









WORCESTER'S NEW INDEPENDENT ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Traditional Italian food, cooked the Italian way!

We create all dishes in our kitchen, using only the finest quality fresh ingredients.







SUGO at Friar St 19-21 Friar Street, Worcester WRL 2NA 01905 612211 Friarstreet@sugoitalian.co.uk

SUGO at The Lamb & Flag 30 The Tything Worcester WRl lJL 01905 729415 Thetything@sugoitalian.co.uk



SLAP MAGAZINE

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

EDITORIAL Mark Hogan - Editor Kate Cox - Arts Editor Sub Editors - Jasmin Griffin & Michael Bramhall

> CONTRIBUTORS Andy O'Hare Will Munn **Geoffrey Head** Graham Munn Chloe Mogg Suz Winspear Katherine Harris Nicholas Burford Paul White Kate Ford Dan Knight **Christian Burton** Stephan Work Imogen Bebb Adam Montgommery Rupert Brskspear **Eleanor Miles** Alex Redmond

DESIGN Mark Hogan WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Ant Robbins, Katherine Harris Published by The Whole Hog Printed by Vernon Print



@slapmaguk

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

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

DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that adverts and articles appear correctly, Slap Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by the contents of this publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor. Where does the time go? It's May already, my favourite month, and it's the time of year we get to find out who will be headlining all the big festivals we have to look forward to. This year's top announcement has to be from Nozstock with Sleaford Mods and I for one can't wait.

We continue with our festival preview features this month, with a look forward to Wychwood and Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul festivals as well as the brand new Stroud Steampunk festival. There are festivals happening locally throughout May - take a look at page 54 for a full list in our region, with something for everyone

Our cover features the Malvern-based charity 'Rock Around the Hills' who have created an interactive exhibition celebrating the story of rock, punk and progressive rock at the Winter Gardens from 1961 to 1990. The exhibition features images of over 400 posters, tickets, flyers and fanzines as well as recorded memories from audience members, musicians and promoters who were all part of the Malvern Winter Gardens story. From a time when it rocked to the sounds of bands such as The Jam, The Kinks, The Who, Pink Floyd, Motorhead, Hawkwind and many many more.

We also, as usual, bring you an assortment of local artists' new releases which, as always, will be on the SLAP Spotify, so please give them a listen and follow our playlist.

Follow-Ed



Our cover image is from Malvern-based charity Rock Around the Hills; an exhibition celebrating popular music at Malvern Winter Gardens, 1961-1990. See page 24 and visit:

malvernrockarchive.org.uk & Facebook: Rock Around The Hills

Spotify Search Slap Magazine

NEWS You Tunes...

New figures from record label association BPI show that revenue from streaming music subscriptions has soared by 220% in three years to £516.4m and now makes up about 70% of all music industry revenue. But despite an estimated 30 billion plays music videos only generated £29.7m of this figure - it's still not clear in either case how much dosh finally gets back to the artists who actually create the content...

...However

Better music and money news after MEPs voted in favour of copyright changes that were opposed by Youtube - who pay a tiny fraction of streaming royalties compared to others like Spotify. The Copyright Directive was supported by musos such as Paul McCartney and Debbie Harry and is likely to be transferred into UK law with or without the B-event happening...

Broken Link Common Fault

Mappfest was due to had have celebrated its 10th anniversary this summer but founder Andy Mapp says that the festival had to be postponed due to concerns about safety, security and the current lack of a festival chairman. He also said that uncertainty about the weather was also a factor - with the current site on Link Common unusable in the event of bad weather. The festival committee will be looking at an alternative site for 2020 to 'bring amazing music to the community while raising money for deserving charities' - best of luck guys!

Stacks at Hay

Latest news from the Hay Festival which runs from 23 May to 2 June includes music from The Waterboys, Gipsy Kings and the Benjamin Zephaniah band with late-night comedy from Sandi Toksvig, Bill Bailey, Sarah Pascoe, Nish Kumar and others. In line with their mission that 'Hay is a space to think, and think again' the festival is also launching Europe 28 bringing together prominent women and their visions for Europe's future - hopefully not a lost cause - hayfestival.org

Folk turns 30

More acts have been announced for the 30th Upton Folk Festival including Cosmotheka, John Kirkpatrick and The Melrose Quartet - plus there'll also be a host of fringe events including ceilidhs, competitions, spoken word, a play - and a talk about the Archers! The event runs from Friday 3 to Monday 6 May - more at uptonfolk.org

More Stacks at Hay

Also at Hay from 24 to 27 May is the enigmatic II Soul, Rudimental and The Skatalites between 1 HowTheLightGetsIn philosophy and music event which has will be Sleaford Mods, Ed Solo, Ganda Boys, Ghet announced its comedy lineup including Phil Wang, Lou Sanders, Naked Giants, plus comedy from the likes of Re Ahir Shah and BBC Comedy Award winner Heidi Regan - full listing and Phil Kay. Looks like being another good one. at howthelightgetsin.org

Idea Floated for new venue

A local music lover has plans to open the 'largest dedicated music venue in Worcester' under the Stourbridge-based River Rooms brand at the closed YSS youth centre off City Walls Road Worcester. Jessica Sampson plans to raise £60,000 via crowdfunding to get the project off the ground - which features comedy and student nights during the week - and 'tribute acts on Fridays and Saturdays for the older generation' - hmmm...

Got the Blues

The always successful Upton Blues Festival has announced its latest recipients of donations towards music education and related community programs totalling £25,000 for 2019. Beneficiaries include local schools, workshops and equipment - plus CCTV for Upton's play areas. Over the last five years Upton Blues has given away over £100,000 to local causes and organisations - if we wore a hat we'd raise it to them!

Troll in the Past

A new book by journalist Richard Westwood-Brookes has opened up new insights into Edward Elgar and it turns out that like the much-missed George Cowley he also was a prolific letterwriter to his local papers. In 'Elgar And The Press' Richard reveals that he was a blatant self-plugger on many occasions - often reviewing his own works. He also courted controversy while in the USA by telling an American journalist that he would prefer Yankee Doodle Dandy as the US national anthem - and not surprisingly also said that the UK national anthem was 'stolen from the Germans' and thought that Land Of Hope And Glory would be far superior - wonder why?

Chevy Chased

Saffron Davies, long-term bass player with SLAP and Worcester Music Festival favourites, Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, has suddenly left the band. She was due to resume playing duties shortly following a period of a maternity leave. She made it clear in her departure announcement that it had not been her decision. No statement has been issued by the band.

Goes without saying that anyone looking for an excellent bass player with great backing vocals should contact Saff as soon as possible, or contact us here at SLAP and we'll put you in touch.

New Stock for Noz

The next wave of artists performing at this year's ever popular Nozstock Festival have been announced. Joining the likes of Soul II Soul, Rudimental and The Skatalites between 18th and 21st July will be Sleaford Mods, Ed Solo, Ganda Boys, Ghettofunk Allstars & Naked Giants, plus comedy from the likes of Reginald D Hunter and Phil Kay. Looks like being another good one.

The Original ANNIE'S Burger Shack

Tues 2nd May 2019 Punk Mayhem GEOFFREY OICOTT TERMINAL RAGE THE EARNEST SPEARS Exect Circle Editered Safe Thank that will be performed.

Mon 6th May 2019 from 2pm Uncover's Bank Holiday All Dayer

Uncover's Bank Holiday All Day APRE UPSAHL LOWER LOVEDAY LYCIO HANNAH LAW LORDLESS ELISHA GREEN AND MORE...

Weds 15th May 2019 HITCHHIKER RUBEN SEABRIGHT TAMMY DOWN Htchhiker are an alt/inde rock band from Worcester Fri 17th May 2019 IN EVOLUTION RUBEN SEABRIGHT TAMMY DOWN

In Evolution, recently described as the soric equivalent of Lemmy Jaining 22 Top (4, so much more).

Fri 24th May 2019 JOE GEORGE TYLER MASSEY TRIO

An exempt of American Folk, Joe George is a song writer and composer from Chicago. His songs of ten deal with milection, sensitivity, and empathy.

Fri 31st May 2019 DEAD DADS CLUB GLITCH WORD OF MOUTH

Mahvern's Dead Dads Club bringing back the passion and catchy Hiffs of rock n-roll from yesteryear. Big attitudes with bigger songs.

GIG ROOM NOW OPEN!

Live Music at Annie's Burger Shack Worcester The Courtyard St Nicholas St, WR1 1UW anniesburgershack.com Show your gig ticket at the bar to claim our 20% pre-gig food discount



ART NEWS by

by Kate Cox

This month **Clik Clik** will be at the fabulous **Worcester Gin Festival** at the **Guildhall** on 4th and 5th, with mardi gras characters to entice you, pop up entertainment from **Play it again Dan** and **Masha Gauden**, glitter face painting from **Kushty Locks** and a roaming photo-booth.

Then look out for the **Pershore Youth Centre** float as part of the

Pershore Carnival on Monday 27th and give a big cheer for the amazing young people who helped create it!

Nature of the Malverns



A new exhibition starts this month at **Elmslie House** in Malvern. **Of The Earth** is a project which presents the hills not just as a walk, or as a sequence of views in part, but as a unified sculptural form. It's a collaboration between **Catherine Martin**, Wendy James, Charlotte Hern and Tanya Martin.

Catherine Martin is a sculptor who lives and works amongst the Hills. The physical reality of the landscape around her is reflected in the tactile work she produces in both stone and paper. Her current work uses and enhances the quality, presence and integrity of the materials she works with.

Wendy James is an architect who has recently come to live in Malvern. Wendy runs her own international practice, **Garbers &** James (GJ), based in London. Her work at GJ often reflects and incorporates organic forms, where landscape clearly informs the structures and places she creates. A fascination with geology and native flora and fauna has drawn Wendy to the hills, developing her understanding of them through form.

Charlotte Hern is a sculptor producing portraits and figurative pieces. She strives to capture a sense of the subject's personality and feelings in the pieces she creates and for this show she explores metamorphosis within myths, legends and religion.

Tanya Martin has been making pots for nearly 10 years. Trained as an architect, she uses the architectural principles of rationality and control as inspiration to make her pieces functional elements of the environment they inhabit. She is inspired by building materials: concrete, brick, wood and steel and uses their aesthetic properties within her ceramics

Of The Earth runs from 27th May - 2nd June with opening afternoon on 26th May 2.30 - 4.30.

More info available at www.elmsliehouse.co.uk

Arts at the Courtyard

A round up of just a few of the arts events happening at the Courtyard Hereford this month. Check out the website for all full programme.

Cultivate @ Courtyard

The Courtyard is launching a brand new visual arts project called Cultivate@Courtyard; an opportunity for emerging artists aged 16 – 25 with a link to Herefordshire to showcase their work and receive mentorship from a professional artist. The project invites artists to submit a technically accomplished and resolved piece of artwork or craft, along with supporting evidence in the form of a sketchbook or drawings. 4th May – 30th June

A Thousand Faces.

A bold dance-theatre using imagery of Bollywood beauty and Hollywood glamour to explore violence against women, in particular, acid attacks. **Amina Khayyam** has developed new approaches in this new work by bringing influences of European experimental forms of physical theatre and mime movement to give the piece a wholly unique and innovative treatment, highlighting the contemporary condition. 14th May



Creation Stories

Creation is an intimate show performed by actors with learning disabilities. Using small scale puppetry, the audience is drawn into a collection of stories and will see the world created. The aim is to celebrate the planet and its diversity through the creation stories which are at the heart of many cultures' history and belief. The show is intended as an intimate piece, designed for very small audiences – 10 or 12 people – who interact directly with the actors/puppets. However, there is also the opportunity for a larger audience to watch this interaction whilst not being directly involved, creating two layers of participation, from those involved as the intimate audience and those observing this interaction. 23rd May

For more info and full programme of events for May, go to: www.courtyard.org.uk

Stroud Valley Arts Festival

Site Festival is a visually inspiring festival of artist-led exhibitions, films and performances, combined with a diverse series of talks from artists and writers.

At the heart of the festival will be the long-established Open Studios, when over 80 artists will open their studio doors across the Stroud Valleys over two weekends next month. This will be the 24th annual Open Studios event - this year will be even more enticing and exciting to hundreds of new and regular visitors. Various locations, Stroud. 3rd-19th May.

www.sitefestival.org.uk



Dancefest's Summer of Love

Dancefest will be spreading their love of dance this summer, with weekly classes, half term workshops, a summer school, pop up performances and free taster classes.

Their summer term has just started and there's still time to join their weekly dance classes for all ages.



Ssssshhhhh! Don't tell anyone - but over half term they have The Secret Dance Workshop for 6-11 year olds - on Tuesday 28 May in Worcester and Thursday 30 May in Tenbury. They'll be creating dance to pop up and surprise people at the Dancefest Picnic in July.

Their four community performance companies have a busy summer ahead. Look out for their youth dance companies, Elevate and Accelerate, popping up with outdoor performances, their Chance to Dance Company at The Worcester Show on Sunday 11 August, and Jigsaw Performance Company's film screenings this summer.

During Creativity and Wellbeing Week on 10-16 June, Dancefest will be opening up some of their classes as part of this national event - so you can go along for free, chat to dancers and have a go! And bookings have just opened for Spreading the Love, their summer school for all ages from 29 July to 2 August.

Find out more at dancefest.co.uk or on 01905 611199.

Exhibitions at Pershore Number 8

Two exhibitions are on offer this month in Pershore, beginning with Simon Brown - 'Tranquillity: Peaceful Landscapes'. This exhibition which runs from 9th May - 5th June features some of Simon's favourite photographs from the past decade. He captures landscapes which have an air of serenity - the light or mist, colour, sometimes vivid, sometimes muted - but always a stillness that can calm the senses

From 16th May - 5th June, come and see the Volunteers' Showcase; an opportunity for the hard working volunteers at the venue to show how talented they are in other areas. This exhibition includes a wide variety of hand made craft items and with plenty of original gifts ideas, come and celebrate this creative group of volunteers.

www.number8.org



HERITAGE



We are seeking hidden histories, come and make gloves with us call us on 07716 335 435 & visit www.equalvisioncic.co.uk/hiddenhistories

For Arts **Submissions** lews & arts@slapmag.co.uk

Suz Winspear



This year seems to be speeding up and the Worcestershire spoken word community is gearing up for the **2019 LitFest** in June. It's time to reveal something new for this year's festival – we are going to have a LitFest daytime hub! In partnership with **Participate in Art** and **The Old Pheasant** in New Street, there will be a LitFest ticket-sales and information point, with details of all sorts of Worcestershire spoken word events, a gallery showing an exhibition of art by exciting new illustrators, and every afternoon, from Tuesday 11th – Friday 14th June, there will be free spoken word performances by a wide range of spoken word artists – from poetry to performance-art, and a special appearance by a Russian grandmother with mystical talents! You can drop in on your lunch-break, or take some time out from shopping, look at art and experience a live performance.

There will also be a bookshop, showcasing the diverse works of Worcestershire writers – so if you've enjoyed the poetry and stories you've heard in the festival, you'll be able to take a little bit of the magic home with you! This space will then become a performance-area for many of our evening events, so that much of the festival will be based at The Old Pheasant. This will be unlike anything ever seen in Worcester before ... I hope a lot of you will come in, say hello, and see something of our lively spoken word scene.

You'll be hearing a lot more about **LitFest** over the next few weeks; the brochures will soon be out, showing the whole range of events that are on their way in June, so that you can plan what you want to see in advance. And don't miss the events at the hub!



That, of course, is on its way for June – meanwhile in May there are spoken word events to look forward to – here are some dates for your diary . . .

Thursday 2nd May – Book Launch – Margaret Adkins and Michael Wheatley at the Hive Margaret Adkins, winner of the V.Press Prize for Poetry, is launching her new poetry pamphlet: Mingled Space. Michael Wheatley, winner of the Black Pear Press Prize for Fiction, is launching his novella: The Writer's Block. Free entry, 7pm.

Tuesday 7th May – The Long and the Short of It – official launch This is the beginning of a new event in Worcester, with a different sort of format. Most spoken word events have slot spaces of about five or six minutes. The Long and the Short of It allows longer form work to be performed – whether it's a short story or an extended poetry set. This is an intriguing new venture that I hope will become a regular part of the Worcestershire spoke word scene! Caffe Bolero, St Nicholas Street. 6pm for a 6.30 start.

Thursday 9th May – SpeakEasy at Waylands Yard Eclectic poetry from a wide range of local poets. Our featured performer will be Josie Alford. She comes from Bristol, where she hosts spoken word events, and she has been a winner of the Hammer and Tongs poetry slam. I've never heard her work before, this is her first time in Worcester, so I'm really looking forward to this! Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're popular, so get there early. Oh yes, and there will be our legendary raffle (involves a goth poet and an orange bucket . . .) £3 admission, 7.30pm

Thursday 23rd May – Dear Listener at Boston Tea Party, Angel Place. This is an early-evening event of eclectic poetry and spoken word, from both new and established voices. This month's headliner – all the way from Gloucester, it's the legendary Squiffy Gnu, Chris Hemingway! (The coffee and cake is good as well!) £3 admission. 6.30 – 8.30pm.

Wednesday 29th May - 42 at Drummonds Bar, behind the Swan with Two Nicks Life, the Universe and Everything – prose and poetry – Worcester's only alternative genre spoken word night - horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name. You never know what you'll hear at 42 . . . 'Who waits at the window where the chandelier is lit?' is the prompt for poems or prose this month – write a piece that you can deliver in 5-7 mins and come along to read it if you're lucky enough to get a performance spot. To ask for a spot email: performers@42worcester.com . . . I suggested this theme, and I shall be hosting the event! Free entry. 7.30pm.

Suz Winspear





Worcester Arts Workshop brings the very best in creative experiences and live entertainment to the city centre venue this May.

Acoustic trio Mumbo-Jumbo perform on 3rd and audiences are invited to 'pay what they think it's worth' for this special performance. Static DnB Bunker Sessions comes to The Vault on 4th with a lineup of best local talent to bring you the biggest dubs in Jump Up and Rollers.

There's a **Tai Chi** for beginners taster session on 8th, followed by WAW's regular **Spoken Word** event in the Cafe Bar on 9th.

Top music talent visiting WAW this month include **State Of Flux** on 17th, Alt Rock band **House Of Wolvxs** on 24th and music trio **fAITH** on 25th. **Tim Bowness**, with support from Hey Jester comes to The Theatre on 27th and The Maefield return on 29th.

Theatre highlights include Outspoken Theatre Company's new production Dead End from 14th-16th and Our Star Theatre

Company's production of The 39 Steps on the 31st.

There's a whole host of visual arts workshops for adults and children and Worcestershire's **Before I Die** group return on 15th with an enjoyable and informative talk about managing your digital legacy.



Visual arts this month showcases Jamie Brown, a young man

with a learning disability, which has in no way held back his amazing talent as an artist. From the time he was a small child, Jamie has always been very talented. He works mostly in paint and pen and loves colour and nature. His images range from the realistic to the abstract and everything in between. Jamie Brown was selected as one of seven winners of the **RespectAbility Amazing Person Awards**.



The **RespectAbility Project** celebrates the amazing achievements of people with learning disabilities from Worcestershire.

A Private View of the exhibition will be held on 7th May, 6pm – 8pm, in The Cafe/Bar at Worcester Arts Workshop. During the evening a permanent, commemorative RespectAbility wall plaque will be unveiled by the **Mayor of Worcester**, to honour **Jamie Brown's** achievements.

The project has been funded by **The National Lottery** through the Big Lottery Fund.

The Worcester Arts Workshop has also secured a **National Lottery Awards For All** grant to fund a well-being project, beginning this month.

The grant, totalling £9,858, will enable the venue to create a participatory programme of visual arts, music and dance entitled **Open Space**, **Open Minds**. The aim of this scheme is to improve the well-being of people who have been affected by or are living with mental health issues in Worcester by providing workshops covering three areas of the arts - visual arts, music and dance.

