

SLAP

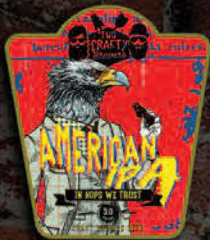
Issue 68

Apr 2017

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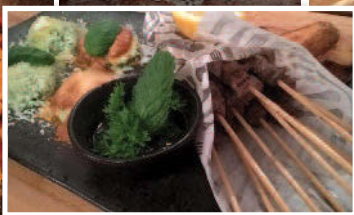


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Welcome to Article 68 - the April edition of SLAP Magazine. We look back on a 'messy' March and look forward to a slightly calmer spring, before summer erupts in a frenzy of sunshine and festivals.

Our roving reporters have been out and about catching a few of the many gigs around the Shires and we look forward to a few of the events coming up. Yet again we had a record number of gigs to list this month, which tends to keep us on our toes during our extremely hectic deadline. It just shows what is on offer locally.

At the end of January we had **Independent Venue Week** which, of course, celebrates and supports the survival of small venues all over the UK.

These venues are the backbone of the live music scene and it's a nod to the people that own, run and work in them - week in, week out. This month on the 22nd we have **Record Store Day**, where many of our local independent record shops open up their floor to live music, with this year promising to be as exciting as ever. You don't need us to tell you how important these initiatives are in raising awareness and celebrating independence and variety in an industry immersed in a state of flux.

One of the upcoming local venues doing their best to bring such diversity is **Malvern Cube**, who last month brought us the mighty **Dreadzone** (amongst other notable acts). They say a picture is worth a thousand words, which is why we celebrated with April's front cover of **MC Spee** from the band, taken by **Dazz Green**.

So please (we at SLAP urge you to!) look beyond the corporate mainstream music industry and support independence because once all this wonderful variety is taken away from us, all we will be left with is abject blandness.

Right, I've said enough for now, so it's back to the day job for a couple of weeks, I'll maybe see you at a gig somewhere soon...

Nuffs-Ed



Front Cover Image: Dreadzone by Dazz Green
The Cube, Malvern 17th March

Busking Guidelines Launch

Busking helps ensure Worcester's city centre is a vibrant place that shoppers, residents and visitors can all enjoy. However, it is important the right balance is struck between the needs of performers and the impact on local businesses and residents. After a period of consultation, Worcester City Council has introduced a new set of guidelines for people who want to busk in the city centre.

Read the guidelines at www.worcester.gov.uk/busking. City Council officers will be discussing the guidelines in person with buskers over the next few months to help raise awareness.

Slaves-Pulled apart by Horses @2000Trees

Independent 'greenfields' rock festival **2000trees** have announced their first wave of headline acts for this summer's event to be held at **Uppote Farm** near Cheltenham from Thursday to Saturday **6-8 July** with **Nothing But Thieves** and **Pulled Apart By Horses** on the main stage and Slaves topping the bill on Saturday night. 2000trees celebrated their 10th anniversary last year and they declare themselves 'unbelievably excited' for this years bash! More at twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk

Locals left Red Faced by Clown

The 'naked white clown' spotted strolling along South Quay in Worcester clad only in bodypaint and a red nose has been revealed to be a performance artist 'aiming to contest and re-establish the universal status of white paintings' or something like that - reactions varied from demands that she be arrested to others pointing out that she must have been quite cold at this time of year!



Jasper in the Company of Seasick Steve

More acts revealed for **Nozstock** which runs from 21-23 July with local heroes **Jasper In The Company Of Others** and **Desert Boots** joining previously announced **Seasick Steve** and **Happy Mondays** on the sparkling lineup - with the farm transformed into a 'wondrous world of oddities and mystery' - so no change there then!



Ritchies' Poor Hat-Trick

Mixed reactions to soap 'star' Shane Richie's outburst when refused entry to **Malvern Lounge** for refusing to remove his oversized flat hat - with some slamming his overreaction and others bemoaning petty dress codes in general - it's been a slow news month...

Ocean to fill New Road

First acts to be announced for the second 'Concert Of Legends' to be held at Worcestershire's New Road cricket ground on September 9 are 70s hitsters **Billy Ocean** and **Paul 'Ace' Carrack** - more headliners to follow shortly - details at wccc.co.uk

2,000 miles of Music

Fair play to Malvernians **Drumdog** and **Jamieson Hill** who despite now living 2000 miles apart collaborated to put Jai's poem *Salutation* to music and release the result in aid of **People In**

Motion which helps displaced people in the Middle East. Many will remember Jai from his **Bananaman** compere role a few years back - wonder what they're making of that in Istanbul where he now lives! The song's available on all the major music feeds...

Aswad Wade into Lakefest

More great additions to this year's Lakfest lineup with the announcement of **The Charlatans**, **Aswad** and **Badly Drawn Boy** to the **Eastnor Castle Deer Park** venue billing happening from **10-14 August** - with local acts **White Feather Collective**, **Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands**, **Skewwhiff** and **Under A Banner** confirmed for the **Floating Globe** stage - looking very tasty!!



Who Knew?

Congrats to Worcester youngster **Tazmin Barnes** who's hit the Top 20 of the iTunes pop album charts with her EP 'Trapped' - she's recently returned to the UK after growing up in China and had success with a national talent contest - plus an appearance at **Livestock** festival - one to watch out for!

Tributes to 'Driving Force'

Many tributes have been paid to **Sam Driver** White who was a 'driving force' behind the **Three Choirs Festival** for nearly 40 years plus being an official, patron and trustee of very many local arts and heritage organisations such as the **Worcester Porcelain Museum** and the **Elgar Birthplace Museum**. A memorial service for the very genial former Worcester solicitor will be held at the cathedral later in the year...

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Clik Clik is preparing for the summer months, developing the new and exciting projects to be seen at the festivals this year. I'll be also involved with the **Nozstock** takeover at **Hereford River Festival** this month (29th) managing the stage and adding a little Clik Clik sparkle. Carnival creativity starts at **Pershore Youth Centre** this month working on the float project with the young people. This year's theme is **Music of the World** for the carnival held on the 29th May.

www.clikclikcollective.com



Ear Candy - Sonic Vending Machines

Keep an eye out for our local sound scientist and instrument maker **Sam Underwood** with his retro vending machines commissioned specially for this year's **Cheltenham Jazz Festival**. Sam will be designing 5 or 6 different instruments that can fit inside a small vending machine capsule.

"It's a fun challenge! They will be mainly acoustic though some 'special' electronic instruments will be amongst them. I will be hand-making 250 mini musical instrument in total (EEK!) and they will be available from three vending machines around the site including Box Office and Festival Bar."

You just put your £3 in and turn the lever to claim a surprise musical toy. Please be aware that whilst the capsule includes fun, children must be supervised with these items.

Go and find these vending machines on site throughout the festival **26th April – 1st May**.

Find out more here:

cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz/jazz-in-the-gardens/ear-candy-sonic-vending-machines/ or check out this promo video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPMalcgT_9Y



Word speak

Brenda Read-Brown, Gloucestershire Poet Laureate will headline a show at **Artrix** this month.



A poignant, funny and extremely talented poet who knows how to entertain her audience, Brenda has won many slams (performance poetry competitions) and is also a prize-winning playwright. The night features guest poets, **Peter Wyton** - winner of 15 slams and **Sharon Carr** a veteran of the poetry scene and storyteller. 10 April 2017 **Artrix, Bromsgrove**.

Bones of the Landscape

An exhibition of paintings, prints and drawings by artists who have all suffered sight loss. The work on display is an exercise in looking and 'seeing' through the traditions of landscape painting, materials, media and memory. **22nd April – 25th June, Bewdley Museum**.

Suz Winspear - Worcestershire Poet Laureate

TS Eliot famously wrote, *'April is the cruellest month . . .'* He obviously wasn't living in Worcester at the time! The poetry and spoken word scene is in full swing, and plans are coming together for this year's **LitFest** in June. Entries for the annual **Flash Fiction** competition will soon be closing, so if you've got an ultra-short story in your mind, get it written down and head over to the LitFest website for information on how to enter.



At the very beginning of the month comes an event that I've been planning for a while, a different sort of poetry night to those we are used to. LitFest in collaboration with

Dancefest are presenting the **Poetry Ballroom** at 7.30 on **Sunday April 2nd**, at the Angel Centre in Worcester. Dance and poetry together? The two art-forms are closer than you might think! Poets performing work inspired by dance, dancers performing work inspired by poetry . . . It'll be an evening unlike any other!

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

Wednesday 12th – 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 13th – SpeakEasy, Worcester Arts Workshop. Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Our featured poet this month is **Gareth Owen**. 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 26th – 42 at Drummonds Life, the Universe and Everything – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name . . . You never know what you might see and hear at 42! Free entry. 7.30pm.

Suz Winspear

Uncorked! Poetry Evening

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester | 20th April 7pm

Uncorked! An evening of performance poetry at **Bottles Wine Bar**, Worcester with 5 featured spoken word artists: **Casey Bailey**, **Joe Cook**, **Jasmine Gardosi**, **Leon Priestnall** and **Holly Daffurn** & a poetry open mic. Tickets £5.

When I was asked by **Hannah Webb** (new manager at Bottles and fabulous musician) whether I would perform some spoken word at the venue, I was intrigued to find out about her plans for the place. This chic wine bar has a menu of over 450 different wines, an impressive food menu and they serve exceptional coffee until close. Hannah's plans to get an interesting programme of art events in place, particularly featuring acts who rarely perform in Worcester was one that stirred my interest. After an animated discussion, **Uncorked!** was born; an evening of dynamic and vibrant performance poetry with 5 headlining acts and space for open mic performances too. Our first event kicks off on **April 20th** and the response so far has been encouraging.

Short sets from the featured artists will take place throughout the night, studded with poems from our open mic'ers. The open mic slots filled up within days. However, if you do have a burning desire to get behind the microphone please email me at holly@hollydaffurn.com to get on the reserves list.

I absolutely fell in love with the spoken word scene in Birmingham a couple of years back. It was the energy of the performers, the honesty of each performance and the integrity that won me over. The 4 poets I chose to feature with me on the opening night of **Uncorked!** All hail from Birmingham and perfectly sum up what I love about the spoken word scene. You can expect a diverse programme with sharp wit, tight rhymes, acute observations, heartfelt confessions and exhilarating performances.

Tickets are available from the New Street venue, or through the website: www.bottles-worcester.co.uk/events/uncorked-poetry-evening-thursday-20th-april/ You can find out more via our events page www.facebook.com/events/112613355942152/

Casey Bailey is a poet, spoken word performer, rapper, song writer and secondary school teacher. Running **Bailey's Rap and Poetry (BRAP)**, Casey has performed and spoken at a number of events, up and down the UK, and ran workshops in rap, poetry, music and song writing. Through poetry, lyrics and articles, Casey shares a social commentary and analysis with his words. He has been described as a lyrical and literal poet, a conscious hip hop artist and a thoughtful and reflective writer.

Joe Cook a.k.a **Cookie** is a spoken word artist and musician from Birmingham UK. Originally a lyricist for Birmingham reggae punk band **Lobster** Joe has exploded onto the spoken word scene. Joe's style has been described as '*The Streets meets Joe Strummer*'. Joe has gigged heavily across the UK in venues such as **The South Bank Centre**, **The REP**, **Birmingham**



mac and worked alongside other organisations such as **Apples & Snakes**, **Townhall & Symphony Hall**, **Burn After Reading Collective** and **Mouthy Poets**.

Jasmine Gardosi is the current **Cheltenham Poetry Festival Slam Champion**, **Mix It Up Midlands Slam Champion 2015** and one of the winners of the **International Pangaea Poetry Slam 2015**. She has appeared on **BBC Radio 3's The Verb** and was shortlisted for **Birmingham Poet Laureate 2016/18**. A former **BBC Arts Young Creative**, she has worked as a Poet in Residence for the **Shakespeare Birthplace Trust** and is collaborating



with **Autin Dance Theatre** on a sexual health show combining dance and spoken word. Jasmine is slightly obsessed with taboo. **TEDxBrum's International Women's Day 2014**, she delivered a talk exploring the taboo surrounding menstruation and she continues to run workshops that combine creativity with sex education and other awkward topics. She likes to write about weird things in unweird places - kind of like her, everywhere.

Leon Priestnall's poetry scatters back and forth between the observational and the vulnerable with rhythm and wit. He has headlined at **Hit the Ode**, **Level Up** at the **Birmingham Rep**, **Grizzly Pear**, **Poetry is Dead Good**, **Stirchley Speaks** and more. He has also appeared on BBC radio West Midlands- turning news stories into spontaneous poems on the spot. Leon also hosts and promotes regular Birmingham spoken word night '**Howl**' which takes place in Moseley every month.



Holly Daffurn is an author, a columnist and a poet. Her work rages from the political to the confessional, from witty anecdotes to cutting observations. She has had her film poetry exhibited in various art festivals including **We're Here** as part of **Brighton Pride**



and commissioned by **CAGED Arts** as part of **The React Poetry Project** (An O2 Think Big Project). Holly was commissioned by the UK's leading spoken word organisation **Apples & Snakes** to write and record a podcast on the theme of Heritage exploring inherited mental illness. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including **DIVA**, **Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture**, **Sluice Magazine**, **I Am Not A Silent Poet**, **Under The Fable** and **Sick Lit Magazine**.

Casey Bailey photo by Charlie JH Round-Turner
Joe Cook photo by Myah Jeffers for Beatfrees
Jasmine Gardosi photo by Suzi Corker
Leon Priestnall, photo by Bernard Davis
Holly Daffurn photo by Gerard Hughes

Chris Spencer



"I have always been fond of drawing, even from a young age. Through my school years I cared only for drawing, going to college with a few C grades and a hobby. When I found out my hobby could be transformed into a career, I started a BA in Illustration at Hereford College of Arts.

Throughout my course, I felt editorial illustration was best suited



to my skills. I loved the process of turning an idea or a story into images and creating clever visual metaphors, so this really motivated me to move forward with it. In editorial illustration it is very important to have a strong style and I took inspiration from a whole bunch of existing illustrators while developing my individual look. My illustrations start off as a breakdown of all the different components, I draw these up in graphite pencil and scan them then colour the components digitally and add various textures. I like bright, contrasting colours with rough, grainy textures. Last, but not least is the composition, making sure everything is positioned in the best possible way. A good illustration needs a good composition. Recently I have been illustrating for a nursing journal, which has included double-page spreads, spot illustrations and even a cover illustration.

Deadlines are sometimes tight, and you can't change anything once it is printed; this gives me the drive to get it right! To anybody considering editorial illustration, it requires a lot of patience; things will not happen overnight, many art directors and publishers are based in large cities, predominantly London, and it is a very competitive industry. However, seeing your illustrations in print is incredibly rewarding and definitely worth the time and effort.

I also have an illustration blog called Pencils & Pixels. This is where I share a lot of my inspiration".

www.pencilsandpixelsblog.tumblr.com

www.chrisspencerillustration.co.uk

www.behance.net/csillustration

Georgina Dutfield

At Slap we want to encourage young artists to develop their skills, having exposure as well as the more emerging and established ones, so here is a feature on a 15 year old student, **Georgina Dutfield**, based at Worcester's **Archway Academy** who has a passion for manga and anime work. She was brought to our attention by her tutor, **Jess Southall**.



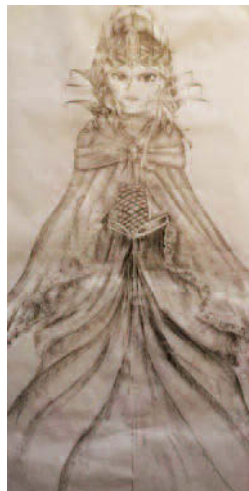
The arts are so important for young people, especially in these times where access to them is limited and not seen as important as more academic subjects.

"I normally tend to draw anime style characters from games and shows as it's fun and it gives me something to do. I enjoy anime

because it can be very unique and has so many diverse characters. For example, it can be very colourful and fantasy-like but if you compare it to a horror series, you'll see a significant difference. It's good because there are so many different shows and there is something for everyone to enjoy.

