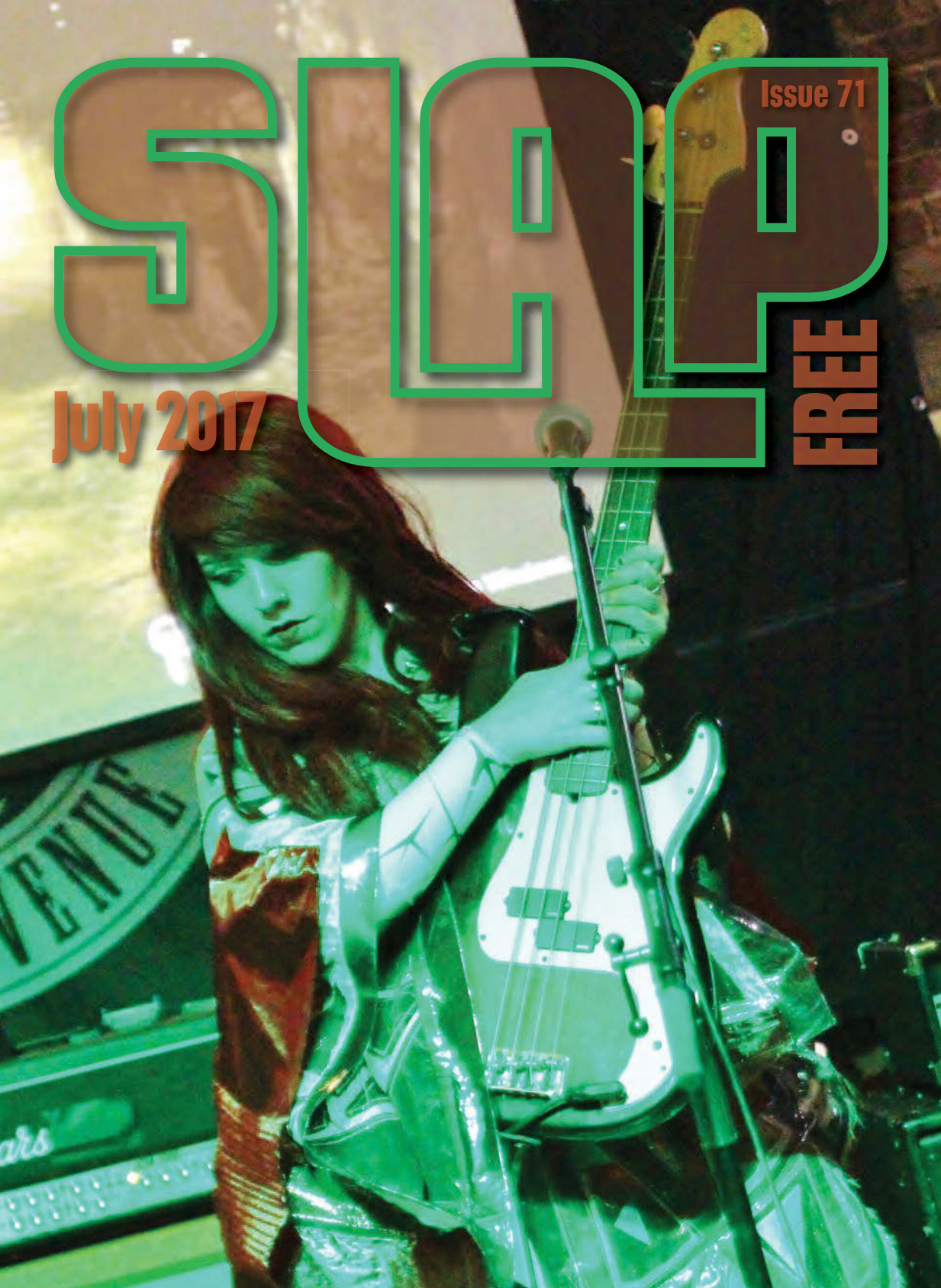


SLAP

Issue 71

July 2017

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SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

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CARL BARAT & THE JACKALS × JAWS × SUPERFOOD

THE AMERICAS × THE SANDINISTAS × TABLE SCRAPS

HEALTH & EFFICIENCY × SUGARTHIEF

• SUNDAY •

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July 2017 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Well, summer has been good so far, so long as we can just
concentrate on the weather and ignore all the politics...

As usual we've been out and about checking out and
reporting back from just a few of the local festivals. In this issue
we review Wychwood, Mello, Jinney Ring Folk, Hay on Wye and
Asparafest, all very different but all with very positive feedback.

We also look forward to a few festivals happening this month
such as Upton Blues, Jinney Ring Blues and of course Nozstock.
And that's just the start! We also bring you the low down on
Ledbury Poetry Festival, Evesham's successful Festival of Words
and Dancefest too. We have gig reviews, previews and new
releases - so plenty to keep you occupied until the sun shines
again!

We also take a look at many of the exhibitions and goings on
around the art centres in our locality. It's so nice to see so much
happening, with such variety too.

Talking of the arts, news reaches us of a shift in Arts Council
funding in the country as a whole. From next year more funds
will find its way out of the capital with an extra £42.5m per year
to be spent outside London, with 183 organisations added to
the funding portfolio.

With plans for a brand new café, arts hub, music venue and
rehearsal space in Worcester which aims to 'develop a happy
inviting atmosphere where creativity, arts and the community
can flourish' this all bodes well for the arts locally.

As we continue to expand our magazine circulation, we aim
to reach out further through more social media with the
introduction of the Instagram platform, so do look out for that...

Adjust-ed



Front cover image - Zoe Parr of The Red Paintings taken at The
Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham - photography by Geoffrey Head.

Slap on the back

Huge thanks to landlords **Laurence & Natalie** and all the staff at the **Berkeley Arms** in Tewkesbury. The charity night for **Dave Camp**, who is suffering from a brain tumor, raised over £500. Special mentions for **Ian** and the **Future Set** and their guests, **Wolf** from the **Red Lion** in Evesham and **Steve Kent & Gordon Wood** for their help and contributions. Dave was well enough to participate on a few **Blues Anoraks** and other numbers along with **Tish**. We at SLAP wish Dave all the best!

Woo-ing the Talent

Organisers of the third **WooFest** to be held at the **Drum & Monkey** near Upton on **Saturday 8th July** are aiming to beat last year's fund-raising total of more than £8000 in aid of **St Richard's Hospice** - with activities and events for all ages including a **Worcester School of Rock session** and a flypast by a WW2 Lancaster bomber - details on 07740-061453

Continental Circus comes to Castle

A mix of music acts and the 'fun of the circus' will be on the menu at the second **El Dorado Festival** at Eastnor Castle from June 30th to July 3th with 90 acts across seven stages including **Groove Armada**, **Jax Jones**, **Goldfish** and the **Sugarhill Gang** - there'll also be a range of other events including a BYO inflatable party (!), blind-dating and a pie-face showdown - plus circus-themed shows courtesy of **Cirque Du Soul** - more at eldoradofestival.com

£5 Notes from a small Artist

A bit of a scoop for Droitwich's **Arts-Fest** which runs from July 15th to August 5th is an appearance by 'micro-artist' **Graham Short** who's responsible for the mini-engravings of Jane Austen onto four special £5 notes which are now selling for more than £40,000 each! **Graham** will talk about his work and techniques on Tuesday 25 July at Droitwich Old Library and will also mention his encounters with celebrities as diverse as Uri Geller, Ronnie Barker and Neil Armstrong - further info at droitwichartsfest.org

Severn Sounds Sold Out

There were sellout crowds for the Friday and Saturday of this year's fifth **Severn Sounds festival** held at the Pavilion on Cripplegate Park at the start of June - with acts like **Roving Crows**, **Skabucks** and **The Stiff Joints** meaning the venue had to operate a one-out-one-in policy to keep to the agreed crowd limit - shame for those who couldn't get in but great news for the organisers and this year's beneficiary **New Hope Worcester!**

Sounds of the Sidbury

In a shock change from their usual policy of refusing permission for anything that moves, **Worcester City Council** have actually approved plans for a new cafe, music venue and rehearsal space in Sidbury! The new venture is to be called **Paradiddles** and is the idea of locals **Chris** and **Rachel Hale-Patrick** who aim to 'develop a happy inviting atmosphere where creativity, arts and the community can flourish' - best of luck guys!

Poetry Festival Selling Out

Ledbury Poetry Festival is reporting that many of the events for its 21st anniversary celebrations are sold or close to selling-out as we go to press! The 10-day-long bash from June 30th to July 9th is now one of the major events on the UK literary circuit and this year's speakers include a '*Desert Island Poems*' with **Hugh Dennis** and '*undertaker poet*' **Thomas Lynch** with a special feature this year being a celebration of the work of deaf and disabled poets - latest info at poetry-festival.co.uk

Prize Winning Idea to be Floated

The prize for best float at this year's **Worcester Carnival** due to be held on Saturday 1st July will be named after **Mike Layland**, the former councillor and former chairman of the old carnival for 27 years who died aged 81 in May - more at worcester-carnival.co.uk

Bromsgrove Festival Embraces Variety

Bromsgrove Festival which runs until July 23rd aims to be the best yet with nearly 100 events in 27 locations across the town including folk, opera, comedy, dance, jazz, visual arts & much more - with family-oriented events on the High Street each Saturday for each of the six weekends - visit: bromsgrovethefestival.co.uk

Mapped Out

Organiser **Andy Mapp** has said that due to ill-health this year's Mappfest on **Malvern's Link Common** will probably be the last he'll be involved with but is sure that the existing committee will carry on the free-festival inspired bash in future years - a record crowd turned out for more than 40 acts over the two days which also featured a flypast by a WW2 Hurricane fighter...

Kissed Off

Kiss frontman **Gene Simmons** has withdrawn his 'ridiculous' application to trademark the '*devils-horn*' hand gesture as his own invention back in the 1970s amid a little confusion over whether the outstretched thumb is a legitimate addition to the existing extended first and fourth fingers, also that it could be confused with an established sign-language gesture for the word '*love*' - and also that it had already been used on a album cover by 60s rock group Coven - some little comfort for the hoards of headbangers out there - so as you were lads...

Volunteer for WMF

Worcester's biggest music event of the year is fast approaching and the team are looking for anybody and everybody to give a hand with making it the best year yet. **Worcester Music Festival** is a free, weekend long event, showcasing the best in music from both far and wide. This year, the festival is supporting **St Paul's Hostel**. The festival takes place in around 20 venues, with a genre spanning range of artists.

The festival are looking for volunteers for all kinds of roles over the weekend, including sound engineers to help create the best sound and to aid the smooth running of sets. They're also looking for people to people to collect money for charity for which you can be as flamboyant as you wish. Other roles include stage managers, MCs, venue stewards and photographers. They're looking for general volunteers too so don't hesitate in signing up - don't miss out on a brilliant opportunity.

Visit worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/volunteer/ to register your interest.

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LAND OF THE GIANTS / THE STIFF JOINTS / OH MY GOD! IT'S THE CHURCH
HANNAH PEEL / DEATH BY UNGA BUNGA / GOAN DOGS / KETO / THE RPMS
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Cabinet of Lost Secrets

July is all about **Nozstock** for **Clik Clik! Nozstock** is simply put, a wonderful experience in the festival calendar. It's got that grass roots, old school feel while offering up such an eclectic platter of music, DJ's and cutting edge arts in one. It's a must, and it's local!



Toni Charles

I produce the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets**, a multi-roomed immersive performance and live music venue, beautifully pulled together by an amazing team of people with firm intentions of making you intrigued and (just ever so slightly) un-nerved. While the Cabinet pumps you full of some fine funk and world grooves, you might stumble upon quirky performances like **Play it again Dan (Dan Bramhall)**, get creative with **Surreal Life Drawing (Sarah Tamar and Corina Harper)**, take part in a 'special' **Rap Workshop** and even get a haircut or beard trim from those **Demon Barbers (Worcester's Gentlemen's Hair Pod)**!

Then look out for those special surprises; if you were one of the lucky ones who made it inside for **Jurassic 5's Akil MC's** secret gig then you know what I'm talking about. You never know what's coming inside this freakish animal lair so keep popping by incase you miss something!

Featuring alongside the curios, we welcome to the stage an

array of grooving goodness from around the world including funk from London based **Lit FM**, Liverpool party army **Galactic Funk Militia** and local lads **Desert Boots**, Eastern European gypsiness from **Hallouminati & The Discount**



Orchestra, African vibes from **Mankala**, cool jazz vibrations with London's **Yusufli** (pictured), experiments with sound from **Swansea LapTop Orchestra**, Worcester's **Rosebud**, **Deaf Pictures** and obscure playful interactions from **Calm Like a Riot** and **Collective Unconscious**.

Slap on top of this **Brighton FM** funk DJ's **Beatwell & Dante** and Worcester's own **Funky Navigation** and we're definitely having a party!

There are some names yet to announce as sadly **Normanton Street** and **Hot Diamond Aces** have had to pull out due to unforeseen circumstances, but I personally guarantee that they will be replaced by something you will love!

Get your tickets for **Nozstock** while you still can and get yourselves down our rabbit hole.....

Arts at Noz

Sticking with **Nozstock**, it prides itself on a colourful, diverse arts programme so throw yourself into interactive walkabout performances, artsy making, spoken word, theatre & performance, film, traditional crafts and so much more. With brilliant kids activities from **Spare Room Arts** (Worcester's **Sarah Edwards**), walkabouts including **Ghanaian Ras King Bobo 1**, **Beth Calverley the Amazing Poetry Machine** and a whole array of fun filled playfulness, cultural talks including a debate on the state of the arts in 2017, 'How to be a Unicorn', plus chemistry and word play, and performances from **TrashDollys Dance Theatre**, **Hummadrz**, local puppeteers **The Fetch Theatre**, there is so, so much to see and do to tickle those creative senses! nozstock.com



River Severn Arts

Riverside Arts Markets are calling for artists to exhibit and sell their work along the riverside on three Sundays in August at these annual Worcester arts events. Always attracting a good number of visitors to the area, this is sure to be packed full of local artists all keen to showcase their work and promote what they do. Very reasonable rates are available, please contact the organisers, **LSD Promotions**, for more information on 01384 877336. Organisers are also looking for local performers who can entertain the crowds during the day. Riverside Arts Markets take place on 13th, 20th and 27th August, South Quay to the Diglis Hotel in Worcester.



Great Expectations for cherry pie!

Bewdley Museum is hosting their annual cherry Fair on 22nd and 23rd July with a 1940's influenced stalls, live music and children's activities. Plus a cherry pie competition! Visitors are encouraged to dress up for this free event. The Museum is also host to a production of **Great Expectations** on Saturday 29th July in Jubilee Gardens, performed by Quantum Theatre. The performance is at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from: wyreforestdc.gov.uk/bookings or Bewdley Museum on 0845 607 1819

Local Sound scientist on BBC Radio 3

ORE, a 'doom tuba project' by local sound explorer **Sam Underwood**, have been asked to play on **BBC Radio 3's Exposure** programme on the 20th July. It's recorded as a live session from a gig, in this case in Brum. The programme is essentially **Verity Sharp** organising gigs around the UK, exploring the local alternative and underground music scenes. This is the first **ORE** live performance since it became a solo project of Sam's, three years ago. He will be collaborating with **Beck Baker** on euphonium and **Thomas Stone** on contrabassoon. Thomas and Sam will also be bringing specially designed instruments along to fully recreate the sound of **ORE**. visit: oretubadoom.com

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07xf2tw



Multi-media meets Miniature

One of Birmingham's best independent bars, **Bar Opus**, is currently showcasing works by local artists; internationally renowned artist **Sophie Hedderwick** and the miniature world of **LOWLIFE** as the bar launches its second art exhibition in support of Midlands talent. The bar at One Snowhill has joined forces with artist Sophie and Jewellery Quarter-based **Argentea Gallery** to present nine photographs by the artist, who creates multi-media artwork using light; film and textiles. Her multimedia show **Swift As A Shadow** comprises of large format digital prints, Polaroid collections and a video installation. The exhibition will also host works of art from Birmingham-born innovators **Key & Tam** (both currently based in Worcester), the creative duo behind **LOWLFE**, who take everyday objects that can be found just about anywhere, such as phones, plants, coins and dead insects and introduces them to the world of miniature people.



LOWLFE said: "We combine these elements to point the finger at issues we feel are bigger than us all; the decline of the planet's resources and inhabitants, our overuse and reliance of technology, the political figures that dominate our news feeds and what the world may look like once it hits the fan."

The exhibition runs until September, for more information visit www.baropus.co.uk

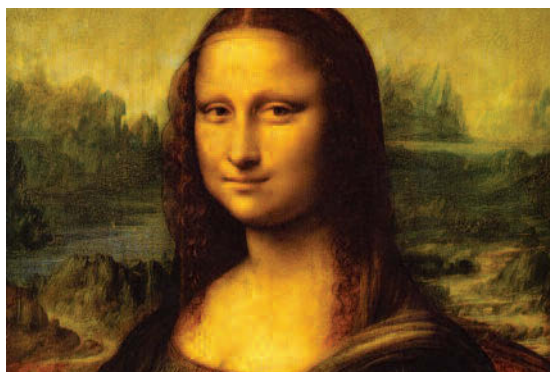
Ledbury Poetry Festival

Poetry, talks, readings, performances, slams, sign language, translations, competitions, workshops, prescriptions, residencies, theatre, song, dance, puppetry, comedy, art, walks and bike rides are all up for grabs at the **Ledbury Poetry Festival** until 9th July. With appearances from **Paddy Ashdown**, **Richard Dawkins**, multi-award winning poet **Simon Armitage**, comedian and poet **Sean Hughes**, acclaimed Kurdish poet **Bejan Matur**, legendary Romanian poet **Ana Blandiana** and novelist and journalist **Andrew O'Hagan**, **Ledbury Poetry Festival** remains rooted in its local community, bringing audiences some of the most exciting names in poetry, politics and popular culture from across the world in the intimate venues, streets and parks of this picturesque rural market town. Visit: poetry-festival.co.uk

Evesham Festival of Words

Following the super successful **Evesham Festival of Words'** main weekend at the beginning of this month, there's plenty yet to come!

Get your diaries out and go online to book for: the inside word on **M – Maxwell Knight**, MI5's greatest spymaster; the life and loves of two infamous 'Died Blondes', Marilyn Monroe and Ruth Ellis, and staying with significant women in history, what do you know about Mona Lisa? Myth, mystery and enigma, but what was she really like? How did the most famous portrait in the world come into being? Find out on 23rd October when **Professor Martin Kemp** reveals the true story behind the myth that is Mona Lisa.



As Christmas approaches, Evesham's Almonry hosts '**Bookfest**', a perfect opportunity for you to meet the authors, buy signed copies of their books and even learn how to launch your own career in writing. **The Festival Fringe** winds up on 21 st December with '**Dickens' Penny Readings**', a delicious pre-Christmas dish of work by the great Charles Dickens.

The Festival Fringe also includes regular writing workshops and 'drop-in' events at Evesham library and various cafes and tea shops in the town. These relaxed get-togethers are perfect for anyone who wants to meet people from the local world of literature, they are free to attend and no booking is required.

Visit www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org for details.

For Arts Submissions & Events
email Kate at arts@slapmag.co.uk



worcester arts workshop

Courses:

At **Worcester Arts Workshop** we are filled to the brim with artists of all abilities and from all walks of life who come to our weekly courses to build their skills and connect with friends.

