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Issue 93

July 2019

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July 2019 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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It's another bumper month here in Slapland with so much to look forward to as we deadline on the hottest day of the year so far!

It was wonderful to see the sun shining on Glastonbury this year with some incredible performances beamed straight into your home. But remember, Glastonbury would be nothing if wasn't for the unique grass roots music culture we have in this country, so while it's fantastic to see the festival vibe on the red button it's nowhere near as good as actually being there. Tickets may be scarce for Glastonbury but there are literally hundreds of festivals up and down the country that need your support...

In the following pages we look back at two very different local festivals for you, Wychwood in Cheltenham and Hopfest in Bewdley just to get you in the festive mood.

This months local festivals include our very own mini Glasto in Noztock the Hidden Valley near Bromyard, The brilliant 2000 Trees in Cheltenham, El Darado in Ledbury and Linton in Ross- on- Wye, to name but a few. If outdoor festival aren't your thing, there are some cracking urban festivals to go to like Upton Blues Festival, Bromsgrove Folk, Stroud, Cheltenham, ledbury, Gloucester... The list is endless, well not quite, but it is printed on page 46. So fingers crossed for a continuation of the hot spell because festivals are always better when the sun is shining.

If spoken word and poetry is your thing then you're in for a busy month ahead with events such as brilliant Ledbury Poetry Festival, Bromsgrove and the many local and regular events coming up.

Our cover image is by Andy Burton highlighting the 'May the Toys be with You' event running at the Worcester Art Gallery and Museum opening in July and running into September...

Forc-Ed



Cover image: By Andy Burton for the 'May The Toys Be With You' exhibition at the Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum which opens on Saturday 20th July.



Spotify

Search Slap Magazine

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Apple split into chunks

Apple has announced at its annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) that it will be shutting down iTunes, its 18-year-old digital media software. In its place, Mac users will have three individual, dedicated apps for music, podcasts and TV, similar to the current iPhone setup. As iTunes grew to encompass podcasts, TV and films users complained that it had become slow to use - so Apple have decided to split the formats between different apps. In the future when Mac users update their software, music currently in their library will transfer to the Apple Music app and TV and movie purchases will migrate to the Apple TV app.

Worcestershire becomes Barnes yard

Charley Barnes from Worcester has been crowned the new **Worcestershire Poet Laureate** for 2019-20 and has pledged to further encourage poetry and literature throughout the county, with appearances and commissions to write verse for a number of occasions. Charley will also be working with **Worcs Litfest** and **Litfest Fringe** with a regular blog.

Carnival booked up

Worcester Carnival have announced that beneficiaries of this year's event due to take place Saturday 6 July on Pitchcroft will be **Worcester Snoezelen** and **West Mercia Rape & Sexual Abuse Support** - with the parade's theme being books. Volunteers still needed to help - more at worcester-carnival.co.uk

Pride of the hills

All systems go for Malvern's first Pride event - to be held at **Priory Park** on Saturday 27 July. Organisers have already lined up music and entertainers, and there's been sponsorship and support from the likes of QinetiQ and the local Fire Brigade Union - but more help and support still welcomed - for more info search **Malvern Pride** on justgiving.com

Wyred for sound

Wyre Forest charity **KEMP Hospice** will be celebrating their 50th anniversary with a day-long musical bash at the Shed in Crossway Green on Sunday 18 August with confirmed artists including Max from **The Wanted**, **Fuzzbox** and a selection of local acts. There'll also be a comedy zone, funfair, karaoke - plus a real ale tent - more at kemphospice.org.uk/kempfest

Still banging the drums

Organisers of the second **John Bonham** celebration to be held in Redditch have cancelled the event as they felt they couldn't live up to last year's festival which raised £23,000 for the **Teenage Cancer Trust** and coincided with the unveiling of a JB memorial. There'll be a smaller event at the Queen's Head on Saturday 21 September - but organisers hope to again provide something memorable next year - johnbonhamac.com

Tickets for Sayle

More big names announced for this year's **Ledbury Poetry Festival** running from 5 to 14 July - and voted the UK's finest - including **Alexei Sayle**, **Roger McGough** and **Margaret Atwood**. Tickets to see and hear the new **Poet Laureate Simon Armitage** sold out in record time - but spaces still available for other events as we go to press - www.poetry-festival.co.uk

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Mapping the way forward

Due to concerns about costs and security no tenth anniversary **Mappfest** was held this year on Link Common - but founder **Andy Mapp** still arranged a WW2 Lancaster flypast over Malvern on 15 June and hosted a smaller gig at his home in the evening, and he promises Mappfest will return bigger and better again next year!

Flam and Flange Radio

Flam and Flange is a new regular live radio show/ podcast hosted by **Luke Bishop** and **Stu McGoo** that aims to promote local musicians. Each episode follows a different theme and focus and they often interview musicians and producers featured in the show. Catch the next episode by following Flam and Flange on Facebook or at www.flamandflange.co.uk.

Good Times at Nozstock

If you missed out on this year's Glasto return - the **Sunday Times** has listed ten unmissable festivals you can still get tickets for - and topping the pile is the totally unique **Nozstock!** Attendees are encouraged to dress up for this year's theme the **Wizard Of Noz** - and acts include **Rudimental**, **Soul II Soul**, **Skatalites** and the **Sleaford Mods** - nozstock.com

Summers' cancelled & rescheduled

The lovely weather we've enjoyed over the last few weeks meant that the **Summerfest** due to be held at Himley Hall on 16 June in aid of **Mary Stevens Hospice** couldn't go ahead - but it's been rescheduled for Sunday 28 July with headliners including **Scouting For Girls** and Bewdley's own **Becky Hill** who achieved both fame and infamy on BBC's **The Voice** before charting at #1 with **Gecko** in 2014 - details at seaty.co.uk/summerfest2019

Elgar's enigma

A composer and AI music expert with a double-first from Cambridge has claimed to have perhaps solved the mystery behind Edward Elgar's Enigma Variations - stating that the hidden theme that 'unlocks' the work may be a piece of 18th century Italian choral music. Elgar was known for his interest in ciphers and puzzles and Ed Newton-Rex's theory has attracted some support - but he freely admitted that 'we may never be 100% certain of the solution'...

Orchard Returns

A popular two-day fundraising festival in memory of a mum will return once again with a brilliant line-up of live bands, entertainment and more. **Dave Morgan** launched **Orchard Fest** in 2016 in memory of his wife Trish, who sadly passed away from a brain tumour in January 2011. Trish had been inspired to hold the festival before she died and her family carried out her wishes creating a family-friendly festival which is the highlight of the summer.

Puddle Party presents **Orchard Fest** is set to take place at **Puddle Wharf Farm**, Redditch Road, Bromsgrove on Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13 raising money for **Primrose Hospice** and **St Richard's Hospice**. This year's Orchard Fest will see Save the Date headlining on Friday and New 57 on Saturday evening. Also included on the line-up are **Larko**, **Living the Dream**, solo artists **Lucy**, **Polkadot Robot** and more. Festival goers can also enjoy entertainment including belly dancers, Move with a Smile and a bouncy castle. There will also be the chance to enjoy a pig roast, bar and DJ Ian while a full line up list and entertainment can be found by searching **Puddle Party** on Facebook.

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Royal Porcelain Works

The **Royal Porcelain Works** is a vibrant new cultural development in the heart of historic Worcester that features arts and crafts, a brand-new exhibition space, a fabulous new eatery and the world-renowned **Museum of Royal Worcester**. This exciting new development is a hub of activity and events for members of the local community as well as visitors to the City.

Originally founded by Robert Chamberlain in Severn Street, the site has been redeveloped by the Bransford Trust to create a new centre for the arts in Worcester - featuring **The 'Henry Sandon' Hall**. The 1852 showroom is at the heart of the development, refurbished to become a 140 seat capacity venue, equipped with the latest audio visual technology.



The Hall sits alongside **The Nest**; a unique, quirky, casual but comfortable, family friendly licensed Café/Deli serving wonderful fresh, simple food, delicious fair-trade coffee and teas, with an excellent bakery section featuring artisan breads and cakes, regional beers, wines and spirits. Above the Nest is **The Studio**, named after **Sam Driver White**, a space dedicated to providing facilities and opportunity for local artists and craftspeople to showcase their work and demonstrate their skills, in a purpose-built arts workshop and studio. These facilities, alongside a gallery



and a courtyard, are host to an eclectic mix of events; including theatre, cinema, talks, antiques fairs, farmer's markets and art workshops and exhibitions.

Towards the end of the year works will complete on the final phase of the development on **Severn Street**, sitting alongside **Piston Gin Distillery**, will be creative work spaces for the arts. The original **'Finishing House'** will be incubation space for start-up creative businesses and artists, while the **'Painting House'** will be available either as single spaces or shared collective working spaces for artists, ceramicists, potters, photographers and alike

The new offering will also house an independent retail unit which will enable artists working on-site to sell their wares, as well as well sought-after office spaces.



The Royal Porcelain Works raises the profile of the fantastic level of creativity and craftsmanship that exists locally, helping ensure these skills remain relevant to future generations and those traditions for which the city of Worcester is renowned live on, thanks to the support of the **Bransford Trust**.

To enquire about renting Our Spaces, please contact Sara on sara.matthews@royalporcelainwork.co.uk or 01905 677399



worcester arts workshop

It's a month of wonderful workshops for all ages, live music and spoken word at the City Centre venue on Sansome Street.

Sunday Sessions returns on 14 July with music from **Beware The Bears** and **The Flames**. The chilled out Sunday music continues on 21 July with performances from **Tony Gillham**, **Ben Ruggles**, **Town Musicians of Bremen**, **L Gormley** and **Chloe Elliot** and on 28 July, Sunday Sessions sees Worcestershire's own **Dharma Bums** play in the Cafe/Bar.

Schools out for the summer and on Friday 19 July Worcester Arts Workshop will be celebrating the long hot days of summer with **Ed Steelfox's Old Skool Summer Disco**.


Spoken word events during July begin with **Poetry And A Pint**, hosted by **Spoz**, on Wednesday 17 July. The rhymes continue with **Licensed to Rhyme** on Saturday 28 July. Back with headline act **Joe Cook**, widely acknowledged as Birmingham's Best-Poet, and featuring guest poet/stand-up comic **Theo Theobald** July's **Licensed To Rhyme** looks set to be a cracker!



Joe Cook

Throughout July and on into the summer holidays **Worcester Arts Workshop** will be running a whole host of family events and workshops, beginning with Summer Saturdays family craft sessions in the Cafe/Bar on 27 July & 3 August and a **Storytelling Pottery Workshop** and **Animal Sculpting Workshop** on 30 July.

For full events and workshop listings or to book visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk.



Flexible creative work space for the Arts



Royal Porcelain Works is approaching completion of its city centre, creative work space for the arts.

The new offering will house an independent retail unit which will enable artists working on-site to sell their wares and the original painting house will be incubation space for start-up creative businesses and artists, creating a buzzing artist community.

The ground floor and first floor workshop spaces will be available either as single spaces or shared collective working spaces for artists, ceramicists, potters, photographers and alike.

The Royal Porcelain Works raises the profile of the fantastic level of creativity and craftsmanship that exists locally, helping ensure these skills remain relevant to future generations and those traditions for which the city of Worcester is renowned live on.

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Royal Porcelain Works, Severn Street, Worcester. WR1 2NE www.royalporcelainworks.co.uk

Taking a short July break from the day job, I'll be on site this month with a different venture, **Nozstock** the Hidden Valley's quirky venue **The Cabinet of Lost Secrets**. If you are at Noz, then swing by and say hello for lashings of funk, soul, grooves, electronica, and general immersive weirdness from this unique venue and freakish team! And remember that part of the overall magic of Nozstock is that it's absolutely packed full of cool, creative, colourful and imaginative things to see and do. As well as all the music and family vibes, it's fab for all ages! 19-21st July. nozstock.com



Number 8 arts

Pershore Number 8 have extended their call out for artist submissions for two opportunities and the thriving Vale artspace. You can submit for their **Open Exhibition** in September and also apply to have your own exhibition as an individual or group during 2020. The deadline has been extended until Thursday 25 July, 11.00am.



Also this month, you can see a new exhibition about the heritage of the area. **Pershore Heritage Centre** - 'Souvenirs & Short Stories'. Objects, images and words come together to stir memories in this exhibition from Pershore's local heritage collection. Featuring embroideries and clothing from birth to mourning, old and revived crafts, treasured tools, miniature books and model vehicles, this fascinating display gives an insight into the varied nature of the heritage collection. 18 July - 10 August

For all info and submission forms go to : www.number8.org or contact exhibitions@number8.org / 01386 561906

Hidden - Mind Exhibition

This exhibition features the work of a group of contemporary artists based in Herefordshire. Drawing on a range of different media, including animation, printmaking, painting, installation and abstract photography, they all are part of a group called **ArtSpace**, run by Herefordshire Mind, which seeks to support and promote artists in their creative practice, whilst continuing to maintain their well-being. Research shows that taking part in creative activities has tangible effects on physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, something the **ArtSpace** group hopes to promote through this body of work. 6 July - 3 August. **The Courtyard Hereford**.



Champion of rural touring John Laidlaw receives MBE

Maybe you have been to see an outstanding show or live music performance at a village hall in the sticks or at a small venue in the Midlands for a cut price over the past 20 years and thought you totally got your monies worth. Rural touring plays a hugely important role in getting the arts out to lesser reached areas and **Live & Local's John Laidlaw** has just recently been recognised by the Queen for his integral part in making this happen.

John has played a significant role in developing the rural arts touring sector in this country, helping bring local communities together to enjoy high-quality professional live theatre, music and dance shows. In 1992, he was contracted to run the touring scheme **Live & Local in Warwickshire**, ultimately becoming Executive Director. It is now one of the largest Rural Touring networks within the UK, working across eight counties in the Midlands.

Live & Local co-ordinates a rural & community touring scheme helping a network of over 250 village halls and community venues - in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire (Shindig), Leicestershire & Rutland (Centre Stage), Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire Rural Community Touring) and Nottinghamshire (Village Ventures) - choose and promote professional entertainment: from music, theatre, storytelling and dance, to magic, puppet and children's & family shows.

John Laidlaw said: '*Initially flabbergasted and then honoured and then when I found out how it had happened, hugely grateful to all the people who had supported the process. It's great to be recognised personally for something that you've put most of your working life into... but I also think it is a great accolade for the Rural Touring sector. Without the dedication of many other people over many years getting the sector to the scale and respect it now has, the MBE wouldn't have been possible.*'

For more information visit: liveandlocal.org.uk



Legacy bench moves to Guildhall

The **St Richard's Hospice** is inviting members of the public to take a seat on its travelling bench – and reflect on their life. The **'Legacy Bench'** – a painted fiberglass bench by **Worcester Stands Tall** artist **Katie Hodgetts**, bears lines of verses and is installed at **Worcester's Guildhall** until Monday, July 8.

Previously seen at the city's **Royal Porcelain Works** and the **West Garden** at **Worcester Cathedral**, it is hoped the bench will encourage people to think about how they would like to be remembered, while raising awareness of the hospice's dependence on gifts in Wills to fund its care.

Artist **Katie Hodgetts** used the same blue-and-white design as she created for the hospice's giraffe, **Snowdrop** for the colourful giraffe trail **Worcester Stands Tall** last summer.

Tricia Cavell, fundraising director at **St Richard's Hospice**, said:

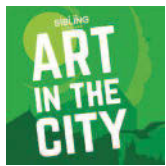
"We are delighted to see our beautiful bench in place at such an iconic city landmark. We hope passers-by will take the chance to sit and reflect on what they'd like to be remembered for – whether it is for your life's work, generosity or something simple like your smile."



Each year the hospice team supports more than 3,300 patients, family members and bereaved people in Worcestershire. For more information about **St Richard's Hospice** visit www.strichards.org.uk

Theatre inspired by Gloucester housing issues

Get along to **St Nicholas' Church** in Gloucester on 20th July for an interactive evening of theatre that will challenge and question the current housing situation and homelessness in the UK.



Man on Bench - David Tovey: formerly a homeless artist, educator and activist David Tovey's work involves bringing people together to talk about homelessness in new ways – it can be both beautiful and hard-hitting but it is about ignoring the headlines, moving beyond the stereotypes and bringing

people together to start a new conversation. **Man on Bench** started its life back in 2013 when someone sat down to talk to me just as I was about to take my own life. That day things changed, I began to use art as part of my recovery, and this moment stayed with me, becoming a metaphor for how people can come back from adversity.

On Hold - Tale Be Told: Inspired by the real-life experiences of families living in temporary accommodation, this darkly comic play lifts the lid on what it means not to have a home to call your own. It reveals the human truth behind the statistic of the housing crisis. **Tale be Told Theatre** uses humour and storytelling to inform and raise awareness of social issues. We abandon the fourth wall, ensuring that the people at the heart of the stories we tell have their voices heard loud and clear.

This event is part of **Sibling Distillery Art in The City 2019**.