I am inspired by games such as *Dragon Quest*, *Kingdom Hearts*, *Legend of Zelda* and *Final Fantasy* and tend to use characters like *Roxas* and *Zelda* regularly. My favourite animes are *Soul Eater*, *Bleach* and *Dragon Ball Z*.

My work is mainly drawings and paintings, using pencils, pastel chalks and paint. I also like playing with different sizes, once making a life sized drawing of a character. I want to create my own manga comic and when I am not drawing anime/game characters, I am painting landscapes."



worcester arts workshop

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 Ffunk 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.

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

The **Worcester Arts Workshop** has teamed up with **Scallywags Comedy** to launch a new comedy in the city centre. Launching in May, the night will see some of the best comedians on the touring circuit visit Worcester – including **Nick Page**, a comedian who's performed in Sandi Toksvig's home; **Wayne Shakespeare**, a surrealist magician; **Chris Purchase** – recently back from touring with Reginald D Hunter and hosted by award winning **Jon Wagstaffe**.

For each event the cellar at the Arts Workshop will be turned into a comedy club – including a bar and suitable ambient lighting, and is part of the **Something A Little Bit Different Season**.



"The 'Something A Little Bit Different' season is part of Worcester Arts Workshop's commitment to making innovative arts accessible to all," says Heidi Murphy, marketing at WAW, "we are incredibly passionate about ensuring that local people have the opportunity to see something they are passionate about, or something a little bit out of their comfort zone. As well as our comedy night we have Amadou Diagne, a Senegalese fusion drummer and a showcase of queer theatre from the university."



Tickets to both these shows are available online at worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk or by contacting our office on 01905 25053.

Scallywags Comedy Nights take place:

18th May 2017, 19:30, tickets £7


15th June 2017, 19:30, tickets £7

6th July 2017, 19:30, tickets £7

Season tickets (3 shows for £15) available online at www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

LAZY SUNDAY

9th April '17



Drifter


The Borgias

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Lazy Sunday returns to **Café Bliss** with a stellar line up of **Flatworld**, **Bethan & The Morgans**, **The Borgias** and **Drifter**.

Gates open at 12pm and there's an open mic from 1-2pm.

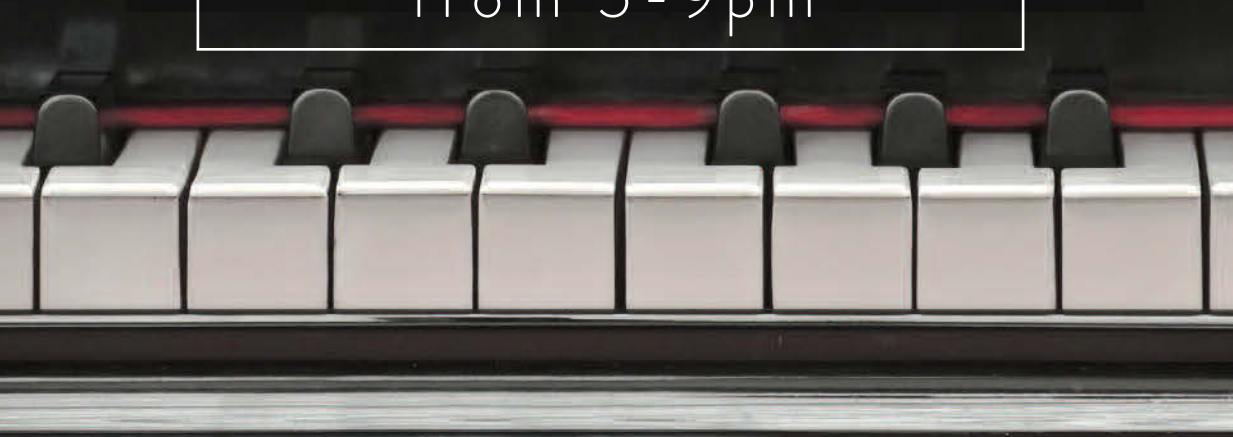




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Danny Baker | Cradle To The Stage Regal, Evesham | 3rd March

Shamefully I don't use the Regal as much as maybe I should. It's commendable in its effort at providing a good range of modern movies, and live entertainment. Truth be told, I only ended up going to this one because a friend had had to drop out. Straight off Danny admitted that he was not a stand-up comedian with a polished set, and was fairly new to this type of performance. The show took the form of a series of photographs projected onto the big screen, in front of which he endlessly prowled around. He spun a web of hilarious anecdotes, tales call them what you will, inspired by these photographs. This show covered his childhood and early life in London, especially his father who was definitely a "character". For those of you familiar with the recent television series and his book, some of this would have been familiar, but to me it was all new and rib-tickling funny. You could say that the show was somewhat chaotic, as he was often sidetracked by remembering other anecdotes. The result was that he didn't get through much more than half the photographs he said he was going to use.

Somebody said his performance would have been the same if he was recounting these stories down the local or in your living room.



I guess this was basically true, but what is definitely true was the fact that the audience in the stalls would have been more comfortable in either of these locations. Gone were the usual comfy seats and in came rows of seats that felt they had been borrowed from the local primary school. When the most comfortably seat downstairs were the ones in the toilets, you know something was wrong.

Tonight's show just whetted one's appetite for the possibility of another instalment. Maybe future shows would cover the "Rock 'N' Roll Years". If it happens, I sadly I won't be going into the stalls at the Regal to watch it!

J Reeves

Wille and the Bandits Gloucester Town Hall | Friday 10th March

Matt ambles across the stage, picks up his six-string bass and solos, Wille slips in, cradles his acoustic guitar and joins in. As the music gently builds, Andy takes his seat behind his percussive array, thumping the drums into life. **Wille and the Bandits'** explosive headline, 'Bad News', is revealed.

The band has won over many fans through their festival appearances - not least, the thousands who filled the field stage at **Upton Blues** last year - so there was a good turn-out at Gloucester, and it did not take long for the sprung floor to reflect the energy of the Bandits' blast. On stage, the nucleus of all that activity, Matt, is bouncing around, his bass setting the rhythm to Andy's beat.

There are some of us who have followed the band from their early days, recognising their unique qualities. They would cluster in a tight triangle, absolutely connected, Matt's bandanna holding back his locks, Andy working hard, watching them both like a hawk, a mass of afro hair, and Wille, with stove pipe hat, dreadlocks, spilling out, sat with lap guitar, dobro and acoustic to hand. They moved on, Wille losing his hat and deadlocks, when family came along, and, now, with the release of their new *Steal* album, Wille has found his feet. Today, they use the stage space, show-boating almost, Andy stepping forward to work his djembe alongside Matt on his awesome stick bass, Wille breaking away from his perch and facing off Matt, a six string shootout where Matt carries a heavier calibre altogether. They have become more animated, but the music is as hypnotically mesmerising as ever, from the beautiful 'Mammon' through to the band's own *Stairway to Heaven*, 'Angel', dedicated to Wille's mother. 'Chillout' to Andy's licks on his tongue drums, fall out to Matt's bone shattering, bow-strung bass, beg for 'Forgiveness' and let Wille tear through your soul with the power of 'Virgin Eyes'. We should, indeed, be 'Scared Of The Sun' as we burn our way through our protective shell.

A band that can boast an award-winning, genuine percussionist, arguably the best damned bass player in the country, and the raw-edged groove of Wille on slide and vocals is truly a force to be recognised. On tour throughout the UK and Europe, join **Wille and the Bandits** as they seek out the good times, love and peace of the 1970s. This really is rock blues heaven, so utterly compelling that I had to go again the following evening to their gig at **The Cube** in Malvern, good times indeed.

A word on the support for these gigs. At Gloucester, we had the superb Southern blues of Alabama across to the Mississippi delivered by the warm tones of **Damon T**. Finger-picking his way across his banjo, tambourine on his right foot, stomp under his left, steel resonator ready for sliding across into the Delta, Damon delivers superb, soulful roots blues.

Malvern found another Gloucester-based band in support. **Solid Gone** brought chain gang songs and gospel blues with a New Orleans edge with help from a tenor sax. Fronted by **Luke Phillbrick** with his gritty, nasal voice that cuts through the air, the band brings spiritual blues with a jazz kick, from 'Sinner Boy' to 'No More'.

Graham Munn



Elles Bailey

The Prince Of Wales Ledbury | 26th Feb

The Prince Of Wales in Ledbury on a drab Sunday afternoon became one of the hottest (both metaphorical and literal) places to be as the seemingly never ending **Elles Bailey** tour rolled into town. Having just completed a trek around the UK supporting Jo Harman, Elles (along with her ever impressive band in tow) was making her debut in the sleepy Herefordshire town, however, like every other date, she left mouths agape, begging for more, rocking the pub to its core with her blend of sassy blues, rock and soul.

Opening her set with *'Same Flame'*, the warmth of her voice and the bluesy guitar of **Joe Wilkins** dragged stragglers in from the cold and away from the Six Nations. The rhythm section (**Zak Ranyard** on bass and **Rich Laws** on drums) driving the track along, as the smoky lead vocal of Elles swoops and soars majestically, whilst Joe peels off his first expressive solo of the session before leading the band into the twanging blues noir, of *'Barrel Of Your Gun'*. By now the bar area was a mass of bodies peering for a view of Elles as she took Taylor Swift's *'Shake It Off'* to a new level - at first slow and rootsy, before upping the ante as the track's refrain kicks in. For one patron that was enough, despite the cramped conditions he couldn't help breaking out a move or two, as Elles stamped out her own identity on the track as if it was one of her own.

Elles shows her diversity as she steps behind the piano for a soulful *'Believed In You'*, before channelling Janis Joplin for the ballsy *'Girl Who Owned The Blues'*, gesticulating wildly as she pours every ounce of emotion into her performance, whilst her band blaze behind her. Laws is given chance to shine, pounding out an impressive solo before the first set draws to a close with a contagious, *'Big Idea'*.



During the break, appreciation for a storming first set echoed around the bar as punters scrambled to take home a piece of Elles on CD; others talked of a previous Elles performance in nearby Worcester and the need for more of the same.

A wipe of the brow and Elles is back leading the second set with a stunning, acoustic rendition of *'Time's A Healer'*. Strummed guitars and brushed drums frame an infectious, rootsy Bailey vocal before a *'Wildfire'* sweeps through the Prince Of Wales, as the band reignite for Elles recently released new single. Joe's fingers are a blur as Elles proves just why she's such a highly regarded artist - vocals towering, the passion etched on her face as her band create the *'Perfect Storm'*. Another cover, a stomping Howlin' Wolf's *'Spoonful'* is given a new, almost feral like energy as Elles hollers out the lyrics and an equally impassioned band somehow crank up another gear. Bailey calls for the audience to join her for a raucous *'Let Me Hear You Scream'* and sure enough the audience respond in kind, howling their appreciation as Elles brings a stirring set towards a frenetic finale.

There was no way that the gathered assembly would allow Elles to finish there and they bellowed for one more. The band duly obliged, launching into a rowdy, anthemic *'Howlin' Wolf'* with Bailey wringing out every last ounce of energy. Her new devotees wailed in unison as Elles and her band finally take their leave, having taken Ledbury by storm, as they rightfully continue to conquer the wider world, town by town.

Will Munn

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The Swan Theatre & Huntingdon Hall

It's gonna be blue skies all around on April 4th when the one of the most prolific tributes to Jeff Lynne's mighty ELO comes to town. **The ELO Experience's** Back into the Blue Tour 2017 at **The Swan Theatre** will not only include classics from the inimitable Out of the Blue album, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, but new material from ELO's 2016 album Alone in the Universe. Tickets are £22.

Likened to "Bellowhead with bus passes", iconic folk-rock band **Feast of Fiddles** plays **Huntingdon Hall** on **April 5th**. With seven CDs and sell-out UK shows under their belt, the band features fiddlers Peter Knight (Steeleye Span), Chris Leslie (Fairport Convention), Phil Beer (Show of Hands), Brian McNeill (Battlefield Band), Ian Cutler (Bully Wee), Tom Leary (Lindisfarne) and Garry Blakeley (Band of Two), who play to a rock back-line of guitars, keyboards, sax and accordion, accompanied by legendary drummer Dave Mattacks and Hugh Crabtree on melodeon. Tickets are £22.



Hitting all the right keys, home-grown talent **Jules Benjamin** and his band return to **Huntingdon Hall** on **April 6th** to recreate the highlights of pop-rock legend Billy Joel's incredible career. Having sold more than 150 million records during a career spanning 40 years, Billy Joel's songs have acted as personal and cultural touchstones for millions of people, and Jules and his band are back to pay homage to some of his best-known and most iconic tracks. Tickets are £16.



Fans of Morrissey will be able to catch tribute act **The Smiths** **Indeed** at **Huntingdon Hall** on **April 7th**. Capturing the essence of a mid-1980s Smiths concert, tickets are £16.

With her 'dirty blues, gritty vocals, and deep personal commitment', New Yorker **Sari Schorr** has been catapulted into the spotlight as one of the hottest new blues rock singers around. See her at **Huntingdon Hall** on **April 13th**, tickets, £15.



What's On? at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall



Feast of Fiddles
5th April - £22



**The Smiths
Indeed**
7th April - £16

**English Symphony
Orchestra**
7th & 8th April - £19



Sari Schorr
13th April
- £15



**You've Got A
Friend - The
Music of James
Taylor and
Carole King**
20th April - £17.50



**Rich Hall's
Hoedown**
22nd April - £17.50

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On **April 20th**, the theatre plays host to **You've Got A Friend**, a tribute to the music of James Taylor and Carole King, brought to you by the creators of smash hit West End show *The Simon & Garfunkel Story*. Featuring classics such as *I feel The Earth Move*, *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow*, as well as the number one hit *You've Got A Friend*, tickets are £17.50.

It's then back to beehives, miniskirts and hot pants at theatre with **David Hamilton's Rock 'n' Roll Back the Years** on **April 21st**. Starring DJ and broadcasting legend '**Diddy**' **David Hamilton**, who has worked with everyone from The Beatles to Roy Orbison, the fabulous 50s and swinging 60s live music show also features **The Fugitives** and sensational **Tiffany Girls**. Tickets are £21.

Sincerely Yours - **The Vera Lynn Story** comes to **Huntingdon Hall** on **April 21st**, celebrating the *We'll Meet Again* forces' sweetheart and centenarian. With feature footage from the 1940s and memories from Dame Vera herself, the show is packed with nostalgia and laughter, tickets, £17.50.

Staying with the rock 'n' roll theme, the story of '**The King**' comes to the theatre on **April 22nd**. Directed by top record producer, musical director and Ivor Novello award-winner **David Mackay** and with a top line-up of actor-musicians, multiple costume changes and nostalgic film footage, tickets to *The Elvis Years* musical production are £21.



Following two nights at the Glasgow International Comedy Festival, **Rich Hall's** now infamous **Hoedown** comes to **Huntingdon Hall** on **April 22nd**, tickets £17.50.

On the 28th, you can see the sensational **Astaria String Quartet - Like This? Like That!**, tickets £14.50. If you're *Livin' On A Prayer* by the end of the month, get down to **Huntingdon Hall** on the **29th** for the Bon Jovi Experience, described as "*the best tribute I have ever seen*" by the frontman himself. Tickets, £18.

Film Night at Worcester Brewing Company Sat April 29th

Slip away from the bustle of Worcester's city centre for a night of off-beat cinema and artisan beer with the **Worcester Brewing Company** later this month.

On Saturday, **April 29**, the brewery are hosting the second in a series of specialist film nights under the railway arches with a one-off screening of **Lawrence of Belgravia** (Paul Kelly, 2011) followed by the critically acclaimed **Oil City Confidential** (Julien Temple, 2009)

Sup on a pint of some of Worcester's finest real ales, brewed on the premises and poured straight from the barrel, and spend an evening with Lawrence, Britain's great lost pop star - possibly. The documentary explores the life and work of the whirlwind musician behind cult British bands Felt, Denim and Go-Kart Mozart, in his futile quest for fame, fortune and notoriety.

