

SLAP

Issue 72

Aug 2017

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Aug 2017 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hello readers, and welcome to the August issue of Slap - well
there's an opening line I didn't think I'd get to write...

Yes folks, it's been a tough deadline following the come down
from the best Nozstock Festival ever; we were blown away by
the weird and wonderful eclectic mix of dancers, acrobats and
artists, the new Elephant Graveyard stage bar area and totally
amazed by the newly improved Cabinet of Lost Secrets. It truly
is a unique festival, continually evolving and full of passion. Even
heavy rain on the Friday couldn't dampen our spirits.

We took our cover image from the White Feather Collective's
performance on the Saturday evening at the wonderful
bandstand stage. Lost for words, as we still are, we've put
together a snapshot of our personal memories from Noz.

Also in this issue we bring you a few highlights from the Upton
Blues festival held on the same weekend as well as plenty of
reviews, previews and news from around the area.

August is here and brings with it plenty more outdoor
shenanigans around this region. We have a full list of local
festivals at the back of this issue to whet your appetite and
we're looking forward to some festival friendly weather for the
next few weeks at least.

I've ranted before on this page about the impact of forced
venue closures, ripping the heart and soul out of communities.
The latest under threat in our region is the survival of The
Flapper in Birmingham following talk of development plans for
demolition to make way for apartments, very sad times indeed.

Let's end on a positive note shall we? We bring news of Arts
Council England funding secured for the Courtyard in Hereford
and also Meadow Arts with its base in Ludlow securing funding
for the next four years.

Have a smashing August, I'm off for a lie down...

Knacker-ed



Front cover image - Josh Lambe of The White Feather Collective on
the bandstand stage at Nozstock - photography by Anthony Robbins

Spotifake

Spotify has denied claims that it pays producers to create songs using 'fake artists' with no other online profile to be placed on premium cost playlists - rather than having to pay fees to big-name and established artists. The 'Vulture' website points to some songs with misleading titles apparently designed to confuse listeners searching for popular tracks - more sharp practice in the music industry? Surely not...

Little Big Hiatus

After their last gig in 1986, Hereford band **Little Big Stuff** reformed after a 31 year break to play a set on the main stage at this year's slightly soggy **Nozstock** with four out of the five original members again picking up the mics and axes. Nozstock founder **Pete Nosworthy** was a keen follower of the band in the 80's and describes them as *'the best band that never made it'* - see how it goes this time round guys!

"Got My First Real Sixways"

There's been a generally positive reaction to the appearance of megastar **Bryan Adams** at **Sixways** stadium with many calling for the city to hold more big-name events - something we've been banging about since Issue 1 by the way... There were a few gripes about the parking and congestion - plus long queues at the bar - not rocket science to get those sorted chaps!

We're Not Worthy - Next Year!

It's still not absolutely clear whether there'll be a local temporary replacement for **Glastonbury** which takes a 'fallow' year off in 2018 at its Worthy Farm site to let the land recover. Meanwhile organisers of **T In The Park** have said it's 'not looking likely' that the event will take place next year - so that's two out of the 'big five' summer festivals, maybe bring back **Big Chill**?

Emerging Scene Brexit

The **UK Music** campaign group has warned that Brexit could kill the recent boom in live music tourism to the UK and further threaten smaller venues - according to its 'Wish You Were Here' report. They say that UK Music will continue to press the Government not to make it harder for UK artists to tour abroad or for overseas acts to come here - also to implement the 'agent of change' principle in planning regulations which aims to protect existing venues when nearby residential developments are proposed - good!!

Black & Blues' Man

Alcester bluesman **Jack Blackman** set a record by performing at **Upton Blues Festival** for the ninth year in a row - Jack first played Upton in 2008 at the age of 14 and has attracted praise from the likes of 'Whispering' Bob Harris who says he's *'an exceptional guitarist, sounds just great'* - spot on!

World Premiere in Malvern

There'll be a world premiere of a composition by classical composer **Alec Roth** at the **28th Autumn In Malvern Festival** during September and October - with events taking place in Malvern and Worcester. There'll also be visual and literary events with readings on **National Poetry Day** - plus performances from **Upton Young Jazz!**

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Arcadia Roots Glastonbury Bound

Hard working local band **Arcadia Roots** are Glastonbury bound after securing a performance at this year's legendary **Glastonbury Festival** after show party. After their performance at **Pilton Working Mens Club** on Saturday 22nd July, **Michael Eavis** joined the band on stage telling them "what a great band they are".

Originally put on by Michael Eavis as a thank you to the Pilton Villagers and Workers, the Pilton party now draws in up to 5000 people at this major event and Arcadia Roots will share the stage with the headline act that is still to be announced. Always attracting big names including Fatboy Slim, Rudimental, Foals, Example and Reef, Arcadia Roots will be in good company.

Hailing from the Bewdley and Kidderminster area, Arcadia Roots turned to another ex local man to assist them in the studio and flew Emmy nominated sound engineer **Ian Hatton** in from New York to work on their new album and following a week of hard work in the studio, securing a performance at **The Pilton Party** put the icing on the cake for the band.

The band are also working hard appearing at other festivals and venues throughout the UK and will be delivering some local performances at **The Morton Stanley Festival** in Redditch, **The Bewdley Hotel** in Bewdley, **Worleys at the Swan** in Stourport as well as the BBC stage at this year's **Lakefest** in Ledbury **Katie Fitzgeralds** in Stourbridge and the **New Hampton Inn** Wolverhampton before the end of the year.



Learn to Play Day's Worthy Winner!

American guitar manufacturer, **Fender**, presented one lucky person the chance to win a **Standard Stratocaster** in Brown Sunburst to begin their musical discovery.

The competition, in full support of **'Learn to Play Day'**; the flagship event of UK's **Music for All** charity, came with one simple rule to follow: to simply tag someone (who wanted to learn guitar) in the comments section of a Facebook post, with the winner announced the following week.

Amongst a flurry of comments, **Jo Richardson** took to tagging his friend, **Simon Othen**, in relation to Simon's son, **Rory**. Jo added that *"this would be perfect for talented young budding guitarist Rory, who when he was 13 built his dream future guitar from cardboard..."*

Congratulations were swiftly in order for Simon and son Rory as Fender loved the story so much that they would be honoured to give Rory the guitar for real! Thanks soon followed with competition entrant, Jo expressing his excitement, as well as worthy winner Rory taking to his dad's Facebook to add a few choice words: *"Awesome!!!!!! from Rory omggggggg..a big Fender Fan!"*.



NOZSTOCK



Clik Clik



After the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets** at **Nozstock** is taken down piece by piece and the Cabinet team takes a well deserved nap, I take a very small breather before the next big festivals; **Boomtown**, **Green Man** and **Kidderminster Arts Festival** this month!

A massive shout out to all the crew and performers who made this third Cabinet year particularly special, and the secret slots from **Stiff Joints**, **Disco Panther** and **Professor Elemental**. Check out the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets** on facebook for photographs and info.



Photo: Duncan Graves

Clik Clik presents **Pie n Tash** at Boomtown in Hampshire (10-13th), a quirkily dark barbershop-meets-photobooth set in the Wild West District of this incredibly immersive festival. If you are there, then come by for your own extra special make-over!

Green Man Festival (18-20th), set in the beauty of the Brecon Beacons is next on the list. Clik Clik presents **'Animal Allies'**, a roaming performance/micro venue where you can meet your animal guides based on Welsh folklore and get your groove on!

Then the august finale is the wonderful Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF) where I'll be installing **The People's Gallery**, a pop up exhibition working with this year's festival theme of Patterns. You can find me on Saturday 26th August by Kidderminster Town Hall.

clikclikcollective.com

Art on the Severn

Get along to the waters edge for the **Riverside Arts Markets** on Sundays this month, taking place 13th, 20th and 27th August between South Quay and the Diglis Hotel in Worcester.



Division of Labour

After curating in London and Europe, Worcestershire's **Nathaniel Pitt** brings things a little closer to home with an **Division of Labour** exhibition at **Modern Clay**, as part of the hugely successful 'Digbeth First Friday' events. On Friday 4th august, **Looking at Art Looking at People** features work from **David**

Burrows, Jemma Egan, Luke McCreadie, Yelena Popova. The exhibition is a sequel to a 2016 London show entitled "**Looking at People Looking at Art**", curated by **Mark**

Essen. Here the gallery was divided by a large yellow platform with over 21 works of sculpture, and a viewing gallery with a glass window. The audiences were given two options; to move into the room along a narrow path surrounded by the artworks or to climb into the viewing room and watch the people amongst the art. To look at the art or to look at people looking at art. This exhibition explores the shared location of art making and how communities collaborate and develop knowledge; making art in isolation and/or making collectively in clusters.



info@modernclay.org

Modern Clay, Fazeley Street, Digbeth. 6-8pm. 4th August

KAF

This month get over to the **Kidderminster Arts Festival** from 12th -27th for a whole host of creative goodies from street performance, music and visual arts, to workshops, puppetry and the **Kidderminster Fringe Festival**! For the full programme of events, go to



www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

Spare Room Arts pop up shop!

In Worcester's Crowngate shopping centre this summer you can find a 'pop up shop' arts take over! Every weekend from now until the end of august, **Spare Room Arts** will be providing FREE (everyone's favourite word) arts and crafts activities for the whole family. The shop is situated a few doors down from **Rise** records in so go and take a look.

The activities will change weekly to fit a different theme, **Sarah Edwards** has tried to fit in with other events happening in Worcester on those particular weekends, she's particularly looking forward to the 'edible art' workshop to fit in with the food festival this month.

The shop is open between 11-4 pm every Saturday and Sunday until the end of august.

For more info contact sarah@spareroomarts.co.uk



Dancefest



After the success of **Watch Out Worcester**, the open arts day for the city curated by **Dancefest**, they are back to it, with some classes for you this month.

Big Jigsaw Inclusive Dance Summer School (16+)

Using Dancefest's specially made dance yurt, this is an inclusive sensory and movement based experience suitable for people with learning disabilities, their friends and support workers. Using themes of beating hearts, butterflies and boats, it is a chance to be creative and meet new people.

£25 for both days/£15 for one day

Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 August, 10am-3pm

The Courtyard, Edgar Street, Hereford, HR4 9JR

One World In Our Park Performance Project (5-14)

A summer project for children and young people as part of Worcester Community Trust's Kidzplay at the Horizon Centre, to create a short performance for the Friends of Fort Royal Park Bank Holiday Monday event. Horizon Centre (City Centre Community Centre), Midland Road, Worcester, WR5 1DS and Fort Royal Park, Worcester.

Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 August, 10am-3pm

Monday 28 August for the performance (1-3pm)

Find out more or book at dancefest.co.uk 01905 611199

Could you 'dress' a giraffe in artwork?

Artists are being offered a rare chance to decorate an unusual type of canvas as part of a major public art showcase brought to Worcester by St Richard's Hospice.

The **Wild in Art** event entitled **Worcester Stands Tall**, will see at least 25 beautifully decorated giraffe sculptures form an art trail through the city streets and public spaces for 10 weeks in summer 2018.

Currently, each 2.5-metre tall giraffe sculpture is naked – but, with the help of artists from Worcestershire and across the country, they will soon be covered in bespoke artwork. By involving the local arts and culture sectors in this exciting event, St Richard's and Wild in Art hope to create a visually stunning art trail which will both raise money for hospice care and inspire civic pride across Worcestershire.

Tricia Cavell, Fundraising Director at St Richard's, said: "We can't wait to celebrate the artistic talents of the county and beyond in this fantastic project. I am so excited at the thought of majestic giraffes against Worcester's iconic attractions standing tall alongside us to bring color and excitement to the city".

All segments of the creative community can submit designs – from established artists, to undiscovered, along with art students, adults, children, community groups and artists working in all types of mediums.

Artists can enter up to three designs by filling in a submission form which will be available from the Worcester Stands Tall website from Monday 18th September. The giraffe sculpture is a three dimensional canvas and will hold a wide range of media – from graffiti to mosaic, fine art and even metalwork. Entries will be whittled down to the final selection in January and the chosen artists will each be given a giraffe to decorate in April and May 2018. Each selected artist will be awarded a commission of £800.

The trail will run from Monday 9th July and Sunday 16th September. In October 2018 each giraffe will be auctioned off to raise funds for the care provided by St Richard's Hospice to patients living with life-limiting illnesses. Each sculpture will be funded by companies and individuals from around the county.

The giraffes will be joined by at least 25 baby giraffe sculptures – smaller, but crafted just as creatively, by students and teachers in local schools. The baby giraffes will be displayed in the city for the 10 week trail.



Submission forms will be available to download from Monday 18th September from the Worcester Stands Tall website.

For more info call 01905 763963 and ask for Tricia Cavell, email worcesterstandtall@strichards.org.uk or visit: www.worcesterstandtall.co.uk

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

Meadow Arts

Meadow Arts is delighted to announce that it has been successful in its application to **Arts Council England** (ACE) for funding as a **National Portfolio Organisation** from 2018-22.

This means that the organisation can continue to bring its exciting programmes of contemporary art exhibitions and events to unusual places in the West Midlands, often in venues where art is not usually shown, and to support artists to make new work in new places.

Anne de Charmant, Meadow Arts' Director says, *"This is the third round of NPO funding we have received; we are proud and excited that ACE feel they can put their trust in our organisation to deliver excellent contemporary art projects of all sorts. The idiosyncratic business model of Meadow Arts allows us to adapt and change as the world around us does."*

This summer **Synthetic Landscapes** brings work by outstanding artists to Shropshire venues **Weston Park** and **Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery**, with new commissions by **Pablo Bronstein**, **Heather & Ivan Morison** and **David Bethell**, and an exhibition featuring work by **Edward Chell**, **Ged Quinn**, **Helen Maurer**, **Hélène Muheim**, **Julian Opie**, **Jasleen Kaur**, **Ryan Gander**, **Dafna Talmor** and **Salvatore Arancio**.



Photo: Mark Wright

This autumn in Hereford, we partner the **Courtyard Centre for the Arts** to produce an exhibition of new and existing works by internationally renowned artist **Mariele Neudecker**. A new commission by **Heather & Ivan Morison** will open at **The Hive** in Worcester.

Next year our major exhibition will take place in Worcester. We have plans to bring stunning art projects to public spaces throughout the region, while we also extend and continue our programme of artists' talks. We look forward to seeing you soon.

meadowarts.org

Don't miss out, volunteer for KAF 2017!



Don't miss out on an exciting opportunity to get directly involved with this year's **Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF)**.

Organisers of the annual dynamic event, which takes place in and around Kidderminster Town Centre from 12-27 August, want to recruit an army of volunteers to help make this year's festival an even greater runaway success.

This year's event – based on the theme of patterns – will feature music, dance, theatre, acrobatics, interactive arts activities and much, much more. There will be concerts, workshops, exhibitions and installations involving artists of local, national and international repute.

There will be lots of events throughout the week with a different focus on each of the three Saturdays during the festival, culminating in an outdoor cinema event in **Brinton Park** on Sunday 27 August.

Nikki Genner, who organises KAF for **Wyre Forest District Council**, said: *"We hope to involve as many local people as possible in this year's festival, and are offering a wide range of volunteering opportunities, from selling tickets, to helping audiences, from stewarding to looking after artists."*

Anyone who might be interested in finding out more is invited to attend a festival makers volunteer drop-in evening at Tappeto in Kidderminster Town Centre on Thursday 3 August, between 5.30pm and 7.30pm or head to the 'Get Involved' page on our website.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Protection Councillor **Juliet Smith** said: *"I'm really looking forward to this year's festival, and I would encourage anyone who may have a few hours to spare to get involved and come along to find out more about volunteering."*

"As well as enjoying being directly involved in the festival, volunteers also enjoy special discounts on tickets – not to mention gain valuable experience to boost their CV."

For full details of events and the line-up for KAF 2017 go to www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk follow KAF on Facebook www.facebook.com/WyreForestArts and @WyreForestArts on Twitter.

Worcester Foodie Festival Friday 4th August to Sunday 6th August

Take a seat and enjoy your food and drink at the **Foodie Festival** whilst listening to some live tunes by talented local musicians. The main band stand is on the High Street (near Clintons). The music stage on Saturday has kindly been supported by **The Brick Room**, New Street who will be giving you a taste of their live acoustic nights held every Wednesday. **Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants** will be supporting the music stage on Sunday, bringing you the relaxed vibes that can be enjoyed every Sunday at their New Street venue.

Friday

12.00 - 13.45 - Ewan Pollock - Band Stand, High Street
14.00 - 15.45 - Poppy WS - Band Stand, High Street

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Saturday

11.00 - 11.45 - Polly Edwards - Band Stand, High Street
12.00 - 12.45 - Chris Hutchinson - Band Stand, High Street
13.00 - 13.45 - Ruben Seabright - Band Stand, High Street
14.00 - 14.45 - Polly Edwards - Band Stand, High Street
15.00 - 15.45 - Chris Hutchinson - Band Stand, High Street
16.00 - 16.45 - Ruben Seabright - Band Stand, High Street

Saturday

10.00 - 10.45 - Worcester Ukulele Club
High Street (near St Helen's Church)

Sunday kindly supported by **Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants**

11.45 - 12.30 - Worcester Ukulele Club - Band Stand, High Street
13.00 - 13.45 - Chip Langley - Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants
14.00 - 14.45 - Ruben Seabright - Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants
15.00 - 15.45 - Cookie - Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants

Kidderminster Arts Festival

kaf

12TH-27TH AUGUST 2017

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#KAF2017





Provisional Scratch Festival at Café Bliss

August sees the inaugural **Provisional Scratch Festival** come to Worcester City. The festival is supported by **Arts Council England**, and run by **Provisional Act**. A theatre company formed by Worcester University graduates, **Nicole Roman** and **Victoria Agache**.

The festival takes place 17th-20th August with the aim to give artists a space to showcase arts in progress works. Events include an open mic poetry evening called **First Draft**, a draft theatre piece by a university of Worcester lecturer, and a drag queen takeover night. With more acts to be announced, the festival will see spaces brought to life with artists of all disciplines and at all stages of their development. Across the 4 days the main festival hub will be **Café Bliss at Worcester Arts Workshop**, where festivities will climax with a Sunday night music spectacular featuring **The Fidgets**.

Tickets range between £4-£5 for individual events, or festival day passes are available for £8. For more information as events are announced visit provisionalact.co.uk or follow them on Facebook.



Worcester Arts Workshop:

August sees a nice lull at **Worcester Arts Workshop**. The courses have finished for the summer, the courtyard is filled with the peaceful buzz of the bees around **Café Bliss's** kitchen garden; along with the occasional sneeze from our in-house hay fever sufferers. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief, and starts to get on with the admin that we've been ignoring for the rest of the year.

This year, we're excited to have our peace broken by our **Summer Arts Fest**. Summer Arts Fest is one of our biggest summer programme of arts activities for young artists – possibly our biggest one ever! Across 3 days in August we've got *deep breath*: special of our holiday art club with a guest artist; pottery workshops for young people 5-15; a free DJ workshop thanks to **Worcester Action for Youth**; a special family pottery workshop where toddlers can make a masterpiece (or mess) with their responsible grown up; and a movers and wobblers for tiny dancers of the Elton John or any variety, run by **Dancefest**.