St Nicholas' Church, Gloucester. July 20th. 8.30pm-11pm. Tickets and info, go to Facebook page – **Sibling Distillery Art in The City** @ArtInTheCityGlos

Look out for Dancefest popping up this summer!

You'll find **Dancefest** popping up all over the city this summer – at **Worcester BID's** pocket park, as part of **Worcester Community Trust's KidzPlay** and at the **Worcester Show**.

They'll be holding their **Dancefest Picnic** at Worcester BID's **Pocket Park** at 2pm on Saturday 13 July at **Cathedral Square**. This is a fun afternoon of dance, with performances by their children's dance groups and a chance for everyone to join in at the end. Bring a picnic and a blanket, relax and enjoy the afternoon!

Then on Sunday 11 August you'll find their **Chance to Dance Company** popping up with dance in unexpected places at this year's **Worcester Show**. Inspired by life at the park, they might join you at your picnic, invite you for a game of tennis or surprise you with an impromptu disco around a bench.

You can also take part in their **Spreading the Love** dance summer school for all ages on 29 July-2 August. Come along to have fun, meet new people, learn new skills and create a dance in a day! They all cost only £15 a day or £7.50 for half a day.

Mon 29 July – Love to Dance (55+) 10am-3pm, The Angel Centre, Worcester – A day of dance and creativity to make a piece to perform at the end of the day.

Tues 30 July – Dance Film in a Day (11-18), 10am-3pm, Worcester – Create a dance film, using The Hive as a starting point for movement and a backdrop for the film.

Wed 31 July – Colours of My Life – Inclusive Dance Day (16+) 10am-3pm, The Courtyard, Hereford – A sensory and movement based experience for disabled and non-disabled dancers.

Thurs 1 August – For the Love of Dance (5-14), 5-10s at 10am-12 noon, 11-14s at 1-3pm, Tenbury High Ormiston Academy – Summer dance sessions for aspiring performers.

Fri 2 August – Love Your Dance (18+), 10am-1pm, The Angel Centre – Led by dance artist Lauren Trim, focusing on different ways to approach choreography.

Find out more at dancefest.co.uk or give them a ring on 01905 611199



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

Suz Winspear

I'm writing this in a state of some exhaustion, the day after the end of this year's **Worcestershire LitFest** – a very busy week of performances, poetry, spoken word and music. The new LitFest Hub at the Old Pheasant was a huge success, and everybody loved the bookshop and the art exhibition. Planning for next year's festival will begin soon . . .

We've had some competitions during the festival, including the **Poetry and Flash Fiction** slams. **The Poetry slam** was won (for the second year running!) by **Io Osborn**, whilst the Flash Fiction prize went to **Holly Yuille** – congratulations to both winners!

LitFest began with the contest to find the new **Worcestershire Poet Laureate** – and this year's winner was the wonderful **Charley Barnes**, who writes fantastic poetry and has been working hard organising events and spreading her enthusiasm for spoken word for some years. She'll be a brilliant Laureate – congratulations to Charley!

In a special message for SlapMag readers, Charley says, *"It's amazing, and a real honour, to be able to bring more poetry into Worcestershire, not only through regular nights like Dear Listener, and SpeakEasy, but through the laureate events that I'll be looking to pepper throughout the year. Stay tuned!"*

And here are some upcoming Spoken Word events for July -
Thursday 11th July – SpeakEasy at Waylands Yard Eclectic poetry from a wide range of local poets. 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

The Currency of Kindness: Poetry and Cake at Bromsgrove Library !!

You might recognise her from the Nationwide adverts: now, as part of **The Bromsgrove Festival**, the award winning poet, **Jo Bell**, comes to **Bromsgrove Library** on Thursday 18th July at 2.00 pm. Jo will be reading her work, including extracts from her Radio 4 docupoem, *"Slow Machine"*, and, especially for the afternoon, some previously unheard new poems.

Jo is an entertaining speaker, *'lively, sexy and deft'* according to broadcaster **Stuart Maconie**. She lives on a narrowboat and writes about her life on boats, and her career as an archaeologist. Her global workshop, the **52** project, brought hundreds of poets together to write in a 'virtual village'. Jo's how-to books, including *How to Be a Poet* and *52: Write a Poem A Week* are bestsellers.

Ledbury's Evening Farmers' Market The Farmers' Market that "Plays its own Tune"

Launching on Thursday 4th July from 6pm to 8pm with Buskers and Bar till late. Then the First Thursday each month: including 1st August, 5th September . . .

At **The Barn**, a new gallery, bar and music venue at St Katherine's Ledbury. Find out more Facebook: @LedburyFarmersMarket

Ledbury Food Group's Traditional Farmers' Market is different. It's early evening, so you can meet up and relax after



Saturday 13th July – Time to Write at the Kiln 0.5 A new type of event, at the Kiln (next to the Guildhall.) This is the inaugural meeting of a co-working group for writers – 6 hours of quiet writing time, with breaks for refreshments and the chance to get to know other writers and talk about writing. £5, including unlimited tea and coffee, and homemade cake (including a vegan option.) Details of how to book can be found on the Facebook events page.

Wednesday 17th July – Poetry and a Pint at the Third Space, Worcester Arts Workshop A fairly new event which I hope will become a regular fixture, a relaxed evening of poetry hosted by the inimitable **Spoz**. Open mic slots available

– sign up on the night! 7pm. Free entry.

Thursday 18th July – 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 will be **Emma Purshouse**. (The coffee and cake is good as well!) £3 admission. 6.30 – 8.30pm.

Wednesday 31st July - 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 . . . This month's theme is **'Through the Arched Window'**. 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: list@42worcester.com . . . Free entry. 7.30pm.

Suz Winspear

One of the poets invited to Buckingham Palace as a representative of the country's finest, the outgoing poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy calls her *'one of the most exciting poets writing today.'*

The event is free and is organised in conjunction with the Library by **WORDS**, the group which promotes interest in Bromsgrove in the written and spoken word.

For more information on WORDS, visit bromsgrovewords.com, or follow WORDS on Twitter @bromsgrovewords. You can follow Jo Bell at @jo_bell



Image by Lee Allen

work with friends, listen to buskers or music in the bar; buy provisions for dinner and the weekend; taste delicious eats from the market – "a pie and a pint"

Our stalls will include organic vegetables, fresh meats, pork pies, charcuterie, raw Jersey milk, cheeses, eggs, chilli products, jams/chutneys, delicious savoury pastries and cakes, ready meals to take-away. There will be artisan cider and perry, and a Vegan bakery at future markets too.

Farmers markets are a discovery for all the senses: visual, taste and smell. Vegetables are harvested, eggs gathered and baking done on the day. Meat is prepared especially for the market.

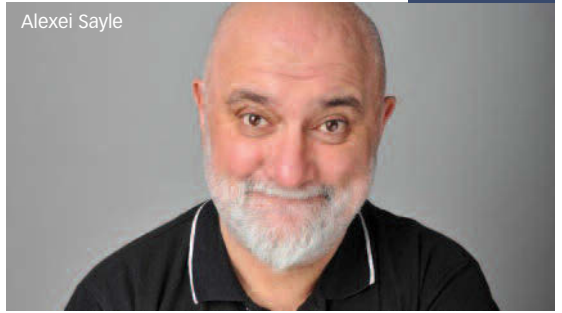
Ledbury Poetry Festival

5th until the 14th July

This year's Ledbury Poetry Festival is shaping up to be one of the most successful ever with three living poet laureates, **Simon Armitage**, **Carol Ann Duffy** and **Andrew Motion** and the big names including **Margaret Atwood**, **Roger McGough**, **Alexei Sayle**, **Eleanor Bron** and **Ali Smith**, poetry workshops, free 20 minute readings and family events in the Walled Garden. There will be international poets such as **Ilya Kaminsky**, **Ales Steger**, **Laura Wittner** and **Shivane Ramlochan**.

There is also a Reprieve readings event as a response to human rights abuses at Guantanamo Bay by seven specially commissioned poets, a **Bertolt Brecht** themed and **Ivor Gurney**

Alexei Sayle



themed events, **Ledbury Poetry Slam** and culminating in a celebration on the final day with food, drink and poetry next to **Ledbury Library**. www.poetry-festival.co.uk

Ledbury Fringe

runs alongside the Ledbury Poetry festival from the 4th until the 14th July

The **Fringe** focuses on bringing together live music, buskers, comedy, dance and even some poetry and storytelling. The different events take place around the town of Ledbury and most of the events are free to enjoy.

It kicks off with the arrival of the **Ledbury Food Group's** first ever **Evening Farmer's Market** at **The Barn** in St Katherine's car park on 4th July, and that evening, the Fringe music starts with the 'Eclectic Acoustic' sound of **Mumbo-Jumbo** at **The Prince of Wales**. Over the next 11 days, there's a full programme of events with something happening every day. You can enjoy performances of a wide range of music including gentle folk, blues, jazz and rock interspersed with fringe poetry and workshops. Even the range of venues is also eclectic, from the parish church to micro pubs and all that lies between. Then, around the beautiful market town of Ledbury there will be busking spots throughout the period, so if you fancy yourself as a performer of anything; music, comedy or poetry you can just turn up and showcase your work for people walking by. You never know who might spot you!!!



The **Ledbury Celebration** on Sunday 14th July includes a full afternoon's music from local performers. As the acts take a turn on the stage area in St Katherine's car park next to The Barn, you'll discover some poetry and may even find some dance performance as the acts change on the stage, or why not browse the different food and drink stalls.

The Fringe draws to a close, right back where it started at The Prince of Wales where **Sue Fear** will be performing songs from the 30s to the 50s and more with her trio, **Life**.

Full brochures are available from different venues in Ledbury or check out the website ledburyfringe.org.uk or Facebook page. More info email info@ledburyfringe.org.uk



Poetry with bite...

A brand new publishing house is launching this summer, kicking off with the debut collection from local poet **Holly Daffurn**

Bite Poetry Press will publish spoken word collections and curated anthologies, starting with two unique and heartfelt collections from Worcester-based writer, **Holly Daffurn** and Swindon poet **Scott Cowley**.

The launch will take place between 7-10pm on the 20th July at **Paradiddles, Worcester**. With a casual drinks reception, before a Q&A with the publishers, book signings and exclusive performances from **Scott Cowley** and **Holly Daffurn**.

To find out more about the publishing house, to buy copies of the book and to get hold of your free ticket for the book launch visit www.bitepress.co.uk

Review

Charity Comedy Extravaganza for Mental Health Awareness Pear Tree Inn, Smite, Worcester | Friday 2nd August

This August Worcester local **Richard Price** is hosting a special one night only charity event combining stand-up comedians and musicians to bring you the best that Hereford & Worcester has to offer. All to raise funds for the **Papyrus Charity**.

Papyrus is a society which speaks openly about suicide and has the resources to help young people who may have suicidal thoughts and they exist to reduce the number of young people who take their own lives by shattering the stigma around suicide and equipping young people and their communities with the skills to recognise and respond to suicidal behaviour.

Hannah Mac



Rob Coleman



The line-up consists of solo performances by **Hannah Mac** and comedy from **Tim Hoskins, Rob Coleman & Darren Archer**, with a one night only performance from Worcester's own **Richard Price**, all hosted by Birmingham comedy king, **Ryan Gough**.

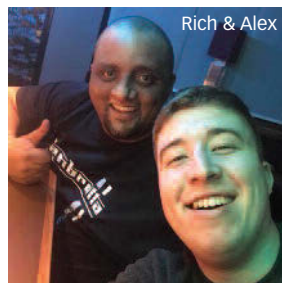
Raffle and auctions will be held for all donated goods including signed merchandise from West Bromwich Albion FC and Manchester United FC.

Hot food by **Arden Pig Hire** will be provided as part of the ticket price and to top it off, Worcester pop duo **Mel & Him** will deliver an 80's revival disco for you to dance the night away and relive the classics.

If you are unable to attend but still believe in this great cause; you can still show your appreciation and support by donating via our GoFundMe page. Further details of the event including ticket purchasing and donations can all be seen on standup4.co.uk, you can find us on Facebook via [StandUp4Papyrus](https://www.facebook.com/StandUp4Papyrus) or [Standup4P](https://twitter.com/Standup4P) on Twitter.

Richard Price commented *"After losing one of my friends through suicide last year I had the opportunity to spend more time with his brother Alex and learn about all the wonderful things his family were doing to spread awareness, I was inspired to get involved. I am passionate about helping this charity, everybody involved from the venue to the performers, technicians and caterers are all donating their services for the charity. I ask you to be a part of something special on Friday 2nd August at the Pear Tree Inn, Smite, Worcester, don't wait to get your tickets later, grab one now, donate now, please".*

You have the power to save people's lives so please give what you can, every donation makes the difference needed to save lives, you have the power so use it today.



Rich & Alex



Ryan Gough

New outdoor venue for Worcester Music Festival

Plans for the **2019 Worcester Music Festival** (13-15 Sept) are well underway and organisers are promising it will be a bumper year for music fans across the city. 25 venues have signed up to be involved and 30 volunteer promoters have been recruited to put together a weekend packed full of live music and entertainment.

As well as taking over existing city centre venues, for the first time, the festival will take its outdoor stage to Worcester's largest public space, **Cathedral Square**. Appropriately enough for an outdoor venue, the stage is sponsored by **Olpro**, Worcestershire-based designers and producers of camping and camper van equipment. Visitors will listen to live music and have the chance to talk to the Olpro team about their innovative products and support for local suppliers.

The stage will be in place on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September with a line-up curated by festival organisers to showcase the best of talent on offer throughout the city centre during the event.

The festival, which has been running since 2007, is raising money for **Worcester Foodbank** and takes place from 13th - 15th September. For more info visit: worcestermusicfestival.co.uk





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May the Toys be with you Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery 20th July - 14th September

From a galaxy far, far away comes an absolute must see for fans of **Star Wars** and the silver screen. One of the UK's finest collections of **vintage Star Wars** toys and original cinema posters is going on display in a stunning, free exhibition at **Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum**, opening on Saturday 20th July and on throughout the summer holidays.

Back when the movie *Star Wars* broke box office records in 1977 no one could have predicted that the merchandising would go on to earn even more than the film itself. The toys of *Star Wars* took the world by storm and became the must-have playthings for an entire generation. From 1977 - 1985 an estimated 300 million action figures were sold, allowing children to re-enact the adventures of Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and Han Solo.

Collector Matt Fox says: *"May The Toys Be With You is both a celebration of the now highly collectable vintage toy line and also of the iconic design work and art of the Star Wars movies. From X-Wing Fighters to lightsabers, these fantastical designs have fired our imaginations and stamped their place on our cultural landscape".*



For little kids and big kids alike this is an unmissable opportunity to view many rarely seen *Star Wars* treasures, and young Jedi also have the opportunity to dress up and wield a lightsaber themselves!

This touring exhibition has broken visitor attendance records at a host of museums around the country, and this will be its first time in the West Midlands.

Whilst marvelling at the amazing *Star Wars* collection, visitors can also take their own *Star Wars* selfie, enjoy hands-on activities in the Millennium Falcon Cockpit and chill in the Death Star reading and soft play area as well as enjoying a number of special activity days in the school holidays.

Some very special guests are visiting the Art Gallery & Museum for the official opening of the exhibition on Saturday 20 July. Visitors are also encouraged to come in their own *Star Wars* costumes.

May The Toys Be With You is free and open Monday - Saturday 10.30am - 4.30pm.

More info: 01905 25371 or museumsworcestershireshire.org.uk or follow @worcestermuseum

Film Review | Brightburn Apollo 11 - The Courtyard Hereford

A reimagining of the Superman story, **Brightburn** explores the idea of what would have happened if Superman was the bad guy.

Zack Snyder (*Man of Steel*) has given the world a Superman who has no problem with collateral damage and will quite happily snap the villain's neck to end the fight. Producer James Gunn (*Guardians of the Galaxy*) has taken this one step further by introducing an alien with the same powers and origin as Superman, who wants to "take the world". The thought of an all-powerful alien whose mandate is to take the world, with no hero to oppose him, is a truly scary thought. And this movie does a pretty good job at creating dangerous situations for the characters. Some of the death scenes felt a bit silly; and the kid really didn't need to act like a horror movie villain, since he is more powerful than everyone there, and could probably snap their neck at any moment.



The cast are all pretty good, with **Elizabeth Banks** and **David Denman** seeming like a real couple. However, they both seemed to suffer from the screenplay writing their character's to be as clichéd as possible. **Jackson A. Dunn** played their son and he did a great job at seeming creepy and unsettling. There was a good divide between him being the happy, carefree child at the begin to when he suddenly becomes a psychotic killer alien.

The end of the movie alludes to other similar plays on Justice League characters. It implies an evil Wonder Woman and Aquaman are in the world and it would be intriguing to see a sequel for either of those evil characters.

Zara Shepherd

To celebrate NASA's most celebrated mission, **The Courtyard** in Hereford will be screening brand new documentary, **Apollo 11(U)** from 13th - 25th July.