Experienced arts therapist **Claire Hilton** will be running a **Wellbeing Open Studio** helping participants to use art practice to reduce stress and improve concentration, along with developing skills.

Claire said; "I'm really excited to begin supporting our Open Studio participants with their creative practice. My hope is that by attending regular workshops, the people involved will not only feel the benefit of taking some time out for self-care and relaxation, but they may also develop their artistic practice to be able to hold exhibitions and sell their work."



There will be music workshops from WAW regular tutor, **Kay Mullet**, who has a background in social care. Kay will be running DJ/VJ, 10 weekly workshops for participants to learn more about DJ-ing and VJ-ing and an opportunity to showcase their skills. Also resident dance company **Translucent Dance** will create a piece of work for young people, exploring the devastating effect of mental health issues and the network of support available. This work will then tour to local schools.

Director of Transformation at Worcester Arts Workshop, **Hannah Philips** explained more about the project and its benefits; "One of our aims at WAW is to give everyone who interacts with us an opportunity to be imaginative and expressive within a safe and supportive environment.

Depression and anxiety is on the rise and creative endeavour is proven to have a positive impact on mental health. It's imperative that as a centre for arts in the centre of Worcester we are providing opportunities for everyone to improve their well-being. The wonderful variety of workshops available, thanks to funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, will enable us to deliver that with Open Space, Open Minds."

For further information, visit worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk.



Feature Half Term family fun at the Courtyard

The Courtyard in Hereford is the place to be this spring half term with a great selection of family shows and films all week long.

Film lovers can enjoy some great new releases including the much anticipated remake of Disney classic **Dumbo** (PG) from 24th May – 1st June. There will also be a relaxed screening on 28th at 5pm. Relaxed screenings are for everyone, but may particularly benefit those with autism spectrum conditions, learning difficulties or sensory and communication difficulties. Small adjustments are made for relaxed screenings such as informal seating, lighting is left on low throughout the film and a 'chill out area' provided for anyone who may need to take a break during the film.

Next up, audiences can enjoy Laika stop-motion animation studio's new release **Missing Link** (PG) (28th May – 1st June). This new adventure sees Mr. Link recruiting explorer Sir Lionel Frost to help find his long-lost relatives in the fabled valley of Shangri-La. Along with adventurer Adelina Fortnight, this trio of explorers travel the world to help their new friend. Families can take part in a free, pre-activity to make paper chain monkeys on 1st June from 10.30am as part of The Courtyard's Family Saturdays programme.

For those wanting something a little more interactive, The Courtyard's Education team are delivering an inclusive **Fairytale Workshop** on 29th May from 10am. The full or half day workshops are completely inclusive (suggested ages 8-15) and will be packed full of drama, dance and arts and craft activities. All practitioners



and staff are experienced in working with young people who may have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Finally, for younger audiences **People's Theatre Company** will be performing their interpretation of the Pam Adam's classic **There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly** (30th May, 12pm). From the creators of Don't Dribble On The Dragon, this magical show has been written especially for grown-ups to enjoy with their children to come and relive the delights of this most charming of tales complete with sing along songs, colourful animal characters and heart-warming family fun.

For more information or to book, contact the Box Office on 01432 340555 or visit www.courtyard.org.uk



via our Festival website (www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org) with payment by Paypal, or through the Almonry Museum & Tourist Information Centre (tel: 01386 446944). We have already had some sell-out events. We will include information on the website to indicate numbers of tickets remaining where these are low. The secret is book early to avoid disappointment!

10 SLAP MAY

And if you've already got your tickets, please spread the word.



JMW Turner comes to Worcester

A new exhibition at **Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum**, presents some of **JMW Turner's** first commissions and contemporaneously celebrated work.

The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective, a touring exhibition from the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford focuses on Turner's drawings, paintings and engravings of Oxford and the Midlands, from the 1780s to the 1810s. They exemplify his interest in Gothic architecture, his increasing expertise in depicting it and his growing knowledge of perspective. The styles and subject matters are also indicative of some of the people and artworks that initially inspired him.



On show will be Turner's first sketchbook and some of his diagrams for the lectures in perspective he gave at the Royal Academy, which have rarely been exhibited. Turner's oil painting A View of the High Street, Oxford, 1809-10, is the centrepiece of the exhibition. It is a major new acquisition at the Ashmolean Museum and a unique pinnacle of the artist's early output. The museum acquired this work with generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Art Fund, the Ashmolean's Friends and Patrons, and members of the public. This tour, which celebrates and provides context to the acquisition for a wide audience, has also been made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The works on display are drawn primarily from collections in the A**shmolean Museum**, and are complemented by loans from the Tate and several private collections.

The Young Turner: *Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective* is free and runs from 4th May until 6 July 2019. Open or museumsworcestershire.org.uk follow: @worcestermuseum

Evesham Festival of Words

Thursday 9th May, 6.30 for 7pm, 'Behind the Scenes - *A Humorous View of the Auction World*', **Ellenden Farm Shop/Cafe**. A delicious 2 course meal at Ellenden Farm Shop/Cafe, followed by what is sure to be a fascinating talk by Warwickshire based Auctioneer, Steven Bruce. Tickets £18, but be warned this event is almost sold out. Just 3 tickets remaining.

Friday 24th May, 7pm, 'Outside the Box' (A live show about death), Friends Meeting House. This is one of those must see events - a unique one woman show about death, written, directed and performed by Liz Rothschild. Totally unique and original, Outside the Box asks its audience to embrace mortality and look on the bright side of life. This one hour performance will be followed by an interval and then an optional half hour discussion

We Are What We Overcome Artrix, Bromsgrove | May 4th

Ahead of Mental Health Awareness Week (13-19 May 2019), on Saturday 4th May Artrix welcomes We Are What We Overcome, a show written and performed by Matt McGuinness.

Following a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe and sold out preview shows, We Are What We Overcome brings audiences an evening of uplifting. anthemic tunes punctuating stories and conversation, shedding light on mental health with selfdeprecating honesty and dark humour.

Matt takes a good look at how men in particular deal with Mental illness as he explores his own experiences with it, with plenty of time to continue t



with plenty of time to continue the chat afterwards

Matt McGuinness said; "Sometimes you've got to find your own way of dealing with Mental Health problems and if the Arts and conversation is one way, why not on a stage in front of a room full of strangers."



We Are What We Overcome is proud to be supported by Mind, The Samaritans and the Mental Health Foundation. The performance is 55 minutes long, with time to continue the chat afterwards. Tickets £8. Recommended for ages 12+.

For further information or to book tickets visit www.artrix.co.uk or call Box Office on 01527 577 330.

session about some of the issues raised. This is always a very powerful part of the evening. Tickets £10 to include soft drinks and nibbles. This event is in support of St Richard's Hospice.

From 1st June for a whole month. 'It's all there in black and white', **Regal Cinema, Circle Bar.** An exhibition of black and white photographs showcasing a world of black and white cinematography by members of Birlingham Photography Club. Come along, treat yourself to a pre-film drink, enjoy the exhibition and cast a vote for your favourite photo.

Wednesday 5th June, 7.30 pm, 'An Evening with Simon Brett', Ecgwin's Club, Evesham. Simon Brett has written over 100 books. His writing also includes comedy in radio and television series. Simon is a wonderfully entertaining speaker, so come along and hear more about his career in radio, television, and the world of books.

Review Press Club, I, The Lion Midnight in England, Feed Me Milk The Frog and Fiddle, Cheltenham | 16 April

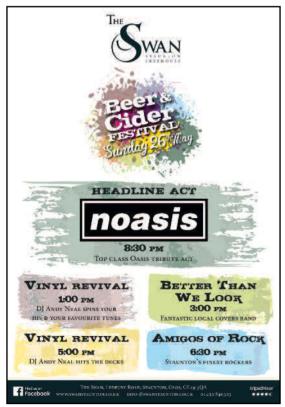
The memory of some gigs stays with you for a while after. Some, like this one, the memory stays forever.

Press Club, from Melbourne are undertaking their very first tour of the UK and Europe, and they've chosen to start at the **The Frog and Fiddle** in Cheltenham - a venue not only notable for the quality and international diversity of its headliners, but also for its support of emerging bands, especially local ones.

Now as my regular readers - yes, I do have some - will know, I'm not a fan of four band bills, as I'd rather pay to see musicians perform than lug equipment on and off stage. But tonight, every single one of the support bands delights a packed- from-the-off audience in their own individual ways. The exuberant, youthful genre-hopping of **Feed Me Milk**, the thoughtful, melodic shoegaze of Midnight in England and the riff-drenched power of **I**, **The Lion** limbers us up very nicely for the main event.

Coming into your first gig almost immediately after a trip half way across the World may not seem ideal preparation but this band is clearly more than ready to rock. Their debut album, *"Late Teens"* is fresh out, there's a superb video for the track 'Suburbia' on The Tube and you can tell from the smooth speed of the set up that the goods are going to be laid before us at a gallop.

The power hits in a continuous wave and doesn't let up for the full forty minutes of the set. It's not especially loud, given that they play punk and post-punk, it's just relentlessly forceful, whether they're going flat out - '*Headwreck*' especially, or going for the





slow burn - 'Suburbia' is as wonderfully subtle as it is powerful and therein I think lies the secret.

Guitarist **Greg Rietwyk** is playing an instrument so beautiful you feel like proposing marriage to it, but it's a hollow body Rickenbacker, who ever heard of punk being played on a Rick? But when he cranks it up, the glorious tone and his control of sustain and feedback adds rich layers to the basic punk rawness. The intensity of the beat is sustained perfectly by **Jain Macrae** on bass and **Frank Lees** on drums, as tight a unit as I've heard all year.

And then there's this voice, this presence... **Natalie Foster** launches herself onstage and rather like the footballing cliché then proceeds to cover almost every inch of it during the course of the set. Her voice couldn't just etch designs in granite, her enunciation is crystal clear even when she's at full throttle. She takes frequent excursions off stage, leans at an alarming angle over the crash barrier, walks along it as if she's on a tightrope after climbing the PA and then takes a little breather flat on her back before picking up where she left off.

I'm expecting a vigorous mosh pit to start, but it never happens - I'm guessing that pretty much everyone is in the same stunned state as I am, it's certainly not for lack of enthusiasm, demonstrated by the wild applause at the end of each track.

As a reviewer, I'm supposed to pick out highlights of the set, but what do you do when the whole damned set is a highlight? If you pressed me, I'd have to say my personal pick of the night is the album's title track, a wistful look back at the end of a relationship, with its repeated and plaintive closing refrain of *"I do my best to let go..."*

This in a nutshell is why you should see live, independent, local music – when this band is playing arenas, as will surely happen and you can't get a ticket for love nor money, you can recall the night they came to and captured your local venue and you'll be able to say *"I was there..."*

Press Club - of its type, one of the finest bands I've ever seen. Geoffrey Head



A look inside Elmslie House

Coming up at the wonderful **Elmslie House** on May 17th, we see the return of **Ian Sherwood** to Malvern. Guitar, saxophone,

huge songwriting and a voice that won him a 2013 Canadian Folk Music Award for Contemporary Singer, Ian Sherwood Brings The Light to every stage he stands on. A born story teller and a constant creator, his music dances the line between folk and pop. His live performances thrive on intimacy. Whether it's a theatre show or large



festival stage, his persona is irresistible and completely destroys fourth walls.

The Harcourt Players are Simon Othen and Luke Wurmli, and



together they write musical scores for classic silent movies from the early 1900s. For their return to Elmslie on May 19th, they are bringing with them Laurel & Hardy in *Sailors Beware*, which will be sandwiched in-between two Buster Keaton romps. With the audience focused on the films, The Harcourt Players weave their way through these hilarious classics highlighting the ups and downs, chases and falling in love scenes, using an array of instruments such as guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, harmonicas and a variety of percussion.

Emaline Delapaix is an Australian singer, composer and musician who lives in Berlin and spends a lot of time creating intense folk-pop songs. Her lyrics explore themes such as the human condition, depression, animal rights, feminism, sexuality as well as love, nature and adventure out on the open road. Emaline will be at **Elmslie House** on June 7th showcasing songs from her new mini album '*With Every Beat*'. recorded in Scandinavia and Europe on a grand piano, guitars, synths, mini würlitzer and celtic harp including locations in Berlin, the New Forest England and the mystical Faroe Islands.



Tickets are available for all events at Elmslie House from www.eventbrite.co.uk, Carnival Records and Malvern TIC



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.



Canadian - Ian Sherwood Friday 17th May, 8pm The Harcourt Players
Sunday 19th May, 2pm

Cosi Fan Tutte **Saturday 25th May**

Emaline Delapaix Duo Friday 7th June, 8pm



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

Ε

www.elmsliehouse.co.uk

Review 999, The Lurkers Ambition Demolition Iron Road, Pershore | 3rd April

In the Punk heyday bands would have ignited nights with overturned furniture and inspired much beer spillage and tonight was to be no exception...oh, the irony!

From the sardonic grin of the bass player of **Ambition Demolition** (What does that name mean?) to the singer **Allan Cattermoul** proclaiming with all the urgency that he could muster for the self-conscious and anthemic, it's *"Us against the world,"* irony worked the room like a seasoned lady of the night. The opening act set a precedent with the tempo for the evening as they favoured fast songs interspersed with even faster songs. This was punk as defiant as a school boy missing a ten minute breaktime detention. **Ambition Demolition** are a riot live, a riot of colour but a riot nonetheless...

The colourful lead singer and bassist of **The Lurkers** - "Arturo **Bassick**" (real name **Arthur Billingsley**) – is comfortable on stage and is happy to preside over his kingdom of beer-stained dancefloors, even after all these years. On the night the candle lit cabaret-style seating would no doubt have raised an eyebrow or two, as well as the statement that the usual drummer would not be joining them as his "*arthritis was playing up.*" The irony did not let up as the band pell-melled their way confidently through a forty year old back catalogue – complemented by newer material that was only three decades old – laced with covers from both Dean Martin and New York Dolls and accompanied with self-disregarding comments about their musical prowess and his own physical size.

In the spirit of punk, Arthur returned to the stage for bass duty for 999. By now the die had been cast and the middle-aged band channelled their middle-aged aggression into songs that began life in the middle of the 70s Still able to work the room 999 had the front line (?) fist pumping and gesturing with late 1970s abandonment. The night reached a climax with the perennial crowd favourite



Emergency that seemed to lack any real emergency but as Arthur had sung earlier: "Come and reminisce...if you think you are hard enough!" Judging by the hard-core crowd's response there must have been some "hard nuts" (70s speak for credibility) in the room.

And then it happened, out of nowhere...

Our attention was ignited by the sound of up-ended glasses clashing like the night's chord changes, up-turned chairs and the splattering of lager slapping the floor; bladdered, bewildered and bemused the innocent surveyed the mess he had made by falling off his chair and looking around tried to make sense of how he had woken up again in 1977. Admittedly, the DIY "999 shirts and ties" were mass produced and some of the body masses were definitely of the 2000s, as **Bar 57** offers up all varieties. Reassuringly, the table top candle that had been burning stoically for several hours, showing no sign of being snuffed out, much like the spirit of Punk: in all its guises.

The Swilgate Scuttler

Erja Lyytinen Artrix, Bromsgrove | 30th March

Finnish guitarist **Erja Lyytinen** and her band close their UK tour at **Artrix Theatre** in Bromsgrove with a flourish.

To support Erja is blues veteran Mike Francis, who delivers his traditional style through 12-string guitar and kick drum, looping riffs into a wall of rich sound that fills the auditorium. It's a short but tasty set that includes "Five More Wishes", and rant of punchy the "Blinded By The Bistro", proving the perfect aperitif for an appreciative crowd.

14 SLAP MAY



With **Tatu Back** on bass, **Juna Kuoppola** on keys, and, hidden behind semi-translucent acrylic shields, is **Liro Lyytinen**; obscured but ever-present. Erja is about to release her latest studio album, much of which would be played across the evening, but with her extensive back catalogue there is no shortage of material. Launching into *"Lovers' Novels"*, Lyytinen lifts her sparkling, blue and chrome G&L Asat Z3, slide firmly in hand, as the band burst into the full-on rock opener.

Erja is renowned for her slide style; it's slicker than the Cresta Run, and almost as exciting! Juna sits behind his Hammond and

Nord flight decks, and a Lesley cab with its rotating horns, throwing out an organic frieze for Erja to decorate. We roll through the seas of a funky *"Black Ocean"*, before landing on a new song; *"Hard As Stone"*. Erja is electric, moving across the stage to the lovely, melodic rock, her soulful voice cutting through the heady atmosphere of the Artrix. As she picks her way across taught strings, Tatu and Liro pulse out a gorgeous, moody blues rhythm.

Sparkling blue and pink guitars wait onstage alongside a pearlescent axe, while smoke machines puff out their misty veil. "Cherry Overdrive", another newie, is a burning, ethereal cruise, before a frenetic "Wedding Day" slips through the eponymous space oddity of "Another World", searching for a new home amongst the stars and planets.

The band switch into a dirty, rock groove for the brilliant, venomous "Snake In The Grass", hissing and spitting from the stage. As ever, time is relentless, and Erja launches into a blues medley; throwing

out licks of Muddy, and Mississippi John Hurt, before *"Walking The Blues"* of Robert Johnson. *"Rocking Chair"*, distinctly more 'rocking' than 'sitting', cranks up the pressure, allowing Liro his moment, and we are thrown up to the rolling, thunderous heavens before the band return to stage for their blistering finish (or should that be Finnish?).

It had been too long since I last got to see Erja play live. She's a dazzling live artist, who engages with the crowd, enthralling with sparkling guitars, magical slide and riffs, and a blend of blues and prog-rock born of well-crafted songs and classic roots.

Graham Munn

Feature

Cydonia Collective

By night I play in the **Ray Mytton Band**, a three-piece classic rock covers band with **Ray Mytton** and **Garry Lowe**, but by day I'm one half of the **Cydonia Collective**, an ambient/chill recording partnership alongside Malvern musician **Mark Soden** (Ex Love Boutique). Along the way we've discovered a few recording tricks that I'd like to pass on as these can be useful across many musical genres and if you'd like to hear them in practice, just look up **Cydonia Collective** on Spotify or any of your other favourite streaming sites — we have five albums up there with a sixth due imminently.

Ambient Chill often includes prominent reverbs that would sound excessive in any other style of music and there's a bit of a trick to getting them to sit in a mix without allowing them to take up too much space. Fairly coarse-sounding, low CPU algorithmic reverbs work well for this type of music but to keep them under control, it is usually necessary to be quite ruthless when it comes to filtering out



excessive low end. If you don't do this the lower mid range of your mix can get very muddy. A steep roll-off below 200Hz is a good start but sometimes you may need to push the cutoff frequency even higher than that. If the reverb includes a pitch modulation facility, a gentle application of that can add interest.

Another useful technique is to dial back the reverb time a little, then add some heavily filtered delay/echo with a fairly high feedback value (80% or more) so that notes repeat in time with the track. One of my favourite settings for combining with reverb is to trim off the delay's lows below 700Hz and the highs above 1200Hz, which results in a very narrow band of delays that become more distant as they repeat making them sit nicely behind the original sound without getting in the way. This treatment works brilliantly on sparse piano or clean guitar lines.

Shimmer reverb is another winner for ambient music and there are lots of costly pedals that give you that 'octave up reverb' sound. However, most recording software comes with plug-ins that lets you set up your own without spending any extra cash. Use the delay/reverb combination as before but this time put a pitch shifting plug-in at the start of the chain and set it to +12 semitones and start at 50% wet/dry mix. Then adjust the mix until you hear the right amount of shimmer behind you basic sound. The effect with guitar is almost like synth strings playing along

Advertise in this space for as little as £30 per month SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers adverts@slapmag.co.uk

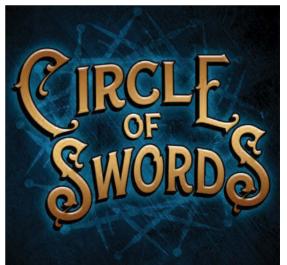
behind you and is quite addictive. More advanced users can put the effects in an Aux FX bus and feed them from a channel send as this gives more control and allows you to pan the dry sound to one side and the effected sound to the other. In this case the reverb should be set 100% wet. If you set it up this way via an FX send, try adding a compressor at the start of your 'shimmer' chain as that can help add density and fill out the reverb sustain for a richer sound.

