

# SLAP

Issue 7

**FREE**

**Aug 2011**

**MAGAZINE**

Your **FREE** monthly entertainment guide for Worcestershire

**Keep Calm  
it's only  
a Riot...**



**Inca Hoots Album Launch**

**Absolute Ataxia**

**Aulos**

**The Strange**

**Ash Mandrake**

**Two Man Ting**

**Minifest**

**Bridge Bash**

**Hullabaloo**

**West Fest**

**Cracked Actors**

**Rue Royale**

**Vincent Flats**

**Acoustic Stage Diaries**

**with Becky Tate & Babajack**

**Colwall Family Festival**

**Sam Eden**

**Ollie Grizzle**

**The Big Chill**

**The Animals with Steve Cropper**

**Worcester Music Festival**

**Special Edition**

**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**





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# SLAP

Aug 2011 **MAGAZINE**

## Slap Magazine

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Welcome to Issue 7, The Slappers have had another fine month of music, mayhem and mischief.

We have fully recovered from a few local festivals and looking forward to lots more in August including the annual Worcester Music Festival which is shaping up to be the best yet.

In this issue we look back at Bridge Bash, West Fest, Colwall, Minifest as well as the Upton Blues with Babajack and friends. We forward to The Big Chill, BFest, The Worcester Beer Festival and much more. As we go to press Nozstock is just around the corner (literally), so if we don't see you there you're sure to hear about it next month! Also lets not forget the upcoming Bank Holiday shenanigans at The Great Malvern Hotel, The Swan in Kiddi and The Railway in Evesham to name but a few.

For Art lovers there's plenty to look out for and a few hidden gems right on our doorstep.

Finally we were saddened by the tragic news of Amy Winehouse who has joined the '27 Club' of musicians dying young R.I.P.

*The Eds*

### Calling all budding Music Journalists

The Worcester Music Festival which runs from 19th - 21st August plays host to hundreds of bands in many venues across the City of Worcester. We invite you to review a gig of your choice and send it into us at Slap, 100-200 words preferably with a picture but not essential. We will print as many as we can but be quick as we deadline on the 24th!!!

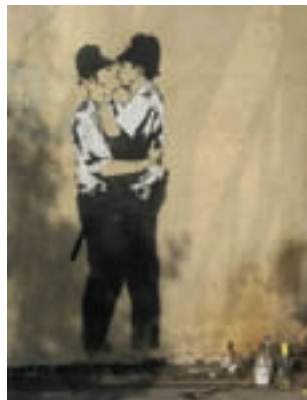
You can also upload high quality short videos to the Slap facebook page, we look forward to seeing the results of your work...

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# Slap News

August 2011

The Pyramid People are at it again. The second **Pyramid Party @ GodZilaZ** will be held on the 9th-11th of September at the same venue as last time. Bands wanting to play at the festival are invited to apply by filling in the form on the Pyramid Party website: [www.pyramid-party.co.uk](http://www.pyramid-party.co.uk). The organisers say that this time around there will be three stages, more than sixty bands, solo artists and performers with some poetry, comedy and the Floating Lotus Psybarn. There will also be several food vendors on site, with plenty of parking and camping. Weekend and day tickets will be available with discounts for those pre-booking. *See you in the sunshine!*

**Hullabaloo** didn't sway the judges to win the second round of the Green Man competition at a gig in Camden last week but they still get to play at the festival. The band, who won 40% of the popular vote, have been asked to be a house band at the Usk valley party and will play every day. **The Green Man festival** is on the 19th to 21st August. More details at [www.greenman.net](http://www.greenman.net).

Rapper **Example** - who hit #2 in the charts recently with *Changed The Way You Kissed Me* - appeared at the Lanes Bar in St John's Worcester on a promotion organised by Droitwich hip-hoppers **Case Closed** - Example's been a big critic of Malvern diva Cher Lloyd in the past but heartwarming that they shared a stage recently at T4 On The Beach to kiss and make up...

Congratulations to **Black Russian** - who managed to press one of their CDs into Slash of Guns'n'Roses' palm last week - a lesson to other outfits, always carry some promo material with you and don't forget to say 'This will change your life forever' - or something like that anyway...

The closest finish possible for the **Zebedy Rays** as they just lost out on a Nashville festival appearance by a mere handful of votes - to Florida outfit **Elephant Gun**. We know who we prefer...

A four-CD boxed set of the work of Evesham-born **Jim Capaldi** '*Dear Mr Fantasy*' was released this month - apart from the legendary **Traffic**, Jim also worked with **Bob Marley**, **Steve Winwood**, **George Harrison** and **The Eagles**.

Hereford outfit **Pink Traffic Band** appearing at the Live & Unsigned Final at the O2 Arena in London (Millenium Dome) on Saturday...

Hot off the press!! After years of lobbying - local acts will finally be making a billed appearance at this year's **Big Chill Festival** - **Howard James Kenny** and **Sam Eden** are among others playing the Introducing stage on Friday - well it's a start...

Worcester comes alive each summer for the three-week **Worcester Festival**. This year is a week longer as the Three Choirs is held here. Events for the Worcester Festival include puppetry, pottery, painting, comedy, music and drama at indoor and outdoor venues throughout the town.



It is the ideal opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather together on the streets of Worcester to enjoy music and arts.

For further information - [www.worcesterfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcesterfestival.co.uk)

**Not For Squares** would like to thank everyone who attended Evolution on 23rd July. As anticipated it was full to bursting and the music was amazing! Our next event is again at Evolution and will be spread across two rooms, the main being underground (as usual) and the second classics (3 old school bar 13 dj's making a rare show). Be there....

**The Hand In Glove** in Worcester are looking for broken down acoustic bands or solo artists to perform. Get in touch with Emma on 01905 612154.

Worcester's burning with the launch of the new **Robinson** album '*Beneath The Ballroom*' available from itunes or Amazon. Well worth a look as it's packed with all sorts of unusual instruments and took over 3 years to make.

There is a cracking venue available to bands wishing to rehearse at The Hartlebury Club, Millridge Way, Hartlebury. The former British Legion club has a massive function room and is in need of some noise putting into it. In the future, gigs look certain to be held here with a big outdoor area and with 5 top notch Cannon Royall ales at amazing prices. Call 01299 250252 for further information.

**The Zebedy Rays** have one last gig in the area for the foreseeable future on 13th August at the Marrs Bar. This is down to Adam going on a hard earned rest down under. So make sure you don't miss this one and lets hope its a



Howard  
James Kenny

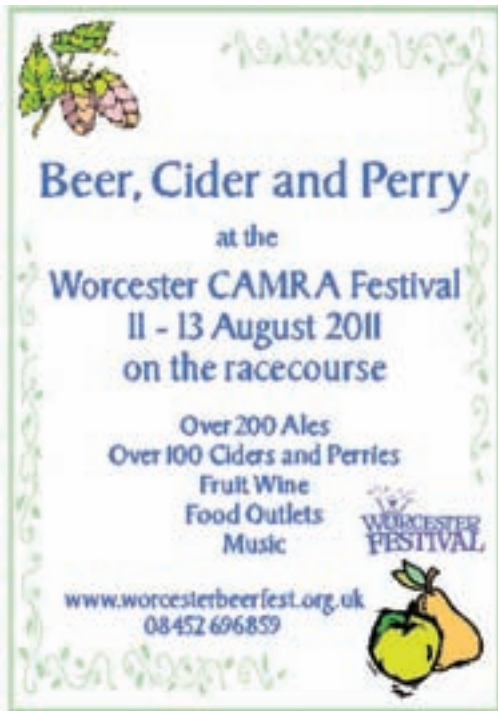
Photo: Joe Singh



celebration of more to come rather than the end! They do have a further gig in Camden Town where they will be showcasing their talent to some hot shots in the music industry. Our fingers are crossed for you boys!

Ronda has now been nominated three times this year by London Live Music Promoters and is in full swing organising another trip to Camden's Purple Turtle for Saturday 3rd September. Due to increased numbers Ronda are inviting you to contact them with preferred pick up/drop off points for the coach so everyone gets to enjoy a day of sight-seeing in our Capital, they're planning to stop off near London Zoo to start the day! With coaches departing from Worcester, Malvern and Tenbury Wells, at £30.00 per person which includes coach travel and entry to the club, you can pre-book your ticket by either emailing [booking@rondaband.com](mailto:booking@rondaband.com) or messaging them directly on the Facebook Ronda Band Page [www.facebook.com/Ronda.Band](http://www.facebook.com/Ronda.Band).

It's going to be another amazing month of local music, with The Great Malvern Hotel hosting a festival of local bands on Saturday 27th August, with the likes of Time of the Mouth, New Chapter and Ronda playing, and before that on Saturday 13th August, don't miss the Bfest at the Bridge Hotel in Tenbury Wells where there are a whole host of fabulous talent playing including This Wicked Tongue, New Chapter, Ronin, the Roving Crows, RIA, and a whole host more, check out their facebook site at [www.facebook.com/Bfest](http://www.facebook.com/Bfest)



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# Previews

The Artrix,  
24th August  
The Animals  
with special guest Steve Cropper

Only very rarely does a true legend of the music scene play in Bromsgrove, but you will have your chance to see one when Steve Cropper, the rhythm guitarist and founding member of the Stax record label house band "Booker T and The M.G.'s" – remember *"Green Onions"* *"Soul Limbo"* and *"Time is Tight"* – and later *"The Blues Brothers Band"*, plays at Artrix as the very special guest of the unforgettable sixties British band, *"The Animals"*

Steve co-wrote such classics as *"In The Midnight Hour"*, *"Knock on Wood"*, *"Sitting On The Dock Of The Bay"* and many others. When you hear the name *"The Animals"* you think of *"House of The Rising Sun"*, *"We Gotta Get Out of This Place"*, *"Don't Let Me be Misunderstood"* and many other hits.

This will be one of the most memorable musical nights at Artrix and once word gets out about the gig, the tickets at £21, will sell fast. Book yours now by ringing the Box Office on 01527-577330 or by going online at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



## "Quadrophenia 2"

Such was the popularity of last summer's sell out *"Quadrophenia Night"* show that on Saturday, August 13th, Artrix is staging *"Quadrophenia Night 2"* !!

Once again the Arts Centre is screening Franc Roddam's classic film and then the dance floor's down for two fine bands – *"The Quik"* and *The Whoo"* – who will play the music of the *"Mod"* era, including songs by *"The Small Faces"*, *"The Kinks"* and of course *"The Who"*

Join in the atmosphere of the event by, as last year, dressing in your *"Mod"* gear and coming on your scooter!



The film starts at 5.00.p.m, the gig at 8.00.p.m. Tickets for the film and gig are £16 (£14) and for the gig only £12 (£10). Ring the Box Office on 01527-577330 or book online at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

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# worcester arts workshop

Wow, it's been eight months since we re-launched our city's very own Arts Workshop, and as we have drummed up some attention in the Klik Klik galleries lately, I thought I would tell you all a little bit about the Collective and how we ended up here.....



Klik Klik Collective was an idea thought up one dreary autumn day sat in Cafe Bolero. We felt that Worcester needed opportunities for local artists to show work and decided to plan our first 'art' fair. The idea being, that it would be a

mobile or 'pop up' gallery, if you like, with the intention being to support local talents from all backgrounds and walks of life.