At 8pm, the second in the double-bill of film documentaries follows the irreverent and anarchic story of Dr Feelgood, and will take audiences on a journey back to 1970s Canvey Island. The film is the last in Temple's trilogy on British music of the 1970s and is a prequel to his landmark films



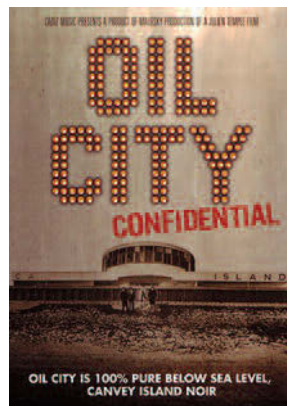
about the Sex Pistols in 'The Filth & The Fury' and Joe Strummer in 'The Future Is Unwritten'. Music is used as a prism through which the social and cultural conditions of the times are examined.

The Worcester Brewing Company can be found at number 49, Cherry Tree Walk, Worcester and seating in this intimate and unusual space is limited, so guests are advised to get there early - and to wrap up warm. The distant rumble of the trains overhead as you sip on a fresh ale will only add to the charm of the occasion.

Doors open at 5.15pm and there is no charge for attending the event, but donations are welcomed and currently only cash is accepted at the bar. Come for one of the films, both or just some beer: you're guaranteed a unique cultural event.

Imogen Buller

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The Power Metal Quest Fest The Roadhouse, Stirchley | 26th Feb

The Power Metal Quest Fest, put together by Amie, Adam & Gemma of Birmingham band **Dakesis** was a simply extraordinary day, with eight bands coming from as far away as Scotland and York to play at **The Roadhouse** in Stirchley.

The quality of the music and the standard of the musicianship from every single band was amazing and the atmosphere generated by a sold out crowd of 250 lasted all afternoon and well into the night.

The bands that played, in order of appearance were **The Mighty Wraith**, **Proscenium**, **Control The Storm**, **Farseer**, **Sellsword**, **Ascension**, **Dakesis** and **Triaxis**.

Because of the success of the event, it's going to be repeated in 2018 - you really do not want to miss it!

I hope that this selection of images conveys some of the excitement and atmosphere of the day.

Geoffrey Head



From top left going clockwise: Ascension, Proscenium, Sellsword, Farseer, Control The Storm, Dakesis, The Mighty Wraith, Triaxis

Surprise Attacks #52

Dusty Mush, Yo No Se, Pablo Alto

Firefly Worcester | Thurs 13th April

Some things never get old. They just keep reinventing themselves. Regenerating every few years, like a low musical culture Doctor Who. Way back when, in the actual nineteen-sixties, a load of geeks and oiks came up with a DIY musical formula involving guitars, drums, distortion pedals and howls. Garage. Or so it was to become known. It was punk before there were even genres or lazy, inane music journalists to make them up.



Seeing the light of day with creatures like the Kinks and the Troggs and successively interbreeding with psychedelia, surf rock and other crazy stylistic ideas over the years - via the Stooges, The Dead Boys, the Hives, Death from Above 1979 and the Computers - Garage has never lost its power to issue forth a blazing primal, skinny-legged scream. And it's still going, evolving and putting forth shoots of filthy energy in these, our later days. As this pan-European triple-headed bill at the Firefly, Worcester on Thursday 13th April will most ably demonstrate.

From some attic in the shabbier outskirts of Paris clamber headliners **Dusty Mush**. A caterwauling, gutsy monstrosity of a band that has to be experienced in the flesh to get the full, feral benefit. Supports come from Bristol's **Yo No Se** - a classic three-piece, all fuzz and heavy psych goodness, thick with the heavy scent of Seattle-style proto-grunge; and local space-punks **Pablo Alto**, a swirling miasma of clattering noise, bass and effects that manage to evoke both Joy Division and Hawkwind. All at the same time. It's also the night before Good Friday and you won't have school the next day. So you should come.

Vladimir Goatstoker



Left: Dusty Mush, Above Yo No Se, below Pablo Alto



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Swingamajig

Digbeth, Birmingham | 30th April

Right at the end of April Birmingham is promised 'A Show Like No Other' as **Swingamajig** takes over Digbeth for twelve hours of live music, DJ's, dancing, cabaret and so much more.

Swingamajig is a one day festival quite unlike any other. Sure there's live music and DJ's galore but few other festivals have burlesque performance side by side with a jive class or a magic show. Then there's the audience, hundreds of open-minded music lovers embracing everything from hip-hop and techno to retro swing, gypsy folk and ska, clad in an arresting array of 30/40s styled suits and dresses. It could be argued that Swingamajig isn't just the most eclectic event of the calendar but also perhaps the best dressed too.



Swingamajig celebrates its fifth anniversary with its biggest line-up to date and live entertainment spread across seven stages. This year also sees the addition of a **Vintage Bazaar** that will feature a vintage/craft market, street food (courtesy of the acclaimed **Digbeth Diner's Club**), swing dance taster sessions, games and more. Free to all 11.00am - 6.00pm.



Each year has seen new musical discoveries and festival favourites jostle for space and this year is no different with genre bending dance duo **The Correspondents** and festival curators and long time favourites **Electric Swing Circus** returning to top the festival, alongside former number one hit makers **Sam And The Womp**. Looking down the line-up there's something for everyone from ramshackle gypsy heroes **Mr Tea And The Minions**, **The Jim Wynn Swing Orchestra** and **Elle And The Pocket Belles** to rock 'n' roll heroes (and former **Worcester Music Festival** headliners) **Rhino And The Ranters**. **Sharna Mae And The Mayhems** will offer a dose of rockabilly you can practise those jive moves to, whilst Birmingham's own **The Cracked Actors** and **Punch The Sky** will have you skankin' the day away.

18 SLAP APRIL



If that's not enough, renowned burlesque and cabaret performers **Joe Black**, **Missy Malone** and **Lola Lamour** will be adding their unique and seductive talents to the mix; whilst **The Church** offer an evangelical service of gospel, motown and disco led by the good **Reverend Micheal Alabama Jackson** (for all those sinners in need of redemption).



And there's still more... if you haven't tired yourself out dancing into the wee small hours, **Ragtime Records** and **Scour** are teaming up with Birmingham's **City Of Colours** for an after show mash-up of Swingamajig sounds, dub, reggae, hip-hop and beyond.

Tickets at just £20 are understandably selling fast but can be found at www.swingamajig.co.uk along with a full break down of the festival itself.

Don't miss out Swingamajig truly is "A Show Like No Other"

Words: Will Munn Photography: Carolina Faruolo

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Vinny Peculiar

The Plough, Worcester | 2nd March

Having done my research, listening to a large chunk of **Vinny Peculiar's** back catalogue along with his recent *Silver Meadows* album, I was really looking forward to watching a master craftsman up close and you don't get much closer than a packed out **Plough**.

Having navigated towards a couple of seats front and centre we settled back as Vinny began the first half of his set with a witty spoken word piece entitled *Hair* before moving deftly on to an intriguing acoustic lament entitled *School Teacher*, as Vinny regaled tales of his youth, delivering witty anecdotes between well written tales, accompanied by his own acoustic, mandolin or ukulele. The teaching vibe continued with an ode towards his former teacher Clifford T Ward and seeing him perform on top of the pops, before glam rock and cricket collides on a former *Uncut* best titled track *We Didn't Paint Our Nails When We Fought The Germans*.

Continuing Vinny's life story and a move back to the Midlands has prompted work on an album entitled *WR3* and he showcased a couple of

songs in the shape of *Golden City* (named after a well known Chinese in Worcester) and *Malvern Winter Gardener*, before rounding off an infatuating first set with a cover of Roy Harper's *When An Old Cricketer Leaves The Crease* to a highly and rightfully appreciative audience.

A chance for a beer as Vinny presses palms, shares stories and sell his wares before he returns for a second set based around the aforementioned *Silver Meadows* disc. Nurses, saviours of challenging behaviour, patients and porters all tell tales of Silver Meadows with the likes of *Wednesday Club*, in full, the upbeat (almost comedic) folk of *Gerald The Porter* and the gorgeous *Waiting Games* holding The Plough attentively as Vinny laments every day life in the institution.

Vinny finished up his set with a few fan favourites - *Confessions Of A Sperm Donor*, *Jesus Stole My Girlfriend* and an audience assisted *Sometimes I Feel Like A King* all lapped up with glee, sending everyone home with a smile and a song in their hearts.

Vinny Peculiar/Purple Shades/Tyler Massey

The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 11th march

A week later and Peculiar treads the boards of **The Marrs Bar** with a different set of songs and his Worcester based band - **Wes Dance** (guitar), **Rooney Wooster** (bass) and **Dan Bramhall** (drums) - in tow.

Before Vinny's headline performance we were treated to a couple of welcome supports. **Tyler Massey** (accompanied by **Alex Knight** on bass) opened proceedings showcasing his recently released EP, *American Nightmare*, in full. A collision of Americana and psych tinged folk was the order of the day with Massey crooning over deftly plucked guitar and Knight's acoustic bottom end. The opening title track sets the mood with an

instantly infectious melody and hook-laden chorus, before Massey delivers a deliciously biting folk homage to Rupert Murdoch in the form of *Whipping Boy*. The EP's closing number, *The Devil You Know*, proves a further highlight as Tyler summons images of the late 60's as melodies play out beneath a suitably hazy lead.

Talking of retro **The Purple Shades** offered up a glorious set of 60's styled, off-beat garage rock, opening with a riotous run at *Be My Baby* (complete with group harmonies) before delivering a host of contagious originals including the likes of the quirky former single, *They Follow You* and the serrated *Quicksand*. The band threw in a cover of Fleetwood Mac's *Landslide* proving their chops before rounding off with a frenzied rush through *Gay Bar* leaving the audience baying for more.

Vinny Peculiar once again delivered an engaging and infectious set full of witty stories, hook-laden songs and the odd sing-a-long



but, whilst the previous week's set was intimate and sedate, this time he came armed - his hand-picked band filling out the sound with lo-fi electric riffs, rolling bass and the rumble of drums, transforming the likes of *Malvern Winter Gardener* into a glam tinged indie rocker. Continuing the local theme, *Detroitwich* sees Marshall Mathers and P Diddy land up at The Swan on the A38 after a booking mix-up. Further highlights included the likes of *In Love With A Girl From Bromsgrove*, *Teenage Bedroom*, an electric rendition of the aforementioned *Jesus Stole My Girlfriend* and a further mass sing-a-long to festival anthem in the waiting, *Sometimes I Feel Like A King*.



Two weeks, two different sets, both in style and substance, but both equally captivating. Whether solo and regaling tales of his former work life (*Silver Meadows*) or plugged in and backed by Worcester's finest, Peculiar offers an often tongue in cheek, riveting collection of poetic musings unrivalled by his songwriting contemporaries.

Words by Will Munn Photography by Duncan Graves

Faithful City Shows presents: Empty Lungs/The Whipjacks The Harts/Trivial Dispute The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 14th March

Local hardcore/punk promoters **FCS** are back at **The Marrs Bar** with an eclectic mix - from street punk meets post hardcore to high speed folk (think Flogging Molly or The Dropkick Murphys rather than Fairport Convention) topped with the melodic yet angular sounds of Irish serrated indie heroes **Empty Lungs**.

The cunning promoters realise that dragging in more than the dedicated may prove tricky on a school night so decide to cut the space between audience and performer by setting up on the floor; a clever ploy as the fifty or so punters file in to give the room an intimate, back room of a pub, feel.

Birmingham's **Trivial Dispute** were charged with kicking things off and the hard hitting threesome did just that - a blur of energy and sweat as slabs of meaty three minute, muscular punk were volleyed into the audience. The front man hollered, whilst attacking his six string, as the rhythm section pounded and pummelled - heavy for the hardcore faithful yet enough melody for an old punk rocker (like me, only without the old!!). Song titles were hard to decipher on the night but a quick spin around the group's Bandcamp page left me marvelling over the likes of *Better Off Alone* and a new song that could have been entitled *All Your Regrets* also lurched for attention on the night.

Worcester's own **The Harts** followed: a four-piece alternative rock band with a spiky punk attitude that, despite only forming last year, are already beginning to make waves on the local music scene. Fronted by the powerful voice of **Jodie Louise Fidoe** and anchored by a tight rhythm section, the group delivered on their promise with the likes of Tempus and Smother finding their mark, with Fidoe punching from the front while the lead guitarist peeled off a collection of infectious riffs.

It's no secret that **The Whipjacks** are fast becoming my

favourite local band. They never fail to lift the mood of a venue with their contagious blend of punky speed folk and, during the set, I turned round to see huge grins and grown men jigging as Dean and the boys delivered a short, sharp set of all killer, no filler folk 'n' roll. From their own *My Madness (Molly Murphy)* and *Scoundrels And Rogues* to their rousing rendition of *I'm Shipping Up To Boston*, the band never stop moving as mandolins are thrashed, guitars attacked and drums pounded. Dean somehow manages to find enough breath to sing in between energetic bursts of jigging and the band look like they're having as much fun as we are - something that other band's seem to lose as time goes by. If you're looking for a fun night full of frolics and sing-a-longs, I urge you to track down **The Whipjacks** next time they tread the boards.



And so it's left to Belfast trio **Empty Lungs** to bring another FCS to a close. The melodic indie punksters have shared stages with everyone from The Subways to Alkaline Trio via the Augustines, so it's no wonder the band come armed with a collection of energetic, hook-laden, indie buzzers that by the close of their opening number the Worcester faithful had taken to their hearts. As the band's set drew on, bassist **Conor Langen** became a blur as he careered across the floor, **Mykie Rowan** displayed raw power behind the kit and, up front, Kev Jones tossed out catchy power-pop like melodies. Delivering recent EP highlights *Don't Get It* and *Losing it*, *Finding It* to an appreciative audience of new converts and drawing the curtain on an enjoyable and eclectic mix of the many facets of punk.

Words by Will Munn Photography by Duncan Graves

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Last Tree Squad EP launch

The Booth Hall | Friday March 17th

Heading a lineup of fresh talent of varied musical styles, **Last Tree Squad** brought the goodtime vibes to **The Booth Hall** for the launch of their new EP. The crowd inside were witness to an almighty example of energetic live performance throughout the night, culminating in an impressive display of musicianship, charisma and moving the crowd from the headliners.

Upon arriving at The Booth, we were treated to the sounds of the **Reggae Pie DJs** who were reliably dropping dub, reggae and jungle bombs in a fashion that really set the scene for the night ahead with the bass rattling, exactly as it should be.

With the bass still resonating through the walls of The Booth, local **MC Coosie** from **Verbal Highs** took to the stage and dropped a concise but effective set of beats, rhymes and life that showed off his lyrical prowess



with knowing mentions of everything from Shrek to Madeline McCann and adding effects with a little toy horn, he demonstrated a wry sense of humour throughout the set. Coosie definitely got the live aspect of tonight's show off to a flying start.

As the interim dub classics erupted and then subsided, it was time for **Esk Forte** to take the stage for the next portion of live entertainment. Armed with a guitar, saxophone and a sublime voice, she was reminiscent of Laura Marling in her early days but with a lot more attitude and vigour and captivated the audience with that spellbinding voice. Alternating between playing the songs with the guitar and the saxophone showed how talented she is and the set was a joy to watch, the only thing wrong with it was that it wasn't longer.



Following **Esk Forte** wasn't an easy task but **Rucka Small** proved himself to be more than up to the task with the rappers double-time style of emceeing going down a storm, a style that reminded me of one of this country's finest rappers, Skinnyman, partly because of the double time style but also the delivery and lyrical content, which bordered on the humorous at times, especially when he declared he's got "bite like Tyson" in a hip hop moment straight out of 97 that still sounded fresh!



Rucka Small was joined towards the end by **Last Tree Squad** man **BDS** to hype the crowd up a little more, which definitely worked as he rattled off his quick-fire rhymes to serious applause and ended a great set on a high.

Before the night's headliners took to the stage, the man that is **Cut La Vis** demonstrated his formidable DJing skills as the bass heavy cuts kept coming in fast and heavy; this proved to be the perfect opening to **Last Tree Squad** kicking out their jams.

Wasting absolutely no time at all, the six piece (featuring **Esk Forte** among their ranks) raised the energy levels even further with an enthusiastic approach to their craft and those energy levels stayed risen for the remainder of the night.

