the return of such a fine acoustic blues artist as Kris Dollimore - Kris travels light: just two guitars, a small PA and a small guitar amp.

A finger picking instrumental readied the fingers, before we dipped into the All Grown Up album for the gutsy, pulsating Sometime You Need To Feel The Pain. Slipping in an exemplary Jolene instrumental, Kris stirred the Mississippi water with a gritty Fred McDowell You Gotta Move - glass slide gliding over the taught strings, working this classic spiritual blues.

Switching albums, the slide was working hard on exorcising with No Ghosts In This House and staying with that ethereal atmosphere, another excellent song, Blind Willie Johnson's Soul Of A Man, resonated around the ancient walls.

A short break and a change of guitar as Kris stirs the air with Testify, a song with real gravitas lifted from Now Is The Time. The sands of time swept through carrying a request for the exotically spiced and beautiful Sahara to be laid bare before us. It's a Halloween weekend so why not a homage to all those souls lost in darkness - an intense, insistent rhythm reveals Evil People; no place for hiding in the shadows from this superb song. Robert Johnson's ghost is raised as Kris puts his mind to thinking If I Had Possession Over Judgement Day.

A finger picking instrumental allows Kris to ease his vocal chords for the home stretch before turning to those favourite subjects of blues: drinking, women and gambling - rolled up into the splendid Gamblin Bar Room Blues, which rides the rhythm of St James Infirmary Blues. A long drive back to Cornwall lay ahead for Kris so, despite protestation, we had only time for one more song - that



song came from the pen of Marvin Gaye and James Nyx unearthing the grime of Inner City Blues.

Stripped acoustic blues of the highest quality, I can only urge all those who have not seen Kris to consult YouTube where there is plenty to encourage you to seek a gig and hear him perform live. Thank you Prince of Wales, as always; a fine Sunday service of blues at its best.

Graham Munn

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Busy Festive Period for Faithful City Shows

Faithful City Shows have got a busy few weeks at **The Marrs Bar**, as per. With three shows lined up, it's going to be a cracker of a Christmas (get it?!).

In the old FCS Christmas stocking, new Worcester based punks, **Saltwounds** are set to play their EP release show on **December 4th**. With special American guests **MakeWar** and acoustic crooner, **Cory Call** it's set to be a corker.



Saltwounds

15th December welcomes home punk veterans, **Fights and Fires**, fresh off the European leg of their tour. With Welsh hardcore from **Continents** and local punk-rock from **Kick The Clown**, this is sure to be one hell of a Christmas party!



Fights and Fires

Then to top the FCS christmas tree off, on **December 20th** the indie-rock trio **The Americas** make their Worcester debut with support from **Junior Weeb**, **Nuns of the Tundra** and **Hipflask Virgins**. Tickets available for all shows online from: www.wegotickets.com/faithfulcityshows

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BL▲CK▲SH | Black Witch

The Grauniad gets some stick as being the much maligned voice of the liberal elite but it does unearth some gems (such as the Panama Papers) and has some great contributors like Steve Bell and Charlie Brooker. What I wasn't expecting yesterday on my day off was to come across a 'new band of the week' which are right up my street: BL▲CK▲SH.

From the opening title track of forthcoming debut EP *Black Witch*, with its Stooges' TV Eye-esque guitar fuzz, I'm having a flashback to a lysergic youth full of Loop and Spacemen 3. This mysterious Midlands' collective boast "a space rock producer, an acid house pioneer, a dark lord of the DNB club scene, the driving force of a far eastern sleaze rock outfit and a shape shifting couturier prophet" (whatever that is!).

Grauniad verdict: It's Dudley via Detroit and Düsseldorf.

Jarv's verdict: Mark Bolan meets Rob Zombie at a KLF concert.

Black Witch EP Released 3rd December

www.black-ash.co.uk/

Catch BL▲CK▲SH at their EP launch 10th December at Sensateria VI, Centrala, Birmingham.

Glazz



The Whipjacks Scoundrels and Rogues

"We're The Whipjacks and we're just having fun" might only be one of the lyrics in The Whipjacks' 'Scoundrels and Rogues' but



it's a line that pretty much puts the band and their song into perspective. With wild guitars, gutsy vocals and carefree spirit to match, it's a track that'll whip up a storm of fun-lovers, freedom-seekers and fire-breathers. There's going to be no stopping these guys as they join the

new surgance of free-spirited country artists, joining the likes of Skinny Lister with their unstoppable force. The video to the track lives up to the song's mood too, showing the band playing one of their high-energy sets in between **The Whipjacks** just having fun.

Emily Branson



Sœur | No Fire

Whilst **Sœur** are more likely to just tell you to "sit down, shut up and listen", I'll take the more persuasive approach. The trio's latest offering 'No Fire' is laden with fierce force. Flashing sharp teeth,



raven claws and a hungry attitude, the track isn't one to mess with as it hunts its way through a pack of confrontational vocals and in-your-face riffs. But, just before the kill is made, the track throws



out as many hooks and thumping beats as it can, tripping those listening into a **Sœur** induced daze that'll leave you buzzing with the last remnants of the pulsating track. If anything, this is a song that proves that, despite only being a three-piece (**Anya Pulver**, **Tina Maynard** and **James Collins**), there's no doubt that this trio pack more punch than bands with twice the man-power.

Emily Branson



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Mark Morriss & Nigel Clark

The Cube, Malvern | 3rd Feb 2017

Can it really be twenty years since **Mark Morriss** first shimmied into our lives as singer with **The Bluetones**? Apparently so. But thirteen hit singles, three top ten albums and a collaboration with a national treasure later - more of which shortly - his ability to sieve poetry from the colander of every day life remains unique.

"I always try to add little things that most songs wouldn't use," he says of the lyrics on his remarkable first solo album 'proper', *A Flash Of Darkness*. *"If I can squeeze a mention of Bergerac into a song (as he does in sure-fire smash 'Consuela') then I'm happy."*

While it might not take Jersey's finest to track down a copy, it's fair to say that the release of Mark's folk-infused solo debut, *Memory Muscle*, in 2008 was low key, despite string arrangements from the legendary composer **David Arnold**. However, it wasn't until **The Bluetones** split up in October 2011 that he thought seriously about his next move.

"To be honest I didn't know what I was going to do", he says with typical candour, *"so I threw a lot of irons into the fire."*

While one of these resulted in him writing the music for **David Walliams'** audio books (*"great fun"*), he was still writing songs so Mark headed to 'a shed in Surrey' with long-term Bluetones collaborator **Gordon Mills**. As the sessions progressed, so the pent-up frustrations of the past few years poured out.



A Flash Of Darkness refers to that *"moment when you've just turned off the light and everything remains semi-lit for a split second,"* says Mark, referring back to his lowest point. Whisper it, but Mark Morriss' light bulb moment might have resulted in his best album yet.

