

# SLAP

Issue 67

Mar 2017

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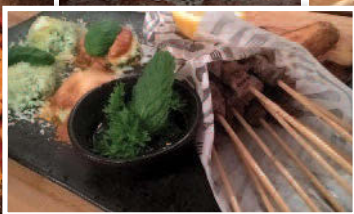


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# SLAP

Mar 2017 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Well February shot by in the blink of an eye and here we are again! Welcome to the March edition of Slap. I was hoping to say 'Spring is in the air' but I've just seen the weather forecast and it's far from Spring-like.

It really feels like it's been a long winter of discontent with news of more venue closures almost weekly. The latest to go at the end of February was the **Pig and Drum** in Worcester which has been prominent on the local music scene for a few years now. Thanks to the efforts of landlady **Rachel Cale** bands from out of town loved playing there. We don't yet know the long term fate of the **Boar's Head** in Kidderminster since **Sid & Sandra** announced they're moving on in the summer, But I don't think it'll be the last to go. With business rates rises due very soon and so many people feeling the pinch, these places are really suffering. There are rumours of other venues around the counties who may also be shutting their doors soon. And it's not just the music scene that suffers either, many of these spaces are now multi functional art spaces as well as platforms for comedy, spoken word and poetry.

On a more positive note, **The Paul Pry** re-opened its doors under new the ownership of brewer **Alex Pope** and family. which has the potential of being a great little venue. We at Slap wish them all the best for a long and prosperous future.

On another positive note, Slap were proud to sponsor the second of the **UnCover** promotion nights on Thursday. A big thank you to **Five Days North**, **Ivory Wave**, **Nth Cave & Ben Dallow** for treating us to a top night of Indie tunes in Worcester. We are looking forward to a more electronic theme at the next one on the **30th March** with **April Towers** from Nottingham and more to be confirmed. Please support this along with all local events...

Whilst we're looking to the future, we bring you all the latest news and line-up announcements of some of the many local festivals, so we can all start to plan and look forward to an exciting summer ahead...

*Excite-Ed*



Front Cover Image: The Fidgets by Josh Foster  
www.joshfphoto.com

## Shhhh! The Future is Orange Prize Plums!

If you're passing through Droitwich soon, why not pick up a free orange bookmark from the library, heritage centre, shops etc? They're printed with the dates and details of this year's Droitwich **Spa ArtFest** which runs for three weekends from **Sat 15 July** to **Sat 5 August** - there's a different take to each weekend with music being the focus of the first - poetry, literature and theatre the second - and there'll be a variety of events for the final weekend on the theme '**Droitwich in Pictures**' - sounds interesting!

## Back on Parade

The team behind this year's **Worcester Carnival** are said to be '**hugely excited**' about plans for this year's event after the 2016 no-show. This year's event on **Sat 1 July** aims to include a 'parade village', funfair and fireworks - and the hunt has begun for this year's carnival King and Queen - more info at [worcestercarnival.co.uk](http://worcestercarnival.co.uk)

## 'One World in our Park'

**Friends of Fort Royal Park** and **Commandery Gardens** in Worcester are celebrating after receiving an £8000 Big Lottery grant towards holding a family-friendly 'One World In Our Park' festival to celebrate and share diverse cultures - it's hoped to take part under the **Worcester Festival** umbrella towards the end of August - watch this space...

## Buzz about Wychwood

Plenty of festival announcements over the last few weeks with **Wychwood** confirming **Billy Bragg** and **Buzzcocks** for the Friday main stage, **Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark** for the Saturday and **The Levellers** headlining on the Sunday night - plus others still to be announced - Wychwood takes place on Cheltenham Racecourse from 2-4 June!

## Top Prize for Local Talent

Congratulations to **Sam Clines** from Crowle near Worcester for 'beating' 10,000 other performers to win the **Open Mic UK** talent competition at the NEC in Birmingham. Sam's prize includes studio time, a music video and promotion from a professional PR company - previous winners include the Brit and Grammy-nominated Birdy...

## Pro-ject Ministry

Worcester DJ **Jay Newman** is celebrating after being signed to Ministry Of Sound as a worldwide touring resident DJ. Jay's best known locally for running the **Worcester Warehouse Pro-ject** and has played all across Europe from Ibiza Rocks to Budapest and says that he's '*super excited as this new role can take me anywhere in the world*' - make sure you send us a postcard mate!

## Peace - Respect!

Fair play to **Harry Koisser**, frontman of local original indie-rockers **Peace** for appearing in BBC's Inside Out programme and talking about the steps they take to support and protect fans from sexual assault at gigs - with vigilance towards such attacks the focus of their security briefing before events. They've been praised by shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper who commended bands like **Peace** for calling out against such behaviour - well done lads!!

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## Prize Plums!

The annual **Pershore Plum Festival** is again scheduled to take place from July with the coronation of the **Plum Princess**, to the end of August of and the fabled Plum Fayre - amazingly the award-winning event dates back to at least 1920 and organisers are calling on residents and newcomers to get involved with this year's celebrations of all fruits of the subgenus Prunus - [pershoreplumfestival.org.uk](http://pershoreplumfestival.org.uk) for more info...

## Ferst of Festival Feeder

Joining previously-announced **Alabama 3** and **Seth Lakeman** on the main stage at this year's **Lakefest** will be Welsh rockers **Feeder**, Irish folk/world outfit **Kila** - and the legend that is **Dr Feelgood** founder **Wilko Johnson**! **Lakefest** takes place at **Eastnor Deer Park** from **10-14 Aug** - tickets and info at [lakefest.co.uk](http://lakefest.co.uk)

## Brand in Court...

**The Courtyard in Hereford** has announced that comedian **Jo Brand** will be performing there on **Wed 24 May** in support of the theatre itself and Leominster-based charity **Megan Baker House**, as she's a patron of both bodies. The QI, Live At The Apollo and HIGNFY funster will do two performances on the night at 6.30pm and 8.30pm - details at [courtyard.org.uk](http://courtyard.org.uk)

## Keepin' it Surreal

**Nozstock: The Hidden Valley** is again quietly proud at winning awards for sustainability and innovative access from **Attitude Is Everything**. **Nozstock** was also shortlisted in more categories than any other event in the **2016 UK Festival Awards** - this year's event takes place from **21-23 July** with the theme '**Keepin' It Surreal**' and headliners include **Seasick Steve**, **Happy Mondays** and of course **The Stiff Joints**!!

## Oops!

Slightly belated apologies to **Capital** and **Lost Boy Scout** stalwart **Anthony Rooney** who joined **Squeeze** frontman **Glenn Tillbrook** on stage at the **Huntingdon Hall** in Worcester back in November for a joint rendition of '*Take me I'm Yours*' - we freely admit confusing him with Martin Rooney who's apparently a UK 400m runner - but Rooney's reliably assured us that he's never run that far in his life before - oh well could have been worse...

## Farewell to a Young Dude


**Mott the Hoople** founding member **Pete Overend Watts** has died aged 69. The bassist played on songs including *Roll Away The Stone* and the group's best known hit *All The Young Dudes*, written and produced by **David Bowie**. Watts, who lived just outside Ross-on-Wye also ran a large retro store in Hereford, selling specialist clothing, unusual antiquities, instruments and rare music and wrote a book, *The Man Who Hated Walking*, which was published in 2013. **Morgan Fisher**, a former **Mot the Hoople** bandmate, posted a tribute on Facebook to Watts's "*bravery, honesty, generosity, open heart and still-devastatingly witty humour during his last days*".

## Calling all musicians...

Worcester Music Festival artists application process is now OPEN.

If you would like to take part in this year's festival which takes place from 16-18 September you can apply on-line at [worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply](http://worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply). Since applications opened at the start of the year, there have been over 600 applications, covering a wide range of musical styles.





# CIRCLE OF SWORDS

**Loz Phillips, Hanan Qattan  
& regular guest artists**

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**Circleofswordsworcester**



**Circleofswords**

**Clik Clik** provided the 'immersiveness' to a gin tasting event last month in the beautiful **St Swithuns Church**, Worcester.

Performers, Clik Clik extras, Gin manufacturers and the public joined together to create a journey back to the Georgian history of the church and of course, gin production and addiction!



Programmed as part of the new arts focus for the church, by the **Churches Conservation Trust**, this event was a lively and playful interactive experience!

[klikklikcollective.com](http://klikklikcollective.com) [visitchurches.org.uk/stswithuns](http://visitchurches.org.uk/stswithuns)

## A bra's tale

**Artists Workhouse** has a new exhibition this month telling the stories of nine discarded bras as a representation of how we may present ourselves to the world compared to what is actually underneath. Called *'Nine women'*, textile artist **Elena Thomas** uses her practice of obsessive stitching to disguise or draw attention to the tales of love, loss and lust, joy and sadness, resentment and hope.

Artist Workhouse Studley, Warwickshire 25th March - 2nd April  
[artistsworkhouse.com](http://artistsworkhouse.com) [elenathomas.co.uk](http://elenathomas.co.uk)



## Sketch the City

**Carl Lavia** aka **'Sketch'** has recently completed the finishing touches to a large-scale sketch of the entire city of Birmingham, which is currently on display in the city.

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The Birmingham city artwork for this on-going creative project marks the beginning of Carl's long-term personal ambition, the attempt to sketch large-scale, all 69 cities within the UK!

The Birmingham artwork, now showing at the **Museum & Art Gallery**, took 6 weeks to plan, map and sketch the entire city. He chose to depict Birmingham from an aerial viewpoint with an aim to capture an intensely intricate all-encompassing experience. The sketch was created with the use of various ink pens including technical and the ubiquitous 'bic' pen on archival paper.

**Carl Lavia** is a self-taught sketch artist, currently based in the city of



London, however he has always had an affinity with Birmingham having spent a lot of time there during his childhood. It was while he was visiting last year that he decided it would become his next passion project.

He is currently in the finishing stages of completing city number 2, a large-scale Manchester ink sketch. It has taken 7 weeks and he is currently securing exhibition space for the public to view this next exciting cityscape.

You can see the sketch until the end of the year at **Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery** and follow his journey around the country on Twitter @Sketchnthecity [sketchnthecity.com](http://sketchnthecity.com)

## The Changing Face of Load Street

**Bewdley Museum** re-opens on the 4th of this month and to celebrate, along with some live music and entertainment, they are launching an exhibition of previously unseen photographs from the museum's archives, showing a fascinating insight into the shop fronts of the town over the past 150 years. The exhibition is presented by the Friends of **Bewdley Museum**, **Bewdley Civic Society** and **Bewdley Historical research Group** and runs from 4th March – 7th May.





Arts submissions  
& events email Kate at  
[arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)

## Garage Open Lecture Series

Meadow Arts and University of Worcester present some of the most exciting contemporary artists working in the UK, talking about their practice. This is the second year that the contemporary arts organisation and the university's Fine Art department have worked together on the lecture series. Last year's success means that the 2017 talks have moved to award winning venue The Hive, in central Worcester. Talks are free and can be booked online.

**Wed 8 Mar - Faye Claridge**

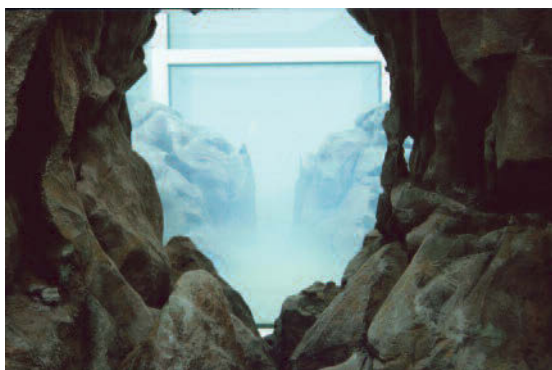
**Wed 15 Mar - Mariele Neudecker**

**Wed 22 Mar - AJ Stockwell & Benjamin Owen\***

**Wed 29 Mar - Heather & Ivan Morison**

All talks 4:30-6:30pm @The Hive, Worcester except \*Stockwell & Owen @The Garage, Hylton Road.

Visit [www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org) for bookings & more info.



**Mariele Neudecker**, *Over and Over, Again and Again*. Courtesy the artist and **Galerie Barbara Thumm**



by Paul Kindersley

## Ginny does life drawings at BHG

Get ready for a very special evening in April when the one and only, 'totally fabulous' **Ginny Lemon** will be making a guest appearance at the **BHG's Life Drawing** session. She will be attending the event in one of her many glorious outfits; you are in for a real treat!

Participants are invited to come and draw whilst they enjoy a pint. This is expected to be busy so get there early!

£5 per person. Materials are provided. 6th April 7.30pm. Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster.

Image: Faye Claridge, *Weighty Friend*

**GARAGE OPEN LECTURE SERIES**  
**ARTISTS TALKS @ THE HIVE**

Wed 8 Mar	Faye Claridge	<b>FREE artists' talks 4:30-6:30pm</b> @ the Hive, Worcester (except * @The Garage, Hylton Road) visit <a href="http://www.meadowarts.org">www.meadowarts.org</a> to book
Wed 15 Mar	Mariele Neudecker	
Wed 22 Mar	AJ Stockwell & Benjamin Owen*	
Wed 29 Mar	Heather & Ivan Morison	

## Strong Rooms The Future

The **Arts Council** funded **Strong Rooms Project** came to a close at the end of February but Archives West Midlands are ensuring a legacy for the installation (which toured the West Midlands during the summer of 2016) by offering it for hire to heritage organisations.

The two shipping containers, pictured here, were installed, consecutively, for one week each in Rugby, Coventry, Dudley and Worcester, attracting around 7,250 visitors. **Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service** worked closely with **Warwickshire County Council Archives, Culture Coventry, Dudley Archives** and artist **Mohammed Ali (Soul City Arts)**



along with its production manager, **Steve Mclean**.

For the exterior, Mohammed depicted the story of a Warwickshire lady, Dorothea Feilding, who served the allied troops in World War 1 as an ambulance driver and nurse and whose collection of family letters are curated by the County Record Office. The interior of each container houses several art pieces reflecting stories from across the West Midlands via audio and visual media.

For more details please visit [strongrooms.org.uk](http://strongrooms.org.uk)

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Over the next two months we've got some world class musicians coming to the Worcester Arts Workshop. On **March 23rd Kel Elliot**, a double bass player who uses music to tell stories, joins us. On her travels she meets and talks with strangers, collecting their stories and turns them into songs that feature in her future shows and albums. She and her **Three Man Orchestra** have been featured on BBC Radio 2 for their innovative work and immersive shows.



Speaking of orchestras, **Amadou Diagne** was a drummer for **L'Orchestre National du Senegal** before moving to England and teaming up with his band **Group Yakar**. Since they formed, they have been building up a reputation as one best African percussion experiences in the UK, and have developed a musical style that takes influence from a diverse range of influences, from Funk to West African Praise music via Afrobeat and Mbalax. The Worcester Arts Workshop forms part of their UK tour, and if you can make it down on the **29th April** you're in for a treat as Amadou promises to create a dancing frenzy through his Senegalese rhythms.

Kel Elliot: Truth and Tall Tales, 23rd March 2017, 20:00. Tickets £10/£7 (NUS)

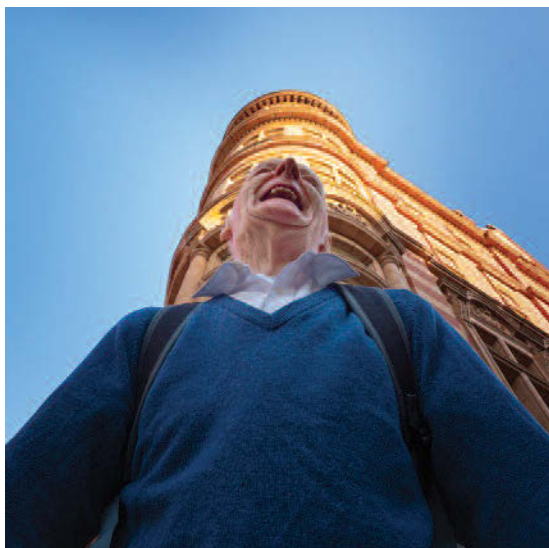
**Amadou Diagne and The Group Yakar**, 29th April 2017, 20:00. Tickets £10/£7 (NUS)

Tickets to both these shows are available online at [worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk) or by contacting our office on 01905 25053.

## Scooter Shooter by Miles Pilling

**Scooter Shooter** captures life on the streets of Worcester with a stills camera and a scooter. The ex-BBC cameraman and director travels using a mobility scooter after developing motor neurone disease. This gives him a unique perspective to take street photographs. His catch line is *"I capture what moves me from the scooter that moves me"*.

"Scooter Shooter" is supporting 26 Miles 4 MND – a photography based campaign raising awareness of MND / ALS and creating



much-needed funding for the Motor Neurone Disease Association – the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focused on MND care, research and campaigning.

Why not come along to the open view **Fri 3rd March 7.30 - 9.30pm** and see if he captures you.

**Worcester Arts Workshop** presents a range of creative activities including courses and workshops, performances, exhibitions, children's activities and film as well as spaces for hire. The doors are open in this lively and welcoming environment! Come along and see what we have to offer.

# Chance to Dance Company and Friends

Dancefest's **Chance to Dance Company**, for experienced dancers aged 50 and over, share their latest work in alongside invited guests **Growing Older (Dis)Gracefully Dance** from Liverpool, whose dancers range in age from 55 to 80. They're joined by local **Chance to Dance groups** for an afternoon of dance performances and films. £6/£5 concessions

Saturday 18 March, 3pm.

Spires Theatre, HoW College, Worcester WR1 2ES



# Circuit youth dance performances

Circuit is a packed programme of high quality new dance performed by young talent from across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The work includes contemporary, urban and other dance styles performed by groups including 2



**Faced Youth Dance Company, Dancefest Elevate Youth Dance Company, Hereford College of Arts, Worcester Sixth Form**

# The Haven | Worcester Cathedral

**Worcester cathedral** was alive with colour this month, hosting the **Haven Exhibition** by users of **Maggs Day Care centre** for Worcester's homeless as well as the beautiful panels by textile artist Jacqui Parkinson.



The paintings, collages and creative writing of Maggs users highlight the issues that beset the city's homeless population who have worked on these pieces over the past year, but also highlight their hopes and dreams. The artwork on display until 15th February include moving, personal poetry, paintings that are beautifully creative and collages created by various members of the art group that are bright and full of hope.

Meanwhile the the embroidery exhibition is part way through its three-year national tour of Britain's cathedrals. The 11 panels

depict scenes from revelation, the last book of the bible and full of exciting images such as seven-headed dragons and crowds of angels. This is possibly the largest touring exhibition of its type and really catches the eye. The three-metre long panels present a host of very graphic images, which can easily be enjoyed from afar. Yet closer inspection reveals incredible detail in the individual scales

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**College, Translucent Youth Dance Company, Droitwich Spa High School and Aspire Dance Studio. Dancefest produces Circuit in Partnership** with the host schools to give youth dancers the opportunity to showcase their work as well as watch and be inspired by each other.

Tuesday 28 March, 7pm, Hereford College of Arts, College Road Campus, Hereford, HR1 1EB

Wednesday 29 March, 7.30pm, Droitwich Spa High School, Briar Mill, WR9 0AA

£6/£5 concessions Limited number of £2 tickets for under 18s (only available online in advance)

# Coming up in April, 'The Poetry Ballroom'

In ancient times, the arts were as one - the words the bards created and recited merged with music, and the active expression of the human body gave them expression and physical form.

As the current **Worcestershire Poet Laureate, Suz Winspear** wants to bring artists back together once again and so has invited Dancefest to take part in this project with **Worcestershire LitFest Fringe** [worcslitfest.co.uk](http://worcslitfest.co.uk).

Dance and Poetry now seem like distant art forms, but both can speak to one another, dancers and poets can interact, word and dance can come together to create something new...

Welcome to the Poetry Ballroom!

Sunday 2 April, 7.30pm, Angel Centre, Worcester, WR1 3QN [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk)

**dancefest**



if a dragon or faces of a choir of angels. The artist's faith really shines from the work and it's clear she enjoyed this project. If you missed it at Worcester look out for it in other cathedrals around the country, details are on the artist's website: [www.jacqui-textile.com/exhibitions](http://www.jacqui-textile.com/exhibitions)



With so many beautiful things to see inside the already beautiful Cathedral, it truly is a haven of peace and beauty within the bustling city.

*Sarah Ganderton*



# Sarah Edwards Spare Room Arts



*"I think in pictures. I don't think I 'became' an artist, I think it's just me, (is that a cliché?). As a kid I spent my whole time drawing, I wanted to be a fashion designer, a famous artist, an actress or a shark investigator (marine biologist, but at the time I didn't know what one of those was!). My first art sale was a screen print of a Yucca plant for £30, which is a load of money when you're only 8!"*

**Sarah Edwards** is a Worcestershire artist and maker working as **"Spare Room Arts"**, a creative venture focusing on community and outdoor arts in all mediums, including mixed media, transforming found objects and making 3D creations.

She studied Art and Performance at college and University, trying her hand at acting but could never remember lines, so any dreams of acting soon went out the window!

*"I mostly made them up; great at adlibbing, terrible at Shakespeare!"*

After travelling in India aged 24, she returned to the UK with a bag full of incense and no job, so found herself staying in her sister's spare room. That's where **"Spare Room Arts"** was born.

