

# SLAP

Issue 76

Dec/Jan

FREE



**SLAP** Supporting Local Arts & Performers



WORCESTER'S NEW  
INDEPENDENT ITALIAN  
RESTAURANT

---



Traditional  
Italian food, cooked  
the Italian way!



Book now for your  
Christmas Party  
or  
Christmas Lunch



01905 729 415  
[food@sugoitalian.co.uk](mailto:food@sugoitalian.co.uk)

SUGO at The Lamb & Flag  
30 The Tything  
Worcester  
WR1 1JL

f. t. i.

# SLAP

Dec/Jan MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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

### EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan - Editor  
Kate Cox - Arts Editor  
Alex Redmond - Comedy Editor  
Emily Branson - Sub Editor  
Steve Glazzard - Sub Editor  
Michael Bramhall - Sub Editor

### CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare  
Will Munn  
Emily Branson  
Heidi Murphy  
Graham Munn  
Pablo Raybold  
Jon Weatherill  
James Kay  
Dan Knight  
Ralph Tittley  
Alex Redmond  
Geoffrey Head  
Jessica Charles  
Imogen Bulger  
Ed Ling  
Justin Hughes  
Steve Johnston  
Corina Harrison  
Suz Winspear  
Kate Cox

Design Mark Hogan  
Web & Social Media  
Ant Robbins  
Katherine Harris

Published by The Whole Hog  
Printed by Vernon Print



@slapmaguk

### ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Reproduction in whole or part prohibited without permission.  
Artwork, prints or any pictorial media for this publication are sent  
at owners risk and whilst every care is taken, neither Slap  
Magazine or its agents accept liability for loss or damage.

### DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that adverts and  
articles appear correctly, Slap Magazine cannot accept  
responsibility for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly  
by the contents of this publication. The views expressed in this  
magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Season's greetings everyone and welcome to our 76th Issue  
which marks the completion of seven years of austerity, 'er - I  
mean SLAP!!

As usual we bring you all the arts news, arts festivals, events  
and exhibitions, highlighting the vibrant all-year-round arts  
scene we have around here. Such as the Bromsgrove Festival  
of Light and Dancefest (the subject of our front cover). Now all  
we have to do now as a community is support it...!

On to the local music scene where a few exciting things have  
been happening... A month or so ago local exiles Sœur were  
invited to record a live session for the Radio 1 Rock Show at  
the BBC's Maida Vale Studios. Huge congratulations to  
Christina, Anya and James for whom a dream came true as it  
was played on the 26th November, right on our deadline!

We report on the success of another local rock outfit -  
Malvern based Nuns of the Tundra - who have reached the last  
three acts in the national Firestone battle of the Bands. From  
over 300 applicants they are through to the final to take place  
on December 14th. Best of luck to Troy, Arran, Jim and Melos.

As this is a double issue (*yes that's right I have a month off -  
ed*), our listings pages are cram packed as we try to include as  
many January dates as possible. It certainly won't be them all  
but we will keep our online gig guide as up to date as we can.  
So please check in regularly at [www.slapmag.co.uk/events/](http://www.slapmag.co.uk/events/) for  
ongoing additions.

It just remains for me to wish you all a happy winter Solstice.  
Be good to each other, don't spend too much and try to and  
support the arts in your area as best you can. As always, if you  
see something that inspires you, why not let us know by writing  
about it. Any scene will only prosper with the support of you  
and I - the public, so why not get out there and do your bit.

See you on the other side...!

Peace-Ed



Front cover: Worcestershire Youth Dance Company at Dancefest's  
Accelerate performance by Lily Price.



## Being Blunt

It's fine to shout out about yourselves - and it certainly paid off for Bromsgrove pop/folk outfit **Grafton Ash** who sent a 'cheeky' message to **James Blunt** offering the band's services - at first politely turned down then rapidly taken up again a couple of days later when the regular support act withdrew from his gig at Birmingham Arena on 21 November - where they played to an audience of 12,000 fans of the ex-army officer and Twitter comeback king!



## Mime Artist falls Silent

Sad news that the Worcester-based TV mime artist **Mick Wall** has passed away aged 64 - during the 80s and 90s Mick became a household name with his children's TV series *Dizzy Heights* and also shared stages with artists ranging from Norman Wisdom and Bernie Clifton to Suzi Quatro - with most of his tours ending with a gig at **Worcester Arts Workshop**...



## Noz-stocks & Shares go up!

Congratulations go to one of our fabulous local festivals, **Nozstock The Hidden Valley** who last month managed to pick up a prestigious national award at the '**Association of Independent Festival**' (AIF) Awards 2018. The closing festival fire show on the sunday night won '*Most Mind-blowing Spectacle*' having been up against **Boomtown**, **Secret Garden Party** and **Bestival**.



This year, there were eight awards categories, designed to recognise the hard work and success of the very best events in the industry. **Nozstock** give a huge shout out to all of their crew who made this happen, production, walkabout, construction, H&S and to the amazing fire performers troupe **Hummadrums**.

It's the **20th Anniversary of Nozstock** next July (20th-22nd), and they would love to share their birthday with you, so save the date for a taste of this superb award winning grass roots festival!

## He Shoots, he Scores!

Congratulations to **Chris Bowley** whose shot of Malvern metallers Grizzleroot won this year's **Worcester Music Festival** photography competition with **Adriana Vasile** and **Brendan Stephens** coming a close second and third with their pix - a special mention though to young snapper **Logan Andrews** who at only six years old became the festival's youngest ever entrant and was awarded a certificate for showing a 'technical ability and eye for detail way ahead of his years' - we thoroughly agree!!



## Nuns in the Running

Fair play and best of luck for Malvern rockers **Nuns Of The Tundra** who at the time of writing are poised for a shot at the grand fina of this year's Firestone-sponsored battle of the bands to be held this month in Birmingham - all the best guys...

## Heading for Number 1

Good news for Stourport youngster **Chloe Elliot** who's attracting attention from scouts from Universal and Warner records - her track '*One*' has been selected as **BBC Hereford & Worcester's** track of the week and she also performed a great set at Worcester's Xmas lights switch-on - definitely '*One*' to watch!

## I Love Bromsgrove

**Artrix Theatre** in Bromsgrove has announced its 'winter programme' with a schedule of cinema, stand-up, family shows and the bank-pleaser tribute acts - original music in the New Year will come from **Paul Jones** and **Dave Kelly**, **Fairport Convention** and **Toyah** - plus evenings with **Germaine Greer** and **Paul Gambaccini** - nice!

## A Little Reminder

It's been another fine year for Bromyard guitarist **Remi Harris** following an amazing 2016 which saw him playing at the Montreal Jazz Festival and performing with Jamie Cullum at the Royal Albert Hall. This last 12 months he's had a residency at **Le Quecumbar** (London's home of gypsy jazz), played more than 150 dates including the **Django Reinhardt Festival** in Norway and has just been voted runner-up in the guitar category to **Martin Taylor** in the prestigious **2017 British Jazz Awards**!



# **PRO MUSIC TUITION**

## **LEARN FROM THE PLAYERS**



**GUITAR | BASS | UKULELE**  
**DRUMS | VOCALS | KEYS**

**5 FULLY EQUIPPED LESSON ROOMS**  
**ONE ON ONE TUITION**  
**LEARN THEORY, GRADES AND**  
**PERFORMANCE**  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**ALL AGES WELCOME**

**WWW.WORCESTERGUITARCENTRE.CO.UK**

**01905 723951**

**6 REINDEER COURT | WORCESTER | WR1 2DS**



**10% OFF**  
**YOUR FIRST LESSON**  
**USUAL PRICE...**

**£30 PER HOUR - £16.50 PER HALF HOUR**



Clik Klik's **Gin Lane** starts as this bumper festive edition gets out to your local Slap supplier! Get down to the back alley between The Shambles and New Street to find the Victorian characters that lurk there and get involved in the playfully disreputable shenanigans. This year Gin Lane features **Play it again Dan, Worcester Theatre Makers, Vurfx**, some familiar faces and some new ones!



**Friday 1st (5-9pm) & Saturday 2nd (4-8pm) Dec** as part of **Worcester Victorian Fayre**.

**Dancefest** will be on the streets on Saturday 2nd between 3-4pm, bringing together darkness and light with stunning performances in the city and on The Shambles leading in to the start of Gin Lane.

During December, you can also find Clik Klik's **Flower Seller** walkabout who is a busy bee, with appearances at the Worcester Victorian Fayre (30th Nov-3rd Dec) and also the Stratford-Upon-Avon (8th-10th) and Wolverhampton (15th-17th) Christmas Markets! I'm taking it easy in January!



## Giraffes are coming!

Some fantastic imaginative designs have been already submitted for the loveable giraffe sculptures as blank canvasses for the upcoming **Worcester Stands Tall** project.

But there is still time to enter! The Wild in Art

event brought to the city by

**St Richard's Hospice**, gives

the opportunity for artists to

design something fabulous to

adorn these long necked

creatures with.



So get your creative thinking cap on, draw up your designs and submit them before the deadline of Friday, 5th January 2018.

All the details, including the artist fee, design guidelines and templates are in the artists' information pack along with all instructions needed. Imagine how amazing these giraffes are going to look! To get your info pack and application go to:

[worcesterstandstall.co.uk](http://worcesterstandstall.co.uk)

## Postcard Art- Mini masterpieces

With the cumulative total of postcards received exceeding 250 pieces, **The Artists Workhouse** decided to cancel the auction event planned last month, spreading the sale out over several days instead. A **'Mini Masterpieces'** exhibition will take place on the weekend of 8th -10th December, giving the public lots of time to view the individual postcards, enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie and make your purchases. Any online bids already placed will be transferred to the exhibition event. You can view all the pieces up for grabs on the website.



Artists Workhouse, Studley. Dec 8-10th. 11am-4pm.

For more info: [artistsworkhouse.com](http://artistsworkhouse.com)

**the wine emporium**

**All you need for homebrewed beer, wine, spirits and cider**

Free same day delivery to many areas  
Help, advice and samples always available

**Tel. 01527 854198**  
[www.thewineemporium.co.uk](http://www.thewineemporium.co.uk)  
**4 High Street, Studley, Warks. B80 7HJ**

Follow us on facebook [the wine emporium](https://www.facebook.com/thewineemporium)

## Christmas Gothic

*'Christmas: a time to remember the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future; a time of feasts and festivities, of holly and mistletoe; a time of visits and visitations; a time of ghosts. Come in from the cold and enter the Christmas spirit as a dark, spectral woman tells haunting tales of the festive season, lighting a candle to the frailties of human nature and illuminating the icy, chilling depths of the bleak, wintry dark...'*



Following the international touring success that was **Female Gothic**, **Dyad Productions** resurrects a Victorian tradition by presenting three seasonal tales of terror to scintillate the gooseflesh on dark Christmas nights. **Dyad Productions** creates, produces and tours classic theatre with an innovative and contemporary emphasis. **Christmas Gothic** is the only Dyad production to be released outside the Edinburgh Fringe, due to its festive nature and has already proven to be a 5-star staple of the Christmas theatre season.

**Christmas Gothic** is written and performed by **Rebecca Vaughan** and directed by **Elton Townend Jones**.

11th Dec. The Artrix, Bromsgrove. [artrix.co.uk](http://artrix.co.uk)

## Circus of Horrors — Voodoo



After taking to the road over 22 years ago and touring all over the world the phenomenon returns with its latest brand new incarnation "**Voodoo**".

The spectacular features an amazing amalgamation of bizarre & fantastic circus acts act's all woven into a sensational shock / horror story and the darkest of magic – taking the show to a whole new level, it's driven by a mainly original soundscape & performed with a forked tongue firmly in each cheek, you'll certainly die laughing. 22nd Jan. The Courtyard Hereford.

**For Arts Submissions  
& Events email  
Kate at  
[arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)**

## Bromsgrove Festival of Light

Bromsgrove town centre will play host to **The Festival of Light**, a truly magical outdoor event on **Sunday 17th December**. The Festival of Light, created in partnership with **Artrix**, **NWEDR** and **Bromsgrove District Council** will bring together the people of Bromsgrove in a community celebration of togetherness, light and the Winter season.

This atmospheric event is a large-scale, outdoor, multi-faith lantern procession guided through the town's centre. Everyone is invited to join in with this accessible and celebratory parade or just admire and soak up the atmosphere as the candle lit procession travels from Poundland to Argos!

**Artrix Arts Centre** is programming the event and has collaborated with associate artist, **Kristoffer Huball** and outdoor arts company **Beautiful Creatures** to add to the visual spectacle. A striking 20ft giant puppet created by Beautiful Creatures will lead the parade through the town centre, searching for the community spirit of Bromsgrove.

In the run up to **The Festival of Light** individuals, families, local schools and community groups are invited to participate in a free lantern making workshop, creating their own lantern to illuminate during the procession.



There are lantern making workshops at **Parkside**, Bromsgrove District Council Offices on Market Street during December for making a simple pyramid lantern or those who enjoy a creative challenge make their own unique masterpiece. Lantern making workshops are free of charge and spaces can be booked via Artrix Box Office.

**Hannah Phillips**, Director of Artrix said; "*We're thrilled to be working with such talented artists to create this visual spectacular. We want to unite local people of all genders, nationalities, ages, religions and abilities with an inspiring and beautiful piece of outdoor art and we hope that lots of people will join us during December to create their own lanterns.*"

The event will be hosted by **BBC Hereford and Worcester's Tammy Gooding**. The celebratory procession will feature music from Bromsgrove's community Samba band, **Someone at the Door** and will culminate with **The Destroyers**, a Birmingham-based Balkan gypsy band for the finale.

This free, family friendly event is open to everybody at 5pm on Sunday 17th December. For further information about the parade or to book a free lantern making workshop visit [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk) contact Box Office on 01527 577330.



An award winning retelling of Joan of Arc comes to Worcester Arts Workshop on the 8th December.

**JOAN** is the fourth show by theatre company **Milk Presents**, a group of three artists who create theatre that explores protest, gender and celebration – often all at the same time. They are an associate company of the Bush Theatre in London and Derby Theatre, where **JOAN** was born.

The show, performed by drag king champion **Lucy Jane Parkinson** uses cabaret to tell the story of history's greatest gender warrior. It was a hit at the 2016 fringe winning The Scotsman's Fringe First Award, Stage Award and a Sprit of the Fringe Award! It comes to Worcester Arts Workshop as part of a



tour around the UK and is part of the **Live and Local** rural touring initiative.

Packed with guts, hearts and some well placed couscous, **JOAN** is a mixture of lyrical writing and cabaret.

Tickets are £9.50 at [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)

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

# SLAP

MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

[adverts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:adverts@slapmag.co.uk)

## Dancefest news

As they come to end of a busy autumn term, everyone at **Dancefest** is very much looking forward to their performances with **Clik Clik Collective** at **Worcester's Victorian Christmas Fayre** this year.

Dancers from two of Dancefest's community companies will perform *'Letting The Light In'*, pop up performances with a contemporary twist, inspired by the eerie, mysterious streets of Dickensian England.

You'll find them in Worcester city centre and on The Shambles from 3pm on Saturday 2nd December, conjuring up macabre and magical scenes inspired by a steampunk world, where music box



ballerinas totter and twirl, as they lead intrigued visitors to stumble upon the unsavoury characters that inhabit Clik Clik's immersive installation, *'Gin Lane'*. They'll also be *'Letting The Light In'* as part of **Friends of Fort Royal Park's Winter Solstice** celebration on Thursday 21st December in Worcester.

Dancefest's spring term starts on 8th January, with a wide range of classes, guest workshops and community dance projects for all ages across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. There are some brand new classes starting, including beginners' **Ballet Classes for Children** and **Chance to Dance** classes for over 55s. There are also six community performance companies for all ages, and performances taking place throughout the term.

You can find out more at [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk) or 01905 611199

# Evesham Festival of Words

Our main Festival weekend might have finished at the beginning of July, but still lots of great things happening. The Festival really is a year round event now. After a busy Autumn we look ahead to what's coming u:

**'Bookfest'** Saturday 9th December, 10.30 am - 3.30 pm, **Almonry Museum** - A veritable feast for book lovers, writers and readers.. A host of local authors will be present with their books. A perfect time for Christmas shopping. Writers so far lined up: **Sue Johnson, Bob Woodroffe, Tom Bryson, Nigel Barnard** (aka **Paige Elizabeth Turner**), **Amanda Reynolds** (fresh from Cheltenham Literature Festival), **Sara Downing, Ann Evans, Elizabeth Beacon, Joy Thomas, Lindsay Stanberry-Flynn, Chris Hill**, as well as children's writers - **Julie Fulton, Marisa Knight** and **Hilary Orme**. And we are still adding to the list. There will be talks throughout the day, on the hour, and readings on the half hour, as well as a series of mini-workshops, including *'Putting the thrill into your thrillers'* (Ann Evans); *'Getting started on your book'* (Tom Bryson), and a *'Historical Workshop'* (Sue Johnson and Elizabeth Beacon). The full programme will be on the websie. And its all free so no excuses not to come along.

**'Christmas at the Almonry'** - Thursday 21st December - performances by **Musyck Anon**, interspersed with **Dickens Penny** Readings and other readings. Mulled wine, mince pies, and we may even have some fake snow! Bound to be a lovely evening. Details on tickets in due course from Festival websiite and the Almonry.

Into 2018, and we start the New Year with another of the very popular joint Evesham Festival of Words, Holland House events:

**'Evesham Abbey - its appearance, disappearance & legacy'** with popular local speaker, **Tim Porter**. Thursday 11th January, 12 noon. Tickets £15 direct from **Holland House**. These events are always a sell out so don't delay - book your ticket now!

**'Presenting your work - tips for the terrified!'** - Tuesday 30th January, 2 - 4pm, with **Sue Ablett** and **Sue Johnson, Evesham Almonry**. If you love writing but have a horror of standing up and talking about your work, this is just the event for you. A small group, encouraging environment, and lots of helpful tips on how to overcome those nerves. Tickets £10 including tea/coffee and home-made cake. At present contact Sue Ablett (email: [info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)) or Sue Johnson to reserve a place. Booking via the website will be available in due course.

[eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

## WEA news

So far this new learning year is off to a wonderful start and things couldn't be better than celebrating the fact that two of our tutors have now become award winners in the **National WEA Awards Ceremony** in London.

Massive congratulations to **Sarah** and **Jude** who claimed awards, for **Best Regional Partnership** for their collaboration between **The WEA** and their organisation, **Arts Etc** and **National Award for Social Impact** which recognised their projects in the in the community. The projects included taking the Arts into local nursing homes but also the play they produced at this year's **Kidderminster Arts Festival**, *'Wish You Were Here'* which saw a collaboration between **Arts Etc, The WEA, Vamos Theatre** and **The Odell Centre**, Kidderminster (who work with adults who have learning difficulties).



The Drama group itself will be continuing in January and is open to all abilities. Tutor Jude said, *'This course continues at Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster on Fridays at 10.30-12.30. We are researching the Rain Forest, in stories, and finding out facts about who lives there, what animals and humans, and how is it under threat. The course includes basic drama skills in movement, voice, and storytelling. We have had a wonderful workshop from Fetch Theatre Co on puppetry and plan different workshops in the coming months in drumming, and aerial dance. A partnership project with Arts Etc'.*

Other courses will also be running in January including 100 Years of Women Writing and Voting, Mindfulness, Creative Writing, Art, Fit Can be Fun and many new courses to be announced on the main WEA website. There's plenty more information on our social media too.

Students are advised that they will need to pre-enrol for courses and this December we will be running two 'showcase' events where potential students will be able to come and find out exactly what a WEA course is like. There will be students, tutors and volunteers on hand to not only answer questions but show off what they have achieved this term and how they have benefited from learning with The WEA. There will also be workshops, presentations, interactive displays and tasters. Admission is free, there will be refreshments on offer and staff on hand to get your through the enrolment process.

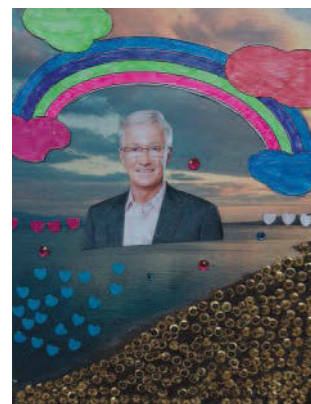
The events will take place on Friday 8th December from 3-5pm and Thursday 14th December from 6-8pm at **St. George's Annexe**, Radford Ave, Kidderminster.

[www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk)

Search Facebook under **EA Arts Worcestershire**, Twitter **@WEA\_Arts\_Worcs** and Instagram too.

From all of us here at The WEA, Worcestershire, we wish you the Merriest Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Cozza





## Crafted for You Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

'Crafted for you' is one of the current exhibitions at **Worcester Art Gallery and Museum** showcasing some of the best craft makers in the Midlands. There is a mixed media collection on display featuring jewellery, ceramics, glassware and textiles, all available to purchase for yourself or for that completely original festive gift. The exhibition opened last month, but there is a special 'meet the artists' day on Saturday December 9th from 11am until 1pm where you can grab a bargain with 10% off all pieces of work, as well as mince pies and punch! With fourteen makers in this year's show, Slap managed to grab a few words from just some of the artists involved, so you can get an idea of what treats are in store.

**Jo Dewar** - wire and textile artist who knits and manipulates coloured copper wire into jewellery and 3D pieces for a wide range of art forms.

She also has a love for hand/machine embroidery and this technique has been used to embellish miniature hand made shoes, collaborating with a couple of businesses using their vintage ribbons and braids. [www.jodewar.com](http://www.jodewar.com)

**Lisa Iannantuoni/Ad Lib** - based in Worcester, Lisa takes design inspiration from the beautiful, infamous and eye-catching Liberty of London floral prints. Ad Lib greeting cards can be personalised to any occasion and likewise, her beautiful bracelets are adjustable for children and adults alike and make unique, stunning gifts for all occasions. FB: @byAdLib

**Maggie Kingston** - ceramic artist and retired nurse based in Worcestershire who found her passion for ceramics, and creating glazes incorporating plant ash, whilst undertaking a Portfolio course, then the Contemporary Design Crafts Degree at Hereford College of Arts in 2015. The plants and trees on her own land provide the ash for the glazes which, when combined with the metal oxides, give subtle flow and colour to the pieces of work. [www.maggiekingstonceramics.co.uk](http://www.maggiekingstonceramics.co.uk)

**Sarah Greening** - with a background in science, Sarah designs and creates contemporary fused glass jewellery. She enjoys playing with the chemistry of reactions inside the layers of glass to produce striking effects with her work often having bold colour



combinations or eye-catching light effects, prompting frequent responses of "I've never seen anything like this before". The glass pieces are available in many forms and commissions are welcomed. Sarah also offers taster glass fusing classes (4 people at a time) for anyone interested in learning the basic techniques and creating a sun-catcher or coaster.

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

**Bobbi Heath** - a couture milliner working from a home studio just outside Worcester, designing and making hats for any occasion. She regularly makes hats for Ascot but equally designs for weddings, the beach or to wear on a winter's day to the supermarket. Each one of her designs is totally unique. [www.chicchapeau.co.uk](http://www.chicchapeau.co.uk)



**Carol Dash** - local felt-maker who likes to create pieces that are not only beautiful, but also practical and long lasting; enjoyable to wear or use. Carol sometimes uses recycled fabrics and blends them into the felt, a process called 'nuno felt-making' thus up-cycling old charity shop clothes, as well as making fine merino wool scarves and using tougher wearing wools to make hats and bags.



**Rachel Blackwell** - artist & illustrator creating colourful, cheerful and quirky designs often inspired by her surroundings in the Malvern Hills. With a diverse range of work including paintings, sculptures and large-scale murals, she is available for commissions whether on paper, canvas, furniture or walls. [rachel@etherealearth.co.uk](mailto:rachel@etherealearth.co.uk)



**Maggie Wallace**, curator of the exhibition says: "Crafted for You is an annual celebration of craft with so many different makers on show all so talented and producing beautiful wares."

With even more artists involved, get along to see all these fantastic handcrafted goodies on show. The exhibition runs until 27th January at Worcester Museum & Art Gallery. Free entry.



## "Knights of The Raj" Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Birmingham is home to hundreds of so-called Indian restaurants. However, many are unaware that it is the Bangladeshi community that pioneered this industry, laying the foundations for Britain's 'curry culture'.



**Soul City Arts**, working in partnership with **Future Seed CIC**, have captured the untold stories of those pioneers, tracing the origins of the Birmingham curry trade back to the 1940s. The exhibition (already running) features rare photographs, unique artefacts, videos, interactive displays and oral histories that tell the fascinating story of the much-loved British curry.



The art project is being led by Birmingham artist **Mohammed Ali** & historian **Izzy Mohammed**, & their displays are, not only visually of the highest order, but they also contain audio & concise written narratives to send the visitor away with deep and moving stories about the families who have moved to the Midlands during, at least, the last three generations. One of the unusual aspects of the exhibition is that the stories are not glamourised or sanitised; rather they artistically portray some of the struggles and the conditions which families have faced in search of livelihood since the 1940s. And, no less importantly, the displayed fixtures and local people's memories happily evoke the pleasure of socialising whilst eating curry in the surroundings of the restaurant.

This exhibition runs until 7th January 2018.

Free entry. Mon-Sun 10am-5pm (except Fri 10.30pm-5pm)

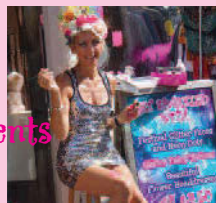
Justin Hughes

## Love & Kisses

Festival Glittering  
&  
Vintage Clothing

Body Art Flower Painting

- Flowers Festivals
- Flowers Parties
- Flowers Corporate Events
- Flowers Weddings



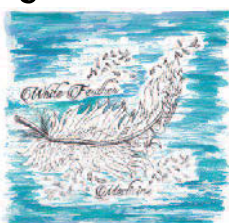
Any Celebration needs a Glitter Fairy

at the  
**Sparkle Machine**

Jacqui Makepeace Dowdeswell

E: jacamomo@yahoo.co.uk T: 07732 379792

## White Feather Medicine



Gift Vouchers available and courses  
of Full Body and Target Massage - 5

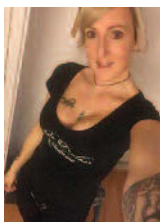
for price of 4

**Massage**

Full Body £25

Target £20

Back £15



Lisa Clements 07854 334972

facebook/whitefeathermedicine



## Suz Winspear

Confession time – I really am not a Christmas person! (I'm far more of a Halloween girl.) I've never really enjoyed Christmas. Obviously for practicing Christians, the season has a special significance, and I'm not going to disrespect anybody's spiritual beliefs - but for the rest of us, if we don't have money and/or a nice warm loving family it can be a pretty alienating experience. So many of the things we see in the media, from the smug celebrity chefs demonstrating how to make a luxurious Christmas dinner for twelve people, to the adverts showing happy argument-free families opening desirable gifts in spacious warm houses, are simply designed to make us feel anxious and discontented with our own lives, to spend more money if we have it, and to feel like failures if we haven't . . . Nobody's Christmas has ever lived up to these images. Most people end up with a sense of vague disappointment . . . So ignore all that and spend at least part of the season how you want to. Stay in bed for a day watching horror films, hang out with your friends, or go out walking in the countryside – whatever it is, take some time for yourself to do whatever you love best!



Enjoy it or endure it, I hope you all have a tolerable season, and may 2018 be better for us all!

And there are always Spoken Word events to go to . . .

### In December –

**Tuesday 5th – Dear Listener** – This is the first night of a new early-evening spoken word event in Worcester! It's at the **Boston Tea Party**, from 6.30 – 8.30pm. All sorts of poetry performances from established poets, and the first headliner is **Polly Stretton**, a well-known performer on the Worcestershire poetry scene. Admission is £3, and for the first event, we are promised that there will be cake!

**Thursday 9th – SpeakEasy at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop.** Poetry from a wide range of local poets. This month's event is going to be a Storytelling Special! The featured performer is the extraordinary **Sharon Carr** – a captivating storyteller who takes traditional tales and gives them a whole new amazing twist . . . £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

**Wednesday 27th – 42 at Drummonds.** The format will be different from usual, and appropriately spooky . . . It's time for some Christmas ghost stories! Selected performers will read their chilling tales . . . Forget the TV – come out of the house (or escape the relatives) for some dark delights! Free admission, and it starts at 7.30

### In January –

**Thursday 11th – SpeakEasy at Café Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop.** Poetry from a wide range of local poets. The featured poet will be **Claire Walker**, who writes enchanting, insightful work, often on the theme of families, mothers and children (rumour has it that she has a new pamphlet coming out!) Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. (They're popular, so get there early!) £3 admission, 7.30pm. Full disabled access.

**Wednesday 29th – 42 at Drummonds Life, the Universe and Everything** – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name . . . You never know what you might see and hear at 42 . . . January's theme is '*Rag and Bone*' – I was brought up in London, and remember the Rag & Bone Man coming round every Saturday with his horse and cart – his horse was called Daisy . . . this will be the weirdest take on 'Steptoe and Son' that you have ever experienced. . . Free entry. 7.30pm.

Suz Winspear

**CIRCLE OF SWORDS**

GOOD • HONEST • TATTOOING

2-4 TRINITY STREET, WORCESTER, WR1 2PW  
TUESDAY - SATURDAY: 10:00 - 18:00  
01905 780606

CIRCLEOFSWORDSWORCESTER CIRCLEOFSWORDS

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

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

**adverts@slapmag.co.uk**



# Saskia Griffiths-Moore

The Carpenters Arms, Miserden | Wed 8th Nov

Only a couple of weeks before this gig, it was my privilege to travel to the now sadly closed Sound Lounge in Tooting, to hear one of the finest collections of folk musicians I'd ever seen assembled at the launch event for the new album by Gloucestershire singer/songwriter **Saskia Griffiths-Moore**. It was a magic night, and now she brings her solo show to the tiny feudal hamlet of Miserden.

**The Carpenters Arms** is now fully restored after a serious fire earlier in the year and its regular monthly folk/contemporary acoustic sessions, arranged by local music stalwart Paul, alias Folkie Glos, are again in full swing.

'Full' could also describe the pub tonight - it is absolutely packed. This is an enormously popular eatery with excellent food but tonight the numbers are swelled, I'm delighted to say, by eleven members of my music Meetup group. Even the merch is moved off its table to accommodate all those who want to hear.

And nobody leaves disappointed from this one.

This is a big set, both in terms of length (well over 90 minutes) and in the quality of performance and depth of material that makes it up.

We kick off with John Stewart's *'Strange Rivers'* and then the artist's own composition *'Write Me A Song'* and this sets the pattern for the evening - carefully crafted covers, a nod perhaps to her busking background, intermingled with her own beautifully written and arranged compositions. She is a skilled interpreter of other people's music - she has recorded an album, *'Live at the Roundhouse'*, entirely composed of covers - and rather than them being fillers, as is so often the case, she infuses them with her own style and delivers them with that glorious, crystal clear voice. She absolutely nails Joan Baez' *'Diamonds and Rust'*, and even the one table not terribly interested in the music is hushed for this one.

But it's when the material from her new album *"Night and Day"* starts kicking properly, that her skill as a singer/songwriter is truly revealed - *'Falling'* is exquisite, *'Gone'* powerfully poignant, *'Joy of Defeat'* wistful and with an air of resignation.



There's a brief mid-song hiatus as the pub cat has a mad five minutes and startles her to an abrupt halt, to great general hilarity. Then what I reckon was the song of the night hits us - it's the album's title track and in contrast with the melodic vista of what's gone before, it shouldn't work - a simple and repetitive song, based round a three chord sequence and delivered at an almost dirge-like pace, it drills its way into your head and stays there. A masterful change of tempo and style.

A shimmering version of the traditional song, *'Wild Mountain Thyme'*, closes the set and the merch begins to disappear from its new home at a rapid rate of knots, quite rightly reflecting what a hugely impressive performance this has been from a very fine artist.

[www.saskiagm.com/](http://www.saskiagm.com/)

Geoffrey Head

# Maddie Spares

Mars Barr | Wednesday 1st November

Sultry, slightly husky, but smooth as dark treacle running off a spoon; *Maddie Spares* voice is to die for.

The 15 year old sent the Marris Barr into a frenzy with her performance alongside the brilliant house band on open mic night, and is definitely one to watch out for.

Other stand out performances included Brian Marrs' acoustic set, with his skilful guitar playing and strong voice. Local Rapper **Loose Change** was an unexpected treat the audience loved his impressive bars of heartfelt, personal lyrics.

Maddie opened with a beautiful rendition of Nora Jones *'Don't Know Why I Didn't Come'*, which showed off her effortless range and soulful texture perfectly. Her love of Amy Winehouse was evident throughout, but particularly during Maroon 5's *'This love'*, in which she injected some serious sassiness and edge.

She will be performing again in the coming months and is available for bookings. If you love Amy Winehouse or just gorgeous soulful voices, you better check her out.

Jessica Charles





## Tread Softly on the Tundra

So, this thing happened. I got an email inviting entrants for a Battle of the Bands. Seeing as I'm now well into my sixth decade, I figure that the sparkling ship of rock 'n' roll fame and fortune has long since departed and I don't think I was even in the port when it sailed. I forwarded the email to my son Troy who sings and plays guitar with **Nuns of the Tundra**. The Nuns (or Nundra as they are affectionately known) are one of several talented bands from Worcestershire who have made the music scene round these parts vibrant and vital with energetic and exciting performances, and some damn good music.



The competition is run by Firestone (yes, the tyre people) in collaboration with Orange Amplification and PMT. Firestone have a long history of promoting popular music. In 1928, they sponsored the radio show, Voice of Firestone which gave a platform to new and emerging talent and became the most successful entertainment broadcast of its time.



From over 300 entrants, the Nuns were chosen as one of six finalists who were entered in a public voting stage. The vote closed with Nundra in second place meaning they're through to the final on December 14th. They will be up against hip-hop artist El-Emcee and Welsh rockers Fire Fences in a play-off at BMM in Birmingham. Nundra recently released their fourth single, *Float Away*, with a video that won Gold for Best Animation in the New York City Indie film awards while *Mind's Eye* has over 51,000 listens on Spotify. With four tracks ready for release, the Nuns plan to record more. So, winning the competition could be just what they need as the prize includes equipment from Orange and some studio time.

Orange, said: "It is so hard to make it in the music industry, so any competition that helps artists to break through is invaluable. Battle of the Bands offers a real opportunity for them, which is a brilliant."

RT

# December

@ WestMalvern Social Club

## Unity Gathering

Friday 1st December

## Rookes

Saturday 2nd December

## Christmas Quiz

Friday 8th December

## Terry Hughes Earworms

Saturday 9th December

## Dub Thieves

Saturday 22nd December

## Unity Gathering

Friday 29th December

Bar Opens at 8pm

# UNCOVER

## XMAS PARTY

# SKEWWHIFF

POPPY WS

PLASTIC SCENE

VAIENCE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

SLAP MAGAZINE

NM

21.12.17

DOORS 7:30PM

TIX £5/ADV/E7 OTD

THE MARRS BAR, WORCESTER

## Matt Woosey - Bringing Europe into Britain

Long time resident of Malvern **Matt Woosey** made a move to Germany back in 2015, settling with his German born wife and their baby. Occasionally there have been foraging expeditions back to the UK, with album launches, solo tours and, more recently, with his band. The band, with the exception of long time side kick **Dave Small**, are all from Germany and, fronted by Matt, make a formidable fusion of European entente cordiale.

Matt is soon to be back on the potholed roads of the UK for another full band tour where he will cherry pick his way through a product list of 10 albums, all with zero tariffs, so maybe this is as good an opportunity as ever to catch a gig and go home with a CD or two.

Dates in your area are;

Fri 26th Jan, The Marrs Bar, Worcester, Full Band

Wed 31st Jan, Café René, Gloucester, Full Band

Fri Feb 2nd, Elmslie House, Malvern, Solo Session

Having seen Matt perform solo, alongside Dave Small, and with the full band, I have no hesitation in recommending a gig. *'Wildest Dreams'* brought widespread acclaim followed by *'Desiderata'*,



taking Matt into new territory - a remarkable recording in itself but given a completely new and dynamic makeover with this band. Remarkable becomes exceptional and *Desiderata* rightfully takes its place alongside established old favourites. I'm looking out over the hills for *Black Smoke Rising*, a sure fire signal Matt has arrived back home.

by Graham Munn

## Worcester Brewing Company

JOIN the **Worcester Brewing Company** for a day filled with festive films and real ale on Saturday, December 23. Greet beer and good spirit will be overflowing.