'Mobile' didn't last very long though as the day after our Xmas fair, and thanks to a visit from the Cafe Bliss team, we found ourselves setting up our first collective exhibition in the Cafe Bliss gallery space.....and the Klik Klik Collective suddenly found a more permanent home at the Arts Workshop. The combining forces of Cafe Bliss and Klik Klik realised that they shared the same clear vision of an arts hub in the heart of Worcester, so over the next few weeks we went on to transform the rarely used and dreary Cellar space into the second gallery, before moving onto refurbishing the Cafe space. Along with a hard working team of volunteers and friends, and with special thanks to Chris Mason, as well as all of the freebies we collected (materials/plants/wood/paint), we decorated and created both spaces as they are now. By using our passions and strengths we have managed to create a unique environment which is drumming up interest both locally and nationally.

If you have not had the pleasure of visiting us yet, come and experience Café Bliss' delicious Mexican food, all made with fresh, ethical ingredients locally sourced as much as is possible. Enjoy a Goat Curry or vegetarian Enchiladas while being surrounded by visual arts, or come along for a 'Lazy Sunday' or one of our other events; musical, theatrical or visual, happening throughout the summer months, and beyond..... (See our facebook page for regular updates or pop in).



If you are interested in exhibiting for next year, please email: [klikklikcollective@gmail.com](mailto:klikklikcollective@gmail.com)

...and come check out next month's Open exhibition, from 4th Sept....

So,....Massive thanks to everyone for making the Nicolas Stevenson/Daniel Worth gallery openings and last month's Lazy Sunday such awesome events! We really feel that a special 'cooperative' atmosphere was created by all, which is what our 'hub' vision was all about! Thanks



to the artists for coming from London and Cambridge and thanks to Skewwhiff, Flat Stanley and the other performers....a huge credit to you all for helping to build our environment with us!

This month's Lazy Sunday is the 14th August....our wonderful regulars will know what a great day Lazy Sunday is with its acoustic tunes and friendly 'family' vibe....so to all you newbies...come on, what are you waiting for?.....

.....then from the 19th til 21st, we are one of the venue's for the 'Worcester Music festival' which we are proud to support. With 3 days of local music all over the city, keep your eyes out for what's on where.....As well as the many bands and DJ's, Cafe Bliss will be doing a BBQ to feed all those hungry music lovers as well as the usual scrummy fare.



And....as August is my birthday month and I want to go have fun in fields, Klik Klik is handing over the galleries to the Music Festival!..... From the 3rd til 30th 'The Art of Music' features an exhibition of works from local artists with a musical theme in Cafe Bliss.....plus an exhibition of prints from Mark Wilkinson, who has created album, tour and book art for some big names in music, in the cellar space. There will be a talk from the artist on Saturday 21st August at 12pm.

Also this month.....

Sunday 7th: 'Alone', a day of interactive performances: an immersive, liberating and terrifying adventure for one audience member at a time. £6.50/£5.00.

Friday 12th August: A children's drum making and performing workshop from those fabulous Narcoleptic Penguin chaps.....!

3rd September, we present: 'Ill Skillz', back by demand for all you hip hop lovers!

Plus, keep an eye out for next month's exciting new venture with SLAP magazine itself ....will tell all in the September edition!

Love from the Workshop.....x



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## Pershore's Midsummer Brass Festival



You don't have to go far from Worcester to find some great music. Pershore, just 10 minute's drive away holds a festival of brass each year and its only £10 for a whole 12 hours worth of music.

The event started in 1990 and although it was suspended in 2004 it was resurrected last year to popular demand. And once again each year, 20 bands are invited to play throughout the day in 40 concerts around the town. Bands take turns to play at each venue, in a non-competitive festival atmosphere, where some local players swap around playing for up to 10 different bands.

Bands include up-and-coming youth bands with enthusiastic leaders, local bands from Evesham, Worcester, Stourport and Malvern, and prize-winning bands from as far a-field as Dudley, Coventry, Shropshire and Staffordshire.

We usually listen to the fanfare from the top of the Abbey, specially written for the event, then listen to a few

bands each venue, starting in Pershore Abbey with great acoustics, and working our way around the town via Chapman Court beside the Co-op where passing shoppers are unexpectedly seduced by the sounds of brass, the cosy Baptist church that gets a little warm by the end of the day with all that hot air, and ending up at my favourite location: the marquee outside the Angel Inn.

The bands play classics by composers such as Elgar, and Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* made famous in *Brassed Off*, chart music, music from musicals, and music specially written for the event so there is plenty of variety for everyone to enjoy, and any fan of any kind of live music could not fail to be enchanted by the day.

If it's concert music you enjoy, head for the Abbey, for a relaxed cosy atmosphere, chill out at the Baptist church, but for that real festival feel, go straight to the Angel, grab your pint from the beer tent, your chips from the chip wagon and settle down for the day. You can sit inside the marquee (when it rains) or enjoy the people watching and relaxing to be had outside of it, count how many bands Tim joins to play drums, or Ken to play Tuba, laugh as the conductor of the championship band from far away tickles your funny bone, and the Tuba's play a solo spot, the percussionist runs ragged at the back and the rain holds off... just long enough to seriously enjoy the day.

Next year's event is on 21st July so put it in your diary and come along to enjoy what Pershore has to offer.

*Sarah Ganderton*

## Summer Exhibition Malvern Theatres

"As you enter the theatre, the paintings inspired by Venice which are hung on the main stairs, have an immediate impact due only partly to the richness of their colours. The apparent simplicity of these works belies the care with which the elements are arranged. Because these works by Sara Hayward are displayed together they successfully display the axiom "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." Each work enhances the next by its proximity and together they create a beautiful aide-memoire for those lucky enough to have visited this magical city.

Sara's other works, inspired by coastal environments benefit from a similar unity. They reminded me of the seaside holidays of my youth. The viewer is invited to look through the open window, as if on the first morning of a fortnight away. It's sunny, the wind blows the curtain aside and all's well with the world.

In the restaurant area are works by Paul Powis. These draw their inspiration from further afield. Adopting a subjective approach to the colours in his palette and introducing semi-abstract elements, lift these works above the mere representational. The colours "sing". The spacial elements achieve a satisfying harmony. It is clear to see why so many corporate clients have bought Paul's work.

It's a pleasure to see so many of Paul's paintings together". Extract from Remote Goat review, July 2011

If you happen to be in the vicinity, do pop in!  
[www.powishayward.co.uk](http://www.powishayward.co.uk)  
[sarahayward.wordpress.com](http://sarahayward.wordpress.com)

### SUMMER EXHIBITION Contemporary paintings by Paul Powis, Sara Hayward, Nicola Clark and Tracy Jolly at Malvern Theatres,

Grange Road, Great Malvern,

Worcestershire, WR14 3HB

from Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2011

Open daily 10-8pm



# Review

The Bunker  
July 8th 2011

## Absolute Ataxia, Aulos, The Strange & Ash Mandrake

A better writer and indeed all round better person would refrain from writing that The Bunker in Worcester is the place to find under ground music.

Ash Mandrake looks like the kinda guy that owns every episode of Red Dwarf on limited edition box set. Never have I seen a man in a cape change hats every song he played culminating in a rather tall number that touched the ceiling! Ash would be better suited playing a medieval banquet circa 1066 than Worcester 2011, but of course that's the charm of it all. A highlight was a slow number early set that was Jeff Buckley-esque and a cover of 'Shine On You Crazy Diamond' which is of course very apt for this fella. Just when you think you have seen it all, go watch Ash Mandrake.



The Strange

Now not to be out done on the basket case front up stepped The Strange. Their drummer was dressed as a banana that we later learnt went under the name of 'Banana Bob' (Believe me I'm not making all this up). This was a fusion of the sublime to the ridiculous with a stop off everywhere else in-between. It left me wondering if this is how the early Captain Beefheart audiences were left feeling when he unleashed his own brand of moonstruck ways on our world.



Aulos

Aulos bring their own brand of geek to the proceedings. I would often be found in my teenage years irresponsibly chasing all kinds of trouble. I'm guessing this 2 piece were locked up in their bedrooms testing the tonal qualities of a 'Big Muff' or discussing the merits of a 'Swollen Pickle' (pedals). This of course brings out intelligent musical chops.

Aulos are purely instrumental and are not scared to turn to a heavier sound that in other, how shall we say, more 'arty' instrumental music can be lacking. You feel every push of air from Josh's drum kit complimented by whatever 'tonal cap' Oli has donned minute by minute.



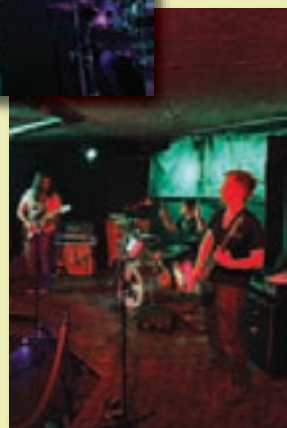
Aulos

Pack up the pedal board its time for some hard hitting sounds in the shape of Absolute Ataxia. Winning an award for smiliest bassist, their sound is the very DNA of Rock & Roll. In fact frontman Ben's vocal is a raspy little cocktail with many rock suitor



Absolute  
Ataxia

ingredients (just add whisky). All rounded off with some entertaining tub thumping with a cow bell cameo from stick man Ollie. If you like your rock music a la W o l f m o t h e r rubbing up with Led Zep. These are your guys.



Words: Louie Webb

Photography: Naomi Preece/Oli Montez



# Worcester's Banksy?

*Sarah Ganderton*

The artist known as Banksy is famous for satirical street art, using a distinctive stencilling technique to produce humorous art often with political overtones.

A notoriously secretive artist due to his unusual canvases, it is thought Banksy comes from Bristol where his art began appearing in the 1990's and has painted on streets walls and bridges in cities around the world.

His work has brought criticism from councils who have painted over them, and from groups such as Keep Britain Tidy who work tirelessly to, well, to do exactly what it says on the tin. But the work of Banksy is not what you would expect to see from usual so-called artists of graffiti. There surely has to be a point where this is no longer seen as vandalism but as art. And Banksy has surely crossed this frontier. Those who have owned a building painted by Banksy and lucky enough to have been able to extract the art from its original resting place have made over £100,000 in auction on the sale of his paintings.



And with such publicity as the artist has received, is it any wonder that Worcester appears to have its very own "Banksy"?

On brick walls, bridges, telegraph poles and doorways around the city, there are small symbols of a secretive artist with a sense of humour. Someone stenciled on the rounded building along Barbourne

"DO NOT BEND" and every time I wander around the city I spot a new picture or message to unravel.

Who is the Banksy of Worcester? A clever copy cat? An art student? A vandalising teenager with too much time on their hands? Keep your own eyes open and make up your own mind – is it vandalism or art?



## Art at Bristol

Lets take a day out from Worcester for a little sight seeing in Bristol. It seems a long way to go to see some art but Beryl Cook really is worth the travel.

Bristol is an easy enough hop on the train from Foregate Street or Shrub Hill. Trains leave regularly with no changes to Bristol Temple Meads, and a day ticket is only £11.10 – or half that much if four friends travel together. From the station you follow pedestrian signs to the ferry terminal where a friendly guide will sell you a return ticket to the city centre. Then a short walk takes you to the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

The Museum has permanent exhibitions of dinosaurs, fine art, and unusual inventions, but from 18th June to 29th August it has also set aside space for a huge number of Beryl Cook's quirky paintings, and these can be viewed by the public for free.