Blasting out memorable tracks from the EP as well as other cuts, **Last Tree Squad** proved how good a live band they are with every member of the band firing on all cylinders, ably led by **BDS** whose passion on the mic was suitably impressive and constantly hyped up the crowd.

Between the music, the stage chatter was constant with usual suspects, Theresa Dis-May and Stig Trump (as **BDS** put it) were ridiculed with the frontman declaring it as being "*like Thatcher and Reagan all over again*" to mass applause and sending a message of good vibes over war and hate as well as a closing impassioned rant against the manufactured music industry and all the X Factor rubbish.



Last Tree Squad put on a hell of a show, and their sound, one that takes in reggae, dub, hip hop and jungle, delivered with an infectious lust for life that was so enjoyable to listen to and the enthusiasm of the crowd was testament to this.

Seek out the brilliant EP, and seek out **Last Tree Squad** live as it is an experience not to be missed out on, one that was rapturously received tonight at The Booth accompanied by a strong supporting bill. It is nights like this that are needed to keep live music alive.

Words: Gavin Brown Photography: Nick Vidal-Hall for Booth Hall

Busk in Brum

Celebrating the Local Brummie Legends

The new Worcester **Buskers Guidelines** launches on April 1st and is proving very popular now that it's been fully published and the misleading headlines have stopped. In light of this, SLAP brings you news of a new buskers initiative in Birmingham which Worcester artists are already taking advantage of...



Would Birmingham even be Birmingham without the sound of street performers echoing down the streets? Whether it be rain or sunshine, Brummie buskers deserve applause for colouring the streets of Birmingham city and the surrounding towns with their unique and eccentric acts.

Busk in Brum (www.buskinbrum.com) is a new service exclusive to Birmingham based buskers which is both innovating and modernising the trade. Street performers of Birmingham and surrounding West Midland towns from Worcester to Warwickshire are welcomed to create a free profile on **Busk in Brum**. This allows each busker, whether they be a musician, dancer, human statue, artist or circus act, to then have their profile easily found by members of the public. Using search filters, the original concept aims to promote, support and celebrate buskers by providing them and their act an additional level exposure.

Busk in Brum allows buskers to include links to their own online stores on their profile whilst also including a gallery of images, a biography, videos of performances, links to socials and any contact details to be booked for events or extra jobs. These are things which are difficult to communicate or prevented during their performances. Custom made stickers and t-shirts are complimentary provided by Busk in Brum for the buskers to wear to promote their profiles in directing the public to their pages upon joining the site. Spot the merchandise and find the profile online!



Worcester based buskers include **The Fidgets**, **The Blue Dive** and **James Chatfield** can work full time hours providing entertainment to shoppers, commuters and visitors. Their acts soundtrack the lives of individuals as they use the streets as their stage, so Busk in Brum's mission is to encourage Birmingham to appreciate the talent they can so luckily enjoy.



As **James Chatfield** was one of the first to create a profile on the site, he explains: 'I feel the site grants opportunities to connect with other buskers and to share information and music to the public that is quite hard to during a street session. I feel nothing but greatness will come from being involved with Busk in Brum and I am excited to see their future plans!'

With no other town or city having a service which celebrates local buskers, **Busk in Brum** hopes to keep the streets of Birmingham alive with the sound of street performance.

Yasemin Gumushan

Worcester Music Festival Chosen Charity

St Paul's Hostel, a **Worcester Council of Churches** initiative, first opened in March 1977 as a response to the high numbers of people in Worcester sleeping rough in derelict buildings, car parks, bus shelters or open spaces.

The hostel first opened in the derelict vicarage of **St Paul's church** where Revd. **Studdert Kennedy** (**Woodbine Willy**) used to be priest. Our name derives from these humble but important early days.

We have come a long way since those early days. We are now a 46 bed hostel with 2 supported flats and 5 resettlement houses; including a dry house. We have a dedicated team of staff working 24/7 in the hostel on a shift based system.

The hostel is, amazingly, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. We would not have survived those 40 years without the different avenues of funding that have been provided; and the support given by our volunteers and staff. Unfortunately over the last few years funding has been slowly cut away. We are now only funded by the individual housing benefit we receive for each person in the hostel, their personal contribution and, of course,



the Big Lottery. We were lucky enough to receive a substantial grant from the big lottery to run a 3 year project called '**The Tree of Life**'. Though this funding is wonderful, it only funds a very narrow section of the hostel.

For this reason we are incredibly grateful and pleased to have been selected as the charity of choice for the **Worcester Music Festival**. As an avid music lover myself, and one who wholeheartedly believes in the therapeutic nature of music I am thrilled to be involved with the festival.

The money raised from the festival will go towards bringing music therapy into the hostel. Music has always been shown to boost morale and attitude. Music therapy in particular has proven it can substantially change the mental health of a person. One of the first steps for anyone in a vulnerable position is to improve their mental health and through music therapy this can be done successfully. Not only is music therapeutic but, more importantly, it's fun. Music creates its own energy and draws people in because of this. We are excited that the **Worcester Music Festival** has provided us this opportunity to expand the therapeutic avenues of St Paul's and to bring St Paul's alive with music!

Lizzy Leonard - Skills Development and Community Engagement Manager – St. Paul's Hostel www.stpaulshostel.co.uk

Jess Morgan

Elmslie House, Malvern | 22nd April

Following the soft release of her 4th album *Edison Gloriette*, **Jess Morgan** announces UK tour dates for 2017. The tour includes a very special headline show at **The Winemakers Club** in London (May 6th) as well appearances at a number of summer festivals across the UK.



Jess Morgan is a songwriter's songwriter. A cerebral storyteller. Her new album is a tumbler of unfancied folk-roots music, with heart, passion and gusto. As well as crafting songs, Jess also hand crafts her own DIY vinyl records. In a recent article The 405 called her *"a true DIY artist in her element. Seriously, she does it all."*

When it came for the Norwich-based singer-songwriter to start recording tracks on *'Edison Gloriette'* Norway was calling. Jess returned to Bergen team-up with collaborators from her 2010 debut, producer HP Gundersen and producer and studio engineer Daniel Birkeland. She wanted to record slowly and meaningfully



following a mad 5 years of touring and rapid releases. 2 weeks in a quiet cabin, alongside a fjord on the outskirts of Bergen was just the right change of pace to record Jess' acutely observed tales of life, love, people and places.

The past 5 years have seen Jess cement her place in the

burgeoning folk, roots and Americana scene throughout the UK and Europe. Her music has attracted the ears of **BBC Radio 2**, **BBC 6 Music**, **Uncut**, **The Telegraph**, **The Guardian**, **R2** and **Folk Radio UK**, to name a few. New album *'Edison Gloriette'* follows on from 2015 Jess release *'The Bournemouth EP'* which sold-out its limited edition run in less than 24 hours.

"something truly special." – Folk Radio UK

"absolutely addictive" – The National Student

*"Unique vocals, keen observational skills, and top-notch songwriting. A true talent. *****"* – Maverick

*"Some of the most sublime tunes you are likely to hear in a long time. *****"* – R2

www.jessmorgan.co.uk

Tickets as always are available from www.elmsliehouse.co.uk Alternatively tickets for all music performances are available via Malvern TIC and Carnival Records, both on Church Street, Great Malvern and also online and direct to your mobile phones via Eventbrite.

Get your tickets early and qualify for the Advance price of £8.00 – or wait and buy on the door on the night for a round £10.00.



Elmslie is both an elegant venue and a family home in the heart of Great Malvern. We hold regular classes, craft markets and music performances. Why not subscribe to receive our newsletter and find out what else is going on?



JESS MORGAN

Saturday 22nd April



IAN SHERWOOD

Saturday 13th May



KATEY BROOKS

Saturday 27th May



Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start
Advance Tickets £8.00, On the Door £10.00
Tickets available from www.elmsliehouse.co.uk
Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, both on Church Street, Malvern.



Folk in the Foyer | Steve Turner Evesham Arts Centre | Thur 20th April

The latest line up of Folk in the Foyer brings one of the best voices in the business, **Steve Turner**, to **Evesham Arts Centre**.

Known as a pioneer of highly sophisticated English concertina song accompaniments, stretching the boundaries of traditional forms, Steve is a multi-instrumentalist, who also accompanies himself on the cittern, and plays mandolin and banjo.

After a thirteen year break, building up an internationally known stringed instrument business, he made a welcome return to performing in folk clubs and festivals in 2005. Steve's 5th album, his first for 22 years *"The Whirligig of Time"* was listed for the BBC folk awards in 2008. His 6th album *"Rim of the Wheel"* was released in spring 2012 to rave reviews. Steve's latest 7th album *"Spirit of the Game"* was released in January 2016.



There will also be support on the night from Evesham singer-songwriter **Colin Pitts**.

Tickets £10 Conc £9 from Evesham Almonry, Abbey Road, WR11 4BG 01386-446944 and www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk
www.steve-turner.co.uk

A Fistful of Spookies St Swithun's Institute, Worcester | Friday 28th April

A Fistful of Spookies will be bringing their a cappella and comedy stylings providing their own renditions of the likes of Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, The Beach Boys and thousand year old Georgian songs as well as brand newbies by Spookmeister Stephen Taberner, guaranteed to woo, charm, cheer & delight.

A Fistful of Spookies (UK) were abandoned to their own devices when festival hits **The Spooky Men's Chorale** retreated to Australia after 2015's sell-out tour. This rambling, rambunctious collection of UK Spooks keep alive the flame of Spookiness in the northern hemisphere, providing magnificent fun for those lucky enough to witness it!

The night's line up will include **Michael Carlyon, Adrian Mealing, Philip Read, Chris Samuel, James Sills** and **Dom Stitchbury** who have all lead **6 Music** to dub them 'a fun-sized version of *The Spooky Men's Chorale*'. As Mike Harding said, they're 'one of the funniest bands ever - still chuckling', so you'd better make sure you don't miss out on tickets.



Doors open 7.20pm, on-stage 8.00pm Ticket £12.50
www.wegotickets.com/event/389667

Hereford River Carnival

Friday 28th and Saturday 29th April will see **Hereford River Carnival** celebrate the UK's favourite river. Last year, over 12,000 people descended upon Hereford to join in the festivities, leading to it being such a success that Visit Hereford awarded them the **Best Community Festival Award** for 2016.

There will be a colourful array of events taking place across the festival with activities that will entertain everyone. Friday sees a theatrical celebration of the iconic **Mappa Mundi** where creatures from the artefact will come to life in the streets and in a torch-lit procession down the River Wye. Events on Saturday include a dog show on Castle Green at 10am, CHAR sprint race at 11:15am, a street carnival commencing at 1pm and a charity duck race at 3:30pm.

Carnival 2017 will also receive a marvellous musical boost as the award-winning team behind the boutique family festival, **Nozstock: The Hidden Valley** will join in the celebrations. They'll

be bringing their own brand of family-orientated festivity and some of its best-loved acts to Castle Green. Another musical stage comes in the form of **Underground Revolution's** Stage on Left Bank where you can chill out to the acoustic sounds of Hereford's finest in the courtyard under the expert yet effortless guidance of **Underground Revolution**.

Also joining the festivities will be **The Music Pool** Stage in Bishops Meadow. The Music Pool is passionately dedicated to providing chances for people of all ages and abilities to make all sorts of music together. This year's impressive line up demonstrates the sheer power of music to brighten people's lives:

Dance has proved so popular at the **River Carnival**, that we have had to bring in another marquee to fit everyone in. And there'll be lots of dancing featured in this year's Street Carnival. On Bishops Meadow, the line up on the dance tent is shaping up superbly. Why not cha cha along and catch the very best of Hereford's hoofers.

For a full line up of events and timings visit:
www.rivercarnival.org.uk



Luckless

West Malvern Social Club | 28th April

Luckless will descend on **West Malvern Social Club** to provide an evening filled with **Ivy Rossiter's** vocals that float over her 1960's Silvertone electric guitar, alongside hypnotic and dynamic live looping. With a sound poised somewhere between the ethereal haze of indie folk and the propulsive drive of alt-rock, it is an evening that is bound to be full of charm. The solo artist draws inspiration from 90's heroes such as PJ Harvey, Mark Lanegan and Sparklehorse so if you're a fan of indie and experimental rock, this will be the place to be.



Her self-titled debut album was released back in May 2014 and, since then, **Luckless** has been proving her musical strength. In 2014, she released her second album '*Vindication Blues*' before releasing strong charity single '*No Civil War*' late 2015. Throughout, she has been proving her musical prowess by playing as many live shows as she can get her hands on and now she'll be bringing her melodic and melancholic music to Malvern all the way from her Berlin home.

Support on the night comes from **Tyler Massey** who will be playing songs from his new album *American Nightmare*.

Upton Blues Festival Fundraiser Memorial Hall, Upton | Sat April 15th

The unbelievable **Upton Blues Festival** scheduled this year for July 21st-23rd, is hosting a pre festival fund raising evening at the **Memorial Hall** in the town.

Evesham born rock guitarist **Luther Grosvenor** will make an appearance with his band. That band is, **Paul 'Slowburner' Bridgewater**, **Jacqui Savage**, on bass (**Paul Snook band**) and **Rich Shelton** on drums (**Boogie Boys**, **Vincent Flatts**, **Sarah Warren Band**)

Luther has played in several iconic bands in his long career, starting with **Spooky Tooth**, a short spell with **Stealers Wheel**, and under the pseudonym of **Ariel Bender** in the mighty **Mott The Hoople**, later moving on to form **Widowmaker**.

With Paul's incredible vocals, and a tight rhythm section of Jacqui and Rich behind, it promises to be a fascinating evening, as Luther brings his axe to bear.

Supporting **The Luther Grosvenor Band**, will be **Drifter**, with **Dave Small** and **Danny Gee**.

With tickets available on the door, at £7.50, the show scheduled for April 15th has doors open at 7.30pm, with a fully licenced bar, Texan style pulled pork rolls and a supporting raffle.

King Solomon

Cafe Rene, Gloucester | April 29th
The Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | April 30th

King Solomon are a 10 piece roots reggae band from Cheltenham, Gloucester, Bristol and Swindon who have been making their mark on the UK music scene since 2013. Last year they marched onto the festival circuit to play **Boomtown**, **One Love Festival & Sportbeat**, amongst others, and were joined by reggae legend **Brinsley Forde of Aswad** for a number of shows.

This April they embark on a tour of 9 dates to coincide with the release of their second studio album '*In The Snakepit*' on their own label Barleyfield Records.

The album consists of 11 tracks, of which half will be special dub versions mixed by **Al Breadwinner**, the other half being powerful roots reggae tracks with hints of jazz and blues and a massive reggae version of *Paranoid* by Black Sabbath!



Don't miss this unique opportunity for what promises to be a great evening of live music.

'He was one of the most inventive guitarists of his generation, one of the clutch of flashy young axe-slingers who emerged at the tail end of the 1960s, and turned everything on its head. Up alongside Brian May, Mick Ronson, and Paul Kossoff, Luther Grosvenor rewrote the guitar players' rule book, simply by remembering that technique isn't everything; you have to have some fun as well'. (quote from Billboard.com)

Upton Jazz Tickets on Sale

A dazzling line-up has been confirmed for this year's **Upton-upon-Severn Jazz Festival** as thousands of music fans prepare to flock to the picturesque riverside town. The festival, now in its 32nd year, is one of the longest-running jazz festivals in the country, and a host of international stars have signed up for the 2017 event. Already confirmed are the high-energy, yellow-suited **Jive Aces** - the UK's number one swing band - along with jump-jive masters the **Swing Commanders**.



Louis Louis Louis, **Hotsy Totsy** and **Moscow Drug Club** are back by popular demand and gypsy jazz comes courtesy of the likes of **La Vie En Rose**, **Strumpit Strumpit** and the incomparable **Remi Harris**. British Award-winners including **Alan Barnes** will be playing, along with renowned pianist **Craig Milverton** and festival favourite **Spats Langham**. They're joined by Yorkshire-based vintage blues outfit the **Washboard Resonators**, **Temperance Seven**, with their 20s and 30s vibe, **Keith Nichols Orchestra**, **The Dime Notes** and the **Jonathan Vinten Trio**. The line-up also includes the **Best of Young Jazz** - a programme which celebrates the rising stars of the jazz world and which is now in its ninth year.