Kicking off the special triple-bill at around 2pm will be everyone's favourite and stickiest bear - **Paddington**. The young bear is everywhere this Christmas and guests can catch up with his first bigscreen adventure as they ease into the day with a pint or two of freshly brewed ale. The perfect break from that last-minute Christmas shopping, pop into the brewery on Cherry Tree Walk for the free screening event. Rest your feet and refresh your palate as the youngsters enjoy the film.



There will be breaks between each screening, giving you time to nip out for some festive food or even have a chat with head brewer **Mr Brian Tonks**.

You can find the WNC at Arch 49 (next door to Burger Shop Worcester) and seating in this intimate and unusual space is limited. It can also get quite chilly in the winter, so make sure to don your jolliest Christmas jumper and wrap up extra warm. There is no official charge for entrance to this event, but guests are invited to make donations as they see fit to cover overhead costs and allow the WBC to continue bringing weird and wonderful film experiences to Worcester next year.

Imogen Bulger



Next up will be cult-favourite, Tim Burton's dark and delightful **The Nightmare Before Christmas**. Join Jack Skellington and his slightly spooky pals on a musical escapade as they attempt to do the unthinkable - and steal Christmas. As we head towards the evening, some of our stronger darker ales, brewed on the premises, will pair nicely as the festivities get into full swing.

And finally, topping the bill of this year's Worcester Brewing Company's festive frivolities, **Bad Santa** will be screened. Strictly for adults only, this final film will provide the perfect opportunity to really get stuck into some merriment. The dark Christmas crime movie is a must-see- and the perfect tonic to all that bright and glossy Christmas cheer.

### APHRODITE

**20% Discount** when you quote

**'SLAP'**

with our experienced hair stylist

Call **Jack 07572 436102**

**13 Trinity Street, Worcester WR1 2PW**

**HOGAN'S**



# Artrix Round-Up

Artrix has all you need for a fantastic festive night out this December, including a magical lantern parade, enchanting music and visits from Santa!

This month's music kicks off with Bromsgrove Concert's **Kodaly String Quartet** (1 Dec), followed by a celebration of the UK's number one boy band, **The Take That Experience** (2 Dec), **Gordon Hendricks** as Elvis returns with sold out this month (7 & 8 Dec) and **ABBA Forever** (9 Dec).

Festive musical highlights include a night of Christmas songs with **Cara Dillon** (7 Dec), **Big Band** at Christmas (13 Dec) and a New Years Eve Party with the **Beat Brothers** (31 Dec).

Comedy at Artrix this month includes **Maureen Younger** (1 Dec), **Barnstormers Comedy** (2 Dec), Simpson's super-fan **Yianna Agisilaou** (8 Dec), **Barbara Nice's Christmas Cracker** (12 Dec) and **The Harry & Chris Show** (15 Dec).

Theatre audiences are invited to come in from the cold and enter into the Christmas spirit with the haunting tale, **Christmas Gothic** (11 Dec).

As always, there's a packed and varied cinema programme, including a Quiz and Screening of **Star Wars The Force Awakens** (4 Dec).

Families can enjoy a festive theatre trip to see **Santa In Love** (2 Dec) or **Santa's Christmas Wish** (24 Dec), with a visit from the man himself, All & Sundry's pantomime **Cinderella** (16-23 Dec), **The Abominable Snowman** (27 Dec) and a cinema screening of Royal Ballet Live: **The Nutcracker** (5 & 19 Dec). And everyone is invited to take part in **Lantern Making Workshops** (9-10 Dec), ahead of **The Festival of Light** parade through Bromsgrove town centre (17 Dec).

2018 at Artrix begins with **King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys** (5 Jan), followed a month of top-quality tribute shows **The Johnny Cash Roadshow** (6 Jan), **The Best of WHAM!** (12 Jan), **Led Zeppelin** tribute **Mothership** (13 Jan), **Janis Joplin & Friends** in the **Woodstock Experience** (20 Jan), **Frankie's Guys** (25 Jan), **The Best of Queen** (26 Jan) and **Eclipse: The Pink Experience** (27 Jan).

Other music during January includes some of the UK's top folk musicians in **The Transports** (17 Jan), **Paul Jones & Dave Kelly** (18 Jan), Bromsgrove Concerts present **Craig Ogden** (19 Jan), family trio **Robinson-Stone** (27 Jan) and new music with BBC Introducing in Hereford & Worcester (28 Jan).



January sees comedian **Andy Zaltzman** brings Artrix audiences his unique brand of political satire (20 Jan).

Cinema goers can enjoy screenings of NT Live: **Young Marx** (4 Jan), Royal Opera House Live: **Rigoletto** (16 Jan), **Cezanne: Portraits of a Life** (23 Jan) and **Loving Vincent** (31 Jan).

Families can start off the new year with a cinema trip to see **Paddington 2** (3 & 5 Jan), Oddsocks presents **The Wizard of Oz** (14 Jan) and another of Artrix's **Baby Raves** (28 Jan).

For further information on all the shows in January please visit [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk) or call Box Office on 01527 577330.

QUENCHING YOUR THIRST  
**HEROES**  
WITH HONORABLE INTENT

26-32 FRIAR STREET, WORCESTER, WR1 2LZ

ECLECTIC, ALTERNATIVE BAR  
POOL TABLE, TABLE FOOTBALL, VINTAGE ARCADE GAMES  
LIVE DJS EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT  
SELECTED DRINKS OFFERS  
FREE WIFI

f / HEROESWORCESTER    t / @HEROESWORCESTER

# Simon McBride Band

## Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | Thur 2nd Nov

Huntingdon Hall, or to give its correct title **The Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel**, is a truly lovely listed building that now passes as a rather conservative entertainment venue with charity status. In amongst all the show music, poetry, comedians and cover bands, you find the odd maverick - and this particular maverick, **The Simon McBride Band**, was working its way home to Belfast after their European tour, presenting a rare opportunity to find a cracking rock blues band in my home city.

The hall runs to the clock and the band stepped up to blow away any doubts to their status - a thumping great *'Heartbreaker'* rattled the ancient Georgian windows, with Simon straight in his groove supported by **Dave Marks** on bass and **Marty McCloskey** on drums. I say support but, in reality, they are very much on the front foot alongside Simon as we would find over the whole evening.

The rhythm dropped into a Texas shuffling rock blues of *'You Got A Problem'* as Simon's fingers explored his PRS guitar. They slipped in a couple of new songs - *'Don't Dare'* proved to be a bone crunching rocker, with heavy bass and drums punching through. Naturally Hendrix featured: a superlative **Simon McBride** styled *'Little Wing'* soared high into the clear, cool skies and Marty kicked up a great rhythm as they searched for the butterfly. The magic of Spanish Castle flowed straight on but it was Stevie Ray who gave the opportunity for Dave to showboat his bass credentials. *'Change'* brought chopping, slapping offbeat lines, burbled and popped out, leading to a full on dual - the broadsword four string heavy versus the 'lightweight' six pack sabre of Simon's guitar - all done with humour and an enraptured audience. Brilliant. Bassists are so often ever present but sat back so it's always good when they seize the initiative and really make their presence felt.



Simon painted a seascape of calling sirens as the boys conjured up the rolling waves to find their way to *'So Much Love'*. The new, anthemic, *'Show Me How To Love'* was given a big airing.

The drums beat up the stage for Simon to blast the opening bars of *'Iron Man'* but what really comes across from this band is the camaraderie, humour and rapport with the audience. This is how live music should always be but sometimes it gets overlooked, often by big names who have been put on their pedestals by that audience.

A bit of audience participation was called for with *'Don't Be A Fool'* before a stunning finale. *'Power Of Soul'* has it all - passionate lyrics, fabulous guitar licks (pushing the PRS strings and fret to the limits), thunderous bass and thumping drums - and drew a long standing ovation from a moderate but satiated audience. We had all seen something rather special from the boys from Belfast; a beautifully well-balanced band of brothers as they shook the very foundations of this aged church.

Graham Munn

# The Queens Head

Wolverley Village | Kidderminster | DY11 5XB  
Real Ales - Fine Wines - Traditional Food - Private parties

## LIVE MUSIC in December

Fri 1st Bourbon Alley  
Fri 8th Midnight City  
Sat 9th Big Jim & the boogie band  
Fri 15th Steve Ajao & the Blues giants  
Sun 17th + Wed 20th - Yorkshire carols  
Fri 22th Vehicle  
Sat 23th Jayne Peters Band  
Sun 24th Drifter with Dave Small  
Fri 29th Delray Rockets  
Sun 31th Still Crazy - ticket only £6.00

Tuesdays - Open Mic with Pete Kelly 8.30pm

01562 850433 | [www.queensheadwolverley.com](http://www.queensheadwolverley.com)



# Lycio

The Victoria, Birmingham | Thursday 16th Nov

Having missed Birmingham outfit Lycio's recent appearance at Bottles Wine bar in Worcester, I got an opportunity to see them a week later at this venerable, Grade II listed pub just behind the Alexandra Theatre in Brum.

The trio, who also appeared at the Worcester Music Festival earlier on this year, are building up a solid performance reputation, and the size of the crowd here certainly bears that out.

First and foremost, they're a band with a base in electronic music, but while paying a respectful nod to the origins of the music, their updated version breaks through any pre-conceived barriers you might have about listening to the genre and forges ahead in a most original and exhilarating style.

The impetus, and sometimes the considerable power comes from the many and various keyboards and devices of **Charlie Kellie** and the hybrid drum setup of **Alex Lowe**. Unlike most bands of this type, they currently eschew the use of pre-recorded streamed media, everything is built up from scratch.



This must put an extra strain on both musicians to attain consistency but you'd never know it – these are the two coolest cucumbers on the block, quietly going about their music-making with just the occasional nod and smile between themselves and to the audience. Kellie the picture of concentration behind the rack of keys and computer hardware, often throwing out bass patterns with one hand, while providing chiming piano shapes with the other. Lowe meanwhile, one of the very few drummers I've ever seen wearing headphones on stage, provides the perfect amount of drive, both traditional and electronic, for the often rapidly shifting backdrop of the music - a performance of great subtlety.

And then on top of it all, there's this voice.

The band's profile describes themselves as an electronic/hybrid band and until vocalist **Genny Mendez** hits her stride, which she does quickly and forcefully, you're not altogether sure what this means - after you hear the trio in full flight, you're left in no doubt.

The fusion of her soaring voice, rich and soulful, with the modern, electronic sound behind her, significantly differentiates this band from others of its type. *'Air Part II'* sizzles out of the speakers, while the delicious *'Saharan King'* flows out like honey. *'Strange Shapes'* is fascinating and complex, contrasting with the simple, cinematic balladry of *'Alive'*. We are promised a new track tonight, and *'Evil People'*, more jagged than the rest of the set, is a fine addition to the repertoire. Dancing breaks out and the crowd are clearly having a whale of a time.



The contrast that enlivens the music is carried through to Mendez' performance, too – unlike her quietly reflective fellow band members, she's a highly animated character, long braids flailing wildly and very talkative tonight with excellent audience rapport - *'I've been drinking beer'* she offers unsolicited, to huge applause.

In any other band, you'd suspect she'd be the star, but for me, above all, balance is the great strength of this outfit. A cohesive ensemble performance as good as anything I've seen this year and an emerging force as promising as I've seen in a very long while.

A band in perfect equilibrium. Simply wonderful.

**Lycio** play The Dark Horse pub in Moseley on Friday 29th December.

Geoffrey Head



# Bury Tomorrow + Loathe

## Marrs Bar, Sunday 5th Nov 2017

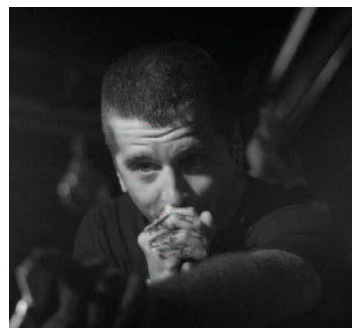
**Surprise You're Dead Music** offer up a feast of cutting-edge heavy metal tunes this evening in what could well be the quickest sell-out for a gig in Worcester ever. There's a real buzz in the Marr's Bar tonight, and for good reason given the talents involved.

Liverpool heavyweights **Loathe** are up first. With a gritty sound vaguely reminiscent of some of Deftones' heavier work, they waste no time in battering the ear canals of the capacity crowd. Bathed in an eerie red glow, frontman **Kadeem France** works the room like a pro, backed up by clever lyric visuals displayed on screens either side of him. There are plenty of sugary vocal hooks and moments of ambient fragility to punctuate Loathe's uncompromisingly heavy groove. For me though it's those digitised, razor-sharp guitars and a locked-in rhythm section which make for a delightfully claustrophobic listening experience. Expect this Adidas-clad tech-metal mob to lay waste to much larger stages than this in the coming months.

Just enough time for a quick half before the main event, as **Bury Tomorrow** finally land in Worcester - about 8 years later than originally planned! For the unfamiliar, Bury Tomorrow are one of the few British success stories in a metalcore movement which has become fairly stagnant in recent years. Their sound bears all the hallmarks of a classic metal act - euphoric choruses, infectiously catchy riffs, and some impressive virtuoso guitar work, although it's the full-throated rasp of vocalist **Dani Winter-Bates** which remains the focal point for this impeccably tight unit. His charisma gets the venue absolutely pumping tonight. Anthems like *Man On Fire* are belted out enthusiastically by anyone sober enough to remember the words, while the pummelling beatdown sections are met with a healthy dose of good old-fashioned mosh pit action.



This gig falls midway through a lengthy run of purposefully-intimate UK dates billed as the '**Stage Invasion**' tour, and it certainly lives up to its name towards the end of the night, as a sizeable chunk of the crowd ends up partying on stage! It's one of those "I was *there*" moments and perfectly sums up why **Bury Tomorrow** are such a feel-good band in the live setting. Always a breath of fresh air no matter



how many times you've seen them, Bury Tomorrow's metalcore juggernaut just seems to keep on rolling. It's been an absolute pleasure to witness them this evening, in the sweaty confines of Worcester's premier rock 'n roll venue.

Words by Jon Weatherill Photography by James Kay

# The Wurzels

## The Cube, Malvern. 24th November

Who can forget **The Wurzels**? The West Country wonders scored a novelty No. 1 hit in 1976 and they are still touring over 40 years later. With only a couple of surviving members of the 70s Zummerz Zider drinkers line up (**Tommy Banner & Pete Budd**), they are now a five piece with the inclusion of a keyboard player for the tour. At **The Cube**, they played favourites such as 'I Am A Cider Drinker', 'Don't Tell I, Tell 'Ee' and 'Farmer Bill's Cowman' and even a cover of the Kaiser Chiefs' 'Ruby' as the audience jiggled away with cider in hand. Entertaining as it was, it was a little disappointing that they had played for less than an hour before their first 'thank you and goodnight', although, it was fair to say that they were never going to leave before an encore or two or giving the audience their greatest hit.

I do have to say that, for me, the disappointment did not end there. Having sold millions of copies of 'I've Got A Brand New Combine Harvester' in 1976, there was a novelty twist to the

novelty hit when it was brought out as a dance mix in 2001 - and it was this drum and bass version that was played. Because this fast, dubbed version was difficult to perform live, instead of giving the audience the original multi-million selling version that everyone knows and loves, they mimed to a pre-recorded track, during which Tommy stripped to a thong! From cereal to surreal in the space of a few minutes!



The audience seemed to enjoy the evening well enough and The Cube, once again, proved to be a very suitable and accessible venue for gigs in the Malvern area and one that could prove to be very popular as they attract more bookings.

Pablo Raybold



## Vonhorn | online debut album

Without doubt the two finest local acts that I've seen and heard over the last dozen years or so have been Worcester's **And What Will Be Left Of Them?** - who were the very first act to be played on BBC H&W's Friday Session in 2004 - which swiftly became the template for the BBC Introducing scheme. Herefordshire's contribution came in the form of Ross-on-Wye trio **Dandelion Killers** with both outfits producing some of the most memorable tunes it's been my absolute delight to still listen to!

**AWWBLOT** called it a day a couple of years back closely followed by **DLK** after their drummer Paul emigrated to New Zealand - closing the first chapter on what had been an incredible revival of H&W music talent that breathed new life into many venues - and gave the Intro show the impetus and sheer bloody-mindedness to continue supporting our amazingly original local music scene...

Both outfits had outstanding individuals as their USP - AWWBLOT's **Pete Adams** still occasionally surfaces fronting-up **Hey You Guys!** - and **Record Deal** (check it out) is one of the finest tirades against the iniquities of the current music industry which values profitability way over musical excellence and originality - shame! **Dandelion Killers** frontguy **Adam Daffurn** wrote, performed and produced stunning indie-rocking tunes such as '**Suburbia Falls**' & '**Orphans Of The Empire**' (check them out!) - but like AWWBLOT never seemed to play quite the right venues to come upon the A&R guy who'd spot an awesome talent shoved right in their face!

Times have changed though in the last few years with the juggernaut of social media and sites like YouTube, Spotify etc

becoming the markers for what's going to be a success in the music game. So after checking them out on their debut gig at this year's Worcester Music Festival it's a pleasure to recommend Adam's new outfit **Vonhorn** comprising himself, **St John Milinczuk** of DLK (bass) and ex-Cardiacs **Dom Luckman** (drums) in their new outfit Vonhorn!

Their four-track debut album's only available online at present - [www.vonhorn.bandcamp.com](http://www.vonhorn.bandcamp.com) - but well worth checking out! First track **Second**

Guessing shows that this trio are quality technical musos but *Said It Before* is one almighty anthemic track that proves this supergroup have what it takes! There's a shade of Pink Floyd about *Shakes* while last track *Wishful Thinking* is a masterful production with an infectious beat...