Each course follows the school half term and is run by passionate and patient artists who love nothing more than to see creativity bloom. Across the course these tutors support participants in creating a stunning piece of art to take home and display. The group go together on a journey as each piece starts to take shape – created from the new skills and techniques they have picked up on the way.

There is always an air of uncertainty with how the piece will look; as elements outside of the artist's control shape and influence its final shape. In many ways, our artists collaborate with our resources - how the kiln fires a piece of fused glass can change its aesthetic as much as its original designer can.

Our courses book up quickly, but we always welcome new faces to our warm and inviting community. If you've got an interest or passion then check out next half term's courses on our website or call 0190525053.



Scally Wags Comedy:

Throughout the General Election coverage, some of you may have had your news feed filled with the quotes of comedian **Chris Purchase**. Chris is a strong left-wing voice, who found that many of his comments were being shared around Twitter during the election. We are very excited that Chris will be headlining our final in this series of **Scallywags Comedy Nights** on **Thursday 6th July** at 19:30 in our cellar space. He comes to us fresh from supporting Reginald D Hunter on tour and a sold out run at Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival, and the night is one not to be missed.



Tickets are £7 on the door, or £6 if you book online at www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk and use the discount code SLAPMAG.

4th July '17, Charlotte Kessler 'Sap Rising'

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Raising funds for
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Join us on the 9th July for a fun filled 'Lazy Sunday'. We'll be raising funds for 'People In Motion', who'll have a vintage clothes rail, face painting & cake sales. Meet **Charlotte Kessler**, this month's artist and her new exhibition 'Sap Rising'. Graffiti House will be launching its **Café Bliss** tea station, showcasing a verity of flavoured organic Moringa teas. Last but not least, we've a fantastic line-up of music with a few surprises in store. There's no other way to spend a Sunday. Good company, Belizean nosh and locally produced drinks.

8 SLAP JULY



"Art is a way to make deep connection and quench the soul. To forge that way means exploring themes of fragmentation, alienation and disconnection as well as those of sisterhood, empowerment and enchantment. Out of the shadows dawns fresh light on the nature of reconciliation, our relationship with the world and the rites of passage which accompany being human." (CJ Kessler)

Architectural Impressions

Jilly Oxlade-Arnott celebrated the launch of her business, *Architectural Impressions*, on Tuesday 6th June, at **The Marwood** on The Tything.

With over 20 years' experience in sales and marketing, in February this year, Jilly decided to take the plunge and establish herself as a professional artist specialising in watercolour and ink paintings depicting historical and special interest buildings in her unique colourful and vibrant style. She received support from the city's Enterprise Allowance Scheme and invaluable training from PeoplePlus.

The event was well attended, with guests including The Mayor and representatives from Worcester Council, The Chamber of Commerce and The National Trust.

Jilly undertakes commissions for residential, retail and business clients. Her work is displayed at **The Cabin**, **The Marwood** and **The Old Pheasant** and can be purchased in several outlets across the city including **The Tourist Information Centre**. She will also



be exhibiting at **The Worcester Show, Gheluvelt Park** on Sunday August 13th and is participating in **Open Studios** on 26-28th August at **McKay Kitchens** in Britannia Square.

jilly@architecturalimpressions.uk

www.architecturalimpressions.uk

Half & Half

The Courtyard, Hereford | Fri 2 June-Sun 30 July

Last month saw the opening of mixed media exhibition Half & Half, presented by **Kathleen Packwood** & **Sue Purcell**, members of the 1 + 1 = group, and guest artist **Christian Parkes**. The exciting exhibition presents an exuberant mix of black & white drawings and prints, with the added bonus of paintings, exuding vibrant colour and energy displayed on the walls of **The Courtyard** in Hereford.

originally trained as a textile designer and with accolades including working for the Laura Ashley Company in the textile design studio in Carno, Wales. Half & Half sets to display her main inspirations of the colours, forms and textures of palaeontology and geology. The exhibition also includes work from guest artist **Christian Parkes**. Working in South Devon, he creates visionary artwork with careful planning and spontaneous Fusion art techniques.

For more information on The Courtyard's Visual Arts programme contact the Box Office on 01432 340555.

The exhibition will run until Sunday 30th July and entry is free!



The free exhibition seeks to draw inspiration from the natural world, with the group using a diverse mix of materials including tinted charcoal, pastels, acrylics, oils, ink and graphite through both traditional and contemporary styles.

Half & Half combines the talents of local, established artists including **Kathleen Packwood**, a printmaker and mixed media specialist, with work aiming to highlight abstract qualities using nature at the heart of her thinking process. **Sue Purcell**, who

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Tap In Clothing

Formed in 2010 by the **Pain** brothers, independent UK clothing company, **Tap In Clothing** are looking for your help!

Initially designed to bring something new to the market, Tap In works with a range of talented students and new designers, providing the opportunity to bring their designs to life into a product that is distributed all over the world. Collaborating with Merch Asylum, a South Wales based screen-printing studio, all products are screen-printed and issued across the globe!

With the UK-based clothing company coming to a brief standstill in 2013, talks of a buyout and handover with **Ash Greenway** and **Chris Jones**, (two enthusiasts with the same ethics and values as the company) the duo have a clear vision to take the clothing company even further! The pair will also set to evolve the company into the huge music and skater scene, which is nothing but relevant in today's modern society. New partner of **Tap In**, Ash Greenway, adds that *"the target market will extend to anyone that shares the values of Tap In, and wants to look and feel good in what they wear."*



The company are now seeking help to get the company back up and running, and in a position to further flourish in the hands of the enthusiastic pair. A Kickstarter donations page has been established, allowing patrons



to donate any sum of money to help contribute to the companies' revival. Regardless of how much you pledge, you will receive a personalised message from Chris and Ash, thanking you for your contribution to the project and the brand! Check out the full current range at www.shoptapin.com.

Further information about the project, as well as how you can donate and what you will be contributing towards can be found at: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/14431193/tap-in-clothing/description>.

Celebrity | Exhibition

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum - til 9th Sept

For the summer months of June to September, **Worcester Art Gallery & Museum** is set to provide the glitz and glamour of all things celebrity! Opening on Saturday 17th June and running right up until the 9th of September, visitors of all ages will have the chance to bring their favourite on-screen moments to life.

The anticipated exhibition features an exciting collection of costumes and props from the big and small screens, including that of Marilyn Monroe's iconic little black dress (pictured), Fred Astaire's shoes and Doris Day's infamous rhinestone bracelet! For music fans there are signed items by Chuck Berry and Oasis and even a Michael Jackson "Dangerous" tour jacket (pictured). Visitors to the free exhibition will have the chance to dress up as their all-time favourite on-screen stars, capture the perfect moment at the #selfiespot, all whilst breaking out some moves to the sound of the jukebox, playing music that defined the artists on display.

Even as I walked up the museums steps towards the exhibition; I could hear the 'let's rock' of Elvis' Jailhouse Rock singing from the jukebox. Panning the room, endless amounts of iconic memorabilia and easily recognisable movie moments are displayed, from Captain Jack Sparrow's rugged pirate costume as worn by Johnny Depp, to the breath taking satin dress that defined the golden age of Hollywood, belonging to the late Marilyn Monroe. Each piece, with its own gallery-type write up documenting detailed history and exciting trivia, visitors will be fully immersed to imagine the previous journey of the item on display. Celebrity allows you to get lost into the universe of the lavish blockbuster life, and free, it's really not a thing to be missed!

10 SLAP JULY



The exhibition is also set to bring a **'Museum after Hours'** event on Friday 14th July, following a popular series the previous month. A night full of drinks and celebrations, visitors will be joined by local pop-duo **The Fidgets** who will be playing a number of their own visionary tracks!

Worcester's Art Gallery & Museum is the joint museum service of Worcester City and Worcestershire County Councils, and has been the base for various collections and exhibitions, including the newest addition of celebrity, covering centuries of the county's history right up to present day. Further comprised of three fantastic venues- Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, the **Commandery** in Worcester and **The County Museum** at Hartlebury Castle.

Celebrity is free and open Monday - Saturday 10.30am - 4.30pm. For more information, & to see all of the Celebrity activities on throughout the summer, contact the Art Gallery and Museum on 01905 25371. visit museums Worcestershire.org.uk or follow @worcestermuseum on Twitter.

Pop Art In Print The Wilson Gallery, Cheltenham

Even in the subdued light that protects some of these hugely valuable works, on tour from the Victoria and Albert Museum, it's the colour that hits you first.

Bold primaries, with the lavish use of blue, red and yellow leap from walls and cabinets, contrasting starkly with the many monochrome works on display.

There are many mediums here – as well as painting, there is appliqué, particularly fine examples from **Eduardo Paolozzi**, who I had only thought of before as a sculptor; collage from Americans **Robert Rauschenberg** and **Jim Dine**, using found objects and newspaper cuttings to build the base of the artwork; altered photographs, which represents the single **Warhol** on show; fabrics and clothing, a garish tie and a child's paper dress from the late-sixties; wallpapers, including one particularly fine example from **Zandra Rhodes**.

There's a **Roy Lichtenstein** that I haven't seen before – standing three or four inches away from it, I finally begin to understand how a work of art so bold and impactful can be fashioned from hundreds of thousands of tiny dots – pointillism brought up to date, if you will.

The scale shift displayed in some of the exhibits is huge - in two works by **Joe Tilson**, the shock of seeing something as small and mundane as a book of matches or a seaside folding postcard completely blown up out of scale, startles you as if you were Gulliver in the land of the giants.

There are bold posters for rock concerts by **Michael English**, co-founder of the legendary design company Hapshash and the Coloured Coat, featuring the biggest contemporary names of the



time, including *The Soft Machine* and *the Move* - mostly created for the UFO Club.

But there is one considerable surprise here for me. I had always thought of Pop Art as a phase that came and went. Not so. There are contemporary works here as well - glorious stained glass panels by **Richard Woods**, with the elongated verticals reminiscent of Charles Rennie Mackintosh; an extraordinary lenticular glass wall hanging sculpture "Sarah Gets Undressed" by **Julian Opie**, as you walk past from left to right it the clothes disappear from the figure and reappear as you walk the other way. There are vivid pieces by **Gerald Laing**, successfully mixing solid colour and the neo-pointillist technique of Lichtenstein. These are much sought after works - one of his paintings in this style, of Brigitte Bardot, sold in 2014 for nearly a million pounds.

This was a unique opportunity to glimpse a snapshot of a tumultuous time not only for art, but for society itself and represents a considerable coup for The Wilson to attract such a prestigious and significant collection.

Geoffrey Head

Crowdfunding Campaign Launched to Tour Controversial Faith Exhibition in wake of Manchester bombing

An exhibition, which promotes tolerance among different faiths and religions, is crowdfunding to raise money to tour across the world. Controversial artist Russell Haines has launched an ambitious bid to raise £7,500 to take 'Faith - an exhibition' around the world.

The show sparked international fury at its launch back in January when, as part of the installation, an Imam made a Muslim call to prayer in Gloucester Cathedral. Religious groups protested, paintings were vandalised and clerics involved received a number of death threats. The 39-portrait exhibition, which includes nudity, swearing and blasphemy, features portraits of well-known Gloucester figures including the Bishop, the **Rt Rev Rachel Treweek**, Catholic priest **Liam Slattery**, Hindu **Dinesh Patel** and druid **Veronica Hammond**.



In the wake of the Ariana Grande concert bombing in Manchester and heightened UK terror threat, Russell says that now is more important than ever to highlight different faiths and belief systems, and how they can coexist peacefully.

With the exhibition set to be shown near Kings Cross, Cambridge, in July, and new venues in Australia being sought to play host, Russell's crowdfunding pledge will help to raise money towards the logistics of moving from venue to venue, adding that "carrying 42 pieces of work that measure 2m by 2m is a huge undertaking, along with the TVs which show the sitters' stories and everything else that goes with it."

Pledges can start from just £5, and the 'Faith' crowdfunding page can be found at: <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/faith-exhibition-touring>.



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Major New Arts Programme Inspired By Circular Waterway

The Ring, a major arts programme celebrating the rebirth of an historic 21-mile Worcestershire canal is currently being launched, supported by the **Canal & River Trust**, the charity that cares for the nation's waterways.



From September 2017 until September 2018, internationally acclaimed artists, as well as artists from across the region will be working with local communities to create a series of unexpected and inspiring artworks, events and activities exploring the heritage, ecology and local community along the urban and rural waterways of Worcestershire. The ambition, calibre and breadth of the dynamic contemporary arts programme will be a cultural first for the waterways of this region.

In April 2018 the public programme will be launched, with audiences invited to explore on foot, boat or bicycle a series of five public art commissions, as well as works by local artists. Activities take place along the waterways encircling Droitwich and Worcester and includes the Worcester & Birmingham Canals, the Droitwich Canals and the River Severn.

After 75 years, the Droitwich Canals were restored, resulting in the reconnection of the **Mid-Worcestershire Ring** in 2011, a 21-mile route, reconnecting Droitwich to the River Severn and from there, the open sea.



Tim Eastop, executive producer of the Canal & River Trust's Arts on the Waterways programme says: *"Our canals are a network of cultural capillaries that have potential to carry ideas but also — literally — to carry new works of art to places where the arts traditionally haven't been able to reach, such as the Mid-Worcestershire Ring. We are realising the tremendous opportunity for cultural activities on our waterways, thanks to support from Arts Council England and exciting, artists and arts partners."*

Each of the five artist commissions will result in a new public artwork being produced. Three of these have been confirmed:

Bristol-based sculptor **Rich White** will be taking residence on and exploring the heritage of Diglis Island. Just a short walk from Worcester City centre, the island which lies at the junction of the Worcester-Birmingham Canal and the River Severn has changed little since it was first used in 1815 to lift heavy timber, boats and coal between boats and the striking crane used remains today. White will develop public realm work linked to its future uses, while research and in-progress reports will be documented on his project website. He will also be constructing a large-scale sculpture that will be visible from the towpath.



Brighton-based interdisciplinary artist **Katy Beinart** will be bringing together her interests in public art practices, urban regeneration, migration, heritage and salt to create a new public art commission that will sit within the geographic context of the Droitwich Canal. Beinart will create an artwork to engage a wide audience in the unique salt heritage of Droitwich and help to impart the significance of this historical waterway.

Former **Worcestershire Poet Laureate** (2015/16), Kidderminster-based poet, oral historian and singer-songwriter **Heather Wastie** will be creating a series of songs and poems informed by her research into the modern-day heroes who helped to restore the Droitwich Canals. Her writing during an initial period of research and consultation will be publicly shared and used as creative inspiration for a final performance or artwork in 2018.



In addition to the five major artist commissions, there is a new £10,000 commissioning opportunity open to artists in the region to make a public artwork by re-purposing and recycling flood waste collected from canals and rivers in the Worcestershire area.

For more information about the event and commissioning opportunity visit: theringart.org.uk

To receive regular updates sign up to The Ring e-news or for enquiries about the project, please contact The Ring project team: theringworcs@gmail.com

Suz Winspear

The annual **Worcester LitFest** is now over; ten days of amazing performances, lasting memories and hard work are at an end. It'll soon be time to start planning next year's festival, but for the moment Worcestershire is full of exhausted poets catching up on sleep . . .

The Worcestershire poet Laureate for 2017-18 was chosen on the opening night, and the honour goes to **Nina Lewis**! For those who don't know her work, she writes fantastic poetry, often on the themes of memory, family and childhood.



Even in a quiet month like July, there are still plenty of spoken word events going on in Worcestershire, so here are some things to look forward to –

Monday 3rd - Licensed to Rhyme Artrix Theatre, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1GN. Start 7.45.p.m. Under 18s and performers free otherwise £5.00. Ample free car park, light refreshments and bar. Headliner: **Suz Winspear**. Guest poets: **Nina Lewis** and **Damon Lord**. Looking forward to seeing you.

Open mic slots available – contact maggiedoylepoet@gmail.com, or early on the night.



Thursday 6th – Uncorked Bottles Wine Bar, Friar Street. An eclectic and lively night of poetry. Starts 7.30pm. Admission £5

Thursday 13th – SpeakEasy at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop. Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're popular, so get there early! £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

Wednesday 26th – 42 at Drummonds Life, the Universe and Everything – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name . . . You never know what you might see and hear at 42! Free entry. 7.30pm.

Also, if you're looking for some relaxed early-evening entertainment – **Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery** is holding its **Museum After Hours** event on **July 14th** – music, cocktails, poetry, and a chance to enjoy 'Celebrity', the new exhibition of film-costumes. 5.30-8pm. Free admission.

Suz Winspear

Ledbury Poetry Festival events Celebration of D/deaf & Disabled poets! Saturday 8th July 2017

The publication of **Stairs & Whispers: D/deaf and Disabled Poets Write Back**, a major anthology of poetry and essays from D/deaf and disabled writers, is set to make a special event featuring readings, performances, films and discussions from the book as part of the **Ledbury Poetry Festival**.

This comes as part of the festivals keen interest in developing a better understanding of the language, terminologies and access requirements for members of the D/deaf and disabled communities. Festival artistic director, **Chloe Garner** says, "*it is about time the Festival took this ground-breaking step to make events more inclusive, to celebrate the fantastic work written by D/deaf and disabled poets and to reach out to new audiences among D/deaf, disabled and sign language communities. The Festival in particular is excited to convey the rich and immersive qualities of sign language poetry to hearing audiences*". The term D/deaf is used to describe people who are Deaf (sign language users) and deaf (who are hard of hearing but who have English as their first language and may lip-read and/or use hearing aids).

With this in mind, **Ledbury Poetry Festival** has is also due to unveil its second, equally exciting event, titled **Air Poems in the Key of Voice**, an event that will make the first-ever attempt to translate sign language poetry for hearing audiences. This multimedia, many-layered event will combine sign language poetry by Paul Scott, song/vocal gestures and film poetry by **Victoria Punch**, as well as appearances from **Kyra Pollitt**, a BSL-interpreter, translator and artist uniquely placed to make this innovative and exciting translation piece to premiere at Ledbury Poetry Festival.

The innovative festival is also set to involve the visual arts, with over 150 people in local care set to take part in "Outdoor Magic", an ambitious project as part of the festivals community programme.

Artist **Jeanette McCulloch** will be leading workshops and creating artwork around the theme of the 'magic of the outdoors', assisted by poet **Jean Atkins**. Groups involved include the Acquired Brain Injuries Unit in Ledbury, Stanley House, Salter's Hill Charity, Ledbury Evergreens and Alzheimers groups and Hereford Community Farm. The project focusses on positive engagement with the arts and in so doing breaks down isolation and loneliness, and fosters a sense of community involvement and well being.

Salter's Hill Charity, an organisation involved with the festivals "Outdoor Magic" project have also created a poetry chair for use during the Poetry Festival. More like a "poetry throne", the idea is people can sit on it and read/recite poetry, or just muse on the poetry coming out from the nooks and crannies of Ledbury. It will be situated in the courtyard of the Burgage Hall for all to enjoy!

As part of the overall event listing of **Ledbury Poetry Festival** (30th June – 9th July 2017) both events will be taking place on Saturday 8th July. **Air Poems in the Key of Voice** - 12 noon – 1pm, **Market Theatre & Stairs & Whispers: D/deaf and Disabled Poets Write Back** - 3.30pm – 5pm, Community Hall.

Please contact the box office on 01531 636 232 or book online at www.poetry-festival.co.uk.