"We're so excited to be getting ready for the 32nd Upton Jazz Festival," said musical director **Rachel Hayward**. "From the Thursday to the Sunday, there'll be four days of world-class music from trad, swing and jive to hot club, European and gypsy jazz, and we can't wait to welcome our visitors again."

The festival takes place in the Worcestershire town from June 22-25. Three huge marquees - including one dedicated to dance classes for old hands and beginners alike - will spring up in the festival village - complete with campsite and bar - on the town's sports ground.

And this year, gigs will also take place in the Memorial Hall and parish church, which will host a gospel-style service on the Sunday morning. Before that on Saturday, is when the now famous New Orleans-style parade will see the party - complete with umbrella-waving second-liners - weave through Upton's historic streets.

Weekend tickets, discounted to £70 until April 30, include two Thursday night sessions for early birds. Day tickets start from £25, rising to £30 from May 1. Children 14 and under go free, when accompanied by an adult ticket holder. To book, visit www.uptonjazz.co.uk or call 01684 593254.



Jon Parsons, head of marketing for the festival, with Second Line

April Antics at Artrix

Listening to the unforgettable voice of **Emily Maguire** is a great way to welcome in the Spring season at **Artrix**. Her thought-provoking lyrics, which are shaped by her struggle with mental health issues, are imbued with extraordinary emotion. She's been through some dark days but now Emily's stepping back into the light with her new album '*Bit of Blue*'. Catch her live at **Artrix** on **1st April**.



Continuing with the theme of female vocalists, an Artrix debut is lined-up for **Hafdis Huld** on **8th April**. With the voice of an angel and razor-sharp wit, this Icelandic maiden, whose fans include Lauren Laverne, will melt even the coldest of hearts.

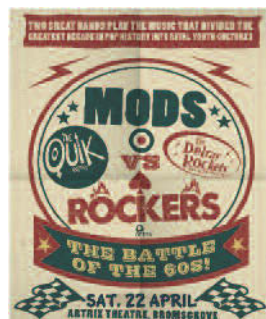
If you enjoy poetry and spoken word then it's definitely worth checking out **Licensed to Rhyme**. This monthly event takes place in the **Artrix Cafe** and showcases the work of some of the finest bards and writers from Brum and elsewhere.

The Blues came calling first for **Chantel McGregor** but her talent for rock was always waiting in the wings. Hailed as a 'messiah of blues rock' by one critic, she loves nothing better than performing live to fans and you can see her do just that on **15th April**.

Rounding off this month, the annual clash of **Moder v Rockers** is set for **22nd April**. In complete contrast, folk singer and clog dancer **Hannah James**, who is better-known as a member of **Lady Maisery**, presents her exciting new project **Jigdoll** on 29th April which combines newly-composed music and percussive dance.

For further details contact the box office on 01527 577330 or visit the website at:

www.artrix.co.uk



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Supporting



Tone Tanner

The term 'Bluesman' conjures up clichéd images of itinerant musicians wandering the gravel roads of Mississippi in the 1930s, or perhaps middle-aged blues-brother wannabes.

Mention any of these clichés to Evesham-based blues musician, **Tone Tanner**, and you'll likely get short shrift.

When I first met Tone at **Upton Blues Festival** in 2016, he was pushing a sack truck with a bolted on kick-drum, amplifier & battery, and two hand-built resonator guitars. Dressed in flared jeans, crocs, brown t-shirt and sporting a grey Abraham Lincoln goatee, he couldn't have looked less like a bluesman if he'd tried.

Then he began playing.

Tone's music is a mixture of boogie, blues and rock covers, and his own original songs. Hearing him live, he lives up to his self-styled title of 'One-man kickass blues band.'

I caught up with Tone recently and asked him a few questions for SLAP magazine.

RW: So, playing music, where did it all begin?

TT: *Playing tennis rackets to Slade on TOTP. Then, when I was about 14, I got a real guitar, and co-formed a band called Gabriel Oak - I hated the name. Our first gig was at Worcester Grammar School theatre - I remember the other guitarist's amp catching fire! We played some original rock tunes, and terrible versions of Freebird and Paranoid.*

RW: Did you ever try making music a full time "career"?

TT: *To be honest, those opportunities never really arose. After college, and some dead end jobs, I trained as a nurse - I wanted to be of some use to society. I was always in debt too, especially after paying for university in Sydney. And then getting married and having kids...*

RW: You're a one-man, kickass blues band now, when did you start playing solo?

TT: *I first played solo in my teens, as 'Deaf Josh Ferret'. I had a dreadlocked wig and false beard. In my 20s, I started recording my tunes, playing all instruments, then using them for backing tracks. But I haven't really used backing tracks for about 15 years. Now I 'create my own beats' live with a drum kit stuck on a sack truck, through a looper.*

I've formed about six bands, but been in a LOT more. I played bass with a really heavy Australian band called Dwarfthrower - they were almost big!

RW: You're a family man, with a day job, how often are you out on gigs?

TT: *Depending on the season, I'm usually out once a week - I have to pretend to be a good father occasionally.*

RW: You have four CDs out, are there any more in the pipeline?

TT: *Yes, work has started on the next one. Its working title is 'Duels', and will have either guests, or be co-written with others. It's not a concept album this time, but the themes of death and the human condition permeate throughout. There will be blues and rock, but no 'blues-rock'.*

RW: With four CDs worth of material, how do you set about choosing a set list?



TT: *Depending what guitar I'm playing, I know which tunes I can do, so I never have a set list. Also the crowd reaction may set me off in any direction. I play about 50/50 covers to originals, and I have a few regulars turn up who know my own stuff.*

RW: I have a passion for Delta blues, which blues do you listen to?

TT: *Me too, but I'm not listening to much blues right now. A while back I listened to Frank Zappa for three years non-stop - I was convinced it would help me play and write better blues tunes!*

RW: Are there any current blues acts that you listen to?

TT: *Of the bigger blues names, Michael Messer and Gwyn Ashton - they're very inventive. Not many other big names to be honest - usually the lesser known they are, the more I like them, and vice versa.*

RW: Please explain?

TT: *I have an issue with blues clichés. By that I mean blues acts that dress so that they 'look like they play the blues' - think Huey Lewis or Adele, with extended guitar solos, and pork pie hats - rehashing the same old boring themes of boxcars, or hurricanes through cornfields.*

RW: OK, so what do you write about?

TT: *This is England in the 21st Century, the era of neocons and false flags. My last album, 'shot', addressed failure, unemployment, poverty and divorce - that's the real blues.*

RW: Where can we see you play in 2017?

TT: *In June I'm playing at MappFest in Malvern. In August I'm playing the old Bush Blues Festival, and also playing at the Colne Blues Festival at one of the roadhouse venues. I'm doing that one as 'the G&T Mix' with my pal Gazza Tee Jones, a great 'Australiana' singer / songwriter - and gofer!*

RW: How can folks contact you for private events?

TT: *Either by www.tonetanner.com or my booking site, www.goo.gl/sxwzkt*

Richard Wall - author of Fat Man Blues.





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Familiars

The Victoria, Swindon | Thursday 16th March

Cirencester artist **Steve Skinley** has many musical guises, from his alter ego, jazz and swing crooner **Slim Ditty**, to performance poet, to purveyor of electronica with his solo project **Moleville** - but tonight is most definitely all about alt-rock.



Familiars play big songs for small spaces. At this wonderful venue, without being overly loud, the songs expand offstage to fill every corner and you're swamped in their richness.

Piano-driven this music maybe, but make no mistake, this is rock. This powerful and cohesive ensemble effort is built from the back with **Jim Thring's** bass and **Giles Richards'** drums laying down as solid and tight a backdrop as I've heard in a while, building a rock-solid base and propelling the sound forward. **Rick Morton's** guitar, by turns shores up the sound with pinpoint rhythm work and then flies over it with fluent, economical soloing.



When I describe the music as 'piano-driven', that doesn't mean 'piano-swamped' - Skinley manages to strike a balance where the keyboard sits as an integral and essential part of the distinctive sound of the band without dominating every single track. It's used to drive the rhythm along like an additional percussion instrument but also to add nuance to quieter parts of the music and inject glittering musical shapes that stay with you long after the performance ends.

His voice is an untypical rock voice - rich and powerful but also subtle, with crystal clear enunciation that means you get to hear every single word of a track - important when the music at times is both complex and darkly tinged.

The music itself is drawn from their twin, but distinctively different EPs, *'Ballyhoo'* and *'Landscapes'* and such is the strength and quality of the material on offer, I'd be hard pressed to pick my favourite for the night. If you listen to them both, you'll appreciate what I mean.

The audience definitely knows quality when it hears it and they get an appropriately tremendous reception at the end of the performance - a very fine group of musicians indeed.

<https://familiars1.bandcamp.com/>

Geoffrey Head

Matt Woosey & Chewie

Marrs Bar, Worcester | Sunday 19th March

Matt Woosey, back on home shores, was joined by **Dave Small** for an evening of acoustic music in the Marr's Bar. Matt is certainly not short of material and we were sure to hear plenty of blues, along with his more recent, eclectic collection from *Desiderata*. Supporting Matt and Dave was another local artist, **Chewie**, who added to the stripped down session.

Matt dropped straight into the groove with his *'Cool Disposition'*, Dave slapping up a rhythm astride his cahon. *'Elsie May'* slipped in, but I think she's been taking steroids, ripping through with inexhaustible energy to burn as long and brightly as the *'Lighthouse'* that was beamed later across to Marr's.

In respect of owner Brian, who gave Matt a slot in his early years as would-be minstrel, we were treated to a Rory G-styled *'Out On The Western Plain'*. With Dave lassoing his djembe, the gallop took us into Led Zep riffs, another of Matt's early influences. The evening had a spark of magic to it and Matt was obviously enjoying himself alongside his old mate, with plenty of humour and musical divergences to catch each other out.

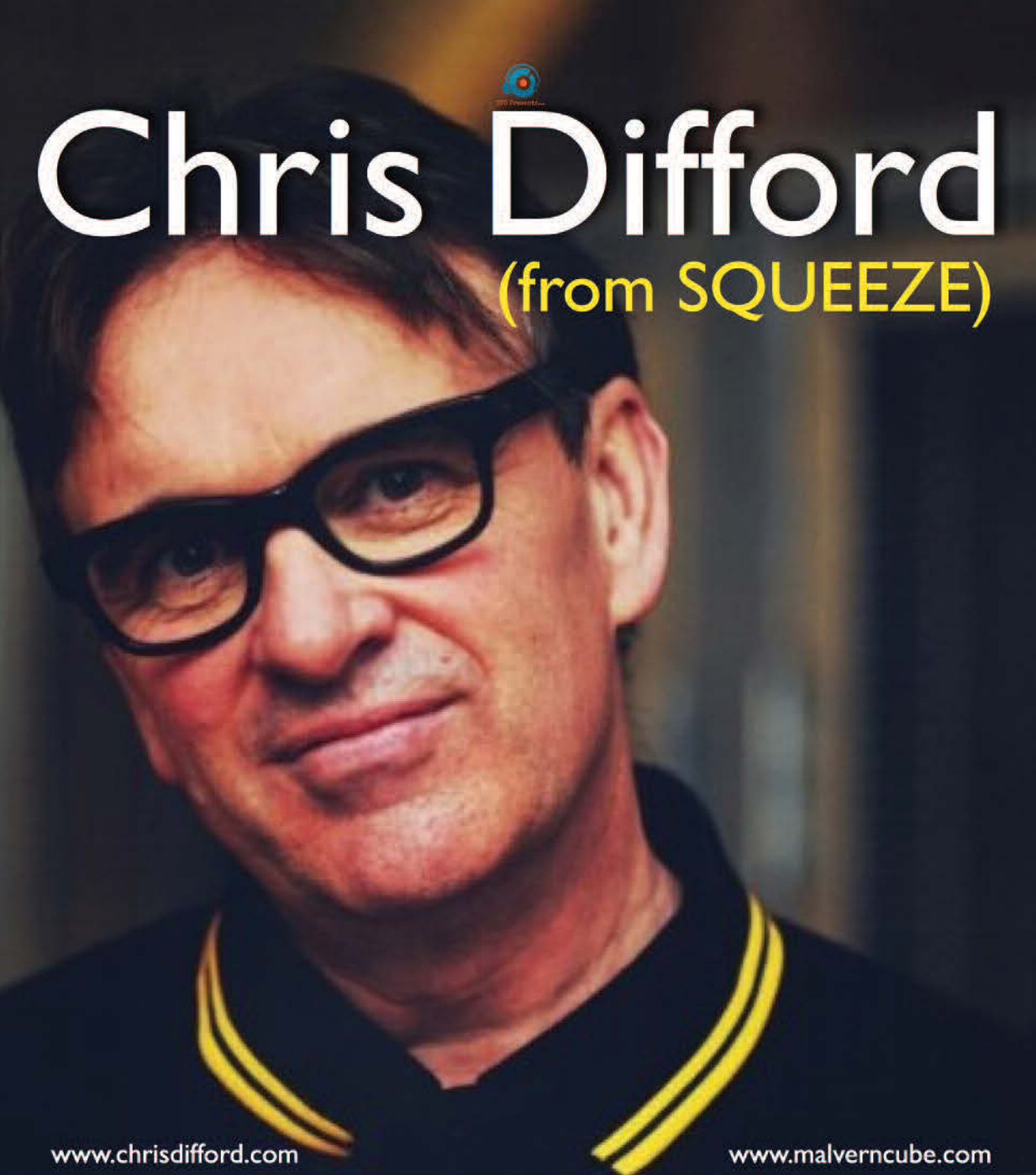
Matt's *'Wildest Dreams'* were exposed, a superb song dedicated to Lisa, who was back in Germany, but watching over video link. While the cat's away, the mouse can be kept under observation! It was Matt's changing lifestyle that possibly inspired his more recent album, *Desiderata*, and I've seen said *'Lighthouse'* in many forms. It seems to constantly evolve and this evening, with Dave providing percussive drive, it worked well. You could keep to the darker shadows of *'Don't You Tell Nobody'*, secret affairs that carry powerful threats.



You cannot, of course, have a Woosey gig without seeing *'Black Smoke Rising'* over the hill; loud, brash and blisteringly good. Matt and Dave were having a wonderful time, but, then, so were we all, but it had to come to an end, *'Walking The Blues'* making for a frenetically, frothy finale to an excellent evening.

A few words on the support artist, **Chewie**. First time I've knowingly seen him, Chewie's solo acoustic took much from his *Weston Sessions* CD, the reflections of *'Twisted Virtues'*, with its serious social comment, sat next to the regrets of *'After The Whisky And Wine'*. Haven't we all been there? A nice, little set, closing on covers courtesy of the Beastie Boys and the helium-filled *'99 Red Balloons'*.

Graham Munn



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thebestofmalvern hills



Cynical Thrills presents: TV Smith + Skewwhiff The Meharis + Jess Silk

The Boars Head, Kidderminster | Friday 14th April

One of the UK's original punk rock heroes makes a very welcome return to Kidderminster on Friday 14th April.

TV Smith's musical career has spanned almost 40 years. As former front man with **The Adverts**, he enjoyed chart success in the late 1970s with hits such as *Gary Gilmore's Eyes*, *Bored Teenagers*, *One Chord Wonders* and *No Time To Be 21*.

Following their split in 1979, he went on to front two other bands - **TV Smith's Explorers**, and **Cheap** - before establishing himself as a solo artist.

Regarded as one of punk's greatest lyricists, TV has since released sixteen studio albums - a hugely impressive feat for a man renowned for his relentless touring schedule.

His high energy live shows feature a mix of old favourites, new songs, requests and surprises.

Support comes from Worcester's finest purveyors of angular post-punk, **Skewwhiff**, who'll be previewing tracks from their eagerly awaited second album and hopefully treating us to a few old favourites.



Birmingham glam punks **The Meharis** have, sadly, recently announced their final three dates before moving on to new ventures. With much loved punk/pop gems aplenty, it's definitely as case of "catch 'em while you can".

Kicking off the evening will be one of the West Midlands' rising young stars. Articulate singer/songwriter **Jess Silk** has been captivating audiences over the past couple of years with her songs of anger, emotion and opinion.