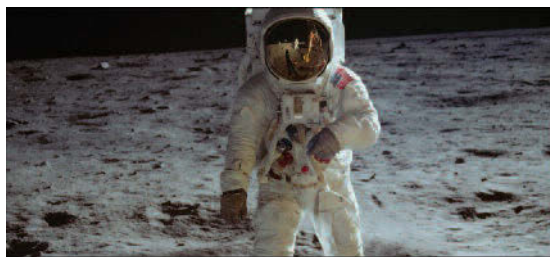
Created from previously unseen 70mm film footage and over 11,000 hours of uncatalogued audio recordings, **Apollo 11 (U)** launches audiences to the heart of the mission that first put men on the Moon and established Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin as American icons.

Directed, produced and edited by **Todd Douglas Miller**, **Apollo 11 (U)** is comprised solely of archived footage including scenes from Launch Complex 39, spectators who flocked to watch the launch, the recovery of Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins and post-mission efforts aboard the USS Hornet.

2019 marks 50 years since Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong first set foot on the Moon, an historical event that was broadcast live to audiences all across the globe. The momentous achievement put an end to the 'Space Race' and was, in the words of Armstrong himself, *"one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"*.

The Courtyard, Studio Theatre 13th - 25th July.

For tickets, or for more info: 01432 340555 or courtyard.org.uk.



Preview

Moseley Folk & Arts Festival '19 Friday 30 August – Sunday 1 September

For 14 years, this south Birmingham festival has consistently attracted a high calibre of artists and bands, all with a grounding, somewhere, in folk music. But anyone who's attended the now three-day event will know that it incorporates many other artistic elements too. Hence why, this year, the festival has adapted and rebranded itself as a folk and arts festival.



That said, we really do need to start with this year's musical billing. Why? Because it's a banger of a bill. On Friday, festivalgoers will enjoy the audio/visual splendour of **Public Service Broadcasting**. They'll be co-headlining the day with Liverpoolian outfit **The Zutons**, who have recently reformed to mark the 15th anniversary of their debut album *Who Killed The Zutons?*.



In addition, Ivor Inspiration Award winner, **Edwyn Collins** will also be on the bill, returning for a second time after performing at the festival six years ago, in 2013. Other acts on Friday include "folktronica" outfit **Tunng**, and **You Tell Me**, which is comprised of **Peter Bewis**, formerly of **Field Music** and **Sarah Hayes**. They'll be joined by a host of up-and-coming acts too.



Saturday sees the Brit Award-winning **Jake Bugg** top the bill, following a set from **Lucy Rose** (formerly of **Bombay Bicycle Club**). **Israel Nash**, whose music has been heralded as "cosmic poetry" will join them on the line up for day two, along with **Gwenifer Raymond**, **Alex Rex**, and fiddle player and multi-instrumentalist **Hannah Read**.



Then, if that's still not enough to fill your boots, Sunday brings things home with legend **Don McLean**. Apparently, his inclusion on the bill resulted in the highest "Early bird" ticket sales in the festival's history. He'll be joined on Sunday by **Richard Thompson**, who has been described as the "*finest songwriter after Bob Dylan*" – big words, those – and **Peggy Seeger**, among many more.



But what about the "arts" bit then? Well, in recent years, the festival has been gradually including more and more non-musical elements. This year, it's gone all out to reflect how important that part of the festival is. Attendees will be able to enjoy stand-up comedy, cabaret, poetry and literature, arts and crafts, and even get involved in some healthy debate at a live talk.

In short, **Moseley Folk** has gone full festival on us. And, if previous years are anything to go by, you can expect a corker of a weekend, packed to the rafters with top notch entertainment.

Moseley Folk & Arts Festival will take place from Friday 30 August – Sunday 1 September. Weekend tickets from £115pp, individual day tickets are priced at £48pp.

moseleyfolk.co.uk



Vocal High Pershore Baptist Church | 19th July

Renowned across several counties for their energetic and committed performances, **Vocal High** are a 40-strong ensemble of singers from around Pershore and Worcester, under the musical direction of singer **Paula Evans** and composer/pianist **Chris Long**. Born in a thunderstorm in 2016, the group perform regularly and have built a wide repertoire of song that shamelessly mashes up Russian church music, 70's folk-rock, sea shanties, folk song from the British Isles and beyond (Greece, Georgia, USA, Peru...) - in fact, anything that takes their fancy or floats their boat. They have 2 gigs in July - supporting their Australian friends **The Spooky Men's Chorale**, at Huntingdon Hall on July 20th; and their own full-length concert the night before (19th) in Pershore at the Baptist Church on Broad Street. Once heard, never forgotten! The concert starts at 7.30, tickets £10 from Eventbrite, via www.vocalhigh.com



Tom McMahon & Chris Long Elmslie House, Saturday 27th July

An exciting evening of contemporary and 20th century music for cello and piano, by two fine musicians. **Tom & Chris** are known for their adventurous programming, mixing folksong arrangements by the likes of Vaughan Williams with post-minimalist music by Arvo Part, Joby Talbot (from The Divine Comedy), Aphex Twin and original compositions by Chris. They are also known for their work with vocal ensemble Excelsa Voces, and were involved in the premiere last autumn of music written especially for them by Robert Fripp of King Crimson. In this concert they will be premiering new music for cello & electronics by Chris plus pieces by Mark Antony Turnage, Vaughan Williams, Olivier Messiaen and others. The concert starts at 7.30 and tickets are £12, from www.elmsliehouse.co.uk



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Matt Owens/Alex Lipinski/Chewie The Marrs Bar Worcester | 6th June

I'm sure I've said it before, but Worcester, for a touring musician, can be a tough nut to crack. While our city folk will gladly go out and support their mates band, you get a proven performer like **Matt Owens**, who, while part of **Noah And The Whale** performed on some of the biggest stages across the globe, draw just a smattering of people. Although the turn out may have been on the low side, when you count members of the **Lakefest** management, **Nigel Clark** and representatives of the SLAP team in the audience, you realise that the people in the know are all present and correct and for good reason.

Malvern based singer-songwriter **Chewie** can typically be seen treading the boards with both **Dogs Of Santorini** and **In Evolution** but here was charged with the night's opening slot and an opportunity to showcase his solo material. With impassioned, gravely vocals and a deft acoustic guitar, Chewie delivered an impressive set of raw roots that quickly held the attentive audience. The likes of *Twisted Virtues* and *After The Whiskey And Wine*, introduced as a song about breaking up with your stalker, were eagerly lapped up proving there's plenty more from the pen of Chewie. The man from Malvern finished up an impressive set by reinventing both *Fight For Your Right* and Kate Bush's, *Running Up That Hill* and giving them that unique and welcome Cheque twist.



Alex Lipinski followed and continued the vibe of the night with an intoxicating set showcasing just why he's such a highly regarded singer-songwriter, blending a myriad of influences from Dylan and Neil Young to modern day stripped back Brit-pop to create an engaging and infectious sound that hushed and held the room. Lipinski lifted a number of songs from his most recent album, *Alex* (produced by **Anton Newcombe** of Brian Johnstown Massacre fame), from the brisk strum of *Sophie's Song*, to the contagious acoustic indie of *Candylon Blues* and the mesmeric *Hurricane*, with it's hushed guitar and acapella mid-section, suggesting that the album is certainly worth delving into.



Matt Owens is part singer-songwriter, part story-teller regaling tales of the road or giving intriguing back story to the songs throughout his performance. His easy going, relaxed persona seduces the listener long before he's taken a strum of the adorned twelve string or aimed at the accompanying kick, so when he does launch into *Too Far Gone*, you already know the tale of a hungover Owens in New York and you're right there with him, humming the refrain. As Matt takes his place behind his keyboard, a story about a piano embedded in the foundations of a pub in a small Irish town introduces the gorgeous *The Piano At The Greyhound* before following with a soulful *Lay Down Honey*. Owens performs the majority of *Whiskey And Orchids* along with a handful of brand new songs, including a deliciously wry look at religion with a currently untitled number before bringing the curtain down with an inspired run through Dylan's *Girl From North Country*.

The lack of numbers couldn't put a dampener on one of those special 'You should have been there', Marrs Bar nights, a songwriting masterclass delivered by a trio of performers at the height of their game.

Will Munn

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With so much local talent, and amazing music currently being released in the area, **Paradiddles Music cafe bar** in Sidbury, Worcester has decided to bring it all together in one place - in CD format.

CDs will be available to buy (basically, this one's for those of you who want more than just a mere download)

To do this, the 'Diddles team are collecting releases from local musicians and will be displaying the lot throughout the cafe bar/music venue. For those who want a preview before purchasing, **Paradiddles** will also be hosting an exclusive listening station to help you decide which CD you want to take away.

Should you want even more information about the acts featured, short **Slap Magazine** reviews of some of the bands will be displayed too.

So, for those who'd like to get involved (i.e have your music featured), Paradiddles is encouraging musicians to drop off CDs they'd like to sell get in touch now!

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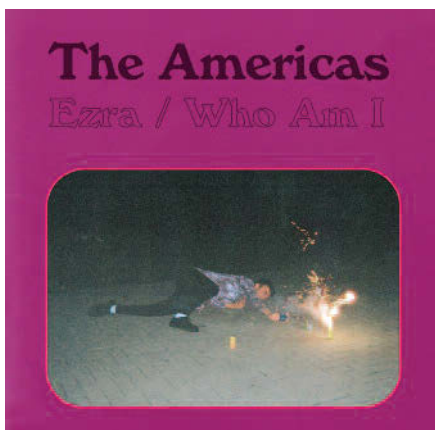
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www.VintageTrax.co.uk

The Americas | Ezra/Who Am I?

The Americas, a three piece that formed in 2015, are pure rock and roll. In *'Who am I Without You'* the boys shower the listener in recognisable emotion from the soulful resonance of the vocalist's heady "ohhh baby" chorus hooks to the gentle backing harmonies and twisting, twanging guitar riffs.

'Who am I Without You's' lyrics reference the iconic man "dressed in black," an image of Johnny Cash or a fifties vision of teenage rebellion which is paired alongside simple country girls and desperate love. The boys are using motifs we know, in a modern updated style that is familiar and yet completely their own. The band paint an excellent picture



and accompany it with clever guitar solos, neat bass lines and tight drumming which builds to perfect crescendos as the tortured romance of the song plays out.

'Ezra' tells a tale of unrequited love "gotta hand to hold but its not yours." Upstrummed, happy guitars contrast directly with the subject matter. Its always a pleasure to listen to a romantic lament that is entertaining rather than wallowing and *'Ezra'* is just that. Sunny drum fills fulfil the bouncy rhythm as the vocals ask "Will I ever see you again?" This upbeat track is perfect rock and roll for a summer's evening. *'Ezra'* is fun without being cheesy and repeating what's been done before, definitely worth a listen.

The Americas new release offers a great mixture of classic style with contemporary twists. I'm eager to see what they have in store for us next.

Katie Harris

Deathly Pale Party

A Local Man Covered In Spider Ruins

As the title surely suggests, this is a beautifully barmy and busy four minutes (dead!) of mutant musique.

You never know where this track will drag you next as a barely recognisable **Pandemon** squeals, shrieks and bleats brilliantly batty words, to whit (to woo):

*"Jubilee from the telephone
Bezonian cancerous growth
Chow Mein via drone
Kaleidoscopic minstrel zone
There's a scene everybody knows."*
Indeed.



Vocally evoking everyone from the sleaziest of rockers through P-Orridge, Vega and beyond, **Pandemon** is joined by the enraged guitar of cohort **Emma Castella** as she enters the fray in fine and frenetic fashion.

This piece is somewhat of a departure from DPP's usual milieu, clearly influenced by Dadaist and Industrial events they've partaken in, this is breathtaking work in intensity and invention as it grasps and grinds you into glorious submission.

Hopefully a taster for an upcoming meisterwerk, I for one am frothing feverishly in anticipation as Deathly Pale Party once again show that they're a terrifically terrible and titanic force to be reckoned with.

Go seek them hiding out at:
deathlypaleparty.bandcamp.com

Rebullah Conundrum

Fights And Fires

I Want Napalm Death Played At My Funeral

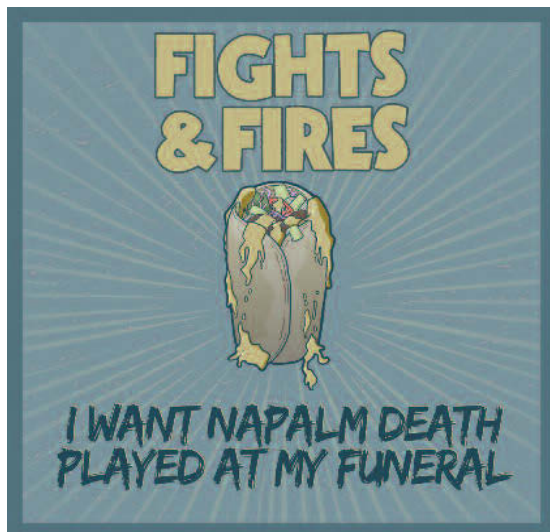
Worcester based quintet **Fights And Fires** first formed over ten years ago and since then they've become renowned for their high octane shows and slabs of hardcore infused punk anthems. The band have become staples of the local scene both performing and promoting shows in the area while still managing the time to zig-zag across Europe for extensive and increasing popular tours.

The first track to be unveiled from their new *Kebaptism* EP is the provocatively titled *I Want Napalm Death Played At My Funeral* and by all accounts it's a bit of a belter. Opening with one of those instant nagging riffs, the drums soon thunder in, and along with the addition of a second guitar, propel the three minute track at a fair old velocity as the attitude-laden vocals of **Phil Cox** join the mix, providing the track's addictive, chant inducing hook. As the track progresses, the band step on the power, hinting at that hardcore influence during an aggressive mid section before returning to that contagious opening riff and that earworm chorus that's now become embedded into the subconscious.

I'm not sure about having Napalm Death play at my funeral, but

I'll gladly take Fights And Fires for any forthcoming functions, birthday parties or christenings on this form!!

Will Munn



Matt Owens | Whiskey And Orchids

After singer-songwriter and former bass man of **Noah And The Whale**, **Matt Owens'** recent visit to **The Marrs Bar** and his revelation that he was actually christened locally in Claines (at the only church with a pub, **The Mug House**, in its grounds), we're now claiming Owens as one of own, hence the write up of his debut album released a little earlier this year.

Whiskey And Orchids sees Owens team up with producer and multi-instrumentalist, **Nigel Stonier** (renowned for his work with the likes of Thea Gilmore) to create a rootsy and intimate affair that hints at the likes of Dylan, Craig Finn and fellow troubadour Ben Glover as he takes a dip into the world of Americana.

Opening with a strummed acoustic, a touch of pedal steel and a lick of electric, *Lay Down Honey* is a gorgeous starting point, as Owens' soulful, gravelly tones are complimented by an understated Gilmore on harmonies while a shuffling band propel the song towards a warm and instant hook that invites you to sink further into the grooves of the disc. Little Tornado follows and sees Owens serenade his young family with a beautiful slice of rustic soul, complete with waves of glorious organ, a burst harmonica and an inspired lyric that manages to name drop both Queen Boadicea and Calamity Jane during Matt's proud ode.



Elsewhere the emotive strum and tinkered ivories of *Match Day* has a reflective Matt taking an honest and poignant look at the pitfalls of touring and being away from his family, weighed up against ambition and the desire to perform. In direct contrast, Owens continues with his tales of a touring musician on Too Far Gone, but while the previous track talks of family life and missed birthdays, the addictive driving shuffle and wailing harmonica (reminiscent of that man Finn or perhaps even Mellancamp) has Owens battling the temptation of a quick buck.

Matt draws his debut to a close much as it began with the touching *Last Play Of The Day* featuring a worn, reflective Owens lead, a hushed piano, a touch of pedal steel and a yearning Dylan-esque harmonica that, like the ten preceding songs, leaves a lasting impression and suggests repeat spins. As (solo) debuts go, *Whiskey And Orchids* is damn near faultless, engaging us with

Will Munn

Arboria | Arboria

Arboria is the third release on **Dreamlord Recordings** following on from two classic albums **Mutante** and **Korb**.

All are the brainchildren of **Alec Weeks** and **Jonathan Parkes** and I absolutely love their output on this label, thus **Arboria** was hotly anticipated.

I'll begin by saying it did not disappoint.

Golden Light eases us into the wild & wonderful world of *Arboria* with a blissful 2+ minutes of transcendental & meditative music, the likes of which Werner Herzog would have employed in one of his 70's films: so think Popol Vuh & that Deutsche musik endless spirit.

Cumulonimbus sustains the supremely relaxed and stoned immaculate vibe as an acoustic guitar plus krautian toms take us towards sublime sax and tasty leccy piano tinkles.

This really is the kind of music that French Band Air should have graduated towards after Moon Safari but unfortunately never seemed to. We are more than lucky to have our own local version and some.

Talking of things lunar *Moon Garden* continues the album conjuring up a beautiful bucolic vision of *Arcadia* as pretty picked acoustic is complemented by tasteful washes of synthesised sound & underpinned by subtle conga work: this is right up Steffo's stride & the word "gorgeous" is in severe danger of total overuse here.