*"I really like people. They fascinate me. Human behaviour intrigues me. I like the way art can provoke reactions in people: joy, disgust, empathy, guilt; not many other things can do that. I love the work of Grayson Perry, the way classical design and pottery have been used to convey the darker side of humanity. I appreciate all forms of art but when making my own I always lean towards installation art. I like art you experience, touch, walk in and out of, get involved with. I like the interaction between the viewer and the viewed."*

The ethos of Spare Room Arts was to do my own work but also to work with the larger community so I started to run workshops, ticking all the boxes for what I wanted to achieve. I especially like working with people that are not usually exposed to the arts. I firmly believe everyone is capable of something and that motivated me to get the ball rolling and work with as many different people as possible."



Sarah's work takes her to events and festivals across the country as well as organisations and schools. She is passionate about promoting creativity to a wide range of people in diverse ways.

*"In 2007 I started working for music festivals. Having always loved music, I sold all the instruments I could play (said loosely) to go to Glastonbury when I was 16 and pretty much knew then I would never make it as a musician, the way in for me was through art."*

*"I started to develop the idea of interactive workshops, drop in installation making with the vision of creating one big piece of artwork over the course of the weekend."*

This idea took off and Sarah has worked for festivals including Latitude, End of the Road, Cambridge Folk and many more. She has since moved onto coordinating whole arts areas at festivals and events nationwide.

*"Currently I'm working on projects in primary schools. Art isn't a big part of the National Curriculum any more but its really important children are exposed to it. The arts are*

*vital and yet they're just not valued in the same way as other subjects.*

I am also working on some new community initiatives encouraging socialising in the local community; engaging with people with physical disabilities at Malvern Cube and similar sessions in villages across Wychavon with creative workshops for older people to engage in, usually while eating biscuits!

Another new venture takes me to the charity Shelter in Birmingham with art projects for homeless families. We don't often think of children being homeless but it's a very real thing.

Art can be pretty but I prefer it when it's a bit gritty with something to say."

Get involved or follow Sarah Edwards on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @SpareRoomArts

# New Art West Midlands

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum is celebrating emerging talent with a new exhibition of graduate art. For the first time Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum will be taking part in the annual, region wide showcase of emerging contemporary artists, **New Art West Midlands**. The exhibition runs across four museums and galleries in the West Midlands celebrating the work of 31 artists who have graduated from the region's six art schools within the last three years.

The artworks from New Art West Midlands compliment the **David Cox** and his contemporaries exhibition it sits alongside, demonstrating the long history of creating, collecting and appreciating great art in the West Midlands. David Cox was himself a local artist, born in Deritend, Birmingham in 1783 he went on to become one of Britain's best loved landscape artists.

**Philippa Tinsley**, Museums Worcestershire Senior Curator says: *"We're really excited to have the opportunity to celebrate some of the West Midland's most exciting emerging talent. There's such a range of artworks in the exhibition, from photography to sculpture and video, it's a great contrast to the watercolours of Cox, Turner and Constable also on display."*

Over 180 people applied to take part in **New Art West Midlands** 2017. With four venues, six universities and colleges and 31 artists, It is the largest showcase of its type in the region. Now in its fifth year, it has established itself as an important aid in developing the careers of artists. Previous exhibitors have seen their work



purchased for the national **Arts Council Collection** and have gone on to achieve solo exhibitions in respected galleries.

New Art West Midlands runs until 14th May at these four galleries: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, MAC Birmingham, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

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



**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**

**adverts@slapmag.co.uk**

## Steve Wilson | County Arts Officer

A couple of years ago I attended an event at The University of Worcester and gave a talk about my job and my career. It was a good event and I tried to make my talk as entertaining as possible while trying to pass on some nuggets of advice. There were other guest speakers including those who were just beginning their own business careers. At the end the organisers summarised it by saying it was great to hear from those at the beginning of their work journey and (looking at me) and those who were at their pinnacle. It made me laugh as I have never thought that my present job is the height of anything but merely something I stumbled into, like someone who has had one to many but has landed in a place where he feels good in.



To quote the Leader of The Western World I am a finely tuned machine but I won't always will be (Mrs Wilson will say this took place around 2011) and when my time will come to not be the County Arts Officer and I want to ensure there are several others who can come and take on a leadership role in the arts. Indeed there is a whole number of us who have been in our roles in the arts for quite some time and thus it seems wholly desirable and sensible that we look now to nurture and support a whole new

group of creatives and try to keep them in the county. Of course keeping talented artists in the 'Shire is not easy but we need to support those that are studying and practicing here and try and to provide as many ways in which these emerging artists can develop and feel important.

This is why providing greater residence and developing artists is part of a **1000 Days**. When I graduated in 1926 or whenever I had no idea of the opportunities available to me and it can be a lonely and somewhat scary existence. Not every artist can feel confident to make their own mark and so we are trying to find ways in which we can help. **WAP**, through the **Elmley Foundation** and the **University of Worcester** have been running a scheme called **Moving on Staying On** which has seen five artists been given mentors and support and we were thrilled that one of these **BLOK** have been given an award by **New Art West Midlands** for developing their own studio space, while another, **Provisional Act** have had their first theatre show.

Another way is through networking and showcasing new work and our programme **Jump Start** aims to do such a thing. There are broadly two groups here, one that is doing Performing Arts and we have a new showcase at the Hive on the 12th of March. Our **Worcester Visual Arts Meet up** is being run in conjunction with **The Kiln** and **F8 Creates** as well as **The Worcester Arts Workshop**. We had a great evening at **WAW** on 15th February with guest speakers and a really nice vibe. Please follow this on facebook on the **Jump Start** pages and/or follow **WAP** on social media. Come along to these events and support what are looking to do, which is to have a sense of an artist collective and to keep making this such a good place to do arts in.

**Greg Smith** from the **Kiln** and **F8 Creates** who is playing a major part in this work said 'We've setup Worcester Visual Arts Meetup for visual artists, designers, painters, and illustrators to listen to inspiring speakers, network and learn from one another, and find out about local art initiatives that they can get involved with.'





seriousness, it has been an amazing few years and everyone is incredibly grateful for the opportunities and good times that we have all had at the venue. We all wish them well on their journey and am looking forward to many more parties and events before they leave in June.

Speaking of events, there are some bostin ones coming up!

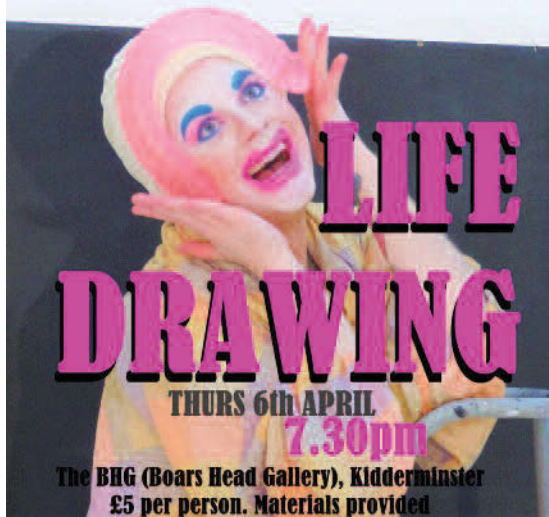
**Life Drawing** is taking on a new twist with an exciting new wave of models, starting on **Thurs 2nd March** with **Cosplayers, Estelle and Ash** will be modelling



for us in the gallery in some of their unique **Cosplay** outfits. Then in April, we have a certain shrinking violet who goes by the name of **Ginny**

**Lemon** coming to show us how it's done in some of her tremendous outfits and bringing a whole lot of charisma, uniqueness, nerve and talent. Classes start at 7.30pm and cost £5 per person with materials provided. Arrive early to get a good seat.

## GINNY Does...



We're just putting our selves back together after the news that **Sid, Sandra** and family will be departing the Boars Head, which also means **The BHG (Boars Head Gallery)** will be shutting up shop. In all

On **Thursday 16th March** we will also be launching our monthly all girl art & craft group, we're calling '**SnatchCraft**'. Snatchcraft is an all girl monthly for birds that like to craft, for any levels and any specialisms. Each session will kick off with a workshop where there will be a demonstration and opportunity for everyone to have a go. Materials will be provided as will obligatory pink wafers. Sessions will also present an open forum for ladies to discuss techniques, ask questions, find opportunities and discover those words to Dido songs we could never work out. The group will also develop ideas and strategies to support one another and formulate exhibitions, shows, events and root touch ups. £5 per person.

And of course, there will be a goddam bar, no need to stash Lambrini in your handbags. Hosted by **Coz and Meg**.



Meanwhile, The **WEA** classes are in full swing across Worcestershire, with classes in art, drama, dance and creative writing to name but a few. The Friday morning drama class is lead by **Judith Farrar** and **Sarah Tamar** and are working with **Vamos Theatre and Arts** etc on their performance at **Kidderminster Arts Festival 2017**. The group works with many people who are coping with various physical and mental



health issues and promotes confidence through creativity. For me, it has been a real great experience to work with such a diverse group and using masked theatre has been a real liberating experience and we are all excited for the summer performance. For more information, do follow **WEA Arts Worcestershire** on Facebook or for more information about **The BHG (Boars Head Gallery)** keep an eye on our facebook page too!

[www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk](http://www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk)

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

Coz

# Sœur

## The Broken Oak Duet + Chiyoda Ku The Marris Bar | 23rd March

Sœur will be returning to **The Marris Bar** in March to treat fans to their brutal hard-rock. They'll be joined by **Chiyoda Ku** who have been dubbed as "one of the best instrumental acts in the UK" by Circuit Sweet. The aspiring trio will undeniably take the venue by surprise, unleashing their controlled math rock that they've brought up for us from the South West. Backed by their sold-out EP 'Not Listening', you'll be desperate to listen to the Bristolians as they unleash those long-titled conceptual tracks that shudder through various stages of pandemonium and freedom.



**The Broken Oak Duet** will also be joining the line-up, just weeks after the release of debut 9-track LP 'Terrain'. If the album's anything to go by, their set will leave you breathless. Without the distraction of vocals, effects or bassists, their sound is stimulating and boundary-pushing, hard and riff-heavy, dizzying and heart-shattering. You'll hear the opening notes of the duo's sound and immediately be ready for the onslaught of their impressive dynamism. As **Scene**

**Better Days** says, they're "a tightly knotted, swaggering instrumental-only beast that prowls the room" and there's no better way to put it.

But let's be honest, Sœur will undoubtedly be the most impressive of the night. Acting as a complete assault on the senses, they're both brutal and soulful, bringing hard-rock into something as emotive as it is carefree. With vocal lines that tangle and intertwine, riffs so substantial they've got their own post code and a beat that ties everything down with industrial power, this will be a sound of colossal proportions. Prepare your eardrums because, despite only being a trio, Sœur will be making the noise of an act double their size and preparing more earworms than anyone thought could be possible.



# APRIL TOWERS

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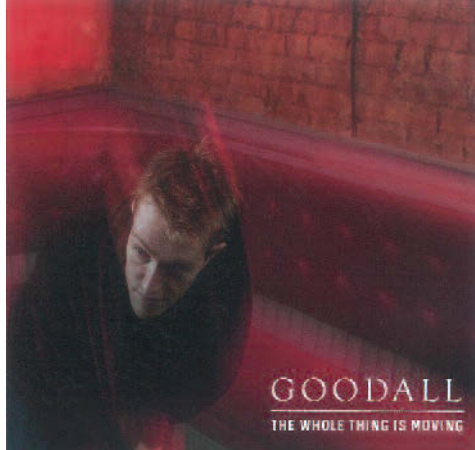


## Goodall | The Whole Thing Is Moving

A year or so ago I had the great pleasure of reviewing the debut solo affair by singer-songwriter (**Jack**) **Goodall** entitled *Canada*, the disc was an intriguing, diverse affair, moving effortlessly between genres. One minute upbeat bombastic indie, the next hushed and rootsy, interspersed with blues, electronica and even jazz. I concluded the review with 'maverick genius, visionary and true originator' high praise indeed.

Well it turns out that straight after the release of *Canada*, Goodall returned to the studio to work on a follow up, a disc inspired by the funk of such pioneers as Fela Kuti and Funkadelic, whilst inspired by his dad's experience of living in Lagos.

Stylistically different from anything offered on *Canada*, *The Whole Thing Is Moving* is an incredible leap. Where the debut enthralled with diversity, the follow-up locks into a groove. Elastic rhythms collide with infectious hooks, keen melodies with contagious vocal refrains, as Goodall speaks to the body and soul. The album opens with *Offline* and what sounds like computer coding (**Kate Wilkins** on Saucillator!!) before an insatiable groove joins the mix along with Goodall's hazy, half spoken drawl, accompanied by subtle funk plucks and pattered beats, all leading towards an addictive choral burst, as Jack harmonises with himself on this skittering funk-pop masterpiece. Enhanced even further with a clever scratchy guitar middle section that bubbles subtly before once more bursting into that delicious hook.



As the album's title suggests the tracks continue to move and compel, *No Reply* features an instantly infectious choppy Afro-funk like riff complimented further by **Kate Wilkins** featured keys, whilst vocally, **Goodall** channels an Ian Drury like spoken mantra. *Spark* provides a compelling album centre-piece, opening as if an under-produced acoustic demo with Goodall delicately crooning before the production values kick in and delivers a Kendrick Lamarr like flow. The opening of *Snuffbox* features a subdued piano motif interrupted by a fizzling electric guitar, before taking a sharp left and heading off in a completely new and urgent direction with group vocals and jerky riffs aplenty.

The album concludes with a couple of tracks lyrically inspired by the aforementioned experiences of Jack's father and the state of an ever changing world. The first, *More Than I Wanted*, may only last for a minute and a half but completely bewitches, as Goodall strips away all instrumentation using only his own vocal harmonies to deliver a stunning slice of acapella full of soul and emotion. *Left Behind* is a sprawling eleven minute epic taking in elements of jazz funk, battered eastern percussion, muted trumpet, chanted vocals, the kitchen sink and those ever present electric funk licks as Goodall and his associates draw proceedings with a thrilling elongated jam.

Already impressed with the fertile imagination and diversity of his debut album, his follow-up *The Whole Thing Is Moving*, has left me scrambling for the right superlatives to describe such an enthralling release, an unparalleled delight from start to finish.

[www.goodallmusic.net](http://www.goodallmusic.net)

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

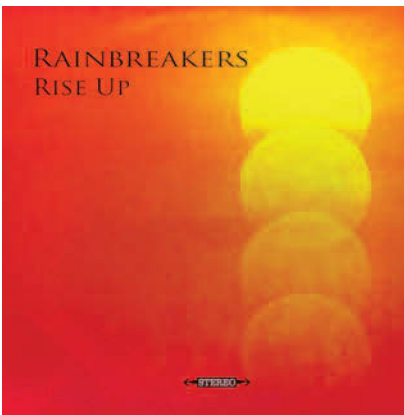
[www.goodall1.bandcamp.com](http://www.goodall1.bandcamp.com)

Will Munn

## The Rainbreakers | Blood Not Brass

**The Rainbreakers** are a 4 piece band comprised of 2 brothers and 2 friends who, according to their bio, are a band steeped in the rock, blues and soul of the early 70's. With influences from Free to Hendrix, it sounds like a blues bias though they would probably argue that. They are based in Shrewsbury which seems to have a burgeoning music scene at present, with brothers Ben on vocals, and Sam on percussion. Add to that lead guitarist Jack and bassist Peter, they are **The Rainbreakers**.

The EP consists of 4 self penned tracks opening with 'Aint Nothing Going On', a fiery rock infused blues song. Sam thumps out a staccato beat that drives all along, Jack's guitar holds the middle ground distinctly. Machine gun drumming closes this little cracker. Ben's voice has been 'fuzzed', as indeed is the case throughout this CD. It works well and seems to fit comfortably with the lyrics and style. Next track 'On My Knees' is a punchy,



raw edged song that would not disgrace any rock blues band, the straight guitar lead and strong vocals combine with that thumping rhythm line to excellent effect. Turning to a much more distinctive blues riff, Ben gives everything and his passionate interpretation stands out.

'*Blood Not Brass*' deserves the accolade of title track. The dirty guitar notes again find resonance with distorted vocals to make a stunningly good song that belies the band's relative inexperience, making the road ahead look clear and fast for this young band. It's a track that wears a heavy blues bias and there's absolutely nothing wrong with that.

The tempo drops for the final track 'All I Got'. As in all the tracks, Jack makes fine use of his Fender with strong input from bass and drum. The tension lifts toward the closing stages as Ben's voice drifts away and allows the instrumentation to dominate the second half of the track, accelerating through towards the end.

What stands out in this EP is the input from all the band; dirtied vocals and sometimes guitar notes, strong underlying bass and the venomous attack on the brass and skins of the drums all work well together. Nothing is over or under done and it is well balanced, the recording and mixing has been sympathetic to that. On the whole, this is an outstanding effort for a first CD release, let's hope it is the sign of more to come. It's a pleasure to listen to and I look forward to seeing the band's live performances.

Graham Munn

## Sleuth

**Sleuth** is the bookish indie popster from Wolverhampton, home of Slade and England's first automatic traffic lights. *Sleuth's For The Idle We Stand* was first broadcast by BBC Introducing in early May 16 and then again in August appearing on BBC 6 Music and Radio WM.

During 2016 **Sleuth's** notable shows included appearances at the **Northern Sky Festival** with Supergrass's **Gaz Coombes** and I Am Kloot's **John Bramwell**, supporting Bluetones frontman **Mark Morriss** in Stourbridge and then returning home for a Christmas show in Wolverhampton with The Lines frontman **Alex Ohm**.

The highest altitude show of the year had to be the 20th floor of the Rotunda in Birmingham where Songwall described the solo piano set as 'lyrically thoughtful and musically enticing' and 'like a consoling chat with a reassuring friend'.

February saw the release of the EP '*Coming Up For Air*' available on CD and digital download. Supporting this release are some March shows:

**1st Mar** – Mellow Yellow @Island Bar, Bham (solo acoustic)



**24th Mar** – Kaite Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge with Ameoba Teen & The Black Lakes

**25th Mar** – Boars Head, Kidderminster with The Humdrum Express & Flying Ant Day

[www.facebook.com/sleuthsounds](http://www.facebook.com/sleuthsounds) & [twitter.com/sleuthsounds](https://twitter.com/sleuthsounds)

## The Cracked Actors Smokefarm

**The Marrs bar | Sat, 18th March**

Birmingham ska/punk band **The Cracked Actors** formed in 1999 are veterans of many festivals including Glastonbury, Endorse It, Kippertronix, Nozstock, Bearded Theory and the Horsedrawn festival. There have been many line-up changes over the years which unlike many bands keeps them as fresh and exciting as the day they started.



The current members are **Fudge** on lead vocals, **Johnny** on guitar and vocals, **Ash** on bass & vocals, **Tim** on drums, **Mal** on sax and vocals, **Lou** on Trombone, **Mark** on Trumpet, **Tatty** on percussion and their saviour **Davey G** on sound and recording.

They have headlined many gigs and festivals over the years and have also supported many great bands such as the Beat, Bad Manners, The Undertones, Dreadzone, The Toasters, GBH, Zion Train, Neville Staples Band, Robby Radiation, The Selector, Drongos for Europe, Uk Subs and many many more.

The band are currently recording their sixth studio album.

£4 in advance £6 on the door 8:00 pm

*Photography by Will Smith*

## Louise Distras

**The Booth Hall, Hereford 25th of March**

Brody Dalle and Courtney love come to mind when you hear the gutsy, gravelly vocals of **Louise Distras**. Going from preforming her first solo gig to 6 months later being discovered by New Model Army and asked to join them on tour is pretty impressive but, considering her debut album '*Dreams from the Factory Floor*' was critically acclaimed, she's fully deserving of it. In the past, she's been atop the Leftfield stage at Glastonbury, performed with the likes of Mick Jones, Glen Matlock and The Damned and even been mainstage at one of the world's biggest punk festivals; Rebellion. Considering her impressive background, a night at the intimate Booth Hall is definitely not to be missed.

**The Booth Hall** and **The Underground Revolution** invites you to join them for a night of female acts showcasing raw, edgy and feminine talent that celebrates strong women who ROCK! The main support comes from **Mexicola** fronted by local indie rock scene stalwart **Ria Parfitt**. Doors open at 7:30pm, £6, entry 18+







# What's On?

at The Swan Theatre  
and Huntingdon Hall



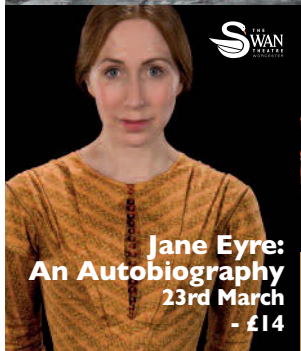
**Skerryvore**  
9th March - £16.50



**John Denton's  
Midnight Band**  
16th March - £12.50



**Shazia Mirza  
UK Tour –  
The Kardashians  
Made Me Do It**  
31st March - £15



**Jane Eyre:  
An Autobiography**  
23rd March  
- £14



**The Urban Folk  
Quartet**  
24th March - £16.50



**Martin Carthy**  
30th March - £15

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**March 9th** sees Scottish folk super group **Skerryvore** come to Worcester to fill **Huntingdon Hall** with their eclectic sounds and fantastic arrangement of varied instruments and styles. The seven-piece band, comprising Tíre brothers **Daniel Gillespie** (accordion) and **Martin Gillespie** (bagpipes, whistles and accordion), **Fraser West** (drums and vocals), **Alec Dalglish** (lead vocals and guitar), **Craig Espie** (fiddles), **Alan Scobie** (keyboards) and **Jodie Bremanson** (bass) have toured worldwide, selling out venues wherever they go. All seven members bring their own musical style to the **Skerryvore** mix, creating a folk rock sound inspired by the members' love of all music genres. The more they have experimented with this mix, the more the band and their signature sound has evolved. This is evident in the progression across the six albums released since 2005. Tickets are £16.50.