B.D. Lenz Trio

The Marris Bar, Worcester | Thurs July 13th

Even if you've never heard of American jazz guitarist B.D. Lenz it's very possible you've heard his music before – it's been featured on hundreds of TV shows around the globe. He's released ten CDs of his unique brand of funky jazz that fuses virtuoso musicianship with expert songwriting. Joining B.D. will be **James Rosocha** (bass) and **Joe Falcey** (drums). Together, this trio will keep you surprised with their eclectic mix of jazz standards, original jams, and rock classics.

Mix together the styles of Pat Metheny, Mike Stern, and Stevie Ray Vaughan and you have the recipe for contempo-jazz guitarist **B.D. Lenz**. The New Jersey native has played guitar since his early teens, is a graduate of Musicians Institute in Los Angeles, and has studied with such masters as Mike Stern, Vic Juris, and Charlie Banacos along the way.



Lenz has released 10 highly-acclaimed recordings as a leader featuring greats such as Randy Brecker, Will Lee, Joel Rosenblatt, & Mark Egan and his music has been featured in hundreds of TV shows globally including "Breaking Bad" (AMC), "Catfish" (MTV), and "Anthony Bourdain's No Reservations" (Travel Channel) to name a few.

Tickets cost just £5 at www.wegotickets.com/event/405932

Folk In The Foyer

Sarah McQuaid + Leon Gormley

Evesham Arts Centre | Thu 27th July

The outstanding young singer/songwriter **Sarah McQuaid** will be bringing her "seamless playing and effortlessly enchanting voice" to **Folk in the Foyer** at **Evesham Arts Centre**.



Sarah McQuaid's voice has been likened to malt whiskey, melted chocolate & "honey poured into wine". A captivating performer, she seduces her audience with cheeky banter & stories from the road as well as with stunning musicianship. In her hands, the guitar becomes much more than merely an accompanying instrument.

Born in Spain, raised in Chicago and now living in rural England, Sarah refuses to be pigeonholed, segueing easily from one of her emotive

originals into a 1930s Cuban jazz number, a 16th century lute piece or an unexpected contemporary cover. McQuaid's work has been likened to classic 1970s British folk singers such as Sandy Denny and Nick Drake, and her diverse work has also explored three-part round singing (with Niamh Parsons and Tom Barry).

At April's **Ards International Guitar Festival**, Sarah McQuaid was presented with the festival's annual Lifetime Achievement Award. Previous recipients over the



festival's 20-year history include legendary guitarists Davey Graham, John Renbourn, John Martyn, Arty McGlynn, Martin Simpson, Gordon Giltrap, Pierre Bensusan and Martin Carthy.

Sarah McQuaid is currently hard at work writing songs for her fifth solo album, to be produced by folk icon **Michael Chapman** and released in 2018.

Support comes from local dexterous fingerpicker **Leon Gormley**, whom you may have seen at previous Worcester Music Festivals.

Music starts at 8pm. Tickets are on sale priced £10 Conc £9 from Evesham Almonry, Abbey Road, WR11 4BG 01386-446944 and online from www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk

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King Solomon Band

Iron Road, Evesham | 10th June

The venue – the **Iron Road**, the reason (if one was needed) - the landlady Tash's birthday.

I have to come clean at the start - I like this band, but I will try to be objective.

This Gloucestershire band filled the Iron Road stage which had been enlarged since their last time here. To list all nine members, and what they played, would fill up the whole review. They were actually a man down from when I saw them at an album launch earlier this year

This was a return visit of sorts for the band, although last time they were as a support band. Their performance showed how well they had spent the time since then. They played tracks from their predominantly self-written recorded output, including some dub sections which feature on their releases.

They started off with **Emmy Fearon** singing lead on a couple of songs before **Kingsley Salmon** (can you spot where they might have taken their band name from?) took over as lead vocalist. "Go" from the latest album featuring a fine trombone break (from Sarah). They played another from the latest release before going back to their debut EP with "Yes Means Yes" with the audience encouraged to join in on the chorus. It was a mixture of old and new material until a change from self-penned material, when they played a medley of Gregory Isaacs' "My Number One", Bob Marley's "So Much Things To Say" and Isaacs' "Night Nurse". Later there was a real surprise of a cover version of the mighty Sabbs "Paranoid", reborn as reggae.



I could have probably have noted more of the song titles had I not been bouncing (well as near to bouncing as my old bones can get), to the driving rhythm section topped with rich keyboards and honking horn section. A congratulatory word here to Pat the soundman who engineered a perfect sound, which can't have been easy with such a large band.

There used to be musical adage that said that "white men can't sing the blues". Well this predominately white band can certainly play some of the finest roots reggae I have heard in many a year. And with the few exceptions, its self-penned stuff with some stinging lyrics, not just a set of covers of reggae in former days. If I have whetted your appetite, you can catch them at Nozstock and as part of the Worcester Music Festival 2017

by John Reeves, Photo by Kate Gartner



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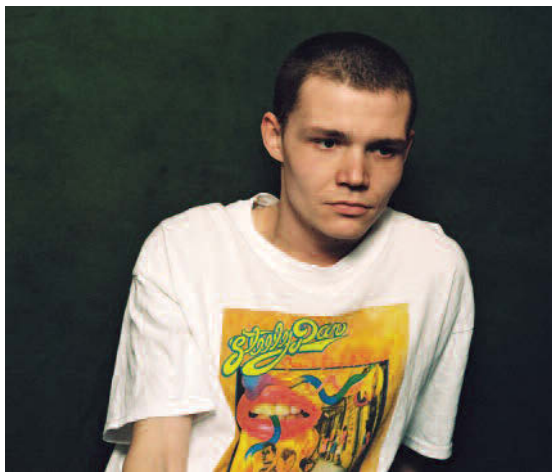
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Nozstock the Hidden Valley Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd July

It's back! Returning for its 19th year this July, **Nozstock the Hidden Valley** is set to continue its tradition of a weekend full of electric magic, inspiration and enchantment in the stunning grounds of rural Herefordshire.

With Nozstock now just a few weeks away, the festival is very proud to announce its final round of artists set to join the cast of the weekend, including **The Say Jump**, set to bring their multi-cultural inspired and energising show to the independent festival. Story-telling from **Westerman** (below) who's influenced by John



Martyn, Nick Drake and Neil Young and Bristol's own psych-pop prodigies **Cousin Kula** will have Nozstock jumping, as will rip-roaring, alt-rock **Noble Jack** (below) and **Deaf Pictures**.



Acts already secured on the talent list, including American-blues musician, **Seasick Steve**, **Happy Mondays**, **The Sugarhill Gang**, and **Hayseed Dixie** (to name but a few). Recently announced acts such as **Owen Niblock**, **Kiki Mellek** and **Sophia Disgrace** (below)



in the **Velveteen Valley**, additions including **Swansea Laptop Orchestra** (above), **Collective Unconscious** and **Deaf Pictures** in the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets**, and an anticipated, vinyl only takeover from **Emotion** with **Delirium**, **Stinger** at the **Elephant Graveyard** stage on Sunday!



The last batch of announced artists also brings the introduction of this summer's '**Little Wonderland**', creating a weekend of fun activities and inspiration for children of all ages and their families for free, in the idyllic working farm, home of the 19th year of Nozstock.



Ella Nosworthy, one of the festival founders, explains: "We are getting very excited now as the festival is getting closer and are really happy to reveal our final round of artists, and also what all the families and children can enjoy at Little Wonderland. It's incredible to reach our 19th year and we are going to make it our biggest and best yet!"

Tickets and the full Nozstock line-up can be found at www.nozstock.com, with payments by instalment available, and ages 12 and under able to attend the festival for free!

www.nozstock.com Twitter - @Nozstock

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Beyond the Water's Edge

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Mon 10th July

A new theatre production is giving voice to some of the world's best poets by taking their words onto the stage.

"*Beyond the Water's Edge: Poetry from our World*", showcases contemporary poems from around the world performed by three actor-musicians, with original music composed by the company.

With writing drawn from every continent, this is a production packed with stories that move and inspire. The human drama of love, loss and re-birth sits alongside the comedy of daily life in a captivating series of portraits, presented through the words of some of the world's best poets. Featuring writing from dozens of countries, from Chile to Estonia, **Beyond the Water's Edge** includes work from well-known poets such as **Swedish Tomas Tranströmer**, Nobel Prize for Literature winner in 2011, and the celebrated German poet and playwright **Bertolt Brecht**.

However many of the writers are less known, never having performed in the UK, and some even experiencing censorship in their country of origin. Romanian poet **Marin Sorescu** managed to write beautifully witty poems despite living at a time when his country regularly persecuted writers. Some writers give the human experience of migration and asylum, in particular from the Middle East and Africa.

Jonathan Davidson, Executive Producer, explained: "Poetry is becoming an increasingly important way for us to speak about our times. The poems in this production offer us life with all its joys



and challenges. Laced together with original music from our three performers, this will be an extraordinary experience for anyone who loves poetry or live theatre."

Directed by **Steve Byrne** from **Interplay Theatre**, *Beyond the Water's Edge* uses poems published by **Bloodaxe Books** with original music by the company and set design by **Talking Birds**. *Beyond the Water's Edge* is performed by **Jill Dowse**, **Dan McGarry** and **Nate Ryan**, and produced by **Midland Creative Projects** in partnership with **Belgrade Theatre Coventry** and **Bloodaxe Books**.

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) Book online at www.artrix.co.uk www.livepoetry.org

Dancefest's Big Dance Fortnight | 8-23 July

Hundreds of people are expected to take part in, and watch, 8 days of dance events across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. **Dancefest's Big Dance Fortnight** runs from 8th to 23rd July and includes performances, outdoor events and workshops.

Big Dance began in 2006 (until 2016) as a biennial festival led by the Mayor of London in partnership with **People Dancing**, the UK development organisation for dance participation, and dance organisations across the UK. Dancefest continues to hold its own Big Dance Fortnight each year to mark the legacy of Big Dance and celebrate the work Dancefest does with people of all ages throughout the year.

It kicks off with the **Big Dance Picnic**, a free event for all the family at **Cripplegate Park** in Worcester on Saturday 8th July. It's an afternoon of dance and music, with performances by Dancefest's children's dance groups, **Jigsaw Integrated Performance Group**, and fun activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Dancefest's youth dance companies and performance groups for adults will be dancing on Ledbury High Street as part of **Ledbury Poetry Festival** on Sunday 9th July.

300 students from over 20 schools and colleges will take part in two performances -

Herefordshire & Worcestershire Dancing on Thursday 13th July at **Artrix**, Bromsgrove, and **Goldstar** on Tuesday 18th July at **Burford House Garden Store and Gardens** in Tenbury Wells.

There are two workshops - Watch Out Worcester performance project for 18+ on Saturday 15th July at **Worcester Museum and Art Gallery**, to create a short pop up performance; and **Moving Pictures** on Wednesday 19th July at **The Courtyard**, Hereford, with a screening of *Grease*, lunch and dance workshops inspired by the film, for people aged 55+.



The final weekend sees **Watch Out Worcester** on Saturday 22nd July, a new free event across Worcester city centre with theatre, dance, music, spoken word and visual arts, created and performed by local and visiting artists and companies. Then finishing up with **Quiet Revolution** on Sunday 23rd July at **National Trust Croome** near Worcester when two of Dancefest's performance groups, **DFA** and **Chance to Dance Company** perform a piece of dance theatre that highlights how the First World War changed the roles of women.

Rose Beeston, Dancefest's Director, says: "The essence of Dancefest is enabling people of all ages and abilities to find joy in dance through being confident and creative participants. Our Big Dance Fortnight comes at the end of a year where thousands of people have danced with us. It highlights and celebrates our work and encourages performers and audiences to look at the world around them in a different way as we use so many different and unusual spaces.

We're working with lots of other arts and cultural organisations to create these events and there's a real sense of community and collaboration."

For more info: dancefest.co.uk or 01905 611199.

The Red Paintings

The Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | Friday 9th June

We're at the heart of The Cotswolds, in the middle of Cheltenham, but there's more kimonos onstage than at a kabuki night in Tokyo - ladies and gentlemen, The Red Paintings have landed...



The Australian alt-rockers are in the middle of a very chunky tour indeed, which is taking them right through Europe and have fetched up at **The Frog and Fiddle** as yet another of the increasing number of top-quality acts being booked here by promoter **Oliver Roylance**.

The stage is a riot of colour - unless you've had the pleasure of seeing Malvern's finest, Babal, perform it would be difficult to fully describe. The effect is heightened by having seen frontman/guitarist **Trash McSweeney** do his sound check in ratty tee and jeans only to have him ten minutes later onstage in a kimono decorated as a haunted forest, lit up with pulsating lightning flashes and covered in giant lenticular plastic eyes whose gaze appears to follow you around the room. Added to that, a headpiece like an exhibit in a crystal shop window completes the impressive visual picture.

But, oh the music... They're a fluid unit based around McSweeney and violinist **Alix Kol** and are playing as a four piece tonight, and to say that they're at the heavier end of alt-rock is an understatement - the music surges off stage in a mighty, unstoppable slab of sound. This is true genre-defying stuff - post-punk, thrash, symphonic rock and disconcerting ambient sections thrown together in a heady mix.

'Wasps', complete with discretely streamed media, buzzes with nervous energy. 'Streets Fell Into My Window' casts an eerie, almost nightmarish spell while 'You're Not One Of Them' is sumptuously string-heavy.

We go to full prog/pomp mode for 'Fall of Rome', wondrously complex and subtle and clocking in at a hefty ten minutes or so. A few brave lighters come out for a cover of 'Mad World', a song I've never particularly warmed to but which here takes on a peculiar intensity.

There's a pretty astonishing rhythm section driving all this - Violet Stow, a diminutive figure, swamped by her drumkit and sitting in a pit of darkness at the back of the stage is churning out

a thunderous racket while **Zoë Parr** on bass is one of the best exponents of the instrument I've seen in a very long time. Super fast and fluent runs - her legato playing sometimes sounds like she's on a fretless - combine with choppy punk-influenced chord work in the high registers. If you're one for comparisons, she's right up there with Becky Baldwin of IDestroy and Cici Powell-Melkonian of Aramantus. Yes, really...

Trash McSweeney combines powerful, impassioned vocals with relentlessly driving guitar work - he hits hard, not only in some of the messages that come over in the lyrics but literally, as he breaks a string, switches guitars and breaks another. Undaunted, he plays the entire last two songs on five strings. Because he eschews soloing, the pyrotechnics are left to Alix Kol's violin - a five-string carbon fibre unit from which she coaxes the most extraordinary sounds, vast washes of shimmering backing strings alternating with crisp, jagged soloing slicing through the dense backdrop. Her solo intro at the start of 'The Revolution's Never Coming' - the title of their debut album - is breathtaking.

I leave pretty stunned, not only overwhelmed at what I've just experienced, but also at how a band this spectacular have stayed under my usually well-directed radar for so long.

Undoubtedly the most intense performance I've seen this year - a very fine band indeed.

Geoffrey Head
theredpaintings.com



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Ginger Wildheart The Marrs Bar | 24th June

Whilst most of Worcester seemed to be either glued to the Glastonbury coverage on the Beeb or singing along to another product of the Simon Cowell School of Puppetry at New Road, the few in the know gathered at Worcester's premier music venue to welcome a genuine rock legend.

Since the early nineties, **Ginger Wildheart** has been treading the boards around the world to a fevered fanbase. Like all musicians worth their salt there have been numerous ups and downs but throughout the soul searching his fans have always been there. **The Marrs Bar** would be no exception as they welcomed Ginger and his extended family to the stage like conquering heroes. Armed with an acoustic guitar and flanked by **Jase Edwards** (guitar) and **Adam 'Stix' Mills** (on cajon), Ginger opened his set with a brand new track from the forthcoming country album *Ghost In The Tanglewood*. Despite the album and indeed *The Daylight Hotel* not being released until next February the crowd gather round the stage and provided backing vocals from the off.

From such an inspired opening, Ginger searched his lengthy back catalogue to deliver a set lifted from across the various solo albums, **Hey! Hello! G.A.S.S.** projects and beyond for a varied but always engaging set. **Givvi Flynn** (Hey! Hello!, Dowling Poole) joined the stage early to add her stirring vocals to the mix, whilst the likes of *That's A Nasty Habit You've Got There* (from *The Year Of The Fanclub* album) and *I Need You* (from the *Albion* disc) proved early highlights. Givvi returned to stage along with support act and fellow Hey! Hello! comrade Rev for a defiant *Burn The Rule* book before Ginger and his road family climaxed with a couple of **Wildhearts** favourites to the obvious delight of the audience, finishing the night with a flourish.



Prior to Ginger's star turn, we were suitably warmed up by the aforementioned Rev (formerly known for providing guitar duties to the likes of Towers Of London, The Prodigy and Hey! Hello! as well as founding The Howling and fronting Lupus Dei among others) and his set of rowdy acoustic rockers. Lifting tracks from both The Howling and Lupus Dei, Rev clawed at his guitar whilst delivering impassioned renditions of *Dance Of The Skeletons* and *Into Fire* before wearing his influences for all to see on a race through *The KKK Took My Baby Away* and a romping take on *Folsom Prison Blues* to close, igniting an already expectant audience.

For those of us in the know, this was more than a gig, this was chance to pay homage in close proximity to a man who's done it all in the world of rock 'n' roll. This was one of those electric nights, that fizzled and burned and we all stood as one raising our voices in unison, Ginger feeding off the energy and responding in kind.

Nights like these are what live music is all about: raw, passionate and true. So you stick to your selfies at the puppet theatre or posting comments on The Jacksons but trust me when I say you're the ones missing out!

by Will Munn Photo: Sarah Colquitt

Stone Mountain Sinners The Prince of Wales, Ledbury | 21st June

Cancelled trains, soaring temperatures, and yes, even Fathers Day seemed to have an impact on numbers at this usually crowded little pub. It didn't stop enough of us though as we managed to summon up the spirit of Noel Coward's Mad Dogs and Englishmen Go Out in The Midday Sun and quench our thirst with the finest ales.

Over the years I have seen and heard **Sarah Warren** in many bands and indeed genres of music, currently best known alongside **Hannah Dallas** in **Haunted Souls**. In **Stone Mountain Sinners** mode she joins **Neil Ivison**, once guitarist and vocalist of **The Misers**, and now recently performing solo sets. Sarah's long standing partner in grime bassist **Nick Lyndon**, **Roger Roberts** tickling the ivory, and ex Delray drummer, taking an 'easy' retirement in **Duke Delight**. It all makes for a slick, well balanced band of seasoned musicians, Neil and Sarah sharing vocal lead, with their 'root-sy' rock, country biased Americana.

Neil certainly brings gritted vocals and rock guitar gravitas, as he cradles his Telecaster to lead in with, *'All Night Long'* and feeding into a duet with Sarah for the rocky, *'Road to Eden'*. Most of the songs flow through the pens of Neil and Nick, with a few, like the excellent *'Lord Shuffle My Feet'*, lifted from the old Misers (good name for a retro band) set.

'Drink The Wine' follows with lingering taste of Led Zep and *'Midnight Rider'* drifted nicely in on a triple harmony of Neil, Sarah and Nick as the perspiration pooled beneath their feet. In the stifling heat; you have to suffer for your music.

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A hard rocking *'Give It Up For Love'* brought Sarah to a full on powerful lead, with Neil switching to his Gibson for some grungy rock licks, and provoking 'Duke', into a hard hitting response.

Bit of a mop up in the break, I joined the band in spilling out into the cobbled street, the air may have been fresher, but it was still fiercely hot. Nick seemed particularly pleased with working with Neil, the songs building well, with recording sessions firmly in sight, and summer festivals to raise their profile.