All-round good guy Russ Brown already said this album evokes childhood & that is spot on: in atmosphere it reminds me of another pastoral summer classic of remembrance, namely Virginia Astley's *From Gardens Where We Feel Secure*.

Fourth track *Phase* acts as a pivot piece taking us into more cosmic & perhaps abstract territory followed by *Aurora* which is simply a beautiful composition complete with again sweet sax plus woodwind enchanting and entrancing us.

Changeling leads us even further into the forest mists along barely evident tracks; we are a tribe together and must move as one to this mesmeric music.

We travel ever upwards and *Ascending* evokes again the Herzogian soundscape with choral mellotron passage: we rise and are enveloped by the nebular.

Finally we reach the transcendence of the light eternal as *Lux Eterna* aids us in reaching that plateau of peace where we can drift & float forever in wondrous luminescence.

I love every note of *Arboria* and cannot recommend it highly enough. Jonathan and Alec transport us away from the oft-times horrid hubbub of our daily lives: music such as this is truly life enhancing and I thank them for it.

I entreat you to visit arboria.bandcamp.com and get yourself a copy of this wonderful work.

Name your price, be generous and treat yourself to the trip of a lifetime.

Kaspar Hauser

The Whipjacks | This Wicked World

Worcester's finest purveyors of speed-folk, **The Whipjacks**, have established themselves as one of the must-see bands on the local circuit. Acclaimed for their energy laced, infectious shows, the band have performed in a number of high-profile slots and festival appearances including Lakefest, Ragged Bear and a headlining slot at Worcester Music Festival. Capitalising on a growing fanbase and past successes, the band decamped to the renowned **Old Smithy Recording Studio** in Kempsey to record their long awaited, debut full length album, *This Wicked World*.

The five-piece launched the disc with a suitably packed out, rowdy gig at **The Marrs Bar**, with an audience eager to embrace the band's new material. The set was perhaps their most triumphant to date, with an arguably partisan crowd lapping every morsel of the band's set from old favourites to new, with a number of people taking a piece of the Whipjacks home with them in the shape of their new shiny disc and now having listened to the ten track affair (on repeat) I seriously doubt anyone was left wanting.

The Whipjacks set the mood with an impassioned **Dean Miles** holler and the anthemic *Forever Free*. The pounding drums of **Tim Pearson** signal in the rest of the band with *Tim Wright* adding a crunchy, undeniable riff whilst **Arran Gould** and **Ash Curtis** underpin the track with strummed acoustic and thumping bass respectively. Throw in chanted group harmonies and plenty of dramatic rise and fall and The Whipjacks have you from the off, punching the air and yelling along the refrain in celebration that the band have harnessed their live power and energy and committed it to disc.



The next track *Sundown Devil* brings that tongue in cheek delivery that we've all become accustomed to, opening with Gauld's folky mandolin tones and accompanied by a rockabilly beat from Pearson. The band deliver a frivolous slab of charged, punk infused folk that has you grinning from ear to ear as you try to suppress the desire to dance round the living room like some kind of loon (FYI, I failed!!).

Only a couple of tracks in and I'm already smitten. The short sharp *Push On* continues the momentum with its shanty-like rhythm. The band show a more stripped back and sensitive side with the album's centre-piece and title-track, a strummed acoustic before a peppering of searing, electric guitar adds an intriguing new dimension to the subdued folky lament, proving there are more strings to the folk punk axis than the 'jacks use as their foundation.

The Ballad of Jack Cade blends a winning mix of The Levellers and The Dropkick Murphys serenading the true life story of a long forgotten rebellion, whilst the brief, near acapella, bar room sing-a-long of *Song For A Swine*, serves as perfect prelude to the suitably bawdy, seafaring finale of *Farewell To The Ladies*. The band bow out, much as they began, with a swagger, a holler and a hook so big it could anchor the entire British navy.

The world may be wicked (see what I did there?), but the debut album by *The Whipjacks*, is the salvation that you've been looking for, a collection of folk/punk party anthems that's guaranteed to make you forget about your worries, crank up the music and stomp and holler until the ships roll on in.

www.whipjacks.com

Will Munn

Jack Goodall | England

A few years back I was given the opportunity to review the debut album, *Canada*, by Bromsgrove/Birmingham based singer-songwriter **Jack Goodall**. Since then, Jack has continued a unique and innovative musical path. 2017 saw the release of his second album, *The Whole Thing Is Moving*, with Goodall further embracing funk and Afro-beat, creating a contagious and upbeat affair while continuing his widening appeal with a series of gigs home and abroad.

Jack's third album, *England*, still sees an inventive clash of styles and while traces of lingering funk are still evident, Goodall mixes them up with rock and edgy, post-punk guitars as he takes a wry look at the state of society, whether that's the need for changing attitudes, being force fed fake personalities or just a reflection on the uncertain times ahead.

As the album instantly lurches for the attention with the repetitive, strident riff and pounding drums of *Serious Man*, Goodall delivers a delicious half sung, half drawled lead informing us 'there's nothing left for us except empty rooms and dust' as the guitar and rhythm create a



mantra like, gripping groove, that urges the listener on. *Too Much Personality* follows and sees an elastic, Talking Heads like bass, rapid fire verses and an instant and nagging choral hook as he takes aim at reality TV and their so-called personalities that are repeatedly thrust upon us.

As the album continues, Goodall proceeds to changes direction; *My Livelihood* is a short, sharp, urgent, punky number with a brilliant, stuttering choral hook while *Halloween Moon* unites a delightfully droll vocal over an intriguing indie waltz and the spellbinding title track sees thoughts of rolling hills and cathedrals in a world of austerity and refugees, sound-tracked by deep seated, looped beats and atmospheric synths, oddly reminiscent of James Blake. *Parisian* suggests that Jack can rock out with the best of them during a frenzied finale, while the album's closer, *To Know Where We're Headed* ends with a strangely intriguing, disjointed cacophony of noise and alien treated vocals that suggests further listening in an attempt to decipher the songwriter's passing shot.

As with **Jack Goodall's** previous inventive output, *England* entices, fascinates and infects in equal measure and if you've not yet encountered the music of Goodall, I highly recommend you start with his latest album and rectify the issue immediately.

www.goodallmusic.net

Will Munn

Big Wolf Band | Be Free

Jonathon Earp's Big Wolf Band follow up on the success of their previous album *A Rebel's Story*, with this new release. Lead vocalist and guitarist Jon performs alongside **Paul Brambani** on keys, **Tim Jones** on drums, and **Mick Jeynes** on bass, and the resultant sound proverbially rocks. *Be Free* encapsulates the same driving, blues-edged rock, only this time with the added supercharged vocals of **Zoe Green**.

After being invited to record two tracks for the album, Zoe's undeniable vocal talent boosted Jon's BB King inspired "Looking In Your Eyes", to another level entirely. Once she had shared her magic on the title track, "Be Free", it was clear that she should join them in the studio for the full album.

A rolling thunder of drums sends the keyboard running, just before Jon's guitar springs into life, and Zoe's vocals nail the opening track, "Walk In My Shoes". With Jon in full flow, Zoe delivers like we all know she can. "Nobody's Home" punches like a prize fighter, trapped in a corner only to burst forward in flurries of rocking lyrics, rumbling drums and searing guitar licks.

Title track "Be Free" is a bubbling pool of lava. It bursts with fiery liquid rock, ebbing and flowing; cascading, stalling and kicking back into full flow. Zoe is on fire, while Jon's guitar tears through the morass, bringing us to an abrupt halt. Ignore at your peril, this is hot as hell. "Loving Like A Fool" brings a more soulful blues feel;

beautiful, weeping guitar notes that linger and hypnotise, whilst Zoe's softer, moody lyrics keep us grounded. It's simply superb blues. "Keep Fighting Back" brings some subtle, deft touches from Jon's guitar, watch your step, or you might stumble into the weighty, rock-breaking "Heavy Load". It pulses with power; an unstoppable juggernaut that throbs like a sledgehammer dropped on your foot!



Wordcount forces me to jump forward a bit, to the song that first brought Zoe into the recording studio. "Looking Into Your Eyes" is another beautiful, slow-flowing blues written by Jonathon. Honeyed guitar accompanies Zoe's mellow vocal in a gorgeous combination, a stark contrast to the sparkling, sassy R&B of "Sweet Talking". It jumps out and tweaks your nose, effervescent as uncorking a bottle of Bolli, and it tastes divine.

There are 13 excellent songs on this album to discover, and it closes on the silky, cool opening lines of "Can't Find You". Beware! You will be carried away by it, but it's a lovely ride across valleys and into mountains conjured up by Jon and his band. Zoe feels the wind in her hair, still searching, perhaps for a lost spectrum?

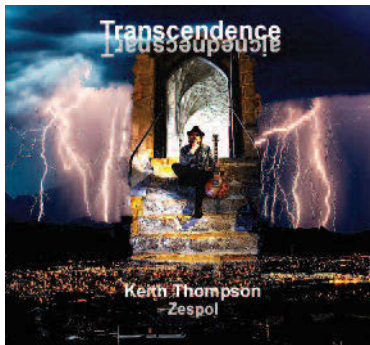
Zoe's sharp, edgy vocals bring a new dimension to The Big Wolf Band who, in turn, provide **Zoe Green** the songs and rocking delivery she has always needed. It's a combination made in heaven; *Be Free* is a frighteningly good album. *Graham Munn*

Keith Thompson Band | Transcendence

After working in and around the UK and Europe for the last 25 years, Cheltenham-based **Keith Thompson** found himself in contact with **Artur Malik** and **Jacek Cruscinski** in Grodkow, Poland. This chance meeting resulted in the formation of a pick-up band for an evening gig, and the trio worked so well together that the ad-hoc band embarked on a tour together. The chemistry they found triggered Keith's 12th album, formed of recording sessions in DMP Krakow, before being brought home to Keith's own **Density Music** for production.

The resulting 12th album features 13 tracks that stay true to Keith's blues roots and influences, all self-penned, with a few exceptions. Artur takes drums, with Jacek on bass and **Patsy Gamble** adding a flair of sax to the traditional "Hesitation Blues". All other instruments are played by Keith.

The opening track, "Backwater Blues", is a **Bessy Smith** song, recorded, unbelievably, by Bessy in 1927! Here we are, over 90 years later, and Thompson's interpretation certainly has a bite to it! Driven forward by a tireless rhythm, Keith growls the lyrics, adding scolding guitar riffs that compete more with Led Zep than Bessy's original. But I'm not complaining, it's a great start to the album. "Like A Stranger" runs like a mountain stream, with fluid guitar that ripples, tumbling over rocks beneath the surface. "Watch 'N' Chain" gallops by, on a scuffling rhythm, before we stumble onto "Thin Ice", for an eerie step into a delightful, funk-washed tale of doubt and regret. But will the ice hold? The guitar skates off into the distance with superb, reassuring confidence.



"Working On The Railroad" brings some nice harp, as the box cars roll along their iron road, leading us ever closer to those "Hesitation Blues"; a steaming hot gumbo of Latin-influenced grooves. A deep, breezy horn from Patsy completes the tasty smorgasbord, this is something to be savoured. But southern soul funk is "Taking Me Back", it's a track that could find its way happily onto any disco floor with its squawking guitar groove. I'm a sucker

for a slow, moody blues, and "Surrender" is exactly that. It may be a reworked rendition of Peter Green's "Need Your Love So Bad", but that in itself is an accolade; the lyrics work beautifully, the guitar weeps with passion.

Jumping forward, let's take a trip with "Whiteman Blues", a jazz funk vibe that's liberally peppered with soul, sounding anything but a "white man's blues"; it's a sizzling, supercharged song that'll snatch your soul before you realise it. The

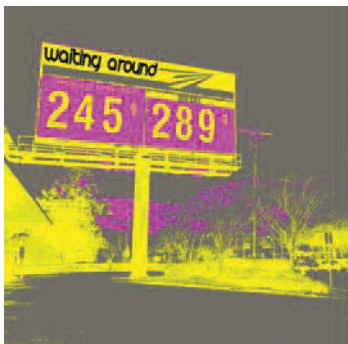
anthemic "Rise Up" is perfect festival fuel, before the final, title track "Transcendence" opens an atmospheric storm, leaving a deluge of rock raining down on us. Keith soars through the thermals on his guitar; this is big pop rock, akin to the wave that dominated the 80's.

Overall, it's a stupendously good album, covering pretty much every nuance of blues, funk and rock. It's available on Keith Thompson's Density Music Label from July 1st, and destined, I'm sure, to be aired at **Gloucester Blues** later this month.

Graham Munn

The Space | Waiting Around

Kidderminster indie rock band **The Space** have offered up a new release in the form of their single *Waiting Around*. With what they call a modern and versatile approach to indie rock music, the band open up this track with jolly guitar strumming, instantly pulling you in to a good time vibe reminiscent of the more light hearted releases brought out in the 90s era of Britpop and Indie, Dodgy, The Seahorses, Pulp et al.



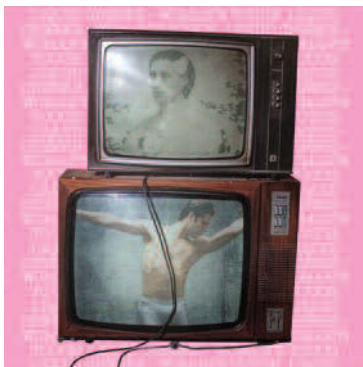
As the title suggests, the track is about waiting, specifically in this case I feel, for someone to reveal how they really feel, so the singer can press play on his currently paused life. The repetitive guitar melody throughout the track makes for a song that is easy to remember and gives the music the ability to get in your head where it settles down nicely in the catchy, easy listening, mood enhancing section.

Vocally, the singer's voice melts effortlessly over the backing track. Musically, indie is a musical era I adore, and it is exciting to hear this fresh approach to a sound I still love today. For me, no one had really got close to bringing this type of music back into the limelight but maybe **The Space** will be the ones to succeed.

Kate Ford

Liquid Cheeks Woman's Touch

Birmingham art pop duo Liquid Cheeks released single *Woman's Touch* on 21st June. A beautiful guitar intro quickly leads into electro-pop goodness and smooth vocals to tell the story of a man, or "men" even, who are literally in touch with their feminine side, yet still maintain masculinity. "It's time to change" is a prominent message at the core of this delicate, yet powerful song. The



contrast between the strong guitar sounds and the lilting falsetto of the singer perfectly convey the on-topic message woven deep into the track. The single is a quirky meld of grit and bubbles (hard yet soft) and it works brilliantly, creating a polished combination of sounds, ideal for portraying the story intended. It takes you to a peaceful place, a world of tranquility, that the soft melody infuses. A fluid sounding track embracing a topic which is current and relevant. Music with a message. Well done guys.

Kate Ford

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Glovebox Live Presents Over The Hill Festival Americana & Roots Music Witney, Oxfordshire | Mon 26 August

The beautiful Oxfordshire countryside is destined to become immersed in the world of Americana this Summer, at the first-ever **Over the Hill** festival. Proudly presented by **Glovebox Live**, Over the Hill festival will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August at the picturesque **Cogges Manor Farm**. With plenty of opportunities to delve into the Americana experience with authentic American food and bars, Over the Hill festival will also be featuring intimate performances from some of the finest live Americana acts in the UK today, on two stages housed in beautiful tithe barns: Line up includes; **Danny & The Champions of the World**, **William the Conqueror**, **Naomi Bedford & Paul Simmonds** (**The Men They Couldn't Hang**) with **The Ramshackle Band**, **Trevor Moss & Hannah-Lou**, **The Black Feathers**, **Paul McClure**, **Ags Connolly** & **The Niall Kelly Band**.



Naomi Bedford & Paul Simmonds

The festival will be proudly sponsored by local, award-winning brewer **Wychwood Brewery**, who will be providing thirst-quenching beverages such as the refreshing **Shipyards IPA**. In addition, Over the Hill festival will feature authentic American food from vendors such as **The Burn Out BBQ** and **Fat Lil's** who will be providing a selection of Mexican and vegetarian cuisine. There will also be the chance to discover the whole of the **Cogges Museum** site. The site is easy to access, family friendly and has lots of free parking.



The Black Feathers

Tickets are available online via **We Got Tickets** and **SEE Tickets** as well as locally from **Rapture** in Witney and **Truck Store** in Oxford for £30

Glovebox Live are a West Oxfordshire-based music promotions company formed by former **Worcester Grammar School** boy, **Adrian Philips** and fellow music fanatic, **Mark Stratford**, who together have promoted many magical events that have featured the likes of **Hunter & The Bear**, **Stone Foundation** and **Glenn Tilbrook** from **Squeeze**. Moreover, they have also curated the **Hobgoblin Stage** at **Wychwood Festival**, the **Truck Store / Rapture** stage at **The Riverside Festival** and started their own record label. The duo have now turned their attention to curating and piecing together their own festival, handpicking from the best of the UK Americana scene for **Over The Hill**.

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The pioneering and establishment-challenging **Extinction Rebellion** will be holding daily workshops on **Non-Violent Direct Action**, and host talks about the climate emergency at Nozstock. This could not come at a more important time, with an ever-increasing amount of stories emerging about the climate emergency happening all over the world.

