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Issue 74

Oct 2017

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SLAP MAGAZINE

Unit 3a, Lowesmoor Wharf,
Worcester WR1 2RS
Telephone: 01905 26660
editorial@slapmag.co.uk

For advertising enquiries, please contact:
adverts@slapmag.co.uk

EDITORIAL Mark Hogan - Editor
Kate Cox - Arts Editor
Emily Branson - Sub Editor
Christopher Murphy - Sub Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare
Will Munn
Geoffrey Head
Emily Branson
Rita Dabrowicz
Tash Giaquinto
Corina Harrison
Sarah Ganderton
Jason Kernohan
Graham Munn
Steve Wilson
Suz Winspear
Kate Cox

Design Mark Hogan

Web & Social Media

Ant Robbins
Katherine Harris

Publisher The Whole Hog
Printers Vernon Print



@slapmaguk

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Hi and welcome to the October 2017 issue of Slap Magazine as the cooler Autumn weather signals the end of the festival year. A brilliant season it was too, full of great memories, great places and an amazing mix of music and arts.

This month we look back at just some of the coverage from a couple of local urban festivals, namely The Stroud Fringe Festival and of course the Worcester Music Festival. Indeed our front cover this month is Doozer McDooze who came up from Essex to open and compere the SLAP night at the Marrs Bar as part of WMF. He loved it and we loved him!

Now in it's 10th year, this festival goes from strength to strength. Thousands of acts apply and do so in the knowledge that the event is raising money for a local charity and that WMF is a free festival in every sense of the word. As well as the hard working committee, dozens of promoters, charity collectors, sound engineers and volunteers give up their time also to put on around 250 performances across 20+ venues for free. Simple maths will tell you that even if each performance commanded a modest figure of say £200, it would cost a half of a million pounds in performers fees alone to stage the event which would mean a ticket prices in excess of £200. It was heart warming to see so many people in attendance and showing their appreciation by filling up the collection buckets for the homeless charity - St. Pauls Hostel. Well done Worcester!

We do our best here at Slap to bring you the latest news, gigs, exhibitions and just about anything of interest around the Shires. But we rely on you to tell us what's going on in your area so that we can help to spread the word. So get in touch to see how we can help, take advantage of our generous advertising rates or submit your reviews etc. Support us so that we can keep supporting you!

Chill-Ed



Front cover image - Doozer McDooze by Taff Wiltshire - Red Images
Photography at the Marrs Bar for SLAP night at The Worcester
Music Festival 2017

Use Them or Lose Them

A survey by website **UK Music** reveals that live music accounts for 25% of all UK music income - with gigs and festivals generating £1 billion in revenue £300 million more than all forms of recorded music (including CDs, vinyl, downloads and streaming). There were 31 million tickets sold for events in 2016 - up from 27 million in 2015. Despite this UK Music warns that the closure of small venues threatens the grass roots of this revival, with up-and-coming artists particularly at risk...

Noisy 'Nimby' Neighbours

Protests about 'noise' again from nearby residents to live music locations - this month it's from a handful of neighbours protesting at the wonderfully successful **Morton Stanley Festival** in Redditch which attracted 8500 people over the weekend of August 18/19 with headliners including **Arcadia Roots** - congrats to **Redditch Borough Council** for backing the festival fully!!

Godley to Cream Amateurs



Ex-10cc drummer **Kevin Godley** is exploring crowd-sourcing slightly differently - he's asking amateur musicians to send him instrumental tracks to which he'll add lyrics and vocals - releasing them on his first solo album - with the resulting copyright and cash being split 50/50! Kevin was the co-writer of 10cc hits *Rubber Bullets*

and *I'm Not In Love* before becoming a video producer for acts including Frankie Goes To Hollywood and The Police!

It's Not The Hoople is it?

Founder **Mott The Hoople** member **Pete 'Overend' Watts'** posthumous debut solo album has been released called *He's Real Gone* - featuring a version of Mott classic *Born Late* 58. With a late touch of humour the album name was changed when he realised that it wasn't possible to release it until after his expected death earlier this year from 'a long illness' - respect to Overend - that's actually his real name btw...



Salon Select New Conductor

A Worcester orchestra originally formed in 1950 and who played their 'final' concert in June has been resurrected with a new conductor. **The Salon Orchestra** are playing a season of a variety of music until December at **Bromyard Road Methodist Church** with new members invited to join - especially 'upper string' players of Grade 3 and above - so relative beginners are very welcome - more at thesalonorchestraworcester.org.uk

4 SLAP OCTOBER

Simon Cowell Dragged Backwards by Queen



'Zany' drag act and **Worcester Pride** host **Ginny Lemon** AKA **Lewis Spelt Backwards** confounded X-Factor critics Simon Cowell and Sharon Osbourne with her performance at the initial auditions in Surrey, making it through to the 'boot-camp' next stage. Ginny had to perform a Liberty X cover rather than her own *Bake A Cake* composition - so an opportunity maybe soon to treat the judges to her Cilla Black tribute number...



Fiddler on the Hoof in Malvern

Off-beat fiddle player and long-time Malvern resident **Nigel Kennedy** returns to the Hills for a couple of gigs at **Malvern Festival Theatre** on December 6/7 with a new project exploring the works of George Gershwin plus his own compositions and a nod to JS Bach - just don't mention football...



JOHN POWER

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I was very happy to be promoting at the fab **Worcester Music Festival** again this year with a brilliant night of eclectically unusual sounds and worldly beats. Big thanks go to **King Solomon Band**, **Drumlove**, **Capas** with full live band and the **Swansea Lap Top Orchestra** who silenced the audience with some spellbinding experimental sound art. Big up also to Kidderminster's **Vurfx** with his amazing visuals and **Rob Williams** for his funky interludes!



And a 'hurrah' to all those faces who were part of the **Bottles/Click Click speakeasy** on the 27th Sept, with all their prohibition vibes! Love that era almost as much as I do Victorian! Cheers to **Collective 43**, **Scarlett O Sparkle** and **Play it Again Dan** for their performances.

This month I'll be mostly focused up at **Pershore Youth Centre** with some creative sessions for young people as well as prep for **Gin Lane** (1st & 2nd Dec) for the **Worcester Victorian Fayre!** This year, as well as collaborating with **Dancefest** for the first time, I'm also calling for members of the public to get involved, so please mail me on kate@clikclikcollective.com if you fancy dressing up and having a bit of fun!

clikclikcollective.com

Women and Protest

The Fence and the Shadow is a new series of works by **Sally Payen** currently showing at the **MAC**, Birmingham, based on her research on the contested landscapes of **Greenham Common**, the women's peace camp s and anti-nuclear protests which took place during the 1980's. The exhibition explores stories from the women involved and what now exists on the site, inspired by archival research and interviews. Taking influence from Sally's work, the MAC has also curated a series of workshops, events and performance as part of its **Women and Protest** season, which runs until 26th November.



World Mental Health Exhibiton

An exhibition celebrating **World Mental Health Day** unveils this month in Worcester. **'Baat Region 6 Presents - Art Therapists Artwork'** is a selection of artworks made by members of British Association of Art Therapists (Baat) Region 6, which covers Warwickshire, Worcestershire, West Midlands, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Herefordshire. Alongside their work as therapists they are obligated to continue with their own creative practices and this collection of works is to mark **World Mental Health Day 2017** on 10th Oct.



For more information about Art Therapy go to www.baat.org

The exhibition runs from 4th-30th October. The Hive Worcester.

Conquest Art Group

As mentioned in the news last month, **Conquest Art** launch a new art group for people with disabilities and long term health issues this month at St Mark in the Cherry Orchard, Worcester. 3rd and 17th Oct then every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. First session is free, thereafter £1 per week plus an annual subscription of £5 to Conquest Art. For further information 020 3044 2731 email enquiries@conquest.org.

Migrant Press (Revisited)

Sticking with the **Hive**, another new exhibition this month, cutated by **Emalee Beddoes** for **Division of Labour** and **Pitt Projects**, explores the creative output and style of maverick Californian and Worcestershire based mid-twentieth century poetry producers, **Migrant Press**.



In response to geographical location, literary content, methodology and its title **Migrant Press**, **David Blackmore**, **Sonia Boyce** and **S Mark Gubb's** newly commissioned works address concepts of nationhood and globalism, communication and distribution. 12th-26th Oct. The Hive . pittstudio.com

Bundle

UNISON Worcestershire Branch & Worcester University have arranged a one-off performance of **Journeyman Theatre**



Company's new show **'Bundle'**, commissioned by **QARN** (Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network). It explores the experiences of asylum seekers & refugees coming to Britain, through one woman's story. It is based closely on the story of a real woman and her three young children from Chechnya. Tickets are £3 and should be reserved by contacting Unison@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 26186. The Hive. Worcester.

Local arts changes

The **Worcester Arts Workshop** will be closing its doors early next year for some essential fundraising and long needed refurbishment. Good luck to **Sarah** and the team in the next stage of the charity's development and we look forward to the new look WAW! We must also say a big ta-ta and au revoir to the (ex) **County Arts Officer Steve Wilson** as he makes his exit from the County council this month for pastures new (within the arts). Well done for all you have done over the past years, bringing people together and doing your bit to make it a more vibrant city culturally. See you for a coffee soon Mr. Wilson.....

Dancefest Autumn

Dancefest have some great workshops happening this month. There's a guest workshop with **Anjali Dance Company**. It's a practical session for teachers, support workers and dance artists, linked to **Genius**, the company's tour of newly commissioned work by **Lea Anderson** and **Gary Clarke**. It focuses on Anjali's



experience of working with people with learning disabilities and producing high quality performance work. 18th October at 4.30pm- 8pm at **Aspire Community Hub**, Hereford. £20.

Then Worcester born dancer **Shelley Eva Haden** will be leading workshops on 24th October. Shelley danced with **Dancefest** from the age of 12, went on to train at **Northern School of Contemporary Dance** and has recently danced professionally with many choreographers and companies, most recently with Rosie Kay Dance Company. She'll be leading workshops that are a fusion of contemporary techniques, with a fun, positive energy, and attention to dynamics, musicality and detail. Angel Centre, Worcester 10-11am (7-10 year olds, £6), 11am-12.30pm (11-14s, £8.50) and 1.30-3pm (14+, £8.50)

Dancefest have weekly classes for all ages across Worcestershire and Herefordshire and they have lots of projects planned for the year ahead, starting with performances for **Worcester Victorian Fayre** alongside **Clik Clik Collective's Gin Lane**, and **Friends of Fort Royal Winter Solstice** celebration.

For all info: dancefest.co.uk or by ringing 01905 611199.

Image: Judie Waldmann



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Creative Synergy

The collaborative works of artist Dora Williams & composer Liz Johnson explore themes of migration and displacement, through art, film and music.

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Local musicians **John Denton & The Midnight Band** return to Elmslie on **SAT 28th OCTOBER**
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After 40 years of fantastic community arts in the city, **Worcester Arts Workshop** will be closing its doors – but only for a period of fundraising and redevelopment.

The Workshop building in Sansome street, currently leased from **Worcester County Council**, is showing its age, and is in need of renovation and modernisation. The Board of Trustees have decided that in order to make sure that the city's communities can enjoy an exciting range of creative opportunities for the next 40 years, it needs to temporarily halt its art classes, the music programme and its activity as a performance venue hire. All classes will cease at Christmas and we will have a series of celebratory world music events in the spring before finally closing its doors to the public in May.

"We are a small team at the Workshop, and we have ambitious plans which we need time to bring to fruition. At the moment, all our time is spent in just running the Workshop every day," said Sarah Cotterill, the Workshop manager. *"We've had support from the Arts Council to fund an outline redevelopment, working with Glazzards Architects here in Worcester. Our aim is to keep the character of our lovely old building, while creating new and contemporary spaces for creative arts."*



For the next 12 months, the Board of Trustees, the staff and volunteers at the Workshop, will be fundraising and planning, with the aim of a launch of newly built facilities and an expanded programme in January 2020. *"It might seem like a long time,"* said Sarah, *"but there is a huge amount to do, and we are determined to future-proof the Workshop for the next 40 years"*.

While Worcester Arts Workshop is closed to the public, **VAMOS**, the internationally acclaimed mask theatre company, will be able to continue with the Workshop as its home, creating their widely



admired touring shows in the underground theatre and **Wymysical's** wonderful youth theatre will remain unaffected.

Café Bliss will continue delighting customers with their Belizean cooking until we close in May. **Café Bliss** are tenants at the Workshop and run their business as a separate enterprise. Earlier this year, we gave the Café one year's notice so that they had time to look for other premises in Worcester. We very much hope that they will find the right place to carry on with what they do so well.

"Our plans include extending the space available for the arts and classes, making the building much more accessible for all abilities and activities and improving its financial and environmental sustainability," said Chair of the Board, **Anne Hannaford**. *"We've been very grateful for all the support that the Workshop has received from the community in Worcester over the years, and you can be sure that in the next 12 months we will be talking to as many people as we can about what they want from us in the future."*

The building in Sansome Street is in need of significant attention and renovation, and the income we generate now is not enough to allow us to invest in the premises, or the people who work there, or the programme of classes and community arts.

This means that going on as we are simply isn't an option. The Worcester Arts Workshop is a registered community arts charity and the Trustees have the responsibility of ensuring it has a sound foundation for a successful future.

At the moment we only have some initial outline plans. We need a lot more discussions with the architects before we have something to show to the public for a proper consultation.

You can keep up to date with all developments on the 'The Future' page of our website, when this is created, and on our Facebook page. And there will be plenty of consultation meetings and sharing of information. So stay tuned! strengthen community arts in Worcester. Email future@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk



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Try something new and get creative at Artrix this Autumn

Try something new this Autumn and turn on your creativity with a workshop, class or group at **Artrix Arts Centre**.

Artrix offers a wide variety of Adult classes including Ballet, Pilates, Belly Dancing and Creative Crafters. Run by experienced practitioners, Artrix's programme of workshops offers an introduction to exciting new skills and can enable participants to expand their existing talents and knowledge.

Brand new sessions for Autumn 2017 include **Dancefit**, **Silver Singers** (55+), **Photography Masterclasses** and **Chance to Dance** (age 55+). **Chance To Dance** is led by Hereford and Worcestershire based organisation, **Dancefest**, which exists to enable anyone to experience the joy of dance. Their work is all about joining in and the Chance To Dance class is suitable for anyone over 55 who would like to take part in an enjoyable and gentle exercise class.



Courses for children and young people include **Artrix Youth Theatre**, **Artrix Minis** (5-8 years) and **Artrix Juniors** (8-11 years) **Contemporary Dance** classes by Artrix's resident dance company, **Translucent** and **Songstars Show Choir**.



Pre-schoolers and their grown-ups can take part in **Big People, Little People Moving Together** dance and movement classes, **Rhythm Time** music and multi-sensory sessions and **Creation Station** art classes. All sessions are provided in a relaxed environment for children to have fun whilst they learn.

Budding poets can also get involved with a monthly spoken word event, **Licensed to Rhyme**, showcasing poetry, prose, music and open mic performances. Those wishing to perform should contact **Maggie Doyle** at maggiedoylepoet@gmail.com or sign up at Artrix on the evening of the event.