*Said It Before* is already marked as one of my best tracks that I've heard this year but nowadays it's all about managing and maximising your online profile coupled with carefully selected gigs and tours - but with a little effort it can be done and it'd be wonderful if this extremely talented outfit were to finally achieve the success they richly deserve!!

[www.vonhorn.bandcamp.com](http://www.vonhorn.bandcamp.com)

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



**Brewing great beer at  
The Talbot, Knightwick  
since 1997.**

**Farmers' Market second Sunday monthly  
and three beer festivals every year.**

**Call us for sales to trade or public on  
01886 821235**

**[www.temevalleybrewery.co.uk](http://www.temevalleybrewery.co.uk)**

## THE BERKELEY ARMS

**HOME OF LIVE MUSIC IN TEWKESBURY**

**Great bands every Saturday**

**Last Friday in the month...**

**Open Mic with - The Future Set**

**Tythe Barn for private meetings/functions**

**Real Ales, Real Food in a Real Pub**



**Church St. Tewks 01684 290555**

**[berkeleyarms01@hotmail.com](mailto:berkeleyarms01@hotmail.com)**





# FIREFLY



Craft Beer Bar, Brew Pub & Kitchen

**Good Beer Guide  
since 2010**

**10 Keg Beers & 6 Cask Ales**

**100 plus Bottled Beers**

**Street Food Kitchen**

**Hot dogs, Tacos, Burgers**

**Live Music & DJ's**

**Comedy nights & Open mic**

**Covered & Heated  
Beer Garden**

**Open Daily from 12pm**

**15% Off Take-out Beer**



54 LOWESMOOR, WORCESTER WR1 2SE | 01905 616996



@ FIREFLY.WORCESTER



@ FIREFLYBARWORCESTER/



## The Desperados | The Desperados

Cheltenham based trio, **The Desperados**, first joined forces at the legendary (and much missed) St Paul's Tavern open mic night. Bonding over a love of the blues rock of the likes of ZZ Top, Cream, Rory Gallagher and The Black Keys, they took their name from the most expensive free drink on offer that night and began to write their own material.

Since the band's formation they've performed a number of high profile sets, taking in the likes of Frogfest, Vinestock and the first Amplified festival along the way, culminating with a decision to head to Sound Shake Studios with **Greg Wilson-Copp** (The Hawthornes, Roving Crows). Here, they recorded their debut, self-titled, four track EP, released as a taster for a forthcoming full length affair, hopefully to be recorded sometime next year.

The twelve minute release is an absolute blast from start to finish. Opening with *Salt, Tequila & Lime*, the band immediately lay down a delicious, driving, barroom boogie that doesn't fail to get your feet tapping. An instantly infectious riff and a groove-laden rhythm collide in perfect harmony, prior to frontman Blake revealing an addictive, gravelly lead.



The sub three-minute opener serves as the perfect introduction to the Desperados: it's a short, sharp, bluesy blast and a whole lot of fun to boot, perfect for spinning around the dancefloor whilst hollering the mantra like refrain.

*I Ain't Scared Of Dying* is shorter still, weighing in at a compact two minutes. But despite it's length, the band still manage to pack a weighty punch as Blake once again shows off his licks and weathered tones whilst the rhythm section of Robbie and Karolina (bass and drums respectively) pump and pound. They drive the track as their frontman lets his fingers do the talking, peeling off another contagious solo. The title track follows and serves as something of a manifesto for the band as a lone introductory riff rings out before the rest of the join in for a slower, raunchier piece. Blake's vocals are grittier than ever as he laments a smoking hot band on stage and a drink in hand, beckoning the listener in for an enticing night of rowdy blues rock thrills. That's before *Going Down Slow* for one final blues swing across the floor with guitar set to stun, leaving the listener after just four tracks, baying for more (rather like their live performance I suspect).

The trio have served up a fantastic four track introduction that grabs the attention from the off and has me scrambling round both the internet and my diary in order to organise a night out with the Desperados. If you like your blues raw and rowdy, I suggest you marinate your vocal cords in whiskey and join me at the bar because we sure have a lot of hollering to do. hollering to do.

[TheDesperadosUK.com](http://TheDesperadosUK.com) [facebook.com/TheDesperadosUK](https://facebook.com/TheDesperadosUK)

## XVII | Bow To Me

**XVII** are a Kidderminster five-piece who, in recent years, have been turning (and banging) heads on the UK metal scene with a series of bludgeoning performances at the likes of Bloodstock (2015) and Hard Rock Hell Metal in 2017, having first come to prominence with their 2015 release *From The Ashes*.

Having spent the past couple of years regularly gigging across the Midlands, the band returned to the studio in a bid to capture the uncompromising energy and ferocity they've honed during their travels.

New three track EP, *Bow To Me*, is the result of all their hard work and represents a band very much on the up. From the opening few seconds of lead track *Shatter The Waves*, you can tell they mean business. A tap of the cymbal, a crunchy metallic riff and a guttural growl signal the bands intent as they head off into a demonic, groove laden thrash. Double kicks, bullish charging guitars and a trio of growlers unite for a hate fueled five minutes frenzy as the band bring to mind Scandinavia's finest death metal specialists In Flames among others.



From such hostile beginnings, *Bow To Me* follows and suggests a little melodic twist. Between the molten shards, a clean vocal joins the mix alongside the aforementioned tonsil tearing growls. The sound gives the listener an accessible hook amongst the fury to cling to as the band continue to rain hammer blows upon their

instruments, the combination of light and shade enhancing the XVII experience further. The EP is drawn to a fittingly dark conclusion with live favourite *Scorned*, another five minute epic. It's propelled by a deep drum thump and a down-tuned riff before a repeated strike of a cymbal introduces a glorious slice of gloom ridden death metal and galloping, melodic riffs. This is while the drummer speeds and slows at will, continuously moving the track, as the band deliver a unique finale to an impressive EP.

Fans of the aforementioned In Flames, Caliban and Lamb Of God will find mind much to admire from the three tracks of *O* With a continued push and a sharper, more punctuated production,

Kidderminster's XVII could well gatecrash the higher echelons of the world of metal. One to watch.

[facebook.com/XVIIofficialband](https://facebook.com/XVIIofficialband) [twitter.com/XVII15](https://twitter.com/XVII15)

Will Munn

# The Riverlands | Salvation

Birmingham based multi instrumentalists **Jim Kitchen** and **Jamie McCollam** have been plying their trade, performing across the country in a number of different outfits, before turning their attention to the composition of instrumental tracks for TV and film with relative success. From 2016, however, the duo decided to turn their attention back to writing rock and pop, resulting in the formation of **The Riverlands** and the release of their debut album, *Salvation*, this year.

The twelve track affair opens with the vaguely Celtic folk-tinged rock of *Sing To Me* - the intriguing guitar intro immediately lurches for the attention, leading to an infectious choral hook and rising, wordless vocal harmonies. The compelling atmospheric introduction of *Hand Tighten Only* hints at the duo's former film and TV past. The track opens with haunting strings and a sparse orchestral feel before the vocals, guitars and drums crash in to send the two and half minute track into a more mainstream rock direction, complete with a short sharp solo - again proving the duo's obvious musical prowess.



*Calling The Shots* opens with a naggingly addictive chugging riff, suggesting something of a stadium rocker, however **The Riverlands** again deliver something of a curveball; offering psych influenced retro vocals, whilst the aforementioned riff remains and drives the song along. Flying continues the album's retro vein, based around a strummed acoustic, the band weave a folky psychedelic spell; complete with affecting harmonies and a brief electric swirl middle.

Elsewhere, the band continue to mix and match influences suggesting an affinity for the infamous Nuggets box set on the 60's garage intro to *That's All This Is*; whilst *Living Free* (Mistakes Of History) offers both a Townshend like guitar windmill and a wheezing Dylan harmonica during a thrilling three minute duration.

Like most albums, not every track works for me. Despite the nice orchestral opening I could have happily skipped the twee ballad *She's Always There*, for example, but all is forgiven when they follow up with a number as strong as

*And Now You See*. Most tracks have a subtle twist - a hook or a winning harmony that will prompt subsequent investigation - as *Salvation* reveals more each spin. Head to **The Riverlands** for a richly rewarding journey through rock's back pages.

Will Munn

# Chip Langley | Line 'em up

After becoming a fixture of the Worcester music scene for a while now, from busking on the High Street to playing open mic nights and headline gigs, **Chip Langley** has released his much-anticipated debut EP *Line 'em up*.

Chip's brand of introspective blues-rock translates brilliantly to record here, each of the five tracks showcasing his distinct, now-recognisable sound, yet providing enough variation to display the range of his songwriting and performing talents. Many blues-rock acts fall into the trap of predictability, the songs failing to stray from a well-trodden template. This is no concern here: Chip balances his influences with enough inventive tricks to stand out from the rest of the pack.

Opening track *Hard to Please* sets the scene with a helicopter-whirr of distortion which lands at a tight bass-led groove. The steadily-creeping rhythm is relaxed yet sinister and the spacey sound effects, jazzy piano chords and pistol-shot drums evoke '90s trip-hop: this track sounds as much Portishead as The Black Keys. Chip's voice is typically emotive here, balancing bluesy grit with vulnerability. The song builds gradually to a crescendo of layered guitars, some smooth and soulful, others abrasive stabs. Chip's impressive musicianship and producer Alex Knight's skills behind the desk are both on full display here.



*Hard to Please* transitions seamlessly into the heavy desert-rock riffs of *You've Got a Drop*, with Chip's crystal clear vocals at the forefront. Gold takes a surprising yet successful left-turn and slows the pace. On this pensive acoustic ballad, graceful, melodic piano accompanies confessional lyrics ("*now I've got you I ain't letting go/ if just friends, well, so be it*"). *Poppy WS* provides the perfect counterpoint to Chip's falsetto with her captivating vocals, and

both performances sound outstanding.

Haunted is simple and restrained, ghostly keyboard chords matched by bluesy, reverb-soaked guitar, a moment of calm before the ramshackle, fuzz-drenched *Sweet Escape*, which contains some of the most memorable lyrics of this EP ("*let's turn water into wine/ drink until we're dead or 'til I'm blind*") and concludes with a blistering assault of frenetic drums and wild guitar, an explosive end to this collection.

Not only are the songs on *Line 'em up* impressive, but the collection flows together

in such a way that each track is different from the last, yet everything remains cohesive. *Line 'em up* doesn't disappoint: Chip Langley's remarkable songwriting and performing abilities are demonstrated and brought to life with imaginative production. This is a stellar debut, and both captures Chip's current sound and shows immense future potential.

Dan Knight



## Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**St Agnes Fountain** will be taking to the stage at Huntingdon Hall on Wednesday 6th (8pm). With a refreshing approach to the standard yuletide festivities, the band perform "rhythmed up" carols and Christmas music, complete with spoken word, original compositions and maybe even one or two fun surprises.

This will be their 17th season in which they bring humour, their incredible musicianship and more to your favourite Christmas tunes... both original and otherwise. Tickets are £18

**The Mozes Rosenberg Trio** ought to be next on your list to check out at Huntingdon Hall. Calling in on Monday 11th, **Mozes**



**Rosenberg** is one of the most incredible acoustic performers on the international circuit today.

The Rosenberg family has in fact become known as the 'first family' in their brilliantly executed 'gypsy

jazz', finding themselves in constant global demand across festivals and concert halls alike.



The trio features Mozes, an all round talent who undeniably has the Rosenberg touch, but with him is also Dutch double-bass star **Arnoud Van Den Berg** and UK guitar legend **Chris Quinn** on rhythm guitar; undoubtedly one of the best rhythm sections you will come to see. Tickets are £17.

On Thursday 14th, **Mike Sanchez** and his Band will grace the Hall with their presence. Mike has steadily gained a solid reputation for his exciting, charismatic performances in both Rhythm and Blues and Rock 'n' Roll across the world.



Formerly a full-time member of Bill Wyman's 'Rhythm Kings', Mike fronted the band for four years from 2001 onward. In addition to that, Mike has also had a string of successful albums, from his most recent 'Almost Grown' featuring Imelda May, to 'So Many Routes' featuring Albert Lee. Judging from the stellar reviews of the bands live performances too, this is not a night to be missed. Tickets are £18.

Fast forward to Friday 22nd and you'll find the wonderful **Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band** returns for another evening of Christmas fun.

Treating us to the best in swing, a groove of soul, classic pop and a whole lot of lively rock 'n' roll, the seven-piece band will be sure to wow you with their jaw-dropping mix of sax, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums and Jamie's unique and soulful vocals. There's something for all the family at this one.

Tickets are £17.50

# Worcester's Most Magical Family Pantomime!

Direct from West End's Matilda The Musical  
**OLIVER BROOKS** as Silly Billy

**LIZ GRAND** as Carabosse

**BEN HUMPHREY** as Dame Ginny

**VICTORIA LUCIE** as Princess Aurora

**GENEVIÈVE LOWE** as Good Fairy Azuriel

**TOM RIDDELL** as Prince Valiant

**ROB LEETHAM** as King Edward

4th December 2017 – 7th January 2018

## Sleeping Beauty

Written by Chris Jaeger  
Directed by Ben Humphrey

WORCESTER REPERTORY COMPANY PRESENTS

**The Swan Theatre, Worcester**

Box Office 01905 611 427 [www.worcesterlive.co.uk](http://www.worcesterlive.co.uk)

## Sari Schorr & The Engine Room St George's Hall, Bewdley | 10th Nov

**Sari Schorr** brought her *Force Of Nature* to the well supported musical hub that is St George's Hall in Bewdley. The rock blues album has received universal praise from around the world and this evening Sari and her **Engine Room** - **Innis Sibun**, **Kevin O'Rourke**, **Kevin Jefferies** and **Anders Olinder** - were destined to be supported by local musician **Tom Callinswood**. Tom is arguably best known for his presence with **Arcadia Roots** but was in solo form for the show.

Tom looked ready to '*Meditate*' as he opened with a brightly strung acoustic guitar, whilst building up a backing rhythm. An excellent, bluesy '*Walking Blind*' found everybody lives by selling something. Sticking with a blues line we were taken back to the early '50s with the gospel '*In My Fathers House*'. Tom had plenty of his own material to showcase - using a mix of looping effects to build slapping percussion and multi layered vocals but the balance was good and there is no mistaking the quality of his writing and musicianship.

**The Engine Room** took to the stage and fired up as Sari stepped in asking, '*Where's The Money Gone*'? It's Brexited but Sari's voice is good currency. '*Demolition Man*' was hammered out, dragging us all to the riverside as Innis wielded the axe. Lead Belly had a makeover as Sari took us into the haunting darkness of *The Pines* to ask, '*Where Did You Sleep Last Night*', Kevin O'Rourke's drums signalled Sari's dramatic interrogation of this classic. A sharp intake of breath to pump out an adrenalin fed '*Been A Long Time*', a high octave, turbo driven sizzler, with Led'd additive, phew!

'*The Stumble*' gave Sari a vocal break as the band followed Anders on keys for this jazz fused instrumental; Innis and the Kevins taking their turns to trip their way through. Anders turned to piano to bring on the dark skies of '*Stormy Monday*', etched forever into our minds as Sari's vocal range mesmerised all. Innis took over. He is a phenomenon with an almost tantrum of intensive, energetic play - his long hair plastered across his face - as he squeezed every nuance out of his Gibson. A Monday, for once, to look forward to repeating over and over - brilliant. Sari only has eyes for her pit bull as she rocks out a dynamic '*Kiss Me*' before a dedication to iconic producer Mike Vernon, in a soulful '*Let Him Go*' with Innis's crying strings closing out.

I am thankful that the stage is of moderate size as I knew Sari would be wheeling and whirling around, as Innis zips back and forth on the end of an invisible bungy, while the rhythm and keys hold their cards closer to their chest. '*I Just Wanna Make Love To You*' rocks out, Sari style, but an '*Ordinary Life*' brings slow-burning



soul, with Kevin O on brushes for this most personal of songs. A raunchy '*Aunt Hazel*' is looking on and soon explodes onto stage - as Innis ramps up the opening chords, Sari punches out the euphoric lyrics. I love this hard hitting song but fear the withdrawal as we are nearing the close - Sari and The Engine Room have broken through the riverside barriers and lifted the roof of St Georges Hall. A Blistering '*Black Betty*', distilled in unique **Sari Schorr** style ("bam-ba-lam"), brings the curtain down on a stupendous evening.

Graham Munn



Independent Financial Advice  
[www.malvernifa.co.uk](http://www.malvernifa.co.uk)

**Business Development IFA of the year'**  
**- AwardWinner- Highclere Castle - 2011!**

Office: **01684 588188**

**Call us now for**  
**quality advice and peace of mind!**

2plan wealth management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is entered on the FCA register ([www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk)) under reference 461598.



## Toyah Perschore Number 8 | Friday 26th Jan

Pop icon **Toyah Wilcox** will be bringing her intimate unplugged show *Toyah – Acoustic, Up Close and Personal* to **Number 8** in Perschore on Friday 26 January, 7.30pm. The show will include acoustic renditions of Toyah's hit singles and classic songs, alongside stories from her colourful career, spanning from punk princess to TV high priestess. Toyah will be performing alongside musicians **Chris Wong** and **Colin Hinds** in a set including *It's A Mystery*, *Thunder In The Mountains*, *I Want To Be Free* and *Good Morning Universe*.

Toyah has become a household name as a pop idol, TV presenter, and stage and screen actress. In a career spanning over

40 years she has amassed thirteen top 40 singles, recorded twenty-four albums, written two books, appeared in over forty stage plays, acted in fifteen feature films and presented hundreds of television programmes.

Emma Bangham, the Programme Manager at Number 8 enthuses, "This is a wonderful opportunity for our audience to experience the 1980s icon in an intimate setting where her music and stories take centre stage."

Tickets are priced at £20 and are on sale now from Box Office on 01386 555488 or can be booked online at [www.number8.org](http://www.number8.org). Further details about Toyah Wilcox can be found on <https://toyahwilcox.com/>



## Sunjay Sings Buddy St George's Hall, Bewdley | 15 December

It has been 2 years since Sunjay's last release 'Black & Blues' (2015). He's been busy (haven't we all...), no really, he has...