Ella Nosworthy, one of the festival's co-founders, explains: "We have always been committed to being as green as possible at the festival. In the recent years the issue has become paramount, the way the planet is being affected. There are lots of green initiatives across the site, and this very much includes the Craft Area which



is going to be by far the most environmentally friendly it has ever been. On top of this, we hope to make everyone aware and educate our guests as to what is happening and what can be done, for example some of Extinction Rebellion's guys will be at Nozstock which is really big for us."



This year's festival will be taking place across the weekend of July 18th – 21st featuring **Rudimental (DJ Set)**, **Sleaford Mods**, **Soul II Soul**, **David Rodigan**, **DJ Zinc**, **Reginald D Hunter** and many more. (See advert opposite for more details).

For tickets and further information visit: www.nozstock.com

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Chantel McGregor The Luke Doherty Band The Iron Road, Pershore | Friday 21st June

Chantel is one of those artists who fills theatres around the country, mesmerising her considerable fan base with superb guitar, sweet vocals and a good dose of Bradford banter. Her song-writing has journeyed through blues rock, honing her talent, before channelling down a more progressive road. Tonight, Chantel is joined on stage by bassist **Colin Sutton** and drummer **Tom Gardner**, a talented pairing; their completely enthralling rhythms act as a solid foundation for our singer's sweet music. Chantel is currently touring the UK, playing tracks from her album *Lose Control*, as well as other favourites.

Luke Doherty is a regular visitor to the area, having played both Upton and Gloucester Blues, as well as the local venue scene. Based in Newport, Luke is closely supported by drummer Simon, bassist Mal, and rag-tag vocalist Paul, who also blows harp. *"Have You Thought About That?"* bursts with energy from the start; they obviously had. Luke's guitar begins to weep, as the haunting harp and vocals of *"When You Cry"* hold the room in spell-bound silence. No time for cryin', it's Luke's turn to dazzle now with a bit of Hendrix, a rattlingly good *"John Lee Boogie"*, before we realise we're headed toward an ominous future. *"Solar Flares From The Sun"* illuminate the room, and we rumble under the rolling thunder of Simon's drums, echoed by Mal's throbbing bass.



A quick set change is necessary in the quiet between bands, and Chantel makes herself at home by furnishing the stage with her very own rug. With shaggy rug beneath her feet all is well, time to *"Take The Power"*. Bass and drum explode into life while Chantel soars above us all, her lovely, compact and pristine Music Man rips through the atmosphere. She switches to Strat for the keynote *"Like No Other"*; deep bass rumbles as Chantel builds her vocal, leading into drums that propel the song forward. It's an undeniable demonstration of raw vocal and musical talent.

After the rug, another crucial element of Chantel's show is her acoustic 'slot', dismissing the heavier instruments for a moment of humble, blissful music. Taylor acoustic in hand, Chantel prepares to *"Anaesthetise"* the crowd, and it's a lovely experience too; we are all held by her spell. Sticking with her acoustic, *"Inconsolable"* builds slowly, allowing time for the boys to reposition themselves while Chantel switches back to trusty Music Man. With soft hammers on cymbals and taught skins, Tom's drums deepen this lovely, moody slow-burner. Colin is hunched over his bass, digging deep, his hair falls to cover the heavy instrument as the song ascends, relentless and superb. Their audience is mesmerised, held, and unmoving, in a state of awe and wonder.



A rocking *"Southern Belle"* sounds the change and we comply, stepping forward, back into the room. We made it to summer solstice, but Chantel is still caught up in *"April"*; an enveloping, expressive prog rock that seems to break our Earthly ties, taking us on an interplanetary tour. Tom works the high hats while Colin traverses the stellar atmosphere with bone-shattering bass, rolling ever onwards, into the void. Chantel talks us through the fake encore before conjuring up *"Walk On Land"*, an exemplary lesson in guitarist hedonism. Space does not allow me to even scratch the surface of what was on offer at the **Iron Road**, as a truly stunning evening, warmed and toasted by **Luke Doherty**, draws to an end. Whew, I think I'll take a *"Sloe Gin"*, on ice, and let Ms McGregor get into my head.

Graham Munn

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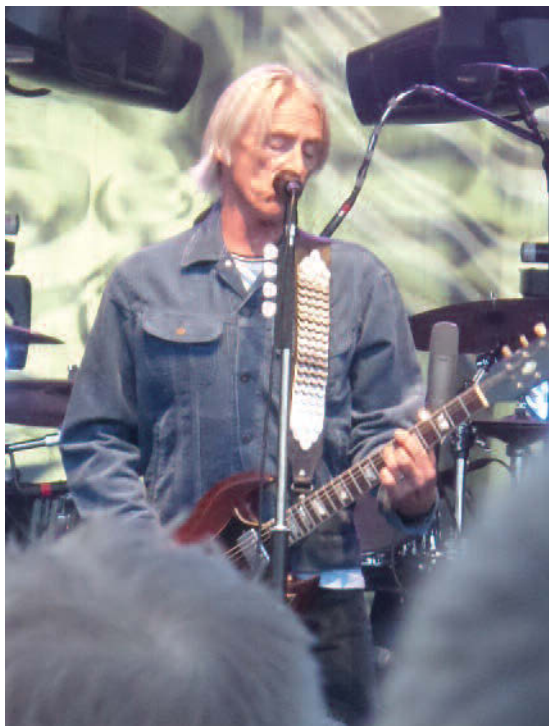
Paul Weller Westonbirt Arboretum | 14th June

Walking with purpose, past the lines of compliant consumers and their foldable chairs; passed boxes of wine and cellophane wrapped fruit slices and car-boot warmed croissants; side-stepping slices of pizza offered for £9 and the £5 a pint of cider stalls... with our gifted £110 tickets in my pocket: I made my way to the front of the muddy field, all the while reflecting on the man that had brought me here, as the anticipation swelled like the numbers descending on the Arboretum...

Back in the day when my puny biceps failed to fill the elasticated arms of my Perry tops, I still curled up under the bed-sheets with my radio clutched to my ear as I carefully rotated the tuning dial and played with the volume wheel. The night John Peel warmly introduced a track from the latest album by the Jam was an infectious ear-worm designed for the cochlea and an introduction to a band that would go on to define me and those around me. After all we were the *Saturday Kids* in question!

On that Sunday afternoon when we discovered our band had entered the charts with their single *Going Underground* - "going straight in at number one!" - our feelings of elation and yes, vindication covered us in a healthy glow as we posed and smugly paraded around the estate playing our music for all to appreciate.

The news of the Jam breaking up was tempered by the final tour and the availability of tickets. Leaving the safety of the Abbey behind for a day, our mini-bus pointed towards the "big smoke" (for the first time in my life!), with our regulation two-tone



trousers, loafers and Ben Shermans: primed polished and pressed in readiness! Weller's father introducing his son's band at the Wembley Arena is a memory as strong as our belief in the band. **The Jam**, or perhaps more specifically **Paul Weller**, were our cultural bible, informing our politics, love of 60s soul and Mod, clothes and scooters...

My scooter still holds pride of place in the garage to this day. The chrome bars and accessories have been removed and the fly-screen is simply a nod to the past. The cd player in the garage is slowing up now but the volume is still teased upwards when Weller's ever present *Stanley Road* is played. Surely, you need something suitable to listen to as the panels are lovingly polished just one more time?

My mate still ribs me about Weller checking out my Swedish military parka - after I had won a competition to meet and watch Weller perform for the BBC at their Maida Vale studio- I am quietly chuffed and don't care if it's not true. The version of Broken Stones that he performed on the day caused my hairs to defy gravity and the autographs and signed set-list are never far away from my grasp. I couldn't get over how bashful and shy Weller was in person, however, the abiding memory was the palpable and involuntary "Ahhh" that the room emitted when he walked in for the first time. Impressive.

The sun setting behind the silhouetted trees along the back of the Westonbirt stage was impressive. The rain had stayed away, the whisky was soothing and the mood was expectant. As one, the selfie sticks rose like so many irritating insects. Like everyone else my eyes were on one man as he strode out with purpose on to the stage - his Mum and Dad didn't believe him when he said he wanted to learn the guitar and be in a band, they thought he was too shy - he appeared at home as he slung the telecaster over his shoulder and clocked on; my mind meandering as to how I was going to capture this gig, realising that it would be highly personal because after forty plus years what else is there to say about **Paul Weller** that hasn't already been said?

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Hopfest 2019

The wettest week of the year turned the "Abba in Wonderland" themed **Hopfest 2019** weekend into a mud bath but that didn't deter throngs of enthusiastic music lovers from descending on the Bewdley venue for its 9th anniversary. Indeed the camping had been sold out back in February and judging by the packed camping area and the full marquees, it would seem that the inclement weather had deterred none of the campers from attending this increasingly popular family event.



Friday evening was spent mostly in the Rabbit Hole where we were entertained by an eclectic mix of acts which included **Hey Jester**, fronted by **Mirron Webb** creating some unusual sounds from that lead guitar. We were then entertained by a crazy 6 piece band that made up the Bristol based **GORK** dressed as though



they had just finished a late shift at the local kitchen. An assortment of vegetables were present when the band were joined on stage and enthusiastically supported by the "Cabbage Kids" who had obviously encountered the band previously. Needless to say madness was the order of things for their allotted 45 minutes. Great fun.

The night was rounded off by the Reggae beat of the superb **Arcadia Roots** playing to a thrilled packed house. Opening the show with their excellent self-penned *Where You Gonna Run To?* moving on to *Lose Control* and then giving us their take on a couple of Bob Marley numbers. It was a great way to finish the evening although somewhat abruptly ended due to 11pm curfew.



With so many acts in various venues on the Saturday we were spoiled for choice. The workshops held in "Caterpillars Garden" proved to be popular especially **Sunjay's** "Finger Pickin'" workshop and "Jam Session".

Ameoba, playing on the Main Stage, were well received as were the talented **Redwood** over in the "Hand of the Queen" marquee soon after. Heading back to the Rabbit Hole, seeking out the superb rustic rock of **One Tree Canyon**, we were not disappointed and their growing band of followers were treated to the gravelly voice of **Rob Stain** on rhythm guitar accompanied by **Dave Robinson's** superb lead guitar showing the youngsters how it's done supported by **Sven Eads** on bass guitar and **Darren Bale** on drums keeping the beat. Rob's version of **Darrell Scott's** *River Take Me* is the best you will here this side of the pond and their take on the Bob Dylan classic *All Along the Watchtower* is one of the best covers you will see of this old favourite.



A very funny half hour was spent back at a packed Caterpillars Garden where we were entertained by **Abba Dabba Doo**, best described as a "different" Abba tribute. They were great fun and the crowd made up of 4 generations loved them.



Heading back to the Rabbit Hole not sure what to expect, **The Goat Roper Rodeo Band**, all the way from North Wales, were great and a band I would like to see do a full set rather than the relatively short 45 minutes that each act was limited to this weekend.

Saturday night on the Main Stage was concluded by **Rattlesnake Jake**, fronted by the charismatic **Ben Green**, with a superb mix of classic soul and Motown numbers. This a slick and polished act and the evening crowd loved them. Trying to get back into the Rabbit Hole for the last act of the night from **Mothership** proved to be nigh on impossible due to the number of fans. However, the illuminated outfits could probably have been seen from the moon! From our position still outside the marquee it was apparent the crowd within were thrilled by the way this band rounded off the evening.



Neither the weather or the mud could dampen the spirits of this family orientated **Hopfest 2019** crowd. The bar and food outlets were well staffed giving great service which helped make the whole weekend a thoroughly pleasant experience.

Robert Ellis

Dr Feelgood Marrs Bar, Worcester | 13th June

I'd been looking forward to this one. The kings of pre-punk rock bands, *'the greatest pub band in the world'*, undersells the history and enduring qualities of this enthralling band. Let's be honest, they could play their back catalogue until confined to zimmerframes, and nobody would complain! But the Feelgood's are better than that; there's always room for more music, delivered in true, Feelgood style.

OK, the band has morphed from its original line up, but they've been solid for years. Even their most recent convert, **Rob Kane**, is rapidly nearing the two-decade mark alongside Phil, Kevin and Steve. Many will become starry eyed, lamenting the wonderful Brilleaux, and unbreakable Wilko, but Rob is a fantastic frontman, full of attitude and punch.

The **Marrs Bar** gradually filled with the diehards and devotees to the band, and yes, we've all got a few years behind us. **Tone Tanner** 'warms' us into the evening, with solo acoustic and a loop machine building rhythm. Soon Kevin and Phil are onstage, kicking the rhythm up a notch, while Steve gets busy on his Telecaster, and Rob *"Drives Me Wild"*. The band blitz the venue, and *"All Through The City"*, before a change of direction. Rob picks up Johnson's 'broom', the one Elmore put a new head on, to *"Dust My Broom"*. Rob steps aside for Steve to turn the air blue with a stunning, expressional solo, worked over the anvil of his steel-plated slide guitar. We are held, captivated by the groove, for a *"Roll 'n' Tumbler"*, with Steve taking vocals, harp added by Rob, and Kevin and Phil rolling out a solid rhythm.



"Back In The Night", Rob blusters and poses, jabbing and punching out the lyrics echoed back at him by the crowd. *"Roxette"* electrifies the room, re-energising the gang on the floor, who bounce and buzz, their youth restored for the night. Before taking a shot of the stupendous *"Milk And Alcohol"* anthem, a superb *"Shotgun Blues"* allows for another mesmerising solo. Kevin sets up a rolling rimshot for *"Mad Man Blues"*.

Charged with enough energy to light the city centre, the band sizzle and steam through favourite after favourite. *"Down At The Doctors"* (or maybe a chiropractor), we are gripped, embracing every moment, and wanting to stay all night long. But the band has a schedule, they're off to the pier, so we'll have to settle for *"One More Shot"*, as if that would do. The momentum is, perhaps, slow building, but the call comes, and the band return to stage. Of course, *Rock 'n' Roll* is on the menu, and we are set for a kick-ass ride down *"Route 66"*, tyres smoking. Goodness gracious, *"Great Balls Of Fire"* burns fiercely towards an explosive end. A brilliant evening in the company of the wonderful **Doctor Feelgood**, administering their intoxicating drug to a receptive gang, hooked on *Milk & Alcohol*. *Just Gimmie One More Shot*.

Graham Munn

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Wychwood Festival

Cheltenham 31st May - 2nd June

Wychwood 2019 was the family friendly festival's fifteenth year and perhaps my seventh or eighth year on the trot as the Cheltenham based event has, in recent years, been the first jotted down in my calendar and this year was no different.

This year saw the site have something of a facelift and the introduction of a dance tent but as usual offered a full family experience, from a healing zone for weary feet through to a climbing wall for adventurous kids via a plethora of workshops, children's authors, comedians and of course that ever eclectic program of live music, so no wonder it was smiles all round despite the changeable weather conditions.

The White Lakes kicked the festival off in style with an enthused set of big instant indie hooks and proved deserving of their slot with the likes of the anthemic *All Night*, the brooding *Too Young To Die* and the addictive (pardon the pun) *Cigarette* suggesting the Oxford based quartet were destined to strut the big stage.

In between main stage acts, the bandstand stage continued to offer a host of local treats with short sets by **Gina Lerner** and Worcester's Rosie Mountjoy both impressing, the former for her bewitching folky tones and weaving an intoxicating spell of guitar and violin, whilst the latter's stripped back sound and emotive voice drew people in, captivating the passer by with the likes of her own *Save Me* and Mountjoy's inspired take on Lady Ga Ga's *Bad Romance*.

The Midnight Alliance summed up the eclectic programming of Wychwood, during a diverse and engaging set that seemed to really bring the field to life. The ten-piece band cross pollinated genres grooving between soul, jazz funk, ska, Latin and even disco with ease, as vibrant rhythms, choppy guitars, uplifting horns and stunning vocals of **Sarah Wilson** sensationally collided, enticing the crowd to abandon their deck chairs and move.

With the party atmosphere in full swing, regular Wychwood house band, **Thrill Collins**, drew yet more revellers as they delivered their usual madcap, supercharged skiffle mash-ups taking in everything from *21 Seconds To Go* and Craig David (during a frantic garage mash opening) through to *5ive*, *The 4 Non Blondes*, *Hotel California* via choice spins through the

annuals of drum 'n' bass and hip-hop to the delight the thriving throng in front of the stage.

A bite to eat and a few failed circus tricks later (reaffirming that I have absolutely zero balance or co-ordination), it was time for **T-Pau** to run through the hits including *Heart & Soul* and the inevitable *China In My Hands*. The band gave the audience their all, not missing a step despite that aforementioned debut being released back in 1987.

Our opening day of Wychwood was rounded off by a storming set of indie pop hits courtesy of **Scouting For Girls**, who just about drew the entire field down to the front for a hearty sing-along through the likes of *Heartbeat*, *I Wish I Was James Bond* (followed by a stirring take on *Live And Let Die*), *Elvis Ain't* and of course a rousing *She's So Lovely* to close proceedings.



