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Issue 81

June 2018

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A collage of 12 images showing various entertainment and festival activities. The images include: a parade float with people in costumes; a man in a gold costume performing; a man in a lion costume; a crowd of people; a large green face sculpture; a crowd of people; a man in a black costume performing; a crowd of people; a man in a white costume; a man in a red costume; and a crowd of people.

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June 2018 MAGAZINE

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magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Hello and welcome to your free copy of Slap Magazine, issue eighty one. It's a bumper issue too - our biggest yet in fact - 64 pages packed with local arts and music news and events. We hope you enjoy your read.

In this issue we have a feature on Kidderminster College which specialises in music courses. We are honoured indeed to have lecturer Andy Edwards give us his insight on the importance of the college which has produced some of the biggest names in music production and performance over the years.

The last weekend in May brought us the first big festival weekend of the year, so if you were at Bearded Theory, Mello, Lechlade, Hay, Breaking Bands, Dubs in the Middle or any one of the many small gatherings in the region, you will have experience our good old British weather which managed to throw everything at us including thunder storms. Thankfully though, we also had our fair share of sunshine to keep us happy and looking forward to a long summer festival season.

There is no better combination to my mind than when artists, performers and musicians collaborate to create something extra special. This month's front cover highlights the brand new 10 day free festival known as 'The Weogoran Pavilion' to be held at South Quay in Worcester as part of 'The Ring' - a Canal & River Trust 'Arts on the Waterways' project.

There is of course so many more festivals to look forward to over the coming weeks, take a look at the full list on page 52, as well all the usual news, reviews and previews from our region which gets culturally richer seemingly every year...

Kim Jong-ed



Front cover: is by Lukas Gasirowski Maximón & Dave Crowe of Stranger Faces who perform at the Weogoran Pavilion at South Quay, Worcester. See page 9.



Spotify

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SLAP JUNE 3

Looking back, going forward

The theme for this year's 20th anniversary **Nozstock** at Rowden Paddocks near Bromyard has been announced as 'Nozstalgia', to celebrate two decades of what's been described as a 'private party for 5000 smiley happy people. Headliners this year include **The Blockheads**, **Chase & Status**, **The Selector** and **Goldfrapp**. Nozstock: The Hidden Valley runs from 20-22 July - nozstock.com

Spend a Penny

One of our fair region's more unique venues now has a new lease of life after **Malvern Hills College** agreed to take over the lease of the **Theatre Of Small Convenience** in Edith Walk after founder Dennis Neale announced his retirement. The venue used to be a Victorian gents public convenience and entered the Guinness Book of records in 2002 as the world's smallest theatre - seating 12 people in its 'quirky interior'...

Jazzed about enough

Upton Jazz Festival's musical director **Rachel Hayward** has said 'whether you're into Dixieland or European Jazz, Hot Club or Gypsy, there is something for everyone' at the 33rd event which continues to attract talent from around the world. Upton Jazz takes place at various venues across the town this year from 21-24 June - www.uptonjazz.co.uk

Spotlight on financial difficulties

Concerns are mounting about the threat to theatres from changes to lighting requiring all venues to use LED lights from 2020 and to stop the manufacture and use of old-fashioned light bulbs and stage lights which have up to now been exempt from the regulations relating to domestic lights. It seems that apart from the prohibitive cost of installing new lights - the equipment needed to illuminate theatres isn't even in existence yet..

How to experience growth

Good news for bands like Editors who've benefited from the Department Of Trade's **Music Exports Growth Scheme** which aims to boost UK music acts' profiles abroad - with £295,000 being allocated to artists to fund projects across Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. The scheme aims to support smaller UK music companies by contributing to artists' marketing campaigns and promotional activity with rock and pop acts getting over half of the funds available.

'Worcester Women'

Worcester Arts Workshop, **Woo Feministas** and the **Women's Equality Party** have joined forces - to create a banner - and will take part in the Procession parade in Cardiff on Sunday 10th June in tribute to the Women's Social & Political Union (the Suffragettes) and 100 years of the right to vote.

You're 'Palin' my Leg

The highly-rated **Ledbury Poetry Festival** has launched its programme for this year's event which includes appearances from Michael Palin, Miles Jupp and Benjamin Zephaniah among many others. The event runs from 29th June to 8th July and director Chloe Garner said that the festival aimed to 'explore, unpick and illuminate the best of contemporary poetry' - more at poetry-festival.co.uk

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Our Survey Said...

The Musicians' Union have said that Britain is entering a 'cultural void' due to funding cuts threatening the future of the nation's orchestras, finding that 44% of the UK's orchestral musicians say they no longer earn enough to live on. Two thirds of the musicians surveyed with up to 30 years experience have considered alternative work, with younger musicians being priced out of the profession due to tuition costs and a lack of full-time roles. The union's **Musician Behind The Moment** aims to promote the contributions made to communities by local orchestras.

Thank God it's them instead of you

Members of the local music community have come together to record a charity single to benefit **Mappfest** charities. Released on May 19th, you can get hold of **The Choir of Mappfest** - *Do They Know It's Mappfest Time* on CD and digital download.

With input from many local musicians including members of **Soul Stripper**, **Time of the Mouth**, **3WOD**, **Witcher**, **Michael Knowles & The STDs**, **Full Metal Jukebox**, **The Whipjacks**, as well as **Tone Tanner**, **Poppy Lou**, **Sapphire Wilkinson**, and a mysterious gentleman who turned up' sang and disappeared without a trace. Recording was finished off by producer and engineer **Alex Daw** of **The Session** giving up his free time to make sure this single could happen free of charge.

To buy & download go here: store.cdbaby.com/cd/mappfester

Alastair McDonald R.I.P.

Last month, sad news reached Slap HQ of the death of **Alastair McDonald** of **GlassTalk**. The band's song "*Scream Out Loud*" was recently played on BBC H&W Introducing and they've previously played **Worcester Music Festival** and the **Marrs Bar**.

Here is the band's statement:

"Needless to say, the last week has been extremely tough. Around a week ago we lost a talented band mate and true best friend, Alastair.

Alastair was a very talented bass player and a very genuine friend. He had so much potential and we were all so excited to see where our music with him was going to take us.

He will never be forgotten and will always be a member of this band. Our thoughts now lie with his family and anyone who has been lucky enough to meet him and call him a friend.

Mitch and Ollie have decided to continue GlassTalk as a duo. Finishing the band would have been the last thing Alastair would have wanted. We feel like the only way we can continue is as a duo, without trying to replace any member of this band.

We thank you for all of your support that this band has received- we are all so very grateful. We will continue to write music and every song that we make will be dedicated to Alastair".

A fundraising page has been set up in memory of Alastair McDonald, you can access this here:

mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/el12mcd

If you need someone to talk to, you can get in touch, anytime, with **Music Minds Matter**. Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it is a support line and service for the whole UK music community. Call 0808 802 8008.



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Clik Clik can be found this month curating a night of eclectic sounds as part of **The Ring's Weogoran Pavillion** featured later in this edition. Expect to see performances from the quirky and amazing **Swansea Laptop Orchestra** (some might remember them from their spellbinding appearance at the **Clik Clik Worcester Music Festival** night last sept), Worcester based composer and accompanying musicians with **Capas**, roots from **Ben Vickers** and a special curated and choreographed piece from **Scarlett O Sparkle** and her **River Nymphs**. June 22nd, **South Quay**, Worcester, 6-9pm.

And you will find me busy at this years' **Hopfest** in Bewdley with childrens making, **Peaky Blinders** style horse racing, and other cheeky surprises. June 16th-17th.

clikclikcollective.com



Saltways

Artist **Katy Beinart** made an historic boat trip on the waterways last month, to celebrate the salt trade in Worcestershire that dates back more than 2,000 years. Her innovative work, entitled **Saltways**, takes inspiration from the town of Droitwich's heyday as an international centre for salt production, when local waterways were used to export hugely valuable salt around the world. Katy travelled on a heritage working boat, from Gloucester Docks to Droitwich carrying a sculpture based on the town's old salt works factories (which was then filled with salt from around the world as well as salt locally produced at Churchfield Saltworks). The installation will be on display at the **Salt Museum** in Droitwich until September before departing on board a canal boat as part of **Salt Fest** on 8th Sept.



Saltways is part of The Ring's exciting programme of arts this summer. For full details please visit: www.theringart.org.uk

Romeo & Juliet: take two

A new exhibition starts at **Artist's Workhouse** in Studley this month, based around **Romeo and Juliet** which is showing at Stratford Shakespeare Theatre this season. For this project, writers are each teamed with a visual artist and the pairs work together on ideas springing directly and indirectly from the play. In addition to the exhibition there are two performance evenings with writers performing their new and original works in an informal, captivating and moving way.



The exhibition runs 9th – 17th June (closed Mon & Tues). Performances 8th June & 16th June

£7 in advance (please book your tickets early).

For more info: artistsworkhouse.com

Ice Age workshop

Meadow Arts Inspires presents a family arts workshop as part of the **Ice Age Worcester** exhibition by digital artists SDNA. Come and create your own Ice Age inspired work with our two creative practitioners, **Andrew Howe** and **Jill Impey**. Make your very own cave drawings, as well as visiting the exciting Ice Age exhibition at the Hive. The workshop will take place in **The Hive's Wet/Dry Classroom space**. Date 30th June from 11am-2pm. Suitable for children aged 7+ and no booking required.

The Hive, Worcester.

meadowarts.org



Museum After Hours

Back by popular demand, **Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum** is continuing its series of events to welcome visitors into the Foregate Street building outside of its usual opening hours. **Museum after Hours** will take place on Fridays (22nd June and 13th July) from 5.30pm until 8pm when visitors can enjoy live music, food and drink, as well as art.



The theme for June is **Ice Age**, coinciding with the summer exhibition, opening on 16th June. Enjoy music by accordionist **John Slater**, illustrator **Andi Watson** will be drawing take away caricatures with an Ice Age twist, and the cocktail of the night is the **Woolly Mammoth**!

Friday 13th July is no unlucky evening; the theme is the weird and the wonderful, with the wonderful **Miss Winspear** holding court in the **Victorian Chemist Shop** for the evening, there's also Victorian themed entertainment and a tantalising Gin cocktail.

The Balcony Café will be open for food (til 7.30pm) and drinks. No booking is required for these, just drop and enjoy the Museum after Hours events - the perfect way to end the week.

For more information please see:

www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk or call 01905 25371.

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

Affordable art sale

As part of the public launch of **Worcestershire Open Studios 2018**, all of the artists taking part this year are donating small pieces of original artwork to an affordable art exhibition and sale that will take place at **Malvern School of Art** from 11th to 16th June.



Photography: Lewis Membery

The work will be exhibited in the busy cafe at the art school. Throughout the week visitors will have the opportunity to place bids in the form of a silent auction for any work they wish to purchase.

The artwork will be signed on the back so buyers won't know who has created a piece of work until after it has been bought.

The silent auction will continue throughout the exhibition and will conclude at the end with a reception for artists, sponsors, partners, media contacts and visitors on the afternoon of the 16th. Advance copies of the 2018 Worcestershire Open Studios guide will be given to guests.

Work will be sold to the highest bidder. After covering costs, the proceeds from sales will be split 50:50 between the artist and the Malvern branch of **Amnesty International**.

worcestershireopenstudios.org

Worcester Stands Tall

Next month the giraffes will finally be revealed as **Worcester Stands Tall**, arrives on our streets! Glorious giraffe sculptures will soon tower over the streets and open spaces of Worcester for a spectacular public art trail raising money for **St Richard's Hospice** involving 30 x 8ft tall, multi-coloured sculptures displayed in a free trail from July 9th to September 16th. To find out more, go to www.worcesterstandstall.co.uk



Dancefest

Dancefest's projects with **infuseDANCE** start this month, working with youth dancers, DFA (Dancefest Adults, a performance group for experienced dancers) will create a performance on 21 July in Worcester city centre, based on infuseDANCE's **Bodyguards: Protect and Serve** performance. The projects are open to anyone - you don't need to already dance with **Dancefest**.



The workshops with DFA are on Sun 24th June and 8th July 10am-4pm, and for dancers aged 13+ they're on Sat 30th June and 7th July 10am-3pm. The Angel Centre, Worcester. £35.

Also coming up is **'Movie Movers!'** A dance film workshop for 4-14 year olds on 9th June at 2-4.30pm at the **Horizon Centre** in Midland Road, Worcester. Children will spend an afternoon creating a dance film to be premiered at **'Lights, Camera, Dance'**, a family performance on 15th July. £3.

Make sure to look out for Dancefest's DFY and **Worcester Gifted and Talented** dance groups performing at the **Weorgoran Pavilion** on Worcester's South Quay in the early evening on 20th and 21st June.

To find out more: dancefest.co.uk or on 01905 611199.

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Preview

Droitwich Arts Network reveals ArtsFest 2018 Programme

Droitwich Arts Network (DAN) has announced an exciting programme for this year's **Droitwich Arts Festival**. Spanning over 5 weekends, ArtsFest offers a wide variety of free events, many open air, encouraging the general public to experience a range of arts related activities.

The festival is anchored on five Saturdays opening on **Sat 30th June** in **St Andrews Square**, by the Droitwich Town Crier accompanied by fanfares from a brass quartet, the Mayor and **Nigel Huddleston MP**. The afternoon will be filled with Dance – Belly Dancing, Salsa, and Zumba. On **7th July**, the public will be able to create a "People's Gallery" with **Click Klik Collective**, near the High Street during the day. In the evening come along to a free music event in St Andrews Square featuring **Mumbo Jumbo** offering elegant country blues music with powerful songs and punchy vocals, supported by **The Ollie Miles Band**.



14th July sees events for families and children based in Victoria Square, including free art activities for young children, activities for older children including the creation of a **Chinese Dragon**, face painting, children's painting, and free activities with salt outside the **Heritage Centre**. Adults can join a Sketching Walk (materials provided) during the morning, and attend a presentation by **Katy Beinart** about the "Saltways" in the Heritage Centre at 12.30pm. During the afternoon, St Andrews Square has a Showcase presented by pupils from **Droitwich High School**.

The popular "Arts in View" event returns on **21st July** when members of **DAN** will demonstrate their artistic skills al fresco in Victoria Square. Authors and poets will be giving short readings throughout the day in various locations around the town centre. All are welcome to join a **Photo Walk** led by **Droitwich Camera Club** during the afternoon. Any camera will do including phones and tablets. The evening holds the **11th Poetry Extravaganza** at Park's Café.



The final day of the festival, **Sat 28th July**, will comprise music on the hour, every hour, in St Andrews Square. Starting at 10am there will be live performances by **RMA** with "feel good" music, **Sing and Tonic**, **The Droitwich Ukulele Club**, **Mandy Harding** on saxophone, **Helen Pearson** and **The Fidgets**.



The public can have a go at a fun Mime and Improvisation Workshop to be run by **Emily Hastings** of "Acting Up" on **11th July** at **Spectrum Days**. The **Booktales** and **Dreams Book Group** meets at the **Old Cock Inn** on the **25th July**.

From **30th June** to **27th July**, **Droitwich Library** will host a free exhibition of art by members of DAN in the Gallery Room and an exhibition of **International MailArt** on display boards upstairs. Artists will also be 'in residence' at **Droitwich Library** most days during July. There is also a whole host of musical events to enjoy.

ArtsFest organiser, **Rhys Jones**, added "Last year's Mayor of Droitwich set us the challenge of extending the arts festival to fill a month. We have risen to the challenge and this year's festival provides fun activities for all the family".

For all information and full programme of events, go to: www.droitwichartsfest.org

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Civic Fabric — Herefordshire

Offering inspiration, ideas and opportunities for cross-sector exchange, Civic Fabric 2018 aims to provide a space where fresh thinking and new ideas can be shared beyond the constraints that sometimes hold cultural and community organisations back.

Civic Fabric will explore how a diverse range of such organisations in regional and especially rural Herefordshire can build resilient futures together, seizing the opportunities presented in the nationwide shift to new governance models and increased community focus across our sectors.

These changes offer exciting opportunities in common: new kinds of organisation; partnerships; community participation; and income generation for example; but they also require investment in the skills, knowledge and confidence of our people to make them thrive.

This one-day conference will see national and local experts, and those on the front line of cultural delivery across a range of sectors coming together to collaborate and discuss the possibilities ahead.



With keynote speakers, a panel of local experts and workshops, the **Civic Fabric** conference recognises the common changes we face, opportunities ahead and skills we need in order that cultural and community organisations can contribute to the social, economic and environmental development of Herefordshire.

Tickets are free and the conference is open to everyone.

For more info:

www.ruralmedia.co.uk/charity/projects/herefordshires-great-place

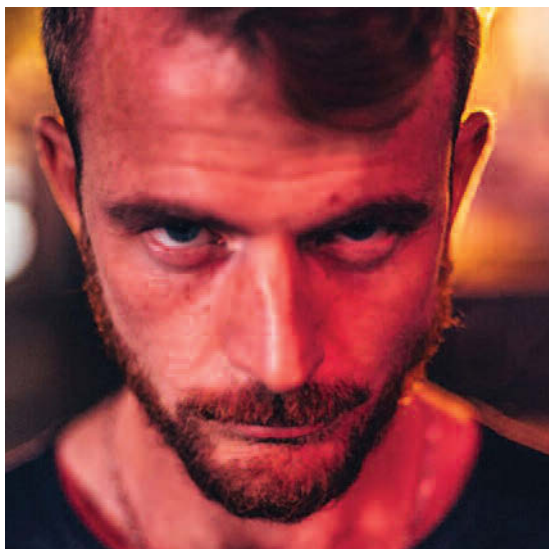
Weorgoran Pavilion: The Ring South Quay, Worcester | June 15th-24th

This month as part of **The Ring**, Worcester welcomes the **Weorgoran Pavilion**, a free family festival by the River Severn on South Quay.

The Ring is a **Canal & River Trust** 'Arts on the Waterways' project celebrating a 21-mile circle of natural and historic waterways in Worcestershire. As part of the programme, award-winning art, architecture and design studio **NEON** has created an amazing stage, especially for Worcester, to host 10 days of art, food, drink, music, dance, workshops and poetry, which takes place from 15th – 24th June.



The **Weorgoran Pavilion** takes its name, from the Saxon origins of the word Worcester and its translation, "*the people of the winding river*". Free family-friendly festival featuring a soundscape by acclaimed Ledbury born musician **Dave Crowe**, at selected times. The pavilion will host a fabulous feast of entertainment with premier acts **K.O.G (LIVE)**, **Stranger Faces**, **Hotsteppas**, **Holly Holden**, **Snazzback**, **Matuki**, **The Brass Funkeys** and a night curated by **Clik Clik Collective**, entertaining the crowds in the evenings. During the day there's everything from storytelling with **Cat Weatherill** to **DrumLove** workshops and **RSVP Bhanga**,



with displays and workshops galore from local talents including the brilliant **Dancefest** and **Suz Winspear**.

The festival launches on 15th June and runs until 24th.

For full programme, map and information about the artists and performers visit: theringart.org.uk



Suz Winspear

June has come at last – the most important month in the Worcestershire Spoken Word calendar! The 8th Worcestershire **LitFest** runs from Sunday 10th – Saturday 16th June, bringing all sorts of word-based delights. Our brochure is available around town, or you can find details of events and buy tickets on the LitFest website, worcslitfest.co.uk Tickets also available on the door. Unless otherwise stated, all events are at 7pm for a 7.30 start.

It all starts on Sunday 10th June with the final of the 2018 **Worcestershire Poet Laureate Competition** and the **Young Writers' Awards**. After Nina Lewis' triumphant and very full year as Poet Laureate, she will now be able to relax and have a holiday, and the poetry baton will pass to somebody else. Who will it be? Come to the **Angel Centre** at 2.30pm and find out!

On Monday 11th at St Swithun's Institute, the **Worcester Writers' Circle** and friends present *'Short Stories, Sketches and Scurrilous Scribings'* – stories, poetry and spoken word from members of this well-established group. This is always a popular event, and you never know what you'll hear from the Writers' Circle – Worcestershire has some astonishing talent!

Then on Tuesday 12th, I shall be bringing you *'A Night at the Museum'* at the Museum of Royal Worcester (the porcelain museum). This has just re-opened after a spectacular refurbishment, so it will be a chance to see the brand new new galleries. There will be poetry from present and former **Worcestershire Poets Laureate** and Young Poets Laureate, and I'll be presenting some of my new sequence of poetry based on my second year as **Poet-in-Residence** at the museum, exploring

the astonishing collection of old Japanese books and photographs from the archives. The evening will be both exciting and sad for me because my two-year residency is coming to an end, so this event will be my porcelain finale!