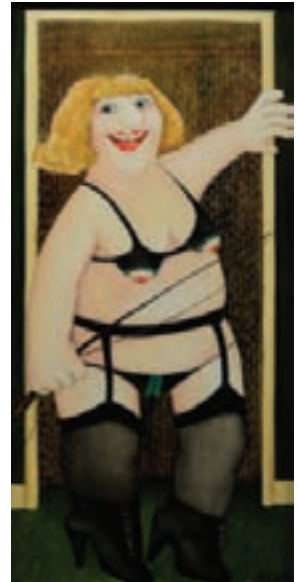
For anyone who has never seen Beryl's work and not heard of her before, she was a little old lady who owned a bed and breakfast in Plymouth when she started painting in

her spare time. But do not be fooled into thinking these are sentimental paintings by a doddery old timer. Beryl's paintings are bright and beautiful, with larger than life characters and a sneaky sense of humour. She paints pets with expressions, voluptuous ladies in their lingerie, shoes and dresses to die for, and there is a story in every painting, most likely to make you smile.

This exhibition even spoils the visitor with previously unseen work from private collections of family and friends, and even a little of her needlework as well as a video of the very shy Beryl being interviewed.

It is a pure delight to take in the ridiculous beautiful world that is Beryl Cook's art, and well worth the trip to Bristol.

*Sarah Ganderton*





**SO MANY DAYS UNTIL XMAS...**

# August Bank Holiday Weekend

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**KRANKED**  
Promotions

As school terms are winding down and the summer is in full swing, it's time again for the Worcester Music Festival to kick into high gear. Kranked will be putting on 5 shows during the weekend of August 19th to 21st, and aside from getting very little sleep in the process we're going to be putting on some cracking shows.

On Friday the 19th, we'll be hosting 2 opening night extravaganzas at the Worcester Arts Workshop and at the Marrs Bar. The workshop will feature THE CULPRIT headlining a night of alternative sounds including VAULT OF EAGLES, MUDBALL, and REDBOOK. At the Marrs Bar, we're unleashing hell with FURY and PATHOSIS double headlining a night of metal featuring THE CULPRIT (yes – they're playing TWICE!!), MOTHER DIRT, and RIGOR MORTAL. Both shows will have bands kicking off at 8pm, and running 'till late.

On Saturday Kranked has full-day residency of the Worcester Arts Workshop starting with a full day of Acoustic music with REDBOOK, FORGOTTEN POETS, SUB KON ALL-STARS, MASH & HOST, RONIN, and SIDEWAYS GLANCE. These will take place outdoors where, weather permitting, there will be a barbeque. Indoors, there will be 11 (yes – that's ELEVEN) bands on the stage during the course of the evening: SEELEY'S JAZZ'OLE, CALM LIKE A RIOT, SMILEYMIC, PENNY RACER'S LAST JOURNEY, SKEWWHIFF, THIS WICKED TONGUE, GOD SAVE THE

KING, SPOON FEDZ, HOST, DR MOJITO, and RESOLUTION 242. Christ that's a lot of bands!!!!

Finally, on the Sunday, we're putting on a night of adventurous and chilled sounds at Monroe's Cellar Bar, featuring the likes of BABBLE®, DEVILS WITH CLEAN FACES, POETRY BY NUMBERS, SLIM FIT GYM KIT, and ADAM BECKLEY on the bill to close off our festival gigs.

For more info on the bands, the gigs, and the festival log on to [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk). It's got what you need. And then some.

And if that wasn't enough, we've got another JOHNNY DOOM PRESENTS event lined up at ATIQUE (formerly known as the Gallery, but still above the Velvet Nightclub and more purple...) This time, we're going to go for the throat with Malvern's MOTHER DIRT, Birmingham's MANTIS DEFEATS JAGUAR, and Stourbridge's THE SHOGUNS DECAPITATOR bringing post-hardcore sounds to the room. Of course, as the name suggests, Kerrang! radio's Johnny Doom will be on hand to present the bands, listen to what's going on, and bring his inimitable Brummie banter to the show.

So...we make that 31 bands for the month of August. To be honest, we lost count at 24 and kept on going from there.

Kranked – Nothing whatsoever to do with Rupert Murdoch, but we hack your phones just for the hell of it.

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



# Review in Verse

Great Malvern Hotel  
11th June 2011



Two Man Ting

They sound afro-caribbean,  
but one half is from Sierra Leon,  
as I walked the cold damp night streets of June,  
I suddenly stopped feeling alone!  
Through the quite damp still night,  
the strains of sun-shine came,  
I'd made my mind up to see these two  
at The Great Malvern Hotel-again!

I met them on an Open Mic Night  
introduced by Neil Collins and crew.  
I was so impressed with their sunny and light  
rhythmic rolls of gentle afro tunes.  
Percussion to make you tap your feet,  
and Jah-man with his brilliant smile,  
wrapped in brilliant colours so neat-  
A Jazz outfit of colours called 'coming together',  
he tells me in a while.

A whirl-wind of colour and smiles  
and a cuddle greeted me at half time.  
His instruments are named by the sound they make-  
Bocarabe is his drum.

An African piano you would not recognise-  
though he plays it with his fingers,  
but it's made with Hacksaw blades  
fixed across sound hole of a kind of drum.

He calls it a Kangome,  
co's that's the sound it makes.

It's made by Sierra Leonean carpenters  
who work from day break.

They make rhythm from any boxy thing,  
working in the sun -shine .

Jah-Man collects his' instruments'  
from charity shops and the like,  
children's rattles, cowbells and bells of sand  
and shells to make rhythm of a gentle kind.  
Just shut your eyes and listen  
and be carried away to the sun.

Dance in warm sand,  
swing those hips,  
relax and have some fun.  
The words go back to child-hood,  
of innocence and play-  
not spite and fight and steal and kill  
that's another day.

Buy the CD as I did,  
his words are poetry,  
they'll pull at your heart strings  
but understand they mean what they say;  
of a struggle of repression,  
mans inhumanity to man,  
learn from this brilliant couple,  
spread sunshine over this land!

Maggie C

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# MINIFEST REVIEW

25th June 2011

Hosted by Youthcomm Radio 106.7fm

On 25th June we were blessed once again with some blazing sun to match our Wild West Theme and bring people out in their masses to Cripplegate Park. Minifest 2011 had arrived.

Pershore's Got Talent Winner Ellys opened things for us on the second stage, with some well received covers and original tracks, performing to an already sizable crowd, which continued to grow throughout the day.

Young Poet Laureates Beth and Laura performed some of their poetry. I use the word "Performed" as "reciting" I feel is the improper term. Their performance was a unique experience and was truly a captivating experience.

The Aesthetics were first on to the main stage and were a band I really enjoyed listening to. A sound I would call indescribable, and I do realise how useless it is of me to say that when that's what you are relying on when reading this; a description. I mean it in the sense that they have a sound, which to me is different to a lot of bands that I usually do listen to and enjoy and still find their track "Midnight" captivating.

I managed to get some time afterwards to sit on the grass and take in my favourite Autumn Lily tracks from her EP "Day and Night" along with what I could tell were a few new tracks as well. This was followed by Of Kings and Captains with the highlight being their performance of their track "Who's Your Hero?" which was honestly stuck in my head for the next two weeks, a centrepiece of a high quality set.

The Modern executed another cool yet gritty set, showcasing their new track "Same People" along with some renditions from their album "Where Did All The Good Times Go?"

I had a lot of anticipation for the next act that was Fouad Symphonics. A young rapper of only 16 years of age, commanded the stage with superb confidence and I certainly fed off his enjoyment of being on stage.

It was at this point I needed to make a quick errand off the site and had to jump in the car just as Carly Dee started her set with her full band. I of course wacked the radio on loud to enjoy my favourite track, "Sweet Illusion". It was heartbreaking though, with Carly Dee knowing about me trying to (trying being the word) do a cover of it at a Dan Lloyd presents Open Mic Night a few weeks before, decided to give me a shout out about the matter as they finished the song! I was devastated I wasn't there, instead just driving past the Elgar statue!

A quick change followed with Dan Lloyd then left to his devices entertaining the crowds with some covers of some current hits mixed with some original tracks which went down to some great response. It was superb being able to hear the crowd cheers still from the car radio!

I rocked back up to Cripplegate Park with the window down enjoying a surreal moment of my car radio playing the same sound of Ronin taking to the stage. Along with their great sound and stage presence, Kit Kinrade's Indian headdress was an eye catcher and great for getting in with the Wild West theme.

Laura Cowley continued events wowing the crowd with her powerful sound from just her keyboard and phenomenal vocal ability, before The SJS Band took to the stage. It was great again seeing them really getting into the theme of things along with what seemed to be a little bit of a wild west themed intro to one of their tracks.

Nomad 67 followed with a set in their signatory in-your-face, give-it-their-all style that has gained them their strong following, which surely increased with no signs of the crowd dissipating - if anything still getting larger as I noticed more faces appear in the crowd.



Nomad 67 Bassist Joe  
standing in on  
This Wicked Tongues set

Everything tied up well at the end of the day and having just given his all in the Nomad 67 set, Bassist Joe guested for This Wicked Tongue as a stand in. Having seen both bands play before, it was somewhat of a treat to see the two bands coming together at this setting and their closing track "Last Syllable" left me satisfied after such an intense day of fantastic music from young local bands and performers.

To summarise for us Minifest 2011 was a massive success for the great turn out and everyone getting involved with the day and really supporting all the young performers and volunteers that were essentially at the centre of putting on the event. I would also just like to say that there were a lot of Thank You's to go out on this one but to all the bands, performers, organizers etc but most of all to Becky Maynard, Phil Weston and The Youthcomm Volunteers. Lets ride off into the sunset after a Minifest well done!!!!

Richard Merriman



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# Keep Calm...

The Worcester Music Festival has to be the highlight of the year for audiences, and players, of original live music throughout The Shire and beyond. Hundreds of acts, during three days in the heart of the City, mainly without door tax, staffed by volunteers and in aid of chardee mate. There really is something for all music lovers - from songwriting workshops to film scores to busking, so it was a difficult task to find a band that epitomised WMF in style and spirit. But found them we have and their development is synonymous with the festival itself.



**Calm Like a Riot** made their live debut at (the recently resurrected) **Evolution** in 2008, which, coincidentally, was the first year of WMF and also when they received the accolade of South Worcester's 4th best indie hip hop outfit. I'm guessing this is a self-penned 'honour' but I'm too scared to ask (in case it is attributable to a critic and is prominent on their rather splendid website as revenge or, worse still, a warning). Better be careful with this lot - they could kick off!

This first foray was notable - apparently the singer of one of the acts on the bill pulled a replica gun (they don't kill people, real guns do!) - but the lasting impression has been for live wire, motor-mouthpiece, Johnny P, who was so knackered that night he couldn't talk between songs. How times change - always drawn to hip hop as he could fit more words in per verse (sic), - John's now more than capable to contribute to the improvised on-stage banter in between songs. Gig yourself fitter, to paraphrase The Fall.

In his own words Johnny P is the lyricist, "I say lyricist as I can not sing (ask anyone) but I am interested in the words". I disagree. It's not like he's the Bob Dylan of the indie hip-hop world (I think the band could coax him into 'singing' too, which would be yet another Molotov in the crate!) and a lyricist does not imply a performance. And it is this performance that is integral to **Calm Like a Riot's** charm and why he's more of a 'frontman', 'rapper' or, even, an 'MC'.