Next at Huntingdon Hall is **Deborah Bonham**. **Friday 17th** will see her come to Worcester following her triumphant sold-out show at the legendary 100 Club in January. Armed with her powerful band that features Black Sabbath and Rory Gallagher and tracks from her back catalogue, including several tracks originally recorded in 1985 for her debut album *For You And The Moon*. Over the last few years she has sung on stage with Paul Rodgers, Dan McCafferty and Robert Plant, and after a rapturous opening set for Foreigner at their sold out London Palladium show, Deborah was invited back on stage for the encore to duet on *I Want To Know What Love Is*. Tickets £16.

**Tuesday 21st** will see prog legends **Strawbs** don the Huntingdon stage. Strawbs have a unique component in their

intricate music – they emerged out of the British Folk Movement of the mid-1960s before evolving into the fully-fledged prog rock band that we now know. The band started life as a bluegrass outfit before moving into the mainstream by making the first Strawbs album *All Our Own Work*. Their full prog rock status was established by the mid-1970s with Strawbs' studio album *Hero & Heroine*, their heaviest and most symphonic album that has been listed by Rolling Stone magazine as "one of the 50 greatest progressive rock albums of all time". The current Strawbs line-up comprises of **Dave Cousins**, **Dave Lambert**, **Chas Cronk** and **Tony Fernandez**, who recorded and toured together in the 1970s. They are joined by keyboard virtuoso **Dave Bainbridge**. Tickets £18.

In early April, **Feast of Fiddles** will also be taking to the stage. Originally formed as a one-off concert ensemble in 1994, they've lasted an impressive 23 years and are releasing their sixth studio album *Sleight of Elbow* this year as well as embarking on their annual tour which will stop off at Huntingdon Hall on April 5th. They're a band of musical friends that puts on a show of huge dynamic range performed with passion, joy and a liberal dose of fun. They provide live music entertainment like no other and is guaranteed to be enjoyed by even the most doubting of friends dragged along! Tickets are £22.



## Nigel Clark / Mark Morriss Hedluv & Passman

### The Cube Malvern | Sat 11th February

Since the closure of Re-Con in Malvern, The Cube has really upped the ante, bringing a number of high profile artists to the area and providing a platform for those local acts who have grown out of the local pubs. The program at **The Cube** includes award winning folk singer-songwriter **Jim Moray**, **Squeeze** legend **Chris Difford**, alternative blues rock heroes **Wille & The Bandits** and festival mainstays **Dreadzone**. I had already fallen for the venue and its promoters with shows from the likes of **Babajack** and **Dodgy** main man, **Nigel Clark**.

Nigel Clark's name shone like a beacon as well as **Mark Morriss**, from fellow Brit-pop legends **The Bluetones**, joined the bill. With Cornish comedy rappers **Hedluv & Passman** taking opening slot duties, here was one show not to be missed.

Bemused looks greeted **Hedluv & Passman** as the duo took to the stage. Programmed beats and near disco keyboard filled the air as the duo delivered their first rapid fire rap tale, gesticulating wildly, pacing the stage and



bouncing like a coiled spring released after years of pent up energy. Bemused looks turned to laughter as the crazed stage craft and the aural assault of *Dreckly* punctured the air. Passman then stripped down to his underpants and donned a helmet ('safety first') before dancing like a loon to the crazed synths of *Weird Nature* whilst delivering lyrics about penguins and mountains made of poo. By the time the duo delivered *The Future!* the audience had surrendered to the bands comedic charms.

Sure, the rudimentary instrumentation is more than a little cheesy and the songs are all a little silly but **Hedluv & Passman** sure know how to entertain, leaving even the most hardened of cynics (well me) with a big grin welded across their face.

The good humour continued as **Mark Morriss** took to the stage, bantering with the audience and opening the proceedings with *Digging A Hole*. More renowned for strummed acoustic and delicately croon verses, a Beatles-like *Space Cadet* - one of several tracks lifted from Mark's brilliant *A Flash Of Darkness* solo album - soon followed. *Bluetonic* was greeted like a long lost friend as Mark plucked out the intro. The likes of *It's Hard To Be Good All The Time*, with its short wordless vocal hook as well as a gorgeous folksy rendition of *This Is The Lie (And That's The Truth)* suggests Mark's solo years deserve more acclaim and recognition than previously gathered. To complete his turn and a show of mutual appreciation, Mark invited **Nigel Clark** for an inspired take on *Old Man* by Neil Young.

Much like Mark, a **Nigel Clark** solo turn saw him perform songs from across his back catalogue, solo years and Dodgy alike. Clark opened his set with a delicious, rootsy take on *Four Bags Of Gold*, offering a weathered croon and an Americana tinge of plucked and strummed guitar. Offering the audience - now gathered in front of the stage - the first chance to singalong to a stripped back, *In A Room*, followed by the title track to *Homegrown*. Nigel also



showcased a brand new track from a forthcoming solo album in the form of *Goodbye*; an impressive offering that sits effortlessly among the better known tracks proving Clark's penmanship is as sharp as ever. Big hitters like *Good Enough*, *Waiting For The Sun* and set encore, *Staying Out For The Summer* were all received with anticipated hollers of delight and mass crowd participation. With a tender take on *Hope I Don't Fall In Love With You* (Tom Waits) and a wonderful *Pinball* (Brian Protheroe) Clark proved that he is not only a fantastic singer-songwriter in his own right, but also an interpreter and scholar like music fan offering lesser known songs a public airing, and perhaps suggesting a lesser known covers album somewhere down the line - fingers crossed!



With established acts like **Mark Morriss** and **Nigel Clark** lighting up stage and with a number of high profile shows on the way, **The Cube** has firmly established itself as Malvern's live music paradise. I suggest you subscribe to the venue's mailing list and keep a careful lookout for further treats coming your way in the not too distant future.

Will Munn (full review at <http://rhythmbooze.tumblr.com/>)



# Amanda Rheume

## St. George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 3rd Feb

Canadian artist **Amanda Rheume** was in a buoyant mood as she played the penultimate date of her current UK tour at a packed **St. George's Hall** in Bewdley. The aptly named Severn Sessions is fast putting this North Worcestershire riverside town on the music map for touring artists of a country and roots persuasion. Amanda was the latest invitee and determined to ensure the locals had a memorable evening, with her vibrant style of music straddling the country-folk-pop point of genre convergence. The turnout is beginning to attract out of towners as well, as word gets around that artists of Amanda's level of accomplishment continue to raise spirits on this monthly Friday evening gathering.

For this latest leg of Amanda's European excursions, a trio format is in tow with **Anders Drerup** (electric guitar/pedal steel guitar) and **Anna Ruddick** (bass) providing a valuable role in ensuring the recorded material gets the best possible live treatment. Songs stretching back across her three studio albums formed the set list accompanied by a couple of distinguished covers sharing the breadth of Amanda's undoubted influences.



The success of the evening revolved around the strength of the songs and the precision execution which saw Anders playing-expertise showering a radiant glow on Amanda's bold mission of sharing her music. Straight from the opening bars of *'Get to the Part'* from the latest album *Holding Patterns*, a soaring standard of engaging professionalism was displayed and refused to yield until the closing cover of Stevie Nicks' *'Landslide'* was concluded. Whilst in more recent times Natalie Maines has put her own stamp on this song, Amanda's version, with the able vocal assistance of Anna, ensured every inch of its elegance was intact.

The current sound of Amanda is more focussed on the country pop tinge with the pedal steel proving an addition to the last time she was witnessed live. This was on the very first UK tour back in 2014 when her previous album *Keep A Fire* was heavily featured in the set. Songs from that release were kept to a minimum this time, but it was an absolute pleasure to hear a personal favourite in *'Passed Down the Line'* make the cut. Going back even further in time, *'Better Days Ahead'* from the 2011 album *Light Of Another Day* proved to be one of the show's livelier numbers, aided and abetted by audience participation which needed little Friday evening encouragement.

As earlier mentioned, Amanda has a recent album to feed a majority of the set list from and the band did a sterling job in ensuring they had a substantial airing. Amanda was in her usual communicative mood to ensure the audience were well informed with many song inspirations. By the end of the evening songs from the record such as *'Red Dress'*, *'The Day the Mountain Fell'*, and



*'Dead Horse'* left much more of an impression than just a fine tune.

As with an ever increasing bunch of fellow Canadian artists of a similar ilk, Amanda's prime strength lies within her song writing capabilities and perhaps the subliminal message from covering the John Prine classic *'Angel From Montgomery'* is that she is prepared to learn from the best. Of course an effervescent stage persona helps communicate the music which is maybe a more vital component when taking original music into community settings. Regardless of Amanda's considerable strengths, the rapturous reception given at the end sealed the approval and demonstrated a good time was had by all.

Aligned with the community nature of this *Severn Sessions* series of shows, a youth act in the guise of local school girls, **Grace Winterburn** and **Abby Foxall** under the name **Melody Blue** and rock blues trio, the **Mark Leedham Band**, provided the support for Amanda. This continues to ensure that enhanced focus remains on the Bewdley music scene and goes a long way to help establish a viable structure for artists such as **Amanda Rheume** to successfully play their music thousands of miles from home.

Over the last few years, Amanda has put in a considerable amount of leg work in realising an ambition of making her career a success overseas. Having first come across her music at the outset of this adventure, it is refreshing to see a thriving performer. Canadian artists like **Amanda Rheume** have a valuable role in exporting their art to broaden the horizon of music lovers around the world. Few folks in Bewdley would disagree after witnessing this performance.

Words: Trevor Price Photography by Colin Hill

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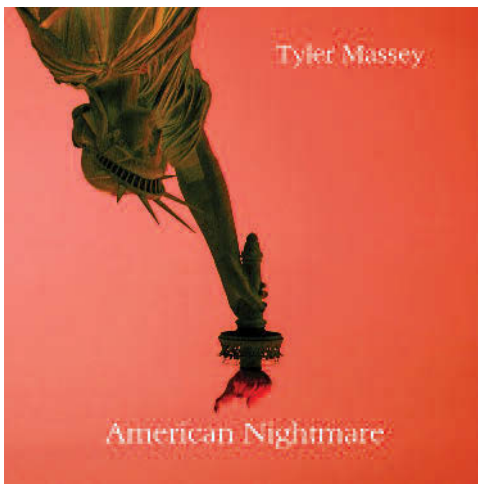
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## Tyler Massey | American Nightmare

If you live in Worcester you'll probably have seen him dispensing sage advice to newbie musos at the Tuesday Firefly open mic night before closing off most evenings. But of course in Malvern he's a household name, hosting music nights each Wednesday at the **Great Malvern Hotel** and open mics on Thursdays at the **West Malvern Social Club**. Besides performing solo he's also been with outfits like **The May Dolls** (with **Becca Roberts**), **The Pull** (**Rob Murray-Mason** and the much-lamented **Colin Bentley**), **Truck Stop Trixies** (**Vo Fletcher/Mike Mann/Neil Poulter/Dave Young/Eric Hej**) - he's also been a music teacher for 30 years and just happens to write some very wonderful songs!

Tyler's the expat from West Virginia USA who's settled in West Malvern and contributed immensely to the epicentre of the amazing H&W music scene for the last ten years and more. Among the many fine songs he's penned is *'Magnets'* which goes a way towards explaining the bond he feels between himself and his adopted home!



The *'American Nightmare'* EP is without doubt Tyler's most powerful solo work to date - memorable and hummable numbers with the content being alarmingly topical. Perhaps surprisingly the title track itself wasn't meant as an indictment of the current *'POTUS'* - it's more of a prediction that wasn't really expected to happen! However damnation of the Orange Oaf is fully released in *'Whipping Boy'* which easily stands alongside the great protest songs of the past - and I've no problem at all in comparing this classic to numbers by Dylan, Donovan, Barry McGuire and Woody Guthrie - it's just simply that good - and the little smattering of harmonica half-way through is a tasteful little indication towards this!!

Tyler's himself influenced by artists such as Tom Waits, Grateful Dead and Gram Parsons and he's very gently brought and introduced us to this blend of Americana and C&W over the years to very fine effect - *'Ten Years'* is a slightly wistful reminiscence - *'The Gift'* highlights the sublime and almost perfect sounds that he conjures out of his guitars (must ask him how he does it!) - and *'The Devil You Know'* is a thinly-veiled tribute to his soulmate and once again I feel to the Malvern Hills!

This isn't a collection of good songs - they're great ones!! More links and info at [tylermassey.com](http://tylermassey.com)

Andy O'Hare

## Musical friends make noise for refugee crisis

A musician and a poet, both from Malvern have released a song for charity to show their support for the refugee crisis of displaced people from the Middle East.

Although they live more than 2000 miles apart, electronic musician, **Drumdog** and poet **Jamieson Lee Dagdeviren-Hill** met on social media, but a poem posted by Jamieson struck a chord with the DJ/Producer and they spoke about recording a track together.

The poem *'Salutation'* celebrates the Celtic New Year of rising energy and positivity. It's accompanying soundtrack by **Drumdog** fuses ambient nostalgic sounds with an atmospheric drum and bass beat.

Jamieson, known as *The Bard of Malvern*, moved to Istanbul, Turkey a couple of years ago. He knows only too well about the crisis, working with refugees to rehabilitate them in the UK and elsewhere. In his poems and writing he describes Istanbul as the cultural link between Europe and Asia. The city has had its fair share of troubles, partly due to the influx of huge numbers of displaced people.

*"I moved to Istanbul to be with my Turkish wife. I have fallen in love with this city and it's people, but it's a hard place to live because you sometimes feel like you living on the frontline of the world's problems."*

As well as raising awareness, the track also aims to raise funds for People In Motion, a refugee charity based in the West Midlands. Images used in the *'Salutation'* video, showcase another project *'Through Refugee Eyes'* which gives refugees a voice through photography of and made by displaced people

Drumdog, A DJ and musician who lives in Malvern thinks it's an important time for ordinary people to get creative, and help make changes in the world.

*"I grew up in the Live Aid era where you watched a crisis on TV but didn't really feel connected or know how you could help in any way, but now you really can make a difference."*

*"There are so many ways to get your photography, art, crafts, music, dance, theatre and poetry out there. Its important to make a noise about the things you are passionate about."* Says Drumdog.

*"We were excited when we heard about this project and we are very grateful to the guys for showing their support, plus it's a great piece of music."* says Kirsty Fraser, Cofounder of People In Motion.

*"Reminding people that the crisis still exists means so much to us. The profits from the track will directly help us get clothing, food and other aid out to displaced people who still need our help in Syria, Greece, France, Eastern Europe and elsewhere."*

*Salutation* by Drumdog, ft. Jaimieson Hill costs £1.50. Available on iTunes, Spotify, Deezer, Amazon, and from the website [www.omnidog.org](http://www.omnidog.org). 100 percent of profit raised goes directly to People In Motion.

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





# Feedin' the 'Gees

## Local Pastry Chef feeds world's Refugees

Alice Russell would describe herself as an anti-social, 24-year-old pastry chef from the **Old Rectifying House**, who left a stable income and a supportive group of friends in search of an uncertain lifestyle and an opportunity to live a nomadic life of adventure. I know this because I asked her. Intrigued by her adventures since I met her last year, we chatted about what she'd been doing since she packed up her stuff and shipped herself off to Greece to work in the refugee camps. Each camp epitomises the unfair displacement of people from their homes, thanks largely to war and the self-serving politics of dictators and tyrants.

**Alice's journey from Worcester to Eastern Europe is an inspirational one and, as part of a proud community back in her hometown - Wu Town! - we, her friends and family, think her story is worth telling.**



Nailing her down for a report on her experiences has proved difficult over the last few months due to the nature of what she's been doing and where she's been staying. Her Facebook page - *Where the Eff is Alice?* - demonstrates the calamity and chaos alongside the commitment and collaboration of her team, **Hot Food Idomeni**, who work with whoever and whatever is on hand to do an admirable job of feeding people in the camps. She's back in the UK for a quick visit and it was an ideal opportunity to kick-start our aims to raise awareness and to maintain some momentum and motivation for Alice to keep doing the wonderful things that she's doing by letting her know that Worcester is proud of her and supports her and her team.

In April 2016, Alice travelled over to Polykastro, a small town in Macedonian Greece, with four refugee camps in its vicinity. She found herself at Eko camp, a makeshift site that materialised out of a service station on the motorway. Distributing new underwear for refugee women together with a locally established Malvern charity, **People in Motion**, Alice got her first taste of the extent of disorder and disarray of the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. Homeless, desperate, and deprived of all basic amenities and lacking the means to provide each other with comfort, safety and dignity, these are people who live their day-to-day lives as social and cultural outcasts, praying for an opportunity to arrive somewhere where they, and their families, can be safe.

Whatever our differences in opinions surrounding the current political climate in the Middle East and the force at which people are fleeing west through Europe, I think we can all agree that to put ourselves in their shoes - to put our children in their children's shoes - is one of the single most terrifying things we could imagine.

**"Refugee: a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster"**

I can only justify the skepticism and lack of human compassion displayed by some by reminding myself that these unempathetic people are bombarded by the media on the same screens in



which they watch so much fiction, that the reality of the situation no longer resonates in the same way that it would, should it land on their doorstep. That, and the fact that the word refugee has almost become synonymous with the word criminal thanks to certain media platforms, is not only unjust and inhumane, but it ignores and rejects the fundamental premise of all faiths, religions, and human instincts to come to these people's aid.

Relaying Alice's experiences will give us the opportunity to tear down people's false perceptions of what they think they know about the refugee crisis. It's an opportunity to remind people of the thousands of individuals who find themselves lost, unseen and penalised for being unwillingly shoved under an umbrella term that doesn't even begin to represent who they are as people.

There is a large group of displaced people whose modern stereotype has made others forget what the word refugee really means: Someone forced to leave their home and who suffers as a result of a series of events of which they are not responsible, but which dictates how they must live in order to survive.

I know, it's pretty heavy stuff, but what we ask is that you give us a chance to show you what it truly means to live this way and attempt to understand the situation as it stands for people who are living it. We ask that you use this as a tool to educate others and motivate yourselves and other people to show compassion and support for those who choose to work in these conditions, self-funded and 100% reliant on donations for their resources, in order to make a difference.



**Alice is, without a doubt, doing something that many of us just couldn't do, even if we wanted to.**

However... we don't want to just bring you news of war and devastation. We see enough of that in the media every week. What we want to emphasise is that Alice is giving us a rare and apolitical insight into something that most of us have only seen in newspapers and on TV. She thrives off her experiences stating that, at least for the moment, there is absolutely nothing else she would rather be doing. It's not all danger and disaster. She considers herself to be in a very fortunate position. After all, where there's life, there's hope, there's laughter and there's a reminder that all life is precious.

Stay tuned for the next article and let us know what you think by sending any comments or questions to the Facebook page - **Where the Eff is Alice?** - or - **Hot Food Idomeni**.

Alice is currently one of the chefs at "Hot Food Idomeni", a registered organisation established by a small group of volunteers in Idomeni Refugee Camp in Greece. The group are currently working in Serbia where they continue to feed up to a thousand refugees every day. Show them your support by liking the Facebook page and sending them some love!

Anna Donaldson

## Mumbo Jumbo

### The Cube, Malvern | Sat 11th Feb

The sweetener on the night was turn up and pay what you felt was fair. It was an interesting concept and as a seated gig (with tables to support your glass of **Friday Beer**), the undoubtedly cold evening did not deter a cosy crowd dropping in for some **Mumbo Jumbo**.

Somewhere back in history **Oliver Carpenter** had competed successfully in a Joe Cocker impersonation contest. It was a deserved win so why not deliver a song that Joe had made his own despite certain arachnids claiming the initial posting. *'The Letter'* was suitably delivered first class from the gravelled toned tonsils of Mr Carpenter, suitably supported by **Chris Lomas** on guitar and **Phil Bond** tickling the ivories. Phil stepped up next, clutching his accordion, urging all to *'Put Your Back to The Wheel'*, a working man's lot as the rich inherit the earth. Cue Chris, he's sure to *'Regret It'*, such is the stuff of life.

Looking beyond the wonderfully eclectic collection of *Sonic Gumbo*, a new song was put to the test with Oliver's trumpet, Phil still squeezing his box and Chris's guitar accompanying his singing, creating a vintage sounding *'That's The Way I Roll'*. The evening progressed tossing the vocal leads between the three Musketeers for the slow passage of *'Sail That Ship'* to the cockney humour of *'Bald Spot'*. I will also mention the gloriously hot wired *'Electric Chair'* provided by Bessie Smith especially for Phil.

