

SLAP

Issue 79

Apr 2018

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Apr 2018 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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Let's get the bad news out of the way first: it's no April fool to find that The Session Worcester will be closed by the end of the month. Local business men and music lovers Al & Moz have put their heart and soul (and finances!) into this rehearsal space and all round musical hub for the last thirteen years, but rising costs, and a failure to be able to negotiate a level playing field for business rates, has led to the inevitable. While SLAP recognises that government backing for the arts is not necessarily a good thing, providing an environment for the creative industries to flourish certainly is.

Now to more positive matters. SLAP 79's front cover features Nth Cave's Danni and Fergus performing for Uncover's International Women's day at the Marr's Bar – see the review on p21. While we're on the subject of diversity we feature a smorgasbord of artistic endeavour across the region – from 'The Ring' arts project celebrating Worcestershire's waterways to 'Focus on Folk' revelling in the sheer number of clubs popping up. Folk gets another fillip with a preview of Rustic Folk festival in Bewdley showcasing our very own former cover stars Doozer McDooze and The Humdrum Express among many others.

Poetry gets an airing with former laureates Heather Wastie and Suz Winspear featured and a preview of Evesham's Festival of Words. Like folk, spoken word is having a renaissance at the moment and long may that continue.

This month's interview is with Teddy Matthews who talks to Will Munn of Rhythm & Booze about the latest and forthcoming EPs, his fondness of the 90s and loving a good SLAP! Teddy has also got plenty of festival appearances lined up, and as the bills are honed we feature a plethora of outdoor entertainment events - Linton Festival, Mello Festival and Lechlade Festival to name but a few.

New for SLAP is a foray into Spotify. Granted, the revenue stream for up and coming bands leaves a lot to be desired but, for the fan, streaming services open up a whole new musical world. Enjoy.

(Won't Get) Fool-ed (Again)



Spotify

Search Slap Magazine



Front cover: Danni Timmins and Fergus Brazier of Nth Cave at the International Women's Day for the UnCover event at the Marrs Bar by Geoffrey Head

Live to Love Another Day

Fair play to Evesham's **Lower Loveday** for reaching (but not quite winning) the 'regional final' of a national talent contest on the Saturday where the 'judges' tipped them for future placement at Reading/Leeds - and then filling in at an hour's notice the next day at a BBC Introducing recording session - respect!



Strong and Stable

The theme for this year's **Kidderminster Arts Festival** in August will be '*strength and resilience*' while celebrating the centenary of the end of World War 1 and women's right to vote. It's hoped to again run events and exhibitions including theatre, workshops and cinema at venues including the **Carpet Museum** and **Severn Valley Railway** - plus the very popular **Kidderminster Fringe Festival** - however the book is closed on the probable headliners...

Fairy Nuff!

Something a bit different in Ledbury on Saturday 19th May when a '*Realm Of Fantasy*' festival takes over New Street with stalls featuring artwork by sculptor **John Woodward** and artist **Anne Stokes** whose work featured in the 'Dungeons & Dragons' role playing game! The organisers say there will also be fairy wings, costumes and wands available - plus the chance to 'spot an unicorn or two'...

Nozstock and Barrel

Our local treasure **Nozstock** celebrates its 20th anniversary this year - and organiser **Ella Nosworthy** is planning the biggest show ever, bringing back some of the favourite artists from the last couple of decades plus headline acts including **Goldfrapp**, **The Selecter**, **Chase & Status**, **The Lovely Eggs** and those **Stiff Joints**! **Nozstock: The Hidden Valley** runs from 20th-22nd July - www.nozstock.com

Comic Conservation

Local sci-fi fans will be relieved that **Comic-Con** will be returning to Worcester on Sunday 8th April at the **Worcester Arena** on Hylton Road - guests attending include **John Rhys-Davies** (Lord Of The Rings); **Norman Lovett**, **Robert Llewelyn** and **Chloe Annett** (Red Dwarf); **Colin Baker** and **Katy Manning** (Dr Who) - but also **John Challis** (Boycie in Only Fools & Horses) - answers on a postcard please?

GibSon of a Bitch

Dire news once more for the international music industry as it's again being reported that 'guitar groups are on the way out' now that studio-quality hip-hop tracks can be easily created using sampled beats and instruments on freely available apps. It also seems that the days of iconic guitar company Gibson are numbered as it unloads assets to stave off impending bankruptcy. The good side is that usually when guitar bands have been written off in the past - there's a new healthy underground scene waiting to emerge - despite the doom we're cautiously optimistic ourselves!

Fringe Future Fallow

The organisers of the popular **Stroud Fringe** festival have announced the event will not take place in 2018, to allow them to plan a '*Fringe for the Future*'. Like other events - including Glastonbury festival - the Stroud Fringe will have a 'fallow' year to give organisers time to respond to soaring attendance figures and plan for 2019 and the long-term success of the festival.

A record-breaking 25,000 people attended the Stroud Fringe last year, making the event a major success story for the Stroud District and its businesses. However, as visitor numbers have soared, so has the cost of running the event. The huge cost of crowd safety has pushed the overall cost of the fringe to around £100,000. The event is run by a not-for-profit organisation that relies on support from local councils, businesses and individuals.

Malvern Hill Carnival

Carnival Records, Great Malvern, celebrates **Record Store Day** on Saturday April 21st with a full line-up of live performers in its courtyard (weather permitting!). The Church St shop is also expecting to welcome a celebrated electronica/jazz artist to play a vinyl DJ set.

Sayonara To The Session

On the cusp of going to print we read the sad statement from **Al & Moz** if Worcester's premier band rehearsal rooms Session Music Studio, that they are closing their doors at the end of April this year.

Immediate shock reverberated through the local music scene as people came to terms with the news and all manner of rightly glowing and gushing tributes poured forth.

Al and Moz would like to stress that though the rehearsal rooms will shut, their worthy work as sound and lighting engineers, as **Waveform Live**, will continue.

Also to remain in business is drum tuition outfit **The Beat Clinic**, and an alternative venue for this is currently being sourced.

Al and Moz will also still be offering their recording services either live on location or using the studio at **Worcester Sixth Form College**.

Whilst, as we go to press, no statement has been forthcoming about whether **The Session** will be sold as a going concern, at this moment we at Slap would like to extend our very best wishes to the redoubtable duo of **Al & Moz** for all their future ventures.

The Worcester music scene and beyond is highly indebted to this pair for the immense work they have done for the past two decades or so.

Cheers chaps here's to the future!



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Clik Clik finally gets back out on the streets this month at the **Stratford Shakespeare Festival**. There's a load going on including the **National Living Statue Competition**. You'll find me being mischievously medieval, capturing people in my photo-frame! April 21st & 22nd, Stratford Town Centre. klikklikcollective.com



Clik Clik part produces (along with **Nozstock** the Hidden Valley) a side-venture called the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets**, an immersive, multi-roomed, weirdly mutating, live music and performance venue at Nozstock in Herefordshire. The Cabinet is designed, created and managed by a team of people dedicated to giving you an experience, including **Phil Wilkins & Graham Colledge** – the brains behind the complex and ever changing design and build. Then there is a gang of exceptional people who bring their talents and helping hands (I can't fit them all here but you know who you are) to make the venue come to life over a ten-day period before the festival starts. I direct, program and manage the overall project throughout the year and during the weekend itself.



This year, as well as a new layout for you to find your way round, we have a delicious slice of things on offer, from funk and world driven beats, electronica, DJ's and pop-up performances. As a first serving, you can catch **Seas of Mirth**, **The Pink Diamond Revue**, **Capas**, **The Imaginary Hat**, **Collective 43**, **7Suns**, and **The Woo town Hillbillies** with more exciting acts to be announced really soon. And always look out for the surprises.....

Nozstock takes place 20th-22nd July. Look up **The Cabinet of Lost Secrets** on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or nozstock.com

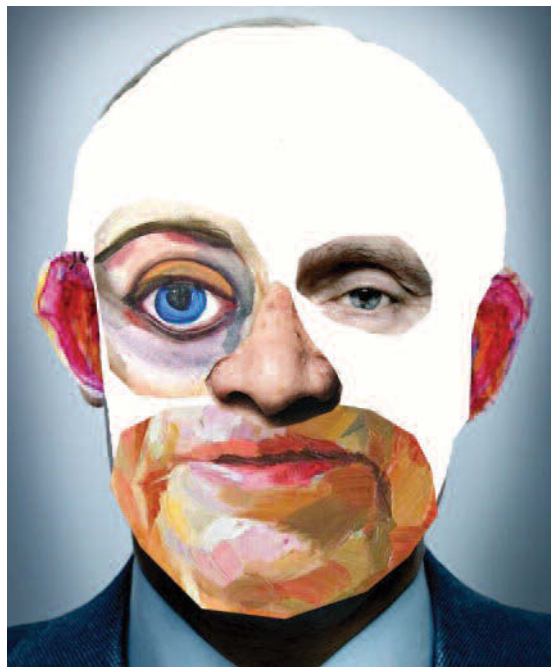
Self Portrait Past, present, future and wannabe self

After a very successful 2017 exhibition during **Droitwich Arts Fest**, we are inviting all artists to send us their artistic self-portraits for a **Mail Art Project**.

All contributions must be of a self portrait in any format (except video, 3D or selfie!). Size: A6 (10cm X 15cm) or A5 (15cm X 21cm) if possible. No entry fee, no returns, all mail art will be exhibited. Racist, violent and pornographic artworks will not be exhibited.

Please send your art to: **Droitwich Spa Mail Art**, 19 Impney Way WR9 7EJ by 1st June. With a Maximum of 2 submissions per artist and must include artist /artwork details, clearly stating your name, title of the work, email address, website (if any). Please confirm your submission by email to mail.art2015@yahoo.co.uk

The exhibition will be held during the **Droitwich ArtsFest** 30th June - 28th July in the public library gallery. All artworks will be published on Droitwich mail art: droitwichmailart.wordpress.com



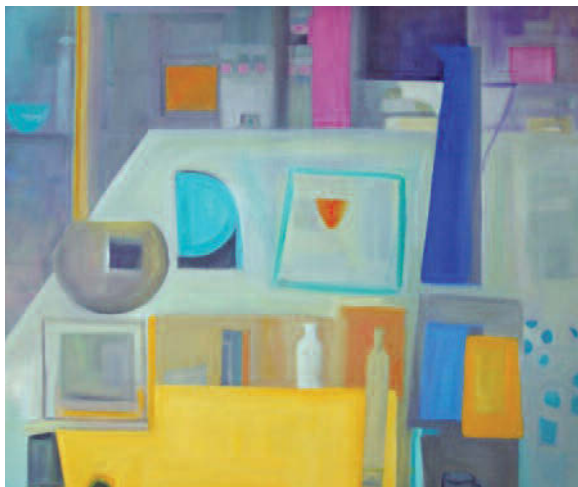
A Fresh Start

2018 sees the launch of a series of Art Exhibitions running throughout the year at **Elmslie House** in Great Malvern. The inaugural exhibition, 'A Fresh Start' is a spring show of contemporary art that will bring together the work of seven artists commissioned by Elmslie House curator/owner **Anna Taylor**, offering a wide range of work from artists both local and international.

The artists are: **John Button** from Stockholm; **Guy Butcher** - bespoke fine furniture maker from Herefordshire; Birmingham based printmaker **Emma Hardicker**; **Clarie Malet** - metal artist; Malvern based goldsmith - **Shivani Patel**; Worcester based **Karen Stone** and **Mark Upton** - Sculptor.

The exhibition runs from 7th until 15th April. 10.30am – 4.30pm with late night opening on Friday 13th April until 8pm.

For more info please contact Anna Taylor on 07789 470780 or elmsliehouse@gmail.com, or for info, visit elmsliehouse.co.uk



Dancefest

Dancefest's summer term starts on 16th April, with over 35 weekly classes across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. With **Parents and Wobblers** and **Dance Clubs** for children, youth dance, adult classes in contemporary and ballet, and Chance to Dance for 55+, there's something on offer for all ages. Dancefest also has five community performance companies, including an inclusive company. They'll all be working towards end of term performances in July which take places in venues across the two counties, including **Artrix** in Bromsgrove, **The Courtyard** in Hereford and **Bewdley Cherry Fair**.

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



Paintings in Textile & Stitch

Janet Shaw has been creating beautiful textile and stitch pieces for sixteen years using threads of different kinds to create both figurative and abstract pieces. With inspiration taken from the world around her, she enjoys experimenting with different textiles their characteristics. You can see her work this month until 18th April at **Number 8**, Pershore, Mon - Sat, 10.00am - 4.00pm. Free.



Ice Age Family Workshops

Come and join **Meadow Arts** and artists **Ben Foot** and **Valentina Floris** from **SDNA** for two fantastic workshops making exciting digital artworks for **The Hive's Ice Age exhibition** and you can get involved. Ben and Valentina will help you to draw and paint figures inspired by our cavemen ancestors with a visual arts session. Your drawings could later be the inspiration for the animated film they will create!

Then join them again in a sound based workshop that makes strange and wonderful noises inspired by the Ice Age. Hear what your voice can do and see what happens when we record it!

Recommended age: 8 to 13. Both workshops are **FREE** and no booking is necessary. Saturday 28 April 2018

Visual Arts - 11.30am-1pm. Sound Art - 2pm-3.30pm. The Hive, Worcester.



Artist's talk

The Hive, Worcester | Tues 24th April 5-7pm

Taking a copy of **Su Braden's** 1978 book, *Artist's and People*, as a starting point (read often while on residency at **The Hive** during the past year), Heather **Peak Morison** from **Studio Morison** will talk about her experience of working outside the gallery and look back at the history of artists in communities, artists in new towns, artists in schools and artists in civic spaces. Both practical and philosophical, she will explore the conditions, the challenges and the attraction of working in the public realm. Open to the public and especially relevant to artists, curators, architects and potential commissioners, this talk and discussion will take place in The Hive and will conclude with a tour of the work, *The Long Afternoon of Earth* (as featured last month), created after spending time working with the library and the University of Worcester.

Heather and **Ivan Morison** have been artists in residence at The Hive and the **University of Worcester** throughout 2017. They have created a series of sculptural works that respond to the consumption of knowledge and the wealth of information held in **The Hive**. Go book a free ticket For more info: meadowarts.org



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



Tŷhai - Bringing Wales and India to Worcester

Worcester Arts Workshop brings our world music season to a close with **Tŷhai**, Indo Celtic Trio. After the roaring success of the previous two acts, **Don Kipper** and **Tantz**, The Arts Workshop are proud to bring to Worcester this exciting collaboration between three Wales-based musicians.

Tŷhai's repertoire includes the ragas of Indian music, verses from Sufi poetry and ancient Sanskrit texts as well as Welsh traditional music and song.

This truly unique musical experience will be a rich and fitting close to the **Worcester Art's Workshop World Music season** and paves the way for a year full of exciting and diverse events ahead.

Booking is highly recommend for the event. Tickets cost £10 and available at worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk or Tel: 01905 25053

Show runs Friday 6th April – Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm start

Performance is bought to us by Shindig, Worcestershire's programme of professional live performances in community venues.



Worcester Arts Workshop To Take Part In Nationwide Art Project Celebrating The Centenary Of The Women's Vote

The **Worcester Arts Workshop** is delighted to announce our support for **PROCESSIONS**, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in a mass participation artwork to celebrate one hundred years of votes for women.

PROCESSIONS invites women* and girls across the UK to come together on the streets of Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London on Sunday 10th June to walk together as part of this celebratory mass participation artwork.

1918 PROCESSIONS 2018

Wearing either green, white or violet, the colours of the suffrage movement, the **PROCESSIONS** will appear as a flowing river of colour through the city streets, marking this historic moment as part of a living portrait of women* in the 21st century.

8 SLAP APRIL

14-18-NOW

WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS

Worcester Arts Workshop is very proud to have been chosen as one of the 100 organisations working with women artists up and down the country in the lead-up to the event, as part of an extensive public programme of creative workshops to create 100 centenary banners which will form part of this vast artwork.

Worcester Arts Workshop will be running fortnightly sessions to design and make our banner, starting from Friday 23rd March 12.30-2.30.

*those who identify as women or non-binary



PROCESSIONS is produced by **Artichoke**, the UK's largest producer of art in the public realm, as part of **14-18 NOW**, the UK's official arts programme for the First World War centenary.

For more information about how you can get involved, email info@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

LAZY SUNDAY
8th April '18

CAFÉ BLISS

Jabba Cartel
Zara Sykes
Beth Prior
Danni G

Celebrating women in music

£5 Entry

WORCESTERSHIRE PRIDE

Open 1pm

In association with Worcestershire Pride
21 Sansome St, Worcester. WR1 1UH

Missing

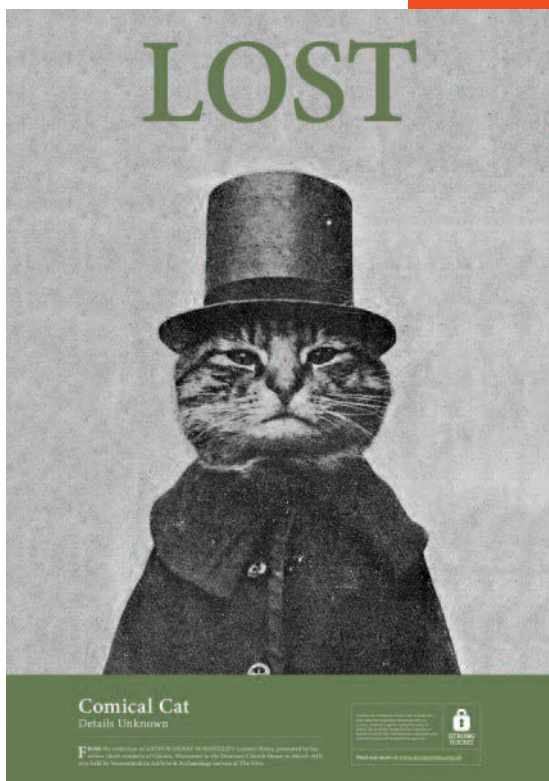
A unique collection of magic lantern slides taken by Worcester resident, **Arthur Henry Whinfield** are the inspiration for a new art project by artist **Rob Hewitt** from **Redhawk Logistica**.