MC Johnny P is self-effacing, "I appreciate everyone who comes and supports us. I mean all we do is prat around on stage and I get to shout unsubstantiated political drivel at whomever is there. Hopefully that helps explain why we can't help smiling and laughing on stage when people applaud us after a song. Not very *Rage Against the Machine* to laugh at yourself but I can't help it."

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# ...It's a Carry On



The rest of the band, however, are testing their MC's self-deprecation to its limits with 'controversial' new song "Robot" – apparently he's not entirely convinced and guitarist Dan is merciless in his goading to the point of encouraging a dance craze (there's a concern that it will become their equivalent of the Macarena!). Whether getting the audience to dance backwards like a robot is intended as a bulwark against John's reticence or not, I like the song and it is a subtle departure from the set. I say subtle because it has the trademark Calm Like a Riot 'groove machine' from rhythm section Pedro (bass) and Mick (drums), similarly idiosyncratic guitar and Johnny still performs like his life depends on it.

I was determined not to bring up RATM but they've been mentioned and I want to deal with that. Sure, Calm Like a Riot are white and they play a blend of hip-hop, rock and funk but there's no pretension of coming from the ghetto, being black or singing in an American (or even sarf London) accent. The lyrics are at times hard hitting and at others deeply humorous, the delivery and performance is distinctive. The guitar doesn't rely on overdrive or cry baby and, as a result, the rhythm section is free to roam or sit. In short, Calm Like a Riot have a unique spirit.

After that first gig, the band thought WMF was so cool that, in Dan's words, "We crashed a meeting....you could tell we'd crashed the meeting because there wasn't enough room around the table so we made everyone squeeze up....I think it's fair to say we've been disrupting meetings ever since." But their commitment to the cause does not stop there. As SLAP goes to press they are preparing to help cook breakfast for clients at the chosen charity of WMF11, Maggs Day Centre, under the moniker  
**Calm Like  
a Fry Up!**

So, when you come to WMF11 to see Calm Like a Riot, on Saturday 20 August at the Arts Workshop, rest assured that there has been months of planning gone into the event. You will be the beneficiary of the release of energy and if you are really lucky, their new EP, "Your Child is Not Special" will be available.

For all things Calm Like a Riot: [www.calmlikeariot.com](http://www.calmlikeariot.com)

For all things WMF: [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk)

Wordsmithery: Glazz    Photos: Mark Hoy



# Bridge Bash

Another weekend, another music festival. My, this is turning out to be a long summer! This was my first visit to the Bridge Bash, the Teme Valley's very own weekend of music. Three stages graced the hop fields including one run by the Session rehearsal studios and an acoustic stage centred around the Deckerden cocktail lounge double-decker bus. The huge main stage played host to a plethora of musicians from near and far including Ocean Colour Scene and Dodgy, the two big name acts of the weekend, as well as countless more local bands like Crooked Empire, Skewwhiff, Sugar Mama, The Roving Crows, Ronda & The Fabulous Bordellos.

Here's to the  
Crooked Wrongbow!



The Session stage saw Omnia Opera, Vault of Eagles and Calm Like A Riot while the acoustic lounge showcased The Fylthe, Stealth and Allstars Dub Band. Sadly, it proved impossible to be everywhere at once but I did manage to catch This Wicked Tongue on the main

Sugar Mama



Photography: Sugar Mama - Tony Gibbon

Vault of Eagles



stage on Saturday afternoon. Tongue sit well on an enormous stage. Their sound is big enough and so is their stage presence. Tina V certainly manages to grab your attention as she plays the keyboards and sings with a self-assurance and style that would be impressive at a stadium gig. The whole band are young, talented and write good songs and their performance at the Bridge Bash was a highlight of the weekend.

Ronda



This Wicked  
Tongue



Crooked Empire, Vault of Eagles - Toni Charles





Talking of young and talented, the ever effervescent Autumn Lily played a staggeringly good set of her own



Autumn Lily

pop song. Autumn is more like a poet with an instrument, more Dylan than Vega, more Lou Reed than KD Laing. Her songs are quirky, off the wall and exceptional. If you get a chance, go see her. I have to admit that despite the ambitious size of the Bridge Bash, I kinda liked the intimate cosiness of the acoustic lounge. On the Friday night the marquee was rollicking with gusto as the fabulous Fylthe, in a bizarre cross dressing frenzy, brought the house down once the music from the main stage finished. Like a manic psychotic céileadh, these



This Wicked Dad



The Fabulous Toilets

purveyors of raw energetic folk rock mixed with a furrow of psychedelic groove, were the heart of the shindig until security shut it all down in the early hours. Saturday night followed a similar pattern in the Deckerence marquee. While Dodgy were on the main stage, the acoustic lounge had its own thing going on. First with the Funky Junky Monkeys in their acoustic Stealth mode and then with full dub reggae as the Allstars Dub Band got everyone's legs moving in that strange loping side

step that only the best heavy dub can summon. The Bridge Bash is a good little festival, well organised with everything you need for a musical weekend. It wasn't as busy as I expected it to be, possibly a combination of weather and a relatively high ticket price, but it has all the right ingredients and I'll be sure to be there next year. Now what's next in the seemingly endless summer of festivities? Ah yes . . . Nozstock here we come! - RT

There was nothing dodgy about the concert at the Bridge Bash. Dodgy entertained the crowd with familiar hits as well as new songs from the forthcoming album (being mixed and mastered in Texas as we speak), featuring a delicate, lyrical lilt, a touching story about a local monk on The Malverns who fell in love with a girl. This was not the



superficial froth of teen pop but a mature and insightful reflection upon one of the eternal verities of the human condition.

The three band members played wonderfully as a tight knit unit. The percussive



powerhouse of Matthew Priest was complimented by the cool assurance of Andy Miller on guitar and the exuberant singing and banter of Nigel Clark.

Matthew was a great communicator with the crowd. We were good enough for him and Dodgy were Certainly good enough for us! - Mike Woods





# Hullabaloo [huhl-uh-buh-loo]

*noun*, a clamorous noise or disturbance; uproar.

They've only played four gigs, only known each other for a few months and the bass player only bought a guitar six weeks ago. But *Hullabaloo* are certainly making an uproar and a disturbance with a soon to be released EP and a major gig in London. The seven members, Benji, Troy, Becky, Luke, Tom, Craig and Laurence met at Cardiff University where they are doing various degrees, from music and journalism to English and law.

When drummer Craig put an advert up at college Brighton born Benji got in touch, being a singer and guitar player. Troy, from Malvern, admitted to being able to play bass and joined along with keyboard player Luke. Tom, also from Malvern, came in with a second guitar. Before long they were rehearsed and ready to gig. The University Battle of the Bands was their first outing having just recruited Becky to add some sax appeal. The gig went well with *Hullabaloo* coming a close second, greatly impressing the large student crowd. One of those crowd members approached the band afterwards offering his talents on the fiddle. And then there were seven.

Benji had gained some notoriety around the campus for his appearance in the Channel 4 show *The Joy of Teenage Sex* where he had explained the benefits of fellatio to any who would listen. The second gig was in a small Cardiff pub which barely had room for the band and could hardly contain the clamorously appreciative audience. In musical style, *Hullabaloo* are a pleasant change from the ubiquitous guitar, bass and drums line up. With the sax, keyboard and fiddle they give texture and depth to their inventive, dancey tracks. With echoes of ska, motown and disco, they manage to add a distinctive indie rawness to their music that puts one in mind of the fabulous *Rip, Rig and Panic* with a touch of *Tackhead* thrown in for good measure. Although both Becky and Laurence sometimes sing it is undoubtedly Benji who steals the show with his full-on, gravelly vocals off-set by his incredibly polite between tunes banter. The rhythm section is taut and together giving the solid foundation essential for any dance tune. When the Pyramid Party advertised for bands to play at the May festival, *Hullabaloo* applied and got to open the festival on the Pyramid stage. Another great gig with the band settling in comfortably to the festival environment. It was time to get some tunes down on tape, or whatever the digital equivalent is these days, as the band went into a Cardiff studio to record their first single. The initial mix of *Landslide* sounded so good that it was used to enter a competition to open at the Green Man festival in August. A Facebook campaign followed with twenty thousand fans putting *Hullabaloo* firmly in the lead with a whopping 40% of the vote - you could say they won with a landslide. Through to the second round of the competition, they went up against the four other finalists in a play-off in front of music journalist judges at the Monarch in Camden

Town. Their fourth gig was their best yet with the crowd going wild to the sheer danciness. However, while by the use of a simple clapometer *Hullabaloo* would have walked it, the judges were clearly after something different, awarding the main prize to *Will and the People* who had come fifth in the popular vote. But Benji was pretty non-plussed. 'We're used to coming second,' he said 'we thrive on it. Anyway, who's heard of last year's winners, the Dufflefolks?' Who indeed? *Hullabaloo* have got something that's hard to put into words. They have 'Oomph!' and 'Cha, cha, cha!' Who could wish for anything more? The track *Landslide* is available as a free download from <http://www.facebook.com/upthehullabaloo> *Hullabaloo's* debut EP, featuring the remix of *Landslide* along with three other tracks will be available for download in September.

RT





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Workshops





# Sam Eden Talks to Chris Bennion

*How would you describe your music?*

I always find this tricky, mostly due to the fact that my music doesn't fall in to any one genre. Instead it draws on many musical styles including folk, rock, pop, classical and ballad. My live shows are completely acoustic and I always write a song with the intention of playing it this way. My songs follow a solid song structure with powerful vocals and engaging lyrics backed up on piano and guitar. Structure is very important in my eyes. My album 'Kill The Lights' had been described as a perfect mixture of modern pop rock, with classical orchestral style and dark atmospheric overtones. Nothing's perfect in reality. It defiantly has a dark side to it and I put a lot of time and energy in to my lyrics. I like the song to be about something. These days we often have to listen to a light hearted mish mash of rhymes, unfortunately. This is not my cup of tea. I think a song should be meaningful. My latest song 'Fukushima' is a tribute song to the people of Japan, still recovering from the devastating tsunami in March this year.



*Who are you influences?*

I have a wide range of influences including modern classical composers such as Ludovico Einaudi and Mike Oldfield, celebrated songwriters such as Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan and modern pop rock artists such as The Cranberries, Damien Rice and David Grey. As well as musicians, new places and experiences are a big source of inspiration for me. I wrote some of my best songs 'Footsteps', 'Reckless' and 'Shades of Grey' in the snowy French Alps.

*Kill the Lights is your debut album. It's taken a while to complete. Are you happy with the result?*

Yes the album took me about 15 months to complete. The songs I selected to include are taken from over 10 years of my life, since I started writing music. I am proud of my first album, not just because I wrote the songs but because I recorded, mixed and produced everything myself. I even did all the artwork! That's why it took a fair while. The mixing and artwork side was a big learning process for me, but now that I can do it all, I am looking forward to recording

my next album. Producing an album this way has pros and cons. It takes longer because you have unlimited time to scrutinize and change things until you are happy (which is possibly never). It is definitely possible to over do it, but I think I've found a good balance. On the plus side it's much cheaper and you don't have to work under so much pressure. However you do need to be motivated and disciplined or you will never get the thing finished.