Hannah Phillips, Director of Artrix said, "One of our key ambitions at Artrix is to provide as many opportunities as possible for local people to get involved in the creative arts. We offer a great variety of workshops and courses in a friendly atmosphere in which to learn. This Autumn's programme offers many new experiences, from singing for the over 55s to a wide range of high quality classes for young people to express themselves. Anyone looking for a place to learn a new skill or unleash their creativity is welcome to join us."

For further information on our course programme, or to book a place please contact Box Office on 01527 577330 or visit www.artrix.co.uk/whats-on/workshops/



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Suz Winspear



October! The thought of this month brings joy to the heart of every Goth. This is the month I always most look forward to. The countdown to Halloween has begun, and the shops are full of skulls and eyeballs in delightful abundance. There are costumes to sew, decorations to make, parties to plan and pumpkins to carve, but amongst all these dark joys, there are Spoken Word events going on in Worcestershire throughout the month.

One significant event coming up is the **Mental Health Awareness Day** on Saturday October 14th from 1pm onwards at **Café Bliss** at the **Worcester Arts Workshop**. There will be all

sorts of presentations and workshop-sessions involving mental health and wellbeing, and there will be an **Open Mic Spoken Word** session – so bring along your poetry or short fiction on the theme, or contact **Worcestershire LitFest** on its website or Facebook page to book a slot.

And of course we also have our regular Spoken Word events for October –

Thursday 12th – SpeakEasy at Café 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! The featured performer is Willis the Poet, whose laconic and often whimsical poetry has gained him many admirers at Spoken Word events throughout the region. £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

Wednesday 27th – 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 . . . **42** at Halloween is always great fun – expect to see poets and storytellers looking even spookier than usual! You never know what you might see and hear at **42**, especially this month . . . Free entry. 7.30pm.

Suz Winspear



It might seem a bit late to be saying this now, but it's been an amazing summer for us and we're celebrating

some real great achievements from our students and the wider community. With term well under way we're also looking at some great new potential and projects simmering under the surface.

In August we returned to our old haunt outside the **Boars Head** for **The Fringe Festival** and **Kidderminster Paint Jam**, 'Patterns on Walls'. We were joined by some incredible artists from around the UK as well as some students from the **WEA** who created some stencils, inspired by designer **Lucienne Day** whose work was celebrated throughout **KAF** this year. The stencils were created by a diverse mixture of students including some pensioners who had never imagined they might be the next Kidderminster Street Artists. The final project featured the words, 'No Rain No Flowers' that was partly inspired by the newly planted flower beds in front of the boards (we trod carefully!) and partly as a reassuring message to passers by.



In our drama performance this year we found ourselves collaborating with masked theatre company, **Vamos Theatre** and local community arts group, **Arts Etc**. The groups started working with Vamos a year ago, learnt techniques about masked

performance and even created their own masks. The performance itself drew a huge crowd, who were delighted by the original performance, 'Wish You Were Here #CostaDelKidderminster'. The audience found it hilarious and enchanting and really quite empowering for the performers. Many of the performers who featured attend **The Odell Centre** who work with people who are living with various learning difficulties and mental health issues. The masks provided a liberating unity between all of the performers and massive credit goes to all of those involved.

This term the drama group are going to be working with **The Fetch Theatre**, who will be bringing along their unique style of puppetry to the group. If the demonstrations so far have anything to go by, then we are in for some fabulous theatre.

The WEA is an established charity running a full programme of courses for adults in Worcestershire including Drama, Mindfulness, Fit Can be Fun, Art for All and the Writers Circle. Our classes are available to adults over the age of 19 and we support an open door policy to all abilities with a view to the idea of building confidence through creativity. The majority of our courses are still well underway but it may not be too late to find out about joining in or discovering what courses may be available in the near future.



For more information add @WEA Arts Worcs/ WEA Worcestershire on

social media, find out about course enrolment at www.wea.org.uk or call our local office on 01905 330123. Our courses are free to those on income related benefits.

It's been good to catch up!

Corina Harrison



CHAMPIONING THE ARTS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

September can often feel like the beginning of the year and the **Worcestershire Arts Partnership** has been getting on with a number of initiatives and projects.

First up is the soon to be launched Membership of WAP which we hope will provide both a mixture of ownership and financial boost for us. There will be two tiers of membership, one which will be a monetary membership and one that er won't! We hope as many of you will join us. There will be a series of events and training as part of the membership as well as being part of our network of over 1000 arts contacts. Look out on the facebook page for more information.

On the project side our work with the **Criminal Justice Service** continues and we are soon to run a series of workshops with adults and young people who are known to the Criminal Justice System or at risk of offending. We have some great new artists including the wonderful film maker **Nicola Prestage** from **Tiger Features** and the brilliant ceramist, **Kay Mullett**. We will keep you up to date on our progress. .

So here is a question to ponder. What was the mortality rate in 1900 and what is currently? Well its 100% for both. In other words to quote Prince 'We are all gonna die'. This then raises the question why most of us live our lives pretending the inevitable isn't going to happen. This subject brought a number of Health and Arts professionals together at the **Hive** to have a conversation about Death and Dying. Led by **Dr Maggie Keeble** and Arts Development Officer of Wychavon, **Jenny Davis** and yours truly we had a very interesting, thought provoking and at times amusing conversation about how the two sectors can work together to ensure we all have the kind of death we would like and maybe that we all learn if not to embrace Death then certainly to have some control over it.



In some countries there are death festivals and although Worcestershire hasn't gone there yet we do have a huge range of Festivals in our County. Indeed it's hard to think of a more varied range. We are thus interested to see if we can bring some of these together to see if we can look at wider collaboration between them be it in sharing good practice, marketing or volunteers. We are running an event with the experienced Festival organiser and musician **Oliver Carpenter** called the **Worcestershire Powwow** to see how what the appetite is for working together more, both formally and informally.

Finally this is my last post as your County Arts Officer. I am off to work for **Meadow Arts** and if anyone will have me, do some freelance work. I am still staying in Worcester and you will see me around. Thank you for all you do in terms of making the arts happen in the County. It really has been a pleasure to be your Arts Officer. Thank you and thanks to Mark Hogan too for Slap.

Steve Wilson

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New print-making workshops!

A programme of print workshops are planned for the autumn and winter months based at **ArtistsWorkhouse** in Studley and tutored by **Shaun Morris**, an experienced printmaker and tutor.

17th Oct: Mono printing:

Explore a diverse range of mono printing techniques in this dynamic and experimental workshop. Students will have the opportunity to create a series of figurative and abstract prints based on their own ideas and images as well as those directed by the tutor.

11th Nov: Relief Printmaking



Enjoy an introduction to the ancient craft of relief printing by studying the art of lino-cutting to create your own imaginative design and a portfolio of prints. You will explore traditional and digital ways to develop an image of your choosing and then develop your skills to

transfer and carve out your plate before printing.

2nd Dec: Drypoint Etching

Enjoy an introduction to intaglio printmaking by creating your own drypoint etching plate and an exciting portfolio of prints. You will learn how to develop your drawing and design skills before applying these to your own engraving. Students will study how to successfully ink and print their plates and also how to experiment with the inking process to create mood and atmosphere in their work.



10th Feb 2018: Experimental Printmaking

For those artists interested in experimenting with different materials, techniques and processes to create imaginative and dynamic results this workshop will explore a range of experimental approaches. This will include collagraph printing, stencil and paper pick-up techniques, and mixed media printmaking. Students will study how to successfully ink and print their plates and also how to experiment with colour to create mood and atmosphere in their work.

£55 per session, with all materials provided.

10.30am – 3.30pm ArtistsWorkhouse, The Royal Victoria Works, off Redditch Road, Studley, Warks, B80 7AU. Limited places are bookable in advance.

For further details or to book, please contact Dawn Harris on 07889718242 or email artistsworkhouse@outlook.com



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Worcestershire Open Studios 26-28th August 2017

This exciting event allowed free entry, not only to galleries and exhibitions but even to artist studios. Places were free to enter all over Worcestershire but our roving reporter visited those nearest to Worcester's city centre open on the Saturday of bank holiday weekend collecting free stickers from each artist in the hope of winning money towards art (fingers crossed for her).

Jilly Oxlade-Arnott's Architectural Impressions really hit the spot. Displayed around the beautiful display kitchens at **Henley McKay Kitchens** just along the Tything, the fastidiously detailed fine line work really brings out the character of some of our much loved local buildings, highlighting the featured building in watercolours while those around it are left in black and white to show its location. Jilly kindly showed us some of her earlier works to demonstrate how her process had developed, and while quaffing a glass of swiftly offered wine, we were invited into the inner sanctum to see her latest work. We were delighted to see the pop-art inspired array of posters based on the iconic image of Worcester Cathedral in every colour imaginable, creating an incredible display.



Rachel Kay Hall opened her doors about lunch time to display some amazingly bright and colourful water colours in the micro-brewery under the railway arches on Cherry tree walk. It was an interesting setting, smelt delicious and the paintings were very tempting: Bright flowers that looked freshly picked from the garden and cheerily displayed.



Nestled inside Reindeer Court, we came across **Iapetus Gallery** with paintings, prints, glass and ceramics by some of Britain's most creative artists and makers. Our favourites were the lampshades made from beautifully printed material featuring native British animals and natural scenes, shoals of glass fish

swimming across walls and delicate handmade pottery items also with a fishy theme.

Upstairs in **Wayland's Yard**, the café on Foregate Street, we discovered Portfolio 17 with a collection of mixed media, textiles and paintings, by ten different artists who are all members of the **Stone Fine Art School**. The collection curated by **Nigel and Karen Stone** included pencil and ink, water colours, and fabric printed pieces. Our personal favourites were again the fish themed wall hanging and the animal prints from a recent workshop, but with so many very different styles to choose from there was plenty here to suit any taste.



And finally we visited **Worcester Arts Workshop** where we were completed and utterly spoiled by the delights on display in the paint and clay covered studios where they were actually produced, adding a dramatic flair to the artworks. We spoke to **Anne Guest** about her incredible smoke drawings, a technique involving such an unpredictable and unique material, along with stencils cut by the artist herself which can only be used once each. The result is incredibly spellbinding. Much like the wonderful artistic photographs by **Richard Nicholls**. **Jain McKay** treated us to an array of artworks from prints and photographs to ceramics, and **Kay Mullett's** ceramics were a delight, created in her role with **Care Ceramics** working with vulnerable adults, to create some beautiful pottery lighthouses and displayed alongside the naïve work of her own pupils.

The whole event was a real treat, with different artists exhibiting on different days, and studios and exhibitions open all around the city and beyond, there really was something to delight any fan of art, and perhaps even to inspire anyone who had no idea how many different techniques are available, and just how many artists we have in the county. To see more of the art that was on display as part of this event you can still go to:

www.worcestershireopenstudios.org and be inspired.

www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk

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Sketches from the Worcester Music Festival '17 Friday 12th - Sunday 17th September

Jess Silk

I suppose it was fitting that the final artist I saw at last year's Festival should be the first one I see at this year's. Black Country singer/songwriter **Jess Silk** opened the first night of the Worcester Music Festival at **Bottles Wine Bar**.

What a beautifully balanced set this was and amazingly, the first time I'd seen Jess play since last year's Festival. During that time she's been very busy indeed, adding a First in Mathematics, a sheaf of new songs - working her way towards her debut album after several EPs - and a considerable amount of power and authority to her voice. It had to be powerful, as was her guitar playing, to combat some elements of the audience more intent on loudly discussing their social lives than listening to the music.



There's anger as well as beauty in her songs, at social injustice, the state of politics, war and conflicts and the everyday perils of modern life. In another era, she'd be called a protest singer, but this woman is absolutely of her time - modern, forceful and determined to speak out. Outstanding.

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

Nuns of the Tundra

The ability of some bands to cut through the inadequacies of their performance environment and still deliver, never ceases to amaze me.



I walk up town to **The Saracen's Head** to see thunderous Malvern alt-rockers **Nuns of the Tundra**, but when I get there I can barely see them at all. The lights are terrible and to put it mildly, the sound quality is doing them no favours at all. But there they are, simply playing through it. They sound huge tonight. This band has riffs galore, memorable riffs, riffs that stay with you long after the set has finished.

I get there just in time to hear the opener - my absolute favourite, the glorious '*Mind's Eye*' and it's clear that tonight, they're giving it some serious wellie. They've added new dimensions to their music this year, refining and expanding the sound to incorporate desert rock and some psych influences to add subtle elements without altering the power of their delivery.

The best is left to last, and even I have to admit that the closer, a no holds barred version of '*Robot Love*' is the track of the night. Can't wait to see them again in a more conducive environment.

Dynamic stuff. www.nunsofthetundra.com

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife

Were they brilliant? Of course they were...they always are - amusing, playful, melodic, tight, hard-rocking and absolutely professional.

This is one of the most cohesive and consistent units around, you just don't get a 'bad' gig or even an 'off night' with this band, they always deliver and they always deliver right through the set.

We kick off tonight with '*This Is Art Calling*', arguably their best song, taken from the new EP '*Haitian Honeymoon*', with **Emma Howett's** voice on top form. She's got a broad smile on her face right from the start and it's clear that this penultimate gig before bass player **Saff Box** goes off on maternity leave, is going to be a belter. Her bass sounds huge tonight and with **Neil Burton's** crisp, precise, drumming they're driving the sound forward with great power - Neil, astonishingly, is drumming without his ratty bush hat on this evening - an event for the connoisseurs!

'*Electricity*' sizzles; '*The Girl Who Was Death*' seriously rocks with **Stu Silcock** pulling off one of several rasping solos during the performance and even though there's no time for an appearance from '*Harry Hill*' tonight, the set is jam-packed with crowd pleasers.

We even get an encore, the rousing '*Rita*' rounding off a fabulous performance. Music to lift the spirits. Music with a smile on its face. One of my favourite bands ever.

www.chevychasestolemywife.co.uk



The Pumpkin Sessions

This is the brainchild of **Dave** and **Andy Webber**, who take their trusty pumpkin coloured VW van around the country interviewing local acoustic musicians who then play a set in front of the pumpkin with the help of a portable generator. They set up in the beautiful setting of the South Quay in front of the majestic spire of the ruined Church of St Andrew and with a cloud of swans on the Severn in the background.

But does this format work? Oh yes - spectacularly well.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/235351593337/>

The Rosellys

One of the features of watching music this year for me has been the amount of very high quality Americana and alt-country that's around at the moment and **The Rosellys** simply reinforce that.

The band - pronounced Rosalies - can be anything up to a five-piece, but today we've got **Rebecca** and **Simon Rosellys** playing



as a duo. They're sporting two of the finest guitars I've seen in a while, made for them by American furniture maker, Mike Armand and my word, can they play them...

There is some high class picking going on here and when Simon switches to violin, the sound seems to move up yet another gear. Rebecca, who outside music is a Doctor, has the most glorious voice - crystal clear and pitch-perfect - a lovely instrument.

They're three albums to the good already and much of the material is from their latest, *'The Granary Sessions'*, they are also regular visitors to America and have a very healthy radio pedigree, here and in The States including a live session for *'Loose Ends'*.

I'll definitely be seeing this band again. Chalk one up for **The Pumpkin Sessions** - a superb start to my Saturday.

<http://therosellys.vpweb.co.uk/>

Sophonie

As is the way of Festivals, especially with one that has as much to offer as this, you have to discipline yourself if you want to see as wide a selection of artists as possible. I have my schedule, but suddenly it's thrown out of the window.