Arthur Whinfield lectured to many local folk about his trips around the world. **Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service** (WAAS) has jointly been awarded a grant by the **Heritage Lottery Fund** to celebrate the centenary of his collection being donated by his widow to the **Worcester Diocesan Church House Trust** in March 1918.



A key element of the project is the conservation and cataloging of slides, followed by their digitisation. Working together with the **Magic Lantern Society**, the lantern projector will be repaired and a selection of slides chosen to share with the public.

The magic lantern was an early type of slide projector using transparent plates (usually made of glass). It was commonly used for entertainment purposes in the 17th century, projecting pictures that were painted, printed or photograph.



Rob Hewitt said "I was first shown the magic lantern slide collection while working with young people and archives on a project called Strongrooms two years ago. It captured my imagination straight away. 2018 marks 100 years since the slides

were first handed over to the public records office, so now seems like the right time to shine some light on these dusty objects. The collection is like an encyclopaedia of images and they are the raw material we are working with. The missing project is

about remembering things that are hard to hold onto. We want to find a way to bring them back to life and share a selection in public. Some will become outdoor projections this month, others will be pasted up onto walls surrounding The Hive building, inserting them into a contemporary cityscape. We'll be doing some art workshops and putting together a magazine to record all the interesting things we find along the way."

Everything is taking place between April and August, and young people from Worcester are encouraged to get involved with curating the images and generating content for the 'zine. If you are interested in taking part, please contact: JHughes@worcestershire.gov.uk

There are also two public events planned for July. Keep an eye on www.explorethepast.co.uk. Find out more about **Redhawk Logistica** on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. #missingAHW



Suz Winspear

I'm writing this during a March snowstorm, wondering if this wretchedly prolonged winter is ever going to end. At the moment, the whole notion of April and springtime seems impossibly far away. Still, April probably will happen, even if it doesn't get any warmer, and two of this year's **LitFest** competitions are still open for entries. The deadline for both the **Flash Fiction** competition and the **Young Writers' Awards** is Friday 27th April, and 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.

And here are some Spoken Word events to look forward to in April

Thursday 15th – SpeakEasy at Cafe Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop. Poetry from a wide range of local poets. Our featured performer this month is Tony Judge, from whom we can expect bravura and entertaining writing. . . 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.

Thursday 19th – Dear Listener at Boston Tea Party, Angel Place. This is an early-evening event of eclectic poetry and spoken word, from both new and established voices. The identity of the Featured Performer will soon be revealed, and Open Mic slots can be booked at dearlisteneropenmic@gmail.com £3 admission. 6.30 – 8.30pm

Wednesday 25th – 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.

Suz Winspear



Aside from the main festival itself, which takes place 29th June – 1st July, **Evesham Festival of Words** has a range of events for wordsmiths taking place throughout the year.

"Where is Mrs Christie?" - a one woman play about Agatha Christie, one of the greatest and most prolific thriller writers of all time. In 1926 she was at the centre of a mystery as perplexing as any of her fiction, a series of events that sparked one of the biggest and most extensive manhunts in history.

24th April. 7.30 pm. £10. Evesham Town Hall.

I am John Clare - a joint event with **Worcestershire LitFest** and **Fringe** this is a one-man play about peasant poet, **John Clare** who after years of being addicted to poetical prosing, found himself admitted to Northampton General Lunatic Asylum in 1841.

3rd May. 7.00 pm. £6. Almonry Museum. Evesham.

With both events, ticket price includes a glass of wine and some nibbles.

Also for budding storywriters, **The Cotswold & Vale Magazine 'Six Word Story'** competition is now open, with a closing date of 1st May. Email entries to: competitions@valemagazine.co.uk.

For more info - eveshamfestivalofwords.org/programme/



If you are local to Evesham why not come along to some of the great free events we have on all year round.

'Meet the Authors' on the second Friday of each month at 11am in Evesham Library, three authors talk about their books and their writing experience.

'Writers Monthly Meets', first Wednesday of each month, 10.30am, at the **Jellypicklejam Cafe**.

'Writing Prompt Meetings', second Monday of each month, 2pm. Brew Bear Café. You don't have to be a writer to come along. Everyone welcome! To find out more, contact Sue Johnson, email: sue.r.johnson@outlook.com.

www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org

Artist Feature

Heather Wastie

Local (ex) **Poet Laureate**, performer and general word wonder Heather is one of the commissioned artists for **The Ring** project taking place this year in Worcestershire. We grabbed a few words from her about her story so far and what she's up to.

"I have been a poet and songwriter since I was very young. My first poem was written at infants' school and my first songs consisted of 'plonking' at the piano. I was born in Cradley Heath and when I went to grammar school we had to move house because our street was being demolished. So we moved up the hill, five minutes walk away. I had music lessons, at school and privately, but ended up taking maths and sciences at A-level, a big mistake!

Having not studied music since year three, I luckily managed to get a place at Birmingham University studying Maths and Music and spent time writing and recording lots of songs (which not many people have heard!) partnering with a fellow maths student.

Deep down my ambition was to be a professional performer, but I lacked confidence. After university, I landed myself a job as Assistant to the Music Director at **Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)** in Edgbaston. My twelve years here were an excellent grounding in all aspects of the music business – publicity, admin, teaching, performing, conducting ... you name it. After a year working for the CBO, I took the plunge and went freelance.

No one could have planned my career path! I became a 'born again' early musician, discovering a love of the recorder through playing medieval, renaissance and baroque music. I also took up renaissance dance, and performed as both singer, instrumentalist and dancer, in costume, swapping from one to another as required. For several years I organised and taught on recorder and early music courses, but my desire to create more of my own work took me off in other directions. Around this time I began taking my poetry writing more seriously and ten years later started taking part in poetry slams. I even managed to win one!

Moving to Cookley in 2006 marked a shift in my creative output. In order to get to know the town, I began researching the carpet industry and in 2013 became **Writer in Residence** at the **Museum of Carpet**. The pieces I wrote after interviewing ex-employees were published by Black Pear Press as '*Weaving Yarns*' in 2015 and I often perform the repertoire. I was honoured to be selected as **Worcestershire Poet Laureate** 2015/16 and today am fulfilling my dream, earning a living as poet, songwriter and performer. In 2017 I was one of a number of poets commissioned by Nationwide Building Society to write and perform my own work for their ad campaign.

One of my fortes is writing from oral history. My father was a big campaigner for restoring abandoned canals and historic buildings. My love of heritage came from him and I am inspired by people's life stories. As well as '*Weaving Yarns*', I have composed a song cycle about the history of the Weavers' Cottages in Kidderminster, written



poetry now published in a collection celebrating the restoration of the **Droitwich Canals**, and produced a growing body of work about the so called 'Idle Women' of the wartime waterways.

Some of my work is 'found' in that it uses words spoken or already printed to make new poems or songs. This has the effect of bringing to life the person who originally spoke or wrote the words in a succinct way, leaving out extraneous prose or speech. There's rhythm and humour in my work and my songs (so I'm told) are catchy earworms, in a folky style with accordion accompaniment.

Having just completed the Droitwich Canals commission for **The Ring (Canal & River Trust)** I will be touring '*Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways*' with **Alarum Theatre** with **Kate Saffin**. Our spring tour, by canal, travels along the **Worcester & Birmingham Canal**, starting from Worcester at **The Chestnut** on Apr 3. On April 4, I'll be performing my Droitwich poems at the **Railway Inn**, Droitwich, followed by Alarum gigs on Thu 5 in **Tibberton**, Sat 7 **Stoke Prior**, Thu 12 **Tibberton** and Fri 13 in **Finstall**. Then we're off to Birmingham and the Black Country. Over the summer we're touring further north.

Later this year, Black Pear Press will publish my next poetry collection. Thankfully there's always something to work on and towards. I never rest on my laureate laurels!"

See www.alarumtheatre.co.uk for all the Idle Women tour dates and www.wastiespace.co.uk



The Ring announces full artistic programme for the county

Last month **The Ring** (part of the **Canal & River Trust's Arts on the Waterways** arts programme) launched officially with an opening event at the **Diglis House Hotel**. **The Ring**, inspired by the waterways encircling Droitwich and Worcester, takes place between March and September 2018 when audiences will be invited to explore on foot, by boat or bicycle commissions by acclaimed national artists plus a range of activities and events from local Worcestershire creatives.

The launch night featuring a performance from one of the seven commissioned artists, local lass **Heather Wastie** reading from her new book *The Muck and Shovel Brigade* as well as an overview of the full programme.

Tim Eastop, producer of the Canal & River Trust's Arts on the Waterways programme says: "We're delighted to be launching *The Ring* and wait in anticipation for these innovative works to spring up in and around the local waterways over the coming months."

Cathy Mager, Artistic Director of The Ring, adds: "We're really proud to reveal *The Ring's* cutting edge programme of artworks, literature, music and performance that respond to this fascinating 21 mile circle of waterways. We were fascinated to discover that the ancient translation of 'Worcester' is 'the people of the winding river', which seems so apt".

The commissioned artists announced for The Ring are:

Rich White, *Occupation* (Diglis Island Residency), Diglis Island, Worcester (Until Sept 2018)



Bristol-based sculptor **Rich White** will be taking residence on and exploring the heritage of **Diglis Island**, during which he will explore the island's history and future, and create a temporary, large-scale sculpture, entitled *Occupation*. Visible from the towpath, the work will evoke a bygone era of huge activity on the island, harking back to when, amongst other things, it was a centre of waterways maintenance, production and manufacturing. Research and in-progress reports will be documented on his project website.

Heather Wastie, *The Muck and Shovel Brigade*, Droitwich Canals. View an e-book of Heather's poems (available now)



Former **Worcestershire Poet Laureate**, **Heather Wastie** was introduced as a child to the canals of the West Midlands. She has written a series of poems that sparkle with wit and warmth, inspired by the **Droitwich Canals**, the people who restored them and the photography archive of **Max Sinclair**, documenting the completion of the Mid-Worcestershire Ring canal system: *its journey from an overgrown, unloved place to the lively network it is today was a labour of love for hundreds of volunteers over decades. This limited edition book of poems and photographs conjures the spirit of the 'muck and shovel brigade'.*

Katy Beinart, *Saltways*, Vines Park, Droitwich and Droitwich Heritage Centre (May - Sept 2018)



Brighton-based interdisciplinary artist **Katy Beinart** will explore Droitwich's historic past as a salt production centre, exporting salt around the world via vital canal routes and other 'Saltways'. In a symbolic journey that mirrors these routes, a working boat will travel from Gloucester Docks to Droitwich carrying a sculptural pavilion based on the old saltworks, to be filled with salt from around the world and locally produced Droitwich Salt. Droitwich was founded on its natural salt brine springs and, at its peak, exported 120,000 tonnes of salt a year. **The Salt Pavilion** will be displayed at the **Salt Museum** in Droitwich Heritage Centre until early September before departing on board a working boat as part of Salt Fest.

NEON, *Weorgoran Pavilion*, South Quay, Worcester City Centre (15 - 24 June 2018)



As summer arrives the **Weorgoran Pavilion** will appear in the centre of Worcester. Prepare to be mesmerised by this innovative performance pavilion and its vibrant programme of literature, music, dance and workshops led by local artists. The stage's vibrant design is the creation of **NEON**, a design studio that works between the disciplines of art and architecture. The sculptural pavilion takes its inspiration from the Saxon origins of the name Worcester and its ancient translation, "the people of the winding river". **NEON** is an award-winning art, architecture and design

practice, experienced at producing urban public projects. Their work engages with the public, transforms the ordinary into extraordinary and creates moments of surprise and excitement. They are fascinated with initiating an emotional response, stopping people in their tracks and breaking the monotony of the everyday.

Dave Crowe, *Shire Skies*, South Quay, Worcester City Centre (15 - 24 June 2018)

Beat-boxer **Dave Crowe** has created a site-specific soundscape especially for **The River Spectacle** stage, working with local choirs to compose an atmospheric and mysterious recording inspired by The Ring's waterways, which will play at selected times.



Dave Crowe and **Stranger Faces** headline the opening night performances on 15 June with a lively mix of funk and beat-box sounds. Dave Crowe began his career as a street beat-boxer in Ledbury. His music videos have since gone viral, commanding multimillion hits on YouTube.

Emily Speed, *Hollowware*, Diglis Canal Basin, Worcester (August 2018)



Working with the Museum of Royal Worcester, a short walk from The Ring's route, Emily Speed presents an interactive performance. Explore the museum and then encounter a costumed character, emerging from a narrowboat to share tales of the curious and fantastical history of **Royal Worcester Porcelain**, which owes its success to the international transport links provided by the waterways. Commissioned by **Meadow Arts** as part of a major autumn exhibition at **Museum of Royal Worcester**, **Emily Speed** utilises ceramics, costume, architecture and performance to explore themes of shelter and the personal histories of inhabitants of buildings. Emily has looked at the museum's archives and its symbiotic relationship to the canal and river network, as well as how the decorations of canal boats link to the fine art traditions of porcelain production.



Lucy McLauchlan, *Opening the Floodgates*, Oil Dock Basin, Worcester (August - September 2018)

Lucy is one of the UK's leading female street artists; her internationally acclaimed, large-scale monochromatic paintings combine ancient, almost pre-historical influences with graphic sensibilities. She will be creating a new work in Worcester throughout the spring and summer. Her work has adorned multi-story buildings across Europe and the rest of the world, from Asia, African and USA. Lucy famously created the *'Todo es Posible!'* mural in 2010 on the outside of the former Birmingham Central Library. Her career has also seen her exhibit in galleries and museums creating work using a 'one-take' philosophy that rejects extensive preparation using digital tools, while four of her works are in the **Victoria & Albert Museum** permanent collection.

Keep an eye out for more in Slap, as we'll be running features on the artists and news about this exciting project throughout the year.

For more info visit www.theringart.org.uk or contact the team: theringworcs@gmail.com

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Preview

Dreadzone + Rufus & Audax (DJ Set) Malvern Cube | Saturday 7th April 2018

Last time they visited **The Malvern Cube** they sold out a week before the show!! Get your tickets in advance right now for the one and only - **Dreadzone!**

One of the most energetic, exciting and powerful live bands to emerge from the post-rave scene, Dreadzone have steadily been releasing albums and progressively bettering, refining and perfecting their own unique and inimitable take on dub since their inception in 1993. Still going strong after nearly 25 years in the game they have also long been and still are, one of the best live bands around.



Heading into 2018, Dreadzone move forward as a 5 piece, after parting ways with their guitarist after 10 years, and are focusing more on the electronic and dub elements of their stage show - a sound they developed in earlier years of Dreadzone. Their old skool dread sound comes bubbling to the surface on new album '*Dread Times*' which digs deep into their dub and reggae roots whilst still keeping the beats fresh and the textures electronic.

Dread Times is the band's 8th studio album and the 3rd release on their own Dubwiser label. The album stormed into the Top 40 UK Official Album Charts on release - the first time the band have charted in over 20 years. The album also made the Top 10 in the Indie and Dance Charts.

In Advance £17.50 plus booking fee £20.00 on the door

www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/427562

www.dreadzone.com

Moore Moss Rutter St Peter's Church (Malvern) | Friday 13th April

A series of remarkable gigs has heightened the sense of anticipation around the reunion of **Tom Moore, Archie Churchill-Moss** and **Jack Rutter** in the trio that won them the 2011 BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award. Now seven years on, having toured with some of the biggest and best acts in contemporary folk music, they now reconvene to release their third album together. Widely regarded as three of the best players of traditional folk amongst a precociously gifted generation, their finely-crafted arrangements wield a rare potency. Their music features new compositions as well as ancient traditional material from Britain and Europe, this record focuses on their own movements from the countryside to large cities and the contrasts that come into play. Liberally sprinkled with a modern electroacoustic grit, this trio has as much to do with contemporary music as it does with folk or baroque.



Don't miss your chance to see this amazing Band, Book your tickets now!

In Advance £11.00 - £13 on the door

www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/456195

From the Jam Acoustic The Malvern Cube | Saturday 14th April 2018

From The Jam bring their acoustic show to Malvern for an rare intimate show!



From The Jam's two frontmen - legendary former 'The Jam' bassist **Bruce Foxton** and vocalist/guitarist **Russell Hastings** - perform this rare intimate seated acoustic show at Malvern Cube. Expect an array of classic numbers, stripped back to the fundamentals of songwriting. This is your chance to get up close and personal with Bruce and Russell to enjoy The Jam's timeless music for what it truly is.

Tickets in advance £20.00 - £25 on the door

www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/463566

www.fromthejamofficial.com

Northern Soul Night The Malvern Cube | Saturday 28th April

Top specialist Northern Soul & Tamala Mowtown DJ's take to decks spinning the top tunes and rare vinyl records from the genre for the true Northern Soul and Tamala lover!