Time for Roger's round, his piano barrelled in for Sarah to sing to a *'Fool Like Me'* (read that as you like). The band rocked out through the core, leaving Sarah and Roger to bring this cracker home. A full on, *'Arms of Love'*, has for me, a Tom Petty feel to it. In all, a great combination of musicians, worth hitching on to for the inevitable, scorching ride.

Graham Munn



Mello Festival

Throckmorton | 26-28th May

Mello Festival is a local festival with something for everyone from the weekend warrior to the self-confessed music snob (a category I frequent), with enough pulling power to entice folk from much further afield. Friday night and a half hour drive down the road revealed a well organised event with plenty of choice from food vendors and children's activities to the three stages of music (although the mainstage didn't kick off until the following day). The various stewards, bar staff and stage hands all seemed a friendly and knowledgeable bunch whilst the choice of rhubarb and strawberry cider on tap had me set up for the weekend.

For the majority of Mello attendees the first night was all about **Lucy Spraggen** and having a good sing-a-long to the likes of **The Secret Cabaret** over on the **Spitfire stage** and, to be fair, despite my self-acknowledged music snob status I have to say both acts set the mood for the entire festival. But for me, it was Clacton-On-Sea foursome **Surge** (in Area 51) who left the greatest impression on me, mixing instant indie pop hooks with snotty, angular guitar riffs and shout it proud vocal refrains that hung around in the memory long after their rousing, punchy set.

London based, Berlin born alternative rock duo **Leisure Tank** started my Saturday off with jagged guitars and jazz like rhythms frame **Katalin Czenker's** gutsy lead, at times bringing to mind the likes of Anna Calvi or PJ Harvey whilst the more reflective numbers have Feist like quality about them. For me, the highlight of day two at Mello (and perhaps the entire festival) came in the shape of brand new Worcester super group the **Stone Mountain Sinners**, who were only making their second and third live outing since their formation (endorsed by rock legend, Robert Plant, who joined the Mello masses just to check this hot new combo out), despite the band's short period together as the 'Sinners', the quintet have all trod the boards for a number of years in various guises and that experience put them in good stead from the off. From the opening riff of *All Night Long* the band lurched for the attention and never once released their grip as the band kicked up a storm with a combination of rootsy rock, blues and Americana to dazzling effect.

Goldie Lookin' Chain raised the usual titters with something of a greatest hits set featuring everything from *Your Mothers Got A Penis* to *Half Man Half Machine* and the inevitable *Guns Don't Kill People (Rappers Do)*, whilst space rock veterans **Hawkwind** deliver a dense combination of intergalactic keyboard effects, chugging guitars pounding rhythms and the odd *Silver Machine*. That's all before an effervescent **Saffron** and **Republica** finish the night with a glorious charge through the likes of *Drop Dead Gorgeous* and *Ready To Go* finishing day two of Mello on a high.

On day 3 I arrived in time for a look at Birmingham based four-

piece **The Late Runners**, who impressed with a hook-laden set of driving, rhythm & blues laced indie, both *Times Getting Harder* and *It Might Do You Some Good* leaving a lasting impression and suggesting further investigation somewhere down the line. Over on the mainstage, quirky alternative indie pop heroes **Space** delivered a thrilling set from longtime favourites such as *Avenging Angels* to the recently released *Killswitch* and *Sharks*.

In the Mello program Bristol based quintet **Family Jools** were described as 'piano-laden rock 'n' roll with Lennon-esque vocals' which was enough to arouse my interest. But the reality far exceeded my expectations as the band whipped up a storm blending whirling organ, striking blues riffs and a mesmeric combination of raw and melodic lead vocals to create to a unique and bewitching sound that had the small gathering of intrigued revellers bewitched. **Josephine & The Artizans** are one of those bands you have to see to believe, the band weave an imaginative mix of classical, opera and hip-hop to create a completely fresh and infatuating sound where strings collide with urban beats whilst two rappers trade lines before **Josephine Permaul** unveils her stunning, powerful and yet seemingly effortless vocal range.

Clare Grogan's turned back the clock with an energetic and youthful **Altered Images** set that had the mainstage bopping in glee to an undeniable 'hits' package of *I Could Be Happy*, *See Those Eyes*, *Dead Popstars*, *Don't Talk To Me About Love* and of course the evergreen *Happy Birthday*. Before we finished our Mello experience with one of my favourite live acts on the planet, **Electric Swing Circus**, who as ever brought the house down with their enthralling brand of retro swing and modern day electro. With the *Golden Hour* upon us it was no *Big Surprise* that the pen and paper were cast aside and I seized my last chance to dance at Mello to the likes of *The Penileless Optimist*, *Mr Magpie*, *Minnie The Mocher* and *Valentine*.

For a festival very much still in its infancy, **Mello** really impressed with a varied, wide reaching music program, plenty of activities for the younger generation, a decent choice of food vendors and above all an absolutely cracking atmosphere all weekend. Next year Mello Festival is on the move to a new venue at **Hanley Castle**, super early bird tickets are available now.

www.mellofestival.co.uk



Will Munn

Tunde Jegede and The Art Ensemble of Lagos The Courtyard, Hereford | Monday 17 July

Composer and multi-instrumentalist **Tunde Jegede** will perform at The Courtyard this July with the **Art Ensemble of Lagos**.

Direct from Nigeria, the Art Ensemble of Lagos will bring their evocative Malian vocals as well as a joyful set of celebratory songs and soulful ballads which create an authentic expression of contemporary Africa.

Fusing traditional African, jazz, afro-beat and world music, Tunde Jegede is a prolific producer and song writer and has worked across several genres as a performer, playing Cello, Kora, Piano and Percussion. Uniquely placed between the worlds of contemporary classical, African and pop music, his music speaks directly to the heart and uplifts the spirit.

Tunde pioneered African classical music in the UK with the first ever tour of the African Classical Music Ensemble as well as working with many of the major orchestras in the UK including The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



Over the years Tunde has kept his creative diversity intact by working closely with singers, vocalists, and spoken word artists from a wide range of traditions including Opera, Pop, R'n'B, Reggae, Hip Hop and Jazz.

Tunde Jegede and The Art Ensemble of Lagos will be in The Courtyard's Main House on Monday 17 July. To book tickets, or for more information contact the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk. Tickets: £18.50 Concessions: £17.50

The Outside Track The Courtyard, Hereford | Wed 19th July

A fusion of traditional music will be performed by **The Outside Track**, who hail from Scotland, Ireland, Cape Breton and Vancouver, each member a master of their chosen instrument. Using fiddle, accordion, harp, guitar, flute, step-dance and vocals these musicians blend their performance with boundless energy and talent which has won them several international awards.

The Outside Track's marriage of Canadian, Scottish and Irish music has been positively received around the world during five years of extensive touring throughout the UK, Europe, Canada and the USA including appearances at numerous festivals.

A shared love of traditional music and a commitment to creating inspired new music based upon these foundations combine in an energetic and enthusiastic performance.



The Outside Track will be in The Courtyard's Studio Theatre on Wednesday 19 July. To book tickets, or for more information contact the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk. Tickets: £15 Concessions: £13

Low Lily Music in the Hall, Bewdley | Friday, July 7th

American folk-band **Low Lily**, are a masterful, acoustic trio, originally rooting from various states in the US. Californian born



member, **Liz Simmonds**, developed a unique vocal, guitar and song writing style drawing from her folk music-filled childhood and studies of the folk and ballad traditions. This swiftly led to tours with Grammy award winner Tom Chapin and singer-songwriter Livingston Taylor. **Flynn Cohen**, an Ohio native, holds a degree in Composition and an impressive MA from Mills College in California, as well as touring with notable acts in traditional and contemporary acoustic music. Vocalist and fiddle musician, **Lissa Schneckenburger**, is a former graduate from The New England Conservatory of Music, and has since performed internationally.

With a UK tour announced for this year and beginning at the end of June, **'Music in the Hall – the Severn Sessions'** in Bewdley will be the host of an evening of live music and entertainment from the trio and a Q&A opportunity with group member **Liz Simmonds** on Friday 7th July!

Completing the line up are **Molly Hipkins** and **Tom Woodcock** talented young musicians who appeared on the main stage at the fab **Hopfest - Family Music Festival last weekend**.

Talking of which, a great job on the sound at Hopfest by our regular team of **Jack Barnett** and **Bob Leadbeater** - Good work guys!

Tickets are available on the door which opens at 7:30p.

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Jinney Ring Folk 2017

With a bit of an unexpected start, the Cheltenham based rockabilly styled **Strays** band hit the stage. There's nothing stranger than Folk, and as it happens, **Estelle** and **Gary** of the Strays had married that morning on site before taking the first set alongside Sam on guitar. A rip snorting start with suitably dressed 'guests' danced their way into the festival. It was a full on rockabilly fashion show with the voluminous splashes of coloured dresses gyrating about before their newly bonded band. The trio's own music blends rock 'n roll classics, culminating in Chuck's '*Johnny B Goode*', with Sam pogoing across the hay bales in strides that Chuck could never match. The Neo-Rock n' Roll band had an almost bizarre comparison to the tight confines of **The Bush**, just weeks before.

A blistering start, but easing into the more genteel world of folk as **Tyler Massey** took over before it was time for **Future Set** from Tewkesbury with their '*Sneaky Dreamers*' and devilishly tricky '*Mountain*'. Ian took the lead on most of the vocals and band member Vicky brought a warm smile along with her cello. Up popped **Mumbo Jumbo** with their sparky, eclectic set of engaging songs. For new listeners, Oliver's gravel voice turned heads as he opened '*The Letter*' but the fun ensued with Mumbo's tale of the



caddish '*Ally Sloper's Holiday*'. It was a brilliant little bright spot that even upstaged the duck display and glorious setting of **The Jinney Ring**... well almost.

Local troubadours, **Haunted Souls** took over with their mix of self penned and borrowed Americana and country roots. 'Border Line' by the excellent Dixie Chicks was up first whilst '*Travelling Soldier*', and '*Cool Beans*' fed the hunger. Something rather special happened after that, and the stage was set for an interesting mix



of instrumentation. **Ruth Theodore** and her band electrified the audience, with a quirky set of exquisitely crafted songs. I don't know what '*Loop Hole*' Ruth slipped through to be here at **The Jinney Ring**, but it was a very fortunate one. She is an absolute dynamo of energy on stage, and her lyrics are a wonderful mix of magic and 'madness' in the nicest possible way.

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With Ruth certainly not an easy act to follow, **Kathryn Roberts** and **Sean Lakeman** were up to the task. Multiple award wins and the very fabric of British folk, Kathryn possesses a truly beautiful yet powerful voice, whilst Sean brings consummate acoustic guitar skills - a truly spellbinding combination.



This left **The Roving Crows** to close shop and with the wedding guests of rockabilly ravers still apparent, it was inevitably a raucous, highly charged session that probably surprised the band with the immediate response of dancing the night away. 'Upheaval' seemed as good a start as anywhere. In these days of chaos, the billowing, polka dotted dresses seemed to fill the space before the stage, as **Paul, Caitlin, Loz and Tim**, ripped into their set. They could draw as much energy as they needed from the reserves laid out before them, fuelled by the food and drink of this



great wee festival. There was really little room for me in this orgy of energy and The Crows were still high and circling as I left. It was a truly outstanding day of music, entertainment and the finest of fayre, at **The Jinney Ring**. And don't forget, its the **Blues Festival** here on August 5th!



Warwick

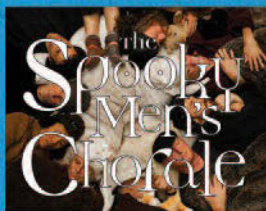
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Produced by the local promoters behind Birmingham's Moseley Folk Festival, **Beyond The Tracks** is here! September's brand-new, three-day festival is set to include some of the most revered names in UK music, as well as the addition of some of music's brightest new stars.

Landing in the newly refurbished **Eastside City Park** in Birmingham City Centre (next to all major transport links), **Beyond The Tracks** will play host to seminal acts such as electronical headliners **Orbital**, reuniting with the **Hartnoll Brothers** after a five-year hiatus, **Leftfield**, performing '*Leftism*', featuring one of the most iconic dance tracks of all time, and **Faithless** playing a very special DJ set including anthemic singles of '*God is a DJ*' and '*We Come 1*'. And that's only Friday!



The green field festival is a welcome addition to the musical addition of the UK's second city, with Saturday bringing in a number of acts including that of local Brummie heroes, **Ocean Colour Scene**, due to take the stage for a euphoric hometown performance. Powerful live sets led by energetic frontman **Paul Smith** with **Maximo Park**, and some of the most exciting-emerging acts from Birmingham taking the stage, including live sets from **Jaws** and **The Sandinistas**.



Closing sets are always highly anticipated, and **Beyond The Tracks** is not one to disappoint! Sunday night will be closed by multi-million selling headliners **Editors**, rock-legends and undoubtedly one of the best acts the region has produced! Dressed in black and angry with the world, **The Jesus and Mary Chain**, with their seminal album '*Psychocandy*' are set to be a potent live force. Sunday solos featuring timeless New Order and Joy Division classics from **Peter Dinklage** and **The Light**, and the heavy beats of Birmingham's own **Dorcha** will be bringing Birmingham's biggest inner-city festival journey to an end.



Tickets, on sale now, at beyondthetracks.seetickets.com, with prices beginning at £45! Beyond The Tracks also includes a great selection of gourmet caterers and well stocked bars.

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Sophonie | Remember Home

There's a school of thought that says it's condescending to mention a young artist's age in the same breath as their musical achievements - if that's your view, look away now...

Sophonie Edwards presents her second full album, "*Remember Home*" to us at just past eighteen years of age with an assurance, style and deftness that defies her youth.

Remarkably as well, the album comes against an unusual backdrop, in that because of illness, her live performances have been severely restricted since her first album "*Fire In The Heavens*" was released in late 2014. She's turned the downtime into writing and composing and right from the off, it's clear this has had the desired effect.



In the opener '*Photographs*' she asks, reflecting on mortality, "*Will we one day be in a frame in someone else's home?*" And the theme of mortality and the transience of life recurs throughout the album - she has a wonderful knack of sucker punching you with a lyric - just when you're relaxing into a song a line hits you with a force it's difficult to describe. "*You could smell the memory*

burning out, and everything was on fire" - this from the excellent '*Shelter*'.

This sense of shock is heightened on some of the tracks by the lightness and delicacy of the arrangements, the joyfulness of some of the melodies juxtaposed sharply with the stark message they're delivering. There's a nod, fleeting and unselfconscious, towards her illness in '*The Station*' - "*The signs on the wall/I can't read what they're saying/Have they been washed away/Or is my mind spinning again?*"

As well as the brand new material, there's a makeover for a song I saw her perform on her debut, "*On The Balcony*", one of my personal favourites with **Sam Judd's** chiming electric guitar adding a new layer to a very good song. There's also sparing and appropriate use of strings on the album, both from **Tholy Mason** who is her live string accompanist and from the cello of the splendid **Asha McCarthy**, who has recently been accompanying Lara Conley.

The lovely, country inflected '*Home*' finishes the album proper, but there's to be one more very substantial surprise.

There's a hidden track on the album, not an unusual occurrence but hidden tracks are usually hidden for a reason - they didn't quite make the cut; they didn't quite fit in with the style of the rest of the album; they weren't quite good enough, but they were fun to make. In other words, they're disposable.

Not this one. This one is an absolute cracker. In so many ways '*On The Water*' is the best track on the album. Highly melodic, powerful lyric, strongly hooked chorus and stylistically, an arrangement like no other track on the disc with haunting, ethereal piano. A thoroughly sophisticated performance, pointing perhaps towards new, and even more exciting musical directions. What it's doing stuck on here as an afterthought is anyone's guess - a suitable case for a clear plastic sticker on the cover if I ever saw one. Talking of which, the packaging for this album is wonderful, from **Hayley Ireland's** serene cover, through a booklet by **id2 Design** packed with information, to long-term friend **Tanis Rubringer's** beautiful illustration of a swan on the disc itself.

A wonderful album - less a triumph over adversity, more a bold statement of determination and a compelling display of constantly maturing artistry.

"*Remember Home*" is released on 1st July.
www.sophonie.co.uk

Geoffrey Head

Amoeba Teen | The Appleyard Sessions

Stourbridge's finest purveyors of power pop, **Amoeba Teen**, return with their first new album in a decade. Founded by critically acclaimed song writing duo **Mark Britton** and **Mike Turner**, *The Appleyard Sessions* finds them putting to one side their trademark reverb heavy soundscapes in favour of stripped back acoustic tones.

From opener *Holding Up The Drugstore* through to epic closer *Trivial Pursuits*, the eight tracks contemplate younger years losing their way in life, set to infectious melodies and the occasional country twang.

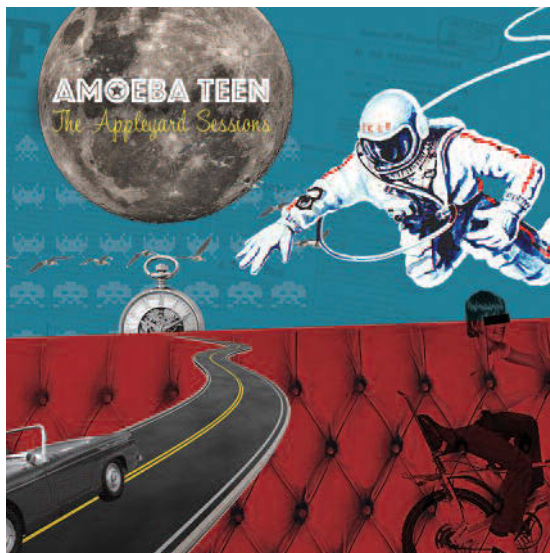
The full band line up is completed by **Simon Muttit** on bass and **Carl Bayliss** on drums, with these new songs firmly establishing Britton and Turner as masters of their craft.

Their long standing Big Star / Teenage Fanclub influence is still in evidence, enhanced by the rich warmth of the recordings and the true underdog spirit of the writing.

Released on Friday 7th July with a launch night party at Claptrap (formerly Scary Canary) in Stourbridge, featuring support from Sleuth and Patched Up Parachutes

Terence Stomp

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Spectrum 4 | Delusions Of Grandeur

Spectrum 4 are a Gloucester based female fronted four-piece who formed back last year, although the various members are no strangers to treading the boards, having been drawn from an array of local acts such as ska band **The Revolvers**, **Pelvis** and renowned local punks **Demob**.

Since the band's formation the band have been busy writing and honing brand new material in preparation of their debut four track EP, *Delusions Of Grandeur* (in August) with a live launch at **The Frog And Fiddle**, Cheltenham, scheduled for 2nd September.

Here at Slap, we've been treated to a sneaky peak of a couple of tracks from the aforementioned EP, suitably whetting our appetite for the main event. The title track, *Delusions Of Grandeur*, is a glorious spiky slab of new wave pop, propelled by a suitably elastic

rhythm section (**Bob Lane**-bass and **David Smith**-Drums), choppy guitars and a wordless vocal hook, courtesy of Christine Eaton, guaranteed to become a live favourite. Whilst *In The Shade* proves the band to be no one trick pony. Opening with a tapped out beat and a subtle rumble of bass, the sub three minute number builds with Eaton's soulful lead and **Terry Elcock's** chugging guitar before climaxing with an addictive vocal refrain to close.

With elements of new wave fused with the ability to pen an instant pop hook, you can expect to hear a great deal more from this Gloucester foursome in the near future.