I'm no stranger to **Sophonie Edwards'** music, having seen her debut performance when she was just 14 and having reviewed both her albums and an EP but today there is something so compelling about her performance that I'm simply rooted to my seat with no great desire to move.

She says she's full of cold and this may possibly be the reason her voice, always very clear and precise has an additional edge of gruffness today that absolutely suits the surroundings and the music.



The performance, arguably the best solo set I've seen her play, was an eclectic mix of old and new, but the material from her latest album *"Remember Home"* dominates both in terms of depth and maturity with the lyrics often raw and searingly personal. *'Photographs'* is wistful and questioning, *'Sofa'* powerfully nostalgic and the absolute highlight of the performance for me, is the 'hidden' track on the new album called *'On The Water'* - nearly left off the final track lineup, as it was written so late.

I wander away thoughtfully from **The Pumpkin Sessions** stage to my next gig deeply moved, as I always am, by the honesty and emotion of this very talented young artist.

www.sophonie.co.uk

Vienna Ditto

As good as **Vienna Ditto** were last year, and they were very, very good, this year they were better.

Hatty Taylor and **Nigel Firth** played an astonishing set at **The Marr's Bar** in front of a packed house on Saturday night, confirming their status as one of the most popular acts of the last few years at the Festival.



There have been some slight changes in the interim - the stage no longer has the appearance of an explosion in a spaghetti factory once they've connected up all the devices and keyboards, everything is neater (except guitarist Nigel's hair) and leaner - and there have been some musical changes as well, at least for this set. Gone are the strong gospel elements of the music, but curiously on this showing, their overall effect hasn't been diminished by the change, in fact the relentless pace and power of the set hardly leaves you time to breathe.

For those who haven't seen the band in action or listened to their recorded material, it would be futile in the extreme to attempt to categorize the music - elements of rock, techno, dance, ambient, dream-pop and electronica - it was completely genre-defying and at times verged on the anarchic. You simply didn't know what was coming next, and at times you got the distinct feeling that neither did they.

However you define it though, it rocked like stink, Nigel stalking/lurching around the stage with immense vigour, frequently perching precariously on the monitors, while Hatty delivering the vocals as serenely as one of the hundreds of nearby swans gliding on the River Severn.

There's a full AV show going on in the background as well and it comes into its own most strikingly in the barely controlled mayhem of *'Long Way Down'*, which closes a performance I could have watched for the rest of the evening.

Simply brilliant. <http://viennaditto.com/>

Ajay Srivastav and Karmic Blues

You know how sometimes you go to a gig and when it ends you think to yourself - "Well, I've never seen anything like that..."

If you watch a performance by **Ajay Srivastav**, I can pretty much guarantee you that's what you'll be thinking.

This was a mesmerising set, with heavily Blues and Raga-influenced guitar from Srivastav played on a National Resonator, melding with Asian-influenced rhythms supplied by highly skilful tabla player **Vinod Kerai**. **The Paul Pry** is absolutely packed with a highly appreciative audience on this final day of the Worcester Music Festival.

As well as the beauty of the music, there is much topical punch about social issues to some of the lyrics and also much spirituality, coupled with love and respect for heritage. It really is a thought-
(continued overleaf)



provoking, and with the steady pulse of the rhythm, at times a deeply calming combination.

There's also a passing nod to the band who first began to experiment with Asian fusion, the Beatles, with an impeccable cover of *'Here Comes The Sun'* but it's originals like *'Break The Circle'*, *'Six Armed Goddess'* and his new single *'Between The Cracks'* that for me, make the set one of the highlights of the weekend.

Astonishing and unique music, played by two very fine musicians. <https://www.ajayhq.com/>

MeMe Detroit

Even though this wasn't scheduled to be my last set of the Festival, at the end of it, amazed by what I'd seen, I decided to call it a night and bring to an end my Worcester Music Festival for the year.

Several people had hinted to me throughout the year that **MeMe Detroit** was an artist I should be seeing, and just a couple of minutes into her scorching set at a packed Marr's Bar, I understood why. The energy this woman was packing could have lit up half the city.



This was alt-rock at its finest - direct, decisive, dynamic and shot through with melody and sudden, overwhelming bursts of power. There were moments of great subtlety, new single *'How She Runs'* and the lovely *'Emily'* being perfect examples contrasting with out and out belters like *'Stand Up, You're Living'* - I wish I could have bought her album *'Live To Love, You'll Love To Live'* after the show but it's sold out. Good sign.

There were passing references to other artists here, particularly Patti Rothberg and the noisier bits of PJ Harvey, but this is definitely her show. She strikes a guitar to great effect, isn't shy about soloing and mixes the sound up by introducing keyboards at various points in the set. Her sidemen, **Lewis Smith** quietly laying down exceptionally fluid bass lines and **Barney Such** attacking his drums with huge vigour are really first class.

My first look at this dynamic artist, and it definitely won't be the last. www.memedetroit.com

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So much to see, so little time...

I ended up seeing nineteen sets this year but still missed out on some very fine artists indeed. Unfortunately there's just not enough time or space to document all of those I saw but I just wanted to mention in dispatches -

Colin Baggs, an acoustic guitarist whose jaw-dropping technique, particularly involving grace notes and harmonics was astonishing. By turns ethereal and highly melodic and, particularly in one Spanish themed track, startlingly forceful. Wonderful player.



Martin Thorne, who played undoubtedly the instrument of the Festival - a metal, skeleton bodied, lap steel guitar made to his specifications by an engineer friend, including moveable rail-mounted capos and produced a most beautifully mournful sound to complement his blues-drenched voice.



Familiars, allying glorious melodies and great musicianship in an excellent alt-rock package at **Café Bliss** with **Steve Skinley's** outstanding voice soaring over the complex backdrop.



Chloe Mogg, blending a chunky and forceful acoustic guitar style with elegantly crafted lyrics, full of wit, sharp observation and humour and a really exceptional voice. Definitely one to watch out for when she plays your way.

Josh Kemp, a singer/songwriter from Nottingham, of whom I only caught about fifteen minutes, but saw enough in that time of his well-crafted lyrics - he's just completed a musical - powerful voice, and astonishing loop control to want to see him perform again. Lovely surprise.

And finally, **Lycio**, who are building up a considerable reputation in the Midlands with their ultra-smooth mix of electronica, dream pop and soul. The music is simply wonderful,



with vocalist **Genny Mendez**’ mellow tones perfectly complementing the rich and sometimes pulsating backdrop. But once again, elements of the audience at Bottles are problematic and I leave the performance early.

Lycio support **Stevie Parker** at **The Flapper** in **Birmingham** in early October and on this showing, that definitely promises to be one hell of a night.

And that’s it until next year...it’s in my diary already!
Words & Photography by Geoffrey Head



Organised Scum opened up **Saracens head** on Friday night for the start of **Uncovers** night. The elusive three piece were always on my ones to watch and the surprise of a 1st min set really caught my attention. They didn’t have as big an audience as they deserved but their sound was smooth and youthful, their music explores relationships whilst exuding the sounds of greats such as **pulp** and other **Britpop** kings, its messy but smooth, those sharp edges hidden



under the lazy whims of scruffy talent. Recent single, check out soundcloud page for more of their intriguing talent

Nth cave worcesters hottest talent should have probably been headlining a venue but we’re not complaining because we still got to soak up their indie skill. With the sound not on point lead singer **danni**’s vocals weren’t as audible as we’d have liked but we still got a feel for the immense talent they have. Mixing in some expert covers and a new track that

we’d all be waiting eagerly for, it was a complete success to say the least.

Happy bones dreamy morbidity turned it down after the excitement of the **Scott Freeman** and the **Tokyo sex whales** but it wasn’t a bad thing. Within his set the audience get a breather and a chance to explore the more depressing side of things over an extra drink. His talent isn’t hard to miss – the lyrics will be enough for you to buy any release he does in the near future and make you want to head down to his next show

Sunday saw **Monroe’s Cellar Bar** take over by **Myticism Music** who showcased four of their favourite acts around at the moment.

Opening the night was Herefordshire lads **The Archivists**. The talents bunch has very recently released their debut EP **‘Her’** which flaunts all their vibrant talent and it was tantalising to see it performed in the small space **Monroe’s** provided. The lead singer may have been losing his voice and the backing may have lacked as much confidence but their potential was hard to miss. Put them on a bigger stage and I’m sure their spark will cause a greater fire as that heavy indie rock sound will undoubtedly cause a stir in the scene.

Tell Me I’m Pretty followed up with a strong sense of **The Strokes**. They travelled all the way down from **Coventry** but we hope it was worth it as their set blew us away. They had the image, the sound, the talent and the atmosphere to spirit us away on their waves of melodies.



Coming from furthest afield was Italian babes **ClayToRide**. They’re gearing up for their new album release and from the sound of things its going to be a new favourite. They rocked and

moved across the small stage, giving those at **monroes** a taste of the Italian scene, it may have been a favourite set of the day.

The clause are one of the midlands biggest upcoming bands. They’ve been playing to packed out audiences and they showed us why it was no surprise. They’re set and latest single **‘Sixteen’** was a home run with they’re tight musical skill and youthful sound was the greatest thing to end the festival with. After spending the weekend sleep deprived and exhausted it was refreshing to see their energy and glow, giving us the enrgy to keep going until the end.



Emily Branson

Image: Danni Timmins

WMF Sunday Night at the Chestnut Inn

Outside in the garden the festival was in full swing, the sun was adding a touch of warmth and **Ben Vickers** was setting up with his 'Collective' backing band. Reggae rhythms soon filled the air. Inside, stick base and keys were providing the entertainment with **Jenny Hallam**. My responsibilities would start at 5.00. It's my first 'stage', and I'm feeling slightly nervous after a hectic few days. **The Hawthornes** were on site as we awaited the closing songs from crooner '**Lounge Toad**' who had magnanimously pulled his session forward a little to allow set up and sound check.

Greg Wilson-Copp, trumpeter with the band and also sound man, stayed with us all through the evening providing monitors, stands and additional microphones via his mixing desk, the result was excellent and I am grateful for his expertise.

The Hawthornes are new to many in Worcester, though they have shoehorned into the Bush in St. Johns recently. This lively folk/rock band from Cheltenham perform their own material, along with some popular covers. They are certainly gaining ground, with a second album this year, previously reviewed in SLAP, and support slots with major tours.

Louisa, Jesse and Gordy, on vocals/guitar, cahn and bass, have now induced Greg into the band, the trumpet adding a bit of magic to the sound.

The choral opening of '**Happier State**', opened the set, with perversely, '**Ball Of Stress**' and a lovely '**Drama Queen**' followed on. The superb '**Little Games**', brought a Hispanic flavour to the rhythm, Greg's trumpet solo brought applause. All this interest saw '**Pierre**' slip in and out came the trombone, he could not resist temptation. There were a few covers included they closed on a full blooded '**Tooti Frutti**', winning over many new fans to **The Hawthornes**.



Arcadia Roots filled the stage with their gear a far more electric approach than usual, with **Dave** on deep tom and snare alongside his African drum. The Chestnut filled out with barely room to slip a fag paper between bodies. **Dave, Dan, Tom and Josh** exploded into life, as everyone swayed and moved to the hypnotic rhythms, as we '**Keep Burning**'. Dan's swampy guitar notes found us lost in a world of '**Amnesia**', bursting from the tremendous tribal drumming and smoky lyrics thrown out by Dave. Chairs and tables were platforms for the gyrating acolytes, drunk on this hedonistic sound in the sultry atmosphere. The '**Big Man**' turned his sticks into shredded wheat but was still '**Searching**', we were lost to the rhythms as I '**Loose My Mind**'. Tom Has the cigar box out, time for '**Exodus**', definitely a case of 'movement of the people'. I new I was going to be very unpopular as I called time, **Arcadia Roots** had sold their soul's to the devil an absolutely brilliant performance, how could anyone follow that.

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The stage cleared and **The Big Wolf Band** had the unenviable task of lifting the crowd again. This was going to take us into a world of Rock Blues led by **Jonathan Earp**, guitarist, vocalist and writer, with **Paul Brambani** on Hammond, **Tim Jones** on Drums, and a youthful **Brett Kirby** with serious bass attitude, belying his years. '**Heavens Got The Blues**', taken from the excellent '**A Rebels Story**' album was to open proceedings. A superb hard rockin' '**Hot Blooded Woman**', streaked out into the bar, Brett fencing his bass against Jon's Fender, The Hammond lending its glorious richness as Tim punched those drums.



A beautifully soulful '**Darkness Of my Days**' moodily slipped bye. Paul switched to piano, Jon's '**Still Got Those Blues**', he's '**Rollin With Thunder**', a hard hitting rocker. Times running on, they've '**Been Here Too Long**', but we all want more. The **Big Wolf Band** obliged, taking us to '**The End Of The Line**', closing what had been a stupendous evening at **The Chestnut Inn**.

Late press: **The Hawthornes** just received news they are supporting **The Hoosiers** in Stroud, and Arcadia Roots had brought along their new album, a tasty bite of their music. Look for the review.

Graham Munn

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Artrix, Bromsgrove

A Celtic folk band, top-quality tribute acts, a transatlantic duo and legendary guitarist are amongst the highlights for gig-goers at Artrix this October.

Kicking things off for October is the ever-popular **Gordon Hendricks** as Elvis on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October, **Noble Jacks** on the 9th and Celtic Folk band **Roving Crows** on Friday 13th October, followed by tribute to Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix, **Led Hendrix** on Saturday 14th October.



Celebrating songs from the legendary songwriter, **Bach To Bacharach** comes to Artrix on Sunday 15th October and vocal duo **Deborah Rose and Mari Randle** perform harmonies and haunting melodies together on Thursday 19th October.



October sees Bromsgrove Concerts present Cellist **Florian Kitt** on Friday 20th October and transatlantic folk duo **James Hickman and Dan Cassidy** come to Artrix on Saturday 21st October, with their show inspired by the musical traditions of America and Britain.



Other musical acts at Artrix during October will be **Think Floyd** on Friday 27th, faithfully recreating the music from all 15 of Pink Floyd's albums

John Illsley, founder member of Dire Straits, comes to Artrix on Saturday 21st October for the only Midlands date of his European tour. The bass guitarist of Dire Straits has had a remarkable musical journey since 1977, selling over 120 million albums and picking up a few Grammy's on the way as well as an Ivor Novello award in 1988 for "Outstanding contribution to British Music".

His show at Artrix will feature all of the well known songs from Dire Straits such as *Sultans of Swing*, *Money for Nothing* and *Brothers in Arms*. John also has 6 solo albums to his credit. Audiences will be treated to a selection of songs from John's latest album *Long Shadows* which was released in May this year.

Speaking about performing his solo work, John said, "The new songs fit very comfortably next to the DS classics which I enjoy playing and it seems people love to hear."



John Illsley, a former Bromsgrove School student, will be returning to Bromsgrove on Saturday 21st September at 8pm. Tickets are £15 each and are available to book online at www.artrix.co.uk or by calling Box Office on 01527 577330.

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Stroud Fringe Festival Friday 25th - Sunday 27th August

There's been much talk this year of the position of women in music, both on the performing and the technical side. A particular thread of discussion has been the appearance of women (or lack thereof) at festivals. The discussion has mainly centred around the mega-gatherings in muddy fields but not so much on the smaller, and largely urban festival scene.

So this year, I went to the lovely, compact and friendly Stroud Fringe Festival with a definite mission...