You'll know the DJ's from the scene and the tunes from your youth, come and join this, the first of a series of **Northern Soul** nights on the new rejuvenated best dancing floor in Malvern!

Also coming in May **Woody Pines**, and in June **Lucy Ward** + Support at the **Malvern Cube**. And the **Ian Parker** show is coming to **The Prince of Wales** in Ledbury on 17th June. Three shows that you won't want to miss - special Advance ticket prices available. Book your tickets now!

Tickets £5.00 www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/474183

Grapevine Music Project Returns to Tenbury Music Festival

After last year's successful festival introduction, **Grapevine Music Project** returns to Tenbury Wells, this time with a special launch event at the **Regal Theatre** in Tenbury.

A flavour of the Grapevine Music Project can be tasted at the showcase performance at the **Regal Theatre** on Saturday 7th April between 6:30pm and 7:30pm. The showcase will feature the 2017 students and offers prospective students the chance to meet tutors and sign up to the upcoming programme.

The Grapevine Music Project supports young musicians aged between 11 and 20 by helping them build confidence and self-esteem, encouraging ideas to be shared as life skills are developed. They also provide young people with the skills to move from listening to music to making it, allowing them to learn stage craft and understand their next steps in the development as musicians. It's about more than having a good time and playing music - personal confidence and musical skills are able to be improved. The initiative has been set up by **Equal Vision**, a social enterprise who create and inspire exciting cultural programmes in response to real issues such as rural isolation and social mobility.

The programme consists of a series of 3 workshops taking place at the **Regal Theatre** on 5th and 12th May and also at **Tenbury Festival** on 30th June where young people work with professional musicians to develop their skills and confidence. Young musicians who get involved will have the opportunity to play in front of a live audience at the **Tenbury Music Festival** on Saturday 30th June – save the date!



To book a workshop place contact jack-brett@live.co.uk.

To find out more visit equalvisioncic.co.uk/projects/grapevine/

Grapevine Music Project is about more than just having a good time and playing music. With support from our team of music tutors, we work with young people, building personal confidence and musical skill through collaborative music making.

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Rustic Folk Festival Hopley's Campsite, Bewdley Fri 13th - Sat 14th April

Something is stirring down at the beautiful **Hopley's Campsite** in Bewdley as a seemingly perfectly formed folk fest takes place in mid-April.

Dreamt up and brought to fruition by **The Rustic Pizza & Bar** company, this intimate gathering could prove to be a highlight in a very packed festival season.

You can usually tell by the promotion of such events if they are likely to be a hit and **Rustic Folk Festival** has got "quality" stamped all over it!

Not only are your earthly needs going to be superbly catered for (no not 'those' needs! Ed), my mum always said I only thought about my stomach, but first and foremost the music line-up is pretty stellar.

Step forward and take a bow please, the likes of perky & perennial Slap faves **The Humdrum Express**, **Doozer McDooze** & **Jess Silk**.

Add to this top notch headliners such as **3 Daft Monkeys**, **The Leylines** & **Uшти Baba**, then you know you're in for a weekend of rousing rhetoric, sweet sounds and aural treats.

Many other acts are both on the bill and still to be added so be sure to head over to hopleyscamping.wixsite.com/therusticfolk and get yourselves some tickets and head on down Bewdley way for what promises to be an early Fest Season weekend of wonderment.

hopleyscamping.wixsite.com/therusticfolk/tickets

The Rustic FOLK
13th & 14th April 2018

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The Dragon Folk and Roots Music Club

Meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month, upstairs in the Dragon Inn, Tything, Worcester. WR1 1JT. Door open at 7.30.

Entry; £3.50 Students; £1.50

Invited guest list;

4th April Town Musicians of Bremen

18th April Gazza T

2nd May Graham Collins

16th May Flatworld

6th June Don Mac

20th June Colin Pitts

4th July Handel with Care

18th July Songs to make you smile



www.dragonfolk.co.uk

Focus On Folk

The folk scene in what is loosely our Slap area is a varied, dynamic and busy one, as the monthly Session Listings at the back of our mag amply shows.

In this article we showcase three of the vibrant Folk Clubs in the Worcestershire environs plus another semi-regular 'club'.

There are of course many other such ventures throughout Slapland and the folk world being such a friendly and open one, people will be only too happy to point you in the right direction for more amazing music of a similar ilk.

Without ado further:-

The Dragon Folk Club: Worcester

A relatively new venture, having started up in October 2017, **The Dragon Folk Club** runs on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the upstairs room at the **Dragon Inn**, The Tything, Worcester. It starts at 8.00pm and is hosted by veteran singer, multi instrumentalist and ceilidh caller, **Barry Walmsley** ably assisted by his right hand man and fellow performer, **Paul Rose**.



The Club is open to all styles of music that can be performed 'unplugged'. Soloists or Groups, novices and veterans alike are welcome to just turn up on the night and perform a 15 minute set as 'Floor Singers'. Each night is then rounded off by an excellent guest artist who will perform for the last 30-40 minutes. Past turns have included **Set 'Em Up Joe**, **Colin Pitts**, **Victoria Crivelli**, **Paul Jeffery**, **Bitterroots** and **Viv Bell & Hugh Knight** to name but a few. Future guests over the next few months include **The Town Musicians of Bremen**, **Gazza T**, **Graham Collins** and **Flatworld**. Entry to club nights is £3.50 (£1.50 Students), though it is free if you are performing. The pub also features an excellent range of Church End Brewery Beers. For further information contact **Barry Walmsley** on 07881 581193 or at barry@dragonfolk.co.uk.

The ever busy Barry and Paul also run the **Worcester Acoustic Music Sessions (WAMS)** three times a year at **St. Swithuns Institute**, The Trinity, Worcester along with the odd **SHINDIG** (Arts in the Community) event. WAMS normally invite four local artistes to perform a half hour set each, providing a Concert with a range of Musical styles and genres. Audiences bring their own drinks and nibbles and can order a Fish and Chip supper for an extra charge. Concerts cost £5.00 in advance or £6.00 on the door.

If dancing is your thing then, on top of all this, Barry also runs 2-3 Ceilidhs each year at St.Swithuns Institute with his **Electric Ceilidh Band**, **The Whole Caboodle**. These events cater for people of all ages and ability. For further details contact Barry as above.

The Somers Traditional Folk Club:

The long established **Somers Folk Club** is named after the late lamented **Somers Arms** in Leigh Sinton (now a Chinese Restaurant), where the Club originally met on Friday nights some 30 odd years ago. They now meet every Friday between 8.15 and

10.45 at **Bishop Allenby Hall, St.Stephens Church**, off St.Stephens Street, Worcester having recently moved here from **The Alma Inn** just opposite in Droitwich Road.

If you prefer your Folk a little more on the traditional side then this is the one for you, though it is by no means an exclusive requirement at the Club, you are just as likely to hear contemporary and self penned songs in the Folk idiom along with a smattering of Blues, Music Hall, Poetry and Spoken Word. Club stalwarts **Sam and Eleanor Simmons** tend to MC the evenings which are friendly, relaxed and encouraging. They don't have paid guests on Club nights but try to fit in everyone who wants to perform, though you can't be guaranteed a spot if you arrive after the evening starts. There is no Bar so visitors bring their own drinks.



The Club runs an annual Membership which costs £5.00 (join at the door), the evening then costs £2.00 for members and £2.50 for visitors (first visit free). They also run occasional Members Concerts and an annual Harvest Supper. Previous guests have included **Greg Russell** and **Ciaran Algar**, **Granny's Attic**, **Pete Coe**, **Magpie Lane**, **Notts Alliance** and **Sarah Grey** and **Keiron Means**. The Club also attract quality visiting members from other Folk Clubs, such is the Somers reputation. Contact Sam and Eleanor on 01684 561378 or visit www.somers-folk-club.org.uk.

Bromsgrove Folk Club:

Bromsgrove Folk Club meet on the 2nd and last Thursday of every month from 8.00 til 10.30 at **Catshill Club**, 13 Meadow Road, Catshill, Bromsgrove. It is held in a large, comfortable room with a Bar. The Club prides itself on booking 'Artists who Entertain' and try and present the best on the current scene from this Country and beyond. In addition to guest nights, on four nights during the year they have a 'showcase' where Performers come along and show what they can do. If it goes down well then there may be a booking in it for them!

You don't have to be a Member to attend and can just turn up on the night. You can, however, become a Member but Membership can only be obtained by personal application when attending a Club night.



Many a big name in the world of Folk has graced the stage at **Bromsgrove Folk Club** over the past few years and i'm sure many more will. Past guests have included **Steve Tilston & Jez Lowe**, **Fairport Convention**, **Oysterband**, **Martin Carthy**, **Pete Coe**, **Anthony John Clarke** and **Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman**. Future guests over the next few months include **Andy Irvine**, **Joe Topping**, **Clive Gregson & Liz Simcock**, **Churchfitters**, **Kim Lowings & the Greenwood** and **Jez Lowe**.

The Club also organises the annual Bromsgrove Folk Festival which runs from July 13-15th 2018 at **The Bowling Green**, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove. This years guests include **The Demon Barbers XL**, **Cosmotheke**, **Robin Laing**, **Anthony John Clarke**, **Mumbo Jumbo** and many more. For further details on both the Folk Club and the Festival contact **Bob Bignell** (who also plays in resident Folk Club Band, **Fairfield**) at bobcynfolk@aol.com or visit the website www.bromsgrovefolkclub.co.uk.

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Keith James | The Songs of Nick Drake Elmslie House | Friday 4th May

A haunting and immaculately crafted concert - 8pm £10/ £12

This concert begins with an introductory set of timeless songs by brilliant songwriters – all contemporary with **Nick Drake**: Richard Thompson; Roy Harper; Sandy Denny; Al Stewart; Vashti Bunyan; John Martyn; Bridget St John and Bert Jansch.

Also featured are two poems by William Blake which Keith has set to guitar arrangements based on Nick's unique style.

Nick Drake is the most revered and loved of all this country's singer/songwriters. He recorded three cherished Albums between 1969 and 1972 but was almost entirely unknown in his day. After his tragic death in 1974, aged only 26, his music almost disappeared into obscurity. Now, thanks to a massive resurgence of interest and a worldwide re-evaluation of his genius, Nick Drake has become a National treasure. An important book, *Remembered For a While* has been recently released, written by his elder Sister **Gabrielle Drake**. This volume throws light on almost everything attributed to Nick's brief career as a songwriter and recording artist as well as on many corners of mystery and supposition.

A number of years have now passed since singer/guitarist **Keith James** paralysed the whole country with his stunningly beautiful series of concerts entitled *The Songs of Nick Drake*. At the beginning of the project in 2001 he was the first artist ever to bring this fragile and intriguing music to theatres across the UK in its pure live concert form. The end result was over a decade of highly acclaimed concerts amounting to over 1500 shows in venues in the UK, Ireland, Holland, France, Italy and Spain including all of Nick's Schools and Colleges – even Glastonbury Festival.

Keith James' website www.keith-james.com



In April... **Tyler Massey** and his new Trio here on the 7th. Doors open 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. Tickets £10.00 in advance, £12.00 on the door.

American **Kenny White**, with special guest **Deborah Rose** here on the 14th: Tickets are all £12.00. Doors open 7.00pm.

Kenny White comes to the world of the touring singer-songwriter following a long and successful musical journey.

On Saturday 21st April (not featured in the Ad) - local soprano **Livia King** and **Tim Sidford**. The Malvern-born soprano Livia King returns to Elmslie House after 8 months on the high seas as a performer for Silversea Cruises, singing everything from the Beatles to Brindisi, to perform a homecoming cabaret..



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



TYLER MASSEY TRIO
with Dave Onions
Saturday 7th April

KENNY WHITE
with Deborah Rose
Saturday 14th April

KEITH JAMES
The Songs of Nick Drake
Friday 4th May



Please check website for ticket prices and running times - these vary.
Tickets available from www.elmsliehouse.co.uk, Eventbrite,
Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, Church Street, Malvern.



Review

The Harcourt Players Silent Movies & Live Music

The Harcourt Players have taken two 30 minute classics by of the silent movie greats and written new original scores to them.



Buster Keaton's hilarious "The Goat" (1921) and Charlie Chaplin's timeless "Pay Day" (1922) are accompanied with guitars, banjo, ukelele, mandolin, harmonica and numerous sound effects, all played live as you sit and watch these two wonderful films.

You are taken through chases, drunken stupors and flirtatious love scenes while the Harcourt Players highlight the ups and downs of these legends of the silver screen.

There are surprises and hilarity throughout these very different films each lasting around 30 minutes (rumour has it, there may even be a 1930's cartoon performed too, just for good measure). So go and be transported back to the 1920's for a evening of fun and film accompanied by live music (banana peels not included).

The Fold, Bransford April 20th for tickets visit - thefold.org.uk
The Piesse, Wyre Piddle April 26th and The Marrs Bar, May 24th, tickets available at the venues or Music City, 61 The Tything, Worcester. All ticket prices £10 or on line at www.marrsbar.co.uk

Foyer Folk - Brimstone Number 8, Pershore | Saturday 14 April

Based in the Cotswolds, Brimstone are influenced by Celtic music from around the UK and beyond. A wonderful combination of different styles, in genres traditional and contemporary, creating a beautiful, feel-good sound. Gentle airs, fiery jigs and reels from the celtic nations and beyond. Brimstone are a 4/5 piece band comprising fiddle, whistle, guitar and bodhran, perfect for weddings, events, parties, ceilidhs and festivals. Based in the North Cotswolds; Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire.



For more information see brimstonefolk.co.uk/ Tickets: £4
www.number8.org and Facebook/Twitter pages.

Foyer Folk takes place on the second Saturday of the month at 8.00pm in Number 8's foyer.

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UNCOVER | International Women's Day

The Marris Bar, Worcester | 8th March

In celebration of International Women's Day, local promoters **UNCOVER**, **Boneyard Sessions** and **Mytacism Music** took it upon themselves to spend the day highlighting and celebrating the wonderful women in music we have, not just in our thriving local scene, but in the music business in general.

Taking to **The Firefly** in the day time for some acoustic treats and spoken word poetic wonders, before later moving across to **The Marris Bar** for an evening of fantastic indie sets from the likes of Wolverhampton's **Jump The Shark**, Worcester's own **Nth Cave** and **Novaview** and finally Bristol babes **Wych Elm**.

Novaview opened the night with a strong, consistent set of surprises. A fairly new band that seem to be getting better and better with every live performance. Bristol's **Wych Elm** challenged perceptions and brought a whole layer of cool to the night that seemed almost too easy for them, definitely a band to keep under your radar.



Next up, **Nth Cave** performed what was potentially their very best set yet, lead singer **Danni** took things up a notch confidence wise and they continued as a unit to prove that they're one of the



most exciting Worcester bands around at the moment... not to mention the band with the best cover of The Wytches 'Crying Clown' that you'll find in at least a 100 mile radius.

Headliners **Jump The Shark** performed an incredibly energetic set from start to finish, concluding with shouts for an encore resounding around the room, there was no doubt that they completely blew everyone away. A band with a bright, bright future.

Samantha Daly

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Anvil

The Iron Road, Evesham | 22nd February

The penultimate UK show for Canadian demigods of metal **Anvil**, who are back on the road to promote their new album *'Pounding The Pavement'*, is an irresistible local affair I wasn't ever likely to miss.

You might not expect a band who have released seventeen studio albums over a thirty-seven-year period, to be playing a small rock club in a Worcestershire market town. But Anvil's tumultuous career is the stuff of legend. Influencing the likes of Metallica, Slayer and Megadeth, among others, Anvil endured an extended period of obscurity until the late 2000s, when they were the subject of an acclaimed documentary: *'Anvil! The Story of Anvil'*. This brought the band back into the spotlight, before playing a string of high-profile shows and reasserting themselves as a celebrated force among metal aficionados.

I last saw Anvil at Bloodstock in 2012 with bassist **Sal Italiano**, but since 2014 the band has featured **Chris Robertson**, who joins founding members **Steve "Lips" Kudlow** and **Robb Reiner**, and tonight a packed house at **The Iron Road** welcomes the trio with adulation.

There's a few moments for Lips to take in where he's at, prior to stepping forward to greet the crowd. Lifting his Flying V to his face, he uses the pick-ups as a microphone for a verbal introduction before heading into *'March of the Crabs'*, the instrumental from the 1982 album *'Metal On Metal'*. Along with some initial banter and another couple of early classics: *'666'* and *'Ooh Baby'*, both the band and audience get into their stride for two hours of high quality metal entertainment.

More recent material includes the party tune *'Badass Rock 'n' Roll'*, and from the new album comes the solid rocker *'Doing What I Want'* – which is probably the perfect autobiographical title for Lips. Back to the early days with a Robertson bass solo into *'Winged Assassins'* and a heartfelt dedication to Lemmy for *'Free as the Wind'*, there's no doubt the first three albums – *'Metal On Metal'* and *'Forged In Fire'* in particular – have some decent tunes on them.

A welcome inclusion is the title track from *'This Is Thirteen'*, included in the career changing documentary which devotes time to the recording of the album. Lips confirms to us – as he has done for the last decade – that he paid his sister back for the album's production. I guess he realises some people might be here for the nostalgia and feel-good factor of the film more than the music, but then again, I'm sure he doesn't care.



There's a strange moment when a guy pushes his way to the front and thrusts a magazine and pen into Lips' face, seeking an autograph during the show it would seem. It's the first time I've witnessed such a thing, but fair play to Lips who calmly and politely ushers him away. Far more enjoyable to watch is the Anvil standard, tongue-in-cheek and fun-filled guitar antics during the extended version of *'Mothra'*. Whipping out a dildo, Lips not only uses it for shredding, sliding and tapping out his solo, but also to waggle down the lens of any unsuspecting photographer!

