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Issue 77

Feb 2018

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Feb 2018 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hello! Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I trust you all had a splendid time or at least made the best of it.

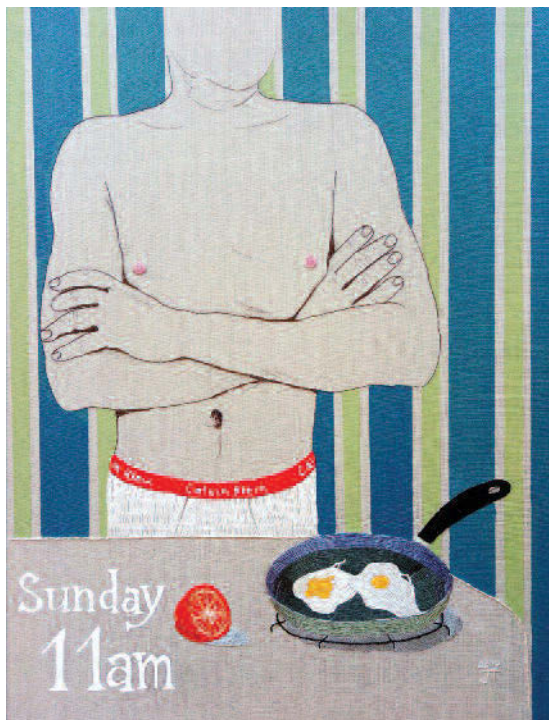
January has been a mixed bag of emotions for me it has to be said. Two of my favourite front people passed away - Dolores O'Riordan and then Mark E Smith, both of whom I had the great pleasure of meeting and I remain a huge fan of them and their music.

This issue is packed with all the news from a thriving local arts scene around the three shires. With exhibitions and events not just in arts centres, galleries, museums & libraries but in 'pubs', bringing art to the masses. Our front cover image by textile artist Tamara Jelaca whose exhibition 'Faceless' is sure to draw one or two 'new faces' to Pershore Number 8. (Egg cooking is one of my specialist subjects although perhaps not whilst half naked!) We bring updated news on the Canal & River Trust Arts Waterways project - The Ring, also funded by Arts Council England, with the announcement of international artist Lucy Mclauchlan joining the program. Exciting times ahead...

The increasing popularity of poetry and spoken word do not get ignored either in this issue. We feature former Birmingham poet laureate Spoz and his book with accompanying CD. We also report on the new Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate as well as our regular Suz Winspear column. Again pubs are playing their part in this vibrant local scene and long may it continue.

We also bring you plenty of music reviews from local acts and their 'new releases' so please follow their links and check them out. We are all used to buying online or streaming music these days, which means it isn't always easy for local artists to get noticed. It's going to be harder still, in Worcester at least, due to the sad closure of Rise Records which kept an independent section for local artists. It seems very sad to me that a City the size of Worcester no longer has an independent record shop.

Egg-Ed



Front cover: *The Naked Chef* by textile artist **Tamara Jelaca** from her 'Faceless' Exhibition at **Number 8**, Pershore. See page 7.

Noisey Neighbours Turn Up Angry Pierre

Great news for local music venues across the UK as the Government agreed with campaigners including Paul McCartney, Chrissie Hynde, Feargal Sharkey and Pink Floyd's Nick Mason to give protection to existing sometimes noisy venues from property developers - who will now be responsible themselves for ensuring sound-proofing of nearby residential dwellings rather than putting the burden on the venues!!

Care in the Community

Worcester Music Festival has announced that their chosen charity for this year's bash will be the **Worcestershire Association of Carers** which provides information, advice, support and respite projects for unpaid carers. This year's event will take place across the city between 14-16 September with 250+ acts expected to play over the weekend!

WOO HOO!!

More awards success for another local festival as **Woo Fest** came runner-up in the **Best Small Festival** category in the 2017 **UK Festival Awards**. The day-long event came back to the Drum & Monkey near Upton for a third year and featured flypasts from a WW2 Lancaster and the Red Arrows! Woo Fest was founded by siblings **Luke** and **Ria Simons** in memory of their father John and raised £10,000 for St Richard's Hospice which provided care for John in his last days.

Nuns on the Run after final fallout

Tough luck for Malvern's **Nuns Of The Tundra** who just missed winning top spot in the Firestone 2017 Bands Battle final at the British & Irish Music Institute in Birmingham - coming away with consolation prizes of equipment, vouchers and tickets plus the confidence that the experience gained will be a '*stepping stone to the future*' according to a Firestone spokesman...



EU'd be mad to miss it!

Described as the 'best in the country' by former **Poet Laureate Andrew Motion**, **Ledbury Poetry Festival** has launched a preview of the 2018 event with confirmed appearances from **Sinead Morrissey** and **Stornoway's Brian Briggs**. Festival manager **Phillippa Slinger** said that they'll be 'unshaken by Brexit' and will feature EU-supported upcoming European poets plus international performers. The festival runs from June 29 to July 8 - more at poetry-festival.co.uk

Bit of a festive spoiler for **Colin 'Mad Pierre' Robinson** and the staff of the Chestnut Inn Worcester which was broken into on Christmas Day after Colin and his staff had held their free Xmas lunch for more than 50 homeless and lonely people - also raising over £750 for local charities. While the thieves only took goods and cash from charity boxes to the value of about £200 - in typical fashion Colin described the break-in as 'a bit frustrating and annoying...'

Muff Murfin Music History

Seems like a little bit of local music history will be ending as it's likely that the **Old Smithy Studio** in Kempsey will eventually be demolished and replaced by a couple of houses as part of owner **Muff Murfin's** retirement plans - the studio was built by Muff in his back garden in 1977 and has hosted sessions from acts such as Robert Plant, Edwin Starr, Jimmy Ruffin, AC/DC and Black Sabbath!

Rise and Fall

More sad news as Worcester's only independent record store **Rise Records** in Crowngate closed after six years when the small Bristol-based chain was taken over by the formerly right-on Rough Trade brand. Manager Tom George said he was sad that the store was closing but singled out a launch party by Frank Turner in 2015 as a very memorable highlight - it sure was!!

Paradiddle-idde-idde-lum

Good first reports of new Worcester music venue **Paradiddles** in Sidbury - an 85-capacity cafe/bar for bands and musicians, plus opportunities for practice, art and poetry - well you know where to list what you're putting on guys...

RIP Dave

Sad news reached SLAP regarding local guitarist **Dave Camp** lost his 12 month fight against a rare brain tumor. He passed away at the Sue Ryder home in Leckhampton on 12th December a few days before his 57th Birthday.

For many years Dave played in **The Blues Anoraks**, along with his friend and partner **Bill Pullen**. Our thoughts and sympathy go to all his family and friends.

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I've had a good rest after a crazy busy December and now I'm on it again chatting with possible collaborators and clients and idea forming for 2018. If you are interested in working with, or booking me for any quirky event or project, then please shout up. Happy to chat creative thoughts.....

klikklikcollective.com

Separately to Klik Klik, if you fancy something handmade for a Valentines gift or handmade something, then pop and see me on Worcester High Street on sat **10th Feb** when I'll be selling some of my own personal visual artwork, (textiles, crafts, vintage stuff and cards) on the High Street (Up)Market from 10-5pm.

Klik-Klik
COLLECTIVE



Recycled sculptures at the Hive

Heather and Ivan Morison's *The Long Afternoon of Earth* is a new series of sculptures, 'growing' in the spaces of **The Hive** in Worcester, the first joint university and public library in Europe. The work has been commissioned by **Meadow Arts** and is the result of a yearlong artists' residency, working with the people who use the Hive and the students of the University of Worcester.

"Made of recycled books and natural pigments The Long Afternoon of Earth is twelve vessel/objects that ask you to stop, settle, read. Accompanying the reader, the student, the researcher, the visitor and the luncher, the works speak of Burmese cats purring on a knee while reading, a roaring fire that invites you to settle with a travel book, a houseplant sitting in a stand next to your favourite reading spot. Twelve of these objects/vessels are placed around The Hive, each with a tree growing in them creating a dozen discreet spaces or settings. Sit here, they will say, next to the art and read, study, lunch, or snooze, and feel at home, feel warmth." Heather Morison, 2018.



The sculptures will be unveiled on Thurs. 1st Feb between 5 - 7 pm with a talk by the artists and an opportunity to discuss the new work with them and the curators from **Meadow Arts**. There is also a family workshop on 3rd March so keep an eye out. 1 Feb - 1 Aug 2018
www.meadowarts.org

The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester WR1 3PD

Printing by Memory

'Memory States' by award winning printmaker **Jess Bulger** explores the nature of traumatic memory with each piece of the collection exploring a different captured fragment. Speaking out of personal experience, the work is not a logical sequence signifying encounters between the past and present. Using print to pursue the nature of these memories, Bulger encompasses both traditional processes such as linocut and modern technology including the laser cutter and Xerox machine.

Jess Bugler is an award winning printmaker and current recipient of the Peter Reddick Bursary Award. As well as winning the Hawthorn Prize at this year's Flourish Awards she has also exhibited at the National Original Print Exhibition and the International Print Biennale.

The Courtyard, Hereford until 18th February.

Love Apocalypse

Been in love, lost in love or all gone Pete Tong this Valentines Day, come share your laughter, tears and words of love and lust in poetry at an informal **Poetry Slam** event with an unusually eclectic twist. 16th Feb Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury, 7.30pm.

Heart work

Get a Life, a one-day exhibition raising funds in memory of one of the artist's relatives, will be at **The Paul Pry**, Worcester on Feb 1st.

Josh Neal, artist and show curator, presents work from five artists which is all Risograph printed (an environmentally friendly and cost effective printer, which uses soy-based inks to produce unique outcomes) by Rope Press in Birmingham. You can get a preview of their work here:

Joe Lyward - joelyward.co.uk/
Joe Waldron - joewaldron.co.uk/
Jake Rowlinson - jakerowlinson.blogspot.co.uk/
Simon Reid - simonhreed.co.uk/
Josh Neal - josh-neal.myportfolio.com/

"Basically I'm running the London Marathon in April, on behalf of the British Heart Foundation. My run will be dedicated to my Grandma, Peggy Burke.

I thought it would be interesting to exhibit characters from video games, and their struggle to gain health. There is a common theme throughout games where you need to gain hearts to replenish health. The artists I'm collaborating with are also very passionate about illustration and video games, so I thought it would be quite interesting to see what we could come up with". - Josh Neal



So pop along to the **Paul Pry** on the **1st feb** between **7.30-11.30pm**.



Jean-Michel Basquiat

I managed to catch the tail end of the **Basquiat** exhibition at the Barbican last month; the first collection in the UK of works by the vibrant artist, musician, photographer, graffiti artist and poet who was an integral part of the New York 'Downtown' scene in the early 80's (before leaving this world in 1988, aged only 27).



For me this was a long-standing personal goal; Basquiat has been an influence on my own work and I've never seen any of his creations in the real previously. There has been some criticism of this show; some saying that a life so explosive ought not be condensed into such a calm environment. However I really enjoyed having a window into his world, seeing how he layered his often-childlike scribbles, Xerox copies and paint; grasping the sheer enormity of his diversity. It was blatant just how much of an influence he was; a pioneer in early 'graffiti'/street art (working under the name **SAMO**), a jazz musician, part of the early NY hip-hop scene, a big player in the uber-cool early 80's scene hanging out with many famous faces, speaking out often about racism and issues, hooking up with and collaborating with fellow artists Andy Warhol and Keith Haring (amongst others); Basquiat lived a short but brightly coloured spark, one I was glad to take a peek into.

The exhibition has ended but if you want an insight into Basquiat and the 80's scene, check out the film **Downtown 81**.

Adventurous film festival visits the region

The **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour** features brand new films starring the world's top explorers on mind-blowing journeys in wild and remote parts of the globe. The tour's films are chosen from hundreds of films entered into the prestigious Banff Mountain Film Festival, which takes place every year in the Canadian Rockies. Each screening offers a real sense of community, bringing together outdoor enthusiasts who are into all sorts of outdoor pursuits. The tour comes to the UK and Ireland during 2018, with more shows than ever before. It started in Edinburgh last month, finishing up in Northern Ireland on 19th



May, after visiting nearly 60 locations. The tour is part of the wider Banff World Tour, which travels the globe each year, visiting nearly 50 countries and reaching more than 400,000 people worldwide.

7th Feb & 9th March - Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

14th Feb & 7th March - Cheltenham Town Hall

2nd & 23rd March - Forum Theatre, Malvern

3rd March - Birmingham Town Hall

For more info and to book tickets, see www.banff-uk.com

'FACELESS'

Contemporary art embroidery exhibition by **Tamara Jelaca**

An exhibition of contemporary embroideries by Droitwich based textile artist **Tamara Jelaca** will be held in **Number 8 gallery** in Pershore. 'Faceless' portraits of real and imagined people from all walks of life, are challenging our perception. The public is invited to play and replace obvious conclusions with some alternative, or invent the different backgrounds behind the portraits. Does lack of facial features give us more freedom to understand people or it limit us in our ability to know each other better?

Tamara Jelaca graduated textile design from the Faculty of Applied Arts & Design, University of Belgrade (Serbia). She works in a field of contemporary textiles & mixed-media visual arts, mail art and art books.

Tamara is professionally active since 1996 and was taking a part in over 70 group exhibitions and projects in Serbia and abroad (Switzerland, Italy, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Sweden, France, Spain, Germany, Bolivia, Finland, Argentina, United Kingdom). She exhibited her work in 9 solo exhibitions.

Since 1996 she is the member of the Society of Applied Arts Artists and Designers of Serbia (ULUPUDS). She is a member of **Droitwich Arts Network** since 2014.



Exhibition is opened from 15th February until 7th March 2018.

Join artist Tamara Jelaca in The Foyer discussing her work and the pieces featured in the 'Faceless' exhibition on Thursday 22nd Feb 2018 at 7pm. Number 8, 8 High Street, Pershore WR10 1BG

tamarajelaca.com



World Music Season

Our community told us loud and clear in 2017 that you wanted to see more world music, so our 2018 program kicks off with **World Music Season** – 3 very different musical acts which combine diverse influences from all over the world. All brought to you in the heart of Worcester to warm those winter dancing feet.

Our first act is **Don Kipper**, a multi award-winning 7-piece ensemble playing and transforming a wide range of traditional musical forms which reflect their cultural diversity. From Turkish and Greek Folk Music's to Romani music and Klezmer you're guaranteed to hear something you've never heard before.



Expect the unexpected from their show. While rooting themselves deeply in the traditions that surround them, they also explore radical interpretations full of complex harmonies, rhythms and improvisation. **Don Kipper** are equally adept at taking an audience on a musical journey through Europe as they are taking their feet on a frantic journey around the dancefloor.

Tickets cost £10 and are available at Tel: 01905 25053 and www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

Show runs Friday 16th February - Doors at 7pm for an 8pm start

We have two more acts lined as part of our World Music season. **Tantz**, will be bringing klezmer dance and gypsy jazz influences to us in March.



And in April we're excited to welcome **Týhai**: Indo Celtic Trio, playing a unique combination of the ragas and rhythms of Indian music and Welsh traditional music and song.

You'll hear more about both acts in the next edition of SLAP but if you just can't wait, visit our website to learn more or book tickets.

Don't forget that our arts classes for adults and children are still running. From ceramics to life drawing, fused glass and more there is always something new to try your hand at. Visit our website to book yourself a place.



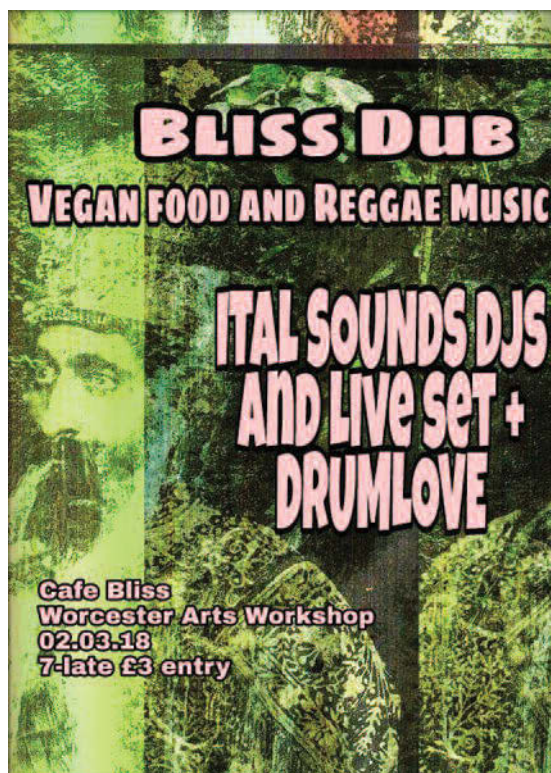
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LGBTQ film screenings - Artrix

Artrix is pleased to present cinema screenings during february as part of LGBTQ History month.