The Faustian tale of the *'Second Hand Guitar Dealer'*, suitably narrated by Chris, wormed its way forward, revealing who had



drained the keg as Mumbo mumbled out *'Drunk In Charge'*. I would have felt short changed (even though I winged it) if we had not heard the nod to Robert Johnson's *Crossroads* but Oliver gritted out *'Devil Aint Hanging Round'*, and it was dark as hell. The clock was racing on and who needs a support act when you can be so wonderfully entertained with the songs taken from *Life Of Riley* and *Sonic Gumbo*. But, just when the water looks clear, the damned *'Rocket Song'* Lands. I admit it's not a favourite and my personal feelings are that it should be jettisoned somewhere over the Atlantic. The fabulous *'Mary Don't You Weep'* came to the rescue however to close the show.

Truly an excellent evening with a warm and receptive crowd who showed their appreciation in the donations box. This is cutting edge stuff, the equivalent of passing the bucket around at a pub gig, but there is usually an appearance fee there. Oliver, Chris and Phil had put their trust in the audience and they responded in kind *Mumbo Gumbo Sonic Jumbo*.

P. kassow.

## Big Jim & The Gumbo Shakers

### Prince of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 5th Feb

You might think who the hell are they. Well, they are a gathering of movers and shakers from the local music scene, all stirred into a big pot of Gumbo. Again, for those who are not too sure, Gumbo is the dish of choice that emanates from New Orleans. It leached out of the hotchpotch of immigrants that have shaped that great city since inception. French, African, Eastern European - it shapes its food as much as its music.

The band centre around **'Big Jim'**, **Sarah Warren**, **Nick Lyndon**, with drum and guitar for this occasion being provided by **John Spinetto**, and **Rob**. The music is lively, slightly nuts and stirs together boogie, R&B, Cajun, do-wop and a bit of old country style.

*'Tonight The Bottle Let me Down'* was given a spin by Big Jim with harp to hand and a distinct Brummy accent bringing a little country swing. A *'Loving Machine'* was on loan from the much lamented Boogie Boys before Sarah took the lead and, as ever, her rich, soulful blues galvanised attention. Rob's guitar amp seems to have its own ideas on fuzz and despite Jim's wisecracking, harp bending antics, an early break is called whilst an ancient Fender is shipped in and dusted off. In *'Hot Dog'*, Big Jim's Stetson casts a long shadow across the bar as the anarchy ramps up. Sarah throws out a hard rocking message of *'Tough Love'* and Nick, crouched over his lowered bass, still manages to wedge it between floor and rafters. Moving between the two rooms is an obstacle course of amps and stand hurdles, not to mention the big man himself. No matter, we

step across like a *'Cat On A Hot Tin Roof'*. Tennessee Williams would have found the steamy atmosphere in the Prince perfect, along with the collection of fine whiskey.

The sound of BB King's blues fills the air as Sarah tells us *'You must be crazy, you just gotta be out of our mind'* and Jim steps up, to take us for a wild ride down *'Route 66'*. I'm checking the clock, nearly time for my train. I hesitate to leave as Sarah's warm, sultry voice seeps through into the soul in *'I just Wanna Make Love To You'*. I hesitate but the cold air seems almost inviting as it's time to slip away and let the party carry on.

My first experience of **Big Jim and The Gumbo Shakers** was a roller coaster of a ride, impossible not to enjoy the cocktail of music that gets feet moving and smiles spreading across the Prince Of Wales like a virus.

Graham Munn





# Born Healer

## Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 30th Jan

The Sunday evening pilgrimage to Ledbury and the opportunity to hear the rich, grainy voice of **Helen Turner**, a heady cocktail of Janis Joplin and Maggie Bell, now wearing the **Born Healer** label. Her co-conspirators are: Gibson slinging **Ian Black**; bass, **Marek Funkas** (could Funkas be anything but a bass players name?); and **Andy Jones** on drums.

Andy thumped the evening into life, Marek added shape, Ian joined in, then Helen cracked open the bottle and out poured a 'River' of rock fuelled passion. A superb pulsating 'Fallin' For Foolin' changed the tempo. Andy's percussion punctuating the score as Helen's soulful voice tore through the bar, impossible to ignore.

The dark, bitter bite of a hot steaming 'Black Coffee' splashed out, not Peggy Lee's barista brew, more the viscous, caffeine loaded grounds of Humble Pie, Starbucks on acid-wonderful.

This band were formed in 2015, and in 2016 released album *Till The Dawn*. The title track delivered its soulful blues, so reminiscent of an Etta James heartbreaker. Ian, hiding behind a curtain of blond hair, built the subtle sensuous notes on his Les Paul as Andy and Marek laid the foundations. The throb of the bands 'Healing Hand' delivered a spiritual touch up to the a break; a chance to try the current crafty offerings on tap.

Marek set up his funk ass base as Andy danced over the skins. A 'Pressure Valve' building up to its overloaded release and the songs tempo drops, Ian's guitar talks, Andy cracks the whip, the



guitar cries, Merak rumbles through, unstoppable. The warm air of the **Prince Of Wales** ripped asunder to the opening bars of Taj Mahal's 'Leaving Trunk', Ian's guitar duelled with the barbed vocals of Helen, leaving their imprint stamped into the mind.

The riff is lightened by Ian's bright guitar notes which open the curtains for Helen to embrace a 'Brand New Day' that bubbles with effervescent enthusiasm. Time to move on - 'A Million Miles Away' - blistering, blues laced soul, built on bass and drum. Ian splashes colour across the canvas and Helen layers on the gloss. Ian's guitar weeps out the opening bars of the album's closing song, as Helen opens her heart for 'Since I've Been Loving You'. It sears and slices its way into all as Ian twists that hot knife, before Helen closes the door on her soul.

Time had passed rapidly and this stunning gig drew to its close, but not before we were all entreated to 'Come Together', and then Merak set up the rhythm for Helen to throw Stones at the Prince 'Gimme Shelter' - its just a shot away, and mines a Talisker!

Graham Munn

# Claude Bourbon

## The Ginger Pig, Worcester | Sat 28th Jan

I first heard Claude play back in 2014 in the cosy barn of Bretforton's Fleece where I seem to recall the music was Hispanic and in parts rooted deeply in medieval history. Here at the **Ginger Pig**, I was expecting the same exemplary finger picking guitar work and the Hispanic and Gallic ties. They were strongly in evidence but there was also a seam of a blues like a river running through.

We will stay with that water theme for a moment as he drew all in to his opening instrumental. His guitar formed gently lapping seas, washing over a pebbled beach. The flow turned seamlessly to a deeper, darker current with pulsating inky blue waters, questioning 'Did Somebody Make A Fool Of You'. The familiar opening bars of an old favourite 'St James Infirmary Blues', issuing from the deep, heavily accented voice of Claude, accompanied by intricate Spanish guitar weaving a web to cross over the Mexican border to find the small town of 'Berino'. A song written far away from home.

Though the links are forged in Spain and the South West mountainous borders of France, the underside is undoubtedly formed in the Southern States. 'There Is A Storm Coming' boasts



country blues, picked out across the hollow body and frets of Claude's acoustic. It washes across the plain, finding its way to the 'The Crossroads', well known from Clapton's 'Unplugged'. The road takes us back to the babbling stream of 'Cold River', a new song that brought with it the break.

The remnants of dishes and plates from Ginger Pig's tasty menu, were cleared, glasses recharged and Claude cradled his guitar as 'I Need Shelter' gently filled the air. He reached down for his chromed slide, carrying us all along for a fascinating build up that brought us out into George Gershwin's 'Summertime'. A satisfyingly complex web woven from slide and fingerwork bridged a wide chasm before stepping over to bring the sun down on Ella's signature song.

Following a quick lesson on Pink Anderson and Floyd Council, we were delivered Pink's 'She Knows How To Stretch It' with Delta blues lyrics suitably stretched and elaborated in the hands of Claude. JJ Cale's 'Drifters Wife' carried us toward closure. The final slice of cake at the **Ginger Pig** was **Claude Bourbon's** own recipe, a beautifully painted folk ballad 'The Road Is Long'; indeed, for Claude it would be, a long 4 hour drive back up to his adopted Cumbrian home.

**The Ginger Pig**, has once again presented superb musicianship for us to feast on, only last week they held **Kris Dollimore** and now **Claude Bourbon** is bringing a touch of his Gallic magic to this lovely Cafe.

Graham Munn

## Rick Lambe | Grand Illusion

Spin the disc, the auto arm drops on to a faint noisy blues rif, too much dust on the stylus? No it's 'She's A Woman' with that blues shuffle, **Rick** on vocals and guitar, ably supported by **Tony Baylis** on drums.

Now for those who can't place **Rick Lambe**, he is the guitarist in both **The Official Receivers** soul band and **The Gator Squad**, where blue is the colour that matters. You could say he's been around the block with many years on the road wielding his guitar, you always knew there was more to offer.

*Grand Illusion* has been formed from songs he has written and dabbled with over the years resulting in an eclectic mix of styles and influences. In this project Rick also adds keyboards, son **Jazz** looks after bass, **Corinne Lambe** helps out with backing vocals, and **Colin Andrews** drops in to add harmonica. That harp is evident in the aptly named 'Rock Forever' and Colin is on form for this punchy rock song, an outstanding illusion.

There's plenty of funky grooves cut in the style of 70's fusion rock, a powerful blockbuster of a rock ballad in 'Still Of The Night'. Dig a little deeper and you'll uncover your soul, slide driven and

foot tapping blues. Rick brings us weeping, squawking and honey rich guitar riffs, which come so easily after the many years on the road, but also adding keyboards on many of the songs. Progressively moving toward the heavier rock vibe of 'Grand Illusion'.

Possibly influenced by 'Sweet Home Alabama', I particularly like 'You Drive me Out Of My Mind'. It swings along nicely with almost fairground like organ dropping in, it also fits Rick's voice like a glove. *Grand Illusion*, aptly finishes with 'End Of The Line', a grungy rock number with staccato synth sounds and brilliant guitar licks.

Overall this album, available to download, showcases **Rick Lambe's** talent as a musician and songwriter. I'm uncertain whether Ricks vocal qualities suit some of the songs on offer, but as you would expect, his guitar does the sweet talking. A bit more harp would have been a lovely bonus, and Tony with Jazz, give Rick very effective rhythm structures to wrap his songs around. Its an impressive recording from someone

we are more used to seeing embedded alongside **Lenny James**, whether in soul or blues mode.

I've no doubt, Rick has many fans who will download this album, and I would encourage anyone to do the same, you won't be disappointed.

Look for [bandcamp.com/ricklambe](http://bandcamp.com/ricklambe)

Graham Munn

## Brigitte DeMeyer & Will Kimbrough album - Mockingbird Soul St George's Hall, Bewdley 31st March

**Brigitte DeMeyer and Will Kimbrough** are due to play at **St George's Hall**, Bewdley at the end of the month, having recently released their new album *Mockingbird Soul*.

The pair have been collaborating for 6 years, honing their song-writing skills and performing their plainly beautiful, soulful roots music, across America and Europe. The performance is part of a UK tour to accompany this album release. I had the good fortune to hear the duo on BBC2 Radio's Paul Jones Show and am now more than pleased to give *Mockingbird Soul* a spin.

Californian **Brigitte**, has influences drawn from the likes of Etta James, Mavis Staples, and Steve Earle. Son of Alabama **Will** is drawn to the Beatles, JJ Cale, Lightnin' Hopkins and the guitar rock genre.

Its true to say you won't find any rock guitar on this disc, what you will find is a shed load of superb acoustic guitar and double bass. A lovely harmonic country folk song opens the recording, stripped bare, but it promises 'Everything'.

Look out for 'Broken Fences', the guitar hauls you in, insistently, the harmonic Cajun style hooks you on the barbed wire, as it cuts in to your mind. The radio play that grabbed my attention is the

wonderfully bluesy 'The Juke'. Brigitte describes it as having a 'greasy groove', she leads the vocals as Will blows in a little harp accompaniment. Its a steaming hot, back porch blues to savour.

The title track, 'Mockingbird Soul', is a heartbreaker of gospel blues. You can almost taste the influence of the likes of Etta, showcasing Brigitte's husky edged voice. Can it get any better than this? Well there's certainly more to savour, as that double bass, in the hands of one of the Woods brothers, brings in the dark swampy 'Rainy Days'. The flavour of intensely dark chocolate, with big bites of Brigitte and Will with tambourine decoration is delicious.

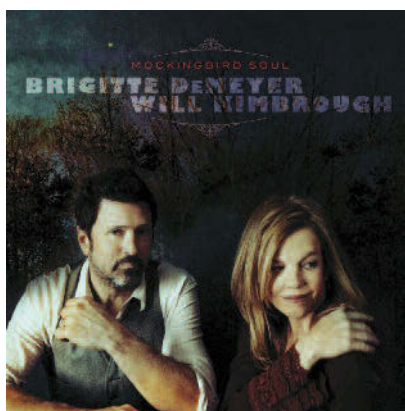
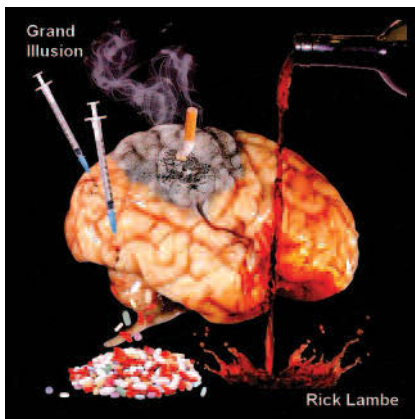
There's more folksy Americana to feast on before being stung by the fabulous 'Honey Bee' - warm, smokey, and seductive and simply dripping with desire. The harmonies of 'Carpet Baggers Lullaby' eases the mind, perfect to settle the insomniac in us.

The 12 track album closes with an Incredible String Band cover, 'October Song'. Will's finger picking guitar is stark, superlative and leaves a lasting impression,. Beautiful harmonies float over the acoustic masterpiece as the double bass softly adds its heartbeat.

*Mockingbird Soul* is a masterpiece of soulful Southern country and blues. Brigitte and Will are in perfect harmony, together they have created an elegant album, bewitching and delightful in equal measures. 'The Juke' 'sold' it to me, but there was so much more to discover, pure magic that will have you under its spell.

The album will be available on the night. Don't miss out, go along to the gig and pick up a copy.

Graham Munn





## Evesham Arts & Armandaleg Music present: Folk in the Foyer O'Hooley & Tidow + Ashland Evesham Arts Centre | Thursday 30th March

With a personal invite from Billy Bragg to play Glastonbury, sessions on 6 Music & Radio 2 and a five-star reviews aplenty, **O'Hooley & Tidow** are regarded as 'one of British folk's mightiest combinations' (Mojo). They've the originality and skill to invite comparison with the most celebrated harmony duos - from early Simon and Garfunkel to the iconic Kate & Anna McGarrigle - Belinda and Heidi's powerful, deeply moving and soulful performances are infused with an honesty and empathy that disarm the hardest of heart.

The pair have released five albums to date. Their debut "Silent June" won critical acclaim - a place in MOJO Magazines' annual top 10 and a 4-star review in the Financial Times to name a couple - that's continued ever since: their 2016 release "Shadows" rated a 5-star review in The Guardian.

O'Hooley & Tidow's song subjects range from Edith Cavell through war & work to Pussy Riot - with a whole album ("Summat's Brewin'") about drink, drinking & real ale. As well as



their own writing, the duo cover songs as diverse as Massive Attack's "Teardrop" & traditional Irish ballad "Spancil Hill". As for their music, that gets described as "utterly beautiful" and "sheer ebullient inventiveness".

'Formidably brilliant.' - The Independent

"In the leading ranks of the new wave of folk music aristocracy."

- Tom Robinson, 6 Music

**O'Hooley & Tidow** will be supported at Evesham's Folk in the Foyer by Birmingham-based duo **Ashland**.

The music starts at 8pm in the arts centre foyer bar. Tickets price £10 (£9 EAA members) are available now from:

Evesham Almonry, Abbey Road WR11 4BQ 01386 446944 and [www. EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk](http://www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk)



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**DOM PIPKIN**

Sat 25th March



**JESS MORGAN**

Sat 22nd April



**IAN SHERWOOD**

Sat 13th May



**KATEY BROOKS**

Sat 27th May



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

Tickets available from [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk)

Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, both on Church Street, Malvern.



## Elmsie House in March

On Saturday March 11th The Malvern Storytellers present 'Held in Place' Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start  
Tickets: Adults £6.00, Under 16s, £3.00

**Friday Mar 17th - The Recorder** - according to Tim Cranmore & friends. . . Tickets £10/8. Start time 7.30pm

Telephone Tim on 07761 660244 for reservations or details

**Sunday March 19th Craft Market** from 10.30 – 4.30pm

**Sat March 25th exhibition** - The Magic of a Line. 10am to 4pm

**March 25th Evening** - Jazz pianist Dom Pipkin

**Friday 31st March - Trance Dance** with Rishi Vloote & Tarisha.

Running from 7pm – 10pm Tickets £15 on the door

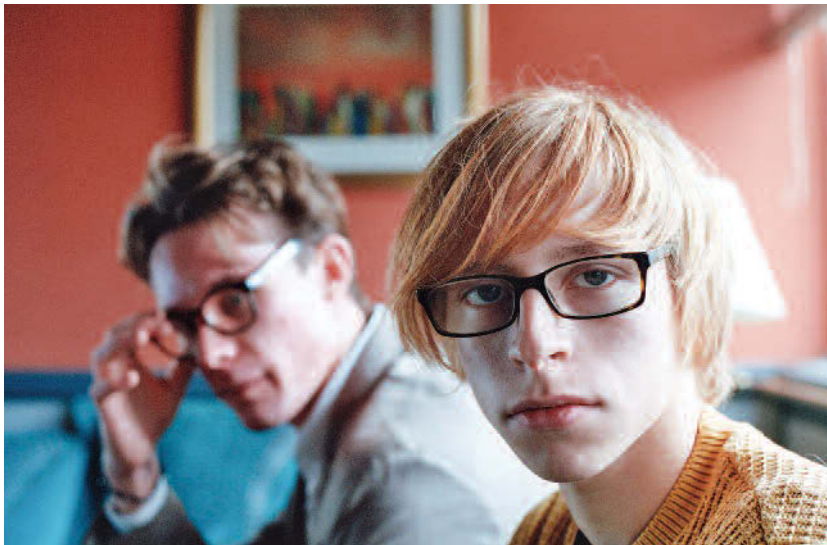
For more info 07915 657569 or see [www.callofdrums.com](http://www.callofdrums.com)

**For all further information visit [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk)**

# The Fidgets

## From buskers to cathedral town heroes

These days, it is hard to imagine the High Street without two distinctive figures busking around. With their signature glasses on, guitars in hands and voices in perfect unison – **The Fidgets** have become an important feature in Worcester. A ray of hope to put the town back on a music map.



With a vision and passion, The Fidgets cultivate pop melodies and vocal harmonies placing themselves in a league on their own on an indie scene saturated with noise and postpunk rebellion. We've met the band to see what they have got in store for 2017.

You are one of the most prolific bands in West Midlands at the moment. But for those who may not be familiar with your history, please introduce yourselves.

*Hi! We're The Fidgets!! The two of us – that would be **Ryan Skidmore** and **Max Stockin** – met in 2012 when Max answered an ad placed by Ryan on [www.joinmyband.com](http://www.joinmyband.com) for musicians inspired by '60s pop music, and especially The Beatles. We played live for the first time in March 2013 (coming up for four years!) and we've played God knows how many times since then – the 500th gig was early last year.*

Your music is a mix of classic rock, blues, northern soul and mod revival. Quite unusual for today's pop music climate. Who are your sonic heroes?

*The Beatles, of course! Everything comes back to them, it's been nothing short of an obsession for years! Around that, our influences are really varied, we both love '50s and '60s pop in general and the two of us each have our own little avenues. Max is very into Blues and Country music, he's a big fan of Teddy Thompson, and he's a huge fan of Chuck Berry. Ryan is a very big fan of modern pop and is currently very much into The 1975 and Ed Sheeran. We both love loads of stuff, but the bulk of our influence definitely comes from the '60s.*

The band seems to be moving on up at incredible speed. Your first EP *"I'm Alright"* came out in 2015 to local acclaim and well attended gigs. You followed last year with another EP *"It's Only You"* and immediately were invited to do **BBC Introducing** session. It must have been a quite an experience.

*I suppose things are moving a bit fast! It never looks that way from the inside, you don't have time to think about it, everything just goes by in a bit of a blur, it's only when you look back that you realise what you've done. 2016 was big for us! We did a handful of things for the BBC which was exciting! Of course, The Introducing session was fantastic, and the crowd at the Christmas Lights Switch-On was amazing.*

**BBC Hereford & Worcester** placed you at no 7 of the best bands for 2017. Slap Magazine previously described your music as *"brilliant"*. With such a strong support from local audience and

the press, The Fidgets truly are on a brink of better things to come. Does the band feel it too?

*Honestly we don't know what's going to happen! It definitely feels like things are getting bigger now, but we've been in the game a lot longer than anyone remember us for! We're very excited for the future, but we try not to get cocky!*

Recently Worcester News ran a controversial article about new busking scheme to be introduced in town, placing you on the front cover of the paper. Are you getting used to attention?

*Definitely, yeah. We've been well known around Worcester since the tail end of 2015 and it's*

*rare for us to go out without being recognised now. It has really picked up recently though! Around Christmas time we were chased through Crowngate Shopping Centre by a teenager and her mum for a signed CD and a hug! That kind of thing is getting quite common. It's brilliant, but it hasn't stopped being strange!*

Sometimes you expand for your performances. Would you tell us about the musicians you work with?