All of this doesn't include the courtyard activities like our free magic show and storytelling for younger ones, or the chance to take part in a chalk mural for older young people.

The **Summer Arts Fest** runs from the **8th-10th August** at Worcester Arts Workshop, a full line up is available online at www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk. Tickets are available online or by calling the office on 0190525053

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Lazy Sunday

"Hello lovely people! We just wanted to let you know that you, your friends and family, kids and adults alike, are cordially invited to our second hijacking of the infamous **Café Bliss Lazy Sunday** - the Family Festival Fundraiser for Child.org on **Sunday 13th August from 12pm**.

Tickets are still just £3 and it'll be even bigger and better than last year with activities that any festival goer knows makes a music event that little bit more special - minus the rough sleepage and dreaded portaloos! We raised £650 last year and this year, we're aiming for the big 'un - One Thousand Pounds!

We've got local faves, **Skewwhiff** and **The Black Rattles**, headlining along with special guests, **Humdrum Express** and **Cookie**. Plus, from 12pm your favourite local DJs will be mixing up with some killer summer tunes to get you in the mood.

Eloina and **Jamie** will be cooking up a Belizean storm in the kitchen, there'll be homemade cake, tea and coffee, plenty of booze and, as always, mine and Amanda's smiley faces to greet you at the counter and our beautiful team of volunteers to help throughout the day.

Extras include our very own, extremely talented, Henna artist **Catt Standen**, and an all day art challenge for the kids.

Anna Donaldson, Child.org volunteer."

Festival Arts

Lakefest 10-14th August | Eastnor Castle

Festivals are not just about the music! They also host an array of creative colour from amazing décor, kids and family areas, walkabout theatre, performance and making for all ages!

Lakefest is the local one this month, now based at Eastnor Castle (the home of the amazing **Big Chill** from days gone by).

Spare Room Arts are running the children's area for the fifth year running, having gained gold awards in previous years. Offering a diverse range of craft activities for all ages (adults and children alike), everyone is welcome to take part. A comfortable chill-out zone is provided for those who just want to take the



weight off their feet and watch the world happen around them. There is also a 'crèche' so those adults can take short breaks away



to watch a band. All activities have a Hawaiian theme and include mask making flower garlands, tie dye, grass skirts (but made from fabric), flip flop making and terrifying shark puppets (it's not all about flowers!) amongst many other creative ideas.

Then look out because the **Gentlemen's Juggling Club** are on the loose; a trio made up of some of the country's best circus performers (faces you might well recognise from the shire). Over the weekend there will be daily circus skills workshops where you can learn to ride a unicycle, practice your Diablo, learn to juggle, watch their death-defying performances and much more wild fun!

Local artists **Eastnor Pottery** will be there with a peddle powered potters wheel and plenty of clay throwing so you can turn your hand to making something to take home. 'Pen and Parchment', a new spoken word tent for 2017, gives you an opportunity to play with words and literature!

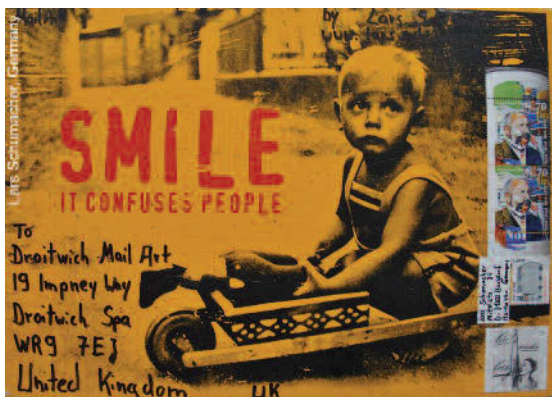
So if you are at **Lakefest** and fancy some creative time out from the music, go and take a look and get stuck in!

lakefest.co.uk

Art Exhibition In Droitwich Library + 3rd International Mail Art Exhibition

Droitwich Arts Network has been organising the very first **ArtsFest** during the three weeks of July. As the final event, the art exhibition of the members will be held at **Droitwich Library** (first-floor gallery). The exhibition will represent a fine choice of members recent works in various styles and media (acrylic and watercolour paintings, photography and contemporary textiles).

At the same time, the library will host **3rd International Mail Art** exhibition "**Long Live the Art!**". This project has started in 2015 by local artist **Tamara Jelaca** with the aim to bring some fresh and new art in Droitwich Spa. Mail art (small format artworks sent by postal service) seems to be a perfect format, thanks to its non-formality and free representation. This year the response from



the artist was excellent. There will be artworks by 143 artists from 25 countries (USA, Brazil, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Turkey, Argentina, Italy, Serbia, Mexico, Norway...). This exciting display of over 250 artworks will be a true celebration of art and visitors will have a unique opportunity to see at one place all diversity of contemporary visual arts.

The exhibitions are open from 2nd - 31st August 2017, at Droitwich Library (Mon, Wed, Fri 9:30am - 5:30pm, Tue 9:30am - 6:30pm, Sat 9:30am - 3:30pm, Thu, Sun Closed).

A Celebration And Enlightenment of Art From the Dark

Until 11th Sep | Hereford Library, Museum & Art Gallery

Last month saw the opening of an exhibition celebrating the creativity of those confronting mental health struggles, titled **'A Celebration and Enlightenment of Art from The Dark'** in the Hereford library.

Thirty members of the Herefordshire **Mind's Wellskilled Art Programme** have organised the art feast, with items including jewellery, landscapes and portraits, prints and plates, and photography, showcasing how art can assist people confronting mental health issues in support of the exhibition.

The Wellskilled Programme at Herefordshire Mind, says Team Leader Val Comley, *"has ran the art programme since October 2012, with aims of improving access to, and availability of, recovery, education and personal development opportunities for people experiencing poor mental health - offering 25 courses each year, and engaging with 462 clients who have reported positive changes to their mental wellbeing."*

Art from The Dark comes from the major collaboration between the 31 Broad Street Group and Herefordshire Mind, the Library and the Museum/Art Gallery, being the first of its kind to take place throughout the building since it closed two years ago.

31 Broad Street Development Group member and Exhibition Curator, **Kate Seekings**, identified the hoped-for outcomes of the exhibition, including that of acknowledging the wonderful creativity of local, vulnerable adults traditionally considered to be “on the edge of society”, and the aim to break barriers, stigma and judgement around mental health.

In his letter of support, MIND President and fellow mental health struggler, **Stephen Fry**, points to the exhibition as *"improving the landscape immeasurably, showing the connection between problems of mental health and its achievements in the arts"*.

Art from The Dark is open until September 11th during normal library and museum opening hours, with a range of cards and prints available for purchase. For those unable to visit Hereford Town Centre, many of the images and the artists' stories are accessible via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (search "ArtFromTheDark"). For more information contact Kate on ArtFromTheDark@gmail.com or 07951 385 960.



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Art For Amnesty

Malvern Hills Amnesty International and Malvern Quakers present **Art For Amnesty** 2017, the annual Exhibition and Sale in support of Amnesty International.

Art for Amnesty is Malvern's annual exhibition for the best of local artists, professional and amateur - around a hundred - to show their work. They contribute works for sale, 70% going to the artist, 30% to Amnesty International. 2017 sees our 16th exhibition and also marks 56 years of Amnesty International.

Works on display range from paintings and prints to woodcarving, ceramics and textiles. Artists' greeting cards are on sale, as well as art books from Books for Amnesty, Malvern. We accept payment by cash or cheque - sorry, no credit or debit cards.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Saturday 19 August at 11am by **Baraa Ehssan Kouja**, a Syrian from Aleppo. He is the founder and director of From Syria With Love, a charity that works directly with refugees and raises awareness about the plight of Syrian people.

Art for Amnesty is at the **Quaker Meeting House**, 1 Orchard Road, Malvern WR14 3DA from Saturday 19 to Monday 28 August 2017- 10.00am - 5.00pm, Sundays 2.00pm - 5.00pm, Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am - 8.00pm. Admission Free.

We invite entries from new artists: please contact Sue Wolfendale at susanwolfendale@btinternet.com or 01684 562804.



or go to: www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/malvern-hills/19-28-august-2017-art-amnesty and download Afa Guidance for Artists 2017.doc and Afa entry form 2017.doc Closing Date: 4th August

Can you offer on for two half-day sessions as an Exhibition Steward? If so, please contact Cally Law 01684 566268; cally.law1@gmail.com

Enquiries: Trevor Trueman 01684 573722; osg@talktalk.net

Exhibition Curator: Elaine Bentley

Art for Amnesty is organised jointly by **Malvern Hills Amnesty** and **Malvern Quakers**

amnesty.org.uk/malvern malvernquakers.org.uk

Worcester Sixth Form College Mural Project at Worcester Arts Workshop

On 8th and 9th July **Worcester Sixth Form College** students and staff, in conjunction with **Worcester Arts Workshop** and local schools recently created a colourful, eye-catching mural for everyone to view in the heart of Worcester city centre.

Students from the College and local schools were invited along with visiting artists, students from the Worcester Arts Workshop classes and members of the local community. The aims were to highlight what a vibrant city Worcester is, capturing the historical background in a contemporary way and to showcase the work of the talented students, and the finished work has certainly achieved both of these aims.

The concept was devised and developed by **Alice Malone**, teacher of Art and Design at Worcester Sixth Form College. **Sarah Cotterill**, Manager of the Worcester Arts Workshop, was very supportive of this project and agreed that Alice could use a large wall on the exterior of the Worcester Arts Workshop, located in Sansome Street. Alice said: "It has always been a dream of mine to facilitate a large scale collaborative work of art in the community for everyone to enjoy. What appealed to me was the opportunity for links to be made with other schools and organisations."



She adds: "As soon as the location of the mural was decided, I contacted various Worcester schools such as Nunnery Wood High School, The Chantry High School and Bishop Perowne CE College to invite them to come up with original designs based on Worcester's youth, heritage and diversity. These designs were then put together with the help of our skilled art students and staff at the Worcester Sixth Form College to create the final design."

The project was made possible through the support of **Michael Kitcatt**, Principal at Worcester Sixth Form College, who kindly agreed that the College would assist with the funding needed, and the Worcester Arts Council, who also donated a grant.



National Portfolio Announcement



The Arts Council of England announced their National Portfolio for 2018-2022 in June. This is a list of all organisations in the country who will receive regular funding from them for the years listed above. There was a shift to funding the regions as opposed to large scale national organisations and this move has meant more money being invested into more organisations. I think this makes total sense and the large national organisations can survive a small percentage cut to their funding. This proved good news for Worcestershire who now have five National Portfolio Organisations. These are **Dancefest**, **Live&Local (Shindig)**, **C&T**, **Meadow Arts** and a new one, **Vamos**. It is a great achievement and well done to all in those organisations. I am especially pleased for **Vamos** who have developed so much as an organisation.

Voices and Visions 2017

The County Arts Service and Severn Arts have been busy with this year's **Voices and Visions**. **Voices and Visions** is the annual showcase of work for children and young people. It was as usual a great achievement for everyone who took part. There were five events that were part of the programme.

From May to June, 40 schools exhibited art at the Cathedral. The theme was **Our Generations** and we had some wonderful work from the schools. We were also thankful for a grant from **Nadfas**



which meant we were able to bring artists into special schools in the county. The below is from **Fort Royal School** and is a great example of how an artist can bring something unique to a school.

Thanks to **Richard Webb** for curating such a great show.

Our performance events took place at the **Hive** and at **The Cathedral** and we had 24 schools performing to the same theme. The Hive was a more informal event while the Cathedral was the usual stunning event. This year we also showcased individual young artists and we had the young poets, **Jodie Young** and **Oakley Flanagan** performing as well as **Dancefest**.

On the 6th of July we then went to **Kidderminster Town Hall** for an event called '**1000 Years of Song**'. This featured six performances of some of the most important pieces of music from the last 1000 years. It ranged from Henry v111 to Massive Attack. Again we worked with artists to help the schools and I was so impressed by the work of **Ed Steelefox**, **White Socks**, **Olivia Preye** and **Lee Farley** who brought some fresh invention to the work.

A special thanks to **Marie Oldaker** for making these events happen. Last but not least another special thanks to **Diane Thomson** and **Sue Church** who have now left the **County Arts Service**. I will miss you.

Steve Wilson



Cultivate@Courtyard Herefordshire's Centre for the Arts

The **Courtyard** are offering an exciting opportunity for three emerging artists aged 16 – 25, and with a link to Herefordshire, to take part in its latest visual arts project.

The exhibition, titled **Cultivate @ Courtyard**, is inviting artists to submit a technically accomplished and resolved piece of artwork or craft, along with supporting evidence in the form of a sketchbook or drawings. Three chosen artists will be shortlisted by a panel of judges, and will then be mentored by professional artist **Maria Morgan**, as they work towards producing an exhibition at **The Courtyard** and **Old Mayor's Parlour Gallery** in May 2018, with the overall winner being presented £1000!

The anticipated exhibition comes shortly after the announcement that the Courtyard has been re-awarded with the status of **National Portfolio Organisation (NPO)** by **Arts Council England**. A status presented to leading art organisations in the UK which includes funding, to directly support artistic and local talent development. Local art organisation, **Meadow Arts**, have also been successful in receiving the award for 2018-2022.

The announcement will also work alongside the upcoming Courtyard exhibition, with Maria Morgan, Project Co-ordinator, adding that: "*Cultivate @ Courtyard is a really exciting project*

David Durant & Maria Morgan



which will support emerging artists to raise their artistic profile and develop skills. Herefordshire is full of creative talent and I am really looking forward to mentoring the three individuals as they prepare for their exhibition."

Submission is now open for **Cultivate @ Courtyard**. For more information about the exhibition, the NPO award, or to download the project pack, please visit courtyard.org.uk/visualarts.

For queries please contact David Durant david.durant@courtyard.org.uk The deadline for submitting work is Friday 1 September at The Courtyard, Edgar Street, Hereford, HR4 9JR.

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

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August is here – summer holidays and dodgy weather await! Will this be a month of raincoats and umbrellas, or of long hot dreamy days on the beach or out of doors? Either way, I hope we can all enjoy that we get, and try to make the best of it. At least poetry can be written and performed indoors.

And rain or shine, there are always, there are always spoken word events going on in Worcestershire, so here are some dates for you diary –

Thursday 3rd – Uncorked at Bottles Wine Bar, Friar Street. An eclectic and lively night of poetry. I'm headlining, so I'm really looking forward to this! Starts 7.30pm. Admission £5

Thursday 10th – 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 30th – 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.



And if you're going to **LakeFest** at Eastnor Deer Park on Saturday August 12th, look out for our poetry tent. There will be poetry events going on all day – including performances by current and former Laureates, a number of guest performers, Poetry on Demand, a poetry brothel (and if you don't know what that is, come and find out) and a special festival appearance by the wonderful Antipoet! Come rain or shine, this is going to be a memorable day!

Suz Winspear

Trainspotting /T2

Worcester Brewing Company | Saturday, August 5

Choose films. Choose real ale. Choose an authentic experience. Choose to make your friends wish they'd been there. Choose a night of Trainspotting under the railway arches.

On Saturday, August 5, the **Worcester Brewing Company** is hosting a night of classic British cinema, with a screening of the ground-breaking **Trainspotting** followed by the long-awaited T2.

From 5.15pm, guests are invited to head over to the brewery on Cherry Tree Walk to sample some of Worcester's finest real ale before settling in for the double bill of Danny Boyle's classic films.

Come in your very best fancy dress and join Ewan McGregor, Johnny Lee Millar, Robert Carlyle and Ewen Bremner as they slink around the drug-hazed Edinburgh created by Irvine Welsh and brought to the screen by Danny Boyle.

Watch the original and the sequel; back to back as you sip on a pint or two of fresh ale and luxuriate in the faux rock 'n' roll glamour and true horror of addiction, friendship and betrayal onscreen.

Before and during the films, guests are invited to sup on some of Worcester's best beer, brewed on the premises and poured straight from the barrel. We're laid back and don't mind a bit of audience participation or wandering about during the film. Snacks and food will be on offer too.



There is no charge for entry to this event, but donations are appreciated to cover overhead costs.

Whether you're new to the films or a cult fan, you're sure to enjoy experiencing the rumble or trains overhead as you embark on your unique Trainspotting journey.

The Worcester Brewing Company can be found at number 49 Cherry Tree Walk and even in summertime the unique venue can be chilly, so guests are advised wrap up warm.

Seating in this intimate and unusual space is limited, and we think this is going to be a popular one so why not get there early? Choose a locally-made, hand-crafted real ale. Choose a seat in an historic and ambient setting. Choose a night you won't forget.



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Saturday 26 – Monday 28 August

Worcestershire is a county bursting with artistic talent and this August bank holiday weekend provides the perfect opportunity to sample it when artists open their studios, homes and shared spaces at 70 different locations for **Worcestershire Open Studios**. Visitors can peek inside normally unseen spaces and chat to artists about their creative processes and inspiration.

Now in its third year, the popular event will showcase a diverse collection of original arts and crafts made by over 200 Worcestershire artists – from drawing, painting, printmaking and photography to ceramics, jewellery, textiles and mixed media. With such huge choice and so many varied styles, there's something to suit every taste.



Mother and daughter, **Nicola** and **Francesca Currie** (left) are amongst the artists taking part at one of 24 venues across Worcester. Francesca says, *"Open studios last year was incredibly exciting. We had more than 150 people come through our doors. As well as selling, I gained an important painting commission. Open Studios gives visitors an opportunity to see the artist in their habitat. We can't wait to participate again this year."*

Other city participants include photographer **Martin Addison**, who is looking forward to sharing images created using close-up techniques, movement and multi-exposure. Mixed media artist, **Elaine Williams**, has been hard at work creating exciting new pieces inspired by natural forms, involving hand stitching onto the surface of paintings.

Upstairs at **Waylands Yard** in Foregate Street, newcomers **Portfolio 17** promise an exciting visual display with work on show in variety of medium by a group of ten artists. And just round the corner you will find ceramics, photography, printmaking and smoke drawing all under one roof at the **Worcester Arts Workshop**.

Over in Crowle, bird lovers will flock to see **John Horton's** landscapes. While in Flyford Flavell **All Fired Up's** studio will glow with bright, colourful and quirky fused glasswork. Visitors to **Jo Winson's** Alvechurch studio will need to take a closer look at her playful digital drawings and prints to discover more serious content.

To extend the experience and help visitors get stuck in, some of artists are offering demonstrations and have a go sessions. One such venue is **Honeybourne Pottery** in Evesham: *"We will be*

running demonstrations and even offering people the chance to get hands-on and throw their own pot on the wheel!"