My plans to mooch along to the festival in early evening on Friday are changed the previous day by the power of social media. I get a Facebook post from Stroud based electronic songstress, **Em Musto** that she's going to be playing a very early, unbilled and rare solo set on the beautifully situated **Canal Stage** in the lower part of the town to open the Festival this year. I'm particularly interested in this artist, not only because of her exceptionally assured performance last year when she had the unenviable task of following an amazing set from Hattie Briggs in front of a huge crowd, but also that it's very unusual for an artist to be asked to play in consecutive festivals.



You could just feel from the vibe right from the off that this was going to be something special and in the bright late afternoon sunshine she duly delivers a seamless blend of beautifully delivered rap, trip-hop and lush ambient with skilful use of self-recorded streamed media and loops. This year, she just has a small black mixer box with her, as opposed to her keyboard setup last year but this doesn't lessen the impact of the set, which is shot through with melody, chiming piano shapes and hooks that stay with you way after the set is finished.

Lyricaly, she covers a great range of subjects, from the joy of coming back to live in a semi-rural community from a large city - *"I Know A Place"*, mental wellbeing - *"Mental Health is a Shared State"* and finally, to a hope and plea that we leave our world a better place for those who come after us in her hugely impressive closer, *"Healing"*. Throughout the set, her vocal delivery, crystal clear in the sung parts and with perfect rhythm and elision in the rapped passages is very easy on the ear indeed.

A memorable start from a very talented artist.

https://soundcloud.com/emble_bee

Deeply wonderful Australian chanteuse and Honorary Stroudie, **Emily Barker** opened the main **Bank Stage** at the top of the town at this year's Festival.



Oh my word, this was an excellent set and after seeing Emily play about a dozen times, this was the first time I'd seen her perform with a full band since Red Clay Halo days - the added impetus her very fine group of musicians gave the songs, old and new, was very considerable indeed.

Her development from a primarily folk based artist to a more country, soulful and blues inflected sound on her last two albums, firstly with her parallel project **Applewood Road** and now with her new release *"Sweet Kind of Blue"* - rather than signalling a complete musical transition, has simply served to hugely expand the scope and the variety of her work.

The band is astonishingly accomplished, drummer **Rob Pemberton** from eventual headliners **Low Chimes** is playing the first of three sets tonight, while **Peter Roe** delivers some of the best keyboard work I've heard in a while and bass behemoth, **Lukas Drinkwater**, for once not peering round his huge acoustic instrument, adds fluent lines and strong supporting vocals. Barker's voice was huge for this performance, particularly rich and soulful on her new album's title track and in *"Sister Goodbye"* her homage to once almost forgotten musical pioneer Sister Rosetta Tharpe, now enjoying a well deserved revival and appreciation with Barker being one of the leading champions of her cause.

And yes, as I'd hoped for, she delved back in the catalogue to play the glorious *"Ghost Narrative"* from the *"Dear River"* album, and yes, if there'd been a ceiling the top of my head would have been floating round it like a frisbee... Desert Island Disc? Absolutely. Fabulous performance.

www.emilybarker.com/

On to Saturday and on to another Australian singer, Berlin-based alt-folkie, **Emaline Delapaix** down on **The Canal Stage**.

This was an exquisitely subtle performance, both on guitar and keyboard, filled with beautiful melodies and with her lovely voice soaring over the top. There are fleeting similarities with Kate Bush and with Tori Amos but she does have her own very distinctive sound. Many of the songs have a rural and naturalistic theme - *"B.C. Song"* and *"Until Next Spring"* stand out. But this is no hippie-fest, their imagery often being a metaphor to describe darker and more unsettling thoughts driven by her own personal experiences, particularly during her stay in Canada.

A big mention too for **Lukas Creswell-Rost** who accompanied her on electric guitar and lap steel - a pretty much perfect display of how to enhance a performance but not overwhelm it.

Her EPs, *"Between Breeding Seasons"* and *"Exorcism"* which



feature beautiful self-created sleeves and artwork and were very well received after the set, made my journey home very easy. The title track of the latter is, for me, the highlight of the performance, unflinchingly describing a deeply painful but ultimately cathartic transition from a damaging relationship. Outstanding.

www.emalinedelapaix.com

I didn't know how well **Charlotte Carpenter's** deliciously dark mood pieces would go down with a boisterous Bank Holiday audience basking in bright sunshine. I first saw her perform at **The Prince Albert** in Stroud earlier on this year and very shortly after at a small venue in Birmingham and wondered how the expanded vista of a festival setting would affect the impact of the songs. "Not at all", would be the answer.



Her performance on **The Canal Stage** was the perfect balance of light and shade, I've never heard her voice sound as good - reflective pieces like 'Hey, Mister Cowboy' and the uneasy "Contracts" contrasted dramatically with the out-and-out punch of 'Fire' and 'Electric' - a diminutive figure she may be, but when this woman hits a guitar, it stays hit.

There was much excellent new material on show as well - her upcoming release 'Shelter', the very moving 'Blood Ties 2', extending her thoughts on the original track, written after the passing of her grandmother, and a song about forgetting song lyrics, which fittingly I've forgotten the title of...

A confident, powerful and finely judged performance.

www.charlottecarpentermusic.com

Towards the end of the day, **Bryde** absolutely transfixed the big and lively Bank Holiday crowd on the Canal Stage.

Surviving an earlier brush with disaster - gargling with Dettol instead of TCP (!) - **Sarah Howells** delivers a crushing vocal performance, an irresistible mix of melody, nuance and blistering power.



For those still occasionally pining for the delicacy and simplicity of her parallel project/former band, **Paper Aeroplanes** (OK yes, I'm one...) 'Wait' and 'Transparent' are perfect - wispy filaments of melody surrounding a core of lyrical steel. As a measure of the respect the band commands, the solo songs are listened to in quiet appreciation. Impressive.

But this is an all-electric show and you underestimate its power at your peril - I switch position before 'To Be Loved' to attempt to take decent photographs through the truly hideous lighting and even worse smoke cloud, stand too close to the P.A. and nearly end up being blown into the canal. This is fierce stuff, delivered with much passion and skill.

Highlights? So many. A lengthy and muscular version of 'Help Yourself', a new song, 'Handstands' and the thunderous closer 'Less' perhaps, but the whole thing was an absolute joy and privilege to witness.

Impossible to know all the logistics behind the way a bill is constructed, but this really should have been a headlining set. An immaculate performance from a band that is really flying - certainly one of the best I've seen this year.

www.brydemusic.com/

From time to time, to freshen up my musical outlook, I 'pinstick' a gig without knowing anything about the artist, a bit like trying to pick a Grand National winner. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't - but on the Sunday of the Festival, I really hit the jackpot.

Lola Young is only sixteen years old and based in London, although she does have solid Stroud connections through her grandfather, **Marcus Moore**, the mention of whose name receives a great reception from the crowd.

She treats us, and I use the word advisedly, to an extraordinary, almost nerveless, display of the singer/songwriter's art - no mean feat when you're on your own on a big, big stage in front of an audience that comfortably topped a thousand, basking in the bright sunshine.

(continued overleaf)



When you write about a very young artist it's difficult not to slip into condescension, but the exceptional maturity of the lyrics, the construction of the songs and their assured delivery would have graced an artist much more advanced in years and with their career in full flow.

She switches seamlessly between guitar and keyboard and plays both with great skill - the voice, which must cover way over two octaves, goes from a poppy bounce to a soulful blast - she complains that her voice isn't in top nick today but you'd be pushed to notice.

"*Dance With The Devil*" sizzles, "*The Idea of You*" is exquisitely poignant and even when she has a total brain block before "*Wood To Burn*" and forgets the lyrics, there's a big family contingent in the audience to act as prompters - it's a delightful and wonderfully amusing moment. The applause throughout is rich, sustained and thoroughly deserved - and also noisily augmented by a small brown dog that barks manically and tears around whenever the crowd reacts - the joys of playing al fresco, eh...

A sensational performance - and who knows what's yet to come?

www.youtube.com/channel/UCytDCxKs_rP8sBXjLmEs8jA

Like Charlotte Carpenter, I first saw London based alt-folkie, **Alessi Laurent-Marke**, perform at that hotbed of great music, The Prince Albert, earlier on this year. Her delicate set on the Canal Stage was absolutely spellbinding.

This was one of the artists I'd most been looking forward to seeing again and my word, she didn't disappoint.

Surviving being upstaged and occasionally obscured completely by a giant unicorn balloon, and also by a bizarre retuning glitch, which left her guitar almost completely unplayable, she delivered a melodic performance of grace and subtle power to a very receptive audience, who pushed forward in some numbers in response to what they were hearing.

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There was much material aired from her forthcoming and highly anticipated album '*Love Is The Currency*', of which "*Desert*" was particularly outstanding.

The best was, of course, saved until last when she played the gloriously evocative "*Wives*", one of the most touching and beautiful love songs I've ever heard. A simply wonderful performance.

www.musicglue.com/alessisark/

And I thought that was pretty much it for this year, but you know sometimes it just pays to go with the flow...

I was on my way back to the car and having a last look around the town before heading home, when I spotted a steady stream of people headed for **St. Laurence Church**, where the local arts magazine, '**Good On Paper**' had its stage set up.



They were going to see the London based singer/songwriter **Rhain**, originally from the Isle of Wight.

There is a clarity to her voice that absolutely suited the impressive ecclesiastical surroundings, sunlight streaming through the massive stained glass windows, and the coloratura passages made her sound at times like an busking opera singer - the only vocalist I can think of that comes close to her style is Kate Miller-Heidke. She's an impressive pianist, too and the sound fills the big space with ease.

Amid the overall excellence of the all-too-short performance, two tracks stood out - the stark and punchy '*Josephine*', with her voice soaring upwards and best of all the closer, the long and hugely atmospheric '*Brigadoon*' a proper tone poem which held the very big, respectful and appreciative crowd in enthralled silence.

An unexpected and thoroughly enjoyable end to my Festival.

<http://rhainmusic.com/>

Geoffrey Head

Future kings | Seventeen

Future Kings, a 4-piece indie/alternative rock band hailing from Gloucestershire, have released intense single 'Seventeen'.



The band was born in 2015, living under the name **Muchos Tequilas** but have recently rebirthed themselves with a new name, new line-up and a re-release of debut EP 'Ride'. Their sound draws on influences from artists such as Foals, Black Keys and Red Hot Chili Peppers, the result ending up an intense, high energy sound that drips in passion.

'Seventeen' is dominated by an electric riff that pierces through the melodic sandwich of the track. It might be the main draw but acting as a pull along side that are the catchy lyrics and vocals that really clutch at the heart. Dripping in passion, it's the sort of sound that's burst out of their lungs into an explosive and tense reality, joining the the rhythmic sound of the rest of the track. Under all of that is a body that's tightly packed with creative talent, all in all creating a gust of sound to blow you over.

Four Dead Crows | That's What You Get

Gloucestershire four-piece **Four Dead Crows** are tempting their fans into damnation with new single 'That's What You Get'.

Past releases include debut track 'Destitute Blues' and energetic 'No Great Shakes' that were followed up by triumphant EP 'Money Beats Soul' in which they showcase their delicious mix of 60's blues rock and early 2000's garage rock. Recently performing at the Gloucestershire Underground Festival and the first ever Hazy Days Festival, their future is looking incredibly bright.

Latest track 'That's What You Get' is sly and dirty. The riffs are loose and defiant, taking their time to sneak up on you before taking a bite, injecting you with its own strange venom. As that leaves you hooked, the vocals bare their teeth as they overpower, daring you to stand up to them but ultimately leading you into darkness.



Amongst that there's a patient anger that only reveals itself in the intense chorus, sending shocks through your body as it explodes and showers you with its cunning attributes. The track takes its time to build, knowing that you're under its spell, reaching a dizzying climax that overall makes you want to shudder under the weight of everything crashing down around you. But I guess 'That's What You Get' from **Four Dead Crows**.

Emily Branson

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Brassick | Appreciate Your Concern EP

Brassick are a band that require little or no introduction on the Midlands punk scene as they have been constantly gigging, playing festivals and making a good name for themselves over the past 5 years. The band has gone through a few personnel changes on the bass player front over the last 18 months and this EP features Alex on bass alongside Brassick stalwarts Nicola (vox), Pete (guitar) and Jay (drums). Alex has now moved on from the band but not before these 5 tracks were put down. The EP sees a slight shift in sound for the band as, in places, they adopt a somewhat harder/faster edge taking the band more towards the territory of the hardcore/street punk occupied by their friends and mentors, Brum punk legends, GBH.

The opening track *Bigot* is a 20 second, fast and furious expletive laden statement that comes across like female fronted Pizza Tramp. Brassick are certainly taking no prisoners this time around!

Track two, *Life Best Spent*, is one of the standout tracks on the EP. Kicking in with a heavy punk/metal intro the song shifts gear into all-out hardcore only to then morph into ska-punk. The ability to mash up various genres in their tunes is something that Brassick have always excelled at and this song is no exception. It's a cracking song from start to finish.



Taught Within is another fast number that again seems to blend genres with a sound that mixes hardcore punk with metal influences. Nicola delivers a great vocal performance too matching the tunes tempo changes brilliantly. The band sound as tight as ever.

Track four *Back to the Place* is a frantic slice of hardcore that blisters along with Nicola's trademark gravely growl accompanied by some tight rhythms and great guitar work that somehow manages to add an almost System of a Down like layer to the tune. Incendiary is the word.

Rounding off the EP is live favourite *Strung Together*. The band released this song as a video single about 12 months ago and it is great to see it get a proper release. It's a song that's up there with their best and is an ode to the friendship, love and laughs that can be found amongst the punk family. It's a fine way to bring this great collection of songs to a close.

Having listened to this EP a number of times I can honestly say it's up there with some of their best material. Yes it is at times brutal, fast and aggressive yet it still retains that certain something that is indescribably Brassick. I personally can't wait to hear more of this new tuneage live.

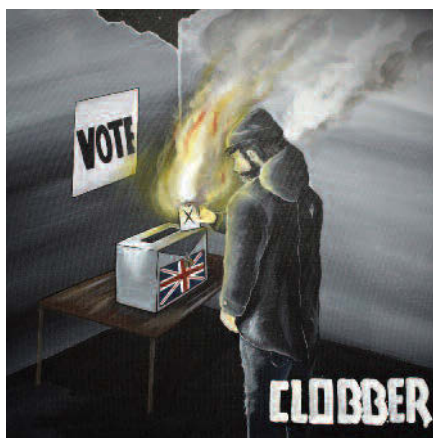
The *Appreciate Your Concern* EP is released on 15th October and is released by the band in association with Mass Prod, Urinal Vinyl Records and Iron Man Records. The EP will be available in 7" vinyl, CD and digital formats available. It can be pre-ordered now from Brassick at <http://brassick.bigcartel.com/>

Jason K - Punk By Nature

Clobber | Vote EP

Hailing from Redditch and formed in 2015, young Worcestershire punk trio **Clobber** have just released their debut EP of songs. The Vote EP follows on from the two tracks that were released on their Bandcamp page in 2016 and builds on a good 12 months of gigging with a number of support slots of the Midlands punk scene. I was lucky enough to have **Clobber** open one of the **Punk by Nature** half-dayers in Kidderminster in January and it's great to see (and hear) just how far they have pushed on since!