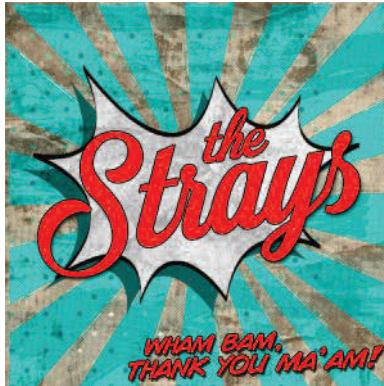
The Strays | Wam Bam, Thank You Ma'am!

The Strays are a 3-piece rock 'n' rolling band from Cheltenham. Influences including Elvis, Caro Emerald, Johnny Cash, and Paloma Faith, their style is retro vintage, American Diner; with quiff's, hair scarves, curls and colour.

Apart from covering some great Rock n'Roll, and rockabilly standards, they've also turned to a little writing themselves, and produced a rip-snorting little EP, with 4 tracks that will get your feet moving (with every likelihood the rest of your body is going to follow).

The opener, 'Cat-A-Walling' is splendid and pulsating, with the distinct flavouring of Imelda May styled vocals from **Estelle Iles**. **Gary Chamberlain** thumps out the rhythm, as **Sam Cordery**, brings in a raw edged sawing guitar. The result is irresistible, and if you're not dancing, you'll wear a hole in your pants, because its impossible to sit still.

A full on frenetic rockabilly pace kicks in for the fun and frolics of 'Leave Dem Boys Alone'. It's fast and furious and will leave you exhausted, but hell, you have to go for it.



Don't think for one minute that a track entitled 'Waiting', is going to be pedestrian or the sort of calorie burn required for standing at a bus stop. Whilst its not as mad-assed, it still cuts a lick, and Estelle is not going to be hanging around, with Sam adding some very nice flurries on his meaty hollow bodied Gretsch.

'Two's Company', eases the pressure a little more, but don't be fooled, (you know it won't last) more a lull before a storming finish. Sam opens it up, with Gary tapping out the beat. Its a sweet sound of bubble gum flavoured cola fizzing under the rich vanilla ice topping of Estelle.

Back to twisting open the throttle, for a fast but hilly ride. 'Alright' commences as the speed dips and soars, roaring through to the finishing line.

Do not pick this up, take it home, and settle down for a quiet evening listening to music. If that's what you want, find yourself a copy of 'The Best of Montavani'. However, if you're looking for a calorie burn, having a party, or suffer from restless legs, this explosive little recording is just the job. Recorded at Bank Cottage Studios, by producer **George Shilling**. It's available direct from **The Strays** at gigs, or you can also get an earful on their website at: thestraysmusic.co.uk, its dynamite!

WEAK13 | Halo

Midlands based rock band **WEAK13** on July 13th release a brand new single via **Ditto Music** who have previously launched debut releases for Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith and Royal Blood. The single is registered for the UK charts and it's a cover version of the **Depeche Mode** song *Halo*. **WEAK13** have recorded an incredible version of *Halo* with Coventry engineer John Stewart (Eight Great Fears) along with a music video synchronised to accompany the single release and launched on Vevo.

Guitarist **Nick J Townsend** stated "It may seem like an unusual choice to cover but the main reason is that we have a lot of respect for Depeche Mode; they are up there with the best British bands and we wanted to show people just how creative their songs are by being a bit creative ourselves; painting one of their tunes with a rock edge. We recorded this song to pay homage to the songwriting of Depeche Mode; we hope the band like what we've done. Months before the single release date was conceived we approached three British DJs who specialise in new wave and are seriously devoted Depeche Mode fans; their reaction was uplifting as they each gave different positive opinions on what we'd created".



The single is UK chart registered and this will be the first time **WEAK13** have approached the mainstream charts. Bassist and fellow **WEAK13** songwriter **Wesley Smith** added "We're not expecting this to break the top ten but it will give us the experience we need for our future chart releases. If everyone who has ever heard of **WEAK13** downloaded the song then we stand a good chance but we're up against some of the biggest fan bases on the planet so we're just here for the ride".

weak13official.com twitter.com/weak13

The Hay Festival

Hay-on-Wye, Powys

We enjoyed the BBC introducing line-up at **Hay festival**, including **Vinny Peculiar**, **April Shipton**, **Will Hunt** and **Teddy Matthews**. Many of these have previously featured in SLAP magazine. But we also enjoyed the whole festival atmosphere, layout, décor and routine, and here's why.

Hay festival is amazing, inspiring, interesting, and not very far from Worcester. We went midweek in the second week so the crowds may have been quiet but the rain just about held off, and the festival was a great success. Our visit consisted of three-and-a-half spectacular days of talks, music, food from all over the world, art, comedy and even a book-buying trip to Hay itself, yet time to relax and take in the atmosphere.

Everywhere you look around the tented site there are artworks by students at Hereford literally stuck onto the side of the tent walls, which really added to the artistic experience. So whenever you sat to snack, or queued for an event there was something to look at.

Queueing outside the BBC tent we even had chance to see an actual Darlek, but it's what was inside the BBC tent that was most interesting. The BBC introducing programme by **BBC Hereford and Worcester** gave us the opportunity to meet and listen to some very talented people, both young and young at heart. Some of these have been featured in previous SLAP editions and are well worth looking out for.

April Shipton has a beautiful crystal-clear voice that suits her Christian lyrics well. She spoke of hardship, teenage angst, illness including mental illness, suffering and relief, and sang about how God has affected her life and helped her deal with things. And her lyrics reflect this tragedy and redemption. Her soulful voice and inspiring songs really moved us. She says music is a tool for '*encouraging and empowering your life*' and its really working for her because it had her on stage at the Hay festival and hopefully many more stages beyond. Her enthusiasm and love comes across in her songs in the words and melody with the help of her band which included her father.

Fathers as accompanists was a theme continued by **Will Hunt** from Kidderminster played who guitar and sang accompanied by his father Bill (from ELO and Wizzard) on accordion. With plans to support his cousin Miles Hunt of the Wonder Stuff later in the year, we were delighted he had time for Hay. His own compositions were lovely, and the tone of his voice somehow occasionally sounds reminiscent of the Beautiful South. We especially enjoyed his *Momentary Romance* about the girl you see on the bus



and never talked to, just one example of his clever lyrics and lovely melodies which are just on the ballad side of pop. His recent EP also includes *Theme Park Suicide* another one with fun if dark lyrics, and a tune that somehow sticks in your head and almost has you humming as if you have heard it before. Also from Kidderminster and with the beautiful twang of its accent, **Teddy Matthews** amazed us with his music. He sounds a little like Rag and Bone Man when he sings, with a bassy gravelly sound that betrays nothing of his accent and origins. His songs and stories were full of the angst of a thirty-something who has been ditched a few times yet in his understated style he describes his music as Folk Indie Blues influenced by John Martyn in Gomez and Turin Brakes. He has had great success in just the last couple of months, and long may it continue because we loved his sound. But you can also catch him in his day job as a carpet fitter in an office near you.

And last but not least, and our most local performer of the session, **Vinny Peculiar** based in Worcester, performed with his keyboardist Rob a few of his recent pieces. Well known for supporting or playing with members of many large bands through the years including The Smiths, OASIS, Aztec Camera and The Fall, Vinny is currently working on **Silver Meadows** a stage play musical which recently debuted in Liverpool. He played some pieces from the musical, explaining its setting in a mental institution inspired by his own past jobs within them, and his new album which is out soon, inspired by the Midlands. Music included '*I Came Back As A Girl*', *Pop Music Football & Girls' English Village*' & '*The Saviour Of Challenging Behaviour*'. His music was poetic with a rock vibe. And while not genuinely an up and coming artist on the Introducing Stage, the new direction in his musical journey was well worth a listen.



Presented by Andrew Marston, who listens to 250-400 tracks a year to pick out the best bits for his Saturday night show on BBC Hereford and Worcester, the whole line up was fun, young and exciting. And while most of the performers can be found online somewhere, they can also be heard on BBC iplayer because they were included in the 8 o'clock Saturday night Introducing show throughout June.

The 31st **Hay festival** will be on next May-June and there are even buses direct from Worcester if you can't stay over. Meanwhile, there are Hay festivals all over the world throughout the year but you can also catch up with events online from the comfort of your armchair. And look out for some of these acts locally because we highly recommend them all.

Sarah Ganderton

In the company of... Jasper in the Company of Others

The first thing I noticed listening to the new album is how the sound seems to have really filled out since your debut, do you think this is a natural progression due to hours you put in on the road and what do you think are the main differences between the two albums?

Jasper: We spent nearly two and half years touring our last album and EP and we started changing how we performed these songs... changing parts, adding parts, dragging parts out... it got to a point where the difference between the track on record and track live was that noticeable they may as well be recorded again.

In terms of a natural progression, this album has been what we wanted from the start. It is very much our record. Before we've maybe had some restrictions in terms of how the overall record is going to sound, and our ideas maybe haven't come across the way we wanted them to.. however this time I really feel we've been able to showcase our pure emotion, our natural sound and our love for what we do in a way we couldn't have hoped for before. This is on a plate, and we hope it relates as well to you as it does to us.

Obviously you've now added violinist Adam Ingram to the mix since the previous album, what has he brought to the table?

Jasper: A world of knowledge and performance, the guy is the rock and roll of the band, 100% would gladly jump into a crowd at a show and rock out with his fiddle. He stepped our performance up ten fold and it made us perform harder too! On a musician level, he brings so much to the table... the guy knows so much about theory and song development, it's really helped form the band into what it is today!

Another aspect that really stands apart from your previous recordings are the drums of Chris Yeomans they really seem to punch through and drive the album, were you aiming for more of a live sound this time round and what did producer Dave Draper bring to the mix?

Will: Chris is a wonderful drummer and musician and always plays for the song. When the song needs energy he is there pumping the rhythm and when we play softer songs his lite touches are perfectly in the mix to allow space for other instruments to shine through.

I wouldn't say we intentionally went about a live sound for the album but instead want to do justice to the songs we had written. Dave was a huge part of that. He got what we wanted the album to sound like and inspired us every step of the way. He made it so easy for us to get creative and deliver an album we are truly happy and proud with.



I'm interested in the albums sequencing, did you always intend Spit On The Wheel to segue into As The Sun Rises?

Jak: Spit on the wheel was actually part of As The Sun Rises before the album was recorded and we decided to split it into 2 tracks for the recording. Spit on the wheel acts almost like an intro to the album, setting the scene and the atmosphere for the rest of the tracks.

It's Important to make an album flow, so the track listing was talked about and discussed a lot between us all. We want to tell a story, and this album definitely has a begging, middle and end. We want it to relate and make sense to the listener.

Did you write the new material as a band, or does someone come in with an idea and the rest of you flesh out the sound?

Chris: It either started with a hook or some lyrics that Jasper had written that needed to be used. It was a case then to develop as a band into a song of its own. The process was always fairly snappy, with so many minds in the studio we always had a quick song writing turn around... Some of the tracks have stayed more or less the same as the day we written them, some have become very different on development in the studio, in some cases the tracks would only sound great when played full band, that's when we knew we were on the right path for our new sound.

What are your plans with the new album? In recent years you've become something of a festival favourite, what have you got lined up this year?

Adam: Plans? Where do we start?! The record has already helped us land an insane tour support before it's even been released and the phone pretty much hasn't shut up since we put the single out. In short; yes. tour and festivals. But we have always toured and played festivals. This record was an exploration of our sound, no external influences, just us and our instruments. It doesn't get more genuine than that. And with this newfound level of honesty in our sound, we feel like new doors have opened. New venues, new cities; the bookings are already happening. This year, we play more shows than we have ever done. And don't even get me started on next year!

Words can only say so much. If you really want to know what festival season means to us. All you need to do is see Jak's face when he lands at the first festival of the year, pint in hand. It's as if his face just says.... 'home'.

by Will Munn (full review at: rhythm-and-booze.co.uk)
Photography by Lucy Heath



Jesse River Dylan Murray Classical Music

Born with the name **Jesse River Dylan Murray** (named after River Phoenix and Bob Dylan), Worcester singer-songwriter Jesse was perhaps always destined to be a performer of sorts. Having startled numerous open mic sessions around the city with his flamboyant fashion sense and unique sound, Murray decamped to **MayB** studios in Pershore to produce his debut six track EP, *Classical Music*.

I've not yet had the fortune to stumble across Jesse at one of the aforementioned regular open mic slot's, so I had no idea what to expect and having done some quick research I was left still none the wiser. Photos suggest either a 70's glam rock dandy or the bastard son of Eddie Izzard and Noel Fielding. His facebook page claims he's an 'Attempter at poetry' and a 'bringer of disappointment', whilst mentioning everyone from Micheal Jackson and Morrissey to a male Paris Hilton, in a somewhat surreal and rambling biography.

The opening number is indeed a short classical piece, *Minuet In D* by Robert de Visée, where Jesse shows off his guitar chops, plucking away gently before stamping down on a fuzz pedal to

bring the minute long opener to an abrupt halt. From there, Murray laments those artists who will do anything for their five minutes in the spotlight on the infectious glam punk stomper, *That's Got Nothing To Do With Music*.



As the EP progresses, Murray continues to challenge expectations and convention. Both the slow and brooding *You Don't Love Me Enough* and the seven minute, *Smoke Without Fire* suggest a less bombastic Alice Cooper (although you could imagine a full blooded live tilt at the latter) colliding with a reflective Bowie in the dead of night. The (mostly) musically sparse *I'm Always Singing* brings to mind the grizzled poetry of Tom Waits. The EP's closing number, *Don't Think Of Me* sees Jesse as heart wrenching, acoustic crooner, continuing to surprise right to the final fade.

Classical Music, like it's author is an eccentric clash of styles, a compelling disc impossible to pigeonhole, it confuses and seduces in equal measure, you might be left scratching your head but it still won't stop you delving in for more.

Will Munn



Raptor | Ultraviolet

I first came across rocking trio **Raptor** a few years ago inadvertently on a otherwise quiet night in Hereford when I had a half-hour to kill before catching the train back to the Woo - immediately impressed then with the young Leominster duo of brothers **Kurt** and **Adam Fletcher** on guitar/vocals and drums - playing mostly covers with only one or two originals - but obviously exuding a quality and presence that marked them out as something a little above the usual!

Just enough time when they had a little break to have a chat with them and tell them about the Introducing scheme - and glad to say since then they've blossomed into an outfit of supreme rocking awesomeness with frontman Kurt now firmly established as an axeman with a flair for showmanship that makes a Raptor performance a great visual event as well as a showcase for a now almost entirely self-penned set of classic blues-based rock that will keep just about any rock music fan happy!!

Both siblings are presently at college in Bristol and gig regularly there and also back at events in Marches-land - and have benefitted greatly from the sage mentoring and advice from Stu Ev of Stone Cold Killers - great work man!

If you want to get into Raptor - I'd perhaps suggest *'Been Too Long'* as a great place to start (it's on my own festival mixtape!) - and when that grabs your attention then why not try their latest release which continues the retro blues-rocking sound they've perfected over the last couple of years - *'Ultraviolet'* starts with a short jangly acoustic intro before laying down another power-riff of originality and quality that's both memorable and guaranteed to get fingers and toes tapping!

But really the best way to enjoy the great sound of **Raptor** is to catch them live, when you'll find it difficult not to bop, headbang or whatever's your fancy along to their driving and enjoyable rock'n'roll ditties! They'll be very busy lads over the summer and you can find more info about their busy gigging and festival schedule at www.raptorliveandloud.co.uk and www.facebook.com/raptortheband - recommended!!

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



Jesse River Dylan-Murray

Life's got everything to do with music

Meeting **Jesse River Dylan-Murray** almost feels like stumbling upon the icons of rock and roll golden era. Soft-spoken, dressed in vividly colourful attire that places them somewhere between Marc Bolan and David Bowie, Jesse instantly becomes the centre of attention. The impromptu, refreshingly innovative sessions at the open mic nights around Worcester are like a breath of fresh air. Hearing the rave reviews, SLAP magazine wasted no time seeing him in action for ourselves. This is what we have learnt...

SLAP: Jesse River Dylan-Murray - that's a fantastic name and a well suited one for a rock star. Please introduce yourself to the readers of SLAP magazine...

Jesse River Dylan-Murray: It's not a stage name in case anyone was wondering, it is my full birth name. I'm apparently named after River Phoenix & Bob Dylan. I'm a guitar-playing songwriter based in Worcester (against my will) and I inhale hope and exhale disappointment. I don't aim to become a rock star - in fact the very term grates against me like splintering wood. I loathe describing myself almost as much as I loathe BBC Radio 2 & The X Factor.

SLAP: You have studied at Nunnery Wood High School (known for placing a great emphasis on art and music). Other graduates include Jodi Hughes. Did the artistic education help to shape you as a musician?

JRDM: I always thought Nunnery Wood was a science-biased school... having little interest in music generally when I was there. All I was listening to at the time was Marilyn Manson & Michael Jackson (my goth phase & my inner child viciously grinding against each other.) It wasn't until 2010 when I started to frantically get into music. I didn't get my first guitar until 2013, a year after I'd left college. The short answer is that I was never formally educated in music, or at all inspired by my educational background.

SLAP: One of your songs entitled "*Smoke without fire*" received a lot of airplays on social media. Can you tell us more about the message behind it?

JRDM: This song I can actually, unlike most of my songs, pinpoint to an exact moment in time. A conversation with my stepdad in a pub was had last March, talking about rumours & the media, and he said, "*people say there's no smoke without fire, but you know there absolutely is.*" That's what the song's really about; spurious rumours, dirty gossip, twisted media. A bit of anger is in that song.

SLAP: Given the opportunity, we have to ask about another of your songs - "*Everyone Wants To Look At Me But Nobody Wants To Look Me In The Eye*". With poetic yet sarcastically sad lyrics, it almost sounds like a track for The Smiths' The Queen is dead album.

JRDM: I live on the outside of the outside because the rebels and the punks and the freaks and the queers don't want to know me. It's a straightforward song I think, with its almost comically mammoth title. It's obviously about being stared at and not fitting in, as so many songs are (I'm not even a Radiohead fan) but it's a lot more. It's about not feeling out of place literally everywhere, but most importantly not even having any clue what you are. To paraphrase musician Ezra Furman: "*People say 'oh just be yourself' but I don't have any clue what that is...*".

SLAP: Your debut EP entitled "*Classical music*" will be released on 19th of July. What can we expect?

JRDM: '*Smoke Without Fire*' is on there in the centre of it. '*Everyone Wants...*' is currently being worked on to be released



separately. The EP will contain 6 tracks - 5 original plus an instrumental bit of classical music. Timed at 31 minutes and costing £3). It will also contain bouncy anti-pop protest anthem '*That's Got Nothing to Do with Music*', which I've been bombarding poor Worcester with for a while. It will most likely be available for download as the leading single for this by the time this issue of SLAP comes out!

SLAP: You have a chance to gather any musicians to create an ultimate artistic dream team, locally or internationally. Who would share the stage with you and why?

JRDM: Locally, I'm a big fan of Ellie Williams and her end-of-the-world song writing and bellowing pipes. I also like Ben Dallow quite a lot for his rather Gallagher-esque appearance and drone. He has a great non-stop style of guitar playing and gives the impression of being so ice-cool. There's also Rueben Lovett, Cheltenham-based guitar player and a brilliant writer. A bit punky but largely just special.

SLAP: Having a unique fashion sense and being compared to David Bowie's stage persona of Ziggy Stardust, and Adam Ant's Prince Charming, what inspires you?