In the two years since the release of *A Flash Of Darkness*, Mark has been busying himself with some of his other side projects and collaborations, including playing rhythm guitar for **The Maypoles**, the studio and touring band of **Matt Berry** (*IT Crowd*, *Toast Of London*, *House Of Fools*) as well as recording a new album (*The Taste Of Mark Morriss*) for Acid Jazz Records which saw the light of day in July 2015, and Mark is currently working on his fourth record, as yet untitled, for release in April 2017.

Nigel Clark continues to enjoy a successful career as lead-singer of the band **Dodgy**, with six top 20 hit singles under their belts including *Staying Out for the Summer*, *In a Room* and *Good Enough*.



In February 2012 **Dodgy** released their fourth album *Stand Upright in a Cool Place* to critical acclaim receiving 4/5 from The Guardian. Rocksucker said, *"That Dodgy should return after sixteen years with such a strong record is quite remarkable, so it is to be hoped that it is not their last"*. Well, hope materialised as the band have been playing up and down the country in support of their latest LP, *What Are We Waiting For*, released in September on Cherry Red Records.

Yet away from Dodgy, Nigel also pursues new material and ideas, performing his own songs and paying homage to story telling through song, influenced by artists from Townes van Zandt to Blaze Foley, Simon and Garfunkel to Nina Simone.

For Nigel, playing live is about having a personal connection with the audience. His easy manner and rapport with audiences large and intimate, makes for an inspiring evening for lovers of live music.

Supporting Nigel & Mark are **Hedluv + Passman**, a rap duo from Redruth, Cornwall, UK. They perform "Casio rap", a genre where lyrics are laid over simple homemade beats. Their song *"The Future!"* was used in the opening credits to Rhys Darby's comedy series *Short Poppies*.



Hedluv + Passman also play a headline show at **The Great Malvern Hotel** on 4th Feb with **Calm Like a Riot** supporting.

Glazz

Pablo Alto

Interview by Michelle Cuadra and Jeanette McCulloch
from Hereford City Centric

Pablo Alto are: **John Rose**, guitar and vocals; **Steve Crews**, bass and vocals; **Dave Savagar**, drums and vocals.

I met up with **John Rose** on one of those busy Saturdays at **De Koffie Pot** when catching a table is unlikely, regardless of the weather. The **Hereford Contemporary** exhibit was in full swing all around us complete with live demonstrations, instigating our curiosity and filling us with creative vibes. I was interested to get to know John from an interview perspective since he is part of **The Underground Revolution**, a friend and a talented contributor to this blog. In reality John is a tireless source of music and art knowledge so it was bound to be interesting. Local artist **Jeanette McCulloch** also caught up with the full band at their rehearsal space on the outskirts of Ledbury for a chat and photo session.



HCC: I love the posters you have designed for us at The Underground Revolution. We always await them with anticipation and are never disappointed. In a way, your vast knowledge of music and pop art culture both past and present comes through in them. Do you have plans to further your career as a collage/pop art artist?

John: I started out as a collage artist about 2 years ago after seeing 2 London Art exhibitions – Hannah Hoch at The Whitechapel Gallery and Kurt Schwitters at The Tate Modern, both fantastic and I knew immediately that was what I wanted to do. I already loved 60's pop art and the work of Warhol, Peter Blake and Robert Rauschenberg. I've got into designing music posters as this seemed a natural progression and means I can combine my love of punk graphics / Pop Art / collage and 60's psychedelic rock posters.

HCC: Who are your influences?

Dave: The three of us have different angles of musical influences, I love Can my mate Chris made me a tape of Can and I listened to it so much I wore the tape out!.. John got me into Traams and Ty Seagull, The Velvet Underground... and we all love Joy Division.

Steve: The first music I remember hearing was GBH, when I was 12, and then I kept discovering different punk bands. Our first band night out was a Dead Meadow and Milk gig in Cardiff. A wonderful experience.

John: Sonic Youth, Bauhaus, Syd Barrett, Clash. Sex Pistols, Damned, The Chameleons, 13th Floor Elevators, Dead Meadow, Olivia Tremor Control...to name a few. One of the best bands I've ever seen was Bauhaus...they opened with Bela Lugosi's Dead cutting through the dry ice and white light as Pete Murphy emerged bat-like from the darkness in his black cloak.

HCC: Another member of the band with strong creative ties is drummer Dave, how did you guys come together to form Pablo Alto? Whose idea was it initially to start Pablo Alto?

Dave: I met John when we were hanging flags up for the Ledbury Poetry Festival and we talked about music. I remember we talked about Sonic Youth. After that we jammed in the cellar in an art gallery.

John: There was something dark lurking in the cellar...

Dave: we began experimenting. John was writing songs and working on his voice. We had heard Steve playing in the Youth Within and asked if he would join us and be in two bands.

John: Yeah We decided to remain a 3-piece, so we compensate by playing to our strengths. We have started using more spacey effects, a bit of sonic exploration. I used to play rhythm guitar but now I do the lead which suits me.

HCC: Lead guitar really does suit you...and you have a pretty guitar to boot.

John: The guitar didn't cost much. It's a Fender Squier Jazzmaster I spray painted Surf Green and customised with some new pickups and other bits.

HCC: John, how long have you been doing music?

John: My first gig was really the start of it for me. I was 14 and went with my sister and a college friend to a pub gig in Manchester. The band sounded like the Buzzcocks and from then on it fired my imagination.

The other pivotal moment was going to see The Clash and Theatre Of Hate at the Manchester Apollo when I was 15. The thing about growing up in Manchester during that time (80's) was that there were so many great bands to be inspired by playing every week. I had to commute through some pretty rough areas on the bus to see bands, but it was worth it. I was a member of the Hacienda club and loved it, although I remember it being pretty dead the first time I went but it grew over the years with DJ nights like the Temperance Club and I saw some pretty awesome bands there... I wish I still had my membership card!

HCC: Where do the psych influences come in?

John: Well back in the day Radio 1 was quite different to what it is now. I recorded an hour long psychedelic show they aired onto cassette that I think I still have somewhere. It blew me away. They were playing bands like the Chocolate Watchband, The Seeds and 'Five Years Ahead Of My Time' by The Third Band.



HCC: Steve, how does the band dynamic work for you? playing bass in two Ledbury bands (Steve also plays in Ledbury punk band The Youth Within).

Steve: I like being in two bands Pablo Alto and the Youth Within. The music differs, Pablo is more technical with more variation, and Youth Within is raw punk. There are different styles to the playing.

HCC: 'Spacecat' is one of our live favourites, what's it about and what other lyrical themes do you write explore in your songs?



John: 'Spacecat' is about a recurring dream, I often have anxiety dreams about my cat Pablo going missing and in this one he happens to be missing in space. I guess I have a real bond with him, he's quite a character! songs like Tension or Fall have a theme of anxiety simmering beneath the surface, the feeling of being alienated from society or the world in general...about not fitting in or being comfortable with the way things are. And let's face it we've all got a lot to be tense about these days. 'Fever' is about being addicted to rock'n'roll and getting carried away with it all to the point of irrationality.. and Surrender could be about an out of body experience or a psychedelic trip, I guess it's up to the individual. It's cool because we never play Spacecat or Surrender

the same way, they're freeform jams and we can take them anywhere we want.