The run to the end includes a couple of newbies *'Bitch In The Box'* and *'Ego'*, and the pirate metal inspired *'Daggers and Rum'*, before Lips proudly introduces his lifelong friend and loyal band mate **Robb Reiner** for a superb, jazz-influenced drum solo during *'Swing Thing'*.



The highlight for me is, and was always going to be, set closer *'Metal On Metal'*, a song I distinctly recall hearing for the first time on the Tommy Vance Friday Rock Show in 1982. For all the time which has passed since then, for all the hardships, struggles and negativity which has followed Anvil, you can't help but admire the balls it must take to believe in something so much.

The band return for a final thrash with *'Running'* – from the brilliantly titled *'Juggernaut of Justice'* album – and a cover of fellow Canadian Steppenwolf's rock 'n' roll classic *'Born to Be Wild'*. It's been a show that has everybody rocking out until the end – a testament to the ironclad bond between Kudlow and Reiner, to stay true to their vow to rock together forever, as we all should.

Words & Photos: Steve Johnston

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Lechlade Festival

releases full line-up

Music lovers can expect a stellar line-up across the three days and nights at this year's **Lechlade Festival**, which takes place over the bank holiday weekend from **25th – 27th May**.



Headline acts **Scouting For Girls**, punk-rock band **From The Jam** and glam-rock group **Doctor and the Medics**, are joined by world-class tribute acts **Whole Lotta Led**, and **Flash – A Tribute to Queen**.

With genre-spanning music, the jam-packed 3-day weekend offers a fantastic experience for all the family, including fairground rides, stalls and free workshops.



"Tickets are selling faster than ever" says festival founder **Jennie Rainsford**, "we are nearly sold out of live-in vehicle pitches and we're way ahead of this point last year. We've been fortunate to enjoy sunny weather for the last few years and this year's long-range forecast is looking perfect! The camping areas will open even earlier this year to allow festival-goers to get settled in before the music starts on Friday afternoon. With top tribute bands playing well-known hits from Led Zeppelin and Queen, Friday night is going to be a popular one."

Yuasa Battery has once again been named as a key festival sponsor, with the **Yuasa stage** showcasing some of the country's finest emerging talent.

"There will be several additions to this year's event" says Jennie, "we've expanded the activities for children and we're looking at a bigger and better Comedy Stage. The bars have been expanded and revamped and there's a few other surprises up our sleeves."

The festival is now in its 8th year and attracts festival-goers from all over the UK. Over 1000 bands have applied to play this year, the festival team work hard to whittle it down to less than 10%. "We have a team get-together every couple of weeks from July onwards" Jennie explains, "there's a mixture of ages and music tastes to ensure we select the best bands across several genres."

Each year the quality of the applications gets better and better. We were surprised by the increase in the number of international applications this year – bands and performers from Europe, America and even Africa are keen to play."

One of the successful international applications, **The Roscoes Wild Child**, will return to Lechlade for a second year. "If you love Hendrix, you'll love this awesome duo", says Jennie, "Last year they flew in from LA, hired a car, drove to Lechlade, played on the main stage and returned home!" We're thrilled that Lechlade draws international attention and attracts such high-quality acts."

The Missy Malonee & Friends Burlesque Revue also returns this year. The popular event packs out the bar stage on Saturday night. A mixture of comedy, cabaret and burlesque, the two-hour show attracts an audience of all ages.



Locals benefit from big savings on weekend and camping tickets with discounted tickets for nominated postcodes.

Find out more on the website at www.lechladefestival.co.uk. Keep up to date on Facebook and Instagram.



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Liar Liar | EP One

Evesham based **Liar Liar** is the new project from twin brothers **Ben and Thom Parry** - who in their own words '*escape the horrors of minimum wage lifestyle through electropop*' (!) They've both got previous with **Tokyo Marching Band** (neither a marching band or from the East) - while Thom also sessions with acts like **Callum Stubbs** and runs a weekly open mic night at the excellent new Valkyrie venue in the 'Sham - well worth checking that place out by the way!

I like the minimalist title of this three-track debut offering which cuts straight to the point and reminded me of Hey You Guys! '*Difficult Second Album*' titling! The first track '*For A While*' has a late night ambient feel to its synthy tones - TMB reminded me a little of Hereford's Muchuu from a little while back and this gentle opener has a similar vibe - and that's not a bad sign at all!

Next number '*Young*' has a similar laid back chilled out and ethereal take - it's a pleasing soulsome ditty which has already attracted radio plays and I can see how its thoughtful and atmospheric tones and lyrics will appeal...



On the Soundcloud link (below) the first two tracks are described as 'indie' but final song '*The Dark Will Do*' is marked as 'pop'. It's a whole bunch more upbeat and dare I say the most 'commercial' number on this well-produced EP with a catchy hummable and almost anthemic riff that easily passes my personal 'old grey whistle test' - and as you guessed is my own favourite! But all the tracks could easily get wider airplay - so as with all our very fine local acts - hope that LL are PRS/PPL registered as there's royalties available out there!

Like TMB - **Liar Liar** aren't afraid to travel afield and note that they've already got a gig booked in Camden for the end of the month as well as having tracks broadcast on BBC In The West and also Hereford/Worcester (of course!)

Only one slight problem - there's a couple of other UK acts with this name and while noticing that they've also called themselves '**Liar, Liar**' on some profiles to get round this - it always an idea to do an in-depth search when plumping on your bandname and guess that LL might have to maybe rebrand for 'EP Two' - but 'One' is a very promising well-produced outing for the latest Parry brothers project - well worth checking out! soundcloud.com/liar-liar-466418573

AOH

Garrington T Jones | Abyssinia

Abyssinia, the latest album from Worcestershire musician, **Gary Tolley, AKA Garrington T Jones**, is a collection of nine original songs, one cover and one with a guest singer, masterfully put together to present a compendium of blues, rock, country and new-wave tunes.

Taken individually, each song is good enough to stand on its own merits. Collectively, they sit together to form an album that defies any attempt to force it into a genre pigeon-hole. As you journey through the album it becomes apparent that many of the songs reflect and are inspired by Garrington T Jones' ongoing love affair with Australia, her landscape, people and culture.

Road Cases - Inspired by a conversation with an extremely well-read roadie in a bar in Cairns, Australia, *Road Cases* gives us the thoughts of a rock and roll backstage hero travelling between shows, and opens with a suitably rock and roll count down to a foot-tapping drum beat and catchy guitar riff. Mr Jones tells this tale with a mellow, assured voice that reminds this reviewer of 70's crooner, Mat Monro. This is a good thing. The tempo continues with *I Once Had a Girl*, a retrospective love song, a sparky, upbeat tune in the manner of 80's New Wave Aussie band 'Men at Work'.

Next, *Indian Summer*, a cover of a popular song by 70's English Art Rock band 'Audience'. A fabulous rendition of "*a fabulous song of hope for those seeking love in the later years of life.*" Followed by *Chasing Feathers* - a catchy instrumental, inspired by two



kittens gambolling outside for the first time, has a feel of something you might find on an early Joe Walsh album.

Time - A beautiful, thoughtful song co-written with, and sung by **Laura Smith**. Time flows like a lazy river on a summer evening and makes you feel better for having listened to it. One of the high points of the album.

Blue Car Blues - Another album high point is **Tone Tanner's** Hendrix-esque guitar intro to this barmy 12-bar blues about a Nissan Almera SUV. No attempt at a written description will ever do this song justice. You HAVE to hear it to appreciate it.

Drivin' Home With The Blues - More Antipodean inspiration with this ode to "Drivin' Home With The Blues" a weekly radio show from Cairns, Queensland, Australia hosted superbly by Irene R. Barrett. A foot-tapping gem that captures that early Friday Night Feeling.

Dust Pneumonia Blues - Anyone who covers a Woodie Guthrie song is alright by me. And Garrington's version of *Dust Pneumonia Blues* is a rip-roaring, barnstormer of a tune.

Ain't Workin' No More - A lazy, wistful 12-bar blues about stepping out of the rat race and the joy of no longer having to work for "the man".

Ride - The intro sound effect of a Harley Davidson at full chat sets the tone for this high-octane journey on two wheels along the Great Barrier Reef Drive. Marvellous.

Jacaranda Blue - The perfect final song for any album is one that leaves the listener feeling good, and inspires them to play the album again, and again. This is the perfect final song, and in my opinion the masterpiece of the album. Garrington T Jones' voice soars over a subtle music arrangement that somehow finds its way into the soul of the listener (any listener with a soul, that is).

Abyssinia is a unique album, which grows in magnitude each time you listen to it.

Richard Wall

Shaun Kelly & The Returned Gifts The Boy On The Bench

Shaun Kelly is a Worcestershire based singer-songwriter who's beginning to make waves on a global level, leading a collective of musicians lifted from the ashes of the so-called *B-Town* indie scene (The Returned Gifts). Kelly's debut single, *Debt Of Silence* instantly made single of the week on the James Whale Show, whilst reaching number one across the globe on the ground breaking Top Tracks App on both the indie and country charts. Recent single '*Indigo*' has followed that success, reaching national BBC radio airplay as fellow single '*Cadillac*' caught the ear of a number of blog-sites who fell for it's upbeat charm and infectious vocal hook.

With a number of live showcases under Kelly's belt (both as solo performer and with The Returned Gifts), Shaun aims to hit the festival scene running this year. And now, with the release of his debut album '*The Boy On The Beach*', organisers could well be clambering to secure Kelly's services as the disc is set to propel him, and his cohorts, to the next level.

Opening the album with the aforementioned *Cadillac*, Shaun sets the stage early with an instantly contagious, choppy riff, before a chorus of horns joins the mix to create a gloriously jaunty indie anthem. It grabs the listener firmly by the lapel as he delivers a brilliant three and half minute head turner, complete with an addictive, fizzy vocal hook that's seemingly hand built for that 'festive field, mass sing-a-long moment'. It's a fun, punchy album opener that will guarantee Shaun plenty of repeat spins for the electrifying lead track (and indeed the subsequent nine that follow). '*Broken People*' follows, proving that Shaun is no one trick pony. He straps on an acoustic for a Dylan-tinged number that's helped along with an electronic, pop embellishment and a

harmony enriched vocal to die for. He blends an obvious love of folk with those previously heard indie pop sensibilities, creating a sound that's somehow both fresh and emotive.

Continuing the varied nature of the album, Indigo offers a slight country slant as a strummed acoustic is once again at the forefront of proceedings. But with Kelly, nothing is so straight forward. Subtle horns add a light peppering, whilst pop licked harmonies, a near falsetto (on occasion) and a memorable choral hook hint at Shaun's love of the instant indie pop classic. If that wasn't already a heady mix of genres, Shaun and The Gifts change pace for '*Let's Go To Rome*' where tinkered keys, a crooned lead and a tilt at some near orchestral indie sees the band slow it down

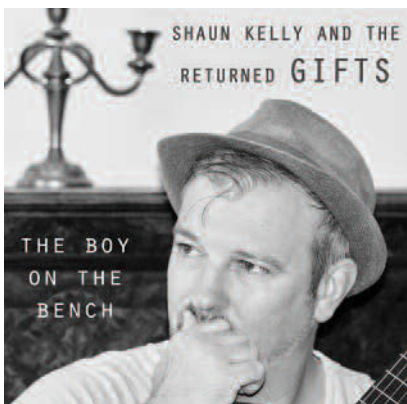
to deliver a surprisingly touching message from the heart. Kelly shows that romance isn't dead, it just needs a good melody and a helping hand. The diversity continues throughout the duration of *The Boy On The Bench*, none more evident than on the album's five minute centrepiece '*Stigmata*'. It's a track that kind of sees the band mix and match futuristic, windswept, Bowie like glam with delicate West Coast plucked guitar. Fuelled by an energetic rhythmic opening, it forms a previously alien combination of unlikely bedfellows that works considerably better than my attempt at describing the track.

Further picks include the driving, dusty roots of *As The Crow Flies*, a track that could have been lifted from Hearts & Arrows era, Danny And The Champions Of The World (praise indeed). The two minute, indie pop perfection of the album's penultimate number emanates *Mary Celeste* with it's quirky synth melodies and winning vocal refrain, before Kelly & The Returned Gifts wrap things up with a gorgeous, woozy, electronic groover, lamenting times gone by.

The Boy On The Bench is a richly diverse, collision of styles and substance, chock full of foot tappers and sing-a-longs. Together, it makes up a damn fine debut by **Shaun Kelly & The Returned Gifts**. Personally I'd recommend grabbing a copy now before the band make a beeline to a field near you this summer.

www.facebook.com/returnedgifts

Will Munn



Crystal Balloon | People

It's been 18 months since I reviewed **Crystal Balloon's** first EP, *Hurricane* in SLAP 61 and there's been a few changes since, both in personnel and in style.

They have a new permanent bass player, **Charlie Molyneux** to mesh with drummer and original member **Eric Karvik** and the key addition of a second guitarist **Tim Burden**, who also contributes strong support vocals has allowed founder member **Jack Stanton** the space to develop his already excellent guitar playing and powerful vocals.

They come to their second EP, *People* in a position of some strength, boosted by a series of excellent live performances, including a live video shoot at The Lantern venue in Bristol's Colston Hall.

Familiarity with the band's music is quickly re-established by the two openers '*Beat the Traffic*' and '*Diesel Dreams*', particularly in the latter, where we begin to appreciate the benefit of the dual guitar attack.



But the magnificent '*Signal*', so strong in live performance, and written with sadness, disbelief and admiration in the immediate aftermath of David Bowie's death, begins to take the EP in a different and more expansive direction. '*We'll get a message across the zodiac, to ask The Starman when is he coming back*'.

Ah, if only...

Stanton switches to acoustic for '*Open the Box*' and pulls out his strongest vocal performance in this collection, the smoothness of the musical delivery being punctuated midway by a chiming exchange of notes between the two guitars.

I had a minor moan reviewing *Hurricane*, that it wasn't longer and again here, it's a pity this wasn't an album because anyone who follows the band live will know that there's a lot more excellent material in the locker.

The closer, '*Don't Turn Off The Rain*' with it's sparse, choppy opening rhythm building to a powerful mid-section, dropping back again to relative calm, then signing off with a blast is a fitting conclusion to an EP that very effectively consolidates the band's credentials.

Geoffrey Head

Kingsley Salmon | Down The River

Last year I was given the chance to reignite a former love of reggae when I was asked to pen a few words on *In The Snakepit*, the latest album by Cheltenham based roots-reggae act **King Solomon**. The disc instantly grabbed the attention and found me commenting not only on the album's diversity but also laying down superlatives on frontman **Kingsley Salmon's** 'instantly addictive roots-reggae drawl'.

Following the release of *In The Snakepit*, the band gigged hard throughout 2017, taking in a number of festivals and high profile gigs along the way, but unfortunately decided to call time on the band. But having spent over ten years making music as part of a band, Kingsley decided it was time to go it alone.

Retiring to a community studio in Cheltenham, Kingsley set about writing, recording and producing his first set of tracks as a solo artist (with a little help from his friends), readying for the release of a debut solo EP later on in the year. As something of a taster for things to come Kingsley decided to release a debut single in the shape of *Down The River*, to showcase his unique vision.

The track again highlights those infectious roots reggae tones (reminiscent of the likes of both Brinsley Forde or Gregory Isaacs). But this time round Salmon weaves an intriguing Eastern element into the proceedings as the song opens with the delicately plucked *Oud of Yazid Fantan* introduces the number, before the more typically elastic reggae rhythms join the mix. As *Down The River* proceeds the Oud drifts in and out of the mix, whilst gospel tinged vocals (courtesy of **Beth Griffin**) further pepper an already potent dish, as Kingsley continues to push the reggae envelope in new directions, having previously embraced jazz, blues and soul influences.

As tasters go *Down The River* serves as a mouth-watering appetiser to the aforementioned, forthcoming EP, Kingsley's lead vocals are as addictive as ever, whilst the inventive use of



instrumentation and the intriguing Eastern flavours help **Salmon Kingsley** stand out on his mesmeric debut.

www.kingsleysalmon.com

Will Munn

The release date for *Down The River* is 29th April and Kingsley is hosting **The Roots Review - Reggae Weekend** at The Frog and Fiddle in Cheltenham.

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Under A Banner

Light Breaks Through / Riot Ep Crowdfunder

Everyone seems to think everything's fake these days. You may be reading this via social media. That's all fake for a start. Commercial music of any sort. Most of that's fake. Nothing new there. But since the robots and the algorithms got their malign little digital hooks into it, it's all gone right off the fakery scale. Ed Sheeran's twitter adviser (allegedly) told him that he got a particularly large number of "interactions" from Irish females aged 20 and under. Which was the sole reason he wrote that *Galway Girl*. Because he reckoned it would be a total shoo-in. Yeah. Fake stuff like that. And I'm not going to start on "news". Because that's complicated.

Anyway. My point is, when you find something that is not fake - utterly, balls-to-the-metal genuine - and also literate and crafted with skill and heart - it kind of shines like a lamp in the gathering old dark. And you need to support it. It also helps when the songwriting is limpid, the arrangements tight and powerful as wet hell - and the poetic, lyrical hooks catchy as catch damn well can.