*We've put together a backing band! **Dave Whittaker**, our bassist, was a friend socially first, we saw each other a lot at the Marr's Bar on Wednesday open mic nights and he's a great player. He was the natural choice. Our drummer **Jack Bowles** went to Sixth Form with Ryan in Bromsgrove, and Ryan had his eye on him for a band even before he was in one. He's amazing.*

Your new single *"Everywhere I Go"* comes out in March. It will be accompanied by a video. Can you tell us more about it?





We've had to put off the release of the single until later in the month unfortunately (technical difficulties!) We shot the video around the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham, and we've just had a first full draft come through as we speak. We're very proud of it, it's a big step up from what we've done before and it's the first of our videos to feature anyone other than ourselves.

The band has been teasing big things to come in 2017. What should we expect? New material? Festival appearances?

Well, we can't give away too much I'm afraid! But 2017 is already looking like a big one. Yes there will definitely be new material with an EP being released in May and yes we are already booked in for festivals in the summer at **Mello Festival** and **Severn Sounds Festival** on the main stage and there's guaranteed to be more confirmed soon. Watch this space!

You have also been involved in collaboration with **Royal Shakespeare Company**. Can you disclose any details about this project?

Ah we're very happy to be a part of it! I'd love to tell you what it is but I don't have a copy of our contract handy and it's possible we've been sworn to secrecy! Besides, we don't like to spoil our surprises. When there's something to know, you'll know!

**The Fidgets** went from busking to heroes of a cathedral city. Where do you see yourself in the years to come?

Heroes is a bit strong, but thank you very much! We're very proud of where we've got to already and things can only get better in the future! We've got all sorts of big ambitions but everyone knows if you tell wishes they don't come true!! Just keep an eye on the charts and we'll see what happens shall we? We like big dreams. Unrealistic is our thing!

Eager to prove themselves but playing cards to their chest – The Fidgets are on their way into promising future. With a new release, a single, home coming gigs and an upcoming festival season – they cannot fail. Here's to the boys that sing.

By Rita Dabrowicz/Vanadian Avenue  
Photography: Josh Foster [www.joshfphoto.com](http://www.joshfphoto.com)

## The Fidgets | Everywhere I Go

Worcestershire based duo, **The Fidgets** are releasing their new single "Everywhere I Go" this month. SLAP magazine was

lucky to hear it first and we can report that this melodious, 60's inspired love song is going to be a new fan favourite.

"Everywhere I Go" opens up a new chapter in the bands' history, proving that **The Fidgets** have evolved and matured considerably since their last release "It's only you" in 2016 and became a truly unique, pure-blooded rock and roll act deserving their place on the



BBC Hereford and Worcestershire list of bands to look out for this year.

The mid tempo, Beatle-esque three minute single is filled with perfect harmonies, catchy riffs and will undoubtedly have the crowds swinging and singing along. It also has a distinctive Northern vibe to it, with **Max Stockin** sounding eerily similar to Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds.

Fans of classic rock, The LA's and Cast will have a chance to catch **The Fidgets** rocking the **Marrs Bar** on March 17th.



# Vocal Mixing Part 3

If you've worked your way through the previous two parts, you'll have sorted out any little timing issues with your vocal, replaced or pitch corrected any slightly off-key sections and muted any sections where the vocal is supposed to be silent. You'll also have used level automation and/or a Vocal Rider plug-in followed by a compressor to even up the vocal level and to add weight to the sound. You may also have used a modest amount of EQ to give the sound a more airy top end or to clean up the low end. Now it is time to add effects to make the vocal sound polished.

The usual tools of choice here are reverb and delay. If you are processing only one vocal part, then you can simply insert these into the vocal track, but if you need to use them to process several vocal parts, then set them up as effects sends so that they can be shared across several tracks.

In most cases I'll choose a plate reverb or a digital emulation of one as the plate adds a musical reverb without trying to fool the listener into thinking the recording was made in a church, a car park or a cave. Most of the classic records made up to around 1980 used a mechanical plate reverb but after that digital reverb started to take over. The amount of reverb added to vocals tends to vary according to fashion and currently, we tend to use less reverb and to combine it with delay to create the required sense of space.

I tend to set up the delays first where a delay time of between 300 and 700ms often adds the required sense of distance — but only if used at a fairly low level and with the top end rolled off from the delays to give the effects of them being far away. The Feedback control is used to set up a few decaying repeats and then by filtering out the highs at maybe 2kHz, the delays start to



sound soft and supportive rather than simply confusing the vocal part. For some songs, setting the delay time to follow the song tempo can work but we're in the realms of art, not science so let your ears decide.

Reverb can follow the delay where a plate setting with a decay time of between 1.5 and three seconds can work well. However, if you want a more intimate sound with less in the way of obvious reverb, try one of the ambience or early reflections settings. Most reverb plug-ins have lots of presets for you to try. If you decide on a bright reverb setting, consider putting a de-esser plug-in before it to tame sibilance.

I'll usually take some low end out of the reverb sound (using the EQ controls in the reverb plug-in itself if it has them) to stop the low end getting messy. A 200Hz shelving filter usually works fine. The final adjustment to the reverb and delay levels should always be made with the backing playing as what might sound like far too much effect when heard in isolation may virtually disappear when everything is playing. The trick is not to overdo the reverb and delay — just add enough to get the vocal to feel right. If you add too much your vocal won't sound 'up front' any more.

Finally I'd like to share a trick I developed for creating a big 'double tracked' vocal sound. Copy your main vocal to another track, delay the copy by around 35 ms, then process only the copied track using a pitch correction plug-in set to a medium correction speed. No matter how well sung the vocal part is, the pitch correction plug-in will always be trying to make small changes and those small pitch differences combined with the short delay produce the illusion of the same part being sung twice. Pan the main and copied vocal slightly either side of centre and it can sound impressively big. The same trick also works for creating epic guitar solos too.

To confirm your vocal is sitting correctly in the mix, stand outside the room with the door open and listen to the balance. Balance problems relating to both vocals and instruments stand out much more clearly when you listen in this way and it is a trick that many professional engineers employ so do try it — you'll find it very helpful.

*Paul White Editor in Chief, Sound on Sound*

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# How to make a £Million promoting live bands! (Iip start with £2million)

So the big day arrived, Saturday Nov 12th 2016. My first gig promotion. Start small they said, find your feet, learn the ropes and all that. Pish, "go big or go home" is my mantra. Tickets sales to date however had been somewhat disappointing but enough to make a night of it. Whatever, past the point of no return now. Bound to get a crowd at the last minute, after all, this is the Gloucester Guildhall, they are mad for it here! Right? Please!

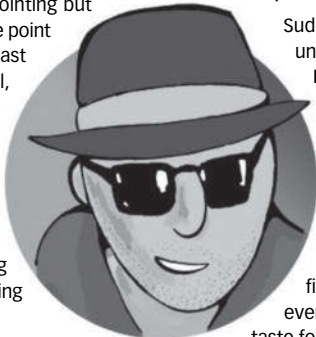
Next thing, need the bands to turn up. Sound check at around 3.30 we said right? No worries. Except it's now 5 o'clock and there's nobody here. Even the famously chilled out sound guy is looking at his watch. Ring band. "Er, so are you guys close?" (trying to sound cool and collected whilst quietly wanting to run away and hide in the corner).

So turns out, not only do bands operate in a different timezone where 3 o'clock means anytime between 4 and 7, but **Rosco Levee**, the main man has been seriously unwell and nearly missed the trip! "But he's on the bus right?" (thinking, as long as he's breathing we'll be fine).

So finally, 'the band's all here' quite literally. Blood pressure drops noticeably, pulse slows to about 120.

Sound check underway and suddenly I'm smiling. "This sounds feckin' awesome" I'm thinking and I remember why I decided to put myself through this ordeal.

At this point due respect must be paid to **The Get-Go** a more solid trio of gentlemen you could not wish to meet. (Any promoters/festival bookers out there take note!) Chilled out to the max, very tight 15 minute sound check (following the main act as is the custom I now know), total pro's right through and then "blew the bloody doors off" with a rollicking 60 minute set of high tempo original rocking blues you won't see bettered anywhere. **Stuart Farnham, Brian Hall & Richard Metcalfe**, take a bow.



Suddenly I'm actually enjoying myself. I now understand the term 'gateway drug'. Next up, **Rosco Levee**, backed up by **Mike Ross** (guitar & vocals) and **Rick Kent** (drums & cool cap). Cue a further 80 minutes of outstanding original Rock/Blues/Americana (seriously, who gives a f\*ck what the genre is if it's THIS good?). And before you know it, there I am in an empty hall with a beer in hand, a smile on my face and a burning sensation in my pocket. My first gig done. Successfully (ish). Certainly everyone there had a great time. And I've got the taste for it. Big time.

The burning sensation in my pocket? Well, see it as an investment, like a 'real-time' course in sales and marketing almost but a whole load more fun! And cheaper than joining a golf club. And much cooler.

And suddenly I'm a music promoter. Apparently. ☺

Reality check. Gloucester Rugby club, sold out 22,000 Little Mix tickets at c£35 a pop in 4 hours. WTF?

p.s. **Albany Down**. March 24th. Gloucester Guildhall. Via See Tickets.

Neil H, aka the 'Phat Geezer'

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# Pulverise

## The Flapper, Birmingham | Sat 11th Feb

Oh, this was fun... As part of a sizzling bill of **Metal at The Flapper**, arranged by local promoters **Punks Alive**, Leeds-based Metal/Rap/Hardcore crossover outfit **Pulverise** made a huge impression on a very enthusiastic crowd.

This was a bit like a forty minute onstage party - and this band clearly knows how to party. Crossing rap and metal is fraught with pitfalls, but this band makes the two genres sound like natural bedfellows - no mean feat.



The music lurches offstage a bit like an out of control steamroller, flattening all in its path. Driven by the extremely vigorous drumming of **Vicky Reader** and the thunderous bass lines of **Darren Johnson** who together make up a very powerful unit indeed, the sonic attack is upped even further by **Luke Helstrip's** jagged, rasping guitar lines.

And fronting this merry band is **Jojo Millward** - hyperactive and frequently completely obscured by her impressive dreads, she nevertheless maintains perfect metre on her largely rapped vocals, despite the changes in rhythm, mood and time signature - very impressive, as are the supporting scary bellows from both guitarists.

As you'd expect, the music is thoroughly uncompromising and takes few prisoners - pick of the night is probably '*Filth*', followed closely by '*Bolitics*' and '*Stumble*', for which there's a cracking video on YouTube.

They don't play down this way often - don't miss them when they do. The best band of their type I've seen. No contest.

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

Geoffrey Head



# Secrets of Mariana

## The Flapper, Birmingham | Sat 11th Feb

Just occasionally, those annoying algorithms that fill your social media full of useless adverts for things you'll never need or are borderline illegal will come up with an absolute gem.



A couple of months ago, while looking at information on a band I wanted to see, a music-bot sent me a powerful, gritty video for a track called '*Eat Me Alive*' by Birmingham outfit **Secrets of Mariana** and I sort of lost interest in what I was supposed to be looking at.

They're part of a truly excellent four-band bill tonight put together by local promoters **Punks Alive**, and as the bill has been arranged sonically, in ascending order of heaviness, they're kicking us off.

It's soon clear that this is a unit with huge strengths, playing music with style and subtlety - melodic, but with just the right amount of sudden bursts of power to spontaneously jerk your head forward on a regular basis. They straddle the line between the heavy end of Alt-Rock and Metal with an assurance that draws the best elements from both genres.

The rhythm section of **Jay Vincent** on bass and **Nick Schultz** on drums is kept well on their toes by the abrupt changes of pace and startling surges, providing the perfect base for the twin guitars of **Ash Collins** and **Matt Neenan** to fly over the backdrop.



This is the most complementary pairing of guitarists I've heard in a while, either working in unison, soloing individually or trading off riffs and licks, of which there are many memorable examples, they work pretty much perfectly together. This is particularly evident on '*Reach*', the title track of their first EP.

And then...oh, my word, there's this voice. It belongs to vocalist **Amy Wyatt** and it's an absolute belter - the ease with which she slips between guttural aggression and the cleanest of clean vocals, sometimes in succeeding lines is absolutely remarkable. There's often a tendency for one style to be weaker than the other when one vocalist attempts both but I hear no evidence of that here. And she can produce the goods both when flat out and when the pace is reined in. A remarkable performance.

I'm waiting, of course, for '*Eat Me Alive*' and when it does come, it blows me away as I hoped it would, as do the pair of EPs I bought at the gig - '*No Escape*' is their latest - my long journey home goes very quickly.

This is a band I will be seeing a lot of, and might I suggest you do, too - you won't be disappointed.

<https://secretsofmariana.bandcamp.com/>

Geoffrey Head



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# Local Festival News

With festival season appearing on the horizon, it's time to start planning your summer as the big events start announcing their line ups...

## The Seventh Wave Festival of Electronic Music

Back for it's second year **The Seventh Wave Festival of Electronic Music** takes place in March across four days and three venues in Birmingham. The stellar 'live' line-up includes members of one of the most influential early industrial acts **Test Dept.**, revered 'Kraut-rock' and electronic collective **Gnod**, **Tubeway Army** member **Chris Payne** (who co-wrote '*Fade to Grey*' by Visage), **DJ Rusty Egan** of **Visage** fame (put simply, with-out Rusty Egan there would be no **Steve Strange**) and **Richard Barbieri** (currently of **Porcupine Tree** but he cut his teeth as the highly respected synth player for new wave pioneers **Japan** in the 1980's).

One of the highlights of the festival will be an electronic music conference with key note speeches from **Martyn Ware** (**Heaven 17**), **Chris Payne** (who formed **Dramatis** with other members of Gary Numan's **Tubeway Army** in the early 1980's), **Richard Barbieri** (**Japan**/**Porcupine Tree** but also a pivotal member of **Rain Tree Crow**) & **DJ Rusty Egan** (whose **Blitz Club** started the New Romantic movement).

Tickets can be purchased for individual events from both [theticketsellers](http://www.theticketsellers.co.uk) and [Skiddle](http://www.skiddle.com/): <http://www.theticketsellers.co.uk> <http://www.skiddle.com/>

## Lechlade Festival

In other news, Mod revival band **The Lambrettas** have been announced as Saturday night headliners at this year's **Lechlade Festival** which will take part over the May bank holiday. Organisers recently announced indie band **The Hoosiers** and rhythm and blues band **Dr Feelgood** as Sunday night headliners at this popular 3-day event. Other recent announcements include a collaboration with local music company **David Seaton Music and Associates** who will bring tribute acts **Modraphenia**, **ABBA Arrival** and **Not The Rolling Stones** to headline on Friday night.

The full line up is expected over the next few weeks. Festival Director **Jennie Rainsford** said "The team have worked very hard over the last 6 months to listen to over 900 applications. Festival-



The Lambrettas

goers can look forward to a fantastic weekend of live music across so many genres and to suit all ages. We're so excited about this year's event, which will be even bigger and better before."

A new extended local's ticket is proving popular as discounts previously only offered to **Lechlade** residents have been extended to surrounding towns and villages. Full details are available on the festival website.

Now in its seventh year, the festival continues to grow, with more free family activities and workshops added for this year. Camping is available from Friday to bank holiday Monday. Children 16 and under go free and a new Young Adult weekend ticket for 17 to 19 year olds starts at £20.

## Mello Festival

Also taking part on the May bank holiday is **Mello Festival** who have revealed another three artists set to join the already announced acts that will be descending onto **Throckmorton Airfield**. The current line up includes **Hawkwind**, **Lucy Spraggan**, **Bez** (**Happy Mondays- DJ set**), **Goldie Lookin Chain**, **Dreadzone** and **Republica**.

First up is **Space**, an English indie rock band from Liverpool who came to prominence in the mid 1990s with hit singles such as



Space

"*Female of the Species*". After disbanding in 2005, they reunited in 2011, two years after the death of original drummer **Andy Parle**. Like many British bands from the '90s era, the core of Space's sound was inspired by '60s guitar groups such as **The Kinks** and **The Who**.

Alongside **Space** will be **Deadzone**, a band that have earned the title of one of the most energetic, exciting and powerful live bands to emerge from the post-rave scene. Pioneered by former members of **Big Audio Dynamite** (and, by inheritance, carrying



Dreadzone

forward the heart and soul of **The Clash**) **Dreadzone**'s two decade plus career has been championed by the late **John Peel** and have steadily been releasing underground storms of albums, progressively bettering, refining and perfecting their own unique and inimitable take on dub.

The final announcement comes in the form of **The Electric Swing Circus** who are a six piece electro swing band based in Birmingham. The band's preview EP, *Penniless Optimist*, was released in September 2011. After a stunning show in 2016, they were the band people most asked for to return... We responded and they're back!



## Wychwood Festival

**Wychwood Festival** have revealed that **Buzzcocks** will be their Friday night headliner. Joining them will be **Jesus Jones**, **Smooove**



Buzzcocks

& **Turrell** and **Professor Elemental** with the **Smashing Blouse** team adding **Zak Abel**, **Let's Eat Grandma**, **IDER**, **Girli** and **Flamingods** to the eclectic line-up. Also announced for the **Hobgoblin** stage are **Indigo Rose**, **Cherokii**, **Curse Of Lono** and **Skata Tones**. **Wychwood Festival** takes place 2nd - 4th June on the world-famous **Cheltenham Racecourse**, with the likes of **OMD**, **The Levellers** and **Billy Bragg** already announced and more still to come. Day tickets are on sale now for an unbeatable price, starting at just £47 for an adult with weekend tickets costing just £140 for an adult. For tickets and further information please visit [wychwoodfestival.com](http://wychwoodfestival.com).



The Levellers

## Nozstock The Hidden Valley

Then **Nozstock The Hidden Valley**, the family-run, family friendly and home-made festival set across a working farm in stunning rural Herefordshire, returns for its 19th year across Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd July, and has revealed its first wave of artists, with many more to be revealed over the coming weeks.

Father and daughter **Noz** and **Ella** curate one of the country's most charming and beguiling festivals, surrounded by rolling hills and a world away from reality. It's a weekend of escapism, inspiration and enchantment which encompasses everything from pop, ska, folk, funk, hip-hop, drum and bass, house and a whole lot more. This year's theme of **Keepin' It Surreal** will see the farm transformed into a wondrous world of oddities and mystery, with plenty of inspiration for fancy dressers across all ages.

The festival is proud to announce first wave of live headliners, including **Seasick Steve**, **Happy Mondays**, **General Levy**, **Ocean Wisdom**, **Mungo's Hi-Fi**, **Beans on Toast**, **Rodney P & Skitz**, **The**



Happy Mondays



Stiff Joints

**Correspondents**, **Dabbla Illaman** and **DJ Frosty**, **Land of The Giants**, **Stiff Joints**, **Chainska Brassika** and many more. DJs includes **Krafty Kuts & Dynamite MC**, **Delta Heavy**, **Hazard** and **Eksman**, **Loadstar**, **Mind Vortex**, **Frankee**, **15 Years of Critical Records** feat. **Break**, **Ivy Lab**, **Kasra**, **Foreign Concept** and many more.

## The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival

And, finally, **The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival** has announced the line-up for its fourth annual charity music event, which will spotlight 50 great bands at **Upton upon Severn** from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th August 2017. Created in 2014 in memory of local man **Ian Downton** who passed away following a year-long battle to recover after a car accident, all monies raised go to the **Midlands Air Ambulance** Charity.



Grimmett's Grim Reaper

50 bands will be entertaining rock fans across two stages. **Worcestershire's** own legendary 80s' heavy metal act **Steve Grimm's Grim Reaper** will be headlining the main stage on Saturday night and there will be a lot more. From alternative and metal, including the **Connor Maher Quartet** and **Pilgrim**, to classic rock tribute performances by the likes of **Soul Stripper** (AC/DC), **Wizards of Oz** (Ozzy Osbourne) and **Sam's Town** (The Killers), there will be something for all rock tastes.



Soul Stripper

From a small event held at the **Drum and Monkey** pub just outside **Upton upon Severn** (hence the name **Drunken Monkey**), the event has now outgrown its' original venue and developed into a true festival. In 2016 it was moved to a 10 acre site, still only a couple of miles from the town but able to entertain 1,500 revellers. Tickets are £35 for the weekend and £15 for the day and are available online now through [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)



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# The Peatbog Fairies

Hellens Manor, Much Marcle | 20th & 21st March

**Versatile Arts** welcome the return of the weird but wonderful world of **The Peatbog Faeries** to the **Great Barn, Hellens Manor**, Much Marcle. This time due to high demand the band will appear for two consecutive nights on Mon 20th and Tues 21st March.

**The Peatbog Fairies** take traditional Scottish music and bring it fresh-faced and breathless into the 21st century. Hailing from the Isle of Skye, the figurehead trailblazers of the Celtic dance music renaissance draw upon a myriad of influences from traditional jigs and reels through jazz, hip hop, reggae and more, they take traditional Scottish music and bring it fresh-faced and breathless into the 21st century. They have toured the world taking their inventive and unique brand of music and light show to audiences far and wide, never failing to fill the floor and delight the crowd.

Back on the road following the release of their latest album *Blackhouse* they are **Peter Morrison** (pipes and whistles), **Ross Couper** (fiddle), **Tom Salter** (guitar), **Innes Hutton** (bass, percussion) **Graeme Stafford** (keyboards) and **Stuart Haikney** (drums). *'This is high octane Celtic dance music as you've never heard it before. Be prepared to dance!'* Folk Roots.