Yet another favourite trick of ours is to take a section of spoken word, time stretch it to around four times the original length, then feed it through a Pitch Corrector such as Autotune set to its fastest correction speed and with a suitable musical key set on

its keyboard. Heard at this point the result is unlikely to sound very musical, but put it through a long reverb set to 100% wet and suddenly you have an etherial choir singing in the key you have chosen. To add complexity to the sound, copy to another track, add the same plug-ins but then reverse the copied audio. Pan the two tracks left and right and the chances are you'll hear something very interesting. At this stage edit out any sections that don't work too well and then layer the resulting sound under your favourite synth pads, eBow guitar drones or synth pads. To save time you can

create a script for your voice talent that doesn't include S or T sounds as those are the ones that respond least well to time stretching. The more modulated the voice you start with, the more interesting the melodies that emerge. I hope you find this useful and if we get any positive feedback, we'll divulge a few more recording and mixing secrets.

Paul White (Sound on Sound)



GOOD • HONEST • TATTOOING

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

() CIRCLEOFSWORDSWORCESTER () CIRCLEOFSWORDS

Review Sari Schorr Iron Road, Pershore | 6th April

Never Say Never to an opportunity to see one of the best female rock vocalists in the UK. I must thank **Muttley** for bringing Sari and her band to **The Iron Road**, which is just down the road from me. Nearing the end of her UK dates on this Never Say Never album tour, Sari goes from strength to strength, boosted by her excellent band; **Ash Wilson, Matt Beable, Bob Fridzema** and **Roy Martin**. Local group **Big Ginge Band** support what proves to be an explosive gig.

Big Ginge and his band have changed slightly since I last saw them, featuring a stand-in bass and guitar. I confess to missing Mike Powell's double bass, but Tom and Chris are taking good care of keys and drums, while Ginge throws heart and soul into his performance that has unmistakable BB King inspirations. Look them out – the best thing out of Evesham since they discovered Asparagus!

Showcasing songs from her new album, mixed with some from her previous, incredible release, *A Force Of Nature. "The King Of Rock And Roll"* rocks the crowd down Route 66, into Louisiana, and down to the devils' crossroads, in tribute to the great Robert Johnson. Bob's piano leads us into the impassioned *"Ready For Love"*, the song throbs out slowly, building a steady platform for Sari's lyrics. Bob really knows how to caress those keys, whether piano or the Hammond that lurks, dark and brooding, ever-ready. When the time comes, it whirs into life, igniting the fuse of an explosive *"Demolition Man"* that punches out like a jack hammer. Ash starts the rebuild, his sweet-sounding Duesenberg guitar cleansing the air of dust and debris. Schorr's resounding rock lyrics burst through, soaring over Bob's Hammond, carried by the

King Size Slim Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | 4th April

It's a quiet Thursday evening, chilly rain p'ing down, so what better than to jump the train and rumble over to Ledbury's **Prince of Wales**, where **Toby Barelli**, aka **King Size Slim**, would be making ready to entertain the punters.

The wild-eyed, raw-edged, roots rapper has tuned up a Washburn acoustic, and his steel bodied tricone resonator is looking distinctly well-weathered, its patina reflecting the salty air of his coastal home town. Let's be honest, it's rust; the plating has eroded away under the sweat and humidity of steamy clubs and





rhythm of "No Money", not much to add to that, we've all been there, right Ed Balls? Maybe not the likes of Rees-Mogg, but best not go there.

The band jam out, stretching that great, old classic, a Muddy Waters, though owned by Etta James: "I Just Wanna Make Love To You". It never rocked like this back then. "Kiss Me" presents the perfect follow up, and now we are heading all too soon to curtain call. "Never Say Never" implores humanity to never give up, and the Hammond truly shines through this superbly emotive ballad, passion flowing through the keys, while turbo-driven vocals break through the surface, delivering their message. Damn the reason, we really want more! **The Iron Road** continues to rock out to the full on "Valentina", and Ash is on fire for "Freedom", an anti-war anthem that burns through the room, with Sari's phenomenal voice rising from the ashes. Peace is called, but not without recall to ride out on the legendary "Black Betty"; maybe not the definitive version, but it's a hell of a gallop.

I'm sure that all who left **The Iron Road** departed fully converted by the stunning vocals, and searing music, of **Sari Schorr** and her fabulous band.

bars around our all but cast adrift island. It's an appearance that mirrors the powerful vocals that erupt from its owner, **King Size Slim**, like Iceland's grand Geysir.

Lost in his own zone, King Slim starts to dance with an "Angel", his voice filling every crack and corner of this ancient ale house; the sonnet to his vision, fingers waltz around the tricone to conjure an image that all can share. The as-yet unrecorded (damn!) "En Gracia", has a magical touch of Cajun- like roots, but the lyrics are rarefied, drawn from the Catalan that grew out of the Roman Empire. Toby's feet are dancing now, keeping pace with his busy fingers.

The resonator is parked, as the warmer sounds of the acoustic take over. Familiar chords give us a clue, but there's a bit of magic dust cut into this "Spoonful"; its effects are wonderfully wild and intoxicating. King Size is at his expressive best, his playing lights the flame under that well-used spoon. We float towards a dreamy rendition of John Martin's "May You Never", before swooping away with Hendrix's "Wind Cries Mary".

A quick, absorbing and instrumental, finger-flexing flaunt, brings us back down to the bar, only for us to become inebriated on a raw bite of unpasteurised, hand-drawn "*Milk Drunk*". Sod the beer, this is the stuff of life. There's a sprinkling of re-rooted songs; not so much 'covers', these are hammered into shape in true Kingly fashion. "*Tracks Of My Tears*", and the endearing, Caribbean vibe of a spicy "*No Woman, No Cry*"; reggae ganja sitting nicely alongside the finely chopped roots, blended to perfection and ready for Toby to "*Roll His Own*". Talking of rolling, it's time for my train, and I leave with little time to spare, to the appropriate strains of "*Only My Good Self To Blame*". Yet again, KSS evades the sanitized, sterile mush, producing a sound that is raw, alive and kicking.

The Foreign Quarter The Hipflask Virgins, Slow Tapes Marrs Bar | Friday 19th April

Another night, another collection of new music to my ears, this time in the form of the triple delight of **Slow Tapes**, **The Hopelessly Virgins** and **The Foreign Quarter** at the **Marrs Bar**.

Slow Tapes took to the stage first, a four band man presenting us with a trio of guitars and a drum kit, describing their music as sounds from a decade that never existed. An energetic intro set the pace for the six song set, leading us into the first song full of catchy hooks. As they went into the last third of the song, they ramped up the gears a notch and powered through vocally and musically to a crashing end. Second song "*Left Side*" started off slower than the first but gave the singer a chance to show off impressive snarly vocals. Roaring layered melodies again led us to a high energy ending. Beautiful lyrics asking is the grass always greener and is the love always deeper resonated with me.



Third was a jollier upbeat tune, reminding me of the songs "On Top of the World" and "Radioactive" by Imagine Dragons in the way that they are so completely different to each other yet the artist makes them somehow be recognisable as their own work. Versatile in their musical genres, these guys are masters of building up in the last 3rd of the song with epic runs, choruses and spicy funk grooves. The final two songs appeared to stitch together seemlessly, a slow intro long forgotten by the time the driving finale happened. With the claim that 'everything will be alright now' ringing through over and over, it was an impressive end for a band who, as it was revealed later in the evening, were performing for only the third time!

Second on stage were groovy two piece "riff-rock" band **The Hipflask Virgins**, one on guitar, one on drums, vocals are provided by both members. Lead vocalist **Jay**, sang mostly through a mop of long rocker hair, was deceivingly good at screaming guttural vocals giving a full band sound on stage. Each song of what I noted to be a 9 long set list would've been radio worthy and instantly recognisable, with a healthy dose of growling vocals and hair flinging added to the mix. Gritty, grunge rock songs at their best,



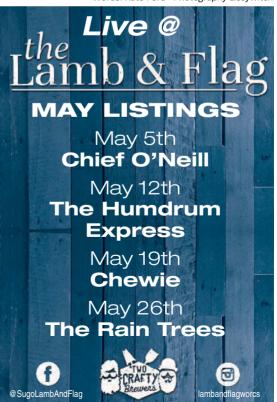


enormous talent oozing effortlessly out in to the audience, the band seemed to already have a well deserved following locally.

The Foreign Quarter describe themselves as All Thrills and No Bull, thrive on writing and performing original, heavy and melodic rock to anyone who wants to listen. The four piece band did not fail to deliver from the moment they took to the stage. Lead vocalist on rhythm guitar was accompanied by a lead guitarist, a bass player and a drummer, and collectively the band looked like a professional band about to serve up stadium worthy performances. After a high impact opener, we were taken Into The Fire with delicate cymbal brushes and drum taps led into all three guitars bursting into a choir of goodness. The guys treated us to their debut single before bringing it down a little for the vocal ability of Tom for a love song offering up his one last breath. Each song was a guitar lovers dream, as the three cleverly pieced together separate elements to create one song, with drummer Rob beating the ingredients together and keeping them all mixed tightly as one. Visually on stage the guys also moved and worked as one complete unit.

Nights like these make me glad I leave the house and discover new music. If you get chance to see any of these three bands, do it, you'll find a genre even you didn't know you loved.

Words: Kate Ford Photography Lissywitch



New Release The Jericho Racks EP

The Jericho Racks are a blues-rock trio whose first release. What's Your Name? came out in 2018, only a few months after their formation. Then a duo comprised of guitarist/vocalist Jack Monopoli and drummer Rich Chaudhury, they showed their

skills on this debut, alongside their raw and raucous live performances. Since then, they've gone from strength to strength. penning a bunch of new songs, and recruiting bassist Jack Biltcliffe to join their ranks.

Their new self-titled EP opens with the dirty. fuzzed-out riff of Crazy City Sex. before rumbling bass and muscular drums come in. With the refrain of "I ain't playing games", the lyrics reflect the no-nonsense music, and a screaming guitar solo drives the point home. Easy To Be Afraid continues in a similar veinwith heavy, chugging guitar and the hissing ride of the drums. The blues-iest of the tracks here, it sounds like Muddy Waters pumped full of speed and turned up to eleven.

A change of pace comes with the sublimely soulful Ground. A softer, folk-inspired tune with an intricate guitar motif and emotive, gently pleading vocals, it nonetheless manages to contain the band's rough rock 'n' roll spirit. A high point of the EP is Ground's sudden cut to an isolated vocal, then brief silence, before the band kicks back in in full force. The final track, the surreally-titled Ten Tentacles, bursts through the door with savage stabs of guitar over



Gillam twists and turns throughout the disc's duration: Abnormal

Load features a striking, rudimentary rhythm and mentions 'triangular music' (which could be a self proclaimed description

of Gillam's output here); A Girl Called Memory is a beautifully serene, plucked instrumental that meanders beautifully; Doing Wrong has a more abrasive electric indie rock slant while the

a staccato bass groove before concluding this collection with a blast of blues-punk chaos. The guitar solo here is pure scuzz and debauchery- the kind of sound you'd imagine hearing in the roughest dive bar on the wrong side of the tracks, in the best possible way!

Any fans of The Jericho Racks' live performances won't be disappointed here- once again they have managed to capture and distill their distinctive grit and energy, and their effortlessly infectious songwriting, in recorded form.

Dan Knight

Tony Gillam Lazy Oceanography

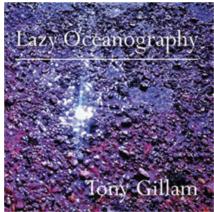
Last month I caught Kidderminster/Bewdlev based duo Fracture

Zone support local favourites Chevy Chase Stole My Wife over at Annie's Burger Shack and commented on the band's inventive mix of evocative indie folk and surreal lyrics, mentally noting to track down some of the band's recorded compositions. As if by magic, Lazy Oceanography, by Fracture Zone frontman Tony Gillam dropped through the Slap letterbox merely days after April's edition dropped.

Tony is a regular face around the open mic scene of both the Wyre Forest area and various Worcestershire music venues. while performances at both Worcester Music Festival and Mappfest have brought further attention to his work. Drawing from those successes and four decades of music making.

Tony decided to finally commit ten of his tracks to disc in the shape of the intriguingly named Lazy Oceanography.

Not The Rosebud In June opens proceedings and Gillam sets out a compelling, rich soundscape weaving intricately plucked and strummed acoustic guitar around the mood setting mountain dulcimer to create a unique, almost ambient folk sound before Tony's distinctive vocals join the mix, delivering a surreal and thought provoking line of lyrics that rather suggest repeat visits. Dizzy Heights follows and suggests something of a sixties influence as Gillam welds folky verses and a harmony enriched, psych-tinged pop chorus to delightful effect. Continuing the albums diverse nature, Caterpillar In The Bath perhaps harks towards the improvisational music workshops that Gillam is involved in running, as tapped out rhythms and electric instrumentation are heard for the first time, combining to form an intoxicating and welcoming musical loop.



penultimate Shooting At The Dark unites delicate acoustic guitar, a restrained lead vocal and a formerly unheard orchestral influence for my personal pick of the disc.

> Lazv Oceanography isn't perfect by any stretch: personally I'd tone down the vocals a little as they seem a little unnecessarily loud in the mix while the closing, sevenminute instrumental title-track is perhaps a tad too long to truly hold the attention, but on the whole Tony Gillam's quirky and expressive debut should find appeal with the open-minded music fans among you. Will Munn

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

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers adverts@slapmag.co.uk

18 SLAP MAY

New Release

Kundabuffa

Comprised of Kidderminster **College** students and lecturers. Kundabuffa is a supergroup of what the future may sound like. Its like a swarm of genius aliens arrived on Earth and created the weirdly wonderful sounds of Kundabuffa. Knowing the band personally, hearing the album in its entirety for the world to see is breathtaking and a proud moment. My goodness, the world has been waiting for music like this to arrive. Heavily influenced by artists Knower and Thundercat. this is music for people who are eager to get out of their comfort zone to try something different. Just when you think the band have run



out of surprises, something else rises in the mix and as the audience, we're left shook and craving more.

A fantastic introduction to the album is the playful '*Come Play* Instrumentalist on the a *With Me*', filled with similarities to Jazz fusion's genius Jan Hammer and his wacky arrangements. '*Speaking With Minds*' takes us down a slightly more prog-funk avenue: it's like Frank Zappa had a crazy jam with Esperanza Spalding while taking LSD... so yeah, pretty bizarre. '*YOY*' features **Paul Wetton** playing a lush structure. '*Money Where Mouth Is*' keeps the peculiar path in straight form. This is the kind of track that you would want to completely lose yourself in while dancing. Like a demon taking over your body, it just can't be helped.

Man Punches Cloud Hell Is Other People...

Man Punches Cloud are a West Midlands based four-piece who have been together for about a year but have already started to turn heads as they blend shimmering shoegaze with molten slabs of instrumental post rock, creating intriguing thought almost provoking, cinematic soundscapes along the way. Since the band's inception, they have been busy performing across the Midlands while working on their debut album. The band have already seen the likes of Brum Radio pick up on their sound and the release of Hell Is Other People., should see Man Punches Cloud continue their momentum.



Hell Is Other People opens with Hikikomori (which is a psychological condition that makes people shut themselves off from society!) and sees the band quietly build from a delicate detuned into a shimmering melody that peaks and drops before the band really step up the power, creating an orgy of sticks and riffs while retaining that obvious shoegaze influence as a melodic guitar pierces the dense wall, lifting the track towards once more as it reaches it's conclusion. The track has something of a

'Don't Know, Don't Wanna Know' has a flavour of the sass queen that is Jill Scott, mixed with the rarity of 70's legends Mahavishnu Orchestra. Being a lover of jazz fusion myself, this album is candy

> for my ears. Longest track on the album 'Do You See What I See?' has the juiciest bass arrangement on the whole album. Diving into a sub genre of reggae which is singer Theone's domain, the band are comfortable throughout this tune. 'Been Floating' is a wondrous electronic funk gift that's floated down from above. One of the shortest tracks on the album but it will still leave a big place in your heart. 'What's In It For You?' delivers a more mellow approach for the band and hearing them in this limelight is something I'd love to hear more of.

> 'Be Bold' begins like something you'd hear on the 1970 show "Soul Train" and it carries that momentum straight to the end. Someone pass me an afro and

some flares! 'Summer Days' is a song that we've already encountered before. As a duo, **Andy Edwards** (Songwriter/Multi Instrumentalist on the album) and **Theone Mae Dawes** (Songwriter/Vocalist on the album) created an EP called *Monad* back in 2017. That EP seems like it created the fantastic partnership and well, the rest is history. This version of Summer Days is more jazz based and a nudge to Amy Winehouse's 'Frank'. A gorgeous adaptation of the original upbeat song that will transform you to another world. The band say 'if you meditate and the devil comes, make the devil meditate'. Stunning imagery from the eccentric band that will simply make your head turn and your feet run to the dance floor.

Chloe Mogg

cinematic feel, drawing the listener in conjuring imaginative images as it twists and turns through the gears, but before you can rest on your laurels and contemplate the five and three quarter minute opener the band are seguing into Gaia and a semiaudible sample before a stripped back electric and a tapped

> rhythm join forces to create a calm, almost lulling melody that meanders towards the inevitable burst of power, bringing to mind Leicester based post rock heroes Maybeshewill.

> **Elsewhere Man Punches Cloud** continue to offer little twists on the post rock theme, keeping you on your toes throughout the twelve track duration, *Seppuku* opens with a jazzy type swagger before finding its feet with a host of adrenaline-fuelled riffs, the intoxicating *Blessings* sparkles and glides on dreamy guitars and the band's ever expressive rhythm section, whilst the album's penultimate and lengthiest number, *Quintessence* soars, peaks and majestically

drops to a lone guitar, before rebuilding to a new plateau as the band deliver a bewitching epic, telling a story without the use of words.

Man Punches Cloud engage from the off, holding the attention with an album full of twists and nuances, as they produce a welcome variant on the post rock genre on a thoroughly impressive debut, highly recommended for fans of instrumental rock and beyond. *Will Munn*

New Release Disciples Of Tone Utopian Dreams/ Politician

This delicious looking 7 inch slab of wax arrives with a pedigree having the sleeve designed by none other than The Cravats' singular frontman The Shend and a classy little thing it is too (see photo).

So what lurks within the grooves which comprises the Disciples of Tone's debut single, which has taken a mere 15 years to come to fruition?

Well somewhat surprisingly to me anyway the A-Side "Utopian Dreams" is an unreconstructed punk number straight outta '77. This is no bad thing as the strident discordant opening riff takes off like vintage Banshees, great drumming a cross between Rat Scabies & Karl Burns plus a snarling time-honoured anti-monarchist vocal taking in J-J Burnel and Vanian inflections: well I'll be damned!

There's no hiding these boys' influences as the lyrics & production hark back to their classic punk heritage, everyone has great fun and this is dashed off with panache a- Bandcamp but as the band point out you'll be missing out on the plenty in a little over 2 minutes. Proper punk indeed.



despite it's er political title and polemic lyrics decrying the charlatan car-salespeople who we allow to run our country. The vital message is couched in classy melodic power pop terms this time around & is none the worse for it to these ears. Don't get me wrong, the guitar echoes top Steve Jones meets Johnny Thunders chugging and a Tommy Gun steal but the strong vocal line dominates here with consummate ease. The song ends with the braying of Parliament and a nice touch from this West Mids outfit,

The B-Side "Politician" is somewhat of a different proposition

harking back to Betty Boothroyd, longstanding Labour MP for West Bromwich, as Commons' Speaker demanding order from the incumbent indolent idiots.