With more than 20 venues in the Malvern and Colwall areas, people will be spoilt for choice. There's **Andrew Judd** with his popular letterpress pieces and linocut prints, **Mark Brayley** creator of sculptural, mythical inspired jewellery, oil painter **Eugene Conway** who favours the 'alla prima' technique and **Trudi Foggo's** evocative work themed around 'a sense of belonging, where home is'. Malvern **School of Art Tutors** is putting on a large exhibition featuring hundreds of pieces of work by the artists and craftspeople who teach at the college.



TrudiFoggo - Incoming Tide, Broken Defences

Entry to all venues is free. Details of participating artists and galleries can be found at www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk Guides are now available to download or pick up from libraries, Tourist Information Centres and other locations across the county.

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Evesham Festival of Words

30th June - 2nd July

Evesham Festival of Words delivered a fantastic weekend of entertainment, education and amusement in an action-packed programme of events to suit all tastes.

Day one, Friday 30th June, included a wide range of talks and workshops including 'A World of Words', a sold out talk by Festival Chairman, **Sue Ablett**, who entertained her audience by taking them on a fascinating and highly unusual linguistic and literary voyage to some of the many far-flung places she has visited. The rest of the day was peppered with a programme of workshops including: **Alexa Radcliff-Hart's** 'Writing Short Stories'; **Rachel Kelly's** 'The Healing Power of Poetry' and **Phillipa Ashley's** 'A Very Modern Romance'.

The headline event and formal opening of the Festival was held at **Evesham's Town Hall** on Friday evening, when the hugely accomplished businesswoman, **Prue Leith**, opened the Festival and followed the formalities with a witty outline of her very interesting career. Starting out in Paris, when she trained to be a cook, she went on to be one of Britain's best read food writers, owner of a cookery school, restaurateur, novelist and, most recently, making it onto the judging panel of one of the county's most popular television cookery programmes: The Great British Bake Off.

Following her interview with **Lynne Powell**, Prue was invited to present the awards to the winners of the Festival's short story competition. **Iona Mandal** received first prize in the Junior, 8 – 11 category, for her story, 'Anne Frank – Reborn'; **Charvi Jain** scooped the 12 – 15 prize, for 'Boundless' and the Senior prize went to **Ali Bacon** for her work, 'The Bird of Wax'. The winning and short-listed stories are available in an anthology from the Festival Bookshop based at Evesham's Almonry in Vine Street.

Saturday's programme was packed with writer's workshops, live performances and free children's events. **The Red Lion**, in the Market Square, opened its doors to Festival goers who were entertained by local boys, **John** and **Will Dallimore**. Their 'Asum Grammar' session had everyone laughing; Asum, of course, is Evesham and Will's poetry proved a big hit with the audience. Next came an opportunity for local writers to take to the microphone and read some of their own work to the packed pub and the afternoon wound up with a wonderful performance by local indie duo, **Hannah-H**. The talent of **Hannah Knight** and **Tim Haines** is jaw-droppingly good. Their songs are written from experiences in life, definitely putting the H into human! Watch out for them on the circuit, they are going places!

Saturday's finale was a superb concert at **All Saints Church**. Festival Patron, BBC's **Michael Collie**, compered the event beautifully, guiding the audience through the evening, weaving the wonderful playing of internationally renowned classical pianist, **Marcel Zidani**, with popular pieces



sung by the Vale's all-lady choir, directed by **Jenny Newbury**, **Mums Aloud**. The audience was help spellbound throughout the entire performance, which included pieces written by **Grieg**, **Liszt** and **Chopin**.

Sunday's programme started with a gentle poetry Walk, led by **Polly Stratton**. The afternoon included a short story writing workshop for authors who want to make into women's magazines. The workshop, led by **Helen Yendall**, proved so popular that a similar event will be held at Evesham's Almonry on Sunday 9th July to meet demand!

Finally we reach the close of the main Festival weekend and with that came the grand finale brought to us by **Jo Keeling**, **David Bramwell** and **John Higgs** - *The Odditorium*. Jo and David have crafted this book of eccentricity, invention, trickery and pure deviancy. It's incredible what people will do! Have you ever tried posting yourself to yourself? No? Well it's been done, and more than once! Another spellbound audience and a great way to bring the main Festival weekend to a close.



Sue Ablett, Chairman of Evesham Festival of Words, said: "It's been truly amazing. We set out to bring a festival which has something for everyone and we've pulled it off! We've had everything from the local talent of Hannah-H and Will and John Dallimore (two of the funniest men I've ever met!), to the internationally acclaimed New Zealand writer, Trish Nicholson and of course, Marcel Zidani. What more could we have asked for? Evesham looked a delight in the sunshine, which played a role in encouraging locals and visitors into the town to enjoy the many events that were on offer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken an active role in this year's Evesham Festival of words. Whether you were in the audience, a performer, a venue, or a sponsor; whether you set out tables, made cakes or washed up; we're all part of a team and thank you for being part of that team."

The Festival Fringe events continue until December and planning for the 2018 Festival is already underway.

For more information visit www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org or phone Sue Ablett on 07871 285606 or Angela Fitch 01386 751682 angela.fitch@btinternet.com



August at Artrix



Looking ahead to August, **The Marley Experience**, an eight piece Midlands based band, will be bringing the unforgettable sounds and vibes of Bob Marley to audiences on 11 August, followed by **Nicola T** as Beyonce on 12 August. A great night out for 'all the single ladies' Nicola has been wowing audiences since 2009 with her live show, featuring hits from Queen B and Destiny's Child.



Other gigs throughout August include **The Lock In 'Remixed'** featuring **The Demon Barbers** on 13th August. This show is an exciting celebration of dance culture, where Folk and Hip Hop unite to stunning effect. The Lock In is a live music and dance extravaganza and the house band, **The Demon Barbers**, take English Folk music on a new journey with Hip Hop, House, Funk, Disco and even says hello to Drum & Bass and Ska along the way.

If classic Rock 'n' Roll music is what you like then you'll love David Hamilton's Rock 'n' Roll Back the Years when it comes to Artrix on 19 August. Starring DJ and broadcasting legend '**Diddy**' **David Hamilton**, this show features a fantastic live band and David will tell the stories behind the songs that we all know and love, while the musicians and singers storm through some of the greatest songs of the era.

For further information on all events at Artrix or to book tickets visit www.artrix.co.uk or call Box Office on 01527 577330.

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Navajo Ace

With deep roots in the midlands DIY scene, and with support slots for the likes of Moose Blood, Bivouac and the mighty Mike Watt under their belts since forming in early 2016, Worcester's **Navajo Ace** have begun to carve a name for themselves with their soulful and layered indie rock sound.

In these chaotic and turbulent days, music has an emotionally instaurative power, perhaps more today than for a generation. With their first full release, *Five Turnings*, offering some very finely wrought songs and due to drop this month, we caught up with **Adam Barnes** (Vocals, Guitar) and **Chris Burton** (Bass) to talk influences - and the place and power of DIY.



Navajo Ace. Hello.

NA: SLAP. Hello. Thanks for having us.

Now. There's clearly a lot of soul in what you do. Where does all that come from?

NA: Well, creating a sense of passion, soul and an energy which flows is a goal for us. It's important that the songs have dynamics and are crafted rather than just being a collection of riffs. It's fair to say we have some degree of influence from US indie rock bands such as *The Get Up Kids* and *Texas is the Reason* - basically a lot of bands from the "golden days" of 90's Emo before it became a commercial fashion statement.

While our music and motivation may not be overtly political, there's definitely a narrative and commentary of sorts. People obviously turn to music as an escape, both performing and listening. In the current shitty world we think it's a valid thing to try and give someone something that shines - or that speaks to them.

I can also hear a lot of other influences in your sound - from straight up alt-rock right through to K-Records style slacker and big, pedal-driven guitar that's almost grunge revival... but what do you think?

NA: There are plenty of influences from outside the Emo & hardcore genres, such as US college and alt rock, shoegaze and post rock. Navajo Ace will appeal to fans of those genres. Indie, slacker and grunge are as key to the sound as anything. Noisy indie rock !

Big influences on Adam in particular growing up were *Smashing Pumpkins*, *Pearl Jam*, *Nirvana* (obviously), *Idlewild*, *Death Cab for Cutie*, and branching out more into folk (*Bob Dylan*, *Kris Drever*), post

rock (*Explosions in the sky*, *Cougar*, *Mogwai*), the less "metally" end of metal (*Hopesfall*, *Twin Zero*) and the more interesting end of indie rock - *Mew* and *Jet Plane Landing* springing readily to mind.

Tell us more about the EP - *Five Turnings* - which is a DIY effort I believe?

NA: It was recorded at *JT Soar* in Nottingham - an awesome DIY venue Adam's old band (*Some Skeletons*) used to play at all the time without realising that there was a studio upstairs. It was engineered by a guy called Phil Booth, a man well known on the UK DIY music scene, which is very incestuous!

I'm not sure we have a whole lot of choice about whether we release the EP ourselves, but doing so means we have total control over how it is released and how people hear it. We're keen for it to be available to anyone (for free if that's what people choose) who is interested. We're a new band - the guy in NYC who mastered it, *Jesse Cannon*, is a bit of an authority on the modern music industry and he gave us some pretty sage advice.

His view was very much: release stuff yourself, keep control, build a fan base so you're a decent prospect for a label for album one or two if that's the way you want to go. But with more and more kick-starter projects and the power of the internet to reach people bands are doing more and more themselves. Not many labels take a punt on a brand new band these days, and generally speaking you probably need to prove you're decent and that (enough) people are interested in your music before you go down that route - if it's something you want, that is!

And finally, your songs are also clearly struck through with meaning. Can you tell us more about that before we go?

NA: As we said, although not overtly political there is a definitely a political undercurrent to some of the songs ...music can be a very effective way of venting frustration and disappointment at the actions and attitudes of people in positions of power.

As for themes: nostalgia vs regression and how easily the two are confused, family, class and generational divides, politics of fear / control, death, grief, hope. You know, the usual..

A good song can be completely liberating. It can lift you instantly from feeling isolated or misunderstood...and that's a really powerful thing.

And Amen to that.

Navajo Ace's debut EP is released on August 7th via bandcamp and facebook.com/navajoace

Veronica Bloodsauseage

@navajoaceband soundcloud.com/navajoace

Photography: Duncan Graves



West Fest July 1st 2017

As the sound and music supervisor for Malvern's **West Fest 2017**, I'm very pleased to say that a combination of great bands and fine weather helped make this the best West Fest ever. The third Diversity stage continued the tradition of showcasing both individual and ensemble performers while the two main stages alternated between acts with barely a two minute changeover time between one band finishing and the next band starting. This was achieved by sound-checking the bands using the on-stage monitors and then doing any final front of house balancing on-the-fly. **Christian Finn** mixing the field stage and I mixed the marquee stage. On the marquee stage we were fortunate in being able to use an exotic Fohhn PA as I was reviewing it for Sound On Sound. It was barely ticking over yet filled the field with seriously high quality sound. Christian used his own Turbosound rig on the field stage and again achieved consistently great results. Both systems used mixers that could be controlled via iPad so there were no multicore cables or mixing stations to worry about. While my iPad was on charge I even mixed one of the bands from my iPhone.

Picking the musical highlights of the day is no easy task as all the bands turned in superb performances. **Jivaholics** kicked off the day with a very lively rock and roll set after driving up from South Wales and were the only band to incorporate a brass section. **Temple Lake** travelled up from London while local band, The



White Feather Collective delivered a fantastic set despite the



only brief rain shower of the day. **Julie July** were invited back after last year's success performing several songs in the style of Sandy Denny — then later in the day **The Truckstop Trixies** treated us to a generous slice of Americana. Star guest **Gordon Giltrap** mesmerised everyone with his beautiful guitar playing, being joined at one point by **Ray Mytton** to perform a duet arrangement of 'Maddie Goes West'. We also heard folk from **Set 'Em Up Joe**, classic rock from **Zen Archeray** and a beautiful set of original music from **Sundara**. I got to play as part of **The Ray Mytton Band** — which made a nice change from mixing — then it was

20 SLAP AUGUST



straight back to setting up and mixing the next band. The evening was rounded off energetically by sets from **Flatworld** and **Artiphunk**. What really worked this year was the huge variety of musical styles with no two bands covering quite the same ground.



Organising **West Fest**, which donates all profits to local good causes, is a year-long process and setting up the show itself involves four days of hard work. Every year several of us say 'Never again', but somehow we always end up coming back to do it the next year.

Words: Paul White, Imagery: Dazz Green

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The Kidderminster Fringe Festival

Saturday 19th August sees the return of the **Kidderminster Fringe Festival**. Now into its 6th year the FREE event will once again be held in Worcester Street outside the **Boars Head** pub. The event is being organised by Sand and Sid (formerly of said pub) and is being put on in association with **Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF)**.

As well as a host of live acts performing for your entertainment there will be a live paint jam that starts at 11am. There will also be family entertainments, food stalls and an outside bar. The bars at the Boars Head (now under new management) will also be open during the event. Between 12pm and 3pm the music kicks off with acoustic acts performing in the park area.

The music on the main stage will kick off with **Vault of Dub** (the Ska'd up re-invention of **Vault of Eagles**). Following will be the vocal delights of talented local singer-songwriter **Teddy Matthews**. Next up on stage will be the hard rocking funkied out tuneage of Kidderminster band **Electric Soup**. West Midlands folk



Teddy Matthews



The Stiff Joins

punk stalwarts **Bleeding Hearts** will bring a Celtic vibe to the proceedings before Worcester band **Skewwhiff** entertain the crowd with their own special blend of post-punk new wave. Staffordshire band **The Social Ignition** will keep the party going with their Ska vibes before Kidderminster's very own master of wry social commentary **The Humdrum Express** entertains us with some of his witty, catchy songs.

Headlining the event will be Kidderminster's favourite sons **The Stiff Joins**. A band that need little introduction, the 11 piece Ska army have become a firm favourite on the UK festival scene since forming in 2009. With their debut full length album due out this summer it will be a great time to catch one of the mostly entertaining and energetic live bands around. One thing is for sure there will be hundreds dancing in the street when these boys start skanking!

Jason K

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BLEEDING HEARTS
Vault of Dub
Electric Soup
The Bullfrogs
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HVMM | Talk To Me Like I'm Dead

HVMM channel all their rage and ferocity into their music so with news that they'll be unleashing their dark debut EP *'Talk To Me Like I'm Dead'* on September 1st, we're getting ready to unHINGE ourselves and finally let out that pent up emotion.

The Worcester locals started their band after a series of intriguing events, including a 'scuffle' in a pub and a caffeine then alcohol fueled meeting, maybe suggesting some of the reason for the their apoplectic nature. Live, they're known for their unquenchable presence that makes them truly unforgettable, perhaps explaining how they ended up being the first British act signed to US label ILA. So, if their past is anything to go by, this future release is a sure-fire hit.



'Going Postal' almost matches up to the energy but mainly focuses on intermittent riffs that provide the perfect platform for guitarist **Ebony Clay** to demonstrate her immense talent. That's not the only way Clay is flourishing in this track, we get to see her flaunt her impressive vocal abilities that make us wish she had more of a presence in the rest of the tracks. But the highlight of this track is the momentous climax it reaches. It'll take your breath away, it will take your mind away and it will leave you with an inexplicable thirst for more.



The release kicks off with their single *'Lacerate'*. The track, out now if you fancy a taste of what they're offering, combines the traditional with the strange. In it you'll find the underlying sound of blues rock that's topped off by bass lines and riffs that are both exquisitely melodic and hauntingly eerie. It's Herculean in nature, matching up to the likes of music powerhouses such as Jack White and The Black Keys along with the wild, unruly essence of *Slaves*.

Later on in the EP you can hear the previously tracks *'Beggars and Thieves'* and *'Going Postal'*, both released in a double a-side single. The first of the two brings in some serious western vibes that are beefed up with HVMM's anger. It's unapologetic in it's anarchy and if you don't end up with a headache from the movement this song's going to command you to do, you're not listening properly.



Elsewhere on the EP are the tracks that have still yet to be debuted, including the melodic *'1924'*. The vocals are even stronger in this track, leading the instruments through the slow, daring trance that is as threatening as it is haunting. And that's not even considering the climax that will leave you dizzy and breathless, hungry for more. That hunger might not quite be fed straight away as HVMM decide to dip into more experimental sounds with the electronically infused *'Millies Going To Town'*. The vocals also experiment as those haunting vocals turn into viscerally rapped lines, reminding us again vividly of *Slaves*, perhaps even producing a much better version of the duo's aggressive style.

That's before the epic release is drawn to a close by *'Circular Town'*, a slow builder that snakes through the grass, not quite ready to strike until the full band have teased you and tempted you. It's doubtful that they'll reach their rise but it comes in and takes you off your feet. *'Circular Town'* will leave you lifeless, your energy sucked out by what a momentous extravagance it is. You could try and keep up with HVMM and their debut EP but it's very unlikely that you'll succeed.

Emily Branson



Classical Mixtape

Tewkesbury Abbey | Tuesday 11th July

Why don't you watch more Classical Music? Too expensive? Too formal? Have to be seated when you'd rather stand up? Worried about being bellowed at by vast Rhine maidens for a couple of hours at a stretch?

Classical Mixtape - part of the **Cheltenham Music Festival** - tried to address some of these issues in an extraordinary presentation in **Tewkesbury Abbey** recently.

There are so many unusual aspects to this recital that I hardly know where to start. The two banks of seats in the nave are gone, leaving just a few at the sides. Tewkesbury's exotic carpet supplier, J.W. Jennings, has laid rugs of great beauty from many lands all over the floors (a leap of faith, this because it's pouring down outside). People are sitting around wherever they can find space - some are lying down, gazing up at the ceiling with its glorious vaulting, dramatically lit by many powerful uplighters. We are encouraged to take pictures and tweet them. There's even a bar in the entrance, benefiting the local Foodbank. Nobody has paid to get in.

And then the music starts.

There are to be two forty minute programmes tonight, with no piece lasting more than about five minutes. There are three stages spaced out, one centrally, one in the usual choir space and one under the great East window.

There are musical stars here tonight, young powerful talents as soloists, including this year's winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year award, cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason**. There are more seasoned professionals too, **Carleton Etherington** the Abbey's organist in residence and the **Savitri Singers** providing a huge choral presence, evident immediately as the first dreamlike piece by **John Tavener** fills the vast space with sound.



To call this programme '*eclectic*' tonight would be a gross understatement. There's a piece by a composer called Mesomedes of Crete called '*Hymn to the Sun*' - it was written nearly 1900 years ago... The soloist, on soprano sax is 18 year old **Jess Gillam**, a woman so slight of build you wonder where the power is coming from, a cascade of notes that appears to switch from printed score to improvisation towards the end - simply amazing.

Kanneh-Mason is in action early and it's clear why this young man is attracting so much attention, with deep, rich tones and an astonishing vibrato technique which you can actually feel, rather like standing close to a bass bin at a Rock gig. You can imagine him doing press-ups on his fingertips. His excerpt from Bach's *Cello Suite No.1* also provides the visual highlight of the second half, the player isolated on stage under the expanse of the East window.