Doors open at 7.00pm with proceedings commencing at 7.30pm with support from **Kieran Terry**. The Peatbog Fairies take to the stage just after 8.00pm

Tickets are priced £18.50 and are available from the Hereford Courtyard box online or by phone 01432 340555. Tickets are also available from Premier Stores Much Marcle, Ice Bytes Ledbury, River Music Ross on Wye and Carnival records Malvern.

For more info please contact **versatile Arts** on 01531 660801

Versatile Arts present

## Peatbog Faeries



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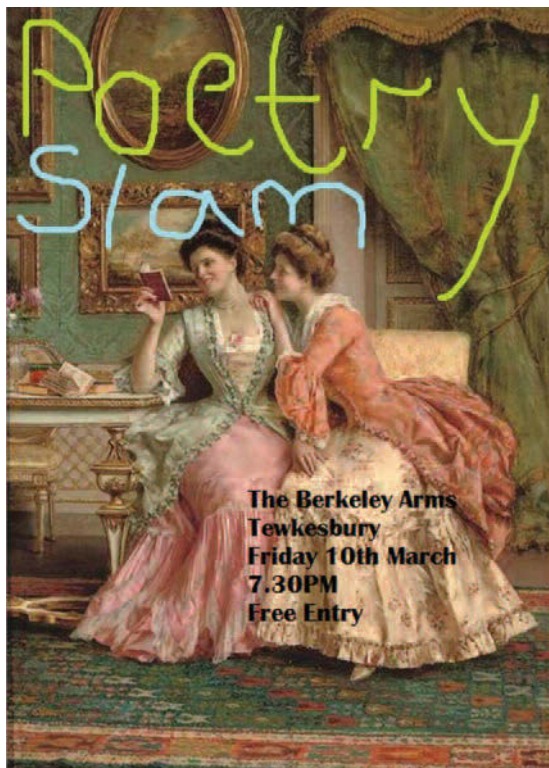
## Poetry Slam

**Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury | Fri 10th March**

Well known for its live music on Saturday evenings, this popular 15th century half-timbered Grade II two-bar pub, just off Tewkesbury Cross in the historic town of Tewkesbury, plays host to a brand new night of poetry.

A poetry slam is a competitive form of poetry performance started in America by Marc Smith in 1984 and has since grown in popularity all over the world. It is judged either by a panel of judges or by the audience. However as this is the first one they will play it by ear and are asking people to bring along their own work with the aim of further encouraging them to write and perform pieces on the night from a selection of "random" subjects suggested by the audience. Get there for 7.30 for an 8pm start.

All forms of poetry are permissible and they can be funny, sad, ironic or just to get people thinking as long as they are not racist,



homophobic, sexist or swear word filled rants etc. They must also be under three minutes long.

They hope to make this a regular event and it develop's organically into a fun and off the wall way of getting people immersed in the magical world of poetry where words really do matter...

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berkeleyarms01@hotmail.com



## The Booth Hall, Hereford

Reopened in late 2015 by pocket rocket team **Arran and Willow Vidal-Hall**, **The Booth Hall** in East Street has become the go-to place for a friendly welcome, live music and alternative entertainment in Hereford.

Over the last twelve months it has played host to punk-rock legends **TV Smith**, **Subhumans** and **Steve Ignorant**, supported up and coming artists of all genres from all over the world and been the home for sell out charitable festivals and fundraisers.

Landlady Willow, a performer in her own right, came to Hereford wanting to make a difference to the existing live music scene "We wanted to come to Hereford and become a real part of the music scene here, but we had no idea how many talented musicians there were!"

"We are proud to say we have had a huge number of local bands and musicians on our stage and we hope that this plays a positive role in their journey, we can't wait to continue supporting and showcasing local talent at The Booth Hall for many years to come"

As well as supporting well rehearsed and gigging musicians **The Booth Hall** offers a huge



leg-up to those a little further down the live music ladder with weekly **Open Mic** nights hosted by long standing local musicians and promoters.

**Maddy** and **Ben**, **Freeborn Rising**, **Ali** and **Esk Forte** and **The Underground Revolution** team are on hand to offer support and share knowledge on a four week rotation- each experts in their own particular field.

As well as offering a full PA system with professional sound engineer, in house drum-kit, **The Booth Hall** have teamed up with **Ryan Jordan** of **AR Studios** to offer one free live recording per act at every session. That's recording, mixing, mastering and hard copy of one song for absolutely nothing. added to this, all open mic performers receive a free drink!.

The new look open mic launched in February at **The Booth Hall**, every Wednesday at 7.30pm. For more information on open mic and upcoming gigs at The Booth Hall follow the Facebook page:

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

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

Nicola Bates



# Suz Winspear

## Worcestershire Poet Laureate

It feels as though this year has hardly begun, but it's March already, and what a year we've had so far! We're in weird times full of uncertainty; political events in the US are getting ever more peculiar and the outcome of the Brexit negotiations is anyone's guess. It's easy to feel despair at it all, but chaotic times have so often produced amazing art, writing and music, so perhaps some good will arise from this strange year.

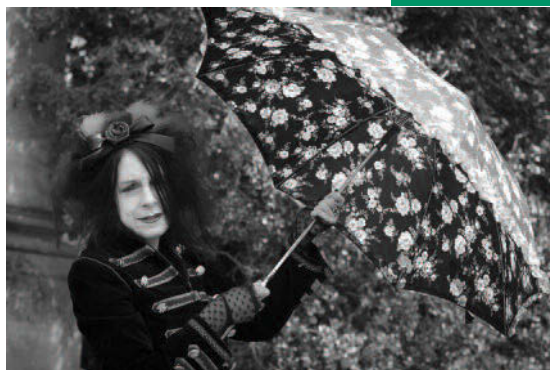
Meanwhile, the local spoken word scene remains lively, and it's time to get your entries ready for this year's **LitFest** competitions. The first is the contest for the **Worcestershire Poet Laureate 2017-8**. Yes, you could be the next me! (You won't be obliged to adopt the hairstyle and the goth clothes.) The theme for this year is *'Freedom'*, the closing date is Friday 24th March.

Then there's the **Flash Fiction** competition, for stories on any theme, of up to 300 words, and the **Young Writers** competition for writers aged between 7 and 17, this year's theme being *'Artificial Intelligence'*.

Details of all these competitions can be found on the Worcestershire LitFest and Fringe website and Facebook page.

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

**Wednesday 8th – Worcester Writers' Group Meeting** at 7.30 at the **Lunar Bar** above the Swan with Two Nicks. This new and informal group welcomes all those who love writing – everybody welcome!



**Thursday 9th – SpeakEasy at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop.** Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Out featured poet this month is the amazing Adrian Mealing. Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're popular, so get there early! £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

**Wednesday 29th – 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 31st – Herstory Poetry Night Organised by Woo Feministas.** Women's poetry to celebrate **Women's History Month** and to raise funds for Worcestershire Pride 2017. Open Mic slots will probably be available. Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop. 7.30pm. full disabled access.

## Poetry Open Mic Night with Ben Parker

### Swan Theatre | 17th Feb

Well I usually like my lyrics set to music and my own feeble efforts at penning rhyming literature tend to begin with something akin to *'There was a young chap from Nanking...'* but I've recently been popping along to a few of the 'spoken word' events taking place regularly on our patch and have slightly surprised myself by quite enjoying them! It helps that recently there's been some local personalities like **Giovanni 'Spoz' Esposito** and **Suz Winspeare** who've made it their mission to take their poetry to a wider audience - and I was particularly inspired to take a further interest in this genre by the wonderfully offbeat performance from **Johnny Fluffypunk** (yes!) at last year's **Ledbury Poetry Festival!**



**Ben Parker's** the **Poet-in-Residence at Worcester's Swan Theatre** and this was his second open mic evening held in the 'King's Balcony' (the cafe!) and I was chuffed to see that the place was nearly full with a fair spread of ages in attendance. Prospective performers had been asked to email Ben in advance with a few of their own details for a four-minute spot, with any remaining places being made available first-come first-served on the night - there weren't any!

No less than fifteen different performers on the night - one of the first being previous **Worcestershire 'Poet Laureate' Maggie Doyle** - and quite pleasing was also a bit of mix'n'match over the two-part evening with a short 'collective' from the four **Witybed Poets** based near Alvechurch and a two-voice offering from



students **Matt** and **Vivienne** to add a little variety to the occasion - which for these events can occasionally be a bit 'processionary' - a nice touch!

Some of the poems as you'd expect were slightly serious and a touch darker in their tone but have to confess that I was personally more taken with the gently amusing odes - especially tickled by **Johnny Mogs** from Stourbridge and his poems about a reluctant dog (if you want the stick back why did you throw it away?) and the one about the contents of his ubiquitous 'man drawer' - **Mike Alma** from Worcester threw in a Milligan-esque ditty about an extremely oversized kipper tie - and **Claire Badsey** drew up a not-too demanding blueprint of the qualities her ideal man should possess!

But I was pretty impressed with all the different styles on offer tonight - there's very much a friendliness and warmth that I've found at all events of this genre - and if you've jotted down a few lines of verse yourself (and no it doesn't necessarily have to rhyme!) then why not pop along yourself to one of the many poetry evenings in our patch? **Ben Parker** will be hosting his next open mic night on Wednesday 23 August at Huntingdon Hall under the **Worcester Festival** umbrella - email him at [ben.r.parker@gmail.com](mailto:ben.r.parker@gmail.com) to book your spot - but you'll probably have to be a bit quick about it!!

Andy O'Hare

## Artrix March Highlights

Artrix's spring season launches into the stratosphere on **7th March** with **Ziggy Stardust and the Spider from Mars**. This documentary and concert film captures the chameleon-like one performing as Ziggy for the last time at London's Hammersmith Odeon in July 73. An extra bonus for ticket holders comes in the form of a free MOJO magazine celebrating the Ziggy era.

With over 700 performances in the past few years, the list of venues and festivals where **Perkelt** have performed is impressive. Playing on recorder, harp, guitar, percussion, and vocals, you can experience the passion and energy they create on **11th March**.



On 14th March you can **Meet Fred** – a two foot tall cloth puppet who battles with bureaucracy and is threatened with losing his PLA (Puppetry Living Allowance). A huge hit at Edinburgh last year, this show contains strong language and puppetry nudity.



Double Grammy Award Winner, **Albert Lee** returns to Artrix on **28th March**, this time accompanied by his great American Band (**J.T. Thomas, Will MacGregor** and **Jason Harrison Smith**). Undoubtedly one of the world's finest guitarists, Albert is also an accomplished piano player and vocalist.



March rounds off with the welcome return of award-winning blues vocalist, songwriter and band leader **Jo Harman** as part of the launch of her much anticipated second studio album *People We Become*. Not to be missed.

## Albany Down, Drawing of the Three Gloucester Guildhall | Friday 24th March

On Friday 24th March, **Albany Down** will take to the **Gloucester Guildhall** stage with support from **Drawing of the Three** who are **Paul Johnson** (Guitar/Vocals), **Dave Kerridge** (Bass/Vocals), **Lee Jenkins** (Drums). The Gloucestershire based trio play a catchy,



introspective brand of indie rock. Imagine Mansun's Paul Draper getting into a fight with The Pixies, then making up over a takeaway curry on a park bench and you'll kind of get the idea. Exemplary disciples of the do-it-yourself work ethic, all three are self-taught musicians. Together they've funded and produced two EPs and an album, and share out booking and promotion duties between themselves. The band are set to release a third EP in 2017.



Headliners **Albany Down** are **Paul Muir** on vocals, guitarist **Paul Turley**, drummer **Donna Peters** and bassist **Billy Dedman** and they have already recorded three albums with award-winning producer Greg Haver (Manic Street Preachers, INME, Super Furry Animals). They're a London-based contemporary rock band with influences ranging from classic acts like Led Zeppelin and Thunder to modern bands such as The Black Keys and Clutch. They combine a diapason of original songs with contemporary high energy rock.

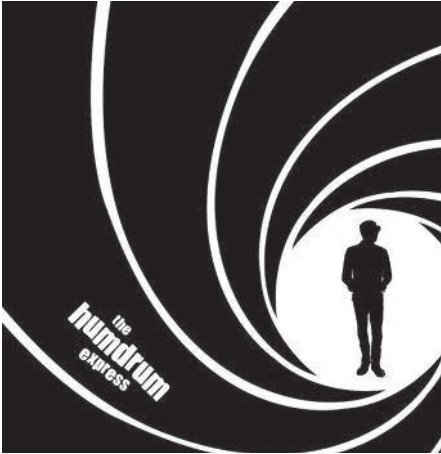
With over 12,000 fans on Facebook, fans of **Albany Down** agree that their live show never disappoints. The band run on pure adrenalin, unrelenting energy and raw emotion and soon have any crowd entranced. The music is based on thunderous guitar riffs and pounding drums juxtaposed with soulful, soaring, emotionally-charged ballads. Rock blogger Neil Mach probably got it right, when he described the band; "*As hot as volcanic ash and yet as cool as snow slippers.*" Make sure you head down to Gloucester Guildhall for this impressive line-up, doors open at 7pm and tickets are £15.



# The Humdrum Express Lookalike Bond EP

Over the past couple of years Worcestershire singer-songwriter and performance poet **Ian Passey** aka **The Humdrum Express** has been making quite a name for himself. His one man shows have been entertaining crowds locally and led to support slots with established artists such as Half Man Half Biscuit, TV Smith and Ian McCulloch. Whilst his songs have been championed by radio DJ **Steve Lamacq** resulting in regular airplay on **6 Music**. But what does **The Humdrum Express** sound like? It's difficult to describe as he truly is an original but his songs are tinged with wry observational humour and social commentary that places him musically somewhere between Half Man Half Biscuit & Billy Bragg with a pinch of John Cooper Clarke.

The *Lookalike Bond EP* is the follow up to The Humdrum Express's acclaimed 2016 album *The Day My Career Died*. The 4 track EP continues with the observational humour that Ian's song writing has become known for.



The opening track *Lookalike Bond* is a light-hearted look at celebrity lookalikes and what would happen if the celebrity they looked like was named as the next James Bond. Propelling the lookalike from opening shops to almost celebrity status, only to find ultimately their doppelganger falling from grace and with them their own lookalike career. It is an infectiously catchy song that makes you smile from start to finish. Packed with cleverly used Bond references and film titles, I can see this become a firm favourite with Humdrum fans both new and old.

If *Only I'd Watched Blue Peter* is a mellow little number that delivers a slice of witty self-reflection that also has a little poke at how some people try to fill that middle-aged void with mass consumerism. Musically it has almost got a feel of an 80's kids TV theme in the background. You can't help but smile.

The third track *Fading Stars on Social Media* picks up the pace with a fast catchy guitar riff that, along with the bass and drums, provides the background for a spoken swipe at the cult of celebrity and social media's over use by fading stars to prolong their now z-list status. The song is full of acerbic wit and shows The Humdrum Express at his poetic best.

The EP is rounded off with a great cover version of the early 80's Post-punk song *Painting By Numbers* by Television Personalities (alright by me - Ed). The song really suits Ian's voice and at times his interpretation has an almost The Smiths-like feel at times, especially during the verses. It is a great way to round off a fine collection of songs and, on hearing this latest body of work, it is safe to say that **The Humdrum Express's** star is still in ascendency. I for one can't wait to catch some of these new tunes live in the near future.

Jason K

FRIDAY MARCH 24

PHAT GEEZER PRESENTS

# ALBANY DOWN

## DRAWING OF THE THREE



DOORS 7.30PM / TICKETS £15

FOR TICKETS: 01452 503050 OR

WWW.GLOUCESTERGUILDHALL.CO.UK

# Hereford Heavy

Booth Hall, Hereford | Friday 17th February

**Enmerkar** made their debut appearance at Hereford Heavy after only five months together as a band. They played energetically and with a cohesion that belied the short time they have been playing together. Bassist **Dave Jeanne** had only joined 3 weeks prior. We talked to him about the band:

*"We had a few practices over three weeks, and I've been playing in the cellar like a sad little man. The wife's had a lot to put up with. I'm pleased with how it went given we've not been together that long. We did have an eventful night out a couple of weeks ago. Hopefully there will be another gig. I'm going to get a new pedal for the bass and the band is getting an iPad for some undisclosed technology. Rob (vocals) will be triggering it. Talk to Alex about it all, he's a satanic genius and I don't want to give too much away."* **Will Hemming** (drums) was also pleased with how the gig went. We talked to **Alex** (guitar) about the writing process, and also his moustache, which he is getting ready for competitions. It's a curly waxed piece of facial topiary that would suit a circus ringmaster, thirties aviator or Hanna Barbara villain. **Rob** writes the lyrics and sends them to Alex who composes arrangements in Logic on his computer and sends the parts to the other band members. He has experience of composition from his day job composing commercially, adverts and fitness music mostly - a far cry from the possessed electrified somersaults this band performs. He seemed positive about the idea of bringing Rob's cosplay interest onto the stage which would be a novel element but perhaps concerning for the drummer who may well overheat. He also explained that Djent metal is a guitar sound playing in a dropped tuning rather than any reference to them being gentlemen, which is incidental. They asked me to make sure to thank the Booth for putting them on, saying the event organiser was really safe, chilled and supportive and the sound engineer absolutely accommodating. It will be interesting to see how this band develops from a promising start.

**Harambe** took to the stage and belted into a squall of feedback and distortion that proved too much for the ears of a friend in the audience who I took outside in search of earplugs. It was pretty intense. **Harambe** was a temporary name for the project, which is taking a different name to every gig in a gesture of anti-commercialism. You won't find them on Facebook. We spoke to **Ashley** from the band. *"Sorry if it was too much for your friend. It's just like any art. If you appreciate it, that's great, but it's not for everyone."* We spoke to him about the writing process. *"We start with improvised bass riffs and go off that. We put the vocals straight on with delay for texture. We need to fill out the sound as we have no guitarist. We used to have one but he disappeared for his own reasons. We'd have him back in a heartbeat."* We spoke about the scene: *"there is a bit of one in Hereford but it's all nu-metal revival and the occasional hardcore band. We had a set, couldn't think of a name, so we called ourselves Harambe. You might not be able to find our band, but we'll always be doing something. If it gets boring we'll stop. We're playing tomorrow at the Blackfriars Tattoos night at the Imperial as Mud Humper. It could be our last gig, who knows."* I asked tongue-in-cheek if that was a scoop and his mate said I was like a Daily Mail journo which brought the interview to an awkward end but we shook hands and I went back in to check out the next act.

**Maniac SS** were fast and loud. Pummeling riffs and clattery drums supported vocals that hurled from the bands collective guts. Maniac SS are categorised as D-beat, and are directly influenced by Discharge and Hell Hammer. We asked **hellthvnder**

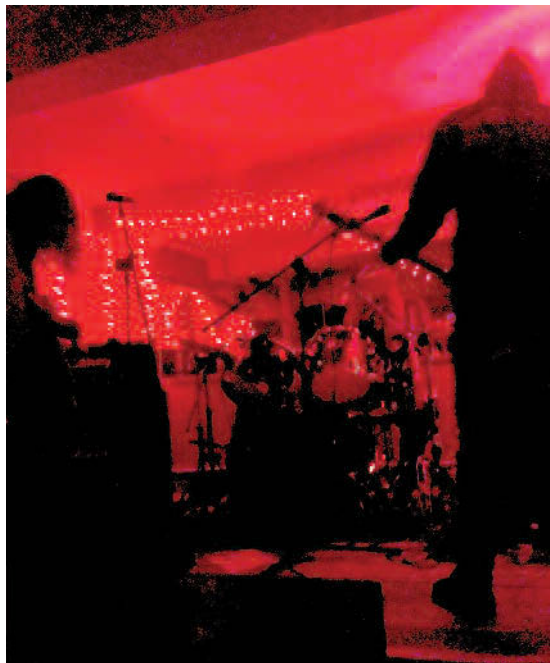
**ss** about the band: *"We've been going at least 18 months now. There's an album about to come out called Maniac. It should have been ready a year ago."* He has a relaxed attitude to practicing, preferring an immediate live experience. *"We don't practice really, we just play shows. We don't even play that often, but when we do, we usually play in Bristol. There's a pretty good scene there. We often listen to Italo Disco on the drive over."*

What are your lyrical concerns. *"War and American Psycho. What inspired you to start playing music? "There were certain bands that made me realise I should be in that scene. Hearing Minor Threat made me want to play abrasive music, but Oasis was the gateway drug. Oasis were great. They had everything and they didn't give a fuck. I'm going to listen to Oasis when I get home now."*

What's the scene like in Hereford at the moment? *"The thing I struggle with is the fact people use 'I didn't know it was happening' as an excuse. They just don't care enough to find out. I've been playing in bands and putting on shows for at least 13 years. You've got to though. You just have to. We travel four hours sometimes to play to 20 people for a tenner. It's not fun playing live. It sucks. You've got to load up the car, get to the venue, deal with the sound guy and after that sometimes you only play for 20 minutes. Nowadays I prefer the writing process. You get to the odd show where everyone is going for it. But if I didn't play live I would be bitching about having no shows. You've got to do it. It gives you a chance not to be you for a while. I'm not a musician by any means. I don't know what to call myself and I don't really care. You get what you want out of it all."*

The bands played pretty much back to back and I was out interviewing **hellthvnder ss** for most of **Broken Spectre's** set. The sound coming from inside was initially quite pleasing post-rock slowly morphing into technical metal. I went inside to catch a bit properly and ran into a friend who was on his way out. Despite the volume, it seemed somewhat lacking in punch. It was probably the most difficult music technically to play all evening but after the brutal spontaneity of the previous band seemed a little lacklustre. It wasn't really my thing but I'd see them again if they were playing to be sure.