The 1968 feature film **The Killing of Sister George** (18) stars **Beryl Reid** and **Susannah York**. Aging actress George (Reid) lives with her lover, Childie (York) and plays a cheerful district nurse in a BBC soap opera. However, her character is to be killed off, and George realises that the only other job she can get is the voice of a cow in a children's tv programme. Her life begins to fall apart as Childie has an affair with a predatory TV producer.

Tuesday 13th February at 7.30pm

Artrix will be hosting a free networking event before the film from 6pm.



Battle of the Sexes - In the wake of the sexual revolution and the rise of the women's movement, the 1973 tennis match between women's world champion Billie Jean King (**Emma Stone**) and ex-men's-champ and serial hustler Bobby Riggs (**Steve Carell**) was billed as the **'The Battle of the Sexes'** and became one of the most watched televised sports events of all time, reaching 90 million viewers around the world.



As the rivalry between King and Riggs kicked into high gear, off-court each was fighting more personal and complex battles. The fiercely private King was not only championing for equality but also struggling to come to terms with her own sexuality, as her friendship with Marilyn Barnett (**Andrea Riseborough**) developed. And Riggs, one of the first self-made media-age celebrities, wrestled with his gambling demons, at the expense of his family and wife Priscilla (**Elisabeth Shue**). Together, Billie and Bobby served up a cultural spectacle that resonated far beyond the tennis court, sparking discussions in bedrooms. Battle of the Sexes is rated 12A.

Tues 6th, Mon 12th & Thurs 15th Feb at 7.30pm and Fri 9th Feb at 11am Tickets £7 or £6 conc (over 60s, students and under 16s).
artrix.co.uk

Artrix arts for young people

This month there are loads of things to do for young people at the Artrix in Bromsgrove. On Sunday 4th February, **Red Earth Theatre** presents **Mirror Mirror**, a mischievous take on the ever-popular fairy-tale Snow White. This new version of the timeless tale combines beautiful puppets, captivating storytelling and mesmerising sign language. 2pm.

And don't be stuck for ways to keep the family entertained during half-term with a pop-tastic **Bubble Disco** on Sun 18th at 2pm and cinema screenings of the hit animated film, **Ferdinand** on Sat 17th, Mon 19th & Wed 21st. 11am. For families looking for a half-term theatre trip, a stage-production of big, bad, **Monstersaurus** will be stomping and roaring its way onto the stage on Thurs 22nd. The creators of **Aliens Love Underpants** will be bringing this much-loved book to life with magic, mayhem,



music and audience participation – but only if you dare! 11am & 2pm. For more info: artrix.co.uk

A word from Sand and Sid post The Boars Head, Kidderminster.

Hi All. Bet you all really want to know what we've been up to since leaving the **Boars Head**... chilling, sleeping, relaxing...lol.. if only...!

We managed to put on a one day **Fringe Festival** back in August outside the Boars which was superb, and Sid has been hard at work, scribbling, doodling and drawing. He is pleased to announce that on **Feb 24th** he will be officially a self employed artist so to kick it all off in style we are holding a launch party and exhibition. Everyone is invited, so come along see Sid's artwork, have a drink, catch up or even put an order in!

Hopefully we'll see some old faces with a few new ones too.....

Chester Tavern, 211 Chester Rd North, Kidderminster, DY10 1TN. 7pm till close.



2018 at Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

A fantastic new programme has been unveiled at **Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum**. Throughout 2018 the Gallery aims to bring the best of the nation's art to the city.

Saturday 17th February sees the opening of **Benjamin Williams Leader**: Blest by the suns of home. BW Leader became an international success with his paintings of the idyllic English landscape. During World War One, these images took on a new emotional appeal with connotations of a landscape worth fighting for. The exhibition, which is part of the Worcestershire World War 100 project, includes artworks from the Worcester City collection as well as loans from private and public collections, including *The River Lugwy near Betws-y-Ceod* generously lent by Her Majesty The Queen from the Royal Collection.

The summer show promises lots of family fun as ever. Visitors can explore half a million years of Worcestershire's history in **Ice Age** and come face to face with a Neanderthal, crawl inside an Ice Age shelter and meet Fluffy the Woolly Mammoth! Over this enormous timespan there were many changes in climate, from woolly mammoths roaming icy tundra in Bromsgrove, to prehistoric lions hunting the grasslands beneath Bredon Hill. The exhibition will bring this little known period of our prehistory to life. Ice Age opens on 16th June and will be on throughout the summer holidays. The exhibition is produced in partnership with the **Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service** as part of the **Lost Landscapes** project.

In the autumn, works from the internationally renowned Arts Council Collection by contemporary artists **Gillian Wearing** and **Mark Titchner** will be shown alongside Worcester's collection of historical satire and political prints in the exhibition **What Do We**

Want. Turner Prize-nominated artist Mark Titchner will also be working with Worcester residents to create new artworks, which will be seen across the city.

Councillor **Mike Johnson**, Chairman of the Joint Museums Committee says: "We are very pleased to bring world-class art to Worcester throughout 2018. It is a rich and varied programme and

we should relish the fact that these incredible works of art will be on show on our doorstep. We look forward to welcoming visitors old and new to enjoy the exhibitions, events and permanent displays."

The ever-popular monthly bite-sized talks return with the first talk on Tuesday 13th February 'The Giant Wombat in the basement' which highlights research into the Ice Age collections.

There are plenty of talks, events and activities in the new **Art Gallery & Museum** leaflet that can be picked up from the Gallery or the **Tourist Information Centre** at the Guildhall. Or find us on Twitter or Facebook for up-to-date news @worcestermuseums @worcestercityartgalleryandmuseum or visit: museumsworcestershire.org.uk.

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum is open Monday – Saturday 10.30am – 4.30pm and entry is free.



Dancefest's spring term has started, with over 35 weekly classes for all ages across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, including brand new ballet beginners for children and Chance to Dance for people aged 55+ in Bishampton and Droitwich.

There's still lots more to come, with auditions for their new Worcester Junior Youth Dance Company on 15th Feb at 5.30-7pm at Dancefest's base at The Angel Centre in Worcester. This new performance company is for enthusiastic, creative young dancers aged 11-15 who'd like to develop their technical and performance skills. The company will be led by Clare Wood, Dancefest's Development Team Leader for Young People, who has a huge amount of experience working and choreographing with young dancers. It's free to audition and the cost of membership for successful dancers will be £66.

dancefest



Develop and Deepen, Dancefest's advanced contemporary class for adults, takes place monthly on Thursdays at 7.30-8.45pm at the University of Worcester's Riverside campus and the next session is on 15 Feb. It's for experienced dancers looking to develop and deepen their contemporary dance practice and offers a chance to discover new ideas and techniques in a fast paced, challenging class. The cost is £6.90/£5.90 concessions.

There's also a half term choreographic residency for 11-18 year olds on 19-20 Feb at The King's School and The Angel Centre in Worcester, working with a guest choreographer to create a dance piece for Circuit youth dance performances on 20th and 21st March. The cost is £30 for all 3 days.

You can find out more and book at dancefest.co.uk or on 01905 611199

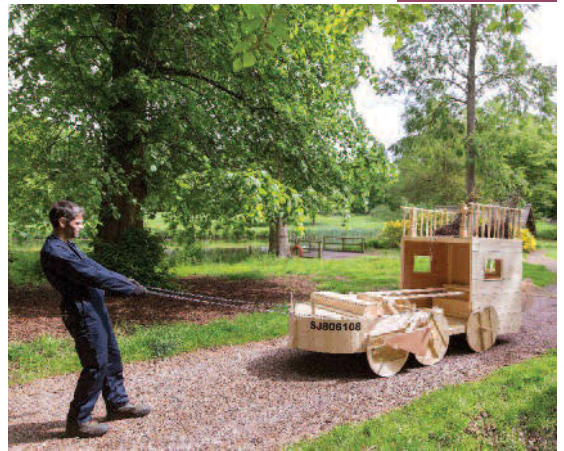


Garage Open Lecture Series

Meadow Arts and the University of Worcester's Fine Art department, **Garage Studios**, continue their successful series of artists' talks for the third year in a row. Some of the most exciting contemporary artists working in the UK are visiting Worcester's state-of-the-art library, **The Hive**, to talk about their artwork, ideas and the processes they use in a series of free talks. The talks take place on selected Wednesday evenings from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, and include a chance to ask questions after each presentation. The talks are free and open to all, though booking is recommended via www.meadowarts.org - more about the artists and a full list of dates are also available on the website.

The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester WR1 3PD. For more information visit:

www.meadowarts.org uwgaragestudios.tumblr.com



David Bethall

Jasleen Kaur, Cairns. Photo S. Handy.

GARAGE OPEN LECTURE SERIES
ARTISTS TALKS @ THE HIVE

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 Wed 14 Feb
 Wed 21 Feb
 Wed 14 Mar

David Bethall
 Marianna Simnett
 Helen Maurer
 Jasleen Kaur

FREE artists' talks 4:30-6:30pm
@The Hive, Worcester
 visit www.meadowarts.org to book

Honey - on tour



Malvern theatre company **ReAction Theatre Makers** are touring this spring and summer with **Honey**, a patchwork of life in the Welsh mountains. An intimate story that intricately weaves together the lives of a boy with autism who loves to dance, his mother and her tattoo-artist sister, and those that want to love them. Just like a jar of honey, this play from ReAction's **Tiffany Hosking** Theatre makers, has sweetness and depth.

Woven throughout is the beautiful backdrop to this moving, charming and funny piece: a quilt. It is stitched with hopes and dreams, pieced together throughout the performance as a present to root Alice's son to the earth, and a symbol of the strength of a community coming together. Three Hives help us navigate through a world that she has created.

With an original musical score you will taste the honey, feel the richness of the hills, the air and hear the music that fill this small land. There is magic at work here as wonderful as any bees waggle dance.

Children and the older generation can enjoy this production together as, while it has been written for an adult audience, it has the beauty and simplicity of a children's piece. Ages 9+.

15th March Artrix, Bromsgrove 7pm

21st March Worcester University

There will be more news on this in the March issue of Slap.

Suz Winspear

The New Year begins, and now that Christmas and the flu epidemic are out of the way, it's time for me to start filling your clean new diaries with notices of Spoken Word events again!

Of course, a new year means a new round of **Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe** competitions to enter. The first of these is for the **Worcestershire Poet Laureate 2018-19**. **Nina Lewis** is in the middle of her triumphant year, spreading poetry far and wide, throughout the county and beyond. A new Poet Laureate will be chosen in June, and if you want to enter, now is the time to start thinking about. You need to write two poems of up to 40 lines, one on the theme of **'Future Echoes'**, the other on any subject you like. Submissions must be in by Friday 30th March.



Worcestershire's 2018 Young Poet Laureate announced

The youngest ever **'Young Poet Laureate for Worcestershire'** has been announced, following a final at **The Hive** last month which featured performance poet **Spoz** (aka Giovanni Esposito) as event MC.

Rachel Evans, a 13 year old student from **Woodrush High** in Wythall, saw off strong competition from the other 10 finalists, to take the 2018 title with her poems **'NATO'** and **'Prisoner: DF8421'**. The runners up were **Sophie Green** aged 17 from Redditch, **Dani Ncube** aged 15 from Bromsgrove and **Heather Rodgers** aged 16 from Pershore. The judges included outgoing Young Poet Laureate, **Oakley Flanagan**, who was alongside current Birmingham Poet Laureate, **'The Poet with Punch'** **Matt Windle** and **Gail O'Malley** from **Worcestershire County Council, Children Families and Communities Directorate**.

Rachel Evans, winner of the Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate for 2018, said: "The final was unbelievable. I met so many different people whose poems were about such different things that I didn't want to leave by the end of it. I heard my name and I was speechless. I am the youngest ever Poet Laureate and that smashed my doubts completely. I am so excited to be added to a list of such successful and passionate young poets and hope that I am, someday, as successful as they have been".

Cllr **Lucy Hodgson**, **Cabinet Member for Localism and Communities** added: *"The young people of Worcestershire, entrants and finalists should be really proud of their efforts in this year's competition. The event continues to go from strength to strength, and always brings a smile to the faces of all involved."*

12 SLAP FEBRUARY

If you prefer writing prose to poetry, you could enter the **Flash Fiction** competition, for short stories of up to 300 words, on any theme. There are cash prizes for the top winners, and the best stories will be published in an anthology by **Black Pear Press**. Entries should be in by Friday 27th April.

You may know a young writer aged between 7 and 17; if so, tell them about the **Young Writers' Awards!** **LitFest** and sponsors **Titania** are looking for stories of up to 300 words on the theme of **Kings and Queens**. There are three age-categories, entries should be in by Friday 27th April, the writers will be able to read their works at the opening event of **Lit Fest** in June, and they will be published in an anthology. This isn't just for schools or organised groups – individuals are welcome to enter, so if you know of a keen young talent, let them know!

Further details, and instructions on how to enter, can be found on the **Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe** website – worcslitfest.co.uk - and there are links to it on **LitFest's** Facebook page.

Meanwhile, here are a couple of February Spoken Word events **Thursday 13th – SpeakEasy at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop**. Poetry from a wide range of local poets. The featured performer is **Jenna Clarke** – I don't know her work, but she's been published by **Eyewear Press**, which suggests it's something rather good! 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 28th – 42 at the Lunar Bar, above the **Swan with two Nicks Life**, the *Universe and Everything* – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name . . . You never know what you might see and hear at 42 . . . Free entry. 7.30pm.

The **'Word Up'** Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate annual poetry competition is open to anyone aged between 13 and 19 living in, or going to school, college, university or a youth club in the county. This year's competition required poets to submit two poems, one on the subject of *'Freedom'* and another on a subject of their choice.



Run by **WCC's Libraries & Learning Service** and **Arts Service**, it is designed to encourage young people to express themselves through poetry and to support the development of young poet talent across the County. During their reign the winner of YPL will write and perform 5 commissions to a variety of audiences and will be an advocate for poetry, particularly amongst young people. Performance coaching is available to all finalists and additional mentoring is available to the winner.

For more information please contact **Natalie McVey** on 07876 144905.

Acclaimed street artist announced as part of The Ring

UK street artist **Lucy McLauchlan** is the newest addition to **The Ring** - a major arts programme and cultural first for Worcestershire that will celebrate the rebirth of the region's canals and rivers during 2018. The project, run by the **Canal & River Trust** will see a series of new art commissions created by local and internationally celebrated artists in response to the 21 miles of waterways encircling Droitwich and Worcester, namely the Worcester & Birmingham Canals, the Droitwich Canals and the River Severn.

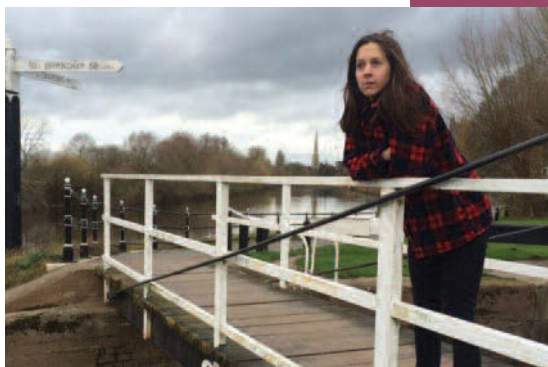


Local communities, The Ring and the natural environment of the waterways will inspire Lucy's artwork. Debris transported by the River Severn will become integrated into her mural and local communities will be approached to assist with the artwork, whereby the themes of sustainability and nature will inform her final mural.

Lucy's internationally acclaimed, large-scale monochromatic paintings combine ancient, almost pre-historical influences with graphic, modernist sensibilities. She has exhibited in galleries, museums and festivals across the globe, creating work using a 'one-take' philosophy that rejects extensive preparation using digital tools. Her commissions have adorned multi-story buildings worldwide, including China, Africa, Japan, Italy, Russia, USA and even a Norwegian lighthouse. Within the UK, Lucy infamously created the 'Todo es Posible!' mural in 2010 on the outside of the former Birmingham Central Library building, while four of her works are in the Victoria & Albert Museum permanent collection.