On Wednesday 13th we have the **42 Festival Special at Drummonds Bar** – featuring a performance by LitFest favourites **The Antipoet** – an amazing and hilarious combination of comedy, poetry, music and fetish-wear – not to be missed! Once you've heard the Antipoet, you will never forget them!

Thursday 14th brings the **SpeakEasy Festival Special** – venue to be announced – with assorted poets and featuring music by **Dub Thieves** who draw on influences of vintage reggae and ska. This is their first time performing at LitFest, and the evening's combination of words and music promises to be something very special.

On Friday 15th there will be a mind-bending general knowledge quiz with a literary edge at **Titania**, Security House, Barbourne Road. The annual Quiz and Pizza Night is always a popular event, so book early to test your quizzing skills! Maximum team-size 4-5 (admission £10, to include pizza).

Then the Festival ends on Saturday 16th at **Drummonds Bar** at 12 midday, with the **Double Whammy Slammy** – the **Poetry and Flash Fiction** slams, the end of Festival party and the **Big Fat Raffle** draw! There are prizes to win and performances to relish (there might even be cake). If you want to be part of the **Poetry Slam**, you just need to turn up with three poems that each take no longer than 2 minutes to perform, and for the Flash Fiction you will need three short stories of no longer than 300 words. Come along and join in – you might well be a winner!

So that's a full week of poetry, prose, porcelain and performance for your delectation – come along and enjoy what the festival has to offer!

A Mile In My Shoes Cathedral Square, Worcester | until 3 June 2018

'Never judge a man until you have walked a mile in his moccasins' - Native American proverb

New local arts organization, **The Company of Others**, have opened their first major project in Worcester– the **Empathy Museum's A Mile in My Shoes**, a FREE 10am - 5pm daily.

Last night in Worcester's **Cathedral Square**, **The Company of Others** held a preview of the 20ft shoe box, the new Worcester **Mayor Jabba Riaz** walked in shoes of local **Farmer Tristan Gibbs**, grandson of former Worcester Mayor and Councillor **Peter Elkins**, and welcomed the first art project to be in Cathedral Square. Also at the preview was *A Mile in My Shoes* artist **Clare Patey** who conceived and developed the project for the Empathy Museum, and **Roman Krznaric** the founder of the Empathy Museum – who were both delighted to welcome the project to Worcester, and hope this will be the first of many projects in Worcester for **The Company of Others**.

The Company of Others, Director and Creative Producer **Kitty Ross** said: *'This is the first of many exciting international projects that The Company of Others will be presenting in the region and sets a bench mark for the scale and ambition of work to come. We have had an extremely warm welcome from Worcester and are very thankful that it has been made possible with the support from Arts Council England, the Elmley Foundation, the Bransford Trust, Worcester City Council, and Worcester Arts Partnership.'*

A Mile in My Shoes is a shoe shop where visitors are invited to walk a mile in someone else's shoes - literally. Housed in a giant



shoebbox, this exhibit holds a diverse collection of shoes and audio stories that explore our shared humanity. From a Syrian refugee to a sex worker, a florist to a neuro surgeon, visitors are invited to walk a mile in the shoes of a stranger whilst listening to their story. The stories cover different aspects of life, from loss and grief to hope and love and take the visitor on an empathetic as well as a physical journey. **The Empathy Museum** launched the project in London in 2015 and it has since been presented in Sao Paolo, Brussels and the Houses of Parliament with stories collected in each location. **The Company of Others** is delighted to share 20 new stories that have been commissioned in Worcestershire to join the existing collection of over 150.

Worcester is the first of *A Mile in My Shoes* 2018 before it travels around the UK.

Info at - empathymuseum.com & thecompanyofothers.co.uk

FRAGILE | Anne Guest

A recent exhibition at **Pershore Number8** by Birmingham artist **Anne Guest** explored the often over looked indicators of the changing climate. '*Fragile*' focussed on the decline of the delicate balance of their lifecycles; the relationship between plants, insects and birds and how crucial pollinators are in wild food chains.



Some of the work represented current facts with drawings such as '*Plight of the Bumblebees*' and '*Fading Beauties*' depicting the actual number of species of bumblebees and butterflies currently critically endangered in UK. This was paralleled with symbolic



references; crows and their association with prophecy and a sign of change as they are able to adapt to any situation, whilst moths are associated with vulnerability.

Aside from the obvious references to the environmental issues, some of the work also uses interesting and unusual processes that are fragile in nature themselves; images made with smoke using a candle which deposits soot on the paper and cyanotypes - a camera-less photographic printing process that uses ultraviolet light and results in blue prints.

Anne Guest has been awarded and shortlisted for several prize exhibitions and is currently working on an **Arts Council** Funded project '*Portrait of an Alternative Anatomy*'. She has exhibited nationally and internationally in numerous group exhibitions and her work is held in both private and public collections.

For more info: anneguest.co.uk or instagram : [anneguest.artist](https://www.instagram.com/anneguest.artist)

A Midsummer Night's Dream Abberley Hall School | Sun 17th June

Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's best-loved romantic comedy. Let yourself be whisked away on a thrilling journey to the most magical of forests and meet star-crossed lovers, playful fairies and hilarious travelling players. Beautifully designed Elizabethan costumes, a wonderful musical score and enchanting woodland creatures come together to make this an evening of unmissable summer garden theatre.

Chapterhouse Theatre Company has had the privilege of visiting some of England's most beautiful castles, country estates, and heritage sites, bringing their remarkable adaptations of some of literature's best-loved classics. Audiences are encouraged to bring a rug and a picnic before being whisked away by the magic of theatre on a summer evening.

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Food for Thoughts Heroes, Worcester | 19th May

Food for Thoughts has been a spoken word institution for three years now. This month, the Gloucester good eggs brought their rapid fire, extended open mic to Worcester and well, it went down an absolute storm! The event runs like a jam night for spoken word artists and performance poets and operates a one on, one off system where you can only perform one piece at a time but can go up multiple times as the event goes on. This kept the pace high and the styles of performance varied. It was impossible to get bored.

Kicking off the proceedings were a few FFT regulars including **Marion** and **Tanya Feasey**, FFT organiser **Stephen Grimes**, his co-pilot and spoken word artiste **Dave Dunwell** and electronics teacher come working class hero **Simon Richards**. With potent performances all round, subjects ranged from unity and thoughts of revolution to proper tea making and the Vicars who drink it. A little further in,



towards the end of the first half; local spoken word arsonist **Joe Norris** swung in with his take on what it means to be a Millennial.

After a short break (beers were bought and good chat was had), round two commenced. Worcester's own **Luke Steele** chimed in with his thoughts on the true meaning of what it means to be home and Swindon's **Scott Cowley** gave a truly powerful performance on the struggles of substance abuse.

All in all it was a pretty successful first trip up for the Gloucester gang. To top things off they want to come back, and I for one will be more than happy to welcome them!

It was only rock 'n' roll, but we liked it... Unlocking Malvern's hidden musical heritage as Malvern music charity wins National Lottery support

Great Malvern is well known for its classical music connections, but many people are unaware of Malvern's other musical story. From 1965 to 1980 the **Malvern Winter Gardens** (now Malvern Theatres) was a major regional venue for concerts by popular rock bands such as **T-Rex**, **Pink Floyd**, **The Jam**, **Black Sabbath**, **The Undertones** and many more.

Malvern-based charity **Rock Around the Hills** has been awarded a grant of £63,200 from the **Heritage Lottery Fund**, raised by National Lottery players, to enable the creation of an exhibition, an oral history project and an online community archive celebrating the story of rock, punk and progressive rock music in Malvern. The charity has also received funding from **Postcode Community Trust**, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of the People's Postcode Lottery, as well local charity the **Bransford Trust**.

"We are so excited about receiving this funding" says **Clare Gilliam**, Trustee of Rock Around the Hills. "There is a wealth of memories about this important aspect of the community's heritage, just waiting to be tapped".

The exhibition is to be hosted by **Malvern Library** (June 2019) and **The Hive** in Worcester (July 2019) and will feature posters, tickets, photographs, reviews and recordings, as well as interviews with people who were there at the time – gig goers, promoters, technical staff, roadies and band members. The project will encourage and support the local community to care about and conserve this aspect of their local history. "For many, events of the late 20th century hardly feel like history at all," says Clare, "especially if they are related to popular music! This projects aims



Lee Brilleaux - Dr Feelgood



Jean-Jacques Burnel - Stranglers

David Corio

to change that view. By engaging volunteers and offering training in oral history and community website development, we will enable local people to acquire skills relevant to ensuring that their heritage is better understood and shared. It will encourage community cohesiveness, a sense of belonging, a pride in Malvern's musical heritage and the discovery of shared life experiences among people from different generations and social backgrounds."



Anyone interested in taking part in **Rock Around the Hills**: is invited to get in touch with rockaroundthehills@gmail.com



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Babajack

The Robin, Wolverhampton | 2nd May

I've watched **Babajack** many times. From their start as a duo, with Becky and Trevor, to their beginnings as a trio, with the addition of Mark on double bass and now to a line up that includes drummer Tosh and Adam on bass. This new line added a different edge to the music. It felt more driven and arguably more 'marketable.' It also freed Becky to become more dynamic on stage with the cahon and djembe. I had no doubt, Babajack were not going to be the band I have come to know so well.

Babajack took to the stage opening with *'Backdoor.'* Tosh and Troy seemed nicely balanced, powering the roots blues forward. Becky was in fine voice with all the energetic enthusiasm I had anticipated. The song is stretched over a guitar bridge but the sound was cleaner than I had come to expect. The dirt and distortion of Troy's solo project **The Troy Redfern Band** has been swept under the carpet. Next is *'Parade,'* Tosh is thumping in for this rocked up song from the Departure album. Becky was working hard over her djembe and Troy was stroking the guitar while Adam pushed the bass guided by a slow heavy pulse that came from Tosh's drums. Later, Becky introduced her beautifully made tongue drum with its wonderfully hollow sound.



A new song, *'Delta Roots'* had Troy on his resonator. This was followed by a feel of the sun rising with the upbeat rhythm of *'Who Killed Cock Robin'* in which Becky delivered the lyrics with a serious passion. This is a certain hit for the new album. Troy got the nod to slip in an, admittedly restyled, avant garde version of *'Jelly Roll.'* The fantastic *'Coming Home'* had been lifted from the Running Man album and was atmospheric with the thunderous drums of Tosh and rumbling bass from Adam.

The evening at the Robin was winding up to its zenith and the *'Gallows Pole'* was raised. Tosh, Troy and Adam formed a powerful dark, rocky foundation, for Becky to deliver her heartfelt lyrics to the scene. It was an excellent reworking of this classic which is always a firm favourite with the fans.

This reformed **Babajack** have been working together for 12 months and I have to say: It works. Becky, as ever, acts as the glue with strong delivery, visible energy and soul. The balance of Troy with Tosh and Adam is remarkable. As Babajack enter a new era and I will be watching with interest.

Graham Munn

Paul Lamb & The Kingsnakes

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | 26th April

It's been a while since I've seen Paul and his band, the last time was in Camden. Not so far to travel this time, I joined the other faithful fans to see the undoubted king of blues harmonica. Paul is a frequent visitor to The Prince Of Wales in Ledbury alongside vocalist, Chad. However, today we had the glory of the full Kingsnakes band bringing Rhythm and Blues to this fine old building.

Ryan, the guitarist and Paul's son, kicked off with a couple of nice instrumentals before Paul stepped up and added some harp to Chad's gritty vocals. Taken from the most recent album *Live At The Albert Hall* the peppy, sweet talking blues of their first song *'Let Me In'* filled the stage. Then, it was time for some prairie riding cowboy blues that always brings a smile to my face.

The Kingsnakes are essentially R&B, but the music and rhythms are varied. They range from smouldering blues, to Rock n' Roll with a little jump jiving thrown in, all visible in the energetic track *'Jump Little Judy.'* In complete contrast, the glorious, shuffling Delta vibe of *'Preaching the Blues'* seemed sombre, but was absolutely smashing.



After a short break, most of the band must have been stuck in the bar, but Paul was waiting with Ryan, who sat nursing a bright chrome resonator for Cream's *'Outside Woman Blues.'* The acoustic duo continued with a lovely *'Stranger Blues'* from the award winning *Hole In The Wall* album. A bit further down the line, the rest of the band joined them to wind the clock back for *'Depressing Recession'* which brought out Chad's vocals as Rod, the bassist, took a successful lead.

The band offered up a tribute to a late, great, blues master with a soulful cover of BB King's *'Guess Who,'* during which Paul goes walkabout, harp in hand. Ryan picks his way through a long solo before Chad's vocals cut back in. Next was album title track and R&B hit *'Hole In The Wall'.* Then it's time for *'Tore Down,'* a blues shuffle, which brought the Chromatic harp into play. Time pressing on and the band take their bow, but Paul is called back. He took a lead from the old master Sonny Terry and was *'Hootin N' Tootin'* which was just about what it says on the tin. The long standing king of harmonica took us out riding *'The Midnight Special'* with the boys from the band back on stage adding harmony. What a close to a brilliant evening at Huntingdon Hall.

Graham Munn

Swampcandy | MINE

Regular visitors to these shores, **Swampcandy** are launching their long awaited new album *MINE*. This album does not conform to a straight jacketed generic sound. The recordings feel like they contain the raw essence of roots cut from fetid forests of swampland. The album is peppered with original and borrowed lyrics and then dipped in hooch. *MINE* is packed with percussive devices, strings and a myriad of voices. Ruben, Joey, Gina and co. come together shaping clods of Mississippi mud into a triumphant dirty delta album.

The first track is a whiskey soaked 'JC's Revenge' that has Ruben

calling out the lyrics as Joey drives the rhythm. The girls are having a 'Party with the Devil' as they dance on a delicious bass line. It's prohibition time and reminds the listener of flapper dresses and sweet choral lines rendering the track completely intoxicating.

Banjos twang over the heavy bass beat followed by Gina and Ruben combining for the rolling and galloping sounds of 'Red Shoes'. Dramatic piano chords, introduce 'Years On End'. This song acts as a hymn to all men sent off to war, never to return and the wives and lovers they leave behind. Ruben delivers reverential lyrics in a sombre but beautiful lament.

Next we see Ruben calling the shots in 'Anger'. The track features lovely dark chocolate bass lines from Joey's bow and some expert finger-picking. It ain't blues, but no listener would care, as the song gallops off into the deep red sunset. This is followed by 'Baby's Sick,' a bouncy blues number which is far from infantile. A lovely deep pulsed bass, leads the way to discovering you're not mortal in 'Favourite Sack of Bones.'

'Never Going Back' is a strangely haunting tune with organ notes and a beautifully structured dark bass line. It breaks into a contagious Caribbean beat which draws you in. There is plenty more to intrigue to come with 'Holy Rope' and 'Knock Out'. This is an album that just keeps on giving.

Wow! This is *Swampcandy* as you've never heard them before. I'll be first in the queue for their album - it'll be all *MINE*! By far - the best album the boys have produced to date, a southern gumbo full of exiting flavours to unwrap.

Swampcandy will be performing on the acoustic stage at **Upton Blues Festival** and plan a return to the **Chestnut** in Worcester.

Graham Munn



Tommy Emmanuel Town Hall, Birmingham | 21st May

An esteemed Grammy nominated guitarist and composer, well known within the circles of fellow notable musicians, but I confess totally unknown by me, a personal failing no doubt. He released *Accomplice One* on the Mascot label in January, a collection of collaborative sessions with the likes of Mark Knopfler, Ricky Skaggs and Jason Isbell. The music is diverse, ranging from blues to bluegrass, jazz to swing, with a peppering of a more classic heritage. Here at the Town Hall the stage was set, just 3 acoustic guitars dangled from their 'hat-stand'. First, a support performance from **Frank Vignola**, or to be more precise, **Frank** and **Vinny Raniolo**, sounding more like a couple of hit men from the Bronx. They are in fact acoustic guitarists from New York who have worked with Tommy in the past and are touring with him.

The handle is 'Frank Vignola guitarist extraordinaire', and I'm not going to argue with that. Together with Vinny they dazzled the audience with gypsy jazz, complex compositions that take you strolling down *Parisian Boulevards*, and trouble on reservation, with Hank Marvin's 'Apache'. All done with a touch of humour, pausing halfway into a piece to pose for someone holding aloft his smart phone.

Tommy Emmanuel eased us in with Django like guitar melodies before turning to his recent album with a sweet sounding 'Deep River Blues', one of the few songs that exercised Tommy's voice. The finger picking was superb, the capo flicked away as he diverted into a gypsy jazz solo before closing off. A new song,

'Fuel' started in a melancholy manner, before Tommy made a more aggressive attack across the strings, with fingers dancing along the frets. Back to *Accomplice One*, a song shared with Mark Knopfler brings a smile. A 'Bing & Bob' styled, 'You Don't Wanna Get you One Of Those' could easily have been lifted from one of their many 'Road', movies. The gentle 'Rachel's Lullaby' followed, inspired by the Lennon/McCartney 'Blackbird' which prompted a stunning medley mash of 'While My Guitar Gently Weeps', 'Daytripper', 'Lady Madonna' and 'I'm A Believer'?

The show is truly a virtuoso performance, start to finish, every nuance and element of the acoustic guitar interrogate in depth, by 3 masterful musicians. But, maybe its all a bit too much in one sitting, a guitar overload, and I'm not talking Marshall Amps and the deafening stamp of heavy metal, more the stinging cuts of vibrating steel wires. Nonetheless, a brilliant, memorable evening led by the wizard from Oz!

Graham Munn



Straight For The Sun | Villains

Straight For The Sun are a West Midlands based alternative/post hardcore five-piece who have started making waves with a series of high profile gigs performing with the likes of Anti-clone, Failure As An Option and Dead On Arrival across the country taking in the likes of Birmingham Academy 3, The Asylum and Manchester's Rebellion among others. In recent times **Straight For The Sun** have found themselves scouted to perform on RawsoundTV and have found success in Metal 2 The Masses and Mammoth Fest Battle Of The Band competitions, having impressed with their explosive live performance.

Following on from the band's recent successes and a further series of gigs in the pipeline, the band have been busy in the studio writing and recording, resulting in the release of the band's debut single, *Villains*. The song is a



monstrous statement of intent. Opening with crunchy, galloping, metallic riffs and a pulsating thrash around the kit, before frontman **Callum Green** unveils a stirring lead that moves effortlessly from an aggressive semi growl to a more melodic, post hardcore, emotion fuelled holler (think Killswitch Engage meets Rise Against). Leading the band to frantically lay waste to their instruments during a crushing display of power as they up the ante for a bombastic, metallic middle section. Guitarists **Tom Haywood** and **Paul Barter** unleashing slabs of molten fury whilst **Oz Jackson** on bass and **James Human** behind the kit pummel and pound like their very lives depend on it, before somehow managing to reign it back for one final, anthemic chorus.

As opening salvos go, *Villains* is pretty damn impressive, **Straight For The Sun** reveal their arsenal of riffs and sticks whilst managing to offer a touch of melodic shade and a side order of raw emotion, a feat that should see the band continue their assault, gaining hordes of fans of the heavy stuff along way.

www.facebook.com/straightforthesun

Craigus Barry Temptations of the Jaded Saints

Multi-instrumentalist/singer-songwriter or musical maverick, **Craigus Barry** (or **The Retinal Circus** if you prefer) has long both intrigued and bemused local audiences with delightfully absurd sets of psychedelic flights of fancy. Nimble fingered guitar and surreal tales of platonic relationships with time keeping devices, shapes, seahorses and Gregorian calenders, have kept us both amused and captivated, proving there's more to music than three chords and songs about love and longing.

In more recent times, Craigus has added a further string to his bow, lending a hand (and ear) by turning composer for **Tom Rutter** and **Carnie Films** on their recent *Bella In The Wyche Elm* production. This year sees Craigus return in this capacity for Rutter's follow up feature, *Stranger*. An acid fried western based on the Mark Twain novella, *The Mysterious Stranger*. Barry has lined up a host of musicians for the film's final score, but as a taster for the full length production Craigus has unveiled a three-track five minute taster EP of his own compositions, entitled *Temptations Of The Jaded Saints*.

Opening with the title track, Craigus sets the mood with a Morricone inspired spaghetti western piece featuring an array of deft picking, near flamenco strums and atmospheric orchestral

backing, instantly transporting you back to Western planes. Summoning up visions of dusty, one saloon towns and strutting cowboys. Barry's score conjures imaginary scenes compelling the listener to continue or to seek out the film to see how it compares to visions created in the mind's eye. The thirty seven second *Dehydration* clicks and twinkles, a short lullaby, perhaps soundtracking a hallucinogenic descent into madness or maybe something less menacing. Either way our minds are left whirling, wondering where the short piece may fit in the film's grand scheme. *Waves For Ada (Upon A White Lotus)* completes the trio of tracks and once more we're thrust into a Sergio Leone inspired world of Western's. Only this time Barry adds a reverberating surf

twang to proceedings. His electric guitar ringing out Dick Dale style before western strums and perhaps even a post rock influence join the mix, as Craigus builds the track and indeed the tension during a thrilling two and a half minute instrumental.