Day two and I hit the racecourse early, with the sun shining and expectation hanging in the air I tried planning my itinerary as **Basil Brush** brought mirth and merriment on **Dave's Stage** to the joy of children of all ages. My first port of call of the day was to look in on rising indie hopefuls, **The Zangwills** who we're charged with following Brush. The North-West quartet grasped their opportunity with both hands, delivering an energetic and infectious set with guitars, big hooks and songs like *Horrors Of Sobriety* and *Patio Paradise* suggesting the band may well become permanent fixtures on the biggest festival stages in the not too distant future.



Comedic **Wychwood** favourites **Folk On** taught an ever growing audience the art of the folk hand dance, as they ran through the likes of long standing favourite *Unyielding Happiness (You Can't Take The Summer From Me)* and *My Dog Just Won't Stop Dancing (Get Down Dusty)*, during a set of mirth inducing melodies and rib tickling rural harmonies.

Away from the mainstage, we called in for a couple of tracks by Cheltenham alternative rockers **Fawner**, who suggested further investigation somewhere down the line, whilst a couple of MC's (**Samuel and Adubz?**) rocked the bandstand with an impressive, flurry of rapid fire hip-hop. Back down the front, **Grupo Lokito**, proved that music is a universal language as they led the assembled revellers on a merry, synchronised dance, through their bewitching brew of African and Latin rhythms.



Back in 1966 **Geno Washington & The Ram Jam Band** had an album in the UK charts for 48 out of 52 weeks having made a name for himself on the 60's live circuit and ever since, Geno has



continued to blaze a trail mixing up an insatiable combination of soul, blues and R&B. Fast forward fifty plus years and Washington is still a tour de force, taking Wychwood by storm with stunning renditions of Stevie Wonder, James Brown and The Stones during a thrill-a-minute set topped off with a glorious canter through *Jumpin' Jack Flash* and *Knock On Wood*.



Over at the brand new dance tent, snooker legend **Steve Davis** (yes you read that correctly) and **Kavus Torabi** (of psych band **Knifeworld**) mixed an eclectic set taking in everything from underground indie to electronica via bursts of classical music during an engaging set, before a return to the mainstage and ABC, capped the evening with a blast through the likes of *Show Me, The Look Of Love* and an encoring *Poison Arrow*.

Day Three and rains may have drifted across the final day of Wychwood but our moods couldn't be dampened as we braved the drizzle for an early set of passionate set of heart-wrenchers and bar room shit kickers from ever impressive **Demi Marriner** with the stunning *Cold Coffee* and beautiful *Little Boy*, crowning a dazzling, elements defying set. Venturing back outside, I caught the back end of Chap-hop hero **Mr. B The Gentleman Rhymer**, before taking my place, front and centre, for the raw and rousing, roots rockers, **The Outcast Band**, who promptly blew any lingering cobwebs with driving riffs and fiery flights of fiddle.



Craig Charles may have been packing out the dance stage while BBC Introducing Hereford And Worcester commandeered the Hobgoblin with the likes of **Arcadia Roots**, **Chloe Elliot** and



Lower Loveday, but I was determined to catch a long overdue look at festival stalwarts, **Tankus The Henge**. Just watching the band set up had my mind spinning, a smoke billowing painted piano, a swinging two-piece horn section and a guitarist who struck more rock 'n' shapes subscribing than most band's muster during an entire set. The set-up may have intrigued but nothing could prepare me for the Tankus live experience... The band created a carnival sound, mixing everything from New Orleans jazz and funk to ragged rock 'n' roll and gypsy folk.

Aptly the clouds seemed to part to coincide with the festival's annual parade, led by **Ola Samba**, the younger revellers were given the opportunity to showcase new skills and the various crafts they'd tried their hands at over the weekend during a colourful and rhythmic march through the heart of the festival, with smiles aplenty adorning the children of Wychwood, the enjoyment of the event was evident for all to see.

We finished up with the effervescent bluster of **The Strangers**, as the band's intro rolled, the veteran new wave/punk pioneers were welcomed onstage likes conquering heroes and soon showed just why, with an ageless energy. The band rattled through all the classics from *Peaches* to *Golden Brown* and onto a frenzied *No More Heroes* via an inspired dash at *All Day And All Of The Night*, drawing the festival's fifteenth anniversary to a suitably, shuddering climax.

Will Munn

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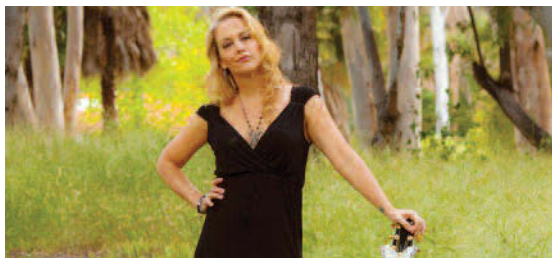


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Music in the Hall - Eve Selis

St Georges Hall, Bewdley | Friday 5th July

Bewdleys **Music in the Hall** series is a familiar staging post for visiting American artists. Its reputation for delivering high quality, but different, artists has been growing consistently over the last four years. Their next presentation brings another very alternative artist from San Diego. **Eve Selis** is a singer with a difference. A mother of four children, her songs and her life reflect tragedy as well as happiness. Eve has created **Patreon**, a site where her fans and fellow musicians can work with her in trying to make a difference in the world.



Eve Selis has a solid history in music, with her latest album "See Me With Your Heart" her ninth release. In the words of radio legend 'Whisperin' Bob Harris "Eve is a deeply creative, caring artist who gives everything to her craft. As a live performer she is awesomely powerful, as a recording artist she is both sensitive and strong. I love her spirit and I love her music. She deserves to shine." From her personal tragedies of husband Tom's brain cancer diagnosis, her brother Dan's Stage 4 colon cancer diagnosis and the tragic death of her brother Pete, Eve has created **Healing Hearts**, a unique musical event to help others dealing with their grief.

Eve says "I've been a singer as long as I can remember. It's really all I know. But my love of singing has become even more meaningful to me over the years as I experience the two-way, healing power of music. I feel it every time I support a cause that is important to me or see someone in the audience experience the comfort of a lyric or the joy of a guitar solo. But the connection we share transcends even the songs themselves. More and more I'm learning that hardship, grief and tragedy make music not just an occupation or a diversion- but a necessity. Sharing music is as essential as food and water to me."

Support from a youth act and local artist. Tickets £12 on-line at www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk or in Hall Café, with doors at 7.30pm

Artrix July'19

Summer's here and **Artrix** is feeling the festival vibes with fantastic cinema and plenty of live music.

The Blues Band featuring **Dave Kelly, Paul Jones, Tom McGuinness, Gary Fletcher** and **Rob Townsend** perform at **Artrix** on Friday 5 July. Audiences are invited to kick back and enjoy the sounds of a band acknowledged throughout Europe and beyond as being amongst the very finest purveyors of rhythm & blues.



There's a great selection of tribute acts this month including **Roy Orbison & The Travelling Wilbury's** 30th Anniversary Experience Tour on Saturday 6 July, **Desperado** - The Eagles Greatest Hits Tour on Friday 12 July, **ABBA Reunion** on Friday 19 July and Surf's Up the **Beach Boys** tribute on Saturday 20 July.

On Friday 19 July Artrix is thrilled to welcome **Michael Messer's Mitra**. A trio comprising of British blues innovator and slide guitarist **Michael Messer**, Hindustani slide guitar maestro **Manish Pingle** and London-based tabla master **Gurdain Singh Rayatt**, these three musicians from opposite sides of the globe create a fascinating musical journey, running from the banks of the Mississippi, via London to Mumbai and the Ganges delta.

Cinema highlights include live screenings of National Theatre Live: **The Lehman Trilogy** on Thursday 25 July and **Measure For Measure: RSC Live** on Wednesday 31 July.

Family cinema screenings include **Detective Pikachu** on Saturday 6 July, **Paw Patrol Might Pups** on Saturday 14 July, **Aladdin** on Saturday 20 and Monday 22 July and the latest Pixar block buster **Toy Story 4** on Monday 22, Tuesday 23 and Saturday 27 July.

Details of all events can be found at www.artrix.co.uk or by calling Box Office on 01527 577330.

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BurtonFest

Joe Joe Jim's | 1-2 June

Trevor Burton is a stalwart of the music scene, having come to prominence with The Move before joining The Steve Gibbons Band among many others, but now sadly confined to a wheelchair. Musicians gathered from across Birmingham and West Midlands on the first weekend of June to raise funds at a charity festival in his honour.

The event featured 17 acts including, notably, **The Steve Gibbons Band**, **Tom Walker**, **Maz Mitrenko**, and **Steve Ajao**, **Ricky Cool**, **The Big Wolf Band**, **The Trevor Burtonless Band**, and **Vincent Flatts Final Drive**, plus various special guests.



The venue itself has become a firm favourite since adding live music to their quirky, arcade ambience. I briefly dropped by on the Saturday evening and corkscrewed through the spilling crowd and caught a song from **The Temple Street Resistance** (must see this young band, as soon as) sons of Trevor, who sat to the side in his wheelchair surrounded by friends and family. I would have time to linger on the following evening, so pulled back through the gaggle of musicians socialising around the entrance where CD's, Vinyl and T's were on offer, honouring Trevor's long career.

Sunday, I find **Maz Mitrenko**, long-time member of **The Trevor Burton Band**, dispensing the raffle prizes with an acoustic Takamine and Fender Squire Strat, both signed, being top draw. The Big Wolf Band, with Zoe Green sharing the vocal leads, are on the stage (look out for their new album 'Be Free' to be released on 27th June). 'Heavens Got The Blues' pours out, electrifying the air, pulling the punters back around the stage. Jonathan squeezes and provokes the Fenders strings. A weighty, 'Don't Need No Doctor' galvanises the crowd and the band closes on the beautifully impassioned, 'Darkest Of My Days'.

Next, the nucleus of both Trevor Burton's, and Maz Mitrenko's bands combine to perform some of Trevor's favourites. "Before You Accuse Me", sees Stuart Ford sliding down a Danelectro neck, **Derek Wood's** bass throbs menacingly as **Phil Brittle** floats above the drums. "Angel Eyes" marks **Bill Jefferson's** turn on drums, before **Kerry Justice** steps up to lead the vocals for "Rocky Mountain Way".

Sunday evening melts away all too quickly, and the schedule creaks under the load; it's down to **Vincent Flatt's Final Drive** to fire up and roar us through to close. Curfew? What curfew? Bertie never disappoints. If a band needs character, he supplies it by the barrow-load, with medicinal hip flask at the ready! You can't have bad ass music like this without a bit of whisky. **Rich Shelton** looks



like John Travolta's idea of a leather-clad grease lightning. **Russ Cook** plays bass; all bad attitude and Stetson, while **Gary Harper** caresses some beautiful, soaring riffs. It's a class act with no fancy showmanship, besides the mask of passion and pain on his face.

Stourbridge musician **Big Jim Merris** joins the band onstage, harp at the ready, to close the show on "Shakey Ground" – wonderful stuff. The weekend had been dedicated to **Trevor Burton**, and managed to raise over £4k, on top of the already crowdfunded £3k, as well as their next event at Robin 2 on June 23rd. Trevor may no longer perform, but he remains a beacon to the great pool of rock and blues musicians and fans alike from around Birmingham, the West Midlands, and beyond.

Graham Munn

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JoanOvArk, Haxan, Neon Creatures

The Iron Road | 22nd June

Yep, it's an almost total femme fatale feast at Pershore's **Iron Road**. Okay, so **Neon creatures** are a trio of men on drums, bass and lead guitar, fronted by Louisa, so otherwise it's girl power all the way! Evesham's Neon creatures deliver soft rock, with Andy doing a sterling job on his Ibanez axe, and Andre's beating drum a soft echo behind Louisa's vocal. They blitz through their set, which is brought to a close with the upbeat *"Get It Right This Time"*, followed by *"Gone To Ground"*, clearing the way for the metal-beating Haxan.

Drawn from the steel mills of South Wales and, er, Cheltenham, **Haxan** comprises of three leather-clad girls, who like to wield their guitars threateningly, lashing us with their long, statically-charged tresses. Sam, lead vocalist, defies her petite stature, punching out her lyrics with true force. Harriet tosses her hair back as she struts across the stage, provoking the crowd with her bass, whilst Jess drums up encouragement from the shadows. Both support bands rile up a ferocious response from the crowded Iron Road, leaving me to dodge and weave through the riveted fans.

JoanOvArk live up to their name from the outset, invoking the tenacity of the French heroine herself. Ellie fires up the drums, beating out a call to war while guitars shred the air. Keira is almost feline, swinging her bass as she strums the rhythm of their thunderous anthem, these *"Girls Wanna Rock"*. Lead vocalist Laura threatens with her Gibson Flying V, while leather-clad slayer Shelley cuts a swathe through the massed hordes below with her axe. They have a new album to tout and *"Down By The River"* is drawn from that well. It's a rock ballad that stands like a fortress



over the swollen waters of the Avon. Ellie whips up the current, sticks a blur, and always a smile on her face. **JoanOvArk** dip back into their first album, and *"White Trash"* pumps into life with pounding drums, thundering bass and soaring riffs, all charging the atmosphere.

The band has changed a little since the release of their new album, notably in the rhythm section, with Ellie and Keira stepping in. *"People Coming Up"* is destined to be a crowd pleaser at this summer's festival line-up; *woahwoahwoah* calls for a response from the crowd, and it certainly works here. The band fans the flames, with all the moves, pizzazz and front you could want; the gang of followers before them are putty in these girls' hands. *"Jane"* bubbles and pops, an arguably more commercial sound, but it's full of driving drum and bass, as well as Shelley's guitar riffs. Spice Girls? Who were they? This is a real girl band! Keira sets up the base on her Rickenbacker, as the girls swing into *"Slipping Away"*, also from the new, self-titled **JoanOvArk** album. The evening is drawing towards its electrifying close, and Shelley and Keira are down amongst the fans. *"Free Bird"* takes the air, as a sizzling evening of girl power at The Iron Road is extinguished, out like discarded cigarette, and just as moreish.

Graham Munn

Female Voices Night

Kundabuffa, Jess Silk & Jessie Desai

Tower of Song | 9th June

Another instalment of the **Female Voices Night** that I host took place on the 9th June. The night is growing into a blossoming event showcasing female abilities all over the country. After a quick change of line up (I broke my hand on this day so had to drop out), the lovely **Jessie Desai** took my place. Showcasing her indie-pop elements through her songwriting really kicked the night off in the right direction. A stand-out track had to be the infectious *Postcards* which tells the story of how she forgot to send her mum a postcard on holiday and got told off. Delivering a smooth and vulnerable performance through her soulful voice, this lady is one to keep an eye out for.



Second act of the night was the Black Country powerhouse that is **Jess Silk**. Now I've played many gigs on the same line up as Jess, but have never actually seen her play. Guitar in her hand and a big vocal, there's something about this girl that stops



me in my tracks. Political but sticking by everything she believes in, her honest performance struck a few smiles around the room and a few heads bopping along to the acoustic punk. With a new EP out called *"A Good Pair of Boots Live"*, Jess is filled with attitude that needs to be heard. An astonishing performer who I'd happily see every night of the week.

You may have already seen my review of **Kundabuffa's** debut self-titled album not long ago in SLAP and we were so lucky to have them headline the Tower of Song on this night. Melting everyone's brains with their jazz fusion vibes, **Theone Mae Dawes** and **Andy Edwards** of Kundabuffa played as a duo on the night but they didn't lack substance in any way. Haunting arrangements of tracks off the new album, songs such as *"What's In It For You"* took us through many genre-bending lanes. Goose bump central with Theone's vocals, there were times where I actually had to pinch myself to see if I was dreaming. The Tower floated on a cloud heading straight for the stars within their set, and I'm so proud to have been there to witness the magic. Do check out the wonderful artists in this feature, and make sure to get to the next Female Voices Night on the 28th of July.

Words: Chloe Mogg, Photography: Geoffrey Head



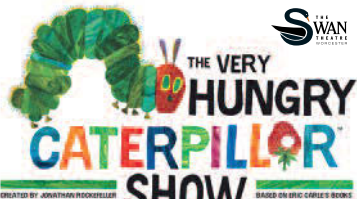


What's On?

at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall

ELO Experience – Greatest Hits and More Tour

6th July
- £24

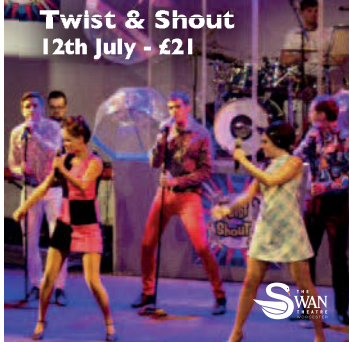


11th July - £13.50

Steve Knightley – Roadworks

11th July - £18.50

Twist & Shout 12th July - £21



13th July
- £16.50

FEATURING THE SONGS OF: JERRY LEE LEWIS, ELVIS
CHUCK BERRY, FATS DOMINO, RAY CHARLES,
BUDDY HOLLY, CARL PERKINS AND MORE...