Admission at the Worcester Street venue is £7 on the door. 8pm

Ian Passey

Open Mic Fund Raiser The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury | 28th April

The **Berkeley Arms** in Tewkesbury are hosting a charity evening to coincide with their open mic night fronted by **The Future Set** on **Friday 28th April, 8 till Late**. They are raising money for the treatment and support of **Dave Camp** who is suffering with a brain tumor. Dave, along with **Bill Pullen** are a duo called **Blues Anoraks** who have played the Berkeley Arms many times and have always supported the venue. Guests include **Steve Kent**, **Gordon Wood**, **Med Snookes**, **Tony Beech**, **Alan Smailes**, **Fiona Patterson** and many more besides. Hopefully Dave C will be well enough to participate. Landlords **LoI** and **Nat** and many other artists would like to show their appreciation on the night. We here at SLAP wish Dave a full and fast recovery.

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ARKFest Malvern | April 28th - 30th

ARKfest (Acts of Random Kindness) 2017 is the biggest and best year yet, every year the festival raises money for animal charities by putting on live music in and around Malvern. This year we have more venues and more bands than ever, with an eclectic and exciting range of headline acts.



Tom Hingley

The festival, which this year branches out over ten venues and three days, is supporting **Worcestershire Animal Rescue Shelter** and hopes to encourage people not just to donate but also to visit the shelter and consider taking a furry friend home with you. The line up for this year's festival (available on the ARKfest



Roving Crows

Facebook page and in The Cube's monthly booklet) is truly diverse, with 80+ bands including four headline acts over the three days, these headline acts are **Tom Hingley** [of Inspiral Carpets] (Great Malvern Hotel, Friday night), **Big Wolf Band** (Malvern Cube, Saturday night), **Roving Crows** (Elmslie House, Sunday evening) and **Cantalloop** (Malvern Cube, Sunday night).

So please, check out the line up and come and support a good cause!

www.facebook.com/ARKfest

www.WARS.org.uk

The Big Wolf Band

A Rebels Story

The **Big Wolf band**, fronted by guitarist and vocalist **Jonathan Earp**, are releasing *A Rebels Story* into the wild on May 15th and it's a big, bold, blue-blooded, rocking recording that's going to bite you hard. The band - **Jon**, **Tim Jones** (drums), **Mick Jeynes** (bass), and **Paul Brambani** (Hammond) - have made a significant impact on the live music scene since 2014 and this album is every bit as good as those live sessions.

'*Heaven's Got The Blues*' (and who are we to doubt it) is a superb, hard-edged opening track, with lovely mellow guitar bridging the vocals. Dig a little deeper and you'll uncover a fabulously raunchy '*Hot Blooded Woman*' who will seduce and lure you into the rocks.

Guest **Emma Jonson's** piano boogies in for the bubbly '*Long Time Mary*'; a foot tapping, swing inducing, good time dancing tune. The rock infused '*Rolling With Thunder*' induces more piano from Emma but it's the storming riffs that endure, driven hard by Tim and Mick's rhythm machine. Title track '*A Rebels Story*' keeps the anthemic rock groove spinning on the disc and you'll find plenty more to bring a smile to all the rockers out there. If you like a fast train journey, it's just pulling out because '*I Don't Love You*' rattles down the track at rockabilly pace, worth the ticket to ride. No skipping tracks - you'll miss too much - but the closing track is an achingly lovely, tearjerker of a song, which I particularly like. Jon's warm vocals sit over the steady rhythm with rich, teasing guitar; the song breaks out as the crying guitar soars and swoops over the pulsating percussion.



From '*Hot Blooded Woman*' to '*Darkest of My Days*' there is plenty to savour in this release - Jon has produced some excellent original music full of blues, rock, and soulful sounds. The band lay the structure for Jon's guitar chords, whether raw and cutting or crying on the wind. It's always a pleasure to hear this band live and '*A Rebels Story*' gives everyone a chance to take the band's sound home - get yourself a copy but, beware, **The Big Wolf Band** bites!

Graham Munn

Aramantus | Banished

If there's one track that shows how far Pershore-to-Coventry based progressive metallers **Aramantus** have come in the last year or so, this new offering - currently available on video only - is it.

Filmed at the beautiful **Charterhouse Priory** in Coventry by **Seventh Sky Media**, there's an air of menace and foreboding descending right from the start, even as the band merrily makes its way across the grounds to the film set, and the way this atmosphere builds and is sustained throughout the nearly seven minutes of the track is a perfect complement to the wonderful sounds coming out of the speakers.



Damian John Photo

This band takes a progressive metal base, mixes it with a huge slug of heavy funk and shakes the whole mixture like a terrier with a rat.

This is a very complex and exceptionally mature track, seamlessly transitioning from the crashing, riff-laden opening bars

with guitarist **Elijah Storer's** brisk, lean soloing, to the calm of the middle section with vocalist **Nyah Ifill's** voice at its most rich and controlled - this track is surely her best performance with the band yet. This morphs into the lengthy funk-heavy outro with **Cici Powell-Melkonian's** lovely fluid bass lines, **Alice Bates'** crisp, pinpoint drumming and Storer's ethereal guitar lines gradually accelerating the track to its crunching finale.

Their most ambitious work to date and given that none of the band are over twenty years of age, a remarkable piece of music that sees the band getting into its stride and fulfilling its early promise.

You can access the video through YouTube or through the band's Facebook page.

Oh, and be prepared to jump...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9gJkfzu-e4

www.facebook.com/Aramantus

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Jodie Hughes - In a league of her own

In the world where artists document their entire lives on social media, **Jodie Hughes** goes against the current. Her online presence is minimal, she scrupulously avoids the spotlight, values education more than fame and releases her music exclusively in form of home-made demos. In the same time, she is a multi-instrumentalist (playing keyboards, bass and guitar), avid busker, alumni of Worcester School of Rock, one of the youngest participants of **Worcester Music Festival** (she was sixteen when she performed in 2015 to a full house) and recently she supported the hottest act on indie scene – Anteros.

We just knew that we had to interview Jodie. Not every day you meet such a diverse, young artist.

SLAP - As a singer and songwriter, your presence on the local scene is strong, yet you remain mysterious and elusive. I know you fiercely guard your privacy and allow little information to appear online. By your own words, what should be known about **Jodie Hughes** as an artist and musician?

JH - I have a very wide variety of influences and I like a little mystery! I'm very fussy about my original songs, they have to be perfect for me to share them.

SLAP - You recently opened Independent Venue Week event in Worcester by supporting such accomplished acts as The Assist and Anteros. What is your reflection of the night?

JH - I really enjoyed it!! It was a fantastic opportunity and Independent Music Week is brilliant for reminding people of some of the great venues that are out there. I'm very honoured to have been a part of it!

SLAP - Slap Magazine described you previously as possessing "beautifully melodic vocals", others drew comparisons to Amy McDonald, Hope Sandoval of Mazzy Star and Bilinda Butcher of My Bloody Valentine. Do you regard such praises as a compliment or unnecessary pressure?

JH - I like hearing other people's opinions of my music, I like learning different people's interpretations! I definitely see it as a

compliment to be compared to such successful artists and it sometimes introduces me to new artists too!

SLAP - You are being likened to Hope Sandoval also because of your unusual artistic strategy: occasional gigs instead of regular performances, busking around with no prior announcements, no demos or EPs being released. Are you waging this musical guerrilla to keep audience on their toes?

JH - Mostly it's due to time constraints, it's often difficult to balance time spent on music with college work, especially at this time of year! I definitely try to keep my music going in some form, be it writing or busking, alongside working - it's healthy to have something separate to focus on as a break from college work. I'm hoping to work more intensely on writing and hopefully more gigs over the summer after exams though! Plus it's always fun to keep people guessing!!!



SLAP - Your SoundCloud account is filled by original compositions and covers of eclectic artists like Neutral Milk Hotel and The Neighbourhood. You seem to enjoy confusing anyone who tries to squeeze you into a box.

JH - I've always had a wide range of music tastes - I don't think I could put myself into any box really! I've had phases where I've taken a particular type of music, like pop punk or indie, and tried to solely fit myself into that one genre, but there's just so much out there it's good to discover what else there is! My band do sometimes covers of many different artists - Fleetwood Mac, REM, Erasure and Beyonce to name a few. Over the years I've discovered so many great artists from so many genres, I encourage everyone else to do the same.

SLAP - We are intrigued by one of your original pieces - "Don't Talk To Me About Death". There is a line in the middle that goes "keep pretending that you'll be my Kurt Cobain". You sound almost furious in that track. Is it based on personal experience?

JH - The song is based on a particular person - or I suppose a particular type of person - who tried to create a persona based on self-pity and trying to appear deep and meaningful through cynicism. The Kurt Cobain reference was in relation to this idea of appearing a certain way and glorifying and romanticising mental illness, which is often done by the media regarding celebrities such as Kurt Cobain. The idea of trying to be negative just to appear a certain way, and almost making a mockery out of mental illness by using it as an accessory, seemed so ridiculous to me, it felt necessary to voice my feelings on it somehow.

SLAP - Besides being a musician, you are also a skilled painter. You design all covers to your demos. Can we expect any exhibitions from you in the future?



JH - *That'd definitely be something I'd like to do one day! I've been experimenting with what subject matter I like to work with recently - animals and flowers have been fun to study. Similarly to my music, it's nice to have something to do as a break from work, and having stopped studying art at college I've been able to experiment more at my own pace and in my own style.*

SLAP - We know you prefer to take your audience by surprise. But what should we expect from Jodie Hughes in the months or years to come?

JH - *I'm hoping to go a bit more electronic maybe. I've been looking into getting hold of an Akai Miniak - my dad has two he uses for gigs and there's so much you can do with them. That's definitely something I'm interested in. Again, I'm hoping to have more time to write and record more after exams, perhaps re-recording some of my old songs and updating them a bit. Who knows, I may even start new projects while I'm at university!*

Focused, fiercely independent and always looking for new artistic endeavours, Jodie Hughes has no match on local music scene. She has created a whole league of her own.

You can follow Jodie Hughes using the links below:

<https://www.facebook.com/jodiehughesmusic>

<http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/bands/Jodie-Hughes/>

<https://soundcloud.com/jodiehughesmusicandstuff>

<https://twitter.com/JodieHMUSIC>

"Mixtapes and Metaphors" is a digital EP or a collection of home recordings that Jodie released between 2015 and 2017. It contains the following original compositions: *Angel Statue*, *Crazy Scientist*, *Don't Talk To Me About Death*, *Small Talks* and the title track *Mixtapes and Metaphors*. Each song is accompanied by a mysterious drawing, often a study of animals, human faces or natura morta. Most tracks can be qualified into singer/songwriter category bringing comparisons with Amy McDonald or Courtney Barnett. *Don't Talk to Me about Death* stands out thanks to very personal lyrics and angry vocals, while *Angel Statue* incorporates keyboards, samples and has a vivid shoegaze feel to it, including distorted vocals that make Jodie Hughes sound eerily like Belinda Butcher. Somebody please call Creation Records!



Rita Dabrowicz/Vanadian Avenue

The full interview can be read here: www.cocamidemea.wordpress.com

Andy O'Hare

Back in 1979 Fleetwood Mac gave a first listen of their new album *Tusk* (the follow-up to their gazillion-selling *Rumours*) to their record company - and as they played the experimental double album they spotted that the company officials became more and more despondent as they realised that it just wasn't going to match the success of the whopping best-seller - and that they weren't going to get their much-anticipated bonuses that year - how sad!

The last few weeks have been unprecedented in the history of popular music with one artist taking nine of the Top Ten Official chart places and 16 out of the Top 20 - ok back in the 60s The Beatles for a couple of weeks held five out of the Top Ten positions but that was for physical single record sales - and all the songs concerned (try and guess them - if not see below*) are now pretty much considered classics that are still being played and covered to this day! (By the way I've never been a great Beatles fan myself - always preferred The Dave Clark Five at that time and The Stones/The Who later...)

But I couldn't name any one of these 16 tracks - I know that they've all come off the same album - whose name I couldn't avoid, and guess I'm not the only one! Of course this is all down to the fact that the Charts Company now bases its rankings mostly on streaming music (including repeat listens) - the other 'purchases' such as downloads, CDs and yes vinyl (which now accounts for 5% of sales!) don't actually have much of an impact. All this adds up to the record companies now turning in record profits after years in the doldrums - in no small part due to the minimal returns (typically £0.0001 per play) paid to the performers themselves. Yes for the few artists whose listens run into the millions this adds up to a tidy living, but the vast majority of struggling new original songwriters and performers out there get no reward whatsoever from this system...

But of course the records companies couldn't care less as they're doing just fine right now with their own 'complete control' over what we listen to at an unprecedented level. Why have any

sort of variety in the music they promote when the cash is in flogging more of the same bland pap to an audience that doesn't know better and point them towards a few of their carefully selected and groomed performers - not forgetting the tried-and-tested acts from decades back who are still coining it in for themselves, the record companies and the streaming services...

Ok - it's no different either in other 'creative' formats such as films for example - why try something new and original when the money's in sequels - ok they might be crap but the punters will twig the brand name and pile into the box office despite the rubbish reviews (which most won't have read) - but there's profits and a dividend payable to the shareholders at the year end - so box ticked!

Yes it's not very good out there at the moment folks - but there's still the opportunity for great new music to break through - and lord knows there's plenty of it around that I hear on a weekly basis - it's just that more and more it's a matter of complete chance that a promising new act will be spotted and picked up - usually nowadays by either somehow associating themselves to an existing successful act - or by an 'underground' promotion that for some quirk goes viral - or another revolution of the ground-shaking quality of punk and BritPop - not very likely I know if the record companies have their way but still possible...

So I'll confess right now that I never used to 'listen under the bedclothes' to the charts way back then - instead we used to gather round the old valve radio (great quality sound!) on a Sunday evening for the Top 40 - which featured a bewildering variety of musical styles, or maybe as a special treat for the John Peel show! If we liked one of the newer songs emerging we'd discuss which one of us would maybe buy the 7" single (45rpm) - and if it charted higher the next week feel we'd done our little bit! It's just that I can't imagine that experience ever being recreated now when you've got a Top 20 consisting almost entirely of just one act - time for another seismic change we think...

AOH (so-sue-me@live.co.uk)

* The Beatles songs were *Can't Buy Me Love*, *Twist And Shout*, *She Loves You*, *I Want To Hold Your Hand*, *Please Please Me* (!)

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Sœur

The Broken Oak Duet, Chiyoda KU Marrs Bar, Worcester | Thursday, 23rd March

I've never ventured out from my cosy little bubble of regular venues to the Marr's Bar before, but I'm glad I did and it's been promptly added to my list of exciting underground places to frequent.

So, the gig, it's always all about the music...and Oh! What music!

Chiyoda-Ku are just about to take the stage as I arrive, three unimpressive looking youths plucking strings and looking generally nervous about the growing crowd of 18-21s. I take a seat. The glorious measured madness begins.



The divergent, disjointed but somehow mathematical first number really makes me question everything I thought I knew about music in the first 30 seconds. **Oak's** bass is heavy and fills the room with a grungy mid 80s rock sound while the guitar is looped again and again on the plethora of technology at **Charlie Barnes'** feet, giving a psychedelic feel and adding to the repetitive, head nodding rhythm emanating from the bass. The imaginative and sometimes irregular drumming from **Toby Green** makes me question whether it's intentional or by accident, but either way, it joins in wholeheartedly with the melodic delirium that seems to be the calling card for this Bristol band.

Ears and brain still ringing from the Bristol boys I sit myself back down and hope for a short reprieve but oh no, the curtain rises again within a matter of minutes to the explosive sound of **The Broken Oak Duet**.



The young two piece from Worcester are both fast and furious- **Howard James Kenny's** control over his wayward drum kit is truly spectacular, leaning heavily towards a metal influence. The sweat-soaked shirt comes off after the first 5 minutes and Kenny announces "This is the nicest stage I've ever played on- it smells of a thousand aftershaves". **Tom Morgan** and his baritone really make the night for me; if I close my eyes I could be listening to a

very angry Marcus Miller. The sound is so funky and bass-like and partnered with the fury of Kenny's drumming it slaps you right between the eardrums.