Temptations Of The Jaded Saints serves as something of a trailer for the forthcoming pic by itself. The music of Craigus captures the imagination and compels the listener into further research of the movie and indeed Barry's former score for the aforementioned *Bella In The Wyche Elm*, perhaps suggesting that Craigus has found his true calling. Either way the EP is a bewitching affair, suggesting the film will be worth catching when it's finally released.

You can find the *Temptations Of The Jaded Saints* EP here:- heretinalcircus.bandcamp.com/album/temptations-of-the-jaded-saints and the *Strangers* official film page:- facebook.com/strangerthefilm

Will Munn



Dead Mob | Dead Mob single

Over recent years the music scene and the major festival scene has become dominated by dance orientated RnB dross. Sad times for those of us who like real music by real bands. Even when you put on Kerrang these days and half the videos are by established alternative acts selling their soul and delivering nightclub friendly pop pap. In terms of alternative music, be it punk, metal or indie it's worrying how few younger bands are actually coming through to redress this balance. Thankfully **Dead Mob** is one such band that is doing so. With all their members still in their teens (one of which is the ripe old age of 14!) this Midlands band delivers a blistering blend of punk and metal. Having formed in 2017 the band is fast becoming hot property on the Midlands and it's an injection of youth that is certainly welcome.



May the 5th saw the release of **Dead Mob's** self-titled debut single on Midlands based label **Bunny Boiler Records**. The opening track *Fear* is a three and half minute alternative rock bruiser that starts with chugging guitars accompanied by pounding drums and a heavy bass line. It comes replete with lead vocals that are at times reminiscent of Henry Rollins. The song rolls along nicely and shows a band that sounds older than their years but still sounds fresh with it.

Track 2 is called *Headcheck* is a much faster paced affair that takes the band into the realms of hardcore with a pinch of street punk whilst still keeping some of that alt. metal guitar sound. It's fast, angry song that reflects on having a few issues and needing a head check. To be honest most of us on the scene could do with one! With its big catchy chorus I can see this song fast becoming a live favourite in the mosh pit.

Judging by this debut release **Dead Mob** have big things ahead of them and time on their side. I'm sure the next couple of years can only see them going onwards and upwards. So if you like punk by the likes of Billyclub & Rotunda or perhaps alternative rock by the likes of the Rollins Band and Deftones or your just sick of the sad state of the mainstream music scene then you could do a hell of a

lot worse than checking these young guns out.

Dead Mob's single is available to purchase as a download from Bunny Boiler Records at:

bunnyboilerrecords.co.uk/product/dead-mob-dead-mob-preorder/

Also check out the band's Facebook page at:

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

Jason K - Punk by Nature

Rob Challis | 3am Tears

As a singer/songwriter and pianist, it can be very easy to fall into the habit of writing clichéd, 'cheesy' pop songs with generic lyrics and very little substance.

'*3am Tears*', however - the second independently-released single by **Rob Challis** - is a sparkling example of how a frank yet heartfelt ballad should really sound.

The instrumentation used on the track also makes it stand out; whilst Challis is primarily a pianist, it's the slinky guitars contrasting with the hard-hitting lyrics, and the occasional feather-light touch of orchestration that leaves the listener hooked on what they've heard.

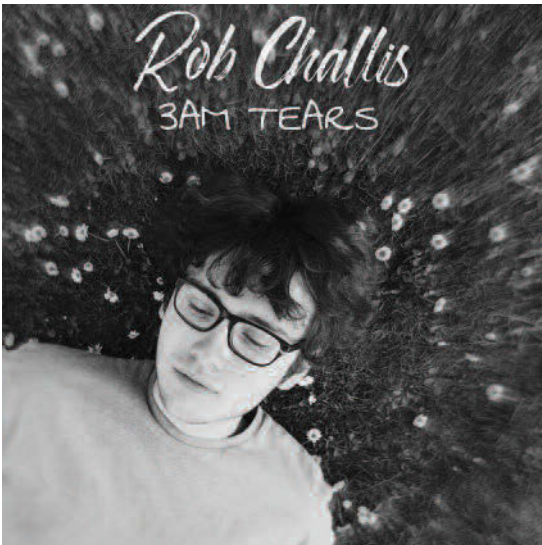
'*3am Tears*' is also a fantastic showcase for Rob's voice. For a fairly young performer, there is a lot of emotion behind his vocals, adding more charm to an incredibly well-written song.

When speaking about the release, Challis himself said that he 'feel[s] it represents [him and his material] well', and that it's definitely a 'step in the right direction musically' for him.

A regular performer in the Worcestershire area, Rob's next gigs include slots at **Hopfest** and **Worcester Music Festival**, and he is aiming to release an EP in the summer of this year.

If you are a fan of John Legend, Norah Jones, or even Elton John, keep your eyes and ears peeled for more news from this talented young singer/songwriter- he is definitely going places!

Imogen Bebb



The melody and lyrics are strong (the subject of the track being the relentless mental anguish the end of a relationship can often bring about), with the 'you got me, you got me, you got me' refrain within the chorus proving an undoubted earworm.

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Kamasi Washington

Cheltenham Jazz Festival, | 6th May

Montpellier Gardens in Cheltenham on a beautiful bank holiday Sunday is a great setting for a jazz festival. People of all ages sat on the grass reflecting on the bands they've heard and anticipating the music they are waiting to hear. And no act is more hotly anticipated at this year's festival than **Kamasi Washington** and his band, playing a sold out show in the big top.

After a rapturous welcome the audience falls silent as the set begins. Aside from the applause and cheering after solos everyone seems spellbound as the eight piece band transport us away on waves of blissful, melodic sound.

With two drummers and double bass, the grooves are strong and polyrhythmic and over this the melodies are conjured up from the combination of trombone, vocals, the tenor sax of K.W. and the flute/soprano sax of his father **Rickey Washington**. Woven together with keyboards, and broken down by solos, each track is dynamic and uplifting. Of all the solos **Miles Mosley's** double bass, picked and bowed, is stunning, managing to create sounds that I've never heard coming from an upright bass.

While by K.W.s standards this is a relatively small band (he recently played Coachella with a 42 piece band) they create a full harmonic sound that's unified but also full of variation and subtlety.

As well as material familiar to the audience, such as 'Truth', the band also perform tracks from their new album 'Heaven and Hell', a two and a half hour epic due for release on 22nd June. Stand out tracks are 'Fists of Fury' (their re-working of the theme from the 1971 Bruce Lee film) and 'Space Travellers' Lullaby', which represent the two aspects of the album:

"The 'Earth' side represents the world as I see it outwardly, the world that I am part of. The 'Heaven' side represents the world as I see it inwardly, the world that is a part of me."

To me K.W.s music follows in the vein of spiritual jazz that came of age in the 1970s with artists such as John and Alice Coltrane, & Pharoah Sanders. With it's uplifting cinematic feel it's the sort of music that can totally sweep you away into a dream-like trance.

K.W.s music comes from the heart, as all great jazz does, but while he cites jazz greats such as Art Blakey as influences he doesn't limit himself to jazz purism, he also has strong links to hip hop - he's toured with Snoop Dogg and recorded with Kendrick Lamar amongst others. From all of his experiences growing up with music and finding his own voice K.W. has truly created his own authentic vision and is reaching out to a public beyond the confines of the jazz world.

In an interview with Giles Peterson for BBC 6 Music a few days before his Cheltenham show he said "The world ends up being what we imagine it to be, and each of us has the power to affect our little portion of the world... not a lot of people enact that power."

....but K.W. does, and with it he creates a beautiful world. Back outside on the grass in the evening sun we all take a little piece of that world with us.

Alec Wood



King Brasstards/Pixie & The Gypsies

Cheltenham Jazz Festival

A rare Sunday off work has me heading to the free stages of **Cheltenham Jazz Festival**. After scouring the listings for that day's events, I settle on Leicester based seven-piece and former Swingamajig favourite's **King Brasstards**. However, before the main event there was time to soak up the festival's atmosphere for **Pixie & The Gypsies** on the **Brewery Stage**. Double bass and violin were led out by the majestic **Pixie (Taylor Notcutt)** and quickly settled into an infectious gypsy-ragtime inspired number entitled *Honey Trap*. Lush harmonies filled the air and a scat midsection soon had me captivated as I watched on with glee.

The band were bewitching the spectators with a mesmerizing set of originals, filled with addictive vocal hooks, that were lifted from their debut album (also entitled *Honey Trap*). Taylor donned an accordion for the Breaking Bad inspired *Between the Lines*, which featured a Django inspired plucked solo. As **The Gypsies** continued, they slipped in a Latin influence with *Head of Heels*. (**Twm Dylan's** elastic bass helping to provide the rhythm.) A sultry run through *All That Jazz* offered another slice of scat lead before the band took their leave to rapturous applause. The crowd demanded one last fling and as I headed off in search of those Brasstards, Pixie & The Gypsies returned to their positions and offered an inspired jazzy take on Shaggy's *It Wasn't Me*.



Down the high street a blast of trumpet punctures the air and a low and deep blast of a sousaphone can only mean one thing...

King Brasstards. Twin percussionists beat out an infectious rhythmic tattoo as we *Go to the Mardi Gras* led by the band's ever contagious brass section. As trumpets and saxophones soar, the crowd soon swells, infected by the band's funk kissed groove and as the band holler *Gimme Some Gravy*, the audience respond in claps and cheers.

The street is now awash with merrymakers, as the septet suggests that *Everybody Wants to be a Cat*, and a collective of lindy hoppers move through the crowd adding to the party feel. A combo of *Bare Necessities* and *King of the Swingers* has us embracing our inner children. Just when you think the band have reached a plateau, they announce that they *Feel Like Funkin' It Up* and the audience summon up new reserves of energy. **The**

Brasstards throw in a snippet of James Brown for good measure. The band ends their set with a rendition of *Do What ya Wanna*, confirming their place as the heart of the party.

Leicester's mobile Mardi Gras weren't done quite yet, as the sousaphonist took to a trike and led the brassy ensemble and half the audience, like a pied piper, down Cheltenham High Street to the sound of *When The Saints Go Marching In*. Leading a procession of revellers dancing in their wake, **King Brasstards** prove that the best things in life really are free!

Will Munn

Deevstock Out to Grass, Cradley | May 4-7th

With the arrival of the sun came the yearning desire to escape to the country in the old camper van. And what better place to escape to than **Out To Grass**. Out To Grass is more than just a campsite. Situated on a working farm just off the ridge-way between Malvern and Bromyard. It boasts not only the usual camping facilities but also two large geodesic domes. Perfect for hosting events.



The event in hand for this the first bank holiday in May was **Deevstock**. Billed as the Big little festival, Deevstock has built a loyal cult following from the club scenes of both London and the North. With little info to go on apart from a tweet from the previous year about a man dressed as a lobster playing hard house. I was quite intrigued to see what it was all about. After all O.T.G. was the place that introduced me to the delights of Paddy Steer.



Blessed by the weather the event was a mix of live music, DJ's and cabaret. With a strong emphasis on fun, dancing and partying. Differing musical styles flowed from dome to dome. And it was always possible to find something to tingle and tempt your musical taste buds. There was Drum and Bass, Ska, Techno, Reggae, Psytrance and almost every genre in between represented at some point. My favourite set came from **Wammy Cat**, whose techno mix could draw the inner dancer to the floor

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in anyone. Even my old bones. There was also ample opportunity to sit back, relax and listen to some sweet songs played on the acoustic. Chill out by the campfire. Get hypnotised by the laser shows and chat over a pint of real ale in the glorious sunshine. From Divas on decks to casuals on keyboards the weekend worked hard to have something for everyone. And everything was devoured eagerly by an enthusiastic and eclectic audience. To sum it up, a top notch weekend with a fun loving crowd who new how to enjoy themselves.

Events at O.T.G. rarely fail to deliver and this weekend lived up to its high reputation. Roll on the next bank holiday and my next opportunity to visit.



Duncan Graves

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WWW.HOPFEST.CO.UK

UnCover Presents Cosmo Sheldrake, Split Milk Society, Hunger Moon, F.F. Ivanovski Marrs Bar, Worcester | 14th June

June will see a myriad of exciting things descend upon Worcester with one of those things arriving on June 14th.

Uncover has excitingly partnered with Jaegermeister to bring the mind-blowing multi-instrumentalist, **Cosmo Sheldrake** to **The Marrs Bar**. Following the release of his debut album *'The Much Much How How And I'* to critical acclaim. **Cosmo Sheldrake** is a 27-year-old singer, songwriter, composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist from London. He collects and plays a variety of instruments, from the bass clarinet to the banjo. The music he makes with them, inspired by and often incorporating field recordings and natural soundscapes, is essential listening for anyone interested in hearing truly unique new sounds.

Joining him will be Birmingham's **Spilt Milk Society**, indie-rock quintet who have supported the likes of Fickle Friends, Superfood, TENDER, Toothless & Trudy the Romance and whose summer single *'She Tastes Like Summer'* passed one million streams on Spotify.

Hunger Moon, taking musical influence from experiences of the ever-changing world around them and young adulthood, Birmingham duo **Hunger Moon** combine ethereal vocals with electronic and organic instrumental textures to create their own atmospheric style of alternative pop.

Worcester's own **F.F. Ivanovski**, **Alfie Newman's (of nth cave)** psychedelic, ambient, droning, 'strange pop' experiment, influenced by Pink Floyd and Talking Heads.

Uncover Night poster featuring Cosmo Sheldrake, Spilt Milk Society, and Hunger Moon. The poster includes logos for SLP, Jaegermeister, and NWI. The main text reads: **COSMO SHELDRAKE**, **SPILT MILK SOCIETY**, **HUNGER MOON**, **f.f. ivanovski**. The date **14.06.18** is prominently displayed. Social media handles for @UNCOVERNIGHT and @UNCOVER_NIGHT are shown. Ticket information: **DOORS 7:30PM**, **TIX £8 ADV/£10 OTD**, **THE MARRS BAR, WORCESTER**.

It's bound to be a night to remember so be sure to buy your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment (£8 ADV), available on Uncover's Big Cartel shop.

Beardy Folk Festival poster for the 22nd - 24th June 2018. The poster lists a lineup of acts including Nick Heyward, Skerryvore, False Lights, 3 Daft Monkeys, Jim Moray, Chris Helme, Richard Digance, Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman, Grace Petrie Urban Folk Quartet, Jess Morgan, Granny's Attic, Tom Dibb, Orphan Colours, Joshua Burnell Band, Gary Stewart's Graceland, Kitty MacFarlane, Kim Lowings & The Greenwood, Jaywalkers, Kieran Towers & The Carrivick Sisters, Demi Marriner, Skinner & Twitch, Sinnober, Dan Webster, Tom Malachowski, Fly Yeti Fly, and Eric Sedge, Joby Capper, Johnny Walters & The Savoy. The location is Hopton Court, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire. The website www.beardfolkfestival.co.uk is provided.

Worcester Music Festival poster for The Organ Grinders Midsummer Ceilidh. The poster features a logo for Worcester Music Festival and a photo of a man playing an organ. The text reads: **The Organ Grinders**, **Midsummer Ceilidh**, **with Guest Callers**, **from 8.00pm 'til Midnight**, **Saturday 16th June 2018**, **Crimley & Sinton Green Peace Hall, Hallow Worcester WR2 6NP**. It also mentions **Featuring Real Ales from their Bewdley Brewery**, **Real Cider, Wine, Soft drinks etc.**, **Assorted Filled Cobs and Bar Snacks**, and **All Proceeds to Worcester Association of Carers**. Ticket information: **TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MUSIC CITY, TYTHING, WORCESTER**, **WEGOTTICKETS.COM/EVENT/438343**.

Lunar festival

Umberslade Farm Park Warwickshire | 27-29th July

Lunar festival is set to make a noisy return to the festival season this year following it's well-deserved year off.

The line up for this diverse festival has been announced and is set to be a feast for the senses, with a range of exciting musicians and artists preparing to descend on the quiet fields to make some noise.

Amadou & Mariam



Topping the line up are musical legends **Amadaou & Mariam**, electronic party pioneers **Basement Jaxx**, acclaimed cinematic pop duo **Goldfrapp** and legendary punk band, **The Stranglers**.

Other highlights from the line-up include the simply joyous **Go! Team**, hotly tipped psych-indie outfit **Boy Azooga**, and a brand new project from **The Bees'** **Aaron Fletcher** and **Tim Parkin**.

The Stranglers



On the following day, Hookworms will be unleashing their highly recommended rock/electronic mixes, **Crazy P** will provide dance music with soul and synth-doom act Matters will be offering something more alternative.



Basement Jaxx

Ending the weekend will be the masters of rhythm, **Songhoy Blues**, German krautrock band **Damo Suzuki's Network** and kaleidoscopic **AK/DK**.

All in all, a diverse, eclectic and tantalising line-up.

A new potential highlight of the so-called 'mini-glastonbury' will be their new **Severn Elements: Learn, Listen, Taste, Relax, Laugh, Move and Create**. These traits are being placed to set creativity, community and celebration at the very heart of the event.

If this sounds right up your street, tickets for the four day event, which runs from 26th to 29th July, are available now.

Alison Goldfrapp



Boy Azooga



Drunken Monkey

A Hot Date at a Mega Festival - 3-5th August

Big bands are flocking to the hot **Drunken Monkey Rock Festival**, which will also give a big shout out for Midlands talent.

The Upon-upon-Severn Festival's first Battle of the Bands gifted the winning Hereford-based **Hate System** the coveted main stage opening spot on the last day.

The other three battling bands - Evesham schoolboy's **Ranstone**, Worcester's **Vintage Inc.** and Alcester-led **Voodoo Stone** - also secured places at the ever growing Festival.

"We had a clear winner on a great night, but it was a very close call between the other three, so we decided to give them all a slot," says Festival Music Director **Stu Evans**, who runs the main stage.

Tickets are already selling fast for a line up that includes **Wizards of Oz**, **Pearl Jamm**, **Van Hailen** and **GAGE**, who are hot footing it from South Africa. Organisers had to turn away scores of would-be performers and the 2019 play list is already filling up fast. But Stu and fellow volunteer, and **Tower Stage** mastermind, **Chris Harvey** were eager to showcase local talent too.

Worcester man Stu's AC/DC tribute band **Soul Stripper** has soared ever since it got its big break at the city's Marr's Bar eight years ago. Chris, who plays in four bands (**The Stone Cutters** play classic covers on Festival Sunday), spends his working life encouraging performers at **Tower Studios** near Pershore.

The Festival was launched in memory of Ian Downton, who died in 2009 after a car accident. To date, more than £25,000 has been donated to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

The record-breaking 2017 event attracted twice as many people and raised four times as much as the year before and this year's



GAGE

looking even better. "We are looking forward to welcoming the crowds to a powerful Festival that rocks for a great charity," says Festival Chairman **Steve Coyne**.

South African three piece rock band **GAGE** is back at the 2018 Drunken Monkey Rock Festival after making a big impact at last year's. The Festival is their hot last date of a UK tour.



Hate.System

Battle-winning Hereford-based modern metal outfit **Hate.System**: vocalist and guitarist **Dan James**, **Ben James** on drums, **Conor Frampton** on guitars and **Joe Rogers** on bass.

Check out www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk for full details.



DRUNKEN MONKEY

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IN MEMORY OF IAN DOWNTON

3-5 AUGUST



WIZARDS OF OZ
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Temperance

Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham | Thurs 3rd May

It's a good job there's a very effective bush telegraph among rock and metal fans in this area or I'd have missed this one - but thanks to serial Birmingham gig-goer David Corfield having seen the band at Scruffy Murphy's the previous night and alerted me, I had a cracking night at **The Iron Road**.

Temperance are a five-piece from Italy whose music sits some way on a point between power and symphonic metal and they're the latest in an increasingly impressive list of bands touring from Europe.



There are several remarkable things about the band, not least of which is the fact that they have three lead singers - stand alone vocalists are **Alessia Scolletti** and **Michele Guaitoli** and guitarist **Marco Pastorino** takes lead to allow the others to sit out with absolutely no loss of quality. The two free-standing vocalists are also unusual in that pitch-wise, there's very little between their voices - several bands, including the excellent Metaprisms (who are represented in the crowd tonight) and Oceans of Slumber use a male vocalist to deliver gutturals, while the female vocalist delivers clean - the effect of the two similar voices is startling, producing fine harmonies and huge power, especially when singing in unison.