HCC: What do you think of the Current crop of Herefordshire bands, which bands have you been impressed by?

John: There's some really excellent local bands out there now, I love Skewwhiff, who have a really great post-punk sound, punk bands The Youth Within, Terminal Rage and Teddy's Leg are great too. On the folkier side, Shannon Walker, Tobion, Elspeth Anne and Mark Stevenson are all recommended. Go see them all!

HCC: And finally what can we expect from Pablo Alto in 2017?

Dave: In 2017 we plan to do some DIY scuzzy lo-fi recordings, we'd love to play at Psych Fest or Green Man or End Of The Road..

John: Space cakes, voodoo masks and multi-coloured freak outs...!



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POPULATION: 7

Population 7 are a nine-piece collective formed from a number of mainstays of the local music scene, the band drifted together through frequent collaboration, support slots and open mic sessions to create one of the most interesting and vibrant acts currently performing around the city, eventually evolving from a beat based experiment into a live organic organism that weld an obvious love of hip-hop, funk and soul with blasts of alternative rock or laidback jazz to create a unique and engaging sound.

Feiro is the band's latest album, following on from last year's, 'WHY P7' disc and continues to see the band evolve and move, pushing new boundaries and expanding their ever widening, cinematic take on the hip-hop genre and beyond.



From the opening few bars of *Blindspot* you instantly realise just how inventive **Population 7** are. A jerky, almost post-rock, (or math rock if you prefer) stop-start riff and the pounded drums of **Carl Browne** swiftly urge the listener to sit up and take notice. Before a subtle burst of jazzy sax and elastic bass edges their way into an already potent mix. And within half a minute **Haydn Rogers**, the evocative voice of **Rachel Medhurst** and **Sam Ruane** are trading lines, whilst the band continue to create a widescreen platform that hints at the numerous influences at play. It could easily have become a case of too many cooks, but instead **Population 7** create a warm and welcoming stew, served with an addictive hook laden chorus and a sweet side order of cool harmonies, delicately adding seasoning to a mesmeric first course.



The oddly named *Sluggums* follows bringing an upbeat soul twist to proceedings as Medhurst's vocals are let of the leash, as she proves her versatility. Saxophonists **Hannah Webb** and **Jon Kasch** add the funk factor, before the aforementioned **Ruane** helps deliver the track to another level with an instantly memorable rapped vocal hook. *Wi-Fi* is a wonderful slice of laid back jazzy funk (or perhaps organic Acid Jazz) with skittering drums and drawled harmonies before changing tempo with the choppy guitars of **Rob King** and **Pete Mann** driving the track towards a thrilling conclusion. The band continue to experiment in the same inventive manner throughout, *I Say* weaves an intoxicating mix of funk, modern day soul and rapped vocals with flights of jazzy sax and clarinet. Whilst **Browne** adds further embellishments with a dexterous display behind the kit. *Toast* is a beautiful slice of sun kissed psychedelic soul, as electric guitars shimmy and spiral out a bluesy solo, whilst jazzy sax, the elastic bass of **Rob Taylor** and **Brownes** drums create ever new shapes over a glorious six minute stretch. I could easily go on but better leave something to discover.

Each track has subtle twists and turns to throw the listener off guard, whether it's the jazzy sax licks, the choppy alt rock guitars or the intriguing rhythms. Instrumentally the band keep challenging, whilst vocally **Ruane**, **Rogers** and **Medhurst** add those all important hooks that'll keep people coming back for more. Providing the perfect counter balance to the band's imaginative musicianship, **P7** really seem to offer it all in one unique, infectious and innovative package.

Population 7 launch their excellent new album, *Feiro* on December 23rd @ **The Marris Bar** with a supporting cast of **The Connor Maher Quartet**, **Desert Boots**, **Jasper Malone** and **Matthew Waddoups**.

Will Munn



Feiro

Release: Friday 23rd December
The Marris Bar



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Masai Blues

The Prince of Wales, Ledbury | Sun 6th Nov

I saw **Masai Blues** on stage at Upton this year and, to be honest, was not impressed but given the field stage is set under a huge sound-flattening blanket, I reasoned that this gig would give me a much better perspective.

Whilst in the honest mode, it's also true to say the POW remains one of my favourite places to be on a Sunday.

I'm not sure if I am being sexist here but I think it's safe to say that, regardless of the music, **Judy Blue** is very comfortable on the eye. The band are all experienced musicians: **Bob Wilson** on guitar, **Frank Walker** on bass (both to be found backing the likes of **Honey Boy Hickling**), on keys sat **Brian** and thumping out the rhythm was **Brendan**.

Judy sings an eclectic mix of Southern blues, soul and jazz, firing into life with, "I got a rabbit foot in my pocket, a toad frog in my shoes, a craw fish on my shoulder, lookin' dead at you" - Koko Taylor's *Voodoo Woman*. Does soul get any bluer than this? From crunchy Koko to silky

smooth Madeleine Peyroux's *Dance Me To The End Of Love*. Follow that with a funky Albert King's *Born Under A Bad Sign* and you get the idea of the mix of songs in Masai Blues' bag. Bob's guitar riffs fill the air, Frank and Brendan set up the grooves, and Brian switches from swirling organ to ivory rippling rock piano; Judy switches back to the soulful 'Midnight In Harlem'.

After a short break **Masai Blues** seemed to ramp up a shade and the blend of funky soul and blues had an altogether richer flavour. That funk dunked, jazz drizzle came to the surface in Peyroux's *The Kind You Can't Afford* and we're not talking a Costa coffee here (other brands....etc). A superbly dark and steamy Keb



Mo song, *Dangerous Mood*, pulsed around the crowded Prince and all heads turned toward **Judy Blue** as we moved toward the session's close. Brian played boogie on his piano as we delved into the 'Dirty Low Down Blues' - another smoking Keb song steeped in Mississippi mud. Returning to Koko Taylor they closed on *I'm A Woman* - Bo Diddley's *I'm a Man* cross-dressing into an entirely different wardrobe and a hell of a good finish.

Without doubt **Masai Blues** made more impact for me here at the Prince than on stage at Upton but no doubt will gather more momentum yet. As ever, a great way to spend a Sunday evening.

Graham Munn

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Andy O'Hare

Well it's been a year that I guess most people will remember and also want to forget in equal measure - with the Grim Reaper wielding the scythe regularly and viciously throughout and the 'liberal media' - of which I reckon this fine publication you're holding is a fairly typical example - coming under pressure not seen for, well let's just say a very long time indeed...

Probably also fair to come to the conclusion that arts and music (unless they generate incredibly rapid and large profits) aren't going to be well-supported in the near future by the culturally-deficient yahoos settling into place either side of the pond - and seems likely there's struggles ahead with the funding for arts and music set to be low priority as the 'price of everything and value of nothing' mentality takes centre stage - temporarily we hope!