The crowd has visibly grown and the age range has increased, making it clear that **Sœur** are not just for the under 25s.



Formed in 2015 from artists **Anya Pulver** (guitar and vocal), **Tina Maynard** (guitar and vocal) and **James Collins** (drums), this dynamic and punchy female-led group definitely earn their accolades. From the get go the crowd is lively (even entertaining a crowd surfer towards the end of the night) and full of **Sœur** fans of every age singing along to the catchy, and often hard hitting, lyrics.



I am immediately impressed by Maynard's soulful vocals tangled with Pulver's raw and edgy sound, the lyrical ping pong of songs like **No Fire** and surprisingly good a-capella elements of **Just Yet**. The sound is BIG, the sound is BRUTAL. The best song of the night is definitely **Slow Days** introduced by Pulver: "There's so many awful things happening in the world right now, but we're all here together. Just enjoying the music".

Words by Nickie Bates Photography by Duncan Graves



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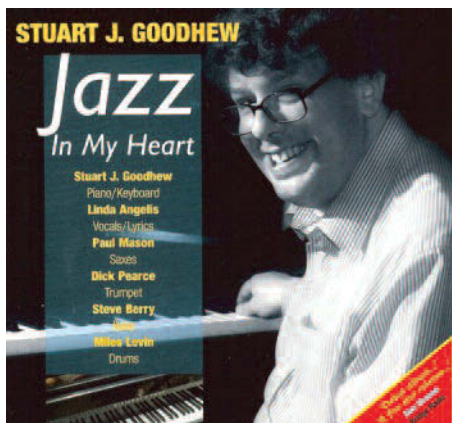
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Stuart J. Goodhew Jazz in My Heart

This is the debut release from Shropshire's best kept secret, pianist/keyboard-player/composer **Stuart Goodhew**. Not only is Stuart a talented musician, but he also either wrote or co-wrote with **Linda Angelis**, the majority of the music. It is a measure of Stuart's skill that he is able to attract some of the best musicians in the Midlands and further afield to work with him. The aforementioned Linda Angelis contributes vocals and lyrics and also took care of album production duties, **Paul Mason** is on saxes, **Steve Berry** is on bass, **Miles Levin** is on drums and **Dick Pearce** who has recently re-located to Shropshire, provided trumpet.

Over the years, Linda Angelis has largely acted as mentor to Goodhew and that we now have this wonderful album to enjoy is, in no small measure, due to Linda's efforts.

The album opens in up-beat mood with 'Top of the Morning' with some subtle vocal overdubbing adding to the group sound. Very optimistic lyrics provided by Angelis and a nicely measured trumpet solo from Pearce.



Goodhew's composition 'Granknee' follows and is another joyous outing and introduces the composer's electric keyboard skills and includes a lovely feature for Paul Mason on tenor saxophone. Incidentally, the title of the piece shows Stuart's sense of humour as it marks the occasion of his grandmother's knee replacement operation.

The mood changes with the first of a couple of songs from what has become to be known as 'The Great American Songbook' with 'So Many Stars' written by Sergio Mendes and Alan and Marilyn Bergman. Here, Linda does what she does best and her vocals soothe the soul.

'I Got Chillun' is another Goodhew composition with a be-bop flavour and which the composer describes as "Charlie Mingus-inspired; with a notion of 'cool'. More wonderful soloing here, particularly from Mason and Pearce.

Goodhew plays electric piano on 'I'm All Smiles', a song written for the 1965 Broadway musical 'The Yearling'. Linda sings and Dick Pearce adds the musical icing.

Throughout, Miles Levin provides just the right percussion accompaniment.

This is an album of great variety throughout the nine tracks. All in all a very auspicious debut.

Stuart will be performing music from the album live as part of the **Linda Angelis Quintet at The Bonded Warehouse**, Canal Street, Stourbridge on 14th April.

Find out more at <http://jazzbw.org.uk/>

Alan Musson

The Leylines Trio Album

With a firm following wherever they play, the magnetic **Leylines** have stripped down to a trio in an acoustic setting to record their songs with slightly less seasoning. As a result, the subtle flavours can be savoured. And, the taste still tantalises.

Steve, Matt and Hannah, perhaps deciding they've 'Gotta Get Out Of Here', find a quiet retreat for this recording. Matt's nicely articulated guitar notes feed into Steve's distinctive vocals as Hannah fingerpicks her way through. It may not have the intensity of the full band blast, but it's a delight to hear. Listening in on this session, you can, certainly, better appreciate the lyrics and what they mean. The twinned chorus 'Since You've Been Gone' lingers, while 'Here In My Head' and 'Falling', featuring Hannah's violin, are simply well-crafted love songs.

Punctuated by low rhythmic intro notes, it's difficult to suppress such a driven song as 'My Own Worst Enemy', but it demands attention, both by the lyrics that shadow us all, and the intensity the message delivers. It is stunning in full band mode, memorable in this triplicate carbon copy.

Much the same can be said about the anthemic 'Queen And Country'. Instead of getting completely drunk on the power of the song in the band's live gigs, here, you can sit back with a triple measure and lose yourself in the depth of flavour and spirit as memories are evoked of lost friends and family over generations.

The torn relationships of 'You've Changed' make for a pressure cooker that's blown its valve, steam streaming into the atmosphere. Time to cool down and reflect, and there's only one



thing to left to do. Kick off the dirt, dust and drudgery of everyday life and look to be 'Sat In A Field'. Is there a better festival song out there? I doubt it. It lifts the spirit, opens the mind and takes us back into nature. Hannah's violin dances on the air, Matt lifts his head and plays to the weather gods, and Steve releases all that pent up passion to enjoy the moment.

We know the songs, we love the electricity generated at Leylines gigs, the confluence of lines that charge the atmosphere. However, you cannot ignore this superb, seven track sample that gives depth understanding of the songs and what they mean to you. The band lands in **Marr's Bar on April 28th**.

Graham Munn

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April Gig Guide

Saturday 01 April 2017

Surreal Panther + Walkway
The Iron Road, Evesham

Madi Stimpson Trio
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Midnight Sun
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Melvin Hancox Band
The Swan, Evesham

Ragwort
Reet Petite, Leominster

Reloaded
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Regime
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Emily Maguire
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Vaseline
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Rocky Road To Ruin
The Plough, Hereford

Cheltenham Bach Choir - St Matthew Passion
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Queen - Supreme Queen
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Knebakeye Alley
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Wet Desert
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Punk Rock Stars in Their Eyes
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

2 Soul Brothers
Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

Johnny Gold
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Flat Cap Blues Band
Railway Inn, Studley

Catfish, Black Cat Bone
The Mairs Bar, Worcester

The Elderly Brothers
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Barrel House Blues Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Mama (Tribute To Genesis)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sax Appeal
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Barry Steele And Friends 'The Roy Orbison Story'
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Tom Forbes
The Pheasant, Worcester

Olly Murs Tribute Jon Eselle
The Crab Mill, Stourbridge

Big Fat Shorty
The Chestnut, Worcester

Matt Bowen
New Inn, Pershore

Housebound
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Suburbia
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Strays Ep Launch & Friends
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Rocky Road To Ruin
The Plough, Hereford

The Stiff Joints, Counting Coins, Unknown Era, Faintest Idea
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Odyssey
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Mel & Him
The Express Inn, Malvern

April Fool's Ceilidh
St Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

No Poetry Presents: Nycosia, Deference, Hate.System
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Hush
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Dire Streets
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Fizzi
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sunday 02 April 2017

Enuff Znuff (U.S.A)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Sutura

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Delta Ladies (4pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Air Of The Dog

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Lawrie Jean Lees

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Quilter And The Ghost

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Easy Money, Guilt Trip, Grove Street Families, Back Down,

Instruments Of Torture, Fatal Swing

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Roger Roberts

The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Vo Fletcher (5.30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Amie

The Bell Inn St Johns, Worcester

Med Snookes

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Tuesday 04 April 2017

Boat To Row

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Steve Tilston & Jez Lowe

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Kenny White

Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

Elo Experience – Back Into The Blue Tour

Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Sunken Foal - Electro Swing Set Soundclash

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Budapest Cafe Orchestra

Number 8, Pershore

Wednesday 05 April 2017

Feast Of Fiddles

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Sam Dowden

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Charlotte Carpenter, Alessi

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Thursday 06 April 2017

The Toasters (USA) + Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Wierdos

The Iron Road, Evesham

Brooke Sharkey

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Sam Jones

The Tank, Gloucester

Akala

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Academic

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Vexxes, All Ears Avow, Elessar, Dionysus

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Steve Steinman'S Iconic - The Show

The Roses, Tewkesbury

The Arosa

Base Studios, Stourbridge

Piano Man – The Music Of Billy Joel

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Ferrets

The Blue Bell, Ryall

Bernie Torme, 3Sixty

The Robin 2, Bilston

Friday 07 April 2017

The Carrivick Sisters

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Rattle Snake Voodoo

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Normanton Street

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Z Star Delta

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Flossie Malayialle

Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood, Kingswinford

We Three Kings - Of Rock N Roll

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Olly Murs Tribute

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

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The One Love Band

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Mike Allen

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Rattlesnake Jake

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Rusty Shackle, Harper's Ferry, The Harry Daniels Band

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Some Guys Have All The Luck

The Roses, Tewkesbury

7 Side South

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Vehicle

Queens Head, Wolverley

Stevie Heger, Fishheads

The Queens Head, Redditch

Revenge Of The Psychotronic Man

The Mitre, Stourbridge

Gene Genie And The Lemon Squeezers

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Zhivago

Base Studios, Stourbridge

Last Tree Squad, Reggae Pie Feat Owen Culture & Nico Demus

The Firefly, Worcester

Killerstream

Drummonds, Worcester

The Smiths Indeed

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Vibrators, The Miffs

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Matt Bowen

The Pheasant, Worcester

The Lazy Sundays

The Blue Bell, Ryall

The Ferrets

The Blue Bell, Ryall

Jon Eselle

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Sunshine Band

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport

B-Side Vocal

The Little George, Stroud

7 Side South

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Damon T - Blues

Reet Petite, Leominster

Vo Fletcher

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Eva Lazarus + Cw Jones

The Venue, Hereford

Ignition: Crows & Crosses, Seasons Hollow & Brood Mother

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Songs Of Leonard Cohen

Malvern Cube, Malvern

Bootleg Beatles

Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Chewie

The Bush Inn St Johns, Worcester

Linerunners

Base Studios, Stourbridge

Faustus Folk Trio Play The Fleece

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

The Three Disagrees

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Bill Pullen And Steve Kent

The Red Lion, Evesham

Journeyman

Millers Arms, Pershore

The Two Hats Plus Support

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Andy Parsons: 'Peak Bullsh*T'

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Saturday 08 April 2017

Midnight Idols

The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Amy Winehouse Experience Aka Lioness

The Iron Road, Evesham

Le Swing

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Kemestree Set

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Mopheads

The Swan, Evesham

Port Erin

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Memphis
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Roving Crows
Guildhall, Gloucester

Worried Men
The Plough, Hereford

Blues For St. Basils
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Maz Mitrenko Band
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Usual Suspects
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Charlton Blues Kings
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Barefoot Serpents
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Instutions
Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

The Underdogs
The Talbot, Knightwick

Mel & Him
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

High Heels & Sneakers (The Debbie Parry Band)
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Surge
RailWay Inn, Studley

S.O.C.D.
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Jack Of All
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Elmore Row
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Debbie Parry Band
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Tom Davies
The Pheasant, Worcester

Fury With: Dakesis + The Loved And Lost
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jon Eselle
West Midland Tavern, Worcester

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

Taylor And Co
New Inn, Pershore

The Hidden Depth
Reet Petite, Leominster

Arcadia Roots
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Deborah Rose & Mari Randle
Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

Toby
The Red Lion, Illmington

Protocol
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Vo & Tyler
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Are You Experienced? - Jimi Henrix Tribute
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Risky Galore
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Matt Monro Story
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Hafdis Huld
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Creed Cross: Celtic Journey
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Sunday 09 April 2017

Tongwynlais Temperance Band
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Lazy Sunday Afternoon With Emma Flowers (4Pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Low Chimes
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Worried Men (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tom Westwood
The Stable, Cheltenham

Tyler & Vo
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Ben Vickers
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

John Banner Promotions Present Goodness Gracious Great Balls Of Fire Featuring Steve Wicketts
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Oxjam Black Country: Flying Ant Day, Flat Stanley, Eddy Morton, Rhythmajig, Jess Silk, Disco Tramps, Leon Gormley,

Danni G, Myrtels Hornets, Pete Williams
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Mark Leadham Band (5.30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Lazy Sunday: Drifter, The Borgaris, Flatworld, Bethan and The Morgans (1-7pm)
Cafe Bliss, Worcester

Monday 10 April 2017

Boneyed Presents: Nth Cave & Happy Bones (3.30pm)
The Firefly, Worcester

Smirk Goes To Hollywood
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs
Mr Twitchetts Coffee House And Bar, Stroud

Reuben Lovett Music
The Victoria, Birmingham

Tuesday 11 April 2017

Jewels
The Regal Cinema, Evesham

Giles Robson Band Uk + Aki Kumar And Rockin' Johnny Usa
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Propane Brothers
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Wednesday 12 April 2017

Noble Jacks + Twin Turbo
The Iron Road, Evesham

Reuben Lovett
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Jim Reynolds
Mr Twitchetts Coffee House And Bar, Stroud

Counterfeit Sixties Show
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Dan Hartlan, Hard Stairs, Drawing Of The Three
The Bayshill Pub, Cheltenham

Yamato: The Drummers Of Japan
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Tyler Massey
The Plough, Worcester

Thursday 13 April 2017

Population:7 Acoustic Gig
Bottles Wine Bar And Merchants, Worcester

The Real Kids (U.S.A)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Buddy Holly & The Cricketers
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Davefest Five (See [Http://Davefest.Webs.Com/](http://Davefest.Webs.Com/))
Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury

Mr Tea And The Minions
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Louise Jordan
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

George Montague
The Tank, Gloucester

Howlin' Matt
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Marty Wilde And The Wildcats
Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Edsheeran Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Exist Immortal, Ghost Iris, Ascaris, Nycosia
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Feast Of Fiddles
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Sari Schorr & The Engine Room
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Surprise Attacks: Dusty Mush, Yo No Se, Pablo Alto
The Firefly, Worcester

Murder By Gaslight
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Friday 14 April 2017

Dog 'N' Style (France) + Support
The Iron Road, Evesham

Dub Pistols + Special Guest
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Lensmen Unplugged
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Davefest Five (See www.Davefest.Webs.Com/)
Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury

Nothin' But Trouble
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Fleetwood Bac
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Chris Quinn
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Vehicle Band
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Imaner On Good Friday
Railway Inn, Studley

Mapp Fest Warm Up With Kim Rydr & Hannah Dryburgh
(Corys Angels) And The Lewis Boulton Trio
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Brian T Williams
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Andy Oliveri & The Mountaineers, Jim Lockey
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

TV Smith, Skewwhiff, The Mehairs, Jess Silk
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Beer Festival With Live Music
Gordon Bennett's Beer Fest, Hereford

Supernova
Drummonds, Worcester

The Other Covers Trio
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jay & Eli
The Pheasant, Worcester

The Lazy Sundays
The Blue Bell, Ryall

The Follicles
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Toby
The Butchers Arms, Mickleton

Gravelly Hill
The Bush Inn St Johns, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Cradley Heath Liberal, Cradley Heath

Shades Of Grey
The Red Lion, Evesham

Forty Blue Toes
Millers Arms, Pershore

Dusty Mush + Support
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Saturday 15 April 2017

Easter Soul Show With Dancefloor Deluxe
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Henry Bateman
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Mick Pini Band
The Iron Road, Evesham

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
YMCA, Tewkesbury

Lorise & The Stealers
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Mark Barnwell
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Electric Octopus, Sproatly Smith
Speakeasy, Left Bank, Hereford

Breathe Fire
The Swan, Evesham

Nancy Boys
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Davefest Five (See [Http://Davefest.Webs.Com/](http://Davefest.Webs.Com/))
Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury

Mohawkestra
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Drunken Monkey Presents Evil Scarecrow, Krusher & More
Guildhall, Gloucester