Lucy McLauchlan said: "My studio in Birmingham is based on the canal. I've witnessed its lure as an escape and quiet space for many people. My immediate environment is a huge inspiration in my work. From my previous project painting murals along the canal-side in Birmingham, I got to know the waterway by canoe. Being on the water gave me a different and new appreciation of the canal. I'm looking forward to discovering the waters of Worcestershire, getting to know its communities and involving local people in the commission. I'm working in their 'back garden', so it's important they have the chance to get involved and feel a sense of ownership to this artwork."



Lucy is the fourth artist to be announced for **The Ring**, which will invite audiences to explore on foot, by boat or bicycle a series of five public art commissions by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists, as well as a series of works by locally based artists.

Manda Graham, project director for The Ring said: "We're very excited to announce details of this artist commission. Lucy's eye-catching works have featured all over the world and now she's coming to Worcestershire! Over the coming year The Ring's artworks and events will weave through a variety of communities and landscapes, it's going to be an exciting time on the waterway with more announcements to come."

The Ring is part of the Canal & River Trust's Arts on the Waterways programme, a collaborative arts programme situated on and inspired by waterways in England and Wales. It is funded by **Arts Council England, Canal & River Trust** together with support from local authorities, trusts and foundations. For full details please visit: www.theringart.org.uk

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WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

14-16 September 2018

Festival Announce 2018 Charity Worcestershire Association Of Carers

Worcester Music Festival has announced that their chosen charity for 2018's event will be local organisation, **Worcestershire Association of Carers**. The Festival, which takes place between Friday 14th and Sunday 16th September, is hosted across the city centre and celebrates the arts while supporting a different local cause each year. Festival goers will be encouraged to donate to the charity during one of the festival's 250+ live performances over the weekend.



Worcestershire Association of Carers, founded in 1997, is a registered charity that provides an independent source of information, advice and support for unpaid carers who dedicate their time to caring for their loved ones. They also endeavour to represent them on both a local and national level, gaining them the recognition they deserve. As a service that supports the selfless, the association is one that well and truly deserves the support of the festival.

As Worcestershire Association of Carers prioritises giving carers a break from their role, they intend to run projects that help them experience a respite from their demanding positions. 'Carers Unlimited' has been launched to lead such initiatives, so far organising breakfasts and trips to sporting matches, allowing carers to increase their networks and support one another.

On the announcement, **Carole Cumino**, CEO of Worcestershire Association of Carers, said, "We are absolutely delighted to be Worcester Music Festival's Charity of the Year. It is a fantastic local event that we are looking forward to being involved with as community support is so important to us. We hope to use some of the money raised to start our own carers choir as we know how important and uplifting music can be in people's lives. 2018 is Worcestershire Association of Carers 20th anniversary year so this is a wonderful way to start and we are so grateful for the support."

With the money raised, the charity plan to continue these events, launching a carers choir as a priority as, in a recent a report, music and singing activities have been found to improve wellbeing and enhance a sense of purpose in those taking part. They are also looking to host wellbeing and mindfulness sessions for carers to develop engagement and support.

Nicola Boraston, the festival's charity co-ordinator, said, "It's important for the festival to support worthy causes and Worcestershire Association of Carers is definitely one we're passionate about. In the past, we've supported Worcestershire Young Carers so we're looking forward to continue our support for the caring community."



The festival, now in its 11th year, has to date supported 16 charities, raising almost £50,000. Last year, the team donated over £4000 to **St Paul's Hostel**, enabling the charity to continue to provide 24 hour emergency care for those in need. They were also able to launch an initiative that taught those in their care to play instruments.

For more information on Worcestershire Association of Carers, please visit www.carersworcs.org.uk

To keep up to date with the latest from Worcester Music Festival, visit www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk or follow them on social media @worcsmusicfest

Worcester Music Festival open band Applications

Worcester Music Festival have now opened their band applications for 2018's event. The festival, which takes place between **14th - 16th of September**, will be fundraising for **Worcestershire Association of Carers**, raising money to support carers across the county.

Artists from every genre are invited to apply to the festival through the online application form on the WMF website. Local promoters will be given charge of a night in one of the 20 venues located in the city centre, handpicking a line-up from the artists applying.

As in previous years, performers will be asked to donate their time to help bring the city's music scene together, all in aid of a great cause. All gigs are free entry with charity donations collected throughout the weekend.

Artists performing will have the chance to reach new audiences, sell CDs and meet hundreds of fellow musicians, while organisers, who are all volunteers, work hard to promote bands who take part and raise thousands of pounds for the chosen charity.

Over 1000 acts applied to play in 2017, with 250 acts being picked to perform at festival venues, from pubs, clubs and cafes to historic buildings, church halls and on the streets.

To apply to perform at the festival, visit the website: www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply

MUSIC @ MALVERN CUBE

16th Feb | Mumbo Jumbo

A return to **The Cube** with a 'Pay What You Think It's Worth' after last year's success at the venue. You come along, decide how much entertainment you've had and pay us accordingly.

3rd Feb - Paris Monster

Beat-driven. Employing heavy elements of funk and soul, Paris Monster closes the gaps between synth-pop & garage; between modern detail and old-school grit. Solid earth. Soaring soundscapes. A mass of noise. Volatility. Vocal singularity.

8pm Start. Support comes from local favourites **The White Feather Collective** and **The Tyler Massey Trio**.

Advance ticket £8.00 + booking fee/ £10 on the door



Top piano-led, close-harmony singer songwriting acoustic trio Mumbo-Jumbo have twice been nominated in the British Blues Awards. The trio combine quality songwriting and with a laid back humorous style and broad range of instruments. Regulars on the blues, folk and acoustic festival, small theatre and club circuit they sit somewhere between blues, folk and jazz with tinges of reggae.

'Pay What You Think It's Worth' means that you come to the gig for free and then decide what is a fair price for the entertainment received at the end. Our ticketed performances are normally between £8-10, but we are so confident that you are going to have a great time that this time you can come in for free!

Reserve your place-pay "What you think it is worth" as you leave.

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For more info on all events : Visit: www.malverncube.com

John Otway

The Marrs Bar, Worcester | Friday, Feb 16th

Back in the austere 1950's a schoolboy drank a bottle of ink and instantly became the centre of attention in the playground.

Rock veteran **John Otway** dubbed himself "rock'n'roll's greatest failure" after many unsuccessful attempts to produce a second hit single to follow his 1977 classic (*Cor Baby, That's Really Free* with **Wild Willy Barrett**).

However, a mere quarter century later, he was back on Top of The Pops with the wonderful disco pastiche, '*Bunsen Burner*' and back in the charts as a birthday present from his adoring and patient fans. And, more recently, his "*Beware Of The Flowers Cause I'm Sure They're Going To Get You Yeah*" voted the seventh greatest lyric of all time in a BBC poll.



A couple of years ago John realised that live footage from the many concerts over the years, plus many TV appearances – and a failed world tour attempt – would make an entertaining documentary film. So he made one. Initially expecting a couple of humble screenings for fans, the film premiered at the Odeon, Leicester Square, was shown at Cannes – and at prestigious UK film festivals including Cambridge during it's national tour.

2016 saw a remarkably successful Kickstarter appeal which raised over £40,000 for **John Otway and the Big Band** to record their first new album in many years on the island of Monserrat, whose famous studios hosted bands such as the Rolling Stones before being devastated by forces of nature, being a preferable option to Harlow. The album (strangely enough called '*Montserrat*') is available now on Red Bowler Records.

Expect madcap mayhem and some scintillating stunts from a man old enough to know better.....and also to be surprised at just what a showman and musician really lies underneath the tomfoolery.

'He's a cabaret act masquerading as a rock act. He is gleeful, anecdotal, funny and life-enhancing.' - Canterbury Fayre Review.

Surprise Attacks no. 62 Futuro de Hierro, Rosebud, Ferric Lux Heroes Worcester | Nov 30th

Since 2013, **Surprise Attacks** has brought monthly curated live music events to Worcester, with a focus on less commercial, more leftfield styles such as math and art rock, punk and hardcore, harsh noise, and experimental electronica. Tonight, these radicals once again infiltrate **Heroes Bar** on Friar Street, providing shelter and solace from all that is safe, radio-friendly and otherwise inescapable. Certainly not an event for your gran who loves Take That (with the occasional dip into edgier stuff like Ed Sheeran)!

Opening the night is Birmingham-based dark ambient artist **Ferric Lux**, described on his Tumblr page as “*Slow Motion Blackened Techno*”, which definitely seems fitting here. Armed with a laptop and a backdrop, Ferric Lux creates a murky, imposing atmosphere which perfectly suits the low ceilings and wooden beams of the old medieval building. Doom-laden, beatless electronic drones are punctuated by punishing blasts of distortion that rise and fall like waves, matched by grimy black-and-white visuals that expand and shrink to the music, resulting in an impressive and accomplished sensory experience.

Next up is local duo **Rosebud**, who continue with the laptop mixing and visuals, but add vocals and pounding rhythms, and take to the small stage wearing masks as unsettling as their music. As the hypnotic minimalism of the beats marches on relentlessly, heavily-improvised, ear-splitting electronics pulse in time to gothic, kaleidoscopic visuals. Accompanying this are tortured, reverberating screams, both terrified and terrifying. Rosebud are wildly inventive and entertaining to see, their unique combination of sound, visuals and performance as frightening as any horror film, especially in such a small, dark space. It's rare to see or



Rosebud

hear music that is genuinely unnerving, so this is no small accomplishment.

Finally, we have prominent Barcelona-based avant-garde musician and producer **Futuro de Hierro** (Spanish for “*Future of Iron*” (thanks to Google Translate!)), who has previously worked with Jochen Arbeit (of seminal German industrial act Einstürzende Neubauten), among others. He takes to the mixing desk alone, hunched over an impressive array of dials and cables like a deranged sonic professor. He continues in the same dark, experimental vein as the acts preceding him, but his music turns up the visceral abrasion to eleven, with rapid-fire machine-gun beats and metallic industrial scrapes that sound like the world is crashing down around us. His performance is animated and frenetic, yet as in control as you would expect a seasoned veteran to be.

For a night of music ranging from unconventional to the audiovisual embodiment of a brutal panic attack, the atmosphere in Heroes is calm, friendly and enjoyable for both curious newcomers and devoted fans of the avant-garde. The range and level of talent and invention on display was inspiring, making the sixty-second **Surprise Attacks** gig one to remember.

Words: Dan Knight Photography: Joey Havas

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The Magnificent Seven Knights of Camelot Littleworth Parish hall | 13th January

We're at King Arthur's court and there's trouble afoot as 'his' gallant knights have been struck down with violent food poisoning after sampling the cuisine at Lady Mabel's decidedly dodgy tavern/travel agent/dating agency. He's also worried that the evil Lord Moldiwart and his sidekick Mordrid are planning to release his wicked half-sister Morgana from captivity to wreak havoc and chaos in his kingdom - and quite verily so indeed!!

Yes of course it's panto time and it was a complete delight and pleasure to pop along to the Parish Hall in Littleworth for the **Norton Theatre Group's** rendition of the **Chris Bennion**-scripted swords-and-sorcery take on the traditional theme - still naturally with the 'behind you!' and 'oh yes it is!' bits thrown in - and I freely admit that I found this production (Chris' fifth panto script for NTG) absolutely hilarious as I'm a big fan of the Bored Of The Rings/Jabberwocky medievalish mickey-takes!

But fear ye not - despite setbacks of Moldiwart (**Vicky Blake**) defeating the hapless and increasingly limless Black Knight (**Chris Taylor**) to free Morgana (**Sarah Bennion**) - and his Round Table reduced to a mere seven due to projectile vomiting and a flawed selection system for new knights based loosely on reality TV - King Arthur (**Becki Fearnley**) with the dubious help of Merlin (**Chris**



Daly) undertake a quest to recover Excalibur and fashion a potion (the main ingredient of which is dragon snot) to counter Morgana's powers...

Plenty of topical and local references to contribute additional chuckles - and despite a couple of 'gender errors' all's well in the end in Arthur's kingdom as this **Jo Howe**-produced historical hysterical romp ends with the king reunited with the lovely Gwen (**Hollie Avery**) and the Black Knight (now Lady Mabel's paramour) regains his full complement of limbs - well after all they were 'but flesh wounds'...

AOH

King King

Birmingham Town Hall | 18th January

A full house awaited all-conquering, multi-award winning, blues rock band **King King** with **Alan Nimmo** at his personable best up front. Supporting them were **Rhino's Revenge**, a rock trio fronted by **John 'Rhino' Edwards**, bass player for the legendary Status Quo.

Rhino's Revenge boasted **Jim Kilpatrick** on lead guitar and **Richard Newman** on drums with 'Rhino' himself taking care of the vocals and keeping the audience amused. They were soon rocking out, opening with 'One Note Blues' before shifting up a gear for heavyweight 'Secretary'.

This is in your face punk peppered rock that is buckets of fun from a very able band, proved as they found their way from a doggardly 'My Name Is Stan' through to just 'Bad News'. 'Rhino' claimed writing credits for Quo's 'Two Way Street', so it seemed the perfect song to thump out and close what had been a blistering session. Check out The Tube, and you'll find 'Rhino' mixing it with the Quo. As support acts go, this was a belter, leaving the Town Hall nicely buzzing for King King.



A quick bit of work for the roadies and the stage was set for **Alan, Lyndsay Coulson, Wayne Proctor** and 'new' keys man, **Jonny Dyke**, complete with Hammond and Leslie Cab. Solid as Hadrians Wall, Alan, kilted and booted, stepped forward as King King fired up 'She Don't Give Me no Lovin' to an enthusiastic cheer. The organic Hammond Leslie combination stirred the air as Wayne thumped his way into Exile & Grace's 'Broken', electrifying the air. If there were any doubters sat in the rows, they were certainly converted now.

The slow, soul drenched 'Long History of Love', taken from *Standing in The Shadows*. It gave Jonny another opportunity to showcase his key skills with the swirling notes filling the hall before Alan's Strat sang out its sweet solo, stretching out this superb song. There were thoughts that they might just 'Lose Control' as the audience roared approval but they were soon put aside for the brilliant, anthemic 'Rush Hour'. Despite the title, the next song needed little introduction. Brought in with a slow heavy drum by Wayne and Lyndsay's bass in support, the pulsating rhythm built for the sultry 'Stranger to Love'. Nimmo's guitar talks, hypnotising the crowded, reverential, auditorium, we all knew where we were being taken. Not a murmur as Alan dropped the levels, lower and lower, but we could still hear those strings, caressed under his fingers, in the collective silence. Breaths were held, awaiting the build as the drum and bass thumped back in as KK's pièce de résistance brought thunderous applause.

How on earth do you follow that? Simply have Wayne and Lyndsay set up the funky rhythm, layer it with Jonny's ivory keys as Alan leads the baying mob into 'All Your Life'. Then add appreciative thanks for all who stayed the course from the gig's October cancellation - damned if it wasn't worth the wait.

If you want to see them live you won't have to wait that long. Saturday 14th April at Huntingdon Hall, Worcester.

Graham Munn

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys Artrix, Bromsgrove | 5th January

What has become their starting block for each new year, **King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys** drew in a good, mixed crowd to this January event. 2018 marks their 30th year swinging the blues, having played with, and supported, a myriad of both established and rising artists, including BB King and Ray Charles. KP fired straight into a 12-minute medley, built on Memphis Slim's 'Everyday I Have the Blues'.

A Latino rhythm brought out the warm brassy blast of **Big John Battrum's** tenor sax while KP took on a deep baritone horn. 'This Is It' rattled past at the speed of sound before Kevin 'Bull Moose' Shirley brought his fat bodied Gibson into the fray for the shuffling 'Don't Leave Me Baby'. KP turned to his own work that was written in the tub, or so he told us. 'Can't Get Enough of Your Stuff' featured a slow, bluesy bass line from chief clown **Shark Van Schtoop**, accompanied by some lovely piano from **Matt Foundling**, before breaking out into a Latinesque swinging blues where the big double bass closed off this absolutely superb song.

'Shake Rattle & Roll' rocked out as KP jumped down to join the revellers. A fizzing, electrically charged first set was taken toward the break by Big John with his mean sax, blowing out a jazz infused 'Back To The Chicken Shack'. With all the band having a solo run, grand piano through to a thumping drum bashing from **Gary Barber**, they proved the depth of the stage.