Nothing changes which is why we need our musicians to continue to protest and for that alone I thank you dear Disciples of Tone.

You can buy this righteous and riotous record from Vinyl & Vintage in Wolverhampton and S.T. Records in Dudley.

If you are of the download disposition you can find it on great sleeve.

......

Torv Crimes

Northern FIR Reflections

After relocating to Worcester from Bristol in 2018, Nick also known as Northern FIR spent his time recording for the latest release "Reflections". Dropping on April 19th, the deeply compelling EP has a real warming vibe to it. Featuring a glistening production, it is the kind of music you'd want to listen to while hiking through the gorgeous countryside. Whereas all the tracks fit pleasantly in the intimate and easy listening shadow, there's a feeling of self discovery within the tracks; an awakening of hope and finding happiness in the darkest of corners.

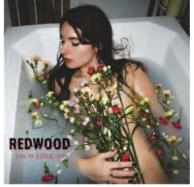
As a whole, the EP is something to stick on your playlist to comfort you on a long car journey or even to just feel 'something'. A wonderful EP from an artist that I didn't know much about, but he's definitely gained a new follower in me.

Find it on all the usual platforms, you won't be dissapointed! Chloe Mogg

Redwood | You're Killing Me

It's that time of the month when new music arrives and eardrums perk up with the sound of contentment. That's exactly what happened to me when Redwood released "You're Killing Me" on the 25th of April. Hyped up for a while that the songwriter from Worcestershire would be releasing her debut single, the tune dropped and there's a fragile honesty to the track. You feel every spinetingling truth that lies beneath the song's core with Ellie of Redwood's exceptional vocals. Now with her own band, it's raw and enchanting to hear

20 SLAP MAY





the songstress on her own. Providing a whole new insight to her music, check out Redwood as a full line up near you. (Find upcoming gigs on Facebook @RedwoodSongsUK).

> "You're Killing Me" is really something special. The 5:18 track holds your attention throughout with its intricate ability to tell a story. There's a live recording sound to this studio track which makes it feel a whole new level of personal. Ellie stated that "the song is a bit of a letter to myself. The lyrics - in the chorus, in particular are an attempt to discourage myself from overthinking things and to try to be a bit more carefree. I think we all tend to blow things out of proportion in our own heads and often matters seem worse in our mind than they actually are. This song was about me saying to myself, "stop worrving so much or you are literally going to make yourself ill. Go out and enjoy yourself!"

Chloe Mogg



Preview

Foyer Folk: Flatworld Pershore No.8 | Saturday 11 May

Although billed as a world music / folk band, Flatworld have broad appeal and find favour with all manner of listeners with their rich, compelling compelling melodies and tight driving rhythms, Flatworld play an eclectic mix of music from Eastern Europe and beyond. Taking tunes from Eastern European folk traditions (and elsewhere), the band present them in a lively and accessible form, and audiences will be dancing by the end of the show!

An evening of lively music from all points East that's sure to get you up and dancing! Booking now: £7 Box Office: 01386 555488

Julie July Band Old Rectifying House | Sunday 9th June

British Folk Rock group **Julie July Band** has built a substantial reputation with reinterpretations and arrangements of the work of singer-songwriter Sandy Denny. Performing in venues across the UK. Concert audiences and fellow performers have often asked whether the band performs material of their own. And now the answer is Yes. Inspired by Sandy's work and the wider folk, rock and blues movements of the Sixties and Seventies, 'Lady of the *First Light*' is the band's new album of self-penned originals. From dreamy acoustic folk songs to driving progressive folk-rock with passing references to psychedelia and country, the album features

Folk in the Foyer | **Nick Hart** Evesham Arts Centre | Thu 30th May

Rising young folk singer **Nick Hart** brings a fresh voice to traditional English folk song on 30th May.

Nick is a singer deeply rooted in the English tradition - a richvoiced young man singing old-found 'storytelling' songs. His sings long-established songs of press-gangs & robbers, railway-building & crooked cooks. Described as 'the real deal' by Mike Harding, his desire to preserve the nuances of traditional singing informs his minimal approach to accompaniment.

Nick's repertoire is drawn largely from his native East Anglia and shows his understanding of the depth & breadth of material in the English tradition. He is fast acquiring a reputation as an engaging and entertaining performer. His "absolutely excellent" (FRUK) first solo album "Eight English Folk Songs" was released in 2017, his second is expected in early 2019.

Pasadena Roof Orchestra Pershore No.8 | May 17th

The UK's finest dance band playing music from the roaring 1920s and elegant 1930s, celebrate their 50th birthday this year. To mark this momentous occasion, the Orchestra are presenting a series of unbeatable live concerts at theatres across the UK and Europe.

Not just a show with live music, but some delightful tomfoolery is in store with Band Leader **Duncan Galloway** and his musical comrades performing an impressive program of music from the dance band era. Included will be the songs of Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, plus some classic tunes from Louis Armstrong, and sumptuous arrangements from the likes of Duke Ellington and great British bands Ray Noble, and Ambrose.

22 SLAP MAY





11 new songs and will be launched in Worcester at the **Old Rectifying House** on Sunday 9th June 2019 7:30pm together with guest artists. Tickets £8 available from www.eventbrite.co.uk or from the venue. Limited numbers.



Tickets at £9 at the door, or £8 in advance from Evesham Almonry, Abbey Road WR11 4BQ and the arts centre website www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk The music starts at 8pm

Come along and listen to hits that were sung by Bing Crosby, Al Bowlly and Fred Astaire (plus some dancing!). Take an opportunity to lose yourself in a bygone era, listen to a live dance band - 'an audaciously entertaining collective of music-making crowd pleasing legends' - Tickets - www.number8.org or 01386 555488



ADY of the FIRST LIGH

ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2019 7:30PM

The Old Rectifyng House, Worcester WR1 3NN Tks: £8 - eventbrite.co.uk

Feature

It Was Only Rock 'n' Roll - But We Liked It

An exhibition celebrating popular music at Malvern Winter Gardens, 1961-1990

The town of Great Malvern is well known for its classical music connections, but many people are unaware of Malvern's other musical story. From the early 1960s, for a period of around 30 years, **Malvern Winter Gardens** rocked to the sounds of bands such **The Jam**, **The Kinks**, **The Who**, **Pink Floyd**, **Motorhead**, **Hawkwind** and many more, some of whom were in their infancy at the time.



Malvern-based charity **Rock Around the Hills** has created an interactive exhibition celebrating the story of rock, punk and progressive rock at the Winter Gardens from 1961 to 1990. The exhibition features images of over 400 posters, tickets, flyers and fanzines as well as recorded memories from audience members, musicians and promoters who were all part of the Malvern Winter Gardens story.

"I've played everywhere in Britain, pretty much. But there's lots of places I'd love to go back to. Malvern Winter Gardens, somewhere like that." - Paul Weller, The Jam (Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.)



The exhibition runs from 1st to 29th June at Malvern Library, and from 2nd to 30th July at The Hive in Worcester. Admission is free.

1st-29th June - Malvern Library, Graham Rd, Malvern, WR14 2HU Opening times: Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays, 9.00am – 5.00pm; Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9.00am – 7.00pm; Saturdays 9.00am – 4.00pm

2nd-30th July - The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PD Open every day including Sundays, 8.30am-10pm Website: www.malvernrockarchive.org.uk E-mail: rockaroundthehills@gmail.com Facebook: Rock Around The Hills



Swan Theatre & Huntingdon Hall

May is a busy old month for **Huntingdon Hall** and **The Swan Theatre**. Kicking off at Huntingdon Hall on the 2nd is **Cloudbusting**, a Kate Bush tribute comprising five talented musicians from the UK, who channel there inner alternative pop vibes to perform this astonishing music with emotional detail and stimulating visuals. Playing amazing hits such as *Wuthering Heights, Hounds Of Love, Running Up That Hill* and *Babooshka*, they have gained critical acclaim not only from sell-out audiences around the country but also from top radio DJs, the press and even Kate Bush's own musicians and collaborators.

Stand-up comedian, viral blogger and bestselling author **Sam Avery** (aka the **Learner Parent**) takes to the Huntingdon Hall stage on the 17th May. Sam has gained a reputation for being able to spark the dullest of rooms into life with his warm, infectious humour and quick wit. In this, his latest show, Sam's honest,



messy account of wrestling with sleep deprivation and breast pumps – right through to his botched attempts at discipline and pathetic bids to stifle various toddler tantrums that definitely registered on the Richter scale – will have audiences testing their pelvic floors with laughter.

24th of May sees the gypsy jazz of **Robin Nolan Trio**. Robin and his trio have played the Django Reinhardt Festival in Samois-Sur-Seine, France numerous times as headliners, and he's travelled the globe for the last two decades taking in shows at many of the jazz world's top venues and festivals. His celebrity endorsers are



a who's who of the guitar god world. The Beatles' George Harrison named him as his favourite guitarist, The Rolling Stones' Bill Wyman has had him in his band, and Hank Marvin joined him for his 2018 Gypsy Jazz Secrets guitar retreat in Australia. Nolan perhaps puts it best when he says: *"I was always pretty unorthodox in my approach to Gypsy Jazz. I've always done it my own way."* Robin Nolan is a true original. Don't miss him at **Huntingdon Hall** this May.

www.worcesterlive.co.uk or call the box office on 01905 611427



Preview

Drunken Monkey Festival

Like many men of a certain age, a Worcestershire dad is eyeing up a motorbike to rev up his leisure time. But Dave Southam is already really rocking his world.

The boss of a northern European sales team is preparing to whip up the crowds as the lead singer of The Killers tribute band Sam's Town and that's not all. He'll be making his big debut when the band headlines at the mammoth August 2-4 Upton-upon-Severn Drunken Monkey Rock Festival.



What's more, it will be the first time he's sung in public, other than with pals, the odd karaoke blast and a couple of warm up gigs. "Blame the midlife crisis," smiles Dave, 37, who lives in Upton with Worcester salon owner wife Bex and their 16-year-old son Herbie. "I work long hours and wanted a bit of an escape by doing something that took me out of mv comfort zone. This does!"

He's better known to Festival goers and fellow committee members as Dave the Gate, a dedicated volunteer marshalling hundreds of cars and fans. Now he's Dave The Killers expert, spending hours studying the music to perfect his Brandon Flowers' role for drummer Chris Harvey's popular band.

"He's bang on," says Norton man and long-standing volunteer and committee member Chris, who runs Tower Studios and the Festival's Tower Stage.

Elgar Festival | 30th May to 2nd June

The 2019 Elgar Festival is a four day event headlined by leading

international cellist, Raphael Wallfisch and the English Symphony Orchestra (ESO) conducted by Kenneth Woods, is to celebrate one of Britain's greatest composers and Worcester native. Sir Edward Elgar, from 30th May to 2nd June 2019, in and around the city of his hirth

At the heart of this summer's Elgar Festival is the composer's evergreen Cello Concerto, performed by renowned soloist.

Raphael Wallfisch and the English Symphony Orchestra under virtuoso Zoë Beyers and pianist Philip Moore, and a song recital Kenneth Woods, which is to be performed as part of a gala concert featuring the original voice and piano version of Elgar's Sea in Worcester Cathedral to mark the centenary of the composer's Pictures. final masterwork.

Inaugurated last year as a two-day event and immediately gaining 'Critic's Pick' status in The Guardian and The Times, this year's festival has now expanded to four days, with the intention to champion Elgar to as wide an audience as possible. With the theme Elgar for Everyone, the ethos behind the event is to engage those of all ages and backgrounds in the music and legacy of Worcester's greatest son, through an immersive and engaging schedule of festival events, which this year centres around the Cello Concerto.

The Festival is the sixth organised in memory of Ian Downton to raise funds for the Midlands Air Ambulance charity. Committee members have renamed the main stage the lan Downton Stage as a fitting tribute to their friend.

Last year's event stumped up more than £9,000, bringing the total to £31,000 for the charity. "The Festival yet again raised an incredible amount for our charity, for which we can't thank them enough. Last year's donation helped to fund four lifesaving missions," says Michelle McCracken, Worcestershire fundraising executive. Tickets sales are already massively up on this time last year as fans clamour to see more than 50 bands performing on two stages over three days.

Ian Downton Stage headliners are Worcestershire's 3Sixty, Essex Led Zeppelin Tribute CODA and Cambridge's Credence Clearwater Review. Sam's Town hits the Tower Stage on Saturday night with punk band Suicide Watch topping Friday and Birmingham blues outfit Vincent Flats on Sunday. Tickets cost £50 for all weekend or £20 per single day including camping.



The Festival team is offering businesses sponsorship deals. Contact josiehoskins@hotmail.com. Find out all the latest info at: www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk.

Pictured: Dave 'the Gate' Southam & Sam's Town.

Elgar's Cello Concerto was conceived during the dark years of the First World War as the composer, then sixty, recuperated from a painful operation. It is sparse and concentrated, full of

> memorable themes - an Elgar hallmark - elegiac wistfulness and passionate outbursts; a haunting intimate dialogue which the soloist shares with the audience.

> The gala evening on Saturday 1st June, also sees a first-time collaboration between the English Symphony Orchestra and Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir, for Donald Fraser's acclaimed choral arrangement of Elgar's Sea Pictures, and Vaughan Williams's beautiful visionary Symphony No.5.

> Other festival concerts include performances from professional chamber choir The Proteus Ensemble, Elgar and Debussy sonatas from violin

The festival's ethos is further demonstrated through engaging educational workshops, talks, poetry readings, a new Elgar Trail, a Cello Day for families and young players and an Elgar for Everyone Family Concert at Rogers Theatre in Malvern College. There is even the opportunity to play one of the composer's own pianos.

For a complete listing of events and booking information, visit www.elgarfestival.org

Tickets for Elgar Festival events are available online via www.worcesterlive.co.uk or call the box office on 01905 611427

26 SLAP MAY

RAISING FUNDS FOR MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE

RAISING

Т С

Z

ũ

FORMID

ANDS

AIR AMBULANC

m



RAISING FUNDS FOR MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE

Preview

Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival Moseley Park, Birmingham | July 12th -14th

Set in the truly beautiful and unique setting of **Moseley Park**, **Birmingham** plays host to a weekend of blistering live music, attracting people from all over the world who gather to see International legends alongside the latest contemporary breakthrough artists from the world of Jazz, Funk & Soul. This is a special year for the organisers as they gear up to celebrate the festival's Tenth Anniversary in 2019.



Having celebrated 50 years as one of the most successful groups in music history, **The Jacksons** headline the Friday night of **Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul**. Initially finding international success with the Motown label, their recordings, including '*I Want You Back'*, '*ABC*' and '*I'll Be There'*, have sold in excess of 200 million. They have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame amongst many other accolades. Expect a funky Friday night filled with classics from their extensive back catalogue of hits.



Filling the headline support slot is **Ibibio Sound Machine**, fronted by Nigerian singer, **Eno Williams**. Ibibio is a clash of African and electronic elements inspired in equal measure by the golden era of West-African funk and disco and modern post-punk and electro. As of Monday 28th January, they have been playlisted to 6 Music's A-List with new single *"Tell Me"*.

The Brand New Heavies describe their music as "a unique mix



of Jazz, Funk and Soul", making these pioneers of Acid Jazz arguably the perfect people to headline the Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul stage on Saturday. Tracks such as 'You've Got A Friend', 'You Are The Universe' and 'Never Stop' have resulted in 16 top 40 singles and over 2 million album sales.

Brian Jackson wrote, arranged and produced over 10 albums across an eight-year period as half of a power duo with Gil Scott-Heron. 40 years later, Brian continues to create with artists such as **M1 (Dead Prez), Gregory Porter, Scott Tixier** (jazz violinist with Stevie Wonder) and many more. He's a true jazz legend and a welcome addition to the line-up.



One of the world's most acclaimed and award-winning composers/songwriters, **Burt Bacharach**, will be bringing the celebrations to a close on Sunday 14th July. He's received three Academy Awards, eight Grammys and an induction into the

Songwriters Hall of Fame. 'I Say A Little Prayer', 'I'll Never Fall In Love Again', 'Walk On By' and 'What The World Needs Now Is Love' are just a few of the 48 Top 10 hits and 9 #1 songs under his belt that have been written for or covered by some of music's greatest legends; Aretha Franklin, Dionne Warwick, Tom Jones, Etta James and Luther Vandross are just a few of the long list of artists he's worked with.



Khruangbin's journey began when they were invited to support Bonobo on his 2010 American tour. Their debut album, released in 2015, was met with widespread critical acclaim from the likes of Zane Lowe, Cerys Matthews and Don Letts.

Visit www.mostlyjazz.co.uk for full line-up and tickets.



JACKSO BACHARACH 5 B H ACKSON SOUND M ES. Δ 5 SS B . 1 R EDWARDS ٨ C ER MODE IDERS BIG COMMUNITY BAND DELTA AUT

NOTEBENDERS BIG COMMUNITY BAND DELTA AUTUMN: MULTIPLAYER MODE ODD SOUL YOUNG PILGRIMS BOCA45 PONYLAND NICK CORBIN TOM WALKER ALICE AUER ASHLEY ALLEN QUINTET FORJ ROSIE TEE JAZZLINES ENSEMBLE CAROL BREWSTER BAND

MOSELEY PARK-BIRMINGHAM 12"-14"JULY 🕯













Preview White Noise Cinema Hey Jester, Chloe Mogg Claptrap, Stourbridge | Friday 10th May

This May, once the dust has settled on the Easter holidays and sweet zombie Jesus is lulled back into his blissful slumber, **White Noise Cinema** once again takes to the stage at **Claptrap** in Stourbridge to open some arses and kick some minds. A band of established musos with a setup that would put Spinal Tap to shame, White Noise Cinema draws inspiration from the moody introspection of Radiohead and the apocalyptic industrial noise of Nine Inch Nails, but they are no tribute act.

In a recent review, SLAP Magazine said that they "play extraordinary heavy electronica aided by a moving van full of gear" and make a "genre-defying sound that is by turns, eerie, pulsating, melodic, heavy and intensely absorbing."

So, if you're not busy on Friday 10th May and fancy celebrating the fact that the band now has enough material to fill an hour, join White Noise Cinema for their first headline gig. And to join in the fun they have invited some of the Wyre Forests hottest young talent as special guests for the evening.

State Of Flux: The Pink Diamond Revue The Arboretum/Rosebud Deathly Pale Party/Movement DJs

The Vault, Worcester Arts Workshop | Friday May 17th



Surprise Attacks and The Arboretum present the inaugural State of Flux @ The Vault event at Worcester Arts Workshop.

State of Flux will create an immersive live Audio Visual evening drawing from aspects of the Fluxus art movement and contemporary reflective commentary.





Hey Jester are a band of frighteningly young and shockingly talented prog gods that might just provide the missing link between The Mars Volta and Queens of the Stone Age. These three guys are already getting alot of attention and radio play, and rightly so.

Chloe Mogg, meanwhile, is a whirlwind of aggressive, but soulful alt-rock that pulls all of the best bits out of the 90s (your Buckleys, your Bjorks, etc) and creates something truly transcendent with the component pieces.

You could do a lot worse for £3 on a Friday night. Right?

Headline act are the awesome **The Pink Diamond Revue** with support from local bands: **The Arboretum, Rosebud** and **Deathly Pale Party**.



DJ sets provided by the **Movement DJ's** will punctuate the evening, where they will continue to carve out their unique approach to underground dance derived music, this combined with the alternative musical approach from the 4 featured bands, will ensure a unique and special night at The Vault at Worcester Arts Workshop and promises to be an evening with a difference complimenting Worcester's now famous local music scene.



For a more edgy step into more than just another gig come down and get engaged at State of Flux @ The Vault. Doors 7pm. £5 Admission.

Tickets available in advance from the venue or online : www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk/product/state-of-flux/

Artrix Highlights

Music this month includes Court and Spark - The Joni Mitchell Songbook and Glasgow-based folk & Blues trio Avocet on 10 May, The Manfreds with their Hits Jazz & Blues Tour and BBC Folk Award-winning Aiden O'Rouke & Kit Downes on 16 May and Thea Gilmore on 22 May.