In the spring of 2017 Sunjay was invited to play Buddy Holly in the touring theatre show **Buddy Holly & the Cricketers**. UK wide, Sunjay wore the horn-rimmed frames, the dinner suit, bow tie, talked Texan and traded in the acoustic guitar for a Fender Stratocaster. Judas?!



No...Sunjay has always been a big fan, and this album takes him back to his musical roots. In fact, the first song he learned to sing and play was a Buddy Holly song (*Peggy Sue*), and being in the stage show gave Sunjay the opportunity to sing some of his favourite numbers night after night, in front of hundreds of people; a dream come true you might say!

Having worked up a great repertoire of Buddy Holly songs **Sunjay** was inspired to record the aptly titled, 25 track CD *Sunjay Sings Buddy* (also featuring some of the stage show band members who have become firm friends). They'll be doing a few live shows to promote it too... but no fake Texan accents. **Sunjay Sings Buddy** will be launched in December with a full band show at **St George's Hall, Bewdley**.

*It's So Easy* to sing along to this wonderful collection of songs, Buddy's music will *Not Fade Away*. Some might say *That'll Be The Day*, Sunjay thinks that *It Doesn't Matter Anymore*. *Oh Boy!* you know you want to Rock Around with Ollie Vee and Rave On with Sunjay! An evening with an incredible young talent, that needs not to be missed.

## Neon Winter Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | Friday 15th Dec

Fans of keyboard and synthesiser based music should head over to the **Frog and Fiddle** in mid-December where **Retro Future Festival** are hosting a tremendous five-act bill under the heading *Neon Winter*.

As the organisers' name suggests, the music and the entertainment - including AV presentations draws not only from the past, but looks firmly towards the future.

Retrowave and Synthwave acts are coming to the event from as far afield as Liverpool and London, as well as there being strong local representation.

Bristolians **Siblings of Us** have been added to the bill in the wake of the release of their new EP, "Who Are We Anymore" and the bill is headed by top London artist, **Nina**.

Details of the event, including ticket package options, are contained in the links below.

[facebook.com/events/692836050905291/](https://facebook.com/events/692836050905291/)

[www.wegotickets.com/event/418952](https://www.wegotickets.com/event/418952)

# Attila The Stockbroker

## The Humdrum Express + Jess Silk

### Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge | Friday 12th Jan

Slap Mag favourite **Attila The Stockbroker** will be returning to Stourbridge to kick-start what will, no doubt, be another busy year for the sharp tongued punk rock poet.

Appearing at **Katie Fitzgerald's** on 12th January, expect a lively mix of Clash inspired songs, hard-hitting topical poetry, razor sharp wit and radical politics.

Since first stepping on stage in 1980, Attila has played over 3300 gigs in 24 different countries and has gone on to publish eight books and release over 30 albums.

His must read autobiography 'Arguments Yard' is described as the perfect antidote to the countless fake tan splattered and empty-headed celebrity memoirs that increasingly fill the nation's bookshelves...

Support on the night, comes from two local fellow social observers...

**The Humdrum Express** is well known in the area for his brand of up-tempo acerbic pop and sharp poetic wit. Recent single E-Petition



became one of many Humdrum releases to be championed by Steve Lamacq on BBC 6music.

Opening the evening will be articulate singer-songwriter Jess Silk. One of the West Midlands rising stars, Jess will be previewing songs from her soon to be released debut album.

## New Worcester Venue

**Paradiddles** is a licenced café bar hosting live music located on the bustling Sidbury road in the city centre..

With a capacity of 80, the venue is set out in two sections with a seating area and bar in one and a stage for live performances from both established and emerging/ new? artists in the other.

The business owners **Rachel and Kit Hale-Patrick** have been working on the idea for the past two years, Rachel explains "We want to give people an alternative, creative and characterful café/bar focused on music, providing an inviting, inclusive and interactive space where everyone can relax and socialise."

"We want to create a space where a creative arts community can grow. We believe in music being 'The great communicator' and wanted to create a space based around music, connectivity and communication."

The venue hopes to work with local musicians and promoters and encourages any interested parties to get in touch. Local artist are also welcome to showcase their works within the bar with several musically themed pieces already displayed.

The bar offers a selection of wines, lagers, ciders, ales and spirits, as well as Organic Fairtrade teas, coffees and hot chocolates sourced from local suppliers. Whilst newly built kitchen providing a selection both hot and cold food with a strong focus on vegan and vegetarian choice throughout the day and pizzas during the evenings.

Cynical Thrills presents:

# Attila the Stockbroker

Sharp tongued, high energy social surrealist poet and songwriter

Friday 12th January, 2018

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

the humdrum express With special guests Jess Silk

Advance tickets £6 from [www.wegottickets.com/event/423431](http://www.wegottickets.com/event/423431)  
Door price £8

Discount advance tickets are available from:

[www.wegottickets.com/event/423431](http://www.wegottickets.com/event/423431)

Admission on the door will be £8 with an 8:00pm start.

**Paradiddles** will be open from **15th of December** and Rachel and Kit are excited to be running series of events to celebrate its' arrival. These will be announced through social media and [www.paradiddlesbar.com](http://www.paradiddlesbar.com) Rachel and Kit ask any local musicians interested in being part of these events or getting involved in future gigs to contact them on the details below.

FB - @paradiddlesbarworcester

Twitter - @paradiddles\_Bar

Instagram - paradiddlesbar

Contact: 07598 519 241 email: [info@paradiddlesbar.co.uk](mailto:info@paradiddlesbar.co.uk)



The Sidbury premises soon to open its doors

The new venue also boasts a fully equipped practice room providing local musicians with a space for rehearsing, lessons or just a good jam session. Hiring the room comes with a 10% discount to use in the café. And the café itself can be used for a variety of events such as Community social group meetings, Art exhibitions, Workshops, Poetry readings, Talks & Comedy

Opening hours: Monday - Closed; Tues - Thurs 10am - 10pm

Friday/Saturday 10am - 11pm; Sun 10.00am - 4pm



## Alice Cooper Arena, Birmingham | 14th November

A few months away from celebrating his seventieth birthday and with the recent release of his twenty-seventh studio album *'Paranormal'*, there is no slowing down **Alice Cooper**.

Dressed in black, wielding a cane and displaying the energy of a man half his age, the legendary shock rocker steps out under a waterfall of sparkling pyro, to receive an ovation from an audience made up from every decade of his existence.

*'Brutal Planet'* and *'Under My Wheels'* see Alice undertake his first minor costume changes, with his cloakroom attendant appearing from a box at the back of the stage. However, it's the lady taking centre stage who's grabbing all the attention. **Nita Strauss**, ranked #1 on Guitar World's list of '10 Female Guitar Players', is one hot player, with added wow-factor, as she pulls all the shapes you could wish to see from any iconic guitarist.

Early on, Alice delves way back into his forty-seven-year archive for numbers such as *'Pain'* and *'Department of Youth'*, before *'Woman of Mass Distraction'* leads to Ms. Strauss being given the floor to prove she is exactly that, with a great solo prior to the 1989 hit *'Poison'*.

Fan favourite *'Feed My Frankenstein'* includes a giant electric chair for Alice to sit in before reappearing as a giant monster lumbering around the stage. A less showy *'Cold Ethyl'* sees him physically abusing a life size doll – all done in the best possible taste of course.



The 1975 ballad *'Only Women Bleed'*, during which Alice murders his clockwork sweetheart, makes way for the one and only new song of the night – *'Paranoiac Personality'*, before he is forced into a straight-jacket by a couple of masked hoodlums for *'Ballad Of Dwight Fry'*.

Approaching the climax of the show, the giant guillotine appears for *'I Love The Dead'*. Perhaps not so "shocking" in 2017, the blade falls and chops off Alice's head. As his severed noddle is paraded around the stage by the band, the crowd cheer with appreciation. OK, it might be the same stuff seen time and time again, but it makes it no less entertaining.

Alice and his present-day cohorts leave the stage and within a few short moments the crowd find themselves treated to something rarely seen since 1973. **The Alice Cooper Band** featuring original members, bassist **Dennis Dunaway**, guitarist **Michael Bruce** and drummer **Neal Smith**, reunited to perform a five-song mini-set of their classic hits with Alice.

With current band member **Ryan Roxie** filling in for the late **Glen Buxton** on guitar, the original line-up – with Alice in a gold, snakeskin suit – storm through a bunch of classics which they

made famous nearly half a century ago. Raw versions of *'I'm Eighteen'*, *'Billion Dollar Babies'*, *'No More Mr. Nice Guy'* and *'Muscle of Love'* leave the crowd eager for more.

In top-hat and tails, Alice re-emerges to orchestrate a grand finale. In amongst the pyro, confetti, bubbles and giant balloons, both bands hit the stage to finish with *'Schools Out'*, including a couple of verses of Pink Floyd's *'Another Brick In The Wall'*.

"School's Out Birmingham!" screams Alice. "The nightmare is on us. Thank you!" With that, he and both bands disappear, and the crowd return their thanks.

After a triple bill of entertainment which included **The Tubes** and **The Mission**, it's a rocking end to a thoroughly superb show. The godfather of shock rock still knows how to turn on the night and I can't see that anybody would suggest that they've not had their money's worth. Brilliant.

Steve Johnston



## Mytacism Music Presents Four Dead Crows, Saint Alto, Random Name Generator, Happy Bones Firefly, Worcester, Thurs 20th October

Now. This is obviously a live review. But bear with me. As this all goes somewhere interesting. The pre-Socratic Ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus wrote – sometime around 500BC – that “everything must flow”. That: “you cannot step into the same river twice”. Ergo: “the new must wash away the old”. Or more poetically: “the young must wash away the old”.

It’s easy to argue that this applies to art and music waaay more than anything else. But, there are those that say that the young in these, our seemingly fading years of stultifying, robot-manipulated social media, of cryptocurrencies and Snapchat, the young just don’t seem to be able to wash away the old any more.

And, as a result, there’s far too many crusty Generation X bands (that should have unplugged their amps for good years ago) still plying their trade, unchallenged and unmolested, on stages that rightfully belong to those half their age. (But, who knows. It’s complicated. And no-one has a single wet clue what is going on in the world anymore, anyway).

This all said, there are those who would raise the tide. Change the river. Those who will find and amplify and broadcast the voice of those who must come next. Those whose moment is now. And this little soiree, courtesy of **Mytacism Music** up above the ‘Fly on a fresh autumn evening, was a showcase of just and precisely that. And in order, the actual bands, all young as hell, were as follows.

**Happy Bones.** A deliciously maudlin and yet utterly uplifting patchwork of post-everything indie-folk vignettes of the mundane – and the sublime. All delivered with heart and a lyrical flourish that would sit well on any solo singer songwriter of any generation (from Phil Ochs through to Conor Oberst) – and cut straight through with a black, self-deprecating humour that raised a wry smile.

**Random Name Generator.** The product of an apparently spontaneous marriage of local “non-poet” **Joe Norris** and Britpop revivalist **Ben Dallow**, this was a free-form set of irreverent, sometimes scatological, sometimes retro, all-times crisp and straight-from-the-heart, vocals and guitar only numbers that evoked the long form, lo-fi storytelling of Enablers – and the millennial, soaring immediacy of Kate (goddam) Tempest, no less. This kind of hairs-raised-on-the-back-of-the-neck stuff is to be treasured, people. And much more to come from this pair. Fact.



**Saint Alto.** With BBC Introducing props to their name, this four piece electro-acoustic outfit work up and deliver an accomplished and complete package of poignant, pitch-perfect stories of love, loss, and upland landscapes of the soul, drawn in soaring vocal harmonics and sound. With a look that is snap-tight for the centennial festival circuit, the likes of Ben Howard should look over their shoulder.

**Four Dead Crows.** A Gloucester alt-heavy rock four piece doing the black-clad, high intensity Royal Blood thing (but who wouldn’t?) with their own sparking personality stamped firmly on the template. The kids in the room loved them. The love and the sweat was dripping from the low, coved ceilings. And sweat and love are good. Sweat and love will save us all. And long may the sweat rise – and flow down the river like a tidal fucking bore – and wash away the old. For everything. Must flow. Yes?



Words: Veronica Bloodsauseage  
Photography: Andy O’Hare

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

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

**adverts@slapmag.co.uk**



## New Year at Elmslie House, Malvern

**Elmslie House** continues to bring stunning and inspirational acoustic music to this gem of a venue.

On the **13th January** there is Norwich based folk / Americana trio **Alden Patterson and Dashwood** weave rich vocal harmonies, fiddle, dobro, guitar and mandolin around beautifully written original songs and melodies.



Their music takes influence from folk traditions from both sides of the Atlantic with uplifting instrumentals and self penned songs depicting tales of young travellers, sleepy seas and their affection for home.

No introduction necessary for **2nd February's** gig, with ex pat **Matt Woosey** stopping by for a solo slot during his full band tour. See page 15 for more details.

Then on the **16th February** The blues siblings **Dani Wilde and Will Wilde** will be sharing songs from each of their respective new albums as well as visiting material from their extensive back catalogues. coming together for a special 'Live and Unplugged' international tour.

Will Wilde has been seven times nominated in the British Blues Awards for best Harmonica player. In 2015 he won Blues Matters Magazines Best British Harmonica Player Award. He is also recognised for his talents as a blues rock guitarist, singer and songwriter.



2015 British Blues Award winner Dani Wilde burst onto the International blues scene in 2007 opening for Jools Holland at The Royal Albert Hall and signing to prestigious blues record label Ruf Records.

Tickets available from [elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://elmsliehouse.co.uk), Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern Tourist Information Centre.



**ELMSLIE  
HOUSE**  
VENUE & GALLERY

Elmslie is both an elegant venue and a private family home in Great Malvern. We open up part of the ground floor for music performances, art exhibitions, contemporary craft fairs, weekly exercise classes and lots more. For full listings check out our Facebook page or website.



**ALDEN, PATTERSON  
& DASHWOOD**

**Saturday 13th January**

**MATT WOOSEY**  
**Friday 2nd February**

**DANI & WILL WILDE**  
**Friday 16th February**



Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start  
Advance Tickets £10.00, On the Door £12.00  
Tickets available from [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk)  
Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, both on Church Street, Malvern.



# The Beholderwear Sessions

## Boston Tea Party, Cheltenham

### Monthly presentation - Burger, Beer, Blues?

If you get your timing right, this combination is a definite possibility at the new series of early evening presentations at the **Boston Tea Party** in Cheltenham.

These 'All Done By Nine' sessions are the brainchild of promoter **William Holder** and the format's pretty straightforward - there's three genres represented at the moment, acoustic singer/songwriter; urban, including hip-hop, trip-hop and rap; The Blues, which is the latest introduction.



Em Musto

The atmosphere is very informal and only the waiting staff going about their business reminds you that the artists are actually playing in a restaurant, the acoustics are great and the background noise way less than some more formal gigs.

The sessions take place roughly once a month and begin at 6.00 p.m. which is good news if you're going by car, as the parking next to Cheltenham Library is only £2.00 for the night. And as everything is done by nine, why not take in another of the

increasing number of gigs going on in the town afterwards?



Trevor Steger



Luke Philbrick



Meg Hayden

The final session of 2017 will take place on Friday 22nd December. Keep a check on the dates and themes for future sessions by visiting the **Boston Tea Party** events page on Facebook and by looking in the SLAP gig guide at the back of your magazine.

[www.facebook.com/BTPCheltenham/](http://www.facebook.com/BTPCheltenham/)

*Geoffrey Head*

## Andy O'Hare

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

Once again it's been a bloody hectic year on our fabulous local music scene - certainly much appreciated by our good selves - but maybe now I think we're only a whisker away from gaining national recognition as one of the most happening regions on the UK music map! Much congratulations to **Anya, James** and **Tina** of **Sœur** for playing a top spot on the **BBC Introducing** stage at Reading/Leeds - really appropriate as Tina's family is originally from Reading and her nan still lives next door to the festival!



Duncan Graves

It's been a wonderful summer on the local festivals front with awesome BBC Introducing sessions at **Hay, Nozstock, Lakefest** and **Worcester Music Festival** - and it was a total pleasure after so many years to finally catch a chat with my all-time hero **Wilko Johnson** at **Lakefest** and talk about his Worcester connections!

We also held bonus sessions at **Lakefest, Wychwood** and **Tenbury** for acts to get that first 'festival experience' - it seemed to work just fine so hopefully we'll do it again next year! But a touch of sadness maybe at the sudden demise of the **Booth Hall** in Hereford - credit though to Arran and Willow for hosting a whole bunch of fine gigs there!



Roy Jenks

Probably by now it's no secret that Bewdley-based **Arcadia Roots** will be the local outfit to keep an eye on next year! The crowd wouldn't let them leave the stage at Lakefest - and since becoming best mates with **Michael Eavis** they look shoo-ins for Glasto 2019 - great music and wonderful work guys!

And yes - as always it's eternal optimism from this gig-goer as I look forward to popping along to even yet more fabulous live, local and original performances from the awesome talent we've got on our doorstep (it's in the water I tell you!) - so here's wishing you all a very pleasant Midwinter Public Holiday and hopefully catch you at a gig once again next year!!



## Arcadia Roots Album Launch

St George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 3rd Nov

There is little I can say to add to the already substantial presence of an **Arcadia Roots** gig except, in this case, it was the hometown launch of their excellent EP.

The 'warm up' slot went to another local band who are building their own following. **The Drakelow May** - **Ben Webb, Will Hudd** and **Jez Thomas** - played some spell binding stuff with a folk/rock electro vibe. Named after the Drakelow Tunnels near Kinver, the music is as deep - questioning lyrics and a fascinating balance between voice, guitar, synth, and Will pounding out the 'bombs' on percussion. Check out their website for songs and gigs at [www.thedrakelowmay.com](http://www.thedrakelowmay.com).

Needless to say, you would expect a good crowd of arcadian acolytes so close to home (no disappointment there) and the sparks soon kindled as **Dave, Dan, Josh** and **Tom** fired up '*Keep Burning*', in front of a backwash of fractal psychedelia. Where you go to run to - nowhere as a bout of '*Amnesia*' washes over.

'*Big Man*' Dave is on deep toms and snare, Tom is on er.... toms - herein djembe, to avoid further confusion! The rhythm is beating out, mesmerizing as ever, with Dan layering his guitar over the primal rhythms of drum and Josh's bass. A quick swap around and Tom is on sticks, Dave on djembe, Dan strung out as ever, for a simply called '*new song*'. I'm sure it will find a label soon enough; I seem to recall "freedom" comes into the lyrics, so I'm advocating Mandela!