Matt worked those ivory's for a stonking boogie, recharging the atmosphere, as King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, worked their way through towards BB King's 'You Upsets Me Babe', prompting KP's memories of Symphony Hall with the legend. A Norwegian tour had brought them alongside Ray Charles, 'Roll With Me Baby',



filled the air. Jazz and a little scat changed the rhythm for a splendid, 'Lover Come Back To Me', soon time to break open the bottle, as we all joined in for a shot of 'Tequila'.

Way back in time, when KP were at Brum Town Hall they had played alongside and remained firm friends with Big Jim Merris and the Red Lemon Electric Blues Band's. Jim was here this evening and stepped up to add his harp to a couple of songs, including a blisteringly brilliant boogie led by Matt at the grand piano. 'Sway', gave Kevin the pole position on that big bellied Gibson as we started to wind up. The blue suited king of the swingers called out all those 'Bare Necessities' before declaring he was 'Going To California'.

I think this is my 5th year for this show, and the band seem better than ever. Whether sat or stood, the enthusiastic, full, audience could not keep still as the infectious rhythms pushed out, with the King crooning his way through some great music, all with a huge slice of humour and a twinkle in the eye. A truly wonderful, entertaining and engaging night with a band that never fails to deliver.

Graham Munn



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Balaban & the Bald Illeagles

Claptrap the Venue, Stourbridge | Friday 12th Jan

The first gig of what promises to be a big year for **Balaban and the Bald Illeagles**. Currently recording their debut EP, this gig was a sign of things to come from the three-piece. The gig was supported by the garage-rock tinged **Colossus Yeti** and the angular **The Day Ends**, both of which set the night up perfectly for what was to be a real showcase of local talent.

The Claptrap Venue is a fantastic setting, with some unbelievable sound. The newly revamped stage with built in PA is really something to behold, creating a stunning visual of the bands on top. The venue has become a real haven for live music in the area, in a time where such places are becoming few and far between. Boasting craft beers and ales behind the bar, with a quirky style that compliments perfectly.

The band fronted by **Roscoe Balaban**, start at around 10pm, the venue packed with an expectant crowd. Anyone who has seen BATBI before will know that you're in for a great gig, fantastic music and a chance of some faulty amps getting kicked over.

But the equipment tonight is as faultless as the band themselves. **Jonny Compton** keeping them together with some excellent drum work, battering the skins within an inch of their lives and **Ian "Onion" Whittaker's** bass a real driving force, with a tone you can physically feel with each note played. Roscoe

stands out front complete with Morrissey-esque quiff, cherry red guitar and the confidence to take on all comers.

The band are onstage for around 45 minutes, showcasing exactly what they're all about. Fuzzy riffs, articulate lyrics and sonic complexity that knocks you off your feet. Even when the acoustic guitar comes out, the sheer force of the drums and bass remind you that you're watching a real rock'n' roll band. Their sound is something that's hard to compare to anything you've heard before, influences such as; The Cure, Joy Division and R.E.M are laid bare for all to see, but they manage to channel this into something truly exciting.

If tonight is anything to go by, then 2018 could well be BATBI's year.

Jake Folley-Davey





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The Fidgets | Them

If you live in Worcester or have even visited for a period of time, no doubt you would've come across **The Fidgets**. They are usually found entertaining our ears with a selection of well loved 60s pop classics, but more recently, the lads, Max and Ryan, can be caught playing some of their own tunes alongside the old familiars. "Them" is the latest offering from the Birmingham duo. Their love of 60s pop is obvious to hear with upbeat verses, but with lyrics that refer to the modern day celebrity life of the Kims and Kanyes of today, and the wannabes chasing that lifestyle, the boys bring good old fashioned rock and roll crashing into the present. After just a couple of plays, you'll be able to happily sing along to the chorus, as it'll reel you in and have you bopping along as if you've known and loved the song forever.

Cleverly written yet simplistically delivered, it hooks the listener in. These guys are purely talented, and don't need to hide behind sound effects and gimmicks to come up with a winning single. In a nod to the lyrics, we can only hope to be half as cool as them.

Kate Ford



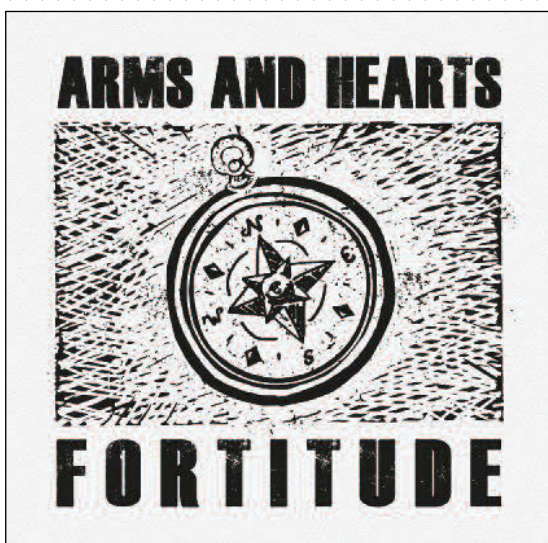
Arms & Hearts | Fortitude

Arms & Hearts is the musical venture of singer-songwriter/acoustic punk **Steve Millar**. He delivers powerful, emotional songs delivered with a genuine with a heart on the sleeve kind of passion. *Fortitude* is **Arms & Hearts** latest release and is currently available as a 'name your price' 2 track digital EP from **Real Ghost Records**.

The title track *Fortitude* is an upbeat slice of acoustic folk punk that sounds reminiscent of Frank Turner at his best. It's a warming number built around the mantra of "Home is wherever you happen to be that night". It's a catchy and uplifting song that, after a listen, will be going around in your head for days!

The second track on this release *Dagger Eyes* is a slower tempo more atmospheric song than *Fortitude*. It shows a different edge to Arm & Hearts songwriting with a more somber and emotive feel. It's a song that deals with the pain of loss and Steve's gravelly vocals are perfectly suited to deliver the lyrics with a feeling of heartfelt honesty.

Prior to receiving a review copy of this single I was unaware of Arm & Hearts work but, I can honestly say, this single has been a joy to listen to and I will definitely be buying/playing more of his material in future. If you are a fan of the likes of Chuck Ragan, Simon Wells, Frank Turner etc. then you really should check out this release.



For more information on Arms and Hearts check out <https://www.facebook.com/ArmsandHearts/> and to purchase the *Fortitude* single go to the Real Ghost Records Bandcamp page at: <https://realghostrecords.bandcamp.com/album/fortitude>

Jason K - Punk by Nature

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HOGAN'S

Ore | Belatedly

Belatedly is the debut album from **Ore**. **Ore** is the brainchild of local musician **Sam Underwood**. Those are the facts, from here on in it's opinion, so let's begin. I press play and the feedback starts whirring from my speakers, but this isn't guitar feedback for there are no guitars on this album, its brass. I've crashed into middle age and I'm listening to a brass band. Fear not, its "Doom Tuba" ...



With a couple of tubas and a contra bassoon driving the melodies, the first thing that hits you is the primal nature of the songs. The simplicity leaves you with a sense of loneliness and abandon. Occasionally, other instruments are used, flicked at the canvas like a Jackson Pollack on vinyl. This is all accompanied, in the most part, by rhythmic patterns that gently flow through the album, but don't let that put you off, the album is journey. The first track 'Scarn' sets you up. Its slow grinding melody set in a minor key is interspersed with actual gasps for air. You actually hear the band breathing and this intake of oxygen sends shivers up the spine. Late last year when Sam described the album to me, he used the phrase "positive melancholy", that exactly describes the second track 'Silicate'. Whilst one tuba holds on to a single bass note, another one plays a beautifully tender melody over the top. This album is full of standout songs, 'Bauxite' has a noir feel to it that would comfortably sit under a Tom Waits ramble. 'Beck' is another cracking tune. The album ebbs and flows beautifully like a cat's cradle of sound around your ears and finally crashes out with 'Kazuyuki' which is essentially a rave at the Salvation Army on rehearsal night.

The last time I listened to anything like this was when Peter Gabriel wrote and performed the soundtrack to *The Last Temptation of Christ*. You close your eyes and you're taken for a ride. For **Sam Underwood** it has been a deeply personal ride that he invites the listener to shotgun with him.

This was one hard piece to write and I don't take that sentence lightly. The problem is that it's difficult to know where to place an album like this. It deserves its own shelf in a record collection, it really does. Simply put, it's a piece of art and it's beautiful.

Chris Murphy

3Sixty | True Stories

3Sixty are a 5 piece rock outfit based in Worcester, bringing together vocalist **Mark Grimmett**, guitarists **Nick Singleton** and **Russell Simon**, with **Juey Hill** and **Mark Simon** on bass and drums. Mark and Nick have known each other for 20 years having been in a band called **Crywolf** which featured in Tommy Vance's BBC 1 Friday night rock show, with the band breaking up in 1990. A chance meeting, in a local pub rekindled the spirit, culminating in the formation of **3Sixty** and beating a path back into the rock driven songs of yore.

You could mistakenly think you had woken after a heady night out, in a time warp that finds you back to they heyday of British rock, a true story but a, '*Long Time Coming*'. The seismic beat thumps out as Mark gives it air, leading to guitar riffs and lead solo's, pretty much setting up the scene for the 12 tracks of this album. '*Mine All Mine*' has all the right curves in all the right places, you might just think you've stumble into an AC/DC gig. This one has some nice humbucking bass runs from the rhythm section. '*Stronger*' finds the boys in a more melodic mood, but have no fear the rock drives in, bringing a bit of gravitas to the song as Mark sings his heart out. Move forward a bit and the hammer comes down for a rocking '*Turn Up The Heat*', the twin guitars working hard, decorating the heavy drum beat pumping out its metronomic pulse, punctuated by crashing cymbals to produce a blisteringly hot track.

'*Lonely*', has the twin guitar lead in of *Hotel California*. but tells a different story all together. For me, it's one of the best songs on the album, featuring great rhythm, honey sweet guitar and empathetic lyrics.

'*Push Your Buttons*' rockets along, a real roadburner that leaves streaks of smoking rubber in its wake, driven by Mark Simon's



drums with Juey's bass thundering underneath. The guitar riffs are never far away, hitting the brakes hard as it comes to an abrupt halt.

The album is crammed full of anthemic rock songs that will satisfy the bands fans and many an old rocker.; The closing song, '*Just Around The Corner*' is not a million miles from Rainbows '*All Night Long*', but what the hell, it all about the style. This is solid rock and **3Sixty** have produced crushed granite, reformed into a handy little disc for your listening pleasure. *Truestories* is officially launched at the **Iron Road**, Evesham on April 7th.

Graham Munn

Icefire | "The Torment of the Damned"

You know how 'difficult' that second album is supposed to be?

Do you experiment? Do you produce a mirror image of your first album to keep the fans happy? A bit more radio friendly, perhaps? Decisions, decisions...

Tamworth/Birmingham based metallers Icefire don't seem to have got the memo on this one, instead they've simply gone ahead and produced the superb *"The Torment of the Damned"* which not only embeds the values laid down in their debut album *"The Nature of Evil"* but strongly reinforces their credentials in the crowded pool that is Midlands metal.

This is no-nonsense music making at its best, with opener *'Icefire'* grabbing your attention right from the off with thunderous clarity - its galloping beat laid down expertly by **Nigel Shaw's** lively bass, which is one of the many recurring strengths of this album and new member **Emerson Todd's** precision drumming. He's one of three stickmen used on the album, as the band went through a period of transition, and it's a testament to the skill of all three and the band's ensemble direction of travel that they're all seamlessly and effectively integrated into the sound.

The pace is abruptly dropped for *'Crossing the Line'* with a relentless, chugging riff so dirty you want to wipe its face with a washcloth, supplied by guitarist, **Dave Parrish** who cut his metal teeth in prominent NWOBHM outfits, Scarab and Nightblade. His playing throughout is a joy, a masterclass in not only power but also economy - his lovely, fluent soloing never outstaying its welcome. His chiming solo in *'Photograph'*, the only out and out ballad on the album, is particularly fine.

And over the top of this glorious racket, there's **Deborah Woodward's** remarkable voice, by turns smooth and crystal clear, then with a distinctly gritty edge, rasping out the lyrics with considerable force particularly on *'Dead of Night'*, a live favourite, honed to perfection onstage and which thanks to the spectacular



production job by **Greg Chandler** at **Priory Recording Studios** doesn't lose its impact translated to disc.

The whole of this perfectly judged album has unfolded like a book, a huge leather bound, metal studded book, so it's no surprise when the final chapter produces a powerful and devastating conclusion - *'Lord of the Dance'*, long, complex and with a tour de force vocal performance from Woodward is the perfect end to a near immaculate body of work.

Now tell me again how 'difficult' that second album is...

www.icefiretheband.com

"The Torment of the Damned" with graphics and artwork by **Wolven Claws** is released in mid-February.

Geoffrey Head

Lensmen | Scared Of Swimming

Five-piece Stroud based band **Lensmen**, a band that originally formed back in 2016 are something of a new name to me. Drawing on a myriad of influences from post punk and new wave to psychedelia and beyond, they create a unique and compelling sound that has been compared to everyone from Magazine, Bauhaus and Joy Division (*Sounds good to me - Ed*) with lapse of Richard Hawley and the the Tindersticks for good measure.

Following on from a couple of demo releases and live dates both locally and further afield, the quintet decided to take the time to write, record and self produce their debut four-track EP, *Scared Of Swimming*. They used a combination of studio and mobile recording techniques, focusing on the politics of death, dying and staying alive. From the opening *Sheltering Lies*, the dark, half-warble of frontman **Alun Hughes** instantly brings to mind Pete Murphy (of the aforementioned Bauhaus), whilst the bass of **Gavin McClafferty** is reminiscent of Peter Hook, whilst subdued and fuzzy guitars and keys further pepper the gothic indie rumble.



The title track deviates with a spoken word intro and a subtle, slow build before the six minute number takes hold with the foreboding drums of **Jason Wilkinson** making their presence felt and the guitar of **Richard Paed** rises and falls dramatically as the track twists and turns further into the abyss.

Last Sounds is perhaps my pick of the four tracks on offer, a simplistic, pattered rhythmic groove is joined by atmospheric swirls and occasional shimmers of guitar, whilst a half spoken, half sung lead by Hughes draws comparisons with Cave or even a latter day Bowie as Lensmen embrace their mortality during the affecting, penultimate number. Concluding the four-track affair, *Medicated-On-Sea*, **Lensmen** combine an unusual mix of new wave and Latin, as fuzz-laden guitars unite with a samba like rhythm. An increasingly animated Hughes chants over the unique yet infatuating genre cross-pollination, proving there's more to the band than dark atmospheric.

Scared Of Swimming is an impressive debut for Lensmen, showcasing a band with an intriguing, exploitative vision that fans of all things moody should embrace with open arms.

www.lensmen.bandcamp.com

Will Munn

Mutante S/T

This album is the latest and long-awaited outpouring from the ever creative minds and hearts of **Alec Wood & Jonathan Parkes**.

For those who know or indeed those who don't know anything about their previous output, it is eclectic in a selective way, so who knew what to expect from **Mutante**.

Well, six, scintillating slabs of synthesiser music is the succinct answer.

This is synth music in the Moog sense; ie analogue and vintage sounds and instruments have been widely utilised to a thrilling and always compelling end.

The album begins with 'Electromagnetic' which sets the store out with thematic certainty as the bass throbs somewhat ominously and everything oscillates nicely as this seven minute opener builds up to a 2001-ish finish.

I say seven minute opener but all six tracks average out to roughly seven mins a piece, so you get plenty of Bang Boom Tschak for your buck!

This brings us neatly to the ever-present elephant in the synth studio, that of Kraftwerk, and so it is herein where the Dusseldorfian moments are those of homage and genuine long-loved influence, rather than slavish emulation. I don't think I'd be talking too much out of line to venture and say with track titles such as 'Bioman', 'Electrical Activity' & 'Automaton', that this album in part can be seen and heard as a paean to the futuristic foursome.

Onto the aforementioned 'Bioman', man machine if you like, where surely Alec's main intention is fully laid out for all to hear, as this is perfect film theme music, just screaming for a director to use it on a soundtrack. The piece is all minor-key slight menace coupled with a dystopian undertow, which brings to mind the

work of John Carpenter and Fabio Frizzi amongst others, whilst retaining identity and originality enough.