JRDM: My sense of fashion just exploded one day in Cheltenham when I was 15 years old. I was there to see my very first ever gig. I found this vintage clothes shop on a side street called Browsers. I found ridiculous vintage clothes here: flares, tassels, glitter, shoulder-pads, zebra-print. I was also on the tail-end of my goth phase, and that shop made me think, "hang on... I can wear anything!" that night I wore this ridiculous heavy red velvet waistcoat with 2-foot-long dangling tassels. I just get bored very, very easily and don't like to stick to one style for long.

SLAP: What are your plans for the rest of the year and where can we see you play live?

JRDM: My EP launch party will be at The Chestnut on Wednesday July 19th, (free entry) and I'll have my first paid gig at the Brecon Fringe festival on August 13th. Beyond that I'll keep inflicting myself upon the open mics of Worcestershire - The Marrs Bar, Firefly & Chestnut. My noise is often a few decibels quieter or louder than the night, depending on my general mood and whether I want to croon about a mythical Greek monster. Do come see the noise, though. It will be (deep breaths now) FUN.

Rita Dabrowicz (Vanadian Avenue)

facebook.com/Jesse.River.Dylan.Murray.Warner

facebook.com/JRDMcreations/

soundcloud.com/jesse-river-dylan-murray

Full interview can be read at: cocamidemea.wordpress.com

Ninth Annual Jinney Ring Blues Festival

Following eight successful years of great music in a stunning countryside setting, the **Jinney Ring Blues Festival** is back on **Saturday 5th August**.

From 1pm the scenic craft centre gardens in Hanbury will play host to six live bands on the marquee stage. Opening the festival will be **Robert Hokum**, bluesmaster, funkateer and master



of wit and repartee! He will be followed by **Stompin' Dave**, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and dancer, previously nominated for the **British Blues Award** acoustic act category in 2014.

A highlight on the line-up is **Greg Coulson** who has a passion for Rhythm and Blues. Greg began fronting blues bands at the age of twelve, and as well as being a hugely accomplished organ and keyboard player, he is also a gifted guitarist. Four piece **The Della Grants** merge blues, rock, and R&B and have made a name for themselves for their song writing ability and on stage performances.

The festival's headline act is **Will 'Harmonica' Wilde** who fuses his passion for blues with his love of rock. Five times nominated in the **British Blues Awards** for best Harmonica player, Wilde takes the harmonica to a whole new level. A must-see act for this year's festival. **Souled Out 2 Funk** will be the final act of the night with their high energy funk and soul show.



To accompany the music, the **Jinney Ring** holds a Beer Festival which opens at 6pm on Friday 4th with music from "blues-grass" musician **Big Joe Bone** and followed by an open mic night. Homemade food and refreshments will be available as well as camping for Friday and Saturday night.

Tickets are priced from £20.50 in advance with camping packages also available. Visit www.jinneyring.co.uk for tickets and further details.



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Going Green with Asparafest

It's the season when local producers have a field day, and that field is full of 'green gold', ripe for cutting asparagus. With Evesham laying claim to the finest crops, a festival is held. With a vibe of a pagan gathering and celebrations of its 'green god', Asparafest is born. Having more vitamins than the local Holland and Barrett, asparagus helps with relieving hangovers, making it ideal festive material for all those campers that had gathered to sample the many ciders and ales available.

Whilst carefully nursing your bendy plastic 'glass' of apple juice, there was plenty to keep the kids entertained. The 'Asparalympics' had them finding their way through the distracting obstacles, as huge bubbles from Rainbow Gecko wafted through the air. The more serious candidates concentrated on preparing the culinary delights available at the festivals 'Easy Peasy Cookery School' featuring children with paring knives, surprisingly all under control.

There was more food prep for the adults, with demonstrations at the cookery stage being all things asparagus (no comment needed).

Nearby, stalls laid out their many temptations. Fruit based 'tonics', asparagus scones, (with a suitably flavoured jam to spread... bit too sweet for my taste) and asparagus ice cream, which I can report, tastes of..... asparagus! All readily edible if you can get over the soft verdigris colour, and best avoided if you do over indulge on the cider!

A beautiful traction engine seemed to have spawned two babies, and all could be seen chuffing away nicely with the new smokeless fuel being way less dramatic than the heavy black fug of yesteryear. Apparently, you could even spin the wheel of fortune with the aid of this super grass!

It is true to say though, that what caught my eye and enticed me to Badsey in the first place, was the stage line up. Saturday evening, the perfect festival band; '**3 Daft Monkeys**', were lined up. In keeping with the spirit, they were already camped out and ready to go. Sunday would see **The Bar Steward Sons of Val Doonican**, readying the revellers for the later appearance of **Doctor Feelgood**. I wasn't arguing, but they did seem a bit of an odd choice for a family festival, with their appearance coming at a time when the kids would be high on sugar and adrenalin.

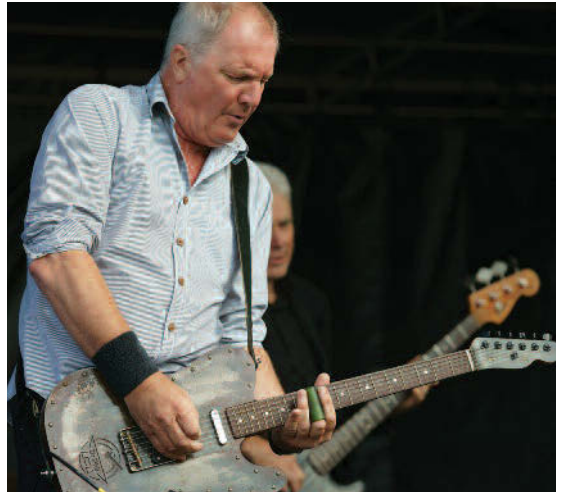
3 Daft Monkeys however, certainly had the crowd jumping, no matter the age. Band member Tim looked out across the sunset over Bredon and could not resist delivering the band's view of the upcoming, ensuing election. (Sorry Tim, so near, yet so far). A bit like the general election, everyone waltzed around to '*Days of The Dance*', until the spell broke and mayhem ensued.

Sunday, and all the young at heart, were drawn into the spell of CBeebies presenter, **Katy Ashworth**. She had all the children, and more than a few parents entranced. Still under her spell, a dance 'contest' broke out and defied the odds, as young girls failed to upstage one father as he became an instant hero in his family.



The colourful tank topped '**Bar Steward's**' brought their unique brand of humour, playing out on ukuleles, guitars, bouzouki and accordions and nicely rewriting lyrics to many iconic pop classics.

The final curtain was left to **Dr Feelgood**, with a now wet stage, and true to say dwindling numbers. Still, enough people were there to drain the barrels and stand around in the soggy field to watch this iconic band, famous for melding R&B into a punk world. It may not be the original line up, but the spirit and essence remained, fronted by vocalist and harp bending, **Rob Kane**, and scything guitar playing from **Steve Walwyn**. The rhythm section, belongs to stalwart members **Phil Mitchell** and **Kevin Morris**, with his bass drum displaying the iconic logo. Tracks included, '*Milk and Alcohol*', the perfect blend for the younger rockers and their parents, and ended up with '*Down at the Doctors*'. Steve brought out his armour plated, forged guitar, getting to work on it with slide for a couple of excellent solo runs, whilst Rob refrained from getting down and low on the puddled stage floor, with the set running most of the way through before the rain drifted back in for the encore.



The good news was that as we departed, we managed to pick up some of the last available bunches of infamous Evesham Asparagus. All in all, a good little festival, with the emphasis on entertaining children, whilst not forgetting their older family members.

Graham Munn



The Birth Of A Crisis Of Conscience

When **Rich Lovell** and I started this festival last year we were inspired by 70's punk. We wanted to express our love of punk, but also our discontent with the class and racial injustices that marginalise British people in the most honest way possible, through music, but we also wanted solutions and ways to help those in need of a hand so '**A Crisis of Conscience**' came to be.

Last year we also held an event for the local food bank and '**We Shall Overcome**', those were David Cameron and George Osbourne days and we were all feeling the crunch and the need to do our part - we are talking gripping austerity here. When you lose everything, where else are you going to end up? Homeless, alone, all hope lost and terrified. It's a downward spiral. I am not ok with sitting back and letting that happen to people. I am grateful that Rich Lovell is really good at getting us on board with these fundraisers.



At the end of 2015 when we started these discussions, in a general sense, the UK's youth were not as present as they are now in politics. Jeremy Corbyn is the catalyst, and now the youth are really shouting out against the establishment using music, poetry, fashion, social media and art to express their views. The posts I see on social media platforms now are coming from protestors that are younger than ever. It's exciting.



One thing I love is the connection between punk and reggae, arts, spoken word and of course politics. We want to celebrate that during the festival. I met **Jimmy Lyndsay** at one of our recent **Underground Revolution** gigs when we put on his band **Fowokan** supported by a local Ska Punk band, and Jimmy told me he used to play shows during the 70's alongside bands like the Clash. It was an honour to be in his light and to hear it straight from the source. Funny, but back in the day, Steel Pulse would have punk bands open their shows. Imagine That!

We have **DJ BDS Silva** spinning reggae and dub during the day whose band **Last Tree Squad** will headline our day lineup with



their mix of original hip hop, reggae and bass songs which you don't want to miss - they're a favourite around these parts. It's our commitment to keeping that union going in the millennium on a miniscule scale as DIY promoters.

The highlight for us is having **Culture Shock** headline the evening part of the festival. We are fans of **Dick Lucas** and his bands - the **Subhumans**, **Citizen Fish** and **Culture Shock**. They have this contagious energy that you never tire of, are pretty humble humans, and I love that they have a following continually renewing itself around the world with younger generations who appreciate their music.

Really all the bands and talent performing will contribute something special to the festival and we think you should come check them out. The award-winning Polish street food venture, **Old Granary Pierogi**, will be selling food from 4 pm onward to help soak up the beer. They serve up some pretty hardy and tasty selections that average £4 to £6. Wise choice. Follow our Facebook page to keep on top of festival news and we will see you there. www.facebook.com/acrisisofconscience

by Michelle Cuadra

Musicians Against Homelessness

We are pleased to come together this year with our local live music venue **The Booth Hall** and Hereford's community of musicians, poets, DJ's and artists for what should be quite a memorable fundraiser. It's very encouraging to see everyone so positive and enthusiastic about performing.

This year is the 2nd anniversary of both our punk festival '**A Crisis of Conscience**', and the national fundraiser '**Musicians Against Homelessness**' started by **Alan Mc Gee**. Alan Mc Gee is the former manager of The Libertines, Primal Scream, Oasis, Jesus and the Marychain and the Happy Mondays.

Sean Ryder has been backing the **Musicians Against Homelessness** campaign this year. In an article in **Louder Than War** he comments about the increasing homeless problem in the UK, "*The sad thing is, it's not the public's problem, but they're the ones most likely to actually help the homeless than anyone in government*". Sadly, this is something we have come to terms with, especially after the horrible mishandling of the Grenfell Towers fire that has left so many displaced, and the events leading up to the fire proving how divided the government is from its people along with the complete lack of trust.

Musicians Against Homelessness raised approximately £40,000 last year for the charity **Crisis** who are celebrating their 50th anniversary. We suspect that the number of events happening this year will be double what they were last year.

July Music at Artrix, Bromsgrove

Live music is the word on the street this month at **Artrix**, the home of all things art in Bromsgrove. Kicking off at 7.30pm, on the 1st day of the month, Jazz legend **Chris Barber**, along with his 10-piece band are stopping off at Atrix to continue the celebrations of his 68th anniversary as a band leader with a Europe-wide concert tour. Set to play a selection of their favourite music, including the early sounds of Duke Ellington and Sidney Bechet, **The Big Chris Barber Band** combine all ingredients needed to produce an exciting, and often moving evening of world-class jazz!



The Big Chris Barber Band

Songstars Extravaganza featuring talents of all ages, promise a night of toe-tapping in an event not to be missed on Thursday 6th July. Performing a range of recognisable songs from pop music, to musical theatre show tunes. The end of year performance will be a display of vocal talent all round!

From playing a 45-minute set at the closing ceremony of 2012's London Olympics, sets at the MOBO awards and live sessions at BBC Radio 2, **Hackney Colliery Band** are ready to take Artrix by storm! Here for one night only on Saturday 15th July, a New-Orleans style line-up of trumpets, trombone, saxes and more prove this UK-based brass band are rooted in tradition, yet still sounding thoroughly modern, reinventing the brass band for the



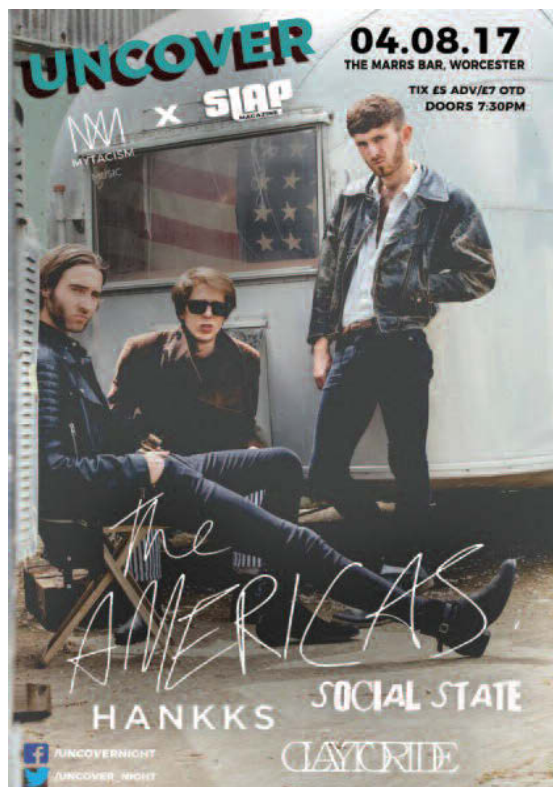
Hackney Colliery Band

21st century. Beginning at 8pm, a diverse set list with rock and electronica influences will set to provide a night not to be missed!

Close your eyes, go back in time and be taken on the journey from Winslow Arizona, to the Long Road out of Eden on Friday 21st July. **Desperado** are set to make you believe that the legendary Eagles themselves are on stage! Being the highest selling band in US history, the Eagles released their two-part *History of the Eagles* DVD in 2013. With this in mind, Desperado, renowned for their accurate and authentic recreation of Eagles music, take you on a journey through your favourite Eagles' songs that changed popular music forever!

Towards the end of the month, a weekend of nostalgia will commence with the **Abba Reunion** tribute show at 8pm on Saturday 22nd July! With the promise of a truly authentic, feel good concert, Abba Reunion are set to perform all of the greatest hits from the 70's band, giving Abba fans old and new, a night to remember.

July at **Artrix** is packed with music and live entertainment of all genres, for all ages! For the full event listings and calendar, or for more info on Artrix theatre, visit www.artrix.co.uk.



'Bella' Della Grants The Prince of Wales, Ledbury | 28th May

A band I missed at Upton last year, not exactly sure how, but probably a clash of stage timing, were the **Della Grants**. In my Sunday haunt, **The Prince of Wales** in Ledbury provided me with the perfect opportunity to catch up with this young band that seem to be riding a wave. I am really very pleased to have taken this time out. From start to finish, the band were simply superb, making it very evident as to why their star is in the ascendancy.

It's always going to be tight in the Prince of Wales. A well equipped 4-piece band and good crowd, intent on giving their undivided attention means that all sound is 'locked' in, behind the closed outer doors (so as not to contaminate this West Malvern settlement). With the hills, it would seem, not 'alive with the sound of music', we stifle, as the band swelters giving their heart and soul to a stunning performance.

Tom Blows us in on bulletted harp, as Max laces in the strings on his hollow bodied guitar. Behind sees the rhythm section of Tom Walker on drums, and Andy Boulton on a very solid bass, building a cushion to *'Lay My Head'*. Little was I to know, that this cracking opener taken from *Time to Change* was to set the standard for the whole gig. The harp put aside, and Tom Best (he must love this name with two Tom's in the band) is slinging his Telecaster, as Max led the way to making *'False Promises'*.

Time for Tom to front up to the vocals, with a spiritual *'Am I Wrong'*. Accompanied by swampy guitar notes from Max and clapped in by the rhythm boys, this pulsating blues song is certainty brought to life.

Max is shredding strings in the steamy heat of the Prince, as Tom proves he's not the, *'Weaker Man'*. There's a break coming, a



chance for air, but not without Tom and Max harmonising the opening to the slow burning and passionate, *'More Than Pray'*, from their First Fix EP. As it builds towards the finish, we are left with notes seeping in to our souls, saturating the thick air.

Max reminds me of Marcus Bonfanti, both vocally and in style. It's good to see a band playing their own nicely penned songs, with just the odd classic interpretation added. The doors are closed again and the temperature rises rapidly, as Tom W thumps in the beat. Tom B hits the Telecaster, the bass pulses in Andy's fingers and Max narrates *'Too Fast'*, tuning back in to the enraptured crowd's wavelength, all listening.

A bit of *'Sunshine'* breaks through, a ray of light inspired from the **Della Grants** prodigy, a gentle but insistent rock lullaby. The familiar feel of a *'Stormy Monday'*, points the way to the Bank Holiday, a suitably moody classic for the time of year! We're nearing closure, as a gritty Chicago style, *'Backbiter Blues'*, complete with harp, draws breath for the final push. *'Red Mist'*, descends, as I high tail it for my train home.

Live music rarely gets better than this. The 'lock in' brought a thick hot atmosphere in this glory hole of a pub, but absolutely no one left as the **Della Grants** galvanised the music loving regulars.

Graham Munn

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The Strays

The Bush, St. Johns | 25th May

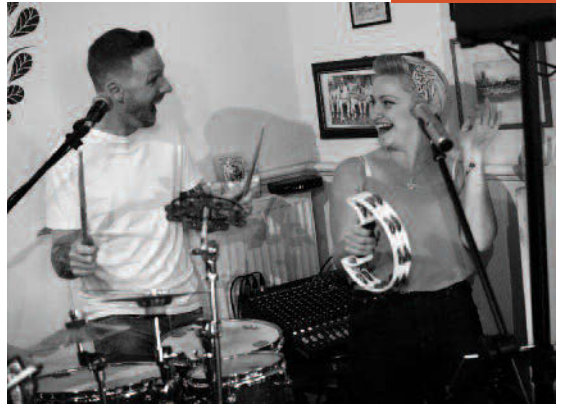
A Friday night, complete with a Bank Holiday atmosphere and temperatures that have soared high into the 20's. I was in need of a long cold drink and some musical action. With no live music for nearly a fortnight, the local listings revealed The Bush Inn (St. Johns Worcester) were playing host to Cheltenham based band, **The Strays**. I was aware of the band, and in hope of catching them at the forthcoming **Jinney Ring Folk Festival**, it was time to check them out. I'm pleased to report, it's nothing like any folk music I recognise!

The 3-piece band, describing themselves as a neo-rock n' roll trio, are self confessed diva, **Estelle Llis**, **Sam Cordery** (sporting a Gresch and quiff), and upstanding drummer **Gary Chamberlain**. Its true to say, together they do rock with an open selection box of 60 years of foot tapping goodies to pick from, including tasty, new home produced candies that demand attention.

'*Tainted Love*' started the ball rolling with a catchy bit of Caro Emerald hard on its stiletto heels. The first of The Strays songs are thrown onto the floor, and '*Two's Company*' saw movement on the boards between the bar and the open door, as the heavy air was drawn into the pub. '*Bang Bang*' eased in before Sam pulled through the opening lag and fired up the supercharger for a short sharp exchange of ammunition, Estelle in her element fired the last round.