Musically the EP showcases the bands own special blend of skate punk and pop punk perfectly. With dual vocals from guitarist Chris and bassist Ben and tight as feck drumming from Lozz, the tunes really are a cut above. The opening track *Sink or Swim* blasts in and highlights their combined musical talents perfectly. It sounds a bit reminiscent of early Alkaline Trio on speed, which is a good thing in my book. Lyrically it is an impassioned song about the importance of voting and thinking about what it is you hope to achieve by doing so by taking a good look at what is going on in society and the world around you.



Track two *Know Better* slows the pace a little and features a really catchy bass line and some great hooks. During the verses the vocals have almost a 70's mod-revival styling to them but then returns to their melodic punk harmonies on the chorus. It makes for another belter of a tune!

Third up on the EP is *Coastin'*. It's a fast punchy melodic number that blisters on like a Screaming Weasel tune. Yet it has a certain Britishness about it. When the band sings "with every boring day... nothing seems to go my way, so I'm coasting, I'm coasting" a line that really sums up the frustration of everyday life that is being experienced by the younger generations in modern day Tory Britain.

Wrapping up the EP is the awesome *Cash, Cars, Careers*. For me it's probably the strongest track of the four. Musically it takes it up another level with some truly great work from all three band members. Lyrically it is another socially aware song that basically sticks two fingers up to the moping about what you could have had and instead enjoying your life for what it is and what you make of it.

All in all the Vote EP is a great debut release from a young band that can only be destined to go onto bigger and better things. A mention must also be made of the production/mixing on the EP which was done by drummer Lozz in his studio, The Pit Recordings. The sound quality of the recording really is superb. The EP is currently available in digital format from Clobber's Bandcamp page (<https://clobberdobber.bandcamp.com/>) and Bunny Boiler Records (<http://www.bunnyboilerrecords.co.uk/>). A physical copy of the EP is due to be released in the near future.

Jason K - Punk By Nature

Heinz-Sight | Give It

Do you remember a band from a few years back called **The Jellybean Rebellion**? Well they were a four-piece band hailing from the Redditch and Bromsgrove area who caused something of a stir with their infectious brand of energetic indie punk. The band performed a number of high profile shows including slots at The Morgan Stanley festival and Bridge festival, as well as treading the boards with the likes of Ocean Colour Scene, Doggy and Dave McPhearson (of InMe fame). The band attracted the attention of MAS records and issued a single which led to a live session on BBC H&W's introducing show, but like all good things the band decided to part company that same year.

Since then, Jellybean frontman **Simon Thomas Heinrik Lacks** has released a couple of acclaimed EP's under the **Heinz-Sight** monicker, mixing and matching genres to create an original and unique sound, where he moves effortlessly between hook-laden rock, indie, pop and hip-hop to dazzling effect. The previous *Indie-Vidual EP* has attracted interest from the likes of Frank Turner and Itch (of The King Blues fame). After a brief hiatus and another bout of writing Simon delivers the first taste of a future, a full-length album in the shape of new single, *Give It*.



If *Give It* is anything to go on, the long awaited debut album is set to be something of a banger. The track opens with a subtle electronic beat, before a loud riff kicks in and Lacks lays down an instantly likable tongue-twisting rap leading to another burst of pulsating rock riffs and a huge holler along indie hook, that will have you simultaneously stomping the floor and punching the air in delight. Two minutes in and Lacks strips the track to the bare, melodic bones, before building for one last thrilling crescendo, leaving the listener scrambling for the repeat or baying for more. **Heinz-Sight** is back with a stunning signal of intent.

www.facebook.com/heinzsightmusic

Cellarscape | Exo Echo

Cellarscape may not be a name you'll be familiar with, indeed, I have to admit, *Exo Echo*, despite being the sixth album released under the Cellarscape banner, was a first for me. But after a bit of research it turns out that the man behind the monicker, **Paul Terry** is something of an all-rounder; a musician, composer, designer and author are just a few of the labels that can be assigned to Terry. Not only has he released a plethora of Cellarscape discs (as well as working on another, more abrasive musical project under the unusual name of **Mech Wendigo**), he's composed scores for the likes of *Emily* (starring Oscar-nominee Felicity Jones and Christopher Eccleston), the multi-award winning *The Furred Man* (which Paul also produced) and a forthcoming feature documentary entitled *Sidney & Friends*. Terry (along with Tara Bennett) has co-authored books on the likes of *Big Trouble In Little In China*, *John Carpenter*, *Lost*, *Fringe* and more. Whilst somehow still finding time to design limited edition film posters, co-produce the official podcast for the TV show *Colony* and produced and directed a number of his own music videos for Cellarscape.



Going back to his musical project **Cellarscape**, Paul's previous album, *The Act Of Letting Go*, featured acclaimed Dutch singer-songwriter Annke Van Giersbergen (The Gathering/Devin Townsend Project) on the song, *The Same Place*. Terry pick-up airplay from the likes of 6 Music and a nomination for Best Eclectic Album at IMAs (Independent Music Awards) 2015. Whilst one of our own, Dave Draper mixed and mastered the disc. Draper returns in the same capacity (as well as laying down some guitar) on Terry's sixth, *Exo Echo*, whilst a string quartet, trombonist and flutist (Helen Greenwood) join an already evocative and intriguing mix.

The album opens with *Asana* and a treated spacey Terry vocal, before a strike of guitar, subtle electronics and strings weave a compelling spell as Paul delivers a repetitive, almost mantra like lead that urges the listener to explore further. The sub two and a half minute opener gives way to *Bite Your Tongue*, led by a simplistic piano motif before guitars and electronic beats enter the fray, Terry delivers an instantly infectious, melodic croon. The track twists and turns as the string quartet make their presence felt before dropping dramatically back to that lonesome struck piano. *Running Futures* is different again, showcasing a more stripped down sound as Terry laments over a beautiful, soft backdrop of acoustic guitar, before those aforementioned strings add an almost classical seasoning to proceedings, proving that sometimes less is more on the early album highlight.

As the album continues and tracks like the near seven minute *Failsafe* twist and develop, I'm left marvelling at the stunning arrangements as electronic beats and gorgeous orchestral instrumentation unite. But for me there's more to commend *Exo Echo* than just clever instrumentation, Paul's songs have emotion and depth. Take for example the almost acoustic *Ley Lines*, with it's aching lead vocal or the mesmeric string drenched *Blindfold* with it's soaring bruised hook, both lyrically and vocally draw the listener in.

Exo Echo continues to surprise and intrigue in equal measure over the near hour long duration. From the dreamy, harmony enriched

Cygnus to the crunchy threat of guitars on *Acolytes* and onto the stunning finale *Refinement Hour* with it's rise from humble acoustic beginnings to the the swelling strings, pounding drum and heartfelt choral harmonies. The album, much like it's creator has so much to offer, revealing more with each subsequent spin.

So like I rather alluded to at the beginning of this write up, **Cellarscape** and **Paul Terry** may not be household names but you'd be doing yourself something of an injustice if you didn't take the opportunity to at least sample some of the delights Paul has on offer. I for one rather think I may have some catching up to do.

Will Munn

Let the music do the talking Thousand Mountain

In the visual age, it is increasingly hard for any instrumental band to successfully compete against rock groups fronted by charismatic leaders. Without attention grabbing spectacle or glass shattering vocals, singer-less ensembles are commonly considered a lesser form of entertainment. There are however exceptions to the rule. Heralded as one of the most innovative music acts on the West Midlands scene, **Thousand Mountain** do not need cheap tricks to have all eyes focused on them. With their earth-shattering riffs and technical skills, they can create emotional performance that captivates the audience. During their recent visit to Worcester, SLAP spoke to the band about their influences, preferences and the importance of being persistent.

SLAP: According to your biography, **Thousand Mountain** is a three piece act formed in early 2016. Please introduce your band members and tell us more about your beginnings.

Thousand Mountain: *Sure! We have Dan Stokes on bass - huge Spiderman fan, Ash Andrews on drums - who is late for everything and Joel Hughes on guitar - who really wishes we were a Fleetwood Mac tribute band! Like every strong/lasting relationship, we met over the Internet. Got sweaty in a room together for like 6 months - then music happened!*

SLAP: Your name, often abbreviated as TSND MNTN, is quite intriguing. Logo and song titles such as "Open Door" or "Kraken" point towards philosophical or mythological concepts. There are two famous Thousand Mountains in the world, one located in Japan - Fushimi Inari Taisha in Kyoto (known as the Mountain of Thousand Gates) and The Thousand Buddha Mountain near the city of Jinan in China. What's the inspiration behind this particular name?

TM: *You've nailed it, we take a lot of inspiration from eastern culture and we definitely did not need a band name that began with TM because we'd already paid for a logo using those 2 letters, which led to us being called 'Trevor McDonald' for an afternoon (laughing). Definitely, the first one which you said!*

SLAP: You classify yourselves as a power house rock band. The official Webster-Merriam definition for it would be a "rock group having great drive, energy, or ability". We have to agree. You are volcanoes of energy on stage and your technical skills are commonly acknowledged.

TM: *Thank you (laughing again).*

SLAP:: Birmingham Promoters, PR and media company based in West Midlands, described you as the eclectic mix of alternative and metal sounds with the aesthetic of classical rock. Can you tell us more about your musical heroes? Who do you look up to musically?

TM: *We've not seen that?! That's cool though. We all listen to different artists so we each bring something different to the table when we write. Dan used to listen to a lot of metal so we have a few heavier elements and massive riffs, Ash listens to a lot of math rock bands, so our rhythms are interesting and Joel comes from a jazz and blues background, so the melodies and choral content are something that's important to us. We really love bands that aren't scared of doing what they want. We all love Chon, TTNG (This Town Needs Guns), Manchester Orchestra, Plini and bands like that. Anyone with a guitar gets our respect.*

SLAP: Nowadays, almost all bands relay heavily on strong vocals or charismatic front men/women. You seem to deliberately break all existing rules - you play instrumental music and all band members are equal. Thousand Mountain does not have a designated leader that audience could concentrate their attention on during shows. What is the reaction to your very own and quite unique way of playing?

TM: *None of us are good enough to be the focal point, but when you put all 3 of us together, we make 1 decent musician. We're not super cool, beautiful hunks or charismatic talkers - so we have to compromise.*

SLAP: Your genre of choice is often criticized as a limiting form of art. Vocal-less by nature, it does not offer listeners a story, and is regarded as "too technical" in comparison to evocative cinematic scores. How would you counter such arguments?

TM: *There's only 12 notes in music so if your vocalist can only sing in a handful of key signatures, but our guitars can play in all of them, then who's really limited? Lyrics are telling you one person's story, most of the time people don't have anything interesting to say, so just moan about how they're so deep, our music sets a scene which you can fill with your own story. We could never compete with an orchestra, but for 1 guitar, 1 bass and 1 drum kit, we try our best.*

SLAP: 2017 seems to be a breakthrough year for you. You have been performing extensively, sharing stages with the best new acts like Lost Tiger to the Wild, Rubio, Ideal Club (at the Sunflower Lounge in Birmingham), Salt Wounds and others.



On 17th of August you have supported American legends of spoken word movement – Listener during their show at the Flapper. In short - you have an impressive resume for a young band.

TM: *It's because we don't leave promoters alone. We work a lot with "Surprise You're Dead Music" in Birmingham. And as I'm sure they'll testify to, we're really annoying.*

But, if we see a show that we want to be on, we won't wait for the invitation. We're no strangers to playing some really weird shows just to get our names out there, so venues and promoters know about us. When you have a 4 band bill of 3 proper indie bands, then it is us. We're definitely there to stick out and be remembered! We supported Press To Meco, who we adore on the back of playing to a room full of scared indie kids where the other bands didn't talk to us all night. But you have to do things like that. It's pointless updating Facebook once a month asking people to re-blog you on Tumblr - just turn up, put on a sick show and never stop asking for more.

SLAP: What are your plans for the future? Any exciting news or plans for a new release?

Thousand Mountain: *Our first EP should be released soon, and we promise there won't be a long wait for EP2! Additionally, we've*



Image by Duncan Graves

recently learnt how to use iMovie - which is extremely dangerous for band with a weird sense of humor like us. Everything else is a super-secret; you'll need to follow us to see what's happening!

Rita Dabrowicz (Vanadian Avenue)

For full interview and more visit:

<https://cocamidemea.wordpress.com/category/indieterra/>

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

<https://twitter.com/TSNDMNTN>

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Nick Parker & Wes Dance The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 10th Sept

The first time I caught **Nick Parker** was supporting the Leylines at Worcester's finest and I vowed to catch him again next time he came our way. But of course, since then I've managed to miss Nick with his **False Alarms**, solo, and as part of **Gaz Brookfield's** band on a couple of occasions. So when this one was announced I decided it was high time I made amends and took to the streets of Worcester for a second look at Parker.



Prior to the main event, local songsmith **Wes Dance** was charged with warming a slowly swelling audience with a set of poetic musings on the likes of *Henry Miller* and the first encounter of a *Silver Horse* for a group of Russian serfs. Like all the best songwriters, the evocative tales of Dance had the mind whirling as he delivered the likes of *Harder Roads To Come* and *The Brothers*, before delivering an infectious version of Richman's *When Harpo Plays His Harp*. Then a quick history lesson in the works of Henry Miller preceeding the thought provoking song of the same name. During Dance's set the bar steadily filled and after a little settling in, the newcomers soon showed their appreciation for the likes of *Paper Helmet* and set closer *Fiesta* as Wes finished with a flourish to the delight of Parker faithful who now held court.

Glastonbury based **Nick Parker**, is one of those rare artists who will make you laugh, nod and sing-a-long by the end of the first song of his set whether you've seen him before or not. He just has one of those instantly infectious manners that will leave you beaming from ear to ear. And so goes it at **The Marrs Bar**, as soon as Nick takes to the stage with fiddle player **Ben Wain** in tow, Parker had the entire venue eating from his hand as he opened his set with *Departures*. The audience soon joined in with the effortless refrain, proving there were no novices here to Nick's cause. Further proved when a one man stage invasion turned out to be long standing fan Dave, who decided to add a little kazoo peppering, much to the delight of audience and artist alike who commented that perhaps he and Wain were in the wrong key at

the song's conclusion. Ben quickly proved there was nothing wrong with his tuning as he delivered a fine introduction to *I've Never Been To Dublin Before*, offering a Celtic tinge to the upbeat folk proceedings. Amusing tales of a gig back in Frome proceeded *Make Yourself At Home*, before the crowd were heard in fine voice on *Could We At Least Try*.

Nick continued the tongue in cheek tales with *An Open Letter To My Human*, a song he apparently found penned by his dog Kenny, before a second stage invasion saw an army of double denim clad fans join Parker and Wain for longtime favourite *Down With The YooF*. Proving that either Nick's fanbase are either devoted followers who plunder charity shops for yesteryear's attire or perhaps there was a Quo convention somewhere up the road, either way, all that denim on stage really was a sight to behold. **Emily Larkin** was invited up onstage to trade vocals with Parker on both *A Simple Song* and later on *I Guess I'll Never Know*, complimenting Parker beautifully. Whilst a cover of Luka Bloom's *You Couldn't Have Come At A Better Time* allowed Wain to shine once more with a driving jog to round the song off. Further set highlights included the (ever faithful, audience participation) placard waving *Es Tut Mir Leid*, while 'Dave' was enticed back to the stage for *Not Fooling Me*, only to hurl his 'instrument' across the stage when realising that it was perhaps not the right song to showcase his 'talents' much to the amusement of the assembled. Nick delivered a further fan favourite sing-a-long in *Terry And June*, before concluding his set with an inspired, unwinding rendition of *Ice Ice Baby*, drawing a fantastic evenings entertainment with a fittingly fun finale.