The stage looked very bare when I got there and I couldn't quite put my finger on why. But when the band took the stage and didn't plug in, I realised there were no amplifiers! They played direct into the PA, via the deck, the first rock band I can ever remember seeing do this. The sound was crisp, clean and very loud...

Another reason the stage was so clear was that guitarist Pastorino was playing his guitar completely without pedals or devices, relying on technique and the instrument's internal workings to vary the sound - haven't seen that in years. Bass player **Luca Negro** was making do with just a couple as well



and displayed a fine bidextral technique at several points during the set on a very chunky six-string instrument.

Drummer **Alfonso Mocerino** performed the extraordinary feat of delivering an interesting solo - brief, entertaining and energetic - he also had the bulk of the electronics to manage as well, streaming keys and strings in on an iPad, essential when the band's recorded material is so reliant on keyboard/guitar interplay.

They're here touring their latest album *"Of Jupiter and Moons"* which was extensively showcased during the set. They're no slouches when it comes to recording as this is their fourth studio album in four years as well as a live DVD *"Maschere"* in 2017. That's a lot of material to draw on, and was amply reflected in the

length of the set, which lasted an amazing 90 minutes.

As good as the previous material was, and the track *'Me, Myself and I'* is particularly good, it's the new album that takes the honours. *'Broken Promises'* and *'We Are Free'* crack along at a fierce pace, while the album's title track allows all the vocalists to display their full capabilities with some great ensemble singing. But it's the final song in the main set, and the final one on the album, *'Daruma's Eyes'* which is the jewel in the crown - long, complex and with a very distinct, almost Arabic riff, it's a remarkable tour-de-force with Pastorino's rippling guitar lines exploding out over a very appreciative audience.

An absolutely brilliant band - don't miss them when they tour again.

www.temperanceband.com

Geoffrey Head

The Lewis Barfoot Trio

The Prince Albert, Stroud | Sunday April 29th

The **Prince Albert** pulls off the difficult trick of being both an excellent, welcoming pub and a fine small live music venue. It proved to be the ideal setting for the **Lewis Barfoot Trio** on a chilly Sunday evening at the end of April.

The gig began with Lewis walking on through the audience, singing a traditional Gaelic "herding song" and accompanying herself with subtle tones from a Shruti box. It was an enchanting start to her set of original songs.

Lewis Barfoot's music is not easy to categorise. I usually try to avoid using labels as they can obscure more than they explain but in this case a quote from her website seems helpful in understanding her oeuvre - "*Folk Meets Quirk*". There are certainly elements of traditional and non-traditional folk in many of her songs but there is also a great deal of original Lewis Barfoot "quirk" and highly personal observations.

At times she displays a fearless and disarming honesty in her lyrics. Take these from "*White Dress*" (a song about the funeral of her mother) and her new single.

"Are you comfy? Is it cold? Have your bones turned to dust?"



However, don't get the impression that Lewis was gloomy or morbid. Far from it! She was very funny and charmed the audience with ease. Other songs included "*£2,700*" - the price of her wedding dress and a confessional song about turning into a "bridezilla". There were also songs about first love, encounters with a Jay bird and other observations from Lewis's life.

She was joined on stage by **Maria Rodríguez Reina** (cello) and **Matt Dibble** (clarinet and keyboards). Their brilliant musicianship complimented Lewis's guitar and vocals and gave extra depth and richness to her song arrangements.

One highlight of the evening was **Matt Dibble's** accompaniment to "*Transmission Complete*". The refrain from the traditional fiddle tune "*Farewell to Ireland*" played on the clarinet was a delight to the ears. Superb.

Lewis is not planning any more gigs in the near future. She is going into the studio to perfect her album "*Folkalism*", scheduled for release in spring 2019. When she does return to gigging, I urge you to keep an eye out for the Lewis Barfoot Trio and if you fancy an evening of guitar, clarinet, cello, transcendent singing and beautifully crafted songs, you should go and see them. If you don't fancy these things why on earth are you reading this?

www.lewisbarfoot.com/index

Bob Fry

Beth Hart

Cheltenham Jazz Festival | 5th May

Cheltenham Jazz festival may wear a 'jazz' label, but does venture into other genres often offering a few 'blues' artists, including **Beth Hart**. Having been privileged to review Beth's recent albums it was exciting to see her perform live, almost on my doorstep.

Needless to say, the marquee was sold out. Beth stepped up to rapturous applause and her powerful vocals were soon on fire. She soon found her way into the bluesy '*Rhymes*' asking the audience to "*change my smile in to a frown?*" There were definitely no frowns there. Beth likes to connect with her fans and wears her heart on her sleeve, there seems to be a story behind each song. Leonard Cohen inspired the latin rhythms of the sultry '*Love Gangster*' which was taken from Beth's *Fire On The Floor* album. It was simply superb with Beth on piano and **Jon Nichols** as her guitarist, leading the way. Staying behind her piano, Beth smouldered her way through '*I'll Take care Of You*' with Jon providing a lovely bridge on his Les Paul. The packed arena was under her spell and Beth offered up the punchy brew of religion and spirits with '*Bottle of Jesus*.'

A particularly touching, soulful song was the epitaph in memory of Beth's sister, who lost her battle with drugs, called '*Sister Heroine*.' Later, a rhythm strikes up maybe lifted from the bohemian Pigalle for '*If I Tell You I Love You*.' The song seduces like Marlene Deitrich in a Paris cellar bar. Beth set a stool on stage



front to reclaim her man from the other woman with the fantastic '*Tell Her You Belong To Me*.' Jon was on his Telecaster, slung low across his thigh as he built to a thunderous closure. Then, Jon dragged a perch forward armed with an acoustic 12 string to sit alongside Beth as she fired out the gloriously infectious '*Broken and Ugly*.'

As the session finished, Beth couldn't believe it was over. She moved back to her piano, determined to give more as she closed out with the beautiful '*Leave the Light On*.' A song so stark and poignant that it left everyone momentarily stunned into silence, before we all rose to offer Beth a standing ovation. There are few artists that connect with their audience like Beth, she seems up close and personal to everyone present which creates an intimacy in even the largest venues. A must see artist who continuously produces phenomenal albums of the highest quality.

Graham Munn

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JULY 20TH - 22ND 2018

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JOE O'DONNELL'S SHAYLA

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CLARE FREE BAND

SIMON HONEYBOY HICKLING

KRIS BARRAS

TREVOR BABAJACK STEGAR

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Joe O'Donnell's Shkayla

Cross Continents And Musical Boundaries at this years Upton Blues Festival

Joe O'Donnell's Shkayla - Cross Continents and Musical Boundaries at this Year's Upton Blues Festival

Every year I'm impressed by the line up at **Upton Blues Festival**. This three day free festival features some of the biggest names in blues and this year's headline slot for both **Jo Harman** and **The Choirboys** guaranteed a packed out Riverside. The **Birmingham Community Gospel Choir** and **The Whiskey Rebellion** prove the festival's diversity but it's over at the Sports Field that offers one of the most intriguing names across the three day event, that of **Joe O'Donnell's Shkayla**.

Who is **Joe O'Donnell** I hear you cry? Well to try to cut a long story short, Joe is a Limerick born musician, regarded as one of the finest Celtic violinists who made his name by adding his fiery and inventive violin to the likes of **East of Eden**, **Headstone** and **Granny's Intentions**. Last year Joe celebrated forty years since the original release of his debut album *Gaodhal's Vision* with the formation of **Shkayla** to bring the album to life once more, rereleasing it alongside an accompanying DVD and taking it on the road again.

Listening to the original album, Joe (and his band) may seem like an unlikely choice for **Upton Blues Festival**. The opening number *The Vision* is a subtle affair, opening with O'Donnell's lonesome Celtic inspired violin, before a hushed complimentary guitar joins the mix. Joe's violin swoops and soars majestically rather suggesting a film score as opposed to the more typical blues outfit. *The Exodus* changes the pace as jazzy loose drums open the proceedings whilst an electric guitar combines with O'Donnell's spiralling violin suggesting some Eastern promise. *The Battle and Retreat Underground*, a near five minute track, could well be something to behold if **Shkayla** can recreate the album's original mix. The album straddles genres: *Tara* is a more emotive, orchestral piece whilst the following *The Feish* contains



thundering drums which spin into Celtic folk reminiscent of Bellowhead. *House of Hostages* blends Joe's violin with the searching electric guitar (of Si Hayden) to dizzying effect and could end up being one of the hardest hitting rock pieces across the entire Upton Blues weekend.

Aptly one of the tracks, which features Rory Gallagher, on *Gael's Vision* is entitled *Poets and Storytellers* and that rather nicely sums up Joe O'Donnell's (or Gaodhal's if you prefer) concept for the album. The song compels and the instrumental arrangements and diversity help deliver the story superbly. Going on the evidence of the accompanying DVD, **Shkayla** not only bring the album's evocative compositions to life but somehow expand their original scope, pushing boundaries further and engaging throughout. The whole album suggests, that despite the band being far removed from the typical blues stereotypes, Joe O'Donnell's **Shkayla** could well provide this year's must see set at this year's Upton Blues.

Joe O'Donnell's Shkayla perform on the sports field during the **Upton Blues Festival 20th-22nd July**.

Will Munn

Bewdley Festival News Update

Bewdley Festival are getting together with both current volunteers and potential new helper's to help deliver this year's events over the next few months, but particularly focusing upon the main Festival in October. Not only is the Festival created by volunteers, it is also manned entirely by volunteers who have always been incredibly professional and without whom the Festival could not survive.

In order to provide the opportunity for interested people to become involved, the organising Committee are holding a **Festival**

Volunteers Evening in St Georges Hall Café, Bewdley on Monday June 4th at 7.00pm.

Festival Chair **Trevor Price** said "If people are interested in joining our volunteers we would like to invite them to come along, have a glass of something and find out more about what is involved. If people know somebody who they think could be interested, please let them know about the evening."



It is critical we have new volunteers to ensure continuity of Festival for future years and everyone will be assured of a warm welcome. It would greatly help us if interested people could let the Festival Office know they are intending to attend by calling 01299 404808 or emailing admin@bewdleyfestival.org.uk)"

This years Festival begins on October 12th with former lead singer of The Fine Young Cannibals **Roland Gift** and his Band, whose evening performance at **Mercure Bewdley Heath Hotel** will be opened by the Black Country wordsmith **Liz Berry** together with Birmingham singer **Mish Maybe**. Other performers through the week include **Max Keene**, **James Acaster**, **Jeremy Vine**, **Eddi Reader** and **Lesley Smith**.

Tickets are available on-line at www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk or from Bewdley Tourist Information.

Photos: James Acaster and Jeremy Vine



Swamp Critters

This June sees the return of occasional visitors from Bayou Country (around the border between Texas and Louisiana). Now based in San Diego, California, the Swamp Critters will be back in the UK with their unique blend of Cajun, Zydeco & Mardi Gras.

However, there is one big difference this year, in that **Billy Lee Corwin** (Accordion & Vocals) and **Sandra Stram** (Fiddle & Vocals) will be coming without their regular band mates, and are teaming-up instead with our very own **Woo Town Hillbillies**, who will be acting as stand-in Critters for the month. It goes without saying that this is bound to add something of a Woo Town twist to the music from Bayou Country.

There are a number of opportunities to catch this unique pairing locally; they will be at the **Piesse en Piddle** in Wyre Piddle on June 19th, **The Fold** in Bransford June 24th, **The Earl** 29th June and



the **Chestnut** 1st July. We recommend that you catch them early in the tour, as you'll probably want to see them again before they leave!

Elizabeth Cornish / Lobelia

West Malvern Social Club | Saturday June 16th

Elizabeth Cornish is a singer-songwriter from the East Midlands, currently based in Freiburg, Germany. She weaves elements of folk, country and indie-pop influences into cathartic songs which overflow with raw emotion. Elizabeth has recently released her second album, *"Where Were We Then"*, an expressive journey about enduring love, personal loss, and grief. We're very pleased to have her come to West Malvern for the only South / West Midlands gig of her UK tour.



Lobelia Lawson is based in Birmingham, but originally hails from West Virginia, via a sojourn in Canada. A multi-instrumentalist



who worked as a studio musician for many years, she has won multiple awards for her song writing, and has featured in Billboard Magazine. In the UK for over 10 years now, she hosts several acclaimed songwriter nights at **Tower of Song**, a much-loved independent venue in Birmingham. After releasing the album *"Love, or Something Like it"* last year, Lobelia is now working on new material.

This one is 'donation entry' and starts at 8pm.

Foyer Folk: Benji Kirkpatrick

Number8, Pershore | Saturday 9 June

Benji Kirkpatrick, former member of the multi-award winning folk band **Bellowhead** comes to **Number8** this June.

Having begun his career as a soloist before working with various folk artists and bands, Benji is now bringing the focus back to performing as a solo musician and will be picking his way up and down the frets of the guitar, bouzouki, mandolin and banjo at Number 8's **Foyer Folk night**.

Benji continues to perform with a band and is the well-known rhythmic driver of heavy hitting folk trio **Faustus**, creating innovative and energetic renditions of traditional folk songs. He has enjoyed appearances on Later...with Jools Holland, as well as headlining several festivals as part of Bellowhead, and worked on the Mercury Prize nominated album *Kitty Jay* by fellow folk musician, Seth Lakeman.

Benji has also toured and recorded with Maddy Prior (the voice of Steeleye Span) and Oysterband, as well as with Oysterband singer John Jones' solo projects (The Reluctant Ramblers) and

played alongside the like of Thea Gilmore, Joan as Police Woman, Marc Almond and Green Gartside.

Tickets priced at £7 are on sale now from Box Office on: 01386 555488 or www.number8.org



Mike James | An appreciation

Mike James, as dedicated a fan of rock and metal as you would ever wish to meet, has passed away at a scandalously early age after a vigorously contested battle with cancer.

He enhanced the lives of all who met him - he made you laugh, not with jokes but with his lightning fast and very witty observations on life. A skilled painter and decorator, he also had us all in stitches with his impromptu building site pole dancing displays on any piece of available scaffolding, and his energetic and unconventional approach to cooking, a completely unrecognisable banoffee pie being a particular highlight.

His championing of unsigned, independent rock and metal bands was tireless. I can't even begin to guess how many tremendous bands he recommended to me - twenty, thirty maybe - **Stone Broken**, **Sons of Icarus**, **Skam**, **The Boom Sons** and so many more. And he followed the bands everywhere throughout the South-West and the Midlands and way further afield too, once memorably travelling to Belfast, I think it was to see **The Answer**, one of his favourites. My efforts to interest him in slightly less amplified forms of music were not quite as successful - he once said to me "I don't really do acoustic, Geoff".

In mid-2016 he moved into a flat over **The Iron Road Rock Bar** in Evesham and he wrote to me at the time "I have found my Utopia" - how wonderful it would have been had he been able to enjoy this Utopia for a very long while.

One story sums up for me the man Mike was. When one of his dear friends developed cancer, Mike announced he was going to do a charity walk to raise funds for cancer research - a piece of news, I suspect which startled more than a few of us. Having finished his day's work, without training (although he did cut down on his epic cake intake for a while) and not having time to change

or wear the 'right' kit, Mike then walked eleven miles in his safety boots and work clothes to support his friend - an astonishing effort.

The service, in Mike's home village, Ashton-under-Hill near Evesham packed out St. Barbara's Church, with many of the congregation wearing band shirts at the invitation of Mike's children, of whom he always spoke with love, affection and great good humour. The music included "Things My Father Said" by Black Stone Cherry and for this lifelong Liverpool supporter, "You'll Never Walk Alone".

Rest in Peace, Mike. Although I suspect that peace will only last until someone switches on an amp...

Sometimes life sucks a little more than it ought to, and this is definitely one of those times.

My apologies to the taker of this wonderful photo - I was unable to establish who took it in time to forward this piece.

There will be a memorial gig to remember Mike at **The Iron Road** on 15th June, with **Warrior Soul** headlining - details are available from the venue's website.

Geoffrey Head



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COMEDY

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£6 (door) £5 (pre) £4 (Members/Students)

SLAP JUNE 31

Final Song: A Tribute To Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark Kidderminster College Theatre | April 25th

Depending how old you are, **Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark** (aka **OMD**) will probably either be a name haven't heard in a long time, or a name you have never heard before in your life.

So, to add some context; formed on the Wirral in 1978 by Kraftwerk-loving teenagers **Andy McCluskey** and **Paul Humphreys**, **OMD** began as a raw synth duo playing the occasional local gig, but would go on to become one of the most important and influential bands to come out of the early '80s electronic scene.

Despite this, however, as well as the fact that they have sold over 40 million records worldwide, are able to regularly gig in America and Europe, and have recently had their 13th album go to no.3 in the UK album charts, they are relatively unknown to today's youth (with the exception perhaps, of *'Enola Gay'*, primarily because of it's equally recognisable and danceable synth line).

This is the reason why *'Final Song'* clearly had something special about it from the outset - because it was a group of students paying tribute to a band that many people their age won't have even heard of.



Hannah Law

Although *'Final Song'* was much more than just an ordinary tribute show. It was something of a mini rock opera with its own concept, setting, plot line and characters, all devised by the eight performers (music students at Kidderminster College) and delivered with the flair and flourish you could expect from a group of professional musicians.



Imgen Bebb

Highlights from the synth-laden, high-concept first half include the merging of *'Electricity'* with Kraftwerk's *'Radioactivity'*, an unexpectedly dark rendition of *'Locomotion'*, and the four-part harmony on fan favourite *'Stanlow'*, although every single one of the tracks slotted cleverly and carefully into the dystopian future (think '1984') setting the audience found themselves in. The narration, video and lights also played their part in setting the scene, adding an extra layer of intrigue to the performance.

In contrast, whilst the second half continued in the same conceptual vein it was far more stripped back, with songs being played acoustically (*'History Of Modern'*), using 'unexpected' instrumentation (*'Maid Of Orleans'* on three ukuleles!) or even utilising vocal loops (the show's title track).

As if to complete the package of the show, lead singer and bassist of **OMD** **Andy McCluskey** was also in attendance, and speaking at the end of the gig described it as the 'highlight of [his] year'.

OMD fans from all across Europe also attended the show, although judging by the rapturous applause and standing ovation the performers received, it was enjoyed immensely even by those who were not previously familiar with the band's music.

Back in 2013 **OMD** proclaimed that *'the future will be silent'* - let's hope this prediction doesn't come true before we have heard from this talented group of musicians again.



Andy McCluskey with students

The only serious choice for music....

KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE MUSIC COURSES

'I can honestly say that without my experience at Kidderminster College I would never have been able to achieve what I have been able to'

FUNKAGENDA

Grammy winning DJ and producer
for The Black Eyed Peas



'The teaching is truly exceptional and I honestly wouldn't been able to achieve all that I have if I did not enrol'

PONICZ

Dubstep producer

'The things I learnt there really helped me in my journey and they continue to this day'

STEVEN HAYCOCK

Guitarist with Heart of a Coward



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KIDDERMINSTER
COLLEGE

Kidderminster College: A Personal View

By Andy Edwards

Andy is a drummer, producer and educator. He has toured the world with rock legend Robert Plant and played on classic prog albums by Frost and IQ. He currently plays with the prog band Kiama and with Quill alongside Bev Bevan from ELO, Black Sabbath and The Move As a drum clinician he has played with Terry Bozzio, Kenny Aronoff, Thomas Lang, Marco Minneman and Mike Portnoy.

Andy Edwards & Students



When someone asks me what I do I am always very proud to say 'I'm a musician', I feel I can say this because for the last twenty five years I have made my living from music in one way or another. Before this time music was just a very serious hobby.

I can date this precisely as 1993 was when I started teaching on the music course at Kidderminster College. Back then the teachers there were **Kevyn Gammond**, **Jon Bates** and **John Shepherd**. These guys were the first 'real' musicians I had ever met.

The course had been set up a few years earlier by a real visionary called **David Gaukroger**, who had pulled this amazing team of teachers together and created the first 'Rock Music' course of it's kind in the UK.

As a young, inexperienced teacher I learnt from these guys to put freedom of expression and creativity at the centre of the teaching. The students I taught were a rag tag collection of ravers and Nirvana fans but this approach really seemed to work and I had a fantastic time helping to create some really boundary pushing music shows.

Looking back, this taught them not only the skills and knowledge required to survive in the music industry but also, perhaps more importantly, how to be creative.