Moving on with 'Automaton' the soundtrack vibe continues as the tune arpeggiates away in the grand tradition. As sometimes with such good music one feels that either you've heard it before, or that surely someone should have written it already. This is a positive thing.

Track 4 of 6 'Neon Portal' - good title - again brings to mind Radioactivity/Man Machine era K-werk with added excellent Carpenter-esque melody line: another piece which should have film directors clamouring for it! Throughout the album there are echoes of the work of such modern luminaries as Antoni Maiorvi, Tim Krog, Steve Moore and Walter Rizzati, the more restrained and less melodramatic parts of their oeuvres, but again there is enough distinct work herein to set Mutante apart from the pack.

"Electrical Activity" throbs and pulses with glorious insistence as the current rises and falls. Here again a slight air of thematic dread, enhanced by minor-key melodies, but without overstating this, which sensitive writer can fail to bring such an undertow to their music in these seemingly downward shifting times.

Having said this, the album seems to resolve itself with 'Dream Recorder', which as the title suggests, proceeds at a stately and peaceful pace. It bubbles and burbles along beautifully becoming mantra-like in form, echoing an almost Popol Vuh like soundscape.

This could be music for Brion Gysin's DreamMachine as the piece fades serenely away and we are left with our thoughts and dreams of a hopefully better future for all.

Mutante is a seriously successful work by an always excellent and thought provoking musician who deserves our full attention.

To fully explore the delights of this important album please purchase your copy from mutantemusic.bandcamp.com/releases facebook.com/dreamlordrecordings

Words by Wick Rakeman



Heinz-Sight | Honesty

Following on singer-songwriter (Simon Lacks) Heinz-Sight's previous single Give It, the Bromsgrove based artist has been hard at work in the studio writing and recording with producer Elliot Vaughan on a host of new material, readying for the release of his full length debut album, later this year. Last month I was privy to a sneaky peak of the album's preceding single, Honesty and I've been playing it ever since, prior to it's general release this week.



The track, as the title suggest is an honest look at mental illness, the suffering and the cause, Heinz-Sight reveals his own struggles, with various vices and depression over a delicate yet affecting piano motif. He opens the track with an emotive, tear flecked croon, showcasing a previously unheard vulnerability, before laying down a more familiar, yet no less passionate semi-spoken rap (reminiscent of Mike Skinner of The Streets fame), whilst the piano backing continues throughout, drawing the listener further in, as Simon reveals his inner-demons for all and sundry. The (pardon the pun) Honesty in his delivery is audible throughout, whilst the simplistic instrumentation further frames his heartfelt candid lyrics.

With the aforementioned single, Give It and now Honesty, Heinz-Sight is building towards an intriguing and involving debut album, I highly recommend you keep an eye out for Bromsgrove's finest as one to watch for 2018.

www.facebook.com/heinzsightmusic

Will Munn

Preview

Versatile Arts Presents **Juan Martín** Hellens Manor | Thursday 15th March

Flamenco legend returns to Hellens

Versatile Arts host world famous Flamenco guitarist **Juan Martín**, who returns to the **Great Barn** at Hellens on Thursday 15th March following a sellout performance two years ago. The performance is a part of The Hellens musical program which seeks to bring some of the world's best musicians to Hellens.

Juan Martin produces sounds that are both Melodic and explosive, the visceral power of authentic Flamenco. You'll be transported to the Classic Spain of Málaga, Granada, Córdoba and Jerez on a journey through the diverse cultures of Andalucía.

Juan Incorporates a myriad influences from the gypsy culture of Rajasthan in Northern India, to the Byzantine chants plus the Hebraic and Moorish laments of Spain's colonization of South America - the sounds of Argentina and Cuba also evident in the rumba, guajiras and milonga.

A native of Andalucia, Juan Martin has recorded 20 albums mostly as a composer and has played with the Royal Philharmonic and greats like Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock, Juan has twice been voted one of the world's top three exponents by 'Guitar Player' magazine, and extraordinarily, actually performed for Picasso on his 90th birthday.

'A giant of the flamenco guitar tradition' The Times

Doors open at 7.30 with the performance beginning at 8.00pm.



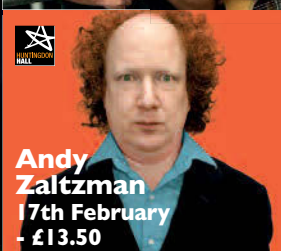
Tickets are priced £18.00 and are available on line and by phone from **Hereford Courtyard Theatre** box office 01432 340555. Also from **Premier stores** Much Marcle, **Ice Bytes** Ledbury, **River Music** Ross on Wye, Malvern TIC and Monmouth Shire Hall TIC. The Great Barn is at Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, HR8 2LY call 01531 660504

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Elisabeth Zeuthen Schneider -violin Gamal Kharmis - piano Hellens Manor | Saturday 10th March

Hellens are proud to host the unique talents of **Elisabeth Zeuthen Schneider** - violin and **Gamal Kharmis** – piano, on Saturday 10th March. This rare collaboration promises excitement and wonder. The programme features amongst others Schumann, Mozart and Brahms.

Elisabeth Zeuthen Schneider is one of the most intuitive, inspirational, and passionate Scandinavian violinists for 30 years. Her playing has been described as *'dark and passionate, gravity and intensity'*. **Gamal Kharmis** is one of her most gifted pupils.

Elisabeth has won Denmark's most prestigious musical prizes including the Carl Nielsen, Jakob Gade and Sonning Foundation grants. She's been a soloist with the major Danish Orchestras and Associate Concertmaster of The Royal Danish Orchestra and later The Danish National Symphony Orchestra. She now combines her performing career with teaching, as Professor of Violin and Chamber music at The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen.

Elisabeth is a founder of the **THY Chamber Music Festival** in Denmark. Running for 20 years, the THY is recognised as one of the most innovative and popular festivals attracting young musicians of the highest calibre from all over the world. Her performing career during the last decade has been centred around a repertoire of violin and keyboard. She has performed throughout Europe and the USA. Her recordings have won critical acclaim for their in-depth interpretations.



Gamal Kharmis' own reputation as an exceptional talent is growing across Europe like wildfire. Gamal completed his formal musical education at the Royal College of Music. His recent appearances include the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Cadogan Hall, Sage Gateshead, Oxford Lieder Festival, Buxton Festival and Chipping Campden Festival, as well as BBC Radio 3 and 4, BBC Newsnight and Many international festivals.

The concert at **Hellens, Much Marcle** begins at 7.30 with doors opening at 7.00pm Tickets are priced £17 and are available from **Hereford Courtyard Theatre** box office and website or by calling 01432 340555.

They can also be purchased from **River Music** Ross on Wye, **Ice Bytes** Ledbury and **Premier Stores** Much Marcle. The full programme is available at www.hellensmanor.com

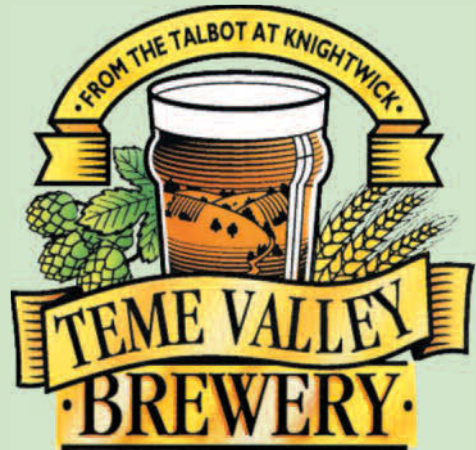
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Teddy Matthews | Hold On The Rhythm

Kidderminster based singer-songwriter **Teddy Matthews** started to turn heads (and rightfully so) last year with the release of a couple of singles in the shape of *Love* and *Worry*. The beeb took notice, spinning the tunes on their Introducing program. Since then Teddy has put together a five-piece band and performed at a number of festivals, whilst still taking in solo acoustic sets along the way. This includes a support slot with Bloc Party frontman, Kele Okereke on his intimate date at The Sunflower Lounge.



In between gigging and writing, Matthews found time to return to **The Magic Garden Studios**, to put the finishing touches on his debut four track EP, *Hold On The Rhythm* in a bid to showcase his wares and perhaps raise his profile beyond Worcestershire's best kept secret.

The EP's title track, *Hold On The Rhythm*, opens proceedings and within the first ten seconds you know you're in for something very special indeed. Teddy reveals a deep, powerful croon akin to that of Rag 'N' Bone Man, over a sparse strike of piano, lurching from the listeners attention from the off. As the track continues Teddy's striking voice is soon joined by a skittering electronic beat, propelling the track to it's infectious hook, whilst vocal harmonies rise and fall, complimenting that compelling booming baritone of Matthews. As opening statements, *Hold On The Rhythm* is simply stunning, an attention grabber in much the same way *Human* served the aforementioned 'Bone Man.

Renna follows and quickly proves Matthews is no one trick pony; opening with an acoustic guitar and a wordless vocal hook, the track swells. Teddy and his band deliver a folkier number driven along by a steady flurry of drums and laced with infectious harmonies, whilst Matthews affecting lead once again seduces the listener, suggesting a repeat spin as soon as the track plays out.

The four track EP is rounded off with the aforementioned singles, *Worry* and *Love*, proving the initial appeal of Matthews. The former is a two and half minute slice of atmospheric, modern day folk, flecked with subtle electronics. The latter is a gorgeous four minutes plus number that sees Teddy flex those vocals chords, providing an instantly memorable refrain that echoes round the brain long after the first play.

On the evidence of Teddy's debut EP, expect big things from Kidderminster's finest throughout 2018 and beyond as he receives the exposure he rightly deserves. Catch him in your local now, before it's too late.

Will Munn

Elliott Fishwarmer | Jelly And Germaloids

Last year King Gizzard And The Lizard Wizard made headlines for releasing five albums over the course of twelve months. But in truth the Australian psychedelic maestros have nothing on local maverick **Eliot Fishwarmer**, who seemed to release an album near enough every month, either under the Fishwarmer monicker or as part of the **Alopecia Trio**. I tried in vein to keep up with the output of the no-fi genius, but alas even I managed to miss a few releases over the course of the year (note to self, must try harder).

Back at the tail end of 2017 Eliot unleashed *Jelly And Germaloids* into an unsuspecting world. A fifteen track album full of deep and sensitive odes on motherly love, the big wide world and erm...Granny Shagging.

Following on from a five minute instrumental post-rock mood setter, the album begins in earnest with *A Mothers Love* - an off beat heartfelt ode to Eliot's mother complete with a gentle, semi-crooned lead, both fuzzy and clean electric and (for the first time?) keyboards. Sticking with the mellow theme, *What's In The Box* opens with a Beatles like intro, before Fishwarmer unveils his aforementioned croon whilst lacing the track with spacey flights of fancy with his guitar ringing out triumphant.



Just as you think Fishwarmer may have delivered his most heartfelt and dare I say sensible opus to date, he revs up the fuzz factor. Batten down the hatches as he delivers *Granny Shagger*, a three and half minute combination of Hawkwind, The Beatles (yes they have a lot to answer for) and that wayward school punk band that you can still hear three blocks away. It's raw, dirty and of course a wee bit silly, but for some strange reason you still can't help tapping along. From there Fishwarmer proceeds to deliver

his rather distinctive combination of guitar-laden pop with *I Don't Believe In You*, *Please Leave The Room* and the dreamy *Resolution* to name a handful. Then there's the inane (yet annoyingly infectious) punky frolics *Pull Me Off*, *Fat Balls* via an oddly affecting rendition of *Hurt* (Nine Inch Nails/Johnny Cash) and an addictive (if not clammy) look at ageing on *Chemical Menopause*.

Eliott continues to dance to beat of his own tune and as far as I'm concerned, he's all the better for it. Sure if you're looking for the next big indie sensation or an over produced studio album, I suggest you move right along. But if you're looking for a titter or two, an

infectious hook or just a way to annoy your neighbours, I rather recommend you check out Fishwarmer (and let me tell you, there's a great deal of material to check out).

www.reverbnation.com/elliottfishwarmer

Will Munn

ULTRAMEGAOK

Thousand Mountain + Tammy Down Marr's Bar, Thursday 28th Dec '17

Now, if I'm being honest, I'm not usually one for covers bands. The endless droves of run-of-the-mill Zeppelin, DC and Sabbath tribute acts who plague rugby club stages up and down the country are not exactly my first choice of gig. They charge a small fortune for a ticket, they probably won't play the song you came to hear, and it all just seems a bit, well, not very rock 'n roll. Hence it was with a degree of trepidation that I took it upon myself to review Worcestershire's latest tribute act and their unashamed celebration of 90s grunge.

Before this though we have some excellent local supports. Singer-songwriter **Tammy Down** is someone I've not come across before, but listening to her powerful and honest voice is a great way to kick-start the evening. It's hard to put a finger on Tammy's exact style (I want to say Americana?), but a neat collection of acoustic rock covers make for a short-but-sweet set, with the Incubus number being a particular highlight. Bonus points must also be awarded for sporting a Pearl Jam shirt, in keeping with this evening's theme!



Next up, **Thousand Mountain** throw a bit of proggy heaviness into the mix with their mostly instrumental set. With a style somewhere in between the fuzzed-out stoner-pop of Royal Blood and the metallic chaos of Converge, it's a sound brimming with curveballs and experimentation. Dangerously funky basslines give way to complex math-rock guitar leads (and yes, even a few pinch-harmonics - 80s style!). This is evidently the product of countless hours spent jamming out these compositions in the practice room. Honestly, I feel Thousand Mountain really need to pick a style and focus on crafting the best possible songs, rather than incorporating so many different ideas into the mix, but the potential here is simply massive.



Onto this evening's hosts. Given the name, you'd be forgiven for thinking that **ULTRAMEGAOK** are purely a Soundgarden tribute act. What we have in actual fact is a collection of songs from some of the biggest names in grunge, with a set spanning the likes of Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Alice In Chains and more. These classics are not so much faithfully replicated as skilfully and enthusiastically performed. Frontman **Reuben Seabright's** distinctive vocal style is perfectly suited to the euphoric choruses of *Outshined* and *Searching With My Good Eye Closed*, while the band show their softer side with the likes of Nirvana's chorus-drenched anthem *Lithium*. It's a well-paced performance with a refreshing lack of self-righteous posturing, and barring maybe the absence of *The Day I Tried To Live*, I can't really fault their choice of set list at all. Whether you lived through this period of music or you're an absolute newcomer to the world of grunge, **ULTRAMEGAOK's** snapshot of the era comes highly recommended!

Words: Jon Weatherill Images: Lissywivth Photos



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Spoz Ten Letters - The Wake Up

'Spoz,' also known as Giovanni Esposito, was deemed Birmingham's eleventh poet laureate in October 2006. It's not difficult to see why. His CV boasts a varied and exciting history of workshops, festivals and live events all cut through with a playful use of language containing, within it, universal truths. It is obvious from reading *Ten Letters* that Spoz's work is out of the ordinary. His use of colloquial language "like a kiddy at Cadbury world" draws the reader into his own upbringing, bringing the art of poetry, often associated with the out-of-touch historical poets force fed to us during our GCSEs, into an accessible expression of views and opinions. I can see why his performances and workshops would go down so well in schools his poetry would allow children to learn to communicate and harness language in an exhilarating manner.

The first offering from *Ten Letters*, 'Fun,' details a night of drunken debauchery. Despite its title, 'Fun' contains dark themes in an ironic opposition to the expectations the reader has from the first few lines. The narrator of this poem, fuelled by drink, goes on a journey from innocent naivety, starting with a 'Kaleidoscope' of brightly coloured drinks, to an episode of brutal drunken violence: "he goes limp but you don't stop kicking." The self entitlement of the drunken man first denies any blame describing a girl as "wearing so little she could be arrested" and epitomises



a violent form of masculinity so often visible in any city during a heavy weekend. 'Fun' ends with a tone that feels like a hangover, a grim realisation that questions when having a good time turns into "vulgarity" and a sense of regret. Anyone who's ever questioned what they've done 'the night before,' with or without violence, can relate to this lament in some form.

The rest of the collection continues with its enquiring tone. *ASBO kid* remarks on the media's demonisation of the "chav" and "loser." The poem pushes the reader to look deeper: why do people behave the way they do despite the media's portrayal of them as innately bad or delinquent? How can people find their own worth in a society of consumerism when they have nothing? As he states, "corner any animal and it'll always bite your hand." Rather than preaching, the quick rhythms and up beat tempo of Spoz's poetry opens the reader's mind to question the world around them.