*You play most (if not all) the instruments on the album. Have you had enough of playing in bands or did it just happen that way?*

This makes me sound more talented than I am. The album features about 13 instruments and although I did perform everything on the album, a lot of the sound was done in midi. I love the freedom this gives me. I can add a whole orchestra and play the parts on my keyboard. Of course this doesn't sound quite as good as a real orchestra, but it does the job. After my last band 'Fellfield' split up, I was a bit deflated for a while. I get frustrated when band members don't take things seriously. I guess I'm just a serious person. I work well on my own and just decided it was time to step things up a notch, so I went ahead and did the album by myself. I am a bit particular about my music and I think this can wind up other band members. I like playing alone because it gives me the freedom to change my set or my tempo, that sort of thing. However I still love playing with other musicians and I am starting to think about putting another band together. It would be great to have the full album sound at live shows.

*What are your plans for the immediate future? More recording, more gigs or just relax and take it one day at a time?*

I already have all the tracks for my second album but I won't be recording it for a while. With the debut album finished I am putting all my time and energy in to getting it out there and playing as many gigs as possible. Now that music is my full time job I have to put the time and effort in just to stay a float. But this actually works out really well as an extra level of motivation.

*Are there any venues that you love to play? Where are the best audience?*

I've played all kinds of venues from small pubs like The Retired Soldier, literally about 5 meters squared, to big professional venues like Worcester Huntingdon Hall where I supported Martin Turner's Wishbone Ash. I enjoy both kinds. The small gigs have an intimate, relaxed atmosphere whilst the 'proper' venues are really more suitable for my music because it is typically very chilled out and atmospheric. I love playing festivals and outdoor gigs. There's always a real energy to them. I am looking forward to performing at the Worcester Music Festival for the fourth year running and I am playing at the Birmingham Arts Festival in September for the first time.

*Is there a typical Sam Eden fan?*

I think my fans reflect my music quite well in that, no, there is no typical Sam Eden fan. My music seems to appeal to all age groups and quite often to people who I



really wouldn't expect to like it. I think this is because my music itself has a lot of variation. When I ask people what their favourite track is the answer is often different. 'Place I Know' for folk rock lovers, 'Rock Bottom' for those of the pop rock nature, 'Ragdoll' if you're feeling deep and meaningful and 'Footsteps' if you want something ambient to drift off to sleep. Recently a guy I had down as a bit of a hard nut expressed how much he loves 'All Cried Out' which is a really chilled out sentimental song. 'Howling Wolf' is an instrumental track and would sit perfectly in a film somewhere. There's really something in there for everyone.

*What do you think of the music scene in Malvern?*

Last year the music scene was really looking quite dismal but this year it has been getting better and better. I play regularly at the Mount Pleasant Hotel, nice stylish bar and always a decent crowd that really listens. The two best venues I would say are The Great Malvern Hotel and The Morgan. Excellent open mic nights on Tuesday at the GMH and Wednesday at the Morgan. The GMH has music on pretty much every night of the week. They are good venues to gig at and provide a cracking pint if you're in to real ale. The Wyche is fantastic since it last changed hands, as a music venue and again if you like real ales. More places are starting to put music on which is encouraging. The Red Lion above the Unicorn and indeed the Unicorn itself have now



started to do music, with a weekly open mic at the Red Lion and gigs on soon at the Unicorn. The Foley has a large downstairs bar ideal for bands but Wetherspoons don't do music unfortunately. Maybe someone can twist their arm.

Sam Eden can be seen at The Worcester Music Festival this month. Checkout [www.wumufest.com](http://www.wumufest.com) for info.

Picture by Andy O'Hare



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# Comedy - Preview

## Big Pants & Botox Swan Theatre, Worcester 18th & 19th August 2011

Louise Roche's plays include the international hit *Girls Night*, *Lucky Balls*, *Checkout Girls* and *Girl Talk The Musical* currently showing in New York. Barbara has just survived an eventful 'significant' birthday, which has got her thinking about many things – not least the merits of *Big Pants & Botox*. Come and join her as she takes us on a hilarious, emotional, intriguing and ultimately uplifting journey. If you have to empty your bladder before joining the kids on the trampoline, and it's a few years since you've had an uninterrupted view of your feet: if you know a prolapse has nothing to do with structural engineering, and that the word piles doesn't have to be followed by the word 'of', then you'll be amused, delighted, and even comforted by Louise Roche's new play.



## Comedy Night at The Old Rectifying House – Wednesday August 24th 2011

Opening the night is **Craig Murray**, hailing from Dewsbury, West Yorkshire (a town otherwise famous for international terrorists, fake kidnaps and 'Britain's Best Market'), charming northerner Craig is currently one of the hottest rising talents on the comedy circuit. In the open slot at the Old Rec is **Alex Voakes**, a freelance astronaut, freelance world leader, the Earth's leading expert on Minotaur anatomy and also a comedian based in London. Alex has sent over 200 letters to government agencies across the globe asking if they need an astronaut, a new leader, or someone who can talk about centaurs at formal dinners. Oddly, nobody was very impressed, not even Obama. Now he brings tales of discussions with NASA, the Democratic Party of The Cook Islands and the Natural History Museum to the comedy circuit. He also owns some pictures of Cliff Richard, sometimes he talks about those too. Closing the night of laughter will be **Dougie Dunlop** a talented observational comic, he has his audiences sharing his unique take on life. A comedy youngster, Edinburgh boy Dougie was headlining at the Cafe Royal at the Fringe within two years of starting his act. A star of Scottish TV and radio, Dougie has begun the invasion of the south with appearances on *The Beat Room*, *Through the Night* and *Velvet Cabaret*. He performs at all the major comedy venues in the UK and abroad – as far flung as Shanghai and now good old Worcester! The MC for the night is **Sully O'Sullivan** who slickly combines quintessentially Kiwi comedy with vocal and physical audience participation.



Craig Murray



Alex Voakes



Dougie Dunlop

## Comedy Evening – The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich Sunday 28th August 2011

This has got to be worth a visit with a great line-up and free entry, tables can be reserved and food will be served until the acts start at 8.30pm.



Mark Restuccia

Opening the night is **Mark Restuccia** who is a London based stand-up comedian/comedy writer/actor/voiceover artist, who plays comedy clubs all around the country, followed by **Kristof Micholt**, a Belgian, deadpan comedian who has performed at the Gotham Club in New York, *Up The Creek* in London and *The Improv* in L.A. He's with **Nena Edwards** in the middle slot of the evening. The final act of the night will be **Mickey D** who since storming the Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2000 has performed across the UK, throughout Europe and the States and acquired an impressive list of TV and radio credits. More recently his achievements were acknowledged when he won 'Best Comedy Award 2007' at the Adelaide International Festival! The MC for the night is **Damien St John**.



Mickey D





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# Where's My Hat???

Well I finally did it! I actually spent a 'night-under-canvas' at a Festival recently - now while the festival and the music was amazing, couldn't quite say the same for the weather and the on-site security - still I'd rather it rained (as it did) during the wee small hours, and not while the bands and acts were performing! Many of you will know which festival I'm referring to - and they've promised to improve matters next year. I did pitch up in the supposedly 'quiet' area - unfortunately right next to a party of hyperactive teenies - so not much kip at all! Have to confess that I felt a bit rough the next day - all of which miraculously disappeared when I spent the next night in my own bed! Haven't quite 'caught the bug' yet - but learnt a few tips and - well you never know...

I've been to some cracking events in the past month or so - and this is usually a quiet time of the year before the main festival season kicks off! Thoroughly enjoyed Andy's MappFest in Malvern with the likes of **Gandhi's Walrus** and **Sam Eden** - and had a surprisingly pleasant time at the opening night of the Upton Jazz Festival - not a bit like the Fast Show at all! As always the sun shone on MiniFest in Cripplegate Park - lots of great, short snappy sets from **Carly**, **Dan Lloyd**, **Ronin**, **Laura Cowley** and the **SJS Band** - and a storming end from **Nomad 67** and **This Wicked Tongue** - with **Nomad's Joe Shellam** filling in amazingly on bass at incredibly short notice - credit where it's due - but I forgot my cowboy hat!!

I've also popped into the first Ross Rocks event - which looks to have done a tidy job at replacing the horrors of last year's Jamstand - only managed to catch the incredible **Dandelion Killers** - but that's all I wanted to

see! I also popped up at some of the events during the two-and-a-bit-week-long Droitwich Music Festival - the opening Water Festival night in Vines Park with **Tina V**, **Mike Mann** and the **Cohen Brothers** - the 'traditional' Saturday event with stages across the town featuring **Laura Broad**, **This Wicked Tongue**, **Stompin' On Spiders**, **Becky Rose** and **Babajack** - and later at the Droitwich Divas event with **Kiki O'Connell**, **Natalie West** and **Laura Cowley** at the Old Cock Inn (perhaps not the most appropriate venue for this!)

Great to see the support for Worcester City FC when they held their annual Beer & Cider Festival at The Lane - and a big up to **Hitchhiker**, **Stompin' On Spiders**, **Ronda**, **Marina Del Ray**, **Time Of The Mouth**, **Unionheads**, **Smokefarm**, **Skewwhiff** and **Crooked Empire** for pitching in - surely there's one more millionaire on our patch who could step in to help - different shaped ball mind you... Finally a big woo to **Neil Collins** and his team for putting together a wonderful first Colwall Family Music Festival - a thoroughly enjoyable experience with the music shifting continuously between the two stages - loads of great local acts during the day of which I managed to catch **John Denton**, **The Pull** and local girl **Jenny Hallam** when I popped in mid-afternoon - highly recommended for next year!

As you know - my passion is for the superb local music scene, and it's great to see the Hereford half showing signs of a mini-revival with great acts like **Pink Traffic Band**, **Fallback Theory**, **Telescope**, **Tramps Like Us** and **The Fiction** spearheading the recovery together with more 'seasoned' outfits like **Plane Crasher** (ex-Tastyhead) and the hybrid 'supergroup' **God Save The King**. The show provides a platform for H+W music and is a genuine channel to the likes of Glastonbury, Reading, Leeds and Big Weekend - but it's a two-way thing, without the support and contributions from local musicians - well, we simply wouldn't have a show!!

But what we'd love is for even just one local act to go on to bigger things, and I'm often asked who I reckon could make it this year - I've got to say that the best bet at the moment has to be those acts that work hardest at promoting themselves via as many on-line presences as they can manage - and play as many gigs as possible (perhaps more importantly, also out of our region) to get that wider recognition. I'd count **This Wicked Tongue**, **Crooked Empire**, **Cohen Brothers**, **Zebedy Rays**, **Becky Rose** and **Ronda** as great examples of outfits who are doing just the above and maximising their chances of getting that big break - so well worth following what they're up to I reckon!!

Finally if you do spot me at a gig - please do come up and introduce yourself by name, as many of you know I've got a shocking memory which is why I carry that little notepad and pen with me! Catch you next month with a shedload of festival news, some inconsequential drivel and hopefully some more little pointers towards fame and fortune...