Next time **Nick Parker** passes in this direction, I'd highly recommend you venturing out to see him, whether solo or with friends, a top night is guaranteed and I for one won't be missing out again.

Will Munn

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Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos European English

Carnival punks **Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos** have been trudging across the UK and Europe for the last seven years, taking in every hovel from Worcester to Leipzig via Paris and Verona. Seducing venues and festivals alike with their unique blend of ska, punk, Eastern European gypsy folk, mariachi and explosive, carnival inspired rock 'n' roll, racking up hundreds of miles along the way. The band has a number of unique, profound experiences during their life time. Including the sight of 200 Italian activists singing antifascist anthem *Bella Ciao* back to the band after they decided to include it as part of a medley at the end of a gig set up in the old city walls of Verona. And playing a set to a group of local Romani Gypsy families in the main square of an abandoned Czech fortress.

2017 didn't start well for the Sexy Weirdos with fiddle player and long term band member, **Johnjo Murray** deciding that he was going to up sticks and leave for a new life in France. Whilst the band's two and half years in the making, third album, seemed to be no nearer to completion as they stumbled to find their stride. As the year began to draw on, veteran fiddler **Kate McWilliam** (of **Quill** fame) joined the band, making gigging possible. With the new found stability the band returned to the studio and the album veered to completion, be it in fits and starts. With help of **Richard Wood** (Old Smythy Recording Studio), the band pieced together *European English*. Whilst the live band found their feet with shows at the likes of Balter Festival, Victorious and End Of The World Festival among others, simultaneously finalising the new ten track affair.

Megahorse opens *European English* in style, proving the upheaval and wait have all been all worth whilst. A choppy fiddle and a Levellers like lead vocal from **Johnny Kowalski** **Noblet** opens proceedings before the drummer signals a change of pace as the rest of the band join and head to an exotic and infectious Balkan dance party. Drums clatter, guitars chug and the aforementioned fiddle leads the way, driving the party on, as Johnny delivers one of his most assured vocals to date.



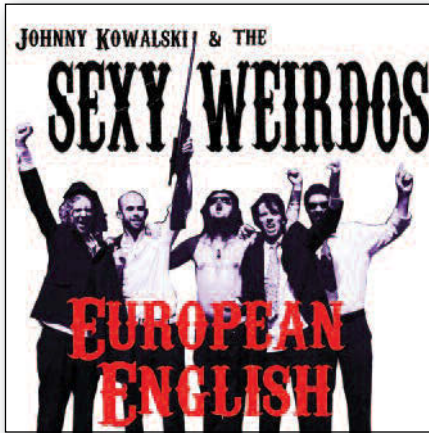
Relative Rudeboy follows, introduced by a glorious elastic ska flavoured bass riff, peppered further by reggae flavoured percussion work of **Illias Lintzos** and the drums of **Matthew Osborne**, before a flurry of horns and those Eastern European flavours waft through, as Kowalski delivers an edgy lead.

Our journey across Europe continues with the aptly named *Serbian Rhumba*, led once more by an exotic waltzing fiddle and the band's striking rhythm section. Kowalski gloriously swaggers, stumbles and slurs his way across the dancefloor, staying on to offer wordless hollered encouragement, as the band break into an (almost) instrumental jig on the following *The Sicilian Stallion*.

Elsewhere, the band continue to unite unlikely musical bedfellows, on *Minor Calamities* see the bands punk roots come to the fore as serrated guitar and clattered drums battle for supremacy with the ever present fiddle. Whilst album centrepiece, *Raggadub (Manifesto In Three Parts)* is a jaw-dropping, dense clash of dub, politicised gypsy punk, spoken word and ragga. It's a unique, compelling and tense soundclash that has to be heard to be truly believed, whilst the two and a half minute *Juniper* opens as an abrasive punk song before condensing the entire back catalogue of a band like Gogol Bordello into one short, sharp thrash.

Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos may not have intentionally recorded *European English* as a response to Brexit, but whilst May and her cronies are busy drawing lines of separation, Kowalski and his merry men show us just why we should be embracing European culture and celebrating diversity with their (most) thrilling third ride across the many carnivals of Europe. In the meantime, catch them locally at:

21st Oct - The Earl River Cruise from South Quay Worcester
28th Oct - West Mids Vegan Fayre, Wulfrun Hall, Wolves



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Hvmm

Tokyo Taboo, Mark Barrett

The Marris Bar, Worcester | 2nd Sept

Local brooding alternative rockers **Hvmm** aren't often seen performing in a local haunt, instead the four-piece are often caught stalking the capital, performing at Camden Rocks or whipping up a storm at Brighton's Alternative Escape, so when the quartet do come back to stir the natives the band are welcomed as conquering heroes by a packed venue.

The band's latest return to **The Marris Bar** coincided with the release of their debut EP, *Talk To Me Like I'm Dead* and understandably saw the band pack them in as an expectant audience clambered to welcome **Hvmm** back and grab an earful of the group's new material.

Prior to the main event Bromsgrove based singer-songwriter **Mark Barrett** was charged with ushering in the swelling masses. Instead of your more typical acoustic troubadour, Mark's weapons of choice included a bold collection of electric riffs and a selection of hooks that given a backing band, wouldn't sound too out of place on a Courteeners album. Opening with *Sound The Alarm*, Mark quickly settles to deliver an infectious indie number that had this scribe and the audience filtering in, soon rapt in attention. Barrett proved this was no one off as the spiky *Preston Digs* and *Eva* both turned heads showcasing Mark to be a songsmith of note and well worth keeping an eye out for in the future.



Talking of turning heads, London based **Tokyo Taboo** were on main support duties and their outlandish attire and high velocity indie/punk racket quickly grabbed the audience's attention. The band, led from the front by **Dolly Daggers**, laid down a mix of of serrated punk riffs and stomping glam rhythms, whilst Daggers was a blur of high kicks and leaps. With her contagious yelps and full throttle delivery bringing to mind the likes of Karen O, Gwen Stefani and Alison Mosshart (The Kills/Dead Weather). Style and delivery would mean little if the band didn't have the songs to back it up, but the likes of *N.A.R.C.I.S.M.*, *Drowning* and set closer, *Bubblicious* all suggest the band's debut *6th Street Psychosis* is well worth a flutter.

With the audience suitably simmered, **HVMM** bounded on to a rapturous reception before the thunderous rhythmic rumbling of **Sam Jenkins** (drums) and **Jack Timmis** signalled a frenzied rendition of *Pummeling A Monk*. Frontman **Andy Teece**,



possessed as he prowls the stage, whilst guitarist **Ebony Clay**, a smouldering mess of hair and angular riffs. The band aptly pummeling their instruments into an alternative, feral blues howl. The audience now eating from the grubby grasp of **HVMM**, lapped at every morsel as the band continued on the attack with the likes of *Lacerate* and *Big Green Joe*. Clay stabbing at her guitar whilst the glazed eyes and stagger of Teece have the crowd transfixed, coming on like the bastard son of Nick Cave and Arthur Shelby, his lyrics riddled in torment and dark sexual desire. *Going Postal* follows as the band crank the intensity, laying down a thick, brooding foundation for Andy to spit his venomous words over. A frenzied *Savannah* continues the primal, garage blues throb as **HVMM** reach the home straight. **Ebony** peeling an impressive, blustery blues solo on *Millie's Going To Town*, before the band deliver a slide and drum driven finale in the shape of *Beggars And Thieves*, drawing a darkly intoxicating set to a suitably thrilling crescendo.

HVMM, having spent every last ounce of energy on stage, exit to howls of delight and cries of more, triumphant in the knowledge that they've enticed yet more converts over to the shadows, as they leave Worcester aching in their wake.

Will Munn



William Howard of The Schubert Ensemble Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, Ledbury | 20th & 21st Oct Romantic piano works and scintillating Love songs

Hellens Manor plays host to **William Howard**. William is established as one of Britain's leading pianists and is enjoying a career that has taken him to over 40 different countries. As soloist and founder member of the **Schubert Ensemble**, he has performed regularly at major venues and festivals in the UK and has made over forty CD recordings.

The Friday evening concert sees William perform classical pieces from great composers such as CHOPIN Sonata No.3 in B minor Op.58 and Mendelssohn Rondo Capriccioso Op.14 as well as pieces by LISZT, SCHUBERT, SCHUMAN, GRANADOS and others. The theme of the evening is love and romance.

The Saturday morning concert is intended to entice the curious to investigate the world of classical music. It's an informal one-hour event, in which William will play an irresistible selection of piano pieces, all inspired by love, and talk about the stories behind them. The programme will



include pieces from William's successful album *Sixteen Love Songs* and newly written piano 'love songs' that he has commissioned from some of today's leading composers, including Nico Muhly and Arcade Fire's Richard Reed Parry. The event will be free of charge and open to anyone curious enough to come along, whatever kind of music they like!

The Friday concert begins at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £17 and are available online or by phone from **Hereford Courtyard Theatre** 01432 340555 or in person from **Ice Bytes Ledbury**, **River Music Ross** and **Premier Stores Much Marcle**.

Friday programme

MENDELSSOHN Rondo Capriccioso Op.14

LISZT Four Love Song Arrangements (Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann and Liszt)

GRANADOS The Maiden and the Nightingale

KREISLER/RACHMANINOV Liebesleid

NICO MUHLY, PAVEL ZEMEK NOVÁK, HOWARD SKEMPTON Love Songs for solo piano

CHOPIN Sonata No.3 in B minor Op.58

The Saturday concert runs between 11.00AM and midday.

Tickets for Saturday's concert are available by sending an email to info@hellensmanor.com to reserve your place.

"A thoughtful, poetic player" Sunday Times

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman Hereford Courtyard Theatre | 12th Oct 'Saved For A Rainy Day' Ep And 2017 Uk Tour

Kathryn Roberts and **Sean Lakeman** continue touring October through to December in support of their new 8 track EP entitled *SAVED FOR A RAINY DAY*.

"Over the last few years there have been several cover songs we have performed live and never got round to recording. Along with a couple of our own originals that didn't 'fit' with our previous releases. These have often been requested on CD and, subsequently, 'Saved For A Rainy Day' has become a limited edition of rarities."



2016 saw Kathryn and Sean again voted '**Best Duo**' at the **BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards** and later in the year pair headed to India and also to Spain for shows.

Now firmly established as one of the folk-scene's busiest and most respected duos, the husband and wife team will hit the road from early March onwards to preview new material that will feature on their next full album.

Now twice recent winners of the BBC Radio 2 Folk Award for Best Duo - 2016 & 2013 - the couple's intimacy and strength of passion on stage have won them many fans and an enviable reputation as 'Songwriters par excellence' - (fRoots), whose greatly varied original songs cover such subjects as wicked mermaids, Norwegian legends, and a lonely whale. Building upward from their last two highly praised albums '*Hidden People*' & '*Tomorrow Will Follow Today*', fans of quality acoustic music can catch a preview of the duo's exciting new material on their forthcoming spring tour. With a story that includes over 20 years of music making with the likes of Seth Lakeman, Cara Dillon, Levellers, Kate Rusby and Show of Hands, Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman have consolidated themselves as pillars of modern British folk.

"An absolute masterclass in how to do it right." Festivalsforall.com

"Kathryn Roberts smoky, assertive vocals are a tasty feast for listeners craving music that requires a sharp mind and an open heart." Billboard Magazine

'As a guitarist, producer and co-songwriter, Sean Lakeman is one of the unsung heroes of modern British folk' MOJO

For more information and the latest news, please visit

www.kathrynrobertsandseanlakeman.com

www.facebook.com/kathrynrobertsandseanlakeman

www.youtube.com/user/KathrynSean

The Dowling Poole + Hey You Guys The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 7th September

Hey You Guys don't play too many shows these days. With **Dave Draper's** constantly in demand production work, a drummer who lives in Berlin (whilst still managing to warm the stool for a number of local bands!!) and a frontman living down in London with a soon to be (further) extended family. It's kind of understandable that this was to be their only live date of the year, so attending wasn't really optional, more a necessity.

The band exploded out the blocks with Mr Draper laying down a crunchy, hard hitting riff, whilst **Ben Pemberton** (drums) and **Oly Edkins** (bass) pounded and thumped their instruments. A hunched **Pete Adams** sprung into action and onto the dancefloor, literally dragging the audience in closer whilst hollering *Escape To The Island*. By now Edkins is throwing shapes, Pemberton is a blur



behind the kit, whilst Draper is mouthing the words as he tears at his six string. But the audiences focus is on Adams as he delivers a frontman masterclass, engaging from the off. He's careering offstage one minute and hanging from the microphone the next. As the band charge through a meaty

616 before a biting *Record Deal* sees Pete ponder 'who do I have to fuck to get a record deal'. It maybe a fun thrashed out baiting session, but it does have you wondering why no one has taken a punt on Worcester's (always in spirit) finest. I mean surely everyone can identify with wanting to dress up like RoboCop and go dating in the supermarkets...?? As the band's set draws to a close, there's still time for another wander through the audience as the band wrestle their instruments in a glorious orgy of riffs and explosive sticks, before **Hey You Guys** leave us puzzling *Thin Lips Vs Fat Lips*?

Headliners **The Dowling Poole** are another busy group of musicians trying to shoehorn a few gigs and recording during a bout of extra curricular activities. Both **Willie Dowling** and **Jon Poole** are mainstays on the



seemingly never ending Dr Hook tours. Whilst Worcester's own **Givvi Flynn**, on acoustic guitar and backing vocals, has cropped up alongside Ginger Wildheart on his recent solo tour and on the Ryan Hamilton/Ginger charity single *Fuck You Brain*. So you can imagine the scenes at **The Marrs Bar** as the band take to the stage as part of only three dates to a horde of devoted fans.

Now unlike most of the devoted followers of **The Dowling Poole**, despite knowing the previous output of the main perpetrators (The Cardiacs, Wildhearts, Honeycrack, The Grip, etc), I was approaching the band cold having not heard a note of their collective work. But it would soon become apparent that when you have hook-laden alternative pop anthems such as *When She Knows, She Knows* in your arsenal you can quickly convert any newcomers to your cause. And whilst I may have been hearing the likes of *Adam And Eve* for the first time, the nagging hook and the interplay between Dowling and Poole soon became as familiar as a warm handshake from a welcoming friend.

Whilst the Dowling Poole faithful were down the front mouthing every word to Poole's suitably quirky tribute to fellow Cardiac Tim Smith, *Hey Stranger*. I was busy noting down subtle nods to the likes of powerpop heroes XTC, on *Saving It All For Saturday* and the infectious dance fuelled beat of *Adam And Eve* as the band twist new, addictive shapes from the pop rock genre.

By the end of the band's contagious set I'd scrawled down the words 'must explore albums'... I guess through the cider I'd scribbled that note because firstly, I want to hear if the band have managed to capture that energy on disc, but secondly and perhaps more importantly, I want to be camped in front of the stage mouthing the words next time **The Dowling Poole** come to town.