Maddie steps forward into the tangled web to add her siren like voice to the hypnotic drug of powdered arcadian root; chill out, just keep '*Searching*' finding a path Bob Marley's reggae rhythms of '*Fussin 'n' Fighting*'. Josh sets up a throbbing bass as the sound builds into a haunting '*Primal Rhythm*'; Dave is well into his groove; Maddie stands next to Dan adding her call; Tom is constantly moving; Josh stands in the shadows, his presence ever felt. The



floor is alive with writhing bodies - an ever moving morass of dancing hedonists, lost in the music.

Maddie steps down and Jack steps up, tenor sax to mouth and a small synth/keyboard at hand. The guitar notes from Dan and Tom pick out the opening bars of '*Lose My Mind*', run baby run drives out, filling the air with its heady mix. Another '*new song*' - maybe this was the freedom thing, what the hell, I'm high on the rhythmic pulses of this music - then Dave's beating out the message on African drum, determined to '*Take You Higher*'.

The atmosphere is phenomenal - completely intoxicating - as the night moves towards its conclusion, but not before we cross back over to the Caribbean spirit of '*Exodus*', movement of the people. No argument - the floor is still heaving, an ocean of waves, full of uncontrolled energy; 'Save Me' before I drown in the depths of undercurrents.

A fabulous evening with **Arcadia Roots**. **St George's Hall** has just about contained the flood of glorious sounds. If you haven't already found a copy of their EP, you've done yourself a disservice - just grab one at their next gig. Don't forget to listen out for **Drakelow May** too.

Graham Munn

# Lycio | Navajo Ace

## Random Name Generator

### Bottles Wine Bar, Worcs, Thurs 9th Nov

So anyway. WORCESTER. Statistically Britain's most average place. A place judged by **Rough Trade** records - only this very month - to be not cool enough to have its own proper record shop anymore.

But. The queer and wonderful thing is this. That nominally uncool places often sprout by far the most interesting art. And the most entertaining noise. For those places that think themselves cool are (if you have lived in them) usually crushingly dull and predictable places where every band sounds... the same. Artistic monocultures where no-one ever takes any real risks in the craven effort to build up page likes and followers - and maybe, juuust maybe - attract the prey attention of what remains of the (\*ahem\*) mainstream music industry. And just possibly be the next Royal (shitting) Blood or Ed (bleeding) Sheeran. Or something.

In the other places, such as those without a Rough Trade record shop, diversity flourishes. Bills are diverse. Risks get taken. The whole thing is done - much like this entire magazine - for love and not for money. (Because there is no actual money. And getting over ten likes for a witty social media post is enough to make a band or a promoter feel proper loved).

And so this was a highly diverse bill. With risks taken. And it felt all the more lovely for it.

Opening proceedings were the local beat-poetry meets The Verve combo now known as **Random Name Generator**. A deceptively simple guitars and voices two-piece, telling grainy, semi-improvised twenty-first century Bukowskian tales of



ascendant humanity in the face of despair, of love and fleeting tenderness in the pitiless teeth of the post-crash, gig-economy, zero-hours contract world. With heart and grit - and humour. Sadly, this pair will never get to play in-store at a Rough Trade record shop in their home town. And that fact, alone, is what really brings a tear to the eye.

Next up: Worcester's **Navajo Ace**, four pieces of alt-rock crispness known for their finely-crafted yet full-bodied college rock sound. In what I understood was a total, punt in the dark experiment, this was a full Nirvana unplugged in New York style, seated semi-acoustic set, with their spectacular beast of a drummer restrained to just a tambourine and a floor tom. And the result was something extraordinary. A sparse, immediate slice of reflective Americana that made this goldfish bowl of a provincial wine bar feel more like upstate Washington State. Like the bar in Twin Peaks, no less. Which is a very, very good thing.



For their part, this band will never now get to see their beautifully packaged and entirely self-released EP sold at a local Rough Trade record shop. But all those stellar bands signed to Rough Trade will. The tragedy. It is never-ending.

And, down from the only marginally less uncool - and also undeserving of a Rough Trade record shop - city that is Birmingham, headliners **Lycio** switched gear entirely. To such a degree that it almost took the breath clean away. A slick, tight and totally personable hybrid live electronica neo-soul trio that dropped in, did their thing - note, beat and style perfect - and went home. Knowing it was a job very well fucking done indeed.



And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what happens when you don't get a Rough Trade record shop in your town.

Dreadful, isn't it. Goodnight. And God bless.

*Dennis Barnaby Schenker*

## Vintage Trax

**Redditch' Retro Vinyl Record Specialists**

**LPs, 12" & 7" Singles & EPs & more**

**All Genres from Jazz Age to 1990s**

**Open Tues-Sat. See website for times.**

**104 Birchfield Road, Headless Cross,**

**Redditch B97 4LH. Tel: 07887 525107**

**[www.VintageTrax.co.uk](http://www.VintageTrax.co.uk)**



## Meg Hayden + Russ Poole

### Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham | Sat 11th Nov

There's a lovely, nostalgic atmosphere pervading the quirky interior of **Smokey Joe's** in Cheltenham, with pinball machines, pull-handle slots and an abundance of neon signs adding to the impression you just stepped back in time. But make no mistake, the increasingly impressive music they're putting on here is bang up to date.

First up tonight is Gloucester singer/songwriter **Russ Poole**, who's several EPs into his career and has built up a very solid local reputation.



And that reputation is well justified, too – he has an excellent voice, rich and flexible, with a deft guitar technique. The songs are music for grown-ups, there is much reflection here and one particularly fine example, about alcoholism, is both poignant and hard-hitting. He jokes, when coming to play his upbeat final song, that he's finally got round to a happy one!

As well as his own compositions, he also throws a very unusual cover into the mix, a reworking of Vanessa Carlton's "1000 Miles" – stripped of its high tone piano work, the interpretation is so different, it's a good couple of minutes before I realise what I'm listening to. Very bold indeed and completely successful.

A fine set.

This is the fifth time I've seen **Meg Hayden** play and it's not for want of enthusiasm on my part that I haven't reviewed her before, more a question of finding the right words to properly convey her talent and enormous potential.

She's a highly versatile performer, somewhat of a musical chameleon, because not only does she have her solo singer/songwriter act, she is also a notable rapper. In addition, she



fronts the excellent **Vajazzle Dynamite**, who despite their dodgy 80's glam-rock moniker, play a thunderous and exhilarating mixture of hard rock, post-hardcore and heavy ska. Well worth a look if they're playing near you.

You're left in little doubt, even after a few minutes of music, that she's the possessor of a most extraordinary voice. The Jazz, Soul and Blues inflections flood through every song, and the apparent ease with which she slides, or sometimes rushes up the power scale without disturbing clarity or pitch is mighty impressive. And, unlike a lot of singers, she makes it clearly evident that she's having a great time performing, a smile is never far away from breaking out on her face.

There's a very wide variety of material in her long set tonight, the whole thing being topped by her own tremendous composition "Ten to Zero", which is one of the finest things I've heard this year. But it's the way that she incorporates unusual and heavily restructured covers into the set that keeps your attention piqued throughout the performance.

There's a suitably acerbic delivery of "Don't Call Me Baby", a stately and immensely powerful version of Avicii's "Wake Me Up", which is close to being the song of the set and then she launches into astonishing and highly mobile take on The Jungle Book's "I Wanna Be Like You" – you're still wide-eyed with amazement that she'd tackle this one when you realise that all the time she's bouncing around, the scat sections are being delivered with absolute precision and impeccable timing.

She plays for around an hour tonight, and to be honest, I could have easily listened to the whole performance again.

Absolutely brilliant.

Gig News - **Meg Hayden** will be sharing a stage with **Demi Marriner** and the fabulous **Elles Bailey** at **The Frog and Fiddle** on the 7th December. Highly recommended!

Geoffrey Head

# Massive Head Trauma/Grizzleroot Marrs Bar | 17th November

We all like a bit of metal every now and then - well I do anyway! But it's fair to say that while our region has had a great history of producing hard-rocking outfits over the years from Wrathchild to Fury - plus some guys from the Kidderminster area who sold a whole bunch of records all over the globe there's never been quite the same enthusiasm for this genre as our neighbours to the north. Venues like **The Firefly**, **The Iron Road** and of course the **Marrs Bar** are doing their bit with regular events but of course in the end it's down to the promoters to make these gigs a success - and **Tollywood Productions** had obviously done a very fine job in the lead-up to this unique bash!

The support slot came from Malvern's no-frills heavy rockers **Grizzleroot** with their crowdwarming set of cracking original and frequently tongue-in-cheek numbers like '*Head To The Bar*' and '*Stellatron*' - I've seen these guys a couple of times before and they've got a great presence and riffs a-plenty to keep your foot tapping - well recommended!!

This was a double album launch from Worcester's very own **Massive Head Trauma** - and by that I mean two separate albums '*Punching The Clown*' and '*Waiting For Death*' - that's different! Frontman **Gary Lewis** AKA the **Reverend Genghis Memphis** is the original manic street preacher and delivers a sermon of hellfire, brimstone and eternal damnation to the assembled sinners - probably quite rightly so! There's ditties about carnivals, cosmology and catastrophic warfare sprinkled in their set but the RGM makes sure that the humour isn't too far away. Credit to MHT as well for their efforts in the make-up department with Gary sporting an incredible scaley 'snakes-head' persona for the evening!!



Only a slight touch of uncertainty towards the end as the Good Reverend introduced the band - **Evil Dave** on guitar, **Phil Karnage** on bass and of course the unkillable **Death** on drums - before confessing that he didn't know who the fuck he was - a very fair point!! But MHT are a complete outfit and very much characterise the humour and spirit of Worcester - and I'm sure they'd gain a whole lot more fans by taking their unique brand of performance art around the country and maybe further afield - and a very good start would be at our premier annual local metal bash at Beermageddon next year - how about it guys?

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

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

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

**adverts@slapmag.co.uk**

## Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

**Until 3rd Dec** Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre

**Until 17th Dec** Skyscape, Broadway Museum & Art Gallery

**8th Dec** Milk Presents **JOAN** Joan of Arc, Worcester Arts Workshop

**Until 3rd Jan** Something Old Something New Something Borrowed. The Courtyard Hereford

**Until 6th Jan** Warhol to Walker: American prints from pop art to today. Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

**Until 7th Jan** Knights of the Raj. Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**Until 27th Jan.** Crafted for You. Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

**1st & 2nd** Klik Klik's Gin Lane at Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre

**2nd Dancefest** Letting the Light In, Worcester City centre

**2nd & 3rd** Lantern making workshop, Artrix Bromsgrove

**5th** The Nutcracker live screening The Artrix Bromsgrove

**7th (until 3rd Jan)** Kate Wrigglesworth Inside & Out. Pershore No8.

**7th** Lantern Parade. The Hive, Worcester.

**8th-10th** Mini Masterpieces exhibition and auction, Artists Workhouse, Studley.

**8th-10th** Stratford Victorian Christmas Market

**9th** Crafted for You - meet the artists. 11am - 1pm. Worcester Museum & Art Gallery.

**9th** Magical History Tour. St Georges Hall, Bewdley

**9th & 10th** Dec Lantern making workshop, Artrix Bromsgrove

**9th** Bookfest, Almonry Museum, Evesham

**10th** Craft Fair, Lower Broadheath Memorial Hall

**11th** Christmas Gothic, haunting tales of the festive season, Artrix Bromsgrove

**11th** Dec License to Rhyme Artrix Bromsgrove

**12th** Drink & Doodle, The Paul Pry Worcester

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



## Friday 01 December 2017

### Sun Fire

The Cap n Gown, Worcester

### Ace Of Spades - Alan Boomer Davey

The Iron Road, Evesham

### Neil Ivison

The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

### Vajazzle Dynamite Live

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### Call Of The Kraken

Reet Petite, Leominster

### Mr Ben

Drummonds, Worcester

### One Night Of Queen

Regal, Evesham

### The Bon Jovi Experience

Guildhall, Gloucester

### Russ Poole

Guildhall, Gloucester

### Olly Murs Tribute Jon Eselle

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### Reloaded

The Blue Bell, Ryall

### The Total Who Show

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Russ Poole

Blackfriars Priory, Gloucester

### Ruben Seabright

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Dreadzone, Ital Sounds

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Narco Lounge Combo

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

### Soul Strutters

Café Rene, Gloucester

### The Kast Off Kinks

Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

### Bourbon Alley

Queens Head, Wolverley

### Clare L. Shaw

The Red Lion, Evesham

### The Rock Shack Band

The Golden Cross, Hereford

### Unity: Chip Langley, Toby Wren, Bhajans With Madhava & Friends, Chris Hutchison, Sundara, Enzo, Tyler Massey

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

### Little Dave

The Sebright Arms, Worcester

### Crows & Crosses, Rustlung, Broodmother

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### Glow Worms

Antelope, Warwick

### The Bon Jovi Experience

Guildhall, Gloucester

### Bromsgrove Concerts: Kodaly Quartet

Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

### The Delray Rockets

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Isolation, Barrabus, Baron Greenback, Mutant-Thoughts

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Boca45, Dubbu, Will 'Mendoza' Cookson

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

### Rattle Snake Jake

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

### Hopwood Junction

The Red Lion, Redditch

### The Hand And The Flowers

Claptrap, Stourbridge

### Will Killeen

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

### Robbie Williams, Ollie Hughes

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### Pete Harrington

Unionist Club, Bromsgrove

### Offthegrid

The Golden Lion, Bromsgrove

### The King Is Back - Ben Portsmouth Is Elvis

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### Karpet Kickers

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

### Words & Beats 2, Coosie, General Jams Beatbox, Jakebob,

Katon, Pri-D

Firefly, Hereford

### Mike Allen

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

### The Giant Leaps

Whittle Taps, Cheltenham

36 SLAP DEC/JAN

## Saturday 02 December 2017

### Abba Tribute Night

Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich

### Hotter Than Hell, Hvmm

The Iron Road, Evesham

### Jay & Eli

The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

### Indigo Glitch

Stoke Prior Sports & Social Club, Stoke Prior

### Sweet Home Chicago

Railway Inn, Studley

### Gin Annie

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

### Vulcan Reign Live

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### Reet Petite's First Birthday with The Troy Redfern Band

Reet Petite, Leominster

### Mister Wolf

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### Junction 7

The Retreat, Ledbury

### Kast Off Kinks

Regal, Evesham

### The Mopheads

The Swan Inn, Evesham

### Moretallica, Motorboat (Motorhead Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### 2Tone Review

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

### Sax Appeal

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### The River Chickens

The Plough Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

### Rock N Roll Rodeo

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

### Black Penny Remedy Club

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### Angel Up Front

The King Teddy, Gloucester

### Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Angel Up

King Teddy, Gloucester

### The Snowman in Concert (3pm)

St George's Church, Barbourne, Worcester

### Mel & Him

Garibaldi Inn, Worcester

### Aimee Vee

Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

### Nightshift

The Express Inn, Malvern

### Dan The Man Greenaway (2pm)

The Camp Inn, Worcester

### D&B City Worcester - Winter Special

Crystal Warehouse, Worcester

### Fleetwood Bac

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Freefall

The Old Forge Inn, Whitminster, Gloucester

### False Flags

The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

### Solid Gone

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

### Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Red Lion Inn, Stifford's Bridge, Malvern

### Aardvark Stew

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### Pigdaze

The Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

### Ceilidh: Evolution

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### Skrood

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### Collision

The Valkyrie, Evesham

### Rookies - Innovative One-Woman (Donation Entry)

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

### Stoned Love

The Plough, Hereford

### Cirencester Record & Cd Fair, Open 10-4pm. £1 entry,

Ashcroft Church Hall, Ashcroft Road, Cirencester

### Temperance Hall

Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

### Will Killeen Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Uncanny Traveller - Malvern Motorcycle Club Xmas Jig

Malvern Motorcycle Club, Malvern

**TFO Concert Band Perform The Snowman & Other Festive Film Music At 3pm, Hilgrove Kenrick - Narrator**  
St George's Church, Barbourne, Worcester

**Kodaly Quartet**  
Hellens, Hereford

**Whiteshillbillies**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**The Counterfeit Eagles**  
Kidderminster Harriers Social Club, Kidderminster

**Stottesdon**  
The Fighting Cocks, Kidderminster

**Playback**  
The Cricketers, Worcester

**Take That Experience**  
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Emily Barker, Pete Roe**  
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**  
Red Lion, Malvern

**The Coopers**  
The Royal Oak, Alcester

**Julie Mac**  
Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

**Of Kings and Captains**  
Claptrap, Stourbridge

**Straight Ace**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**The Sarah Martyn Acoustic Duo**  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**Facestealers**  
The Westcroft, Droitwich

**The Reflections**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Ron Jeremy Band**  
Aston Fields Social Club, Bromsgrove

**The After Dark Band**  
The Millfields, Bromsgrove

**The Vets - Punk / Indie / New Wave Covers**  
The Railway Inn, Redditch

**Jayne Peters Band**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Bad News, Rain, Lead Sister, Midnight in England, Harry Daniels**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Leanne & King Rich**  
Red House Boutique, Stourbridge

**Mitzy**  
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Lighter Thieves**  
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

**Blind Lemon**  
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport-On-Severn

**Haney's Big House**  
The Retreat, Cheltenham

## Sunday 03 December 2017

**Zal Cleminson's Sin Dogs**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Vo Fletcher**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Victorian Fayre Outside Stage - Various Artists (All Day)**  
The Cardinals Hat, Worcester

**Carols with the Albert Consort**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Jay & Eli**  
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

**The Smokin' Pilchards (4pm)**  
The Longlands Tavern, Stourbridge

**Sun Fire (5pm)**  
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

**Dr Feelgood**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Skandal, Skora, Second Self, Buried in Ashes**  
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

**BBC Introducing in Hereford & Worcester ( 2pm)**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Emma Flowers**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