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# Time to Chill

Walking around the Big Chill can sometimes feel a bit lonely. There's an air of detachment, of distance that is absent from other local festivals, no one seems ready to strike up idle conversation. It's not that it's unfriendly, just that the whole thing has the feel of a city to it. It's as if the bright young things from Islington and Camden have come to the country for the weekend, which in effect is exactly what happened. The original Big Chill events were ambient parties held in a chapel in North One in 1994. They were very successful and the organisers, Pete Lawrence and Katrina Larkin, were soon looking for a larger venue. The next year saw the Big Chill Gala at Llanthony in the Black Mountains, the year after that it was in Norfolk and then from 1998 to 2001 the Big Chill partied in Wiltshire. Every year the event was getting bigger, with a few hundred more attending each time. In 2002 the festival came to Eastnor

with plenty of revellers in its wake. I was lucky enough to get tickets from a neighbour and went along, not really knowing what to expect. It was great.

A small, relatively quiet little festival, not much bigger than this year's Pyramid Party with a good atmosphere and, as I recall, some swing-boats. I danced to the early hours and slept in the car. Every year since, the Chill has returned to Eastnor and, like a cake-eating Alice, has grown and grown. In 2009, some thirty five thousand people made the journey to the Malverns, bringing with them the inevitable corporate sponsorship that a major event attracts. Now being run by Festival Republic, the Big Chill is the biggest festival in the area and attracts a chilled out crowd, still largely into ambient and dance music. Highlights over the years have included Scritti Politti, Leonard Cohen, David Byrne, Orbital and a whole host of laid-back bands and DJs.

This year, the tenth Big Chill at Eastnor will feature Kanye West, The Chemical Brothers, Neneh Cherry and Mr Scruff among many other musicians, DJs and performers. If the weather is good, there is nothing sweeter than lounging around at the Chill. So if you are reading this, having just got the train from St Pancras, spare a thought for us locals and leave that icy big-city exterior on the train. You're in the country now ... time to Chiiiiiii!

RT



THE  
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FESTIVAL



# Go West & Fest...

Words: Little Charley    Pics: Katie Foulkes

There's something about Malvern festivals that are always so easy to get into!

**Babajack** is a blues/ folk band and came on the main stage early evening. Although it was still raining the crowd jiggled all the way through the set. Becky Tate on vocals has a powerful voice which is what made this one of the bands that stood out for me at West Fest.

**The Pewke Band**, described as 'the monsters of Malvernian acid rock', followed Babajack on the main stage. Next gig is 20th August 2011 at The Callow End Club.

On the acoustic stage I caught most of the **Truckstop Trixies**. They describe themselves on facebook as being old country. Every song is a crowd pleaser and apparently it's never too early in the evening to dance. I will definitely make an effort to see these guys again and I've heard they are regulars at the Morgan in Malvern.

The anticipation for the **Zebedy Rays** to come on stage was incredible, it was the first gig since the Nashville competition that we all got so involved in. It was time to show the boys that they would always have our support and the atmosphere was electric. I saw Ad pick up the opening snare drum and my heart skipped and I noticed that I had already started dancing before the first beat – the suspense was killing me!



The snare drum finally came and I turned to see all our friends smiling and looking at each other – we all knew what was coming! We had spent the day moaning about the rain but no one could tell you if it was raining while the Zebs were playing because we didn't care anymore!

The set was predictably brilliant and although some of the songs we have been singing for years, the Zebs have a knack of making them feel brand new again. The Jaegermeister came out and all the front line managed to get some thrown down their throat including Josh (drummer), which always makes me wonder – you know this is going to happen Josh, why do you always wear a white t-shirt?

Old friend of the Zebs, Joel Morris, made a guest appearance on 'Digging a hole' playing the harmonica.



Before I knew what had happened the set was over, the crowd screamed for more. We didn't get any – (Matt Woosey was coming on at the acoustic tent and not even the Zebs wanted to miss that!).

Danny (bass) even got a little sentimental at the end and took a picture of the crowd from the stage and this hit home how much the band appreciate Malvern friends for the constant support and love. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, and the Zebedy Rays are far from over!

**Matt Woosey** was to make an appearance shortly after the Zebedy Rays had finished so the crowd shifted over to the acoustic tent where the last two acts of the festival would perform. Country and Western style solo artist, Matt Woosey, only has an acoustic guitar to hand but somehow manages to follow the last act by bringing catchy, foot tapping songs which appeals to pretty much every member of the audience. Matt went on to promote his new CD 'Frame of Mind' by playing some songs from this. You can purchase this from iTunes or at one of Matt's gigs and the next gig in the area is at the Great Malvern Hotel on 20th August 2011.



Hailing from Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, the



**Roving Crows** finished up the day with their 'funky celtic fusion' songs. I am looking forward to catching this fine act again, but this isn't a

problem as they have gigs lined up all over the country until the end of the year! The next one in the local area is at B-Fest in Tenbury Wells on 13th August 2011.

Overall, despite the weather the festival was well organised and the alcohol was more than affordable. Thank you organisers at West Fest and Neil Poulter for accommodating us!



# Review The Boars Head Kidderminster

## Cracked Actors – 16th July 2011

Kidderminster, the home of carpets and all things weave related, tonight though the home of the Cracked Actors who are here to play at the pre launch birthday bash of the Boars Head.

After a short hiatus as a live music venue the Boars Head are back up and running with a new stage and some new sound equipment. With a bit of a move around out back it feels a lot bigger and along with more

space comes the great idea of the BHG (Boars Head Gallery) which sees the walls inside being used as space for artists to showcase their work. I'm guessing though tonight the only thing most peoples blurry eyes are able to focus on are the Cracked Actors themselves. And with a new stage that needs christening I can't think of a group more welcome.

The skanking masses seem to agree and with more room, comes more people, more laughing, more dancing, and more good times to be had!

If you're familiar with the Boars Head rest assured it's lost none of it's charm or atmosphere (or red phone box for that matter!) it's worth checking out who the Boars Head have lined up for live music in the months ahead.

For more information on the BHG and the Boars Head checkout their facebook pages.

*Words & Pics: Toni Charles*



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# Review

**Rue Royale**  
**Cock & Magpie, Bewdley**  
**14th July 2011**

Brookln and Ruth Dekker, one American and the other British, but both are captivating as Rue Royale. Turns out Rue Royale are a busy pair, who have gigged widely over the years, and I'm guessing it's in the more intimate venues like the Cock & Magpie where they win over audiences with their laid back style of music (think Sufjan Stevens or Bright Eyes). There is something charming about the pair, with Ruth on keyboard and xylophone and Brookln on guitar and kick drum, but it's the combination of their voices that pull your attention. Their songs have simplicity with a building rhythm, and they tell us how travels and arguments have inspired songs and lyrics. Songs 'UFO' and 'Stars' even get requested from an audience member and as their set ends they feel obliged to tell the Cock & Magpie how polite they've been. To which someone replies "it's because you were shit!" What great words to end a review on! Of course they were only joking! Everyone was polite, but I got the feeling it's because they were too busy listening.

*Words & Photography - Toni Charles*



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# What a shower!



It seems that every man and his dog is putting on a festival this summer. On the 10th of July that man was Neil Collins . . I'm not sure who the dog was. The first Colwall Family Music Festival managed to showcase some of the obscene talent that the Malvern Hills seems to effortlessly spawn. Because of important shower cubicle related installation issues your humble correspondent had been unable to attend the previous day's West Fest (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) so the Colwall event was to be the next best thing. But I think I struck gold because the Colwall festival was everything the West Fest used to be, you know, before it became commercialised! With a varied and versatile line up, the day got off to a fine start with *This Wicked Tongue* who seem to be playing everywhere I go these days. And why not? They are fantastic, with Tina and the gang giving their usual high octane performance despite recent personnel changes. Phil Whitehead's *None of These are You* performed next with a set of songs showing real depth and feeling. Watch out for these guys. A little bit of *Stealth* followed, they being the cut down, acoustic version of the *Funky Junky Monkeys*, funkling the place up with their radar invisible guitars. The sweet jauntiness of *Journeymen's* fiddle soon livened the day as they strummed and fluted their way through some foot-tappers obviously designed to keep the rain at bay. *Flat-world*, *Babajack*, *The Pull*, *Babble*, *Two Man Ting*, *Mikey Mann* and *MT3* were, I am confident, just brilliant. Unfortunately, that shower cubicle was never going to fit itself so I was forced to recuse myself from proceedings for a while. Upon returning in the early evening, *Naked Remedy* were in full force. And what a force. There is something really impressive about three piece bands that has always appealed to me. To be able to create a full and awesome sound with just guitar, bass and drums is simply amazing. What is also amazing about *Naked Remedy* (apart from being enviably slim) is the sheer power and energy that Dave Small puts into the drums while singing his heart out at the same time. He excels at either, but the combination is simply breath-taking. Their songs are tight, together and tantalisingly brilliant. Combining *MC5* like rawness with a trippy finesse. They also do a cover of one of my favourite songs; few people have even heard of the *Open Mind's* 'Magic Potion' but the *Remedy* really do it justice. And I haven't even mentioned the raw, psychedelic guitar or the rock solid bass. I guess I like *Naked Remedy*! A hard act to follow as the evening took a dive in gusto if not tempo with the shameless *Four Tart Harmony* giving their acapellie all. Sweet, sexy, striking and soulful (you work out which is which) the *Tarts* give damn good voice in their ruby red shoes and jet black fishnets. What's not to like? I've always maintained that in any other town I would be considered a good musician. I can play guitar and bass, I know how to do a Major 7th and a Suspended 9th and I can jam along with the best of them. So it's always like a kick to the groin when *Careful Jepson* take to the stage. To state that they are, to a man, musically accomplished would be like saying David Beckham would be useful in your local five-a-side or that Einstein was good at maths. All four of them are practically protégés, from Alex Allbrow's effortless funky guitar, through Chris Hewitt's immaculate perceptive time keeping to Hywel Pothecary's frankly overwhelming bass and Lawrence's magical keyboards and vocals. They are simply stunning, with the understated funkiness of *James Brown* and the polished style of *Weather Report*. They had the crowd in their palm as the sun went down on the first Colwall Music Festival. The sunset was beautiful and so was the day. Next year I'll hire a plumber. RT



# Review

Vincent Flatts  
20th July 2011

## The Queens Head, Wolverley Kidderminster

It's not every day that you go to pick up some printing and end up doing a review, lol.

I was going to see my ole mate Bertie (Vincent Flatts lead singer) anyway, so I thought why not... Now, Kinver, Wolverley, Dudley and basically the Black Country used to be my old stomping ground, so it was no surprise that as soon as I arrived at The Queens Head that I bumped into some old faces and musicians from those music and beer fuelled days gone by.

The Queens Head is a great pub and music venue, featuring two guest ales a week, serving food everyday and breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays starting at very musician friendly 11am.... Fantastic.



For those of you who haven't seen Vincent Flatts, these guys deliver kick ass Rockin Blues at a thumping pace and the line up varies upon venue size and availability of Bertie's stable of musicians. Tonight saw his four piece band consisting of Melvyn Hancox on Guitar, playing a mixture of Scotty Moore's Rock'a'Billy rhythms, Ry Cooder's slide style and Jimmy Page's licks; Richie Shelton giving out those solid thumping bass lines; Tony Bayliss keeping it all together on drums; and Berti on vocals with his own unique style. The Flatts really are a band not to be missed - they had everyone in the room jiggling and clapping to their Blues style music, and even though it was a school night it didn't stop the place from being rammed.

The Queens Head is a great venue with 3 music areas - the bar for intimate gigs, an upstairs room and an outside stage covering the stream and over looking the beer garden, for Summer days and weekend gigs. For the August bank holiday 26th-29th they will be having a four day event starting Friday night, through Saturday evening with Sunday and Monday afternoon sessions.