But he is not the only member of this immensely talented musical family to be here tonight - his elder sister **Isata**, is playing piano. She is an exceptional pianist, fluent and exuding calm without a hint of the theatricality that detracts from so many performances - even when she crosses, her hands glide almost imperceptibly over each other. She chooses the second movement of Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No.8*, the *Pathétique*, as her solo piece. It is almost literally breathtaking and there's a gasp around me as it finishes.

Gershwin snakes through the air - completely disorientated, I haven't a clue where it's coming from - it gets louder and I turn round to see Gillam walking up the South Aisle playing, having swapped her soprano sax for a tenor. Musicians on the move - I'm used to it in Rock but I've never seen it in Classical.

The choir splits from time to time, facing each other on the two furthest stages. This produces some spectacular results, particularly in Allegri's '*Miserere*', which closes the first section.

The call and response has the audience slowly switching its attention from one end of the Abbey to the other as if watching a slow motion tennis match - there's some extraordinary singing in this piece, with one of the sopranos to my left hitting a note so high and pure that it's still ringing in my head when the section closes to an absolute explosion of applause.

Yet another part of the Abbey is utilised as a stage, as violinist **Daniel Piero** plays Bach from the ornate pulpit, and in the second half of the programme, he becomes the second ambulatory musician of the night as he descends from the East window stage to walk round the audience, playing a shimmering 17th century piece by Heinrich Biber.

The **Kanneh-Masons** team up to play Leonard Cohen's '*Hallelujah*', a piece that I thought to have had the last strand of originality and nuance wrung out of it long ago. Wrong. There are people visibly moved, with many eyes being discretely dabbed. I hold out until they team up again in the second half for Saint-Saens' stately and magnificent '*The Swan*' from the '*Carnival of the Animals*' - it is exquisite, as is their interpretation of Faure's '*Après un reve*'. I am told afterwards by Paul Williams, the Abbey's Canon, that a young girl of five or six began spontaneously to dance ballet during '*The Swan*', inspired by the music.

At the end, after the prolonged and enthusiastic applause and cheering has finally died down, the retiring collection looks very big indeed, a true reflection of our appreciation of this unique event. I walk out in a complete daze, overshoot my car by a huge distance and have to trek back in the steady drizzle. Was the experiment a success? It was for me - with a choice of five possibles on the following Saturday, I choose a Classical recital for my next gig. Unforgettable.

Geoffrey Head

Download the full programme - <http://cheltenhamfestivals-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/File/12478.pdf>



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Nuns Of The Tundra

Following a handful of compelling singles and a storming, recent headline set at **The Marris Bar** (Worcester), I thought it was about time I caught up with psych-tinged desert rockers **Nuns Of The Tundra**. Front man **Troy Tittley** and I had a quick chinwag about the foundations of the band, their unusual, yet eye catching moniker and their plans for the future.

I guess, the first obvious question is what's behind the unusual name, 'Nuns Of The Tundra'?

Troy: "Getting a good band name is really, really tough. It's got to look good on paper so when we headline Glastonbury the posters look good, it's got to roll off the tongue, and be unique enough that people remember you, even if your songs suck. Nuns of the Tundra was actually kind of a joke, until I said it out loud and it just rolled off my tongue and I knew that was it. There was just something so right about some sacred holy women watching over a barren icy landscape! It has this sinister yet quirky and fun feel to it, it just clicked for me! The bassist of The Fratellis messaged me on Twitter saying how much he loved our name, and one reviewer gave us the made up award of most original band name."

How has the band evolved and where do you take your musical influences from? Personally, I can hear elements of groove laden desert rock and psychedelic in the mix, is this a fair assessment?

Troy: "You're bang on the money! My favourite bands since I was a teenager have always been Queens Of The Stone Age, Foo Fighters and Nine Inch Nails. I think those acts are like the gateway drug of the rock 'n' roll world to me. I would say those bands are really what I base my mantra of music writing on. Trent Reznor, Dave Grohl and Josh Homme are my holy trinity. Nine Inch Nails 'The Fragile', QOTSA 'Songs for the Deaf', and Foo Fighters 'Colour And The Shape' are my all time faves. That probably shows in my writing style."

What kind of subject matters inspires your songwriting and do you write as a band?

Troy: "We have an interesting dynamic in the way that me and Arran write lyrics in completely different styles, and choose different subject matters. My English teachers Mrs Crowther and Mr Monk drilled into me, that what it really boils down to is sex and death. If you want to keep it interesting that's where to start! Our next song to be released (with a kickass video by award winning film maker Patrick Blake), I really did spill my guts, but shrouded it in imagery so it isn't too Emo. Death, tick, sex, tick: I'd like to think my teachers would dig our stuff!"

I think 'Robot Love' and a track like 'Mind's Eye' show different sides to the band. Was this a deliberate ploy to showcase the diversity of the group, and can we expect further new elements drift into your sound in the future?

Troy: "We spent a lot of time deciding which songs to showcase first, and then in which order, so yeah it was deliberate. 'Robot Love' is Arran's brainchild while 'Mind's Eye' is more me, so the differences will be clear from that alone. 'Robot Love' is the first step to a bigger world we are creating called the "Nundraverse", which follows a narrative we've already created. We intend to drop

this in and out of all our albums in the future to flesh out a whole different dimension to our band. 'Mind's Eye' is deliberately written in an unusual signature, but we tried to make it seem like it was written in standard. We try and make every song unique by going in with a different goal, so yeah definitely expect different sounds from us, but all under the same Nuns umbrella. If anything, we see Nuns as a seal of approval about the quality of a song, not strictly defined by genre or mood. We've just released our third single 'Dead In The Desert' for instance, which is based off a bass line written by Arran that we just rolled with and created this Wild West style number which we tried to be as creepy as possible with!"

How has the single been received to date?

Troy: "We went risky with 'Dead In The Desert' as the first two singles were straight up fast paced don't breathe 'til it's over' bangers, while this one is a lot more about the space between the notes and the vibe. It's hard to say at this point how it's going to stand up to 'Mind's Eye', which through some miracle got on official Spotify playlists, but we have high hopes (if you're reading Gods of Spotify put it on another playlist please!)."

What's next for the Nuns Of The Tundra? More gigging, new material in the near future, perhaps an album or EP?

Troy: "We've actually got a lot of tracks finished just sitting there on our computers and it's killing me not releasing them. We did a batch of 8 in total at the Funky Bunker in Malvern with Scott Mahoney, who is a creative force to be reckoned with, and all of them have come out so much better than I could have hoped. I am so excited to share what we've done. We're saving the best 'til last. When our next single 'Float Away' comes out, it will be accompanied by the other three released tracks on our first official EP. After that, we've got plans for the others but we're keeping that pretty close to the chest right now. We've been invited on an international tour, so if we can pull our finger out and work out the logistics, we might have an exciting update regarding gigs soon. Other than that, catch us at Lakefest in Ledbury, on the BBC Introducing Stage."

Follow **Nuns Of The Tundra** on Facebook, and if you want releases early go over to Bandcamp and download something to be put on their special list. Also follow them on Spotify to get things as soon as they're public! You can also pick up their infamous Nun tee on Bandcamp (designed by Charlie Fogg).

nunsofthetundra.bandcamp.com
facebook.com/nunsofthetundra

Will Munn



The full interview can be viewed at rhythmbooze.tumblr.com/

Nuns of The Tundra/Time of The Mouth The Black Rattles/Dead Dads Club The Marris Bar | Sat 8th July

Since reviewing a relatively recent single by **Nuns of the Tundra** (Robot Love), I caught wind of a four dance at the **Marris Bar** featuring the Nuns and joined by a fellow recent obsession; **The Black Rattles**. Long term favourites **Time of the Mouth** were also in attendance, conversely making my appearance something of a no-brainer. Thrown into the mix, a band making their Marris Bar debut in the shape of **Dead Dads Club**. My scribe was sold, and with a crowded venue it would seem I wasn't the only one.

Dead Dads Club opened proceedings and despite not really communicating with the audience (nor having much of an online presence) the band impressed with their late 60's inspired sound, with touches of The Doors, The Beatles and beyond. Fans of fellow Malvern-ites, White Feather Collective, should find plenty to enjoy, and based on the evidence of the rousing reception the band received, it would seem they've already made plenty of friends. On the evidence of this outing I'd suggest its well worth keeping an eye open for them in the near future.

The Black Rattles recent debut album, *The Undiscovered Colour*, really struck a chord. Being the no nonsense rock 'n' roll loving scribbler that I am, their set at the Marris Bar emphasised exactly why their sound made such an impression on me. **The Black Rattles** strip away any unnecessary fat and concentrate on locking into a tight garage blues groove, which sees **Rich Monk** laying down meaty slabs of primal guitar, whilst drummer **Konrad**



Sheane intensifies bashing the living hell out of his kit. Together it's tight and laden with a dense melody. Monk delivers his first vocal, and once again we're transported back to the late 60s as the summer of love seeps away, and an edgier, rawer sounds of the Stones, The Doors and early proto-punk acts up the ante. The addictive riff of 'Come On In' lurches for the lapels, as Monk delivers that semi howled holler. The stop-start drums of 'High Tide Running Wild' thrill from the outset, whilst the addictive garage rush and thump of 'Tell Your Lover I Love Her Still' had me stomping and shouting along like some deranged fanboy.

Long term subscribers to my brand of waffle will have no doubt stumbled on my inane attempts to describe just why I hold **Time of the Mouth** in such high regard. For all you newcomers I'll try to explain; TOTM are one of those bands that never cease to impress. They simply sweat desire from the moment they strike that first chord, to the final dying embers of their performance. Despite the energy and determination, the band are visibly having the time of their lives each and every time they tread the boards. Their enjoyment, energy and enthusiasm would be enough to impress, but the band also have the hooks. Yes, 'My Disguise' and



'The Only Way Out' are essentially pop punk numbers, but you try not tapping away. It's nigh on impossible. Once again I found myself towards the front. Mouthing the words and hanging onto every hook as the band fed my unhealthy addiction, and all whilst knowing they had me, and plenty of others caught in their frothy punk trap from start to finish.

And so to the headliners, **Nuns of the Tundra**. The strong four-piece took to the stage as there was a noticeable buzz of excitement and a surge towards the front, as a brief intro and



sample welcomed in 'Robot Love'. The band hit the ground running as the taut rhythm section of **Jim Smith** and **Melos Moody** (bass and drums respectively) lay down a tight groove. The twinned thrashed and swirled guitars of **Troy Tittley** and **Arran Davies** drive the song towards the instant, hook-laden chorus, as the band lay waste with a mesmeric opening salvo. From there, the Nuns grip the audience with the likes of 'Moving Frames' and the glorious, urgent, alternative punk thrash of 'Hidden Eraser'. They head down a desert path for a sensational run through the spacious and epic, 'Dead in the Desert', then finishing with a forceful finale of 'Minds Eye', bringing the curtain down on a sensational local showcase.

Words: Will Munn Images: David Birch

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Arcadia Roots at Ledbury Fringe The Prince of Wales | 6th July

Give me one good reason not to have found my way to this great little pub on a Thursday evening. **Ledbury Fringe** had drawn in all sorts of entertainment over the week; from poets and musicians, Morris dancers, and now Worcestershire based band, Arcadia Roots, in The Prince.

A slow pulsating sound of blues followed band member Josh, with his subtle bass underscoring the twin guitars of Tom and Danny. Dave sat astride his Cajón, singing 'Just be Mine', and finding a resonance in the pub that is home to blues music on its anticipated Sunday evening sessions. A switch of direction finds us soaking up the Caribbean heat on this warm sultry evening as the reggae rhythm of 'Never Have to Worry' fills the air. That is the outstanding draw of **Arcadia Roots** for you, with 'roots'



that are global. A bit like examining a BA route map, or a tasting session at a multicultural food festival, it's impossible not to find a dream destination or a flavour that tantalises within them.

'Hold On' thumps out, a new song to savour, followed by an earlier piece, 'That Feeling' slipped down like a sweet spiced hot chocolate. The Cajón is replaced and it's time for Dave to send out his message from the tight skin of his African djembe drum. The rhythm takes us back across the Atlantic, seeking out a 'Woman's Love' to a rock steady beat.

Danny leads in on his Dobro, as they go 'Searching' and 'Digging A Little Deeper' plays out. Fracking hell, its time for a break! The doors are opened to recharge the thick atmosphere as fresher air tumbles in from a still warm evening.

Closed back into the steamy air of this aged pub, the ghost of Marley appears, (Bob, that is) and it's all 'Fussin and Fightin', with Tom switching his weapon to the minuscule cigar box guitar, with its rasp unmistakable, nearer to a banjo than a Fender. I'd forgotten how good the next song was, as we're back in the swamp, wading through muddy waters and seeking the path through 'Amnesia'. With Tom still plucking sounds from the box, guitar notes pick a trail for Arcadia Roots to 'Keep Burning' as they find their way forward.

The insistent blues of 'Lose My Mind' is borrowed from their alter ego and Drifter line up, with Danny working that resonator and Dave beating up the Cajón. Josh fills in the lower strata, essential in keeping the intoxicating rhythms rolling. With train soon due to leave Hereford, the time comes for me to hike up to the station, destined it would seem never to hear the trio of the final song, the encore and the inevitable ovation. The hypnotic, sounds fade into the distance as the cobbles give way to slab. The Arcadian spell is broken for now, until the next time their 'Primal Rhythm' draws me back.

Graham Munn

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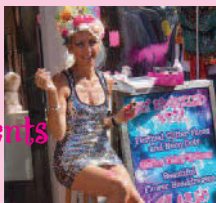
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Patched Up Parachutes | Unpop

Patched Up Parachutes is the "louder stuff" vehicle for local alternative singer-songwriter **PTR Williams**, a lo-fi pop project, full of instant hooks, choppy guitars and the odd rudimentary, yet infectiously charming programmed beat.

The five-track demo opens with a glorious slice of alternative pop perfection in the form of *Romantic Twit*, a tongue in cheek courting ode, comes complete with a dose of the aforementioned choppy (think a stripped back Buzzcocks) riffs. A simplistic lo-fi rhythmic melody and Peter's likeable enthused croon, throw in a catchy chorus and a few self harmonies and serve... voila a perfect two minute pop ditty that should have you humming along by the end of the first spin.

Tribes R Us is more of the same, only with a touch of the sixties vocally, with the added bonus of hand claps (and who doesn't like a good

clap along), as Williams laments the various tribes that society has a habit of trying to create in order to label us all neatly. Again Peter wraps things up nicely round the two and half minute mark, leaving the listener scrambling for the repeat, or toe tapping long after the track's played out. *Current Mood*, changes tact as Williams delivers an aptly moody number. Plucking at his guitar, whilst slouching on the sofa searching for his creative muse, PTR proves there's much more on offer here than two minute (un)pop sing-a-longs. Further proving the point and perhaps saving the best for last, *Falling*, sees Williams round things off with a gospel/chain gang inspired blues belter, hollering his vocals, whilst attacking his six string, paying homage to his musical forefathers with a thrilling finale.

Unpop may hark back to the days of demo tapes and DIY, but with the sharpened pen of **Peter Williams** behind the monicker, *Patched Up Parachutes* was always going to be worth a look and with two minute pop thrashes and blustery blues homages, this five song sampler is deserving of a place in any so-called music fanatics collection.

Will Munn

www.patchedupparachutes.co.uk

www.patchedupparachutes.bandcamp.com



Mixtape Saints Heartbreak, Radio, Cars and Rain

It takes a lot of brass neck to release a proper A-side / B-side single in these, our later days. But that's exactly what Kidderminster / Birmingham outfit **Mixtape Saints** - an established name on the UK DIY circuit with airplay on US college radio - have done with this little gem. What you get is a neat package of straight from the heart alt-rock, two tracks, each no more than three minutes long, full band and acoustic versions of the same song on alternate sides. Walking an assured line between the gritty and the winsome, and with something of the resilient everyman sound of Bruce Springsteen in his E Street Band days, this is melodic and enduring stuff. If you're a connoisseur of the Gainesville Florida sound - think Chuck Ragan, Hot Water Music, Against Me! and all that - then this is pretty much smack on the knuckle.

Heartbreak, Radio, Cars And Rain is released on 18 August 2017 via Disconnect Disconnect Records.

Vladimir Hotpants



Navajo Ace | Five Turnings

Worcester's indie rock four-piece Navajo Ace are a band with pedigree. Composed of former members of Some Skeletons, Thirty Six Strategies, Worcester grunge-revivalists Tempus and the long-lost luminaries of UK emotional hardcore Shutdown - and more - you could perhaps expect something special from this, their first full release. Drawing upon the deep wellhead of musicianship and accomplished songcraft of their constituent parts, Five Turnings is a collection of five perfectly-formed stories in

guitars, vocals and percussion that are at turns soaring, intricate, candid and joyously noisy - and that glow with energy and heart.

Lyrical intelligent and engaging throughout, there is much to enjoy here: American '90s emo in the Texas is the Reason vein, with added walls of shimmering shoegaze guitars (Underneath Cars, Awkward Places), infectious and richly harmonic college rock (Five Turnings, Drop the Needle) and even echoes of Frank Turner and the Sleeping Souls, without the folksy pretensions but with all the limpid songwriting (Tiger in the Tank). This is stuff that lingers on after listening. And that - you can hope - promises much more to come.

Five Turnings is self-released on 7th August via bandcamp and facebook.com/navajoace

Veronica Bloodsausage

NAVAJO ACE



Flying Ant Day | Lemmings

Formed in early 2015, Stourbridge band **Flying Ant Day** are true originals and have a unique sound that combines the musical styles of psych, garage, 60's beat and 80's indie. Fronted by the wonderfully quirky & enigmatic **Jon** and complemented by guitarist **Boz**, bassist **Steve** and drummer **Carl**, the band is a joy to behold live both musically and visually. Thursday 10th August 2017 sees the release of the band's debut album **Lemmings** which will be celebrated with a launch gig that evening at **Claptrap the venue**, Stourbridge.

I must admit having seen **Flying Ant Day** live a number of times over the past couple of years I have been looking forward to this release with much anticipation and I have to be honest this 12 track album does not disappoint. The album opens with the garage rock styling of *Stepping into the Light*. It's an up-tempo, uplifting number about moving on with your life after a failed relationship to find a greater love and happiness elsewhere. Musically it's a tune that you can't help but shuffle your feet to.

4 o'clock Blues takes the listener into full on early 60's rock 'n' roll journey that wouldn't be out of place in a playlist alongside The Animals or The Troggs. It it's a brilliantly crafted song from the rhythm through the guitar solo to Jon's 'tick, tick, tock' on the chorus. A real highlight of what this band is capable of.

Next up is *The Bigger Picture*, a slightly slower number that has wonderful vocal harmonies on its chorus. When the band sings "I begged you to come back to me but begging wasn't fair ... 'cause you saw the bigger picture and I wasn't there" it soon becomes an earworm that you will not shift for days. It really is that catchy.