Otway & Barrett return on to play the Main Auditorium and BBC award-winning duo Edgelarks play The Studio on 24 May. There's also tribute acts from Small Fakers on 18 May and The Songs of Leonard Cohen on 31 May.



visit www.artrix.co.uk or call Box Office on 01527 577330.

Stroud Steampunk Weekend Saturday 25th May & Sunday 26th May

The first question anyone asks when you say about a Steampunk Weekend is what is Steampunk?

If you ask any 6 people at a Steampunk event you'll get 6 different replies. The simplest answer is that Steampunk is a style of literature, music, performance that is inspired by a combination of Victorian and futuristic ideals.....but most of all it is FUN.

Stroud is hosting its first Steampunk weekend in May

at the Victorian Subscription Rooms and amongst the wonders on show is a market trading all manner of goodies from clothing to books and music, Tea duels and a Gin Bar.

There will be talks by leading Steampunk authors including Craig Hallam, Nils Visser and Cornelius Fuel. There's also a live role play game based on the Hopeless Maine books by Tom and Nimue Brown.

Herr Doktor's Cabinet of Curiosities with mysterious devices and creations will be present aswell as the premiere of a new part drama, part surreal, part comic film about the Chartist movement. And there are lively presentations including the "some of this is real but some of it is false" tour of Stroud and "How to Grow Your Own Victorians"

.....and leading Steampunk music acts.



On the Saturday night Professor Elemental the "loveably bonkers" leading exponent of Chap Hop presents some ditties with support from Captain of the Lost Waves - "Charlie Chaplin with the voices of Freddie Mercury and Klaus Nomi singing songs by Irving Berlin" – all amounting to a lively, fun, musical extravanganza in the ballroom.

Whilst in the Gin Bar, Way Out West's Infernal Machine present very unusual versions of classic pop songs with accordions, fiddle and operatic voices.

On Sunday night leading Parisian Steampunk band Victor Sierra headline in the ballroom with their dark futuristic sound supported by the beautiful voice and gentle but mysterious songs of Alice's Night Garden.

In the Gin Bar, there will be a little bit of gin and a lot of innuendo from the very funny Lady Violet Hugh. As she says "If you find something rude about singing about baps then you have a dirty mind!"

Call Sub Rooms on 01453 796880 or www.thesubrooms.co.uk Visit www.stroudsteampunk.weebly.com for more information





Professor Elemental

Review

Heinz-Sight & The Naughty Corner Live The Third Space, Worcester Arts Workshop | 13 April

Singer-songwriter Heinz-Sight has been beavering away in the studio working on his debut album over the past couple of months, so with the final gloss applied, Simon (to his family and friends) thought it was high time to road test some of the material and where better than the cosy environment of The Third Space.

Originally Heinz-Sight was to be backed by fellow singersongwriter and Birmingham native Ryan Sparrow, but due to apparent mechanical issues the support act had to cancel. Undeterred, a hasty phone call to ukulele fun-da-mentalists The Naughty Corner proved fruitful and the small gathering of Heinz-Sight faithful were served up a delicious, smile inducing appetiser of uke strums and three-part harmonies.

Setting the mood with the introductory Ukelele Fundamentalists. the trio soon warmed the room with their tales of First World Problems, smart mobile phone zombies (on the call and response shout along of Smobie) and self-proclaimed trendy dads (Sad Dad) before breaking out a melodica for a brief 60's inspired solo during Make Me Your Man. The trio finaled with the ever glorious Love My Hats (complete with props) to the delight of the room.

A somewhat nervous Heinz-Sight followed, duly acknowledging The Naughty Corner and those in attendance, he tuned up the invisible band and launched into a frantic Give It, uniting rap, indie and rock into a cohesive whole, full of bite. Previous EP. Indie-Visual highlight Ghost followed, with Simon peeling away some of the invisible band's layers to reveal a more laidback approach

Skerryvore Live The Fleece Bretforton | 15 April

Up until last year's Wychwood Festival, I knew very little of Scottish eight-piece Skerryvore. Sure, I'd read the odd review but nothing had prepared me for their stunning main stage turn at the Cheltenham race course. Here is a band that take a number of traditional Celtic folk influences and bend them into new shapes by adding a powerful rock element. Within the space of a couple of tracks the band had the field held captive, turning in not only one of the highlights of Wychwood but perhaps the entire festive season.

Having fallen for Skerryvore's sound in a big way, it was something of a no-brainer when the band were announced for the regular Fleecy Folk night over in Bretforton, one of the most

potent sounds in folk and roots performing in the intimate setting of the Fleece Barn - what's not to like?

The excitement hung heavy in the air as a sold out barn began to fill prior to the band filing onto the cramped stage, setting the mood with an instrumental flight of fancy, we were soon transported to the Scottish highlands as that delicious mix of guitar, bagpipes, fiddle and accordion began to take hold. The first vocal track, Good To Go, quickly followed, driven by the rhythm section of Jodie Bremaneson (bass) and Fraser West (drums), the band showcasing their rich, powerful sound, as Dalglish delivered the first instant choral hook of the night, a feat soon repeated on the glorious sing-a-long of Happy To Be Home Again.

The band in full flow delivered a further aptly named reel in the shape of The Showman, stretching out and highlighting their instrumental prowess, a trick repeated



before abandoning the band completely and strapping on his acoustic.

With Heinz-Sight now stripped bare and the nerves settled he really came into his own, showcasing a number of tracks from his forthcoming debut album in their purest most vulnerable form, with the likes of Take Me Home and Natural Disaster both striking a chord. Simon introduced his final number, Five Shots, with an open and honest line about his struggles with mental health before delivering a poignant hook-laden finale, reaching out to the room and beyond in their hour of need.

Although the gig may have lacked a little in numbers. Heinz-Sight can draw a lot from this outing. With growing confidence, the aforementioned debut album and a passionate manager all in place, you can expect to hear a great deal more from Bromsgrove's finest in the near future. Will Munn

on the mesmeric Soraidh Slàn as traditional Celtic beginnings are infiltrated by Dalglish's potent electric as the band effortlessly move through the gears. The effervescent Waiting On The Sun *brought* keyboards to the fore adding another dimension to the band's already full sound, whilst Angry Fiddler allowed Espie to let loose with a fiery attack of his instrument, ably backed by the ever expressive combination of pipes and accordion.

The band drew closer to the end of their set with a glorious run at the anthemic Take My Hand, with the crowd lapping up every morsel, hollering back the choral refrain and demanding one more and a full tilt Skerryvore weren't going to leave anyone disappointed, asking us to throw away inhibitions one last time and 'Put Your Hands Up' as the band left an exhilarated barn to hoots of delight. Skerryvore will be returning to headline Beardy Folk Festival on Saturday June 22nd in Cleobury Mortimer.

Checkout www.thefleeceinn.co.uk for more Fleecy Folk Nights Will Munn



32 SLAP MAY

THE PRINCE ALBERT RODBOROUGH HILL, STROUD GL5 3SS BEER & MUSIC FEST

REAL ALE CIDER and PERRY

Bank Holiday Weekend THU MAY 2 - MON MAY 6



WWW.THEPRINCEALBERTSTROUD.CO.UK - MORE INFORMATION 01453 755600

Review

Henning Wehn Cheltenham Town Hall | 14th April

Bloody Johnny foreigner coming over here, coming over here with his observations and jokes and poking fun at us Brits...and doing it well and raising the bloody roof. Good work Henning, you can come again...and he is!

Henning Wehn has immersed himself in his role as the only German comedy ambassador – "not an easy task!" - and accordingly submerged himself in British culture. In the past 17 years he has forensically studied our qualities, foibles, idiosyncrasies and quirks to help forge a fond commentary on

what makes us Brits, well, Brits. The resultant show is tickety boo. From offering up obvious facts such as Germans don't swear as everything works, to the damning notion that Brits don't take pride in their work until nearing the end of a botched job that is going well. The nation's work rate is also held under the magnifying glass for jocular observations*. Our preoccupation with the war is also surrendered in a blitzkrieg of one liners, asides and tangents that are all met with knowing smiles and selfconscious guffaws.

Bernard Allison The Iron Road, Pershore | 27th March

Bernard Allison works out of Paris, recording under the RUF label, but was born in Chicago, the son of legendary bluesman Luther Allison. Being brought up around blues giants touring alongside his father, the gift of his first Stratocaster at 12 couldn't come soon enough! I was lucky enough to meet Bernard in NYC last year and was keen to hear him again, so his gig at The Iron Road presented an unmissable opportunity.



Sharing the stage with his full band for the penultimate date on their UK tour, Bernard is supported by Evesham band **Big Ginge**. **George 'Big Ginge' Smith**, a 17 year old, raw-edged blues guitar and vocalist, is joined by **Mike Powell** on double bass, **Tom Stephenson** on keys and **Chris Forrester** on drums. Big Ginge are loud, gritty and burning with energy as they let "*The Good Times Roll*", stamping their mark on **The Iron Road**. Mike's bass slaps and twangs as he demonstrates years of experience performing with significant R&B bands over the years. The frenetic energy has settled by the time "*Stormy Morning*" hits us, and the band conjure their finale: a medley that features a dirt-flecked

Wehn appears self-conscious and awkward on stage, however, the childlike "Emperor is Naked" approach works, even if the frenetic speed and nervous energy demands a determined listenership...

Picture a lone and determined German armed with only a microphone and a smile informing a room of mostly Brits that the evening would consist of two halves, with no chance of penalties and the reality that you would still be going home early, highlights the gracious audacity of our host: an open goal of a joke but still well aimed.

Herr Wehn is ruthlessly efficient on stage and we would expect nothing less from our Teutonic interloper: it's in the genes and his ability to take a surgical scalpel to the Brit's cultural DNA is impressive. Henning has more of an idea about the potential impact of Brexit on our country than our own Government, UKIP

and the Brexit party. Although, for me the gentleman dictator's idea that "My Old Man's a Dustman" should become the national anthem is just one reason why I would park my tank on your lawn to ensure you sign-up for February 2020 when our country's comedy conscience returns to Regency Cheltenham's Town Hall.

> * I was going to write a 5000 word review with a myriad colour photos but simply couldn't be bloody ars...

> > The Theoc Upsetter

"Mojo Working", and winds into a jamming *"Saints Go Marching"*. With a full 'live' album on the way, I will be looking out for Big Ginge in the very near future.

Soon the stage is filled by **The Allison Band**, with second guitarist, the 19 year old **Dylan Salter**, bassist **George Moye**, percussionist **Mario Dawson**, and Jose James on the magical tenor sax. Playing The Iron Road, it only seems fitting that we be taken for a ride on the "*Night Train*", and **Bernard Allison** drives us into the night with long fingers winding round the neck of his gold trimmed, white Gibson. Coming from his current album Let It Go, the lyrics take a back seat as the band stretch and knead the song into shape. Jose's horn lets off steam, while George and his shadowed Marion stoke the boiler, and Dylan adds a second string to BA's dazzling guitar journey.

Quite a bit of the evening's music would be sourced from Let It Go, but to hear them played live is to hear those beautiful songs completely reworked. The music swells into an ever-changing, guitar-sketched heaven, only identifiable by bursts of lyrics that are carried by soaring, golden horns and caressed strings. It's gorgeous, guitar led funk and blues that will capture you entirely.

The rhythm pops and bubbles, jumpin' 'n' jivin', as *"Rocket 88"*, takes us for a drive down Route 66. The influence of his father, Luther Allison, is undeniable, as Bernard conjures up the superb, moody blues of *"Bad Love"*. Mario and George punch in the rhythm. Dylan's telecaster adds splashes of colour, but it is Bernard's inherited passion that truly stuns the crowd.

A fabulous interpretation of "Voodoo Child" rings out; prodigious perfection emanating from the Les Paul, held under the fingers of a true master. A blistering, breath-taking solo follows; it seems to suck all the air from the room, before BA leaves the stage to Mario, who takes his turn at a thunderous solo. The band engage in a tribal joust, with Jose, who has taken to a bare percussive set-up of snares and cymbals. Finally, the trio of guitars reunite to drive us to the finish line. It's gobsmackin' stuff. Bernard regularly tours the UK, and all I can say is: go see it, hear it, and be baptised into this stupendous live show. No matter how good, albums cannot do this justice.

Hereford invasion Paradiddles, Worcester | 19th April

On a balmy night at this buzzing, welcoming music / café, three emerging bands who have been playing Hereford venues such as the Speakeasy on the Left Bank, brought dynamism, creativity and energy to rock a sunny Good Friday evening. The bands, **Turquoise Lama, Sober** and **Zetland Road**, offered up blues rock, pop / punk and neo psych vibes, with sets overwhelmingly made up of originals - and only the occasional iconic cover.

Hereford based **Turquoise Lama**, first on, banged out a set of entirely self-penned tracks. Led by vocalist / lead guitar player Johnny, with his concentrated, focused stage demeanour, sonorous, almost Phil Lynnott like vocals and double hum-bucker bluesy guitar tones, his riffs and lead playing are central to the band's sound, showcased on both the faster, heavier tracks like 'Dead' and 'Current Times' and the slower, more soulful 'Wild Cat' and 'Don't Cry'. The band is held together by excellent drums – Toby, and bass – Charlie, with Cameron's keys adding a layer cutting through on tracks like 'Diagonal'. They have an early Jimi Hendrix Experience feel, but also cite Gun's and Roses influences.

Up next are the irrepressible **Sober**, all at Hereford College of Arts (HCA) where they are in their first year, not that you would know it from their sound! Kicking off with the Pixies '*Hey*', they set out their stall, with Jaya and Kaicee's compelling, energetic lead and harmonised vocals, Jaya's excellent lead, Tom's great scratchy rhythm guitar sound, Kaicee's powerful bass and Joshua's steady drums. Their sound, at times reminiscent of early Talking Heads and LA punk band X really came into its own on their original tracks: '*Forgiveness*' led by Kaicee, with a Joan Jett vocal cutting through, the cool, well structured "Well", with rock



solid bass and drums and Jaya's overdriven guitar solo, the minor key vibe of '*Nuclear War'* and thrashier '*Panorama'*..... This band are great to listen to and will rock the Speakeasy, when they headline on 2nd May.

Finally, up step Zetland Road, with their neo-psych sixties meets Twenty First century power-house sound. In their final months at HCA, their originals are set around driving, rolling riffs that draw the audience into their world, with Norton and Duncan's contrasting vocals the intricate counterpoise of Emrys and Duncan's lead and rhythm guitar work, Norton's roving bass lines and Zack's scintillating drumming - a balance of emphatic and yet deft technique. The band's own 'Bedroom Eyes', 'I'll Soon Be Gone' and the haunting 'Over and Out' demonstrate their ability to draw you in, and then throw you a curve ball, as they change tempo and direction to a heavier groove before returning to the original riff. 'Word for Word' (available on Bandcamp), perhaps the band's anthem, builds up a surge of energy, towards a drop that invites the assembled throng to dance, jump, bounce.... Alongside their original tracks, the band also pepper their set with classics, like Sunshine of your Love (Cream), Elephant (Tame Impala), Foxy Lady (Hendrix) - which act as timely crowd pleasers.

A great night was had by all...

Bill Barrspeak



Review

Adriana Spina West Malvern Social Club | 5th April

For someone who is an occasional (although thankfully, increasingly frequent) curator of musical events, **Richard Bennett** has the happy knack of pulling a consistent stream of class acts to this delightful and welcoming Social Club.

Adriana Spina is from Glasgow and after only a few bars of her stunning acapella introduction, it's clear that we're in the presence of a very special performer indeed.

She's primarily an urban country singer, an acute observer of life and of the rocky road of relationships. The bulk of this set is taken from her latest album, *"Let Out The Dark"*, a simply wonderful body of work that I've hardly stopped playing since I picked it up at the gig.

Her rapport with the audience is extraordinary, and it's almost like being at a concert in a friend's living room. The between song banter and stories are frequently very amusing and draw the audience effortlessly into the next song. She talks of her admiration for Joni Mitchell and her excitement and anticipation about seeing the 75th anniversary documentary (in Falkirk, because the parking's easier...) then comprehensively nails *'Woodstock'*, without a doubt the best cover of this I've ever heard as her voice is so flexible and her range so great that she's fully able to cope with the vocal gymnastics that the song demands.

There are moments of great beauty. 'Jeannie's Song', dedicated to her grandmother is exquisite – 'It's my turn to sing you a lullaby / It's my turn to keep you safe'.

There's a poignant and pointed contribution to the conversation about the World's refugee crisis in 'See Another Day', this one really stops you in your tracks.



There are two new, unrecorded songs as well - the deceptively fragile and utterly chilling murder ballad, 'Lay Me Down' and the fizzing, percussive '*Boxes*', both of which bode very well for the next album.

But it's the intense examination of relationships that infuses the majority of her songs. There are some absolute gems served up tonight - the steady, insistent pulse of *"Same Drum" - 'I've been wondering why our hearts don't beat to the same drum/I've been wondering how come our paths lead in such different ways' and the bitter regret of "Where You Are" - 'I don't want to talk about it, cause I know it's all my fault.'*

The pièce de resistance for me though is the blistering and brilliant '*The Fall*', the account of an affair where excitement and desire vastly outweigh any guilt - '*This beautiful misdemeanour*...' Not her affair, she hastens to add, preceding the song with the best, longest and funniest anecdote of the night about how a work colleague's alcohol-assisted confession at an office party led to the song being written.

An absolutely superb performance from a very gifted artist. Lyrics quoted are Copyright Adriana Spina & Ragged Road 2017 Geoffrey Head

Frogg Soufflé Annie's at the Courtyard | 31st March

Frogg Soufflé command a certain kind of disco funk that it is impossible not to tap your feet to. This was my first time attending a gig at new venue '**Annie's at the Courtyard**' and I wasn't disappointed. The darkness of the cool black room provided the perfect backdrop for the colourful bouncy entrance of the band - complete with flashing multi-coloured disco lights. Frogg Soufflé's opening hit "*Awkward in the Disco*" slaps you with the idea that you don't have to be good at dancing to get moving. So, from the beginning, people know this is music to dance to. Later, complex base lines and happy wah-wah pedal guitar ricochets off the walls as Terry (vocals) asks the audience "*are you happy now?*" in '*The Life electric.*' This tune holds the listener captive with a drawn out winding funk intro. You can't help but smile and, to answer his question, I was happy now.

A special mention needs to go to my personal favourite song 'Be More colour.' This is the very essence of Frogg Soufflé: funk, combined with showmanship, the hook of a falsetto "boo" thrown in that the end of tight drum fills and with an audible laugh timed to perfection. Frogg Soufflé are fun, there's no denying it and a welcome relief from bands who don't seem to be enjoying themselves on stage.

As the evening draws on people are moving more and more. "Take Another Look," a gentler, but still solid funk, lament to being overlooked by a potential lover proves that 'Frogg' are more than



a one-trick pony. The audience are smiling and tapping along to every track and there is an overwhelming sense of enjoyment as sunny backing vocals support a truly uplifting overall show.

At the end of an explosive gig I'm definitely a new fan of **Frogg Soufflé**. A tight knit disco-funk outfit who understand that stage presence is an important part of any performance. From brightly coloured shirts and bouncing baselines these guys know how to entertain.

Frogg Soufflé are: Terry Walls – Keys and Vocals, Stuart Lee – Bass and Vocals, Lew Boulton – Guitar and Vocals and Neil Burton – Drums and Vocals. Catch Frogg Soufflé at this year's Mellow Festival – You won't be disappointed!