Give The Queens Head a visit and tell 'em The Slap Mag sent ya... Cheers!!

Gaz Le Bass.

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# INCA HOOTS ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY

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& Shatter Effect



It was a difficult task to get an audience out due to the collision of Bridge Bash, Upton and other fests and I don't think too many of us were paying customers but mammon wasn't the point of the event. The crowd as it was made for a very

pleasant, positive and polite evening and consequently all three bands reflected the atmosphere.

Shatter Effect from Brum environs were first up and they were a pretty accomplished bunch especially in the vox department.

A strong female lead singer harmonised well with a male guitarist.



Arp Attack

The livelier Southampton based 3 piece Arp Attack came next and as the name suggests there were synths involved and they have a lively frontperson with a decent voice and nods to Jesse J, Natasha Kahn and the Blessed Bjork.



The headliners Inca Hoots have been together for five years so tight they definitely are. There is some ambition in the writing and they describe themselves as original, lyrically epic, existential and contradictory. Listening to the cd afterwards the one name that kept occurring to me was Prefab Sprout. They name check Minus the Bear and Soulwax as faves and inspiration.



Stu - Inca Hoots

Words: Roger Sultry

Photography: Jospeh Bennell

'Creatures' is available from Rise records in Crownsgate. Coming up are shows at The Firefly on 20th August and Keystones on 2nd September. For more info check them out at: [www.facebook.com/weareincahoots](http://www.facebook.com/weareincahoots)



# Musician, Promoter, Engineer...?

Chris Bennion talks to Ollie Grizzle about his new venture in Lower Wick, Worcs.

Looking for a new venue to checkout new original music? Ollie Grizzle tells us about **Sketchleys Live** (amongst other things).

**What prompted you start these new nights at the Sketchleys Bar?**

Beginning my very own music nights at a venue I felt was the next step up for me. Now that my PA hire company is taking regular income through many events, I developed the ambition to permanently install a PA system in a club or pub and organize events myself. Tony Gibbons for example, manager of Backstage Promotions, has had a successful career that landed him the opportunity to install a system at Keystones. That guy is true inspiration to me. Also, being an electronics-obsessed audio operator also meant that I now owned enough pro audio equipment to consider permanently basing some bit and pieces in one place, whilst still having parts to spare. PA Vamp-Hire has reached its peak operational ability for my age. I'm trying very hard to be able to afford a van to transport all the equipment, but the insurance companies don't hand out cheap quotes!

**What makes these nights special?**

Sketchley's Live is my personal attempt, as a true supporter of local music particularly in Worcester, at giving artists an opportunity to perform. I utterly LOVE the music scene in Worcester and I really like doing my bit to help bands along their way. The sound and lighting system in The Sketchley Bar is particularly special. 18" HK Audio subs and dual 12" tops working together to produce a gorgeous blend of punch and crisp. The lighting system currently consists twelve LED par cans and plans to install high-profile moving heads and effects are set in stone. The attention to detail in making the venue a true asset to the Worcester music scene is fantastic. What makes these nights so special is the venue itself. Despite being out of town it has got some serious potential. You could fit a huge audience in this pub. It's got a drinking area bigger than the Marr's Bar, Drummonds and Keystones! What's more, the parking adjacent to the building is plenty and entirely free!

**What have you got planned for the venue in the coming months?**

Looking months down the line, I'm hoping Sketchley's Live will have taken off and some regular music lovers will check the place out more often. It's a sadly neglected building at current and the staff are eager to take on projects to help boost their trade. I'm hoping to give my local pub the name it deserves and establish it as a popular and regular music venue. The venue will forever gradually get better and better as I continuously improve aspects. The PA and lighting system is constantly being made better as the funds from PA Vamp-Hire roll in and the building itself is also taking some care from me.

I've even got plans to turn the back room into an artist's dressing room. Y'know, bulbs around the mirrors and all that jazz.

**What other events do you have input into?**

When it boils down to PA hire, I make contributions to plenty of events around the Midlands. PA Vamp-Hire currently takes on, at the minimum, two private hire functions every week. This normally is a request for PA and lighting for a particular band or evening organized by a venue. Recently, in addition to this, Backstage Promotions have been handing a lot of work out to me, for which I am truly grateful, and has meant I have been present for doing the sound engineering at some of their organized events. Whether it's the Malvern Rugby Society Meeting or The Upton Folk Festival, whatever the event, you can bet I've got some involvement somehow. Running Sketchley's Live is a step for me in a new direction and taking this step couldn't have been done at a more convenient moment. To supplement everything else I'm currently doing, as of August, the regular Friday night Keystones event, suitably titled 'The Bunker', is also an event I will be responsible for organizing in collaboration with Andy Coleman. My ambition to become responsible for many events around the city is starting to take shape...

**How can bands that might want to play any of your events get in touch?**

As my empire gradually expands, it occurred to me that I needed to set up some way of artists getting in contact with me if they are interested to get involved. It seemed somewhat inappropriate to use PA Vamp-Hire, my PA hire company, as the name responsible for these events. This new line of work I naturally seem to be acquiring is the work of a promoter, and so the necessity to construct my own promotions name became apparent. Though my career plans will remain secret, I can reveal that Star Circuit, the name for my promotion business, is named suitably in accordance with these. Artists looking to perform at my current events, Sketchley's Live and The Bunker, can apply directly to me by visiting my website: [www.pavamp-hire.co.uk](http://www.pavamp-hire.co.uk)

**You also play in a couple of bands, tell us about them.**

I'm one of those types of lads who just can't stop writing music. When I see a great band perform I get inspired so I have to be able to put my own ideas into practice. For the last two years I have been the drummer, singer and songwriter for the ska/punk band Imprint Zero. IZ is mostly just about fun than musical precision however, and this inevitably has lead me to start my own power/pop three-piece known as Answer Back. I teamed up with Ronda's bassist Jim Smith to write a handful of songs that truly rival many great bands today. I would absolutely place everything into Answer Back because I'm so totally convinced it is a winner sound I have created. I'm looking to launch the band properly with some gigs around the place but this unfortunately depends how busy Ronda is with Jim and how busy I am with the company. Anyone intrigued by my words written here please visit Answer Back's Facebook to listen to the tunes yourself and I promise you'll see what I mean! [www.facebook.com/answerback](http://www.facebook.com/answerback)

**Musician, engineer, PA hire, promoter. Which do you prefer doing?**

As a multi-instrumentalist and keen songwriter, I have



the same dreams as any other music-lover- to perform in a big arena and tour all over the world. If Answer Back became a seriously popular band, I would probably go along with that leaving behind my many other priorities. I'd be daft not to, right? But seeing as successful bands just get lucky nowadays and all the bands members need to be equally committed, I love working with other bands to help get them in the right direction. Engineering is fun and I know what I'm doing with it. PA hire is quite time-consuming. When a client gets back to me after reviewing the quote I've sent them I then have to get to work employing my helpers for the job, rewiring equipment etc etc. Promotion is still kind of new to me, so I'd be a fool to announce an opinion just yet! At the moment, I'd say I prefer engineering but in general, I just prefer helping musicians however I can!

### What do you think of the music scene in Worcester?

The music scene in Worcester, at current, is booming. Being a musician myself, I'd say Chris Bennion deserves the biggest thanks from all of us. Not Just Sauce has become THE promoter bands want to get involved with around Worcester. Also, the introduction of the database-like website [www.notjustsauc.com](http://www.notjustsauc.com), which compiles the lists of artists and venues all in one place, has completely revolutionized and reborn the scene into its current glory. For me and so many other people in the city, the website is the first place I check for the latest updates and to gather information. Of course, other promotion companies deserve credit too for their

contributions to keep unsigned music alive in the city. Backstage Promotions for example honorably deliver the highest quality entertainment to Drummonds and Keystones, arguably the two leading venues in the city at the moment. The Marris Bar is considered by many to be the home of live music in Worcester. However, I personally would need to see a regular Not Just Sauce event take place there to make this claim official. It is my wish that the introduction of Sketchley's Live will help encourage non-regulars (i.e. people that don't care about music) to take an interest in under-the-radar music and support the city's local talent. The music scene in Worcester is fantastic. My only concern now is, how can we possibly make it any better?!

### Any bands/artists you care to recommend?

I think I am in one of the best positions to be able to comment on the best bands seeing as I regularly engineer and set up gigs. Though I feel every band to come from this city has got something special about them, I cannot fail to mention my personal favourites. My current favourite bands in Worcester are Evilwitch, Inca Hoots and Lakota Sioux. Those three would definitely make the perfect line up for me. That'd be a gig come true. Anyone out there planning my 20th birthday party? Well get taking notes! Perhaps I should have my own top ten list and put that on a website somewhere? Hmmm! There I go again, conspiring yet more business ideas! There are loads and loads more bands I could mention and give detailed analysis about but those three jumped to mind first.



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# Acoustic Stage Diaries

## – A weekend in the life of the host and organiser

Becky Tate – BabaJack [www.babajack.com](http://www.babajack.com)

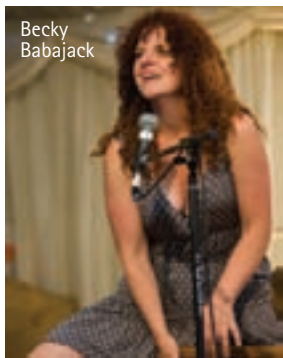
I'm Becky from **BabaJack** and I run the Hobsons Acoustic Stage at **Upton Blues Festival**... And yes, booking, organising and hosting 23 acts over 3 days doing 35 min sets with a max changeover time of 15 min is, frankly, insane!

It all started mid morning on the Friday for us. I love the very start of a festival: that tingle as the party's just getting started; everything's looking brand spanking new; the loos are still quite passable and it's all yet to happen.

Doors open at 7pm and the first act on is **Hokie Joint**. They are justifiably the rising stars of roots blues and the acoustic stage is made for them. Headed by the growling and theatrical **Jojo Burgess**, they provide a highlight of the festival from the outset. What could possibly go wrong?

Well they blew the electrics! To be fair, it might have been 2000 watts of lighting and a large sound rig all run off the pub next door that did it. The next act is due to start in 10, 9, 8, 7... minutes and the man fixing the fuse is still rubbing his head.

We're only running 15 minutes late after all, **Clare Free** is on stage and the audience is happy. Then **Kevin Brown** plays his old style slide on his petrol can guitar. 'm relaxing and have a couple of witty remarks ready, for the mic.



Becky  
Babajack

**Simon 'Honeyboy' Hickling** rolls up, flustered and tired. He's not looking like a man who wants to play a set. But does he ever! I am not a big fan of the 12 bar guitar blues, but Honeyboy blew me away with his harp and sheer charisma. The night was topped off with the **Grey Goose Blues Band** who got em all dancing. Perfect!

Saturday comes, the sun is shining and the line up is looking darn good: some Delta Blues from **Juke Joint John**, **Stripped Down Blues** and **Alexander John**; **Steve Steinhaus** and **Co** doing their blues 'theatre'; a second set from **Clare Free**, topped off the **John Denton Band**, great vocals!