Fast Women & Slow Horses is the first track on the album to feature the guest vocals of talented local singer and regular Flying Ant Day collaborator **Daria Tomalak**. It's a tale of woe recounted in the first person by a stranger over a beer in a bar. Musically the song blends a driving jangly indie sound with an almost country vibe. With Daria's backing vocals complementing Jon's lead it there is an extra layer of depth to the song.

I Saw You in Wilko is a slow, early 60's sounding rock'n'roll number set in everybody's favourite household discount store. It's a song in which Jon rants about bumping into an ex flame who he no longer has feelings for but would still rather of not see. With a great reference to such Wilko wares as damp-proof paint the song is a pleasing distraction.

The tempo is cranked back up again on track 6, *Picasso*. The song is an out and out garage number with proto-punk vocals that at times sound almost Stooges-esque (is that a word? it is now).

Bad News sees the band shift direction to a more new wave kind of sound with a tune that provides a vehicle for one of Jon's wry, somewhat vitriolic rants about someone who had hurt him in the past. The song contains one of my favourite lines on the album, the brilliant "*Your bad news just like Maggie Thatcher and I'm sad to say the similarities don't end there*".

Next up is *Skinny Jean*, a song which literally explodes into glam rock frenzy. Think Bolan, think Slade, think Bowie. It is a total change of sound and yet again highlights the versatility and musicianship of this band. It's an off the wall tale about a so called Skinny Jean who has become so obsessed with her weight to the

point of anorexia. "*She will often been seen outside Three Cooks... she never goes in she just stands and looks!*"

The ninth track on the album is *Zombie Song*. An 80's indie sounding tune that opens with a lovely deep bass line that could be an intro to a song by The Fall which then launches into a jangly pop delight reminiscent of the likes of The Brilliant Corners. The song itself pays homage to the golden era of Hammer Horror. It takes the listener on a journey of someone who sadly loses a close friend and imagines what it

would be like if the said friend was able to return after death as a zombie, just like in one the Hammer Horror movies, so they could share more good times together.

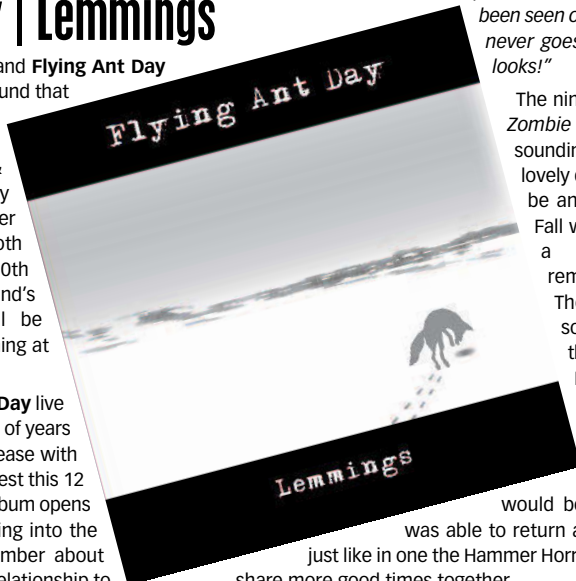
Tired of Living is a country blues number that delivers a world weary commentary on loneliness and loss. The multiple harmonies at the end of the song as the band join in singing "*I'm tired of living without you*" is truly magical.

The penultimate track *Will You Ever Be Mine* takes the listener on an offbeat journey into psychedelia both musically and lyrically. It opens with the splendidly quirky line "*I was playing Rachmaninoff with a magpie by my side*" and the off kilter references come thick and fast all to a catchy rhythm and hooky chorus. It's a brilliant psych pop song!

Closing the album is the mid tempo, powerful driven song that is *Lemmings*. It is a song of hope and making new begging whilst flying in the face of all that life throws at you. It is a live favourite of mine and the studio version doesn't disappoint. From the use of Pukka Pies as rhyming slang for lies through to the snippet of *Katie Perry's Price Tag* that's cheekily worked in, the song highlights of everything that makes **Flying Ant Day** so unique and is the perfect way to round off an exceptional debut album.

Lemmings will be available on CD at gigs and as a download via Bandcamp from the 10th August 2017.

Jason K



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Staying Strong book launch with [Spunge] Lakeside, Croft Farm Waterpark, Tewkesbury | Fri 22nd June

At the AST Dew Tour BMX Dirt Finals in Baltimore, multi-championship winning BMX rider, **Stephen Murray** took a catastrophic fall whilst attempting a signature double backflip on the final jump section. Stephen received career ending injuries to his spinal cord and vertebrae, leaving him paralysed from the shoulders down. However, despite his horrific injuries Stephen has continued to inspire with grit and determination. With this strength Stephen, along with writer and Lakefest honcho, **Lee Martin** has pieced together an inspiring and intriguing autobiography covering the rollercoaster highs of competing and winning championships, the fame and the lifestyle that went with it to the lows of divorce, custodial battles and of course the life threatening injuries and the determination to never give up.

The book was originally launched at the House Of Vans in London with a professional BMX demo, cinematic screening and a Q&A session. Although, Stephen and his team wanted to do something a little closer to home and decided to stage another book launch at the former home of **Lakefest, Croft Farm Waterpark** in Tewkesbury. With *Staying Strong* merchandise on offer and a DJ, it only seemed fitting that fellow local favourites and longtime Murray supporter **[Spunge]** should be asked to provide the live entertainment.

As **[Spunge]** was on duty, the nights proceedings was going to be a hot, sticky affair. The moment they cranked that familiar elastic rhythm and struck the first chord, the lakeside bar, makeshift dancefloor was awash with revellers unable to control their dancing from that ska punk beat. Fan favourites came thick and fast, as **[Spunge]** opened with '*Not Going To Ruin My Day*'. The band proceeded to race through the likes of '*Ego*', '*Change Of*



Scene' and '*Never Grow Old*' before uncorking their ever brilliant and unique rendition of '*No Woman No Cry*' to the delight of the gathered hordes. The onstage banter was more suggestive and playful than usual, as the band tried to keep it clean (or at least cleaner than normal) but musically the band were as potent as ever. Lifting material from across their albums to date with the evergreen '*Jump On Demand*' and '*All Gone Wrong*', **[Spunge]** made their mark before bringing the evening to a fitting end with a frantic '*Kicking Pigeons*' and a crowd assisted run at '*Centerfold*' which provided the grand finale.

As we left, people were clutching copies of the autobiography with huge grins plastered across their faces, humming the refrain of '*Kicking Pigeons*' long after the final chord played out. A hot, sticky and ultimately satisfying gig in a fantastic location and above a rousing launch for Stephen's book.

Early campers will be able to catch **[Spunge]** at **Lakefest @ Eastnor Castle** on Thursday 10 August. Whilst details of *Staying Strong* and where to grab your copy are available on www.stysrg.com.

Will Munn

The Hawthornes The Bush, Worcester | 30th June

It's true to say that the newly clad triple towers of Tybridge Street provide a different outlook for **The Bush** in Worcester. Being small and hidden under the skirt of the now and controversial, the space it homes is at a premium, particularly when live music is on offer, along with some excellent ales and ciders.

Cheltenham based band **The Hawthornes** staked a claim in the cul-de-sac at the end of the bar. Greg's mixer desk grabbed a fare chunk of the aged counter whilst he feathered the valves on his golden horn. Jesse sat hidden in the corner astride his Cajón, Gordy ran his hands along the slender neck of his Hohner bass, and Louisa stood her ground with her Takamine guitar slung around her neck; ready to deliver their message to the crowd.

Taking us from a happy state all the way into a rainy day, the band's energy sizzled through the Bush, the gang filled the bar, cheering with genuine enthusiasm. The second set was all about their own crafted songs but there were also a few covers thrown in, including '*New England*', a lively '*Hard to Handle*' and even a little off script excursion into Bob Marley's territory with, '*One Love*'.

The short break led into their single '*Sirius*'; a gentle folksy start with Louisa singing beautifully as ever. It exploded into life, like placing an egg in a microwave! Jesse was beating his way through the thin ply of his Cajón as Gordy ordered another pint of Thistly Cross cider whilst playing his bass.

A glorious evening in the company of the Hawthornes rapidly came to a close end with a quick dip into their first album,

'*Stoneville Street*'. They asked the audience, "*Where are we all going?*", the audience replied, "*Nowhere right now!*" as more songs were demanded and a fiery '*Hey Ya*' and '*Tooti Frutti*' were thrown back out to an appreciative crowd.

Wind the clock back a couple of years, and the band were playing support and parts in festivals, alongside bars and cafés in and around Cheltenham and Gloucester. Louisa and Jesse were joined by Gordy, and the band moved forward with songs renowned for having originality and charm. It's true to say there was no lack of talent, just endless enthusiasm and a clear element of fun in their performances. Today, the 3 piece has evolved to a 4, and there is now magic fairy dust being blown into the air by the addition of Greg's trumpet. The Hawthornes are very much a band to seek out and new album, '*Cut and Run*', is a worthy addition to anyone's collection, that's impossible not to enjoy. Catch a gig and you'll be hooked!

Hawthornes upcoming gigs at thehawthornesmusic.co.uk.



Graham Munn

Tyler Massey

The Plough, Worcester | Wed 12th July

Tyler Massey has been a familiar face on the local scene for a while, usually spotted performing at **The Firefly's Open Mic** night on Tuesdays, **West Malvern Social Club's Music Nights** on Thursdays (which he hosts), and various other Worcestershire venues. Tonight he brought his talents again to **The Plough** in Worcester, playing to fans and strangers alike.

Back in February, Tyler released the *American Nightmare EP*, a stellar collection combining political and personal themes in his world-weary yet spirited folk-rock style. As on 2010's LP *The Ocean Within*, Tyler's songs are complemented with full-band arrangements, including horn sections and keyboards.

The live set, however, rarely features a band: he usually performs alone or with one accompanying musician, tonight being no exception. Tyler was armed only with his guitar and voice, and the bass-playing of **Alex Knight** (who lent his accomplished production skills to *American Nightmare*). Tyler's live performances never suffer from their stripped-down nature: his warm yet rough vocals and deft guitar skills fill the room, energy and expertise more than filling any gap left by recorded arrangements.

Tonight Tyler opens with a cover of Bob Dylan's *Things Have Changed*, and later plays a formidable version of *Highway 61 Revisited*. Tyler shares with Dylan not only American origins, but bluesy folk-rock style and lyrical flair. Songs by Tom Waits, Ryan Adams, and Neil Young also crop up tonight.

The bulk of the set is comprised of Tyler's original songs, including plenty of his earlier work (live staples *Supergirl* and

Clarity being highlights), which (like the reasonably-priced local beers on tap and sizeable single malt collection) has been improved with age.

Between songs, Tyler makes his audience welcome with charismatic banter, the communal atmosphere that he brings to performances on display. His music seems made for the confines of a busy pub, although its rousing melodies and animated performances wouldn't seem out of place in much larger venues.

All five songs from *American Nightmare* are performed tonight, from the bittersweet punch of the title track to the restrained ballad *The Gift*. The mournful *Ten Years* matches plaintive lyrics with a downbeat chord sequence that hauntingly never resolves itself, guitar and bass harmonising richly-Alex provides an understated yet melodic groove on the bass tonight.

Recent live favourite *Whipping Boy* provides one of the highlights of the night, its direct and immediate melody and Murdoch-baiting lyrics inviting singalongs. *The Devil You Know's* fiery strum and mariachi influence evokes a sea shanty in a storm, alongside lyrics about "the jaws of the whale."

After ending with a cover of Neil Young's *Harvest Moon*, Tyler leaves the stage and chats jovially in the smoking area. The atmosphere is lively and appreciative, demonstrating the way that the local music scene brings the people of Worcester together.

Like the best folk-rock, Tyler's own music strikes a delicate balance between quiet introspection and anthemic accessibility. The set was a superb showcase of great American folk-rock singer-songwriters, *Tyler Massey* himself no exception.

Dan Knight



Bella in the Wych Elm

Film Director - Tom Lee Rutter, UK

Made of all the things children and grown-ups alike love about folk stories - mysterious local legend, girl lost in the violent and scary woods, rural witchy landscapes - this short film by local filmmaker **Tom Lee Rutter** is a weird folk horror film based on the real local legend of a woman's skeleton that was found inside a tree in the woods of Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire. Shrouded in mystery, the incident has never been solved completely and Rutter's film makes good use of real factual information, a good dose of fiction and layers of visual imagery to make a stunning nostalgic aesthetic. It perfectly conjures up the atmosphere of the oral tradition of folk storytelling, where by traditional tales can be transformed, mutated and made more peculiar by the passing of time. Pretty impressive stuff for a silent film.

There are two versions of the film - one with a soundtrack by band **Deathly Pale Party** and another by **Craigus Barry**, all Worcestershire musicians. The reason for this isn't clear but the results are intriguing. **Deathly Pale Party** sound like they've been inspired by the fascinating electronics of library music and the Radiophonic workshop and they bring a Lynchian atmospheric resonance to the film. During more reflective moments in the film they give a lulling, echoing and glassy sounding space that allows room for the film to be uncertain, brooding and timeless. They also create climactic moments of high action when there are clues to



solving to the murder mystery, which are wonderfully theatrical by cleverly using classically dramatic hammer horror tones.

Craigus Barry, at first glance, brings more traditional instruments to the table and with more distinct melodies brings a general feeling of humanness and sadness to the film. Events in the film are elevated and become the most pivotal through a much heavier sound, such as the sequence during the finding of the skeleton and the examination. Barry weaves sound with the montage during these sequences to create narrative feeling to great effect. What is most interesting about the two soundtracks are the way that they create different critical moments during the film that alter the way the film imparts the narrative. This weird film creates a strange and haunting vision of our part of our world and I'm not sure I'll walk its woods in the same way again.

Siobhan Joan

Poets and punks

A Crisis of Conscience

Booth Hall, Hereford | Sat 8th July

On a hot and humid Saturday in July, under the blazing midday sun, a select group of poets and punk bands gathered to open the second annual **A Crisis of Conscience Punk Festival**, raising money for **Musicians Against Homelessness**. A buzz was in the air and I sensed that we were in for a fantastic day. As our poets took the stage this was confirmed by applause from the audience



The Poet with Passion

gathered in the sunny beer garden of **The Booth Hall**. First in the poetry lineup, **The Poet with Passion** had our top lips trembling a bit, and at times wide-eyed with amusement as she engaged us with her humorous, straight

to the point take on life as a modern female. Followed by **Freeborn Thorin**, whose anti-establishment song lyrics and poetry proved a talented young artist in the making with a wisdom beyond his years. Third, was **Quirk** who joined us all the way from Glasgow with his rage-infused anti-establishment poetry laced with much use of the F-bomb. Next, local poet **1990's Chris**, who

is getting his name out there and making an impact, recently created a poem for the Hereford City of Culture bid, and has also made a **Channel 4 Random Acts** film short from the perspective of an elderly woman in a care home who was once very beautiful. He represents an entire generation of men who do not wish to be associated with the traditional values that have oppressed women throughout history. Our headlining poet **Jonny Fluffypunk** is well known on the spoken word circuit, and if you witnessed his thought-



Jonny Fluffypunk

provoking, story telling style - made more effective by his humorous and animated expressions - you would understand why he had the audience roaring with laughter. He also graciously donated two of his books to the fundraiser. In the end, the collective of poets, some just making themselves known on the spoken word circuit, inspired us all.

Then for the music, split up into two lineups, kicking off with Ludlow band **Freeborn Rising**. They began as a duo and are now a full 5-piece band. Having a full band added impact not only instrumentally, but also made their politically provocative lyrics written by the aforementioned poet Freeborn Thorin, more vivid. **Michael Knowles and the STD's** then destroyed Theresa May with their hate campaign song. **Teddy's Leg** are Hereford's feminist political punk band with an incredibly talented frontman, **Robin Scott-Wilson**. Robin may have split a gene with Iggy Pop as his shirtless performances seem to resemble the illustrious musical legend. The cool and collected band of four, **Black Boxes**, killed it as usual although they tended towards more of a noise, fuzz band with some pretty heavy duty punk energy. By the now

the audience is probably thinking, "Can this get any better?" Well yes, it could. The headlining band **Last Tree Squad**, took us back to that punk/rasta brotherhood and got the audience dancing to their original reggae and hip-hop songs.

For the evening lineup, we had a collection of pre-Rebellion bands on offer. **Ambition Demolition**, who will be playing the Rebellion introducing stage, blew us away and won the award for most epic punk fashion of the evening. **The Youth Within**, who have hit the punk circuit hard and are on their second leg of Rebellion Punk Festival this year, represent the younger set of millennium punks who respectfully adhere to the old school punk while adding their own fresh stamp. **Terminal Rage** took the stage and rattled the cage with their angry as hell protest punk. The last two bands were left and everyone was pumped to see **Brassick**



Brassick

and **Culture Shock**. Brassick came on stage and Nicola's presence instantly stole the show before even speaking a word. A beautiful edgy blonde...say no more. With the crowd good and primed, Culture Shock did what they do best, stole the night! The content of their lyrics, the sounds emanating from the band and the fluid vocals of **Dick Lucas**, had me dancing like a possessed woman.



Culture Shock

Around the venue, merch stalls were set up with punk AF band merchandise, books donated by bands and local businesses, plus the Hereford Heckler's contribution to the pot. Outside artists **Johnny Burrage** and **Simon Rogers** took on various canvases with charitable brush strokes for silent auction. Onlookers admired their work which added a commune feel to the beer garden. **Old Granary Pierogi** fed vegans, vegetarians, carnivores and gluten-sensitive punters alike, making sure all had their sugars in check. They were also generous and donated 10% of their profits to charity.

In the end, we raised a £1000 which we could never have done without the support from Culture Shock, the local bands, the artists, the poets, the people who attended and so generously donated their money, the Booth Hall landlords, **Skinzophrenic Tattoo & Piercing Studio** who sponsored our marketing and the awesome banner, and finally the sunshine that shone bright on our little festival. Until next year!

Minky Cuadra

Elliott Fishwarmer Here I Go Again

It's probably been all of a couple of months since the last 'work' of the Alopecia Trio's **Elliott Fishwarmer** dropped in my direction, but the most prolific man on the local scene has been far from resting on his laurels. Since last time, he popped in my inbox that



he's released a further album in the shape of *The Carpark Tapes* and he's already working on a further collection, *'Return To Base'*, which will probably hit me as you read my latest scribble.

'*Here I Go Again*' see's Elliott joined by **Rongo Stour** on drums, with **Stumpy Fingers** joining on bass for a few numbers, and as ever with a Fishwarmer production, you're treated to a number of weird and wonderfully named odes such as '*Would Your Dog Like To Bite My Baby*', '*The Girl With Toilet Bowl Eyes*' and one I'm sure everyone can relate to, '*Too Much Shit In The Freezer*'. Elliott, never doing things by half, serves up fifteen meaty morsels on this hour long journey all recorded in glorious no-fi somewhere at the bottom of the garden.