Words: Katie Harris Photography: Jack Thorpe

Old Bush Blues 2019 August 16th 17th and 18th

Sugar Mama ~ Dove and Boweevil Lucy Zirins ~ Northsyde ~ Catfish Robert J Hunter ~ Backwater Roll The Achievers ~ Garrington Jones Robin Bibi ~ Stone Mountain Sinners Tom C Walker Band ~ Kyle and Shaw The Blues Duo ~ Dan Burnett ~ Sean Nolan Andy Twyman ~ The Delray Rockets Steve West Weston ~ Tone Tanner Vincent Flatts ~ Five Field Holler Perry Foster ~ The Will Wilde Band Zoe Schwartz Blues Commotion Paul Bridgewater & The Electric Blues Rebellion ~ Jules Benjamin

"Blues is easy to play but Hard to feel " Jimi Hendrix

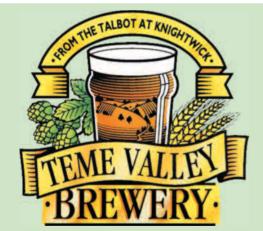
The Old Bush ~ Callow End ~ Worcester ~ WR2 4TE Tickets 01905 830792 or www.oldbushblues.co.uk

Review 'Worley's Up and Coming' The Swan, Thursday 4th April

If you are a music fan and have not yet been to The Swan, it is definitely worth a visit. Decorated virtually floor to ceiling with music posters, album artwork and even guitars. There's something incredibly atmospheric about it as both a pub at the heart of Stourport town in the Wyre Forest and also as a gig venue. 'Atmospheric' also had to be the first word to spring to mind looking back at the most recent 'Up and Coming' gig at The Swan, which promised a night of 'great music' from 'new musical talent', and certainly delivered.

First on the line-up was **Jim Preece**, who got the night off to an intriguing start with his impressive solo bass pieces. One song in particular, '*Light Years'*, was clearly a favourite with the audience, and despite the music's intentional lack of commercialism, he received healthy cheers and rounds of applause at the end of his set. Preece was also co-host of the event and went on to talk the audience through the other acts to be appearing that night, the next of which being singer-songwriter **Ryan Sparrow** and his band. Continuing in the melodic vein of the first act, Sparrow's delicate folk-esque songwriting wowed the audience, particularly the tracks towards the start of the set and when his band really got going with their harmonies.

Humble Helios were next to take to the stage. Stepping things up a notch with their unashamedly melancholy yet undeniably groovy brand of alt-pop. Front-woman **Victoria Pingree's** dreamy vocal style sat comfortably over a tight rhythm section and guitarist's **Vikki Matthews** melodic lines. Later in their set the band showcased a refreshing sense of humour with a gem of a track concerning actor Tom Hanks's potential qualities as a parent(!)



Brewing great beer at The Talbot, Knightwick since 1997. Farmers' Market second Sunday monthly

and three beer festivals every year.

Call us for sales to trade or public on 01886 821235 www.temevalleybrewery.co.uk



'Rock-orientated' might be a slight understatement in relation to five-piece band **Electric Raptor** (who were next on the bill); their sound is perhaps better defined as heavy rock with hints of prog-metal and rockabilly, all with an undercurrent of a strangely endearing, punk-esque DIY attitude. And though there were parts of the music that may not have been to everyone's taste, you couldn't fault the musicianship within the band, nor the incredible energy levels of engaging frontman **Ryan Darling** and sparky trumpet player **Ben Horobin**. It was clear the audience loved



them too, and despite the low-key, cosy nature of the pub, for half an hour or so Electric Raptor had the audience (and noise levels) escalating to that of a real rock gig.

Finally, there was **Tree of Wyrd**, a four-piece alt-folk band fronted by striking lead singer **Hannah Law**. With many different styles of music nestled comfortably in their songs they were clearly an outfit with a multi-dimensional sound, but still one that is ultimately recognisable as their own. Once again there was incredible musicianship from the members of the band that did not go unnoticed by the audience, particularly when the lead guitarist switched to violin, with her playing prompting more than one awe-struck comment from various crowd members. **Tree of Wyrd** provided a fantastic end to an immensely enjoyable and varied night, with **The Swan** acting as a sufficiently quirky background to the whole proceedings. Be sure to keep an eye and ear out for these 'up and coming' young talents in the future! *Imogen Bebb*





Review Emily Duff & Crystal Balloon Smokey Joe's Diner, Cheltenham | 12 April

Offhand, I can't think of a more appropriate venue for an evening of Americana than Smokey Joe's Diner in Cheltenham with its neon signage and memorabilia enhanced 50s and 60s ambience - and what an evening it's to be.

As anyone who's ever seen them knows, there's no such thing as poor Crystal Balloon performance and even though there's only two-fifths of the band here, tonight is no exception. Guitarist and writer Jack Stanton and newest band recruit, keyboard player Charlie Hargrave treat us to half an hour of songs old (some very) and new - it's a wonderful start. As it's an acoustic set. Stanton's voice, isolated from the normal



band surroundings is displayed in all its power and range and Hargrave's shimmering keyboard playing is a perfect foil.

Highlights for me are a rousing version of 'The Wheel' from their first EP, "Hurricane" and a new song, 'Turn This Red to Blue' from their recent live session at Invada Studios, which you can catch on their Facebook page. A band that goes from strength to strength.

Emily Duff is an urban country singer from New York City and over the next hour and three-quarters, comfortably the longest set I've seen this year, she dazzles us all with the range and depth of her genre-melding style. She has a new album to promote on this short but eclectic tour, the spiritually infused but not overtly religious "Hallelujah Hello", a follow up to her hugely acclaimed "Maybe In The Morning" but her output is so vast, it's not until a little way into the set that she gets around to playing tracks off it.

Rich Hall's HoeDown Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | 28th March

She's accompanied on this tour by ace guitarist, Scott Aldrich,

sincerely and touchingly introduced by her as 'my best friend' - he's using an acoustic guitar, with only one pedal (a tuner) and a single added 1950s pickup. The range of sounds and tones he gets out the instrument is astonishing, as are the number of styles he encompasses - country, boogie, rock 'n roll, The Blues, with some pretty impressive slide and some vibrant soloing on the ballads. One of the best and most versatile guitarists I've seen in a while



Duff herself is no slouch on guitar and her small and obviously well travelled instrument keeps a steady rhythm going for the entire set but it's her voice that we've come to see and my goodness, for one so slight of frame, it's mighty powerful, perfectly adapting to all the myriad styles that she's got on show. The set list is clearly being improvised - no problem this, as she reveals that (cue gasps from the packed audience) they know between 80 and 100 of her songs off by heart - some feat! She's a great raconteur as well, the story of her growing panic at recording at Muscle Shoals with musicians that turn out to have worked and recorded with some of the greats is a gem, as is the suggestion that we might form a mosh pit at some point in the evening. "Or as we're in Cheltenham, would that be a posh pit?"

It'll be great to see her back in the UK again, this has been such a powerful and richly diverse performance, goodness knows what she can generate with a full band. Brilliant artist.

Geoffrey Head

But it was in the unscripted moments that Rich Hall displays his genius, and he just seems to say whatever funny thought pops into his head. I think my favourite was a throw away line to the two white haired gentlemen, on the balcony, just to the left of the stage, when he greeted them as Statler and Waldorf! It was an

impromptu visual gag which is still making me chuckle as I type.

For the second half, Rich was joined on stage by Rhinestone cowboy guitarist, Rob Child, and can't-be-arsed-to-dressup drummer, Mark Hewitt. The improv continued with the front row providing material for a some very silly songs. As he moved along the row, Rich Hall got sillier and sillier, and the targeted audience members were drawn further in. I can't remember why a man called Geoff was singing "fur on a stick", but it was mighty funny. Rich and the band were having a great time.

As if that wasn't enough, the show ended and there was still time to catch the last set of The HumDrum Express at

observational witty ditty's. A perfect end to a great evening.

A Good Time Had By All!

I wasn't sure what to expect from Rich Hall, shuffling towards our seats with in the artist's words - his key audience of "middle aged men with large record collections". The usual Huntingdon Hall announcement by Terence Stamp, that the raffle would not be drawn on the stage, clearly amused Rich and it soon became apparent that he was making up stuff as he went along.

The audience took no time at all to warm to this jovial cheeky demeanour which seemed much less dark than his TV persona. The material dived back and forth across the pond. Guns and Grocery stores; a \$10000 medical bill after stepping on a piece of Lego; and

explaining Brexit to Americans had the audience in stitches. And The Plough. Mr Humdrum was also on fine smiley form with lots his reflections on Britishness could be summed up in his delight at of banter with the audience between his cleverly crafted our expression "That went surprisingly well!"



BRITAIN'S BIGGEST & BEST FROM BLUES FESTIVAL **Every year since 2002 in UPTON upon SEVERN**

REGISTERED CHARITY: 1148230



British Blues Awards

BLUES FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR 2015 & 2016

An international soul stew of house rockin'. foot stompin' and backside shakin' roots and rhythm from the UK's BIGGEST. BADDEST and **BEST FREE multi award winning Blues Festival**.

STAGES & BRITISH BANDS 140+ FREE PERFORMANCES www.uptonbluesfestival.com

7.3310-215t

f /uptonbluesfestival

Form

WINNERS BEST BLUES **BASED FESTIVAL** OF THE YEAR

EVERY



💆 /uptonblues 🛛 🔀 chairubf@gmail.com

Preview Wychwood Festival 2019

As we rejoice an unexpected April heatwave, dust down the barbecue and head for the beach, my mind starts to wander towards a month or so ahead until the start of festival season and my annual pilgrimage to Cheltenham Racecourse and **Wychwood Festival**.

This year sees the family friendly festival celebrate its 15th year and as usual promises to deliver a varied and eclectic program, guaranteed to offer something for everyone. Perusing the official website, I can see the likes of **Basil Brush**, **Jo Porter's Kitchen Dancing**, street theatre, a host of children's authors and **Aardman Model Making** all on the agenda; and that's before I even look at the many musical delights already confirmed.



This year's three mainstage headliners will have the Wychwood faithful dancing long into the night: Friday sees **Scouting For Girls** treading the boards, **ABC** follow the night after, while everyone's



festival heroes, **The Stranglers**, are charged with bringing the event to a rousing finale. The promise of a brand new dance stage sees **DJ Milf** (of **EMF** fame) take to the desks alongside snooker legend **Steve Davis** among others.

As ever, the supporting line-up is a delicious clash of genres, from the funk and soul of **Craig Charles** and **Geno Washington** to the stunning world music soundclash of **Ibibio Sound Machine** via the rag-taggle, carnival of sound that is **Tankus The Henge**. Cult Wychwood favourites **Mr B The**



Gentleman Rhymer and **Folk On** will both be making their returns, while the festival house band **Thrill Collins** will have the main arena on their feet and singing along to inspired mash-ups.



Meanwhile, world music stars Jally Kebba Susso and Grupo Lokito see the festival continue to scour the globe in a bid to compile the most compelling and eclectic line-up possible.

For years, Wychwood has been all about those up and coming breakout artists, that in recent years has seen **Rag 'N' Bone Man** and **Wolf Alice** perform and 2019 is set to be no different with a host of intriguing names set to appear over the weekend. After a quick bit of research across the confirmed names, **The Zangwills**, **Penny Mob** and **The Cosavettes** all look well worth catching over the weekend, while the likes of **Arcadia Roots, Lower Loveday**, **Chloe Elliot** and **India Parkman** will be representing **BBC Hereford & Worcester's Introducing** show.

With summer starting early and good times just round the corner, why not put down that cider and pulled pork bap for a few minutes and peruse he **Wychwood Festival** website and see what they have in stall for their fifteenth birthday party.



Win a family ticket to Wychwood Festival

To win a family ticket, (that's two parents, two children including camping) answer the following question:

What was The Stranglers original name?



Send answers to **competition@slapmag.co.uk** with subject 'Wychwood Competition'. The competition will close on Monday 13th May at 5pm. The winner will be notified by Wednesday 15th. As it's Wychwoods 15th Birthday Tthey are offering Runner-Up prizes on offer of 50% OFF Weekend Tickets

Good Luck!!!





THE STRANGLERS ABC SCOUTING FOR GIRLS Τ'ΡΑU / ΤΟΥΑΗ THE CRAIG CHARLES FUNK & SOUL CLUB **IBIBIO SOUND MACHINE** THE BAGHDADDIES **GENO WASHINGTON & THE RAM JAM BAND MR B THE GENTLEMAN RHYMER** TANKUS THE HENGE 🖉 BEZ (DJ) JOHN OTWAY & WILD WILLY BARRETT **STEVE DAVIS & KAVUS TORABI** THRILL COLLINS 🎙 COUNT SKYLARKIN THE COVASETTES \ THE ZANGWILLS DEMI MARRINER[®] REGIMENT PENNY MOB FOLK ON plus BASIL BRUSH - BOOM BOOM!

...and many more to be announced!

WWW.WYCHWOODFESTIVAL.COM 31st May - 2nd June 2019, Cheltenham Racecourse

Fun for everyone - 100 artists on 4 stages, 100 workshops and activities for all ages, comedy, kids literature festival, Real Ale festival, The Headphone Disco, idyllic camping, all in an intimate setting, plus loads more!



efestivals





CHELTENHAM POETRY FESTIVAL RENISHAW® www.glos.info





Preview

Sunjay Heightington Village Hall, Bewdley | May 18th

Sunjay is pretty much the antithesis of your typical denim clad dishevelled folk and blues musician. From his perfectly groomed hair to his spotlessly shining winkle picker boots he walks onto the stage every inch the "city slicker".

When Sunjay starts to play the guitar and sing, you are transported to a world where blues and country music meld seamlessly amidst humid mangrove swamps and red neck barbecues. Sunjay is, without doubt, the real deal.

From those early childhood steps Sunjay has in every sense, grown up in public, having performed regularly to ever increasing audiences from the age of seven. Now, still only in his midtwenties, Sunjay has become a master guitarist, who has crafted his show to perfection. He also has n encyclopaedic knowledge of his music, and a wicked sense of humour.

An evening with Sunjay is an evening of exquisite blues, country and folk music combined with a master class in guitar playing

Matt Owens The Marrs Bar | June 6th

British born singer-songwriter and musician **Matt Owens** first came to prominence as a founder member of indie-folk band **Noah and the Whale**. Releasing four albums, Noah and the Whale achieved huge success in the UK and overseas, selling over one million albums in the UK alone. The band toured the world between 2006 and 2015, playing hundreds of festivals, including Austin City Limits, Fuji Rocks and Lollapalooza, as well as touring with the likes of Arcade Fire, Bahamas, and Laura Marling.

In 2016 Matt formed the band Little Mammoths, releasing the critically acclaimed debut album *Phantom Dreams*. The band tours the UK and Ireland on a regular basis, and was invited to play an unprecedented 6 sets at the 2017 Glastonbury Festival.

2019 has seen the release of Matt's debut solo album. It is an album that oozes Americana with its campfire storytelling told mainly on acoustic guitar and piano, reflecting the songwriting skills of some of Matt's favourite artists Ryan Adams, Jason Isbell and Warren Zevon. The album was produced by acclaimed musician and producer **Nigel Stonier**, and features amongst others **Thea Gilmore**, **Robert Vincent and Michael Blair** (Elvis Costello/Tom Waits).



Redditch' Retro Vinyl Record Specialists LPs, 12" & 7" Singles & EPs & more All Genres from Jazz Age to 1990s Open Tues-Sat. See website for times. 104 Birchfield Road, Headless Cross, Redditch B97 4LH. Tel: 07887 525107 www.VintageTrax.co.uk



interspersed with hilarious anecdotes....and even the occasional Buddy Holly song. But if he asks you to meet him at midnight down at the crossroads... think twice.

Doors: 19:00 / Tickets: £12.00 / Tel: 01299 822987

Support comes from **Alex Lipinski**, about whom Tom Robinson has said, *"Played and sung with such vigour and conviction it just sweeps you up and carries you along"*.

.

A night not to be missed. www.mattowensmusic.com www.alexlipinski.com





Feature

Ian Cognito

'I hope you will remember me for all the things that I didn't do, but could have done so easily' – Ian Cognito

11th April 2019. You probably saw it as well: the BBC News headline on my phone read '*Comedian dies on stage*'. Nothing new about that I thought, painfully recalling the many nights I myself had suffered at the hands of my own ineptitude and the audience's indifference to my futile attempts to amuse them.

Of course the headline referred not to a metaphorical death but a literal one. I clicked on the link, wondering whether I might have heard of the now deceased comedian or even bumped into them at some point on my time on the circuit.

I let out a cry. The man who had died was **Ian Cognito** (real name **Paul Barbieri**, known as 'Cogs' on the circuit), a man I had worked with on and off since the early 2000s. He had apparently been feeling ill prior to going on stage. Part way through his set he had sat back on a chair and had never stood up again. The audience continued laughing for some minutes until it became obvious something was wrong. It was, I guess, a fitting death for any comedian, and a final gag that had required extraordinary comic timing. Few had managed to pull off the feat before.

So, 'Who the fuck is lan Cognito?' I hear you asking. The UK comedy circuit is, of course, full of unsung heroes, in much the same way that any field of the arts is. Those acts, artists and musicians, who have risen through the ranks of their profession, who are revered and envied by their peers, and who are adored by a hardcore of fans, yet who have not managed to break through the glass ceiling to global stardom or convince TV executives and industry moguls of their universal appeal.

Some of you may recall his performances at The Comedy Zone at The Marrs Bar in Worcester, but if you weren't lucky enough to have been there, you wouldn't have known Cogs from TV because, as he often stated in his act, his voice bitter and full of resentment, he was never on it despite a decades-long career. It can't have been a surprise to him: Cogs was not built for our politicallycorrect era. Depending on your perspective his material was often provocative and edgy or downright offensive. His remarkable stage persona was that of a Shakespearean anti-hero, the universal suffering that is the human condition ever-present beneath his words. The intensity of his performances was such that the first time I booked him to perform at one of my comedy clubs, I found myself unable to watch at points. He was unpredictable in the best and worse senses and his behaviour off-stage was the stuff of legends. Television just couldn't find a place for his caustic, angry, polemic sense of humour.

To say that Cogs was flawed is an understatement of the highest order. He had struggled for many years with alcohol until 18 months ago when he finally gave it up. He had a gag about that in which he chastised Billy Connelly, Jack Dee and others for giving up booze because they said being drunk made them boring.

'Boring' he'd say. 'I wish. I've never woken up in a police cell because I'd been too boring the previous night. (Now impersonating a police office) "I'm terribly sorry sir, I'm going to have to arrest you. You've been particularly tedious tonight."'

When I started performing as a comedian I would often write a few words on the back of my hand as prompts for gags to remember, something I had seen other new acts do. I was compering a show at **The Courtyard** theatre in Hereford one night. I introduced the headline act, **Ian Cognito**. He took to the stage and paused in front of the mic. He referenced the fact that he had seen me looking at my hand to remind me of my gags. 'You



wouldn't catch me doing that.' He said 'I've got too much material to fit on my hand.' He unzipped his fly and took out his penis. He glanced down, tucked it back into his trousers. 'Yep, about 40 minutes worth of material there' he said grinning. A brilliant example of simultaneously ensuring you make an entrance and will never appear on TV.

Another night, January 2000 and something. After battling with some drunk idiots in the audience who were ruining the show with their indecipherable heckling and incessant chatting, Cogs cut his headline set short and made his way backstage. '*Did you see what I did there?*' He was pleased with himself. I look quizzically at him. '*I didn't punch them.*' he said. He was genuinely delighted with himself. '*That was my new year's resolution; don't hit the audience. And I did it.*'

Comedy will not be the same without him and there are very few comedians who we can say that about. Cogs represented a wilder, more exciting and naïve age of stand-up comedy. A time when the circuit was awash with oddballs, geniuses and surreal performance artists. The comedy circuit not only accepted, but embraced these quirky individuals and their unique perspectives and offered them a platform for their antics that no other medium was going to. In contrast we now find ourselves with a comedy industry where comedy is seen as a lucrative career choice and promising young comedians are thrust onto TV after only a few gigs and can go on to make millions. I am not decrying this situation, it works well for many, but it is a far less interesting and creative place than it used to be and I imagine we will see fewer and fewer comedians like **Ian Cognito** even bothering to attempt to establish themselves within its constraints.