After reading through the collection I decided to listen to the accompanying CD. It was clear that the poems take on an even deeper meaning when read aloud. Spoz's accent shines through, his delivery is fast and unrelenting, offering up a sincerity and vulnerability seldom seen in everyday culture. More than this, he's funny. Phrases like "Who the fuck needs a Range Rover in London?" pokes a humorous finger at the economic divide. He even mocks himself with the obligatory "You're just jealous mate."

Overall, *Ten Letters* is a thoughtful, funny and clever analysis of people, society and political views, examining complex ideas in an elegantly simple style. I can't wait to go and see Spoz perform.

katherine Harris

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@PAULPRYWR1

Blackballed, The Autumn Saints Stevie Jones & The Wildfires The Bull Inn, Fernhill Heath | 25th Nov

No Bull, You Should Have Been There!

It was the tail end of '17 and Christmas was looming as three bands arrived to take **The Bull** by the horns and cause some musical havoc. **Stevie Jones & The Wildfires**, **The Autumn Saints**, and **Blackballed** were ready to roll following a roaring set the night before at Katie Fitzgeralds in Stourbridge.

Stevie Jones & The Wildfires brought their Indie flavoured vibe first, presenting a mix of songs from their previously acclaimed *Statagraphic Heart* and their soon to be released *Angels and Sirens*, reflecting on life, sex and love.

Stevie fronts the band with acoustic guitar, Vassilis takes electric while Jake and Bob take drum and bass. Title track *Angels and Sirens* opened the evening, although I could have been dreaming as Stevie with his driving acoustic, the rhythm boys working hard and Vassilis bringing out enigmatic siren voices all created a beautiful musical backdrop to the Fernhill Heath pub.

A more in your face *Neon Underground* followed, sounding like if Oasis did punk. An excellent *Whitewash* sang of media cover ups, a Donald Trump favourite maybe, with an acoustic led opening that was burst through with great riffs. *I'll Never Fall in Love Again* was fast and furious, the perfect troglodyte rave fodder. The band then finished with *This Is My Church*. Taken from *Statagraphic Heart*, it was a cracking track that boasted a lovely drum driven finish from Jake and Bob's ever present rumbling bass.

The Autumn Saints, an Anglo-American band, played with a different sound. Originally from North Carolina, **Britt Strickland** has laid roots in Oxford and is joined by ethereal guitarist **David Ireland** and percussionist **Joel Frisk**. The guitar tones were nearer to whale music than anything as polluting as heavy rock while Britt, playing an unusual 8 string bass, pitched his voice at a Tom Petty level and form.

Getting Through to You, from their EP, found Joel drumming away whilst giving breath to a harp for a lovely bit of rootsy Americana. *Littlewood Station* was again distinctly Tom Petty-ish, a worthy accolade given for David's guitar soaring into the airways. For me, *Dust Bowl Years* was outstanding. The high ethereal guitar picked its way through a bluesy rhythm over which Britt's vocals painted a scene from those bleak times.

Finally, it was time to be **Blackballed**. I had heard the name mentioned recently and was looking forward to the session. My immediate impression of them was of ZZ Top playing Led Zep in a purple haze. It was to prove *Just Another Perfect Day* as the brilliant **Leon Gill** powered up on the drums, **Tom Wibberley** laid down thundering bass and **Marshall Gill** donned his flying V guitar whilst supplying vocals.

A *Coat of Many Colours* was fitted before the heavy opening bars of *Iron Man* reverberated around **The Bull**, transforming through various guises into a teasing mix. Liam, looking like he had just walked off the set of a 3-musketeer's movie, took vocals as *Couldn't Let Go* blasted out, taking us deeper into the *Cold Night* with a slinky, haunting rock riff. Coming in more soulful, *Christine* was sweetened by the flying V honey before a full-blown Sabbath-meets-Blackballed riff crunched rockology followed by Liam taking over a drum led bit of fun to take us to closure.

It was some impressive stuff and I wouldn't hesitate to see any of these bands again – let's hope they find their way back here. For



all of those oblivious to this stupendous evening, you really missed out. I suggest you check out their websites for a sense of the vibe, but preferably see them live, there is no other way.

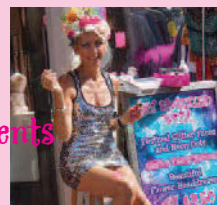
Graham Munn

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The Julie July Band Marrs Bar, Worcester | Sat 24th March

Who knows where the time goes.... Fresh from the iconic Troubadour – Earls Court – London... **The Julie July Band** pay a heartfelt tribute to the great singer-songwriter **'Sandy Denny'**. From dreamy acoustic melodies to driving progressive folk-rock, she was one of the UK's singer songwriters of the British Folk Rock movement. In her brief Career she left a legacy of beautiful, haunting original and traditional compositions. Richard Thompson called her *'The Greatest artist of her generation'*. Melody maker readers twice voted her 'Best British Female Singer' in 1970 and 1971. Her most famous song *"Who Knows Where the Time Goes?"*, was voted favourite folk-track of all time by listeners of BBC Radio 2 and has been covered by many artists including:- Judy Collins, Nina Simone, Eva Cassidy and Kate Rusby. Now...40 years on **The Julie July Band** will perform a selection of her songs from:- The Strawbs, Fotheringay, her Solo Career and Fairport Convention.

"Julie July played a heartfelt tribute to Sandy Denny at the iconic Troubadour in Earls Court – London" (James)

"Enjoyed the show so much you were so magical and mesmerising... I will be buying tickets for next year" (Kari)

"Brilliant concert. Julie's voice is fantastic and the band just brilliant. My Wife and I loved every minute of it!" (Ron – Bromyard Folk Festival)

"The Magic of Sandy Denny brought to life by the unmistakable talent of Julie July..." (Gretel)

"Have you heard of this fantastic singer Julie July and her band. They cover Sandy Denny songs and to say they cover them is to do them a disservice. They bring life back to the songs.....and I am sure if Sandy was still here, she would have loved them". (Ken)

Tickets are £10 - £12 on the door 8:00pm (doors open 7:30pm)

www.wegotickets.com/event/428031

www.juliejulyband.co.uk soundcloud: juliejuly10

Twitter: juliejulyband Facebook: juliejulyband



A Tribute to SANDY DENNY MARRS BAR

Worcester - 24th March 2018

JULIE JULY BAND

"SO MAGICAL AND MESMERISING..."

Launch event: The Garrison at The Grapes | 3 Feb 8pm

It's been the world's worst kept secret, but on Saturday 3rd February 2018 a new kind of bar is coming to central Hereford to celebrate a year since the venue gained new management.

Fans of the BBC super-series **Peaky Blinders** are expected to flock to the historic core of Hereford's Independent Quarter for the official opening of the city's first independently owned and operated period-themed bar.

The new venture, named **The Garrison at The Grapes**, is the brainchild of management couple **Sonia** and **Gary Caldwell** as a nod to their Irish and Birmingham roots and will see half of the establishment's ground floor being transported back to the early 1920s with staff in period costume, a range of traditional whiskeys, gins and themed drinks; notably a specially brewed "Peaky" ale. The original sixteenth century wood paneling and huge fireplace really lend themselves to the backstreet pub feel and the decor is set to reflect the period, giving the customers a real all-round Peaky experience.



Highlights of launch night are set to include a horse drawn carriage, live music, drinks promotions, photographer and real-life Peaky Blinder re-enactors complete with props. The group from the Midlands were involved in the red carpet launch of **Peaky Blinders** Season 4 back in October and are very much looking forward to visiting Hereford for the event, actor **Andy Bill** said (in his best gangster voice) "*The Black Country Peakys are taking over The Grapes in Hereford. Get yourselves suited and booted and down here by order of the Peaky [expletive removed] Blinders*" He'll be joined by fellow actors **Darren Butler, Richard Lister, Andy Finney, Mark Mason, Lizzie Whitehouse** and photographer **Stuart Lambeth**.

Sonia is hopeful that **The Garrison** will rejuvenate the city's nightlife and independent retailers after a mediocre festive period across the board "*We're really excited to bring The Garrison to the Grapes. It's something new and exciting and will breathe new life into the Independent Quarter, catering for a whole new type of customer.*"

The launch event is free to attend, with period costume not an entry requirement but most welcome.

Nickie Bates

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Review

Matt Woosey Band, Son of John The Marris bar | 26th January

Son Of John, aka, **Jacob Johnson** performed with **John Parker** on double bass (the man, you may recall, accompanied Luke Concannon as Nizlopi and JCB fame, beatboxing and adding the rhythm to the bucketed beast). The pairing worked well, with John's husky vocals and acoustic guitar being poked and cajoled by the warm bass line stirred by JP. A bluesy '*Wild Bill Jones*' gave way to the slow rollers of '*The Wave*'. The bow was drawn, producing a thick caramelised honey rich tone from the fat bass, as John sang about the '*Homeless*', from his Autumn's Hymn debut album. JP conjured up a bumbling bee flutter as John presented the beautiful '*The Maid And The King*', before the pair closed with a superb train ride on the '*American Express*'. Look out for Son Of John, aka Jacob Johnson; there's an EP on the way with John Parker and his big bass.

What can I say about **Matt Woosey** that I haven't said before? I've watched his progress over the years, and the quality of both his song writing and live performance, whether solo or accompanied, has always impressed. Now he is back from his self imposed exile in Germany, along with his full German band, and one **Dave Small**, long time foil to Matt, showing us what percussion is all about. I'll quickly dispense with intro's; **Lukas Steinmeyer** on bass, **Ralph Kucker** playing the telecaster, and **Michael Oertel** on strat and keys. The resultant combination brings a whole new life to some of Matt's most iconic songs. Family life seems to suit Matt who, while looking a bit dishevelled for this first tour night, maintains a '*Cool Disposition*' as his voice fills the room, the band immediately making their presence felt. I could see Dave's shadow working hard behind Matt, as Lukas brought in powerful bass rhythms with Ralph and Michael swapping leads.



Matt was at his expressionist best; his face reflecting the passion and effort behind the music. Dedicated to Donald Trump himself, '*One Love*' was stripped from *Desiderata* and reformed, powered forward by the band. '*Same Old Blues*', always performed with a certain gusto, was pumped up fit to explode across the stripped timbers and faded walls of the Marris Bar, to an enthusiastic mob of fans. From the glorious *Wildest Dreams* album, the deliciously dark and devious '*Don't Tell Nobody*' scratched its way down our backs, and in a couple of days we would remember those scars. A couple of new songs were aired, a first run for Dave, but he's always up to the task. '*Life Is But A Song*', found Matt's solo Takamine intro, floating in the clouds, before the band kicks in, a more haunting, and for me more interesting, '*Love Changes*', brought some funk soaked bass and Michael's Strat being worked over. Reflecting on changing life, as we move from self-driven hedonism to the responsibilities of



family and children, Matt has made a nice job of this one: maybe a new album on the horizon? We will have to wait and see. '*Hook Line And Sinker*', hauled us in for the wonderfully brewed, '*I've Seen The Bottom*', with Matt working hard fronting this excellent line up. The build up had been totally mesmerising, with those present fully held by the Woosey spell. We were ready for the tricky, but ever fascinating '*Lighthouse*'. I marvelled at the complex juggling in its inception; the live launch, the solo perspective, and so many different facets of verse that found its way from the frame on his parents bathroom wall, to full on exploration with the band. It's Marmite: some love it, some hate it, but this evening it left its bite with fabulous leads from all, and Michael adding keys for this totally absorbing, avant-garde jazz streaked piece. Matt stepped down, revealing Dave, truly in the groove, and they finished the piece with a crashing thump.

There was little left, as the boys took a beer break and Matt teased us with his lap sliding version of '*Lil Red Rooster*', before the traditional, '*Black Smoke Rising*' blotted out the lights and closed the set of a simply stunning session at The Marris Bar. Hell, there wasn't a soul here who would not sit through the whole show again given the chance.

Graham Munn

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This is the Kit Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud | 13th Jan

The Brunel Goods Shed is an amazing and perplexing venue (if you can find it.) Down by the railway tracks in Stroud, it seems like an unassuming warehouse with some tables, chairs and a giant plastic ice cream cone outside. However, once you enter the building the atmosphere is dramatically different. Massive disused theatre props and puppets, dried flowers and a well stocked bar fill a beautifully lit Victorian building. Its a juxtaposition of luxury and derelict which seems just right for a band who's songs range between the joyous uplift of life and tragic folk-tale references.

Kate Stables, who is known with her band as **This is the Kit**, has a clean, soulful, folk voice and exudes warmth as soon as she ascends the stage. The band begin to create soundscapes of great complexity which contrast completely to her own bare, pared down solo pieces sung over a banjo. As soon as the band play the first bar of 'Moonshine Freeze,' the title track off the current album, the venue erupts. People are standing on the sofas to sing along and Kate's face breaks into a heart-warming smile as the guitarist pulls off an accomplished solo. This is a very likeable band whose personalities shine through their performance. The impressive "Easy on the Thieves," leaves the audience with a haunted feeling as they witness the contrast of Kate's gentle presence and the foreboding lyrics she is singing: "First they dope you up, and then they dope you in."

The encore is electric. Kate starts with solo tracks after taking requests from the audience to play "Turnip," a touching song about having a child. When the band join her on stage for the audience favourite "Earthquake" the venue vibrates with both the reverberation of the catchy, down-tuned hooks and the pleasure



of the audience. What a way to end a gig that felt so intimate despite the many people in attendance.

Katherine Harris

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MATT WOOSEY
Friday 2nd February



DANI & WILL WILDE
Friday 16th February



OXLEY - MEIER
Saturday 17th March



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
Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, both on Church Street, Malvern.



February at The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Heretic Order are a new modern-sounding classic metal band, based in London, and influenced by Hammer House of Horror movies. Incorporating theatrics with a powerful combination of searing riffs and blistering solos to enhance their pagan and occult philosophies, they have become an impressive spectacle to watch. So be there on 2nd February.



The Unconventionals will be performing on Saturday 3rd. Then on the 9th there's **Death Koolaid** who are a four piece female fronted hardcore punk band, based in London. They stun their audiences with their aggressive live shows packed full of entertainment and music that will make your ears bleed.



Saturday 10th brings a tribute to The Cult with **Cult Fiction**. Then on the 16th **SwitchBlade City** stroll into town - 5 piece Hard Rock outfit hailing from Kettering, Northamptonshire. Delivering hard hitting original rock and roll, continuously turning heads with every show. Support comes from The Escape Plan.



On the 17th **Satellite Down**, the 18th is **Zakk Poland** before Cheltenham punksters **Screaming Dead** headline on the 23rd Feb. Inspired by the Ramones and Sex Pistols they developed their own style of Horror Punk or Death Punk. The band are very happy to be playing in **Evilsham!!** Support on the night comes from **Terminal Rage** and **Ambition Demolition**.



Finally **Mister Wolf** round off a noisy month at the **Valkyrie** on the 24th Feb apart from the Open Mic every other Tuesday. All shows are free entry. For more info follow their facebook.

February at Artrix

Popular 60s tribute, **The Counterfeit Stones** play a double bill on 2nd and 3rd February. Classical pianist **Leo McCrawley** returns to Artrix on 9th February. **Cloudbusting**, a tribute to Kate Bush comes to the main stage on 10th February and **The Whitney Houston Live Experience** on 17th February. Somerset based, singer-songwriter, **Kitty MacFarlane** performs on 23rd February.



T-Rextasy, the Mark Bolan tribute plays on 23rd February, followed 60s soul band **The Official Receivers** on 24th February and folk legends **Fairport Convention** on 25th February.

Comedy this month include **Samantha Baines** on 3rd Feb, **Barnstormers Comedy** on 10th February, **The Wicked Wizard of Fizzog** on 16th Feb, **Bobby Mair** on 17th Feb, **Daliso Chaponda** on 22nd Feb and spoken word events from **Germaine Greer** on 1st Feb and **BBC Young Writers** on 4th Feb.

Families can enjoy a new adaptation of Snow White called **Mirror Mirror** on 4th February, big bad **Monstersaurus** on the main stage on 22nd February or cinema screenings of the animated hit, **Ferdinand** or the Royal Ballet Live's Production of **The Winter's Tale**.