The three minute fuzz-laden '*Parasite*' kicks off proceedings with Elliott setting his guitar to '*muddy swamp mode*', whilst drenching his lead vocals with reverb to create a thick psych tinged garage soup. As Rongo bashes the pots and pans somewhere off in the distance, Elliott laments the enemy literally within. It's rawer than sandpaper bog roll, but like everything Fishwarmer turns his hand too and you can't help grinning like a fool.

As the album continues Fishwarmer begs, borrows and steals from a myriad of influences. The aforementioned '*Would Your Dog...*' has something of an 80's vibe complete with cheesy guitars and Numan-esque vocals. The six minute epic, '*Destiny*' lays off the fuzz and sees Fishwarmer deliver a flowery psych masterpiece. '*Ricochet*' and '*Which Way Is Heaven*' are both glorious hard rock pastiches, with the former coming complete with an impressive guitar tapped intro whilst both feature a dense orgy of frets and sticks. '*You Make Me Chuckle*' is a somewhat ludicrous, bastardised rock 'n' roll homage, only with added chuckles, whilst '*Too Much Shit In My Freezer*' sees Rongo really attack those skins as Elliott delivers rapid fire, punk verses as he scrambles round the depths of his cold storage unit.

I'm not sure whether Fishwarmer is a misunderstood, musical maverick, a loon with a tune or just a very naughty boy. But whichever way you look at it, '*Here I Go Again*' is madder than a box of frogs and just as much fun. So if you want to annoy your neighbours or need a new soundtrack to bounce off the walls, look no further than the no-fi noisemonger Elliott Fishwarmer.

To discover more and listen to the madness of **Elliott Fishwarmer** checkout: reverbNation.com/elliottfishwarmer

Will Munn

Dharma Bums Nothing to Lose Blues

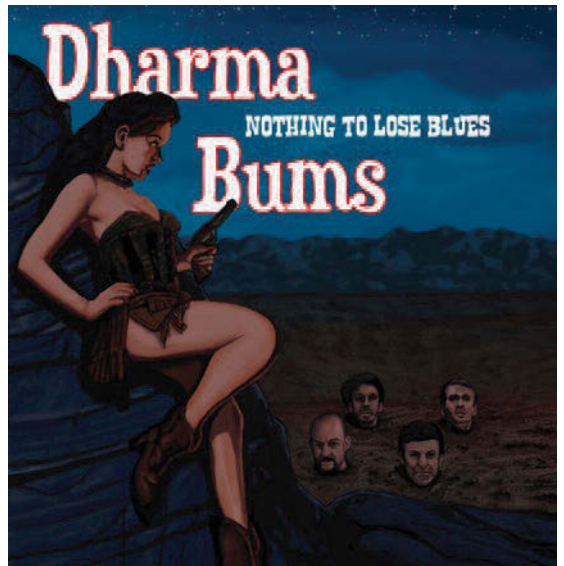
Dharma Bums are fundamentally a 4-piece band from Kidderminster who kicked off their legacy with their first gig at last years **Kidderminster Beer and Cider Festival**. Their tracks were first recorded at Serious Studio in Stourport, and then finally mastered at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London - that's quite a journey in such a short span of time!

The band comprises of **Kevin Wrench** (vocals/guitar), **Dave Shutter** (lead guitar), Jon Green (bass), and **Thomas Paine** (percussion). The EP includes trumpet, banjo and piano, and a circle of local musicians, with a style is laid back and easy listening. Each track is laced with blues and country vibes even though their music has a fairly broad roots base.

The recording opens with '*I Don't Know Why*', a track that involves subtle Orleans blues, with a distinctive Gallic feel. Muted sounds of trumpets and a banjo add a nice touch to the bands composition. Drifting toward a folksier side, '*Ship Without Sail*', rides the swell easily; no high seas or force 9 gales here, just a steady foot tapping journey into deep water.

'*Jack of Hearts*' is up next, shuffling the pack with a barrel rolling piano, fingerpicking lead guitar, and a trumpet chipping in - a gamble that works well, but as always the deck is loaded.

The stylus drops onto the outer wind of vinyl, before pulling noisily into the soundtrack of an easy '*Nothing to Loose Blues*'. Complete with banjo and harp, the titled track moves into the Delta countryside, closing this delightfully cool EP quite nicely.



There are 4 tracks altogether, but none are going to rattle the rafters or shake the windows as it's just not that sort of music. I am intrigued to know how this would work out live when the additions of George Alan, Chris Yates, and Matt Worley (on trumpet, piano and banjo) are not present, as they certainly give a distinct flavour to the recording. It is still very early days, so maybe this band will evolve rapidly into what is presented here. Another good local band finding its way forward, with an anticipated release in July of this little sample of their music.

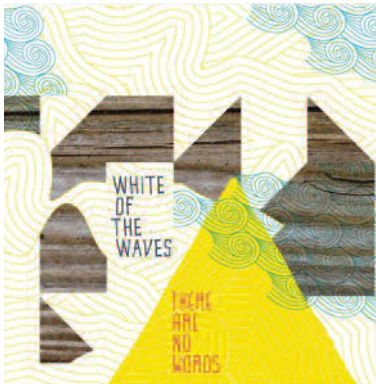
Graham Munn

New Release

White of the Waves | There Are No Words

Worcester artist **White of the Waves**, otherwise known as **Jay Benstead**, has made his debut in the world with his EP *'There Are No Words'*. Benstead self-taught himself guitar when he was young but has recently returned to the art following a tough period. Using music as therapy, he lost himself in his creativity, leading to the creation of his debut release - *"forging something positive from such a desolate situation"* as the solo artist says. The EP was influenced heavily by his favourite experimental artists such as Minus the Bear and Thrice, leading to his tracks being a pool of experimental sounds and rhythms that flicker between different emotions and tempos with a surprising delicacy.

The EP opens with *'Pure'*. It's a gentle caressing track before debuting a harsher riff, the hot and cold nature of the track keeping you out of your comfort zone and on your toes. As *'Pure'* reaches it's end, Benstead reveals his symphonic side, making you feel each movement of the track deeply within you. In *'City'* we see the artist focus more on an electric riff that will tingle up your spine before a chilled interlude is added to keep things interesting.



'Ghost' takes an ominous turn that eases into a melodic reassurance. It's a song dominated by smooth beats accompanied by an intriguing sound that will snap you awake. The aptly named *'Oh Four'* enters a rockier vein with fast-paced notes that coincide with slower beats, creating an eye-opening contrast before it reaches a shocking climax. The undercurrent of lighter acoustic plucks helps to push the boundaries of genre and music as we know it, making *'Oh Four'* stick in your head with its originality.

Picking up the tempo is *'The Bay'* with it's delightfully perky rhythm based melodies that are laced with different riffs, creating haunting but sheer elements that are brought together with another symphonic choral. *'Yours'* is the most emotional song on the EP. It's a rainy day track that is refreshing after the previous numbers, putting you into a melodic trance with those rain-like notes. Penultimate *'Anita'* boasts White of the Waves funkier side, mixing a rhythm that will make you move and guitar work that matches the talent of Remi Harris before

the beat-riden *'Shimmer'* puts a climax on the experiment with its build of various layers. Just like the tracks that came before it, *'Shimmer'* will be sending your senses into overdrive.

Emily Branson

The Stiff Joints First Proper Album

Great moniker, fantastic live proposition and, now, the *First Proper Album*. **The Stiff Joints** have been stalwarts of the local festival scene (and beyond!) for some years but with the sympathetic ear of Gavin Monaghan (Magic Garden Studio), they have created an exuberant sound to cross over to those who have not had the chance to get to a gig. Yet!

The influences are there - Jamaican ska filtered through the Midlands with a touch of Chalk Farm - but very much with **The Stiff Joints** seal. There's more of the 'liveness' and FUN than in previous



recordings; no-nonsense nonsense, if you like. A band that is tongue in cheek yet screams quality entertainment.

As the album unfolds, there's flirts with the blues, punk, jazz, wonky rockabilly (?), gypsy and, of course, cousin reggae, however the genres are redundant in the sheer joy of the songs. Proper songs with a proper band leader at its 'heal'. Sing-a-long, air guitar, dance tunes.

And then it's over. It would have fitted on one side of a cassette - these boys don't outstay their welcome. More, more, more!

Glazz

www.thestiffjoints.bandcamp.com
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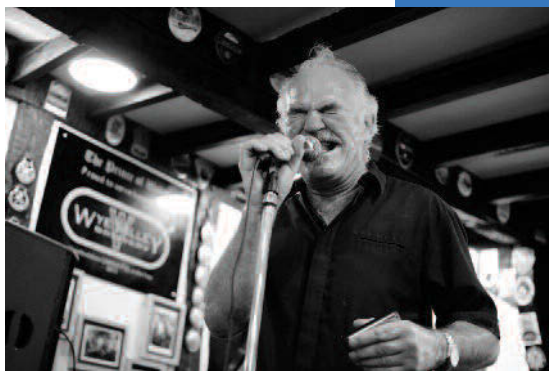
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Simon 'Honeyboy' Hickling Prince of Wales | 16th July

The atmosphere in the remarkable **Prince of Wales** on a late Sunday afternoon is always buzzing with friendly faces. The familiar and new locals give way to anyone maneuvering towards the bar to discover the array of new ales on tap. This Sunday was no exception, bar the arrival of **Simon 'Honeyboy' Hickling** with his band and a gaggle of females: wives, girlfriends, lovers, quite possibly all three! 'Honeyboy' has been blowing his way across the blues scene for 4 decades, notably with **Steve Marriott** and the **DT's**. **Bob Wilson**, his quiet spoken guitarist, has notched up a few frets with the likes of Steve Gibbons and Ruby Turner. Bassist **Frank Walker**, (not a man to leap into the limelight) has been laying down funk for many local musicians, including Glen Tipton of Judas Priest. **Tony Baylis** shows his roots with a broad West Midland's accent, another quiet man who does the business and served his time with the likes of Steve Gibbons, Trevor Burton and Chicken Shack. He more recently hit the rhythm sticks with the Vincent Flats band whose front man Bertie has spent many an hour at the bar alongside Simon. Today the band picked out some classic Chicago blues and Chess favourites as the Prince of Wales filled up. The band relaxed with their entourage, but come the hour, there was an effervescent fizz of expectancy in the air. Unlike a glass of Andrews (other salts are available), the energy bubbles all the way through to the end. And, breaking news... the doors are left open, so plenty of air fresh off the Malvern Hills was eager to waft in.

Honeyboy is renowned for his jocular manner, and today is no different. There is a rapport between the band and punters and added with a sparkle of magic in Simon's eyes, it's going to be fun.



The band strike up for an instrumental intro with a raw harp, clamped across the bullet mic in Honeyboy's hand. It crackles into life, possibly with inspiration from the legendary Little Walter with 'Juke' or more like the notes of 'Just Your Fool' rocking out. Simon wrings out the emotional lyrics between bending those finely Hohn'ed reeds. The honey sweet licks from Bob's guitar fill out for 'Don't Believe in Nothin'. A bit of banter, and Bob, Frank and Tony play their own game before Simon takes us on a moody journey to 'A Thousand Miles from Nowhere'. The same road takes us down to Memphis to find Chuck and to 'Let It Rock'. Those ladies are up 'n' groovin' - can't stop the train now!

Following a break for a refreshing beer, the groove is pulled back with a fabulous 'Going Down Country', and it doesn't get better than this. The canned heat of the Prince was released by the gritty lyrics and superlative harmonica of Honeyboy and the band. An instrumental 'Rockin Robin' follows, thankfully, a million miles from the tweet tweet of the Jackson 5! Nevertheless, an expected brilliant evening at the **Prince of Wales**.

Graham Munn

The Julie July Band West Malvern Social Club | 21st July 2017

Playing out to warm candle lit crowd, **The Julie July Band** had everyone at the edge of their seats as they played tribute to Sandy Denny's dreamy acoustic melodies and progressive, folk rock songbook. The **West Malvern Social Club** played host to the eclectic evening, with support from local singer and vintage keyboard enthusiast, **Chris Hutchinson**, whose talents certainly didn't disappoint.

This gig was bookended by an appearance at West Fest and a slot at the Warwick Folk Festival. As the warm night continued, Julie July and her magic four-piece band gave a fitting tribute to **Sandy Denny**, performing tracks from her BBC solo sessions album, and closing the harmonious set with the sounds of the short-lived (but prestigious, none-the-less) Fotheringay. Electric sounds of Fairport Convention weaved through the crowd, as the doors opened and cool air filed a tightly packed room. **The Julie July Band** certainly confirmed the 'pre-eminent British folk rock' legacy that Sandy will be forever remembered for.



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How Blue Can I Get?

Back in 1970, I bought 'How Blue Can You Get', a double vinyl album which featured a mix of artists from across the blues spectrum. That album would probably not be issued today in that form, with the two discs being slightly problematically titled Vol. 1: White & Vol. 2: Black.

I'm not even sure why you wouldn't have considered the 'Black' volume as the No 1, given the substance and history of blues. It certainly was the more interesting of the pair. I still have that album today, and would not part with it.

We are now entering serious festival territory, and July has seen the iconic **Upton Blues** be ever stronger since the great flood 10 years ago, and **Gloucester Blues** slipped in before the month could end, already becoming a firm favourite and listing significant artists over its weekend finale. So what does August bring us? Let's just see, 'How Blue We Can Get'!

First up **The Jinney Ring Blues** brings a beautiful setting, the best of festival food, and a mix of craft ales and fine ciders. Nestled in the countryside of Hanbury, it brings a solid Saturday line-up to wet the appetites of any blues fan, with camping also on offer. Friday evening kicks off with a feature from Big Joe Bone, an acoustic traditional delta blues man, with a sparkling sense of humour. Saturday will see **Robert Hokum** (who comes with a reputation for repartee and sharp wit) and **Stomping Dave** who will take over, entertaining you with both his musicianship and ability to dance at the same time.

Renowned Hammond player **Greg Coulson** follows, a go to keyboard player for many top notch artists. With his own band, he is definitely a man on the rise. I saw the next band, **The Della Grants**, just a few months ago. They will blow you away with their songs and superb vocals becoming yet another band that is taking the blues world by storm.



The Della Grants

Multi award nominee harpist, **Will Wilde**, has rightly been described as the "Hendrix of The Harmonica". Weaned on Muddy waters and Sonny Boy Williamson, blues are in his genes (his sister being British Blues star, Dani Wilde) with a raw powerful harp that breaks the mould.

Finally, in the tradition of this lovely little festival, the stage will close on 'a lighter' note with **Souled Out to Funk**, a big brassy band that will have all on their feet dancing the night away

Will Wilde



Starting on Friday 4th till the 6th of August, the listed bands play on Saturday, but be sure to check out, www.jinneyringblues.co.uk for full line-up details and ticketing!



Further into the month and sneaking in on the 20th, you could find your way to **The Chestnut** in Worcester for the return of **Swampcandy**. Set to be a mad-assed feast of fun and swamp infested music from the American band. If you were there last year, you'll know what to expect. If not, come along anyway as they break strings and drink whisky, starting at 6.00pm.

On that same weekend, the **Old Bush Blues**, could be just what you are looking for. Starting Friday 18th through to Sunday the



Ian Parker

20th, this is the 3rd festival at this Callow End pub. **Matt Williams** has been running festivals for many years, and this one ticks like a well oiled machine. Friday features the fabulous guitarist and class act, **Ian Parker**, **The Tom Walker Trio**, and **The Rainbreakers**,

both making a big impression in the world of blues rock. **Elles Bailey**, another artist winning much acclaim and just about to release her scorching first album titled 'Wildfire'. Well worth the ticket, just for the opening day!

Saturday you'll find the delightful, award winning **Lucy Zirens**, **Steve Whalley**, (who apprenticed with Slade and found in Sad Café) a master of folk, country & blues. The stunning **Northsyde** will also make an anticipated appearance and if you've never seen them before, be warned, you're missing something rather special. They seriously rock, with a huge dose of fun.



Sunday features **Lavender Rouge** with their eclectic sound, and the raw energy of Troy Redfern and his band.

There are of course, many more bands, spread across the two covered outdoor stages and bar 'stage'. Plenty of good food and the usual excellent choice of beers and ciders on tap. See www.oldbushblues.co.uk for further details, full line-up and tickets!

Graham Munn

V2A | Marrs Bar | 12th Aug

It's a bit difficult at times to realise that there's an act in Worcester who headline hard electronic festivals across Europe (they're currently on tour in Germany and Poland), topped the billing at a Mad Max-themed week in the Californian desert and are due to headline the massive Los Angeles Fashion & Fetish Ball in September - but they're virtually unknown in the UK except to a hardcore of goth and EDM music fans - and quite like it that way!



I caught **V2A** a couple of weeks ago playing a bit of a spoof set at the excellent monthly **Lazy Sunday** at **Cafe Bliss** - they were passing themselves off on the day as '**V2B - the UK's #1 V2A Tribute Act**' which you wouldn't think would fool anybody - but at least one couple I spoke to after their set said '*...yes they're very good - but of course they're only a tribute act you know...*'

Seems they just did the job too well! Core members **Kevin** and **Ines** were joined by regular live gig member **Steve** on drums with his sticks spending long periods in mid-air - they played five numbers from their new album *Heretic* with *Burn* and *Purge*



standing out as classics! Of course this wasn't the gentle folksy/blues you'd normally get at a **Lazy Sunday** but the full house (about 50-60!) certainly seemed to appreciate something a little different from the usual!

V2A was formed by **Kevin Stewart** and **Ines Lehmann** in 2001 - the name comes from a type of stainless nickel chromium steel - and in keeping with this 'industrial' theme Kevin is also referred to as 304 and Ines as 316 - these being international specifications for various grades of this form of steel! They released their first album on the **Trisol** label in Germany and 5th album *Heretic* is currently at #5 in the DAC (Deutsche Alternative Charts) They've often featured on the local BBC Introducing show and in 2013 they were nominated by BBC radio as 'most under the radar band in the UK' - and also last year headlined the unique post-apocalyptic festival Wasteland Weekend in the Mojave Desert!

Besides their spectacular setlist (Electro Whore from the Mechanised Infantry album is my own personal standout number) - a full-on **V2A** live set is a sensational event visually with 'interesting' makeup and costumes - plus lasers, pyrotechnics and the snow cannon of course! It's spectacular - and doesn't happen too often here in the UK - but you can catch them live at the **Marrs Bar** in Worcester on Saturday 12 August - highly recommended!!

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



Upton Blues Festival | 20-23rd July

Upton Blues Festival is always one of the first events on my calendar each and every year. A free event spread across a number of stages and venues in Worcestershire's town centre, it draws music fans from all over the country for a usually hot and sunny weekend in July; celebrating some of the biggest blues names on the scene.

This year's festival saw a few changes afoot, including that of a new face at the head of the festival's committee, with **Grahame Bunn** taking over the reins from the beloved **Oliver Carpenter** for the first time. With the festival also starting a day early, (a fringe event taking place over a number of pubs for early campers and locals) blackened clouds began to descend on Upton as we saw rain for the first time since the great flood a number of years back. An eclectic line up left us pondering the well constructed itinerary as we formulated a plan to cover as many bands as possible.