Been a 'different' year for myself as well - yes it's a bit strange after 11 years not to be spouting drivel-filled reviews each week for your dubious listening delight - but if the price for that is for the first time in nine years we finally got a good selection of local acts put forward for the stages at Glasto, T-in-Park and others - then I'm ok that the last few years of pitiful moaning and whining have paid off in some form - hope that it continues...

But it's fair to say that I'm still hugely disappointed that the 'years of neglect from above' of the great H&W music scene have seen acts that in my opinion should have achieved nationwide (and perhaps wider) recognition but have sadly called it a day - and I make no apology for especially mentioning **And What Will Be Left Of Them?** from Worcester and **Dandelion Killers** from Hereford - two great outfits with thundering original and hummable ditties - why not check them out for yourself?

But it's not been all slightly negative - have had a wonderful and very busy year still checking out on local music and finding it to be in very fine order indeed - and still catching a glimpse of a cracking new act on a weekly basis! Probably also been the busiest and best summer festival season we've ever had with bashes virtually every weekend in our fair area from April to September - with amazingly hardly any clashes - which is very helpful as my time-travel research project has unaccountably stalled again...

We were especially chuffed to have a presence for the first time at **Hay Festival** and certainly hope to include this again next year! Might be that due to the sheer frequency of bashes and too few summer months we're going to have to reduce our roadshow sessions to only one-a-month - guess you might have noticed that they've slightly overrun this year...

Highlight of the summer though probably has to be **Lakefest** - relocated this year from **Croft Farm Water Park** near Evesham to **Eastnor** (the old Big Chill site) - what a great job by the locally-

based organisers to pull this off - and touch wood Lakefest will develop into a BC-scale event to put Hereford/Worcester once again on the national summer festival map - I can't see any reason why this shouldn't happen!!

Yes there's been plenty of other great festivals and events happening this year - you know who you are as I've hopefully popped along to most of them (!) - but think for me one of the other triumphs of the year has been the revival of the wonderful Hereford scene - no there's never been a shortage of great bands and fab venues from the Marches to call on in recent years - what's been missing are the promoters to bring the two together - and there's been an explosion in the last 12 months (you know who you are again) who've done an amazing job - helped in no small part by the opening of the **Booth Hall** as a dedicated music venue - very similar in feel I think to the wonderful **Marrs Bar** 'over here' - great work!!

Next year also sees the tenth **Worcester Music Festival** - think we can possibly expect a small celebration of sorts! There were slight 'problems' this year in that a number of venues proved so popular that they had to operate a one-out-one-in policy at peak times over the weekend - whilst slightly inconvenient at times it's a 'difficulty' that most event organisers aren't probably going to lose much sleep over...

At the Intro team we're still planning and looking forward to continue supporting our great music scene - and I'll still be doing my very best to get out to as many gigs as possible and check out the wonderful live and original talent in our area - so while this fine organ takes a seasonal breather can I wish everybody a very pleasant Midwinter Public Holiday and look forward to meeting all you wonderful people again in 2017!

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

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Hunter & The Bear

The Connor Maher Quartet, The Ben Vickers Band
The Marris Bar, Worcester | 3rd Nov

Following on from a busy festival season and a seemingly never ending tour Oxford's finest roots rockers **Hunter & The Bear** returned to a busy **Marris Bar** eager to perform their infectious wares. Prior to the main event, local hard workers and Marris Bar regulars **The Ben Vickers Band** and **The Connor Maher Quartet** were charged with bring the evening to a simmer.

Ben Vickers and cohorts opened proceedings with a contagious set of laidback reggae, blending elastic rhythms, choppy guitar and funky flights of saxophone courtesy of Jon Kasch, whilst Vickers himself, delivers an addictive, laidback, welcoming croon enticing the listener to shake the shackles of the day gone and ease into an evening of effortless entertainment. As ever the token cover of Peter Tosh's *Legalize It* had a number of revellers joining on backing vocals, whilst his own *60 Bucks* and newbie *Can I Break Free* provided further highlights during an engaging set of summery vibes.

Whilst Ben chilled and compelled, **The Connor Maher Quartet** upped the ante and cranked the guitars as they walked the tightrope between fuzzy powerpop and high octane indie, with Beatles like vocal hooks punctured by walls of serrated alternative rock guitar, the likes of *Welcome To My Imagination*, *Don't Know What It's Like* and set finale *Feeling Faded* all found their mark, leaving the stage with a squall of feedback having set the mood for **Hunter & The Bear** to the delight of the local faithful.



From the first time I caught **Hunter & The Bear** at Wychwood (on *Glovebox's* Adrian Phillips recommendation), a couple of years back, I fell for not only their sound, but their attitude and delivery too. Here was a down to earth, humble band with an obvious love of performing. Numerous gigs and festival appearances later the band still have that same demeanour, whilst adding to their already impressive arsenal of (should be) stadium roots rock anthems. From the opening beat and rumble of the Hunter rhythm section (Gareth & Chris) the quartet quickly grabbed the audience as they launched into *Who Do You Think You Are?*, Jimmy's guitar swooping and soaring as frontman Will delivers that delicious gravelly, yet still soulful croon.

From the intimate to the rousing, **Hunter & The Bear** return to the stage, drawing their set to a close with a victorious run through *Will You Ever Come Home* and a demanded encore of *I Am What I Am*, before exiting for the final time to rapturous applause and a chorus of much deserved backslapping.

www.hunterandthebear.co.uk

Will Munn

Beth Hart

Birmingham Symphony Hall | 11th Nov

Symphony Hall Smoulders as Beth Hart Lights a Fire on the Floor

A big night out in the big, sound-stretching **Symphony Hall** in Birmingham and they do not come any better than the statuesque **Beth Hart**. From difficult upbringings she strides the world stages like no other. Previous tours have seen Beth storming venues alongside **Joe Bonamassa** and **Jeff Beck**; the current tour finds her with her own band to promote her new album *Fire on the Floor*.

Supporting is Canadian **Colin James** - not widely known in the UK but a multi award-winning artist back home. He has just released his 18th album *Blue Highways* and took to the stage in an acoustic, stripped back style alongside fellow guitarist Chris. There was an acknowledgement to the sad loss of fellow Canadian **Leonard Cohen** on this day, making it a poignant 11th of November.

Hart's band slipped in under the low lights with Beth taking us all by surprise: her voice filling the air as she entered at the rear of the auditorium, taking hands and hugs on the way through to the stage. This evening saw a moody, smouldering **Beth Hart**, pulling soulful blues from her latest album and songs from her library of past work. For many, there was the first chance to here songs from *Fire on the Floor* - the fabulously punchy *Love is a Lie* speaks of broken promises and deceit; Jazzman conjures up images of a smoke shack, filled with the heat and energy of dancers and music. The seductive fizz of *Coca Cola* takes us back to the soulful jazz of the '50s as the sweet energy it releases bubbles over with temptation.



Photography by Mona Nordøy

The neon lights of *Nutbush City Limits* flash across the stage as the tempo explodes into the auditorium and people rise and dance to the rhythm.