Which is exactly the case with this new single - *Light Breaks Through* - from Wolverhampton five-piece, and local weekend festival circuit favourites, **Under A Banner**. Released to support the crowd-funding campaign for the upcoming *Riot* EP, itself due for release 18th May (see link below), *Light Breaks Through* is bang-on five minutes of realist, socially conscious storytelling, delivered with synth/bass/drums/guitars that cruises effortlessly somewhere between the intelligent (and way heavy) power rock of Rush and the assured metallic agitprop of Propagandi. There's more more than a soupcon of the sainted New Model Army mixed in here too for good measure. Which is, if I'm honest, something that it is very hard not to love.

So. If you want to do something that is both good for humanity and that uplifts your musical soul - this one's for you. And probably go see them live too. I hear they are pretty good at it.

Count Bellatrix Lestranger

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPR6ayPdrj8
www.pledgemusic.com/underabanner

Teddy Matthews

We Lived To Love The 90's

Following hot on the heels of the debut EP *Hold On The Rhythm*, Kidderminster based singer - songwriter, **Teddy Matthews** announces something of a departure from the electronic dappled soulful folk he's become renowned for, with the release of a brand new single entitled *We Lived To Love The 90's*.

Taking a myriad of influences from the titular decade, Teddy and his band deliver a glorious homage to a time where indie guitar hooks sandwiched the latest electronic banger on day time radio, and the battle for chart supremacy between Blur and Oasis made the ten o'clock news. Seemingly taking their cues from all the best bits of the decade and mashing them into one modern day, hook-laden anthem that will have Generation X jumping around the living room in sheer euphoric joy, gesticulating wildly, declaring their love for the golden era of guitar music to all in earshot. *We Lived To Love The 90's* opens with a skittering electronic groove, before a grungy guitar kicks in alongside live drums and a glammed indie lead courtesy of Matthews. Building towards an instant, stomping choral hook accompanied by addictive, wordless harmonies and a short electric guitar break, sending the fevered indie fan into raptures before slamming back into the now sing-along vocal refrain.

The first spin of *We Lived To Love*...left me mouth agape, with a nagging hook spinning around the old noggin', scrambling to make sure I'd hit the right link. Due to the radical departure from the previous material I'd heard from Matthews, by the second turn, I

Slap talks to Teddy...

With a brand new single, *We Lived To Love In The 90's* released in April, hot he the heels of an impressive debut EP, I thought I'd grab a few words with singer-songwriter **Teddy Matthews** inbetween gigs to find out who influenced his varied sound, what the 90's meant to him and what he's got planned in the future, here's what he had to say...

A couple of months back I had the opportunity to review your debut four-track EP, *Hold On The Rhythm* and mentioned that it blends elements of folk and electronica, reminiscent in places to the likes of Rag 'N' Bone Man and yet still very much your own sound and now you're releasing a brand new single, *We Lived To Love The 90's* which comes as something of a departure from the material on the EP. I guess I'm intrigued to read who are your influences or are you just a huge music fan?

My influences from when it all began for me was the likes of John Martyn, Eric Clapton, Cream, The Verve, Oasis, Supergrass... so yeah I guess you could say that I'm just a huge music fan and there's so much out there its endless.

What did the 90's mean to you? was it the era you really started taking notice of music? certainly for me it was a time that indie and grunge really made an impression and the press seemed to be full of the next must hear band, was the same for you?

Oh yeah most definitely the 90s got a hold of me it really was a new generation of music it was mental. lets face it think everyone at that time wanted to be Oasis with the indie and I thought to myself I've got to get myself a guitar so I got hold of a cheap electric and small amp and went for it and I hated music at school ha ha

Having put a band together have they influenced your sound in anyway and what can we expect in the future in terms of recordings?



was practically punching the air as the guitar riff started up before adding my own voice to the proceedings (sorry neighbours) by the time the second chorus hit home.

To date it would seem **Teddy Matthews** can do no wrong, proving a multi-faceted writer who's equally at home crooning soulful folky laments as he is fronting an upbeat indie stomper. If you haven't discovered Kidderminster's finest, I highly recommend you do!!!

Will Munn
facebook.com/teddymathewsmusic

Most definitely yes. I've always been a solo acoustic singer-songwriter and to be honest didn't have much confidence in my writing, but I think it was the start of 2017 and I had two tracks recorded, and sent them off to the BBC uploader and really didn't expect the response that I got, it was amazing and of course that boosted my confidence so thought of putting a band together and yes they have influenced me and I'm experimenting with sounds and harmonies that are modern with a twist of my child hood influences. So you can expect a mixed bag of tunes, hoping for an album release at the end of 2018, I guess with the band.

How was the EP received and what are your expectations for the new single?

This was my first EP release and it was received well I think, I mean not many people had got to hear about me in 2017, but getting a lot of radio play and BBC Introducing with Andrew Marston has been a great support and of course its all had a knock on effect for 2018 in a good way. Expect something totally different for the new single release very 90s very blur influenced I would say, electric and its a bit of a fun track for the summer time.

I've noticed your diary is filling up nicely with an array of dates, is your current plan to perform as much as possible to get the new material out there and can we expect to see you around the festival circuit come the summer?

Heil!!!! yeah 2018 is full steam ahead for us and important to get ourselves heard, we have a number of headline gigs lined up, our next will be 27th April at the Actress And Bishop, Birmingham, a good few support slots and have some festivals booked in, with a few in the pipeline to be confirmed, which we're so excited about, love the festive buzz. so yeah just check our links out for up and coming gigs and also our very first album release ..

Thanks for asking us along we love Slap Mag .

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Emily Barker with Lukas Drinkwater Ags Connolly & Beth Dalton St. Georges Hall, Bewdley | 6th April

What a tremendous start it has been for 2018 Music in the Hall programme with truly memorable performances from **Pete Williams** and his band and **Hannah Aldridge**.

Next up - fresh from her success of being named UK Americana artist of the year at the **UK Americana Award** ceremony - we feature **Emily Barker** with **Lukas Drinkwater** next Friday 6th April

Those of you who were at the 2017 gig featuring Emily will know what a special performer she is, those who weren't there that day - this is your chance to find out!

Supporting Emily we have one of the best Country artists that the UK has produced. It is no coincidence that **Ags Connolly** is often described as the UK's Willie Nelson and we are very pleased that he has included Bewdley on his UK tour.

Completing the line up is a young musician who improves each time we see her perform. Beth Dalton always has a surprise song



or two up her sleeve and we know she will deliver a great start to the evening.

Tickets for this memorable evening are £12 as usual and you can buy them www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk

Mello Festival

Severn End Country Estate | 25th - 27th May

Mello Festival have announced some fantastic additions to an already strong line-up.

New announcements include **Billy Bibby & The Wry Smiles**, a band who have only been performing since 2015 but have already performed over 60 gigs across the UK, including numerous festivals. They're out to win the crowds hearts with their energetic, tuneful and optimistic rock. Saucy 6-piece **Electric Swing Circus** are also being added to the bill, providing a unique fusion of 20's swing and stomping electro beats.



Further down on the bill is **Circe's Diner**, an group who create honest, rootsy sounds that touch base with Country, Americana, Folk and Pop. Exploring subjects of love, loss and friendship, they boast catchy hooks and dreamy harmonies that will leave you feeling in love. **The Strays** offer a raucous alternative, creating Garage Rock n Roll music that produces a vibrant and exciting energy that people just want to move to.

For those looking for more of a World-Rock Party, **Punch the Sky** will be right up their alley. It is their mission to make audiences sing, dance and jump to their thrilling sound. And, from what we've heard so far, they're succeeding. The final addition is **The Samuel Rogers Band**, lead by the young singer-songwriter from Birmingham. Playing since he was aged 15, Rogers has now developed his own material that is supported by his indie-styled band, evoking memories of Stone Foundation, The Moons and Steve Cradock of Ocean Colour Scene.

Over the weekend, festival-goers will have the chance to visit the food village, enjoy spoken word, witness the Severn Sounds Bandstand and, for those with little ones, free children's workshops will be available.

www.mellofestival.co.uk/

Surprise Attacks Capas/Riche

The Old Rec, Worcester | Fri 23rd March

A fine evening of electronic and cinematic compositions was on offer at the recent **Surprise Attacks** night at the **Old Rectifying House** right by the river Severn in Worcester.

The first thing to be noticed was the transformed room. It's a beautifully decorated and historically featured place anyway but added stage lighting and **Richard Fox's** projections into the roof, enhanced the space and, coupled with the amount of tech on stage, bred a sense of thrill in the arriving crowd.



The night started out with some electronic tune spinage from **Death Disco**, before Worcester's **Richard Fox** showcased his new venture, for the first time performing as **Riché**. I've heard a little of Riché's work before and was looking forward to seeing the differences between this current electronica and his singer songwriter style we more commonly know.

Glitchy recorded sounds are overlaid to produce a score similar to those by Bonobo, with Riché's soulful voice and guitar to accompany them. All this creates a cutting edge sound and a stylistic performance. His supporting projected visuals just added another landscape to get lost in. I look forward to seeing more of what Riché has to offer in the coming months.

The room crams just in time for **Capas**, the third outing for this project from Worcester based **Phil Wilkins** aka Capas himself. Phil composes and produces his own cinematic soundscapes then blends them into the mix with live aspects. Phil has teamed up with **Daren (Del) Wood** on drums and **Ollie Irwin** on guitar to make a super-tight core; you can tell that the Capas dynamic is starting to form in really exciting new ways. This performance also sees the additions of **Pat McCardle** on percussion, **Keith Woodhams** on trombone, **Eva Trim** (with a vocal for the haunting *Broken Soul*) and **Hannah Webb** on sax.



Capas take us on an aural journey, starting with some simple upbeat electronic melodies from Phil, Del and Olly, rising up to almost house-based grooves with added percussion and brass. Layers are added piece by piece (Capas actually means layers in Spanish), before taking the atmosphere back down a notch with just flugelhorn, guitar and drone-like bass sounds. Follow this by a haunting vocal track draped with powerful guitar riffs and we can truly see the diversity of Capas' musical menu. To finish off, we get a phat funky slab of upbeat world rhythms comprising of afro-beat, latin and mariachi trumpet for the two track finale getting the whole room dancing!

The evening concluded with some fine funk and disco from **Funky Navigation** (Aka **Dan Wall & Del Wood**) bringing to an end this stylish night of really fresh and illuminating live music projects.

I felt spoiled to see such a cutting edge show, something a little different from the classic set up, and with the added lighting and imagery, this unusual creative environment made for a fantastic evening! Did I mention the cocktails?

Photography by Duncan Graves

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Cracking Family Events at Artrix this Easter

Families can take their pick from an exciting range of treats at **Artrix** over the Easter holidays.

Easter Monday, 2nd April, Artrix welcomes **Easter Bunny's Eggs Factor** to the Main Stage at 2pm.

Young audiences are invited to join the fun, songs and laughter down at the **Chocolate Factory**. This fun, family show brought to you by the team behind **Marty MacDonald's Farm** and **Santa's Christmas Wish** includes a meet and greet with the Easter Bunny afterwards along with a special Easter treat for each child. **Easter Bunny's Eggs Factor** is recommended for audiences aged 2-7 years, tickets £10.

Then we have film screenings of the new **Aardman Animation** film, *Early Man* (PG) at 11am on 4th & 5th April. £5.

On Sunday 8th April at 2pm one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes, *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly*, is brought to life on stage just in time to celebrate the 45th anniversary of **Pam Adams'** best-selling book. This magical show has been written especially for grown ups to enjoy with their children and relive the delights of this most charming of tales complete with a feast of sing along songs, colourful animal characters and heart warming family fun.

£10 child/£12 adult, with family tickets available at £40.



The charming theatre production, **You've Got Dragons** arrives at Artrix on Wednesday 11th April for two performances at 12.30pm and 3pm. **You've Got Dragons** is a delightful tale of one child's journey to come to terms with bad dreams and a swirly tummy - a bad case of 'the dragons'. With live, original music, this highly visual, sensitive production is a humorous and touching exploration of the dragons we all face.



An intergenerational show, featuring creative captioning, interwoven BSL and audio description, **You've Got Dragons** is a treat for the whole family. £6 child/ £7 adult.

The ever-popular **Vienna Festival Ballet** returns to Artrix this Easter with *Swan Lake*. Lavish costumes, stunning scenery, international stars, and Tchaikovsky make this a show not to be missed.

15th Apr 2pm & 5pm.
£14.50 child/£19.50 adult,
with concessions and
family tickets available.

Families with older children may be interested to see the **Royal Opera House** LIVE screening of



Macbeth on 4th April (£10- under 16s) and **The John Godber Theatre Company's** hilarious and heartfelt new play, *The Scary Bikers*, on 9th and 10th April (Tickets start from £16 per person).

For tickets and info visit www.artrix.co.uk or call Box Office on 01527 577330.

International Flavour for Tewkesbury 'Folk Treble'

A special 'Folk Treble' concert will be held in the historic riverside town of Tewkesbury this April.

Worcestershire based singer-songwriters **Colin Pitts** and **Mike Weaver** will be joined by Russian folk singer **Daria Kulesh** for a special 'Folk Treble' evening at the intimate 15th century **Old Baptist Chapel**, on Thursday 12th April.

Daria's Russian and Ingush roots are reflected in her music, intertwined with multicultural influences she has experienced on her turbulent and exciting journey through life.

Her award-winning album *Long Lost Home* was described as "haunting and enigmatic" by the Times, and Mike Harding described her latest single as "one of the most beautiful songs I've heard in years."



Much of **Colin Pitts'** writing has been inspired by the Vale of Evesham, where he lives, and many of his songs have become folk club standards in this region. He is renowned for his powerful yet sensitive songwriting, and relaxed performance style. Colin has



performed at clubs, village halls and festivals all over the UK and has also been on many local radio shows as well as a performance on BBC Radio 2.

Mike Weaver - who now lives near Tewkesbury - is known for his self-

penned songs which "exude beautiful harmonies, clear story telling and a passion for people." He returned to writing and performing in 2013, and since then has released three CDs, songs from which have received airplay on folk radio stations all over the globe.

The evening starts at 7.30pm, with doors open from 7.15pm. Please note this a 'BYOB' event and that there is no parking at the chapel, which is in an alley off Church Street: Abbey Lawns Car Park is nearby.



Tickets are available at wegottickets.com/event/430433 or from the John Moore Museum, Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5RZ.

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Honey

Re Action Theatre Makers

I think it's fair to say that **Reaction Theatre Makers** production of *Honey* is contemporary local theatre at it's finest. The visually stunning but simple staging, lighting design and soundscape were used to full affect showing of the versatility of simple props and innovative use. Three hives, two window frames, two wicker baskets and a beautiful golden quilt were all that was needed to weave this simple story.

The setting of the Welsh hills is the backdrop for the unravelling of the story: A Mother and her autistic son, her sister, the estranged half-sister, and those that live in and around them. A tender portrayal of devotion and love that doesn't shirk away from fear or disappointment.

Honey recalls the rural community that I spent my childhood in. They are like time capsules, these communities, not disconnected but aloof to the hectic stimulus of the modern age. *Honey* is a moment of gentle stillness & reflection. We are encouraged to look at the internal dialogue of the characters versus the face they show to others and the affect it has on their relationships with each other. The actors deliver their lines with authenticity and an understated power, this is a surefooted production, emotive and beautifully acted, *Honey* is like a breath of fresh air in a summer orchard.

Bev Bevan, Worcester Theatre Makers

Photo: Russel Lewis



Kris Dollimore

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 25th Feb

Both **Kris Dollimore** and the wonderful **Prince of Wales** in Ledbury had been off my radar for far too long, and so it made sense that this would be my venue of choice this Sunday. An empty bentwood chair faces the audience with Kris' Martin, National and Gibson on parade and a microphone at the ready, waiting for Kris to step in, opening the evening with a typically intense, gritty illustration of a *Poor Boy*. Clearly his acoustic Martin would take the brunt of the evening, despite its protesting strings that threatened to break away under the abrasive pressure of fingerpicks, glass side, as well as a number of beautiful John Fahey instrumentals including a railroading rendition of *Last Steam Engine Train*, picked out with peerless precision by Kris to the hushed room.

A passionate interpretation of Blind Willie Johnson's *Soul of a Man* transports us back to the 1930's and early recordings of that grand old blues man. A slow and soulful *Easy* melts into the room before Kris allows his Martin time to rest, taking up the electro acoustic Gibson and offering another treat for the cohort of fans filling the bar. It was time to dish the dirt with *Testify*. Damned if that didn't raise a cheer, and I'm sure nobody would have protested if Kris had gone for a replay, but instead he treats us to an old favourite *Hillstomp*, revamped from his first album.

Next, we are transported by the arid, sand-strewn *Sahara Blues*, not to the drifting dunes of North Africa, but instead to Kris' time in Vegas, though his playing still carries with it the mystic air of an exotic desert *Kabbalah*. A quick break follows before the Martin is brought back with groaning strings for a trip to the Mississippi Delta with Robert Johnson's iconic *If I Had Possession Over Judgment Day*.



The big National lap guitar is lifted into place, with a polished iron slide ready to caress its thick neck for the gorgeous, rich tapestry of the 1920's Sylvester Weaver tune, the *Steel Guitar Rag*, which leads the way for three sliding instrumentals including an old Indian folk song; the dream-like, ethereal Kamaj conjures truly beautiful imagery through Kris' steel wires.

Towards the end of the evening Kris grinds out an intensely heartfelt *Sometimes You Need to Feel the Pain* on his Gibson, along with a bit of Iggy Pop and more John Fahey, but the crowd isn't ready to let Kris go just yet. The high rolling cards are shuffled, the deck split and cards dealt, revealing the colourful *Gambling Bar Room Blues*, a wonderfully storming display of blues at its best. Kris allows us to cool off with a *Wade in the Water*, but these waters are choppy, and dangerously deep; a fine finish to an evening of engaging guitar music from maestro **Kris Dollimore**.