I decided to start my festival experience a day early to take prime advantage of the fringe to catch **The Stone Mountain Sinners** at a full **Boathouse**. A delicious combination of rootsy, southern rock and blues flavoured Americana followed, whipping up a storm. Friday, and despite the steady deluge of rain; **The Folly Bros** and **Laine Hines** took to stage; but my first true port of call lay over at the rain lashed **Riverside Stage**, as blues soul songstress **Laura Holland**, oozed style and sophistication with an unmissable set that concluded with a choral of approval from a dancing audience. Local band **The Forgate Street Blues Band** were packing them in at the acoustic tent and **Drifter** were rocking the boat on the river and the likes of **Maz Mitrenko** was warming his fingers in the local pub. Aside from **Laura Holland**, my Friday night was all about **Dr Schwamp**. The 'good doctor' mixes up a tonic that contains gypsy swing, ska, blues and whatever else he can get his hands on to create a sound that's like no other. One thing for sure, you can't get the good doctors brand of lunacy on the NHS (more's the pity...).

Saturday proved a busy one, with no sight of rain. More campers arrived as the streets of Upton buzzed with activity. **Free Spirit** and **Hot Tubes** were well into their sets at the **Social Club** and **Plough**, whilst the **Official Receivers** were shaking collective tail feathers at the **Riverside**. I decided to head for the **Meadow stage** for the **Emma Johnson Trio** and some boogie-woogie piano as Emma's fingers danced on the keys of her piano as she performed a number of covers and originals.

Whilst punters consulted their programs or scrambled to the nearest bar, I took up a prime position in the **Memorial Hall** for an afternoon of the best in blues and roots, starting with the hall's compere **Ian O'Reagan**. (Followed closely by husband and wife duo, **The Black Feathers**; always a must see on any line-up).

Up next for me had to be the ever growing, show stopping **Elles Bailey**. As soon as guitarist **Joe Wilkins** cranked out the first riff, Elles grabbed her opportunity by the scruff, using the stage as her own personal playground.



Sunday, and it was time for a pint and a good old sing-a-long, with perhaps the busiest man in Upton, **Stephen Steinhaus** and

his **Copperhead Road**. A short and sharp set with Stein opening with a touching tribute to Chester Bennington of Linkin' Park. **The Swaps** and **The Reelers** took their cues as I finish my personal **Upton Blues Festival** experience with a blast of **Tommy Allen's Trafficker**. A band that take the blues as a launch pad, crank everything to eleven and let fly with a flurry of rock riffs.

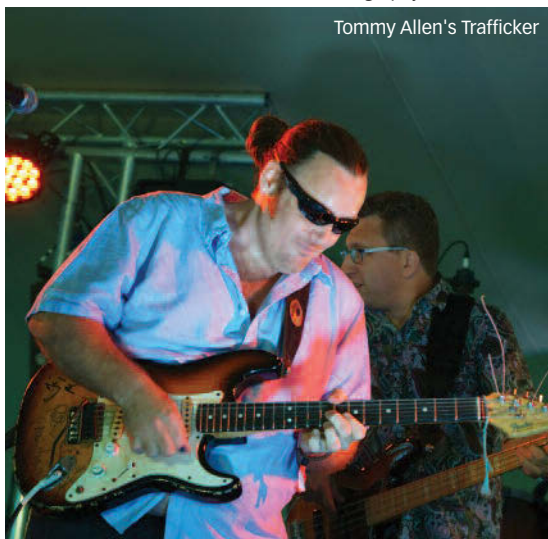
As I left Upton Blues for another year, the various pubs were all still at full capacity, and the **Roy Mette Band** were warming up the **Riverside** for the grand finale of **Hamilton Loomis**. With a few changes to overcome, the biggest free Blues festival in the UK continued to be met with quality acts and an insane atmosphere. Roll on next year!

Words: Will Munn Photography: Graham Munn



Dr Schwamp

Tommy Allen's Trafficker



The full review can be viewed at rhythmbuzz.tumblr.com/

The Black Feathers



... Whatever Floats Your Boat Upton Blues on the River

Upton Blues and its a horrible wet day, the streets are full of cagoules and plastic capes, the golf umbrella is king. The choice is

squeeze into one of the overloaded pubs, or stowaway on the **Conway Castle**, before it 'set sail'. I boarded to find **Dave, Josh and Danny**, setting up for the first of four sailings. Scheduled around 45mins per session, that was soon to be tested. A moody, *'Just Be Mine'* reverberated around the saloon as we slipped downstream from the town. Credence Clearwater's *'Green River'* seemed appropriate, feeding in to **Drifter's** brilliant interpretation of *'Hoochi Coochi Man'*. Dave drew the djembe in close, as the boat did its 3 point turn, *'Save Me'* thumped out and a steaming, *'Queen Bee'* stung the chill air. We were soon back, Drifter played on with Tommy Tuckers' *'High Heeled Sneakers'*, and dancing in the aisle, spirits were high, we were still dry! *Hurricane Blues*, drafted through, **The Conway Castle** struggled, Chicken Shacks, *'Sweetest Little Thing'*, brought her into line, and we slipped back into the mooring, no need to break out the sea biscuits.



Drifter

Saturday, and **Tommy Allen & Ray Drury** steamed out, with a cabin and foredeck full of fans, and me as stowaway, but *'The Pleasures All Mine'*, as we slipped downstream, Tommy's kick drum punching out its beat. Ray was set up with keyboards in piano mode and was barrelling along nicely. They tempted us with *'Lollipop'* (not that one), with the ivory's rattling away, and Tommy, fingering his battered Strat, wires spiking out like a porcupine with

a hangover, as he sang out the sweet lyrics. *'Something's Wrong'*, rolls out, pulsating R&B in the tight confines of the long cabin, its hard not to be drawn in to the raw edged rhythms, we're all, *'Better Off With The Blues'*. The song that really stood out as we moved back toward the mooring, was a heartfelt, *'Read me My Rights'* with Ray accompanying Tommy, superb.

There were two more bands afloat on the weekend, the fast rising **Tom Walker Band** and **Sons Of The Delta**. A perfect little haven away from the busy streets and crowded bars, with plenty of sailing choices, you could slip away between headline bands, and relax to the finest acoustic blues.

Graham Munn

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Preview

Morton Stanley Festival 2017

The line-up for this year's bigger, better **Morton Stanley Festival** in Redditch has been announced.



Manchester reggae sensation **Jeremiah Ferrari** joins main stage headliners **Big Wolf Band**, from Birmingham, and Bewdley's psychedelic **Arcadia Roots** at the free festival in August.

The **Zoe Green Band**, **Pig-Man** and the **Rubber Band**, and the **Emma Jonson Quartet** complete the headline acts at the festival that will also feature 37 local acts across two days and two stage.



A featured DJ tent by **Locked In Radio** joins the mix for 2017, plus other new activities including an acoustic tent as this year's entertainment spans Redditch's 95-acre **Morton Stanley Park**. Once again the fun filled and family friendly festival will feature a range of rides, quality street food and drink, have-a-go activities, classic car display and numerous stands, promising something for everyone.

Cllr Pat Witherspoon, Redditch Borough Council's portfolio holder for Leisure, said: "This year's festival is bound to go with a bang – and not only because of the new fireworks display. There's always entertainment for everyone at Morton Stanley, from the Saturday night bands to the family and community events that bring people together during the day."

The **Morton Stanley Festival** is a free event for the whole community organised by **Redditch Borough Council**. This year it is on Saturday and Sunday the weekend of August 19th and 20th, starting at 1pm on both days. The firework display is on Saturday at 9pm. For more information please contact the arts and events team on 01727 534030. Kelly-Louise Mitchell (nee Johnson) - k.mitchell@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

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Jesse River Dylan Murray's EP launch The Chestnut Inn, Worcester | July 19th

The Chestnut Inn in Worcester is an unusual place. Books and antiques can be found in every corner and, on second glance, the pub feels like a crossover between Leaky Cauldron and Peel Archive. A fat, red cat roams around demanding cuddles from the customers, big portraits of rock and blues stars on the walls seem alive and there are vinyl records in big piles near the bar. So, it's no wonder that Chestnut was chosen as a venue for **Jesse River Dylan Murray's** EP launch on July 19th.

A wild child of Worcester music scene, Jesse cannot be easily squeezed into a box - they have more aces in up sleeve than a skilled gambler. One moment they're channeling Bowie, the next singing like Tom Waits, Jesse easily changes from glam to indie to alternative with charm and buoyancy that captivates the audience.

Before Jesse hit the stage, we had a pleasure to listen to two support acts: **Stephen L Wright** (locally known as **Nobby Wright**) and **Benjamin Dallow**. Stephen L. Wright continues a proud



tradition of classic blues and we have no doubts that Nobby will soon find himself on the other side of the pond. Ben Dallow on the other hand is fully immersed in British rock. There are a lot of Oasis and Paul Weller influences

in Ben's music but since when is a comparison to the Modfather is a bad thing? Dallow's version of The Jam's *That's Entertainment* was fresh and done in his own style too, so no complaints from us here.

Once Ben Dallow finished his set, it was all about Jesse and their music. With their signature guitar, full make up on and snow white shirt, Murray mirrored Richey Edwards in passion and stage persona and equalled American indie sensation Michete in outspokenness. They played the EP in full and when that was not enough, they turned to a cover (brilliant version of Heroin by Velvet Underground).

For a young performer Jesse surely has dedicated friends - some of them came as far as London for the launch and at the end of the night, Jesse was presented with a huge bouquet of flowers. It was a fun night - full of excellent music, chaos, silly conversations, too many pints and had all the marks of an "I was there" moment. If given the right amount of endurance in this dog-eat-dog industry, **Jesse River Dylan Murray** has all the talent and persona to become not just a local starlet - but a full grown rock and roll start in their own right.

Rita Dabrowicz

Full Review - cocamidemea.wordpress.com/category/indieterrria/



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FOLK MUSIC SONG AND DANCE FOR ALL

Up and coming at Huntington Hall, Worcester

Huntington Hall (Worcester) has a number of acts and plenty of entertainment to catch during the month of August, and here are a few to look out for:

Get ready for a nostalgia trip with **Straighten Out, Live and Unleashed** on Saturday 12th at 7:30pm, the world's No.1 Tribute to The Stranglers. With an extensive set-list that spans two solid hours, they re-create the early-years sound, complete with a keyboard rig that is the same model as the original used by Mr Greenfield himself in the 70s. The growling bass sound and the quirky guitar riffs are all there to be heard, as is the dual vocal attack from the two front men as they rip through all the classics: 'Hanging Around', 'No More Heroes', 'The Raven', 'Walk On By' and many more. With a tribute this good it is difficult to 'walk on by' the box office without booking tickets! Tickets £15.

Tony James is set to bring his brand new solo show **Totally Tony** to his hometown. Having performed across the UK and Europe, Tony has built quite a name for himself from his numerous TV and radio appearances, performing with big names such as Olly Murs, Keith Lemon, Shane Richie, Boney M, Paddy McGuinness and many, many more. Tony is probably most recognised from his Robbie Williams tribute act, **Bloobie Williams** or you may have seen Bloobie on Channel 4 when he won the TV show Come Dine With Me. Renowned for his audience interaction and improvisation, a night with Tony is always one to remember and it's safe to say that if you are looking for an act that will bring the party, you need look no further! You'll sing, laugh and have a great time! Catch **Totally Tony** on Friday 18th, 7:30pm. Tickets £14.50.

A **Poetry Open Mic Night** will also be taking place on Wednesday 23rd at 7:30pm. Live poet-in-residence **Ben Parker** is hosting his third poetry night as part of this year's Worcester

Festival. Members of the public are invited to come along and read their own work, or just listen and enjoy a varied and exciting evening of poetry. Performers will get 4 minutes each and can sign up in advance by emailing ben.r.parker@gmail.com, with remaining slots filled first-come-first-served on the night. Ben's debut pamphlet, *The Escape Artists*, was published by Tall-Lighthouse in 2012 and was shortlisted for the 2013 Michael Marks Award. In 2014 he started a one-year residency at the **Museum of Royal Worcester** and in 2016 he became poet in residence for **Worcester Live** as well as the **Historic Ghost Walk** of Worcester and a number of other events. Ben returns this year to **Worcester Festival**, for what promises to be a welcoming and enjoyable event for all, whether a seasoned performer or new to the spotlight. Tickets £2.50.



All of these events are part of the **Worcester Festival**, running from the 12th to the 28th of August. For more information about these events or the Worcester Festival, please pick up an event guide at Huntingdon Hall or visit worcesterfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available from the Box Office on 01905 611427.



What's On?

at The Swan Theatre
and Huntingdon Hall



 <p>WORLD'S NO.1 TRIBUTE TO THE STRANGLERS</p> <p>Worcester Festival</p> <p>12th August - £15</p>	 <p>Worcester Festival</p> <p>Tony James</p> <p>Totally Tony</p> <p>18th August - £14.50</p>	 <p>Worcester Festival</p> <p>Alice in Wonderland</p> <p>19th August - £12</p>
 <p>Worcester Festival</p> <p>Backstage Tour of The Swan Theatre</p> <p>21st August - £8.50</p>	 <p>Worcester Festival</p> <p>Poetry Open Mic Night</p> <p>23rd August - £2.50</p>	 <p>Jethro</p> <p>- The Bull and Bonkers Tour</p> <p>25th August - £20</p>

Worcester live

BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427

www.worcesterlive.co.uk

Music Sessions/Open Mics

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

Tuesday 01 August 2017

The Big Kahunas
Rocklands Club, Redditch

Wednesday 02 August 2017

The Bollweevils, Red Light Rebels, Borrowed Time, Sidekick
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Selfmachine (NI) + Evyltyde
The Iron Road, Evesham

Beaver + The Foghorns
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Falcon Lane
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Richie Ramone
Guildhall, Gloucester

Thursday 03 August 2017

Gene Genie, The Lemon Squeezers
The Lyttelton Arms, Stourbridge

Bandit 19
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Loz Rabone
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Will Killeen
The Plough, Worcester

Dana Immanuel And Stolen Band
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Leon Daye
Tank, Gloucester

Lou Whatling
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Friday 04 August 2017

Padraig Lalor
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Vo Fletcher
The Three Horseshoes, Malvern

Fred Zeppelin
Rocklands Club, Redditch

NCS Fest 2017
The Railway, Redditch

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Big Joe Bone, Open Mic Night
Jinney Ring Blues Festival, Bromsgrove

Robbie Williams - Ollie Hughes
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Rattle Snake Jake
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Delray Rockets
The Camp Inn, Grimley

Polly Edwards And Kringo Blue
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Vso Charity Evening With Music From Henry Bateman
The Little George, Stroud

Jake Riley
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Ron Jeremy Band, The Kings Of Nylon
Bromsgrove Rugby Club, Bromsgrove

5:15
The Blue Bell, Ryall

The Relaxos
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Unhooked
The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

The Forever Greens, Dom Watton
The Swan, Cheltenham

Hana Piranha, Vajazzle Dynamite
The Costwold, Cheltenham

Gage (S. Africa) + Deadblow
The Iron Road, Evesham

Bad Names
The Red Lion, Evesham

Solid Gone
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Blues Night With Rev Ferriday And The Longdogs
Reet Petite, Leominster

The Alltones
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Toby
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Gene Genie & The Lemon Squeezers
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Witcher
The Millers Arms, Pershore



THE DRUNKEN MONKEY

ROCK FESTIVAL 2017

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 4-6 AUGUST

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AC/DC TRIBUTE

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OVER 50 BANDS ON 2 STAGES

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Sunjay
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Paddy O Turner
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Still Crazy
Queens Head, Wolverley

Uncover Presents: Nuns Of The Tundra, Social State, Lycio + Claytoride
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Gravelly Hill
The Sebright Arms, Worcester

Saturday 05 August 2017

Mature Of Wires
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Vo Fletcher
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Priory Park, Malvern (2:30Pm)
Priory Park, Malvern

The Way
The Unicorn, Malvern

Mitch Loveridge
Abbeydale Community Club, Redditch

Rock & Roll Circus, Voodoo Club
The Queens Head, Redditch

Will Wilde, Souled Out 2 Funk, The Della Grants, Greg Coulson, Stompin Dave, Robert Hokum
Jinney Ring Blues Festival, Bromsgrove

Arcadia Roots
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Decades Band
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Barry Cuda & The Sharks
The Chestnut, Worcester

Chimps
Upton Social Club, Upton-Upon-Severn

Steve Page
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Uplifter
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Sally
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Come Together
The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Riggie Pig
The Pig And Drum, Worcester

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Hat Club
Cross Keys, Alcester

Dead!, Echoic, Icymi, Midweek
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Gas Attack
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Final Warning
New Inn, Pershore

The Desperados (6Pm)
Chedworth Farm Shop, Chedworth

Marko'S Magical Emporium
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Boogie Street
The Swan Inn, Evesham

Hvmm + Support
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Black Pears...Country Blues & Folk
Green Dragon, Malvern

Red Tails
The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

The Floyd Effect
Guildhall, Gloucester

Midnight Idols
Reet Petite, Leominster

The Futures
The Railway Inn, Tewkesbury

Deja Vudou
Baker Street, Gloucester

Obscure
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Black Boxes, Nothing Clean, Enmerkar, Soden
The Booth Hall, Hereford

Dj Jimdog Playing Classic Hip Hop, Funk And Breaks
Heroes, Worcester

Sunday 06 August 2017

Ian Luther
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Players (5:30Pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Ben Vickers
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Matt Bough 5Pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Naomi's Hotsy Totsy Band
Bewdley Museum, Bewdley

Terry Walls Piano/Vocals 7.30Pm Free Entry
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

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

Dogs Of Santorini 6pm
Cap N Gown, Worcester

Jay & Eli
The Kings Arms, Mickleton

Jack Goodall
Alestones, Tardebigge

Big Wolf Band (4Pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 08 August 2017

Kim Lowings & The Greenwood
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 09 August 2017

Marie McNally & Linz Martin Jazz Vox And Sax 7.30Pm
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Andy Twyman
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Underground Revolution Presents A Night Of Punk And Ska, £8 Entry Doors 8Pm, Los Fastidios - Punk Oi & Ska From Italy, Headgames Traveller Punk & Ska, The Booth Hall, Hereford

THE UNDERGROUND REVOLUTION PRESENTS
AT THE BOOTH HALL HEREFORD



LOS FASTIDIOS

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HEAD GAMES

TRAVELLER PUNK N' SKA

Thursday 10 August 2017

Pink Floyd Night With James Hollingsworth
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud, Stroud

Tony Lambert
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Malvern Recorded Jazz Society
Powick Parish Hall

Hereford Heavy Presents: Conflicts Defile Single Launch
Booth Hall, Hereford

Ruben Seabright Blues Acoustic 7.30Pm Free Entry
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Flying Ant Day - Album Launch, The Dc Spectres, Cal Doonican
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Red Ray & The Reprobates
Tank, Gloucester