Time for a scorching *Fire On The Floor* and Beth is smoking as she pours on the fuel to ignite the album's signature track. As if to stir those flames, Beth sat alone at the piano to deliver an emotional *No Place Like Home*, bringing the audience to their feet for the heated applause as the concert closes. This was **Beth Hart** at her best, pouring out her passion and soul through that wonderful voice and we leave with the flames of her music burning in our mind.

Graham Munn

Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

The annual bumper issue of **Slap Mag** has arrived. This is the time where we look back on 2016 and get excited about what the new year will bring our way musically. As this momentous year quickly comes to an end, we know for the music world many are glad to see the back of this. But we, as well as many other music lovers and critics, are keen to look back on the past 12 months of their favourite releases or their most played and cherished album of 2016. It also means we get to look back on the best acts we've seen live, the best show and festival we've witnessed. As time passes we get to see, support and fall in love with new acts; exploding on the scene from nowhere. We love to share our thoughts on the year so much that we make it into a large end of year special which is now renowned by our regulars - **Rad Releases**. Now in its 6th successful year, our annual **Rad Releases** feature will take hold of the site shortly. When **Slap** went to press, we spent a few days contacting all those previously featured acts of **Circuit Sweet** to get their involvement with our site. We've got bands, venues, artists, labels and more involved to debate their top 5 releases of the year as well as their favourite gig of the year and why. We then share all of that information with you in our takeover which you can see only at circuitsweet.co.uk throughout the week prior to Xmas and leading up to New Year. This year we've also teamed up with **Naomi Burke**



Illustration for a great poster. Will your favourite album



review/release make a reappearance? Be sure to keep an eye out for this special as we've got plenty of local acts taking part.

If you are eager to know ours, one confirmed album of the year has to be from Worcester duo **The Broken Oak Duet**. In last years **SLAP**, we were excited for the new year to bring us the pair's debut album and their 9 track release '*Terrain*' did not disappoint. We will be discussing our choices in full in due course, but one of the best live shows we've seen had to be the daring and supposedly last set from **A Werewolf** at this year's **ArcTanGent**, that and **Surprise Attacks** hosting **Blanck Mass** and the evocative **Rosebud**. As for looking back at the work and enjoyment **Circuit Sweet** has had within 12 months, we've had a successful **Cassette Store Day** involvement and we've put out a brilliant and intense debut release from local artist **Simon Gore** and we've had Belgium's **Mont Dore** and Bristol's **Chiyoda Ku** join the shop shelves.


For now though we simply wish you, the lovely readers of **Slap Mag**, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...



Attila

The Stockbroker

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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 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 Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tues 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

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

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 Other Thursday - Open Mic

The Firefly, Hereford

Every Thursday - Local Artists

The Pheasant, Worcester

Every Thursday - Folk Night

The Fleece, Bretforton

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

Every Sunday starting at 7.30pm

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

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

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Thursday 01 December 2016

Culture Shock, Atterkop, Alvin & The Angry Barrels
Booth Hall, Hereford

Ash Dickinson
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Surprise Attacks & The Task in Hand Present:
Hoggs Bison / Deathly Pale Party / The Rusty Knives
The Firefly, Worcester

Piers Faccini
The Price Albert, Stroud

The Underground Revolution Presents, Alvin and the Angry Barrels, Culture Shock, Atterkop,
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Richie Ramone + Tequila Mockingbyrd
The Iron Road, Evesham

Folk in The Foyer: Steve Tilston
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Martyn Joseph
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Troublesome Trio
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Turin Brakes
The Convent, Stroud

Michael Knowles & The Std's, Toenail And The Badsore, Jay & Eli + Tone Tanner
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Wes Dance
The Plough, Worcester

Ash
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Friday 02 December 2016

Fitz Of Laughter
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fred Zeppelin
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Ben Vickers (Band)
Saracens Head, Worcester

Barefoot Serpents
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Petty Heggars
The Price Albert, Stroud

Echo Beach
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Manalishi
Millers Arms, Pershore

Tom Walker Trio
The Queen's Head, Woverley

Into The Shadows
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Slow Falling Sun With Skewwhiff
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Time Of The Mouth
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Kelso
The Swan, Cheltenham

Tom Walker Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

Ruben
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mother Popcorn
Drummonds, Worcester

Vehicle
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Liberty Artillery, The Flames, Tridecker Jams Dj's
The Pheasant, Worcester

Dave Onions
Norman Knight, Whichford

Kat & Co, Plastic Scene, Polar Opposites,
St George's Hall, Bewdley

Mister Wolf
The Lamplighter, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Ignition Present, Broken Jaw, Unhinged & At Dawn We Attack
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wootown Hillbillies
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Olly Murs Tribute Jon Eselle
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Little Dave
The Red Lion, Evesham

Liberty Artillery Album Launch Party
The Pheasant, Worcester

The Bright Eyes
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Smax
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Dogs Of Santorini, Chewie
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Saturday 03 December 2016

Rhino And The Ranters
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Otic Mac
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar And Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

Flatworld And Support Right Arrow
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

John Denton
Elmslie House, Malvern

Ub40 - Ultimate40
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Blind Lemon
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rhythm Method
The Price Albert, Stroud

Petite Messe Solennelle
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Protocol
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Joanovarc + Humm
The Iron Road, Evesham

Denim
The Express Inn, Malvern

Rich Hall
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

The Fireballs
The Chestnut, Worcester

Llocked And Loaded
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Danadra
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Babal And The Roz Bruce Infusion
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Buster Yarrington
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Jaya The Cat // Captain Accident // Ready 5 // Saltwounds
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Steve Ajao's Blues Giants
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Savage Prunes, Young And Innovative Folk Trio.
The Cube, Malvern

Stax Of Soul
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

O.C.D
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Steve Lindforth
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Royal British Legion, Ledbury

Notorious Brothers
New Inn, Pershore

Vo Fletcher
Green Dragon, Malvern

The Doonies
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Shades Of Grey
Moo Moos,Cafe Bar,Port.St., Evesham

Scott Matthews And His Band
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Jennifer T
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Moscow Drug Club
The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Phoenix
The Plough, Hereford

The Delray Rockets
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Priory Road
The Malt Shovel, Highley

Sunday 04 December 2016

Clive John 4Pm

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Unconventionals

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Saltwounds Ep Release W/ Make War, Cory Call, Time of the Mouth, Bathtub

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Unusual Carols 12Pm

The Price Albert, Stroud

Tredegar Band

The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Lounge Toad

The Chestnut, Worcester

Worcester Concert Club Presents The Villiers String Quartet

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Waiting For Kate

The Swan, Cheltenham

King David Sound System Reggae

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Ghost Riders in The Sky // Drones // Goblins

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Pete Boddis

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Janet Devlin

The Convent, Stroud

Dave Onions

The Wheatsheaf, Shrewsbury

No Good Nacys 4Pm

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Kev Fro Murmur

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Tuesday 06 December 2016

Spin Te Ku

The Price Albert, Stroud

Lady And The Sax

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Wednesday 07 December 2016

St. Agnes Fountain

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Tankus The Henge

The Convent, Stroud

Funk-In Sessions

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Adam Sweet

Café René, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Clare Hammond

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Thursday 08 December 2016

The Two Pats

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Worcester University & Surprise Attacks Present:

Mothwasp / Rosebud / Ferric Lux

The Firefly, Worcester

The Dylan Project

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

2nd Thursday Session. 3 great acts including Ton Tanner

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Whipjacks

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Churchfitters

Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Will Killeen

The Plough, Worcester

Friday 09 December 2016

Rod Barlow

The Bush Inn, Worcester

Of Kings And Captains

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Vincent Sledgers & Tim Holehouse

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Fred Zeppelin

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Midge Ure: Something From Everything

The Roses, Tewkesbury

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Pirouette

The Price Albert, Stroud

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton On Severn

Gun Runner

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Fahran + Sineso

The Iron Road, Evesham

Install7 Presents: Code-13, Seritone Mynydd Poly + More Tbc

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Executives

Millers Arms, Pershore

Dogs of Santorini

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Underdogs

The Queen's Head, Woverley

Carols For Carers

The Chestnut, Worcester

Mad Mick

The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Jüpitronz

Bar 24, Evesham

Martin Thorne & Company

Brewers Arms, West Malvern

Hard Nosh Presents Deano's Kitchen

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

Uk Subs/ Red Light Rebels/ Chinese Burn/ Ambition Demolition

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

North Star

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

The Liquor & Poker Band

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Soul Strutters

Café René, Gloucester

Nuclear Theory

The Queens Head, Redditch

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Red Lion, Evesham

Chris & Tony

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Come Up & See Me

Drummonds, Worcester

Massive Head Trauma With: Stranger in Death + Grizzleroot

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Undercovers

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Ross Angeles, Grownuplife, Brown Torpedo, + Guests

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

New Two

The Bush Inn, Worcester

Jüpitronz, Supported By, Richard Matthey

Bar 24 (Venue Upstairs), Evesham, Worcs.

Christmas Party Featuring The Fidgets

Archdales 73 Club, Worcester

Cxh - Clubland X-Treme Hardcore

The Venue, Hereford

The Animators

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Notorious Brothers

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Saturday 10 December 2016

Alternative Route

The Malt Shovel, Highley

The Rubies

Tewkesbury YMCA, Tewkesbury

Eastwood

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Flatworld, Mary Pitchford And Oilly Blanchflower

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Final Warning

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar And Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

Shenanigan Showcase:, Sophie Lynch And The Special

Freinds, Shenanigan All Star Band

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

Abba - Swede Dreamz

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Smoke Joint (5Pm)

Saracens Head, Worcester

Daddies Girl

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Sam Green And The Midnight Heist

The Price Albert, Stroud

Vehicle

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

White Coast Rebels

The Iron Road, Evesham

In2minds, Short Stuff

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Executives

The Cricketers, Worcester

Blackash

Centrala, Birmingham

Big Fat Shorty

The Chestnut, Worcester

Malvern Hills District Brass Band Present Mistletoe & Music

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Bad Dads

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Czech Tech Dj

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Punk By Nature Presents Wonk Unit, Angry Itch, The Liabilities, 2 Sick Monkeys, Dun2def, Septic Psychos, Criminal X And Second in Line

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Stuart Davies

The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Quill, The Robbie Blunt Band

Stourport Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Rough Six

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

5.15

New Inn, Pershore

Mister Wolf

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Rehydrated Turkeys...(Unplucked!)

Green Dragon, Malvern

Andy Margaret

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Roving Crows

The Bingham Hall, Cirencester

Lissie

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Missing Lynx

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Winter Mountain

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Stoned Love

The Plough, Hereford

Definitely Britpop

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 11 December 2016

Trafficker 4Pm

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The West Midland Light Orchestra

Hallmark Hotel Stourport Manor, Stourport-On-Severn

Kimberly Underwood

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Unusual Carols 12Pm

The Price Albert, Stroud

Bretforton Silver Band

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Chestnut, Worcester

Kit Hawes & Aaron Catlow

The Convent, Stroud

The Tom Kliphuis Trio Goes Grapelli

The Palace Theatre, Feckenham Village Hall in Redditch

Jez Lowe's Snowed in with the Bad Pennies & Benny Graham

St Swithuns Institute Hall, Worcester

The Future Set 4Pm

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Jtb Jazz

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Tuesday 13 December 2016

Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Mellstock Band

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Olb: Strike Back, One Down, Stranded, Liberate Me, +1 More

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jazz @ The Hatch, www.Yardbirdarts.Com

The Hatch, WR15 8JT, Tenbury Wells

Wednesday 14 December 2016

Liberty Ship

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Orchestra Of The Swan Presents – Bach Doubled

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Ian Anderson Plays Jehro Tull

Worcester Cathedral, Worcester

The Convent Community Choirs Christmas Concert

The Convent, Stroud

Lonely Tourist

Café René, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Acoustic Folk Session

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Masterworks Concert 59 – Schubert And Chopin Series

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Thursday 15 December 2016

Attila The Stockbroker

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

A Victorian Music Hall Christmas Celebration

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Bourbon Alley Blues Band

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Convent Choirs Christmas Concert

The Convent, Stroud

Fights And Fires, Continents, Kick The Clown + More

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Up And Coming Local Musicians Talent Night

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Friday 16 December 2016

Soul Patrol

The Cross Keys, Malvern

David Busby

The Malt Shovel, Highley

The Crack, Screaming Dead, Borrowed Time, Chinese Burn

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Plastic Scene

O2 Institute, Birmingham

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra Big Band

Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

The Loved And Lost, Seasons Hollow, Hide Your Eyes

The Pig And Drum, Worcester

London Calling (Tribute To The Clash) + Ambition Demolition

The Iron Road, Evesham

Skrood

Millers Arms, Pershore

Trevor Burton Band

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

T.Rexmas With T.Rextasy!

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mad Mick

The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Live Blues Music Vintage Night With Sweet Talk

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Attila The Stockbroker (Post-Brexit, Post-Trump, Post-Truth...)

The Humdrum Express, Skewwhiff (Unplugged)

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

David Ian Roberts And Toby Hay

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Re-Booted

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Boo Hewerdine

The Convent, Stroud

Trevor Burton Band

Queens Head, Wolverley

Rayguns Look Real Enough

Café René, Gloucester

Tasha

The Red Lion, Evesham

Urban Cohorts

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Hills Angels

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tom Forbes

Ruby Jack's, Evesham

The Magoos

Drummonds, Worcester

The Official Receivers

The Marris Bar, Worcester

A Fistful Of Spookies (UK)

The Fold, Bransford

The Delray Rockets

The Kings Head, Tenbury

Tony Sands

The Bush Inn, Worcester

North Base

The Venue, Hereford

The Brethryn

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Wheel Sea

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Saturday 17 December 2016

Starvin' Rascals

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

After Dark

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar And Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

The White Feather Collective, Matt Woosey

The Cube, Malvern

Arcadia Roots, Plastic Scene & Dave Onions

St George's Hall, Bewdley

Sarah Warren (Band)