Graham Munn

West Malvern Social Club

West Malvern Social Club will be hosting two alluring gigs this April at their wonderful venue in front of the spectacular scenery of the Malvern Hills.

Saturday April 14th will see a synth-music special where **Fourth Engine** and **Nature of Wires** will be setting up their machines ready for a night of new and experimental sound. **Nature of Wires** are a Herefordshire band, formally performing between 1986 and 1994, but 2014 saw the trio get back together, going from strength to strength, writing new music and developing an intricate and dazzling live show. Having been performing across the UK following their reformation, the band ready to give an immersive performance at the WMSC.



Following in their wake will be **Fourth Engine**, a synth-pop duo hailing from Bristol. The pair make emotive lyrics that transcend from passionate vocals and merge seamlessly with classic 80s synth roots. They promise to make a musical soundscape that is both melancholy and thoughtful, combining uplifting and edgy elements to generate a sound that will make those listening fall into its thought-provoking air.

Later on in the month, **Rosie Bans** will be performing, taking to the stage on April 27th. She's a fierce Glaswegian independent artist who draws inspiration from the song writing skills of the likes of Tori Amos and Amanda Palmer. She creates a sound that is a far cry from the bland piano-pop songwriting that dominates the industry today, promising that her performance, which will include tracks from debut album *'Identify Yourself'*, will be a refreshing treat.





What's On?

at The Swan Theatre
and Huntingdon Hall



 <p>The Magnificent Music Hall 7th April - £18</p>	 <p>Zoë Schwarz Blue Commotion 7th April - £16.50</p>	 <p>THE TIME MACHINE 13th April - £14</p>	 <p>Paul Lamb & The King Snakes 26th April - £15</p>	 <p>Mitch Benn: I'm Still Here 27th April - £14.50</p>	 <p>IAN SIEGAL ALL THE RAGE TOUR 18th April - £18.50</p>
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April at Huntingdon hall

The elegant **Huntingdon Hall**, better known to me as **The Countess of Huntingdon Church**, is having a bit of a blue-ribbon run throughout April and into May, which I think needs applauding and supporting. It starts with **Zoe Schwarz Blue Commotion**, on April 7th. Zoe has been described as "one part Janis Joplin, one Billie Holiday, and one Nina Simone" (Gio Pilato, Blues International 2017) "Innovative spark, virtuoso playing and a dare-devil attitude"- Pete Feenstra - Get Ready To Rock, Feb 2017. The band are touring with their latest album, *The Blues And I Should Have A Party*.

On April 14th the multi award winning, "best blues rock band in the world" **King King**, led by the tartan kilted **Alan Nimmo**. The band are opening their new *Exile And Grace* tour here in Worcester, making for a truly unmissable opportunity to see this high rollin' and totally engaging band. King King recently sold out Birmingham Town Hall, and their show at The Hall promise a much more intimate setting.



Next up, on April 18th, is something not to be missed; a rare appearance from the **Ian Siegal Band**. Ian is a legend in the blues world, a "national treasure" with a multiplicity of global awards behind him, an induction in the 'Hall Of Fame' and a name and talent that draws audiences throughout Europe and the US. This is a late booking and will not be found in the Live Worcester program, so here is your chance to grab the choice seats at this wonderful old venue. Ian Siegal has just released *All The Rage*, so you could even take home a signed copy. Rotterdam's the **Dawn Brothers** join the Ian for this tour as support band.

April 21st sees the return of old favourites **Maggie Bell** and **Dave Kelly**, who will be bringing along plenty of Soul and Blues,

while dipping into a broad spectrum of genres and taking the audience along for the ride! Expect plenty of stories to be told and roots to be revealed, all in a wonderfully cosy atmosphere.



April 26th brings the multi award-winning **Paul Lamb**, another artist recognised throughout Europe who has filled The Albert Hall, resulting in an outstanding live album. A master harmonica player 'par excellence', Paul represents true blues harp royalty and will be joined by his full band **The King Snakes**, who are set to bring their own brand of Rhythm & Blues to Huntingdon Hall. This is set to be something really special.

Now hold your breath and jump forward a little, because the fabulous **Sari Schorr** is returning on May 4th. Last year she very near blew the roof off with her **Engine Room Band**; Sari is a truly phenomenal vocalist, a totally captivating 'Force Of Nature'. This lady seems to tour endlessly around the world, gathering an ever growing following, and is sure to bring an incredible show to Huntingdon Hall. The great Mike Vernon produced Sari's latest outstanding album; and with a track record as legendary as his, it is clear that Mike recognises Sari's undeniable talent.



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Toyah, Tributes and the Professor of Pop at Artrix

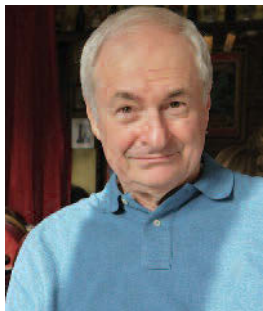
Paul Gambaccini, R & B legend **Georgie Fame** and pop icon **Toyah Willcox** are amongst the highlights for music fans at Artrix this April.

Martin Turner, ex **Wishbone Ash** kicks off a month of music at Artrix with a concert of his iconic 1974 album *There's The Rub* on



Friday 6th April at 8pm, followed by the UK's No.1 tribute to the gods of Rock and Roll, **Hats Off To Led Zeppelin** on Saturday 7th April at 7.30pm.

The entertainment continues with an evening with **The Professor of Pop Paul Gambaccini** on Wednesday 11th April at 7.30pm. For the first time, Paul reveals to audiences his early experiences with Rolling Stone Magazine, his fascinating years at Radio 1, 2, and 3 and in a nod to his current Radio 4 series **Counterpoint** there will be a Music Quiz and Q&A.



Folk music at Artrix this month includes duo **Emily Smith & Jamie McClennan** on Friday 13th April at 8pm, **BBC Radio 2 Folk Award** nominees and winners of the **2015 Young Folk Award Talisk** on Saturday 14th April at 8pm and critically praised singer-songwriter **Sarah McQuaid** on Friday 27th April at 8pm.

In one of a very select number of UK Tour dates Jazz and R & B legend **Georgie Fame** appears in concert at Artrix for one night only on Tuesday 17th April at 7.30pm.

Less tribute and more homage, promising all of Steely Dan's favourites in a two hour-plus show, **Nearly Dan** performs at Artrix on Saturday 14th April at 8pm. The top tribute acts continue with **Jive Talkin**, an evening of unrivalled BeeGees harmonies featuring three real-life family members Darren, Gary and Jack Simmons on Saturday 21st April at 7.30pm. **And Diamond**, the music of Neil Diamond performed by **Jamie Knight** returns to Artrix on Thursday 26th April at 8pm, superbly supported by his seven piece **Manuka band**.

Saturday 28th April sees household name and pop icon **Toyah Willcox** come to Artrix with her *Acoustic, Up Close & Personal Tour*. This lively, entertaining and revealing show comes in the form of Toyah performing an unplugged set of her well-loved hits, alongside recalling stories from her colourful thirty-five year career.



Worcestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra & WYJO2 round off the month's music with a concert on Sunday 29th April at 7pm, featuring special guest trumpeter **Enrico Tomasso**.

For further information on any of the events listed above or to book tickets visit www.artrix.co.uk or call Box Office on 01527 577330.

Where You're Meant To Be Worcester Brewing Company | April 21st

Take a trip deep into music of the past, traveling hundreds of miles up into the highlands of Scotland with the **Worcester Brewing Company** this April - without even settling foot outside the city.

As the brewery on Cherry Tree Walk opens its doors for the very first time in 2018, we are invited to explore the true meaning of music and community with a special screening of **Paul Fegan's** music documentary, *Where You're Meant To Be*.

As former **Arab Strap** frontman **Aidan Moffat** and folk royalty **Sheila Stewart** go on a journey through music and time, we are invited to join them in spirit, while supping on a pint of some of Worcester's finest real ale.

The film follows Scottish cult-pop raconteur Aidan Moffat as he tours Scotland performing his modern re-interpretations of old folk songs.

However just before he hits the road, Moffat meets Sheila Stewart: a 79-year-old force of nature, the last in a line of travelling folk royalty and a balladeer. Moffat believes Scotland's oldest songs are ripe for re-working. Stewart does not. And so the real journey begins.

On April 21, the independent brewery will be kicking off this year's programme of unique events with an evening not only of film and beer, but of live music too.

In keeping with the theme of folk, Worcester's very own

Bitter Roots will be performing after the film, continuing the authentic folk experience well into the evening.

Doors open at 6pm, and the fresh ale brewed on the premises, right under the railway arches, is unique in Worcester and promises to make for a memorable experience.

The Worcester Brewing Company can be found at number 49, Cherry Tree Walk, Worcester and seating in this intimate and unusual space is limited, so guests are advised to get there early - and to wrap up warm.

Make sure you don't miss out. It's exactly where you're meant to be.

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

Imogen Bulger



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Linton Festival

Alma Inn, Linton | 6-8th July 2018

Recognised as one of Herefordshire's premier music events, this outdoor music, beer and cider event held over 3 days with a well run campsite and free parking is now in its 18th year raising money for local charities.

Come and enjoy great live music, over 30 real ales and ciders and local food in a friendly rural country pub setting. The festival takes place on a permanent stage behind the **Alma Inn, Linton** near Ross on Wye with up to 1000 guests per day, many of whom camp and return year after year. Full camping facilities for tents and caravans are located behind the site and are walking distance to the stage area.

Headliners this year include **Think Floyd** (Friday), **Big Country** (Saturday) and **Davy Knowles** (Sunday) as well as a host of other local and international artists including **Sari Schorr**, **Dr Feelgood**, **Deborah Bonham** and **Babajack**.

Think Floyd - dubbed the *Definitive Pink Floyd Experience*, are renowned for their stunning celebration of the music of one of the world's greatest bands. Think Floyd pride themselves in faithfully recreating Pink Floyd's timeless music and will be performing to perfection music from the whole range of classic Pink Floyd from the *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Wish You Were Here*, *The Wall* and much more.



Saturday headliners **Big Country** will perform classic hits and live favourites including *Harvest Home*, *Fields of Fire*, *In A Big Country*, *Chance*, *Wonderland*, *Look Away*, *The Teacher* Plus many more... Formed in 1981 by guitar playing founder members, the late **Stuart Adamson** and **Bruce Watson**, both native of the band's hometown Dunfermline in Scotland. Initially driven by a shared vision of widescreen guitar melody, harmony and lyric, the classic Big Country sound was further enhanced later that summer by the arrival of drummer **Mark Brzezicki** and bass player **Tony Butler**. This is the Big Country that (with Producer Steve Lillywhite), recorded the classic debut album *'The Crossing'* in 1983.

On Sunday we finish off with Isle of Man born **Davy Knowles** performing his new album *Three Miles From Avalon*. This collection of new songs sees Davy returning to his roots, and the sounds that first ignited his passion for music. Recorded exclusively in his adopted hometown of Chicago, the capital of electric blues provided Knowles with a landscape steeped in

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Think Floyd

BIG COUNTRY

DAVY KNOWLES

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legend, inspiring him to creatively explore the genre of music he's always loved – energetic, guitar driven blues-rock.



The Festival is a non-profit organisation run by local volunteers with the aim of supporting local charitable and other voluntary groups. Over the last 18 years it has donated over £100,000 to such charities as Air Ambulance, St Michael's Hospice, Cystic Fibrosis, Hope Support Services, Hope for Tomorrow, The Brownies, Scout Group and Linton Church. Tickets start from £20 and all details of how to get hold of them can be found on the Festival's website together with full details of the line-up and venue information: www.lintonfestival.org



Preview

Return Of The Swamp Monsters The Chestnut Inn | Sunday 25th Mar

The Chestnut Inn saw the now annual tidal surge of **Swampcandy**, swept over the pond from the US of A, from here on in renamed Trumptown. Drawing up in their latest chariot, 'Stormy Daniels' to find I'd just nicked their parking space, its tough out on tour!.

Ruben was ready with his steel resonator, **Joey** had unleashed his big bass with drum to foot. Gina, the bride Joey had kidnapped from Shrewsbury and taken back to Trumptown, awaited her call.

No time wasted, the gritty lyrics of 'Hard Times Killing Time' drift out, hmmm, a sweet sounding old blues from Ruben with Joey's bass adding a bit of depth. A raucous ride through the streets of San Francisco, and a shock intervention, 'Mad Pierre' demands more volume; apparently someone in the garden can't hear the vocals grinding there way through the brickwork. The slide is put to work as finger picks tear at the long suffering strings, (going by past experience maybe not so long suffering....twunk) as the great Robert Johnson is put to through the grinder with 'Travelling Riverside Blues'.

Gina steps up to join in for a manic 'Bastard That I Am', a reworking of p'ing off your boss. New songs are reprised, an album is promised when they next visit. Meanwhile, Swampcandy will 'Party With The Devil', and raising of a glass to 'Drink Whiskey', before Gina steps down leaving the boys to get back to their mean old songs.

Ruben and Joey are soon pumping out those muddy delta blues, mashed up in a pot still, secreted deep in the backwoods. A song that caught my attention long ago, though maybe only about 8 years back, led the way to enticing Swampcandy down to this



area, and they've been returning ever since, with a permanent welcome mat laid at the door of The Chestnut. I thank 'Pierre' for his support. That song? The brilliant hard edged 'Aberdeen' with the boys at their best for this old Bukka White Mississippi Blues, delivered to the partisan crowd with the energy of 'new age' punk band. The frantic, fiery frenzy of string busting blues would continue after a break. But I was needed in a quiz team up the road, a puzzling clash, but I knew I would be catching up with Swampcandy again in July, both here at the Chestnut, on the acoustic stage at Upton Blues, or down at the Cafe Rene, Gloucester, so plenty to come. Meanwhile they're off on a long tour that takes them all the way up into Scotland and a gig with another hard drinking, guitar bustin' blues man Dave Arcari, who is also back at Upton this year.

They have 22 more gigs, here across the UK, taking in Ireland for the first time, before returning home and restocking for their July/August run. Look out for those albums, I hope to preview one in advance, and bring you just a flavour of what to expect.

Graham Munn

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**INSERT PROVIDES A RANGE OF EVENT SERVICES,
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Hannah Aldridge, with Bug Club and Hannah Law Band St Georges Hall, Bewdley | Friday 9th March

St. Georges Hall in Bewdley is a lovely community run cafe and function room, and it certainly throws a heavy punch with a bill often featuring artists of international standing. Tonight was no exception, and having tracked and cajoled Hannah Aldridge for 18 months, finally she would be tonight's headline act.

Opening the evening, and bringing local talent to the fore in this case, is **Hannah Law** who at just 13 won the **Wyre Forest Young Artist of the Year award**. Tonight she will be joined for the first time with a six piece band. Taking the mid slot, and lifting their drummer Dan from a local band, are **The Bug Club** from South Wales; a 3 piece, that already seem to have the hall itching in anticipation.

Hannah Law, now 17 and brimming with talent, likes a bit of Laura Marling, and so it seems only natural that she should open with *Alas I Cannot Swim*, while the band slot tightly into their groove. An excellent *Captain And The Hour Glass* follows, but for me the highlight of their set is the haunting *I'm Yours*; a lovely folk song led by uke and fiddle. Make a note: Hannah is worth looking out for in the future. Make sure to check out her rock version of *Wayfaring Stranger* on soundcloud.

The Bug Club, comprised of guitarist Sam, drummer Dan and bassist Tilley, are hard to pigeon hole; their raw-edged, high energy music has touches of roots, jazz, psychedelia, rock punk and hard-nosed blues. For *The Love Of Caesar* certainly grabs our attention, with Sam and Tilley's vocal meeting in a rock 'n' roll dance. Sam's dirty electro acoustic *Guild* spills a fast rolling glass of *Spiders Milk*, before we are treated to the off-beat, jazz grooves of *Silver and Gold*, which slinks through with its metallic rock crescendo. The punky *Something Nasty Coming Down* makes way for a ripping rendition of *Bill O' Wright* to close. Another band to watch out for, they will be finding their way to many festivals over the summer. Check out thebugclubband.com for more.

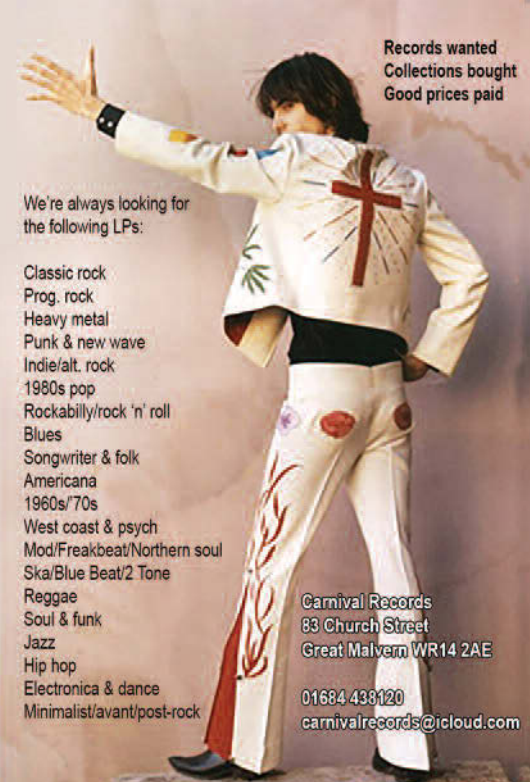
After quite the icebreaker, the full hall is more than ready for the glorious **Hannah Aldridge**. Originating from Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and daughter of renowned songwriter Walt Aldridge, Hannah is undoubtedly the Queen of Americana music. "*I miss you like morphine, straight to my veins*," Hannah opens with the dark *Lie Like You Love Me*, from her album *Razor Wire*, with lyrics that get under your skin; you are hooked from the outset. *Aftermath*, from her latest and arguably rockier album *Gold Rush* steps up the tempo, before the blood lust of *Dark Hearted Woman*, written for the Anglo-US TV vamp series *Penny Dreadful*, pulls us back into the inky blues.