The Spooky Men's Chorale 20th July - £22

Worcester
live

BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427
www.worcesterlive.co.uk

Slap Picks...

This month at **Huntingdon Hall** sees folk musician **Steve Knightley** take to the stage on the 11th. Best known for his work with the award-winning acoustic roots group **Show of Hands**, Steve has performed in venues from the Albert Hole in Bristol to the Albert Hall in London. His impressive back catalogue of songs are modern classics, still filling the folk clubs and festival fields, and forever influencing the next generation of folk artists.



The Spooky Men's Chorale are here on the 20th armed with no more than their impressively cavernous vocal chords, a nice line in deadpan, improbable facial hair and an ill-matched set of hats. Their last UK tour saw a large number of sell-out concerts at major venues and a whole raft of ecstatic festival audience reactions. You must see them. Really, you must!



The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show will play two performances only at **The Swan Theatre** on Thursday 11th July as part of a major UK Tour celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the book. The show features a menagerie of 75 enchanting puppets during a magical 60-minute show that faithfully adapts four of Eric Carle's best loved books for the stage.



On the 13th, **Rhythm of the Dance** brings its extravaganza that takes you on an exciting two-hour trip through hundreds of years of Irish dance and music. Having already entertained over 7 million fans in 50 countries the show hopes to entertain at least another 7 million in the coming years



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 Thurs - For 12-19 year olds 7pm

Pershore Library

2nd & 4th Tuesday - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

Last Tuesday - Eclectic Open Mic

Volunteer Inn, Hereford

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, Worcester

3rd Tues - Folk Evening

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

3rd Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Open mic

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Every Wednesday - No Poetry Open mic with Cheating Lights

The Garrison at the Grapes, Hereford

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wed - Swan Sessions - Open Mic

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Every Wednesday open mic

The Imperial, Worcester

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions

Fox & Hounds, Breden

Fortnightly Wednesday - Bluegrass & Americana acoustic session

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

The Queens Head, Redditch

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

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night

Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session

The Admiral Rodney, Berrrow Gt

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 Hall

3rd Thursday - Eclectic Open Mic

Wobbly Brewery and Taphouse, Hereford

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

1st & 3rd Thursday of every month,

The Cross Inn, Kinver, Stourbridge

Open Mic with Johnnie Grace

The Jubilee Inn, Studley

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

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

First Thursday - Jackson's Bar open mic - by The Third Verse

The Northwick Hotel, Riverside, Evesham

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 Munchewd Church, Hereford

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Jam Session

Reet Petite, Leominster

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, Grimley

2nd Fri - Open mic

Reet Petite, Leominster

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

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

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

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm

The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sunday Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm

The Wharf, Stourport

3rd Sunday Open Mic with Tom Doggett 6pm-9pm

Thatched Tavern, Honeybourne

Sunday Live Open Mic

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Every Sat - Disco

Ducker Bar & Beer Garden, Leominster

1st Sun - Open Mic

The Queens Head, Sedgeberrow

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 - Al Fresco Open Mic

Gilbies Wine Bar & Bistro, Hereford

Every other Sunday open mic hosted by Ruben Sebright 9pm

The Old 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

Tuesday 02 July 2019

Choirs Connected Sing
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

FCS: Woes, Kick The Clown, Floorboards, Y!Kes
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Bleak House
Bleak House, Stourport On Severn

Fcs: Woes, Kick The Clown, Floorboards, Y!Kes
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Wednesday 03 July 2019

Lorkin O Reilly
The Price Albert, Stroud

Rebil
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Carpe Diem
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Featuring: The Orchard Band
Dragon Folk Club At The Dragon Inn, Worcester

Harry Houseago
Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 04 July 2019

Mumbo Jumbo
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Dan Greenaway
The Queens Head, Bromsgrove

Zelah, Wren, Talk In Code
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Gareth Lemon
The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

Stolen Chocolates
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

James Hollingsworth's Prog Rock Night
Crown Sceptre, Stroud

Traveling Broke And Out Of Gas
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Foxbite, Pentire, Alvin And The Angry Barrels
Left Bank, Hereford

Foxbite, Pentire, Alvin & The Angry Barrels,
The Speakeasy, Hereford

Diablos Del Ritmo Sessions
Sva, Stroud

Ebony Rose
Tank, Gloucester

Talon – The Acoustic Collection: In The Raw
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Abba Bootleg
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ultramegaok, Chloe Mogg - A Tribute To Grunge
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Weirdshire At Babar Cafe
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Bleak House
Severn Manor, Stourport On Severn

The Hannah Lockerman Band
Castle House, Hereford

Friday 05 July 2019

Tunky Pig
Queen's Head, Wolverley, Kidderminster

The Very Glimm Brothers
The Barn, Ledbury

Les Glover, Womenfolk
Royal Hall, Ledbury

Fizzi
Retreat, Ledbury

Kemastree
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Blues Band
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Drew Hall
No 3a., Bromsgrove

Ruben Seabright
Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern

Colla Voce
The Angel Centre, Worcester

Dr Cornelius
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Steve Grimmett's Grim Reaper + Salem Uk, Hate System
The Iron Road, Pershore

Louis Bennett
Red Lion, Evesham

The Bon Jovi Experience
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Hamarita, Sunglo, Santia
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

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The Usual Suspects
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Area 51
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Gareth Lemon
Brewhouse & Kitchen, Cheltenham

The Woo Town Hillbillies
Crown Sceptre, Stroud

The Chords, The Humdrum Express
The Night Owl, Birmingham

Supernova
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Lye, Stourbridge

Joe Summers
Tank, Gloucester

Swan Theatre
King Of Pop - The Legend Continues Starring Navi, Worcester

The Secret Cabaret
Drummonds, Worcester

Devon Mayson
Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Museum After Hours (5:30pm)
Pin Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery, Worcester

Claire Shaw
Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

Steve Ferbrache
The New Inn Hotel, Gloucester

He Mike Ross Band, Troy Redfern
The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

The Miffs, Travino Slaxx, Savannah, Jester
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Some Guys Have All The Luck
Courtyard, Hereford

The Andy Quick Band
Café Rene, Gloucester

Torque
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Nick Ward
Left Bank, Hereford

Eve Selis Band
St Georges Hall, Bewdley

Heathens
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Delray Rockets
Worleys The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Bacchus
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 06 July 2019

Parcel Of Rogues, David Williams, Blondes With Beards, Rebil, Angela's Sunset, Carpe Diem, Gloucester Diamonds, And More, Morris Dancing
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Lawrie Jean
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

The Way. Funk Rock And Covers.
The Unicorn, Malvern

The Blue Road (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Mark Stevenson And Gary O'dea Double Bill
The Barn, Ledbury

Jason And The Astronauts
The Talbot, Ledbury

The Ronaldos
Reet Petite, Leominster

Barons Cross Charity Music Festival 2019
Leominster

9 Carat Purple
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Shobdon Food & Flying Festival
Shobdon Aerodrome, Leominster

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Roy Orbison & The Traveling Wilburys Experience
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Mel & Him
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Way
The Unicorn, Malvern

Lower Loveday, Word Of Mouth, + Support
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Birchstock Music Festival (1pm)
St. Peters Birchen Coppice, Kidderminster

Eckstock 2019
Eckington Recreation Ground, Eckington

Bacchus
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Mike Owen's Scarlettes Serenaders
Beoley Village Hall, Redditch

Rod Stewart Tribute By Garry Pease

The Oast House, Redditch

Maetlive & The Never Nerland Express

The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Scarsun, The Reaper, Frozen Oceans

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Big Fat Shorty

The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

Leo

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Make Mine A Double

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Catch 23

Barley Mow, Droitwich

Texas Tick Fever

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Polkadot Robot

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Journeyman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Marty Wilde & The Wildcats

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Natalie Shay

The Price Albert, Stroud

Two Tone

Stanton Village Club, Evesham

Good Thing Going

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Bob Drury's Viva Neil Diamond

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Della Grants

The Ale House, Stroud

The Gatecrashers

The Old Neighbourhood, Stroud

Angelheart

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Johnny Cash Roadshow

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Elo Experience

King Of Pop - The Legend Continues Starring Navi, Worcester

The Roots Of Jazz

Woodgreen Church, Worcester

Supernova

The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Binomial: Synth-Pop Reimagined

The Marlborough Arms, Cirencester

Absolute Blondie

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Meg Shaw

Hopley's, Bewdley

Rough Six

Tall Ships, Gloucester

Woo Town Hillbillies

Joe Joe Jims Bar, Birmingham

Mister Wolf

The Charlton Kings Social Club, Cheltenham

The Ripcords, Blue 2 The Bone, Two To A Room, Second Self, Why We Love, Boutique, Kingsley & The Occupation

Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham

Soul Stripper (Ac/Dc Tribute), Kikamora

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Switch

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Chalky

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

The Perfect Way

Left Bank, Hereford

Beer On The Wye Festival

Hereford Rowing Club, Hereford

Dave Onions

Black Boy, Wyre Hill, Bewdley

Sons Of Pluto

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Westlife: The Twenty Tour Life

The Gateway, Hereford

Big Fat Shorty

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Delray Rockets

Priory Park Bandstand, Malvern

Birchstock (1pm)

St Peters Community Church, Kidderminster

The Coldplayer

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Helta Skelta

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Jack Blackman

Elmslie House, Malvern

Sunday 07 July 2019

Jazz In The Afternoon With Peter Gill & Suzy Jacoby

The Cottage In The Wood, Malvern

The Film Orchestra Concert Band (2:30pm)

Priory Park, Malvern

Jabba Cartel, Alex Spencer, Eeek

Cafe Bliss, Lazy Sunday, St Swithun's Institute, Worcester

David Lloyd

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

G&T Mix

Red Lion, Evesham

Vinnie Peculiar (8-10pm)

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

U2baby

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Luke Philbrick

Sandford Park Alehouse, Cheltenham

Attila The Stockbroker

The Price Albert, Stroud

Christian Cox

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Gigspanner Big Band, Knight & Spiers

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Gareth Lemon

The Nottingham, Tewkesbury

The Hush

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Meg Shaw

Bottles, Worcester

Tyler Massey

Babar Cafe, Hereford

Square Peg!

Babar Cafe, Hereford

Neil Ivison (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Blue Haze (4:30pm)

Rose & Crown, Ludlow

Polly Edwards (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Monday 08 July 2019

Jack Blackman

The Horseshoe, Ledbury

Tuesday 09 July 2019

Mirimakes Music Ladies' Night Julia Palmer-Price, Claire

Boswell, Miliam Baker, Georgia Shephard, Lucy Horwood

The Barn, Ledbury

Wednesday 10 July 2019

Molly's Kiss (France)

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

B.D. Lenz Trio

Theoc House, Tewkesbury

Worcestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rodney Branigan

Café René, Gloucester

Poetry And Music Session

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Thursday 11 July 2019

Dead Dads Club And Johnny Kawalski And The Sexy Weirdos

The Barn, Ledbury

Dave Small From Arcadia Roots

Arches, Bewdley

Tovey Brothers

The Queens Head, Bromsgrove

Kyla Brox + Trevor "Babajack" Steger

The Iron Road, Pershore

T-Rextasy

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

The Quireboys

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Stroud Jazz Sessions With Edi May On Sax

Sva, Stroud

Sean Jeffrey

Tank, Gloucester

Steve Knightley - Roadworks

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Dave Onions

The Plough, Worcester

Three Bone Joint

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Surprise Attacks Presents: Zilch, The Survival Code, Skora, (Free Entry / Donations)

Heroes, Worcester

Friday 12 July 2019

Little Rumba

The Barn, Ledbury

The Way

The Retreat, Ledbury

Meg Shaw

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Foxbite, Seven Stories High & Insomniacs

Reet Petite, Leominster

Area51

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Ruben Seabright

No 3a., Bromsgrove

Desperado: Eagles Greatest Hits Tour 2019

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Locked And Loaded Uk

The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Hedluv And Passman

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Tequila Mockingbyrd + 13 Stars, Scarlet Rebels,

The Hot One Two

The Iron Road, Pershore

The Lost Path

The Fox & Badger, Bromyard

Shaun Kelly And The Returned Gifts, Planet Loco,

Sam Cooper

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Frazer Lepford

The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

Reggae'roll Ft. Rafeelya & Kingsley, King Solomon

Soundsystem

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Rock Stewart

Abbey Hotel, Golf And Spa, Redditch

The Newcranes

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Brynley Thomas

Red Lion, Evesham

Pure Whitney Houston

The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

The Alex Clarke Trio

The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

One Dementia

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Mike Allen

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

The Follicles

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

The Peas

Chateau Impney Hill Climb, Droitwich

Will Killeen

Crown Sceptre, Stroud

Nitecrawlers

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

These Fish Bite

The Express Inn, Malvern

Patsy Gamble & John Paul Gard

Royal Oak North Woodchester, Stroud

Gravy Train

Theoc House, Tewkesbury

He Swamp Stomp String Band

Tank, Gloucester

Twist And Shout

King Of Pop - The Legend Continues Starring Navi, Worcester

The GTs

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Easily Distracted

Tall Ship, Gloucester

Jamie Knight

The Boathouse, Upton On Severn

James Walsh

The New Inn Hotel, Gloucester

A Different Thread

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

Mister Wolf

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport

Lewis Clark & The Essentials

Café Rene, Gloucester

The Official Receivers

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Phoenix

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Joe Wheldon

Secret Garden Hereford, Hereford

Limoncello

Coffee #1, Ledbury

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The Delray Rockets

The Rose And Crown Beer Festival, Tenbury Wells

Doonies

The Millers Arms, Pershore

The Way. Funk Rock

The Retreat, Ledbury

Saturday 13 July 2019

The Animators

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Anti Poet And Hedluv & Passman

The Barn, Ledbury

Dom Veron

The Talbot Hotel, Ledbury

Sultana Brothers

The Farmers Arms, Ledbury

Rise

The Feathers Hotel, Ledbury

The UB40 Experience

The Alcester, Alcester

Chicken Fricassee Corporation

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Band On The Run

The Ducker Bar, Leominster

Peter Jagger

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Power Room

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Simon Wallace

The Goodrest Tavern, Worcester

Back In The Game

The Dog & Pheasant, Bromsgrove

Global Beats Summer Party

Sama Sama, Stroud

Marcus Malone & Innes Sibun Band

The Iron Road, Pershore

Foyer Folk: Brimstone

Number 8, Pershore

Macmillan Cancer Support All Dayer!

The Queens Head, Redditch

The Old Raskals

Alestones, Redditch

Union Of Strings

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Alcohol Licks

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Commandments

The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

The Sp Band

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Chicago Bytes

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Undercover

Albion House Social Club, Cheltenham

The Patsy Gamble Band

The Firestation, Cheltenham

The Dirk Spangle Five

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Danni Mayers

The Hampstall Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Answer Back

Sup And Chow, Cheltenham

Skabucks

Speed The Plough, Tibberton, Droitwich

Cover Charge

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Steve Ferbrache

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Ferrets

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Chloe Foy

The Price Albert, Stroud

Version

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Usual Suspects

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Two Pianos

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mister Wolf, Support From Brake

The Valkyrie Bar, Market Place, Evesham. W11 4rw

Built For Comfort

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Meg Shaw

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Santana Tribute Band

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

Whitney Queen Of The Night

Courtyard, Hereford

Mister Wolf

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

The Hill's Angels

The Gloster Arms, Malvern

Black Heart Angels

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Tom Davies

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

A Different Thread

Left Bank, Hereford

Immy And The Boatman, Poppy Ws

Worcester Brewing Company, Worcester

The Fireballs Uk

The Chestnut, Worcester

On That Note,

The Market Theatre, Ledbury

The Murmur

Kidderminster Harriers Social Club, Kidderminster

Straighten Out (The Stranglers Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Dan And King Rich

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Second Chance

Land Oak, Kidderminster

Sunday 14 July 2019

Sheridan Leigh

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Sue Fear's "Life" (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Alcester Rock Academy Summer Bash!