Saracens Head, Worcester

Sons Of Clogger, Harlequins, Orto

Booth Hall, Hereford

Rattlesnake Jake

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Tewkesbury Town Band

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Solomento

The Price Albert, Stroud

The Underground Revolution Presents, Harlequins, Sons Of

Clogger, Orto

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Rodney P And Skitz Uk

The Angel Centre, Worcester

Skrood

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

King Rocker

The Iron Road, Evesham

Groovyhead

The Cricketers, Worcester

All On A Winters Night

The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Will Killeen Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

John Banner Promotions Present The Searchers 9th Annual

Christmas Special

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Protocol

New Inn, Pershore

The Cracked Actors

The Pig and Drum, Worcester

Ignition Presents Our World Below?, Fueled Hate & Vomit Coffin

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Matt Peplow

The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

1st Year Anniversary Surprise

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Albion Christmas Band

The Convent, Stroud

Funk-In Sessions

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Ruzz Guitar's Blues Revue

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Mel & Him

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Protocol

New Inn, Pershore

Soul Stripper With: Sabotage

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Uncle Jim Band

The Cross Keys, Malvern

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Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Lounge Bar, Malvern

Journeyman

Green Dragon, Malvern

Handel Messiah

Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Jibberfish

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Roving Crows

Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

Autumn

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Kinstrife

The Plough, Hereford

Sunday 18 December 2016

Steve Ajao'S Blues Giants 4Pm

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Jeff Toye

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Tewkesbury Town Band

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Caroline'S Crooners

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Jazz Express

The Chestnut, Worcester

Astaria Quartet- Family Christmas Concert

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Lazy Sunday (Acoustic) With Kevin 'Spitz' Spittle 4pm

The Red Lion, Evesham

1st Year Anniversary Surprise

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Sunday Showcase

The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Winter Mountain

The Convent, Stroud

The Delray Rockets

The Actress And Bishop, Birmingham

Remi Harris (1:30Pm)

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Elisha Green

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Tuesday 20 December 2016

The Stubble Brothers

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Michael Buble - Kai Mckenzie

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Americas, Junior Weeb, Nuns Of The Tundra, Hipflask Virgins

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 21 December 2016

D-Ran D-Ran

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Mike Sanchez

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Funk-In Sessions

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

The Other Crowd

Café René, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

English Symphony Orchestra

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Thursday 22 December 2016

Santageddon

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Surprise Attacks & The Task in Hand Xmas Party: Bear Makes

Ninja / The Brackish / Black Boxes / Wax Futures

The Firefly, Worcester

Pay The Piper

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Nigel Clark, The Woo Town Hillbillies, Mark & Beanie

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Friday 23 December 2016

Spacehoppers

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Slade Uk

The Iron Road, Evesham

Black Knight

Millers Arms, Pershore

Jay & Eli
The Red Lion, Evesham

Mad Mick
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

The Sunshine Band
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Still Crazy
Queens Head, Wolverley

Solid Gone
Café René, Gloucester

Fabio & Grooverider
The Venue, Hereford

The Bar Flys
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Core
Drummonds, Worcester

Jasper Malone, Population 7 + The Connor Maher Quartet
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mister Wolf
The Swan Inn, Evesham

The Delray Rockets
The Golden Cross Inn, Sutton St. Nicholas

Brendon O'brian Live The Irish Music Man
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Delray Rockets
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Malpractice
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Saturday 24 December 2016

Reload Function
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Discofever
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Real Bones
The Wheelhouse Marina Bar & Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

The Straight Aces
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Mia & The Blackhawks
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Ferrets
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Stiff Joints & Eccles Breed
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Steve Desher
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Saint Nick
The Red Lion, Evesham

Christmas Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Delray Rockets
The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Monday 26 December 2016

Chicago Bytes
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Rubio / Bigger Than Seattle/ Pargeters Reunion1!!!!
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Bon Jovi Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Guns Or Roses
The Iron Road, Evesham

A Night With Chalky
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Boxing Night Special With 5 Piece Essential 80S Plus Dj
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Tuesday 27 December 2016

Dave Ayres Jazzgasm
The Price Albert, Stroud

Blackballed, Welcome Back Delta, Bleeding Hearts & Disco Tramps
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Charlie Baxter
Café René, Gloucester

Wednesday 28 December 2016

The Liquor And Poker Band
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Motorkill (Motorhead Tribute)
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Hip Priests, Autopsy Boys, Pizza Tramp, Leech Bleeders, Stew Rotter (Solo), Drag And Clobber.
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Hard Stairs
Café René, Gloucester

Tyler & Friends
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Thursday 29 December 2016

Fires That Divide
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

White Tyger + White Coast Rebels
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

He Happy Few
The Price Albert, Stroud

Ital Sounds-Tafari Way
The Firefly, Worcester

Suzy Conrad
Café René, Gloucester

Friday 30 December 2016

Take The Fifth, Plus Support
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Grizzleroot, Mikey Knowles And His Std's, Sunfire,
The Beauchamp Arms. Mappy Christmas, Malvern

The Bushburys
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Executives
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Nightshift
The Express Inn, Malvern

Chicago Bytes
Millers Arms, Pershore

Jay & Eli
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ace Band
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Lenny James & The Gator Squad
Queens Head, Wolverley

Shades Of Grey
The Red Lion, Evesham

Trip The Switch
Café René, Gloucester

The Future Set
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Brendon O'brian Live The Irish Music Man
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Saturday 31 December 2016

Missing Lynx
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Gravelly Hill
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Arcadia Roots
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

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

Planet Rock U.K.
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Jay & Eli
Cross Keys, Alcester

Ceilidh
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Skewwhiff + Dj's New Years Eve Party
The Pig and Drum, Worcester

New Years Eve Party With Beat Brothers
Atrix, Bromsgrove

Johnny Gold
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Voodoo Blue (Last Ever Gig) -Ticket Only - Fancy Dress
Queens Head, Wolverley

Last Ever GigWolfren Riverstick
The Red Lion, Evesham

Tom Forbes
Soho Bar, Cheltenham

Hennesea New Years Eve Party
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Plough, Upton Upon Severn

New Years Eve - Live 5:15 Plus Dj 8-00Pm
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds
Live And Let Live, Whitley

The Delray Rockets
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Stewart Anthony
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Bad Spaniel
The Plough, Hereford

Wednesday 04 January 2017

Jan Vaisey & Ian Harvey
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 05 January 2017

Olb: Broken Humanity (De), Clench Your Fist (Be), Horned (Fr), Revelations, Murder Circuit
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Friday 06 January 2017

Ash Mandrake
The Red Lion, Evesham

Stacey Green + Band (Cher Set)
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Strangers
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Luke Doherty Band
Millers Arms, Pershore

Heavy Oil
The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Johnny Cash Roadshow
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rebel Heroes
Café René, Gloucester

Chewie
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Saturday 07 January 2017

Midnight Run
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Muttley's B'day With Sons Of Liberty
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Whipjacks
The Chestnut, Worcester

Mike Skilbeck
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Kitchen Island Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Protocol
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 08 January 2017