Hannah brings plenty of stories and humour to unwrap the inspiration behind her songs, from the female lifers of *Parchment*, to the raunchy roots of *I Know Too Much About You*. Up next, the punchy, blues driven *You Ain't Worth The Fight* rings out before Hannah offers up the album's title track, *Gold Rush*, while the claw marks of her guitar's finger board are illuminated by the lights. Hannah notes our geographical location before *Burning Down Birmingham*, an interesting consideration, before a backing chorus is put together of members of the audience, and even the Hall's own **Trevor Price** is hauled into the fray.

As the supergroup disperse the end seems to draw ever closer, but Hannah remains in full flight, she dismisses requests with a smile on her face, but the fans have their way in the end as the fabulous demonic blues of *Howlin' Bones* finishes to a standing applause. The sumptuous vocals of **Hannah Aldridge** are best enjoyed live, and as she is a regular visitor to these shores I can only urge you to seek out a gig. With a signed album tucked under my arm I left the cosy St. Georges Hall, until the next time, which might not be all too far away. Check their website for live music, at thehall-bewdley.org.uk

Graham Munn





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WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

14-16 September 2018

New music, new promoters, new venues is the promise from organisers of this year's **Worcester Music Festival**. The festival, which takes place from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th September in 20 city centre venues is raising money for **Worcestershire Association of Carers** and organisers promise that it is going to be a cracker.

"We've got lots of new and exciting plans for the event this year, we're working with some amazing promoters and brand new venues to put together a programme which truly offers something for everyone" says organiser, Ant Robbins. New venues taking part this year include **The Oil Basin** on Copenhagen Street, **The Imperial** on St Nicholas Street and recently opened music café bar, **Paradiddles** on Sidbury. Ant continues: "The fact that these venues are now offering regular music nights is not only a bonus to the festival, but also a fantastic addition to the live music scene in Worcester."



Fellow organiser and charity coordinator, Nikki Boraston, added "We are delighted to be working with such a worthwhile charity and have lots of plans for raising funds for them this year. We're increasing the number of volunteers who can collect for the charity and are looking to put collection buckets on the door of venues as well. We're keen to make sure so everyone gets the chance to donate to show their appreciation for the awesome weekend of free live music we put on and hopefully make a real difference to the charity."

The festival team are currently recruiting for volunteers, including charity collectors, promoters and stage managers. If you're interested in getting involved, visit:

www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk



Photos: Top Left - Plastic Scene by Taff Wiltshire
Left - Theo, and above - The Charity Crew by Will Smith

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 18th - Janet Shaw - 'Paintings in Textile & Stitch'
Pershore Number 8.

3rd - Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways
The Chestnut, Worcester

3 - 9th - Early Man (PG), The Courtyard, Hereford

4th - 30th - St David's Pupil Referral Unit, Better Than That
The Courtyard, Hereford

4 Apr - 20 - May Invisible: A new look at M.E by Anne Nicholls
Artrix Bromsgrove

5 to 7 - Apr All & Sundry present Last Tango in Redditch
Artrix Bromsgrove

5th - Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways
Tibberton Village Hall

7th - Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways
The Boat and Railway, Stoke Prior

7th-15th - A Fresh Start, Elmslie House, Malvern

8th - Unrest (12A), Artrix Bromsgrove

9th & 10th - The Scary Bikers, Artrix Bromsgrove

12th - An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power (PG),
The Courtyard, Hereford

11th - You've Got Dragons Artrix Bromsgrove

13th - Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways
Rowney Green Village Hall

14th - Idle Women of the Wartime Waterways, Finstall Village Hall

15th - Swan Lake, Artrix Bromsgrove

19th - 9th May Pershore Arts - 'Passion for Art' Pershore Number 8.

21st - World Fish Migration Day event, Worcester city centre & The Hive.

21st - Ledbury Poetry Festival present Poetry Slam,
The Courtyard, Hereford

21st & 22nd - Stratford Shakespeare Festival

24th - Make More Noise! Suffragettes in Silent Film (PG),
The Courtyard, Hereford

24th - Artist Talk, Heather and Ivan Morrison, The Hive

24th - Where is Mrs Christie? Evesham Town Hall

27th - A Brave Face: Vamos Theatre Company, Artrix Bromsgrove

28th - Ice Age Family Workshops, The Hive, Worcester

29th - National Theatre Live presents Cat On A Hot Tin Roof,
The Courtyard, Hereford

For Arts listings email: arts@slapmag.co.uk

Sunday 01 April 2018

Faithful City Fest: The Bottom Line, Coast To Coast, You Know The Drill, Better Than Never, Time Of The Mouth, Towers, Dirty Soap
The Marris Bar, Worcester

He Trevor Burton Band (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Dave Morris
The Ducker Bar, Leominster

Puffer Acoustic Set
The Oak Wigmore, Leominster

Witcher
Priors Croft, Malvern

Kim Rydr
The Bakery, Malvern

The All Saints Beer Festival With Live Music
The Talbot, Knightwick

The Delray Rockets
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Mods & Sods
White Heart Inn, Redditch

Dog Walk (4pm)
The Beer in Hand, Hereford

Indigo Glitch
Old Rose And Crown, Stourport

2Tone Revue
Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley

Bon Jovi Experience
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Pete Harrington
Bromsgrove Unionist Club, Bromsgrove

Julie Owen
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

The Sons Of Eddie
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Bon Giovi
The Iron Road, Evesham

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

The Uproars
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Skewwhiff (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Dave Beale
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Dave Morris Solo Singer
The Ducker, Leominster

Terry Walls, Nobby Wright, Chloé Ferguson, Ruben S (4pm)
The Brick Room, Worcester

Jake Abbott
Tonic, Worcester

The Strays
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Chip Langley & The Kidgloves
Bottles, Worcester

The Shy Teds
Baker Street, Gloucester

Amie
The Camp, Worcester

Last Orders
The Greyhound, Gloucester

Two Push Charlie
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

One Tree Canyon
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Sammy Jo Hall (3pm)
Ye Old Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 02 April 2018

Dan Greenaway
The Camp, Worcester

Aka Skaface (2pm)
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Son Of John & John Parker, Teddy Matthews Band, Ben Webb
St. George's Hall, Bewdley

Chloe & Ash
Ye Olde Crown Inn., Stourport-On-Severn

Savannah
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Worried Men
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Nikki Rous (3pm)
Englands Gate Inn, Hereford

Chloe Mogg (3pm)
Ye Old Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Tuesday 03 April 2018

Doyle (Misfits), Dead Xiii, Ward XVI
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Alarum Theatres Presents Idle Women
The Chestnut, Worcester

Lost Like Alice
The Tank, Gloucester

Bookstagrammers
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Wednesday 04 April 2018

Special Guests: The Town Musicians Of Bremen
Dragon Folk Club, Worcester

Zen Archeray
Green Dragon, Malvern

The Elo Experience
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Laucan
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Lewis Clark
Café René, Gloucester

B'ee (In Gowan Ring), David Colohan, Sproatly Smith
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Thursday 05 April 2018

The Follicles
La Petite Gare, Kidderminster

The Manfreds
Palace Theatre, Redditch

The David Moore Band
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

David Celia & Marla
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Uncover: Theo, Alex Leo, Myra, Keys
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Black Aces (Aus)
The Iron Road, Evesham

The G&T Mix
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Bandit 21
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Surprise Attacks Presents, Nasty Little Lonely, Institutes, Mammoth Temple Plus I Can, I Can't
Heroes Bar, Worcester

The Elo Experience
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Russell Underwood
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Moongazing Hare, Kitchen Cynics, Trappist Afterland
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Luke Truth
Tappeto Lounge, Kidderminster

Friday 06 April 2018

Roughcut Ruby
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Pistol Pete Wearn, Deadfly, Hard Stairs
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Granny's Attic
The Fleece Inn, Evesham

The Wootwon Hillbillies
The Earl, Worcester

Elephant, The Family Dog, Frog Maintenance Division, Nadia Sheikh, Ruth Baker Band
Paper Dress Vintage, London

Emily Barker - The Aps Connolly Duo
St George's Hall, Bewdley

Ailish Tynan & Iain Burnside
Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

Paul O'Neill
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Vehicle
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Bootleg Beatles
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Jon Eselle
The Drum & Monkey, Upton Upon Severn

The Delray Rockets
Hampton Workingmens Club, Evesham

Martin Turner Ex Wishbone Ash
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Roughcut Ruby
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Charlotte Humphries
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Tyler Massey And Vo Fletcher
Yew Tree, Peterstow, Redditch

2Tone Revue

The Old Rose & Crown, Stourport-On-Severn

Tŷhai: Indo Celtic Trio in Concert

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Gene Genie And The Lemon Squeezers

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Cher V P!Nk Featuring Stacy Green

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Transporters

Sadlers Brēwhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

April Awesomeness With The Reflections

The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Bonnylou

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Fidgets, Chasing Deer, Lost Tiger

The Marfs Bar, Worcester

Acoustic Night With Megs Emrys Band

Reet Petite, Leominster

Bobby Scaife, Last Safe Moment, More Human Than Human

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Bridges

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Manfreds

Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

Rhino's Revenge

The Iron Road, Evesham

Macca

The Gardeners Arms, Alderton, Tewkesbury

The Urban Voodoo Machine

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Shades Of Grey

The Red Lion, Evesham

The New Jersey Boys

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Furyborn, Kinasis

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Earl Severn Boat Trips, Worcester

The Strays

Bengeworth Club, Evesham

Jitter

Café René, Gloucester

Patched Up Parachutes, Grande Valise, Flying Ant Day

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Barry Steele & Friends - The Roy Orbison Story

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Charlie Green

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Rob McEwen

The Tank, Gloucester

The Follicles

Sebright Arms, Worcester

Miss Chief And Mr. Meaners

Millers Arms, Pershore

Reggae Pie

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

The Rock Shack Band

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Kringo Blue & Ben

The Old Pheasant, Worcester

David Ian Roberts, Alula Down

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Anna Bale

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Saturday 07 April 2018

Kemastree

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Behind The Music Round 2, Aidan Byrne, Ruben Seabright,

Thom Colne, Jenny Hallam, Dan Hartland

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Ewan McLennan, Steel Sisters

The Fleece Inn, Evesham

The Colelctive 43

The Earl, Worcester

Tyler Massey Trio With Dave Onions

Elmslie House, Malvern

Lounge Toad

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Paul O'neil

Rollin Hills Restaurant, Upton-Upon-Severn

Motown'S Greatest Hits – How Sweet It Is

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

The Humdrum Express, Raphaella Kornarskis

The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Dreadzone + Rufus & Audax

Cube, Malvern

Playback

The Cricketers, Worcester

Three Bone Joint

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

West Coast Eagles (Eagles Tribute)

The Marfs Bar, Worcester

Hats Off To Led Zeppelin

The Artix, Bromsgrove

Dire Streets

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Small Doses

The Royal Oak, Alcester

Rob Brunt

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Wolfren Riverstick

The Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

Under A Banner

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

2Tone Revue

The Retreat, Ledbury

Journeyman

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Contraband

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Ron Jeremy Band

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Liquor & Poker

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Rooters

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Groove Collider

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Restless Dog

Millfields & District Social Club, Bromsgrove

Our Fred

Crown Inn Catshill, Bromsgrove

6Appeal Ska

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rolling Stones Story

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Hannah & Brian

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Vets

Railway Inn, Studley

Tubular Brass

The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Express Inn, Malvern

3Sixty Album Launch, 52North

The Iron Road, Evesham

Bourbon Alley Blues Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Risky Galore

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Fabulous Bordellos

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Andy Bennet - Ocean Colour Scene

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Witch Tripper, Master Charger And Soden

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Executives

The Swan Inn, Evesham

Ewan McLennan

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Gordon Wood Band, Mansfield-Smith

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The New Jersey Boys

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Hills Angels

Green Dragon, Malvern

Toby

Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

The Reflections

The Maltster, Worcester

Zoe Schwarz Blue Commotion

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Offthegrid

Fox And Elm, Gloucester

Chimp On A Bike

The Bridge, Tenbury Wells

Dead Dog Cider

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Oort (Trans Neptunian Objects), Jacken Elswyth

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Anne-Marie Sanderson
The Left Bank Village, Hereford

Sunday 08 April 2018

Trafficker (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Lukw Docherty Band (3Pm)
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Nick Harper
The Earl, Worcester

Speak, Brother With The Connor Maher Quartet, Hitchhiker
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

2Tone Revue
The Prince Of Wales, Worcester

Mick & Jess
The Longlands Tavern, Stourbridge

Martin Turner Ex Wishbone Ash
Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

Trevor Babajack Steger (5:30Pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Mammoth Temple, Liberty Slaves, Powderhead
The Iron Road, Evesham

Rob Powell Plays Lazy Sunday Acoustic (4Pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Sam Draisey
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Friary Guildford Band (3Pm)
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Mike Scott
Littlefield, Stroud

Laish
Stroud Valleys Arts Space, Stroud

Jabba Cartel, Zara Sykes, Beth Prior, Danni G (1Pm)
Café Bliss, Worcester

Sun Fire (5Pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Ian Luther
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Lower Than Atlantis
Guildhall, Gloucester

Sons Of The Delta
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Cath & Phil Tyler
Canon Frome Court, Ledbury

Aaron Alvey & Meg Hall (3Pm)
Ye Old Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 09 April 2018

Cate Cody Trio
The Daffodil, Cheltenham

Built For Comfort
Café René, Gloucester

Tuesday 10 April 2018

Eugene Onegin
The Courtyard, Hereford

20Th Century Boy
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Tone Tanner
The Tank, Gloucester

Wednesday 11 April 2018

Croft & Cotes, Rusty Salt, Broken Strangers, Robbie Zereka
Paper Dress Vintage, London

Adam Giles
Green Dragon, Malvern

Wes Dance
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Thursday 12 April 2018

Mick Pini & Strange Blues
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Ruffs, The Shakes, Pixel Box, Joe Asteroid, Beezley
The Rocksteady, London

The Fureys
The Courtyard, Hereford

Tommy Fleming
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Dave Onions
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Uog Vs 2000Trees Showcase 2018
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Little Unsaid, Howard James Kenny
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Alex Lipinski
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Kim Lowings & The Greenwood
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Will Wilde
The Iron Road, Evesham

Sonic Gypsy
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

You've Got A Friend - The Music Of James Taylor and Carole King
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Tom Paxton And The Donjuans
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Will Killeen
The Plough, Worcester

Josh Neal's Charity Open Mic For British Heat Foundation
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Friday 13 April 2018

The Missing Rejects.... Mellows Memorial Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Jaguars
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Poppy Ws
The Earl, Worcester

The Rogues
Ludlow Brewery, Ludlow

Groovy Head
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Paul O'neil
New Harp Inn, Hoarwithy

The Big Chris Barber Band
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

London Mozart Players
The Courtyard, Hereford

Vo Fletcher
Bluebell Inn, Malvern

Ushti Baba, Unity Division, Samantics, The Fox & The Pirate, The Humdrum Express,
Rustic Folk Festival At Hopley's Campsite, Bewdley

Locked And Loaded Uk
The Unicorn, Malvern

Emily Smith & Jamie McClennan
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Blake
Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Jaguars
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Abba Bellas, The Easy Lover - Phil Colin'S Tribute, Not The Blues Brothers
Rocklands Club, Redditch

Martian Social Club
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Rattlesnake Jake
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Depeche Mode - Black Celebration
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Folk in The Foyer: Ewan McClennan
CONQUEST THEATRE, Bromyard

Highway
The Maverick, Stourbridge

The Shaded Squares
The Red Lion, Amblecote, Stourbridge

Sue McCreeth
The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

Ben Marwood, She Makes War, Helen Chambers
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Josh Buckley
The Waggon And Horses, Stourbridge

Guy Young
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

The Lady And The Sax
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Thunder Daze
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Feast Of Fiddles
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

The Strays
Whittle Taps, Cheltenham

The Carpenters Songbook
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Compulsions (U.S.A) + Venrez
The Iron Road, Evesham

London Astrobeat Orchestra Presents 'Stop Making Sense'
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Woo Town Hillbillies
The Red Lion, Evesham

Devil's Playground, Twisted State Of Mind
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Trevor Burton Band
Queens Head, Wolverley
Smiley & The Underclass
Cafe René, Gloucester

Gareth Lemon
The Tank, Gloucester

James Hickman
Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

Chicago Bytes
Millers Arms, Pershore

Chris Antonik
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Don't Stop
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Kenny White, Deborah Rose
The Angel, Ludlow

Grimaldi Band
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Pistol Pete Wearn
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Jack Blackman, Nigel Clark
United Reform Church, Stratford

Witcher
Redman, Kidderminster

Youth Music Showcase
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Giants Of Rock: Hotter Than Hell
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Saturday 14 April 2018

Guns Or Roses
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Chris Jones
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