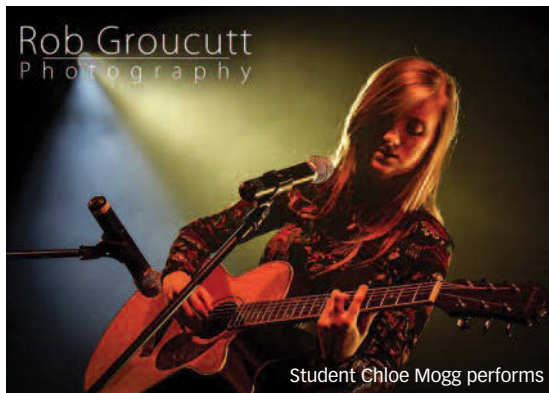
I am humbled and very proud when I think what this rag tag bunch went on to do; **Adam Walder** (aka Funkagenda) winning a Grammy for his production work for 'The Black Eyed Peas'. **The Twang** for hitting the top ten album and singles chart. **Will Holland** who as **Quantic** is known throughout the world as a cutting edge composer and remixer and **Chris Murphy** who has not only toured the world alongside The Foo Fighters and Green Day but also helps edit the very magazine you are now holding. (and this is just the tip of the iceberg, please see below)



Chris Murphy with students

In 1998 I stopped teaching at the college and went out into the big world to try and make my own stamp as a 'real' musician. Thanks to the contacts and experience I had gained at the college I ended up playing for **Robert Plant** in **The Priory of Brion** alongside **Kevyn Gammond** and then went onto drum for the cult progressive rock bands IQ and Frost.

In 2009 I returned to teaching at the college, taking over the running of the music performance courses. By this time the premises at the top of Hoo Road by the Harriers ground had been demolished and the college had moved to next to the library in the town centre. It now boasted an incredible theatre, two state of the art recording studios and excellent rehearsal facilities. Since then we have amassed another amazing roster of music teachers and visiting lecturers and I believe we are helping to develop the next wave musicians who in their own way will make their mark on the music industry.



Student Chloe Mogg performs

So what makes the music courses at **Kidderminster College** so great?

The facilities and teaching are important but perhaps not the most important. You need something else to create 'real' musicians and it's something the college has been providing for the last thirty years.

It's being a part of a huge creative network of current and ex students and staff that spans across the globe.

You become a member of this network when you enroll on one of our courses. You become surrounded by highly talented musicians and are given complete creative freedom and you are actively pushed to expand your boundaries. This allows you to discover who you really are and by working with other great musicians you up your game. And then when you leave it's your peers who provided the connections and pathways into the industry. I learnt this many years ago and it still holds true.



Junior Weeb



Dan Griffin

What Our Students Did Next

The music courses at **Kidderminster College** are perhaps one of the best kept secrets of the local music scene. Even students at the college are sometimes unaware of what the students that went before them have gone on to do. Here are just a few of the people that were once students here.

Twang members **Phil** and **Jon** were students on Music Technology course and went onto chart success in their band '**The Twang**' when their single '*Wide Awake*' went to number 3 in the charts and their 1st album reached the UK top twenty.



They have since established themselves as one of the leading UK bands working at the moment.

Quantic (**Will Holland**) was a student on the Btec ND Music Tech course. He is now records under various guises, notably, **Quantic**, **The Quantic Soul Orchestra**, and **The Limp Twins**. Will has recorded ten albums under these various names and is known throughout the world as a cutting edge composer and remixer.



His music draws upon elements of salsa, bossa nova, soul, funk and jazz. Holland plays guitars, bass, double bass, piano, organ, saxophone and percussion. Much of his sound is original composition with little in the way of sampling of other artists' material.

Holland also has his own label **Magnetic Fields** on which he releases heavy soul and funk. He has also taken on remix duties for over 30 songs.

Sam Coulson Studied on Level 3 Music Performance. He is now best known for being a member of progressive rock band **Asia** since 2013, after his guitar-playing skills were noticed on the video hosting website Youtube.

Funkagenda (**Adam Walder**) also studied on Level 3 Music Performance and is now one the biggest House music producers and DJs in the world. He has remixed and produced **Basement Jaxx**, **Moby**, **Fat Boy Slim** and **Dirty Vegas**.

His production contributions to the **Black Eyed Peas** album '*The E.N.D.*' were further recognised by an 'Album of the Year' nomination and a 'Best Pop Vocal Album' award at the 52nd Annual Grammy's.



Chris Murphy studied on Level 3 Music Performance. His band [**Sponge**] went on to have three hit singles, sold out tours and performed alongside **Audioslave**, **NOFX** and **Metallica**.

Sqaishey Quack (**Bethany Bates**) studied on Level 3 Music Performance. She gained fame as the video game vlogger on YouTube known as **Sqaishey Quack** and has nearly a million subscribers

Lauren Wright was a student on the Level 3 Btec Music course and went onto 'Amplify' Level 4 Creative Practitioner course. Her talent and hard work was rewarded with a recording contract in 2012. Her debut single "*Kiss Me*" was released on 8th October 2012. The accompanying music video for her new single is directed by award-winning director **Steve Graham** (Eurythmics, Lenny Kravitz).



"*Kiss Me*" was produced in Nashville by **Derek Garten** (Taylor Swift), who was keen to work with Lauren following her performance at SXSW 2011.

Sunjay Brayne, winner of the **Wath Festival Young Performers Award** and nominated for the **BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award**, has caught the eyes and ears of many venues and festivals across the country.

James Maiden has had a rich and varied career as a performer and composer with album releases as a formative member of **Future Ex-Wife**, as guitarist with **Tenebrous Liar** and as a co-writer with **Black Spiders** as well as receiving Radio 1 airplay for Maida Vale sessions and garnering critical acclaim in Kerrang and Classic Rock magazine.

He has also toured with artists such as **Ed Harcourt** and **Can's Damo Suzuki** and on pop tours with **Jason Donovan** and **Edwin Starr**. Performances have ranged from big band jazz and 'classical' world premieres to arena tours supporting artists such as **Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds**, **Josh T Pearson** and **Mark Lanegan** as well as major festivals including South by Southwest in Austin, Texas and the Reading and Leeds weekend. He is currently head of education at BIMM in Birmingham

Davey Warsop is a singer, songwriter, producer, engineer and mixer from Birmingham and studied on Btec Level 3 Music Technology. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles and Orange County, in Southern California.

He has worked with and alongside bands, artists and producers such as **Foo Fighters**, **Green Day**, **Butch Vig**, **Weezer**, **Bad Religion**, **The Used**, **Matt Skiba**, **Josh Freeze** (Devo), **Nine Inch Nails**, **NOFX**, **Cameron Webb**, **John Feldmann**, **Alan Moulder**, **Bill Stevenson** and **Frank Turner**. Davey is the singer and guitarist in **Sharp Shock**.

Steve Haycock currently plays guitar in the metal band **Heart of a Coward**. With them he has written and recorded 3 studio albums, the first of which we self released. Off the back of the first release they were signed by **Century Media Records** who put out the next 2 albums. Some of the Highlights of his time in the band have been touring regularly around the UK and Europe, Playing the Main Stage at **Download Festival** and other festivals around the world including **Bloodstock**, **Resurrection Fest** in Spain, With **Full Force** in Germany, touring with world renowned metal bands such as **Machine Head** and **Trivium**.

BUNKER MENTALITY

SO HERE WE GO THEN . . .

When we started the studio three years ago, for those involved the ambition was small, driven out of opportunism and a desire to provide something halfway decent for ourselves and local bands to rehearse and record in. What we have ended up with has become something increasingly special, of which we are bewilderingly proud, and which has its own growing needs and demands. Sort of like children really, only bigger and more noisy...

This column commences at a timely moment considering what's been happening locally with rehearsal options and the music scene at large. And it always seems to be the way; that as some things go up, others come down. Venues and recording facilities either thrive or struggle to survive, making it hard to work out why at times. All any of us can do is the best we can with where we are and what we've got. If there is one prevailing ethos at the Funky Bunker, (and we must limit them so that we have a fighting chance of achieving them all), it is that we can always get it better.

Beyond our bunker fortress in West Malvern, we get involved in our local music scene. Our live staging and PA operation is becoming increasingly sought after both for

public and private events, and part of the fun with that is coming across new performers alongside established local talent. Long term, we strive to play our part in enriching the local live experience. We are, ahem, "musicians" too - belligerently continuing to attempt our foothold within the locale, sometimes successfully and sometimes not; either way, we know the glories and the pitfalls on offer, having experienced both for sure. And always, at the studio, we are coming across new and intriguing talent both from near and far, which we hope to help you get to know, and are proud of our part in their recording and performance evolution.

It always comes back to the same thing for us; make the space sound as good as possible, install quality equipment and co-ordinate the best personnel possible and you're well placed to capture the "something special" that the artists bring. We look forward to sharing in this column what we encounter, both out and about and in the studio, and thus contribute to the larger narrative in which we believe - that Malvern is and always was a very special place for music.

CP

COMMON THEMES AND MONKEY DREAMS

Malvern is gearing up for the next big event of the year: the mighty Mappfest. The two-day music festival is now in its fifth year on Link Common. The festival has grown from a back-yard barbeque affair to a multi-stage extravaganza. We're running our customary Malvern Rocks stage and will host some of the best local acts. *The Bone Clocks* are making a debut after several months in the Bunker while *Lemmings on Fire* migrate from Cheltenham. *Steve Nash* is giving us an energetic solo spot. *The Hills Angels* will be gracing us with their angelic harmonies. *Hennesea* will be continuing their run of summer festivals. *Skewwhiff* will be making a mad dash from their afternoon performance at Hopfest and as a grand finale, the *Funky Junky Monkeys* will

be making a come back. FJM haven't played together for around five years and have been spending a lot of time in the rehearsal room, honing their performances and (mis) remembering their songs. It should be a great gig. As a bloke down the pub once said of them 'They're supposed to be good'. Mappfest also boasts not one, but two main stages along with an acoustic stage. The line up is very impressive and this year's event looks to be another huge success for the home-grown festival. As has become traditional, there will also be an RAF fly-by. We've had Spitfires, Lancasters and the Red Arrows. We look forward to more uncommon aviation marvels and musical wonders.

RT

Mappfest Festival 2018

Starting in the summer of 2010 **Mappfest** is a charity festival that was originally "The Birthday Party with a Heart", conceived by **Andy Mapp**, a music lover who just wanted to hear good live music on his big day but also give something back to the community and raise a bit of money for local charity Acorns.

Andy's father used to manage bands in the 60s, so from the age of 5 he was dragged around local gigs and festivals. This gave him a real love and passion for live music and the community of festivals, which inspired him to put on a festival of his own.

It's now 8 years on and the festival has grown exponentially, so I dive into its history and what it means to the community.

2018 will see three stages of fantastic local musicians entertain thousands of live music lovers but it's not "just" music. In the past three years **Mappfest** with the support of the **RAF**, has welcomed displays of the **Red Arrows**, Spitfire and Hurricanes (and rumour has it that this year may have a special surprise as well!)

The festival would not be possible without a lot of work behind the scenes by a select committee of people personally picked by Andy himself. Andy and his team are grateful for the support of the whole community who come together to make this festival happen. Local pubs host fundraising gigs for the festival, vendors donate their profits, a multitude of volunteers contribute time and expertise and the bands play for no profit.

So what's it all for? Well Mappfest has the long tradition of raising money every year for a selection of charities that are dear to Andy's heart. Over the years, the festival has benefited local charities including: **Acorns Children's Hospice**; **Craig and Charlottes Heart Safe Foundation**; **Malvern Community Action**; **Headway** and **St. Richards Hospice**.

It's safe to say that this festival is going strong and each year it's



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more

All Proceeds collected over weekend to go to nominated charities

getting larger with more to do for families and music lovers alike and the committee hope to see it go on and get bigger. Organisers are encouraging people to bring a picnic and spend the weekend with them.

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Hell's Bells! - New performing arts facility to be built in Worcester

When I read about planning permission being granted for a bell tower at **Christopher Whitehead Language College**, I must confess to allowing my eyes roll slightly and wonder why! (Oh why, Oh why!) I had a powerful image in my head of John Cleese in the film "Clockwise" looking down over the school playground through his binoculars and barking instructions at the kids through the Tannoy system.



So I was delighted to get the opportunity to talk to head teacher - **Neil Morris** and find out more about this curious project. He explained that music lessons are currently being held in a Portakabin (costing £20K a year to rent). Dance lessons are currently being held in the cafeteria, which seems very "Kids from Fame" until you consider the logistics of furniture removal required! After having several separate applications for public funding rejected, it was time to get creative.



"The bell tower is a hook!" explained Mr Morris. "It is a hook to create interest so we can attract the financial investment necessary to build top class arts facility for our students. The benefits of the arts on a young person's holistic development – personal, social, academic and artistic – are beyond question."

In addition to the bell tower, the development will include a 1000 seat theatre, booking office, dance studio, music studios, recording studio, radio station, hair salon and a drama studio. The aim is for the facility to be available to everyone including local community and arts organisations.

So is the actual bell tower a bit of a white elephant? Apparently not! *"Bell ringing has far reaching educational benefits"* reasoned the head *"It has relevance in the teaching of art, science and mathematics. Bell-ringing sheet music is based on mathematical formulae and develops mental agility. It will also improve children's*

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physical agility, co-ordination, reaction time balance and fitness. Worcester has a proud heritage of bells and ringing. We will be building on this tradition when we become the first state school in the country to have a fully operational bell tower!"

This all sounds great, but I had to wonder about the poor folk living close to a tower full of teenagers at loose in a bell tower! Having read some of the comments from local people on local news sites, I had one question left to ask! What about the neighbours? It seems that the actual bells are muffled and will only be rung twelve times a year. For the most part the bell ringing will be done using technology whereby a computer responds to a

real rope being pulled and creates a sound which is heard through headphones! That sounds like a LOT of fun and I think I managed to get talked into sponsoring a brick in exchange for having a go on the bells!



The school wants the local arts community involved. If you want to find out more, head over to the college website, have a look at the plans and see what you think! There is so much more to this than a tower!

Maria Baldwin

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HOGAN'S

Adam Sweet

Elmslie House, Malvern | Friday 8th June

Adam Sweet first picked up a guitar at the age of 7. Since those early days, bands have come and gone but Adam has steadily honed his craft and found his voice, and with well over 1,000 gigs under his belt is now successfully carving out a solo career.

His debut album '*Small Town Thinking*' was released on Devon based label NEO Music at the turn of 2013/14. With his acoustic guitar providing the foundation, and a collection of songs crafted in collaboration with award winning stalwart singer/songwriter **Steve Black**, Adam and producer **Alan West** built the album from Alan's modest East Devon studio, calling on Alan's good friend and Nashville based producer **Thomm Jutz** to add a little extra magic in the form of some of Music City's finest session players.

The album steadily gathered critical acclaim throughout 2014 with plays on BBC radio as well as Blues, Rock and Roots stations around the world. Adam's "timeless" gift earned him a feature in Classic Rock's Blues Magazine as 'One to Watch', and the rave reviews of the album included a full 5 star rating and 'Album of the Month' in Guitar Techniques Magazine, praising the album for offering a "whole new perspective on the (blues) genre".

2018 is set to be Adam's best yet, with bars, clubs, concerts and festivals booked across the UK and Europe for both for his solo-acoustic and full-band shows. Adam joins the line-up at **Elmslie House** for an intimate performance from his back catalogue and his latest release, *Take Your Time*, a stripped back acoustic offering that perfectly captures the essence of his acclaimed one-man shows. The 5-track EP, performed and produced solely by Adam, again features material co-written with Steve Black, as well as a track written with founder member of Level 42, **Boon Gould**.



Tracks from the EP have received airplay on Blues, Roots and Americana shows in both the UK and Europe, and have been featured heavily on BBC Introducing throughout 2017.

Acoustic Magazine declared in their review of the EP that "*if there were any justice, (he) would have been swept up by Jools Holland's researchers long ago*", and veteran music journalist Alan Cackett hailed Adam as "*simply among the most original and visionary young musicians currently on the cusp of widespread discovery*".

"Adam's gift is timeless, and his is the sort of voice you'll want to live with, the sort that'll only get deeper and stronger as the years wear on" — The Blues Magazine

Also at **Elmslie House** on June 23rd, don't miss the **Dom Pipkin Smokin' Boogie Solo Show**.



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.



ADAM SWEET

Friday 8th June



DOM PIPKIN

Saturday 23rd June



DEBORAH ROSE & MARI RANDLE

Saturday 7th July



Doors open at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Tickets £10 in advance or £12 on door. Tickets available from www.elmsliehouse.co.uk, Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, Church Street, Malvern.



Uncover Presents The Loved And Lost, Dead Agents The Vergers, MeMe Detroit The Marrs Bar, Worcester | 10th May

The regular **Uncover** nights at **The Marrs Bar** have become something of an established haven for local music fans wanting a combination of new music and local favourites. Since their opening salvo, the promoters have continued to bring a variety of up and comers to the city and all their efforts have to be commended and supported. Whether you know of all the bands on the bill or not, if the Uncover logo is attached it's worth a crack.

Uncover's most recent night opened with Birmingham's **MeMe Detroit**, a band that have been making waves in their home city with their hook-laden indie/grunge anthems. MeMe takes to the stage with a streak of war paint and guitar in hand as she leads her band into battle. *Soc Med Junkies* is delivered with an early PJ Harvey like attack, the chorus howled with anguish as the band clatter their instruments. *A Point Of You* opens with wail of feedback before the tap of a cymbal beckons a grungy bass riff whilst MeMe purrs, building towards a powerful choral hook.

The Vergers are a new indie rock trio hailing from Cardiff (and when I say new, I think they may have been together mere months in this incarnation). The band played a short set showing promise and a keen ear for a melody on the likes of *Peace Not Anger* and the near crooned *Empire Street*. I feel the band need to get a hatful of gigs under their belts to develop a little more presence (hats off to Uncover for giving the band the chance to tread the boards away from home), and work on a few more songs to really make an impact.

Third band on, **Dead Agents** are another band in their infancy. Forming back last year, the Walsall based quartet have hit the ground running having already performed across the West Midlands and courted attention from the likes of BBC Introducing and Brum Radio. Strolling on stage with an air of confidence and a certain swagger, the band proceeded to deliver a gripping, frantic set of alternative rock full of big hooks, striking riffs and furious drums, topped by spiky lead of **David James Foster**.

From the opening salvo, the 'Agents lurched for attention and held the crowd vice like, as the electro opening of *Haters* morphed into a crunchy alternative anthem. *Drowning* was a vigorous, punchy rock workout complete with an addictive choral hook, that's 'once hear, forever hollered' whilst *Don't Talk To Me* suggests the foursome are more than capable of delivering that big melodic moment hand built for radio. Having stormed through



their set, **Dead Agents** wrapped things up with final burst through the opening track on their self-titled debut EP *I Belong*.

As local heroes **The Loved And Lost** took to the stage, there was a noticeable, collective step forward by their adoring fans. The four-piece responded in kind by cranking the guitars and laying down a heavy bombardment of beats. **Jordan Quinn** stepped up to the mic to unveil a compelling, melodic croon among an arsenal of riffs. The likes of *Face Of Shame*, *Parasite* and *Undone* were lapped up hungrily by the assembled as the rhythm section of **Jack Bates** and **Sam Ward** continue to pummel their instruments. **Dan Fletcher** explored his fretboard with a combination of metallic riffs and concise solos, providing the platform for Quinn to really open up and let her vocals loose, whilst engaging the audience throughout the band's impressive display of controlled power.

As alluded to earlier if you've not yet attended an **Uncover** night yet, you've already missed out on a host of intriguing and inspired artists, but with plenty more in the pipeline there's still time to make amends, hey you never know you might just (cough) uncover a new favourite along the way!!

Words: Will Munn Photo: Andy O'Hare

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Artrix in June

This June, **Artrix** sees a whole host of exciting musical acts, from rock legends **Quill** to the **Treorchy Male Choir**.

Leading Fleetwood Mac tribute band, **Fleetwood Bac**, kick things off with their show on Friday 1st June, followed by **Absolute Bowie** a brand new stage show charting the ever changing personas and iconic music of *The Starman* on Saturday 2nd June.

Audiences are invited to step back in time to the golden era of music where the jukebox roared and feet didn't touch the floor when **Lipstick On Your Collar** comes to Artrix on Thursday 7th June.

Rock legends **Quill** return to Artrix on Friday 8th June and hit the stage as a six piece, once again with **Bev Bevan** on percussion.

The World's No1 Eric Clapton Tribute Band, **Classic Clapton**, will be making a welcome return to Artrix on Saturday 9th June. Classic Clapton features front-man **Mike Hall** who not only looks like Eric, he sings and plays guitar like him too! The show is a 2-hour journey through the music of Eric Clapton including all of his hits, *Wonderful Tonight*, *I Shot The Sheriff*, *Lay Down Sally*, *Crossroads*, *Tears in Heaven*, *Layla* and even an unplugged segment.