Zoe Green Band 4Pm
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Vo Fletcher
The Chestnut, Worcester

Wednesday 11 January 2017

The 2 Anchors
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Juliette Bausor (Flute) And Alasdair Beatson (Piano)
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Thursday 12 January 2017

Waterloo – The Best Of Abba Tribute Show
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Second Thursday Session
The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Friday 13 January 2017

In2minds
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The 4 Rossis - (Status Quo Tribute)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Forty Blue Toes
Millers Arms, Pershore

Vehicle
Queens Head, Wolverley

50 SLAP NOVEMBER

Mike Simons
The Red Lion, Evesham

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Emily Barker With Lukas Drinkwater, The Dharma Bums
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

The Other Covers Trio
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Folk in The Foyer: Steve Hicks And Lynn Goulbourn
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

The Elo Experience
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 14 January 2017

Waiting For John
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Tide
The Iron Road, Evesham

Black Cat Bone
The Chestnut, Worcester

An Evening With Tom Paxton - Featuring Special Geusts
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Megan Aucott
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

The Sounds Of Rod Featuring Stan Terry
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Wassail
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Timeless Jazz
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Outcasts
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 15 January 2017

The Blue Road 4pm
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Trevor Emney Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Monday 16 January 2017

Tyler Massey
The Brewer's Arms, Malvern

Wednesday 18 January 2017

Vo & Tyler
The Three Kings, Malvern

Stephen K Amos: World Famous
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Saskia Griffiths Moore
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 19 January 2017

The Quireboys - Unplugged in The Uk
The Iron Road, Evesham

Black Cat Bone (Acoustic Trio)
The Plough, Worcester

Friday 20 January 2017

Kris Dollimore Evening Of Blues
Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

Los Pacaminos Featuring Paul Young
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunjay
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Journeyman
The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

When It Rains
Millers Arms, Pershore

Counterfeit Stones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Sharpeez
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Midnight City
Queens Head, Wolverley

Choirs Connected Winter Concert
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Little Dave
The Red Lion, Evesham

Sucrco Trio
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Aquarius
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

The Delray Rockets
Worleys The Swan, Stourport

Saturday 21 January 2017

Cada
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Ac/Dc Uk
The Iron Road, Evesham

Voodoo Stone
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Pete Boddis Band & Fifty Years Of Country Music
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mel & Him
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Definitive Elvis Experience
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Dinosaur Squeek
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

The Ferretts
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 22 January 2017

Jazz Express
The Chestnut, Worcester

Masterclass Given By Trio Epomeo 12 Noon
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sunday Showcase
The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Worcester Concert Club Presents Ensemble Epomeo
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Tuesday 24 January 2017

Philharmonia Orchestra
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Wednesday 25 January 2017

Woe To The Provoker
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 26 January 2017

Limehouse Lizzy
The Iron Road, Evesham

David Knopfler & Harry Bogdanovs 40th Anniversary Tour 2017
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Uncover Present TBC
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Kast Off Kinks
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Friday 27 January 2017

Melvin Hancox One Man Show!
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Strays
The Bush Inn, Worcester

The Miffs and Another Fine Mess
The Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

One Night Of Ska
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Gun Runner
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Chop Suey (Soad Tribute) + Killswitch Uk
The Iron Road, Evesham

Final Warning
Millers Arms, Pershore

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

Paul Jones & Dave Kelly
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Under A Banner
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Liquor & Poker
Queens Head, Wolverley

One Night Of Ska
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Neil Ivison
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vehicle
Lamplighter, Stratford

Aquarius
The Black Star, Stourport

Saturday 28 January 2017

Claude Bourbon
Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

G&T's
Saracens Head, Worcester

Let's Hang On
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Kemestree Set
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Reapter (Italy) + Support
The Iron Road, Evesham

From The Jam + Chinese Burn
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Pete Hyde & Friends
The Chestnut, Worcester

Bobbie Williams
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Pete Harrington
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Simon Weston
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Gagreflex + Friends
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Noel Gallagher Tribute - By Chasing Yesterday
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Quantum
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 29 January 2017

Born Healer 4Pm
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Mark Leedham Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Delray Rockets (afternoon)
The Actress And Bishop, Birmingham

Chantel McGregor
Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

Gloucester Cajun And Zydeco Festival 2017
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Tuesday 31 January 2017

Fairport Convention
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Listings for January are complete at time of going to press.
Please visit the website, social media or press for updates

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 3rd Jan 17, Billy Baker: Sunrise to Sunset, Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 7th Habitats Exhibition The Courtyard, Hereford

Until 7th French Film Festival, The Courtyard Hereford

1st Life Drawing at the Boars Head, Kidderminster

2nd/3rd Winter Art Fair, Eastside Projects Digbeth

3rd Digital Story telling, Mistletoe Festival, Pump Rooms Tenbury 4pm

3rd Story Jams at Mistletoe Festival, Kings Head Tenbury 8pm

3rd Wheely Different Choir presents A Christmas Cracker
Kidderminster Town hall, 2.30pm

4th Zorro's Christmas Adventure, Bewdley museum, 1pm £4

7th Cezanne et Moi (film) The Courtyard, Hereford

8th Rosebud, Ferric Lux, Mothwasp, AV night, Firefly Worcester

10th Klik Klik Xmas character board, Kidderminster Town hall 12-3pm

14th Worcester Writers Group meeting Luna Bar, Swan with Two Nicks 7.30

17th Winter Paint Jam & Art & Craft market, Boars Head, Kidderminster

17th Street Entertainment, Kidderminster Town centre. 11-4pm

17th/18th Winter wonderland and Grotto weekend, Bewdley Museum.

19th Festive Craft Drop in for 4-11 year olds, Artrix Bromsgrove

Jan

4th-29th Midlands Textile Forum exhibition, Artrix Bromsgrove

9th New Dancefest term starts

11th Worcester Writers Group meeting Lunar Bar, Swan with Two Nicks

20th Kings and Queens of Comedy, St Swithuns Institute, Worcester

28th Festival of the Dead Birmingham

THE MARR'S BAR

DEC
JAN 2016/17

Jasper Malone
Friday 23rd December



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

Tuesday 13th December

OLB: Strike Back

One Down, Stranded Liberate Me

Cost: £4 on the door

Thursday 15th December

Fights And Fires

Continents + Kick The Clown

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Friday 16th December

The Official Receivers

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday 22nd December

Nigel Clark (Dodgy), Woo Town

Hillbillies, Mark & Beanie

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 23rd December

Jasper Malone solo, Population 7

The Connor Maher Quartet

£5 in advance

Friday 30th December

Take The Fifth

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Thursday 5th January

OLB: Broken Humanity (DE), Clench

Your Fist (BE), Horned (FR),

Revelations, Murder Circuit

Cost: £4 on the door

Friday 13th January

The Other Covers Trio

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Thursday 26th January

UnCover - Live Bands & DJs TBC

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 27th January

Under A Banner + Support

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 28th January

Noel Gallagher Tribute - By Chasing

Yesterday

£5 in advance £7.50 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

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