Fizzi Duo
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Friday 11 August 2017

Play It Again Sam
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Mike Parker
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Left Hand Man, Save State Uk
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Uk Guns N' Roses
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Population 7
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Magic Of Motown
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Delray Rockets
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Reverend Stretch And Texas Tic Fever
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud, Stroud

Michael Knowles And The Stds, Dirty Soap
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

One Tree Canyon - Accoustic Set

The After Dark Band
The Three Horseshoes, Alcester

Dream State, The Uncharted, Conflicts Uk, Backroads
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Rod Stewart Tribute Night
Gaudet Luce Golf & Leisure, Droitwich

Molly's Lips
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Marley Experience
Artrix, Bromsgrove

999 + Dead Frequency
The Iron Road, Evesham

Steve Kent
The Red Lion, Evesham

Spitz Solo
Yumi Yumi, Evesham

Jackson
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Funk&Soul Dj Jon Bengry
Reet Petite, Leominster

Phil Black
The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Woo Town Hillbillies
Berkley Arms, Tewksbury

Black Knight
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Ray Myton Band
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Mark Turauskis
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Booze Box
Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 12 August 2017

Paul Balmer
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Hennesea
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Straighten Out (Stranglers Tribute)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Epic Problem, Jaded Eyes, Skimmer, Trivial Dispute, Sweet

Diego, Mixtape Saints
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Killerstream (Modern Covers Band!)
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Voodoo Stone
The Chestnut, Worcester

Vehicle
White Hart, Redditch

Skating Polly
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Rat Pack
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Delray Rockets
Upton Social Club, Upton-Upon-Severn

Dizzy O'Dare, Nina Von Der Werth & Co, Frolicked,

Illumaphonium (Daytime)
Town Centre, Kidderminster

Jim Reynolds
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Bluestreet
The Bayhill, Cheltenham

48 SLAP AUGUST

Freefall
New Inn, Pershore

The Strays (6pm)
Chedworth Farm Shop, Chedworth

Nicola T As Beyonce
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Skrood
The Swan Inn, Evesham

The Kut + Special Guests
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Executives
Green Dragon, Malvern

Rick Gable's Lounge Sounds
The Hollybush Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Drum&Bass Dj Katon&Pheme
Reet Petite, Leominster

A Different Thread
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Shinnanigans
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Upstairs
The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

Soul Sessions Playing Rock n roll, Punk, Ska, Rockabilly,
Motown And Northern Soul
Heroes, Worcester

Jay & Eli
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Motown Devotion/ Sister Act, Tamba Disco Classics. Northern
Soul Sounds Of Philadelphia, Free Entry
Kingsford Public House, Wolverly

V2A
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Black Sabbath Tribute
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Epic Problem, Jaded Eyes, Clobber, Trivial Dispute, Sweet Diego,
Mixtape Saints
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

No Poetry: Hide Your Eyes, Jaycee, Insomniacs
The Imperial, Hereford

Gravelly Hill
The Red Lion, Cradley

Healthy Junkies, Suckerpunch, Year Zero, Turning Black Like
Lizards, Plutonium, Marco Ren
The Trough, Walsall

Spectrum 4
Dick Whittington Inn, Westgate St, Gloucester

The Rogues, Boondoggz
Ludlow Brewery, Ludlow

Sunday 13 August 2017

Madi Stimpson
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Woo Town Hillbillies Album Launch (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Follies
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Gigspanner's Big Birthday Band
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Alan Bateman, Ian Bateman, Zoltan Sagi, Nick Wiltshire,
Phil Probert, Len Thwaites, Ken Wright
Malvern Rugby Club

Jay & Eli
Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Elwood Jake Blues 5pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Bethan And The Morgans
Bewdley Museum, Bewdley

Faith Folk/Rock Duo, Voice Squad Pop/Rock Choir
Springfield Park, Kidderminster

Hellbastard, Panzerbastard, Suicide Watch, Fabric
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Lazy Sunday: Skewwhiff, The Black Rattles, The Humdrum
Express, Cookie + DJs
Cafe Bliss, Worcester

The Lock In 'Remixed' Featuring The Demon Barbers
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Lazy Sunday Afternoon: Guy Challenger (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

The Players Live Sunday 13th August 7.30pm
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

G & T Mix 6pm
Cap N Gown, Worcester

Alan Bateman, Ian Bateman, Zoltan Sagi, Nick Wiltshire, Phil
Probert, Len Thwaites, Ken Wright
Malvern Rugby, Malvern

Paul White (2pm)
Alestones, Tardebigge

Troy Redfern Band (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 15 August 2017

FCS: The Deadnotes, The Harts, Parkhurst, Valence
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 16 August 2017

The Delray Rockets (6:30Pm)
St. Peters Garden Centre, Norton, Worcester

Eva Jacobs
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Jazz Night
Reet Petite, Leominster

Thursday 17 August 2017

Linda Marita - 'Going Mad' Ep Launch
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Ben Vickers
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

TT's Musonic Nights
The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Dellacoma + Special Guests
The Iron Road, Evesham

Russian Evening Stella Seaton Sims And Tim Sidford (Vox & Piano) 7.30Pm £10 Entry
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Bowie Starman
Guildhall, Gloucester

Sam Jones
Tank, Gloucester

Stacy & Andy
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Friday 18 August 2017

Sam Eden
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Don, Glyn, And Friends - An Acoustic Evening
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Replicas
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Mur Mur
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Totally Tony
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Crooked Stylus, Care In The Community
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud, Stroud

Jack Hopkinson
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Sam Brookes
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Billy Branch & The Giles Robson Band, Pistol Pete Wearn
The Iron Road, Evesham

Jo Silver
The Red Lion, Evesham

Grande Valise, Monica And The Explosion, Tim Walkerdine
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Johnny Kowalski + The Sexy Wierdos
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Horace Andy
Guildhall, Gloucester

Hipkiss
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

John Nicholas
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Smokeroom
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Glow Worms
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Gunnrunner
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Miss Pearl & The Crazy Diamonds
The Unicorn, Malvern

Tyler Massey
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Lenny James & The Gater Squad
Queens Head, Wolverley

Cleobury Mortimer
The Royal Fountain, Kidderminster

Saturday 19 August 2017

Black Heart Angels
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Red Dawe
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Michael Buble Tribute
The Hollybush Inn, Redditch

Pete Hyde & Friends
The Chestnut, Worcester

Cantaloup
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Kidderminster Fringe Festival. Stiff Joints, Social Ignition, The Humdrum Express, Skewwhiff, Bleeding Hearts, Electric Soup. Teddy Matthews, Vault Of Dub Plus, The Bullfrogs... And A Selection Of Acoustic Acts From 1Pm
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Frantic, Old Time Rags, Wet Picnic, Joli Vyann, Patterns On Walls (Daytime)
Town Centre, Kidderminster

Shanghai Shuffle
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Hip Route (6pm)
Chedworth Farm Shop, Chedworth

Stuart Woollfenden
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

David Hamilton's Rock 'n' Roll Back The Years
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Western Sand + Hollowstar
The Iron Road, Evesham

Rehydrated Turkeys (Two Of Three!)
Green Dragon, Malvern

End Of Salvation, Absence Of Light, Minus Inferno, Sonnitus, Hollow Dreams, Icons Burn, Proteus, Second Self (3pm)
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

The People's Republic Of Mercia
Reet Petite, Leominster

Beatroot Collective
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Essential 80S
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Woo Town Hillbillies (afternoon)
Leadon Social Club, Broadway Worcester

The Woo Town Hillbillies
White Lion, Leominster

Phoenix
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Death Disco Playing Electronica, Alt Disco & Post Punk Funk
Heroes, Worcester

Belladonna
The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

The Executives
The Express Inn, Malvern

The Guv'nors
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Slightly Ocd
Somerset Arms, Cheltenham

Rickie Laval 60's Night
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Jon Eselle
Royal British Legion, Claines, Worcester

The Ferrets
The Cricketers, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

Dave Christie
Talbot Hotel, Leominster

Sunday 20 August 2017

The Follicles
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Swamp Candy (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Pay The Piper
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Jam Afternoon Hosted By Ben Vickers
Saracens Head, Worcester

Nikki Rous
The Bell Inn, Leominster

Lazy Sunday Afternoon: Rob Powell + Simon Othen (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Howard Kenny Live Sunday 20Th August 8Pm
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

Terry 6pm
Cap n Gown, Worcester

Jay & Eli
The Bell, St. Johns, Worcester

Will Hunt, Nerys John, Oli Hogan (4pm)
Alestones, Tardebigge

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

Monday 21 August 2017

Bon Accord

Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

Wednesday 23 August 2017

Bobby Funk, Suckerpunch, Clobber

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Poetry Open Mic Night With Ben Parker, Poet in Residence

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Junkyard + The Fiascos

The Iron Road, Evesham

Memphis

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Bad Manners

Guildhall, Gloucester

Thursday 24 August 2017

Howard Kenny

The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Vera Van Heeringen Trio

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Malvern Recorded Jazz Society

Powick Parish Hall

Surprise Attacks: Outblinker, A Werewolf!, Rosebud

Heroes Bar, Worcester

Jim Suhler & Monkey Beat (U.S.A)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Alex Chapman

Tank, Gloucester

Friday 25 August 2017

Kim Ryder

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mister Wolf

The Lamplighter, Rother Street, Stratford Upon Avon

Nuclear Theory, Kill The Romantic, The Callout, Graces

Collide, Rise To The Throne, Versa Vice

The Queens Head, Redditch

Dizzy Lizzy /Thin Lizzy Tribute Band

Robin2, Bilston

The Strays

The Pheasant, Toddington

The Dolly Parton Story

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Delray Rockets

Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Anna Bale

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Fight Rosa Fight

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Bank Holiday Shenanigans

Out To Grass, Malvern

Oli Barton & The Movement

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Union Of Strings

The Fire Station, Chedworth

The Cureheads, Shadowplay (Joy Division)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Paarthurnax

The Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

Swampcandy

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Acoustic Night With Amie

Reet Petite, Leominster

Steady Edd & The Boogiemmen

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Bad Spaniel

The Monument, Hereford

The Hawthornes

The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Jay & Eli

The Red Lion, Evesham

Answer Back & Local Support

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Trevor Burton Band

Queens Head, Wolverley

Ed Sheeran Tribute

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Fleetwood Bac

The Courtyard, Hereford

James Hickman

The Clive, Ludlow

Saturday 26 August 2017

Sons Of Yoda

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Ruben & Beckie Seabright

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mister Wolf

The Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Machine Rages On, Liberty Artillery

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Abba - Swede Dreamz

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds

The Chestnut, Worcester

Ombs Creatius, Kazzum, Hijinx, Open Theatre Company, Musii

(Daytime)

Town Centre, Kidderminster

Pitfest: Act Iii

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Facestealers

New Inn, Pershore

Scott James And The Revolution

The Railway, Cheltenham

The Campfire Sessions - Circe's Diner & Mark Walby (5Pm)

Chedworth Farm Shop, Chedworth

Lorise Eaton & The Stealers

Green Dragon, Malvern

The Main Grains, The Midnight Dogs

The Iron Road, Evesham

Chicago Bytes Blues Band

Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Upstairs

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Medlars

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Dancefloor Deluxe

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Funky Navigation Playing Afrobeat, Soul And All Things Funky

Heroes, Worcester

Voodoo Stone

The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

Tale Lights

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

The Barrels Beer Festival With Live Music

The Barrels, Hereford

Mel And Him

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

A Night On Broadway

The Courtyard, Hereford

Ray Mytton Band

The Cricketers, Worcester

Sunday 27 August 2017

An Audience With Laurie Hornsby (1pm)

Alestones, Redditch

The Strays

The Valkyrie Cafe Bar, Evesham

The Haunted Souls 6pm

Cap n Gown, Worcester

White Tyger

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Ralph Allin Classical Quartet (3pm), Will Kileen (5:30Pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Brinsley 'Aswad' Forde Mbe, Looney Toone Hi Fi

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Skewwhiff (Official Pub Opening, Afternoon)

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Joe Summers

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

Legend (A Tribute To Bob Marley)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Meats&Beats

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Woo Town Hillbillies

Credenhill Social Club, Credenhill Herefordshire

Toby

Clifford Chambers Working Mens Club, Stratford Upon Avon

Monday 28 August 2017

Alash - Throat Singers From Tuva

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Hillbilly Hoe Down with The Woo Town Hillbillies 5pm

The Lenchies Club, Evesham

The Woo Town Hillbillies

Plum Festival /Angel Inn, Pershore

Bank Holiday All Day Open Mic

Queens Head, Wolverley

Tuesday 29 August 2017

Rob Tognoni (Tasmania)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Thursday 31 August 2017

Live Music
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

London Calling
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Rodda's Hairy Craic
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud, Stroud

Leatherwolf + The Darker My Horizon
The Iron Road, Evesham

Rob Mcewan
Tank, Gloucester

Sally Live Music
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Sam Thomas
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

Remember to
upload your listings at
www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/
it's quick & simple
and guarantees inclusion
or email editorial@slapmag.co.uk

Local Festivals

1-5 August 2017: Monmouth Festival
Monmouth, see monmouthfestival.co.uk

4-6 August 2017: Worcester Foodie Festival
Various locations, Worcester, see worcesterbid.com/foodie

4-6 August 2017: Drunken Monkey Rock Festival
Welland Road, Upton upon Severn. drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk

4-5 August 2017: Jinney Ring Blues Festival
Craft Centre, Hanbury, see jinneyring.co.uk/acatalog/Blues_Festivals

4-6 August 2017: TRUEFEST
Baskerville Hall, Hay-on-Wye

5 August 2017: Sandwich Fest: Sister Sandwich, The Pale Kings,
Sister Savage, Billy Whizz, Charley Wilde, Garibaldies, Offal Club

5-6 August 2017: Bewdley Summer Festival
Various venues, Bewdley

10-13 August 2017: Lakefest
Eastnor Deer Park, Ledbury

11-13 August 2017: Down on the Farm Festival
Gwatkin Cider Company Ltd, Moorhampton Park Farm, Abbeydore

12-27 August 2017: Kidderminster Arts Festival
Various venues, Kidderminster. kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

12 August 2017: Lovett Music Fest: Droitwich
Sharon Murphy, Clayton Schlimper, Warren James, Ben Vickers,
The Test Pilots, see Lovettmusicfest.com

18-20 August 2017: Old Bush Blues Festival
Callow End, Worcester, see oldbushblues.co.uk

18-20 August 2017: The Boat Inn Beer Cider & Music Festival
The Boat Inn, Ashleworth, Gloucester

18-19 August 2017: Summer Fest
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

18-20 August 2017: Sunrise Celebration Festival
Kenchurch Estate, Hereford, see sunrisecelebration.com

19 August 2017: Kidderminster Fringe Festival See Page 22
Outside The Boars Head, Kidderminster

19 August 2017: The Queen's Head, Kington
Queen's In The Park, Proceeds to Prostate Cancer, Live Music All
Day, Outside bar/barbecue/games, From 2.30pm

19-20 August 2017: Morton Stanley Festival
Morton Stanley Park, Redditch

25-27 August 2017: Beermageddon Festival
Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove beermageddon.co.uk

25-7 August 2017: Griffstock 2017
near Stroud, email griffstock16@gmail.com for info & tickets

25-27 August 2017: Stroud Fringe Festival
Town Centre, Stroud, see stroudfringe.co.uk

25-27 August 2017: Sunshine Festival
Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn, see uptonfestival.co.uk

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

1st/2nd Dancefest summer school, Courtyard Hereford

3rd Uncorked, spoken word at Bottles winebar

2-31st Mail Art Exhibition, Droitwich Library

1 – 26th The Hop Project, Tenbury Library

4th Digbeth First Friday, Looking at Art Looking at People,
Division of Labour - Digbeth, Birmingham

5th Trainspotting T2, Worcester Brewing Company

5/6th Spare Room Arts Crowngate Shopping Centre Worcester

5th/6th Leomington Art in the Park Festival

5th Droitwich Spa Arts Fest

5th Lower Broadheath Craft Fair

7th/8th 3D Print family workshop Stroud Valley Artspace

8th Drink & Doodle - Creating Space, The Paul Pry, Worcester

12/13th Spare Room Arts Crowngate Shopping Centre Worcester

12-27th Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF)
www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk

13th Worcester Riverside Arts Market

19/20th Spare Room Arts Crowngate Shopping Centre Worcester

19th Kidderminster Fringe Festival, Boars Head Kidderminster

19th-28th Art for Amnesty, Quaker Meeting House, Malvern

20th Worcester Riverside Arts Market

22nd/23rd Dancefest performance project, Horizon Centre Worcester

25th-28th International Festival of Glass, Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge

26/27 Spare Room Arts Crowngate Shopping Centre Worcester

27th Worcester Riverside Arts Market

30th 42 at Drummonds Worcester, spoken word

Until 3rd Sept Synthetic Landscapes, Weston Park, Staffs

Until 9th Sept Celebrity, Worcester Museum and Art Gallery

Until 10th Sept Embroidered Bodies. Ashmolean Museum Broadway

Until 11th Sept Art from the Dark, Hereford Library, Museum & Art Gallery

Until September Lowlife & Sophie Hedderwick. Bar Opus, Birmingham

THE MARRS BAR

AUG
SEPT 2017



Friday 4th August

UnCover: Nuns of The Tundra,
Social State, Lycio, ClayToRide
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 5th August

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

Friday August 11th

Michael Knowles & the stds, Dirty Soap
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 12th August

V2A
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Tuesday 15th Aug

FCS: The Deadnotes, The Harts,
Parkhurst, Valence
£4 in advance £6 on the door

Saturday 26th August

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

Friday September 1st

Alex Rainsford, Redwood, Chris Taylor
£5 in advance

Saturday September 2nd

Hvmm EP Launch
£5 in advance £6 on the door

Sunday 3rd September

Forever Sabbath
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday September 7th

The Dowling Poole
£9 in advance £12 on the door

Friday September 8th

Jasper In The Company Of Others
£7 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday September 9th

Fireroad, Without Flight

Sunday September 10th

Nick Parker
£4 in advance £6 on the door

WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL - FREE

Friday September 15th - Task in hand:
Population:7, Hoggs Bison, Theo,
Rosebud, Esteban, To The Wall

Saturday September 16th - SLAP:

The Americas, Malarkey, Vienna Ditto,
Doozer McDooze, Calm Like a Riot

Sunday September 17th

Rhythm & Booze: The Boston Shakers,
Harry & The Howlers, MeMe Detroit,
Girls Love Ponies, The Whipjacks

Friday September 22nd

MAH: Thousand Mountain, Rita Lynch,
Lost Tiger To The Wild, Vinny Peculiar,
Nth Cave, Humdrum Express
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday September 23rd

The ELO Encounter (ELO tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday September 29th

Fred Zeppelin
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday September 30th

Glazz's birthday gig: China Shop Bull,
Cracked Actors, The Humdrum Express
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night
Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

www.marrsbar.co.uk
01905 613336

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