Friday 15th June sees singer songwriter, **Emily Maguire** come to Artrix with her rescheduled date from earlier in the spring.

One of Britain's biggest rock bands are brought to life in **The Quo Experience** on Friday 15th June followed by the spectacular Beach Boy's tribute, **Surf's Up** on Saturday 16th June.

There will be a screening of **Berliner Philharmoniker Live: Sir Simon Rattle's Farewell Concert** on Wednesday 20th June. *Sir Simon Rattle's Farewell Concert* will be broadcast live to cinemas with exclusive interviews and programme insights featured as part of this historic event. The opening concert of the **2018 Bromsgrove Festival** brings one of Britain's finest jazz singers, **Jacqui Dankworth**, and her band to Artrix for an exciting evening of jazz singing and music on Thursday 21st June and the extraordinary Irish singer **Cara Dillon** returns to Artrix on Friday 22nd June, performing material from her new album *Wanderer*.

The legendary Welsh musical institution, **Treorchy Male Choir** will perform at Artrix on Saturday 23rd June. In stark contrast, the next evening of musical entertainment at Artrix invites audiences to dress to kill and party like there's no tomorrow with **The Ladyboys of Bangkok Wonder Woman Tour** on Monday 25th June.

Following their recent success at Artrix, **Led Hendrix** are back with another evening of hits on Friday 29th June. The band will perform two mixed sets with the band meeting and greeting in the foyer after the show.

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.



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MUSIC AT ARTRIX



ABSOLUTE BOWIE 2 JUNE

QUILL 8 JUNE

CLASSIC CLAPTON 9 JUNE

EMILY MAGUIRE 15 JUNE

QUO EXPERIENCE 15 JUNE

SURF'S UP 16 JUNE

JACQUI DANKWORTH 21 JUNE

CARA DILLON 22 JUNE

LED HENDRIX 29 JUNE

DURAN vs TRUE GOLD 6 JULY

KAST OFF KINKS 7 JULY

DESPERADO 13 JULY

DEAN FRIEDMAN 13 JULY

BON JOVI EXPERIENCE 20 JULY

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Artrix Arts Centre

Sari Schorr & The Engine Room Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | 4th May

Sari Schorr returned to Worcester's Huntingdon Hall, bringing with her an **Engine Room** that has seen a complete refit. The Engine Room is: **Ash Wilson** is on guitar and **Bob Fridzema** on his glorious Hammond with **Leslie cab**, perfect for this Georgian chapel.

'*Revolution*' began the set as Sari and her Engine Room fired up into pulsating blues. Ash played a beautiful white Duesenberg guitar. I knew of Ash, having reviewed his album. Yet, this was the first opportunity I've had of seeing him live and he certainly had the swagger and presence of a rock guitarist. Sari was in fine voice and it was clear from the start that this was going to be a great evening. What impresses the viewer is the connection Sari has with the audience. She reached out and touched all of us, seeming completely at home and the intimacy of this venue added to this. The time came to set the fuse for the explosive '*Demolition Man*,' a thumping good shuffling rock-blues, with Bob let loose on his Hammond and Ash bending strings with real attitude.

Later, the band winds the clock back, to '72, and Mott The Hoople's, Young Dudes album. A sultry Sari simmered as she revealed she's '*Ready For Love*'. A gallop over to the prairies of '*Oklahoma*' gave Ash and Bob the space to roam. Sari corralled them back in as she took us to a decidedly harder edged, drum



and bass driven interpretation of '*I Just Wanna Make Love To You*' originally by Etta James.

The energy was rising pushing out on the walls, seeking gaps around doors and windows. It was time for '*Black Betty*' to break loose. Sari drew in the power of darkness, before she erupted, spilling out her tremendous voice which shook the walls down to the foundations. Then, it was time to ease off a little for an '*Ordinary Life*,' which felt like a hymn capable of touching all. It was time for the curfew but not before Sari and The Engine Room painted a scene we all recognised with '*Ain't Got No Money*.' The song dug deep into empty pockets. The new **Engine Room** seemed in fine tune and **Sari Schorr** hit the throttle hard achieving a grand tour. I went home with a smile on my face, (a rare thing) A *True Force Of Nature* tucked under my arm, a vinyl I will treasure.

Graham Munn

Laurence Jones Hare & Hounds, Birmingham | 10th May

Laurence Jones has a surprising knowledge of 'life on the road' despite his young age. I've seen him many times over the years and, to be frank, I was beginning to get a little disillusioned as he seemed to be stuck behind an artistic roadblock. However, that block has definitely lifted.

The **Hare & Hounds** was tonight's venue for Laurence and his band who comprise of: **Phil Wilson** on drums, **Greg Smith** on bass, and **Bennett Holland** on piano and Hammond. The set kicked off with the shuffling blues of, '*What Would You Do*.' Next up is the soulful '*Never Good Enough*,' with Phil ticking off the time on his snare rim, joined by a bass rumble and a swirling Hammond opening. Trippy Hammond riffs are complimented by powerful, punchy hooks provided by Lawrence's busy fingers.

Bennett sets up the dark brooding atmosphere for '*Thunder In The Sky*' on his Hammond. It feels like storm is brewing. Greg's Bass is crashing in and Laurence gives voice to moody lyrics over a crack of lightning guitar in a song that builds to a superb crescendo.

Later it's time for '*Keep Me Up All Night*,' the latest single from the band's new album: The Truth. This pop rock offering feels perfect for the clubs in Ibiza. The tempo of the gig keeps lifting with some awesome opening bars that smacks of Sabbath as the band break into the awesome '*Foolin' Me*'. Laurence is on fire, playing to the crowd, stepping down to his girl who grabs his plerum playing back to him. Jumping back to the stage Laurence is lost in the groove, strutting and wringing out every ounce of pent up energy from his guitar.

The closing song '*Thinking About Tomorrow*' ebbs out into the dark room, where shadows sway. It's a fantastic close to an evening with the **Lawrence Jones** band.

Maybe its just a few extra years, or being mentored by Walter



Trout, but Laurence's work has surged forward. Along with his revised band and material from his new album, Laurence's passionate performance allows him to lose himself in the music. The open road beckons him once more.

Graham Munn

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Tenbury welcomes festival goers

There's no ignoring the fact that Tenbury is having a music festival on 30th June – a fabulous street-wide banner is in place across Teme Street and posters and flyers have been distributed across the Border Counties and West Midlands.

Festival Director, **Graham James**, said "We know that the *Lightning Seeds* are really looking forward to the festival and bringing their loyal fans with them – this is a great opportunity for Tenbury to extend a warm welcome to visitors and we hope that accommodation providers and local shops will really benefit.

Festival Chair, **David Burton**, added "We are hoping that the local community will buy their lower price tickets in advance at the TIC to avoid queues on the day and to arrive early to enjoy some of the fabulous local talent. In addition we are supporting the Regal Cinema on the Friday evening in showing the Who's

fabulous Rock Opera 'Tommy' with the leading star Roger Daltrey – now patron of our nominated charity

- The Teenage Cancer Trust".



Lightning Seeds

Lucy Ward + Support The Malvern Cube | Sunday 24th June

Lucy Ward is an impressive, original songwriter whose unique delivery and breath-taking voice has enchanted audiences the world over. Her music never fails to get to the heart of the human condition with her expressive, unflinching writing style and warm personality that radiates from the stage.

Having come up through the folk tradition, Ward's music has a sense of rooted belonging. She is BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winner and is the youngest person ever to be nominated for the prestigious BBC Folk Singer of the Year.

Named 'Brit-folks most forthright new young talent' by MOJO and 'inspiring' by Billy Bragg, it's easy to see why this young singer songwriter is in such demand.

www.lucywardsings.com

Buy your tickets now to see her at the Malvern Cube.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/BWMPromo - £10 & £12 on the door



OFFSIDE

a free film about football and women's rights!

UNISON Worcestershire Branch, in partnership with **University of Worcester**, are proud to present a **free film** evening on Monday 9th July at **Worcester University, Severn Campus, Riverside Building**. Refreshments available from 6.30 pm, film starts 7.00 pm. This is a fully inclusive event – all are welcome.

Offside is an Iranian comedy drama, highlighting the struggle for women's rights. A group of young girls, obsessed with football, come up with an audacious plan to infiltrate the national stadium in Tehran - where women are banned from attending matches - in order to watch the World Cup qualifying game. Disguising themselves as men, the girls sneak into the stadium, but have to dodge the soldiers monitoring the crowds, as well as deal with unforeseen problems such as the lack of women's toilets.



Please contact unison@worcestershire.gov.uk for info and reservations, or call 01905 26186.

Musicians Wanted

Sunday, 1st of July, 2018 marks the 4th year of the 'Go Bright for Sight' 5K Colour Run, in aid of **Sight Concern Worcestershire**, at its new venue of Churchfield's Farm in Salwarple. This event is organised to support the estimated 21,040 people in Worcestershire living with sight loss and has a fantastic entertainment and festival vibe, alongside the sporting event. In 2017, 500 runners took part and £6000 was raised for the charity. The "Go Bright for Sight" Colour Run organisers are looking for bands and musicians to perform to the runners, families and spectators on the Truck Stage between 12-4pm and support this incredible cause. To book your slot, contact Fiona Blake on f.blake@sightconcern.co.uk or text 07824 833608.



The sponsored runners taking part in this great event will raise money for Sight Concern Worcestershire by starting the race in all white and moving through a run of brightly coloured 'Paint Stations' where they are hit with an exciting burst of colour, bubbles and super-soakers! Churchfield's Farm has made a colourful version of their delicious ice-cream, based on the Sight Concern logo, that will be available from 1st June 2018. Droitwich based Physique Fitness Bootcamp and Julie Liggins Fitness will once again be supporting the charity, having recruited over 100 runners last year. **Droitwich Athletics club** will be assisting with the route and marshalling for the event. This event offers a unique experience to support a worthy local charity alongside respected local businesses, whilst raising the profile of local musicians and entertainers.



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Worcester Live Slap June Picks

June is a bumper month for the multi-venue promoter, **Worcester Live** with great events coming up at **The Swan Theatre** and **Huntingdon Hall**.

First up on 8th June at Swan Theatre, **The Drifters** are back on the road in the UK performing their classic hits from the last six decades. You can expect to hear classic hits, such as *Saturday Night At The Movies*, *You're More Than A Number*, *Come on Over to My Place*, *Up On The Roof*, *Under the Boardwalk*, *Kissin' In The Back Row*, *Save The Last Dance For Me*, *Down On The Beach*, *Hello Happiness* and many, many more.

Next on 9th June, Huntingdon Hall hosts **The Story Of The Beach Boys®** – (a tribute). If you like the Beach Boys' songs, you will love this band! Their performance is guaranteed to leave you with a smile on your face, a song in your heart and a truly memorable live music experience to cherish.

12th June sees **Morning has Broken – Ron Vincent** sings **Cat Stevens** visit Huntingdon Hall for a unique salute to Cat Stevens which is a trip down memory lane, exploring his unsurpassable music career. His folk influenced, melodic tunes still strike a chord with audiences today, and Ron's jovial banter and heartfelt expression set the scene for an intimate musical journey.

On 15th June, internationally renowned band, **The Christians**, will perform acoustically. The band enjoyed huge acclaim in the late 80s and early 90s with an endless string of soulful yet socially aware hits, including: *Forgotten Town*, *Ideal World*, *Born Again*, *Harvest for the World*, *What's in a Word*, *Hooverville*, *Words, Father*, *The Bottle* and many more. Still headed by enigmatic lead singer **Garry Christian**, the band are enjoying a revival and visit Worcester as part of their European tour.

Martin Simpson (playing at Huntingdon Hall on 21st June) is known as a guitarist of formidable talent. Equally at home playing English traditional folk, American folk and blues, and his own compositions, he is consistently named as one of the very finest finger style guitar players in the world. He is listed in Gibson Guitars' Top 30 Acoustic Guitarists of all time, and Acoustic Guitar readers voted him number 12 guitarist in the world in 2005. Well-worth checking out!

Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Hank Marvin, Brian May and Slash are just some of the outstanding guitar heroes you will have the chance to experience at Huntingdon Hall on 23rd June, in **The Story of Guitar Heroes!** This phenomenal live concert style 'rockumentary'; is performed by the extraordinarily talented and renowned musician **Phil Walker**, together with his exceptional band. With over 20 guitars used on stage, the show accurately recreates the sound and ambience of each guitar hero, starting from the 1950s and journeying to the present day, also offering the very latest in video screen technology to create a larger than life event.



Garry Christian



What's On?

at The Swan Theatre
and Huntingdon Hall



 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Morning has Broken – Ron Vincent sings Cat Stevens</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">12th June – £18.50</p> 	 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Ultimate Bowie</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">14th June – £20</p> 	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">THE CHRISTIANS</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Acoustic</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">15th June – £23.50</p>  
 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Martin Simpson</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">21st June – £16.50</p> 	 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">The Unravelling Wilburys</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">22nd June – £16</p> 	 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">The Story of Guitar Heroes</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">23rd June – £19</p> 

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June at the Valkerie

JUNE at **The Valkyrie** looks to be jam-packed with all kinds of great music, keeping your summers live and loud.

Kicking off on Friday the 1st, we have **Digital Criminals** (Supported by **Mammoth Temple**); a powerful combination of guitar-driven punk and dance-worthy beats, this high energy outfit is guaranteed to get you moving.

Saturday the 2nd promises something special for the blues fans out there. **The Maz Mitrenko Band** will rocking up our stage with Rory Gallagher classics. If you fancy masterful guitar playing and toe-tapping rock n' roll,; get yourself down to **The Valkyrie**.

On Sunday the 3rd we have the pleasure of introducing some local talent to our stage. **Alice Moore** brings a welcome change of pace. Chilled covers and beautiful, reflective, original songs; Alice is the kind of young artist we love to showcase so check her out on our stage first!

Come Friday the 8th we'll be cranking the amps back up for **Karybdis** (supported by **Kill For Trophies**). This full-bore, London-based, metal group are looking to tear down our walls for fans of 'Lamb of God', 'Machine head' and 'The Black Dahlia Murder'.

You want covers? We've got you covered. Saturday the 9th sees the return of the wonderful **Red Tails** to pump us full of hits, old and new. Trust us when we say this female-fronted, Redditch-based quintet is not to be missed.

Mr Strange are aptly named for all the right reasons. We can't wait to welcome their brand of dirty-yet-epic circus rock to really shake up Evesham's market square. Supported by **Broodmother**, Friday the 15th is looking to be a truly wild night of alternative music.

Who doesn't love Bon Jovi? Well on Saturday the 16th we're going to be celebrating unbeatable hits like 'Livin' On A Prayer' and 'You Give Love A Bad Name' with the UK's premier tribute act '**Wrong Jovi**'. Tickets are selling fast so get yours at www.wegotickets.com/event/434031. It's 'Now or Never' to be a part of what promises to be an amazing night.

Saturday the 23rd brings **My Legacy** (supported by **aAnd?**) and a unique brand of melodic metal to our venue. Fans of 'Killswitch Engage', 'Ghost' and 'As I Lay Dying' will want to put this one in their diaries as this upcoming Leicester group is going to tear through our sleepy little town like a heavy metal hurricane.

Continuing our tradition of keeping Friday nights loud; **Kinasis** will be joining us on the 29th for an evening of well-honed, technical, extreme metal. Something truly different for the musically curious amongst us so grab a drink and get your mind blown with some astonishing alternative music.



Kinasis

Finishing off an incredible month of live music is **Vulcan Reign** on Saturday the 30th. This three-piece from Gloucestershire are bringing an in-your-face combo of rock and metal covers with riff-laden originals sprinkled in for good measure. Top your June off right at **The Valkyrie**. It's the place to be for live music in Evesham

Berkeley Arms Poetry Slam Friday 18th of May

A small historic pub in Tewkesbury turned into a mirage of Norse myths, Icelandic tales and actual Vikings. Well one Viking - published poet and host of the infamous **Berkeley Arms** poetry slam, **Ali Baxter**. This time, in its fifth outing and with a couple of alterations, Baxter magnificently engages the Berkeley regulars and poetic newcomers by reading Norse poetry in full Viking regalia. Unusually, there was a two-mic setup as a slight change to the previous slams. Moreover, the strong theme ran throughout the night and gave everyone inspiration whilst writing.

The Berkeley arms poetry slams allows and encourages audience participation. Not only can audience members bring along poetry to read, but throughout the night the audience suggests three random topics and everyone writes a poem using one, two of all three of the topics. Poems can be as long or as short as the writer likes.

Limericks go down extremely well throughout the night as the punters purchase more beer. Although reading poetry in front of a pub

full of people may seem scary and our quintessentially British nature makes us hate audience participation, nobody leaves the Berkeley arms without performing. Especially those who dogmatically decline at the start. Overall the atmosphere is warm and light-hearted. The pub, although small, becomes a hub of creativity, passion and laughter. Most of which is down to the fantastic hosting of the resident Viking poet himself.

Mitchell Agg



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Acadia Roots/Cantaloop Ludlow Spring Festival | 12th May

What's the best way to conclude a week off in the sun (mostly)? Well for me the combination of a well stocked beer tent, live music and an array of food stalls set in castle ruins would score pretty high up on the wish list, so when **Ludlow Spring Festival** offered all that and a fleet of classic cars, there was only one thing to do....

A stroll around the grounds and a cream tea later we took our place in front of music stage, beer in hand for a blast of funk practitioners, **Cantaloop**.

Last time I caught Bewdley's finest live they were winning over the Birmingham Institute in support of The Fun Lovin' Criminals, so it was good to catch up with the band and watch a hard working proficient set lifted from across their back catalogue.

Recent single *Slip It Back* proved an early highlight, with frontman **Dannie Dee** delivering an infectious soulful croon, whilst the likes of long time favourites *Losing My Mind* and *Fat Man* soon had the audience twitching, struggling to contain themselves as the funk fuelled hip-hop took hold (or was that the beer?). The band proclaimed they '*Gotta Get Home*' finishing an all too short set with one final flourish having successfully funk'd sleepy old Ludlow.



With the audience suitably loosened (and lubricated) rootsy groove-masters **Arcadia Roots** took to the stage and, as ever, began to blend a unique dish, combining their trademark earthy blues, stirring rhythmic rock, reggae and world music influences. Their opener, *Where You Gonna Run To*, called the audience



towards the stage to take a closer look at the dynamic foursome with their captivating, dance inducing groove nigh on impossible to ignore.

Preacher followed and a further original, *Amnesia* is treated like a long lost friend, with singer Dave Small baiting the audience to sing, shout and holler along whilst the two guitarists trade licks. A soulful, slowed down, rootsy rendition of Bob Marley's *Is This Love* is

delivered as if it was the band's own - a trick repeated on a driving version of *Fussin' And Fightin'*.

By the time The 'Roots play one final number, CD's were already trading hands, whilst one, over eager, new convert made a playful attempt to scale the barrier. The band left the stage with a barrage of applause and a host of new friends, a feat guaranteed to be repeated across the summer festival months as **Arcadia Roots'** roots and rhythm infection spreads like wildfire.

Will Munn

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LAKEFEST

9TH-12TH AUGUST 2018

ABBEY STAGE

MARC ALMOND : THE WATERBOYS : THE DARKNESS : THE PROCLAIMERS
REVEREND & THE MAKERS : MELANIE C : PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT
THE FARM : TOPLOADER : POP WILL EAT ITSELF : DUB PISTOLS : DR. MEAKER : ROVING CROWS : THE MONTECRISTOS
ERICA : THE MEMBRANES : BLINDERS : THE BLIMS : ARCADIA ROOTS



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WITH JIM "SHAFT" RYAN

DANNY RAMPLING : EXPRESS 2 ROCKY & DIESEL : RICHARD NORRIS
NANCY NOISE : LISA UNIQUE : SION PUGH : DJ SOS : ELLASKINS : MARK WINTER

**HEAPS OF
FREE
ACTIVITIES**

AFTER HOURS
by St Austell Brewery

THROWN TOGETHER INSTITUTES BEAVER AND THE FOGHORNS
MISSIN ROSIE PLUCKING DIFFERENT DIRTY SMOOTH
SKEW WHIFF CHASING DEER WIDE EYED BOY MEMPHIS UPPOAR
RICHIE LANE BAND FRONTRUNNERS PLASTIC SCENE SIRACUSE

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THE BRETHRYN'S COCKTAIL BAR

Kerry Devine & Alexander Carson The Prince Albert, Stroud | 12th May 2018

I love surprises when I go to watch live music, but it's not very often that the greatest surprise comes after the gig has finished...