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

**Hate System, Failure Is An Option, The Killing Culture**  
The Imperial, Hereford

**Gathan Cheema**  
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

**Guvnors; Rock 'N' Blues, Rock 'N' Blues**  
Three Crowns, Willenhall

**Lounge Toad, David Arthur, Chewie (3pm)**  
The Brick Room, Worcester

**Glow Worms**  
The Talbot, Bewdley

**Clive John (4pm)**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Jez Lowe's - Yule Do, The Bad Pennies, Benny Graham**  
St. Swithuns Institute Hall, Worcester

**Hattie Amos- Christmas Singalong, Vocals & Piano 7:30pm**  
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

**Voice Squad Pop/Rock Choir For Kemp**  
Brinton Park, Kidderminster

**Dizzy Lizzy**  
Alestones, Redditch

**Sammy Jo (5pm)**  
The Westcroft, Droitwich

**Jon Eselle**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Brendan O'Brian Multi International Vocal & Fine Irish Craic**  
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport-On-Severn

## Monday 04 December 2017

**Eliza Carthy & The Wayward Band**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Chainska Brassika, Aka Skaface**  
Zephyr Lounge, Leamington Spa

**Fran McGillvray and Mike Burke**  
Norman Knight, Whichford

## Tuesday 05 December 2017

**Damon T + Mark Cole**  
Tank, Gloucester

**Euros Childs**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Wednesday 06 December 2017

**St Agnes Fountain**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Ukulele Experience**  
The Greyhound, Gloucester

**Swamp Stomp String Band**  
Café René, Gloucester

**Colin Braggs**  
The Dragon Inn, Worcester

**Can't Swim, Microwave**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Nigel Kennedy**  
Festival Theatre, Malvern

**Enzo**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Gordon Wood, Derek Rutherford**  
The Bayshil, Cheltenham

## Thursday 07 December 2017

**Hotrox**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**John Coghlan's Quo**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Be Bop A Lula**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**The Pictish Trail, Moganon**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Chalky Martins Mod, Soul & Ska Show**  
The Maltster, Worcester

**Martin Carthy**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**Cara Dillon**  
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

**Elles Bailey, Demi Marriner, Meg Hayden, Dom. Watton**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Nigel Kennedy**  
Festival Theatre, Malvern

**Rhino And The Ranters**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**Troublesome Trio**  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

## Friday 08 December 2017

**Blues Brothers Tribute Night**  
Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich

**Fahran**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Tom Davies**  
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

**The Poppy Sisters**  
The Foley Arms, Malvern

**Hana Piranah Live With Support**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham



## **Live Dj Night with Ross Angeles & Jon Bengry**

Reet Petite, Leominster

## **Call Of The Kraken**

Drummonds, Worcester

## **Roughcut Ruby**

The Blue Bell, Ryall

## **Lolly Parton - Home For Christmas**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **The Filthy Casuals**

King Teddy, Gloucester

## **Barflys**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Ragged Edge Soul Band**

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

## **Black Canvas**

Café Rene, Gloucester

## **Stone Farm**

The Maltster, Worcester

## **Trevor Babajack**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **Mammal Hands**

Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

## **Dreadzone**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

## **Midnight City**

Queens Head, Wolverley

## **Mammal Hands**

The Goods Shed, Stroud

## **Hana Piranha, Second Self**

The Cotswold, Cheltenham

## **Limelight**

The Ale House, Stroud

## **Ultimate Coldplay**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

## **Ash Mandrake**

The Red Lion, Evesham

## **Rubble**

Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

## **XL5**

The Golden Cross, Hereford

## **Mark Watson**

Malvern Cube, Malvern

## **Simply Swing Tribute To The Rat Pack**

The Old Pheasant, Worcester

## **The Lady And The Sax, Rebecca Neale**

The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

## **Executives**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **Gordon Hendricks As Elvis**

Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

## **So Solid Crew (Romeo, Lisa Maffia, Dan Da Man)**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

## **Honey Feet, Thee Ones**

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

## **Jo Harman**

Winderton Church, Shipston-On-Stour.

## **The Follicles**

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

## **Ultimate40**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## **Ross Angeles**

Reet Petite Bar, Leominster

## **The Original Wanted**

The Gigmill Pub, Stourbridge

## **All Ears, Ten Tombs, Tuskens, Midweek**

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

## **Liquor & Poker**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

## **Mud Humper, Wretched World, Black Foxes**

Firefly, Hereford

## **Becki**

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

## **Saturday 09 December 2017**

### **Elton John Tribute Night**

Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich

### **Stormbringer / Numb**

The Iron Road, Evesham

### **Shameful Ca\$Hin**

Railway Inn, Studley

### **Tequila Mockingbird Live**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### **Last Tree Squad**

Reet Petite, Leominster

### **Mister Wolf**

The Bell Inn, St.Johns, Worcester

## **38 SLAP DEC/JAN**

## **Emptyhead**

The Outside Inn & Courtyard, Evesham

## **White Room**

The Retreat, Ledbury

## **Tewkesbury Town Band**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

## **Mike Skilbeck**

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

## **Samantha Adams**

Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

## **Ian Luther**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

## **The Ferrets**

The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

## **The Mustard Band**

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

## **The Worried Men**

The Dick Whittington, Gloucester

## **2 Tone Revue**

Baker Street, Gloucester

## **Fracture Rock**

The Sword Inn, Gloucester

## **Si Connolly**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

## **T Rextasy**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## **Hennesea**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Gunn Runner**

The Express Inn, Malvern

## **The Face Stealers**

The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

## **We Come From Ashes, Proteus Uk, Malum Sky, Eden in Progress**

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

## **Magical History Tour**

St George's Hall, Bewdley

## **Limehouse Lizzy**

Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

## **Mackerel Sky**

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **Have One2many, The Rogues**

Ludlow Brewery, Ludlow

## **Test Drive**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

## **The Bohemians**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

## **Big Jim & The Boogie Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley

## **Pete Hyde & The Villiards**

The Chestnut, Worcester

## **Steve Page**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

## **The After Dark Band**

He Red Man, Kidderminster

## **Mel & Him**

Red Lion In, Malvern

## **Pth**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

## **Abba Forever**

Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

## **Uk Subs, Fights And Fires, Tenplusone, The Liabilities**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

## **Without Flight**

The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

## **Terry Hughes Earworms**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

## **Crazyhead, Flying Ant Day, Dc Spectres**

Claptrap, Stourbridge

## **Bryn Teeling**

Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

## **U2 V Simple Minds**

The Oast House, Redditch

## **Meg Shaw**

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

## **Planet Loco**

Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

## **Swede Dreamz**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## **Prone 2 Madness**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

## **Beaver & The Foghorns**

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

## **Jamie Leigh 80S Rock Tribute**

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

## **Monkey Jam**

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

## Sunday 10 December 2017

### Madi Stimpson

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### Tewkesbury Town Band

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### Worcester Concert Club Presents: The Carnival Band

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Belshazzar's Feast, Paul Sartin, Paul Hutchinson,

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

### Simon Wallace

The Bell, St Johns Worcester

### The Haunted Souls

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

### We Three Kings Of Rock And Roll

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### Barny's Live Music With Guest Artist Jim Reynolds

Little Vic, Stroud

### Wolfren Riverstick

The Red Lion, Evesham

### Clarksville Mountain Band (5:30Pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Crazy Legs; Hard Rock, Hard Rock

Three Crowns, Willenhall

### Ghost Season, Broodmother

The Valkyrie, Evesham

### Tommy Allen'S Trafficker (4pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### Eva Jacobs

Whittle Taps, Cheltenham

## Monday 11 December 2017

### Steeleye Span

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### Mozes Rosenberg

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Carl Sinclair

Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

## Tuesday 12 December 2017

### James Richards

Tank, Gloucester

### Christmas Singalong - Pershore Community Choir

Number 8, Pershore

### Matahari

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

### Esther

Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

## Wednesday 13 December 2017

### The Paul Rose Dictatorship

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### AC/DC UK

The Iron Road, Evesham

### Hipkiss

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### Osmoid

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Big Band at Christmas

Artix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

### Nuns Of The Tundra, Purple Shades, Random Name

Generator

The Paul Pry, Worcester

### Nash Ensemble

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

### Damon T

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

## Thursday 14 December 2017

### Heathens

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### The Quireboys: Unplugged

The Iron Road, Evesham

### Mike Sanchez And His Band

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Collision

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

### The Follies

La Petite Gare, Kidderminster

### Beaux Gris Gris & The Apocalypse

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### Boneyard: King Corpse, Thousand Mountain, Effigy For Sleep

Heroes, Worcester

### Ian Siegal

Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

### Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### Hattie Briggs

Christ Church, Cheltenham

## Friday 15 December 2017

### Thunder Daze

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### Pretty Nasty

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### Flash: A Tribute To Queen

The Iron Road, Evesham

### Sam Gwinell

The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

### Si Holmes

The Ambassador Club, Evesham

### Reload

Drummonds, Worcester

### Marabooboo All Stars

The Swan Inn, Evesham

### The Official Receivers

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Two Dollar Salad

The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

### 5:15

The Blue Bell, Ryall

### Thee Pulsations

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### Ian Luther

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Blank Canvas

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

### The Ed Sheeran Experience

Hallow Village Hall, Worcester

### Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Star Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

### Nuthin' But Trouble

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

### Disco Superstars

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Come Up & See Me

The Maltster, Worcester

### Doreen Doreen

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants

Queens Head, Wolverley

### Boolas

The Queen Vic, Stroud

### Brooks Williams

White Hart, Winchcombe

### Bad Spaniel

Gordon Bennett'S, Hereford

### Steve Maitland Buble Tribute & Christmas Songs

The Old Pheasant, Worcester

### "Sunjay Plays Buddy"

St George's Hall, Bewdley

### Ash Mandrake

The Sebright Arms, Worcester

### Bon Jovi Tribute

Land Oak, Kidderminster

### Glow Worms

The White Lion, Leominster

### The Quo Experience

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

### Guy Challenger And Catherine Dobbie

The Red Lion, Evesham

### The Delray Rockets

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### The White Feather Collective, Connie Gordon

Elmslie House, Malvern

### Hometown Tourists

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport-On-Severn

### The Strays

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### TV Smith

Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

### 2 Sick Monkeys, Rash Decision, Meathook, Fear Insight,

Indecent Assault

Claptrap, Stourbridge

### The Barrelhouse Blues Band

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

### Slightly OCD

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

### Macca, Gaf, Cross, Bobby Smith

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### The Robbie and Olly Tribute Show

The Bell, Stourbridge

### Michael D. Wynn Vs. Charlie Baxter

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Kezza Belle

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

### The Lady and The Sax

The Hop Pole, Bewdley



## Saturday 16 December 2017

### **Gotta Groove Band**

The Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Festive Acoustic Ceilidh**

St Withun's Institute Hall, Worcester

### **Clashed, Straw Dogs: Clash / Stiff Little Fingers Tributes**

The Iron Road, Evesham

### **Skabucks**

Railway Inn, Studley

### **Two Push Charlie**

Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

### **The Strays**

Reet Petite, Leominster

### **Macca, Cross & Gaf Live**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### **Early Warning**

The Bell, Leominster

### **Michael Jackson Tribute Night**

Amber, Evesham

### **Fury**

The Retreat, Ledbury

### **Boogie Street**

The Swan Inn, Evesham

### **Soul Stripper, Electric Circus**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Lee Price**

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

### **Journeyman...Celebrating Marco's 40Th!**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **Roving Crows**

George Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

### **The Haunted Souls**

The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

### **Whole Lotta Led**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Witcher**

The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

### **Ginanni Rock**

The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

### **Blondie And Ska**

Spartans Rugby Club, Gloucester

### **The Searchers**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Stealth**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **The Bad Dads**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### **Kat Blay**

Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

### **Jagged Hands**

The Express Inn, Malvern

### **Different Beat**

The Old Forge Inn, Whitminster, Gloucester

### **The Face Stealers**

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

### **The Comrades At Jazzjiveswing**

Dowty Sports & Social, Gloucester

### **High Roller**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **The Melvyn Hancock Band**

The Valkyrie, Evesham

### **Omer & Ravi**

Star Anise Arts Cafe, Stroud

### **Miss Chief & Mr Mesners**

Forester's Arms, Malvern

### **The Goldblums**

The Victory, Hereford

### **Roxy Musique**

Holme Lacy House, Hereford

### **The Fireballs Uk**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Steve Maitland Buble Tribute & Christmas Songs**

The Old Pheasant, Worcester

### **The Woo Town Hillbillies**

The Saracens Head, Worcester

### **The Ray Mytton Band**

The Cricketers, Worcester

### **Miss Chief And Mr Meaners**

The Foresters Arms, Malvern

### **2 Tone Review**

The New Unicorn, Malvern

### **Winterfest (16 Bands Across 2 Stages)**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Macka B And The Roots Ragga Band**

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

### **Voxrox**

The Foley Arms, Malvern

### **The Marley Experience**

Warwick Bar N Club, Redditch

### **Paul Stevens**

Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

### **Contempt, The Liabilities, The Domestics, Brassick, Leech Bleeders, The Kirkz, Casual Nausea, Mothcob, Behavioral Sink, The Arcane Network Broadcast Intrusion, Kiss Me, Killer**

Claptrap, Stourbridge

### **Starving Rascals**

Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

### **Bryn Teeling**

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

### **The White Feather Collective, Sundara**

Elmslie House, Malvern

### **The Ron Jeremy Band**

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

### **Rattlesnake Jack**

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

### **Hide Your Eyes - 'The Cut' Music Video Shoot**

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

### **The Nitecrawlers**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

### **Matt Belmont**

Suffolk Arms, Cheltenham

### **Steve Ferbrache**

Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

### **Asa Payne**

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

## Sunday 17 December 2017

### **Carol Lee Sampson**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **Electric Church With Host Olly Wharton**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### **Nikki Petherick**

Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

### **The Laerie Faeries**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Shulah's Christmas Cabaret (3Pm)**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Locked & Loaded (5pm)**

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

### **Yorkshire Carols**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **Fcs: Graveyard Johnny's, The Rock-It Dogs**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Woo Town Hillbillies (5:30pm)**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **The Thursdays ~ [On A Sunday!]**

Three Crowns, Willenhall

### **The Woo Town Hillbillies**

The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

### **Rob Powell**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **Linzi Martin & Marie McNally Vintage Xmas Concert 7:30pm**

Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

### **Sally Live Music**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

### **Becki Biggins**

The Stable, Cheltenham

### **Jon Esole**

Albion House Club, Cheltenham

### **Izzy The Push Acoustic**

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport-On-Severn

## Monday 18 December 2017

### **Kevin Grenfell's ' Zoot Suit Ch Boogie'**

Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

### **Ballina Whalers**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Big Boy Bloater, Al Gare, Dean Beresford**

Cherington Arms, Shipston-On-Stour.

## Tuesday 19 December 2017

### **Rob Tognoni (Tasmania)**

The Iron Road, Evesham

### **Russ Poole**

Tank, Gloucester

### **A Christmas Carol: A Folk Opera**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **Enzo Open Mic Night Xmas Party**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **Ben Stancombe**

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

### **Cara Dillon Christmas Concert**

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

## Wednesday 20 December 2017

**Daylight Robbery, Mallen & Shyyne**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Beaux Gris Gris & The Apocalypse (U.S.A), Hvmm**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Discharge, Pray U Prey, Drunk in Charge**  
The Valkyrie, Evesham

**Viva Neil Diamond**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Rod Stewart Tribute**  
Sapey Golf Club, Worcester

**Andy Quick**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Yorkshire Carols**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Adrian Litvinoff's Interplay**  
Leamington Rugby Club, Leamington Spa

**Andy Lindsay & Debbie Parry**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**OPlastic Scene**  
The Talbot Pub, Bewdley

**Michael Buble Tribute - Kai McKenzie**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Mytacism Music: Tell Me I'm Pretty, Chloe Elliot & More**  
The Firefly, Worcester

## Thursday 21 December 2017

**Slade UK**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Uncover: Skewwhiff, Poppy WS, Plastic Scene, Valence**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Rubble**  
The Spread Eagle, Hereford

**Blacklight**  
The Venue, Hereford

**The Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Neil Ivison**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Nick Helm And The Helmettes**  
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

**2 Tone Revue**  
Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley

**The Ed Sheeran Experience**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Friday 22 December 2017

**Roger Roberts**  
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

**The Stiff Joints**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Something By Friday**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**The Task in Hand: A Fundraiser For Worcs Community Record Label With: Hallucinations, Black Boxes, Navajo Ace, Brownfield, tbc**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Hoden Lane**  
The Swan Inn, Evesham

**Chimp On A Bike**  
Hungry Horse - The Wheatpieces, Tewkesbury

**The Bones**  
The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Wolfren Riverstick**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Freefall**  
The King Teddy, Gloucester

**The Lazy Susans**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Jamie Knight & The Manuka Band**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Steve Lindforth**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Over The Hill**  
The Greyhound, Gloucester

**Chinese Burn, The Lone Sharks, Bones Like That**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**All Ears Avow**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**The Conspiritualists**  
The Clive, Ludlow

**Steve Maitland Buble Tribute & Christmas Songs**  
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

**Vehicle**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Leanne & King Rich**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**Glow Worms**  
The Bush, Worcester

**Skrood**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Crystal Balloon, The Rumble, Bxly**  
Fróg And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Dub Thieves**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Live Music with 'Elvis'**  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Dan Finn**  
HR's Sports Bar, Bewdley

**The Spacehoppers**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**The Follicles**  
The Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley

**Jay & Eli**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**The Ron Jeremy Band**  
Slug and Lettuce, Bromsgrove

**Missing Lynx**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Last Tree Squad**  
Firefly, Hereford

**Starving Rascals**  
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport-On-Severn

## Saturday 23 December 2017

**Queen Tribute Night**  
Chateau Impney Hotel, Droitwich

**The Follicles**  
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

**Surreal Panther**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Mister Wolf**  
The Swan Inn, Port Street, Worcester

**Kharmagheddon**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Mister Wolf**  
The Swan Inn, Evesham

**Steve Descher**  
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**An Evening With The Blues Brothers**  
The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Slightly OCD**  
The Plough Inn, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Tequila Mockingbird**  
The Dick Whittington, Gloucester

**Tayloe & Co**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

**The Ghm Xmas Party With Antiquity**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Adam Lacey**  
Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

**Mel & Him**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**Wolfthe Six Foot Way**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**The Delray Rockets**  
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