It was time for Sam to lead, suitably attired for the '*Stray Cat Strut*'. Estelle sang out the warnings of their own '*Stranger Danger*', before the maximum attitude button was punched for '*Hit The Road Jack*'.

'*Good Golly*' was up next, and there was no time for air as The Strays played hard and fast, putting on their '*Blue Suede Shoes*', ready to step across for a break.



Refreshed and rebooted for '*Lets Have a Party*', I'm dragged to the floor as **Bush Inn** hostess **Clare** decides she's still got energy to burn. Three songs later and I'm thinking of how traction will feel the following day. The bands '*Cat A Walling*', at near rockabilly pace, with Estelle in almost Imelda May mayhem mode. '*Leave Dem Boys Alone*' ups the tempo and the band's grooving along on full bore as I try to look less conspicuous. To the strains of '*Roll Over Beethoven*', its time for survival tactics, slipping out into the cooling (subjective) air. 'Johnny B Goode', is on the cards, a real floor burner, and a song I love.

Bright eyed and bushy tailed, I leave with a smile on my face, knowing I will be seeing the band again at the lovely **Jinney Ring** later in the month. Folk it isn't but who gives a damn? With their pick n' mix of Imelda, Caro, Paloma, Jonny Cash, Carl Perkins (ok, they would say Elvis), the late great Chuck. Even Duffy (Mercy, 67m views on the Tube, where did she go?) Try their EP, *Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am*. A super evening at this little St Johns gem, **The Bush Inn**, a real pub. in a plastic world.

Graham Munn



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Wychwood Festival Cheltenham Race Course | 2-4th June

Where to start when writing up **Wychwood Festival**? Over the three day early June festival, the organisers packed the program with something for everyone, from the various children's workshops, performers and activities to the various stalls, readings, signing sessions and, of course, the ever eclectic and intriguing mix of live music. The festival has always been described as a family friendly event and just by looking over the site and indeed the attendees, the evidence was plain to see: there were smiles all round and a hive of excited activity, from morning to night, despite the odd outbreak of rain.

Historically the organisers of Wychwood Festival have always reserved the opening slot on the mainstage for an up and coming local act and this year was no different with **Emi McDade** taking the honours. Backed with a compelling combination of cello and acoustic guitar, Emi took centre stage behind a piano and promptly dazzled the festival's early comers with a stunning set of soulful folk, her beautiful voice reverberating around Cheltenham race course.

In recent years, I've discovered a number of new favourites treading the boards in the festival's **Glovebox** curated **Hobgoblin Stage**. Tent became something of a home from home. **Indigo Rose** mesmerized from the off, with an alluring mix of ethereal, floating vocals and a soft understated dreamy backing to create a delicious combination of shoegazy folk that seduced an already rapt audience. From the shimmering and beautiful to the energetic and funk-ridden, **The Prohibition Smokers Club** followed, urging people to their feet for a first strut around the Hobgoblin Stage as the band's elastic rhythms took hold.

Last year **InHeaven** impressed over in the **Big Top** so this year they were invited back to grace the mainstage. They took the opportunity with both hands, the band blew away any lingering cobwebs with a thunderous set of alternative indie rock anthems with *Drift*, *Vultures* and *Regeneration* all suggesting the quartets' debut album maybe one of the must have albums of the year.



It seemed rather apt with the general election just round the corner that **Billy Bragg** should be at Wychwood. The bard of political and social commentary was greeted as a conquering hero, delivering a biting rendition of *Sexuality* before turning his attention to fellow protest singers Guthrie and Dylan. As we called time on the opening day and headed for shelter, **The Buzzcocks** were plugging in to deliver a typically rowdy, high velocity greatest hits set to the soaked to the bone faithful.



After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast we were back onsite for a suitably bone shaking set by **Bang Bang Romeo**, a Sheffield based quartet that combine

shimmering atmospheric guitars and driving rhythms with the powerful, intense vocals from leading lady **Anastasia** to mesmeric effect. Former teacher **Paul McClure** was our day's first port of call at the Hobgoblin stage, education's loss is very much our gain as McClure delivered a beautiful set of troubadour like odes on love and life. Then Canadian, Celtic folk trio, **Eastern Pointers** performed a fine turn on the mainstage with their instrumental, fiddle led reels leading the masses on a merry dance, whilst vocal trunks such as *A Viking Bride* and a jaw dropping rendition of Bowie's *Heroes* proved the groups diversity.

Alternative acoustic warrior **Beans On Toast**, armed with a battered acoustic and a suitcase full of satirical odes, delivered another Wychwood festival highlight. With his tongue firmly wedged in his cheek, Beans served a delicious meal of observational odes, taking in everything from Theresa May and the election to sex to conservation and fracking. Funk soul purveyours **Smooth And Turrell** were a further revelation on the mainstage, effortlessly crossing genres to create an intoxicating soulful stew whilst in direct contrast, Oxford based duo **Cherokii** laid waste to the Hobgoblin stage with a frantically feral display of rough and ready, groove-laden rock 'n' roll.



I concluded my evening with a trio of acts in the Hobgoblin tent. **Newton Country** have already caught the ear of Dermot O'Leary on Radio 2, who invited the trio to perform on his show and with the likes of the country licked *Set Sail* and *Better Of Alone* it's easy to hear why, whilst a stunning version of *Folsom Prison Blues* saw the band wear their influences for see on the fantastic homage.



SkataTones were up next and as their moniker rather suggests the six-piece band fuse high octane ska, reggae and rock for an addictive, energetic sound before anthem rising, youthful blues guitarist **Aaron Keylock** was charged with bringing the music to a fitting conclusion on the Hobgoblin stage. He did so with a dexterous display of fine fretwork and 70's inspired vocal hooks setting the evening to a nice close.



The final day of **Wychwood** presented one last chance to dance and a full itinerary, starting with the opening performance on the mainstage from another local, singer-songwriter, **Ben Maggs**. Ben took to the stage full of confidence, armed with his guitar and a loop pedal as he proceeded to deliver a fantastic set of upbeat originals, showcasing a fantastic, soulful croon and a collection of instantly infectious originals such as *Travellers Song* and *Hearts*.



Musical diversity is always a firm staple this year presented a number of **World Music Acts** (**The Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band**, **Kanda Bongo Man**, **Dhol Foundation** and **Flamingods** all on the mainstage) joining the already potent mix of indie, folk, punk, country etc, but it was over at the Hobgoblin tent that **Brickwork Lizards** offered an eclectic mix of influences to create something more than a little unique. Combining elements of 1930's jazz, hip-hop and traditional Arab folk, the 'Lizards construct a rousing and evocative sound that has to be heard (and indeed seen) to fully appreciate.

I've always enjoyed staggering around to International *Bright Young Thing*, but having now seen **Jesus Jones** live I have to wonder why I've allowed the rest of their catalogue pass me by. The indie/dance five-piece had me glued to the barrier as they

proceeded to attack their set, from the long term favourites to the likes of *Grateful* lifted from new album, the band captured the audience and provided one of the revelations of the festival.

Cabbage rounded the Big Top off with an adrenaline fueled rush of youthful, indie punk. Setting their guitars to buzz, the Manchester five-piece proceeded to



throttle and pummel their instruments whilst dual yelps of the hook-laden of *Kevin and the frantic Dinner Lady* suggest that Cabbage could well be set to continue their home town's rich musical heritage. After three full days of music and merriment, who better than Wychwood favourites and festival figureheads, **The Levellers** to draw the final curtain on my (annual) favourite weekend of the year. With a set littered with all the big hitters, the supercharged six-piece delivered the perfect Wychwood climax, sending everyone home on one last, mass sing-a-long.

Early bird tickets for **Wychwood 2018** are on sale now, discover a new found favourite, rejoice with a long lasting love and expect a number of surprises along the way, but whatever you do, don't miss out!

www.wychwoodfestival.com

Will Munn (full review at www.rhythm-and-booze.co.uk)

Roll out the Barrels for Pete Clinton's Wake

Another year on and it's **Pete Clinton's** wake at the crowded **Barrels** in Hereford raising money for **St. Michaels Hospice**. Like that of a micro brewery, you can view this as a micro festival with 3 finely crafted bands on tap. This year saw the return of **The Mosquitoes**, **Tommy and Johnny's Blues Duo** and, to shake things up a little, **The Delray Rockets**.

Arriving by train, my antenna picked up on the unmistakable call of **Johnny Hewitt's** powerful harmonica underscored by the kick of Tommy's drum. The Blues duo was just firing up and '*Had My Fun*' filled the air as I entered the crowded Barrels courtyard. The duo have not been on the road as much lately but they seemed to be enjoying themselves as the die hard fans were up and grooving to standards like '*Steady Rollin' Man*' and their own '*Crazy In Love*'.

Tommy's guitar strings almost made it through but Johnny was on a roll, bending those reeds and freezing out the guitar with '*9 Below Zero*'. Tommy kicked back in with a cracking solo on his battered Fender. You couldn't wish for a better opening to the day: the numbers were building, the drinks and food flowing and the collection buckets getting heavier.

The stage was stripped and reset and the tempo was about to rise considerably as **The Delray Rockets** stepped up. Band member Gaz settled down his big bass, Oz was ready with his Gretsch and Rik fired them in on his drums. Their '*Rockabilly Retard*' rattled out with the swing of '*Jungle Rock*' seeing a flurry of dancing. Rik attacked his kit soloing his way into surf rock and Oz had his own show with the fabulous '*Miserlou*'. The band blasted their sound in front of the jammed courtyard, reluctantly surrendering the stage, with '*I Fought the Law*' being thrown back with enthusiasm.



Mid way into the evening, and there's a buzz around as **The Mosquitoes** set up. It's been a year since I last heard these blood suckers fly. The two axe wielding Steve's, Walwyn and Aaron, Chris and Andy, (with the bass and drum rhythm section) and Nick Rowbotham, harmonica to hand and ready to give voice to the hum of great R&B. Steve W flashed some Alabama plates he'd cobbled together with stick neck and 3 strings. It sounded incredibly raw and dirty as Steve solo's brought us into the set. Nick, with his fuzzy harp, blew in the band and the **Mosquitoes** were flying!

'Groovin', their way toward the close of play, I had to leave for my train to the sounds of **Sony Boy Williams** '*Checking Up On My Baby*'. With the track getting quieter and quieter, it played on in my head, all the way to the station. **Pete Clinton's** now annual wake had provided a glorious setting for a great Bank Holiday gig whilst most importantly contributing to a very worthy cause.

Upton Blues Festival 2017

More bands, a brand-new stage and much more!

The UK's biggest free blues festival returns next month, taking place from 21-23 July. Two main stages, an acoustic stage and numerous other venues will host 135 bands – more than ever before – across the three-day event. Several new additions can be expected too, including a brand new outdoor bar at **The Meadow Stage** (formerly the old sports field stage), a new stage exclusively for campers, and street performers.

Grahame Bunn, the festival's new chairman, is particularly excited: '2017 marks something special. Ten years ago, the entire town was overwhelmed by the River Severn, with some of the worst floods, outside of winter, for generations. Yet, somehow, the music and the party went on, and a decade later the festival is stronger than ever. It's that kind of spirit that makes Upton Blues what it is, and we have our great visitors to thank for that. That's why we strive to make the event bigger and better, every single year. It's all for them.'

Speaking of bigger and better, the new Campsite Stage will give the festival's lovely camping guests a chance to play the blues themselves. And all on a stage that only they can enjoy. 'We came up with the idea for this as we wanted to give something back to the people who keep the festival afloat. If it wasn't for them using the official campsite, we wouldn't have the funds to keep building on the event', says Grahame.

Artists from all-across the world will grace the **Riverside Stage**, the **Meadow Stage** and the **Acoustic Stage**, so festivalgoers can expect to be treated to some of the finest blues music around. If that's not enough, 11 of the town's venues will, again, be getting in on the action. 'That brings another dynamic', Grahame adds, 'as

the bands in those venues tend to offer newbie blues fans a flavour of the genre, while mixing it in with other styles of blues-influenced music. It keeps the party going.'

Another big first for 2017 will be the introduction of street performers on the Saturday of the festival. Again, the idea here is to keep the event exciting and more and more like a party. 'We think it'll be a nice addition for our festival guests. It'll certainly be a fun surprise, anyway. Especially when they see what we have planned', says Grahame. Fans can expect to see the performers, mostly, near the Meadow Stage.

Hungry festivalgoers won't miss out, either. 'The town's pubs offer great food, while we're also lucky to have several fantastic curry houses, a pizza shop (a bit of a festival favourite) a chip shop and cafés. On top of all that, this year will see more food vendors on-hand than ever before. The party-hard masses will be spoiled for choice when it comes to getting their fill', says Grahame.

As a registered charity, the festival gives a great deal back too. Last year, more than £40,000, raised by the event, was spent turning the town's run-down tennis courts into a multi-use play area for local children. In addition, over £8,000 was invested by the festival into programmes for local schools. The festival brings in over £800,000 to the local economy.

According to an independent study, conducted by Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd, the festival brings in over £800,000 to the local economy. Not a figure to be sniffed at. In fact, the town's former mayor, Tim Dance, agrees: 'We are privileged to host this event and residents certainly benefit from it. Long may it continue.'

Finally, the festival has its own radio station, Upton Blues Radio. Guests can tune in on 87.7FM to hear the latest updates and get an even bigger dose of the music they love, throughout the whole weekend.


Russ Cook

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Stroud Brewery, Stroud

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Stoned Love

Reet Petite, Leominster

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Voices For The Unheard-Variety Programme of Songs & Music

St Peter's Church, Cowleigh Bank, Malvern

Matahari

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Bad Medicine - Bon Jovi Tribute

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Ardvark Stow

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

The Rubies

The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Junction 7

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Dead Sea Skulls

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Carnival Night, Vehicle

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Pat Mcmanus Band + Fifteen English Pound

The Iron Road, Evesham

Two Tone Revue

The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Bourbon Alley Blues Band

The Swan, Evesham

A.C.E

The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

Me & Mrs Jones Duo

Archdales 73 Club, Worcester

Jess Silk

The Park Tavern, Kingswinford

The Big Chris Barber Band

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Night Watch

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Firefly Funk Russ Mather & White Noise DJs

Firefly, Hereford

Protea Skies

Worcester Carnival 2017, Worcester

Soul Stripper (AC/DC Tribute), The Wizards Of Oz (Ozzy)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

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Only The Righteous, Chop Chop, Ram

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Witcher

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Short Stuff

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Underground Revolution Presents A Night Of Stoner

Rock & Grunge Distortion, Barefoot in Baltimore,

Radiosaurus, Michael Knowles & The Std's,

The Booth Hall, Hereford

High Roller

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

Upton Social Club, Upton-Upon-Severn

Risky Galore

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Two Push Charlie

The Grapes, Hereford

The Conspiratorialists

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Flying Ant Day, Balaban, A Bald Illegale

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

The Marriage Of Figaro Performed By Felici

Elmslie House, Malvern

Hybrid

The Express Inn, Malvern

Bad Medicine

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Missing Lynx Band

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Jay & Eli

Ruby Jacks, Evesham

Off The Grid

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

44 SLAP JULY

Saltflat

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Once Love Band

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Clarksville Mountain Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Follies

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

The Hills Singers

St Peter's Church, Malvern

Abba Forever

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Taylor & Co

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Sunday 02 July 2017

Howard James Kenny

Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Ledbury Fringe: The Will Killeen Band (3pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Warren James

Grapes Vaults, Leominster

Adrian Marx - The 80s Experience 5pm

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Vo Fletcheripndh9

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Ben Jones

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Lazy Sunday Afternoon Purely with Bill Pullen + Tony (4pm)

The Red Lion, Evesham

Live Music At The Swan Inn, Mister Wolf 4 - 6.00pm, Led

Hendrix 1 - 2.00pm, Fifteen English Pounds 6.30 - 8.30pm,

Black Max & The Pirates 2.30 - 3.30pm,

The Port Street Fayre, The Swan Inn, Evesham

Port Street Fayre

The Swan, Evesham

Bill Pullen With Tony Beysens (3-6pm)

The Red Lion, Evesham

Playing Django (3pm)

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Ben Vickers

Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Will Killeen (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Gaz Brookfield And The Company Of Thieves

The Marris Bar, Worcester

James Hickman (5:30)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Absolute Blondie

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Sun Fire (5pm)

Cap N Gown, Worcester

Tuesday 04 July 2017

Perdido Street Jazz Band

Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Fiddlers Two

The Lion, Ledbury

Steve Ashley

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 05 July 2017

Jamie Smart And Jack Francis

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Lewis Creaven Band

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 06 July 2017

Uncorked! Poetry Evening 7.30pm £5 Tickets

Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Troublesome Trio

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

The Melvin Hancox Band

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Falcon Lane

Firefly, Hereford

The Neil Diamond Story

The Courtyard, Hereford

The Vipers

Tank, Gloucester

The Humdrum Express

Piccolo's, Bewdley

The Soap Girls

The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Arcadia Roots

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Joe Seagar

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Diamond The Ultimate Tribute

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

FCS Present: Gnarwolves, Saltwounds, Clobber

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mal Webb And Kylie Morrgan

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Friday 07 July 2017

Gravy Train

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Amoeba Teen, Patched Up Parachutes, Sleuth

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Talon Music Ltd Presents Talon – The Best Of Eagles

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Ash Mandrake

The Red Lion, Evesham

Low Lily With St. Alto

St George's Hall, Bewdley

Legend

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gravelly Hill

The Old Bush, St. Johns, Worcester

The Underdogs

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Red Ray And The Reprobate

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Greasy Slicks

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Lazy Sundays

The Blue Bell, Ryall

Rust For Glory (Neil Young Tribute)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

6 Appeal

Archdales 73 Club, Worcester

Rig:Dependant. Hosted By Wastegash Soundsystem, Night Of Heavy Rave Culture., 7-Late, Donation On Door, Friendly But Firm Security.

Pig And Drum, Worcester

Lounge Toad

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Firefly Funk Russ Mather & White Noise Djs

Firefly, Hereford

Sharing Joy

The Courtyard, Hereford

Come Together

Drummonds, Worcester

Blues Night With Bare Bones

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Delray Rockets

The White Hart Inn, Cinderford

Stolen Chocolates

Brewhouse & Kitchen, Gloucester

Jack Brett

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

The Jiveoholics

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

6 Foot Way

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Barhounds

Viaduct Tavern, Kidderminster

Low Lily, Molly Hipkins & Tom Woodcock

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Saint Loe, Big Shoes

Ludlow Brewery, Ludlow

The Simon & Garfunkel Story

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

Liquor And Poker Band

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Ben Vickers

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

All Acoustic' (Unplugged) Ceilidh

St. Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

Ac/Dc Uk

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Jaguars

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Jon Eselle

The Gardeners Arms, Alderton, Tewkesbury

The Rift, Kick The Clown

The Sebright Arms, Worcester

Saturday 08 July 2017

Tom Drywood

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Aj The Ultimate Solo Tribute To Ub40 8.30pm

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Locked & Loaded

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

The Mt's

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Monkeyjam

The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

The Forever Greens, Only Cologne, Alex Mansfield Music

Pin Show Map Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Enzo

The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Jokers + Support

The Iron Road, Evesham

Mike Skilbeck

The Swan (Barboursne), Worcester

My Design

The Swan, Evesham

Toby

The Blackpole Inn, Worcester

Bill Pullen with Tony Beysens

The Bell Inn, Morton-In-Marsh

Hennesea

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Redditch Orchestra: Last Night Of The Proms

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tridecka Jams

Firefly, Hereford

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Alice in Wonderland And A Night At The Musicals

The Courtyard, Hereford

Whiskey River Boys

Reet Petite, Leominster

Nuns Of The Tundra, Time Of The Mouth, The Black Rattles, Dead Dad's Club

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Enzo Plus 3 Piece Band "Nohair Man!"