Just time for a baked potato before the **BabaJack** sound check. Double whammy for me, we're playing too! A few minutes to reflect on the audience and what an audience! The marquee was filled from doors open, for every act. John the barman winked 'Well done love, I'm reordering beer for tomorrow!' The stage is sponsored by **Hobsons brewery**. All going great!

Until... **The Stumble** turn up minus their lead singer. He's stuck on the road. Hell, we've got short sets, quick change round and a packed marquee. The band is looking uncomfortable, and the audience is starting to buzz. **Trev** and I jump in for a couple of songs. The **Stumble** fans are OK, enjoying it! We have to keep playing... the lead singer arrives just too late, but no cabbages thrown, some new fans for **BabaJack** and the **Stumble** are ready to hit the main stage.

The blues take a ragtime turn and the audience are spellbound and charmed by **Abie's Miracle Tonic**, and the **Mellow Peaches**. **Matt Woosey** plays and holds the



Trev  
Babajack

audience in the palm of his hand. We are next on. Then some prize idiot falls onto the sound desk with a full pint of beer. Electrics blown (again!) and the sound desk is saturated...

The marquee is now in complete darkness and packed with people. The lights come on, but no power. The sound desk is unusable. They are waiting for **BabaJack**... The tears begin to well. I have to announce the cancellation of the gig and get some air.

But the audience are not leaving until we've played and **Trev**, **Marc** and **Holly** are getting up on the stage. I'm gutted, holding back the tears and frankly terrified of playing completely unplugged in a huge marquee.

But the audience insist. They come right up close to the stage, stomp the rhythm, sing the choruses and make it the most magical experience I have ever had.

It's Sunday and the predicted rain is holding off. I have to leave the acoustic stage to go and play the **Field Stage**. One of the best **BabaJack** gigs to date.

I get back and everything is under complete control. Oh yes! **Wily Bo Walker of Rattlin' Bone** is doing his stuff. I talk to folk in the crowd about the acts I missed: **Clive Sheard's** country blues, **Ragtime Ewan** with his intricate guitar and irreverent lyrics and **The Delta Ladies** with violin and mandolins. All good and only two acts to go!

But I wasn't expecting this! I had booked **Vo Fletcher**, fantastic bluegrass picker, and he turns up **Rick Sanders**, the world renowned violinist from **Fairport Convention**. It was pure magic. Goosebumps!

Last act, **Naked Remedy**, played their powerful rocky blues: great way to see out the Acoustic Stage

All done! Nothing left but to fill black sacks with plastic glasses and pack up the kit. Great weekend! Great festival! Great people! Next Year Ya'll!





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## Monday 1 August 2011

Open Mic Night with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Agata's Piano Evening  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Tuesday 2 August 2011

Open Mic Night  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic with Guest Host Simon  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 3 August 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Naked Remedy  
Masons Arms, Wichenford

Music Night  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 4 August 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Kevin Underwood  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ray Stroud & Rob  
The Retreat, Ledbury

Wooden Horse  
Hand and Glove, Worcester

Sean Saye  
Cock & Magpie

Open Mic Night  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## Friday 5 August 2011

Treetop Flyers, Young Runaways, One Sixth Of Tommy  
Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

The Felix Leiter Band  
Drummonds, Worcester

Sax Appeal  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Mojohooker  
Kings Head, Upton

Naked Remedy  
The Amber Bar, Evesham

Wooden Horse  
The Thatched Tavern, Evesham

Ghandis Walrus, Blue Nation, Tbc  
The Bunker, Keystones, Worcester

Doctors Orders  
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Big Chill  
Eastnor, Nr Malvern

Esther Turner  
Cock & Magpie

## Saturday 6 August 2011

Black Cat Bone  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Robinson, The May Dolls  
Boston Tea Party, Worcester

Frerless  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Kevin Underwood  
The Maverick, Amblecoat

The Mary Hinge Experience  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Ex Presidents  
The Express Inn, Malvern

The Fabulous Bordellos  
The Oxford Arms, Kington

Miss Pearl and The Rough Diamonds  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Naked Flames  
The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Funky Skunk  
Keystones Bar, Worcester

Mockfest  
Inkberrow

The Big Chill  
Eastnor, Nr Malvern

Playground  
The Garibaldi, Worcester

Eddie Morton  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

## Sunday 7 August 2011

Jazzenco (1-4pm)  
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Big Chill  
Eastnor, Nr Malvern

## Monday 8 August 2011

Open Mic Night with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Agata's Piano Evening  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern



## Tuesday 9 August 2011

### Open Mic Night

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Open Mic Night with Guest Host Keith

Queens Head, Wolverley

### Open Mic hosted by This Wicked Tongue

The Angel, Worcester

## Wednesday 10 August 2011

### Marzy's Jamming Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester

### Grumpy Old Guitarists

The Cock & Magpie

### Music Night

The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 11 August 2011

### Jules Benjamin & Friends

Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

### Mike Mann & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Jake Flowers

Cock & Magpie

### Open Mic Night

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

### The Worcester Beer Festival

## Friday 12 August 2011

### The Worcester Beer Festival

### Skewwhiff

Cock & Magpie

### Chainwire

Queens Head, Wolverley

### A.K.A

Drummonds, Worcester

### The Fingers

Kings Head, Upton

### The Barflys

The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

### Hip hop/trip hop special, Case Closed, Trap Floor + guests

The Bunker, Keystones, Worcester

## Saturday 13 August 2011

### The Worcester Beer Festival

### TB-Fest (See Page 27)

The Bridge Hotel, Tenbury Wells

### Carly Dee

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### Cover Junkies

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Mother Popcorn

Keystones Bar, Worcester

### Ray & Rob

Green Dragon, Malvern

### Slide Boy Roy

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

### Kevin Underwood

The Squirrel, Alverley

### Aquarius

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

### Irony

The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

### Nick Carter

The Garibaldi, Worcester

### Zebedy Rays plus guests

Marris Bar, Worcester

## Sunday 14 August 2011

### Becky Rose, Resonance

Robin2, 28 Mount Pleasant, Bilston

### The Delray Rockets

Keystones Bar, Worcester

### Jazz Toones (1-4pm)

Queens Head, Wolverley

### Lazy Sunday with Cowley Cowboys, The Players

Cafe Bliss at Worcester Arts Workshop

### Vo & Tyler

The Gloster Arms, Malvern

## Monday 15 August 2011

### Open Mic Night with Dave Small & Dave Onions

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### Agata's Piano Evening

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Tuesday 16 August 2011

### Open Mic Night

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Open Mic Night with Guest Host Pete

Queens Head, Wolverley

### Wooden Horse

The Bell - Leominster

## Wednesday 17 August 2011

### Marzy's Jamming Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester



Music Night  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 18 August 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Vault Of Eagles  
The Flapper, Kingston Row, Birmingham

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Kevin Underwood  
Cock n Magpie, Bewdley

Open Mic Night  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## Friday 19 August 2011

Wooden Horse  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Chris Mathie  
Cock & Magpie

SugarMama  
Drummonds, Worcester

Naked Remedy  
Flapper & Firkin, Birmingham

The Navigators  
Kings Head, Upton

Nappatandy  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Midnight City  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Worcester Music Festival  
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## Saturday 20 August 2011

Becky Rose  
Roadhouse, Wharfside Leisure Complex, Birmingham

V Dreamers Nightmares  
O2 Academy 3, Birmingham

Emma Skipp Trio  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Festivals Experience  
Keystones Bar, Worcester

The Ex Presidents  
The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Matt Woosey & His Blues Band  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Pewke Band  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Tony Sands  
The Garibaldi, Worcester

Worcester Music Festival  
Visit: [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk)

## Sunday 21 August 2011

Worcester Music Festival  
Visit: [www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk)

Naked Remedy  
Wishing Well, Bromsgrove

MJHQ (1-4pm)  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Monday 22 August 2011

Open Mic Night with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Agata's Piano Evening  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Tuesday 23 August 2011

Open Mic Night  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ray Stroud & Rob  
The Bell, Leominster

Open Mic Night with Guest Host Jim  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic hosted by This Wicked Tongue  
The Angel, Worcester

## Wednesday 24 August 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Rhythm n Blues with Dave Onions & Friends  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Wooden Horse  
Masons Arms, Wichenford

Music Night  
The Morgan, Malvern

## Thursday 25 August 2011

Jules Benjamin & Friends  
Keystones Cafe Bar, Worcester

Mike Mann & Friends  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hotfoot  
Cock & Magpie

Open Mic Night  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Will Killeen  
The Hand in Glove, Worcester



## Friday 26 August 2011

Mansize, Morning glory, tbc  
The Bunker, Keystones, Worcester

Kevin Underwood  
Hare n Hounds, Bridgnorth

Ray Stroud & Rob  
The Chase Inn Beer Festival, Nr Malvern

Steve Ajao Blues Giants  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Upton Festival  
Upton upon Severn

Swanfest Music & Beer Festival  
The Swan, Vicar Street, Kidderminster

Vo & Tyler  
The Talbot, Newlands, Pershore

Badgers  
Drummonds, Worcester

Chris Quin  
Cock & Magpie

Tower Studios present *'Metal Night'*  
Rigor Mortal, Pathosis, Adamantium, Peng + DJs  
Marrs Bar, Worcester (Late Bar)

## Saturday 27 August 2011

Charity Event - Isolation, Naked Flames, Bullets of Steel, Captain Horizon, Hawker, Paralus, Backseat Driver  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham.

Carly Dee  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Jake Flowers  
Cock & Magpie

Shellshock  
Keystones Bar, Worcester

The Ex Presidents  
O'Neills, Worcester

Guilty Pleasure  
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Ronda, New Chapter, Time Of The Mouth  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Upton Festival  
Upton upon Severn

Swanfest Music & Beer Festival  
The Swan, Vicar Street, Kidderminster

Naked Remedy  
Rose & Crown, Wordsley

Sarah Warren Band  
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Crooked Empire  
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Into The Fire, Koda, Fifteen English Pounds, High Voltage  
The Swann Inn, Bengeworth, Evesham

Vo & Tyler  
The Chase Inn, Colwall, Malvern

Harmony  
The Garibaldi, Worcester

## Sunday 28 August 2011

Charity Event - Koda, Rob, The Dub Dub Band, Skewwhiff, New Chapter, I Am Ryan, Our Mutual Friend, Long Grass  
The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Acoustic Lunch with Umphff, plus guests  
Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Becky Rose  
Moseley Arms, Birmingham,

Blind River Scare  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Journey Man, The Pull, Babble  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vo & Tyler  
The Old Chestnut Tree, Lower Moor, Pershore

Mark, Elmer & Guests (1-4pm)  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Vo & Tyler  
The Courtyard, Hereford

Upton Festival  
Upton upon Severn

Swanfest Music & Beer Festival  
The Swan, Vicar Street, Kidderminster

## Monday 29 August 2011

Agata's Piano Evening  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic Night with Dave Small & Dave Onions  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Andy & Pete (Afternoon Session, weather permitting)  
Queens Head, Wolverley

Swanfest Music & Beer Festival  
The Swan, Vicar Street, Kidderminster

## Tuesday 30 August 2011

Open Mic Night with Guest Host Simon  
Queens Head, Wolverley

## Wednesday 31 August 2011

Marzy's Jamming Night  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music Night  
The Morgan, Malvern





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AUG 2011

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bob@marrsbar.co.uk ASAP as there are only 16  
bands that will be entered.***

Wednesdays - Jamming night  
Dates available for private hire

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