Omar Majeed





# Vinny Peculiar

Singer-songwriter **Vinny Peculiar** is an intriguing artist, he's released a number of critically acclaimed albums, covered a myriad of subjects, performed alongside members of The Smiths, Oasis and The Fall (to name but a few) and now since returning to the Midlands, after a number of years plying his trade up North, Vinny has pieced together a band of Worcester based musicians to perform tracks from his forthcoming Midlands based album, **WR3** - along with a handful of choice cuts from his back catalogue.

Ahead of Vinny's forthcoming date at **The Marrs Bar**, I thought it was high time I fired some questions across and asked about influences, songwriting and more...

Hi Vinny, how are you doing today? I thought we'd start with something of a typical question, when did you first become interested in music, was there a particular artist that spiked your interest?

*I was surrounded by music growing up, my Dad was a church organist and choirmaster, I played in the school orchestra and sang in choirs but the first real awakening that spurred on my interest was hearing Simon and Garfunkel swiftly followed by TRex, Slade, David Bowie and the usual glam-pop -rock suspects...*

In the early days did you ever think you could forge a career in music?

*I always imagined I was Bromsgrove's answer to David Bowie, as you do, I was a pretty imaginative kid, and my imagination was enough at the start, I made little tapes and did the odd local gig but I didn't really start recording in studios and writing seriously until my late twenties when I moved to Liverpool, formed a band and recorded endless demos in search of that elusive major record deal, that was the way it worked back then. I eventually signed with UGLY MAN records in Manchester then home to Elbow...and Uglyman put out the early stuff. I have remained fairly pragmatic with regard to the career element, and whilst I have a career of sorts its always balanced with other stuff so for years I had a part time job in the NHS, nowadays I'm running mental health workshops alongside music stuff, its a needs must thing...*

You've released material under the **Vinny Peculiar** monicker as well as writing and recording with the likes of **Parlour Flames** (Bonehead-ex Oasis), did you originally set out to be a solo performer and how does it compare to the collaboration process of Parlour Flames?

*Bonehead managed the VP band for awhile in 2006, we were about to go to Sweden on tour, our bass player dropped out and Bone stepped in last minute, joined the band and played bass on a couple of tours. We always said we'd do some recording at some point, some years later we signed to **Cherry Red** and made the Parlour Flames album. The writing process for the PF album was much the same as any VP record, working from our respective demos, some of the songs were already in the VP set [**Lonely Girls & Horses, Pop Music Football & Girls**], others arrived via sharing demos. I wrote all the words, as tis often the way...*

Your albums are often based on a concept of sorts, I wondered when you write do you come up with the concept first or does it formulate around a song?

*I find sometimes that one song leads to another and a theme emerges, that's the way **Silver Meadows** emerged. I wrote the song 'The Institution' and it became very clear that there were many things happening there from all kinds of perspectives, the staff, the patients, the changes, this led to more songs and more ideas on a theme and a concept album was born. The same thing can be said for **Growing Up with Vinny Peculiar**, songs wedded together by the failings and fantasies of childhood...*



On songs, such as *Confessions Of A Sperm Donor* you manage to weave observational humour into the lyrics, is this an intentional reflection of the absurdity of life?

*Confessions of a Sperm Donor is funny and yet rather sad too, life can be a bit like that yes...absurd reflections I am a fan of.*

Musically your albums are quite diverse affairs, crossing genre, is this a conscious decision?

*Not really conscious of deliberately genre hopping but I'll use strings if the song deserves it and a punk rock guitar part if needs be, I try and be led by what the song needs, so currently I'm liaising re brass and string parts for tracks on the WR3 record.*

You've put together a band here in Worcester to perform local dates, how did you go about finding the different members for this line up of your band?

*I met Worcester singer songwriter **Wes Dance**, who I'm a big fan of, at a local gig here and asked him for help, he found the band **Dan Bramhall** [drums] **Rooney Wooster** [bass] and joined himself on guitars and vocals...we've had a lot fun preparing for shows.*

You spoke of working on a musical version of *Silver Meadows*, in a bid to bring the album to life on stage, is this still an ongoing project?

*Yes it is - the stage play/musical is written and is being trialed at Liverpool University later in the year. This is good news because it allows us to see the production, see whats working or not.*

What can we expect at the Marrs Bar, will you performing tracks from across your back catalogue or will you be concentrating on the more recent releases?

*There will be new songs from WR3 and older stuff too, its a bit of a mixed bag, but great to be playing as a band again...*

I hear that you're supporting **Chris Difford** over at **The Cube** and sense similar influences in your sound, were Squeeze a direct influence?

*I like Squeeze yes although I don't actually have any of their records apart from Up The Junction on 7" vinyl! I'm looking forward to the Cube gig yes...*

What's next for **Vinny Peculiar**?

*Just now I'm recording a load of stuff at home for the new album, bass and drums are finished, I'm just building up the tracks at home. The album should be ready September time when we plan to tour.*

**Vinny Peculiar** performs at **The Marrs Bar Sat 11th March**

Will Munn (full interview at <http://rhythmbooze.tumblr.com/>)

## Steve Soden | Welcome to the Asylum

**Steve Soden** is an intriguing artist who I first encountered at **Worcester Arts Workshop's Café Bliss** as part of a **Lazy Sunday** event. He performed a number of spoken word pieces taken from a recently published book of poetry entitled *To Hell & Back*, before donning an acoustic guitar and belting out an infectious rendition of Buddy Holly's *Maybe Baby*, and an original that could have been titled *Evil Woman*. The spoken word pieces compelled as Steve engaged the audience with a strong presence, delivering odes to love, heartbreak and remembrance. I remember making a mental note to track down a copy of his book for further investigation - still pending on the wish list!

When *Welcome To The Asylum*, Soden's third album, was passed my way, intrigue soon got the better of me and I was interested to hear whether Steve's impressive, thought provoking poetry would translate to disc.

Upon hitting play for the first time, a retro 50's doo-wop fills the air, glorious, wordless harmonies and a steady shuffle joined by a lick of sax and a twang of guitar. Soden delivers a touching croon, once more summoning images of 50's diners, high school dances and Buddy Holly; a timeless, addictive lesson in nostalgia that's nigh on impossible to ignore. From such a striking opening number, Steve fast forwards a decade or so to deliver *When The Train Draws In*. A blustery blues number opened with a blast of harmonica before boisterous riffs and sterling piano joins forces to create a solid foundation for a captivating, Jim Morrison like lead.



Soden, along with a cast of over twenty musicians, continues to switch styles. *Stay With Me* sees a violin join the mix as the band create a psychedelic tinged slice of folk. *How Love Hurts Sometimes* harks back to a time when the crooner was king, whilst **Darren Mather** adds a touch of Dylan style harmonica. *Lost My Way* is another brilliant slab of doo-wop with those aforementioned wordless harmonies at the foreground, whilst *Waiting On A Dream* is a darkening, brooding folk-noir number with Soden's bruised lead.

Whether Soden is heading down a country path, delivering an aching blues lament, or delivering a slice of rustic roots, his deep crooning vocal always engages, complements, and thrills in equal measure.

The album also comes with an accompanying DVD video of the title track with **Steve Soden** showcasing his acting chops in a suitably sinister short directed by Mark-Anthony Games (*Human Voice*) that's almost worth the price of admission alone.

*Welcome To The Asylum* is an inventive and ever engaging disc full of knowing hooks and clever twists. A creative album crafted by the fertile penmanship of **Steve Soden** and brought to life by a talented cast of conspirators that together delve into a bygone era to create something that sounds uniquely fresh in a world of sound-a-likes.

The album can be purchased direct from:-  
[www.stevesoden.biz](http://www.stevesoden.biz) **Steve Soden** launches the album live @ **Mode Bar**, Worcester on the **11th March**.

## Elliott Fishwarmer-II

After a prolific flurry of activity, Bewdley's finest garage punk purveyors, **The Alopecia Trio** have decided to call time, but fear not. Lead singer **Elliott Fishwarmer** has decided to continue to rattle walls and annoy neighbours by recording his second solo album, the imaginatively titled **II** (following hot the heels from his solo debut, *Smells Like Fishwarmer*). Elliott retains the rough and ready production techniques of his former band, in that once again this sounds like it was genuinely recorded in a garage or perhaps the garden shed!!

However unlike the 'trio, there is a little more variety, sure there's some punky numbers among the fifteen on offer. There are also moments too of almost Beatles-esque pop, only with a drum machine, keyboards and other assorted backing tracks replacing John, Ringo and George. Whilst elsewhere Fishwarmer marinades his pop oddities in a bath of reverb to create other worldly transmissions from Elliott's home planet (*Welcome To My World*).



Sometimes *I Don't Know Your Name* has the 'trio punk ethos in check, fuzzy punk like riffs collide with rudimentary clattered drums, whilst Fishwarmer half sings, half speaks about memory loss and the effects of alcohol, before throwing in a couple of off-kilter, short wonky guitar solos for good measure. In direct contrast *Fathers Day* could be a long lost 80's outsider pop ballad, smothered at birth. Elliott explores his fretboard, whilst attempting

to harmonise his own, somewhat unique, vocal croons whilst a drum machine canters along in the background.

*Hurting On The Inside* pushes that aforementioned Beatles to the forefront, as Fishwarmer unites a lo-fi mop-top like melody with a few tasteful harmonies, before bunging the results in the nearest tumble-dryer for a quick garage spin, on one of the albums more accessible numbers. Both *Angel* and *You Are A Rainbow* not only showcase a more sensitive side to Fishwarmer, but also proves that he's more than a capable guitarist (when he's not setting his amp to stun or fuzzy as hell if you prefer). He delivers a handful of nice instrumental interludes before disappearing

down the nearest rabbit hole on the crazed, acid rock of *Psychedelic Fridge*.

Elliott rounds things up with an infectious, indie ode to blue cheese (*The Day You Threw My Blue Cheese Away*) and an effects laden psych tinged five minute opus entitled *Sucking On A Stone*. Like rest of the album both are delivered with the tongue firmly wedged in cheek, but the former has a contagious little vocal hook, whilst the latter allows Fishwarmer one final wig out.

Now much like the aforementioned Alopecia Trio, Elliott's solo effort isn't going to be for everyone. Firstly as I stated the production values are near enough non-existent and if you haven't got a sense of humour move right along. But for someone who regularly receives over-produced, note perfect discs bore-fests, it is a rudimentary joy.

[www.reverbnation/elliottfishwarmer](http://www.reverbnation/elliottfishwarmer)

Will Munn



# My Kind of Yoga

Many of us want a quick fix for most things in life and a lot of us have come to expect it. In fact, we feel cheated if it's unavailable when the reality is we are actually cheating ourselves. Focusing on our wellbeing and mindfulness is a long term personal investment, to help us experience peace in our daily lives.

Yoga is a spiritual practise that encompasses the physical, biological and psychological aspects of being human.



Most of us spend more than 8 hours a day at work, sitting for hours. As a direct extension of the brain, a healthy spine aids in the health of the whole body. By

maintaining the spines' flexibility and strength through good yoga, circulation is increased, the nerves are ensured their supply of nutrients and oxygen, and the body retains its youthful state.

As a Chinese proverb states, "Truly a flexible back make a long life".

Weekly classes at Yoga7 use the benefits of proper breathing techniques to balance the left and right side of the brain. They detox and cleanse the body, create an awareness of self, others, and an awareness of the world around us.

Yoga7 students have found that they sleep better, have increased mindfulness and learn to be present in the moment, as well as the physical improvements to the body which, holistically, improves our every day experience of living.

You will experience the authentic tradition of yoga with all its benefits, but it's no quick fix. There are enormous benefits from just one weekly class of 90 minutes but with commitment the benefits are bountiful and endless. Give yourself the time to experience yoga in its truest form at Yoga7.

Let's drop the quick fix attitude and take time out to be with yourself however scary that may be. 1-2-1 tuition available on request.

Contact Claire at [Claire@yoga7.co.uk](mailto:Claire@yoga7.co.uk) or call 07971 004 234

Anna Donaldson



## White Feather Medicine

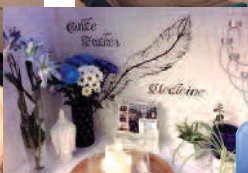
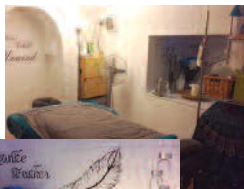


### Massage

Full Body £25

Target £20

Back £13



**Lisa Clements 07854 334972**  
[facebook/whitefeathermedicine](https://www.facebook.com/whitefeathermedicine)



Using the physical to go beyond the physical

**Monday 11.30-1pm**

St Peter's Parish Hall WR5 3TA

**Monday 18.45-20.15**

Abberley Village Hall WR6 6AZ

**Tuesday 18.30-20.00**

Lindridge Village Hall, Eardiston WR15 8JL

**Wednesday 18.30-20.00**

Dance Studio, RGS City Centre WR1 1HP

**Friday 12.30-14.00**

St George's Church, Barbourne WR1 1HX



[Claire@yoga7.co.uk](mailto:Claire@yoga7.co.uk) 07971 004234  
[www.yoga7.co.uk](http://www.yoga7.co.uk)

## The Urban Folk Quartet Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | 24th March

Highly acclaimed **The Urban Folk Quartet** will be returning to Worcester's Huntingdon Hall on 24 March, as part of their **Live III** album tour. Started in the Autumn, the tour already seen the band perform a string of electrifying shows across the UK, France and Spain. The band are one of the most exciting live acts on the circuit and feature **BBC Radio 2 Folk Award Best Musician** nominee **Dan Walsh** on banjo.

The album was recorded in concert during their spring 2015/2016 tour - at venues in Chester (Alexander's), Maldon (Town Hall), Stafford (Gatehouse Theatre), and Bristol (Folk House) - *Live III's* nine tracks see the quartet revisiting material from their 2014 studio album, *The Escape*, and road-testing new tunes.

A perfect showcase for the four-piece's breath-taking musicianship, the collection embraces their full scope, from the full-on *Upward Spiral*, to quieter *Resiste* and *The Language Barrier*.

New tracks (pencilled in for their 2018 studio album) underline the quartet's quizzical restlessness and globe-spanning sense of adventure: inspired by a trip to India *Whiplash Reel* transports a classical Indian scale into a Celtic setting, while the grooving *Long Time Traveller* presents a distinctly UFQ take on a song adapted from famed American 19th century tunebook, *The Sacred Harp*.

In the concert environment, tunes familiar from *The Escape*

(which featured in several prominent 'best of 2015' lists) take on a newfound power and direction, as **The UFQ** feed off the crowds' enthusiasm and energy, extending and transforming their growing catalogue.

While other bands may use the live album format to fulfil contractual obligations or as a filler, the prolific UFQ see their in-concert releases as an integral part of their creative process - hence their plan to follow each studio album with a live counterpart (something which their growing international fan-base have now come to expect).

The Urban Folk Quartet have been dazzling audiences with their brand of 'electrifying acoustic music' since 2009. Galician fiddle player Paloma Trigás has shared stages and recorded with the likes of The Chieftains, Sharon Shannon and Altan, and toured the stadiums of the world with Spain's biggest folk star, Carlos Nuñez. Long established on the folk scene as a fiery English fiddler and showman, Joe Broughton (Albion Band), is also an exceptional guitarist and mandolin player. Dan Walsh is regarded as one of the finest banjo players in the country, as well as being a gifted singer and guitarist, while percussionist Tom Chapman is widely considered to be the most accomplished and innovative cajón player the UK has to offer.



## COMING SOON TO THE FLEECE INN, BRETFTON

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

### Fleecey Folk: Leveret - Sun 5 Mar, 8pm, £15 (Tickets going fast)

Three of England's finest folk musicians - Andy Cutting, Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron - in an exciting new collaboration.

### Cheltenham Festival - Mon 13 - Fri 17 March

We'll be open for breakfast from 8.30am to fuel your day at the races. Enjoy the racing on the big screen in the Barn throughout the festival days.

### Craft Fair - Sun 19 March, 11:30am - 4pm, Free Entry

Come along and enjoy a range of beautifully crafted, local, artisan products, where there will be plenty of unique gift ideas on offer for Mother's Day.

### Mothers Day - Sun 26 March

Treat the one you love to a delicious 3 course menu at the Fleece this Mothering Sunday, and we'll add a little something special for all the Mums too.

Seating times: 12pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, and 7.30pm. Booking strongly advised - call 01386 831173

### Quilter and the Ghost - Sun 2 Apr, 8pm, £10

Warm, nostalgic musical-theatre (with lovely, emotive folk songs and well-crafted storytelling) of a reclusive hoarder and her strange but sweet ghost, who collect real stories of strong & inspiring women. A extraordinary, comic and compelling modern fairytale.

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

**To Book: [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk)**

The Quintessential English Pub

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



# Music Sessions/Open Mics

## **Every Monday - Folk Session**

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

## **Every Monday - Open Mic**

Royal Oak, Ledbury

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

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

## **Every Monday - Folk Night**

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

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

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **4th Mon - Singaround**

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

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

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Every Tues - Jazz Night**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

## **Every Tues - Jazz Night**

The Queens Head, Wolverley Nr Kidderminster

## **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 Cleeve

## **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 Gt

## **3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

## **Last Wed - Under 18s open mic**

Reet Petite, Leominster

## **Every Thursday - Drumlove Adult Workshop 7.30pm**

The Angel Centre, Worcester

## **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

## **3rd Thur - Jam Session**

Reet Petite, Leominster

## **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](http://malvernstorytellers.co.uk)

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

The Morgan, Malvern

## **Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club weekly folk night**

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

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

The Camp, Grimley

## **2nd Fri - Open mic**

Reet Petite, Leominster

## **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 Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm**

The Wharf, Stourport

## **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 with Colin Pitts 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

## Wednesday 01 March 2017

**Ruzz Guitar's Blues Revue**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Ruben Seabright**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Benjamin Folke Thomas**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Amorettes + Beth Blade And The Beautiful Disasters**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Elevenses**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Thursday 02 March 2017

**Pts Presents Pete (The Temp) Beader**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Jammin Night Live**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Elliot Seabright As Ellixia Valentine**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Vo Fletcher**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Vinny Peculiar**  
The Pough, Worcester

**Billy Rowan ( The Undercover Hippy) Solo**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Tannahill Weavers**  
Worley S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Mishkin Fitzgerald**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Melvin Hancox Band**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Divides, Breathe in The Silence, Fawner, The Uncharted**  
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham, Cheltenham

**Masterworks Concert**  
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

**Johnny Cash Revisited**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Friday 03 March 2017

**The Mob**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Villager

**Depeche Mode - Black Celebration**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Blue Horizo**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Supreme Queen**  
Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Matt Bowen**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Blind Lemon**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Bridget And The Big Girl's Blues**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Heronimus Fin**  
Tower Of Song, Birmingham

**Gravy Train**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Strangers**  
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

**Subduction Live Reggae Dub Fusion**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Blues Night With Bare Bones**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Jim Moray (Folk), Jack Of All**  
Malvern Cube, Malvern

**Michael Knowles & the Std's, Calm Like A Riot, Paarthurmax**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Fred Zeppelin**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Delray Rockets**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Ignition Presents Kidderminsters Only Rock & Metal Night**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Rhythm Revival**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Mike Allen**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Frazer Lepford**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Remi Harris, Mata Hari**  
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

**The Craig Charles Funk & Soul Club**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Blue Street**  
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

## 46 SLAP MARCH

**Mike Whittaker & Sam Thomas & Jack Brett**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Rocky Road To Ruin**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Mike Whittaker & Sam Thomas & Jack Brett**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**The Big Chris Barber Band**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

## Saturday 04 March 2017

**Jackson Live in Concert**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Rehydrated Turkey's/ Gary Roberts**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**Steve Ajao And The Blues Giants**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Maetloaf & The Never Neverland Express**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Bee Gees Fever**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Mumbo-Jumbo And Dave Onions**  
Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth

**Sultana Brothers**  
The Plough, Hereford

**Jay And Eli**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Retribution**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**The Delray Rockets**  
Archdales Club, Worcester

**No Poetry Presents: For The Girl, Jaycee, Time Of The Mouth, Natalie**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Bryn Thomas**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Taylor & Co**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Tyler Massey: Ep Launch 3PM**  
Rise Records, Worcester

**Mad Mick**  
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Johnny Cash Roadshow**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Baby Queens**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Surf's Up**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Rattlesnake Jake**  
Worley S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Buddy Holly**  
Number 8, Pershore

**Choosy Pickers**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Roy Orbison And The Traveling Wilburys Tribute Show**  
Evesham Cinema, Evesham

**Nina Harries**  
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

**Threepenny Bit**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**The Test Pilots**  
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

**MWP Presents: Genesis Arc, Tides Apart, Depravity & Sharkteeth Grinder**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The MT's**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Wizards Of Oz & Stn (UFO Tribute) Doubleheader**  
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham, Cheltenham

**Matt Peplow**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**G4**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Dirty Harry Band**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Gigabite**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Monkey Jam**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Wrong Jovi**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Gigabite**  
Ye Olde Black Cross Public House, Bromsgrove