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Memphis

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Underground Revolution Presents All Day Charity Punk Festival Free Day/E6 Evening (6pm), The Youth Within, Teddy's Leg, Musicians Against Homelessness, Last Tree Squad, Terminal Rage, Brassick, Black Boxes, Political Spoken Word, Reggae/Punk Dj's & More Bands

The Booth Hall, Hereford

Supernova... With Support From Treble A

The Old Bush, Callow End

The Delray Rockets (3pm)

Redbrook Millennium Green, Monmouth

Errols Kitchen

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Common People

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Chicago Bytes

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Outcasts

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Nature Of Wires, Glee Club Star Comedian Martin Huburn

The Bell Inn, Leominster

Nature Of Wires

The Bell Inn, Leominster

Mike Whittaker & The Jammer Jacks

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Secret Caberet

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

The After Dark Band

Whitehart, Redditch

Lesley Wilson

The Garibaldi Inn, Worcester

X15

The Chestnut, Worcester

Meg Shaw And Friends

Stourport Boat Club, Stourport-On-Severn

Mark Drew & Tippo

New Inn, Pershore

Acoustic Who

Railway Inn, Studley

Bourbon Alley

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Sunday 09 July 2017

Annie Keating

The Prince Albert, Stroud

A-Muse 5pm

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Carol Lee Sampson

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Lawrie Jean

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Roy Orbison & Buddy Holly Show

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic) Adam Higgins (4pm)

The Red Lion, Evesham

Lazy Sunday: Martin Thorn, The Players, The Arboretum,

Elea Calvet, V2b, Boys in The Wood (12-7pm)

Café Bliss, Worcester

Chip Langley Acoustic 8pm Free

Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Neil Ivison

Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

The Forever Greens & Friends

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Jamie Williams & The Roots Collective (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Journeyman

Cap N Gown, Worcester

Steve Gibbons

Alestones, Redditch

[Spunge]

Lakeside, Tewkesbury

Tuesday 11 July 2017

Spooky Men's Choral

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Perdido Street Jazz Band

Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Wednesday 12 July 2017

Silver Sam & Anna

Mr Twitchett's Coffee House & Bar, Stroud

Acoustic Folk Session

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Tyler Massey

The Plough, Worcester

Paul Johnson & Rachel Knowles, Luke Philbrick, Howard Sinclair

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Will Edmunds Trio

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Trapt (U.S.A) + The Fallen State & Confessions Of A Traitor

The Iron Road, Evesham

Bryan Adams

Sixways Stadium, Worcester

Thursday 13 July 2017

The Kim Cypher Quartet

Castle House Hotel, Hereford

The Hot 8 Brass Band

Guildhall, Gloucester

Liberty Artillery Acoustic Set 8.30pm Free

Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Jacob Wellfair And Jasper Storey

Fire Station, Cheltenham

The Billy Walton Band

The Iron Road, Evesham

Ian Luther

Tank, Gloucester

David Busby

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Ricky Timms

Number 8, Pershore

B.D. Lenz Trio, Lemonade

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Friday 14 July 2017

Dirty Lemonz

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Forty Blue Toes

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Melvin Hancox

The Red Lion, Evesham

Macca & Cross

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Soul Strutters

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Rammlid + Fleisch

The Iron Road, Evesham

46 SLAP JULY

The Ferrets

The Blue Bell, Ryall

The Secret Cabaret

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Matt Dulson Trio

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Club Juju By Ally Baba

Firefly, Hereford

Sarah Warren and Nick

The Old Bush, St. Johns, Worcester

Bon Giovi

The Courtyard, Hereford

Mr Ben

Drummonds, Worcester

House DJ's Glenn Parry + Mark Gaunt

Reet Petite, Leominster

Worcester School Of Rock And Performance, Polkadot Robot

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Delray Rockets

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Moonlight Drive

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Ronnie & The Reverbs

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The No-Good Nancys

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Independents

The Lock Wolverley, Kidderminster

Junction 7

The Farmers Arms, Ledbury

Legend

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Leather & Lace

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Saturday 15 July 2017

Counter Measures

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Steve And The Achievers

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Mister Wolf

The Swan Inn, Port Street, Evesham

Dougie Bee 8.30pm

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Uk Guns N Roses

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Fidgets, Artiphunk, Niente

The Marris bar, Worcester

Arcadia Roots

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

The Bridge

The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Journeyman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Mydesign

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Mel & Him

The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Evesnt

The Iron Road, Evesham

Mister Wolf

The Swan, Evesham

The 'I Am Ryan' Set - Satellite Down

The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

Kazza Belle

Archdales 73 Club, Worcester

Just Adam

The West Midland Tavern, Worcester

Hump De Bump

Fruiterers Arms, Uphampton, Ombersley

Hackney Colliery Band

Artrix, Bromsgrove

White Noise Djs Present Indie, Soundtrack Etc

Firefly, Hereford

Village Fete - Free Entry, With Live Music From The Desperados,

Pete & The Hicks, Kingsley Salmon, Howard Sinclair, Luke

Philbrick, Grove, Ellis Slater

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Boondogz

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Delray Rockets

Oathill Farm, Enstone, Chipping Norton (12:00)

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds (3pm)

Eckstock Festival, Pershore

Hijack

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Andy Margrett
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Outcasts
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

The Blast
The Farmers Arms, Ledbury

Barrel House Blues Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Genesis Arc, Netherhall, Unitra, Influen
The Railway, Redditch

The Rift
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Jeremy Healy
The Swan, Stourbridge

Vinny Peculiar
The Chestnut, Worcester

The After Dark Band
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Gravy Train
New Inn, Pershore

Sunday 16 July 2017

No Poetry: Invisions, Deference, Enmerkar
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Sally 5pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Ben Vickers Reggae Soul DJ Night 6-10pm Free
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Natalie Hobbs
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

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

Ultimate40
Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife
Cap N Gown, Worcester

The Barflys (5:30)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Jon Eselle
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Ben Vickers Collective (5.30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 17 July 2017

Tunde Jegede And The Art Ensemble Of Lagos
The Courtyard, Hereford

Tuesday 18 July 2017

Tina Turner Charity Night
The Courtyard, Hereford

Perdido Street Jazz Band
Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Wednesday 19 July 2017

Meg Hayden
Café Rerie, Gloucester

The Hitman Blues Band (U.S.A)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Arrival – The Hits Of Abba
The Courtyard, Hereford

The Outside Track
The Courtyard, Hereford

Ducking Punches
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Thursday 20 July 2017

Dj Yella of N.W.A Feat Lil Eazy E and Playboy T
Guildhall, Gloucester

Hamilton Loomis Band (U.S.A)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Diamond
Artrix, Bromsgrove

General Jams Beatbox
Firefly, Hereford

Patrick Hannon, Rich Evans & Linda Marita
The Old Bank, Stourbridge

The Billy Fury Years
The Courtyard, Hereford

No Poetry: A Night Like This, Mountain Estates, Rid
The Booth Hall, Hereford

The Bridge
Tank, Gloucester

Fayee Bagley
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

FCS: Fights And Fires, Soeur, Kick The Clown, Orto
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Friday 21 July 2017

Worried Men
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Woo Town Hillbillies
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Julie July Band
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Liquor And Poker Band
The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Shenanigans: Daria Tomalak, Pete Boddiss and the Long Goodbye
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Motorheadache
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sleaze in The City Tour - Stone Trigger, Sykko Dollz, Terminus
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Woo Town Hillbillies
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Strangers
The Old Bush, St. Johns, Worcester

The Exciles
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Desperado – The History Of The Eagles
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Cool Britannia By Nicodemus Puffalot
Firefly, Hereford

Come Up And See Me
Drummonds, Worcester

Thomasin, Justin And Friends
The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Bulltown Boys
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Front Runner
The Walwyn Arms, Ledbury

Elmore Row
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Talon-The Best Of The Eagles
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Long Goodbye, Pete Boddiss, Daria Tomalak
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Definitely Maybe, Adored
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Josh Kumra
The Goods Shed, Tetbury

Saturday 22 July 2017

Accolade
Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Plucking Different
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Electro Swing Feat. Mary Lou Revue
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Protocol
The Swan, Evesham

Damien Russell 8pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Reload
The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

The Sabbath Years
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Ian Luther
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Peter Harington
The Swan (Bärbourne), Worcester

Dan Baird & Homemade Sin (U.S.A)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Protocol
Swan Inn, Evesham

St John 2017 Musicfest Presents Facade By William Walton
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Abba Reunion
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Reggae Pie
Firefly, Hereford

Paarthurnax
Breathfest Wessington Court Farm, Woolhope Herefordshire

Toby
The Red Lion, Illmington

Rick Gable's Lounge Sounds
The Wagon & Horses, Kidderminster Road, Bewdley

Cada
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

'Izzy The Push
Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster

The Hush With Bryn Thomas
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Plough, Stourport-On-Severn

Blue Star
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Rebels
The Bell Inn, Leominster

Aaron Booton
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Abi Kelsey Band
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Meg Aucott
The Garibaldi Inn, Worcester

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Institutions
New Inn, Pershore

Skabucks
Railway Inn, Studley

The True Strays, Red Propellers
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Sunday 23 July 2017

Halfway To Paradise – The Billy Fury Story
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Natalie Brown 5pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Ray & Paul
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Kezza Belle
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

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

2017 Musicfest Gala Concert
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife Acoustic
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Steve Linforth
Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Jay & Eli (5.30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

A Celebration Of Neil Diamond
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Paul Johnson Jazz Cafe
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Without Flight
Upton Social Club, Upton-Upon-Severn

Monday 24 July 2017

Jibbafish
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Wednesday 26 July 2017

The Matt Woosey Band
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Thursday 27 July 2017

Folk In The Foyer: Sarah Mcquaid, Leon Gormley
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Uncover: Presents: Lost Tiger To The Wild, Semantics, King Purple, The Purple Shades
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Surprise Attacks: Six Hands (Belgium), A-Tota-So, A Werewolf!
Heroes Bar, Worcester

Luke Philbrick & Damon T
Tank, Gloucester

Gersom Engels
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Esther
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Friday 28 July 2017

Blondie Tribute
Bedwardine, Worcester

Chicago Bytes
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Stereo Jacks
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Daniel B. James
The Red Lion, Evesham

Chewie
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Thunderchunky
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Massive + Welcome Back Delta
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Vehicle
The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Motley Crude + Cult Fiction
The Iron Road, Evesham

Daniel B James
The Red Lion, Evesham

Reloaded
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Faithful City Shows Presents: Wstr, You Know The Drill, Coast To Coast Uk
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

No Hair Man
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Blondie Tribute
The Bedwardine, Worcester

Natalie Holmes, Harry Daniels
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Killerstream
Drummonds, Worcester

Acoustic Night With Abi Foster
Reet Petite, Leominster

Polkadot Robot
The Bell Inn, Worcester

Steve Ferbrache
Brewhouse & Kitchen, Gloucester

The Lady And The Sax & Tenuto
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Echo Beach
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Future Set
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Joe Seager
The Clive, Ludlow

Teddy Mathews Band
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ultimate40
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 29 July 2017

Ghost Trail
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Jaguar Skills
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Mister Wolf
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Doors Alive
Guildhall, Gloucester

Swampcandy American Band On Tour 9pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

The Ramrods
The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Just Adam
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Hired Guns
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Korn Again + Stiff Bizkit
The Iron Road, Evesham

Fifteen English Pounds
The Swan, Evesham

The Stone Cutters
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Spectrum 4, & Black September
Bakers Street Pub, Southgate Street, Gloucester

Dead Dads Club
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Firefly Funk Russ Mather & White Noise Djs
Firefly, Hereford

Roxy Magic : A Night Of Roxy Music And Bryan Ferry
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Eppyfest Mini, Featuring Schnauser, Neil Campbell, Candythief, Matt Baber, Mister Pongle

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Mean Business
Reet Petite, Leominster

Polkadot Robot
The Anker Inn, Nuneaton

Toby
The Butchers Arms, Mickleton

Black September
Baker Street, Gloucester

The Delray Rockets
Priory Park Bandstand, Malvern

Ub40
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Aardvark Stew
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

P T H
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Sons Of Yoda
The Bell Inn, Leominster

Deborah Rose & Mari Randle
Elmslie House, Malvern

Rattlesnake Jake
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Sally Haines And The Sunshine Band
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Journey Men
The Swan, Stourbridge

Mouse Police
The Chestnut, Worcester

Kemastree
Railway Inn, Studley

The Bob Dylan Story
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Sunday 30 July 2017

Nick Lyndon 5pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Will Killeen
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Will Jay
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Linzi Martin Trio Vocal Led Jazz Trio 7.30pm Free
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Jamie Knight
Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

The Hush
New Inn, Gloucester

Amy Winehouse Tribute
The Plough Inn, Hereford

Lofty Wright 12Noon
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Dave Morris
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Dizzy Lizzy Unplugged
Alestones, Redditch

Eric & Friends
The Chestnut, Worcester

Monday 31 July 2017

Second Line
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster



Festivals

West Fest (1st July)
Malvern Playing Field, Malvern goo.gl/q5P7MD

Ledbury Poetry Fetsival (1-9 July)
Ledbury, see poetry-festival.co.uk

2000 Trees (6-8 July)
Withington, Cheltenham, see twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk

Linton Festival (7-8 July)
Ross-on-Wye, see lintonfestival.org

Woo Fest (8th July)
Drum & Monkey, Upton-upon-Severn

Bromsgrove Folk Festival (13-16 July)
Bromsgrove, various venues

40s weekend (14-16th July)
Kingsford public house, Wolverly

Ombofest (16 July 2017)
Ombersley, Worcester

Amplified Festival (21-23 July)
Near Cheltenham amplifiedrocks.com

Nozstock (21-23 July)
Bromyard, see nozstock.com

BreathFest 2017 (22 July)
Woolhope, see: breathfest.co.uk

Upton Blues Festival (21-23 July)
Upton-upon-Severn, see uptonbluesfestival.com

Dubtoberfest (28-30 July)
Cheltenham Race Course, see dubtoberfest.co.uk

Cafe Rene Rhythm & Blues Festival 2017 (24-30 July)
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Vinestock (29-31 July)
The Vine, Cheltenham

Monmouth Festival (28-31 July)
Monmouth, see monmouthfestival.co.uk

BearFest (30 July 2017)
Bransford, Worcester

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 8th Moving in: Moving on' Evesham Library

Until 9th Ledbury Poetry Festival

Until 9th July Graham Wilson: Seasons Artrix Bromsgrove

1st Outdoor Magic in the Walled Garden, Ledbury 11am 4pm

1st Watercolour technique landscapes workshop,
The Wilson Gallery Cheltenham

3rd Licensed to Rhyme. Artrix Bromsgrove

6th Uncorked, Spoken word evening. Bottles Worcester

8th Dancefest Big Dance Picnic, Cripplegate Park, Worcester

8th Outdoor Magic in the Walled Garden, Ledbury 11am 4pm

9th Dancefest as part of Ledbury Poetry Festival.
Ledbury High Street and outdoor spaces

10th Beyond The Water's Edge, Artrix Bromsgrove 8pm

11th Artrix Youth Theatre presents The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

12th July until 13th August Richard McIlwraith: Departing
Artrix Bromsgrove

12th Outspoken Open Mic Artrix Bromsgrove

13th Dancefest performance. Artrix, Bromsgrove 7pm

15th Watch Out Worcester performance project (18+)
Worcester Museum and Art Gallery and Worcester city Centre

18th Goldstar, local schools performance, Dancefest
Burford House Garden Store, Tenbury Wells, 2pm

19th Moving Pictures present Grease (55+) Courtyard, Hereford.
Full film programme at: courtyard.org.uk/event_type/film/

21-23rd Nozstock the Hidden Valley.
Music and arts festival, Bromyard.

22nd Watch Out Worcester, City Centre

23rd Quiet Revolution National Trust Croome

Music Sessions/Open Mics

Every Monday - Folk Session

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Every Monday - Open Mic

Royal Oak, Ledbury

Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Every Monday - Folk Night

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround

Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Tues - Jazz Night

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Tuesday - Plug n Play

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

First Tues - Open Mic with Andy Lindsey & Zoe Devenish

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night with Ian & Kevin Fuller

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel

Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country)

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tues - Folk Evening

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

3rd Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wed - Electric Jam Night

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Green Dragon, Bishops Frome

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Fox & Hounds, Breden

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions

The Crown, Colwall

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

First Wed - Open Mic

The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Last Wed - Under 18s open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

Every Thursday - Drumlove Adult Workshop 7.30pm

The Angel Centre, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

1st Thurs - Folk Session

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club

Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

1st Thursday Polly Edwards Open Mic Jam Night

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

First Thurs - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Every Thursday - Acoustic Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Every other Thursday, Open Mic

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Every Other Thursday - Open Mic

The Firefly, Hereford

Every Thursday - Local Artists

The Pheasant, Worcester

Every Thursday - Conor Maher & Friends

Keystones, Worcester

Every Thursday - Spoken word 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

Every Thursday - Folk Night

The Fleece, Bretforton

Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance

Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Jam Session

Reet Petite, Leominster

3rd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

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

Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Every 4th Thursday - Session

New Inn, Malvern

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club weekly folk night

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Every Friday - Open mic 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

2nd Fri - Open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

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

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

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

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sunday Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm

The Wharf, Stourport

2nd Sun - Singaround Session

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session

Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sun Lazy Acoustic Afternoon with Liz Kirby 4pm

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00

Lichfield Vaults

Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish

Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

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• NO COWARD SOUL • THE CURIOUS INCIDENT • HARPER'S FERRY • THE MINKE WHALES
• MARIE-CLAIRE BERREEN & HER HUSBANDS • FLY YETI FLY • LOST BOYS • JOSH FLETCHER

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THE MARR'S BAR

JULY
AUG 2017



Saturday 1st July

Soul Stripper (AC/DC), Wizards of Oz
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 2nd July

Gaz Brookfield & Company of Thieves
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday 6th July

FCS: Gnarwolves, Saltwounds, Clobber
Cost: £9 in advance

Friday 7th July

Rust For Glory (Neil Young tribute)
£7 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 8th July

**Nuns of the Tundra, Time of the Mouth,
The Black Rattles, Dead Dads Club**
£3 in advance £5 on the door

Thursday 13th July

B.D. Lenz Trio, Lemonade
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 14th July

Worcs School of Rock, Polkadot Robot
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 15th July

3 band £3 The Fidgets, Artiphunk, Niente

Thursday 20th July

**Faithful City Shows: Fights And Fires,
Soeur, Kick The Clown, Orto**
Cost: £5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 21st July

Motorheadache
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 22nd July

TBC

Thursday 27th July

**UnCover: Lost Tiger to the Wild, Semantics,
King Purple, The Purple Shades**
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 28th July

**Faithful City Shows: WSTR, You Know
The Drill, Coast to Coast UK**
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 29th July

The Stone Cutters
£4 in advance £5 in advance

Friday 4th August

**UnCover: The Americas, Social State,
Hankks, Clayoride**
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 5th August

Chavy Chase Stole My Wife
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 12th August

V2A
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Tuesday 15th Aug

**Faithful City Shows Presents:
The Deadnotes, The Harts + Support**
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 26th August

The Machine Rages On, Liberty Artillery
Cost: £6 in advance £8 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk
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