A very early start for this one at **The Prince Albert** in Stroud, and there's a really interesting pair of artists opening up tonight. **Kerry Devine** and **Alexander Carson** both hail from East Anglia and they're on a tour supporting Devine's new album "*Away From Mountains*", while Carson has just released a wonderful single, '*Lovers*'. If his name sounds familiar, he used to be in the band Wooden Hands.

He's a neo-classical pianist with a very fluent style using a variety of devices, both on his keyboard and on his voice to create complex musical patterns. He's one of the best keyboard players I've seen in a while, with a very lively right hand indeed and the sound he creates is both classical in form and modern in delivery and coupled with his frail vocal style, resonant with vibrato, he makes a very fine sound indeed. '*Lovers*' is the standout track on the night, but he finishes by picking up a lovely cherry red SG and playing an extraordinary version of Leonard Cohen's '*Suzanne*', the guitar sizzling and punching through the vocal. It has to be said I don't like my Cohen to be mucked about with too much, but this was bold and highly imaginative.

A great start.

Kerry Devine is a thoroughly modern folkie with a truly lovely voice - the set is almost entirely drawn from her debut album whose ironic title reflects her upbringing in the flattest part of Britain.



Lyricaly, there's an immediate connection running from the album's title track, through to the excellent '*Closed Roads*' with an evocation of life in the Fens - there's also ostensibly a song about another local landmark, '*Holme Fen*' but with an engaging subplot about stealing a chord sequence from an ex-boyfriend built into the chorus. There's also a pitch-perfect acapella delivery of immense beauty, of a song drawn from a book about the area which may possibly have been called '*The Solitary Landscape*'. **Alexander Carson** then joins her on piano for an elegant waltz, then she produces her own stunning cover to close - Portishead's '*Glory Box*', with a tremendous vocal underpinned by heavily fuzzed guitar - startling stuff.

I rush to buy the album afterwards, put it into my car player on the way home and suddenly a whole new vista appears...

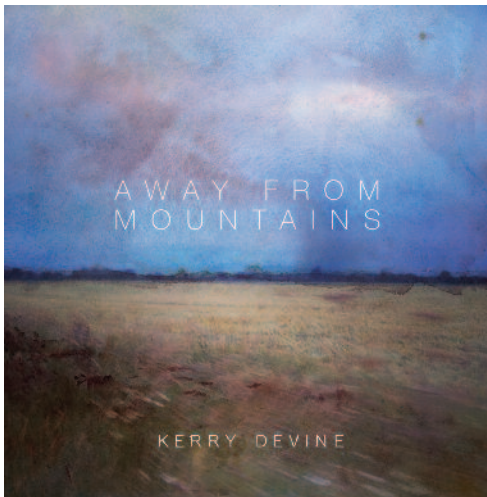
Geoffrey Head

Kerry Devine | *Away From Mountains*

...because normally when I buy an album after a gig, there's a seamless transition from what I've just seen live to what's on disc.

Not this time. This is so dramatically different.

The voice is still there, clear, incisive, both when being used powerfully and when barely at a whisper, but my word, the arrangements are immaculate... after half a dozen tracks, I am mesmerised to such an extent that I sit outside my house in the car, unwilling to leave '*Holme Fen*' unfinished and I finally understand the 'stolen chord' lyrics in context - "*Holme Fen leaves are now turning from silver to grey and I remember what you said to me and read to me and exactly why I turned away. I stole your chords, but you stole my hello, so I guess we're even Stevens now...*" - absolutely beautiful.



The cool, elegant trip hop of '*Work You*' and '*Ariel*' with its glorious, chiming piano shape, reveals why she was so at home with '*Glory Box*' - a pair of superb tracks, enhanced by very skilful mixing and production.

But ultimately, whatever the delivery medium it's the story telling, songs packed with metaphor, expressions of love thwarted and the way that happiness so easily falls out of one's grasp that leaves the longest lasting impression - "...the greatest secret of all, is that love only ever falls away." - this from '*Fools That Fall*', the elegant waltz from the live set.

The fact that this whole body of music is achieved without melancholy, only a wistful shrug and a sense of knowledge gained is a testament to the power and expertise of her song writing.

This really is a masterful album, and a quite extraordinary debut.

One other thing, not music related that must be mentioned, is the beauty of the cover art by **Lovisa Axille**, a perfect evocation of *The Fens* - lovely.

www.kerrydevine.org

Geoffrey Head

WOO FEST

7th July 2018, 12pm-Midnight
Drum and Monkey, near Upton upon Severn

A music festival for all ages

Arcadia Roots / Junction 7 / Come Together
The Collective / Skewwhiff / The Woo Town Hillbillies
Tugboat Captain / Chewie / Michigan Avenue
Loose Lips / Connor Maher / Facestealers
Pretty Nasty / Michael Knowles and the STDs

DAKOTA FLYPAST

FROM THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL FLIGHT!

Lots for Kids - Play area with bouncy castle and slide, Jungle Jingle, Forest School, Crafts and an interactive drum workshop with Drumlove.
Food options include hot food, hog roast and other fine fare
in the Drum and Monkey pub.

£20 per person or £25 on the door

Optional Camping (pre-book only) - £7.50 per person

Children under 14 Free. Camping also available on Friday the 6th.

100% OF TICKET SALES DONATED TO ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE

For tickets visit www.eventbrite.co.uk or www.strichards.org.uk/event/woofest

Enquiries to Luke: simonslj@icloud.com



[Facebook.com/woofestupton](https://www.facebook.com/woofestupton)



St. Richard's Hospice

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Supported by these fantastic people in order to make it a 100% charitable festival:

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June Comedy:

COMEDYJAM

OPEN MIC COMEDY NIGHT

FIREFLY, 54 LOWESMOOR, WORCESTER, WR1 2SE



FREE

3rd WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7:30PM

Contact info:
comedyjam@hotmail.com
(book a slot)

 comedyjamworcester

For all things comedy email Alex our comedy editor at comedy@slapmag.co.uk

Cheltenham Science Festival
Thurs 7th June
Rosie Wilby: Award-winning comedian with a book out called 'Is Monogamy Dead?' is coming to do a talk, comedy show, Q&A and book signing.

June & early July Festivals

- 1-3

Wychwood Festival, Cheltenham Racecourse
wychwoodfestival.com
- 2-3

Hay Festival Hay-on-Wye, see hayfestival.com
- 9

GlastonBeoley, Beoley, near Redditch
www.glastonbeoley.co.uk
- 14-17

June Sonic Rock Solstice Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove
sonicrocksolstice.com
- 15-17

Upton Ukulele Festival Town Centre, Upton Upon Severn
uptonukulelefestival.com
- 15-24

Weogoran Pavilion as part of The Ring South Key, Worcester
theringart.org.uk/events
- 15-17

Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival, Town centre
- 16-17

Hopley's Family Camping, Bewdley see hopfest.co.uk
- 16-17

MappFest Malvern Link Top Common, Malvern
mappfest.co.uk
- 21-24

Upton Jazz Festival Town Centre, Upton-upon-Severn
uptonjazz.co.uk
- 22-24

Not a Cult Festival, Out To Grass, Malvern notacult.co.uk
- 22-24

Beardy Folk Festival Hopton Court, Cleobury Mortimer see beardyfolkfestival.co.uk

Evesham Arts Centre (Evesham)
Fri 8th June, 20:00
RAW Comedy: 6 great acts from the UK comedy circuits.

Thur 14th June, 20:00
Tom Allen: Absolutely: The sharply dressed, well-spoken, disparagingly camp son of working class Bromley, Tom Allen embarks on his debut solo tour.

Artrix Arts Centre (Bromsgrove)
Sat 16th June, 20:00
Barnstormers Comedy Edinburgh Preview Double Bill
Two shows for the price of one. Check out Kevin Precious and Dom Holland preview their shows ahead of this year's Edinburgh Fringe

Huntingdon Hall (Worcester)
Fri 8th June, 19:30
David Baddiel – My Family: Not the Sitcom
Following a sold out run at London's Menier Chocolate Factory and two critically-acclaimed West End runs, David Baddiel takes his Olivier-nominated one-man show to theatres nationwide.

The Courtyard (Hereford)
Fri 15th June, 20:00
Heineken Comedy Club Acts TBA.

Fri 15th June, 19:30
Jethro: The Count of Cornwall
Following 60 sold out shows last year, The Count of Cornwall is back again with his unique style of comedy.

Open mic comedy nights
The Holly Bush, Cradley Heath
FREE, every Thursday, 20:00. Pros and newcomers Visit: bushcradley.co.uk

Tues 12th June, 20:00
Bedford Street Comedy Club, Bedford Street Bar
Free monthly comedy event featuring: Graham Milton, Tim Purcell, Fiona Ridgwell, Kathryn Mather, Paul Savage, Mo Haroon and headliner Jenny Collier.

Weds 20th June, 19:30
Comedy JAM: Firefly, Worcester
FREE. Pros & newcomers try out new material.
Visit facebook.com/comedyjamworcester/

- 22-24

Gillow Cider Festival, Gillow Manor, Herefordshire
see.gillowciderfestival.co.uk
- 23

Better Than We Look Slimbridge Beer Festival, Slimbridge
- 24

Sundogs Festival Mortimer Park, Leominster see luctonians.co.uk/sundogs-festival-24th-june/
- 29-30

Evesham Festival of Words Various venues, Evesham
eveshamfestivalofwords.org
- 29-30

Ledbury Poetry Festival Town Centre, Ledbury west-fest.org.uk
- 30

Tenbury Music Festival Tenbury Wells tenburymusicfestival.co.uk
- 29-1 July

Eldorado Festival Eastnor Deer Park, Ledbury
eldoradofestival.com
- 1 July

Evesham Festival of Words Various venues, Evesham
eveshamfestivalofwords.org
- 1-8 July

Ledbury Poetry Festival Town Centre, Ledbury
poetry-festival.co.uk
- 6-8 July

Linton Festival Ross on Wye, Herefordshire
lintonfestival.org
- 5-8 July

Barn On The Farm, Over Farm, Over, Gloucester
barnonthefarm.co.uk
- 6-7

Millfest, Hartpury, Cheltenham
- 7 July

West Fest Malvern Playing Field, Malvern see west-fest.org.uk
- 7 July

Woo Fest The Drum & Monkey, Upton-upon-Severn see strichards.org.uk/event/woofest/

Friday 01 June 2018

Digital Criminals + Mammoth Temple
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Battle Of The Bands Semi Final Stage 3
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Sound Of Musicals
Reet Petite, Leominster

Just Adam
The Old Bakehouse, Leominster

Forty Blue Toes
Millers Arms, pershore

The Groovy Heads
The Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Those Amongst Us Are Wolves, White Noise Cinema, Rubella Moon, The Drakelow May
Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

Janis Joplin & Friends in The Woodstock Experience
Number 8, Pershore

Me & Mrs Jones
The Chestnut, Pershore

California Dreamers
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Jon Eselle - Olly Murs Tribute
The Bengeworth Club, Evesham

Blues Anoraks
Red Lion, Evesham

Flatfoot, Shaded Squares, Coyote Grove
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

The Smiths Ltd
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Answer Back - Unplugged
Monty's Brasserie, Cheltenham

Interested Bruise
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Anna Bale
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Loose Lips
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Iconic Eye, The Loved & Lost, New Device
The Iron Road, Evesham

Fleetwood Bac
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Starving Rascals
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Oasis Brit Pop Tribute
Stourport Marina, Stourport-On-Severn

The Woo Town Hillbillies
Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

A Night For Christina With Kenny Thomas
Holiday Inn, Bromsgrove

Abba Mania
Regal, Tenbury Wells

The Faim (Australia), Polary, Towers, Icymi
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Bryde
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Emma Hall
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Narco Lounge Combo
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Fabulous Swing Night
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Emp!Re
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Just Adam
The Old Bakehouse, Ludlow

Thee Ones
The Tavern, Cheltenham

Bennett Wilson Poole, Chloe Mogg
St George's Hall, Bewdley

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ben Hall And Kringo Blue
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Fairport Convention
The Regal, Evesham

Limehouse Lizzy
Guildhall, Gloucester

The Sabbath Years
Café Rene, Gloucester

Judie Tzuke
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Rose And Crown, Tenbury Wells

William Jack Kinn
The Royal William, Gloucester

54 SLAP JUNE

Chimp On A Bike
The Doctors, Gloucester

Electric Swing Circus + Djs Seritone & Klarc
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Jay & Eli
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

The Follicles
Sebright Arms, Worcester

Fury, 13 Black, Aramantus
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Aidan Bynre
The Earl, Worcester

Chris Webb
Left Bank Village, Hereford

The Sultana Bros
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Kickback
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

String Fever
The Dog, Hereford

The Fordsons
The Old Electric Shop, Hay On Wye

Voodoo Blue
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 02 June 2018

Rob Lloyd
Hare & Hounds, Kidderminster

The Quik Beats
The Three Tunns, Sutton Coldfield

The Maz Mitrenko Band Play The Music Of Rory Gallagher
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Charlton Blues Kings
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Hide Your Eyes
Reet Petite, Leominster

Patricia Routledge
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Take That Tribute
The Oast House, Redditch

Giant And The Georges
The Maverick, Amblecote

Cruel Mammoth, Temple, Last Agony
The Railway, Redditch

Ben Green
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

The Decades Band
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Answer Back - Unplugged
The Bridge Inn And Ferry, Offenham

Souled Out Blues Brothers
Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

Persuaders
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Gigabite
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Absolute Bowie
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Black Pears
Green Dragon, Malvern

Answerback
The Bridge Inn & Ferry, Evesham

Dna
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Jason Jones
Stourport Marina, Stourport-On-Severn

The Social Cancer, Martyrials
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Black Magic: The Little Mix Show
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Derellas, Ambition Demolition, Rebel Station
The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Mackerel Sky
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Leon Daye
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Dave Onions, Bruise
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Album Project Present - Pink Floyd's Dark Side Of The Moon
Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham

The Will Killeen Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Macca
The Bayshill Pub, Cheltenham

Vo Fletcher & Trevor Babajack
Rollin Hills, Upton Upon Severn

Mentallica, Motorkill
The Iron Road, Evesham

Gallowglass

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Bon Jovi Experience

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

White Coast Rebels

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

The After Dark Band

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Cloudbusting - 40 Years Of Kate Bush

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Rock For Heroes

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Behind The Music: Iggy Cuthbert, Poppy Ws, Chloe Mogg, Nuns Of The Tundra

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Sundown Jazz Society (1pm)

Left Bank Village, Hereford

Chalky

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Mister Wolf

The Swan, Evesham

Feeling It

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Moretallica (Metallica Tribute)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Rubble

The Plough, Hereford

Decibelles

The Swan, Hay On Wye

Teddy Matthews, Lost Tiger, Plastic Scene

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Sunday 03 June 2018

Dave Onions (4pm)

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Alice Moore (6pm)

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The FB Pocket Orchestra (12pm)

Berrington Hall, Leominster

Lemonade Jazz/Funk/Soul Session

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Daniel B James

Red Lion, Evesham

The Follicles

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

James And Ash

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

UB40 Karaoke

Ye Olde Crown, Stourport-On-Severn

Vo & Tyler

The Three Kings, Hanley Castle

Aldbourn Band (3pm)

The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Album Project - Pink Floyd's Dark Side Of The Moon

Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham

Pete Hyde

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Strays

The Iron Road, Evesham

The Mustard Band

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Will Lilleen (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

James Chatfield

The Earl, Worcester

Sonya Smith (1pm)

Left Bank Village, Hereford

Ewan Pollock

Bottles, Worcester

Jon Eselle

Albion House Club, Cheltenham

Live Performance Showcase (6pm)

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Tony Norbury, King Rich & Singalong Sandie (3pm)

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Delray Rockets (4pm)

Stourport Riverside, Stourport-On-Severn

Tuesday 05 June 2018

Behind The Music Round 3, Tyler Massey, James Chatfield

F. F. Ivanovski, Ewan Pollock

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Sounds From The Learning Disability Music Scene

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Meg Shaw

Rosmarios, Stourport-On-Severn

Tone Tanner:

Bar 57, Evesham

Wednesday 06 June 2018

Featuring Guest Don Mac

The Dragon Roots And Folk Club, Worcester

Larkham & Hall

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Mr Big (Band)

Forum Theatre, Malvern

Tyler Massey Trio

The Plough, Worcester

Marco Mendoza, Nitroville, Blind River

The Iron Road, Evesham

Luke Doherty And Simon Parrat

Café Rene, Gloucester

Senoritas That Rock Hosted By The Underground Revolution,

Jess Silk, Healthy Junkies, Flowerpot,

The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Wordump Presents: Speak Up. Joe Norris, Holly Daffurn, Katie

Harris, Beth Slinn And Charley Barnes. Spoken Word Raising

Funds For West Mercia Women's Aid.

Heroes, Worcester

Nobby Wright Acoustic

The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Thursday 07 June 2018

Lipstick On Your Collar

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Jazz Mosis

The Talbot, Belbroughton, Stourbridge

Gem Andrews

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Ben Holder Quartet

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Big Wolf Band, Fearless Scoundrels

The Iron Road, Evesham

Friday 08 June 2018

Robbie Williams Tribute

Hogarth's Stone Manor, Kidderminster

Karbydis + Kill For Trophies

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Battle Of The Band Final

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Strays

The Bluebell, Ryall, Worcester

Mover & Friends

Reet Petite, Leominster

Jay & Eli

The Bell, St. Johns, Worcester

Someone Like You

Forum Theatre, Malvern

Brian Jones

The Talbot, Knightwick, Worcester

The Strays

The Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Dan Greenaway

No.3a Coffee & Gin House, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions

Red Lion, Evesham

Witcher

Millers Arms, Pershore

Prone 2 Madness

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Giant And The Georges, Waler

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Adam Sweet

Elmslie House, Malvern

Anna Bale And Tom Southam

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Easy

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Mumbo-Jumbo

Clifton On Teme Village Hall, Martley

Quill

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Secret Cabaret

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Joe Elvis Tribute

Stourport Marina, Stourport-On-Severn

Folk In The Foyer: Slippery Slope

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Davey Dodds (Of Red Jasper) & Martin Solomon

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Golden Era | Kicking Off The Summer Of Love

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

The Beach Boyz

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Kent Duchaine

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Modified

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Barny's Live Music With Guest Artist Jim Reynolds

Littlevic Stroud, Stroud

Maddie Stimpson

The Chestnut, Worcester

Lewis Leighton

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

The Buzzin Hornets

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

The Rain Trees (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Paul O'neil

The Earl, Worcester

Drew & Marie (1:30pm)

Left Bank Village, Hereford

Aidan Byrne & Kringo Blue

Bottles, Worcester

Abi, King Rich & Big Wheel Up (Acoustic) (3pm)

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Two Blue Acoustic (2pm)

The Castle Inn, Kidderminster

Monday 11 June 2018

Decostruttori Postmodernisti

The Courtyard, Hereford

Tuesday 12 June 2018

Morning Has Broken - Ron Vincent - A Salute To Cat Stevens

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wednesday 13 June 2018

Mice in A Matchbox

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Dan Greenaway

Bolero Bar, Worcester

The Boxcar Boys

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Chris Webb

Café René, Gloucester

Tyler Massey Trio 8:30pm

The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Thursday 14 June 2018

Hot Feat

Mamma Jammies, Hereford

Andrew Riverstone

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

'Unplugged' An Acoustic Musical Gathering Of Original

Material And More Besides.