Will Munn

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Dodgy + Woo Town Hillbillies

The Iron Road, Evesham | Friday 3rd Nov

Dodgy started life 27 years ago. In that time they released 6 albums, countless singles, toured the World, criss-crossed the UK, as well as managing to take a well earned break for 10 years. Now,



back in action, Dodgy continue to release critically acclaimed music and perform live to thousands of people every year.

In October & November 2017 Dodgy shake out, away from the festival season, with **Dodgy Acoustic**. **Nigel Clark**, **Andy Miller** and **Stu Thoy** will perform in a series of intimate acoustic shows

playing stripped back versions of Dodgy classics, delving into the Dodgy vaults and unearthing forgotten gems and the most requested songs from recent critically acclaimed albums *Stand Upright In A Cool Place* and the current album *What Are We Fighting For*. Delivering songs with stories of life on the road - stories from one of the **UK's most active touring bands**.

Dodgy front man **Nigel Clark** says of playing these intimate shows - *"Dodgy have always loved acoustic shows, the songs are written and rehearsed in acoustic format but they rock and we are loud - this is a chance to hear the songs in their Melodic, Harmonious Glory!"*

Dodgy were together for seven years in the 90's, releasing three albums totaling over a million sales worldwide; 12 Top 40 singles, including *Staying Out For The Summer*, *If You're Thinking Of Me* and *Good Enough* - officially one of the most played tracks on British radio in the last 20 years.

Gigs and festival appearances have always been a crucial part of the Dodgy experience, for many they are the perfect festival band. The band have performed at most festivals worth their salt, such as Bestival, Isle of Wight, Camp Bestival, V Festival, Glastonbury, Beautiful Days, Wychwood, Kendal Calling and many more across the UK and Europe.

Support in Evesham comes from Worcester based **Woo Town Hillbillies** and tickets are available at: ents24.com/evesham-events/the-iron-road/dodgy/5023638



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Sat 4 Nov, 7pm - Bonfire Night (Free Entry)

Sun 19 Nov, 8pm, £12 - Fleecey Folk: Jess Morgan

Tue 28 Nov, 8pm, £12 - Fleecey Folk: Talisk

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Madi Stimpson Quartet Warming Up The Chestnut | 24th Sept

Madi and his quartet brought a bit of jazz and bluegrass to entertain the Sunday evening patrons' of **'Mad Pierre's' Chestnut Inn**. The band consist of **Marko Miletic** on double bass - also acting as band spokesman for the evening, **Geoff Walker** on tenor and soprano sax, **Ken Moore** on rhythm guitar and soprano sax, and of course **Madi** himself on lead guitar and vocals.



Much of the set is instrumental but performed with the flourish and flair expected from musicians of this stature. First a bit of fun, the theme from the much maligned *Captain Pugwash* given a shove off the plank into a sea of jazz breaks. Madi's fingers

wandering over his strings with what looked like a 10p plectrum? Geoff surfed the waves with his soprano sax, as Ken and Mark provided the seabed rhythm.

'*Dream A Little Dream*' found a gruff voiced Madi slipping out the lyrics in style. A step into the bluegrass for an Appalachian sourced, richly fruited, '*Blackberry Blossom*'.

Madi cradled his Godin electro acoustic for a touch of Van Morrison, its rich caramel sound blending with Geoff on the warm tone of the tenor.

The spicy *Mexican Tika Tika Ta* was served up as an aperitif to the superb '*Wonderful World*', with Madi firmly in Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong mode, growling out the song as Geoff stayed on tenor. Ken picked up his soprano sax and Mark plucked and poked those thick bass strings.

I was sorely tempted by the Jamaican curry's on offer but decided to hold back for a tasting session later in the week. Meanwhile, we were all put to the test with the tune from University Challenge, Bamber Gascoine edition of course, more correctly titled, '*College Boy*'. So much for university education, get down the 'tech' instead, it still counts.

I hadn't planned this gig, cancelled trains forced me back toward home, just stopping off to say hello and persuaded to stay by some bloke with a phony French accent! I hesitated long enough to hear an excellent first set from Madi and his band and was pleased to hear a particular favourite of mine close out; the wonderful exotic **Misirlou**, full of Eastern promise as 'Pierre' pirouetted around with a couple of bright red napkins - thankfully, unlike Madi's interpretation, quite forgettable! A splendid unintentional diversion filled with the lovely jazz flavoured music from the magnificent **Madi Stimpson Quartet**.

Graham Munn

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Pick a name: Benedict Cumberbatch... David Tennant... Kenneth Branagh... Judi Dench... They all started somewhere, and now Worcestershire's bubbling pool of potential and talent, just waiting for that bit of a break, need look no further, as Worcester has its own launch pad for budding performers in the form of **The Swan Theatre School**.

Well known for its annual pantomime, its large and talented **Youth Theatre**, and for the many and various productions staged by its resident professional theatre company, the **Worcester Repertory Company**, Worcester's well-loved and busy theatre is now offering something a little different in the form of The Swan Theatre School – and it may just be the perfect path for those wishing to enter the business as a professional performer.

Nick Wilkes, professional actor and playwright, and Principal of The Swan Theatre School, said: *"It's a one-year professional course and the perfect foundation for the profession – one that I wish had been available when I was starting out as an actor. Whether you come from a background of amateur dramatics and are already experienced on stage, or you're a young person just starting out; or, indeed, you're bursting with talent but have never had the opportunity to pursue it as a career, this course provides the support, training and skills required for you to enter the industry directly."*

"The part-time course is split over two nights a week, with some weekends and longer production periods, which makes the



training wonderfully accessible, and allows a person to train in the industry alongside current life commitments. Even if you work full-time, are a parent or are studying elsewhere, you can still pursue this goal and become a professional actor."

Wilkes, who trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, is well known to local audiences both as an actor and playwright, and has helped structure the course being offered.

"You'll get a chance to study all areas of performance as well as the aspects of business required by the industry today. In addition to acting, movement and voice classes there are also modules on classical theatre and theatre history, radio, voiceover and television technique, children's theatre and pantomime, and you will also learn about the principles of audition, self-promotion, agents and future work."

Based at The Swan Theatre in Worcester, many past-graduates have gone on to appear in Worcester Rep productions both here and overseas.

Auditions are now being held for the autumn intake. Further details can be found at www.theswantheatreschool.co.uk or by contacting the Swan Theatre on 01905 726969.

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Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

3rd - Conquest Art Group (new art group for people with disabilities and long term health issues) St Mark, Cherry Orchard, Worcester.

3rd-7th Pride and Prejudice, The Courtyard Hereford

4th-30th October 'Baat Region 6 Presents - Art Therapists Artwork, the Hive Worcester.

5th-25th Open Exhibition - Pershore No. 8.

6th-12th Victoria and Abdul (film) Pershore No. 8.

7th Dinosaur Detectives (children's theatre) The Courtyard, Hereford

7th-15th Garrick Palmer, John Piper, Rowland Suddaby, Robert Taverner, The Chapel, Bromyard

10th Drink and Doodle, The Paul Pry Worcester

11th Reconstruction workshop (upcycling), Sewing at the Button Box, Claines, Worcester.

12th-16th Vaccum Arts exhibition. Old Market Hereford

12th-26th Migrant Press (Revisited) The Hive Worcester

17th The Bundle, Journeyman Theatre Company, the Hive, Worcester.

17th Conquest Art Group (new art group for people with disabilities and long term health issues) St Mark, Cherry Orchard, Worcester.

3rd-7th Pride and Prejudice, The Courtyard Hereford

18th Reconstruction workshop (upcycling), Sewing at the Button Box, Claines, Worcester.

21st Funk Trunk vintage's Autumn Extravaganza. Firefly Worcester. 1pm.

21st Where the Wild things Are (film) The Courtyard, Hereford

24th Letters from Baghdad (film). Pershore No8.

24th The Big Draw, Worcester Cathedral

25th Hereford Family Festival, the Courtyard, Hereford

Until 8th Creative Synergy, Dara Williams and Liz Johnson, Elmslie House, Malvern

Until 8th Oct A Dolls House, Artist Workhouse, Studley

Until 28th Oct Dinosaurs (exhibition) Museum of Gloucester

Until 28th Worcester Society of artists 70th Anniversary Exhibition, Worcester City Art Gallery.

Until 5th Nov Rita Thorn- Atmosphere Earth Ocean. Evesham Arts Centre

Until 12th Nov Hop Project MAC, Birmingham

Until 26th Nov The Fence and the Shadow, MAC Birmingham

Until 7th Jan 2018 Knights of the Raj, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

For an Arts listings
please email Kate
arts@slapmag.co.uk

Music Sessions/Open Mics

Are these listings up to date? Let us know at editorial@slapmag.co.uk

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 Cleeve

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Fox & Hounds, Breden

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions

The Crown, Colwall

first and third Wednesday - The Dragon Folk Club

The Dragon in The Tying, Worcester

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 Thurs - 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 - 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

Every other Friday, Karaoke with kim

Royal Oak, Ledbury

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

Sunday 01 October 2017

Sunday Live Open Mic With Gaf Franks

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Standard Lamps (4 pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Miss-Fortunes

Alestones, Redditch

Grace Petrie & Hannah James

Malvern Cube, Malvern

Thom Colne

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Little Big Time Band

Stourbridge Town Hall, Stourbridge

Green Hop Beer Festival

The Talbot, Knightwick

Ben Jones

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Lost Boys

Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Eric Porter & Martin Blake (5:30 pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Darren Hands 5 pm

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Mel & Him

The Cap N Gown, Worcester

Rock & Roll Rhodoe

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Sean Jeffery (5 pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

The Exiles

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Miss Fortunes (4 pm)

Alestones, Tardebigge

Tuesday 03 October 2017

Mark Walby

Tank, Gloucester

Wednesday 04 October 2017

Warner E Hodges, Webb Wilder, Eric Ambel (U.S.A)

The Iron Road, Evesham

Lee Mccrory

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Steve Poltz

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Desperados

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Thursday 05 October 2017

John Power

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Liberty Artillery

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Nigel May & Jan Horton

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Sounds Of Simon

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Five

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Perry Foster

The Plough, Worcester

The Eskies, Black Water County

The Iron Road, Evesham

Friday 06 October 2017

Sam Gwinnell

The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

The Core Band

Drummonds, Worcester

Adiós Al Verano

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Bewelian

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Future Set

The Red Lion, Evesham

Laura H Davis

The New Inn, Gloucester

Stolen Chocolates

Brewhouse And Kitchen, Gloucester

The Glow Worms

The Antelope, Warwick

The Executives

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Bekki Cameron & Friends

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

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Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Rogues

The Rose And Crown, Ludow

Jon Eselle

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Jon Townley

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Big Wolf Band

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Paul Rose Dictatorship

Piesse Of Piddle, Pershore

Mister Wolf

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Mistrusted, Sleep Experiment

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Depeche Mode - Black Celebration

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Marabooboo Allstars

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Vehicle

The Blue Bell, Ryall

The Whipjacks

Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

A Celebration Of Neil Diamond

Swan Theatre, Worcester

China Crisis

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Stipe (R.E.M. Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Worried Me

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Roving Crows

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Recovery

The Queen Vic, Stroud

Oh! Carol

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Bitter Roots

THE SOCIABLE BEER COMPANY, Worcester

Come Together

The Maltster, Worcester

Roger MCGough And Little Machine

Mercure Bewdley Heath Hotel, Bewdley

Gordon Hendricks As Elvis

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mayfli

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Brutus, Guillotine, A Werewolf, Wretched World, Lifegrab

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Kiss My Acid, Young States, Crossing The Limits

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Macca & Cross

The Merryfellow, Cheltenham

The Paul Rose Dictatorship

The Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

John Power (Cast/The La's), Skewwhiff (Acoustic)

Malvern Cube, Malvern

The Hawthornes

The Bengeworth Club, Evesham

The Quo Experience

Regal Cinema, Evesham

Sinnergod, Rival Bones

The Iron Road, Evesham

Saturday 07 October 2017

Hell's Gazelles, The Senton Bombs

The Iron Road, Evesham

Vehicle

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Melvin Hancox Band

The Swan, Evesham

O.C.D

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Dr John Cooper Clarke

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Slowburner, Troy Redfern Band

Richmond Club, Hereford

Sultana Brothers

The Plough, Hereford

The Humdrum Express

The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

Bad Spaniel

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Nuns Of The Tundra, Dead Dad's Club

The Unicorn Inn, Great Malvern

The Bad Dads
Under The Edge Arts, Wotton Under Edge

Lewis Boulton Trio
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Prone 2 Madness
Sadlers Brehwouse & Bar, Lye

The Executives
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Nuns Of The Tundra + Ddc
The Unicorn, Malvern

Lipstick On Your Collar
Number 8, Pershore

Thirsty Work
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Abba Tribute
The Oast House, Redditch

Red Tails
The Hollybush Inn, Redditch

High School Confidential (The Wayne Connor Trio)
Reet Petite, Leominster

Darren D Davison
Stourport Workmens Club, Stourport-On-Severn

Think Floyd - Live in Concert
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Surf's Up
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Freeborn Rising
The Kings Head Hotel, Tenbury Wells

The Fireballs U.K.
The Chestnut, Worcester

Guns Or Roses
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Steve Ferbrache
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Matt Bough & Sarah 8.30 pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Old Raskals
Railway Inn, Studley

Toby
West Midlands Tavern, Worcester

Hot Tubes
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Hills Angels
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Fabulous Bordellos
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Sara Pascoe - Ladsladslads
Mercure Bewdley Heath Hotel, Bewdley

Gordon Hendricks As Elvis
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Chloe Mogg, Ashley Field
Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

Slightly Ocd
Baker Street, Gloucester

The Strays
The Stable, Cheltenham

Gravy Train
New Inn, Pershore

Junction 7
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Beaujacks
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Spectrum 4
The Lower George, Westgate Street, Gloucester

Sunday 08 October 2017

Metal Night - Sound Storm (Italy) + Mirrormaze
The Iron Road, Evesham

Mark Bebbington
The Courtyard, Hereford

Mark Bebbington
Hellens Manor, Kidderminster

Andrew Riverstone (4 pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Delray Rockets At Upton Rock Day
Upton Social Club, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Heels
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Tyler Massey
Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Leanne And King Rich
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Jasper Malone Sails Again (Boat Sails At 5 pm)
The Earl, South Quay, Worcester

Dinara Klinton (3 pm)
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Vo Fletcher (5:30 pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Daniel Kemish
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Barney's Live Music With Guest Artist Colin Pitts
The Little Vic, Stroud

Fizzi Pop 5 pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Blake: The 10 Year Tour
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Toby (5 pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

The Record
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Upton Rock Festival (1 pm)
Upton Social Club., Upton-Upon-Severn

Graham Gouldman - Heart Full Of Songs
Mercure Bewdley Heath Hotel, Bewdley

Vo Fletcher
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Monday 09 October 2017

10Cc's Graham Gouldman & Hear Full Of Songs
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Tuesday 10 October 2017

Port Erin
Tank, Gloucester

Uncover Presents: Nuns Of The Tundra, Vito, Ruben Seabright Plus A Secret Act!
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 11 October 2017

Steve Nimmo Trio With Alan Nimmo
The Iron Road, Evesham

Phil King
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Rhydian, Richard And Adam
The Courtyard, Hereford

Elevenes
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Propane Brothers
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Paul Oneil
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Thursday 12 October 2017

Mad Dog Mcree
The Iron Road, Evesham

Mumbo-Jumbo
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
The Courtyard, Hereford