One 2 Many
The Plough, Hereford

Danni G Band
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Hildamay, Wicked Snakes, Cove, Buying Lies, Heriot
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Old Skool Disco 2 With DJ Gordy
Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

Jay & Eli
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Angie Brown
The Swan, Stourbridge

Jon Townley
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Jasper in The Company Of Others
Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

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Beer Festival With Live Music
Gordon Bennett's Beer Fest, Hereford

Luther Grosvenor Band
Memorial Hall, Upton-Upon-Severn

Vo Fletcher
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Lizzie And The Banshees
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Jev's
The Pheasant, Worcester

QCD
The Chestnut, Worcester

Ian Luther
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Peter Shoulder
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Mice in A Matchbox
Reet Petite, Leominster

Ricky Nelson Travlin' Man
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Hijack
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Aardvark Stew
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Chantel McGregor
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Hey Little Monster Presents: Raptor, New Revival, As Mamas
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Sunday 16 April 2017

Jewels
The Regal Cinema, Evesham

Bootleg Abba
The Iron Road, Evesham

Lazy Sunday Afternoon With Wolfren Riverstick (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Dust Brothers
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Davefest Five (See www.Davefest.Webs.Com/)
Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury

Electric Church with Gaf Franks
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Journeyman
The Cap n Gown, Worcester 6pm

Whiskey Moonface
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Fran McGillivray & Mike Burke (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

AC/DC Uk
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Suzi And The Backbeats
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Panic Station (3-5pm)
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Mods & Sods
The White Hart, Redditch

Hennesea House Band
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Beer Festival With Live Music
Gordon Bennett's Beer Fest, Hereford

Steve Linforth
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Olly Murs Tribute Jon Eselle
Croft Farm Water Park, Tewkesbury

Will Killen (5.30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunjay (3-5pm)
The Bush Inn St Johns, Worcester

Perry Foster
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Delray Rockets
Gun Tavern, Worcester

Teddy'S Leg, Trioxin Cherry & Dischord
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Monday 17 April 2017

Shaggy Dog Raconteurs (4pm), Bob Porter Project (6:30pm), Texas Tick Fever (7:30Ppm)
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Institutions (4pm)
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Vienna Festival Ballet: Cinderella
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Tuesday 18 April 2017

Crazy Town, Ill Dose, Broken Jaw, Eden in Progress
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Wednesday 19 April 2017

Toby Platt, Rachael Medhurst, Carys Selvey,
Bottles Wine Bar And Merchants, Worcester

Metal Night - Temperance (Italy) + Evlytyle
The Iron Road, Evesham

Andy Quick
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Nuala Honan & Band
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Foot Prints- Jazz
Reet Petite, Leominster

Thursday 20 April 2017

Steve Turner: Folk In The Foyer
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Bandit 18
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Steve Ferbrache
The Tank, Gloucester

3 Bone Joint
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Billy Joel Songbook
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Michael Petrov (Cello) And Alexander Ullman (Piano)
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Gerry Cross The Mersey
The Roses, Tewkesbury

You've got a Friend - The Music of James Taylor & Carole King
Swan Theatre, Worcester

TT's Musonic Night
The Cap n Gown, Worcester 6pm

Perry Foster
The Plough, Worcester

Jam Session
Reet Petite, Leominster

Friday 21 April 2017

St, Georges Beer Festival (See ad on Page 36)
The Nags Head, Malvern

Hawds
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

The Hat Club
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Genesis Connected
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Raymond Froggatt
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Gaz Brookfield
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

White Tiger
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sam Hollis & The Glow In The Dark Lizards, Nonsuch
The Victoria, Birmingham

Zappatika (Frank Zappa), Jump The Shark, Brown Torpedo
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Carbine, Murder Circuit, lot, Uppercut, Sharkteeth
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Bluzebox
Queens Head, Wolverley

Jay and Eli
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Liquor & Poker Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

The Arosa
Base Studios, Stourbridge

The Core
Drummonds, Worcester

David Hamilton'S Rock 'n' Roll Back The Years
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Fred Zeppelin
The Maris Bar, Worcester

The Straight Aces
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Neil Iverson
The Pheasant, Worcester

Thunder Daze
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport

Olly Murs Tribute Jon Eselle
The Bells Hotel, Coleford, Gloucestershire

Clear Waters Deep
The Little George, Stroud

DJ Night with John Grainger
Reet Petite, Leominster

Urang Matang & Guests
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Glow Worms
The Bush Inn St Johns, Worcester

The Strangers
The Red Lion, Evesham

Gunnrunner
Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 22 April 2017

St, Georges Beer Festival (See ad on Page 36)
The Nags Head, Malvern

The GT's
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Steve Page
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Hackney Colliery Band
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Marabooboo All Stars
The Swan, Evesham

Jess Morgan
Elmslie House, Malvern

Reverend Schneider & The Band Of Angels, Record Store Day
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Smokeroom
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

OCD
The Plough, Hereford

The Girl From Mars
Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

Zepplin 3
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Planet Loco
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Decades Band
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Ray Mytton & Friends
St. Mary's Church, Hanley Castle

Izzy The Push
Wolverley Social Club, Kidderminster

Dan Firman
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

5 Minus 3
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Chewie, Lisa Carey, Dogs Of Santorini
Nags Head, Malvern

Rich Hall'S Hoedown
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Lorise Eaton Band
The Green Dragon, Malvern

That Friday Feeling
The Cricketers, Worcester

The Elvis Years - The Story Of The King
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Roger Roberts
The Pheasant, Worcester

Izzy The Push
Wolverley Social Club, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Jon Eselle
Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Notorious Brothers
New Inn, Pershore

The Uncharted, The Dreamer Within, Truenorth, Hollow Dreams
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Skewwhiff
Reet Petite, Leominster

Sundara And Special Friends
Abbey Road Coffee, Malvern

BBC Big Band 'Sound Of Cinema'
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Tyler Massey - Record Store Day (Daytime)
Rise Records, Worcester

Record Store Day: Tyler Massey, The White Feather Collective, The Honeyfire (Daytime)
Carnival Records, Malvern

Twisted Clef : Conspiracy Of Kings, Fly By Fire, The Rogues
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Dirty-Harry Band
The Unicorn, Malvern

Binomial: Synth-Pop Reimagined
The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

Protocol
The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

Black Cat Bone
The Chestnut, Worcester

Mods Vs Rockers. The Delray Rockets and The Quik Beats
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Andy Margrett and Alex
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Sunday 23 April 2017

Ben Vickers Reggae/Soul DJ Set (Vinyl)
Bottles Wine Bar And Merchants, Worcester

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic) Oujamaflip (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Ewan Mclellan
The Prince Albert, Stroud

St. Georges Beer Festival (See ad on Page 36)
The Nags Head, Malvern

Jimi Whitewolf & Band Of Tramps (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Cara Dillon
The Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

Trevor 'Babajack' Steger
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Lee Deeley
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Gordon Giltrap
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

In Evolution
Nags Head, Malvern

Dan Greenaway
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

John Banner Present The Searchers On Saint George's Day
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
New Inn, Claines, Worcester

Electric Church with Oly Wharton
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Monday 24 April 2017

Faithful City Presents: Muncie Girls, To The Wall, Junior Web. Kick The Clown
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Shiela Waterfield Quartet
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

Tuesday 25 April 2017

Milton Jones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 26 April 2017

Harpers Ferry
Café Rene, Gloucester

Various Venues 26 April - 1st May (See Cheltenhamfestivals.com)
Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Cheltenham

Thursday 27 April 2017

Nuala
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Luke Daniels
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Quigley Duo
The Tank, Gloucester

The King Blues
Guildhall, Gloucester

Sally
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Muncie Girls + Gun Shy, Floorboards, Orto
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Dan Walsh
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Uncover Presents: Riscas, Shadowlark, The Hungry Ghosts
Toby Randall
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Friday 28 April 2017

Hannah James Jigdoll
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mekon Man And The Cry Babies
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Regime
Café Rene, Gloucester

Bob Fox
Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood, Kingswinford

Mother Popcorn
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn
Spring Loaded Punk Weekender: Xsif (Ex Stiff Little Fingers), Rebel Station, Purple Flavoured Death, Reuben Lovett
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Abby Scott
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Arkfest Dublin Jacks, Jack Of All And Tom Hingley
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Jon Townley
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

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UNCOVER x SLAP



RISCAS

SHADOWLARK

THE HUNGRY GHOSTS

TOBY CHARLES

27.04.17
THE MARRS BAR, WORCESTER

Abi Phillips
The Pheasant Inn, Toddington

Arkfest: Chewie, The Hills Angels
Brewers Arms, West Malvern

The Commandments
Drummonds, Worcester

The Leylines, Under a Banner, Nick Parker
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

5:15
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Polly Edwards
The Pheasant, Worcester

Ginny Lemon - Cleggums - Worcestershire Pride Fundraiser
Café Bliss, Worcester

A Fistful Of Spookies
St Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

Upton Folk Festival
Upton Folk Festival, Upton-Upon-Severn

Abby Scott
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

S.P.Y & MC Lowqui
The Venue, Hereford

Jack Brett- Acoustic
Reet Petite, Leominster

Luckless
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Piano Men: Generations
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Arkfest: Jaimee, The Winx, Chris Jones, Answer Back
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Lynne Hanson & The Good Intentions, Malar
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Arkfest: Jenny Blackett, Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Terrys Walls, Hump De Bump
The Unicorn, Malvern

Arkfest: Hipflask Virgins, Michael Knowles & The Std's, Winchester, Nuns Of The Tundra
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Arkfest: Chewie, The Hills Angels
The Brewers Arms, Malvern

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Millers Arms, Pershore

Arcadia Roots
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Melvin Hancox One Man Show
The Red Lion, Evesham

Take To The Skies: Legendary Enter Shikari Tribute Act
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Saturday 29 April 2017

The Underground Revolution Presents Hereford River Carnival Free Live Music, Freeborn Rising, And More
11am-6pm, Phil Black, Weirshire Showcase, Jak Raven
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Blue Star
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Blind River Scare
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Valous + The Black Hounds
The Iron Road, Evesham

Police Dog Hogan
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Fearless Scoundrels
The Swan, Evesham

CSO – Old Worlds, New Worlds 3
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Spring Loaded Punk Weekender: Colt 45, Junior, Black Art, The Violent Hearts, Goblins, Cupcake Diaz & The Felt-Tip Pens, As The Sun Sleeps, Gagreflex, Gomme
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Megan Aucott
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Renegade Festival 2017 - King Solomon, Eva Lazarus, Dr Syntax + Pete Cannon, Emmett Brown, Prime Position, Aranka's Cackle, Charlie Baxter, Food For Thoughts (2pm)
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones
Queens Head, Wolverley

Small Doses
Railway Inn, Studley

Witcher Supporting Soul Stripper
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

Arkfest Sean Jeffrey, Reuben Lovett And Mikey Mann
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Reporters Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

O'farrell's Frolics
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Live Music at St. Richards Canal Fest 29th- 1st May
Vine Park, Droitwich www.strichardsfestival.co.uk

Black Pearl
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Bon Jovi Experience
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Guns Or Roses
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Ben Vickers
The Pheasant, Worcester

Bourborn Alley
The Chestnut, Worcester

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

Upton Folk Festival
Upton Folk Festival, Upton-Upon-Severn

Primetime
New Inn, Pershore

Toadstool
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Straight Aces
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

One2many
Reet Petite, Leominster

Aime, Stealth, Arkfest: Lewis Boulton, Big Wolf Band
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Arkfest: Hannah Dryburgh, The Undercovers
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Arkfest: Fi Paterson, Cory's Angels, Ash Sherlock, Elliot Seabright, James Matthey, Mel & Him, The Way
The Unicorn, Malvern

Arkfest: Jon Buswell, Kitchen Island Baby, Dead Dads Club
The Brewers Arms, Malvern

Arkfest: Paul Cody, Abbie Joy, Dom Dawe, Rachel Stone, Red Dawe
The New Inn, Malvern

Arkfest: Adam, Enzo, The Elderly Brothers
The Rose And Crown, Malvern

Amadou Diagne and The Group Yakar
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Karpetkickers, Teddy Matthews And Guests
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Wild Hare Club Presents: Box Band And Matt Steady
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Whitney Huston Tribute Night
Amber Cafe, Evesham

Sunday 30 April 2017

Mentallica - 20th Anniversary Tour + Motorkill Motorhead Tribute
The Iron Road, Evesham

Lazy Sunday Afternoon With Tim McCormick (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Dave Onions (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Roving Crows At Eastnor Chilli Festival
Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

Take That V The Jersey Boys
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

2 Tone Review
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

King Solomon In The Snakepit // Album Release
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Mad Mick!
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Electric Church with Gaf Franks
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Arkfest Martin Thorne & Co, Glyn Martin, Rough Six & DNA
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Neil Ivison
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Martin Harley
St Swithun's Institute Hal, Worcester

The Raintrees (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Upton Folk Festival
Upton Folk Festival, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Follicles Live
Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

King Solomon, Troy Ellis, Emmy Fearon,
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Arkfest: Groovey Head, The Dirt Harry Band, Cantaloop
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Arkfest: The Madi Simpson Trio, Roving Crows
Elmslie House, Malvern

Arkfest: Jennifer Ludlow, Polly Edwards, Carol Lee Sampsom
The Nags Head, Malvern

Arkfest: Lou Clark, Mike Skilbeck, Billie Stone, Rachel Stone, Steve Linforth, Amanda Stone
The Unicorn, Malvern

Arkfest: Pearl And The Rough Dimonds, Gazza T & Tone Tanner, Ray Stroud, Ray Mytton Band (4pm)
The Reatreat, Malvern

Ray & Paul
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castl

Upload your listings at
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Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

1st Rabbit Theatre's The Odyssey, Malvern Cube 7.30pm

2nd The Poetry Ballroom, (Dancefest & Worc Lit Fest Fringe),
Angel Centre, Worcester. 7.30pm

6th Ginny does Life Drawing, Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster

20th - Spoken word evening with Casey Bailey, Joe Cook, Holly Daffurn, Jasmine Gardosi & Leon Priestnall
Bottles Winebar Worcester

22nd-June 25th Bones of the Landscape, Bewdley Museum

25th Breast Cancer Haven Fundraiser, The Last Bread

Pudding, Mother's Day, Ben Mowbray, The Courtyard, Hereford

26th- 1st May Cheltenham Jazz Festival

27th-29th The Dark Earth and the Light Sky, by Nick Dear
The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Until 29 April, Hop project, Ross on Wye Library

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 Tuesday - Plug n Play

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

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 Gn

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 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 - Conor Maher & Friends

Keystones, Worcester

Every Thursday - Spoken word 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

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

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club weekly folk night

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Every Friday - Open mic 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

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 Liz Kirby 4pm

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

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

1st-2nd-3rd
• SEPTEMBER •

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MOSELEY
FOLK
FESTIVAL

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THE MARR'S BAR

APR
MAY 2017



The Leylines
Friday 28th April

Saturday 1st April

Catfish, Black Cat Bone

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 7th April

The Vibrators, The Miffs

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 8th April

Fury, Dakesis + The Loved And Lost

£10 on the door

Friday 14th April

The Other Covers Trio

£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

Saturday 22nd April

3 bands £3

Monday 24th April

FSC: Muncie Girls, To The Wall, Junior

Weeb, Kick The Clown

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 27th April

UnCover: Riscas, Shadowlark,

The Hungry Ghosts, Toby Randall

£5 in Advance £7 on the door

Friday 28th April

The Leylines, Under A Banner, Nick Parker

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 29th April

Guns Or Roses

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 5th May

The Connor Maher Quartet

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 6th May

Lo Promo: Kylver, Esteban! Bleak Zero

£5 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 11th May

FCS: UK Subs, Brassick, Saltwounds

£12 in advance £15 on the door

Friday 12th May

Wreckless Eric

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 13th May

Population 7

£4 in advance £6 on the door

Saturday 20th May

Subhuman Race (Skid Row tribute),

Foreign Quarter

Cost: £6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 25th May

UnCover: Pleasure House, The Cosmics

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 27th May

Bourbon Alley Charity Night

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Tuesday 30th May

Lisbee Stainton, A Different Thread

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

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Marr's Bar and Music City

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