The Alcester, Alcester

Beer And Beast Festival

The Farmers Arms, Ledbury

He Rock Bottoms & The Troubadours (3pm)

No 3a., Bromsgrove

Bbc Introducing

Malvern Cube, Malvern

The Film Orchestra Concert Band (2:30pm)

Priory Park, Malvern

Lower Moor Music Festival

Lower Moor Village Park, Pershore

Liz Kirby & Karen

Red Lion, Evesham

Sunday Sessions: 2pm-5pm - Beware The Bears (Joe Savage) The Flames (Matthew Slough) (Bar Open 12pm)

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The Follicles

Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Immy & The Boatman (8-10pm)

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

J. Alexanders Blues Devils (3pm)

Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Fleecey Folk: Saltfishforty

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Passion

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Greg Brice

The Nottingham, Tewkesbury

Answer Back

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Meg Shaw

The Black Star, Stourport

The Unconventionals (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Will Killeen (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Monday 15 July 2019

B.D. Lenz Trio

The Daffodil, Cheltenham

Wednesday 17 July 2019

Brimstone

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Mice In A Matchbox

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Hannah Davey And Special Guests

Chapel Arts, Cheltenham

Featuring: Faith

Dragon Folk Club At The Dragon Inn, Worcester

The People's String Foundation

Café Rene, Gloucester

Vo And Tyler

The Plough, Worcester

Thursday 18 July 2019

Tom Barnwell

The Queens Head, Bromsgrove

Peter Gill

The Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Cheltenham

Mal Webb, Kylie Morrigan, Matt Woosey

The Price Albert, Stroud

Lewis Clark

Tank, Gloucester

Haunted Souls

The Boathouse, Upton On Severn

Another Country

The Plough Inn, Upton On Severn

Friday 19 July 2019

Simon Wallace

Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Doctor Cornelius

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Michael Messer's Mitra

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Abba Reunion

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tribute To Django & Stephane

Colwall Village Hall, Malvern

Jake Martin, B Sydes, Shotgun Marmalade

Paraddiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Crazy Arm, Kermes, Dangers Of Love

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Shades Of Grey

Red Lion, Evesham

White Tyger

The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

French Boutik, Flying Ant Day

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

The Liquor & Poker Band

Cocknbull.Co, Stourbridge

The Muffin Head, Buzz Holly, Feed Me Milk

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Stringfever

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Polkadot Robot

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Charlie Waterford

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Dan & King Rich

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Old School Disco With Ed Steelfox

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Squawkers

The Sober Parrot, Cheltenham

Shady Past

Crown Sceptre, Stroud

Warren James & The Hotband

The Mason's Arms, Pebworth, Evesham

Key (Murmur)

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Limelight Sessions 02: John Adams, Huw Eddy And Sam

Brockington

Guildhall, Gloucester

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife, Frogg Souffle, Hannah Law

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Selena Jerome

Tank, Gloucester

Hipkiss Band

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Polkadot Robot

The Black Star, Stourport

Tribute To Django & Stephane

Colwall Village Hall, Worcester

Jamie Knight

Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

Bryn Thomas

Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

Travelling Red Wing

The Boathouse, Upton On Severn

Jibbafish

Bar Severn, Upton On Severn

Giants

The Plough Inn, Upton On Severn

Lewis Barfoot

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

Talulah's Goat. Rich Palmer

Babar Cafe, Hereford

The George Michael Story

Courtyard, Hereford

Septabeat

Café Rene, Gloucester

Jazz In The Garden - Whiskey River Acoustic Quartet

Hereford Cathedral, Hereford

Fracture Uk

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Mice In A Matchbox

The Spread Eagle, Hereford

Artigo Son

The Wobbly Brewery, Hereford

Barry Steele And Friends -The Roy Orbison Story

The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

Vocal High

Pershore Baptist Church, Pershore

Black Knight

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 20 July 2019

The Rocker Covers

The Alcester, Alcester

English Electric Lightning

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Mark Leedham

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Clarksville Mountain Band

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Surf's Up Summer Days '65

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tim Burness & His Band, Sanguine Hum, Marvin B Naylor &

Rebsie Fairholm, Longstone

Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

Just James

The Unicorn, Malvern

Andy Oliveri & The Mountaineers, China Bears, Midnight In

England, Lo-Fi Mountain Angel Club

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Rainer

The Oast House, Redditch

The Uncharted, Dissonants

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Iconic 80s V 90s

The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

Viva La Bear, Jaguar Den

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Geckos

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Rob Lloyd

Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

Fret Wolf

The Bridge Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Steal Weasels

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Skabucks

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Lewis & Dav

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Mel & Him

The Express Inn, Malvern

Salt Road

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Truckstop Honeymoon

The Price Albert, Stroud

Offthegrid

The Vineyard Inn Abbots Salford, Evesham

Chalfest 2019

Pin France Lynch Pleasure Ground, Chalford, Stroud

The Liquor & Poker Band

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Take That Tribute

Guildhall, Gloucester

The Charlton Blues Kings

The Ale House, Stroud

Sounds For A Small Space

The Garden Pavilion, Stroud

The Dirk Spangle Five

The Old Neighbourhood, Stroud

Raising Cain

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Connections

The Northend Vaults, Gloucester

Tyler Massey Trio

West Malvern Cricket Club, Malvern

Junior Bill

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

Party In The Orchard

Greet, Worcestershire

44 SLAP JULY

Higher On Maiden (Iron Maiden Tribute)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Matt Peplow

Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Good Knight Hall Duo

Left Bank, Hereford

Don't Stop Fleetwood Mac Tribute Duo

The Plough, Hereford

Jazz In The Garden

Harvington Hall, Kidderminster

The Delray Rockets

The Canterbury Inn, Tewkesbury

Sam Draisey

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Ruffnecks

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Jade'a'lie

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Sunday 21 July 2019

Emily Badger

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

The Film Orchestra Concert Band (2:30pm)

Priony Park, Malvern

The Terry Clarke Band

Alestones, Redditch

Parker Band + Buzzing Hornets

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ray Stroud

Red Lion, Evesham

Chloe Mogg

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Sunday Sessions: 2-5pm - Tony Gillham, Ben Ruggles, Town

Musicians Of Bremen (Folk) L Gormley, Chloe Elliot (Bar 12pm)

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Through The Decades With Roy Orbison & Buddy Holly

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Bowl With A Soul

The Price Albert, Stroud

Tony Gillam

Worcester Arts Workshop Sunday Sessions, Worcester

Ray Mytton

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Jodie & Quinn

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Black Ridge Remedy (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Dave Onions

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Lewis Barfoot

Hawkwood, Stroud

Nothing Like A Whale

The Chestnut, Worcester

Tuesday 23 July 2019

FCS: Infirmities, Saltwounds

Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Wednesday 24 July 2019

Blondes With Beards

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

The Roses Choir & Special Guests

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Uphill And Still

Café Rene, Gloucester

Thursday 25 July 2019

The Wedding Crashers

The Queens Head, Bromsgrove

Limehouse Lizzy

The Iron Road, Pershore

Gareth Lemon

The Botanist, Cheltenham

Dominic Lash, Mark Sanders, Chris Cundy Trio, Teddy Hunter

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Kristian Chambers

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tim Amman Quartet

Baci Ristorante Italiano, Stourbridge

Folk In The Foyer: Susie Dobson

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Happenstance Morris

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Alex Chapman

Tank, Gloucester

The Bevvy Sisters

Babar Café, Hereford

The Wedding Present
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Acoustic Music Convention Presents: Sally Barker
The Old Rec, Worcester

Friday 26 July 2019

The Ferrets
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Gav & Emelye
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

Mister Wolf
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Kringo Blue
No 3a., Bromsgrove

Gary Barlow Tribute Night
Catshill Working Mens Club, Bromsgrove

Corys Angels
Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern

Battle Of The Hair Bands
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Slagerij, Red Light Rebels, Rebel Station, Terminal Rage, 6foot7
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Hot Hats
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Tiger By The Tail, Before Me
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Third Verse
Red Lion, Evesham

AC/DC UK
The Riverrooms, Stourbridge

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

Ambition Demolition, Air Drawn Dagger, Polypik Pockets, Purple Flavor Death
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Locked And Loaded UK
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Michael Buble Tribute Artist
The Gate Inn, Honeybourne, Evesham

Primetime
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Jake Melles
The Pheasant Inn, Toddington

The Leon Daye Band
Tank, Gloucester

The Reflections
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Shanghai Shuffle
The Cösy Club, Worcester

TCMI
Peppers, Gloucester

Tyler Massey Trio
The Old Nag's Head, Monmouth

Nawr
The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

The Jericho Racks, Hipflask Virgins, Ruben Seabright
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Solid Gone
Café Rene, Gloucester

Joe Mitchell
Left Bank, Hereford

The Lost Chord
The Monument, Hereford

Amaretto Lounge
The Spread Eagle, Hereford

Forever Sabbath (Black Sabbath Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Saturday 27 July 2019

Mesma
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Bellfest
The Bell At Yarpole, Leominster

Lionfest 2019
The White Lion, Leominster

Skabucks
Leominster Sports & Social Club, Leominster

Life
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Sue Stevens
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Neil Diamond Tribute
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Malvern Pride
Priory Park, Malvern

Toby
Brewers Arms, Malvern

Tyler Massey Quartet
St Peter's Church, Malvern

Midnight Sun
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Facestealers
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Polkadot Robot Bandeoke
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

André Rieu's 2019 Maastricht Concert: Shall We Dance?
Number 8, Pershore

Whyfest 2019
The Why Not Inn, Redditch

The After Dark Band
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Frazer Lepford
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Monarchy – The Ultimate Queen Tribute Band
Welland Steam & Country Rally 2019, Woodside Farm, Worcs

Harry Baldwin
The Longlands Tavern, Stourbridge

Big Fat Shorty
The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Toby Wren Solo Performer 9pm Start
The Brewers Arms, West Malvern

The Melvin Hancox Band
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Joe Elvis
Stourport Marina Clubhouse, Stourport-On-Severn

2tone Revue
Stourport Cricket Club, Stourport-On-Severn

The Bob Porter Project
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Hills Angels
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Shades Of Grey
The Vineyard Inn Abbots Salford, Evesham

Peia, Susie Ro, Elise Yuill Cohen
St Lawrence's Church, Stroud

Play It Again Sam
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

Demob Plus Anoraks, Chinese Burn. Spider
Guildhall, Gloucester

Memphis Lee And The Creepers, Plus Big Cols Bop Shop
Gilt Edge Rock N Roll Club, Kidderminster

Lewis Leighton
The Fountain Inn, Stroud

The Wurzels
Watson Hall, Tewkesbury

Bandeoke With Polkadot Robot
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Swampcandy
The Fountain, Gloucester

Whalebone Totally Plucked
Huntley Village Hall, Gloucester

Take Cover
The Village Inn, Beoley, Worcester

Sister Sandwich, Capt Roswell, Billy Whizz, Eyes, The Dark Side, Dr Hasbeen
Sandwichfest, Nr Tenbury

The Pilot Inn Music Festival
The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

The Boxcar Mavericks
The Whitminster Inn, Gloucester

The Trials Of Cato
The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

Johnny Cash Road Show
Courtyard, Hereford

The Filthy Casuals
Cliffords Mesne, Glos

James Harris
Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Rubble
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Groovyhead
Worcester Brewing Company, Worcester

The Ferretts
The Chestnut, Worcester

Singled Out
The Wobbly Brewery, Hereford

Mice In A Matchbox
The Volunteer, Hereford

Without Flight, The Power Poom + The Test Tubes
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Gary Priestley
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Cello Music For Our Times - Tom McMahon & Chris Long
Elmslie House, Malvern

Sunday 28 July 2019

Tony Gold

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Simon Wallace

Bell Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Poppy Ws (3pm)

No 3a., Bromsgrove

Lucy Shaw & Skye Hadley

Casa Med, Bromsgrove

The Film Orchestra Concert Band (2:30pm)

Priory Park, Malvern

André Rieu's 2019 Maastricht Concert: Shall We Dance?

Number 8, Pershore

Mark Hepworth

Red Lion, Evesham

Gary O'dea (8-10pm)

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

James Baker

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Slowjin Acoustic

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

Sunday Sessions: 2pm-5pm - Dharma Bums Bar Open 12pm)

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

2tone Revue

Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

The Spooky Men's Chorale

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Witcher

Bearfest, Bransford, Worcester

Tommy Allen's Blues Duo (3pm)

Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Whetstone, Brinsford. Burgess. Mandy Woods

Littlevic, Stroud

Will Killen

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Burning House, Bleach Boy, Subset

The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Local Festivals

4-7 July 2019: Gloucester Rooftop Festival

Guildhall Car Park, Gloucester

4-7 July 2019: Barn on the Farm Festival

Over Farm, Gloucester

5-14 July 2019: Cheltenham Music Festival

Various Venues, Cheltenham

5-8 July 2019: El Dorado Festival

Eastnor Castle, Ledbury

4-14 July 2019: Ledbury Fringe Festival

Various Venues, Ledbury

5-14 July 2019: Ledbury Poetry Festival

Various Venues, Ledbury

5-7 July 2019: Linton Festival

The Alma Inn, Linton, Ross-on-Wye

5-8 July 2019: NOT A CULT Festival 2019

Out to Grass, Malvern

5-6 July 2019: Woo Fest

The Drum and Monkey, Upton upon Severn

5-6 July 2019: Nibley Music Festival

Nibley House Farm, Nibly

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 15th Out of Africa, Lyn Sharp, Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 17th Anna Yevtukh - '20 Years in Bookbinding,

Number 8, Pershore

Until 6th The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture

and the Art of Perspective Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

Until Sept Grayson Perry Exhibition at Croome National Trust

Until 6th The Young Turner, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

Until 15 July Lyn Sharp: Out Of Africa Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 21st Bromsgrove Festival

2nd to 30th Malvern Winter Gardens story, The Hive, Worcester.

2nd-14th Young People's Art and Pottery Class Exhibition, WAW

3rd Dancefest presents Worcestershire Dancing, Artrix Bromsgrove

4th-15th Rocketman (15) The Courtyard, Hereford

5th - 14th Ledbury poetry festival

5th Museum After Hours, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

5th & 11th Sometimes Always Never (12), Artrix Bromsgrove

46 SLAP JULY

Bearfest Music Festival 2019

Bear And Ragged Staff, Bransford, Worcester

Jack Flint

The Fountain, Gloucester

Female Voices Night

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Locked And Loaded (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Jenny Hallam (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Forfeits

The Lichfield Vaults, Hereford

The Delray Rockets

The Bear And Ragged Staff, Bransford, Worcester

Monday 29 July 2019

Will Killen

The Fountain, Gloucester

Tuesday 30 July 2019

Tuesday Tribute - Elvis Presley

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Hayseed Dixie

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Trevor Babajack Steger

The Fountain, Gloucester

Mama's Broke

Courtyard, Hereford

Wednesday 31 July 2019

Jan Vaisey & Ian Harvey

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Reeds A Plenty Quartet

Pershore Jazz Club, Pershore Town

Football Club Function Room,

Jazz Club Ft. Swing From Paris

Theoc House, Tewkesbury

Greg Brice

The Fountain, Gloucester

5-6 July 2019: Stroud Sacred Music Festival 2019

St Lawrence's Church, Stroud

11-13 July 2019: 2000 Trees

Upcote Farm, Withington, Cheltenham

11-14 July 2019: Bromsgrove Folk Festival

Various Venues, Bromsgrove

13-14 July: Coleford Music Festival

Town Centre, Coleford

18-21 July 2019: Nozstock

Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard

18-21 July 2019: Upton Blues Festival

Various Venues, Upton on Severn

25-28 July 2019: Warwick Folk Festival

Warwick School, Warwick

26-9 July 2019: Dubtoberfest

Cheltenham Racecourse, Cheltenham

26-28 July 2019: Vinestock 2019

The Vine, Cheltenham

26 July - 3 August 2019: Three Choirs Festival

Various Venues, Gloucester

27 July - 4 Aug 2019: Gloucester Rhythm & Blues Festival

Various Venues, Gloucester

6th Cult classic Alien (15) The Courtyard, Hereford
6th- 3rd Aug Hidden - Hereford Mind, The Courtyard
12-13th Bromsgrove Carnival
13th Dancefest Picnic 2pm Cathedral Square, Worcester
13th-25th Apollo 11 (U) The Courtyard, Hereford
16th- 4th Aug Student Exhibition WAW
17th Poetry and Pint night, Worcester Arts Workshop
18th until 10th August 'Souvenirs & Short Stories' Pershore number 8
19th Diego Maradona (12A) Artrix Bromsgrove
19th-21st Nozstock the Hidden Valley, Bromyard
20th Man on Bench - David Tovey & On Hold- Tale Be Told
Theatre double bill, St Nicholas' Church, Gloucester
20th Family Trail - The Ministry of Wild Things, Croome National Trust
20th The Bite book Launch, Paradiddles, Worcester www.bitepress.co.uk
20th until 14th Sept. May the Toys be with you
Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery
27th Licence to Rhyme Worcester Arts Workshop

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THE MARR'S BAR

JUL
AUG 2019

The Wedding Present
Thursday 25th July



Tuesday July 2

**FCS: WOES, Kick The Clown,
Floorboards, Y!KES**

£7 in advance

Saturday July 6

Soul Stripper (AC/DC tribute)

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday July 12

The Official Receivers

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday July 13

**Straighten Out (The Stranglers
tribute)**

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Friday July 19

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife

Frogg Souffle, Hannah Law

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday July 20

Higher On Maiden

(Iron Maiden tribute)

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday July 25

The Wedding Present

SOLD OUT

Friday July 26

Forever Sabbath

(Black Sabbath tribute)

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday July 27

Without Flight, The Power Poom +

The Test Tubes

£5 in advance

Friday August 2

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)

£9 in advance £11 on the door

Thursday August 22

Poquet, Tom Braggins

£5 on the door

Friday August 23

Duane Conn & The Connections

Saturday August 24

UnCover: The Jericho Racks, Echo

Gecco, The VHTs, Slow Tapes

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday August 29

Wayne Hussey (The Mission)

£22 in advance £25 on the door

Saturday August 31

Forever Queen (Queen tribute)

£12 in advance £15 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

Late Fridays & Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

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