**Nite Train**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Marabooboo**  
The Valkyrie, Evesham

**Jayne Peters Band**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**We Are The Lost Boys**  
The Queen Vic, Stroud

**Fury, The Loved And Lost**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

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

**Hump De Bump**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Counter Measures**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**The Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley

**Glyn Martin**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Treble Fours**  
The Cricketers, Worcester

**Goodall**  
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove



**DNA**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**The Three Elvies**  
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

**Offthegrid**  
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**Ventus Trombone**  
Claptrap, Stourbridge

**Cracker's 88'S**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**Ariana Grande Experience**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The After Dark Band**  
The Park Gate Inn, Bromsgrove

**Bluestreet**  
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

**Eastwood Band**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**John D'Ambrosio**  
Suffolk Arms, Cheltenham

**Ub40 Tribute Adrian Jakeways**  
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

## Sunday 24 December 2017

**The Follicles**  
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

**Christmas Eve With Drew**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**The Bones**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Jay & Eli**  
The Bell Inn, St.Johns, Worcester

**Lounge Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**DJ Paul Charles**  
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

**Chicargo Bytes**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Drifter With Dave Small**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**The Ferretts (5:30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Ruben Seabright Christmas Set 8pm**  
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

**The Stiff Joints Christmas Party**  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**John Mills**  
Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

**The Straight Aces**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**Answer Back**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Jon Eselle**  
Royal British Legion, Claines, Worcester

**Will Jay (Throu The Decades)**  
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport-On-Severn

## Tuesday 26 December 2017

**Guns Or Roses + Hollowstar**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Early Warning**  
The Black Swan Hotel, Leominster

**Chalky (3pm)**  
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**Lewis Leighton**  
The Fountain Inn, Stroud

**Rubio**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**The Bon Jovi Experience**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Wednesday 27 December 2017

**Nirvana Uk + Pearl Skam**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Sex P\*ssed Dolls**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Sister Sandwich**  
The Talbot Inn, Bewdley

## Thursday 28 December 2017

**Emma And The Professor**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Sneak Eazies**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**42 SLAP DEC/JAN**

**Lemmy Memorial - Motorkill in Aid Of St Richards Hospice**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Los Gusanos**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Ben Folger Music**  
The Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

**Ben Folger**  
Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

**Sarah Warren Nick Lyndon Open Mic**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Dizzy Lizzy**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**Faith - The George Michael Legacy**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Friday 29 December 2017

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

**Stuart Davies**  
The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

**Noasis**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Ruzz Guitar's Blues Revue**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Mister Wolf**  
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

**The Wizards Of Oz**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**GC's**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Monkey Jam**  
The King Teddy, Gloucester

**Kinnigin (Kim Rydr & Amanda Stone)**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Future Set**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**The Delray Rockets**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Ultramegaok, Thousand Mountain, Tammy Down**  
The Marr's Bar, Worcester

**Unity: Heart Songs With Madhava And Friends, Martin Thorne, Jonathan Penley, Ray Mytton, Julia Palmer-Price, Sundara**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Melvin Hancock**  
The Seabright Arms, Worcester

**Black Knight**  
The Miller's Arms, Pershore

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Unity Gathering**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

**Jibbafish**  
Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

**Witcher**  
The Bluebell, Ryall

## Saturday 30 December 2017

**Rebel Lust**  
The Dick Whittington, Gloucester

**Dr Stanleys Medicine Show**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Futures**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**The Blueshounds**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Ruzz Guitars Blues Revue**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**East 17 & Noasis**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Big Fat Shorty**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Steve Ferbrache**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Glow Worms**  
The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**The Strangers**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Thabo**  
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

**White Tyger + Moose Jaw**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Sunday 31 December 2017

**Rattlesnake Jake**  
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Power Room**  
Upton Social Club, Upton Upon Severn

**New Years Eve With Mean Business**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Mister Wolf, "New Years Eve Party"**  
The Plough Inn, Upton Upon Severn

**Gas Attack NYE Party Ticket Event**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Pete Harrington**  
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**Nicole Sherwood, Toby**  
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

**The Executives, guest appearance - Tommy 'guitar' Pope**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**The Face Stealers**  
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Delray Rockets**  
The Royal Oak, Broadwas On Teme

**Mia & The Blackhawkes**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Still Crazy**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Vaginapocalypse, Mark Stevenson And Sproatly Smith**  
Left Bank, Hereford

**New Years Eve With Rack & Ruin**  
The Valkyrie, Evesham

**The Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Plesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

**Witcher**  
The Trumpet, Evesham

**5:15**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**New Year'S Eve Party With Beat Brothers**  
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

**4ft Fingers!**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Hennesea**  
Great Malvern Hotel, MALVERN

**Jay & Eli**  
The Kings Arms, Mickleton

# 2018

## Monday 01 January 2018

**Jay & Eli**  
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

**Hair Of The Toad Pack (6Pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Witcher**  
Millers Arms, Pershote

## Tuesday 02 January 2018

**Straight Aces**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

## Wednesday 03 January 2018

**Horizon Lights**  
The Dragon, Worcester

## Friday 05 January 2018

**Mister Wolf**  
The Lamplighter, Stratford

**Lounge Toad**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Forty Blue Toes**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Night Rat Pack Olly Murs 50'S 60'S 80'S Mix Night Jon Eselle Live**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Rod Stewart & The Facez**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Saturday 06 January 2018

**Nikki**  
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**The Buzzing Hornets**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

**An Evening With Will Killeen**  
The Camp Inn, Worcester

**Abba Tribute Night**  
Sapey Golf Club, Worcester

**Amie Woodyatt**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Dark Island**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Kevin Rhodes**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Ceilidh: Hekety**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Built For Comfort**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Kickback**  
The Valkyrie, Evesham

**Chris Hutchison**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**Good On Paper Party: Mesadorm, Near Future And More**  
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

**Living The Dream**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**The After Dark Band**  
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

**Legend**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Ross Angeles**  
The Islington, Angel, London

**The Roy Wood Rock N Roll Band**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**The Desperados**  
Cheltenham Harley-Davidson, Cheltenham

## Sunday 07 January 2018

**Clarksville Mountain Band (5:30Pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Thursday 11 January 2018

**The Rock'n'roll Era**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

## Friday 12 January 2018

**The Other Covers Trio**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Brickwork Lizards**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Hey Yahs**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**The Follicles**  
The Station Inn, Kidderminster

**Attila The Stockbroker, The Humdrum Express, Jess Silk**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**Cher V PINK**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Saturday 13 January 2018

**Charity Night With The Fingers**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Unconventionals**  
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**George Montague**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Gordon Giltrap With Special Guest Carrie Martin**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Better Than We Look**  
The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

**Hennesea**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Bob Porter Project**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**This Is The Kit**  
Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

**Chicago Bytes**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Stoned Love**  
The Black Lion, Hereford

**Taylor & Co.**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Whitney Queen Of The Night**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**Foyer Folk**  
Number 8, Pershore

**The Dropouts**  
The Valkyrie, Evesham

**The Woo Town Hillbillies**  
The Green Dragon, Guarlford/ Malvern

**Wootown Hillbillies**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**Jagged Hands**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Johnny Cash Roadshow**  
Forum Theatre, Malvern

**Alden Patterson, Dashwood**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**The Roy Wood Rock N Roll Band**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Madonna Tribute**  
Droitwich Golf Club, Droitwich



## Sunday 14 January 2018

**Pete Harrington**  
Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

**Carol Lee Sampson & Don Mac (5:30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The Version**  
Katie Fitzgerald, Stourbridge

**Whitney – Queen Of The Night**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

## Tuesday 16 January 2018

**In Her Own Words, For The Win, Better Than Never, Victory Lane**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

## Wednesday 17 January 2018

**Michael James**  
Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

## Thursday 18 January 2018

**Jay & Eli**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Aerialists**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Martyn Joseph**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Carducci Quartet**  
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

## Friday 19 January 2018

**The Follicles**  
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

**George Montague**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Buddy Holly: A Legend Reborn**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**True Strays**  
White Hart, Winchcombe

**Ultimate Coldplay**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Saturday 20 January 2018

**The Machine Rages On**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Jamie Jones**  
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**Someone Like You - The Adele Songbook**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Abba Forever**  
Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Dublin Jack Un-Plugged And Dangerous**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Steve Ferbrache**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Sax Appeal**  
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**Rubble**  
The Volunteer, Hereford

**Voodoo Stone**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**Discharge, Pray U Prey, Drunk in Charge**  
The Valkyrie, Evesham

**Offthegrid**  
The Red Man, Kidderminster

**Nightshift**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**No Tools Required**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**The One Love Band**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Stiff Joints**  
Claptrap, Stourbridge

## Sunday 21 January 2018

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

## Monday 22 January 2018

**The Final 4**  
Tree Tops Safari Venue, Bewdley

## Tuesday 23 January 2018

**Hed Pe, 2nd Self**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Final 4**  
Tree Tops Safari Venue, Bewdley

## Thursday 25 January 2018

**Fairport Convention**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Blue Rose Code, Hattie Briggs**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Garance And The Mitochondries**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Sally Hosts Droitwich 60'S Night Sing Dance Drink Live Music**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## Friday 26 January 2018

**Matt Woosey**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Face Stealers**  
The Black Star, Stourport

**G & T Mix**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Trevor Burton Band**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Bowie Experience**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**Skrood**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Ga Ga: The Ultimate Queen Tribute**  
Forum Theatre, Malvern

**Into The Hurricane**  
Claptrap, Stourbridge

**The Stylistics**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Uk Guns N' Roses**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

## Saturday 27 January 2018

**Bobbie Williams**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Automatic Annie**  
South Shropshire Blues Club, Ludlow

**Steve Page**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Bourbon Alley Blues Band**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**52 North**  
The Valkyrie, Evesham

**Mischief & Missdemeanor {The Debbie Parry Band}**  
Green Dragon, Malvern

**Mel & Him**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**The Delray Rockets, Buddy X Hunt**  
The Plough Inn, Upton On Severn

**Brendon O'brian Live The Irish Music Man**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Ross Angeles**  
The Spice Of Life, Soho, London

**Ultra 90S**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Glenfest Winter Music Festival**  
Glenfall House, Cheltenham

**Slightly OCD**  
Somerset Arms, Cheltenham

## Sunday 28 January 2018

**Cajun And Zydeco Festival 2018**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Matt Peplow**  
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

**The Pelleas Ensemble**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Boon Dogs (5:30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Sinatra, Sequins & Swing**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

## Tuesday 30 January 2018

**Sarah Mcquaid**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Jack Jones**  
Forum Theatre, Malvern

upload your listings at  
[www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/](http://www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/)

# December/January Comedy:

## Evesham Arts Centre:

**Fri 1st December, 20:00**

### Phill Jupitus: Juplicity

Join the legendary comic for an evening of tales, laughs and diversions. Watch in delight and/or horror as this experience funny man drags laughs out of the chaos of his own life and the uncertain world that surrounds it.

## Artrix Arts Centre (Bromsgrove):

**Fri 1st Dec, 19:30**

### Maureen Younger presents Always Younger

Maureen delves into the joys of being middle-aged and single, while reminiscing at previous faux-pas such as the time she got sacked in Germany for not epitomising a traditional Japanese woman.

**Sat 2nd Dec, 20:00**

### Barnstormers Comedy December 2017

Sit back and enjoy a great Saturday night out as Barnstormers Comedy compère introduces three top comedians from the London/National stand-up comedy circuit.

**Fri 8th December, 20:00**

### Yianni Agisilaou:

#### The Simpsons Taught Me Everything I Know

Following critically acclaimed, total sell-out runs at Edinburgh, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth Comedy Festivals, Yianni Agisilaou brings his love letter to the world's greatest TV show to Artrix.



**Tues 12th Dec, 20:00**

### Barbara Nice's Christmas Cracker

Mrs. Barbara Nice is a much loved headline act throughout Britain – Mother of Five from Stockport she believes in bargains and getting the most out of life – Ergonomically correct, she doesn't drive and travels the country by National Express coach – her husband knows nothing of her burgeoning comedy career – he thinks she's either at Bingo or dog sitting.



**Fri 15th Dec, 20:00**

### Harry & Chris

After sell-out runs of their 2016 and 2017 shows at the Edinburgh Fringe, Harry Baker and Chris Read bring their unique mix of comedy, melody, poetry and best-matery to Artrix!

**Sat 20th January, 19:30**

### Andy Zaltzman

Andy Zaltzman is a stand-up comedian, broadcaster and author, who has firmly established himself in the vanguard of British comedy with his unique brand of political satire.

## Hungtingdon Hall (Worcester):

**Tues 5th Dec, 19:30**

### Jason Manford: Work in Progress

Jason Manford is back with a work in progress show ahead of his national tour in 2018, which promises to feature a wealth of comedy anecdotes, misunderstandings and audience banter delivered with Jason's likeable charm and teasingly intelligent wit.



## Hereford Left Bank:

**2nd Dec, 19:30**

### Farcical Comedy Club at the Left Bank Village

Comedy night featuring George Rigden, Tim Goodings, Jeremy Flynn, headliner, Stuart Goldsmith, plus MC, James Ryan.

## Smokey Joe's (Bennington St, Cheltenham)

**Fri 15th Dec, 19:30**

### December Comedy Showcase

Comedy night showcasing the best up-and-coming talent in the South West, featuring Becky Fury and David Hoare.

**Fri 12th January 2018, 19.30**

### Retro Games Comedy Night

Stand-up comedians talk about their love of Retro Video Games, surrounded by coin-op arcade classics at Smokey Joe's Cafe. Headliner: Laura Monmouth's LGBTQZX, an Edinburgh show inspired by ZX Spectrum games.

## Patrick Kavanagh Pub (Mosley):

### Fat Penguin Improv

**(Every Thurs except the first Thurs of the month)**

An alternative comedy night with guest stand ups running every Thursday (except first Thursday of the month).

### Fat Penguin Standup (Every Wednesday)

Comedy night featuring great stand ups every Wednesday.

## Caffe Del Nino (WS11 1GR):

**Weds 13th Dec, 19:00**

### Blue Giraffe Comedy Night

New stand up comedy night.

## Open mic comedy nights:

### The Holly Bush (Cradley Heath):

FREE, every Thursday. Pros and newcomers try out new material. Visit [bushcradley.co.uk](http://bushcradley.co.uk)

### ComedyJAM (Firefly, Worcester):

FREE. Pros and newcomers try out new material. Visit [facebook.com/comedyjamworcester/](http://facebook.com/comedyjamworcester/)

**For all things Comedy email Alex: [comedy@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:comedy@slapmag.co.uk)**



# Music Sessions/Open Mics

**Every Monday - Open Mic**  
Royal Oak, Ledbury

**Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night**  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**Every Monday - Folk Night**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session**  
The Pickled Plum, Pershore

**4th Mon - Singaround**  
Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

**Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights**  
Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

**Every Tues - Jazz Night**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Every Tuesday - Plug n Play**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Every Other Tuesday - Open Mic**  
The Firefly, Hereford

**First Tues - Open Mic**  
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 Tything, 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 Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session**  
Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

**Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic**  
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 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 Muchdeu 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

**Sunday Live Open Mic**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Every Sat - Disco**  
Ducker Bar & Beer Garden, Leominster

**2nd Sun - Singaround Session**  
The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

**Every Sun 8.30-Midnight - Open 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

# THE VALKYRIE BAR

Live music in evesham

## DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd - 9:30pm

**Collision**

FREE ENTRY

Sunday 10th - 7:00pm

**Ghost Season | BroodMother**

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 16th - 9:30pm

**Melvyn Hancox Band**

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 23rd - 9:30pm

**Maraboooboo All Stars**

FREE ENTRY

New Years Eve - 8:00PM

**Rack & Ruin Ceilidh Band**

followed by disco till late

Buffet included - TICKETS £10

## JANUARY

Saturday 6th - 9:30pm

**Kickback**

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 13th - 9:30pm

**The Dropouts**

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 20th - 8:00pm

**Discharge | Pray U Prey |**

**Drunk In Charge**

TICKETS £10 - ON THE DOOR £12

Saturday 27th - 9:30pm

**52 North**

FREE ENTRY

**LIVE DJ**  
**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT**

**OPEN MIC**  
**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY**

f /THEVALKYRIEBAR

@THEVALKYRIEBAR

MARKET SQUARE, EVESHAM, WR11 4RW | 01386 48680



# THE MARRS BAR

DEC JAN 2017/18

Friday 2nd February  
Gaz Brookfield And The Company Of Thieves



**Friday December 1st**

**Dreadzone, Ital Sounds**

**SOLD OUT**

**Saturday December 2nd**

**Moretallica, Motorboat (Motorhead trib)**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday December 8th**

**Ultimate Coldplay**

£7 in advance £8 on the door

**Saturday December 9th**

**3 bands £3**

£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Friday December 15th**

**The Official Receivers**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday December 16th**

**Soul Stripper (AC/DC tribute)**

**Electric Circus (W.A.S.P. Tribute)**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Sunday December 17th**

**FCS: Graveyard Johnny's, Rock-It Dogs**

£7 in advance

**Thursday December 21st**

**UnCover: Skewwhiff, Poppy WS,**

**Plastic Scene, Valence**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Saturday December 22nd**

**The Task In Hand presents a fundraiser for Worcestershire Community Record**

**Label with: Esteban, Black Boxes,**

**Navajo Ace, Brownfield + more**

£3 in advance £5 on the door

**Saturday 23rd December**

**Fury, The Loved And Lost**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Friday 29th December**

**UltramegaOK**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Saturday 30th December**

**TBC**

**Sunday 31st December**

**Break Out NYE club night**

£6 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 6th January**

**Kick The Clown**

**Friday 12th January**

**The Other Covers Trio**

£4 in advance £6 on the door

**Saturday 13th January**

**James O'Mara "Forever on tour"**

**Memorial charity gig**

£8 in advance

**Friday 19th January**

**Fights & Fires**

**Friday 26th January**

**Matt Woosey**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Thursday 1st February**

**UnCover: TBC**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday 2nd February**

**Gaz Brookfield And The Company Of**

**Thieves, Chris Webb + Nick Parker**

**Cost: £10 in advance £12 on the door**

**Wednesdays - Jamming night**

**Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4am**

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

01905 613336

**Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue**

**Available for private hire**