Ironically in his death Cogs has found the fame that was always denied him. The Guardian, The independent and many other papers have published obituaries of him, memorial gigs are being held up and down the country, and comedians across the globe have been buying pints of Guinness in his honour and raising their glasses to him. I will miss him. I will leave you with a few of Cogs's words from his act that capture the essence of the man.

"One day the world will be a better place, we will love each other and share things together. It won't be a something for nothing world or everything for some, but fair shares for all. We will live in a world where there is nothing to be gained from making people look small and putting others down, and when that day comes, I'm fucked."

by Adam Montgommery

Adam Montgomery was a stand-up comedian for many years in the noughties and promoted comedy nights in Worcester and Stratford-upon-Avon from 1996 to 2014. MUSI(FESTIVAL FOR ALL THE FAMILY / 14TH-16TH JUNE 2019







AMOEBA UK ARCADIA ROOTS BBC INTRODUCING BEWDLEY SCHOOL BUG CLUB CHLOE MOGG DHARMA BUMS ELECTRIC RAPTOR ELLISHA GREEN FALL OUT BOYS GLUME & PHOSSA GORK HANNAH LAW HEY JESTER HOLD TIGHT RECORDS HUMBLE HELIOS IZZY O'DOWD INFINITE SAUCE J I M LOOSE LIPS MEG SPARROW ONE TREE CANYON RATTLESNAKE JAKE REDWOOD RHYTHMIC UNITY ROUEN RYAN SPARROW TREE OF WYRD - OTHER A(TIVITIE) -

CLIK CLIK COLLECTIVE BRINGING THEIR FUN FOR ALL BETTI MORETTI, ROD GOOLD, KATRINA BUXTON H E L T E R K E L T E R C I R C U S S K I L L S BELLY DANCING WITH MASHA, YOGA, ART CHOIR WORKSHOPS, DRUMMING WITH STEVE HARLEY & POETRY READINGS IN THE QUIET CORNER

- FOOD -

STICKY FIG CATERING MRS PATELS THE RUSTIC PIZZA COMPANY.

HOPLEY'S FAMILY (AMPING | (LEOBURY RD, BEWDLEY DY12 2QL) W W W h o p f e s t . c o . u k

Music Sessions/Open Mics

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 First Monday - Open Mic The Sociable Beer Company 4th Mon - Singaround

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos 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 Acoustic/Folk Session, Every Tuesday The Plough Inn, Wollaston, Stourbridge

Every other Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band The Talbot, Knightwick

1st & 3rd Thursday of every month, The Cross Inn, Kinver, Stourbridge

First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm Pershore Libra

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

Every Tue - Plug and Play The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

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, Worceste 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 The Swan, Stourpol

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich Every Wednesday open mic nperial Worce

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

2nd Wednesday Permission to speak - spoken word & poetry Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge 2nd Wednesday Unplugged Night Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

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 Last Wednesday Priest & The Beast Jam Night (No covers) 7pm Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge 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** . Ledb

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

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 - Open Mic The Victory, Hereford 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 Kempley Village Ha 1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month, The Cross Inn Kinve **Open Mic with Johnnie Gracie** The Jubillee Inn, Studle 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 **Every Thursday Open Mic** ers Arms. First Thurs - Open Mic The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank Every Thursday Open Mic Hosted by Polly Edwards & Ben Hall The Old Pheasant · Worcester Every Thursday Open Mic The Eagle Vaults, Worcester Every Thursday - Acoustic Folk 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 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 Petite Leomin **2nd 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 Grimle 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 Ianlv Castl 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 Every Sunday Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm The Wharf, Stourport 2nd & 4th Sundays 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 Sunday Shenanigans Open Mic Night 7pm every Sunday Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge 2nd Sun - Acoustic Session The Hop Pole, Droitwich Every other Sunday open mic hosted by Ruben Sebright 9pm The Oll Basin, Worcester Every other Sunday open mic hosted by Ruben Sebright 9pm The Unicorn, Malvern 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

Please let us know if any of the above are no longer running or if your regular event isn't listed

Wednesday 01 May 2019

Gordon Wood The Bayshill Pub, Cheltenham Daria Kulesh And Jonny Dyer Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud Featuring: Flatworld Dragon Folk Club At The Dragon Inn, Worcester Donizetti's Maria Stuarda (Mary, Queen Of Scots) Guildhall, Gloucester Damon T & Mark Cole Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 02 May 2019

The Schmoozenberg The Prince Albert, Stroud Cloudbusting - Kate Bush Tribute Huntingdon Hall, Worcester Captain Accident And The Disasters, Ready 5, King's Alias Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham Red Hot Riot Smokey Joes, Cheltenham Nest Of Voices, Akervinda The Nest, Ledbury Lord Bishop The Iron Road, Pershore The Odfellows Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge Geoffrey Oicott, Terminal Rage The Earnest Spears Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester Mali Elin, Hayley Juhasz, The Space, Marc, Sedated Society Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn Chief O'Neill Tank, Gloucester

Friday 03 May 2019

Los Squideros Babar Cafe, Hereford The Sons Of Eddie The Bell, Tewkesbury The Usual Suspects The Golden Cross, Hereford Gravy Train The Millers Arms, Pershore Hannah Aldridge, The Goat Roper Rodeo Band, Humble Helios St George's Hall, Bewdley Gordon Giltrap The Fleece Inn, Bretforton A Celebration Of John Denver Artrix, Bromsgrove UB40 Tribute "Johnny 2 Bad" Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster The Follicles The Station Inn, Kidderminster Mumbo-Jumbo Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester Poppy WS No3a, Bromsgrove The Ray Mitton Band The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester Tyler Massey Trio The Left Bank, Hereford Neil Ivison The Old Pheasant, Worcester Common People The Nailers Arms, Bromsgrove Fabulous Bordellos The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove Arcadia Roots, Alan Sheward The Rocklands Club, Redditch Midnight City Queens Head, Wolverley Dave Onions Red Lion, Evesham Paul Bridgwater & The Electric Blues Rebellion, Lew Boulton The Marrs Bar, Worcester Ben Cipolla & The Nouvelle House Band Feat. Nick Robinson The Cosy Club, Cheltenham Comedy Hip Hop - Professor Elemental, Joy Amy Wigman & Jpdl Playhouse, Cheltenham Jive Talkin' The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham Battle Of The Bands The Heats ~ Stage 5 The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham Issy Winstanley The Find, Cheltenham Mark Walby The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham Sarah Mcquaid Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury Belshazzar's Feast Spring Tour, Paul Sartin, Paul Hutchinson Ruskin Mill College, Nailsworth

Ruben Seabright Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern Chimp On A Bike The Queen Elizabeth Inn, Elmley Castle Carvin Jones The Iron Road, Pershore The Murmur Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge Mark Harrison, Charles Benfield Number 8 Arts Centre, Pershore, Pershore Chimp On A Bike The Queen Elizabeth, Pershore Mother Popcorn Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham Flash - A Tribute To Queen The River Rooms, Stourbridge The Straight Aces The Old Bank, Stourbridge City Limits The Queens Head, Stourbridge Jp Band The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Paul. Modely Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn These Five Years, Peaks, Elessar The Cavern, Gloucester **Re-Booted** The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn Ellie Gowers Tank, Gloucester Prime Position + Friends Café Rene, Gloucester **Call Of The Kraken** Gordon Bennetts, Hereford Mustard Allegro & Mireille Mathlener Crown & Sceptre, Stroud Saturday 04 May 2019

Moon Goose Church Of St. Mary The Virgin, Hay-On-Wye, Hereford A49'ers The Wobbly Brewing And Events, Hereford Happy Accident Railway Inn, Studley Knight And Hodgetts Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley The Outcasts The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn Ronnie Threechords Golden Fleece, Hereford Black And Blues The Plough, Hereford Eclipse – The Pink Floyd Experience Artrix, Bromsgrove The Haunted Souls The Boathouse Upton, Upton On Severn We Are What We Overcome Artrix, Bromsgrove Vile Sect, Plane Crasher, Dubsore, Mud Humper Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester Jay & Eli The Three Horseshoes, Malvern Vaseline Kidderminster Harriers Social Club, Kidderminster Cavalleria Rusticana & I Pagliacci Swan Theatre, Worcester Fret Wolf Boars Head, Kidderminster Sax Appeal The Green Dragon, Malvern Kezza Belle The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster Vintage Inc Express Inn, Malvern Witcher Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove The Fletch The Royal Hall, Ledbury The Rebels Reet Petite, Leominster Explosive Light Orchestra Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury Malvern Roots Club Pt 7 Idris Soundsystem / Ital Sounds Newtown Social Club, Malvern Belshazzar's Feast Spring Tour, Paul Sartin, Paul Hutchinson The Burton Hotel, Kington Fifty 4 Cross Keys, Malvern Catch 23 The Doverdale Arms, Droitwich Poppy WS, Fix Me, Margo, Immy & The Boatman, Worcester Brewing Company, Worcester

48 SLAP MAY

Bon Giovi, The Hot One Two The Iron Road, Pershore Common People Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge Bourbon Alley The Chestnut, Worcester Upthebug The Queen Elizabeth Inn, Elmly Castle, Pershore

Vincent Flatts Final Drive (3pm) Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham Arcadia Roots (8pm) Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Static Dnb Bunker Sessions V1 Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester The Film Orchestra Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster After Dark The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Version Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fishheads The Woodland Cottage, Redditch Lounge Toad The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Alex Bayross Bottles, Worcester

Abba - Swede Dreamz The River Rooms, Stourbridge Bug Club, Dead Dad's Club St Katherine's Barn, Ledbury

Thrillbillies Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham Smokeroom The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Frazer Lepford The King Teddy, Gloucester

UB40 Tribute Ian Harris Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn Forever Sabbath. Dick Whittington's, Gloucester Steve Page Stroud Brewey, Stroud Fired Up Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Sunday 05 May 2019 Fishheads (4pm) The Golden Cross, Alcester One Tree Canyon The Hop Pole, Bewdley Over The Hill The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn **Re Booted** Royal Fountain Inn, Kidderminster Poppy Ws May Bank Holiday Sunday Session (3pm) No3a, Bromsgrove Emily Badger The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster Lucy Shaw Casa Med, Bromsgrove

Paul Rose Red Lion, Evesham

Jay & Eli The Anchor Inn & Boathouse, Worcester

The Ancror him a Boundady, A Chief O'Neill The Lamb & Flag, Worcester V U K O V I. Superlove, Bellevue Days, Icymi Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham The Delta Ladies (4pm) Prince Of Wales, Ledbury Martineau Big Band, Directed By John Ruddick Mbe St Peters Church, Powick

Sam Thomas Stockton Cross, Leominster

Come Together (Midday) The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Mitch Loveridge The Railway Inn, Droitwich Chimp On A Bike The Swan Inn, Hanley Swan

Ruben Kirk Worcester Brewing Company, Worcester Vo Fletcher (5:30pm) The Chestnut, Worcester

Kings Of The Quarter Mile The Queen Elizabeth, Pershore

Tempo Sei (2pm) Alestones, Redditch The Bon Jovi Experience The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Passion Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Spacehoppers The Retreat, Stourbridge

Sun Fir (5pm) The Imperial Tavern, Worcester James Baker The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Lewis Clark (3pm) Stroud Brewey, Stroud

Monday 06 May 2019

Sass Brown The Weavers, Kidderminster Tony Hughes The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster The Marco Mendoza Trio, The Addiction, Austin Gold The Iron Road. Pershore Kimberley Jade The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn Uncover's Bank Holiday All Dayer: Apre, Upsahl, Lower Loveday Lycio, Hannah Law, Lordless, Elisha Green (2pm) Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester Bad Spaniel Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Tuesday 07 May 2019

Funky Business Smokey Joes, Cheltenham Grace Petrie, Elvis Mcgonnagle, Tickets From Prince Albert, Stroud Charlie Landsborough The Courtyard, Hereford

Wednesday 08 May 2019

Jason Donovan: Amazing Midlife Crisis Artrix, Bromsgrove Masterworks Concert 67 Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham Two To A Room, JPLD + Yogi Beats, Real Triggz, Beau Peep, Celladore Smokey Joes, Cheltenham Dave Onions Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham Irish Session Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge Billy Kemp (USA) Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud Tyler Massey And Vo Fletcher The Plough, Worcester 14 Units Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 09 May 2019 John Pearce Quartet Smokey Joes, Cheltenham Luke Doherty Duo Prince Of Wales, Ledbury Cotswold Canal Singers The Nest, Ledbury The Railway, Redditch Jam Night With Andy Morrish And Blake Probert Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge Dan Graham Tank, Gloucester Keith James: The Songs Of Nick Drake The Courtyard, Hereford A Special Evening With Russell Watson The Courtyard, Hereford Acoustic Music Convention: Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne The Old Rectifying House, Worcester Wild Hare Club Left Bank, Hereford

Friday 10 May 2019

The Forgetting Curve Crown & Sceptre, Stroud Gareth Jones Alcester Members Inn, Alcester Toby Marks And Andrew Heath Present: Motion SVA, Stroud The Ferrets The Millers Arms, Pershore Court And Spark – The Joni Mitchell Songbook Artrix, Bromsgrove Avocet Artrix, Bromsgrove Social Outcasts, Piqued Jacks, The Earnest Spears, Twelve Twelve Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester Barry Steele & Friends: The Roy Orbison Story Swan Theatre, Worcester Demi Marriner No3a, Bromsgrove Adam Lee The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Jamie Knight Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester Bev Pegg And His Good Time Jazz Gang Hagley C Of E, Bromsgrove Fred Zepplin Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove Abba Girls Catshill Working Mens Club, Bromsgrove Griff Collins Red Lion, Evesham Fearless Scoundrel The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove Folk in The Foyer: Wildwood Jack, Viv Bell, Hugh Knight Conquest Theatre, Bromyard Big Jim Queens Head, Wolverley Jasper in The Company Of Others, The Rouge Embers + Scribble Victory The Marrs Bar, Worcester The Way The Rettreat, Ledbury Battle Of The Bands The Heats ~ Stage 6 The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham Swan Giant Leap Reet Petite, Leominster The Noise Next Door: Remix Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury White Noise Cinema, Hey Jester, Chloe Mogg Claptrap, Stourbridge Jay & Eli The Bridge Inn, Worcester NWOCR - Ryders Creed, The Rocket Dolls, Empyre, Dig Lazarus The Iron Road, Pershore The Nitecrawlers Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge The Delray Rockets Golden Cross Inn, Hereford The Simon And Garfunkel Story The Palace Theatre, Redditch Zoe Green Band Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham The Smiths Ltd The River Rooms, Stourbridge It's All About Buddy The Stourbridge Institute Social Club, Stourbridge The Institutions The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Andy Marlow Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn Aaron Tank, Gloucester Rattlesnake Jake The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Swamp Stomp String Band Café Rene, Gloucester Saturday 11 May 2019

Hipkiss The Ale House, Stroud Jersey Boys Tribute - The Valli Boys Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley The LBJBS The Price Albert, Stroud Murmur Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley Caroline Blake Golden Fleece, Hereford Night Crawlers The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn Jive Talkin' Artrix, Bromsgrove The Miffs, The VHT's, Liars At The Witch Trial Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester **Counterfeit Sixties** Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster Mice in A Matchbox The Green Dragon, Malvern James Wythes Land Oak, Kidderminster Dark Side Of The Wall Swan Theatre, Worcester Dan & King Rich The Sportsman, Kidderminster Sheridan Leigh The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster Vintage Inc Virgin Tavern, Worcester Sounds Of The Sixties The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove Punk Rock Stars in Their Eyes 7 Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham Rust For Glory (Neil Young Tribute) The Marrs Bar, Worcester 50 SLAP MAY

The Strays, The Boxcar Mavericks, The Bug Club Smokey Joes, Cheltenham Slainte The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham Desensitised, Josie, Gremlins The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham Jamie And The Worried Men Reet Petite, Leominster Risky Galore Charlton King's Club & Institute, Cheltenham Levellers (Acoustic) Malvern Theatres, Malvern Groove Dynamite Cross Keys, Malvern Chimp On A Bike The Pilot Inn, Gloucester Jay & Eli The Cricketers, Worcester Play It Again Sam Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge Foyer Folk: Flatworld Number 8, Pershore The Rock Of Ages Experience The Palace Theatre, Redditch A Look At Life With Malcolm Stent The Palace Theatre, Redditch The Delray Rockets Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham Old Raskals Bridley Moor Social Club, Redditch Planet Loco Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge Dead Dads Club (Acoustic) The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern Witcher The Unicorn, Malvern Killerstream The River Rooms, Stourbridge The Fabulous Take Two, Sensual Soul Diva With Live Sax, Treble, Cool Funk Band St Katherine's Barn, Ledbury UK Guns N Roses Guildhall, Gloucester Missing Lynx The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Gloucester Fake Festival Gloucester Park, Gloucester Michael Christian Durrant Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester The Revolvers Coney Hill RFC, Gloucester The Rhythm Slingers The Northend Vaults, Gloucester The Follicles The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn Joli Blon Longlevens, Gloucester Wildwood Jack Stroud Brewey, Stroud Sunday 12 May 2019 Helena Rosewell, Steve Nesbitt Babar Cafe, Hereford John Howarth & Mike Green Littlevic, Stroud Miss Cheif And The Meaners The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn Andy Margrett The Weavers, Kidderminster Little Dave Red Lion, Evesham

The Humdrum Express The Lamb & Flag, Worcester Built For Comfort (4pm) Prince Of Wales, Ledbury Bill Bailey: Larks in Transit The Centaur, Cheltenham Scott Howell (6:30pm) The Oak Inn Staplow, Ledbury Panic Station (3pm) Richmond Place Club, Hereford Swinging At The Cotton Club Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury Journeyman (5:30pm) The Chestnut, Worcester The Peas Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham Led Hendrix Steps Bar & Club, Redditch Tyler & Vo Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle Pretty And The Nasties (5pm) The Imperial Tavern, Worcester Will Jay The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn Make Mine A Double Longlevens, Gloucester Sam Brookes The Prince Albert, Stroud

Monday 13 May 2019 The Desperados UK The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

Tuesdav 14 Mav 2019

Kuunatic, The Red Propellers, Chris Cundy Smokey Joes, Cheltenham Henry Lowther Left Bank, Hereford

Wednesday 15 May 2019

Chloe Hepburn The Strand, Cheltenham The Dave Kelly Band, Vapor Vonnies Blues Club, Cheltenham Hitchhiker, Ruben Seabright, Tammy Down Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester Discovery Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Featuring: Graham Collins Dragon Folk Club At The Dragon Inn, Worcester

Lucy Spraggan Guildhall, Gloucester Los Gusanos Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 16 May 2019

The Manfreds: Hits, Jazz & Blues Tour 2019 Artrix, Bromsgrove Aidan O'rourke & Kit Downes Artrix, Bromsgrove Jay & Eli The Coach & Horses, Harvington Men in General The Nest, Ledbury Tacla, Gypsy Jazz Reet Petite, Leominster Pershore Community Choir Number 8 Arts Centre, Pershore, Pershore Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers: Tribe Guildhall, Gloucester

Rupert Brakspear The Plough, Worcester Tone Tanner Tank, Gloucester Winter Mountain The Prince Albert, Stroud

Friday 17 May 2019

Ryan Sparrow The Hop Pole, Bewdley Scrood The Millers Arms, Pershore Soul Stripper Bar Severn, Upton On Severn Glitch, Lucy And The Bones, The Dylan Marshall Project Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester Brooks Williams Artrix, Bromsgrove Jess Robinson: No Filter Artrix, Bromsgrove Gary Knock No3a, Bromsgrove Those Were The Days Swan Theatre, Worcester Sunjay The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester Abba's Angels Hagley Community Centre, Bromsgrove Just Pick'in Lenchford Inn, Worcester Neil Ivison Red Lion, Evesham Voodoo The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove Just Adam The Old Bakehouse, Ludlow Underdogs Queens Head, Wolverley Never 42 (Level 42 Tribute) The Marrs Bar, Worcester Lotus Eater, Grief Ritual, Dead Hands, Blood Uncle 2 Pigs, Cheltenham Wyynona Ryyder, Plum Jr. Beer in Hand, Hereford Woo Town Hillbillies The Earl Boat, Worcester