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Donna Taggart

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Organic Jam Night

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Three Blind Mice

The Plough, Stourbridge

Don Kipper

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Mikey Kenney

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Ultimate Bowie

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Uncover: Cosmo Sheldrake, Spilt Milk Society, Hunger

Moon, F.F. Ivanovski

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Blue Haze Quartet

St Mary's, Hay On Wye

Friday 15 June 2018

Lenny James & The Gator Squad

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Mr Strange, Broodmother

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Strays

Auntie Al's, Chepstow

Enmerkar, The Lost Path, Genesis Arc

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Roy Orbison Story

Forum Theatre, Malvern

Collin Baggs

The Talbot, Knightwick, Worcester

Two Buck Blues Boys

Red Lion, Evesham

D-Ran D-Ran

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Gunrunner

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Just Charlott

Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

Chloe Mogg

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Jon Townley

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Emily Maguire

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Quo Experience

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Arcadia Roots

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Mitzy

Stourport Marina, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Woody Mann

The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Gaz Brookfield, Joey Costello

The Marshall Rooms, Stroud

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Bluebell, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Joey Costello

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Worried Men

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Monkeyface

Two Rivers, Cheltenham

G & T Mix

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

In Memory Of Mike James - Warrior Soul, with guests Skam

The Iron Road, Evesham

Nobby Wright

The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Damon T + Mark Cole

The Tank, Gloucester

Future Kings

Café René, Gloucester

The Christians - Acoustic

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Delray Rockets

Wartime in The Vale, Ashdown Camp, Evesham

Luke Philbrick, Trevor Babajack Steger

Tall Ships, Gloucester

Manitoba Hal

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Terry

The Bell, St Johns, Worcester

Poppy Ws

The Earl, Worcester

Jimmy Moore

Left Bank Village, Hereford

Maz Mitrenko Band

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Two Push Charlie

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Saturday 16 June 2018

Wrong Jovi

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Rogues

Reet Petite, Leominster

Jibbafish

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Healthy Junkies, Flowepot, Jess Silk

The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Wannabe - The Spice Girls Show

Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Blurry (Blur Tribute)

The Station, Cannock

Ewan Pollock (6pm)

The Earl, Worcester

Victory Vixens

The Oast House, Redditch

Elizabeth Cornish, Freiburg Based Indie-Folk Artist Touring

Her New Album 'Where We Were Then.', With Support From

Lobelia

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Rockaway Record Fairs Record And Cd Fair, Open 10.00-

16.00, Admission £1:00, Buy, Sell And Exchange Records

And CD's, <http://Rockawayrecordfairs.tumblr.com/>

Imperial Hotel Station Road, Stroud

Kevin Murmur

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Answer Back - Unplugged

Malvern Motorcycle Club, Malvern

Mister Wolf

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Supernova

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Surf's Up

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Lewis Bolton Trio
Green Dragon, Malvern
The Power Room
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Vicky Elise
Stourport Marina, Stourport-On-Severn

Simon Goodall And The Bourne Again Shadows
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Ginger Wildheart, Third Time Lucky, Roped In
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Monkeyride
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

You Gotta Be Crazy
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Ginger Wildheart (4pm)
Badlands, Cheltenham

Dub Thieves
The Chestnut, Worcester

Ukelele Festival
Rollin Hills, Upton Upon Severn

Kinfest: Indigo Glitch, Whipjacks, Ajay Srivistav With Karmic Blue, Artiphunk in Support Of Kinship Carers Uk
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Trev & Vo
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ga Ga - A Tribute To Queen
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Bourbon Alley
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Cold Years, Swan Prince
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Bootleg Beggies
Sapey Golf And Country Club, Worcester

Midsummer Ceilidh With The Organ Grinders
Grimley & Sinton Green Peace Hall, Worcester

Johnny Gold
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Fired Up
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Bad Spaniel
The Plough, Hereford

Better Than We Look - Headliners!!
Hucclecote Show, King George V Playing Field, Hucclecote, Gloucester

Jon Eselle
Royal British Legion, Claines, Worcester

Population:7
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Witcher
Blackstar, Stourport-On-Severn

Sunday 17 June 2018

Electric Church With Olly Wharton
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Paul Chief O'Neill
Red Lion, Evesham

Kev (Mur Mur)
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rjo
Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Bromsgrove

UB40 Karaoke
Ye Olde Crown, Stourport-On-Severn

Cheltenham Bach Choir
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Cheltenham Community Choir
Town Hall, Cheltenham

The Lindsay Martin Group
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Hump De Bump Acoustic
The Chestnut, Worcester

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

Over The Hill
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

The Ferrets (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Immy And The Boatman
The Earl, Worcester

Steve Reggie Roberts
Bottles, Worcester

Niamh, King Rich & Paul Lennox
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Tuesday 19 June 2018

Swamp Critters, The Woo Town Hillbillies
Piesse Of The Piddle, Pershore

The Swamp Critters, Backed By The Woo Town Hillbillies
Piesse of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

58 SLAP JUNE

Wednesday 20 June 2018

Featuring Guest Colin Pitts
The Dragon Roots And Folk Club, Worcester

Jan Vaisey & Ian Harvey
Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Elevenes
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Berliner Philharmoniker
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

El Macho [Howling Mat]
Cafe René, Gloucester

Wordump Presents: Midweek Musings Spoken Word, Comedy And Storytime For Adults.

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Ruben Seabright Acoustic 8:30pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Thursday 21 June 2018

Blues Night With Mr H
Reet Petite, Leominster

Palace Drum Clinic
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Amoeba Teen, Grande Valise
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Jacqui Dankworth
Artrix, Bromsgrove

English Symphony Orchestra
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Dark Side Of The Moon
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

G-Runs N Roses (Cze) Bluegrass
The Iron Road, Evesham

Martin Simpson
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

No Poetry: Hate.System, As Flames Rise & More
The Garrison At The Grapes, Hereford

Chip Langley & The Kidgloves 8:30pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Friday 22 June 2018

Bluzebox
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Sean Jeffery
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Drum 'N' Bass With Katon, PHEME & Jakebob
Reet Petite, Leominster

Macca, Adam Cross
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Kagools
Ludlow Brewery, Ledbury

My Leonard Cohen
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

The Ferrets
The Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Kick The Clown Single Launch, Ember, The Dribble Effect, 3WOD
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Answer Back - Unplugged
The Secret Garden, Hereford

The Food Fighterz
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Born Jovi Solo Show
The Harbour Inn, Arley, Bewdley

The Transporters
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Cara Dillon
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Vo & Tyler
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Cat Davis Jazz & Soul Evening
No. 3A, Bromsgrove

Will James
Sixty Degrees, Bromsgrove

H20 - Nothing To Prove 10 Year Anniversary Tour
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Undercover Hippy, Mammafunk, Tridecka Jams, Jus'jay & Rich Dancing Into The Stars, A Rule Of Tum

The Left Bank Village, Hereford

Clik Clik Cabaret Takeover Featuring Swansea Laptop Orchestra, Capas, Ben Vickers, Scarlett O Sparkle and her River Nymphs (6pm)
Weogoran Pavillion As Part Of The Ring, South Quay, Worcester

Will Killeen
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

John Otway
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Ben Vickers
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Ton Of Dynamite
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Livewire AC/DC
Guildhall, Gloucester

Maraboooboo All Stars
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Swamp Stomp String Band
Café René, Gloucester

The Unravelling Wilburys
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

A Different Thread
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Early Music
Greyfriars, Worcester

Faith | The George Michael Legacy
The Courtyard, Hereford

Witcher
The Golden Cross, Hereford

The Delray Rockets
The Iron Road, Evesham

Leanne & King Rich
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Garth & Abe, The Jacaranda Early Music Consort, Harry Whale, Barry Walmsley
St Peters Community Church, Birchen Coppice, Kidderminster

Saturday 23 June 2018

My Legacy, Aand?
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Rust For Glory
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sons Of Navarone
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Thomas Cameron
Ludlow Methodist Church, Ledbury

Simon King Organ Trio
Ludlow Brewery, Leominster

Mercury The Ultimate Queen Tribute
Forum Theatre, Malvern

Giant And The Georges, Mick Brigdale, Chicken Fricassee Corporation
The Longlands Tavern, Stourbridge

The Score Band
The Oast House, Redditch

Kick Up The 80s
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Lind Lemon
Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley

Dom Pipkin - Jazz Pianist
Elmslie House, Malvern

Cracker's 88's
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Autumn
Button Oak Inn, Bewdley

Common People
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Riggerz
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Treorchy Male Choir
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Enzo
Green Dragon, Malvern

Peaky Blonder
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Patsy Cline And Friends
The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

The Hills Angels
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Black September And Spectrum 4
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Correspondents
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

The Ferrets
The Cricketers, Worcester

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds
The Bakery Inn, Malvern

Last Night Of The CSO Proms
Town Hall, Cheltenham

Dave Curtis
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

James Maddock
Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

Ray Mytton Band
The Chestnut, Worcester

Vo Fletcher
Rollin Hills, Upton Upon Severn

Oxrox: Tequila Mockingbyrd, Black Tree Vultures
The Iron Road, Evesham

Kringo Blue
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Jenny Darren & The Lady Killers
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Lourise Eaton & The Stealers
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

The Story Of Guitar Heroes
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Ashesfest VIII
The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

Toby
The Bedwardine, St Johns, Worcester

MelIt
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Viva La Coldplay
Hallow Village Hall, Worcester

String Fever
The Courtyard, Hereford

Vince Ballard
The Earl, Worcester

Bouzatina (1Pm)
Left Bank Village, Hereford

Mel & Him
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Meg Shaw
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Worried Men
The Plough, Hereford

Disorder, Krupskaya, Nothing Clean
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Sunday 24 June 2018

Bon Jovi Tribute (3pm)
Ye Olde Crown, Stourport-On-Severn

C-Jam (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Howard Sinclair, Open Mic Night, John Walker
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

FCS: Kidbrother & Coldbones
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Annette Gregory Presents 'Ladies Of Jazz'
Ludlow Brewery, Ledbury

Spitz
The Chestnut, Pershore

Mischka Schubaly
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Swamp Stomp String Band
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Meg Shaw
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Swamp Critters, Backed By The Woo Town Hillbillies
The Fold, Bransford

The Follicles
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Fairey Band
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

June Truckstop Honeymoon
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Martin Turner - Ex-Wishbone Ash
Tithe Barn, Cheltenham

Eric Porter & Martin Blake
The Chestnut, Worcester

Lucy Ward + Support
The Cube, Malvern

Thirsty Work
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Neil Ivison (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Dan James
The Earl, Worcester

Jake Abbott
Bottles, Worcester

Tone Tanner
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Emily Maguire At 7.30P.M.
Avoncroft Museum Of Buildings, Bromsgrove

Monday 25 June 2018

The Ladyboys Of Bangkok Wonder Women Tour 2018
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Johnny Cash Roadshow
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Tuesday 26 June 2018

Sam Carter

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

My Leonard Cohen

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Wednesday 27 June 2018

Daniel Martinez Flamenco Company

Ludlow Methodist Church, Ledbury

Friggitt

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Les Musicals

Forum Theatre, Malvern

Graham Smith'S Jazz Allsorts With John Maddocks, John Maddocks – Reeds, Tony Pipkin – Trumpet, Martin Veasey – Trombone, Jim Douglas – Banjo/Guitar, John Day – Double Bass, Graham Smith – Drums,

Pershore Jazz, Pershore Town Football Club (8.00pm)

The Singer/Songwriter Sofa Sessions

The Royal Oak, Alcester

Stickman

Café René, Gloucester

Thursday 28 June 2018

3 Bone Joint

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Daniel Martinez Flamenco Company - Flamenco And Tapas

Parkway Tasca Bar, Ledbury

Rupert Brakspear

The Plough, Worcester

Cheeky Ordinandos Presents..., Especially Jonny, The

Shambles, Thoughtcrime

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Dave Onions

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Masterworks Concert

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Peter Bruntnell

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Rodda'S Hairy Craic

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Dusty & The Shades Of The 60S

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Folk in The Foyer: Kitty Macfarlane

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

One Voice

The Courtyard, Hereford

Chris Hutchinson Piano/Vox 8:30Pm

The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

The Peas

The Tappeto Lounge, Kidderminster

Friday 29 June 2018

Judy Blue Band

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Terminal Rage, Nigel

Mamma Jaminas, Hereford

Kinasis

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Limehouse Lizzy (Thin Lizzy Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Many

Ludlow Brewery, Leominster

Ruth & Lol

The Talbot, Knightwick, Worcester

The Rubies

The Blue Bell, Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

Will Killeen

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Uk Guns N Roses

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Bryn

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Led Hendrix: Rock The Artrix

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Got The T-Shirt

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Elvis Tribute Karl Memphis

Stourport Marina, Stourport-On-Severn

The Swamp Critters, Backed By The Woo Town Hillbillies

The Earl, Worcester

Oh My Drag! Presents - Sun, Sex Appeal & Suspicious Tucking

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

An Evening With The Cody Sisters

Lansdown Hall & Gallery, Stroud

The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs

The Ale House, Stroud

60 SLAP JUNE

Open Mic Night With The Future Set

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Beaver & The Foghorns//Lower Loveday//The Plastic 45's

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Earl

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

Ray Mytton & Paul White

Rollin Hills, Upton Upon Severn

Birmingham Blues Brothers

The Iron Road, Evesham

Ian Luther

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Harry Shotta, Traumatik, Annix, Kmotionz

The Ambassador Club, Evesham

Ruben Seabright

The Old Pheasant, Worcester

The Machine Rages On

Café René, Gloucester

The Simon & Garfunkel Story

Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Animators

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Marcello

The Pheasant, Toddington

Saturday 30 June 2018

Vulcan Reign

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Will Killeen Band

Reet Petite, Leominster

Dronningen, Gag Reflex

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Hellbent Forever (Judas Priest), Soul Stripper (AC/DC)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Hello Again-The Story Of Neil Diamond

Malvern Theatre, Malvern

Ultimate Buble

Forum Theatre, Malvern

The Blackheart Orchestra

Holland House, Pershore

Polkadot Robot

The Express Inn, Malvern

Talon - The Acoustic Collection

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Rod Stewart Tribute

The Oast House, Redditch

Bryn Teeling

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

The One Love Band

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Planet Loco

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Skrood

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Leanne & King Rich

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Play It Again Sam

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Ferrets

Green Dragon, Malvern

The Full Monty

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

Amelia White, Demi Marriner, Pete & The Hicks, Dom. Watton

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Takeo Toyama, Rachael Dadd

The Goods Shed, Stroud

Dave Onions

Seven Stars, Kidderminster

Happy Accident

The Railway Inn, Studley

Hump De Bump

The Chestnut, Worcester

Dep Leppard, The Whitesnake Experience

The Iron Road, Evesham

Ray Mytton Band

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Switched

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Fourty Blue Toes

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Diamond - The Ultimate Tribute To Neil Diamond

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

2Tone Revue

Baker Street, Gloucester

Black Rose

The Cross Keys, Gloucester

Popfest | Worcester

Cricket Ground, Worcester

Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage

The Courtyard, Hereford

Ital Sounds

The Earl, Worcester

Pete Harrington

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Wolfren Riverstick

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Locked And Loaded

The Imperial, Here

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

1st- 17th **Voices and Visions** - a celebration of artwork by
Worcestershire's children and young people
The Cloisters Worcester Cathedral, Worcester

Until 3rd **A Mile in my Shoes**, *Cathedral Square, Worcester.*

Until 10th **Kidderminster Art Society Exhibition**
Bewdley Museum

Until 17 **Mike Crockett: A Painter's View of the World**
Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 29th **Miss Hilton Ink**, Kestrel Gallery, Sidbury, Worcester

Until 30th **Cultivate@Courtyard** Courtyard, Hereford

2nd/3rd **Festival! Pentabus Young Writers**
Courtyard Hereford

until 21st **The Endless Village, Eastside Projects**, Digbeth

7th Ballet **Cymru Presents: Cinderella** Courtyard, Hereford

8th **Honey** Courtyard, Hereford

9th **Movie Makers Dancefest Workshop**
Horizon Centre Midland Road, Worcester

9th-17th **Romeo & Juliet: take two.**
Artist Workhouse, Studley

10th **Pride and Prejudice**, outdoor performance
Eastnor Castle

10th **Heartbreak Productions** presents **Midnight Gang**,
Jubilee Gardens, Bewdley

11-16th **Affordable Art Sale**, Malvern School of Art

15-24th **Weogoran Pavilion**, South Quay Worcester
theringart.org.uk/events/

16th **Ice Age**, Worcester Museum and Art Gallery

16th/17th **Hopfest Bewdley** (See Page 21)
Hopleys Caravan Park, Nr Bewdley

16th until 15th July, **Familiar Tracks**, Bewdley museum

17th **A Midsummer Nights Dream (outdoor)**
Abberley Hall School, Worcestershire.

19th until 12 Aug **Lacrimarum: Control, Uncontrollable**
Artrix, Bromsgrove

19th **Twist: Baroque Theatre Company**, Artrix, Bromsgrove

19th **Civic Fabric conference**, Left Bank, Hereford

22nd **Clik Clik Cabaret takeover, Weogoran Pavilion**
South Quay Worcester

22nd **The Star Project, Journey To The Stars**
Artrix, Bromsgrove

22nd **Museum After Hours**, Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

22nd & 23rd, then 25th-28th **The Bookshop (PG)**
Courtyard Hereford

23rd **Diglis Island Visit, Rich Hall**, Diglis Island, Worcester

24 & 30th **DFA Dancefest workshop** Angel Centre, Worcester

30th **Ice Age workshop** The Hive, Worcester

30th **Droitwich Arts Festival opening**

30th until 27th July **Exhibition from members of DAN**,
Droitwich Library

30-27th **July International Mail Art exhibition**
Droitwich Library

30th **Film Orchestra**, Witley Court

**For Events email Kate
at arts@slapmag.co.uk**

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WORCESTER



for updates and announcements follow us

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Music Sessions/Open Mics

Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Every Monday - Folk Night

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

Every Monday night - Acoustic Night

The Rollin Hills Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

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

First Tues - Open Mic

Bar 57, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night

The Millers Arms, Pershore

First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band

The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

Every other 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 Cleeve

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Fox & Hounds, Breden

Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions

The Crown, Colwall

First and third Wednesday - The Dragon Folk Club

The Dragon in The Tything, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every Wed Music night - Andy Lindsay & Debbie Parry

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session

The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming

All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Last Wed - Under 18s open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

Every Thursday - Drumlove Adult Workshop 7.30pm

The Angel Centre, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James

The Chestnut, Worcester

1st Thurs - Folk Session

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

Every Thurs - open mic hosted by Andy Lindsay

The Bakery Inn Malvern Link,

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 Thur - Open Mic Night/Jam Night

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

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

3rd Thursday - TTs Musonic Night

The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance

Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Jam Session

Reet Petite, Leominster

3rd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See malvernstorytellers.co.uk

Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Every 4th Thursday - Session

New Inn, Malvern

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club (8.15pm)

Bishop Allenby Hall, St Stephen's Church, Worcester

Every Friday - Open mic 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session

The Camp, Grimley

2nd Fri - Open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sunday Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm

The Wharf, Stourport

Every other Sunday Open Mic with Tom Doggett 6pm-9pm

Thatched Tavern, Honeybourne

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

If any of these regular music nights are no longer running or you run one not on this list, please let us know editorial@slapmag.co.uk

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JUNE

Friday 1st - 8:30pm

Digital Criminals |
Mammoth Temple
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 2nd - 9:30pm

The Maz Mitrenko Band
Rory Gallagher tribute
FREE ENTRY

Sunday 3rd - 6:00pm

Alice Moore
FREE ENTRY

Friday 8th - 8:30pm

Karybdis |
Kill For Trophies
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 9th - 9:30pm

Red Tails
FREE ENTRY

Friday 15th - 8:30pm

Mr. Strange |
Broodmother
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 16th - 9:30pm

Wrong Jovi

<http://www.wegotickets.com/event/434031>

£8 ADVANCE | £10 ON DOOR

Saturday 23rd - 8:30pm

My Legacy |
aAnd?
FREE ENTRY

Friday 29th - 8:30pm

Kinasis
FREE ENTRY

Saturday 30th - 9:30pm

Vulcan Reign
FREE ENTRY

LIVE DJ
EVERY FRI/SAT NIGHT
UNTIL 3AM!

OPEN MIC
SECOND & LAST TUES
OF EVERY MONTH!

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THE MARRS BAR

JUN JULY 2018



Thursday 14th June
Cosmo Sheldrake

Friday June 1

Fury, 13 Black, Aramantus
£7 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday June 2

Moretallica (Metallica tribute)
£7 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday June 3

Lemonade Jazz/Funk/Soul session
£4 on the door

Friday June 8

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

Saturday June 9

Under A Banner
£6 early bird tickets £10 on the door

Thursday June 14

UnCover: Cosmo Sheldrake, Split Milk Society, Hunger Moon, F.F. Ivanovski
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday June 15

Enmerkar, The Lost Path, Genesis Arc
£4 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday June 16

Kinfest: Indigo Glitch, Whipjacks, Ajay Srivistav with Karmic Blue, Artiphunk in support of Kinship Carers UK
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday June 23

Rust For Glory
£7 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday June 24

FCS: KidBrother & Coldbones
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday June 29

Limehouse Lizzy (Thin Lizzy tribute)
£14 in advance £17 on the door

Saturday June 30

Hellbent Forever (Judas Priest tribute)
Soul Stripper (AC/DC tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday July 1

Lemonade Jazz/Funk/Soul session
£4 on the door

Friday July 6

Catfish
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday July 7

Surprise Attacks & UnCover - 1in60: Soeur, HVMM, Nuns Of The Tundra, Skewwhiff, Institutes, Junior Weeb
£7 in advance £9 on the door

Tuesday July 10

FCS: Doyle
£15 in advance

Friday July 13

UnCover: Alfie Jack, The Novus
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday July 28

Wizards Of Oz (Ozzy Osbourne tribute), Obsession (UFO tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday July 29

I See Hawks

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

Late Fridays & Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

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