Surprise Attacks Presents:, Barrabus, Women, Rail Means Rail
The Firefly, Worcester

Mumbo Jumbo
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Dan Greenaway
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Year Zero, Swaktang And The Bitten
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Kristian Chambers
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
Courtyard Theatre, Hereford

Limehouse Lizzy
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

T'pau
Mercure Bewdley Heath Hotel, Bewdley

Redfaces, Discount Columbo, Future Kings, Beaver & The Foghorns
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Friday 13 October 2017

Roger Roberts
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Sj Syndicate (U.S.A)
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Big Fat Shorties
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Call Of The Kraken
Drummonds, Worcester

The Reuben Lovett Confusion + Kid Carpet
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Glow Worms
The Bush, Worcester

Malpractice

The Black Star, Stourport

The Hidden Depth Duo & Butchers Dog

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

One Tree Canyon

The Weavers Real Ale House, Kidderminster

Madi Stimpson Trio

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Liquor & Poker

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

The Delray Rockets At Upton Rock Day

The Gun Tavern, Worcester

Still Crazy

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Kim Cypher

Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern

Jay & Eli

The Sebright Arms, Worcester

The Stiff Joints

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Turin Brakes

Malvern Cube, Malvern

Rubio

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ultimate40

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Effigy For Sleep, Scribble Victory & Bigger Than Seattle

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Of Kings And Captains

Base Studios, Stourbridge

Daniel B. James

The Red Lion, Evesham

Final Warning

The Millers Arms, Pershore

House Dj Glenn Parry

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Starving Rascals

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Detroit Magic

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Luke Philbrick

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

The Blockheads

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Shaun Mosely

The Little George, Stroud

The Counterfeit Stones

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Switchback

The Cap N Gown, Worcester

Supernova

The Maltster, Worcester

Junior, I, The Lion, The Decoy, Lightblue, Lazerbrain

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Tom Robinson Band - 2-4-6-8 Motorway

Mercure Bewdley Heath Hotel, Bewdley

Roving Crows

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Katalina Kicks, Outta Peak, Ambition Demolition

The Cotswold, Cheltenham

The Official Receivers

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Saturday 14 October 2017

Bootleg Blondie

The Iron Road, Evesham

Shades Of Grey

THE TRUMPET, Evesham

Breathe Fire

The Swan, Evesham

Echo Bandits

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Mice in A Matchbox

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Buddy Holly & The Cricketers

The Courtyard, Hereford

2Tone Revue

The Plough, Hereford

Gunn Runner

The Express Inn, Malvern

The Decibelles

The Hot Tin Roof Bar, Hereford

Hennesea

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

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Lee Price

The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

The Fabulous Bordellos

Ludlow Brewery, Ludow

The Final Four

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

And Finally... Phil Collins

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Crowded Out

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Bombpops

The Railway, Redditch

The After Dark Band

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Cracker And The 88'S

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Film Orchestra Play Sci-Fi Film Music, Tfo Concert Band

Play More Sci-Fi Film Music, Hilgrove Kenrick - Compere

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Mean Business

Reet Petite, Leominster

Dave South

Stourport Workmens Club, Stourport-On-Severn

The Britpop Boys

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Baka Beyond

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Built For Comfort

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Fig Band

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Corduroy Kings

The Ale House, Stroud

Definitely Britpop 90s Tribute 9 pm

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Worcester Stomp Live With The Shirt Tail Stompers

Nunnery Wood High School, Worcester

Mel & Him

Northwick Arms, Worcester

Bourbon Alley

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

The Gts

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Retinal Circus (Sails 7 pm)

The Earl, South Quay, Worcester

Just Charlotte

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Robin Ince Presents Pragmatic Insanity

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Protocol

The Bell, Worcester

Led Hendrix

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Arcadia Roots

The Bewdley Hotel, Bewdley

Mayor Fest: Cantaloop, Erica, Galloping Cows. Galloping Cows,

Vajazzle Dynamite, The Strays, Hard Stairs. Forever Greens 4pm

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Parkin Lot

New Inn, Pershore

Coldplace: Tribute To Coldplay

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Sunday 15 October 2017

Jay & Eli (5 pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Baast

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Duran (Duran Duran tribute)

The Marris bar, Worcester

The Woo Town Hillbillies

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

The Royal Blasphemy (Portugal) & Support

The Imperial, Hereford

Maz Mitrenko Band (4 pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Loz Ruston Trio

Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Izzy The Push Acoustic

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Son Of John & John Parker

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Clarksville Mountain Band (5:30 pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Andrew Marc 5 pm

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Back To Bacharach
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Will Killeen
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Monday 16 October 2017

On Tour With Elvis.
The Courtyard, Hereford

Tuesday 17 October 2017

Toadstool
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Hoodoo Operators
Tank, Gloucester

Antigone
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Dappers Delight. Early English Street Music For Anglo Accordion, Recorder And Voice
St.Peters, Cowleigh Bank, Malvern

Parnassius Duo
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Wednesday 18 October 2017

Marco Mendoza Band, Black Cat Bones
The Iron Road, Evesham

Only The Poets
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Jon B
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Jazz Night With Footprints
Reet Petite, Leominster

The Zero Day
No 23 Bar & Bistro, Stroud

Paul Chowdhry
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Thursday 19 October 2017

Metal Night - Ram (Sweden) + Hostile Uk
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Best Of Queen
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Lucas D And The Groove Ghetto
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Andy Fairweather Low & The Lowriders
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Hoosiers
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Insomnichord, Mantra, Elephant Peel, Tba
Firefly, Worcester

Gbh, Red Light Rebels, Horror On The High Seas
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Deborah Rose And Mari Randle
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Luca Stricagnoli
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Friday 20 October 2017

Tom Davies
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Keep It Cash
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Lazy Sundays
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Reload
Drummonds, Worcester

G&T Mix
The Red Lion, Evesham

Mick Briggdale & Band, Sleuth, Gary Mincher
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

The Woo Town Hillbillies
The Unicorn, Malvern

West Coast Eagles
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Surprise Attacks Presents:, Nth Cave, Navajo Ace, Bathtub
Heroes Bar, Worcester

North Star Calendar
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

The Counterfeit Sixties Tribute Show
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

William Howard - Two Concerts
Hellens Manor, Kidderminster

Sean Jeffery
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

One2many
The Angel, Leominster

Whalebone: Flocks Of Words
Assembly Rooms, Ludow

Jack Brett Music
The Rose And Crown, Ludow

Missing Lynx
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

The Delray Rockets
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Hoe-Down
The Unicorn, Malvern

The Relaxos
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Nigel Maslyn Jones
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ac/Dc Uk
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Claire L Shaw
The Sebright Arms, Worcester

Pink Floyd Tribute Off The Wall (Boat Sails At 7 pm)
The Earl, South Quay, Worcester

Montparnasse
Coach House Theatre, Malvern

Howlin Matt
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

The Image Of Cliff & The Shadows – Starring Kytsun Wolfe
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

East Of The Severn
St George's Hall, Bewdley

The Wurzels
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Komodo
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Stand Up To Cancer: Mitzzy, Mel + Him, Robert Bonovox, Sass Brown, Paul King, Mark Peters
Fernhill Heath War Memorial Club, Fernhill Heath

Stone Farm
The Maltster, Worcester

Skewwhiff
Cap N Gown, Worcester

Florian Kitt
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Soapgirls, The Forever Greens
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Saturday 21 October 2017

The American Hitmen (U.S.A)
The Iron Road, Evesham

John Illsley And His Band
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Maraboooboo All Stars
The Swan, Evesham

Lorise Eton & The Stealers
Green Dragon, Malvern

Hoi Polloi
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Witcher
Upton Social Club, Upton Upon Severn

Bad Spaniel
The Plough, Hereford

Roving Crows
Overbury Village Hall, Tewkesbury

Chewies Musical Adventures
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Gemma King & Steve Dunachie
Assembly Rooms, Ludow

Matt Peplow
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Rickie Laval
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Jayne Peter's Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

The Mt'S
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Slowburner
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Town Musicians Of Bremen
St Peters Church, Kinver, Stourbridge

Deano Wayne Allen
Stourport Workmens Club, Stourport-On-Severn

Abi Foster
Reet Petite, Leominster

Johnny Kowalski And The Sexy Weirdos (Boat Trip)
The Earl, South Quay, Worcester

Martin Turner Ex Wishbone Ash
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Diamond: The Ultimate Tribute
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

Southside
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi Tribute)
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Dougie Bee 8.30 pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Fastlove: A Tribute To George Michael
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Real Bones
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Mel & Him
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Macka B
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Hickman And Cassidy
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Slightly Odd
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

John Illsley
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Reloaded
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

After Dark
New Inn, Pershore

Sunday 22 October 2017

The American Hitmen Unplugged (U.S.A)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Alex Taylor
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Murray Lachlan Young
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Ian Luther Band (4 pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Poetry Into Song
Assembly Rooms, Ludow

The Heels
Alestones, Redditch

Fleecey Folk: Vishten
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Natalie Hobbs
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Don Kipper
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Lindisfarne
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

X15 (5:30 pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Mr P 80S 5 pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Tom Dibb (5 pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Malvern Hillbillies
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Monday 23 October 2017

Groovyhead
The Cricketers, Worcester

Tuesday 24 October 2017

Cupcake Diaz + The Felt Tip Pens
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Lucy Jarrett / James Richards
Tank, Gloucester

The East Pointers
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Wednesday 25 October 2017

Wille & The Bandits, Claude Hay
The Iron Road, Evesham

Hugh Cornwell
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

The Little Mix Experience
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Thursday 26 October 2017

Skinny Molly
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Mytacism Music Presents: Four Dead Crows, Saint Alto,
Happy Bones, Spoken Word, More Tbc**
The Firefly, Worcester

The Blues Duo
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Fairport Convention
Assembly Rooms, Ludow

Legends Of American Country Show
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Ian Luther
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Imaner
Alestones, Redditch

Dead As Dillinger
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Kent Duchaine
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Jackson – Live In Concert
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Ginny Lemon, Yshee Black, Aunt Jamie
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Macca The Concert: Celebrating The Music Of Paul Mccartney
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Joe Stilgoe
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Friday 27 October 2017

Matt Bowen
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

Vehicle
Wharf, Stourport

Metal Night - Outline in Color (U.S.A) + Scream Blue Murder
The Iron Road, Evesham

Parallel
The Blue Bell, Ryall

The Disciples
Drummonds, Worcester

Turin Brakes
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Think Floyd
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Zapoppin', Exotic Pets
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Jibbafish
Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

Rob Powell
The Red Lion, Evesham

Motus Illusion
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Amanda Stone
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Conspiritualists
The Clive, Ludow

Black Heart Angels
Ludlow Brewery, Ludow

Murmur
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Slow Burner
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Bon Jovi Duo
The Unicorn, Malvern

The Stylistics
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Zeppelin 3
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Dr John Cooper Clarke + Special Guest Poets
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Abi Phillips
The Pheasant, Taddington

Forty Blue Toes
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Hates The World, Loves The Earth
Reet Petite, Leominster

Vehicle Band
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Aranka'S Cackle
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Vinny Peculiar
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Our Fred
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Jibbafish
Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury

Mel & Him
The Bell Inn, Worcester

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Re Booted
The Royal Forrester, Bewdley

Cheltenham Connections – Rockology
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 28 October 2017

Soap Girls + Electric Ballroom, Starsick System
The Iron Road, Evesham

Bourbon Alley Blues Band
The Swan, Evesham

Sax Appeal
Green Dragon, Malvern

The Unravelling Wilburys
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Flying Ant Day, Smokin' Pilchards
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

The Woo Town Hillbillies
Dorstone Village Hall, Herefordshire

Genesis Connected
The Courtyard, Hereford

Sons Of Yoda
The Plough, Hereford

Cud, The Humdrum Express
The Flapper, Birmingham

Mel & Him
The Express Inn, Malvern

The Murmur
Cue And Brew Sports, Kidderminster

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds
Royal Oak, Ledbury

Nature Of Wires
The Bell Inn, Leominster

Groovy Head
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Pete Harrington
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

Sarah Warren
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Karpet Kickers
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye

Beyond The Barricade
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Uproars
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

All Day Blues
Alestones, Redditch

Leon Gormley
The Maverick, Stourbridge

6Appeal
Reet Petite, Leominster

2Tone Revue
Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Dirty Beach
The Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

The Elvis Experience
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Dire Straits
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Yolanda Brown
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Pete Hyde & Friends
The Chestnut, Worcester

Swing From Paris
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Soeur
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Low Chimes
Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

Richard Ryan 8.30 pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Cracker & The Rocking 88's
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

John Denton And The Midnight Band
Elmslie House, Malvern

Skalloween - Aka Skaface & Al Capone
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Tale Lights
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

Aaron Booton
Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

Lady & The Sax
Bewdley The Heath Hotel, Bewdley

The Book Of Darkness & Light
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Willie Nile
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Kickback
New Inn, Pershore

Sunday 29 October 2017

Shire Straits
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Woo Town Hillbillies
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Follicles
The Fountain Inn, Kidderminster

Kent Duchaine & Leadbessie (4 pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Droitwich Sally (4Pm)
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Olubala Kukomo (1Pm)
Alestones, Redditch

Stu Bishop
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Test Pilots (Acoustic)
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

John Smith, Edd Donovan
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Euco: Baroque And Beyond
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Woottown Hillbillies (5:30Pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Shire Straits (Dire Straits Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Colin 'Sugarfoot' Mills 5Pm
The Westcroft, Droitwich

Fury (Ticket Only 5Pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Over The Hill
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Passion
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Monday 30 October 2017

King Brasstards
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

Tuesday 31 October 2017

The Strays
The Doctors, Gloucester

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THE MARRS BAR

OCT
NOV 2017



Soeur
Saturday October 28th

Friday October 6th

Stipe (R.E.M. Tribute)

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday October 7th

Guns Or Roses

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday October 8th

Daniel Kemish

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Tuesday October 10th

Nuns Of The Tundra EP launch with Vito

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Thursday October 12th

Limehouse Lizzy

£13 in advance

Friday October 13th

The Official Receivers

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday October 14th

The Britpop Boys

£7 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday October 15th

Duran (Duran Duran tribute)

£6.50 in advance £8.50 on the door

Thursday October 19th

FCS: GBH + Red Light Rebels, Horror

On The High Seas

£10 in advance

Friday October 20th

West Coast Eagles (Eagles tribute)

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday October 21st

Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi tribute)

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday October 26th

FCS: Ginny Lemon, Yshee Black, Aunt Jamie

£7 in advance £9 on the door

Friday October 27th

Vinny Peculiar

£6.50 in advance £8.50 on the door

Saturday October 28th

Soeur

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Sunday October 29th

Shire Straits (Dire Straits tribute)

£4 in advance £5 on the door

Thursday, November 2nd

FCS: The Toasters (USA) + The Stiff

Joints, Population 7

£9 in advance £11 on the door

Friday November 3rd

Tankus The Henge, The Institutes

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday, November 4th

Faux Fighters (Foo Fighters tribute)

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Sunday November 5th

FCS: Bury Tomorrow + Loathe

SOLD OUT

Friday November 10th

The Leylines

Saturday November 11th

'Kinfest

£5 in advance

Thursday November 16th

Kit Hawes and Aaron Catlow

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

www.marrsbar.co.uk

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