3 Daft Monkeys, Sons Of Clogger, Star Botherers, The Leylines, Jack Of All, Darwin's Rejects, Doozer Mcdooze, Jess Silk
Rustic Folk Festival At Hopley's Campsite, Bewdley

From The Jam - Acoustic
Cube, Malvern

Keith Thompson, Steven Sproat
Phoenix Theatre, Ross On Wye

Talisk
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Nearly Dan: 21st Anniversary Tour
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Dharma Bums
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Synth-Music Special With Fourth Engine (Bristol) And Nature Of Wires (Hereford)
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Tyler Massey Trio
The Earl, Worcester

Sue Fear & Life
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Mel & Him
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Krankt
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Driving Force
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Wind in The Willows
Fairfield Village Hall, Bromsgrove

The Geckos
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Haxan, Narda Narda
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Usual Suspects
The Waggon And Horses, Stourbridge

Eat Me, Floorboards, Penthouse, Stonecutter, Northwestern Girl
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Money For Nothing
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

We Come From Ashes
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

The Black Rat Effect
Reet Petite, Leominster

The Magnificent AK47, Lynchpins
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Imaner
Railway Inn, Studley

The Bierkeller Boys
Bierkeller, Cheltenham

Kings Of The Hill
The Fox & Hounds, Breton

Damon T + Mark Cole
Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

46 SLAP APRIL

Voodoo Stone
The Chestnut, Worcester

Gin Annie + Gorilla Riot, Everyday Heroes
The Iron Road, Evesham

Stuart Davies
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Everly Brothers & Friends
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

The Suzy Vaughan Blues Band
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rooters Classic Rock
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

White Tyger
The Swan Inn, Evesham

Motus Illusion
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Big Time Fun Band
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Journeyman
Green Dragon, Malvern

King King
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Pretty Nasty
The Bell, St Johns, Worcester

Pete Harrington
West Midland Tavern, Worcester

Brimstone
Number 8, Pershore

Zero Day Jazz
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Jon Eselle
The Rose Garden, Hereford

Kenny White, Deborah Rose
Elmslie House, Malvern

Cafe Jazz
The Courtyard, Hereford

Sunday 15 April 2018

Son Of John, Teddy Matthews Band, Drifter
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jeff Chapman's Rooster (4Pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Will Kileen
The Earl, Worcester

The Mighty Interceptors, Earth Invasion Phase I
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Lionel Lodge Trio
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Woo Town Hillbillies (5:30Pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Stuart Davies Plays Lazy Sunday Acoustic (4Pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Tom Forbes
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Woo Town Hillbillies
The Chestnut Tree Inn, Worcester

After Dark (5Pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Vo Fletcher
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Jon Eselle
Barbourne Ex-Servicemen's Club, Worcester

Monday 16 April 2018

Kim Cypher Quintet
Harriers Arms, Hoo Rd, Kidderminster

Tuesday 17 April 2018

Georgie Fame
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Selena Jerome
The Tank, Gloucester

Ian Parker
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Wednesday 18 April 2018

Special Guest: Gazza T
Dragon Folk Club, Worcester

Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds
Green Dragon, Malvern

Lucy May Walker, Joe & David Dunwell, Joby Capper
The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Tyler Massey Trio, Julie Felix
Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham

The Drifters
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Doric String Quartet
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Better Than We Look

Café René, Gloucester

Ian Siegal - All The Rage

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Nobby Wright

The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Thursday 19 April 2018

Ttih: Bare Jams, Dessert Boots

The Marris Bar, Worcester

A Musical Evening With Melvin Hancox

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Emily Smith & Jamie Mcclennan

Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

Carpenters Gold

Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Washboard Resonators

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Vinny Peculiar

Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Sam Green And The Midnight Heist

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Megson

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Nine Dart Finish

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Waju

Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

Friday 20 April 2018

Dan & King Rich

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The 4th Birch & Stock Folk Club Night

The Birch And Stock Folk Club, Kidderminster

The Bones

The Blue Bell, Ryall

Neil Ivison, Tyler Massey, + Support

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

St. Georges Day Beer Festival (See ad on Page 28)

The Nags Head, Malvern

Dolly And Kringo Blue

The Earl, Worcester

Paul O'neil

Kidderminster Folk Club, Kidderminster

Vo Fletcher

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

You Win Again

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Vehicle

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Alive & Brel

The Courtyard, Hereford

Jon Eselle - Olly Murs Tribute

The Kings Arms, Newent

The Reflections And Sounds Of The Sixties!

The Nags Head, Malvern

The Bones

The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Floyd In The Flesh

Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Intruders

The Cross Keys, Alcester

The Harrisons

Yew Tree, Peterstow, Redditch

Shindig: Mumbo Jumbo Troubadours And Raconteurs

St Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

Ultimate Coldplay

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Missing Lynx

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Spring Loaded Punk Festival

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Ben Jones

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Even Nine

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

White Rhino, Ten Tombs, Light Blue, Callum Cutler

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Drystones

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Sarah Warren And Nick Lyndon

The Boat House, Upton-Upon-Severn

Whyzdom, Beneath My Sins, Celestivl Uk

The Iron Road, Evesham

Ko Komo

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Outcast Band

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Claire L Shaw

The Red Lion, Evesham

Complete Madness

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Outright Resistance, We Come From Ashes

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Still Crazy

Queens Head, Wolverley

The Harcourt Players

The Fold, Bransford

The B Sides

Café René, Gloucester

Jay & Eli

The Sebright Arms, Worcester

Talon - The Acoustic Collection

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Memphis

The Tank, Gloucester

Mary-Jess & Friends

Guildhall, Gloucester

Forty Blue Toes

Millers Arms, Pershore

Bob Hillary

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Hickory Stick Boys

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Lewis Clark And The Essentials

The Left Bank Village, Hereford

Beyond Faith

The Courtyard, Hereford

Dan Greenaway

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Mersey Legends

Hogarths Stone Manor, Kidderminster

Saturday 21 April 2018

Through The Decades With Roy Orbison & Buddy Holly

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Steve Derrick

Sports And Social Club, Leominster

Aardvark Stew

The Shed, Stourport-On-Severn

Black Cat Bone

The Earl, Worcester

The Delray Rockets

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Kongero - Swedish Folk'appella

Colwall Village Hall, Malvern

St. Georges Day Beer Festival (See ad on Page 28)

The Nags Head, Malvern

Jive Talkin'

The Artix, Bromsgrove

Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Annette Gregory Ladies Of Jazz

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Chloe Mogg And Ash

Cock And Maggie, Bewdley

Louis Bennett

Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

Wolفرن Riverstick

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Usual Suspects

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Reflections

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Commandments

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The After Dark Band

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Mesma Duo

Catshill Working Mens Club, Bromsgrove

Laura Aston

Crown Inn Catshill, Bromsgrove

Buzzin Hornets

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Zeppelin 3

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Shalamar

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Rick Laval

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Ultimate Coldplay

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Common People

Railway Inn, Studley

Record Store Day: Live Music All Day

Badlaands, Cheltenham

Badlands Record Store Day Party
Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

Head Honcho
Reet Petite, Leominster

Pete Harrington
The Swan Inn, Studley

Counters Creek
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Big Girls Don'T Cry
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Fireballs U.K.
The Chestnut, Worcester

Tim Sidford & Livia King - Silver Siren: Homecoming Cabaret
Elmslie House, Malvern

Marabooboos Allstars
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Worried Men
The Swan Inn, Evesham

Jay & Eli
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Angelheart
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Misscheif & Mrmeaners (Debbie Parry Band)
Green Dragon, Malvern

Hellbent Forever, Soul Stripper, Wizards Of Oz, Obsession
Guildhall, Gloucester

Maggie Bell & Dave Kelly
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Chimp On A Bike
Upton Upon Severn Social Club, Upton Upon Severn

Linerunners
The Barrels, Hereford

Record Store Day - Live Bands
Carnival Records, Malvern

Bex Jazz
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Record Store Day - Live Bands
Badlands, Cheltenham

Sons Of Yoda
The Plough, Hereford

Herefordshire Youth Orchestra, Spring Concert
St Martin's Church, Hereford

Kongero - Swedish Folk'appella Group
Colwall Village Hall, Hereford

Voice Squad Pop/Rock Choir, Faith Fol/Rock Duo
Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury.

Big Sister
The Swan, Kidderminster

Voice Squad & Faith
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

The Quik Beats
The Night Owl, Birmingham

Sunday 22 April 2018

Lemonade Jazz/Funk/Soul Session
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Jimi Whitewolf & Band Of Tramps (4Pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Helta
Bromyard Market Square, Bromyard

Jake And Immy
The Earl, Worcester

Paul O'neil
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Jazz Festival Of Improved Music (2Pm)
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Fm, Rebecca Downe
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Ma Polaine'S Great Decline
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Feast Of Fiddles
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Pete Harrington
Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

Will Killeen (5:30Pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sam Robinson
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Woo Town Hillbillies
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Witcher (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Ray Mytton
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Jack Blackman, Guests, Furry Session,
Cross Keys, Alcester

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Monday 23 April 2018

Ronnie Scott'S All Stars
The Courtyard, Hereford

The Bootleg Beatles
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

The Dublin Legends
The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Tuesday 24 April 2018

Steve Nash
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Dan Graham
The Tank, Gloucester

Deborah Rose, Mari Randle
The Hatch, Tenbury

Wednesday 25 April 2018

The Family Dog, Mice On Mars, Scarletts, Mother
Paper Dress Vintage, London

Wuthering Heights - The Music Of Kate Bush
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Nobby Wright
Green Dragon, Malvern

Jonny Cole
Arches, Worcester

Damon T
Café René, Gloucester

Ruben Seabright
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Final Song: A Tribute To The Music Of Omd
Kidderminster College, Kidderminster

Thursday 26 April 2018

FCS: Subhumans, Brassick, Drunk in Charge, Face Up!
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Boycott The Baptist, A Werewolf, Moon Goose, Socio Suki
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Walk Right Back
The Courtyard, Hereford

Diamond
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Matt Bowen
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Illegal Eagles
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Hodmadodery
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Stokie's Blues Exchange
Beckford Community Village Hall, Tewkesbury

Blues Caravan '8 Feat Mike Zito, Bernard Allison, Vanja Sky
The Iron Road, Evesham

Folk in The Foyer, Ange Hardy
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

The Harcourt Players
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

Jay & Eli
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport

Paul Lamb & The King Snakes
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Friday 27 April 2018

Witcher
The Blue Bell, Ryall

Jake Martin, B-Sydes, Shaun Clark
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Madi Stimpson Trio
The Earl, Worcester

Vinny Peculiar, Buffalo Riot, Tyler Massey Trio
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Minus 2
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Peas
Piesse Of The Piddle, Pershore

Sarah Mcquaid
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Witcher
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Bryn Teeling
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Rosie Bans, Returning With Her Debut Album And Her Band
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Kumari Se7en
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Rob Fellows Lakhota
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

White Tyger
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Murmur
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Music, Comedy And Poetry Night
Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury

Black Heart Angels
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Avon, Chambers, Four Dead Crows, Vajazzle Dynamite
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Laura Mac
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

The Future Set
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Emma Flowers
The Red Lion, Evesham

Sergeant Thunderhoof, Grizzleroot, Baron Greenback
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Rolly's Syndicate
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Tensheds
Café René, Gloucester

The New Jersey Boys
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Mitch Benn
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Luke Philbrick
The Tank, Gloucester

Hannah And Brian
Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

The Lizzy Legacy
The Doctors, Gloucester

Dj Night With Mover & Friends
Reet Petite, Leominster

Treble Fours
The Maltster, Worcester

Liam Ward, Malcolm Thorne
Peppers, Gloucester

Ollie West Band
The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Strays
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Swamp Stomp String Band
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

Bad Spaniel
The Monument, Hereford

Steve Tilston & Jez Lowe
The Burton Hotel, Hereford

Witcher
The Bluebell, Ryall

The Exiles.
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

The Quik Beats
Warmley Social Club, Warmley

Saturday 28 April 2018

Dirty Beach
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Trever Babajack Steger
The Earl, Worcester

Re Booted
Point-To-Point Races, Ludlow

Vehicle
Wolverley Social Club, Wolverley

O'hooley & Tidow
The Ale House, Colwall, Malvern

That Friday Feeling
The Cricketers, Worcester

Dave Onions
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Toyah: Acoustic, Up Close & Personal
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Rolling Stones Tribute 'The Stones'
The Oast House, Redditch

Have A Go Heroes
White Hart Inn, Redditch

The Troubadours
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

No Tools Required
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Festivals Experience
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Midnight Sun
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Common People
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Eastwood Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Soap Girls
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Roots Review - Reggae Weekend
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

U2 Tribute
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Jamie Joseph Soul Old Motown And A Bit Of Reggae
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Carole King & James Taylor Story
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Annette Gregory: Ladies Of Jazz
The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Claudia Balla - Galaxies Collide Tour
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

R.E.M. Performed By Stipe
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Slippery Slope
Reet Petite, Leominster

Offthegrid
The Swan Inn, Studley

Cirencester College Performs
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Brian Kennedy
Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

The Reflections
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Coda - A Tribute To Led Zeppelin
The Iron Road, Evesham

Melvin Hancox
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Hump De Bump
The Chestnut, Worcester

Motown & Soul Tribute Night
Amber, Evesham

Ruffstuff
Lansdown, Stroud

The Secret Police
Marling School, Stroud

Free At Last (Tribute To Free + Bad Company)
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Locked n Loaded
The Swan Inn, Evesham

Dark Side Of The Wall
Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Wootown Hillbillies
Green Dragon, Malvern

Chimpin'
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Subset, False Flags
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Food Fighterz
Baker Street, Gloucester

The Filthy Casuals
King Teddy, Gloucester

Ital Sounds, Drumlove, King David Sound
Newtown Social Club, Worcester

Come Together
The Maltster, Worcester

Spence Cater
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Sunday 29 April 2018

The Maz Mitrenko Band (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Gordon Giltrap
The Fleece Inn, Evesham

Tobby Wright
The Earl, Worcester

Wyjo - Worcestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra
The Artix, Bromsgrove

Stu Bishop
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Roots Review - Reggae Weekend
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Follicles
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Sally Hosts Droitwich Afternoon Singing (4Pm)
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Vinny Peculiar Chris Hemingway Mark Cratchley
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Galaxies Collide: Chloe Elliot Leon Marshall, Claudia, Tom Auston
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Lewis Barfoot Trio
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Maddy Prior
Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

The Barflys (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Keith Boulton Plays Lazy Sunday Acoustic (4Pm)
The Red Lion, Evesham

Ellisha Green
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Bbc Music Introducing in Hereford & Worcester Presents
Number 8, Pershore

Toby (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Passion
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

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

First 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

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

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

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic

Great Malvern Hotel

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

The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tues - Folk Evening

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

3rd Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Open mic

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Every Wednesday - No Poetry Open mic with Cheating Lights

The Garrison at the Grapes, Hereford

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wed - Swan Sessions - Open Mic

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, Berrrow 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 - 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

Live music in evesham

APRIL

Sunday 1st - 9:00pm

The Uproars

FREE ENTRY

Friday 6th - 8:30pm

Furyborn | Kinasis

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 7th - 8:30pm

UIF Presents:

Witch Tripper | Master Charger | Soden

FREE ENTRY

Friday 13th - 8:30pm

Devil's Playground |

Twisted State Of Mind

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 14th - 9:30pm

The Rooters

FREE ENTRY

Friday 20th - 8:30pm

Outright Resistance |

We Come From Ashes

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 21st - 9:30pm

The Maraboooboo Allstars

FREE ENTRY

Friday 27th - 8:30pm

Sergeant Thunderhoof |

Grizzleroot

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 28th - 9:30pm

Free At Last

(Tribute to Free and Bad Company)

FREE ENTRY

LIVE DJ
EVERY FRI/SAT NIGHT
UNTIL SAM!

OPEN MIC
SECOND & LAST TUES
OF EVERY MONTH!

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THE MARRS BAR

APR | MAY 2018

Thursday 26th April
Subhumans



Thursday 1st April

Faithful City Fest: The Bottom Line, Coast To Coast, You Know The Drill, Better Than Never, Time Of The Mouth, Towers, Dirty Soap
£10 in advance

Thursday 5th April

Uncover: Theo, Alex Lleo, Myra, Keyss
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 6th April

The Fidgets, Chasing Deer, Lost Tiger
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 7th April

West Coast Eagles (Eagles tribute)
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Sunday 8th April

Speak, Brother with The Connor Maher Quartet, Hitchhiker
£6.50 in advance £8.50 on the door

Thursday 12th April

The Little Unsaid, Howard James Kenny
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 13th April

The Missing Rejects.... Mellows Memorial Night
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 14th April

Guns Or Roses (Guns N' Roses tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 15th April

Son Of John, Teddy Matthews, Drifter
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 19th April

The Task in Hand: Bare Jams
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday 20th April

White Rhino, Ten Tombs, Light Blue, Callum Cutler
£tbc

Saturday 21st April

Ultimate Coldplay
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 22nd April

Lemonade Jazz/Funk/Soul session
£3 in advance

Thursday 26th April

FCS: Subhumans, Brassick, Drunk In Charge, Face Up!
£10 in advance

Friday 27th April

Vinny Peculiar, Buffalo Riot, Tyler Massey Trio
£6.50 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday 28th April

R.E.M. performed by Stipe
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 29th April

Galaxies Collide: Chloe Elliot With, Leon Marshall, Claudia, Tom Auston
£6 in advance

Friday May 4

The Official Receivers
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday May 5

U2 Baby (U2 tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night
Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

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