**Protocol**  
Beauchamps Arms, Malvern

**O.C.D**  
The Swan, Evesham



**Alasdair Conlon**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Discontinued**  
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Bartoune**  
The Globe At Hay, Hay On Wye

**No Poetry Presents: For The Girl & Jaycee**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Retribution**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**The Usual Suspects**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Stealth**  
The Unicorn, Malvern

## Sunday 05 March 2017

**Ray Mytton (5:30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

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

**Fleecy Folk: Leveret**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Jay & Eli**  
The Swan with Two Nicks, Worcester

**Chevy Chase Stole My Wife (6pm)**  
Cap n Gown, Worcester

**Pay The Piper**  
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

**Kim Cypher's Sunday Jazz**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Tia Mcgraff, Claire Boswell**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Hazel O'Connor**  
The Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

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

**The Ferrets (4pm)**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

## Monday 06 March 2017

**Dirty Bourbon River Show**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Wednesday 08 March 2017

**Mitch Benn: Don'T Fear The Reaper**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**St Patrick'S Concert**  
Malvern Cube, Malvern

**Paul Liddell**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Caitlin Koch (Nashville Usa) + Kris Barras Band**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Stand Up For Women (comedy)**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Thursday 09 March 2017

**Dave Onions**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**George Michael - Wayne Dilks**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Dolly Parton Story**  
Swan Theatre, Worcester

**The Task in Hand & Surprise Attacks Present: Hey Colossus**

**The Broken Oak Duet, Black Boxes**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Jodie Howland**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Skerryvore**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Giganaleehs**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Mike Tramp + 3Sixty-Lite**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Lucas D And The Grove Ghetto**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Holding Absence, Brunel, Orto, Bathtub**  
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham, Cheltenham

**Richard Digance**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

**Peter Hook & The Light**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

## Friday 10 March 2017

**Babajack**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**The Underdogs**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Villager

**The Strangers**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Fred Zeppelin**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Roxy Magic**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**The Beach Boys Story**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Captain Accident**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Ken Wood And The Mixers**  
The Tank, Gloucester

**The Official Receivers**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Mother Popcorn**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Tom Davies**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**80'S Invasion**  
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

**Madi Stimpson Trio**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The HMV Band**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**Poetry Slam with Ali**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Skrood**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Tom and Christy**  
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

**Kent Duchaine + Lead Bessie**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**4 Square**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Taylor & Co**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Mixtape Madness**  
2Pigs, Cheltenham

**The Lighter Thieves**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Andrew Riverstone**  
Ginger Pig Café & Bistro, Worcester

**The Strangers**  
Ye Olde Black Cross Public House, Bromsgrove

**Folk in The Foyer: Kim Lowings And The Greenwood**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromyard

**Live Music With Tasha**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Vehicle**  
The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Wille and The Bandits**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**The Rumblestrutters**  
The Globe At Hay, Hay On Wye

**Tasha**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**The Face Stealers**  
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

**Crick And Hammond**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Total Recall**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Student Sounds Chilled Vibes 3**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

## Saturday 11 March 2017

**The Executives**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Murmur**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**The 80s Project**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Wille & The Bandits**  
Malvern Cube, Malvern

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

**Stoned Love**  
The Plough, Hereford

**Alex Rainsford**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**The Fireballs**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Straight Aces**  
Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

**Vince Ballard**  
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**The Evil Ussees, Run Logan Run**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Perkelt**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Whiteshillbillies**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Lensmen + Junk Props**  
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

**The Darkside Of Pink Floyd**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Jizzy Pearl/Love/Hate (U.S.A) + Knock Out Kaine**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Steve Soden Album Launch**  
Mode Bar, Worcester

**The Mouse Police**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Hybrid**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**Empire**  
2Pigs, Cheltenham

**Skerryvore**  
The Convent, Stoud

**Risky Galore!**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Vinny Peculiar, The Purple Shades**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Skrood**  
Ye Olde Black Cross Public House, Bromsgrove

**Northern Soul and Motown Night**  
The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

**Honolua Hawain Music Food Festival**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Satellite Down**  
The Swan, Evesham

**Sweet Talk- Blues, Jazz, Rock**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Dirk Spangle Five**  
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Shush Silent Disco**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Cameron And Hannah**  
The Globe At Hay, Hay On Wye

**Troy Redfern Supported By The 'As Mammás' In The Left Bank'S Subteranean Speakeasy**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Under The Fridge (Red Hot Chili Peppers Tribute)**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Sam Bailey**  
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

**5:15**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

## Sunday 12 March 2017

**Think Floyd**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Maddie Stimpson (5:30Pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Passion**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**The Rain Trees (6pm)**  
Cap n Gown, Worcester

**Steve Linforth**  
The Swan with Two Nicks, Worcester

**Abi Roberts Is Anglichanka**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Edwina Hayes**  
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

**Mark Walby**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Chesney & Chip Hawkes**  
The Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

**Paul Lamb & Chad Strentz (4pm)**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

## Monday 13 March 2017

**The Jazz Buddies**  
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

## Tuesday 14 March 2017

**Faithful City Shows: Empty Lungs With: The Harts + More**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Oysters 3**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

## 48 SLAP MARCH

**Champion Day | Monkey Jam**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Cheshire Brooks**  
The Pheasant Inn, Cheltenham

**The B Sides**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Cowabunga**  
The Swan, Cheltenham

**Meet Fred**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Wednesday 15 March 2017

**Honey Badgers**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**The Saiichi Sugiyama Band**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Steamroller**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Joel Darkes**  
The Pheasant Inn, Cheltenham

**Jessica Rhodes**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**The Roselllys**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Jazz & Tapas with Mark Latimer**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

## Thursday 16 March 2017

**Journeyman**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Cilla & The Shades of the 60s**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**John Denton'S Midnight Band**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Irish Night: Rupert And Friends**  
The Pough, Worcester

**TT'S Mursionic Nights, Jamie Jones, Hitchhiker, Michael Knowles**  
Cap n Gown, Worcester

**Gilbert O'Sullivan**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Antiquity**  
The Pheasant Inn, Cheltenham

**St Pat'S Thu | Hair Of The Dog**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Alasdair Roberts Trio, With Introduction From Sound Of Yell**  
Courtyard, Hereford

## Friday 17 March 2017

**The Opera Boys**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Bourbon Alley**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Villager

**Lazy Sundays**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**The Sex Pissed Dolls**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Strays**  
The Pheasant Inn, Cheltenham

**Dreadzone**  
Malvern Cube, Malvern

**Mumbo-Jumbo**  
Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood, Kingswinford

**Deborah Bonham**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Rumble + Toadstool**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Mumbo-Jumbo**  
Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford

**Mr Ben**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Neil Iverson**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**St Paddies Mayhem With The Linerunners**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Dave Onions**  
Brewers Arms, Malvern

**Black Knight**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

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

**2Tone Review**  
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Howard Jones**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove



**Punks Alive: The Delray Rockets**  
The Rainbow, Birmingham

**Alex Rainsford**  
Saracen's Head, Worcester

**Craobh Rua**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Lewis Barfoot**  
Star Anise Café, Stroud

**The Fidgets, Thousand Mountain, Music Like Lemons, Nth Cave**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Jon Eselle**  
The Drum & Monkey, Upton Upon Severn

**Mud Morganfield (son of Muddy Waters) + Pistol Pete Wearn**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Underdogs**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Gold Cup+St Pats | Slightly Ocd**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Trip The Switch**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Brandon O'Brian Live Irish Muisic**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**The Strangers**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Saint Patrick's Day With The Stoned Cherries**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Wolfren Riverstick**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**The Rubies**  
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

**Linerunners**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Great Malvern

**Joseph Botting, Fingerbone, Jo Lepine and Sharron Kraus**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Tequilla Mockingbird**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Last Tree Squad, Esk Forte, Coosie, Dj Cut La Vis, Reggae Pie**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Montparnasse Live at The Coach House Theatre**  
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

## Saturday 18 March 2017

**The Searchers**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Debs & The Tubby Bluesters**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Version**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Blarney Stone, Bouzatina, World Class Irish Dancer,**  
The Cube, Malvern

**Common People**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Glass Mountain**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Phoenix**  
The Plough, Hereford

**Done By Sunrise**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**No Good Nancys**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**XL5**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The Forge**  
Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

**Steve Ferbrache**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Jon Eselle**  
Claines Royal British Legion, Worcester

**Doomsday Outlaw + Blind River**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Relections**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Punk By Nature Presents Vomit, Spirit Bomb, Knock Off**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Krafty Kuts & Chali 2NA (Jurassic 5), Plus Support**  
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham, Cheltenham

**Jagged Hands**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**Cracked Actors, Smokefarm**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Worried Men**  
The Swan, Evesham

**Lucia Nicole**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Scuffed Up Boots**  
The Globe At Hay, Hay On Wye

**Torque**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**Weirdshire Weekend - Tobion, Mark Mcdowell & Friends, Snails, Bird Radio**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**St Patricks - Bang On The Ear**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

## Sunday 19 March 2017

**The Fureys**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**The Paul Johnson Jazz Cafe**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Perry Foster (5:30Pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

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

**Skewwhiff (6pm)**  
Cap n Gown, Worcester

**Robin Nolan**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Georgie Fame**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Jon Eselle**  
Albion House, Cheltenham

**Dan Greenaway**  
The Swan with Two Nicks, Worcester

**Matt Woosey, Chewie**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Melvyn Hancox Band (4pm)**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

## Monday 20 March 2017

**Peatbog Fairies**  
Hellens Manor, Much Marcle

## Tuesday 21 March 2017

**Electric Strawbs, Full Band – Hero & Heroine Tour**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Jam Session With Ian Fuller**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Peatbog Fairies**  
Hellens Manor, Much Marcle

**You Win Again**  
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

## Wednesday 22 March 2017

**Jim Blair (Hip Route)**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Patsy Cline in Concert**  
Courtyard, Hereford

## Thursday 23 March 2017

**Droitwich Sally**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Kel Elliot & Her Three Man Orchestra**  
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

**Alasdair Roberts**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Sœur, The Broken Oak Duet, Chiyoda Ku**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Steve Ajao Blues Giants**  
Hop Polé, Bromsgrove

**Brodsky Quartet**  
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

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

## Friday 24 March 2017

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

**Patsy Cline & Friends**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Amoeba Teens**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Bleeding Hearts**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Gin Annie Album Launch Party**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Amoeba Teen, Sleuth, The Black Lakes**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**The Urban Folk Quartet**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Wychwood Sessions**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

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

**Mister Wolf**  
The Bell inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Festivals Experience**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Neil Iverson**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Sixties Fancy Dress Party Night - The Stuart Davies Duo**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Woo Town 2**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Junction 7**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Polly and Kristian**  
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

**The Virginia Slims**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Mark Thomas: The Red Shed**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Bach Well Tempered Clavier With Robin Bigwood**  
Star Anise Café, Stroud

**Them Heavy People (Kate Bush Tribute)**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Interpreters**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Desperados, Fly By Fire, Hard Stairs, Luke Philbrick**  
Frog & Fiddle Cheltenham, Cheltenham

**Seven Drunken Nights: The Story Of The Dubliners**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Albany Down, The Drawing Of The Three**  
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**Peacock Angell**  
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

**The Undercover Hippy**  
The Globe At Hay, Hay On Wye

**Jay And Eli**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Chewie**  
Brewers Arms, West Malvern

**Nightshift**  
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

**Chris Webb**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Tequilla Mockingbird**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**BSP**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Guns to Roses (Guns & Roses Tribute)**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

## Saturday 25 March 2017

**The West End Jerseys**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Kitchen Island Band.**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Executives**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Protocol**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**The Humdrum Express, Flying Ant Day, Sleuth**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Killerstream**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**U2baby**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Dom Pipkin**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**Hipkiss**  
The Tank, Gloucester

**Remedy**  
The Plough, Hereford

**Mister Wolf**  
The Swan, Port St, Evesham

**Poppy Waterman Smith**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Chevy Chase Stole My Wife**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds**  
Malvern Lounge Bar, Malvern

**Trevor Steger Of Babberjack**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Aquarius**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## 50 SLAP MARCH

**Chevy Chase Stole My Wife**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

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

**Matt Woosey**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Kit Holmes**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**The Bad Dad'S**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Flatworld**  
Cafe At The Stores, Colwall

**Jon Eselle**  
The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

**Keep It Cash - Johnny Cash Tribute**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Bar Room Anthems**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Legend Of A Band – The Moody Blues**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Dom Pipkin - Jazz Pianist**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**Luther Grosvenor Band**  
Richmond Club, Hereford

**Hannah and Brian**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Moongoose + Support From D'orange**  
The Globe At Hay, Hay On Wye

**Dawson**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**Underground Revolution Presents: Senoritas That Rock!**  
**Louise Distras, Mexicola + tbc**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Stoned Love**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

## Sunday 26 March 2017

**Rick Gable's Lounge Sounds-Mother's Day Special**  
The New Inn, Lower Howsell Road, Malvern, Worcestershire

**Be Bop Da Jig (5:30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Dogs Of Santorini (6pm)**  
Cap n Gown, Worcester

**Maddy Prior (Steeleye Span), Giles Lewin & Hannah James**  
Malvern Cube, Malvern

**U2 Tribute**  
Amber Cafe, Evesham

**Neil Ivison**  
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

**Blacksmith Hill**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**The Maz Mitrenko Band (4pm)**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Jive Talkin'**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Monday 27 March 2017

**Kitty's Music**  
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

## Tuesday 28 March 2017

**An-Ting Chang (Piano) – Lunchtime Recitals\ (1Pm)**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Albert Lee**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

## Wednesday 29 March 2017

**Gaz Brookfield**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Jazz Night With Gloucestershire Jazz Live**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Trio Aquilon**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

## Thursday 30 March 2017

**Andy Richards Band**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Martin Carthy**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Uncover Presents: April Towers + More tbc**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Mike Zito (U.S.A) + Luke Doherty Band**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Paperwing**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove



**The Somerville Gentlemen**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

**Folk in The Foyer: O'Hooley & Tidow**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Friday 31 March 2017**

**Still Crazy**  
Queens Head, Wolverley Villager

**The Bon Jovi Experience**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Black Generation**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Seven Drunken Nights: The Story Of The Dubliners**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Richard McMahon – Piano Recital**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Swampgrass**  
Café René, Gloucester

**Mister Wolf**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham**  
Ramónas, Gagreflex, Chinese Burn, Rebel Station

**Souled Out 2 Funk**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Ben Vickers**  
The Pheasant, Worcester

**Chris And Jamie Jones**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Witcher**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Mad Mick**  
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Will Killeen**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Witcher**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Worcester School of Rock & Performance/Saturday Rock School 20th Anniversary Show 1**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Jon Eselle**  
The Red Man, Kidderminster

**Ross The Boss (Manowar) Usa**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra**  
Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

**Mister Wolf**  
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**Mumbo-Jumbo**  
Ginger Pig Café & Bistro, Worcester

**The Manfreds**  
The Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

**Brigitte Demeyer, Will Kimbrough, Ellisha Green,**  
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

**Wolfren Riverstick**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Acoustic Night With Scott & Jordan And Shannon Walker**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Mike Simons**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Take That 'Rule The World' Tribute Band**  
De Koffie Pot, The Left Bank, Hereford

**Misfit Pearl & The Odd Fellows**  
De Koffie Pot, Upstairs, Hereford

**The Rebels**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Neil Harrison**  
The Malt Shovel, Highley

**Student Sounds: Punk Night**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Jo Harman**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Remi Harris**  
Linton Village Hall, Linton, HR9 7RX.

## Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

**2nd - Life drawing at the** Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

**2nd - Vamos: The Best Thing** - Artrix, Bromsgrove

**3rd - The Liberty Tree (film)** The Hive, Worcester

**4th - Creative Saturday, (kids art club aged 2-9yrs)**  
St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester

**4th - celebration for the re-opening of Bewdley Museum**

**4th -12th Portraits, Artists Workhouse, Studley, Warks**

**4th - 7th May 'The Changing Face of Load St'** Bewdley Museum

**7th Portraiture Workshop, Louise Blakeway.**  
Artists Workhouse, Studley Warwickshire

**7th & every Tues - Life Drawing** - Upstairs De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**8th - Garage Open Lecture Series Faye Claridge**  
The Hive Worcester 4.30pm

**8th - Worcester Writers Group,** Lunar Bar, Worcester, 7.30pm

**9th - Calligraphy Workshop** Old Rectifying House, Worcester, 7pm

**9th - The Eulogy of Toby Peach.** Theatre - Artrix, Bromsgrove

**10th - Poetry Slam,** Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury. 7.30pm

**11th - Held In Place by Fiona Eadie and Val Dean, (national storytellers).** Elmslie House, Malvern 7.00 for 7.30pm. £6

**11th - Portraits in sculpture, workshop by Helena Godwin.**  
Artists Workhouse, Studley Warwickshire

**12th - Jump Start meeting** The Hive Worcester

**13th-19th Arts & Science Festival,** Birmingham University

**14th - Bite Sized Talk, Watercolour painting past & present,**  
Worcester Museum & Art Gallery 1pm

**15th - Garage Open Lecture Series Mariele Neudecker.**  
The Hive, Worcester 4.30pm

**16th - Snatchcraft,** Boars Head Kidderminster 7pm

**18th-21st The Photography Show** Birmingham NEC

**18th-19th March - Born into War** with Peter Masters, Paul Crow  
at Skinzophrenic Tattoos, Hereford

**22nd - The Ghost Train,** Palace Theatre Redditch

**22nd - Garage Open Lecture AJ Stockwell & Benjamin Owen**  
The Garage Hylton Rd Worcester 4.30pm

**25th - 2nd April Nine Women - Elena Thomas**  
Artists Workhouse, Studley, Warwickshire

**25th -The Magic of a Line exhibition - Artist Dame Laura Knight**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**28th March – 29 April The Hop Project,** Ross on Wye Library

**28th Dancefest - Circuit youth dance performances**  
Hereford College of Arts, 7pm.

**29th Dancefest - Circuit youth dance performances**  
Droitwich Spa High School, 7.30pm.

**29th Garage Open Lecture Series Heather & Ivan Morison**  
The Hive Worcester 4.30pm

**30th Embrace of the Serpent, Splendid Cinema**  
Worcester Arts Workshop

**31st - I, Daniel Blake,** The Hive, Worcester, 7.45pm

**1st April - Rabbit Theatre's The Odyssey,** Malvern Cube 7.30pm

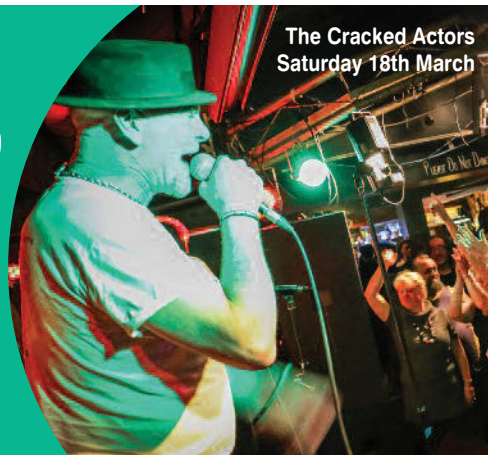
**Until 14th May New Art West Midlands**  
Worcester Museum & Art Gallery.

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**or email [editorial@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:editorial@slapmag.co.uk)**

# THE MARR'S BAR

MAR | APR 2017

The Cracked Actors  
Saturday 18th March



**Thursday 2nd March**

**Mishkin Fitzgerald**

£5 in advance £8 on the door

**Friday 3rd March**

**Michael Knowles And The STD's**

**Calm Like A Riot + Paarthurax**

3 band £3

**Saturday 4th March**

**Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi tribute)**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Sunday 5th March**

**Tia McGraff + Claire Boswell**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Thursday, 9th March**

**SA + TTIH: Hey Colossus,**

**The Broken Oak Duet + Black Boxes**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday 10th March**

**The Official Receivers**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 11th March**

**Vinny Peculiar, The Purple Shades**

£7.50 in advance £10 on the door

**Tuesday 14th March**

**FCS: Empty Lungs, The Harts + TBA**

£4 in advance £6 on the door

**Friday 17th**

**The Fidgets, Thousand Mountain, Music Like**

**Lemons + NTH Cave**

3 band £3

**Saturday 18th March**

**The Cracked Actors + Smokefarm**

£4 in advance £6 on the door

**Sunday 19th March**

**Matt Woosey + Chewie**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Thursday, 23rd March**

**Sœur, The Broken Oak Duet, Chiyoda KU**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday 24th March**

**Them Heavy People (Kate Bush tribute)**

£7 in advance £9 on the door

**Saturday 25th March**

**U2Baby**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Thursday 30th March**

**UnCover Presents: April Towers plus guests**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday 31st March**

**Worcester School of Rock & Performance**

**Sat Rock School 20th Anniversary Show 1**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Sunday 2nd April**

**FCS: Grove Street Families, Back Down**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Friday 7th April**

**The Vibrators**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 14th April**

**The Other Covers Trio**

£4 in advance £6 on the door

**Saturday 15th April**

**Lizzie And The Banshees**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 21st April**

**Fred Zeppelin**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 28th April**

**The Leylines**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 29th April**

**Guns Or Roses**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Wednesdays - Jamming night**

**Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3**

Tickets available from  
Marr's Bar and Music City

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

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