XL5 The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham Edgelarks: Phillip Henry Hannah Martin The Painswick Centre, Painswick, Nr. Stroud Gordon Giltrap Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury Devoted To Rock Droitwich Working Men's Club, Droitwich **Polly Edwards** Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern Mr Black Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge Surprise Attacks & The Arboretum Present State Of Flux. Featuring, The Pink Diamond Revue, The Arboretum, Rosebud, Deathly Pale Party, Movement Djs, Live Visuals. Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester Knoxville Highway The Palace Theatre, Redditch Britpop Reunion Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham Caper Clowns, Spygenius, Amoeba Teen Claptrap, Stourbridge Depeche Mode - Black Celebration The River Rooms, Stourbridge In Evolution, Ruben Seabright, Tammy Down Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester Aaron Fairfield Thepub, Evesham Edgelarks The Painswick Centre, Painswick, Stroud The Murmur The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Vicky Elise Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn Jack Moore Tank, Gloucester Dan & King Rich The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Wierdos Café Rene, Gloucester Electric Swing Circus Subscription Rooms, Stroud

'77 (Punk Rock Covers) Into The Valley, Trico Stadium, Redditch United Football Club Nicholas Daniel Plays Strauss | Orchestra Of The Swan The Courtyard, Hereford

Canadian, Ian Sherwood Elmslie House, Malvern Better Than We Look Gloucester Beer Festival, Blackfriars, Gloucester

Saturday 18 May 2019

Joey The Crow The Wobbly Brewing And Events, Hereford The Follicles Horn & Trumpet, Bewdley The Tough The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn Small Fakers Artrix, Bromsgrove Chief O'neil The Green Dragon, Malvern Flatworld Globe Theatre, Hay-On-Wye Just Dave The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster Susaphonics Hagley C Of E, Bromsgrove The Ron Jeremy Band The Ladybird Inn, Bromsgrove Oasis Maybe Old Halesonians RFC, Bromsgrove Dr Cornelius The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove Dean Friedman Conquest Theatre, Bromyard CSO – The Grand Tour: lii Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham The UB40 Experience (UB40 Tribute) The Marrs Bar, Worcester The Fooz The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham Monkey Jam The Ridge, Cheltenham Bulltown Boys Reet Petite, Leominster The Chloe Mogg Band, Tree Of Wyrd, Charlotte Campbell West Malvern Social Club, Malvern The Blues Brothers Show Cross Keys, Malvern Black Heart Angels Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge The Fireballs Uk The Chestnut, Worcester

Thank You For The Music - Presents Abba The Palace Theatre, Redditch

Signing Off UB40 The Oast House, Redditch Sunjay Heightington Village Hall, Bewdley Mitch Loveridge Alestones, Redditch Faux Fighters The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham Witcher Oak Apple, Worcester Sax Appeal The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern The Red House Sourbridge Steve Carmel Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham

Gene Genie And The Lemon Squeezers Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn Pay The Piper The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Joe Elvis Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn The James Oliver Band Longlevens, Gloucester Whiteshillbillies Stroud Brewey, Stroud The Simon And Garfunkel Story The Courtyard, Hereford

Trio Elvis'S The Prince Albert, Stroud

Sunday 19 May 2019

The Stoned Cherries Babar Cafe, Hereford Fleecey Folk: Còig The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Chief O'neil Red Lion, Evesham Chewie (8-10pm) The Lamb & Flag, Worcester The Orb (Sold Out) The Marrs Bar, Worcester Lorise Eton & The Stealers (4Pm) Prince Of Wales, Ledbury Warren James (3pm) The Grape Vaults, Leominster The Delray Rockets Bar Severn, Upton On Severn Ben Vickers (5:30pm) The Chestnut, Worcester Blue Haze The Swan At Hay, Hay-On-Wye Mister Wolf (3.30pm) The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn Steve Gibbons (2pm) Alestones, Redditch Jay & Eli Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn Dave Beale Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle Will Killeen (5mm) The Imperial Tavern, Worcester The Follicles The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Blackridge Remedy (4pm) Gardeners Arms, Droitwich Kev (Mur Mur) The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn 2Tone Revue Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn The Harcourt Players, Original Music To Silent Movies Elmslie House, Malvern Emily Barker The Prince Albert, Stroud Henry Marten'S Ghost (2pm) Left Bank, Hereford

Wednesday 22 May 2019

Thea Gilmore Artrix, Bromsgrove Cilla & The Shades Of The 60S The Palace Theatre, Redditch Sally Ironmonger Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud 52 SLAP MAY Bluebyrd The Maverick, Stourbridge Reuben Lovett Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 23 May 2019

Nick Hart, Skellam Babar Cafe, Hereford Andy Cutting Huntingdon Hall, Worcester The Simon & Garfunkel Story Swan Theatre, Worcester Acoustic Music Convention: Winter Wilson The Old Rectifying House, Worcester Les Musicals Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham Foregate St. Blues Band Prince Of Wales, Ledbury Hereford Police Male Voice Choir The Nest, Ledbury Chameleons Vox Guildhall, Gloucester Abi Foster Tank, Gloucester

Blue House The Prince Albert, Stroud

Friday 24 May 2019 Black Knight The Millers Arms, Pershore

Robin Nolan Trio Huntingdon Hall, Worcester Otway & Barrett: Nearly Free Artrix, Bromsgrove Talon The Acoustic Collection The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster Streisand: The Music, The Lady, The Legend Swan Theatre, Worcester Cookie & Poppy Ws No3a, Bromsgrove Polly Edwards The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester Journeyman The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester Matt Bowen Red Lion, Evesham Jayne Peter's Band Queens Head, Wolverley Bowie Experience Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham Brushy One String, Solid Gone, Kingsley Salmon (Acoustic), The Desperados Uk Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham Kali Masi (Usa), White Crosses 2 Pigs, Cheltenham Leah The Apartment, Cheltenham Arms Ans Hearts, Mixtape Saints (Acoustic), Bombs For Breakfast (Solo Acoustic) Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester Amy Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury The Summer Of Love Malvern Theatres, Malvern Remi Harris, Light & Shade Conquest Theatre, Bromyard Mzleading The Doctors, Gloucester Redfern, Hutchinson, Ross, The Nile Deltas The Iron Road, Pershore The Persuaders Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge House Of Wolvxs Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester Songs Of Anger And Redemption Present: Rory Mcleod Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge Joe George, Tyler Massey Trio Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester Definitely Mightbe + Adored The River Rooms, Stourbridge The Trio - New Banger The Hand in Glove, Worcester The Geckos The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Edgelarks, Phillip Henry, Hannah Martin, Artrix, Bromsgrov **Christian Smith** Tank, Glouceste Take The Fifth/ Clash Appreciation The Night Owl, Birmingham The Follicles The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn Soul Destroyers Subscription Rooms, Stroud

JPDL & Yogi Beats + Special Guests Café Rene. Gloucester

Saturday 25 May 2019

Rubble Credenhill Social & Sports Club, Hereford 2Tone Revue The Plough, Hereford

Clive Jose Golden Fleece, Hereford Malvin Hancox Band The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

The Gatecrashers Bar Severn, Upton On Severn Bee Gees Fever The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

Morriston Orpheus Choir Artrix, Bromsgrove The Everly Brothers & Friends Tribute Show Swan Theatre, Worcester Madonna Tribute Night The Red Man, Kidderminster

Keith Trezise The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster Matt Peplow The Garibaldi, Worcester

Rebecca Rhosyn New Chequers, Worcester

Legend The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove I, The Lion; Flight 15; Echo Gecco Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham Dog Of Two Head (Status Quo Tribute) The Marrs Bar, Worcester Slowjin The Wheatsheaf, Cheltenham Woo Town Hillbillies The Camp House Inn Cider Fest, Grimley Paper Lemonade, Jack Brett, Alvin And The Angry Barrels, Boondogz And Hot Rox Reet Petite, Leominster Monkey Jam Harry Cooks, Cheltenham Without Flight The Express Inn, Malvern Professor Elemental, Captain Of The Lost Waves, Way Out West's Infernal Machine Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Reloaded Cross Keys, Malvern

Fiddlers Two Worcester Brewing Company, Worcester

Jay & Eli The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester Coda - A Tribute To Led Zeppelin, Jessica Lee Morgan The Iron Road, Pershore

The Delray Rockets Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster Nicholson Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge Warren James & His Hot Band The Chestnut, Worcester

Faith Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester Polkadot Robot The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Jane Kelly The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern Reload The Cricketers, Worcester

Pete Harrington Gardeners Arms, Droitwich Matt Knight The King Teddy, Gloucester Laura Mac Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn Blind Lemon The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Swing From Paris Stroud Brewey, Stroud

Sunday 26 May 2019

Stadium Music Festival (1Pm) Edgar Street, Hereford Albino Tarantino The Ale House, Stroud Black Rabbit The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn Chalky The Weavers, Kidderminster The Jam DRC Cookley Sports Club, Kidderminster **Jim Anslow** The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster Sid Harvey & Steve Kent Red Lion, Evesham The Rain Trees (8-10pm) The Lamb & Flag, Worcester Maz Mitrenko Band Prince Of Wales, Ledbury Shannon Flynn, Andrew Pearce, Dead Dads Club And The Rogues! Reet Petite, Leominster The Barejacks, Mosquitos (3pm) Richmond Place Club, Hereford Chinmaya Dunster (4pm) Malvern Cube, Malvern Victor Sierra, Alices Night Circus, Lady Violet Hugh Subscription Rooms, Stroud Three Bone Joint Worcester Brewing Company, Worcester The Delray Rockets Littledean House Hotel, Cinderford Hump De Bump Acoustic (5:30pm) The Chestnut, Worcester Play It Again Sam The Oast House, Redditch The Clarkesville Mountain Band (2pm) Alestones, Redditch The Woo Town Hillbillies (6pm) Black Tap, Redditch Will Killeen Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle Rory Mcleod Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge Jamie Knight (5Pm) The Imperial Tavern, Worcester Tom Stade Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham The Strays Dowty Sports Social Club, Gloucester Free Spirit, 4 + 6 The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn Noasis, Better Than We Look, Amigo's Of Rock, Vinyl Revival (1pm) The Swan, Staunton Wheel Sea The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Monday 27 May 2019

Lady And The Sax The Weavers, Kidderminster Tony Gold The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster Woo Town Hillbillies Pershore Carnival, Pershore Tim Bowness Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester Steve "Big Man" Clayton Alestones, Redditch Dave Sharp Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge Black Rabbit Band The Queens Head, Stourbridge Johnny Allen The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn The Murphy Beds The Prince Albert, Stroud

Tuesday 28 May 2019

Albert Lee & Band Artrix, Bromsgrove Gary Barlow The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Wednesday 29 May 2019

Kim Cypher Quartet Theoc House, Tewkesbury Maefield Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester Ragtime Jug Orchestra Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud Swampcandy Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 30 May 2019

The Follicles Tappeto Lounge, Kidderminster A Tribute To Ariana Grande & Jojo Siwa Swan Theatre, Worcester Howlin' Mat Prince Of Wales, Ledbury Warrior Soul (Usa), Lowdrive, Small Town Saviours The Iron Road, Pershore Folk in The Foyer: Nick Hart Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham Damon T Tank, Gloucester

Debashish Bhattacharya Trio Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Friday 31 May 2019

Forty Blue Toes The Millers Arms, Pershore 2Tone Revue The Red Man, Kidderminster Viva Neil Diamond - Bob Drury Huntingdon Hall, Worcester The Songs Of Leonard Cohen Artrix, Bromsgrove Lipstick On Your Collar Artrix, Bromsgrove Vince Freeman No3a, Bromsgrove Clarkesville Mountain Band The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester James Hickman Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester Bratt The Bridge Inn, Worcester Shanghai Shuffle Cosy Club, Worcester Just Pick'in The Park Gate Inn, Dodford, Bromsgrove Transporters The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove Melvin Hancox Red Lion, Evesham Led Hendrix, Support Tbc The Rocklands Club, Redditch The Bootleg Beatles Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham Ten Tombs - The Last Show Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham Uncover: Time Of The Mouth, Insomniacs The Marrs Bar, Worcester The Jericho Racks, Hipflask Virgins, The Sunlight Machine Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester Martin & Eliza Carthy Malvern Cube, Malvern

Local Festivals

1-6 May 2019: Cheltenham Jazz Festival Various venues, Cheltenham
2-6 May 2019: The Prince Albert Beer and Music Fest The Prince Albert, Stroud
3-6 May 2019: The Mug House Beer & Cider Festival The Mug House Beer, Bewdley
3-6 May 2019: St Richard's Canal Festival Vines Park, Droitwich
3-6 May 2019: The Beltane Bash White House Farm Fields, Rous Lench, Evesham

3-5 May 2019: Deevstock Out to Grass, Malvern

4-6 May 2019: Upton-Upon-Severn Folk Festival Town Centre, Upton on Severn

10-12 May 2019: Raising Steam Festival Stoke Prior Sports and Social Club, Bromsgrove

23-27 May 2019: Dubs in the Middle Ashdown Farm, Evesham

23-31 May 2019: Hay Festival Hay-on-Wye

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until Sept Grayson Perry Exhibition at Croome National Trust Until 2nd June Hill & Dolphin: Views On Colour, Artrix Bromsgrove

1st- 31st RespectAbility Project by mixed media artist Jamie Brown, Worcester Arts Workshop

2nd John Osbourne : John Peel's Shed, Paradiddles, Worcester 3rd-19th Site Open Studios and festival, Stroud

3rd - 22nd, The White Crow (12A). Courtyard, Hereford (audio description available)

4th May - We Are What We Overcome - The Studio, Artrix 4th May - Screen on the Green - Star Warrs IV A New Hope Stourport Putting Green

Until 8th May Pershore arts - 'Annual Exhibition', Pershore Number 8 Until 15th May Maureen Sullivan - 'Art of Light', Pershore Number 8 Until june 1st Creatures of the Mappa Mundi, Hereford Cathedral 1st- 31st RespectAbility Project by mixed media artist Jamie Brown, Worcester Arts Workshop

4th & 5th Worcester Gin Festival, Guildhall Worcester 4th Polish Heritage Day, Cathedral Square, Worcester

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

3 Daft Monkeys West Malvern Social Club, Malvern And Finally... Phil Collins Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury Remi Harris The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock Rattlesnake Jake Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge Swamp Candy The Chestnut, Worcester Talon - The Acoustic Collection The Palace Theatre, Redditch James Harris The Queens Head, Redditch Piano Man: The Music Of Billy Joel Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham Paul Stone As Billy Idol Salford Hall Hotel, Evesham Dead Dads Club, Glitch, Word Of Mouth Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester Swamp Stomp String Band Claptrap, Stourbridge The Ska45's The River Rooms, Stourbridge Chevy Chase Stole My Wife The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester Arcadia Roots St Katherine's Barn, Ledbury Blyth Power, The Humdrum Express Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge Dave Onions Cock And Magpie, Bewdley Dan & King Rich Gardeners Arms, Droitwich The Desperados Uk Dick Whittington's, Gloucester Beaver & The Foghorns, Sapphire Blues Café Rene, Gloucester Tom Mcconville The Courtyard, Hereford

23-26 May 2019: : Jazz Stroud Town Centre, Stroud

........

23-26 May 2019: Breaking Bands Festival 2019 Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove

24-26 May 2019: Lechlade Festival Highworth, Lechlade

24-26 May 2019: Mello Festival Hanley Castle, Worcester

24-26 May 2019: Under The Hill Festival Ashton Under Hill, Evesham

24-26 May 2019: How The Light Gets In Hay-on-Wye, Hay-on-Wye

24-26 May 2019: Gloucester Shanty Festival Various Venues, Gloucester

25-26 May 2019: Katiesfest 3pm -11pm Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge 25-26 May 2019: Stroud Steampunk Weekend Subscription Rooms, Stroud

31 May – 2 June 2019: Wychwood Festival Cheltenham Race Course, Cheltenham

31 May-2 June May 2019: Worcester Early Music Festival Various Venues, Worcester

 4th until 6th July, The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum 5th Eastnor Chilli Festival, Eastnor Castle, Ledbury 7th WAW Spoken Word, Worcester Arts Workshop 9th - 5th June Simon Brown - 'Tranquillity: Peaceful Landscapes', Number 8, Pershore 13th - 30th Wild Rose(15). Courtyard, Hereford (audio description available) 14th Dead End: Outspoken, Worcester Arts Workshop

14th A Thousand Faces, Courtyard, Hereford

16th - 5th June, Volunteers' Showcase, Number 8, Pershore 18th The Simon and Garfunkel Story, Courtyard, Hereford

18th Worcester Film Institute launch party. Worcester Arts Workshop 18th May - Screen on the Green - The Greatest Showman Stourport Putting Green

23rd Creation Stories, Courtyard, Hereford 25th A Clockwork Orange (18), Courtyard, Hereford 27th until 2nd June. Of The Earth, Elmslie House, Malvern 27th Pershore Carnival

29th Sourpuss, Artrix Bromsgrove

31st The 39 Steps, Worcester Arts Workshop

31st Shawshank Redemption, screening at HM Prison Gloucester



Ethical AND excellent. What more could you ask? All I need to do my stuff at work and in leisure.' Aaron H, Oxford<u>shire</u>

Superfast Fibre Broadband

from E28 per mol



- You'll always pay the price you agree, • even when your contract's over
- Or we'll automatically move you to our lowest • standard rate when out of contract
- And you'll get the service we promise with • satisfaction guaranteed - or you can walk away

Please see our website for full T&Cs

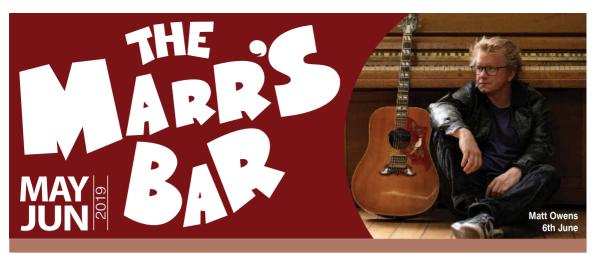
Average customer rating

month

*Correct at time of print

Talk to us: 01608 434 040 thephone.coop/slap





Friday May 3 Paul Bridgwater & The Electric Blues Rebellion, Lew Boulton £4 in advance £5 on the door

Friday May 10 Jasper In The Company Of Others, The Rouge Embers + Scribble Victory £7 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday May 11 Rust For Glory (Neil Young tribute) £7 in advance £10 on the door

Friday May 17 Never 42 (Level 42 tribute) £10 in advance £15 on the door

Saturday May 18 The UB40 Experience (UB40 tribute) £8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday May 19 The Orb (Sold Out) £25 in advance

Saturday May 25 Dog Of Two Head (Status Quo tribute) £8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday May 31 Uncover: Time of the Mouth, Insomniacs £6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday June 6 Matt Owens (Ex Noah And The Whale) Alex Lipinski £8 in advance £10 on the door Friday June 7 Biffy McClyro (Biffy Clyro tribute) £8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday June 8 Moretallica (Metallica tribute), Fracture £9 in advance £11 on the door

Thursday June 13 Dr Feelgood £18 early bird ticket

Saturday June 15 Mused (Muse tribute) £8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday June 16 Daniel Kemish £8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday June 27 999 £11.50 in advance £13.50 on the door

Friday June 28 The 1990s (Britpop tribute band) £8 in advance £10 on the door

COMING UP...

Saturday July 6 Soul Stripper (AC/DC tribute) Friday July 12 The Official Receivers Saturday July 20 Higher On Maiden (Iron Maiden tribute) Thursday July 25 The Wedding Present

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry Late Fridays & Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

www.marrsbar.co.uk 01905 613336 Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue Available for private hire