Music in the Hall - Pete Williams Josh Smith + Elisha Green St Georges Hall, Bewdley | Friday 9th February

Born to Black Country parents, **Pete Williams** had a paper round, dreamed, and played clarinet. Aged 14 he bought a Bass Guitar and was soon playing in Social club bands around the industrial West Midlands. Pete was a founder member of **Dexys Midnight Runners, The Bureau & These Tender Virtues**. He was a pivotal part of Dexys recent resurgence that culminated in a 9 night residency at the Duke of Yorks theatre in London's West End plus Headlining the Acoustic stage at Glastonbury festival 2014

Pete and his incredible band were personally invited as special guests across 32 sold out shows with The Proclaimers during their 2015 U.K. Tour plus also featured at Looe Festival 2016 and Curzon Cinema Festival (with Show of Hands) 2017. He was invited to perform on BBC Scotland's flagship programme "The Quay Sessions" with Edith Bowman last March.

Music in the Hall gives a rare chance to see Pete perform songs from both his critically acclaimed albums as well as brand new material from his new one, just completed in Sheffield, with a band that have rapidly gained a reputation for turning in memorable and blistering live shows. Local audiences the opportunity of an early preview of the next album shortly to be released.

Pete has received glowing testimonials from several top artists including Imelda May - *"I'm a fan of the great Pete Williams. He tells terrific stories set to beautiful melodies and sung with passion, charisma and heartfelt honesty. He draws me in every time" and The Proclaimers "What a fantastic songwriter and singer*



the man is. We both thought that his record 'See' was the stand out album of 2012. Pete is a storyteller in his songs, and writes as a mature man who has lived and suffered and loved. The soulfulness that Pete brings to everything that he does is inspiring. He has the passion of a young writer, and the philosophical overview of a wise man."

As usual, Music in the Hall also feature a local youth act with Josh Smith, whilst the main support will be another local artist, the increasingly popular Elisha Green.

Following on from last week's awesome show given by **Jo Harman**, when the packed audience were fulsome in their praise, organiser's are confident this will be another evening of music to treasure with this line-up.

Tickets are £12.00, and are available in-line at www.musicinthehall.co.uk, www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk or from Hall Café. Doors Open at 7.30pm.

Woo Fest Warm up The Marris barr, Worcester | 9th Feb

The organisers of Woo Fest are holding a warm up event to raise funds for this year's **Woo Fest** which is planned for the 7th of July at the **Drum and Monkey** near Upton Upon Severn. Featuring **Arcadia Roots, Chewie, Loose Lips and Chimp on a Bike** it promises to be a fantastic night of entertainment for just £5.

Woo Fest was set up in 2015 to raise funds for **St Richard's Hospice**, Worcester. Now with 3 events under its belt and over £25,000 raised including £10K last year alone, it's getting bigger and better every year and a welcome addition to the local music festival circuit. **Luke Simons**, Festival chairman says, *"We initially set up Woo Fest in response to the amazing care my Dad, John Simons, received at St Richard's before he passed away in 2013, we wanted to give something back and at the time I naively thought it seemed easier than a 100 mile challenge (which we did in 2014!). However since then more and more people who have an affiliation with the hospice have got involved; whether playing music, sponsoring or as customers and I think we have delivered a decent live music experience for all managed by a committed group of volunteers and friends."*

There are a couple of main principles that Woo Fest follows. Firstly every penny of every ticket sold goes straight to St Richards as profit. In fact the **Warm Up** show venue costs are being picked up by one of the organisers as part of their 40th birthday celebrations - *"we think this is an important selling message for our customers and is only possible due to the generosity of our supporters and sponsors"* adds Luke. Secondly, Woo Fest aims to provide a festival for all people regardless of age, festival experience or musical taste, *"to do this we provide activities for*



children and have a large mix of musical genres including a mix of covers and originals all performed by high quality musicians with big hearts"

Woo Fest crowd favourites Arcadia Roots have an adventurous 2018 planned all across the country but are happy to support Woo Warm up first.

Chewie is a very popular figure in the fantastic Malvern music circuit and has provided fantastic support to Woo Fest, memorably closing the 2016 show with repeated encores demanded by the last-standing.

Loose Lips from Telford in Shropshire first played at Woo Fest in 2017 and won many new fans fusing acoustic music with R&B and Hip Hop and Chimp on a Bike from Tewkesbury are also supporting after playing an incredible set in the sunshine at Woo Fest 2017.

To ensure entry please get your tickets at £5 (plus small admin fees). If there are any tickets left it will be £7 on the door. For more info visit the Woo Fest page on Facebook or get your tickets on www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/woo-warm-up-tickets-41968670423



Sound



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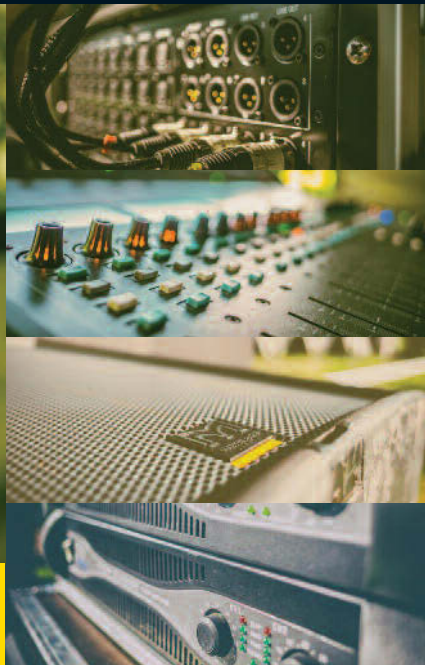
Events



Theatre



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Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 18th Memory States, Jess Bulger. The Courtyard, Hereford
 1 Feb - 1 Aug 2018. Heather & Ivan Morison – The Long Afternoon of Earth. The Hive, Worcester (artist talks on the 1st from 5-7pm.)
 4th Mirror Mirror (childrens theatre) Artrix, Bromsgrove
 5th-10th The Importance of Being Earnest The Courtyard, Hereford.
 6th Battle of the Sexes, Artrix, Bromsgrove 7.30pm
 7th Banff Mountain Film Festival Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury.
 7th David Bethell artist talk. The Hive, Worcester
 8th Young at Art. The Hive, Worcester
 9th Battle of the Sexes, Artrix Bromsgrove 11am
 10th Lantern Walk, Croome National Trust
 12th Battle of the Sexes, Artrix, Bromsgrove. 7.30pm
 13th Bite Sized Talks The Giant Wombat in the Basement, Worcester museum & art Gallery
 13th The Killing of Sister George Artrix, Bromsgrove
 13th Drink and Doodle. The Paul Pry
 14th Wizard of Oz Artrix, Bromsgrove
 14th Marianna Simnett Artist talk The Hive, Worcester
 14th Banff Mountain Film Festival Theatre. Cheltenham Town Hall
 15th Battle of the Sexes Artrix, Bromsgrove 7.30pm
 15th - 7 Mar 'FACELESS', Contemporary art embroidery exhibition by Tamara Jelaca Pershore Number 8 gallery
 16th Valentines Poetry Slam. Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury
 16th The Sleeping Beauty (ballet) Birmingham Hippodrome
 17th Benjamin Williams Leader: Blest by the suns of home. Worcester museum & art Gallery

17th Directing Workshop The Hive, Worcester
 17th, 19th & 21st Ferdinand (childrens film) Artrix, Bromsgrove
 18th Bubble Disco Artrix, Bromsgrove (childrens)
 18th Young at Art (for under 5's) Worcester museum & art Gallery
 19th -21st Loving Vincent, Courtyard Hereford
 20th Crafty Crowns and Coats of Arms (childrens) The Musuem of Royal Worcester
 21st Helen Maurer artist talk The Hive, Worcester
 22nd Monstersaurus (childrens) Artrix, Bromsgrove
 22nd Creative Writing for Beginners. WEA Angel Centre, Worcester
 23rd (until 11th March) Borderlines Film Festival The Courtyard, Hereford.
 24th Sid the artist. The Chester Tavern, Kidderminster.
 25th Chineese New Year Celebrations, Guildhall Worcester

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

Thursday 01 February 2018

Catriona Mcdermid
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Sultans Of String
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Bye Bye Baby
The Courtyard, Hereford

Hymm, The Soviets, Juniper Nights, Dead Dad's Club
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Dan Greenaway
Tappeto Lounge, Kidderminster

Sean Saye
The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow

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

Paul Stevens
Arches, Bewdley

The Trevor Burton Band
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Buffalo Gals: Miraculous Medicine Show
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Islands In The Stream
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Friday 02 February 2018

Camilla Lewington
The Retreat Wine Bar, Cheltenham

Robert and Marcus (Corduoy Kings)
The Swan, Cheltenham

The Manc Lads + Screamin Abdabz
The Iron Road, Evesham

Mellstock Trio
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Bob Dylan Story
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Mark Barratt
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

The Worried Men
Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Reflections
Hanbury Turn, Worcester

Come Together
Drummonds, Worcester

Heretic Order, XVII
The Valkyrie, Evesham

Sam Jones
The Tank, Gloucester

No Parkin Blues Band
Hillside Brewery, Longhope, Gloucester

The Executives
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Damon T & Mark Cole (6pm)
Peppers Cafe, Gloucester

Syd Lawrence
The Courtyard, Hereford

Buzzin Hornets
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Lonesome Stampede
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

The Sultana Bros
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Raw Comedy
Evesham Arts Centre

Gaz Brookfield and the Company Of Thieves, Chris Webb, Nick Parker
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Whipjacks, Wisenheimer, Alvin and the Angry Barrels
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Miss Chief And The Mr. Meaners
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Sam Thomas
The Old Bakehouse, Ludlow

Wolfren Riverstick
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Matt Woosey
Elmslie House, Malvern

The Usual Suspects
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

vo & Tyler
The Old Nags Head, Monmouth

The After Dark Band
The Black Star, Stourport

Crazy Doctor Bruce & The Sidewinders
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Ex On The Beach
The Loft Lounge, Bewdley

The Geckos
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Counterfeit Stones
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Liquor And Poker Band
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Re-Booted
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

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

The Agony
The Goswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Whole Caboodle Electric Ceilidh Band
St Swithuns Institute Hall, Worcester

Hotsteppas
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Kast Off Kinks
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 03 February 2018

The Straight Aces, The Fireballs UK and Boogie Disease
Rockabilly Charity Bash
Wolverley Club, Kidderminster

Union Of Strings
Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Midnight Sun
The Westcroft, Drroitwich

Whatever
Ye olde blackcross, bromsgrove

Feet
The Royal Oak, Studley

Act Of The Risen
The Railway Inn, Studley

The Elvis Years
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Zoe Green Band, Luke Doherty Band
The Iron Road, Evesham

The Rock 'N' Roll Era
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Refections
The Swan, Evesham

Hills Angels
The Cross Keys, Malvern

There's Some Serious Ska Afoot
Baker Street, Gloucester

Feral Waves
Hanbury Turn, Worcester

Mel & Him
The Garibaldi Inn, Worcester

Mister Wolf
Bar 57, Pershore

Ashesfest VII: We Come From Ashes
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Tigers Eye
The Old Bell, Gloucester

Mr. Woodnote, The Most Trio
The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Undead Kids
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Orchestra Of The Swan
The Courtyard, Hereford

Two Push Charlie
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Mumbo-Jumbo
Rous Lench Village Hall, Rous Lench, Evesham

6 Appeal
The Cricketers, WORCESTER

Vehicle
White Hart, Redditch

Black Heart Angels
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Will Killeen Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Phoenix
The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Breathfest
The Royal Oak Hotel, Ledbury

Vern
Reet Petite, Leominster

Green Haze
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sons Of Yoda
The Bell, Leominster

Witcher
The Express, Malvern

Jamie Jones
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Sax Appeal
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Unconventionals
The Valkyrie, Evesham

Terry
The Unicorn, Malvern

The Executives
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Guns 'N' Roses
The Swan, Staunton

The Groove Ft. Tom Walker
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The After Dark Band
The Oak Apple, Worcester

Paris Monster, The White Feather Collective, The Tyler Massey Trio
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Have A Go Heroes
The Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Melvin Hancock Band
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Abba Arrival
Treetops Pavillion, Bewdley

Swede Dreamz
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Brian And Hannah
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Leanne & King Rich
The Rising Sun, Bewdley

The Final 4
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Counterfeit Stones
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rattlesnake Jake
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Common People
Crown Inn Catshill, Bromsgrove

Rhinestone Cowboy: The Glen Campbell Story
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Jon Eselle
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Shyteds
The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Dirty Beac
The Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

Beaver & The Foghorn
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Polary, Faux + Midweek
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Tristan Watson And Pasty Gamble Jazz Trio
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Memphis Sundogs
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Ceilidh: Old Swan Band
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Sunday 04 February 2018

Ewan Pollock
Bottles Winebar, Worcester

Vo Fletcher
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Sœur, Nuns Of The Tundra, Navajo Ace, Esteban, As Mamas
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Buffalo Gals: Miraculous Medicine Show
Steiner Academy, Hereford

Kent Duchaine (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Honeyboy Hickling Band (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Paddy O'turner Plays Traditional Irish Music...Sort Of... (3pm)
The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Bryn Feeling
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The After Dark Band (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Aka Skaface
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Chloe Mogg
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Jon Eselle
The Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

Howard's Open Mic Night
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Flowers Band (3pm)
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Monday 05 February 2018

Andrew McCormack's Graviton
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Nobby Wright
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Tuesday 06 February 2018

Paul O'neil
The Tank, Gloucester

Pub Singers Open Mic Night All Performers Get £10.00
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Nyjo - Female Jazz Icons
Palace Theatre, Redditch

3 Doors Down
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Wednesday 07 February 2018

Lewis Clark
Café René, Gloucester

Set 'Em Up Joe
The Dragon Folk Club, Worcester

Ruben Seabright & Jesse River Dylan Murray
The Brick Room, Worcester

Tyler Massey Trio
The Plough, Worcester

Ray Mytton And Paul White
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Thursday 08 February 2018

Ruby Turner
The Regal, Evesham

Tannahill Weavers
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Poppy Waterman-Smith
Wintrip Brew Co, Worcester

Half Man Half Biscuit, The Humdrum Express
Robin 2, Bilston

The Delray Rockets
The Majestic Bingo Celebrations, Derwent Close, Worcester

English Genius
Number 8, Pershore

Call Of The Kraken
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Chloe Mogg
Arches, Bewdley

Matt Bowen
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Pete Williams
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Valis Ablaze, Pretty Little Enemy, Backroads, Mhth
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Story Of The Beach Boys
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

38 SLAP FEBRUARY

Friday 09 February 2018

Glos-Tone-Beret - Multiple Acts
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Patsy Gamble & John Broomhall
The Royal Oak, Stroud

Mr Tea And The Minions
The Iron Road, Evesham

Max Boyce
The Rosés, Tewkesbury

The Strangers
The Red Lion, Evesham

Steve Knightley
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Baast
Café René, Gloucester

Mumbo Jumbo
Slimbridge Village Hall, Slimbridge

Ewan Pollock
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Death Koolaid
The Valkyrie, Evesham

Kim Rydr
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hurry Up Harry
The Tank, Gloucester

The Strays
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Joe Dolman, John Charles
The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Underdogs
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Smokeroom
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Woo Warm up - Arcadia Roots, Loose Lips, Chewie,

Chimp On A Bike
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Junction 7
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Drum&Bass with Katon&Pheme&Jakebob
Reet Petite, Leominster

Steve Yeomans
The Old Bakehouse, Ludlow

Noble Jacks
Number 8, Pershore

Re-Take That Wonderland
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Claude Bourbon, Medieval Spanish Blues
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Liquor & Poker Band
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The After Dark Band
The Cross Keys, Alcester

The Unconventionals
The Black Star, Stourport

Willy Mason
Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

Bee Gees Fever
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Pete Williams, Josh Smith & Elisha Green
St George's Hall, Bewdley

Chloe
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Borderline
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Krankt
Toppell, Stourbridge

Mother Popcorn
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Ska Studs
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Folk in The Foyer: Local Derby
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

The Woodentops
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Jump The Shark, The Pink House
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Classic Rock Show
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 10 February 2018

Dave Falshaw
Wolverley Club, Kidderminster

Glos-Tone-Beret - Multiple Acts
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Eva Jacobs
The Fire Station, Cheltenham

Planet rock uk
Ye olde blackcross, bromsgrove

Matt & Jim Bowen
The Royal Oak, Studley

The Fezz (A Homage To Steely Dan), The Blue Motel, Reuben

Pearce
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Witcher
The Cavalier, Kidderminster

Meat Loud
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Rammlied (Rammstein Tribute)
The Iron Road, Evesham

Hanna*H*
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore

Mister Wolf
The Swan, Evesham

Jay & Eli
The Anchor Inn & Boathouse, Worcester

Blues Brothers Showtime
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Zoe Bullock
Rainbow Hill Social Club, Worcester

Monkey Jam
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Bootleg Blondie
Guildhall, Gloucester

Bennie Vee
St James Club, Gloucester

Slightly O.C.D
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

2Tone Revue
The Plough, Hereford

Danni G
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Jagged Hands
The Dog, Hereford

The Foilicles
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Re Booted Official
The Fighting Cocks, Kidderminster

The Fireballs Uk
The Chestnut, Worcester

Lost Chord
The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Freeborn Rising
Reet Petite, Leominster

The Strays, Hardstairs
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Celine Dommart & Montparnasse
St Swithuns Institute, Worcester

Hennesea
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Cult Fiction
The Valkyrie, Evesham

Paul Chief O'Neill
The Green Dragon, Guarlford, Malvern

Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Uproars
The Queens Head, Redditch

The After Dark Band
The New Inn, Pershore

Woundedspirit, Sleuth
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Stuart from Strangers
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Supreme Queen
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Young Musician of The Year
St George's Hall, Bewdley

The Version
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Vehicle
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Sax Appeal
The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Big O and The Travelling Wilburys Tribute Show
The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Jerry Dammers
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

John Mouse
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Danadra
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Andy Sheppard And The Pushy Doctors
Brunel Goods Shed, Stroud

Snap & Rozalla
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Four Dead Crows, Toreador, Last Safe Moment
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Sunday 11 February 2018

Crown & Sceptre
Littlevic, Stroud

J Alexander & The Blues Devils (3pm)
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Bullets & Octane
The Iron Road, Evesham

Will Killeen
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Bochmann Trio & Flute
The Courtyard, Hereford

Maddie Stimpson (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Fran McGillivray & Mike Burke (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Breabach
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

The Unconventionals
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Steve Worley & Matt Hawes
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Stourbridge Pride & Mardi Gras
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Tuery Sessions #15 - Anne-Marie Sanderson & Boss Acoustic
The Cross Keys, Alcester

Ben Jones, Lewis
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 12 February 2018

Jaya The Cat, Saltwounds, Malarkey
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Wes Dance
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Tuesday 13 February 2018

Matt & Lavinia Moorey
The Tank, Gloucester

Slowlights, + 6 Supports
River Rooms, Stourbridge

Wednesday 14 February 2018

Havisham, Eleanor Rose Ludlow, Paul Johnson
The Retreat Wine Bar, Cheltenham

The Blues Band
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Harry Houseago
Café Rene, Gloucester

Ruben Seabright
Wintrip Brew Co, Worcester

Kitchen Island Band
Noris Cafe, Leominster

Carol Lee Sampson & Don Mac
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Thursday 15 February 2018

Surprise Attacks Present: Dystopian Future Movies, Soden, Age Decay, Leeched

Heroes, Worcester

Lirr, Junior Weeb, Novaview, Landmarks
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mark Stevenson
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

People's Republic Of Mercia
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Steve Clayton
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Dayton
Arches, Bewdley

The Guvnors
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Faeland
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Album Project
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Friday 16 February 2018

The Ronnie Scott's All Stars
The Roses, Tewkesbury

The 4 Rossis
The Iron Road, Evesham

Hereford Rocks & The Speakeasy present Kinstrife
The Left Bank, Hereford

A Brief History Of Music
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Lionel Richie Songbook
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

Hired Guns
Café Rene, Gloucester

The Sea Slugs
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Swithblade City, The Escape Plan
The Valkyrie, Evesham

Fred Zeppelin
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Damon T & Mark Cole
The Tank, Gloucester

Tom Allen
Evesham Arts Centre

Chicago Bytes
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Velvet & Stone
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Poetry Slam
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Zoe Green Band
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Echo Bandits
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Mumbo-Jumbo
Malvern Cube, Malvern

Don Klipper
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Jack Blacknell, Chip Langley and the Kidgloves, + Support
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Zoe Green Band
The Queens Head, Kidderminster

The Poorboys Of Worcester, Mick Morris, Tom Watson, Barrie Scott, Richard McKenna

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Marabooboo All Stars
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Rumblestrutters
White Hart, Winchcombe

John Otway
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Nikki Rous
The Old Bakehouse, Ludlow

Dani & Will Wilde
Elmslie House, Malvern

Paul O Neil
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Elvis Years
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Keith Slater's Sinatra Celebration
Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Cracked Actors, Hvmm
The Queens Head, Redditch

The Straight Aces
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Fires That Divide
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Changing Man V The Police Force
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

7 Side South
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Dave Lacey And Buddies Live
Royal British Legion, Stourbridge

Mother Popcorn

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follies

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Vo Fletcher

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Laid Blak

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Divide, Junior, All Ears Avow, Crying Wolf

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Beat & The Selector

Town Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 17 February 2018

By Royal Appointment

The Queen Vic, Stroud

Still Crazy

Wolverley Club, Kidderminster

Luke Truth

The Royal Oak, Studley

Live Who

The Railway Inn, Studley

Blackballed

The Iron Road, Evesham

Groovyhead

The Swan, Evesham

Common People

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Ruzz Guitar's Blues Revue

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Upbeat Beatles

Guildhall, Gloucester

Lewis Boulton

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mister Wolf

Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Three Tiger 110s

The Linden Tree, Gloucester

The Usual Suspects UK

Ukrainian Club, Gloucester

Neil Younger

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Mackerel Sky

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Leanne & King Rich

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Big Fat Shorty

The Chestnut, Worcester

Steve Banham Unplugged

The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Aladdinsane

The Marris Bar, Worcester

One2many

Reet Petite, Leominster

Stroud Record and CD Fair 10am

Imperial Hotel Station Road, Stroud

Quill With Bev Bevan

Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

Mel & Him

The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Satellite Down

The Valkyrie, Evesham

Paul Chief O'Neill

Red Lion, Powick

Some Guys Have All The Luck

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Rattlesnake Jake

Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Damn The Weather

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Chloe Moss and Ash

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Labour Of Love

The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

The Whitney Houston Live Experience

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Play It Again Sam

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Mitzzy

Crown Inn Catshill, Bromsgrove

Back in The Game

Millfields And District Social Club, Bromsgrove

2Tone Revue

The Hollybush, Stourport-On-Severn

Voodoo Room

Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Jon Eselle - Oily Murs Tribute

The Marston Green Club, Birmingham

Nighthours

The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

The Unconventionals

Shed Food And Drink At Countryside, Stourport-On-Severn

Valentines - Featuring Paul Stevens

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

The Final 4

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Alien Stash Tin

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Hucklebuck

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Plucking Different

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Alter Eagles

The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

40 SLAP FEBRUARY

Sunday 18 February 2018

The Legends Of American Country

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Toby

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Zalack Poland (6pm)

The Valkyrie, Evesham

Paul Rose

The Red Lion, Evesham

Woo Town Hillbillies (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Groovyhead (4pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Traditional Irish Music (2pm)

The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Rachel Newton

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Malvern Record and CD Fair 10.00am

The Cube, Malvern

Lydia Scarlett

Alestones, Redditch

Cooper & Davies

Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Son Of Pm (2pm)

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

The Whitney Houston Live Experience

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Izzy The Push Acoustic

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follies

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 19 February 2018

Madi Simpson Trio

The Paul Pry, Worcester

The Foyer: Pensham Singers

Number 8, Pershore

Tuesday 20 February 2018

Josh Simpson

The Tank, Gloucester

Busch Trio

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Wednesday 21 February 2018

Lee Mccrory

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

Truck Stop Trixies

The Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

Ewan Pollock Acoustic

The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Thursday 22 February 2018

Folk in The Foyer: Sunjay

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Darcy

The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Pounding The Pavement Tour: Anvil

The Iron Road, Evesham

Howard Kenny

Wintrip Brew Co, Worcester

Tone Tanner & Co

Cap N Gown, Worcester

Mawkin

The Courtyard, Hereford

Embrace The Chaos: A-Tota-So, Mayors Of Toronto,

Too Piste, Steve Neale

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Dave Jones Magic Show

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Perry Foster

The Plough, Worcester

The Foyer: Tamara Jelaca

Number 8, Pershore

Cirque Enchantment

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Version

Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Deep Tide Quartet

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Paula Cox & Paul Creane

Star Anise Arts Cafe, Stroud

Three Blind Mice

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Leon Gormley

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

C-Jam

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Harvesters

Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

The Ataris

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Ed Dowie Support from Grasscourt

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Album Project

The Playhouse, Cheltenham

Friday 23 February 2018

The Strays

Whittle Taps, Cheltenham

Gomme, Stonecutter & A Spade in The Corner Of The Room

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Sex Pistols Experience

The Iron Road, Evesham

Bewellian

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

The Clone Roses

Guildhall, Gloucester

Ruben Seabright
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Spence Cater
The Tank, Gloucester

Facestealers
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

The Future Set (Open Mic Night)
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Bluze Box
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Calling Card
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Locked And Loaded Uk
The Monument, Hereford

Population:7, Twist Helix, Cinema, Chip Langley
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds
The Hunters Inn, Longdon Near Upton On Severn

Ultimate Legends
Hogarth's Stone Manor, Kidderminster

Leanne & King Rich
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

A Fistful Of Spookies
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Gunnrunner
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Andy Mills
The Old Bakehouse, Ludlow

Screaming Dead Gigs, Ambition Demolition, Terminal Rage
The Valkyrie, Evesham

September Son
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Lost The Plot
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Soley Mourning
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Kev Murmur
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

The Ska45s
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Jon Townley & The Peaky Blonders
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Kitty Macfarlane
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

T.Rextasy
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

4Moreinc
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Riff
Base Studios, Stourbridge

The Uproars
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Vehicle
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Five Mics, Griz-O, Jdpl, Grove
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Saturday 24 February 2018

The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs
Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Hollyfest 2018 (True Order, The Tribe, Cherry Shakewell, Woun, Rook And The Ravens, Coffee Breath)
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Buster
Wolverley Club, Kidderminster

Timeless
The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

Skye Hadley
The Royal Oak, Studley

Kane'd, Nasty High
The Iron Road, Evesham

Witcher
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Led Hendrix
The Swan, Evesham

Weller Unplugged
Baker Street, Gloucester

Reggies 52nd Bash with Obscure
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Hills Angels
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Too Old For Toys
The Avenue, Gloucester

Mr.Tea And The Minions
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Ruiz Guitars Blues Revue
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Nightshift
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Tom Griffin
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

George Michael Tribute Evening
Three Counties Hotel, Hereford

Rubble
The Spread Eagle, Hereford

Playback
The Cricketers, Worcester

Hide Your Eyes, Mountain Estates, A Night Like This
The Victory, Hereford

2Tone Revue
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Vehicle
Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Syd Lawrence Orchestra
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

A Fistful Of Spookies
Clent Village Hal, Stourbridge

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
The Crew, Nuneaton

Steve Herbert (Indie Rock)
The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Black Max & The Pirates
Reet Petite, Leominster

Mike Skilbeck
The Swan Inn Barbourne, Worcester

Mr Wolf
The Valkyrie, Evesham

Without Flight
The Bakery, Malvern

The Counterfeit Sixties
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Marquis Drive
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Better Than We Look
The Feathers, Coleford

New Disorder - Joy Division/New Order Tribute
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Dave Onions
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Permageddon
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Liquor & Poker
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Official Receivers
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mick & Jess
The Maverick, Stourbridge

The Reflections
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Pete Harrington
Dog & Pheasant, Bromsgrove

The Murmur
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Jon Eselle - Olly Murs Tribute
Amber Cafe Bar, Evesham

Last Orders
The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Vulcan Reign
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Crazy Pony
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Southside
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Natty
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Sunday 25 February 2018

European Union Chamber Orchestra
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Spitz Acoustic Sunday (4pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Madi Stimpson
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Ellisha Green
The Black Star, Stourport

Sally Hosts Afternoon Singing Dance Drink Live Music 4pm
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Eric Porter & Martin Blake (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Kris Dollimore (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Damien O'Kane Band
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

From The Blue Hills (3pm)
Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

Locked And Loaded
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Ian Goodsman
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Hot Rod 55
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Jay & Eli
The Bell, St. Johns, Worcester

Fairport Convention
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Loz Rabone
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Kezza Belle
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

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

The Counterfeit 60s
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Monday 26 February 2018

Surprise Attacks: Dr Chan (Paris), Pablo Alto, As Mamas
Heroes, Worcester

Jam Night & New Music Showcase
The Paul Pry, Worcester

Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants, Fret & Fiddle
Harriers Arms, Hoo Rd, Kidderminster

Tuesday 27 February 2018

Adam King
The Tank, Gloucester

Remi Harris Trio
Yardbird Arts Club, Tenbury Wells

Wednesday 28 February 2018

Pistol Pete Wearn
Café Rene, Gloucester

Captain Jake & Immy Acoustic
The Oil Basin Brewhouse

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
Perschore Library

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly
The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every Tue - Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester

3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night with Ian & Kevin Fuller
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country)
The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tues - Folk Evening
The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

3rd Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris
The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy
The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround
The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wed - Electric Jam Night
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions
Green Dragon, Bishops Frome

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions
Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions
Fox & Hounds, Breden

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions
The Crown, Colwall

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 Muchdew Church, Hereford

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session
The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Jam Session
Reet Petite, Leominster

3rd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers
The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See malvernstorytellers.co.uk

Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Every 4th Thursday - Session
New Inn, Malvern

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session
The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club weekly folk night
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Every Friday - Open mic 7-9pm
Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

Every other Friday, Karaoke with kim
Royal Oak, Ledbury

1st Fri - Acoustic Session
The Camp, Grimley

2nd Fri - Open mic
Reet Petite, Leominster

3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop
The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session
The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session
St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session
Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club
Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm
The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sunday Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm
The Wharf, Stourport

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

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FEBRUARY

Friday 2nd - 8:00pm
Heretic Order | XVII
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 3rd - 9:00pm
The Unconventionals
FREE ENTRY

Friday 9th - 8:00pm
Death Koolaid
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 10th - 9:30pm
Cult Fiction - The Cult Tribute
FREE ENTRY

Friday 16th - 8:00pm
**Switchblade City |
The Escape Plan**
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 17th - 9:30pm
Satellite Down
FREE ENTRY

Sunday 18th - 6:00PM
Zakk Poland
FREE ENTRY

Friday 23rd - 8:00pm
**Screaming Dead |
Terminal Rage |
Ambition Demolition**
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 24th - 9:00pm
Mister Wolf
FREE ENTRY

LIVE DJ
EVERY FRI/SAT NIGHT

OPEN MIC
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

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THE MARRS BAR

FEB
MAR 2018



Thursday 1st March
Dub Pistols

Thursday 1st February

UnCover: HVMM, Soviets, Juniper Nights,
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 2nd February

Gaz Brookfield And The Company Of Thieves, Chris Webb + Nick Parker
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday 3rd February

Green Haze (Green Day tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 4th February

The Task In Hand + Surprise Attacks presents: Soeur, Nuns Of The Tundra, Esteban, Navajo Ace + As Mamas
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 9th February

Woo Fest Warm up: Arcadia Roots, Loose Lips, Chewie, Chimp on a Bike
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 10th February

Fezz (homage to Steely Dan) The Blue Motel and Reuben Pearce
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Monday 12th February

Jaya The Cat, Saltwounds, Malarkey
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday 15th February

LIRR, Junior Weeb, Novaview, Landmarks
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 16th February

John Otway
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday 17th February

Aladdinsane (David Bowie tribute)
£12 in advance £14 on the door

Friday 23rd February

UnCover: Population:7, Twist Helix, Cinema + Chip Langley
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday 24th February

New Disorder - Joy Division/New Order
£3 in advance £5 on the door

Thursday 1st March

Faithful City Shows: Dub Pistols
£14 in advance

Friday 2nd March

Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi tribute)
£7.50 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday, 3rd March

Mused (Muse tribute) + The Switch
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 4th March

Lemonade Jazz, Funk, Soul session
£3 on the door

Monday 5th March

FCS: Mike Dawes
£10 in advance

Friday 9th March

Michael Knowles And The STD's, Time Of The Mouth
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 10th March

The Machine Rages On (RATM tribute) + Liberty Artillery
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

www.marrsbar.co.uk

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